

ALICIA. Look, I'm not that smart –

LOGAN. Don't say that.

ALICIA. No, really, I'm not. I've been tested. But I know how to make people stare at me and not look away. And when I say something on stage, people listen and they believe me. But this history stuff and writing, I don't know how to do that.

So if you want to make me feel empowered or whatever, let me do what I know how to do and don't force me to do something that makes me feel stupid.

LOGAN. But I am here to help you. Teach you.

ALICIA. I don't want to learn.

LOGAN. Seriously?

ALICIA. I'm happy doing my thing.

LOGAN. You have no ambition to be more than an actor?

ALICIA. What's wrong with being an actress?

LOGAN. Nothing. I just – I don't believe I've ever met a person without ambition. Not in any aspect of my life.

ALICIA. I'm ambitious. I want to do more acting.

LOGAN. Wow. You are certainly the most...simple person I've ever met.

ALICIA. I'm not smart but I'm definitely not simpleminded.

LOGAN. No. Simplicity is difficult. Multitasking, constantly trying to be something more, everyone does that. But to *be* simplicity, that's unbelievably difficult.

ALICIA. Not really. I just...don't do stuff I don't want to do and do the stuff I do.

LOGAN. You're talking directly to me and I can barely wrap my brain around it. I've never, for one moment in my life, been content.

ALICIA. I'm content all the time. Except when my agent dropped me but then I dumped him and felt fine.

LOGAN. Teach me how to be content.

ALICIA. Right now?

LOGAN. Please. You have no idea how stressed I am. But if I can get my reputation back with the parents and they withdraw that petition, next year I could – See, I'm doing it already. I'm already worried about next year's production and we just started this one. Help me be content with this moment I'm in. We're in, together.

ALICIA. Well, basically you don't do anything.

LOGAN. That's it?

ALICIA. Like normally in rehearsal if they are working on someone else's scene, I just sit here. Or play Angry Birds on my phone, but I forgot my charger so I don't want to wear down the battery.

LOGAN. So you meditate? Or think about...what?

ALICIA. Nothing. Sometimes I'll look out the window. Or I'll study the ceiling. People leave you alone when you study the ceiling.

LOGAN. OK.

ALICIA. So now we just do it.

LOGAN. Now?

ALICIA. Uh-huh.

*(ALICIA sits back and stares at the ceiling.
LOGAN studies her a bit then tries to do the same.)*

LOGAN. Do you count tiles or...

ALICIA. Nope, just stare at it.

LOGAN. Right.

(LOGAN struggles to keep staring.)

I can't turn my brain off.

ALICIA. Maybe you're too smart to be content.

LOGAN. I am smart. I've been tested too.