

PERFECT STILLNESS

JANE MILLER

CHARACTERS

ANNIE: Early 30's
TIM: Early 30's
HARRISON: 40ish

TIM IS SITTING IN A ROOM IN A FUNERAL HOME. HE IS SITTING AT A DESK WRITING ON SOME NOTE PAPER. NEAR THE DESK, IS A CASKET ON A STAND. A FEW SECONDS PASS. ANNIE SITS UP IN THE CASKET.

ANNIE: How long that time?

TIM: 28 Seconds. I think.

ANNIE: I'll need to get better than that.

TIM: Why?

ANNIE: My eternal journey. I'd better be able to lie perfectly still for longer than 28 seconds. How long do you think you could do it for?

TIM: I've never tried to do it.

ANNIE: You should. You should try to do it. Master it. Perfect stillness.

TIM: I don't want to do it. I have to work on this.

ANNIE: I'll keep practicing.
(PAUSE)
Where is that guy? Shouldn't he be here by now?

TIM: Why are you in such a hurry? I don't want to see him. I'd be happy if he never came back.

ANNIE: Not ever? I think that's slightly unrealistic, Sweetheart.

TIM: If he comes I am not sure I am even going to let him in. I locked the door.

ANNIE: Timmy.....

TIM: I think I've finished.

ANNIE: Really? Is it done? Are you sure?

TIM: I think it's finished. It's been difficult but I think its okay.

ANNIE: Well done. I knew you could do it. Can I see?

TIM: Is that normal?

ANNIE: Is this?

TIM: I'll read it to you....It is a draft....Keep that in mind.

ANNIE: Absolutely. Understood.

TIM: I've never done this before.

ANNIE: I've never done this before.

TIM: This is going to be strange.

ANNIE: I know but imagine how much worse it will be on Wednesday. Through the tears....

(TIM STARTS TO READ)

TIM: When I think of Annie, I feel an incredible feeling of love and warmth. She was always so happy and so-

ANNIE: Sweetheart. Can I just stop you there? "Always so happy?" Isn't that overdoing it a little? I mean obviously I was happy....at times. "Always so happy" makes me sound like some kind of giggling idiot...

TIM: Too much?

ANNIE: It's really sweet...But...Cut it. I think. What do you think?

TIM: Okay. I'll go on. When we met Annie was 21 and I was instantly attracted to her. We met at a pub where I was having a few drinks with my cousin and she was with some girlfriends-

ANNIE: Actually that's not completely accurate....

TIM: What? You were 21.....

ANNIE: Well yes....Yes....I wasn't with some girlfriends. I was actually with a guy from work. We had been out a few times. When I met you that night I gave him the push.....

TIM: What? You said you were with some girlfriends....you even pointed to a group of girls.....

ANNIE: I know. I didn't want you to lose interest. I really liked you so I told him we should call it a night...Actually, I told him I had a headache and then I went out and waited 10 minutes while he left, and came back in. I thought