

LAST RIGHT BEFORE THE VOID

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by  
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## Cast of Characters

CHRISTIAN, a young man in his mid to late teens

WOMAN, late thirties

MAN, late thirties or forties

(Night. Minnesota. Two hitchhikers, CHRISTIAN, mid to late teens, and a WOMAN, late thirties, stand on opposite sides of a dark highway. The Woman wears a bathing suit and a fur hat and holds a sign that says "Alaska.")

CHRISTIAN

Do I look like I killed my father and slept with my mother?  
(beat)

Do I?

(beat)

I thought you might want to know. I'm hitchhiking because my car broke down. That's a lie. It broke down, but it's not my car. It's my father's car. Pieces of it broke off when I ran over my father in front of our house. That's a lie. He's not my real father. My real father killed himself when I was two. Or four. My Mom tells it both ways. When I was two, he took me to a baseball game, then left me with a hot dog vendor and hung himself in a bathroom. When I was four, I was asleep and he stuck a shotgun in his mouth and woke me up from a dream about a sea horse.

(Christian crosses the road to the Woman)

He also killed himself when I was six by jumping into a pool of concrete at a construction site or by suffocating himself in a plastic bag. I was at my grandparents' for the weekend.

(beat)

Do you really think someone's going to drive you from Minnesota to Alaska?

WOMAN

Don't make me use the fish in my purse.

CHRISTIAN

My Mom was supposed to go to Alaska once, only my Dad killed himself or I got chicken pox, and she couldn't go.

WOMAN

It's been in there for a week.

CHRISTIAN

I'm in college.

WOMAN

A week is a long time in fish years.

CHRISTIAN

I go to community college. I wish I could live at school. I don't think I'd have so many problems at home if I lived at school. That's a lie. I dropped out, because I got fired from my job at the mall. I handed out flyers for a seafood restaurant--Joe's Seafood--until I got fired. And I was in this Calvin Klein underwear ad when I was twelve.

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CHRISTIAN (cont'd)

With my shirt off. That's a lie. It wasn't Calvin Klein, and I was sixteen. I'm nineteen now.

(beat)

I walked through an accident up the road. It's a big one. You'll see it if you go that way.

WOMAN

Do you think I'm joking about that fish?

CHRISTIAN

Would you like me better if I took my shirt off? You're old enough to be my mother.

WOMAN

You're blocking my sun.

CHRISTIAN

I got stopped by the state police. At the accident. They thought maybe I was hurt. There were three ambulances.

(beat)

I have a scar. Do you want to see it?

WOMAN

I thought you were going in the other direction.

CHRISTIAN

If you look at my scar I'll go back 'cross the road. Do you want to see it?

(beat)

You can't, 'cause it's psychological. I'm emotionally and psychologically scarred from running over my stepfather.

WOMAN

You need to leave.

CHRISTIAN

I need to talk to somebody. It's only been three hours since I ran over my stepfather, and after this exit, the road turns into a...black hole.

WOMAN

Wouldn't a black hole be better if they're after you?

CHRISTIAN

You hate me. You'd like me better with my shirt off. I work out.

(beat)

If I don't stand near this exit, nobody'll see me. I'll be waiting all night.

WOMAN

Then they'll see you tomorrow in the daylight. Or walk back to the last exit.

CHRISTIAN

I can't go back through the accident. They'd ask me questions this time.

(beat)

It's supposed to go down to twenty degrees tonight.

WOMAN

You should go and get warm then.

CHRISTIAN

You too.

WOMAN

I'll be fine. I'm dressed for Alaska.

(The sound of a CAR. Headlights. Christian puts his thumb out. We hear it PULL OVER. A door OPENS and CLOSES.)

You've got to leave--now!

CHRISTIAN

No way--this could be my ride.

(Enter a MAN, about the same age as the Woman, wearing a boxer's robe and boxing gloves.)

MAN

Anyone going to Alaska?

(The Woman raises her hand. Beat. So does Christian. To Christian)

Who're you?

CHRISTIAN

I'm...

(decides not to introduce himself)

good, thanks.

MAN

Good--see ya'.

CHRISTIAN

Just give me a ride to the next town.

MAN

There is no next town. We're on the edge of the void.

CHRISTIAN

(Beat. To the Woman)

I could take my shirt off in the car. I can bench more than my weight, which is amazing for high school.

WOMAN

You said you were in college.

CHRISTIAN

That was a lie. I'm seventeen. But I really killed my stepfather.

WOMAN

Arrest him.

(beat)

Arrest him, officer.

MAN

You're under arrest for the murder of...the player to be named later.

CHRISTIAN

You're not a cop.

MAN

Christian, take a walk.

CHRISTIAN

My name's not Christian. That's a lie. But you're not supposed to know it. Did you hear my name on the news?

MAN

Why would your name be on the news?

CHRISTIAN

Because I killed my--no, that's a lie. But I wanted to.

WOMAN

Go home, Christian.

CHRISTIAN

I can't. I made up my entire home life. I don't have a home life. I'm home lifeless.

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