

(Heather checks cup of ice. It is empty. She gets up—paces—goes into Ada's room. We hear heavy distressed breathing.)

HEATHER

Mom. It's me. I know we haven't . . . I mean, I'm sorry, I wish we . . . I wish I . . .  
.I . . . I've made a list. It's a list of our good times. I want to read it so (She  
takes a piece of paper out of her pocket.) . . . 1. The time when you tried to  
teach me how to drink quietly from a coffee cup and your saucer stuck to your  
cup and then fell on the table and made a lot of noise. Remember? We laughed  
a lot and bubbles came out of our noses. 2. The time I came home and you had  
made me a Raggedy Ann doll. And you surprised me. It was taller than me. I  
was surprised. 3. The time we tried to teach Daddy how to blow a bubble and  
Daddy spit the gum across the room and it stuck to . . . . .

ADA

Susie?

HEATHER

Yes 'mam.

ADA

Where are you?

HEATHER

Right here.

ADA

Where?

HEATHER

Here. (Takes Ada's hand.)

ADA

I need a bath.

HEATHER

Yes 'mam. You do.

ADA

Hold my hand.

HEATHER

I am Mama.

ADA

I had a dream.

HEATHER

Mama, I'm right here.

ADA

I was locked in a bottle like a Genie. And someone--I don't know who--someone--wrote me a note. The note said, "The only way out is up". And Paula was standing there with her cat smirking.

HEATHER

Mama, Paula's been dead for years.

ADA

She wasn't smirking. Her cat was.

HEATHER

It was just a dream.

ADA

And then the top of the bottle flew off and there you were singing.

HEATHER

I don't sing.

ADA

Yes, you do. I saw you. Am I crazy?

HEATHER

No 'mam.

ADA

What am I then?

HEATHER

Tired.

ADA

Tired?

HEATHER

Yes 'mam. I was just remembering some of the fun we . . . .

ADA

Why are you there at the top of my bottle?

HEATHER

I don't know.

ADA

Tired.

HEATHER

Yes 'mam. Remember when we tried to teach Daddy to blow a bubble?

ADA

I don't want to die.

HEATHER

No 'mam.

ADA

I still have things to do. I planted my Zinnias and they aren't up yet.

HEATHER

Yes 'mam.

ADA

I've got pictures to paint. Pictures of the flowers and tap dancing pictures of Freddy and you and me. Bring me my paints tomorrow. Will you do that honey?

HEATHER

Yes 'mam.

ADA

I haven't done anything yet. Nothing good. I tried. I tried with you but you turned out all wrong.

HEATHER

Mama, we've had our misunderstandings but . . .

ADA

all wrong.

HEATHER

that's the nature of the mother/daughter relationship . . .

ADA

Worthless. You never even had a baby.

HEATHER

Mam?

ADA

You never had a baby. You don't even know what it's like to be a woman.  
Selfish. Selfish.

HEATHER

Remember the time when

ADA

You've never thought of anybody but yourself.

HEATHER

you tried to teach me

ADA

Worthless. Why?

HEATHER

to drink without making any

ADA

Why did you turn out so bad?

HEATHER

*Noise!!*

ADA

I remember. I remember when I--when I knew I was pregnant. I was so happy.  
So happy. I prayed and I prayed to God every day for a child that would have a  
good heart. A smart child that would love God and her fellow man. A child that  
would contribute something to the world, a beautiful, beautiful child-- (with  
disappointment) and then I got you. I'm scared. I'm scared.

HEATHER

You should be.

ADA

All my life I've been scared. I'm tired. I'm tired of being scared.

(Heather starts to exit the room.)

ADA

Don't leave me.

Excerpt POW'R IN THE BLOOD  
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(Heather exits Ada's room.)

I'm scared.

ADA