

Author's Notes: *While Chapter 4 remains in the novel, this section was deleted because it doesn't matter to the plot, nor character development. You might notice I'm calling Alexander, "Alex" in this version. That is because this was one of the first cuts.*

Alex did not hear the little girl approach until she was pulling at his sweater.

"What's the matter, Miss Sethdottier?" he asked.

"They keep ruining the movie. Miss Boyd Lei would put them in timeout!"

Alex glanced over to the glassed-in children's area where Daniel and James were running around and chasing each other. They just had the energy of two young boys. "Miss Boyd Lei doesn't like tattling either." *Miss Boyd Lei? What am I saying? Wasn't I in charge? Probably not in the children's minds.*

"They're playing too rough. Can I stay here?"

"I suppose, but you must be quiet if adult patrons come in or I'll send you back to the children's area."

"Can I play the alphabet song? Miss Boyd Lei lets me."

I must get a new assistant. Alex wasn't exactly sure which game she referred to, but went to Abigail's station. A cached letter game with an annoying singing blue monster rated for age four was on the top of her open programs.

Ellie clapped her hands in approval. He connected a pair of headphones, so he didn't have to hear the monster's tinny cheer for the correct answers.

Once she had started, Ellie was so quiet it was easy to forget she was there. He checked up on the boys then went back to his own research until out of the

corner of his eye, he saw the child curl up in Abigail's old chair. By the time, he crossed the room, she was sleeping.

He removed the headphones and heard the monster ask, "Don't you want to play with me?" He turned the game off.

If she slept now, she would be up for the rest of the afternoon, but he took a blanket out of the children's closet and put it over her. Then looked up grief theory in small children.

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