

## Extract 1

1. bunk house  
baraquement  
2. whitewashed  
blanchis à la chaux

3. latch loquet  
4. bunks lits

5. burlap ticking  
matelas en toile de jute  
6. nailed clouée

7. shelves étagères

8. loaded with  
remplies de

9. scoff at se moquer

10. vials, combs des  
flottes, des peignes

11. neckties cravates

12. cast-iron en fonte  
13. stovepipe tuyau  
de poêle

14. littered with  
couverte de

15. a bright dust-laden  
bar un rayon lumineux  
chargé de poussière

16. beam faisceau de  
lumière

17. flies shot des mouches  
filantes

18. stoop-shouldered  
aux épaules tombantes

19. push-broom  
balai-brosse

The bunk house<sup>1</sup> was a long, rectangular building. Inside, the walls were whitewashed<sup>2</sup> and the floor unpainted. In three walls there were small, square windows, and in the fourth, a solid door with a wooden latch<sup>3</sup>. Against the walls were eight bunks<sup>4</sup>, five of them made up with blankets and the other three showing their burlap ticking<sup>5</sup>. Over each bunk there was nailed<sup>6</sup> an apple box with the opening forward so that it made two shelves<sup>7</sup> for the personal belongings of the occupant of the bunk. And these shelves were loaded with<sup>8</sup> little articles, soap and talcum powder, razors and those Western magazines ranch men love to read and scoff at<sup>9</sup> and secretly believe. And there were medicines on the shelves, and little vials, combs<sup>10</sup>, and from nails on the box sides, a few neckties<sup>11</sup>. Near one wall there was a black cast-iron<sup>12</sup> stove, its stovepipe<sup>13</sup> going straight up through the ceiling. In the middle of the room stood a big square table littered with<sup>14</sup> playing cards, and around it were grouped boxes for the players to sit on.

At about ten o'clock in the morning the sun threw a bright dust-laden bar<sup>15</sup> through one of the side windows, and in and out of the beam<sup>16</sup> flies shot<sup>17</sup> like rushing stars.

The wooden latch raised. The door opened and a tall, stoop-shouldered<sup>18</sup> old man came in. He was dressed in blue jeans and he carried a big push-broom<sup>19</sup> in his left hand. Behind him came George, and behind George, Lennie.

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"The boss was expectin' you last night," the old man said. "He was sore<sup>2</sup> as hell when you wasn't here to go out this morning." He pointed with his right arm, and out of the sleeve<sup>3</sup> came a round stick-like wrist<sup>4</sup>, but no hand. "You can have them two beds there," he said, indicating two bunks near the stove.

George stepped over and threw his blankets down on the burlap sack of straw that was a mattress. He looked into his box shelf and then picked a small yellow can from it. "Say. What the hell's this?"

"I don't know," said the old man.

"Says 'positively kills lice, roaches and other scourges<sup>5</sup>.' What the hell kind of bed you givin' us, anyways? We don't want no pants rabbits<sup>6</sup>."

The old swamper<sup>7</sup> shifted his broom and held it between his elbow and his side while he held out his hand for the can. He studied the label<sup>8</sup> carefully. "Tell you what—" he said finally, "last guy that had this bed was a blacksmith<sup>9</sup>—hell of a nice fella<sup>10</sup> and as clean a guy as you want to meet. Used to wash his hands even *after* he ate."

"Then how come he got graybacks<sup>11</sup>?" George was working up a slow anger. Lennie put his bindle on the neighboring<sup>12</sup> bunk and sat down. He watched George with open mouth. ]

"Tell you what," said the old swamper. "This here blacksmith—name of Whitey—was the kind of guy that would put that stuff around even if there wasn't no bugs—just to make sure, see? Tell you what he used

1. was expectin' you  
vous attendait

2. sore ramolné

3. sleeve manche  
4. stick-like wrist  
poignet comme un  
bâton

5. lice, roaches and  
other scourges poux,  
cariards et autres  
vermines

6. pants rabbits  
morpions

7. swamper homme à  
tout faire

8. label étiquette

9. blacksmith forgeron

10. nice fella brave gars

11. got graybacks avait  
des morpions

12. neighboring d'à côté

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