

Martha King De Silva. 
PLAYWRIGHT

At rise, Joe and Annie are driving.

JOE

What time did you say your flight was? 2:00?

ANNIE

2:30.

JOE

Plenty of time.

ANNIE

Hm.

JOE

Shouldn't be much traffic on a Sunday.

ANNIE

No. I wouldn't think so.

JOE

United, right?

ANNIE

Hm-hm.

JOE

It's a direct flight, right-or?

ANNIE

It's direct.

JOE

So, you'll get to New York by-

ANNIE

A little before ten.

JOE

Good. Looks like good flying weather. First day we haven't had rain since we got to Seattle.

ANNIE
Yes.

JOE
I appreciate your coming out with me. I really do. It made the trip much easier.

ANNIE
(looking at him) Did it?

JOE
Much better than hauling all my stuff alone.

ANNIE
I suppose.

(silence)

JOE
(a beat) So, I thought I'd drop you off at the terminal and then park the car and then meet you at the gate—

ANNIE
Oh don't—

JOE
What do you mean?

ANNIE
No, I just. Well. Just drop me off at the terminal. That'll be fine.

JOE
Annie.

ANNIE
No. I mean it. I don't want a scene.

JOE
I'm not going to create a scene, I—

ANNIE
Not you. Me.

(silence)

JOE
Ned warned me, you know.

ANNIE
About?

JOE
He said, "Never drive across the country with a woman.
Things can happen."

ANNIE
Hm.

JOE
I just didn't think it would happen with you.

(silence)

JOE
Probably wouldn't have happened if we'd sprung for a
better hotel in Pittsburgh. I'd have raided the mini-bar;
you'd have gone down to the pool and we'd be fine. (a
beat) You'd still be speaking to me. (a beat) Will you
call me when you get in?

ANNIE
Why?

JOE
Because. I want to know that you got there safely.

ANNIE
If you don't hear that the plane crashed, you can assume
I got there safely.

JOE
(silence) Well, then, can I call you?

ANNIE
I don't want you to for a while.

JOE
Seriously?

ANNIE
It'd just be too hard.

JOE
Am I ever going to talk to you again? (she says nothing)
Annie. C'mon. You're my best friend. Ever since--

ANNIE
I know.

(The lights change as ANNIE and Joe assume the postures of five and six year olds, respectively)

JOE

What happened to your party favor?

ANNIE

I finished it.

JOE

All that candy?

ANNIE

Yup. Aren't you going to eat yours?

JOE

Nope. I'm saving mine for later.

ANNIE

Oh. (she looks) You got cake on your glasses.

JOE

No. I don't.

ANNIE

Yes you do so. Right. Here. (she goes to rub it)

JOE

Leave it. Now you made it worse.

ANNIE

How can you see?

JOE

I see fine.

ANNIE

Can I try your glasses on?

JOE

No. Get your own glasses. (she thinks about this)

ANNIE

I don't have any.

JOE

Too bad for you then. (they are silent)

ANNIE

You don't have to be so mean.

JOE

(he softens) Okay. But don't break 'em. This is my third pair.

ANNIE

(trying them on) How do you see through these? They're all fuzzy.

JOE

That's the way they're supposed to be, stupid.

ANNIE

I'm not stupid. How do I look? (she smiles)

JOE

Retarded.

ANNIE

I do not! I bet I look really good. I wish I could get a pair of glasses. I'm going to tell my mother I can't see so good. And then maybe she'll let me.

JOE

She's not going to get you a pair of glasses just 'cause you want 'em. You have to need 'em.

ANNIE

(disappointed) Oh.

JOE

Whatsa matter? You're not supposed to want glasses. Geez. My eyes are bad. I can't see. I could go blind someday.

ANNIE

Really?

JOE

Maybe.

ANNIE

Says who?

JOE

My father.

ANNIE

(she crosses her eyes) My father says that if I do this too much my eyes will stay that way.

JOE

Don't do that! Ew! Crossing your eyes. It's gross.

(silence)

ANNIE

Joey?

JOE

What?

ANNIE

I think your glasses look really nice.

JOE

Really?

ANNIE

Yeah. Really.

(In the present, two days earlier; their car has broken down just outside of Billings, Montana)

ANNIE

(to Joe) What do you suppose is wrong with it?

JOE

Can't tell.

ANNIE

The guy at the station back in Rapid City said—

JOE

(cutting her off) I know. I heard him.

ANNIE

So do we just wait?

JOE

Guess so.

ANNIE

That could take forever.

JOE
Hopefully not.

(a LONG pause)

ANNIE
It's not the air conditioner is it? I noticed the air conditioner was acting a little funny before. It was making this. Puh-puh noise.

JOE
(laughing in spite of himself) I don't think it's the air conditioner.

ANNIE
Well. Never been to Billings, Montana before. Now we really get to see what it looks like. (silence)

JOE
I was hoping we'd be able to get into Washington tonight.

ANNIE
Well, like you said--

TOGETHER
We're not on a schedule.

JOE
I'm sorry about the car.

ANNIE
It's not your fault. It's the stupid rental agency's.

JOE
Yeah.

ANNIE
Maybe we can trade it in for a larger car.

JOE
Probably a good idea.

(another LONG pause)

ANNIE
One with a really big air conditioner. (they laugh)

JOE
That would be good.

ANNIE
Reclining seats.

JOE
Yeah.

ANNIE
And a CD player.

JOE
(teasing) Even though we don't have any CD's?

ANNIE
Well. (she smiles; he smiles back)

JOE
I didn't mean to snap at you yesterday. (he looks at her)

ANNIE
It's okay. I snapped too.

JOE
We were having a nice time and-

ANNIE
We were having a nice time, weren't we?

(a beat)

JOE
Pittsburgh kind of threw me.

ANNIE
That's just because we weren't expecting it. Believe me--

JOE
Yeah, I--

ANNIE
--I was surprised too. Shocked, really.

JOE
Yeah.

ANNIE
After all those years. Who would have thought?

JOE
I know.

ANNIE

I don't know why I didn't see it before. It was so obvious. I mean, the thing of it is I'm in--

JOE

(quickly) Annie, don't!

ANNIE

Why? Why shouldn't I say it? (a beat) It's true.

JOE

Because, I---. Oh, God. (a beat) I can't do this.

ANNIE

Joe--

JOE

Listen. (a beat) You're the best friend I've ever had. Ever. And I wouldn't have picked anyone else to come on this trip with me. Anyone. (he takes her hand and kisses it)

ANNIE

I know. It's been a really good trip and--

JOE

I can't do this. (he looks at her) I can't do this with you.

ANNIE

Why? Everything's been great so far! Except for Mount Rushmore. (beat) We're really good together. I'm really good for you and--

(silence)

JOE

It's just that I don't. I don't have those. Feelings. I mean. (a beat) Look. I thought that maybe. But. I. Can't. Not like that--

ANNIE

Well I know it feels weird because we've known each other for so long and--. Look, we'll take it slowly. As slow as you want. I mean, we'll have to, of course. (she laughs) I won't even come for Columbus Day if you don't want and--

JOE

No, really. It wouldn't work. I promise you it wouldn't. And I just need you. I need you so badly as a friend and if we keep going down this road, then we'll never get back and--

ANNIE

Well, you know, you can have both. I mean that's what--

JOE

Please. You have to trust me on this. I can't do it. I don't want to do it. I just. (silence) Look, it's been really great. (a pause) I just think we do better as friends, you know? (she is silent) Annie? (he pulls a strand of hair from her face)