*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Chapter 13

Plotline Summary

- Janie travels to Jacksonville ready to marry Tea Cake wearing the blue dress he had picked out for her.
- Janie arrives at Jacksonville where Tea Cake is waiting for her. They get married first thing.
- Tea Cake pays out of his own pocket and Janie never mentions her two hundred dollars. (Calms her worry about what Pheoby said about Tea Cake wanting her for her money.)
- Janie sends Tea Cake off to get some fish so that she can sleep longer. When she wakes Tea Cake has yet to return and she has coffee with the widowed landlady.
- She discovers her two hundred dollars is missing and searches for it in circles until all she can do is sit and look.
- She remembers Annie Tyler who was widowed and promised to be married by someone who ended up stealing all her money and left her broken and old.
- Janie wakes up the next day and falls with her head landing in the chair and Tea Cake comes in and raises her head.
- Tea Cake calms her fears about where he was, if he was with another woman, and her insecurities about her age.
- Tea Cake tells his story of what he did with the money.
- His defense for not bringing her alone is that he was scared she wouldn’t like being around people “below” her.
- Janie is still hurt that she was left alone and tells him that she wants to be involved more in the future.
- Tea Cake assures her that he will win back her two hundred dollars through is amazing gambling skills.
- Tea Cake practices his skills all week then leaves Janie promising her he will return with her money.
- Janie worries about Tea Cake being in danger of imaginary people who would criticize him.
- Tea Cake returns home injured. He had gotten into a fight with a gambler named Double-Ugly who was angry about losing his money and accused him of cheating and fought him with a razor.
- “Janie was painting on iodine and crying.”
- Janie lets Tea Cake know about the money she had saved in the bank but Tea Cake tells her that from now on they’re going to live off of what his money can buy.
- They make plans to go to Everglades and as they fall asleep Janie feels a “self-crushing love” and her soul crawls out.
She meant to tell Tea Cake the joke some time when she was sure she wouldn't hurt his feelings.  

By the time he had gone and come back she would have finished her nap out.  

All day and night she worried time like a bone.  

Naturally, he had believed her and taken her home with him to give her time to rest up a day or two, then he had bought her a ticket for home.  

Ah done waited uh long time.  

Janie dozed off to sleep but she woke up in time to see the sun sending up spies ahead of him to mark out the road through the dark.  

"Don't need tuh ast me where Ah been all dis time, 'cause it's mah all day job tuh tell yuh."  

They had a big time till one man come in who thought he was bad.  

“Ah started to come git yuh two three times."  

"Looka heah, Tea Cake, if you ever go off from me and have a good time lak dat and then come back heah tellin' me how nice Ah is, Ah specks tuh kill yuh dead. You heah me?"  

But dis time it's gointuh be nothin' but tough men's talkin' all kinds uh talk so it ain't no place for you tuh be, but 'twon't be long befo' you see me."  

Wondering at herself as she had many times this week that she was not shocked at Tea Cake's gambling.  

Mrs. Tyler with her dyed hair, newly straightened and her uncomfortable new false teeth, her leathery skin, blotchy with powder and her giggle.  

Hair all gray and black and bluish and reddish in streaks. All the capers that cheap dye could cut was showing in her hair.  

He cut nine hairs out of the mole of her head for luck and went off happy.  

There was the little cloth purse with the safety pin on the chair beneath her clothes and the money just wasn't nowhere in the room.  

She got out of the bed but a chair couldn't hold her. She dwindled down on the floor with her head in a rocking chair.  

He took her head in his hands and eased himself into the chair.  

