

# LOST SATELLITES

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Eugenie Carabatsos

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**LOST SATELLITES**  
**By Eugenie Carabatsos**

**SYNOPSIS:** Ally and Ben are driving across the country after the death of their mother. Their relationship has gone off course. Will their GPS be able to help them find their way?

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN, ONE EITHER)*

BEN (m).....Ally’s brother, 25-years-old. (83 lines)

ALLY (f).....Ben’s sister, 26-years-old.  
(82 lines)

GPS (m/f).....Ally and Ben’s GPS. Feisty and a good friend. (26 lines)

**SETTING**

Ben’s car.

**PRODUCTION HISTORY**

*Lost Satellites* had its world premiere in May 2012 at Manhattan Repertory Theatre’s One Act Festival with the following cast:

*Directed by Harry Poster*

Christopher J. Davis..... Ben

Rebecca Rittenhouse . .... Ally

Ashley Downey..... GPS

**AT RISE:**

*ALLY and BEN sit in the front seat of BEN'S car. GPS sits in the back. ALLY types on her phone.*

**ALLY:** *(The cell phone dies.)* Crap. It died.

**BEN:** You want mine?

**ALLY:** It's not even a smart phone.

**BEN:** But it calls people.

**ALLY:** I don't need it to call people.

**BEN:** But it's a phone.

**ALLY:** I need it for email.

**BEN:** Why don't you just call them instead?

**ALLY:** Because that's not how it works.

**BEN:** That's what phones are for.

**ALLY:** Not at my office. Okay. It's fine. They can last twenty minutes without me.

**BEN:** That's the spirit.

**ALLY:** This is supposed to be a family vacation.

**BEN:** Not much of a family any more, are we?

**GPS:** Merge left.

**BEN:** Let's just call it a road trip.

**ALLY:** Let's just call it a move. That's what it is. You're moving 3000 miles away from your sister. But hey, at least we're off the highway. Anyway, I'm just glad that in a few more miles, we will officially be done with this drive.

**GPS:** Continue straight for .1 miles.

**BEN:** I know. Just think about the sense of accomplishment we'll feel when we finally see the Pacific Ocean...

**ALLY:** I like the Atlantic better.

**GPS:** In .3 miles turn left.

**ALLY:** *(To the GPS.)* Thank you. *(To BEN.)* Seriously, Ben, I can't believe you thought about taking this trip without her.

**GPS:** Continue for 3 miles.

**ALLY:** Hey you know who I miss?

**BEN:** Who?

**ALLY:** Spanish GPS!

**BEN:** Not this again.

**GPS:** Continúe para 2,9 millas.

**ALLY:** Come on mister Spanish major. Hablas español?

**BEN:** I haven't spoken a word of Spanish since college.

**ALLY:** Well that's your fault. Everyone speaks Spanish nowadays. She even speaks Spanish for goodness sakes. If you wanted to speak Spanish, you could do it virtually anywhere!

**BEN:** Oh calm down. I don't miss speaking Spanish. You don't think I'm moving across the country because I miss speaking Spanish do you?

**ALLY:** No, you're moving across the country because you need to feel the wind at your back and the sand beneath your toes and run through the woods with no shoes on and feel God and the universe and whatever.

**BEN:** Sometimes I feel like your entire existence is based solely around making fun of me. Just give it a rest, okay?

**ALLY:** How about this?

**GPS:** Conduisez 2,8 milles.

**BEN:** I've heard them all. She's my GPS.

**ALLY:** She's my GPS too.

**BEN:** I bought her.

**ALLY:** But she likes me more. What? It's true! She does. You always bark at her and blame her for everything.

**BEN:** Have I insulted her this trip?

**ALLY:** No, but you've wanted to.

**BEN:** Of course I've wanted to. She's irritating.

**ALLY:** I love her.

**BEN:** I know.

**ALLY:** Don't you?

**BEN:** What? Yeah, sure. You think this whole thing is stupid, don't you?

**ALLY:** I never said that.

**BEN:** Look, not everyone in the world is like you. We don't all have it together all the time. Not all of us have the perfect job, or the perfect fiancée—

**ALLY:** Ben—

**BEN:** —it takes a while for some of us, you know? Mom understood that.

**ALLY:** Mom babied you your whole life.

**GPS:** Stay straight.

**BEN:** That's not true.

**ALLY:** It's completely true. She let you get away with everything because you were her only son. She basically threw me out of the house when I graduated from college and you lived with her for three years after!

