

INT. NIGHT. PUB

ROBIN is getting drunk. STRIKE (her boss) arrives.

STRIKE

Right. What's going on with you?

ROBIN

How did you know I was here?

STRIKE

I'm a detective.

(she smiles)

I could hear The Pogues playing  
when I called you. They always play  
in here.

(she nods)

ROBIN

What do you need?

STRIKE

I don't need anything. what's  
going on?

ROBIN

Nothing.

STRIKE

Don't give me that. I've never seen  
you look so bad.

ROBIN

(smiling)

Morale dully boosted...

(continues drinking)

STRIKE

Where's your engagement ring?

ROBIN

Put two and two together. You're  
the detective. Matthew cheated on  
me.

STRIKE

Oh. Right. What a moron!

ROBIN

It was a long time ago but, it was  
with one of the most annoying women  
I know.

STRIKE

Is she still around?

ROBIN

Yep. We had dinner with her the other night.

(struggling not to cry)

They started just after I left Uni.

STRIKE

I'm surprised he'd admit to it now.

ROBIN

He didn't. I just knew. He looked ashamed, because of "when". I dropped out of Uni because something happened to me. It wasn't even late. He attacked me wearing a mask, but he had a birthmark. My evidence got him put away. Rape and attempted murder. It was 20 bad minutes out of my life but I am still the same person.

STRIKE

I know that. But it's a horrible thing to have happened to you.

ROBIN

Afterwards I couldn't leave my room so I went to mum and dad's. That's "when". Matthew and Sarah.

STRIKE

Where are you staying tonight?

ROBIN

Urg, everyone I know is Matthew's friend. I'll get a youth hostel or a YMCA. Do they still have those?

STRIKE

I'll take you somewhere proper.

ROBIN

I'm totally skint.

STRIKE

Well, that's probably my fault. I'll pay. We'll call it a wedding-cancellation present.