

3. **WOMAN** — From “Story of Hope” [**Female Identifying Auditioners**]

(a taxi drops off a woman at a home in the woods. This woman, in heels with a suitcase and purse, approaches the home, rings the doorbell and waits)

MAN: *(from off.)* Just a minute *(he enters the scene)*

WOMAN: *(fast and furious, absorbed by what she has to say, not making eye contact with the man)* I know this isn't going to be very easy, but I was just out there all alone in the world, and I got so scared, because all I could think about was how I had no place in this world, but then I just outta nowhere realized that there was one place in this world that I did have, and that was with you, so I flew and I took a taxi to get to you, I just had to come see you. . . *(finally really looking him)* thank God you're — ... *(the man is not who she thought he'd be)*. Oh — ... Wait __ ... I'm sorry. Your're not — ... I'm *(checking to make sure she's at the right place)* This is the house — ... I'm so sorry - ... Does Daniel Harding live here? I'm looking for Daniel Harding.

Man: You're... looking for ----

WOMAN: Looking for Daniel Harding, yeah. He *lives here. I thought. But ...* ooohhh ... he doesn't does he? Ooohh, I am so sorry. *(the woman gathers her bags preparing to leave)* I'm so embarrassed. Who *is* this woman and what is she doing here? I just honestly thought he'd be here. I always thought he'd be here... Always — Do you know him? Big guy, big, tall guy. Played basketball, All-Eastern Maine, center? *Strong.* Do you know him? Hockey, too?

MAN: Well ...—

WOMAN: Oh, don't even answer that. That was —. I know that's a horrible question to ask a person who lives in a small town, as if everybody in small towns knows everybody else, agh! , can't believe I asked that. I don't live here anymore, but when I did, I hated it when people assumed I knew everybody in town just because it was small. It was worse than when they'd ask if we had “ ... plumbing way up there?” ‘Cause you know, people in small towns really don't know each other any better than in big towns, you know that? I mean, you know who you know, and you don't know who you don't know, just like anywhere *else*. I'm sorry to have bothered you. I was just so sure —- When his parents passed away, he kept the house, I heard. He lived here. He stayed here. I thought. He was one of the ones who stayed. ... I didn't stay. I went away.

Selections for male identifying auditioners: