

Alice

CONTINUED: (4)

START #1

ELIZABETH
Are you coming, Alice?

ALICE
In a minute.

Elizabeth shrugs before following her friends out the door.

Alice shyly approaches Miss Cole, who is busy putting her papers back in order.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Miss Cole?

Miss Cole looks up.

ALICE (CONT'D)
My name is Alice. Alice McKinley.
I just wanted you to know how
excited I am to be in the theatre
club. I'm going to be trying out
for the princess role.

Miss Cole smiles.

MISS COLE
That's great, Alice. I wish you
the best of luck.

Alice bites her lip, uncertain. She reaches into her pocket
and pulls out the barrette.

ALICE
I also wanted you to have this.

She shows the hair clip to Miss Cole, who looks at
quizzically, not sure what it means.

ALICE (CONT'D)
(quickly)
It's clean. I mean, I didn't use
it. It's for your hair.

MISS COLE
It's... lovely.

ALICE
It's in the shape of musical notes.
You know, like a theme with the
musical and everything.

Miss Cole smiles awkwardly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MISS COLE

Of course. That's very nice.
You're not trying to bribe me, are
you Alice?

ALICE

Oh no!

MISS COLE

(smiles)

I'm only kidding. Who's your
teacher this year.

ALICE

(frowns slightly)

Mrs. Plotkin.

Miss Cole starts to waddle around the room in an imitation of
Mrs. Plotkin.

MISS COLE

You mean old Mrs. Sour Puss?

Alice laughs.

ALICE

Yeah.

MISS COLE

Well at least you'll have some fun
in our club. Thanks so much for
the present, Alice.

Alice beams.

ALICE

You're welcome.

END#1

CUT TO:

EXT.- DAY: A PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE

Alice and Dad walk up to the front door. Alice is in a dress
and Dad is in a suit. In one hand, Dad holds some flowers.

Just before Dad rings the bell, Alice straightens his tie.

BEN

Thanks, Alice. What would I do
without you?

2/7

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ON SCREEN

Back to the home video footage. Maggie sitting in a horse drawn carriage, riding through Central Park. She lunges for the camera, grabbing it from Ben.

Ben appears on screen, younger and happier. This is a couple with their lives ahead of them and nothing standing in the way.

BACK TO SCENE

Alice wipes her eyes.

BEN

Alice, have you seen my-

This voice is not coming from the television. Alice turns quickly, startled.

Ben has come down the stairs and is now standing, dumbstruck, watching the television.

ALICE

Dad, I-

BEN

Where did you get this?

ALICE

I found it in the attic when I was looking for the serving platter.

BEN

You shouldn't be watching this.

Alice is surprised by her father's reaction.

ALICE

But they're videos of Mom. Why didn't you tell me we had them?

Ben walks to the VCR and stops the tape, pulling it out.

BEN

Maybe when you're older...

Alice protests.

ALICE

I'm old enough now. I want to see Mom.

(CONTINUED)

3/7

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN

Alice, I don't want to talk about
this right now. Go to bed.

ALICE

You never want to talk about it.

This hits Ben, but he has no idea how to deal with it.

BEN

Just, please, go upstairs.

Alice is upset and turns to leave, but stops with one last
thought.

ALICE

You're not the only one who lost
Mom.

With that, she is out of the room and running up the stairs.
Turning half way up the steps, she sees Ben sit down on the
couch, still clutching the video, his head bowed.

CUT TO:

END
2/7

INT. NIGHT - BACKSTAGE

Everything is bustling on opening night. The backstage area
is filled with students and parents getting ready for the big
night.

Pamela sits in front of a mirror in her beautiful princess
costume as her mother does her hair and makeup.

Patrick and Elizabeth go over lines.

Alice sits in a corner, her green frog costume already on and
ready to go.

She glances over to Pamela and her mother. At that moment,
Miss Cole comes backstage and all attention focuses on her.

MISS COLE

Okay everyone, listen up! I'm sure
we're going to have a great show
and I wanted everyone to know how
happy I am with all of the hard
work you have put into this.

All of the students cheer and clap. Everyone is excited.

4/7

(CONTINUED)

Start #3

INT. NIGHT - ALICE'S BEDROOM

Alice lays on her bed, face buried in her pillows.. There is a soft knock on the door as Ben peeks his head inside.

BEN

Alice?

ALICE

Go away!

Ben hesitates for a moment, backing up a bit as if ready to comply. Just as he is about to close the door, Ben changes his mind, coming into the room.

BEN

Mrs. Plotkin called. She was worried about you.

No response from Alice.

BEN (CONT'D)

She told me what happened. I'm sorry.

ALICE

Why do people always say that? When I tell them Mom is dead, they always say "I'm sorry." It doesn't do any good. It won't bring Mom back and it won't make Mrs. Plotkin any better.

BEN

I know. But a lot of times, people don't know how to react to sad situations. They're just doing the best they can.

(beat)

I'm doing the best I can.

Alice finally sits up and looks at her father.

ALICE

But what if it's not enough? Does it ever stop hurting?

Ben is about to offer an easy platitude, but the sincerity and pain in his daughter's eyes stops him.

5/7

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

I wish I had an answer. The truth is, I don't know. I still miss your mother more than anything.

~~That's why I need to be close to her~~
~~because I miss her so much~~
~~sometimes, it's hard to see her~~
~~when she's gone.~~

ALICE

I understand.

BEN

But then, every once in a while I realize she's not really gone.

ALICE

What do you mean?

BEN

Every time I hear you laugh or see Lester play in the band I know she's still here. ~~Maggie was~~

~~the only thing I miss about her~~
~~because she was the only one who~~
~~could make me laugh.~~ It helps to know that, in a way, she'll never really be gone because I've got pieces of her with you and Lester.

Alice takes this in.

BEN (CONT'D)

Maybe that's the best we can hope for.

Alice considers this.

ALICE

What about Mrs. Plotkin?

BEN

~~You'll always have memories of her~~
~~and the lessons she taught you will~~
~~stay with you for the rest of your~~
~~life. But here's the difference.~~
~~Mrs. Plotkin is still alive. You,~~
 she's going away for awhile, but that doesn't mean you'll never see her again or that you can't call or write her some nice letters. I bet she'd like that a lot.

6/7

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALICE
I think I'll do that.

Ben smiles and stands to leave.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Dad?

Ben turns in the doorway.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

Ben smiles and nods, closing the door behind him. Alice lays back down, staring at her ceiling, thinking.

CUT TO:

INT. NIGHT - MELODY INN

It's the Melody Inn holiday party. Everyone is there; Ben, Alice, Loretta, Melody Inn employees and customers alike, even some kids from Alice and Lester's classes including Elizabeth and Pamela.

A small stage is set up in one corner of the store and the Naked Nomads, all wearing Santa hats, play Christmas carols for the crowd.

ALICE (V.O.)
Two days before Christmas, Lester and the Nomads played their very first gig. Sure, it was for the Melody Inn Holiday Party, but Lester was too excited to care. That is, until he found out the band would be playing for free.

Near the stage, Loretta and Melissa glare at each other from opposite sides of the room.

ALICE V.O.
Even Loretta and Melissa were behaving themselves for Lester's big debut.

As Ben watches from the back Aunt Sally approaches from behind.

ALICE (V.O.)
And Aunt Sally came down from Baltimore...

(CONTINUED)