ANNA

So...what did you think life was?

MELISSA

I didn’t think life was anything. I just...felt it.

ANNA

Ok, then. What did you *feel* life was?

MELISSA

It felt like...always wanting to cry, knowing you wouldn't, but knowing that if you did the tears would come out like crystals, and if you managed to catch one you could look inside and see all the wonders of the universe. If you could look inside, you would see that now, is the most divine of times, and you are living inside as the most divine of beings, the center of the sun.

ANNA

It felt like...inside of your heart lived a golden light that, if it could only break free, it could illuminate the perimeters of your existence, extend out of your bedroom window and down your street, past the corner where you learned to ride a bike, past the neighbor's yard where you and Emma made your American Girl Dolls kiss, past the playground where you touched Ryan's face for the first time, out onto the main road, onto the freeway, and onward into the world. It was the feeling that you knew you would change the world one day, you just knew it, and you didn't know how yet but one day you would know how and your beautiful, frightening potential would be released because it had to be, it just had to be.

MELISSA

It was the feeling of listening to loud music in a car full of friends with all the windows open, and you might as well be in a movie because this moment is perfect, just like you always imagined it would be.

ANNA

It was the feeling that anything was possible.

MELISSA

And the was world was so big. So very, very big, and so very ready to embrace you and all you have to offer

ANNA

How can the world be so big and so small at the same time?

MELISSA

How can I be so big and so small at the same time?

ANNA

People - grown-ups, boys - wonder how it is teenage girls can feel things so deeply.

MELISSA

But I miss feeling things so much.

ANNA

I miss when just nudging the edge of your hand up to the edge of a boy's hand was enough to ignite your insides with not just a spark but a wall of every-climbing flames.

MELISSA

Do you ever wish you could just take your teenage self, and hold her in the palm of your hand, and talk to her just one more time?

ANNA

What would you say to her if you could?