

**JIM.** There ain't nobody here wantin' to make trouble, Mr Barricune.

**BARRICUNE.** Ain't there?

**JIM.** I guess I'll get on then.

**FOSTER.** Thanks for the drink, Reverend.

*(JIM goes about his business. There is a long silence filled only with the sound of the two men drinking.)*

**BARRICUNE.** You seen the Chronicle, Foster?

**FOSTER.** This month's? It hasn't arrived yet.

**BARRICUNE.** Well I seen a copy over in West Anvil. There's a fine article in print about your little school – seems to have made quite a stir.

**FOSTER.** Is that so? I didn't realise you could read.

**BARRICUNE.** I read enough. You ain't so useful to all of us round here. And some don't take kindly to you bringin' education to the west.

**FOSTER.** People threatened by story books are they?

**BARRICUNE.** You can laugh all you want, Foster. But you gotta think what you're doin' here. Teachin' a coloured fella with a load of whites – you're askin' to cause offence.

**FOSTER.** No one's taken any offence.

**BARRICUNE.** Not here. But the world's bigger than Twotrees. All that's between you and the world is a horse ride or a few words in a letter, or perhaps in a newspaper – and you got trouble.

**FOSTER.** If someone takes issue with what's goin' on here then they come and deal with me.

*(FOSTER stands and moves to the bar. He drops his pack on the counter and holds a book in one hand.)*

**BARRICUNE.** The true American hero. You think coz you carry a pea-shooter round in an old sack that makes you a gunslinger?

**FOSTER.** I've been practising.

**BARRICUNE.** Ain't no practisin' when it comes to shootin' a man. Sure you can shoot at bottles or playin' cards – you might even hit a few – but when a man draws his gun at you, that's different.

**FOSTER.** I ain't afraid to shoot a man.

**BARRICUNE.** You're terrified.

**FOSTER.** I am not afraid.

**BARRICUNE.** Good. Coz Liberty's gonna come for you. And then you're gonna have to shoot him.

**FOSTER.** What?

**BARRICUNE.** I said Liberty's comin' and you're gonna have to be ready.

**FOSTER.** What does he want with me?

**BARRICUNE.** You think you can just arrive in town and start changin' everything? You think people here care for your big city ways?

**FOSTER.** This is about the school?

**BARRICUNE.** Where you bring education then there'll follow legislation, law, government. You think a man like Liberty wants the territory to become 'civilised'? How d'you think that's gonna affect his business.

**FOSTER.** This is about teachin' Jim? This is because he's black?

**BARRICUNE.** Sure it's that. It's the whole damn thing.

**FOSTER.** I'm not gonna shut it down if that's what you're askin'. I'm not gonna run.

**BARRICUNE.** Then you're foolish. You're foolish and arrogant.

**FOSTER.** You're embellishin' this coz you want rid of me. Well it's too late, Barricune, you should have just left me on the prairie.

**BARRICUNE.** Next time Valance comes for you I ain't gonna pick you up after.

**FOSTER.** You ain't gonna drag me back to town and leave me for Hallie to fix up? Well seein' as I'm already here that ain't gonna be such a problem.