

CHARACTER SIDES

Bali

BALI (30), Black, a skilled enslaved blacksmith with piercing eyes and a sturdy physique, whose greatest strength and weakness is his strength of will.

EMALA

There's thorns down there.

(Bali rips up the weeds)

BALI

Better now?

(EMALA reaches in her pocket and has a fistful of sugar cane. She proudly offers some to him.)

BALI

Put them away! You a sweetheart, looking out for yo' papa. But the overseer? He ain't gonna like it too much if he sees you takin' food from here. That's they livelihood.

EMALA

Sorry Pa'. HOW LONG WE GONNA HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS?

(Bali leans over and gives her a kiss on the forehead.)

BALI

NOT FOR LONG. THIS PLACE SHALL NOT BE MISSED.
LET ME TELL YOU A TALE, ONE OF A JOURNEY FAR AWAY.
THERE WAS A LIL' BOY, ABOUT YOUR AGE.
HE WORKED HARD DAY-BY-DAY.
FOR YEARS HE TOILED AWAY.

DIGGIN' A DITCH,
HE DISCOVERED A LANTERN OF MAGIC.
THE MASTA' WANTED TO HAVE IT.
THE LITTLE BOY ESCAPED, BUT NOT ALONE.
HE FOUND A FRIEND TO HELP GUIDE HIM. A GIRL THAT WAS ON HER OWN.

(She chews on the sugar cane.)

BEST FRIENDS THEY BECAME,
THE LANTERN OF MAGIC KEPT THEM WARM WITH ITS FLAME.
AND THEY TRUSTED NO ONE WHITE.
WHITE FOLK WOULD ONLY ADD TO THEIR PLIGHT.

THEY ARRIVED TO FREEDOM,
THE WORLD SMELLED NEW AND WHOLE.
THERE WAS GLORY OVER EVERYTHIN'
AND THE SUN SHONE LIKE GOLD.

AND THEY HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK,
DON'T YOU SEE?

THEY HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, DON'T YOU SEE?
WAY BETWEEN THE EARTH AND SKY,
THEY SAID THEY HEARD OUR SAVIOR CRY.
AND HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, WELL,
DON'T YOU SEE?

OLD MAN LAZARUS POOR AS I, DON'T YOU SEE?
OLD MAN LAZARUS POOR AS I, DON'T YOU SEE?
OLD MAN LAZARUS POOR AS I
AND WHEN HE DIED HE HAD A HOME ON HIGH.
HE HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK,
DON'T YOU SEE?

THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL, DON'T YOU SEE?
THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL, DON'T YOU SEE?
THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL
AND WHEN HE DIED HE HAD A HOME IN HELL.
HE HAD NO HOME IN THAT ROCK,
DON'T YOU SEE?

GOD GAVE NOAH THE RAINBOW SIGN, DON'T YOU SEE?
GOD GAVE NOAH THE RAINBOW SIGN, DON'T YOU SEE?
GOD GAVE NOAH THE RAINBOW SIGN,
NO MORE WATER BUT THE FIRE NEXT TIME.
HE HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, DON'T YOU SEE?

YOU BETTER GET A HOME IN THAT ROCK, DON'T YOU SEE?

EMALA

Will Mama and Neema be there?

(SOLOMON is nearby)

BALI

Come on now baby. Time to get yo rest.

EMALA

IF I FOUND A MAGIC LANTERN,
I'D WANT YOU WITH ME DADDY.
YOU'RE STRONG, SO YOU COULD CARRY ME
AND I WOULD LOOK AT THE STARS AND TELL YOU WHERE TO GO.

BALI

YOU ARE THE SWEETEST THING. NOW GET YOU SOME REST.
TOMORROW, WE GOT TO CLEAN UP THEM PIGS AND THEY MESS.
LAY YOUR HEAD DOWN CHILD AND GO TO SLEEP...

(BALI lays EMALA on a pallet. Walks to SOLOMON.)