

Dark, Cold and Quiet

A short play play

By Mark Chrisler

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DARK, COLD AND QUIET

Bobby is in his spaceship, slowly scrolling through radio stations. As he does, the different voices fade in and out.

KIM

Bobby, if you're listening, I just want you to know that we miss you. And we love you. And we're proud of you. And we're almost out of peanut butter...

(fading out)

CORPORAL

(fading in)

...Bobby, if you're listening... don't! You're supposed to be scanning the frequencies! Come on, keep going! Why does my finger smell like gasoline? I haven't even driven anywhere today...

(fading out)

BILLY

(fading in)

...And I want a 3DS, and I want French Toast for breakfast, and I want a camel with machine-gun eyes...

(fading out)

RICK RICKLY

(fading in)

...A new space mission is captivating the world, as Bobby Campbell even now hurtles away from our planet in search of God...

(fading out)

RADIO ANNOUNCER

(fading in)

... Do you suffer from erectile dysfunction? Do you often find it hard...

BILLY

...to...

RICK RICKLY

...believe...

CORPORAL

...there's something...

KIM

...out there?...

RICK RICKLY

...With us is Dr. G.F. Howell. Doctor, explain for us how this mission works.

DR. HOWELL

Well, we at NASA developed a sort of “space radio,” which we call the “space radio,” which is capable of picking up a lot of different kinds of broadcasts.

RICK RICKLY

Like this program, for instance?

DR. HOWELL

This program or any other, yes. For starters...

RADIO ANNOUNCER

...Do you just want to bring back that loving feeling?...

RICK RICKLY

...But other things, too, correct?

DR. HOWELL

Oh yes. People’s inner thoughts...

KIM

...So, I went to the grocery store to pick some more up, and for some reason it really made me miss you. Really made me feel lonely...

DR. HOWELL

...And prayers...

BILLY

...And I want a Spyro The Dragon Toy, and a Spyro The Dragon video game for my 3DS I want, and a...

DR. HOWELL

... But most interestingly, we think, it should be able to pick up the voice of God...

CORPORAL

...Have you found him yet, Bobby? No, no. I’d have heard from you. So keep scanning those airwaves. Don’t be listening in on my thoughts, I don’t have anything to say. Just “Back in Black” stuck in my head. Baow. Bidi baow. Bidi baow. Be de da de dum...

RICK RICKLY

... Presuming, of course, that there is a God.

DR. HOWELL

Yes, that's the question. There's a lot of research out there that says our prayers aren't being answered...

BILLY

... And a hover-car...

DR. HOWELL

...That our loneliness is deeper than it used to be...

KIM

...Just crying with this peanut butter jar in the aisle when Jim from the PTA saw me. I just sort of spilt it all out on him, you know? Because I was feeling so lonely...

RADIO ANNOUNCER

...If you've tried everything to get back that "lovin' feelin'" why not try our new, medically proven solution: hardcore pornography...

KIM

...I'm sorry, Bobby. I was just so lonely...

CORPORAL

... Back in black, a taddle dack. I don't know the words like I used to...

RICK RICKLY

...Fascinating stuff. Dr. G.F. Howell, thank you for being with us today. If you have any thoughts on our last and ultimate chance at peace and understanding in the universe, please text them "Long Shot" to 54075. Coming up next, are teachers brainwashing your children for jihad?...

CORPORAL

...Too many drugs...

KIM

... How could you leave me here alone? You come back or I'll do him again. I swear I will. I'm going to bonk his fucking brains out you traitor!...

BILLY

...And bless mommy, and bless daddy, and bless Fido and bless the spaceman. And, God, if you're still listening... it's about my sister, Aubrey: will you please, please make sure you kill her soon. Pretty please? Amen...

Bobby turns the dial and there's a long, long moment of silence.

BOBBY

Found him.

Black out.

End of play.