

JILLI

I can't come see my favorite
brother?

JASON

Just figured ya to be sleepin',
s'all.

JASON sits back down and smiles at his children. MISSY turns to look at JILLI and waves at her, smiling. We see the necklace and pendant around her neck. WILSON ignores her, engrossed in eating.

JILLI smiles at MISSY but doesn't fawn over her or call her over.

JILLI

There are some days where I like to
see the sun.

She walks to the hallway and looks at the room at the end of the hallway. She gives a slight curl of her lip and walks back towards the table. She sits and rests her chin on her hand, looking at JASON.

JASON eats and doesn't look at her.

JASON

Missy, take your brother out and
feed them carrots to the horse.
Mind his fingers.

MISSY

Yes, Papa!

She scoots off her chair and grabs WILSON'S hand, dragging him out of the cabin.

JASON

Whaddya want, Jillli? Got chores.

JILLI

Yes, I know you do. I just wanted
to check in on the old place. See
how you were holding up. You hardly
ever come into town anymore.

JASON

Got chores, raising them two
without their Momma takes time
outta town. I stop by and see ya
when I come into Donelson's.

JILLI reaches out to touch his hand.

JILLI

Oh, you miss her. Don't you. Still.

JASON stands and gathers dishes from the table. He deposits them in the sink and leans against it for a moment.

JASON

Yeah. Still do.

JILLI

I'm sorry, Jason. Really, I am.
Carol meant a lot to you.

There's a long silence. She looks around the room, then back to him. He's still leaning against the sink.

JILLI (CONT'D)

I can't believe you stayed here.
Workin' this land.

JASON

Where'd you expect me to go?

JILLI

Anywhere! Back east, further west,
maybe south to Texas. I hear
Louisiana's nice.

JASON

S'home, Jilli. Land's gotta right
to stay in the family.

He looks at her over his shoulder, without turning around.

JASON (CONT'D)

You could've left.

She laughs mirthlessly.

JILLI

After all the work I put in this
town? It's nice to have something
like that.

He turns around and looks at her, tired.

JASON

This is your home, Jilli.

JilliShe stands and adjusts her clothing.

JILLI

Oh, no, Jason. This was always your
home much more than it was mine.

JASON

Maybe so. What I want to know is why.

She fake laughs again.

JILLI

Oh, darling brother.

She shakes her head lightly, then tilts it to the side, appraising him.

JILLI (CONT'D)

You like so tired. Much more than you used to be. Maybe if I take them for a spell, you can ride for a bit. You always used to like to ride to the ridge past yonder, sit up top, watch the sun set.

He regards her for a moment, then sighs and rubs his hands over his face.

JASON

Maybe you're right.

JILLI

Now, there. See? Perfect for you, spendin' a couple of days out there. Not too much out of my way for me. I'll take them in for some stick candy, bring them back.

JASON

Thank you, Jillli.

She walks up to him and grabs his upper arms in a gesture of warmth.

JILLI

What is family for?

CUT TO:

EXT. HOMESTEAD LAND - DAY

JASON rides off away from the homestead, towards the ridge, a pack attached to his saddle. He looks back at the stead and sees WILSON running into the house. He smiles and turns back to look at the ridge.

CUT TO: