

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yeah, sometime they—

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: And they turn around and look, trying to—That looks just like my wife.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: She look like a White woman, don't she?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, she does.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: And we'll be eating sometimes, you see White people walk in—

James T. "Red" Eaves: Oh yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: —and see her, and they be peeping around. And you hear someone, "Is she Black or White?"

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yeah, we hear them, because Robert said, "Look, look." They be looking at her. And I have been riding down the road in that Lincoln, me and her. She be setting on this side, and a bunch of White guys in a truck pull up beside me and think she White.

Alex Byrd: Yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Sticking their finger out, giving me that look, giving me this, "Is she Black?" Then they try to, you know. Yeah, they give me the finger and everything, mm-hmm.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Watch it, and old bee. Yeah, it's a wallop.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Should I hit him?

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: No, he'll go out, don't even make it try to sting you. Get out of here. Get over there. Get on out of here.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: That's a little baby one there. No, hey knock them down, where my paper at?

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: You know what? I'll tell you something else, though. You may not pay it no attention. If I allow these Black guys, they marry these White girls—

Alex Byrd: Can't hear you Mr. Eaves. I'll have to bring you the mic.

James T. "Red" Eaves: That's all right. I—

Alex Byrd: No, because I want to hear.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: There he is. There you go. He got him here. The thing hard to kill, ain't it?

James T. "Red" Eaves: A lot of these are. A lot of these Black boys is marrying these White girls. And you know, they have some beautiful kids.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Sure do.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, they have some beautiful kids, too. Yeah, they do. Yeah. And this happening now pretty rapid. You take a, in the next century, you can't hardly tell a Black from a White.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Mm-hmm.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Because it be can be so many, you see, that will have a White mother and a Black daddy, or a White daddy and a Black mother.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Now see, this boy of mine, he's biracial. Yeah, of course, you can tell him by him being a Black guy, you can tell it because he got the features of a Black guy. His lip's a little thick, you see? But his hair is neat, and he's about 6'3". And when he was in high school, man them girls just run him down. That's right, yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Look at my wife. Her eyes the same color as these White people's eyes.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: With the blond hair and everything. [indistinct 00:02:40], oh yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: The basketball coach had a daughter, you know? And she was just going to my marry my boy, you see? And the girls that he liked, he'd go upstairs with them, see? The one that he didn't like,

he'd sit downstairs on the deck, in the living den with them (laughs).

Alex Byrd: That's how come I didn't see them.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah. Yeah, she told her mother that she wanted to marry Mike. And I told my old lady, "Mike ain't even got no business trying to marry her." I said, "He ain't even got a job." Never did when he was in high school. He told me, he said, "Dad," he didn't want her nohow.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Well, I ain't got nothing against this mixed marriage. You know, you got some of these little old White girls, I don't know, 2 or 3 of them, married to these Black guys. And they getting mad at them, and they just hit them.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: And that's what's I'm talking about.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, that's—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: They didn't care what they at when they say it.

James T. "Red" Eaves: No.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: That's what piss me off. I see, like back in the 40's and 50's, them White girls used to look at niggers then.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: But you know, Black guys then, but they'd get caught.

Alex Byrd: Mm-hmm.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: The first thing they hollered, "Rape." And it wouldn't be rape.

Alex Byrd: Yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: And you had—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: They would say "rape," to keep them from messing they up, yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: And then have to leave town.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yep.

Alex Byrd: The guys would have to leave?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Oh, yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: That's right.

Alex Byrd: Hm.

James T. "Red" Eaves: That bug is kind of rough, ain't he? Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He ain't dead yet, is it?

James T. "Red" Eaves: No.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He's hard to kill.

Alex Byrd: I believe he's trying to die.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He's hard to kill.

Alex Byrd: You getting—

James T. "Red" Eaves: I know I been awful small, and they hung two guys over there in Madisonville, on account of a White woman.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: You need to talk to Petey about that. He ain't going to like that.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, and—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He's one of them that knows everything. Where's that thing coming from? Get out of here. Oh, it's a gnat. Get on out of here. Yeah, they hung something there.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, Nathan Bard and Fleming, I believe it was. But I was too young to remember then.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Old Petey know about that. Old Petey's 75 years old. He know about that.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, yeah. Well, see, I'm that old. But see, I grew up there in White Plains.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: You 75?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah. And I was where I could get over there, walked to Madisonville then, see, and—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: I didn't know you was that old.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Wasn't no car. Yeah, 75, born in 1920.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Well, you and Petey the same age.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah. And, huh?

Alex Byrd: I'm sorry. I though I might have those guys names in Madisonville. I might have it written down.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Have you talked to Donnie Nickels?

James T. "Red" Eaves: No, I ain't. Well, the last time I tried to find Donnie, I didn't even know where to look.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Well, he's, yeah in the apartments.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Oh, he's still staying in these apartments?

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, okay then.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: What is it? Wyma?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, Wyma apartment, yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He used to get work.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Alex Byrd: Do you remember anything about that, what happened in Madisonville, Mr. Eaves?

