

Two Degrees

JEFFREY and EMMA scene

(Jeffrey and Emma talking at home – Jeffrey is proposing that she should become the administrator of the Climate Research Center in Bolder [to replace the "Grand Poobah" of Climate Science who is retiring])

EMMA OK. Like I said, it's a bad time, and I don't know who they'll get to replace him.

JEFFREY *(After a beat.)* ...You?

EMMA Oh... no. No way. But, second –

JEFFREY Why not? You'd be great, Em... great.

EMMA I am not good with people.

JEFFREY Of course you are. And, hell, you deserve the recognition.

EMMA It's not about that -- Besides –

JEFFREY Besides what? You'd be great at it. You'd get to shape the center's policies, to expand the reach, to advocate for change... You would be a great director. Great. You know that, right?

EMMA I don't want to do any of that.

JEFFREY Are you kidding? You do that every day. So why not do it from a bigger platform?

EMMA Yeah, but it's kinda hard to run the center from Greenland.

JEFFREY *(Laughing.)* Yeah. I guess so!

(He notices that she's not laughing)

JEFFREY Oh, Jesus. You're not kidding.

EMMA Nope. ...

JEFFREY Fuck.

EMMA Jeffrey --

JEFFREY You're going to go back to Greenland? Again?

EMMA I've been invited to the NEEM project --

JEFFREY The what?

EMMA An international team has been drilling deeper into the ice/

JEFFREY /Wait. How long have you known this?

EMMA I was just invited today.

JEFFREY And when were you going to tell me?

EMMA I'm telling you now.

JEFFREY Well thank you very fucking much.

Frustrated, he drinks in silence.

EMMA Jeffrey... You knew I'd have to go back. All my research is in Greenland. How can I do what I do without going back to Greenland?

JEFFREY You just got back.

EMMA I've been back for six months.

JEFFREY And we just had our first normal six months in -- fuck! I don't know how long!

EMMA The clock is ticking on this one. I mean, like we're actually running out of time. I need to be back on the ice.

JEFFREY You don't need to be on the ice. You could send a research assistant to be on the ice.

EMMA No, I couldn't send a research assistant. For god's sake, Jeffrey.

JEFFREY Admit it. You want to be on the ice.

EMMA Of course I do. Of course I want to be on the ice.

JEFFREY More than you want to be here.

EMMA Don't be ridiculous. You know it's not like that. But this drilling project was only a five-year project, and there are only two years left –

JEFFREY Two years!

EMMA It's just two more summers, Jeffrey.

JEFFREY How many months?

EMMA April to August --

JEFFREY For the whole -- ?! (Beat.) Sorry. I'm sorry. But fuck that.