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1. **Diana discusses her history with Dr. Madden** (p. 33)[[1]](#footnote-1)

Diana: When I was young, my mother called me "high-spirited." She would know. She was so high-spirited they banned her from the PTA.

Doctor Madden: Sometimes there's a predisposition to illness, but actual onset is only triggered by some ... traumatic event.

1. **Diana sees connections between herself and Natalie** (p.85)

**from “Maybe (Next to Normal)”**
I see me in you.
A girl full of anger and hope…
A girl with a mother who just couldn’t cope…
A girl who felt caught
And thought no one could see—
But maybe one day she’ll be free.

1. **Gabe describes who he really is** (p. 35) **from “I’m Alive”**

I am flame and I am fire,
I am destruction, decay, and desire
I'll hurt you, I’ll heal you.
I'm your wish, your dream come true ,

And I am your darkest nightmare too…

I’ve shown you. I own you.

1. **Dan persuades Diana to undergo Electroconvulsive Therapy** (p. 51-52)
**from** **“A Light in the Dark”**

One light shines in the drive—

One single sign that our house is alive.

Our house, our own -

So why do I live there alone?

Tell me why I wait through the night,

And why do I leave on the light?

You know. I know.

Our house was a home long ago.

…

Take this chance

And we’ll make a new start

Somewhere far

From what keeps us apart,

And I swear that somewhere in the night
There’s a light…

A light in the dark.

1. **Dr. Madden counsels Diana** (p. 82),
**from “Make Up Your Mind / Catch me I’m Falling (Reprise)”**

Make up your mind that you'll try again.

Make up your mind there are moments of light.

The one thing that's sure

Is that there is no cure but

That doesn't mean we don't fight.

1. **Natalie leads the cast in an anthem calling for light** (p. 93), **from "Finale: Light”**

Natalie**:** We need some light.

First of all, we need some light.

You can't sit here in the dark,

And all alone

It's a sorry sight.

It's just you and me.

We'll live. You'll see.

Dan:Night after night

We'd sit and wait for the morning light.

But we've waited far too long

For all that's wrong

To be made right.

Diana:Day after day...

Wishing all our cares away...

Trying to fight the things we feel...

But some hurts never heal.

Some ghosts are never gone,

But we go on.

We still go on.

And you find some way to survive.

And you find out you don't have to be happy at all

To be happy you're alive.

…

All: There will be light!

1. **Dan introduces himself** (p. 4), **from “Just Another Day”**

When it's up you to hold your house together...

A house you built with patience and with care...

But you're grappling with that grey and rainy weather,

And you're living on a latte and a prayer…

1. **Dan Brings Diana home after E.C.T.** (p. 58), **from “Song of Forgetting”**

Dan: Diana, don’t you…you don’t remember…any of this?

Diana: I should, right?

Dan: This house and all these rooms?

Last Christmas or last year?
Out back the dogwood blooms—

Diana: Do I really live here?

Dan: the paint, the walls...

All this glass and wood...

You don't recall?

Diana: How I wish I could.

Dan: Our house on Walton way—

The house with the red door?

**Works Cited**

Marshall, C., 2003. *Casting the Oresteia*. *Classical Journal* 98(3): 257-274

Ross, Juliet M., 2010. *The Mother, the Son and the Holy Ghost*: An Interview with the Creators of the Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musical, Next to Normal. *Psychoanalytic Perspectives* 7(2): 380-396

1. All page numbers throughout refer to the (2009) libretto, published by Music Theatre International. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)