

Fruit

Episode 2: Labour? Sucks

THE QUEEN: The second bite of the apple is rarely as juicy as the first is it? You're always left disappointed aren't you? Unfulfilled. Much like when you invite that boy back over the second time and suddenly find a tongue that was so agile like a jackhammer is now a piece of linguini limp and languid lying on your pillow waiting for you to drop it in a pot of lightly salted water. But lo and behold and let me tell you this girl. This second bite of the apple? It is so sweet and so packed full of flavour baby girl you better get that blood sugar checked after this god damn cocktail.

Our girls now find themselves facing a rather atypical work week.

Izzy faces off with her formidable no nonsense boss, Joan and questions her place in Lovin Dublin.

Aisling works from home and is pestered by her boring boyfriend and her slightly - massively - inappropriate boss who speaks nonsense such as:

MEREDITH: Think of me not as your manager superior person. Think of me as a mentor. As one of you. Who improved her standing. Massively.

THE QUEEN: Zara then meets with her agent and finds herself rather humiliatingly begging for work and facing some horrible home truths and Shane goes for his test results and finds his world thoroughly thrown upside down. Welcome back, babies, to episode two of Fruit. Now,

The Girls Groupchatting

ZARA: Good morning fag hags what's on the menu for today are we still movie nighting this evening question mark?

ISOBEL: Duh are we doing it in mine question mark? Reggie is out he has Nigerian Cooking Classes on a Wednesday lol awkward face emoji.

ZARA: Yes slay I can get the 24 hour home full stop. What we watchin

AISLING: Lilo And Stitch

ZARA: That's so het

AISLING: Oh yeah question mark? Is it still het if I want to ride Nani question mark question mark?

ZARA: Lilo's sister question mark question mark? WTF

ISOBEL: Fattest ass on a fictional character goes to...

AISLING: It's SOUL destroying Zaza come on why wouldn't we watch it exclamation mark exclamation mark exclamation mark!

ZARA: Get out of here with this Disney shit

ISOBEL: Shall we watch something European instead Zaza question mark? Should I text my ex and ask for his Mubi password lol

ZARA: Yas mama slay the art haus down boots

ISOBEL: Lilo and Stitch doesn't have any lesbians in it that's why Zara won't watch it

AISLING: it has those two gay aliens exclamation mark alien emoji heart heart heart

ISOBEL: That's a t4t couple if i've ever seen it. Pleakley? She/they. Easy.

AISLING: Extra-homo-sexual-terrestrials

ZARA: Girlies If I wanted to watch extra homosexuals I'd watch Shane's sex tape

AISLING: Oop

ISOBEL: Shane are you coming tonight question mark?

Beat.

Music. Into...

Diagnosis

DOCTOR GREENE: It truly is the best time in history to be HIV+, Shane. Here in Ireland anyway really I can't stress that enough to you.

SHANE: Mhm.

DOCTOR GREENE: The reality is that with one tablet a day you will live the exact same life you did before diagnosis. That's a concrete, indisputable fact. With the medicine we have now, we can reduce your viral load to zero, and when you take that just one pill a day your viral load will be undetectable which means it is impossible for you to transmit this virus on.

SHANE: Yeah, I know what U=U means. I've been to the George, I've seen the posters.

DOCTOR GREENE: Are you sure you wouldn't like us to call someone?

SHANE: Absolutely.

DOCTOR GREENE: We have services here Shane, we'll support you every step of the way on this. And I cannot stress it enough, we have caught this in time and just one pill a day means you're going to live a perfectly normal life.

SHANE: I heard you the first time.

Beat.

DOCTOR GREENE: Right. We'll get you your first prescription before you leave and we'll schedule an appointment for a few weeks time to monitor how things are going and to do a few more tests. Does that all sound okay, Shane?

SHANE: Sure.

DOCTOR GREENE: Are you okay?

SHANE: Of course. I mean it's an everyday occurrence, really. Getting diagnosed with HIV.

DOCTOR GREENE: I understand this is difficult.

SHANE: Do I have to tell them? I do, don't I? All the men I've been with.

DOCTOR GREENE: We have services here that can do that, we can make contact and advise your past sexual partners to get seen.

SHANE: No. I should be the one to do it, it's less of a list and more of a phonebook. This is my fault, right? I might as well own it.

DOCTOR GREENE: Respectfully Shane that's.. that's not you know that's not an attitude you should have. It is nobody's fault that they acquire an STI or are HIV+ it's...

SHANE: But it is though isn't it? I mean if your son in twenty years, god forbid, comes home and says Mam I've gonorrhoea or hepatitis A or B or C the first thing you'd think wouldn't you is why didn't you wear a fucking condom?

DOCTOR GREENE: Not really. I'd say well let's get treatment and I hope you're okay.

SHANE: Well. You're a better person than me then.

Music. Into...

