

WRANGLER

The scene is the sheriffs office in a western town.

Sheriff Tom

Missy (Honey McCreedy)

Wrangler (Elmer McCreedy)

Pops (Mister Joshua McCreedy)

Sidewinder

Lawyer man

The Judge (Freddie McCreedy)

Madam

Mama (Melissa McCreedy)

SCENE 1

Missy is in the cell when Sheriff Tom enters with a handcuffed Wrangler .

MISSY

Oh! No!

SHERIFF TOM

Simmer down now Missy. You knew we was gonna catch up with Wrangler sooner or later.

WRANGLER

If you knew that why in tarnation didn't you tell me?

MISSY

I didn't actually know it Wrangler.

SHERIFF TOM

It was just a figure of speech, boy.

WRANGLER

How's I supposed to know that?

SHERIFF TOM

Why, everybody knows that. Ain't that right Missy?

MISSY

Sure is. I thought you knew that much. But I also thought you knew enough not to get caught so easy.

SHERIFF TOM

Now don't be so hard on old Wrangler here, he was up against the number one lawman in these parts.

MISSY

He should have been able to get away from you. After all, you are the only lawman in these here parts.

WRANGLER

Which makes you the worst lawman in these parts, don't it.

SHERIFF TOM

Worst or best don't matter much now do they, seein's how you are in my custody. *(Pushing Wrangler against the cell door.)*

WRANGLER

Somebody must have told you where I was a'headen. That's it. Ain't it?

MISSY

Nobody told him. You and me was the only ones who knew that you was going to ---

WRANGLER

Now that ain't exactly true, Missy, you see I might have let it slip to some one. Accidental like. That is, I kind'a told somebody.

MISSY

You kind'a told somebody where the money is hidden?

WRANGLER

Not that.

SHERIFF TOM

Now hold on here a minute while I get me a paper to write all this down.

(He takes a pad and pencil out of his pocket and of course wets the point with his tongue.)

WRANGLER

Didn't we swear not to tell any one about that?

MISSY

Sure we did.

SHERIFF TOM

You two mean to say that you know where the money is?

MISSY

What money?

WRANGLER

Yeah. What money?

SHERIFF TOM

The hidden money! You just now said --- (*Looking at his pad.*) Here it is. (*To Missy.*) You were talking about some money being hid somewhere. See, I got it right here in my note book. And how Wrangler here told someone about it.

MISSY

Well, yes, but I didn't really know what money it was. And Wrangler here thought that I told about where he was headed when you caught him.

WRANGLER

He didn't actually catch me.

SHERIFF TOM

What?

WRANGLER

You see I was on my way back here to save you when I accidental like run into the sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

That's a lie. I caught you fair and square. But back to the money. You too know where some money is hidden, is that right?

MISSY

Well yes, but, we probably aren't the only ones.

WRANGLER

That's right sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

Now, slow down a bit. So you two know where the money is. Is that right?

WRANGLER

That's right sheriff.

MISSY

That's right sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

What money are we talkin' about?

(The two look at each other for support.)

MISSY

Why the money from the train robbery.

WRANGLER

Why the money from the bank robbery.

MISSY

Bank robbery.

WRANGLER

Train robbery.

SHERIFF TOM

Now hold on just a dang minute here you two. Was it a train robbery or a bank robbery?

MISSY

Bank ---

WRANGLER

Train robbery. It was a train robbery sheriff. Missy don't know the whole story, do you honey. Listen sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

She don't? And why are you callin' her honey? Everyone knows her name is Missy.

MISSY

Well no it isn't sheriff. My real name is Honey. Everybody just calls me Missy cause my daddy did, and we ain't sure why. Except that he always had some trouble remembering things.

SHERIFF TOM

Like maybe about train robberies or bank robberies?

WRANGLER

I don't know for sure what he remembers or don't remember. Why sometimes I wonder if he knows who I am.

MISSY

Oh, he knows who you are all right. He just don't remember your name is all.

(Lawyer enters.)

LAWYERMAN

Hold on there sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

I ain't never seen a place where news travels faster. What are you doin' here Lawyerman? Why I ain't even actually arrested him yet. As a matter of fact I barely got him into custody and you show up. How's that I ask you? Ain't you gonna answer me?

LAWYERMAN

Well Tom, it's like this ---

SHERIFF TOM

Don't go gettin' so friendly bub.

WRANGLER

He don't like being called by his name ---

SHERIFF TOM

I am the duly elected Sheriff of Nowhere and would like to be addressed as such. Especially in my own office.

