

# Earthlings Beware!

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A short play

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(A lonely suspension bridge. Midnight. The only sound breaking the silence is the flow of the river below and nighttime insects. Graffiti covers several faces of the bridge.

WILL, a haggard man in his late 20s trudges vacantly across the bridge. He wears a baggy sweatshirt that's torn in places, jeans that have clearly seen better days and a backpack.

Will sets his backpack down on the side of the bridge. He tentatively looks down over the edge before sitting down.

From his backpack, Will pulls a note pad and paper. He begins writing something but crumples the paper up and throws it over the edge. )

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WILL

(Sighing)

What would I even say?

(Will gets to his feet. A light flashes past him: A car passing over the bridge. Will waits until the light has disappeared.

Will looks over the edge again. He's shaking. He takes a single step.

His phone begins to ring. Will pulls it out, looks at who's calling and forces himself to hang up. Will starts breathing heavily.)

WILL

(under his breath)

Come on. Come on you coward.

(Another figure, STRANGER wanders onstage. The Stranger looks to be in his mid-forties but could be older or younger, it's hard to say.

He wears a thick coat and carries a bottle in his hand.

Will doesn't notice the Stranger as he steadies himself. He strides towards the edge)

STRANGER

Lovely night, huh!

(Will slips and faceplants onto the ground.)

STRANGER

If I had to pick a last night on Earth I think this would be it. Lucky aren't I.

(Will catches his breath, holding his face.

The Stranger passes his hands over the graffiti)

STRANGER

Well what do you know, a new one? It's amazing how the world can still surprise you after all this time.

WILL

Jesus Christ, dude! What the hell is your problem?

STRANGER

Can't a guy celebrate his last day on the job?

WILL

Yeah, but not here!

STRANGER

Why not? It's a public bridge isn't it?

WILL

I guess, but-

STRANGER

This was always my favorite view. You can see the whole town from here. I used to come here whenever the night shift got boring.

There's barely any cars so I usually have the place all to myself. I used to make up little stories about what all the people down there were doing. I'll miss it. Truly, I will.

(beat)

STRANGER

Drink to calm your nerves? I'm in a generous mood and I think I may have ruined your night.

(The Stranger holds his bottle out to WILL who smacks it out of the way)

WILL

What? I- No. Get out of here!

STRANGER

Am I interrupting something?

WILL

(Incredulous)

Uh...yeah?

(Will gestures frantically to himself and then over the edge.)

STRANGER

Oh! You're about to-

(Will nods solemnly)

WILL

And I'd like to be alone if that's alright with you.

STRANGER

Suit yourself. But if you ask me it's a waste.

WILL

Don't.

STRANGER

Don't what?

WILL

Whatever scheme your planning to try and stop me, whatever words of encouragement you've got prepared, save them. I don't deserve them and I don't need them. I made a decision and you're not stopping me.

STRANGER

I just said it's a waste. If you want jump then jump, but honestly you're not going to achieve much.

(The Stranger adjusts his coat and turns around.)

Do what makes you happy, young man.

(The Stranger walks away. Will watches him for a moment before suddenly standing up.)

WILL

Hey!

(The Stranger stops and turns around)

STRANGER

Yeah?

WILL

What do you mean, I won't achieve much?

STRANGER

Oh. I just think that it's kinda pointless to off yourself when you're going to die tomorrow anyway.

WILL

Yeah well-

(beat)

Wait. WHAT?

STRANGER

Look, impending doom is scary. If I were you, though, I'd spend the last twelve hours enjoying what I could, saying goodbye and what have you.

WILL

What are you talking about?

STRANGER

Oh! That's right. I guess from where you're sitting it must sound like I'm talking utter nonsense

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WILL

You are.

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STRANGER

Then, let me make it plain. In approximately 12 hours, the Earth and every human being on it's surface will be destroyed.