

Writing Sample:

WHEN YOU'RE NOT LOOKING

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51. EXT. DANIEL'S COTTAGE - DAY

EDWINA KNOCKS hard on the old door of a modest stucco cottage and takes in the VIEW OF THE SEA...

Nothing. She raps again. SILENCE.

She steps around the side of the house and PEEKS THROUGH a small rippled-glass window... a small front room... huge fireplace... no sign of life.

She walks around to the front of the house just as HER TAXI is driving away.

EDWINA
Hey!!! Wait!!!

It DISAPPEARS down the hill.

Angry, frustrated, EDWINA TEARS A SHEET of yellow-lined paper from her notebook and scribbles a message:

We must speak immediately! 001-646-270-3578. Ms. Flaherty

She places the note under the knocker and begins speed walking towards town.

CUT TO:

52. EXT. DALKEY - GREATER DUBLIN - MINUTES LATER

EDWINA walks purposefully along the road towards town.

A DOG BARKS...

She LOOKS DOWN the hillside and SEES HUGO and SPIKE playing on the beach.

CUT TO:

53. EXT. BEACH - DAY

A sandy cove surrounded by large rocks. EDWINA'S shoes sink in the sand as she marches toward HUGO.

EDWINA

Hi!

HUGO looks over at her.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

I'm looking for your father!

Beat.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

Can you tell me where your Dad is,
Hugo?

HUGO POINTS. EDWINA turns around to find...

DANIEL emerging from the surf... she notices his naturally fit physique.

DANIEL

Good afternoon.

EDWINA

(slightly flummoxed)

Its'... beyond me... how my sister
can say you're the best G.C. in
Dublin.

DANIEL

I'd like to think I'm pretty good
at what I do.

EDWINA

Really?

DANIEL

Yes.

Their eyes lock. He steps forward... she backs up abruptly.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Pardon me...

Moving closer, he retrieves his towel from a rock directly behind her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

My towel.

She lets loose with a fury of anger.

EDWINA

I don't know what other jobs you've got going...

DANIEL

None.

EDWINA

... but as of today, Deerfield House becomes your number one priority.

DANIEL

It is already.

EDWINA

Then would you mind telling me what you're doing right now?

DANIEL

Having a swim with my boy. Irish summers are fickle you gotta grab it while you can.

EDWINA

Why aren't you on the job site?

DANIEL

We generally take Sunday off.

EDWINA

Sunday?

He NODS... picks up a ball and whips it down the beach... SPIKE runs after it.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

So where were you between three and four-thirty Friday afternoon?

DANIEL

On the school run...

EDWINA

Look, I'm getting married in nine days.

DANIEL

...and I'm sorta locked into this weekly rotation.

EDWINA
I'm not interested in your personal
problems.

He NODS... walks over and picks his sweatshirt off a rock.

DANIEL
Really?

EDWINA
I assure you.

DANIEL
Then why were you asking Malcolm
about Laura?

EDWINA goes red. She clocks HUGO looking at her... she's
nailed.

EDWINA
You're fired, Mr. Kennedy.

She marches off... heels wobbling in the sand. DANIEL
follows.

DANIEL
Can't you just call me Danny like
everybody else?

She continues up the hill.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Who else you gonna find who'll
supervise and do the work too?

EDWINA
We'll manage.

DANIEL laughs. EDWINA throws him a glance.

DANIEL
With what?

She continues up the hill increasing her pace.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You can't fire me!

EDWINA
I just did!

She disappears over the top of the hill.

CUT TO:

54. INT. BALLROOM - SAME

TONY and MALCOLM load rubble into a wheelbarrow.

JOSEPH helps himself to some water.

MALCOLM

She really reminds me of Danny's
missus.

TONY

Especially when she bends over in
those tight trousers.

MALCOLM

Her personality, I mean, Tony.

TONY

Oh. Yeah. She's mental for work,
all right.

MALCOLM

Bit like meself.

TONY hits the wall with the wheelbarrow as he negotiates his way out of the Ballroom with a load of rubble.

POV: A HOOK with a rope fastened to it... slowly working itself out of the wall... follow the rope up to the ceiling where it's secured to the CHANDELIER.

