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**Creative Remix**  
**Dead Man's Cell Phone By Sarah Ruhl**

“Voicemails to a Dead Man” Jean’s Messages after Dead Man’s Cell Phone  
Voicemail 1 - “The Walk Home”

“Hey, Gordon.

I can’t really find the reason for me to be calling you at the moment, since your phone isn’t even on anymore. But I’m currently walking home from the cafe where I found you which made me remember everything. Just wanted to update you but they changed the bulbs a little brighter than before and actually a little too bright. For some reason the table where you passed looks normal in this lighting for some odd reason. It felt so wrong for some reason every time I glanced over at the table I just envisioned you just sitting there.

I sat at the table wanting to sit next to you once again. I thought maybe something would hit me. A sign or feeling but all I felt was feeling a wind of gravity when I tried to get up from the seat. WELL I guess that about right that's your way of trying to communicate with me. Gordon things feel so unreal and unstable now for some reason I keep accepting a call from you but I don't know why I'm so delusional.

I know it’s strange that I’m calling a phone that I know nobody is going to answer, but it’s easier talking and leaving these voicemails than talking to someone who is alive. So... Be accepting my calls again.”

Voicemail 2 - “Your Mother & Her Glasses”

“Hello, Gordon.

I'M BACK!! To bother you again so your Mother called me today. You know how auntie is but she called asking if she left her reading glasses in MY coat pocket, which doesn't make any type of sense, but I think she just didn't want to just call and hang up fast. And yes she talks about you every chance she gets but she talks about you like someone who went out to do something and is expected to come home in a few hours.

I didn't correct her. I don't think she wants correcting.

I told her I'll be looking for the glasses for her. I didn't find them. I kept the phone near just in case she called again on accident.

Maybe we all have to pretend a little. Maybe pretending is easier than saying, “I MISS HIM”.

Anyways. PEACE OUT!

Voicemail 3 - “Running Into Dwight”

hi. (sad, calm tone)

I saw Dwight today while he was buying envelopes. He said he needed them for “important letters”. I don't really care for the reasoning for real but he had asked me how I slept and told him I was sleeping fine, which is a lie. I keep sleeping late at night waiting for your phone to ring like it did the first day.

Once again it never does.

He told me to stop calling your number. Which is weird cause he doesn't know that I do. I think he'd look at me with those eyes and ask, "Jean, who are you talking to?" And I wouldn't know how to answer.  
I guess I'm talking to the space you left behind."

VoiceMail 4 - "A Dream I Had"

"Mr. Gordon,

SOOOO I had a dream, alright not like the legend MLK though but I had a dream last night with you sitting across from me, alive sitting in silence. You looked the same, but just dull. You passed your phone to me across the table nodding like you wanted to have a conversation but wanted me to talk. I did and you sat there and you just listened to me talk for hours & hours.

I woke up frantically, feeling salty substances running down my face called sweat. I felt ridiculous, because I barely knew you. The dream felt like a permission for some reason like you were telling me that it was okay to keep on expressing myself, even though nobody would hear me out."

I know by now your voicemail box is filled with things I can tell you but can't disclose to others.

VoiceMail 5 - "Something I Never Said"

"Gordon...

I think part of why I kept answering your phone was because you were meaningful to this world. People needed you, you were what people pray for in their life. Even after you passed the phone kept ringing. I don't feel the need to be on this earth. I feel unwanted. I just live this boring repetitive lifestyle going to work, coming home and eating the same thing over and over. When I picked up your phone I suddenly felt part of something like "It mattered."

VoiceMail 6 - "Goodbye to the Number"

"HEYY!! GORDON.

I think this is going to be the last call I'm going to make. Dwight invited me to be his plus one at a party with him tomorrow. Just a party though nothing more. And I just felt like the right thing to do is to let you know my brain automatically said "Tell Gordon" which is weird because once again you aren't here physically.

I made you so daring to my heart and I think it's time for me to go. I'm starting to fall in too deep. I think moving on will be the best. Thank you for being a part of my life for the short period of time God blessed you with me.

ok.. OKAYYY I've been making too much noise in your ears even though you never made it seem like I was bothering you, you'd always hear me out. Gordon, Please just chill up in heaven. I know for a fact that the angels are tired of hearing the phone ring and my voice.

So.. goodbye, Gordon

Until we meet again.

LOVE, JEAN.

For my creative remix of Dead Man's Cell Phone, I chose to write a series of voicemails from Jean to Gordon. I selected this format or theme because the play was big on communication, unmatched

connections and with the strange way of communication still letting people feel like they were still close to someone who wasn't really there. A voicemail was the perfect medium for Jean because it allows her to speak & express herself without being interrupted, and it made it way to have a monologue type of rhythm from the original play. This form of the remix helps readers see her personal/private thoughts and the emotional aftermath of the story.

A major theme I wanted to extend on was the connection after death. In the play, Gordon's phone keeps ringing even though he is gone and people keep reaching for him through this cellular device. The plot twist of my story is that instead of Gordon receiving the call, Jean was receiving the calls and giving him feedback on what went on. Which also helps answer the question I had in my proposal saying "Why does Jean continue talking to Gordon's phone after he's passed?. Knowing she wouldn't receive any callbacks. The voicemails became her key way of trying to hold on to the connection between them when she first picked up the phone at the cafe.

I also chose this form because Sarah Ruhl often leaves us the readers in a loop in the play worrying what is going to happen. The voicemails give me some fill in information to close the gaps she left for us to solve. The voicemail upholds Jean being awkward, talkative and being vulnerable. The voicemails hold all these emotions. It gives her room to vent, confess & reflect. It also helps me blend reality with slight surreal touches, like the dream voicemail, which matches the tone of the play.

Writing this remix as an epilogue style continuation allowed me to explore & learn about Jean's growth. In the play, she is reactive and easily pulled into Gordon's world. In the voicemails, she begins in the same state of emotional movement lost, lonely and attached but she gradually ends up to let go and that she needs to move on at some point. By choosing to move forward with Dwight, this remix adds new layers to the cake. It shows her stopping out of the shadow of Gordon and slipping out what she fell into when she first answered his phone.

This project also highlights the theme of technology, intimacy and knowing when to let go. Jean uses Gordon's phone to not only communicate but hide from her imagined reality being lonely, isolated & not being wanted. Talking into the voicemail box became her life and she knew it. It reflected on how technology can make someone feel close to others without needing real vulnerability. By the end, Jean rose up and motivated herself to come out the shell she was trying to be under by being able to have motivation and thoughtful expectations of the world Ruhl created.

#### Work Cited

**Ruhl, Sarah. *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Samuel French, Inc., 2008.**