

**SIDES: HARRY (Ruth)**

**HARRY (male/20s-30s)** A seemingly cheerful husband, but who harbors the guilt of not being able to fight in the war like many others. When his wife reveals a disappointing secret, his bitterness takes the forefront.

**RUTH (female/20s-30s)** Strong, organized, generous, maintaining an upbeat appearance of a traditional wife who gives back to her community. Underneath, however, she harbors the knowledge that she cannot have children, and must finally reveal this secret to her husband.

*HARRY and RUTH are in their dining room. They're preparing for friends to arrive for a dinner party that evening. Ruth finally reveals to Harry that "eggs are not being released from her womb," but encourages her disappointed husband by saying scientists are making medical advancements toward helping couples in their situation.*

HARRY

What does that mean? I don't understand what you're saying, Ruth.

RUTH

We live near the city, so we have a good chance of hearing if there are studies open to women and—

HARRY

Studies? You're not a mouse! I don't—I don't understand any of this, Ruth. Ruth. I don't understand this.

(pause)

You gotta talk straight to me. Talk straight.

(pause)

You're never so quiet. I don't know what to say if you're not talking.

(pause)

Am I never gonna have a son? Ruth?

(pause)

Am I never gonna be a dad, Ruth?

(pause)

RUTH

Probably not.

(pause)

HARRY

How long have you known this?

RUTH

I don't...

HARRY

Don't say you don't know. Don't lie to me, Ruth. You know every single date of every school field trip and family birthday and doctor appointment. Don't you say you don't know.

(pause)

RUTH

Six months and two weeks.

HARRY

Six—? Half a year and you didn't even tell me!

RUTH

Now, Harry, the doctor said, even in six months, things change, and things can happen, so—

HARRY

But nothing has happened in six months!

RUTH

I didn't want to cause you alarm. You were already so disappointed about...

HARRY

You thought I didn't deserve to know.

RUTH

That's not true.

(pause)

HARRY

I've been let down by a lot of people in my life, Ruth. But I never, I never thought you would do that to me.

RUTH

I'm not—Harry, I'm not trying to let you down.

HARRY

You didn't trust me. You kept me in the dark!

RUTH

I do trust you. I do! And, now you know, and we can figure this out together. Harry, we'll figure this out together.

HARRY

What's to figure out? When we got married, I thought we'd have a family together. My mother, I

never told you this, but my mother warned me it was not a good sign that you were an only child. She said women don't choose to stop having children after only one. I didn't listen to her, but she was right. Because now your body doesn't work right, just like your mother's, and we don't even have our one child... Ruth, we can't have a family together.