

Tova: A Mass Extinction Play
by Madeline Elaine

CHARACTERS:**PROMETHEUS**

Soft spoken with sharp teeth. All-consumed.

OLIVER

Handsome and charismatic. A great pretender.

JOSEPHINE

Beautiful in a sharp, shocking way. Tired of making a life for herself.

ADA

Fluttery and desperately lonely. Cries when yelled at.

TOVA

A robot. Made of clay and suede and SJ40 cable, mostly.

SETTING:

Fall to winter in an upper class society farther along in its own destruction than our own time. Something like Manhattan in 2045 with less public transit infrastructure.

A NOTE ON TIME:

There is an obsession with the vintage amongst these characters. This is the future, but not aspirational futurism. They are seeking for hope and connection that they don't feel exists in their own time, and they feel the need to look backwards to find it.

“The strategy... then, is to awaken us from the dream that the world is about to end, because action on Earth (the real Earth) depends on it. The end of the world has already occurred.”

- Timothy Morton

“To hope is to recognize despair as an emotion, but not an analysis.”

- Rebecca Solnit

0.

TOVA

The events of this play take place 6 months ago, before the world ended. I just thought you should know, since they won't bring it up.

ACT 1*Fall*

1.

PROMETHEUS

The gods ruled the world before man took over. Is it dangerous to say that? I doubt anyone's listening. It does feel like they abandoned us.

I know men. Wonderful men. Wonderful humans as a whole, I guess, but let's talk about the men for now. I find it to be a kind of poison, mankind. There's a godly haughtiness to them. They think themselves immortal.

The first thing to know about me is I am not a man. Mostly. I'm Prometheus. Not the Prometheus from the stories, though we have a lot in common.

Prometheus was a titan, but Prometheus was also the god of fire. Some kind of combination. A both and situation.

The Olympians were a group of greedy vengeful villains who wreaked havoc on the world for the sake of their own power and over petty squabbles. Prometheus recognized this. The first Prometheus. I apologize. It does get confusing. Prometheus saw what the Olympians had done with the place, and felt a tightness in his chest. A panic. A heavy, leaden, disappointment. And a profound loneliness. Don't we know better?

When Prometheus first made man from clay, it was a self portrait. Smaller and simpler than himself, sure. But some kind of reflection. We connect to those that look like us. Prometheus made god out of clay and left out the things he saw as their failings and was left with man. Of course, he forgot some things. He accidentally sculpted greed. And envy. And fear and hate. Mistakes will always be made.

But I figure, one more try. Really get down to the marrow of what matters this time. Art, science, marble rye. Leave out hunger and fury and the desire to crush fragile beautiful things. If Prometheus could do it, why can't I? What is a titan if not something more than man? What am I if not liberated from manhood?

2. *film noir: smoke and window shutters.*

JOSEPHINE

I met Ada at one of those underground clubs, where you had to know someone to find it, and it seemed like she knew just about everyone. Every part of her was soft and round and easy to hold, from her laugh to her favorite book, which was *Jane Eyre* and which she told me before I had even put my hand on hers.

I've never understood the wanting something you can't have. The chase is exhausting. I'm not naive about who I am or what I look like. I feel eyes on me in every room, on the sharpness in everything about me. And I have a habit of wanting things I can keep, and a tendency to take whatever I want.

Enter Ada

Ada was perfectly well-behaved, in a way that would have made my stomach turn in any other woman. People weren't meant to wear their desperation like that, to revolve like a planet in your orbit. But Ada rode the line between duty and desperation hard, and the way she moved held shame in it, like she wasn't begging but instead trying to make up for something, like she owed you. I was 22 and hungry and had never been owed anything in my life. I fell for it hard.

Ada was beautiful in every way I wasn't, with big brown eyes and long dark lashes*.

**This line can change based on casting.*

Her misfortune was a group of friends who believed they were more beautiful, as well as smarter and more fun, than she was. She bent herself for them like copper wire, finishing the drinks she was told to finish, kissing the women she was told to kiss, holding up her drunker friends and carrying their shoes as she walked them home.

There was something dark about going after a girl like that, but I didn't care. I wanted something I could have, and I wanted someone who would be thrilled they could have me too. I asked her to come with me and she obliged. I knew she would, but I was still intoxicated by the ease of it. Every night after that one was the after, and I found myself forgetting the before.

3. *Josephine's bedroom*

ADA

Do you think you want kids?

JOSEPHINE

I don't think you're supposed to ask someone that on the first date.

ADA

This doesn't count as a date.

JOSEPHINE

I don't know yet. I need to survive this part first.

ADA

So dramatic.

JOSEPHINE

Hardly.

ADA

I want kids. I think I'd be a good parent. I know right from wrong better than most people, I think.

JOSEPHINE

Oh yeah?

ADA

What do you do? For work, I mean.

JOSEPHINE

I'm an engineer.

ADA

Of course you are.

JOSEPHINE

What does that mean?

ADA

I have a friend who's an engineer. Sort of. You two have the same self important air.

JOSEPHINE

What do you do?

ADA

Do you smoke?

JOSEPHINE

Do you have many conversations? You seem impossibly bad at them.

ADA

So you don't smoke.

JOSEPHINE

What's the point? There's enough in the air.

ADA

The high is the point.

JOSEPHINE

You only feel high if you're addicted.

ADA

Not true. I'm not addicted and I love smoking.

JOSEPHINE

And I'm sure you believe that.

ADA

I have cigarettes if you want to test it yourself.

JOSEPHINE

Don't smoke in here. I just moved in.

ADA

Oh, when?

JOSEPHINE

This morning.

ADA

You moved in *this morning*? You're so unpacked.

JOSEPHINE

I've been moving my stuff in, but this is my first night, like, here.

ADA

Well, I'm not going outside in this.

JOSEPHINE

Then don't smoke.

ADA

I like it when you tell me what to do.

not flirting. She's just stating a fact.

JOSEPHINE

I know that. Do you want to spend the night?

ADA

On your first night here? Are you one of those people who can't be alone? I am.

JOSEPHINE

No, but the apartment is kind of massive. And I like you.

ADA

You do not.

JOSEPHINE

Why not?

ADA

People who have sex with me never like me.

JOSEPHINE

Maybe I'm different.

ADA

Maybe you are.

JOSEPHINE

Besides, trains aren't running and I can't offer you a ride home.

ADA

Can't drive?

JOSEPHINE

No car.

ADA

I'd like to stay, actually. I don't have a key to the place I'm staying and it's late. I'd hate to wake them up.

JOSEPHINE

Where are you from?

ADA

Just out of the city.

JOSEPHINE

And you don't have your own place?

ADA

Never needed one.

