

Two Degrees

EMMA monologue

*After the Senate hearing. She reads the requests for interviews.*

EMMA Bill Moyers... Rachel Maddow... The Christian Science Monitor... Oh boy. Jeffrey, if you could see this, you'd laugh at me. Me? On CNN? You were always better with people. And I was always better on the ice --

*She sifts through the emails. There are so many.*

But it wasn't about escaping. It never was. I wish I could have taken you there. Drilling into that ice is absolutely, exactly, like going back in time. I wish you could see what I see when we pull up a core, when we expose that long white cylinder of ice -- you'd think it would be colorless, clear -- but it's not. You should have seen that. (Takes a breath.) Every time we pull up a core, it feels more desperate, somehow. Every time we take a sample, and then date and store that ice, I think, "Where will we be, next year, or the next? Who will get to see anything like this, a decade from now, or the decade after that?" The ice cap is more than 100,000 years old. More than 100,000 years of ice, and we're letting it disappear. Because we cannot believe it's so important.

*She finds the transcripts of her speech, reads.*

"We can't go back to change the mistakes of our past. So we change us. We make hundreds of decisions about how we will act differently. How we will respond to what's happening around us. Not to become overwhelmed by the enormity of what has transpired, but to become awakened by this terror, this fury, this outrage. It's simply too easy to think that we can do nothing."

Just one step. Then two. We do something. We change.

Now, Jeffrey. Now... Now...

*EMMA begins to weep.*

LIGHTS FADE. END OF PLAY.