

LONE STAR

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ROY. It was nothin'. That car's gonna be a museum piece in time. I'd like to pass on to my children and their children, somehow, a piece of that car.

RAY. You can give them each a piece Roy. (Pause.) Roy, I got somethin' to tell you.

ROY. All right.

RAY. It's bad.

ROY. All right.

RAY. It's terrible.

ROY. Uh-huh.

RAY. It's like an open wound. (Pause.) When you were in Vit Nam.

ROY. Yes.

RAY. Me and Elizabeth

ROY. You and Elizabeth what?

RAY. Me and Elizabeth...

ROY. Yes...

RAY. Well, me and Elizabeth...

ROY. I've heard this part, Ray. (beat)... Ray-

RAY. Made love.

ROY. You and Elizabeth

RAY. Elizabeth and me.

ROY. It's the same thing

RAY. Yes

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ROY. While I was in Vit Nam?

RAY. Yes (Pause. Roy looks at Ray. Ray looks at ground.)

ROY. Damn. Shit damn. (Pause.) What have you got to say for yourself.

RAY. I'm sorry.

ROY. Is that all?

RAY. I'm real sorry.

ROY. (Standing, pacing.) Well, shit. I just can't believe it!

RAY. Roy –

ROY. Shut your mouth. (Pause.) My own little brother. I can't believe it! I taught you your life! I taught you how to swim, how to drive a car, how to pass a football, I taught you how to jack off! The most important things in life, I gave to you. And this is my reward?

RAY. What can I say?

ROY. Not a damn thing. I can't believe this is happening to me! My own goddamn little brother and my own goddamn wife! You know that's against the Ten Commandments, don't you? You've just broken one of God's biggest laws, that's all! You have coveted your own brother's wife.

RAY. What does coveted mean?

ROY. IT MEANS FUCK, YA DAMN FOOL! You have fucked your own brother's wife! You know what that's called?

RAY. No what?

ROY. Sodomy.

RAY. (With terror.) No!

ROY. That's right Ray. Sodomy. Boy, I'd hate to be in your shoes. It says it right there in the Bible: "Thou had better not commit adultery, nor fuck thy brother's wife, nor covet thou his sheep, nor covet thou his ox..."

RAY. I wouldn't fuck my brother's ox.

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ROY. (Groaning.) NO...

RAY. I wouldn't even fuck my own ox.

ROY. That's not what it means!

RAY. You said "Covet meant fuck."

ROY. Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't. See what I mean Ray? See what I'm drivin at?

RAY. No

ROY I'm talkin' about the Bible, Boy! Im talkin' about the goddamn Garden of Eden!

RAY. You are?

ROY. Of course. In the Garden of Eden, God made Adam. And he made animals. And he looked down and he saw that it was good. Then he looked down and saw Adam was alone and he saw that that was perverted.

RAY. Why was it?

ROY. Because Adam was alone. He had nothing to occupy his mind. He was walking around perverting the Garden of Eden.

RAY. What was he doing?

ROY. Figure it out Ray. The guy was alone and he was horny.

RAY. Oh. Then what?

ROY. Then God made Eve, and the bitch screwed the goose and they all got kicked out on their ass. Get my point?

RAY. No.

ROY. God punished them. They broke some of his major laws just like you and he punished them. (Pause.) When did you and Elizabeth fornicate on me?

RAY. Uh...about two years ago...

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ROY. When two years ago?

RAY. Winter...no the air conditioner was on the first time-

ROY. The first time! Was there more than once?

RAY. Huh?

ROY. More than once? How many times? Did you do it a lot?

RAY. No, not a lot.

ROY. You better tell me the truth. How many times?

RAY. I'm not good at countin' (A horrible silence.)

ROY. Where?

RAY. In your bed.

ROY. My weddin'bed! Is that all?

RAY. Once on the floor.

ROY. The floor!

RAY. Once in the bathroom.

ROY. What!

RAY. Once on the kitchen table.

ROY. The kitchen table. I'll never eat off it again. You goddamn degenerate. I swear. This is the most perverted thing that ever happened to me. My whole house defiled. Guess I'll just have to pitch a tent in the back yard.

RAY. Once in the back yard. (Ray still seated. Roy stalks around with contained rage.)

ROY. I wonder what I'm going to do with you Ray?

RAY. I don't know.

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ROY. I think what I ought to do...(Roy picks up a two by four near the shed.)...is take this here two by four upside your skull.

RAY. Don't do that Roy.

ROY. Why the hell not?

RAY. It might kill me.

ROY. You ought to be killed.

RAY. Don't say that to me. I'm your little brother.

ROY. I oughta smash your skull in.

RAY. War has made you bloodthirsty, Roy.

ROY. That's what it's supposed to do you damn fool!

RAY. But if you killed me...

ROY. What?

RAY. I'll die.

ROY. So?

RAY. If I die...I won't know what to do. (Roy throws away lumber. Ray braces for the blow he feels sure is coming. Roy walks to Ray Slowly. Stands over him. Roy snatches Ray's cap and beats Ray furiously with it. His anger subsiding, Roy walks over to the side of the bar, leans against it, groaning like an animal in pain.)

ROY. The thing is...nothing has been the same since I come back. Things I see...people I see...it's like they never was. The thing is...I can't seem to get nothing started no more...cause...cause...see, me and Elizabeth, we had it good once. And I never thought she would do me like...I mean I know I'm a hard man to live with...but...she's a wonderful woman...a wonderful woman...see, the thing is...goddamnit all to hell. (Roy comes back to where Ray is sitting to give him his hat.)

RAY. Are you gonna hit me now, Roy?

ROY. No.

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RAY. Please. It'll make you feel better.

ROY. No.

RAY. Wish you would. You'll feel better. I promise.

ROY. No.

RAY. All right. (Roy walks in front of where Ray is sitting. Without breaking stride he suddenly turns and belts Ray in the mouth. Ray flies off the car seat he is sitting on. Roy goes back to side of bar.) You said you weren't going to hit me.

ROY. Changed my mind.