

In absentia
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N1 in house with mic. They deliver their lines into the mic, and point it at AMs when soliciting answers.

GO

House lights up.

N1: Think of a person who is in your life, but not here. Even better if they are near to your heart but even farther away.

(N1 counts down from 5 to 1)

N1: Got them? Hold them. Now, some questions.

(N1 makes eye contact with an AM and smiles)

N1: There are no right answers and even if there were, *(Beat)* there's nobody here but us chickens.

(Half the stage lights go out)

N1: Right, the questions. Think of that person you're holding.

(N1 asks each question to a different AM. After the first four, the other half of the stage lights go out.)

N1: Who are they relative to you?

N1: Where are they right now?

N1: Where did they grow up?

N1: Did they have a good relationship with their mom?

N1: To them, does cilantro taste like soap?

Lights in house start to fade to black. N1 makes their way to stage so they're on the stage by blackout.

N1: Where did you meet them?

N1: What are the chances they're thinking of you right now?

N1: How much do you love them?

N1: How much do you need them?

N1: Is it true that absence makes the heart grow fonder?

N1: Are you sure?

Beat in blackout. N1 breathes into the mic.

N1; Thank you for sharing. They sound lovely. They really do. Unless they're not, in which case I hate them.

Beat in black

N1: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Pulse of light, revealing N2 standing upstage, back to audience.

N1: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Another pulse, showing that N1 and N2 have moved closer together, still backs to each other.

N1: Absence makes the heart grow—

Another pulse of light. N1 and N2 are very nearly back to back.

Beat. Once they meet back to back in dark, N1 sharp intake of breath.

N1: There you are.

CURTAIN