

## Top of the World, Ma!

*The scene takes place at the top of a mountain (a raised platform, or a painted canvas around some chairs are two suggestions) We hear the sound of a vicious wind howling. Two men, clothed in heavy parkas, goggles and gloves, push against the wind to center stage where they collapse into each others arms, alternatively sobbing, laughing and gasping for air.*

JAKE  
We made it!

DAVE  
Yea, made it.

JAKE  
We're on top.

DAVE  
Yea, on top.

JAKE  
Top of the mountain.

DAVE  
Yea, mountain.

JAKE  
Oh God, we did it.

DAVE  
Yea, God. Did it.

JAKE  
I thought we were goners at least twelve times in the last half hour alone.

DAVE  
You're telling me? We should have died twenty times in the last fifteen minutes climbing those jagged rocks.

JAKE  
That's cause we were doing it without our poles. I can't believe we didn't give up and head back down after we lost our poles, man.

DAVE  
I'm surprised we didn't do it long before that.

JAKE  
You mean like when we lost the knapsack with all our food?

DAVE

No, before that.

JAKE

You mean when the blizzard started?

DAVE

No, before that.

JAKE

When you broke your arm on the rock?

DAVE

Yea, right around there. That would have been a good place. *(As he gasps for air)* Melanie said I was crazy. Just because your boss is mountain climbing doesn't mean you have to be into mountain climbing. And just... just because your boss wants to climb the highest mountain in Wyoming doesn't mean you have to climb the highest mountain in Wyoming.

JAKE

Well, you did it. We did it!

DAVE

You know what this means? It means you and I are on the fast track buddy! We're the only ones who made it to the top!

JAKE

Made it to the top? We're the only ones who survived! Everyone else from our office is dead somewhere below us.

DAVE

Hey that's right.

JAKE

Did you see O'Brien when he slipped into that crevice?

DAVE

Never mind O'Brien. Did you see how many times Fontaine bounced after his lifeline broke over that chasm? *(Yells down the mountain)* LOSERS! You won't be getting the good parking spot now, will ya, O'Brien?

JAKE

*(Has had a troubling thought)* Uh, Dave...

DAVE

Won't be sucking up the chocolate donuts at the weekly staff meeting, will you Fontaine you thieving' bastard!

Dave... JAKE

What? DAVE

Everyone else from our office is dead. JAKE

Yea, so? DAVE

Including our boss. JAKE

Yea, so? DAVE

Dead, man. Do you understand what I'm saying, here? JAKE

*(As it slowly sinks in)* Yea, I heard you. They're dead. Dead. *(Sinks in!)* Oh, man, this is awful. DAVE

*(Somber)* I know. JAKE

No, I mean this is just terrible. DAVE

I know, I know. JAKE

I was gonna get a promotion out of this. DAVE

What? JAKE

A promotion! Junior V.P. at least. DAVE

I don't believe you. JAKE

Hey! That office with the plush red carpeting is mine buddy boy! I earned it kissing that stupid idiot's ass - DAVE

JAKE

His dead ass -

DAVE

Right, his dead ass... well, it was alive when I kissed it. Well, not kissed it, per se. You know what I mean, dammit!

JAKE

I guess...

DAVE

Do you know how many of his stupid tofu lo-cal lunches I had to endure? How many lectures about the evils of saturated fat I had to sit through? (*Yells down the mountain*) Your low cholesterol's doin' ya a lot of good now, isn't? How's your low fat-diet working out, now, ya pin head?

JAKE

Take it easy, man.

DAVE

Take it easy? Melanie and I have been banking on that extra money and now that stupid jerk has to go and get himself killed.

JAKE

Yea, how inconsiderate.

DAVE

Hey, he's the one who organized this trip, remember? I suggested a handball tournament but no, it had to be something that would somehow prove ourselves as men. (*Yells down the mountain*) Well you got all the proof you need, now don't ya you fat... stupid... dead... guy... ohhh... (*collapses onto the ground. Jake is looking around the mountain*)

JAKE

Hey. Edmund Hillary.

