

**JEANNETTE.** And I'm the one who's left to pick up the fucking pieces.

**NEIL.** I'm not interested in hearing you bitch about the unbearable burden of life when I'm standing at the edge here, waiting to drop into the abyss! Enough, Jeannette, enough! You're the one who gets to see the fucking wild flowers bloom. So pull yourself together and fucking find a way to cope.

**JEANNETTE.** Fuck you, Neill! Fuck you!

*(NEIL goes into the yurt and slams the door.)*

*(blackout)*

## Scene Two

*(It's night and the fog is rolling in.)*

**(JEANNETTE is huddled in front of a fire with DINAH's blanket wrapped around her.)**

*(The door of the yurt is closed and there's the faint glow from a lantern showing through the fabric walls. NEIL is somewhere inside.)*

*(We hear a car pulling up and stopping...the door slams. JEANNETTE looks up.)*

**(BILL appears. They stare at each other for a beat.)**

**BILL.** Hello, Jeannette.

**JEANNETTE.** Are you here to lecture me, Bill?

**BILL.** No. Can I sit with you for a while?

**JEANNETTE.** Where's Dinah?

**BILL.** She's at the hotel. You mind if I have a glass of wine?

**JEANNETTE.** The bottle's right there.

**BILL.** Is Neil asleep?

**JEANNETTE.** He could be. We both need to be alone.

*(BILL pours himself some wine and drinks down half the glass.)*

Hard night, Bill?

**BILL.** Dinah says that she wants to leave me.

**JEANNETTE.** I'm sorry.

**BILL.** I'd like to blame this visit. I'd be more than happy to blame you.

**JEANNETTE.** I'm not interested in that.

**BILL.** I wouldn't think so. I could blame the man who took my daughter but he's locked in a cell and I'll never be able to get to him. He's in for life, you know. He pleaded insanity so there's no real retribution there. No watching him breath his last on the gurney. But then again, my daughter didn't believe in such things. She would have asked for mercy for the man. I keep

**BILL.** (*cont.*) asking why that monster was allowed to cross my daughter's path but my minister sat me down and said, don't you dare blame God. Fair enough. I'm a practical man. I've always believed that what happens, happens and then you have to move on. But then my minister points to the book of Job - read this, Bill, and you'll understand that God gives us challenges to test our faith. Are you saying - I asked him - are you saying that God is responsible for this terrible thing that happened? You can't second-guess God, Bill, you just have to trust that He only gives you as much as you can handle. Well, Reverend, if that's the case then He must think I'm one powerhouse of a guy. No, Bill, you don't have that right, God wants you to be humbled by your pain. Well what the hell does He want from me? Am I supposed to be a rock of fortitude or not? I build houses. People look to me to put them in something that won't fall down. Would it be their fault if I put in a lousy foundation and their basement flooded and their roof caved in? Are they supposed to put their faith in me and say, sure Bill, I'll hire you again, here, let me write you another big fat check while the rain is pounding on my head. You want to know something, Jeannette? I don't need hell as my stopgap. I know what's right, I know what's wrong, I know my own heart and I know what's true.

**JEANNETTE.** Whoa. You're not jumping the fence to the side of us pagans, are you?

**BILL.** Don't flatter yourself. I still have my faith. I know there's a God. I just can't believe that he's out to punish us.

**JEANNETTE.** Well, that's a start.

**BILL.** That comment I made about Neil's cancer -

**JEANNETTE.** It wasn't just a comment, Bill.

**BILL.** I know that. It was the wrong thing to say and I apologize.

**JEANNETTE.** Well, sticks and stones, Baby. Right now, we both have bigger fish to fry.

**BILL.** Seems that we do.

(*They drink.*)

Dinah thinks our marriage is dead but she's wrong about that. If our marriage is dead then that sick bastard won. I won't let that happen.

**JEANNETTE.** Sometimes people need to move on.

**BILL.** That's your deal, not mine. You broke her heart, you know. She opened herself up to you and you just cut her loose. She didn't deserve that. She's a tender, loving person and you just kicked her in the gut.

**JEANNETTE.** I'm sorry for that. I really am.

**BILL.** Then send her something, write her a note for sweet sake. Let her know that you still value her. It's the least you can do before you pop your pills or whatever it is you're going to do.

**JEANNETTE.** I'm not going anywhere, Bill.

**BILL.** What do you mean?

**JEANNETTE.** Neil talked me out of it.

**BILL.** I'm glad to hear that, Jeannette.

**JEANNETTE.** Well, you won the contest.

**BILL.** I wasn't looking to win anything. Don't insult my good intentions just because I acted like an ass. I'm fond of you. I want you still around.

**JEANNETTE.** Well here I am.

**BILL.** There you are.

**JEANNETTE.** Salut.

**BILL.** Cheers.

(*They drink.*)

**JEANNETTE.** I'm so angry at Neil for leaving me. I can't stand to look at him. I can't touch him, I can't even hear to hear him breathe.

**BILL.** I was angry at my daughter.