

**Marylin Nease**

**DADDY AND HUCK FINN (A DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE)**

**Scene/situation:** On the bed under a white sheet and pale blue blanket pulled up across his chest lies a man in his late seventies. He mostly stares into space, but now and then he talks a little to himself, and once in a while he smiles and even laughs. He seems to be far away from his bed and bedroom, somewhere in a memory only he recalls. Into the bedroom walks a middle-aged woman. She arrives at his bedside and leans over to kiss the man's forehead. Then she runs her fingers along the top of his head and one side of his face.

**Marylin:** Hey, Daddy. How are you this afternoon? I just got here from Dallas. It was a long trip. Not much traffic, though, once I got out of Big D. Thought I'd come see how you and Mom are doing. Okay?

**(Pause..., examining his hair.)**

Looks like it's about time for another haircut. Maybe you and I can do that while I'm here. What do ya think? Maybe we'll give that a shot tomorrow.

**(Pause..., looking out the window behind his bed.)**

I can see six of your cows outside the window here. Looks like they're busy eating. Your grandson Brandon's doing a good job keeping the place up. That new fence out there sure looks good. Guess he's keeping the cows in the pasture here close by as long as the grass holds out. Wonder how many baby calves they'll be having before long. Have you looked out the window lately to check on your cows? They're right out there, Daddy. We need to turn your bed around so you can see 'em, don't we?

**(Pause...)**

I'm just gonna kind of rattle on here to tell you what I've been doing lately, okay? School sure is keeping me busy! I have three sophomore English classes right now. Guess what we're reading. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Did you ever read that when you were in school, Daddy? You know what? I need to read the first part again to refresh my memory about all the details so I'll be ready to discuss it with my kids next week. How about if I read it out loud to you? Would that be kind of fun? That way you can hear the story and I can do my homework at the same time. Would that be okay?

**(She pulls a folding chair close to the bed, sits, reaches for the book, and opens it to the first page, ready to begin reading.)**

Okay, here we go in Chapter 1. Ready?