

UNKNOWN DEE CHILD MANUSCRIPT DISCOVERED

The four guys spread across the dirt road in front of me. They were big. Bulky, with small eyes and unshaven faces, bad teeth and stringy dirty hair. They stood there staring at me. I figured that before I took them out, I should be sure they had no guns or knives. I made a quick visual inspection. These guys were all heavy and it was flab pushing against their pants and shirts. There were no unusual bulges in their pockets. I flexed my shoulders and stepped forward.

“Where ya goin', bud?” asked the biggest guy, presumably their leader.

“To the diner behind you. Would you mind stepping aside?”

The big guy sneered and turned to his mates.

“Ya hear that?”

“Why don't you guys remove yourselves and go get a bath?” I suggested.

They didn't like that, their scowls deepened.

“You ain't never gonna have another bath in your life-time, dumb-ass,” said the leader.

“I'm giving you a choice. Either you get back in your filthy truck and leave fast, or you can spend the rest of the day in the local hospital,” I said.

They balled their fists and their eyes flicked from side to side.

“It's a limited time offer. So sharpen up and choose. Or I'll choose for you.”

“Oh yeah?” said the leader, presumably temporarily stunned by my offer.

“Yes,” I said.

Then I leapt forward and smashed my right fist into his nose, all my weight behind it, then I swung to the right and hit the next guy with two fingers in his throat, shoving out my left leg to stop the third guy from getting too near. I swivelled and hit him hard with my left, straight in the mouth, not improving his bad teeth. As the fourth guy came on I kicked him in the stomach. All four were down, retching but trying to get up. I kicked each one in the ribs, twice, and went on to the diner.

At the door was another big ugly guy, but bigger and uglier, this one holding a machete. I bent down, picked up some dust and gravel and threw it in his eyes. Then I kicked the machete out of his hand, gave him a power-blow in the chest with both fists. As he fell I grabbed him by his clothing and threw him head first against the wall of the diner. I looked back at the other guys – still down.

I went into the diner and ordered coffee and hominy grits.