

Fruit

Episode 4

Dates, Daddy Dates, Coffee Dates, Ex Lover Dates and Big Old Gig Dates

THE QUEEN: Following on from The LesbianHousePartyFromHell, our four gay girlfriends have regrouped recalibrated and refocused their efforts into finding a new home that the four can share.

Alongside all this just exhausting Daft dot eye-e-ing, Izzy finally takes the leap to meet her American waiter boy beau for a date.

Zara, desperate for a place to stay that isn't Shane's discount IKEA sofa bed, decides to reach out to her famous actor father for help.

Aisling's treated to a slightly horrid coffee break with her work pal slash boss slash sex pest Meredith and the long lost love of Shane's life, Liam, reappears and agrees to meet for what Shane knows will be a rather horrible conversation. So strap those airpods in, girls, and buckle up because we've a big old rotten dates heavy episode ahead...

Hunter Hunter Hunter

HUNTER: Nothing can quite kill the mood like taxes you know?

IZZY: How did we get onto taxes again?

HUNTER: You asked me what my least favourite thing about America is.

IZZY: And you chose: taxes?

HUNTER: Well yeah I mean they are exorbitant my Dad's a stock broker in Brooklyn and like hand on God –

IZZY: To God –

HUNTER: What?

IZZY: Hand to God.

HUNTER: It's so hot that you're like a journalist. You're like Anton Chekhov throwing words around like they're like confetti.

IZZY: Wasn't he Russian?

HUNTER: Stop. You'll get me hard.

IZZY: What?

HUNTER: (*whispered*) Russian. That's a dirty word right now.

IZZY: You really would have loved The Cold War then.

HUNTER: It's my least favourite part of history actually I'm a Renaissance kinda guy.

IZZY: I played Assassins Creed 2 I know the Renaissance.

HUNTER: I just think there's something really hot about the debauchery of it? Like they're making art and like committing adultery and like dying of cholera it was Real you know.

IZZY: Mhm.

HUNTER: You look like you don't agree with me.

IZZY: I just think modern medicine is hot and kinda Real.

HUNTER: Like vaccines and shit? Yeh I hear you they're cool.

IZZY: Did you know that 55% of Americans believe vaccines might cause autism?

HUNTER: Well I mean show me the study you know -

IZZY: Out of all the things about what could be wrong with America you chose taxes?

HUNTER: You're still hung up on that? That was like five hours ago.

IZZY: Gun control, racism. Don't say Gay. Food deserts. Border walls. Health insurance.

HUNTER: America gets such a bad rap you can go to a hospital and get treated if you need it they're not gonna like deny you treatment.

IZZY: Are you A Young Republican?

HUNTER: No I'd say I'm a right leaning democrat really.

IZZY: Pffft.

HUNTER: Listen America has problems but I defy you to tell me that a place that produces delicacies like boiled peanuts and corn dogs is the worst place on Earth. Have you ever had a corn dog? Or Cool Whip? They're like disgustingly good.

IZZY: Have you ever tried an authentic Irish delicacy?

HUNTER: Like what? A chicken fillet roll? Fish and chips? A hand job in Cooper Face Jacks?

IZZY: There's this Dublin like sausage soup called Coddle –

HUNTER: Sausage Soup?! Get outta here –

IZZY: It's actually quite good! I worked in a nursing home in college and me and the old ladies we'd love Coddle Fridays!

HUNTER: Was that before or after you transitioned?

IZZY: Sorry?

HUNTER: I mean with the old ladies eating sausages was that before or after you became a woman?

IZZY: I've always been a woman.

HUNTER: Yeah sure on the inside but had you crossed over then?

IZZY: ... Yes.

HUNTER: You've been out that long? Wow.

IZZY: My father died when I was 17. I came out to my Mam and Sister then.

HUNTER: Gosh that's rough. Losing him I guess sorta gave you the boost?

IZZY: You know I don't think these are first date kinda conversations...

HUNTER: I'm fascinated I mean I've never been lucky enough to date a trans girl before.

IZZY: Least you're not a chaser.

HUNTER: What's a chaser?

IZZY: Guess.

HUNTER: Oh no no way I mean this whole thing it's been so, so strange to me, like seeing you that day a few months ago you were so beautiful and I think to myself there is something so alluring about her and the way you hold yourself and so yeah that's why I why I left my number down that day because there was something so enticing I guess. About you.

IZZY: Strange?

HUNTER: Different. For me. I never thought I'd find someone like you so just just so beautiful.

Pause.

IZZY: I think I'm going to go.

HUNTER: I'm sorry - did I offend you?

IZZY: No no I just think I need to go, get ready for my gig tonight actually.

HUNTER: I can't wait for your gig it's in Street 66 right?

IZZY: I don't think you should come. I don't think it would be your thing. Thank you for the coffees.

HUNTER: Izzy, what is happening this is so unexpected... did I do something wrong?

IZZY: Strange? Go fuck yourself.

Short Sharp Shocks of Music. Cut to...

Sounds of texting.

