

SAMPLE LINE EDIT

More unrequited love—this time for the man that packed ~~and stowed~~ away his feelings. Blue left me in the dust as my *prairie friend*, ~~my cowpoke pal, but~~ no longer my *pardner*. But ~~yes,~~ he kept his word; ~~;~~ he stayed in touch. I'd taken Mark's name ~~down from my off~~ Internet Messenger because it hurt watching him come and go—~~online and offline~~ without ever a contact. ~~Thus o~~On the rare occasion that ~~Mark would remind himself that~~he remembered I existed ~~and would make contact~~, it would be an unexpected—and a pleasant—surprise.

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Mark didn't ~~come by all~~appear too often. When he ~~finally snuck up via popping up~~ unexpectedly popped up to ~~on a chat window,~~ he'd return as ~~this my~~ long lost friend, ~~—my dear~~ ~~cowpoke pal~~ and he reappeared as ~~sincere warm~~ and ~~warm sincere~~ as ever. We'd ~~chat over the internet~~IM or ~~switch to chat on~~ the phone. He always wanted ~~me to update him as~~ to know how I was doing, and ~~he'd inquire about my life. Finally~~ he would insist that I update him on my love life. ~~And so we'd have a warm and toasty discussion about things within our isolated worlds. With every encounter, each~~ Every time Blue wrangled himself back into my life, I would re-experience that ~~ate~~ old ~~pang, the~~ yearning to mosey on back in with him. ~~However, paralyzed at the tongue, But~~ I couldn't bring myself to confide these longings. ~~And so we'd have a warm and toasty discussion about things within our isolated~~ worlds.

Commented [JK1]: I didn't want to lose this characterization of Mark, so I moved it up to the first sentence, OK?

~~The cerebral nature of~~ Mark's ~~left brain behavior~~ cerebral nature made it impossible for him to speak the truth ~~anyway~~. As the pinnacle of self-control, he ~~always kept absolute~~ ~~restraint over the~~ restrained any hidden sentiment he had for me. ~~Any inner~~ fondness, he sealed away ~~within the confines of~~ in his own private thoughts. But certain hints kept me ~~wondering—always~~ teetering toward the belief that he carried a hidden hankering for me. ~~Unfortunately as for my own behaviors, and~~ I found myself *kowtowing* to his aloofness. ~~And~~ I confined my emotional expression with Mark ~~remained confined~~ to the appropriate façade so as to prevent any potential misinterpretation. Lord, forbid this man infer that *I might like him*.

Commented [JK2]: Would "epitome" be a better word here?

Commented [JK3]: OK to describe what kind of expression here?

But ~~in his soft, sweet personality,~~ despite the camouflage, ~~the sense of true~~ his sweet caring personality seeped through the seams, and ~~thus,~~ I found myself ~~embroiled in the frustration~~ of falling for him all over again—~~at least for that one and singular contact—because, then~~ until this well-spoken hombre would ride off ~~like the good little British cowboy that he was,~~ into the setting sun, like the good British cowboy that he was.