THE SOUND AND THE FURY by William Faulkner. Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting. They were coming toward where the flag was and I went along the fence. Luster was hunting in the grass by the flower tree. They took the flag out, and they were hitting. Then they put the flag back and they went to the table, and he hit and the other hit. Then they went on, and I went along the fence. Luster came away from the flower tree and we went along the fence and they stopped and we stopped and I looked through the fence while Luster was hunting in the grass. “Here, caddie.” He hit. They went away across the pasture. I held to the fence and watched them going away. “Listen at you, now.” Luster said. “Aint you something, thirty three years old, going on that way. After I done went all the way to town to buy you that cake. Hush up that moaning. Aint you going to help me find that quarter so I can go to the show tonight.” They were hitting little, across the pasture. I went back along the fence to where the flag was. It flapped on the bright grass and the trees. “Come on.” Luster said. “We done looked there. They aint no more coming right now. Les go down to the branch and find that quarter before them *s finds it.” It was red, flapping on the pasture. Then there was a bird slanting and tilting on it. Luster threw. The flag flapped on the bright grass and the trees. I held to the fence. “Shut up that moaning.” Luster said. “I cant make them come if they aint coming, can I. If you dont hush up, mammy aint going to have no birthday for you. If you dont hush, you know what I going to do. I going to eat that cake all up. Eat them candles, too. Eat all them thirty three candles. Come on, les go down to the branch. I got to find my quarter. Maybe we can find one of they balls. Here. Here they is. Way over yonder. See.” He came to the fence and pointed his arm. “See them. They aint coming back here no more. Come on.” We went along the fence and came to the garden fence, where our shadows were. My shadow was higher than Luster’s on the fence. We came to the broken place and went through it. “Wait a minute.” Luster said. “You snagged on that nail again. Cant you never crawl through here without snagging on that nail.” Caddy uncaught me and we crawled through. Uncle Maury said to not let anybody see us, so we better stoop over, Caddy said. Stoop over, Benjy. Like this, see. We stooped over and crossed the garden, where the flowers rasped and rattled against us. The ground was hard. We climbed the fence, where the pigs were grunting and snuffing. I expect they’re sorry because one of them got killed today, Caddy said. The ground was hard, churned and knotted. Keep your hands in your pockets, Caddy said. Or they’ll get froze. You dont want your hands froze on Christmas, do you. “It’s too cold out there.” Versh said. “You dont want to go out doors.” “What is it now.” Mother said. “He want to go out doors.” Versh said. “Let him go.” Uncle Maury said. “It’s too cold.” Mother said. “He’d better stay in. Benjamin. Stop that, now.” “It wont hurt him.” Uncle Maury said. “You, Benjamin.” Mother said. “If you dont be good, you’ll have to go to the kitchen.” “Mammy say keep him out the kitchen today.” Versh said. “She say she got all that cooking to get done.” “Let him go, Caroline.” Uncle Maury said. “You’ll worry yourself sick over him.” “I know it.” Mother said. “It’s a judgment on me. I sometimes wonder.” “I know, I know.” Uncle Maury said. “You must keep your strength up. I’ll make you a toddy.” “It just upsets me that much more.” Mother said. “Dont you know it does.” “You’ll feel better.” Uncle Maury said. “Wrap him up good, boy, and take him out for a while.” Uncle Maury went away. Versh went away. “Please hush.” Mother said. “We’re trying to get you out as fast as we can. I dont want you to get sick.” Versh put my overshoes and overcoat on and we took my cap and went out. Uncle Maury was putting the bottle away in the sideboard in the diningroom. “Keep him out about half an hour, boy.” Uncle Maury said. “Keep him in the yard, now.” “Yes, sir.” Versh said. “We dont never let him get off the place.” We went out doors. The sun was cold and bright. “Where you heading for.” Versh said. “You dont think you going to town, does you.” We went through the rattling leaves. The gate was cold. “You better keep them hands in your pockets.” Versh said. “You get them froze onto that gate, then what you do. Whyn’t you wait for them in the house.” He put my hands into my pockets. I could hear him rattling in the leaves. I could smell the cold. The gate was cold. “Here some hickeynuts. Whooey. Git up that tree. Look here at this squirl, Benjy.” I couldn’t feel the gate at all, but I could smell the bright cold. “You better put them hands back in your pockets.” Caddy was walking. Then she was running, her booksatchel swinging