SHANE: How the hell was it question mark question mark Did ye get yer tit sucked in KC Peaches lol question mark eyebrow raised face

IZZY: NO fullstop all caps. Don't want 2 talk about it fullstop comma Comfort shopping in Oxfam rn

SHANE: Uh oh full stop See u later at gig for goss question mark

IZZY: Yep

SHANE: Xxx

Music. Cut to...

My Father, The Actor

ZARA: Dad.

PAUL: Zara. You look well.

ZARA: You too.

PAUL: Well, you know what they say, it's all diet, sleep, and a really good doctor.

ZARA: Still getting time in for the spa?

PAUL: It's all a part of the business. Besides, a lot of the work I get done is preventative - you might want to think about doing the same yourself-

ZARA: I'll take my chances.

PAUL: Right.

ZARA: What's a retired actor like you need plastic surgery and Spa days for anyway?

PAUL: Have you been here at Fogarty's before? I can't remember

ZARA: Spent half my childhood here with you.

PAUL: I'm sure you talk about that in your therapy.

ZARA: I can't afford therapy. Or baby botox.

PAUL: Neither could I at your age.

ZARA: You go now? That's a change.

PAUL: There was a time you used to accuse me of spending half of your childhood off on filmsets.

ZARA: Really.

PAUL: How's work?

ZARA: Fine.

PAUL: Coraline tells me you're struggling.

ZARA: Who isn't?

PAUL: I saw your mother Michelle a few weeks ago she's looking well.

ZARA: I didn't know she was in Dublin.

PAUL: Myself and Roma went to Gran Canaria on a trip, stayed with her a few nights.

ZARA: It's so sweet you're still close.

PAUL: I wish I could say the same with you.

ZARA: Right. Right. How is Roma?

PAUL: I bought her a new Givenchy. She's doing fantastically.

ZARA: A bag or perfume?

PAUL: What?

ZARA: Was it a Givenchy bag or a perfume?

PAUL: Whatever, it was Givenchy. That's all you need to know.

ZARA: Oh my god did you get your assistant to buy her something? You did!

PAUL: Caroline tells me you've been struggling to find any work.

ZARA: You've said.

PAUL: Why ask to meet me Zara if you're going to be a prick the whole time?

ZARA: I don't want to talk about *work* –

PAUL: Then don't complain that I never help you. There's a part in this new BBC show I've been offered I can get you in on it too it's –

ZARA: I thought you'd retired.

PAUL: Givenchy is expensive.

ZARA: So's Jameson. And I'd appreciate if you wouldn't talk to my agent about my career.

PAUL: How do you think you got that agent in the first place?

ZARA: You know what Dad I didn't come here for this.

PAUL: You'd be a pretty girl you know if it wasn't for all this bitterness.

ZARA: Fuck this –

PAUL: Zara -

ZARA: Look. I need your help. I'm broke, Dad, and I've nowhere to live and I'm searching for somewhere with my friends but I just I need a short time to just rest and not feel like a burden and I know you have that flat in Temple Bar you've been doing up and –

PAUL: Ok.

ZARA: Ok?

PAUL: If you apologise.

ZARA: Apologise for what?

PAUL: For your contempt for coming in here and sneering for taking your mother's name for never coming to visit or never answering my calls I want you to apologise.

ZARA: You only ever call when you're drunk.

PAUL: This is the problem with your generation you're obsessed with convenience, instantaneous gratification. You believe as absolute truth that you're the first lot to have it hard but I've got news for you Zara I suffered, I couch surfed for three years before anyone would even look at me for an audition I moved mountains to stand on my own two feet. There's a lesson you and your lot need to learn.

ZARA: You're a well read man you know that's not possible for us.

PAUL: Weak. That's a weak excuse.

ZARA: Yeah whatever good luck Dad.

ZARA starts to leave.

PAUL: I'll give you money Zara I'll support you but you won't come and live on my dime you need to work this out yourself –

ZARA: Bye Dad.

PAUL: Go on then. You can tell your Mother I tried.

Short sharp shocks of jazz.

ZARA: Fuck him fuck him fuck him fuckhimfuckhimfuckhimfuckhim. I just can't fucking fucking fuck fuck. What a prick! His Mother gave him money till he was literally 30!

AISLING: I take it he said no?

ZARA: Ugly prick his botox is shit –

AISLING: Deep breaths Zar he isn't worth the half of you and you'll be okay we'll -

CHARLOTTE: Well fuck me pink and call me a pig Zara Rafferty I knew that was you.

AISLING: What the fuck was that –

ZARA: I'll call you back. *(She hangs up)* Sorry?

CHARLOTTE: It was just a pig joke chill out –

ZARA: I don't have any change –

CHARLOTTE: Well what's that in your pocket?

ZARA: Oh my God. Charlotte? Charlotte O'Brien?

CHARLOTTE: Bingo babe. How long has it been!

ZARA: Fucking secondary school you look so grown up.

CHARLOTTE: Girl I'm Old! And apparently I look homeless?

ZARA: I was only joking.

CHARLOTTE: Sure.

ZARA: It is so mad to see you! How long has it been?

CHARLOTTE: Since Loreto really. I knew that was you sitting in there with Daddy dearest.

ZARA: What's a lady like you doing in a place like Fogartys?

