

~~DOCTOR. One. Two. Three.~~

~~(AGNES slowly rises and walks away, humming "Charlie's Neat" softly to herself.)~~

~~Mother?~~

~~(A beat.)~~

~~Mother, please...~~

~~MOTHER. You were right. She remembered. And all this time I thought she was some unconscious innocent. Thank you, Doctor Livingstone. We need physicians like you to expose all those lies that stupid people like myself want to believe.~~

~~DOCTOR. Mother...~~

~~MOTHER. But I'll never forgive you for what you've taken away.~~

~~(Silence.)~~

Start You should have died. Not your sister. You.

→ **AGNES.** (Speaking to an unseen friend.) Why are you crying?

(The DOCTOR and MOTHER turn to her.

Silence.)

But I believe. I do.

(Silence.)

Please, don't you leave me too. Oh no. Oh sweet Lady, don't leave me. Please, please don't leave me. I'll be good. I won't be your bad baby anymore.

(Seeing someone else.)

No, Mummy. I don't want to go with you. Stop pulling me. Your hands are hot. Don't touch me like that! Oh my God, Mummy, don't burn me! DON'T BURN ME!

(Silence. She turns to MOTHER and the DOCTOR and stretches out her hands like a statue of the Lady, showing her bleeding palms. She smiles, and speaks simply and sanely.)

I stood in the window of my room every night for a week. And one night I heard the most beautiful voice imaginable. It came from the middle of the wheat field beyond my room, and when I looked I saw the moon shining down on Him. For six nights He sang to me. Songs I'd never heard. And on the seventh night He came to my room and opened His wings and lay on top of me. And all the while He sang.

(Smiling and crying as she sings.)

End

~~CHARLIE'S NEAT AND CHARLIE'S SWEET, AND CHARLIE
HE'S A DANDY, EVERY TIME HE GOES TO TOWN, HE
GETS HIS GIRL SOME CANDY. OVER THE RIVER AND
THROUGH THE TREES, OVER THE RIVER TO CHARLIE'S,
OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE TREES, TO BAKE
A CAKE FOR CHARLIE.~~

(MOTHER begins to lead AGNES off.)

~~CHARLIE'S NEAT AND CHARLIE'S SWEET, AND CHARLIE
HE'S A DANDY, EVERY TIME HE GOES TO TOWN, HE
GETS HIS GIRL SOME CANDY. OH, HE GETS HIS GIRL
SOME CANDY.~~

DOCTOR.

YES, HE GETS HIS GIRL SOME CANDY.

(A beat.)

~~I don't know the truth behind that song.
Yes, maybe it was a song of seduction, and the father
was...a field hand? Or maybe the song was simply a
remembered lullaby sung many years before. And the
father was...hope, and love, and desire. And a belief in
miracles.~~

(Silence.)

~~I never saw them again. The following day I removed
myself from the case. Mother Miriam threw Agnes on
the mercy of the court, and she was sent to a hospital...
where she stopped singing...and eating...and where she
died.~~