

The Last Flight of the Mercenary  
BLAKE monologue and BLAKE scene (with Claire, read by a reader)

CLAIRE

*(looking)* My goodness. A hat. Floating. I see a hat. New York.

BLAKE

Would you look at that? It's from the 2000 World Series when the Yankees beat the Mets four games to one.

CLAIRE

I know. I know. Jesse grew up in Far Rockaway. He was at that game.

BLAKE

*(referring to his plane, The Mercenary, that crashed into the water.)*

It was given to me by the president of the Elk's Club, Queensboro lodge 878, when I was doing an air show for a VA fundraiser. Just think about it. The Whitestone at two o'clock. I greet her with an outside loop once around, then roll inverted – first under the girders then as I'm coming out from under the deck, I shove forward on the stick, take her over head, then roll her again. Then again. Up, then down -- Inverted flat spin. Down again. Pull her out at 200 feet. Soaring.

CLAIRE

Wow. It must have been amazing.

BLAKE

It was death defying.

CLAIRE

Look, Mr Fields. Captain. I don't want to blame you for disenfranchising me from my very own future, but everything was going pretty well. Then suddenly, out of the blue – you messed up.

BLAKE

I didn't mess up.

CLAIRE

I'm getting married without a groom. You messed up.

BLAKE

It didn't occur to you that he isn't here because he doesn't want to be?

CLAIRE

No. We had a questionnaire -- a plan. We talked. We wrote back and forth. Skyped. We did Dropbox and Pinterest and FaceTime. We agreed on a date and a place over Outlook. This was a real thing.

BLAKE

When was the last time you talked?

CLAIRE

It was a text, actually. He said, "lovely Claire, you know we are one."

*She reads from her phone*

"We will always be one, just as I am one with Mahashi and one with the sun. I am to stay with my Mahashi and go where he goes. He has only one more life left on our earth. When I awaken I will as well. I will see you soon. Have faith. Our love is one and will always be. If not today, then on another."

BLAKE

That doesn't sound like he was planning on coming here tonight to get married to you.

CLAIRE

Yes it does. "I will see you soon."

*BLAKE takes the phone from CLAIRE*

BLAKE

"I am to stay with my Mahashi and go where he goes." Your fiancé's Mahashi is in a coma. This is a suicide note.

CLAIRE

What?

*She takes the phone back. Re-scans the message.*

CLAIRE

That's not possible. It was a question on the survey. Are you suicidal? Have you ever been suicidal? He checked no.

BLAKE

I'm not trying to upset you. I'm being realistic.

CLAIRE

You've probably never been enlightened have you?

BLAKE

Enlightened? I – I'm not sure.

Maybe not even in love.

CLAIRE

That's not quite true.

BLAKE

Well some people aren't complete until they find their soul mate.

CLAIRE

We don't have soul mates.

BLAKE

Maybe not all of us. Some of us have soul-things.

CLAIRE