

SAMSON

(slowly moves towards ADDIE)

I don't want to go back to the fields.

(continued cries)

ADDIE

You don't, I'll make sho' of it. You work for Mr. and Mrs. Welch now, they nice people. Come back to bed.

SAMSON

(gets up and lies in bed)

Okay!

ADDIE

(sits on side of bed)

I can't handle this much mo' longer.

**BLACK OUT.**

**It's the next morning, ADDIE and is cooking breakfast and SAMSON is getting dressed for work. SAMSON not remembering any of the events from the night before, while ADDIE is tired and fed up. ADDIE is slamming things on the stove and counters.**

SAMSON

Good morning' beautiful.

**ADDIE doesn't acknowledge**

**SAMSON**

Ya hear me? I say Good Mornin'.

ADDIE

Morning'.

SAMSON

How did you sleep?

(CONTINUED)

ADDIE  
What sleep?

SAMSON  
What kept you up?

ADDIE  
(throws pot)  
You really don't remember what happened last night?

SAMSON  
(sits pondering)  
Ohhhh!!! You're upset coz' I fell asleep on you, that ain't no problem, we can fix that real quick.

ADDIE  
STOP, Samson!  
(pauses)  
You really don't remember raising that axe up to me? Or yelling about some woman named Ruth? And you were rambling' something' about a yellow truck.

SAMSON  
(falls back in chair/seeming mentally spaced out)  
I raised an axe at you? (beat) So, I had another spell.

ADDIE  
Yes!

SAMSON  
You know I'd never knowingly hurt you, right?

ADDIE  
(silence)

SAMSON  
Addie, you do know I'd never knowingly hurt you, RIGHT?

ADDIE  
It's you not known' that scares me, when you're having' those spells.

SAMSON

(concerned)

I scare you Addie?

ADDIE

If someone raises a axe to you and carry on 'bout a Ms. Ruth, who you does not like, and a yellow truck; what ya 'expect?

(pauses)

You didn't know who I was.

SAMSON

Addie... I so sorry. I jus' don't know what's wrong and how to fix this.

ADDIE

(guilty)

I think I's gonna stay at Maw's or Emma's 'til that doctor come back up here.

SAMSON

Addie, please don't leave me. I don't know what uh (to) do. I don't even know it's happening'.

(pauses)

They say it be depression, but I'm happy in my life with you. Nothin' make me sad... 'expect the thought of you leaving'.

ADDIE

Samson, I don't know what you 'expect me to do, when you have those spells almost every night.

SAMSON

Addie, jus' be patient with me. The doctor say if these new pills don't work, he'll bring a mo bettah medicine.

ADDIE

So am I suppose to live in fear or don't sleep every night?

SAMSON

I don't know Addie, but can we talk about this when I get in later. I have to get going before I be late.

(CONTINUED)

(pauses)  
I love you.

ADDIE  
Samson, I can't promise you I'll be here when  
you get home.

EXITS SAMSON

ADDIE turns to clean the  
kitchen and suddenly stops and  
head towards the bedroom to  
hide anything that could be  
used as a weapon. (Axe, rifle,  
etc.) ADDIE walks back SL to  
hide the items as the phone  
rings.

ADDIE  
Hello?  
(pauses)  
Hey, Emma.  
(pauses)  
I's ah little tired, didn't sleep much.  
(pauses)  
The usual, Samson had one of his spells las'  
night.  
(pauses)  
Emma... Emma... Like I told Maw, he take his  
pills, they not working'.  
(pauses)  
I don't know, but the dicta (doctor) 'pose to  
be up here late' (later) this week.  
(pauses)  
I've been thinking' 'bout coming' home, I  
told him I may not be here when he got in  
from the mill.  
(pauses)  
No, this time was worser.  
(pauses)  
A Axe.  
(pauses)  
Emma! No, don't come up here. I'll be okay. I  
just hid everything, so maybe that will help.  
(pauses)  
NO, he's not drinking. I told Maw and now

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(cont'd)

I'll tell you, I know what that drinking' can do, we saw Paw like that all the time, Samson diffunt (different).

(pauses)

Coz' he can't control it.

(pause)

Coz' it happen in his sleep, Paw was awake.

(pauses)

Samson is nothin' like Paw. (beat) Coz' if he was I would never married him. Samson, wooden (wouldn't) hurt me.

(pauses)

You don't know him Emma.

(pauses)

I have to get going'. (beat) If it happen again I'll come home.

(pauses)

Emma... Let me take cat (care) of my husband, how I chosen' to and you take cat (care) of Nathaniel.

(pauses)

I will. Love ya too. (beat) Bye.

