

HOPE

Start

Yeah. And I guess he did too. I never thought he would. I guess I lost track. . . You gotta hold onto people or you lose 'em. Wish there was something you could keep 'em in for when you need 'em . . . *(Trying to make light, she "looks for him," and "finds him" in her purse.)* Oh, there he is, perfect! *(She laughs. Not much of a response from Daniel.)*

*Beat.*

*She starts to go; stops.)*

Boy it's cold. I forgot.

DANIEL

Yeah.

*(Beat.)*

HOPE

*(Starts to go. Stops.)* I can't believe - - . . . I took a taxi here. From Bangor. *(Bangor is 163 miles south of Almost, Maine.)* To see him.

DANIEL

*(Beat.)*

*She took a taxi 163 miles.)*

That's far.

HOPE

Yeah.

DANIEL

That's a hundred and sixty-three miles.

HOPE

Yeah. This place is a little farther away from things than I remember.

DANIEL

Why did you do that?

HOPE

Because I could only fly as close as Bangor and I needed to get to him as fast as I could.

DANIEL

Why?

HOPE

Because I want to answer a question he asked me.

DANIEL

Oh?

HOPE

The last time I saw him, he asked me a very important question and I didn't answer it, and that's just not a very nice thing to do to a person.

DANIEL

Well, that's bein' a little hard on yourself, don't you th // ink?

HOPE

He asked me to marry him.

DANIEL

Oh.

*(Beat.)*

And you . . .

HOPE

Didn't answer him. No. ] end

*(Daniel whistles.)*

Yeah. And that's why I'm here. To answer him.

*(Beat.)*

*Then, realizing she probably ought to defend herself.)* I mean, I didn't answer him in the first place because I didn't *have* an answer at the time. I mean, I was going to *college*, and then . . . the *night* before I'm about to go off into the world to do what I hope and