

HOLDING ESTHER

Written by

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For  
RiverCross-TWR

1

RIVER BANK, IN DREAM

1

Esther is daydreaming about her former life, although that is not immediately apparent.

A river runs in the background. A slightly younger Esther and her younger sister Sarah sit on the bank with their mother as their father fishes.

ESTHER'S MOM

(singing)

Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe  
There is no God like you  
Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe  
There is no God like you

PAPA

(relaxed)

What a gift God gave us today. Warm sun,  
fishing on the river with my family. We are  
indeed blessed.

YOUNGER ESTHER

Are we going back to eat soon, Papa?  
You've been fishing all morning.

PAPA

(warmly)

Esther, my child, if we went back now,  
we'd all have to share this one tiny fish.  
You'd get a fin. And Sarah would get a  
tongue.

YOUNGER SARAH

Papa! Fish don't have tongues!

(beat)

Do they?

The family laughs.

YOUNGER ESTHER

Sarah, you have a lot to learn from me.

MAMA

I'm glad you're both going to school now.  
You'll learn a great deal.

YOUNGER ESTHER

Aunt Jedida says we can't afford school  
and it's a waste of money. Is that true?

PAPA

As long as the Lord provides, you'll go to  
school. I'm making sure my daughters get  
more of an education than I did.

MAMA

And the cost is nothing for you to worry  
about. Papa's crops are doing better than  
ever.

PAPA

Yes, you just keep learning what has  
tongues and what doesn't.

The girls giggle.

MAMA

AH...Look...look! On the branch!

YOUNGER ESTHER

A butterfly!

YOUNGER SARAH

It's so colorful...

MAMA

Yes...beautiful. You know, they started out  
as worms.

YOUNGER ESTHER

Caterpillars, Mrs. Naboli told us.

MAMA

Yes, caterpillars. Those aren't so pretty.  
But, butterflies...I could watch butterflies  
all day. They look like...hope.

PAPA

Well, I hope my girls are almost done with  
their reading. I'd like to hear what you are  
learning. Go on, Esther. Esther?

Cut to present.

2

GARDEN BEHIND SMALL HUT

2

Esther's daydreaming behind the house and her aunt is trying to get her attention. The "Esther" phrase changes abruptly from Papa to the aunt saying her name, without a break between scenes. The sounds of river and river life fades out as she comes back to the present.

AUNT

(calling)

Esther? Esther!

ESTHER

(startled, waking up)

Huh...what?

AUNT

Daydreaming again, Esther? What is wrong  
with you? You have chores to do!

ESTHER

Oh...

She hurriedly gets up.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Sorry, Aunt Jedida.

AUNT

(sigh of exasperation)

You and your lazy sister...now where is she?

ESTHER

She went down to the river to do the washing.

AUNT

Well, take these buckets and fetch some more water. She can help you carry them back.

ESTHER

Yes, Auntie.

She takes the buckets and heads to the river.

AUNT

(calling after her)

And, hurry up!

Music sting.

3

DOWN BY RIVER

3

Rushing water. Sarah is washing the clothes as Esther approaches, buckets in hand.

ESTHER

Sarah! You better finish the washing up quickly. We need to take the water back.

SARAH

Come over here! Look at this lizard. I bet I could catch it.

ESTHER

Aunt Jedida wouldn't be happy with that. She wants the water right away.

SARAH

It looks like the lizard Papa let us keep as a pet once, doesn't it?

ESTHER

And Mama was not happy at all. She said she'd make lizard stew.

SARAH

(chuckles)

That's right. I forgot about that.

(beat)

I miss them.

ESTHER

Me, too.

(beat)

I was just remembering when we all sat down by the river while Papa fished.

SARAH

And Mama sang.

ESTHER

Mm-hm.

SARAH

(beat)

Do you ever worry that you'll forget them?  
Or that we dreamed them up and it never really happened?

ESTHER

Sometimes I want to forget. Sometimes it's easier.

(swallows, changes subject)

Let's hurry up and get the water.

SARAH

I don't want to go back to the house. Not yet.

ESTHER

We have to. Here's your bucket.

She hands Sarah the bucket and the girls get the water.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

This is our life now, and we must do what we're told.

SARAH

Stop reminding me all the time. I do everything I'm supposed to do.

(beat, a little sadder)

Everything they tell me to do.

