Opening 1 / 7

Good evening, everyone. I'm Winona, and Priscilla and I became friends the week we both got lost looking for the same dentist's office. We found it together, forty minutes late, and we have been finding our way together ever since.

Part 2 2 / 7

A few years ago, Priscilla had a hard year. I won't tell you about it, because it is hers, and because tonight is not that kind of night. I'll just tell you about Thursdays.

Part 3 3 / 7

That year, every Thursday at six, I knocked on her door and we walked one lap around the reservoir. Just one. Some weeks we talked the whole way. Some weeks we didn't say a word. Once it poured, and we did the lap anyway, under one umbrella built for a single person.

Part 4 4 / 7

Here is what I didn't expect. I thought I was the one keeping her company. But by spring she was the one setting the pace, and I was the one hurrying to keep up. She had been getting stronger every Thursday, quietly, the way she does everything.

Part 5 5 / 7

Teodor, you came along the next fall, and on your second date she took you to the reservoir. She told me afterward, 'He walked the whole lap and never checked his phone.' From Priscilla, that is a standing ovation. You have walked a lot of laps with her since, and you always let her set the pace.

Part 6 6 / 7

So here is my wish for you both. Keep a Thursday. Not because anything is wrong, but because one lap together each week is how you find out that everything is right. And when it rains, buy a bigger umbrella.

Closing 7 / 7

Would everyone please stand and lift a glass. To Priscilla and Teodor, and to many more laps side by side. Cheers.