

# NOTHING COULD KEEP ME AWAY

By Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

MARK

30s - 40s handsome, working class, the kind of guy you want to hang out with, easy to like, funny, not too loud

## SETTING

Outside a closed coffee shop during a pandemic.

SCENE

*(Mark is standing outside of BRew-Stirs Coffee Shop. There’s a big stuffed chicken in the window, and a “closed until further notice” sign on the door. He has just made a phone call. The other dialog is indented and in parentheses for the sake of timing and actor’s context, but the audience only hears Mark.)*

MARK

Hey, Jackie. It’s me.

(Are you still coming?)

Yeah, I just hit a bit of a snag...

(The hot chocolate?)

Yeah, but Brew-Stirs is closed until further notice.

(I can tell her.)

No, no. I’ll... figure something out. Can you put her on? Thanks.

(Honey, it’s daddy.)

Hi, sweetie!

(Daddy!!)

How are you doing?

(Great. We’re celebrating my birthday tomorrow!)

That’s sounds like fun, but your birthday’s in November.

(Not my three and a half birthday.)

Right. Silly me. Well, I’ll have to get you a special three and a half years birthday present.

(Where are you?)

Remember I said I’d get you some hot cocoa from Broo-Stirs?

(The one with the chicken!)

Right. The one with the chicken in the window. Suppose... what if I got it from somewhere else this time?

(It's my favorite.)

I know you they're your favorite.

(Then why?)

It's just...

(But I already paid for it, remember?)

Yes, you did. I remember.

(Won't they take my marble?)

No. Of course, they're okay with it.

*(He takes a marble out of his pocket, tosses it in the air and catches it.)*

They don't get paid in marbles by just anyone, now, do they?

(Is the old lady there? She always says hi.)

Yep, Helen's here. And she says hi, and that she misses seeing you on the weekends.

(Can I talk to her?)

Oh, I'm sorry, sweetie. She's really busy right now.

(Can you tell her I said hi?)

I could do that. Sure. (*Calling out...*) Helen, Emily says hi back. (*Back to the phone...*) So, sweetie... um... Helen said that they're out of—

(Out of cocoa?!?)

No, no. Not out of cocoa. They're out of... cups. You know, the rooster cups. With the pandemic, rooster cups are backordered. And I— they just wanted to make sure that... to see if a regular cup... from the grocery store would be okay.

(I like the rooster cups, but...)

They said maybe they can give you an extra rooster cup when they get more in...

(Yeah, I guess that's okay.)

Okay. Great. There's a big line here, so it might be a little while before I get there, but...

(That's okay. I miss you, daddy.)

I miss you too, sweetheart.

(I'm glad you're still coming.)

Of course I'm still coming.

*(He looks at the marble.)*

Nothing could keep me away. See you soon, okay?

*(He blows a kiss in the phone and hangs up. He puts the marble back in his pocket, and heads off to find a grocery store.)*