

Rastus and Hattie

16th Street Theater

By Lisa Langford

RASTUS SIDE

*Edited to be read as a monologue from page 56-58
Lines in bold are Malik's lines. They will not be read at audition*

RASTUS

Ain't got none.

Dog wouldn't know me from a Model T.

Say, Boss, I come from over to Mister Jim, he run the mines round here and he say he got a place for you.

Coal mines.

Can you swing a pick?

Can you tote a shovel?

You a coal miner. He got quarters in the camp for you and the missus and the little one and I reckon Hattie and me'll stay on, too...if it's alright.

Come on.

Rastus motions to leave. Dogs bark. He turns the other way.

Let's go this way. It's quieter..

You from 'round here?

Legs. Feet from Georgia. Head from Carolina. Memories

I'se finished then. Old man never gave up. Tinkered. Long time. Carried me with him.

Engineering schools. Factories. He almost did it. Hattie closest he come. She pert-near human.

Guess you could say I'm from all over, Boss.

Stop calling me that.

Boss—

Suh—

Malik.

(Tries) M-m-master—

M—mister Malik—I can't! I'm programmed to serve. I can't call you by your name.