

PAULINE SIDES #1

Reader reads THOMAS, VERA

Thomas: It feels wrong I don't know, it makes me wiggly.

Diana: It's perfectly natural. You're Thomas, I'm Diana. Hello Thomas.

Thomas: Hello.... No. No no.

(Thomas turns away, she touches his arm)

Diana: Wait, stay here. Hello Thomas.

Thomas: I'm going to have a stroke.

Diana: You're fine. Perfectly natural.

Thomas: Perfectly... perfectly perfect.

Diana: Hello Thomas.

Thomas: Hello-

(Pauline enters)

Pauline: Tommy. Hi.

(Thomas turns and sees Pauline. Beat. He looks back at Diana)

Thomas: And of course she had to show up and ruin everything.

SCENE 10 - Walks Like a Duck

October 20, 1991

(Thomas crosses downstage with Pauline following him)

Thomas: I said go away, Pauline.

Pauline: Just talk to me for a second.

Thomas: How dare you come here?!

Pauline: Tommy.

Thomas: Don't call me that.

Pauline: Your name?

Thomas: Only dead people call me that now.

Pauline: But that's what I call you.

Thomas: And you're dead to me.

Pauline: How can you say that?

Thomas: *(Southern accent, quoting Steel Magnolias) "I'm not as sweet as I used to be."*

Pauline: I'm sorry, okay? I wasn't thinking. I was angry.

Thomas: I'm not doing this.

Pauline: My therapist thinks that I-

Thomas: Therapist!? *(a cruel laugh)* You just throw that in there all nonchalant - *my therapist.*

Pauline: I've been seeing a therapist. He's really helped-

Thomas: Oh my God. Yes, of course you're seeing a therapist. That's exactly what you would do. Psychologize yourself into believing that *you're* the victim.

Pauline: That is not true!

Thomas: And then show up here to- to break everything again!

Pauline: Nothing's *broken.*

Thomas: EVERYTHING is broken! You abandoned me!!

Pauline: You played a part in this, too, and you know it.

Thomas: What?

Pauline: The names you called me.

Thomas: Walks like a duck.

Pauline: Tommy.

Thomas: Thomas. I'm dying with my full name. It's a matter of integrity.

Pauline: Just talk to me for a second.

Thomas: How did you even know I was here?

Pauline: I've been calling, and I-

Thomas: Oh my God.

Pauline: What?

Thomas: You heard.

Pauline: What do you mean?

Thomas: About who was coming to visit.

Pauline: Well I read about it, but no that's not why-

Thomas: You thought that you'd get a chance to meet her.

Pauline: No. What? No!

Thomas: I can't freaking believe you.

Pauline: I didn't even know you were in a HOSPICE TOMMY!

Thomas: WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE?!

Pauline: I came here to see you.

Thomas: Yeah? Then how about a hug? No?

Pauline: That is not fair.

Thomas: Come on. It's Tommy!! You asshole. You disappointment. Why would you come here?! You were dealt with, Pauline! You were gone!

Pauline: No I wasn't!

Thomas: *(face in hands)* What have you done?

(Vera enters)

Vera: Everything okay?

Pauline: I don't think he's feeling well.

Thomas: It's broken again.

Vera: Need to go back to your room?

Thomas: Yes.

Pauline: I'll be back, Tommy. I'll be here again tomorrow.

Thomas: With any luck I won't be. **END**

(Thomas exits with Vera behind, helping)

Pauline: Excuse me, I'm his sister, Pauline-

Vera: Hi-

Pauline: Can you tell me how he's doing?

Vera: *(Catching up to Thomas)* Sorry.

(Vera exits. Pauline stands for a moment;)

Pauline: I'll be back, Tommy!

(She hesitates, then exits.)

SCENE 11 - What is That Smell?

(In the bedroom, Andre is in bed reading. Marjorie enters like a secret agent holding a large brown paper bag)

Marjorie: *(conspiratorially)* The dog barks at midnight, but only when the moon is full.

Andre: Um. Are you okay?

Marjorie: I come bearing top secret contraband.

Andre: What?

Marjorie: You are sworn to secrecy.

Andre: Is it... weed?