

SCENE 4

(1946. RALEIGH. A GOVERNMENT OFFICE.)

(ALICE is in a drab government office going through records. She looks exhausted. A CLERK sits at a desk as ALICE goes through records. She finishes one file, starts another. A female CLERK is at a nearby desk.)

ALICE

(to clerk)

Are these all the files for May 15th, 1924?

CLERK

They are. The laws are changing this year. These records won't be open anymore. Would you like me to help you search? Again?

ALICE

That would be so kind. The baby was wearing a...

CLERK

I know, a blue sweater.

ALICE

Maybe in one of the photos...

(They start to pour through another file together.)

CLERK

The photos are in black and white, Miss Murphy. Maybe he wasn't dropped off in Raleigh. You should be trying some of the surrounding towns. Charlotte has an agency.

ALICE

He was dropped off here. Kate, you remember anybody else checking for a baby left here on the same date?

CLERK

Not that I recall. Should there be?

ALICE

I would think so.

CLERK

I know this is hard to hear, but maybe he didn't care as much as you.

ALICE

If there's truth in this world, he cared. Somehow, he would have come looking.

CLERK

It's only me behind this counter for the last nineteen years.

ALICE

(she considers)

Well then that's a puzzle I should have sorted out before.

#17C SCENE CHANGE

[TRANSITION TO:]