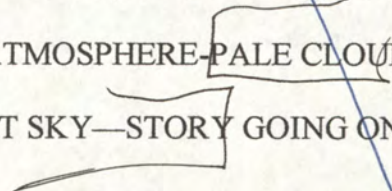




Living for Death—Going to Jackson Again--NOTES: MERGE PARTS OF THE FIRST SECTION WITH SCENE—INTERMITTENT—START WITH SCENE—CHANGE NAMES LATER—CRANDELLS (ALDAYS) JACOBS (ISACS); ALDAY CHILDREN HAVING LIVED THEIR WHOLE LIVES HEARING, BREATHING, EATING SLEEPING THE STORY OF THE ISSACS KILLING THERE GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES. HOW HAS IT AFFECTED THEM? FAMILY REUNION—MAKE IT REAL. SOMEBODY PRAYING FOR LOST LOVE ONES KILLED BY ISSACS AND OTHERS, THAT ISSACS WILL DIE TOO. IRONY. SEE STORY

Most children they knew feared television-bred spooks, teachers, their parents and the law. The Crandells feared the Jacobs. Donald Jacobs was their Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny wrapped up in one. He could bring joy and he could bring sorrow. If he got executed this go round, May 6, 2003, at 7 PM, their whole family would celebrate and the Crandells, what was left of them, could have peace, though they couldn't imagine it. They couldn't imagine what they would be happy and sad about after Donald Jacobs died. FLASH BACK TO REUNION—ATMOSPHERE—PALE CLOUDS AND WIND HERDING PALE CLOUDS ACROSS THE UNDERLIT SKY—STORY GOING ON THE DAY

them



ISACS IS TO DIE THAT EVENING. ALDAY BOY WAITING ALL DAY, CHECKING WATCH. GET INTO ATMOSPHERE. SETTING—GRANDMOTHER ALMOST 80 NOW—WHO IS MAIN CHARACTER—31 YEARS HAVE PASSED—COULD COULD HAVE 2 OR 3 CHILDREN, WIFE OF ONE OF THE DEAD SISTER IN LAW KILLED, OTHER IN LAWS—MURDER HAPPENED IN 1973

Killer storms in the mid-west and parts of the south, war just over in Iraq; now all the TV news could do was mull over what was, show what-was. The burned body of a boy about Kenny Crandell's own age he had seen so many times that he sometimes felt as if he were the burned boy wrapped in gauze with only his eyes showing like mirrors reflecting somebody else's eyes, somebody on hold, waiting for fate to make up its mind to go ahead and be done with him or give him another chance. Jacob's eyes or the eyes of any of the six family members, take your pick, of Kenny's family now, mere names on lined up tombstones at the graveyard down the road from where the Crandell clan lives, near the white shored-up church where they hold their family reunions each year under the picnic shelter, under the oaks, close enough to see the six graves with K-mart flowers and not a sprig of grass after 31 years and holding.

Every blessing over food, every prayer always either beginning or ending with the Jacobs' name on their lips, a prayer for Thy will be done but not meaning it, not a bit.

Today, Tues, May 6, 2003, 7 pm Donald Jackbos would either die by what the courts called "lethal injection" or be giving a "stay of execution" by some judge or the Georgia governor.

It's a school day in Nortonville, but no school for the Crandell children. GET PLACE STRAIGHT. This afternoon they would all pile in the old Ford cars and pickups for the 2 hours pilgrimage to Jackson to see *it* done or not done.

This will be Kenny's second trip to Jackson—he's ten now. The first time he'd been a baby in his mother's arms or riding high on his daddy's chest, there to witness the execution. He couldn't recall it, of course, but he'd been told over and over about the bare-eyed killer with the shaved head and winged ears being strapped into the huge square electric chair, watching the Crandells through the viewing window, them watching him and him watching them, then at the last minute a man in uniform unstrapping Jackogs from the chair and four other officers leading him from the room, back to his cell on deathrow.

"Sorry, folks, the gov'nor called a stay at the last minute," the uniformed warden said. "Sorry."

