

Dialogue Sample from COME INTO THE LIGHT

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[For the first night of Hanukkah, JASON's grandmother ROSE gives him a small menorah which has been in their family for generations.]

JASON

Bubbie, how did the menorah get broken?

ROSE

It's a sad story, darling. Let's save it.

(ROSE starts to put the headphones back on but JASON stops her.)

JASON

I want to know. Tell me.

ROSE

All right. Okay. You should know. If I should drop dead tomorrow --

JASON

(Reacting strongly)
Don't say that, Bubbie!

ROSE

I'm only joking, darling.

JASON

Just don't say that, okay?

ROSE

Okay, darling. I'm sorry.

JASON

Will you tell me how it got broken?

ROSE

Of course. Can you turn this off?

JASON

Sure.

(JASON turns off the cassette player

and takes it from ROSE.)

ROSE

As you know, it's very old. So old that no one knows how long it's been in our family. Even when your great-grandfather - my father Aaron - was your age, it was very old.

JASON

That's old.

ROSE

So it was very special like the silver candlesticks my mother gave me from our home in Warsaw - treasured and enjoyed. And when my father talked of this little menorah, his eyes would fill with tears. "The missing piece is Samuel," he would say and we would all weep. His son Samuel - my older brother.

JASON

(Trying to remember)

Samuel ...

ROSE

Your great uncle, Samuel. You have his eyes.

JASON

I never heard of him.

ROSE

It was a long time ago. That awful year when the Germans invaded Poland. Thousands were marching to Russia to escape that monster. Jews, yes, but not only Jews ... Everyone trying to live. And so was your family.

JASON

I know you escaped Warsaw - right? Before the Germans invaded.

ROSE

Thank God my parents saw the darkness that was coming - or we would not be here together. I said goodbye forever to so many young friends. I was a little girl but I remember. My father Aaron and my mother Rifka, your brave great-grandparents, and five children marched on the road lined with people. A human line, fleeing to Russia. It was spring - not beautiful spring - a spring of rain and mud. And then we came to the Ural Mountains, with everything on our small wagon.

JASON

A horse was pulling the wagon?

ROSE

(Laughing)

A horse? A horse? No one had a horse. Maybe a chicken or a rabbit, but no horse.

JASON

Who pulled the wagon?

ROSE

Darling, your great-grandfather Aaron pulled the wagon.

JASON

(Understanding)

Oh ... but what about Samuel?

ROSE

Samuel was fourteen.

JASON

My age.

ROSE

Yes, Samuel was very brave and smart and wise for his age. He was really the one who kept warning us all to leave Warsaw. Oh, his eyes ... your eyes. Anyway ... I was nine. Sophie was twelve. Daniel - eight. Rachael - not yet six. We came to the mountains, papa pulling that wagon through the mud - up and down the mountains. And Samuel took over for papa. Samuel, pulling the wagon. Thank God Rachael was riding piggyback on Sophie. And the road started to give way - just slide down the mountainside, taking Samuel and the wagon with it. We all cried for him to jump away but he kept throwing bundles from the wagon. Everything we had was in that little wagon - food, clothes - and what we cared for most - our family treasures - our entire history. Papa tried to grab him but it was too late. Samuel fell down the mountainside so far we could not even see ... mud sliding down on top of him.

JASON

You saw it all?

ROSE

(Tearfully)

Yes. I saw it all ... I saw it all.

(SHE collects herself.)

Samuel had thrown a bundle at our feet. A little cloth bundle.

JASON

Poor Samuel.

ROSE

And later - when they opened the bundle - we found our little menorah inside ... broken - the missing piece nowhere to be found. And papa said, "The missing piece is Samuel."

JASON

(Realizing)

Samuel died to save this menorah.

ROSE

Yes. It was a great loss. Samuel, who had saved our history - the past of our family. All that night we clung to each other - cold and crying. And papa said we must never forget. We must never lose each other - our family - or Samuel would have died for a meaningless piece of tin.

JASON

I'll take good care of this menorah, Bubbie.

ROSE

I know you will, Jason. And we will take good care of each other.

(JASON and ROSE embrace as lights fade.)