

How to be a Bounty Hunter

BY

James Wilkinson

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

INT.SHERIFF OFFICE - DAY - WESTERN TOWN

Typical western town with dirt streets, saloons, and horses tied to posts.

GENT JOHNS (14) Tall for his age. He's wearing jeans with chaps, a cowboy hat and boots with spurs. He is also wearing a holster and a pistol.

GENT

I killed my first man when I was thirteen. I killed him because he was going to molest me.

SHERIFF

Do you have any parents?

GENT

My father was a drunk, I say was because he's dead. I know he's dead because I did the killing.

SHERIFF

What? Tell me about that son.

GENT

My father was a drunk and he needed money, so he sold me to a perve for thirty-five dollars. He used the money to buy more whiskey. He should've got a place to stay. I'll get back to him later.

SHERIFF

Go on.

GENT

I was delivered to the perve by my father.

SCENE TWO

EXT-NIGHT A cabin in the middle of a forest

A large man is dragging a wooden box through dense woods. He has a lantern in one hand and the rope in the other. A rifle is strapped to his back.

GENT

Let me out! Please, let me out!

GENT SENIOR
Shut up boy. I'll be back in a few
months. I promise.

Gent Senior continues through the trees. A light appears in front of them.

GENT SENIOR (CONT'D)
I see a light. It must be the
cabin.

Gent is in a fetal position inside the pine box. He flips onto his back and attempts to kick the top off the box. The top will not give. He begins to cry.

THE PERV
Who's out there?

GENT SENIOR
It's Gent Johns. I have the boy.
You said you'd give me thirty
dollars for him. Lower your weapon.

The perv comes closer. His face is round and pudgy. He's wearing round framed glasses. He has a pistol pointed at Gent Senior. He lowers the pistol and places it in his holster.

THE PERV
Follow me.

The two men walk another forty feet. The Perv is dragging the pine box. They enter a cabin.

THE PERV (CONT'D)
GET HIM OUT OF THE BOX. I NEED TO
SEE HIM.

Gent Senior rips the top off with his bare hands. He bends down and lifts his son out of the box and sets him on the floor. Gent stands up.

THE PERV (CONT'D)
Here's the money. I'll take him off
your hands. You can go now.

Without saying a word. Gent Senior walks away into the cold dark night. He turns around and stands in the middle of the round topped door frame. He closes his eyes. For a brief couple of seconds, he appears to be lying dead in a coffin. He turns around and disappears.

GENT
Dad, come back. Don't leave me
here.

SCENE THREE