

MAN CALLBACK #1

75

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START →

JAMIE

Jimmie, truth or dare. Or no piano. Tell them. It's 3:14, what's on your mind?

MAN

A lot of things! Bills, my kids, a stupid thing I said in high school. A LOT of things!
(Long pause. WOMAN takes over.)

WOMAN

Jimmy...

MAN

What?!

WOMAN

I know EXACTLY what you're thinking about.

MAN

Oh really? (HE picks up the device.) Does this thing read minds too?! Come on!

WOMAN

3:14 comes and you're looking at the ceiling. You're in the land of "coulda woulda shoulda!" "Why didn't I do this?" "Why didn't I do that?" "When is my ship going to come in?"

MAN

That's ridiculous...

WOMAN

"Why am I a failure?"

MAN

You should stop now.

WOMAN

"Is this the best I can do?!"

MAN

That's enough...

WOMAN

"I'm the biggest loser!"

MAN

SHUT UP!

WOMAN

Then what is it? What is it? You tell me!

MAN

You want me to tell you?!

WOMAN

We all do! What's on your mind?!

MAN

(Pause and then perhaps an explosion.) I wake up and I think about that goddamn coat you're wearing!

WOMAN

What? WHAT?! My coat?

MAN

Look at it. Piece of crap. Is that the best I can give you?! Is it?! Yeah, it is! It sure is. You always wanted to go to Ireland? That ever happen? Nope! We didn't go to the *movies* all that much. My Dad died and we had him cremated because it was cheaper! Because it was cheaper. You just wanted to finish your degree, "a life of tea and literature" you said...and we could barely afford the tea! (Pause.) So, I lie there and try to think of what I can give you. What? And I came up with it...I can let you off the hook, the Jimmy hook! (Beat.) Will it be hard? Yes, it will. (More emotional.) Yes it will. But, if I can do it, if I can let you find...someone, something better. That would be something I can give you. (Beat.) Hilarious, huh?

WOMAN

(Softer now.) Jimmy...

MAN

Hilarious...

WOMAN

...Honey, that's just life. It is. There are smart people who crash and idiots who soar, that's life.

MAN

Yeah, yeah. All that is nice, cheers, here's to the lovable losers, cheers...
(HE raises his glass.)

WOMAN

Honey...

MAN

So, happy, everybody? We all clear? Good.