

ACT ONE

Scene One:
Meeting
(Day One)

(Scene Set: There are two distinct areas. One area is at CS which is called the INFORMATION AREA. There is an oval table CS with four chairs behind it. There is a computer system such as a laptop or other computer system to access on the INFORMATION PANEL. There is also a PROJECTOR SCREEN where images will be projected throughout the play. The second area is the GARDEN AREA at SL with a bench in front of it. All the areas of the set can be interpreted as needed for the production.)

(Scene Opens: We hear the sound of a wheelchair, SUZANNE, coming on stage from SR. As SUZANNE moves the lights slowly shine down on the stage revealing the shadow of her wheels turning. She reaches CS as the lights are on. She turns and looks out beyond the audience.)

QUINN (Off Stage)

What could be more exciting? A new beginning. Something (Enters SR) to strive for. (Notices SUZANNE and smiles kindly. He walks over to her as she smiles still looking out.)

SUZANNE

Quinn. (Looks at him.) Still talking to yourself.

QUINN

All the geniuses did, do, have been doing since-

SUZANNE

(Turns to him.) So, do you still sing to yourself too?

QUINN

Every moment I can. It's the purest of instruments. No one can ever take away our right to sing.

SUZANNE

Really. (She moves US to see the table and looks around.)

QUINN

It's good to see you too.

SUZANNE

Yeah. I thought you were the historian, not the philosopher.

QUINN

Aren't we all philosophers? Think about it. We're all trying to find out the answers to tomorrow. This is fascinating.

SUZANNE

Yes, it is. And, I would never have guessed I'd be here with you again. (Continues to check the area and moves to the INFORMATION AREA to check the computer.)

QUINN

(Moves to her and watches her for a moment.) Well, here I am.

SUZANNE

Yep.

(ASHLEY Enters from SR and X to C.)

ASHLEY

Did I hear something of a philosopher?

(SUZANNE quickly turns to see ASHLEY as QUINN looks sad for a moment.)

SUZANNE

In fact, you did.

ASHELY

(Looks to see SUZANNE and QUINN.) Hello.

SUZANNE

(X to ASHLEY.) You must be Ashley Moores. (She extends her hand.)

ASHLEY

(Shakes hands with SUZANNE.) And, you are Suzanne.

SUZANNE

Yep. (Moves back a bit and presents the wheels.) Uh-huh, you must have read my bio.

ASHLEY

I didn't mean-

SUZANNE

Sense of humor. You're going to need one of those if you're going to be in here for seven days with eight other people.

ASHLEY

Well, I did spend the night with ten people in one tent for three days. And, out of those ten, four snored.

QUINN

In harmony? (X to ASHLEY and SUZANNE.)

ASHLEY

I wish. Well, the rest of us wished. Once we got one to stop the other took over. Now that I think about it, I wonder if they were planning the whole thing. Like a snoring game.

SUZANNE

That's better. (Smiles to ASHLEY as she X to the screen.)

QUINN

(Extends his hand.) Now that you met our fearless leader Suzanne Holden, my name is-

ASHLEY

Quinn Fellows. (Shakes his hand.)

QUINN

Exactly. How did you guess?

ASHLEY

Not a guess. More like a deduction. I could figure it out.

QUINN

Those bios always rat us out don't they?

(We see RYAN walk in from DSL and sit on the bench in the GARDEN AREA. Since it is in a different area, none of the other actors can see him.)

SUZANNE

They are supposed to get rid of the wasted time of meet and greet so that we can rapidly begin our task of finding the problems.

QUINN

I know. But, it would be nice to use the time to also get to know each other. (He moves to her.)

(ASHLEY sits on the table and watches them.)

SUZANNE

Quinn. You haven't changed. And, so we should just waste all the money and resources on idle chitchat while the leaders of the world wait for our answers?

QUINN

Hey. We're people too. (Turns to ASHELY.) Isn't it important?

ASHLEY

I don't know. You two have done all this before. I'm one of the new ones.

SUZANNE

(Finishes her check of the screen and turns to QUINN as we see them profile.) We spend enough time together through all this. I don't think we need to force the matter of intimacy more than it already is.

