

HOW THE WORLD ENDS

“Where did my friends go?”

“What were you thinking?”

“I have things in balance.”

“I want so much more.”

“Show me what you have.”

“I have just enough to get you interested. Nothing else will matter. Do you remember my name? Do you remember who I am?”

“I remember your body.”

“I had a method. I understood what needed to be done to change the world.”

“I bought new shoes.”

“This was more than fun.”

“You feel too comfortable.”

“I know what you are up to.”

“I thought that this was a physics lesson.”

“It tells us something about time.”

“And what is that?”

“You can tell me anything that you want to hear.”

“I watched you walk across the room. Mandalay, that said something.”

“Zenda carried it on for herself.”

“What do you have to do with this?”

“I am looking.”

“This is an equation.”

“A personal interest.”

“What do you want?”

“I wanted to stay.”

“It happened all at once.”

“It always.”

“You need to write me a letter.”

“You wrote me a letter from prison, and no one is getting out.”

“How do you want the world to see me?”

“Like Mandalay.”

“Do it like this.”

“It will not work.”

“It does not work for anyone.”

“What kind of job is that?”

“You tell me.”

“I will.”

“What can Zenda do?”

“Someone is rubbing his body against me somewhere in the dark.”

“What does that mean for me?”

“You only care about the beautiful people.”

“What is that?”

“I made myself right for you.”

“What did that involve?”

“I went home.”

“This is a power thing.”

“We are looking out for each other.”

This was Mandalay’s story from the beginning. There was all the suffering. The confusion.

“Where were you hiding?”

“It was a once in a lifetime thing.”

“Who else is involved?”

“It looked as if we touched hands.”

“We did.”

“I am working too hard, and I am not sure where this is going.”

“How long do you want to like me for?”

“Maybe for tonight.”

“You are lovely.”

“This is a future.”

“I am here to fuck up the world.”

“I do not want anymore of that shit.”

“Will you still love me?”

“I am working. Do not bother me.”

“What are you working on?”

“I am trying to teach Zenda to act like Mandalay.”

“Admit that none of this is going to happen.”

“Never.”

“I need you to cover a shift.”

“I am never going to cheat anymore.”

“Don’t.”

“You will never get any closer.”

“She is just not that into you, dude.”

“Now, it is a physical thing.”

“Is this another Zenda?”

“That is all that I could ever want.”

“That changes things.”

“Will you be back?”

“I will always be back.”

“What will come of this.”

“You tell me.”

“That is perfect for what it is.”

“What is in there?”

“You tell me.”

“I am.”

“You are asking me to do something that I cannot do.”
“I want to feel wonderful. I want to feel as if this is all going somewhere.”
“Like where.”
“What did you pay?”
“With my life.”
“I am back.”
There was this woman named Mandalay.”
“She was a student at the school.”
“What did they teach?”
“How to enjoy yourself.”
“You had these political aspirations. Then it was all about fun.”
“Why shouldn’t it be?”
“What are you doing with time?”
“What do you want to do with it?”
“I want to do something with you.”
“You can sit here for an hour.”
“Take it for what it is.”
“She is one of the best.”
“You do not even understand.”
“There is history.”
“And there is fiction.”
“And there is the history of fiction.”
“No one will remember this.”
“Call me.”
“We move forward, and then we go back.”
“Who is left?”
“That is the question.”
“This is reality television.”
“Rels, Dusk, and Mandalay.”
“Zenda steps in for Rosemary.”
“She is not here now.”
“There is a power vacuum.”
“You are good at pretending.”
“Rels was voted off the show.”
“Dusk is not going to make it.”
“Go out to the car with Zenda.”
“That is all that there is to it.”
“Did anyone notice?”
“I was receiving important revelation.”
“I do not even know who else is here.”
“Cassidy.”
“Who names her kid this?”
“I did.”

