

THE DIVIDE

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With Perry King

"FEEDING THE CHICKENS"

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EXT. CHICKEN COOP - DAY

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Chickens range around a fenced-in area. Sam and C.J. spread feed from a bucket. We catch them in mid-conversation.

C.J.
Football's my favorite.

SAM
What position?

C.J.
I'm a receiver. But I want to play
quarterback.

SAM
Didn't we all?

C.J. smiles.

C.J.
Did you ever play on a team?

SAM
No. We just played around. Your
father was a heck of an athlete,
though. Did you know that?

C.J. nods. It's an absent nod, like he's not sure *what* he knows about his father.

SAM'S POV

He stares over at the boy holding the bucket of feed, but when C.J. turns to face Sam, it is Carson Sam sees.

C.J. notices Sam staring at him. He turns away, slightly uncomfortable.

Sam shakes off the stare and asks:

SAM (CONT'D)
So do you play any sports?

C.J.
You mean other than football?

SAM
Of course, football.

They continue to spread the feed for the chickens. C.J. smiles to himself. He's a happy kid. Sam observes him.

SAM (CONT'D)
You have your father's smile, you know?

C.J. stops what he's doing.

C.J.
My mom says that, too.
(a beat)
It makes me sad sometimes - that I didn't know my father.

Sam listens.

C.J. (CONT'D)
My mom said he died in an accident.

SAM
(hesitating)
Yes. It was very sad.

C.J.
Is that why you don't talk?

SAM
Could be.

C.J.
I'm glad we came.

Sam almost smiles at him.

SAM
Me too.

C.J.
(pausing)
Are you sad your wife died?

SAM
(a beat)
She really loved your father.

C.J. looks at him with sympathy, interest.

SAM (CONT'D)
(abruptly)
Dan loved your father, too.

C.J.
Who was he?

SAM
Just someone I used to know.

C.J.
My mom tells me stuff about you.

They turn as they hear the GATE SQUEAKING open. It's Sarah. Before she is within earshot, C.J. leans in and speaks to Sam in a hushed voice.

C.J. (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Mom always said you were her hero.

Sam blushes as Sarah approaches. Sarah musses C.J.'s hair.

SARAH
(to Sam)
I just checked the horses again and
Duchess's gums are white to the
touch. I think I'll stay tonight.

Sarah looks like she wants to say more. Sam waits.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(tentatively)
Would it be okay if C.J. stayed in
the house with you? Just for
tonight?

Sam looks at his daughter and grandson.

SAM
(heartily)
You like hot dogs?