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# The Trouble With Flying

A Superhero Play in One Act by  
Jon Jory

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# The Trouble with Flying

by Jon Jory

## **CHARACTERS**

**8 Women / 2 Men / 1 Gender Neutral**

CARRIE: *A girl of 17*

NAOMI: *Carrie's mother*

JACK: *Carrie's father*

CHER: *Carrie's sister, 16*

OWEN: *Carrie's boyfriend*

JOLENE: *Carrie's best friend*

GENA: *A special*

SOSA: *A special*

ADRIANA: *A special*

THE SUPERVISOR: *A bureaucrat*

JANE DOE: *An intern*

## **PLAYING TIME:**

*30 to 35 minutes*

## **SET:**

*None except furniture and a rolling door*

## **COSTUMES:**

*Contemporary*

## **SOUND:**

*None that need recording*

## The Trouble with Flying

by Jon Jory

SETTING: *An empty stage except for a sofa, a coffee table, and an armchair. Perhaps there is a large blue circle on the stage floor that encompasses the basic action.*

AT RISE: *CARRIE, a girl of 17 is pacing the room, obviously upset. Her mother, NAOMI, sits on the sofa.*

NAOMI

Carrie, sit, you're driving me crazy.

CARRIE

It was just so stupid. I can't believe I was so stupid!

NAOMI

Carrie, living in this family is complicated, this is just another complication. We'll figure it out.

CARRIE

You've always told me this is the worst thing that could happen.

NAOMI

I never said that.

CARRIE

OK, a bad thing, a really bad thing.

NAOMI

Now sit with me. Sit.

*CARRIE comes and sits on the sofa.*

NAOMI (*Cont'd*)

Breathe. Four counts on the inhale, four counts on the exhale. Tell me the time again.

CARRIE

12:00, 12:15, I'm not sure. Maybe 12:30.

NAOMI

And there was nobody on the porch next door when you went out?

CARRIE

I don't think so. I'm pretty sure. You always taught me to scan 360 degrees and I always do that.

NAOMI

No cars? No runners? No lights on in upper windows?

CARRIE

No.

NAOMI

No sound of TVs?

CARRIE

Nothing I could hear.

NAOMI

How long were you up?

CARRIE

Under a half hour.

NAOMI

How do you know?

CARRIE

Because I always check, I'm not an idiot.

NAOMI

I didn't say you were an idiot, honey.

CARRIE

But I am, mom.

NAOMI

No, you are not. You've just been doing it long enough that you got a little careless.

CARRIE

I'm so sorry, really sorry.

NAOMI

And you came down into the sycamore tree so you could check?

*(A pause)*

Or did you do something else?

*(A pause)*

Was it some other way, Carrie?

CARRIE

Oh, mom. *(Covers face with her hands)*

NAOMI

Carrie, you have to tell me the absolute truth now. The truth and nothing but the truth, so we can fix this.

*(A pause)*

CARRIE

I came straight down into the yard.

NAOMI

*(Exhaling)*

Oh dear.

CARRIE

I don't know why. I just did.

NAOMI

And then what?

CARRIE

I saw her.

NAOMI

You saw her where?

CARRIE

On the porch next door. She was smoking a cigarette.

NAOMI

And she saw you? She saw you land?

CARRIE

She must have because when I saw her. She was looking directly at me. My heart stopped. I looked at her until she stubbed out the cigarette and went in.

NAOMI

No words exchanged?

CARRIE

Nothing. She just stared at me and then went in.

*(A pause)*

NAOMI

How long did your eyes meet?

CARRIE

It felt like forever, but it was probably five seconds.

NAOMI

Well, that sounds like what I was afraid of.

CARRIE

*(Feeling terrible)*

I know.

NAOMI

She saw you can fly.

CARRIE

Maybe she only heard me land and then looked.

NAOMI

Maybe. You know we can't deal in maybes.

CARRIE

*(Nods)*

You and dad told me about this happening before and how that family packed up in 24 hours and like went to South America or something.

NAOMI

Yes. There are stories like that. I'm not sure if this is one of them.

CARRIE

Can I still go to college?

NAOMI

Yes. But not here.

