

SIDES FOR ONE LAST REFLECTION

ELDER IVAN

I often asked myself, what was more challenging - creating the guest list for my wedding or for my funeral.

TEENAGE IVAN

Our entire life was spent wishing we had someone there.

CHILD IVAN

Like a soulmate in the movies.

ANGEL

I hate to be this guy, but you technically missed one.

TEENAGE IVAN

I went through everybody.

ANGEL

The empty chair over there is where you were. How was your teenage life?

TEENAGE IVAN

(Laughs for a while then stops. Tears come to his eyes)

I sit here looking at these three. My childhood was easy and relaxing. My adult life I constantly worried about making something of myself, and then in my final moments on earth, I wondered who all would be standing over my casket and grave.

(Pauses for a moment fighting back the tears)

Then, would they celebrate my life or mourn it?

ANGEL

But how was your teenage life, Ivan?

ADULT IVAN

I think it's best if I answer that.

ANGEL

Go ahead.

Adult Ivan stands up and comforts Teenage Ivan

ADULT IVAN

When we turned eighteen, me and Teenage Ivan here had to work together and, in that time, I got to understand why he is the way he is.

ANGEL

And why is that?

ADULT IVAN

Like I said earlier. I came in with the mindset of being a man. Any disrespect was going to be seen as a challenge and handled as such.

ANGEL

How did this affect teenage you?

ADULT IVAN

It was hard for him to adapt. We lost friends and many bonds. They couldn't control us anymore and it took a toll on him, because it wasn't our nature.

ANGEL

What do you mean it wasn't your nature?

ADULT IVAN

For all eighteen years of our life up till that point we were always nice. When I came around, I wanted us to be mean because I knew what the world was getting ready to become. It was a big adjustment to make though.

ANGEL

So, what made him the way he is? You haven't answered that.

ADULT IVAN

Try and relate to us for a second Angel.

ANGEL

Okay

ADULT IVAN

Imagine you're always doing for people, and constantly getting taken advantage of. People use and mistreat you, but this goes on for years and years.

ANGEL

Okay I see it.

ADULT IVAN

Now what do you think would begin to happen to your mental state?

ANGEL

I mean, as an Angel I can tell you I experience that, and yeah it sucks, but I don't have the choice to all of a sudden be mean. It's my job to be kind and loving towards all.

ELDER IVAN

But if you had the choice would you?

The Angel sits there really thinking then quickly snaps back into reality

ANGEL

That's beside the point. Everyone stand up!

They all stand up in a row

ANGEL (CONT'D)

This part is simply for you to clear your souls, confess whatever you think you should confess, whether it be to me, God, or the others.

ELDER IVAN

I want to apologize to God. I spent many nights doubting Him, thinking of myself as Gatsby, and many people around me for what I offered, yet no one who truly cared about me. I blamed him for this and for never answering my prayers.

ANGEL

Anything else?

ELDER IVAN

Yes, now I see he gave me what I needed which was way more valuable.

CHILD IVAN

What did he give you?

ELDER IVAN

You three. In all honesty if you three weren't as amazing as you all are, then I wouldn't have had such an amazing final couple of years.

TEENAGE IVAN

I wanna apologize to you three. Many days I dreamt of dying, or I tried to rush things. I wanted to grow up so

fast and it made me miss a lot of valuable things we should have experienced.

CHILD IVAN

(Grabs Teenage Ivan's hand)

It's okay I know our life was hard. People often looked down on us and said things they didn't know we carried longer than just that moment.

ADULT IVAN

I guess I'll go. Even though they're not here, I want to apologize to our family.

ANGEL

Why?

ADULT IVAN

I was antisocial and by the time I was an adult it was kind of too late to fix bonds or create them. I was used to the minimal communication and that became the normal.

CHILD IVAN

I have a confession.

ANGEL

Go ahead.

CHILD IVAN

I spent a lot of time writing my feelings out, but maybe if I would've started talking to people about them, we wouldn't have had a lot of the problems we have.

ANGEL

Wow!

Everyone stands in silence

ANGEL (CONT'D)

I guess that brings us to our final thing before I make my decision.

TEENAGE IVAN

Bring it on.

ANGEL

Do you have any regrets.