

Present tense
that pens

Armageddon

- 1. incident with Earlene
- 2. weight of dishes
- 3. teddy bear
- 4. Earlene walks off - (they separate)

One more turn around the fair grounds and Earlene can smell the manure & sawdust of the animal pens ^{in the building} on the south end, reminiscent of and it reminds her of PW's first time cheating on her, the ferris wheel on the northern end ~~ground~~ and Reida in her white rabbit fur and changed Mary Kaye face, staidy with Buck, her husband, by the dime pitch for cheap dishes reminds her of her second time cheating. ^{She says & know for sure.} The ferris wheel is turning red & blue & green on the other end. It is cold. So cold her feet have lost feeling. She's too old for this.

PW in his white felt cowboy hat ^{is leaning}, sitting ^{out of the ground} toward Reida & Buck with his hand ^{arm} around Earlene, a constant pressure meant to imply ^{signify} that she is protecting ~~her~~ from the crust of ^{eyes} people circling toward the sides on the other side.

"Come on," he says, "and I'll get you some dishes." Not a dish, not PW. Some dishes. He's already tried to win Earlene a teddy bear at the bottle pitch. She knows he'll try again.

"Well," he says to Buck "I'll be damned!"
"How you, PW?" says Buck, "Earlene".

Earlene ^{says} then turns with the men to watch Reida pitch a dime at a plate a crystal dish inside the wood frame of other tiered dishes. She squished

PW pissed because Buck says yes sir

discussion of truck wreck on 9/11 TV - (Covered by
Celebrity) ^{caption} has been it in the paper

first person

~~and stamped on her black~~ The dime skidded across
first one, two, three dishes, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ then dinged to
the floor of the display. Reida squealed and stamped
her black suede boots on the dirt. The banker
ambled around the display and gave Reida change for her
one dollar bill, then ambled off ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~player~~ on the
other side. She pitched again, once, twice, thrice and
each time the dime skidded & dinged to the floor
as before.

Buck & P W laughed, sidling thru the crowd toward
Reida.

"Hey, P W," she said, tilting her ^{light-white} head and looking
past Buck to Earlene. "Earlene, hey!" she said. "I
~~couldn't~~ ^{can't} win for losin'." She laughed, pitched again,
this time not even trying & the dime landed in
a purple crystal dish in the center.

She jumped up and down, holding P W's
arm, laughed & squealing, "Here, ya try," she said,
and dropped a dime in P W's hand.

He laughed and stepped to the board plank boundary,
aimed & pitched, and the dime skidded ^{along} ~~in the~~
^{the same course} same path as Reida's ^{dime} ~~dime~~ had.

Quickly he pitched again, and ^{again} ~~again~~ the dime
ranged ~~the~~ plate one & plate two and dropped beneath
into the catch bin below. He dug into ~~the~~
pocket of his jeans and sorted dime from the

P W tried
to get them
to ride ship
purts ship
he & Reida
do
staying around
watching
dime
get top
pick

other change in his hand, and pitched again, sitting lanky so that one smart ~~boots~~ ^{boots} ~~skin~~ ^{skin} boot ~~raised~~ ^{lifted} from the scuffed dirt. And again he missed.

Reida, holding her purple plate, turned to speak to somebody during P.W.'s next try and miss, and he looked back at her, then turned smiling at Buck & Carlene with the hanker in a ~~carpenter's white apron~~ ^{carpenter's white apron} - jelly at ~~him~~ ^{him} ~~met~~ ^{met} ~~let~~ ^{let} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woman~~ ^{woman} ~~ride~~ ^{ride} ~~him~~ ^{him}.

"You'll been riding much?" he says to Buck. ^{Buck is shy and shrugs, with his hands in his pockets (short denim jacket).}
"No sir," said Buck, "I don't ~~like~~ ^{like} the ride."

"Carlene won't get on nothing," P.W. said.

"Reida'll ride with you," said Buck. "She's been dying to get on that private ship yonder." He nodded toward the brightly lit ship swinging in the east.

noise
smells

"Hey, Reida!" yelled Buck. "Come on. P.W.'s ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~ride~~ ^{ride} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~private~~ ^{private} ~~ship~~ ^{ship} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~you~~ ^{you}."

~~P.W. & Reida~~ ^{P.W. & Reida}, stamping in the huddle of two other couples, would be plate at the couple & follow Buck & Carlene & P.W. thru the crowd arching north.

While ~~Reida~~ ^{Reida} & P.W. ~~ride~~ ^{ride} the ship, ^{with Reida,} Carlene holds her plate & Buck laughs & jerecks at everybody getting ~~side~~ ^{side}. Carlene kept ^{keeps} her eyes on P.W. & Reida, ramunched together in the middle seat of the ship as it swung to & fro, higher & higher. She wasn't sure whether P.W. & Reida were

he ties his way out Jerry they monopolize her / she
 feels she never quite knows him, that something's hidden.
 When she knows him, she can ~~beat him~~ end it all.
 seeing each other on the sly, but she was sure
 PW was restless & bored and on the
 verge of seeing somebody on the sly. She
 honestly didn't know if she cared or not (after
 — years of marriage, ^{if she didn't learn to} she'd come to
 divide it in 5? and guess he'd come down almost to
 the day when he would start ^{pulling} ~~slitting~~ then
 buying new clothes and then surprising her with
 some new fling. And now that he was 52,
 he had begun to seem simply foolish. On his
 52nd birthday last month, September, he'd been
 gone ^{all day} in his new pickup (bought loaded, meaning
 all accessories) and when he came home, ^{and she} ~~she~~
~~had~~ ^{had} learned that he'd gone to one of the nudgy
 dance bars popping upon Interstate 15. ^{North of Valdez} How
 had she found out? He'd stuck a paper cup in a
 sack of beer cans with the logo on it: We
 bare all. She never mentioned it. But she
 was glad for once that she didn't feel that familiar
 down-thrown of jealousy and anger ^{rising from her}
^{ribs to her face}

The ship rocked to a halt and PW stood, taking
 Reda's arm & stepped over the side, then he'd
 down the ramp toward Carls & Buck. He kept his
 her arm had on the elbow of her white rabbit fur

Laughing & walking north alongside Earle & Buck.

