

START →

BRENDA

I mean, they want to make the Mall of America *bigger*?!

PAUL

I know!

(realizing he's shaking the sugars, stops)

How much bigger can it be? The first time I went to it, I lost my car for two hours.

BRENDA

I remember when the mall to go to was Southdale.

PAUL

Still is in my book. It's manageable. Plus they have that great pretzel place.

(starting to lose steam)

I really like the Warehouse District, too. There's a sushi place by the river that I think... I think--

(he grinds to a halt)

--I am full of shit. I am so incredibly full of shit. This is a lie. I've been lying to you. I am so sorry. This is really, really wrong.

(a beat)

My wife's still alive.

BRENDA

(pulling back, disgusted)

You're married?

(pissed, over it)

Of course you're married. Of course.

PAUL

This whole thing... It was her idea. My profile on Chapter Two, setting up this meeting... She has cancer. She's going to die of cancer. And she wants to know I'll be okay without her and that I'll get remarried. It's like she's planning the future for me when I just want the present to go on and on and on.

(Paul's emotions hit him)

(MORE)

BRENDA
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PAUL (cont'd)
Even if she weren't still here, I
don't know if I could do this.

Brenda sees Paul's honesty.

BRENDA
(softening)
I've been a widow for ten years.
It took five before I could even
think about going on a date. I'm
sorry this is happening to you,
Paul.

BRENDA
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PAUL
She really liked your profile. She
wishes you two could be friends.

Brenda smiles. A nice moment passes between them.

PAUL
(vulnerably)
How long does it take before you
forget them enough to go on?

Brenda shakes her head.

BRENDA
You never forget them.

STOP

This lands on Paul. Then--

A WAITRESS sets a large slice of cheesecake on the table.

WAITRESS
One cheesecake, two forks?

OFF Paul...

32 INT. CAFE - FRONT DOOR/HOSTESS STAND - MOMENTS LATER (D4) 32

The door swings open and Cathy enters, eager to find Paul and
return his wallet. Before she can really scan the room to
see him, the HOSTESS steps up to her.

HOSTESS
Table for one?

CATHY
No, thanks. I just need to give
someone their wallet. I'm sure
he's just--