

Lesson 11

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

The Northern Lights

Barbara was delighted to be in Alaska. It was her first visit to our forty-ninth state, and she was looking forward to enjoying this adventure. Her flight to Alaska had arrived later than anticipated. It was midnight when Uncle Jeff met her at the airport. He was eager to get underway, as it would be a long drive to his house.

The night was cold and clear. The highway had only two lanes separated by a dashed white line. A full moon illuminated the snow that was piled high at the edge of the road. Black ice covered parts of the highway. But Uncle Jeff was more worried about encountering a moose on the road than he was about driving on ice. A collision with a moose in the middle of the night on that lonely road could spell disaster.

About 2:30 in the morning, Barbara saw the Northern Lights for the first time. The lights were a brilliant green color. Jeff said the most spectacular ones change from bright green to pink and purple. The lights appeared to be waterfalls coming out of the sky, thousands of feet high. The lights wiggled and danced around. They swayed and merged together. They were enchanting but only lasted five minutes. Then they faded out, but appeared again a short time later.

It was after 4:00 in the morning when they arrived. Although they had driven on the state highway, they had encountered only one other car during the entire trip.

Barbara decided that Alaska truly is our last frontier.