Opening 1 / 6

Hi, everyone. I'm Jocelyn. Mara and I ran the four-by-four-hundred relay together in high school. I'd tell you our record, but our coach asked us never to say it out loud.

Part 2 2 / 6

We were the slowest team in the county, and the happiest. We had a chant. We had matching socks. We had a runner's grandmother who stood at the fence with a cowbell and rang it for the other team, too, just to be fair.

Part 3 3 / 6

Mara ran the third leg. At the last meet of senior year, I stood at the line with my hand out, and she came around the turn, spotted the grandmother with the cowbell, and waved. She waved with the hand that held the baton. Then she ran right past me, all the way to the finish line, and a judge had to stop her.

Part 4 4 / 6

We were disqualified. We have never been prouder. Mara bowed to the stands. The grandmother rang the cowbell, and then, to be fair, she rang it for the judge.

Part 5 5 / 6

Tobias, that is the woman you are marrying. She will wave at the people she loves in the middle of the race. She will forget the baton. And she will turn every wrong ending into a very good story. Please keep running with her, and if she runs past you, call her name.

Closing 6 / 6

Mara, you taught me that the finish line is not the point. The people at the fence are. Everyone, please raise your glass to Mara and Tobias, and to the loudest cowbell in the world.