



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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No matter how old you are, you should ALWAYS listen to Daddy's advice. I wish I had remembered that at the lake!

The day was beautiful, the sun danced in and out of the clouds casting shadows across the water and the humidity had taken a hike, so we were out with Corky's cousin and wife on their pontoon. Making our way across Lake Cumberland towards "The Cut", I stretched my legs out on the seat, closed my eyes and let the sun toast my ever so pale skin! The lake was at it's highest level since repairs to Wolfe Creek Dam had been completed, the report was 731+ feet above sea level, and the debris was horrible! Corky and Bub (yeah, that's right, they BOTH have fun nicknames) took turns guiding us through the driftwood and plastic bottles that polluted the beautiful lake until we reached an area clean enough to swim. Under a beautiful waterfalls that fell from seventy feet or so in a secluded cove, we dropped anchor. We played for hours in and out of the falls, the lake water felt almost hot after being under the cold

## Listen To Daddy's Advice

water that tumbled over a huge rock ledge that jutted out from the side of the rock face cliff. When our stomachs began to growl, we realized it was time to go.

I burn easily, so it was no surprise that my back was a wee bit pink later that night. This is where Daddy's advice SHOULD have screamed at me, but I suppose I was too tired and too burnt to listen. Daddy told me as a teenager, "Never sleep naked! If the house caught on fire, would you want to be standing in the front yard in nothing but your birthday suit when the fire department gets here?!" That had always stuck in my head, so in all my years, I'd never slept in the buff! After Corky coated my back and shoulders with cooling cream, the sunburn didn't really burn, it was just hot! I felt like my nightgown would catch on fire and that night when I had walled that crazy nightgown 'till it was up around my neck, I threw caution to the wind... as well as the nightgown! The cool breeze from the fan felt so much better across my shoulders. Finally the burn eased enough that I could fall asleep.

At 2:00 a.m. I felt what could only be SANDPAPER across my back. In a sleepy, dreamlike haze, Corky was trying to cover me up with the chenille bedspread. Every, little, chenille, pom pom was grating against my back like a woodblock covered in sandpaper and for the life of me, I couldn't get him to wake up enough to STOP!!!! I wrestled the bedspread to the floor and drifted off to sleep again but at 4:00 a.m. it was a

whole 'nother ballgame. Corky sat straight up in the bed, screaming "CHARLIE HORSE" and I jumped to my feet to aide him in standing up. Our fan sat in the hallway, pulling cool air from the air conditioner into the bedroom of the camper; I was at the foot of the bed trying desperately to get Corky to his feet from painful Charlie Horses in BOTH legs; the fan was freezing me to death because my skin by now, (without the gown) was glowing red and Corky didn't want to cooperate.

ME: Take deep breaths, in through the nose, out through the mouth.

Corky, in horrible pain: WHY!

ME: Because your muscles need oxygen.

Corky-still struggling to talk: WHY!

ME: So they will stop cramping!

Stumbling through the camper towards the refrigerator, I trip over the fan, knocking it over. I grab a bottled water and race back to Corky, catching my toe in the fan's cord and nearly falling at his feet.

ME: Drink this!

Corky still twisted in pain: WHY!

ME: Because you may be dehydrated from being in the sun all day, now do what I say and DRINK THIS!

I turned around to right the fan and turn it off. I was shivering from the horrible sunburn and bumbling around in the dark. Finally I found the light switch and flipped it on, searching frantically for my gown. Evidently the water and deep breathing had helped ease the cramps some because at this point:

Corky: Hey, what are you doing? What if the camper caught on fire and you were left standing in the yard in nothing but your Birthday Suit when the fire department got here?!

ME gritting my teeth: Yes, that's a good point

you've made there Corky, seems I've heard that somewhere before, so now that I have my gown on again, I'm going back to bed.

Corky: What about me?

ME: What about you?

I flipped off the light and somewhere in the dark, I

could hear the faint sound of laughter. "Ok Daddy, you made your point!"

Corky: You talking to me? What about ME? Tam? Tam? Tam?

TAM: Goodnight Daddy

**Tam**

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