



OCEAN OF LAVA

*(Lights up on a boy and a girl, both on their respective doors. GIRL sits with her back to the audience, while BOY drifts asleep. He opens his eyes, turns and sees GIRL)*

BOY  
(furtively)

Hello?

*(GIRL jumps.)*

GIRL  
Oh my-! You shouldn't sneak up on people like that! I almost fell off my door!

BOY  
Oh, I wasn't sneaking up on you, honest. I was just floatin' by.

GIRL  
Oh, well, so was I.

BOY  
...

GIRL  
...

BOY  
I, uh, I like your door.

GIRL  
Hm?

BOY  
I said I like your door is all.

GIRL  
Oh, thanks.

BOY  
Where'd you get it?

GIRL  
It was my bedroom door, before all this.

BOY  
Oh that's nice. So it's like your door then.

GIRL  
Yes.

BOY

Yeah, that's nice. I was on a door of my own for a while til' I floated across this one. Much, much nicer and no one was on it, see. So I waited until I floated up real close and jumped on it. Almost fell in, too!

GIRL

(feigning interest)

Really.

BOY

Yup, never seen that old door since. But that's okay, I like this one a lot better.

GIRL

Well, that's nice to hear.

BOY

Yeah, it's a different type of wood or something, I think. But it's nothing like yours, in terms of... sentimentalness.

(Beat.)

GIRL

You don't get to talk much, do you?

BOY

What makes you say that?

GIRL

You just seem very eager.

BOY

Oh, no, I talk all the time. I'm just eager to talk to another person.

GIRL

Oh.

BOY

Yeah, back when I used to float with my mom, she said I talked so much that I'd make her want to jump off her door.

GIRL

You are talking very much.

BOY

(desperately)

Oh no! I'm sorry, please, don't jump off your door. You're very pretty, and I don't want to see you burn alive.

GIRL

Oh, thank you?

BOY  
Why?

GIRL  
Because you said I was pretty and you wouldn't want me to burn alive.

BOY  
Oh, it's no problem. My mom says there isn't much pretty in the world no more, so we better take notice when somethin' is.

GIRL  
Your mom says a lot, doesn't she?

BOY  
Yeah. She also says when one door closes, another opens. I still don't know what she meant by that.

GIRL  
Can't say I do, either.

BOY  
She's a silly lady, I think the heat gets to her sometimes.

GIRL  
Where is she?

BOY  
I dunno. I woke up one morning, and she had floated away.

GIRL  
Oh, I'm sorry.

BOY  
Why?

GIRL  
Because you woke up and your mother had floated away.

BOY  
Oh, that's okay. I was torn up about it for a while, but now I'm not. I know she's off somewhere waiting for me, and now you're here anyways! I guess when one door floats away, another floats by.

GIRL  
I suppose.

(Beat.)

BOY  
Do you have a mother?

GIRL  
Everyone does, don't they.

BOY  
Yeah, I guess. Do you have a father too?

GIRL  
Not everyone's so lucky.

BOY  
(confused)  
Is that... a joke?

GIRL  
Why? Did it seem like one?

BOY  
I don't know.

GIRL  
Yes, I have a father too. Sorry.

BOY  
Why?

GIRL  
Because I told a joke that you didn't get.

BOY  
Oh, yeah I really didn't, did I?

*(GIRL shakes her head.)*

BOY (CONT'D)  
So are your father and your mother that you're lucky to have still around?

GIRL  
No, they aren't. Not right now, at least.

BOY  
Oh, I guess you aren't lucky then.

GIRL  
(laughs)  
No, I guess not.

BOY  
That was a joke?

GIRL  
I don't know, was it?

BOY  
Yeah, I think it was.

GIRL  
Then it was a good joke.

BOY  
Oh, thanks!

GIRL  
(smiles)  
Anytime.

(BOY smiles too.)

BOY  
Are you floating all alone?

GIRL  
No, I'm waiting for my... group.

BOY  
Where are they?

GIRL  
They floated off a while ago, and I haven't seen them since.

BOY  
Oh, where'd they go?

GIRL  
(resenting the question)  
I don't know.

BOY  
They probably went the same way my Mom did.

GIRL  
I doubt it.

BOY  
Well...which way did they go then?

GIRL  
I don't know,  
(GIRL is silent for a beat,  
thinking. Then she points.)  
That way I think.

BOY  
Oh, my Mom went that way-  
(points)  
I remember because she floated right in line with my door  
knob.

GIRL  
 (unsure of how to respond)  
 Well... at least you always know where to look.

BOY  
 Yeah, but there's never much to look at.

GIRL  
 (smiles)  
 There never really is, is there?

BOY  
 (returning her smile)  
 No.

*They hold like this a beat, looking at each other's smiling faces.*

BOY (CONT'D)  
 How long have you been waiting?

GIRL  
 A long time.

BOY  
 Are you lonely?

GIRL  
 Why?

BOY  
 Cause floating alone makes me awful lonely.

GIRL  
 (warmly)  
 I guess it makes me lonely too.

