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The Proposal

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THE PROPOSAL

"I've built this house for a woman to be there,"
he says. And I let him talk.

"Do you listen to Arlyss Miller sing in church?
Do you? A lady with a voice like that
could make my house hum all week."

"Today after church," he says.

"Today at dinner after the pie," he says.
And his hands flutter the pages of his Bible,
the stumps of two fingers
closed in the book of Micah.

He hammers his way toward Arlyss'
Sunday school room, rehearsing:

"I have a house.

I have built a good house. Marry me."