HOPE GAP

GRACE
Ha, Jamie not up?

EDWARD
He's gone out for a walk.

GRACE
A walk by himself. He never goes for a walk by himself.

EDWARD
A cup of tea? Toast?

GRACE
Please. You know how we say in the mass, Lord have mercy on us. I found myself counting. We asked for mercy 17 times. I think it may have a sort of hypnotic effect, all that asking for mercy. After a while, it begins to strike you maybe you need it. I know I go for you sometimes. Really all I want is reassurance.

EDWARD
All right.

GRACE
Hmm? Just to know that we're going through this thing together.

EDWARD
It's not really working is it?

GRACE
Thank God. You do see it. What's happened to us?

EDWARD
I think what you said is true. I've been walking away. I've been avoiding things.

GRACE
Thank God. You're saying it at last.

EDWARD
I suppose I felt I can't give you what you want, so I felt like I'm not a very useful person really, for you at least. I seem to annoy you and do things wrong. So I try not to talk about it, which only makes it worse. I think the truth is we're different kinds of people. It may just be that we don't work very well together.
GRACE
But we can. If we understand each other and are real with each other and if you... if we have the will to make it work, it'll work. I know it.

EDWARD
I'm not sure I have that will.

GRACE
Well, you have to. Marriages only work because both people want them to work.

EDWARD
I'm not sure I want that.

GRACE
You're not sure you want our marriage to work? Edward, listen to me. This is terribly important. You must will or marriage, or it'll die. There's no in between. It's either alive, or it's dead.

EDWARD
What if it's dead?

GRACE
Then we go our separate ways. No one can live in a dead marriage.

EDWARD
Maybe that's what we should do, go our separate ways.

GRACE
But it isn't dead. Do you think it's dead? Well, I don't. It's not dead for me. I'm your wife. You're my husband. You can say anything you want to me, anything in the whole world.

EDWARD
I want to leave

GRACE
Leave?

EDWARD
Yes.

GRACE
Leave to go where?

EDWARD
There's someone else.

GRACE
Someone else?
EDWARD
I'm sorry.

GRACE
How can there be some... someone else? What someone else?

EDWARD
A parent at school. You don't know...

GRACE
What parent at school?

EDWARD
Her name's Angela Walker. I didn't mean it to happen. It was an accident, but it's happened.

GRACE
An accident? How was it an accident?

EDWARD
I met her to talk over her son's problems. She told me about the situation at home and that the boy's father left a year or so ago. She became quite emotional. And I said what I could, and that's how we became close.

GRACE
Became close?

EDWARD
Yes.

GRACE
How close? No. I don't want to hear it. When did this accident happen?

EDWARD
About a year ago

GRACE
A year ago? And you went on just the same?

EDWARD
I should've told you before.

GRACE
But it's not an accident. You're doing it. You don't have to do it. You can stop doing it.
EDWARD
I'm sorry. I can't.

GRACE
You're not free? Don't you realize that? This woman may have lost her husband, but that
doesn't give her the right to take mine. Edward, this is ridiculous. You must see that. Or
are you just doing this to give me a fright, make me behave better?

EDWARD
No.

GRACE
Does Jamie know?

EDWARD
Some of it. I told him at breakfast.

GRACE
You told Jamie?

EDWARD
I know this is all a shock. But I do truly believe you'll come to see it's for the best.

GRACE
For the best?

EDWARD
I'm no good for you, Grace. I didn't give you what you want.

GRACE
You don't give me what I want because you're not even trying. You found a way to sneak
out of it. Well, I won't let you.

EDWARD
I'm sorry. I've made up my mind.

GRACE
Well, you'll have to unmake it, won't you? This decision involves me. You have to consult
me.

EDWARD
Don't do this, Grace. It'll only make it worse.

GRACE
You can't just walk away after 20 years. You have to try.

EDWARD
I have tried for 20 years.
GRACE
No. Don't say that. You don't mean that.

EDWARD
No. No, I don't mean that. But you know how it's been.

GRACE
I... look, Edward, we had Tunbridge. We... when Jamie was little, those years at Tunbridge, they were good years. You mustn't take it all. You mustn't. You'll kill me.

EDWARD
When Jamie was little, they were good years.

GRACE
Come here, darling. Oh. All right. You win. I'm sorry. I won't go for you ever again. Just don't leave.

EDWARD
You know it won't work.

GRACE
Yes, it will. We'll make it work.

EDWARD
Grace...

GRACE:
I just want a chance to put things right. That's fair, isn't it? You owe me that at least. Sit down. Finish your breakfast.

EDWARD:
I have finished.