

By

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The Book of Hosea

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JESSE:

HA!

Imani warmly smiles at Josiah.

JOSIAH:
Yeah he's pretty cool I guess.

IMANI:
We'll let you two get back to your
fun. It's good to see you out J. Stay
up.

Josiah smirks and nods.

JOSIAH:
I'll see you around Imani.

They hug once more and part ways. As they pass Josiah's and Imani's friends acknowledge each other.

83 INT. SMALL-TOWN RESTAURANT - DAY

83

START

It is a slow day in the outdated eatery. A waitress pours some coffee for an ELDERLY COUPLE in a corner booth.

A LONELY FELLOW, 30s, sits at the bar, picking at his food. A GROUP OF OLD MEN, 60-70s, cut up on the other side near the lone television set.

The waitress makes her way through, headed to the old pals. As she approaches she is revealed to be...

RUE:
How are you young bucks doin' over
here? Need more coffee?

They all crack up.

OLD MAN #1:
I take that as an insult my dear. I
earned these wrinkles.

They laugh harder. Rue joins as she pours more coffee.

OLD MAN #2:
Miss Rue what's with you workin'
today? Figured you be with your fella.

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RUE:
(politely smiles)
You're the only fellas I want to spend
Thanksgiving with.

OLD MAN #1:
Ah now, you could have every young man
on the planet wrapped around your
finger. We're far beyond our prime
little missy. But thank you for the
confidence boost.

More laughter.

RUE:
Ya'll are to sweet. Almost make me
feel bad for taking your money.

They chuckle.

OLD MAN #2:
Shoot honey, we won't need it much
longer. Plus we gotta take care of you
young folks. We didn't do our part
earlier. Gotta make up for lost time.

OLD MAN #1:
Speak for yourself. Some of us didn't
exactly set ourselves up well either.

Roars of laughter.

RUE:
You boys are too much. I'll check on
you in a bit.

Rue walks off. Her smile disappears. Behind her, one of the
men point to the television.

OLD MAN #2:
You see that TJ Jones kid go down? It
ain't lookin' good for them boys.

His buddies are all in agreement. Rue overhears the
conversation. She hurries behind the counter where she checks
her phone. Does a quick Google search. She is floored by what
she reads. She goes over it a few times to be sure. She then
pulls up a text to... ..Travis. The cursor blinks. And
blinks.

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CONTINUED:

STOP Rue stares at the phone contemplating. She realizes the error in her ways and puts the phone in her apron then hops back to it.

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