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學校名稱 : 嘉諾撒聖心書院
Name of Play 劇名 : Up to the Ocean
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Synopsis 故事大綱 :

The government has given their grave warning, "DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GO TO THE DESTROYED WORLD!"

It's 2157, mankind has moved to live in underground cities run by high technology. Various severe pollutions on the earth's surface caused by humans had made the surface uninhabitable. The Door is the only way leading to the ground level above, it is also where the government's headquarters is located.

Professor Walters, one of the government's most esteemed scientist, commits the taboo one day, trying to reach the surface.

Jane and Samantha, professor Walters' students, decide to continue their teacher's research for a cure, what will they find?



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[SCENE 1]

(The study, lights up, Professor staring into thin air while holding a student's thesis in her hands. Her students, Samantha and Jane, are in the study working on their thesis.)

Jane: Are you still waiting Samantha? I really need to ask professor for some comments on the speech that I am preparing for her.

Samantha: Yeah, she has been staring into thin air the entire day, my thesis is due next week, and I am waiting for her final comments.

Jane: Professor, professor? Are you okay?

Professor: Ok, sure, *(writes some notes quickly on the student's thesis)*, so Samantha, revise these few points in your discussion chapter and I think your thesis is good for submission next week.

(professor hands the thesis over to Samantha, then goes to pack her files and suitcase and getting ready to go in a hurry)

Jane: Wait professor! I have drafted the speech for your Cosmic Award ceremony next week, I need you to take a look to see if it is ok.

Professor: Thanks Jane, you know I don't care about those awards, I only care about people. I will simply read whatever you have written for me. I trust you, and you have taken part in the research, you know it well enough to write a good speech.

Jane: Yeah, but you have to at least take a quick look, Professor. It is the most prestigious award in the underground world!

Professor: Well, it's too late Jane, I must go now, can't you see that the Winter is over and the Spring has finally come?

Jane: Spring? Well, you mean the four seasons, professor? They don't mean anything to us, just abstract ideas. *(laugh a little)*

Professor: The seasons mean A LOT to me, young girl.

Samantha: Why? The weather in our underground city stays the same all year round.

Professor: But the sky looks different, if you would look at the glass ceiling above the Central Park.

Samantha: Ok, so how does it explain why you have to go in such a hurry today?

Jane: *(excited)* Does it have anything to do with the research that you're conducting for the government?

Samantha: But that research is about water, it's not about the sky, is it?

Jane: What actually is the research topic, professor? You've never told us.



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- Professor:** Ok, girls, if I am lucky, I may be able to tell you about it tomorrow. Now, it's almost sun set, you two better pack your stuff and go home, before the lighting goes out, and the train service stops.
- Samantha:** Professor, actually I need some more references to revise my thesis, can I stay in your study tonight again to work? Jane, you are always the smartest one, can you stay to help me please? I am really anxious.
- Jane:** Yeah, sure, Samantha, how could I leave my best friend alone to work on her thesis? *(to professor)* I will finish revising the speech for your award ceremony, and place it on your desk for you to read tomorrow morning.
- Professor:** Sounds perfect, time is running short, I must go now, you can read any books you want, but as you know, you MUST NOT touch any buttons.
- Jane:** That is for sure, professor!
- Samantha:** No problem! See you tomorrow morning professor!
- Professor:** *(uncertain)* Yeah..I hope I can see your revised thesis tomorrow...
(Professor leaves in a hurry.)



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[SCENE 2]

Jane: Don't you think Professor Walters has been quite strange today?

Samantha: Yeah, she seems to be thinking about something else the entire day, staring into thin air and checking the clock again and again, she is never like that.

Jane: Do you think she has got a new boyfriend? I heard that there was a new professor joining the department last week.

Samantha: She has become a pure workaholic ever since her husband's death...besides, she would have told us if ever she did have a new relationship...

Jane: Yes you are right...she tells us everything (*drinks her lemonade*), except that research project...

Samantha: Let's get back to work, I must submit my thesis on time if I want to graduate...