and jouncing behind her. “Hello, Benjy.” Caddy said. She opened the gate and came in and stooped down. Caddy smelled like leaves. “Did you come to meet me.” she said. “Did you come to meet Caddy. What did you let him get his hands so cold for, Versh.” “I told him to keep them in his pockets.” Versh said. “Holding on to that ahun gate.” “Did you come to meet Caddy,” she said, rubbing my hands. “What is it. What are you trying to tell Caddy.” Caddy smelled like trees and like when she says we were asleep. What are you moaning about, Luster said. You can watch them again when we get to the branch. Here. Here’s you a jimson weed. He gave me the flower. We went through the fence, into the lot. “What is it.” Caddy said. “What are you trying to tell Caddy. Did they send him out, Versh.” “Couldn’t keep him in.” Versh said. “He kept on until they let him go and he come right straight down here, looking through the gate.” “What is it.” Caddy said. “Did you think it would be Christmas when I came home from school. Is that what you thought. Christmas is the day after tomorrow. Santy Claus, Benjy. Santy Claus. Come on, let’s run to the house and get warm.” She took my hand and we ran through the bright rustling leaves. We ran up the steps and out of the bright cold, into the dark cold. Uncle Maury was putting the bottle back in the sideboard. He called Caddy. Caddy said, “Take him in to the fire, Versh. Go with Versh.” she said. “I’ll come in a minute.” We went to the fire. Mother said, “Is he cold, Versh.” “Nome.” Versh said. “Take his overcoat and overshoes off.” Mother said. “How many times do I have to tell you not to bring him into the house with his overshoes on.” “Yessum.” Versh said. “Hold still, now.” He took my overshoes off and unbuttoned my coat. Caddy said, “Wait, Versh. Cant he go out again, Mother. I want him to go with me.” “You’d better leave him here.” Uncle Maury said. “He’s been out enough today.” “I think you’d both better stay in.” Mother said. “It’s getting colder, Dilsey says.” “Oh, Mother.” Caddy said. “Nonsense.” Uncle Maury said. “She’s been in school all day. She needs the fresh air. Run along, Candace.” “Let him go, Mother.” Caddy said. “Please. You know he’ll cry.” “Then why did you mention it before him.” Mother said. “Why did you come in here. To give him some excuse to worry me again. You’ve been out enough today. I think you’d better sit down here and play with him.” “Let them go, Caroline.” Uncle Maury said. “A little cold wont hurt them. Remember, you’ve got to keep your strength up.” “I know.” Mother said. “Nobody knows how I dread Christmas. Nobody knows. I am not one of those women who can stand things. I wish for Jason’s and the children’s sakes I was stronger.” “You must do the best you can and not let them worry you.” Uncle Maury said. “Run along, you two. But dont stay out long, now. Your mother will worry.” “Yes, sir.” Caddy said. “Come on, Benjy. We’re going out doors again.” She buttoned my coat and we went toward the door. “Are you going to take that baby out without his overshoes.” Mother said. “Do you want to make him sick, with the house full of company.” “I forgot.” Caddy said. “I thought he had them on.” We went back. “You must think.” Mother said. Hold still now Versh said. He put my overshoes on. “Someday I’ll be gone, and you’ll have to think for him.” Now stomp Versh said. “Come here and kiss Mother, Benjamin.” Caddy took me to Mother’s chair and Mother took my face in her hands and then she held me against her. “My poor baby.” she said. She let me go. “You and Versh take good care of him, honey.” “Yessum.” Caddy said. We went out. Caddy said, “You needn’t go, Versh. I’ll keep him for a while.” “All right.” Versh said. “I aint going out in that cold for no fun.” He went on and we stopped in the hall and Caddy knelt and put her arms around me and her cold bright face against mine. She smelled like trees. “You’re not a poor baby. Are you. Are you. You’ve got your Caddy. Haven’t you got your Caddy.” Cant you shut up that moaning and slobbering, Luster said. Aint you shamed of yourself, making all this racket. We passed the carriage house, where the carriage was. It had a new wheel. “Git in, now, and set still until your maw come.” Dilsey said. She shoved me into the carriage. T. P. held the reins. “Clare I dont see how come Jason wont get a new surrey.” Dilsey said. “This thing going to fall to pieces under you all some day. Look at them wheels.” Mother came out, pulling her veil down. She had some flowers. “Where’s Roskus.” she said. “Roskus cant lift his arms, today.” Dilsey said. “T. P. can drive all right.” “I’m afraid to.” Mother said. “It seems to me you all could furnish me with a driver for the carriage once a week. It’s little enough I ask, Lord knows.” “You know just as well as me that Roskus got the rheumatism too bad to do more than he have to, Miss