

Martha King De Silva. 
PLAYWRIGHT

Act I

Dream Sequence: Junebug McClain and his father are on a sailboat. Sound of water and light wind.

DAD
Perfect day!

JUNEBUG
Perfect!

DAD
Wind at my back—

JUNEBUG
Sun on our faces—

DAD
Nothing but you, me and the water.

JUNEBUG
This is how I always thought it would be. How I imagined it. No Mama. No Tasha. (he is happy, contented) Just me and you.

DAD
Good.

Silence. Junebug and his father enjoy the sea.

JUNEBUG
Dad? (a beat, while his father turns to him) I don't really like our new house.

DAD
What do you mean? It's great--

JUNEBUG
I want to move back to our old place.

Silence.

DAD
It wasn't safe there. You know that. This is a much, much better--

JUNEBUG

It was okay there. I didn't feel scared. This new place? I don't know--

DAD

Does Mama know anything about this?

JUNEBUG

No. I wanted to tell you first.

A beat.

DAD

Son, sometimes you have to give things time.

JUNEBUG

It's been three months already!

DAD

Well, that's--

JUNEBUG

It's a long time! (a beat) I don't think I'm adjusting very well.

Dad chuckles at this.

Everybody else is doing great. Mama--

DAD

She likes her new job, huh?

JUNEBUG

(nodding) She likes taking care of people.

DAD

I know.

A beat.

JUNEBUG

And Tasha. Tasha's doing really well. She's made friends already. With the old lady across the hall.

Another beat.

DAD

And you? (disbelieving) No new friends?

JUNEBUG

Nope. Nobody. Not one.

DAD
Nobody? In the whole building?

Junebug shakes his head.

JUNEBUG
They're all. OLD.

A beat.

DAD
What about school?

JUNEBUG
Not really. Just a bunch of bullies.

Teasing Laughter – "Nyah, nyah, nyah"

DAD
They can't all be bullies.

JUNEBUG
Well, there's this one kid. Brandon. But--(he shakes his head)

Brandon appears. A beat.

It's pretty bad.

Brandon disappears.

DAD
I see.

A beat.

JUNEBUG
(this is a hard subject) And then there's.

Walter appears.

Walter.

DAD
Walter?

JUNEBUG
His father just moved into our building.

A beat.

I think he might have a thing for Mama.

He looks at his father tentatively. Walter disappears.

It's only because you're not around! If you would just come home and live with us, I think that Walter would--

DAD
(stopping him) Junebug.

JUNEBUG
It's just that—

DAD
(cutting him off) Let's just try and enjoy the day, okay?

He puts his arm around Junebug, tightly.

JUNEBUG
Okay.

Junebug looks out over the water.

DAD
You want to steer?

JUNEBUG
Can I? Really?

Junebug crawls over to where his father is seated.

DAD
Here take the tiller. Hold it tightly—

JUNEBUG
Got it.

DAD
Go easy on her. No herky-jerky motions. You just want to steer her gently.

Junebug does so.

Silence.

You got it. You got it. (he smiles) How does she feel?

JUNEBUG
Good. Really good.

A beat.

JUNEBUG
You know what? I think I'm going to join the navy. I bet if I learned to sail well, they'd probably take me, don't you think?

DAD
(smiling) I think you could do anything you wanted.

JUNEBUG
Really?

He is pleased.

They sail quietly for a moment. The wind kicks up a bit. They both notice it.

DAD
Hunh. Looks like we might be in for a bit of a storm.

JUNEBUG
A storm?

DAD
See those clouds gathering up over there?

He points.

JUNEBUG
Yeah.

DAD
Probably should head back. You got the tiller?

Junebug nods.

Good.

As Junebug holds on to the tiller, Dad takes down the jib. The boat begins to rock. Junebug grips the sides of the boat.

I should probably go ahead and reef the mainsail too. That way it won't catch so much wind.

Junebug watches as Dad reefs the mainsail.

A large thunderclap. Junebug jumps. It begins to rain.

JUNEBUG

Wow. That was close, huh?

DAD

Yep. Sure was. It's moving in fast.

Junebug has a hard time maintaining his balance on the rocking boat. Dad is looking straight ahead.

JUNEBUG

We're going to be okay, though, right?

He looks to his father who has gone silent.

Dad, what's the matter?

His father looks at him.

DAD

I'm sorry, son. I can't do this.

Junebug's father climbs out of the boat.

JUNEBUG

What are you doing?

DAD

You'll have to bring her in yourself.

JUNEBUG

What do you mean? I don't even know what I'm doing.

DAD

You're gonna have to be the man for this one, Junebug.

JUNEBUG

I don't want to be the man! I'm only ten.

DAD

You don't need me. You can get her in. Just remember what we talked about and you'll be fine.

JUNEBUG

No, I won't!

Junebug is panicked. A beat.

DAD

Listen to your mother. Okay? Do as she says. She knows what's best. And take care of Tasha. She looks up to you.

JUNEBUG

Get back in the boat. Please. It's not safe. Come on. The water is cold.

DAD

Study hard. And don't get into fights. Promise me.

JUNEBUG

Dad, wait--!

DAD

Please don't be mad at me, Junebug.

Dad disappears. Junebug is alone on the sea.

JUNEBUG

Dad! Dad! Come back--!

MAMA

(from a distance) Junebug!

Junebug is silent for a moment.

JUNEBUG

Mama?

The boat rocks furiously. Junebug strains his eyes to see his father.

Dad? Where are you?

The boat tosses and turns. Junebug struggles to hang on.

Help! Help!

MAMA

Junebug?

JUNEBUG

Help me! Mama!!

MAMA

Junebug, wake up!

