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This year, we are able to offer a Web-Only Supplement to Escriba, featuring writing and art that we were unable to feature in the print edition.

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A CAT'S MEOW PRODUCTION

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UNSOLICITED ADVICE TO THE LITTLE SISTERS THAT WON'T LISTEN

The price of an emaciated reputation
Will never be worth
The string of her thumb against your pulse
When she did not intend for it to last.
Trust me.

When she tells you that her ex
is ladled in her palm
Breath full of whiskey
25,000 ways to make you passion and loose roof shingles
Tell her you're good.
Call the next one.

The next one won't want to listen to your web chambers
she will relate your kinks
to chutes & ladders
and ask you to play house.
Do not play house.
Play fireman, maybe.
Bathe the hallway in smoke
hide the mirrors.

Stop holding hands with people's daughters.
She is still someone's daughter.
Tell her to be your woman - not your daughter.
Daughters cannot love other daughters.
She can be someone's daughter again on her birthday
When the calendar will gift distance and angry absence.

Be Still.
Just be still.

When he leaves his initials in your locker for the first time,
Do not freak out.
Do not be evaporated gasps on the sides of a milk canister —

Be bullet cloud.
Make him tremble
Giggle when he trembles.
Make him angry
they like being angry;
Men want to feel the thermos in their marrow
Want to vibrate in colors like Pictionary.
Let him be red
When he settles down to yellow,
Walk away.

When the time runs out,
Do not ask for more.
Never ask for more.
Swallow the sand like you were born in Persephone's belly.
They will all be impressed by how well
You swallow on command
How well your fingers do not bleed above the glass
How effectively you paint yourself insurrectionary
Like Jesus
They will love you like Jesus.
At first.

At first,
you will ignore this.
You want to fail.
You will.
Then you'll read this again
and wish you hadn't.

When they tell you that they
Love you
Are in love
Fell through love
with/for/with you
Cross your legs at the ankles
Sip your drink with one pinky touching the airplanes.
Smile slightly,
Let your lips part. Show teeth. Only some.
And thank them for nothing.
Trust me.



“Sunset” by Andres Moreira

THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS ON LIVING ORGANISMS: A RESPONSE TO THE PLAY *boom* BY PETER SINN NACHTRIEB

An environmental disaster can be devastating to life on Earth and even almost obliterate it completely. There are a few organisms that manage to survive either by accident, mysterious “hiding/sheltering,” or intense preparation for ultimate and long term survival. However, what does it mean to survive? Is surviving solely an organism staying alive after an environmental disaster, or surviving and thriving in that environment and reproducing to maintain the species real survival? The play entitled *boom* by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb seeks to answer this question.

In *boom*, there are three characters: Barbara, a natural history professor, Jules, a marine biologist and Jo, a journalism student. After years of research on a deserted island, Jules has discovered patterns of erratic behavior among the fish that seemed to hint that there may be something coming to end all life on earth. He set out to survive this catastrophe, which he believed to be a comet that would wipe out life as he knew it by turning his lab/apartment into a shelter to survive, pack food and also water and other necessities. He manages to use a combination of qualitative and quantitative data and calculations to figure out the exact time and date that the comet would hit, but is ignored by scientists at his school and elsewhere.

In an effort to save humanity, Jules sends out an ad asking for a woman to come to his place and be his companion and eventually have sex with him in order to reproduce and continue to maintain the human race. Jules also puts a few fish in a tank within the lab/apartment. He knows that there are basic things he and his mate will need to survive, including food for energy, growth and development of their cells; protection from the cold environment caused by the snow dust from the comet in order to maintain homeostasis and regulation of himself and his mate; plants and seeds to replant and produce oxygen in their shelter; batteries and candles for external heat energy source; and other means of survival.

Jules had the right ideas. He was a true scientist. He knew he must copulate with a woman and reproduce, despite his sexual orientation. He understood the importance of maintaining the human species. His approach to Jo, however, was very unorthodox and not very well planned, despite all his otherwise detailed survival planning. Also, Jules did not anticipate the loss of a major portion of their food supply due to the impact of the comet.

