

“Braving the Storm”

Written By: The Taylor Made Players

Black Tickle, Labrador

Main Characters:

Alice (Wife of Paul, Mother of Lucy, and Daughter of Maude)

Played by: Victoria Keefe

Paul (Husband of Alice, Father of Lucy, and Son of Jack)

Played by: Amber Snow

Maude (Mother of Alice, Mother In-law of Paul, and Grandmother of Lucky)

Played by: Jaiden Keefe

Lucy (Daughter of Paul and Alice, and Granddaughter of Maude and Jack)

Played by: Lorrie Morris

Uncle Jack (Father of Paul, Father In-law of Alice, and Grandfather of Lucy)

Played by: Michaela Keefe

Bob (Store Keeper)

Played by: Michaela Keefe

“Braving the Storm”

Scene One

Alice and Maude are gathered around the table. Alice is sitting quietly thinking, while Maude is making her bread. As Paul enters the house, Maude looks up from what she is doing.

Lights [Turned On]

Maude: Now where's you off to skipper?

Paul: I'm going to Cartwright my love. You know that we're getting low on our supplies. And you know how much we love's our hard bread and Carnation milk.

Maude: Pauly, I can feel the weather coming on. My joints have been aching for the last two days. I don't think this is such a good idea!

Alice: Paul, you knows that there is a ring around the sun, and you of all people should know that that means that there's bad weather brewing. It's an old wise tale that's been going around for years, use your common sense for once.

Paul: But Alice you knows that we needs the Carination milk to make the baby's bottle. If we didn't need that I would even consider leaving.

Alice: But honey what's the rush, we have enough milk and supplies to last us for a while, the storm will long be over.

Paul: But you know's how long our storms here lasts. It could last three or four days around here. I can't risk not having food with two small kids. If anything ever happened to them, I don't know what I would do! Besides, if I leave now I'll be back before any of the real bad weather hits us.

Alice: Paul Please...

Maude: Both of you stop that arguing and make up your minds! The longer you two are arguing the faster the storm will come. So Paul if you're going to go, you better go. And Alice my dear, go check on that child.

[Paul exits the Set. Grandmother goes back to kneading her bread, and Alice goes and picks up the baby]

Alice: *[holding the baby]* I can't believe that Paul is still going to leave.

Maude: His heart is in the right place besides, you know's how stubborn Paul can get at times.

Alice: But still, Mom. It's dangerous, if the weather comes down, what's he going to do? Lodge up? Turn back and come home? You know's you can't see a hand in front of your face when the weather hits here!

Maude: Don't you be getting saucy now my dear. He's a grown man, and he's thinking about his family. Paul can take care of himself. His father taught him right. Worrying is only going to make it hard on yourself.

Alice: Mom still, what if?

Maude: There is no what if's. He's doing it for his family, and that is what will keep him going.

Alice: Well mom I don't care, if the weather comes down I'm going to go out to look for him.

Maude: You know that's a bad choice! But, if it eases your mind... Leave the youngsters with me and set out. But you promise me only to set out if it gets stormy.

Alice: Yes mom. And don't worry about me.

Maude: Now I've never worried about you. And I know's that if the weather comes down, you'll be out there looking for the old feller.

Alice: Come on Mom, we'd better go help Paul get ready.

Maude: Come on then my dear.

[Exit]

Lights [Turned Off]

Song Played: A Land Called Labrador By Harry Martin

Scene Two

Everyone's outside helping Paul pack his things before he sets out to go to Cartwright. Paul is interacting with his wife, mother in-law, and children.

Lights (Turned On)

Lucy: Daddy, please don't go.

Paul: I have to, my baby. I'll be back before you know it.

Maude: Lucy, come with me sweetheart and let your dad get ready.

Alice: Looks like everything's packed and ready to go. *[sighing]* Oh Paul, I wish you would stay. It may seem like a good idea now, but when that storm hits you won't be able to see your hand in front of your face.

Paul: I know's all about the weather, but we're not going to talk about this anymore. My mind's made up, and I'm leaving. I love you guys, I will be back as soon as I can.

[Paul exits stage on his sled with his dog team]

Lucy: Mommy, why did daddy have to go?

Alice: You're too young to understand yet sweetheart. He's trying to be the best dad he can for you girls.

