

~~HELEN~~ Tom, don't do this, okay? Please don't. We can, I dunno

START

~~... we ...~~

TOM AUDITION SIDE

TOM No, I need to . . . if I stop now I'm not gonna be able to . . . finish, so I'm . . . (*Beat.*) Helen . . . things are so tricky, life is. I know now I'm not really deserving of you, of all you have to offer me. I can see that now. I want to be better, to do good and better things and to make a proper sort of decision here, but I . . . I can't. I cannot do it. I mean, I could barely drive here today because of . . . my hands were shaking the whole time. They were. Jumping up and down on the wheel there. And these are all people that I know! That I . . . I'm just not gonna be able to do this, on like, a daily basis. (*Starts to cry.*) God . . . look at me! It's . . . I'm sorry about this and I wish that I was saying what you wanna hear. I do. That would make me really happy, to please another person right now. I mean, a person that I'm feeling this . . . love for. Yeah, *love*. But sometimes it just isn't enough. You know? All this love inside and it's not nearly

FINISH

enough to get around the shit that people *heave* at you . . . I feel like I'm drowning in it—*shit*—and I don't think I can . . . I don't wanna fight it anymore. I am just not strong enough for that, so I'm gonna lie on my back for a while and float. See if I can keep my head above the surface. (*Beat.*) I guess that's what I needed to say to you. That I'm not brave. I'm not. I know you want me to be . . . always believed that I