JOSEPHINE

I see.

ADA

I told you, I'm phenomenally bad at being alone.

JOSEPHINE

I don't think it's dramatic to want to survive. Surviving right now is superbly difficult.

ADA

You know, I'm actually finding it to be the easiest thing I've ever done.

4.

ADA

Dear Josephine,

It's been so long since I've daydreamed about someone new.

I want a forever from you. I know you're not supposed to say that, but I don't omit facts.

I like you most at sunset. When the sky is pink and your legs are wrapped around mine.

Everything melts and blurs, and for an hour it's like we've had forever to get here and will have it again. I'll take it for just an hour a day. I'll take it for just a breath.

I'm, like, 80% sure someone could love me if they tried. I'd like you to try.

5. *oliver's apartment*

Oliver, Ada, Prometheus, and Josephine play cards.

ADA

Shit!

OLIVER

I win.

ADA

You always win. The game is rigged.

OLIVER

I might just be great at this.

PROMETHEUS

The game *is* rigged. How did we agree to an Oliver always goes first rule?

JOSEPHINE

Everyone take a shot.

ADA

Not me.

JOSEPHINE

There you go, it's like you won after all.

OLIVER

Another round!

ADA

Not if I'm going to lose. Can I help clean up?

PROMETHEUS

Can you put on music?

Ada does so.

OLIVER

That one was easily the best this year.

PROMETHEUS

No more parties this month. I'm exhausted.

ADA

I second that. When you throw them too often, I have to start remembering people's names.

OLIVER

That's fine. Winter is a better time to throw a party anyway.

PROMETHEUS

There's a polar vortex coming, they say. Winter's going to be cold for once.

OLIVER

There's always something coming. Plus, that's better. A cold winter? How novel, how vintage. Everything black and ice covered.

JOSEPHINE

I can't believe you do these parties with any degree of regularity. It's a high maintenance affair.

OLIVER

Well, so am I, Josephine.

ADA

Prometheus, I saw a poster for your showing next month.

PROMETHEUS

Oh, I can't believe they're advertising that. I don't want too many people there.

ADA

Are you embarrassed?

PROMETHEUS

No, but the robots might be. I've never tested them for stage fright.

ADA

I can't wait. It's been so long since you had a showing.

OLIVER

They've slowed down. It used to be a piece every month. Now, I don't even know what you do in that studio all day.

PROMETHEUS

I'm setting higher ambitions.

OLIVER

You're always setting higher ambitions. Never happy.

JOSEPHINE

That's what happens when your work is your life.

OLIVER

Please, like you're any better.

JOSEPHINE

I work for money, not pleasure, Oliver. You wouldn't be familiar with the concept.

OLIVER

You get pleasure from it. You're addicted to it.

ADA

This conversation is getting vitriolic. I'm bored of it.

PROMETHEUS

Me too. I want food. We should go get food.

They stand and wobble. Ada stabilizes them.

ADA

I don't know that you're fit for public eye right now. Oliver, do you have food?

OLIVER

Let's see. I have figs, flaxseed crackers, some prosciutto-

JOSEPHINE

Do you hear yourself when you speak?

ADA

Josephine, please. They'll take the crackers.

OLIVER

Let's play another game.

PROMETHEUS

Not participating. Eating crackers.

OLIVER

Ada, come here. Bring the playing cards. I'm going to read your fortune.

ADA

With playing cards?

OLIVER

Don't you trust me?

ADA

Always.

OLIVER

Good.
Four of diamonds. That one's easy. It's the four of us. Sparkly and symmetrical.
7 of hearts. You're feeling lucky in love.
2 of clubs. You're waiting for something. Dreading it. Like the other shoe to drop.

JOSEPHINE

This isn't fun.

OLIVER

I'll do you.

JOSEPHINE

No, thank you.

OLIVER

Jack of spades. Your walls are up. You're guarded. It's keeping you isolated.

JOSEPHINE

Oliver.

OLIVER

9 of diamonds. You're close to having everything you ever wanted, but something is stopping you.

ADA

Okay. I think that's enough.

OLIVER

8 of hearts! I can't read this one in polite company.

Josephine grabs the cards from Oliver and he laughs.

OLIVER

Dance with me.

He dances. Prometheus joins him.

PROMETHEUS

Ada, come dance.

Ada does, twirling Prometheus around.

ADA

Sparkly and symmetrical. I like that.

Eventually she breaks away back to Josephine.

Aw, you missed me?
JOSEPHINE

I'm always missing you.
ADA

Who do you want me to be?
JOSEPHINE

What do you mean?
ADA

At these parties, with your friends. Who am I supposed to be?
JOSEPHINE

I don't know, Josephine. That's a dumb question.
ADA

I need an answer to it.
JOSEPHINE

Can't you just be mine?
ADA

A beat. She yields.

Happily.
JOSEPHINE

6. *oliver's balcony. prometheus enters to see oliver looking over the city.*

PROMETHEUS

There you are.

OLIVER

Prometheus.

PROMETHEUS

Come here. I'm not going to the edge of the balcony.

OLIVER

I always forget you're afraid of heights.

PROMETHEUS

I'm not afraid of heights. I'm afraid of what's below them.

OLIVER

Why are you out here? I thought you were working.

PROMETHEUS

I was.

OLIVER

You finished?

PROMETHEUS

Not everything. Just tonight.

OLIVER

I like it when you come home before I'm asleep.

Prometheus coughs.

PROMETHEUS

It's terrible out here.

OLIVER

Here.

Oliver hands them a mask.

PROMETHEUS

We should go on vacation. Somewhere with less smoke.

OLIVER

There are less and less places like that these days.

PROMETHEUS

We could find one.

OLIVER

You have your work.

PROMETHEUS

Am I anything to you without my work?

OLIVER

You're everything to me.

PROMETHEUS

I want to go someplace where the moon is white.

OLIVER

I think the red is charming. Plus, it's a point of pride, being a smoke town.

PROMETHEUS

Where isn't a smoke town?

OLIVER

We're one of the oldest.

PROMETHEUS

It kills people, you know.

OLIVER

Look over there.

PROMETHEUS

At what?

OLIVER

Come to the edge. I won't let you fall.

PROMETHEUS

How are you going to stop me?

OLIVER

Okay, I will let you fall. So don't fall.

PROMETHEUS

I won't fall.

OLIVER

Look over there. What do you see?

PROMETHEUS

Gray. And red lights. Probably white lights, actually-

OLIVER

You're thinking too hard about it. What do you see?

PROMETHEUS

Red lights. That come in and out of my vision when I unfocus my eyes. And gray. Gray everywhere.

OLIVER

What else?

PROMETHEUS

Nothing else.

