

Version anglaise

Other than a housekeeper who came in on weekdays, the Clutters employed no household help, so since his wife's illness and the departure of the elder daughters, Mr Clutter had of necessity learned to cook; either he or Nancy, but principally Nancy, prepared the family meals. Mr Clutter enjoyed the chore, and was excellent at it—no woman in Kansas baked a better loaf of salt-rising bread, and his celebrated coconut cookies were the first item to go at charity cake sales—but he was not a hearty eater; unlike his fellow-ranchers, he even preferred Spartan breakfasts. That morning an apple and a glass of milk were enough for him; because he touched neither coffee nor tea, he was accustomed to begin the day on a cold stomach. The truth was he opposed all stimulants, however gentle. He did not smoke, and of course he did not drink; indeed he had never tasted spirits, and was inclined to avoid people who had—a circumstance that did not shrink his social circle as much as might be supposed, for the centre of that circle was supplied by the members of Garden City's First Methodist Church, a congregation totalling seventeen hundred, most of whom were as abstemious as Mr Clutter could desire. While he was careful to avoid making a nuisance of his views, to adopt outside his realm an externally uncensoring manner, he enforced them within his family and among the employees at River Valley Farm. 'Are you a drinking man?' was the first question he asked a job applicant, and even though the fellow gave a negative answer, he still must sign a work contract containing a clause that declared the agreement instantly void if the employee should be discovered 'harbouring alcohol'.

Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*, 1965

abstemious: indulging only very moderately in something, especially food and drink.

applicant: a person who makes a formal application for something, especially a job.

application: a formal request to an authority.

chore: a routine task, especially a household one.

harbour (noun): a place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter.

harbour (verb): keep in one's mind, especially secretly; shelter or hide; carry the germs of.

loaf (noun): a quantity of bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced before being eaten.

loaf (verb): spend one's time in an aimless, idle way.

realm: a kingdom; a field or domain of activity or interest.

salt-rising bread: *pain au levain*

spirit: the non physical part of a person which is the seat of emotions and character; the soul; the prevailing or typical quality, mood, or attitude of a person, group or period of time; the real meaning of the intention behind something; (usually plural) strong distilled liquor such as brandy, whisky, gin or rum.

void: not valid or legally binding; completely empty.