

"Autumn, come here," Beth said. "Do you see that?"

The girl joined her mother at the window and looked out. When the black woman saw her, she smiled and nodded as if she'd been waiting for her.

"Do you know that woman?" Beth asked.

Autumn turned to her mother, an odd little half smile on her face. Her deep blue eyes were opaque.

"I don't know what you're talking about, Mother. There's nobody out there."

Beth looked out the window again, but a curtain of white mist closed tight beyond the pane.