

The States Collection – North Dakota – The Enchanted Highway
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CAST: 2 (male or female)

Kirby (male or female) ageless; maybe they are the artist; maybe an admirer; loves North Dakota

Devan (male or female) college students; not fond of outside art

LIGHTS UP on KIRBY in a folding lawn chair. Maybe we hear a car door slam.
 DEVAN approaches.

DEVAN

What is all this twisted metal doing on the highway? It's an eyesore.

KIRBY

It's art.

DEVAN

It's trash.

KIRBY

Did you get on the "Judgmental Train" this morning?

DEVAN

I just think we should not interfere with nature. It's a perfectly lovely stretch of highway interrupted by – what – tin?

KIRBY

Scrap metal.

DEVAN

It's even worse than I thought.

KIRBY

For 32 miles there's been nothing here but dirt, some grass and sky. You need a search party to find a tree. Now we have geese.

DEVAN

Metal geese. How natural.

KIRBY

Enchanted geese. It's even in the Guinness Book of Records – world's largest sculpture made from scrap metal.

DEVAN

That's a dubious claim.

KIRBY

Better than burying all that metal in a landfill. Take a closer look – it's graceful.

DEVAN

It's manmade.

KIRBY

As are your clothes, your car and I daresay – a lot of your food. Do you have a few minutes?

DEVAN

I'm just on my way to visit my grandparents. It's been awhile. Told them I'd be there for dinner. They're stubborn but loyal North Dakotans and will have dinner on the table whether I am there or not.

KIRBY

Because the "Golden Hour" is approaching and I'd like you to see it. See the salmon sky? It's going to erupt into all shades of pink and red in a minute.

(Lights change if possible. DEVAN and KIRBY watch.)

DEVAN

The sky's changing. And so are the geese. (Beat.) Not so bad. (Beat.) Actually pretty cool.

KIRBY

Now look at the geese – flying high into the sunset. All ninety feet of them. Those silver necks and wings against the vivid red and orange sky. That's North Dakota art at its best. Have a phone on you?

DEVAN

Always.

KIRBY

Give it to me. Hurry. A photo of you under the geese. For your grandparents.

(Devan hands over the phone and KIRBY takes a photo.)

Come back at night and look at it under the stars. And the next time you doubt art, look at this.

(THEY shake hands at the lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY