

LOVESONG FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

By Blake Du Bois

NOTE: To keep the author's spacing the note 'The Playwright Speaks' is at the end of the play. Eds.

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Setting:

An apartment in New York City. December 31st, 2020.

The apartment should include a couch.

Cast:

Sean- mid-twenties. Male.

Aurora- mid-twenties. Female.

David Gorgeous- early forties. A television news anchor. (This character may be played by any gender and the name may be changed to Dani if need be.)

SEAN and AURORA enter the space. They look at each other. Their faces switch quickly from fear to love. The song “If the World was Ending” by JP Saxe and featuring Julia Michaels plays. On JP’s verse, SEAN dances like he’s in a club, but when he looks around at the other people there, he understands a truth the others do not. AURORA watches. On JULIA’s verse, AURORA dances. She gives a beautiful performance of a contemporary dance. Her face is emotionless but her body evokes bittersweet terror. When JP and Julia sing together, they do a duet. This part of the dance is fun. They can’t touch, but they can make each other laugh. SEAN’s bad dance moves get AURORA to giggle and her beautiful allongés make SEAN’s jaw drop. As the song ends, they stop dancing and get closer to each other. They look into each other’s eyes as an orange light, like that of a sunset, begins to shine brightly over them. Lights out.

DAVID GORGEIOUS, a news reporter, enters or comes on screen to give a report.

DAVID

Hello America, this is David Gorgeous, *your* news anchor for the end of the world! Here on January 31st, the confirmed final night of human existence, we at ANTV would like to take a look back at this year, 2020, the year it all went to oblivion! Here are some of the positive and negative events that this year showed our country, as well as the world.

Con: Kobe Bryant’s death put the nation in melancholic sorrow. Every basketball fan’s dream of getting dunked on by their 6’6” hero fluttered into ashes. However, no worries, because Basketball was permanently cancelled! With the coronavirus sweeping the entire world, families were locked away in their houses. A combination of online schooling, the economy crashing, and fighting over monopoly games drove families to the brink of insanity! Many burned their own

houses down, with themselves in them! But no worries! Because soon, almost everyone's houses were on fire! Fire began to fall from the sky, along with tarantulas and scorpions. It was *then* that we as a nation realized and understood that these events were not mere coincidences, but they were all a part of the biblical revelations. Scientists and prophets both then joined forces (hold your horses folks, we got a pro! Enemies started getting along!) And calculated that, tonight, on December 31st, 2020, we will reach the end of human existence at midnight.

Before our commercial break, a couple more pros: the famous "Tik Tok House" which had been entertaining 14-21 year olds all over the world burned down in the fires this week. Many scholars consider that a positive. Likewise, every alcohol corporation, except Corona, rose tremendously in net worth, as every human being on Earth has purchased enough liquor to properly kill themselves tonight if they would like.

That's all for now, I'll see you all later, this is David Gorgeous, time, 7pm EST.

SEAN knocks on AURORA's apartment door in New York City. She opens the door. He carries many bags of liquors and snacks. She sits on the couch covered in a blanket, sadly watching the news.

SEAN

Hey baby! Sorry I'm late!

AURORA

Hey Sean.

SEAN starts placing the groceries on the counter.

SEAN

God damn, you wouldn't believe it out there Aurora. A fucking tarantula fell right into my grocery bag.

AURORA

(Emotionless.) Wow.

SEAN

Damn, is it the fires or is it hot as fuck in here? Is the AC on?

AURORA

I don't know.

SEAN

They only had lightly buttered popcorn, I know that's kind of *meh* for the end of the world but, I guess it'll have to do.

He sits down beside her on the couch.

You okay baby?

She shrugs.

End of the world blues?

AURORA

Something like that. (She starts to tear up.)

SEAN

Hey, hey, hey, I'm here don't worry. (He embraces her.) I know. This fucking sucks. This sucks more than anything I ever could have imagined. If I knew the world was gonna end tonight I would've taken advantage of all the time we had left. Bought you more jewelry, bought you a porsche, hell I would've taken us on our dream trip to Niagara Falls if I knew-

AURORA

Stop. I don't care about any of that. All I want is to be right here. With you.

