

Memorial (2016)

By Alejandro Leiva Wenger

Duration 100 minutes

Cast size 6

Excerpt

SCENE 2

At the front door. Jon opens the door. There stands Minna. They look at each other for a moment.

JON
Hello?

MINNA
Why, hello, Jon...

JON *(brief pause, slightly alarmed)*
Hello...

MINNA
Don't you recognize me?

JON *(squinting)*
Uh...

MINNA
I'm sure we met a time or two...

JON
You mean, we...

MINNA
Minna. Minna Sandberg? *(Pause.)* Sackarias's mom?

JON *(uncertain)*
Right, hold on...

MINNA
Sackarias from Stefan High School?

JON

Oh, high school, sure...

MINNA

Do you recognize me now? *(Pause. Jon opens his mouth.)* Have I changed, do you think?

JON

N-not much, I don't think, no...

MINNA

How have you been?

JON

Oh, you know...can't complain...it's going...

MINNA

That it is.

JON

Right. –And how, I mean, what...

MINNA

Well, I...You and Sackarias were so close back then. When you were sixteen, seventeen. And Sackarias, he...did you keep in touch after high school, by the way?

JON

Uh, I...don't think so...

MINNA

No, no...Do you still play tennis?

JON

Tennis? *(Surprised, laughing)* No, it's been ages.

MINNA

But you still paint?

JON *(pause)*

N-not like I used to, I guess, but...

MINNA

You were so talented. Sackarias was such a fan of your paintings. And he wasn't an easy customer when it came to colors and so forth...

JON

No...

MINNA

And your dog, how is... —I'm sorry, maybe he's not...?

JON

You mean Blixten?

MINNA

Oh, that was his name.

JON

No, Blixten, he...

MINNA

Right...

JON

That was a long time ago now.

MINNA

But you still play guitar?

JON *(Smiling and nodding)*

I take it out now and then...

MINNA

You two played together so often.

JON

Did we? I mean...yeah, I guess some of us there...

MINNA

Oh, I remember. And Sackarias said you sang like, like that guy, what's his name...

JON

Johnny Cash? *(chuckling, flattered)* Right, yeah, he was kind of my idol back then.

MINNA

Jon, I...I was going to call first, but it's so hard to talk about this on the phone. I wanted to see you. The fact is, Sackarias, he...he died. We lost him a week ago, and... *(she stops. She looks at him.)*

JON *(Pause. He's shocked.)*

Oh, I'm sorry, I'm—my condolences. I'm, I, I—

MINNA

Thank you. You don't have to say anything.

JON

B-but, but how, how...

MINNA

Well...it was in Norway...He, he fell. From The Pulpit in...well. He did.

JON

Whoa...so he was...

MINNA

Yes. He slipped and fell. That's all. Simple as that. *(Pause. She sighs.)* And now, we, his family, we've planned a little memorial service on Sunday. Just something simple, for us to gather, those of us who were closest to him. And we'd really like you come, Jon. It's important to me, to us all.

JON

I see, of course, it, it...

MINNA

I know how much you meant to Sackarias. You know, he never stopped thinking of you.

JON

No...?

MINNA

I don't know if he called you last summer?

JON

Last summer...

MINNA

He said he was going to.