

Family

A PLAY IN ONE ACT

By

NICO BUTTERFIELD

Cast of Characters

Olivia:	An 18 year old girl and Ally's younger sister.
William:	A 19 year old boy and Ally's boyfriend of one year.
Ally:	A 20 year old girl and Olivia's older sister.
Grant:	A 18 year old boy and William's friend.

Scene

A dark forest between the four friend's houses in suburban connecticut.

Time

The present. 10:30PM

SETTING:

The play is set in a dark forest with the four teens gathered around a campfire. Their faces glowing in the firelight.

AT RISE:

WILLIAM is sitting with his back resting against a fallen tree trunk. ALLY is sitting on his left, his arm around her. OLIVIA is sitting on ALLY's left resting against a different fallen tree. GRANT is standing across from OLIVIA looking into the forest.

GRANT

I swear, guys. I saw something.

WILLIAM

Oh come on. Cut it out.

(Grant continues to probe the forest.)

ALLY

Just come sit. Liv wasn't done with her story.

(OLIVIA nods.)

GRANT

I'm telling you.

WILLIAM

Well, what was it then?

GRANT

It, it....

WILLIAM

You can do it.

GRANT

(Looking at Ally.) It looked kind of like Ally.

(A silence passes over the group.)

ALLY

Me?

WILLIAM

Okay, that's it.

(WILLIAM stands and makes his way over to GRANT, taking him by the shoulders.)

Funny guy, funny guy. Scaring the girlfriend.

(WILLIAM sits GRANT down against the log across from OLIVIA)

GRANT

Dude, I'm not-

OLIVIA

Why don't I finish telling the story?

(WILLIAM sits down back by ALLY.)

WILLIAM

As long as Grant-

ALLY

(Putting her hand on WILLIAM's chest.) Great idea.

(WILLIAM glares at GRANT. GRANT puts his arms up in the air, defensively, before returning his focus to the woods.)

OLIVIA

Okay, everyone remembers what's happened?

(ALLY nods. WILLIAM is too busy glaring at GRANT to respond. GRANT is too busy looking at the woods around him to respond. ALLY looks up at WILLIAM and then over at GRANT.)

ALLY

(Elbowing WILLIAM.) Hey.

(WILLIAM reacting to the elbow, faces ALLY.)

WILLIAM

I remember, I remember.

OLIVIA

Why did the grandmother drown her granddaughter, then?

WILLIAM

Uh, because she's evil...

(GRANT scoffs, still looking around the woods.)

WILLIAM

(Confrontationally.) Got something to add?

GRANT

(Ignoring WILLIAM) The grandmother's possessed because she found this dead girl hanging in the woods. On a trip to Alaska or something....

OLIVIA

Quebec, actually. Just a few hours from here.

GRANT

Quebec, right. The grandmother looks at the body a second too long. The dead girl's eyes open and possess her. That's why she drowns her granddaughter.

WILLIAM

I knew that.

OLIVIA

Yeah, right.

ALLY

Be nice, Liv.

OLIVIA

(Mocking.) Be nice, Liv.

ALLY

What is your problem?

OLIVIA

Nothing.

ALLY

No, I wanna hear it.

OLIVIA

Maybe if you and your boyfriend would stop making out for two seconds you would.

ALLY

Olivia!

OLIVIA

Am I wrong?

GRANT

Okay, totally happened. I thought it was great.

ALLY

Shut up, Grant.

WILLIAM

I was listening!

(Pause.)

The grandmother comes back from her trip, but doesn't seem crazy. Everything's normal until she's alone with the baby.

ALLY

See!

OLIVIA

So? It was still gross.

ALLY

It was just a couple pecks.

OLIVIA

Yeah, gross.

GRANT

Wait, what happens when grandma's alone with the baby again?

(The sisters are too busy with their argument to bother with this question.)

WILLIAM

She drowns the baby in the bathtub, but then just goes to bed like nothing happened.

ALLY

We're dating!

OLIVIA

Yeah, you're dating. Doesn't mean you have to do that shit in front of me. I'm your sister!

GRANT

Oh yeah, then the grandmother wakes up to her daughter screaming but doesn't remember what she did.

ALLY

God, grow up.

OLIVIA

You grow up.

WILLIAM

Guys?

OLIVIA

Kiss all the boys you want, just leave me out of it.

ALLY

Fine, and next time I go on a camping trip I'll leave you out of that too.

OLIVIA

Perfect.

WILLIAM

Uh, guys?

ALLY
What!

OLIVIA
What!

GRANT
I think we're all caught up.

(The sisters glare at each other. ALLY cuddles up closer to WILLIAM. OLIVIA rolls her eyes. A silence falls over the group.)

GRANT
So, are we doing the story or....

(Silence.)

Got it.

OLIVIA
Ugh, fine.

(Pause.)

As long as you two promise to stop groping each other.

ALLY
Bitch.

OLIVIA
Slut.

ALLY
Whore.

OLIVIA
Cu-

WILLIAM
We promise. We promise.

(Cutting OLIVIA off and holding ALLY back from responding. ALLY looks up angrily at him.)

OLIVIA

(Smiling falsely.) Amazing.

(ALLY glares at OLIVIA. There is a pause.)

Okay, so, as long as there aren't going to be any further interruptions.

(OLIVIA glares at ALLY. ALLY glares back.)

Let me reset the scene.

