Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was A Girl

then maybe it would be okay, and then you did start to cry and I remember you whispering, He raped me. And I realized that it wasn't going to be okay. And then it's just however many hours of just me realizing what I had just done and that it wasn't going to be okay.

ME: It's strange to hear that I used that word rape, considering how I didn't think of it as rape at the time, or said I didn't think of it as rape. Did I just whisper that to no one? HIM: Yeah, just, under your breath. I remember you were crying and said that. And yeah, it's tough really to think about.

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HIM: This is in one of the email drafts I deleted, but I distinctly remember telling myself—when I was in grade school probably—not to have emotions because that way the other kids in my class couldn't use them to hurt me, which is not really a productive way to go through life.

ME: Do you think you forgot that others have strong emotions?

HIM: It wasn't like I thought other people shouldn't have emotions. I didn't want to give anybody else anything that they could grab onto and use to hurt me.

ME: What were some of the thoughts that you had, or that you can recall having, that night? Either before or during or immediately after? I know you said you remember me crying. Do you remember what sort of thoughts were going through your mind?

HIM: I remember knowing that I shouldn't be doing this and doing it anyway. And then I remember you started to cry and then I lay down. There was a little gap where I lay down and then I remember thinking maybe you were so drunk you wouldn't remember it, or that it was bad and