

1. **we'd belong there** ça serait notre chez-nous
2. **Jap** = Japanese

3. **begged** implora

4. **we put in a crop** on planterait une récolte

5. **they'd nibble** ils grignoleraient

6. **would throw a litter** feraient des petits

7. **raptly** absorbé

8. **nobody could can us** personne pourrait nous viter

9. **fren'** = friend

We'd belong there¹. There wouldn't be no more runnin' round the country and gettin' fed by a Jap² cook. No, sir, we'd have our own place where we belonged and not sleep in no bunk house."

"Tell about the house, George," Lennie begged³.

"Sure, we'd have a little house an' a room to ourself. Little fat iron stove, an' in the winter we'd keep a fire goin' in it. It ain't enough land so we'd have to work too hard. Maybe six, seven hours a day. We wouldn't have to buck no barley eleven hours a day. An' when we put in a crop⁴, why, we'd be there to take the crop up. We'd know what come of our planting."

"An' rabbits," Lennie said eagerly. "An' I'd take care of 'em. Tell how I'd do that, George."

"Sure, you'd go out in the alfalfa patch an' you'd have a sack. You'd fill up the sack and bring it in an' put it in the rabbit cages."

"They'd nibble⁵ an' they'd nibble," said Lennie, "the way they do. I seen 'em."

"Ever' six weeks or so," George continued, "them does would throw a litter⁶ so we'd have plenty rabbits to eat an' to sell. An' we'd keep a few pigeons to go flyin' around the win'mill like they done when I was a kid." He looked raptly⁷ at the wall over Lennie's head. "An' it'd be our own, an' nobody could can us⁸. If we don't like a guy we can say, 'Get the hell out,' and by God he's got to do it. An' if a fren⁹ come along, why we'd have an extra bunk, an' we'd say, 'Why don't you spen' the night?' an' by God he would. We'd have a setter dog

1. **stripe** tigrés

2. **breathed hard** respirait fort

3. **subsided** se calma

4. **might dare to disturb** oseraient déranger
5. **entranced** fasciné

6. **ol'** = old

7. **flat bust** complètement fauchés

8. **swampin'** comme homme à tout faire
9. **hunderd** = hundred

and a couple stripe¹ cats, but you gotta watch out them cats don't get the little rabbits."

Lennie breathed hard². "You jus' let 'em try to get the rabbits. I'll break their God damn necks. I'll . . . I'll smash 'em with a stick." He subsided³, grumbling to himself, threatening the future cats which might dare to disturb⁴ the future rabbits.

George sat entranced⁵ with his own picture.

When Candy spoke they both jumped as though they had been caught doing something reprehensible. Candy said, "You know where's a place like that?"

George was on guard immediately. "S'pose I do," he said. "What's that to you?"

"You don't need to tell me where it's at. Might be any place."

"Sure," said George. "That's right. You couldn't find it in a hundred years."

Candy went on excitedly, "How much they want for a place like that?"

George watched him suspiciously. "Well—I could get it for six hundred bucks. The ol'⁶ people that owns it is flat bust⁷ an' the ol' lady needs an operation. Say—what's it to you? You got nothing to do with us."

Candy said, "I ain't much good with on'y one hand. I lost my hand right here on this ranch. That's why they give me a job swampin'⁸. An' they give me two hunderd⁹ an' fifty dollars 'cause I los' my hand. An' I got fifty more saved up right in the bank, right now. That's three hunderd, and I got fifty more comin' the end

1. a the = of the

2. tend in occuper de
3. hoe biner

4. will testament
5. my share ma part
6. kick off = die

7. do her = buy the house

8. spat cracha
9. thoughtfully pensivement

10. swing her la raffler

11. amazed ébahis

12. wonder émerveillement

13. stump moignon

14. purty = pretty

15. put me on the county mettront à la charge du comté

a the' month. Tell you what—"He leaned forward eagerly. "S'pose I went in with you guys. Tha's three hunderd an' fifty bucks I'd put in. I ain't much good, but I could cook and tend² the chickens and hoe³ the garden some. How'd that be?"

George half-closed his eyes. "I gotta think about that. We was always gonna do it by ourselves."

Candy interrupted him, "I'd make a will⁴ an' leave my share⁵ to you guys in case I kick off⁶, 'cause I ain't got no relatives nor nothing. You guys got any money? Maybe we could do her⁷ right now?"

George spat⁸ on the floor disgustedly. "We got ten bucks between us." Then he said thoughtfully⁹, "Look, if me an' Lennie work a month an' don't spen' nothing, we'll have a hunderd bucks. That'd be four fifty. I bet we could swing her¹⁰ for that. Then you an' Lennie could go get her started an' I'd get a job an' make up the res', an' you could sell eggs an' stuff like that."

They fell into a silence. They looked at one another, amazed¹¹. This thing they had never really believed in was coming true. George said reverently, "Jesus Christ! I bet we could swing her." His eyes were full of wonder.¹² "I bet we could swing her," he repeated softly.