The baby's mother has just gotten back from the store and hears the water running upstairs. She sets the groceries down and slowly makes her way up the stairs towards the noise. She opens the bathroom door to find her daughter floating face down in an overflowing bathtub. The mother rushes in and pulls her baby out of the tub. The baby has been dead for hours. The mother sits there, baby in her arms, on the wet bathroom floor in a stunned silence. She lets out a horrible scream. Across the hall, the grandmother stirs in bed, her grey eyes flashing open, and hurries towards the noise. Her clothes are still wet from the bathwater when she enters the bathroom, dripping on the room's white tile floors. She sees her daughter holding the baby and joins her in her screams.

ALLY

Why doesn't she remember killing the baby?

OLIVIA

(Like the answer was obvious.) She's possessed.

ALLY

Yes, I know that but-

OLIVIA

But what?

ALLY

Nevermind.

OLIVIA

(Quickly.) Great.

(Pause.)

The daughter looks up to see her mother soaking wet and, clinging more tightly to the baby now, slowly begins backing away from her.

GRANT

Did anyone see that?

WILLIAM

Not this again.

GRANT

Will, I swear.

WILLIAM

I don't wanna hear it.

GRANT

But-

WILLIAM

Keep going Olivia.

OLIVIA

Don't tell me what to do pervert.

ALLY

(ALLY stands.) Okay that's it.

(WILLIAM grabs her hand.)

WILLIAM

It's okay, Al.

(ALLY pulls her hand from William's.)

ALLY

(To Olivia.) Apologize.

OLIVIA

No.

WILLIAM

Al, let's just finish the story.

(ALLY is visibly furious with her sister, but sits. Once, sitting she kisses WILLIAM deeply, staring at her sister. WILLIAM stops the kiss.

ALLY

(Smiling falsely.) Please, continue.

OLIVIA

(Smiling back.) Gladly.

(Pause.)

So, the grandmother, thankful to be rid of her whore sister who died years before-

ALLY

Sorry, how is that relevant?

OLIVIA

(Ignoring her sister.) But confused why her daughter looks so terrified, takes a few steps towards her.

ALLY

Hello?

OLIVIA

(Continuing to ignore ALLY.) The daughter backs up as far as she can before feeling the far wall of the bathroom press into her back. Her mother keeps coming, but the closer she gets the more her look of concern begins to fade. When the

two are just a couple inches apart and all emotion has left the grandmother's face, the daughter reaches out to touch her mother's nightgown, asking shakily, "Wh, why are you all wet, Mom?"

(Pause.)

The grandmother doesn't respond. So, the daughter asks again. And again.

GRANT

I really think we should leave.

WILLIAM

Nothing's out there!

OLIVIA

(Smiling at GRANT.) I think someone's scared.

GRANT

Yes! I've made that very clear.

(OLIVIA stands and walks over to GRANT. She presses her head against his and continues to tell the story.)

OLIVIA

The grandmother never responds, her body is rigid, eyes empty. She presses her face to her daughter's, staring into her eyes, like this.

(WILLIAM makes a kissing sound with his mouth. ALLY elbows WILLIAM in the ribs, hard.)

The two stay like this for a while. Unmoving, mother and daughter. Then, the pair stand in unison.

(OLIVIA stands, walking ominously around the campsite.)

The daughter picks up her baby and the family leaves the house. They walk and walk and walk, until they reach the

edge of an unmarked forest and disappear together between the trees.

(Pause.)

Legend has it that they still wander those woods, looking to add more members to their family....

ALLY

(Clapping.) Brilliant, just brilliant.

(OLIVIA rolls her eyes and makes her way over to GRANT. She sits next to him.)

GRANT

(Stands.) Okay, I'm leaving.

WILLIAM

What?

GRANT

You all should come.

OLIVIA

I'm leaving too.

ALLY

Good riddance.

OLIVIA

Have all the sex you want.

(OLIVIA puts her arm around GRANT.)

Anyway, it's only fair I come since I scared you so bad.

GRANT

It isn't-

OLIVIA

Don't worry, I'll protect you.

(GRANT shrugs.)

GRANT
Are you guys sure you won't come?

WILLIAM
I mean if your this freaked out-

ALLY
(Nodding towards OLIVIA.) We're sure.

(Pause.)

I'm too much of a whore to ride in the same car as little miss princess over there anyway.

WILLIAM
Seriously, Al?

(ALLY doesn't respond. WILLIAM looks at her and then at OLIVIA and GRANT.)

We're staying.

GRANT
Will-

WILLIAM
We're staying.

(Pause.)

That story's just got you on edge.

GRANT
I know what I saw. It couldn't have been Ally, but it had long back hair.

ALLY
Just go already.

OLIVIA

Good idea.

GRANT

Fine, we'll pick you guys up in the morning.

OLIVIA

Maybe.

(ALLY rests her head on WILLIAM's lab. Closing her eyes.)

WILLIAM

(Patting ALLY's head.) Alright, see you tomorrow.

GRANT

Just be careful.

(WILLIAM nods. GRANT and OLIVIA exit.)

ALLY

Finally.

WILLIAM

I hate when you guys fight.

ALLY

I know.

(Pause.)

I'm sorry.

WILLIAM

Don't worry.

ALLY

(Sitting up.) She just...ugh!

WILLIAM

I know.

(Pause.)

I have siblings too, remember?

(ALLY looks at WILLIAM, smiling. She leans in to kiss him, but as she does WILLIAM sees GRANT returning from stage right.)

WILLIAM

(Retreating from the kiss) Grant?

(OLIVIA steps out from behind him, and the pair begin walking towards the campsite. ALLY turns toward them.)

ALLY

I thought we got rid of you.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF PLAY)