

Royale\_start

Nina/Jay

NINA

And that's my other one, George Jr.

(Jay smiles.)

NINA (CONT'D)

Eleven years old,

But *this* one –

He don't care too much for sports –

So we call him "The Doctor" –

JAY

(humored)

Watch out, now -

NINA

Spends his days *and* nights buried in books,

That one.

Bigger, smarter ones than the General Store even carries,

So he saves up his pennies –

Got me orderin' from a catalog now.

...

Picks 'em up every Thursday.

You should see it –

NINA (CONT'D)

All the other kids are gettin' sleds, sling-shots,

Not "The Doctor."

JAY

...

(Nina looks around. Thinks.)

NINA

I wasn't gon' come here, Jay.

I wanted to let you have this.

Truly.

...

But **two days ago** he brings home his package,

Wrapped in brown paper,

You should see this boy when he smells new books,

That *face*.

...

**This** Thursday he brings one up to me,

Says "What's this, Mama?"

...

Mama, this book's been *written in*."

(She hands him a BOOK, opened to the cover page. The blood drains from his face.)

JAY  
Who did this.

NINA  
...

JAY  
Nina,

NINA  
It comes from the postman,  
At the General Store you got five, six different clerks,  
They got friends,  
Everybody knows whose package is goin' where.

JAY  
We'll find out who –

NINA  
And *then* what're you gon' do?  
Once you get a name.  
You gon' "box" this problem away?

JAY  
Nina,

NINA  
Have you thought about what you're doing?

JAY  
...

NINA  
In the middle of the "Title-fight this" and the "Heavyweight Champion" nonsense have you  
stopped to think, for one second –  
That you gon' up'n get somebody killed?

JAY  
Of course I have –

NINA  
I don't think that's true, Jay.  
No,  
I think you're so caught up in playing David to Goliath,  
In being the one fish swimming upstream,  
I think you up and forgot about the rest of us,

As of 10/8/14

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*End*