

(Name of Project)

by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

THE WESTERNER

1

Cowpokes bring Cole into the Bar / Courtroom with his hands tied behind him.

JUDGE

What you got there?

COWPOKE

Horse thief, judge

JUDGE

.Prisoner to the bar

COWPOKE

Get in there!

JUDGE

Chickenfoot , the law

CHICKENFOOT

Here ye, hear ye, the court of Vinegaroon is now in session.

JUDGE

What's the charge?

COWPOKE

We caught him on Chickenfoot's horse. It was stole last week.

CHICKENFOOT

My horse, Pete? Where's he at?

COWPOKE

Right outside.

Chickenfoot Goes to door and looks out

CHICKENFOOT

Well, so it is.

JUDGE

Lookin' for easy pickins

COLE

No, your Honor, I was just tryin' to get the lay of the land

THE WESTERNER

2

COWPOKE

You will, too. At the end of a rope.

JUDGE

Southeast, no anticipatin'

CHICKENFOOT

Hey, Judge, that is ole my Sabino pony.
He's tied up right out there

JUDGE

People of Vinegaroon agin ye...you can use
any name you like.

COLE

Cole Hardin

JUDGE

What're you doin in Vinegaroon?

COLE

Just passin through

JUDGE

Homesteader?

COLE

No

JUDGE

Where you hail from?

COLE

No place in particular.

JUDGE

Where you headin for?

COLE

No place special

JUDGE

Oh, a saddle-bum, hunh. Well it's alright to
live on a horse if its your own horse. Bart,
turn loose the prisoner's hands.
Chickenfoot swear him in.

THE WESTERNER

3

CHICKENFOOT

You swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Take off your hat.

JUDGE

You're charged with stealin a horse. Guilty or not guilty?

COLE

Not guilty.

JUDGE

Mr. Hardin, it's my duty to inform you that the larceny of an equine is a capital offense punishable by death. But you can rest assured that in this court a horse thief always gets a fair trial before he's hung.

COLE

Well your Honor, I don't contest that the horse may belong to Chickenfoot here but I didn't steal it

JUDGE

How'd you get it?

COLE

I bought it.

COWPOKE

(They all chime in)

Aw, sure you did...like hell....

JUDGE

Can you prove that?

COLE

No.

JUDGE

That all you got to say?

COLE

That's all.

THE WESTERNER

4

JUDGE

Well you heard the case agin the accused both pro and con. Now I guess you better retire and consider a verdict. And while you retire there'll be a recess for them that's thirsty.

Judge sizes up Cole to make him order a drink. Cole reaches in his pocket and takes out money for a drink and plunks it down on the bar.

COLE

Well, I guess you can't take it with you.

JUDGE

It's gotta be strictly understood that you ain't makin' no effort to influence the sober judgment of the jury.

COLE

Certainly not

CHICKENFOOT

(takes out a couple of bottles and opens them for everybody)

There you go.

JUDGE

Complements of the prisoner.

CHICKENFOOT

Jury to the rear.

They exit. Cole takes a bottle and begins to pour a drink.

COLE

Join me your honor?

JUDGE

Don't mind if I do. Don't spill none of that liquor, son. It eats right into the bar.

COLE

To the unfortunate lady with a bullet in her face.

JUDGE

The man that fired that bullet was hauled outta here feet first.

COLE

And he oughta be. Any man that would shoot at a picture of Lily Langtree oughta be killed. It's just retribution.

JUDGE

It's justifiable homicide...that was my ruling.

COLE

Right

JUDGE

You an admirer of Miss Lily too?

COLE

That's putting it mildly. She's the most beautiful woman I ever met.

JUDGE

Met...You mean to tell me...you met Lily Langtree...the real her...in the flesh?

COLE

Oh, many times. What an actress!

JUDGE

How'd you get to know her?

COLE

Well...that's a long story, judge. Mighty fine liquor. What do you call it?

JUDGE

Rub o' the Brush...go on

COLE

Rub o' the Brush

JUDGE

Did you get to know her real well?

