

BO. (Stands facing Will.) I loved her. (Virgil crosses D. R. near door.)

WILL. That don't make any difference.

BO. A man's gotta right to the things he loves.

WILL. Not unless he deserves 'em, cowboy.

BO. I'm a hard-workin' man, I own me my own ranch, I got six thousand dollars in the bank.

WILL. A man don't deserve the things he loves, unless he kin be a little humble about gettin' 'em.

BO. (Comes D. R., sits at chair R. of C. table.) I ain't gonna get down on my knees and beg. (Virgil crosses D. S. L. of R. table.)

WILL. Bein' humble ain't the same thing as bein' wretched. (Bo doesn't understand.) I had to learn that once, too, cowboy. I wasn't quite as old as you. I stole horses instead of women because you could sell horses. One day, I stole a horse off the wrong man, the Rev. Hezekiah Pearson. I never thought I'd get mine from any preacher, but he was very fair. Gave me every chance to put myself clear. But I wouldn't admit the horse was his. Finally, he did what he had to do. He threshed me to within an inch of my life. I never forgot. 'Cause it was the first time in my life, I had to admit I was wrong. I was miserable. Finally, after a few days, I decided the only thing to do was to admit to the man how I felt. Then I felt different about the whole thing. I joined his church, and we was bosom pals till he died a few years ago. (He turns to Virgil.) Has he done what I asked him to?

VIRGIL. Not yet, sheriff. (Sits at a table.)

WILL. (To Bo.) Why should ya be so scared?

BO. Who says I'm scared?

WILL. Ya gimme yor word, didn't ya?

BO. (Somewhat resentful.) I'm gonna do it, if ya'll jest gimme time.

WILL. But I warn ya, it ain't gonna do no good unless you really mean it. (Elma is R. with dust pan.)

BO. I'll mean it.

WILL. All right then. Go ahead. (Will crosses u. c. Slowly, reluctantly, Bo gets to his feet and awkwardly, like a guilty boy, makes his way over to the counter to Grace. Carl crosses to stove.)

BO. Miss, I . . . I wanna apologize.

GRACE. What for?

BO. Fer causin' such a commotion.

Start

BUS STOP SIDE 8 WILL MONOLOGUE