

BABS. What's going on, honey?

SONIA. Oh...*nothing*. It's just...well...I just...

BABS. Oh shit.

SONIA. What?!

BABS. Really?

SONIA. What?

BABS. *The doctor?*

SONIA. (*Incredulous.*) Is it really / *that* obvious??

BABS. Of course.

SONIA. Oh, God.

BABS. You're not alone. I know he's *practically irresistible*, in all his...\*graying patrician aloofness...\*

SONIA. It's awful. I shake inside when I see him. My insides just go...

*She does a weird little shaking action...*

I literally have to restrain myself to not just...reach out and grab him. And just...hold him. Or *stroke him*...

BABS. Get it out! No judgment here, believe me.

SONIA. I *want* him! And he *needs* me. And if he won't love me back I don't know if I will survive it. I think I might just...just...

BABS. No, you won't. You'll survive it. I know it doesn't feel that way, but—

SONIA. How do you know?

BABS. I *know*.

SONIA. Oh, please don't tell me I'm young, or when you were / my age

BABS. (*With both clarity and code...*) When I was your age I felt just what you're feeling! *Precisely* what you're feeling...

SONIA. What I'm feeling— (*Shockingly putting it together...*) Wait, what?

BABS. I'm saying *I know what you're feeling*. But *exactly*...

You know the doctor moved here when he was maybe nine or ten and he and Vanya have been friends forever. Vanya followed him around like his own private superhero: "Nature-Boy" or whatever. Oh, you should have seen Aster back then. So cute. So *serious*...

SONIA. Wait, are you really telling me...?

BABS. I'm not saying it was right. What I did. But...life is for living, right? Not running away from. And life just seemed to want this to happen...

SONIA. Why are you telling me this? And why haven't you ever told me before?

BABS. You know what the doctor is...? He's a *human being*. A flawed, fabulous, broken, ridiculous *human being*. And I know you think he is *it*, the One, the Thing That Could Make Everything Better, *but that is almost always a lie*. And with him...*I know it is*. I know it's nearly impossible to hear what I'm saying, but...I'm *right*. *Move on*. The Doctor Is Not The Answer.

SONIA. Then...what happens to all that love? To everything I feel...?

BABS. It will move forward. Into the world... I know it's hard to see when you're in the middle of it, but this is just a part of the... shape of things. *Have a little faith*. Have a little gratitude for all the things you've got and...*move on*...

SONIA. But Pickles always says...

BABS. She's wrong. I love her dearly, but...*consider the source*. *Move on*... *Move forward*. *Move further into life*.

SONIA. (*Incredulous.*) Is it really / *that* obvious??

BABS. Of course.

SONIA. Oh, God.