

# The Boston Marathon

CHARACTERS: 5 (2 offstage voices)

PROPS: Book, iPad

SETTING: Room with couch and coffee table

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Romans 8:28

At rise: Teen reading a book sits on couch with bandaged ankle elevated. Mother enters the room.

MOTHER: Are you sure you don't want to come down and watch it on TV?

TERRY: I'm positive. That's like asking someone on a diet if they want to watch you eat chocolate cake.

MOTHER: I know this has been a great disappointment but there's always next year.

TERRY: *(becoming increasingly agitated, disappointed and finally angry, nearly spitting the words out)* Next year? What about last year? I spent a year of my life training for this: up at 5 am, running in cold, snow, heat, hills, you name it, for 45, 50 even 60 miles some weeks. I gave up so many other things I lost count. And what do I get for all that sacrifice and training? This. *(points to ankle)*

MOTHER: You've gotten much more than that – self-discipline, fitness; you inspired your dad to start getting in shape.

TERRY: You don't get it. I trained for a marathon. *(checks time)* I would be crossing the finish line in the next minute or two, not sitting here with a sprained ankle.

MOTHER: Think about it this way ... *(TERRY raises a hand to stop MOTHER)*

TERRY: Nothing is going to make me feel better about this. I will never understand why God let this happen. And if you quote Romans 8:28 about all things working together for good, one more time ....

CHRIS: *(unnerved and rattled)* Mom! Terry! You gotta see this! *(MOTHER starts to exit but stops as*

*CHRIS rushes in carrying an iPad. CHRIS' face says it all: shock, horror, revulsion. MOTHER looks and her face slowly registers the same level of shock and concern. TERRY pointedly ignores the IPAD by looking at book. BEAT. MOTHER looks at TERRY, then sinks to sit on couch next to TERRY. CHRIS, unable to take eyes from IPAD, slowly follows suit, never taking eyes from screen. MOTHER lays a hand on TERRY's shoulder, raises eyes to heavens and mouths 'Thank you, Lord.)*

*During the voice overs, TERRY glances at screen, lets the book slip from fingers and tumble to floor. As all three focus on the screen, they draw each other close as they realize TERRY would probably have been one of the casualties*

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VOICE OVER REPORTER: *(from offstage)* Witnesses are reporting two explosions, one with an orange fireball at the middle of a white cloud filling the north side of Boylston Street. We can hear screams coming from the finish line. Over to you, Corey.

COREY: *(offstage voice over)* Casualties, some missing limbs are being rushed to a tent for triage here at the Boston Marathon. Broken glass and blood everywhere. Scores injured, at least two dead, including a young boy. *(Fade out)* Back to you ....

MOTHER: *(Hugging TERRY and CHRIS tight, then placing both hands on TERRY's bandaged ankle)* And we know that in all *things* *(TERRY and CHRIS place hands on ankle and join in)* God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.