They start walking back to the house, water sloshing and still talking.

AUNT

(calling from distance)

Girls! Hurry up!

ESTHER

(calling back)

Coming!

(to Sarah, determined)

We shouldn't talk about Mama and Papa anymore. It only makes us sadder.

SARAH

Even if it makes me sad, it at least reminds me that there were happier times.

ESTHER

But it's not good for us. Listen to me. I'm your older sister--

SARAH

But that doesn't mean you are always right. I'm ten. I can take care of myself.

ESTHER

But I'm twelve. And that means I know at least twice as much as you.

SARAH

Or at least makes you think you do.

ESTHER

Sarah, I know it's not the same living with aunt and uncle, and sometimes they make us do things we don't want to do....but, but we just have to make it through. And we can. Together.

SARAH

Okay.

ESTHER

Uncle is coming.

(calling)

Do you need something, Uncle Shomari?

UNCLE

I need Sarah. I have a chore for her to do.

SARAH

We were getting the water for Aunt--

UNCLE

Esther can take care of that. Surely, it only takes one of you.

ESTHER

Um, yes, but could I help you instead, Uncle?

UNCLE

Oh, no. You go on. Tell your aunt I'll be in for my meal soon.

ESTHER

Yes, Uncle.



UNCLE  
C'mon, Sarah. Stop your cowering.

ESTHER  
(under her breath)  
Just go...

She takes the bucket of water from her.

SARAH  
Yes, Uncle...

UNCLE  
That's my good girl. I got some nice things  
for you at the store today. Do you want to  
see them?

SARAH  
I suppose...

Their voices grow distant.

AUNT  
(calling)  
Where is my water?

ESTHER  
(calling back)  
Coming, Aunt Jedida!

Music sting.

4

KITCHEN AREA

4

Esther walks into kitchen carrying big water jug. Aunt Jedida and Esther  
make the soup together.

AUNT  
It's about time you got back. Soups not  
much good without the water, you know.

ESTHER

Sorry, Auntie.

(beat)

What did uncle want Sarah for?

AUNT

I don't know. There are plenty of chores to be done. Now dump that water in the pot.

She pours the water into the pot, while watching out window.

ESTHER

It looks like they're going out into the barn.

AUNT

Check the fire, Girl. Let me know when the water's hot enough for the potatoes.

ESTHER

(distracted)

Yes, Auntie...

Music bridge...

5 BEDROOM, LATER THAT NIGHT

5

Night sounds out open window.

ESTHER

You've been really quiet tonight, Sarah. Is anything wrong?

SARAH

It's just so hot. I can't breathe.

ESTHER

Of course, you're under all those blankets...

(realizing)

You're...you're crying...

She reaches out to her sister.

SARAH  
(gasps in pain)  
Ow!

ESTHER  
What's wrong?

SARAH  
Just...I bruised by back. It hurt when you  
touched it.

ESTHER  
How did you bruise it?

SARAH  
It doesn't matter.  
(beat, to self)  
Nothing matters.

ESTHER  
I know it's hard when uncle--

SARAH  
I don't want to talk about it.

ESTHER  
Sarah, you can tell me. Uncle does things  
to me, too.  
(beat, then hesitant)  
When he was bundling the grain last week,  
he had me take off my shirt for him.

SARAH  
(curious)  
And then what?

ESTHER  
Then, well, nothing. He just looked at me  
for a while and told me to go inside. I felt  
really...embarrassed.

SARAH

Oh.

ESTHER

What does he do to you?

Sarah turns over to face the wall.

SARAH

The same thing. Just like that.

ESTHER

We need to be strong. Mama and Papa would want us to be.

SARAH

Yes, I know.

ESTHER

And we've no other place to go. We need to eat. We need a place to sleep.

SARAH

I know.

(swallow)

I'll be strong, Esther. I promise.

Creaking.

ESTHER

Shh...he's coming.

SARAH

Pretend you're asleep.

Creek of steps.

UNCLE SHOMARI

(harsh hush)

Sarah! Girl!

He shakes her.

UNCLE SHOMARI (CONT'D)

It's time to get up!

SARAH

Yes, Uncle.

She gets out of bed and they both leave, floors creaking.

ESTHER

(whispering)

Oh, Mama. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Music bridge.

