

same thing over and over and expecting the result to be different?"

I said No. But ask me again.

HAZEL *laughs*. ROSE *laughs*.

Do you think Lauren's going to be alright?

HAZEL. I don't know. She's thirty-eight and she thinks she's still young.

You're lucky, you've always had a good head shape. I'd look like an egg.

Where was it?

ROSE *touches her breast*.

HAZEL *nods*.

I used to be so jealous of your chest.

You used to say 'oh but the backache is terrible' and I wanted to smash your face into the table.

Did they take both?

ROSE. Yes.

*Pause.*

HAZEL. I want a cup of tea, do you want a cup of tea?

ROSE. Sure, go on.

HAZEL *reboils the kettle and makes tea*.

I'm sorry about the bathroom.

HAZEL. That's alright. Milk?

ROSE. No / thank you.

HAZEL. No, you said --

ROSE. I'm not allowed. Dairy promotes cell production.

HAZEL. Does it?

ROSE. That's why we give milk to babies.

HAZEL. I never knew that.

ROSE

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ROSE. No well why would you? You're not a doctor.

HAZEL. No.

ROSE. You're not a biologist.

HAZEL. No.

ROSE. You're a physicist.

HAZEL. Retired.

ROSE. Yes / but

HAZEL. I know what you're doing. It's not, it isn't...

Why do you even want me there?

*Pause.*

START

ROSE. It'll sound silly but.

You were who I wanted to be when I grew up. I thought, one day I'll be like Hazel.

I won't smoke cigarettes and I'll wear sunscreen and plan the week's meals ahead and get a slow cooker and not just buy sandwiches from petrol stations and I'll keep the bathroom really clean not just give it a wipe when people are coming over and I'll stop crying all the time and I'll do exercise and have a really neat handbag and do washing regularly not just when I've run out of knickers and stop losing earrings and not stay awake reading till four in the morning and feel like shit the next day and I'll find out how tracker mortgages work and be fifteen minutes early to everything and most of all most of all I'll know when I've had enough.

But I never quite got there. And I think it's a bit late now. And then tonight I saw your washing outside, on the line, and I thought about you, pegging it out, and how many times in your life you'd done that and no one noticed.

And I thought, that woman holds up the world.

So that's why, really.

END