

AMY

Yes, you can. We'll be close, Jo. That will never change.

JO

Never.

(AMY starts out)

Amy, thank you. Your drawings are beautiful.

#22a - *To The Attic*

(AMY turns back, smiles and goes. JO looks at all the things, at the piano, and the baby things Meg has left about, and the drawings.

SHE goes up to THE ATTIC: #6. SHE has not been there for months. Everything is covered with sheets or blankets. SHE starts to breaks down, catches herself.

MARMEE enters. SHE looks at Jo)

MARMEE

It's been awhile since you've been up here.

JO

I know.

MARMEE

The room needs an airing. And a dusting.

JO

I'll get to it.

MARMEE

The attic used to be such a sanctuary for you. Whenever you were sad or disappointed, you'd run up here, bolt the door, and come back hours later so full of life. I haven't seen that Jo in a long time.

JO

... I can't write. I can't do anything really. You're right, in the past I could always come up with something. I was always so good at that. Beth would say, 'Jo can make the clouds disappear.'

(SHE cries out)

I want Beth back!

(SHE struggles - manages to collect herself)

I never should have broken the promise. I never should have gone to New York. If I'd stayed here -

MARMEE

Jo -

JO

- everything would have been different.

MARMEE

Jo, stop it! No one could have done more for Beth than you did. You could not have changed what happened.

JO

How do you manage? How do you go on day-in, day-out, as if nothing has happened?

MARMEE

You think that's how I go on?

JO

You're strong and wise. How can I be like you? How can I find your strength?

#23 - *Days Of Plenty***MARMEE**

Don't make so much of me, Jo.

I NEVER DREAMED OF THIS SORROW.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE REASON TO LAMENT.

I HOPED I'D NEVER KNOW HEARTBREAK.

HOW I WISH I COULD CHANGE THE WAY THINGS WENT.

I WANTED NOTHING BUT GOODNESS.

I WANTED REASON TO PREVAIL.

NOT THIS BARE EMPTINESS.

I WANTED DAYS OF PLENTY.

BUT I REFUSE TO FEEL TRAGIC.

I AM ACHING FOR MORE THAN PAIN AND GRIEF.

THERE HAS GOT TO BE MEANING.

MOST OF ALL WHEN A LIFE HAS BEEN SO BRIEF.

I HAVE GOT TO LEARN SOMETHING.

HOW CAN I GIVE HER ANY LESS?

I WANT LIFE TO GO ON.

I WANT DAYS OF PLENTY.

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THERE IS REASON FOR HOPE.

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ANSWERS WILL COME.

YOU CAN'T LET THIS DEFEAT YOU.