Nobody Wants To Hire A Lesbian

CORALINE: Zaza I'm just – oh you know it breaks me not just to say it to think it even is misery– but I just don't have any parts for you.

ZARA: Cora, I am struggling. My landlord is selling.

CORALINE: Of course they are, Zaza, if I owned a spare house I'd sell it in a heartbeat. I mean I'd even sell my own child for a house, then I'd flip it, double the price, and resell it to some poor soul who chose not have a child just to be able to afford said house.

ZARA: Right.

CORALINE: What I am saying is in an ideal world I'd move to the Canaries.

ZARA: My mother moved there. It's a bad investment though. The Canaries'll be under water in twenty years.

CORALINE: Darling I'll be dead by 60 from the Johnny Blues what do I care?

ZARA: I wouldn't come to you unless I was desperate, Coraline, I need work. Fuck it! I'll even do theatre in the Midlands if it means I can do something.

CORALINE: Don't do this to me Zaza. You know I love you, every tape I ask you to do, you throw that ball out of, like, the field or what not and that Fanta Orange advert was divine, sweetheart, the way you held that can was ugh! Inspired.

ZARA: Then hire me, please. Anything.

CORALINE: I am your agent, not a miracle worker. There aren't any parts out there for you.

ZARA: Sally Rooney's new book is being adapted!

CORALINE: Zara you could never play a waify brunette from Mayo.

ZARA: I have a craft! Something I have trained for years to do! And I haven't worked at it in 13 months, Coraline! I just need something which will lead to something which will let me buy a house or fucking. Exist properly! I can't afford to rent in Dublin on a H&M salary. Even any ads you have I'll go for. Fuck I'd even do a modelling gig. I can show my tits for an artsy fashion brand or something.

Beat.

CORALINE: You didn't do as I told you.

ZARA: Sorry?

CORALINE: I told you not to cut your hair.

ZARA: Is that what this is about?

CORALINE: You have to be smart, Zara. Nobody, especially in this country, is going to cast a bald headed lesbian who wears Calvin Klein boxers. You have to be smart about it.

ZARA: I'm not bald. It's like, basically a pixie cut.

CORALINE: A pixie is still a fairy.

ZARA: But. You've – the industry is changing. There are queer roles now...

CORALINE: Who is playing them though? Not people like you. And it's unfair, it's rotten, it's putrid, whatever sweetheart but that's what it is. They want women who look prepubescent but incredibly fertile at the same time. They want virgin lesbian sluts and vaguely bi mothers who are 50 but look 25. It's a disgusting, horrible, game but you have to start playing it.

ZARA: But it's not who I am.

CORALINE: Then act, Zaza.

ZARA: Why did you take me on if you don't think I can make this work?

CORALINE: I did it as a favour to your father.

ZARA: I'm not my father.

CORALINE: Yes, for a nepotism baby, you sure don't make me as much money.

ZARA: He hasn't worked in years.

CORALINE: His HBO show still bought me my Mercedes Benz sweetheart. So far you've got me a packet of toilet roll.

ZARA: Cushelle at least.

CORALINE: Lidl own brand.

Zara gulps. Pauses.

ZARA: I thought you took me on because I have something. Don't you think it's boring? Giving what everyone else is giving?

CORALINE: Of course I do. Listen, You know I'm an ally. I even dipped a toe in the ladypond during my more salubrious college years. I gave Andrew Scott his first job for god sakes, but 99% of the world love boring. They eat it with sprinkles on top and a flake and chocolate sauce sometimes, but it's still vanilla underneath. So you give them what they want.

ZARA: Whatever happened to art?

CORALINE: Disney bought it.

ZARA: That isn't who I am, Cora.

CORALINE: Then act. You're an actor. Act.

Beat.

CORALINE: How is your father? Do you know he's the only man I ever let call me Caroline.

ZARA: I don't know.

CORALINE: Maybe you could live with him. If you're stuck.

ZARA: No.

CORALINE: Tch. Zaza. I'll see what I can get for you.

ZARA: Thank you.

CORALINE: Find somewhere else to live though, will you? I can't have a homeless person on the books, darling, charity is so unchic.

Music. Into...

Texting Is Like Sending Letters in 1850, It's Sexy

Typing on phones.

IZZY: Hello is this Hunter the American with the blonde hair blue eyes and the faintly Aryan good looks question mark?

HUNTER: Yes m'am though I do feel slightly awkward you think I look like I belong to Hitler Youth lol winky face winky face palm emoji

IZZY: it was just a joke if this was 1944 I'm sure you'd be a freedom fighter winky tongue out emoji

HUNTER: Would I be right in assuming this is the gorgeous lady who ate french toast and had a triple shot oat latte on Sunday and looked like a proper snack while doing so question mark?

IZZY: This is she full stop. Izzy full stop. Nice to e-meet you.

HUNTER: Nice to e-meet you too exclamation mark smiley face. Texting is like sending letters in 1850 it's sexy

IZZY: So true lol what u up 2 question mark smiley face?

