

## TOMORROW GAME

[10-P Sample]

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### **SUMMARY (Prior to this scene)**

Bell and Roe live in a postapocalyptic wasteland. They each live in isolation, until they happen to meet. Roe threatens Bell with her gun, but Bell is having none of it: if you don't put down that gun I won't bring you vegetables. A garden! Unheard of. Roe puts down the gun. Then Bell shows Roe a game: take off your mask and see if you can breathe. Try this weed, and see if you wake up. Do more than just not-die. When Bell comes back with vegetables from her garden to trade, she is trapped in Roe's shelter by a sudden acid rainstorm.

### **CHARACTERS**

**Bell**—F. Whip smart but careful not to show it off. Gifted is not a thing anymore. Calculating but also sometimes impulsive. Tough but not that strong. A good liar. Lonesome.

**Roe**—F. Physically imposing. Doesn't talk much but not because she's dumb. Instinctive, careful. Athletes are not a thing anymore. Strong but only sometimes tough. A bad liar. Lonesome.

### **THE EARTH**

This is a world of profound solitude brought about by extreme danger. The dangerous things are also beautiful. Terrible things happened and billions of people are dead. Infrastructure is gone, order is mythic, no one believes anymore that help is coming. Most people don't remember ever believing that. There is no cure for the sickly earth. No place of refuge to quest toward. No military, no government, no doctors, no safety net. Just death, and not-death, not yet, not today.

### **A NOTE ON LANGUAGE**

The women in this play have been mostly alone. They speak in the shorthand of familiarity they learned when the only people around them were familiar. Silences are long and it's ok for them to sometimes be weightless—the silence of people who are used to being alone, rather than the silence of people trying to hold something back. They say nothing that doesn't need to be said. People who speak to fill the void are not the kind of people who have survived in this world.

### **A NOTE ON CASTING**

Both performers may be any age between 20 & 50. Both performers may be any race. However, anything that might impose a sense of inequality between them (i.e. a major age disparity, or casting one white and one non-white performer) should be avoided. The biggest differences between them are: Roe is big and Bell is small; Bell is analytic and Roe is emotional; Bell reads books and plays games and lives for tomorrow while Roe watches, listens, and remembers.

Later.

*It's still raining. Bell lays awake under a blanket on the floor. She watches Roe, asleep in the pile of blankets. Bell quietly creeps around the cave in the firelight searching, carefully, slowly. She looks in the chest of clothes, in nooks and crannies, baskets and bags. She tries to quietly move the large rock covering the hole where the meat is kept. It's heavy. She makes as little noise as she can. She hears Roe stirring and looks over at her, frozen.*

*Roe seems to be still asleep.*

*Quietly she removes the large men's shirt and wedges it under the rock, trying to move it silently. Finally, almost quietly, she moves it. She tries to look down inside and finds it's too dark to see. Gingerly she lays down on the ground and reaches her arm inside. And reaches. It's deep. She pulls up a small box, opens it, and removes four bullets from the box. She returns the box to the hole. She stuffs the bullets in her bra.*

*Deep breath. She carefully, desperately, re-covers the hole. Brushes dirt off the shirt. Puts it back on. Creeps back to her blanket to sleep.*

Later.

*Roe makes no effort to be quiet as she stokes the fire, puts water in the pot, pisses in a bucket in the corner.*

	BELL
Is it morning?	
	ROE
We slept	
	BELL
...the rain stopped	
	ROE
Too soon to go out	
	BELL
I have to shit	
	ROE
Can't open the door yet	
	BELL
Then where do I shit?	
	ROE
Outside	
	BELL
You said we can't open the door.	
	ROE
It's too soon	
	BELL
OK. Then <i>where</i> do I—	
	ROE
Piss in the bucket. Shit outside.	
	BELL
But since it's too soon to go outside, what do you expect me to do?	
	ROE
Wait	

BELL  
Don't be absurd.

ROE  
Wait

*Bell goes over to the bucket and pisses. She shits.*

ROE  
Hey!

*Bell wipes her ass with her hand and goes to wash her hand in the water bucket. Roe is PISSED.*

ROE  
We shit outside

BELL  
You weren't going to open the door.

ROE  
I kept you alive.

BELL  
Maybe. Maybe not.

ROE  
You stink

BELL  
Shit smells.  
I had to. *You* understand 'had to'. Right?

ROE  
—

BELL  
I'll bring seeds. When we open the door.

ROE  
For the shit?

BELL  
For a gun.

ROE  
Got no bullets.

BELL

—

ROE

—

BELL

Let's eat.

*They put cold stew in bowls. They eat.*

BELL

How long until we can open the door?

