

Bright Red Tractor

by

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Cast of CharactersBO:

30's

DWAYNE:

30's

Place

Country house

Time

Day

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside a large wooden cabin home. Everything about it screams wilderness. Old paintings of nature hang on the walls and the place is messy.

At Rise: The play opens up on both Bo and Dwayne inside the living room of their cabin house.

BO: That damn tractor's startin' to sink in the mud.

DWAYNE: What tractor?

BO: The one we got near that stream.

DWAYNE: Fuck you talkin' about?

BO: The tractor man. What's wrong with you?

DWAYNE: Tractor? There ain't no tractor I know of.

BO: Remember when we was walkin' along the stream not two weeks ago and we came across that red tractor and you said to me, "I wonder how this red tractor got here?" You remember that?

DWAYNE: No.

BO: Dwayne, I'm telling ya something...we was walking along the stream--

DWAYNE: I know what you said but it doesn't register. Nothin' about a red tractor registers for me.

BO: I told you.

DWAYNE: Told me what?

BO: I told ya that when Frederick kicked you upside the head you was gonna leave some brain on the hay.

DWAYNE: I remember that...when Frederick kicked me upside the head.

BO: How you gonna remember that but you can't remember walking past no red tractor?

DWAYNE: Not the first thing I forgot...seems to me there's only so much I wish to retain, no sense holding on to scraps, if it ain't worth the thought, it ain't worth retaining.

BO: It's worth it for me. I wanna get my hands on that tractor and bring it on up to our barn. Looks as good as new.

DWAYNE: Questions remains why someone left that thing there on our property.

BO: Gift from God.

DWAYNE: Don't say that, God don't go leaving tractors on people's property.

BO: Why not?

DWAYNE: Cause God don't work that way.

BO: What you know about God? When's the last time you ever go to Sunday mass?

DWAYNE: Shit, it's been a minute.

BO: That's what I'm sayin'.

DWAYNE: Just cause I ain't some devoted churchgoer don't mean I don't believe in God.

BO: I didn't ask you if you believe in God.

DWAYNE: I'm just sayin'.

BO: We should bring up my truck, get that rig and hook and pull that tractor out the mud fore it too late.

DWAYNE: I ain't goin' out there.

BO: Why not?

DWAYNE: Cause it's raining.

BO: So?

DWAYNE: I'm comfortable. Ain't nothin' worse than having to go outside in lousy weather when you're already nice and cozy.

BO: Dwayne, we sittin' on a brand new tractor and you wanna keep nice and cozy.

DWAYNE: It's robbery.

BO: No it isn't.

DWAYNE: Yes, it is.

BO: It's on our land.

DWAYNE: Some fool must have run outta gas and had no choice but to leave it where he left it.

BO: It's been two weeks. If that fool wanted that tractor he would a gone and get it by now.

DWAYNE: That ain't so.

BO: Sure it is.

DWAYNE: Cause life gets in the way.

BO: What the hell on Earth are you talkin 'bout?

DWAYNE: I'm talkin 'bout that the person who left their tractor behind could a fell on hard times. Maybe they had to hitchhike back to where they're from in order to gather up the monies necessary to come back and retrieve the tractor or maybe something like an accident and he be in a hospital bed somewheres and can't get the tractor till he's back on his feet or maybe even---

BO: I'm goin' to get that tractor.

DWAYNE: You have no decency.

BO: I waited two whole weeks.

DWAYNE: What if it was your tractor?

BO: I wouldn't be dumb enough to leave my tractor as bait for someone else to come and get.

DWAYNE: I disagree.

BO: I don't care what you disagree.

DWAYNE: For all we know that's a stolen tractor.

BO: Stolen?

DWAYNE: That's right.

BO: If it be stolen that mean it be hidden.

DWAYNE: Hidden?

BO: If you think about it...the tractor is in the middle of nowhere, it's on the lowest part of the hill, behind all the bushes and trees, it looks deliberately abandoned.

DWAYNE: Hmm.

BO: I'm, I'm sayin' that some thief left it there to buy some time before comin' back to confiscate it completely.

DWAYNE: But if you gonna rob a tractor, why not go the whole nine yards, why leave it where it is?

BO: How the heck am I supposed to know all that? I'm not the one out there robbing tractors.

DWAYNE: But you are. You wanna rob a tractor from a person who robs tractors, that makes you somebody who robs tractors.

BO: It's on our land!

DWAYNE: But you taking it.

BO: Cause I don't want it on our land.

DWAYNE: Where you puttin' it?

BO: In the damn barn.

DWAYNE: To hide it?

BO: Where else would you like me to put it Dwayne?

DWAYNE: Bring it to the precinct.

BO: You clownin'?

DWAYNE: You asked me.

BO: There is no way I'm taking that tractor to the precinct.

DWAYNE: Why not?

BO: Because that's too much work.

DWAYNE: Why not just ask the police to come and take the tractor off your land...call one a them towing company outfits.

BO: And we get stuck paying the bill?

DWAYNE: If you don't do that you're just as bad as any old tractor thief.

BO: Did you take a look at that tractor?

DWAYNE: I told you I don't wish to remember.

BO: Damn it Dwayne! Do you remember the tractor or are you acting like you don't remember the tractor?

DWAYNE: Depends.

BO: Depends on what?

DWAYNE: Whether or not you gonna rob it.

BO: I had just about enough a you. I'm goin' on out there by myself if I have to and do the job alone. I want that tractor and I'm taking it. Not robbing it, taking it. It's on my land and anything on my land is MINE.

DWAYNE: Good luck.

BO: Don't wish me good luck when you really mean to wish me bad luck.

DWAYNE: Good luck.

BO: Shut it!

DWAYNE: You ain't gonna get it out.

BO: What you sayin'?

DWAYNE: If you just listen a minute then maybe I've somethin' to say. When we was walkin' along the stream two weeks ago and spotted that bright red tractor, you failed to notice the large chain attached to it from a nearby boulder. You were so enthusiastic marveling over that stupid tractor that you didn't even take a second to notice that it's pretty much bolted into nature. Not one but THREE different chains ran along the ground, connecting itself to two trees and a boulder. Ain't no pair a bolt cutters gonna set that machine free. Now, now listen, now somebody is comin' back for that tractor and somebody wanted to make sure that no one else was gonna take it or else why'd they go through all that trouble...now, you taking that tractor makes you a thief, no matter which way you wanna slice it and I want no part a that, even if it's on my land...some fella probably just passing on through, minding his or her own business and here you are, fat and greedy, ready to pounce on the first shiny toy you've seen in a decade. Well, I say no. No, no. We leave it be and wait for it to disappear same way it appeared. Got nothin' to do with you and me and one thing I learned is that soon as you interfere with life, life will interfere with you. You wanta tractor so bad, then I say we go get our own, but I ain't takin' some poor bastards tractor cause he got stuck in the mud and that's that.

BO: Frederick the horse didn't kick you upside the head as hard as he shoulda.

END OF PLAY