

Start

(JUNO)

All recently deceased individuals... FORM A LINE!

(The DEAD line up, pulling CHARLES and LYDIA into line with them.)

CHARLES

This doesn't seem good.

JUNO

My name is Juno. It is my job to help EASE your transition OUT of the OVERWHELMING EMOTION OF LIFE...

(gesturing to the space beyond the detector)

... and IN-to the soothing solitude that awaits you in THE NETHERWORLD. Also: No liquids! DRINK IT OR THROW IT OUT!

(DING! One of the DEAD steps through and vanishes into The Netherworld. LYDIA breaks the line to approach JUNO.)

LYDIA

My mom's dead. Is she in there?

JUNO

Everyone who's ever died is in there. But honey, whatever you think you're looking for... you're not gonna find it.

LYDIA

I've come this far. I have to try.

CHARLES

Lydia, no!

(But LYDIA's already bolted through the detector. Sirens blare. The machinery grinds to a halt.)

JUNO

WE GOT A RUNNER!

End

Start

(CHARLES rushes on.)

CHARLES: Lydia! We have to go home.

LYDIA: I don't have a home.

CHARLES: Look, I know things have been difficult—

LYDIA: She was my whole world! And she left us. And you won't even say her name.

CHARLES: (*erupting*) BECAUSE IT HURTS TOO MUCH!

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(CHARLES): (*and then... a confession*) She was my world too, Lydia. That's why I've been trying so hard to build a new one.

LYDIA: But Dad, there's no one in it. We left each other behind. We're all alone.

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CHARLES: (*stunned*) You're right... You know your mother knew this was going to happen. I mean, not *this*. I don't think anyone could have predicted this. But a few nights before she... before the end... Emily took my hand and she said, "I know you want to fix it... but we just have to hold onto each other and live through it." I thought she was talking about us... (*meaning CHARLES and EMILY*)

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(CHARLES)

... I think she was talking about...

(*He gestures to LYDIA.*)

us.

End

(#44 – HOME (PART 2) begins.)

Start

MAXIE

Chuuuuck, you old dog! Put 'er there!

CHARLES

Maxie! So glad you could make it. Welcome... to our model home.

(A cadre of LAWYERS enter.)

LAWYERS

Charles. Mr. Deetz. Hello.

CHARLES

You brought your legal team?

MAXIE

I never leave home without 'em. Oh! Have you met my fourth wife!?

(MAXINE laughs way too hard.)

MAXINE

I'm his fifth wife.

CHARLES

I see. I'm um, I'd like you both to meet my fiancée, Delia.

DELIA

(bowing)

Na-mas-te.

MAXINE

Tira-mi-su!

CHARLES

Why don't we eat?

(They all cross to the table.)

LYDIA

(offstage)

Oh Father, dear? Did I hear the dinner bell? **End**

SCENE 11: THE NETHERWORLD

(Lights rise on a bizarre series of what looks like crooked picture frames in a ramshackle mise en abyme. AKA: a mind-bending Burtonscape.)

Lydia? **CHARLES**

Dad? **LYDIA**

Are you alright? **CHARLES**

You followed me... **LYDIA**

CHARLES
(looking around)
What... is this place?

(A deceased beauty queen with a clipboard – MISS ARGENTINA – enters and sees them.)

MISS ARGENTINA
This... is the Netherworld. Welcome! I am the once and forever Miss Argentina. I died with this sash, they can never take it away! Let's get you processed.

LYDIA
Actually, we're alive?

MISS ARGENTINA
That's impossible! You have to go back. NOW. Before Juno sees you—

CHARLES
Juno?

LYDIA
I'm not going back. I'm here to find my—

(#40 – WHAT I KNOW NOW begins.)