

“EPSOM SALTS” by Alexander Lee-Rekers

FEN has been driven to confess something to their partner NIAMH.

FEN: Stop. Can you- Can you stop for a second? Niamh, my love, this is all so beautiful: candles, music, whatever’s cooking that smells, honestly, amazing. But I have to tell you something. I’ve been putting it off because it’s not great, I’m not proud of it... You know the succulents outside your place, the ones you were growing right before we started dating? We talked about them the day we met. I was walking past your front yard and we got chatting about gardening and you looked so *good* and I said something like “Let me know if you ever want more cuttings,” and you said “I’ve got more than I can handle as it is!” Do you remember that? So in *my* brain, it made perfect sense to me to ... to sneak back to your place that night and sprinkle them with epsom salts. I killed your succulents. So I’d have an excuse to show up at your place with an armful of cactus trimmings. *(Long pause.)* Do you think there’s a part of you that might be able to find that a little bit romantic?

Performance Notes:

- *Spend time on the ‘moment before’ of this scene: what has driven Fen to this confession? How has the mood of the evening contributed to their guilt and made them speak this painful truth?*
- *How is Niamh reacting as they hear this? How does their face look, their body language? Just because this scene has no dialogue doesn’t mean it’s not two characters communicating.*
- *Pay attention to the sentence structure and punctuation in this speech: what do long, run-on sentences suggest about Fen’s state of mind at this moment? How might they be apologising, second-guessing or justifying with dashes and ellipses that interrupt their own trains of thought?*