

JOANNE.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Please. I forgot I'd gotten these.
In case you didn't have breakfast.

JOANNE

No, thank you. I'd prefer we just
begin.

DONNA

Okay. I had this contract drawn up
and I just need your signature and
then we're done. (She pulls out a
simple one-page contract.) We void
the lease on the plot here, and you
get your money back.

JOANNE

I just want Righty to know I'm on
his side. And I am on his side.
(Brief pause.) Which, to be honest
with you, it can be a very lonely
place.

DONNA

(She can imagine it.) I can't
imagine.

JOANNE

I don't know if you know anything
about Dementia? He seems like the
old Righty when he talks about the
graveyard here. I tell him it's
morbid.

DONNA

Well, I guess the idea of it must
give him some peace.

JOANNE

Maybe, but why doesn't he... I'm
sure you're right, it probably
gives him some peace. (Looking at
the contract.) It's just one piece
of paper?

DONNA

Yes. Very simple.

JOANNE

And that's for both?

DONNA

What? You'd both need to sign, yes.

JOANNE

That doesn't help us with the money we lost at the first cemetery, the deposit. It doesn't even get us back to zero. (JOANNE slumps a little.) Maybe I should just leave it like it is, so at least Righty's happy.

RIGHTY

(From off-stage:) Joanne! Jo!

JOANNE

(Loudly:) I'm right here! We're in the gazebo!

RIGHTY

(Brief pause. From off-stage:) The what!? I'm okay.

JOANNE

He doesn't recognize things and gets scared.

DONNA

Oh, wow.

JOANNE

Sometimes it's a mirror.

DONNA

Oh, the poor man. And you.

JOANNE

You should see us in that dank little apartment, two ghosts bumping around, afraid of everything. What is your Mr. Tyson building again? Luxury condos?

DONNA

It's a transfer station. Rail-to-truck shipping and distribution. They did a geologic survey, and this was the best spot. Plus, because of where the train line is.

JOANNE
 (With a kind of "case
 closed"
 feel:) Well, but this is
 where
 we're supposed to be buried.

DONNA
 I hope we can find some other
 options. I drew up a few different
 alternatives. (She takes a five
 page contract out of her bag.)
 This'll provide for that same
 voiding of the lease, in addition
 to a cash payment, above and beyond
 the deposit you lost at the other
 cemetery. I just want you to feel
 taken care of.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

JOANNE
 (Referring to the biscuits.) I
 changed my mind. May I?

DONNA
 Please.

JOANNE gets a biscuit and takes a bite.

JOANNE
 There's a certain logic to that
 man. Not logic, but something.
 (Very brief pause.) Can you
 believe, I thought we'd travel. I
 spent 31 years going to the same
 office.

DONNA
 (Very brief pause.) Wow.

JOANNE
 Would you like to know what I did?

DONNA
 I didn't want to interrupt.

JOANNE

I had stopped talking.

DONNA

No, of course. What did you do?

JOANNE

It's not important. Does it ever occur to you that an older person might just like to be heard?

DONNA

Of course, I'm sorry if I've--

JOANNE

--Not answered back to, but, heard. Particularly given my husband's condition?

DONNA

I-- yes. I'm sorry.

JOANNE

A home aide comes over a couple days a week. She's nice but it's not like having a friend listen.

DONNA

And I'm sure it's expensive.

JOANNE

It is. We get some help. Anyway, I thought we'd travel. I even had a silly dream we could sail. Righty grew up around boats. (Very brief pause.) I was a secretary for a tomato wholesaler.

DONNA

Oh, wow. Tomatoes. That must've been really...

JOANNE

(After waiting for DONNA to complete the sentence.)

Yes, there really are no words to describe it. Righty worked at a ceramic tile factory. We toiled away and collected travel brochures.

DONNA

I do that.

JOANNE

I used to be a more interesting person. I was depressed, even suicidal, but then Righty got sick and I thought, "what's the point?"

DONNA

Is that-- are you serious?

JOANNE

What do you think?

DONNA

Oh, Joanne.

JOANNE

Thank you.

DONNA

Maybe we could get back to what I'm proposing?

JOANNE

You're very persistent.

DONNA

Well, it's an exciting moment.

JOANNE

(Brief pause.) I really don't know what you want me to do.

DONNA

Well.... I want you to look at this little piece of land with me, and see if we can imagine it in some different way.

JOANNE

(She gets up with some difficulty and exits.) My glasses are in the car.

End

~~DONNA cross-checks some documents, her phone, etc. RIGHTY quietly appears, in an accidentally startling way.~~

DONNA

Oh, hello! Wow. You're very quiet.

RIGHTY

Where is she?