**It's later in the day, ADDIE is making up the bed when SAMSON comes stumbling in the house, he appears to have been beaten up.**

**ENTERS SAMSON**

SAMSON

(grunting in pain)

ADDIE?! ADDIE?!

**Collapses into chair and leaning on table**

ADDIE?!

(pauses)

ADDIE?!

*ADDIE enters the kitchen, lackadaisically*

ADDIE

What is you down' home... (so early)?

(pauses)

Samson?! Samson, what happened?

SAMSON

It happen at the mill.

ADDIE

What happen at the mill?

SAMSON

A spell. It happen at the mill.

ADDIE

What did you do or say?

SAMSON

I don't know, when I woke up the Welch's sons where beaten' me.

(cries)

Addie, what's wrong with me? I just want to be normal again. My brain be racing', it never stops. Addie please help me.

ADDIE

(lost in a trance)

Oh Lord! Samson, you didn't take your pills this morning. I was so upset about last night, that I forgot to make sho' you took your pills this morning'.

SAMSON

Addie, it happen even when I take the pills.

ADDIE

But that probably why it happen at work today Sammie. It never happen at work before.

SAMSON

(defeated)

Addie, I jus' wanna die. Let me just die.

ADDIE

Samson, don't talk like that. Now, with the doctor's help and God we gone fix you. Hear me?

SAMSON  
(continued sobs)

ADDIE  
Samson, do you hear me?

SAMSON  
Ok, Addie!

ADDIE  
Sit up here so I can clean your face

**ADDIE gets water and pills for SAMSON**  
Here take your pills.

*ADDIE is then seen cleaning SAMSON's wounds and then removing his shoes.*

SAMSON  
Addie, you's too good to me.

ADDIE  
What I 'pose to do Sammie?

SAMSON  
You call me Samson when you're real serious or angry with me and you call me Sammie when you in love with me.

ADDIE  
I'm in love with you whether I call you Sammie or Samson.

SAMSON  
But there's a difference.

ADDIE  
It is.  
(pauses)  
But my love ain't diffunt (different.)

SAMSON  
Did my Maw call you today?

ADDIE

What?

SAMSON

Did my Maw call ya tuhday (today)... (beat)  
She say she would.

ADDIE

Sammie, I don't know what ya are talking'  
'bout.

SAMSON

**Stands up**

When we was out in the fields yesterday  
(yesterday), she say she was gone call ya.

ADDIE

Samson, do you know who you are talking to?

SAMSON

Yes! You're Ms. Rita.

ADDIE

No, I'm Addie ya wife.

SAMSON

**Teether-Tottering like a  
child.**

No. I'm jus' a boy... (beat) I be too young  
for a wife. (bashful) Although, I sure do  
like that Addison Sheppard from across the  
way. She pretty.

ADDIE

I am Addison Sheppard, well Addison Scott,  
but I'm Addie.

SAMSON

Addison be beautiful... You look nothin' like  
her.

ADDIE

(tearful)

Sammie, it's me. It's Addison "Addie"  
Sheppard- Scott.

SAMSON

(wait a beat)  
Have you spoke to my Maw yet?

ADDIE

Sammie, your mother passed away a long time ago.

SAMSON

No she didn't, she right there.

**Points to lady in the audience  
and approaches her.**

Hi, Maw!

(pauses)  
Maw, do you hear me talking to you?  
(pauses)  
Maw, can you hear me?

ADDIE

Samson, that's not her. Your mother passed away long time ago. In a house fire with your Paw. You don't remember?

SAMSON

**sits on edge of stage**  
(cries)  
I tried to help them, I really tried.

ADDIE

(consoling)  
I know you did.

SAMSON

(wait a beat)  
Can we go get my yellow truck today, Maw?

ADDIE

(worn out)  
I'm not your...  
(pauses/ (sighs) surrendering-  
tone)  
Yes, we can get your truck today.

(CONTINUED)

SAMSON

Yellow truck.

ADDIE

Yes, a yellow truck, but after you take your nap today.

(pauses)

Let's get you in bed.

**ADDIE helps SAMSON to the bedroom and returns to the kitchen only to have a meltdown.**

(exhausted)

God, please help me. Please give me strength.

**Retrieves house phone.**

Maw, can you and Emma come get me tomorrow afternoon, I can't take it no mo'.

(breaks down again)

**ADDIE has now now joined SAMSON in bed, lies in the opposite direction of SAMSON.**

**While the couple is asleep, SAMSON abruptly awakens and straddles ADDIE and is perceived to be choking her. ADDIE is awoken to being suffocated and struggling to breathe while attempting to get SAMSON off her.**

SAMSON

How long you think this was gone las''?

(pauses)

Look at me when I'm talking' to you.

(pauses)

I say, look at me.

(pauses)

You can scream, they ain't gone hear ya.

