

'The Town of Weed.'

By Finn Sisk

George and Lennie were walking into the main town of Weed. It was their only day off, Sunday. They were heading into town to lodge the monthly wages. George was excitedly counting their earnings.

"With this much, we'll be able to swing that place I was tellin' you about in the next few months!" he exclaimed.

"The one with the rabbits, George?" questioned Lennie.

"Yeah, that's the one." The two continued walking.

"We're gonna live off the fatta the lan'," whispered Lennie.

"What was that?" asked George.

"Nothin'" Lennie replied proudly. George kept flipping through the notes they earned, totalling one hundred dollars. He was too busy and distracted by his salary that he didn't notice Lennie's gaze being drawn to a girl walking just a few metres in front of them.

Lennie started to walk closer and closer to the girl. Without any warning, he reached out and grabbed the girl's red, silk dress. The girl screamed with all her force. George dropped the cash he was holding, stunned by the sudden noise. Lennie, confused and possibly more frightened than the girl, tightened his massive grip on the dress. Lennie was no less than twice the size of the young woman.

"Let go you crazy bastard!" shouted George. Lennie was unresponsive; his fingers were frozen in place.

The girl began to hit Lennie with her fists, George did the same.

"Let go!" repeated George, but Lennie's huge paws wouldn't release their grip. People were beginning to make their way over.

"Let go or we're gonna get in trouble!"

Lennie finally regained control of his hands and released his grasp. George took Lennie's hand and directed him to run, and run they did.

Once out of eyesight, they hid in an underwater ditch.

“What the hell was that!” exclaimed George.

“I...I... I don’t...” stuttered Lennie.

“That girl’s gonna have every guy in Weed lookin’ to lynch us now!”

“I...I’m sorry George.”

“You’re always sorry, aren’t you. Ok, we can’t stay here so we’ll have to head South. I know a place called Soledad. We can get jobs on a ranch down there.” Lennie stayed silent. *“We’ll move at nightfall, okay?”* Lennie nodded, showing he understood. With that, the pair were on their way, off to begin again. They had no other option.