

GIRL INTERRUPTED

(SUZANNA ENTERS DR. WICK'S OFFICE.)

Dr. Wick
Good morning, Suzanna.

Suzanna
Good morning.

Dr. Wick
How are you?

Suzanna
Fine, I guess.

Dr. Wick
Sit down. You look tired.

Suzanna
Polly freaked out last night, and we stayed up singing to her...Lisa and I.

Dr. Wick
Have you become friends with Lisa?

Suzanna
Why, is that bad?

Dr. Wick
Does it feel bad?

Suzanna
No.

Dr. Wick

(REFERRING TO THE NOTES ON HER DESK)

Before you came here, did you have many girlfriends?

Suzanna
Not really.

Dr. Wick
Would you say that before you come here your friends consisted mainly of boys?

Suzanna
Does it say in there that I'm promiscuous?

Dr. Wick
Why do you choose that word?

Suzanna
How many guys would I have to sleep with to be considered promiscuous? Textbook promiscuous?

Dr. Wick
What do you think?

Suzanna
Ten, eight, five...and how many girls would a guy my age have to sleep with to be considered promiscuous? Ten, twenty, one hundred and nine?

Dr. Wick
Or someone who is compulsively promiscuous might engage in a sex act with a guest in their room and engage in another sex act on the same day with an orderly.

Suzanna
Am I in trouble for kissing an orderly or giving my boyfriend a blowjob?

Dr. Wick

(REFERRING TO HER NOTES AGAIN)

Melvin says you have some very interesting theories about your illness. You believe there is a mystical undertow in life...quicksands or shadows.

Suzanna

Yeah, and another one of my theories is that you people don't know what you're doing.

Dr. Wick

Still, you acknowledge that there's a problem coping with this quicksand?

Suzanna

I have a problem coping with this hospital, and I want to leave.

Dr. Wick

I can't do that.

Suzanna

I signed myself in, and I should be able to sign myself out.

Dr. Wick

You signed yourself into our care. We decide when you leave. You are not ready for it, Suzanna. Your progress has plateaued. Does that disappoint you?

Suzanna

I'm ambivalent. In fact, that's my new favorite word.

Dr. Wick

Do you know what that means, "ambivalence?"

Suzanna

I don't care.

Dr. Wick

It's your favorite word. I would have thought...

Suzanna

It means I don't care. That's what it means.

Dr. Wick

On the contrary, Suzanna, ambivalence suggests strong feelings in opposition. Prefix, as in ambidextrious, means both. The rest of it in Latin means vigor. The word suggests that you are torn between two opposing courses of action.

Suzanna

Will I stay, or will I go?

Dr. Wick

Am I sane, or am I crazy?

Suzanna

Those aren't courses of action.

Dr. Wick

They can be, dear, for some.

Suzanna

Well then, it's the wrong word.

Dr. Wick

No, I think it's perfect. What world is this? What kingdom? What shores of what worlds? It's a very big question you're faced with, Suzanna. The choice of your life. How much will you indulge in your flaws? What are your flaws? Are there flaws? If you embrace them, will you commit yourself to the hospital for life? Big questions. Big decisions. Not surprising you'd profess carelessness about them.

Suzanna

Is that it?

Dr. Wick

For now.

(SUZANNA EXITS.)