



## Filed as Junior Vivian

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*filed as  
Junior Division*

*1 Post Road*

THE SETTLEMENT IS A PLANET AWAY FROM COSEY'S RESORT.

A LITTLE HUDDLE, A BIT OF SPRAWL, IT HAS CLAIMED THE SLOPE OF A HILL AND THE VALLEY BELOW SINCE WORLD WAR I. NO ONE ELSE HAS CONTRADICTED ITS CLAIM—NOT THE POST OFFICE OR THE CENSUS BUREAU. THE STATE TROOPERS KNOW IT WELL, HOWEVER, AND A FEW PEOPLE WHO USED TO WORK IN THE OLD RELIEF OFFICE HAVE HEARD ITS NAME, BUT THE NEW EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTRY WELFARE OFFICE HAVE NOT. FROM TIME TO TIME TEACHERS IN DISTRICT 10 HAVE HAD STUDENTS FROM THERE BUT THEY DON'T KNOW OR USE THE NAME ' SETTLEMENT.' 'RURALS' IS WHAT THESE STRANGE UNTEACHABLE CHILDREN ARE LABELED. ALTHOUGH IT INSULTS THE ORDINARY STUDENTS FROM RESPECTABLE FARMING FAMILIES, SOME SOCIALLY BENIGN TERM HAD TO BE CHOSEN TO IDENTIFY SUCH CHILDREN FOR THEMSELVES WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING THEIR PARENTS WHO MIGHT GET WIND OF IT. THE TERM PROVED SATISFACTORY

ALTHOUGH NO PARENT EVER APPEARED TO REQUEST, PERMIT, OBSERVE, CONSULT  
OR COMPLAIN. NOTES OR FORMS PLACED IN THE CHILDREN'S UNSOAPED HANDS  
WERE NEVER RETURNED OR RESPONDED TO. RURALS SAT IN CLASS FOR A FEW

MONTHS, SHARING TEXTBOOKS, BORROWING PAPER AND PENCILS, BUT

PURPOSEFULLY SILENT AS THOUGH THEY WERE THERE TO TEST [NOT ACQUIRE]

<sup>observe? witness</sup> EDUCATION; TO WATCH NOT SUPPLY INFORMATION. THEY WERE QUIET IN THE

CLASSROOM, AND KEPT TO THEMSELVES, PARTLY OUT OF CHOICE BUT PARTLY

BECAUSE THEY WERE CAREFULLY AVOIDED BY THEIR PEERS. RURALS WERE KNOWN

AS SUDDEN FIGHTERS—RELENTLESS AND VICIOUS. <sup>\*</sup>ONE IN THE LATE FIFTIES <sup>\*</sup>A

<sup>visited</sup> PRINCIPAL LOCATED THE HOME OF A RURAL NAMED OTIS RICK. OTIS HAS

LOOSENED A CHILD'S EYE ON THE PLAYGROUND AND HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD OR

OBEYED THE EXPELLED NOTICE STUCK IN HIS SHIRT POCKET. HE HAD COME BACK

EVERY DAY, HIS VICTIM'S DRIED BLOOD STILL ON HIS SLEEVES. NOT MUCH IS

KNOWN OF THIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO DEMAND OTIS' PERMANENT ABSENCE—EXCEPT

<sup>vivid fragment</sup> ONE ~~DETAIL~~. WHEN THE PRINCIPAL LEFT THE RICK PROPERTY HE HAD TO COVER

2 <sup>\*</sup>It was  
Common Knowledge That  
Some time



THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE VALLEY ON FOOT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO  
<sup>or chance</sup>  
TIME TO GET BACK IN HIS CAR. THE DE SOTO WAS TOWED BACK TO TOWN BY  
1  
STATE TROOPERS BECAUSE NOTHING COULD MAKE ITS OWNER GO BACK TO  
RETRIEVE IT.

