

**Please choose this scene to prepare if you are in the age range of
30-50
Read the Role of Father**

FATHER: *(From off stage)* Momma!

MOMMA: His voice rang like a metal dipper hitting a bucket. *(Father enters)*

FATHER: He spoke proper English,

YOUNG MAYA: like the school

principal, BAILEY: Even better!

FATHER: So this is Daddy's little man? Boy, anybody ever tell you that you look like me? And Daddy's baby girl. You've been good children, haven't you? Or I guess I would have heard about it from Santa Claus.

MAYA: I was so proud of him.

YOUNG MAYA: Wouldn't the kids be surprised at how handsome our daddy was? MAYA: And that he loved us enough to come down to Stamps to visit?

BAILEY: Everyone could tell from the way he talked and from the car and clothes

BAILEY / YOUNG MAYA: that he was rich

YOUNG MAYA: and maybe had a castle out in California!

MOMMA: For three weeks the Store was filled with people

FATHER: who had gone to school with him or heard about him. YOUNG MAYA: Maybe he wasn't my real father.

FATHER: Bailey Junior was his son, true enough,

YOUNG MAYA: but I was an orphan that they picked up to provide Bailey with company.

UNCLE WILLIE: He strutted

YOUNG MAYA: under the sad eyes of Uncle Willie.

FATHER: Then one day he made an announcement... I have to get back to California.

MAYA: I was relieved.

YOUNG MAYA: I wouldn't have to wonder whether I loved him or not.

FATHER: Does Daddy's baby want to go to California with Daddy? (*shocked pause*)

BAILEY: I want to go! (*Young Maya is quiet.*) My, he's going to take us with him!

MAYA: My thoughts skidded like water spiders.

FATHER: (*whispers to Young Maya*) Go to Momma. She looks pretty sad.

MOMMA: (*speaks to Young Maya as if she's disobeyed*) You be a good girl now. You hear? Don't you make people think I didn't raise you right. You hear? God is love. Just worry about whether you're being a good girl, then He will love you.