

YOUNG ALICE # YOUNG JIMMY RAY

SCENE 5

(1923. A HOUSE IN THE VERY SMALL TOWN OF ZEBULON, NORTH CAROLINA.)

(JIMMY RAY (20), the Mayor's son, works outdoors under a tree. He fiddles with an old ice box on the street. ALICE enters, now age 16.)

(She approaches Jimmy Ray.)

ALICE

Now that's a sight. The Mayor's son with his sleeves rolled up repairing an ice box.

JIMMY RAY

Well, if it isn't the little princess of Zebulon. Princess, what's the matter with repairing an ice box?

ALICE

Jimmy Ray, an ice box has no moving parts. My granny could repair an ice box. There's ice and a box. I think you're just showing off your muscles.

JIMMY RAY

Keep talking, Alice Murphy. I'm curious how your mind works.

ALICE

Okay. You remind me of Adonis. You know who Adonis is?

JIMMY RAY

I sure do. He's a Greek God.

ALICE

Well, you remind me of him. In fact, you remind me of the myth of Adonis when he repaired the ice box.

JIMMY RAY

You ever think you might be too smart for this town?

ALICE

All the time.

JIMMY RAY

What makes you so sure?

ALICE

I entered an essay contest in Raleigh. The first prize was five dollars, and I won it.

JIMMY RAY

What was it about?

ALICE

I wrote about how there should be a rebirth of Southern writers, all writing about the Southern way, and that's how we can make our voices known.

JIMMY RAY

I don't know how a group of judges from Raleigh could turn that down.

ALICE

They couldn't. I took that five dollars and put it toward my college fund.

JIMMY RAY

How much do you have in your college fund?

ALICE

Five dollars.

*(then)*

Want a biscuit?

JIMMY RAY

I wouldn't mind havin' a biscuit.

*(ALICE takes one over to him. He reaches out for it.)*

ALICE

Your hands are dirty! You don't want to eat a dirty biscuit.

JIMMY RAY

You better feed it to me then.

ALICE

Now, you and I were thinking the exact same thought.

*(ALICE feeds him the biscuit.)*