

Female 60s

Collected Stories by Donald Margulies Act 2, Scene 1, approx page 190 : Ruth begins:
"What you have to say mans a great deal to me." Then continues to the end of the
scene: "Cheers."

RUTH STEINER (talking to Lisa)

What you have to say means a great deal to me, you know. How could you not know that? It works both ways, you know. Am I supposed to just give and give and expect nothing in return? I can't just applaud you and pat you on your back and offer unconditional love and support. *I* could use a little reassuring too. This is complicated for me, you know - what's happening for you. It's very complicated.

It's not about envy, well, maybe it *is* about envy. But it's not professional jealousy, it's... You know what it is? I'm jealous that you have all of life ahead of you. I can't sit back and watch you do the dance that I danced long ago and not think about time. I can't. *That's* what it's about. Don't you see? Time.

Cheers. (*she downs her drink.*)