TONY (O.S.)

She could do with one of me Fen
Shooley massages.

MALCOLM (O.S.)

I seen the way she is with Mrs.
Casey. She's an old softie.

JOSEPH follows them out carrying a huge sack of rubble.

CUT TO:

55. EXT. SORRENTO ROAD, DALKEY - SAME

EDWINA speed-walking in the rain. A VOLVO wagon loaded with kids passes by.

EDWINA sees HUGO looking back at her, he waves tentatively. Tight lipped... she waves back.

DANIEL'S Land Rover pulls up beside her.

DANIEL
Hop in.

EDWINA
I'm doing just fine.

She continues walking.

DANIEL
It's a long walk.

EDWINA
A cab will be along any minute.

DANIEL laughs. She glares at him.

DANIEL
I'm sorry... it's just-- that's a
good one.

She increases her pace.

CUT TO:

56. EXT. DEERFIELD HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

TALLULAH places a cup of coffee in front of DEIRDRE, hung-
over seated at the kitchen table.

CUT TO:

57. INT. DEERFIELD HOUSE - BALLROOM - SAME

TONY's wheelbarrow bangs into the wall again as he carts
another load of rubble out...

THE CHANDELIER SHAKES... THE CLEAT on the wall loosens more.

CUT TO:

58. EXT. SORRENTO ROAD, DALKEY - SAME

EDWINA, soaked to the bone, SEES DANIEL load supplies into
his Land Rover and climb inside.

As she walks past he drives alongside.

DANIEL
Are you always this stubborn?

She continues walking. He REACHES across and OPENS the passenger door.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You're gonna catch your death.

She stops... gets in and slams the door.

EDWINA
You call this summer?

As he pulls away the glove box opens... football cards, coins, pencils and worn SNAPSHOTS fall to the floorboard.

She picks up THE SNAPSHOTS...

A FAMILY PORTRAIT... Daniel, Hugo and his mum.

EDWINA, uncomfortable, quickly skips to the next photo.

DANIEL at the helm of a sailboat while MALCOLM helps HUGO trim the mainsail...

DANIEL dressed as SANTA CLAUS surrounded by KIDS.

DANIEL
(handing her a towel)
Little rascals were just humoring me. They knew who it was all along.

EDWINA
(sardonic)
You're kidding? The beard looks so convincing.

EDWINA returns the photos to the glove box and stares ahead.

CUT TO:

59. EXT/INT DEERFIELD HOUSE - DAY

SEAN helps JOSEPH and MALCOLM dump rubbish in a skip as DANIEL and EDWINA DRIVE UP in the jeep.

EDWINA
Didn't I fire you this morning?!

TONY
We thought you was--

MALCOLM
... joking.

EDWINA
(to herself)
You people are... unbelievable.

JOSEPH
We need them, Ed!

EDWINA gets out of the Land Rover and SLAMS the door.

A CATASTROPHIC CRASH from the Ballroom.

CUT TO:

60. INT. BALLROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They STARE in disbelief.

THE CHANDELIER has fallen and SHATTERED into countless pieces.

DEIRDRE
(Coffee in hand)
Figures.

A large CHUNK of the PLASTER ceiling centerpiece snowflake breaks loose and SHATTERS on the floor.

DEIRDRE (CONT'D)
There's coffee in the kitchen.

MALCOLM
Thing is... coffee makes me
hemorrhoids flare up.

TONY
Any chance of a cup of tea?

Deidre looks at him... then calmly walks out. DANIEL pulls out his mobile.

DANIEL
(into his phone)
Seamus, it's Danny. I'm at the
Embassy residence in Phoenix Park.
I need you here now. Alone.

CUT TO:

61. EXT. DEERFIELD HOUSE - LATER

Edwina, MALCOLM and TONY sweep up the remains of the chandelier.

OUTSIDE... DANIEL negotiates with SEAMUS who's in his van.

SEAMUS

I dunno, we've got half a dozen jobs goin' as it is... that mould's gotta be hand carved... you're talking six weeks minimum.

DANIEL

I need it in six days.