Did You See My Good Shirt?

Sounds of AISLING typing on a laptop.

CHARLIE: Aisling! Aisling. Aisling!!

AISLING: I'm trying to work!

CHARLIE: Sorry I was just-I thought you had the day off?

AISLING: It is my day off.

CHARLIE: Right. You didn't see my good shirt did you?

AISLING: Which one?

CHARLIE: The good one.

AISLING: Topman or Superdry?

CHARLIE: The muscle fit.

AISLING: Black or white?

CHARLIE: Blue.

AISLING: Storage box under the bed. Green lid.

CHARLIE: Fuck, am I gonna have to iron it?

AISLING: Unless you want to look like a freshly-showered toe, then yes .

CHARLIE: Ugh. What are you working on?

AISLING: Just this case Meredith gave me to do.

CHARLIE: Is Meredith the one with the huge teeth?

AISLING: They're not that big.

CHARLIE: They're massive. What is it you and the girls say? It gives-

AISLING: It's giving.

CHARLIE: Right, yeah, it's giving Bugs Bunny.

AISLING snorts.

AISLING: She's got a promotion, she's my boss now.

CHARLIE: No way.

AISLING: Yesway.

CHARLIE: And she's making you work on your day off?

AISLING: It's not work really, it's just extra. Work.

CHARLIE: Right.

AISLING: She said she'd take me out for brunch. To say thanks.

CHARLIE: That's good of her.

AISLING: What's the shirt for?

CHARLIE: The lads are heading out tonight. Few scoops in Grogans.

AISLING: Jealous.

CHARLIE: You girls and Shane can't have all the fun. Is Meredith the one who said I'm hot?

AISLING: You'll never forget that, will you?

Record scratch. Timewarp. Whatevz.

MEREDITH: Aisling Aisling Aisling you know I just haven't been able to stop thinking about your divine boyfriend. What was his name again? Darren?

AISLING: Charlie –

MEREDITH: He just looks so *simple, yet, endearing*. The kind of man who couldn't do a Wordle but can eat your puss puss you know? Oh. Probably shouldn't be saying that now. Now I'm your bo.. Now I've been. Promoted.

AISLING: Watch out, I could take a case.

MEREDITH: We'd bury you in court. Do you remember Sarah from HR?

AISLING: God yeah.

MEREDITH: Poor woman. She should've known better though. When a man puts his hand up your skirt you just have to clench your cooch and grin and bear it. You wouldn't know about that though seeing as you're always wearing trousers.

AISLING: I feel a chill easily.

MEREDITH: There's a vitamin you can take for that I think. My Keith gives it to the boys, to save us on the heating. Mind he wants to get one of those heat pumps now and I said Keith this is a genuine Georgian six bed you can't tamper with timely perfection.

AISLING: How are your boys?

MEREDITH: Jeremiah's started playing hurling now. He's very catholic. Joshua's started to grow a moustache at eleven and I have to say it does suit him, a little dusting of man god his hands will be digging up skirts soon and then Johnathan's guinea pig just got eaten by *another* cat so he's devastated. Imagine in this day and age someone's cat in Donnybrook of all places is eating guinea pigs. I mean honestly, can the owner not afford some genuine Felix Cat Food? What would that cost you these days? Not a lot I'd imagine just a tenner a tin in Donny Fair I'd say.

AISLING: Wow. Sounds like a nightmare.

MEREDITH: Stay on the pill I say, Aisling. I'd popped two mistakes out by the time I was your age. I still had my career though, thank god for Daddy paying for the childcare of course. Your father couldn't do that though, isn't he from Mayo?

AISLING: Yeah...

MEREDITH: Anyway listen, I didn't come for a goss. I have a little fave fave to ask of you. Keith wants to take myself and the boys off to Connemara for a little midweek break, a little Glamping, revitalise the soul etcetera but I have all this paperwork for the Huberman-O'Driscoll divorce case.

AISLING: Terrible.

MEREDITH: Oh awful, put down the teeth whitening strips and sign a prenup for god's sake. But I was wondering really and truly if you would be an absolute bomb and..

AISLING: I'll cover you. Enjoy your break.

MEREDITH: I know you had that time booked off darling! I hope you don't have any plans? Bar sitting on that sensational man candy Dave's face.

AISLING: It was just some R&R time. I'll be grand.

MEREDITH: You're an absolute star so you are! I'll take you out for brunch to thank you. That'd be a nice treat for you wouldn't it? Going out for brunch with someone who isn't a deviant homosexual. Oh! I am bad, I'm so bad.

Record scratch. Timewarp. Whatevz.

AISLING: I'm sorry I know I said I'd spend the day with you...

CHARLIE: Stop apologising, it's okay. You're a busy bee. Making moolah. Dosh. Does this really need to be ironed?

AISLING: Yes.

CHARLIE: Can you do it for me?

AISLING: No.

