

Who is he? NATHANIEL

George's son. LISA

Previous marriage? NATHANIEL

They didn't get married. LISA

I don't think you should see him again. NATHANIEL

You're telling me who I can have in my home? LISA

I'm looking out for you. NATHANIEL

This is out of line. LISA

I don't trust him around... NATHANIEL

...Georgie loves him. LISA

What do you know about him? NATHANIEL

Plenty. LISA

How long did he live with you? NATHANIEL

Half a year. LISA

He's a crystal freak. NATHANIEL

(She doesn't react.)

Did you hear what I just said?

I know. LISA

NATHANIEL

And you let him in here?

LISA

I let all kinds in here.

NATHANIEL

Your mother's right. This place is not safe for you and Georgie. That's why I...

LISA

It's time for you to leave, Nate.

(This surprises him.)

I'm not sure this was a good idea. Any of it.

NATHANIEL

What?

LISA

Last summer you told me you could help with Georgie. You would come here four times a week...

NATHANIEL

...Yes...

LISA

...and you might use your experiences for a book.

NATHANIEL

Yes.

LISA

I shouldn't have asked you here tonight. I broke the rules.

NATHANIEL

Rules?

LISA

I think you've got the wrong idea. About what this is about.

NATHANIEL

I didn't mean...

LISA

...This is about helping with Georgie...

NATHANIEL

...I don't think we...

LISA

...I mislead you somehow...

NATHANIEL

...I'm not asking you to...

LISA

It's more than just a book for you, isn't it? Be honest with me, Nate.

NATHANIEL

I think I can help you.

LISA

I don't need it.

NATHANIEL

I've seen you look out the window. It can't be good for you to stay here.

LISA

I want to do this my way.

NATHANIEL

Okay.

LISA

I can do it. On my own. Do you understand?

NATHANIEL

I understand. Giving you the ring was out of line.

LISA

It was a key, Nate.

NATHANIEL

(Blushing:) Right. It was stupid. I did a stupid thing. I'm sorry. You'll let me... I can come back. Right? After tonight. You'll let me come back?

LISA

Do we have an understanding?

(He nods his head.)

NATHANIEL

Sorry.

(Awkward pause.)

LISA

I bet your place is beautiful. You said you have a garden behind your townhouse?

NATHANIEL

Nothing much to look at now. All the flowers are under three feet of snow.

LISA

Let it get warmer and we'll come and visit... maybe hold a few classes a week out there.

NATHANIEL

I'd like that, Lisa.

LISA

You're right. I need to get out more often. Get out of my rut.

(She fetches the key and tries to give it back to him.)

NATHANIEL

Keep it. Just in case. No pressure.

(She puts it in her pocket then crosses to get his coat.)

LISA

Was the party what you were expecting?

NATHANIEL

No.

(Lisa laughs.)

LISA

God. She walks through that door and I become a 14 year old again. Is that what's going to happen to me? Please say *no*.

NATHANIEL

I think she's kind of funny.

LISA

Are you queer, Nate?

NATHANIEL

No.

LISA

Only a gay man would get a kick out of my mother.

NATHANIEL

Are you joking?

LISA

Yes.

(Lisa presses the call button on the elevator. There is an awkward pause as they wait for the elevator.)

NATHANIEL

When Peter died. I wasn't expecting... He was my patient... the subject of my book. I thought that was all. But when it happened. When he died... I had the book, but that was all. And he was gone. Maybe that's why I gave you the key. You understand. What that's like. You're right. I probably had it all wrong. Maybe I'm the one... the one who needs you. I'm sorry.

(The elevator door opens with a *ding*. He picks up his coat and enters the elevator.)

LISA

Tomorrow?

NATHANIEL

Yeah?

LISA

Sledding in the park?

NATHANIEL

What time?

LISA

Noon?

NATHANIEL

Deal.