

The Fit of the Coastlines

emma joy hill

© November 2015

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Characters:

22:
relentless
believes in right

42:
stubborn
believes in wrong

Setting:

a house. a fairly large house. but feels small.
more specifically though, a bedroom.
modern, cutesy, lots of colors. lime greens. yellows.
but,
an older house.
young style,
but an older house.
you can tell by the doorknobs.
a closet.
a bed.
a window.
slippers. shoes. socks.

Time:

a spring evening.
it's drizzling out.
but, there's still light.

they're very close to a closet

22:

what size shoe is she?

42:

excuse me.

22:

her shoes.

42:

oh, oh, I'm sorry. I know it's such a mess in here.

42 begins to clean up

42:

they're just all over the place! I don't know where they all come -

22:

no, the size.

42:

the size?

22:

yeah.

42:

oh, I'm not exactly sure. 8? 9?

checks a shoe

42:

yeah, 9 1/2.

22:

you're not exactly sure?

42:

no I'm sure -

22:

that's a pretty big thing to not be sure about.

42:

I'm sure. 9 1/2.

22:

pretty big.

42:
well I mean with shoe size it's a matter of centimeters really.
8 isn't that far from 10, 10 isn't that far from 12.

22:
in fact, I bet it's a matter of millimeters.

42:
yes.

22:
do you think I could fill them?

42:
what?

22:
I mean, it's worth a try.

42:
I think they're too big for you.

22:
really? what makes you say that?

42:
what makes me say
they're too big? well I just thought
you have tiny feet. That's all.

22:
you've never even seen my feet!

42:
yes I have!

22:
when?

that's what I thought

42:
it's not like you know my size by heart.

22: what's the biggest size you think?
42: of a heart? size of -
22: of a shoe
42: a fist
22: size of a shoe
42: oh
biggest size of a shoe
42: oh probably a 14 or 15 or even maybe even a 16 you know specialty sizes.
22: but those aren't normal, right?
42: no, definitely not normal.
22: and the smallest?
42: well, probably a 2. for a baby.
22: beyond that though?
42: smaller than a 2? I don't think so. babies that small don't wear shoes.
22: yes they do, there's the little knit ones.
42: those are slippers.
22: there's a difference?
42: slippers are more comfortable than the shoes.

*22 wanders the room
peeks in drawers*

lifts up bedspreads

42:

you wear them around the house and to get the paper and they're very-

what are you doing?

22:

looking.

42:

for?

22:

her slippers.

42:

why?

22:

because I want to find them, what kind of a question is that.

42:

but why - what are you - who keeps their slippers under the bed? stop that.

22:

well, I don't know who maybe someone who's not careful, someone who kicks things around, someone who -

42 sits on the bed

42:

it's not -

22:

that's how it is, isn't it?

42:

isn't what?

22:

it. you. her.

42:

we were talking about the slippers.

22:
we can talk about the slippers.
42:
it's no - no, the slippers don't matter.

22 sits on the bed

42:
I mean - I meant to say -
the slippers do matter
to me. but, that's not what I'm -
22:
are you good at math?
42:
math? like geometry?
22:
yeah, like geometry.
42:
not at all.
22:
I just thought
since, the centimeters and millimeters.
42:
no, no. I don't have a way with numbers.
22:
me either.
42:
there's just too many.
22:
numbers?
42:
the in-betweens. 2.022, 95.3. there's too many.
they just confuse me,
there's nothing simple about them.
i like simple.
22:
you're far from it

42:

no.
this is the extent of it. simple.
there's nothing else to know.

22:

well, I didn't know you weren't fond of slippers.

42:

oh, it's not that I'm not fond of slippers, I'm very fond of slippers -

22:

you are?

42:

I am.

22:

oh.

they inch closer together

closer

closer

they break away

22:

it's cold in here.

42:

it is?

22:

I feel a draft.

42 closes the bedroom door

42:

it's the rest of it - the house.
this is the only room with heat.

22:

ironic.

42:

what?

22:

nothing.