CARRIE

What do you mean by not here?

NAOMI

Not in the United States. We're getting ahead of ourselves. Here are the problems, your sister Cher doesn't know because it's a month until she's sixteen and as you remember, sixteen is the moment. Your dad hates the moving, that's why we got special dispensation to stay here for more than five years. Specials usually move after five. I think we'll have to go, but we need to talk to your dad. We'll have to get dispensation to tell your sister before her birthday because she obviously won't understand our leaving in the middle of the night. All of this,

NAOMI (*Cont'd*)

Carrie, will need to be done with dispatch. Whatever we do has to be done before tomorrow morning.

CARRIE

Noooo.

NAOMI

Yes.

CARRIE

I've gone through this whole big thing so that Owen and I can both go to San Diego State. Can't we just move to somewhere in California?

NAOMI

No.

CARRIE

Why?

NAOMI

We're specials or what Hollywood calls superheroes. No one has ever been able to prove we exist. Nobody believes we are. We're a popular fantasy. If it was clear we did the entire world would have to change and it would be practically impossible for us to do our work. There aren't enough of us to do our work. There aren't enough of us to do what the world would want done. Only seventeen countries have us. Those governments would try to co-opt our work. They'd view us as weapons, that we're their property. I don't even want to go into it. We'd be expected to fight each other or I don't know what. It's a nightmare.

*(Seeing her reaction.)*

I'm sorry.

CARRIE

But I have friends. I have a serious boyfriend. I know what I want for a career, mom. UCLA is one of the four best colleges for civic planning. I won't have any of those things if we're living in Lebanon or Ethiopia or Holland or wherever you take me.

NAOMI

We always make a life, honey.

*JACK, her father enters.*

JACK

*(To NAOMI)*

I got your message. I was in a company meeting I couldn't walk out of.

CARRIE

Dad, it isn't fair!



JACK

*(To NAOMI)*

So it's true?

*NAOMI nods. An explosion he is trying to temper.*

JACK *(Cont'd)*

I cannot believe it!

*(To CARRIE)*

What were you thinking?

CARRIE

I'm really sorry, dad.

JACK

Don't even say that to me. We give you a lot of latitude because we trusted you.

CARRIE

I said I was sorry.

JACK

Don't you understand it doesn't matter if you're sorry!? We have to leave, that's not even arguable.

CARRIE

But can't we...

JACK

No, we can't. And by the way, how am I supposed to explain this to your sister? Tell me that?

CARRIE

You go and I'll stay.

JACK

Are you out of your mind? No, you can't stay. Do not mention that again!

NAOMI

Jack.

JACK

I just... we had an almost normal family life in a place we all liked and because you're not mindful and you're selfish...

NAOMI

*(A little stronger)*

Jack.

JACK

You have blown it to pieces as if you were a grenade!

NAOMI

*(Strongly, rising)*

That is enough now!

JACK

Fine, Naomi, that's easy to say.

NAOMI

Stop!

*JACK stops. There is a momentary silence.*

JACK

I'm sorry.

NAOMI

No more.

JACK

I said I was sorry. It's done. I have to realize it's done. Just give me a minute.

*CHER, the younger sister enters. She's high on a success.*

CHER

I did it! I can't believe it. I made the cheer squad. Really! They said I was the first freshman ever!

*(Twirling)*

Yes! Yes!

*(Stops; feels the incredible tension in the room)*

Uh-oh.

*(Looks at each of them)*

What?

NAOMI

*(Patting the sofa)*

Sit by me.

CHER

What? What's going on?

JACK

*(Serious, not mean)*

Sit down, Cher.

CHER

Why?

NAOMI

*(Warmly)*

Come to mom.

*CHER does and sits.*

JACK

*(Still trying to get his thoughts in order)*

All right. Okay.

*(Shakes his head)*

I have to tell you something now... it's not a bad thing...

NAOMI

Actually, it's an amazing thing.

CARRIE

*(Rising)*

I'm going up to my room.

NAOMI

*(With love)*

Stay with us.

*CARRIE looks around the room and then starts to exit.*

JACK

*(Controlled but not kidding around)*

Sit down.

