Opening 1 / 7

Good evening, everyone. I'm Marisol, Tessa's little sister, which has meant thirty years of borrowed sweaters and borrowed advice. Tessa, I'm returning the sweaters tonight. I'm keeping the advice, because it has been excellent.

Part 2 2 / 7

When I was eight, I got lost in a department store. I remember the escalators, the perfume counter, and a feeling that the whole world had suddenly become very tall. I started to cry. Then a girl in a green jacket knelt in front of me, wiped my face with her sleeve, and said, I've got you, hold my hand. She was twelve. She had no idea where our mother was either.

Part 3 3 / 7

She marched me to the front desk like she was escorting a visiting queen. She told the woman behind the counter my name, my age, and my favorite flavor of ice cream, in case it helped. It did not help, but I felt extremely important.

Part 4 4 / 7

When our mother arrived, a little pale, she found the two of us laughing. Tessa has been doing that my whole life. She finds the frightened person, kneels down, and makes the world feel smaller. She did it for me, and she has done it for friends, for coworkers, and for a surprising number of strangers in grocery lines.

Part 5 5 / 7

I'll admit I took her for granted for years. Older sisters can seem like weather, always there, and you only notice when it changes. Then I moved across the country, and I learned she is not weather. She is a phone call at midnight, a flight with a tiny suitcase, and a pot of soup left on my doorstep.

Part 6 6 / 7

Jordan, you've seen this. I watched you notice it the very first night you met her. She was helping a stranger carry a lamp, and you looked at her as if you'd found something you'd been missing. Since then I've watched Tessa relax in a way I haven't seen since we were kids. She laughs with her whole face now. It's a small miracle.

Closing 7 / 7

Tessa, you were my first hero, and you're still the first person I call. Jordan, thank you for making my sister so happy. Here is my wish for the two of you. May your home always have someone who holds a hand when the world gets tall. May you spend a very long life being each other's person. Everyone, on your feet, glasses up for Tessa and Jordan.