**harold eventually reconciles with his sister in one second.**

a short play by
Jason Pizzarello

Contact
Jason Pizzarello
917-414-4837
jasonpizzarello@gmail.com

Represented by
Leah Hamos
Gersh Agency
41 Madison Ave, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10010
212.634.8153
lhamos@gersh.com

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**Characters**

HAROLD, has just returned.

JULIE, his sister, never left.

**Time**

Now and thirty seconds from now.

**Note**

The time of each scene should be shown by projection, clock, or title card.

The beginning scenes should have only three seconds between them to reset, then accelerating to two second breaks, and then by the end barely one second.

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**thirty seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters. He wears a soiled Army uniform.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

*JULIE returns to her photo album.*

**JULIE:** How do you think it was?

**HAROLD:** How's Mom?

*Over the following, JULIE slowly puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry you had to do that. Alone. That wasn't fair.
There's part of me that wishes I never left. But I had to go, you understand that don't you?
Our country—
I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** You can say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**twenty-nine seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

*JULIE returns to her photo album.*

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**JULIE:** It doesn't matter. Mom's fine by the way.

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*Over the following, JULIE slowly puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry that you had to endure that. Alone. That wasn't fair.
I had to go, you understand that, don't you? You knew when I signed up…
I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** You can say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**twenty-eight seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

*JULIE returns to her photo album.*

**JULIE:** I hate every photo of us.

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*Over the following, JULIE slowly puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry that you've stuck here with her. Alone. That wasn't fair.
I wish I coulda got out years ago. But these things aren't up to me. When I go, when I stay.
I know there's nothing else I can do.

**JULIE:** You can say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

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**twenty-seven seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

*JULIE returns to her photo album.*

**JULIE:** Sad. Obviously.

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*JULIE slowly puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry that you were stuck here with her.
I'm sorry the world is the way it is, and...
I'm sorry there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** You can say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**twenty-six seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** You can say...

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

**JULIE:** You can say...
I'm sorry.
You can say...

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry?

**JULIE:** You can say...

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**HAROLD:** I never should have left.

**JULIE:** You can say...

**HAROLD:** I'm home?

*JULIE puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**twenty-five seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album. HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** What are you doing here?

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize.

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*JULIE puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I wish things could be different.

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** Say you're home. Say you're home. Say you're home.

*Pause.*

**HAROLD:** I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

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**twenty seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

*JULIE returns to her photo album.*

**JULIE:** I'm sorry.

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?

*JULIE slowly puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry, okay?
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry, okay?

**JULIE:** You're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**fifteen seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I came back to. I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry that you're crying. I'm sorry I left.

*JULIE puts the album aside and walks closer to him.*

**HAROLD:** That wasn't fair. I know there's nothing I could ever say—

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**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**fourteen seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize. I'm sorry about the funeral.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up.*

**HAROLD:** I wish I never left. I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**thirteen seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album.*
*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry about the funeral. I hate funerals.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up.*

**JULIE:** Everyone hates funerals.
Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

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**twelve seconds.**

*JULIE is sitting in a chair looking at a photo album. HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here, Harold?

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize. I'm sorry, okay?

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**eleven seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here?

**HAROLD:** I hate funerals.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**HAROLD:** I know there's nothing I could ever say—

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**ten seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** *(without looking up)* What are you doing here?

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize.

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*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**nine seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I came to apologize.

*JULIE closes the album and looks up. Pause.*

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**eight seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I'm sorry.

**JULIE:** Say you're home.

**HAROLD:** I am. I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**seven seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** How was the funeral?

**JULIE:** It was nice.

**HAROLD:** I'm glad.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

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**six seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** You had a nice funeral.

**HAROLD:** I'm glad.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**five seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**JULIE:** You're home.

**HAROLD:** I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**four seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I'm home.

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**three seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*

**HAROLD:** I—

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**two seconds.**

*HAROLD enters.*
*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**one second.**

*JULIE embraces HAROLD.*

**the end.**

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