



Carol Barnett

Cliff Notes

SATB, piano

- Always poke it first to see if it moves

- Don't wait too long to get started.

- Figure out for what you would walk through fire.

Walk through fire.

Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave Home

If it starts to spark, remove it.

The bigger mistake is not asking.

Don't wait too long to get started.

Drop every expectation that does not belong to you

Always poke it first to see if it moves.

Sometimes the only method is inexperience.

Above all, be kind. No – be true to yourself. Also, kind.

If you're going to nap on the sofa, for heaven's sake tuck your glasses underneath it so you won't step on them when you get up.

Figure out for what you would walk through fire.

Walk through fire.

Marg Walker

from *Sitting in Lawn Chairs After a Complicated Day*

Copyright © 2020 Margaret Walker.

Used with permission.

duration: 3:30

Poet Marg Walker wrote *Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave Home* five years ago in empathy with friends and their children who were going off to college. Loosely modeled on Polonius's advice to his son Laertes ("to thine own self be true") in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Mother's tone is varied – motivational, practical, gently exasperated, regretfully knowing that it's time for them to ignore her expectations and form their own.

The "Cliff Notes" Consortium is:

Haley Armstrong; South Dakota Mines Choir

Dwight Bigler; Virginia Tech Chamber Singers

Jeffrey Brillhart; Singing City Choir

Robert Duff; Brandeis University Chorus and Chamber Singers

Dean Luethi; Washington State University Concert Choir

Matthew Mehaffey; University Singers, University of Minnesota

Eugene Rogers; University of Michigan Chamber Choir

Randall Speer; Randolph College Chorale

Cliff Notes

Marg Walker

Carol Barnett

$\text{♩} = 120$; playful

f

Soprano
"Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave

Alto
"Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave

Tenor
"Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave

Bass
"Cliff Notes from Your Mother as You Leave

$\text{♩} = 120$; playful

f

Piano

8

S
Home" If. Don't wait.

A
Home" If. Don't wait.

T
Home" If. Don't wait. Drop.

B
Home" If. Don't wait. Drop.

pp

Pno.

16

S
Al - ways. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

A
Al - ways. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

T
8
Some - times. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out. Walk.

B
Some - times. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out. Walk.

Pno.

23

S
Walk. *p* If. Don't wait.

A
Walk. Walk. *p* If. Don't wait.

T
8
Walk. Walk. *p* Drop. —

B
Walk. Walk. *p* Drop. —

Pno.

p (non-legato unless marked)

30

S Some - times. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

A Some - times. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

T 8 Al - ways. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

B Al - ways. A - bove all. If. Fig - ure out.

Pno.

37

S

A

T 8 Walk. Walk. Walk. Walk. If it starts to spark,

B Walk. Walk. Walk. If it starts to spark,

Pno.

44 *mp*

S re - move it. The big - ger mis - take, the

A *mp* re - move it. The big - ger mis - take, the

T The big - ger, the

B The big - ger, the

Pno.

49

S big - ger mis - take is not ask - ing. Don't wait,

A big - ger mis - take is not ask - ing. Don't wait, don't

T big - ger mis - take is not ask - ing. Don't wait, don't

B big - ger mis - take is not ask - ing. Don't wait,

Pno.

55

S don't wait, don't wait too long — to get start - ed.

A wait, don't wait too long — to get start - ed.

T wait, don't wait too long — to get start - ed.

B don't wait, don't wait too long — to get start - ed.

Pno.

62

S Drop ev - 'ry ex - pec ta - tion — that does not be - long to

A Drop ev - 'ry ex - pec ta - tion — that does not be - long to

T Drop ev - 'ry ex - pec ta - tion — that does not be - long to

B Drop ev - 'ry ex - pec ta - tion — that does not be - long to

Pno.

68 *mf* *p*

S you, to you, to you, to you.

A you, to you, to you, to you.

T you, to you, to you, to you.

