

**NEXT TO NORMAL** Audition Text Excerpts

**DIANA:**

Page 8 w/ Dan:

**[GABE]**

Mom?

**DIANA**

Everything's fine! I'm just making sandwiches. On the floor. You go on ahead. You'll miss the bus.

**DAN**

*(to Natalie)*

Go.

*(Natalie goes, and after half a beat, Gabe follows.)*

Sweetie? Everything okay?

**DIANA**

I wanted to get ahead on lunches.

**DAN**

Sure. Let me help you up.

**DIANA**

I guess I got carried away.

**DAN**

Maybe a little.

*(helps her up)*

Let's go see Doctor Fine. This is just a blip. Okay? Nothing to worry about. I'll wrap up the, um, sandwiches, and then we'll go.

Page 19 w/ Dan  
**DAN**

Marry me.

**DIANA**

What?

**DAN**

Marry me. Let's have a family. I know, we're too young, but we're not, I'm almost twenty-two, and how do you know this isn't a sign saying we belong together?

**DIANA**

How do you know it's not a sign saying get new rubbers?

**DAN**

Because I know it's not. I love you, and this baby –

**DIANA**

Dan. This is crazy.

**DAN**

Maybe it is.

Page 21 w/ Gabe:  
**GABE**

You sure about this, Mom?

**DIANA**

You think it's a bad idea.

**GABE**

I think it's a great idea. I think you're brave.

**DIANA**

What will your father think?

**GABE**

Nothing. If he doesn't know.

GABE:

Page 1 w/ Diana

**DIANA**

It's the seventh night this week I've sat 'til morning...

**GABE**

Great. Here we go.

**DIANA**

Imagining the ways you might have died.

**GABE**

Ah, yes, and tonight's winner is?

**DIANA**

In a freak September ice storm with no warning...

**GABE**

Because that happens.

**DIANA**

There's a gang war, there's a bird flu, trains collide...

**GABE**

What'd we say about watching the news?

**DIANA**

Now you act all sweet and surly,  
But you swore you'd come home early  
And you lied

**GABE**

You gotta let go, Mom - I'm almost eighteen.

**DIANA**

Are you snorting coke?

**GABE**

Not at the moment.

Page 21 w/ Diana:  
**GABE**

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Maybe it is.

**NATALIE:**

Page 3 w/ Diana

*(Natalie enters... with a pile of books and a tallboy can of Red Bull, muttering to herself.)*

**DIANA**

Natalie? It's four in the morning - is everything okay?

**NATALIE**

Everything's great. Why wouldn't it be great? It's great. I've just got three more chapters of calculus, a physics problem set, a history quiz and two pages on floral imagery in *Flowers for Algernon* which is like duh. Everything's so under control it's just like...calm.

*(She gulps from the can.)*

**DIANA**

Honey, you need to slow down, take some time for yourself. I'm going to have sex with your father.

**NATALIE**

Great. Thanks. I'm so glad I know that.

Sounds good.

**NATALIE**

I still have this practice room for seven and a half minutes.

**HENRY**

Yeah, I mean, I know - I just like to listen. I'm Henry.

**NATALIE**

Natalie.

**HENRY**

Yeah. I mean, I know.

**NATALIE**

It's a little creepy that you know.

**HENRY**

We've gone to school together for, like, six years.

**NATALIE**

Really?

**HENRY**

I sit behind you in four classes.

**NATALIE**

Uh-huh. Also creepy.

**HENRY**

You're in here a lot. Before school, and after.

**NATALIE**

Right. Seven minutes.

*(A brief moment, and Henry turns to go.)*

You give up way too easily.

*(Henry stops and turns back to her.)*

**HENRY**

Uh. You're kind of a confusing person.

**NATALIE**

You should meet my mother.



**HENRY:**

Page 10 w/ Natalie  
**HENRY**

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**NATALIE**

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**NATALIE**

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DOCTOR FINE:

Page 11

**DOCTOR FINE**

The pink ones are taken with food but not with the white ones. The white ones are taken with the round yellow ones but not with the triangle yellow ones. The triangle yellow ones are taken with the oblong green ones with food but not with the pink ones. If a train is leaving New York at a hundred and twenty miles an hour and another train is leaving St. Petersburg at the same time but going backwards, which train... *(trail off)*

Page 16 w/ Diana

**DOCTOR FINE**

Goodman, Diana. Seven weeks.

**DIANA**

I don't feel like myself. I mean, I don't feel anything.

**DOCTOR FINE**

*(grunts, then notes:)*

Hmpf. Patient stable.