

No Country For Old Men- Cormac McCarthy

“But there is another view of the world out there and other eyes to see it and that’s where this is going. It has done brought me to a place in my life I would not of thought I’d of come to. Somewhere out there is a true and living prophet of destruction and I don’t want to confront him.”

“The rocks there were etched with pictographs perhaps a thousand years old. The men who drew them hunters like himself. Of them there was no other trace.”

“Well I need to know what it is we’re callin here [the coinflip at the gas station]. How would that change anything?”

“Well, you say. It’s just a coin. For instance. Nothing special there. What could that be an instrument of? You see the problem. To separate the act from the thing. As if the parts of some moment in history might be interchangeable with the parts of some other moment. How could that be?”

“Doe sit work [county law]? Yes. Ninety percent of the time. It takes very little to govern good people. Very little. And bad people can’t be governed at all.”

“I ain’t making no promises, he said. That’s how you get hurt.”

“People complain about the bad things that happen to em that they don’t deserve but they seldom mention the good. About what they done to deserve them things. I don’t recall that I ever give the good Lord all that much cause to smile on me. But he did.”

“Nineteen is old enough to know that if you have got something that means the world to you it’s all that more likely it’ll get took away.”

“You can’t make a deal with him. Let me say it again. Even if you gave him the money he’d still kill you. There’s no one alive on this planet that’s ever had even a cross word with him. They’re all dead. These are not good odds. He’s a peculiar man. You could even say that he has principles. Principles that transcend money or drugs or anything like that.”

“Young people anymore they seem to have a hard time growing up. I don’t know why. Maybe its just that you don’t grow up any faster than what you have to.”

Note: great random tidbits of inclusion, e.g. the two line description of Anton watching TV in the hotel for 2 days on end waiting, never changing the channel.

“If the rule you followed led you to this of what use was the rule?”

“...I let him take me into town in handcuffs. I’m not sure why I did this but I think I wanted to see if I could extricate myself by an act of will. Because I believe that one can.”

“The sheriff shook his head. Dope, he said. Dope. They sell that shit to schoolkids. It’s worse than that. How’s that? Schoolkids buy it.”

“Finally she told me, said: I don’t like the way this country is headed. I want my granddaughter to be able to have an abortion. And I said well mam I don’t think you got any worries about the way country is headed. The way I see it going I don’t have much doubt but what she’ll be able to have an abortion. I’m going to say that not only will she be able to have an abortion, she’ll be able to have you put to sleep. Which pretty much ended the conversation.”

“Trust me, Moss said. I hate hearing them words, the driver said. I always did. Have you ever said them? Yeah. I’ve said em. That’s how come I know what they’re worth.”

“And this may sound ignorant but I think for me the worst of it is knowing that probably the only reason I’m even still alive is that hey have no respect for me. And that’s very painful. Very painful.”

“I told that to somebody at breakfast the other morning and they asked me if I believed in Satan. I said well that aint the point. And they said I know but do you? I had to think about that. I guess as a boy I did’ Come the middle years my belief I reckon had waned somewhat. Now I’m starting to lean back the other way. He explains a lot of things that otherwise don’t have no explanation. Or not to me they don’t.”

“After a while he said: It’s not about knowing where you are. It’s about thinking you got there without taking anything with you. Your notions about starting over. Or anybody’s. You don’t start over. That’s what it’s about. Every step you take is forever. You can’t make it go away. None of it. You understand what I’m saying?”

“Loretta did say one thing. She said something to the effect that it wasn’t my fault and I said it was. And I had thought about that too. I told her that if you got a bad enough dog in your yard, people will stay out of it. And they didn’t.”

“But this man had set down with a hammer and chisel and carved out a stone water trough to last ten thousand years. Why was that? What was it that he had faith in? It wasn’t that nothing would change. Which is what you might think, I suppose. He had to know bettern that.”

“Point being some people will actually tell you what it is they aim to do to you and whenever they do you might want to listen.”

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