Candy sat on the edge of his bunk. He scratched the stump¹³ of his wrist nervously. "I got hurt four years ago," he said. "They'll can me purty¹⁴ soon. Jus' as soon as I can't swamp out no bunk houses they'll put me on the county¹⁵. Maybe if I give you guys my money, you'll let me hoe in the garden even

after I ain't no good at it. An' I'll wash dishes an' little chicken stuff like that. But I'll be on our own place, an' I'll be let¹ to work on our own place." He said miserably, "You seen what they done to my dog tonight? They says he wasn't no good to himself nor nobody else. When they can me here I wisht somebody'd² shoot me. But they won't do nothing like that. I won't have no place to go, an' I can't get no more jobs. I'll have thirty dollars more comin', time you guys is ready to quit."

George stood up. "We'll do her³," he said. "We'll fix up⁴ that little old place an' we'll go live there." He sat down again. They all sat still, all bemused⁵ by the beauty of the thing, each mind was popped into⁶ the future when this lovely thing should come about.

George said wonderingly, "S'pose they was a carnival or a circus come to town, or a ball game⁷, or any damn thing." Old Candy nodded in appreciation of the idea. "We'd just go to her," George said. "We wouldn't ask nobody if we could. Jus' say, 'We'll go to her,' an' we would. Jus' milk the cow and sling⁸ some grain to the chickens an' go to her."

"An' put some grass⁹ to the rabbits," Lennie broke in. "I wouldn't never forget to feed them. When we gon'ta¹⁰ do it, George?"

"In one month. Right squack¹¹ in one month. Know what I'm gon'ta do? I'm gon'ta write to them old people that owns the place that we'll take it. An' Candy'll send a hunderd dollars to bind her¹²."

1. an' I'll be let = and I'll be able

2. wisht somebody'd = wish that somebody would

3. we'll do her on va l'avoir

4. we'll fix up on arrangerà

5. bemused déçourentés

6. popped into tendu vers

7. ball game = baseball game

8. sling jeter

9. grass herbe

10. gon'ta = going to

11. right squack exactement

12. bind her sceller la vente

"Sure will," said Candy. "They got a good stove there?"

"Sure, got a nice stove, burns coal or wood."

"I'm gonna take my pup," said Lennie. "I bet by Christ he likes it there, by Jesus."

Voices were approaching from outside. George said quickly, "Don't tell nobody about it. Jus' us three an' nobody else. They li'ble¹ to can us so we can't make no stake. Jus' go on like we was gonna buck barley the rest of our lives, then all of a sudden some day we'll go get our pay an' scam outta² here."

Lennie and Candy nodded, and they were grinning with delight.³ "Don't tell nobody," Lennie said to himself.

Candy said, "George."

"Huh?"

"I oughtta of shot that dog myself, George. I shouldn't oughtta of⁴ let no stranger shoot my dog."

The door opened. Slim came in, followed by Curley and Carlson and Whit. Slim's hands were black with tar and he was scowling⁵. Curley hung close to his elbow.

Curley said, "Well, I didn't mean nothing, Slim. I just ast⁶ you."

Slim said, "Well, you been askin' me too often. I'm gettin' God damn sick of it. If you can't look after your own God damn wife, what you expect me to do about it? You lay offa me."⁷

"I'm jus' tryin' to tell you I didn't mean nothing," said Curley. "I jus' thought you might of saw⁸ her."

1. li'ble = liable (susceptibles)

2. scam outta = get out of

3. were grinning with delight = souriaient jusqu'aux oreilles

4. shouldn't oughtta of = should not have

5. was scowling = avait l'air renfrogné

6. ast = asked

7. lay offa me = lay off of me = leave me alone

8. of saw = have seen

"Why'n't¹ you tell her to stay the hell home where she belongs?" said Carlson. "You let her hang around² bunk houses and pretty soon you're gonna have som'pin³ on your hands and you won't be able to do nothing about it."

Curley whirled⁴ on Carlson. "You keep outta this les' you wanta⁵ step outside."

Carlson laughed. "You God damn punk," he said. "You tried to throw a scare⁶ into Slim, an' you couldn't make it stick⁷. Slim throwed a scare into you. You're yella⁸ as a frog belly. I don't care if you're the best welter⁹ in the country. You come for me, an' I'll kick your God damn head off."

Candy joined the attack with joy. "Glove fulla Vaseline," he said disgustedly. Curley glared¹⁰ at him. His eyes slipped on¹¹ past and lighted on Lennie; and Lennie was still smiling with delight at the memory of the ranch.

Curley stepped over to Lennie like a terrier. "What the hell you laughin' at?"

Lennie looked blankly¹² at him. "Huh?"

Then Curley's rage exploded. "Come on, ya big bastard. Get up on your feet. No big son-of-a-bitch is gonna laugh at me. I'll show ya who's yella."

Lennie looked helplessly at George, and then he got up and tried to retreat. Curley was balanced and poised¹³. He slashed¹⁴ at Lennie with his left, and then smashed down his nose with a right. Lennie gave a cry of terror. Blood welled¹⁵ from his nose. "George," he

1. why'n't = why don't

2. hang around = autour des

3. som'pin = something = a problem

4. whirled = se retourna brusquement

5. les' you wanta = unless you want to

6. throw a scare = foutre la trouille

7. you couldn't make it stick = t'as pas réussi

8. yella = yellow = a coward (un lâche)

9. welter =

welterweight = a boxer who weighs between 63 and 67 kilos

10. glared = lança un regard furieux

11. slipped on = glissé sur

12. blankly sans comprendre

13. balanced and poised = bien campé sur ses pieds

14. slashed = décocha un coup

15. welled = jaillit