

Chapter 7

Slim and George arrived at a bar, sat down and ordered their drinks. George couldn't stop thinking about Lennie. He missed him terribly, but he knew that he had to do it he had to kill him. George thought to himself about how he's happy that Slim knows, and that he can talk to him about what truly happened.

"George," Slim said, "you did what you had to do."

"I know Slim," George replied, "but it still don't feel right. I know I did it to protect him, else he was gonna get a lynchin' from a mob!-- Aye Slim?"

"Yeah George?"

"Would you'd 'a' done the same thing I did if you was me?"

Slim thought to himself for a minute before he responded, "Well George I don' know if I'd 'a' had the guts to kill a man, even if it was to protect him. Y'all two was good friends an' I'm not sure if I could even kill a puppy let alone a good friend."

George felt bad about what he had done, but he knew that he now needs to focus on what he is going to do next.

"Oh, so this is where you two disappeared to!" Curley exclaimed as he saunters into the bar, orders a drink, and takes a seat next to Slim. "Why y'all two left so quick an' left the body to me an' Carlson. Now that a'int right."

"Where's Carlson now Curley? Why ain't he with you?" George asked.

"Why he's stayed behind to talk to the police 'bout what happened." Curley said.

"He's not gonna say I did it, is he?" George asked frantically.

"Well what else is he supposed to say?" Curley asked. "I didn't do nothing, Slim didn't do nothing, Carlson didn't do nothing, an' clearly you done it. Don't worry he said he's gonna tell the police it was self defense. Aye George, I gotta say Lennie is lucky you got to him first, 'cause if it 'a' been me he woulda been lynched."

"I know Curley. So what are you gonna do 'bout your wife, she still back in the barn?" George asked.

"Yes she's still in the barn, and George I don't know what I'm 'a' gonna do without her! I know we wasn't always kind to each other, but she was my wife an' I miss her." Curley explained, "Aye Slim, I'm sorry I tried to fight you a couple 'a' days ago, I jes' got so protective of her, I couldn't help it."

"That's just fine Curley I'd 'a' done the same thing if I had a lady. Say what do you s'pose they gonna do about your wife when the police find out?" Slim asked.

"Well I'm gonna tell em who done it! Not that it will matter none 'cause the bastard who killed her is dead." Curley responded.

"Well Curley I can tell you this much Lennie said he was most sorry that he killed her, he didn't mean to. Lennie wasn't a bad guy he jes' liked pettin' soft things." George said.

"When did he tell you this George?" Curley asked.

George was a little worried that he might have just messed up by telling Curley that, so George thought to himself about what he could tell Curley. "Well

right before I tried to get the gun away from him he told me that, yes that's what happened."

"Okay George, okay. I've got my eye on you, now if anything else suspicious goes on in this town I'll be sure to pin it all on you. I never much like you or Lennie so I'd be happy to see one of y'all go down." Curley grabbed his drink and finished it off before storming out the door as if he had somewhere to be.

"Slim I gotta get outa town! If Curley's out to get me I should get going I don't wanna go down for nothing I didn't do!" George exclaimed.

"It's okay I have a niece who lives only a few miles out from here," Slim told George. "She's real nice and very understanding she'll take you in for a while 'til you can get back on your feet. I'll let her know that you're comin'."

"Why thank you Slim! Thank you so much, I don't know what I'd 'a' done without you!" George said as he got up from his chair.

Slim and George pay for their drinks, and head back to the farm for it was getting late and tomorrow George will leave for Slim's niece's house. George sure was happy to have met Slim, but he wished that Lennie could have still been alive.

Chapter 8

"George wake up! You've gotta get going." Slim said as he was shaking George awake. George would have to walk about thirty miles east to get to Slim's niece's house. So George sat up and got dressed and headed out. It was around five o'clock in the morning and the sun was barely shining, but George could see where he was going. This walk was going to be the longest walk George would ever have to take, because it's his first adventure without Lennie.

George remembered the story he would always tell Lennie to calm him down. Everywhere George looked something reminded him of Lennie. Close to noon George sat down under a tree to eat a little for lunch. As George was sitting there he felt something rub up against his leg. As he looked down he saw a baby rabbit. It was so small and George broke down into tears. "Lennie! Why'd you have to like petting soft things! You coulda still been here you coulda been sittin' right here beside me but you're not! You just had to kill her didn't you, and because I cared for you I had to kill you! Why Lennie? I told you not to mess things up here, we were so close to buying that ranch! An' you see this baby rabbit here, it coulda been yours! It all coulda been ours if you hadn't killed that girl. Oh Lennie I miss you. This trip has been so lonely without you. I'm sorry that I ever yelled at you, I jes' wanted 'a' make sure you wouldn't mess up. I did love you, I truly did." George sat up and pet the baby rabbit before he got up and kept walking.

George got to Slim's nieces house around four o'clock in the afternoon. He stopped and looked around at the house for a minute. It was a big house, it had two stories, and looked very new from the outside. The siding was an off white color, and the roof was a light grey. George felt a little underdressed to be entering such a nice house, but he walked up to the door anyway. George stood there a minute and then he knocked on the door three times. A lady opened the door, and as George looked at her he was in awe. She had long dark hair that flowed down to her waist, she was thin and had an amazing smile that anyone could spot from a mile away. She was wearing a yellow floral dress and had a yellow ribbon in her hair.