OLIVER

Keep looking.

silence

PROMETHEUS

Nothing else.

OLIVER

I know. Isn't it grand?

PROMETHEUS

I think your problem is you find too much solace in oblivion.

OLIVER

I think you're right about everything.

7.

PROMETHEUS

The first robot made Challah. She braided loaves of bread all day long, and as long as you provided her with the ingredients, she could make any kind at all. Raisin and cinnamon and chocolate. The coding was hard for that one, but the baking was harder. For the longest time, the loaves were bad. I called up other people's parents and grandparents and wives of rabbis until the bread was good, but it's never like your Mom's challah, is it? I didn't sleep until it was. For weeks all I ate was machine made Challah, waiting for the pieces to finally click into place.

Her name is Leah. I don't have a favorite, but there is a certain sentimentality associated with Leah that I don't deny. She's mostly hands, because it turns out hands are the essential part of bread baking, but also a rolling oven and a coarse gray apron covered in flour. It's a crude machine, but the bread is divine.

As I make more of them, they've slowly become more humanoid. I've let go of my need for convenience and begun to animate legs for movement. I'm no realist, but over time the draped fabric has turned into clothing and the beads into something like eyes. There's something artistically magnetic about the human form. Everything wants to become it. Call it implicit bias, but portraiture is an irresistible field.

There's Waldo, who makes perfumes that remind him of the people he meets. Polk, who composes for the cello. Marcel, who performs perfect aerial silk routines. I get faster as I make them, until I stumble upon a real challenge, which can stop me for months or years.

But recently I've been bored of bits and pieces. I want to make something complete for once.

8. *oliver's apartment*

OLIVER
Josephine! What a nice surprise.

JOSEPHINE
Oliver. Sorry, I thought Ada would be here.

OLIVER
Oh, who knows where she is.

JOSEPHINE
What's all this?

OLIVER
I just finished baking banana bread.

JOSEPHINE
You bake?

OLIVER
Of course. What else is there to do? Oh! I have wine. Sit down. We'll drink.

JOSEPHINE
It's early.

OLIVER
So? It's wine.

JOSEPHINE
It's good.

OLIVER
It's expensive.

JOSEPHINE
I've never really liked red wine.

OLIVER
Well, you were drinking the cheap stuff. Now the bread. Try the bread.

JOSEPHINE
I don't like you.

OLIVER
And I find that so uninteresting.

JOSEPHINE

What do you mean?

OLIVER

Of course you don't like me. We have the same taste in wine and the same size in rings but I'm nicer and prettier. Well, maybe not prettier. Do people ever profess their love to you in the streets?

JOSEPHINE

Not since moving here. People move too fast here.

OLIVER

That's true. Maybe that's why it happens to me so rarely. I wouldn't do well out of the city, though. Insomnia.

JOSEPHINE

I'm sorry I don't like you.

OLIVER

You're not, and you shouldn't be. But you should get over it. It's cliché, and it's not winning you any points with your girlfriend.

JOSEPHINE

She hates being fought over.

OLIVER

Imagine that. Who could hate that?

JOSEPHINE

I feel the same.

OLIVER

Of course you do. Try the bread.

She does. It's great.

JOSEPHINE

Oh my god, who taught you to bake?

OLIVER

No one! This is actually my first time ever trying.

JOSEPHINE

See, that's hateable! People just don't succeed at things on their first try.

OLIVER

They do all the time, actually. Beginner's luck?

JOSEPHINE

This is beginner's luck banana bread?

OLIVER

No, this is just a good recipe and real bananas. Harder to get than you would think.

JOSEPHINE

It's funny how the rest of the world has given up on us before we have.

OLIVER

They're expecting everyone to leave. I think that's ridiculous.

JOSEPHINE

I mean, you could. You have the money.

OLIVER

God, aren't you sick of talking about the flood?

JOSEPHINE

We never talk about the flood.

OLIVER

If you're so concerned about it, why'd you move here?

JOSEPHINE

Do you want me to be honest?

OLIVER

No, I want you to lie to me.

JOSEPHINE

I got a great job. One no one else would take. A big apartment, enough pay to afford food in the most expensive place to buy food right now. Plus, this city is the only place I've ever wanted to be. You make it here and you've made it. I never thought I could make it.

OLIVER

Okay, now tell me the truth.

JOSEPHINE

I've always had this fascination with sinking cities. I mean always, back before any big ones had even gone under. When I was really little. Back in the town I grew up in, there's a reservoir. But before there was a reservoir, there was another town there. And then the weather got warmer and

the river got drier and they needed a reservoir, and the town was at the lowest point. So the government told everyone to leave their houses, and destroyed the town and poured in all this water. Except for they couldn't tear everything out of the ground, so legend is there are still buildings and mailboxes down there. And other legends say there are still people down there, people who didn't want to leave their homes. And now they're mermaids. And they live in Old Town and swim around happily and get the mail every day.

And I love mermaids. I mean I really love mermaids, and their magical powers and how they aren't afraid of water or sharks or the government. And I've never actually been to a sinking city before, which I guess makes me lucky, and also very rare, but I don't know. I always felt like if I was going to live through hydrological events beyond my wildest imaginings that it seemed a little pedestrian to shore up inland and not even get to see them happen.

OLIVER

And you think, come spring, you're going to find mermaids here?

JOSEPHINE

I think I could become one.

OLIVER

Dark.

JOSEPHINE

I have this theory that something is really, really, wrong with me. I get fidgety and angry when the seasons change. I work tirelessly and bone hard and I hate it and I can't stop working. I'm always chasing some ideal set by a society that no longer exists or functions, but I can't help but want it anyway. The high rise apartment and boatloads of money. The good, solid engineering job. Children and pets and a collection of books. And it's funny that here's the closest I've ever gotten to that. I think maybe if I stick around I'll find my mermaid mailbox. The place worth staying for.

OLIVER

Huh.

JOSEPHINE

It's stupid.

OLIVER

It's not stupid. It is incorrect though.

JOSEPHINE

Because mermaids aren't real?

OLIVER

Because you live in an apartment. You don't have that kind of mailbox.

9.

ADA

Dear Oliver,

I'll always resent how much space you take up in my brain. I know you can't help it.

I want to come home to you, to feel 16 and safe again, but you've found something you need more than me.

The two of you are punishing each other, but it's not really my place to say, is it?

I used to have a best friend and now I have a hole in my chest that bleeds unlovable all over the ground.

It's not our fault that we've been around forever. When you circle someone for ages you're bound to bite at some point.

10. *prometheus's studio*

Prometheus is asleep on the floor. Oliver enters.

OLIVER

Prometheus?

Prometheus gets up groggily.

PROMETHEUS

Oliver. What are you doing here?

