

An Expansion

*(Two girls, Amanda and Ivy, are at a beach. Amanda is looking up at the sky. Ivy is looking out at the ocean. Ivy is blind.)*

IVY

Can you tell me what it looks like?

AMANDA

Yeah. Yeah, of course. It's big.

IVY

Very descriptive.

AMANDA

It's... It's bigger than you can fathom. You can—can almost see it burning. Whips of fire leaving the surface. It's yellow, and orange, and red. There's a small dot inside, I think it's Venus. They said that you can't see Mercury anymore, it's already gone.

*(Ivy is silent.)*

AMANDA

They say we'll be dead before Venus goes. All burnt up. They're surprised it hasn't happened already.

IVY

Does it look—does it look scary?

*(Amanda thinks.)*

AMANDA

To me, no. I think to some people, they'd find it scary. To me it's just... inevitable.

IVY

What is inevitable supposed to look like?

AMANDA

Like... like a car that's stuck on train tracks. A late-stage Jenga tower.

IVY

...A sandcastle that's sitting in the way of high tide.

AMANDA

Do you want to build a sandcastle?

IVY

No.

AMANDA

Why not?

IVY

We're due to go any minute now. I don't want my last act to be playing around with sand.

AMANDA

We'd be making something. I think that's a pretty good last act.

IVY

Something no one else would see.

AMANDA

Does it matter if anyone else sees it?

*(Ivy is silent for a moment.)*

IVY

I think it would matter.

AMANDA

Can I ask something that might be stupid?

IVY

What?

AMANDA

Do you think we're actually already gone? And this is what comes after?

IVY

If it is, I'm pissed. I'd like to, you know, actually see the afterlife.

AMANDA

That would be fucked up. If you were, you know—

IVY

Still blind?

AMANDA

Yeah.

IVY

That would definitely be fucked up.

*(A pause.)*

You don't have to stay.

AMANDA

I want to.

IVY

It's the last couple of hours, supposedly. You could go out and do something. Party, have sex, do drugs. Knock out an entire bucket list.

AMANDA

What if I want to be here?

IVY

Then you're probably stupid.

AMANDA

That was rude.

IVY

Sorry. It's just—I wasn't expecting anyone to even still be using Tinder. Let alone swipe right. Or respond to the blind girl who's not trying to have a last-minute hookup.

AMANDA

I don't have anyone else to spend it with.

IVY

I wasn't trying—I'm really not trying to hook up, I swear.

AMANDA

I know. You've told me.

IVY

I swear.

AMANDA

I know. I'm just here to sit with you.

IVY

I didn't want to—to be alone.

AMANDA

I didn't either.

IVY

...I'm not sure where—where my roommate went. He was just gone after yesterday. Just gone. I don't know if he left or—or what. I've been too scared to leave the apartment until now.

AMANDA

He's fine, I'm sure.

IVY

What if he's not? What if I'm an asshole for not trying to find out?

AMANDA

None of it will matter soon.

IVY

I don't think that's true, actually.

AMANDA

Why not?

IVY

I mean, something has to matter. In the mess of all this, something has to matter! It has to. Why would we even be doing this if nothing matters. Or if nothing will matter. Why come here with me if nothing matters?

AMANDA

...I don't think someone should have to go through it alone.

IVY

See! That means it matters. Even with the sun about to burn us all to death, you still... you still thought not being alone mattered.

*(A pause.)*

I wish I could—could see what's happening. The end of everything and I don't even get to see it.

AMANDA

Do you want my honest opinion?

IVY

Of course.

AMANDA

It's not that special. I mean I'm sure it would be great to see it, but like, it's just another thing that's happening, you know. I think the water's a lot prettier. What's left of it.

IVY

...I'm going to go touch it.

Do you need help?

AMANDA

Maybe.

IVY

Here—

AMANDA

*(Amanda helps Ivy walk to the water's edge.)*

I'm going to sit—

IVY

But your clothes—

AMANDA

I don't care.

IVY

*(Ivy sits in the water.)*

It's warm.

AMANDA

Well. It's barely a puddle. And everything is warm now. Or hot. Or burning.

