

NAT TURNER

It is not how I say, but how the Lord has said. Your purpose is here with the children. You will be safe with master Reese. Once we reach Jerusalem I will send for you. I promise. Now, hide this for me.

NAT TURNER hands CHERRY a PAMPHLET entitled "David Walker's Appeal" and several other PAPERS with hieroglyphic writing on them.

NAT TURNER

This is your cross to bear.

CHERRY hugs her husband as hard as she can.

CHERRY

I loves you, Nat.

NAT TURNER

I love you and the children more than you will ever know.

INT. CHERRY'S SLAVE CABIN -- NIGHT

NAT TURNER and CHERRY make passionate love together on their makeshift bed of hay. They make love as though it is the last time they will ever touch one another. This truly is "goodbye sex".

In the corner, the TWO BOYS, who at first appear to be asleep, peek their eyes open and stifle tiny giggles.

EXT. BARNES CHURCH -- DAY

A boxy, Monopoly-board-game-hotel looking Methodist Church.

INT. BARNES CHURCH - DAY

White REVEREND RICHARD preaches to the black SLAVES in attendance. A few SLAVES are asleep. One SLAVE WIFE picks lice out of her HUSBAND's hair. JACK and ANDREW WHITEHEAD, the black Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum listen attentively.

REVEREND RICHARD

You may easily deceive your owners, but remember that you cannot deceive Almighty God, who sees your wickedness and will punish you accordingly. He who knoweth his Master's will, and doeth it not, shall be beaten with many stripes, and thus have I

(MORE)

REVEREND RICHARD (CONT'D)  
chastened you. You must obey your  
masters in all things, in  
singleness of heart as unto  
Christ. It is the will of God who  
hath by his providence made you  
servants, because, no doubt, he  
knew that condition would be best  
for you in this world, and if you  
would but do your duty in it, help  
you the better towards heaven.

JACK WHITEHEAD stands up.

JACK  
Is us slaves gwine be free in  
heaben?

The REVEREND smiles and tries to ignore the heckler.

REVEREND RICHARD  
I hope to have that attention  
which is due to the cause of God.

JACK sits back down.

REVEREND RICHARD  
Now, when correction is given you,  
whether you deserve it or not  
Almighty God requires that you  
bear it patiently. If you did not  
deserve the correction you  
suffered, leave your cause in the  
hands of God, he will reward you  
for it in heaven.

Now ANDREW stands up.

ANDREW  
But is us gwine be free up in  
heaben?

There are a few giggles. The REVEREND must answer somehow  
now.

REVEREND RICHARD  
Your fathers were poor ignorant  
and barbarous creatures in Africa,  
and the whites fitted out ships at  
great trouble and expense and  
brought you from that benighted  
land to Christian America. My dear  
black brothers and sisters, you  
are indeed a fortunate and a  
blessed people. Now let me exhort  
(MORE)

REVEREND RICHARD (CONT'D)  
you once more to serve your  
masters faithfully, because of  
what they have done on your  
account.

EXT. CABIN POND -- NIGHT

NELSON WILLIAMS, a Haitian slave with a STRING OF BEADS & CHICKEN BONES around his neck, tosses MAGIC POWDERS into a CAMPFIRE. The POWDERS POP AND FIZZ. NELSON hums a HOODOO INCANTATION.

HARK and his brother in-law, JACK REESE, arrive carrying a DEAD PIG ON A SPIT.

HARK  
Where Nat?

NELSON  
Nat always late. You know dat.

HARK  
Let me put dis pig on de fire  
right dere. It's gwine take a  
while to cook anyways.

HARK and JACK set up a little PIT ROAST over the FIRE. NELSON stares ominously at JACK REESE. HARK notices.

HARK  
Oh, dis Jack. He jump de broom wid  
my sister. He gwine come wid us.

JACK REESE  
Dat nigga know who I'm is. I seed  
Nelson plenty times. Matter fact  
what you was hummin' when us come  
up jus' now?

NELSON  
Ol' hoodoo spell. Blessing de  
feast, blessing us mission, curse  
any nigga who betray us.

HARK  
You seed de sun last Saturd'y?

NELSON  
Even white folk seed dat.