

before everybody gets here. It's gonna be a long sit. (Raynelle and Delightful exit. The brothers look at the body.)

JUNIOR. Well, there it is, Ray. Death. Mortality. The Grim Reaper staring ya right in the face.

RAYBUD. (Truly sick.) Shut up, Junior.

JUNIOR. What's the matter, Ray?

RAYBUD. Nothin'.

JUNIOR. You don't look too good, Ray.

RAYBUD. I can't move, Junior.

JUNIOR. What do you mean you can't move?

RAYBUD. Get me out of here, Junior. I need some air.

JUNIOR. (As he slowly helps him out.) It's nothing to be scared of, Ray. It's just death. The end of the line. The last hurrah.

Crossing the River Jordan.

RAYBUD. Shut up, Junior.

JUNIOR. Why does Daddy have them dancing shoes on?

RAYBUD. I'll tell you later. Listen, Junior, when I'm feeling a little better, I want you to help me do something.

JUNIOR. Sure, Ray. What are we gonna do?

RAYBUD. (As they are exiting.) We're gonna beat the shit out of Cecil Depew.

BLACKOUT

*Start*

Scene 2

The visitation takes place in the various corners of the community room at Depew's. The lights come up on Raynelle, who is seated with Veda and Norval, an elderly couple.

VEDA. Well, we sure were sorry to hear about Bud.

RAYNELLE. Thank you, Veda. Norval's looking better than he did the last time I saw him.

VEDA. Well, he has his good days and his bad days. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, NORVAL? (Norval mumbles something unintelligible.)

RAYNELLE. What did he say?

VEDA. I believe he said: "The corn eats many miles." (She pats his hand.) THAT'S GOOD, NORVAL!

RAYNELLE. THAT'S REAL GOOD, NORVAL!

VEDA. Every once in a while, Norval takes a little walk through the garden, if you know what I mean.

RAYNELLE. Well. How are you doing, Veda? Haven't seen you in so long.

VEDA. Oh, not so bad, I guess. I still manage to get out to services on Sunday. And of course, we go into Timson every Wednesday for Norval's dialysis and to get his prescriptions filled. The doctor's got him on these new liver pills that seem to be working out a lot better. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, NORVAL? (Norval seems to have fallen asleep.) NORVAL! (She pokes him.) NORVAL! (He stirs and mumbles something else.)

Whew. I thought we'd lost him for a minute there. I got to remember to get them batteries changed on his pacemaker. Since he had his bypass done and his gallbladder out, I've noticed a real improvement. (She takes a small pill box out of her purse and shakes it. Responding to the sound, Norval opens his mouth and tilts his head back. Veda begins to feed pills to Norval as she talks.) AND NEXT MONTH, WE'RE GETTING RID OF THAT PROSTATE AREN'T WE, NORVAL? Of course, we got to keep that blood pressure down, and this one's for his stomach, and this one keeps them kidneys working. I'll tell you, it's a lot to remember. (She takes the last pill herself.)

RAYNELLE. I can imagine. (Veda takes a small lank of oxygen out of her bag and hands Norval the mask, which he places over his nose and mouth.)

VEDA. (As she turns the valve.) Of course, Verna Swindell comes in twice a week to help me with his bath and all. And she sits with him if I have to go into town. YA GETTING ANYTHING NORVAL? Of course, he's on a real strict diet so I got to be real careful what he eats. No salt, no sugar, no fat, no meat, no dairy, nothing too spicy, nothing too heavy. (Pulling a small package out of her bag.) YOU WANT A CRACKER? (He shakes his head.) Cracker, Ray?

RAYNELLE. (Taking one.) Thank you, Veda.