LIVING ROOM/MAYBE KITCHEN AREA

Margaret and Laurie have just left. Ethan is sprawled on the couch. Sophie enters with the plate of butterflies.

ETHAN
Hello.

SOPHIE
I'm sorry. I thought you had gone. Margaret said you, all of you, were going to lunch.

ETHAN
No, I decided not to go.

SOPHIE
Well. I'm glad you're here. I didn't mean to disturb you. But I wanted to return the butterflies. I didn't realize how valuable they were. I simply can't accept them.

ETHAN
You can't?

SOPHIE
No.

ETHAN
But you thought I was gone. So why bring the butterflies?

SOPHIE
I was going to leave them here. With a note.

ETHAN
Look. I'm sorry i put you in this position. It wasn't my intention. I -

SOPHIE
No, it's fine, I put myself there, I don't blame anyone, I just, it can't happen anymore.

ETHAN
No.

SOPHIE
No.
ETHAN
I'm going back to the city tonight.

SOPHIE
Good. So, here are the butterflies and and - that's all.

ETHAN
Please, keep them.

SOPHIE
I can't keep them.

ETHAN
If you're worried about my girlfriend-

SOPHIE
I'm not worried about your girlfriend. Perhaps you should worry about your girlfriend; I don't know your girlfriend. The person I am worried about is...

ETHAN
What?

SOPHIE
Nothing. Please. Just take them back. I need to go.

ETHAN
He hit on you.

SOPHIE
What?

ETHAN
My father. He hit on you. Didn't he?

SOPHIE
Yes. He did.

ETHAN
What did you do?

SOPHIE
What did I do?

ETHAN
That's a fair enough question, Sophie. You're not as innocent as you pretend
to be, and I suspect you've been hit on before.

**SOPHIE**
Never with such exquisite complication.

**ETHAN**
Are you going to tell me what happened or not?

**SOPHIE**
What do you think happened? He kissed me, and - it was - I, I am very confused right now, all right? So -

**ETHAN**
Did you enjoy it?

**SOPHIE**
Enjoyed it? I don't - I was overwhelmed -

**ETHAN**
Oh, overwhelmed. That's good. He overwhelmed you. So you had nothing to do with it. It was rape, huh, you didn't enjoy it at all, you fought but you know, a sixty-four-year-old guy, he can be pretty overwhelming -

**SOPHIE**
OK, "overwhelmed" was the wrong word. I was thrilled. It was thrilling -

**ETHAN**
Thrilling. Which part, the kiss or the rest of it, was it thrilling to have my father feel you up?

**SOPHIE**
Look. I am here to work. This is - I am here to write. I am here to learn.

**ETHAN**
An aging Nobel laureate and his demonic son have both fallen for you, simultaneously. If you can't learn from that, you're no writer.
SOPHIE
Yes, that's very amusing. Thank you.

ETHAN
Did you sleep with him?

SOPHIE
No! I didn't sleep with him!

ETHAN
Are you going to sleep with him?
(beat) It's a fair question, Sophie. You came here-

SOPHIE
I came here to work -

ETHAN
Well, other things happened, didn't they? What, am I just his son? Is that all I am to you, "his son," you made a mistake, you slept with the son when you could have had the man himself! Sold yourself short, didn't you? Got to get rid of the son now, 'cause Dad's the real prize!

SOPHIE
That is not what I am doing!

ETHAN
It is exactly what you're doing!

SOPHIE
You're leaving anyway, you just said -

ETHAN
Well, that explains your relief. I'm taking off, so you and Dad have a clear playing field.

SOPHIE
This is impossible. You see? You must see how impossible this is, already - this entire week has been a nightmare, going in there ten hours a day after I turned him down, believe me, is no fucking picnic, but I do it! And I intend to continue doing it, so I cannot do this!
ETHAN
So you're doing this for your art, that's why you've been dodging me all week?

SOPHIE
I'm trying to survive here!

ETHAN
It's going to save you, isn't it? Make you wise. A really great sentence, shows you a corner of insight into the human condition, you think you've seen the face of God. That's why Paul has you. Got to get close to that, he's the lodestone, the magic, you have to touch it, like the hem of Christ's robe-
(beat)
It's OK. He's got me, too. All that art, all that approval, all that love, just out of reach. That big hole inside you, he's the only thing that can plug that up. And he's a complete shit head.

SOPHIE
I should have done it. Is that what you're saying?

ETHAN
Quite the opposite, Sophie. I think you know that.

SOPHIE
I am drowning here.

ETHAN
I have to know this. If it were just me. If it were you, and me, and nothing else. No one else. What would you be saying to me now?

SOPHIE
It's not possible to do that.

ETHAN
It is. He is not here. I am the only one here.

He is close to her. They kiss. The kiss begins to get
involved, but she pulls away.

SOPHIE
We can't do this here.

She takes him out. Blackout.