The story went that the warden had hung his head, hands clasped before him as if praying.

Donald Jacobs had been nineteen when he and one of his brothers and two buddies had ran out of gas in front of the great-granddaddy's trailer. Old Ned and his four sons and one of their wives, had been hoeing tobacco in the back field while the Jacobs and their crew were burglarizing the trailer. Not much to take of value, which must have made them mad.

When the Crandells got home for lunch, they had found the gang inside the house, snatching out drawers of dressers, smashing grocery-store dishes, doing whatever they were doing and the only way anybody learned what it was that they had been doing was by the aftrmath of the burglary—evidence—sheriff's records, and Donald Jacobs and the others statements to the law. Only Donald Jacobs, at nineteen, had told the turth, and that was something, wasn't it? But the way he told it was something else: "I'd do it all over again, I'd kill them mullafuckers." Only, that was after his younger brother had turned what's called State's evidence and gotten a lesser sentence.

CRANDELLS DON'T MINGLE WITH OTHER PEOPLE, NO ROOM IN THEIR LIVES. EVEN THE KIDS MINGLE ONLY WITH OTHER CRADELLS' FOR THE MOST PART

Before Kenny and his younger cousins even knew what the word "rape" meant, they had heard over and over about "Mary" being raped, first at the house and then out in the tobacco field she'd been hoeing, not an hour before. The fact that she'd been shot afterwards never had the holding power of the rape. It seemed to Kenny to be what everybody clung to, to remember, and why they would all be going to Jackson yet again for the execution of Donald Jacobs, the longest-serving death-row inmate in the nation. Mary's rape. CROSSES ON LATTICE PANEL WITH NAMES—2 CONVICTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCE—SEE NEWSPAPER FOR OTHER REASONS DONALD JACOBS HADN'T BEEN EXECUTED YET.NEED TO ESTABLISH FAMILY—GRANDMOTHER IN LATE SEVENTIES—TIME TO LET IT GO AND GET ON WITH RAISING THE CHILDREN AND LIVING DAY TO DAY—

BOYS AND COUSINS THROWING ROCKS AT OLD SCHOOL BUS—BYPASSING MEMORIAL AT OLD FALLENDOWN CORN CRIB—WHAT WOULD BE THE NATURAL OR USUAL OUTCOME OF KIDS RAISED TO LIVE FOR DEATH? RYAN AND KYLE AND BILLY—LITTLE CRANDELLS BECOMING JACOBS—KYE IS STORY TELLER, QUIETER, MORE INTROSPECTIVE—12 and 10—KYLE 10—BILLY 14—HE IS MEANER, FROM MACON—COME TO LIVE WITH GRANDMOTHER AFTER PARENTS DIVORCED—BREAKING WINDOWS OUT OF OLD SCHOOL BUS THAT BELONGED TO NED TO STORE CORN IN—COWS,—EXCUSE OF BAD CHILDHOOD FOR DONALD JACOBS. LIKE BILLY MAYBE—DADDY'S PLACE, RIVER, RED-HORSE SUCKERS. USE FIRST PART AS PRELUDE TO SCENE,

■ PRESENT TENSE, RESERVING PAST TENSE FOR PAST FOR EFFECT ALSO TO SEPARATE TIME—RAT-GNAWED BONES OF COWS THAT USED TO ROAM THE FIELD AND PASTURES OF THE OLDHOMEPLACE, TWO HUNDRED ACRES NOW DWINDLED

BY QUICK SALES WHEN ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE CRANDELLS NEEDED A LITTLE
CASH TO GET BY

Billy throws the first rock at the windshield of the old school bus, and it is fascinating to Kyle how the blue-tinted glass erupts into a starburst, totally intact. How the on-again, off-again sun strikes each crack like light from a diamond on a TV commercial.

A dove coos in the west off the river and before another rock breaks through the star another dove coos in echo. Eyan, Kyle's older brother is a good aim.

Kyle never takes up a rock, but he can smell the stale dry corn from inside the bus, like letting something out that's been held inside so long it's practically sacred.

