

## Two Degrees

### LOUISE and EMMA scene 1

*(In Louise's apartment having wine together)*

EMMA I'm still completely jet-lagged. I keep waking up at 2 a.m., which is stupid and exhausting.

LOUISE Just wait. You'll be back to normal.

EMMA I know. It's always this way for me. And I'm such a light sleeper anyway. Not like Jeffrey. He was a champion sleeper.

LOUISE *(Laughing.)* He was!

EMMA I hated that fucking snooze alarm. He'd have to set his alarm 45 minutes before he had to wake up --

LOUISE -- and he'd just keep hitting the damn thing in his sleep! Just like Stuart. Must be something to do with testosterone.

*LOUISE and EMMA laugh, but then EMMA looks at LOUISE as if something just fell into place.*

EMMA How did you know that?

LOUISE What?

EMMA Jeffrey being such a heavy sleeper.

LOUISE *(Shrugging.)* I've seen it. That man could sleep like the dead.

EMMA You've... seen it.

LOUISE Granted, this was a long time ago.

EMMA It was.

LOUISE Sure. Way before I met Stuart. Before you two were married. You remember.

EMMA No. I don't.

LOUISE This was the summer -- Oh, Let's see... Must have been 1989? 90?

EMMA 1990? The summer we moved in together?

LOUISE It must have been 1989. (Beat.) Come on. You knew. Everyone knew.

EMMA Knew... that you two had a thing?

LOUISE I wouldn't call it a thing. It wasn't a thing.

EMMA What would you call it?

LOUISE Oh, Emma. I really thought you knew. You and Jeffrey were... fighting. Taking a break. Jeffrey and I slept with each other on and off that whole summer. I thought you knew.

EMMA How would I have known that?

LOUISE Well, Jeffrey said as much. And I was... not exactly inexperienced, but... well... I was uncomfortable talking about things like that. I still am, really. That good Catholic upbringing. I just figured, I suppose, if you never brought it up that it was better not to talk about it. That this was something about your relationship that I didn't understand. It felt exotic, at the time. Beyond normal social restrictions.

*EMMA takes a moment to digest this.*

EMMA And you didn't think to mention this to me before?

LOUISE It didn't seem necessary. I thought you were seeing that other PhD student... Ruben? Was that his name? I thought you were seeing someone else, anyway. I thought everything was out in the open.

EMMA There wasn't anything to be out in the open. And I don't recall that Jeffrey and I were taking a break, either. I was just -- busy.

LOUISE This was a really long time ago.

EMMA Right.

LOUISE And it really wasn't important.

EMMA It wasn't.

LOUISE I mean -- It happened a few times. It was... Very casual, I suppose.

EMMA Just fucking for the sake of fucking?

LOUISE I don't think it's necessary to be crass, Emma. We were spending time with each other. And then... it stopped. You and Jeffrey made plans to move in, and that was that. (Beat.) You really didn't know?

EMMA No.

LOUISE Huh. I'm... sorry.

EMMA You would have thought he would have told me.

LOUISE I thought he had.

*Pause.*

LOUISE Please forgive me. Emma. I didn't mean to say anything hurtful.

EMMA As you say. It's ancient history.

LOUISE You're not angry with me?

EMMA With you? (Pause.) No.

*They smile, but the warmth has gone out of it. Pause.*

LOUISE Let me get another bottle. I know I could use it.