

RAW PROVOCATIVE HUMANE PLAYS

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The Spaceship Lands on Christmas

by Sydney Painter

PIPER and JOEY are astronauts.

Joey 6 more days.
Piper: I know. I know that.
Joey I can't wait.
Piper: Yeah me neither.
Joey We'll get a real Christmas this year. That'll be nice.
Piper: Hanukkah, yeah.
Joey Right! Hanukkah!
Piper: Yeah though.
Joey Remember food? And gravity?
Piper: Barely. Are you going to miss me?
Joey Well yeah, of course. I mean yeah.
Piper: My nephews are going to be so excited to see me. I am going to tell them so many awesome lies.
Joey Yeah.
Piper: We're going to be heroes. Celebrities.
Joey Yeah!
Piper: For about 5 minutes.
Joey Yeah.

Pause.

Joey I'm a little scared.
Piper: No, it'll be fine.
Joey I know.
Piper: Joey, are we a thing on Earth?
Joey Oh, uh.
Piper: It's ok. I get it.
Joey Piper, I'm sorry.
Piper: Are you even going to tell her?

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Joey No. I'm not. I think I can't.
Piper: Oh, ok.
Joey Are you going to? Tell?
Piper: What? No. As tempting as it'll be to brag about floating sex.
Joey Piper.
Piper: Don't worry. I got you.
Joey Thank you, Piper.

Pause.

Piper: What are you the most excited for?
Joey You go first.
Piper: Pasta. Pasta, I think. And puppies. Strangers. Remember strangers? So many chances, so many different things could happen. Unplanned for things.
Joey Unplanned for things could happen here.
Piper: I mean yeah I guess.
Joey We could run out of air, or contaminate all the samples. We could spring a leak and our brains could explode. Tiny malfunctions could freeze or cook us to death in seconds.
Piper: Yeah, I know.
Joey I know you know I'm just saying.
Piper: Well, stop. You don't have to.
Joey Fine.
Piper: I'm up here, too, Joey; you don't have to be like that.
Joey I was just saying.
Piper: And I'm just saying you're being kind of dick right now.
Joey I don't think I'm being a dick.
Piper: You should tell your wife.
Joey What? Why?
Piper: You just should.
Joey I can't.
Piper: Then don't. Whatever. I'll keep your secret.
Joey Can you just stop for second. I can't talk about her.
Piper: Fine. That's fine.
Joey I just can't think about that.

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Piper: What's happening right now?

Joey I don't want to go back. I really don't want to. Oh man. I don't want this. I think it's a lot better up here. I really just want to stay here. You're the only person I want to know for the rest of my life.

Piper: Joey—

Joey I'm freaking out!

Piper: Yes I know. Stop it.

Joey Piper. I can't. I really don't want to go back, but every day I wake up and there's a day less up here. Oh man remember when time had to do with light? I can't live that way! And there's no way, there's no way to stop it.

Piper: Stop what?

Joey I don't know! The panic! Oh man, I've messed up so bad.

Piper: You mean me?

Joey No, no, shut up, I mean in a much bigger sense. I live in space. I don't know how I'm ever going to fix this.

Piper: Fix what?

Joey Fix what! We're going home! How are you ok with that?

Piper: Because it's time to go home, Joey.

Joey Can we stay here? Just us. Until we dissolve.

Piper: No, Joey, that's insane.

Joey It's not! Why? Because it's not the plan? You just said you miss unplanned for things.

Piper: Because it's suicide, dumbass. Suicide is insane.

Joey Going back is suicide! People die down there! Out here who knows? We can call it what we want. It's only insane because you're not thinking about it for real.

Piper: I'm not done down there, Joey! You can't decide this for both of us.

Joey I can't go back there.

Piper: Drop me off and come back if you have to. I'm going home and opening my Hanukkah presents.

Joey That's not what I mean. Piper, stay with me. Up here.

Piper: Joey, no. You're not worth it.

Joey There's nothing down there.

Piper: Joey. There's nothing up here. Maybe you think there's nothing down there for you, but it's just a scientific fact that there is nothing up here. For either of us.

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Pause. Joey opens his mouth. Pause.

Piper: Joey? Pop a Xanax. We're going home.

Piper floats away, leaving Joey alone.

Blackout. End of play.

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