

Revision of a Transitional Passage by MSW from *Their Houses*

VERSION I (*Early draft, written as I visualized the action for myself. Benjie is a baby*)

Around dawn Benjie started to whimper, and Dinah crawled down to get out of the bed at the foot, not to bother Ray, who always slept the sleep of the innocent, deep and massive. Benjie wanted to nurse, and she nursed him in bed, but he didn't fall back asleep, started making louder noises, so she wrapped him up in his blanket and wrapped her own shawl around her shoulders and took him out of the bedroom, downstairs.

VERSION II (*Somewhat later draft, tightened a little.*)

Around dawn Benjie started to whimper, and Dinah woke yet again and crawled down over the foot of the bed so as not to bother Ray. Ray always slept the sleep of the innocent, deep and massive. She sat on the floor to nurse Benjie, but he wouldn't go back to sleep, started making louder noises, so she wrapped him up in one blanket and wrapped the other one around her own shoulders and took him downstairs.

VERSION II (*Final, copy-edited version: ready to go to proof editor and then to the printer. Note that this one is streamlined for the reader because the important action comes once Dinah and the baby are downstairs.*)

Around dawn Benjie started to whimper again, and Dinah crawled down over the foot of the bed so as not to disturb Ray. She sat on the floor to nurse Benjie, but he didn't want to eat very long, he wanted to play, so she wrapped him up in one blanket and wrapped another one around her own shoulders and went downstairs.

(*Note I gave up the nice line—at least I liked it!— about Ray sleeping the sleep of the innocent.*)