

Missy begins to sob in her handkerchief, Jim excuses himself.

JIM
Excuse me ma'am.

START

Jim walks out on the front porch where Sally sits in a wooden rocker, hugging her rag doll. She stares straight ahead with no emotion, several books sit next to her on a side table. Jim picks up the titles and looks them over.

JIM (CONT'D)
Flower Fables and Little Women, you like to read?

Sally nods with a sad face and tears streaming.

JIM (CONT'D)
Louisa May Alcott. You like her don't ya?

SALLY
Daddy was going to read these to me.

Sally's lip trembles and and she takes a big deep gasp. Jim takes a knee beside her, and postures as if to change the subject.

JIM
I like reading too; got lots n lots of books.

Sally nods but wrinkles her brow.

SALLY
You do?

JIM
Sure, I'd bet I even got one you been wanting to read.

SALLY
Do you have The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calavaras County? I love frogs.

JIM
Why that's a mouth full, and yes I certainly do.

Sally smiles

SALLY
My pa reads to me every night.

Sally's smile turns upside down.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Or he did.

JIM

Tell ya what Miss. Sally. I'll bring you a couple of my favorite books, as soon as I get a chance. Sure as I'm hat in hand.

SALLY

Really, I wish my pa could see them.

JIM

Oh, he's watchin. From heaven above now. He's an angel with you at all times ladybug.

Jim rubs the top of his head, smiles at her and touches her cheek.

JIM (CONT'D)

They tell me your pa was hero in the war.

SALLY

He was a soldier.

Jim smiles and looks bashful.

JIM

Sounds like a hero to me.

STOP

EXT. OLIVE RANCH BARN -- DAY

Jim and Frankie are loading up their horses, readying for the hunt of Will's killers. Frankie disappears into the barn.

JIM

Frankie; grab me one of those Winchesters, make it a newer one.

FRANKIE

There's a scatter gun in here, want it?

JIM

Sure, why not?

RED

When y'all headin out?

Red approaches Jim, Jim is holding a small fuming cigar between his teeth.

RED (CONT'D)

You didn't get that cigar from Frankie did ya?

JIM

Yeah, why?