

SEE ME

BY

DANIELLA ALMA

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Cast of Characters

<u>ALINA</u> :	18
<u>JEN</u> :	50's
<u>ROBERT</u> :	50's

Place
North London Suburban House

Time
Evening

Setting: The stage represents a small, fairly well-kept suburban house in North London.

At Rise: Alina is in her bedroom speaking to her cat Rosie.

SCENE ONE

Alina talks to her cat Rosie.

ALINA: Look at this! (*Tosses the letter on the floor.*) I didn't get in, they've let me down again. The drama school I've been wantin' to go to since forever. I know I'm not perfect, I know I'm different to the other kids that audition and get in. Their posture is always perfect, mine is awful and I've got this cockney accent that's embedded itself into my brain, can't get rid of it. I've auditioned three times now, and once again, got that same letter...

(beat)

...Don't know what more I can do, wish they knew how much I cared. I needed this, I needed it to happen, would've kept me out of trouble for a while, an' at least then I'd be given some kinda guidance, you know?

People think I'm mad Rosie, they laugh at the idea of even thinkin' about being an actor...their dreams are small but I know I've got somethin' to give. I'm not perfect and I'm not sayin' that I have some Godly gift to offer either, I just can't believe that there is anythin' else out there that I can do...cause there's nothin' else to me, is there?

I've tried doing other things...I mean, I wanna do other things but everything else feels lifeless.

Alina's mother 'Jen' is heard calling Alina's name. Her heavy footsteps are heard from downstairs, as she approaches Alina's room, she calls for her again.

JEN: ALINA! What are you doing in there?

Alina begins tidying her room frantically.

ALINA: I'm tidying my room, Mum!

JEN: Alright, well I just put the dinner up so don't be long! Your father will be coming home any minute now.

ALINA: ALRIGHT!

JEN: You better stop with that attitude. You hear me? Alina?!

ALINA: YEAH.

Jen enters her room.

JEN: What the hell has gotten in to you lately?

ALINA: What's got into you? Can't you give me some space? Stop lookin' at me like that, nothin's wrong, you hear?

JEN: Well it doesn't seem like that, I hope you aren't hiding anything from us...we don't need anymore bad news around this place.

ALINA: What would I be hiding mum?

JEN: I don't know...pregnancy...

ALINA: No mum. No. I'll be downstairs in a bit.

JEN: Alright, hurry up...and I thought you were tidying your room? What have you been doing? It's a hell pit in here, you don't clean a damn thing 'round here...

Music. Fade out.

SCENE TWO

ALINA, her Mother JEN and her Father ROBERT is sitting at the dinner table. There is another fourth seat and plate at the table that is left empty.

ROBERT: What's this stuff about wanting to go to drama school? Costing us a fortune these acting classes.

ALINA: I want to be an actress.

ROBERT: (*Chuckles*) Yeah, well we all want to be something Alina. The most of us live in the real world. You should start thinkin' about how to make a real livin' for yourself.

ALINA: Why'd you ask then? Focus on yourself, I'm not askin' for your opinion on any of it!

JEN: (*To Robert*) If she wants to go to drama school then we've got to support what the girl wants to do.

ALINA: I'm sick of this place.

JEN: Sick of what?

ALINA: This place, this town...sick of it, sick of you all.

ALINA throws down her fork and stands up from the table

ROBERT: And I'm sick of your attitude! Get the hell upstairs.

ALINA: Knew I should've gone out tonight...

ROBERT: Yeah, well it's 'bout time you start thinkin' 'bout where you're gonna be living soon!

ALINA: I will, packin' my stuff this weekend, I'm leavin'.

ROBERT: Yeah? And where are you gonna go?

ALINA: Don't know yet...somewhere far away. It's not just us, it's everyone, I hate this fuckin' town!!!! There I said it, you all think the same way, you've got nothing original to offer! You think I'm goin' to die here? Is that what you both think? Let everythin' I have go to waste? I have talent Dad!!! Why can't you see that? Why can't anyone see it? I'm shoved aside like a waste bag, like I'm nothin', both of you don't even give a shit 'bout what school I'm gonna end up in! I wish you'd all stop treatin' me like a damn child!

ROBERT: When you learn how to work like I have for the past thirty years to provide and support my family, then you can have your say!