42:

I'm we're trying
to get it fixed.
the furnace is only -

22:

how long do you think it will be?

42:

I'm not sure.
soon. very soon.

22:

do you like the ocean?

42:

I actually
I love the ocean.

22:

see. I didn't know that. but I -

42:

could've guessed.

22 giggles

chuckles

laughs

hysterically

42:

what?

22:

I'm just laughing.

42:

I see that.
the beach is a funny place
lots of sunburn

22 laughs harder

42 laughs too

42:

and and
jellyfish

22 laughs harder
42 laughs too

42:

oh and tidal waves-

42 laughs harder

22:

no no those things aren't funny.
I'm laughing at you.

42:

oh
see, I didn't know that.

22:

you don't like the vastness of numbers
but you like the sea.
it's a contradiction.

42:

well they're two very different things. it's -

22:

simple.

I wouldn't expect anything else from you.

42:

expectation is the root-

22:

of all heartache.

I love that.

I love it.

42:

I do too.

22:

so, which side is yours?

42:

both.

22:

both! well, you're a bit of a stretch aren't you.

42:

no, she just snores she sleeps on the couch.

22:

oh I see.

42:

I wanted to. no listen,
I wanted to - she was the one who -
she didn't want me to.

22:

I see.
she must be very cold.

42:

excuse me?

22:

on the couch
if there's only heating in here

42:

she's very good to me
she's very good to me
and it's not that I'm not happy, it's just that-

22:

you're not happy.

42:

she

she doesn't own slippers.

22:
do you believe in in change?

42:
not permanent.

22:
there's no such thing as an unpermanent change -

42:
impermanent.

22:
how could how could something that evolves in the first place
stay the same forever?

42:
you lost me.

22:
tell me about it.

42:
cut it out.

22:
it's true.

42:
you can't lose something you've never

22:
do you believe in growth?

42:
who doesn't believe in growth?

22:
it's really a simple question -

42:
simple yes.
flowers grow. babies grow. so
yes.

22:
so you do in fact believe that things get bigger.

42:
I don't know about this metaphor anymore.

22:

you don't? well, let's just take a rest then.

42:

I believe in chance.

22:

so do I.

42:

I believe everyone deserves to -

22:

you know what? I think

no.

I know

I know I could fill a 16.

42:

you're a size 6.

22:

7 ½ actually.

42:

either way that's impossible.

genetically, physically, actually speaking that's impossible.

22:

but, there's a chance. right? I mean you believe in chance, you believe
in growth, you believe in change, for the most part. right?
isn't that what you just said?

42:

well yeah, but-

22 stands

22:

then that's all I need.

42:
even if that were true
you couldn't ever fill a 2.
not if you cut all your toes off.

22:
I bet you - I could.

42:
you'd need a baby to fill a 2

oh.

my mother was a
an alcoholic.

22:
I'm sorry.

42:
don't be. we're not our mothers, but there's a chance we could be.

22:
Do you want -

42:
I don't know why I said that.
I don't
I don't want to talk about that.

22:
I know you want kids. I've seen you with kids.

42:
It's not that easy.

22:
well you know most things aren't. but, most things are
worth it don't you think?

42:

I don't really know what to think.

22:

you don't get it do you.

42:

I think I'm starting to.

22:

I don't think so. I don't think so. you see -
and don't think I'm leaving anytime soon, because despite my
complaints this is the most content I've been in a long time, but,
you see

I like this bed. I find it to be quite comfortable.

perfect balance between stiffness and plush.

and I like your carpet.

color's very

quaint. and when I parked in your driveway, the sun was setting,
you see, and the way it hit the front steps on your porch was so
inviting that I almost forgot

it's not mine.

you see

so I really. really. really don't think you understand.

42:

I'm married.

22:

you're not married don't say that.

42:

I'm practically married.

22:

practically doesn't count. marr -
marriage wouldn't even count. if your lives were
interchangeable fucking soulmates it wouldn't

count. because I fucking

love you,

you see.

and nothing beats that.