

RACHEL and ZOEY 1 are now in the scene together. As RACHEL loads laundry into one of the machines, the lid accidentally slams shut noisily on her hand.

Ow!
RACHEL (CONT'D)

What?
ZOEY 1

Ow!
RACHEL

What!?
ZOEY 1

It bit me!
RACHEL

It—what?
ZOEY 1

The machine! It—the lid—ow!
RACHEL

Blow on it.
ZOEY 1

Blow on—?
RACHEL

It'll stop the—here.
ZOEY 1

ZOEY 1 takes RACHEL by the wrist and blows on her hand. RACHEL squirms.

Ow—ow—ow—ow—hurts—hurts—hurts—hurts—
RACHEL

Help blow.
ZOEY 1

(blows) Ow. (blows) Ow. (blows) Ow.
RACHEL

Both women blow on the hand in silence.

Better?
ZOEY 1

RACHEL flexes her hand. ZOEY 1 lets go.

How does that—?
RACHEL

It doesn't.
ZOEY 1

What?
RACHEL

Okay. It does. But it doesn't. It's a—thingie.
ZOEY 1

Placebo?
RACHEL

Right.
ZOEY 1

(holding up a particularly garish piece of clothing)
Whatdya think? Cold gentle?

I hurt my hand, and you give me a placebo.
RACHEL

You didn't hurt your hand; you hit your hand.
ZOEY 1

And you give me a placebo.
RACHEL

Does it feel better or not?
ZOEY 1

RACHEL
(doesn't answer)

Cold gentle it is.
ZOEY 1

Wait, no—

RACHEL

Too late.

ZOEY 1

What does the label say?

RACHEL

I tear them out. I find them restrictive.

ZOEY 1

Dry clean. You should—

RACHEL

Dry cleaning is a myth.

ZOEY 1

Pause.

RACHEL

A myth.

ZOEY 1

When did soap and water stop being good enough?

RACHEL

When fabrics got more delicate.

ZOEY 1

When the dry cleaning industry said so. Have you considered not watching them?

RACHEL

Watching what?

ZOEY 1

What have we been talking about?

RACHEL

Dry cleaning.

ZOEY 1

Time travel movies. I mean, that's your solution, right? If a movie plays, and no one's there to see it, does it suck?

Long pause. ZOEY 1 sorts laundry. RACHEL is severely derailed.

ZOEY 1 (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

Both women sort laundry.

RACHEL

I'm not looking for a solution.

(pause)

I'm not presenting a problem to be solved, it's a—

ZOEY 1

Thesis. You said. But it's not.

RACHEL

It is.

ZOEY 1

It's you watching a lot of awful movies and bitching about it. No doctorate program is going to accept the thesis, "Time travel movies suck."

RACHEL

Damn the doctorate.

Pause.

ZOEY 1

Did you say, "Damn the doctorate?"

RACHEL

You can't shackle academia. You can't predict what you'll find totally by accident. Are you going to tell NASA they can't go to the moon?

ZOEY 1

They've been to the moon.

RACHEL

If it wasn't for NASA, we wouldn't have computer chips, contact lenses, GPS tracking—

ZOEY 1

Tang. Remember Tang?

RACHEL

My thesis can lead to the philosophical equivalent of the computer chip.

ZOEY 1

Or the philosophical equivalent of Tang.

RACHEL

Tang isn't awful.

ZOEY 1

It's pretty bad.

RACHEL

It's okay if you mix it with vodka. Good vodka. Not that stuff you buy.
(pointing at an article of ZOEY 1'S
clothing)

Okay. Now, that. Dry cleaning. No question.

ZOEY 1

Oops.

(drops the clothing into the washer)

Don't get me wrong. I'd love to sit back and watch sucky movies all day.

RACHEL

Ha!

ZOEY 1

Ha?

RACHEL

Ha.

ZOEY 1

What, "Ha?"

RACHEL

You and Bond.

ZOEY 1

Bond doesn't suck.

