

**E G Lambert School
Churchill Falls
presents**

Fading Away

Cast

Kate	Krista Collins
Marie	Heidi Kent
Lucy	Laura Bonnell
Thomas	Shane Collins
Ally	Adrianna Cousins
Doctor	Alyssa Lake
Sadie	Sarah Fowler
David	Samuel Burry
Verna	Gillian Dawe
Young Kate/Nurse	Elizabeth Noonan
Young Marie	Alexis Loder

Teacher Directors

**Rosemary Vigeant
Leonie Card**



Scene 1 Grandchild going through a trunk. Enter Mother

Kate: You're awfully quiet. I've been wondering what you've been up to.

Ally: Mom, how come you never showed me any of this stuff? Where did it all come from?

Kate: I can't remember. That trunk hasn't been opened since before you were born.

Ally: Why? There are so many interesting things in here. I mean just look at these booties. They're so tiny. And this dress, it looks so old.

Kate: Hey, I wore that to church every Sunday.

Ally: Why is there a church bulletin in here? And look, there's Nan's name. She sang a solo?

Kate: Yes, well you know how she loves to sing.

Ally: Nan's always singing something, but a solo?

Kate: Your grandmother had a beautiful voice when she was younger. And she was always being asked to perform, in church, at concerts. You name it and she sang it.

Ally: Oh my gosh Mom, where did you buy this quilt? It must have cost a fortune!

Kate: Nobody bought it. Your grandmother made it when I was a girl. She used to make them all the time.

Ally: I never realized that Nan was so talented. How come she doesn't do any of this anymore?

Kate: Look Ally! Here's a picture of us while your grandmother was making this quilt.

Ally: Is that Aunt Lucy? That doll she's playing with I think I've seen it at her house.

Kate: Yeah, she dragged that doll everywhere.

Ally: You all look so happy.

Kate: Our family had a lot of fun times together.

Scene 2 Marie is quilting, children gathered around.

Thomas: Choo! Choo!

Kate: Mommy?

Marie: Over here dear.

Kate: What are you doing over there? Are you quilting again?

Marie: I need something to pass the time. Why don't you come over and I'll teach you.

Lucy: Me too, me too. (Pause) You do it so quickly. It's like magic.

Kate: It's not magic, silly. Mommy, did you learn to do that when you were a little girl like me?

Marie: I started quilting when I was about nine.

Lucy: Who learned you?

Marie: Your grandmother. She was an expert quilter. And like her, it's taken lots of time and practice for me to get this good. I worked on my first quilt for a whole winter.

Kate: Oh Mommy, that's so pretty. This square here is my favourite. It reminds me of the flowers in your garden.

Marie: Do you mean this square with the daisies?

Kate: Yeah, I love those flowers.

Lucy: Me too. I love daisies.

Thomas: Mommy, could you sing that song about the daisy?

Marie: Sure Tommy. Girls, why don't you help me? (Sings) "I'll give you a daisy a day, dear. I'll give you a daisy a day. I'll love you until the rivers run still and the four winds we know blow away." (Repeat)

(Old Kate sings last line to Ally)

Scene 3 Marie puttering around, mumbling to herself and looking for glasses.

Marie: Where'd they go? What did I do with them? Stupid glasses, never where I put them. (Mumbles some more) How come I can never find them? It's just like me to lose them. (Searching)

Kate: Hello Mom. I got your groceries for this week. Would you like me to put them away for you?

Marie: Yes dear, yes dear.

Kate: Mom, why are your glasses in the refrigerator?

Marie: Oh you found them! (Laughing it off) I must've put them in there when I cleaned up from breakfast.

Kate: Yeah, ok. Well, I'll be in the kitchen. What is this doing here? Mom, how come your phone was in the cupboard?

Marie: Why were you in my kitchen?

Kate: I was putting away your groceries, Mom.

Marie: Oh, yes, of course.

Kate: That still doesn't explain the phone in the cupboard.

Marie: Why were you in my kitchen?

Kate: (Frustrated) You just asked me that and I told you I was putting away the groceries.

