

WITH THE *AUTOROUTE* IN FULL VIEW, CARS RACING A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR, IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE THE SUPERB ISOLATION OF THIS TERRIBLY BEAUTIFUL REGION. IF THERE WERE A MESSAGE HERE FOR HIM—AND SURELY THERE MUST BE—HE WAS FAILING TO DISCOVER IT...

HE CALLED OUT TO SAY HELLO, BUT SHE DIDN'T RESPOND AND HE STARED WONDERING WHY, NOT NOTICING HER EARPHONES UNTIL SHE PULLED THEM OUT TO ASK WHAT HE WANTED. "NOTHING," HE SAID, "I JUST SAID HELLO."

"HELLO," SHE REPLIED AND PUT THEM BACK.