B you, to you, to you, to you. *p* *mp* you. Al - ways poke it,

Pno. *mf* *p*

76 *mp* *mp* *mp*

S Al-ways poke it, poke it first to

A Al-ways poke it, poke it first to

T Al - ways poke, al - ways poke, poke it first to

B poke, poke, poke, poke, poke it first to

Pno. *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

83

S see if it moves. *p* Some-times the

A see if it moves. *p* Some - times, ah,

T see if it moves. *p* Some-times the

B see if it moves. *p* Some - times, ah,

Pno. *legato* *p*

90

S *mp* on - ly meth - od is in - ex - per - ience. *p* Ah, ah.

A *mp* in - ex - per - ience. *p* Ah, ah.

T *mp* on - ly meth - od is in - ex - per - ience. *p* Ah, ah.

B *mp* in - ex - per - ience. *p* Ah.

Pno. *mp* *p*

96

S *mf* No - be true, be true

A *mf* No - be true, be true

T *p* A - bove all, be kind.

B *p* A - bove all, be kind, be kind.

Pno. *mf*

101

S *mp* to your-self. Al - so, kind.

A *mp* to your-self. Al - so, kind.

T *mp* Al - so, kind.

B *mp* Al - so, kind.

Pno. *mp*

$\text{♩} = 80$

106

S

A *p* *lightly*

T *p* *lightly*

B

If you're go-ing to nap, you're go-ing to nap on the so - fa,

If you're go-ing to nap, to nap on the so - fa,

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 80$

106

p

111

S *mp* *p* *lightly*

A

T

B *mp* *p* *lightly*

For heav-en's sake, — for heav-en's sake tuck your glass - es un - der-neath it _

for heav-en's sake, for heav-en's sake tuck your glass - es un - der-neath it _

for heav-en's sake, for heav-en's sake tuck your glass - es un - der-neath it _

For heav - en's sake, — for heav-en's sake tuck your glass - es un - der-neath it _

Pno.

111

115 *mp*

S — so you won't step on them. Ah, —

A — so you won't step on them when you get up. Ah, — *mp*

T — so you won't step on them. Ah, — *mp*

B — so you won't step on them.

Pno. *mp*

121 *p*

S Fig - ure out for what — *p*

A ah. Fig - ure out for what — *p*

T ah. Fig - ure out for what — *p*

B Ah. Fig - ure out for what — *p*

Pno. *p*

127

S *mp*
— you would walk through fire.

A *mp*
— you would walk through fire.

T *mp*
8 — you would walk through fire. Walk, walk, walk, walk — through fire,

B *mp*
— you would walk through fire. Walk, walk, walk, walk — through fire,

Pno. *mp* *p*

133

S *pp* *p* *mp*
Fig-ure out, fig-ure out, fig-ure out, fig-ure

A *pp* *p* *mp*
Fig-ure out, fig-ure out, fig-ure out, fig-ure out, fig-ure

T *p*
8 walk through fire. Walk, walk, walk, walk through fire, walk through fire.

B *p*
walk through fire. Walk, — walk — through fire, walk through fire.

Pno. *pp* *p*

138

S out for what _____ you would walk through fire, _____ through *p*

A out for what _____ you would walk through fire, _____ through *p*

T *mp* for what _____ you would walk, _____ walk _____ through fire, through *p*

B *mp* for what _____ you would walk, _____ walk _____ through fire, Walk _____ *p*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

143

S fire, _____ through *mp*

A fire. _____ Walk _____ through fire. Walk

T fire. _____ Walk _____ through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk

B _____ through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire.

Pno. *p*

148 *cresc. poco a poco*

S
fire, through fire, through fire. Walk, walk,

A
cresc. poco a poco
through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire.

T
cresc. poco a poco
8 through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire.

B
cresc. poco a poco
Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire.

Pno.
cresc. poco a poco

152

S
walk, walk, walk

A
Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire, through fire,

T
8 Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire, through fire,

B
Walk through fire. Walk through fire. Walk through fire, through fire,

Pno.

156

S through fire, through fire, through fire. Walk

A through fire, through fire. Walk

T through fire, through fire. Walk

B through fire, through fire. Walk

Pno.

162

S through fire.

A through fire.

T through fire.

B through fire.

Pno.