Marie: Well, what were you doing with my groceries?

Kate: I was putting them away like I always do.

Marie: Oh yes. You look chilled dear. Is it cold outside?

Kate: No, it's not too bad. I'll just finish up and I'll see you tomorrow, Mom.

(Marie putters around, then leaves.)

Scene 4 Family sitting around discussing Nan's forgetfulness

Lucy: Well, I couldn't believe when she did that last week.

Kate: It really caught me off guard. She didn't know what she was doing or saying.

Lucy: And that's not the first time it has happened.

Kate: Strange things like this seem to be occurring more and more frequently and I'm beginning to think it's a much bigger issue than just simple forgetfulness.

(Enter Thomas)

Thomas: Hi girls.

Lucy/Kate: Hello Tom.

Thomas: Well, I know my two lovely sisters didn't call me over here just for tea and local gossip. So what's the problem?

Lucy: You know. It's about Mom.

Thomas: Yeah, so she's forgetting a few things. Big deal! Do you know how long it takes me to find my keys every morning?

Kate: But Tom, it's not just the little stuff anymore. I'm the one who sees her every day and this forgetfulness and strange behaviour is progressing.

Thomas: Remember Mom is getting up there in years and these things happen with age.

Lucy: No, you don't understand. The other day when I stopped by she was in her nightgown and told me she was getting ready for bed..

Thomas: And your point is?

Lucy: Tom. It was only 4:00 in the afternoon.

Kate: You're not around every day so you don't even hear about all the crazy things that happen.

Thomas: Like what?

Kate: The other day she was in the kitchen making chowder. I caught her just before she put her pet goldfish in the blender.

Lucy: Just last week I found out she paid her phone bill twice and never paid her electric bill for the month of October.

Thomas: So...

Kate: Come on, you know how particular she's always been when it comes to keeping track of her money and even more so since Dad passed away.

(Thomas angry body language)

Lucy: Now that she's all alone in that house, who knows what other odd things she might be doing. And it's not just us. Mom's neighbour, Mrs. Vivian, stopped me in the store the other day wondering if Mom was okay.

Thomas: Why would she ask that?

Lucy: For the past two weeks when Mrs. Vivian went to pick her up for bingo, Mom wasn't ready and never even knew it was bingo night.

Thomas: Maybe it's that new medication that she's on for her blood pressure.

Lucy: If that's the case, then she needs to see about getting it changed.

Kate: It could be her meds, but I think it's more than that. We need to meet with her doctor and maybe she can help us figure this out.

Thomas: Now that that's settled, I gotta go.

Kate: I'll make an appointment.

Lucy: Just give me a call.

(Enter husband, David)

David: Hi guys, did you figure things out?

Thomas: Just ask Kate.

(Exit Tom and Lucy. David sits next to Kate and consoles her. Kate looks distressed)

David: How'd it go honey?

Kate: I don't know David. It seems that Tom isn't ready to accept the fact that Mom is getting worse.

David: Did you explain to him all that's been going on?

Kate: Yes, but he's still in denial.

David: You've got to do something. Did you make any progress or decisions?

Kate: At least we agreed that it's time to consult with her doctor.

David: Well, that's a good start. Because, honestly honey, I don't think it's going to get any better.

(Kate nods in agreement)

Scene 5 Kate and Lucy take Marie to the doctor. Waiting in her office. Kate and Lucy flipping through magazines. Marie looking confused.

Marie: What are we waiting for?

Lucy: Mom, we're waiting to see the doctor.

Marie: Why? I was here just last week.

Lucy: No you weren't. Your last appointment here was over two months ago.

Marie: There's nothing wrong with me. I'm fine. I don't know what you two are fussing about. There's no need for me to be here. (Goes to exit. Girls make her stay)

Lucy: No Mom, you can't leave.

Marie: (Sits down, accepting) What are we waiting for?

Lucy: We just went through this. How many times do I have to tell you? We're here to see the ...(cut off)

Kate: Mom, look at the lovely garden in this magazine. It's full of daisies just like you used to grow.

