

CONTINUED: (14)

He takes a dress from the shopping bag and holds it up. A large, mauve, sack of a dress.

JOHN

→ Went an' bought you a dress for the weddin'.

MARTHA

Do what?

JOHN

Got your size right an' ever'thing. See? Right there on the label.

He points out the label as he gives it to her. Martha throws it down.

MARTHA

I know what size I wear, John David! Now, take it back 'cause you done wasted your money.

JOHN

If you don't like the color I can get you another one.

MARTHA

(Explodes)

I don't want another one! An' I don't want this one 'cause I don't want to go to no weddin'! How many times I have to tell you that?!

An uncomfortable pause. She angrily snatches a Kleenex and wipes her eyes.

JOHN

Didn't mean to make you cry. Shhhh.... here, here...

He takes a tissue and wipes a tear away. Kisses her cheek. She resists, then lets him take care of her as if she were a child.

JOHN (CONT'D)

There. All gone now. All better.

He finds a shoe box filled with pills. He shakes one out of a bottle.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(Trying to lighten the mood)

Here, take your pill, b'fore you die on us.

MARTHA

Wouldn't that make you happy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

JOHN

Oh, yeh, gimme a chance to do my "Mama Done Died Dance."

He does a silly dance. Martha can't help but smile.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Now, stop that kinda talk an' take your pill.

MARTHA

Hand me that Sun Drop, you want to choke me to death?

He gives her a bottle of soda from the table. She swallows the pill. Thomas picks up the dress and folds it neatly on the sofa. John grabs a brush from the table and brushes Martha's hair. She leans back, closes her eyes. Thomas is excluded from this intimacy but watches, rapt.

JOHN

Feel better now?

MARTHA

Not so hard, you'll pull out my hair.

JOHN

Okay, okay...

MARTHA

(Sings softly)

"Jesus is my Savior, I shall not be moved..."
In his love and favor I shall not be moved..."

JOHN/MARTHA

(harmonizing)

"Just like the tree that's standin' by the water
I shall not be moved..."

As they sing, Thomas lines up the pill bottles on the table.

MARTHA

(Eyes still closed)

What're you doin' there in my pillbox?

THOMAS

Pain pills, heart pills, blood pressure, diuretic, thyroid, hydroxyzine? **END**

(CONTINUED)