

WATER'S EDGE

A Screenplay by H.V. Rhodes

For the Tie Up Loose Ends competition

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FADE IN

EXT. SHORE DAY

A MAN sits by a large body of water. His clothes are disheveled, once stylish but now shabby, as one who has come down in the world. He glances around and with one arm clutches a battered BRIEFCASE. A WOMAN walks toward him. She is elegantly dressed in business attire (blazer or white blouse/skirt combo or power dress) and strides confidently. Under her shoulder dangles a small HANDBAG. The man looks in the opposite direction and at his shoes. As the woman passes, he gazes intently at her back. The woman stops. Slowly she turns and walks back toward the man without ever looking at him. She pauses and contemplates the water.

WOMAN

So beautiful. But so much
beneath it that we don't see.

MAN

Some things are best unseen.

WOMAN

But a bright light reveals
all.

The woman smiles. She takes a seat near the man but at a separation of several feet or more.

WOMAN

So, here we are.

MAN

I wasn't sure you'd come. I
was rather hoping...

WOMAN

You're up for this, aren't
you?

MAN

I haven't done anything like
this before. Do you believe
me?

WOMAN

Yes, I do. But you did sound like this is what you really wanted.

MAN

It's one thing to talk about it, another to actually go through with it.

WOMAN

I suppose some reluctance is natural, under the circumstances. But I'm willing to go forward.

The man sighs heavily. A HOMELESS PERSON approaches the woman.

HOMELESS PERSON

Excuse me, but I'm certain a beautiful lady like you has some spare change to help the less fortunate?

The woman looks straight ahead and ignores the homeless person, who turns toward the man.

HOMELESS PERSON

You wouldn't by chance have some food in that bag you could share, brother?

MAN

Sorry. Nothing to eat in here.

The homeless person scowls and looks from one to the other, then shrugs and walks off.

WOMAN

So, then?

MAN

Yes, I'm in.

The woman glances at the man's briefcase.

WOMAN

I see you've come prepared.

The man pats the briefcase and smiles.

MAN

You could say once I was a
boy scout.

WOMAN

A boy scout! Where have I
heard that one before?