

with some  
would you take some  
coffee?

Proof

ZW

No, thanks.

CLAIRE

[Starting in] It's no trouble.

CATHERINE

Hold on a sec, Katie. I just...

CLAIRE

[CLAIRE takes a breath.]

I'm leaving soon. I --

CATHERINE

You said. I know.

CLAIRE

I'd still like you to come to New York.

CATHERINE

Yes: January.

CLAIRE

I'd like you to move to New York.

CATHERINE

Move?

CLAIRE

Would you think about it? For me?

You could stay with me and Mitch at first. There's plenty of room. Then you could get your own place. I've already scouted some apartments for you, really cute places.

CATHERINE

What would I do in New York?

CLAIRE

What are you doing here?

CATHERINE

I live here.

CLAIRE

You could do whatever you want. You could work, you could go to school.

CATHERINE

I don't know, Claire. This is pretty major.

I realize that.

CLAIRE

I know you mean well. I'm just not sure what I want to do. I mean to be honest you were right yesterday. I do feel a little confused. I'm tired. It's been a pretty weird couple of years. I think I'd like to take some time to figure things out.

CLAIRE

You could do that in New York.

CATHERINE

And I could do it here.

CLAIRE

But it would be much easier for me to get you set up in an apartment in New York, and --

CATHERINE

I don't need an apartment, I'll stay in the house.

CLAIRE

We're selling the house.

[Beat.]

CATHERINE

What?

CLAIRE

We -- I'm selling it.

CATHERINE

WHEN?

CLAIRE

I'm hoping to do the paperwork this week. I know it seems sudden.

CATHERINE

No one was here looking at the place, who are you selling it to?

CLAIRE

The University. They've wanted the block for years.

CATHERINE

I LIVE HERE.

CLAIRE

Honey, now that Dad's gone it doesn't make sense. It's in bad shape. It costs a fortune to heat. It's time to let it go. Mitch agrees, it's a very smart move. We're lucky, we have a great offer --

Where am I supposed to live?  
CATHERINE

Come to New York.  
CLAIRE

I can't believe this.  
CATHERINE

It'll be so good. You deserve a change. This would be a whole new adventure for you.  
CLAIRE

Why are you doing this?  
CATHERINE

I want to help.  
CLAIRE

By kicking me out of my HOUSE?  
CATHERINE

It was my house too.  
CLAIRE

You haven't lived here for years.  
CATHERINE

I know that. You were on your own. I really regret that, Katie.  
CLAIRE

Don't.  
CATHERINE

I know I let you down. I feel awful about it. Now I'm trying to help.  
CLAIRE

You want to help NOW?  
CATHERINE

Yes.  
CLAIRE

Dad is dead.  
CATHERINE

I know.  
CLAIRE

CATHERINE

He's dead. Now that he's dead you fly in for the weekend and decide you want to help?  
YOU'RE LATE. Where have you been?

CLAIRE

I --

CATHERINE

Where were you five years ago? You weren't helping then.

CLAIRE

I was working.

CATHERINE

I was HERE. I lived with him ALONE.

CLAIRE

I was working 14 hour days. I paid every bill here. I paid off the mortgage on this three bedroom house while I was living in a studio in Brooklyn.

CATHERINE

You had your life. You got to finish school.

CLAIRE

You could have stayed in school!

CATHERINE

How?

CLAIRE

I would have done anything -- I told you that. I told you a million times to do anything you wanted.

CATHERINE

What about Dad? Someone had to take care of him.

CLAIRE

He was ill. He should have been in a full-time professional care situation.

CATHERINE

He didn't belong in the nuthouse.

CLAIRE

He might have been better off.

CATHERINE

How can you say that?



CLAIRE

This is where I'm meant to feel guilty, right?

CATHERINE

Sure, go for it.

CLAIRE

I'm heartless. My own father.

CATHERINE

He needed to be here. In his own house, near the University, near his students, near everything that made him happy.

CLAIRE

Maybe. Or maybe some real, professional care would have done him more good than rattling around in a filthy house with YOU looking after him.

I'm sorry, Catherine, it's not your fault. It's my fault for letting you do it.

CATHERINE

I was right to keep him here.

CLAIRE

No.

CATHERINE

What about his remission? Four years ago. He was healthy for almost a year.

CLAIRE

And then he went right downhill again.

CATHERINE

He might have been worse in a hospital.

CLAIRE

And he MIGHT have been BETTER. Did he ever do any work again?

CATHERINE

No.

CLAIRE

NO.

And you might have been better.

CATHERINE

[Keeping her voice under control] Better than what?

---

CLAIRE

Living here with him didn't do you any good. You said that yourself.

You had so much talent...

CATHERINE

You think I'm like Dad.

CLAIRE

I think you have some of his talent and some of his tendency toward ... instability.

[Beat.]

CATHERINE

Claire, in addition to the "cute apartments" that you've "scouted" for me in New York, would you by any chance also have devoted some of your considerable energies toward scouting out another type of --

CLAIRE

NO.

CATHERINE

-- living facility for your bughouse little sister?

CLAIRE

NO! Absolutely not. That is not what this is about.

CATHERINE

Don't lie to me, Claire, I'm smarter than you.

CLAIRE

The resources... I've investigated --

CATHERINE

Oh my GOD.

CLAIRE

if you WANTED to, all I'm saying is the doctors in New York and the people are the BEST, and they --

CATHERINE

FUCK YOU.

CLAIRE

It would be entirely up to you. You wouldn't LIVE anywhere, you can --

CATHERINE

I hate you.