Toeing the Line

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(*A enters, wearing a small backpack, slightly out of breath as if he’s been climbing, stops and looks out toward the audience at “the view”*)

A: Ah! The Grand Canyon! (*pulls brochure out of pocket and reads*) “Carved by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and attains a depth of over 6000 feet.” (*whistles*) Wow . . . it’s so beautiful! Majestic! (*B enters, crossing slowly in front of A on the very edge of the cliff*) The river flowing . . the colors and plant life . . the layers of – (*sees B*) Whoa! Hey! Dude! What are you doing?

B: (*very casually*) Oh, hi! How ya doin’? Isn’t the view gorgeous?

A: Are you crazy?!?

B: What, you don’t like the view? Well, to each his own.

A: No, I mean . . . you’re crazy!! Get away from the edge!

B: Why?

A: Cuz you’re gonna fall!!

B: (*smiles*) Oh, no, I’m not. I’m still on solid ground. See? *(jumps up and down a little*)

A: (*yells*) Stop! Stop! Are you completely insane? Don’t you know that’s a 6000 foot drop?

B: Only if I were out there. (*points into the canyon*)

A: But you could fall out there!

B: Not if I don’t I cross the line. (*patiently, as if teaching a lesson*) See, there’s a line here. On this side is ground, and on that side is air. As long as I’m on ground -- which I am -- I’m good!

A: But you’re too close to the line! What if you stumble a little bit? You’ll be a dead man!

B: Why would I stumble? I walk on ground all the time. I have twenty years of walking experience. Give or take a few years…..

A: But . . but . . something could make you stumble. A jutting rock, or some loose gravel . . .

B: Well, there’s rocks and gravel where you are, too.

A: But, if I slip and fall, I’ll land on dirt! You’ll be hurtling through the stratosphere to a violent, painful death!

B: I already told you! I’m on solid ground! See? *(jumps again, A yells again*) Here, let me explain again: On this side of the line is ground, and on that side is air . . .

A: I know! I know! There’s a line – I understand that! But walking that close to the line is insane!

B: No, walking across that line would be insane. That’s a 6000 foot drop, you know.

A: Oh, geez . . you’re giving me heart palpitations . . I can’t watch this . . (*walks away*)

B: Well, okay, but you’re missing a great view. The river flowing . . the colors and the plant life . . the layers of . . . (*starts to lose his balance*) . . whoooaaaa! (BLACKOUT)