

Ashes

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Wright Now Play Later: October

PROMPT: traveling with ashes

Angela drives a car. An urn is in the passenger seat.

She talks to it.

At some point during the scene perhaps she stops the car.

As some point during the scene perhaps she starts driving again.

ANGELA

Don't think that just because *you* got cremated...

I mean that really isn't fair.

What is this, ancient Egypt? Where like the wife and the servants have to share the fate of the Pharaoh or whatever bullshit?

That's bullshit.

I don't want them to do that to my body.

Just incinerate me?

That doesn't sit well with me.

I'm sorry, it doesn't.

You made a bad choice.

But it was your choice to make. Maybe you were right.

Maybe it's selfish to take up space in the earth. But I really, I want to be buried.

Is that wrong?

Tell me it isn't wrong.

...

I could keep you, you know.

This whole, "Spread my ashes across the Hudson" . . .

Honestly, what is that?

That's so corny.

What does the Hudson really mean to you?

Have you ever even dipped a toe in the Hudson?

Now you want to be all dramatic about it.

"Spread my ashes across the Hudson."

Give me a fucking break.

...

I've never once heard you say the word "Hudson".

Except when you asked me if you should use the Hudson filter or the Perpetua filter on Instagram.

That's the only time I ever heard you say it.

...

I've been combing my mind.

I've been trying to remember.

I've been trying to justify this.

...

I'm not cremating myself for you.
I gave you everything. I gave up my last name for you.
That name was
That was half of my name.
And I took yours.

...

I'm like, am I even grieving for *you*? Or am I grieving for me, you know? Like the part of you that was me because we became like so... I don't know if I honestly like the part of me that was you.
I might actually be happy right now.
But I feel very, very guilty about that.

...

Who should I talk to about that?
You're the person I would talk to about this kind of thing.

...

I'm keeping you.
I'm sorry.
I'm not giving you to the Hudson until I'm ready.
You know some people keep their loved ones' bodies with them for awhile.
There's nothing abnormal about that.
There's nothing weird about me wanting whatever is left of you to be near me.
There isn't.
The Hudson can wait.
Okay?
Are you okay with that?
What does the Hudson mean to you?
Maybe I just never listened to you.
Maybe you told me and I didn't hear you.
Maybe you told me and I forgot?
Maybe you told me and I ignored you?
I did a lot of ignoring of you.

...

We still have some things to discuss. Okay?
I'll get you into the Hudson. I promise.
Just not today, okay?
You can wait, can't you?
I need you to wait.

...

Thank you for waiting.

END OF PLAY