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# Blood of Man

By Ben Watts

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Not... tell... lies...

I... will...

not...

So, who to beat?

Hold on I'm concentrating.

But I can beat the champ.

Shut up Charlie.

- Shit!

6 seconds. Not bad.

I've done 10 before.

No you haven't.

- Yes I have.

Done it the other day.

You've never

played the game Charlie.

Know what I heard?

I heard we ain't gonna have

to go back to school in the Fall.

An objector broke through a window

a couple of nights ago.

Cops found him dead

in one of the classrooms.

They don't want

nobody going in there!

That wasn't even 3!

It was at least 5!

You count too slow.

Keep dreaming.

- Let me go again.

Maddy Mayweather

that's who I'd pick!

Fatty Maddy?

She ain't that fat.

Besides,

she's got a pretty face.

What about the braces?

What about them.

Tongues

gonna get stuck in them.

Why would I use my tongue?

That's how folks kiss.

No it's not.

I kissed a girl

with my tongue one time.  
Shut up Charlie.  
Well I ain't kissing  
no girl with my tongue.  
She wants to kiss me,  
she's gotta know that up front.  
Wanna know who I'd kiss?  
I don't think we asked you.  
Thought we were all playing.  
Fine.  
I'd kiss Mrs. Dunwoody.  
Who?  
Liza Dunwoody?  
Yup.  
Cyclops?  
Don't call her that.  
She's...  
old.  
She's the prettiest  
woman in town.  
Even prettier than  
Maddy Mayweather.  
Well at least  
Maddy's in my grade.  
You know how  
she lost her eye, don't you?  
No.  
I heard she was running through  
the corn fields out by her house.  
Tripped on a  
stake or something.  
Landed smack dab  
on a spike.  
Ripped her eye  
right out.  
Her husband found it  
in the dirt, rinsed it off and  
took her to the hospital.  
The doctor even tried  
putting it back in.  
There was no hope  
though.  
She was just born that way.  
Not what I heard.

Maybe if she had braces,  
you would take a liking to her.

Mom!

Charlie, leave your brother alone.

I ain't doing nothing.

Charles?

What,

I said I ain't doing nothing.

I'm standing right here.

You think I don't have eyes?

I can see what you are doing!

Why don't you go outside.

**[Charlie:**

to do out there

There isn't anything to do.

What?

Why don't you both go outside?

Go for a run or something.

Yeah Charlie.

Maybe you can run off

some of that fat.

Neal!

What?

It's the truth, he's fat.

Apologize.

It's not like I'm lying,

look at him!

I ain't fat, I'm husky,

that's what mom always says.

What do you think

husky means, dumbass!

Neal, that's enough!

Yeah, that's enough.

Hey!

Take it there is

\$5.00 on that counter

and go to the store.

And you get me some milk

and a dozen eggs.

My word, I hope you boys

are better behaved than this

when your grandmother

comes tomorrow.

Mom!  
- Not,  
another word.  
Now git! Go on!  
Git!  
And I better have change  
when you get back.  
You hear me!  
Where you going?  
Through the woods,  
it's shorter.  
Plus,  
I need to get something.  
Neal,  
what happens when you pray?  
What do you mean?  
Well, I see you  
and momma doing it all the time.  
What do you do?  
I don't know.  
Talk to God.  
Go on about your day.  
Does he talk back to you?  
Doesn't work like that.  
Then how does it work then?  
Charlie I don't know!  
Mom said  
if you are ever in trouble,  
He is the one to talk to.  
What does mom  
pray about?  
Help with you.  
What are we doing here?  
Had to get this.  
Jerky.  
You brought us here  
for Jerky.  
What? I was getting hungry.  
Where did this come from anyway?  
I made it.  
With what?  
A hammer.  
You have never  
held a hammer before.