BOY  
 What do you do to pass the time?

*Girl thinks for a moment.*

GIRL  
 I remember things.

BOY  
 Like what?

GIRL  
 Like my old house, my bedroom... You know what a house is, right?

BOY  
 Yeah I hear they have a lot of doors.

GIRL  
(laughs)  
Yeah they do, like this one.

*She knocks on her door.*

BOY  
Do you remember that door being in your bedroom?

GIRL  
Yeah, I do. I don't remember much from back then, but I still like what I can remember.

BOY  
It sounds nice to think about.

GIRL  
It is nice.

BOY  
Do you ever play any games?

GIRL  
Me? You seem like you'd be the one to play games between the two of us.

BOY  
Oh I used to play games all the time. It used to be all me and my mom ever did, but I don't play much anymore.

GIRL  
Why not?

BOY  
Well... most games take two people.

GIRL  
(sympathetic)  
I haven't played a game in a long time either.

*(Beat.)*

BOY  
You know, back when I was with my mom and I'd get lonely, she'd come over and sit with me on my door. She said it made the world that much smaller. If you want, I could come over to your door.

GIRL  
No, that's okay.

BOY

No, really.

(starting to change doors)

It could be like a game! We could switch-

GIRL

No!

(pushing him back to his door)

Are you a lunatic?!

BOY

Maybe? I don't know, what does that word mean?!

GIRL

It means you're crazy enough to try and hop onto my door! You could have killed us both!

BOY

I wasn't trying to kill you! All I wanted was to make you less lonely!

GIRL

Have you ever even seen someone fall in? It's horrible!

BOY

No, have you?

GIRL

(breathing in, regaining  
composure)

There was this guy that used to float with us-

BOY

(interrupting excitedly)

Did you watch him burn alive?

GIRL

That's a horrible thing to ask!

BOY

Why? I thought it was what we were just talking about.

GIRL

(scoffs)

I don't know, it just is!

BOY

(finally relenting to her  
distress)

Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

(Beat.)

BOY (CONT'D)

Can I ask you somethin' else instead?

GIRL

I don't know, what do you want to ask?

BOY

I've been meaning to ask this to anyone I happened to float by. What do you think happened?

GIRL

With what?

BOY

Why is the floor lava?

GIRL

You don't know? You didn't hear about what happened?

BOY

No.

GIRL

It was a geothermal excursion of the Earth's core that caused mass planetary extinction.

BOY

Wow...that's a lot of words I don't know.

GIRL

That's what happened.

BOY

It must be, because I don't understand it.

*Girl laughs.*

GIRL

Well, what did you think happened?

BOY

I dunno.

GIRL

You must have had some theory.

BOY

I had a guess, if that's the same thing.

GIRL

Kind of.

BOY

Well, I always figured someone spilt it.

GIRL  
Someone spilled... the lava?

BOY  
Yeah, all over the floor.

*(GIRL laughs.)*

BOY (CONT'D)  
Why are you laughing? Was that a joke?

GIRL  
Was it not?

BOY  
I didn't think so.

GIRL  
It sounded like a joke, is all.

BOY  
Well, so did yours! And I didn't laugh!

GIRL  
No it didn't.

BOY  
Yes it did, because I don't understand jokes either!

GIRL  
For someone who doesn't understand jokes, you're awful good at telling them.

BOY  
Well if you're guess is so good, why doesn't it say anything about what happened to all the people?

GIRL  
It did. That's what mass planetary extinction means.

BOY  
...Oh.

*(beat)*  
Well, why are we so planetarily extinct then?

GIRL  
Because people fall off their doors every day, and it's very difficult to make new people nowadays.

BOY  
Why?

GIRL  
...That's a conversation for your mother.

BOY

I told you! I cant find her, she floated off! And how does your guess explain it any better?

GIRL

Firstly, because it is not a guess, my mother told me so. And secondly, someone spilling lava would mean we had some control over what happened.

BOY

But we have control, don't we? At least we do now? Why was it any different before?

GIRL

It's not. We don't have control now, either. We all stay on the same doors our entire lives, going wherever we float, waiting until the day we fall in.

BOY

But I haven't been on the same door my entire life! I changed doors, remember? This one was much better, it had a different wood.

GIRL

But you have no control over where that door goes. For example, I have no control over the fact I've floated next to you and that you started this conversation.

BOY

I didn't start a conversation, I started talking to you.

GIRL

That's what a conversation is.

BOY

Well you didn't have to listen. My mom says you don't have to listen to anything that hurts your ears. So you could have just stayed turned around and we could have stayed lonely, like before.

GIRL

It seems like I would have been much better off if I had.

BOY

(beat, he doesn't know what to say)

You know...that's a real mean thing to say.

GIRL

Is it?

BOY

Yes it is. And you should never say mean things like that to people you care about.

GIRL  
Did your mother tell you that?

BOY  
...She did.

GIRL  
Did she also tell you I cared about you?

BOY  
Well, I don't think she ever knew yo-

GIRL  
(interrupting)  
I don't. I don't care about you and I'd like to stop talking with you, too.

