Opening 1 / 7

Good evening, everyone. I'm Ingrid. Cass and I have known each other for six years, which is not a long time as friendships go. I used to think you had to start in childhood to have a best friend. Cass changed my mind.

Part 2 2 / 7

We met at the community garden. I had just moved to town, and I signed up for a plot because I wanted a reason to leave the house. Cass had the plot next to mine. On my second day, I was kneeling in the dirt, completely lost, and a voice from the next row said, 'Those are weeds. Those are weeds. That one is a tomato. Be gentle.'

Part 3 3 / 7

I was embarrassed, and then I was grateful, and then I was invited to dinner. Cass said, 'You can't know what you're growing until you eat it.' That evening, I sat at her table with six strangers and a bowl of green beans, and I felt, for the first time since the move, like I lived somewhere.

Part 4 4 / 7

That is what Cass does. She makes a place feel like a home, and she makes a stranger feel like a neighbor, and she never makes a big deal of it. She just says, 'Come over.' I've been coming over for six years. My plot has never been as good as hers. I don't mind. She still saves me the first tomato.

Part 5 5 / 7

Wyatt, I remember when you first appeared at the garden. You were bringing a watering can you had borrowed from a neighbor, and you stood at the gate for a full minute, working up the nerve to walk in. Cass saw you. She said, 'Come in. We saved you a row.' You have been in the garden ever since.

Part 6 6 / 7

I think the friends we make as adults are the ones who choose us. We have no school bus, no shared street, no excuse. We just show up, again and again, because we want to. Cass, you are the person I would pick if I could pick anyone. I did, in a way. I walked into a garden.

Closing 7 / 7

Everyone, please raise your glass to Cass and Wyatt. May you grow something good together, and may you always have plenty to share.