CHARLIE: I was only joking. I wonder if I just put something really heavy on top of it would that...

Sounds of typing on laptop. General existing.

CHARLIE: Eamon in work just closed that deal. For that three bed.

AISLING: Lucky him.

CHARLIE: Do you think we ever will?

AISLING: What?

CHARLIE: Get a mortgage.

AISLING: Charlie, I can't even think about what's for dinner today, never mind a long term loan commitment.

CHARLIE: There's leftover Pad Thai there I think...

AISLING: We could not afford a mortgage –

CHARLIE: We're both on a lot of money.

AISLING: Not enough money.

CHARLIE: What kind of world are we living in where a lawyer and an engineer can't get a mortgage?

AISLING: A neoliberal one.

CHARLIE: I checked it out. We could get somewhere in Bray or Swords with our combined salaries done by 3.5 we could get a fixer upper if we -

AISLING: You've been researching?

CHARLIE: We're both 30 we -

AISLING: 29 -

CHARLIE: 30 in two months -

AISLING: 4 -

CHARLIE: Ok -

AISLING: I've never thought about it.

CHARLIE: We've been together six years and you haven't thought about it?

AISLING: We already live together.

CHARLIE: In my dead uncle's house. That smells like cats and has no storage.

AISLING: See, I think he must have been gay cause of the cats, but then maybe not cause all aging homos love a walk-in wardrobe..

CHARLIE: By the time my parents were thirty, they had a house and three kids.

AISLING: And look how that turned out for you. You're still in counselling.

CHARLIE: You could do with going.

AISLING: Are we doomed here forever to repeat the same conversations Charlie? Hamsters on a wheel.

CHARLIE: I've a few leaflets I can leave out for you to have a look at if you...

AISLING: For therapy? Again?!

CHARLIE: For a mortgage.

AISLING: Later.

CHARLIE: Last week you said seven years is a time for a change. What if that change is us finally committing and saying this is it, like this is *our* house. I'd just really like, like, I'd just

really love a garden of my own. To have like, a BBQ with all the lads and I don't know grill sausages on our very own grill and I'll even buy the Linda McCartney ones in case you want to have your friends over too but I think it's time we start thinking about stuff like this. Really.

AISLING: I'll think about gardens and sausages galore Charlie when Amy Huberman and Brian O'Driscoll have finally divorced alright? Now leave me alone before I grill your bleeding sausage.

CHARLIE: Alright. But! You were the one who wanted a change. Maybe this is it, Ash.

AISLING: Maybe.

CHARLIE: Do you know where the iron is?

AISLING: Under the sink.

CHARLIE: Oh yeah.

AISLING: Make sure to put water in it.

CHARLIE: Right, thanks Ash.

Music. Into..

Lovin Dublin's Latest And Only Agony Aunt

ISOBEL's phone rings.

ISOBEL: Hello, Isobel speaking.

SHANE: Hey. Are you free?

ISOBEL: *(loudly)* Oh sorry no this is Lovin' Dublin? So sorry – *Shane my boss is watching I can't talk I already got caught eating all the communal crackers at lunch today* – *(loudly)* No, yeah this is actually the phone number of the best listicle online news outlet in Dublin, right?

SHANE: Jesus Christ. Don't worry. It's grand I'll sure yeah I'll see you tonight.

ISOBEL: *(whispered)* Is everything ok?

SHANE: Yeah. Talk later.

ISOBEL: *Slay, okay bye* – that's quite alright, no YOU have a good day sir. *Sorry again bye bye bye.*

She hangs up.

ISOBEL: (*under her breath*) Right where was I? Fuck here she comes...

JOAN: Isobel. Could I've a word please?

ISOBEL: Oh Jesus, Joan, sorry I didn't see you there you nearly gave me a heart attack.

JOAN: You've- you've made eye contact with me four times in the past minute.

ISOBEL: Have I? It's this new like, eyelash serum thing I'm using, yeah, you like, lose some peripheral vision but you get that sexy false lash effect so but oh now that I look at you wow you're looking like so glam today.

JOAN: Well, would that this devil could afford to wear Prada.

ISOBEL: Sorry?

JOAN: Who was that on the phone?

ISOBEL: Ehm. Wrong number. They thought it was TropicalPopical. Booked to get their nails done, but ended up hearing about how we *nail* all these popular eating place lists-

JOAN: I'm unimpressed by that article you filed today.

ISOBEL: The Eddie Rockets New Chicken Wing Review?

JOAN: Yes.

ISOBEL: I *was* really very sick after those wings it was –

JOAN: Yes, I read all about your stomach upset.

ISOBEL: Really! I did think I was going to die that night –

JOAN: And secondly, Isobel, if you're so concerned about gut health you should stop eating all the communal crackers and cheese.

ISOBEL: I'm sorry. I comfort eat.

JOAN: Isobel, let me be frank.

ISOBEL: Nice to meet you Frank I'm Izzy.

