

CHARACTER SIDES FOR "UNDERGROUND"

Dembi

DEMBI (28), Black, an attractive female house slave who is comfortable with her station in life.

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.

(The slaves are resting after their escape and near-capture. Bali is wrapping up Emala's legs, which have been scratched and cut. Dembi watches him.)

DEMBI

How... how you plan on... on getting through all this?

BALI

We can't trust any of these white folks we see round here. We head north. Follow the trail to freedom.

(Dembi shakes her head.)

DEMBI

It ain't that simple...

BALI

What do you know?

DEMBI

More than you think.
I was working in the field
for the family of von whittle.
slavin' everyday, under that hot sun,
till my bones were brittle.
Not a thing to drink.
My eyes were so dry that I could not blink.

I woulda done anythin' to get out of that field.
I was glad I was bought.
but while i lived there, some of the slaves started their
journey, only to get caught.
They were tortured, till death to reveal plans, secrets,
passageways til they had nothing left.
All for trying to be free...

BALI

How much did you hear?

DEMBI

Enough to know the dangers, there is much to fear!

(Bali rubs his chin.)

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DEMBI

I mean... its not nothin' you don't already know!

BALI

I need you here. to help us... you know where to go.

(Dembi takes a look at the scars on Emala's legs)

I'd hoped to let you go once we covered enough ground. but you've got to stay with us, that way we can't be found.

DEMBI

I know your chances are slim,
but i can't sacrifice my livelihood.
I cant live life out here in the woods.

(Bali finishes wrapping Emala's legs. He touches her bandages)

BALI

its worth the risk. anything is worth the risk for freedom.
Let us rest for the night.
We will start the journey again, after the sun rises at first light.

(They lay down to sleep)

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

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