

CHARACTER SIDES

Solomon/Edwina

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

(BALI lays EMALA his daughter down to sleep after a harrowing day in the field. He walks to SOLOMON.)

BALI

I AIM TO TAKE HER SOON.
WHEN'S A GOOD TIME TO HEAD OUT ON THE TRAIL?
AFTER THE HOUR OF NOON.

SOLOMON/EDWINA

AIN'T NO GOOD TIME.
MORE SLAVES HAVE DIED ALONG THE TRAIL THAN MADE IT.
AIN'T NO MEAL TIMES FOR YOU. YOU HAVE TO STAY EVADED.

NO FATHER SHOULD LIVE WITH THE PAIN OF LOSIN' HIS CHILD.
YOU DON'T WANT THAT WEIGHT ON YOUR HEART. IT'S WORSE THAN
HANGIN' FROM THE ROPE.

PLUS THERE'S A WAR COMIN. IN THE NEXT YEAR 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 TO LIVE HERE?
KNOWING WHAT THEY GOT WAITIN' FOR HER, CONSTANTLY IN FEAR?

SOLOMON/EDWINA

ITS TOO FAR TO MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE GON' NEED FOLK
TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY.

BALI

AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT'S TOO FAR AWAY.
WE LEAVE IN A FORTNIGHT, NOT DURING THE DAY.
PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT I NEED-

SOLOMON/EDWINA

IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT HERE IS WHAT I KNOW.

WHEN THE SUN COMES BACK AND THE FIRST QUAIL CALLS, FOLLOW
THE DRINKIN' GOURD.
FOR THE NORTH STAR IS A-WAITING FOR TO CARRY YOU TO
FREEDOM, IF YOU FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.

THE RIVERBANK MAKES A VERY GOOD ROAD,
THE DEAD TREES SHOW YOU THE WAY.
LEFT FOOT, PEG FOOT, TRAVELING ON,
FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.

THE RIVER ENDS BETWEEN TWO HILLS,
FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.

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THERE'S ANOTHER RIVER ON THE OTHER SIDE,
FOR THE OLD MAN IS A-WAITIN' FOR TO CARRY YOU ON A RIDE, IF
YOU FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.

WHEN THE GREAT BIG RIVER MEETS THE LITTLE RIVER,
FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.
FOR THE OLD MAN IS A-WAITIN' FOR TO CARRY YOU TO FREEDOM,
IF YOU FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD.

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