# **JEFF**

Hi. I didn't know you were coming. Welcome to my home away from home.

### JILL

What happened here?

# **JEFF**

Um a lamp got broken.

### JILL

And you're sleeping on a futon?

### **JEFF**

Yeah, sometimes I want a bed. Sometimes I want a couch. It's Spartan, but it's everything I need.

### JILL

Where does Will sleep?

# **JEFF**

Oh, I have an inflatable mattress.

He thinks it's like a water bed, only with air.

### JILL

You could be in a suite at the Four Seasons, Jeff.

### **JEFF**

I'm happy here. What you don't see are the memories.

My first apartment short stroll right across campus.

# JILL

Before I say what I'm going to say, you should know that your son was very touched by what you did. I didn't expect that.

# **JEFF**

We raised a good boy.

# JILL

But the guilt that I felt for wanting a sixth pair of shoes

JEFF Who said you couldn't have shoes? -
JILL or a car that's just fun -
JEFF It's a lot of shoes.
JILL and fast to drive
JEFF You want another car? Get another car.
JILL or for hating the man
JEFF Get six cars one for every day of the week.
JILL who drove a snack truck into our family, and meanwhile, you are writing checks for his rent, his utility bills? You're paying his garbage pickup?
JEFF He has a daughter. Someday she's gonna have to go to college.
JILL We had a son, and he will never go to college!
JEFF Denny hurt his back in the accident.
JILL Denny?
JEFF He walks with a cane now.

# JILL

Of course you're on a first-name basis with him! Did you not think how giving that man money - would make me feel? -

**JEFF** 

He can't drive anymore. Workmen's compensation won't cover the cost of a single-parent household.

Someone has to look out for him.

We weren't the only ones who lost something.

JILL

We're the only ones that matter.

**JEFF** 

I devoted an entire show to Phil's death, an honest show. They're gonna air it soon.

JILL

I don't watch Puppet Time anymore.

Watching it makes me want to swallow my tongue.

**JEFF** 

You shouldn't blame that man for what happened.

JILL

I don't blame him. I hate him. I blame myself for what happened.

**JEFF** 

It was an accident a stray burst of electrons through a stoplight.

JILL

A broken lamp.

**JEFF** 

An act of God. He's not the bad guy. Neither are you, Jill. No one is.

JILL

That's what you don't get. Next to you, I am the bad guy. I always am.

**JEFF** 

No, you're a wonderful person, and I miss you - more than anything.

### JILL

Oh, I loved you, Jeff, but after the accident, when all the cards arrived they were all addressed to you.

# **JEFF**

They were meant for both of us.

# JILL

You're Santa. I'm Mrs. Claus. Santa brings joy.

Mrs. Claus brings kibble to the reindeer.

Well, I don't live on the North Pole anymore. I live in reality now. It's not as colorful, but I see the world how it really is.

# **JEFF**

The world is a perfect circle of endless possibilities.

# JILL

It's not a circle. It's a hole.

### JILL

That truck driver He didn't hurt his back in the accident.

Maybe he told you he did, but that is called a lie.

He just wants your money. He's stealing from you, and teaching Will a magic trick isn't gonna get him to stop smoking pot. And when you screw a woman you just met and she doesn't call you back, it's not 'cause her phone is broken. It's 'cause she doesn't like you! I'm sorry, but this is where we live.

Please, join us.