

ALL THE WORLD WAS MADE FOR YOU

by Josh LeBlanc

Contact

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Characters

Owen

& **Georgia**, both ten years old.

Jill, Owen's mother,

& **Amy**, Georgia's mother.

Jason, Jill's younger brother,

& **the Visitor**.

Time

Summer, 2003.

Place

The suburbs.

A Note on Casting

Owen and Georgia may be played by anyone.

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea

— **e. e. cummings**

Prologue

Disconnected from the rest of this world, a small cathode-ray tube television sits tucked away downstage. It is hooked up to a VCR. Around sits stacks of VHS tapes.

The standard blue screen casts a faint glow.

From opposite stage, the Visitor approaches. She is a woman, thirty years old. She deliberately digests the space. A rush of memory — simplicity and longing.

She approaches the television.

She sits down. She browses the tapes until she finds one. She stares at the handwritten label.

A rush of fear. She considers setting it down and walking away.

A moment. A breath. A settling in.

She carefully inserts the tape into the VCR.

She presses play.

Click.

The Visitor gets comfortable. She is to remain onstage throughout the entire duration of this play.

The steady drone of tape hiss.

"White Flag" by Dido plays.

And the stage is thrust into a bright, summer day. Warm colors dance across the world, across the Visitor's face.

She smiles. It rushes back.

And the song carries us into —

Act One

Scene One

The sun shines bright on Owen and Georgia.

They play pretend. They are the best superheroes in the world.

Georgia soars, surveying the city, ready to help at a moment's notice. She is Galaxy Girl.

Owen is packing his person with rockets, fastening them to his belt, hands, legs, back, and anywhere else he might think of. He is Rocket Boy.

Owen's Power Rangers Wild Force Red Power Ranger sits on the ground.

They live in this bliss for some time, in their own worlds, feeling the power and might, the control, the authority.

Eventually, Owen looks to Georgia. She nods. They're ready.

GEORGIA

These people need our help, Rocket Boy. Only we can save the world.

OWEN

All in a day's work, Galaxy Girl.

She smiles.

GEORGIA

I'll fly up into the sky. See who needs our help.

And she does, with a powerful WHOOSH!

Owen steps back. He looks up to her. She looks down upon the city.

They speak into pretend walkie-talkies.

OWEN

Galaxy Girl, this is Rocket Boy. Do you copy? Over.

GEORGIA

Rocket Boy, this is Galaxy Girl. I copy. Over.

OWEN

What do you see up there? Over.

She looks around. Finally, she sees:

GEORGIA

It's the Green Goblin! He's destroying the town!

OWEN

Not again!

GEORGIA

We have to stop him, Rocket Boy.

OWEN

Where's Spider-Man?

GEORGIA

I don't know. But we have to do something, Rocket Boy. What do you think?

OWEN

I think it's time we kick some Goblin butt.

GEORGIA

(giggles)
Okay.

OWEN

Meet me at the Square. Over.

GEORGIA

Right. Over.

Georgia flies through the sky.

Owen activates his Rocket Boots and leaps through the air, gaining tremendous ground with each step.

And they eventually reunite.

GEORGIA

Rocket Boy. Glad you could join us.

OWEN

Enough teasing. Where's Green Goblin?

She sees him. She points in horror.

There! He's running away! GEORGIA

Stop, Green Goblin! OWEN

He's gonna get away, Rocket Boy. What do we do? GEORGIA

I'll stop him with my Rocket Rope! OWEN

Owen fires a rocket with a rope attached. It nails Green Goblin.

Hold him tight, Rocket Boy! GEORGIA

I'm trying, Galaxy Girl, but he's putting up a fight! OWEN

You've got this. I believe in you. GEORGIA

He blushes.

It's slipping! He's getting away! GEORGIA

Not on my watch! OWEN

He holds tight to his Rocket Rope. The Green Goblin is strong, but Rocket Boy is stronger.

If we let him go, he'll kill everyone! GEORGIA

Everyone? OWEN

Everyone! GEORGIA

Where's Spider-Man? We need his help.

