

\*excerpt 4pg sample *SAUGERTIES*

HE  
You felt it. As soon as I saw you—

SHE  
Don't.

HE  
My finger brushed the back of your hand—

SHE  
(covering ears)  
No!

HE  
I didn't know who you were!

SHE  
You could have stayed with Mom and me but you didn't, you went off on your journey, the journey that is your life and you didn't give a fuck what happened to anybody else and now you circle back on me and Mom...

HE  
She's not any part of this, she's gone.

SHE  
But I feel her! She's right here!

HE  
Maybe so. Maybe there's some energy floating round the universe, but the person? She's not here, she's dead. We're gonna scatter her, we're going to watch the ashes float and settle and let go.

SHE  
You miss her too!

HE  
We had our time together, we weren't making each other happy, but with you it's different.

SHE  
Because she raised me with so much love— (BEAT) Oh my God, you planned it!

HE

I planned it? I had no clue, so help me God. All I wanted to do was to make that woman happy. I took out the garbage, I gave her foot massages and played her weird games; she said she was dying for a baby, so I got her one. Look, we were broken; we were splashing around in the gutter climbing up on each other's backs to get out. Was I stupid to think a baby would make a difference? Well I had to try, so yea, I got that baby. You. I got you I wasn't stupid, I knew the odds, I just had hope you know? I wanted to give her a family, to be a family with her, I was crazy about her, but she was just plain crazy—push you off the cliff crazy. So I left. That's what happened. I said I'm going out for cigarettes and I never went back.

SHE

You didn't even say goodbye.

HE

Look it isn't easy walking away even if everything's gone to shit. You love her, you hang in there until somebody pries your fingers off the ledge. She wanted me to go, she never wanted to be a wife she wanted to be a mother. So, I gave her that and I gotta believe she was happier. She was, look at you. She reached inside and found some kind of love; that was never going to happen with me. And then years later there you were like a miracle. A complete surprise in my relatively miserable existence just shining there. And you wanted me too, I couldn't believe it. So you may think I'm making it up like it's insane but I swear I didn't know and if I felt anything—hey everybody's got a little history rattling round in there—I didn't know anything until I saw that picture. And even then—but by then it was too late. Call me a coward, but it's not what you think.

SHE

She gave me everything, everything she had, she loved me more than herself.

HE

Maybe so.

SHE

I would have never come near you!

HE

What we have, what you feel for me, it's nothing you can ever have with anyone else—

SHE

If you'd told me-

HE

Then we would never have gone to Iceland and seen the Aurora Borealis.

SHE

That trip.

HE

That night.

SHE

The sky was shimmering.

HE

It was like the world was beginning again.

SHE

You curled around me.

HE

I held you close—

SHE

You kept me warm.

HE

The light came pouring through that tent flap and suddenly you were bathed in green, you'd transformed into someone I'd never seen before but I recognized you, though everything else was changing.

SHE

The light was so strange and the sky was crackling.

HE

I held on no matter how much you changed.

SHE

I wasn't afraid.

HE

Everything I'd thought mattered was completely inconsequential. I wanted to fall on my knees but I couldn't because I was holding you.

SHE

Then we were quiet together.

HE

Hushed.

SHE

It was dark, so very dark.

HE

We lay there under that inky blanket of sky and we kept each other warm.  
(they lie together on the bed.)

HE

I saw that picture, the one in your bedroom. It didn't look like her at all, she'd gotten so old —  
when I saw that picture I didn't feel anything. It was like a postcard from another life.

(SHE turns and meets his eyes. HE curls around her, spooning without touching. SHE reaches back and takes his hand. They bend around each other.)

“Blackout”

END OF PLAY