

CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS
EPISODE TWO

by
Mark O'Halloran

Based on the novel
CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS by Sally Rooney

Developed with the assistance of BBC Drama

29.05.21

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
NOT TO BE DUPLICATED

Element Pictures
30-31 O'Connell
Street Lower
Dublin 1
Ireland
+ 353 1 6185032

**EL
EM
ENT**
PICTURES
A *Fremantle* Company

0A INT. BOBBI'S HOUSE, SANDYMOUNT, DUBLIN. EVENING. SD10. 0A

FRANCES and BOBBI chat as they get ready. Frances is wearing a light summer dress with a low cut back and is putting on some make up and fixing her hair - she tried pulling it back, then letting fall.

FRANCES

Up or down?

BOBBI

I don't know. What kind of effect are you going for?

FRANCES

I'm not going for an effect.

BOBBI

In that case, down.

FRANCES

Thanks.

0B EXT. BOBBI'S HOUSE, SANDYMOUNT, DUBLIN. EVENING. SD10. 0B

FRANCES walks out of the house carrying a bottle of wine she picked up in a shop on the way.

BOBBI exits quickly. Bobbi is wearing a cut off T-shirt and black jeans. She is carrying a small wrapped present.

BOBBI

We are going to be so late.

FRANCES

You say that like it's my fault.

BOBBI

It is your fault.

FRANCES

How?

They walk off together.

0C EXT. DART STATION, MONKSTOWN. EVENING. SD10. 0C

FRANCES and BOBBI leave the DART station, Bobbi carrying her gift, Frances carrying some wine..

1 EXT. NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE, MONKSTOWN. DUSK. SD10. 1

BOBBI and FRANCES are walking toward Melissa and Nick's house. Bobbi is in a good mood. She has a definite spring in her step. She has the wrapped present in her hands.

FRANCES

I can't believe you got her a present.

BOBBI

Why?

(shrugs)

You brought wine.

FRANCES

Yeah, but that doesn't count.

Bobbi smiles at this. They've arrived at the door and Bobbi rings the bell.

The sounds of people within. The door is opened by JIM, Nick's brother-in-law.

JIM

Welcome!

BOBBI

Hi -

JIM

Hi - Come in -

BOBBI

Thanks.

(once past him)

Whoever you are.

Frances and Bobbi go inside. The sounds of a lively party. Nice music and voices.

2

INT. KITCHEN, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS. SD10. 2

BOBBI and FRANCES have made their way into the open-plan kitchen. The space is populated by an eclectic mix of people. The doors to the garden are open and there are people there as well. They are spotted quickly by MELISSA who makes her way over to them. She had been with her friends, DEREK and EVELYN.

MELISSA

You're here! So good to see you.

She hugs Bobbi, kissing cheeks.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Hi Frances.

They have a quick hug.

FRANCES

Happy birthday.

MELISSA

Thank you! You guys look great.

BOBBI

You look great.

MELISSA

We all look great.

(she laughs)

Come on, we'll get you drinks and introduce you to people.

Melissa leads off and they follow. Bobbi is thrilled - she catches Frances' eye and smiles at her.

3

INT. SITTING ROOM, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. A LITTLE LATER.³
SD10.

FRANCES, BOBBI and MELISSA are part of a group and engaging, in particular, with a man in his mid forties. This is BRENDAN.

Bobbi and Melissa are close together and enjoying each other's conversation. Frances is quiet. She can see how well Bobbi and Melissa are getting on. Frances is also looking around to see where Nick might be.

BRENDAN

I was a stand-up back in the day.

BOBBI

Why did you stop? Did you run out of jokes?

BRENDAN

No. I got married. After which nothing seem very funny.

BOBBI

And do you miss it?

BRENDAN

Definitely not.

MELISSA

He's a barrister now. Which is also a type of clowning when you think about it.

This amuses Bobbi. She and Melissa are enjoying each other. Frances can see this. Frances looks about again and wants to leave the conversation. She indicates to Bobbi that she is going to get another drink.

FRANCES
(to Bobbi, holding up an
empty glass)
Drink.

Bobbi nods and Frances slips away. The conversation between Brendan, Melissa and Bobbi continues.