"Grandma's gonna have our hides for this," Billy says, at the same time drawing back with a rock like a baseball and letting fly at one of the side windows. Bull's eye! Bull's eye and another starburst.

"Damn stuff must be coated in plastic." Ryan steps back for a better view.

"It's granddaddy's old bus," says Kyle. "I say let's leave it alone."

"Hey, man, he's been dead 31 years," says Billy, "or haven't you noticed?"

"Yeah, ain't never laid eyes on him neither. None of us has."

"Ain't no reason to upset Grandma. Not today, anyway."

"Aw, she ain't come out here in this field in a coon's age." Billy is fourteen and smart, two years older than Ryan and four older than Kyle. A city cousin, from Macon. Only reason he is here in the country is his parents got divorced and he got in trouble with the law and had to come live with his grandmother.

GET TIME AND AGES STRAIGHT

The sun is bearing down between clouds and the field is thick with the teaming of locusts. The big square field is surround by pines, rocking and sighing in the wind.

GO BACK—INSERT PARTS ABOUT TORNADOES, THE ONE THING BILLY IS TERRIFIED OF. THE OTHER COUSINS WHAT THEY FEAR

It's about ten o'clock now and by two PART ABOUT GOING TO JACKSON, NOT GOING TO SCHOOL

When every window of the bus is shattered and splintered and dropped in great splinters to the ground, they go inside and kick around in the corn dust and rat droppings and glass. It is so hot Kyle feels faint. Plus, the fact that his brother and cousin, and he himself by association PARALLEL FOR JACOB' BURGLARY AND VIOLATION OF FAMILY HOUSE) have violated something sacred, as surely as if they' wrecked the new memorial to the murdered Crandells: a white panel of latic nailed to two posts and rigged with slat crosses, one for each of the six members of the family, the victims of the massacre.

Billy swings out the back door of the bus, leaping to the ground, and heads out running across the field of bitter weed and white mounds of gopher holes and fire ant mounds, and heads out running toward the wood and the river. He has black curly hair, is big for 14.

Ryan with bright blond hair of all the other Crandell children takes off behind him Kyle follows, feeling sick OUT OF SCHOOL FOR THE DAY

ATMOSPHERE—RIVER PASTURE-RED HORSE SUCKES. THEN HOME TO GET READY TO GO TO JACKSON—WHOLE FAMILY-PLAY BY PLAY OF PILGRAMGAGE—GETTING THERE—EXECUTION—DONALD JACOBS NEVER CLOSES HIS 7EYES, THOUGH HIS IS PRONOUNCED DEAD -BODY SHUDDERS AND HE STARES AT THEM, MUMBLES TOMETHING.

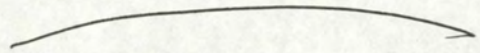
“Damn!” says billy.

CELEBRATION—EATING AT Denny’s—grandmother says it’s time to get on with living, let
it go—she and kyle take down memorial. He wants to tell
her about the bus windows.

TMOSPHERE-DETAILS-SIMILIES-REPEATED WORDS: TIME, LONG, LAST—WILLIS
WHEN HE WORKS WHAT’S HIS LIKFE LIKE, HIS FAMILY, DETAILS WHAT’S IN THE
CAR . flashback to electric chair carried around to schools to show children, willis’s reaction
after daddy and all die

Going to Jackson

notes



Archives

how
going to Jackson
started

original
notes +
dialogue
or well as
characters

after Jacoby and all this

Coming to Jackson

Can't understand to effective when contact around re school to show children, Willie's reaction

WHILE HE WORKS WHAT'S HIS LIFE LIKE HIS FAMILY? DETAILS WHAT'S IN THE

ATMOSPHERE? DETAILS? SIMILAR? BEHAVIOR? TIME LONG LAST? WILLIE'S

part about his presentation?

It for the end, like take down metaphor, he wants to tell

CELEBRATION - EATING AND DRINKING? BEHAVIOR? HOW DOES HE GET ON WITH HAVING THE

... family, save bills?