

ANNE FRANK: thinking myself out
(excerpt – Rwandan story)

SOUND – RWANDA REFUGEE CHOPPERS

Miep and Uncle enter, each of them carrying bags full of clothes, etc. It's obvious they've been traveling on foot for several hours

UNCLE: Stop...I need a minute. *(panting, from walking so quickly)* Do you have any water?

MIEP: Just this. *(she reaches inside bag and produces small bottle of water)*

UNCLE: Thank you.

MIEP: I'm so hungry...do you have anything in your bag?

UNCLE: I don't think so. *(noise continues behind them)* What does that sign say? My eyes are tired.

MIEP: *(looks)* It's nothing. An advertisement. French cigarettes.

UNCLE: Oh...I saw the flag and thought maybe it was directions to the camp.

MIEP: *(beat)* Uncle, it's been two days...are you sure we're going in the right direction?

UNCLE: Sure? No. This smoke is thick, but I think I can see the sun. We're going east.

MIEP: How much further to the border?

UNCLE: Not far. Maybe a day. We just have to keep moving.

MEIP: Do you think Mother will meet us there?

UNCLE: *(hesitates)* Maybe...yes. We can't worry about that now. C'mon...let's get moving again.

MIEP: In a moment...I'm so hungry, are you sure you don't have anything in this bag? *(she starts going through his satchel)*

UNCLE: No! Wait, let me look –

MIEP: *(pulls out a headscarf, covered in what appears to be dried blood – looks at it, and starts shaking, looks at uncle – a long moment)* Where did you get this?

UNCLE: *(tries to think what to say)* Aailyah...

MIEP: *(smells it, despite the blood)* This was mama's, she was wearing it Wednesday.....where did you find this!?

UNCLE: *(beat)* In the village.

MIEP: You saw her?

UNCLE: Yes. *(beat)* I saw.

MIEP: *(takes this in, thinks about his answer, understands what he's saying)*
And Gahil?

UNCLE: No. I didn't see him. He could be fine...we don't know. Aailyah, listen to me....

MIEP: No. Just, let me think. You weren't going to tell me?

UNCLE: No, not yet. When we got to the camp, maybe. *(beat)* I'm sorry.

MIEP: You're sorry? You left her there?! You left her alone?!!

UNCLE: Aailyah...

MIEP: You were her brother, you were supposed to take care of her!

UNCLE: Aailyah, you know what the world is. I was too late for her...and I did not want to upset you now. Now, we need to focus on today, on the future...on saving ourselves.

MIEP: *(looks at scarf, trying to talk herself into her new reality)* I can't believe this.I'm an orphan now.

DUSSEL2: No, Aailyah, you have family...

MIEP: I don't have a mother, or a father. I'm an orphan.

DUSSEL2: You don't have them, but you are not alone. You will never be alone. *(pulls her toward him)*. As long as I am here, you will never be alone. *(sound of her sobbing softly, then helicopters getting closer)*

Come on....we need to keep moving...*(and they leave)*