

*Pause. Grace takes a sip of her tea.*

**Frank:** Grace.

**Grace:** *(Looking over)* Mmm?

**Frank:** Do you mind if I, um. If I tell you something. In confidence.

**Grace:** Ummm... yeah? Like, something... work-related?

**Frank:** No. I'm afraid it's not work-related.

**Grace:** Um... well... OK, yeah. What's... what is it?

**Frank:** It's just... you asked me a moment ago how things are and I think, I told you that things were fine in fact I said they were OK and in fact they're not OK. Not really. Not in the slightest.

*Beat.*

**Grace:** Oh, no... Frank... that's really... I'm really sorry. *(Beat)* When you say... not 'OK'... it's just that's quite a vague, I mean what are we

**Frank:** Well, I can tell you if you'd like to know but I don't want you to feel obliged to listen to me. Just to sit here and listen to me. I don't think that's very fair at all.

**Grace:** No, Frank, no, I don't feel obliged, I just, you know, if there's something you need to share with someone then, and you haven't got anyone else you could – have you tried speaking to HR about it? Because they might be -

**Frank:** Grace I'm dying.

*Pause.*

**Grace:** What?

**Frank:** I've been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

**Grace:** Oh my God. *(Beat)* Are you... *(Beat)* I mean that's just... *(Beat)* Fuck. *(Beat)* I'm so sorry...

**Frank:** Thank you.

**Grace:** What... I mean... when... did you, like... find out?

**Frank:** Just now.

**Grace:** Just... like right now?

**Frank:** Moments ago.

**Grace:** Oh my God. How?

**Frank:** I had a call with my doctor.

**Grace:** Just now? When?

**Frank:** A few minutes ago.

**Grace:** What when I was... in the kitchen?

**Frank:** No, before that.

**Grace:** Oh right. So, you mean you were waiting to get some... what, like, results and then he called you up and told you?

**Frank:** She.

**Grace:** Sorry, she, she called you and told you... the results?

**Frank:** Exactly.

**Grace:** Jesus Christ. *(Beat)* You must be... in shock.

**Frank:** I'm completely in shock.

**Grace:** I think *I'm* in shock.

**Frank:** I'm sorry for shocking you.

**Grace:** No, don't apologise, don't... fuck. *(Beat)* When you say... terminal...

**Frank:** Well, to be honest... it's the worst-case scenario.

**Grace:** Oh my God. *(Beat)* So what does that mean in terms of like... no, I shouldn't be

**Frank:** No, go on.

**Grace:** Timings. What did she say about timings?

**Frank:** Months.

**Grace:** Months?

**Frank:** Maybe weeks.

**Grace:** Oh my fucking Christ. I am so sorry. *(Pause)* I can't believe you were just. *(Pause)* I'm so sorry.

**Frank:** I just wanted to tell someone. You know?

**Grace:** Absolutely. Of course you fucking did, that's just. Fuck. Frank. I. *(Beat)* I'm speechless.