

MILES. Ah. (*Beat.*) Do you think I should write a book?

DEAN. Uh, do you have something to write about?

MILES. Not yet, but I feel like I could figure it out. Did you know what you were going to write about before you decided to be a writer?

DEAN. Not exactly.

MILES. Then how did you know that you were a writer?

DEAN. I've just known since I was young. But it took me a while to start writing anything good. I needed some experience.

MILES. I admire people who've always known what they wanted to do. I've never known.

DEAN. I bet you're just naturally good at everything, huh? **START**

MILES. (*With a laugh.*) No — I can't even figure out what I'm going to do after college. I was thinking about grad school or J school or something but now I think I want to wait maybe. I don't even know if I want to be a writer or an editor or work in magazines, really. My professor just thought I would be good at it.

DEAN. Yeah. Richard loves you —

MILES. Do you like working in magazines? Well, obviously not, since you're writing a book —

DEAN. That's not true. I'm just ready for a change.

MILES. Me, too. I just realized that I've spent my entire life being in school. I think I need to experience the real world. I'm actually thinking about maybe going abroad and just like teaching English. Just somewhere really far away and random. Like Germany or Japan or something, but I'm really interested in Africa, though. Did you know that, within our lifetime, they're expecting like two-thirds of the population of the whole continent to just be ... gone? Just totally wiped out. I suddenly feel this deep anxiety about the future, about how everything I know now could just be gone one day — or like everything on the Earth right now at this exact moment could be totally different tomorrow.

END

DEAN. Yeah. Listen, I've got to get back to rescheduling these meetings. (*Beat, before Miles goes back to his cubicle.*)

MILES. So Nan's going to be gone tomorrow?

DEAN. Yeah. She's flying out this afternoon for the Edinburgh book fair.

MILES. When is she leaving?

DEAN. Well, she's about to leave for a noon lunch, and then I don't really know if she'll be back to the office before she heads to the airport.