

I wanted to be a doctor when I was a kid. Katie was into sports, volleyball and softball. She was really good. She got hurt at practice one time and we had to take her to the hospital. There was this doctor there and all the nurses, and everybody just stood back when he came over to check Katie's knee. They looked at him like he was a god or the president or something. He told them what to do and they all ran to do what he said. He knew right away what was wrong, and what to do, and how to fix her. That's what I wanted. For everybody to look at me like that. To fix things and have everybody know that I knew how to fix anything.

(lights down on NATE)

LUCAS

So you were in med school and Lily was in dental school? Did you meet on campus?

JAMES

We met at a party. I knew right away that she was the one. Don't ask me how, because there were a hundred other girls there, but Lily was special. The party was at this apartment complex where a bunch of us lived. It was super cold but she was out back on the patio with a couple of other girls. I was kind of shy back then.

LUCAS

But you went up to her? You talked to her?

JAMES

She came up to me. I was standing there in the doorway and she turned around and I was just immediately in love. Can't explain it. And she called over that if I was coming out, would I bring her a beer? And I didn't know what to do, so I went back in and grabbed like five different beers because I couldn't see what she was drinking and I didn't want to get it wrong. Like it was some kind

of test. So I had all these beers in my arm and when I got back outside and tried to show her so she could pick one, I dropped them all. Beer and glass all over the patio. Five hours later we were will out there freezing. We got married fourth year, graduated the same time. And by the time I got my residency at Boston and she got a job in town, that's when we found out she was pregnant.

EDEN

With your daughter Caroline?

JAMES

(subdued). No. That was our first son, Johnathan. He was stillborn.

EDEN

I'm sorry. That must have been very difficult for you.

JAMES

Yes.

ACT I

SCENE 4

(EDEN and LUCAS return to NATE. JAMES sits quietly in his chair.)

JAMES

I thought I might lose Lily when our second son was born prematurely. It was a constant roller coaster the whole time he was in the NICU. They called us at four in the morning and told us he'd coded. We weren't there when he died. And Lily...well, Lily was a mother with no baby. Again. She got pregnant again within six months. I didn't want her to. But she wanted a baby more than anything she'd ever wanted in her life. So we tried one more time. With a high-risk obstetrician. He put her on bedrest for the last half of her pregnancy, and her mother moved in with us to help. All three of us in a one-bedroom apartment. It was awful. But it worked.

EDEN

(to NATE) So your sister Katie is how much older than you?

NATE

Four years.

EDEN

She sounds like quite the athlete.

NATE

She was.

EDEN

Did you play any sports in school?

NATE

I wasn't good enough at any of them.

EDEN