

## SO FAR AWAY

by Rikki Schwartz

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** When Jacob is turned down for a promotion at work, he struggles to feel “connected” with his wife.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The stage directions call for a number of beats and pauses along the way. Bear in mind that these moments are a part of the scene and just as important as the dialogue. Big things can be communicated in the silences of the characters, and those moments shouldn't be glossed over or rushed past simply because no one is speaking. The inability to communicate is a huge part of the couple's problem—their silence speaks volumes!

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Relationships, Marriage

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Ephesians 5:25-29, Proverbs 31:10

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker service focused on the hazards of poor or nonvigilant marital communication

**CHARACTERS:**

JACOB—husband

DIANE—wife

**PROPS:** Adding machine, checkbook, “bills,” briefcase, cordless telephone

**COSTUMES:** Jacob is in a suit and tie; Diane is dressed in casual attire.

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones, if desired

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A dining room

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*At lights up, DIANE is sitting at the dining room table with checkbook, mail, and adding machine, paying bills. JACOB enters, puts down his briefcase, and walks through living room past Diane. She follows him with her eyes but does not rise.*

**DIANE:** *(Confused at no acknowledgement)* Hello?

**JACOB:** *(Offstage)* Do we have any salami?

**DIANE:** No—we're out. Sit down—I'll make you something.

**JACOB:** With what, Diane? *(Reenters living room)* There is no food in this house.

**DIANE:** I'm going shopping tomorrow. How about pasta?

**JACOB:** I thought you were going shopping today.

**DIANE:** I'm going tomorrow. Do you want to order in?

**JACOB:** Yes, Diane. I want to throw money away on takeout because you couldn't go shopping today.

**DIANE:** What do you want me to say, Jacob?

**JACOB:** I want you to say you went shopping today—like you said you would—and that we have salami. That's what I want you to say.

*Silence. DIANE goes back to the bills.*

**JACOB:** *(Sits down on the couch and takes off tie)* Where's the mail?

**DIANE:** It's all bills—I'm paying them now.

**JACOB:** Can I look at them first?

**DIANE:** Help yourself.

*JACOB walks over to dining room table and begins to leaf through bills—finally throws them back onto table in disgust and returns to sofa.*

**DIANE:** I take it that it didn't go well.

**JACOB:** What?

**DIANE:** *(Frustrated because he knows very well "what")* The interview.

**JACOB:** No...it did not go well. They're going with Carl.

**DIANE:** Well, he's been there longer than you, right?