4 INT. KITCHEN, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. MOMENTS LATER. SD10.4

FRANCES is in the kitchen. People mill about. Music plays. She makes herself a gin and tonic and looks around. She moves out towards the hallway.

5 INT. NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE, MONKSTOWN. LATER. SD10. 5

FRANCES wanders, poking around the house.

She stops, looking into what she presumes is Melissa's home office and writing room; interested in this space. The particularity of Melissa's set up.

6 INT/EXT. KITCHEN, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 6

FRANCES is now heading towards the garden. As she is exiting from the kitchen she passes NICK who is on his way in talking with a couple of people. He spots her and smiles. He might be slightly drunk. It gives him a glow.

NICK
Frances.

FRANCES
(smiling)
Hi.

NICK
Nice to see you.

FRANCES
You too.

They are both smiling - then from inside the house, a voice calls to him. Nick gestures -

NICK
I'd better -

FRANCES
Sure.

Frances goes out to the garden. There are people here too. She stands a moment and then looks back into the house.

7 EXT. GARDEN, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 7

It is fully night time now. FRANCES is with DEREK (30s) and another MAN (30s); Derek's a bit drunk, talking animatedly about wind-surfing.

BOBBI joins and Frances politely turns away. Derek keeps talking to the other man.

BOBBI
(discreetly)
Do you need rescuing?

FRANCES
No. How are things inside?

BOBBI
Funny.
(she's leaving)
Join us when you're ready.

FRANCES
Sure.

Frances stays and refocuses on the conversation.

8 INT. BATHROOM, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 8

FRANCES is in the upstairs bathroom. She is washing her hands. She dries them. She sees her reflection in the mirror.

9 INT. HALLWAY, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 9

FRANCES exits the bathroom. The sound of the party still heard but she is alone in the hallway. She sees a door ajar and goes towards it.

10 INT. NICK'S ROOM, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 10

The open door to a bedroom. FRANCES has arrived and sees in. Over by the window she sees NICK. He's smoking a joint alone. He is holding a beer as well. She stands there unsure and then -

FRANCES
Hi.

He turns towards her.

NICK
Hey.

FRANCES
Sorry - I didn't mean to -

She turns to go.

NICK

Come in.

Nick raises the joint he is holding to offer her some. She shakes her head and smiles. She has stepped in by now. He looks at her. They are both anxious to talk but are unsure how to sustain a conversation.

Nick's dog then makes an appearance and tries to waggle their way in the door but Nick goes over and pushes them out with his foot. This brings him closer to Frances.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to the dog)

No. You. Out. Go.

(to Frances)

Dog's not allowed on the beds.

FRANCES

OK.

Nick shuts the door to keep the dog excluded. A moment of silence between the pair. They are close.

NICK

I've shut the door.

FRANCES

I know.

NICK

Of course. I'm very stoned.

FRANCES

I gathered that.

She smiles at him. He watches her intently.

NICK

Your cheeks are red.

(she blushes further)

Only slightly.

FRANCES

It's warm.

A moment of silence between them. He then very gently holds his beer bottle up to her cheek.

NICK

Try this. Is that good?

FRANCES

Yes. Nice. And here?

She moves aside one of the shoulder straps of her dress. He moves the bottle to her collar bone. A drop of condensation rolls down her skin.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

That's so good.

NICK

Is it?

FRANCES

Yes.

She leans forward and kisses him. His hand touches her waist. The kiss might consume them both but he then draws away. A breathlessness holds. They are still desperately close. He looks down.

NICK

Frances.

FRANCES

Sorry.

NICK

It's just -

FRANCES

I'll go.

Frances leaves, trying to put a face together as she does so. Nick is left stoned and confused at what has just happened.

11 INT. KITCHEN, NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD10. 11

FRANCES is in the kitchen. Her heart is beating quickly. She pours herself a drink and takes a big hit, then breathes deeply.

Frances looks across the room and sees MELISSA laughing with a group of friends, telling a story animatedly. She's smiling and looks happy, glowing.

11A INT. NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE. A LITTLE LATER. SD10. 11A

FRANCES is moving through the party, aware of being a little drunk, not knowing quite what to do with herself. She is half hoping and half afraid she will see Nick. She doesn't and, instead, goes in search of Bobbi.

