

Chapter Twenty-two

Reader's Theater adaptation by Judy Freeman

ROLES: Narrators 1-6, Edward Tulane, Lucy (a dog), Bull, Nellie, Lawrence, Bryce, Abilene

NARRATOR 1: It was dusk, and Edward was walking down a sidewalk.

NARRATOR 2: He was walking on his own, putting one foot in front of the other without any assistance from anybody.

NARRATOR 3: He was wearing a fine suit made of red silk.

NARRATOR 4: He walked down the sidewalk, and then he turned onto a path that led up to a house with lighted windows.

EDWARD (*wonderingly, looking amazed*): I know this house. This is Abilene's house. I am on Egypt Street.

NARRATOR 5: Lucy came running out the front door of the house, barking and jumping and wagging her tail.

LUCY *runs up to Edward barking and jumping joyously.*

BULL (*in a deep, gruff voice*): Down, girl.

NARRATOR 6: Edward looked up and there was Bull, standing at the door.

BULL: Hello, Malone. Hello, good old rabbit pie. We've been waiting for you.

NARRATOR 1: Abilene was there, and Nellie and Lawrence and Bryce.

NELLIE: Susanna!

BRYCE: Jangles!

ABILENE: Edward! (*she holds out her arms to him.*)

NARRATOR 2: But Edward stood still. He looked around the room.

BRYCE: You searching for Sarah Ruth?

(EDWARD *nods yes.*)

BRYCE: You got to go outside if you want to see Sarah Ruth.

NARRATOR 3: So they all went outside, Lucy and Bull and Nellie and Lawrence and Bryce and Abilene and Edward.

BRYCE: Right there. *(He points up at the sky.)*

NARRATOR 4: He pointed up at the stars.

LAWRENCE: Yep. That is the Sarah Ruth constellation. You can see it right there.

NARRATOR 5: Lawrence picked Edward up and put him on his shoulder.

NARRATOR 6: Edward felt a pang of sorrow, deep and sweet and familiar. Why did Sarah Ruth have to be so far away?

EDWARD: If only I had wings, I could fly to her.

NARRATOR 1: Out of the corner of his eye, the rabbit saw something flutter.

NARRATOR 2: Edward looked over his shoulder and there they were, the most magnificent wings he had ever seen, orange and red and blue and yellow.

NARRATOR 3: And they were on his back. They belonged to him. They were his wings.

NARRATOR 4: What a wonderful night this was! He was walking on his own. He had an elegant new suit.

NARRATOR 5: And now he had wings. He could fly anywhere, do anything.

NARRATOR 6: Why had he never realized it before?

NARRATOR 1: Edward's heart soared inside of him. He spread his wings and flew off Lawrence's shoulders, out of his hands, and up into the nighttime sky, toward the stars, toward Sarah Ruth.

ABILENE: NO!

BRYCE: CATCH HIM!

NARRATOR 2: Edward flew higher.

(LUCY barks and barks.)

BULL: MALONE!

NARRATOR 3: And with a terrific lunge, Bull grabbed hold of Edward's feet and pulled him out of the sky and wrestled him to the earth.

BULL *(holding on to Edward):* You can't go yet.

(EDWARD beats his wings and looks up, longingly, at the sky.)

NARRATOR 4: Edward beat his wings, but it was no use. Bull held him firmly to the ground.

ABILENE: Stay with us.

(EDWARD starts to cry.)

NELLIE: I couldn't stand to lose him again.

ABILENE: Neither could I. It would break my heart.

NARRATOR 5: Lucy bent her face to Edward's.

(LUCY nuzzles Edward.)