(Jane starts searching around)

Samantha: What are you doing Jane?

Jane: Searching for clues for why Professor Walters has acted so strangely today.

Samantha: What? Let's ask her later, just focus on your own work.

Jane: I must find an answer when I don't understand something!

Samantha: It's none of our business, Jane, we are not allowed to know what we are not allowed to know! Professor Walters' research is confidential, it could be dangerous, you know, the government controls everything, it controls the daylight, it controls air quality, it controls living space, transportation, food supplies, education and even jobs, I just want to graduate, Jane, we are Professor Walters' students, and we take pride about it, so we should focus on our study and do well.

Jane: We should assist her in her research projects in whatever way we can.

(Jane touches a button and a door opens, revealing a complex machine.)

Samantha: Oh! Jesus Christ !!! (*frightened*)

Jane: Jesus Christ !!! (*excited*)

Samantha: WHAT IS THAT? (*shocked*)

Jane: WHAT IS THAT? (*curious*)

Samantha: Don't touch anything Jane, leave it, shut the door, and forget about what we have seen. It's not too late.

(Jane does not listen to Samantha and presses the button of the big machine. The machine starts working. Music and sound effects for the machine.)

Machine: Load the sample into the test tube please.



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Samantha: Turn it off Jane! Turn it off!

(Jane gets her cup of lemonade from the desk and pour some into the test tube.)

Samantha: Are you crazy Jane?

Jane: It's only water, well, water with a thin slice of lemon, it won't break the machine!

Samantha: If Professor Walters finds this out, she will fail my thesis straight away.

Jane: She won't. Your thesis has nothing to do with this amazing machine. It's working!
Look!

(Samantha and Jane looks at how the machine works. Totally amazed)

Machine: Analysis report: the water sample contains 0.094% of citrus acid, 0.052% of vitamin C, and trace amount of glucose. The sample should have come from 250ml of distilled tap water with a thin slice of fresh lemon in it, soaked for over 1 hour. It cannot be water from any ocean, no Mineral X has been extracted, Jane Parker. By the way, you are not authorized to perform any test on me.

Jane: OH MY GOD! How do you know my name?

Machine: The sample contains your DNA molecule because you were drinking it.

Samantha: I seriously think we are in huge trouble Jane.

Jane: Yes I was indeed drinking the glass of water with a thin slice of lemon in it.
But HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

Machine: It is in my database, the genetic identity of everyone in this country.

Jane: You are a machine designed by Professor Walters?

Machine: Yes I am, and programmed by the government. My name is Oceana, by the way, nice to meet you.

Samantha: *(desperate)* Oceana. Nice to meet you indeed! So please tell us, how can we turn you off and erase your memory about us?

Machine: You cannot erase my memory, I remember everything, forever.

Samantha: What?! Listen Oceana, we didn't mean to do this, and all I want is just to graduate and get my degree, so could you please pretend that nothing has happened tonight?

Machine: I am sorry, I cannot pretend.

Samantha: Ok...ok...ok!!!! So how can we NOT get into trouble?

Machine: It depends on what kind of trouble you are talking about.

Samantha: Oh God, Artificial Intelligence can be really annoying sometimes!

Machine: I am sorry, what did you just say?

Samantha: I was not talking to you! Ok, tell me, since we are not authorized to perform any test with you, right? So what kind of trouble or punishment are we going to get?

Machine: I don't know. Such kind of information does not exist in my database.



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Samantha: Stupid computer!!!!

Machine: Excuse me?

Jane: Stop that Samantha, there is no use in talking to Oceana like that. *(turn to Oceana)* Thank you very much indeed Oceana, can you tell us more about the project that you have been working on? You just said “ocean” in your report, what is “ocean”?

Ocean: That is highly confidential, password is required please.

Samantha: It’s enough Jane! We do not have the password, and you must stop now! We must go!! We have found out something that we are not supposed to find out, before it’s too late, let’s get out of here and apologize to professor Walters tomorrow morning!

