

PROOF

DAVID AUBURN

CLAIRE: Feel better?

CATHERINE: Yeah.

CLAIRE: You look a million times better. Have some coffee.

CATHERINE: Okay.

CLAIRE: How do you take it?

CATHERINE: Black.

CLAIRE: Have a little milk. (*She pours.*) Want a banana? It's a good thing I brought food: there was nothing in the house.

CATHERINE: I've been meaning to go shopping.

CLAIRE: Have a bagel.

CATHERINE: No. I hate breakfast. (*Beat.*)

CLAIRE: You didn't put on the dress.

CATHERINE: Didn't really feel like it.

CLAIRE: Don't you want to try it on? See if it fits?

CATHERINE: I'll put it on later.

Beat.

CLAIRE: If you want to dry your hair I have a hair dryer.

CATHERINE: Nah.

CLAIRE: Did you use that conditioner I brought you?

CATHERINE: No, shit, I forgot.

CLAIRE: It's my favorite. You'll love it, Katie. I want you to try it.

CATHERINE: I'll use it next time.

CLAIRE: You'll like it. It has jojoba.

CATHERINE: What is "jojoba"?

CLAIRE: It's something they put in for healthy hair.

CATHERINE: Hair is dead.

CLAIRE: What?

CATHERINE: It's dead tissue. You can't make it "healthy."

CLAIRE: Whatever, it's something that's good for your hair.

CATHERINE: What, a chemical?

CLAIRE: No, it's organic.

CATHERINE: Well it can be organic and still be a chemical.

CLAIRE: I don't know what it is.

CATHERINE: Haven't you ever heard of organic chemistry?

CLAIRE: It makes my hair feel, look, and smell good. That's the extent of my information about it. You might like it if you decide to use it.

CATHERINE: Thanks, I'll try it.

CLAIRE: Good. (*Beat.*) If the dress doesn't fit we can go down→town and exchange it.

CATHERINE: Okay.

CLAIRE: I'll take you to lunch.

CATHERINE: Great.

CLAIRE: Maybe Sunday before I go back. Do you need any→thing?

CATHERINE: Like clothes?

CLAIRE: Or anything. While I'm here.

CATHERINE: Nah, I'm cool.

Beat.

CLAIRE: I thought we'd have some people over tonight. If you're feeling okay.

CATHERINE: I'm feeling okay, Claire, stop saying that.

CLAIRE: You don't have any plans?

CATHERINE: No.

CLAIRE: I ordered some food. Wine, beer.

CATHERINE: We are burying Dad this afternoon.

CLAIRE: I think it will be all right. Anyone who's been to the funeral and wants to come over for something to eat can. And it's the only time I can see any old Chicago friends. It'll be nice. It's a funeral but we don't have to be completely grim about it. If it's okay with you.

CATHERINE: Yes, sure.

CLAIRE: It's been a stressful time. It would be good to relax in a low-key way. Mitch says Hi.

CATHERINE: Hi Mitch.

CLAIRE: He's really sorry he couldn't come

CATHERINE: Yeah, he's gonna miss all the fun.

CLAIRE: He wanted to see you. He sends his love. I told him you'd see him soon enough. (*Beat.*) We're getting mar→ried.

CATHERINE: No shit.

CLAIRE: Yes! We just decided.

CATHERINE: Yikes.

CLAIRE: Yes!

CATHERINE: When?

CLAIRE: January.

CATHERINE: Huh.

CLAIRE: We're not going to do a huge thing. His folks are gone too. Just City Hall, then a big dinner at our favorite restaurant for all our friends. And you, of course. I hope you'll be in the wedding.

CATHERINE: Yeah. Of course. Congratulations, Claire, I'm really happy for you.

CLAIRE: Thanks. Me too. We just decided it was time. His job is great. I just got promoted . . .

CATHERINE: Huh.

CLAIRE: You will come?

CATHERINE: Yes, sure. January? I mean, I don't have to check my calendar or anything. Sure.

CLAIRE: That makes me very happy. *(Beat. From here on CLAIRE treads gingerly.)*

CLAIRE: How are you?

CATHERINE: Okay.

CLAIRE: How are you feeling about everything?

CATHERINE: About "everything"?

CLAIRE: About Dad.

CATHERINE: What about him?

CLAIRE: How are you feeling about his death? Are you all right?

CATHERINE: Yes, I am.

CLAIRE: Honestly?

CATHERINE: Yes.

CLAIRE: I think in some ways it was the "right time." If there is ever a right time. Do you know what you want to do now?

CATHERINE: No.

CLAIRE: Do you want to stay here?

CATHERINE: I don't know.

CLAIRE: Do you want to go back to school?

CATHERINE: I haven't thought about it.

CLAIRE: Well there's a lot to think about. How do you feel?

CATHERINE: Physically? Great. Except my hair seems kind of unhealthy, I wish there were something I could do about that.

CLAIRE: Come on, Catherine.

CATHERINE: What is the point of all these questions? (*Beat.*)

CLAIRE: Katie, some policemen came by while you were in the shower.

CATHERINE: Yeah?

CLAIRE: They said they were "checking up" on things here. Seeing how everything was this morning.

CATHERINE: (*Neutral*) That was nice.

CLAIRE: They told me they responded to a call last night and came to the house.

CATHERINE: Yeah?

CLAIRE: Did you call the police last night?

CATHERINE: Yeah.

CLAIRE: Why?

CATHERINE: I thought the house was being robbed.

CLAIRE: But it wasn't.

CATHERINE: No. I changed my mind.