

MA YOUNG

No. No. No, they wouldn't.

VINITA YOUNG

But the boys wouldn't do it, Ma! Not to the Sheriff. Not unless they was pushed to it!

LORENA YOUNG

That's right, Ma! If they done it, it's just cuz they was put to it. Not cuz they want to do it, Ma. They just wouldn't.

VINITA YOUNG

Are you gonna be takin' our photo for the paper?

FRANK RHODES

Uh...

LORENA YOUNG

We'll tell you what we know, but you gotta give us time to get ready for the photos.

VINITA YOUNG

Yeah, you gotta let us know.

MA YOUNG

Girls!

MA YOUNG

Don't be gettin' your hopes up, there ain't nothin' those two flighty birds can tell you.

DAN NEEL

What can you tell us, Mrs. Young?

MA YOUNG

My boys... They had a tough time with the law for a spell, but they was born sweet boys, I tell you.

DAN NEEL (losing it)

My entire team is dead on your lawn! Your boys have disappeared. Who was the mastermind here? Did you help them?

MA YOUNG

No! I don't believe it. They didn't do it. We didn't do it.

DAN NEEL

They DID do it, Mrs. Young, and I want to know who was helping them?! Did you help them plan it? How did they know the Sheriff was coming? Who else was in the house?

MA YOUNG (bewildered and lost)

I don't know! I don't know. I simply don't know.

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

SOUND: fade up typing to stop at top of dialogue

ELIZABETH

Good morning, Tom...Fred. Oh Fred, I'm so thankful you managed to escape.

FRED

I'm just angry that we tore that farm apart and couldn't find any of 'em.

TOM FIELDER

Oh Elizabeth, I should have been with them, but I wasn't. I was...I was...Why?

ELIZABETH

No one knows why. We'll never know. But I am ever so thankful that you are still here.

TOM FIELDER

I am going to endeavor to deserve it, Elizabeth, I truly am.

ELIZABETH

You already do, Tom.

Good morning, Mr. Neel....I just can't believe they're all gone.

DAN NEEL

They are not 'gone', Elizabeth! They are DEAD. You understand?!
(She stifles a small cry.)

They couldn't be any more DEAD if they drown themselves in a vat of pig shit! They are DEAD! And they are not coming back! Oh God!

(Dan Neel begins to cry.)

ELIZABETH

Mary.

FRED PIKE

Mrs. Hendrix, we are so--

MARY HENDRIX

Please, stop Fred.

TOM FIELDER

Sheriff Hendrix was my idol, Mrs.--

MARY HENDRIX

Thank you, Tom. Mr. Neel, I thought I might be of service.

DAN NEEL

Yes, yes, the ladies are taking tips from the phone calls---

MARY HENDRIX

--That's not what I meant.

DAN NEEL

We've already got state police, regional police, we got the
Feds--

MARY HENDRIX

Dan, in the event of the death of my husband, the position of
Sheriff falls to me, until such time as a new election can be
held, correct?

DAN NEEL

Yes, but, we don't expect you...we thought you didn't want to...

MARY HENDRIX

I don't want to. But I am needed, and, well, this is the best
way I know how to serve.

(beat of silence)

MARY HENDRIX

We will track down the murderous men who put my husband in an
early grave. And we will plan a memorial worthy of the heros we
lost. You understand?