

# CUT #5

## Dan and Amanda

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Dan

It sounds like you definitely did. How long have you owned your shop?

Amanda

Almost three years now.

Dan

You mean you opened it while Rebecca was still in college?

Amanda

Actually, I bought the shop where I'd been working. I've always loved antiques. It's my passion. I get as excited about Antiques Roadshow as...well, as you probably get about Star Trek. A few years ago, the woman who owned the shop was moving to another state. An opportunity presented itself... and I took it.

Dan

And that's where Rebecca learned to chase her dreams.

Amanda

I guess I can take some of the credit for her sense of adventure. But she's her own person.

Dan

Antiques Roadshow, though. That works better than Ambien to put me right to sleep.

Amanda

Well, maybe it would be more interesting to you if all the people had pointy ears.

Dan

Yeah...maybe. *(clears throat)* Well, it sounds like we've both got a lot to be proud of. At least for a while, the both of us had to be both father and mother. And...so far so good.

Amanda

So far so good.

*(awkward pause)*

Dan

To tell the truth, I haven't gone out a whole lot in the last few years.

Amanda

You mean....since you....

Dan

Since I lost my wife.

Amanda

Do you mind if I ask? What happened? It's OK if you'd rather not talk about it.

Dan

No, that's all right. She had been sick for a long time. Most of the time that we were together, actually.

Amanda

How long was that? That you were together?

Dan

We were married 20 years. We met three years before that.

Amanda

That's a long time.

Dan

*(smiles sadly)*

We thought it'd be longer. She already had an interesting medical history before we even met. She had already fought and beaten Hodgkin's Disease twice.

Amanda

Oh my!

Dan

Yeah. So, she had already been through the ringer before I came along. Facing death twice like that helped shape who she was. And who she was, was a tough, spirited fighter who really lived in the moment. We complemented each other well. She was always the more outgoing, boisterous one. A ton of friends. Always drew a crowd. I was always more quiet, reserved, shy. She kind of drew me out of my shell. And I introduced her to things she might not have tried otherwise.

Like Star Trek?

Amanda

Yeah, among other things.

Dan

*(slightly annoyed)*

The two of you were lucky to have each other too.

Amanda

Dan

Yes, we were. Unfortunately, the problems she had before we met most probably led to problems she had after.

Amanda

How?

Dan

She beat Hodgkin's by getting both radiation therapy and chemo. She had breathing issues the whole time we were together. Plus, those therapies put her at risk for getting other kinds of cancer down the line. Which is what happened.

Amanda

*(sympathetically)*

Oh

Dan

She was diagnosed with breast cancer when we'd been married about 16 years. She fought it, of course, like she fought everything that came her way. Surgery. More chemo. In the end, it was just too much.

Amanda

*(places her hand on his)*

I'm sorry.

Dan

*(looks down at their hands, then slides his out from under hers and shrugs shoulders)*

We had more good times than bad.