

Scene 12

Setting: Outside Charlotte's cabin

Cast: Charles, Lizzie, and Minnie Ann

(Charles and Lizzie are sitting together on a bench)

(Lights up)

Lizzie

Hey pa.

Charles

Hey youngin'.

Lizzie

Creek getting' high.

Charles

Um, huh.

Lizzie

You feelin' better Papa?

Charles

Reckon I do youngin'. Aunt Jenny know her stuff.

Lizzie

My frien's be wantin' me to tell 'em 'bout my trip. Mama say I need to stop talkin' so much. Say I getting' too big fo' my britches.

(Charles chuckles)

Charles

Baby girl, you gettin' like Seno, talkin' 'bout a fish he done caught. That snake get bigger e'ery time you tell it.

Lizzie

(After a pause)

Papa, what it be like to walk on water?

You 'member Preacher Moore say Jesus tol' his disciples to git in a boat an' go over cross the water? An' how a storm came up 'n he had to go walkin' on the water to save 'em.

Charles

Yeah baby, tha's a good story. I hear Preacher Moore tell it myse'f. Ol' Peter climb outta that boat, an' he was walkin' on the water too, 'til he got scared. He 'bout to go down, but de Lawd reach out an' save him.

Lizzie

Papa, Preacher Moore say if you got faith, you can do mos' anything. Maybe even git to be free.

Charles

Baby girl, Bird Mo' a good man. He say a lot o' stuff. An' when he git to preachin' 'bout trouble don't las' always, make you feel like freedom jus' 'round de corner. Only, look right here on Parson Creek; we ain't close to bein' free; 'n trouble doin' jus' fine.

Lizzie

He really did walk on water papa.

(Lizzie takes Charles hand)

You gotta believe, like Peter; even if you gotta walk on water too.

Charles

Reckon you right, baby girl. It jus' hard. Hard.

(Minnie Ann enters stage left and addresses Charles and Lizzie)

Minnie Ann

Hey Charles; hey Lizzie. Me 'n Ezra walkin' by the stable this mo'nin', 'n Shun say he see Letha' boy Jess on his way to the block. He a young buck, spec' he be sol' in no time.

(Minnie Ann crosses and exits stage right.)

Charles

See what ah'm sayin'? Jus' don' make no sense.