VERY OLD PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER THE GREAT DEPRESSION STILL CALL THAT PART  
OF THE COUNTY THE SETTLEMENT AND COULD DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE HISTORY  
OF ITS INHABITANTS, IF ANY ONE ASKED. <sup>Since</sup> BUT THEIR OPINIONS ARE SELDOM  
1  
SOUGHT. <sup>9/9</sup> SO SETTLEMENT PEOPLE HAVE IT THE WAY THEY WANT IT-UNEVOLVED  
AND REVEILED, <sup>Quite as</sup> THEY ARE ALSO TOLERATED, LEFT ALONE, AND FEARED. ~~JUST THE WAY~~  
IT WAS IN 1912 WHEN THE JUTE MILL WAS ABANDONED AND THOSE WHO COULD  
LEAVE LEFT AND THOSE WHO COULD NOT [THE BLACK ONES BECAUSE THEY HAD  
NO HOPE OR THE WHITE ONES WHO HAD NO PROSPECTS] LOLLED ON, MARRYING  
ONE ANOTHER, SORT OF, AND FIGURING OUT HOW TO STAY ALIVE FROM DAY TO  
DAY. THEY BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S SCRAPS, OR THEY  
ADDED ON TO THE WORKERS' CABINS LEFT BY THE JUTE COMPANY: A SHED HERE, A

ROOM THERE TO THE CLUSTER OF LITTLE HUTS [TWO ROOM AND A STOVE] THAT

WAVERED ON THE SLOPE OR SANK IN THE VALLEY. THEY USED STREAM WATER, <sup>AND RAIN</sup>

DRANK COW'S MILK OR HOME BREW; ATE GAME, EGGS, DOMESTIC PLANTS, AND, IF

ONE OF THEM HIRED OUT IN A FIELD OR A KITCHEN, THEY SPENT THE EARNINGS

ON SUGAR, SALT, COOKING OIL, SODA POP, CORN FLAKES, FLOUR <sup>DRIED BEANS</sup> AND RICE. IF

THERE WERE NO EARNINGS THEY STOLE.

UNLIKE THE TRANQUILITY OF ITS NAME, THE SETTLEMENT HEAVED WITH LOYALTY

AND LICENSE AND THE ONLY <sup>crime</sup> BETRAYAL WAS DEPARTURE, ONE OF WHICH SUCH

TREASON WAS UNDERTAKEN BY A GIRL WITH CRUSHED TOES CALLED JUNIOR.

HER MOTHER, VIVIAN, HAD MEANT TO NAME HER RIGHT AWAY. THREE DAYS

<sup>after the hard delivery</sup> PASSED BEFORE SHE COULD STAY AWAKE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A

DECISION—DURING WHICH TIME THE BABY GIRL'S FATHER CALLED THE NEWBORN

<sup>either</sup> JUNIOR AFTER HIMSELF —ETHAN PAYNE JR.— OR HIS LONGING <sup>for although</sup> BECAUSE VIVIAN

ALREADY HAD FOUR BOY CHILDREN, ~~BUT~~ NONE OF THEM WAS ETHAN'S. VIVIAN

<sup>Choose</sup> DID FINALLY DEVISE A NAME FOR THE BABY AND MAY <sup>even</sup> HAVE USED IT ONCE OR



TWICE EVEN AFTER ETHAN MOVED BACK TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE. BUT JUNIOR  
STUCK. NOTHING MORE WAS REQUIRED UNTIL THE CHILD ENTERED DISTRICT 10  
AND A LAST NAME WAS DEMANDED OF HER.

7  
"JUNIOR VIVIAN," SHE MURMURED, AND WHEN THE TEACHER SMILED INTO  
HER OWN HAND, THE GIRL ~~SLAPPED HER FOREHEAD~~ <sup>scratched her ~~chin~~ elbow</sup> HAVING JUST REALIZED SHE  
COULD HAVE SAID, "JUNE." SHE HAD MORE UNCLES THAN HALF BROTHERS, ALL  
OF WHOM HAD SPENT SOME TIME AT DISTRICT 10, BUT UNLIKE ANY ONE OF  
THEM, SHE WAS SELDOM TRUANT. AT HOME WITH NO ONE OR ANYONE IN  
CHARGE, SHE FELT LIKE ONE OF THE SETTLEMENT DOGS. FIFTY STRONG, THEY  
SWUNG BETWEEN SHORT CHAINS AND UNFETTERED ROAMING. BETWEEN FIGHTS  
AND MEALS THEY SLEPT LASHED FOR ~~LONG~~ HOURS TO TREES OR CURLED NEAR A  
DOOR. LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, HOUNDS MATED WITH SHEPHERDS TK WITH  
TK, BECOMING AT LAST, BY 1975 WHEN JUNIOR WAS BORN, <sup>?</sup> ~~A STRANGE,~~ <sup>an odd, original</sup>  
<sup>instantly</sup> ASTONISHINGLY HANDSOME BREED RECOGNIZABLE TO FOLKS WHO KNEW, AS A  
<sup>1</sup> SETTLEMENT DOG—ADEPT AT KEEPING OUTSIDERS OUT, <sup>side</sup> BUT AT THEIR BRILLIANT

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# BEST WHEN HUNTING.