LAWYERMAN

Is that what this is? I thought it was a jailhouse. Now to the business at hand. I would like to speak to my client.

SHERIFF TOM

Go right on ahead.

LAWYERMAN

In private, if you would allow?

SHERIFF TOM

I would, exceptin', we ain't got none of that here.

LAWYERMAN

I had an idea. Why not let me talk to my client outside.

SHERIFF TOM

So he can escape? Is that what you have in mind, Lawyerman.

WRANGLER

LAWYERMAN

I ain't gonna escape. Why I He isn't my client.
practically turned myself in.

SHERIFF TOM

You never done no such thing. I caught you fair and square. What do you mean he ain't your client? Then what are you doin' here?

MISSY

It's me sheriff. I'm his client.

WRANGLER

What about me?

LAWYERMAN

I don't think you can afford me, son. *(Taking the sheriff aside.)* Now, sheriff isn't there some way that my client and I could arrange to have a few minutes alone.

(Wrangler follows behind the two men.)

LAWYERMAN (cont'd)

Pardon me, sheriff but isn't this young man in custody?

SHERIFF TOM

Yes he is.

LAWYERMAN

Then why is he roaming around your office so freely?

SHERIFF TOM

Reason is, I only got one cell and common decency ---

LAWYERMAN

He's a man and she's a woman and ---

SHERIFF TOM

So I can't very well lock them in there together or nothin' like that. That would be shameful, now wouldn't it?

LAWYERMAN

So, you can't see a way for my client and I to have a private conversation. May I make a suggestion?

SHERIFF TOM

I wish someone would.

WRANGLER

I got an idea sheriff ---

SHERIFF TOM

(Turning on Wrangler he handcuffs him to a bar.) I'll do all the idea gettin' in this here jail. If you don't mind.

LAWYERMAN

Well done sheriff. Now why don't you and I step outside and have a little private chat?

SHERIFF TOM

You and me?

LAWYERMAN

A private chat.

SHERIFF TOM

Just what did you want to chat about?

LAWYERMAN

Those two appear to be safely confined. So why don't you and I reconvene in the great outdoors for a little uninterrupted private conversation and maybe we can come to some agreement and a reconciliation of our differences on the matter of my being able to converse with my client in privacy.

SHERIFF TOM

Them's a lot of words to say let's you and me go outside and talk.

LAWYERMAN

I can't help it sheriff.

MISSY

He is a lawyer after all.

SHERIFF TOM

He sure is. All right let's you and me take a little walk.
(The two men exit.)

MISSY

You didn't really tell any one did you.

WRANGLER

Of course not. That money is our future stake Honey. I only said it to confuse the sheriff. But why did you mention the money. Even if he guessed where I was headed he couldn't have known about the money.

MISSY

So the money is still there?

WRANGLER

No I already got to it before I turned back to come and get you.

MISSY

Why'd you do that?

WRANGLER

Cause I love you to bits, Honey.

MISSY

I know that, and I love you to bits too Wrangler but where is the money then?

WRANGLER

Right here in my coat pockets.

MISSY

And the sheriff didn't find it when he searched you?

WRANGLER

He didn't search me. He just asked if I had a gun. Which I didn't so I told him.

MISSY

And he took your word for it?

WRANGLER

He is the best and worst lawman in these here parts.

MISSY

He is definitely the worst. What about the money?

WRANGLER

He didn't ask so I didn't tell.

MISSY

I mean what were you, are you going to do with the money. He is going to take your coat away when he locks you up. Then he'll find the money and were sunk.

WRANGLER

I figured on hiding it before then.

MISSY

How?

WRANGLER

I was gonna beat him to the punch and just hang my coat up on one of them pegs.

MISSY

How are you going to do that?

WRANGLER

Simple. I just take the coat off hand hang it up.

(Wrangler slips his free arm out of the sleeve and the coat hangs from the handcuffed arm.)

MISSY

Brilliant. And how are you going to do that. I love you Wrangler but you are a trial.

WRANGLER

Damn! Guess I didn't think this through.

MISSY

Quick, give me the money.

WRANGLER

What are you gonna do?

MISSY

I'm gonna take the money and run away with it.

(He stares at her blankly.)

MISSY (cont'd)

What do you think I am gonna do with it. Just give it to me.

(He fumbles through his coat pockets clumsily.)

MISSY (cont'd)

Put the coat back on. Then give me the money.

WRANGLER

That's why I love you, cause you're so smart. *(As he fumbles getting back on.)* There now, I got it back on.

MISSY

Now, give me the money.

WRANGLER

I almost forgot.

MISSY

What?