(pauses)

What happen to Charlie?

(pauses)

You prey on the weak, but I's got the powa' now.

*SAMSON then spits on ADDIE, in retaliation she bites SAMSON on the hand. The bite brings SAMSON back into the present and ADDIE scurries from the bed into a corner away from SAMSON. SAMSON is seen grimacing in pain.*

ADDIE

(sternly points at SAMSON)

No mo' Samson. No mo.

*SAMSON attempts to approach ADDIE*

Don't come near (near) me.

SAMSON

Addie?!

ADDIE

Dis was yo las' time. I try to be a good wife, with you been' crazy in the head, but you's tried ta kill me foe' the las' time.

SAMSON

I never kill you my Addie.

ADDIE

You spits on me. Raise a axe to me. Chokes me....

SAMSON

When I's do that?

ADDIE

Samson, I's always love you, but I won't lets you kill me.

(pauses)

Don't comes near me.

**ADDIE, gets suitcase from under bed and seen packing. SAMSON attempts to approach her again, but ADDIE sternly refuses him.**

(pauses)

Bye Samson. I sends Dr. Reyonlds after ya.

**EXITS ADDIE.**

**SAMSON is seen having a  
breakdown, sobbing.**

**BLACK OUT.**

ACT II

SCENCE 1

SAMSON was taken into a psychiatric hospital, what was suppose to be temporary has turned into a 20 year long permanent stay for SAMSON. The episodes had become too frequent and SAMSON has become mute since the separation between he and ADDIE. ADDIE not wanting to give up on her husband, has gone to sit and visit with SAMSON twice a month for the last 35 years only to see no progression. ADDIE goes visit SAMSON as she always does, she decides to make this visit the last time, as it have become to painful to see the only man she's ever loved in this position. Just as she makes her final walk through Hillcrest Psychiatric Hospital, SAMSON finally reveals the triggers to his schizophrenic and multiple personality episodes.

*SAMSON is seen sitting in his  
wheelchair being administered  
more sedatives by his nurse,  
ADDIE comes in for her visit  
on the same day and time as  
she always does.*

**ENTERS ADDIE.**

ADDIE

Thought I was going to be late, don't move around like I use to. But she's giving you your meds, so I'm right on time.

(pauses)

How's my Sammie?

(CONTINUED)

NURSE

He's maintaining. Still nonverbal, but a little more responsive today than usual. I think he was expecting you today.

(pauses)

I'll leave you too alone. Let me know if you need anything Mrs. Scott.

ADDIE

Thank you!

**EXITS NURSE.**

ADDIE

How you been Sammie?

(pauses)

Still not talking to me?

(pauses)

Well I brought you...(two items).

(pauses)

Samson, say something. Do something. Blink. Smile. Wave. Nod your head. Shrug your shoulders, but don't just sit there. Say something, anything.

(pauses)

Let me know the las' 60 yeas (years) of my life means something' to ya That sitting' with you, carin' for you, praying' for you, crying' with you and foe you meant something'. Let me know that carin' mo; foe you than myself is 'predicated.

(pauses)

I've been coming' to see ya every month for the las' 30-35 yeas (years) and you given me nothin'. You owe! You has some 'explain' to do. You owe me some closure. You owe me a apology. You owe me ya life, 'cause I has sacrificed mines so that you can 'list.

(pauses)

Now let me 'list. Let me knows all this was with purpose.

(pauses)

Damnit Samson, talk to me.

(pauses)

I just want to hear your voice. Call me your Addie again, 'cause I's still am. Always will

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(cont'd)

be your Addie. You's the only man for me. Samson I want you to complete me like you used to. My world be empty without you and some days, I needs you more than others.

(pauses/sighs)

That sickness really has you crazy in the head. I get it, it not your fault, but it don't stop me from loving you or wanting to be with you.

(pauses)

This been so hard, but I know I have to let you lone. (beat) You be my real Samson long as you can and that time be long gone now.

(pauses)

Samson I love you for the res' of my life, but I can't come back no mo' 'cause it too painful. I know I can't care foe you no mo' and it time I move on with the lil' life I have let (left).

(pauses/tearful)

Ima go now. If you need anything, let the nurses know and they take care of you.

*SAMSON is still sitting in his wheelchair, with tears falling.*

**ADDIE gives Sammie a deep kiss on the cheek goodbye and approaches the door.**

SAMSON

(raspy and almost a whisper)

What they...

**ADDIE abruptly stops in her steps (left foot planted, on the ball of right foot). She believes she hears SAMSON speak, but because of the volume level she is unsure and waits a moment to confirm her suspicion.**

(clears throat/ speaks up)

What they say is 'song with me.

**ADDIE slowly turns clockwise**

(CONTINUED)