[Maude enters with the child]

Maude: Lucy, I've made you some paper dolls upstairs. Why don't you mosey on and go play with them like a good little girl.

[Lucy exits the stage to play with her dolls]

Alice: I can see the weather coming on out there now mom. I'd better get the wood brought in before it gets too bad out.

Maude: Okay, well I'm going to get supper ready there now, and check on the girls.

[Alice drops off the wood, sneaks her knapsack, and then exits]

Alice: I better go after Paul before he gets too far. I could probably catch up if I try. I know that the kids will be in good hands with mom.

Lights (Turned Off)

Song Played: Visions of Labrador By Harry Martin

Scene Three

In the house, it is stormy outside. The grandmother is making supper and Lucy is upstairs playing with her paper dolls. Baby is in the basinet.

Lights [Turned On]

Maude: Lucy! Can you come down here and help me with supper?

[Lucy comes down the stairs]

Lucy: Coming, Nan!

Maude: Lucy my dear, help me set the table for supper.

[Lucy starts setting the table. Maude looks out the window]

Maude: My sweet honorable, Alice better not have ventured out in that storm. Is she crazy! I can't believe she would be that foolish!

Lucy: Who's foolish? It's not me is it nan?

Maude: Not you my dear, I'm just mumbling to myself. *[looking concerned]*

Lucy: Where's mommy?

Maude: Your mother left to go help your father, don't worry. She'll be back when your father gets back.

[Lucy stays quiet and goes to the table to play with her dolls. Maude takes the baby off the table and off the set. She puts the food on the table and sits down with Lucy. As Maude and Lucy finish their supper, Maude sends Lucy to bed and Maude does the dishes.]

Maude: *[looking very worried, as she looks out the window]* I hope Alice is alright. I don't want a repeat of my husband's incident. I remember when Alice was small, my husband set out for Cartwright while it was stormy one day and he never came back. He tried to tell me he would make it home safe, and I of course believed him. I stayed up all night waiting and waiting, hoping he would come home to me. It was the worst thing that ever happened to me. There's no way I can't go through this again. The Labrador winters have taken too much already...

Lights [Turned Off]

Song Played: The Town I Loved So Well By Harry Martin

Scene Four

Alice sees an object while walking. Then, she realizes it is Paul's cart and runs up to it.

Lights [Turned On]

Alice: Oh my God! That's Paul! Please let him be fine!

[Alice tips over the cart and sees Paul shivering from the cold]

Paul: *[dumbstruck]* Alice! How in the world did you get out here?! Are you okay?

Alice: I'm fine, and I walked out here to find you. I wanted to be sure that you were OK!

[Paul pulls Alice close to him to keep her warm.]

Paul: This is crazy! Why would you do this? We have kids to worry about!

Alice: I knew you needed help. I left the kids with mom. They'll be fine. How did this happen?

Paul: This storm came on too quickly. I tipped over my cart to keep sheltered from the storm. It's an old trick dad taught me. I brought the dogs in with me to keep warm. They are the only reason I'm warm and alive right now.

Alice: We need to make a plan Paul, so we can get to Cartwright safe and sound and back with our supplies. It would be faster to go to Cartwright now then turn around, so we might as well make the trip worthwhile.

Paul: We will wait and see if the storm clears up, then we will leave, I promise. The last thing we need now is to meet old smoker.

Alice: *[confused]* What do you mean? Who's old smoker?

Paul: Old smoker, my darling, is an old man dressed up, ready to take on any ole storm. And with him he has eight huge husky dogs, and if you ever meet him then you'll get led astray, never to be found no more! ...and we don't want that now do we?

Alice: *[kind of scared]* Yeah good plan, let's wait to see if the weather's gonna clear up a bit.

[Lights go down. Cart is now over them. Lights come on for the next morning.]

Paul: Wake up Alice maid, it's a lovely morning and we better get on the ball. You knows how the weather changes.

Alice: *[yawning]* Okay then, let me get up first, and we'll be on our way.

Paul: We'd better hurry my dear. Dad said that he was going to Cartwright too, and I want to make sure nothing bad happened to him.

Alice: What?! Your father? Why didn't you say so! Come on then Paul!

Paul: Come on then, let's go!

[Walking for a while. They are almost to Cartwright when they see a figure up ahead.]