WRANGLER

To give you the money.

MISSY

Just give it to me.

WRANGLER

Sure honey. *(He removes a canvas bag and hands it to her.)* But what in creation are you gonna do with it all?

MISSY

Don't know yet but I'll think of something.

WRANGLER

You better hurry before Sheriff Tom comes back.

MISSY

Don't worry about him. He's talking to a lawyer, they could be out there for hours.

(She removes her belt and goes to the window.)

WRANGLER

Can you believe that I forget that some times?

(She fastens bag to belt then tosses it out the window.)

BLACKOUT

END SCENE 1

SCENE 2

The same, an hour later. Missy is no longer holding the money. Wrangler is still handcuffed to the cell but slumped to the floor with the handcuffed arm up in the air.

WRANGLER

I think I hear something.

MISSY

Well at least we know that you ain't deaf.

WRANGLER

(Rising to his feet.) I think Sheriff Tom is coming back.

(As predicted Sheriff Tom enters.)

SHERIFF TOM

Wrangler, boy. You told me you wasn't armed and I believed you. Why do you think that was?

WRANGLER

Cause you know I'm a truthful person?

SHERIFF TOM

Cause your Mama told me that you left it in the barn.

MISSY

You lost your gun?

WRANGLER

I didn't lose it. I just put it down for a minute. So I guess it's still there where I left it. It ain't lost or nothin' like that.

SHERIFF TOM

Now I'm gonna ask you another question and I hope you'll be as honest this time.

WRANGLER

I'll try my best Sheriff Tom.

MISSY

You know he will, Sheriff. Just don't make it too hard of a question. Okay?

SHERIFF TOM

Who's money were you two talking about before?

MISSY

Go on and tell him Wrangler honey.

SHERIFF TOM

I thought you was Honey, Missy. *(Laughing to himself.)* That was kinda funny. Wasn't it?

WRANGLER

Not so much.

SHERIFF TOM

Now, you didn't answer my question.

WRANGLER

Well, you see ---

MISSY

It's my money sheriff.

SHERIFF TOM

Where did you get the money Honey. *(Again he laughs at his own joke.)* Sorry I cain't help it. It's just funny to me is all.

MISSY

A person shouldn't laugh at their own jokes.

WRANGLER

Specially if they ain't funny.

(The Judge enters.)

MISSY

Sheriff, please don't mention the money to The judge. Please?

SHERIFF TOM

Afternoon, your honor. What can I do for you?

THE JUDGE

I heard that you had these two young people in custody and I was wondering what it is that they had done to warrant such action.

WRANGLER

Judges is lawyers too ain't they.

MISSY

Long winded any way.

SHERIFF TOM

She's in my protective custody, Judge.

THE JUDGE

What about him, sheriff?

SHERIFF TOM

Well Pops kinda asked me to hold on to him until things get sorted out.

MISSY

We're gonna get married Judge.

SHERIFF TOM

Against your fathers wishes, young lady?

MISSY

Against every bodies wishes it seems.

THE JUDGE

I have some news for you Sheriff Tom. You can't go around locking folks up just because a friend of yours asks you to. That's the law. You need probable cause and a warrant. Which by the way I don't remember issuing. And since I am the only one in this town who can, I think it would behoove you to turn them loose before they decide to sue you for false arrest.

SHERIFF TOM

I didn't actually arrest Wrangler Your Honor. I just brung him in for questioning on another matter.

MISSY

What other matter?

THE JUDGE

Do you have an answer for Missy sheriff?

SHERIFF TOM

You see judge, Missy is the other matter.

THE JUDGE

You do intend to explain that answer don't you?

SHERIFF TOM

It's a rather delicate matter Judge. I don't want to discuss it in front of them. If you know what I mean.

THE JUDGE

I am afraid I don't know what you mean.

SHERIFF TOM

You see Missy asked me not to talk about a certain thing and Pops asked me not to talk about a certain other thing and I think I got myself into a pickle here.

THE JUDGE

Sounds to me like a jar of pickles. Is there maybe something that Wrangler asked you not to talk about?

WRANGLER

Just about the gun Sheriff Tom. I'm a little red faced about the gun is all.

SHERIFF TOM

I'll tell you what we'll do. Let's you and I leave these two just as they are and take a little walk so I can explain it all to you.

THE JUDGE

I have a much better idea. Why don't you release them both and then we can have our little talk right here?

SHERIFF TOM

Ain't you afraid they might run off again?

THE JUDGE

Tell you what, I'll just keep his horse over at my place ---

WRANGLER

Don't you worry Sheriff Tom. I wont be goin' nowhere. I promise.

