

“The Tombstone Stagecoach”

by

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CAST OF CHARECTERS

HARRIET.....Woman
MA.....Harriet's MA
JOHNNY WELLS.....Harriet's boyfriend

SETTING: Table and two chairs. "These boots are made for Walking" music is playing at start.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

(Harriet and Ma are seated at table with music playing.)

HARRIET

Let me tell you, Ma, I cannot wait to saddle down with old Johnny Wells.

MA

You all hear me now, young one. It ain't going to be easy living with that old whipper snapper. Well, he is after all your money, don't you see that, young one?

HARRIET

Oh Ma! No way, why he has plenty of his own money without mine. Don't ya see, Ma? He wants to ask you for my hand in marriage.

MA

Yea, yea you will see, just mark my words, you all just mark my words. And I ain't going to give him my hands in your marriage. Why I need them for doing all this hog wash chores.

HARRIET

Oh, Ma, he wants my hand in marriage, not your hands.

MA

Good, because my hands ain't going nowhere.

HARRIET

Hush, Mama, he is riding in on his old horse Goldie. He is tying it up now on that old post out front here.

(MA peeks through a hole in the wall)

MA

Let me see, child. Now stand back while I peek through the hole in the wall. Well look at that. He aren't tying that old nag to an old post; he is tying it to your Pa's Tombstone.

HARRIET

Why do you hate him so, Ma? He never done a thing to the likings of you all.

MA

Well, you all know that I never told you this before, but your Pa warned me about him.

HARRIET

What do you mean, Ma? What did Pa say?

MA

Well, child, he told me that Johnny Wells, Pa was a whipper snapper also and that he robbed the tombstone stagecoach. That is how he all got his inheritance.

HARRIET

Well, Ma, that proves he ain't after my money, he got his own.

MA

Dear child, do you want to live the rest of your life knowing that you are living off of all those poor folks who got their money stolen from that no good son of a gun father?

HARRIET

Yea, but, Ma, didn't that happen over 40 years ago, and all those folks are dead now? Besides it was not my Johnny Wells.

(Ma gets real excited, and starts hiding stuff under the table.)

MA

Child, believe what you want. Here he comes now. Hide your money and the silver, quick.

(Johnny Wells walks in looking over both women.)

JOHNNY WELLS

Hey you all, don't you look gorgeous. You look so much alike and so beautifully pretty that I want to marry you both.

HARRIET

Well you better take one good look at me and never forget this face, because when I get through with you, well you will wish that you were dead.

MA

You heard her right, Johnny Wells, so let's go before she changes her mind.

HARRIET

But, Ma, you said he only wanted our money. Why would you want to marry him of all people? Besides he is my man.

(Ma whispers in her ear.)

MA

Listen child, this is for you, so shut up.

HARRIET

What are you saying, Ma?

MA

I never told you this but we are out of money. Well the truth be known, he is loaded.

HARRIET

Then let me marry him, Ma.

MA

It is not possible.

HARRIET

What are you telling me, Ma?

MA

It is in his Daddy's will that if he marries you he will lose his inheritance, but nothing is in the will about him marrying me. Ha, ha we got him. His Daddy never thought in a million years that he would want me.

HARRIET

But, Mom, you are almost 80 years old. Why would he want an old hag like you?

(She looks at her body and runs her hands down to make sure.)

MA

How dare you, child, to be disrespectful of your Ma. After all, I only look 75 years old and I might add that I have a

good shape still. Quiet now. He's going to hear us talking.

JOHNNY WELLS

What's all that whispering going on with you women?

MA

What whispering? Why, Johnny, let's go get married.

JOHNNY WELLS

Okay, Ma, but you need to pay for the marriage license.

MA

Why me? You have all the money

JOHNNY WELLS

What money? I hope you all are not thinking of my inheritance.

MA

What inheritance?

HARRIET

Yea, what inheritance?

JOHNNY WELLS

The inheritance that my Pa left me was on the condition that I don't marry you, Harriet. But wait! How did you all know about that? Only me and Pa knew about this condition written in, unless, oh, unless, you all know more than me. I just thought that he did not like you because he did not like your Ma.

MA

Well, kids, I have a confession to make to you both and it ain't going to be pretty.

HARRIET

We are waiting Ma.

JOHNNY WELLS

Yes, now tell us what you know.

MA

Well you are not going to believe this but I was with your Pa when he robbed the Tombstone Stagecoach. We split all the money up.

HARRIET

But, Ma, what does that have to do with Johnny's Pa not wanting us to get married?

MA

I hate to tell you both this, but Johnny is your brother.

JOHNNY WELLS

Are you saying that she is my sister?

HARRIET

Yea, Ma, how could you lie to me all these years and see us fall in love together?

MA

Let's put it like this, Johnny's Pa did worry about you two getting together and that is why he made me promise him that you two would never marry. And to top it off he drew up the will to protect his son and you, his daughter.

HARRIET

You are telling me that the Pa that we just buried was not my Pa?

MA

That's right.

HARRIET

But how can that be?

MA

That's easy, I was in cahoots with him on the whole thing. I was married to your Pa and secretly snuck out for a few days, and robbed the train, got pregnant and 9 months later had a set of twins.

HARRIET

We are twins?

MA

Yes. Lucky for us you were not identical twins, easier to cover up.

JOHNNY WELLS

Well I have a surprise for you both.

(He pulls out two guns from his holster and says)

“Sorry girls but you both are history”

MA

No, No , don't shoot I am too young to die.

HARRIET

What do ya mean, Ma, I am the young one here.

MA

Oh, shut up, kid.

JOHNNY WELLS

I want you both to shut up before I pull this trigger.

MA

Go ahead. I dare you to shoot me now that you know I am your Ma.

JOHNNY WELLS

(Bang! Bang! He shoots at them. They both fall to the ground.)

Okay, Harriet get up. They were just blanks that I used on you.

HARRIET

But you shot Ma.

JOHNNY WELLS

Well the blast probably just stopped her heart for now. Let's get out of here. We had these plans since we were little to pull this job off.

HARRIET

Tonight is the 40th anniversary of Ma and Pa robbing the train.

JOHNNY WELLS

I know that. Besides your brother died after childbirth and Pa never told your Ma. So you see we are not related and can still get married.

HARRIET

But what about what Ma said about your dad leaving you out of the will?

JOHNNY WELLS

Gee whiz, Harriet, do I have to spell it all out? Pa lied to your Ma and he only gave her a small amount of the money. She thought old Smiley got it so she went to the

old saloon in town and shot him in the back.

HARRIET

Shucks, are you saying Ma is a killer?

JOHNNY WELLS

Well, she ain't no saint.

HARRIET

How did Ma get out of not going to the jailhouse?

JOHNNY WELLS

Well where do you think all her money went from the bank robbery?

HARRIET

Oh she paid off the witnesses?

JOHNNY WELLS

Not exactly. (Pause) She paid off the sheriff and his posies. Now we got a train to catch... or I should say a train to rob. The Tombstone Stagecoach.

HARRIET

Yea like Ma, like Pa, something from the old block.

(They chuckle and leave. Music starts playing , "These Boots are Made for Walking.")

THE END