RACHEL

They made the same move like, what? Thirty times?

ZOEY 1

James Bond is an American icon.

RACHEL

British.

Same thing.

ZOEY 1

ZOEY 1 is about to put a kimono into the washer.

RACHEL

Not that!

ZOEY 1

Not what?

RACHEL

No—no—no—no—no—silk—silk—silk—silk—silk!

ZOEY 1

Break your brainwashing, Rachel! You think the samurai walked around in dirty clothes until someone invented dry cleaning?

RACHEL

That poor kimono.

ZOEY 1

It's fine.

RACHEL

It's going to disintegrate.

ZOEY 1

Faith, Rachel. Faith. And Woolite.

RACHEL

At least the sweater...the...hey.

ZOEY 1

What?

RACHEL

Isn't that sweater—?

ZOEY 1

Yeah.

RACHEL

Is all of this Claire's stuff?

Not all. ZOEY 1

Don't they do it at the...place? RACHEL

Hospice. ZOEY 1

Right. RACHEL

No. Well. They could. But it's...you know. ZOEY 1

I can...help. RACHEL

That's okay. ZOEY 1

Long pause.

It's only money. RACHEL

Only. ZOEY 1

Only. Yes. Only. You need money. I have more than I can use. RACHEL

Redistribution of wealth? ZOEY 1

Exactly. RACHEL

Based on my laundry habits? ZOEY 1

Take the money. You're being selfish. RACHEL

Selfish. ZOEY 1

You're not letting me help. RACHEL

Claire is my responsibility. ZOEY 1

Not *completely*. RACHEL

Yes. ZOEY 1

What about her family? RACHEL

ZOEY 1
(doesn't answer)

Still? RACHEL

Not even a postcard. ZOEY 1

You sure they know? RACHEL

I call. I leave messages. On a machine. Once a week. ZOEY 1

You can't do everything. You'll wear yourself out. Claire wouldn't want— RACHEL

Doesn't. ZOEY 1

Pause.

Claire *doesn't* want you to kill yourself. RACHEL

You think you know Claire better than I do? ZOEY 1

I think it's safe to say— RACHEL

ZOEY 1

You don't.

RACHEL

Are you saying Claire *does* want you to kill yourself?

ZOEY 1

Maybe. You don't know. Maybe Claire is sitting there, trapped inside a body that won't work anymore, and the only thing that can give her any comfort is to watch someone slowly decay and wither in the service of her. Nefertiti. Beautiful queen of Egypt. Seated majestically on her throne while her exhausted and slightly dehydrated servant struggles up the temple steps to feed her a single grape.

Pause.

RACHEL

Drama monkey.

ZOEY 1

It's laundry, Rachel. I can do a little laundry.

RACHEL

Need anything from the Mini-Mart?

ZOEY 1

Why are you—?

RACHEL

Out of soap.

ZOEY 1

Use mine.

RACHEL

I like mine.

ZOEY 1

Soap is soap.

RACHEL

I know.

ZOEY 1

It's all in one big vat. Big vat of soap. And they change the packaging. So some of the soap becomes "Tide" and some becomes "Fab"—

RACHEL

I'm sure you're right.

ZOEY 1

For 8,000 years, mankind has used cold water and soap. Now, "soap" isn't good enough. It's got to be the right soap.

RACHEL

I'm going to buy a bottle of the right soap. You need anything?

ZOEY 1

You're just paying for the packaging.

RACHEL

I like the packaging. It's sunny.

ZOEY 1

I'm bumming your bleach while you're gone.

RACHEL

Figured.

(pause)

All kidding aside...

ZOEY 1

Yeah?

RACHEL

Really. Zoey. All kidding aside.

ZOEY 1

Yeah.

RACHEL

Dry clean the kimono.

ZOEY 1

I'll compromise. I'll only use half as much water.

RACHEL exits. ZOEY 1 returns to sorting laundry when ZOEY 2 enters.

ZOEY 2

The sweater is in with the lights.