

START

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

200

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

(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

#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:]