MISSY

And I can stay right here. Right here in this cell. This nice cozy cell.

SHERIFF TOM

That won't be necessary Missy. If the judge says it's okay to turn you two loose then that's exactly what I'm gonna do.

MISSY

No really. I can stay here and Wrangler will promise not to take off and besides Pops might pop his cork if you let me out. Ain't that right sheriff?

THE JUDGE

Pops isn't going to pop anything, I'll see to that. You don't worry about him. I'm the law around here not him.

SHERIFF TOM

I thought I was the law around here.

THE JUDGE

You are law enforcement. I am the law. Have you got that? Now turn them loose.

(Sheriff Tom unlocks the cell. Missy does not move. He uncuffs Wrangler. Missy goes to the bunk and sits down.)

MISSY

I really am quite comfortable right here Sheriff. Can't I stay, just a little while? Judge?

THE JUDGE

I never did understand women. But I do understand the law Missy and you are free to go so go on and get out of here. Sheriff Tom and me got things to discuss. And I told you not to worry about your daddy. He and I are also going to have a talk.

MISSY

This place could use a little fixing up. Maybe some curtains?

SHERIFF TOM

Now go on. Get. *(He ushers them out the door.)*

THE JUDGE

(Sits behind the sheriff's desk and puts his feet on it.) Some thing smells like a dead polecat, to use the vernacular.

SHERIFF TOM

Never heard it called that before. Go ahead Judge I'll wait right here.

THE JUDGE

I don't suppose you have a dictionary handy.

SHERIFF TOM

Never needed one.

THE JUDGE

(To himself.) Probably wouldn't do any good in any case. Let's get right to the nub here Tom. Why are you doing the bidding of old man McCreedy?

SHERIFF TOM

Me and Pops go back a long ways, Freddie. Can I call you Freddie.

THE JUDGE

No you may not. I worked damn hard to get where I am. And where I am is Judge of this here territory. So you can damn well call me Judge or Your Honor. That said Tom, you don't mind me calling you Tom do you sheriff? What in hell is going on here?

SHERIFF TOM

Near as I can figure Pops don't want his daughter goin' around with Wrangler. I wish I could remember that boy's real name.

THE JUDGE

It's Elmer.

SHERIFF TOM

That's right. Any way, when Pops got suspicious that they might take it in their heads to run away, he asked me to slow them down a bit. So, that's what I done.

THE JUDGE

By locking them up. Which by the way, is not legal, which you already know because I told you it was.

SHERIFF TOM

Oh, I already new that. That's why I didn't arrest them. I just kind of detained them. Slowed them down a might, you could say.

(The door opens and Pops enters dragging Missy behind.)

POPS

I thought I told you to keep her here til I got control of the situation. Oh, hello Freddie, didn't know you was here.

THE JUDGE

As you can plainly see, I am here.

POPS

Well, there's no need for any Judgin'. This here is family business.

THE JUDGE

People getting locked up in a jail in my jurisdiction isn't family business it's my business.

MISSY

If it's okay with all ya'll I'll just wait in the cell while you menfolk settle things.

SHERIFF TOM

You didn't bring any curtains with you?

MISSY

No I didn't. But you sure could use something to brighten up this dreary place.

POPS

You be quiet and get in that cell.

MISSY

Yes, daddy. *(She enters the cell and can be seen struggling with something outside the window when the men are not looking)*

SHERIFF TOM

It's supposed to be dreary in jail.

THE JUDGE

McCreeedy! Take a seat.

POPS

This ain't your courtroom Freddie.

SHERIFF TOM

He calls you Freddie.

THE JUDGE

He's kin. And for your information Pops, where ever I am is a courtroom. Young lady,---

(She is startled and turns from the window and stares at the judge without responding.)

THE JUDGE

Miss Honey McCreeedy?

MISSY

Yes, Uncle Freddie.

POPS

You be respectable Missy.

MISSY

I mean Judge.

THE JUDGE

Don't mind him darlin'. You seem to like it here, do you mind telling me why?

MISSY

Because it will be quiet and peaceful when all you men leave. Not at all like home.

POPS

Now, Missy everything at home would be a whole lot quieter if you just obeyed your daddy.

SHERIFF TOM

Enough of the McCreeedy family squabbles, leastways in my office. You'll have plenty of time for that after the judge here figures out what I am supposed to do with Missy here.

POPS

Don't you raise your voice to me. I run this town and I run everything in it. Ain't that right Freddie?

THE JUDGE

No it isn't, Joshua McCreedy. And from now on you better show some respect for other people. Why you have got this whole town riled up over what the sheriff calls family business.

