

ELLEN

Hey! Where's Mom?

GEORGE

They're going to keep her overnight. She's going to have to have surgery.

ELLEN

Surgery?

GEORGE

Yes, they're... They're going to try to take it out.

ELLEN

It's cancer? Are they sure?

GEORGE

I'm going back out there to spend the night.

ELLEN

Is she going to die?

GEORGE

No, she's not going to die. After the operation, she may need radiation or chemotherapy. The doctor said that that can be very debilitating...

in which case she would need somebody to take care of her during the day.

Actually, I... I want you to-to move home... to take care of her.

ELLEN

Move home?

GEORGE

Brian is at school.

ELLEN

Dad, what about my job?

GEORGE

Well, you can freelance from here. She's going to need help during the day.

ELLEN

Well... Maybe you could take sabbatical. I mean, it's been four years since... you took one for the novel.

GEORGE

A sabbatical is out of the question. I have a department to run, and I have to make a living. As you well

know, the advance on my novel was spent years ago... on yours and Brian's education.

ELLEN

Dad, I have to do my interviews and my research in New York.

I may never catch up again. It could ruin my career.

We can get a nurse and I will come home every weekend.

GEORGE

A nurse? We're not getting a nurse. Your mother didn't get a nurse when you had chicken pox. A nurse.

You know she won't tolerate having strangers in this house.

ELLEN

But, Dad...

GEORGE

Your mother needs you, Ellen. Jesus Christ! You've got a Harvard education, but where is your heart?