

CARRIE Mr. Snow says a man that can't find work these days is just bone lazy.

JULIE Billy don't know any trade. He's only good at what he used to do . . . So now he jest don't do anythin'.

CARRIE Wouldn't the carousel woman take him back?

JULIE I think she would, but he won't go. I asked him why and he won't tell me . . . Last Monday he hit me.

(GIRLS gesture 'oh')

CARRIE Did you hit him back?

JULIE No.

CARRIE Whyn't you leave him?

JULIE I don't want to.

CARRIE I would. I'd leave him. Thinks, jest because he's Billy Bigelow he can do whatever he likes. Don't support you! Beats you! . . . He's a bad'n.

JULIE He ain't willin'ly er meanin'ly bad.

CARRIE Mebbe he ain't . . . that night you set on the bench together-- he was gently then, you told me.

JULIE Yes, he was.

CARRIE But now he's always actin' up --

JULIE Not alw'ys. Sometimes he's gentle . . . even now. After supper, when he stands out here and listens to the music from the carousel -- somethin' comes over him -- and he's gentle.

CARRIE What's he say?

JULIE Nothin'. He jest sets and gets kinda thoughtful . . . Y'see he's unhappy 'cause he ain't workin.' That's really why he hit me on Monday.

CARRIE Fine reason fer hittin' you. Beats his wife 'cause he ain't working'.

JULIE It preys on his mind.

CARRIE Did he hurt you?

JULIE Oh, no, Carrie, no.

CARRIE Julie, I got some good news to tell you about me -- about Mr. Snow and me. We're goin' to be cried in Church nex' Sunday!

*(The GIRLS who have been U.S. turn quickly, yell and come down around CARRIE, proving they haven't missed a thing. CARRIE*