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APART

by Anna Bennetts

EXTRACT

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JANE: A woman in her 20s-40s, dressed smartly in a conservative business suit
JESS: A woman in her 20s-40s dressed casually in bike gear
WAITER: Male or female

LIGHTS UP:

JANE SITS NERVOUSLY IN A CAFÉ WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO ARRIVE. SHE RETRIEVES A HAIR-CLIP WHICH SPORTS A BLUE FLOWER FROM HER POCKET WHICH SHE LOOKS AT, THINKS ABOUT PUTTING IN HER HAIR, CHANGES HER MIND AND PUTS BACK IN HER POCKET.

JESS ENTERS CARRYING A BIKE HELMET AND APPROACHES JANE

JESS
Are you Jane?

JANE STANDS AND THEY SHAKE HANDS AND REGARD EACH OTHER

JANE
You must be Jess.

JESS
Yes

JANE
You're not what I expected.

JESS
I thought your skin would be lighter.

JANE
I thought your hair would be lighter.

JESS
You said you'd wear a blue flower in your hair.

JANE RETRIEVES A BLUE FLOWER HAIR HAIR-CLIP FROM HER POCKET
AND PUTS IT ON THE TABLE

JANE

I was so nervous, I forgot to put it on.
(BEAT) So, you work in the city?

JESS

Yeah, I'm a courier.

JANE

On a push-bike?

JESS

Yeah.

JANE

That's a really dangerous job. I'm a risk assessor – my company
doesn't insure people like you.
(BEAT) Your email was so brief, I didn't know what to expect.

JESS

I didn't want to say too much till I met you.

PAUSE

JESS AND JANE

I come here for lunch all the time ... Oh!

JANE

It's a wonder I haven't seen you.

JESS

You probably have but you can't remember.

JANE

I never forget a face.

THE WAITER ARRIVES TO TAKE THEIR ORDER

WAITER

What can I get you?

JANE AND JESS

Soy flat white

JANE

Lactose ...

JESS

...intolerant.

WAITER SCRIBBLES DOWN THE ORDER AND EXITS

PAUSE

JESS

So, are you married?

JANE

No...

JESS

Me neither.

JANE

Do you have a boyfriend?

JESS

Of sorts...

JANE

What does that mean?

JESS

Well, there's this guy I work with...

JANE

Sounds interesting, tell me more...

JESS

It's not serious

JANE

Why not?

JESS

He's not big on commitment.