

LIGHTS UP. A MOUNTAIN ROAD.

*The road is lined with trees, possibly a street lamp or a traffic sign. A car is parked on the side of the road. It is early morning, before sunrise. The sun should rise slowly throughout the play. MARIGOLD, 29, sits beside the car, and PARKER, 31, enters from behind the car. Silence for a while.*

MARIGOLD

Are we just going to sit here? I'm calling Mark.

*She steps to the side, pulls out her phone and begins to call.*

PARKER

They won't even be awake!

MARIGOLD

It's seven AM on Christmas morning. Katie is probably already banging on door to wake US up.

PARKER

It's already seven?

MARIGOLD

Yes. Two hours there, an hour shopping, and we're halfway back. Do the math.

PARKER

Time's all jumbled up in my head right now.

MARIGOLD

There's no service. Goddammit.

*She raises her phone into the air for a signal. She frantically waves it across the stage.*

PARKER

Mary?

(Pause)

Mary.

(Pause)

Marigold!

MARIGOLD

What?

PARKER

Stop that.

MARIGOLD

I'm looking for service.

PARKER

That's not how cell phones work. Waving your phone around won't change the signal.

MARIGOLD

Yes it does.

PARKER

No, it doesn't.

MARIGOLD

Then why do people do it? In movies and stuff?

PARKER

Because those people don't know how cell phones work.

MARIGOLD

How do you know?

PARKER

I just— do. There's no signal out here, so just drop it.

MARIGOLD

I need to get in touch. Tell them what's going on.

PARKER

It's not going to work. You'll just get yourself frustrated.

MARIGOLD

Fine.

PARKER

We could hitchhike.

MARIGOLD

Have you seen another car pass by? One? There's not going to be a single person on these back roads until tomorrow.

PARKER

Except us.

MARIGOLD

Except us.

(Beat)

Do you know how far away we are?

PARKER

More than an hour by car.

MARIGOLD

Well didn't we pass... Something... A while back?

PARKER

That would be further back than the house is forward.

MARIGOLD

We can walk the rest of the way, can't we? Hike, or something?

PARKER

It's a four hour hike uphill. In the snow. We'd freeze.

MARIGOLD

We'll freeze here as it is. Might as well get some exercise.

PARKER

And besides, we can't just leave our car sitting here.

MARIGOLD

You're right. God it really is freezing out here.

PARKER

I think there are blankets in the back. I'll go get them.

MARIGOLD

That would be nice.

*Parker goes to find blankets.  
Mary attempts to regain signal  
once again.*

Come on, come on, come on.

*He walks back in with an armful  
of blankets and sets them on the  
car.*

PARKER

Mary. There's no signal out here.

MARIGOLD

Well we have to do something. We've got to-

PARKER

Mary. Look at me.

MARIGOLD

What? What?!

PARKER

Mark and Stacy will take care of Katie. Someone will come driving down this road, and we can hitch a ride to somewhere. Get enough service to call.

MARIGOLD

And what? Say 'Hi Katie, I know Santa didn't bring you any presents sweetie. He accidentally put them in our sedan in Walmart sacks, we'll be there in god-knows how long!'

PARKER

Just have Mark write a letter-from-Santa saying he's running late? I don't know.

MARIGOLD

Running late? Because that won't ruin the magic. I want this to be magical.

PARKER

Mary, we're getting back. We'll get back.

MARIGOLD

We should already be back. I hate this.

PARKER

It takes time. Katie will understand.

MARIGOLD

Will she?

PARKER

Yes! She's smart enough to understand that cars can stop working.

MARIGOLD

Why didn't you get the damn car fixed sooner? Maybe then we wouldn't have this problem.

PARKER

Because I didn't know it would die! What, am I supposed to predict the future?

MARIGOLD

Well at least think ahead sometimes, alright? I just wish you would be a little more... Prepared.

- END OF EXCERPT -

To finish reading the play contact the playwright:

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