

The Outcome of Design

by

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Cast of Characters

<u>JEFFREY:</u>	15
<u>GESEBEL:</u>	15

Place
Lakeside

Time
Day

2.

Setting: Jeffrey and Gesebel sit side by side on a blanket overlooking a lake.

At Rise: Jeffrey and Gesebel eat sandwiches from a picnic basket.

JEFFREY: Sometimes I imagine what life would be like after I'm dead. I wonder if there actually is a heaven and if I'm going to be accepted there and if I am accepted, what the hell would I be doing? Like, how will I spend my time? Am I gonna know the same assholes I know here on Earth? How lame is that? Can't tell you how fed up I am with the people I know. The thought of having to see them and have those forced conversations is nothing short of a nightmare. Heaven should be something that I can make up as I go along, you know? Whatever makes me happy.

But, what if you were reasonably bad on Earth, but not bad enough to make it into heaven? What are the consequences of that? I mean, if you couldn't follow the rules down here, why should you all of a sudden follow the rules way up there?

The whole thing is screwed. We're screwed. Do you think we're screwed?

GESEBEL: Yeah.

JEFFREY: Why do you think we're---

GESEBEL: Because no one has any answers.

JEFFREY: Everyone is a bunch of liars.

GESEBEL: And everyone accepts not knowing.

JEFFREY: Not knowing what?

GESEBEL: The truth of things.

JEFFREY: Like, why are we here?

GESEBEL: What made the universe?

JEFFREY: I think we are bacteria.

GESEBEL: That's what I think!

JEFFREY: I think we are bacteria that formed into human beings. I think we are in some giant person's belly, like a bug, so small that we can't ever be seen.

GESEBEL: One time I had acorns I picked up from the park and I put them in this shoe box and forgot about them. A week later I decided I wanted to plant them into the ground and you know what I saw when I lifted off the shoe box cover?

JEFFREY: No, what?

GESEBEL: The shoe box was filled with maggots.

JEFFREY: That's gross!

GESEBEL: True story.

JEFFREY: Yikes!

GESEBEL: Ever since that day I often wondered how something lifeless, produced life.

JEFFREY: I'm sure there's a scientific explanation for it.

GESEBEL: But even so, how can science justify it? It's just a bunch of random people getting philosophical and claiming to make discoveries.

JEFFREY: What are you saying?

GESEBEL: How do we know it's true?

JEFFREY: What's true?

GESEBEL: How do we know that the theories we create, the things we imagine, are valid?

JEFFREY: Math is true.

GESEBEL: Math makes sense, that doesn't make it true.

JEFFREY: So, how do we know what's true?

GESEBEL: We don't. We're all just destined to starve when it comes to heightened knowledge.

JEFFREY: That's pessimistic.

GESEBEL: It's true.

JEFFREY: So, there is something true. The convictions of one's point of view.

GESEBEL: Our feelings are true.

JEFFREY: Hmmm. Feelings. Emotions. What if they aren't?

GESEBEL: Feelings have to be true.

JEFFREY: No, they don't.

GESEBEL: Yeah.

JEFFREY: Maybe feelings are a lie. Maybe we feel what we feel, but emotions they are fake.

GESEBEL: How can they be fake?

JEFFREY: What if we're programmed?

GESEBEL: Programmed?

JEFFREY: Programmed to feel a certain way, based on a certain scenario.

GESEBEL: That makes everything programmed then.

JEFFREY: And what if that's so?

GESEBEL: ...I don't want to be a program.

JEFFREY: Neither do I...

GESEBEL stands up and takes hold
of a small flat rock.

GESEBEL: If I take this rock and throw it sideways into the lake it will skip. If I do it again it will skip differently. Each time I throw it, the action will have a different outcome. True or false?

JEFFREY: True.

GESEBEL: That means there is unlimited paths this rock could take.

JEFFREY: Unlimited programming.

GESEBEL: You're saying everything is preconceived?

JEFFREY: I'm saying there is truth to how that rock will bounce, based on the truth of how you throw it. There is truth in the program...which could be math, by the way.

GESEBEL: I don't like this.

JEFFREY: Why?

GESEBEL: I don't like the feeling of being controlled.

JEFFREY: But we have free will.

GESEBEL: But it's dominated by something previously fixed. There is no spontaneity in that, just a program that makes us think we are spontaneous, when in fact we are already a designed outcome. That's depressing.

JEFFREY: But there's no truth in what I say anyway, right?

GESEBEL: What if there is?

JEFFREY: Then why would I be programmed to say it?

GESEBEL: Because it's what you believe, Jeffrey.

JEFFREY: I'm not saying I believe it, I only think about it from time to time. I see the patterns, in life. I see how humanity flows in and out of itself, like breathing and I see the magic, I can see the massive design. When I look at things, I see the mathematics. I see the beauty in numbers. It feels as though there is a higher being that created all of this because it's all too perfect, that's it, I see the perfection, the harmony in the perfection...at times it's almost comical, when I allow my mind to rise above it, when I don't allow myself to get bogged down with living in the moment. Instead, I live through the moment, I partake and observe simultaneously...you never notice such things, Gesebel?

GESEBEL: Only so far.

JEFFREY: And even in that grand moment, there is no answer, no matter how much I can see the divine, I cannot find its reason for being. I don't believe I ever will.

GESEBEL: I don't believe you ever will, either.

JEFFREY: Part of me thinks the not knowing is what makes the experience so special. I make peace with myself when I look at it in those terms. That's how I avoid frustration.

GESEBEL: I'm glad you can resign yourself to accept something that is bigger than us.

JEFFREY: It is, isn't it?

GESEBEL: Absolutely.

JEFFREY: What's left?

GESEBEL: What do you mean?

JEFFREY: I guess we just need to go on living then, right?

GESEBEL: What else would you expect?

JEFFREY: Live.

GESEBEL: Live.

JEFFREY: I am programmed to finish my sandwich because I am hungry.

GESEBEL: I am programmed to not eat my apple because I don't want it.

JEFFREY: Strange.

GESEBEL: What?

JEFFREY: I feel like this has happened already.

GESEBEL: Really?

JEFFREY: I feel like this is all too familiar to me, like I've lived this moment before.

GESEBEL: Oh yeah?

GESEBEL kisses JEFFREY on the cheek.

JEFFREY: What was that for?

GESEBEL: Did you recall my kiss?

JEFFREY: No.

GESEBEL: First time?

JEFFREY: First time.

GESEBEL: There must be more to life than what we can ever imagine.

END OF PLAY