

JEANNIE

They just lost it, huh?

DENNIS

I think that's an understatement. The kids were playing in the water and we were all right there sitting on the beach in lawn chairs watching them. Joe, Ann, and Sherri had been drinking, but I hadn't. It just happened so fast.

JEANNE

They had life jackets on, right?

DENNIS

No. We were so close and the water was shallow for the first six or seven feet, and we were right there, Jeannie! They were within our grasp!

JEANNIE

Apparently they weren't.

DENNIS

You don't think I haven't thought about that every day? So, imagine what they go through...they're the ones who lost their daughter. And...there's something I haven't told you.

JEANNIE

What?

DENNIS

I haven't told this to another living soul, Jeannie. That's how much I trust you.

JEANNIE

You can always trust me.

DENNIS

I could have saved her.

JEANNIE

How?

DENNIS

There was no splashing. All of a sudden Ann looked out and couldn't see her. She started screaming and jumped in, and Joe dove in too. When he finally got her, he pulled her out and started CPR.

JEANNIE

She was too far gone by then?

DENNIS

Maybe not.

JEANNIE

What could you have done? Somebody called 911, right?

DENNIS

Yes, but they live out in the country and it took 25 minutes for them to get there.

JEANNIE

Well what could you have done?

DENNIS

The CPR. He wasn't doing it right. The compressions weren't hard enough, not to keep the heart beating...not to keep enough oxygen to the brain. I tried to tell him, but he just kept on. I should have pushed him out of the way and did it myself...but I didn't. And, now I live with that, that Amy might be alive today if I would have been more forceful, not the wimp that I am!

JEANNIE

Stop! You're not a wimp and nothing is your fault. You just don't have a violent bone in your body...one of the things I love about you! She might have already been gone.

DENNIS

But there's that one thing that I could have tried...and I live with that.

JEANNIE

You poor baby, keeping that to yourself all these years. It's just all so tragic. I mean to lose a child like that. If you feel guilty, I can't imagine how much guilt they must carry around.