

DREW Is this old farmer paying you to repair it?

HARRY Well, of course he is. Do you think I'd hire someone to repair it for me if I wasn't gettin' paid to repair it? That wouldn't make much sense, would it?

DREW No, I guess not.

DREW turns to leave.

HARRY How's your mother?

DREW What?

HARRY Your mother. How's she doin'?

DREW Good. She's the principal at a school back east.

HARRY Principal, huh? Wow.

DREW She's gonna retire in a couple of years though and her and Don are planning to move south.

HARRY Who's Don?

DREW Don Carter. Her husband. She's re-married.

HARRY Uh-huh. And now she wants to move south. Woman should make up her mind.

DREW You know, I think I'm just gonna turn in. I'm a little worn out from the trip.

HARRY Sure. Oh, listen, I won't be here when you get up tomorrow morning. I've got a fence I gotta mend.

DREW A fence?

HARRY Yeah.

DREW Okay. Whatever.

HARRY You can get by without me for a couple of hours can't you?

DREW Oh yeah. I've had lots of practice at that.

HARRY You didn't come all this way just to pick a fight, did you? Because we coulda done that over the phone.

DREW Goodnight.

HARRY Hey? Tomorrow I want to hear more about this male stripper thing.

DREW Yeah. Sure.

HARRY Drew? Is your mother happy finally?

DREW Yeah. Yeah, I think she is.

3 *DREW exits to the bedroom. HARRY flashes back to thirteen years ago. His wife, LORI, enters and slams the door. She is looking dishevelled. She walks gingerly.*

HARRY Lori?

LORI Son of a bitchin' horse!

HARRY Lori? What's wrong?

LORI That goddamned horse threw me again.

HARRY Nomad?

LORI Yes, Nomad. Shit.

HARRY Is he all right?

LORI What?

HARRY Nomad. Is he all right?

LORI Well, of course he's all right. He threw me. I didn't throw him. God, Harry.

HARRY What's wrong?

LORI What's wrong?? I get thrown by a horse and you ask me if the horse is all right?

HARRY Well, I can see that you're all right. You're walkin', you're cussin'. You're a hundred percent.

LORI
HARRY (age 46)

LORI I'm not a hundred percent. I'm bruised. I landed right on my tailbone. And it's not "cussin." It's cursing! Who the hell are you, Gene Autry? You were raised in the suburbs, for God's sake.

HARRY So, where is he?

LORI What?

HARRY Nomad. Did you ride him back?

LORI No, I didn't ride him back. He ran off, the son of a bitch.

HARRY You swore at him, didn't you?

LORI Of course I swore at him. I swore at him until I ran out of swear words and then I went back and started over again.

HARRY Well, that's why he ran off.

LORI Because I swore at him?

HARRY Lori, that horse is very sensitive. He can tell when someone's talkin' mean to him.

LORI Oh, I wasn't talking. I was screaming.

HARRY Where did he throw you?

LORI On my fucking ass!

HARRY Yes, but where? Where were ya?

LORI The northwest corner. Just this side of the gully.

HARRY Well, I'd better go find him. You go soak in the tub. That'll make your tailbone feel better.

LORI Harry, I can't do this anymore.

HARRY What?

LORI I can't do this.

HARRY Do what?

LORI This. Living out here. I wasn't cut out for this.

HARRY Lori, you got thrown by a horse. Don't go overreacting.

LORI I'm serious, Harry. I can't do this anymore.

HARRY You haven't given it a chance.

LORI We've been here for nine years! I've given it every chance. I'm just not happy here. I'm twenty miles from anywhere. I'm getting thrown by horses, clearing shit off my boots every time I come into the house, and I've got the smell of cattle in my hair twenty-four hours a day. I lie in bed at night and that's all I can smell. I wake up in the morning and it's the first thing I smell.

HARRY Maybe it's comin' from me.

LORI It's comin' from both of us. We both stink of it.

HARRY So, I'll get us a stronger soap.

LORI I don't want a stronger soap. God. Aren't you listening to me? It's not just the smell. It's the life. You only get one life, Harry. And I've spent nine years of mine being miserable. I can't do it for one more day. I won't. I tried. I really did because I knew you were happy here. But, what about my happiness? Doesn't that count?

HARRY Of course it does.

LORI Then I want to leave. I want us to go back.

HARRY Lori, we can't leave. This place, this was our dream.

LORI No, this was your dream, Harry. Not mine. I went along because you wanted out of the city. I was perfectly happy there. I had a good teaching job. A future. But, you had to move us thousands of miles away because you wanted to be a cowboy.

13

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