



## Chapter 5

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thought I was the one to be counted on never to be able to live in a city. Piled up buildings? Cement paths? Me? Not me. Everybody in Vienna was surprised when I left, me and Violet. They said the City makes you lonely, but since I'd been trained by the best woodsman ever, loneliness was a thing couldn't get near me."

Shoot. Country people. How could they know what an eighteen year old girl might instigate in a grown man in a crowded City. Make him know a loneliness he could not imagine in a forest empty of people for fifteen miles, or on a river bank with nothing but live bait for company. Convince him he had never known the sweet side of anything until he tasted her honey. an x record. Round and round about the town. That's the way the City spins you. Makes you do what it wants, go where the laid out roads say so. No jumping into thickets because you feel like it; if mowed grass is okay to walk on the City will let you know. You can't get off the track a City lays for you. Whatever happens, whether you get rich or stay poor, ruin your health or live to old age you always end up to where you started.

Joe should know that because when his home town disappeared, he couldn't leave without going back to the place where his mother was sometimes known to hide. Or like True Belle who thought she'd never have to see