*CARRIE does. JACK looks at NAOMI.*

JACK *(Cont'd)*

You or me?

NAOMI

Why don't I start?

CHER

*(Spooked)*

What is going on?

*(Looking to her sister)*

Carrie?

*CARRIE shakes her head and looks down.*

NAOMI

Really, this is a good thing that's hit a bump in the road. Just a bump. But it involves some family history we were going to tell you on your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. So, happy birthday.

CHER

It's not my birthday.

NAOMI

It's big and you're going to love it, but we're all going to have a few bumps in the road.

CARRIE

*(Angry)*

Because I screwed everything up...

NAOMI

No...

CARRIE

And now everything is unforgivably ruined.

NAOMI

No...

CARRIE

And I'm the criminal, the one who...

NAOMI

No, you're not... it is not right that we have to burden you with...

JACK

Can we please get down to this? There's an incredible amount to do.

NAOMI

*(Not cowed)*

...Burden both of you with all this secrecy.

CHER

What, mom?

JACK

You watch the superhero movies or whatever they call them now...

CHER

What?

JACK

Wonder Woman, Captain America, Batman, those characters, and that is... pure fantasy... they are made up. However, some of the qualities they have: strength, ability to fly, fighting skills, ummm...

NAOMI

High pain threshold, shape-shifting...

JACK

Invisibility...

NAOMI

Healing, control of the elements, underwater breathing...

JACK

Those abilities actually exist in our world...

NAOMI

In some people...

CHER

But, what...

NAOMI

And we have them.

*(A pause)*

CHER

*(Looking around)*

You're kidding, right?

*(Silence in the room)*

What?

NAOMI

And we have them.

CHER

*(Laughing)*

You guys!!

JACK

Cher, go to the window and look at our cars in the driveway.

CHER

Okay, why?

*The room is silent.*

CHER (*Cont'd*)

Really?

JACK

Really.

*CHER moves down and looks out.*

NAOMI

Is this wise?

JACK

I don't think it matters now.

CHER

So I'm looking, what am I looking at?

JACK

Just look.

*CHER does. JACK moves one hand up about a foot. No more.*

CHER

Holy crap. The car...

CARRIE

That's how they showed me.

CHER

The Subaru went like three feet in the air and then came back down.

NAOMI

It's a power. Think of an object in the room.

CHER

*(Still unsettled)*

But...

Do it. JACK

Fine. What am I thinking? CHER

Your left shoe. NAOMI

How... *(Totally amazed)* CHER

Flying, thought control, object control, shape shifting. All that stuff they said. CARRIE

Us? CHER  
*(Turns to CARRIE)*

You? *(A thought landing)*

Me?

*NAOMI nods.*

No. *(Deciding)* CHER *(Cont'd)*

*All of the other characters nod. CHER stands for a second and then collapses in a faint.*

Cher! NAOMI

*NAOMI and JACK go to her.*

Is she okay? CARRIE

She just got dizzy. JACK

What happened? CHER

JACK  
Let's just get you sitting down.

*JACK and CARRIE help her to her feet.  
NAOMIE exits.*

CHER  
Did I...

JACK  
You just... don't worry about it. It's just stress.

CARRIE  
Sit in the chair.

CHER  
I like passed out.

JACK  
Your brain just wasn't getting enough oxygen.

CHER  
I'm all right. *(Trying to get up)*

JACK  
Sit, just sit for a minute.

CHER  
Really, I'm okay.

NAOMI  
*(Entering)*  
I had some lemonade, drink this down.

CARRIE  
I have to go out.

JACK  
You mustn't do that.

CARRIE  
*(Paying no attention)*  
I'll be back.

NAOMI  
*(As she exits)*  
No, Carrie!



JACK

*(Kneels by CHER)*

We'll sit for a minute and then I have things to tell you.

*They freeze in a position they can hold. The LIGHTS CHANGE to feature the area in front of the room. We see CARRIE stage right, downstage on her phone.*

CARRIE

I said behind the visiting stands. Well, look to your left, I'm there.

*She takes out a handkerchief and wipes her eyes. Her boyfriend OWEN, who is a guy in her school, appears.*

OWEN

Sorry, I misheard you. What's the deal? Are you alright?