Reida was laughing, squealing, wailing at everybody, her pinked cheeks ^{and} pouting like left over silvane from her high hard breads.

Earle, still holdy to ~~plate~~, waited for her husband & Reida to ride the scramble & then the two swings, ~~while~~ while Buck loped off to get some curly fried. She watched

~~the~~ younger complex pass from along the walk way from the ^{row} game booths, the girl clutching stuffed bean & dogs ~~near~~ by their boy friends. ^(near as she & PW - everybody on the side she felt)

felt foolish ~~hold~~ clutching the plate and shaking. Either she should ride with Reida & Buck or ~~go~~ get a cup of coffee & sit with the old folks under the refreshment shelter. She should & have come.

As soon as Reida & PW got off the swings, she took off to find Buck & Earle & PW continued curdling the grounds. ~~At the last~~ passing the row of games, PW spent five dollar worth of quarters trying to win an oversized bean dog for Earle. ~~He~~ He could knock over only two of the three stacked bottles. Each time they set off curdling ~~and~~ water fang rounds, her fair handsome head would lift in search of Reida & Buck.

The ball man with steam dark eyes called them over ^{to the open your eyes} behind him ^{was} a shelf of ^{love} furry dice and tiny cloth dalmation puppies. "If I do & guess your age

Part
Retinal &
Down to
the fair

written 2 years ^{he said} "you get your pack of papers."
He turned to the papers.

"OK," says PW, "guess my old lady is
age."

"No," says Earlene "I don't think so."
She starts to walk off, knowing PW is paying
her a compliment, that he is proud she is still
young looking. She hasn't walked every day
for 20 years to have the results displayed for
a mean-eyed man at some fair.

The man reaches out & grabs her elbow. "Aw,
come on," he says. "Let him guess."

She stands there, looking at the man feeling
like the biggest fool in the world. ~~Let the~~
man stare at her face a moment, still holding a
small white pad & pencil. "Let me see your hand,"
She ~~lets~~ ^{passes} ~~for~~ the Reida's dish to PW and holds
out her hand, palm down. ~~It~~

The man examines them with his cold hard
eyes, squabbles on the pad, then asks how old
she is, "47," she says trying to keep back the
feeling that he might be surprised.

He holds out the pad, "52," he says, showing
them.

PW laughs, but Earlene can tell he doesn't
like it.

"You win the price," the man says.

She yanked out a ^{small} stuffed dolmatian & walked off with PW.

Now he has to find Rude & Buck, because, to give her her plate, he says. And on the circle, past the center park of rides, the walk of side show & food stand, and back to the ^{game booths,}

^{at the ball pit,} The man ~~at the~~ in the ^{grey} sweater with ^{grey} blonde hair know PW now. He calls him over. He is fat & ~~stare~~ soft and oily skinned, but smart & young. He's going to ^{give} ~~show~~ PW a differ type on how to knock the bottles over.

He steps over the wooden boardway & pitches at the center of the ^{pyramid} bottle supported on a bushel basket turned upside down. The ~~two~~ ^{hungry} bottles on the bottom

clack heavily & roll and the third collapses. PW shells ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~two~~ ^{two} over off the roll in ^{his} ~~his~~ pocket, pays the man for 3 trees & pitches. Each time toppling the one on top or ~~the~~ one on the bottom, but never all three. The man is eager now, secretly whispering to PW that he would like to get rid of his merchandise. It's the last night of the fair and he doesn't want to have to haul it load up for the next day. He stacks the bottles ^{by hand, demonstrates, & says PW is money} ~~on top of each other~~ ^{PW} steps back & PW pitches at the bottom one and all three tremble the top and middle bottles tumble to the

hanging dogs / colors

dead grassy flint, a young, the man warden
to the boundary and speak to Buck.

Earlene is colder now, yet it near midnight,
the crowd is thinning out. ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~she~~ ~~look~~

The dish is like ice in her hand. She look
around for Reider and Buck. ~~But~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~mid~~ ~~night~~
coming in for the mid-night ~~are~~ ~~circle~~
along the side of saw dust & gravel.

When she looks again at P.W., he is
pitching at ~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~sets~~ ~~the~~ ~~bottle~~ ~~on~~ ~~top~~ ~~of~~ ~~each~~ ~~other~~ - -
bottle stacked on top of each other.

no
change
Buck

He hits the bottom bottle & all three tumbled
the ~~man~~ ~~steps~~ ~~onto~~ ~~the~~ ~~plank~~ ~~boundary~~
& removes a large white fluffy dog body
a red padded heart with P.W. holding his grubby low-red points
to keep him from falling.

P.W. take the bear & walk off grumpy toward
Earlene. The young people see the huge page &
start for the booth with the hanging seat animals
But Earlene walk away, ahead of
him, her face flushed in the cold. He has
paid the man for the dog, then ~~looking~~ ~~at~~ ~~like~~ ~~he's~~ ~~won~~ ~~it~~ ~~fast~~ ~~and~~ ~~square~~, an
egg thing like a bird.

He is following her, grumpy holding up
the bear, and she keeps walking. She know
him now.