# 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 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 contact.) 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

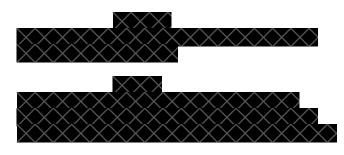
You should see us in that dank little apartment, two ghosts bumping around, afraid of everything. What is your Mr. Tyson building again? Luxury condos?

## DONNA

It's a transfer station. Rail-totruck 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.



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?