CHRIS
Not a chance. Raye and Paul kissed. I wonder what else Raye never told me about this night.

A pulse of light or a flicker of lightning and a "ripple in time" sound as CHRIS exits. A moment later RAYE enters.

RAYE
Hello??? Is anybody here? *(Looks around.)* Where the hell am I?

BLACKOUT. END OF ACT.

ACT TWO: THE WOODS

RACHAEL enters carrying the basket.

RACHAEL
How did I end up lugging this around!

CHRIS enters.

RACHAEL
Oh, there you are. Everything okay? Not going to run off?

CHRIS
Raye?

RACHAEL
Raye? You've never called me that before.

CHRIS
I mean Rachael.

RACHAEL
What happened to your coat?

CHRIS
My coat? I ahh...put it someplace for safe keeping.

RACHAEL
Oh, okay then. Maybe we can pick up where we left off. You told me to hold your place.

RACHAEL starts to unbutton CHRIS's shirt. He gently takes her hand. CHRIS looks at RACHAEL seeing the young beautiful woman he married.

RACHAEL
What? Why are you staring at me like that?

CHRIS
My God, you are so beautiful.

RACHAEL is flattered and embarrassed. She grabs two beers from the basket.

RACHAEL
I got some beer. You want one or are you sticking with your Scotch?

CHRIS
Scotch? Oh I must've left it in my coat . . . maybe later.

RACHAEL
It's warm anyway.

RACHAEL puts the beers back in the cooler. CHRIS studies RACHAEL for a moment.

RACHAEL
What is it? Do I have a spider on me?

CHRIS
What? No.

RACHAEL
I feel like everyone's studying me like some bug under a microscope.

CHRIS
I just wanted to sit and look at you for moment.

RACHAEL
Is something wrong?

CHRIS
I'm sorry. I was just thinking about life...thirty years from now.

RACHAEL

*(Laughs.)*Thirty years?

CHRIS

What do you hope your future will be like?

RACHAEL

Well... *(Thinking.)* I hope that by the time I turn fifty I'll have achieved what I wanted in life.

CHRIS

What is that?

RACHAEL

To teach, of course. Be surrounded by family and friends.

CHRIS

What about adventure?

RACHAEL

Sure. Who wouldn't. How about you ?

CHRIS

Me?

RACHAEL

Yeah. What do you hope you'll have done by fifty?

CHRIS

Go someplace else. Maybe go sky diving, climb Mt. Everest. You know, adventure.

CHRIS glances to see what her response to this is.

RACHAEL

Wow. That sounds pretty amazing. My kind of adventure would be sitting on the dock with a drink and watching the sunset in the Florida Keys.

CHRIS

(Wistfully.) I would have liked that, too.

RACHAEL

You want to jump out of a planes <u>and</u> watch sunsets? How does that work?

CHRIS
Yeah. *(Laughs.)* It isn't just about an adrenaline rush. It's about--

RACHAEL
--having someone to share it with.

CHRIS
(Smiles.) Yes. Yes it is.

RACHAEL
What about family?

CHRIS
If I had it to do over again, I'd wait a little longer to have kids.

RACHAEL
(Laughs.) If you had it to do over? Do you have some secret kids hidden away somewhere?

CHRIS
No.

RACHAEL
I wouldn't mind ending up like my grandparents. They didn't visit exotic places, but they had nearly sixty years together and they still held hands. I hope I'll find someone special like they did. That's the future I want.

CHRIS
When you're young the future seems so far away. You promise yourself you're going to do so many things. Then you wake up one day, and discover that somewhere along the way time passed, and you didn't get to the things you wanted to do.

RACHAEL
You're the expert?

CHRIS
What if I told you I... had a dream about the future.

RACHAEL
Now you're psychic, too? You and Joan.

CHRIS
What?

RACHAEL
Never mind.

CHRIS
(Hesitates.) You were in my dream.

RACHAEL
I was?

CHRIS
Yes.

RACHAEL
Really? Where did I live?

CHRIS
Right here. You never left.

RACHAEL
Was I married?

CHRIS
Yes.

RACHAEL
To who?

CHRIS
(Thinks whether to tell the truth and then decides not to.) I couldn't tell.

RACHAEL
Was I happy?

CHRIS
Sometimes.

RACHAEL
Sometimes? You sure you didn't have a nightmare?

CHRIS
It wasn't all bad.

RACHAEL
What did I look like?

CHRIS
You were very attractive. You hadn't aged much at all, and people thought you were much younger than you really were.

RACHAEL
That's good.

RACHAEL
I don't usually dream at night.

CHRIS
Everybody dreams. You just don't remember them.

RACHAEL
The only dreams I remember are usually where someone is being awful.

CHRIS
Yeah, and you punch in your sleep.

RACHAEL
I what?

CHRIS
I mean. I bet you punch in your sleep.

RACHAEL
(Looks up at moon.) You know that moon is very romantic.

CHRIS
It makes you believe in love and "happily-ever-afters".

RACHAEL
It does.

CHRIS
I just wish that's how love really worked.

RACHAEL
What do you mean?

CHRIS
I mean, sure... *(A beat to gather his thoughts.)*... at the beginning love is like that coat we picked out. You think the coat will last forever, but pretty soon little threads start coming loose, buttons come off, you get stains that won't come out.

But you ignore it for so many years until it's finally just hanging in pieces. You don't even know how that happened. Maybe it wasn't a good coat to start with. Maybe you should have picked a different coat.

RACHAEL

I didn't force you to pick that coat.

A pulse of light or flicker of lightning in the sky with a soft ripple sound.

CHRIS

(He is now fully in his head and doesn't think about where he is or the repercussions.) And all these shadows of people and dreams from the past start to call out to you. You start seeing their faces in people you meet even the waitresses who brings you a drink, and it gnaws at you, and makes you question the decisions you made. You remember that warm wonderful coat and you wonder if you'll ever be able to wear it again. *(And now he transitions to speaking to RACHAEL as though she is RAYE.)* And before I can figure out things <u>you</u> have the nerve to tell me to throw it away and that it isn't worth fixing!

RACHAEL

I have the nerve?

CHRIS

Yes. Just when I'm at my most vulnerable and trying to sort through what's real and what are just shadows, you tell me to find someplace else to sleep all because of something I said about Emily!

RACHAEL

Excuse me?! I don't know who you think I am, but I've never told you to throw away your coat! And why should I care what you said about Emily? Why don't you go find Emily tell her your dreams!

RACHAEL starts to storm off. Then just before she exits turns back to talk.

You can take your coat and go to hell!

RACHAEL storms off.

CHRIS

(He suddenly realizes what he has done.) Oh, my God! *(Calling after her.)* Raye! Rachael! Wait!