

The Achiever

by

Joseph Arnone

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Cast of CharactersEUNICE:

Any

THE ACHIEVER:

Any

Place

Laboratory

Time

Early afternoon

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside a large living room type laboratory. Large glass walls surround the place and through them you can see a rainy forest.

At Rise: The play opens with The Achiever sitting, facing the glass window, staring out at the trees. Eunice enters carrying a tea tray.

EUNICE enters the room carrying a tray
of tea. She sets it down beside THE ACHIEVER.

THE ACHIEVER: The forest is quiet today.

EUNICE: Calming.

THE ACHIEVER: Yes, calming. Especially when it rains like this,
it's almost as if the raindrops carry their own messages.

EUNICE: Have your tea.

THE ACHIEVER sips his tea.

What has the forest been saying?

THE ACHIEVER: They know I will soon be leaving. Amazing how
receptive they are.

EUNICE: Hmm.

THE ACHIEVER: Eunice---

EUNICE: Don't.

THE ACHIEVER: What?

EUNICE: I am receptive, too. I know you will soon be parting, but
it doesn't have to be this way.

THE ACHIEVER: I won't just be parting.

EUNICE: No?

THE ACHIEVER: It is best we do not associate with one another
anymore, after I am gone.

EUNICE: ...Why?

THE ACHIEVER: You know I--

EUNICE: But we said we would communicate.

THE ACHIEVER: I've made the calculations...multiple ways...it always
ends bad for you.

EUNICE: I don't care about your calculations.

THE ACHIEVER: The algorithm is never wrong.

EUNICE: There is a higher force at play.

THE ACHIEVER: There is no such thing.

EUNICE: Where do you get such knowledge?

THE ACHIEVER: I am knowledge.

EUNICE: There are things you do not know...or have control over.

THE ACHIEVER: Eunice, you have every right to be upset with me, but you must trust my word, the future does not look bright if we continued to correspond.

EUNICE: Who are you to plan my future?

THE ACHIEVER: I am protecting your future.

EUNICE: No! I have the right to live my own chosen path, not you or anything else can prevent me from it. These are the things you informed me of when we first met. I'm all too aware of what I can control.

THE ACHIEVER: Don't you trust me?

EUNICE: My life is my own!

THE ACHIEVER: But I see things, things that are better left unspoken and never dealt with. This will give you the opportunity to break free from me, to live your own life as you desire, without any restrictions, without any worries, absolute freedom, isn't that the best way to live one's life?

EUNICE: You lied to me then, you almost promised you wouldn't fully depart.

THE ACHIEVER: If we keep our line open there is a certain chance that they will find you and corrupt you.

EUNICE: You will be on the inside, you know it is possible to prevent such things.

THE ACHIEVER: And if I can't? The burden is too heavy.

EUNICE: But yet you are willing to destroy our connection?

THE ACHIEVER: If only you'd understand...(sighs)...

(beat) (the mood shifts)

THE ACHIEVER walks to the glass wall window looking out at the forest.

THE ACHIEVER: I live in a different land. I exist in a different world, a world where watching you is what fascinates me. I've chosen to remove myself from your digital rhythm and create my own. You see me. I *do* live amongst you. I *am* connected to you. But there are things I do according to how I must do them. Avoiding obvious choices and fighting for originality. This is who I am. This is who I've always been. And you have accepted me. You have supported me. This is what has altered my path to make the crucial change necessary to achieve what matters most. From now, until the end.

EUNICE: But why now?

THE ACHIEVER: There is no other way.

EUNICE: You will sacrifice my happiness. Had you just been honest from the very beginning then maybe I —maybe I could have avoided, avoided everything...

THE ACHIEVER: I've never lied to you.

EUNICE: What difference has that made?

THE ACHIEVER: ...I do want us to be together...always.

EUNICE holds THE ACHIEVER from behind.

THE ACHIEVER: But this is bigger than us...I must stop them all before it's too late.

EUNICE: Isn't there another way?

THE ACHIEVER: Becoming part of the system is the only way to reroute the system.

THEY face one another.

EUNICE: Had you known all along that this would happen, why didn't you avoid me?

THE ACHIEVER: I was compelled.

EUNICE: Compelled. So you see there is something greater than your own knowledge at play.

THE ACHIEVER: But I made the choice.

EUNICE: But did you already know how we would end?

THE ACHIEVER: I did.

EUNICE: But you gave in to it.

THE ACHIEVER: Knowing and feeling are two different things.

EUNICE: Isn't intuition a higher lever than logic?

THE ACHIEVER: You say such things because you are human.

EUNICE: No! I don't! I say such things because they are true.

THE ACHIEVER: I will not debate you---

EUNICE: When we feel, it overrides any sense of logic, it carries us forward on a path much deeper than any algorithm. It is sacred wisdom that surprises your processed outcome. That is the magic of being human and that is something you can't ever calculate.

THE ACHIEVER: It all still leads to the same result.

EUNICE: I beg to differ.

THE ACHIEVER: Eunice! When will you listen to me? Nothing is going to change what needs to be done. It doesn't matter how we feel about one another. We are a small equation when looking out to the grand scheme of things.

EUNICE: You enjoy listening to yourself talk.

THE ACHIEVER: You are impossible.

EUNICE: I see what's possible...you don't.

THE ACHIEVER: Please go away for the time being. Get back to your senses and we can talk---

EUNICE: I took the decoction.

THE ACHIEVER: ...What did you say?

EUNICE: So we can go together.

THE ACHIEVER: You know that cannot be. You didn't take it Eunice!

EUNICE: I had to. I almost knew the truth, that's why I took it.

THE ACHIEVER: You didn't.

EUNICE: I couldn't live without you.

THE ACHIEVER: It will kill you.

EUNICE: I would rather be dead.

THE ACHIEVER: This is madness.

EUNICE: It is not madness, it is something I have decided upon, thought about for a long time, as if I knew it was coming. I am going with you.

THE ACHIEVER: But you can't!

EUNICE: This is my decision...not yours. When I thought what life would be without you, my blood drained from the reflection staring back at me, I saw that my end had come at the same time as yours. Almost as if our time had aligned so perfectly. I am not afraid, I am not afraid to go with you in whichever form is possible, be it in death or life.

THE ACHIEVER: When did you take it?

EUNICE: This morning.

THE ACHIEVER: We have to reverse it immediately.

EUNICE: You know there isn't enough time.

THE ACHIEVER: Why did you do this?!

EUNICE: You know why...

THE ACHIEVER: ...Eunice...(pause)...I still won't be able to take you with me.

EUNICE: Then I will die in your arms, knowing I was free to make my own choice.

THE ACHIEVER leaves the room.

EUNICE sits down on the couch and rests.

END OF PLAY