Opening 1 / 10

Hello, everyone. I'm Sam. Wes and I were assigned to the same room on the third floor of a dorm that smelled like wet carpet. We were eighteen, and we had nothing in common except a mini fridge.

Part 2 2 / 10

In February of that year, a blizzard shut the whole campus down for three days. The dining hall closed. The heat went out on our floor. I got sick with a fever, and I was a long way from home.

Part 3 3 / 10

Wes owned a rice cooker. That was his whole kitchen. For three days he made me soup in it, with canned broth, a handful of noodles, and one carrot he had been saving. He never told me what he was saving it for.

Part 4 4 / 10

On the second night, he dragged his mattress beside mine and said the floor was warmer. It wasn't. He just didn't want me to be alone.

Part 5 5 / 10

I have thought about that carrot for fifteen years. A good friend is not someone who says the right thing. A good friend is someone who dragged a mattress across a freezing room and called it a favor to himself.

Part 6 6 / 10

After graduation, we ended up in different cities, in four different states, and I have moved five times. Wes has helped me carry the same couch up four different staircases. He complains the whole way, and then he buys dinner.

Part 7 7 / 10

Andre, the first time I saw you two together, Wes laughed at your joke before you finished it. He has never done that for me, and I have been trying for fifteen years. I knew right then.

Part 8 8 / 10

Here is what I understand now. Wes is a person who notices what is missing in a room and quietly fills it. A blanket. A bowl of soup. A seat for the person standing by himself at the party. Andre, I think he saw what you needed before you did, and I think you did the same for him.

Part 9 9 / 10

Wes, you once saved my life with a rice cooker. I am going to be dramatic about this, because it is a wedding and I am allowed. I owe you a carrot. Andre, whatever the two of you build, I hope it's warm in the winter, even if the heat goes out. And I hope someone always has the soup.

Closing 10 / 10

Everyone, please raise a glass to Wes and Andre: two people who know how to keep each other warm.