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## Bear Bait (or Once Upon a Time in Wyoming)

Tony Park

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**BEAR BAIT**  
**(OR ONCE UPON A TIME IN WYOMING)**

*Question.* What was big Butch from Buffalo, Wyoming's  
sick pony?

*Answer.* Bear bait.

*Q.* And who is broken bottles in the gut  
of an old dead tree?

*A.* Butch's buddy Bones.

*Q.* And God?

*A.* One headless hare doing a bloody somersault  
in the middle of the road.

*Q.* And where were Butch and Bones bristled?

*A.* From Crazy Woman Canyon on.

*Q.* What were they?

*A.* Trigger-talk, slavers from dogs howling, icy mist & rain,  
Chain-reaction.

*Q.* And *Jack Daniels*?

*A.* Tumbling all the way to Sheridan, a parking lot,  
a duplex on the edge of town.

*Q.* And the real fun?

*A.* A divorcee Bones dated once.

*Q.* Was it a long night?

*A.* Butch said something about taking turns, lighter fluid,  
a couch out in the snow smoldering, them laughing,  
her crying.

*Q.* And God?

*A.* God picks the wind up. He plays with it for a while,  
and then He chucks it across the frozen Powder River.

*Q.* And the woman?

*A.* The same dull shade of red as the blood that sprays  
from the ears of docked lambs.

*Q.* And the bear.

*A.* The bear was nowhere to be seen.