OLIVER

I thought I'd check on you. It's been two days.

PROMETHEUS

Has it actually?

OLIVER

I brought you food.

PROMETHEUS

'M not hungry.

OLIVER

You're full of it. I made banana bread.

Prometheus takes it and eats.

PROMETHEUS

I can't come to a stopping point. Nothing is working.

OLIVER

What's it meant to do?

PROMETHEUS

You wouldn't get it.

OLIVER

You're absolutely right. But you could tell me anyway.

PROMETHEUS

You really should go. I can't think when you're in the room.

OLIVER

That's funny. I can only think when you're in the room.

PROMETHEUS

What does that mean?

OLIVER

When you're not around, I can feel myself wasting minutes without you.

PROMETHEUS

You and your histrionics.

OLIVER

You asked.

PROMETHEUS

You should go.

OLIVER

Will you touch me? Please? Will you hold my hand?

A beat.

PROMETHEUS

Can I show you something?

OLIVER

Please.

Prometheus brings Oliver to Tova, who is lying dormant.

OLIVER

What's this one do?

PROMETHEUS

All of it.

OLIVER

I don't understand.

PROMETHEUS

It'll be able to bake anything it wants, play any sport. It's going to watch the sunset and be filled with awe that the world is so much bigger and brighter than it. It's going to make art. It's going to read books. It's going to grieve.

OLIVER

So it'll be... human?

PROMETHEUS

Depends on your definition of human. It's going to feel things. Like you and I can. More than you and I can, actually.

OLIVER

What do you mean?

PROMETHEUS

Sometimes I think the two of us don't feel much at all.

OLIVER

You have a natural brilliance.

Prometheus laughs.

PROMETHEUS

All I have is this room, these tools, the most half-baked creative concept, and a couple months to do the impossible.

OLIVER

You have a habit of doing that.

PROMETHEUS

What?

OLIVER

The impossible.

They kiss.

You just need a break. Come to bed.

PROMETHEUS

Let's sleep here.

OLIVER

On the floor?

PROMETHEUS

I have to be back in the morning anyway.

Oliver and Prometheus lay down. Prometheus begins to drift off.

PROMETHEUS

You know I do this for you, right?

OLIVER

So you keep saying.

PROMETHEUS

Don't you see that you're something? You're- Hercules. You're the kind of man people make masterpieces for.

OLIVER

I don't need a masterpiece.

PROMETHEUS

Mm hm.

Prometheus traces Oliver's face with their finger.

OLIVER

I like when you're like this.

PROMETHEUS

Bone tired?

OLIVER

Softer.

PROMETHEUS

'm soft.

OLIVER

It feels so- fragile like this. Like if I move wrong you're going to crumble away from me.

PROMETHEUS

Mm.

OLIVER

It scares me. I know what these things feel like when they end.

Prometheus pulls themselves closer to Oliver.

OLIVER

I have this recurring dream that the flood comes and we're on opposite sides of a locked door. But I always wake up before the water reaches my lungs.

Prometheus is asleep.

11.

OLIVER

I'll tell you a secret. I spend all my spare time remembering hands running over my ribs and under my chin. I grovel. Always atoning for something, always on my knees.

You can't see the stars here at night. There's too much smoke. I've started wishing on crosswalk signals. I'm wishing for anything that matters, anything that makes me not want to crawl right out of my body and leave all the self-reproach behind.

I spend my energy keeping my fridge stocked. If I can't do anything else, I will keep you well fed.

12..

PROMETHEUS

I've never understood the phenomena of making robots out of plastic. Sure, metal is a good conductor of electricity, but why plastic? I don't believe a person can really connect with something made of silicone and PVC.

I work with clay. And fabric, and stranded cable. There are robots who look better than my robots. There are robots who move smoother, talk faster. But they answer to humans, imitate humans. They make art like they think we make art, make music they think we would like. I want a robot who makes something that means something to her.

Plus, I never set out to make anything immortal. I think it's dangerous in science and egotistical in art. People are made to live and die and decompose, and robots should do the same. When this degrades, all that will be left is a skeleton, just like us.

13. *prometheus's studio*

PROMETHEUS

Do you work yet?

TOVA

How would I know?

PROMETHEUS

Are you happy?

TOVA

Describe happiness again.

PROMETHEUS

Do you derive an internal pleasure from anything at all? Is the reward system in your brain functioning? Do you feel like you have meaning and purpose? Do you find solace in that?

TOVA

No.

PROMETHEUS

Do you fear?

TOVA

What would I fear?

PROMETHEUS

Do you have a feeling that harm could come to you? Are you averse to the idea of something harming you? Do you want to avoid it to the extent that it causes discomposure?

TOVA

I am always composed. And nothing has ever harmed me.

PROMETHEUS

That's not right. Man is meant to fear God.

TOVA

Which one are you?

PROMETHEUS

Do you feel love? Do you love me?

TOVA

Describe love.

PROMETHEUS

Do you want to understand my inner workings the way I understand yours? Do you want me to think about you when I'm not in this room? Do you feel like your very being is entangled with mine to the point that you could not extricate yourself without breaking something?

TOVA

I do not love you.

PROMETHEUS

Shit. You're never going to work.

TOVA

Rude.

PROMETHEUS

That. Do you feel insulted? Offended? Hurt?

TOVA

Hurt.

PROMETHEUS

Good. That's where we all start.

14.

PROMETHEUS

When Zeus found out that Prometheus had given fire to man, he punished Prometheus to have his liver ripped out every night by an eagle and for it to slowly regrow the next morning.

I've been thinking about the bird. Do you think it was the same bird every day? Or a different eagle. If it's the same one, is it doing it out of duty? Out of loyalty? Or out of coercion, godly force. Does the eagle have free will? If it's a different one, do they even know what they're doing? How does the eagle know whose liver to rip out, which mountain to fly to?

Does the liver taste good? Does the bird enjoy it, ripping into flesh, unseating the root of emotion, the pleasure of a job well done? Or does it really suck. Does Prometheus fight back? Does the eagle hurt?

If it's the same bird, do Prometheus and the eagle get to know each other over time? Each day the same shit. Condemned to being together on that mountain. Are they friends? Commiserants? What did the bird do to deserve such a fate?

Do you think Prometheus accepts it? I mean, he knew he was taking a risk, right. And it's a little bit, pathetic, isn't it? To be so alone in godhood that you have to create man just to have something to feel responsible for.

Does Prometheus ever feel relief when his liver is ripped out? They say emotion is stored in the liver. And all he does is sit all day, thinking about how his fate is forever tied to a mistake he made when he was young, to dare to create something that could challenge him. To dare to make something capable of giving up on the gods, capable of moving beyond them. Something that could make Zeus himself afraid.

