

CLARA

I'm going to ask you this one more time, so don't get mad at me...  
Are you sure you should go now?

KATHERINE

Yes. Who knows what state I'll be in in six months.  
Besides, I've had to call in favours from every music scholar I know to get access to the archive.

CLARA

But you heard what the nurse said.

KATHERINE

He said it would be better if I wasn't alone. Which I won't be.  
Did it make you feel uncomfortable the way he kept looking at you?

CLARA

Please! That guy?

KATHERINE

Yes that guy. He was staring at you.

CLARA

No he wasn't.

KATHERINE

In the exam room he kept asking me questions about you.

CLARA

Oh mom.

KATHERINE

It took him fifteen minutes to find my vein.

CLARA

Mom, he seemed like he knew what he was doing.

KATHERINE

Clara, he dropped my urine sample. *(Clara giggles)*  
Yes, you should date that guy. He fits the profile of your last three boyfriends.

*(pause)*

CLARA

Mom, maybe I should come with you.

KATHERINE

What about Heda Gabler?

CLARA

My costumes are done, my assistant can take it from here.

Besides, I'm looking into a few other things.

*(silence)*

What?

KATHERINE

I thought you liked being a costume designer.

CLARA

I do.

KATHERINE

You can't excel at anything if you keep changing careers.

CLARA

I excel at changing careers.

KATHERINE

I think that's a great idea. That way you'll always be mediocre at everything.

CLARA

*(Beat. She's about to explode, but chooses to remain on subject.)*

What happens if you get weaker? What happens if you fall?

KATHERINE

I'm not on my deathbed!

CLARA

I never said you were.

KATHERINE

No. But you're acting like it.

CLARA

OK, I'm sorry.

But why do you have to go there? When you wrote your book on Mozart, you didn't fly off to Vienna.

KATHERINE

Because Mozart composed in his head.

Beethoven composed on paper. So there are thousands and thousands of sketches that record his every thought, his every compositional idea. And they're in Bonn. It's the only hope I have of understanding why he did it. I *have* to go.

CLARA

Promise me something.

KATHERINE

Mmm-hmm.

CLARA

That if you get worse, you'll call me right away.

KATHERINE

I promise.