

OL MISTER / MISTER

OL MISTER

I heard my fool son got his ho back. I come to see for myself.

Harpo goes on down the steps. Ol' Mister starts in on Mister.

OL MISTER

Just couldn't rest til you got her in yo house, could you.

Celie comes out of the bedroom.

CELIE

Ol Mister? You want a cool glass of water?

Inside the bedroom, Shug is listening.

OL MISTER

Just what is it about this Shug Avery, anyway? Even her Daddy say she easy. She ain't even clean. People say she got the nasty woman disease.

On the side, Celie spits into Ol Mister's glass, twirls it around with her finger and then hands it to him. MISTER sees her but doesn't say anything.

MISTER

You ain't got it in you to understand. I love Shug Avery. Always have, always will. I should have married her when I had the chance.

OL MISTER

Yeah, and threw your life away.

MISTER

My life thrown away without her.

OL MISTER

You married Shug Avery, she woulda took you off to Memphis and what woulda happened to my farmland, huh?

MISTER

Is that all you care about, yo farmland?

OL MISTER

You'd care about this land too if you was born a slave on it, like I was. You'd know what it meant to own somethin'. You'd want to pass it on to yo kids, see it grow into somethin' better, see it prosper.

MISTER

Modest pride

We doin' all right.

OL MISTER

You think I raised you so you could do all right? You had chances I never had and look at you. Whole town's laughin'.

MISTER

We talkin' about Shug now? I thought we was talkin' about yo farm.

OL MISTER

We talkin' about what's important here.

MISTER

To you.

OL MISTER

To a man.

Mister could kill him now. This charge of weakness is the end.

MISTER

To a man like you. Celie, hand Pa his hat.

Ol' Mister realizes they're kicking him out.

OL MISTER

All right, then.

Ol' Mister finally drinks the water, hands the glass back to Celie and leaves. After a moment.

CELIE

Next time, I'll put a little Shug Avery pce in his glass. See how he like that.

He appreciates what she's said.

MISTER

That be all right with me.

Celie feels a new confidence in talking to him.

CELIE

How come he wouldn't let you marry Shug Avery?

MISTER

Not my kind, he said.

CELIE

You shoulda done it anyway.