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**LAKE MICHIGAN, SCENE 13**

The police came but we confused them with terrorists

The terrorists came and we confused them with our neighbors

And there were nationalists who spoke to the early Americans about love

And the early Americans spoke to the economists about protecting the homeland

And the economists spoke to the nazis about fiduciary responsibility

And the nazis spoke to the journalists about hope

And the journalists wrote about the disaster and we said no no our bodies don't look the way you say they look they are not filled with yellow clots they are filled with purple holes our skin is not ashen it's fluorescent our bones are not broken they are mending

And they took away our pills and said be happier

And they took away our doctors and said be healthier

And our perspective shifted from we to I from they to you

And they shaved our heads and burned us and asked us to find the perfect word to describe the water

And the lake looked like a filthy mop and we searched for the perfect word and I said disaster

And they searched for the perfect word and they said peace

And they said listen listen if you stand over here the voice of god says one thing in the wind and over there the voice of god says something completely different

And the authoritative body said the city has a collective challenge ahead not with our words but with our deeds in our everyday work whether it's instructing or leading or guiding

We must continue to move the needle we must significantly push the envelope we must think outside the box the bubble the vacuum

We have only scratched the surface of our full potential and we are ready to cement this chapter in the city of Chicago's history

We must be the highest performing city in America

Do I believe that's doable said the authoritative body to the functionaries absolutely absolutely it can get done we are not there yet but it can get done and it will get done so let us build a lasting culture of accountability to sustain our excellence

I look forward to the beach becoming a new beach said the mayor to the lake becoming a new lake

God is a tough act to follow the mayor said to the functionaries

The mayor is a tough act to follow the nazis said to the nationalists

The nazis are a tough act to follow the nationalists said to the economists

The burning lake is a tough act to follow

We must provide our citizens with a transformative experience said the mayor to our bodies as they broke on the shore

We do not want to merely retain your bodies we want to recondition your bodies

We want you to know that our collective commitment to your development reflects the city's collective commitment to what is small to what cannot be seen to what cannot be heard and nothing is more important than you

Nothing is more important than your bodies

You have the most face time with your children

You have the most face time with the media

You have the most face time with the terrorists

You have the most face time with those to whom we deliver our services and you are not alone in this crucial work

Your bodies are our machines and every day we will use your teeth your eyes your hair

But right now there's too much sand in your mouth

There's a lightning storm in your mouth

There's too much light in your eyes

There are swarms of bees in your nose

This is not what the city intended for your body

This is not what the city intended for your collective experience

The rain that falls is trash and the bus can only get you home if the door opens

I speak to you today said the authoritative body about social security

But what I really mean is that the windows only appear to be covered in shit

Look closely and you will see the horizon it only appears to be covered in blood

Look closely at the lake it only appears to be colonized with E.coli

Look closely at the healing body it only appears to be covered in wounds

I do not know your name or your number

I only know that your body is the burden    the border    between light and the balance of time