11Aa INT. NICK AND MELISSA'S HOUSE, HALLWAY. NIGHT. SD10. 11Aa

FRANCES is in the hallway. MELISSA passes her - she is slightly drunk - not messy though, happy.

MELISSA

Frances! Are you having a good time?

FRANCES

I am. Thank you. Again.

MELISSA

I was just going to grab a smoke if you want to join -

FRANCES

Um, no thanks - I don't...I was just looking for Bobbi actually.

MELISSA

Sure - I think I saw her in the kitchen -

FRANCES

Thanks. I'll see you in a bit.

Melissa moves to go outside. FRANCES is very still.

12

INT. NICK AND MELISSA'S KITCHEN. NIGHT. SD10.

12

FRANCES finds BOBBI who is thoroughly enjoying herself with a small group of people. Frances is still in a little shock over what has just happened.

FRANCES

Hey -

BOBBI

Hey, where've you been?

FRANCES

I was just...

She thinks for a moment - she might tell Bobbi what just happened with Nick. Then:

FRANCES (CONT'D)

I'm going to head home.

BOBBI

Really?

FRANCES

My train's in the morning...

BOBBI

Okay. I'm going to stick around.

FRANCES

Enjoy.

BOBBI

I'll call you.

FRANCES

Night.

Frances walks away. Bobbi briefly glances at Frances' exit. She is probably a little annoyed at how distant Frances has been, but not annoyed enough to challenge that behaviour. Bobbi turns back to the party.

13 INT. DART. - NIGHT SD10

13

FRANCES sits on the DART. Cant quite believe what just happened with Nick.

14 INT. FRANCES' APARTMENT, DUBLIN. MORNING. SD11.

14

FRANCES is lying in her bed, awake.

14A INT. PHARMACY, DUBLIN. MORNING. SD11

14A

FRANCES is in the PHARMACY picking up a few things. She has a small overnight bag with her.

15 EXT. HEUSTON STATION, DUBLIN. MORNING. SD11.

15

FRANCES is entering a big railway station by the river with her overnight bag.

16 INT. TRAIN. MORNING. SD11.

16

FRANCES is on a train travelling across the country. There is a manuscript from her work on the table in front of her that she is not even attempting to read. She picks up her phone to check for messages but there are none.

17 INT. TRAIN. AFTERNOON. SD11.

17

The train is pulling in to Ballinascaul railway station. The stop is being announced on the tannoy. FRANCES is already making her way to the exit with a small bag on her shoulder.

18 EXT. BALLINASCAUL RAILWAY STATION. AFTERNOON. SD11.

18

FRANCES approaches a car outside the small railway station. A woman in the driver's seat smiles at Frances and speaks out of the open window as she approaches. This is Frances' Mother, PAULA, 50s. Frances approaches the driver's side for this brief exchange. She knows what her mother is going to say and this makes her smile in expectation.

PAULA

You're alive.

FRANCES

Hello.

PAULA

I was half afraid I wouldn't
recognise you.

FRANCES

You're looking well.

PAULA

Am I? Get in.

Frances goes around to the passenger side and gets in. They drive off. Frances checks her phone - nothing.

19 INT. CAR. DAY. SD11.

19

FRANCES and PAULA are driving through the town on the way to Paula's house.

Frances smiles at her mother who smiles back at her.

Frances then looks out at the passing town.

20 EXT. GARDEN, PAULA'S HOUSE. LATE AFTERNOON. SD11.

20

FRANCES and PAULA are in the back garden of Paula's tidy house. They are drinking white wine together. Paula is coaxing information out of her daughter. Frances is a little hungover still and less than forthcoming.

PAULA

So tell us more about the job.

FRANCES

It's barely a job.

PAULA

What is it then?

FRANCES

It's part time. That's all.

This tone from Frances slightly annoys Paula.

PAULA

Doing what?

FRANCES

Reading.

PAULA

They pay you to read?

FRANCES

That's right.

Frances doesn't elaborate.

PAULA

Frances. I'm just trying to show interest here.

FRANCES

Yeah, I know.

They're quiet for a moment.

PAULA

How's Bobbi getting on?

FRANCES

She's fine.

PAULA

Has she got a job lined up?

FRANCES

She's volunteering. Teaching English.

PAULA

Well, good for her.

Frances looks down at her arms in the bright sun. She rubs a hand over the skin. It is getting warm.

