

THE MELVILLE BOYS (J)

*SHOT*

HE

You know what's worse than your husband leaving you? It's you, sitting around waiting for him to come back! Yeah, I'll tell you this. After I'm gone, Arlene's not going to sit around for long. No sir. She'll be dating, and in a few years, she'll be married again. And she's older than you are.

SHE

What are you saying? Are you telling me you're leaving your wife? After all you've been saying about my husband, and you're leaving your wife?

HE

No, I'm not leaving. I'm dying. And I don't want that to ruin Arlene's life. Look, you said you wanted to be a little more selfish. Well, now's a good time to start.

SHE

(beat) Can you back up here for just a second. Did you say "I'm dying"?

HE

Uh... I don't know. Maybe I did.

SHE

Yeah, well, I think you did. I'm pretty sure I heard "I'm dying" in there somewhere.

HE

All right, I said it. Let's just forget it, okay? Sometimes I get stuck for something to say, so I just blurt anything out.

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SHE

You get stuck for something to say, so you say "I'm dying"? I mean, I thought the conversation was going along fine. You were more than holding up your end. Didn't you think it was going along fine?

HE

Yes, I did...

SHE

Well, then, what the hell's "I'm dying" supposed to mean?

HE

I don't know why I said it. Maybe you seemed like the kind of person I could say it to without getting emotional.

SHE

Without who getting emotional?

HE

You! ...and me. Both of us. I'd just like to talk about it once without somebody crying. I talk to my mother about it, and she cries. I talk to Arlene about it... she cries. And Owen, well, he won't even talk about it at all. I mean, I figured, you're not involved... you hardly know me. What's to cry about? Right? I'm sorry. I shouldn't have brought it up. We won't talk about it any more, okay?

SHE

Okay.

HE

Okay.

SHE

(beat) You really are dying, aren't you?

HE

No.

SHE

No, you are. You really are.