

JACK

I don't want to disturb you--I just came by.

ROSALIND

What is it, Jackie.

JACK

I'm...I'm sorry. About last week. I'm sorry I ate your bamboo; it was in your pile of bamboo, clearly--it was on your side, had your scent all over it.

ROSALIND

(Not hospitably.)

Can I get you some tea?

JACK

Ah, yes, that'd be lovely, thank you.

ROSALIND

(Rises and prepares tea.)

Of course he'd say yes. Have a seat.

(Pause.)

JACK

Did you hear me, then? About your bamboo--I'm sorry I ate it.

ROSALIND

Biscuits?

JACK

Rosalind.

ROSALIND

Biscuits, Jackie. Let's see...we've got Tillman's, but you've never really liked Tillman's, have ye? Always said they upset yer stomach, which I've never understood, so /

JACK

Well, I just feel terrible about the whole thing--believe me, really. I completely lost myself.

(ROSALIND brings a tea service.)

ROSALIND

Here we are.

JACK

Ah, thank you.

(Pause.)

ROSALIND

What are tho /

JACK

Oh! These are for you. Sorry.

ROSALIND

You didn't have to.

JACK

Sorry. They aren't much. To look at.

(Beat.)

ROSALIND

You know, I believe I've got a tin of McVities in the back pantry--I'll be right back.

JACK

I don't care about the biscuits!

ROSALIND

Well I'll put your flowers in some water, at any rate.

(ROSALIND gets an empty vase, fills it with water, and returns to the table; puts the vase on the table; sits. JACK puts milk and sugar in his tea.)

Feet off the table.

(JACK, flustered, jerks his feet off the table and spills on himself.)

JACK

Sorr /

ROSALIND

Thank you.

JACK

Right.

(Pause. JACK pours himself more tea.)

ROSALIND

How's Margaret?

JACK

The feckin' zoo put me in there with her--

ROSALIND  
Aye, but she's a fine lass.

JACK  
Is this the tea--Darjeeling?

(Beat.  
JACK drinks.)

Thank you.

ROSALIND  
You're looking well, Jackie.

JACK  
No, I--. Thank you. You're looking lovely my dear.

ROSALIND  
No need to return it just because I give it to you.

JACK  
What did, ah, François de La Rochefoucauld say? "The only reason one gives a compliment is to receive one", ah--something like that, I'm misquoting it.

ROSALIND  
Le what?

JACK  
The, ah, the 17th-century French maximist.

(Beat.)

ROSALIND  
How's Margaret?

JACK  
Have you lost a few pounds.

ROSALIND  
No.

JACK  
New haircut then.

ROSALIND  
No.

JACK  
Well, you look great anyway. Ahem.

ROSALIND  
Margaret was always so lovely--a rose.

JACK

I'm sorry I ate your bamboo last week.

ROSALIND

I have lost a few pounds, actually: spinning classes.

JACK

You can tell.

ROSALIND

No.

JACK

You can.

ROSALIND

Thank you then.

JACK

What's spinning, anyway?

ROSALIND

'S like biking.

JACK

Ah.