“I am not involved.”
“I need to take care of this. At least, she pretends.”
“What did they tell you?”
“Wake up.”
“We want to share.”
“Take me home.”
“He had a talent.”
“He was in the right place at th right time”
“Does anyone know?”
“You are giving them more credit than they deserve.”
“Wake me up every minute on the minute.”
“These are Saturday women.”
“We caught you passed out. And you spilled your dinner all over yourself.”
“No one wants to hear about the baby.”
“What do they want to hear about?”
“Going double.”
“Pull out your credit card.”
“We spent our time knocking down doors and shooting people inside.”
“I’m not in danger.”
“I need to report this to the Kentucky police.”
“I am not in Kentucky.”
“You are a fugitive.”
“Are you Kenny?”
I nodded.
“We’ve got you.”
“I felt good.”
“Wake me up every second.”
“They are doing this togeher.”
“Do not let them do this to you.”
“I did not pay my dues.”
“You are a sick person.”
“I watch how the light plays on the door as you open it.”
“I have got this.”
“Where is this in ten years?”
“Watch how she catches the football!”
“This is some fake Marilyn Monroe shit.”
“The girl cannot even act”
“Who is paying for this?”
“They arrived.”
“I know something.”
“This will never get better.”
“That is what he says.”
“They both do.”

“Mandalay, this is good for you.”
“That is easily big enough for my jalopy.”
“I don’t know her name.”
“Chicago.”
“What is that about?”
“She will not reply.”
“I cannot care.”
“That could be a deal breaker/
“Let it go.”
“Give me a break.”
“I am a real person.”
“That is my fear.”
“That is pathetic.”
“Get a diaper.”
“What is that about?”
“Zenda is trying to take April’s place.”
“I am lost.”
“I cannot believe that this is me.”
“Finish this for me.”
“When did you come in here?”
“This is not really a song.”
“I only want you to warm me up.”
“She likes it.”
“You really think that you are smart.”
“I do what I can.”
“This is one of those blind ambition nights.”
“I will feel way better.”
“Someone is behind this.”
“She is at the door.”
“Who knows where I live?”
“Do you need to hear this night after night?”
“It is better than listening to you.”
“What does that mean?”
“Where should I sit?”
“Who am I sitting next to?”
“Your designated lover.”
“Do you think that this means anything to me?”
“This is worse than ridiculous.”
“I cannot even explain it.”
“Do not even try.”
“Try!”
“Don’t hurt yourself.”
“I am here.”

“I am dying here.”
“This is a death cult.”
“Who goes first?”
“I got off work.”
“You did.”
“Is that your gift to the world?”
“Give it to me lover.”
“Where does all the sound come from.”
“She would be perfect.”
“How did that ever happen.”
“Throw it all out there.”
“You really like this.”
“Daddy did me right.”
“You have not changed that much.”
“Should I care about that?”
“I am not a killer.”
“What does that mean?”
“Someone loves me.”
“You are here, Calla.”
“Not me.”
“I am ready.”
“Your hands are going everywhere.”
“They are headed to a resolution.”
“I am tired, but I am not as tired.”
“We are up all night.”
“I cannot keep on.”
“Stay for one more hour.”
“You did what you needed to do.”
“Are you looking at my wife?”
“I am asleep.”
“You feel guilty.”
“Worse.”
“What is wrong with you?”
“Do not tell me that you love me.”
“We are all funny?”
“I am the cheater”
“I will stop.”
“I am going to marry that girl.”
“We are all full of shit.”
“Do not do his bidding!”
“What?”
“In this version, we are all friends.”
“That is what you say.”

“That will work.”
“That is what he says.”
“You do not have to be perfect.”
“This is a controversy.”
“Margarine.”
“Really.”
“Touch.”
“I will take it.”
“You get nothing.”
“Are working hard?”
“Working together.”
“Just take anything.”
“We love it.”
“Sit here.”
“What do you believe?”
“In taxation without representation.”
“They are in it.”
“What is that?”
“It is not the season.”
“I was asleep.”
“This is where is all goes off the rails.”
“I take it.”
“There is drinking.”
“And carousing.”
“And more important things.”
“Writing.”
“Watching the world end.”
“It will not affect you .”
“This is the new history.”
“Another schmuck.”
“They do not know it.”
“It is a job.”
“That is why I left the city.”
“No one appreciates what I can do.’
“I cannot explain this to you.”
“My finger hurts.”
“I make different choices.”
“I wish that I could explain it.”
“This is supposed to be epic, but it sounds like a self-help book.”
“What is the difference?”
“Perfect.”
“Freak show.”
“You know it.”

