

BEATRICE. Jiminy Cricket she yanked those yellow bows off my head so fast

She pulled out some of my hair.

Then she burned them.

Took a match and poof up they went.

If you have a little girl, if that's what they give you, you can braid her hair all over her head.

Like Virginia.

JUNE. ...

...

We don't mind boy or girl.

BEATRICE. Those lilacs were awfully nice,

START JUNE. Did you ever. Give Virginia anything? To be nice back?

(BEATRICE *blinks*.)

She seems so kind, did you ever return the favor?

BEATRICE. I...had a set of jacks.

I could have given those to her if I -

Those cookies.

And that milk.

You are trying to trick me, June.

But I'm too quick.

Oh, you'll make a great mother.

You'll be lots of fun.

They'll bring a baby for sure.

They'll find one and bring it right here.

BEATRICE SIDE 1

My father says the blacks have the most babies out of everyone.

That's what's wrong with the South.

That's what's wrong with most places that aren't American.

Too many people having too many babies.

There isn't enough hot water to go around.

JUNE. That's not a very nice thing to say, Beatrice.

BEATRICE. Oh, but he didn't know about blacks like you. Lurie writes, and people let you touch their money. And none of the blacks my father knew ever did any of those things. So, he didn't mean blacks like you. Don't feel bad. Do you feel bad?

JUNE. People nowadays don't say the kinds of things your father said.

BEATRICE. Not out loud.

JUNE. Or when they do, they. They don't say them quite like that. To people's faces the way you keep doing.

BEATRICE. But I'm your *friend*. If I wasn't your friend I wouldn't even think of letting you have this house for your babies. You'd better start remembering how much you want this house. It's very important you have it, isn't it?

JUNE. Because it's the one we bought.

BEATRICE. But it's very important you have *this* house

And not some other one is some other place, isn't it?

JUNE. This is just where the house happened to be.

BEATRICE. But it wouldn't be right to live someplace dirty, would it?

JUNE. Well no one wants to live someplace dirty.

BEATRICE. Exactly nobody is my guess.

Shirley Temple was very clean in her movies.

I think Shirley Temple's mother must have worked very hard to keep her very shiny.

My mother says Shirley Temple was so clean that standing next to the coloreds,

Tapping around like that made Shirley Temple look like the cleanest little girl in the whole wide world.

She also said Shirley Temple's mother worked hard to keep her that way.

My mother worked just as hard trying to keep me that clean.

But it was harder, because I was wicked.

When Shirley Temple dies, my mother always said, she will go straight to heaven.

And tap, tap, tap around and will eat sweet things with the angels

And will stay so squeaky clean up there that you will be able to see your reflection in her forehead.

But that will be a sad day, when Shirley dies. **STOP**

JUNE. I have news for you. That day's come, Beatrice.

BEATRICE. That. Is. *Awful*.

I guess a lot's changed since I've been sealed up.

JUNE. Well, you've got fresh towels now.

(JUNE turns to leave.)

BEATRICE. It *would* be terrible if you didn't have this house. I'm right. That's why you need to stay here.

JUNE. You need more jam.

BEATRICE. And you like it here.

JUNE. You need more jam.

BEATRICE. It's nice and clean -

JUNE. I'll start on some.

BEATRICE. You know, I don't think you're very different from my parents. Not at all.

The difference is my father says things out loud that you think inside.

JUNE. I am nothing like your father.

BEATRICE. My parents bought this house because it is in a good place. The people here are clean and good, and that other place, wherever you came from, has other kind of people that aren't so good.

JUNE. That is not true.

BEATRICE. Then why are you here? If those other people are not bad, bad, bad to the bone?

JUNE. This is where the house happened to be.

BEATRICE. A little bitty part of you wants this house for yourself. You're a good person. You've said so yourself. And you deserve nice things.

JUNE. Our children -

BEATRICE. You don't care about children. You care about you.

JUNE. Be quiet.

BEATRICE. You want this house. You want this house for you. I know I'm right. I've watched. I've listened.

JUNE. You do not know me.

BEATRICE. Oh yes I do. I know you are trying to get this house when you haven't earned it.

JUNE. Oh yes. Yes I have.