(Sidewinder enters with Wrangler he has his gun stuck in Wranglers back.)

SIDEWINDER

I got him sheriff. You won't believe it but he was just walkin' down the middle of main street.

POPS

Who in heck is he?

WRANGLER

I'm Wrangler. See Missy I told you he didn't know who I was.

MISSY

And I thought he couldn't remember your name.

POPS

Dam'it! I know who Wrangler is. He's the one fixin' to run of with my Missy. Who in hell is this other feller? Is what I want to know.

SIDEWINDER

They call me Sidewinder, and I'm here to collect the reward.

WRANGLER

I told you Pops knew who I was.

THE JUDGE

What reward?

SIDEWINDER

Pops? Say? Ain't you the one offerin' the reward?

SHERIFF TOM

Ain't nobody offerin' no rewards that I know about.

THE JUDGE

Now Joshua, you haven't been making your own law again have you. Because so help me, one of these days I'm going to sign a warrant to have Tom put you in that cell until I can figure out a way to show you that you don't run things like you used to. We got the law here now and the law is, well it's the law.

POPS

I'll offer any reward I want to. It's my money and if I want to reward someone for doing my bidding, then that's what I'm gonna do and there ain't nobody can stop me.

THE JUDGE

May I remind you that I am ---

POPS

The judge! That's right, you are and let me remind you that I made you the judge and I can unmake you.

SHERIFF TOM

I hate to disagree Pops ---

POPS

Then don't.

SIDEWINDER

I don't care about all this. I just want to collect my reward for bringing in this here Wrangler fella.

THE JUDGE

Son, why don't you just take seat over there and I'll get to you after I resolve some of these more pressing matters?

SIDEWINDER

Just a dalgarn minute. There aint nothing more pressen than my reward. I got bills to pay ---

THE JUDGE

Sheriff, since the cell is in use why don't you take mister Sidewinder outside and shoot him before I lose my temper?

SHERIFF TOM

Whatever you say Judge.

SIDEWINDER

I'll just have a seat over there and wait my turn, if you don't mind.

THE JUDGE

Thank you. Now, where was I? Oh, yes. The law, I was talking about the law. Joshua, you don't want sheriff Tom to have to take you outside and shoot you. --- Do you?

MISSY, POPS, WRANGLER

You can't do that!

SHERIFF TOM

They might just be right. On second thought, if I can shoot this Sidewinder here under the Judges orders, I guess I can shoot any body he tells me to.

WRANGLER

Why is that?

THE JUDGE

Cause, I am the law here.

SIDEWINDER

We are gettin' off the track here ain't we?

WRANGLER

What track? That their train never came near this town. Why in tarnation do you think it's named Nowhere?

(Madam, the town Madam enters with Lawyerman behind her.)

SIDEWINDER

No wonder it took me so long to find my way back here.

POPS

Back here? What do you mean, back here? I ain't never laid eyes on you before today.

MADAM

Now you just take a good look at him for yourself.

LAWYERMAN

Well I'll be.

POPS

You'll be what, Lawyer man? Madam Dolores, just what do you think you're doing here?

MADAM

I wanted him to see for himself.

POPS

You wanted him to see what, exactly?

MADAM

I wanted him to see how you have turned into a monster who cares about nothing but himself.

SHERIFF TOM

Madam Dolores don't you think that you are being just a tad harsh?

MADAM

Don't call me madam.

LAWYERMAN

Now, Madam Dolores I don't know what you are trying to accomplish by making accusations against Joshua. As his attorney let me inform you that you are opening a can of worms that maybe don't want to be opened. After all I would have to make a serious decision as to where my loyalties lie, in the face of my representing both of you. Their might be legal ramifications for representing both of you.

POPS

Awe, shut up. You represent everybody in this town.

WRANGLER

Why do you represent every body in town?

THE JUDGE

Because he and I are the only ones in the territory to pass the bar. And you can't be a lawyer without passing the bar.

MISSY

He ain't never passed a bar so far as I know.

SHERIFF TOM

He practically lives at the 'Two Forks Saloon'

LAWYERMAN

Not funny Tom!

SHERIFF TOM

Somebody was gonna say it.

THE JUDGE

You have to admit that would be a hard pun to pass up on.

WRANGLER

What are they talkin' about Missy?

MISSY

Something to do with the saloons in town. Not really sure.

WRANGLER

I meant the pun thing.

MISSY

I dunno.

MADAM

Kids today. What do they learn in schools. A pun, for your information, is a play on words. A joke based on the misinterpretation of the meaning of a word or words.

