



Act 3

Sojourner Truth: Is anyone here? Please, open the door. I am here with my baby, and we need shelter.

Van Wagenen: Who is it?

Sojourner Truth: My name is Isabella Baumfree. I have escaped from the Dumont estate. I was a slave there. Please let me in, and I will explain everything.

Van Wagenen: Certainly. You look cold and tired. What has happened to you, and how can I help?

Sojourner Truth: It is a long story. Would it be all right if I sat by the fire? My baby is cold and wet. I am afraid she will get quite ill if I do not get her dry.

Van Wagenen: Of course! Please sit down, and tell me what brings you here.

Sojourner Truth: I was the slave of Mr. and Mrs. John Dumont. Mr. Dumont promised me early release if I worked hard, and I was faithful. I worked my fingers to the bone. But when the time came, he made up a poor excuse to keep me.



Van Wagenen: So he lied to you?

Sojourner Truth: Yes. I stayed a while longer to complete some work that I had already started. When I was sure that he was not going to change his mind, I decided my only hope was to escape. I left early yesterday morning with my infant daughter. I could not bring any of my other children. It was too dangerous. I plan to go back for them.

Van Wagenen: I see. But, what brings you here to my house?

Sojourner Truth: I heard about a man named Levi Rowe, and I walked to where he was living. I thought he might be able to help me. I asked him where I should go, and he directed me to your house. He said you think slavery is an abomination. He said that you and your wife are good and that you never turn away people in need.

Van Wagenen: He told you the truth. We will not turn you away. We will even give you work here if you need it.

Sojourner Truth: Thank you, sir. I will never forget your kindness.



- Van Wagenen:** Wait just a moment. Do you hear that? Someone is banging on the door. Stay here.
- Mrs. Dumont:** I know she is in there! You are hiding Isabella without a doubt. We demand that you let us in!
- John Dumont:** Let us in this instant! Do you hear me? You have our property in there!
- Van Wagenen:** Just a moment! I hear you, and I will let you in. We can settle this if you just calm down!
- John Dumont:** Where is Isabella? Hand over our slave now!
- Mrs. Dumont:** Look! There she is, John.
- John Dumont:** I see you have run away from me, Isabella, but you must come back this instant.
- Sojourner Truth:** I did not run away. I walked away in the early morning. You promised me my freedom. You lied to me.
- John Dumont:** You must come, and if you do not, I will take your baby. That baby is mine as well.



- Sojourner Truth:** No, you cannot do this! I will not let you!
- John Dumont:** You have no choice and you know it, Isabella.
- Van Wagenen:** Wait just a moment. I think I can help. I do not believe in slavery, and I am not in the habit of buying or selling slaves. In this case, however, I will make an exception. I am willing to buy Isabella's remaining time. All the slaves will have to be freed soon anyway. How much will that cost?
- John Dumont:** Twenty dollars will do it.
- Mrs. Dumont:** What about the baby, John? That baby is our property, too.
- Van Wagenen:** Don't worry. I'll pay for the baby too.
- John Dumont:** It will be twenty-five dollars for both.
- Van Wagenen:** Very well. Here is the money.