

Josefina

JOSEFINA

Because I can't discuss it. Not with a resident.

PEG

I'm not a resident. I live in Silver Pines.

JOSEFINA

But you are a very frequent guest in the common area of a long term care facility. The residents of which I am responsible for.

PEG

I'm not talking about facilities, or protocol or legal requirements - I just think as a person, he deserves more.

JOSEFINA

You think I don't?

PEG

I'm not saying...

JOSEFINA

What would you have me do? A twenty-one gun salute? Fireworks?

PEG

No, I -

JOSEFINA

Maybe we should have a parade?

PEG

Of course not, but just taking a moment to-

JOSEFINA

All I do is take moments. I take moments with the families. I take moments with the staff. I take moments with the departed. I already sat with Johnny this morning. I got the call at six am. I came in, and I sat on the end of his bed and I told him the jukebox was here. I told him how pretty it was, and how grateful we are and how much we'd miss him. I closed his eyes for him. I sat alone with him for thirty minutes and I held his hand and I talked to a man who walked the same sidewalks I did as a kid. A man I've known for years. How long should I take in these moments, Peg?

start

You want to give me a chart or something, since you're such an authority on bereavement?

PEG

We have all experienced loss-

JOSEFINA

That must be nice, having loss as an experience. I have it as a job. And believe it or not, telling the family is the easy part. They expect it. A phone call from Placid Pines is never good news. But you tell them and they take over the process – the emotions, the grieving. It's when there's no family to tell. Then me and my tiny staff, we have to do the feeling for everybody. And we grieve while we're doing paperwork or donating clothes or throwing away slippers or toothbrushes or little framed photos of people who never visited!

A pause.

You try my job for five goddamn minutes and then talk to me about how cold or unfeeling I am or how upset I'm supposed to be or how little I care. Until then, how 'bout you keep all your "Pearly Gate" opinions to yourself?

Josefina exits. A long pause. Dennis reaches into the bag strapped to his wheelchair and removes the bottle of brandy and takes a sip. Annie attempts to break the awkward silence.

ANNIE

(to Peg)

She was... she was very rude.

Dennis offers the bottle of brandy to Peg. She takes it.

PEG

She was very right.