MISSY

Dang, Madam Delores, where'd a whore learn something like that?

MADAM

I'm not a whore. I am a Madam. Whores work for me. And how many times do I have to tell? Don't call me Madam.

SHERIFF TOM

That wasn't Missy. That was me you told.

POPS

Where'd you learn to talk like that girl? You didn't learn words like that in my house.

MISSY

Don't know where else I could have learned them.

MADAM

She damn well learned to talk like that from you.

MISSY

You tell him Madam. I mean don't call you Madam.

(As she signals Wrangler to get away. Which he does.)

There was that kind of talk could be heard all over our house.

MADAM

Do you hear what she's saying ---

MISSY

Especially when you was visitin, don't call me madam.

POPS

Why she never set foot ---

MADAM

I never set foot in your house you little tramp.

MISSY

Who are you callin a tramp

POPS

You don't be callin my little girl a tramp you, you

MISSY

You Madam you. You are the Madam, Madam, aint you.

SHERIFF TOM

Now you watch your mouth Missy

POPS

Tom I'll do the reprimandin' of my family members.

(As the others begin to argue Missy slides to the background. Mama enters.)

MAMA

What's going on here?

(She is completely ignored.)

THE JUDGE

Joshua! You ought not to be yelling at my employee.

SHERIFF TOM

I aint no employee of yourn. I am the dully elected sheriff of Nowhere and I work for the people that done elected me.

MADAM

They's only forty two of us and we always vote like the Judge tells us to. So I guess that he's the one what got you electeded.

MAMA

Honey darlin, what's going on here?

MISSY

Nothing much Mama. You should just go home.

THE JUDGE

Sheriff Tom either you acknowledge that you work for me or sidwinder here just might end up the new sheriff after the next election.

POPS

Truth be told I don't care a whit about who the next sheriff is or whether he is your employee or not. I'll do the reprimandin' in my family and that includes you little brother.

SHERIFF TOM

Sure thing. You do the reprimandin' an I'll do the arrestin'

MAMA

Who is he planning to arrest?

LAWYERMAN

Who are you planning to arrest Tom?

SHERIFF TOM

I already done arrested him. Got him in custody right now.
Ain't that why you are hear.

THE JUDGE

You've got someone in custody?

SHERIFF TOM

Got him right here.

(He looks around and can't find Wrangler.)

SHERIFF TOM

Now where in tarnation did that boy get to?

MAMA

Are you lookin for Elmer? He just walked out the door.

MADAM

You really know how to run a jail Sheriff Tom.

THE JUDGE

Not for much longer I can tell you that.

POPS

You forget who owns this town. Who runs this town.

(Every one rushes to the door except Mama.)

MAMA

It's no wonder they didn't bring that Railroad near this town.

MISSY

Why do you say that Mama?

MAMA

Because it's full of idiots. That's why.

MISSY

Mama, can I ask you something? It's kind of personal.

MAMA

Now we've already been all over the birds and bees ain't we?

MISSY

It ain't about that Mama.

MAMA

That's good, because I think I forgot what it was I told you.

MISSY

It wasn't about birds and bees and stuff. It was about, well
when I was born ---

MAMA

We ain't gonna go through all that again are we?

MISSY

No we are not.

MAMA

Thank goodness for that.

MISSY

Do you remember when I was born?

MAMA

A woman can't forget a thing like that.

MISSY

Good.

MAMA

Why, I remember it was the very same day little Elmer was born.
Now that boy was difficult on his first day. Gave me a hell of a
time.

(Missy reacts to what she just heard as Wrangler appears in the cell window and speaks thru the bars.)

WRANGLER

Missy, *(Now louder.)* Missy

(Missy looks at the window then back at Mama. She is trying to figure out what's going on.)

WRANGLER

Missy *(Shouting.)* Missy.

MAMA

What's he doing?

MISSY

Mama what do you mean he gave you a hell of a time?

WRANGLER

Missy?

MAMA

Who is that, what does he want?

MISSY

(To wrangler.) What do you want?

WRANGLER

I want you.

MISSY

I want you too honey.

WRANGLER

I want you to come over here to the window and get this.

MISSY

Oh the hell with it. Mama is tryin to tell me something important.

MAMA

I am not.

WRANGLER

Missy you come over here now or we are done for.

MAMA

What does he mean?

MISSY

(Moving toward the cell window.) Mama you have to tell me everything. Wrangler what do you want?

(He tosses the bag thru the bars.)

MAMA

Was that Elmer?

WRANGLER

Honey take this they'll be here any second. Love you, gotta hightail it.

