

Chris (looks down at Levi, groans loudly, then speaks urgently): Oh, no! We have to go now! (Carefully but quickly picks up Levi, grabs a handkerchief out of his pocket and puts over Levi's nose) Tell Dad to get his car and meet us at the front door. Hurry!

(Curtain closes as Melanie, Chris and Levi rush offstage, Kyla rushes towards Mr. Walker and she is waving her hands telling him to get the car, etc.)

Scene Eleven

Minister

Doctor

Nurse 2

Policeman

Brian Tolbert

Donna Tolbert

Dawnetta Tolbert

(Curtains opens with Dawnetta on a hospital bed, with a Doctor and Nurse working over her. Brian is off to the side of the stage, pacing staggeringly back and forth, talking loudly.)

Brian: Dawnetta, baby, ged up, we gotta' go home. Ged up, baby. Daddy won't hurt ya, Daddy only had a liddle drinksh. Ged up, baby, we gotta' go.

Nurse 2 (going over to Brian): Sir, you have to be quiet. Your daughter is in serious condition. Be quiet or we'll have to ask you to leave.

Brian: I can't leave wif-out my baby girl.

Policeman (going to Brian): Were you the driver? Is that your daughter?

Brian: I'se jus' takin' her home. The party ish all over.

Donna (entering): Brian, where is she? What happened?

Policeman (quietly): Apparently he picked her up from the church. Went into that curve at about 75 or 80, didn't make it, went airborne. Your daughter was thrown out of the car and hit a tree. Your husband's alcohol level is very high, he's unhurt.

Donna: How is Dawnetta?

Policeman: I'll keep your husband here, you can go see her.

Doctor: Mrs. Tolbert, I'm sorry, I don't think she can make it. She has a lot of internal injuries and her pulse is sporadic. Her head took a lot of the impact, it will be a miracle if she can come to enough to recognize you.

Donna (leans over to kiss her daughter): Dawnetta, it's Mommy. I love you. Stay with me if you can, darling, but if Jesus is ready for you now, I know you'll be safe.

Dawnetta (slowly opens eyes, and says softly): Mommy, I love you. Where's Daddy?

Brian (walks to the bed and takes her outreached hand): I knew you'd be OK.

Dawnetta: I'm leaving, Daddy, Jesus wants me in heaven. I just want to forgive you, but will you promise not to hit Mommy anymore? Promise, please?

Brian (suddenly sober, choked voice): Look what I've done. I promise.

Dawnetta: Mommy, Daddy, will you do something special for me?

Donna (earnestly): Oh, honey, what can we do?

Dawnetta: Will you give ME as a present? Please?

Donna: What do you mean?

Dawnetta: Mommy, Levi needs a liver, and in heaven I won't need mine. We're about the same size. Can Levi have my liver?

Donna & Brian (together): Oh, honey...

(The doctor and nurse look at each other. The doctor nods and the nurse hurries away.)

Dawnetta (weakly now): I can give my liver so Levi can get well. Daddy, Jesus gave His life so we can live in heaven. You can find Jesus at church, Daddy. And He will teach you how to love.

Brian: I love you, I already know how to love.

Dawnetta (softly): Really love, love that doesn't hurt. I'm sleepy now.

(Curtain closes while they remain standing by the bed.)

Scene Twelve

*Chris Walker
Mr. Carl Walker
Melanie Osborne
Levi Osborn
Kyla McKay*