

FADE IN

INT. UNIVERSITY - ACADEMIC OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Campbell is engrossed in his laptop. A knock at his office door. He doesn't look up. Another knock.

CAMPBELL

If I haven't responded, it's not that I don't hear you.

Christine stands at the door. She looks unassuming. Naive.

CHRISTINE

Oh, sorry. I can come back.

Campbell might as well wave her in now.

Christine enters, towing a rolling backpack, and has a seat.

CAMPBELL

Gentle reminder. My office hours are Friday from 1-3PM.

Christine glances at a nearby clock.

The clock reads: 12:55PM.

CAMPBELL

(still typing away)
How can I help you?

She doesn't answer. Campbell finally peers at her over his laptop.

CHRISTINE

Did you know there are 86 countries currently with no extradition agreement with the United States? 86.

Campbell stares at her blankly.

CHRISTINE

Sorry. Collecting worthless factoids is sort of a hobby.

Christine fumbles for her backpack, produces a physics textbook.

CHRISTINE

I've been having some trouble with

this section. Here. The part about quantum entanglement.

She offers the textbook to Campbell.

CAMPBELL

I'm aware of what's in the textbook, Miss...

(waits for her to fill in the blank)

I wrote it.

Christine pulls the textbook back.

CHRISTINE

Well can you explain it to me?

Campbell snorts.

CAMPBELL

Sure. Why not? At the risk of repeating myself. Quantum entanglement is when a pair of particles remain connected even when separated by vast distances. At any given time, the particle pair occupy multiple spaces and multiple characteristics. Only when measured can the particles' exact states be identified, thus destroying the entanglement in the process.

Christine stares at Campbell.

CHRISTINE

Maybe again like I'm 5?

Campbell takes off his glasses and sighs.

CAMPBELL

You're not really a student are you.

Christine looks sheepish.

CHRISTINE

No, sir. Not really. Just a science nerd.

CAMPBELL

You know, you don't need some elaborate ruse.

Campbell gestures for Christine to give him the book.

CHRISTINE

Oh.

She extends to him the textbook again.

CAMPBELL

To whom do I make this out?

CHRISTINE

Umm, how about "To My Favorite Co-particle"?

She seems pleased with herself.

Campbell raises an eyebrow.

CAMPBELL

"Favorite Co-particle"?

CHRISTINE

I'm being cringe, aren't I. I'm sorry.
I can be such a sperg.

Campbell relaxes.

CAMPBELL

To My Co-particle...

He finishes signing the book and returns it to Christine. She remains seated.

CAMPBELL

Was there something else?

CHRISTINE

(reminding)
The explanation.

CAMPBELL

Beg your pardon?

CHRISTINE

You were going to explain quantum entanglement like I'm 5.

Campbell again looks at her quizzically.

He opens a desk drawer and removes several items including his watch, a flask, a container of breath mints, and his

wallet. He introduces each.

CAMPBELL
Schrödinger's Cat

CHRISTINE
Schrodinger's who?

CAMPBELL
A Geiger Counter. Poison. And a cat
inside a house. When this Tic Tac
decays by one atom, the Geiger Counter
signals the release of a toxic pill to
drop into the poison, creating a
deadly gas that kills the cat.

CHRISTINE
Poor kitty.

Campbell draws two windows and a door on a document, folds
it, and covers the items with it.

CAMPBELL
At any given moment, the cat is both
alive and dead--in what is called a
state of "superposition." We can only
know the state of the cat for sure
when we finally open the door and peer
inside the house ourselves.

Christine gazes at Campbell.

CHRISTINE
Are you married, Dr. Campbell?

He looks at the gold ring on his finger, hides his hand
behind the desk.

CAMPBELL
Why?

CHRISTINE
Your explanation. Just reminded me of
something is all. Have you ever heard
of "the gloaming"?

CAMPBELL
Gloaming? No. What is it, a physics
term?

CHRISTINE

It means twilight or dusk. Cops use it sometimes. The ones who make the death notifications. They call the gloaming that moment--that brief, precious window of time--right before delivering bad news about a loved one to their family. The gloaming is when all things are still possible. When life is still happy. Perfect. Innocent. When a loved one can be both alive and dead. It's the time right before life comes crashing to a halt and changes forever. Have you ever experienced the gloaming, Dr. Campbell?

Campbell and Christine sit in silence. Christine's phone goes off.

CHRISTINE

My alarm.

She turns the phone to Campbell.

It displays a grotesque image of twisted automotive metal.

Campbell looks at the phone, then Christine.

CAMPBELL

What is that?

CHRISTINE

My wallpaper.

Christine swipes through the phone.

CHRISTINE

Your wife and daughter are beautiful.

She holds the phone out again: A picture of Dr. Campbell, his wife, and his daughter.

Campbell grips his desk.

CHRISTINE

I have a husband and daughter too though you might not remember.

(to herself)

Had. Have.

Campbell stands.

CAMPBELL
(barely audible)
I'm calling the police.

Christine cradles his hand and cell phone with hers.

CHRISTINE
Alive. Dead. That's no way to live
anymore.

They are face to face. Campbell visibly trembles.

CAMPBELL
Who are you?

She moves her mouth to his ear.

CHRISTINE
(whispers)
I am the poison.

Campbell chokes.

Christine releases his hand.

He fumbles for his phone, dials it.

Christine disappears from the office with her rolling case.

The phone displays "Wife." It rings. And rings. And rings.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Christine enters a vehicle. The phone continues to ring.

Campbell hangs up.

His eyes catch sight of the paper house covering the items on his desk.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Dr. Campbell's car as it races down the highway. It enters a tunnel.

INT. HIGHWAY - TUNNEL - DAY

The tunnel lights simultaneously appear and disappear over Campbell. He is alternately illuminated and in darkness. He

furiously dials his wife again. The line rings. And rings.
And rings.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

It's dusk out. Campbell's car tears into the driveway and
rocks to a stop next to his wife's vehicle. He leaps out the
car and races toward house.

AT THE DOORWAY

Campbell fumbles for keys. The door creaks slightly open.

Campbell freezes in that moment. Before daring to peer
inside. In the gloaming.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE: SUPERPOSITION

END CREDITS

THE END