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### \*\*10. Does it remind you of another text or book you have read?\*\*

\*\*4 – Agree\*\*

Yes. It recalls the tone and themes of \*\*Julian Barnes\*\*, \*\*Richard Ford\*\*, or \*\*Teju Cole\*\*—writers who specialize in slow revelations through reflection and muted emotional insight. It also echoes \*\*Tobias Wolff\*\* and \*\*Raymond Carver\*\*, particularly in its exploration of masculinity and messy internal reckoning.

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### \*\*11. Would you like to read more texts like this?\*\*

\*\*5 – Totally agree\*\*

Absolutely. The story captures something quietly profound about growing older, witnessing parallel lives, and reconciling ambition with humanity. There’s ample space to expand this into a longer piece or connect it to similar character studies.

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### \*\*12. Would you recommend it?\*\*

\*\*5 – Totally agree\*\*

Yes, particularly to thoughtful readers who value emotionally layered storytelling and who appreciate quiet, character-driven fiction. It speaks to current conversations about burnout, aging, male vulnerability, and the elusive meaning of success.

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### \*\*13. Would you give it as a present?\*\*

\*\*4 – Agree\*\*

Yes, though selectively. It’s well-suited for introspective readers—particularly those navigating middle age, confronting unresolved friendships, or reflecting on career purpose. Less ideal for readers who prefer action-driven narratives.

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### \*\*14. If the last answer was yes, to whom would you give it as a present?\*\*

I’d gift this to a friend in their late 30s to 50s—someone reevaluating ambitions, nostalgic about their younger self, or questioning the cost of “winning.” Also to anyone who has known and admired an ambitious friend from afar and wondered, “What became of them? And of us?” It would resonate deeply with professionals at a crossroads, or those exploring masculine emotionality.

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### \*\*15. Can you think of a specific publisher that you think would publish a text like this?\*\*

Yes. \*\*Ploughshares\*\*, \*\*The Missouri Review\*\*, \*\*Narrative Magazine\*\*, and \*\*The Sun\*\* would be highly appropriate homes for this piece, all known for publishing reflective, emotionally rich fiction with psychological insight. \*\*The Kenyon Review\*\* or \*\*Granta\*\* would also be fitting, especially given the story’s global resonance (ambition, memory, success) and character-driven narrative. If featured in a linked collection or novella, \*\*Graywolf Press\*\* or \*\*Tin House Books\*\* would be strong contenders for publication.