CHARLOTTE: The smell of middle aged man sweat stale beer and the sticky seats? It thrills me.

ZARA: You can take the girl out of Balbriggan...

CHARLOTTE: But you'll never get the Brig out of the girl. In work we do this every Friday we go to the shittiest pub we can find and have the shittiest glass of wine to make everything else in the week feel exceptional.

ZARA: Perfectly sane.

CHARLOTTE: Listen, say nuthin to no one right?

ZARA: Lips sealed. Where are you working?

CHARLOTTE: Marketing. Selling cattle feed to the bovine masses. Are you still at the acting?

ZARA: Trying.

CHARLOTTE: Bless you. I loved yer fanta ads.

ZARA: Star making.

CHARLOTTE: Can't be easy for you, making a career with Ireland's answer to Jessica Fletcher for a Dad.

ZARA: Murder He Blogged only ran for two seasons on RTE fucking 2 and he died at the end.

CHARLOTTE: The people loved it. Your Da is our Princess Di. He's got the eyelashes and all.

ZARA: Please he doesn't look half as good in black.

CHARLOTTE: Ye still don't get along?

ZARA: How'd you guess?

CHARLOTTE: That didn't look like an amicable convo.

ZARA: It's fine. I've made it this far without both my parents I suppose I can keep going.

CHARLOTTE: Yeah it must have been so hard being raised in an orphanage like that eating gruel and wetting the bed.

ZARA: Fuck off you've not changed a bit.

CHARLOTTE: And you've always been inclined to feel sorry for yourself.

ZARA: No I have not!

CHARLOTTE: Listen I've to get back to the gals, get them sobered up and back to work. It was lovely to see you though, I just had to say hello.

ZARA: We should keep in touch.

CHARLOTTE: I'd love that. Here this is my Insta bigtidygothgirl323 –

ZARA: Wait what are you doing this evening? My friend she's got this gig...

Music. Cut to...

Queer Confessions In A Kinda Glam Costa

MEREDITH: I'm sorry. Oh I'm sorry I shouldn't be – it's just so cuntin' hard!

AI SLING: I know. I completely. I mean that makes total sense.

MEREDITH: I haven't seen Keith and the boys properly in weeks probably nearly three months now I can't even remember what Johnathan looks like and I gave birth to the little Freak.

AISLING: Didn't you just come back from Tunisia on holidays?

MEREDITH: That was only a day trip really.

AISLING: A seven day day trip?

MEREDITH: Easy to know you're single. Travelling with family is not luxury, Aisling, it's being waterboarded in Guantanamo Bay.

AISLING: It's been a really busy time Meredith of course you're feeling stressed –

MEREDITH: Stressed? I don't feel stressed. I feel apocalyptic. I feel like how I imagine all those women who had their pussies grabbed by Donald Trump feel! I feel bereft.

AISLING: Once the Huberman O'Driscoll divorce case goes through you'll get some time off...

MEREDITH: They tell you you can have everything Aisling it's a lie. What good is a cashmere luxury Persian suite in your Georgian mansion when you can't even sit on it at a minimum of four nights a week!

AISLING: At least you have a mansion. I'm renting a room in some random girls flat in Finglas at the moment.

MEREDITH: Because you broke up with David? Oh Darling. Are you having a midlife crisis?

AISLING: One of us is.

MEREDITH: I'm sorry I say we'll leave work early have a little treat and all I do is cry cry cry it's like I'm 15 again and Daddy said I can't have any more bergamot salted ice cream. And they wondered why my eating was disordered!

AISLING: Jeremiah Joshua and Johnathan they'll know that their mother is supporting them with her work. Maybe not now but they will when they've you know worked it out with their therapist in ten years time.

MEREDITH: I used to dream of a life for myself. And this? Oh this is not it at all.

AISLING: Even with all you have?

MEREDITH: I'm forty.... Three. And what have I really? Just an ordinary cuntin' life.

AISLING: Yeah. I don't know. Plenty of forty... three year olds don't have persian cashmere suites.

MEREDITH: My Mother when she left Daddy I'll remember I will remember this forever he says but I gave you everything Delia everything you ever wanted and she said but Sean oh Sean it was never enough never a bit of it.

Beat.

AISLING: I'm gay.

MEREDITH: As in happy?

AISLING: I'm bisexual.

MEREDITH: Since when?

AISLING: 2005 probably.

MEREDITH: Is that why you're always wearing trousers?

AISLING: I mean, I don't know. Probably?

MEREDITH: Here's me just whinging whinging whinging about how exhausted and overworked I am and this whole time you've been having a gay identity crisis.

AISLING: I'm not having an identity crisis –

MEREDITH: You broke up with Christopher!

AISLING: I've been an out and proud Both Sides Nower since I was 15.

MEREDITH: You've worked for me for three years... Why'd you never tell me before? And why are you telling me now?

AISLING: I don't know. I had to. It came over me.

MEREDITH: I don't think my son Johnathan is a freak just because he loves Ricky Martin and humps the couch when he watches Shrek 2, Aisling, I must say that to you, I am very supportive of your lifestyle I need you to know that –

AISLING: I know all that it just came over me that it was time to tell you.

