

Setting: Late 18th century Boston mental asylum

Characters:

Violet: Older sister of Alice, has the ability to teleport. Craves freedom from conventional and smothering lifestyle and left the family several years prior, making her an outcast. She wants to free her younger sister of the lifestyle she is trapped in as well.

Alice: the younger sister of Violet who discovered her ability to teleport. She was sent to an institution after telling everyone of her discovery. She holds contempt for Violet not only for disgracing the family, but for inadvertently getting her sent to an institution.

(A single candle flickers inside the walls of a darkened prison cell. Alice sits up against the wall on her bed, asleep. Suddenly, we hear floorboards creek and another candle enters the room. It's Violet, holding a light and creeping towards Alice.)

Alice *(stirring)* Who's there?

(Violet stoops, flinching as she's caught)

Alice Hello? Who's there? Louisa is that you?

(She gets her candle and sees the figure of Violet. She cries out and Violet hurries towards her, shushing her).

Violet Sh! It's just me, it's just me!

Alice Who are you?

Violet It's me!

Alice I don't know you!

Violet Alice! It's *me*.

(Alice holds her candle up to Violet's face and sees that it is indeed her sister, whom she hasn't seen in months. She recoils in panic)

Alice You! What are you doing here? How did you get in my room?

Violet Alice please, don't say anything!

Alice *(yelling to the door)* Help! Help, there's a stranger in my room!

(Violet covers her mouth)

Violet Alice please, listen!

(Alice struggles to get her hands off of her mouth)

Alice *(muffled)* Let go of me! *(she briefly gets her hands off of her mouth)* Someone help me, please!

(Violet regains her strength and pushes Alice back into the wall, her mouth covered again)

Violet Alice *listen* to me, please!

Alice *(muffled)* No!

Violet This is important, I've got to talk to you!

(Alice bites Violet's hand. She yells, but quickly replaces her other hand onto Alice's mouth)

Violet Look, if you'll stop fighting me for a minute and listen I'll leave immediately, I swear!

(Alice manages to move Violet's hands again. She's winded from struggling)

Alice *(out of breath)* Why should I?

Violet Sh! *(Violet listens)* Do you hear that?

(Beat. They listen for footsteps)

Alice *(brightening)* Yes, the night shift. He--

(Violet covers her mouth again)

Violet Alice listen to me! I absolutely must tell you something very important. Please, *please* for my sake don't call out again!

(Alice looks towards the door again. She takes another breath to call out, but Violet stops her)

Violet If you do, I'll say I'm another patient that you forced into your room and held me against my will.

(Violet slowly pulls her hand down. Alice thinks for a minute)

Alice They'd never believe you.

Violet Maybe. But did they believe *you* either?

(Alice is clearly defeated. She thinks for a moment, then relaxes. Violet takes her hand off of her mouth and sits back on the bed)

Alice You have two minutes to make the intent of your visit known before I yell for help again.

Violet Fine! Fine. But just...just listen. I've got to tell you something.

Alice You're wasting time.

Violet Fine. *Beat*. I want to take you home with me.

Alice What?

Violet I want to take you home, Alice. Not to Mother or Father or Beacon Hill or the finely polished mahogany floors or the crystal chandeliers or the silk dresses or stuffy parlor room. Not to that life anymore. I want to bring you *home*, Alice. My home.

Alice You're mad.

Violet No, you must listen! I can offer you a new life, Alice. One away from these dreary, leaking walls and the stuffy, suppressing upper-class life we knew. I'm offering you a chance for freedom.

Beat

Alice You really *are* mad!

(Alice gets up and crosses the room. She gets to the other side and, with nowhere to go, begins pacing)

Violet Alice look around you! Look what's become of you!

Alice Because of *you*!

Violet No! Because of them, Alice! Because of them. They're the ones who didn't see the truth.

Alice Because you never showed them the truth!

Violet And end up here?

Alice I think you and I both know that wouldn't have happened. You have those powers, I don't.

Violet But that's why I want to help you now! I want to make up for this. I want to take you away.

Alice (*scoffs*) I'm afraid you're too late.

