

smoke: cyrus and louisa ... ghost-fill ... JOHN

1

PAUL: Has anything happened _____? Anything unusual or **unexpected**?

AUNT EM: Well, one thing _____, but I **don't think** it _____ **to do with** this. _____ **of mine** called about two weeks ago and said _____ Thomas's father working at some gas station outside of Peekskill.

PAUL: And you told your nephew about it?

AUNT EM: I **figured** he _____ know. Thomas looked at me **straight** in the eye and said, "I don't have a father. _____, that **son-of-a-bitch** is dead."

PAUL: _____ are pretty **hostile** words.

2

AUNT EM: His father _____ on his mother a couple of months after he was born. Louisa was Henry's younger sister, and **she and** the baby _____ **in with** us. Four or five years _____, and then one day Cyrus **shows up** _____, **tail between** _____, wanting to **patch things up** with Louisa. I thought Henry _____ **tear** Cyrus _____ when he **saw him walk** _____ the door. They're both big men, those two, and if they ever started to tangle, **you'd see** some teeth jumping on the floor. I _____ it... So Cyrus **persuaded** Louisa to go out with him to _____ **things** _____ **in quiet**. And the poor girl never came back.

PAUL: _____ she just ran **off** with him and left her little boy _____?

3

AUNT EM: Don't **put words in** my mouth. _____ is Louisa drove off in Cyrus's car and went with him for a drink. What I'm saying is that he **had too much** _____ and that when they finished their little talk three hours **later** and _____ the car, he **was in no** _____ drive. But he drove the car **anyway**, and before he could get her back _____ she lived, the damn fool **ran** _____ and went **straight** _____ a truck. Louisa **got** _____ through the windshield and was killed. Cyrus **lived**, but he came out of it a cripple. His left arm was so mangled, the doctors had to _____. Small punishment **for what** _____, if you **ask me**.

4

PAUL: Jesus.

AUNT EM: Jesus _____ **do with** it. If _____ **involved**, he _____ **seen to** it that _____ **worked out** _____ **from what** _____.

PAUL: It **can't** _____ easy **on** him. Walking around with that on his _____ all these years.

AUNT EM: No, I **don't suppose** _____. He was **broken** up like _____ business in that hospital when he found out Louisa was dead.

PAUL: And he's never tried to **get in** _____ his son?

AUNT EM: Henry told Cyrus he'd kill him if he ever showed his face **around** our house again. When Henry makes a _____ like that, people **tend to** take him seriously.

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1

PAUL: _____ happened **lately**? Anything unusual or _____?

AUNT EM: Well, one thing I **suppose**, but I _____ it **has anything** _____ this. **A friend** _____ called about two weeks ago and said **she'd spotted** Thomas's father working at some gas station outside of Peekskill.

PAUL: And you told your nephew about it?

AUNT EM: I _____ he **had a right to** know. Thomas looked at me _____ in the eye and said, "I don't have a father. **As far as I'm concerned**, that _____ is dead."

PAUL: **Those** are pretty _____ words.

2

AUNT EM: His father **walked out** on his mother a couple of months after he was born. Louisa was Henry's younger sister, and _____ the baby **moved** _____ us. Four or five years **go by**, and then one day Cyrus _____ **out of the blue**, _____ **his legs**, wanting to _____ with Louisa. I thought Henry **was going to** _____ Cyrus **apart** when he _____ **through** the door. They're both big men, those two, and if they ever started to tangle, _____ some teeth jumping on the floor. I **guarantee** it... So Cyrus _____ Louisa to go out with him to **talk** _____ **over** _____. And the poor girl never came back.

PAUL: **You mean** she just ran _____ with him and left her little boy **behind**?

3

AUNT EM: Don't _____ my mouth. **What I'm saying** is Louisa drove off in Cyrus's car and went with him for a drink. What I'm saying is that he _____ **to drink** and that when they finished their little talk three hours _____ and **got back in** the car, he _____ **shape to** drive. But he drove the car _____ and before he could get her back **to where** she lived, the damn fool _____ **a red light** and went _____ **into** a truck. Louisa _____ **thrown** through the windshield and was killed. Cyrus _____ but he came out of it a cripple. His left arm was so mangled, the doctors had to **cut it off**. Small punishment _____ **he did**, if you _____.

4

PAUL: Jesus.

AUNT EM: Jesus **had nothing to** _____ it. If **he'd been** _____, he **would have** _____ it that **things** _____ **the opposite** _____ **they did**.

PAUL: It _____ **have been** easy _____ him. Walking around with that on his **conscience** all these years.

AUNT EM: No, I _____ **it has**. He was _____ up like **nobody's** business in that hospital when he found out Louisa was dead.

PAUL: And he's never tried to _____ **touch with** his son?

AUNT EM: Henry told Cyrus he'd kill him if he ever showed his face _____ our house again. When Henry makes a **threat** like that, people _____ take him seriously.