

THE HOURS

Background: Laura (Julianne Moore) has come to Clarissa's apartment after being informed of the death of Richard (Ed Harris), her estranged son. Here she explains to Clarissa (Meryl Streep), Richard's closest friend and could've-been lover, why she left her family one day.

Laura: There are times when you don't belong and you think you're going to kill yourself. Once I went to a hotel. That night...later that night, I made a plan. Plan was, I would leave my family when my second child was born. And that's what I did. Got up one morning, made breakfast, went to the bus stop, got on a bus. I'd left a note. **(pause)** I got a job in a library in Canada. It would be wonderful to say you regretted it. It would be easy. But what does it mean? What does it mean to regret when you have no choice? It's what you can bear. There it is. No one is going to forgive me. **(Laura looks at Clarissa, steady, unapologetic.)** It was death. I chose life.