Cahline.” Dilsey said. “You come on and get in, now. T. P. can drive you just as good as Roskus.” “I’m afraid to.” Mother said. “With the baby.” Dilsey went up the steps. “You calling that thing a baby.” she said. She took Mother’s arm. “A man big as T. P. Come on, now, if you going.” “I’m afraid to.” Mother said. They came down the steps and Dilsey helped Mother in. “Perhaps it’ll be the best thing for all of us.” Mother said. “Aint you shamed, talking that way.” Dilsey said. “Dont you know it’ll take more than a eighteen year old * to make Queenie run away. She older than him and Benjy put together. And dont you start no projecking with Queenie, you hear me. T. P. If you dont drive to suit Miss Cahline, I going to put Roskus on you. He aint too tied up to do that.” “Yessum.” T. P. said. “I just know something will happen.” Mother said. “Stop, Benjamin.” “Give him a flower to hold.” Dilsey said. “That what he wanting.” She reached her hand in. “No, no.” Mother said. “You’ll have them all scattered.” “You hold them [illegible].” Dilsey said. “I’ll get him one out.” She gave me a flower and her hand went away. “Go on now, fore Quentin see you and have to go to.” Dilsey said. “Where is she.” Mother said. “She down to the house playing with Luster.” Dilsey said. “Go on, T. P. Drive th[illegible] at surrey like Rosku[illegible]s told you, now.” “Yessum.” T. P. said. “Hum up, Queenie.” “Quentin.” Mother said. “Dont let [illegible] “Course I is.” Dilsey said. The carriage jolted and crunched on the drive. “I’m afraid to go and leave Quentin.” Mother said. “I’d better not go. T. P.” We [illegible] went through the gate, where it didn’t jolt anym[illegible]ore. T. P. hit Queenie with the whip. “You, T. P.” Mother said. “Got to get her going.” T. P. said. “Keep her wake up till we get back to the barn.” “Turn around.” Mother said. “I’m afraid to go and leave Quentin.” “Cant turn here.” T. P. said. Then it wa[illegible]s broader [illegible]. “Cant you turn here.” Mother said. “All right.” T. P. said. We began to turn. “You, T. P.” Mother said, clutching me. “I got to turn around some how.” T. P. said. “Whoa, Queenie.” We stopped. “You’ll turn us over.” Mother said. “Wh[illegible]at you [illegible] want to do, then.” T. P. said. “I’m afrai[illegible]d for yo[illegible]u to try to turn around.” Mother said. “Get up, Queenie.” T. P. said. We went on. “I just know Dilsey will let something happen to Quentin while I’m gone.” Mother said. “We must hurry back.” “Hum up, there.” T. P. said. He hit [illegible] Queen[illegible]ie with the whip. “You, T. P.” Mother said, clutching m[illegible]e. I co[illegible]uld hear Queenie’s feet and the bright shapes went smooth and steady on both sides, the shadows of them flowing across Queenie’s back. They went on like the bright tops of wheels. Then those on one side stopped at t[illegible]he ta[illegible]ll white po[illegible]st where the so[illegible]ldier [illegible] was. But on the other side they went on smooth and steady, but a little slower. “What do you want.” Jason said. He had his hands in his pockets and a pencil behind his ear. “We’re going to the cemetery.” Mother sai[illegible]d. “[illegible] All righ[illegible]t.” Jason said. “I dont aim to stop yo[illegible]u, do I. Wa[illegible]s tha[illegible]t all you wanted with me, just to tell me that.” “I know you wont come.” Mother said. “I’d feel safer if you would.” “Safe from what.” Jason said. “Father and Quentin cant hurt you.” Mother put her handkerchief und[illegible]er h[illegible]er veil[illegible]. “Stop it, Mother.” Jason said. “Do you want to get [illegible] that dam[illegible]n lo[illegible]oney to bawling in the middle of the square. Drive on, T. P.” “Hum up, Queenie.” T. P. said. “It’s a judgment on me.” Mother said. “But I’ll be gone too, soon.” “Here.” Jason said. “Whoa.” T. P. said. Jason said, “[illegible] Unc[illegible]le Ma[illegible]ury’s drawing on y[illegible]ou for fifty. Wha[illegible]t do yo[illegible]u w[illegible]ant to do about it.” “Why ask me.” Mother said. “I dont have any say so. I try not to worry you and Dilsey. I’ll be gone soon, and then you ” “Go on, T. P.” Jason said. “Hum up, Queenie.” T. P. said. The shapes flo[illegible]wed o[illegible]n. The ones o[illegible]n the other side b[illegible]egan again, b[illegible]rig[illegible]ht[illegible] and [illegible] fast and smooth, like when Caddy says we are going to sleep. Cry baby, Luster said. Aint you shamed. We went through the barn. The stalls were all open. You aint got no spotted pony to ride now, Luster s[illegible]aid[illegible]. Th[illegible]e floor was[illegible] dry and dusty. The roof was falling. The[illegible] slanting h[illegible]ole s were[illegible] full of spinning yellow. What do you want to go that way, for. You want to get your head knocked off with one of them balls. “Keep your hands in your pockets.” Caddy said. “Or