

ANOTHER EARTH

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

John is playing classical music on his keyboard as Rhoda enters.

She listens before making herself visible.

As John finishes, he looks up to see her standing in the doorway.

JOHN
(smiles)
Hi.

RHODA
(smiles back)
Hi.

JOHN
A nice surprise. You're all dressed up.

RHODA
Do you remember that essay contest I told you about? Travel to Earth Two?

He nods.

RHODA (CONT'D)
I won.
(beat)
I'm going to go to space.

JOHN
(smiles)
You won. That's great. That's fantastic. We have to celebrate.
(stands)
Come here.

He grabs her hand and walks to the kitchen.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Come here. We have to celebrate.

INT. KITCHEN - JOHN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He grabs a bottle and two glasses.

JOHN

First things first is to start with a drink. We have to celebrate. I can't believe -- How many people -- how many people wrote in? That is...I'm so happy for you.

John pours them a drink to toast.

They raise their glasses.

JOHN (CONT'D)

To the coming true of your most improbable dream. Congratulations.

They clink glasses and drink.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Next step is a feast.

He kisses her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm going to cook you a celebration feast.

RHODA

Yeah.

JOHN

Okay?

RHODA

Okay.

Another kiss.

JOHN

Okay, food. We need food first.

Rhoda laughs.

INT. KITCHEN - JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rhoda is seated at the table while John is finishing up the preparations for the meal.

JOHN

And, do they know how prepared you are? I mean, with the Joan Tallis costume, for Halloween?

RHODA
I will be fully trained in the
Mojave Desert.

JOHN
Oh. Well, that's comforting.

RHODA
They made me sign this waiver.
Basically every other line of it
says, "If you die, it's your
fault."

JOHN
And you seem totally okay with
that.
(beat)
You know, you'll need an executor
for your will. Do you have one?

He places their plates on the table and sits.

RHODA
No, but I don't have anything.

JOHN
Okay, so nothing to no one. Sounds
pretty easy. I think I could handle
that. Um, burial or cremation?

RHODA
I think my body would probably burn
up on reentry. Or be lost in space,
so...

JOHN
Okay.
(raises his glass)
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Clink and drink.

JOHN (CONT'D)
We'll have to hold a memorial
service. Who would you like to
attend?

RHODA
I don't know. You?

They sit in silence for a moment, then...

JOHN
Don't go. Please don't go. We're so close to something here.

RHODA
We can't.

JOHN
Why can't we?

RHODA
You know that we can't.

JOHN
I know that we have. Stay, please.

Rhoda stands.

She looks at John for a moment, then...

RHODA
Let me tell you a story. And if, after, you still want me to stay...I will stay.
(beat)
It's about a girl. At the start, she's naive. Reckless. She does something that is unforgivable. And one day, she goes to apologize. But she loses her nerve. She's weak. She lies to him. And then she thinks that she might in the smallest ways be able to make his life just a little bit better. So she wakes up every day just to do that. And some days she thinks it's for him. Other days, she worries that it's for herself, that it was really just a way to survive what I have done. But I think that I do make you happy.

JOHN
(turns away)
Oh, my God.

RHODA
I know that you make me happy.

He moves to another chair. Rhoda looks at him.

RHODA (CONT'D)
It was my fault. I killed your wife and your son.

JOHN

You better leave.

(beat)

Get out.

(beat)

Get out now!

(beat)

Now!

She is gone.