

## Scene Two: Relatively Speaking

(As the lights come up onstage, we see the Christmas tree lit and DAD crossing to the door. He welcomes in BUNNY, BUD, and TRACY. BETH is seated in a chair, texting.)

DAD. Hello! Come on in.

BUNNY. Have you ever seen such a snow in your life? And on Christmas Eve. Isn't it beautiful?!

BUD. It's a road hazard, that's all it is.

BUNNY. Oh, stop your bellyachin', you ole Grinch.

DAD. (helps BUNNY with her coat) Here let me take that.

BUD. It's slick as a whale turd out there.

BETH. ...that paints a lovely mental picture...

DAD. (shoots her an irritated look) Glad you made it safe, Bud.

BUD. Just barely - people drive like idiots in this stuff.

BUNNY. You think people drive like idiots when it's not snowing.

BUD. That's because they do. They just drive like bigger ones when it is.

BUNNY. Bud Nester if you don't stop complaining - Santa's going to leave you a sack of coal for Christmas.

BUD. Good, I can use it to warm up my feet.

DAD. Well settle in and get warm. Hello Tracy, it's great to see you! Beth, why don't you and Tracy go into the kitchen and get everyone something to drink.

(As BUD begins to speak, we see BETH and TRACY roll their eyes and then mouth out every word that BUD says in such a way that we get the feeling they've heard this old joke many times before.)

BUD. Make mine a scotch and soda - hold the soda.

(He laughs at himself as if it's the first time he's ever said it.)

BUNNY. Never mind your uncle, sweetheart - he doesn't even drink alcohol. He just thinks that line is hysterical.

BETH & TRACY. (together, quietly) He's the only one...

DAD. (clears his throat intentionally) Go.

(They exit.)

BUNNY. Okay Tom, why's my baby sister not here to greet me?!

DAD. She's been in Vermont on business and had a late flight out. She called a while ago and said that her flight was delayed while they cleared the runways and de-iced the plane. But she should be here soon.

BUNNY. Vermont? On Christmas Eve?! What's so important in Vermont?

BUD. Nothing's important in Vermont! Inns and maple syrup - it's all they got.

DAD. And covered bridges.

BUD. Who cares about covered bridges? That's just one more thing you gotta keep up with.

BUNNY. Why's she there?

DAD. Her firm was hired to oversee the renovation and repair of five different bridges across the state.

BUD. What's I say? - just more to keep up with! A fella'd hafta have a screw loose to wanna live in Vermont.

BUNNY. Vermont is a beautiful state -

BUD. No it's not - it's a rat hole! They only have two seasons in Vermont: Winter and late winter.

BUNNY. Whata you know about it?

BUD. Plenty, you have the same two seasons!

BUNNY. If you ever want "spring thaw" - you better start behaving!

(BETH and TRACY enter from kitchen carrying glasses for everyone. BETH crosses to BUD and BUNNY and hands them their drinks.)

BETH. Here you go.

BUNNY. Thank you dear. (sips) Mmmmm, that's good - what is it?

BETH. Christmas punch.

BUD. (looks down into his cup, suspect) What's in it?

②  
BUNNY  
+  
BUD