

Writing People and Places Teleseminar Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Her tongue was sharp, from the beginning. And, in the beginning, he liked it that way. She was more prone to voice her opinion, probably, than most women of that time, and with Ava there was never any such thing as a compromise. But while she complained a lifetime about being cast into the damned wilderness, she always knew she had found something in this man that she had never seen in another, certainly not in any of the Congregational Holiness she had known since birth.

He talked to her.

He did not grunt about crops and scripture. He talked.

If he dug a well, he did not say, "Well, today I dug a well."

It might just be a hole in the ground, but he made it seem like a tunnel into adventure.

"You should have been there, Ava," he told her once as they sat at their little table, their heads close together within the circle of lamplight.

"Why would I want to be in the bottom of a damn hole," said Ava, who cussed more than most Congregational Holiness in that place and time.

"Because of the Chinaman," he said.

"What?" she said.

"The Chinaman," he said.

"A Chinaman helped you dig that well?"

"Naw. I met one, in the middle, a'comin' the other way."

She just looked at him, her eyes glittering behind her wire-rimmed spectacles.

"It was a deep well," he said. And as much as she hated to, she laughed at him, and laughed with him, and then told him he was pitiful, surely. "All you study," she said to him, "is folly."

But it beat the hell out of talking about cotton.

He kidded her, and egged on her natural cussedness, and he would look oh-so-wounded when she let him have it.

"Ava, Ava, Ava," he would say, shaking his head in mock dismay as she dog-cussed him in his own house. And then he just could not pretend anymore and tears would run down his face, from holding his laughter in.

Ava's Man by Rick Bragg, Pages 71-72

What do we gain if we describe people and places?

Five effective ways to characterize people and places:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Notes:

Be a part of Writing People and Places!

Sign up today: <http://finishmybookin90days.com/writing-people-and-places/>