

MEDIUM ALISON #2

BRUCE #3

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*Phone rings.*

MEDIUM ALISON. Hello?

BRUCE. Yes, I'd like to speak to Alison Bechdel, the college student?

MEDIUM ALISON. Hi Dad.

BRUCE. So? How's it going? How are your classes? How's your dorm? How's the food?

MEDIUM ALISON. I'm...getting used to it.

BRUCE. A little homesick?

MEDIUM ALISON. No, it's not that, it's just...stupid stuff. In Modern Classics today the professor told us that Jake's renewal in Spain in *The Sun Also Rises* is really an allusion to *Jungian rebirth*.

BRUCE. What???

MEDIUM ALISON. I almost screamed that's bullshit!

BRUCE. That's bullshit! Jake's not a *symbol*, he's Hemingway! That book is a roman-a-clef.

MEDIUM ALISON. I know! And at dining yesterday I mentioned that my family runs a funeral home and everyone dropped their forks and stared at me like I was Norman Bates.

BRUCE. Typical.

MEDIUM ALISON. I probably just need to find the right people. There must be some people here who aren't total idiots.

BRUCE. Or maybe not. One surprising thing you learn when you go away to college: people just aren't as smart as you want them to be. Trust your instincts, kid. You don't need to twist yourself in knots trying to impress people who are Not Worthy Of You. Got it?

MEDIUM ALISON. Got it. Thanks, Dad.

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BRUCE. Good. Alright, I gotta get over to the Fun Home, I've got a viewing in forty-five minutes.

MEDIUM ALISON. Who died?

BRUCE. One of that big clan of Hofbruners over in Lakeview.

MEDIUM ALISON. Ah. Have fun.

BRUCE. Will do. Hey kiddo— Remember what I said, okay?

MEDIUM ALISON. I will, Dad. Thanks.

*Bruce exits. Medium Alison opens her journal and writes. Alison reads over her shoulder:*

ALISON. "September 15.

"Just had a good talk with Dad and I feel so much better. (Underline, underline, underline.) I'm going to spend four years reading books and drawing. And that's *fine*. I don't know where I got this insane idea I need to throw myself out into the world."