

SÄVË THË WHÄLËS, etc.

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Characters

ROBIN – he/him – 30-ish

PIERRE – they/them – 30s

MORGAN – she/her – 60s

LYRA – she/her – early 20s

TODD – he/him – 60s

PONY – she/her – 20s-50s

Setting

A waiting room, a Zodiac, and a glacier. Newfoundland, Canada.

Formatting & Style

-Generally, lines are meant to fit in between one another rather than “overlap.”

-Ellipses indicate that the character holds focus during a pause.

-Asides appear on the right side of the page.

-Sometimes, the asides become the main tract of dialogue, in which case the character name will move to the left side of the page. This simply indicates that everyone is listening to them now.

Like this:

TODD
Chicago, Chicago!

LYRA
Mom?
Mom!!!

LYRA
They do *relish* there.

Contact

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8. If You're Horny

*Pony stands in front
Of the waiting room scene.*

*And as she talks
The characters behind her melt
And wave
Like goo
Into goo
The world coalescing
From hard plastic (chairs)
To soft rubber hull (Zodiac)
Inflatable, infallible, inevitable,
Floating in the ocean,
Like a piece of trash.*

PONY

There's nothing fun about being Pony
And if you need to ask why, well,
All I have to say to you is
You've lived a lucky life.

I hold my hands up in prayer to God
Sometimes
And wait for a high ten back
Even a high five
And instead, there's wind.
Or worse,
Still air against my palms.
And I think
Really?
You can't just
Once
Reach down
And slap me some skin, my guy?

I'm interested in the idea of sitting with a group of people to watch it all unfold
The end
Like this
Like you are
I'd build an amphitheater for the warm winter days
For us to lean back
In those chairs like couches
And watch it all.
My friends making out over the arm rests.

The sky...
Will there be a snowflake this winter?
A raindrop?
A cloud?
Will we see the sun?

You would think that it's tiring to always have the answers but
On the other hand, it makes the job easy.
I know where the barf bags are,
And also, how to fix a broken leg.
I have the spiels, the fun facts, and stories at the ready.

Which leaves Todd to do the thing
That one thing which I really can't do
That I'm not interested in doing
To be honest
Which is to be present.
To navigate the water
As it is right now
In the present
Which is to turn a part of yourself off.
To not think about
You know
The way things should be
Or were,
Which is hard for me.

I'm an idealist.
I admit that.
Maybe it makes me naïve or something but I do think that
If we
If everyone took collective action,
Right?
And listened to each other...
Not in a passive way,
Not in a "conservatives have valid points too" way
Or a "private property" way
But in a
Oh, we *do* need X Y and Z
Oh, we *do* need to tax this man
Oh, we *do* need to build exercise into our routines for endorphin purposes
Oh, we *do* need to eliminate 10 out of 12s
Oh, we *do* need to lead with empathetic support and understanding and hope
That sort of thing.

So, when we float into this place where

This patch of ocean where
There used to be just ice
Solid ice
I...

It's pretty sad.

And I have to go someplace else
In my mind
I have to go out
Out
To pasture
To a screen saver in there, like
The one that's
You're shooting down a tunnel of light
Like a wormhole or something
A disco tunnel
A disco *slide*
And open the tap
And let the words come out of my mouth, the spiels
Because I'm not
With
These people.
Do you know what I mean?
Like,
I'm not really here
I am a fake person
That is a part of the story
Of this world and place
Sort of like an actor
At one of those
At like a Ren Fair or Colonial
Fort
Reenactment thing.
Is that-
That makes sense.

Playing the part:
Canadian,
Keeper of Winter,
Guardian of the Glacier,
And the last, chilly hope for us all.

*The scene behind Pony has assembled itself:
A tall dock,
Water below,*

A floating Zodiac.

*Pony climbs up onto the dock
Which is taller than her head
With the aid of the other actors.*

*Once she's on the dock,
She realizes that she's not in the next scene right away,
And exits.*

9. Float On Alright Already We All Now Don't You Worry Even If

*Morgan, Lyra, Pierre, and Robin stand
In a row
On the dock.
Each wears a big orange life preserver.*

The Zodiac floats in the ocean underneath them.

MORGAN

Is it almost time to go?

ROBIN

Any minute now...

PIERRE

They're coming, they're coming.

ROBIN

They never forget.

PIERRE

They won't.

MORGAN

I didn't-

ROBIN

The light came on.

