

*The setting is a modern bar, whatever that may mean here. A bartender is behind the counter. Someone enters dressed as a pilgrim. The bartender looks up.*

Pioneer

I need a drink. Today has been harder than most.

Bartender

Oh, yeah? What's been so hard about it?

Pioneer

Ah, I won't bore you with the details.

*The bartender shrugs and returns to work.*

Pioneer

Except the wheel fell off of my covered wagon.

Bartender

Right...I hate when that happens.

Pioneer

Anyway...You don't want to hear about what I've got going on.

*Again, the bartender shrugs and keeps working.*

Pioneer

Except all I had for breakfast was cold coffee and a chunk of dry bread. Then I went out to hunt for lunch and the buffalo were nowhere to be found.

Bartender

Mhm... buffalo are hard to come by these days.

Pioneer

Yeah, well. Thanks for listening. I know you don't want to hear about all of this.

*The bartender shrugs again.*

Pioneer

Except a group of bandits ransacked the wagon and stole the last bottle of whiskey I had, my only pair of pants ripped when I was chasing them, and my dog drowned during a river crossing.

Bartender

Riiight, yeah. Sorry to hear that.

Pioneer

But yeah, I don't mean to unload all of this on you. You've got other things to do.

*The bartender shrugs.*

Pioneer

Except my youngest three children all died of cholera in the last week and an ox from a nearby wagon ran off with a whole pot of boiled corn we had prepared for dinner. Then we had to turn back because a very strong tornado scooped up the wagon just ahead of us and we had to go back up a super big hill that we had just come down which, trust me, is really difficult when you're pulling a wagon full of all of your belongings. *(Pauses; sighs)* It's been really hard.

Pioneer

*The bartender stands still, just staring at the pilgrim. Another person, Brian, pokes their head into the bar.*

Brian

Psst. Dude, get your ass out here. We're about to start the reenactment.

Pilgrim

Shut up, Brian! I'm getting into character!