

Day 1

[Dan and Daisy enter left and sit down at the table. Then Elanor enters left and walks to the table.]

Daisy: Elanor, great to see you! Have a seat, we ordered you the special.

Elanor: That sounds wonderful, thank you Daisy. Dan, good to see you. How are things at the ranch?

Dan: We're getting by. Things have been really tough since Sheriff Grimes came to town [As he says this, Deputy 1 enters left. Daisy elbows him.]

Daisy: Hush, Daniel! Not so loud! You don't want to get hauled off to prison, do you?

Dan: Thanks, sis. I shouldn't talk like that, I just miss the old sheriff, Sheriff Bill.

[Upon hearing the name of Bill, Deputy 1 comes over to their table.]

Deputy 1: What's this I'm hearing about Sheriff Bill? You all know the law, it's illegal to mention his name in this town ever since Sheriff Grimes defeated him.

Dan: Uhhh... you miss understand. I was... I was talking about... sharing the bill! Yes, that's it.

[Deputy 1 grunts. Out comes Snowball with a tray.]

Snowball: Order up! Three specials and one order of biscuits and beans.

[Deputy 1 aggressively grabs his plate and exits left. Snowball hands Dan the tray and he takes it to the table.]

Dan: Thanks Snowball! How are things in the kitchen?

Snowball: These deputies are getting scarier and scarier! I'd hate to meet one on a bad day.

Daisy: Ever since Sheriff Grimes came to town, every day is a bad day.

Elanor: Oh come on guys, it's not so bad. Sure, the deputies are a little rough around the edges, but business is booming at my shop.

[Deputy 2 enters left and heads to the table aggressively.]

Deputy 2: What are you still doing here? Sherriff Grimes started the town meeting 10 minutes ago.

Dan: What? I didn't know there was a meeting today!

Deputy 2: [He grabs some of Dan's food and eats it] You do now, now move! All of you!

[All exit left. Grimes and Deputy 1 enter right. Then Dan, Daisy, Snowball, Elanor, and Deputy 2 enter left.]

Grimes: About time you all showed up! As I was saying to the rest of the townspeople, I've been hearing some rumors that some of y'all have been talking about how you miss Sheriff Bill [Deputies start to boo and jeer at Bill's name]. How things were better when he was around. Well, as you well know, he ain't the sheriff anymore. I am [Deputies cheer]! I kicked him out of town and he ain't never coming back [Deputies cheer again]! So I don't want to hear any more talk about Sheriff Bill in my town again. I told my deputies to lock up anyone who talks about him in the jailhouse. Are we clear? [Townspeople all mumble yes] I said, ARE WE CLEAR?

Townspeople: Yes sir!

Grimes: Very good! Now, as for your chores for the week [the townspeople groan]... That didn't sound very grateful! In fact, deputies, let's put anyone in jail who complains about chores.

Deputy 1: You got it, boss!

Grimes: So for your chores, Snowball, I need you to make three meals a day for my deputies. Try not burn the eggs this time!

Snowball: Yyyyyyyes sir! [She exits.]

Grimes: Elanor, some of my deputies' uniforms are looking a little shabby. Do you think you could wash 'em and fix 'em up? [He hands her a large pile of clothes without waiting for an answer.] Perfect! [Elanor exits left.] Daisy, my house is getting filthy. Clean it up for me! And when you're done that, you can clean the deputies' houses too.

Daisy: But I just cleaned your house last week! And besides, I don't have time to clean all those houses. I have my patients to take...

Grimes: Ahem! [Deputies move toward Daisy.]

Daisy: I mean, yes, of course, right away! [She exits left.]

Grimes: Now as for you, troublemaker, I have something very special in mind. Something that will remind you who's the sheriff 'round here. I've bought a big statue of me that I want moved to the town square. You are going to take it there. And make it quick, because I am also throwing a big party for me and the deputies tonight, and you are going to be my servant and do everything we want. [The deputies laugh.]

Dan: But sir, I haven't fed my cattle yet, and if I have to move this statue, that doesn't leave me much time to do it before the party.

Grimes: Well then I suggest you get moving! If that statue isn't in the town square and you aren't at my party serving me by six, I'll have you locked up! You can start with the base over

here [he points to the base]. Now come on boys, let's go get some lunch and think of more things we can make these townspeople do for us!

Deputy 2: You got it, boss!

[Grimes and deputies exit left. Dan struggles to move the base of the statue.]

Dan: I can't believe this! It's all wrong! Life was so good when Sheriff Bill was here, but now we're stuck with the evil Sheriff Grimes. Maybe one day things will be better... oh, who am I kidding? Sheriff Bill is gone. Grimes defeated him, and he's never coming back! [The cow puppet pops up]. Oh, hey Bessie! You want to come help me with this statue? [The cow shakes her head.] Didn't think so. You look thirsty. Here, let me go take you to get some water. [The cow starts moving toward the right exit.] No silly, the water is this way. [Dan motions toward the left, but the cow keeps moving towards the right and then exits. Dan looks back.] Bessie? Where'd you go? Silly girl! Bessie! Bessie!

[Dan looks around, then runs off right. Bill enters left and goes over to the puppet stage. The cow comes up.]

Bill: Well hello there! Where have you come from? [Cow is hesitant.] Come over here, don't be afraid. You look hungry. [Cow starts to move toward him.] Here, have some food. [He hands the cow food. The cow takes it. Just then, Dan enters right and wanders around the stage searching.]

Dan: Bessie! Bessie! Where could she be? I'm going to be in so much trouble with Sheriff... [He sees Bill] Bill? Is that really you? But you... how did you...

Bill: Surprised to see me, Daniel? I can understand that.

Dan: Grimes said that you were gone. That you were defeated. That you were never coming back.

Bill: I'm sure he did. Grimes says a lot of things that aren't true.

Dan: So what really happened? [Cow exits]

Bill: Grimes has been going from town to town causing trouble and fighting against anyone who gets in his way. He and his followers were getting ready for a big battle, and I knew people would get hurt if I stayed, so I left to build a new town, one where my people can live in safety with me forever. The new town is almost ready. Here, take a look!

[Bill shows Dan around the stage. A beautiful city appears on the screen.]

Dan: This place is wonderful, but how are the people going to get here? There's no way Grimes or his deputies will let them leave!

Bill: Once the new town is ready, I will come back to defeat Grimes and rescue my people. Anyone who wants me as their Sheriff will be able to come and live with me.

Dan: That's the best news I've ever heard! I can't believe this! You're alive, and you're coming back to save us! Sheriff Bill, I want to help you and follow you. You will always be my Sheriff.

Bill: I'm glad to hear it, and yes, there is something you can do to help. I know the people of your town are suffering under Grimes, and many of them have lost hope. I want you to go back and tell them this good news. Tell them that I'm coming back to save them.

Dan: Of course! I want to tell everyone this good news. But I'll need to be careful. Otherwise those deputies will be after me.

Bill: That reminds me [he takes out a blue badge] here, take this. This will show that you're on my side. Grimes isn't the only one with help. Congratulations, Dan. You're one of my deputies now.

Dan: I won't let you down, sir!

Bill: I know you won't. Now go, tell your friends and family! Let everyone know that I'm alive, and that I'm coming back to save them.

Dan: Yes sir!

[Dan exits right, Bill exits left.]