

Scene from *The Pavilion* – by Craig Wright

Peter- Lot of people came

Kari- Yeah.

Peter- More than I would of thought.

Kari- Yeah, Angie and Lisa really got their shit together.

Peter- It's really a great party.

Kari- Yeah, it's a great party.

Peter- (after a beat) So look, do you wanna... Get out of here?

Kari- With you? Are you kidding me?

Peter- I'm not, actually. I thought maybe we could... You're looking at me funny, is this the craziest thing anybody's ever said to you?

Kari- It's close.

Peter- I almost forgot, I got you these. (he offers her a small box of chocolates.)

Kari- God, Peter, you're like Monty Hall. What are they?

Peter- Just some chocolates. With caramel. Your favorite. (she does not take the box) Come on, we'll just get the hell out of here and go have a drink at The Shoreview or something. Nothing romantic.

Kari- Like it's up to you whether it's romantic.

Peter- I'm just saying my intentions are honorable.

Kari- Are you nuts?

Peter- No, listen, it'll be nice. We'll play some air hockey and see Cork and Patty and the Ruika brothers. We'll say hi to Frostie and Booger. We'll just check it out and then I'll take you home. No big deal. Please.

Kari- Peter. The Shoreview was torn down three years ago. There's a waterslide there now. Cork and Patty broke up. Cork is working on a fishing boat up in Alaska and Patty and the three kids, one with leukemia, are living with Patty's mom in Staples. The Ruika brothers are in jail for robbing the bank in Wadena. Booger is dead... And I don't want you to take me home.

Peter- Booger's dead?

Kari- Yeah, he fell from six stories working construction up in Grand Forks after the flood in 2005.

Peter- Jesus... Kari, what do I have to do to get that look off your face so you can see me? This is not ten years ago, I'm not who I was; can't we just be together for a couple of minutes to talk as human beings? I'm not asking you to hold my hand or anything...

Kari- (Holds up her hand with the wedding ring on it) Peter, look! Does this ring mean anything to you? Does it signify anything at all? I'm married, okay? I'm attached. Vowed. Wedded. I'm married!

Peter- It's okay with Hans.

Kari- What do you mean it's okay with Hans?

Peter- Just that, it's okay with Hans, if that's what you're worried about.

Kari- You called Hans, what, you emailed him?

Peter- I called him at the pro-shop.

Kari- Are you fucking kidding me?

Peter- No.

Kari- Oh my god. So, okay, you called him and asked him what?

Peter- I just asked if I could maybe see you after the reunion, to try to clear some things up... He knows we knew each other...

Kari- I know he knows we knew each other, everyone in town knows we knew each other! God, are you really as stupid as this? Or as devious? Shit!

Peter- He wasn't in our class, he said he wasn't going. It's better that way isn't it, that he knows? Otherwise I felt out of line, you know?

Kari- Do you know how creepy that is, to call my husband? How invasive?

Peter- I was trying to do the right thing for you...

Kari- So you called my husband and asked him, what? For permission to take me out or something?

Peter- Sort of, I guess, yeah...

Kari- Grow up!

Peter- Look, I thought it was a good idea, maybe I was wrong!

Kari- There's no maybe about it, Peter, you were wrong!

Peter- I'm sorry!

Kari- God, I've been sitting here all night going nuts thinking of what to do, trying to decide what position it would put me in with Hans if I even talked to you, if he knew, if he didn't, and what that would mean, and now you tell me that you called him and he knows... You asshole!

Peter- I said I'm sorry!

Kari- Saying you're sorry doesn't change the position I've been put in! God, do you know what it's gonna be like when I go home tonight? What I'm going to have to wade through? Shit! You are always doing this to me! Do me a favor and just go away! I mean it, go away! Move apart from me!

Peter- I didn't want to get you in trouble with Hans!

Kari- I'm his wife, not his daughter!

Peter- You know what I mean.

Kari- Yes I do know what you mean, you mean you didn't want to get yourself in trouble with Hans. Or maybe you did, I don't know, you're such a weirdo! Anyway, Peter, let's just get the cards on the table, even if I wasn't married, even if you were

the last man on earth, I wouldn't go with you to The Shoreview or even for a walk around the block, okay?

Peter- Kari, I know I hurt you, that's why I'm here...

