Opening

1 / 9

Good evening, everyone. I'm Owen, Paul's brother. I'm two years older, but I've spent most of my life learning from him. He'd hate that I'm saying so. I'm saying it anyway.

Part 2

2 / 9

When we were kids, our dad owned a small hardware store, and every Saturday morning we worked there. I sorted screws into little bins. I was bad at it. Paul, who was nine, stood at the counter and helped customers find things.

Part 2, continued

3 / 9

One old man came in every week asking for a part that no longer existed. I would have told him no. Paul sat down with him, drew a picture of the problem, and found a different part that worked.

Part 3

4 / 9

The man came back the next Saturday just to say thank you. He doesn't fix things to be thanked. He fixes things because he can't stand to see something stay broken.

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Part 4 5 / 9

That is true of objects, and it is true of people. When I lost my job three years ago, Paul didn't give me advice. He showed up on a Tuesday with two coffees and a ladder, and said my gutters looked bad. We spent the afternoon on my roof, barely talking. It was the best afternoon of that whole year. I never forgot it, and I never told him so until tonight.

Part 5 6 / 9

Dana, I knew you were the one for him when he started fixing things at your place too. I watched him patch your fence, your sink, and your bike tire, all in one month. You never asked him to. You just thanked him, and then you made him dinner. That is how he likes to be loved: noticed, and fed.

Part 6 7 / 9

Paul, I have a small gift for you, and it's not a wrapped one. It's a promise. Whenever something in your marriage feels stuck, call me. I will bring the coffee. Dana, you can bring the ladder. I'll even hold it steady.

Part 7 8 / 9

I don't tell my brother enough that he is my favorite person to be stuck with on a long afternoon. So I'll tell you now, in front of everyone. I am proud of the man you are, and I'm proud of how you love Dana.

Everyone, please stand with me. To Paul and Dana: may every day hold something worth fixing, and someone to fix it with. Glasses up. Cheers.

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