OWEN

Spider-Man? Oh! I see him!

GEORGIA

Where is he?

OWEN

He's... oh my God, he's — he's — he's dead!

GEORGIA

What?
(small pause, nearly dropping character)

OWEN

He's — yeah, he's dead. Oh my... oh my God, he — he doesn't have any arms. And — and his legs have been torn off and Green Goblin is just carrying his head, just... just carrying his head with him.

GEORGIA

Really?

OWEN

Everyone's crying. Everyone's crying because Spider-Man is dead.

GEORGIA

No, he's — he's not dead. He'll be okay.

OWEN

He doesn't have his head. He's not okay.

GEORGIA

What are you talking about?
(stepping out of it)

OWEN

What?
(stepping out of it)

GEORGIA

He's dead?

OWEN

What?

GEORGIA

Is he really dead?

OWEN

Silence.

No?

GEORGIA

Silence.

Then why would you say that?

OWEN

I didn't... I didn't, like, / I thought we were just —

GEORGIA

That's just, like... like, you can't just say that.

OWEN

Why not?

GEORGIA

Can we... I just... / I don't —

OWEN

It's okay. We don't have to.

GEORGIA

Yeah, like... can we — can we... can we go back then?

OWEN

To... to when I / — to when I said —

GEORGIA

Before you — yeah. Before you said that.

OWEN

(pause)
Is that okay?

OWEN

(pause)
Yeah.

GEORGIA

OWEN

Um... okay.

Owen slips back into Rocket Boy with ease. He grabs hold of his rope.

Georgia slowly finds her way back into Galaxy Girl.

GEORGIA

Look, there's Spider-Man! He's on his way to help us!

OWEN

Thank God. We really needed his help.

GEORGIA

I mean, we could've done it on our own, Rocket Boy.

OWEN

Well, good thing we don't have to.

GEORGIA

I'm gonna shoot Green Goblin with my energy beams!

OWEN

Do it! Quick!

Georgia fires her energy beams, each one a direct hit.

Owen pulls. His face goes red.

OWEN

I can't hold onto him much longer!

GEORGIA

Stay strong!

OWEN

Look! Spider-Man's helping us!

GEORGIA

Cool.

OWEN

We've almost got him!

Georgia mimics the sound of her Galaxy Blasts. Owen screams as he holds onto the rope. It's absolute warfare.

They carry on like this as Jill enters. She moves carefully, so as not to disturb this fragile world.

Eventually, Georgia sees her. And Galaxy Girl is gone.

Owen turns. And Rocket Boy is gone.

And the rope is gone. Green Goblin is gone. The town is gone.

They settle back into the world.

Pause.

Why were you screaming? JILL

We were playing. OWEN

Are you okay? JILL

Yeah. OWEN

Pause. Beat.

Do I have to go home? OWEN

Yeah. It's time for dinner. JILL

Can we play just for like ten more minutes? OWEN

No, I'm sorry. It's gonna get dark soon. JILL

But it's not dark right now. OWEN

Owen.

JILL

(*pause*)
Fine.

OWEN

And from offstage, Amy calls:

Georgia! Get inside, it's time to eat!

AMY

There you go.

JILL

Can I eat dinner with you guys tonight?

GEORGIA

You'll need to ask your mom.

JILL

Never mind.

GEORGIA

Okay.

JILL

Night, Owen.

GEORGIA

I'll see you tomorrow.

OWEN

Georgia exits off to her house.

Come on.

JILL

Jill and Owen exit off to their house.

Silence.

Then, Owen rushes back on. He scoops up his Red Power Ranger. He looks to him. A moment.

I know.

OWEN

Pause.

I know, I need to, but...

OWEN

Pause.

You think she would?

OWEN

Pause.

No. Not today.

OWEN

He exits off, the dusk beginning to set.

Scene Two

Jill and Owen's living room.

A bit too tidy. A bit too warm. Large swaths of natural light pour in, accentuating each extravagant and meticulous design choice. Sand leather furniture, a large Afghan rug, baby pictures of Owen (professionally shot).

The room opens up into the kitchen, with a cozy breakfast nook within view.

