

[REDACTED] What was the [REDACTED] that you lived  
in New York?

[REDACTED]

SMALL ALISON Yeah, good.

(She dips back into her drawing.)

[REDACTED] I have a question.

[REDACTED]

SMALL ALISON When Daddy was in Germany, what was your house?

HELEN Well, it was [REDACTED] I remember that.

SMALL ALISON Alright something about that [REDACTED]

HELEN Uh Well we had [REDACTED] balcony and in the morning [REDACTED] some over and we'd sit there and talk and have breakfast.

SMALL ALISON Oh, where did you live after that?

[REDACTED] I don't know [REDACTED] where we were [REDACTED] back.

SMALL ALISON Oh yeah, 'cause Daddy had to run the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SMALL ALISON. (Circles "I") Oh, I [REDACTED]

*Taking her drawing, she finds her dad.*

Daddy, you saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa one time, right?

BRUCE. I did.

(Re: her drawing.)

What's that?

SMALL ALISON. (Excited to show him.) In school we're learning maps and globes, and Miss Windsor said draw a map of all places people in our family have been to.

BRUCE. Aha.

SMALL ALISON. They're for showing tomorrow in class.

BRUCE. What's this?

SMALL ALISON. (*Bursting with pride.*) Okay, so: This is a keystone because Pennsylvania is the Keystone state.

BRUCE. This square?

SMALL ALISON. That's Beech Creek, see? That's the bridge, that's the ford, that's the creek, school, the Fun Home, our house, Aunt Jane and Uncle Randy's house—

*Bruce points.*

That's Germany!

*(Getting an idea.)*

Ooh, I know.

*She draws in a new part.*

John, Christian, me. See? Floating in bubbles because we're not born yet—

BRUCE. Okay, that's interesting but let me show you how you can make it better. This is visually confusing; you've got about ten different drawings so you can't really see any of them. Pick one.

SMALL ALISON. But this is a cartoon and in a cartoon there's all different parts.

BRUCE. But we can make it better than a cartoon.

SMALL ALISON. I like cartoons.

BRUCE. Sure, cartoons are fun but I'm showing you here how to do something substantial and beautiful. Listen to me, you have the potential to become a real artist. Do you know that? You do. But that means you have to learn the craft, you have to study the rules. Let's talk about composition. You've got too much going on here. Pick one area.

SMALL ALISON. The Keystone State.

BRUCE. That's too much. Watch this.

*He takes her pad and starts a new drawing.*

I'm going to draw our mountains. See that? How I'm shading them? That gives them dimension.

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SMALL ALISON. I want the whole state.

BRUCE. (Cross.) I'm explaining to you that you can't do that.

SMALL ALISON. Let me try.

BRUCE. Alison, this is the way it should look.

SMALL ALISON. But I liked the way mine was.

BRUCE. (Losing his temper.) But you cannot do it like that unless you want to ruin it. I am trying to teach you something important.

~~FRANK. (Coming in from the other room.) Bruce, it doesn't matter. It's a drawing.~~

BRUCE. ~~What I'm trying to teach you is that you can't take~~  
~~it to school. She's showing it to her. You know what~~  
never mind. You want to take a half-baked mess to school, you want to embarrass yourself like that it's fine with me. Do what you want.

SMALL ALISON. (Holding the drawing out to him.) No, I like the one you did, Daddy.

~~Alison takes the drawing from Bruce. He looks~~  
~~out at her and studies it.~~

~~SMALL ALISON~~  
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~~She begins to draw her own version of this map.~~  
~~Quick! Take down the puppets and~~  
~~Reach. Reach. Reach. That's it. Reach.~~