

I: SKELLY

[Skelly starts out by talking to his dog, but goes on to talk to himself.]

SKELLY: Hound? Hey, hound. What are you shaking about, huh? I got a roast bone from Cora's for you. Here. There you go. Go to it.

Those guns scare you do they? Those hunters? Eh? You should have seen it with the mines running. With the mines working and the dynamite and what-you-call-it booming around everywhere underground fifty times a day or more. Boom! That'd make you shake. (laughs) Every hound in town kept out of sight from seven in the morning 'till seven at night. Under every bed in town.

Eat it. That's roast bone. You.

(laughs) Oh, hell, yes. They was fancy people; butter wouldn't melt. Old man Reiley bought the Eldritch place up on the hill, wouldn't no other place do for him and carried on with their miners drinking parties and societies if you please. And Glenna Ann sashaying around serving tidbits on a platter; oh, well to do. Blast all day in the mines all day and blast all night at home.

Old Man Reiley called me every name in the book. Fit to be tied. She was a pretty one, too; only eighteen, the both of us; her old man called me every name in the book. Chased me off the place with a crowbar. And we done it in the old ma's wood shed. Oh, sure. I sneaks back the very same night and we done it out in the wood shed there. Everything smelling of hickory and cedar for their fancy fireplaces. Oh, yeah. And oh, how she did squirm! Oh, lord. Saying to me, "Oh, I love you. Oh, I love you, oh, really I do, Skelly." Oh, shit. 'Till I thought she was gonna croak. Oh, Lord. Sashay around town. Never let on she even knew me. Oh, Glenna Ann. Pretty girl. Oh, yeah. No girl in town so pretty. Then or now. None in between.