

# Daddy Murphy

or  
Daddy  
Cane

## 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.)

Start

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.

**#20 SUN'S GONNA SHINE (REPRISE)**

*(DADDY MURPHY and ALICE rise. DADDY  
MURPHY enters the cabin. ALICE  
follows.)*

**MAMA MURPHY**

THE SUN IS GONNA SHINE AGAIN  
THE SUN IS GONNA SHINE AGAIN

*[TRANSITION TO:]*

End