Jill sits on the sofa with Amy. Each has a glass of wine. They drink throughout their conversation.

JILL

I just don't think this is a safe world anymore, Amy.

AMY

You're just — Jill, you're just / looking at it from the —

JILL

I'm — I'm — I'm looking at the TV and I'm seeing, like — like that girl, Elizabeth... / Elizabeth...

AMY

Elizabeth Smart.

JILL

From her own bedroom. Can you imagine?

AMY

No, I — I... no.

JILL

It's terrible.

AMY

So terrible.

They sip their wine.

JILL

It felt safe when we were kids.

AMY

Yeah, I don't know. It's... I don't...

JILL

And you're home for the summer. You can keep an eye on Georgia. I don't get that, I'm always... I have nightmares, Amy. Where I forget to lock the doors at night. One of the windows is open. And it's never me they're after. It's always... Owen. And they take him. And I'm there, and I should be doing something, but I don't, and I never do.

AMY

This isn't somewhere where you need to think about that.

Beat. They drink.

Amy finishes her glass. She pours another.

AMY

And I'm not just goofing off all summer. You gotta update the curriculum. You're tutoring, redecorating the room. Shit you can't do when you have a mob of preteens screaming at you all day.

JILL

At least you have the time off.

AMY

If I made what you make, I would take the extra hours.

JILL

It can make things pretty hard, Amy.

AMY

I... no, I — I know, but... it's nice, though.

JILL

It is nice.

AMY

It's a lot of money.

JILL

It's not always about that.

AMY

I... well... you can afford certainty. Protection, a firm sense of purpose. Steady ascent towards self-actualization.

JILL

Self-actualization. No one even knows what that means. No one's ever gotten there.

Amy raises her glass.

AMY
We'll get there.

Amy smiles. They toast. They drink.

JILL
You know who —

Hard, frantic knocks on the front door. Then, Georgia bursts through.

AMY
Georgia? Honey, what's wrong?
JILL
What? What —

GEORGIA
I — I just — / I —

AMY
What? What is it?

GEORGIA
There's uh — uh — there's a, / uh —

AMY
Georgia!

GEORGIA
I'm sorry.

AMY
Are you okay? Is — is — / is —

GEORGIA
I didn't — I'm sorry, I didn't kill it. I just got scared, and / I —

JILL
Oh.

AMY
What?

GEORGIA
There's a cockroach.

Pause.

AMY

A cockroach? / You come in *screaming* because there was a cockroach? You scared the... Georgia, you scared me. You can't do that.

GEORGIA

I'm sorry, I thought — I saw it, and it was crawling around on the floor, and I didn't want it to crawl on me, or — or — or... so I left, and I ran over here.

AMY

Go kill it.

GEORGIA

But it was — Mom, it was this, like, huge thing — I thought it might've been a spider, like a tarantula —

JILL

A tarantula?

GEORGIA

Yeah, a tarantula. But it wasn't, I don't think.

AMY

It wasn't a tarantula.

GEORGIA

Could you come kill it?

AMY

I can't leave you alone for ten minutes?

GEORGIA

Mom!

AMY

I'm not always gonna be there to kill cockroaches for you. What if I'm not just next door? What if I die in a car wreck tomorrow?

GEORGIA

What?

JILL

Amy, you're...

Pause. A look to Georgia. Beat.

Owen can kill it. JILL

He... I don't want him to / have to — AMY

No, can he? Please, Mom, if you make me kill it, I might use like, a hairspray and lighter and, like, burn down the house. / I don't wanna burn down the house, Mom. GEORGIA

Okay, okay! Georgia, he — he can kill it. AMY

Thank you. GEORGIA

(calling offstage)
Owen? JILL

He doesn't answer. Pause.

It's really big. GEORGIA

Owen! JILL

(offstage)
I'm coming! OWEN

Owen enters.

Oh. Hi Georgia. OWEN

Hey Owen. GEORGIA

AMY

(small pause)

Owen, there's a cockroach in my kitchen. It's been described to me as the largest insect in the Northern Hemisphere. Could it kill it for my daughter?

