

JOE. They said I didn't look like "Texas" enough. What the hell does "Texas" look like, anyhow?

MONA (THEN). They were lookin' for types. You just weren't the right type, that's all.

STELLA. Ya know, I look for you every time I see that movie on T.V. an' I never see you.

MONA. Elizabeth Taylor's head keeps gettin' in the way... but, I'm there, mostly behin' her left ear in that scene where she first arrives from her papa's plantation in Virginia... an' they have that big barbecue picnic scene. She gets real hot an' starts to faint, grabbin' onto the branch of a mesquite tree for support... right as the camera comes close to her at that point... you can see me peekin' out from behin' her left ear.

MONA (THEN). I felt like such a celebrity the way they were all fussin' over me.

JOE. Mona, you sound like you was the only one there... there were so many people. I could hardly even find you.

MONA (THEN). Joe, if you aren't interested in listenin'... you can leave. (SHE goes on building to a desperate frenzy.) That night I laid there in the back seat of the Buick and kept thinkin' about how I was chosen above all them thousands of others... starin' out the window at the millions of stars an' the outline of that beautiful house way off in the distance. Suddenly, one of those stars exploded, burst away from all the millions of others an' fell from the sky... landin' right behin' the house... behin' the front of Reata. I leaned over the seat to point it out to Joe, but he had tramped off somewhere, all mad 'cause he wasn't chosen, too.

JOE. I didn't tramp off mad. I just wanted to be alone.

MONA. I pulled my blanket aroun' my shoulders an' started to walk to where the star had fallen to earth. I walked past the front gate down the road to the house. It was so quiet and still... the only sound was comin' from a far away train, blowin' its whistle an' chuggin' off into the night. When I got to the front porch, this voice comin' outta nowhere says, "Isn't it a little late to be callin' on your neighbors?" It was him. I knew it. I knew it the first minute I heard his voice. Then he said, "Don't just stand there bein' unfriendly. Come on up on the porch an' sit a spell." As I moved up the stairs, I reminded him that I was the one who gave him a match that mornin'... an' he thanked me again. We spent that whole entire night together... until the sun started to peek out from over the edge of the earth, turnin' the sky into the brightest red I ever saw.

JOE. Mona, what are you sayin'?

MONA (THEN). (Sharply to JOE.) We walked together to the gate an' he thanked me for sharin' the night with him an' then we both walked away in separate directions.

STELLA. (Then.) You shared the same night with James Dean?

JOE. Mona, no!... That's not the way it was an' you know it.

SISSY (THEN). Mona... you never told me that part of the story before. I'm your friend... you're best friend and you never told me.

JOE. She never told you 'cause it's a lie.

MONA (THEN). It's not a lie... it's true.