Bored with dogs, <sup>at last</sup> the her mother, faster and smarter ~~(shorter)~~ than her brothers, afraid of her uncles the girl, Junior welcomed school initially as a [legitimate] reason to leave the settlement; then for its self.

and unmissed by their wives.

She was the first rural to ~~to~~ speak up ~~answer~~, and make a stab at home work. Most of the girls in her class ~~didn't~~ <sup>avoided</sup> like her, and ones who ~~tried~~ <sup>sprinkled</sup> the seed of friendship were forced to choose between ~~the rural~~ <sup>the smelly</sup> with one dress ~~and~~ <sup>every time</sup> ~~it was a~~ <sup>boy</sup>, however, ~~over group~~. Junior lost <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>defending</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~teachers~~ <sup>upheld</sup> ~~thought it~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~because he shared~~ <sup>since</sup> ~~fed her~~ <sup>of her own</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~his lunch bag~~ <sup>when</sup> ~~she had none~~ <sup>playing dirty</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>fooling</sup> ~~pupils thought he was~~ <sup>down</sup> ~~in some ditch somewhere~~ <sup>after</sup> ~~school~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and told him so~~ <sup>but he was</sup> ~~but he was~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~a proud boy, son of (wealthy) farmer~~ <sup>plant</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>superintendent</sup> ~~could hire and fire their parents~~ <sup>and he</sup> ~~and he~~ <sup>told them so</sup> ~~told them so~~ <sup>His name was Peter Paul</sup> ~~His name was Peter Paul~~ <sup>Tortas and</sup> ~~Tortas and~~ <sup>having lived through 11 years of</sup> ~~being called pee pee~~ <sup>he had</sup> ~~grown insistent and~~ <sup>unyielding</sup> ~~unyielding~~ <sup>the popular opinion</sup> ~~the popular opinion~~ <sup>Peter Paul and Junior</sup> ~~Peter Paul and Junior~~ <sup>were not interested in</sup> ~~were not interested in~~ <sup>each other's bodies</sup> ~~each other's bodies~~ <sup>She wanted to know about</sup> ~~She wanted to know about~~ <sup>rats of syrup</sup> ~~rats of syrup~~ <sup>and capping machines</sup> ~~and capping machines~~ <sup>He wanted</sup> ~~He wanted~~ <sup>to know if it was true about brown bears in the hills</sup> ~~to know if it was true about brown bears in the hills~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>if whether it was true that it was cows</sup> ~~if whether it was true that it was cows~~ <sup>calves as they milk that attracted snakes</sup> ~~calves as they milk that attracted snakes~~ <sup>They traded this information like race track tipsters</sup> ~~They traded this information like race track tipsters~~ <sup>Once, however</sup> ~~Once, however~~ <sup>he asked her if she was colored</sup> ~~he asked her if she was colored~~ <sup>Junior</sup> ~~Junior~~ <sup>said she</sup> ~~said she~~

\* powerful crafty vengeance only 12 year old girls know how to exact

\*\* but behaved as though the rejection was her victory, smiling when she saw the girl flinch at her original folds. the following day

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uninterested in personal biography of the other - only of the game (x)

to know if it was true about brown bears in the hills, and if whether it was true that it was cows calves as they milk that attracted snakes. They traded this information like race track tipsters. Once, however, he asked her if she was colored. Junior said she



didn't know - but would find out for him.  
 He let her know he wanted to invite her to his house but <sup>couldn't</sup> because  
~~He was afraid of nothing except inviting her to his house.~~  
 When he explained ~~the~~ how it would hurt her ~~[to be~~  
~~looked at, talked to, maybe ordered out by his family]~~  
 She nodded ~~as though it were perfectly clear. Why~~  
~~wouldn't?~~ Junior liked the protection he  
~~offered and the extra snow-ball he brought for her lunch~~  
~~Also~~ he pilfered for her: a pair of loafers - a sister's skirt.  
 a metal clamp for her <sup>finger-cambed</sup> hair <sup>when</sup> for Christmas  
 She gave him a cotton mouth cooked in a jar. He  
 gave her a jumbo box of Crayola it was hard to  
 tell which one was happier.

7

It was her uncles who broke them apart,  
 Two surly young men who took the any

She had more  
 uncles than  
 half brothers, more male  
~~than~~ cousins  
~~than~~ uncles  
 She ~~thought~~ <sup>thought</sup> they were  
 lumps together as uncles  
 in her mind