

Grandmother side

had been expecting it. Had been expecting her to leave me. And it made sense. And it was complete. (Pause.) And then she came back. That's what threw me for a loop. And right then I said, there is no way I am going to lose her. I am going to do everything in my power to keep her. Because she came back. And it scares the hell out of me that I almost lost her because Mommy killed herself. I mean, my mother, deserts me for whatever reasons, but she almost made me lose the one girl I've ever really loved.

GRANDMOTHER. (Pause.) You can't blame her until you die, you know.

WALLACE. What?

GRANDMOTHER. Your mother. I mean, sure, you can invoke her name once in a while to clear up a messy situation, but you've got to be responsible for something eventually. A dead mother does not give you carte blanche for a lifetime of screwing up. You can do it — you can screw up, go right ahead, but don't keep blaming her, or you'll just go through life fooling yourself and you'll die a blind man. (Pause.) Understand?

WALLACE. I think so. I'm not sure.

GRANDMOTHER. It's okay. You're still young. (Pause.) Are they feeding you enough up at school? You look thin.

WALLACE. They're feeding me fine, Grandma. (Pause. Wallace points to a photograph in a frame on the table.) Who's this?

GRANDMOTHER. Oh, that's Gertrude Mausbaum, we grew up together. She just passed on. This picture was taken three weeks before she died.

EPilogue

Wallace is standing to the left with a tomato in his hand and a crate of tomatoes at his feet. Nina is standing to the right, wearing a white dress. (Pause.)

NINA. Well?

WALLACE. (Pause.) I don't want to ruin your dress. (Pause.) I don't want to ruin your beautiful dress. (Pause. The lights slowly fade.)

PROPERTY PLOT

Prologue:

Tomato (for Wallace to throw)
Crate of tomatoes

Scene 2:

Kitchen table
Large kitchen knife
Peanut butter
Banana
Wonder bread
Lunchbox

Scene 3:

Wallace's bed
Gift-wrapped box of peanut brittle
Photograph of Mommy
School-yard bench
Peanut butter/Banana sandwich

Scene 4:

2 chairs
Psychiatrist couch
Notebook & pen

Scene 6:

Park bench
Mallow cups
Juicyfruits
Bottle of pink drink

Scene 7:

Kitchen table & chairs
Glass of milk
Plate of Toll House cookies
Framed photo of cousin Jerry

Scene 8:

Wallace's bed
Bedside table
Paper of Wallace's writing
Framed photo of Mommy
Telephone
Candle
Old Zippo lighter
Telephone
Glass of wine (set off-stage)

Scene 10:

Wallace's bed
Bedside table
Paper of Wallace's writing
Framed photo of Mommy
Telephone
Candle
Old Zippo lighter
Telephone
Glass of wine (set off-stage)

Scene 11:

(Same as Scene 10)