

MUNDANE
LITTLE
THINGS



COOKING FOR ONE

Amelia - Spring 2017

I currently live with a couple. They live downstairs and I live above them in an old house in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States.

I listen to them in the evenings, while I'm watching TV and decompressing from teaching 10- and 11-year-olds Spanish, deciding what and how to cook dinner.

It's such a simple thing, this discussion of what to eat and whose turn it is to prepare it. They do not think about this conversation mattering to them, I know it. Why would they? It's one of the most banal of conversations two people in a long-term relationship can have.

To me, it is magic. I feel almost voyeuristic eavesdropping. The tough thing about living 4000 miles away from your partner is not, as one might think, always something big.

Sometimes it's a mundane, little thing, like cooking one, for that isn't easy. It's preparing a portion that's way too big because you're used to cooking for two people. It's missing the quiet, well-oiled machine of making dinner, sharing food and cleaning up with your person.

RUNNING SHIP-SHAPE

Chris

When Amelia and I were living together, there wasn't one part of cleaning and caring for our house that tripped us up. Quite simply, we owned the whole experience of maintaining a household.

After our clothes were dry, we would take them to our room and sort them together into separate piles for each other. The only articles which were hardest to sort were socks, which seemed to have a life of their own and were forever taking holidays into both of our sock drawers.

Whilst I would be out putting gas on the gas meter, Amelia would be ordering an online shop of groceries. We had a cupboard system for our food so we knew where everything was. We created a makeshift recycling bin to put recycling in, which sat in front of a set of shelves which was organised with all our bathroom paraphernalia. On spring clean days while I vacuumed, Amelia would be wiping and dusting. Our team work made sure that the house was alive and that living in it was smooth sailing.

When you go from that level of mutual, natural co-operation to it just being you... it's hard. All the carefully worked systems you had in place disappear. Suddenly the work stacks against you, eating up all your concentration and time. Like a grand armada bearing down on a little ship. And you just feel a little lost at sea.

ZIP ME UP

Amelia

In our old place in Birmingham, England, our bedroom was on the second floor, and the lounge (living room for Americans) was on the bottom floor.

When Chris and I would get ready, he would always finish before I did and go downstairs to wait.

You have to dramatically turn the corner at the bottom of the stairs for someone to see you. You can stand, framed by the doorway like the shot every director dreams of in a movie.

This made every entrance feel like a grand entrance. Whenever I'd come down the stairs gussied up and ready to go out, I could hear fabulous music playing in my mind. And when I got the bottom of the stairs, he would always turn his head slightly to the left and his face would light up. It made a girl feel some kind of way, let me tell you.

These days, with my person across an ocean, I have to carefully choose what dress to wear. Because some of them I can't zip up on my own.



Chris Pearce

Chris was born in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England, United Kingdom on November 14, 1994. He's lived there most of his life, leaving to go to the Birmingham School of Acting, where he received his BA Acting Hons degree with Distinction in 2016. He's an actual working actor, represented by Mrs. Jordan Associates. He loves cowboys and video games and he gardens. He's literally one of the nicest people you'll ever meet.



Amelia Sciandra

Amelia was born in Fanwood, New Jersey, in the United States of America on February 22nd, 1989. She grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina but has lived in many different places, including New York City and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She came to the Birmingham School of Acting to train in an MFA in Acting, which she received with Distinction in 2016. She's currently working as a secondary (middle) school teacher, as well as acting and directing theatre. She loves good crime thrillers and powers through her 5k runs. Her fortitude and bravery know no bounds.

