

From the play: CAROL IN WINTER by Sean David DeMers

*LAURA chastises MATT for his general distaste for her mother.*

LAURA

Don't interrupt, Matt—I'm gonna get this out because you never let me, it's always another joke, or something belittling—unintentionally, but still it's a pattern—I get you don't want to deal with anything negative and in a way that positivity is exactly what I love about you, but sometimes I need you to have some empathy. It's not a lot to ask. You've foresworn your family and that's fine, but my mom is the only family I have. She wanted us there that Christmas a few years back and—fine, we had to bring our own tree and you strapped it to the roof and you almost got frostbite—and okay, we bought and wrapped our own gifts. But you needed to see what was happening, the struggle it takes to keep her from using. She's strong, but she needs me—and I sure could use you, for once. I'm sorry I lied about her death, but this next couple of days could amount to her funeral. You didn't hear her on the phone. She's desperate. She's been hopeless since the man she loved skipped town with her twin sister fifty years ago. But, we can help her reconnect, it's important to her and yes, I think it's nutty to fake your own funeral, but if it gets her sister here then I say it's worth it. I knew nothing short of the death of my mother was gonna get you here. So please, keep your mouth shut, support me, and let's just get through this goddamn fake funeral! And try not to let on how happy you were when I told you she drowned in the clawfoot bathtub—it's part of the eulogy.