

# TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

EMMA

From what the doctor says it's time we have the talk,  
now.

FLAP

Do you know how much I hate the idea of losing you?

EMMA

Yes.

FLAP

Well nobody seems to know that except you.

I just --- well...

EMMA

What?

FLAP

I'm thinking about my identity and not having one  
anymore.

Who am I, if not the man who's failing Emma?

EMMA

You didn't fail me---

FLAP

Well I... I don't want to talk about this... I feel like I'm  
sucking up for forgiveness... which I probably am.

EMMA

You were no more terrible than I was.

FLAP

Except for the cheating.

EMMA

You're right... Let's not do this--- we had problems.

It was never over whether we loved each other.

Oh God! That tie! I can't believe you wore that that...

God, the mess it must've been for you to find it.

FLAP

The house still isn't in one piece. And, it was in the  
last box I looked in.

EMMA

Oh I bet!

FLAP

God, you're easy to please. Why couldn't do more of  
it?

EMMA

I'm so glad we're talking. It just means so much to  
me, that we can still feel like this, so much!

I'm getting tired! Just tell me do you really want to  
raise them?

(BEAT)

FLAP

I never thought I was the sort of man who would give  
up his kids.

EMMA

It's a lot of work. As hard as you think it is,  
you end up wishing it were that easy.

FLAP

Where do you want them?

EMMA

I don't want them to end up with Janice.

FLAP

She's not so bad.

EMMA

I don't really think they should be with you honey.

FLAP

Well to tell you the honest truth I'd probably screw it  
up! I'll really miss them. Well, maybe we should let  
Patsy take them because it... it'll be easy for me to  
work research summers in New York---

EMMA

No! Patsy really only wants Melanie. Mother should  
have them. You can see them anytime you want.

You'll get to decide things for them and everything.

FLAP

Em, she'll make that very difficult for me---

EMMA

She won't!

FLAP

Well, I guess they should be with your mother.

I probably have that coming.

EMMA

Thank you. Okay... will you bring the boys by  
tomorrow? I've been waiting... it's time for me to do  
this.