THE WESTERNER

6

COLE

Got character. (The booze)

JUDGE

I said, did you get to know her real well

COLE

Now, Judge, you forget. A gentleman never discusses a lady in a barroom.

JUDGE

Who said this is a barroom. This is a courtroom. Say, tell me, is she as pretty as them pictures?

COLE

Why the picture's never been made that can do justice to Lily Langtree.

JUDGE

Is she good-natured?

COLE

An angel.

JUDGE

Ohhh...

COLE

I'll never forget the night we met.

JUDGE

Yeah....

COLE

I'll never forget it as long as I live.

JUDGE

Go on...about Lily.

COLE

Oh, yeah, Lily. You been down around Lano Bay?

JUDGE

Sure.

THE WESTERNER

7

COLE

Well, you know how it is at sunset. You can look out and that water ain't exactly blue and it ain't exactly purple. It's the kinda color a man can feel but he can't put a name to.....

JUDGE

Yeah...

COLE

Well, that's Lily's eyes.

JUDGE

By Gobs....

COLE

You know how bright and coppery and gold-like a young chestnut horse is a runnin in the bright sun?

JUDGE

Yeah...

COLE

Well, her hair is something like that.....in the daytime.

JUDGE

You mean it's different at night?

COLE

Well, not different....sort of more so.....

JUDGE

How so?

COLE

Well, you know how it is at dusk when you see a prairie-fire reflected in the sky? A sort of a beautiful blushin.....

JUDGE

Red...

THE WESTERNER

8

COLE

Red...Well that'll give you a rough idea.

JUDGE

By Gobs.....

COLE

I got a lock of her hair.

JUDGE

What. You mean to tell me.....you actually got the real.....from her head?

COLE

(Nods yes)

JUDGE

I don't suppose you's ever part with that lock of hair? No matter what a man was willin to give.

COLE

A man don't trade things like that.

JUDGE

You see that sword up there. I wore it in the Civil War, always meant to be buried with it. Now, if you was willin to swap.....why.....

COLE

Would you really like to have it?

JUDGE

I'd rather own it than the whole state of Texas. Let's have a look at it.

COLE

I haven't got it with me.

JUDGE

Where's it at?

COLE

With my stuff in El Paso. So, you was in the Civil War, hunh, Judge.

THE WESTERNER

9

JUDGE

El Paso, hunh?

COLE

Yeah. Cavalry, hunh.

JUDGE

I suppose you could ride for it?

COLE

Yeah.

JUDGE

Wouldn't take long to get here by mail coach?

COLE

Oh...two, three weeks...

JUDGE

Two, three weeks, hunh?

COLE

About.... But I wouldn't part with that lock of hair for anything in the world.

CHICKENFOOT

Jury's ready, Judge

Jury enters and crowds around Cole

JUDGE

That bottle of whiskey gone already?

CHICKENFOOT

Yeah, if he aint paid for it, you better start collectin' for it now.

JUDGE

What's the verdict?

CHICKENFOOT

You know what the verdict is, guilty..

JUDGE

There's only one thing I can do. You're sentenced to hang.

They start to tie up Cole's hands

Turn loose the prisoner's hands. That's my rulin'

COWPOKE

But, Judge , you just ruled.....

JUDGE

I didn't finish my rulin' The court sentenced the prisoner to hang. But the court didn't say when. So long's there's a reasonable doubt.

CHICKENFOOT

What reasonable doubt, judge?

COWPOKE

We just caught him with Chickenfoot's horse.

COWPOKE

There ain't any room for doubt.

JUDGE

Order! I been talking to the prisoner. He's a friend of Lily Langtree's. It stands to reason that no friend of Lily Langtree goes around stealing horses. Leastways, there's a reasonable doubt.

CHICKENFOOT

You mean you're settin' aside your own rulin'?

JUDGE

That ain't what I said. When I make a rulin' it stands..

COWPOKE

But Judge, you just sentenced a man.

JUDGE

His sentenced is suspended for a couple of weeks until I can look into the matter further. That's my rulin'