He would flip them on the bare floor, on the rug and on the bed. He'd squat and throw, sit in a chair and throw and stand and throw.
God
But oh God, don't let Tea Cake be off somewhere hurt and Ah not know nothing about it. And
God, please suh, don't let him love nobody else but me. Pg120
You done married one uh de best gamblers God ever made. Pg125
God knows, Tea Cake wouldn't harm a fly. Pg126

Sun
Janie dozed off to sleep but she woke up in time to see the sun sending up spies ahead of him to
mark out the road through the dark. He peeped up over the door sill of the world and made a
little foolishness with red. But pretty soon, he laid all that aside and went about his business
dressed all in white. But it was always going to be dark to Janie if Tea Cake didn't soon come
back. Pg120

Feet
The undersized high-heel slippers were punishing her tired feet that looked like bunions all over.
Pg119
Those slippers bent and griped just like her work-worn feet. Pg119

Dark
Janie dozed off to sleep but she woke up in time to see the sun sending up spies ahead of him to
mark out the road through the dark. Pg120
But it was always going to be dark to Janie if Tea Cake didn't soon come back. Pg120
They stayed at home and rested that night, but the next night they went to a show and after that
they rode around on the trolley cars and sort of looked things over for themselves. Pg117
All day and night she worried time like a bone. Pg118
The thing made itself into pictures and hung around Janie's bedside all night long. Pg120
"Still and all you went off and left me all day and all night." Pg121
Janie waited till midnight without worrying, but after that she began to be afraid. P125
Round midnight Ah had yo' two hundred dollars and wuz ready tuh quit even though it wuz uh
heap mo' money in de game. Pg126

Mouth
He sat down on the floor beside her and kissed and playfully turned up the corner of her mouth
until she smiled. Pg121
The room inside looked like the mouth of an alligator—gaped wide open to swallow something
down. Pg119
And such another hugging and kissing and carrying on you never saw. Pg117
Then two men tried to pick a fight with one another, so Tea Cake said they had to kiss and make up. Pg123
He had done found out how rich people feel and he had a fine guitar and twelve dollars left in his pocket and all he needed now was a great big old hug and kiss from Janie. Pg124
Every minute since she had stepped off the train she had been laughing at Pheoby's advice. Pg117
But she had gone off laughing and sure. As sure as Janie had been. Pg119
Anyhow, she wasn't going back to Eatonville to be laughed at and pitied. Pg120
Janie laughed at that and let herself lean on him. Pg121
She had stood on the streets and smiled and smiled, and then smiled and begged and then just begged. Pg119

**Dreams and Wishes**
It was hard to love a woman that always made you feel so wishful. Pg116

**Sweet**
"And honey, don't you worry 'bout yo' lil ole two hundred dollars. Pg125
"Honey, since you loose me and gimme privilege tuh tell yuh all about mahself, Ah'll tell yuh. Pg125
"Tea Cake! You chile! What's de matter, honey?" Pg126
Honey, no up-todate man don't fool wid no razor. Pg126
Hurry up and come because he was about to turn into pure sugar thinking about her. Pg116
But, don't care how firm your determination is, you can't keep turning round in one place like a horse grinding sugar cane. Pg118
Chapter 13 Describing Maps

Janie

Adjective- Vulnerable

Definition- Susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm. In this sense it is applicable to Janie because she has recently left a stable life to follow her emotions, to reach her horizon. She is off on a whim and it scares her, and she can easily be hurt by the smallest action.

Quote- “She had waited all her life for something, and it had killed her when it found her.”

Literary Device(s) - Irony

Analysis- This quote is from when Janie talks about Mrs. Tyler and about how she, much like Janie, left a very comfortable situation to go and chase something; to go and chase her horizon. In this story however, it concludes with the death of Mrs. Tyler from the abuse of her horizon. Throughout the book the horizon stands for something Janie can strive for. It’s something that embodies her hopes and dreams and it is her motivation to not conform to social norms. We see this as something positive, that it can only produce good consequences, and ignore that it could bring negative ramifications. So because of this, it is ironic to the reader that Mrs. Tyler dies when she finally reaches her horizon. When Janie recalls this story it makes her all the more defenseless, scared, and paranoid. This gives of the impact of how following ones dreams can find you happiness in concept but can turn out to be destructive and leave broken and naïve.

Adjective- Cautious

Definition- Careful to avoid potential problems or dangers. In this sense it is how Janie decided to heed Phoeby’s wishes and take extra money with her, but to also not tell Tea Cake about the extra and let him think she had no money so he would finance everything.