James T. "Red" Eaves: All I know is they hung them about a White woman. She said they raped her, see? And the boy had been going with her all the time, see?

Alex Byrd: Mm-hmm

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, and I guess that was 60 or 65 years ago, see? Because I used to hear people talk about it. And the guy that—one of them had a wife. I remember her, and she was a good looking woman. And the judge said, "Anytime a man got a wife like that, and run after a woman, one so evoking, said he

should be hung."

James T. "Red" Eaves: She was a good looking woman. And, during 47', I believe 47' or 48' one, I went to her house. She lived in Lulaville, yeah, but she had kind of got older, you see? But she was, these men that they hung, they was kin to those Dulins up there in Muhlenberg.

James T. "Red" Eaves: I remember one of the guys called Pete Dulin. He was kin to them, and he had a sister. And up there in Graham, they used to be a lot of Black people up there because they had a mining camp up there, you see?

James T. "Red" Eaves: And I don't know how they got tied up with these women, but anyway, the women said they raped them. This woman said the guys raped her, you see? And they'd been going with her. Everybody know they was going with her, you see?

Alex Byrd: Mm-hmm

James T. "Red" Eaves: But they just wanted to stop him.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Do anybody live in Graham now?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Mm-mm.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Except for you, ain't it?

James T. "Red" Eaves: Mm-mm.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: They done all moved out?

James T. "Red" Eaves: No, now Bibbs, she teaches in Graham. And her two daughters teaches in Graham, see? But, ain't no Black up there.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: They done all moved to the same city probably, ain't they?

James T. "Red" Eaves: In Greenville, yeah.

Alex Byrd: Do you remember anything happen in Hillside? I read when folks were telling me about that, what happened in Madisonville, were telling me something that happened in Hillside in Muhlenberg county. I'm trying to think of the year. Maybe I'll have to bring it to you later.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, son. I don't even remember hearing something. Do you?

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Remember? Hillside, Muhlenberg county.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Muhlenberg.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Oh, Muhlenberg. I don't know nothing about Muhlenberg.

James T. "Red" Eaves: I don't even remember nothing about Hillside.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: I don't know nothing about Muhlenberg county.

James T. "Red" Eaves: But say, you take Greenville, they've got up, did a whole lot of domestic work, see? And a lot of those guys was going with those White women, you see? And, they'd get into it with their husband, then they'd get out and get them another woman. Well, these nigger boys out there, cutting their yard, and doing housework. And some of them look pretty nice. And they just turned to them, you see?

James T. "Red" Eaves: And one guy in particular, he was going with this woman, and they lived upstairs over this restaurant. And this Black boy went up there with her, and them people hear the whining, see? He may have putting that ride to her or something. She's whining and taking on.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Well, they hear her downstairs, you see? And one of them said, "That boy doing something to that woman." Well, he got out. He left Maryville and went to Lulaville. And the next evening, he was back in Greenville.

James T. "Red" Eaves: And her husband told them guys, said, "You is a damn liar. My wife wouldn't fool with no Black man." He said, "I don't want to hear no more about it." And the boy live in one place today, his son. And you can tell he's a biracial, yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah, and I had a cousin that lived in California. He was growing up in Lulaville, I mean in Greenville, at that time. And he knowed her, and knowed the boy. And every time he'd come in, he'd go by and holler at him and her, see?

Alex Byrd: Yeah, yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: But see, nature's going to take it's course, you see? If one don't get it one way, she's going to get the other one, see? Yes, sir.

James T. "Red" Eaves: But you know, let me tell you something else, too. You'll be surprised that people live in these fine mansions, and don't even sleep together.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yep.

Alex Byrd: A shame, yeah.

James T. "Red" Eaves: It's got a big front only—well it's about—

Alex Byrd: You from around this way? I grew up in Texas, in Houston, but I married into a family in Muhlenberg county, so my—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: You in the army?

Alex Byrd: No, but my dad was in the army. That's why we moved around so much. But I was born in Hawaii. And then we went to Fort Carson, and then we ended up in Houston.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: She got a son that's White.

Alex Byrd: Mm-hmm. Her son just left Houston.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Okay.

James T. "Red" Eaves: Yeah.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: He went for Fort Ord, California.

Alex Byrd: Okay.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Yep, then I got a sister got a son in Houston, Texas.

Alex Byrd: Well, I'm going to get there. When am I going? In August.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: You're daddy still living?

Alex Byrd: Yep, he's retired and he lives in Midland, Michigan.

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: Oh.

Alex Byrd: So, my mom and dad were divorced, so he lives up that way with his wife. Well, this has been great. I sure appreciate—

Sidney Gilmore Jr.: I enjoyed talking with Mr. Eaves. [crosstalk 00:12:04]

Alex Byrd: And I hadn't even interviewed Mr. Eaves yet. Y'all starting to talk— [indistinct 00:12:11]

James T. "Red" Eaves: Well, I told them, I said, "Well, you can get me anytime, see?"