FRANCES

My arms are getting burnt.

PAULA

There's factor inside. You ought to be wearing it.

Frances eventually stands. She looks out at the sweet garden and then back at her mother.

PAULA (CONT'D)

Are you going to see your father while you're here?

FRANCES

I'll call over to him later on.

PAULA

Good.

Frances goes inside to the house to get sun cream. Paula stays sitting.

21 INT. KITCHEN, PAULA'S HOUSE. DAY. SD11.

21

FRANCES is applying sun cream to her arms and to her neck. As she does this she looks out at Paula who is sitting in the sun with her eyes closed.

Frances wipes her hands and takes out her phone, checks for messages. Nothing new from Nick.

22 INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM PAULA'S HOUSE. EVENING. SD11. 22

FRANCES and PAULA are at a small dinner table eating. Frances rubs her head lightly.

PAULA

Your hangover still at you?

FRANCES

I wasn't hungover?

Paula gives her a look. Frances smiles a little.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

We were at a birthday party last night.

PAULA

Whose?

FRANCES

Our friend Melissa.

PAULA

I haven't heard of her before.

FRANCES

We only met her recently. She's a writer. She came to see us perform. And we got chatting with them after. Her and her husband.

(Small beat.)

He's an actor.

PAULA

Really? Would I know him from anything?

FRANCES

I'd say so.

Frances picks up her phone to google a picture of Nick.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
You'd know his face anyway.

Frances passes her phone to her mother.

PAULA
Oh yeah. Christ, he's handsome.

FRANCES
He's nice actually. Down to earth.
Their house is amazing.

PAULA
Where is it?

FRANCES
Monkstown. Just up from the sea-front.

PAULA
That's not like you to get carried away by posh houses.

FRANCES
I wasn't getting carried away.

Paula gives her a look.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
I was just telling you what I thought of it.

PAULA
I see.

Frances is a little annoyed.

23 INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM, PAULA'S HOUSE. EVENING. SD11. 23

PAULA and FRANCES have cleared up after her dinner. Frances is putting her summer jacket on. She looks tired and a little tense.

FRANCES
I'm off.

Frances kisses her mother.

PAULA
Take care on the road.

FRANCES
I will.

24 EXT. BALLINASCAUL TOWN. EVENING. SD11.

24

In the fading evening light, FRANCES walks through the town towards her father's house. The sun is setting and Frances is not really in much of a hurry. She passes the river and its weir. She halts. It is clear that she is tense. She can feel a headache coming on and she presses her hand to her temple. A passing woman looks at her. There is a strangeness to Frances' behaviour here. She becomes aware and presses on.

She finally reaches her father's place. It is a respectable, house on the edge of town. She approaches the front door. Frances tries the bell and she waits. There is no answer. She tries again and then turns the handle and the door opens. She steps inside.

25 INT. HALLWAY, DENNIS' HOUSE, BALLINASCAUL. EVENING. SD11. 25

The hallway is nondescript. Carpet tiles on the floor and magnolia colouring. It is not particularly tidy. A bicycle clutters it.

FRANCES

Dad?

Frances sees a family photo hanging on the wall. It shows Frances aged 4 with her parents on holiday in Spain. Four year old Frances wears a yellow t-shirt that says BE HAPPY. Frances continues down the hall.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Hello?!

The sound of a television playing elsewhere can be heard. Her Father, DENNIS, appears in the doorway to the kitchen. He is a man of 56, impressive, if a little weathered looking.

DENNIS

Frances.

FRANCES

Hi.

DENNIS

I wasn't expecting you.

FRANCES

I only arrived down today. Sorry. I should have rung.

DENNIS

I'm about to eat. Come in.

(leading the way)

I didn't quite hear the door. The telly inside is on.

FRANCES

You're fine.

She follows after him.

26 INT. KITCHEN, DENNIS' HOUSE, BALLINASCAUL. EVENING. SD11. 26

The kitchen is untidy. The sink filled with dishes and a dustbin that's beginning to spill over. It is how DENNIS lives. He is taking a ready meal out of the microwave. FRANCES is still standing and has her jacket on.

DENNIS

This is how my weekend goes. I throw something into the micro.

FRANCES

You could do worse.

