

Love Scenes for the End of the World Extract  
Isabella Waldron FEB 2023

*My heart is moved by all I cannot save:  
so much has been destroyed*

*I have to cast my lot with those  
who age after age, perversely,*

*with no extraordinary power,  
reconstitute the world.*

Adrienne Rich, "Natural Resources"

### CAST

FIN — Nonbinary. Any race.

BONNIE — Woman. Any race.

CLYDE — Man. Any race.

ADAM — Man. Any race.

EVE — Woman. Any race.

LAURA — Woman/non-binary. Any race.

TAJ — Man. Any race.

ANNA — Woman. Any race.

MOTHER — Woman. Any race.

YOUNG PINE TREE — Any gender. Any race.

OLD PINE TREE — Any gender. Any race.

PRIEST

VOICE FROM SHORE

**A note on casting:** Cast can be double and triple cast, although if able to have thirteen different actors with different bodies on stage, that would be amazing. Please do not cast this show with an all-white cast or an all same-aged cast. Please feel encouraged to shift the pronouns and adjectives of the script accordingly to casting.

**A note on place:** We move between these different spaces with their own disasters, but they're all the same world, ultimately. That can be reflected on stage with scenes popping up all over, running into each other, etc. Interludes between scenes might show the world beginning to shake in some way — movement, sound, etc.

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### Scene Three : Protocol

*FIN and LAURA at an office party. A cheesy Italian 80s ballad is playing.*

FIN

I love this song  
*(LAURA looks surprised to be spoken to)*  
You're the emergency preparedness director

LAURA

Coordinator

FIN

My mistake  
Coordinator  
Very cool  
Very cool that that exists at all  
Who would have thought

LAURA

It's important to be prepared

FIN

Totally  
Of course  
*(beat)*  
I wanted to  
um  
ask or —  
I've been having really weird dreams recently

LAURA

About the earthquake?

FIN

No

LAURA

The tsunami?

FIN

No, actually

About the trees?

There's two pines

*(OLD PINE TREE and YOUNG PINE TREE enter)*

One's really fucking old

Sorry —

One's old

and one's a baby and it's the beginning of the world and the baby pine is crying and the old pine tree bends down thousands of feet and says

OLD PINE TREE/FIN

Little pine. Why do you cry?

LITTLE PINE TREE/FIN

Everything is big, so big

FIN

Old pine tree laughs

*(OLD PINE TREE laughs)*

LITTLE PINE TREE/FIN

Why do you laugh?

OLD PINE TREE/FIN

Because, little pine,

everything is small

So small

FIN

And I was just wondering

If you think that's a sign

As an expert on like

emergency

If you think dreams are a sign

that the end of the world is coming?

*(LAURA considers)*

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LAURA

No, I don't think so.  
Animals running up hills, yes.  
But  
It sounds like a nice dream

*(The PINES exit)*  
*(FIN sighs)*

FIN

Yeah, guess you're right  
Can we keep that between us?

LAURA

Sure

FIN

Do you think we're prepared?

LAURA

Not at all  
They've got peanut butter and canned beans for maybe two days  
Not even a portable radio

FIN

Well, fuck me

LAURA

I'm trying to advise but no one likes listening about emergencies until they're in an emergency

FIN

I like listening about emergencies  
I like thinking about emergencies all the time  
It's very charming  
I've been told  
I do have loads of Nutella though  
I can contribute that

LAURA

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Never had it

FIN

Never had Nutella? What rock are you living under?

*(LAURA bristles slightly)*

LAURA

Um

No, I just have never had it

FIN

Well, we'll need to fix that

*(They turn back towards their coworkers. LAURA sneaks a look over at FIN)*

Have you got a personal preparedness kit?

LAURA

Yeah, oh, yeah

Of course

FIN

Maybe I could see it sometime?

