

Two Degrees

CLAY and EMMA scene

(They've just had crazy sex in Emma's hotel room, but they've been talking for a few minutes.)

CLAY Correct me if I'm wrong, but that was definitely some kind of revenge sex. Not that I'm complaining.

EMMA So why do you care?

CLAY I don't -- much. You just seemed really angry at somebody.

Pause.

CLAY (CONT'D) You want my advice?

EMMA No.

CLAY You should talk to him.

EMMA I can't.

CLAY I know: a lot of people can be difficult, but –

EMMA No: I can't. OK? I can't.

CLAY What do you mean, you can't.

EMMA There's nothing to fix anymore.

CLAY But you're still angry?

EMMA It happened a long time ago. It happened, and there's nothing to do -- nothing I can do about it -- so I guess feeling angry is my only resort.

CLAY That doesn't mean there's nothing for you to do.

EMMA Well, I can't go back in the past.

CLAY No. Of course not. Jesus, for a doctor you sure are stupid.

EMMA Hey! And I'm not a doctor, I'm --

CLAY A scientist. Yeah. Whatever.

EMMA Just like to be precise.

CLAY OK. Look. Do you really think that because some shitty thing happened back -- whenever -- that you're just somehow fated to have a shitty present and shitty future?

EMMA That's not what I said.

CLAY You said there's nothing you can do about it.

EMMA That's right. There's not.

CLAY And I maintain --

EMMA He's dead. OK? He's dead. I can't do anything about it because he's dead.

Short pause

CLAY I'm sorry. What happened?

EMMA Car accident. Drunk driver. Head on collision.

CLAY Jesus.

EMMA And I was on the other side of the world. Greenland.

CLAY Shit.

EMMA He didn't want me to go. I went anyway. In our last fight before I left, I said that it wouldn't be for that long... So stupid.

CLAY Jesus...

EMMA He said, "I'm not going anywhere." And then... he did. Go. Ironic. Wait. Is that it? I never know how to use that word.

CLAY I don't know if it's ironic. But it sure sucks.

EMMA Yes. It does. It's hard to be mad at a dead guy. So you still think I can fix this?

CLAY There are, like, hundreds of things you can do.

EMMA Hundreds.

CLAY Yeah, listen: you can change the way you respond, you can change the way you think -- you can make hundreds of small decisions, changing yourself, in this moment, and the next one. You make hundreds of little adjustments. You don't fix that -- you fix you.

EMMA Fix the broken me. That seems about right.

CLAY You're not broken. You know what I meant.

Pause.

EMMA Thanks

CLAY You're welcome.

Pause

EMMA I should be sleeping.

CLAY Me too.

EMMA I have a big day.

CLAY Me too.

EMMA I'm not ready for this. (Beat.) Have you ever testified?

CLAY In court?

EMMA For a senate committee.

CLAY Sure. Throw a rock in this town and you'll hit someone who's testified at a senate committee. No biggie.

EMMA Right.

CLAY Hang on to that anger from earlier. That oughta get you through the day.