

(ROSE exits into the house to answer the telephone. Presently she returns.)

ROSE: Troy . . . that was the hospital. Alberta had the baby.

TROY: What she have? What is it?

ROSE: It's a girl.

TROY: I better get on down to the hospital to see her. 75

ROSE: Troy . . .

TROY: Rose . . . I got to go see her now. That's only right . . .  
what's the matter . . . the baby's alright, ain't it?

ROSE: Alberta died having the baby.

TROY: Died . . . you say she's dead? Alberta's dead? 80

ROSE: They said they done all they could. They couldn't do  
nothing for her.

TROY: The baby? How's the baby?

ROSE: They say it's healthy. I wonder who's gonna bury her.

TROY: She had family, Rose. She wasn't living in the world by  
herself. 85

ROSE: I know she wasn't living in the world by herself.

TROY: Next thing you gonna want to know if she had any  
insurance.

ROSE: Troy, you ain't got to talk like that. 90

TROY: That's the first thing that jumped out your mouth.

"Who's gonna bury her?" Like I'm fixing to take on that  
task for myself.

ROSE: I am your wife. Don't push me away.

TROY: I ain't pushing nobody away. Just give me some space. 95

That's all. Just give me some room to breathe.

(ROSE exits into the house. TROY walks about the yard.)

TROY: (With a quiet rage that threatens to consume him.) Alright . . .

Mr. Death. See now . . . I'm gonna tell you what I'm gonna

do. I'm gonna take and build me a fence around this yard.

See? I'm gonna build me a fence around what belongs to me. 100

And then I want you to stay on the other side. See? You stay

over there until you're ready for me. Then you come on.

Bring your army. Bring your sickle. Bring your wrestling

clothes. I ain't gonna fall down on my vigilance this time.

You ain't gonna sneak up on me no more. When you ready 105

for me . . . when the top of your list say Troy Maxson . . .

that's when you come around here. You come up and knock

on the front door. Ain't nobody else got nothing to do with this. This is between you and me. Man to man. You stay on the other side of that fence until you ready for me. Then you come up and knock on the front door. Anytime you want. I'll be ready for you.