LAURA

Sure

It's good to get a sense of

What you might need

FIN

Exactly

#### Scene Four: Lists

*MOTHER is watering her plants. EVE is changing her sheets. In two separate spaces. They call.*

MOTHER

Honey

Can't wait to see you soon

EVE

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Mum I don't think you should —

MOTHER

Please stop watching the news - your messages are disturbing me  
Stop worrying!  
The world is not ending  
Get out of the house  
Go on a date

EVE

Mum the world *is* ending watch the news  
It's so hot that  
People are seriously considering building bunkers

MOTHER

Honey if the world were ending  
Which it's not / If it were ending  
I would give you a list

EVE

I do like lists

MOTHER

I raised you to like lists  
One - Keep matches in a glass jar within reaching distance  
Two - Apples. Plenty of apples.

EVE

I'm just worried that it's a long trip and I'll be quite busy and I don't want to get stuck here with — I mean I don't want *you* to get stuck here with —

MOTHER

Three - Breathe. Try that - I know you. Actually try it.  
(*EVE breathes*)  
Four - Try non-monogamy. Don't ask.

EVE

This is a weird joke

MOTHER

You could come home

EVE

I can't / come home

MOTHER

Five- I think a raft would be a good idea. Or a plane, but that's a bit out of budget for you I would think. Based on your Christmas gifts the last few / years.

EVE

I *made* those socks. They were nice / socks

MOTHER

Six- Sweets. The end of the world is not the time to give up sweets. In fact, give *out* sweets!

Seven - Respond to your mother's texts so she won't worry. Stop starting texts with "mum i'm okay but"

EVE

I am okay but

MOTHER

Eight - Plants. I bought you that planter on your windowsill for a reason. Please water it or at least move it before I get there so I won't see that you've killed it again.

EVE

Okay, I get it

Could you maybe book a hotel though, Mum? We'll boil in the / same bed

MOTHER

Nine- Good idea to learn some knots

See you next week

Pick me up at the station

Will tell you the rest then

Love you

Mum

**Scene Five: Bonnie and Clyde Burn the Whole World Down**

*A pine forest. Two teenagers run in from offstage, lit by candlelight*

BONNIE  
You're lucky I don't sleep

CLYDE  
Shh

BONNIE  
You've pulled me from my bed  
Now why are you shushing me

CLYDE  
Shh

BONNIE  
You 'shh'

CLYDE  
I don't know what to do  
I need help  
I need to get out of town

BONNIE  
What game is this

CLYDE  
No, I'm for real  
...  
It was me

BONNIE  
What was you

CLYDE  
The fires

BONNIE

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What do you mean it was you

CLYDE

I was fucking around  
With Owen and Sal and  
I'd packed a bag of firecrackers and beers  
and lit one  
like just one  
and  
...  
I didn't think  
I didn't think it'd be this bad

BONNIE

You're being paranoid  
There are a million trees burning  
That's not just from you and one firecracker

CLYDE

That's what I thought  
But it is  
I'm scared  
I don't know what to do

BONNIE

Did you tell your parents already?

CLYDE

No

BONNIE

Good  
Don't  
Let's not panic  
How could they prove it was you

CLYDE

I got a call from an unknown number today

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BONNIE

Shit  
That was probably the government  
Did you pick up

CLYDE

NO. I turned my phone off

BONNIE

Smart

CLYDE

How would they know already though? That it was me?

BONNIE

Owen and Sal have loose lips

CLYDE

You never liked them

BONNIE

I never liked them.  
Well  
I'm glad you came to me  
I'm very organized under pressure

CLYDE

Okay

BONNIE

We need to run away

CLYDE

Really?

BONNIE

To Mexico. Avoid State's jurisdiction, I've seen it on TV.  
Plus, I've got an aunt there

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She'll take us in

CLYDE

And then what?

BONNIE

We'll figure that out when we're there

CLYDE

But how long should I pack for

BONNIE

...

A long time

The whole FOREST is on FIRE

People will really not be happy about this

CLYDE

I didn't mean to

BONNIE

I know you didn't

You're just an idiot

CLYDE

It was like a matchbox, Bonnie

BONNIE

Don't think about that now

We've got to go

CLYDE

Are you sure?

BONNIE

It's you and me now, Clyde

You and Me