

BREADCRUMBS by Jennifer Haley

CALLBACK SIDE 2: YOUNG ALIDA/ MOTHER

The servant's quarters. MOTHER is at the window.

ALIDA

What are you doing here?

MOTHER

I was tired of the party.

ALIDA

Are you crying?

MOTHER

No.

ALIDA

You look beautiful. In that dress.

MOTHER

Thank you.

ALIDA

Does Harry like it?

MOTHER

He has guests.

ALIDA

Aren't you a guest?

MOTHER

Not yet. *(pause)* What are these leaves? On the sill?

ALIDA

I'm collecting the yellow ones. On my way home from school.

MOTHER

How is school? Are you making friends?

ALIDA

No.

MOTHER

Why not, my dear?

ALIDA shrugs.

What about Harry Jr. and Harriet?

ALIDA
They're horrific.

MOTHER
I want you to be a child. I want you to be happy.

ALIDA
The leaves make me happy. I love the Fall.

MOTHER
I love the Fall, too. It makes me sad.

ALIDA
Is that why you love Harry? Because he makes you sad?

MOTHER
(pause) Sometimes it's hard to know why you love someone.

ALIDA
Is he afraid to have you at the party?

MOTHER
He's afraid of what people will think.

ALIDA
Won't they think you are beautiful?

MOTHER
I wish people thought that way.

ALIDA
Well I think you're beautiful.

MOTHER
Oh. If I were a good mother, that would be enough.