ANTARCTICA

By Teddy Haddow

CHARACTERS:

KATE, late 30s, businesslike, thinks she's quirky. **ETHAN**, early 30s, eccentric, unapologetically himself. **PATTY**, early 30s, basically a female version of **ETHAN**.

TIME:

Summer, middle of the day.

PLACE:

Edge of the docks at the Port of Boston.

At Rise: KATE is standing, waiting. She is wearing simple, stylish summer clothes. ETHAN enters, wearing loud, colorful, unseasonable clothing. A pause.

KATE

Excuse me, do you have the time? (Pause) My phone is dead.

ETHAN

How does one "have" time? It's not something you can hold in your hand.

KATE

Pardon?

ETHAN

Your question confuses me as much as my answer confuses you.

KATE

Do you know what time it is?

ETHAN

Yes, it's... (checking his watch) 2 am.

KATE

What? It's the middle of the day.

ETHAN

If you know that, then why did you ask me for the time?

KATE

The exact time. I asked for the exact time.

ETHAN

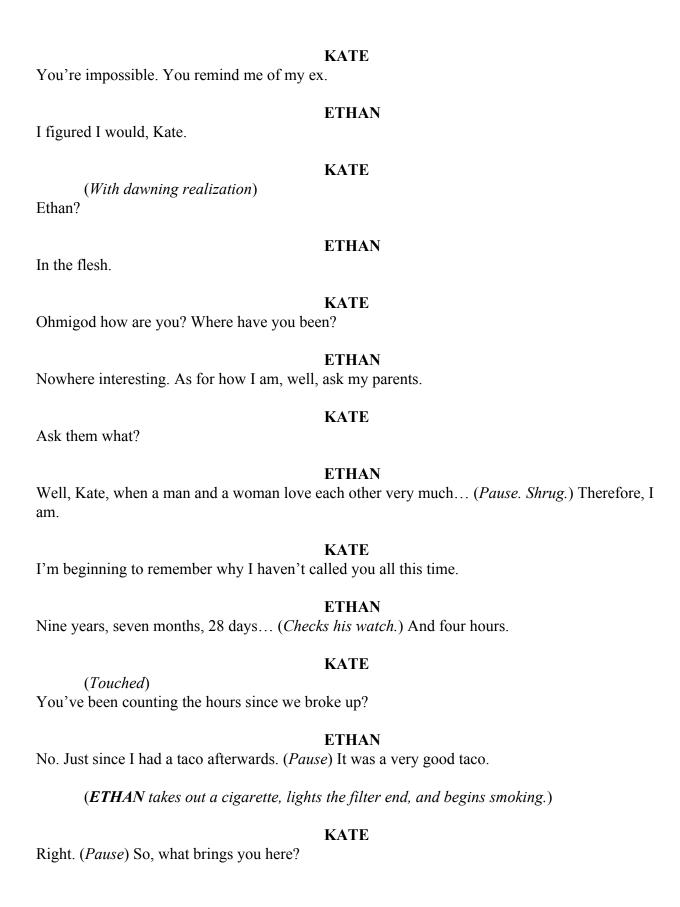
I can't help you. I'm still on Tokyo time.

KATE

Oh. You just got back from Japan?

ETHAN

No, I just woke up on a bench in the park. I used my passport as firestarter a few months ago, so traveling is a bit difficult.



ETHAN

I'm going to Antarctica.	EIHAN	
808 to 1		
Antarctica! Wow! (<i>Pause</i>) Well, my fiance Plymouth to see the plantation there, and the	KATE is picking me up in his boat. We're going to en we're staying over in Martha's-	
(KATE stops as ETHAN takes the cigarette out of his mouth and sticks it in his nose.)		
KATE -Vineyard. (Pause) So, what's in Antarctica?		
Penguins.	ETHAN	
Yes, but what are you there for?	KATE	
Penguins. I'm going to Antarctica for the pe	ETHAN enguins, Kate.	
Oh, for pets? I feel like you need a special p	KATE permit for that?	
ETHAN I'm not going to keep them as pets, I'm just going to try them.		
What?	KATE	
I never told you? I've always wanted to try	ETHAN penguin meat.	
(Beat.)		
What.	KATE	
Yeah. I'm just gonna see how they taste.	ETHAN	

KATE

Ethan, what the fuck? Isn't that illegal? Aren't they endangered?



	PATTY
(Checks watch.) 8:05 pm.	
Moscow. Nice. (<i>Pause</i>) What's your plan?	ETHAN
I'm going to Iceland.	PATTY
What's in Iceland?	ETHAN
Volcanoes. I want to try bungee jumping.	PATTY
I tried that once. It was very safe.	ETHAN
What about you?	PATTY
Antarctica.	ETHAN
Nice. I've always liked penguins.	PATTY
I intend to eat them.	ETHAN
That's what I meant.	PATTY
(They look at each other. Beat.)	
	PATTY
I've changed my mind. I haven't had penguin in a long time. I'd like to go to Antarctica with	

you.

ETHAN

Well, you're just in time. (Pointing into the crowd.) There's my ride.

(ETHAN begins taking off his shoes.)

PATTY

It looks like the raft from Castaway.

(They look at each other. Pause. **ETHAN** shrugs.)

ETHAN

It floats.

(ETHAN and PATTY burst into giggles. PATTY slips off her shoes and the two of them, still giggling, jump off downstage and feign swimming up the aisles while yelling:)

ETHAN & PATTY

Wilson! Wilson! Wilson!

END SCENE