

"TUMBLIN' DOWN"

At curtain rise only one wall is standing, Civ's wall. No one is seen. Another fallen wall is in a pile. Odds and ends are strewn randomly, including a battered briefcase. Enter WARREN. He looks around at the mess.

WARREN **Awww, not again.**

Motion under one wall pile. Warren leaps to dig up DEE from it and help him stand. Dee flexes his fingers, then moves his arms - everything works, he smiles. He feels the top of his head and then loses the smile. Dee frantically starts digging into the pile.

WARREN **What - someone else under there? Hang on! We're coming!** *(helps Dee dig)*

Dee finds his hat and, relieved, stops digging.

DEE *(stands up, puts on his prized hat)* **Whew. Thought I'd lost it.**

WARREN *(shakes his head)* **You've lost your mind.**

DEE **No joke.** *(looks around)* **Where are we? When are we?**

WARREN *(starts firm then as confused as Dee)* **I - I don't know. Guess my mind's gone too.** *(peers into distance)* **I think we're a mite south of ... somewhere.**

DEE **And a bit of a walk from ... sometime?**

Enter MISSY, gauze wrapped around her eyes.

MISSY **Hello? Is anyone there?**

WARREN **You okay, missy?**

MISSY *(as Warren helps her to a seat)* Oh, I'm fine.
Don't worry about me. Thank you, sir.

WARREN My name's Warren.

MISSY Pleased to meet you, Warren, I am - I am - mercy
me, I seem to have forgotten my name. I don't
know who I am.

DEE Where are we, when are we, what's in a name?
That's how it is sometimes in somewhere, you
really don't know the whole story 'til the
story's over.

WARREN That's Dee. We kinda grew up together.

DEE What's in a name? My mother's mother was a
Derrick, she had a brother named Charlie Derrick
who went to Oklahoma, and that's when oil was
discovered out there, and that's where the oil
derrick got its name, from Uncle Charlie. *(beats
his own rimshot on some bricks)* That's probably
not true.

WARREN Well, one of us grew up. Whadda we call you,
missy?

DEE What do you call a dog with no legs? Doesn't
matter, he's not gonna come when you call him.

Dee does another rim shot.

WARREN Aww, Dee, what's your vote on a name for this
lady?

CIV *(appears from behind her wall, startles them)*
Now I'm all for voting, believe you me. Now,
don't be scared o' me, I've been around here a
long time. I'm going to tell you, this sister
needs to choose her own name.

MISSY Do I have a sister?

CIV You just can't say that I'm not your sister because the seventeenth chapter of Acts in the twenty-sixth verse says, "He has made of one blood all nations." *(pointedly to Dee)* So I don't care if you're white as your shirt or black as a skillet, we are made from the same blood, brother. And you're going to have to deal with it.

MISSY Missy is fine, really. That sounds about right. Please call me Missy.

WARREN We've got to put these walls back up. Make some shelter.

CIV Don't need everything to be like it was.

*****End of Excerpt*****