

Script from the movie "Meet Joe Black" (1998)

Starring Anthony Hopkins (as Parrish) and Brad Pitt (as Joe Black)

Untitled  
EXT. LAWNS, COUNTRY ESTATE - NIGHT

The guests have formed themselves into a huge audience, the orchestra strikes up "Happy Birthday" as Parrish appears with Allison. An enormous cake is unveiled with one great, lit candle, Parrish beams then laughs. He pauses over the cake, now blows the candle out. APPLAUSE, cries of "Speech! Speech!", Parrish tries to demur but the request becomes loud and rhythmic, he holds up his hand, nods, quiets the crowd. Joe observes from the fringe.

PARRISH  
(to the guests)  
I thought I was going to sneak away tonight...

YELLS of "No!" "Never!"

PARRISH (cont'd)  
...what a glorious night, every face I see is a memory. It may not be a perfectly perfect memory -- sometimes we had our ups and downs -- but we're all together, and you're mine for a night.  
(a moment)  
-- And I'm going to break precedent, and tell you my one-candle wish -- that you would have a life as lucky as mine, where you can wake up one morning and say "I don't want anything more."  
(another moment)  
Sixty-five years - don't they go by in a blink?

Parrish hesitates, waves and steps away, APPLAUSE that grows into CHEERS, the music resumes, another dance tune. Quince grabs him, pumps his hand and claps him on the back. Now Parrish spots Allison, he wraps her in a tight embrace, they hold each other close for a moment, but then are separated by a surge of guests. Parrish sees Susan, she smiles but there is a tinge of sadness about her. He heads towards her, they are somehow situated as if they were alone in this crowd.

SUSAN  
What a night.

PARRISH  
I'm having a helluva time.

A moment.

SUSAN  
You were right about Joe, he is going somewhere --

PARRISH  
(gently)  
I'm sorry.

Susan is examining Parrish very closely.

Untitled

SUSAN  
Are you relieved?

PARRISH  
Yes, but --

Parrish hesitates.

SUSAN  
But what?

PARRISH  
I want you to know how much I love you. That you've given a meaning to my life that I had no right to expect, and that no one can ever take from me.

SUSAN  
Daddy --

PARRISH  
No -- I love you so much and I want you to promise me something. I don't want you to ever worry about me. If anything should happen, I'm going to be fine and everything's going to be all right.  
(a moment)  
-- And I have no regrets.

Susan is in pain now, she can't summon an answer.

PARRISH (cont'd)  
And I want you to feel that way, too.

SUSAN  
I love you, Daddy --

PARRISH  
That's why it's okay.

They drift into silence.

PARRISH (cont'd)  
No regrets?

After a moment.

SUSAN  
'No regrets'.

A long silence, Susan smiles.

PARRISH  
It's a good feeling, isn't it?

Silence again.

SUSAN  
Everybody's saying goodbye...

Untitled

They regard each other, a long pause, they have reached an understanding.

PARRISH

I'm still here.

(a moment)

would you like to dance with me,  
Susan?

SUSAN

Oh, yes --

He starts to lead her to the floor, immediately stops.

PARRISH

If you don't mind dancing with an  
old fogey like me.

SUSAN

Oh, Dad, you're not old. You'll  
never be old.

He takes her in his arms and they dance away.