

***Time Stands Still* by Donald Margulies**

MANDY

(Mandy is a twenty-five-year-old event planner. She is married to Richard who is fifty-five.)

Um. Listen, I know how much you and Richard mean to each other. I know; Richard told me. (A beat.) But you stayed friends. That's wonderful. And I came along and it's like: "Who is she? Oh, she must be Richard's midlife crisis." Well, I'm not. Okay? Whatever it was that brought us together, we're together. For real. This is not a passing "thing." I love Richard. He is a very good man. Probably the nicest man I've ever known. He's smart, and kind, and caring. And I love his voice; I love the way he sounds. So, he's a lot older than me. So what? It's not like I go around thinking, "Oh my God, he's like three years younger than my dad!" 'Cause I don't. All that matters – to me, anyway – is he takes care of me. He makes me feel safe. And one day, when he's old, and demented? I'll take care of him. Look. I know I have a lot to learn.