

Ellie Parker

Leslie

You look very preoccupied.

Ellie

I'm fine.

Leslie

You're such a liar.

Ellie

Everyone had these big personal events and mine was lame. I'm an idiot.

Leslie

That's ridiculous Ellie. You were very, very good today.

Ellie

That's easy for you to say. Yours was huge. You burnt your house down with your brother! You never even told me about that. No wonder you're such a good actress. You've got all this shit in your life that you can just draw from. It's deep. And I'm just like this shallow birdbath.

Leslie

I made it up.

Ellie

What?

Leslie

I made it up . . . my personal event.

Ellie

You made up your personal event?

Leslie

Yeah. Come on Ellie. You know I like to practice my English accent in class. So sometimes I make things up so I can practice my *acting*.

Ellie

What's the point? It defeats the purpose! The whole point is to use something that *really* happened in your life and you put it into your acting.

Leslie

That's bullshit! The whole Method thing is a wank. I mean sense memory is *so* self-indulgent.

Ellie

No, no! See it's *not*. You draw from your life experience and you personalize it and you put it into your work. It makes it *real*. And it makes it honest and that's how you make a scene work!

Leslie

God! Bullshit Ellie! Sorry, but how many times are you gonna cry about your drunk mother? It's *boring*! It's far more real and truthful and honest to use your imagination. And it's limitless!

Ellie

Okay. Let's try something.

Leslie

Okay.

Ellie

Let's put your theory to the test. Let's see who can cry first.

Leslie

Okay.

Ellie

On the count of three.

Leslie

Alright.

Both

One. Two. Three.

They start to cry and sniff.

Leslie

I'm starting to get a tear.

Ellie

That's not real. No that's crocodile.

Leslie

Yeah it is. It's real. Right now. Look it's going to spill out in a second.

Ellie

You're not crying!

Leslie

I am. I'm gonna cry.

Ellie starts to wail and moan.

You see? Now that's dignified because I don't have to use any loud wailing. And it looks like I'm holding back. My nose is going too.

Ellie

I'm drawing from my pain! My own pain! You don't understand see? Look, look at this! Do you think that's faking it?!

Leslie

See, I think it gets a little embarrassing. There's something kind of dignified about holding back and letting mine just kind of spill out gently. It *is* something real Ellie. You don't understand. (Beat) Oh! That shop! You see that shop right there? I want to go there.

Ellie

Where? Where?

Leslie

I've wanted to go in there for so long.

Ellie

Well hang on. Hang on. Shoot! I didn't bring my wallet.