

II LO Rybnik
script written by Magda Kuligowska
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A group of brave students were prepared to stage the play at the Theatre Festival in English which was scheduled for 13th March 2020 (cancelled due to covid-19 epidemic as the schools closed on 12th March 2020 in Poland).

The play was also on the Agenda of the 3rd VT4P Transnational Project Meeting scheduled for 30th March 2020 (cancelled as the schools and borders closed in Europe due to the pandemic)

*We all do hope to meet on stage soon! Stay safe!
Hanna Skowrońska*

“The end of the beautiful world?”

BOY:

Finally back home. Oh My God why does school have to be so hard? We have tests almost every day. This is absurd!

(looks around and behind the computer)

OK, I deserve a break now. Let's see if there are any new series on Netflix.

(browsing the Internet and talking:)

Hmm... No (...) nah, I've watched this twice (...) oh, “The end of the beautiful world”? Sounds interesting. What is it exactly about? Let's see: Earth – home for millions of people and animals. It's beautiful but weak. Our planet will cope without us and we will not survive without it. Is there still a chance to change this? The film was made in cooperation with ecology specialists. Hmm... What time is it? 17:00. Okay so an hour for the movie and then study.

2020

CHAIRMAN:

Good Morning honey, good morning Mike. How are you doing at school? Are you doing something compelling today or mundane as usual?

MIKE:

Surprisingly lessons are cancelled today. Instead, we have some lectures on ecology. It means sleeping through the whole lecture.

MOTHER:

And how are you at work? Is everything okay?

CHAIRMAN:

It's just perfect. The company is enriching at a tremendous rate. Oh, and when it comes to work, I'm already running late. I have to go. Thanks for breakfast.

BOYS' MOTHER:

Alex, I hope you are ready with this speech for tomorrow.

BOY:

Mom, can you stop telling me what to do? I can handle it myself.

OFFICE

CHAIRMAN:

Good morning everybody, ready for the new, profitable week? Great. What have we got for today? How are things about my new mall in South America?

PRESENTER 1:

Sir, I don't know if that's a good idea. A lot of fires have started recently, especially in the Amazon jungle. You must have heard of this tragic accident. Do you want to destroy these forests even more?

CHAIRMAN:

If the forest was destroyed, why not build a modern building there? It will be more useful than some burned wood. Go ahead and call the company. We need to confirm our plans.

PRESENTER 1:

Certainly, sir.

PRESENTER 2:

Sir, sorry for interruptingbut it is urgent. Do you remember that Asian water purification company you signed the contract with a few years ago?

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, why?

PRESENTER 2:

They have sent us an email and it says that it's very important.

CHAIRMAN:

Give it to me. "Dear sir, we've got a big problem with water pollution. As much as 30% of the population of this region used water contaminated with faeces. This causes 1.8 million people to die

every year from diseases related to polluted water. So please make a donation of one million dollars to help with this problem.” How much?! No, no, no. No way. Reply that unfortunately we have a difficult financial situation at the moment and we cannot help. Go.

PRESENTER 2:

But sir, I read a little about it on the Internet and the effects are really worrying. Not only that this water poisons people but also oceans, creatures and corals living in it.

CHAIRMAN:

And...? The oceans are huge so a few dead fish are nothing at all.

PRESENTER 2:

No, you don't understand.

CHAIRMAN:

Don't bother me anymore and go and do what I told you to do.

PRESENTER 2:

Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN:

And another problem solved. Great! What are you reading? Any latest news?

PRESENTER 3:

Actually, when it comes to these impurities...

(hands the newspaper)

In the oceans there are more so-called dead water zones, I mean areas where the oxygen content is too low for life to function in them. They say that they are mainly caused by factories and their pollutants which get into the waters. And they mainly talk about your power plant network.

CHAIRMAN:

I'm sick of all these complaints. Why is everyone so suddenly worrying about some plants or animals? What is happening to you?

(looks at his watch)

Okay, it's over for today, I have to go, because I have an appointment with an international transport company.

PRESENTER 3:

But sir, what about poisoned waters?

CHAIRMAN:

Think of something and if you come up with anything reasonable, just call me.

BOY'S MOTHER:

Darling, how are you doing?

BOY: Mom can you stop? I'm not a child anymore and I know what to do.

2050

CHAIRMAN:

Good morning.

(silence)

Okay... How was your day Mike?

MIKE:

Terrible.

CHAIRMAN:

Why? What's wrong?

MIKE:

You ask me what's wrong? Maybe that we live in a total garbage can!

CHAIRMAN:

Watch your manners!

MIKE:

No, father. You've destroyed your planet! We have got nothing to eat. The air is so polluted that we have to wear these silly masks.

(pause)

Look, even this water isn't clean. Instead, we drink some sewage.

CHAIRMAN:

Oh, stop talking nonsense. Maybe it is a little worse than it used to be, but at least we have something to make a living. Appreciate what you have and don't complain!

MIKE:

Dad, I don't want to live, I want to survive! And because only stupid money matters to you, soon there will be nothing on this earth.

CHAIRMAN:

Alice, can you say something?

MOTHER: Mike is right. Things are falling apart. Open your eyes at last! Accept that money isn't the most important thing!

CHAIRMAN:

I did all of this for us, to make us live well, but as I see it, nobody appreciates it. I am going to my office right away. I will try to fix everything and it will be like before.

MIKE:

Don't you understand that such damage can no longer be rectified? I'm sick of it, I'm going to school.

(wants to leave but remembers that he forgot the mask)

I would forget, I don't want to get lung cancer as soon as I get outside.

BOY:

Oh, right, school. I have a speech tomorrow. What time is it? 5:30?! It's impossible that I spent all night on this series. My mom will kill me, I have nothing prepared. OK, don't panic. You will figure this out. *(breathes in the air)* You can do it!

(going to school) (the bell rings)

TEACHER:

Ok, everybody, please sit down and be quiet now. Today we will listen to your speeches and we will start with... Mike. Yes you. Come, come!

BOY:

(standing in silence for a while)

.....So powerful, and yet so fragile in the hands of a man. One moment flourishing, fading away within seconds... Pristine and subdued. Beautiful, but for how long? One cannot ignore the place where we live. Earth IS our home.....

(the boy giving a speech, only background music can be heard light changes from dark to bright and dark again.)