

FRANK BUTLER

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LITTLE JAKE

If you mean Annie, she ain't here yet.

CHARLIE

Well, go hurry her up! Tell her we're waitin' on her!

(As the CHILDREN run off.)

Holy Toledo, I never heard an audience whoop it up like that!

BUFFALO BILL

And did you see Sitting Bull? He actually fell out of his chair. Twice!

CHARLIE

I tell you that girl's worth a million bucks!

BUFFALO BILL

Yeah, well, just don't mention that particular figure in front of her.

(FRANK enters, followed by DOLLY.)

Frank - what are you doing here? You're on in a minute.

FRANK

Like hell I am! You expect me to go out there on only one measly old horse after that display of fireworks? What kind of fool do you take me for?

DOLLY

Now we know why her picture's plastered all over town. And her pretending to be so innocent.

CHARLIE

Don't go blamin' Annie - she only wanted to surprise you.

FRANK

Well, she sure did, and I bet the two of you put her up to it. There I was, expectin' her to pop an egg off a little dog's head when down she swoops outta the sky with the goddamnedest exhibition of fire-power I ever saw! She got off more rounds than they fired at Gettysburg!

DOLLY

The little sneak. She's been playing you for a sucker, Frank.

FRANK

Well, that's what I am, all right! I was crazy over that girl - there, I admit it - I was damned near ready to marry her! I thought she was sweet and simple - Ha! Simple! In two weeks I'da wound up being her assistant! Cookin' for her, too, I bet!

ANNIE (OFFSTAGE)

Frank - ! Frank -

(She runs on.)

- Oh, thar ya are. Did ya see me? Were ya surprised?

FRANK

You could say that. In fact, you could say it was the biggest damn surprise of my whole life!

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ANNIE

I knew you'd like it.

(To the OTHERS.)

Now all o' ya, git outta here so's we kin be alone.

(SITTING BULL enters.)

SITTING BULL

Where is Annie Oakley - where is she?

BUFFALO BILL

Here she is, Chief. Annie, say hello to Chief Sitting Bull.

ANNIE

Pleased t' meet ya, Mr. Bull. This here's my best friend, soon t' be my intended, Mr. Frank Butler.

SITTING BULL

(Turning to FRANK.)

You in the show, too?

ANNIE

In the show! Why, Frank is the show! He's the star.

SITTING BULL

Star?

ANNIE

That means he's the best.

SITTING BULL

No. Annie Oakley is the best.

(Unnoticed by ANNIE, FRANK and DOLLY go.)

CHARLIE

(Stepping forward.)

You like her, Chief?

SITTING BULL

Good girl! Good girl!

BUFFALO BILL

You hear that, Annie? He wants to be your friend.

SITTING BULL

No! Not friend! Sitting Bull want to make Annie Oakley his daughter!

(He removes his necklace.)

Give you Indian name - Watanya Cecilla - "Little Sure Shot" - here are teeth of many bears.

(He puts it over her head.)

And now, to help daughter, Sitting Bull will break lifelong rule - put money into show business!