Yes I have.  
Hi.  
Hi.  
You're the Freeman kid, right?  
Neal.  
Right.  
This is my brother Charlie.  
Hey Charlie.  
Hello.  
Can you boys  
help me with something?  
What?  
I need a place to hide is all.  
Somewhere where  
they can't find me.  
Like hide and go seek?  
Kind of.  
You know  
any good hiding spots?  
Well, you got  
this bunker right here.  
I made it myself.  
- No, you didn't.  
I did.  
- No you didn't.  
That will be fine.  
Anybody comes  
looking for me.  
You tell them  
you ain't seen me?  
Sure, yeah.  
Charlie!  
You ain't saying nothing, okay?  
Say it.  
Fine, I won't say nothing.  
Howdy there boys.  
What you all no good?  
Going to get some groceries.  
What is your names?  
Neal.  
That is my brother Charlie.  
You all ain't  
the Freeman kids are you?  
Yes sir.

Well I'll be.  
I ain't see you all  
since you was this high.  
Yes sir.  
I didn't know  
your daddy that well.  
It's a shame, no man  
deserves to go like that.  
How old are you all?  
And you?  
Is that right?  
Yup.  
Next year gonna start my driving.  
How come you ain't  
got no hair on your face?  
Shaved it.  
He don't tell the truth a lot.  
No, I reckon not.  
Oh well, mister  
we... we best...  
be getting on our way.  
Momma's going to be shouting.  
Hey, hold up a  
second there.  
Why you all going through  
the woods to get groceries?  
Shorter!  
Well may be but...  
woods ain't no place  
for young ones like you.  
You all know that.  
Hey, I ain't young.  
It could be dangerous is all.  
I mean  
if I ain't had to be out here  
I would not be out here  
all on my lonesome.  
So... why are you out here?  
Well  
now that you mention it,  
I am looking for somebody.  
You all ain't seen anybody  
besides me  
in these here parts

have you?  
It is real important  
I find him.  
No, no sir, it's... just  
me and my brother.  
Ain't that right?  
Yeah, we ain't seen her.  
How did you know  
I was looking for a woman?  
Just...  
- Speak up boy.  
Probably just a good  
good guess. Right Charlie?  
You seen her, ain't you?  
You seen my wife.  
No. No sir.  
- No.  
Don't you lie to me boy.  
I ain't lying.  
No sir. It was  
probably just a great guess.  
He is... he is a little slow.  
Hey, I ain't slow!  
Stay where you are.  
Hey!  
I said stay where you are boy.  
Now you listen up  
I ain't got time  
to dick around with you.  
Where is she at?  
I don't know.  
He does not know,  
I already told you!  
I ain't one to be  
messed with, boy.  
You lie  
to me again  
I will slice that tongue  
in two. You understand?  
So?  
What is he doing?  
He is praying.  
Tell him to stop it.  
Stop it!

I said stop it!  
Last chance boy.  
Hello sweetheart.  
No...  
Just a shame is what it is.  
I know mom.  
And her so purty too.  
Every time I look around  
it seems like  
this person has done  
killed that person,  
that person has done  
attacked this person.  
Like we ain't got  
no sense of humanity left.  
I'll tell you one thing,  
if your Paw was still alive  
he would have had none of it!  
I am just glad I ain't raising  
children in this day and time.  
Raising two boys  
is hard enough as it is.  
And then when you  
got to do it on your own.  
And with all this  
ugliness around you.  
There's violent folks  
everywhere mama.  
It's not like  
you can run away from it.  
It is just a shame is all.  
Raising children  
in this God forsaken place.  
Ain't envious Mary Lee.  
I know mama  
and in your time.  
Lord knows it ain't my time.  
Well,  
Good morning sugar.  
Good morning.  
You want some grits?  
Sure.  
Sit down  
I will fix you a bowl.

Where is your brother?  
Sleeping I think.  
Charlie?  
(Local woman found dead)  
Where are you going?  
Neal!  
That is more like it.  
Where are they all going?  
The cemetery.  
The same place all dead people go.  
Idiot.  
Know what I heard?  
I heard when they found her body  
they did not find a head.  
So they put her  
in the coffin without one.  
That's why they did not open  
the casket at the funeral.  
Well, there is nothing else to  
see here.  
Neal?  
Neal it wasn't my fault.  
Was it?  
Neal,  
can you tell me  
it wasn't my fault.  
Neal.  
Neal!  
Now tell me  
it wasn't my fault.  
Neal.  
The End