

* Please return to check-in

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTARCTICA
by Mat Smart

Selection 2

About the play:

Dee is the only person ever born at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Shortly after giving birth, Dee's mother mysteriously disappeared. Now, 24 years later, Dee returns to the otherworldly brightness at the bottom of the earth to work as a janitor — scrubbing toilets 60 hours a week and discovering something about what it means to disappear.

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Ace - Male, 30s-60s

ACE – Male, 30s-60s. A FEMC (Facilities Engineering, Maintenance & Construction) Worker at McMurdo. Has made it his mission to sleep with (or at least kiss) someone born on every continent.

About this scene:

Near the end of the play, Dee is being sent home from McMurdo. Throughout the play, Ace has been trying to get her to kiss him to complete his life's goal of kissing someone born on every continent. He finally opens up to her about his past.

ACE

Whatever you're running from – you have to go back to it tomorrow.

Have you at least figured out what it is?

You have to go back to it tomorrow.

There is a version of my life where I'm a surgeon – married to Annie – with two kids. A house, a yard. There's a version where my family still talks to me. But instead, I have this.

Do you want to know what I'm running from?

I won't tell you if you don't want to hear.

[...]

I am running from the life I think I should have.

I feel so wronged. So deeply wronged.

Annie, my fiancée, fucked my brother – and they're sorry for what they did. They really are and I believe them. But they're married now. *They* have two kids. And now they don't have much time to feel sorry anymore. After it happened, I left. Med school. My apartment. I started hitching. I ran out of money. They shut off my cell phone. I stopped checking email.

"Walter, what happened sucks, but it's time to move on."

I was the one who was dicked over, but since I didn't handle it with *grace* – I turned into the bad guy. But it burned a hole in me – changed my DNA – I pushed everyone away until finally. . . they went away.

I was always honest.

I was always kind.

Why did they do this to me?

Why did this happen to me?

[...]

And I am not saying all this to get you to kiss me or sleep with me – although I'm still totally open to that – I am saying this because whatever you're running from – it'll still be there. No matter where you go.

Stop running.

Stop running for one second.