DENNIS

It's handy. That's all. Do you want a beer?

FRANCES

I'm grand.

DENNIS

Or there's wine there as well.

FRANCES

I'm fine.

Dennis has opened a beer for himself. They are both still standing.

DENNIS

Any news from Dublin?

FRANCES

Megan's moved out.

DENNIS

How did she leave the place?

FRANCES

Fine. She was very quiet.

DENNIS

We'll have to get someone in to replace her.

FRANCES

I'll start looking when I get back.

DENNIS

You're fine. No great rush.

She pauses.

FRANCES

I'll be staying on. I'll be working
in Dublin this summer.

DENNIS

I presumed as much.

Frances sits with her body angled away from the table. She still has her jacket on. She watches her dad put his food onto a plate. He'd probably eat from the carton if she were not there. She then stands and takes her jacket off and hangs it on the back of her chair.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

How's your mother?

FRANCES

She's well.

The television still plays in the empty sitting room next door. The door to it is wide open.

FRANCES goes to the counter and switches the kettle on. She starts moving dishes from the sink in readiness for washing. The sound of sport on the television catches Dennis' attention. He is anxious to see the game.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Go in and watch it if you want.

DENNIS

I'll dry those when you're done.

Dennis moves into the television room. Frances has continued the tidy up. GAA commentary can be heard clearly. Dennis sits on his armchair. He is visible to Frances from here. His back to her.

Frances looks a little dismayed at the state of things. She wipes and clears the clutter and ties up the rubbish sacks.

She fills the sink with hot water from the kettle to wash the pots and plates. The sound of sport from the next room continues. She can see her dad sitting on his chair; watching the game and drinking a can. She looks down into the steaming water and then very deliberately lowers her hands into it. The heat bites at her skin but she holds steady. When she next takes them out, the skin look lightly scalded and pink.

28 INT. SITTING ROOM, DENNIS' HOUSE, BALLINASCAUL. LATE EVENING²⁸.
SD11.

The dishes are done. FRANCES goes and sits with DENNIS who is still watching the match, beer in hand. She perches on the couch for a minute.

Beat.

FRANCES

I'm away.

DENNIS

Are you?

(rising)

I haven't been much company.

He comes to the door of the room.

FRANCES

Those bins need taking out.

DENNIS

I'll see to them now. Are you alright for money by the way?

FRANCES

I think so. Yeah.

DENNIS

I can lodge a bit extra if you want.

FRANCES

I've work lined up so I should be fine.

DENNIS

There's no problem. I'll lodge it to your account tonight.

FRANCES

Thanks.

DENNIS

See you so.

FRANCES

Bye.

She goes. Her father feels that he's failed in this exchange somehow and this cuts into him.

29 EXT. RIVERSIDE, BALLINASCAUL. LATE EVENING. SD11. 29

FRANCES is walking home from Dennis' house and has stopped by the river. She watches the broiling tumult of the water falling through the weir in the fading light.

30 INT. PAULA'S HOUSE. NIGHT. SD11. 30

FRANCES has returned home. PAULA is on the sofa watching a current affairs program on TV. Frances sits down beside her mother.

PAULA

How was that?

FRANCES

Yeah. What are we watching?

PAULA

Question time.

FRANCES

Anyone interesting on?

PAULA

No one I recognise. I used love this program. Now it's all just nonentities shouting at one another. Pitiful really.

Frances' phone has beeped and she looks at it. It is a message from Nick.

Nick: *hi frances, i'm really sorry about last night. it was really stupid of me to do that.*

She doesn't immediately reply.

A brief moment and then types.

Frances: *My fault for kissing you.*

She places her phone aside and a reply from Nick is heard.

Nick: *no, it wasn't.*

PAULA (CONT'D)

(Lightly.)

Are you going to be glued to that screen all night?

FRANCES

No.

Another message comes through.

Nick: *i'm older than you and it was also my wife's birthday.*

Frances: Do you often kiss girls at parties?

Nick: since i've been married, never. although I think that might make it worse.

Frances: Well. I should be honoured then.

Her mother playfully swipes her with a cushion.

PAULA

Frances!

FRANCES

Sorry.

Frances puts the phone down. She has been energised by these messages.

C/U: Frances' face, the light flickering across her face.