ALINA: Provide and support for your family? What's the point in doing all that if you've never even bothered to ask me what I wanna do with my own life, you think I want you supportin' me? I've had jobs, I make my own livin' as best as I can make it but the last thing I wanna end up in, is some 9-5 that I hate because I listened to both of you! I haven't even been offered a place in drama school and I've been in acting classes for ten years already! If I'd just be given the opportunity, then maybe I'd have somewhere to really work, and I'd work hard at it!

ROBERT: You would, would you? Well, there are many things you don't know about me Alina, I was able to do what I've done in my life, not because I waited for an opportunity but because I *took* the opportunity. And if I didn't, we'd all be in a different place right now! So don't go undermining what I've accomplished for this family. Now, if you want this, if you really want this - don't expect the opportunity to be given to you, TAKE it, like I did. Because life goes fast, too fast, I've seen too many people with talent, talent is common, what you don't have with all the laziness in you, is the drive!

If you are gettin' like this over a place at drama school, then you better rethink your life girl, because life ain't so pretty, it'll take you down once you let it. You have two choices, you either fight for what you want until the rest of your life or you give up now, live a modest life and put your dreams to rest. But don't you dare blame anything on me or your Mother who has given you a home, provided you with all the means to succeed. Now it's your turn, it's got nothin' to do with us anymore, you're old enough now, so go out there and do what you need to do and don't expect us to be holding you by the hand, because we've got our own problems. And that's life.

JEN: Your Father is right. Excuse me-

*Jen gets up from the table and goes
into the kitchen to clean her plate.*

ALINA: That's what I'm going to do. No one gives a damn about anyone anyway, if there isn't anythin' in it for them. I've got my own path and I'm not going to change it for anyone, Dad.

ROBERT: Don't.

ALINA: I won't. (*Slumps back down in her seat.*) It would just be nice if I had some support, just a little encouragement with what I want to do. It's cold enough out there, don't you think?

ROBERT: And what do you think that will do for you Alina? Make it easier?

ALINA: Perhaps.

ROBERT: You want to be an actress, but you want our encouragement for you to be an actress? Is that it? Earn it then...we ain't gonna sit here and lie to you, that you got what it takes and all that, we don't know that. Do you even know that?

ALINA: I don't know Dad...I'm tired of all this. By the time I get to do what I wanna do, it'll probably be all too late anyway...

ROBERT: That's the place you gotta work from. Reality. Nothing will ever be easy. Perhaps for the one in a million but that's just dreamin' kid. Now you're tellin' us you didn't get into any of those schools, is that the first rejection you got?

ALINA: Nah, was the third.

ROBERT: So what you gonna do on the hundredth rejection? Give it up?

ALINA: Fuck off alrite. I'll wait till the thousandth.

Robert gets up to leave the room, till -

Dad...Why don't you think I can make it a reality?

ROBERT: I never said that you can't make it a reality. But, Alina, ever since you were little, you've looked at the stars without ever trying for the moon. Maybe that's a good thing, who knows, maybe you'll surprise us all. But I look at you and, well...I know it won't be easy for ya, you understand? I had a good friend of mine who spent most of his life tryin' to become a musician...didn't make a penny but when I last spoke to him, he said he didn't regret it one bit, he said it was worth it. You just gotta know what you're in for, you might struggle for fifty years and if that's what you want and if

ROBERT (cont'd): that's the path you want to go on, then go do it 'Lina. But don't expect a miracle to happen.

ALINA: I expect something to happen because I believe it will.

ROBERT: Others won't.

ALINA: You don't think it's possible for me, do you Dad? Common girl like me, with no clean record, not possible right?

ROBERT: ...Could be.

Enter Jen.

JEN: Are you both still yapping in here? Your brother is at O'Neill's, perhaps we should all go?

ALINA: I'm not going to O'Neill's.

JEN: Too good for it, are you?

ALINA: You can all go, I'd rather stay here.

ROBERT: I'll go for a pint and that's it, I've got an early start tomorrow.

JEN: Alright, get your coat. Let's go.

JEN and ROBERT exit.

Alina takes the center stage, lights slowly fade, jazz music fills the air. Alina spins around and around, with her arms open, lights out.

END OF PLAY