Silence.

JOAN: Your writing lacks in many ways a rigour, a true interrogation of the matter at hand. I understand it was only a chicken wing article but..

ISOBEL: I lied in that article, you already know how badly my intestines reacted to that “Southside” sauce. And I wrote I liked it and highly recommend it! I compromised my journalistic ethics, really.

JOAN: Was that another joke?

ISOBEL: Maybe.

JOAN: I know some may view what we do here as poof pieces –

ISOBEL: Puff –

JOAN: But people can sniff out insincerity in matters such as these. Which is why I’ve decided to . . . : To do something different with you. A position suited more to what I believe you’re offering.

ISOBEL: Please, not the Tik Tok Department. I’m too old for that. The only thing I’ve ever “thrown back” was the 2 euro Sambuca in PRHOMO!

Joan is silent.

ISOBEL: Sorry Miss Joan. Go on.

JOAN: Please, Miss Joan was my Grandmother. I believe the time is ripe for a Lovin Dublin Agony Aunt. And I want you to be the first one we have.

ISOBEL: An agony aunt?

JOAN: I think you’ve the desired “pep” and “verve” for it. And I think it may stretch you in ways more exciting than fast food articles.

ISOBEL: Why?

JOAN: I’ve been watching you. And I think that girls with a preppy resilience like yours are the future, and I think we can do our bit here to push forward into said future.

ISOBEL: By having a trans woman agony aunt? Think of what they’ll say on Joe Duffy.

JOAN: Baby steps are steps nonetheless. And of course, there’ll be a payrise to accommodate your increased workload.

ISOBEL: Really?

JOAN: I’ll bump you to three days a week here

ISOBEL: So this is a promotion?

JOAN: Don't get ahead of yourself.

ISOBEL: Why? Why me?

JOAN: I saw your article for The Journal. The Diary Of A Modern Day Trans Girl.

ISOBEL: I didn't title it, the editor did. FYI.

JOAN: Despite the title, It moved me. I said to myself if we want to keep talent like that here it must be nurtured. Now what you lack in rigour writing about chicken wings, I think you'll make up for in sentimental yet helpful advice to strangers. Strangers, that are of course, in our target demographic of late stage Millennial women who still use Facebook. What do you say? Are you in?

Beat.

ISOBEL: I don't know. If I want that. To be an Agony Aunt.

JOAN: Take it from me Isabella. Every woman ends up being an agony aunt. That is the greatest trick the patriarchy has ever pulled.

ISOBEL: Can I have some time to think about it?

JOAN: I'll need an answer by the end of the week.

ISOBEL: Deal.

JOAN: Good. Turn that phone off too. No more tropical popsicle calls please.

ISOBEL: Deal. Or No Deal. A joke. Like that show on Channel 4 years ago you know the one with the Mr Blobby guy Noel Edmond...

JOAN: I don't watch television.

ISOBEL: Not even Netflix?

JOAN: Right so. Thank you for the conversation. Get back to me by the end of the week.

Beat. JOAN is about to walk away.

ISOBEL: I'm glad you liked my article. In the Journal.

JOAN: Sloppy in the third paragraph, and the ending struck me as a tad schmaltzy, but then again - that is what made me think she'd be just perfect as an Agony Aunt.

Music. Into...

Movie Night Meltdowns

The sound of an Alexa saying: Now Playing Izzy Cuntz Mellow Lady Jams.

Mellow music underscored throughout.

ZARA: I can't work out if you as an agony aunt is a hate crime or a work of genius?

AISLING: Do people make up those letters or do they actually ask for advice? The latter just sounds so pathetic.

ISOBEL: I don't know what to do! It's a promotion but it does feel like professionally in some ways a demotion?

AISLING: Catch yourself on, it's a step up from reviewing Eddie Rocket's cajun chicken wings. Plus it sounds kind of gas.

ISOBEL: Giving tips to ageing millennial ladies on how they can keep their incel boyfriends satisfied? Will you be writing in Aisling?

AISLING: Don't start in on Charlie again, I won't have it.

ZARA: Dear Isobel, my boyfriend keeps putting his cummy socks in the wash. What can I do to stop him masturbating? Aisling, Lawyer, 29.

AISLING: Dear Auntie Isobel, everytime I think about my ex I have a panic attack and my acting career has taken off as much as the Challenger. How do I stop being such an insufferable little lezzer? Zara, Unemployed, 27.

SHANE: She's not unemployed, she works in H&M.

ZARA: Well, look who's decided to use his words.

SHANE: Suck a dick.

ZARA: You've been sat there for an hour and said nothing.

SHANE: I've been enjoying the conversation.

ZARA: Suck a dick.

SHANE: Waiting to watch this movie no one's put on yet!

ISOBEL: We're waiting on Aisling's Disney+ password.

AISLING: I told you, Charlie's out for a few scoops.

The group makes noises of disgust.

