

THE UNDOING

Season One, Episode 5

Grace & Janet (Jonathan's Mom)

INTERCUT INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM / INT. JANET'S HOME - NIGHT

GRACE gets ready for bed when the SKYPE ringtone sounds from her laptop. She answers to find Jonathan's mother, JANET.

GRACE  
Janet. Hello.

JANET  
Grace.

GRACE  
What time is it there?

JANET  
It's 4 AM. I couldn't sleep, so, I thought I would use the time to return your call.

GRACE  
Well, thank you. Thank you. I'm sorry it's been so long since we've...

JANET  
Since the wedding, Grace. We haven't seen each other since the wedding. Jonathan's doing, I realize. How is he? I can't imagine well.

GRACE  
No. None of us are doing great, so...

JANET  
Is.

GRACE  
I'm sorry?

JANET  
None of us is doing great. "None" is a contraction of "not one." It's singular. The verb is singular. And, um, Henry. He must be looking like a grown man by now?

GRACE  
He's getting there. I've sent you some pictures, but, uh...

JANET

Grace, I don't blame you. It was Jonathan's decision to no longer be part of his family. A decision he made long before he met you.

GRACE

Well, I'm just trying to piece everything together right now. You can probably understand.

JANET

Yes, I can.

GRACE

I just learned that Jonathan had a younger sister. Katie. And that he feels responsible for her death.

JANET

As he should. He was responsible. He allowed a four-year-old to wander out onto a busy street, where she was struck dead.

GRACE

That must have been unspeakably awful.

JANET

It was.

GRACE

Janet, um... The grief and the guilt, and, and... Jonathan growing up with that. Did he ever get professional help?

JANET

He did not. He suffered from neither. No guilt, no grief. We kept waiting for it. We, uh, surrounded him with family support, certain that once the shock wore off, the suffering would begin. But it never did. Jonathan doesn't know how to suffer. After his sister was killed, he never even said he was sorry. After his sister was killed, he never said another word about it.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

He just went on living here until  
he was old enough to leave and  
never come back, which is what he  
did.