

SCENE 8

BEULAH

CRYSTAL, I SAW ON THE NEWS
THAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR
BLANKETS AND BEDDING
AND MAYBE SOME FOOD

CRYSTAL (ACTOR 1)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY NEED
AND HOW MUCH

MARTHA (ACTOR 5)

I NEED SOMETHING TO DO

MARTHA, CRYSTAL & BEULAH

CAUSE I CAN'T WATCH THE NEWS ANYMORE

ANNETTE (ACTOR 6)

CAN I HELP?
IS THERE SOMETHING?
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING
TO KEEP ME FROM THINKING OF
ALL OF THOSE SCENES ON THE TUBE

CRYSTAL (ACTOR 1)

I NEED SOMETHING TO DO
CAUSE I CAN'T WATCH THE NEWS

WOMEN - GROUP 1

NO, I CAN'T WATCH THE NEWS ANYMORE

WOMEN - GROUP 2

IN THE WINTER, FROM THE WATER, THROUGH THE WIND

ALL WOMEN

IF A STRANGER ENDS UP AT YOUR DOOR

BEULAH ✕

YOU GET ON THE HORN

(on the phone)

Hello? This is Beulah Davis down at the Academy. I heard we might be getting some guests and I thought I'd see if I could help whoever in charge of getting the school organi - How many passengers can we take?

BEULAH (CONT'D)

Uh—well, we fit about 400 students—yes, we could probably do 600. Or sure, 700, if we really pack them in. When are they coming? Could be any time now? Well, I'm glad I phoned!

OZ

I get a call from Beulah looking for "anything 700 people from around the world might need." So, I go down to Shoppers and the manager says to just take what I want off the shelves—toothbrushes, floss, mouthwash, deodorant. And I'm back at the school, when Beulah says...

BEULAH

You know, those planes probably got some babies on 'em...

A slight pause.

OZ

So, I'm back to Shoppers for diapers. And we're unpacking them, when Annette says...

ANNETTE

You know, those babies are probably going to be hungry...

A slight pause.

OZ

So, I'm back to Shoppers for formula and baby food. And when I get back, Beulah says...

BEULAH

You know, those planes are probably filled with women of child bearing age...

Another pause.

OZ

Sooo?

BEULAH

So, I'm back to Shoppers to pick up as many pads and tampons as they have.

Oz exits, wincing.

JANICE

The Baptist Church needs a hand moving their pews... Doctor O'Brien down at the pharmacy is ready to fill any prescriptions. Oh, and the Lion's Club is looking for some toilet paper, if you have any extra.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

BUT INSTEAD

I AM HERE

I AM HERE

BEULAH

She leaves message after message for her son—until there's no more room on his answering machine.

HANNAH

ALL I KNOW

IS YOU ARE THERE

YOU ARE THERE

AND I AM HERE

BEULAH

She finally got some news. ✱

HANNAH

They said it was Kev's day off—but someone else said there were more men down there than were scheduled. I should be looking for him. He's always there for me—trying to make me laugh. Tells me stupid jokes. He loves jokes—tells them to the kids at the firehouse, while he fixes their bikes.

I should be there.

BEULAH ✱

I know there's nothing I can do to help. But I do know a few jokes. There was a sailor who was stationed in the South Pacific, far away from his wife who he'd just married. And when he was away, he wrote her a letter. He said, "We're going to be apart for a long time—and this island is full of young, attractive native girls. I need something to take my mind off them."

So his wife sends him an accordion and says, "Why don't you learn to play this then?" So finally, he comes home from his tour of duty and says to his wife, "I can't wait to get you into bed." And she says, "First let's see how well you play that accordion."

SHE laughs at her own joke, but sees HANNAH's face and stops.

HANNAH

That was a really stupid joke.

A pause.

Tell me another one.

DELORES

I don't understand why they can't let us off. I mean, just to stretch our legs, I mean really?
I need to get some air! Oh my god! I need to get off this plane!

KEVIN T.

And my boyfriend, Kevin—we're both named Kevin. It was cute for a while. Anyway,
Kevin was not dealing with it well.

KEVIN J.

I'm going to kill her.

DELORES pushes the call button above her over and over.

DELORES

Excuse me?! I would like to get off the plane. I am claustrophobic!

KEVIN J.

Excuse me! Would you like some Xanax? Because you are freaking out and it is freaking
me out and we are all FREAKING THE FUCK OUT!!!

ALL

OPEN THE AIRPLANE DOORS!
LET A LITTLE AIR IN HERE
CAUSE I COULD USE A SHOWER—OR A BAR (OR A BAR!)
OPEN THE AIRPLANE DOORS!
LOOK AT ALL THE PLANES OUT THERE
THERE MUST BE A CONVENTION, IT'S BIZARRE
WHEREVER WE ARE

GROUP 1

28 HOURS
28 HOURS
28 HOURS
28 HOURS

GROUP 2

28 HOURS
28 HOURS
28 HOURS
28 HOURS

GROUP 3

OUT OF THE WINDOWS
NOTHING BUT DARKNESS
DARKNESS AND
HEADLIGHTS
NOTHING TO SEE

BONNIE picks up her phone.