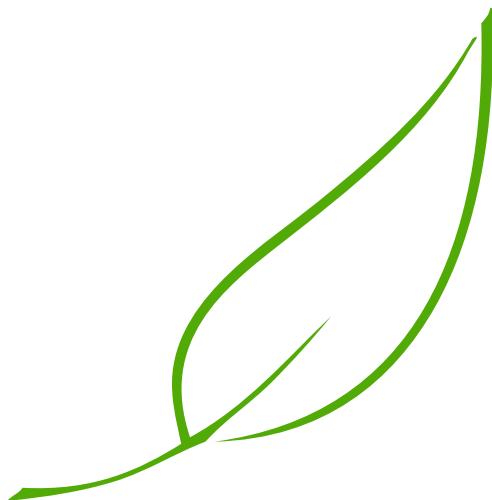


HEY, DUDE!

by Ken Bradbury



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(A scene for three girls. The setting: The Savannah Sagebrush Dude Ranch, somewhere in the West.)

SAGEBRUSH: *(A rather rough and tumble lady rancher. She speaks with a gruffness that can only come from too many years in a worn out saddle)* Okay! Listen up, cowpokes! This ain't no prissy little cheerleading camp! This is The Savannah Sagebrush Dude Ranch! In two weeks I'm gonna take you lily-livered little city girls and turn you into the grittiest bunch of cowpokes to ever rope a bull! Get them silly smiles off your faces, ladies! My name is Savannah Sagebrush and I mean business! Now let me introduce you to Buster. Buster the Wonder Horse! *(she holds onto his reins)* Take a bow, Buster! Good boy! Good boy! Buster is the only horse in existence with an I.Q. of 112. This puts him above most men I know. *(she turns as Nadene and Callie enter)*

NADENE: This place smells!

CALLIE: Nadene! She'll hear you!

NADENE: I don't care what she hears. Look at this. *(reading)* "Come and experience the adventure of a lifetime! The Savannah Sagebrush Dude Ranch where you'll fall in love with the thrills of the Old West. Two delightful weeks of becoming one with your horse."

CALLIE: *(genuinely thrilled)* Don't you just love it, Nadene? Just think! Riding the mountain trails, cooking over an open fire, going to sleep watching the stars!

NADENE: It was either this or basketball camp and I can't dribble. I'm gonna hate it. I know that already. I'm gonna hate it.

CALLIE: Nadene, I've been meaning to speak to you about your attitude. You know, life is truly what you make it.

NADENE: Where do you get this stuff? You know Callie, you watch way too much Sesame Street.

CALLIE: (*smiles*) A smile can turn away the harshest word.

NADENE: Excuse me while I get ill.

SAGEBRUSH: (*entering and speaking directly down stage, as if the girls are out in the audience*) Okay, ladies! It's time for your first lesson in horse-woman-ship.

NADENE: (*groans*)

SAGEBRUSH: You've each been given your own horse. I want you to spend a few minutes getting to know the horse. Remember, this is more than an animal. This is your friend! Me and Buster here have known each other since grade school. We have become one! When I get an allergy, Buster sneezes. (*Sagebrush then begins to inspect the various girls and their horses*)

NADENE: I really can't believe this.

CALLIE: Pet your horse, Nadene. At least pet him. She's looking right at us.

NADENE: (*pets, then*) Horse sweat. I have horse sweat on my hand. I may need a doctor.

CALLIE: It's a hot day, Nadene. He's just trying to keep cool.

NADENE: How come Buster's not sweating? Maybe it's his I.Q. He's too smart to let Annie Oakley there get on him.

CALLIE: Pet your horse, Nadene. Come on... get to know him.

NADENE: (*holding out her hand to her horse*) Hi, Trigger. My name's Nadene. How's life back in the corral? Heard any good jokes?

CALLIE: Nadene, stop that!

NADENE: Be quiet, Callie. I'm bonding with my horse.

SAGEBRUSH: And now the magic moment has come, ladies! It's time to mount up! (*Nadene groans*) Now listen carefully, cowgirls. You must mount from the left side of the horse! Let's go! Everybody to the left side.

NADENE: My horse knows directions?

CALLIE: Just do it, Nadene. (*the girls move to the left of their horses*)

SAGEBRUSH: You then put your left foot in the stirrup.

NADENE: What's the difference?

CALLIE: Please Nadene!

SAGEBRUSH: As I am doing right now! (*she mounts Buster*)
See! Easy as cow pie! (*laughs at her own "joke"*)

CALLIE: Oh, this is so exciting!

NADENE: Left ... right ... who cares? Nobody's gonna tell me
which foot to use. (*Both Nadene and Callie mount up ...*
Callie ends up facing forward and Nadene is now sitting
backwards on her horse.) Why is everybody laughing?

CALLIE: (*laughing herself*) Anything look funny to you,
Nadene?

NADENE: Yeh. Somebody stole my horse's head. Hey! I got
gypped!

SAGEBRUSH: Would the city slicker who's facin' her horse's
rear end wanna get off and start all over again.

NADENE: (*getting off*) I knew that. I knew that. I was just
testing Trigger.

SAGEBRUSH: You know gals, it helps if you're just a bit
smarter than the horse.

NADENE: (*as she gets back on, this time starting with the left*
foot) Then Buster must be a moron.

SAGEBRUSH: What's that, little lady?

NADENE: I said "I'm learning more on this trip than I have in
my whole life!"

SAGEBRUSH: That's my little cowpoke!

NADENE: I'd to poke ...

CALLIE: Nadene!

SAGEBRUSH: Now, ladies, we are what you call ... on our
horses!

NADENE: Brilliant. How does the lady do it?

SAGEBRUSH: Lesson one! Let go of the saddle horn!

NADENE: Do what?

CALLIE: Let go, Nadene! Let go!

NADENE: No way!

SAGEBRUSH: Only a wimpy cow-woman hangs onto the
saddle horn. Hold the reins in your left hand and let your
right hand hang free.

CALLIE: Let go of the saddle horn, Nadene!

NADENE: What if I've gotta honk at somebody?



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