

STRETCHY SHORTS

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SCENE 1

Narrator: *In the not too distant future of year 2100, earthlings prepare for the end of the world. Despite their best efforts to correct centuries of damage and neglect, the earth has had enough. During the AOC presidency massive defunding of the police allowed for investment in education, housing, health care and decolonial advancements in medicine and science, including the creation of teleportation devices powered by selenite and the discovery of an environment suitable and sustainable for human life on a planet called Fractal. Once the final phase of earth's destruction begins, the plan is to teleport as much human existence as possible to Fractal. While teleportation has been tested and refined to be 100% safe, the devices are still giant, occupying the space of a small town. Therefore, designated teleportation stations have been set up across the globe, often simply called 'the station.'*

There are those who believe the world imploding is a liberal hoax. They are the remnants of a ruling class and because they do not trust scientists, astrologers, and the indigenous leaders who predicted and confirmed the inevitable implosion, those people will perish with the planet.

Communities who respect earth's desire to rest have diligently prepared. They've packed go bags, they've created a plan, and they've practiced executing the plan so as many people as possible survive.

The indicator that the final moment of destruction is commencing is that the pets disappear. Seeing as they are far more superior and sophisticated beings, pets developed the capability to auto-teleport soon after the fated destruction of the earth was projected.

Let's zoom in to see how the earthlings do when the fated moment arrives.

A queer couple: Bo, a Philipinx eccentric, high energy genderqueer and Viney, a calm, very wise and organized, surprisingly not a Virgo, Black femme, are enjoying their weekend at home when their dog begins to calmly teleport.

*in this time, EARTHSEED is the most practiced belief system and the BOOK OF THE LIVING introduced in Octavia E. Butler's *Parable* series, is accepted as the most revered, guiding text. To honor the practice's primary tenet of 'god is change,' the people have adapted to say 'change' in phrases and expressions where the word 'god' was used before.

*T stands for testosterone, a transition supporting hormone taken by trans people if they choose.

Earth's collapse is imminent. Will they make it? Let's have a look.

SCENE 1a

Viney is humming or singing softly

SFX: water running and dishes being scrubbed

Narrator: A buzzing electric static: the beginning of a teleportation

SFX: buzzing electric static or a laser beam in quick succession

VINEY: Oh shit! Oh shit! It's happening! Fuck! Bo! Sandy's blinking, she's fading, she's starting to go!

BO: *(Yelling from another room.)* Are you sure it's not just another drill?!

VINEY: No! Oh my change! During drills she didn't actually disappear! Get your bag, we. Have. To. *GO. NOW!*

SFX: Bo runs into the room, stopping abruptly at the sight of Sandy

SFX: More buzzing electric static

Narrator: Sandy, the dog, continues to casually disappear

BO: *(Gasp)* Fuuuuck. Ok, ok, ok, deep breaths, we got this. I'll get the bags, you get the list and car keys.

SFX: They fumble into and then past each other, sprinting in opposite directions

VINEY: Changedammit, Bo! Where's the list?!

SFX: Footsteps running into a room. Two large bags with camping gear attached to them thumping to the ground

BO: What do you mean, 'where's the list!?' The list is always on the fridge. Why wouldn't it be on the ... fridge ...

Narrator: *Bo stops and thinks for a moment.*

Bo: Hmmm.

VINEY: Bo...

BO: There was spider...

VINEY: *(Sighing loudly)* Why do you insist on saving all the spiders?!

BO: Because of that Nikki Giovanni poem...

VINEY: *(Firmly.)* Bo. That list is who we are supposed to pick up on the way to the station. How are we supposed to know who to pick up if we don't have the list?!

BO: Oh, c'mon, I know who they are.

Narrator: *Viney takes another deep inhale and exhale / indicating her irritation and effort to stay calm*

BO: *(Casually.)* It's the last three houses on Edgar street. Connie and her mother in 225, Tashi and zir dog Yuki, no, wait! Dogs are gone. Whew. Ok, Tashi is in 227. And Mr. Benet is in 229, and his nurse if it's a weekday. What day is it?

VINEY: Sunday.

BO: Ok, so then his daughter is there with him...

VINEY: Oh, what's her name? Bae-Bae?

BO: Bebe! Ok, are you ready?

SFX: The house begins to shutter and they hear a loud "ziiip."

Narrator: Sandy has officially disappeared.

SCENE 1b

VINEY: No time! Let's go! You have your T, right?!"

BO: Yes.

Narrator: Bo becomes tearful at Viney's remembering. They move quickly towards each other and embrace.

VINEY: Pray to change we have everything else we need. Check the bags in the car? I'll drive.

SFX: gathering up their things, opening and closing their house door. Opening the car doors, throwing in the bags, closing the doors and starting the car.

SFX: Bo rummaging through the bags

BO: *(Whining.)* Oh shit. Oh nooooo

VINEY: What?? Please tell me you have your T.

BO: Yes, I just haven't repacked in a while

VINEY: Ok...

SFX: car driving fast

BO: My body changed so fast. None of these clothes are gonna fit me now. Oh change, I'm gonna look like such a foolio on Fractal.

VINEY: *(Stifles a laugh and then attempts to be encouraging.)* Oh honey, you're just gonna have to be my genderqueer hunkity hunk in booty shorts on Fractal. At least we don't have to wear masks anymore.

BO: Yeah, they never matched my outfits anyway. Grr. Okayyy. I guess all planets do *need* genderqueers in booty shorts... dammit, I knew I should have packed those stretchy shorts...

VINEY: *(Switching focus)* I love you, regardless.

SFX: car driving fast

BO: *(Yelling over Viney's fast driving)* You're right. More important things to think about. I love you so much. This world has been rough, I'm really glad we're making it out together. Thank you, my love.

SFX: car breaks screeching and car stopping

Narrator: Bo and Viney arrive at Edgar St. Everyone they're supposed to pick up is waiting on the corner with their go bags.

SFX: Sounds of car doors opening (a regular pull door and sliding van door)

VINEY: All right, everybody in!

SFX: car doors closing, car starting and then driving

Narrator: Viney drives quickly to their designated station. A community member in a neon vest directs them underneath the giant teleportation device where hundreds of others gather and wait.

SFX: car breaks and the buzz of other motors and people talking

SFX: glowing teleport light casts itself over the gathered people (first sound is like a laser beam and then glowing)

Narrator: Viney and Bo hold hands tightly.

BO: Here we go. I love you.

VINEY: I love you.

SFX: Teleportation

Narrator: The car and everyone in it disappears.