

DRAMATIC READING EXCERPTS

<p>Young Alyce</p>	<p>My darling, today has been one of those days. All three children have misbehaved. Ruth and Laura dumped cereal all over the floor. Then the mailman came and no letter from you. Right now, Pam is watching <u>The Wizard of Oz</u>. She just said, "mom, come here, this is scary." Oh, brother.</p> <p>I got ambitious today and cleaned out the hassock. Our Readers' Digest came today, looks like some real good stories in it. You'll have plenty of reading to catch up on when you get home. Ev'ryone expected Vietnam to be over in no time at all. I told my mother Jim's gone to Vietnam. She said, "Where the hell is that?" I said, "I don't know."</p>
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<p>Young Thompson</p>	<p>Longer interrogation sessions, less sleep, cut wood, blow on the fire, bend down, bend down, bend, bend...</p> <p>The simplest task has become insurmountable.</p> <p>They wake me in the middle of the night to cut brush.</p> <p>They take my boots, make me go barefoot into the jungle.</p> <p>Anything to cause me physical pain.</p> <p>How did I manage to survive for nine years? Inadequate medical care, torture, communist indoctrination.</p> <p>These then are the things from which I drew the strength to survive nine years: faith in God, faith in country, faith in the love of a good woman.</p>
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<p>Older Alyce excerpt A</p>	<p>Can't your law firm find some way to help me? I need to get on with my life. The army has shown me no proof he's alive. Are you saying this could go on for fifty years?</p> <p>Am I supposed to sit in a goddamn rocking chair with a prayer book and wait? He must be declared dead. As for that bracelet, there will be none of that either. No bracelet with his name on it His name will be released to no one, and if it is there will be hell to pay.</p>
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<p>Older Alyce excerpt B</p>	<p>After you hear me out, if you don't want me around anymore, I'll leave-----I'll take my coat and go. I'll leave-----and that will be the end of it. After you hear me out, You can decide what's wrong or right, And you'll never have to see this face again. After you hear, after you hear me out. but you'll get to see the kids. I wouldn't ever keep you from the kids. I wouldn't do that. That's your right and their right. I wouldn't stop you. I'd never do that. After you hear me out, if you want me to leave, if you want me to go, I'll go. After you hear me out.</p>
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<p>Older Thompson</p>	<p>I was put in a horizontal cage maybe two feet wide maybe two feet high, and five feel long: not big enough to sit up in or to lie down. There I was kept for four months. The camp commander gave me a lesson on how to bow. I was obliged to bow anytime one approached the cage. I was obliged to bow anytime.</p> <p>I invented all manner of things to pass the time. Building houses was my fav(o)rite. Ev'rything in the plan had to be absolutely perfect. The exact number of bricks, the number of board feet of lumber, the fixtures, the wiring, the plumbing, the cost. Ev'rything had to be accurate. Otherwise, it would have been a waste of time.....</p>
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Older Thompson	<p>Teflon cookware, men with long hair, stay-pressed shirts, mini skirts. Disc brakes, 8-trak tapes, bucket seats and wives who cheat. Youth culture, drug culture, culture shock, acid rock, Woodstock and Doctor Spock. Coke, 'ludes, hash, pot, Penthouse, Hustler, Playboy with a beaver shot.</p> <p>Triple X movies, feelin' groovy, central air, no school prayer. Peace signs, gas lines, see-through blouses, lying spouses. Turn on, tune in, Drop out, Welcome home. CBs, color TVs, gatorade, Roe v. Wade. Women's Lib, Civil Rights, Stonewall, strobe lights.</p> <p>Stain-free rugs, Watergate bugs, Space Age laser, Ali Frazier, Go-go boots, leisure suits, No Sid Ceasar. No-frost freezer. Inflation, stagflation, confrontation, angry nation. Pill popping, one-stop shopping, polyester, wife swapping. Turn on. Tune in. Drop out. Burn out. Welcome home.</p>
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