

**HOPE**

Good night, Officers.

*(The cops exit.)*

**HOPE**

You were rather brave with them.

**BOBBY**

I don't care for policemen. Not those two, anyway.

**HOPE**

Policemen protect the peace.

**BOBBY**

Do they?

**HOPE**

Usually.

*(Pause.)*

**BOBBY**

Didn't I see you down by the amenity this morning?

**HOPE**

That was me. I was rushing off to work, first day.

**BOBBY**

Find your way all right?

**HOPE**

The gleaming tower on the hill? Couldn't miss it.

**BOBBY**

Beautiful.

**HOPE**

It's rather shiny, that's true enough.

*(Pause.)*

**BOBBY**

Did you mean what you said to those policemen? About everyone having a heart?

**OVER**

HOPE

Well, sure I did.

BOBBY

Because...well, because mine feels awful cold just now.

HOPE

Cold?

BOBBY

Or empty. One of the two.

HOPE

Not because of me, I hope?

BOBBY

Oh no. Because of something I did. Or, rather, something I didn't do.

HOPE

If it feels cold, then it must still be there, don't you think?

BOBBY

Unless there's a vacuum where it used to be.

HOPE

A vacuum? In your chest? It sounds so implausible.

BOBBY

I did something wrong this morning is all I'm trying to say. I can't seem to get it out of my head.

HOPE

The vacuum?

BOBBY

My action. I let someone down that I love dearly. I feel real bad about it.

HOPE

Well, maybe that's nature's way of telling you that now's the time to lift someone up?

BOBBY

Really?

HOPE

Sure. Do you think you'd be feeling as bad as you do if you didn't have a heart?

BOBBY

I don't know. I suppose not.

HOPE

Of course you wouldn't. Because then you'd be dead.