

EARTH ONE

The images rush by me. I want to slow them up. Something to hold and something to touch. This is my family, my children.

He explained the idea of Earth 1.

“All the coordinates are like Earth 0, the original plane of existence. But Earth 1 moves faster. It has motive. It's urgency forces people to do things that they don't want to do. And there is an escape hatch, a way not to be here. Earth 0 is everything. A way to be as it has been. A lucky opportunity to run it all again as if none of the bad stuff has ever happened.”

“Is the that how you feel about us. Like bad stuff?”

“I never said that . I am not sure if any of this is right.”

“Right how, Steven? This is your family for better or worse.”

Steven only understood the worst. He hated to admit his doubts.

“Are you just going to leave us?”

“The portal doesn't exist like that. Once you escape Earth 1, there is no record of your existence. The world does not suffer your absence. “

”Am I replaced?”

“Experience adopts a different fabric.”

“Daddy, do you love me?”

“Franklin, you are too young to talk.”

“But you are having doubts about being my father.”

“They are not doubts about you. They are doubts about my sanity.”

“What does that mean?”

“I feel as if my whole life is this ready made put together by Kiara in some lab.”

“Why would you say that?”

“None of this is real!”

“Don't you love me?”

“This is not about love! It never has been.”

“Are you forcing me to do things that I don't want to do?”

“Have you been upsetting Franklin?”

“What are you talking about?”

“Franklin says that you do not love him.”

“Franklin can't talk.”

“You don't know how to listen.”

“That is another one of your stupid games, Kiara. You cannot control everything in this family.”

“You don't understand the reality of keeping together a family.”

“Steven, you are so divisive.”

“I don't want to be here.”

“Do you hate me that much?”

“I never said hate. But this is not who I really am!”

“Live up to your obligations.”

“I feel as if you tricked me.”

“How did I trick you?”

“You tried to remind me of the time when we first met. But our life together has nothing to do with that.”

“Steven, I have Some advice for you.”

“What is it, Franklin?”

“No one wants to read about some couple arguing.”

“They do if they are arguing about something important.”

“And what is so important about this argument?”

“It is about time and space.”

“That is like saying it is about earth and sky.”

“Same thing. I want to know if our beliefs about the world an influence the decisions that we make.”

“Steven, the more that we know about the world, the more that we can influence our course in life.”

“Would you have still kissed Kiara?”

“There are more important sources of disagreement.”

“Like what?”

“Money. Do I have the money to keep you and Kiara in the style to which you are accustomed?”

“How did she develop the accustoming.”

“It was a course which they taught in high school, and it was reinforced through her lovers.”

“I think that she failed that course. And it is going to affect my education if you don't do something quick.”

“He was getting me to doubt myself. If we had stayed together, he would have destroyed me.”

“He had a hypnotic way with his touch. I felt as if he was healing my pain.”

“Steven, it is enough just going to work and coming home. You have to take care of our son.”

“I haven't avoided Franklin. He knows me better than he knows his own mother.”

“Are you jealous of me?”

“You are trying to usurp my role!”

“If you want to take care of Franklin, go ahead! You always tell me that you are tired. You don't have to work if you don't want.”

“Steven, you are not earning enough for me to quit working. No the one is buying your books.”

“I haven't written any books since we got married. I work for an online distribution company.”

“What are you talking about?”

“I paid for this house.”

“Through the arms industry.”

“I have never worked for the defense industry. That is your thing.”

“Can speculation help me improve my life?”

“What are you asking me, Steven?”

“I don't want to sell arms to be able to survive?”

“Is this a real discussion?”

“Kiara requires a lot of money to survive.”

“She loves the illusion that she can make a living with her art.”

“She is writing the same poem over and over again. That is how intelligence work goes.”

“There is a secret code in the words. You need to figure it out.”

“I am trying. I am repeating the same sentence over and over again.”

“You are simply telling yourself things to make yourself feel better.”

“Do you even care what kind of education is right for Franklin?”

“Franklin is not ready to go to school.”

“Priorities have to be set.”

“Do you even care about what kind of choices your son is going to make?”

“Kiara, you are getting carried away.”

“We don't want him to get lost in the grey area.”

“What does that mean?”

“That is where he hardly knows the difference between right and wrong.”

“Wrong means failing to do his part for the less fortunate.”

“Are we fortunate enough not to be less fortunate? Are you doing your best for your son?”

“Take a look around.”

“How can some assassination plot explain anything about our life together?”

“That is what I am wondering about, Kiara. I thought that I was trying to encourage you to reveal your role in some intelligence operation. Now, I am at a loss to explain anything of significance in your life.”

