

Dialogue Sample from
SANTA'S ALIVE AND WELL AND MOM'S GOT HIM IN THE KITCHEN

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[RAN and JAMIE MARSDEN are facing their first Christmas after the death of their father. From their safe place under the kitchen table they worry about the possibility of a stepdad.]

RAN

(Irritated)
What do you do under there?

JAMIE

Think.

RAN

About what?

JAMIE

Give me an M & M?

(RAN looks at her, crawls under the table and gives her an M & M. SHE takes her time, savoring it.)

JAMIE (Continued)

I heard you yelling at that man last night.

RAN

(Withdrawn)
Charlie.

JAMIE

What a dweeb.

RAN

How embarrassing. I sort of lost my mind.

JAMIE

I thought you were great.

RAN

(Overcome by her reaction)
Thanks.
(HE gives her another M & M.)
What do you do under here, Jamie?

JAMIE

Pretend stuff. Like fairy tales ... "Hansel and Gretel" or "Snow White" ... Ran, I don't want to be an orphan.

RAN

Come on. Mom's not going to die. Yeah, I used to worry about those kids in those stories -- how they're going to find their way home and live all alone. I always felt so sorry for them.

(JAMIE lies down and puts her feet on the underside of the table.)

JAMIE

But mostly I pretend I'm under Daddy's desk at the office and he's right up there working.

(RAN lies down and does the same as JAMIE.)

RAN

Jamie, I hate to tell you this, but he's really gone. He won't come back.

JAMIE

Yeah, I know.

(JAMIE crawls out from under the table and climbs on top. RAN, curious, follows her and sits beside her.)

JAMIE (Continued)

(With resolve)

And we've got to be sure we don't get a wicked stepmother.

RAN

Stepmother?

JAMIE

Or stepfather! Emily just got a stepdad who yells at her, and he's got a daughter's who's real bossy. And he may move them to Philadelphia.

RAN

Philadelphia? You're right! What if mom married someone like Charlie? We've got to start shopping for a stepdad right now. Jamie, you are a very smart, very weird kid.

JAMIE

Takes one to know one.

(RAN pours the rest of the M & M's into
her hand.)

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE 6