

35 EXT. TIFFY FARM- NIGHT

Matthew Tiffy passed out in his chair empty beer and wine bottles across the table. Slave Ruth (20s) comes out the door with a basket of cornbread taking what cornbread is left on the table. Ruth heads towards a group of slaves gathered around a campfire. Gabe (20s) meets her and takes the basket. He steps into the light of the fire and starts passing around the bread.

GABE

Where is Thomas? He looks around at each of the slaves where is Ben (Teen)?

NANCY (OLDER SLAVE WOMAN)

They headed towards the barn at dark.

Gabe and Ruth rush to the barn to find Thomas and Ben loading tobacco on a wagon.

GABE

Thomas what are you doing?
(Inspecting the wagon) Ben, tell me
you're not involved in this?

Ben looks to Thomas on how to answer

GABE (CONT'D)

Master Tif will have your hand in a
jar if he catches you stealing his crop!

THOMAS

He won't know if you can keep your
lips tight, these hands have tended the land
to make these crops, so it is mine to do
with as I see it. Besides I don't have family
working the big house like you. Looking at Ruth.

GABE

Ruth helps to see we all get fed
and we get the supplies we need.

THOMAS

Well she should get back before
ole Tif wakes from his nap. Are you listening?
I've heard of other masters going as
far as paying their slaves for their work,
some are even teaching them to read.
We get paid at the end of a whip.

BEN

Better yet the end of a rope!

Gabe grabs Ben

GABE

Stealing is Stealing weather you
work the land or not. This crop
belongs to Master Tif.

Thomas walks towards Gabe and grabs his hand looking at his
palm.

THOMAS

From the looks of it you haven't
worked that much?
I WILL get my share of the land.

Thomas loads the last bag on the wagon, Gabe grabs Ben from
trying to climb on the wagon as Thomas drives off in
the night. Gabe, Ruth, and Ben watch as he drives away.