

Matthew Mosher
excerpt from UNICORN

UNICORN
(opening his arms wide)
Come here.

EMILY
I don't need a hug.

UNICORN
Don't be a baby. Come on.

EMILY
I'm not a little girl.

UNICORN
You're never too old for a hug. Now, come on. This offer
isn't good forever.

(A pause. EMILY goes to the
UNICORN, who wraps her in
his arms. She rests her
head on his chest.)

EMILY
Don't tell anyone about this.

UNICORN
Who am I gonna tell?

EMILY
I don't know. The other unicorns.
(a pause)
Dad wants me to see a shrink.

UNICORN
What for?

EMILY
(gesturing to the two of
them)
Um, this for starters.

UNICORN
Oh, please. I'm not a hallucination, I'm imaginary.
There's no comparison.

EMILY

(stepping out of the
embrace)

Yeah, well, there's also the arguing, the fighting, the crying, the yelling, the screaming, the throwing of breakable home furnishings, and cetera, and cetera. He says I'm not...I don't know. Something. He used a verb that isn't a verb, only shrinks seem to think it is.

UNICORN

Journaling?

EMILY

No.

UNICORN

Scrap-booking?

EMILY

Yeah, because by shrink I meant camp counselor.

UNICORN

Grieving?

EMILY

I said a word that isn't a word. It's long and it's hyphenated, and whatever it is, I'm apparently not doing it.

UNICORN

Maybe if they just told you what it was, you could start.

EMILY

Oh, maybe. And what's with this grieving s---, anyway? You grieve when people die. Nobody's died.

UNICORN

I know that.

EMILY

Nobody's died.

UNICORN

I know.

(a beat)

EMILY

Anyway, he wants me to see a shrink.

UNICORN

He is a shrink.

EMILY

He wants me to see a different shrink. He's got one all picked out. Some guy he knows from, I don't know, wherever shrinks get to know each other. Shrink school or shrink Mardi Gras or something.

(beat)

He's got fish.

UNICORN

What?

EMILY

In his office. In a tank. He's got fish. That's all I know about him.

UNICORN

You're afraid of fish.

EMILY

I'm afraid of sharks.

UNICORN

Sharks are fish.

EMILY

Sharks are giant fish that eat people. I'm afraid of tigers, too, that doesn't mean I shun people with cats.

UNICORN

You don't need a shrink.

EMILY

I'll be sure to mention that. Excuse me, Dr. Blankety-Blah, but you're wasting your time. An imaginary unicorn told me I'm fine. Ta. He'll pump me full of Thorazine right there on the spot.

UNICORN

Interesting choice of words.