"KILLED A MAN"

"Written By"

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EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Two men sit at a campfire. The first is THOMAS, a grizzled man of 35. The second is WILLIAM, a far younger man of 20.

    THOMAS
    You ever killed a man?

    WILLIAM
    Yeah. Fair few times.

    THOMAS
    How’d you do it?

    WILLIAM
    With a rifle from afar mostly.

    THOMAS
    How ’bout up close? You ever killed a man up close?

    WILLIAM
    Once.

    THOMAS
    Describe it.

    WILLIAM
    He rode up on horseback, I guess he’d been paid to kill me or some such. He got off the horse and put his hand to his gun. But I was the faster draw and I shot him down. He hit the ground, dead.

    THOMAS
    Where’d you shoot him?

    WILLIAM
    The head. I shot him in the head.

    THOMAS
    Mm. You told that story pretty well. Lots of detail. You left out some important bits though.

    WILLIAM
    Like what?

    THOMAS
    Like how when you shot him, half his brain came out the back of his head. ’Cause that’s what a bullet (MORE)
THOMAS (cont’d)
does to a man. It’s not like you’d imagine; the shot hits ’em with a puff of smoke and they go down. There’s blood and other bits. It ain’t pretty. And they don’t die right away either. They twitch around, they scream. That’s why you shoot ’em from afar. There’s just a little red puff and they go down. You don’t have to see the details. Easier on the soul.

The pair lie down and go to sleep.