

MIDLAND - CLINT

EXT. THATCHER RANCH - DAY

A deep sky and towering clouds swirl over a vast undulating landscape. Clint and Cat CLIP CLOP through on horseback like figures wandering in a postcard.

CLINT

Forget just putting you in the ground. They'll blast you into space for a price. Press you into a diamond. Read the other day, I'm not making this up, they can turn you into lead for a pencil. How would you like that? Get to write up shopping lists with your dead relatives.

Cat eyes him. They ride in silence for a moment.

CAT

You're not... sick or something are you?

Clint LAUGHS.

CLINT

Jesus. You so much as mention death everybody thinks you're about to kick. I'm just making conversation. I've got at least another sixty before you turn me into anything.

CAT

Good.

They ride to the top of a small rise, stop. From here, the views stretch on for days. They drink it in without a word. After a moment Cat senses Clint's eyes on her. She turns to find him staring. She seems to understand, lets him look.

CLINT

You dodged a bullet, you know.

CAT

How's that?

CLINT

Don't think my features would have looked good on a woman. Lucky for you, you look just like her.

Cat turns back to the view. Clint lingers on her, then looks around.

CLINT (CONT'D)
This was her favorite spot.

CAT
I know.

A long silence. Only the clouds move.

CLINT
I don't think your brothers even remember.

CAT
They may have forgotten the exact day, but they remember, trust me.

CLINT
364 days a year I'm pretty much past it. Just this one I wish... hell, I'd settle for a pencil.

Cat smiles. A long beat. They change the subject with their eyes.

CAT
Thank you.

CLINT
Nothing to thank me for. You've been campaigning for him since the day you met. Just took me longer to listen than I care to admit. Got all wrapped up in wanting my little girl to go to a guy from money with obvious prospects for making more of it.

CAT
We tried that the first time, remember?

CLINT
Yes. And I was wrong about that one too. Apparently a good family name does not prevent you from being an ass.

CAT
Having Trammell should have taught you that.

Clint LAUGHS.

CAT (CONT'D)

You know, if I hadn't quit school to marry that moron you could be working with me instead of Tram.

CLINT

As far as I'm concerned only two good things came out of your first marriage: Grace, and the fact that it kept you away from the business. It's an ugly world where people do ugly things, me included. I've never wanted that for you.

CAT

But now you want it for my husband?

CLINT

Nope. I want Bob to keep doing just what he's doing. If there's heads to be cracked, I'll handle it. Lord knows I've spent a lifetime practicing.

CAT

I just hope...

CLINT

You think he might not take it?

CAT

He's got pride. You guys didn't want him before. He remembers that.

CLINT

Can't blame him. If it were me, I'd say you can stick that job right up your ass, old man. But I think Bob's going to say yes.

CAT

Why's that?

CLINT

Cause I think he might just be a better man than I am.