

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 whole. 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.