and I haven't been sleeping, but, I guess we all have a story. Once upon a time, Once upon a time, and so on. The End. (brief pause) I try to uphold the law, keep some order around here, but, I have my moods. I just remember screaming “Awe” at the poor guy. Hard word to scream. It just sounds like a sound. And you can't bully people into feeling something, anyway. Oh, well. (pause) We once almost had a Glass Museum, here. It would have been called the Middletown Glass Museum. Fact.

(Brief pause. He looks back toward the windows.)

Behold. You know, just, look.

(In their separate windows, we see JOHN DODGE, illuminated, continuing their earlier actions.)

This is what life is like, here, right now. (brief pause) Looking in people’s windows at night makes you feel lonely. Lonely, but, lonely along with the people in the windows. Along with the whole world, the whole lonely billions. It feels sort of holy, in some screwy way. Fact. (brief pause) Fact.

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Scene Four

(Bright daylight. Town Square. TOUR GUIDE is holding a clipboard and some maps. She is standing before a simple block of granite, which measures 4' by 4' by 4', and features a small plaque bearing an inscription in unreadably small letters. She checks her watch. A tourist couple arrives. MALE TOURIST has a camera hanging around his neck.)

TOUR GUIDE. Morning. Are you here for the walking tour?

FEMALE TOURIST. We are. Hi.

TOUR GUIDE. Great. Hi. Have you done walking tours before?

MALE TOURIST. (looking at the monument) We went to Rome, last summer.

TOUR GUIDE. Oh. I bet you saw some serious monuments there.

MALE TOURIST. The whole place is history.

FEMALE TOURIST. We walked everywhere. We saw all the famous things. A lot of the ancient inscriptions are chipped off or just kind of worn away. And they're in Latin, so even if they were readable, you can't really read them.

MALE TOURIST. It's a dead language.

TOUR GUIDE. (referring to the monument) Well, this is in English, so people can enjoy it for years to come.

FEMALE TOURIST. What about when English dies?

TOUR GUIDE. Oh, I think English'll be around for a pretty long time.

FEMALE TOURIST. I doubt the Romans thought Latin was going anywhere, either.

MALE TOURIST. We went to Holland, two summers ago. Holland was a world power, a glorious empire, ruthless. (brief pause) We loved those “stroopwafels.” They're, like, the local yummy snack. Ruthless empire; yummy snack. People change. Empires, too, is my point. So, ergo, I'm wary of monuments.
FEMALE TOURIST. He likes statues of horses, but, just the horse, no rider. Ergo... (small shrug) you know?

MALE TOURIST. I used to gamble – the ponies, trotters. I kept scribbling notebooks and had big dark circles under my eyes. Lost my job, my previous wife – not a long story. But, anyway, yeah, (gesturing toward monument) this makes me feel sort of sad and beautiful, sure, but not that sad and beautiful. (brief pause) Look at us. No, really look at me and her.

FEMALE TOURIST. Just because we don't look like pilgrims doesn't mean we're not pilgrims.

MALE TOURIST. I can see why you'd think we're just yahoos on vacation. But, we're serious people.

TOUR GUIDE. No, of course you are. (pause) I'm not sure what you – I mean, I don't know... I give this tour every day. I'm normally thinking about lunch or finding another job – I'm not really focused on the next ten thousand years. What can I say? We don't have any other statue –

MALE TOURIST. (interrupting) I'm not trying to be difficult.

FEMALE TOURIST. (looking at monument) I sort of like it. It reminds me of my dad.

(They all look at it for a moment.)

(to MALE TOURIST:) But I can see what you’re saying. (to TOUR GUIDE:) I guess we kind of like a strange angle on things. If we go to the opera or something, sometimes we specially request Obstructed View seats. It somehow adds to the whole experience.

MALE TOURIST. And they're cheaper.

FEMALE TOURIST. We love a bargain. You know that saying, “Politeness doesn't cost you anything”? Sometimes, that's what we'll do for the weekend. Just go around being polite.

MALE TOURIST. We've saved a fortune.

FEMALE TOURIST. But, so, yeah, I guess we just like some perspective.

MALE TOURIST. That's right. Perspective.

TOUR GUIDE. Sure, of course. (pause) I grew up here. (referring to monument) This thing was just always – I don't know – There. I'd see it in the rain and snow, serving its purpose. So that we remember, I guess. In general. So that we have memories.

FEMALE TOURIST. That's a thought.

TOUR GUIDE. I haven't traveled, ever. I'll walk around town, is about it. I'll notice a building or something. I'll look at people. I don't know. I grew up here. I thought this was the world.

MALE TOURIST. Of course you did. But, hey, let me get a quick picture of you being wrong.

(He snaps a photo of TOUR GUIDE.)

FEMALE TOURIST. We always sort of want something more, I guess because there's a long history of death in both our families. I guess we like things that are potentially monumental, but that aren't necessarily monumentalized, yet.

TOUR GUIDE. Well, then, I don't know – (looking around) I guess then maybe that's everything else. Technically. (referring to the monument) Other than this.

FEMALE TOURIST. I guess.

TOUR GUIDE. I don't really know what you want.

MALE TOURIST. Just, something, you know. You're the one with the clipboard. (He takes a photograph.)

TOUR GUIDE. Well, okay. Take the air. I wrote on it in school. Take a deep breath. (They do.) A hundred years ago, someone was digging a hole here, for this very monument, and he rested on his shovel and sighed. You just inhaled a molecule of the air that shovel exhaled, in that quiet sigh long ago.

FEMALE TOURIST. (slightly surprised, as if she's sensed that particular molecule) Oh yeah.

MALE TOURIST. (He feels he's also sensed one of the ancient molecules.) Sweet.