MEREDITH: We love gay people at Connolly Munroe Aisling don't you ever doubt that. For Gods Sake, Linda Martin is a client.

AISLING: Thanks. Thank you. I always feel so supported.

MEREDITH: Oh you poor thing Aisling, I'm only thinking now you're approaching thirty you're single, gay and nearly homeless. Oh sweetheart. No wonder all you young people are voting Sinn Fein.

Music. Into...

Love Is A Losing Game

They're in a pub smoking area.

LIAM: Thanks. For coming.

SHANE: I didn't think you'd want to see me again.

LIAM: I don't.

SHANE: I was laughing to myself on the way here listening to Lana Del Rey thinking of when we last saw each other. Workmans about a year ago wasn't it?

LIAM: Somewhere like that.

SHANE: And you were on that date and I suppose I found that quite hard. But you know Lana says you took my sadness out of context and I wasn't I suppose I was just so... I felt like.. I'd a foolish hope you'd come back at some point.

LIAM: You text me that night. Drunk or high I don't know and told me I'm a slut and me and my faggoty new boyfriend should take ourselves out for a quick trip infront of a load of traffic.

SHANE: I don't remember that.

LIAM: I made a bet that you'd say that.

SHANE: With your faggoty new boyfriend?

LIAM: Old boyfriend now it's been over a year.

SHANE: Lovely.

LIAM: I've never known you to be so ... like this before.

SHANE: Like what?

LIAM: Contrite.

SHANE: I don't know what that means.

LIAM: Your tail's between your legs.

SHANE: Can you blame me? After what you said.

LIAM: Can you blame me? How could you just text me that and expect me to be fine?

SHANE: I should have met you I know but you'd shown no interest whatsoever in acknowledging I exist for over a year.

LIAM: Because you were a cunt.

SHANE: I was scared.

LIAM: It was cowardly.

SHANE: Yes. But it it's never been easy with you.

LIAM: Stop. Stop trying to act like we had something special. *(pause)* Are you sick?

SHANE: Of course I'm not sick I'm HIV Positive I'm not dying.

LIAM: I've seen It's A Sin!

SHANE: Liam please -

LIAM: How many? How many men have you had to...

SHANE: That's none of your business.

LIAM: Is it not? Cause if I had known you were giving it to whoever would take it –

SHANE: That's beneath you.

LIAM: Cathail tested negative. I'm still waiting on mine.

SHANE: That's a good sign.

LIAM: Yes. For a time I was fucking petrified thinking I was a walking superspreader. Fucking hell I even thought I might have given it to you.

SHANE: Wouldn't matter if you did or not.

LIAM: Of course it matters I'd have to live with myself –

SHANE: No because that's a horrible regressive Catholic way of looking at it. STIs are nobody's fault.

LIAM: It's so funny sitting here because you've put on this act.

SHANE: What are you on about now?

LIAM: You were horrible when I was seeing you. You sneered at any gay man who'd walk by you, you'd sex shame a fly for fucking buzzing. You were rancid and now you're sitting here pretending what? That you're the messiah for positive people everywhere?

SHANE: Well I am actually you can't even talk. You think It's A Sin is a sex ed class apparently.

LIAM: Didn't you ever wonder why I disappeared? Why I stopped answering your texts why I never actually came over to yours that night?

SHANE: Never crossed my mind actually.

LIAM: You were cruel Shane, bitter and scathing about everyone and it ate at me. I could feel that for four months sucking bits of me away that's why I wouldn't reply why I ended it and then I think I'm finally in recovery and you text saying hey sorry I might've given you AIDs.

SHANE: I refuse to believe that you are so stupid you think AIDS and HIV are the same thing.

LIAM: I've watched enough TV shows either way to know it's a fucking nightmare.

SHANE: You are so! That is so!! Promise me when you get home you will google living with HIV

LIAM: Don't. Don't give me the spiel the seminar on HIV I'm not here for that.

SHANE: Why would you ask me to come here today? I knew you'd be angry but I thought then maybe you wanted to talk about diagnosis...

LIAM: I came here today because this is an exorcism. Because I needed to get you out of my system.

SHANE: I'm sorry.

LIAM: No you're not.

SHANE: I'm not sorry for maybe exposing you no because if I let that be it would kill me but I'm sorry for hurting you for being horrible because I thought you were someone really special and...

LIAM: Look obviously I was seeing you for four months. You've got something Shane but you let always the worst parts of you get in the way. Maybe now you're changing your life because you have to maybe you can change that too.

SHANE: Yeah. Thanks.

LIAM: I'm gonna go. Cathail's booked Carluccios, we always do a Friday night meal.

SHANE: Enjoy.

LIAM: I will.

SHANE: When do you get your results?

LIAM: Next week.

SHANE: Good luck.

LIAM: I don't need any luck. Okay. I hope in the nicest way possible Shane I never hear from you again.

SHANE: Don't worry. I'll take you off the Christmas card list.

LIAM: Oh boo. Good luck.

SHANE sits a moment. We hear him sigh. Short sharp shocks of jazz underneath.

We hear him ring someone on the phone.

FLORENCE: Speaking?

SHANE: Hi Mam

FLORENCE: Yes there pet how are you doing?

