

OLD MAN GUS

By Tori Leigh

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What's keeping you positive? My faith, my family, and my friends.

Yes, you can publish this!

CHARACTERS

Gus Merrick, age 80s, a big man very muscular and very tall man close to seven feet. He looks like he could be in his 60s-70s. He is a very mean man. He will sometime use his size to bully people. He only care about himself and he is very selfness.

Jacob Patterson, age 30s to 40s. He is a small man of 5'5 to 5'8. He has a secret that he needs to tell Gus, but he also has a secret that he is keep about his self. He is extremely nervous acting and he is wearing a very tacky brown suit.

Narrator, age 40s to 50s, he is an average man. He is dress in all black. He is Gus storytelling.

TIME

July 2020, 11am, 3pm and 9pm

PLACE

Small town in USA

Revenge is the reason for this story. It is how a person goes out of their way to get revenge on someone.

Sound: birds and small animals

NARRATOR

Gus Merrick was the most feared man in these parts. Gus, or Old Man Gus as most people called him, could put the fear in you. People say that he is the Devil, but most are afraid to call him that to his face. Standing seven feet tall and being a man of solid muscle, Old Man Gus knows how to bring people to their knees. One word from his baron-tone voice would have a strong person shaking in their boots. But one person knew how to tame this giant. With a whisper, this person could do what no one could, knock Old Man Gus to his knees. This is their story. The story of how Gus Merrick met his match. This story starts on one hot summer day when Gus was sitting on his porch drinking a cool pop mixed with a little whiskey. His favorite drink. Gus loves sitting on his porch and listening to the sweet sound of nature. It was the reason he moved to this small town. It was called Nowhere USA. Where most people minded their own business. It was on one of those hot days when he saw the strange man walk toward him....

(Old Man Gus watches as Jacob walks up to his porch.)

JACOB (smiling)

Hello. *(looking at pieces that of papers in his hand)* Do you know where 5 West Main is?

GUS

Yeah, what you want?

JACOB

I am looking for Mr. Gus Merrick. Do you know him?

GUS

Yeah, I know him, what do you want with him?

JACOB

Sorry, I must talk to him. It is important, do you know him?

GUS

I said yes, I know him, but I do not think he will talk to a stranger, so you need to tell me what you want from him.

JACOB

I am sorry, but it is a secret.

GUS

Well mister that secret is going to go with you on your way out of town. Now git, git going.

JACOB

Sir, I do not mean to....

GUS

I said git and do not make me get off this porch!

JACOB

No, I do not want that, I am so sorry. I just need to talk to Mr. Merrick. (*Seeing that Gus is getting angry*) I am so sorry again. Can you please tell him or tell me where he is...I do have something important to tell him (*Seeing that Gus was getting interested*) my name is Jacob D. Patterson. I am from the Law office of Hale Parr and Samuel and I have some....

GUS

So, you are one of those lawyers?

JACOB

Yes, I am a lawyer.

GUS

One of those sneaky lawyers.

JACOB

No, sir I am not sneaky. I just need to give Mr.....

GUS

I said that you need to tell me or git going.

JACOB

Look, I am not trying to cause any trouble.

GUS

Do not make me come down of this porch mister! That would not be good for you!

JACOB

No, no I will go (*starting to back away but stops*). Look, I have a letter for Mr. Merrick, can you give it to him?

GUS (*starting to get up*)

Look, I said git, git going!

JACOB (*drops his papers and starts to run*)

I am sorry sorry! (*yelling as he runs off*) Please have him call me, my number is on the papers. I'm staying at the motel on Main Street. (*Exit*)

(Gus watches him run off with a crooked smile. He walks up to the papers and picks them up, his smile is wide as he reads it.)

GUS

Oh well, looks like Old Girl Betty left me something. I guess I might have to visit that strange little man. *(smiles as he walks away)*

NARRATOR

Jacob does not know why he let Betty Chief talk him into delivering those papers in this god so awful town. He can feel the mosquitoes biting him. It feels like they are having a dance break on his body. He failed this morning and he left his papers with that crazy old man. That crazy, big old man, Wait, is that crazy, big old man coming his way?.....

(Jacob gets up and is ready to run. But a loud baron-tone voice stops him in his tracks.)

GUS

Man, where are you going?

JACOB

Away From you. Look, I told you I do not want any trouble.

GUS

Well neither do I. Look, I talked to Mr. Merrick and he wants to meet you.

JACOB

He does?

GUS

Yes, man I just told you. What is wrong with you?

JACOB

Nothing, Mister nothing.

GUS

Well, he will meet you at the diner in an hour.

JACOB

An hour?

GUS

Son get your ears cleaned, I said in an hour, you heard me right!

JACOB

Yes sir, I will be there.