MISSY

Love you too.

MAMA

I thought he done run away. *(Then seeing the bag.)* And what is that?

MISSY

Never you mind what this is. Finish what you was sayin about me and Wrangler bein born the same time.

MAMA

I only mentioned that he was a difficult birth, is all.

MISSY

How could that be? You was given birth to me. It was my birthday, after all.

MAMA

Oh! Darlin' girl it wasn't like that.

MISSY

Then what was it like?

(The door bursts open and sidewinder enters.)

SIDEWINDER

I don't know what's a goin on but they sure ain't throwin' no party for him. *(He looks out the door.)* They bringin' him in now. *(He exits.)*

MAMA

You had better hurry and tell me what that --- why that looks like money?

MISSY

It is money.

MAMA

Who's money?

MISSY

It's ours.

MAMA

Ours?

MISSY

Ours!

MAMA

Ours?

MISSY

Not ours, yours and mine ours. Ours, mine and Wranglers ours.

MAMA

I don't understand.

MISSY

That's good Mama. You are good at that.

MAMA

Good at what?

MISSY

Not understandin'! Mama, give me your apron.

MAMA

Why?

MISSY

Just give it here.

MAMA

All right. Here, take it. Nothing you have been doin' lately makes any sense.

(Mama gives Missy the apron, which she uses to wrap up the money and then tosses it into a corner as the sheriff enters with Wrangler at gun point. He is followed by Sidewinder, Lawyerman, The Judge, Pops and Madam.)

MISSY

Why didn't you keep goin?

SHERIFF TOM

He did. He kept goin to where I thought he might.

SIDEWINDER

I drove him to where he was a goin.

(Sidewinder has a seat at the Sheriff's desk and puts his feet up.)

LAWYERMAN

That poor fella ran right into a trap is what occurred if you want to know the truth.

MADAM

Truth? Why no lawyer I know deals with the truth.

LAWYERMAN

That is a libelous statement Miss. Madam Dolores.

THE JUDGE

Nobody knows her name, dammit and you know that.

POPS

Now you see what I have to put up with trying to run this town.

MAMA

Will someone tell me what in tarnation is goin' on and why did you arrest that boy?

LAWYERMAN

I submit that there are no grounds for any arrest.

SHERIFF TOM

You can submit any thing you want, why you can do it in triplicate for all I care. Wrangler stole money what did not belong to him.

MISSY

It does belong to him and he did not steal it.

LAWYERMAN

If and I reiterate, if he took the money then where is it.

WRANGLER

Answer that one will you sheriff. Where is the money?

WRANGLER

Where's the money they ask?

MAMA

I'll tell you ---

THE JUDGE

Why are you constantly interrupting?

WRANGLER

You ain't deaf, Judge she said she want's to tell us something. Go ahead tell them Mama.

MISSY

Don't you call her Mama. She's my Mama.

WRANGLER, MISSY, SIDEWINDER, SHERIFF TOM,
LAWYERMAN & WRANGLER

Everybody calls her Mama.

SHERIFF TOM

Have you all gone loco?

SIDEWINDER

I don't understand.

WRANGLER

You don't understand?

THE JUDGE

What's so unusual about that. You don't understand most things.

POPS

Don't you go picken' on that boy ---

SIDEWINDER

I aint no boy! I am a growed man.

MADAM

QUIET! Now quit your caterwaulin all of you and listen to me. Now what we got here is money which nobody knows who it belongs to and nobody knows where it is. Is that what this is all about?

SHERIFF TOM

That about is what it's all about. So somebody must know where it is. Am I right?

THE JUDGE

Are we talking about real money? Honest money?

LAWYERMAN

Or could we be talking about illegal money? Such as from a bank or train robbery.

POPS

What kind of nonsense are you spoutin' there lawyerman.

SHERIFF TOM

Hold your horses just a danged minute now.

MISSY

What in tarnation is a danged' minute.

MOMA

Who cares? I want to know about what the lawyer here is talking about. What train robbery?

MISSY

Yeah! And what bank robbery. We didn't steal no money.

MAMA

Any money!

MISSY

Any money.

MAMA

That's better.

SHERIFF TOM

Enough schoolmarmin'! Now, does any body know anything about any money?

LAWYERMAN

Well there has been talk over the years that there was a train robbery over in Not Dry Gulch City about 25 years ago---

POPS

There goes that lawyer talkin out his ass as usual. There was no railroad in Not Dry Gulch City 25 years ago.

THE JUDGE

There wasn't a Not Dry Gulch City 25 years ago.