31 OMITTED 31

32 OMITTED 32

33 OMITTED 33

34 OMITTED 34

34A EXT. DUBLIN STREET. EARLY AFTERNOON. SD12. 34A

FRANCES is back in Dublin. She is walking towards her apartment.

35 INT. KITCHEN, FRANCES' APARTMENT. LATE AFTERNOON. SD12. 35

FRANCES is making some simple food. Her phone rings. She sees who's calling. It is BOBBI. Frances answers.

FRANCES

Hey.

36 OMITTED 36

37 INT. BAR VENUE. EARLY NIGHT. SD12. 37

FRANCES and BOBBI are in a small 'backstage' area waiting to go on and perform. The noise of the bar can be heard. There is a small crowd in attendance. Bobbi is happy and excited. She is bursting to tell her secret.

Frances is more concentrated on preparing for the performance. Bobbi looks over at her.

BOBBI

Why did you leave so early the other night?

FRANCES

I was wrecked.

BOBBI

That all?

FRANCES

Why?

BOBBI

You seemed a bit odd. I don't know.

FRANCES

I wasn't. I was just tired.

Beat.

BOBBI

It was already bright when I left.

FRANCES

Did you have fun?

BOBBI

You could say that.

Bobbi is close to Frances now. She reaches out and touches Frances' hair. There is an obvious coyness in Bobbi and she is smiling.

BOBBI (CONT'D)

Your hair is getting long.

FRANCES

I know.

Bobbi clearly wants to tell Frances something. Frances can see this in her. Bobbi smiles even more.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Why are you smiling?

BOBBI

I kissed Melissa.

FRANCES

What? When?

BOBBI

I know, I know. After you left, out
in the garden. It was stupid, we
were both drunk.

This revelation is genuinely surprising to Frances. She is
unsure of what to say or how to react. Bobbi is casual.

FRANCES

A full kiss?

BOBBI

We'd been flirting the whole time.
And it just happened.

A short beat as Frances processes this.

FRANCES

Did you talk to her since?

BOBBI

We texted. She thinks it's funny.

FRANCES

Right.

A brief silence. Bobbi looks at Frances. Frances might be
about to tell Bobbi about kissing Nick.

BOBBI

What?

FRANCES

Nothing.

Bobbi looks at Frances again.

BOBBI

(teasing)

Are you pissed off with me?

We hear applause as the act on stage starts to wind up.

FRANCES and BOBBI are on stage performing. The young crowd
are appreciative and laughing or clapping in the right
places. Bobbi is enjoying herself. They come to the end of
the particular piece they are performing and the crowd claps
enthusiastically. Their conversation continues.

FRANCES (V.O.)

No. Why would I be pissed off?

BOBBI (V.O.)

I don't know. You're hard to

predict sometimes.

(MORE)

BOBBI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(Tiny beat)

Or do you disapprove? Of me kissing
a married woman?

FRANCES (V.O.)

I don't disapprove.

BOBBI (V.O.)

That's not what your face is
saying.

39 OMITTED

39

40 INT. BEDROOM, FRANCES' APARTMENT. NIGHT. SD12.

40

FRANCES is home. She is sitting on her bed. She has her phone in her hands. She takes a selfie of herself with a stern expression and then sends it to Bobbi.

Frances: FYI. *This is my disapproving face.*

A reply from Bobbi arrives. It says 'X'. Frances puts her phone aside and stays sitting there in the half lit room.

41 INT. PUBLISHING COMPANY OFFICE. DAY. SD13.

41

FRANCES is at the office with PHILIP.

FRANCES

Did you do anything exciting at the
weekend?

PHILIP

I went to the cinema.

FRANCES

With who?

PHILIP

I like watching films on my own.

This amuses Frances.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

Did you have fun at home?

FRANCES

Isn't that an oxymoron?

PHILIP

Probably. How was the big party on
Friday?

FRANCES

Exactly as you'd expect.

PHILIP

Really?

Philip pretends he's not interested in such parties anyway.
But he definitely is.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

I don't think that type of
gathering would be my scene, to be
honest.

Frances finds his comment funny.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

What?

FRANCES

You'd have killed children to get
invited, Philip.

PHILIP

Not true actually.

FRANCES

All those writer types. Actors.

PHILIP

Yeah. No. Like I said.