*(CARRIE nods)*

You look like you've been crying.

*(Nods again)*

My family was like stunned when I left. We were in the middle of dinner.

*(She doesn't speak)*

What?

*(Still doesn't speak)*

Come on, Carrie, we can handle it.

*(A pause)*

Carrie?

CARRIE

I'm leaving.

OWEN

Like what "leaving"?

CARRIE

I'll be gone by morning.

OWEN

You mean school?

*(She shakes her head)*

What?

CARRIE

We won't be here anymore. We're leaving.

OWEN

Before morning?

*(She nods)*

I mean, this is like weirded out craziness. How long have you known about whatever this is?

CARRIE

This afternoon.

OWEN

What kind of leaving? The weekend? The semester?

*(She shakes her head)*

Carrie, what are you talking about?

CARRIE

It's my fault.

OWEN

Okay, you're kidding now, right?

*(She shakes her head)*

When do you come back?

CARRIE

*(Directly)*

I won't be back.

OWEN

Yeah. Wow. You might want to explain some stuff.

*(She shakes her head no)*

Something big time?

*(She nods yes; he pulls his voice down)*

You mean like you did a hit and run, or you're sick or what?

CARRIE

I can't talk about it.

OWEN

Yeah, you can, because it's okay to have an inner life, or a big secret kind-of-thing or whatever this is, but I'm here too, right? I'm Owen in case you don't remember the guy who has been hanging out with you, for what, two years? Almost two years. And who... cares about you –which unless I'm completely out of my mind is, you know, mutual, right?

*(She nods yes)*

So, ummm, sorry. I didn't mean to raise my voice, it's just... you know how I feel. So, let's just back this up. You're leaving this afternoon?

CARRIE

Tonight I guess.

OWEN

And, ummm, who is the “you” that is leaving?

CARRIE

All of us, my sister, me, my parents.

OWEN

And whatever this is, it came up when?

CARRIE

I... who cares... an hour ago.

OWEN

An hour ago?

CARRIE

Something I did last night.

OWEN

Okay, great, this is like some totally screwed up quiz show. Talk.

*(A silence)*

CARRIE

I have to go. *(Turns)*

OWEN

No. No, no, no. Please don't move, please. Okay, okay good. I'm doing this wrong. I apologize for that. I'm... I don't know what I am. Don't leave. I get you're serious. I get this is real, but you must know why I have to understand this.

*(A pause)*

I love you.

CARRIE

I told you not to say that to me. We've been through this. I don't know what that means, I'm not like Juliet or something. We are all kinds of things, but we're not that. I'm seventeen years old and I'm not using that word. You know I don't like that. I care about you, I really, really like you. I like being with you, but now something has... come up. Something... I don't even have the words... there's no way to explain it, believe me, there isn't.

OWEN

*(Dead serious and straight out)*

You murdered someone.

CARRIE

*(Even a little laugh)*

No. No, I didn't murder someone.

OWEN

By accident, a hit a run.

CARRIE

*(Shakes her head)*

I would love to tell someone, you, maybe Jolene...

*JOLENE, a classmate enters.*

JOLENE

Who happens to be here a little early.

OWEN

*(Further confused)*

What? What is this?

JOLENE

*(To CARRIE)*

You called, I'm here. My mother thinks it's because I hate Brussels sprouts.

CARRIE

But you guys have to believe that if I could tell you – if it was something you could even fully believe or understand – I would tell you. So, this will weird you out; it's not just about us, or this place... it's... I don't down deep get it yet... but there are reasons I have to believe it...

JOLENE

Well, this is like a giant cobweb of words that is just a giant cobweb of words, which means it's a big thing I can't know about and you're obviously not telling Owen, who is a step higher on your stepladder than I am. Give me the deal in a sentence with small words I can understand.

OWEN

She's leaving.

JOLENE

Okay, that's bad news, you being one of about three people I can stand. When are you doing this unspeakable thing?

OWEN

She's doing it tonight.

JOLENE

So, you're her ventriloquist or what?

*(To CARRIE)*

You're nodding, so I guess this guy has it right?

