

CHARACTER SIDES

Jacob

JACOB (48), White, the strong-willed and inflexible master of the plantation. Husband of Virginia.

JEM grabs SOLOMON, an elder field slave, and begins a brutal whipping.

JACOB [48], White, the strong-willed and inflexible master of the plantation, slowly walks up to the scene.)

JACOB

Hold.

NOW THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.
YOU'RE INFERIOR, BUT TRY NOT TO BE TOO DENSE.

MY GENEROSITY HAS BEEN UNDERVALUED.
I'M OF HALF A MIND TO CUT YOUR STEW.
IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH THAT YA'LL HAVE SHOES.
THINK THAT OVER AND LET IT BREW...

CROP HARVEST HAS BEEN TOO LIGHT.
I TRY TO CARE FOR YOU, TO TREAT YOU RIGHT.
BUT YOU CONTINUE TO BRING LESS THAN YOUR ALLOCATION,
FORCING ME TO APPLY THESE ABRASIONS.
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOUR FEET WILL BLISTER TO EARN YOUR KEEP.

(JACOB grabs the whip from JEM.)

THIS ENCOURAGEMENT IS NOT FOR SPORT.
WE SHALL HAVE NO DISCOURSE.
AND THE REST OF YOUR BAGS WILL INCREASE BY 10 CENTS PER
DAY.

HIS BAGS CAME UP FOUR CENTS SHORT.
THIS BOY NEEDS DISCIPLINE, OF COURSE.
AND YOU WILL BRING MORE CROPS RIGHT AWAY!

(JACOB resumes slashing SOLOMON himself.)

BALI

He done had enough!

(JACOB cracks the whip. It strikes BALI across the cheek.)

JACOB

What'd you just say boy?

(JACOB slaps him across the face. BALI sees his child watching.)

BALI

I AIN'T MEAN NO HARM... MASTA.
I WANT HIM TO BE ABLE TO WORK,
SO HE CAN HANDLE HIS SHARE.
TALKIN' BACK TO YOU,
IS SOMETHIN' I WOULD NOT DARE.

(JACOB punches him in his stomach. BALI collapses and is kicked in his side.)

JACOB

THESE TWO AREN'T TO EAT!
I'll TEACH YOU HOW TO BE MEEK.
YOU ACT UP AGAIN
AND I'LL SEE YOUR LITTLE GIRL SOLD AWAY.

(JACOB spits in his face and exits.)

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