SEAN

You're sure? A regular ass night with me? In your apartment.

AURORA

That's all I want. I love you.

She kisses him.

SEAN

I love you too. Drinks?

AURORA

Fuck please.

SEAN

Two margaritas coming up right now!

He goes to the counter, starts fixing them drinks.

Where's Cheryl at tonight?

AURORA

Some Post Malone concert. (Gesturing to the tv.) Did you see that people have been grave robbing? Someone stole Tom Hanks' fucking corpse from a gravesite.

SEAN

She's at Post Malone? Fuck, yeah me and the boys got free tickets. Would've been killer. I heard Paul McCartney and John Mayer are playing with him. In fucking flaming Times Square of all places.

AURORA

You and the boys? What boys?

SEAN

Neil and Dwayne.

AURORA

Your roommates are at the biggest concert of all time without you?

SEAN

It's not the *biggest* concert of all time...

AURORA

Rihanna just flashed her tits at it. It's all over the news. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie got back together on stage it's so big. Kanye apologized to Taylor... *again*. You had a ticket???

SEAN

Yeah but it's no big deal. Dwayne's brother wanted to go anyway.

He sits down next to her with two drinks.

Plus I wanted to be here with you. I have more fun with you anyway.

AURORA

(Secretly happy.) You liar.

SEAN

Cheers.

They drink. They're happy.

Okay, I gotta lay some news on you. Please don't be mad...

AURORA

How could I be mad when I have you? (She kisses him.) I'm getting to spend my last day on Earth with the funniest, most handsome guy this flaming planet has ever known. (She kisses him again.) How could I ever be upset? (She leans in for another kiss.)

SEAN

(Guilty.) They didn't have french vanilla so I had to get regular. (Pause.)

AURORA

(Breaking away from him.) God damnit, of course!

SEAN

I'm sorry baby! I looked everywhere I could / they didn't have any...

AURORA

I'm not even gonna have any-

SEAN

What? Baby! Warm donuts and vanilla ice cream is our thing!

AURORA

No, warm donuts and *french vanilla* is our thing. What you got is nasty.

SEAN

I thought you said you wouldn't be mad...

AURORA

And they were out of vanilla bean? (Pause. He looks completely ashamed.) Sean. Please tell me they were out of vanilla bean too.

SEAN

(This is incredibly hard to confess.) I uh... I forgot to look.

AURORA

Oh you've got to be fucking kidding me! You got fucking, regular, pile of shit vanilla? Now it really feels like the end of the world.

SEAN

Do you want me to take it back?

AURORA

No let's just fucking drink, we are already wasting time.

SEAN

Let me just take it back, I can be real quick-

He gets up.

AURORA

No Sean, just sit down okay / you did what you did-

SEAN

No, I don't want to die remembering this as the last thing I did for you so I'm just gonna take it back because I'm a *fuck up!*

AURORA

No! Just fucking sit down! (He does so.) I love you. I fucking love you so fucking much and if you walk out that door for a tin of fucking ice cream, I swear to god I'll strangle you before you get to watch this apartment burn.

SEAN

Okay. Did you stop taking your anger management pills?

AURORA

If you love me you won't ask that. Can I see the tin?

He hands her the tin of ice cream.

Goddamnit, *it's nonfat???*

Lights dim. DAVID GORGEOUS returns.

DAVID

This is David, calling out to you at 7:45pm EST. It is recommended that tonight, your drink, you party, you sleep with an ex... go out and wreak havoc, because tomorrow when we're all s'mores, you'll regret not living life to your fullest!

DAVID exits. Return to the couple. They are on the couch searching for a movie.

SEAN

What about Synecdoche, New York. With Phillip Seymour Hoffman.

AURORA

Nah.

SEAN

Armageddon?

AURORA

No.

SEAN

Ooh! Apocalypse Now?

AURORA

Eh... what if we watched Love Is Blind?

SEAN

No way, we're watching Synecdoche, I've been meaning to show it to you forever, and if we're gonna die, I want you to see it.