IVY

I went to a beach a lot when I was little. My mom, she would go into the water and come back with all of these seashells. She'd press them into my hand, and I'd run my fingers over them. Some were jagged and rough. Some of them were smooth. A lot of them were broken, I think. I kept a lot of them. There's a jar in my bedroom with them.

Where is she?

AMANDA

My mom? Not here.

IVY

Did she--?

AMANDA

IVY

It was before everything started happening. Before the sun decided it wanted to eat everything up.

*(Amanda takes her shoes off and puts her feet in the water.)*

What are you doing?

AMANDA

I wanted to feel the water too.

IVY

I wish we didn't leave our phones in the car. We could play some music and just...

AMANDA

Just what?

IVY

Sit here, I guess.

AMANDA

What type of music would you play?

IVY

I don't know. I'd try to play my favorites, but I don't think they'd fit the mood. "Fergalicious" doesn't exactly vibe with the end of the world... Maybe something sad? Or hopeful? Something that's both at the same time?

AMANDA

I could go get the phones—

IVY

No! No, I don't—I don't want to sit by myself.

AMANDA

I would only be gone a moment.

IVY

What if it happens?

AMANDA

I don't think it will—

IVY

We don't know what it's supposed to be like. It could take less than a moment—Not even that. I don't want to be alone when it happens. It's supposed to happen soon. Please, just—forget I said anything about the phones, okay?

AMANDA

...I'd listen to Fleetwood Mac.

IVY

Not a bad choice. I've never really listened to them.

AMANDA

They're good. Were good. Are good? I mean, not everything is gone yet.

*(Amanda moves back up and sits in the dry sand. Ivy moves up as well, hand outstretched, trying to find her. Amanda takes his hand and guides Ivy next to her. There's a small pause.)*

AMANDA

What if it never happens? What if it stops at Venus and we're fine, and we keep on going?

IVY

It won't. We won't.

AMANDA

We could.

IVY

That's just wishful thinking.

AMANDA

My dad, in the note he left, he told me he couldn't keep on going without hope. That was... I think right when everything started. It's funny now, because back then I guess I thought there was hope. But here we are.

IVY

Here we are.

*(They have not let go of each other's hand.)*

AMANDA

I—I didn't want to be alone either.

IVY

I'm here.

AMANDA

That's why—I was looking for someone—I thought it would be easier if I wasn't alone—

*(Ivy places her other hand on top of Amanda's. No one says anything. Amanda leans forward and kisses Ivy. They part. After a moment, Amanda laughs.)*

What? IVY

It's nothing. AMANDA

Did I do something? IVY

No! It's not that, it's not that at all— AMANDA

Then what's so funny? IVY

AMANDA  
It's the end of the world and—and I just kissed someone I don't even know, and for some reason it feels like the first time I've ever—I've ever really kissed someone at all. Like... One of those firework kisses, you know?

Oh. IVY

Yeah. AMANDA

Well... Better now than never? IVY

*(She laughs again. Then slowly stops and starts crying.)*

It really is all over. AMANDA

...We're still here. IVY

AMANDA  
But for how long? How much longer do we have?

IVY  
I don't know. Does it matter?

AMANDA  
It does now.



IVY

...I'm not going anywhere. I'm sitting right here. I don't care if it takes thirty more seconds or thirty more days. Shit, even thirty more years. I'll be right here.

AMANDA

It's gotten brighter. I can't tell if it's—if it's just in my head.

*(Ivy leans over, resting her head on Amanda's shoulder.)*

IVY

Don't tell me about that anymore. Just—Tell me about the water. The beach.

AMANDA

The water's sparkling. There's a piece of driftwood farther down. It's smooth and has a big curve to it. There's an old fishing net that's washed up. It's a faded green color. It's all bundled up in a pile. It looks a little gross.

IVY

What else?

AMANDA

...There's a girl. She's with someone.

IVY

What are they doing?

AMANDA

Sitting. Leaning on each other. Waiting, together. Waiting for something to happen.

IVY

Does it? Does something happen?

AMANDA

...Does that matter?

IVY

...No. Not at all.

*(They sit together as the lights become brighter and brighter, overtaking everything.)*

*End of Play*