

Bawley

Day came when Ma couldn't teach me anything new. I wanted to go to Europe, study with Leschinsky in Vienna. Ma gave me that too. The Maestro wanted nothing to do with you if you couldn't play a pair of Czerny études with perfect control. I made damn sure I could.

I was told to come home. I caught the boat from Le Havre so I could be in Paris for New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve of 1899. I met Claude Debussy at the Café de Flore that night. I gave him the last of my allowance. We made cocktails out of three liquors: yellow, green, and red. They stayed in layers in the glass.

BAWLEY

Whole family was at the train station when I got in. A big rumpus. The whole family. You thought I wanted to run a faro wheel or marry a Mexican.

BAWLEY

Takes a lot of courage to say no to the patriarch. Your son's got more courage than I ever had.