AURORA

Is it sad?

SEAN

Yes. Very.

AURORA

Yeah, see, if we're gonna die I'd rather watch something happy. Plus I need to find out if Lauren's dad likes Cameron.

SEAN

No baby, you have to watch something sad in order to *feel* happy! The tone of the movie matches the exact existential crisis we are in now!

AURORA

Yeah see as soon as you said experimental I started falling asleep. What if we watched like Dead Poets Society?

SEAN

That movie is fucking sad too!

AURORA

Well if I fall asleep for the end of the world I'm gonna be pissed! Your movie sounds boring!

SEAN

You don't even know what it's about! Fuck Aurora, you always do this. You told me I would get to pick!

AURORA

Why don't we just watch Parasite?

SEAN

We've seen it fifteen times.

AURORA

Yeah but it's our favorite and it's both happy and sad. I just don't want to fight with you anymore over something stupid like movies.

SEAN

Oh like vanilla ice cream isn't? Movies *aren't* stupid. They're my... they *were* my life. And I'm never gonna have them again after tonight.

AURORA

Wow. I wish you talked about me the way you talked about Philip Seymour Krelbourne.

Lights dim. They cuddle on the couch while the Korean of Parasite is heard in the background. DAVID GORGEOUS enters wearing a party hat and sunglasses.

DAVID

This is David Gorgeous, coming to you at 8:29pm EST. It's a party here at the studio, as I've just done a shit load of cocaine and I have never even had a beer!

Return to the couple. We hear their inner monologues as they cuddle. First position: spooning.

SEAN

Big spoon. Nice.

AURORA

Little spoon.

SEAN

I can reach the popcorn... and her butt. What could be better than this?

AURORA

Why does he have to sweat so much through his pits. Ugh, it's hotter than Central Park right here. And Central Park is incinerating.

SEAN

Why was I so angry? I've got a hot girl who loves me like crazy.

AURORA

He chews so fucking loud I can't stand it! (To Sean.) Hey, could we um... (She readjusts.)

SEAN

Yeah! Sure.

They return to inner monologues.

AURORA

Big spoon. Nice.

SEAN

I feel like a bitch.

AURORA

I love that Sean is a guy who doesn't care about gender norms.

SEAN

Is she sweating through her tits? Jesus.

AURORA

I can reach the popcorn... and his butt. What could be better than this.

SEAN

I get that it's the end of the world but the least you could do is put on some deodorant. (To Aurora.) Can we um... I'm just a little...

AURORA

Yeah, yeah, I know. (They readjust.)

Again, inner monologues.

SEAN

Nothing's wrong with the old reach around the shoulder. A classic.

AURORA

Wow. These margs are really hitting me.

SEAN

I can't believe none of these actors were nominated. (Looking at Aurora.) Damn she looks beautiful. I love girls who love film.

AURORA

Fuck. Do I have to pee?

SEAN

I guess now's as good a time as ever for the old "Netflix and Chill." I'll do the old walkin' fingers.

SEAN's fingers start slowly "walking" up AURORA's leg.

AURORA

(To Sean.) I'll be right back.

She gets up, goes to the bathroom.

SEAN

(To Aurora.) You're missing the best part! (He pauses it.)

Return to SEAN's inner monologue.

Damnit, did I do something wrong? (He smells his fingers.) Yup. Cheeto smell.

SEAN gets a phone call.

Hello? Dwayne?... What's up bro?... Holy fuck, you're kidding!... Yeah I'll turn it on right now!

SEAN changes the channel on the TV.

Holy... fuck... bro! (He starts laughing in hysteria.) Dude I can't even believe it! Right there!... fuck dude, that is *actually* Katy Perry eating Russel Crowe's flesh... well how would you feel if your ex husband was the guy from Get Him to the Greek?...

Bro! And John Mayer is singing "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" like it's nothing! Fuck man, the irony of that song now huh?...

