

Secrets Never Last Long

By Katie O'Connor

Creative Writing

Secrets Never Last Long Character List

1. **Alexis:** The character that the conflict mainly revolves around. Alexis is a little shy, tends to avoid conflict, and deeply sensitive. She has brown hair and green eyes, she is 24 years old. She spends her day as a sign language interpreter but is on vacation with her family. Her motivation is to find out why her boyfriend and best friend have been so withdrawn and sneaky lately.
2. **Gabe:** Gabe is a close second main character. He is Alexis's longtime boyfriend. He is tall, 25 years old, has tan skin, dark hair and brown eyes. He tends to be anxious and bad at hiding his emotions-you can usually tell how he's feeling by his body language. Gabe usually spends his day at his job as a sports analyst but is on vacation with Alexis's family and friends. His motivation is to keep a certain secret; he is waiting to propose later that night.
3. **Celine:** Celine is also a close main character. She has been Alexis's best friend for over 8 years. She is 24 years old, has long brown hair, brown eyes, and is a little thicker in her weight but very beautiful, confident, and funny. Celine usually spends her days in the hospital, as a nurse, but managed to get time off to come on vacation. Her motivation is to help Gabe plan the details of the proposal.

4. **Madison:** Madison is Alexis's sister. She plays a smaller role as she supports her sister and follows her to the basement of the wine cellar. She is 18 years old and is wide-eyed as she learns more about the world and growing up. She has light brown hair, freckles and green eyes. She is incredibly smart and outgoing. Madison's only motivation is to help her sister figure out what's going on and to provide moral support.
5. **Nick:** Father of Alexis. Minor, background character.
6. **Jennifer:** Mother of Alexis. Minor, background character.

Scene 1:

Setting: This story takes place in present day, 2018. Alexis, her best friend (Celine), her boyfriend (Gabe), and family (Jennifer and Nick) enter a small winery in Napa Valley around noon for lunch. They are in town on vacation to celebrate the New Year and spend time with each other. It's a bright, sunny day. 70 degrees and beautiful. The room is well lit due to several big, beautiful glass windows and the walls are covered in a deep-color wood. Alexis, Gabe, Celine, Madison, Nick, and Sandra enter stage right. They all sit down as the owner of the winery goes to grab them a few bottles from a cellar outside. The mood is light.

Alexis:

***turns to look at everyone around the table, grabs Gabe's hand under the table and smiles.* Guys! How beautiful is this? I'm so glad we could all work our schedules around to make this happen.

Gabe:

***swallows hard and looks to Celine, then back to Alexis. Yes honey, I'm glad we were all able to make it. **Gabe looks to Celine again and then looks down to his lap.*

***chatter resumes around the table as Celine nods to Gabe and they both stand up.*

Celine:

Gabe, let's go to the basement and find the best bottle of wine that we can, I want to treat our girl. ***she winks at Alexis. Gabe lets go of Alexis's hand and stands up to walk with Celine through a door close by, downstairs to the basement where more bottles are stored.*

End of scene 1.

Scene 2:

Setting: The scene is now set down-stairs in the basement of the wine cellar. Despite a small window showing a glimpse of the green valley, the room is dimly lit. There is a spotlight on the characters. The room contains two tables, one for dining near the giant wine rack toward the right wing of the stage, and one table to slice meat towards the front of the stage. There is a meat slicer on the front table. Gabe and Celine enter center stage and walk towards the wine rack, behind the dining table. A few moments later, Alexis and Madison enter and hide behind 5 large barrels of wine.

Madison:

***kneeling down behind the barrel, Madison looks towards Alexis and taps her shoulder.*

Alexis, what's going on? Why did you want me to follow them with you?

Alexis:

***Alexis puts her finger to her mouth and hushes her. Shhhhh. Keep your voice down. I think Gabe is cheating on me with Celine. For the past few weeks, they have both been very withdrawn and riddled with excuses to avoid spending time with me. Then I saw him deleting her texts. Hold on, just listen to what they're saying.*

Celine:

***picks up a rag off the dining table and hands it to Gabe. Here. Wipe your face, your sweating a river, how much more obvious could you be? I'm the one that offered this place as the location of our vacation. Trust me, she has no idea.*

Gabe:

***takes the rag from Celine and dabs his face of sweat. I know, but I still feel like she can see right through me. I hate keeping secrets from her and I hate deleting my texts from you. These past few weeks have been so amazing but so hard to hide.*

***Alexis and Madison turn to each other in shock. Alexis covers her mouth to keep herself from gasping and then turns back to listen for more.*

Celine:

I know I know. ***Celine puts her hand on Gabe's shoulder. I feel bad too but it will all be worth it soon. We just have to keep this from her a little longer.*

**** Gabe sighs. They step towards each other to go in for a hug when Alexis's phone rings. Alexis, startled, tries to shut off her ringer and accidentally knocks one of the barrels over, exposing her and Madison. Gabe spots Alexis and the color in her face goes pale. She drops to the ground and starts sobbing.*

Gabe:

***runs over to Alexis. Baby, are you okay? What happened? How long have you been down here? **he lifts her up to hold her in his arms. What did you hear?*

Madison:

*Oh, I'm sure you care so much. Let her go, give her to me. **she tries to shake Alexis loose from his arms but he just holds her tighter.*

Alexis:

*I've heard enough. Enough to know that you've been cheating on me with Celine. **Alexis looks down to her feet and starts crying again.*

Celine:

***runs to Alexis's side, panicked. What?! No! I would... we would NEVER do that to you. It's not what it looks like. Gabe.... **Celine pauses briefly and shrugs. Just tell her.*

Gabe:

Lex... I would never hurt you or cheat on you. I love you more than I've ever loved anything. The secret I've been keeping has nothing to do with adultery. I... I... I can't hide it anymore. I never want you to feel in the dark again. ***Gabe lets go of Alexis and gets down on one knee in front of her and pulls a small, blue velvet box from inside his jacket.* I have been trying to set up the most perfectly detailed proposal because I value you so highly and wanted you to have your heart soaring when I asked you this question. Celine has been helping me plan all of this but at the end of the day, I can't keep things from you so I've been going crazy trying to keep this a surprise. Screw the details. I want you now and for the rest of my life. Alexis Catherine O'Connor, Will you marry me?

Alexis:

Yes! I'm so sorry for assuming the worst. A thousand times yes!! I love you. **Alexis jumps onto Gabe, hugging him and passionately kisses him. Gabe picks her up and exits with her through stage left.*

End scene 2.

End Act 1.