

ASHLYN is at the bar with THE BARTENDER.

THE BARTENDER

It's almost nine.

ASHLYN

I'm not sure what I was expecting. Randy and I really made that deal.

THE BARTENDER

I believe you.

ASHLYN

I wonder if it happened for him like I thought it would?

THE BARTENDER

Sure it did.

ASHLYN

How do you know?

THE BARTENDER

Easy. I'm the guy with all the answers.

ASHLYN

Are you now?

THE BARTENDER

Uh-huh.

A quiet moment.

ASHLYN

Really?

THE BARTENDER

Ask me anything.

ASHLYN

Randy's not coming, is he?

THE BARTENDER

No.

ASHLYN

Is he happy?

THE BARTENDER

Very.

ASHLYN

You're just guessing, aren't you?

THE BARTENDER

He's thinking about you, right now. He knows what day it is. He knows the time. He wishes he could be here in person to tell you.

ASHLYN

Tell me what?

THE BARTENDER

That you were right. He hopes you understand. And I think you do.

ASHLYN

You're just saying what I want to hear.

THE BARTENDER

Isn't that the job of a good bartender? To have all the answers. The good answers. The ones that make you feel like everything's going to be all right.

ASHLYN

So if you know everything...

THE BARTENDER

Not everything. Just the answers. They're right there. Like dreams I can't put into words. Until you ask me. I know the answers...but I don't know the questions. Like the one I imagine you're thinking of right now.

ASHLYN

Why did I really come back?

THE BARTENDER

Maybe because running just doesn't do it for you anymore. It might've brought you some peace for a moment, taught you some things. But it didn't fill you back up. And maybe it never did. But if that's the case, then the question you should be asking is not why you came back but who you came back for.