Nah, we're all good, we're snuggling up and watching Parasite... Yeah like fifteen times, but it's great... No, believe me, I would've loved to be there but, you know, I gotta... Look man, don't be upset, please, I have responsibilities. We've been together five years, I can't just *ditch* her... I know it's the biggest -- look, you think I *don't* wanna be there right now?

AURORA returns.

SEAN

(To Dwayne.) Oh, hey, one sec bro, I'll call you right back. (To Aurora.) Babe, you won't believe this, look what's on tv right now. Katy Perry is literally *eating-*

AURORA

(Extremely cold.) You left the toilet seat up.

SEAN

Did I?... I don't remember. (Gesturing to the tv.) Look, John Mayer is... *fuck* now he's playing "Firework," the irony is killing me!

AURORA

(Angry.) Sean! How many times do I have to fucking tell you?

SEAN

What?

AURORA

I have told you *thousands* of times. *Thousands!* So has Cheryl! You can't remember to put the seat down, even during the *fucking apocalypse?*

SEAN

Well I... fuck, baby, are you actually mad?

AURORA

Yes I'm mad!

SEAN

Really? When there are celebrities going cannibal on CBS?

AURORA

I don't fucking care about Katy Perry!!! Do you know how fucking irritating it is to tell you something over and over again, and then just when I think you've learned, *I fall into the toilet water?*

SEAN erupts into laughter. He goes to the counter to make more drinks.

What the fuck is so funny?

SEAN

Haha, you... falling into toilet water... on the last night of the world. It's kinda funny. I'm gonna make us more drinks.

AURORA

You are such a mother fucker, you know that?

SEAN

Okay, chill out baby-

AURORA

Do *not* tell me to chill out! I can't believe you can be so fucking stupid. Even on our last night...

SEAN looks at her with shock.

SEAN

Are you really doing this?

AURORA

Doing what?

SEAN

This... Picking fucking stupid meaningless fights on the last night of the world.

AURORA

It's not meaningless! Don't you hear me! It is so frustrating telling you something over and over, and then I end up wiping toilet water off my pussy because of your stupid mistakes. It's disgusting.

SEAN drinks.

SEAN

Okay. Looks like we're fucking doing this. You know, does it even flitter into your mind for a second that maybe *you're* the stupid one for not looking at where you were sitting before you peed?

AURORA

I shouldn't have to look! This is my apartment, the least you can do is put the seat down!

SEAN

Totally, totally, but... can we just think about this logically? So, it takes probably a second for me to put the seat down, right?

AURORA

Yes. It's easy.

SEAN

Yes, no denying that. But sometimes I forget. I already said I'm sorry. Now, it would take the exact amount of time for you to raise the toilet seat after *you* pee, right?

AURORA

What does that have to do with anything?

SEAN

I'm saying that, if this relationship is really *equal*, like we say it is, then you should be raising the toilet seat every time you're done peeing, and then I can put it *down* after *I* pee.

AURORA

You are such a fucking prick-

SEAN

How is it any fucking different?

AURORA

Because we are at *my* apartment!

SEAN

Well maybe I get sick and tired of touching your dirty toilet seat. Maybe you should come to *my* place every once and a fucking while.

AURORA

Exactly why I don't go to your place...

SEAN

(Very angry.) Why? *Why?* So you don't have to put a fucking seat down?

AURORA

Yes. I don't like being in a dirty, man infested apartment and then having to put a disgusting toilet seat down.

SEAN

Great. Real great. So the reason why *I* spend so much cash every other fucking day buying ubers and subway tickets to come to *your* place is because you're too lazy to put down a toilet seat so you need your fucking boyfriend to do it for you-

AURORA

Oh I'm the lazy one-

SEAN

How the fuck is that equal? How is that an equal fucking relationship? You never come to my place, you never buy the drinks, and you NEVER put the seat up for me!!!

AURORA

I didn't realize I was such a fucking DIFFICULT GIRLFRIEND!

Silence.

I'm sorry that putting the FUCKING SEAT DOWN IS SUCH A BURDEN. Sorry! Oh, and hey, I'm sorry that I got my pussy covered in piss filled toilet water! Sorry I'm so fucking stupid! It must be SO HARD HAVING A STUPID TODDLER AS A GIRLFRIEND, HUH?

