

Notes

1

Short story (New Yorker style)
"Owl Hammock"

Don & Tina -- he takes her to Owl Hammock for her last outing. Knows she will die soon. Upholsters the area behind seat with his quilted camouflage coveralls (no pillows or blankets) ^{pick-room} like

- She wears a down coat that makes her look ^(wd) plump as she used to be and a ~~dark~~ gray knit cap ~~with~~ ~~with~~ to cover her balding head -- a pom-pom on top.

- yellowst cast in the cab of the tractor

-- He starts it first, gets down after her from pickup to tractor.

-- She keeps one gloved hand on his shoulder while he steers with his left foot? ~~from~~ right foot braced casually on the right side -- long legs sprawled (curls under cap)

- mirrors of twilight

- he stands on mud slick tracks of the
 crawler tractor (D1c) and coozer her
 toward the front; almost dark; ducks
 crying, splashing in water - she is seated
 in front seat "all bundled in her green
 down ~~stuff~~ ^{stuff} ^{hear} Bear. She asks if its a
 bear. He listens, "no, hogr it thinks."
 "It's a bear," she says. "You scared."

She looks at him; her eyes say
 why would I be afraid scared now?

He reaches inside & lifts her; she
 laughs (camoflex duck boots) She laughs,
 locks arm around his neck. He slips from
 tracks, they both sprawl in dewy ~~stale~~ grass.
 Her head snaps back; she lies still.
 He cracks flip to his bones. Stares at
 her. She starts laughing. Her cap is off -
 head bald; sprigs of hair. (He recalls
 seeing her walking along hall of hospital
 carrying a clear gallon jar of blood,
 healthful looking tomato juice. That
 was when they still believed she would
 live, they would lick the cancer. He ~~had~~
 later he bought her a real hair wig that made
 her look like a Seventies Barbie. They

had laughed then too - her hair would
snow-back.

"You okay?"

"Okay." She is suddenly solemn. "Help
me up before that bear eats us."

Ducks all around. Twiggy oak,
duck grass like finest lace, light snowing
on water.

He lifts her, sets her on the tractor track,
holds her around the waist. She feels
safe in the fluff of ^{grey} down.

"You cold?" he asks

"No."

"You ready to go?"

"No."

earlier say doctors
said soon when he
asked her how long she
here.

"We ought to. Before dark, I mean."

"I wish I could stay." (she says)

"We can't."

"I know. I have to go to ~~into~~
~~the~~ to the hospital to die."

"Jina"

"Sh! Sorry." She holds his head to her breasts
where her hearts would be if she had
breasts.

He feels her shake. Maybe crying. She
does that sometimes - silent crying.
Soon.

4
mention all phases of mood since
cancer discovered in 94

- she got her teaching degree regardless -
though she never used it. Never will
and she won't lie & say he hasn't thought
at times, that was the point in all that
expense - her education. He'll still
have to pay back the student loan; he
still has ~~all~~ 400,000 in medical
expenses. No ^{medical} insurance. Nobody's
fault. They were too young and healthy
for such frivolousness.

- mention how she loved him even after
her vaginal muscles were carried away

- (Beijing) She feels like a child. Like a cloud. Like
a wrinkle in a blanket.
Like a petite woman with her insides scooped out - which
she is. Last week, he asked ~~for~~ one of her many doctors when
how long? "Soon," he said. "A week at the most."

- use actual names, then change after story is
done.

no noise — a ~~plane~~ ^{jet} from Moody Air Force Base,
20 miles northwest of the swamp.

-- land bought when business going good, barely
kept — now about to let go because of other
debts.

~~A~~ man feels guilty because he's
relieved that it's almost over. Yesterday,
at Winn Dixie he had dropped his eyes
when they roamed to ~~the~~ ^{the} dairy ~~per~~ ^{per} wine section
& settled on ~~the~~ ^{the} butt cheeks of a young
woman.

She lies back with one ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~about~~ ^{padding} ~~over~~ ^{over} her
eyes. Her arm ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~look~~ ^{look} fat, her hand bony
as a claw. She sounds like she is laughing
crying, but she is laughing.