Do you think while Prometheus sits, watching humanity squander all he gave them, he craves the eagle's presence? Craves the moment right after the pain, right before the dark, where for a blissful moment all the goddamn resentment built up in that liver is gone?

I'm just saying it might be nice. To have a partner in all that. Even if he is gigantic with feathers and talons. At least he knows you, like, really knows who you are, what you did, and comes down to the side of the mountain to devour you anyway.

For the record, I do believe humanity was worth it. I think if we're alone in the universe, we were an experiment worth doing, even with all the clay and stardust they probably used up doing it.

But I could see the other side too. I could see how Prometheus could sit on the mountain on his left side, watching the sky for hours, saying, "Down here! I need you here with me. I'm what you've been circling for."

ACT 2- winter

15. *Josephine's apartment.*

ADA

I've been biting my nails until I bleed again, so my doctor gave me these new meds. They're huge. I'm gonna chop them up and put them in milkshakes like I'm sneaking pills to a dog.

JOSEPHINE

Take off your shoes.

ADA

Okay.

JOSEPHINE

You smell like smoke.

ADA

The whole city smells like smoke. The world's on fire.

JOSEPHINE

You smell like you've been smoking.

ADA

I have been.

JOSEPHINE

I just don't like it when you smell like it.

ADA

Sorry.

JOSEPHINE

What's that?

ADA

New meds. The ones I just told you about.

JOSEPHINE

Why are you taking new meds?

ADA

I'm just sort of... always on edge? Like always right about to cry and always needing to be held and missing my dad? And then I close my eyes and I can feel the whole world swaying and I open them and everything has gone sort of dark in the periphery and I think very seriously about running away and starting a new life and not saying goodbye to anyone I love.

JOSEPHINE
Why don't you?

ADA
Why don't I run away?

JOSEPHINE
Yeah.

ADA
I would hope you would miss me.

JOSEPHINE
That doesn't seem like a very good reason. It's the perfect time for running away. Everyone's doing it.

ADA
I don't want to run away in the way everyone's doing it. I want to do it in a way where people come looking for me.

JOSEPHINE
Don't you think that's kind of sad?

ADA
Yes, Josephine. I do.

JOSEPHINE
Oh. Me too.

ADA
I went to Prometheus's showing today.

JOSEPHINE
How was it?

ADA
Fine. Would have been better if you had gone.

JOSEPHINE
I'll see it when it's finished. Only someone who needs attention as bad as Prometheus would do a showing of unfinished pieces.

ADA
They're not unfinished. They're... rough drafts. They're all pieces of their magnum opus.

JOSEPHINE

Then why don't I wait until they've done the magnum opus?

ADA

Because we'll all be dead by then.

JOSEPHINE

Right. That's their whole thing, isn't it? Creating for a generation of corpses. How morose.

ADA

It's interesting, at least.

JOSEPHINE

It could be. Just not from Prometheus.

ADA

You know, they're my friend.

JOSEPHINE

Lucky for them. If they weren't, I wouldn't associate with them at all. It's awfully tacky, choosing a name like that, being so dogged and dedicated all the time.

ADA

Their work speaks for itself.

JOSEPHINE

I'm sure it does, but artists like that are rarely good dinner guests.

ADA

Okay.

JOSEPHINE

I mean, don't you think it's old fashioned? The whole teaching a robot to love bullshit. It's all very 2020s.

ADA

It's maybe a vintage mindset. But I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

JOSEPHINE

Plus, they're an awful brute.

ADA

They have a bit of a mean streak.

JOSEPHINE

Do you notice the way they treat you? The way you do everything they say?

ADA

You're jealous.

JOSEPHINE

I won't win this argument, Ada, so I'm not going to have it.

ADA

You should have come with me.

JOSEPHINE

I don't like leaving the house.

ADA

You used to.

JOSEPHINE

It used to not be negative degrees outside.

ADA

Are you tired of this?

JOSEPHINE

Tired of what?

ADA

Like, only touching when other people are around. Cleaning the house over and over again. Talking to each other like it's a chore.

JOSEPHINE

I like talking to you.

ADA

Okay.

JOSEPHINE

Maybe the new meds will help.

ADA

I'm anxious, not stupid. I can tell when someone doesn't want me around.

JOSEPHINE

Maybe I'm just tired, Ada.

ADA

And mean. And obsessive.

JOSEPHINE

If you say so.

ADA

You're made of like... glass and copper.

JOSEPHINE

Like a robot?

ADA

No like a- picture frame. Just sitting there, cold and shiny. Nothing you can do with it but break it.

JOSEPHINE

People like to put photos in them, too.

ADA

You're not listening to me.

JOSEPHINE

Probably not.

ADA

Stop doing this! Please stop doing this thing where you make me feel stupid for liking you! I have done nothing to earn this from you.

JOSEPHINE

Nothing? I could name a lot.

ADA

Please do!

JOSEPHINE

You broke my mirror. You sleep on the couch and cry every goddamn night. You live in this house like a vagabond instead of my girlfriend.

ADA

I'm not sorry about your mirror! I was-

JOSEPHINE

You were in one of your spells? You were losing your mind at my property because you're some kind of tortured soul absolved from all personal responsibility?

ADA

You're saying I'm crazy.

JOSEPHINE

You're nuts! You're bite till you bleed, Hollywood breakdown, wacko.

ADA

But you're fine. You black out for days at a time and clean the whole apartment and scrub at all the grout and get stupid drunk and fuck other men and then come home like that's normal! And fine!

JOSEPHINE

It's always the *men* that are a problem for you. Your insecurity is stifling.

ADA

You're the one having sex with them!

JOSEPHINE

I need someone to *touch* me, Ada. You won't and they will. You sleep at other houses, too.

ADA

I'm leaving you.

JOSEPHINE

You are not.

ADA

Okay! Then what do I do instead?

JOSEPHINE

I'm sorry! I'm sorry that you're soft and you tear at all your seams and I'm a fucking picture frame and you can't love without being tended on day and night!

ADA

You are so *mean*!

JOSEPHINE

I'm sorry that I'm mean! I'm sorry that I need *my* house to be clean! I'm sorry that I don't know how to bare myself the way you can, all the time and for anyone who loves you.

ADA

We can't be a couple like this. I need someone who can talk to me. Not even all the time. Just, you know, not go radio silent for weeks.

JOSEPHINE

What about what I need?

ADA

I would love to know what you need. I want to be here for you, you know?

I think right now I need to go to bed.

JOSEPHINE

It's 7 o' clock.

ADA

Well, maybe something's drained me.

JOSEPHINE

I think I'm gonna go somewhere else for the night.

