

BILL.

No. No. I just ...
didn't *know*.
That's all.

SECOND EPISODE

Madeline appears at the top of the hill, talking to herself. The women and Bill watch her.

MADELINE.

I never should have let him study in London!
I never should have let him go so far from home.
He was too young.
Much too young to go so far from home.
I should have made him wait for a year.
I should have been more firm.
I should have said no.
I should have just said
"No, no, no you cannot go!"
Oh God,
Why didn't I say that...?
(Pause.)
And why did I choose Pan Am over Delta?
There were two boxes on the application form!
Why didn't I
check
the *box*
for *Delta*?
(Pause.)
And I should have let him stay an extra day with his friends!
But I said:
"No, I want you home for Christmas."
I want you home for the party.
You need to hang the Christmas lights for your father,

your father has a bad back and he needs you to help him.”

(Pause.)

Oh God ...

(Pause.)

And why did I plan the party for Friday?

I should have planned it for Saturday!

If I had planned the party for Saturday

he wouldn't have been on that plane.

He would have come home a day later.

He never would have died.

Yes, if I had planned the party for Saturday,

he never would have died ...

(Bill approaches her gently.)

BILL.

Maddie ...

we couldn't have the party on Saturday.

Remember?

Saturday was Christmas eve.

We never had the party on Christmas eve.

We always had the party the day before.

MADELINE.

You can have a party on Christmas eve!

BILL.

Yes, but we never did that.

MADELINE.

He could have flown on Delta! —

BILL.

— You didn't like Delta —

MADELINE.

— I could have said,

“No, you cannot go to London.”

I could have said

“Yes, you can come home whenever you want!”

BILL.

You let him go because you loved him
And you brought him home because you missed him.
You did what any mother would do!

MADELINE.

I should have hung the Christmas lights!

BILL.

Maddie ...

MADELINE.

I could have gotten up on that ladder myself!

BILL.

I wouldn't have let you!

Maddie!

There was nothing you could have done to stop this.

This tragedy didn't happen because of you!

Get ahold of yourself!

(Madeline turns and heads back to the hills.)

Maddie!

Come back, please!

(Pause.) Maddie?

(Pause.) Sweetheart?

(Pause.) Please?

(Madeline disappears over the top of the hill.)

Oh God. She's getting even worse.