

Another Earth  
A 10 minute play by Daniel Baird  
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AMY - Early 30s, woman, cold, emotionless, calculating.

BENO - Early 30s, man, fearful, respectful

CASSIE - Early 30s, woman, free spirited, enthusiastic,  
passionate.

COMPUTER - Electronic voice

Notes: Narration can be done by the person playing CASSIE.  
COMPUTER can be recorded audio, a fourth actor, or Cassie actor.

Scene 1

NARRATOR

In 2152, citizens of Earth are sent to populate the solar system. Due to faulty equipment and hazardous conditions, only three of the original 10 settlers have survived their first year on Planet JFK153.

AMY sits at a desk, at a computer. BENO enters, he takes off his jacket.

BENO

Brrrr, it's as cold as Neptune today. Still, despite all we've gone through over the past year, I can't help but be hopeful about our future when I'm out there.

AMY doesn't react, she just continues to work. BENO walks over to her and kisses her neck.

BENO

What's wrong, Amy?

AMY

I've got some bad news.

BENO

Is it ever good news?

AMY

Another life support module has died.

BENO

Oh. Fuck.

AMY

One less life support module means 2000 kilowatts less of electricity for the-

BENO

Skip to the end would you. Are we all dead?

AMY

No. Not all of us. But our systems will only keep two of us alive until our next supply drop.

BENO

I'm no mathematician, but I *can* count to three. There's three of us left, so what does that mean.

AMY

It means either one of us dies, or all of us do.

BENO

Can we fix the module?

AMY

You know it's impossible.

BENO

Do we have any options?

AMY

There's one option. I'm an engineer and astrophysicist. You're a trained medic, an experienced soldier, and the only person who can run our artificial wombs. Cassie on the other hand is an artist. The computer says that if one of us dies, it should be Cassie. I agree. We both know having an artist on board was a waste of resources.

BENO

What are you suggesting?

AMY

I'm not *suggesting* anything. I'm telling you that the best chance for our survival and the future of this planet is for Cassie to die.

BENO

So we're just going to say to her..."Cassie, sorry, I hope you don't mind, but can you kill yourself?"

AMY

No. She's too emotional. Too subversive. She would never accept it. You'll just have to kill her.

BENO

I'll have to kill her?

AMY

As I said, *you're* the experienced soldier.

BENO

Ok, let's just say we do kill her. What will we tell Mission Control back on Earth? She tripped and fell?

AMY

We don't need to tell them anything. The computer suggested this course of action and already authorized it with Control.

BENO

Are you mad?! You're talking about murder.

AMY

I'm talking about survival. Computer said there would be a chance you wouldn't do it. So I'm also authorized. But we both know the chances of Cassie suffering would be so much more if I do it.

BENO

I can't believe this. All those people dead. Now you want me to  
kill another.

AMY

It's not just me. It's Computer, it's Control, it's-

BENO

Just shut up. I'll do it, but you can tell Control and the  
Computer to fuck off.

AMY

I'll note it in the logs.

BENO

How does Computer suggest I kill her?

AMY

Strangling her is the best option so we can recycle the body for  
water. But poisoning her food would be most humane.

AMY hands a vial of poison to BENO.

AMY

I suggest the strangling.

BENO sighs and leaves.

Scene 2

BENO and CASSIE walk together hand in hand across the stage.

CASSIE

Come on, we're almost there.

They stop mid stage and look out.

CASSIE

There. It's beautiful isn't it.

BENO (unfeeling)

Yes. Beautiful.

CASSIE

You can see the homestead and the forest. The mountains and lake. It reminds me of those old photos of Yosemite back on earth. I've been coming up here from time to time to paint on my tablet.

BENO

Oh.

CASSIE

What's wrong?

BENO

Hmm?

CASSIE

Are two women getting to be too much for you?

BENO

No no, it's not that at all.

CASSIE

Well I have some good news that will cheer you up.

BENO

Good news? It's been a long while since we had some good news.  
What is it?

CASSIE

I'm pregnant.

BENO

What?! How can you be pregnant? Are you sure?

CASSIE

I'm sure, a woman knows these things.

BENO

But how? Weren't you sterilized with the other women?

CASSIE

Of course not. I never went through the academy like the rest of you.

BENO

Does Amy know?