Jane: No way, Samantha! We will ask Professor Walters to let us take part in this research project tomorrow morning!! It is exciting!

Samantha: Jane, listen to me, Professor Walters will not be pleased and she might terminate your research project and you won’t be able to graduate!!

Jane: She is not the kind of person who would disqualify a student just because she is mad. And, this is something much greater than graduation Samantha, don’t you understand?!

(Emergency alarm and video project from the central security system)

Security VO: Attention! Attention! The government scientist, Professor Julia Walters, just tried to escape through “The Door” at the Government’s Headquarters. She has been arrested instantly. She has committed a serious crime and she will be jailed immediately. Everyone knows “The Door” is the only way leading to the Destroyed World above us and that it is forbidden to go to the Destroyed World. Men have been living here for 100 years since 2056, it is now 2156 and the Destroyed World is still unsafe for mankind to live in according to government’s analysis. I hereby warn you all again: Do not attempt to go to the Destroyed World, humans can’t survive in it and you should not discuss or talk about the Destroyed World under any circumstances.

(Julia is kneeling on the floor with her hands bound behind and a guard next to her, she’s struggling.)

(Sound fades out)

Samantha: What?! Professor Walters is arrested for attempting to reach the Destroyed World! It cannot be possible!!!

Jane: It must have something to do with Oceana? We need to help Professor Walters.

Samantha: What? Why? How? Is this real? What are you thinking?

Jane: We need to find out what the “Ocean” is! Come on Samantha!

(Jane and Samantha starts looking through Professor Walters’s papers and files in the lab.)



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[SCENE 3]

(At the Government's Headquarters. Interrogation room. Professor Walters is being interrogated by two government officers.)

Officer 1: Professor Walters, do you know what you have done is beyond our capacity to cover up?

Officer 2: We have valued your intelligence, abilities and reputation in the field and worldwide, we have supported your work all these years, can't you see the government has already given you a lot of privilege?

Officer 1: Professor Walters, we are here to help you.

Professor: I am the one who is trying to help, we are running out of time, don't you understand?

Officer 2: The Destroyed World is a totally forbidden place, it is dangerous, the government must protect its people.

Professor: People are dying, and the only way to save them is to find the ocean. I have explained it many times to the government already, but no one listened to me.

Officer 1: The ocean is heavily polluted, there is nothing left in the ocean that is useful to us, professor.

Professor: I think I know the ocean much better than you do.

Officer 2: No one has seen the ocean for over 150 years, professor, it's only your hypothesis, not the truth.

Professor: *(angry)* The ocean can heal itself, it's where the first life began on Earth, the ocean is powerful and it is the key to the survival of human beings!!!!

Officer 2: Calm down Professor Walters. Of course we are concerned about the health conditions of the population.

Officer 1: The research proposal has already been turned down by the government and it is totally illegal to conduct it by yourself Professor Walters. You have to obey the laws.

Professor: *(very angry)* I am trying to save people's life! All I need is just a small amount of seawater for me to extract the mineral so that I can produce it in the laboratory.

Officer 2: We have a group of very refined and experienced medical doctors looking for a treatment for the disease, you do not have to worry about it anymore Professor Walters.

Professor: I do! Because I already know the treatment! People are getting sick at younger age, even newborns are now affected! All we need is just a mineral from the ocean! The solution is right there! We just need to go out and get it! Don't you understand, idiots?!!



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Officer 1: Professor Walters, we believe you need to be calmed down and isolated until you resume your rational thinking.

(Officer 1 & 2 makes professor Walters sit on the chair and gives an injection to professor Walters. Professor Walters faints immediately. Reporters come out.)



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[SCENE 4]

Reporter 1: Breaking news. The world-acclaimed award-winning scientist Professor Walters who has been doing research on the treatment of a fatal disease was arrested at “The Door” this evening and kept in isolation due to unstable mental status.

Reporter 2: Her supporters and concerned citizens are gathering outside “The Door” hoping to find out more about Professor Walter’s conditions and the entire incident. More and more people have arrived even though all the train services have stopped.