Beat.

Alice (*hushed*) When I found out what you could do, what you were...capable of, I had to tell. I was...frightened of it.

Violet Alice--

Alice It would've brought shame upon us if the city had discovered the governor's daughter left the family.

Violet Alice, that life was killing me. It was killing you! We were meant for greater things than parties and suitable proposals! That life was a living hell.

Alice And it turned out my fears came true tenfold. Now I'm stuck in this place...*this* hell, for reasons of insanity. And you've completely deserted not only your duty, but your family as well. How could I forgive you for that?

Violet That's why I want you to come with me, sister. I can take you to any corner of the Earth within seconds and your life here, the asylum, the disgrace, can all go away. We can be free together.

Alice No. I cannot take part in your games. They are the devil's own work.

(*Alice goes and sits in a chair across the room. She looks defeated. Beat*)

Violet Now that I cannot argue. Yes, I made a pact with a witch for these powers, but I don't regret it. I never have and I never will.

Alice How you have not been killed for saying that that I do not know.

Violet You think I would go about the town telling people I've been cavorting with witches for a chance for freedom? No sister, only you go about telling people things.

(This angers Alice)

Alice Get out, now!

Violet Alice.

Alice No, I refuse to have any more of this! All my life all I've heard about was how miserable you were and how much you hated being the oldest in a wealthy family. The responsibilities, the expectations. How you couldn't have your own life and how you were expected to marry into a good family. It never ended! But I wanted that life, Violet! *I* did! It was all I ever dreamed of and I couldn't fathom how someone would be so ungrateful and naive as to give that up!

Violet You hated that life as much as I did!

Alice No! I didn't, Violet! If you had maybe gotten your head out of the clouds that surround you and thought of someone other than yourself you could have seen that! It was no easy task having that much expected of you, but I was up for it. So when you left us for all those months, came back talking of cavorting with and making deals with witches on your journey and then...then *proving* you had been dealing with them, what else could I do but tell? If you were going to ruin a reputation, better it be you than I. But now I see in my attempt to save some semblance of my name, *I'm* the one who ended up where you should've been. And now that life I wanted--with the comfortable house, the fine furnishings, the husband, the children, the

clothing, the name...will never happen. You thought you were securing your own freedom, when you were really damning mine.

(Silence from a shocked Violet. She sees what damage her newly-gifted powers have done. Beat).

Violet Alice, I'm going to have these abilities forever. It was part of the deal.

Alice Good, you can leave as quickly as you came then.

Violet But not without you. I never, ever want to leave without you again. I see what I've done to you. I see what these powers have inadvertently done to you, and I want to take that away now.

Alice Traveling was your dream, not mine.

Violet Perhaps, but maybe travel is exactly what we need to help you find your new dream.

Alice I don't know what you mean.

Beat. Violet grabs her hands.

Violet They won't know us in any other land than America, Alice. You have the entire world to yourself now. To find a husband, marry wealthy, have a child. We couldn't do that before. Now...now the whole world is your oyster. Anywhere you wish to go we can go now.

Alice *(scoffing)* You mean I could just leave this country, right now with you. Just like that.

Violet Just like that.

Alice It can't be that easy.

Violet It is.

Alice And I'd be taking part in the devil's work.

Violet You already have, just by talking to me. It's too late now.

Alice *(laughing)* So I'm really ruined either way now I suppose.

Violet So why not go with me then?

Beat

Alice *(to herself)* So why not then?

Beat

Alice I could be in Ireland, or India, or Burma in just a matter of seconds?

Violet You would scarcely know you were even moving.

Alice *(smiling)* And I could get away from this cell with these dripping stone walls, freezing floors, and lice-ridden beds?

(Violet smiles and nods)

Alice And I could have my nice home, my nice family, my nice clothes, anywhere in the world I wanted.

Violet Just like that.

(Beat. Alice takes Violet's hand).

Alice Save me.

Violet *(smiling)* Where shall we go?

Alice The moon.

Violet The moon?

Alice And from there who cares. I'll be free.

Violet We'll be free.

End.