

*Mourning
Lori*

a new play by
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First published by Wordclay on 10/17/2007.

Printed in the United States of America

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

For my family
Who allowed me the freedom to discover who I am.

∞ ACT ONE, SCENE SIX ∞

[LIGHTS FADE to brief BLACKOUT, then come up on MICHAEL standing alone in the bedroom. He stares at the bed where LORI died. In his hand, he clutches a windbreaker tightly. Clearly hers; her favorite. MICHAEL writes a message in large letters, either on the wall or on a wall-length mirror, as the staging permits. The message says "YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO." He continues to hold the jacket and talk to LORI as if she were there. LORI enters the room, unseen by him, and listens.]

Michael
∞

It's not okay. I know you want me to stand here and tell you that what you did was okay... that I understand, and I forgive you? But I don't. Because it wasn't okay. I know you were sad, and I know you were in pain. There were days that I would have given anything to take your pain away—but not like this. All those years, all those doctor visits. Those God damned pills they made you take. None of it helped. None of it.

I saw you cry. All those times you thought you were hiding your pain from me. I saw. You didn't have to hide it. You didn't have to try to be brave. I knew. And I would have taken all that pain for myself. Taken it away from you if I could. But not like this. You didn't have to. You didn't have to. My poor, pain-ridden Lori... They took your note. The police took it. Your words...

[She recites the text of the note, unheard by him.]

Lori
∞

To any police or coroner's office personnel...

Michael



How can anyone write a note like that, knowing what they're about to do?

Lori



This is a suicide, and I acted alone.

Michael



So alone with your thoughts. Were you scared?

Lori



My family did not assist me and did not know of my intentions.

Michael



Why didn't you tell me this was what you wanted?

Lori



If I am still alive when you find me, please do not take any extreme measures to save me.

Michael



Why didn't you say?

Lori



Let me go in peace.

Michael
∞

Forty-one years...

Lori
∞

And to my family...

Michael
∞

We were your family...

Lori
∞

I wish I could tell you I'm sorry, but I'm not.

Michael
∞

It's not okay.

Lori
∞

The pain, the sorrow, has become my entire existence, and nothing brings me pleasure anymore. This is no way to live.

Michael
∞

You were supposed to outlive me.

Lori
∞

I can only hope that you will forgive me, and your lives will become easier without the burden of having to care for me.

Michael



You didn't have to. [Pause] You didn't have to...

[As MICHAEL is saying these words, DAVID enters the room, standing quietly behind him. He sees LORI on the bed. He sees MICHAEL's words on the wall, and is momentarily affected by them.]

David



[Quietly] Dad?

Michael



[Surprised] Oh...son. I was... just...

David



I know.

Michael



[Holding up the windbreaker] Her favorite jacket. I want to keep it.

David



Absolutely. *[Puts his hand on MICHAEL's shoulder.]* I ordered food for everyone. It should be here in a few minutes.

Michael



Thank you, David. Let me pay for it, though.

David
∞

No, Dad, you don't have to...

Michael
∞

I insist. My wallet is in the family room. I'll just go get it.

[MICHAEL leaves the room. DAVID looks again at his words, then stares accusingly at LORI.]

David
∞

Is this really what you wanted?

[She hears, but does not answer. He shakes his head and leaves the room. BLACKOUT.]