Kari- "Hurt"? "Hurt" barely touches this, Peter, this is not about being "hurt". There's a pain beyond hurt; and it's vast and it's endless and it just weighs all around you like some sick, nauseous gravity, that's what you did to me, okay? The day I called your house and your father told me you'd left town for college? Excuse me? And not to call back... Are you kidding? Seventeen years old and this adult who knows his son has made me pregnant says "don't call back"? Do you have any idea how alone I felt? God, I felt so alone! And now you show up here ten years later, talking about old times... And you think you can ask me out for some kind of weird penitential date at The Shoreview without even really mentioning what you've done... Like it'll be in bad taste or something even to bring it up, and I'm willing to sit here and listen? That's so sick.

Peter- But that's exactly what I want to talk about, if you'd just give me a chance...

Kari- No! I never had a chance from the day we met, and now you don't get one either! Instead of a baby, I have a shadow of a baby, and it stretches across my whole... Goddamned... Life.

Peter- Me, too!

Kari- No, you have nothing but a giant sucking need!

Peter- Kari, I didn't make you get rid of that baby!

Kari- So what was I supposed to do?

Peter- You could have kept it!

Kari- And you could have stayed!

Peter- I know! And I wish that I had! I wish I fought harder to do what was right, I wish I had spent the past ten years with you and our baby instead of alone as the world's greatest fuck-up, I wish I could go back in time and do it all over again...

Kari- And what, you want some kind of fucking credit for wishing? Wishing is nothing! It's just like "sorry", it's nothing and it refers to nothing! God. Everything since the beginning of time was working to make my happiness possible; and then

you, you walked into the audiovisual lab in your flannel shirt... And you fucked it up! You fucked everything up! Do you understand that? Forever!

Peter - What if there's such a thing as destiny, do you ever think about that?

Kari- There isn't.

Peter- What if there was a person who could unlock the key to your life precisely because of what you did to them or what they did to you, or because you were stupid like me and you just missed it the first time around?

Destiny. What if... What if it's like life, where when you're young you think it's gonna be about a lot of things and you prepare yourself for it, thinking, "Life is gonna be so wild, there's gonna be so much coming at me from every direction, how will I ever keep up?" That's what I always thought, and let me tell you, I sat down all ready to get my hair blown back by this explosion of millions of experiences that never ever came. And so the question becomes, what if you open your eyes after that and there's suddenly just one person, and it turns out that in some sense your entire life is really all about what you're gonna do about this one person and then what if you made a mistake? Are you telling me there's only one chance?

Kari- Doesn't it seem that way?

Peter- The whole world exists so that everyone gets just one chance?

One chance is enough of a reason to make a whole world? You're telling me there's no mercy, there's no forgiveness, there's no air in the system to breathe and no room to move and we're just trapped in the net of what we've done forever? Look, I was young and I was scared and I made a mistake. A big mistake. And I know it hasn't cost me what it cost you to live without that baby, but it's cost me a lot. It has. And when I look at you now, Kari, and see those little wrinkles around your eyes...? And I realize I've missed so much of you already...? The thought that I won't see the rest, that I won't get to know you any better and hold your hand and see you smile... And then one day you'll be gone forever? That breaks my heart.

Kari- Peter...

Peter- I can't live any further into my life without you. Please. Come back to The Cities with me tonight. Get a divorce. Marry me. Or live with me. Or let's have another baby and just be friends, I don't care, let's... Just... Come on. We'll start over.

Kari- Peter, we can't.

Peter- Look, whatever we've done, both our lives are a mess, right? A mess! And I've got a car and a full tank of gas... Are you coming?

Kari- Who do you think you are?

Peter- I am the guy who sang "Mandy" in Swing Choir. I am the guy who played Lancelot in Camelot. I am one half of the Cutest Senior Couple and I'm leaving and I want you to come with me! Come on!

Kari- No!

Peter- Why, because you'd rather stay married to Hans, who hates you? In this town where they burn things that oughta last forever? Or is it that you'd rather have me feel lousy forever than be happy for one more minute yourself?

Kari- Do you ever think about anything but you?

Peter- Yes, I'm offering you a way out!

Kari- To YOU! I need a way to ME!

Peter- Can't I be a way to you? You're a way to me!

Kari- Not everybody sees people like that, Peter! Just you!

Peter- All I want is a chance to start over!

Kari- Peter, for you and me to start over, the entire universe would have to begin again.