**GPS:** Continue straight.

**BEN:** Because of the recession.

**ALLY:** Because you were too lazy to get a real job.

**BEN:** Well it's hard to find motivation when you spend a year sending your resume out there and end up getting one rejection after another.

**GPS:** Slow down.

**ALLY:** Ben, rejection happens. It's a part of life. You just never had to deal with it before because you got everything handed to you.

**BEN:** That's crap. You're just jealous because you and Mom didn't understand each other.

**GPS:** Pull over.

**ALLY:** Oh I understood her, Ben. I understood that she was conniving, selfish—

**GPS:** Stop.

**BEN:** Jesus Ally! She just died. She just died. You can't go around saying those things.

**ALLY:** It's easy for you to think so highly of her when you haven't had to singlehandedly support her your entire adult life.

**GPS:** Please stop.

**BEN:** She tried to work...she just couldn't. She was sick.

**ALLY:** Yeah, sick with liver disease. Do you know why she had liver disease? Because she was drinking all day. That's why she couldn't have a job. She was too busy drinking all day.

**BEN:** Why are you even on this trip with me?

**ALLY:** To make sure you follow the GPS's directions.

**GPS:** In .4 miles stay straight.

**BEN:** You don't trust me to listen to a GPS system?

**ALLY:** You always have to do things your own way. Let me tell you something Ben, sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason.

**BEN:** And let me tell you something. I hate the GPS.

**ALLY:** What?

**BEN:** I hate the GPS.

**GPS:** Recalculating.

**ALLY:** What do you mean you hate the GPS?

**BEN:** We shouldn't need a GPS to drive 3000 miles west. We could have used a map!

**ALLY:** We don't own a map!

**BEN:** How is it possible that we don't own a map?

**ALLY:** Because we don't need a map! We have a GPS!

**BEN:** It's just so anti-road trip to have a GPS! What happened to letting ourselves get lost and just finding our way to those cool, weird towns with the world's most complex corn maze or whatever?

**ALLY:** That's what you want? You want to find the world's biggest corn maze? I tell you what, let's turn this car around, drive two days backwards and go back to Indiana! They have tons of corn mazes there.

**BEN:** I just hate how we have to be so reliant on technology for everything! You're basically having a heart attack because your smartphone died.

**ALLY:** I'm having a heart attack because, unlike you, I have a job and I have responsibilities! Unlike you, I don't have the desire to just randomly quit my life and decide to move across the country just because I read freaking *On The Road* in high school and think I'm Jack Kerouac!

**BEN:** I brought the GPS, didn't I?

**ALLY:** Only because I told you I wouldn't go without her.

**BEN:** So? She's here now.

**ALLY:** You'd get lost without her. Look, she's back! Thank God.

**GPS:** Turn left.

**BEN:** Don't you get it? Getting lost is the point!

**ALLY:** But I don't need to get lost!

**GPS:** Turn left.

**BEN:** But I do!

**ALLY:** It's not all about you.

**GPS:** Turn left.

**BEN:** I know. That's why she's here.

**GPS:** Turn left.

**ALLY:** You're supposed to turn left.

**BEN:** What?

**ALLY:** You never follow directions.

**GPS:** Recalculating.

**BEN:** She's taking us in circles.

**GPS:** Turn left. Turn left. Turn left.

**BEN:** She's having a meltdown.

**ALLY:** She's not having a meltdown.

**GPS:** Continue straight for .1 miles then turn right, left, right, continue straight for .1 miles.

**BEN:** This is ridiculous; I'm turning her off.

**ALLY:** You can't.

**BEN:** Why?

**ALLY:** You promised.

**BEN:** What?

**ALLY:** After Mom died. You came to me and said that you wanted to leave New York and move to the west coast. You asked me to drive with you. And I said yes, on one condition.

**BEN:** She needed to come.

**ALLY:** And you had to listen to her.

**BEN:** Because you didn't want to get lost and she knows better than I do.

**ALLY:** Exactly.

**BEN:** So you just want to drive around in circles?

**ALLY:** Yes.

**BEN:** Why?

**ALLY:** Because we're almost there.

**GPS:** Lost satellites. (*Correcting herself.*) Lost satellite reception.

**BEN:** Now what?

**ALLY:** I don't know. She wasn't supposed to leave us.

**BEN:** I think that's the road we want. I'll just go down there.

**ALLY:** Shouldn't we just wait until she finds reception?

**BEN:** I'm telling you, it's this way.

**ALLY:** We got all turned around. We don't even know which way we're going.

**BEN:** Jesus Ally, can't you just trust me? We're going that way!

**ALLY:** Fine.

**BEN:** I'm telling you, everything is going to make much more sense once we see that ocean. Once we dip our feet into the Pacific and feel the waves. Things will just make much more sense. I know it. I can feel it already. You don't believe me, do you?

