

MARATHON

(Scene for two people.)

(BRETT and AVERY enter, jogging. BRETT is several paces ahead of AVERY, jogging comfortably. AVERY is breathing heavily.)

AVERY: Hold up. *(AVERY stops running and bends over, hands on knees, breathing hard.)* Hold up! *(BRETT looks back, but doesn't stop. Louder.)* Hold up!

(BRETT stops running.)

BRETT: What's up?

AVERY: I can't do this.

BRETT: Of course you can.

AVERY: *(Still breathing heavily.)* No. I'm serious. I can't run a marathon.

BRETT: Look, when I did it last year, I didn't think I could finish either.

AVERY: Yeah, but you were wrong. I'm right.

BRETT: You can't stop now! If you don't keep training, you'll never be able to do it.

AVERY: *(AVERY takes a few more deep breaths.)* So? Why would anyone even want to run a marathon?

BRETT: Because . . . because it's there.

AVERY: So is the TV.

BRETT: OK. Because not everyone can do it. Because once you do it, you're like part of this secret society of people that . . . get it.

AVERY: Get what? Blisters?

BRETT: I'm serious. You don't run a marathon because it's fun.

AVERY: Yeah. I already figured that out.

BRETT: You run it because it's no fun at all. Because it's so hard that you're not sure if you can do it. But you want to find out.

AVERY: You do know that every time you open your mouth, you make it sound worse, right?

BRETT: Look – this is the deal. If you really do run the whole thing, it hurts. A lot. And it's tiring. And it's long. And it's probably the least fun thing you've ever done in your life.

AVERY: You have got to be the world's worst salesman.

BRETT: But if you make it to the end, there's this, this thing that happens right when you cross the finish line.

AVERY: A thing.

BRETT: Yeah. For one second, but also kind of forever, you're this better version of yourself. You did this thing that you never in a million years thought you could do. That not that many people in the whole world have actually done. And even if you never do it again, you'll always be that person – someone who's run a marathon.

AVERY: I just don't think I can.

BRETT: Look – can you run a hundred yards more?

AVERY: Maybe.

BRETT: So let's do that. We'll run a hundred yards, and then I'll ask you if you can do a hundred more.

EVERY: I think I see where this is going.

BRETT: And then after that, we'll do a hundred more and then a hundred more and then a hundred more.

EVERY: But we'll just start with the first hundred, right?

BRETT: That's it. Just a hundred yards. (*Pointing.*) You can see it. It's right over there.

EVERY: But why do you care?

BRETT: Because last year, when I was crossing the finish line, I was thinking . . . I was thinking that what would have made it even better is if we could have done it together.

EVERY: (*Thinking a moment.*) So, just a hundred yards?

BRETT: Just a hundred.

EVERY: And then maybe *one* hundred more after that.

BRETT: Yeah. Just a hundred and then a hundred more. Ready?

EVERY: Not really.

BRETT: Go!

(*BRETT and EVERY exit, jogging.*)

- END SCENE -