

Cause on those TV shows they always throw the fish back, but put a brother on there and he ain't about to throw nothing back. We eat everything we catch, then we sell the rest. Ain't no catch and release. With us it's called catch and some grease!

(LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW SAM
NOTICES THE SUN IS OUT)

SAM:

It looks like the sun has finally broken through those clouds. I figure we got enough rain last night to last till next month. It ought to warm up a little too.

(HE PAUSES)

And for the record, they shot up a rocket last Friday morning.

DEAC:

Well it can rain all day and night but my sunshine came a little while ago when Harley called. Ain't nothing like family.

SAM:

He's all you got, isn't he? I mean y'all are the only two Russell men left, right?

DEAC:

Yep. Wait a minute. No, it ain't. He got lil Harley, Jr., so that makes three of us.

SAM:

Well hold on now DEAC, that's a lot of pressure to put on Harley to keep the family line going...a handsome brother like you, been around the world...You sure you ain't got no children out there? How many you got? Wait a minute...How many you claiming?

(DEAC stops and gives Sam a long look of
disgust)

Well I don't care how many there are...in the long run if you ain't got family you ain't got nothing!

SAM/ DEAC

(HE LAUGHS)

START 

DEAC:

Isn't it funny? I forgot Missy's birthday several times. I even plum forgot our anniversary once, but I have never forgotten that boy's birthday. Not once! Even when his own daddy forgot, I always remembered. Life is funny.

You see, some people ain't made to have children and Missy is one of them, but just because she couldn't nurse him don't mean she can't love him. She loves that boy more than I do. You remember how she almost spoiled that little sucker to death.

SAM:

Now don't go putting all the blame on your wife, you give him anything he wants too.

DEAC:

I can't help it, he was a good young boy and now he is a fine young man.

SAM:

The way I see it Deac, that boy is growing up to be just like you.

DEAC:

(VERY BLUNTLY AS HE MOVES CLOSER
TO SAM)

That's not the goal! Do you hear me?

SAM:

Well, I didn't mean anything negative by that. I think it's an honor for any young man to grow up and be highly respected like you.

DEAC:

Well I don't. That boy is going to be something in life. He ain't going to make mistakes.

SAM:

Come on Deac, everybody makes mistakes. I did...everybody! Probably not you though. You are probably one of the few honest men I know in the whole world.

DEAC:

Well that's the second time today we proved that you don't know nobody.
You sound like a fool man.

SAM:

OK, Look at what you got. You got a fine wife, a good business, good health, a great name in the community. What else could you ask for?

DEAC:

(HOLDING HIS HAND UP IN SAM'S FACE
TO SHUT HIM UP)

Sam!

SAM:

Man, put the wall down! These streets we love are falling down around us...we're in a battle to save this whole damn community and you can't fight cause you still kicking your own ass for some bullshit that happened years ago that probably don't mean nothing to nobody else but you!

DEAC:

OK Sam, that's enough!

SAM:

You damn right that's enough! You come in here every day...with the same routine...You cut people's hair and do a good job, but Deac you're missing something... and I know what it is... because I see glimpses of it every now and then.

DEAC:

You don't know what the hell you talking about. You piss a lot of my customers off and now you are pissing me off!

SAM:

Yes I do and you know it. Deac, you are much more than a goddamned barber. You selling yourself short.

DEAC:

Look man, I don't need you up here in all my business. Now back off Sam...

SAM:

People come in here because they gravitate towards you. It's something about you. It's something about this place too. Folks feel good in here. They feel safe! They come in here looking like shit and feeling like shit and when you finish with them, they look better than before and they walk out of here like Kings.

DEAC:

What the hell you been drinking?

SAM:

Deac, I sit here every day trying to bring something that you don't seem to walk in the door with...

DEAC:

What's that?

SAM:

Joy!

DEAC:

Joy? Joy?

(HE RISES OUT OF THE CHAIR TO
CONFRONT SAM)

Oh now you my damn shrink! You got some nerve!

SAM:

Yeah I do! You do a damn good job cutting peoples hair, but Deac, you're missing it.

DEAC:

Bullshit!

SAM:

The only time you really smile through your eyes and heart is when you talk about Harley Jr., or Missy. You love em to death, but your heart is big enough to carry a whole lot more love and joy than that, but you can't because you are carrying too much more baggage!

DEAC:

Oh now you know what I got inside!

SAM:

Hell yeah, I can see it plain as day...Deac even Ray Charles can see that!

DEAC:

Sam! Leave me alone!

SAM:

(SAM PAUSES FOR A LONG MOMENT
THEN SPEAKS)

When I was a little boy my grandma told me the Africans said that “the burden is heaviest for he who carries it”. They said that a burden is something that you can never touch or see... but it can touch you and others can see it..and Deac, you been so busy carrying your burden that you ain’t got no room to carry nothing else!

(DEAC WAVES HIM OFF AND WALKS BACK TO THE COUNTER. HE PICKS UP A RAG TO CLEAN THE COUNTER BUT STOPS TO LOOK AT THE PICTURES OF HIM AND MISSY ON THE MIRROR)

You think I come in here everyday to act like a fool to entertain people? I come here everyday just to make YOU smile. Hoping to bring YOU joy because I see how great you make people look and feel when come through these doors. I don’t even want to come in here sometimes cause you’re so down in the dumps, but something draws me to this place and to you!

DEAC:

Sam...listen..I’m good!

SAM:

Deac, You ain’t good!

DEAC:

Man I’m telling you for the last time, either you shut up with this mess or get the hell out of my shop!

END 

(SAM LEAVES THE SHOP AND IT GETS REAL QUIET)

(SLOWLY DEAC FINDS HIS WAY TO HIS CHAIR WHERE HE SITS QUIETLY FOR A LONG MOMENT...THEN HE IS STARTLED BY A NOISE COMING FROM THE BACK ROOM)