

in the living room. Nearby, Billy and his father sit, silent, waiting.

Sound-effect: The intercom from the lobby buzzes.

CLOSER IN ON TED AND BILLY--Ted looks at his son, smiles. The boy smiles back.

TED

This is it, pal.

Billy, fighting back tears, nods.

Sound-effect: The intercom buzzes again.

Ted gets to his feet and starts toward the foyer.

CUT TO:

140 INT. FOYER - DAY

As Ted picks up the intercom:

TED

Yes?

JOANNA'S VOICE

Ted, it's Joanna. Can you meet me in the lobby?... Alone?

And she hangs up before he can answer.

TED

(to Mrs. Willowska, in the kitchen)

I'll be back in a minute.

CUT TO:

141 INT. LOBBY - DAY

ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS--as they open, Ted steps out, looks around.

HIS P.O.V.: The lobby is dark, the only light coming from the window. Joanna sits off to one side, wearing sunglasses. She looks up as Ted approaches, a small smile on her face.

TED

(abrupt)

Okay, I'm here. Now why did you--

JOANNA

Ted, do you love him?

TED

Goddamnit, Joanna. What the--

JOANNA

(insistent)

Ted, do you love him?

----->
Start

He nods.

JOANNA

I love him too...I don't think
I ever knew how much until now.

There is a long pause as she looks at Ted, unable to
speak. Finally:

JOANNA

(a deep breath, then:)
Ted, when we got married it was
because I was twenty-seven years
old and I thought I should get
married and...when I had Billy
it was because I thought I should
have a baby...and I guess all I
did was mess up my life and your
life and--

TED

Joanna, what the hell is--

JOANNA

(urgent)
Please...Please don't stop me.
This is the hardest thing I've
ever had to do..

ON TED--struck by the urgency in her voice.

JOANNA

After I left...when I was in
California, I began to think,
what kind of mother was I that
I could walk out on my own child.
It got to where I couldn't tell
anybody about Billy--I couldn't
stand that look in their faces
when I said he wasn't living with
me. Finally it seemed like the
most important thing in the world
to come back here and prove to
Billy and to me and to the world
how much I loved him...And I did
...And I won. Only...it was just
another "should."

(she begins to
break down)

...Sitting in that courtroom.
Hearing everything you did,
everything you went through...
Something happened. I guess it
doesn't matter how much I love
him, or how much you love him.
I guess it's like you said, the
only thing that counts is what's
best for Billy. I don't know,
maybe that's all love is anyway...
Ted, I think Billy should stay
with you...

TED

(stunned)
What?

JOANNA
(she reaches out,
takes his hand)
He's already got one mother, he
doesn't need two...He's yours...
(her last ounce of
reserve crumbles)
I won't fight you for him any more.
He's yours...

TED
Oh, God...Oh, my God...

JOANNA
Only can I still see him?

TED
No more waiting in Coffee Shops
...I promise.

Joanna's last ounce of reserve crumbles, she begins to sob. Ted puts his arms around her and holds her. They do not kiss. Then, after a few moments she steps back.

JOANNA
(chin high)
Okay...I think I'll go talk to
my son now.
(wiping her eyes)
How do I look?

TED
Beautiful.

They step into the elevator and, as the doors close, blocking them from view, we

DISSOLVE TO:

142 EXT. STREET - DAY

ON TED AND BILLY, TRACKING JUST IN FRONT OF THEM--as they walk to the park. They are deep in conversation, although we are too far away to bear what they are saying. HOLD ON THEM and, as they reach the entrance to the park, Billy first, then Ted begin to run, overwhelmed with the sheer joy of being alive, of being together. As they continue to run, THE CAMERA PULLS BACK AND UP AND WE SEE that they are only two among thousands of parents and children in Central Park on a sunny afternoon. THE CAMERA CONTINUES TO PULL BACK until they are lost from view and it is

FADE OUT.

THE END