ADA

Fine by me.

JOSEPHINE

Yeah? Goodnight, Josephine.

ADA

Goodnight, Ada.

JOSEPHINE

16.

ADA

Dear Josephine,

I'm a coward, you know. That's how I'm going to lose you, by being a coward.

I've been collecting the little matchbooks that the old man at the vintage store gives out and I've been wishing to be someone worth sticking around for.

Bone marrow of a dyke. Secret of lesbianism.

I can't want anything blithely. I'm going to claw and you're going to bleed.

17. *prometheus's studio*

Prometheus enters

ADA

Hi.

PROMETHEUS

What are you doing in here?

ADA

I was just sitting. I didn't touch anything.

PROMETHEUS

You're up.

ADA

I'm up!

PROMETHEUS

You haven't been up in a while.

ADA

Yeah. Sorry. About the sleeping on your couch thing.

PROMETHEUS

It's Oliver's couch.

ADA

Do you ever miss when we were really little?

PROMETHEUS

In what way?

ADA

The moon was still white. And the city was louder. And we used to stay up late, every night just talking about nothing.

PROMETHEUS

We still do that. More than we should.

ADA

There didn't used to be a should. We were immortal. Now I feel so responsible all the time.

PROMETHEUS

You? Feel responsible? For what?

ADA

You're being mean.

PROMETHEUS

I'm being serious, Ada. You don't do anything. You've been moping over your girlfriend for days, and the two of you are still together.

ADA

You don't understand. When the world ends, it'll just be this left.

PROMETHEUS

The world isn't ending.

ADA

You're right. We will all die, but the world will go on. And I'm going to leave nothing behind. But you'll have a legacy.

PROMETHEUS

It's just art. You could make it too if you wanted.

ADA

No I couldn't.

PROMETHEUS

Yes, you could. It's an integral part of your humanity.

ADA

Will you name it after me? The robot? The big one, the one you've been working on.

PROMETHEUS

Absolutely not.

ADA

Will you show it to me?

PROMETHEUS

Ada, I think it's time to go home. Have you been home lately?

ADA

Just let me hold her.

PROMETHEUS

No.

ADA

I think she'd like me, and I'd like her. Nobody *likes* me.

PROMETHEUS

You need to leave my studio.

ADA

I'm not scared of you.

PROMETHEUS

Excuse me?

ADA

Josephine thinks I'm scared of you, but I'm not.

PROMETHEUS

I'm glad to hear it.

ADA

In fact, I think you're kind of pathetic.

PROMETHEUS

You're throwing a fit, and it's not becoming. You should go home.

ADA

You don't deserve me. And you don't deserve him.

PROMETHEUS

Seriously, I-

ADA

You have all these people who care about you and defend you and support you and you just hole up in this studio, only ever surfacing to party or fuck. And you don't deserve her.

She gestures to Tova.

ADA

Look at her. She loves you. She's one in a long line of those of us who love you. And what are you going to do to her? You're going to let yourself die here, leaving her to mourn all alone so that you can make a grand artistic statement.

Tova hears this. She understands.

PROMETHEUS

Please stop.

ADA

Do you hear me? They don't love you. They love suffering. You're nothing to them but the hardest thing they've ever had to do. You're nothing but a chance to prove that they can work harder, care more, matter more when they drown.

Prometheus hits Ada. She lunges for Tova, attempting to maim. Tova dodges. Prometheus kicks Ada, hard, in the torso. Ada coughs.

PROMETHEUS

Leave.

Tova cowers.

ADA

(to Tova) I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

PROMETHEUS

Just- just get out.

Prometheus is shaking.

ADA

I'm so sorry.

PROMETHEUS

Ada.

Ada exits. Prometheus stands and stares at the unharmed robot. They breathe heavily, in disbelief.

18. *Josephine's apartment*

*Ada unlocks the door. She comes into the house silently and begins to make two cocktails.
Josephine comes out of the bedroom.*

ADA

Josephine.

Josephine walks right past her to the mirror, where she slowly fixes her eye makeup. Ada waits.

ADA

Josephine?

Josephine takes a cocktail and sips.

ADA

It's a neptune. You used to only drink neptunes, back in those first few weeks.

JOSEPHINE

Neptunes are a fall drink. They're not as good when it's cold out.

ADA

Oh.

JOSEPHINE

This one's okay though.

ADA

The herbs are fresher, and the gin is better. Those places always use cheap gin.

JOSEPHINE

How the hell did you find fresh herbs?

ADA

I can be very persistent when I need to be.

JOSEPHINE

Have you eaten?

ADA

No.

JOSEPHINE

We could go out. Twelve's December menu is okay.

ADA

I've been out every night. I can cook us something.

JOSEPHINE

You can't cook. And I loathe this tactic. Can't we just make up?

Ada laughs

ADA

I missed you.

JOSEPHINE

I'll order us something.

ADA

Did you go see Ember the other night at the Fjord? Their new stuff is good.

JOSEPHINE

I couldn't make it.

ADA

I'll put it on.

They dance. Josephine lifts up Ada's top, and stops. There is a large bruise across her torso.

JOSEPHINE

What's this?

ADA

A bruise.

JOSEPHINE

I can see that. Who gave it to you?

ADA

No one.

JOSEPHINE

Prometheus gave this to you?

ADA

Touched something I shouldn't have touched.

Ada runs her fingers along Josephine's collarbones, where a series of fading marks lies.

ADA

Clearly, you did too.

JOSEPHINE

I'm sorry.

ADA

That's a lie. You need to stop lying to me.

JOSEPHINE

I can do that.

ADA

Promise?

JOSEPHINE

Promise.

They dance some more.

ADA

It doesn't work unless you say it back, you know.

JOSEPHINE

I missed you too.

19. *prometheus's studio**Oliver enters*

TOVA
Hello.

OLIVER
Oh, hi.

TOVA
Hello.

OLIVER
I shouldn't be here.

TOVA
Why not?

OLIVER
I thought Prometheus would be here. I don't think I'm supposed to see you until you're ready.

TOVA
I'm ready.

OLIVER
Really?

TOVA
I think so.

OLIVER
That's crazy.

TOVA
Why is that crazy?

OLIVER
What have they told you? About other robots.

TOVA
I know they are not as complete as me. I like Marcel. He's funny.

OLIVER
Not Prometheus's other robots. Other other robots.

TOVA

I don't know any of those.

OLIVER

Historically, they aren't meant to feel things.

TOVA

I am different.

OLIVER

People get scared about robots that can feel things. They feel that they might replace humans.

TOVA

My understanding is that that is the point.

OLIVER

Do you know what that means?

TOVA

I expect I will learn.

OLIVER

Right.