AISLING: He'll send it on in a minute. This is what men are good for gals, remembering all the passwords.

SHANE: And howling every time they bust a nut apparently.

ISOBEL: What'd you ring me for earlier Shane? She caught me! Joan. On the phone to you, that's why I had to pretend.

AISLING: Pretend what?

SHANE: Isobel did a tight five comedy routine when I rang earlier.

ISOBEL: I get in trouble for being on my phone at work all the time.

ZARA: Journalists are always on their phone, like is that not like a part of the job?

AISLING: What are you ringing Izzy for when you've barely been texting any of us all week? You've been shit weird since Monday.

ZARA: Yeah we thought you were like, depressed, or something.

SHANE: Oh! Take Me To The Hague! Can't a girl have other friends?

AISLING: Oh, so you've been fucking.

ISOBEL: Celebrating your clean bill of health?

ZARA: God Shane, you're lucky that clinic is free they'd be making a fortune off you.

AISLING: Have you thought about suing your landlord yet?

ZARA: Aisling, nobody sues landlords these days. It's like Dickensian London out there. You just live with injustice.

AISLING: You've a genuine case, she didn't give proper eviction notice.

ZARA: Will you take the case for me?

AISLING: Well no I'm bus-

ZARA: Case closed.

ISOBEL: I need to make a pro/con list. Perks and Pitfalls of being The First Lovin' Dublin Agony Aunt. That's what I did when I had to break up with Malcolm and it worked really well.

ZARA: That did not work well! He vomited on you out of sadness.

ISOBEL: Don't make me feel bad about him please. I can't handle the guilt.

AISLING: There aren't any pitfalls to this though. It's more money, isn't it?

ISOBEL: Yes.

AISLING: And aren't you dying to get out from under your geriatric landlord?

ISOBEL: Yes.

AISLING: Case closed.

ISOBEL: I don't want to be a transgender fairy godmother to a bunch of cis women though!

AISLING: Who cares! Wave your fucking magic wand over their estrogen-rich bodies and take all that money and get yourself a nice apartment. And take Lolly Lesbian over there with you.

ZARA: Genuinely would love, just saying.

SHANE: What's wrong with being a transgender fairy godmother? Sounds much more pleasant than being straight. Or poor.

ZARA: Yeah pop off, it's giving Jennifer Saunders Shrek 2 Fairy G realness.

ISOBEL: I don't exist to fix cis people's problems.

ZARA: That's what you do for all of us?

ISOBEL: Very funny...

AISLING: Fix the little cishets problems and dry their tears and take their money all the way to Daft.ie. Call that shit reparations luv.

ZARA: It's inspiring Mama. You're queering the form. Turning a cis-woman dominated heterosexual institution on its head hunty.

SHANE: Wow. Almost couldn't tell the difference between the two of you there. So full of jargon.

ZARA: The only difference is one of us is getting our kitty kats ate on a regular basis and the other one isn't.

ISOBEL: Genuinely can't tell you whether or not you mean you or Ash here...

AISLING: It's certainly not me.

ZARA: I would like to comment on that but I know you hate when we make Charlie jokes.

AISLING: I don't hate when you make Charlie jokes.

ZARA: It feels like you hate when we make Charlie jokes.

ISOBEL: You used to hate it when we made Shiv jokes.

ZARA: Yeah well Shiv was a hot sexy lesbian who was more successful than me! Every time you made jokes about her I was afraid she'd leave me. Guess what? She did leave me.

SHANE: Don't forget she cheated on you. Never forget she cheated on you.

ISOBEL: Is it really cheating if she thought you were in an open relationship but you weren't?

AISLING & ZARA: Yes.

ISOBEL: Maybe that'd be a good column. If I took that Agony Aunt Job. Is it really cheating if I don't believe in monogamy? Honestly I should like write down my thoughts and keep a diary they're like gold.

AISLING: You don't keep a diary? What about your memoir?

ISOBEL: I'll simply lie.

ZARA: I think- right, I was thinking this today and well my agent Coraline said it - if I was straight and gorgeous I'd be everywhere right now. I'd be cast in every little thing. I'd be Miss Sally Rooney I'd be BAFTA Rising Star Award 101.

SHANE: That takes talent.

ISOBEL: Don't be a dick Shane.

AISLING: I for one think you'd be boring then Zara so probably not you wouldn't give half what you're giving.

ZARA: If only I was more like you.

AISLING: Like what?

ZARA: Able to hide it. To get ahead. To play the system.

AISLING: I don't hide who I am.

ZARA: You don't have to, it's already so hard to find

ISOBEL: That's not fair. Why is everyone being so catty tonight!

ZARA: Nobody at work knows she's bi!

AISLING: My workplace has more HR problems than Miramax, it is not a good place to be gay.

ISOBEL: They do do a lovely Pride poster every June though, I have to say. It's always one of the best corporate pride displays. Every year running.

