

1840, June 2nd—Evergreen

I was playing the piano when Uncle Josephus received a gentleman caller for Ma. He was interested in buying Evergreen. She introduced me to Mr. Haller Nutt of Laurel Hill Plantation. I continued to play as she showed him the premises. As he was leaving, he stopped near the piano and listened. I finished my piece and then Mr. Nutt asked Ma, "Is Miss Julia included in the price of Evergreen?" The gall! I snapped back, "I am not for sale!" and stormed out of the room. The sound of Uncle Josephus' voice was louder than I have ever heard him speak, "Now, now, Miss Julia." Then Mammy 'Ola shrilled, "Fine'ly a proper gentleman takes a shine to yo, and yo shews him away jes like a fly! Wha' yo done is plain ignernt!" I scurried out the back door looking for Pa. When I found him, I told him what happened, and all he said was, "It takes a bigger man to apologize first." I burst into tears and ran upstairs to my room. I was crying into my pillow when Ma found me. She unpinned my hair and brushed it for a long time. Then she held me in her arms until I drifted off to sleep.

1840, June 3rd—Evergreen

Just as I was about to send Mr. Nutt an excuse for my outburst, a letter came from him. I asked the courier to wait while I read. Mr. Nutt apologized for his inappropriate remark and asked permission to call on me under better circumstances. I tore up my original note. Quickly I wrote another accepting his apology and inviting him to please feel free to visit me at his convenience. As the courier rode away, I had a sense of eagerness mixed with uneasiness.