they’ll be froze. You dont wan[illegible]t y[illegible]our[illegible] hands froz[illegible]e on Ch[illegible]rist[illegible]ma[illegible]s, do[illegible] you[illegible].” We went aro[illegible]und the ba[illegible]rn. The bi[illegible]g cow and the little one were standing in the door, and we could hear Prince and Queenie and Fancy stomping inside the barn. “If it wasn’t so cold, we’d ride Fancy.” Caddy said. “But it’s too cold to hold on[illegible] to[illegible]day[illegible].” Then we[illegible] co[illegible]ul[illegible]d[illegible] s[illegible]ee t[illegible]he branch, where the[illegible]s[illegible] moke[illegible] was blowing. “That’s where they are killing the pig.” Caddy said. “We can come back by there and see them.” We went down the hill. “You want to carry the letter.” Caddy said. “You can carry it.” She took th[illegible]e l[illegible]ette[illegible]r out of her[illegible] po[illegible]ck[illegible]et[illegible] an[illegible]d p[illegible]ut[illegible] it i[illegible]n m[illegible]ine[illegible]. “It’s[illegible] a Christma[illegible]s p[illegible]resen[illegible]t.” Caddy said. “Uncle Maury is going to surprise Mrs Patterson with it. We got to give it to her without letting anybody see it. Keep your hands in your pockets good, now.” We came to the branch. “It’s froze. ” C[illegible]add[illegible]y said. “Loo[illegible]k.” Sh[illegible]e[illegible] bro[illegible]ke[illegible] the[illegible] to[illegible] p[illegible]o[illegible]f[illegible]t[illegible] he wa[illegible]ter and held[illegible] a[illegible] piece[illegible] of it against my face. “Ice. That means how cold it is.” She helped me across and we went up the hill. “We cant even tell Mother and Father. You know what I think it is. I think it’s a surprise for Mother and F[illegible]ath[illegible]er a[illegible]nd Mr Patter[illegible]son[illegible] b[illegible]ot[illegible]h[illegible], be[illegible]ca[illegible]use[illegible] M[illegible]r P[illegible]atters[illegible]on sent you[illegible] so[illegible]me ca[illegible]ndy. Do you remember when Mr Patterson sent you some candy last summer.” There was a fence. The vine was dry, and the wind rattled in it. “Only I dont see why Uncle Maury didn’t send Versh.” Caddy sai[illegible]d. “[illegible] Ver[illegible]sh wont tell[illegible]. ” M[illegible]rs Pa[illegible]tte[illegible]rs[illegible]on[illegible] w[illegible]as[illegible] lo[illegible]oking[illegible] out the wind[illegible]ow. “You[illegible] wait here.” Caddy said. “Wait right here, now. I’ll be back in a minute. Give me the letter.” She took the letter out of my pocket. “Keep your hands in your pockets.” She climbed the fence with the letter in her ha[illegible]nd[illegible] and[illegible] went[illegible] thro[illegible]ugh[illegible] the[illegible] bro[illegible]wn[illegible], ra[illegible]ttling flowers. M[illegible]rs Patter[illegible]son[illegible] came[illegible] to the door and opened it and stood there. Mr Patterson was chopping in the green flowers. He stopped chopping and looked at me. Mrs Patterson came across the garden, running. When I saw her eyes I bega[illegible]n to[illegible] c[illegible]ry.[illegible] You[illegible] idiot[illegible], Mrs Patterson said, I told him ne[illegible]ver to[illegible] se[illegible]nd y[illegible]ou alo[illegible]ne again. Give it to me. Quick. Mr Patterson came fast, with the hoe. Mrs Patterson leaned across the fence, reaching her hand. She was trying to climb the fence. Give it to me, she said, Give it to me. Mr Patterson[illegible] cli[illegible]mbe[illegible] d[illegible]th[illegible] e[illegible]fen[illegible]ce. He took t[illegible]he letter. M[illegible]rs Patterso[illegible]n’s dr[illegible]ess[illegible] was ca[illegible]ught on the fence. I saw her eyes again and I ran down the hill. “They aint nothing over yonder but houses.” Luster said. “We going down to the branch.” They were washing down at the branch. One of them was sin[illegible]ging. I co[illegible]uld sme[illegible]ll the clo[illegible]thes flapping,[illegible] and the[illegible] smoke[illegible] blowing across the branch. “You stay down here.” Luster said. “You aint got no business up yonder. Them folks hit you, sho.” “What he want to do.” “He dont know what he want to do.” Luster said. “He think he wan[illegible]t to go up[illegible] yon[illegible]der where they knock[illegible]ng th[illegible]at ball.