

Last Day of June

by

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Cast of Characters

JUNE:

30's

ERNEST:

50

Place

Suburban

Time

Late at night

Setting: The backyard of June. We see a house with white aluminum siding, an old unpainted wooden porch and a small outdoor light next to the porch door.

At Rise: June sits in front of a fading amber colored fire. She is pale and her hair is still wet. She wears nothing but a silk lavender robe. Ernest wears red suspenders over a white t-shirt, jeans and carries a large black metal flashlight.

ERNEST: What exactly you doing flashing them lights on in here?

JUNE: Enter.

ERNEST: Enter? Enter, what?

JUNE: My home.

ERNEST: Why am I gonna go inside your house, without you being in it?

JUNE: To find out why the lights are flashing.

ERNEST observes the house.

ERNEST: I'm gonna stay out here.

JUNE: Then don't trouble me with such infantile questions.

ERNEST: You think there's a short circuit of some kind that needs fixing?

JUNE: No.

ERNEST: Hey, what you doing out here in the dark? Can barely see you.

JUNE: Why don't you fuck off?

ERNEST: Excuse me?

JUNE: Fuck off.

ERNEST: I was only checking to see that everything is everything.

JUNE: I was going to kill myself. I was going to lay in my bathroom tub and toss my blow dryer in it. But something odd happened, something unexplainable. I was laying down in my tub and reached for my blow dryer but when my fingertips touched it, a voice called out to me, "June". It sounded like someone entered my home and called my name gently. I asked if anyone was there and again I heard my name softly called..."June". This time I stood up and out of the tub, put on my robe and made my way into the living-room. No one was there. (beat) I decided to make myself an outdoor fire. Don't ask me why, but I suddenly had this urge to get dry by the fire, and so I did. I've been sitting here ever since. But today was the last day of June and I decided to take my life...maybe I did, I feel as though I am gone, although I am talking with you now.

ERNEST: You ah, you want me to go in your house and check on things a bit?

JUNE: See it for yourself?

ERNEST: See, what?

JUNE doesn't reply.

ERNEST looks into the house and enters slowly.

A moment goes by and ERNEST comes back out a bit shaken.

You alright, June?

JUNE: Why do you ask?

ERNEST: Cause something strange has happened. Uh, I went into your bathroom and thought I saw you lying dead in the tub, but then you were gone, but I am one-hundred percent certain I saw you, as I'm looking at you right now...dead.

JUNE: Hmmm.

ERNEST: When I looked again, everything was fine. It was liked I imagined it from what you told me, but...it felt real to me. You sure you're alright?

JUNE gets up and walks up to ERNEST. She kisses him on the lips long and hard.

JUNE: Was that real?

ERNEST: Very real.

JUNE: You sure you have batteries in that flashlight?

ERNEST: Ah, it's workin' just fine.

ERNEST test out his flashlight.

See that?

JUNE: Do you believe in second chances?

ERNEST: Like if you make a mistake of some kind?

JUNE: Yes.

ERNEST: Well, I guess that depends on the case. Some mistakes you can't take back.

JUNE: But what if it was a mistake you couldn't take back, but you did.

ERNEST: I'm not sure I follow you.

JUNE: Let's say you climbed up to the top of a two hundred foot tree and fell off. Next thing you know you are right back at the top of the tree, unharmed.

ERNEST: Unharmed? Well, how could that be if I fell?

JUNE: What if you fell, but when you landed you were sent back to the top of the tree, given a second chance?

ERNEST: That's the strangest thing I ever heard.

JUNE: Do you think it could happen?

ERNEST: I mean, one time when I was about five years old I almost stepped into the street directly in front of a moving bus, but for some reason I stopped in time. You mean something like that?

JUNE: I'm saying if you made the decision to kill yourself, but as you were dying regretted your decision so much that somehow you were placed in time a moment before it happened?

ERNEST: That's fucked up.

JUNE: Isn't it?

JUNE bursts out laughing.

It's incredible really when you think about it, right Ernest?

ERNEST: When I think about it I get an upset stomach.

JUNE: I think it's unbelievable! I've been sitting out here ever since.

ERNEST: Ever since, what?

JUNE: Ever since I got a second chance.

ERNEST: A second chance from what exactly?

JUNE: Oh, Ernest, don't you understand anything when I talk to you?

ERNEST: I'm sorry, it's just that---

JUNE: Something happened that reset the clocks back.

ERNEST: Well, daylight savings isn't for another---

JUNE: No! No! ...Ernest, look at me...I did did something tonight that should have left me for dead. Don't you see? I killed myself!

ERNEST steps back.

ERNEST: But, you're standing right in front of me.

JUNE: That's what I'm saying!!

ERNEST: ...You are one confusing woman---

JUNE: I remember feeling the electricity surge through my body, the smoke flaring up to the ceiling, all the sparks spitting out from the radio...my final thoughts being, "How can I do this?" "Please, please give me another chance to make my life right". But I meant what I said with such emotional intensity that I feel as though I changed time itself. I mean, I never wanted anything in my life more than to live, really live in that moment right there and I felt something switch, like a time shift of some kind, I don't know what the hell you can call it, but the next thing I knew was that I was reaching out for the radio and I pulled my arms back! That's what I did. And I, I got out of the tub, put on my robe and came out here to start a fire, like I told you.

ERNEST: Maybe you imagined you went through with it, but in actuality you didn't.

JUNE: No, I did! I did go through with it! I'm telling you I did! I remember, Ernie!

ERNEST: Maybe you dozed off for a second or two and dreamt that you did it and when you snapped up awake, it felt like you had already done it.

JUNE: You don't believe me, do you?

ERNEST: I think my dream theory's got you beat.

JUNE: I felt death. I know what it's like to die. Right before my final second was up, I was placed back in time about thirty seconds before it all started. I swear!

ERENST: Alright, alright. Why don't you go on back inside your home and rest. It's pretty damn late and I got work in the morning and this is just about all I can handle, June.

JUNE: But you said so yourself! You said you saw me dead in the tub, didn't you?

ERNEST: That was just my eyes playing tricks on me is all.

JUNE: It's the truth!! Can't you make the connection?!

ERNEST: I need to sleep on it.

JUNE: This was supposed to be my last day of June on the very last day of June and something magical happened. I don't care if you believe me or not, but I am all the proof I need. I know what I did, what I felt, what I experienced. It's all in me!

ERNEST: Okay, I can't say I don't believe you, but I can't say I do. I need to sleep on this thing to gain some perspective. I can come by tomorrow evening if you like and we can discuss it clearly. How does that sound?

JUNE: You can't come by tomorrow and see me Ernest.

ERNEST: And why's that?

JUNE: Because I'm dead.

Lights out.

END OF PLAY