

# WOMAN SIDE #1

58

Oh...  
MAN

Oh. You know, some day, some bright, beautiful sunny day, the birds are going to wake you with song, you are going spring out of bed, take a deep breath, and read the damn directions!

(SHE finishes manipulating the watch.)

OK, there, you have another half hour or so—

But...  
MAN

--to sit there and shut up!  
WOMAN

(MAN sits. WOMAN looks around a moment.)

Hi folks!

(ABBY gets up and comes over by WOMAN.)

Wait, are you...?  
ABBY

I am. (Beat.) Sorry.  
WOMAN

For what?  
ABBY

You look great.  
(WOMAN gestures to herself.)

I was always so nice. What happened to that?  
WOMAN

I'm serious. You look great... I can't wait to be you.  
ABBY

You're REALLY nice. I miss that about myself. But you know what I really miss?  
WOMAN

What?  
ABBY

(WOMAN looks at and/or gestures to ABBY'S chest.)

WOMAN

When these (pointing to herself) were up there (pointing to ABBY.) Good times.  
(ABBY moves away a bit or something, embarrassed.)

Sometimes people get a little coarser as they age...

ABBY

No, it's fine.

JAMIE

Can I get you a drink?

WOMAN

I do think I need one. Gin and tonic?

ABBY and WOMAN

Bombay sapphire!

JAMIE

Coming up!

(HE goes behind the bar to make it.)

WOMAN

(Addressing JAMIE.) Thank you. OK, so, I'm sure the "long suffering artist" here has come back to try to get you to play more piano or something, am I right?

JAMIE

You're right.

WOMAN

And that if you do that, you'll magically be happier?

JAMIE

Yes.

WOMAN

And you just believed him?

ABBY

He gave us two thousand dollars...

(SHE puts the money on the bar for WOMAN to see.)

WOMAN

Two *thousand*? (Back to MAN.) Where did you...? Wait, this is the old money. Where did you get it?

Old? JAMIE

They changed it. Where did you get this? WOMAN

Collectors. It's not worth that much. I knew I'd need it. MAN

But, uhm... JAMIE

*But, what?* WOMAN

Well, there's more. JAMIE

What "more"? WOMAN

Here you go. (JAMIE hands her the drink.) He said he chose this particular night, tonight I was going to...he came to get me to *not* do something. JAMIE

Not do something? What does he want you to *not*...? WOMAN  
(SHE looks down at the table and sees the ring box. SHE picks it up and opens it.)

Ohmigod...you chose tonight? (SHE looks at it a moment, fondly, and sets it down. Pause.)

You're here to keep us from getting married? (MAN is a bit ashamed but trying to play it off.)

That was only part of it... MAN

What's the other part?! Is he supposed to kill me too?! WOMAN

Abby— MAN

What?  
WOMAN

I'm just trying to say—  
MAN

WOMAN  
No. No. You don't get to say anything! You don't get to speak! You had time to speak before I got here and now your time is up; I get to speak!

I'm trying to tell you—  
MAN

Your. Time. Is. UP! Yeah...  
WOMAN

(HE shuts up. Pause.)  
You came back and what advice did you have for yourself? Take up yoga? Observe the speed limit? Eat some kale?!

We talked about the Cubs—  
JAMIE

WOMAN  
Look, you're very nice but I am mad enough for both of you right now!

Right...  
JAMIE  
(Pause.)

You came here to erase me.  
WOMAN

No...  
MAN

WOMAN  
Erase *us*. Just like that. How could you...? I know we've had some...we haven't had everything we want, but...you'd just make all that go away?

You don't understand...  
MAN

WOMAN  
What? What don't I understand? I need to know that. What? You? I pretty much understand you! I understand *thirty-five* years of listening to you breathe next to me in

WOMAN  
(Continued.)

bed. Thirty-five years you wrap up in the blankets like you're freezing while I kick them off. I understand that! Your prostate cancer, menopause, that stupid brown Pinto we bought...I understand Annie's first date and Greg's...(Pause. SHE can barely say his name.) Greg.

(Angry, hurting, SHE moves away from MAN like SHE can't stand to look at him now and is over by the bar. Pause.)

It. Was. Not. Easy. But we did it. Not always with a Pepsodent smile and bouncy hair but we did it. Life is hard and you don't get a "do-over"! No one does! AAAAHHH!

(SHE pounds on the bar and then subsides.)

And when I think...when I think that you'd just...just throw it out, all of it. I just...I...I just...I just...(Beat.) Are those rice crispy treats?

ABBY

Do you want one?

WOMAN

SIX! I WANT SIX!

ABBY

Please.

(WOMAN reaches in to take some but they're stuck together and SHE extracts a large piece that is nearly the whole pan. SHE eats from this.)

MAN

Abby—

(HER mouth is full.)

WOMAN

Nah-eh!

MAN

Abby...

WOMAN

NAH-EH!!!

(WOMAN puts the large piece back in the pan. End of bit.)

END