CARRIE

Yes.

JOLENE

And I'm kind of getting that you're not going to tell us why?

CARRIE

I really truly would if I could.

JOLENE

But you can't?

CARRIE

I can't.

JOLENE

You're not telling where, why, or duration?

*(CARRIE nods)*

Huh. Must be something really creepy good. Will we hear from you?

CARRIE

I don't know.

JOLENE

Ever?

CARRIE

I don't know.

JOLENE

Wow. If this were a scene in a movie, it would kind of be over. I'd actually like to be in a movie, so I'm going to pretend I'm in a movie. This is the goodbye scene, right?

*(CARRIE nods)*

The shattered boyfriend and the bemused best friend. I really like you. You're not a dweeb which is rare. You know, one of the things I really like about this is the mystery. My life is so without mystery it's a joke. Tuesday is like Tuesday, Thursday is like Thursday and Jimmy is like Billy. So, I like, need to nail this down and then I like, probably need to leave so you two can sob and hug.

*(To CARRIE)*

You're not dying?

*(To each of the following CARRIE shakes her head "no")*

You're not even sick? Nobody in your family is dying? Neither you, nor anybody in your family has created an imprisonable crime? This is a situation where neither I nor Owen will ever know the answer? This is pretty good. There are very few people you will never forget. Please remember that ten years from now, if you happen to think about me I might very easily be thinking of you. Nice, huh? There aren't many of those. And this is something that needs you to be careful, so be careful?

CARRIE

*(Nods)*

Thank you.

JOLENE

You're welcome.

*(Taking off a simple necklace)*

Would it be okay if I gave this to you?

*CARRIE nods.*

JOLENE *(Cont'd)*

Whenever you wear it, you'll be as cynical as I am.

*(CARRIE laughs; takes the necklace)*

You want me to take Bozo here with me?

*CARRIE shakes her head no. JOLENE speaks directly to OWEN.*

JOLENE *(Cont'd)*

Owen, you are a pretty good guy, and I would be interested in you when she's gone. Just keep that in mind.

*(To CARRIE)*

You surprise me. You've always surprised me. Don't forget you're someone special. *(Turns and exits)*

OWEN

So, this is really happening?

CARRIE

It is. I'm sorry.

OWEN

Me too. I was never serious about anyone before.

CARRIE

Me either.

OWEN

Really?

CARRIE

Yes.

OWEN

I was never sure.

CARRIE

Well, you can be sure.  
(*A pause*)  
I have to go.

OWEN

Right.  
(*A pause*)  
And I won't hear from you?

CARRIE

I don't think so.

OWEN

See, I'm guessing you carry pieces of a few people you meet forever. You're one.

CARRIE

(*Warmly*)  
Thank you, Owen. If it turns out to be true, you'll be up there.

OWEN

No hug?

CARRIE

(*Shakes her head*)  
I'd have no way to pick up the pieces.

OWEN

Bye, Carrie.

CARRIE

Bye, Owen.  
(*He turns and starts to exit*)  
I'll leave that blue sweater you lent me out on my porch on the chair.  
(*He doesn't turn back*)  
Well, I didn't do that right. How are you supposed to do this stuff?

*A girl Carrie's age appears followed by two other girls. The first girl wears jeans and a sweat shirt.*

GENA

Nobody knows, but you figure it out.

CARRIE

(*Off balance*)  
I – I don't know you.

*GENA points at the other girls entering.*

GENA (*Cont'd*)

The girl in the dress is Adriana. I don't know the other girl

SOSA

Sosa.

ADRIANA

Nice to meet you.

SOSA

Same.

GENA

You're Carrie, right?

CARRIE

(*Confused*)

Yes.

GENA

We're uh...

ADRIANA

You know...

SOSA

What you are.

CARRIE

What do you mean?

SOSA

You know.

GENA

Your dad said maybe you needed...

ADRIANA

Encouragement.

SOSA

Info.

GENA

Stuff.



