

The Last Flight of the Mercenary
CLAIRE and BLAKE scene

(Claire is referring to her groom-to-be who never appeared for the wedding)

CLAIRE

You could have said he drowned. He drowned with the melody of my name on his lips. A whisper as his breath ceased and his eyes searched the dark lagoon for an eternal light. *(longingly)* “Claire.”

BLAKE

I didn’t know that....

CLAIRE

That’s sad. That is a very sad thing. *(Again longingly)* “Claire.” But – “Sorry lady, he decided to move to the next level of nirvana rather than marry you.” You didn’t have to tell me I was abandoned. People don’t want to hear that. It’s insensitive and mean.

BLAKE

I didn’t say it to be mean. Look at me. I’m just a guy.

CLAIRE

Yes, I noticed.

BLAKE

It’s not my intention to make your life miserable. I was in the Peace Corps. I do air shows for charity. I’m a pilot. I fly planes. I’m not a bad person. I try to be polite and considerate . . .

CLAIRE

But has anyone ever loved you?

BLAKE

What?

CLAIRE

Loved you.

BLAKE

Yeah. Yes, someone has loved me. People like me.

CLAIRE

How many?

BLAKE

What?

CLAIRE

How many real relationships have you had? With love? With sharing? With respect and kindness and love?

BLAKE

Probably a dozen.

CLAIRE

A dozen?

BLAKE

Or 14.

CLAIRE

My God. Fourteen?

BLAKE

Or fifteen. Okay maybe twenty. Tops.

CLAIRE

Wow. (beat) Wow. Then – I guess there's something wrong with me.

BLAKE

I don't think so.

CLAIRE

No one's ever fallen in love with me. No one's ever loved me, Mr Fields.

BLAKE

I'm sure someone has or could have. It has to do with timing. Where you're at, where another person is at. It's timing and chemistry.

CLAIRE

Chemistry?

BLAKE

There's a lot about you that someone could . . .

CLAIRE

What?

BLAKE

Look. I need to see what comes to shore from the wreckage, to try to pull together as much as I can, and you – you need to find the dog and go back to the house.

CLAIRE

No. What I need Captain Fields is to understand why Jesse stood me up on our wedding night and why anyone, anywhere would ever love me.

BLAKE

I don't know what I'm supposed to say to make you feel better.

CLAIRE

You're an expert. Tell me the truth. Tell me what you really think – about me.

BLAKE

You?

CLAIRE

Yes. I've never asked this before, but I'm ready to know. How do people see me?

BLAKE

You?

CLAIRE

Yes. How do you see me?

BLAKE

You're refreshing.

CLAIRE

Like a glass of seltzer. Perrier and lime. Go on.

BLAKE

This is very awkward. I've never had to do this before. Are you sure you just can't ...

CLAIRE

Tell me if you think you could fall in love with me.

BLAKE

I don't know you.

CLAIRE

Do you have to know someone to fall in love them? Can you get a sense before? Like maybe when you see someone at a distance or she walks into a room or you hear something in her voice?

BLAKE

Maybe.

Then could you with me?

CLAIRE

You mean –

BLAKE

Love me.

CLAIRE