

Life on the ROCK: Road Trip

Week 7 – Ogilvie, Tuesday, July 7th

GOD'S GIFT OF FAITH

FRAN: Well aren't you all so sweet! Thanks for coming out to help with the chores around here. Pastor Mueller said you're all on some sort of mission trip. Where are you from?

REBECCA: We're from Mankato, MN, about an hour and half south of the Twin Cities.

VEGAS: I cant' wait to see the horses! They are so beautiful...

ISAAC: So what are we doing here?

TY: Well the Lost Feather Ranch has had a little run of bad luck, right Fran?

FRAN: You could sure say that! Lost three hired hands in the last two weeks...well one is my husband, Jimmy. He's laid up from knee surgery. And the other two fellas found some work out west. So it's just me and Larry trying to keep up with everything. And Larry isn't too fast anymore.

JEFF: So we get to feed them and stuff?

FRAN: Well, yes and a some other things you could be helpful with. We've got 16 horses here and giving them proper care and maintaining the Lost Feather takes quite a bit. Some of you can help feed and water, a couple of you can help me fix some broken fence, and I'll need a couple who aren't squeamish about horse poop...

ALICE: I'd rather not...I'm squeamish...

SAUL: No poop for you! (Seinfeld)

MOOSE: Yeah the girls shouldn't have to do that. I'll do it.

VEGAS: (punches MOOSE in the arm) This is a ranch for horses, not chauvinist pigs! I can clean the stalls.

MOOSE: (rubs arm) Sheesh! I was just trying to be nice.

REBECCA: Why don't Isaac and I help you Vegas? Ty and Moose can work on the fence and the rest of you can feed and water. How does that sound Fran?

FRAN: Wonderful! You will just love our horses! Beautifully made creatures! One thing to remember: Make all of your movements around them slow but confident. If you move fast, they move fast. If you act scared, they will too. Be careful and enjoy the Lost Feather Ranch! Now all of you working with feeding or cleaning can meet up with Larry in the horse barn. Ty and Moose, you come with me.

TY: Okay everybody...load 'em up, move 'em out...rawhide!

EVERYONE WALKS OFF

ALICE: Wow...aren't they beautiful? So strong and independent...

JEFF: I bet this one's fast. Red Arrow...

SAUL: That might just be the name. All the horses here have those kinda names...like Majesty and Fleet Foot. I mean you don't see names like Elmer or Station Wagon.

JEFF: Who would name a horse Station Wagon?

SAUL: Exactly!

ALICE: Larry seems like a nice guy...he should be back with their food soon.

SAUL: Larry...now that's a good name for a horse.

JEFF: What do they feed them even? Is it hay or corn or something?

SAUL: I like corn.

ALICE: I'm not sure.

SAUL: Hey...maybe while we're waiting for Larry boy to get back, we can get to know Red Arrow. Anyone wanna go in with me?

ALICE: Saul, no! Don't be stupid...

SAUL: Don't be alarmed – I'm a horse whisper (makes whispering sounds). See he understands me.

JEFF: I'm thinking that's not a good idea Saul...

SAUL: Who let the chickens in the horse barn?

ALICE: Saul, don't.

SAUL: What's your problem? What? Are you scared of him? (she says nothing) You *are* scared aren't you?

ALICE: Well...yeah...I mean, he's beautiful and strong...but he seems so wild yet. It's in his eyes.

JEFF: Scared beats stupid any day. Leave him alone Saul.

SAUL: Okay...but this is a horse they ride all the time. He's used to people around him.

ALICE: He's used to people he knows and trusts. He may not trust you.

JEFF: *I* don't trust you(Saul)...you're the one who said the electric fence doesn't work on humans.

SAUL: Sorry about that...that's the fastest I've seen Moose move in awhile though.

ALICE: Look there's Larry. He's unloading some bags or something...we should go help.

JEFF: Yeah, I don't know if he should be lifting that much.

SAUL: We will see you later Red Arrow (makes whispering noises, pretends to hear a response) aah, yes...I will tell her.

ALICE: Tell me what?

SAUL: He said you have nothing to fear, but fear itself.

ALICE: Right...(sarcastically)

ALL WALK OFF (lights down to change scene)

(Vegas, Rebecca and Isaac holding pitchforks)

VEGAS: Well that wasn't too bad. It didn't smell as icky as I thought it would.

ISAAC: Yeah but my back is killing me!

REBECCA: I've got blisters on my hands already!

VEGAS: I guess we should have worn work gloves – at least Larry got us some boots to wear, otherwise the van ride would have not been pleasant!

ISAAC: No worse than Saul. Hey...I'm pretty impressed with how hard you work Vegas. I could hardly keep up with you...you worked hard to Rebecca, but Vegas – you're a machine!

VEGAS: Thanks Isaac. I don't know. I like forcing myself to try things and do things that no one believes I can do. I don't want anyone to think that I'm weak or “girly”. I can take care of myself.

REBECCA: So why is that such a big deal for you?

ISAAC: I understand. There's no one you can really depend on but yourself.

VEGAS: That's right. When you depend on others, you open yourself up to get disappointed or hurt. I don't need that.

REBECCA: Wow. That seems so cynical. I mean, don't you trust me? Or Ty? Or your parents...oh (looks at Isaac) I didn't...sorry.

ISAAC: It's okay. It's not that I don't trust anybody. It's just easier...safer not to. It's survival.

VEGAS: It's power.

REBECCA: It's sad. (silent for a moment, TY, MOOSE, FRAN, ALICE, SAUL AND JEFF enter)

TY: How's the poop troop doing? (all respond in own comments) Well, we have a surprise for you: After we're all finished and cleaned up, Fran and Larry are going to take you all riding horseback. And then we are going to have a picnic with some special guests: your parents.

MOOSE: Really? They're coming here?

TY: Yep, everybody has at least one of your parents coming. I set this up along time ago. They are all excited to see you. They have missed you, whether you believe it or not.

REBECCA: That's so cool! Thanks Fran. You and Larry are such wonderful people. Will we get to meet your husband, Jimmy.

FRAN: Yes, he'll be joining us for the picnic. Wouldn't miss a good meal like that, my dear Jimmy.

SAUL: So do we get to pick the horse we ride...cuz I saw this one who...

FRAN: I already have the horses lined up for you. Our neighbors are bringing a couple of their more mature rides for tonight. So let's see...I tried to match them up with what you might be best suited for... Ty, you'll be riding Ghost Boy...Rebecca, Summer Dream...Alice, Waterfall...Jeff, Thunderhead...Vegas, Red Arrow...(Saul yells what?) Isaac, Tumbleweed...Moose, Big Jake. A couple of things you'll...

SAUL: Hey what about me? You never said my name.

FRAN: Oh sorry Saul...you'll be riding Elmer.

SAUL: Oh you gotta be kidding (Alice and Jeff are laughing)

FRAN: A couple things for you to be thinking about before we ride...The goal is not to keep from falling off the horse or to rule over the horse. You are building a relationship between horse and rider. Respect the horse, and it will respect you...treat it with kindness and praise and it will respond. If you do this, it will develop into a trust that creates a kind of "oneness" between both of you. Now, you're going to accomplish this in one ride, but relationships are not chosen, they are built. Each experience is essential to it. A horse will trust you if you give it reason to trust you, and vice versa. Is everybody comfortable riding? (Saul looks at Alice, she shrugs) Okay, quit standing around and go work up an appetite!

TY: Well this oughtta be good...