[illegible] You sit down here and play with your jimson weed. Look at them chillen playing in the branch, if you got to look at something. How come you cant behave yourself like folks.” I sat down on the sm[illegible]ing, and the sm[illegible]oke blowing blue. “Is y[illegible]ou all seen anything of a quarter down here.” Luster said. “What quarter.” “The one I had here this morning.” Luster said. “I lost it somewhere. It fell through this here hole in my pocket. If I dont find it I cant go to the show ton[illegible]ight.” “Where’d you get a quarter, boy. F[illegible]ind it in white folks’ pocket[illegible] while they aint looking.” “Got it at the getting place.” Luster said. “Plenty more where that one come from. Only I got to find that one. Is you all found it yet.” “I aint studying no quarter. I got my own business to tend to.” “Come on h[illegible]ere.” Luster said. “Help me look for it.” “He wouldn’t know a qu[illegible]arter if he was to see it, would he.” “He can help look just the same.” Luster said. “You all going to the show tonight.” “Dont talk to me about no show. Time I get done over this here tub I be too tired to lift my hand to do nothing.” “I bet yo[illegible]u be[illegible] there.” Luster said. “I bet[illegible] you was[illegible] the[illegible] re last night. I bet you all be right there when that tent open.” “Be enough *s there without me. Was last night.” “*’s money good as white folks, I reckon.” “White folks gives * money because know first white man comes along with a band going t[illegible]o ge[illegible]t it all back, so * can g[illegible]o to[illegible] work for some more.” “Aint nobody going make you go to that show.” “Aint yet. Aint thought of it, I reckon.” “What you got against white folks.” “Aint got nothing against them. I goes my way and lets white folks go theirs. I aint studying that show.[illegible] ” “Go[illegible]t a m[illegible]an in it can pla[illegible]y a tu[illegible]ne on a saw. Play it like a banjo.” “You go last night.” Luster said. “I going tonight. If I can find where I lost that quarter.” “You going take him with you, I reckon.” “Me.” Luster said. “You reckon I be found anywhere with him, time he start bellering.” “W[illegible]hat do[illegible]es[illegible] you do wh[illegible]en he start[illegible] bellering.” “I whips him.” Luster said. He sat down and rolled up his overalls. They played in the branch. “You all found any balls yet.” Luster said. “Aint you talking biggity. I bet you better not let your grandmammy hear you talking like that.” Luster got into t[illegible]he branch, where they were playing.[illegible] He hunted in the water, along the bank. “I had it when we was down here this morning.” Luster said. “Where bouts you lose it.” “Right out this here hole in my pocket.” Luster said. They hunted in the branch. Then they all stood up quick and stopped, then they spla[illegible]shed and fought in the branc[illegible]h. Luster got it and they squatted in the water, looking up the hill through the bushes. “Where is they.” Luster said. “Aint in sight yet.” Luster put it in his pocket. They came down the hill. “Did a ball come down here.” “It ought to be in the water. Didn’t any of you boys see it[illegible] or hea[illegible]r it.” “Ain[illegible]t he[illegible]ard nothing come down here.” Luster said. “Heard something hit that tree up yonder. Dont know which way it went.” They looked in the branch. “Hell. Look along the branch. It came down here. I saw it.” They looked along the branch. Then they went back up the hill. “Have you go[illegible]t th[illegible]at ball.” t[illegible]he[illegible] boy said. “What I want with it.” Luster said. “I aint seen no ball.” The boy got in the water. He went on. He turned and looked at Luster again. He went on down the branch. The man said “Caddie” up the hill. The boy got out of the water and went up the hill. “Now, just listen at you[illegible].” L[illegible]uster sa[illegible]id. “Hush up.” “What he moaning about now.” “Lawd knows.” Luster said. “He just starts like that. He been at it all morning. Cause it his birthday, I reckon.” “How old he.” “He thirty three.” Luster said. “Thirty three this morning.” “You mean, he been three years old thirty years.[illegible] ” “I g[illegible]oing by w[illegible]hat[illegible] mammy say.” Luster said. “I dont know. We going to have thirty three candles on a cake, anyway. Little cake. Wont hardly hold them. Hush up. Come on back here.” He came and caught my arm. “You old looney.” he said. “You want me to whip you.” “I bet you will.” “I is[illegible] done it. Hush, now.” Luster said[illegible]. “Aint I told you you cant go up there. They’ll knock your head clean off with one of them balls. Come on, here.” He pulled me back. “Sit down.” I sat down and he took off my shoes and rolled up my trousers. “Now, git in that water and play and see can y[illegible]ou stop that slobbering and moaning.” I[illegible] hushed and got in the water and Roskus came and said to come to supper and Caddy said, It’s not supper time yet. I’m not going. She was wet. We were playing in the branch and Caddy squatted down and got her dress wet and Versh sa[illegible]id, “Your mom[illegible]mer going to whip you for getting your dress[illegible] wet.” “She’s not going to do any such thing.” Caddy said. “How do you know.” Quentin said. “That’s all right how I know.” Caddy said. “How do you know.” “She said