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Sheriff Dennehy, Once the Posse Returns

by Robert Cooperman

One thing for Preacher
to've pranced around
with Mary LaFrance.
A man's got needs.

But for his widow to vanish
with the breed tracker
and ignore my marriage proposal,
that's going against your own,
and a mortal insult!

So I whipped the boys up
to such a lather
they'd have jerked
the first stranger
our posse came across.

But up rides Sprockett,
swearing he can read signs
good as that breed,
and who's going to tell him
he can't, a man who can murder
quicker than most can sneeze?

We spent a week riding hard,
sleeping on harder ground,
vittles running out,
liquor running dry
as drought-parched streams.

Finally, we turned back.
You ask me, what Sprockett
angled for all along.
Maybe he helped
send Preacher to Paradise,
but I ain't dumb enough
to say so.

