**Ma mère était belle tout en s’efforçant de paraître ordinaire.**

My mother was beautiful while attempting to/striving to appear ordinary.

**Selon elle, les critères physiques participaient des jugements a priori dont une femme moderne devait se libérer.**

In her opinion, physical characteristics/stereotypes were part of the preconceptions from which a modern woman had to free herself.

**Pour autant, elle restait très féminine en se donnant en même temps des allures de femme nord-américaine,**

And yet, she always remained very feminine, while at the same time trying to give off / giving herself the air of a North American woman,

**la voix placée dans les graves, son accent irlandais gommé.**

her voice deep and her Irish accent subdued.

**Rien ne pouvait l’empêcher de rayonner, pas même ses disputes avec mon père,**

Nothing could stop her from being radiant, not even her arguments with my father,

**de plus en plus fréquentes au fil du temps,**

which became more and more frequent as time went by/passed,

**au point que les deux dernières années de leur vie je dormais dans la maison de Maine pour les fuir.**

to the point/extent that for the last two years of their lives I slept in Maine's house to escape them/get away from them.

**J’aurais préféré qu’ils se disputent devant moi.**

I would have preferred them to argue in front of me.

**Quand elle n’en pouvait vraiment plus, ma mère s’ouvrait à Maine de l’indifférence croissante de son mari à son égard.**

When she really couldn't take it anymore, my mother would open up to Maine about her husband's growing indifference to her.

**Les deux femmes se retrouvaient alors sur le banc qui faisait face à la crique et discutaient sans se regarder.**

The two women would meet on the bench facing the creek and talk without looking at each other.

**Maine essayait de réconforter ma mère dont je voyais à quel point cette situation la dévastait.**

Maine tried to comfort my mother, whose misery I could see/and it was plain to see how miserable the situation was making her.

**Mais le lendemain, il n’en paraissait rien, elle redevenait l’éblouissante rousse irlandaise aux yeux bleus.**

The next day, however, nothing seemed to change/everything was back to normal, and she was back to/once again her dazzling blue-eyed Irish redhead self.