

Act Two

SCENE I

The lights come up on Black Mary and Selig in the kitchen the next morning.

SELIG: That's all anybody talking about. They talking about it clear down in Philadelphia. They say somebody started that fire at the mill. Say the colored is still mad over the man who jumped into the river. They talking about keeping the colored out of Pennsylvania. Say, "What do we need them for?" One man say they ought to send them back down South. I come on past the general store in Rankin and they was talking about, "Why can't we have slavery again?" One man said 'cause of the law. And somebody said change the law. The man asked him, "Would you fight another war?" And he said, "Hell yeah." I was surprised when he said that but then I wasn't too surprised. They talking about bringing in the army if the police can't handle it.

(Aunt Ester enters from her room.)