

A.L.I.C.E.

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Young Geoffrey, September's fiancé, has just arrived at her family's home a day early, but is made to feel more than welcome when asked to join in one of their special meetings. Entitled A.L.I.C.E. for Acceptance and Love Increases Through Confessional Expression, each family member takes a turn confessing their latest error or lie. They are each armed with a small bell, which they can ring when they suspect the confession is incomplete in any way. First Mom admits helping herself to PTO funds; September reveals she dyes her hair; then Aunt Edna exposes her fling; and finally younger sis Sparkle explains her tattoo. Geoffrey, feeling confident, then confesses his cheating on September. Like the earlier revelations, the family takes the news graciously but decides some "special" dessert is in order to end the meeting. Ideal for community theatres.

This play won the 2005 Drury University National Playwriting Contest and was performed there the following spring.

SETTING

Professor and Mrs. Flam's living room.

TIME

A Friday night, seven o'clock, the present.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 4 w)

SEPTEMBER: 23; college student, pretty, thin, long blond hair, girl-next-door type.

GEOFFREY: 23, college student, September's fiancé, clean-cut fraternity boy.

MRS. FLAM: 45, September's mother, full figured *(and shows lots of cleavage)* touchy-feely personality.

SPARKLE: 15, September's little sister, Goth, black lipstick, nose ring, tattoo, long straight black hair *(wig)* sassy, smart-aleck personality.

AUNT EDNA: 60, country gal, ditzy, forgetful, eccentric personality.

PROFESSOR FLAM: 45, September's father, professional and fatherly.

PROPERTIES

Bouquet of flowers

Vase

Six small bells

Whip cream pie

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(AT RISE: SXF: DOORBELL. SEPTEMBER runs to answer the door.)

SEPTEMBER: *(Shouting.)* Hold on, I'm coming. Hold on.

(SEPTEMBER opens door, GEOFFREY enters, carrying flowers.)

GEOFFREY: Hello, love of my life. Surprise!

SEPTEMBER: *(Shocked.)* Geoffrey, what are you doing here? I thought you were still on campus.

GEOFFREY: But I'm not. I'm right here.

SEPTEMBER: But, but the dinner's not tonight, it's tomorrow night.

(GEOFFREY hands SEPTEMBER the flowers and gives her a hug.)

GEOFFREY: Well, maybe I just couldn't stand to be away from my beautiful fiancée for another twenty-four hours.

(SEPTEMBER hugs GEOFFREY'S neck.)

SEPTEMBER: Oh, Geoffrey, I can't believe.

(MRS. FLAM enters the living room as SEPTEMBER places the flowers in a vase.)

MRS. FLAM: September, who's here?

SEPTEMBER: Mother, it's Geoffrey.

MRS. FLAM: *(Surprised.)* Geoffrey? *(Calls upstairs.)* Sara Jan, Geoffrey is here a day early. Make yourself presentable and come down to meet him.

SPARKLE: *(Shouts back, offstage.)* Yeah, okay, okay.

MRS. FLAM: And tell Aunt Edna, too.

SPARKLE: *(Shouts back, offstage.)* Whatever.

(SEPTEMBER leads GEOFFREY by the hand across the room to meet MRS. FLAM.)

SEPTEMBER: Mother, I'd like you to meet my wonderful fiancé, Geoffrey. Mr. Geoffrey R. Turner. Geoffrey, this is Mother.

(GEOFFREY attempts to shake her hand but MRS. FLAM insists on giving him a big, tight, lingering hug.)

GEOFFREY: So pleased to meet you, Mrs. Flam.

MRS. FLAM: *(Hug lingers on and on.)* Geoffrey, what a pleasant surprise. We thought we weren't gonna get to meet you until dinner tomorrow night. September's told us so many wonderful things about you. This is so great. Come in, come in.

(MRS. FLAM finally stops the hugging and ushers GEOFFREY towards a chair as SPARKLE enters.)

SPARKLE: *(Seeing GEOFFREY.)* Who are you?

MRS. FLAM: Honey, this is September's fiancé, Geoffrey. Geoffrey, this is September's little sister, Sara.

SPARKLE: *(Insistent.)* It's Sparkle, Mother. I told you, it's Sparkle.

(SEPTEMBER is noticeably embarrassed. GEOFFREY approaches SPARKLE and reaches out to shake her hand; Sparkle just stands there, unresponsive.)

GEOFFREY: Well, I'm Geoffrey and I'm so glad to meet you, Sparkle.

SPARKLE: *(Not impressed.)* Yeah, sure. *(Plops upside down in a chair.)*

MRS. FLAM: Sara, where are your manners?

SPARKLE: Whatever! *(Sits partially upright.)*

(SEPTEMBER quickly grabs GEOFFREY'S arm and pulls him over to the other side of the room for a private chat.)

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SEPTEMBER: Geoffrey, sweetheart. I was really wanting you to meet everyone tomorrow night, ya know?

GEOFFREY: *(Pretending to be hurt.)* Ya mean, you don't want me here?

SEPTEMBER: *(Panicking.)* No, oh no, dear. It's not that. It's just that tonight is not the best time. It's like a family thing.

GEOFFREY: *(Continuing to give SEPTEMBER a hard time.)* Oh, so I'm not family?

SEPTEMBER: Of course you are ... it's just that ... I mean—

(AUNT EDNA races into the room in a panic. Interrupting SEPTEMBER.)

AUNT EDNA: Am I late? Am I late for ALICE? You didn't start ALICE without me, did ya?

SPARKLE: *(Flippantly.)* No, Aunt Edna, and don't get your girdle in a wad.

MRS. FLAM: *(Aggravated, screaming at SPARKLE.)* Sara Jan!

SPARKLE: *(Shouting back at Mrs. FLAN.)* Sparkle! Is that so hard to say?

AUNT EDNA: *(Confused, she sits down, mutters.)* Well, I just don't want' a miss ALICE, that's all.

GEOFFREY: *(To SEPTEMBER.)* Who's Alice?

SEPTEMBER: Well, that's what I was trying to explain. See, ALICE is what we call our monthly family support meeting.

GEOFFREY: So you don't want me here for your ALICE family meeting?

SPARKLE: *(Being obnoxious.)* She don't think you're ready, dude.

AUNT EDNA: *(Looking at the table.)* Where are the doilies? We can't serve coffee and ladyfingers without doilies. It's just not proper.

(GEOFFREY, puzzled, looks at AUNT EDNA and then at SPARKLE.)

End of Freeview

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