

COLLATERAL BEAUTY

MADELINE : Okay, I have something that I haven't told anyone. It doesn't involve letters or angels, or anything like that, but it means something to me.

Howard nods

MADELINE (CONT'D): They were preparing Olivia to say goodbye, and my husband was trying to calm my mother in the parking lot cause she lost it. So, I was alone. And I was sitting there in the waiting room at Maimonides Hospital...and there was this woman who sat next to me. She asked me who I was about to lose and I told her. And she looked at me and she said... "Just be sure to notice the collateral beauty." And she...she said it so casually. In the next room my six year old daughter was being taken off life support and this woman says collateral beauty.

HOWARD : People don't know what to say you know? In those moments.

MADELINE : No, she did. I just didn't get it at the time. See it wasn't said out of sympathy or awkwardness...it was from experience.

Madeline takes a moment

MADELINE (CONT'D): About a year later something started to happen to me. You know, I would be walking or on the subway or whatever and I would just burst into tears. But, these weren't Olivia tears. These were tears born from something else. From this kind of profound connection...to everything. And I realized...it was the collateral beauty.

HOWARD : There is no such thing as collateral beauty.

MADELINE: There is Howard...there really is. It'll never bring her back and it will never ever make it okay. But I promise you, it's there.

HOWARD: Ok.

(Beat)

MADELINE: You need to talk to them Howard.

HOWARD: Look, I appreciate your story, but I'm not really feeling the collateral beauty thing.

MADELINE: I don't care. Yell at them, reason with them, challenge them...just engage.

HOWARD: I think this was a mistake.

END SCENE