

## The Road to Something New

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*Drip, Drip.* That was the sound of sweat from Richard Davis, the year was 1929 in the state of Alabama, he was only 17. "Richard, please step into my office." commented his boss as Richard put down his hard hat. "Please take a seat." In the back of his mind, he knew that he had lost his job. "You know how things have been going lately, most people have been losing there jobs and well.. I have to let you go." Shocked Richard was wordless. "Its not because you have been doing a bad job, we just don't have the money to employ you anymore." With no words to say Richard quickly left his office, no expression. He went straight home, he did not stop at the hardware store where his dad works, nor the grocery store where his mom worked. *Home* he thought, home he walked he pass

Finally arriving at home he paced to his room, landed on his bed and blacked out. Waking up he spotted 6 eyes gazing at him: his dad, his mom, and his younger sister, Mary. "You must had worked your heart out, sleeping that long." His mother said. "Your such a hard worker." replied his father. Richard checked the clock it said 6:32 a.m., he was late for the job he did not have. "You're going to be late for work!" exclaimed his mom, who was preparing breakfast downstairs. Richard sped downstairs to tell the truth. "Mom, Dad I have something to confess." "Anything honey." said his busy mother. "I got fired." announced Richard with a low tone in his voice. The room went silent. His dad stopped reading his newspaper. Mary paused while toast was in her mouth. And his mother froze. "C-can you explain?" stuttered the paralyzed woman.

“I didn't do anything wrong” explained Richard “they don't have the money for me, thats it.” “well, money is the only thing people care about now, we are coming to an end in this country.” shouted Mr. Davis, making Mary run and cry to her room, and his wife chasing behind the scared girl. “Well now we have to have extra jobs since your mother and I can't make \$30 in one week.” Looking at the ground shuffling his feet, Richard felt ashamed, he thought that since he lost his job he had also lost hope, and his families love. He had no idea what to do next.

Richard knew what he was going to do. He was going to take a trip to California, across the country to get a job there and send all the money to his family. He wouldn't tell them his plans, he knew they would make sure he stayed in Alabama. He would leave a note but that was all. He set off, not knowing where he was going or how he was going to get there. The next morning at crack of dawn, his mother found the note.

*Dear mother, as she read it in silence. I set off last night to go to California for a job. I wont be back for a long time, i'm not sure when I will come back, but just remember i'm on the road to something new. Sincerely, Richard.* Mrs. Davis fell to her knees crying and screaming until her husband had to rush to see the problem.”What is wrong with you woman?!” he said in a rare abusive tone, without needing an answer. “Richard must be in Mississippi by now.” whispered his worried mother. Around the corner there was a sneeze. Mary came out from around the corner. “You peeping Tom” said her father while carrying her back to her room. “When's Richie going to be back” said the worried sister.

Richards father was right, he was in Mississippi, and things were different. Richard only had 10 dollars when he left, he was not sure if he could make it last.

Richard barely had enough money to buy a train ticket from Biloxi to Chicago. He although made a close friend named Brian Ford, who he met at a grocery store. Richard knew he had to get a job, one where you could have a better income, but he had found nothing. He lived in a cabin with Brian and everyday he would look for a job, until one afternoon he found a newspaper with a picture of his family in it with the headlines: **Davis Family Loses Home and Son.** Turns out Richards' home was auctioned for the bank and he left his family in misery, he knew he had to come back. It took about 2 weeks but he arrived back in Alabama in search of his family. He headed home and heard a young voice comment: "Excuse me mister" he then turned around and saw Mary looking at him and his family right behind her. His mother rushed to him crying and his whole family gave him a hug. Every Davis member (except Richard) wanted to know what California was like. "Was it big?" asked Mary "Was it clean?" asked Mrs.Davis "Was it dangerous?" asked Mr. Davis. All the answers were yes, but all Rich cared about was to see his family again, that was the road to something new.