Quote- “Tea Cake was spending and doing out of his own pocket, so Janie never told him about the two hundred dollars she had pinned inside her shirt next to her skin.”

Literary Device(s) – Diction

Analysis- The way the author uses the word “skin” is very important for multiple reasons. Hurston could have ended the sentence after “…pinned inside her shirt,” but I believe she chose to end it with “…next to her skin,” for two reasons. The first reason is because she is letting us know that Janie is being pretty cautious, and she is keeping her money close. Hurston is alluding to the popular idiom of, “playing it close to the chest,” which means to be cautious or very careful with ones actions. She used this in a figurative and literal sense when using the phrase
“next to her skin.” She meant it literally as in the money, her safe way out of a bad situation, is literally close to her chest, right next to her skin. She also means this figuratively as well by talking about how Janie is being very cautious and keeping that little secret of the money close to her and how she is making sure she has a way out if the relationship goes awry. The second reason that the author uses this diction is because she is using it to draw the reader closer to Janie. Skin is a very personal word and she uses it to make more of a personal connection between the reader and Janie and how she feels. Janie feels very vulnerable in this chapter so Hurston uses this kind of diction to make the reader feel what Janie is feeling by bringing them in close and letting them in on Janie’s secret and letting the reader close to her body. It makes the reader feel vulnerable right along with Janie while letting them know she’s also not completely helpless.

Tea Cake

Adjective- Compelling

Definition- Evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way. In the sense of how Tea Cake sings to Janie, she can’t help but let her resolve be ripped away.

Quote- “Then whoever it was started singing ‘Ring de bells of mercy. Call de sinner man home.’ Her heart all but smothered her.”

Literary Device(s) – Foreshadowing

Analysis- This is a wonderful use of foreshadowing but the author. It tells exactly what is going to happen between Janie and Tea Cake for the rest of the chapter and explains their relationship quite well. Tea Cake has always had a kind of power of temptation over Janie since they met, but especially when he sings. When he starts singing you already infer that it will calm Janie down and lower her guard. We still have no idea what exactly will happen between until you really look at the lyrics. When he sings “Ring de bells of mercy.” It is talking about two things. It is talking about how Tea Cake knows he has messed up and that Janie is mad at him, especially for the missing money. So he is asking for forgiveness, because he knows Janie is listening to him. The second thing we can see from this line is that Janie will in fact forgive him in the following pages, and this is backed up by, “Her heart all but smothered her.” Her love for him will always beat out or smother any doubt or worry in her mind about Tea Cake. This impacts the character by showing that even though Janie is an extremely strong character, Tea Cake will always have some kind of hold over her, which shows how real, and special their relationship actually was.

Adjective- Inadvertent
Definition- Not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning. In this case it is how Tea Cake didn’t necessarily mean to hurt Janie and cause her sadness by not coming home and taking the money but he sure as hell did.

Quote- “But it was always going to be dark to Janie is Tea Cake didn’t come back soon.”

Literary Device(s) – Hyperbole

Analysis- The sentences leading up to the quote talk about how the sun was starting to rise up and shine on the land, shining through the window. The sun is a huge symbol and metaphor throughout the book that stands for Janie’s hopes and dreams. It stands for her whole motivation to keep searching for happiness and love after one attempt fails. Then the quote goes on to say “But it was always going to be dark to Janie if Tea Cake didn’t come back soon.” This is a great use of hyperbole, because even though it won’t actually be dark for her all the time physically or even mentally eventually, it still highlights the emotional damage Janie would endure and how incredibly dark it make her world for a period of time. She could end up another Mrs. Tyler. This gives us the impact of how strong Janie has already grown attached to Tea Cake and to how much she clings to these dreams. She hangs on to them as tight as one would to driftwood in a hurricane.

Annie Tyler

Adjective-Disheartened

Definition-having lost hope, enthusiasm, or courage. After being tricked by Who Flung she has lost her pride and feels beaten down by the world.