CASSIE

Ha. The only thing she knows about are numbers.

BENO

What about Computer? Control?

CASSIE

I thought the father should know first.

BENO

Father?

CASSIE

Just think, they'll be the first human born on the planet. Maybe they'll be royalty. You could be the father of kings.

BENO

If Control finds out about this, they'll have the baby aborted.

CASSIE

Oh, not this again. We've been over this before. When are you and Amy going to get it into your heads? Control can't do anything. All Control and Computer are, are lines on a screen. A robotic voice. They're millions of light years away. All they can do is tell you that you're naughty and you need to punish yourself. Aside from that, what power do they have?

BENO

They know what's best for us.

CASSIE

They don't know what's best for *me*. Why even bother to exist when you let Control decide everything for you? You might as

well be a computer yourself. If Control told you to drive off a bridge, would you do it?

BENO

There aren't any bridges here.

CASSIE

It's an expression. If Control told you to push me off this cliff would you do it?

BENO pauses.

BENO

I...I don't know.

CASSIE

Doesn't that worry you? Can't you think for yourself?

BENO

But Computer knows what will happen. It uses predictive models to tell us what to do for the best outcome of the planet.

CASSIE

What does that mean? "The best outcome." The best outcome for who or what? For Control? Not the best outcome for living, that's for sure. The only thing Computer is good for is keeping me alive. Even then, the food it makes tastes like shit. Look around you. Look at this view. This is life. Feel my belly. That is life.

CASSIE slaps BENO on the face.

CASSIE

That is life.

CASSIE kisses BENO

CASSIE

That is life. Computer is not life. Control is not life. Percentages are not life. We're not numbers. My baby won't be a number.

BENO  
I understand.

CASSIE  
Do you though? I'd rather die than be a number. I'd rather die  
than never be able to enjoy a sunset. Look around you, that  
isn't a photo of Yosemite. That is life, you need to start  
living.

BENO  
Come on, we should get back before it's dark.

CASSIE  
I'm going to stay a while. I need to breathe.

BENO goes to leave. Before he does, CASSIE grabs him and kisses  
him.

CASSIE  
I love you.

BENO  
I love you too.

Scene 3

BENO sits at the computer.

BENO  
Computer, I've found out Cassie is pregnant. What action should  
I take.

COMPUTER  
Computing, computing, computing. Computer suggests based on  
predictive modeling that the best course of action is to  
terminate citizen C12 name: CASSIE. With current life support  
levels, termination of C12 leaves the best outcome for the  
future of JFK153.

BENO



What type of future will it be though? What does the best outcome mean?

COMPUTER

Computing, computing, computing. Your comment has been logged with Control as a subversive thought - level 2. Enact punishment A2 within 24 hours or your case will be escalated.

BENO turns off the computer. He sits for a moment staring at the screen in silence.

AMY enters.

AMY

Is it done?

BENO

Hmm?

AMY

Did you terminate CASSIE?

BENO

Terminate? You mean murder.

AMY

Well?

BENO

It's done.

AMY

Good. Did you recycle her body at the water plant?

BENO

What?

AMY

You know it's procedure to recycle any bodies immediately.

BENO

Oh. Yes. Yes, I did.

AMY

Great. Shall we have dinner?

BENO

I'm not hungry, but why don't you sit down and I'll prepare your food.

AMY sits at a dining table while BENO goes to the side. He dispenses food onto a tray. We see him taking the vial of poison out of his pocket, tipping it into the tray of food. He brings the food over to AMY and puts it in front of her.

BENO

Why don't we go for a walk after dinner? Cassie showed me a wonderful view from up on the hills.

AMY

Don't you see, now she's gone we don't need to pretend we enjoy that type of thing.

AMY begins to eat her food. BENO sits and watches her, he reaches his hand out to touch hers.

AMY

What is it?

BENO

What?

AMY

You always want to hold hands when you've done something wrong.

BENO

I just murdered somebody, didn't I?

AMY

It wasn't wrong, remember? Computer and Control said it was ok.

BENO

Computer and Control don't know everything. You don't know everything.

AMY

I know better than you. Remember, everything we do here is for the best outcome for this planet.

BENO

Yes. I did it for the best outcome for this planet.

AMY continues to eat her meal.

The end