

BOB. It's a bloody eyesore.

FRAN. It's the most beautiful thing in the garden. It's the only thing that doesn't grow in a straight line and hasn't been pruned to within an inch of its life.

She turns to go inside. ROSIE is standing there, wearing her winter coat with her backpack over her shoulder like she'd never been away.

ROSIE. Hi.

FRAN. Where the hell did you come from?

ROSIE. Berlin.

BOB. Rosie!

ROSIE. I'm home.

FRAN. What's happened? What's wrong with you?

ROSIE. Nothing.

FRAN. Bob?

BOB. Are you hurt?

ROSIE. No.

FRAN. Sick?

ROSIE. I'm fine.

Somewhere in here, amongst the talk and all the questions, there are hugs and kisses.

BOB. When did you get in?

ROSIE. About an hour ago. It took me a while to get through customs.

FRAN's already dialling her phone.

BOB. Why didn't you call?

ROSIE. I wanted to surprise you.

BOB. I would have picked you up... I would have been there.

ROSIE. I caught a taxi.

BOB. Well, how much did that cost?

FRAN (*on phone*). It's me.

BOB. Fran?

FRAN (*phone*). Rosie's back.

BOB. She caught a taxi.

FRAN (*phone*). Something's happened.

ROSIE. Mum!

BOB. Did he come the coast road at least?

ROSIE. It was a she and she came down the expressway.

FRAN (*phone*). I think you should come over.

ROSIE. It didn't really matter. There wasn't much traffic.

BOB. Well, that's it, Rosie. They think the expressway is quicker but if there's no traffic it's better to take the coast road.

FRAN. That was Pip. She's on her way.

BOB. You should have called.

FRAN. I'll call your brothers.

BOB. Look at you.

ROSIE. I know.

BOB. Frannie.

FRAN. I know. (*Then back to the phone.*) It's Mum. Rosie's just walked in... I know but she's here. Something's happened.

ROSIE. Mum!

BOB. You look...

ROSIE. Different?

BOB. No.

ROSIE. All grown up?

BOB. Just the same.

FRAN. Mark's on his way.

ROSIE. I'm meant to look older, Dad.

BOB. Well, you haven't been away that long, love.
 FRAN (*phone*). Ben... Rosie's back.
 ROSIE. I wanted to surprise you.
 BOB. You did.
 FRAN (*phone*). Something's happened.
 ROSIE. Mum!
 FRAN. He's on his way.
 ROSIE. Nothing's happened.
 FRAN. Look at you.
 ROSIE. I know.
 FRAN. You look...
 ROSIE. Just the same.
 FRAN. No. You look...
 ROSIE. What?
 FRAN. Did you meet someone?
 ROSIE. No.
 FRAN. A boy?
 ROSIE. No.
 FRAN. Did he hurt you?
 BOB. Who hurt you?
 FRAN. A boy.
 ROSIE. Mum, I've just walked in the door. You have to stop asking questions because I don't have the answers. Not now. Not yet. And if you keep asking I'm going to cry. I'm home. Okay? That's as much as I know right now.
 FRAN. Okay. You're home... Bob... She's home.
 BOB. I know.
 FRAN. We can sleep again.
 PIP *enters*.

PIP. Rosie!
 ROSIE. Hi.
Embraces. Kisses.
 PIP. Look at you.
 FRAN. I know. She's here. Can you believe it?
 BOB. Just walks in through the front door. Not even a phone call. And she catches a taxi... Pip? From the airport.
 PIP. What for?
 BOB. Exactly! When there're all these cars here. And people to pick her up. What's the point of a family if they can't pick you up at the airport?
 ROSIE. I wanted to surprise you.
 BOB. I'm still getting up off the floor, love.
 PIP. You look...
 ROSIE. Exactly the same, apparently.
 PIP. What's happened?
 ROSIE. Nothing.
 PIP. Mum said...
 ROSIE. I know but...
 PIP. Why have you come back early?
 FRAN. Somebody hurt her.
 ROSIE. Mum!
 FRAN. A boy.
 PIP. Oh, Rosie. Really?
 ROSIE. No!
 PIP. Are you okay?
 ROSIE. I don't want this to be about that. (*Appealing to BOB.*) Dad?