she was.” Quentin said. “Besides, I’m older than you.” “[illegible] I’m sev[illegible]en years old.” Caddy said. “I guess[illegible] I know.” “I’m older than that.” Quentin said. “I go to school. Dont I, Versh.” “I’m going to school next year.” Caddy said. “When it comes. Aint I, Versh.” “You know she whip you when you get your dress wet.” Versh said. “[illegible] It’s no[illegible]t wet.” Caddy said. She stood u[illegible]p in the water an[illegible]d looke[illegible]d at her dress. “I’ll take it off.” she said. “Then it’ll dry.” “I bet you wont.” Quentin said. “I bet I will.” Caddy said. “I bet you better not.” Quentin said. Caddy came to Versh and me and turned her back. “Un[illegible] button[illegible]it, Versh.” she s[illegible]aid. “Dont[illegible] you do[illegible]it, Versh.” Quentin said. “Taint none of my dress.” Versh said. “You unbutton it, Versh.” Caddy said. “Or I’ll tell Dilsey what you did yesterday.” So Versh unbuttoned it. “You just take your dress[illegible] off.” [illegible] Quentin s[illegible]aid. Cad[illegible]dy too[illegible]k her dress off and threw it on the bank. Then she didn’t have on anything but her bodice and drawers, and Quentin slapped her and she slipped and fell down in the water. When she got u[illegible]p she[illegible] began[illegible] to splas[illegible]h wate[illegible]r on Quentin, and Quentin splashed water on Caddy. Some of it splashed on Versh and me[illegible] and Versh picked me up and put me on the bank. He said he was going to tell on Caddy[illegible] and Q[illegible]uentin,[illegible] and then Quentin an[illegible]d Cadd[illegible]y bega[illegible]n to splash water at Versh. He got behind a bush. “I’m going to tell mammy on you all.” Versh said. Quentin climbed up the bank and tried to catch Versh, but Versh ran away[illegible] and[illegible] Quentin[illegible] couldn’t. When Quentin came back Versh sto[illegible]pped a[illegible]nd ho[illegible]llered that he was going to tell. Caddy told him that if he wouldn’t tell, they’d let him come back. So Versh said he wouldn’t, and they let him. “Now I guess you’re satisfi[illegible]ed.” Que[illegible]ntin said. “We’ll both get whipped now.” “I dont care.” Caddy[illegible] said. “[illegible]I’ll ru[illegible]n away.” “Yes you will.” Quentin said. “I’ll run away and never come back.” Caddy said. I began to cry. Caddy turned around and said “Hush” So I hushed. Then t[illegible]hey[illegible] playe[illegible]d in the branch. Jaso[illegible]n was playing too. He[illegible] was by[illegible]hims[illegible]elf further down the branch. Versh came around the bush and lifted me down into the water again. Caddy was all wet and muddy behind, and I started to cry[illegible] and[illegible] she c[illegible]ame and squatted[illegible] in the water. “Hus[illegible]h now[illegible].” sh[illegible]e said. “I’m not going to run away.” So I hushed. Caddy smelled like trees in the rain. What is the matter with you, Luster said. Cant you get done with th[illegible]at m[illegible]oani[illegible]ng and play in t[illegible]he branch like f[illegible]olks.[illegible] Wh[illegible]yn’t you take him on home. Didn’t they told you not to take him off the place. He still think they own this pasture, Luster said. Cant nobody see dow[illegible]n he[illegible]re fro[illegible]m the house,[illegible]noways. We ca[illegible]n. An[illegible]d fol[illegible]ks dont like to look at a looney. Taint no luck in it. Roskus came and said to come to supper and Caddy said it wasn’t supper time yet. “Yes ti[illegible]s.” Rosk[illegible]us said. “Dil[illegible]sey say for y[illegible]ou all[illegible] to c[illegible]ome on to the house. Bring them on, Versh.” He went up the hill, where the cow was lowing. “Maybe we’ll be dry by the time we get to the[illegible] ho[illegible]use.” Quentin sai[illegible]d. “I[illegible]t was all[illegible] your fault.” C[illegible]addy[illegible] sai[illegible]d. “I hope we do get whipped.” She put her dress on and Versh buttoned it. “They wont know you got wet.” Versh said. “It dont show[illegible] on[illegible] you.[illegible] Less me an[illegible]d Jaso[illegible]n tells.[illegible] ” “Are[illegible] you going[illegible] to tel[illegible]l, Ja[illegible]son.” Caddy said. “Tell on who.” Jason said. “He wont tell.” Quentin said. “Will you, Jason.” “I bet he does tell.” Caddy said. “He[illegible]’ll t[illegible]ell D[illegible] amuddy.” “He c[illegible]ant te[illegible]ll her[illegible].” Quentin[illegible] said.[illegible] “She[illegible]’s sick. If we walk slow it’ll be too dark for them to see.” “I dont care whether they see or not.” Caddy said. “I’m going to tell,[illegible] mys[illegible]elf. Y[illegible]ou carry h[illegible]im u[illegible]p the[illegible] hill,[illegible] Versh.” “J[illegible]ason[illegible] wont[illegible] tell.” Quentin said. “You remember that bow and arrow I made you, Jason.” “It’s broke now.” Jason said. “Let him tell.” Cad[illegible]dy s[illegible]aid. “I do[illegible]nt gi[illegible]ve a[illegible] cuss[illegible].