

Slide 4 – Jon and Walter

JON: Walter?

WALTER: Here I am.

(JON sees WALTER now – although he’s always been there.)

JON: I want to tell you about the time you took Marjorie to New York at Christmas.

WALTER: I’m listening.

JON: You sat on a bench in Central Park and looked at all these saffron-colored flags in the snow. It must have been some kind of installation? *(Beat)*. This wouldn’t have been long after your son died.

WALTER: My son?

JON: Your son, Damian. You took a trip to New York, and you took Marjorie along – I think you were hoping to get her mind off it. You looked at shop windows, you tried to start living again.

WALTER: How did he die?

(Short pause).

JON: He did it himself. That was the hardest part. You thought you had made a nice life for him.

WALTER: But I hadn’t.

JON: Tess got the sense that he was always a little...

WALTER: A little?

JON: He spent a lot of time in his room. He got into fights at school. Not fights he started, but kids would tease him and he fought back. He liked snakes and lizards. He was thirteen. You didn’t always know how to show that you loved him.

WALTER: Why not?

JON: That’s the way people are sometimes. So lucky Toni was around – he spent a lot of time with her. That’s what was so hard to understand, that he did that to Toni.

WALTER: Did what?

JON *(not looking at WALTER)*: He must have wanted – maybe he thought she could come with him that way? I shouldn’t be---but if you’re Walter, you would know, wouldn’t you.

WALTER: Yes I would.

JON: You never got over it, of course. But it was Marjorie who had the hardest time. For fifty years she never said his name, hid all the pictures. It was that hard. *(Beat)*. But she never forgot him, Walter. She never forgot.