

HANNAH (CONT'D)

BUT INSTEAD
I AM HERE
I AM HERE

BEULAH

She leaves message after message for her son—until there's no more room on his answering machine.

HANNAH

ALL I KNOW
IS YOU ARE THERE
YOU ARE THERE
AND I AM HERE

BEULAH

She finally got some news.

HANNAH

They said it was Kev's day off—but someone else said there were more men down there than were scheduled. I should be looking for him. He's always there for me—trying to make me laugh. Tells me stupid jokes. He loves jokes—tells them to the kids at the firehouse, while he fixes their bikes.

I should be there.

BEULAH

I know there's nothing I can do to help. But I do know a few jokes. There was a sailor who was stationed in the South Pacific, far away from his wife who he'd just married. And when he was away, he wrote her a letter. He said, "We're going to be apart for a long time—and this island is full of young, attractive native girls. I need something to take my mind off them."

So his wife sends him an accordion and says, "Why don't you learn to play this then?" So finally, he comes home from his tour of duty and says to his wife, "I can't wait to get you into bed." And she says, "First let's see how well you play that accordion."

SHE laughs at her own joke, but sees HANNAH's face and stops.

HANNAH

That was a really stupid joke.

A pause.

Tell me another one.