BOY  
Even if it means being lonely, like before?

GIRL  
Especially if it means being lonely like before.

*(With this being said, GIRL retires to the other side of her door, her back to BOY. BOY looks at her for a beat, then has an idea. He walks to the edge of his door.)*

BOY  
Ahem.

*(GIRL looks over her shoulder at BOY. BOY takes a large step, right off the edge of his door into the ocean of lava below.)*

GIRL  
No, DON'T!

*(BOY looks up, unaffected by the lava burning him alive.)*

BOY  
You do care about me!

GIRL  
(shocked)  
How are you-? How did you-! Are you ok?!

BOY  
(just as surprised)  
I think so!

GIRL  
How are you alive?!

BOY  
Because... I haven't died yet?

GIRL  
You should have burned alive!

BOY  
Oh, yeah, because of the lava?

GIRL  
Yes because of the lava!

BOY  
It doesn't hurt that bad.

GIRL  
But it's lava!

*Boy shrugs, he doesn't have the answers.*

GIRL (CONT'D)  
It's supposed to hurt! It's supposed to burn you alive!  
That's the whole point!

BOY  
(earnest as ever)  
Well, I'm going to have to disagree with you there, seeing as  
I'm not burning alive and all.

GIRL  
But you're in the lava! That means you're burning alive!

BOY  
Then burning alive doesn't hurt that bad, I guess! You should  
really try it, then at least you'll know.

GIRL  
What, no!

BOY  
(holds out hand)  
C'mon, it's not that bad, really.

GIRL  
(with authority)  
No!

BOY  
(apologetically)  
Oh, okay. Well you don't have to if you don't want.

GIRL  
I don't want too! And I don't want you here anymore either!

BOY  
 Why not?

GIRL  
 Because you're burning alive in front of me like it's nothing! Like it's nothing at all!

BOY  
 But I-

GIRL  
 Please leave! Please...just get back on your door and go.

*(BOY starts to say something, but can't find the words. He turns to leave, stops, and turns back to GIRL.)*

BOY  
 I can't leave.

GIRL  
 Why not?

BOY  
 Because I love you.

GIRL  
 You love me?

BOY  
 I know, I can't believe it either.

GIRL  
 You don't love me.

BOY  
 Yes I do!

GIRL  
 How do you know?

BOY  
 (thinking for a beat)  
 Because... I can't leave.

GIRL  
 You love me because you can't leave?

BOY  
 No, I can't leave because I love you.

GIRL  
 Oh, how poetic of you. Will you tell me of my breathtaking beauty now as well?

BOY  
 (frustrated)  
 I never said anything about beauty!

GIRL  
 ...Oh.

BOY  
 I don't know what that word even means. All I know is that I've never liked looking at anything as much as you. Everything else is always on fire! Everything else is dead! But you aren't like that! And I can't leave because I can't look away!

GIRL  
 (beat. Something's changed)  
 I think you know what beauty is.

BOY  
 Then you're the most beautifullest thing I've ever seen.

*Girl makes room on her door.*

GIRL  
 You can step onto my door now, if you'd still like.

BOY  
 It is a very nice door.

*(BOY takes GIRL's hand and step onto the door and GIRL draws him closer. They hold like this for a moment, the inevitable yet awkward embrace of two lovers that don't know what comes next. BOY is the first to move. Still holding GIRL's hand, he steps back into the lava. )*

GIRL  
 What are you doing?

BOY  
 Burning.

GIRL  
 Stop it!

BOY  
 Why?

GIRL  
 (pulling him back on)  
 We just fell in love, you can't go back to burning alive!

BOY  
 (stepping off)  
 Not without you.

GIRL  
 (pulling him on once again)  
 Please, just stay here. Please?

BOY  
 (stepping off a final time)  
 We can't love each other forever on a door, there's just not enough room.

GIRL  
 Then we won't be on one door. You can get back on your door, and I'll stay on mine and we'll float next to each other forever.

BOY  
 And how long 'til you drift off, like my mom? Like your group did?

GIRL  
 My family.

BOY  
 What?

GIRL  
 They drifted off without me. Or maybe I drifted off without them-I don't know! I've just been lost ever since.

BOY  
 (beat)  
 I'm sorry.

GIRL  
 Why?

BOY  
 Because I'm asking you to do the scariest thing ever.

GIRL  
 If you truly do love me, you won't make me watch you burn! You will stay on this door with me and we'll float together!

BOY  
 (beat, he thinks)  
 I've been floatin' alone a long time. So've you. I think that's all floatin' is, being alone like that.

*(BOY holds out his hand one more time, one last chance to step in.)*

BOY (CONT'D)

But we don't have to burn alone, right?

*(Silence. They both stand, set in their ways. GIRL on her lone refuge from the burning world in which her love resides.)*

*She takes BOY's hand, but doesn't step off quite yet. They look at each other, silence continues.*

*GIRL steps in.*

*Lights down as they burn together, finally alive.)*