

TIMA
Answer? I don't get it. You mean question. I'm supposed to answer a question?

(SERVER appears with an ordering pad.)

SERVER
Looks like only one of you is a member of the clean plate club. Would you like to look at the dessert menu?

HELEN

TIMA

(At the same time.)

No.

Yes.

Start Here

TIMA
It's my birthday. I wanna look at the dessert menu.

(SERVER hands her dessert menu and exits.)

HELEN
You took me back years just now. When you were a little girl and I found ways to sneak time away with just the two of us. Which wasn't easy with your six Eagle-eyed sisters.

TIMA
Was extra time with me - even back then - part of carrying out the prophecy?

HELEN
Not at all. You just had a different spirit than your sisters. You were an old soul even then.

TIMA
So then why did you think I wasn't mature enough to hear about the prophecy when I was younger? I may be a skeptic about all this, but I'm never a skeptic about you. That's why I've been all in today. Ok, mostly all in. Because my gut has never trusted anyone more than you. Sometimes....

HELEN
Sometimes what?

TIMA

Nothing in my life feels official until I've told you. Good or bad, you're my touchstone. I love Mama and Daddy, and my sisters and my friends. But you, well, you know. When we went from our weekly phone call to weekly Zoom talks, I always said that's the one good thing that came out of COVID was getting to see your face every week, not just hear your voice.

HELEN

Didn't you forget to mention someone in your love tally? A couple of someones actually.

TIMA

Oh! Jimmy. I love Jimmy.

HELEN

And?

TIMA

And what? He loves me, too, of course.

STOP

HELEN

Girl, don't play with me. The baby.

(A beat. A long beat.)

(SERVER enters.)

SERVER

What have we decided on for dessert? You didn't ask, but my personal favorite is the German Chocolate Cake. Only if you have no nut allergies. No Germans participated in the making of this delicacy. Just a recipe passed down from Miss Cliffie, the restaurant owner's grandmother. That's her picture right there.

TIMA

That seems perfect. I'll have a slice of that cake.

HELEN

Bring two forks, please. Grandmas have to stick together.