“I am your wife. What do you want me to tell you?”

“I am not sure that there is anything for me here.”

“What does that mean? You are trying to make up things in your life.”

“Who are you?”

“I told you that I am your wife.”

“You are only making this up as you go along.”

“Are you telling me that this is all a pretense?”

“Who is paying you to say these things?”

“Paying? This is really my life.”

“I don't even remember where we first met.”

“You remember our first meeting. It was a beautiful experience.”

“That sounds like made-up bull shit. A beautiful experience. Do you really think that is going to influence me?”

“We were at a coffee shop.”

“You are making this up as you go along.”

“I was reading a book. The life of my life.”

“That is nonsense!”

“This story is getting way out of control. I love you. Isn't that enough?”

“I wake up one day with a wife and kids. Where did this come from?”
 “This is reality! You are trying to deny your life.”
 “What life? You were working for the government. I was about to break your operation.
 Then I went through some kind of interrogation. And I woke up with a family.”
 “This is absurd. You are making this up as you go along.”
 “I have a mission to take care.”
 “This is a shitty story. Why are you trying to impose your reality on me?”
 “Two wrongs don’t make a right.”
 “You are the one talking about wrongs.”
 “Where did all this start?”
 “It started with my own life!”
 “This is out of control.”
 “I am leaving this shit.”
 “*What is it, Mrs. Reynolds?*”
 “*I want my husband’s phone tapped. I am sure that he is seeing someone.*”
I kept hearing interference on my line.
 “*Your wife hates you.*”
 “*What are you trying to tell me?*”
 “*She has never been loyal to you. She would sell you out for a seat at the king’s table.*”
 “*That sounds like a fair price.*”
 “*You seem surprisingly complacent about it all.*”
 “*What am I supposed to do?*”
 “*She may be trying to have you killed.*”
 “*I am a good target.*”
 “*You aren’t taking this seriously.*”
 “*What do I have to do to take it seriously?*”
 “*Read this, and drink this.*”
 “*You are taking this no more seriously than I am.*”
 “*I know that it is real. But it seems so ironic.*”
 “*So you are laughing as well.*”
 “*You feel as if your life is so rare.*”
 “*If it wasn’t the middle of the day, I would say that it is the alcohol talking.*”
 “*We are both pleading innocent on that account.*”
 “*So do you really think that I have anything to worry about?*”
 “*You are in danger.*”
 “*If I ignore what is happening, will it just go away?*”
 “*She is trying to mess with you.*”
 “***Mrs. Reynolds, you really have nothing to worry about.***”
 “***Are you going to take care of it for me?***”
 “***What do you want me to do about this?***”
 “***I want you to take care of this once and for all.***”
 “***I don’t get this.***”
 “***Take care of it.***”
 “***You really want me to kill him.***”

"I never said that. But what is he doing?"

"Do you want me to get in his way?"

"I'm not sure what I really want."

"So you don't mind if he gets hurt."

"Hurt is part of life."

"You want me to equalize everything."

"If he puts up a fight, you might show a little force."

"Should I push him?"

"You do what you have to do!"

"I am many places at once."

"This is not going to be easy."

"I want to leave the scene."

"This is the face that God gave me. What do you expect me to do about it?"

"I have no idea what you are saying to me."

"Maybe if you changed your life, your whole life would change."

"What did you go through?"

"The same things that you did. You just seem to have taken it more to heart."

"Do you really want to leave?"

"Do I have a choice? I was never here in the first place."

"You are my father."

"You are your mother's son. I have no idea who she is. I was doing a job trying to break her down. Then she tried to evade me. She found her way of doing things. I was nothing but a pawn in her story."

"That sounds severe. Don't you care about me? I am yours."

"I have no idea where Kiara got a kid. You are not my kid."

"You slept with her."

"Once. Twice. Three times. I don't know how many times."

"Why are you so creepy?"

"Someone is taking minor details in my life and trying to turn them into a major scenario."

"Be happy with your life. Quit trying to second guess reality."

"I don't know why someone is trying to give me a family when I don't have one."

"Kiara loves you. I love you."

"I love you too, Franklin. But we are not meant to be together. I need to find the proof to get my life back."

"You are never going to get your life back. It is not something that ever left you."

"I don't know how things are going to be when I wake up in the morning."

"This is going crazier than I could have imagined it."

"Live as you live it."

"Start your life as your life."

"I need to get out of here."

"You keep repeating the same thing."

"I thought that you were supposed to take care of him."

"What do you ask me to do something that you wouldn't do yourself?"

"Just take care of him!"

"What are you telling me?"