AISLING: Yeah. 'We're just like you. GAY.' That was a good one.

ISOBEL: We shouldn't always have to roar from the rooftops who we are. That's what I think.

SHANE: Some of us don't have a choice.

ISOBEL: Weren't you like closeted jock rugby lad with a girlfriend till you were 19?

SHANE: You know for a fact I was Isobel because I met you in our first year of college.

ZARA: We knew you were a bottom the moment we laid eyes on you.

AISLING: Moment of silence for Straight Shane please.

SHANE: Fuck off.

ZARA turns the Alexa off.

ZARA: I should emigrate. I'm going to like go and live with my sunbed loving mother in Gran Canaria.

AISLING: You wouldn't last a day in the Canaries you're too pale. You'd be like Mr Krabs after a week.

ZARA: There's just nothing for me here! No opportunities nowhere to live no money no love and let's be real Dublin has like a disease Dublin is like infected right now it is dying it's riddled bout to drop dead like...

SHANE: Oh fuck off. Just fuck off. I can't. You're struggling for money Zara. You're an actress. You spend half your time lying on your arse swiping on Tinder, get another job. Work harder. Izzy you're whinging about is this who you are. What a privilege to navel gaze huh? You're a writer. Then write columns, make more money, move out of the house you're unhappy in. I mean I know you're a bunch of homosexuals but it's not rocket science it's basic life ergonomics.

ZARA: Fuck off you Shane!

ISOBEL: Okay well I think I'm going to take the job so calm down Diva!

AISLING: What's gotten into you? You're giving Kim K "you better get up of your ass and work realness"

SHANE: I'm bored! Done with it. There are solutions to these problems. Get outta jail free cards. Not everyone has them

ZARA: I'm Shane I'm from Donegal I'm working class I work hard for everything I have!

SHANE: I haven't worked hard. I got lucky out of college in a job that pays well. I live a normal boring comfortable life. You don't hear me crying about it.

IZZY: You look like you're going to cry right now are you ok?

SHANE: I'm fine.

IZZY: Is this about Liam are you upset about Liam again?

AISLING: Why would it be about Liam!

ZARA: Why'd you bring him up!

IZZY: Whenever I get sad it's usually a guy's fault! Liam was the love of Shane's life if the love of my life ghosted me and disappeared I'd be sad too.

AISLING: That was a year ago.

IZZY: Time is meaningless to the heart.

SHANE: I'm not sad about Liam. Liam can suck cocks in hell for all I care. I'm just sick of hearing you all whinge you've got fantastic lives so go and live them! Take the job work harder for that dream role or I don't know pursue whatever horse shit fuck ball cunt shit crap you believe in I don't know. Just don't be complacent and don't be a cunt.

Silence.

AISLING: Was it Gandhi who said that? Don't be a cunt.

ZARA: I thought it was MLK?

IZZY: I heard Serve Cunt XD Mama Hunty was what Michael Collins cried out when Dev shot him down in Cork.

AISLING: When did we learn that? Rang a Cuig was it?

SHANE: Rang A Ceathair actually.

AISLING: Oh that was it yeah. That was when we all saluted the rainbow flag and sang the national anthem while doing the jig under a pic of Leo V that's right.

ZARA: Now that's MY Ireland.

SFX: Phone ping.

AISLING: Thank you Charles. Mayo4Sam2023. That's the Disney+ password.

SHANE: About time.

ISOBEL: Oh Charlie really is the best isn't he? I wish all my boyfriends were as himbo-y.

AISLING: Oh! You know what I think. Izzy, Zara, just do what makes you happy! Nobody asked my opinion but that's what I think. If you wanna emigrate Zara then do it or move in with Shane he has a spare room.

ZARA: I can't believe he's rich.

SHANE: Gender pay gap perks.

AISLING: We just have to do what makes us happy. That's the key to life.

ISOBEL: Do you really believe it's that easy Ash?

AISLING: No. Of course it fucking isn't. But a girl can dream.

AISLING puts the Alexa music back on.

AISLING: Ugh! Life is so pedestrian.

ZARA: I don't even know what that means.

ISOBEL: I'll put on the popcorn. And get some tissues. For the tears.

SHANE: Disney Gays Should Suck Cocks in Hell.

AISLING: They already do. If you consider hell to be Disneyland Paris.

SHANE: Amen.

Music. Into...

Sounds of typing on phone.

ISOBEL: U ok tonight question mark? U seemed off full stop. Just checking in full stop xxxx

SHANE: All good full stop. Long day fullstop. Love you full stop.

ISOBEL: Love u 2 x

SFX: Phone beeping

HUNTER: Hey Isobel how was ur movie night with the gal pals question mark? Gif of Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy kissing gif of puppy dog with big eyes

ISOBEL: *(to herself)* am I the Miss Piggy in this gif? Damn. *(typing)* Cried a lot Lilo and Stitch is a weeper like The Notebook for real lol x

HUNTER: Oh no baby do u want me to lick all your tears away haha winky face emoji xx

ISOBEL: No lol that's weird xxx

HUNTER: Oh sorry too much question mark?