Quote- “She had stood on the streets and smiled and smiled, and then smiled and begged and then just begged. After a week of world-bruising a young man from home had come along and seen her. She couldn't tell him how it was.” Pg119

Literary Device(s)- Irony

Mrs. Tyler has been beaten down by the world and yet as she stands on the streets she smiles. The irony highlights her hopefulness and happiness being stripped from her. She tries her hardest to hide her defeat from the world and the people who will kick her while she’s down. The world eventually wins though. She can’t hold her façade of strength anymore and gives into what the world wants from her. The world wants to see her broken and beaten because they were envious of her when she ran off and envious that she was happy and moving forward in life. Now that she is broken down to their level and possibly below them they will continue to beat her down with their talk to raise themselves up. She knows this and that’s why she can’t tell the young man who
helps her what has happened. Even though he is showing her kindness by helping she has lost her trust and fears there is still a possibility that he could spread her story.
Metaphor Analysis

Money

“Tea Cake was spending and doing out of his own pocket, so Janie never told him about the two hundred dollars she had pinned inside her shirt next to her skin. Pheoby had insisted that she bring it along and keep it secret just to be on the safe side. She had ten dollars over her fare in her pocket book.” Pg177

As Janie goes off with Tea Cake she keeps a secret stash of cash on her of two hundred dollars. Janie is encouraged to bring the money by Phoebe who in the previous chapter talks to Janie about her reservations about Janie marrying Tea Cake. Specifically, she worries that Tea Cake will take advantage of Janie and leave her broken and embarrassed just like what happened to Annie Tyler. The secret money that Janie keeps from Tea Cake is representative of her fears that what people think is true. That she is too old for Tea Cake and he will leave her for another woman. Although, her true fear is that she is making a mistake. Before being with Tea Cake, Janie was only living her life for other people. Doing what nanny thought was best for her and then being controlled by Joe has left Janie unsure of herself. This is the first real big decision that Janie has made and she doesn’t want to be made a fool. As she holds on to the money she holds on to the sitters from Eatonville and what they will think of her. When she wakes to find Tea Cake gone the warning from Phoebe echos in her head and she thinks back to Mrs. Tyler and here her true fears start to surface. Janie isn’t truly allowing herself to trust her decision. It isn't until the end of the chapter when Janie finally tells Tea Cake about the money in the bank that she begins her life and “her soul crawled out from its hiding place.”
Metaphor Analysis on Hair

"Hair all gray and black and bluish and reddish in streaks. All the capers that cheap dye could cut was showing in her hair."

All throughout the book, hair has been a symbol and metaphor for a woman’s pride and dignity and self-confidence. For instance whenever Janie lets her hair down, you know she has been revived and she is now more determined and proud than ever. She a bad bitch and she knows it. In this quote talking about Mrs. Tyler it’s actually quite indicative and ironic because it talks about the exact opposite of what the metaphor represents. The quote talks about how Mrs. Tyler is worn out and her hair is all grey and stained sloppily with streaks of cheap dye. She is a contrast to Janie’s long, flowing, black hair. Mrs. Tyler is drenched to the bone of hope and rundown by the time she’s spent running in circles. “Hair all grey and black and bluish and reddish in streaks,” means that every young man that she has been with has left a mark on her pride and dignity. They drew her in so close every time and convinced her to take a leap of faith just to cut and run, they basically should have just chopped her hair off while they were at, but instead the left streaks of blue and red. “All the capers that cheap dye could cut was showing in her hair.” Capers means to skip or dance around playfully. That is exactly what these men did to Mrs. Tyler, they danced and skipped around her with empty promises and deceitfulness and then when the moment came, like the cheap bastards they were, would cut their mark into Mrs. Tyler just like the cheap dye that cut into her hair. At the end of it all after Who Flung made the final mark on Mrs. Tyler, after she could keep that young and giggly façade up any longer and she had lost all pride and dignity, she melted away to show her old, tired, and saggy body that had been worn to the bone; the marks left on her were finally showing their aftermath, just like the cheap dye was showing in her hair.