“The circus.”
“BETTER BELIEF IT.”
“Human sacrifice.”
“We changed our names.”
“We changed our nature.”
“No can understand it.”
“Some can.”
“You are so mean.”
“I am sorry.”
“Where were you?”
“This is getting weirder.”
“I am scraping the barrel.”
“Where were you?”
“You are wild.”
“There are not other words to explain this.”
“There are more words, but they would put me in a vacation home.”
“An asylum.”
“HOW DOES IT EVEN WORK?”
“PUT THESE IN THE TOY.”
“You don’t need words.”
“I got stopped at the border. They are searching through everything.”
“I am sweating.”
“Sweat on.”
“There are rules.”
“The Robert’s Rules of order.”
“Order in the fucking court.”
“Your serve.”
“I am here.”
“This is my life for what it is worth.”
“I will never be that.”
“New times.”
“They called me by my name.”
“This is ridiculous.”
“Ride the whirlybird.”
“Introduce me.”
“Such a contradiction.”
“One half of the world is in prison.”
“They get our labor for nothing.”
“I will close my eyes and pretend.”
“Oh, baby.”
“All personality.”
“Where are we now?”
“This is taking forever.”

“Finish tomorrow.”
“I am wiped out.”
“I am good for loving.”
“You have no idea what is happening.”
“What are the sticking points?”
“I want to hear about the book.”
“I think that I know.”
“That will work.”
“You are back.”
“This does not work for me.”
“Put this in here.”
“The log shit.”
“Is he the candidate?”
“How do you make it work?”
“Don’t drop the ball.”
“What a ball.”
“Shit.”
“I am getting afraid.”
“They are all getting naked.”
“Total exposure.”
“What is it about?”
“Bring your own banana.”
“My eyes are on the door.”
“Who won?”
“Did you watch the end?”
“It was rigged.”
“What are you doing?”
“Driving slowly.”
“The police have me for unpaid parking tickets.”
“Did you get your laundry?”
“I am in a constant loop.”
“You are a crime lord.”
“Where does that come from.”
“You do not understand.”
“What do you see in each other.”
“Everything.”
“Give me what you’ve got.”
“You need to report to the Vice Principal.”
“Do not quit!”
“They had nothing invested.”
“That was cool for a while.”
“This is a while.”
“All sold out.”

“I paid.”
“I am here.”
“This is taking forever.”
“She is hiding in a tree.”
“Find her before someone else does.”
“Finder and seeker.”
“It is only five hours away.”
“Who do you love?”
“I am working on the self-love thing.”
“We all are. It leads to success.”
“I think that it is all related to capital formation.”
“Zenda, you have this down completely.”
“They were all looking at me.”
“What else is there?”
“Work and entertainment.”
“I pay my rent.”
“Beast.”
“Your serve.”
“Your stage.”
“What is that all about?”
“You tell me.”
“I hope that this is better soon.”
“You feel that rush.”
“Zenda, what else is there?”
“You tell me.”
“How do make your money?”
“I sell clothes out of my van.”
“Good job.”
“I set up a little stand.”
“It works.”
“There is an education.”
“And there are big machines.”
“We all want the tools to look good.”
“What does the posing mean?”
“I was in love.”
“I will take it.”
“We all will.”
“Touch the sky.”
“I was rewarded.”
“Everything takes time.”
“Time, it is.”
“That is brilliant.”
“Brilliant, it is.”

“Why do I feel as if I am always wasting time?”
“We like to do things together.”
“I am making the world as I go along.”
“Get in the mind.”
“It will never be that bad.”
“The world went in reverse.”
“And what does this mean?”
“It does not mean.”
“We show up.”
“It once meant something more.”
“I do not get it.”
“I want what you have.”
“My name is Zenda.”
“Are you right with your world?”
“For one house tonight.”
“You make me feel better about myself.”
“Quit being so serious.”
“I am serious about sleeping.”
“I only want to touch.”
“Touch you will.”
“I need to learn how to trust you.”
“Trust your will.”
“How do I get in on that?”
“She still believes.”
“You lose once, and you do not pick yourself up from it.”
“There is only one.”