

MAMIE SIDES

He sleeps as morning light sneaks through a split in the curtains onto the wood floor where his red rag has fallen. The new caretaker comes in. She reaches down to pick this up, folds and places it on his night table.

MAMIE

Guess you gonna need a new one of these. Don't think all that blood'll wash out.

The words pull him out of his slumber, slow. His eyes focus on Mamie, the servant from the plantation home, as she draws the curtains open.

He can't believe it's her.

MAMIE

Don't you look so surprised.

The doctor sits up in bed, still struggling but this development has given him strength.

MAMIE

When I heard there was a doctor in town need help dyin', figured I might could do that.

She sits in the chair not far from his bedside.

MAMIE

Course if you prefer someone else I can tell the misses.

LEGRAND

No.

After a while of looking at each other:

LEGRAND

Please stay.

He leans back on his pillow with a couple coughs.

MAMIE

Anyhow... there might be some things still need talkin'bout.

The doctor reaches for his handkerchief to wipe some blood off his lip.

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MAMIE

Some I be knowin' and others you
ought to answer.

Legrand drinks from a glass of water, feebly.

LEGRAND

You ain't got work back at the
house?

MAMIE

Ain't no one left to work for. They
gone.

Legrand thinks, just like he will be soon.

LEGRAND

Well, get me out here. If I'm gonna
die, I'd rather do it somewhere
else.

She smiles.

MAMIE

I know just the place.