MADAM

So there wasn't any train robbery and I'm betting there also wasn't a bank robbery neither.

WRANGLER

I don't know about no train robbery or bank robbery all I know is that Missy has an inheritance

POPS

That inheritance is still mine. It ain't hers til I die.

WRANGLER
We don't care. We are in love and we are leaving this town
forever ---

MISSY
Nowhere.

WRANGLER
What?

MAMA
What?

MISSY
This town is Nowhere not Forever. Any way when we was leavin we
stopped under the shade of this tree.

WRANGLER
And that's where we found it.

SHERIFF TOM
Found what?

MISSY
The bag with the money.

SIDEWINDER
From the train robbery?

POPS
Pay attention boy.

SIDEWINDER
I am a growed man.

MISSY
Actually what we found was a mark on the tree trunk.

WRANGLER
It was an arrow pointing down cut into the side of the tree.

MISSY
And the letters.

WRANGLER
Same as on the bag of money.

MISSY
Go get it and show them Wrangler honey.

WRANGLER
Where?

MAMA
In that apron.
(Missy retrieves the apron.)

WRANGLER
Why there's thousands in that bag.

SHERIFF TOM
What are those letters on the bag?

MISSY
C.S.A. But I don't know what they mean.

THE JUDGE
Let me see that money.
(He grabs the bag and reaches inside.)

MISSY
Hey you can't take that. Wrangler, stop him.
*(Wrangler reaches for the bag and money flies out
everywhere, the judge holds on to the bag as the others
scramble for the money.)*

THE JUDGE
Well I know what the letters mean. The Confederate States of America.

ALL
What?

WRANGLER
Is it fake?

SHERIFF TOM
I don't think so.

SIDEWINDER
It looks plenty real to me.

THE JUDGE
It is not fake.

MAMA
Thank goodness!

THE JUDGE
It also is not worth anything.

ALL
What?

THE JUDGE
The war ended, The Confederacy is no more the money is worthless.

ALL
Oh!

WRANGLER
Well I don't care Missy and me we still got each other. We don't need nothin' else. Right honey?

MISSY
We don't but we still have my inheritance.

POPS
Now hold on just one darned minute. Nobody is inheriten' my money til I'm dead.

MAMA
You liar! That money is supposed to go to Missy if she gets hitched. You said that yourself.

MADAM
That's right and I am a witness. He can't go back on his word, can he, Freddie?

SIDEWINDER
She called him Freddie.

THE JUDGE
That's my name son.

POPS
You're dadblamed right it is. And he aint got nothin to say on this mater. Do you Freddie? If wrangler here thinks he's gonna get his hands on my money by marrrin my daughter he aint thinkin straight.

WRANGLER
I don't care about your money!

MISSY
You better care.

MAMA
I've just about enough of this. I want a de-vorse. Lawyerman you get the papers done.

LAWYERMAN

I am not a divorce attorney.

MAMA

You are now. Tell him Freddie. You tell him to make out some papers right this minute or I'll --

POPS

You'll what?

THE JUDGE

Never you mind Joshua McCreedy. Lawyer man, you grab a piece of paper and right down what ever goes on a divorce. Say what in tarnation is your name any way.

LAWYERMAN

Who me?

THE JUDGE

Yes you who's been lawyering here for I don't know how long. What in hell is your real name.

MADAM

I didn't think he had one. All the girls just call him Lawyerman.

LAWYERMAN

We don't need to go into that now.

MAMA

You just get to work on that there de-voice.

(Mama takes some papers from the desk and writes something on it. She then hands it to Pops.)

POPS

You wouldn't dare.

(Madam whispers something in The Judges ear.)

THE JUDGE

You wouldn't dare.

(He thinks for a second then grabs another piece of paper and writes something on it and hands it to Lawyerman. Lawyerman looks it over.)

LAWYERMAN

As Attorney of record. I offer this request for divorce to your honor and ask for an immediate ruling.

(He signs the paper and hands it to the judge. Who looks at it and signs it.)

THE JUDGE

Melissa here is your divorce.

MAMA

Don't forget the settlement.

POPS

What settlement?

MAMA

Everything you had is mine and I'm given half of it to Missy so's she and Wrangler can get hitched and have a good start in life.

MISSY

What are you gonna do with the other half Mama?

MAMA

I'm gonna give it all away---

POPS

What in tarnation have you gone loco ---

To my new husband. MOMA
What? POPS
Just as soon as the judge here remarries me and your daddy. MAMA
Which one is that? SIDEWINDER
(Aside.) That is a whole other story. MADAM
THE END