

THE BRIDGE.

A bridge. It's partially destroyed. More than partially. Almost completely.

A group of three people (one older, one younger, one somewhere in the middle) work on the bridge, trying to fix it. They work diligently throughout everything that follows. No one pays them any attention.

Near the bridge, OT looks on, some kind of tool in hand.

Near OT, YT looks on, also some kind of tool in hand.

They take in the bridge for a good long while.

OT

Disheartened.

YT

Disheartened?

OT

You heard me. disheartened. Hope out the window.

YT

This isn't the worst you've seen.

OT

You don't know the worst I've seen.

YT

We've heard the old-timers –

OT

Old-timers?

YT

And we respect you.

Old-timers.	OT
We respect you because of what we've heard.	YT
You respect the old-timers.	OT
Because of your struggles.	YT
Oh. Our struggles.	OT
But if you've given up hope--	YT
You don't give up hope.	OT
If you've given up hope--	YT
Hope is stripped away.	OT
If you've given up hope--	YT
Listen, young timer--	OT
Young timer?	YT
You don't give up hope.	OT
Young timer?	YT
Hope is stripped from you.	OT

Young timer's not a thing. YT

Hope is pulled out of your soul over time. OT

Then if you've been stripped-- YT

Worn away like the rock from the water. OT

If you're pulled, if you're worn-- YT

If I'm worn, then what? OT

Maybe, you know: sit down. YT

PM enters, maybe from the group still working on the bridge, or maybe from off. No one notices PM, but PM notices the argument and lurks.

OT

...  
Sit down?

YT

Yeah, you look tired.

OT

Because I'm an old timer.

YT

You've been through a lot.

OT

Because I'm an old timer.

YT

You're worn. You're stripped. You said it yourself.

I said I'm disheartened.	OT
Among other things.	PM (speaking up)
I'm sorry, who are you?	OT
Just saying what I heard.	PM
What you heard.	OT
Trying to make peace.	PM
Are we here to make peace?	YT
I'm here to make peace.	PM
I'm here to make change.	YT
You new kids don't know from change.	OT
"New kids" sounds a little--	PM
We don't know from change?	YT
A little, you know--	PM
Because you never actually made change.	YT
Oh, we never made change?	OT

More than a little, I don't know--	PM
Change that stuck?	YT
Ooooooh.	OT
Derogatory, maybe?	PM
You don't know what life was --	OT
Life is what it was.	YT
Oh no. Oh no no no.	OT
That's maybe not a fair--	PM
You think this is what it was?	OT
Not a fair, I don't know--	PM
The change didn't stick.	YT
Comparison? Maybe not a fair comparison?	PM
You never saw from whence we came.	OT
<i>Whence?</i>	YT
There a problem with <i>whence</i> ?	OT

		PM	
Our tone here is maybe--			
	OT		YT
Tone?		Tone?	
		OT	
And you are who?			
		YT	
Who are you?			
		PM	
Oh I'm just here to – it was getting tense--			
		YT	
Getting tense?			
		OT	
Been tense.			
		YT	
You don't know tense.			
		OT	
We don't know tense?			
		YT	
Maybe you did.			
		OT	
We did.			
		PM	
Maybe we shouldn't--			
		YT	
But you got real comfortable.			
		PM	
Maybe not tell them what they know?			
		OT	
Oh, I earned comfort.			

The change never stuck. YT

Not that I ever got comfortable. OT

Fooled me. YT

Maybe not tell them how they feel-- PM

Who are you? OT Who are you? YT

And why are you in the middle of me and this one? OT

This one? YT

OT and YT get in each other's faces.

They bump PM as they do.

Whoa whoa whoa, let's not get crazy with me. I am trying to keep things calm, but you don't know me and what I'm about and what I can do and what I'm about to do-- PM

And it all breaks down. A big old argument.

The other three finish what they're doing, put down their tools, and move over to the argument.

We fixed it. OW

Not the whole thing. YW

But the bridge. OW

Not the whole bridge. YW

OW  
 Maybe that's beyond repair.

MW  
 Which is disheartening. Yeah.

YW  
 Tiring.

OW  
 Most of it's been worn away.

MW  
 Lemonade? We brought lemonade.

YW  
 But we think we fixed enough of it.

OW  
 Enough to get to the other side.

MW  
 Like the chicken!  
 (everyone else stares)  
 Crossing the road!  
 (everyone else stares)  
 Lemonade?

OW  
 And if you're tired, we've got this wagon.

YW  
 I can pull.

OW  
 And if you're angry and disappointed, I don't know.

MW  
 I've got this pillow. You could punch it.

OW  
 Or hold it on your face and scream.

YW  
 And you can ride in the wagon. I'll pull you both.



MW

(to PM)

And you? I'm not sure what we've got for you.

OW

But come on. We'll figure it out.

YW

Because we have to.

PW

We have to figure this out.

OW

Together.

YT takes the pillow, screams into it: loud and soul-shaking. YT cries.

OT hugs YT tight.

PM hugs both OT and YT tight. They all cry together.

OW, YW, and PW join the hug.

All six turn to the bridge.

And they cross the bridge together.

BLACKOUT.