[illegible] Carry Mau[illegible]ry up[illegible] the[illegible] hill, Versh.” Versh squatted and I got on his back. See you all at the show tonight, Luster said. Come on, here. We got[illegible] to f[illegible]ind[illegible] that quar[illegible]ter. “[illegible] If we[illegible] go s[illegible]low, i[illegible] t’ll be[illegible] dark[illegible] when we[illegible] get th[illegible]ere.” Quentin said. “I’m not going slow.” Caddy said. We went up the hill, but Quentin didn’t come. He was down at the[illegible] br[illegible]anch[illegible] when w[illegible]e got t[illegible]o whe[illegible]re w[illegible]e coul[illegible]d sme[illegible]ll the pig[illegible]s. Th[illegible]ey w[illegible]ere grunting and snuffing in the trough in the corner. Jason came behind us, with his hands in his pockets. Ro[illegible]sku[illegible] s w[illegible]as milkin[illegible]g the[illegible] cow[illegible] in th[illegible]e barn[illegible] door[illegible]. The cow[illegible]s cam[illegible]e ju[illegible]mping out of the barn. “Go on.” T. P. said. “Holler again. I going to holler myself. Whooey.” Quentin kicked T.[illegible] P.[illegible] agai[illegible]n. He kic[illegible]ked[illegible] T. P.[illegible] into t[illegible]he trou[illegible]gh w[illegible]here[illegible] the pigs[illegible] ate a[illegible]nd T[illegible]. P. lay there. “Hot dog.” T. P. said. “Didn’t he get me then. You see that white man kick me that time. Wh[illegible]oo[illegible]y.” I[illegible] wasn’t c[illegible]rying[illegible], but[illegible] I could[illegible] n’t stop. I wasn[illegible]’t cry[illegible]ing, but[illegible] the[illegible] gro[illegible]und wasn’t still, and then I was crying. The ground kept sloping up and the cows ran up the hill. T. P. tr[illegible]ied[illegible] to g[illegible]et up. H[illegible]e fell[illegible] dow[illegible]n again[illegible] and the co[illegible]ws ra[illegible]n down[illegible] the h[illegible]ill.[illegible] Quentin held my arm and we went toward the barn. Then the barn wasn’t there and we had to wait u[illegible]ntil[illegible] it ca[illegible]me bac[illegible]k. I d[illegible] idn’t[illegible] see[illegible] it come[illegible] back[illegible]. It[illegible] came behind us and Quentin set me down in the trough where the cows ate. I held on to it. It was[illegible] goi[illegible]ng a[illegible] way too[illegible], and[illegible] I hel[illegible]d to it[illegible]. The co[illegible]ws ra[illegible]n d[illegible] own the hill again, across the door. I couldn’t stop. Quentin and T. P. came up the hill, fighting[illegible]. T.[illegible] P. w[illegible]as fallin[illegible]g dow[illegible]n the[illegible] hill an[illegible]d Quen[illegible]tin d[illegible]rag[illegible]ged him up the hill. Quentin hit T. P. I couldn’t stop. “Stand up.” Quentin said. “You stay rig[illegible]ht h[illegible]ere.[illegible] Dont yo[illegible]u go aw[illegible]ay until[illegible] I get ba[illegible]ck.” “M[illegible]e an[illegible]d Be[illegible]njy going back to the wedding.” T. P. said. “Whooey.” Quentin hit T. P. again. Then he b[illegible]ega[illegible]n to t[illegible]hump T[illegible]. P. ag[illegible]ainst[illegible] the[illegible] wall. T. P. was laughing. Every time Quentin thumped him against the wall he tried to s[illegible]ay[illegible] Whoo[illegible]ey, but[illegible] he co[illegible]uldn’[illegible] t sa[illegible]y it for laughing. I quit crying, but I couldn’t stop. T. P. fell on me and the barn door we[illegible]nt a[illegible] way.[illegible] It went[illegible] down[illegible] the h[illegible]ill a[illegible]nd T. P. was fighting by himself and he fell down again. He was still laughing, and I[illegible] cou[illegible]ldn’t[illegible] stop,[illegible] and[illegible] I tried to g[illegible]et up[illegible] and I[illegible] fell[illegible] down, and I couldn’t stop. Versh said, “You sho done it now. I’ll declare if you ain[illegible]t. S[illegible]hut u[illegible]p that[illegible] yellin[illegible]g.” T. P. wa[illegible]s still la[illegible]ughing[illegible]. He f[illegible]loppe[illegible]d on[illegible] the door and laughed. “Whooey.” he said. “Me and Benjy going back to the wed[illegible]din[illegible]g. Sa[illegible]ssprill[illegible] uh.” T[illegible]. P.[illegible] said[illegible]. “Hus[illegible]h.” Ve[illegible]rsh s[illegible]aid. “[illegible] Whe[illegible]re you get it.” “Out the cellar.” T. P. said. “Whooey.” “Hush up.” Versh said. “[illegible] Wh[illegible]ere b[illegible]outs i[illegible]n the[illegible] cell[illegible]ar.” “Any[illegible] wher[illegible]e.” T.[illegible] P. sa[illegible]id. H[illegible]e laughed some more. “Moren a hundred bottles lef. Moren a million. Look o[illegible]ut, *[illegible], I go[illegible]ing to[illegible] holl[illegible]er.” Que[illegible]ntin s[illegible]aid, “[illegible] Lift hi[illegible]m up.