

SIDE 2: HELEN / WALTER

HELEN

How's the hoverpad?

WALTER

Actually, things didn't go so well in the test run this morning. With Mikey. So I'm going in another direction.

HELEN

What direction? Down?

WALTER

I've already got plans for something new. I've got most of the materials lying around from past projects. So I'll only need a few hundred dollars.

HELEN

Only?

WALTER

Please, Helen, don't start.

HELEN

(Quietly.)

They're going to cut my hours down. I asked them not to, but they said they didn't have a choice. It's budgetary. They're cutting them by a third.

(Beat.)

HELEN

Do you want to say anything?

WALTER

What do you want me to say?

HELEN

I want you to say that you're going to find a way to—I want you to say that you'll get a job.

WALTER

A job? I'm *already* working all day, every day. I'm drawing up plans. Building. Looking for opportunities.

HELEN

There's a difference between having a job and "looking for opportunities."

WALTER

And I gave a presentation at the opening of the City of Industry Mall two weeks ago—

HELEN

A job, Walter, a place that you go to every day—

WALTER

I've done that, I—

HELEN

Not in a long time.

WALTER

Just going somewhere, just "showing up" is not—it's not who I am. It's not what I'm supposed to do.

HELEN

What are you supposed to do? Tell me. What are you supposed to do?

(Beat.)

HELEN

When I was a little girl, I did not go to sleep at night and dream about sorting mail. I'm not getting any younger. I don't want to get younger, that's not what I mean. All I want is just a ... a moment of breath.