

Julie
Bowe



children's book author



Deleted Scenes: Shhh ... it's a secret!

Here's the old version with Grandma Tootie:

I figure our conversation is over, but then Tootie says, "I told you that my best friend's name was Ida, but I didn't tell you that we had nicknames for each other... secret names no one else knew about."

"Really?" I say. "What were they?"

Tootie's eyes sparkle as she looks around to make sure no one else is listening, even though the girls are still running around outside. "Mine was Cleopatra," she says. "And Ida's was... Cordeeeelia."

Tootie says her friend's secret name like she's playing a long note on her clarinet. Then she chuckles a little and looks out the window again. "Silly, really. Secret names. But life's got to have a little silliness in it, don'tcha think?"

I nod, not exactly sure what she is talking about but liking the way it sounds.

And here's the new version with Rachel. Do you like this version better? I do!

Rachel smiles. "Quick, Ida! You'll be safe inside my castle!" She grabs my arm and pulls me under the table.

Rachel scoots over to make room for me. I sit down next to her and look around. "This is your castle?"

Rachel nods and pushes the chair back in place. She pretends to lock it with a key.

"Does that mean you're a princess or something?" I ask.

Rachel nods again. "Princess Penelope," she says. Then she leans in close and whispers, "It's my secret name."

"Don't worry," I whisper back. "I won't tell."

Rachel beams at me. "You need a secret name, too, Ida."

She reaches behind her back and then holds up an invisible crown. I lean over a little so she can put it on my head. "I crown you... Queen Cordelia," she says.

I sit up and pretend to straighten the crown. "How do I look?" I ask.

Rachel giggles. "Good," she says.