SHANE: Mam I'm just having a coffee here and I don't feel very well and I just thought I just thought I wanted to talk to you.

FLORENCE: Ach no do you have a dicky tummy?

SHANE: Kinda yeah.

FLORENCE: Is everything alright? You don't sound good.

SHANE: I'm fine I just feel a bit sick

FLORENCE: Ah pet you're eating too much dairy my stomach was in bits till I cut out the milk. Hold on I'm just in from work here and washing the floors -

SHANE: Where's Dad?

FLORENCE: Out gallivanting. He bought himself a bike an aul electric thing it'll be the death of him. Come here, did you see that new TV show? The one with yer one.

SHANE: Who?

FLORENCE: The one you love the one off the TV the one with the hair...

SHANE: Mam. Do you think I'm a good person?

FLORENCE: What was that? Sorry Shane I got distracted there these floors are tight you'd swear John took a shite on them...

SHANE: Do you think I'm a bit of a cunt?

FLORENCE: Would you! My goodness wash your mouth out with soap speaking like that. No I don't think you're a cunt. I think times...

SHANE: Yeah?

FLORENCE: I think you've become bitter, pet. And angry at the world. Maybe that makes you a wee bit of a cunt times. *(Silence as they listen to one another on the phone)* But oh what would I know? I barely see you once a year.

SHANE: How do I stop that? Being bitter?

FLORENCE: God I don't know. If I knew I'd sell it make a profit. I don't know. You finally grow up maybe.

Music. Cut to...

Gay Girls Love Gay Gigs like Orla Gartland or FKA Twigs

Street 66. Sounds of a filling up pub.

AISLING: This is why! This is why I didn't come out there it's such a silly silly environment!

IZZY: Silly silly silly billy

ZARA: Silly silly silly willy

AISLING: Stop it.

SHANE: So you finally told your work buddy of 3 years you're a cunt muncher. Congratulations.

AISLING: Yes and she told me she doesn't hate her perverted 9 year old because he's gay it's because he humps the couch whenever Prince Charming from Shrek 2 comes on the tv.

ZARA: What the –

AISLING: It just came over me I was sitting listening to her whinge about her fabulous life which granted I'm sure it's hard being a professional woman with kids I mean I know it's hard I've watched Erin Brockovich and Big Little Lies but I just felt this need this sorta need to say I am different to you I have a different path to you.

IZZY: Plenty of queer people are in loveless marriages and have horrible jobs. The fact you're a die hard Joni Mitchell listener doesn't guarantee you a different path.

AISLING: But I'll make sure of it I'll make sure of a different way to be. I won't become that. I can't.

IZZY: Then don't.

ZARA: I'm jealous. I've never been able to pass in work.

SHANE: Because you dress like Avril Lavinge in her skater boi era and haven't had a nice haircut since you were 12.

ZARA: Meow.

AISLING: This place is filling up Izzy. It'll be busy.

SHANE: And feral. That table behind us look like they're all fit for the bin already.

ZARA: Maybe it's their first time.

SHANE: In public?

IZZY: I feel sick.

AISLING: Do you want a buscopan? I've some here –

IZZY: I'm fine.

ZARA: I didn't think this many people come to gay cabaret.

IZZY: This is a Street 66 cabaret it's like the Grace Kelly of gay cabarets.

AISLING: Dead before her time?

IZZY: Royalty.

SHANE: Is all cabaret not gay?

AISLING: Not when my local GAA club does it.

ZARA: How was your date Izzy actually?

IZZY: Fine. Don't think I'll see him again.

AISLING: You were mad for him!

IZZY: Better texter than dater.

SHANE: Did something happen? You said it was so bad earlier you were comfort shopping vintage crop tops.

IZZY: And isn't this little number gorgeous? 18 euro in Oxfam.

ZARA: Mommy.

IZZY: Nothing happened he just wasn't the one for me.

AISLING: Are you sure you –

IZZY: End. Of. Discussion!

ZARA: Well. My Dad told me today I'm a dirty little povovore who can't stay with him and has to stand on my own two feet sooo Shane can I stay with you a little while longer please?

SHANE: It has been pleasant having you I'm a charitable person so yes.

ZARA: Pleasant? Girl I've been keeping you fed, watered and entertained.

SHANE: Mommy.

IZZY: I didn't think you should ever have asked your Dad for help Zara. He treats everyone like they're an extra in his latest flop he's not a nice guy.

AISLING: He was pretty great in Diary Of A Modern Man though. Nobody frowns like him! No one!

SHANE: I loved him in My Big Fat InnerCity Wedding. That's a gem of a film.

AISLING: The bit where he kisses yer one under the Spire? Swoon!

IZZY: I'm a good friend, I will not cross this picket line. I do not like any of your father's work.

AISLING: You're a huge Murder He Blogged fan.

IZZY: It's so good the episode where he discovers his next door neighbour Fionnuala Flannagan ate her husband? That's Camp Mama!

ZARA: It mightn't have been a total waste seeing Paul, I met an old school friend in the pub?

AISLING: Is this going to be sapphic?

