

Roger Used To Be Willy

by

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Cast of Characters

ROSANNA:

14

BUCK:

50's

Place

Oklahoma

Time

7 AM

Setting: Oklahoma dating back to 1890's.

At Rise: Rosanna and Buck ride along in a horse and carriage.

ROSANNA and BUCK ride along in a horse and carriage. Buck steers the reins and Rosanna sits beside him with her arms crossed.

ROSANNA: Listen Mister, I don't want no part of wherever it is you're taking me.

BUCK: I'm taking you back home.

ROSANNA: Home? Who the hell are you?

BUCK: I'm Buck Winster.

ROSANNA: Well, listen Buck, I'm not going home.

BUCK: Yes, you are.

ROSANNA: I'll just run off again when we get there.

BUCK: And I'll find you again, and bring you back home to your father.

ROSANNA: No you won't.

BUCK: Sure will. Your Daddy's worried about you.

ROSANNA: How do you know?

BUCK: Friend of mine.

ROSANNA: I ain't ever seen the likes of you before.

BUCK: Oh, your Daddy and me go back a long ways.

ROSANNA: He's never mentioned no Buck.

BUCK: That's a good thing.

ROSANNA: What's my Daddy's first name?

BUCK: William...but he likes to go by the name Roger.

ROSANNA: How you know eachother?

BUCK: Grew up together.

ROSANNA: Why he sent you? Why he ain't come and find me himself?

BUCK: Oh, well, cause your Daddy trusts me.

ROSANNA: My Daddy don't love me or else he'd a come for me himself.

BUCK: Oh, no, you got that story all wrong. You're Daddy loves you more than you think, cause he called me.

ROSANNA: But you ain't nobody. I don't know you. I don't care about you.

BUCK: That's alright.

ROSANNA: I hate you!

BUCK: That's alright, too.

(pause.)

You hungry? Thirsty?

ROSANNA: Why'd you shoot them boys in the knees? They're friends of mine.

BUCK: This way they'd leave you alone.

ROSANNA: But they are friends of mine!

BUCK: Listen, darling, you need to quit your shouting before I knock your ass out cold for the remainder of this here trip.

ROSANNA: None of my Daddy's friends ever talked that way to me before.

BUCK: That's cause they know better.

ROSANNA: Better?

BUCK: Better not to talk that way cause your Daddy wouldn't like it.

ROSANNA: Well, I'm a tell my Daddy when I see him, what you said to me.

BUCK: That's alright.

ROSANNA: Not gonna be alright for you, BUCK.

BUCK (chuckles): You remind me of your mother.

ROSANNA: You knew my Mama?

BUCK: Sure did. You have that same passionate energy she had.

ROSANNA: How you know my Mama?

BUCK: Oh, it was before you was born, when your parents first started to get to know one another. She was quite the woman. She had the greatest laugh you ever heard. Didn't matter what mood you were in, when you heard that laugh, you couldn't help but lighten up inside. She had that way about her. I wonder if you have the same laugh.

ROSANNA: I never, I don't remember my mother. She died when---

BUCK: When you was just two years old...I remember, I know, I was there...I was at the burial and all.

ROSANNA: How come my Daddy never mentioned you?

BUCK: Cause I'm not the sort of person your Daddy would want you to know.

ROSANNA: Why's that?

BUCK: Cause, I'm not a good man.

ROSANNA: Then why did he send you to find me and take me back home?

BUCK: Because, oh hell, if your Daddy came for you, he woulda done more than shoot some knees and he's decided to live out an honest life due to his promise to your mother...under no circumstance is Roger ever allowed to ever do anything unlawful ever again.

ROSANNA: Unlawful? You saying my Daddy---

BUCK: I'm saying your Daddy changed when he met your Mama and took an oath on her behalf to play it straight and that's cause he is a man of honor and integrity. I don't blame him.

ROSANNA: You saying he used to do bad things?

BUCK: I won't get into all that.

ROSANNA: Was he like you?

BUCK: Roger used to be Willy, as he was called.

ROSANNA: What's that mean?

BUCK: It means that he changed so much, he even changed his name, to be a good husband and father for the family he loves.

ROSANNA: I don't like this.

BUCK: Like what?

ROSANNA: You. Him. My mother...all of you! Why can't I just have a normal life? Why can't I go out and do the things I want to do? I'm not happy. I don't care about my education and being kind and having morals and values...I want to act on my impulses. I want to live my own life experiences. I'm tired of being held back. There shouldn't be anything wrong with a young woman finding her own way and deciding who she wants to be as she grows up, without having all these criticisms put on me. There's no trust! And you're ugly. As ugly as all hell and I want no part of you or this life. I want to be left alone, free...to be my own person and make my own decisions, go my own way...tired of asking for permission, tired of sneaking around to have a laugh with my friends and made to feel like I'm doing something wrong. I don't want to listen, understand?

BUCK: I understand.

ROSANNA: Do you?

BUCK: Oh, I do...so does Roger.

ROSANNA: How can you say that? He doesn't understand dirt.

BUCK: Roger knows life better than anyone else I've come to know. He knows both heaven and hell and not many men get to play in both positions in one lifetime...he has and he's lived to tell the tale.

ROSANNA: He doesn't tell me anything. Everything's a secret.

BUCK: Sure it is but maybe it's time for him and you to have that talk.

ROSANNA: What talk?

BUCK: Not my place to say but if you're running from home, it may be best you know who your real father is...

ROSANNA: My real father?

BUCK: I'm not your Daddy. Roger is your Daddy, let's not get confused. What I'm saying is that maybe it's time for you to get to know him better...you're growing up faster than he can probably keep up with and you should give him a chance.

ROSANNA: Give him a chance for what?

BUCK: You know...give him a chance to be the Daddy he wishes to be for you. Give him the chance to lay down the law so he could sleep at night. Nobody's saying you can't, you know, walk on the edge and all but leaving home and disappearing is where the buck stops. That's going too damn far. I know Roger and I know Willy and both men take no prisoners...both men are straight shooters, so I know first hand what sort of rule of thumb you're under and I don't think it's as bad as all that.

ROSANNA: It's worse.

BUCK: Maybe so but don't you get my point? Even a little?

ROSANNA: Why should I listen to anything you have to say? You are a complete stranger.

BUCK: Cause deep down you know I'm striking a chord. Deep down you love your father and you don't want to hurt 'em. You have every right to rebel, go your own way at times but keep grounded, don't let your mind tell you tales that aren't as true as you make them appear to be. (beat) Roger and me became good friends early on in our youth because we had rough upbringings and so we sort of found comfort in detecting the similarity between ourselves...he was mad as hell and so was I and we did things we're both not proud of but he got lucky, see, he met your mother and he found a new path, a better path, an opportunity and me, well, I've stayed the course and here I am...still running from the law and caught up in all kinds of mayhem. You have so much to look forward to Rosanna, your young, smart and your Daddy loves you very much, you're all he has left in the world. Keep in mind that if you're strong enough to get through this, you're strong as hell to get through anything...

ROSANNA: Can I have some water?

Buck hands Rosanna his canteen.

Rosanna sips and spits it out.

BUCK: Oh, hell, gave you the wrong one, that's my drink...here, here's the water canteen.

END OF PLAY