

Echoes

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A ten-minute play

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# “Echoes”

## Characters

- Mary.....A mother who has lost her son (Chris) in a spelunking accident. She comes in the cave every year to look for him.
- Alex..... Mary’s daughter who follows her mother to the cave every year.
- Mary’s Echo..... Mary’s Echo.
- Alex’s Echo..... Alex’s Echo.
- Chris..... Mary’s lost son.

## Setting

A giant cave in the mid-west.

## Synopsis

**Chris? Chris!** Mom, he’s not there. **Chris? Chris!** It’s been three years **Chris? Chris!** *Mom, I need you.*

A cave, pitch-black. MARY enters, and speaks to the audience. It's dark, but she has a flashlight.

MARY

Beautiful, isn't it? This silence. But that's what's great about caves. (she listens) Echo!

MARY'S ECHO

Echo!

MARY

Hello there!

MARY'S ECHO

Hello there!

MARY

My son was a spelunker. Chris. His last cave, this one, had a huge close-call. One of the rocks gave out from under him, he almost fell three hundred feet. (looks back for ALEX) Alex! Come on!

MARY'S ECHO

Come on!

MARY

See, it's an Echo. (calls out) Chris?

MARY'S ECHO

Chris?

ALEX enters.

ALEX

Mom-

MARY

I think he's close.

ALEX

(*pause*)How about we head back up.

MARY

We just started.

ALEX

We've gone half a mile.

MARY

That leaves two-and-a-half left.

ALEX

I'm not walking three miles in the dark.

MARY

This is cave day, Alex.

ALEX

It's been three years.

MARY

Every cave day we walk three miles in the dark-

ALEX

We're not going to find him

MARY

Your brother explored three hundred caves-

ALEX

Mom-

MARY

A man who explored three hundred caves doesn't slip.

ALEX

Mom-

MARY

Don't give up on him, Al.

ALEX

I'm not-

MARY

Don't forget him.

ALEX

*(pause)* I haven't.

MARY

Then we have two and a half miles to go.

ALEX

I'm just saying that the rocks are slippery and I'm gonna crack my skull open.

MARY

Don't say that.

ALEX

Call-out. He's experienced, so after three years of wandering, he'll be within earshot. Wait for a response. If you hear one, then we'll go. But if not, then come back up. Alright?

MARY

*(calls out)*

Chris?

MARY'S ECHO

Chris?

ALEX

Mom! Alright?

ALEX'S ECHO

Alright?

MARY

Chris!?

MARY'S ECHO

Chris?!?

MARY

It's me!

MARY'S ECHO

It's me!!

MARY

Can you hear me?

MARY'S ECHO

Hear me?

MARY

It's mom!

MARY'S ECHO

Mom!

MARY

It's mom!

MARY'S ECHO

Mom!

MARY

Mom!

**CHRIS**

Mom!

Pause

Did you hear that? ( <i>call's out</i> )	MARY
It's mom!	
Mom!	MARY'S ECHO
It's mom!	MARY
Help!	CHRIS
I'm coming!	MARY
	MARY moves ahead.
Mom!	ALEX
Mom!	ALEX'S ECHO
Where the hell are you?!	ALEX
Are you?	ALEX'S ECHO
Chris!	MARY
Chris!	MARY'S ECHO
It's mom!	MARY
Mom!	MARY'S ECHO
It's mom!	MARY
Mom!	CHRIS
Where are you?	ALEX
Where are you?	ALEX'S ECHO

Did you hear him, Alex?	MARY
Alex?	MARY'S ECHO
Where are you?	MARY
Are you?	MARY'S ECHO
I'm in the fucken dark,	ALEX
Dark	ALEX'S ECHO
I'm starting to freak out!	ALEX
Freak out!	ALEX'S ECHO
Chris!	MARY
Chris!	MARY'S ECHO
Turn on your flashlight so I can see you!	ALEX
I can see you!	ALEX'S ECHO
Chris!	MARY
Mom!	CHRIS
Where are you?	MARY
I fell!	CHRIS
Just turn on your flashlight! Your watchlight! Shit, open your cellphone!	ALEX
Cellphone!	ALEX'S ECHO

Chris!	MARY
Mom!	CHRIS
Mom! Where are you?	ALEX
Where are you?	ALEX'S ECHO
Where are you?	MARY
Farther on!	CHRIS
Where?	MARY
A little farther!	CHRIS
Farther?	MARY
Can you feel the wall?	CHRIS
The wall?	MARY
It's rough, yes?	CHRIS
Yes!	MARY
You're almost there!	CHRIS
Almost there!	MARY
Mom! Where are you? Mom!! Mom!	ALEX
Feel the rock under you.	CHRIS
Under you.	MARY

Take another step.	CHRIS
Another step.	MARY
Do you feel the edge? The end?	CHRIS
The end! Alex! I found him!	MARY
Focus, mom!	CHRIS
Mom...	MARY
Mom! Mom! I see you. Stay there!	ALEX
Focus!	CHRIS
Focus!	MARY
I'm just down there. Walk-off.	CHRIS
Walk-off.	MARY
One step.	CHRIS
One step.	MARY
I miss you.	CHRIS
Miss you.	MARY
	ALEX makes it to MARY, MARY walks out.
Stop!	ALEX
Stop!	ALEX'S MALE ECHO

Mom!	ALEX
Mom!	ALEX'S ECHO
Mom!	ALEX
Mom!	ALEX'S ECHO
Mom!	ALEX
Mom!	ALEX'S ECHO
	END OF SCENE