

Jimmy and Tommy had been great friends for nearly two months now ever since Jimmy was stranded in the sand hills ten miles from his sister, Jenny and husband Ben's ranch. Ben had told Jimmy that the Scratchy Apaches would eat him so Jimmy hid very well in hopes that no one would find him. When Ben came back looking for him Jimmy was afraid to come out. He was terrified! Tommy had found a way to calm Jimmy down so that they could meet and they became very good friends immediately. Gophers talking to you definitely would get your attention, right? It took something like that to get the terrified boy to stop crying. Tommy sure gets good ideas, thankfully because Jimmy did not make friends easily and he was terrified of Indians because of the lies that Ben had told him about the Scratchy Apaches.

Now Jimmy and Tommy are in the midst of a serious argument. Jimmy begged Tommy, "Please don't go, I am afraid that you will get caught and if you get caught what will they do to you and then what will become of me. I know Grandmother will still take care of me but it would not be the same without you here!" Tommy interrupts, "Jimmy, I will not get caught, I have been playing these tricks on my friends for years and I am the champion at this game. I am able to touch him without him knowing that I am there at all. If I can just touch his skin I will be able to understand much more about him. You say that he was not the one that molested you but he hit you and gave you a big bruise on your eye and

cheek. You still think that he knows that several of the hired men held you down so that the most evil of them, Charley, could make you pleasure him. I can feel a person's emotions just by touching their skin. I know that sounds very strange, I do not read a person's mind but I can tell how they are feeling deep down. If a person is talking about someone being hurt and they are happy inside then that tells me that they are not a very kind person. If he is very sad deep down when he hears talk about evil things then I trust that he is a good guy. So if he is listening to a person talk about being tortured and deep down inside of himself he is laughing then I know more about him than if I had spent many days getting to know him. Do not worry so much Jimmy, I will not get caught but I want to know if he wants to kill you or if he is just playing some cruel stupid trick on you. I will need to make several trips to that ranch in order to observe them. If they ever find you I need to know if you will be okay or if we need to come and rescue you and bring you back so that you can keep living with us here.”

Jimmy finally begins to calm down, “I know Tommy, but I am still worried about you and I know if I go with you that you would be sure to be caught because I have no idea how to hide and be quiet like you do.” Tommy tries to explain, “There is more to it than just being quiet, you want to make normal sounds happen so that the person just thinks it is another sound happening when he hears sounds that you

make, like making flies land on him and at the same time I am hiding very close to him and can sneak my hand up next to him and touch his leg or arm while he is looking the other direction. His mind just blends what I am doing together with what he expects to hear and feel. It takes practice but it is not as hard as it might seem to someone that does not have any idea that it is really quite a simple thing to do. Practice just gives you confidence.”

Jimmy finally agrees, “I understand, I just hope it is really worth the risk. I do not want to lose my best friend so soon, we just met a little over a month ago and I do not make friends easy. You are the first friend that I am sure that you are really, really my best friend always, what you call your TWO”. Tommy is ready to go and says, “I will be very careful but you need to know that it is very important that I understand more about this man so I know what is the right way to respond in the future. There will always be something happen in the future and it is not good to have an enemy that you know nothing about. I always like to be prepared!”

Ben was in a hurry to get to the barn because the horses were making a lot of noise and he thought that some sort of beast may be in the barn. As he hurried past his pickup truck Ben snatched up his already loaded 12 gauge shotgun just in case he might need it.

When he got to the barn the horses had calmed down already and Ben could not find anything out of the ordinary but the horse in the stall at the far end of the barn started dropping a large load and it started to draw a lot of buzzing flies but that was not a strange occurrence here in the barn but what happened next was very strange in deed. Behind Ben came the loud thumping sound of another pile of horse manure being dropped and the buzzing of the flies behind him started almost immediately but the problem was that there is no horse stabled in that area of the barn. The flies started biting Ben on the ears and trying to fly up his nose and into his mouth. Ben tried to swat them away but they began to attack him as if he were a pile of fresh horse dropping himself.

The flies were biting and Ben decided to get out of the barn since he was not about to try to use his 12 gauge on these pesky flies. If he had only been more aware he would have noticed that there was another occupant in the barn besides the horses and the flies but even when Tommy carefully reached out from his hidden spot in the hay bails that Ben was setting on and pinched Ben on the belly and back Ben just swatted at the pinching and cursed at the pain thinking that it was just another fly pestering him and it was very hard for Tommy not to laugh and give himself away but he could not stop since Ben had given himself to the pestering by setting down so close to the hidden young Indian boy. Ben

was making it quite easy for Tommy to observe him so he decided to just enjoy it.

It was even harder for him to keep from laughing when Ben finally decided that he had had enough of the fly bites and hopped down off the pile of hay bails and fell slipping and sliding into a big mess that seemed to Ben to be no different than any other stinking mess of horse manure and urine but the thing that confused Ben was that he was certain that the mess had not been there when Ben hopped up onto the pile of hay bails just a few minutes ago. It was the perfect spot for Ben to watch the horses and to wait to see if there were any uninvited animals hiding in the barn that would need to be removed the hard way with his shotgun. Ben fell down three times trying to get up from the mess that had been placed there unknown to him by the sneaky young Indian boy that was doing all he could to avenge the various types of abuse that Jimmy had told him that he had sustained at the hands of Ben and Butch and the worst of it from the hired hands. Tommy was learning a lot about these people and he planned to come back again soon.

Tommy had no idea how bad that abuse would get and how much more he would be involved in Jimmy's revenge of that abuse the worst of which, at this fun moment, had not yet happened to Jimmy by the hands of all six of the hired men. He had no way of knowing that in just a couple of weeks he'd be here on this ranch again but not in accordance to his own carefully laid plans and that his life would never be the same again after that.

Right now he was just having a lot of fun keeping Ben from finding him hiding in the hay bails because every time Ben would slip in the mess and curse and fall Tommy could hardly keep from laughing out loud. If it were not for some very special training he would have been caught quite easily.

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All of these are me...