

SARAH

(Stepping back) Good to see you
dad.

NORMAN

It's great to see you, Sarah.

SARAH

How is the clock coming along?

He looks at her confused for a moment then remembers.

NORMAN

Oh, the clock, I finished that last
year.

SARAH

(Showing remorse) I'm sorry, has it
been that long.

NORMAN

No worries. Let me show you what
I've been working on.

He picks up the wood carved box from the workbench and
turns the crank at the bottom.

NORMAN

Listen.

Sarah listens intently. Norman hands her the box.

SARAH

It's beautiful. (Pause) I'm sorry,
I've been away so long.

NORMAN

No problem, Sarah, I know you have

things to do.

SARAH

(Uncertainly) Dad? (Pause) Aren't
you are afraid of well you know ---
death?

Norman pauses for a moment and a look of concern comes
over his face. He gently puts the music box down and
holds her hand.

NORMAN

I'm not going to die Sarah.

Sarah turns away.

CONTINUED:

(CONTINUED)

16.

SARAH

I'm serious dad. (Her eyes begin
to water) I don't want to lose
you. (Pause) Why don't you do it?

NORMAN

(Confidently) I am.

She slowly turns around, wiping the tears from her face.

SARAH

No, you won't. You always say
that. I bet you're thinking right
now of another excuse to put it
off for next year.

His eye waver for a moment trying to find a place to hide
then he smiles.

NORMAN

(Warmly) You know me too well
Sarah. (Putting up his wrists as
if in handcuffs) Guilty as
charged.

SARAH

(Angry) I don't get it dad. I just
don't get it. Why put it off
again? If you keep doing that one
day it will be too late.
Clarice has already just about
given up on you, you know.

NORMAN

I know.

SARAH

Then why? Why not just go through
with it this time? It will solve
everything. What is it? The
procedure is safe and has been
done millions of times over. What
are you afraid of?

They sit in silence for few moments then he begins slowly

NORMAN

My dearest Sarah, don't worry I
won't die. I won't leave you. You
see I'm not afraid that the
procedure will fail. How could I?

CONTINUED: (2)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Almost everyone that I know has gone through it without a glitch.

It has almost a one hundred percent success rate. I believe if ---- when I do it, it will also be a success.

SARAH

(Tears of frustration)What is the problem then.

NORMAN

That is difficult to describe. Sarah lets out a groan of frustration.

NORMAN

(Quickly) How do I know will be really me?

SARAH

What do you mean? (Pause) Your not one of those born-again are you?

NORMAN

Of course not. You know me, I don't even believe in God.

SARAH

Well, I'm officially confused.

NORMAN

Well, I mean who really knows what happens anyway?

SARAH

You're not helping much to explain.

NORMAN

(Pauses) Remember years ago my old
dog Max?

SARAH

Yes.

NORMAN

Remember after he died and Clarice
had him recycled?

SARAH

You mean he seemed different to
you after that. Is that what this
all is about?

CONTINUED: (3)

NORMAN (CONT'D)

(CONTINUED)

NORMAN

No Sarah, he was just the same as
before.

She looks at him confused.

NORMAN

But there was no way to talk to
him and find out if it was really
him or just a good copy.

SARAH

(With emphasis) But people can
talk and they always tell us that
it's really them.

NORMAN

That is true, but still how do we

know that it's really them and not
just a good copy?

SARAH

Now your, not making any sense.

NORMAN

I mean, when my computer goes
south, I have to reinstall the
system. After it's fixed it
performs pretty much in the same
way that it did before but there's
no way of knowing what was lost.

SARAH

But people are not computers. They
come back with the same memories
and character traits as before.

NORMAN

A person can always look the same
to those around him, but it's the
only person himself who really
knows if he is any different. If
he can't remember what was left
behind how would he even know
anything had changed. (His voice
now begin to raise a little) How
do I know what comes back is
really me and not just a copy of
me? Maybe I'll really die and this
clone will just take my place.

CONTINUED: (4)

(CONTINUED)

Sarah looks stunned for a moment. Norman looks at her
with worry and concern.