Fools and Kings

By Billy W. Boone II

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DEDICATION

For my Heroes:
Jim Roberts and Bill Pritchard

STORY OF THE PLAY

Jobie King, well known and loved in his rural area of West Texas for brewing delicious -- albeit unlicensed -- beer, has become a target. His greedy Yankee sons-in-law plan to swindle his illegal brewery away from him and turn it into the newest internet fad. Adding insult to injury, the dastardly duo seek to put Jobie, recently widowed, out to pasture, abandoning him at a nursing home. As avarice and technology threaten to ruin his rustic yet pleasant way of life, the fiercely independent and unrepentant Jobie is determined to take back what is rightfully his. Luckily, he has the help of the spirit of his late wife, and Jess, a young boy unafraid of using buckshot instead of words. Jobie shows his sons-in-law that this ole man will not go quietly into the night.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

Lakeside Community Theatre, The Colony, TX (DFW)
February and March 2013
Original Cast: Alice McCawley, Perry Goodwyn, Simon Nagles, George Morris, Shane Morgan, Bob Hardin, and Jonathan Winsor. Directed by Lindsey Humphries.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 1 w, 2 flex, 1 young adult)

JANIE KING (f): The deceased wife of Jobie, in her 60s, a very real presence.

JOBIE KING (m): Runs Buffalo Beer Company from his ranch in West Texas, 68 years old.

JESS MORGAN: Jobie's helper, a boy around 12*.

FRANKLIN WASHINGTON (m): A New York businessman, Jobie's son-in-law, in his 30s.

THEODORE ADAMS (m): A California attorney, Jobie's son-in-law, in his 30s.

JIMMIE DALE (flex): Jobie's friend, in his or her 70s.

SHERIFF WATSON (flex.): The local law**,** in his or her 30s.

***Casting Note:** Due to the use of alcohol, cigarettes, guns, and cursing in the play, it is suggested that Jess Morgan be played by a small, thin actor or actress in their late teens to early 20s. Costuming and makeup should be utilized to give the appearance of a 12-year-old boy.

SETTING

The living room of Jobie King's home in rural West Texas. The set can be a realistic recreation of a ranch-style home, or can be simply suggested by the use of two sitting chairs, an end table, a couch with a quilt draped over it, and a dining room table with four chairs. An ice chest with bottled beer sits in the room. There is a mantel with an urn and a picture of young Janie above. There is a rotary phone on one wall. Three exits are used: bedroom, back door, and front door.

Time: The summer of 1999.
Scene 1: The first week of June
Scene 2: Two weeks later. The third week of June
Scene 3: Two weeks later. The first week of July
Scene 4: Two weeks later. The third week of July
Scene 5: Three days later. The fourth week of July

SPECIAL EFFECTS

A pistol with blanks
A swinging mantel
A breakable urn full of ash
A lighter

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Rural West Texas. The living room of Jobie King. A sweltering afternoon in the first week of June 1999. JOBIE sits in a worn and weathered chair in the corner of the living room; he is smoking. This is a rare treat for him, and he enjoys every drag. JESS enters and stares intently at Jobie.)

JESS: I thought you were trying to quit?
JOBIE: You know me, Jess. I'm always tryin'! One day I will quit...when they lay me in the ground. *(Pause. Blows a puff of smoke out.)* Since Janie died, I don't see the point in trying to prolong my existence. I got too few pleasures left in this world for me, beer and tobacco are about it. Want to try? *(Offers JESS a drag.)*
JESS: Sure. *(Tries the cigarette and coughs.)* Not bad.
JOBIE: *(Laughs.)* I know. And they say these things will kill you!!! Bunch of bullshit!!!
JESS: *(Coughing.)* Yep. Bullshit!
JOBIE: Did I ever tell you my story about bullshit?
JESS: No.
JOBIE: Alright. You see there was this bird flying south—
JESS: *(Interrupting.)* What kind of bird was it?
JOBIE: It doesn't matter. Any kind of bird—
JESS: *(Interrupting.)* An ostrich.
JOBIE: Not an ostrich.
JESS: An emu?
JOBIE: No, smaller.
JESS: A penguin?
JOBIE: No, it has to be a flying bird. Fetch me a beer, Jess.
JESS: *(Going to the ice chest.)* A turkey?
JOBIE: No, it has to be a migrating bird.
JESS: *(Looks in ice chest, to JOBIE.)* We're out.
JOBIE: Out?
JESS: Yep.
JOBIE: Fine, I'll get some more.

(JOBIE stands and exits the back door. JESS follows.)

JESS: *(As he exits.)* Was it a goose?
JOBIE: *(Off.)* No, it was not a goose!

(LIGHTS fade. A SPOTLIGHT rises on JANIE who has appeared DSR.)

JANIE: All good things must come to an end. At least that's how the saying goes. Most times, the good thing that we mourn the loss of, was born out of less than perfect circumstances. The tortured soul turns his passion into lyrics and songs. The starving artist finds inspiration for his masterpiece and becomes world-renowned. Even Christ's death on the cross preceded his miraculous resurrection. Out of hardship and adversity comes triumph and glory. And so begins the tall tale of Jobie and the Beer-Battered Boys, on a hot June day in the summer of 1999.

(The SPOTLIGHT fades down as JANIE exits. LIGHTS back. JOBIE enters from the back door with a six pack.)

JOBIE: No, it's a smaller migrating bird.

(JOBIE puts the beer in the ice chest. JESS enters.)

JESS: A duck?
JOBIE: No, a smaller, small migrating bird.
JESS: A humming bird?
JOBIE: No! It was a dove, alright? A flock of doves were flying south for winter—
JESS: *(Interrupting.)* Flight.
JOBIE: Yes, the flock was on the flight south to find warmer weather for the winter.
JESS: No, a flight of doves, not flock. Flock is for sheep.
JOBIE: Oh. So this flight of doves—
JESS: *(Interrupting.)* You can also use dole or dule of doves.
JOBIE: Fine. So this—
JESS: *(Interrupting.)* It's a charm of hummingbirds, a paddling of ducks, and a gaggle of geese!

End of Freeview

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