GUS

Good, then get ready. (*turn around laughing as he exits*)

(*Jacob is shaking. He tried to calm himself down.*)

JACOB (talking)

Why did I agree to do this? I should have known something was wrong with this assignment when no one else volunteered to go...I should have known when Danny started to play Tap on his Trumpet. Well, I could still hear Tap on that stupid Trumpet that my friend, my brother, my desk mate, was playing on that cloudy day. Why did I agree? Why did I agree when no one ever wants to come to this town and the ones who did come were never the same? Never. Well, I guess I need to get ready to meet that Mr. Merrick. Do you know who he is? (*Looking at the Narrator*) Do you?

NARRATOR

What?

JACOB

Do you know Mr. Merrick?

NARRATOR

Are you talking to me?

JACOB

Umm, yes, you are the only one here. (*looking around*) The only person.

NARRATOR

Look, you are not supposed to speak to me. I am the NARRATOR!!!!

JACOB

Umm, well do you know?

NARRATOR

Know what?

JACOB

Mr. Merrick.

NARRATOR

Yes.

JACOB

Well?

NARRATOR

Well what?

JACOB

Look, who is this man?

NARRATOR

Who?

JACOB (*irritated*)

Ok, I am getting tired of this. (*Exit*)

NARRATOR (*talking to the audiences*)

That was weird... I mean how did he see me. Well, I guess I need to keep my voice down now on and wear darker all black outfit to fix in the scene. Well let me get ready for the meeting. (*Exit*)

(Gus is sitting at a small table when Jacob walks in 6 hours later. Jacob sees Gus and starts walk out when Narrator pushes him to Gus.)

GUS

You late man.

JACOB

Sorry I got lost.

GUS

Man, how you get lost in a town this small? (*the Narrator and Gus both laugh*)

JACOB (*upset*)

Look, it was easy.

GUS

Well, anyway....so what do you want?

JACOB

Look, I told you. I need to talk to Mr. Merrick.

GUS

Here he is (*pointing to himself*) and you are talking to him.

JACOB

You are Mr. Merrick?

GUS

Man, you sure ain't that smart. Yes, I am Gus Merrick.

JACOB

So, you are Mr. Merrick.....

GUS (*getting upset*)

I said I am, now what do you want?

JACOB

Why didn't you tell me that back on your porch?

NARRATOR

Because he was playing with you. He like playing games.

JACOB

Well, I do not like playing games. Look this could....

GUS (*smiling*)

Look at you trying to get a backbone. Now man I do not think you want to make old man Gus angry, right?

JACOB (*little afraid*)

No.

NARRATOR

No, in fact, I never saw Old man Gus talk to anyone. I mean, all of his 71 years, I never saw Old Man....

GUS (*looking at the Narrator*)

Shut up man! I got some business with this little man.

JACOB

Who is that man? (*asking Gus as looking towards the Narrator*)

GUS

My storyteller. You see, I am a legend and he walk around telling my story. Like the time I fought a big grizzly bear. I remember as it was....

NARRATOR

It was the year 1973 and Old Man Gus was walking over there (*pointing to the woods*) when this big.....

JACOB

I know that this is a good story, but I need to tell Mr. Merrick my information so I can get out this awful, I mean, go back to my office.

GUS

Well man tell me this information.

JACOB: *(looking at Narrator and back to Gus)*

It is a secret.

GUS

Man, I am getting mad, you better tell me or else!

JACOB

Okay, okay. So, the information is from Ms. Betty Chief. *(Taking a letter from his jacket pocket)* the letter says that Ms. Chief is giving you an unexpected amount of money but you.....

NARRATOR

When old man Gus heard that Betty was leaving him some unexpected money, he jumped up and did a little dance!

(A dance break--Gus is dancing around the diner! Music is coming from the Narrator's phone. Jacob is watching them in shock and horror. He snaps out of it and tries to talk to Gus.)

JACOB

Mr. Merrick, Mr. Merrick, I am not finished. I am not finished; you must do something before you can get the money.

(Gus stop dancing and the music stop. Gus is looking at Jacob.)

GUS

What?

JACOB

You must do something before you get the money.

GUS

Well, man what I must do?

JACOB *(looking at the letter in his hand)*

Ms. Chief says that you must marry her or lose 500 million dollars.

GUS

What did you say?

JACOB

You must marry Ms. Chief or lose the money.

GUS (*shocked*)

Oh, heck no!

JACOB

Yes, Ms. Chief says that you have until tomorrow at 6pm or forfeit the money.

GUS

That woman is crazy! I cannot believe she would pull this dumb stunt on me.

NARRATOR

You see, Betty Chief, Old Girl, has been chasing Gus for 45 years. Gus has been afraid of her because she is the only person that can put Gus in his place. Betty told, a long time ago, that she would marry him, but Gus would always run away from her. She almost got him back in the 80's but then she met her perfect man. A man that made her forget about Gus, a man that filled her heart with love. But, in a fit of jealousy, Gus made her man run away. A hurt Betty decided at that moment that Gus would pay. He will pay. She knew that Gus loved his freedom and money. So, she decided that she would.....

JACOB

Are you done?

NARRATOR

What?

JACOB

Are you done? I want to go back to my room, and I need Mr. Merrick's answer. You giving us this long history, I mean, could you give us a shorter version of their story?