6 OUTSIDE, FOLLOWING MORNING

6

Esther is feeding the chickens. They cluck and scamper around her, while Sarah checks for eggs.

SARAH

Only two eggs this morning.

ESTHER

Auntie will blame us. Say that we scare them or don't feed them enough.

SARAH

(smiling)

Remember when father got those chickens for mama and--

ESTHER

Stop! Why must you keep bringing them up? They're dead! We're better off forgetting them.

SARAH

I need to remember.

(beat, to self)

I need to remember how things used to be.

ESTHER

(to chickens)

C'mon, chicks. There's more to eat over here.

(to Sarah)

You wet the bed again last night.  
You haven't done that since you were 4!  
And now...almost every night--

SARAH

(interrupting, angry)

I don't want to talk about it.

ESTHER

But I'm the one cleaning it up before Aunt Jedida finds out. You remember how upset she was when it first happened.

SARAH

I remember.

(more to self)

I'm just a terrible person.

ESTHER

Wetting the bed doesn't make you a terrible person.

(more gently)

Why would you even say that?

SARAH

Never mind.

Long beat.

ESTHER

(softer)

Please, Sarah. Talk to me. I'm your sister.

SARAH

(beat)

Promise you won't hate me.

ESTHER

Of course I won't hate you.

SARAH

And promise you won't tell anyone. Uncle said he'd lock me in the shed for a week if I said a word.

ESTHER

Okay. I promise.

SARAH

When he calls me away with him...he...well...

ESTHER

Yes?

SARAH

He touches me.  
(beat, softly)  
And he makes me touch him.

ESTHER

(sharp intake of breath)  
Oh, Sarah....I thought he only did things to you that he did to me.

SARAH

He says I make him do it.  
(beat, sniff)  
Lately, it's been worse.

ESTHER

Worse?

SARAH

He brings his friends. He wakes me up late at night and brings me to the shed. They do the same thing.

ESTHER

No.

SARAH

Mr. Intira, Mr. Pim, Mr. Akkarat.

(tearily)

They've all done things to me.

I'm a horrible person.

ESTHER

Oh Sarah, it's not your fault...maybe we can talk to someone. Get him to stop.

SARAH

Talk to who?! Who would listen to us?

We're only children...we're just girls!

ESTHER

Maybe Aunt Jedida would help us.

SARAH

She only does what he says. And you promised me you wouldn't say anything.

You promised.

ESTHER

Yes, but I've made another promise first.

SARAH

To who?

ESTHER

Mama...the morning of the day she died.

SARAH

You talked to her that morning? She was barely conscious.



7 IN SCENE, REMEMBERING

7

The girls' mother is near death. Her words are labored and slow throughout scene.

ESTHER

Mama, you have to drink something.  
Please.

MAMA

I can't...I can't....

ESTHER

You need to get stronger.

MAMA

I'll be following your father soon.

ESTHER

(not believing it)

No. You'll get better.

MAMA

No, my dear Esther. You know that's not true.

ESTHER

You must...with father gone...

MAMA

I need you to be strong.

ESTHER

I can't be.

MAMA

Even if you can't be, God can be strong for you. He is your defender and your fortress. Like Papa always taught you.

ESTHER

Mama...no...

MAMA

You and your sister will have each other.  
Promise you'll watch over her...protect  
her.

ESTHER

(tearily)  
I promise.

MAMA

Say after me:  
(labored breathing)  
When I am afraid, I will...trust in the Lord.

ESTHER

When I am afraid, I will trust in the Lord.

MAMA

Good.

8 BACK TO PRESENT - CHICKEN YARD

8

The chickens cluck.

ESTHER

She asked to rest after that, and she died  
that evening. I didn't know...I didn't know  
her time was that short.

SARAH

She tried so hard to be strong for us.

ESTHER

And now I must be strong for her. I need  
to do what I promised.

SARAH

But we're just girls. There's nothing we  
can do.

Uncle surprises them, when they suddenly notice he's there.

UNCLE  
(accusatory)  
Nothing you can do about what?

SARAH  
Uncle! We didn't hear you coming.

UNCLE  
Probably because you're busy gossiping  
with your sister. What can you do nothing  
about?

ESTHER  
(thinking quickly)  
The chickens! They're, uh, not laying  
many eggs. We're trying to figure out, uh,  
what the problem might be.

