

CHARACTER SIDES

Bali

BALI (30), Black, a skilled enslaved blacksmith with piercing eyes and a sturdy physique, whose greatest strength and weakness is his strength of will. EMALA (7) is his inquisitive daughter.

EMALA

There's thorns down there.

(Bali rips up the weeds)

BALI

Better now?

(EMALA reaches in her pocket and has a fistful of sugar cane. She proudly offers some to him.)

BALI

Put them away! You a sweetheart, looking out for yo' papa. But the overseer? He ain't gonna like it too much if he sees you takin' food. That's they livelihood.

EMALA

Sorry Pa'. How long we gonna have to live like this?

(Bali leans over and gives her a kiss on the forehead.)

BALI

Not for long baby... We won't be here long at all. Let me tell you a story. There was a lil' boy, about your age. He worked hard for years in the field.

He was digging ditches and discovered a lantern of magic. The master saw his lantern and wanted it. The little boy escaped, but wasn't alone. He found a friend to help guide him. A little girl. They became best friends.

(She chews on the sugar cane.)

THE LANTERN OF MAGIC KEPT THEM WARM.

While they traveled they made sure to avoid anyone that was white.

Eventouully they arrived to freedom, the world smelled fresh and new. There was glory over everythin' and the sun shone like gold.

EMALA

Will Mama and Neema be there?

BALI

Come on now baby. Time to get yo rest.

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*(This is the singing portion of the audition, you can
sing this song or a negro spiritual of your own
choosing.)*

THEY HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, DON'T YOU SEE?
THEY HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, DON'T YOU SEE?
WAY BETWEEN THE EARTH AND SKY,
THEY SAID THEY HEARD OUR SAVIOR CRY.
AND HAD A HOME IN THAT ROCK, WELL,
DON'T YOU SEE?

THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL, DON'T YOU SEE?
THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL, DON'T YOU SEE?
THE RICH MAN DIED AND LIVED SO WELL
AND WHEN HE DIED HE HAD A HOME IN HELL.
HE HAD NO HOME IN THAT ROCK,
DON'T YOU SEE?

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