You mean? CARRIE

Yeah. GENA

You're? CARRIE

Special. Which is weird. I mean to say, it's hard to say... ADRIANA

What we are. We're just... GENA

Used to it. SOSA

How long? CARRIE

Three years. SOSA

Two years. GENA

Six months. ADRIANA

Seriously, it's going to be okay. GENA

It just absorbs you. ADRIANA

Like a sponge. SOSA

GENA  
The first time I flew it was incredible. I mean, it's like you're weightless and your heart slows down and you're completely supported in the air.

ADRIANA  
It's like you're up there and you belong there. You feel completely supported...

SOSA

Like you could never make a mistake, like you're perfectly what you're supposed to be, like...

GENA & ADRIANA

I'm just right.

CARRIE

Where did you come from?

SOSA

Vietnam.

GENA

Holland.

ADRIANA

Vancouver.

CARRIE

But...

ADRIANA

We just hustled. We knew you didn't have much time. Listen, there are so many unbelievable things...

SOSA

You could stay underwater for a week, see what's down there.

GENA

Be what's down there. Come up whenever you want, anywhere you want.

SOSA

Catch a bullet between your thumb and forefinger.

ADRIANA

Leave a bad guy on the far side of the moon.

GENA

Divert a river so people have water.

ADRIANA

Save somebody.

SOSA

Save a hundred somebodies.

ADRIANA

People are such a mess. There's always something.

CARRIE

Do you have friends?

GENA

You've got friends right now.

CARRIE

But I mean... like the friends I have here.

GENA

Pretty much.

SOSA

You don't fall in love in the same way, but you don't miss it.

ADRIANA

You fall in amazement. It's amazing every day.

CARRIE

And you're immortal?

*The girls laugh.*

GENA

No, thank heaven.

ADRIANA

Can you believe what a drag that would be?

SOSA

We've got the same eighty years you do.

GENA

Around sixty your powers decline. Seventy, they're gone. Then we die like everybody else.

SOSA

The difference is...

ADRIANA

We've done everything.

SOSA

Everywhere.

GENA  
Massive memories.

ADRIANA  
We're just starting, like you.

SOSA  
Hey, it's all good, but the beginning is mind blowing.

ADRIANA  
Wish I was you again.

CARRIE  
What about mom and dad?

GENA  
You drop in. Sometime later on they forget you, but you're into other stuff. You come for the end.

SOSA  
The sendoff. They appreciate it.

GENA  
It's a party.

CARRIE  
But do you have children?

GENA  
You can pick out two.

ADRIANA  
From anywhere.

CARRIE  
Is that what happened to me?

*SOSA nods. ADRIANA gives CARRIE the thumbs up.*

CARRIE (*Cont'd*)  
Where am I from?

GENA  
Ask.

And my sister? CARRIE

Ask. GENA

I can't believe this. I can't take it in. CARRIE

No prob. GENA

The usual. ADRIANA

Just let it happen and enjoy it. SOSA

You have to give yourself over. ADRIANA

All the worries are gone in like a month. GENA

You're just in it. SOSA

Look, we have to go. GENA  
*(Shows CARRIE a coin)*  
Just rub it, I'll be here in a couple hours. Or there. Or wherever you are.

*CARRIE takes it. Each of the other girls gives her a coin.*

Nice to meet you. ADRIANA

See you down the road, girl. SOSA

*(Gesturing around her)*  
All this stuff. It's like leaves blown away by the wind. GENA

You've got a universe. ADRIANA

SOSA

Just be there.

*The girls turn and walk off without looking back. CARRIE stands for a second or two and then walks back into the living room where her mom, dad, and sister are suddenly animated.*

NAOMI

*(Speaking to CARRIE)*

Everything all right?

CARRIE

Uh-huh.

NAOMI

There's a way this has to work. It's almost dark. We're only taking essentials. We're not taking furniture, books, or wardrobe you haven't used in the last week. Whatever you decide is essential for the next week goes out the door to the backyard, in the side door to the garage. After two people take something out, we take a twenty-minute pause and then continue. Each person can take three trips then we're done. Things are only things, we can get more things.