Paul: Look! Maybe that's dad!

Alice: God I hope he's okay!

[Gets up to figure.]

Alice: Uncle Jack! Are you okay? *[Gently nudges figure]*

Uncle Jack: *[moans]* Why are you hittin' me miss molly? I'm fine, you don't have to worry about me. I've seen colder days than the polar bears! I was just resting my eyes from riding all night.

Paul: *[sighs]* Oh thank God! Dad you're okay, Alice and I were looking for you.

Uncle Jack: Well how nice ye two are. Let's get on the move now, I could use a cup of hot tea from uncle Ed in Cartwright.

Alice: That's it my son, we loves ya.

Uncle Jack: Yeah, well, loves me or not we gotta get to Cartwright. We needs our supplies and especially that hard bread and Carnation milk! Let's go!

Lights (Turned Off)

Song Played: Old Smoker By Rich Neville

Scene Five

Alice, Paul and Uncle Jack are in Cartwright buying supplies.

Lights [Turned On]

Paul: Bob b'y, we got a big list this time. Check it over eh and see if you got everything. We don't want to come up short!

Bob: *[looking over list]* Umm, looks like we got everything here for ya!

Paul: That's good, but um how 'bout you double the milk, we gotta be safe and all with the baby.

Bob: Not a problem, you gotta make sure the youngsters are taken care of first.

Paul: Yes eh, I better go check on the woman too and see if she "needs" anything. *[Paul and Bob wink at each other]*

[Walk over to Alice]

Alice: Do they have everything?

Paul: Yeah, we got everything, I was wondering about you. Do you need anything? *[coughs]*

Alice: Not really, we don't need to spend more money than we need to and well, I want to get back with my babies as soon as we can.

Paul: Bob is gettin' everything loaded up on the cart there now, I'll pay him when he's done. Then we'll be on our way.

Bob: *[off set]* Paul, everything's ready now skipper.

[Paul and Alice exit set]

Lights [Turned Off]

Song Played: Take Me To The Country By Harry Martin

Scene Six

At home...

Lights (Turned On)

Grandmother: God I hope they're okay, I wish they were home.

[After she says that, Paul and Alice walk through the door]

Alice: Hi mom, where's the kids?

Grandmother: Oh my God, thank God you're safe! And what were you thinking?!

Alice: Mom, where's the kids?

Grandmother: I was just saying how I was wishing ye two were home, and here you are! Thank god!

Paul: Mom, you're getting carried away now. Where are the kids?

Grandmother: Oh yes, the kids. The baby is asleep, and Lucy is upstairs playing with her dolls. They are both just fine.

Paul: God aren't I glad to be home *[slumps down in the couch, taking off his winter boots]*. It was quite the trip!

Grandmother: Me too my son, I was getting worried. Alice my dear, don't you ever, and I mean EVER take off like that again! You knows how worried I gets over you two messing around in the weather!

Alice: No mom, I promise I won't. It's too long of a trip for me anyway, and I don't think I'll be able to risk leaving the girls again.

Paul: Alice, no more taking off...but listen, we're both okay and we have everything, so no more worrying.

Grandmother: You're right Pauly. How 'bout we get supper on the table. I made a fresh bread while you was out to keep my mind off everything. It's just out of the oven. Then the two of you needs to go and get some sleep out of it!

Alice: No mom, you had the kids ever since we left. We can't ask you to do any more.

Grandmother: Don't be so foolish, eat and go to bed, I'll take care of the kids. I raised youngsters all my life, at least these girls are quiet. When you were small you were bouncing off the walls!

Paul: Thank you my maid, you're a life saver [*gives Maude a big hug*]. Alice and I would be lost without you.

Grandmother: I know ye two would [*chuckles*]. So come on, get Lucy down here to eat.

Alice: Lucy! Mommy and daddy are back, get down here please.

Paul: Supper's ready my baby! Come on.

[Lucy runs downstairs, and hugs her mom and dad and they all sit down to eat]

Lucy overexcited!

Lucy: Mommy! Daddy! I'm so glad you're back! I missed you so much. I was such a big girl. I even helped nanny bake the bread!

Paul: That's good my baby, you're getting to be some big girl. We love you so much!

Lights [Turned On]

Song Played: This Is My Home By Harry Martin