GEORGIA

It's not a normal bug, Owen. It's big. Like, I think we need a hammer.

AMY

Wh — you do not need a hammer!

GEORGIA

It might not go down with a shoe. It might take the shoe and hit us back.

OWEN

(smiles)

Really?

GEORGIA

(smiles)

Yeah, like, seriously.

JILL

Go! Go kill it.

GEORGIA

Is that okay? Like, are you okay with killing it?

OWEN

I kill bugs for my Mom all the time. She gets scared, but I don't.

GEORGIA

Let's go kill this cockroach, Rocket Boy.

He smiles. Then, they transform into superheroes.

They fly through the front door they're gone.

JILL

That's really cute.

Amy sips her wine. Beat.

JILL

Oh my God.

What? AMY

I almost forgot to tell you. JILL

What? AMY

You're not gonna believe. JILL

What? AMY

Are you ready? JILL

Jill, I'm gonna waterboard you if you don't tell me. AMY

Jason's coming over. For dinner. Tomorrow. *With his wife.* JILL

(small pause)
Holy shit. AMY

Yeah. JILL

How's he doing? AMY

He's... I mean, he's got a job, I think, I don't know where, but... JILL

He's married. AMY

Yeah, for like three years now. Her name's Elise. JILL

Elise... AMY

She's a paralegal.

JILL

Your brother is married to a paralegal?

AMY

She's been... I mean, from what I've heard, she's been really great for him. Like, they have a place. Where he pays rent. And does his own laundry.

JILL

That's awesome.

AMY

Yeah.

JILL

I'm gonna be honest, Jill. I never thought he was gonna stop. I thought he was just gonna bounce between you and your mom for the rest of his life. Or go homeless or something. But a paralegal...

AMY

Elise the paralegal.

JILL

A paralegal named Elise.

AMY

They agree. It feels right.

Beat.

Don't you kinda miss it?

AMY

Miss what?

JILL

Like, I'm happy for him, but... when he was sleeping on your couch. Those days. You wanna do something, you do it. You don't have... you know...

AMY

I like this better. Don't you?

JILL

AMY

(pause)
Yeah. No, you're right.

Amy finishes her glass.

Owen and Georgia sprint back into the house. Owen has one of his shoes in his hand.

GEORGIA

Good job, Rocket Boy.

And with an exhale, they're back.

GEORGIA

That was literally the scariest thing ever!

JILL

Did you kill it?

GEORGIA

He hit it once and it got up and started scurrying around the kitchen, so Owen had to keep hitting it, and it kept scurrying, but eventually he got it. It was so scary.

OWEN

I had to, like, chase it around the floor.

Amy stands. She wobbles, slightly.

AMY

Well, I think it's time for us to go.

GEORGIA

Wait, Mom, can I stay and play Super Mario Sunshine with Owen?

AMY

No, sweetie.

GEORGIA

Why not?

JILL

It's getting dark out. It's about time we wind down for dinner.

GEORGIA

(small pause)
Okay.
(to Owen)
Bye.

OWEN

Bye.

AMY

See ya, Jill.

JILL

Night, Amy.

AMY

Let me know how the dinner goes.

Georgia and Amy exit. Owen goes to his bedroom. Jill takes the two wine glasses to the kitchen.

Owen returns with his Game Boy Advance, already on. He flops onto the couch and plays Pokémon Ruby.

JILL

That was sweet of you. Killing the bug for Georgia.

OWEN

It's no big deal. I don't mind.

JILL

For her, I bet you don't.

Jill smiles. She exits to her bedroom.

A beat. Owen considers. Then, he sprints to his bedroom.

He returns with his Red Power Ranger. He meticulously stands him up on the coffee table.

Owen looks at the toy intently. A deep breath. A recognition.

OWEN

I love her. I love her so much. I do.

Pause.

But what if she doesn't love me back?

OWEN

Pause.

You're right. I should just tell her.

OWEN

Pause.

But when?

OWEN

Pause.

I'll ask her out on a date. I'll tell her I love her. And we'll be together forever.

OWEN