ZARA: I don't know I haven't seen her in like literally years we were close when we were seventeen for a bit –

AISLING: Show us a pic –

ZARA: Ok hold on –

IZZY: Did you do anything spicy today Shane?

SHANE: I didn't come out to any work colleagues if that's what you're - OH come on she is so gay her username is big tiddy goth girl!

AISLING: I don't know she could be spicy straight.

IZZY: Look she went to an Orla Gartland concert –

AISLING: Okay no she's a vinyl of FKA Twigs.

ZARA: Where?

AISLING: Back of this pic look.

SHANE: Ye she's a cunt muncher.

ZARA: I invited her tonight so we'll see.

IZZY: Oh I'm feeling so sick. My ears are ringing. I must have eaten something earlier...

SHANE: It's those gargoyles behind us I can't hear myself think. Zara go over there and give your people a talking to.

ZARA: Lesbians hate me. Send Ash they'll all throw their knickers at her.

AISLING: Fuck off.

IZZY: I swear one of those ladies is looking at me funny.

SHANE: I'll reef them around, any excuse.

AISLING: It's just the nerves Izzy - you'll be amazing.

ZARA: Just think of all the gays coming to see Lovin Dublin's very own star sing some songs.

IZZY: Get outta here.

SHANE: I met Liam today.

AISLING: What?

IZZY: Why?

ZARA: Not him again istg I can't listen to this again...

SHANE: He asked to see me.

AISLING: Why?

IZZY: Why didn't you tell us! I thought Aisling was the mysterious one.

AISLING: I'm an open book. Easy readers and up.

ZARA: What did he want?

SHANE: He wanted to tell me that. That I was a horrible person and that when we were seeing each other I was so bitter and mean that he felt it was hurting him. That seeing me telling me this could act as an exorcism a way to finally close the door on me.

ZARA: What the fuck?

IZZY: That's so .. cruel?

AISLING: No sorry he ghosted you a year ago his disrespect towards you was pretty clear what possible purpose would saying that serve?

SHANE: I get it maybe in the past I have been less than stellar but come on! So what I told him he was vain posting three Instagram stories a day? I'm sorry if telling him his love of fucking fucking anime porn was weird! I sat there and let him say it I apologised and said I'm sorry I didn't even defend myself. I should have told him to fuck off to Avatar land and have some anime sex or what ever shit he's into.

IZZY: Oh Shane you're not horrible. Most of the time.

SHANE: Him and his fuckings stupid boyfriend Cathail going to Carluccios for dinner. What are they? Poor?

ZARA: I never liked him he literally looks like a twink Joe Rogan he's gross!

AISLING: No come off it he's gorgeous.

IZZY: Aisling.

AISLING: There's no point lying.

IZZY: I'm sorry Shane you didn't deserve that.

SHANE: Oh maybe I did. I don't know but he was a bit of a cunt saying all that.

AISLING: Isn't everyone a cunt these days? Big old cunt world out there.

SHANE: Maybe I am horrible I don't know.

ZARA: You're taking the words of a twink too close to heart girl. And so what if he was a twink you thought you could love? He's still A Twink.

CHARLOTTE: Yeah fuck Twink and her fucking little bird. I've always hated Twink.

AISLING: Dear Lord.

ZARA: You came!

CHARLOTTE: I sure did. It's a rule of mine to always come. Sorry that was a bit... Hello everyone, Charlotte.

AISLING: We know we've seen your Instagram.

ZARA: Ignore that. These are my friends Izzy, Aisling and Shane.

SHANE: Hi.

IZZY: A pleasure.

CHARLOTTE: I hear you're singing tonight Izzy?

IZZY: Apparently.

CHARLOTTE: I hope you've got a decent set of lungs on you. Rowdy in here tonight isn't it?

SHANE: Take my seat Charlotte I'm getting another drink, what are you having?

CHARLOTTE: Oh no don't worry.

SHANE: Come on you're an old school friends of Zaras, I'm going to get you drunk and you can tell me all the horror stories.

CHARLOTTE: Did she ever tell you about the time she braided her hair and did a blaccent?

AISLING: What!

ZARA: Fuck you man fuck you.

IZZY: Zara!

ZARA: It was 2009!

CHARLOTTE: I'll have a Vodka coke.

AISLING: G&T, Shane. I'll get the next one.

SHANE: Zara a Guinness?

ZARA: Now we've company I'll have a Shiraz or something.

AISLING: She's not sophisticated at all Charlotte do not believe this charade –

CHARLOTTE: Don't worry I see right through whatever this is...

IZZY: I'll come with you Shane help with the drinks.

Music. Cut to...

IZZY: Are you ok?

SHANE: Fine yeah.

IZZY: I'm sorry about Liam.

SHANE: Yeah sure look.

IZZY: Imagine meeting someone to say that. I'd never.

SHANE: Not everyone is as chivalrous as you. If you'd asked me a few hours ago Izzy if I'd ever been in love I think I would have said him.

IZZY: Oh Shane.

SHANE: Pathetic. I am so pathetic. What happened with Hunter today?

IZZY: I think I've questionable taste in men.

SHANE: You're only thinking that NOW?

IZZY: I've to pee I'm so bloody nervous for tonight I don't know why.

