

EXT. CARSON'S HOUSE - - DAY

Helen and Matt are walking through the Carson's backyard and into the desert.

HELEN

Did you ever lose
someone or something you
loved so much you just
can't let go?

MATT

I did.

HELEN

Who?

Matt hesitates. Fuck. Should he tell her?

MATT

My son.

Helen stops walking. Deep breath. She has to say something. This was unexpected.

HELEN

You have a son?

MATT

Had a son.

HELEN

Of course. I mean not of
course, just that --

MATT

It's okay.

HELEN

What happened?

MATT

Eight years ago my son,
Ryan, 10 years old at
the time, was on his
bike, heading to his
baseball game. His mom
and I divorced years
ago. It was my weekend
to have him and I had to
work that day, so I gave
the go ahead for him to

ride his bike to the
game; just this once.
His mother would never
allow it.

(He stops
talking.
Swallows to
hold back
tears)

I had to work. Just had
to work. One thing I
learned, you never have
to work, not the way I
did. Anyway, I told him
not to tell his mother
and I'd meet him at the
game. It was only 7 or 8
blocks away from the
ballpark. All
residential. Safe. He'd
be fine. I thought his
mother babied him too
much. He was 2 blocks
from the house when a
car load of drunken
teenagers hit him and
killed him. Gone from my
life. Just like that.

(they stare at
each; a
fragile
moment)

His mother's never
forgiven me. Hell, I've
never forgiven me. But I
have learned to move on
and that's something you
need to do, too.

HELEN

This is about your son.
This

(looking across
the
mountainous
terrain)

is about my dog, out
there; if he's out
there.

(delicate beat)

It's not the same
thing. You lost your
son. You do need to

forgive yourself. That
was not your fault.

MATT

This is about family.
Pain of the heart comes
in many different ways.
Maybe part of being a
parent is learning how
to forgive. Like car
accidents.

HELEN

I'm sorry this happened
to you.

MATT

I'm sorry this happened
to you.

Matt takes Helen into his arms holding her tight.
She embraces him. Takes another deep breath.