

people, sits down and begins to cry. Solly removes his mask. The journey is over. Black Mary comes over and wipes Citizen's brow. She unbuttons his shirt and begins to wipe his chest.)

Where am I?

BLACK MARY: You're in Aunt Ester's house. It's okay.

CITIZEN: I seen the city. I was on the boat. There was people on the boat.

BLACK MARY: It's okay now. You made it back. Everything gonna be all right.

(Eli, Solly, Black Mary and Aunt Ester begin to sing in celebration:)

AUNT ESTER *(Singing):*

You made it back

ELI, SOLLY AND BLACK MARY *(Singing):*

Back from the City of the Bones

AUNT ESTER *(Singing):*

You made it back

ELI, SOLLY AND BLACK MARY *(Singing):*

You came from the City of the Bones.

(They continue singing in impromptu celebration. It is a rough but celebratory song. Then there is a loud knock on the door which shatters the mood of celebration. Aunt Ester motions for Eli to answer it. Eli answers the door. Caesar enters.)

ELI: This a peaceful house.

CAESAR: Hey Eli. I see Solly here. Solly, you didn't know somebody seen you when you set fire to the mill. You didn't know that. You thought you was gonna get away with it. But you can't get away with nothing like that. You under arrest.

SOLLY: I'm under God's sky, motherfucker! That's what I'm under!

(Solly whacks Caesar on the knee with his stick. Caesar grabs his leg and falls down. Solly runs out the door. Caesar gets up and hobbles to the door.)

CAESAR *(Shouting after Solly):* I'm gonna catch him. I'm gonna catch him if I have to chase him clean up into Canada. Busted me on my goddamn knee! You can't get away with nothing like that! Now I got to get my justice!

(The lights go down on the scene.)

SCENE 3

The lights come up on Citizen and Black Mary in the kitchen. It is two hours later.

CITIZEN: You believe Solly burned down the mill?

BLACK MARY: It don't make no difference. If Caesar catch him he'll kill him. That's what he talking about his justice. He'll kill him and won't even think nothing of it. He got a streak in him like that. If he capture him alive he gonna bring him in dead. Ain't nothing I can do about it. Ain't nothing nobody can do about it.

CITIZEN: I don't believe he can catch him 'cause he don't know where he going. Solly used to running. He's probably halfway to Alabama by now. I wouldn't worry about Solly if I was you. Solly can take care of himself. We talking about Solly Two Kings.

BLACK MARY: We talking about Caesar Wilks too. I ain't never know him to give up on nothing. Once he got it fixed in his mind to do something he don't let nothing stop him.

(Pause as Citizen takes in the woman before him.)

CITIZEN: You got on that blue dress. I met this gal at a dance one time had on a blue dress. She had on a blue dress and

she had her hair slicked back. Her mouth made her face look pretty. She was dancing and she had tears in her eyes. I asked her why she was crying. She said she was lonesome. I told her I couldn't fix that but if she wanted somebody to walk her home after the dance I'd walk her. See that she got home safe. She thanked me and went on crying. Say she felt better, and after the dance I could walk her home since I was going that way. She had a good time dancing with some of the other men. I danced with her some more. She was smiling but she still had tears in her eyes. After the dance I walked her home. I seen at the dance that she had a nice way about her. When she was walking home she put her hand in mine. She asked me did I want to stay the night. I told her yes. I told her I was at the dance looking for a woman. She asked me why didn't I tell her, we could have saved each other some time. I woke up in the morning and she was laying there crying. I didn't ask her about it. I didn't try and stop her. I lay there a while trying to figure out what to do. I ended up holding her in my arms. She started crying some more. I held her a while and then I left. I said good-bye to her and started walking away. She was standing in the door. I looked back and she was standing so she fit right in the middle of the door. I couldn't see if she was crying. She kind of waved at me. I got a little further on and turned and looked back and she was still there. Look like she had got smaller like she might have sat down in the doorway. That's what it looked like to me. I can still see her standing there. Had a green door and I can see her standing in it. I don't know what happened to her. I'd like to look on her face again. Just to know that she all right and if she stopped crying. If I could see her face I believe that would be enough.

BLACK MARY: Maybe you'll get the chance. What you gonna tell her if you see her again?

CITIZEN: I don't know. Sometimes I lay awake at night when I be lonely and ask myself what I would say to her. Some-

times I tell her to stop being lonely. I tell her it's something she doing to herself. But then I'm laying there lonely too and I have to ask myself was it something I was doing to myself? I don't know. I ain't lonely now. I ain't got no woman but I still don't feel lonely. I feel all filled up inside. That's something I done to myself. So maybe I did make myself lonely.

BLACK MARY: You got to be right with yourself before you can be right with anybody else.

CITIZEN: That's what I'd tell her! I believe she was looking for somebody else to make her right with herself. That's why she was crying.

(Aunt Ester enters from her room.)

AUNT ESTER: Mr. Citizen, listen to what I tell you now. Rutherford Selig should be heading upriver by now. He go through Little Haiti and then he cross over the river to go to Scotch Bottom before he go to Hazelwood. You got to catch him before he cross the river. He sells pots and pans. Look for a wagon by the river with pots and pans. That's Rutherford Selig. Tell him Aunt Ester needs him. Ask him to come right away. Then you come back with him. Be careful. If Caesar see you he'll follow you. Hurry now, the time ain't long. If Rutherford Selig get across the river you can't catch him. Ask him to come right away.

CITIZEN: I'll catch him.

AUNT ESTER: You look just like my Junebug. You old rascal you! You be careful. Go in prayer.

(Citizen exits.)

Black Mary, fix up a plate of whatever you got and bring it in the room. Draw that shade. Bring me that plate and let me know when Selig comes. You got that stove too hot. Damp it down. You be done burnt down the place.