(Enter doctor)

Doctor: Hello Mrs. Kelly, Kate, Lucy.

Marie: I don't know why my daughters insisted that we come to see you.

Doctor: Remember when you visited a while back for some tests. I have the results here and there are just a few more questions that I'd like to ask you.

Marie: Okay.

Doctor: How many children do you have?

Marie: I have three, you know that. There's Kate, Thomas and Lucy.

Doctor: Do you know where we are, Marie?

Marie: Of course, we're at the medical clinic in your office.

Doctor: What year is it?

Marie: Well, it's... (doesn't know the answer) Who cares what year it is anyways. (Agitated, walks away and fusses with purse)

Lucy: Mom, it's 2007.

Doctor: Well girls, have you noticed any changes in your mother since your last visit?

Kate: Mom is living with me now. We felt it wasn't safe to leave her alone any more. It seems that she's getting worse.

Lucy: Did anything abnormal show up in the tests?

Doctor: The diagnosis was made through a systematic assessment which eliminates other possible causes. Until the time when there is a conclusive test I can only make a probable diagnosis. However, you should be aware that eighty to ninety percent of the time we are correct.

Lucy: Well, what does all that mean?

Doctor: We have done a series of tests to help us rule out other related illnesses. The blood work, for example, has shown diabetes or thyroid problems are not contributing to your mother's symptoms.

Kate: You keep telling us what isn't wrong with our mother, but we are here to find out what is.

Marie: What do you think is wrong with me?

Doctor: Marie, based on the test results and your symptoms, there's a strong possibility that you have Alzheimer's disease.

(Marie has sad/shocked expression. Daughters look at one another and nod in agreement.)

Scene 6 Tom is sitting next to coffee table. Enter Marie with tea tray.

Marie: What a nice surprise to have my son drop by.

Thomas: Just thought I'd stop in to see how everything's going.

Marie: Here you are, there's nothing like a hot cup of tea.

Thomas: Thanks Mom. (Takes a sip from cup and makes a face) Uhhh! (Facial expression)

Marie: Not sweet enough dear?

Thomas: Mom, this is hot water, not tea.

Marie: Don't be foolish, of course it's tea. I boiled the kettle, then I put the teabag in... (cut off)

Thomas: No you didn't. (Looks in pot) This is just water.

Marie: But I always put a teabag in. (Phone rings. Thomas moves to answer) Oh, don't leave me. It's just a cup of tea. Please don't leave me, oh please don't leave me.

Thomas: Shhh...No, she isn't home right now. Excuse me. Mom, I'm on the phone just one second.

Marie: Don't ignore me Tommy. Tommy I am your mother. Tommy please. It's just tea. I didn't mean to do it. It's not my fault.

Thomas: I have to go. I will get Kate to call you back. Mom, what's wrong with you? (Angry and frustrated) I was on the phone.

Marie: Don't leave me, don't leave me.

Thomas: I wasn't leaving. I went to answer the phone.

Marie: You were leaving me over tea. It's just tea. (Repeat)

Thomas: It's okay Mom. The tea is fine. Look, I am drinking the tea.

Marie: Really? It's okay? I am glad you like it. Yes it is good isn't it? (Pause. Sips tea. Reality hits. Defeated sigh) Oh Tom, the doctor's right you know. I'm not myself anymore and it's getting worse.

Thomas: It's okay. Everything will work out, somehow.

Marie: I'm really losing it. Just last month I would never have done this. And at this rate by next month, I may not be able to look after myself.

Thomas: (Arm around Marie, head on shoulder) It'll be okay.

Scene 7 Nan exhibits more drastic mood swings, showing more advanced stage of Alzheimer's

David: What's up, Allyooops?

Ally: Hi Dad. Did you know Nan used to sing solos at concerts?

David: When you were a baby Nan could always stop your tears with a song.

Ally: Oh look, here's a picture from the fall fair. Nan is holding a first place ribbon. Do you know what it was for?

David: Oh I remember that. She won lots of prizes for her flowers, especially her daisies. Folks always said she grew the best daisies in town.