UNCLE  
Huh. Well, you better find out. Your aunt  
needs those eggs.

ESTHER  
Yes, Uncle.

UNCLE  
Sarah, come with me. There's someone  
who wants to meet you.

Long beat.

UNCLE (CONT'D)  
Now, I mean!

SARAH  
Yes, Uncle.

She walks off with her uncle.

ESTHER  
(under breath)  
I have to do something.

Music sting.

9

KITCHEN

9

Aunt is stoking the fire. Esther walks in door opens and closes.

AUNT  
Did you get the eggs?

ESTHER  
There were only two...

AUNT  
(sighs)  
Use what you have.

Esther begins to crack the eggs into the hot pan.

ESTHER  
Um...Aunt Jedida?

AUNT  
Yes?

ESTHER  
I think Uncle Shomari...the way he treats  
Sarah...

Aunt Jedida continues stoking the fire.

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Are you listening, Aunt Jedida?

AUNT  
We don't live in a perfect world. If we did,  
your parents would still be alive.

ESTHER

I know...but...he's hurting her.

AUNT

(sigh)

You girls and you're imaginations.  
Your Uncle is doing the best to keep food  
on the table and feed two extra mouths.  
We didn't plan on taking in two orphans.

ESTHER

I'm sorry.

AUNT

It may not be like your family, but it is all  
you got. You hear me?

ESTHER

Yes Auntie.

Yelling and screaming are heard coming from the shed, a short distance  
away.

SARAH

(screaming, in distance)

Nooo! Stop!

ESTHER

Sarah!

AUNT

(calling from behind her)

Esther! Get back here!

She runs out the door and through the gate. Inside, she hears Sarah being  
beaten, and Sarah's cries in response.

UNCLE

(muffled)

You do what I tell you to do! This is all  
you're good for.

SARAH  
(crying, muffled)  
I will...I'm sorry. I was wrong.

MAN  
(muffled)  
She'll cooperate now. You can go.

Esther leans against the door, quieter noises inside, and sobs.

ESTHER  
Oh, Sarah. Sarah...

Sad music bridge.

10 OUTSIDE BARN - LATER

10

Crickets chirp. Barn door opens. Men leave.

The man hands Uncle Shomari some money.

MAN  
Here, Shomari. I'll be back next week.

UNCLE  
She'll be cleaned up next time. See you then.

The man leaves. Aunt Jedida approaches.

AUNT  
(meekly)  
Shomari, I have some supper for you.

UNCLE  
Keep it warm. I have more work to do.

AUNT  
Yet tonight?

UNCLE

(grunt of assent)

I think I will come in and get something to drink.

Begins to walk back to house, but perspective stays at same location. Voices fade somewhat as they get further away.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Where's the older girl?

AUNT

Haven't seen her. Probably went to bed by now. Never ate her supper.

UNCLE

More for me then.

Door shuts (at distance) as they enter house. Bushes rustle and Esther crawls out.

ESTHER

(whispering, to self)

More tonight?

(beat)

I can't. I can't let it happen.

She quietly opens door to barn. It creaks.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Sarah? Sarah? It's me, Esther.

SARAH

(quiet whimpers)

ESTHER

Are you okay?

(sees her)

Oh, you're bleeding. Oh, sister...

SARAH  
Go away...he'll find you.

ESTHER  
(decisively)  
Get your clothes on.

SARAH  
I can't--don't look at me. Please.

ESTHER  
We have to hurry.

SARAH  
(whimpers)  
I can't...

ESTHER  
You can't stay here.  
(to self)  
Huddled in a corner like an animal.  
(decisive)  
Raise your arms. I'll put your dress on.

SARAH  
(moans in pain)

ESTHER  
He'll be back any minute.

SARAH  
He'll kill you. He'll kill us both.

ESTHER  
I'm not going to let this keep happening.

House door opens in distance.

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Hurry, hurry. He's coming.

SARAH  
Where are we going to go?



ESTHER

I don't know. We just have to leave here.  
Okay, now!

She opens door.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

(loud whisper)

Run!

SARAH

Where?

ESTHER

Just run! C'mon! As fast as you can! Run!

They take off.

UNCLE

(yelling from short distance)

Hey! Get back here, you little rats! Hey!

He starts to run after them, but trips on something and falls.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Ow! You stupid girls!

