

EAST. Yeah —

GLORY. yeah! I passed through near there on my way here, and, by the way, (*Scanning the horizon.*) where is “here,” where am I? I couldn’t find it on my map.

EAST. Um ... Almost.

GLORY. What?

EAST. You’re in unorganized territory. Township Thirteen, Range Seven. (*Glory checks her map.*) It’s not gonna be on your map, cause it’s not an actual town, technically.

GLORY. What // do you mean —

EAST. See, to be a town, you gotta get organized. And we never got around to gettin’ organized, so ... we’re just Almost.

GLORY. Oh ... (*They enjoy this. Beat. Glory now deals with the fact that she is missing her bag. She was clutching it to her chest, and now it’s gone. This should upset her so much that it seems like it affects her breathing.*) Oh! Oh!

EAST. What? What’s wrong?

GLORY. (*Seeming to be having trouble breathing.*) My heart!

EAST. What? Are you // okay?

GLORY. My heart! (*Seeing that he has her bag; pointing to the bag.*)

EAST. What?

GLORY. You have my *heart!*

EAST. I — ?

GLORY. In that bag, it’s in that bag! >

EAST. Oh.

GLORY. Please give it back, // please! It’s my heart. I need it. Please!

EAST. Okay, okay, okay. (*He gives her the bag.*)

GLORY. Thank you. (*Her breathing normalizes.*)

EAST. You’re welcome. (*A long beat while East considers what he has just heard.*) I’m sorry, did you just say that ... your heart is in that bag?, is that what you just said?, that // your heart — ...?

GLORY. Yes.

EAST. (*Considers.*) It’s heavy.

GLORY. Yes.

EAST. (*Beat.*) Why is it in that bag?

GLORY. It’s how I carry it around.

EAST. Why?

GLORY. It’s broken.

EAST. What happened?

GLORY. Wes broke it.

EAST. Your husband?

GLORY. Yeah. He went away.

EAST. Oh.

GLORY. With someone else.

EAST. Oh, I'm sorry.

GLORY. Yeah. And when he did that, I felt like my heart would break. And that's exactly what happened. It broke: hardened up and cracked in two. Hurt so bad, I had to go to the hospital, and when I got there, they told me they were gonna have to take it out. And when they took it out, they dropped it on the floor and it broke into nineteen pieces. Slate. (*Gently shakes the bag, which should be filled with small [a heart is the size of its owner's fist] pieces of slate — they make a great sound when shaken.*) It turned to slate. (*Beat. She looks back up at the sky.*)

EAST. (*Takes this in. Beat. His only response to what she has just told him is:*) Great for roofing. (*Glory just looks at East. Beat. Then:*) Wait a second, how do you breathe? If your heart is in that bag, how are you alive?

GLORY. (*Indicating the heart that's now in her chest.*) Artificial ...

EAST. Really.

GLORY. Yeah. 'Cause my real one's broken.

EAST. Then — why do you carry it around with you?

GLORY. It's my heart.

EAST. But it's broken.

GLORY. Yeah.

EAST. 'Cause your husband left you.

GLORY. Yeah.

EAST. Well, why are you paying your respects to him if he left you?

GLORY. Because that's what you do when a person dies, you pay them respects —

EAST. But he left you, >

GLORY. Yeah, but —

EAST. and it seems to me that a man who leaves somebody doesn't deserve any respects.

GLORY. (*Deflecting.*) Well, I just didn't leave things well with him, >

EAST. (*Pressing.*) What do you mean? —

GLORY. and I need to apologize to him.

EAST. But he left you! >

GLORY. I know, but I —

EAST. Why should you apologize?

GLORY. Because!

EAST. Because why?!?

GLORY. Because I killed him!

EAST. Oh. (*This stops East; he backs off a bit.*)

GLORY. And I'd like to apologize. (*Beat. Then, admission:*) See, he had come to visit me when I was in recovery from when they put my artificial heart in — I was almost better; I was just about to go home, too — and he said he wanted me back. And I said, "Wes, I have a new heart now. I'm sorry ... It doesn't want you back ... " And that just killed him.

EAST. (*Relief.*) Oh. But, it didn't kill him, you didn't *kill* him —

GLORY. Yes, I did! Because he got so sad that my new heart didn't want him back, that he just tore outta the hospital, and ... an ambulance that was comin' in from an emergency didn't see him and just ... took him right out, and if I'd have been able to take him back, >

EAST. Glory —

GLORY. he wouldn't have torn outta there like that, >

EAST. Glory!

GLORY. and been just taken out like that, and so, I just feel that, for closure, the right thing to do is — (*Inexplicably drawn to her, East kisses Glory. When she pulls away, he has her heart again. She takes it back.*) Please don't do that anymore.

EAST. Why?, I love you!

GLORY. Well, don't.

EAST. Why?

GLORY. Because I won't be able to love you back: I have a heart that can pump my blood and that's all. The one that does the other stuff is broken. It doesn't work anymore. (*Again, inexplicably drawn to her, East deliberately kisses Glory. Glory pulls away. East has her heart again. Glory grabs it from him; East grabs it right back.*)

EAST. Please let me have this.

GLORY. (*Desperately trying to get her heart back.*) No! It's mine!

EAST. (*Keeping her heart.*) I can fix it!

GLORY. I don't know if I want you to!

EAST. Glory — !

GLORY. (*Going after her heart.*) East, please give that back to me!

EAST. (*Keeping her heart.*) But, it's broken. >

GLORY. Please — !

EAST. It's no good like this.

GLORY. But, it's my heart, East!

EAST. Yes, it is. And I believe I have it. (*This stops Glory. Beat.*) And I can fix it. (*Beat.*) I'm a repairman. I repair things. It's what I do. (*Beat. East crouches, gently places the bag on the ground, and starts to open it in order to examine its contents. Music. As he opens the bag, music up, and the northern lights appear — in front of Glory, above Glory, on the field of stars behind Glory. Glory sees them ... and they're a thing of wonder.*)

GLORY. Oh! Oh, wow! Oh, wow! Oh, they're so beautiful ... (*Remembering who they are.*) Oh! Oh! — Wes!! Wes!! Goodbye! I'm so sorry! ... Goodbye, Wes! (*And the northern lights — and Wes — are gone. Glory turns to East, who has taken a little piece of her heart out of the bag, and is examining it. Music out. Then, in the clear:*) Hello, East. (*Music continues. East looks at Glory, and then begins repairing her heart ... as the lights fade. Transitional aurora. End of "Her Heart." After the lights have faded and "Her Heart" is over, we begin Scene Two, which is entitled ...*

## SAD AND GLAD

*Music fades. Lights fade up on Jimmy sitting alone at a table in a back corner of Almost, Maine's local hang-out, the Moose Paddy. He is nursing a couple of Buds. Sandrine enters. She is coming from the ladies' room and is cheerily heading back to her friends, who are up front. She passes Jimmy. Jimmy sees Sandrine, stops her.*

JIMMY. Sandrine!

SANDRINE. Hmm? (*Beat. This is a bit awkward — awful, actually. Then, overcompensating:*) Jimmy!

JIMMY. Hey!

SANDRINE. Hey!

JIMMY. Hey!!

SANDRINE. Hey!!

JIMMY/SANDRINE. (*Jimmy hugs Sandrine. Sandrine doesn't really take the hug or hug him back.*) Heyyyyy!!!

JIMMY. How you doin'???

SANDRINE. Doin' pretty good! How are you doin'???