

Bethel Park Falls

(Holly is arguing with her husband, the young mayor, about a supposed affair he is having. He has just called a broke up with the woman.)

(Clay tries to give it to her the phone. She refuses. It falls to the ground. Clay goes to pick it up but decides to smash it instead. Throws it down, stomps on it, grinds it to bits. Holly waits for him to stop.)

HOLLY

You think that solves anything? What are you going to smash next? You want to bulldoze over me with the rest of this park? Why not, right? That's what you do when things are complicated and difficult. When foundations start to shake. Anything decent in this world is built slowly over time to weather the storms. What do you do? You talk about tough decisions. You bulldoze. That's what you do.

You rush over here, whining like a toddler, pulling on my sleeve. Do you realize I come out here for peace of mind? This is my sanctuary. Respect it. This tiny patch of grass is where we feel safe. This field is sometimes all we have on days like today to hold it all together. Do you realize that? This park. How much it means to people? This is the only place we can *breathe*. Actually breathe. And you're taking that away.

So don't be so arrogant. You're not the only one who makes tough decisions. You don't know about life in my classroom. My students. Just like I don't know about their lives. One of my students, my ex-student. Remember the girl that was expelled? Last semester? One of my favorite students. She was the first in her family to go to college...

(Clay doesn't remember.)

I told you about it. Anyway. I was driving by her house today and I stopped, I don't know, to see how she was doing. I think about her. So, her parents answer the door. I explain that I'm just checking up. They look at me blankly, like you just did, they didn't understand... there must be some mistake... she wasn't expelled, they insist. She goes to school every day, et cetera... They had no idea. She never told them. She's just been pretending to go to school every day like everything was fine. Can you believe that? Her mother looks so betrayed - I'll never forget her face. The father bursts into tears, just heartbroken. Their lives depended on the success their daughter. And I ended it. For all of them. That's what I did today. That's why I'm here, trying to breathe for just a minute.