QUINN

I don't know. I wouldn't mind trying to get to know-

DEBBIE (OFF STAGE)

Is anyone here yet?

(SUZANNE quickly X DS. QUINN sighs with a look of disappointment. ASHLEY notices QUINN's disappointment but looks away as he gains his composure.)

(DEBBIE ENTERS from SR where SUZANNE meets with her.)

SUZANNE

Welcome Mrs.-

DEBBIE

No, it's just Ms. It's been that way for a few years now. You must be getting me mixed up with my daughter.

QUINN

Well, maybe we thought you were the daughter.

DEBBIE

Flattery. I could live with it.

ASHLEY
(Stands and walks to DEBBIE) Hi. I'm Ashley-

QUINN
Quinn-

(As the exchange continues, RYAN nods his head, stands and shakes his head mouthing, 'here we go again' as he Exits SL.)

DEBBIE
(Turns to SUZANNE.) And, you're the great Suzanne Holden.

SUZANNE
I wouldn't say great.

DEBBIE
You just keep writing those wonderful theories and publishing those fantastic results. Other scientists are still trying to prove you wrong just to get their names next to yours.

SUZANNE
Or, it could be out of spite.

ASHLEY
You never know.

SUZANNE
Where's your daughter? I was excited because this is the first time the Think-tank Project has had a mother-daughter. Its never had siblings or even a father-son or father-daughter pairing in this project.

DEBBIE
Yep. We're the first. Oh, well, she's with Mike who's flirting with her.

QUINN
But, I thought she was the Mrs.

DEBBIE
She is. Mike must not have read the biographical information about us, or her.

ASHELY
Maybe he was staring at her picture too much.

DEBBIE

Maybe. (X US and sits in a chair.)

(ASHLEY X to the INFORMATION AREA to check the computer.
QUINN X to the table as SUZANNE still is uneasy and wants
to check everything.)

(We hear MIKE and CINDY talking OFF STAGE.)

MIKE (OFF STAGE)

So, how long have you been working in the area of higher
mathematics? You're sort of young.

DEBBIE

What's the magnetic shield's hold standing at?

ASHLEY

Shh. I want to hear this.

SUZANNE

(X to DEBBIE.) I'll show you.

CINDY (OFF STAGE)

You're young yourself.

MIKE (OFF STAGE)

Yeah, but I'm a mature young. You're a mature, but beautiful
young.

(ASHLEY and QUINN laugh together as MIKE and CINDY Enter
from SR.)

CINDY

Really.

MIKE

It'll be fun doing this with you. I can tell.

CINDY

You can?

MIKE

(Looks around and notices the others and QUINN and ASHLEY
laughing.) What's so funny?

QUINN

A joke she told. (Points to ASHLEY.)

ASHLEY
It wasn't my joke. It was yours. (They continue laughing.)

MIKE
Immature aren't they.

CINDY
Yes, they are. (Smiles.)

DEBBIE
Cindy. That's enough. We need to keep it all in perspective.

CINDY
What do you mean?

MIKE
Oh, is that your mother?

CINDY
Yes.

MIKE
She's lovely like you.

DEBBIE
(Turns to CINDY.) Cindy. Let's not do this fooling around.

MIKE
I was just-

DEBBIE
Not you.

MIKE
I don't understand.

CINDY
(Nods.) Okay. We'll need to get to work anyway. Mike. I think it's sweet that you're flirting with me but I'm-

SUZANNE
Married. She's married.

MIKE
(Looks shocked.) I, I-

QUINN

It was in the bios, remember?

MIKE

Yeah. I knew it. I was just playing around. Just-

CINDY

(Smiles) It was a fun experiment, wasn't it?

MIKE

But, you don't have a ring.

CINDY

Not when I'm working. (X to the INFORMATION AREA to check the computer with SUZANNE.)

ASHLEY

(X to MIKE.) Don't feel bad. You were doing good while it lasted.

MIKE

Yeah. (Embarrassed.) Thanks. I just, yeah.

QUINN

We have almost everyone.

(RYAN Enters and looks around.)

RYAN

You have everyone Mr. Fellows. I'm here.

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