Opening 1 / 7

Hi, everyone. I'm Zoe, Alice's little sister, and I'd like to start by telling you that I was a tree. In the school spring play that year, Alice was the lead. I was Tree Number Two.

Part 2 2 / 7

My only job was to stand at the side of the stage and wave my branches when the wind blew. There was no wind. A teacher stood behind the curtain and said 'whoosh' to remind me. I waved. I was the best tree this school has ever seen.

Part 3 3 / 7

Then, in the middle of Alice's big speech, she forgot her line. The whole room went quiet. And Alice, who was nine and terrified, looked right at me, a tree, and said, 'Tree, what do you think I should do?'

Part 4 4 / 7

I had no lines. So I whispered the only thing I knew. 'Whoosh.' The audience laughed. Alice laughed. She remembered her line, and the play went on. Our parents still say it was the most dramatic thing that ever happened in that gym.

Part 5 5 / 7

Grant, here is what you should know. When Alice is stuck, she will turn and ask the closest person for help, even if that person is a tree. Please be the closest person. Say whatever comes to mind. It will probably work.

Part 6 6 / 7

Alice, you have been the lead in my life since I was born, and you have always shared the stage. Thank you for never making me feel like scenery. You have been kind to every tree you ever met.

Closing 7 / 7

Grant, I'll be right here in the wings, in case there is ever a line to forget. Everyone, please raise a glass to Alice and Grant. May the wind always blow when you need it, and may somebody always be there to say whoosh.