JACK

When we're loaded in the two cars, we wait until 3 am. I give the signal, we walk into the garage and get into the two cars. Once we're in the cars, there's no going back into the house. We wait in the cars for one hour, we open the garage door, your mom drives the Subaru, I'll take the old Jeep. We back out and we're on the road. We'll stop in a small city in the morning and ship the stuff we need to our destination. Then we'll go to a motel and sleep until evening. When it's dark your mother will take you, Cher, out into the countryside so you can practice and be comfortable flying. Your mom calls me, Carrie and I fly to where she is, then we fly as a family to our destination.

CHER

What's our destination?

JACK

Ecuador.

CARRIE

Where?

NAOMI

It's where the council assigned us.

CHER

We don't speak Spanish.

We do. NAOMI

You've never spoken a word of Spanish. CHER

It wasn't part of our identity here. JACK

How long will we be in Ecuador? CARRIE

Probably around fifteen years. JACK

Fifteen years?! CHER

JACK  
You and Carrie can go to college anywhere. Here if you like. The council will shut down your powers during that period. You'll then be assigned somewhere by the council. After one year there's the choice.

What choice? CARRIE

JACK  
Whether you want to live with the powers and their responsibility or without them. If you choose to live without them, that's permanent. If you live with them you will always be on assignment.

But... CHER

NAOMI  
You don't need to think about that now.  
*(There's a knock on the door; THE KIDS jump up)*  
Don't worry, it's a supervisor.

*NAOMI goes to the door and opens it.  
The SUPERVISOR is gender neutral. If a man, it's Bob Smith, if a woman, it's Bobbie Jones.*

NAOMI *(Cont'd)*  
Well, good evening.

SUPERVISOR

And a good evening to you, Naomi.

*A young woman with a clipboard steps in behind him. They both wear business attire.*

SUPERVISOR (*Cont'd*)

I'm Bob Smith.

NAOMI

*(A smile)*

Of course you are.

SUPERVISOR

And this is a wonderful young intern at headquarters, Jane Doe.

JANE DOE

*(Speaking cheerfully)*

It is a pleasure to meet you.

SUPERVISOR

Hello, Jack, it's been a while.

JACK

It has.

*JANE DOE takes notes.*

SUPERVISOR

*(To JANE; chuckles)*

You don't have to write this down, Jane.

JANE DOE

*(Smiling)*

Oops.

SUPERVISOR

And you must be Carrie and Cher. Your father and mother are very important to us. They are among the best. Well, another move, eh? So it goes.

NAOMI

Please sit down.

SUPERVISOR

We'll stand, thank you.



We'll stand, thank you.

JANE DOE

You've heard it's Ecuador?

SUPERVISOR

Ecuador.

JANE DOE

We have.

JACK

Wonderful food, excellent climate, friendly people.

SUPERVISOR

People.

JANE DOE

Bit of a shock, eh, Cher?  
*(CHER nods.)*  
Happens to us all. Tried the flying yet?  
*(CHER shakes her head no.)*  
You'll love it.

SUPERVISOR

It.

JANE DOE

*JACK nods.*

*(To JACK)*  
Leaving tonight?

SUPERVISOR

We are.

JACK

Need any help?

SUPERVISOR

We'll handle it.

JACK

I know you will. Well, Carrie, you're the lucky one, you'll be coming with me.

SUPERVISOR

What?

CARRIE

NAOMI

*(Shaking her head)*

No.

SUPERVISOR

*(Smiling)*

Just for two weeks. I'll deliver her to your door in Quito.

JANE DOE

Deliver her.

SUPERVISOR

It's just a little workshop. Getting a few things, well, straight. Actually, Carrie, it just accentuates the positive, plus some flying, strength training, invisibility. I'm quite sure you'll enjoy it. Other young people...

JANE DOE

Young people.

CARRIE

I'm not doing that.

SUPERVISOR

Oh dear. Carrie, you've been, as you know a little careless and frankly even "a little careless" could expose us. That's not a chance we take. You just need some training. It's quite interesting and is in no way punishing. Now, to be honest, it's a yes or no thing.

JANE DOE

A yes thing.

SUPERVISOR

You have to make a clear decision, Carrie. Yes, I want the special powers, no, I don't want them.

CARRIE

How long do I have to make the decision?

SUPERVISOR

Fifteen seconds.

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**