

GROUP 1
SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY
THERE'S A MADMAN WAITING
STANDING IN THE SHADOWS
WITH A GUN IN HIS HANDS

CONKLIN, GROUP
SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY
STANDING IN THE SHADOWS

ALL
A MAN OF COLOR
WHO IS CALMLY STATING
COALHOUSE DEMANDS

COALHOUSE AND HIS MEN

WE' LL PLAY THEM THE MUSIC.
OF SOMETHING BEGINNING!

SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY
COALHOUSE!

AN ERA EXPLODING, A CENTURY
SPINNING -
LISTEN TO THAT RAGTIME!

(THEY fire their guns. People react.

MOTHER and YOUNGER BROTHER are sitting
around a table. MOTHER has Sarah's baby
with her. FATHER stands with a pistol.
THE LITTLE BOY watches.)

FATHER
We are suffering a tragedy that should not have been ours.
What in God's name possessed you? You took that woman in
without sufficient thought. And she brought Coalhouse into our
lives. You have victimized us all with your foolish female
sentimentality.

YOUNGER BROTHER
Are you going out to find him and shoot him?

FATHER
I'm protecting my home. If Mr. Walker makes the mistake of
coming to my door I will deal with him.

YOUNGER BROTHER
Why should he come here? We did not desecrate his car.

FATHER
I went to the police. I told them this murdering madman was a
guest in my home. I told them we are keeping his bastard
child. I told them everything I knew. They were very grateful.

YOUNGER BROTHER
Did you tell them he's the Negro maniac whose car they
destroyed? The same black man who went to them for justice but
whose every legal complaint they ignored? The same crazed
Negro killer who followed the coffin of a woman they murdered?
Were they grateful for the truth?

YOUNGER
BROTHER
2
START

FATHER

~~I hope I misunderstand you. Would you defend this savage? Does he have anyone but himself to blame for Sarah's death? Anything but his damnable nigger pride? Nothing under heaven can excuse the killing of men and the destruction of property in this manner.~~

YOUNGER BROTHER

I did not hear such a eulogy at Sarah's funeral. I did not hear you say then that death and the destruction of property were inexcusable.

FATHER

Must I endure this?

YOUNGER BROTHER

You are a complacent man with no thought of history. You have traveled everywhere and learned nothing. I despise you.

(HE exits.)

FATHER

He'll be back.

MOTHER

I don't think so.

THE LITTLE BOY

Why is uncle angry? Why is everyone so angry?

MOTHER

Ask your father.

THE LITTLE BOY

It's because of Coalhouse isn't it?

MOTHER

Why don't you explain this to your son. He is confused. Why don't you ever talk to him?

(There is a silence.)

FATHER

How would you like to see a game of baseball tomorrow?

THE LITTLE BOY

I think I would like that, sir.

FATHER

I've been neglecting you. The Giants are at the Polo Grounds. Mother, I'm taking the boy to see a game of baseball.

MOTHER

You fool.

END

END
FATHER II