

If You Were the Last Man on Earth

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A short play

by Alex Coulombe

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

VINCE, a dying man

SARAH, a high-energy socialite

LESTER, a meticulous survivalist

SCENE 1

*SARAH and LESTER stand over the body of a VINCE, a man bleeding out. They are attempting to put pressure on his wound, a puncture through the neck.*

SARAH

(padding his head)

Just keep calm Vince! We've got you.

LESTER

Yes Vincent, you are in our arms.

(LESTER's watch beeps and he gets up and starts doing jumping jacks and squat thrusts. VINCE starts to bleed out.)

SARAH

Lester!

LESTER

(in between jacks)

Just, ten, more.

SARAH

Lester get down here now!

(SARAH tries to get up to pull down LESTER, but the moment she leaves VINCE, he starts convulsing.)

God dammit Lester!

VINCE

(dying)

Sarah...

SARAH

Vince!

VINCE

Sarah... I want you to know... that I... always...

SARAH

Yes Vince?

VINCE

Thought of you as a friend.

(LESTER finishes his jumping jacks and goes to VINCE, just as he falls still, dead. A long beat.)

LESTER

He was going to die anyway.

(SARAH bursts out crying.)

We have to keep moving.

SARAH

Wait... can we at least bury him?

LESTER

We didn't bury the others.

SARAH

But he's the last... the last...

LESTER

Man? Person you wanted to be around? We have to keep moving.

SARAH

What kind of person's last words are 'I always thought of you as a friend?'

LESTER

We have to keep moving.

SARAH

Why? With you everything's always 'we have to keep moving', 'we have to follow *this* trail', 'we have to eat these precisely portioned protein pouches.'

(Beep beep.)

LESTER

Please eat this precisely portioned protein pouch.

(He hands her a pouch. She slaps it out of her hand. He's unphased and eats his.)

SARAH

What if I don't want a protein pouch! What if I want to eat some berries?! Or a squirrel?

LESTER

Risk of disease. Incorrect nutrition balance.

SARAH

What's this schedule of yours based on anyway?

LESTER

The Fibonnacci sequence.

SARAH

Slow down-- why always with the hurry?

LESTER

You never know who might be following us.

SARAH

Well you just have an answer for everything don't you.

LESTER

Yes.

SARAH

We haven't seen anyone for years.

LESTER

Yes.

SARAH

What if we're the last two people on earth?

LESTER

We're not the last two people on earth.

SARAH

I just... I still don't get you. Heck, I don't know anything about you. Where are you from?

(Beep beep. LESTER starts performing yoga exercises. He hums while doing so.)

SARAH (CONT'D)

And... now you're a mute for the next few minutes. Great. I get that your routine, your *schedule*, is... helpful to you, but this isn't a life. I don't think I can take much more of this- I have a predisposition to tension- that's a real diagnosis- and you're so god damn serious all the time that I just wonder what would happen if something threw you off? I mean, would you explode, or just -

(Just as LESTER starts to balance into a headstand, an earthquake hits. SARAH topples forward and LESTER falls on top of her. The earthquake ends and they stare at each other.)

LESTER

That wasn't on my schedule.

(They both burst out laughing.)

SARAH

Awesome. So you have a sense of humor.

LESTER

I only state facts.

SARAH

So can we just talk for a little? You're such an attention-deficit ferret and I could use some connection time.

LESTER  
(looking at watch)

Go.

(Beat.)

SARAH  
How the hell could you abandon Vince like that?

LESTER  
It was time.

SARAH  
You mean... 'beep beep' time?

LESTER  
And he was going to die anyway.

SARAH  
But to abandon him... just to... *jumping jacks*?

LESTER  
He was dead the moment he decided not to follow my trail.

SARAH  
Your trails are illogical and super windy.

LESTER  
My trails are super logical and super precise.

SARAH  
You're saying you knew Vince was gonna fall off that rock?

LESTER  
I knew my trail was the safest route forward. But you were right.

SARAH  
About what?

LESTER  
His dying words were... lame.

SARAH

Okay whatever. I want to make this work. Les, I'd be lying if I said I thought all fifteen of us were going to survive and die happily of old age. But I'd also be lying if I ever dreamed of a world where I was stuck with you as the last-

(Beep beep. LESTER pulls out a book and starts reading.)