"Why hello!" She said to George, "My name is Ruby, and I am pleased to have the chance to have you stayin' with me, for a little while!"

George was stunned by her beauty, but managed to introduce himself. "I'm George, and thank you very much for takin' me in, an' helpin' me."

"Why it's my pleasure, now why don' you come in an' clean yourself up." The two walked in and Ruby led George through her house and upstairs to the room that he would be staying in.

Chapter 9

George cleaned himself up and found some clothes that he helped himself to. He wondered whether or not Ruby had a husband, for she was very pretty. George walked downstairs through a very well made living room and into the kitchen where Ruby was preparing supper.

"Thank you for these clothes Ma'am, if you don' mind my askin', is there a Mr. Ruby?" George asked.

"No sir," Ruby said, "those are my brother's old clothes, he sometimes stays in the room that you got when he visits me, an' those are his clothes."

"Well I guess I have to thank him then too." George said.

"I suppose you do." Ruby smiled and turned away from George to keep cooking. "Supper will be done in 'bout ten minutes, we're havin' chicken tonight!"

"Why anythin' that you make sounds wond'a'ful. Is there somethin' I can do to help?" "George asked.

"Well, you could set the table. Here, I'll get the plates." Ruby turned and walked over to a cabinet, gets out two plates, and hands them to George. George took the plates and went into the dinning room and set the table. He then sat down and waited for Ruby to come in.

About ten minutes later Ruby walked in with chicken, and mashed potatoes. George hadn't had a home cooked meal in a very long time, so this meal looked amazing to him. "My goodness Miss Ruby this meal looks mighty good."

"Why thank you George, just wait 'til you try the chicken. It's a secret family recipe! Oh my goodness I almost forgot the ketchup! I can't eat nothin' without any ketchup. Excuse me a minute." Ruby quickly snapped around, after setting the food down on the table, and went back into the kitchen to grab the ketchup.

"I got the ketchup! Oh George I hope you like this meal it's Slim's very favorite." Ruby explained.

"Well then it must be mighty good. Slim is a good guy and very understandin' too. Why I wouldn't be here if it weren't for him." George said as he took a bite of the steaming chicken. "This chicken is very good."

"Thank you, George. So all Slim tells me was that he had a friend in need of a place to stay for a while, but he didn't tell me nothing 'bout this person. So why do you need a place to stay? Did something bad happen where you lived before?" Ruby asked.

"Well I guess you could say that," George said. " I had a friend who got hisself into trouble and I had to get him out of it, but it ended poorly for him."

"C'mon that can't be all that happened, listen if you're gonna be stayin' here I wanna get to know you. So tell me what happened, I ain't got nobody to tell." Ruby said as she cocked as she cocked her head to the side to get a better look sat George.

"O.K., O.K. so long as you don' tell nobody," George said.

"I promise you George, I will not tell nobody what you're about to tell me, I want you to trust me," Ruby explained.

"O.K.," George said. "My friend likes pettin' soft things like rabbits, rats, puppies, but he was a dumb guy and was might strong too. So sometimes when he'd hold the animal real tight when he's petting it an' it starts squirming he squeezes it, an' it dies. He never meant to kill nothin' he jes' was too strong. So one time he was pettin' a girl's hair an' I guess things went wrong and he killed her. Her husband was gonna lynch him, an' he was my good friend so I coulda let him get lynched so I shot him. I wanted 'a' protect him from anyone else. I sure do miss him though. So that's why I had to get outa town."

"That's some story now. I'm sorry that you had to kill your friend," Ruby said, "but you had to, to protect him. George I'd 'a' done the same thing if I was you. I woulda let nobody hurt my good friend."

"Thank you for understandin', Ruby." George said with a slight smile on his face.

"Why it's not hard to understand when you've done the right thing, an' I promise not to say nothin' to nobody, so your secret is safe." Ruby said smiling back at George.

"Thank you Miss Ruby," George said. "So I have tol' you my story could you tell me yours?"

"Nothing 'a' tell." Ruby claimed.

"Sure there is, why everyone's got a story whether it's good or bad. C'mon I jus' tol' you I killed a man an' like you said I ain't got nobody to talk to but you." George explained.

"O.K.," Ruby said, "you convinced me. A couple 'a' weeks ago I went to Weed to visit my parents an' somethin' real bad coulda happened to me. I was walkin' wearin' my favorite red dress an' this man steps out an' grabs my dress so I start screamin' for help, an' the man grabs my arm! I thought he's gonna rape me 'til another man came and hit him over the head with a fence post! I don't know what 'a' happened to me if that man didn't come an' help me."

Explanation:

As I was writing this I was thinking about George. I know that one way to take this story is by making a trail come after the murder of Lennie which is what we did in class but I wanted to do something different, where George has a chance of getting away. So as I was writing this I was trying to incorporate little things that happened during the book like in chapter 7 I had Slim say he couldn't even kill a puppy let alone a human, just like Lennie did both of those things. I wanted Lennie to be as much alive in these following chapters as I could make him, even though he is dead.

I had the story twist at the end to Ruby being the girl from Weed because she was such a minor character, but I believe that she played a much bigger role. When I pictured the girl from Weed or Ruby I pictured her with long dark hair so I decided to give her the name that Lily came up with for our trial (which was Ruby Pearl Clearmont) and give her a role. George had been through so much already after killing his very best friend and the having to run away, I figured why not give him a break because she was mighty happy that he saved her, so I'm thinking only good can come from that.