

EXTRACT

The Ninth Step

a ten minute play

By

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Characters

CALLUM

ANDREW

Time

Now.

Setting

Room. Table, chair, laptop.

The Ninth Step

A room. **Andrew** sits a laptop computer. **Callum** nearby

ANDREW: How do you want to start? (BEAT) If you don't write it –

CALLUM: What?

ANDREW: It doesn't mean ... How about "Dear Mr and Mrs Regis"?

CALLUM: Alright.

ANDREW: You're meant to be doing this.

CALLUM: Alright. "Dear Mr and Mrs Regis".

ANDREW TYPES.

ANDREW: Okay. You've started. Now what's next? (BEAT) Maybe it's too early.

CALLUM: Let's just do it.

ANDREW: I'm not going to write it.

CALLUM: I know.

ANDREW: Well then.

CALLUM: I know.

ANDREW: What do you want to say?

CALLUM: I'm sorry.

ANDREW: Is that it?

CALLUM: Yeah.

ANDREW: That's it?

CALLUM: Yeah.

ANDREW: "Dear Mr and Mrs Regis, I'm sorry. Yours faithfully, Callum."

CALLUM: No.

ANDREW: Then what do you want to say?

CALLUM: I don't know.

ANDREW: What are we doing?

CALLUM: I know.

ANDREW: What are we doing?

CALLUM: The Ninth step.

ANDREW: And what comes before the ninth step?

CALLUM: The eighth step.

ANDREW: Which is?

CALLUM: Became willing.

ANDREW: *Became willing* to make amends.

CALLUM: I am willing.

ANDREW: You don't seem it.

CALLUM: I am!

ANDREW: Don't get angry at me.

CALLUM: Alright.

ANDREW: You asked for my help.

CALLUM: You're my sponsor.

ANDREW: Doesn't mean I have to do this.

CALLUM: Okay. Let me think.

ANDREW: Try to imagine –

CALLUM: I said give me a moment.

ANDREW: I'm just trying to –

CALLUM: Just let me think for one second!

PAUSE.

ANDREW: The problem is –

CALLUM: What?

ANDREW: You're not sorry.

CALLUM: I am.

ANDREW: No you're not.

CALLUM: I 'm just trying to –

ANDREW: What?

CALLUM: You know?

ANDREW: No I don't.

CALLUM: To find ...

ANDREW: Find what?

CALLUM: The words. I'm just trying to find the words. I'm not like you.

ANDREW: Alright.

CALLUM: I'm not a *writer*.

ANDREW: Alright.

CALLUM: Words don't come ...

ANDREW: You made your point.

CALLUM: It's easy for you.

ANDREW: I'm trying to help.

CALLUM: You can help.

ANDREW: What?

CALLUM: Write the letter for me.

BEAT.

ANDREW: No.