

City of Angels

Maggie

Excuse me, are you a visitor?

Seth

Yes.

Maggie

Well, visiting hours have been over since 8.

Seth

Why do they have that?

Maggie

What?

Seth

Hours. Does it help the patient to be visited?

Maggie

Well... who are you visiting? Mr. Messenger?

Seth

Right now?

Maggie

Yeah.

Seth

You.

Maggie

I don't need a visitor

Seth

You're not ill?

Maggie

No. I'm one of the doctors here.

Seth

Are you in despair?

Maggie

I lost a patient.

Seth

You did everything you could?

Maggie

I was holding his heart in my hand when he died.

Seth

He wasn't alone.

Maggie

Yes he was.

Seth

People die.

Maggie

Not on my table

Seth

People die when their bodies give out.

Maggie

My job is to keep their bodies from giving out, or what am I doing here?

Seth

It wasn't your fault, Maggie.

Maggie

I wanted him to live.

Seth

He is living, just not the way you think.

Maggie

I don't believe that.

Seth

Some things are true whether you believe in them or not.

Maggie

How did you know my name?

Seth

(points to badge)

Maggie

And what is your name?

Seth

Seth

Maggie

Seth. Well Seth, you'd better get out of here...security is going to think you are one of the psych patients. What do you do?

Seth

Here?

Maggie

No, for your work.

Seth

I'm a messenger.

Maggie

A messenger. What kind of messenger?

Seth

You like Hemingway?

Maggie

Yeah. Yeah, I'm starting to.

Seth

May I?

Maggie

Yeah.

Seth

"As I ate the oysters with their strong taste of the sea, and their faint metallic taste, as I drank their cold liquid from each shell and washed it down with the crisp taste of wine, I lost the empty feeling and began to be happy." He never forgets how to describe how things taste. I like that.

How is Mr. Messenger?

Maggie

He's good. Yeah, the operation went really well.

Seth

It was a good day.

Maggie

It was a good day, yeah. I didn't kill anyone today.

Seth

You're an excellent doctor.

Maggie

How do you know?

Seth

I have this feeling.

Maggie

That's pretty flimsy evidence.

Seth

Close your eyes, just for a moment. (holds her hand and caresses her palm)

What am I doing?

Maggie

You're touching me.

Seth

Touch. How do you know?

Maggie

Because I feel it.

Seth

And these are the books you read when you're not reading Hemingway?

Maggie

You know, when I read my first science book, that's when I knew I wanted to become a doctor. Here, look at this. That's us. All those cells.

Seth

That's all you are?

Maggie

That and all the space between.

Seth

If this is all you are, these cells, then when they die, that's the end?

Maggie

I don't know. I think so.

Seth

So you don't really know?

Maggie

Well, I used to think I had it figured out.

Seth

But you didn't?

Maggie

No. No, because something happened. Something happened in my O.R. and I got this jolt, this feeling, that there's something bigger than me out there. There is something bigger than me, and bigger than you, and it... Does this sound crazy?

Seth

No.

Maggie

I couldn't fix him. I did everything right and I couldn't fix him.

That's not supposed to happen. And I...

Seth

You cried.

Maggie

Yeah.

Seth

Why do people cry?

Maggie

What do you mean?

Seth

I mean, what happens physically?

Maggie

Well, tear ducts operate on a normal basis to lubricate and protect the eye, and when there's a strong emotion, they overreact and create tears.

Seth

Why? Why do they overreact?

Maggie

I don't know.

Seth

Maybe emotion becomes so intense, your body can't contain it.
Your mind and feelings become too powerful. Your body weeps.

Maggie

(is paged) I have to go. I've gotta go. Stay right here. Don't go
anywhere. Stay right here.