

**DIE, ACTUALLY**

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Mid-air. HANS, 30's-40's, is falling to his death. He is falling throughout the play. (This effect can be achieved a lot of different ways. One is by having him and the other characters lay on their torso on a rehearsal cube. so their arms and legs can hang out.). Maybe there's a fan in front of them to indicate the wind.

HANS

*(sardonic and British)* Well, this is a hell of a way to end.

Suddenly he is joined by another falling person. This is JUDY, 20's-30's, beautiful, in a light gray suit. She is also falling.

JUDY

Hi!

HANS

*(startled)* Hello! Who are you?

JUDY

I'm Judy.

HANS

Hans.

They shake hands awkwardly.

JUDY

What are you doing?

HANS

I'm plummeting to my death. You?

JUDY

Me too!

HANS

It's not a very fun way to spend Christmas Eve.

JUDY

*(realization)* You're the guy from Die Hard!

HANS

Hans Gruber, at your extremely temporary service.

JUDY

That's my favorite Christmas movie!

HANS

It's not a Christmas movie! It's clearly an action flick. I don't know why I must keep explaining this to people.

JUDY

But it takes place at Christmas!

HANS

What of it? I'm a German with a British accent. That doesn't make it a foreign film!

JUDY

I still think it's a Christmas movie. Bruce Willis wins back his estranged wife. Oh! And that cop! Remember that cop who was afraid to use his gun after he accidentally shot a kid? But then at the end, he gets redemption when he finally finds something within himself and uses his gun to shoot someone else in the face? I mean, if that's not a Christmas movie, I don't know what is.

HANS

Look, I don't want to spend my last moments of life arguing about this.

JUDY

Okay. We can agree to disagree. After all, it's Christmas.

HANS

So how did you fall?

JUDY

I was frightened by a nun, and fell off a bell tower.

HANS

Nuns can be scary.

JUDY

*(laughs)* ...You're kind of cute.

HANS

*(sudden realization)* You're the girl from Vertigo!

JUDY

Exactly! Look, Hans... I know this isn't the best of circumstances...

HANS

Yes, I couldn't help noticing that we're both plunging to our certain doom.

JUDY

Well, whenever I get gloomy with the state of the world, I think about the arrivals gate at the airport. All those people greeting each other. If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love, actually, is all around.

HANS

I don't think you quite understand the gravity of the situation. I doubt I'll be finding any love here at terminal velocity between floors eighty-five and one.

JUDY

You might be surprised.

HANS

What are you talking about?

JUDY

Oh, Hans, can't you tell? I think I'm falling for you.

Suddenly they're joined by another falling man, SAMUEL, 30's-40's, with a French accent.

SAMUEL

Bonjour!

HANS

Who the hell are you?

SAMUEL

I'm the guy from "Anatomy of a Fall".

HANS AND JUDY (simultaneously)

I didn't see that. / Oh, sorry, I don't know that one.

SAMUEL

We won an Oscar!

JUDY

Yeah but...y'know, just "Best Screenplay". Nobody really cares about the writers.

SAMUEL

*(sighs)* I know.

HANS

How did you fall?

JUDY

Wait! Don't spoil it!

HANS

Darling, I don't think we're going to have time to see it.

JUDY

Oh... yeah...

SAMUEL

Well, either I jumped, or I was pushed. We never really found out for sure.

JUDY

That's gotta be frustrating.

SAMUEL

Either way, I don't think my wife loves me any more.

HANS

*(sarcastic)* Ya think?

JUDY

Maybe you'll meet someone else!

SAMUEL

While I'm falling to my death with a head wound?

JUDY

You never know.

SAMUEL

*(to Judy)* Are you free for the next 30 seconds or so?

JUDY

I'm sorry, we just found each other. It was very fast.

HANS

I'm a German terrorist.

JUDY

And I'm a San Francisco mistress.

HANS

But we're going to try to make it work.

JUDY

Until we hit bottom, at least.

SAMUEL

Then I guess it's unreasonable for me to expect to find love myself.

JUDY

It's never unreasonable to expect love. I mean, we're all going to die someday. Admittedly, us, sooner than most. But love is all around.

HANS

That's the most saccharine, ridiculous--

Suddenly they are joined by TWO WOMEN, 30's-40's, wearing scarves on their heads, also falling. They are also in a car. How you're going to indicate that, I have no idea.

WOMAN 1

Hey there! Where ya headed?

SAMUEL

Um... imminent death?

WOMAN 2

So are we!

WOMAN 1

'Long as you're going our way, wanna lift in our car?

SAMUEL

Um, sure...?

He gets in the car. Really, I'm now asking way too much in these stage directions. I'm so sorry.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Who... are you?

WOMAN 1

I'm Thelma!

WOMAN 2

And I'm Louise.

JUDY

See? I told you. Sometimes love happens when you least expect it!

Hans and Judy look lovingly at each other and Samuel and Thelma & Louise look lovingly at each other. Then they all look down.

ALL

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!

BLACKOUT