DAVE

Who?

JAKE

Edmund Hillary.

DAVE

Who's he?

JAKE

Edmund Hillary? The first guy to climb Mount Everest?

DAVE

Yea? So?

JAKE

I was making a joke.

DAVE

Oh yea, I get it. Yea. Very funny. *(pause)* So, was there a point?

JAKE

Yea, there was a point. How are we gonna get down?

DAVE

Down? How hard can down be? Everywhere you look is down! Just pick a direction and go. You'll get down.

JAKE

I don't think it's that easy. There's the rocks. The drifting snow. Some of those crevices were pretty wide. Downhill or uphill, you can't just step over them.

DAVE

Look, it's no big deal. We'll just use the emergency cell phone and call for help. It's not like the boss is around to takes points off for lack of inventiveness.

JAKE

The cell phone.

DAVE

Yea, the cell phone.

JAKE

You mean the one that O'Brien was carrying.

DAVE

Yes, the one that... *(Yells down the mountain)* Really good, O'Brien, really good, ya stupid bastard. Had to be the big shot and carry the phone, didn't ya.

JAKE

*(After a pause)* Well, now what?

DAVE

I don't know. Who cares.

JAKE

We can't just stay up here hoping that someone will find us.

DAVE

Why not? They're bound to notice it when we don't return to the lodge. They'll send out a search party then.

JAKE

Stupid, when they send out search parties they don't look on the top of mountain, they look on the bottom.

DAVE

But we're not at the bottom. We made it to the top. *(Jake just looks at him)* Oh yea. *(Another pause)* Well, what does it matter anyway? I'm not getting that promotion. Melanie will drop me in heartbeat as soon as she finds out I'm not getting that raise. Might as well stay up here. At least I made it to the top of something.

JAKE

I don't believe this. Stuck on top of a windy, freezing cold mountain, the sun going down, and I'm stuck with a guy who wants to die because he's not getting the thick red carpeting.

DAVE

Don't forget the free bagels every morning.

JAKE

Look, you stupid jerk. I really don't care about your red carpeting. I don't care about your stupid bagels.

DAVE

They came with cream cheese.

JAKE

I don't care! I just wanna get off this mountain alive, and I figure my chances are at least twice as good if we work together.

DAVE

With what? We've lost everything we used to get up here, remember?

JAKE

Well we can't just give up.

DAVE

*(Completely despondent)* Just watch me.

JAKE

*(Frustrated. Thinking. Gets a bright idea)* Yea, well don't forget this. When we don't show up for work... when the office finds out that we all died up here, what do you suppose will happen?

DAVE

I dunno.

JAKE

You think you're the only one who wants the office with the thick red carpeting?

DAVE

Huh?

JAKE

I seem to recall Steinberg had his eye on that junior V.P. slot.

DAVE

Steinberg. That wimp didn't have the guts to come this trip. Thought he could get to the V.P.'s office on talent and skill. What a loser.

JAKE

Yea, a loser without any competition with you sitting up here frozen like a statue.

DAVE

That little creep! He's gonna take my office! *(Jumps up)* Well, no way I'm letting that happen. *(Paces, thinks. Jake smiles)* All right. Look. We dropped most of our stuff coming up here, right. We'll just pick up the stuff we need to get back down. All we need is some rope and few poles - you and I were carrying most of that stuff, anyway, right?

JAKE

Right.

DAVE

We'll make a few rope bridges for the crevices, some ladders for the really steep parts of the mountain. Well, come one, man, what are you standing around for? I've got a new office to decorate.

*Dave bounds off the platform and heads off stage. Jake watches with a satisfied smile. Dave jumps back onto the stage.*

DAVE

Come on, let's get a move on! The sun's going down! *(Exits)*

JAKE

*(To the audience)* Who says Yuppies are good for nothing? *(To Dave, off-stage)* Coming!

*Blackout*

**END PLAY**