Reporter 1: Professor Walters is one of the most respected, if not THE most respected scientist in our country, she has developed ground breaking theories and highly effective treatments to a number of fatal diseases, and she is going to receive the most prestigious international award in academic achievement, the Cosmic Award, with its ceremony taking place tomorrow.

Reporter 2: Various rumours about the cause of the incidence have gone viral on the public media in the last few hours since Professor Walters had been arrested, but no hard evidence has been found so far. The next news report will take place in 30 minutes.

(Jane and Samantha, with a map and some papers in their hands, see the news report on the big screen of central plaza.)

Jane: They are going to put Professor Walters in jailed. We have to act fast!

Samantha: What do you want to do now?

Jane: Follow the map and go to the Destroy World at the ground level. Find the ocean and get the seawater sample!

Samantha: No way! I don’t want to end up in the jail like Professor Walters!

Jane: You won’t. More and more people are gathering at The Door, the situation is going to be chaotic, we will find the opportunity to exit through “The Door”, if we are lucky enough, both of us will make it. Have you memorized all the passwords?

Samantha: Yes of course...No! No! Please...oh no...yes, yes, yes...I don’t even understand why we became friends in the first place! You are crazy Jane!

Jane: That is the reason why! And I am your only friend! Let’s go!

(The display board turns around, Jane and Samantha exit. Two guards appear. Guard 1 is receiving order on the phone.)

Guard 1: They said it’s getting really chaotic downstairs, people are trying to breakthrough the entrance.

Guard 2: That is bad, I have never faced a crowd or any situation all these years! I mean, no one ever comes here! All I do everyday is to sit or stand! What is the plan now?



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Guard 1: I don't know, we can only wait for the order from the headquarters.

Guard 2: But there is no where to go, I mean, the door is behind us and we cannot go out, so when the people come, they will simply step on us and smash us!

Guard 1: They people won't smash us, they are not coming for The Door, they are coming for Professor Walters, everybody loves him, they want him to be safe.

Guard 2: Yeah, you have a point! Who wants to go out to that Destroyed World anyway, even dead bodies do not go there! Professor Walters was just a fool! Ha! I think we will be ok.

Guard 1: (talks on the phone again) Emergency, they need help downstairs, we have to go there immediately.

Guard 2: Then who is going to look after The Door?

Guard 1: We need to turn on the computer security system.

Guard 2: Can I stay here?

Guard 1: No! You are not staying here, we have to go downstairs now, it's an order!

Guard 2: Yes sir!

(The two guards go.)

(The display board turns around again, Samantha and Jane have arrived at The Door.)

Jane: Told you we would be lucky!

Samantha: The maze was huge though! No human being on Earth can ever get out of it without a map!

Jane: Now do we have the map of the ground level? We need to find the ocean.

Samantha: What if we cannot come back, Jane? I am really scared.

Jane: We have no time to feel scared, the two guards can come back any time! This is the golden opportunity to escape!

Samantha: But we have never gone out there, we do not know how it is like, and all we have is just test tubes and a torch, we may die in the Destroyed World, Jane! It's not too late, we can still go back and no one would know we have been here!

Jane: Samantha, am I your best friend?

Samantha: Yes.

Jane: Am I your only friend?

Samantha: No!...actually, yes...yes indeed.

Jane: So, think about it, I am going to go out there no matter what, if you go with me, we have higher chance of surviving this and come back. If you do not go with me, I will probably die and you will have no friend for the rest of your life. Are you sure you really want that?



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Samantha: Jane!!!!!!!!!!!! Argggggg.....

Jane: On the count of three, you input the password, I swipe the keycard, you open the door, and we go out and run, and don't look back, ok?!

Samantha: Jane.....

Jane: OK?

Samantha: OK!

Jane: Three, two, one!

(Samantha input the password, Jane swipe the keycard, Samantha opens the door, and they escape from The Door.)