ISOBEL: No haha I only let men lick my tears on third date x

HUNTER: Gotcha haha - third date here I come exclamation mark exclamation mark exclamation mark!

Music. Into...

Toothbrush

CHARLIE: Then Robbie - apparently right - Robbie he said: "We'll have another heino won't we boys like top noshers we are" and it was that he was doing that you know that video on TikTok with boys being south dubs drinking sticks of heinomite and it was banter anyway the barlady was loving it, she gave him a free one and all, horny dog.

AISLING: Mhm.

CHARLIE: Did you see my toothbrush?

AISLING: Here.

CHARLIE: Oh right, thanks, love you.

They start to brush their teeth.

AISLING: Did you get Charlie's?

CHARLIE: Yeah a spag bag can you smell it?

AISLING: Yes.

CHARLIE: Matthew's got a new job, he's moving to Sligo.

AISLING: Sligo? Really?

CHARLIE: Proper bogger innit...How was movie night?

AISLING: Oh grand. Just the usual.

CHARLIE: Did you cry?

AISLING: Yes.

CHARLIE: You're predictable.

Sounds of brushing their teeth.

CHARLIE: Matthew says he's been looking to buy a house up there in Sligo, and you won't believe this - a three bed semi is about 150k which if you ask me is proper decent, like what are we doing living in Dublin when we could be by the beach in Sligo and..

AISLING: Charlie.

CHARLIE: I know we both work here, but satellite towns are massive at the min. That could really work somewhere like Dundalk...

AISLING: Charlie. I'm not moving to Dundalk with you. I'm not buying a house with you.

CHARLIE: Why not?

AISLING: Because really I have. I- I have like, doubts, and I think you know that this. Here. Might be where it ends for us.

CHARLIE: Doubts? About what?

AISLING: About us.

CHARLIE: Huh?

AISLING: I'm sorry,

CHARLIE: How long? How long have you had doubts?

AISLING: Probably a year now.

CHARLIE: Fucking hell Aisling I can't..

CHARLIE drops his toothbrush down the toilet. We hear a PLOP.

CHARLIE: Oh fuck! FUCK my toothbrush!

AISLING: Fuck sakes.

CHARLIE: No no no fuck..

AISLING: Charlie don't don't fish it out..

CHARLIE: I really like that one I love that fucking toothbrush.

AISLING: You'll get a new one it's oh for gods sake you didn't flush it's covered in piss Charlie..

CHARLIE: It's just pee it's just pee I'll wash it off I can wash it off.

AISLING: Leave it, leave it, you can get a new one.

CHARLIE: I don't WANT A NEW ONE. I want that one.

AISLING: I'm sorry.

CHARLIE: I would be happy with you. Forever.

AISLING: I know.

Silence. They sit on the toilet together.

CHARLIE: I don't know who I am without you .

AISLING: I don't know who I am without you either.

Beat.

AISLING: That's what I have to find out.

Music. Into...

Next Time On Fruit...

AMELIA: First things first Aisling: Change. Your. Voicemail! Cuz unless I have spectacularly misjudged your recent Instagram posts I think you're now single and I thought she needs me. She needs me! So I coldcalled to say I'm having a big fat huge lesbian/queer/whogivesafuck houseparty in my new gaff next week and you're invited.

SHEP: Oh my Goodness! It's the Scissor Sisters.

SHANE: The famous pop band?

SHEP: No the ladies from Limerick who like murdered someone.

DAVIDE: No Conrad honestly look at me do you think I'm ugly? Like seriously suddenly I just saw myself reflected in the oven and it struck am I horrific? A literal piece of toast?

WEIRD MAN WITH A HOOKAH: All gay people, at all times, are spiritually trapped in a never-ending episode of I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here Season 2. But our Bushtucker trial... is living in society....

MONA: Nice to see you Shane, why aren't you wearing any clothes? Slut.

SHANE: I don't need to. Because I'm hot.

MONA: Really? That's so sweet.

AISLING: We were close you and I. Then you just disappear. That always stung Aims. Then there's just a voicemail years later!

ZARA: I can't believe I came here. I hate gay parties.

SHIV: Zara. Oh Zara... I forgot how fucking small Dublin is didn't I?

CONRAD: We feel bad for you, Shane. All of us. We really do.

SHANE: Fuck - FUCK- fuck

IZZY: Right. Does anyone have a handgun? So I can shoot myself.

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'Donoghue as Izzy,
Lisa Nally as Aisling
Ultan Pringle as Shane
Camille Lucy Ross as Meredith
Esosa Ighodaro as Dr Alice,
Clelia Murphy as Coraline,
Liam Bixby as Hunter,
Luke Dalton as Charlie,
Linda Martin as Joan
And PJ Kirby as The Queen

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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.