SEAMUS

I'll have to put the boys on overtime, Danny, and that'll--
(beat... he softens)
Okay, just don't be tellin' anyone you got it so quick.

DANIEL

(patting him on the back)
I owe you one.
(motioning towards Edwina)
The lady will be taking it from here.

SEAMUS nods and drives off.

DANIEL returns to the Ballroom and hands Seamus's card to EDWINA.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Seamus is sound. Good luck.

HE TURNS and leaves... gets into his Jeep and pulls away. She runs after him.

EDWINA (O.S.)

Wait!

He stops. She runs up to the window and fixes her eyes on him for a moment... hands him her note pad.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

I'll need directions if I'm gonna do this school run thing.

CUT TO:

62. INT. DANIEL'S LAND ROVER - DAY

EDWINA, mobile to her ear, negotiates a narrow COUNTRY ROAD as HUGO and his CLASSMATES banter excitedly.

EDWINA
I'm sorry, Bill, I just--

BILL (VOX)
What's that noise?

INTERCUT with BILL in a business suit wolfing down a burger as he drives a busy expressway.

EDWINA
(into her mobile)
Long story. I'll explain later.

JACK, 9, TUGS at EDWINA'S sleeve.

EDWINA (CONT'D)
Just a sec, Simon.

RONAN
(pointing to another boy)
He's Simon.

JACK
I can tell you're American.

JACK TUGS on EDWINA'S sleeve again.

JACK (CONT'D)
You know how I can tell?

EDWINA
(to Jack)
I don't know, honey, my accent?
(to Bill)
Hold on, Bill.

JACK
(shaking his head)
... no. Guess again.

EDWINA
(glancing at Jack)
I give up.

JACK
You're driving on the wrong side of
the road.

EDWINA LOOKS UP to find... A MASSIVE TRUCK barrelling down on her, SHE JERKS the wheel to the left missing it by a hair...

And pulls to a stop SHAKING LIKE A LEAF.

STUNNED SILENCE and then... SPPLLLAAAATTTT! The dashboard and EDWINA'S BAG covered in puke...

ON JACK beside her... ashen... vomit on his chin.

JACK (CONT'D)
... Sorry.

SIMON
(from the back seat)
Hugo pissed his pants.

BILL (VOX)
Ed? Edwina?

CUT TO:

63. EXT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DUBLIN - DAY

POV: Through the window... JOSEPH deep in conversation with a SHOPKEEPER.

EDWINA in the Land Rover on her mobile.

EDWINA
Eighteen arm. No. I know the
Hungarians make beautiful crystal
chandeliers but it has to be
Waterford.

JOSEPH EXITS the shop... jumps into the driver's seat.

He looks across at Edwina.

JOSEPH
He's got a pair of side chairs.
That's it. We're down to Danny's
contact.

She opens up a road map... hands it to Joseph.

EDWINA
Where the hell is Wicklow?

CUT TO:

64. EXT. MASSIVE MANSION - WICKLOW - DAY

EDWINA and JOSEPH approach a huge pair of double doors, mid conversation.

EDWINA

...Deidre needs to grow up and realize life's not all passion and romance. She's got a good thing going with Charles.

JOSEPH studies her.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

At least she's not living hand to mouth married to some jobbing musician. Marriage is about commitment and compromise and hard work.

She pushes the DOORBELL. Joseph starts humming the wedding march.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

What?!

The DOOR OPENS revealing DECCA, 60, striking, eccentric, in a fur coat and hat... Norma Desmond on Prozac.

DECCA

(to Edwina)

Danny was right you really are stunning.

(to Joseph)

And you hardly look homosexual at all. Do come in.

LATER

EDWINA, JOSEPH and DECCA seated in a DRAWING ROOM stripped bare save for three draped chairs and an IRISH WOLFHOUND lying beside the fireplace licking a BLACK CAT.

DECCA (CONT'D)

(referring to the dog)

... he'd happily desist from eating and just lick her all day long.

(shouting)

Cecil!

(to Edwina)

Isn't Daniel just the loveliest bit of trouser? Simply the most enormous cock I hear. Tea?

