

City of Angels

Maggie Excuse me, are you a visitor?
Seth Yes.
Maggie Well, visiting hours have been over since 8.
Seth Why do they have that?
Maggie What?
Seth Hours. Does it help the patient to be visited?
Maggie Well... who are you visiting? Mr. Messenger?
Seth Right now?
Maggie Yeah.
Seth You.
Maggie I don't need a visitor
Seth You're not ill?
Maggie No. I'm one of the doctors here.
Seth Are you in despair?
Maggie I lost a patient.
Seth You did everything you could?
Maggie I was holding his heart in my hand when he died.
Seth He wasn't alone.
Maggie Yes he was.
Seth People die.
Maggie Not on my table
Seth People die when their bodies give out.
Maggie My job is to keep their bodies from giving out, or what am I doing here?
Seth It wasn't your fault, Maggie.
Maggie I wanted him to live.
Seth He is living, just not the way you think.
Maggie I don't believe that.
Seth Some things are true whether you believe in them or not.
Maggie How did you know my name?
Seth (points to badge)
Maggie And what is your name?
Seth Seth

Maggie Seth. Hmm, how can I be sure you're not one of the psych patients who
somehow
got out from the ward?

Seth You like Hemingway?

Maggie Yeah. Yeah, I'm starting to.

Seth May I?

Maggie Yeah.

Seth "As I ate the oysters with their strong taste of the sea, and their faint
metallic
taste, as I drank their cold liquid from each shell and washed it down
with the
crisp taste of wine, I lost the empty feeling and began to be happy."
He never forgets how to describe how things taste. I like that.
How is Mr. Messenger?

Maggie He's good. Yeah, the operation went really well.

Seth It was a good day.

Maggie It was a good day, yeah. I didn't kill anyone today.

Seth You're an excellent doctor.

Maggie You know?

Seth I have this feeling.

Maggie That's pretty flimsy evidence.

Seth Close your eyes, just for a moment.
(holds her hand and caresses her palm)
What am I doing?

Maggie You're touching me.

Seth Touch. How do you know?

Maggie Because I feel it.

Seth And these are the books you read when you're not reading Hemingway?

Maggie You know, when I read my first science book, that's when I knew I
wanted to
become a doctor. Here, look at this. That's us. All those cells.

Seth That's all you are?

Maggie That and all the space between.

Seth If this is all you are, these cells, then when they die, that's the end?

Maggie I don't know. I think so.

Seth So you don't really know?

Maggie Well, I used to think I had it figured out.

Seth But you didn't?

Maggie No. No, because something happened. Something happened in my O.R.
and I got
this jolt, this feeling, that there's something bigger than me out there.

There is
something bigger than me, and bigger than you, and it... Does this sound
crazy?

Seth No.

Maggie I couldn't fix him. I did everything right and I couldn't fix him. That's not
supposed to happen. And I...

Seth You cried.

Maggie Yeah.

Seth Why do people cry?

Maggie What do you mean?

Seth I mean, what happens physically?

Maggie Well, tear ducts operate on a normal basis to lubricate and protect the
eye, and
when there's a strong emotion, they overreact and create tears.

Seth Why? Why do they overreact?

Maggie I don't know.

Seth Maybe emotion becomes so intense, your body can't contain it. Your
mind and
feelings become too powerful. Your body weeps.

Maggie (is paged) I have to go. I've gotta go. Stay right here. Don't go
anywhere. Stay
right here.