Ally: Really? I've never seen any at her house. Why doesn't Nan grow flowers any more?

David: Your Nan's getting older and...well honey...she just can't do things like she used to.

Ally: Yeah, I know. Mom's always telling me that, but Dad, Mom spends far more time with Nan than she does with me. It's not fair!

David: (Mumbles to self) You're right about that! Things will work out soon. (Mumbles) I hope.

(Enter Marie)

Marie: There's my favourite granddaughter. Your mom was reminding me that you have a... a... what's that thing you have coming up?

Ally: My birthday Nan.

Marie: Yes, that's it. So what kind of...umm...thing would you like?

David: Do you mean gift, Marie?

Marie: Yes. Yes, that's it. I know, how about I make you a nice bathtub for your bed. (Excited)

Ally: Bathtub? Nan, do you mean make me a quilt?

Marie: Yes, a quilt. I just said that.

Ally: No Nan you didn't. You said bathtub.

Marie: Stop telling me what I said or didn't say. You never listen to me. That's the problem. You're always mixing me up. (Muttering and mumbling words of anger)

Ally: Please don't yell at me, Nan. Stop. Please.

David: Marie, why don't we go find Kate?

Marie: What are we doing? Where are we going?

Scene 8 Social situation, friends slightly uncomfortable. Reminiscing about better days. Marie sitting and staring into space like she's not all there, mumbling song. Ad libs as friends enter.

Kate: It's so nice to see you ladies.

Verna: Well Kate, you know we've been meaning to come over, but it's hard to know when to come, if she's having a good day or bad day.

Sadie: You know, we don't want to neglect our friendship with your mother, but we find it so heartbreaking to see her like this.

Kate: I understand.

Verna: So, how are you holding up?

Kate: I just take it day by day. Some days are better than others.

Sadie: She used to be so involved in the community. If anybody needed a job done, everyone could call on Marie.

Verna: Remember the time she was cooking all those turkeys for the cold plate supper and her over broke.

Sadie: Yes, and I can still picture her marching up the road with the bird in her hand. She was determined to get those turkeys cooked on time.

Verna: And it was good too.

Sadie: My, my, those were the days. (Enter Marie) Poor dear.

Verna: Do you think she'll know who we are today?

Kate: Who knows? It's hard to tell. Let's go see. (Approaches Marie) Mom, Mom... (Tries To get attention) Mom...Marie...

Marie: Oh hello.

Kate: Look who came to visit. It's Sadie and Verna.

Marie: Who? (Sadie approaches) Oh hello.

Sadie: Marie, it's me, Sadie.

Marie: Oh yes. (Nods with smile, still no clue)

Kate: These are your bingo buddies. Remember? You ladies have gone to bingo together every week for.... (Turns to friends)... how many years has it been?

Verna: My goodness, we've been playing bingo since you were a youngster, Kate.

Sadie: And this one must have a horseshoe up her sleeve. Would you believe she won twice last week? I think bingo is her middle name. (Laughs)

Marie: Bingo! (As if she won, then shakes her head) When are we going to bingo?

Kate: Not today Mom, it's only Monday.

Marie: When are we going?

Verna: (Whispers) What do I say?

(Friends look uncomfortably at each other)

Kate: They'll call you and let you know.

Sadie: It's a lovely day today, isn't it?

Verna: Yes, but I hear we're going to get rain tomorrow. (Uncomfortable silence) Sadie, didn't you say there was some place you had to go?

Sadie: Yes, that's right!

Kate: Thanks for stopping by. I'll see you to the door.

Scene 9 Marie setting table, talking to Grandfather

Marie: Hello dear, how was your day? (Pause, giggles) Jack, you always know how to make me laugh. Supper will be ready in only a few minutes. You know I made your favourite today.

(Enter Kate and Ally. Observe Nan)

Marie: Oh I have had such a busy day. I got a batch of bread in the oven this morning. It was a great day for hanging out the wash. And Jack, this afternoon the youngsters helped me work in the garden. Tommy picked these daisies. Aren't they beautiful?

