Young Sharpshooter John Parker

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Dramatis Personae

**John Parker,** 19, is the protagonist of the story. He is a sharpshooter. He jumps off a ship from Newton to Hawaii.

**Michael**, 38, is a villager who helps John in his cattle hunting.

**Tommy**, 22, is a waiter in the bar. He is a friend of John.

**Sam**, 36, is a villager who helps John in his cattle hunting.

**The Chief**, 52, is the governor of the village and Hawaii. He allows John to have a try in cattle hunting.

**Rachel**, 18, the Chief’s daughter, is deeply impressed by John’s courage and enterprise.

**SET Ⅰ**

(A bar. It is a night in 1908 on the Island of Hawaii. JOHN, 19 years old, walks wearily in .MICHAEL, 38, a villager is drinking. The waiter, TOMMY, 22, is chatting with him.)

M: That’s the best horse I’ve ever seen!

T: Bring it here someday! I want to see it!

M: But you know nothing about horses!

T: I do! I love horses. My granddad used to raise them.

(The door CREAKs. JOHN drags himself in and stops in front of the door.)

J: Good night. (John says nervously.)

M: (M staring at J whispers to T) Who is that?

T: (T replies quietly) I don’t know.

J: I’m John Parker…from Newton.

T: Newton? In Massachusetts! That’s a long way from here.

J: Yes, it was indeed a tiring long journey… eh… can I have something to drink? I don’t have much money…

T: Sure. Oh, I’m Tommy. This is Michael.

J: Nice to meet you both.

M: Well I’m not so nice to meet you. How did you come?

J: I… I jumped off a ship.

M: Are you a deserter? (Michael says severely.)

T: A deserter? (Tommy is astonished.)

M: Listen, boy. We don’t want to get in trouble. But a slacker is not welcome here. You should leave.

J: No, I’m not a deserter... actually, I wasn’t elected… they say I’m too skinny...

M: It’s good for you. They are saving your life. Look at you! You can’t even hold a gun!

J: I can! I’ve been tending our sheep since twelve! I’m a sharpshooter believe it or not! And I shot a wolf!

M: Famous last words!

T: Then why did you come here? You can keep being a shepherd back in your hometown. That’s mainland America!

J: I don’t want to stay there anymore. All my friends have joined the army. People around will laugh at me…

M: So you just ran away from home? What can this island bring you?

J: I… I have no idea…

(The door CREAKs. SAM, 36, a villager, walks in with knitted brows.)

S: (with a deep sigh) Terrible day… hey Tommy, I’ll have some gin.

M: Hi, Sam. What happened?

S: Night, Michael… Two stupid cattle broke Mrs. White’s fence so I went to help. They almost intruded her garden.

T: So you drove them away?

S: We. Five men fought against two cattle! (Sam turns to Michael.) How on earth do they grow so big?

M: Don’t ask me.

J: Excuse me…

S: Oh! Sorry I didn’t notice…I’ve never seen you before.

T: This is John. He is a newcomer from Newton!

S: Sam. Glad to meet you, John.

J: I heard you were talking about cattle. You keep cattle here?

M: Keep? Cattle here are wildlife. They are fierce and dangerous, totally different from those in the mainland.

S: There used to be only a few cattle in the canyon, but they’ve been breeding so fast these years, destroying fields everywhere.

J: Haven’t you tried to shoot them?

S: We tried but they run too quickly. It’s hard to aim.

J: Maybe I can do this job for you! I can ride to chase them! (John suddenly jumps up.)

T: Yes, and you are a sharpshooter! (Tommy says excitedly.)

M: And you even killed wolf! (Michael says a little mockingly.)

J: I did!!!

S: Okay, I’m a little confused now. But John, I can’t make the decision. If you want to do this job, you better go and ask the chief first.

J: The Chief?

**SET Ⅱ**

(CHIEF’s office. The next day. SAM and MICHAEL decide to bring JOHN to see the chief, 52, responsible for all affairs on the Island of Hawaii.)

(KNOCKs on the door)

C: Come in, please. Sam, Michael! Good morning, friends! You got any problem today?

M: Not us. The problem is from our new friend.

J: Nice to meet you, sir. I’m John Parker, from Newton.

C: From the mainland? Well, how can I help you, son?

J: I just heard about the cattle crisis here. I’ve been tending sheep in my hometown for seven years. And I’ve learned to shoot on horseback. I can help to haunt these cattle!

C: Eh…I’m glad you offer to help. It sounds nice but…no one else has ever tried before. And the cattle, they are different from those on the mainland.

J: I know, but please give me a chance. I really need this job. Please let me have a try. I won’t let you down, I swear!

C: Well…if you insist so…but it will be risky… Are you sure you goanna do that?

S: Don’t worry. Michael and I will help him.

C: Okay. You get the chance.

**SET Ⅲ**

(SAM’s stable. That afternoon. He and MICHAEL are helping JOHN with the preparation.)

S: Here, this is the best horse I have. He has a sensitive sense of smell.

J: Thank you so much. I’m sure he will help a lot. (John climbs on to the horseback.)

M: (already on the horseback) All right kid, we are going to the canyon near Mrs. Whites farm. The cattle often hang around there.

S: Follow Michael. He knows how to handle them. Watch out.

J: I will.

S: God bless you both.

(They depart.)

**SET Ⅳ**

(In the canyon. JOHN and MICHAEL are searching for cattle.)

M: Here we are. They must be around. Listen, they will rush for you as long as they see you. Be careful. And don’t let your horse stumble. It’s rocky. Once you fall from the horseback, you may not return sound and safe. If the situation seems not good, run away. No one is asking you to play the hero.

(John’s horse pricks up its ears and WHINNIES.)

J: They’re coming. (John holds the gun, ready to aim and fire.)

M: It must be a huge number. I can feel the ground shaking.

(The two horses seem frightened.)

M: Hold the rein! If it bolts, it will throw you!

(The cattle appear, approaching them fast.)

M: There are too many! You can’t handle this! (Michael starts to shoot at them.) We better run away!

J: Not yet! I got the leading one!

(With just one fire, the leading one lows and falls; the cattle were suddenly in chaos.)

M: Nice shoot!!!!!

(John keeps shooting; the cattle begin to move back and escape.)

M: Well done, boy! I’m so proud for you; you didn’t cry for mum!

J: See? I did it! I am a sharpshooter I told you! You will never doubt my ability again! (John says ecstatically.)

M: Yes, yes, man you are so brave. You didn’t listen to even one of my suggestions, did you?

J: But I have my way and it worked well!

(A girl’s voice comes: HEEEEEY!!!!!)

(RACHEL, 18, the chief’s youngest daughter, runs to them)

R: I heard gunshots! What happened? (Rachel asked worriedly)

M: Hey, Rachel!

R: Uncle Michael? What are you doing here? This is dangerous! Did the cattle appear again?

J: There is no need to worry now, Miss. (John climbs off the horseback and walks to Rachel.) I just killed the leading bull. All the other cattle have run away!

R: Excuse me, you’re…

J: I’m John, John Parker, from Newton. I was given the chief’s permission to hunt the cattle.

R: Hi, I’m Rachel. You mean you killed the cattle? Amazing! How did you do that? (Rachel is curious.)

J: Well I… (John is just ready to talk.)

M: I don’t want to interrupt, really, but this is not a good place for talking. Shall we go back first?

J: Sorry. Sure! (J turns to Rachel.) May I give you a ride? (J reaches out a hand.)

R: Thank you. (Rachel holds his hand and climbs on to the horseback.)

**SET Ⅴ**

(A lot in front of the chief’s office. The next morning. Villagers gather. The chief is standing on a platform and JOHN is standing beside him with SAM, MICHAEL and RACHEL.)

C: Good morning. I’m here to introduce a new friend, John Parker from Newton. Come here, John.

J: Good morning. Nice to see you. (John is a bit nervous.)

V: A young man from the mainland. What is he doing here?

C: Yesterday, John did a huge contribution to our village, to this island! He, a master shooter and a good horseman with great courage, shot the leading cattle in the canyon.

V: (Villagers gasp in surprise.) Un-believable! Gosh, how did he do that?

C: Yes, John has protected us from these very threatening cattle. And I’ve decided… Mr. Parker, now you are granted the right to hunt the cattle. You also have the right to live and own lands on this island! You are one of the village now.

(Villagers give him a round of warm applause to welcome him.)

S: Good job, John. Congratulations!

M: Congratulations on your new job!

C: Well done, son! We’re so proud of you!

**SET Ⅵ**

(In the yard behind the chief’s office. After the meeting. JOHN and RACHEL are sitting together, chatting.)

R: Congratulations! You’ve become the hero in the village.

J: I’m not a hero. I just did my job.

R: You’re admirable…You’ve proved yourself.

J: Thanks. That means a lot to me. Hey, can I ask you a question?

R: Shoot!

J: HAHAHA! Do you like beef?

R: Yes! I love beef, especially salted beef! That’s my favorite dish. I make it every week!

J: Salted beef… Right! Rachel, I have a good idea! We can turn these cattle into canned salted beef! And sell them to people on the vessels along the coast! We will make a big fortune! Would you like to help me cook?

R: That’s a brilliant idea! I like it! Let me talk to dad and let’s set about the business!