

He had forgotten about the ice cream, now. He was remembering the day he was supposed to go into the swamps with Gable, but instead he ended up with ^{brother} ~~Buddy~~ and Bear at the liquor store.

"Inez is still giving her fairs up the quarter," I said, trying to get him ~~back into a conversation~~. "But no music. No dancing. She calls that sinning. If you want your music at a fair, you have to go down to Willie Aaron's house. Willie still has that stack of old low-down blues - Tampa Red, Mercy Dee - you know, all of them."

He was not listening to me now. He seemed to be thinking about ~~not~~ hunting with Gable.

"I just thought of something," I told him. "Let me bring you a little radio. You can have music all the time. You can listen to Randy's Record Shop late at night."

"Randy still on?" he asked, looking at the wall, not at me.

"Yes, he's still on," I said. "I was listening to him just the other night. I have to play the radio low so Tante Lou can't hear it. These old people, you know, all music except church music is sinning music. So I play it so low I can hardly hear it myself."

I laughed to make him laugh. But he did not.

"Do you want me to bring you a little radio next time I come?" I asked him.

He nodded. "Yeah."

"Edwin's has these little Philcos. Not too big," I said, and boxed my hands to show him the approximate size of the radio.

"Would you like one?"

EJH

He nodded.

"I wish I had the money on me right now," I said. "I'd go and get it now."

"Don't bother," he said. He said it as though he didn't believe I really wanted to get it for him.

"No, I'm ~~going to~~ ^{going to} get ~~it~~ ^{it}," I said. "I'll get it tomorrow." "I'll have them bring it to you so you'll have music over the weekend."

I said.

He didn't have anything more to say. He sat there, not looking out ~~of~~ the window now, but looking down at the floor as ~~though~~ ^{if} he had forgotten about the radio, about the ice cream, about Gable ~~about~~ everything.

I wanted to leave then to go home for the money to ^{buy} get the radio, but I was afraid that the sheriff and his deputies might ~~have~~ misinterpreted my reason for ~~wanting~~ ^{ing} to leave so early. I ~~was~~ ^{was sure} sure they were paying closer attention to everything now, and they would not have understood my reason for ~~wanting~~ ^{ing} to leave ⁱⁿ earlier than I usually did. So I just stood there until the deputy came to let me out. ~~Paul~~ ^{Paul} wanted to know how everything had gone between Jefferson and me, and I told him better than ever. He looked at me as ~~though~~ ^{if} he felt I was making this all up, but ~~at the same time~~ I could see in his face that he wanted to believe it. I told him that I had promised Jefferson a radio and that I would go home and get the money to ^{buy} get one, ~~and that~~ I would get it from Edwin's Department Store and then leave it here

OK

OK? for one of them to take ~~me~~ ^{Take} to Jefferson so that he would have music over the weekend. Paul thought it was a good idea, and he promised to ^{FIVE} take the radio to Jefferson himself. (Set)

I didn't go home when I came outside. I thought I would borrow the money from Vivian, and I went back of town to the Rainbow Club, to wait until she got out of class. The bar was in semi-darkness as usual, with the usual two or three old men, talking more than drinking, and Claiborne behind the bar, talking with them. I ordered a beer and told Claiborne about the radio. He didn't charge me for the beer, and he went back down the bar and spoke to the old men, then he came back with a couple of dollars ^{bills} and some change. He took five dollars out of an old leather wallet ^{that} which had once been light brown, but over the many years that it had gone in and out of Claiborne's back pocket. the leather had turned almost black.

"Thanks," I said. "I'll get it back to you sometime this weekend."

The muscle in his left jaw moved a little to show that he had smiled. Then he jerked his head towards the wall, a sign that I should go around to the other side and see what I could get in there. So after finishing the beer, I went through the side door into the café. ^{It} The ~~café~~ was much more brightly lit than the bar, ~~more~~ ^{er} warm, and you could smell the food from the kitchen. A man and a woman ate at one of the tables, another man sat eating alone at the counter, and Thelma was behind the counter, near the cash register. (e)

EW

Some poor people have manner !!!
EJZ

Because of manner.
Manner. Manner.

"Well, well, look what the cat dragged in," she said.

I had been at the Rainbow quite a few times lately, but I had not ^{eaten} ~~been~~ in the ~~café~~ to eat.

I told Thelma about the radio, and I told her that Claiborne had ~~already~~ donated something. She listened patiently, and I could see her face changing from patience to sadness to anger. Her mouth tightened as she looked around the room at her three customers, then back ^{at} ~~to~~ me again. The anger had left.

"You hungry?" she asked. It was stern, but lovingly too.

"No, I ate before I came," I ^{told her} ~~said~~.

She didn't believe me. "I got some smothered steaks there," she said. "Shrimps. Chicken."

"I'm not hungry,"

"You want to get that radio now?"

"I would like to get it this ^{afternoon} ~~evening~~."

"How much they cost?"

"About twenty dollars."

"Eat something. I'll make up the rest," she said.

She went back into the kitchen and dished up some rice and beef ^{steak} and sweet peas, and she added a little lettuce and tomato salad, and couple ^{of} ~~slices~~ of light bread.

"How much more you need?" she asked, after she had set the food down before me.

"About ten bucks," I said. "But, listen, Thelma, I can ^{some of} borrow that money from Vivian."

Because Claiborne told him to do so.
And because he is not sure that he should
accept the money after she had fed him.
EJZ

since he
true
see

is after 3?

so why did
he come
into café?

"Vivian got them children," she said. "I can let you have it."

"I'll bring it back tomorrow."

"I ain't in no hurry."

