

BYNUM. Good luck don't know no special time to come. You sleep with that up under your pillow and good luck can't help but come to you. Sometime it come and go and you don't even know it's been there.

*(MATTIE turns away from him, facing out.)*

BERTHA. *(Intervenes.)* Bynum, why don't you leave that gal alone. She don't wanna be hearing all that. Why don't you go on and get out the way and leave her alone.

BYNUM. *(Rising.)* Alright ... alright. *(Unable to resist. Leans over to MATTIE.)* But you mark what I'm saying. It'll draw it to you just like a magnet.

*(LOOMIS enters the kitchen from upstairs, intercepts BYNUM as he turns to go. They exchange a long look. BYNUM finally crosses to the corner of the kitchen picks up his basket, crosses half-way up the stairs, stops to listen.)*

BERTHA. *(Sets LOOMIS breakfast at the stage left place on the kitchen table.)* I got some grits here, Mr. Loomis. *(Continues her cross around the table, sits next to MATTIE on the bench. BYNUM exits upstairs.)* If I was you, Mattie, I wouldn't go getting all tied up with Bynum in that stuff. That kind of stuff, even if it do work for awhile, it don't last. That just get people more mixed up than they is already. And I wouldn't waste my time fretting over Jeremy either. I seen it coming. I seen it when she first come here. She that kind of woman run off with the first man got a dollar to spend on her. Jeremy just young. He don't know what he getting into. That gal don't mean

him no good. She's just using him to keep from being by herself. That's the worse kind of a man you can have.

*(LOOMIS sits and begins to eat his breakfast.)*

BERTHA. You ought to be glad to wash him out of your hair. I done seen all kind of men. I done seen them come and go through here. Jeremy ain't had enough to him for you. You need a man who's got some understanding and who willing to work with that understand to come to the best he can. You got your time coming. You just tries too hard and can't understand why it don't work for you. Trying to figure it out don't do nothing but give you a troubled mind. Don't no man want a woman with a troubled mind.

You get all that trouble off your mind and just when it look like you ain't never gonna find what you want ... you look up and it's standing right there. That's how I met my Seth. You gonna look up one day and find everything you want standing right in front of you. Been twenty-seven years now since that happened to me. But life ain't no happy-go-lucky time where everything be just like you want it. You got your time coming.

*(BERTHA takes MATTIE's hand in hers as SETH enters through the porch door with his lunch pail and work gloves.)*

BERTHA. You watch what Bertha's saying.

SETH. *(Puts his lunch pail and work gloves down on the icebox.)* Ho!

BERTHA. *(With a wink to MATTIE.)* What you doing come in here so late?