House door opens and Jedida emerges.

AUNT

Shomari, what's the yelling about?

UNCLE

They ran off. Can you believe it?

AUNT

Should we get the pick-up?

UNCLE

Let me have my supper first. They'll be  
back soon anyway. They can't survive on  
their own.

Music bridge.

11      GIRLS RUNNING DOWN ROAD - EARLY EVENING

11

The girls are running as fast as they can.

SARAH

(panting)

Do you think he's following us?

ESTHER

(panting)

Just...keep...running!

SARAH

(panting)

We've been running for a long time! I can't go any further!

They slow down.

SARAH (CONT'D)

How far do you think we've gone?

ESTHER

I don't know. Maybe 5...6 kilometers.

SARAH

What were you thinking? What are we doing?

They hear the clanking and thumping of an old pick-up truck coming down the rough, dirt road.

ESTHER

Hurry, hide in the brush. Lie down on your stomach.

They hide in some brush on the side of the road.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Be still.

The truck comes loudly and pulls over on the side of the road. The clanking engine is shut off.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Don't even breathe, Sarah.

Two doors open. Aunt and Uncle get out. Perspective stays with Sarah and Esther, hiding under a canopy of brush.

UNCLE

They couldn't have gotten this far, Jedida.

AUNT

Maybe they ran through the fields instead.

UNCLE

Stupid girls. They'll either starve or be attacked by hyenas.

He walks over to the brush. The sound of his feet against the bristle bushes is louder than normal, as they're only a few inches away at that level.

SARAH

(squeaks)

ESTHER

Shh.

AUNT

Perhaps they've returned by now.

UNCLE

Better have. I have three men coming tomorrow...

AUNT

(stunned, sickened)

So you really...you sell my sister's children?

UNCLE

(cruel laugh)

You stupid woman! You really didn't know?

AUNT

I didn't think...

UNCLE

How else do you think we could afford to take care of them?

AUNT

My sister would be heartbroken if she knew.

UNCLE

(angrily)

Well, what would she expect? Do we have the money to feed extra mouths? What else are they good for? They can't do hard labor. They're not clever.

AUNT

I know...but how...?

UNCLE

I pay off the village leaders. They look the other way.

(beat)

At least this way the girls can pay for their keep.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

They'll get hungry. They'll be back. C'mon.

The two get back in the truck, slamming doors behind them. The old truck noisily turns around and bounces back the bumpy road the same way it came.

The girls wait for a bit, and then come out of the brush.

SARAH

What are we doing? Where are we going?

ESTHER

I...I don't know. I didn't know what else to do. To see you being beaten like that...and what those men were...

SARAH

Don't. Don't ever talk about it again, Esther. Promise me.

ESTHER

We had to leave.

SARAH

But how can we survive? What will we eat? Where will we sleep? We've nowhere to go.

ESTHER

Let me think...

SARAH

We need to go back. It's the only thing we can do. I'll do what I have to with uncle and the others.

ESTHER

(ready to argue)

Sarah--

SARAH

(interrupting)

I just pretend I'm somewhere else.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I always imagine myself on the riverbank with Mama and Papa, when Papa would fish and Mama would sing songs and tell stories.

ESTHER

(resolved)

Mama and Papa would not want them doing those things to you.

SARAH

There's nothing else we can do. Do you not understand that?

ESTHER

If we go back now, he'll beat us worse than he ever has before. We'll head into town. We've run so far, it can't be much further.

SARAH

And then where do we stay in town?

ESTHER

We'll figure it out once we get there. For now, let's cross the fields and stay off the road so we won't be seen.

SARAH

We need to think this through. Have a plan.

ESTHER

The only plan I have is we're sticking together.

(beat, sad)

We're all we've got now.

Music bridge.

12 IN THE FIELD, SEVERAL HOURS LATER

12

The girls are walking through the fields, exhausted. Evening is falling and the sounds of night are beginning.

SARAH

I'm so tired. I can't go any further.

ESTHER

I see the lights of town ahead.

SARAH

Can we stop? Just for a minute?

ESTHER

Yes. But not for long. It will be pitch black soon.

They sit down. Sarah breathes heavily.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

How's your head feeling?

SARAH

Like a drum being pounded on. And I can hardly see out of my right eye.

ESTHER

Yeah...it's badly swollen.

SARAH

My throat is dry.

