

## 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.)*