

know this girl. I have never seen this person in our factory. Or maybe I have, but I can no longer recognize her as the hellfire envelops her face. I move towards her, but my sister pulls me back.

LENA. Come back!

YETTA. I break free and run towards the wild creature. Before I can take two steps, the wooden floorboards beneath my feet give way, and for an instant I feel all of my internal organs in my throat. My body falls! As my arms reach instinctively upwards, I can feel a pair of hands grab my wrists. It is—

LENA. I.

YETTA. My sister.

LENA. The person I am closest to in this world.

*(YETTA and LENA's FATHER appears.)*

YETTA & FATHER. Lena!

LENA & FATHER. Yetta!

LENA & YETTA. Yes, father?

*(YETTA and LENA join their FATHER, standing on either side of him.)*

FATHER. My daughters, we have given your life meaning. Be free. Live as you couldn't in our old world. This new land is wonderful. Its people are magnificent. *(Coughing.)* I must go now.

LENA & YETTA. No!

FATHER. It is the will of God. Now is the time. *(Coughing.)* The mighty lord has blessed you both with the wings of angels. And I cannot help but feel proud that I have helped you to fly. And you will live a long and wonderful life.

LENA & YETTA. Father!

FATHER. No tears. No sorrow. Only life. Live your life, my children! Make me so proud. I will see you again beneath the rainbow.

*(LENA and YETTA both cross to hug him.)*

FATHER *(cont'd)*. Farewell.

*(He bows out of the way and the sisters end up hugging each other.)*

LENA & YETTA. Father!

LENA. And now we are together. Finally together. I am with the person that I am closest to.

YETTA. The person I am closest to in this world.

LENA & YETTA. My sister.

YETTA. Glancing down through the cedar, cindered planks below my feet, I spot the tempest that is the raging fire. Through the searing heat, time freezes. Girls like us, barely women, are running, screaming, dying. I see the pictures in my mind, unclouded, like moving photographs.

LENA. I pull.

YETTA. My sister pulls my tiny body up close to hers. Unscathed. Safe.

LENA. We are safe. We race to the window where hundreds of bodies are wedging, crushing their way out of the ninth story. The building's frame is splitting. The structure is collapsing. The heat is melting the mortar between the red bricks.

*(LENA and YETTA pantomime, putting their hands on the wall.)*