PIERRE

Don't worry,
Don't worry.

LYRA
We're not.
...
...
Just,
It's cold.

ROBIN
It feels good to be cold.
Doesn't it?

LYRA
Kinda.

MORGAN
I'd forgotten.

ROBIN
Feels good.

PIERRE
It does.

MORGAN (*to herself*)
I forgot.

LYRA
Brrrr.

PIERRE
Aww.

ROBIN
Any second now...

Todd walks onto the dock for a second and looks at them.

MORGAN
Oh!
The captain
That's him right?
I remember.
My captain!

ROBIN & LYRA
Shh.

Silence.

They wait for Todd to say something.

TODD
Pony.

Todd exits.

Pony enters, with a clipboard.

MORGAN
Tough cookie!
O!

LYRA & PIERRE
Shhh!!!

Pony looks them all up and down.

PONY
Are any of you traveling together?

MORGAN (*indicating Lyra*)

Yes, we are.

PONY
Anyone else?

*Robin prepares for the glacier
Which is to say,
He has become very quiet.
Maybe he rubs his temples.*

PIERRE
Um
Us?
We are.

PONY
Right.
Hi.
Sorry, formality.

PIERRE (*helpfully, to Pony*)
Insurance.

PONY
Right.

So,
You have your life preservers on. That's good.
Great.

(back in the groove)

Remember,
NEVER take those off while you are in, on, near, far, or anywhere else within sight of the boat.
Is that clear?

On land, by sea, in the air, it doesn't matter.

MORGAN
Excuse me?

Keep

The vest

On.

LYRA
Mom.

MORGAN

Excuse me?

Sorry,

But this wasn't part of the first presentation.

Was this a part of the first presentation?

I missed it and then

I feel like I missed this.

Did you go over this?

...

...

Did you-

HEY.

She jabs Robin in the ribs.

ROBIN *(coming back to reality)*

Hm?

MORGAN

Was this part of the first thing?

LYRA

Mom!

MORGAN *(to Robin)*

What aren't you telling me?

PONY

Ma'am.

ROBIN

I-

I didn't

I did the whole thing

LYRA *(to Morgan)*

I said it all, ok!?
I said it all!

MOM, you're like-
You're being so mean!

MORGAN
I am not!
They are-
These
They are *deliberately*-
Canadians!

PONY
Ma'am.

PIERRE
Hey,
Excuse me.
My friend is fragile right now,
Going into a fragile state,
And life depends on him,
All of our lives.
He's picking up on something
Something *beyond*, and, and, and-
Look,
If you're not going to take care of hm
Or at least like, abide?
I'll fucking
I'll-
I'll push you overboard.

PONY (*warningly, to Pierre*)
Friend.

MORGAN
But my hair!

LYRA
MOM.

PONY
Everyone,
Please.
If you're all so jittery we can't let you in the boat.
Is that what you want?
To not be on the boat?
To not see the glacier
At all?

MORGAN (*icy*)
Who's jittery?

*Todd steps onto the dock.
He is wearing an orange waterproof outfit
Rubber from head to toe
Or like,
Rain jacket/wader material.
A puffy jacket underneath.
He looks like a superhero
If a superhero was a normal lobsterman.*

*He walks down the dock,
And stands, poised,
Above the vessel for a second.*

*Then, he hops into the boat,
Both feet connecting with the hull at the same time.
He lightly taps one hand down on the side of the hull.*

TODD
Three points of contact.

*He goes to the back of the boat.
He starts the motor's blower.
And sits,
Waiting for the others to join.*

*Pony hops down, then turns around,
Her arm extended.*

PONY (*to Morgan*)
You next.

Lyra and Todd hold Morgan's hand while she clambers into the boat.

You.

Lyra follows her mother into the boat.

Pony points to Pierre.

*Pierre climbs into the boat without help.
They turn around.*

*Then, Pony picks up Robin,
Cradling him in her arms,*

*And lowers him down into the boat,
Where Pierre and Todd accepts their friend
And Pierre sits him down
Beside them.*

Pony unties the ropes.

She climbs into the boat.

*The boat turns ninety degrees,
So now its bow faces the audience.
A giant fan blows into them,
Maybe,
Whipping everyone's hair back.*

*Todd's beard goes into his mouth
He sucks on it, thoughtfully,
Lovingly,
Self-soothing,
While they push off towards the glacier.*

End of Excerpt.