

JUNE enters. RAMONA glances up, then continues working. She refers to a set of instructions.

JUNE

Wanna explain what's going on?

RAMONA

I'm installing my new pole.

JUNE

Oh okay. Looks tricky!

RAMONA

It is. I already screwed the short extension onto the base and attached the larger extension, but now I gotta slip the ring on and / hoist the whole thing up

JUNE

Do you know where I was all afternoon?

Longish beat.

RAMONA

Dr. Gussman's.

JUNE

You've known for how long you were in remission?

RAMONA

A week.

JUNE

A week? A whole week and you didn't tell me. You let me believe you were still sick.

RAMONA

I wasn't / positive

JUNE

And, you kept me thinking your scan was today. Even though you cancelled it.

RAMONA

I asked you not to / go

JUNE

Guess who was with me today. At the doctor's.

Longish beat.

RAMONA
Not Khalil.

JUNE
Yup.

RAMONA reacts as though she's been whacked with a bat.

RAMONA
He's in Dubai!

JUNE
Ah, nope.

RAMONA
(borderline hysterical)
I told him not to show up!
I told you *both* not to!

JUNE
We don't seem to listen too good.

RAMONA
Oh god.
Does he...
Does he know I'm better?

JUNE
Um, yes. Yes he does.

RAMONA
Oh God. Oh no.

JUNE
Did you think he wouldn't find out?

RAMONA
I don't know, yes? Maybe? Why do you even care? You don't like him.

JUNE
How I feel about him has nothing to do with how you treated him. Which, frankly? Was unspeakably cruel. He started weeping. Right there in the reception area. His whole body was wracked with sobs. I had to hold him. Like this. For fifteen straight minutes.

RAMONA covers her ears and cringes.

RAMONA

That's so awful!

JUNE

What did you expect him to do?

RAMONA

I expected him to not be there! To just like, leave the country and not come back. And then he could be Tragic-Dude. "Oh, I had a girlfriend, she was awesome, then she died." And everyone would feel bad for him. And his life would have instant meaning—

JUNE

Monie. Do you hear yourself? You sound insane.

RAMONA

We were supposed to disappear at the same time. I wasn't supposed to get better. I broke our contract--

JUNE

What are you talking about?

RAMONA

Why do you think he stuck around? After I showed him my port?

JUNE

Because he liked you.

RAMONA

But I wasn't *me!* I changed overnight! Didn't you say that?

JUNE

Those weren't my words--

RAMONA

I don't want to go back to being that panicked mouse in the corner, nibbling her nuts and hoping someone will come talk to her. I can't.

JUNE

Ramona—

RAMONA

And I don't want him to know that person. Okay?

JUNE

Your sickness was not the thing that made you lovable!

RAMONA

Yes it was!
It was...
It was, Junie...

RAMONA buries her head in her hands,
sobbing. JUNE sits next to her and strokes her
back like a mother.

JUNE

(impossibly gentle)

Honey. It's just not true.

~~RAMONA can't stop.~~

~~JUNE (cont.)~~

~~I mean okay, maybe it took a small cataclysm to make you figure out how to be a
little less terrified of yourself. But you did it. You can't un-learn that.~~

~~RAMONA is inconsolable.~~

~~JUNE (cont.)~~

~~Would Pre Lymphoma Ramona install a stripper pole in her living room? I think
not.~~

~~RAMONA laughs a little. But only a little. JUNE
rocks her.~~

~~JUNE (cont.)~~

~~And... You're in remission!!! You're in fucking remission! Woman, this is a
wonderful wonderful thing. Right?~~

~~RAMONA nods.~~

~~JUNE (cont.)~~

~~So, we need to celebrate!~~

~~RAMONA~~

~~Should I call him?~~

~~JUNE~~

~~I'd wait a beat.~~

~~RAMONA~~

~~But he hates me! I need to apologize~~

~~JUNE~~

~~He's not in a place to hear what you have to say right now. Trust me on this.~~