**ALLY:** I want to, Ben. But an ocean is just an ocean.

**BEN:** It's a symbol.

**ALLY:** Of what? What is it going to do for you? Make you feel like you didn't waste the last three years of your life? Bring back Mom?

**BEN:** You don't understand.

**ALLY:** Because it's stupid. There, I said it, Ben, it's stupid.

**BEN:** You don't know what it's like for me, Ally. You have a life back there. You like your job; you have a steady income. My whole life the last few years has been spent taking care of Mom. I was with her every day when she was sick. Where were you?

**ALLY:** Working. Paying for it.

**BEN:** I know that and I appreciate that but, Ally, your situation is and always has been different.

**ALLY:** How? Just because I have a job and I can pay my bills?

**BEN:** And you have someone. You're not alone. You have George. Do you know how hard it is to be alone? To feel unworthy of having a relationship because you're some loser who lives with his mother and has to watch her as she slowly, but surely kills herself with alcohol?

**ALLY:** I had to watch too. She's my mom too.

**BEN:** But you have George to help you. You have George to support you and love you and make it easier on you.

**ALLY:** We broke up, Ben.

**BEN:** What?

**ALLY:** We broke up.

**BEN:** When?

**ALLY:** Right before we left.

**BEN:** Why?



**ALLY:** Because I didn't love him.

**BEN:** But I thought...I mean you guys had been together for years...  
What happened?

**ALLY:** When Mom died and I came home to him that night and he tried to comfort me, I just knew. He wasn't the person I wanted there. He wasn't the person I wanted to go through that with.

**BEN:** Oh. I didn't know.

**ALLY:** Yeah.

**BEN:** Why didn't you say anything?

**ALLY:** I didn't want to worry you.

**BEN:** You didn't have to come with me. If you have other stuff you needed to deal with, you should have stayed. I don't need a babysitter to make sure I follow directions. I don't need you for anything.

**ALLY:** But I need you.

**BEN:** What?

**GPS:** Continue straight for .2 miles.

**ALLY:** Look, you were right. We were heading in the right direction.

**BEN:** Yeah.

**ALLY:** Ben! Look! I see sand!

**BEN:** Me too.

**ALLY:** I see blue!

**BEN:** Me too.

**ALLY:** The Pacific Ocean. Okay, I admit it, it is amazing. Look at that. My God. We made it. Ocean to ocean.

**BEN:** Yeah.

**ALLY:** See that woman with the hat? She reminds me of Mom. Remember, she would put us in the red wagon and drag us down to the beach? I forgot about that. I must have been like four or five and I was terrified of the ocean. I wouldn't go near it. But not you, even though you were younger, you weren't scared; you ran towards the waves. Mom would chase after you and I would cry for you both to come back. Do you remember that?

**BEN:** Not really.

**ALLY:** Well come out and feel the sand. Dip your feet in the water.

**BEN:** No it's okay.

**ALLY:** We drove all the way here. Come on!

**BEN:** No it's fine. Let's just take me to the apartment.

**ALLY:** Are you sure?

**BEN:** Yeah, it's getting late and you have a flight to catch tomorrow.

**ALLY:** I just thought—

**BEN:** —I already programmed the new address as home. Did you know you could do that?

**ALLY:** No.

**BEN:** *(To GPS.)* Okay, take me home.

**GPS:** Turn around, continue straight for .6 miles, stay straight, conduisez 2,8 milles—

**ALLY:** —that doesn't sound right—

**BEN:** *(To GPS.)* I said take me home—

**GPS:** —in 3.3 miles turn right, stay straight for .1 miles.

**BEN:** *(To ALLY.)* Is that?—

**GPS:** —merge right. Drive 3000 miles—

**ALLY:** —the directions in reverse. *(BEN pulls out and turns around.)*  
What are you doing?

**BEN:** I promised you I would always listen to the GPS, didn't I?

**THE END**

## **NOTES**

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