

Ruth: What a perfect story. I can't believe I've never heard it before. It sounds just like them She would scream and fuss and he would laugh and take her into his arms and hug her until she was done being angry. They were so much fun to be around

Naomi: There we go! Cara, I really can't thank you enough.

Cara: Anything for you, friend. (*She stands up to leave*)

Laura Beth: Mama!

Cara: Darn it. She found me. (*She hides behind a chair*)

Naomi: Who found you?

Cara: The worst cook in Bethlehem, Georgia.

Laura Beth: There you are! Mama, I've been looking everywhere for you!

Cara: How did you find me?

Laura Beth: It was very easy. Miss Jean said that Bobby told her that Uncle Ritchie told him that she saw you heading this way with your cornbread pan in your hand. I figured that meant you were giving cornbread to someone. The only person who lives over this way is Ms. Naomi.

Cara: You should have been a detective, Laura Beth.

Laura Beth: Well, I'm not. And stop trying to change the subject. We were supposed to meet over an hour ago?

Cara: I remembered I needed to get this over here to Naomi. Naomi, you remember my... spirited daughter, Laura Beth?

Naomi: Oh of course, how are you?

Laura Beth: Well, not great to be honest. Mama was supposed to teach me how to make her famous fried chicken for my in-laws who are coming over TOMORROW and she seems to have just forgotten all about me. Apparently because she needed to bring y'all some cornbread. Who is this, anyway? (points at Ruth)

Cara: Laura Beth, this is Naomi's daughter in law, Ruth. She was married to Mahlon.

Laura Beth: Oh. (softer now) I'm... so sorry for your loss. Mama, can we please go back home to the cooking lesson? I really need to make a good impression on Jack Davi's parents this time.

Cara: The last time didn't go so well.

Laura Beth: You didn't tell me I had to thaw the chicken before I fried it.

Cara: It wasn't so much that the chicken was frozen, it's that you put 3 frozen chickens in at once. (She tries to hide a laugh as she makes an explosion noise and gesture)

Laura Beth: I'm glad YOU think it's so funny. My eyebrows still haven't fully grown back. I will not make another mistake in front of them. (She grabs her mom's arm) Now come on, you can't avoid this any longer. (She starts to pull her off stage)

Cara: Ok, ok. I'm coming. It was nice to meet you, Ruth. Now that you're family, don't hesitate to ask for anything!

Ruth: Thank you, ma'am. (*Cara exits*)

Naomi: Now what's got you all excited, child.

Ruth: On my walk this morning, I passed something called a Food bank and there was a sign saying "Hungry? Apply within to work for food"

Naomi: Oh, I had forgotten about that place.

Ruth: Is it true that if you work there, they will give you food?

Naomi: It is. You usually get the broken, discarded stuff.

Ruth: But it's still food?

Naomi: Oh, yes. Very much so. It's a process called gleaning.

Ruth: So could I do this gleaning thing?

Naomi: Well it's really for widows, orphans, foreigners....

Ruth: You mean... like us?

Naomi: Right. I guess we check 2 out of 3 of those boxes, don't we? Ok, then. First thing in the morning, you can go down and apply for the job. As for dinner tonight, Cara brought us a loaf of bread. Can you please prepare it for our supper tonight? (*Ruth exits excitedly*) I guess we're gleaning now. (*Realizes she still has the bread in her hand.*) Ruth! You forgot to take the bread. (*She exits*)

SCENE 3 (The Food Bank)\ (*Tommy and Toni come out and start changing the set. Tami runs out excitedly, heads straight downstage towards the audience, then stops suddenly, smiles really big and waves at the audience.*)

Tami: Hi! (*She then starts talking to the audience, ad libbing things like "This is my favorite part, wait until you see, I'm so excited, Hurry up, guys, etc. until the scene is changed. She can even jump in and help change as she is talking. Once the scene is almost done being set, Tommy starts the scene.*)

Toni: (*Looks at audience*) Don't mind her, she's just a little excited. This is the part of the story where we come in!

Tami: As we mentioned before, we are Ruth's best friends. And this is the scene where we met her! I remember her walking in and asking about the job. It was friendship at first site!

Tommy: Ummm... no, it wasn't.

Tami: Shhhh! They don't know that. This is our story, remember? We can tell it any way we want.

Tommy: We're going to tell it truthfully.

Toni (*Pulling out a scrip*): Technically, if we just start right here, it can still be truthful and we can skip over all that... (*looks at the audience*) other stuff.

Tommy (*taking the script from Toni and throwing it off stage*): I'm going to go ahead and get this over with – we weren't very nice to her at the beginning.

Tami: Tommy!!

Toni: No, he's right. We weren't. And we're not proud of that.

Tommy (*looking at Tami*): Clearly.

Tami: But we come around very quickly. And by the end of our first day working her with... Well, you'll see...

(*Tommy rolls his eyes and then exits, Ruth enters. Toni and Tami look at her and size her up and then look at each other.*)

Toni (*Lots of attitude*): Can I help you?

Ruth: I'm here about the sign.

Tami: What sign?

Ruth: The... the one that says "Apply within to work for food."

Toni: I see. (*Tommy enters*)

Tami: That sign is for people who can't afford a good meal.

Toni: You look like you can afford a good meal.

Tami: Or several good meals.

Toni: So tell us the truth, honey.

Tami: Why are you really here? (*The step towards her with every accusation*)

Toni: Are you from the health department?

Tami: The Newspaper?

Both: Food-o_rama?

Ruth: What's Food-o-rama?

Toni: Don't play dumb with us.