

The First After
A Conversation in Five Stages

By
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A Conversation in Five Stages

2 – 6 Players:

Any combination of adult male or female actors.

Setting:

Any location where a phone call might take place.

Time:

Present

Oh... sorry...

CALLER

No, I mean I feel like I'm coming out of my cocoon.

RECIPIENT

Yeah?

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

It's hard.

Beat.

CALLER

It must be hard...

RECIPIENT

No I mean it's hard to even go to the ATM machine or the grocery store. It just feels so weird.

CALLER

It must be so weird.

RECIPIENT

Yeah.

CALLER

So... what have you been doing?

RECIPIENT

Mostly trying to go to the grocery store.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

No, I feel like I'm the only one who know what happened and all these people are like just living their lives and I'm walking around... like I don't even know what.

CALLER

That must be...

RECIPIENT

Weird.

Yeah.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

And people just don't even know what to say to me.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

So they say something really annoying like "everything happens for a reason" or "there are no mistakes."

CALLER

That must be...

RECIPIENT

Annoying.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

Half the time I wind up trying to make them feel better.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

Like they are so uncomfortable with me that I have to let them off the hook for not knowing what to say.

CALLER

Wow that would be...

RECIPIENT

Weird.

CALLER

Yeah.

RECIPIENT

And then there are the ones who won't even face me. They just call every once in awhile, hoping to get voicemail, and if I do answer, they hurry to get off the phone in like five minutes.

Yeah. CALLER

I don't know. I'm not mad. I just wish everything was normal again. RECIPIENT

Yeah. CALLER

So how is everything else? Beat.

Good I guess. RECIPIENT

Good? CALLER

Yeah. RECIPIENT

That's good. CALLER

Yeah... mostly I guess I'm okay. You know, getting ready to be part of life again. RECIPIENT

Oh, so you're okay? I mean you're... CALLER

Good. RECIPIENT

Yeah? CALLER

Yeah... RECIPIENT

Good. CALLER

END OF PLAY