

Disappearing Baby – simplified Play

A play adaptation of the story “Vanishing Baby”

Cast

ALYA – a 9 year old Malaysian girl.
NAZMI – her big brother
ALIF – her baby brother, about 3 months old
MUM
DAD
GRANDMA
SYAKIRA – Alya’s best friend at school
AZLINDA – another school friend

Scene 1- outside the school

Mum, Alya and Nazmi arrive at the school on a motorbike. Syakira, Azlinda, and other students are standing around.

NAZMI: *(getting off bike)* Thanks Mum. See you later, Alya. *(runs off)*

ALYA: *(climbing off bike)* Bye, Mum.

SYAKIRA: Hi, Alya.

AZLINDA: Hello Alya.

SYAKIRA: Do you like riding on the back of the motorbike?

ALYA: No. Nazmi squishes me.

SYAKIRA: How is your baby brother?

ALYA: He is very cute.

AZLINDA: Can you play with him?

ALYA: He can smile!

And he can laugh!

SYAKIRA: Can he do anything?

ALYA: He can hold things.

Scene 2 – in the kitchen / living room

In the kitchen at home. Mum is busy preparing food. Alya is helping by trying to hold baby Alif. Dad and Nazmi enter.

DAD: Nazmi and I are going out to do some work.

NAZMI: I can help Dad now.

MUM: Baby Alif can’t walk yet.

ALYA: But he is strong.

MUM: Be careful, Alya. Hold Alif carefully.

ALYA: Hold still Alif!

There is a knock at the door.

ALYA: It’s Syakira and Azlinda.

MUM: Come in, Syakira and Azlinda. Welcome.

Syakira and Azlinda enter.

SYAKIRA: Hello everyone.

AZLINDA: Good morning.

SYAKIRA: Hi, Alif!

AZLINDA: Alif you are very big now. (*pinches Alif's cheeks*)

MUM: (*holds her hands out to Alif*) Come here, Alif.

Alya, get his rug. He can lie on the floor for a while.

ALYA: On him on the floor?

MUM: Not on the floor, on his rug.

Alya leaves to get Alif's rug. Mum puts Alif on his rug, lying on his back. The 3 girls sit close.

SYAKIRA: What can he play?

AZLINDA: Babies like songs, don't they?

ALYA: He likes "Like a Teddy Bear".

SYAKIRA: I don't know that one.

ALYA: (*picks up Alif's hand*) Round and round the garden, like a teddy bear. One step, two step, and tickle under there ...! (*tickles Alif, and he giggles*)

AZLINDA: We could sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".

The three girls sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star", and Alif waves and gurgles.

Suddenly the phone rings. Mum quickly wipes her hands and picks up the phone.

MUM: Hello? Yes ... what? ... oh no! That's bad! ... I'm coming.

Mum puts phone down and looks at Alya, Syakira, Azlinda and Alif.

ALYA: What's the matter?

MUM: Grandma fell down. I must go and help her.

ALYA: Can I come too?

MUM: You and your friends can look after Alif. OK?

AZLINDA: We can do that.

MUM: Talk to him. Play with him.

ALYA: Is Grandma OK?

MUM: Grandma is okay.

I will be back soon.

Dad will be home soon too.

ALYA: OK Mum. I'll be ok. We will be okay.

Mum leaves. Alya and the girls sing "Incy Wincy Spider" to Alif.

Suddenly Syakira sees a spider on the floor creeping towards them.

SYAKIRA: Look! A spider on the floor.

AZLINDA: Oh no! I hate spiders. Let's catch it.

ALYA: Put it outside.

The girls catch the spider, and throw it outside.

Disappearing Baby – simplified Play, by Ruth Wickham

Meanwhile, while no one is watching, Alif turns over onto his stomach and lifts himself up to watch.

ALYA: *(turns around)* Wow! How did you do that?

AZLINDA: He can turn over!

ALYA: I didn't know.

The phone rings. Alya runs across to answer. The other two girls turn to watch her.

ALYA: Hello? Yes, Mum. ... Grandma is ok? ... See you soon.

Meanwhile Alif rolls over a couple more times and disappears under/behind the sofa.

They turn back, and Alif is gone. They stand and stare in disbelief.

ALYA: Azlinda, where's Alif?

AZLINDA: I don't know.

SYAKIRA: Where is he?

ALYA: He can't walk. He can't crawl.

AZLINDA: So where is he?

The girls start walking around looking for him, calling his name.

ALYA: I can hear him! Where is he?

The door opens and Mum comes in, she is helping Grandma who has a bandage on her arm.

While the girls are staring at Mum and Grandma, Alif rolls back onto his rug.

ALYA: Alif! Where did you go?

AZLINDA: We were worried!

MUM: Did Alif go somewhere?

ALYA: Grandma! Are you OK? *(runs to hug grandma)*

Dad and Nazmi enter. Everyone turns to them. Alif rolls away again.

ALYA: Dad!

DAD: Hello, Alya, are you OK?

NAZMI: Hello everyone. But – where is Alif?

The three girls look at each other in surprise.

SYAKIRA: He disappeared ... again!

MUM and GRANDMA: Again??

NAZMI: Where is my baby brother?

ALYA: *(going over to where Alif was and looking under/behind the sofa)*

Alif can roll over now.

GRANDMA: Alya, Your mum liked to roll away too.

I remember the first time she rolled away and disappeared.

DAD: Let's eat these cakes I brought home.

Everyone sits down and Mum and Grandma make some tea.

Alif rolls back and forth on the floor smiling and gurgling at everyone.