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 I ate the food hungrily because I had not ^{had} eaten dinner, and I sopped up the gravy with the ^{light} bread. Thelma watched me ~~all the time~~. When I was ^{finished} through ~~eating~~, she put ^a the wrinkled ten-dollar bill on the counter by ^{my} the plate. *stat stat*

"Here."

Leave high or Ely
 It was the kind of "here" ~~that~~ your mother or your big sister or your great-aunt or your grandmother would have said. It was the kind of "here" ^{that} to let you know ~~that~~ this was hard-earned money, but, also, that you needed it more than she did, and the kind of "here" ^{that} which said she wished you had it and ^{didn't} not having to borrow it from her, but since you did not have it, and she did, then it was, also a kind of love "here". ^{with} It was not a throwing-away money "here". It was the kind of "here" that asked the question, When will all this end? When will ^a man not have to ^{struggle to have} use money to get what he needs "here"? When will ^a man be able to live without having to kill another man "here"? *ok?*

I took the money without looking at her. I didn't say thanks. I knew she didn't want to hear it.

I went out to my car and drove back up ~~town, to the store~~. Edwin's Department Store was not the best in town, but it was the place where most ~~of the~~ people bought what they needed. Those

Ely

with money either went to Morgan's Department Store, or ~~went~~ to
 → Baton Rouge and New Orleans. As you came into the store, you
 saw clothes for women on the left, and clothes for men on the right,
 Everything all neat ^{set out by} and spacious. ⁹ There were no other

→ customers, ~~in the store~~, and just one saleswoman, who did not
 → show much interest in me. I went to the back of the store,

passing the furniture department, ^{with its} of chairs, couches, beds,
 chifforobes, dressers, then ^{the} refrigerators, ^{and} ice boxes, gas and
 wood-burning stoves, ~~and~~ washing machines. Then there ^{was} were the
 garden and yard equipments--hoes, rakes, shovels, axe handles,

^{not in dict.} mowing machines, yoyo blades, cane knives, ~~things like that~~. And
 at the very end of the store were the radios and kitchen appliances,
 on shelves against the wall. I saw the little radio that I had

in mind, and I took it down from the shelf to look at ~~it~~ more
 closely and ~~to~~ feel its weight. Then I ^{on the shelf} sat it back and turned

on the knob, and ^{after warming up for a few seconds} immediately it started playing, ~~with a little~~
 light showing the number of the station. I moved the ^{lighted} dial to

→ get another station. I could ^{find} ~~get~~ only three, two in Baton

Rouge and one in New Orleans. But that was normal for this time

→ of day. At night you were able to ^{tune in} get others. You could get

one as far West as Del Rio, Texas, and ^{another as} far East as ^{Nashville} ~~Memphis~~. I

was still listening to ^{one of} the Baton Rouge station when the saleswoman
 came up behind me.

"You go 'n buy that?"

I looked around at the short, stout, ~~white~~, powdered

~~face woman~~

powdered = faced white woman.

EJW

"Yes, ma'am."

Her face changed, but only a little.

"How much is it?" I asked.

"Twenty dollars, plus tax."

"Do you have one in a box?"

"That one's brand-new," she said. Her face was getting hard again.

"~~This one~~^{It}'s a present," I said. "I would like one in a box."

"I can put this one in a box," she said.

"No, ma'am, I want a brand-new one," I said. "If you have one."

"You can have this one for a dollar less," she said.

"I prefer a brand-new one, please, ma'am," I said.

She snapped the radio off and turned away. She was gone about fifteen minutes. I knew it couldn't possibly take her that long to find another radio, but because I had refused to take the used one, and because she ^{felt quite sure} ~~knew~~ there was no ~~other~~ place in Bayonne where I could find another one, she knew I had ^{no other} ~~no other~~ choice but to wait until she got back.

"Brand-new one," she said behind me. "Seal ain't even broke."

"Does it have batteries?" I asked her.

"It's ready to play," she said. "You want it?"

"Yes, ma'am," I said.

She started up the aisle towards the cash register, but just about then another white woman came into the store. The

*other dept
store might
have one*

E J

→ clerk sat the ~~little~~ radio beside the cash register and went to see what the white woman wanted. The other woman was not buying anything; she only wanted to talk. So they stood there about ten minutes before the clerk came back to wait on me. After ringing up the bill, she asked me if I needed a bag. But she asked it in a way that ~~knew~~ ^{told me} she didn't want to give me one. ~~I~~ ^{Stet} told her, no, thanks, and after paying her, I tucked the little radio under my arm and left.

The courthouse was to the right and across the street from the store. I walked between the parked cars and passed the statue of the Confederate soldier and the State, National, and Confederate flags. ~~Paul~~ ^{Sheriff} and Guidry were in the office. ~~Paul~~ ^{Luke} saw the package under my arm, and I could see that he was happy that I had remembered. ~~Sheriff~~ ^{The} Guidry looked up at me from his desk. ^{Stet}

"Well, professor, is that the radio?"

"Yes, sir, I hope you don't mind."

"No, I don't mind this time," he said. "But from now on, you ask permission before you bring anything else in here."

"I spoke to the deputy."

"The deputy can't give you permission to bring things in here, I do," he said.

I was quiet.

"Leave it," the sheriff said. "I'll see that he gets it. Batteries, I hope."

"Yes, sir, Batteries," I said. I had almost said "Batteries."

"How did it go today?" he asked.

"All right," I said.

The sheriff nodded.

"I'll see he gets it."

"Thank you, sir."

~~ok?~~ shot I looked at ~~Paul~~^{Luke}. He nodded and smiled. He probably would have said something encouraging if the sheriff ~~was~~^{had} not ~~been~~^{been} there.

I went to my car and drove back to the Rainbow, hoping that Vivian would be there, and ^{that} we would have a drink and just sit there in the semi-darkness alone together.