

Act 3

Scene 1

Setting: Charlotte's cabin

Cast: Charlotte and Vina

Vina

Charlotte, how's Charles?

Charlotte

Doin' right poorly. That ol fev'r done come back.

Vina

Lawd have mercy. What's ailin' him?

Charlotte

Sore throat. Back painin', knees achin'. Hardly make it to the fields some mornin's.

Vina

What you gon' do?

Charlotte

Ain't sure Vina, done tried 'bout e'rythang. Wheatgrass, juice, cloves; sage, ginger. Only thing seem to work, hemp oil; but tha's dangerous. Massa Neal grow hemp; git caught wit' it, they say I'm stealin'.

Vina

Yeah, but you know, Charles gon' have to git in 'em fields. If you can walk, you can work. B'sides, slave traders done started comin' 'round; lookin' fo' somebody to put on the block.

Charlotte

You right 'bout that honey. But I ain't thru yet. Got me a ram in the bush.

(Vina rolls her eyes and shakes her head)

Vina

Here you go.

Charlotte

'Member I tol' you 'bout that woman down by Utica, make them remedies. When I was young mama Dice went to see her, and she took me with her. Name uh Aunt Jenny. She the one people call on when they gits down. An' Charles sho nuff feelin' low. Done all I can do.

Aunt Jenny know 'bout healin'. Pretty sho' she got a potion. She tell mama, 'The good Lawd give us this lan', and this lan' give us life. Food fo' the body, 'n healin' fo' the soul.' I need to go fin' Aunt Jenny.

Vina

Land sakes Charlotte, how you fixin' to git massa Neal let you go traipse'n all a way down to Utica, to Aunt Jennys? You know you the bes' chopper he got in them fields.

Charlotte

Don' worry yo'sef none, Vina. mor' 'n one way to cross a creek. Ain't goin' to massa noway. Gon' talk to missy Neal. We see what she got to say.