Why don't you just go watch celebrities eat each other at Time Square like everybody else.

SEAN

I don't want to do that...

AURORA

Yeah you do, you think I couldn't hear you on the fucking phone. YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO BE WITH ME AND I'M OBVIOUSLY SUCH A BURDEN SO JUST GO!!!

SEAN

No.

He plants himself on the couch.

I want to stay. I want to... *want* to stay.

Lights dim. DAVID GORGEOUS returns, with a black eye and cuts all over him.

DAVID

This is David Gorgeous. 9:45pm EST. People are losing it here. The studio has become the world's largest mosh pit. People are knifing each other and beating each other senseless... I've already killed three people, I'm hoping I can get to ten by midnight!

We return to the couple, who resume watching Parasite. This time they sit on opposite sides of the couch without touching. Again, we hear their inner monologues.

AURORA

What a fucking dick.

SEAN

About time to make another drink.

AURORA

He should be honoring his last night with me. I'm a fucking *catch*.

SEAN

Now's probably a bad time to ask her about her meds again...

AURORA

Why does he look so cute when he's guilty? Ugh. I need another drink. Or sex. Maybe sex will chill me out. Or a *cigarette*... Fuck, how come I never learned how to chill out...

SEAN

Now's probably a bad time to try and have sex.

AURORA

I just wanted tonight to be special. Fuck is it getting hotter in here?

SEAN

How do I manage to fuck up every little thing. I shouldn't have yelled, that's not like me.

AURORA

(To Sean.) Hey baby?

SEAN

Yeah?

AURORA

I don't want to fight.

SEAN

Me neither.

AURORA

There's just... there's just so much going shitty in the universe right now. Let's not waste it fighting over stupid stuff.

SEAN

I agree. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry about the toilet seat. And yelling, and ice cream, and being a dick and-

AURORA

Don't worry. We're okay.

They kiss.

Wanna play a game?

SEAN

Sure.

AURORA

First. Shots. We're gonna need them.

They each take a tequila shot. AURORA pulls out her phone.

SEAN

(Wincing in pain.) Jesus.

AURORA

Okay, this is titled “How well do you know your partner?”

SEAN

Oh christ, one of those couples tests? (He takes another shot.)

AURORA

Don’t think of it as a test, it’s a game! Okay. What’s my favorite color?

SEAN

Blue.

Disappointed, she takes a shot.

What, am I wrong?

AURORA

It’s baby blue.

SEAN

Baby blue, fucking girls! And you’re drinking just to mock me?

AURORA

You drank because you didn't want to play the game!

SEAN

It's not a *game* it's a... okay fine then. When we're wrong, we drink.

AURORA

So, if you get one wrong, you drink.

SEAN

I was thinking when one of us gets it wrong, we both drink, but yeah. Let's play it your way.

AURORA

So drink.

SEAN

I already did.

AURORA

I know, but we just started the new rule. So drink.

He does so. He winces in pain again. She laughs at him.

SEAN

Okay, let me see the list. (He takes her phone.) What's my dream car?

AURORA

Ferrari.

SEAN smiles evilly. He motions for her to drink.

No way! I'm right!

SEAN

Maserati bitch. Drink.

AURORA

You changed it! You're always talking about liking Ferraris!

SEAN

Never once have I mentioned them. However, I do talk about Maseratis quite a bit. Therefore, drink.

She drinks.

AURORA

What is my biggest pet peeve?

SEAN

When people tell you to chill out. Or, when I touch the tv remote after eating cheetos without washing my hands.

AURORA

I was thinking when you try to convince me to do anal, but I'll give you one. Those annoy me too.

SEAN

If I became famous what would it be for?

AURORA

Movies. You would be a good critic. You know so many weird details about foreign films, I could see you picking who should win oscars and shit. I like this question, what about for me?

SEAN

Easy, you wouldn't have given up dancing for that temp job. You'd probably be on America's Got Talent or at the New York City Ballet or something.

