

DRAFT: *Townland* , by Neasa O’Callaghan

Originally Developed for Fishamble’s A Play For Ireland

Characters

Daphne, mother

Lucy, daughter

Emily, friend

Leah, colleague

Setting

2008 – 2018; West of Ireland / Dublin

Notes

Scenes jump around in time; the order that follows is not the final playing order.

#1

A hen night. August 2018.

Emily You're looking serious though.

Lucy I've gained a stone.

Emily Ya don't look it.

Lucy I'm wearing a tent.

Emily If we get ya a hat, people'll think you're a circus.

Lucy Em!

Emily Remember that time you were adopting a Tiger?

Lucy I wasn't adopting it. Literally.

Emily Talking about how you were going to train it to sit up. And all you got was a stuffed teddy.

Lucy And a cert saying I saved a baby tiger.

Emily We'd have made good ringmasters.

Lucy We're corralling eejits our whole lives sure.

Emily And what do you make of this lot?

Lucy Tolerable, I suppose.

Emily I'd've been lonely as without ya.

Lucy I was always going to come.

Emily gives her a look.

Lucy I'm surprised you didn't burst into flames when you crossed the county line yourself.

Emily Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Lucy Who's?

Emily Everyone's / clearly.

Lucy (*Looking off-stage*) Ooof!

Emily (*Winces*) I told her not to wear those heels.

Lucy Is she..?

Emily If we break her tonight, her mum will kill us.

Lucy She's up again.

Emily Barely...

Lucy Should we?

Emily I think they have her...

Lucy Only she could look well after a fall like that.

Emily Runs in the family – looking good while falling head first. It's a skill.

Lucy She'll remember that tomorrow.

Emily Never mind the nude.

Lucy Stop.

Emily And him all wrinkly and ... urgh!

Lucy They said he was an athlete on the phone. Made out we were getting this hot, young thing for a model.

Emily He was certainly in heat when he saw us lot.

Lucy Emily!

Emily Please, I saw you looking.

Lucy Fuck off.

Emily And I liked your picture, so I did – you and little flowers. Your serious face, staring into the canvas.

Lucy Better than your stick figures.

Emily Stick? Thought you said you didn't look?

Lucy Will we get another?

Emily I'll get it.

Lucy Go 'way, you got the last two .

Emily No, no, I made you come, I'm getting them.

Lucy I said I'm getting them.

Emily Put that / away and let me.

Lucy What are you doing?

Emily Treating you for once in your life.

Lucy Since when do you treat anyone? You're skint.

Emily No, I'm not.

Lucy You text me looking for money.

Emily Well I'm paying you back. One drink at a time. Come on, stop being odd.

Lucy I have money, Emily.

Emily I know you do.

Lucy Then what's the problem?

Emily I want you to have a good night?

Lucy I'm having a good night.

Emily Good.

Lucy Or I was.

Emily Lu-cy.

Lucy Em-i-ly?

Emily Come on, I was only trying to treat you.

Lucy Well, don't! Stop, ok?

Emily I heard your mam's sellin' the car. (*Beat.*) Sheridan told me.

Lucy So?

Emily She loves that car.

Lucy She barely uses it.

Emily And your furniture?

Lucy Is that why people keep buying me drinks, keep checking / I'm ok.

Emily Has someone said something to you?

Lucy They've not said much at all actually.

Emily They probably don't want to upset you.

Lucy They hate me, Emily.

Pause.

Emily No one blames you.

Lucy Of course they do.

Emily You didn't know what she was at. You were barely there.

Lucy What does that mean?

Emily Don't get upset.

Lucy 'You were barely there'? What does that mean?

Emily Look, I'll always stand by you, we'll always stand by you, but it's harder with your Mam. After what she did to Gina Burke. All that money like. I get she's your Mam you love her and you feel you need to help her, but ... she shouldn't have done it. Even you have to see that?