ESTHER

If I knew we'd be running away, I'd have brought water.

SARAH

And food. What I would do for some of Aunt Jedida's bean soup now.

They sit for a few seconds in silence.

SARAH (CONT'D)

We need to go back tomorrow. We'll tell them we're sorry. That we'll do everything they ask.

ESTHER

I can't stand the thought of it.

SARAH

We don't have a choice, Esther! When will you understand that?

A wild animal howls in the background.

SARAH (CONT'D)

We don't have a choice.

ESTHER

We need to keep moving. I don't know what kind of animals will be coming out. We need to go somewhere safe.

They get up slowly.

SARAH

Safe? I haven't felt safe since Papa died. And where is this safe place? We don't know anyone.

ESTHER

We'll find something. C'mon...

They start walking.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

We can do this.

Beat.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

(singing)

Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe There is no .....



SARAH

No. Don't.

ESTHER

I thought you'd want to hear it now. Mama always sang it.

SARAH

But now I don't believe it.

(beat)

I don't believe a word of it.

Music bridge takes us to...

13

EDGE OF TOWN

13

The girls limp into town, exhausted, late at night.

SARAH

My feet are getting blisters. I can't go much further, Esther. I feel so sick.

ESTHER

We've at least make it to the edge of town.

SARAH

I can't believe we ran away. Uncle must be so angry right now. If only with we could go back to mother and father's home--but it's so far. We'd never make it.

ESTHER

We need to look for a place to sleep for the night.

A group of laughing men pass by, ignoring them.

SARAH

And some food.

ESTHER  
(pointing)  
Look. There's our answer!

SARAH  
What?

ESTHER  
The man coming out of the restaurant. We  
can ask him for food. C'mon.

They hurry up their pace.

SARAH  
It looks like he's locking up. He must be the  
boss.

Man closes and locks door.

ESTHER  
Excuse me. Do you have any leftover  
food? My sister and I--

RESTAURANT OWNER  
No handouts. If I gave stuff away to every  
beggar that came to my door, I'd be out of  
business. I'm not a charity.

ESTHER  
Please, even a little. We're so hungry.

RESTAURANT OWNER  
And I'm happy to serve food to hungry  
people. For money. Check the garbage pile  
out back if you must. But don't come  
around begging again.

He walks off.

ESTHER  
Sorry, Sir.

SARAH  
(disdainfully)  
The garbage pile?

ESTHER  
Let's try some of the other shops and  
restaurants first. Someone will help us.

SARAH  
(sighs)

Music sting.

BACK ALLEY BEHIND RESTAURANT

Sarah and Esther are digging through the garbage pile for food.

SARAH  
Have you found anything...

ESTHER  
Not yet! Oh...look!

She digs more and pulls something out.

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
A bit of bread. And in a plastic bag!

She hands it to Sarah.

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Have some.

Sarah takes a crunchy bite.

SARAH  
A little hard.  
(with mouthful)  
But it's food.

ESTHER

And look at this.

She pulls out an old cloth.

SARAH

(still eating)

A ripped cloth?

ESTHER

We can use it as a blanket tonight. The tear isn't that big.

(beat)

Ooh...I found some cooked beans, too.

She keeps digging through garbage pile. A boy runs up beside her.

MOSI

Hey...hey! Whatchya doing?

ESTHER

Looking for something to eat.

MOSI

Well, this is my territory. My alley. Go find your own.

ESTHER

I didn't realize it belonged to someone.

MOSI

Everything 'round here belongs to someone.

SARAH

Please. We're so hungry.

MOSI

Ah. You new to the streets?

ESTHER

I guess you could say that.

MOSI

Let me give you your first lesson. This area belongs to me and my gang. Go find your own.

(gentler)

You can keep the bread and cloth. You need it.

ESTHER

Thank you.

Wolfs down more food.

MOSI

I'm Mosi. But everyone calls me Captain.

ESTHER

I'm Esther. And this is Sarah.

SARAH

(with mouth full, awkwardly)

Hi...Captain.

MOSI

There are some unclaimed alleys on the other side of the train station. Bout 20 blocks away. You should go there.

SARAH

(on verge of tears)

But...20 blocks?

ESTHER

(quietly stalwart)

C'mon, Sarah. Let's go.

They walk off.

Music bridge.

End of Part 1.