AURORA

What am I most likely to get at a gas station?

SEAN

Um... diet coke, and honey mustard pretzels!

AURORA

Drink. (He does so.) Cigarettes. I would fucking kill for a smoke right now.

SEAN

Where would my dream vacation be?

AURORA

I don't fucking know, Hawaii?

SEAN

Niagara Falls! With you! I'm always talking about that! I literally mentioned it earlier tonight.
Drink!

She drinks. In fact, they both drink. A lot. They go back and forth while taking shots. DAVID GORGEOUS enters.

DAVID

David Gorgeous, 10:33pm. I am live streaming in Times Square... It's beautiful. Tornadoes of flames. Celebrities and criminals soaring together in the sky as one. Burning, as one... For the first time in my life, I see God and Satan at the same time. Both laughing. For the first time I wonder if they are one in the same.

Return to the couple.

SEAN

I can't decide if I... If I don't *know* who you are... or if I can't *see* who you are...

They both crack up. They are insanely drunk. She kisses him. It feels incredible. They begin to kiss for a little bit.

AURORA

Okay. New game. If you could do something over again, what would you do?

SEAN

Um... I think that I would have actually become an actor. Instead of watching movies and gawking over Jake Gyllen... jillonha... Wow his name is hard to say right now. Or uh... No, I change my answer, I think I would've wanted to have kissed you sooner.

AURORA

Really?

SEAN

Yeah. I mean we've known each other for what, like 15 years? I've liked you since middle school and I didn't even make a move until college.

AURORA

I always knew you did. You would bring those-

SEAN

Peanut butter pretzels!

AURORA

Yeah! You brought them in your lunchbox and I'd always beg you for some.

SEAN

Yup. And everytime I gave you one, I'd be like... Yeah. She wants me...

AURORA

So what made you finally make that move? Sophomore year, at that party?

SEAN

Well uh... I mean we were both at NYU together, but I remember never seeing you around Freshman year. Sophomore year, a friend invited me to that party, and it was with a lot of acting and dance majors I didn't know, except you of course...

I remember going into that dark basement, and seeing you. Specifically, the whites of your eyes. They lit up the whole fucking room. And then you came straight after me, asked me to catch you up... I told you how NYU wasn't my place, but for whatever reason, you were convincing me to stay. I kept wondering, "why is this hot girl from my hometown convincing me to stay when she always ignores me."

AURORA

Maybe you should've had more peanut butter pretzels and things would've been different.

SEAN

Maybe. But that night, we were drunk, dancing, and just talking, until almost everyone had left. Lights were still dark, and you gave me that look like... one of those “green lights” you get from a girl. You were looking at me and your eyes say “just fucking do it Sean.”

And at the time I thought, when am I gonna get another chance like this?

So I kissed you. And you kissed me back. And five years later the world ended.

AURORA

Not yet. It hasn't ended yet.

SEAN

What if I had never done it? What if I never kissed you? Where would I be right now, tonight?

AURORA

You'd be at the Post Malone Last Night's Eve party having the time of your life.

SEAN

Yeah. That would've fucking sucked.

He kisses her.

What about you? What would you do over?

AURORA

I think I would uh... I would apologize to my parents. Or like, I just wouldn't have been such a bipolar bitch all the time. I feel like -- now that the world is ending -- I'm seeing all the stuff I did and I'm thinking like, fucking shit Aurora, you're a way better person than that, why did you do so much stupid shit.

SEAN

Me too.

AURORA

I mean, all my mom and dad wanted was to make me happy, and I treated them like shit *all the time*. I talked back to them, I made fun of them to my friends, I would come home late smelling of booze and dick jizz...

SEAN

Alright, dick jizz? Just pick one, I get what you mean-

AURORA

I mean, they're such good people! And now the world is ending, and like, all this shit is confirmed to be biblical! So I'm totally going to hell! I litter, I fucked before I was married, I shoplifted from jewelry stores, I ate expired whipped cream, I gossiped, I called my sister a whore to her face, and I laughed at homeless people when they asked me for money... I'm without a doubt, going to hell.

