

The Woebegone

by

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Cast of Characters

LEX: 23

RAY: 27

Place
Rockaway Beach

Time
1 PM

2.

Setting: A boiling hot summer morning on the beach. It's a Tuesday and most people are at work, which means the beach isn't as crowded as it would be during the weekend.

A white lifeguard ladder sits beside LES and RAY.

At Rise: Lex and Ray sit together side by side, sharing a white bathroom towel.

LEX: When did this asshole say he was gonna be here?

RAY: You asked me that stupid question three times already.

LEX: I'm roasting! You couldn't pick a shady spot to meet him?

RAY: Ahhh God, stop working me up, always gotta work me up. You're not the only moron out here baking in the sun, alright?

LEX: Doesn't help! I feel like I'm getting bubbles under my forearms.

RAY: Bubbles? What bubbles?

LEX: Look! (showing her arms) Doesn't the skin look weird, like it's flaring up?

RAY: It looks red.

LEX: It once happened when I was fifteen years old in Naples, fell asleep on the beach at night with my friend Crissie, woke up the next day completely sunburnt, blisters all over my body.

RAY: Naples? When were you ever in Naples?

LEX: Went on holiday with Crissie and her family.

RAY: Get the fuck outta here with that.

LEX: What?

RAY: You ain't ever left Queens your whole life.

LEX: You're an asshole.

RAY: Naples---

LEX: I been to Naples!

RAY: Where in Naples you been?

LEX: Naples, I don't know.

RAY: And what does Naples look like?

LEX: Lots of buildings and museums and beaches.

RAY: There's buildings, museums and beaches everywhere. Give me something specific.

LEX: When we first arrived in Naples, we walked along the perimeter of the shoreline, the ocean was an aqua green color, I never saw the ocean look so friendly before and when we jumped into that emerald abyss I instantly felt like I was cleansed spiritually, all of a sudden I felt this lightness come over me...later, we went through town and walked along a cobblestone street, it was so narrow that we had to step to the side in order to let the cars go by. Eventually we reached a tiny church and inside was a painting made by Leonardo Da Vinci and after that we had spumoni ice cream, bought a bunch of beers and got smashed on the beach as we watched the sunset. It was one of the most magical moments of my life.

RAY: And when did you get sunburnt?

LEX: The following morning.

RAY: Alright, alright, you were in Naples, good for you.

LEX: Yes, I was.

RAY: I'd like to go to Naples.

LEX: You're too stupid to go to Naples.

RAY: How does being stupid have anything to do with going to Naples?

LEX: Because you're too stupid to not be smart enough to make enough money to visit Naples.

RAY: You depress me.

(beat)

LEX: Just statig the facts.

RAY: It's true though.

LEX: Where have you ever gone in all your life?

RAY: ...Michigan.

LEX: For what?

RAY: ...I used to be pen pals with this cousin I had who died. We'd write these long letters to one another and share all kinds of stories...we were close and one time my dad drove me to Michigan to visit him and it was like being reunited with a brother and uh, he died that summer cause we found this path that led to train tracks and cargo used to pass by pretty regularly and we'd chase them down and jump onto the ladder at the tail end of the train and this one time Jimmy missed the ladder but his chain, the chain he wore around his neck, it got caught onto some sort of hook at the bottom of the

RAY (cont'd): ladder and he was getting choked while his body was being dragged along the track.

I tried to pull him up but I wasn't strong enough...finally, he gave out, he became lifeless and all I could do was look down at him, until the train reached its destination hours later...it was, it was the worst thing I'd ever seen.

LEX: Jes', why didn't you ever tell me about this before?

RAY: Who the hell wants to talk about that miserable shit anyway? Sorry I brought it up but for the record, YEAH, I've been out of this shitty town. And where is this asshole?! Been three hours!

LEX: He'll be here---wait, is that him?

RAY: Where?

LEX: Oh, no, he's waving at someone, never mind.

RAY: I don't want to be here.

LEX: We have to be here.

RAY: This guy's toying with us.

LEX: So what? It's money, right?

RAY: This is what I mean, desperate men do desperate things.

LEX: It's just temporary, like you said.

RAY: I don't want to deal with this in my life.

LEX: We don't have a choice, Ray.

(pause)

RAY: See that hot dog stand?

LEX: Yeah.

RAY: Must be five, six-hundred there.

LEX: No.

RAY: I'm telling ya. At least five. Guy's been throwing money under that lid every two minutes. I should take him.

LEX: Are you nuts?

RAY: Take me ten seconds. Put my gun in his face, he hands me the money and I'm out.

LEX: What about me?

RAY: What about you?? I'll see you home.

LEX: No way! We stay here to sell the lenses and we're out.

RAY: Lenses. These lenses. This guy really wanted these camera lenses, he'd be here by now.

LEX: Call him!

RAY: I left three messages.

LEX: Leave four!

RAY: He's got two minutes or I'm robbing the hot dog guy.

LEX: You do that and I'm leaving you for good.

RAY: We need the money!

LEX: Give me your phone, where's your phone?

RAY: No!

LEX: I want to call him---

RAY: Hell no!

(LEX stands up)

LEX: This is getting stupid. I am roasting alive and we don't even have enough money to buy a cold drink. I'm gonna die.

RAY: So, die already and get it over with.

LEX: You don't have any money at all?

RAY: I have nothing.

LEX: We can't even get back home.

RAY: This was our shot, Lex. This guy ain't here and now we're fucked.

LEX: I have to get out of this heat, I'm not joking.

RAY: Go sit under the boardwalk.

LEX: I don't know what's under there.

RAY: Sand! COOL sand, go, you will feel like you're in a pool, go, please, before I kill myself.

LEX: I think you should come with me and get out of the sun, too.

RAY: I'm fine.

LEX: I'm serious Ray, you can get heatstroke.

RAY: Good, I hope it comes soon.

(beat)

I told the guy 98th street exactly, he knows the street is parallel to the white lifeguard ladder, can't miss us.

LEX: Listen, I honestly think the guy skipped out on us...really.

RAY: You think?

LEX: Come on...

RAY: Can't believe this, this shit always happens to me, I can't get a break.

LEX: We tried...we'll get someone else to buy the lenses.

RAY: You wanna take a dip in the ocean to cool off?

LEX: What? No, let's find some air-conditioner.

RAY: Yeah...what do you think about the hot dog guy?

(LEX stares RAY down)

I'm just asking.

LEX: I'll see if my brother can drive us back home.

RAY: I fucking hate your brother, please---

LEX: Who else is willing to come rescue us?

RAY: Rescue? What are we stranded on a raft? We're at the beach, we can sneak on the subway and get home.

END OF PLAY