

Night

Once they've A lot of

START

It's okay
Marianne They're, they're happy enough knowing it's there.

Roland How bad is it? Mary –

Marianne It's pretty bad.

Roland How bad is pretty bad?

Marianne They said being under forty might help, but –

Roland Mary, how bad is pretty bad?

Marianne I'm not sure I want to talk about it right away.

Roland Mary I've been waiting around on tenterhooks.

Marianne I'm not sure I *can* talk about it right away.

Roland Do you want something to drink, do you want some water?

Marianne No thank you.

Roland Do you want some booze, I mean –

Marianne I'm just after a moment's silence and then I'll tell you anything you want.

Beat.

He said, I think, something like a third, a third of people live for a year.

Roland What about the other two?

Marianne What?

Roland What about the other two-thirds, how long do they –

Marianne I don't know, Roland, I don't know.

Roland What did they tell you, what did the –

Marianne I don't – I don't know. I can't remember. They gave me some leaflets. I mean fuck me, why does it matter what happens to the other two-thirds?

Roland Why does it matter?

Marianne Yes.

Roland It matters because presumably we don't know which third you're going to be?

Marianne Why are you being arsey with me –

Roland I'm not being –

Marianne Yes you are, you're being arsey. You're getting mad at me for not remembering this number or that number – I mean who gives a fuck –

Roland All right –

Marianne I'll go upstairs and get my fucking handbag and you can rifle through the plethora of leaflets if it bothers you that fucking –

Roland All right. All right. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Did he talk about treatment?

Marianne He said they can operate. Try and remove it, remove as much of it as they can. Then they said radiotherapy but if I'm too weak for radiotherapy, they said chemo. Shitload of chemo. It's right at the front.

Roland The front?

Marianne It's all over the frontal lobe.

Roland I don't know what that means.

Marianne He said I might have trouble selecting words. Selecting the right words. He said I should expect seizures.

Roland Jesus Christ.

Marianne It's palliative. Whatever they do. It's not — They can't.

Roland Okay.

Marianne They said this is it.

Roland Okay.

Marianne This is it, they said.

Roland Okay. Okay.

Marianne Why don't you sit down?

Roland I need to sit down, do I?

Marianne Maybe. I mean. No, standing is fine.

Roland I would have come with you if you'd told me, you know.

Marianne I know.

Roland I would've cancelled —

Marianne I know. I wanted to go alone.

Roland I'm a bit angry actually, Mary.

Marianne Angry?

Roland I'm saying so that you know.

Marianne You're angry?

Roland I'm saying so that you know because I don't want to have an argument.

Marianne Glad to fucking hear it.

Roland All right.

Marianne I'm sorry you missed out on the sheer joy that was collecting the results of my biopsy, Roland.

Roland All right.

Marianne But, forgive me, I didn't feel like inviting along a fucking entourage of onlookers.

Roland All right! Christ. I'm telling you so I can get it off my chest because I want to be as honest with you as I possibly can. Because I don't know what you're about to say but it's clearly bad news and I want to be able to listen and not be thinking I wonder what she did with herself once she heard?

Marianne The reason —

Roland I wonder why she didn't call me straight away?

Marianne I knew that you were —

Roland Because I would have dropped absolutely anything and everything and I wonder if she knows that?

Marianne So I got my biopsy results.

Roland Today?

Marianne They called me and asked me to come in.

Roland Who did you see?

Marianne Dr Thorne.

Roland What did he say?

Marianne He said it's benign.

Roland What?