

131 CONTINUED:

(sarcastic)
Still lovey dovey?

JACK

(snorts)

Not hardly.

(drags on the joint)

Hell, me and Lureen was never that way.
She's good at makin' hard deals in the
machinery business, but so far as our
marriage goes, we could do it over the
telephone.

(passes it back to Ennis)

I kinda got a thing goin' with a little
gal over in Childress. Ranch hand's
wife. Expect to get shot by Lureen or
the husband one, ever' time I slip off to
see her.

ENNIS

(laughs)

Probably deserve it.

They both laugh...then the laughter trails off.

A beat.

JACK

(looks at Ennis)

Tell you what...truth is, I miss you so
much sometimes I could whip babies.

Pokes the fire.

Powerful look between them.

132 EXT: MOUNTAINS: TRAILHEAD: MORNING:

132

JACK and ENNIS are loading the horses into a trailer hitched
to ENNIS'S pickup truck.

Mood between them is tense, as always, when their time
together is about to end.

When the gate is shut on the horses, JACK pops his glove
against his leg a time or two...looks at ENNIS, who is
lighting a cigarette.

JACK

Guess I'll head on up to Lightnin' Flat.
See the folks for a day or two.

(CONTINUED)

ENNIS
(uncomfortable)
Somethin' I been meanin' to tell you,
bud. It's likely November before I can
get away again, after we ship stock and
before the winter feedin' starts.

JACK
(stunned)
November? What in hell happened a
August? Christ, Ennis, you had a fuckin'
week to say some little word about this.

ENNIS is silent.

JACK
(cont'd)
And why's it we're always in the friggin'
cold weather? We ought a go south, where
it's warm. We ought a go to Mexico.

ENNIS
Mexico?
(tries to lighten the mood)
Hell...you know me. 'Bout all the
travelin' I ever done is goin' around the
coffeepot, lookin' for the handle.

An uncomfortable silence.

ENNIS
(cont'd)
Lighten up on me, Jack. We can hunt in
November, kill a nice elk. Try if I can
get Don Wroe's cabin again. We had a
good time that year.

A beat.

JACK starts popping his glove on his leg again.

JACK
(bitter disappointment)
Never enough time, never enough.
(looks at Ennis)
You know, friend, this is a goddamn bitch
of a unsatisfactory situation. You used
a come away easy. Now it's like seein'
the Pope.

ENNIS
Jack, I got a work. Them earlier days I
used a quit the jobs. You forget how it
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: (2)

is bein' broke all the time. You ever hear a child support? Let me tell you, I can't quit this one. And I can't get the time off.

(pause)

Was tough enough gettin' this time. The trade-off was August.

(pause)

You got a better idea?

JACK

(bitter, accusatory)

I did, once.

ENNIS says nothing. Straightens up slowly, rubs at his forehead. Walks to the horse trailer, says something that only the horses can hear. Turns and walks back to JACK at a deliberate pace.

Mexico was THE place--ENNIS has heard.

ENNIS

You been a Mexico, Jack?

JACK, braced for it all these years, and here it comes, late and unexpected.

JACK

Hell yes, I been. What's the fuckin' problem?

ENNIS

I got a say this to you one time, Jack, and I ain't foolin'. What I don't know, all them things I don't know could get you killed if I should come to know them.

JACK

Try this one...

(pause)

...and I'll say it just one time. Tell you what, we could a had a good life together, a fuckin' real good life, had us a place of our own. You wouldn't do it, Ennis, so what we got now is Brokeback Mountain. Everything built on that. It's all we got, boy, fuckin' all, so I hope you know that if you don't never know the rest. Count the damn few times we been together in twenty years. Measure the fuckin' short leash you keep me on, then ask me about Mexico and then tell me you'll kill me for needin' somethin' I don't hardly never get. You

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)