

THE ROAD

A SKETCH

by
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Commissioned by
Martensdale Community Church
Martensdale, Iowa



AUTHOR'S NOTE

The Road is a companion piece to our popular one-act, *The Fog*. Approximately 6 ½ minutes. It was written to illustrate the exposition of Matthew 2:12-23—i.e., God sending us somewhere not of our choosing, even putting us through hard times, in order to accomplish His sovereign will.

CHARACTERS

Woman (old enough to have a grown son)
Man (an adult of indeterminate age)

SCENE

The Time: Now

The Place: a funeral, or before or after a memorial service

House lights down.

Stage lights up.

Enter a woman. She is deeply troubled over the recent death of her son. Though a believer, she is feeling alienated from God, and angry (at Him) over the loss of her son.

Her mind is a jumble of dark and, admittedly, self-centered thoughts: (Why me?) As she stands there, dazed, she glances up and discovers someone to blame. With an anger born out of dark loss and despair she addresses God.

Woman

(to God; with dark, visceral anger)

You let me down. I prayed for him to get better, but he didn't. What's the purpose in this? How could it possibly be right?

(expecting an answer)

Well?

(not getting one)

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Fine. Then we'll just leave it at that.

Enter Man.

Man

(courteously)

Excuse me. I'd like to pay my respects.

Woman

(flatly)

Did you know my son?

Man

No.

Woman

(mildly surprised)

Oh. Then, why...

Man

How are you doing?

Woman

(struggling to put on a good face)

Oh, fine. It's hard, but—fine.

Man

Is there anything I can do for you?

Woman

Well, you could introduce yourself.

Man

Is your husband with you?

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Woman

*(frowning—both at the thought of her husband
and that the Man ignored her question)*

He didn't come back for the funeral.

Man

I'm sorry to hear that. Must have made it all the more difficult for you.

Woman

(wistfully)

Yes—

(beat; sharply)

Wait a minute. You're being very familiar—and I don't know you.

Man

(disappointed)

Oh. I'm sure that you do.

Woman

I think I would know.

Man

This has been hard for you.

The woman slumps wearily.

Woman

(the weight of events catching up with her)

And now I'm alone.

Man

That can't be true.

1 **Woman**

2 It feels like God has shoved me down a road I never would have
3 chosen—a road going in the wrong direction. He's made me go
4 through things— It's not fair. Just not fair.

5 *(wisfully)*

6 By now I was to have grandchildren on my lap—a husband by my side.
7 He had no right.

8

9 **Man**

10 Your husband?

11

12 **Woman**

13 *(sharply angry)*

14 God! He had no right.

15 *(pause; wearily)*

16 I'm sorry. This doesn't concern you.

17

18 **Man**

19 But it does.

20

21 **Woman**

22 *(after studying him; heavily)*

23 Who are you?

24

25 **Man**

26 Someone who's been there.

27

28 **Woman**

29 Been where?

30

31 **Man**

32 Where you are right now.

33 *(pause)*

34 I've been down that same road—but it wasn't the wrong road. It wasn't
35 where I wanted to be, but it was where I needed to be.

36

1 **Woman**

2 Don't give me riddles.

3

4 **Man**

5 *(after a long, thoughtful pause while he comes up with an illustration;*
6 *mischievously)*

7 I'm short, you know.

8

9 **Woman**

10 Really.

11

12 **Man**

13 Shorter than people expect.

14

15 **Woman**

16 *(dismissively)*

17 I wouldn't know what to expect.

18

19 **Man**

20 Because I'm short, I don't see very far down the road.

21

22 ***The woman only gives him a blank stare.***

23

24 **Man**

25 The earth curves, you see. The taller you are, the farther you see
26 down the road. I'm short. I don't see very far. I don't always see the
27 destination before I get there. I just have to keep going, believing it's
28 there. I have to trust I'm on the right road.

29

30 **Woman**

31 *(after considering)*

32 Even when the road's hard?

33

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1 **Man**

2 Especially then.

3 *(beat)*

4 You may not see the destination. But it's there. All the time, it's there.

5
6 **Woman**

7 That's asking a lot.

8
9 **Man**

10 Perhaps. But it's the only way to keep going.

11
12 **Woman**
13 *(after a pause; sadly)*

14 My son didn't know you, did he?

15
16 **Man**
17 *(regretfully)*

18 I'm afraid not.

19 *(beat; smiling)*

20 But you do.
21
22 **Woman**
23 *(wistfully)*

24 I thought I did.

25
26 **Man**
27 *(earnestly)*

28 You're not alone. Ever.

29 *(beat)*

30 You're right: God has set you on a road not of your choosing. But that
31 doesn't make it the wrong road.

32 *(beat)*

33 It just makes it His road.

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Woman

But if I know you, shouldn't the road be easier?

Man

(considering)

Sometimes knowing me makes the road even harder.

Woman

Then what's the point? Shouldn't there be some advantage?

(angrily)

He took my son. That's not worth it.

Man

(after a moment's thought)

They didn't understand when He took His own Son. It was a road I wouldn't have chosen. It was hard. But it was necessary.

Woman

And this was necessary? Losing my son was necessary?

Man

(with affection)

You're too short to see very far down the road. But He does.

(beat)

And I do. I know the way. And I know the destination.

Woman

(with a heavy sigh)

You're not making this easy.

Man

It wasn't easy for me. But I can make it easier for you—if you trust me.

Woman

That can be hard, too.

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Man

You see, I am not just with you on the road. I am the road.

(warmly)

And it can be a wonderful journey.

Woman

(stopping)

But it's dark out there.

Man

It can be.

(smiling; leading her out)

But I have the light.

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