(Small beat)

Would I have recognised anyone
there?

FRANCES

I'd say so, yes.

PHILIP

You had a good time then?

FRANCES

Of course.

(Tiny beat)

I kissed someone I shouldn't have
though.

PHILIP

Who?

FRANCES

No one. It doesn't matter.

PHILIP

Right. Was it Bobbi?

FRANCES

(genuinely surprised)

No, it wasn't Bobbi.

PHILIP

Well, was it worse or better than
if it had been Bobbi.

FRANCES

Worse. Significantly so.

PHILIP

Shite. Who, then?

FRANCES

Forget about it.

PHILIP

Fine.

(not letting it go)
Older or younger?

FRANCES

Philip!

PHILIP

Sorry.

(He's now obsessed)
I once kissed someone I shouldn't
have at a party. Weeks of drama
afterwards.

FRANCES

Why?

PHILIP

Well. It was an ex. She had a new
boyfriend by then. But she was
still into me. I could tell. And I
kissed her. Only coz I could. Which
was a shitty thing to do. I know.
And things got messy afterwards.
She accused me of having toyed with
her.

FRANCES

Toyed with her... was she an
elderly Victorian Lady by any
chance?

PHILIP

Very funny. Do you want to get
lunch?

FRANCES

I'm fine for the moment. Thanks.

Philip puts on his jacket. He is still dying to know who
Frances kissed. He almost whispers this to her.

PHILIP

Are you sure you don't want to tell
me? Who it was? Be a weight off
your chest, etc.

FRANCES

Fuck off, Philip.

PHILIP

Grand.

Frances settles down to read and Philip has gone.

42 OMITTED

42

42A EXT. FRANCES'S APARTMENT. EARLY EVENING. SD13.

42A

FRANCES leaves her apartment building walks towards town for
her night out.

43 INT. BOOKSHOP. EVENING. SD13.

43

BOBBI and FRANCES climb the stairs to where a book launch is
taking place. The sound of the small audience can be heard.

FRANCES

I'm not sure about this.

Bobbi gives Frances a little smile. Frances smiles back.

BOBBI

I liked his last one a lot
actually.

Bobbi has continued up the stairs and Frances follows her.
The reading has not started yet and people are milling around
holding wine glasses expectantly. Frances spots someone.

FRANCES

Look...

Bobbi follows Frances' eyeline.

BOBBI

Ahhh...

Bobbi can see that NICK and MELISSA are in attendance..

They move through the gathering towards the window.

BOBBI (CONT'D)
(Meaning Melissa)
She is hot.

Frances doesn't bite. Bobbi grabs some wine. Nick and Melissa haven't seen them yet.

44 INT. BOOKSHOP. EVENING. SD13.

44

BOBBI and FRANCES are over by the windows which open out onto the street. The reading is about to begin. Frances is aware of Nick's presence across the room.

FRANCES
Does my face look shiny?

BOBBI
Show me.
(looking)
A bit.

FRANCES
Damn.

BOBBI
In a nice way though. It makes you seem less complicated.

Bobbi is looking over at Melissa who spots them now. She waves over and smiles.

Bobbi waves and smiles back.

A little later:

The reading is on. Nick looks over at Frances. She briefly meets his gaze and then looks away.

45 INT. BOOKSHOP. EVENING. SD13.

45

The reading has ended. People are mingling and a signing is taking place across the room. A friend of Melissa's, KIERAN, is standing with FRANCES, BOBBI, MELISSA and NICK. Frances is self-conscious around Nick. Kieran is clearly interested in Frances.

MELISSA
(to Kieran)
What did you think?

KIERAN

Good. He's clever. Maybe not enough
to buy the book.

MELISSA

You never buy the book, Kieran.

BOBBI

I liked it.

MELISSA

I did too.

Frances is looking down into her glass.

KIERAN

(to FRANCES)

What did you think?

She looks up.

FRANCES

Oh yeah. He kept my attention.

Everyone laughs a little.

BOBBI

Brutal.

Kieran looks at Frances, a little smile.

KIERAN

You're clearly too cool for overt
praise.

FRANCES

...Thanks.

Pause.

KIERAN

Right, I better head.

(to Melissa)

Good luck in London.

MELISSA

Thanks.

