

*The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of G.* by Djanet Sears

Scene Six

RAINY: You'd think I'd be used to this by now. I was two when mama... Pa says she could sing the sweet into honey and the blue into a midnight sky. We were living in Toronto and Pa was in front of a judge in a criminal case when he got word. The judge adjourned the case and gave Pa ten days to bury his wife and see to his infant daughter. He buried Ma in Chatham, with her people, then drove up here to Negro Creek – me in tow. He set himself a task did my Pa. He had one week to find a mother for his daughter.

Folks around here say that Pa had loved Ivy since they were in high school. That he'd promised he'd come back for her after university, then law school, then once he'd got a job. Since no one would hire him, Bert got him a job working on the trains. And he met my mother, a singer in a blues club, on a run to Montreal and they got married and had me and the next time Ivy saw him he'd come home, looking for a mother for his child. But he didn't marry Ivy. He married her sister, Martha.

Martha raised me like a vain woman tends her best features. She couldn't have children. When Martha got sick, and I prayed and I prayed and when she died – I thought I'd lost the earth below me. Pa thought he'd lost the sky.