AUDITION MONOLOGUES FOR FAITHFALL

WHITNEY

That was a mean thing to say.  I tried everything to help.  She refused counseling, laughed at the suggestion of rehab.  Told me to mind my own business even as I was nursing her through withdrawals.  She told me to screw myself when I asked her why she sold our mother’s engagement ring to buy drugs.  She punched me in the face when I told her I was done helping her, and threw a lamp through my T.V. as she stormed out of my apartment.

          (She takes a deep breath.)

I tried. I fought for her—for years. She threw me away.  She was all I had, and she didn’t want to fight as hard as I was fighting.  She was the one that didn’t want anything to do with me.

           (She’s fighting tears.)

So you don’t get to tell me that I failed.  I gave up fighting for someone who didn’t care anymore.  I stopped fighting because she didn’t care if she won or lost.  She didn’t care that all we had was each other.

           (Beat.)

I didn’t fail; I surrendered.

           (Beat.)

That was mean of you to say that…

           (Long silence.)

                                                            MICHAEL

That’s not how faith works. Faith isn’t a medication we take when something goes wrong.  Faith is not a superhero that will come to our rescue when things go bad.  Faith is a way of living—recognizing that regardless of what life throws at us, we will be okay. You can fight that, but tell me - What does the medical community say about suicide?  Do they have any answers? Can they explain why somebody would take their own life?

            (beat)

You can attack me if you want, but let me tell you - when your sister confided in me, I told her she was loved. That God loved her.  This order loved her.  That she was surrounded by His grace and didn’t need to flog herself with the chains of her past.  Does that sound like I was trying to make her feel bad?

(beat.)

I only wish that had been enough. I wish I could have taken her pain from her.