

ETHAN           What?

TERESA        Just quit for no reason. Like someone turned off the ignition or something.

DOUGLAS       Sounds like the alternator to me.

MARTIN        That'd be my guess too.

TERESA        So, I was wondering if I could use your phone to call a tow truck?

DOUGLAS       Oh, no need for that. I'll give you a ride home, Miss Pike. We can look after that car of yours tomorrow.

MARTIN        Yeah, it'll probably start tomorrow.

TERESA        Oh, well, that's very kind of you, Douglas.

ETHAN         That might not be a good idea, Douglas. I mean, you have been drinking.

DOUGLAS       Oh, right. Well, I'll tell you what then. I'll call Caroline and she can drive you home, Miss Pike.

TERESA        Thank you. That's very kind.

                  DOUGLAS moves to the phone.

MARTIN        Here's a better idea, Doug.

DOUGLAS       Actually, I've got a better idea. I'll walk over and get Caroline.

ETHAN         Why? Why not just phone her?

DOUGLAS       Well... because.

ETHAN         Because why?

DOUGLAS       Because I don't want to.

ETHAN         Why not?

DOUGLAS       Because if I walk over, it'll take longer and it'll give you two some time alone. Now, isn't that a good idea?

MARTIN        It's a great idea.

DOUGLAS       See you in a bit.

                  DOUGLAS exits. *Begin*

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ETHAN         (to TERESA) I'm sorry about that.

TERESA        It seems the good people of Gladden's Head are determined to get us together somehow.

ETHAN         Oh, you've noticed, have you??

TERESA        Oh, yes. I guess no one thinks that a person can be alone in this world. Everybody's got to be attached, you know?

ETHAN         Yeah.

TERESA        Especially around Christmastime. Nobody likes to think that someone's going to spend Christmas alone.

MARTIN        Offer her a seat.

ETHAN         (to MARTIN) I was going to.

TERESA        Going to what?

ETHAN         Spend Christmas alone.

TERESA        Yes, me too.

ETHAN Would you like to sit?

TERESA Oh, thank you.

*TERESA sits. There is a pause.*

ETHAN Well.

MARTIN *(to ETHAN)* Hello?? What about a drink? Something to take the chill off?

ETHAN Would you like a drink? Rum and eggnog?

TERESA Oh, all right. That'd be nice. But, only if you're having one.

ETHAN Sure, I'll have one. *(He moves to the cupboard to get the drinks.)* Too bad about your car.

TERESA Yes. *(Beat.)* It really did die on me. I mean, I didn't make that up just to... you know... so, I could come back here and...

ETHAN No, I believe you. I'm sure it did die. *(looking at MARTIN)* In fact, I know it did. *(Beat.)* So, you're spending Christmas alone. You've got no family to spend it with?

TERESA No, my parents spend every Christmas in Florida. They invited me to come down, but Christmas in Florida wouldn't seem like Christmas to me.

ETHAN No brothers or sisters?

TERESA No, I'm an only child I'm afraid.

ETHAN Well, now, there's a lot to be said for being an only child.

MARTIN Watch it.

TERESA Well, I always wished I had a sister.

MARTIN I did have a sister. Right, Nancy?

TERESA It would've been nice to have had someone to share my childhood with. An older sister that I could learn from. Look up to. I think we would've been very close.

*ETHAN gives TERESA her drink.*

Thank you. So, you and your brother, you weren't close?

ETHAN Not really.

TERESA Why not?

ETHAN *(Beat.)* I don't know. Things happened. *(changing the subject)* So, you've never been married?

TERESA No.

ETHAN Well, that's surprising. An attractive, intelligent woman like you. No man's ever proposed to you?

*TERESA doesn't answer.*

MARTIN Oh-oh. Sore spot. *END*

ETHAN *(to TERESA)* I'm sorry. Is that a sore spot?

MARTIN Isn't that what I just said?

ETHAN *(to MARTIN)* Do you mind?

TERESA No, I don't mind. I'm over it now. I