NARRATOR

No, I cannot, but you two can continue to talk.

JACOB

Thank you. Mr. Merrick, you have until 6pm to give me your answer. We can drive out of town to the chapel or I can leave, and you get nothing. You do not have to give me an answer now. I can wait.

GUS

Man, I know what my answer is. I guess me and the old girl are going to get married! 500 million? Heck, I would marry anyone!

JACOB

Pack your bags and we leave at 6pm tomorrow. Remember 6pm.

GUS

Yeah, yeah, I will be at your room later tonight with my stuff. Oh, by the way, how long do I have to stay married to her?

JACOB

She said for 5 months.

GUS

Now that is some good news! I guess that old girl just wants to say that she got Old Man Gus, finally got him. Well, I will give her the one thing that she never got. Make the old girl happy for once in her life. (*He exits dancing*)

(Jacob watch as Gus dancing leaving. Turning to the Narrator)

JACOB

Those two have a weird relationship.

NARRATOR

I agree.

JACOB (disdain)

So, he is going to marry someone just for the money?

NARRATOR

I guess so. One thing about Old Man Gus, he loves money more than life. He has been trying to get rich for most of his life. I guess Betty knew that he would marry her for money.

JACOB

I guess so.

NARRATOR

So, how did the old girl get rich?

JACOB

I guess Investments.

NARRATOR

You guess, like you do not know?

JACOB

No, she was not one of my clients. Her son Danny, my best friend, asked me to deliver this letter for his mom. He told me that many lawyers had come to find Mr. Merrick and when they came back, they were never the same.

NARRATOR

Huh?

JACOB

Yeah, I guess Mr. Merrick was playing games and drove those lawyers crazy.

NARRATOR

But no other lawyers but you have come to find Gus.

JACOB

Are you sure?

NARRATOR

Yes, remember? I tell his story.

JACOB

Okay, this is getting weird. Let me call Danny and see what going on.

NARRATOR

I did not know that old girl had a son. In fact, I never knew that she had children.

JACOB

Yeah, she adopted Danny when he was 15-year-old, back in the 90's. He said that she was the best thing that happened to him. He said that she saved his life. She was the reason why he wanted to be a lawyer. He said that something happens in her life and she was sad until he came in her life. Her heart was broken for so long that he needed to find the person who hurt her and make them pay.

NARRATOR

I wonder if that is when Old Man Gus ran her perfect man away.

JACOB

I guess so, well let me call Danny and find out what is going on. I also need to let him know that Mr. Merrick said that he would marry Ms. Chief. (Pointing) What is going on over there?

NARRATOR

I guess Gus is burning down his house and all of his possessions!

JACOB

Now why would he do something like that?

NARRATOR

Because he is not planning to come back to this town, to this life. He will take that money, make a new and wonderful life once he divorces the Old Girl.

JACOB

He will not even try to see if he loves her.

NARRATOR

No this is Gus, this is Old Man Gus, the legend, the man. The man that even the Devil feared. He does not care about anything or anyone but himself and money. I am kind of shocked that the Old Girl would put herself in this situation.

JACOB

Yeah, I agree, y'all are weird people. Well, let me go and make this call. See you later. *(Exit)*

NARRATOR

Yeah, I must agree with JACOB. It is weird that Betty would agree to marry that raccoon. I mean she said that she would get her revenge, it just does not make sense why she would marry him or give him any money. And it does not *(his mouth opens wide in shock)* and it does not make sense that Jacob just drove by me leaving town yelling sucker! Oh darn! I think the old girl might have gotten her revenge after all! Oh darn, here comes Old Man Gus. I need to get the heck out of here!

(Narrator tries to run away but he runs into Gus.)

GUS

Man, where you running to?

NARRATOR

Trying to get out of town.

GUS

I will take you with me. I still need you to tell my story.

NARRATOR

I do not think you are going anywhere.

GUS

What?

NARRATOR

I think this was hoax. I think that Old Girl got her revenge on you for messing up her life.

GUS

I do not understand.

NARRATOR

That lawyer just drove out of town yelling sucker. I do not think there is any money.

GUS (grabbing the Narrator)

That cannot be true. Let me go to his room and check it out. (*exit*)

(Moments go by before Gus come back)

GUS (running in with a note)

No, this cannot be happening, that woman tricked me! I found a note and it says because you hurt my mother, I am going to bring you to your knees. There is no money and if there was you would never get anything from my mom. You hurt her and now you will pay, signed by Jacob Daniel (Danny) Chief. P.S. I am not a lawyer. P.S.S. I knew who you were all the time and P.S.S.S. how you like being played? P.S.S.S.S. I left you some money! (*holds up some play money*) This is what he left me? This is what he left me? I burned all my stuff!

NARRATOR

Wow!

GUS (in disbelief)

Yeah, the big payback.

NARRATOR

So, how do you feel....

(GUS falls to his knees and screams. The Narrator sneaks off.)

The End.