

Roland *I think maybe we did yeah.*

Marianne *They asked me to leave. I went back the next day and she was starting to look like a ghost. It takes an enormous amount of strength. When you're like that. To keep going. I'm not sure I have it.*

Roland *You don't know. You don't know that.*

Marianne *Sinking feelings.*

Roland *Mary listen to me -*

Marianne *I'm so tired. I'm so tired, Roland. Before people had face*

Before they had face

Face before they

FUCK.

Roland *Okay.*

Marianne *God.*

Roland *God?*

Marianne *People's lives were their own. Before it became skin*

Skin, it became

Skin

Roland *Skin?*

Marianne *Mum wasn't scared of dying, she was scared of being kept alive. You know?*

Roland *Yes.*

Marianne *That wasn't what scared her.*

Roland *Hello, Marianne.*

Marianne *Roland. Wow, hi - Hello. How are you?*

Roland *Yeah, I'm fine, thanks.*

Marianne *Oh good. Good, that's really good.*

Roland *How about y'self?*

Marianne *I bought some of your honey.*

Roland *Oh really.*

Marianne *From the Budgens in Crouch End.*

Roland *Yeah, right. They're really great.*

Marianne *I said to the girl on the till, I said I used to know the man who made this honey.*

Roland *What did she say?*

Marianne *...*

Roland *I read one of your papers.*

Marianne *You did not?*

Roland *I did. I downloaded it.*

Marianne *Which one did you read?*

Roland *Something to do with the XMM Cluster Survey?*

Marianne *That's really amazing, Roland.*

Roland *What did you think of the honey?*

Marianne *Delicious. It was completely delicious. Are you, are you here for the ballroom class?*

Roland *Yeah, no, yeah, I am, yeah.*

Marianne *Really.*

Roland *Heather's getting married in a couple of months, so.*

Marianne The PE teacher?

Roland What's that?

Marianne He was a, he was a PE teacher, wasn't he?
Roland Right, no, I see. They called it a day. New bloke's
a something-or-other for the Office for National Statistics.

Marianne Wow.

Roland I've been ordered to sort out my two left feet or
else. How about you?

Marianne Similar, really. Wedding.

Roland Your own or -

Marianne No, mine, yep.

Roland Congratulations.

Marianne Yep.

Roland Is your Fiancé, is he -

Marianne Held up. He's. Been held up.

Roland Hello, Marianne. It's Roland.

Marianne Roland.

Roland How are you? Hope I didn't scare you?

Marianne No. A bit. Maybe. I mean, a bit.

Roland Sorry.

Marianne Are you, are you here for the ballroom class?

Roland Yeah, no, yeah, I am, yeah.

Marianne Ballroom, really?

Roland Heather's getting married.

Marianne Heather?

Roland My sister.

Marianne Heather, of course.

Roland I've been ordered to sort out my two left feet or
else.

Marianne Did you, did you know that I was going to be
here?

Roland What? Did I -

Marianne Know that I was going to be here?

Roland No. No, of course not.

Beat.

Marianne I'm learning ballroom because I'm getting
married, Roland.

Roland No, sure.

Marianne In September.

Roland Congratulations.

Marianne Thank you. What about you, are you -

Roland I was, but, for the moment, no.

Marianne Married?

Roland Seeing someone. I was seeing someone. But we
broke up. So.

Marianne I'm sorry.

Roland No, please. Don't be.

Marianne Hello, Roland.

Roland Marianne. Wow, shit. How's it, how's it going?
Marianne Well. I'm really well. Thanks.
Roland Great. Thass really great.
Marianne Yourself?
Roland Yeah, no, I mean, good, yeah.
Marianne I bought some of your honey.
Roland Oh really.
Marianne From the Budgens in Crouch End.
Roland Yeah, right. They're really great.
Marianne I said to the girl on the till, I said I used to know the man who made this honey.
Roland What did she say?
Marianne She just stared at me. How is everything? Business-wise.
Roland Good, yeah. 'Bout to start doing pollen.
Marianne Pollen?
Roland Yeah, you have to – Y'scrape it off the legs of the bees and then you ground it down. Really good for you apparently.
Marianne Scraping the legs of bees, or pollen?
Roland Had a, had an offer from Tesco of all people.
Marianne For the pollen?
Roland No, just for the honey.
Marianne How much for?
Roland Fair whack.
Marianne What did you say?

Roland Told 'em to go fuck 'emselves. I read one of your papers.
Marianne You did not?
Roland I did. I downloaded it.
Marianne Which one did you read?
Roland Something about hot subdwarf stars?
Marianne Were you really looking for midget porn on Google?
Roland What's that?
Marianne Subdwarf – It was a –
Roland Gotcha.
Marianne That's really amazing, Roland. Thank you.
Roland What did you think of the honey? From Budgens.
Marianne Delicious. It was completely delicious.
Roland It's heather.
Marianne Yes.
Roland We cart the bees up to the heather moors every August. One by one.
Marianne One by one?
Roland Hives, not bees.
Marianne Are you, are you here for the ballroom class?
Roland Yeah, no, yeah, I am, yeah. I'm. I'm actually. Engaged.
Marianne Oh wow.
Roland So. Yeah.
Marianne Who's the, who's the lucky lady?
Roland Alison. Alison O—