

**Title:** Balance and Perspective

**By:** Scott Goodacre

**Director:** Terry Matthews

**Genre:** Drama

**Synopsis:**

When a loved one passes at a young age, do you ever stop wondering what might have become of them? Two women meet at a local cemetery and ponder the challenges of moving past the death of loved ones who were taken before their time.

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**Characters – (2 actors)**

**Elaine** – Late 30s / 40s.

**Grace** – Late 50s 60s.

**Setting** A cemetery during the day in autumn.

**Running time:** 10 minutes

*We see Elaine, a woman in her late 30's / early 40's kneeling in front of a grave reciting the Lord's Prayer. A park bench is placed on stage not too far behind her.*

**ELAINE:** Our father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation.  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

*Elaine takes a moment, then stands and wanders back to the park bench to sit down.  
After a few short moments Grace approaches Elaine.*

**GRACE:** Hello dear. Do you mind if I sit with you?

**ELAINE:** Be my guest.

**GRACE:** *[Sitting down]* Lovely day isn't it?

**ELAINE:** Much nicer than all that rain we've been having lately, yes.

**GRACE:** Funny place to enjoy the sunshine. You must be here visiting someone.

**ELAINE:** I came to visit my brother.

**GRACE:** Ahh. It's the anniversary of my dad's passing so I just thought I'd pop down for a visit. Do the good daughter thing and all.

**ELAINE:** How long has it been since he passed?

**GRACE:** It's been five years now, but he had a good innings. He was 98 when he passed.

**ELAINE:** A very good innings I would say. What was his name if you don't mind me asking?

**GRACE:** It was Ronald. Ronald Rolf Goody.

**ELAINE:** And was he?

**GRACE:** Sorry?

**ELAINE:** A goody?

**GRACE:** *(Laughing)* Very much so. He was kind; the gentlest man you'd ever meet. He stood for decency and good manners, and would never let any of us say a bad word about anyone. *"If you can't say anything nice about someone then don't say anything at all"* he would say.

**ELAINE:** I feel they don't teach that sentiment anymore. Social media is the worst. All the trolling and relentless negativity. It's depressing.

**GRACE:** Yes, you're not wrong there. That's part of the reason why I don't use it.

**ELAINE:** Was it a quick death? Your father's.

**GRACE:** *[Nodding]* He was lucky to go in his sleep.

**ELAINE:** I do that with Liam all the time.

**GRACE:** Liam was your brother?

**ELAINE:** Yes.

*[A beat]*

**GRACE:** How did he pass?

**ELAINE:** He took his own life.

**GRACE:** *(Touched)* How tragic.

**ELAINE:** He was only 15 too. You wonder what drives a child of that age to want to take their own life? What problems could he have possibly had that he thought this was the only way out?

**GRACE:** So not only are you left wondering what might have become of him, but you're also wondering why he did it. You know, I don't know much about suicide, and I certainly don't know anything about your brother, but I trust that he was probably in a world of pain, and that he simply wanted the pain to end.

**ELAINE:** But I loved him so much and would have done anything for him. Anything. Whatever he needed I would have been there for him. I would have carried his burdens for him.