

MARY TOM (To May.)

You ain't gonna' run?

MAY

I told ya'.

MARY TOM

Promise? On the Bible?

MAY

Said it, didn't I?

MARY TOM

Let her go. She makes the first move towards that door, knock her flat.

(MAY runs to GINNY. GINNY clamps onto MAY, sobbing, gasping for breath. MAY smoothes down her hair. Patting her. Speaking quietly.)

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MAY

START HERE

Now, my baby girl, ain't nothin' wrong here, you jus' all riled up. Ain't nothin' wrong. Shh, shh, my girl. Now. Now. Momma' right here, ain't she? Where my Ginny gal, my sugar cake? (She pulls GINNY'S face up.) Where my sugar cake? Now, where my sugar cake got to?

GINNY (Sniffing, but quieter.)

I right here, ma. Sugar cake here.

MAY

Yep, you right here. No one done stole my sugar cake. Sugar cake right here, wid her ol' momma, where she belong.

(MAY rocks GINNY.)

GINNY (Sniffing, finally.)

I do it, ma.

MAY

Shh, shh, baby. No need.

GINNY

I do it, ma.

MAY

What you sayin', baby?

GINNY

Put you name on dat paper.

MAY

Oh, my Ginny baby, you don't know—

GINNY

Babies on the stoop all de time. I gets me a baby. On the stoop.

END

TEMPERANCE

Oh, May, no. You don't have to. Please. This isn't—

MARY TOM

Butt outta' it, Tempe, right now.

MAY (Holding GINNY out at arm's length.)

You know what you astin', Ginny gal? You know what you sayin'?

(GINNY nods and gets behind MAY. MAY begins to move slowly toward the overturned table.)

MR. KINLEY

Ms. Walker, you want I grab her again?

MARY TOM

That ain't gonna' be necessary, is it, Ms. Rivers?

(MAY turns the table upright, sits at a chair, turns and looks at GINNY and faces MARY TOM.)

MAY

Where dat form?

MARY TOM

Tempe, can you find the petition for Ms. Rivers?

TEMPERANCE

Oh, no, ma'm, I most certainly will not.