

Scene 1**#1 – Welcome To The Rock**

A bodhrán beats a fast rhythm.

CLAUDE

On the northeast tip of North America, on an island called Newfoundland, there's an airport—it used to be one of the biggest airports in the world. And next to it, is a town called Gander.

OZ

There's a two-person police department.

BEULAH

An elementary school.

BONNIE

An SPCA.

JANICE

A local TV station.

DOUG

And a hockey rink.

CLAUDE

It's a small place—on a giant rock in the ocean. Everybody knows everybody else. And everybody in this room has a story about how they started that day.

WELCOME TO THE ROCK! IF YOU COME FROM AWAY
YOU'LL PROBABLY UNDERSTAND ABOUT A HALF OF WHAT WE SAY
THEY SAY NO MAN'S AN ISLAND, BUT AN ISLAND MAKES A MAN

CLAUDE, OZ, BEULAH, BONNIE

'SPECIALLY WHEN ONE COMES FROM ONE LIKE NEWFOUNDLAND

ALL

WELCOME TO THE ROCK

BEULAH

That morning, I'm in the classroom. It's our first day back and the school busses are on strike, so I'm covering for Annette, who's running late!

ANNETTE

Sorry, Beulah! How's the kids?

BEULAH

Not exactly thrilled to be inside on such a gorgeous day, so I told them we'd only have a half-day this morning—and they were quite pleased—until I told them we'd have the other half in the afternoon.

SINGER 8

WELCOME TO THE WILDEST WEATHER THAT YOU'VE EVER HEARD OF

SINGER 12

WHERE EVERYONE IS NICER, BUT IT'S NEVER NICE ABOVE

SINGER 6

WELCOME TO THE FARTHEST PLACE YOU'LL GET FROM DISNEYLAND

SINGER 11

FISH AND CHIPS AND SHIPWRECKS

WOMEN & SINGER 11

THIS IS NEWFOUNDLAND

MEN

WELCOME TO THE ROCK

WOMEN

I'M AN ISLANDER, I AM AN ISLANDER

ALL

I'M AN ISLANDER, I AM AN ISLANDER

I'M AN ISLANDER, I AM AN ISLANDER

I'M AN ISLANDER, I AM AN ISLANDER

OZ

That morning I'm in my car. The kids cross Airport Boulevard to get to school—and that time a day people are in a little bit of a rush to get to work and stuff, so normally I sit there and run my radar.

OZ cues the cast to make a "WOOP-WOOP" noise together.

And if they're speeding, I'll stop 'em and write out a warning ticket. I'll write "STFD"—Slow The Fuck Down.

ACTOR 2

WELCOME TO THE LAND WHERE THE WINTERS TRIED TO KILL US
AND WE SAID

ALL

WE WILL NOT BE KILLED

KEVIN J

Kevin and I were kind of hiding it because, well...

KEVIN T

Because we

(indicating KEVIN J)

didn't want to share it. Anyway, this woman—this hot mess behind us kept completely freaking out.

DELORES is sitting behind them, completely freaking out.

DELORES

I don't understand why they can't let us off. I mean, just to stretch our legs, I mean really? I need to get some air! Oh my god! I need to get off this plane!

KEVIN T

And my boyfriend, Kevin—we're both named Kevin. It was cute for a while. Anyway, Kevin was not dealing with it well.

KEVIN J

I'm going to kill her.

DELORES pushes the call button above her over and over.

DELORES

Excuse me?! I would like to get off the plane. I am claustrophobic!

KEVIN J

Excuse me! Would you like some Xanax? Because you are freaking out and it is freaking me out and we are all FREAKING THE FUCK OUT!!!

ALL

OPEN THE AIRPLANE DOORS!

LET A LITTLE AIR IN HERE

CAUSE I COULD USE A SHOWER - OR A BAR (OR A BAR!)

OPEN THE AIRPLANE DOORS!

LOOK AT ALL THE PLANES OUT THERE

THERE MUST BE A CONVENTION, IT'S BIZARRE

WHEREVER WE ARE

GROUP 1

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

GROUP 2

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

28 HOURS

GROUP 3

OUT OF THE WINDOWS

NOTHING BUT DARKNESS

DARKNESS AND HEADLIGHTS

NOTHING TO SEE

Scene 26

#7f – I Am Here

BEULAH

Anyway I get lunch set up, labeling anything that'll go bad with the date and time, I let the pants out for one of the pilots who's been enjoying our cooking. I make a balloon animal for a crying toddler – and then I check on Hannah, talking to anyone she can reach.

On the other side of the stage, HANNAH puts the phone to her ear.

HANNAH

I AM HERE – I AM HERE ON AN ISLAND

HELLO? HELLO. IT'S ME AGAIN
YEAH, MY SON. HE'S WITH RESCUE TWO
ANY NEWS?

I AM HIS MOTHER
I'M FAR AWAY – STUCK HERE
I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT –
FINE – I'LL HOLD AGAIN
I SHOULD BE DOWN THERE
AND CHECKING THE HOSPITALS
PUTTING UP SIGNS
DOING SOMETHING!
INSTEAD

I AM HERE – I AM HERE IN CANADA

I AM TELLING YOU – LISTEN
MY SON, HE TAKES RISKS
HE'S NOT MISSING – HE'S HELPING OR HURT
HE'LL GET OUT OF THIS
YES, I'LL KEEP TRYING
AND YES, HERE'S THE NUMBER
AND YES, AT THE GRADE SCHOOL
IN GANDER – I'LL BE HERE

I SHOULD BE THERE WHEN IT'S OVER AND DONE

(HANNAH)

WHEN HE COMES THROUGH THE DOOR
AND SAYS, "I'M HOME, MOM"
I SHOULD BE THERE FOR MY SON
BUT INSTEAD

I AM HERE
I AM HERE

BEULAH

She leaves message after message for her son—until there's no more room on his answering machine.

HANNAH

ALL I KNOW
IS YOU ARE THERE
YOU ARE THERE
AND I AM HERE

BEULAH

She finally got some news.

HANNAH

They said it was Kev's day off—but someone else said there were more men down there than were scheduled.

I should be looking for him. He's always there for me—trying to make me laugh. Tells me stupid jokes. He loves jokes—tells them to the kids at the firehouse, while he fixes their bikes.

I should be there.

BEULAH

I know there's nothing I can do to help. But I do know a few jokes. There was a sailor who was stationed in the South Pacific, far away from his wife who he'd just married. And when he was away, he wrote her a letter. He said, "We're going to be apart for a long time—and this island is full of young, attractive native girls. I need something to take my mind off them."

So his wife sends him an accordion and says, "Why don't you learn to play this then?" So finally, he comes home from his tour of duty and says to his wife, "I can't wait to get you into bed." And she says, "First let's see how well you play that accordion."

SHE laughs at her own joke, but sees HANNAH's face and stops.

HANNAH

That was a really stupid joke.

A pause.

Tell me another one.