Their quest for survival begins. They must now worry about disease and sickness, infections, waste disposal, water conservation, maintaining their reproductive abilities by ensuring that their bodies have enough nutrients, maintaining a pregnancy and finally delivering a baby. Jules’ most important challenge is to successfully reproduce to ensure their survival and the survival of his species. Jo, on the other hand, was completely opposed to the idea of having

children or even having sex with Jules. After she learned about his sexual orientation and his real reason for bringing her there, she is reluctant to help. Jules makes numerous failed attempts to inseminate Jo and get her pregnant; these attempts are matched with violent reactions from Jo.

Perhaps if Jules had interviewed individuals first, he could have selected a better mate, someone more willing to reproduce. He could have chosen a person he could have get along with and survive with harmoniously and with longevity. He may have been more successful then.

Jo was a journalist who wrote constantly and documented most of the events of her encounter with Jules on a steno pad that was later found fossilized. Jules and Jo eventually run out of food and begin to discuss killing themselves or each other out of pity or as a favor. They wanted to put an end to their misery. Jules even resorts to suggesting they cut off his rotting broken leg and eat it before it becomes too infected and inedible. Their need for a source of energy was a major problem. Energy was needed to sustain their lives and to function properly. If an organism is unable to process energy within the body it faces problems with healing, growth, regulation and homeostasis; such failures could be life threatening.

Eventually Jules and Jo become very desperate for food. They experience extreme loneliness. They become desperate and curiosity overcomes them. They resolve to open the door of their shelter, a door that kept Jo locked in for 9 months. According to Jules' estimates, snow dust from the comet would take at least two to four years to clear and the environment to revert back to normal. Nevertheless, in their desperation, Jules and Jo open the door only to be overtaken by water. All along they managed to keep the fish in the tank alive, which also seemed to sense the urge to reproduce. These fish managed to survive after the shelter is inundated by water, and so they were able to survive and reproduce.

The entire play is explained by Barbara, the Natural History professor. She controls the exhibit and explains to the audience that they were the descendants of the fish that survived the comet's impact 65 million years ago. This implies that Barbara and the rest of the audience were not the kind of humans we are. They were a new race originated from the surviving fish that after years of natural selection and evolutionary adaptation evolved into a human like species once again.

This play seeks to explain how fragile life really is, and how a disaster can affect all living things at all levels. The play also examines the theory of evolution and adaptation combined with natural selection, processes that allowed few fish to venture out into the sea, reproduce, fight with others for food, and continue evolving slowly. In the end, those new living forms acquire standards and intelligence similar to humans today. Life is a collection of constantly changing small plays. Plays like *boom* seek to explain the "How's" and the "Whys" and the "Where's," of where we come from. It is our job as scientists to explain how life is sustained, who would be most likely to survive, and how we should choose mates we wish to reproduce with; that is, carefully, to ensure

that the best natural selection occurs and new generations have the potential to continue the history of mankind.

[Editor’s note: The Hostos Repertory Company was invited to showcase *boom* at the northeast regional competition of the prestigious Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in January of 2011. It was the only community college theater production invited to the competition. The production was a big success for the Repertory Company and Professor Angel Morales, Director.]



“Keith and Cobra” by Vincent Russo

THANKS FRIENDS

Thanks,
For bringing me happiness as though it were a gift,
I can open every day.

I thank you for listening to my words,
I want to say,
I appreciate you

For letting me share the most personal parts of your world
And for welcoming me with open heart,
I am grateful to you.

For being the wonderful,
Kind, giving person you are,
I admire you.

For being everything you are to me
And for doing it so beautifully,
I thank you with all my heart.

DO NOT SAY GOOD-BYE

Oh! How wonderful it is to remember happy moments,
We have shared in our home away from home,
Hostos College!

Oh! But how sad it is to face reality,
And know that tomorrow's destiny imposes a new beginning as we graduate.
We now have to depart from those we love,
We have to say good-bye to our friends, watch their tears flow,
As we embrace each other, and to feel our lives are going pass us by!

Each tear represents a memory from the heart
That also reflects its feelings toward you, my friends.

We look at each other's with tear-filled eyes.
We look each other and we promise that we will continue being more than
friends,
We will be brothers.

Brothers that yesterday developed a great friendship,
A friendship that together we share within all this time,
Based on love, affection, and sincerity, and that will be maintained for now
and forever.

It is sad to say Good-Bye,
Give me your hand and do not say good-bye,
Just "Until later, my friend."



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