"I can't deal with him anymore. He knows things about me."

"The circus has just arrived in town!"

"You are trying to ruin my life."

"I hired you to do a job. It is not about your ruin."

"What does what happened eighty years ago have to do with my paycheck?"

"You might have a higher paycheck if you knew history."

"Are you telling me this?"

"Someone is saying this to you!"

"It was a song that was heard years before."

"You dumbass. You don't know history, and you are condemned to repeat it."

"You are off. Live for the moment!"

"Kiara, I am not into these weekly get-togethers. These are your friends not mine."

"You told me that you had a skill. Take care of it."

"I had dreams!"

"You had the same dreams."

"I think that your mother wants me dead."

"You are putting thoughts in her brain."

"I'm not the one who brainwashed her."

"Who is controlling her?"

"You came in from work one evening. You were very moody. I had no idea what was bothering you. I learned that you were trying to have someone killed."

"We never did that kind of work. We traded in information."

"People get assassinated from information."

"Are you trying to tell me something?"

"Look at yourself. Everything is getting out of control."

"What is control? You wake up. You have enough juice to do your work. Then you come back home!"

"The whole story is coming apart."

"I need help!"

"She was involved in some kind of covert operation. It had been progressing for years. The intent was to kill someone. I have no idea what this was about."

"Kiara did things. But none were as harmful as they seemed."

"She was trying to kill someone."

"That is simple conspiracy theory."

"If I got stoned, I could do this for hours."

"I thought that you really cared about me."

"That was last year's news."

"He just sat next to me. He didn't do a thing."

"He had such a vanilla personality."

"I want you to save things for me."

"No one is willing to protect me!"

“What are you protecting?”
 “A poet!”
 “We are both poets!”
 “I use words to kill people!”
 “*I thought that I was on the verge of understanding.*”
 “*You only put words in her mouth which she never said.*”
 “*I am so confused.*”
 “*We both are.*”
 “*This is getting very risky.*”
 “*Nothing happens so quickly without warnings.*”
 “*We cannot always see the warnings.*”
 “*This is becoming really silly.*”
 “I love you, Steven.”
 “Then why are you with someone else?”
 “Poetry doesn’t last.”
 “I gave you a house.”
 “He gave me a bigger house.”
 “So you want me to stay.”
 “We can start again.”
 “I have an invention. I could patent it.”
 “Is this story ever going to be completed?”
 “*Can you explain this factually?*”
 “*I had a wife. I couldn’t keep her. She left.*”
 “*And you are growing with me.*”
 “*I want nothing to do with her shit.*”
 “*I am your son.*”
 “*You are exceeding your bounds. I heard that she had a kid by her husband. I show up, and it is you. And I am expected to care for you.*”
 “*This is getting really insane.*”
 “*Do you want to know about this?*”
 “*I can create a history.*”
 “*That is not the same thing as the real events.*”
 “*I hurt.*”
 “*Who made this my story?*”
 “*There was the weight of history.*”
 “*The persecuted can easily become the persecutor.*”
 “*You do not have enough sympathy for the persecutors.*”
 “*I feel that is how history is developing.*”
 “*We were friends. We were going to share.*”
 “*Can I join the exclusive club.*”
 “*Pay me the money, and I can start my life.*”
 “*I lost the game.*”
 “*Everything was stolen.*”
 “*What do you mean?*”

“Someone took Franklin.”

“I came home, and our son was not here.”

“We don’t have a son.”

“Someone kidnaped him. Otherwise, we would have a son.”

She showed him the crib.”

“That was here when you took the apartment.”

“Are you calling me a liar?”

“I have to wonder about the source of these rumors.”

“I am the source.”

“I AM THE SOURCE!”

Kiara had been doing a job which stressed her out. She questioned the moral ambiguities.

“I get a lot of money for doing a lot of nothing. Why should I complain? Why should anyone complain.”

“What do you want to do?”

“I want to be able to tell the truth about who I am.”

“We are who we want to be.”

“I thought all day how I was going to balance this. Then it all got out of balance.”

“There is not enough money that you could pay me to do this.”

“I have a wife I don’t want. I have a kid that I hate.”

“You have never been able to accept responsibility.”

“If it was my life, I could deal with it. It is not my life.”

“If you really knew me, you would hate me.”

“I would realize that was who you are.”

“I need to be honest. I can’t stand you. I want to hurt you!”

“You are hurting me terribly.”

“This is so simple. You have a life. You lose it. You have a wife. She is no longer yours.”

“She isn’t mine.”

We were at a barbecue.

“I think that your wife should be mine.”

“What does that mean? I still have my affection.”

