

RIT scene 1

PULSE TO DARKNESS - FADE UP ON... RIT at the door, an ax in her hands. She raises the ax, voice choked with rage.

**START
scene 1:**

RIT
Edward! You ain't gon sell 'nother one of my chil'ren. First man set foot in here, I'ma split his head.

PULSE TO DARKNESS... FADE UP ON... THE DOOR BURSTING IN - Foxx knocks Rit back with the butt of his rifle, wrestling away the ax. Minty's brothers, ROBERT, 23 and HENRY, 16, move to protect their mother as Brodess and Gideon step into the small cabin, the Georgian behind them, rifles in the slaves' faces.

The Georgian points to Minty.

GEORGIAN
Her.

Minty's eyes grow wide with fear. The slaves gasp. Gideon turns to his father.

GIDEON
No! Not Minty.

Gideon and Brodess exchange a look. Edward turns to the slave trader.

EDWARD BRODESS
Take them other two.

PULSE TO DARKNESS... FADE UP ON... THE FAMILY erupting as Foxx grabs Linah and the Georgian grabs Soph, violently wrenching them from their family. Linah screams, reaching for her baby.

LINAH
No! My baby!

The children scream for their mothers. Rit clings to Brodess sobbing...

RIT

Please, Edward! Not my gurls!

**STOP
scene 1**

He slings her off. Gideon turns his gun on the rest of them. His eyes meet Minty's...

RIT scene 2

Gideon takes a hold of Minty's face and forces the paper in her mouth. Their eyes meet as she gags. Gideon looks personally wounded by her affront.

BRODESS (CONT'D)

(to Minty)

~~Now you listen here, girl. Your daddy~~
~~may be free and your husband too, but you~~
~~and your mama, you brothers and sisters~~
~~belong to me, for life.~~ Your babies will
belong to me, and their babies, TO USE OR
SELL AS ME AND MY BOYS SEE FIT! YOU
UNDERSTAND ME?!!

START
scene 2:

Ben and John watch, shaking with rage. Rit starts to cry, unleashing decades of emotion.

RIT

You a devil! You a devil, Edward
Brodess! You sold my daughters south,
where nobody know dey name! My babies
lost, and nobody know dey name!

She sobs. Brodess looks from Rit to Minty.

BRODESS

I'ma have to sell this one too, Rit.
Can't have this kind of mischief round
here. But don't worry about Minty, she's
strong. Strong enough to pick cotton.
Now git off my damn porch!

STOP
scene 2

John puts an arm around Minty and steers her away. Ben follows. Brodess shouts after them...

RIT scene 3

EXT. BEN'S CABIN - THOMPSON'S MILL - DAY

Harriet approaches. On a rocking chair outside we can see Rit, kneading her hands and weeping as she rocks.

CLOSER - Too much grief, abuse and worry have taken their toll. She seems an old woman, frail of body and mind.

Suddenly the chair is grabbed from behind, a hand slapped over her mouth. Rit's eyes go wide in terror.

Behind her, Harriet whispers...

**START
scene 3:**

HARRIET

Mama, it's Minty. Don't scream. I come to git you. We gon' git daddy too. I'ma let go, but you cain't scream, alright?

Rit nods, tears of hope in her eyes now. Harriet lets go. She turns Rit to face her. Rit screams and falls to her knees--

RIT

Oh, sweet Jesus, take me!! I'm ready to go. I'm ready for my long, white robes, Lord. Take me home! I wanna see my daughters! I wanna see my babies!

HARRIET

Mama, I'm no angel come to take you to heaven. It's Minty, come to take you North.

Harriet takes off the bonnet from her powdered grey hair and pulls her mother to her feet. Rit studies her daughter's face, spellbound.

RIT

You ain't my Minty. You like her, but different. My Minty jus a plain gurl. If you not an angel, what are you?

HARRIET

I'm Harriet Tubman, mama. I'm Moses.

Rit's eyes widen. Harriet hugs her mother to her chest, burying her cries.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

That's right, I'm Moses, the slave stealer. I need you to come wit me, an do exactly as I say.

EXT. WOODS OUTSIDE THOMPSON'S MILL - DAY

Harriet and Walter strap Rit into the rig.

RIT

My Minty really Moses? De one everyone carryin' on about?

HARRIET

Yes, mama. I'ma take you north to see Robert and Henry and Jonas. But first I need you to go wit Walter to Rev Green's church. You'll be safe there.

STOP
scene 3

RIT scene 4

INT. TRAIN - UPSTATE NEW YORK - EVENING

Tilly sits with Hopper and Landsbury. The blacks sit together behind them.

The Freedom Seekers are getting more relaxed as the train heads north, they sleep or chat in low voices. Harriet sits with her family. Ben is asleep holding Kizzy on his lap. Harriet strokes her mother's hair.

START
scene 4:

RIT
Tell me 'gain, one mo' time.

HARRIET

(speaking softly)

Senator Seward sold me a nice house on his property - big enough for everybody. You and daddy, Robert, Mary, Bobby and little Minty, Henry and his wife, Jane, Jonas and Kizzy too. We gon' be together. An no massa forcin' us to do nothin'. I'm gon' spoil you and take care a you. I love you, mama.

Tears run down Rit's cheeks. She grips Harriet's hand.

RIT

I love you too, Minty.

STOP
scene 4