

MAN SIDE #1

37

(Long pause. MAN looks at both of them.)

Can I take the dare?

MAN

Nope.

JAMIE

Can I phone a friend?

MAN

What?

JAMIE

Nothing.

MAN

JAMIE

Answer the question. Truth.

(Pause. MAN stands up, moves around the bar as HE speaks.)

MAN

OK. OK. Multi-part question, multi-part answer: First of all, you won't believe me.

JAMIE

Try me.

MAN

OK. OK...let's say you lived your life, like a lot of people do; busy, right? Gettin' stuff done, right? But there's always been this thing, this...hum, this cheap electric clock humming in the background. Hummmm... And the days and the weeks get by and you? You are gettin' stuff done! That sabbatical thing you want to do? Well, you're definitely going to get around to it! "I'll definitely do that. Plenty of time." And hummmm... Then years go by and you're raising kids, getting the oil changed, home-owner's insurance... "Hey look, do you believe it's 1990, already? 1995 already? I can't believe it's 2005 already...!"

And hummmmmmm...

And then one day, you realize that you're older than the President. And that everyone is dying! Friends, celebrities. People *your own age* are dying and no one thinks it's weird or sad because, "They lived a good life." So, that hum in the background? Now it's like a wasp in your ear...

MAN
(Continued.)

That news thing you talked about, at the end of the year? The "Memoriam" feature? It ain't gonna have you...cause, come on, why would they? Who are you?

JAMIE
I don't get how this answers the question.

MAN
I'm getting to that!

JAMIE
Well, thank God!

MAN
So, one day you realize that you let things slip away. But, BUT, what would you do if you got the chance to change it? A friend, an old buddy, let's say Tom, Tom gave you a thing that lets you come back to talk to your younger self?

(HE takes off the watch and puts in on the table in front of him for them to see.)

Would you take it? Would you go back?

(Pause.)

JAMIE
So you're saying...?

MAN
What am I saying?

JAMIE
What are you saying?

MAN
I'm answering your question.

JAMIE
How?

MAN
I'm telling you.

JAMIE
What are you telling me?

You know what I'm telling you.

MAN

(Pause.)

You're saying you're like me?

JAMIE

No. (Beat.) I'm not *like* you.

MAN

Then what?

JAMIE

(Pause.) I play "Asteroids" better than you because I played it longer. I knew it was Eastman school because I went there. And I knew Abby when she walked in because....

MAN

What? Because what?

ABBY

(Pause.) We got married, had kids. I taught high school. Just retired this year. They gave me a real nice certificate. Students all took selfies with me.

MAN

Took what?

ABBY

You'll find out. (Back to JAMIE.) So, that's how I knew all that stuff.

MAN

(Sarcastic.) Oh please, come on, this is crazy. This is sad.

JAMIE

Yeah? It's sad? You know what the second saddest thing in the world is?

MAN

What?

JAMIE

Living your whole life and never finding out why you're here.

MAN

What's the first?

ABBY

Finding out and not doing it.

MAN

(Pause.)

END

OK...this is over!

JAMIE

(JAMIE stands up and starts putting things away.)

What? No!

MAN

JAMIE

Yeah, pal. You seemed OK and I needed the money but I knew I shouldn't do this and I was right. I'll call you a cab.

MAN

Wait a minute, wait a minute, we had a deal!

(JAMIE takes out the money and puts it on the table.)

Hold on!

JAMIE

Abby.

(SHE takes out her money and puts it on the table as well but SHE doesn't care for being ordered to do it. JAMIE goes to the front door and unlocks it to let MAN out. It remains unlocked so that WOMAN can enter later.)

Just a second!

MAN

JAMIE

Take your money. Sorry, this didn't work out. You've gotta go!

MAN

OK, OK. I'll leave! I will! And I'll still pay you what I said. You can keep that money, every dime. I'll walk out and it'll all be yours.

JAMIE

(Hustling him out.) Pal...