

**SCENE 7**

*(1946. ZEBULON. ALICE'S CHILDHOOD CABIN. NIGHT.)*

*(ALICE walks up the road. DADDY MURPHY sits asleep on the porch.)*

*(She walks up, pauses to look at the old place. It's been a long while. She continues, then stops where DADDY MURPHY can see her, and she puts down her bags.)*

**ALICE**

Anybody home?

**DADDY MURPHY**

Well, child. Just as promised.

*(He hugs her.)*

**ALICE**

We're almost the same age now.

**DADDY MURPHY**

Oh, I'm staying a bit ahead of you. So happy to see you, darling, I didn't know if I was worth a visit any more.

**ALICE**

Daddy, how can you say that?

**DADDY MURPHY**

Through the years, reasonableness has laid its hand on my shoulder, and things I've done in the past don't quite stand up like they used to.

*(Alice takes it in, then)*

Do you want a glass of water?

**ALICE**

Do you have any of that hooch?

**DADDY MURPHY**

I do.

*(He lifts a plank in the floor and retrieves a bottle.)*

**DADDY MURPHY (CONT'D)**

How long can you stay?

**ALICE**

Just one day.

**DADDY MURPHY**

One day, darling. That's a short time to say a lot.

**ALICE**

Mama here?

**DADDY MURPHY**

She's at the neighbors; she'll be back. But I'm glad to have you alone. I can talk to your Mama, but not about certain things.

**ALICE**

Sounds like you've been banking words, Daddy.

**DADDY MURPHY**

You've got to around here.

*(He stands, moves to the edge of the porch.)*

Them trees. Some nights it's so quiet you can hear a leaf fall. And you can tell the color of that leaf just by the tiny crisp crack it makes as it lights on the ground.

**ALICE**

I know that feeling.

*(then)*

Sometimes I hear the fiddlers in town and I know they're playing the sound of the wind over the lakes back home.

*(then)*

What kind of things can't you talk to Mama about?

*(He pauses for a moment. Something is hard for him to say.)*

**DADDY MURPHY**

Certainly not about things that occurred twenty-three years ago.

**ALICE**

No, not about things that occurred twenty-three years ago.

**DADDY MURPHY**

That had to be the most painful day of your life.

*(Silence.)*

It was, wasn't it, sweetheart.

**ALICE**

Oh, Daddy...

**DADDY MURPHY**

It was.

**ALICE**

Yes.

**DADDY MURPHY**

Well, if shame could ever equal pain, I would say I know how you feel. Because what I did that day made it the most shameful day of my life.

**ALICE**

Thank you, Daddy.

**DADDY MURPHY**

I believe that was the last day my own daddy still had hold of me. How I felt after that helped me purge him from me.

*(ALICE hugs him.)*

I don't ask for forgiveness...

**ALICE**

Oh, Daddy, I forgi...

**DADDY MURPHY**

*(cuts her off)*

No, Alice, I cannot even forgive myself.

*(MAMA MURPHY enters silently, and stands out of sight.)*

I wonder what happened to the boy. Do you know, Alice?

**ALICE**

I do, Daddy.

*(she collects herself, then thinks  
better of it)*

He was adopted by a good family in California and raised with very much love. He's educated, and successful, and he's a fine young man.

**DADDY MURPHY**

That's what I wished for him all along.

**ALICE**

Maybe your wishes made it so. ← **END**

<b>#20 SUN'S GONNA SHINE (REPRISE)</b>
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*(DADDY MURPHY and ALICE rise. DADDY MURPHY enters the cabin. ALICE follows.)*

**MAMA MURPHY**

THE SUN IS GONNA SHINE AGAIN  
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*[TRANSITION TO:]*