

MAN CALLBACK #1

60.

(He hands the pictures and SS card back.)

START
↓

But...

EMMA

You can't stay here.

SLADE

But I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.

EMMA

What?

SLADE

Nothing...
Nothing.

EMMA

*(EMMA crosses to a crate on the far side of the stage and sits.
SLADE turns to the audience)*

SLADE

First things first.
I don't like strangers.
Which means
since I ain't seen any of you before
I don't like you.
So there's that.

Second thing you should know:
I don't like the government.
Got no use for it.
Every so often
government folks come around to gather information.
Private information.
Information that's none a their business.
Census workers
they call themselves.
You think I give 'em what they want?
Hell no.
I introduce 'em to the front end of my shotgun.
Send 'em on their way.

SLADE (cont.)

(To audience)

I don't reckon this makes me a bad man.
 I work hard.
 Pay my own way
 just like my people's always done.
 But I seen what happens when strangers come through
 and it's hardly ever good.
 So yes
 I sent that crazy walking lady on her way.
 And I won't be the only one
 I can guaran-damn-tee you that.

"The kindness of strangers."
 If that don't beat all...

(He shakes his head in disgust and exits.)

END
~~_____~~

EMMA

(To audience)

I lied just then.
 When that man asked 'bout my family?
 I said my husband was dead.
 That was a lie.
 P.C. Gatewood ain't dead
 though many a time I wished he was.
 But he ain't dead
 not yet.
 P.C. won't die until 1968.
 And when he's on his deathbed
 He will beg me to see him...

(P.C. enters)

P.C.

I ain't begging you for nothing.

EMMA

(Ignoring him)

And when he begs me to see him
 I will refuse.

P.C.

Why'd you tell him I was dead?