Oh come on! That's... that's so rude.

(A long pause. She goes and looks over LESTER's shoulder.)

That's not even a good book.

(Another long pause. She lies down. Sits up. Fidgets with a stick.)

You know what, fine! I can have my own schedule too. Guess what's up first? Beep beep!

(singing and jumping around)

No one shoots like Gaston! Makes those beauts like Gaston! Then goes tromping around wearing boots like Gaston! I use antlers in all of my decorating!

(She looks for a response from LESTER. He's still perfectly focused on his book.)

My what a guy, Gaston! Beep beep! Oh, I guess it's exercise time. Guess I'll pick up these rocks and throw them at each other.

(She picks up some rocks and throws them. Some come close to hitting LESTER but he doesn't even flinch.)

Boy I sure do love rocks. Pickin' them up and... stuff. Golly gee that sure did make me tired and... sweaty. Beep beep! Guess I better change my clothes. Doo doo ba bow bow...



(She starts to undress while making wah wah pedal sounds. It's flashy, but not particularly sexy. At least she's having fun with it. LESTER doesn't look at first, then: beep beep!)

LESTER

You have my attention.

SARAH

God dammit Lester!

LESTER

Please resume our earlier conversation.

SARAH

(putting clothes back on)

No, you know what, I think I'm just going to go.

LESTER

Where?

SARAH

(leaving)

Wherever I want.

LESTER

(suddenly caring)

Please. Sarah. You're not being rational-- Vince just died.

SARAH

Well it was his fault, so whatever.

LESTER

I know you cared about him.

SARAH

Psh. You don't care.

LESTER

I didn't care about him. I care that you cared about him.

SARAH

What does that even mean!?

LESTER

Even when our party was of a greater number... you were the only one I truly cared about.

SARAH

...what?

LESTER

Never mind. Maybe we should just undress.

SARAH

Fuck.

LESTER

Do you have feelings for me?

SARAH

I don't even know where this is-- wait.

LESTER

Yes?

SARAH

So a minute ago. My little strip party thing. You know who I was imitating?

LESTER

Yes.

SARAH

It hasn't been a coincidence that you've undressed several times in viewing range of my tent flap?

LESTER

Have you enjoyed those presentations?

SARAH

'Enjoy' isn't the right word. Why did you do that?

LESTER

To seduce you... like people do.

(A long pause.)

LESTER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

SARAH

No, it's... whatever.

LESTER

Beauty and the Beast is my favorite movie.

SARAH

Mm hm. How do I say this? Lester... us... it's never gonna happen.

LESTER

Ohhh.

SARAH

No no don't retreat. Please. I... need you Lester.

LESTER

Need me?

SARAH

Just... not in a... can't we be just survival partners? Keep it all 'optimized'?

LESTER

Are you saying you would like to take charge of some scheduling duties?

SARAH

Whatever it takes. I'll work with you on this. Just... don't leave me, don't shut me out.

(Beep beep.)

LESTER

And that's the end of heartfelt conversation time.

SARAH

God DAMMIT Lester!

LESTER

I am joking. Truly, Sarah, my schedule is useful- it helps remind me of what's important. But I can do without it.

(He breaks the watch.)

SARAH

Why would you do that? That was the only way we could keep track of time and the days of the week.

LESTER

My brain keeps perfect time and weekdays.

SARAH

Why did you need the watch then?

LESTER

To create an important-sounding noise whenever I was uncomfortable and wanted to start doing something different.

SARAH

Wow.

LESTER

Sorry.

SARAH

That explains the...

LESTER

The touching the watch stuff, right. It was silly.

SARAH

Not following the Fibonacci sequence?

LESTER

That doesn't even make sense.

SARAH

Hm. So, Les, do we have to keep moving?

LESTER

We have to keep moving.

SARAH

And you're fine just being friends?

LESTER

Can we be friends that continue to undress in front of each other?

SARAH

Not a chance.

LESTER

Oh well.

( 'Blinded' by Blitzkids MVT plays  
as the lights slowly fade.)

VINCE

And so, the human race ended because these two nincompoops were just too selfish. The End.

(Blackout.)