

ADULT JIMMY RAY & ADULT ALICE

SCENE 5

(1946. RALEIGH. A WELL-MANICURED STREET.)

(A WELL-DRESSED WOMAN, (40s), exits the house.)

WELL-DRESSED WOMAN
LeAnn, Mary! Wait for Momma!
(yells back at the house)
I'll go on ahead! We'll just walk and meet you there.

(They disappear up the street. Then, an older, fine looking, and well-dressed JIMMY RAY exits the house. He stops by the gate, straightens himself, pulls himself together, and passes ALICE on the sidewalk. She turns and watches him, about to call out, but he stops first and turns.)

(He looks at her for a long while.)

JIMMY RAY

The sun does shine in Raleigh.

ALICE

Hello, Jimmy Ray.

JIMMY RAY

Alice. Young Alice.

ALICE

Not so young.

JIMMY RAY

Young forever in my memory.

ALICE

This is your home. It's nice.

JIMMY RAY

I worked hard over the years.

ALICE

Those your kids?

JIMMY RAY

In a way. They're my sister's kids.

ALICE

You married?

JIMMY RAY

No. I never married. Close, a couple of times.

ALICE

I guess I would have heard. I followed you.

JIMMY RAY

I know you never married. I paid attention. You did well in Asheville. I had some trips there, looked up at your building, never went in though.

ALICE

Why not?

JIMMY RAY

You moved on. You published Carson McCullers, Eudora Welty....

ALICE

You have been paying attention.

JIMMY RAY

I always paid attention to you, Alice. If I didn't, I knew I was in trouble.

ALICE

We were so young.

JIMMY RAY

We were, but I wonder...often, was I old enough to have behaved differently, better.

ALICE

Yes. When I came to Raleigh today, it wasn't my intention to see you. I was at the hall of records. With the same woman who has been there for twenty years. And I asked if anyone else had looked for the whereabouts of our child. And she said not one. Not one person. Not you.

JIMMY RAY

I didn't, Alice.