

ANN

Word for word

.

ASA

Perhaps she received this letter before-

(MARY makes the motion of putting the letter down, though it's no longer in her hand. She then efficiently goes to a bookshelf, stopping by a mirror on the way to check her hair.)

ANN

Look at the postmark; It only arrived yesterday.

ASA

What now?

ANN

You'll see.

(MARY picks out a volume of the Encyclopedia, and with precision, turns the pages, and stops once she finds the entry.)

(ANN holds ASA's arm, lest he be affected by MARY's action. MARY sets the book on the table and, while reciting the passage, she pulls up the sleeve of her arm where she cut herself and goes through the action of cutting herself as she did months before.)

MARY

The fluid which circulates through the arteries and veins of the human body, and of other animals, which is essential to the preservation of life. This fluid is generally red. If the blood of an animal is not red, such / animal is called exsanguinous, or white-blooded;

ASA

What is this?

ANN

The encyclopedia.

ASA

What entry?

ANN

'Blood.'

MARY

(continuous) The blood being white, or white tinged with blue. Also: Kindred; relation by natural descent from a common ancestor; consanguinity. God hath made of one blood all nations of the earth. Royal lineage; blood royal; as a prince of the blood. Also: Life. Shall I not require his blood at your hands? Also: Slaughter; murder, or blood shedding. / I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu. Also: Guilt, and punishment.

Your blood be upon your own heads. Also: Fleshly nature; the carnal part of man; as opposed to spiritual nature, or divine life. Who were born, not of flesh and blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Also: The death and sufferings of Christ. Being now justified by his blood we shall be saved from wrath through him. Justified by his blood. By his blood. By blood. By blood. By blood. By blood. By blood.

ASA

I can't take this, Ann.

ANN

But she's speaking! She's / not in pain.

ASA

She's reliving the day she cut herself nearly to death; look at her!

ANN

Only shadows, "shadows in her mind," just like / you said.

ASA

She's doing it- living it, over and over / and over again.

ANN

But she's doing something!

ASA  
It's torture, Ann!

ANN  
For her, or for you?

ASA  
It's- How can you watch this!?

ANN  
  
Because it means she's alive! She's here and she's with us and she's living!

ASA  
THIS. ISN'T. LIVING!

MARY  
(Waking, as from a dream, taking off her blindfold) Pa? ... Ma? Why are you yelling?

ANN  
Mary? Mary! Are / you there?

MARY  
What's going / on?

ASA  
Oh. Oh! Mary, are you alright?

MARY  
Yes, I- I'm alright. It's only- I... Why did I sleep downstairs?