ROE

Soon.

*Long pause. They eat.*

BELL (*slowly*)

If Pete is hungry...he can eat meat...and if Hazel is hungry, she can eat...what?

ROE

Who's Hazel?

BELL

...If Pete is hungry...he can eat meat...And if Hazel is hungry, she can eat...Basil.

ROE (*wtf is basil?*)

Who. Basil.

BELL

If Clare is hungry, she can eat...a pear. And if Jean is hungry, she can eat...? What?

ROE

A pear.

BELL

Think.

ROE

...It's a game.

Yes. BELL

*Pause.*

I don't know. ROE

Think. BELL

— ROE

Pete has meat. Hazel has Basil. Clare has a pear. Jean has— BELL

—a Bean! ROE

Yes. BELL

Jean has a bean! ROE

If Anne is hungry, she can eat... BELL

...Food in a can? ROE

Sure. And if Shelly is hungry... BELL

Jelly. ROE

Right. BELL  
OK. So. If Ryan is hungry, he can have—

—Lion ROE

BELL  
Um. No.

ROE  
Lion's food.

BELL  
Wait. If Ryan is hungry, he can have radishes. But if Bell is hungry, she has to have beets.

ROE  
No.

BELL  
Yes. So if Marit is hungry, she can have...?

ROE  
Carrots.

BELL  
No. But she could have meat.

ROE  
No

BELL  
Yes. If Chloe was hungry, she could have Carrots.

ROE  
You changed the rules.

BELL  
I made the game.

ROE  
That's not fair.

BELL  
This is how games work.

ROE  
—

BELL  
If Tara is hungry she can have...what?

ROE  
Tara...Tara... I don't know

BELL  
Think.

ROE  
AH!

BELL  
Tara can have Tomatoes. Sam.

*Pause.*

ROE  
Sam. Sam. Tara, tomatoes. Sam...S....Stew? Stew.

BELL  
Right. Good.

ROE  
Roe could have rats.

BELL  
Uh. Yes.

ROE  
Winston could have watermelon!

BELL  
Yeah.

ROE  
...good game.

*Pause. Roe takes the empty bowls. Pause.*

BELL  
It's time to open the door.

ROE  
Not yet.

BELL  
...I'll come back.



ROE

...don't care.

BELL

I'll bring seeds, I want to trade.

ROE

Not yet.

*Bell sighs. She checks the dryness of her clothes. Good enough. She starts to change her clothes.*

ROE

That shirt is dirty.

*Bell looks down.*

BELL

I ran through the woods during a bad rain.

ROE

No. My shirt.

BELL

I slept on the floor.

ROE

—

*Bell continues to change her clothes. Roe does pullups, or other exercises focused on strength: Pushups, lunges, that kind of thing.*

BELL (*singing*)

Singing dandy, where did you go? Where will we go? Feathers of green,  
flowers of gold, singing dandy where did you go? Together in a city with  
purple clouds. Four crooked trees, someone grows old, singing dandy,  
where did you go—

ROE

It got more words.

BELL

What?

ROE

The song

BELL  
Yes.

ROE  
How.

BELL  
I...gave it more words.

ROE  
Why.

BELL  
To help me...remember things. And for fun, I suppose.

ROE  
For fun.

BELL  
Like how games are fun

ROE (*duh*)  
Yeah.

*Pause.*

ROE  
We can open the door now.

BELL  
Good.

*Bell puts on her gas mask. Roe does the same. Roe unlocks the multiple locks on the door. She slides the heavy metal door open. Outside it is sunny and bright. Some of the plant life has been killed by the bad rain, withered and blackened, but the big trees, and some bushes with glossy bright colored leaves, still live. They look out.*

*Quick as a flash Bell grabs a gun from the wall and points it at Roe, pivoting so her back is to the door. Roe reaches for her rifle.*

BELL  
Don't move.

*Roe doesn't move.*

ROE  
No bullets.

That's a lie. BELL

*Pause.*

That's mine. ROE

I need it. BELL

Thief. ROE

*Bell backs slowly and steadily toward the door, and out, as she speaks.*

I'll bring seeds. Soon. BELL

You're a goddamn cunt thief! ROE

It's a trade. You don't need this many guns. You can spare one. And I'll bring seeds. Tomorrow. Or the day after. BELL

— ROE (*seething*)

*Bell gets all the way out the door, as far as she can. Then she runs. As soon as Bell is no longer pointing the gun at Roe, Roe grabs for her rifle and runs to the door. She points it out the door after Bell—waits. Waits. Doesn't shoot. Eventually she lowers the gun. She closes the door. She slumps.*