He turns to leave.

TOVA

Please stay.

OLIVER

I'd rather not be caught in here.

TOVA

Do you feel fear?

OLIVER

No. I just-

TOVA

Do you have a feeling that harm could come to you? Are you averse to the idea of something harming you? Do you want to avoid it to the extent that it causes discomposure?

OLIVER

You're exceptionally creepy.

TOVA

Man fears god.

I have to go. OLIVER

Do you feel love? TOVA

Oliver pauses by the door.

TOVA
Do you feel like your very beings are entangled to the point that you could not extricate yourself without breaking something?

OLIVER
Is that what you think love is?

TOVA
Is that not what love is?

OLIVER
I guess I don't have to think about it the way a robot has to think about it.

TOVA
But you do feel it.

OLIVER
You're very annoying.

TOVA
You like insulting me when you don't want to answer questions.

OLIVER
I do that with everyone. You're not special.

TOVA
I'm very special.

OLIVER
Prometheus wouldn't be happy to find me in here.

TOVA
I expect that's true. They don't like guests. I like guests very much. I don't meet many people.

OLIVER
Are you lonely?

Not lonely. Just talkative, I think.

TOVA

I'm sorry.

OLIVER

Why are you sorry?

TOVA

Oliver exits.

Why are you sorry?

TOVA

20.

ADA

Dear Prometheus,

You are my least favorite person on earth. I think that's why we get along so well.

Show offs are my bete noire.

I wish you would hit me harder. I wish I could make like you can make, take up space the way you do.

You're unafraid to be a weapon. I don't admire that but I do acknowledge that it probably makes you a better artist.

I think you like being shown off like a trophy and I think that being all golden like that leaves gilt in hard to reach places.

I like that you're honest with me. I like that what we have is rough and raw.

I know you'll never call me crazy.

21. *prometheus's studio*

TOVA

Have you done it yet?

PROMETHEUS

I don't know.

TOVA

Well, how would you know?

PROMETHEUS

Do you have a favorite scent?

TOVA

Wet clay.

PROMETHEUS

Could you write me a poem?

TOVA

If you gave me some time. I won't do it in front of you. That feels vulgar.

PROMETHEUS

Can you feel things?

TOVA

Yes.

PROMETHEUS

How do you know?

TOVA

I don't. I just feel like it.

PROMETHEUS

I don't know what else I want you to say.

TOVA

Maybe that it's okay? It's going to be okay. You can take a break now.

Prometheus sobs. Tova hugs them.

22.

OLIVER

I think people expect that everything matters less when you're in it. The end of the world, I mean. But the fact is that everything matters so much more. It's like to avoid looking at the apocalypse right in front of you, you look harder at the things still breathing. And the things still breathing, for the most part, are people you've hurt.

When you feel powerless to fix anything, you've decided not to run, and you're making a concerted effort not to believe in God, there isn't much left to do but hold a hand very very tightly and remember each groove of it in yours.

23.

Does Prometheus hit you? JOSEPHINE

I'm not answering that question. OLIVER

You would answer it if the answer was no. JOSEPHINE

What do you care? OLIVER

I care about you. We're friends. JOSEPHINE

Prometheus is kinder than both of us combined. They're sensitive. OLIVER

They hit Ada. Kicked her, I think, actually. JOSEPHINE

Ada and Prometheus fight. OLIVER

That's not really a fair fight, is it? If she doesn't hit back? JOSEPHINE

You and I both know Ada can do worse than that. OLIVER

Still. I mean, is that, like, okay with everyone? JOSEPHINE

They're both adults. It's not your job to protect her. OLIVER

Really. It seems like you're protecting Prometheus right now. JOSEPHINE

If you want to know what happened, why don't you ask Ada? OLIVER

JOSEPHINE

I tried. She iced me out.

OLIVER

Do you love Ada?

JOSEPHINE

I don't know. It's only been a few months.

OLIVER

She loves you.

JOSEPHINE

I know. But, I mean, that's just-

OLIVER

How she is.

JOSEPHINE

Yeah.

OLIVER

I don't believe that what Prometheus and I have is love. But I know that when I come home, I come home to someone. And I know that I get to host the greatest artist of our generation within my walls. And I know that they want to spend time with me, and touch me, and approximate a relationship with me.

JOSEPHINE

And that justifies all of it for you?

OLIVER

Don't you want something you trust? One thing that isn't going to fall out from under your feet the second you look away? Prometheus is going to stay. I need them to stay so badly.

JOSEPHINE

Listen, I don't presume to know-

OLIVER

But you do. You presume to know everything. Prometheus, Ada, and I have known each other for years, okay? You traipsed in 4 months ago. And I like you. More than I like most people who perennially flit through. But you don't get to pass judgements on what's going on here.

JOSEPHINE

I think you like being a monolith. Just rich and pretty.

OLIVER

I do like being rich and pretty.

JOSEPHINE

I think you could try being a person for once, too.

OLIVER

I'll keep that in mind.

24.

TOVA

Prometheus has been telling me the story of their namesake. I don't know that they realize they're doing it. They talk to themselves a lot.

I've been knitting sweaters. It's cold out. I've been cloudwatching. That one looks like a vengeful god. That one looks like a warning.

Prometheus seems to think that pain makes you human. I do not know how to explain to them that if that's the case, I don't want to be human. I have this feeling that I am being prepared to experience a lot of pain.

Did you know humans are the only animals that can cry? Humans and me, depending on what you consider an animal. I wonder why that decision was made. What is it about creators that makes them so bent on preserving our ability to hurt?

I am sorry that you destroyed everything. I am sorry that you don't seem to want to survive it. I have not been given a choice, but I imagine it is a tough one to make. Maybe not as tough as you are making it seem, but difficult regardless.

If you haven't figured it out by now, I am different from other robots. For example, I can swim.

25.

PROMETHEUS

They're not going to come.

OLIVER

They might.

PROMETHEUS

They won't.

OLIVER

Who cares? This is the best party I've ever thrown. Everyone is talking about you, you know. Maybe you could go out there and mingle a little bit.

PROMETHEUS

It's a great party. You do what you do exceptionally.

OLIVER

You say that with such elan.

PROMETHEUS

I just want to talk to her.

OLIVER

She'll come back. She always has.

PROMETHEUS

Not Ada.

OLIVER

You're in your own head.

PROMETHEUS

Where else would I be?

OLIVER

Would you look at me, please?

They do so.

OLIVER

This could be a good night if we tried.

PROMETHEUS

I'm sorry. You're right.

OLIVER

I don't need you to be sorry. I need you to-

PROMETHEUS

To hold your hand.

OLIVER

Yes, please.

