

DAILY Actor

IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY) by Sarah Ruhl

CATHERINE GIVINGS: Do you want more children, Elizabeth? That is a tactless question, you don't need to answer, forgive me, sometimes I say whatever is in my head.

I want more children and my husband desperately wants more children but I am afraid of another birth, aren't you? When I have birth I remember so clearly, the moment her head was coming out of my body, I thought: why would any rational creature do this twice, knowing what I know now? And then she came out and clambered right on to my breast and tried to eat me, she was so hungry, so hungry it terrified me - her hunger. And I thought: is that the first emotion? Hunger? And not hunger for *food* but wanting to eat other *people*? Specifically one's mother? And then I thought - isn't it strange, isn't it strange about Jesus? That is to say, about Jesus being a man? For it is women who are eaten - who turn their bodies into food - I have up my blood - there was so much blood - and I gave up my body - but I couldn't feed her, could not turn my body into food, and she was *so hungry*. I suppose that makes me an inferior kind of woman and a very inferior kind of Jesus.