JOSEPH
If it's not too much trouble.

CECIL, the old BUTLER, appears with tea and crumpets.

DECCA
(shouting)
Cecil, I wonder if you'd be so good
as to search the house for a...
what is it you're looking for,
Dear?

EDWINA
A Chippendale armchair

JOSEPH scrutinizes his crumpet.

DECCA
(serving the tea)
Shout it out, dear. He's as deaf
as a post, I'm afraid.

EDWINA
(loud)
Chippendale armchair!

DECCA
Louder, there's a good girl.

EDWINA
A CHIPPENDALE ARMCHAIR!

JOSEPH
... Would it be possible to run my
crumpet through the toaster again?

DECCA
Oh, dear.
(shouting to Cecil)
You really must put them in the
toaster when you take them out of
the freezer!

JUMP CUT

CHARRED, SMOKING crumpets... JOSEPH forces a bite.

DECCA (CONT'D)
(standing)
... but do give my love to Daniel.
I don't know how many times he's
patched up our wretched roof and
never accepted so much as a penny.
Bless him.

They start making their way out.

DECCA (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry we've been of no help
to you. How stupid of us.

EDWINA
No, no. Thank you for your time.

JOSEPH
It's a wonderful house.

CECIL whispers in DECCA'S ear.

DECCA
(to Cecil)
Really? Are you quite sure?

CECIL nods. DECCA goes over and pulls the drape from the
chair she's been sitting on to reveal...

AN EXACT REPLICA of the Chippendale chair from the Vanity
Fair photograph... except for the upholstery which is chewed
to bits.

DECCA (CONT'D)
Will this do?

LATER

EDWINA fills out a check while JOSEPH offers the dog his
crumpet... the dog turns his nose at it and goes back to
licking the cat.

DECCA (CONT'D)
Are they really worth quite so
much?

JOSEPH
Absolutely. A thousand pounds is
much more in line.

DECCA
That seems exorbitant.

EDWINA
Who shall I make it payable to?

DECCA
The Gas Board, Dear.

EDWINA looks at her.

DECCA (CONT'D)
(awkward)
Yes, I know, bit of a cunt
actually.

CUT TO:

65. INT. DANIEL'S LAND ROVER - DAY

EDWINA and THE BOYS sit in traffic. EDWINA looks at JACK in the rear view mirror.

EDWINA
(to Jack)
I thought you wanted a little
brother?

JACK
No way.

HUGO
You want a sister?

RONAN
(holding up a piece of
sheer fabric)
What's this?

EDWINA
The fabric sample for my
Bridesmaids' dresses. Where'd you
get that?

JACK
He'll take all my stuff. I'm
definitely going to boarding school
if it's a boy.

HUGO
Then you'll have twenty brothers
taking your stuff.

RONAN holds it up to the light... he can see through it.

RONAN
(to Edwina)
They'll be wearing dresses made out
of this?

SHE NODS. RONAN studies her out of the corner of his eye as she pulls up in front of a large brick house.

JACK climbs out over RONAN, and runs up the walk to MARIA,
his very PREGNANT MOTHER.

EDWINA
See you tomorrow!

CUT TO:

66. INT/EXT DUBLIN - MONTAGE

A SHOPKEEPER points at chandeliers hanging from rafters.
JOSEPH indicates he's looking for something much bigger.

MALCOLM looks at NUDE SKETCHES... TALLULAH WATCHES SEBASTIAN
remove the last bit of soot from the McGovern FAMILY
PORTRAIT.

DANNY AND EDWINA prime the walls with long paint rollers...
Danny makes a grid for tic-tac-toe...

CUT TO:

67. EXT. DEERFIELD HOUSE - DAY

DEIRDRE and TALLULAH get in the embassy limousine while SEAN
loads their luggage in back.

DEIRDRE
(to Edwina)
Tallulah says I have no choice.

EDWINA
She's right. You need to rest
before Charles gets home...

DEIRDRE
(tearful)
You've been so amazing, Winnie-- I
don't want to disappoint you but I
don't think I can handle--

TALLULAH
Jesus, Mom. It's a health farm not
a fucking gulag.

CUT TO: