

Helen, Bruce,
Small Al

*Nothing I just did
is anything I would do
Overnight everything changed, I am not prepared
I'm dizzy I'm nauseous I'm shaky I'm scared
Am I falling into nothingness
or flying into something so sublime?
I don't know!
But I'm
Changing my major to Joan
I thought all my life I'd be all alone
But that was before I was lying prone
in this dorm room bed with Joan
Look, she drooled on the pillow— so sweet
All sweaty and tangled up in my bed sheet
And my heart feels...
Complete
Let's never leave this room
How 'bout we stay here 'til finals
I'll go to school forever
I'll take out a dementedly huge high-interest loan
'Cause I'm changing
my major
to Joan*

SHIFT to:

ALISON. Caption: I leapt out of the closet—and four months later my father killed himself by stepping in front of a truck.

Bruce sits in his chair, reading a book. Alison watches him, incredulous.

While I was at college, exploding into my new life, you...were sitting here reading a book.

Helen and Small Alison are working in another room: Helen is grading papers, Small Alison is working on a school project.

SMALL ALISON. Mom, I have a question.

HELEN. What?

← **START
HERE**

SMALL ALISON. What was the name of that street you lived on in New York?

HELEN. Bleecker?

SMALL ALISON. Yeah, good.

(She dives back into her drawing, then:)

Mom, I have a question.

HELEN. What?

SMALL ALISON. When Dad was in the Army in Germany what color was your house?

HELEN. Well, it was an apartment, not a house. And- I don't remember what color it was.

SMALL ALISON. Alright something else about what it looked like then.

HELEN. Uh... Well, we had a balcony, we had a lovely balcony and in the mornings friends of ours would come over and we'd sit there and talk and have breakfast.

SMALL ALISON. Okay, where did you live after that?

HELEN. Here. Your grandfather died while we were there, so we came back.

SMALL ALISON. Oh yeah, 'cause Daddy had to run the Fun Home.

HELEN. Yes.

SMALL ALISON. *(On a new track.)* Oh, I know!

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.

— END

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.