

SOLOMON/EDWINA SIDES - UNDERGROUND

Writer's Note - One of my goals when creating this story in 2010 was to portray our ancestors with as much dignity as possible in these tragic circumstances. Presenting them as smart, even though they may not have had formal education.

Though written in verse. The rhymes in the dialogue are not meant to be accented or emphasized. Rather spoken like prose.

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*SOLOMON/EDWINA (70), Black, an elder field slave.*

*BALI has just witnessed his daughter get sold away and needs to get information from his only reliable source, SOLOMON.*

JACOB

Come, girl!

*JACOB and MAYNARD exit with EMALA.*

*BALI hurriedly finds SOLOMON across the field.*

BALI

Solomon, we must steal away tonight!  
When's a good time to head out on the trail?  
We must leave soon. Before another noon.

SOLOMON

Bali, all us bout to be workin' without any rest.  
Full moon, it don't matter if the sun is in its crest.  
It ain't a good time now.  
More slaves have died along the trail than made it.  
Danger, no food... It would be best if you delayed it.

There's a war comin. In a fortnight or so.  
North vs. south for the soul of this country.  
If you make it to that, then you can go.

BALI

If you had a lil' girl,  
Would you want her livin' like a slave?  
Her prospects are grave with that new man and on this field here.  
Knowing what they got waitin' for her,  
constantly in fear?

SOLOMON

It's too far to make it on your own.  
You're gon' need folk to help you along the way.

BALI

Aint nothin' that's too far away.

We can't leave in a fortnight,  
We can't wait another day.  
Now please, tell me what I need-

SOLOMON

It's not much, but here is what I know.

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*(This is the singing portion of the audition, you can  
sing this song, or a spiritual of your own choosing.)*

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT, COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.  
SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT, COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.

OH, I LOOKED OVER JORDAN AND WHAT DID I SEE? COMING FOR TO  
CARRY ME HOME.

A BAND OF ANGELS COMING AFTER ME. COMING FOR TO CARRY ME  
HOME.

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