SHANE: Go piss girl I've got this.

IZZY: Are you sure?

SHANE: Bye!

BARMAN: Next there - yeah - What can I get you?

SHANE: You're handsome

BARMAN: Thanks.

SHANE: Fuck sorry that slipped out I'm NoT a pervert can I please have eh two gins, glass of red vodka coke and a guinness please thank you sorry...

SHANE's phone beeps.

JOHN: *(typing)* Shane son ur Da here fullstop. Was out biking earlier wind in my hair like Patrick Swayzee lol fullstop. Ur Mam says u hav dicky tummy fullstop. Take sum Andrews Liver Salts for it comma u can get in chemist fullstop you mix it in with water it is good dot dot dot Thank me l8r haha lol fullstop. Dad dot dot dot bicycle emoji gif of Patrick Swayzee looking sexy

SHANE: *(typing)* Lol thanks Dad comma, will get some on the way home so fullstop. Good luck with the new bike - you're like Lance Armstrong now exclamation mark exclamation mark!!

JOHN: *(typing)* Except with two testicles exclamation mark exclamation mark!

SHANE: Dear Lord.

BARMAN: That's Two Gins, one glass of red, vodka coke and a guinness. Can I get you anything else?

SHANE: Yeah. A lobotomy. Please.

Cut to...

Just Let Me Fucking Pee

Sounds of taps, hand dryers.

IZZY waiting to pee.

Then:

WOMAN: Oh - I saw you earlier - you're sitting across from us right? Sorry – the men's toilets are over the other side.

Beat.

IZZY: Yes. They are.

WOMAN: Just so you know, for next time.

IZZY: Thanks. But this is where I'm meant to be.

WOMAN: Oh. Oh sorry. I thought maybe you got confused.

IZZY: No. *(beat)* I actually don't You know what I actually don't need to pee so yeah..

The sounds of the bathroom become the sounds of the pub. IZZY is back with the gals.

SHANE: Here. G&T.

IZZY: Thanks.

CHARLOTTE: I work in marketing actually –

ZARA: So does Shane! He's raking it in he even rents his own flat.

AISLING: But Zara's busy crashing with him.

ZARA: Weh weh weh housing crisis!

SHANE: Jealousy doesn't suit any of you. Isn't that right Izzy?

IZZY: Sorry?

AISLING: What's wrong with ya? You look like you're going to keel over and die you've performed a hundred times before you'll be fine.

ZARA: Yeah Iz, what's with the squirming?

IZZY: Big queue for the toilets.

SHANE: Channel it for the performance! I'm always at my best sexually when I really need a piss.

AISLING: What the...

IZZY: Yeah yeah I will thanks.

CHARLOTTE: What kinda music do you make? Bit of rap is it? Lil Nas X or wha?

ZARA: We thought you were a FKA Twigs girl.

CHARLOTTE: Yeah when I'm on a come down –

THE MC: Willkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome! To our first ever official Street 66 sponsored by Dublin City Council QueerCabaret! So much slayage out there tonight guys gals and nonbinary pals I think I might just pass away!

SHANE: What a melt –

CHARLOTTE: I love –

THE MC: We have a slaytacular night of queer entertainment for you tonight. From poetry to stand up to songs to slays slays slays –

AISLING: If they say slay one more time I will off myself –

THE MC: Our first act tonight is a true true slay for all of you –

ZARA: Aisling you've had such a lovely life

THE MC: - Poet activist lesbian and self described anti deodorant advocate, Mona Munroe!

SHANE: Fucking Queer Nation –

ZARA: Are they here?!

CHARLOTTE: Who's the Queer Nation?

AISLING: They're like gay nazis.

CHARLOTTE: No way really? Fascism is it?

MONA: Hi everyone, it's so cool to see so many of you here tonight both familiar and unfamiliar faces I just want to say here before I go that is so brave of all my fellow wonderful acts to display their art in such a supportive queer safe space as this –

SHANE: They're not actually fascists but

CHARLOTTE: No. I get the picture.

ZARA: Izzy stop being so quiet roast her she is making a tit of herself. It's amazing!

MONA: This poem is called Sapphic I hope you like it.

AISLING: I really am going to have to drink Bleach. Or drown in a bath.

ZARA: Put a toaster in the bath.

MONA: Sapphic. Sapphic Is Liking Her Pic To Show Her She's Lit In Your Eyes Which Light Up With A Smile when She flit flit flits into your mind. It's Sapphic When She Shows Me Her Tits And I Think I Must Milk It. Sapphic: when she holds my pinky in her pinky and we think: samesies. Sapphic when she strolls down the street beside me and I think: tread softly, for you tread on my dreams. Thank you.

ZARA: I'm straight now.

MONA: My next poem is called Privilege. Privilege. Privilege begins with a P P P...enis which I am told I must suck suck suck in order to succeed. Thank you guys so much for listening. It was such a space of communion here tonight break a leg to all the other acts! You can find me on TikTok under MonaDeBrave or my poetry newsletter is...

ZARA: I can't I cannot function –

AISLING: That is it. Fellas you'll find me next on RIP.ie...

