

**MODEL 2**

**RELENTLESS HOPE**

THE REFUSAL TO GRIEVE

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**RELENTLESS HOPE**  
MARTHA STARK (1999)

A PATIENT'S REFUSAL TO DEAL  
WITH THE PAIN OF HER GRIEF  
ABOUT THE OBJECT OF HER DESIRE  
WILL FUEL THE RELENTLESSNESS  
WITH WHICH SHE PURSUES IT

BOTH THE RELENTLESSNESS OF HER HOPE  
THAT SHE MIGHT YET BE ABLE  
TO MAKE THE OBJECT OVER INTO WHAT  
SHE WOULD WANT IT TO BE

AND THE RELENTLESSNESS OF THE OUTRAGE  
SHE EXPERIENCES IN THOSE MOMENTS  
OF DAWNING RECOGNITION THAT  
- DESPITE HER BEST EFFORTS AND MOST FERVENT DESIRE -  
SHE MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE  
TO MAKE THAT ACTUALLY HAPPEN

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BUT EVEN MORE FUNDAMENTALLY  
WHAT FUELS THE RELENTLESSNESS  
OF THE PATIENT'S PURSUIT IS  
THE FACT OF THE OBJECT'S EXISTENCE

AS SEPARATE FROM HERS,  
AS OUTSIDE THE SPHERE  
OF HER OMNIPOTENCE,  
AND AS THEREFORE UNABLE TO BE  
EITHER POSSESSED OR CONTROLLED

IN TRUTH, IT IS THIS VERY  
IMMUTABILITY OF THE OBJECT  
- THE FACT THAT IT CANNOT BE FORCED TO CHANGE -  
THAT PROVIDES THE PROPULSIVE FUEL  
FOR THE PATIENT'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT

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EVEN IN THE FACE OF  
INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE  
TO THE CONTRARY,  
THE PATIENT WILL PURSUE  
THE OBJECT OF HER DESIRE  
WITH A VENGEANCE –  
THE INTENSITY OF HER ENTITLED PURSUIT  
FUELED BY HER CONVICTION  
THAT THE OBJECT  
COULD GIVE IT  
WERE THE OBJECT BUT WILLING  
SHOULD GIVE IT  
BECAUSE THAT IS HER DUE  
AND WOULD GIVE IT  
WERE SHE BUT ABLE TO GET IT RIGHT

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AND SO IT IS THAT  
THE RELENTLESS PATIENT PERSISTS  
DESPERATE WITH DESIRE  
TO COMPEL THE OBJECT TO CHANGE  
AND ADAMANT IN HER REFUSAL  
TO CONFRONT THE REALITY OF  
ITS SEPARATENESS AND IMMUTABILITY

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IN THE POIGNANT WORDS  
OF ELVIN SEMRAD (2003)  
“PRETENDING  
THAT IT CAN BE  
WHEN IT CAN'T  
IS HOW PEOPLE  
BREAK THEIR HEARTS.”

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