Kate: Hello Mom, what are you doing?

Marie: Oh there are my girls. Go call Tommy for supper and go wash up. Hurry, your father's hungry.

Ally: Mom, what is Nan talking about? Granddad is dead! Why is she talking to him?

Kate: Don't worry dear, you know how Nan gets lately. You go on and finish your homework. I'll take care of it.

(Ally exits)

Marie: Where's Tommy?

Kate: He'll be in shortly.

Marie: Oh that Tommy. He's so busy playing, he's always the last one at the table. You were such a great help in the garden today. I was just telling your father here all about it.

Kate: Yeah. (Hesitantly) It was fun.

Marie: Oh, Katie, you didn't even give your father a hug when you came in.

Kate: Mom, did I show you this? (Provides distraction)

Ally: Mom, I need help with my homework. Does Nan still think she's talking to Granddad?

Marie: Nan? Ally, honey, I'm right here. Kate, why is there an extra place set at the table. Are we having a guest?

Kate: Oh, my mistake, Mom. I'll just put that away.

(Kate and Ally exit)

Marie: Oh my goodness. Look at the time. Jack will soon be home. I better go check on supper.

Scene 10 Ally was not picked up again. Indirectly because of Grandmother. This is a point of conflict. Arguing continues over a Senior's home for the grandmother to go to.

David: (Screams) You forgot her again! This is not the first time, Kate. Ally was hysterical when she called me. Where were you?

Kate: I was trying to find a nursing home for my mother, since somebody has a problem with her living here.

David: I don't have a problem with your mother. It's just that you don't have time for us anymore. Your mother can't always be your number one priority. (Sarcastically) You do remember you have a husband and a daughter.

Kate: Do you think I'm happy with the way things are? Do you think I'm trying to ignore you and Ally? I have to take care of my mom.

David: I know honey, but we can't go on like this. Your mother needs more care that we can give her. We all deserve better.

Kate: You've seen the brochures. Some places aren't suitable for her.

David: Yes, but I thought you said the Senior's Lodge was perfect for her.

Kate: She's already on the waiting list there, but they can't take her until they have an opening.

David: Okay, but how long is that going to take?

Kate: I don't know David. When they have an opening, they are going to call.

David: Is there any other place?

Kate: I want the best for my mother. We can't just leave her at any old place. This isn't easy for me either. Do you think I enjoy watching my mother lose her mind?

Scene 11 Marie enters and sits in a rocking chair. Nurse helps Marie put on a sweater.

Kate: Oh hello. How is she today?

Nurse: Not one of her better days. (Facial expression) I know this has been especially hard on you, Kate, but this is the best place for her. Here at the Lodge, you know the Alzheimer's care program is the best.

Kate: I know, and we're happy she's here. We know she's being well looked after.

Nurse: I'll leave you two to have a visit.

Marie: Oh hello. Have you come for a visit?

Kate: Yes. My, don't you look nice today. What a pretty dress you're wearing. That colour looks so good on you.

Marie: Yeah, such a pretty dress.

Kate: It's such a nice day out today. The sun is shining and there's not a cloud in the sky.

Marie: Oh yes.

Kate: Maybe we could go for a walk later.

Marie: Oh yes.

Kate: Did you have lunch today?

Marie: Are we going to have lunch?

Kate: No, it's not time for lunch. It's time for a nice visit. We'll just visit for now.

Marie: Okay, we'll visit. Did you come to visit me? My daughter used to visit me, but she doesn't come to see me any more. Do you think she still loves me?

Kate: (Pauses, sadly) Yes, I'm sure she still loves you very much. (Cries softly, then pulls herself together) Look what I've brought for you today. Some fresh daisies.

Marie: Daisies. I know a song about daisies. I used to sing it to my daughter. Oh, but...I can't remember how it goes.

Kate: I know that one. I know it very well. (Sings) "I'll give you a daisy a day, dear, I'll give you a daisy a day. I'll love you until the rivers run still and the four winds we know blow away".