CHARLOTTE: I think this was like so profound. Privilege is a penis, guys!

SHANE: Izzy. Izzy.

IZZY: What?

SHANE: Jesus what the fuck is wrong with you?

IZZY: I'm up next.

SHANE: I think your guy is here.

IZZY: Hunter?

SHANE: Standing at the door, look.

ZARA: I thought you said the date was a disaster?

IZZY: No no no...

THE MC: Thank you SO much Mona! Give it up for Mona everyone that was just so insightful the slayage was intense and the voltage was immense. Next up we have...

HUNTER: Hiya Izzy.

THE MC: Isobel McMahan! Isobel is a word of mouth sensation and currently one of the Dublin queer scene's hottest cabaret acts –

IZZY: I told you not to come.

HUNTER: But I am really really looking forward to seeing you sing.

THE MC: Come on up Isobel the stage they/them/theirs are yours.

IZZY: Whatever.

HUNTER: Break a leg.

IZZY: *(at the mic)* Hello everyone. Em. It's lovely to see such a big crowd and eh. Em.

CHARLOTTE: Is she always this nervous?

AISLING: Something's wrong.

ZARA: Really wrong.

IZZY: I am going to perform a song I wrote it's called Flicker and it's about the joy I felt coming to Dublin and meeting people like me and finding acceptance... But. You know what. I'm really sorry I actually can't perform tonight. I can't. I'm sorry I'm not going to stand here and. Preach... Thank you for having me but I actually have to go so have a nice night everyone. Sorry.

SHANE: Oh no.

THE MC: That is no problemo we all have off nights give it up for Isobel! We look forward to having her back soon –

AISLING: Izzy!

HUNTER: Are you ok?

SHANE: What happened?

IZZY: I'm sorry I'm going home I'm. Sorry. I have to go.

CHARLOTTE: Go after her go on.

ZARA: Hey Izzy wait wait...

Sounds of the pub become sounds of the street.

AISLING: Izzy stop stop what happened?

SHANE: Izzy!

IZZY: Go back in have a nice night okay just leave me

ZARA: No we will not.

AISLING: What happened?

IZZY: Earlier in the toilets this woman she. She fucking told me where the men's is and then Hunter earlier it was just I just I want to go home. I just want to go home.

SHANE: Then we'll go home we'll take you home.

IZZY: No you won't go back in there and stop being so stupid.

SHANE: Shut your hole Ash is ordering us a taxi Zara is going to go and kiss that Charlotte one good bye

ZARA: Fuck off

SHANE: And you and I we're getting a DiFontaines right? And then we are going home for a cry, a gossip and to watch some hot boys on TikToks. Right?

IZZY: Right.

SHANE: Okay! Lovely!

Next Time On Fruit:

IZZY: How are you all not so fucking *sad*? All the time?

AISLING: We're not trying to play pretend Izzy, we're just trying to focus on the good stuff. Sitting in the shit won't get rid of the smell. It's not all bad. It can't be.

CHARLIE: Was I just that? A pit stop on the Lesbian Express? Choo choo next stop Scissor Street?

ZARA: YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEOOOOOOOOOWWWWWWWWWW HAHA! Yup The Balbriggan! Fuck this *shite*! Curriculum Vitae my *hole*! WOO!

MAGGIE: I feel like one of them Mafia don fellas off the telly. Take it or you'll sleep with the fishes. Just a joke... unless? Haha.

SHANE: Izzy if you don't open this door right now! I know you're watching *Sex and the City* in there. I can recognise Sarah Jessica Parker's voice anywhere. You know I'm a bloodhound for culturally significant white women. Open. The. Door. Isobel!

REGGIE: You're walking through life standing on the shoulders of ghosts, Shane. And the only way, the only way you can pay them back is to keep on living your best life, babe. With no shame and no fear.

Credits

Read by HK.

Thank you for listening to Fruit. If you enjoyed today's episode please don't forget to like and subscribe and tell your best friends too!

Fruit is presented by LemonSoap Productions, in association with Once Off Productions.

Created by Ultan Pringle and Lisa Nally

Written by Ultan Pringle, Hiram Harrington, and Lora Hartin

Edit & sound design by Ultan Stanley, with compositions & theme song by HK Ní Shioradáin (that's me!)

Logo design by Sarah Brady

Photography and production support by Owen Clarke

Produced by Lisa Nally

With

Madison Cawley as Zara,

Ois O'Donoghoe as Izzy,

Lisa Nally as Aisling

Ultan Pringle as Shane

Liam Bixby as Hunter

Aidan Gillen as Paul

Hazel Clifford as Charlotte

Camille Lucy Ross as Meredith

Kerill Kelly as Liam

Kathy Kiera Clarke as Florence
Owen Clarke as Handsome Barman
Vincent Brightling as John
Emily Bradley as Toilet TERF
Michael Fry as The MC
Heather O'Sullivan as Mona
and PJ Kirby as The Queen.

Special thanks to Annie Sherry, Emily Long, Philly McMahon, All My Friends Bar, The New Theatre and The Arts Council.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram, TikTok, Twitter and Facebook to be first to hear all the latest goss and don't forget to tune in next week for another fabulous and fruity episode.