

SUNSET JOHNSON

A SHORT PLAY

[Excerpted from THE JOHNSON FAMILY SAGA]

By e. Shockley

© All Rights Reserved

N. 18th St.

Phila. PA 19140

Email: edshockley@edshockley.com

Website: edshockley.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

FREDERICK "SUNSET JOHNSON" Black WWI vet recently returned

LILA DELOUISE White adolescent farmgirl

AT RISE: Late afternoon in a tree enclosed pasture. Lila enters chasing a butterfly. Sunset lights a cigarette.

	LILA
Who that?	
	SUNSET
Who askin'?	
	LILA
What you doin' out here in the woods?	
	SUNSET
Havin' me a smoke and hidin' from my daddy till plantin's done.	
	LILA
I'm duckin' spring slaughter.	
	SUNSET
And chasing butterflies.	
	LILA
Yeah.	
	SUNSET
You're a fast little thing.	
	LILA
I ain't that fast.	
	SUNSET
Bet you could beat me.	
	LILA
If I was of a mind to, maybe.	
	SUNSET
What might put a pretty girl like you of a mind?	
	LILA
I don't know.	
	SUNSET
Maybe if I was a butterfly.	

LILA

Maybe.

SUNSET

But would you know what to do with me once you caught me?

LILA

I spect so.

SUNSET

You got to hold me tight so I don't slip out.

LILA

Are we talkin' bout the same thing?

SUNSET

Spect so.

LILA

You're too fast for me.

SUNSET

I'll let you catch me.

LILA

I do believe you're getting fresh.

SUNSET

Just talkin' butterflies and running fast.

LILA

Don't I know you?

SUNSET

Ain't likely with the crow.

LILA

You used to go to the cullered school over on Reservation road.

SUNSET

Everybody round here cullered went to that school.

LILA

You used to skinny dip down by the crossroads. I'd see you from the bus window.

SUNSET

You must come from money.

LILA

My uncle drove it.

SUNSET

That's convenient...How come you remember me all these years?

LILA

It's...I can't say.

SUNSET

Suit yourself.

LILA

You used to always stand up still like a statue with water dripping down your body and everything out in the open and all.

SUNSET

And you remembered all these years?

LILA

It was the first time, oh God, I don't believe I'm sayin' this.

SUNSET

Ain't a word got to leave this grove.

LILA

It's the first time I see'd a cullered's thing.

SUNSET

You seen many more since?

LILA

Where would I get to do that?

SUNSET

A girl has ways.

LILA

I ain't studying nobody's thing, cullered or white.

SUNSET

Glad to hear it.

LILA

Why zat?

SUNSET

If I was to take a liking to you then it'd be extra special if I was the first and only somebody you'd ever seen that way.

LILA

You shouldn't be talkin' to me like this.