

me. But now I just have you and...I'm not saying I wish it'd been you...I'm just saying that I thought you'd have been the one to jump

*The sound of shoes.
It sounds a bit cold and distorted.
The world begins to stop.*

FAY

Dad, that's...that's...that's—

START

*The sound of the shoes becomes the sound of Fay's breath
and her heart.
It goes dark and quiet.
We then hear Fay's breath.
The sounds are loud.
They're amplified.*

*And when the lights come back up, suddenly, we are back
on the bridge.
HOPKINS is there and so is FAY.
And the other sounds linger.
The world is figuring itself out.*

HOPKINS

Fay.
Fay.
Fay.
Come in, Fay...

FAY

They always thought it would be me, but it is Judy.

HOPKINS

Huh?

FAY

My parents.

HOPKINS

What are you talking about, Fay?

FAY

Judy is the one that jumps.

...That...jumps?

HOPKINS

FAY

Yes, Judy is the one that jumps.
Not me.

HOPKINS

...

FAY

Judy is the jumper.

HOPKINS

...

FAY

Judy is my sister.

HOPKINS

...

FAY

Have I told you that?

*A sound of a splash.
HOPKINS and FAY look over the side of the bridge.
FAY rubs the back of her head as if she just felt a sharp
pain.
JUDY enters.
She walks the length of the bridge.
FAY and HOPKINS don't notice.
JUDY exits.
FAY and HOPKINS look at each other.*

HOPKINS

Is?

FAY

What?

HOPKINS

You said she is the one that jumps.

I did? FAY

Yeah. HOPKINS

Oh. FAY

I don't think you should be up here now. HOPKINS

Hopkins... FAY

I'm serious. I don't think— HOPKINS

She jumps.
I don't. FAY

Fay— HOPKINS

She jumped. I won't. FAY

Let me take you home. HOPKINS

No. FAY

FAY holds onto the railing.

My sister Judy jumped forty-seven days ago. FAY

I'm sorry, Fay. HOPKINS

You don't have to worry. FAY

I don't have the urge.
I am too strongly controlled by that gene you mentioned. I'm too strongly under Darwin's spell.

HOPKINS

That doesn't...You could still feel~

FAY

Why didn't you jump, Hopkins?

HOPKINS

We already talked about this.

The sound of a splash.
FAY rubs the back of her head as if she just felt a sharp pain.
JUDY enters as they talk.
She walks across the bridge, as she did before.
They don't notice.
JUDY exits.
FAY gets more agitated during the following.

FAY

I want to know.

HOPKINS

What?

FAY

What stopped you?

HOPKINS

It isn't like something I can explain.

FAY

Explain it goddammit!
Explain it.

HOPKINS

Me.

FAY

What?

HOPKINS

I stopped myself.

FAY

Yeah but what does that mean?

HOPKINS

I don't know, Fay.

You.

The fact that you started singing along with me.

The way the light hits your face.

Or maybe it was the car that drove by with the baby sitting in the back.

Or the wind.

Or the stars.

Or the fact that I had to pee and who wants to die while they have to pee.

Or maybe it was the chance of survival and pain.

Or maybe it was the lack of the chance of survival and pain.

I don't know.

FAY huffs.

I'm not your sister, Fay.

FAY quietly cries.

She whispers.

FAY

I know.

HOPKINS

Why have you been on this bridge, Fay?

FAY

...

...

...

HOPKINS

Why have you been walking the bridge?

The sound of a splash followed by a flicker and the sound of shoes.

FAY looks up and around and brings her hands to her head as if it throbs.

JUDY enters.

She walks around HOPKINS.

*She is in front of him.
He doesn't notice.
FAY sees her this time.
HOPKINS fades away.
Somehow.
We don't notice him anymore.
Even if he is still there.
A trick of light, perhaps.*

Oh hi.

JUDY

Hi.

FAY

What are you doing up here?

JUDY

Vaping.

FAY

*A vape falls from above.
She catches it.*

This is a weird place to vape.

JUDY

This is a weird place to walk.

FAY

It's outside.
It's a beautiful view.

JUDY

Both of those reasons work for the vaping thing.

FAY

There's a gust of wind.

It's windy up here.

JUDY

How are you, Judy?

FAY

There's a small light shift.

Oh I'm fine

JUDY

a small moment.

How are you, Judy?

FAY

Okay

JUDY

these next ones ramp up in speed and volume.

How are you, Judy?

FAY

Oh you know

JUDY

How are you, Judy?

FAY

Meh

JUDY

How are you, Judy?

FAY

Who knows?

JUDY

How are you, Judy?

FAY

Tired

JUDY

How are you, Judy?

FAY

JUDY

Lonely

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

I lost my job

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

Russell doesn't love me anymore.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

Worried about the future.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

I tried to pray for the first time in years.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

Barely getting by.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

I couldn't see the reason to get out of bed this morning.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

I don't see this getting any better.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

Fine

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

Fine

FAY

HOW ARE YOU, JUDY?

JUDY

FINE FINE FINE FINE FINE We all say we are fine and that we don't need anything and what we really want to say is fucking help me GOD because I am so far from fine and you are not doing shit about it. And we get angry I get angry because if you are real, god, if you are so damn real, then why aren't you doing shit to help me feel better? And if you aren't real then why the hell am I praying to you.

FAY

How are you, Judy?

JUDY

I'm fine. I don't need anything. Honestly.

FAY

Honestly?

JUDY

Honestly I don't need anything. Honestly.

You are beautiful. Honestly.

That didn't hurt my feelings. I understand. Honestly.

I think it would be a great day to leave the house and my comfort zone and do a list of things I don't really feel like doing. Honestly.

Honestly. Honestly. Honestly.

Honestly I've wanted to jump off this bridge since I was 12 and mom brought us here for the first time and I could see the water and the rocks and I wondered how much it would hurt to touch down on them and feel the bones breaking. I didn't want to die I just wanted to feel the impact. Honestly. There's a phrase for that/ l'appel du vide.

FAY

L'appel du vide.

JUDY looks at her.

You wrote the phrase in your planner. I went through your planner. You don't have a journal...diary...blog...so I went through your planner.

JUDY

You wanted a reason?

FAY

Yes.

JUDY

As I got older...there was one thing after another and...I'd walk the bridge and stare at the water and one day I realized just looking wasn't going to save me.

My reason is my reason. You probably wouldn't think of it as a good reason. But it is. Because it is mine.

Honestly.

But I'm fine.

Remember when Mom would walk us across the bridge?

FAY nods.

We'd complain because we always had to walk back to get to the car, but she made us do it anyway. And she'd always stop and point out her favorite part of the city. Those were good days. Even though we hated them.

There is time here. Some time for each of them to calm down in their own ways. To come back to whatever reality this is.


Judy?

FAY

Yes?

JUDY

I found cigarettes. In your car. I had to go through your car.

FAY

I secretly smoke.

JUDY