SEAN

Well, me too.

AURORA

No way. Everybody knows you are like the best fucking guy of all time.

SEAN

I'm not so good.

AURORA

You are. You're the best. (She kisses him.)

I'm gonna be stuck down below getting whipped to do slave work by Satan and Michael Jackson for all of eternity while you and my whole family are dancing at a Beatles concert in heaven.

SEAN catches this.

What?

SEAN

(Carefully.) How come you're not with them? Your parents? Did they ask to spend tonight with you?

AURORA

No they uh... They asked me to be with them.

SEAN

You said no? Why?

AURORA

I don't know, I just thought about who I really wanted to be with, and... I wanted to be with you.

SEAN

Aurora, I love you but... you shouldn't have picked me.

AURORA

Fuck it's so hot in here!

SEAN

Aurora! You shouldn't have picked me!

AURORA

Why not! I wanted to be with the guy I love for my last night on Earth! Isn't that special to you?

SEAN

It's not about that! They loved you, created you, dealt with your shit... we could've all done something together!

AURORA

I didn't want that. I can't be myself around them. Not like how I am around you.

SEAN

Still, that's fucked up. You owed it to them.

AURORA

Well it's too late, okay! I already feel guilty as fuck, you don't need to rub it in!

SEAN

Really? *I* shouldn't rub it in? Because it feels like that's what you're doing to me. You know I would've *loved* to be with my family.

AURORA

We promised we wouldn't fight!

SEAN

That's too bad! This isn't vanilla ice cream or toilet seats! This is family!

AURORA

Sean. *You* are my family. Not them. They hardly know me compared to you. You're the only family that matters to me.

SEAN

You know damn well that if that virus hadn't taken my parents, I would be with them right now-

AURORA

That's not what I meant by any of this-

SEAN

And yeah, sure, they used to piss me off and they were annoying as hell, but they were my *family*. And now that they're gone, I would give up everything to be with them. *EVERYTHING!*

AURORA

Everything? *EVEN ME?*

SEAN

Yes. Yes even you.

Silence.

When were you gonna tell me?

AURORA

I wasn't going to. I wanted our last night to be special.

SEAN

Yeah, well, our last night feels like a slap in the fucking face right now. I miss them so much.

AURORA

I know Sean.

SEAN

I just wish I had more time with them...

He starts to cry. AURORA embraces him.

AURORA

I know baby, I know.

SEAN

I wish I had more time with *them*, I wish I had more time with *you*... I wish I had more time.

AURORA

Maybe we will. After all of this, I mean.

SEAN

You really think I would go to heaven?

AURORA

Yes. You've been an angel your whole life.

SEAN

It won't feel like heaven if I'm not there with you.

AURORA

Okay buddy, way to throw me into the fiery pits of hell, don't count me out just yet!

They laugh.

Lights dim. David Gorgeous enters. He is completely naked. The lights are dim enough so that only his face is clearly visible.

DAVID

Dear lords. Lord of pain and Lord of life. Judge me. As you judge the souls on Earth, judge *me*, a mere, foolish celebrity television anchor. I don't know where I belong in the afterlife, but please understand that I dedicated my life to bringing important information to the people of America... judge me without bias. Thank you for my time on Earth. On this blessed, ugly, shining, dizzy sphere floating in your massive universe. I'm sorry for being narcissistic, just like the planet Earth. Thank you for all of the mistakes I got to make. Thank you for all the jobs I lost. Thank you for all the terrible ratings. Thank you for all of my breakdowns. Thank you for the cuts on my arms and the anxiety and depression in my brain. Thank you for all of my pain because it made me understand that I was alive. I'll miss it tremendously. Signing off. 11:50pm.

DAVID GORGEIOUS puts a gun to his head. The lights dim. Return to the couple. They are finishing their doughnuts and ice cream.

AURORA

Okay, I gotta lay some news on you. Please don't be mad...

SEAN

Oh great. I'm ready.

AURORA

Nonfat vanilla isn't so bad. (Beat.) Neither are you.