[illegible] ” Versh lifted me up. “Drink this, Benjy.” Quentin said. The glass was hot. “Hu[illegible]sh,[illegible] now.[illegible] ” Que[illegible]ntin[illegible] said[illegible]. “D[illegible]rink it[illegible].” “S[illegible]asspr[illegible]illuh.[illegible] ” T.[illegible] P. said. “Lemme drink it, Mr Quentin.” “You shut your mouth.” Versh said[illegible]. “M[illegible]r Qu[illegible]entin[illegible].[illegible] “Hol[illegible]d him[illegible], Vers[illegible]h.” Quentin said. They held me. It was hot on my chin and on my shirt. “Drin[illegible]k.” Quen[illegible]tin sa[illegible]id. T[illegible]hey[illegible] held[illegible] my h[illegible]ead. I[illegible]t was[illegible] hot[illegible] inside me, and I began again. I was crying now, and something was ha[illegible]ppe[illegible]ning[illegible] insid[illegible]e me[illegible] and[illegible] I cri[illegible]ed mo[illegible]re,[illegible] and[illegible] they[illegible] hel[illegible]d me until it stopped happening. Then I hushed. It was still going aroun[illegible]d, a[illegible]nd th[illegible]en th[illegible]e shap[illegible]es b[illegible]ega[illegible] n. Open the crib[illegible], Ver[illegible]sh. Th[illegible]ey[illegible] were going slow. Spread those empty sacks on the floor. They were g[illegible]oin[illegible]g fas[illegible]ter, a[illegible] lmost fa[illegible]st enough[illegible]. Now. Pick up[illegible] his fe[illegible]et. Th[illegible]ey w[illegible]ent on, smooth and bright. I could hear T. P. laughing. I went on with[illegible] the[illegible] m, up[illegible] the[illegible] brigh[illegible]t hill.[illegible] At th[illegible]e top of the hill Versh put me down. “Come on here, Quentin.” he c[illegible]alle[illegible]d, loo[illegible]king[illegible] dow[illegible]n th[illegible]e hill. Quentin was still standing t[illegible] back[illegible] here by the branch. He was chun[illegible]king[illegible] into[illegible] the s[illegible]hado[illegible]ws wh[illegible]ere t[illegible]he branch was. “Let the old skizz[illegible] ard stay there.” Caddy said. She[illegible] too[illegible]k my[illegible] hand[illegible] and[illegible] we w[illegible]ent[illegible] on past the barn and through the gate. There was a frog on the b[illegible]rick[illegible] walk,[illegible] squ[illegible] attin[illegible]g in th[illegible]e mi[illegible]ddle of it. Caddy stepped over it and pulled me on. “Come on, M[illegible]aur[illegible] y.” sh[illegible]e sai[illegible]d. It s[illegible] till sq[illegible]uatt[illegible]ed there until Jason poked at it with his toe. “He’ll make a wart[illegible] on[illegible] you.”[illegible] Vers[illegible]h sai[illegible]d. The[illegible] fro[illegible]g hopped away. “Come on, Mau[illegible]ry.” Caddy said. “They got com[illegible]pan[illegible] y toni[illegible]ght.”[illegible] Vers[illegible]h said.[illegible] “[illegible] How do you k[illegible]now.[illegible] ” Cad[illegible]dy[illegible] said. “With all them lights on.” Versh said. “Light in every wind[illegible]ow.[illegible] ” “I re[illegible]ckon[illegible] we can turn[illegible] all the lights o[illegible] n without comp[illegible]any,[illegible] if we[illegible] wan[illegible]t to.” Caddy said. “I bet it’s co[illegible]mpany.” Versh said. “You all be[illegible]tter[illegible] go in[illegible] the b[illegible]ack a[illegible]nd sli[illegible]p u[illegible]pstairs.” “I[illegible] do[illegible]nt c[illegible] Cad[illegible]dy s[illegible] aid. “I’ll walk right in the parlor where they are.” “I bet your pap[illegible]py[illegible] whip y[illegible]ou if[illegible] yo[illegible]u do.[illegible] ” V[illegible]ersh said. “I d[illegible]ont care[illegible].” Ca[illegible]ddy s[illegible] aid.[illegible] “I’ll walk right in the parlor. I’ll walk right in the dining room an[illegible]d ea[illegible]t supp[illegible]er.”[illegible] “W[illegible]here[illegible] you[illegible] sit.”[illegible] Versh sai[illegible]d. “I’d s[illegible]it in[illegible] s in bed.” “I’m hungry.” Jason[illegible] said[illegible]. He pa[illegible]ssed[illegible] us[illegible] and ran[illegible] on up th[illegible]e walk. He[illegible] had[illegible] his[illegible] Damu[illegible]ddy[illegible] ’s chair.” Caddy said. “She eat[illegible] ersh went and picked him up. “[illegible] If y[illegible]ou keep[illegible] them[illegible] hands out yo[illegible]ur pockets, you could stay[illegible] on y[illegible]our f[illegible]ace.” Vers[illegible]h said. “You cant never get the[illegible] his pockets and he fell down. V[illegible]m out in time to catch yourself,[illegible] fat[illegible] as you i[illegible]s.” F[illegible]athe[illegible]r was standing by the kitchen step[illegible]s.[illegible] “W[illegible]here[illegible] ’s Qu[illegible]enti[illegible]n.” he said. “He coming up the[illegible] walk.” Versh said. Quentin was[illegible] co[illegible]ming slo[illegible