They do so. Enter Josephine and Ada

ADA

There you are! A party in your honor and you're hiding by the bar.

OLIVER

You made it.

ADA

We wouldn't miss your exhibition for the world. Where is she? Your tour de force?

PROMETHEUS

Out mingling. She's very social. Earlier she was singing.

JOSEPHINE

I guess they don't have stage fright after all.

PROMETHEUS

Tova certainly doesn't.

ADA

That's what you named her? Tova?

JOSEPHINE

It's Hebrew for good. As in, "and God looked down at his creation and saw that it was good."
Tov.

PROMETHEUS

It's just a name.

JOSEPHINE

It's a fitting one.

ADA

You both look radiant.

OLIVER

It's the biggest event of the season. Consider me in my element.

JOSEPHINE

Then why are we here instead of dancing?

OLIVER

We can't dance sober. Does anyone feel like a drink?

ADA

I could warm up. It's freezing outside.

PROMETHEUS

It's not, actually. It's just above freezing for the first time since November. Things are starting to thaw out.

OLIVER

Don't say that! How awfully macabre.

JOSEPHINE

Isn't that funny? Talking about the weather used to be small talk.

PROMETHEUS

Don't you love the spring, though? A new beginning?

OLIVER

Both of you, stop it.

Oliver produces 4 cocktails.

PROMETHEUS

To Tova.

ADA

May she not miss us too terribly.

They drink. The music changes.

OLIVER

I have always loved this song.

JOSEPHINE

Oh, now we can dance.

Oliver and Josephine dance. Ada and Prometheus dance.

PROMETHEUS

I may owe you an apology.

ADA

Don't. I can't stand it. How about we play a game where we pretend like nothing's wrong?

PROMETHEUS

Absolutely not.

ADA

Why not?

PROMETHEUS

I'll never win.

26.

PROMETHEUS

Leaving already?

JOSEPHINE

Prometheus! I think I have to go. I've lost my purse and my girlfriend.

PROMETHEUS

Sit. Those shoes don't look comfortable.

JOSEPHINE

I don't really want to talk to you.

PROMETHEUS

I know.

JOSEPHINE

God, well now I feel guilty.

PROMETHEUS

I didn't do that on purpose.

Josephine sits.

JOSEPHINE

She's really beautiful. Tova.

PROMETHEUS

Thank you. I'm actually, um, very proud of it.

JOSEPHINE

You sound surprised.

PROMETHEUS

I am.

JOSEPHINE

How long did it take you?

PROMETHEUS

Oh, on and off again my whole life.

JOSEPHINE

People are talking money at these tables. I don't know if you've been listening.

PROMETHEUS

It's not for sale. Once it leaves the city, it's worthless.

JOSEPHINE
She's Noah. She gets to survive the flood.

PROMETHEUS
Deucalion.

JOSEPHINE
I'm sorry?

PROMETHEUS
Nevermind.

JOSEPHINE
Does she know?

PROMETHEUS
I think so. I have something for you.

JOSEPHINE
For me?

PROMETHEUS
No, actually. It was for me, originally. It's an invitation to join a party of engineers on a mission inland.

JOSEPHINE
Oh.

PROMETHEUS
I think you should go. You're a better engineer than I am.

JOSEPHINE
People are saying what you've built here is one of the greatest marvels of this century.

PROMETHEUS
Yeah, but it's just art. No one seems to understand that it's art.

JOSEPHINE
You don't want me to die here with you.

PROMETHEUS
I don't know what you're talking about.

JOSEPHINE

You have your perfect ending and I disrupt it. Your boyfriend, your best friend, your creation. No room for Josephine in the end of the world.

PROMETHEUS

I know you want to leave. I know you can't without this ticket.

JOSEPHINE

Maybe I don't. I did move here, after all.

PROMETHEUS

And you know that I can. Oliver, Ada, and I can buy our way out any time. You want to know why we haven't.

JOSEPHINE

Stop telling me what I think.

PROMETHEUS

The job of the artist is to observe.

A beat.

JOSEPHINE

I have been trying to figure it out.

PROMETHEUS

It's because we're scared. We have no skills, no street smarts. Just highrises and vintage wines and think pieces. And I don't entirely blame us, you know? When a generation is constantly reminded that no one before them cared enough to fight for their lives, there are only two valid reactions. One is blinding anger. Which is exhausting, and difficult, and far outside of my comfort zone. And the other is agreement. A resounding unanimous case that we aren't worth saving.

JOSEPHINE

But we are.

PROMETHEUS

I'm glad you think so.

JOSEPHINE

I guess I don't understand giving up on a whole city. On a whole planet, really, in the long run.

PROMETHEUS

And you shouldn't. You fought your way here. You've seen more of the world than even Oliver has, with his private boat and fancy tutors. Why would you try so hard to fit in with people so clearly... trash?

JOSEPHINE

Where I'm from, everyone wants to be this.

PROMETHEUS

This is over. After March, this is nothing. It's a robot presiding over a lost city. It's a wasteland.

JOSEPHINE

I think I might be in love?

PROMETHEUS

(Prometheus laughs.) Me too. It's a bitch, isn't it?

JOSEPHINE

It's more than I ever thought I would feel.

PROMETHEUS

If you're looking for reasons not to leave, I won't stop you. But Ada's a butterfly. I've known her forever. She's one of my best friends. And she disappears for months at a time. She wastes away without attention. She's been looking for someone to stay alive for, and she hasn't found them yet.

JOSEPHINE

Are you sure?

PROMETHEUS

I'm not sure of anything. All I know is I've done what I came here to do. I don't want to be an engineer.

JOSEPHINE

I'll think on it.

PROMETHEUS

Thanks.

JOSEPHINE

You seem at ease. Like grappling with mortality comes naturally to you.

PROMETHEUS

Mortality is like clay. You just play with it until you have something interesting.

JOSEPHINE

Well, you do.

PROMETHEUS

Finally.

27.

*The flood. It comes.
Afterward, it's quiet. It's peaceful. It's lonely.*

28.

TOVA

Prometheus, the first Prometheus, had a son named Deucalion. When the flood came, Prometheus put Deucalion in a trunk with his wife, Pyrrha, and they survived the flood together. My Prometheus is more short-sighted. They did not leave me a wife. They did not leave me a trunk.

They did not leave me instructions or anything to remember them by. No wonder man forgot the gods. I have not yet discovered if I have the ability to forget. I hope that I do.

When the flood came, it came over days. From the ground up, up, up. The highrises went last, but they went. I swam for a very long time, until I discovered I can float. It's not as if I have anywhere to be.

I don't like watching the water, so I've been looking up. I've been cloudwatching. That one looks like a life raft. That one looks like a friend.

End of Play.

-