“You can’t base your life on affection. There has to be some kind of substance.”

“This place would not be like this without affection. Franklin calls out at night for you.”

Kiara, you are no longer part of my life. You can’t beg me and expect me to come back in. There is a wall between us. You cannot dissolve that wall with poetry.

“I felt as if someone was assaulting my life.”

“I need you to call me.”

“I am not going answer.”

“This is so simple. I have a life. I have a location. I give my life. I lose it. And in this sacrifice, I discover something about my life.”

“This is going to cost way more than I expect.”

“Assassination is costly.”

“Assassination does not solve the inherent contradictions of history. It only makes repressive regimes more repressive.”

“The assassins are the repressive ones. They have no idea where to stop.”

“This is a the hideous face of history.”

“I only think about going to my job.”

“For some, there are no jobs.”

“That is not my some!”

“What are you trying to tell me?”

“You could die sooner than you know!”

“This is a critical episode for someone so important!”

“I need to look at all the faces.”

“The faces are all staring back.”

“I want to do something so innovative.”

“Be yourself more.”

“I want to destroy you.”

“You have done a great job at doing that already.”

“I only wanted you to say something. You had seen so much. You contributed to the demise of time. Now, what are you doing?”

I had tucked Franklin in. I went about doing my job.

“I was testing you.”

“You said the wrong thing.”

“My mother was like this.”

“Franklin, we are leaving. You father is a monster.”

“He is a great father.”

“You don’t know what he tried to do to me.”

“Kiara, you are the one who is trying to kill him.”

“That is all made up.”

“We are having people come over for a barbecue. You have done nothing to get things ready.”

“There is nothing to get ready. I told the people not to come.”

“You did what.”

“Kiara, you cannot control my life.”

“I am not trying to control it. These are our friends. You met them at work.”

“This is not my work. You have made all this up for me.”

“There are multiple scenarios. You have made things up for me.”

“I am your wife.”

“What are you doing to me.”

“You are a beautiful person.”

“Are you in denial of your life?”

“Are you in the denial of yours?”

“What have you been doing with your life?”

“I started as a kitten. I had no cares in the world.”

“Kiara, you look like a mess.”

“I hate my life.”

“I play to win. You are not acting like a winner.”

“You are saying things to me that hurt me.”

“We both hurt in our own way.”

“This is the end of the world.”

“I can get on with my life. I had a wife. I had a life. A child. But he was not really my life.”

“Am I ever going to get out of this God-forsaken place?”

“There are a lot of doors.”

“I have tried them all.”

“I am going to need some acid to try them all at once.”

“My heart is being ripped apart!”

“This is my wife, and this is another.”

“You need to get rid of him before he does any more damage to me.”

“Everyone who I touch is part of me.”

“I don’t want to live like this anymore. I have nothing in common with you.”

“You have hurt me more than you can know.”

“Are you making up this shit? You don’t care for me. And you have made up this kid so that I will stay with you.”

“Franklin loves you.”

“If you had a dog, he would love me. But that wouldn’t change a thing.”

“We both wanted something, and together we created something to love.”

“This is becoming absurd.”

“My life is blowing up in my hands.”

“I am going insane.”

“Neither of us can stay sane.”

“I don’t understand any of this.”

“I am becoming part of you!”

“We are one.”

“We need to separate.”

“Your words are my words.”

“I need you to kill him.”

“Are you kidding?”

“If I was kidding, that would mean something.”

“We have to stop this!”

“It is going to be stopped. Stopped in its tracks.”

“This was a wonderful story.”

“Some marriages are no more than that.”

“I want to wake up from this life.”

“Mr. Reynold, I presume.”

“What do you want?”

“Your wife was found wandering around the desert. She was mumbling about a baby. But she was holding a doll.”

“She can get like that.”

“I am trying to create a better life.”

“I want to be polite.”

“I could do this all night.”

“This is getting more than fascinating.”
“Enter the echo chamber.”
“Your bus is here.”
“She was doing what?”
“You have a life. You need to escape.”
“I want nothing more to do with that guy.”
“He is your husband.”
“He stole my child.”
“Are you talking about the baby doll in your car?”
“Who put that in there?”
“My life is being taken from me faster than you know.”
“What are you holding on to?”
“This is the theory of the universe. No one has ever seen it.”
“No one will see it.”
“The madmen took over for good.”
“This book explained how to stop them.”
“I am slowly waking up.”
“Your wife has been calling.”
“I have no wife. I am being pursued by the enemy.”
“This is ending more quickly than you know.”
“There is a coherence. On Earth, it is all in fragments.”
“Buried in dirt!”