

Main Focus: BLAKE, MERRY

(Blake enters holding check)

BLAKE- It's time to chop wood for no reason.

(About to chop wood but stops) Sometimes it's hard to chop wood. Because of my heart. And my emotions.

(Merry enters)

MERRY- Blake!

BLAKE- Merry! *(A moment of smoldering intensity)* Sorry I'm a little hot and sweaty right now- from all the manly work I've been doing. *(He turns away)* But I can't talk to you- I thought what we had was special.

MERRY- We only hung out for few hours.

BLAKE- Hours! Some of the greatest hours of my life. Ice-skating in a small town. Really changes the way you think about things, doesn't it? What have you come back for?

MERRY- Isn't it obvious? I've come back for you.

BLAKE- Well I'm not here anymore! I mean- I'm here, but you've hurt my heart. Feel it.

MERRY- *(She feels his heart)* Yes.

BLAKE- It's hurting!

MERRY- Let me feel it again. *(Feels heart)* Hold on. If you could flex a bit I could feel more.

BLAKE- *(Pulls away)* It's too late Merry!

MERRY- I need to tell you something.

BLAKE- What? *(A moment of smoldering intensity)*

MERRY- *(Her phone rings)* Just ignore that.

BLAKE- You'll always be pulled towards your phone. And your fancy job as a real estate lawyer businessperson in a big city. I'm not the kind of guy for you.

MERRY- *(Answers phone)* This is Merry.

BLAKE- Aarrrrgh.

MERRY- *(Into phone)* I don't think we should buy the farm.

BLAKE- What?

MERRY- *(Into phone)* You heard me. Some things are more important than golf courses. Like Christmas tree farms. And small towns. And Christmas. And Christmas trees. I didn't understand that before I came to Hopewood Falls, but now I do. I'm quitting my job as a businessperson real estate lawyer in the big city, and I'm moving here. So you can build your gold course somewhere else- the people here can't afford it. Because they're super poor and old-fashioned.

(Merry throws her phone offstage)

BLAKE- Did you mean what you just said?

MERRY- I said dramatically didn't I? I'm all in, Blake. I don't need a job or career or income or a place to live or clothes or food when I've got Christmas.

BLAKE- And I don't need this check. *(Rips up check)*