

## 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.