

BONNIE

Well, cinnamon is a spice. It's a sweet spice, but some spices like red pepper, which is like pepper that's red, is hot, upsets your tongue kinda, so you have to drink lots of water.

Young Jesse enters, sits down on the floor and begins to color.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

So, what do Y'all want? Your mama's special sugar cookies, Jell-O or some chess pie?

PETIE

Sugar cookies!

BONNIE

Jesse?

Young Jesse colors in silence.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

You might as well tell me what you're thinking 'cause it's written all over your face anyways.

YOUNG JESSE

Then go ahead an jus' read my face then, Mama.

BONNIE

People can change, Jesse. Remember what Reverend Junks said 'bout the Apostle Paul? How he did a big ol' internal U-turn once God got a hold of him? That man wasn't never the same after he took that walk down Damascus Road.

YOUNG JESSE

Why you have those things in your hair?

BONNIE

I'm curlin' it.

YOUNG JESSE

Why?

PETIE

I like those pink things on your head, Mama.

BONNIE

Thank you, Son. Jesse, take out the trash before you get too into your colorin'.

Young Jesse takes the trash outside.

START

PETIE

This is my favorite part of the day.

BONNIE

What part is that?

PETIE

The drawing and colorin' part.

BONNIE

Well, you better get to colorin' then.

Petie hugs Bonnie.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Thank you, Son.

PETIE

The other day in class, Padma and I drew together and then we swapped pictures. She gave me a picture of a guy that was part elephant and part not elephant named Ganesh. I gave her a picture of Jesus. He was sitting on this brick thing and he was reading with his reading glasses on.

BONNIE

Jesus doesn't ever need to wear no glasses. 'Cause he can just heal everybody. If he had trouble seein', he'd just up and heal himself.

PETIE

Yeah, but I drew glasses on him anyways cause I wanted to see what Jesus looked like with glasses on.

BONNIE

You are a hoot and a holler, Son, a hoot and a holler.

Young Jesse enters and colors with Petie. Bonnie exits.

PETIE

Jesse? Jesse?

YOUNG JESSE

What?

PETIE

Did you know, there's this woman from India that goes around hugging people? She's like a preacher 'cept she doesn't preach, she just hugs. I'd really like to meet her someday. I saw a picture of her 'cause my friend Padma from school used to live in India, which is this far away on a map...

(Petie holds his fingers about
five inches apart.)

But in real life, it's farther than you can see away. Padma is Indian, but not like the Apache kind. Padma said at her house the food can be kinda spicy. So, for dessert, they have these round, sweet things called ghalabjam.

They're like a doughnut hole, but with syrup poured onto them. I'd like to eat like five million thousand of those.

(Whispering to Young Jesse)

I wish Mama would make something like that sometime or cake. I like that part, the cake part.

Bonnie enters stirring cookie dough.

YOUNG JESSE

(whispering to Petie)

If you like cake so much, you should have said cake instead of stupid special sugar cookies. Why is she cooking stuff for him anyways?

PETIE

He's still our Daddy, Jesse.

(To Bonnie)

Mama, can I put my new picture up?

BONNIE

What is the elephant holding?

PETIE

Padma says, he holds an axe because he can cut through things in case things get in the way.

BONNIE

What's his name again?

PETIE

Mr. Ganesh. Padma says, he's the Hindu God of success.

STOP

BONNIE

Hindu? Is this some pagan-type picture you got there, Son?

PETIE

What's pagan mean?

YOUNG JESSE

It's not a pagan picture, Mama. It's just something his friend drew. She's got a picture of Jesus from Petie, least you can do is hang up hers here.

PETIE

Please, Mama! He's supposed to bring us luck.

BONNIE

I told you before, Son, we don't believe in luck in this house. Ain't no "luck" to it when you got the King of Creation on your side.

(Petie stands staring at her.)

She took a picture of Jesus home?