

G.W. I'm in agony.

WARDDELL. I can tell.

G.W. I'm in hell. I remember it so vividly. We met at the

Bonanza over in Abilene, had us a nice steak supper, then she fol-

lowed me back to the motel and...

JUANITA. Lynn Anderson had such pretty blonde hair. Just

like golden silk.

ODELL. *(Showing his latest string accomplishment.)* Jacob's

ladder. *(Takes a piece of string with his mouth and pulls.)* Witch's

hat. You do Jacob's ladder, then witch's hat. Two tricks in one.

Well, one trick. Then another by just pullin' the string with ya

teeth. Ain't that neat.

G.W. You have too much time on your hands, Odell.

*(JUANITA has wandered over, stands behind ODELL and evalu-*

*ates the string.)*

JUANITA. I don't that somethin'.

ODELL. *(Starts another trick.)* You know what I can't get offa

my mind?

WARDDELL. Oh boy, here we go again.

ODELL. I can't get that pig bloatin' incident offa my mind.

G.W. What?

WARDDELL. G.W., please. If I have to hear about that god-

damn pig one more time, I think I'll just shiti!

ODELL. It all happened over at the Tyler County Fair.

WARDDELL. Well, now's just as good a time as any. *(He grabs*

*a newspaper from the bar and exits to the bathroom.)* Y'all keep an

eye on the place.

ODELL. Sure thang, Bubba.

JUANITA. *(Leans over to G.W.)* Was your steak tender? The

one you ate that night Peggy died?

ODELL. See, I go down to Tyler ever' year for the County Fair. (*Showing another string trick*) Broom. I just love all the anti-mals and the displays of macramé and the cookin' competition and all. Sides it gives me a chance to see me and Wardell's sister. JUANITA. I onced made a rooster outta beans and lentils when I was a girl. At Vacation Bible School. It was almost life-like. G.W. I see. (*Back to ODELL*) How is ol' Mozelle?  
 ODELL. Oh, she's fine.  
 G.W. You know, me and Mozelle — we had us some good times once upon a time.  
 ODELL. You know her and Darrel have had a buncha marital problems. He beat her up a few times, but after me and Wardell went over there and showed him what a good ass-whoopin' was all about, he's been a perfect husband and father ever since. You know how Bubba feels about his little sister. (*Showing another string trick*) Teepee.  
 JUANITA. Mama hung ol' Cockadoodle up in the kitchen — that's what I called 'im — Cockadoodle — but the bowl weevils started eatin' them beans...(*Gets emotional*)...and that was all she wrote.  
 G.W. (*A glance to JUANITA*) Amazing. (*Back to ODELL*) Well, I never thought that Darrel Koontz never was worth a good goddam anyhow. Any man who beats a woman is no man at all. ODELL. He's in group therapy for abusive husbands now. A buncha wife beaters gets together once a week with this specialist in wife beatin' and they purge. Some of 'em are dead-beat dads too. There used to be two groups, one for wife beaters and one for dead-beat dads, but so many crossed over from one group to the next, that they merged. (*Thinks*) Hey, they merged and they purged.

(*G.W. just looks at her; shakes his head*)

SORDID LIVES