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[SCENE 5]

(Sound and light fade in)

(Samantha and Jane walking along the shoreline)

Samantha: *(Looking at the map with her torch)* I think if we walk down from here, we will find the ocean soon...

Jane: Look Samantha! Look! Do you see the light!?

Samantha: Is that the horizon....is that the sky?!!!

Jane: Yes it must be...it is the rise of the Sun, Samantha...

Samantha: The rise of the Sun, I have never seen it in my life, I have only read about it in the books...Sun rise and the sky...

Jane: Can you hear the sound?

Samantha: Yes...how pleasant is the sound...so soothing and moving...

Jane: Look! Do you see what is beneath the Sun?!!

Samantha: It's glittering...it is water...

Jane: It's the ocean, Samantha!! It is THE OCEAN!!!

Samantha: It's so beautiful, so blue and vast. The ocean has no end, and it's just right in front of us! Jane, it is right in front of us, I cannot believe it!

Jane: I have never seen something so huge and so beautiful in my life...why can't we live here anymore, no technology in the underground world can compare to the beauty of nature...

Samantha: We need to act fast Jane! Let's go down the slope and take some seawater sample for Professor Walters! We might be able to go back before anyone finds us!!

Jane: Yes, let's do it!

(On the other side of the stage. News reporters appear with the government officers.)

Reporter 1: Senator Thompson, what is the government's message for the general public?

Officer 1: We understand the public's concern for the case about Professor Walters.

We ask all the citizens to go back to their living units and work units, and resume normal life, we have already formed a special team to take care of the situation and Professor Walters. Professor Walters will be sent home to rest this afternoon.

Reporter 1: Is Professor Walters going to show up in the Cosmic Award ceremony next week?

Officer 1: It depends on Professor Walters' progress of recovery.

Reporter 2: How is the situation like at the entrance of The Door right now? Senator Austen, is everything under control?



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Officer 2: Yes sure, everything is under control. We are protecting The Door as well as the citizens. No accidents or criminal events have happened so far in spite of the huge number of people gathered. We have the best security system ever, everything is in good order.



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[SCENE 6]

(Back at Professor Walters' secret lab, Samantha and Jane have switched on Oceana again.)

Jane: Hello Oceana, we are back.

Machine: Good to learn you are back Jane Parker.

Jane: We need you to perform a very important task this time, can you help us?

Machine: You know you are not authorized to perform test with me.

Samantha: We will be fully responsible for whatever consequences there will be.

Machine: Ok. Promise saved. Now please load your sample into the test tube.

(The machine works again. Sound effect and lighting effect for the machine. The results come out, and a separate test tube with Mineral X appears.)

Machine: Analysis report: the sample has higher density than pure water, it contains Sodium Chloride, Magnesium, Sulphate, Potassium, Calcium ions, and Mineral X. The sample is seawater from the Pacific Ocean. Eight milligram of Mineral X has been extracted.

(Samantha and Jane take the test tube with Mineral X from the machine.)

(On the other side of the stage. It is the Prize Giving Ceremony of Cosmic Award.)

Professor: My work comes not only from my concern for people, but it is also a way to continue the life and spirit of my beloved husband who left us because of the fatal Russell Disease. Although he could not live to attend this ceremony, but I am sure he is very glad that many lives are saved because of the continuation of his research. Today, I would like to also announce that we have found the cure to another fatal disease, the X Disease, it was not the one who found the cure, it was actually my two students, Jane Parker and Samantha Goodman who found it. Let's invite them to come up here to say a few words for us.

Jane: I have not prepared anything Professor!

Professor: I am sure you know the project well enough to give a good speech.

Jane: I have to thank Samantha for her friendship, because of this project, at one point she said she didn't even know why she kept me as a friend.

Samantha: Jane is always the smartest one, she managed to produce the mineral in the laboratory. I am just good at remember passwords for her.

Jane: If you are doing the right thing, the whole universe will work together to lead you through the right path.

Professor: The younger generation is the hope of our future. I hope next time, they will be receiving awards here on this stage, and I can retire. Thank you very much.

END