

## Little Fires Everywhere

*(Elena laugh as she eat crackers and drinks wine)*

**Elena**

I'm so glad we're doing this. And I also really liked what you said about the vaginas. Because its true. I'm not the most flexible person, but it does feel neglectful...that I've never seen mine.

**Mia**

Have you really never seen it?

**Elena**

No.

**Mia**

Really?

**Elena**

No.

**Mia**

Huh.

**Elena**

Have you?

**Mia**

I did a whole series on it in my 20s.

[Elena laughs]

**Mia**

Like, 20 photos.

**Elena**

Photos?

**Mia**

Yes.

**Elena**

That people saw?

**Mia**

Yes

[both laugh]

**Elena**

Oh, my goodness.

Oh, what, that photo that's over your fireplace?

**Mia**

What about it?

**Elena**

Is it yours?

**Mia**

It is.

**Elena**

I couldn't tell if it was a woman, or, it felt very spider-like.

How did you make it?

**Mia**

A friend helped me.

**Elena**

Oh.

**Mia**

It goes back to what we were talking about. The parts of us that we're afraid to look at. I wanted her to feel unrecognizable. Almost monstrous. Even to herself.

**Elena**

Do you think Pearl likes you?

**Mia**

[laughs]

I've never thought about it.

**Elena**

That's because she does. When your daughter doesn't, you think about it all the time. I take motherhood for granted sometimes. That they'll love you forever. That they'll love you at all. When they're little, they need you so much. They hold you and grab for you and you cuddle them. She used to burrow into me. I was the thing she needed most in the world. And then they grow up, you don't get to hold them, touch them like that. Even if you want to. And its

like learning to love the smell of apple, when all you want to do is grab it and hold it. Devour it. Seeds and all. And then, you realize it was just that they needed you. You needed them. Ugh, this is why I only have 4 ounces.

**Mia**

That is exactly what it is like. Seeds and all.

**Elena**

You've done a wonderful job with Pearl. I mean, what kid advocates for harder classes? That letter she wrote was wonderful. She didn't need my help with it, but I was happy to give it. Is the picture for sale? I would love to buy it.

**Mia**

No. It's not.

**Elena**

Your art...

**Mia**

It's really late so..

**Mia**

I think I'm .... (getting up to leave)

**Elena**

Oh, yeah, uh, of course.

Oh, my good—did we clean the kitchen?

**Mia**

Yeah, we did.

**Elena**

Yeah, Oh. (Elena grabs Mia to hug her. They hug.)

I like to hug people.

You should join our book club. October is going to be *The Horse Whisperer*.

(as Mia continues walking out )

And I think, um...maybe after that, we'll read *Primary Colors*.

And Mia, I just want to say thank you for everything.

**Mia**

Yeah.

**Elena**

Really.

**Mia**

[chuckles]

**Elena**

Okay. Goodnight

**Mia**

Goodnight.

**Elena**

Oh, give my love to Pearl.

**Mia**

Uh huh