SIDEWAYS

Sex noises come from other room - door is slightly ajar - we come from the kitchen with glasses of red wine and sit on the couch to talk.

MAY
Looks like our friends are really hitting it off

MILES
You can say that again
(they laugh)

MAYA

So what's your novel about?

MILES
What's my.......oh brother. Well, it's difficult to summarize. Um, it starts out as a first person narrative about a guy taking care of his father after a stroke. It's kind of based on uh personal experience, but only loosely.

MAYA

What's the title?

MILES
"The day after yesterday"

MAYA

Oh. you mean today?

MILES
Um, yeah, I mean, right, but its more.....

MAYA

So, so, it's about like death and mortality or.....

MILES

Uh.....yeah, not really. It jumps around a lot. That's what it's about in a way you know what I mean? - and um, you start to see everything from the point of view of the father and uh a lot of other things happen. Parallel narratives. Kind c a mess. And then eventually the whole thing sort of evolves, or devolves into this sort of Rob Gruyiere mystery, you know. But no real resolution.

MAYA

Wow

Yeah

MILES

MAYA

Well, I think its really great you're getting it published. Really, I mean I know how hard it is, just to write it even.

I mean like me, I've got his paper due on friday and Im freaked out about it, just like in high school.

MILES

A paper huh?

MAYA

Yeah Im going for a Masters degree in Horticulture. Sorta chipping away at it.
MILES
Horticulture! really? I didn't even know that there was a college here.

MAYA
Well I commute to San Luis Obispo twice a week.

MILES
Ah, horticulture? Wow. So do you wanna work in a winery or something?

MAYA
(pause) maybe

(-Miles long, impressed, reflective thought. We're interrupted by the loud sex noises coming from the next room. I get up and pull the door closed. Come back and sit down next to Miles)

MAYA (Cont.)
You know, can I ask you a personal question Miles?

MILES
Sure.

MAYA
Why are you so into Pinot? I mean, its like a thing with you.

MILES
Ah, I don't know, I don't know. Um, it's a hard grape to grow, as you know. Right? Its thin skinned, temperamental. Ripens early. You know its not a survivor like Cabernet. Which can just grow anywhere and thrive even when neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know, and in fact it can only grow in these really specific little tucked away corners of the world. And, and only THE most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really.

Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot's potential, can then coax it into its fullest expression.

Then, I mean, oh its flavors they're just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and ancient on the planet!

Now I mean, you know cabernets can be powerful and exhausting too but they seem prozaic to me for some reason by comparison I don't know.

How about you?

MAYA

What about me?

MILES

I don't know, why are you into wine?

MAYA

Oh, I think I originally got into wine through my ex-husband, you know he had this big sort of show-off cellar, you know. But then I discovered that I had a rally sharp pallet and
the more I drank, the more I liked what it mad me think about.

MILES
Like what?

MAYA
Like what a fraud he was!

(Miles - he laughs...)

MAYA (Cont.)
No, I like to think about the life of wine.

MILES
Yeah

MAYA
How its a living thing. I like to think about wha was going on in the year the grapes were growing. How the sun was shining. If it rained I like to think about all the people who tended and picked the grapes. And if its an old wine, how many of them must be dead by now. I lik how wine continues to evolve. Like if I opened a bottle of wine today it would taste different than if lde opened it on any other day. Because a bottle of wine is actually alive. And its constantly evolving and gaining complexity. That is until it peaks, like your 61, then it begins its steady, inevitable decline.

MILES
Hmm
MAYA
And it tastes so fucking good
(she puts her hand on his, intimate moment where it's the perfect opportunity for a kiss...he misses it)

MILES
Yeah, you know, I uh like other wines besides Pinot too!
Um, you know, hmm lately I've been into Reislings. You like reislings? reislings?

MAYA
Hmm

MILES
Is the bathroom in the back?

MAYA
It's through the kitchen

MILES
I'll be right back

(Miles exits for bathroom, we see him wash his face in the mirror and chastise himself while Maya gets up and walks into the kitchen)

MILES
God, you're such a fucking looser. You make me so fucking sick!

(Miles exits and makes his way to the kitchen, not before he pulls...