

SIDEWAYS

Sex noises come from other room - door is slightly ajar - we come from the kitchen with glasses of red wine and sit on the couch to talk.

MAY

Looks like our friends are really hitting it off

MILES

You can say that again

(they laugh)

MAYA

So what's your novel about?

MILES

What's my.....oh brother. Well, it's difficult to summarize. Um, it starts out as a first person narrative about a guy taking care of his father after a stroke. It's kind of based on uh personal experience, but only loosely.

MAYA

What's the title?

MILES

"The day after yesterday"

MAYA

Oh. you mean today?

MILES

Um, yeah, I mean, right, but its more.....

MAYA

So, so, it's about like death and mortality or.....

MILES

Uh.....yeah, not really. It jumps around a lot.

That's what it's about in a way you know what I mean? -

and um, you start to see everything from the point of view of the father and uh a lot of other things happen. Parallel narratives. Kind of a mess. And then eventually the whole thing sort of evolves, or devolves into this sort of Rob Gruyiere mystery, you know.

But no real resolution.

MAYA

Wow

MILES

Yeah

MAYA

Well, I think its really great you're getting it published. Really, I mean I know how hard it is, just to write it even.

I mean like me, I've got his paper due on friday and Im freaked out about it, just like in high school.

MILES

A paper huh?

MAYA

Yeah Im going for a Masters degree in Horticulture. Sorta chipping away at it.

MILES

Horticulture! really? I didnt even know that there was a college here.

MAYA

Well I commute to San Luis Obispo twice a week.

MILES

Ah, horticulture? Wow. So do you wana work in a winery or something?

MAYA

(pause) maybe

(- Miles long, impressed, reflective thought. Were interrupted by the loud sex noises coming from the next room. I get up and pull the door closed. Come back and sit down next to Miles)

MAYA (Cont.)

You know, can I ask you a personal question Miles?

MILES

Sure.

MAYA

Why are you so into Pinot? I mean, its like a thing with you.

MILES

Ah, I dont know, I dont know. Um, its a hard grape to grow, as you know. Right? Its thin skinned, temperamental. Ripens early. You

know its not a survivor like Cabernet. Which can just grow anywhere and thrive even wen its neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know, and in fact it can only grow in these really specific little tucked away corners of the world. And, and only THE most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really.

Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot's potential, can then coax it into its fullest expression.

Then, I mean, oh its flavors theyre just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and ancient on the planet!

Now I mean, you know cabernets can be powerful and exhauling too but they seem prozaic to me for some reason by comparison, I dont know.

How about you?

MAYA

What about me?

MILES

I dont know, why are you into wine?

MAYA

Oh, I think I originally got into wine through my ex-husband, you know he had this big sort of show-off cellar, you know. But then I discovered that I had a rally sharp pallet and the more I drank, the more I liked what it made me think about.

MILES

Like what?

MAYA

Like what a fraud he was!

(Miles - he laughs...)

MAYA (Cont.)

No, I like to think about the life of wine.

MILES

Yeah

MAYA

How its a living thing. I like to think about what was going on in the year the grapes were growing. How the sun was shining. If it rained. I like to think about all the people who tended and picked the grapes. And if its an old wine, how many of them must be dead by now. I like how wine continues to evolve. Like if I opened a bottle of wine today it would taste different than if I opened it on any other day. Because a bottle of wine is actually alive. And its constantly evolving and gaining complexity. That is until it peaks, like your 61, then it begins its steady, inevitable decline.

MILES

Hmm

MAYA

And it tastes so fucking good

(she puts her hand on his, intimate moment where its the perfect

opportunity for a kiss...he misses it)

MILES

Yeah, you know, I uh like other wines beside Pinot too!

Um, you know, hmm lately Ive been into Reislings. You like reislings? reislings?

MAYA

Hmm

MILES

Is the bathroom in the back?

MAYA

Its through the kitchen

MILES

I'll be right back

(Miles exits for bathroom, we see him wash his face in the mirror and chastize himself while Maya gets up and walks in to the kitchen)

MILES

God, youre such a fucking loser. You make me so fucking sick!

(Miles exits and makes his way to the kitchen, not before he pulls himself together and gets his game face on)

MILES

Hey

MAYA

I was just getting some water. You want some water?

Its getting kind of late.....

(Miles goes in the for the kiss, its forced and Maya pulls away)

MAYA (Cont.)

I should really go

(Maya hugs Miles in a 'friend' kind of way and leaves him standing at the sink, alone)

END OF SCENE