

JOANNA sits against the wall, a glass of white wine in front of her. She is dressed simply and no longer has a tan. Nevertheless, Joanna is still stunningly beautiful. She looks up, smiles.

ON TED--He stands watching her, his knees weak. It is impossible not to fall in love with her all over again.

He crosses to her table.

TED

Hi.

JOANNA

Hi.

He begins to sit.

TED

Hi. How are ya?

JOANNA

You look great. How's your uh...

TED

What?

JOANNA

I was just going to say, how's your job?

TED

Fine. Vice President of nothing. No really, it's great.

Waiter approaches

WAITER

Excuse me, would you like a drink?

TED

Yeah, I'll have whatever she's having.

JOANNA

White Wine

TED

Wine.

Waiter leaves

JOANNA

How's Billy?

TED

He's great...Uh, he...uh...had a little accident a couple weeks ago in the playground and he cut himself. It was really scary. I ran him all the way to the hospital. He's got a little teeny scar, (indicating where and how big) but he's gonna be fine. I, I've been worrying that it's my fault, and...

JOANNA

No, don't do that. You can't even see it from a distance. I, I... Sometimes I sit in that coffee shop across the street from his school and watch him. He got so big!

TED

You've been watching him from the coffee shop?

JOANNA

I've been living in New York for the past two months.

TED

(amazed)

I didn't know that.

JOANNA

(a deep breath)

Anyway...That's why I wanted to talk to you today. Last time you

saw me, I was in pretty bad...

TED

Shaky?

JOANNA

Yeah. Yeah I was.

TED

Well, you look lovely now.

JOANNA

(taken aback)

Ahh...I have a whole speech...

TED

Go ahead.

JOANNA

Ted, all my life I've felt like somebody's wife or somebody's mother, or somebody's daughter. Even all the time we were together I never knew who I was. That's why I had to go away. In California, I think I found myself. I got myself a job. I got myself a therapist, a really good one. And I feel better about myself than I ever have in my whole life. I learned a lot about myself.

TED

Such as?

Silence

TED

No, really, I'd really like to know what you learned.

JOANNA

I've learned that I love my little boy. And that I'm capable of taking care of him.

TED

What do you mean?

JOANNA

I want my son.

TED

You can't have him.

JOANNA

Look, don't get so defensive.
Don't try to bully me.

TED

I'm not getting defensive. Who
walked out 15 months ago?

JOANNA

I don't care.

TED

Joan—

JOANNA

I am still his mother.

TED

Yes. 3000 miles away, and
just because you sent a few
postcards that gives you the right
to come back here?

JOANNA

But I never stopped loving him... I
never stopped wanting him and
loving him.

TED

What makes you sure he wants you?

JOANNA

What makes you sure he doesn't want
me?

TED

Okay. We're gonna sit here and
bat this back and forth like it was
for eight years. It's, it's like

old times.

JOANNA

You can't deny me access to my baby...

TED

Don't tell me what I can or cannot do. Don't talk to me that way.

JOANNA

I have anticipated this. Don't say...

TED (getting to his feet)

Okay, look, I don't wanna get into this. You do what you have to do and I'll do what I have to do.

JOANNA

I'm very sorry about this.

TED

Okay, just do what you have to do.

Exits.