She kisses him.

SEAN

Do you wanna dance?

AURORA

More than anything.

The couple rises. They begin to slow dance together. John Mayer's "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" plays. We hear their inner monologues.

SEAN

So here we are.

AURORA

He's always been such a bad dancer.

SEAN

I don't think I would've done anything differently.

AURORA

I've always loved that about him.

SEAN

I'm gonna miss her eyes.

AURORA

I'm gonna miss the fights.

SEAN

The way they draw me in.

AURORA

The way he drives me insane.

SEAN

The way I can see myself in them. The way I was meant to be. Inside her head.

AURORA

Yet I always want to hold him after.

AURORA notices something burning behind SEAN.

Hey, Sean. The apartment is on fire.

SEAN

Good.

They return to inner monologues.

AURORA

Maybe that's the point. Maybe fighting is okay. As long as you want to hold them after.

SEAN

I wonder when I'll see her again.

AURORA

I wonder when he'll kiss me again.

SEAN

I wonder when she'll make fun of me again.

AURORA

I wonder when he'll drive me up the wall insane again.

SEAN

(To Aurora.) You know why I always wanted to be with you?

AURORA

Why baby?

SEAN

Your name. Aurora. It means dawn, right? The light before sunrise?

AURORA

Yeah.

SEAN

I always loved that.

They kiss passionately. They dance. The apartment becomes engulfed in flames. The orange light from the beginning of the play, like that of a sunset, begins to shine brightly over them. Lights out.

Lights up. The morning. Birds chirping. SEAN and AURORA are left alive in the burnt remains of the Earth. They wake up. They spend some time looking at the sky, and feeling the fresh breeze against them. The light of the stage is a bright blue. Maybe the world didn't end, and they lived. Perhaps, maybe, they did die, and this is where they went after. All that is clear is that the couple is happy. The happiest they have ever been and will ever be. They kiss and exit the stage. The lights of the theater come up. No blackout.

End of play.

THE PLAYWRIGHT SPEAKS:

I

began formulating this play while working on a separate project for the Quarantine Bake-Off, a playwriting competition developed by some theater students from the University of Minnesota. I crafted a short play about two young lovers who were forced to communicate over social media because of the circumstances the Coronavirus pandemic had created. Much of which was developed from my own personal insights of living in California while my girlfriend lives in Miami, Florida, and we have no real idea of when we will be seeing each other again.

Then,

*for my playwriting class at The Boston Conservatory with my instructor David Valdes-Greenwood, I was instructed to write a one-act play, and I kept finding myself stuck on this issue of what this virus will do to my relationship with my girlfriend. I decided to start on a new story, *Lovesong for the End of the World*, in which the end of days finally arrives, and two young adults who are in a committed relationship decide to spend their final night with one another. I started experimenting with how this last night on Earth movie date would go. What would these characters fight about? Would they argue over large, big picture problems, or would they quarrel over the same meaningless issues all couples argue over? I decided it was both.*

Sean

and Aurora fight because that's what all couples were meant to do. Much of this play, to me, discusses what it means to be in a "good" relationship. (And yes, I'm 21 and very young to be searching for these kinds of answers, but cut me some slack.) Because, in the end, if I were with my girlfriend on the last night of the world, I believe we would fight about nonsensical things the way we always do. However, I also believe that we would hold each other and dance in the flames, without doubting each other for even a second.

So,

I give you this play.

AUTHOR'S BIO: *A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Blake Du Bois is an aspiring actor and playwright who is currently pursuing his BFA in Musical Theater at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Blake is a passionate creator of theater and thrives off of the student work at his institution. Blake has worked with New Ground Theater Company, where he directed the original production of *Dahmer: A Musical* and most recently premiered his first original play, *What Love Is Not*. His past theatrical credits include *Her Naked Skin* (Boston Conservatory), *American Idiot* (Berklee Musical Theater), *Heathers: The Musical* (Priscilla*

Beach Theater), and Equus (Boston Conservatory.) Blake currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts. Instagram: [blake_du_bois](#). Website: blakedubois.me