

REDEMPTION

A Treatment by Eric Christianson

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LOGLINE: A washed-up Texas Ranger must set aside the bottle and regain both his courage and skills to rescue his long-thought-dead wife from the clutches of a vile human smuggling ring... whose kingpin is his former partner.

GENRE / SETTING: REDEMPTION is a feature-length action/adventure Western set in 1878 in southwest Texas and northern Mexico. Much of the Texas action takes place in two small, dusty, desert towns south of Laredo, and the surrounding rural areas. A highly fortified, Alamo-resembling compound is the site for the events that transpire in Mexico.

OTHER WESTERNS "REDEMPTION" COMPARES FAVORABLY TO: True Grit, Tombstone, The Magnificent Seven, Django Unchained.

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE: Former Texas Ranger MASON CAMPBELL takes to the bottle after the murders of his loving wife, HANNAH, and his Ranger partner, SAMUEL DIXON. He is devastated, almost to the point of being suicidal. While drowning his sorrows in a local saloon, he is nearly gunned down but is saved by the dead partner's audacious outlaw brother, EZEKIEL DIXON, who brings news that he has traced both deaths back to a human smuggling business operating in the area.

E. Dixon convinces Campbell to join him in taking revenge on the group, although Campbell is dubious that his eroded skills will be of any use. Ezekiel has been curious about exactly how his brother died so Campbell relives that fateful day, via a flashback, revealing the two died in a fire, Sam trying to save Hannah, as Mason lay helpless on the ground, the victim of a gunshot wound.

Act One comes to a close with Ezekiel calling in favors to assemble a motley crew of individuals, each uniquely skilled to assist in wreaking havoc on the villains.

ACT TWO revolves around the efforts of E. Dixon's group to track down those responsible for his brother's death. The smugglers are eventually caught and dealt with. The vile leader of the bunch is coerced at gunpoint to give up the drop point for the kidnapped women - a jailhouse in a nearby ghost town. It is there that Dixon and company ambush those coming to pick up the imprisoned ladies. All of the ruffians are dispatched, save for one, who willingly agrees to lead Dixon's band to the compound in Mexico where the shanghaied women are sold into slavery.

Act Two is also where Campbell realizes he hasn't the stomach for killing and leaves the group for a while to return to his elbow-bending ways. A chance encounter with a lawman investigating a string of kidnappings in the area causes him to realize that his beloved Hannah may have been abducted rather than killed and, hence, could still be alive!

ACT THREE: A rejuvenated (and sober) Campbell rejoins Ezekiel and company after his epiphany. They make their way to Mexico and the crafty group utilizes the wagon confiscated from the aforementioned ruffians as a "trojan horse" to infiltrate the compound.

Unfortunately, Campbell is captured, but makes two startling discoveries: Hannah is very much alive and her kidnapping was orchestrated by the smuggling operation's chieftain - his former partner, Sam - who faked his death and was using his Ranger position as a cover for his nefarious activities!

The rest of E. Dixon's crew take out the sentries and then storm the compound. They free the enslaved women, some of whom join with Ezekiel to turn the tide in their favor in battling the facility's soldiers.

With things looking grim for the compound forces, Sam and his henchman flee with Hannah in their coach, as Mason and Ezekiel give chase via horseback. In the final confrontation, Ezekiel is forced to put down his brother in the one gunfight he never wanted to have. Mason overcomes his aversion to killing and takes out Sam's henchman, thereby rescuing his precious Hannah and completing his journey from has-been to hero.

MAIN CHARACTERS

MASON CAMPBELL: Caucasian, late 20s. Former Texas Ranger who is grieving the murders of his wife and former partner. Begrudgingly joins Dixon's group to enact revenge on those responsible but discovers he hasn't the stomach for it, nor the skills, given his more-often-than-not inebriated condition.

HANNAH CAMPBELL: Caucasian, late 20s. Mason's vulnerable wife, thought to be dead, but is, in fact, being held at a highly-fortified facility in Mexico as a mistress to the compound's boss.

EZEKIEL DIXON: African-American, mid 30s. Brazen outlaw brother of Mason's slain partner. Organizes a posse of sorts to search for his brother's killers. Lightning-fast with his six-shooters. Doles out his own style of justice, when the law doesn't, to those deserving of it.

SAMUEL DIXON: African-American, 30ish. Brother to Ezekiel and Mason's former partner. Also thought to be dead but is actually the leader of the smuggling operation. Self-serving and without conscience. Faked his own death and was responsible for Hannah's kidnapping.

GREY FOX: Native-Latin American mute, mid 30s. Joins E. Dixon's group. Kills with a blowgun and darts dipped in poison. An expert in herbal medicine and tracking. Instrumental in locating the smuggling ring.

MING TAO CHEN: Oriental, mid 30s. Former prostitute, rescued by E. Dixon. Owes her life to him and agrees to join his group. Since getting freed, she has become a martial arts expert. Her weapon of choice is nunchucks.

LESTER TIMMONS: Caucasian, mid 30s. S. Dixon's right-hand man. Oversees the operation of a string of brothels from Tuscon to El Paso. His men often secure the ladies fresh off the boat from China, including, three years ago, one Ming Tao Chen.

ABOUT ME...

Eric Christianson is an accomplished screen actor and voice artist living in Austin, TX. He took the plunge into screenwriting several months back and has been writing feverishly ever since. Credits include a three-part TV mini-series entitled *Firefly: Reunion* (based on the TV show), an original Sci-Fi / Western TV pilot called *Tranquility* (and the next two episodes), and now, *Redemption*. All can be reviewed at the website address above.