

DOWNSTAIRS:

ERIK

Both—for the both of us, yeah?

DEIRDRE

Yeah, thanks . . .

BRIGID

*(this has been on her
mind)*

Did you see the Mary statue?
. . . and she's bringing up
marriage . . . we've been
doing so good, I dunno
why she's back to—

Richard is in the kitchen.

*Deirdre checks in with Erik
about something; Erik nods,
then wanders into the adjoining
room and paces.*

AIMEE

*(half-engaged with her
e-mail)*

Being here's just . . . making
it more *real* for her, no?

*Deirdre decides to give Erik
his space; she moves into the
kitchen to help Richard.*

BRIGID

No, I dunno, something's
[not right] . . . I dunno . . .

AIMEE

*(putting her blackberry
away)*

. . . sorry—they even find
me on holidays . . . it never
ends . . .

. . . how's work for *you?* . . .

DEIRDRE

How can I help, Rich?

RICHARD

Uh, how about . . .

BRIGID

Uh, the restaurant pays me under the table so I can still collect unemployment, so that's been good . . . but . . . my *career* is . . . [nonexistent] . . . [I don't wanna talk about it] . . .

AIMEE

Hey, okay . . .

Brigid takes a deep breath, exhales.

BRIGID

I'm just glad Rich and I made the leap, / it was time, you know?

AIMEE

DOWNSTAIRS:

Yeah . . . he's great, Bridge . . .

BRIGID

Yeah, we were always at each other's place, so financially it was just stupid, you know . . . Rich made up this list of pros and cons . . . to move in or not to move in . . . Aimee, his *lists* . . . I found one posted to the fridge last week called: "ways to have fun"; [What the fuck?!]—stuff like: dance with yourself; take long walks at sunset . . . game nights . . .

Deirdre continues to help Richard in the kitchen. They are occasionally half heard speaking to each other. Erik is the prominent figure downstairs—he paces in the hall, refers to a piece of paper.

AIMEE

That's endearing . . .

BRIGID

I know . . .

Audible-but-indecipherable conversation between Deirdre and Richard in the kitchen alley.

BRIGID

I dunno, we were happy without making it so official, so / . . .
I dunno . . .

AIMEE

Yeah, well . . . Carol and I broke up because . . . we were unhappy?
. . . and now I'm [wondering] . . .
maybe loving someone long-term is more about . . .
deciding whether to go through life unhappy alone . . .
or unhappy with someone else?

BRIGID

Richard can draw up a list of reasons why your breakup was a
good thing, if you want . . . / I can ask him to draft a very long
list—

AIMEE

No, shuttup so . . . ugh: I need to have that surgery . . . / the
one where they'll—

BRIGID

What? I thought you could put that off until your sixties or—

AIMEE

This test showed—it's just dysplasia which means . . . it's not
cancer, but with colitis it'll become cancer if they don't take it
out, so . . .

BRIGID

You'll lose the whole intestine?

AIMEE

It cures the disease, though, so . . . but . . . yeah . . . they make
a hole in your abdomen so the waste can, you know . . .

BRIGID

Do Mom and Dad know?