KIERAN

(to Nick)

Are you going over with her?

NICK

(shakes his head)

I've to stay home and mind the dog.

Kieran smiles. They make their goodbyes. Melissa looks at Frances.

MELISSA

I think Kieran likes you.

FRANCES

Yeah. Men love telling me I'm cool.
They just want me act to like I
never heard it before.

This makes Melissa laugh which surprises Frances a little.
Nick laughs too.

MELISSA

I need the bathroom. Where is it?

BOBBI

Me too. I'll show you.

Bobbi leads Melissa away. They are evidently enjoying each other's company. Frances and Nick are left together.

Frances looks down into her wine. The golden-green colour catching the light from the window.

NICK

I'd a feeling you'd be here?

FRANCES

Dreading it, were you?

NICK

Not at all.

Frances smiles.

FRANCES

It's good to see you.

NICK

Thanks.

FRANCES

Sorry if this is awkward.

NICK

It isn't.

Beat.

NICK (CONT'D)

How've you been?

FRANCES

Fucking brilliant.

This makes Nick laugh and Frances enjoys that.

NICK

(playful)

I could apologise again.

FRANCES

Please don't.

He smiles.

NICK

Okay.

There is an awareness that Melissa and Bobbi are not far away.

FRANCES

We should probably talk at some point.

They look at one another.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
Maybe I can call over.

NICK
Sure.

46 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BOOKSHOP. NIGHT. SD13. 46

MELISSA and NICK are saying goodbye to BOBBI and FRANCES.

BOBBI
See you when you're back.

MELISSA
Sure.

BOBBI
Safe travels.

MELISSA
Thanks.

Bobbi and Melissa embrace. Nick looks at Frances.

NICK
See you.

FRANCES
Yes.

NICK
Bye.

Nick and Melissa walk away. Frances is quite pleased by how things have gone with Nick.

BOBBI
Is there something weird going on between those two?

FRANCES
Why?

BOBBI
I sensed a disconnect. That's all.
You think she told him we kissed?

FRANCES
They seemed the same to me.

BOBBI
Hmm. We're not going home, by the way.

They walk away.

47 INT. PANTIBAR, DUBLIN. NIGHT. SD13. 47

FRANCES is in a noisy gay nightclub/bar. She is bringing drinks to the table where BOBBI is sitting with a set of friends, including DARA and JULES. This is a very queer setting. A song comes pumping out as Frances drops the drinks down. It is a favourite track of theirs and Frances and Bobbi leap up and head to the dance floor. It is light and loud and happy. They dance together. Frances hugs Bobbi as they dance and laugh.

48 INT. FRANCES' APARTMENT, DUBLIN. MORNING. SD14. 48

FRANCES is in the apartment. It is a bright hot summer's morning. She is on the sofa with her laptop. BOBBI enters looking sleepy and hungover but already dressed to leave.

BOBBI

Why didn't you wake me?

FRANCES

You never asked me to.

BOBBI

I smell coffee.

BOBBI heads towards the kitchen. A message comes through on Frances' phone. It is from Nick. We see the text on the screen as Frances reads it.

Nick: *i'm free this evening. if that suits?*

Frances thinks for a tiny moment and then replies.

Frances: *It does. See you then.*

Bobbi is back in the room. Frances is delighted with her messaging.

BOBBI (CONT'D)

What are you smiling about.

FRANCES

Nothing.

Bobbi leaves to the hallway.

49 OMITTED 49

50 INT. BATHROOM, FRANCES' APARTMENT, DUBLIN. LATE AFTERNOON. 50
SD14.

In the bathroom FRANCES fixes her hair and at the last minute reaches out and picks up her toothbrush and puts it into her inside pocket. This action amuses her.

51 INT. DART, DUBLIN. EARLY EVENING. SD14.

51

A hot summer's evening. FRANCES is on the DART on the way to Monkstown to meet Nick. She watches the houses go by and she is quietly excited. The heat of the evening is dying down. Her phone buzzes and she takes it out. It is Bobbi texting.

Bobbi: *What are you up to?*

Frances hesitates briefly before responding.

Frances: *Reading. Talk tomorrow.*

She tucks her phone away.

The DART has broken free of the city and is passing by the sea. She puts on her headphones.

END OF EPISODE.