INT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE - MIDDAY

Nika has been catching Val up on the events that have
transpired since he was wounded as the others interject as
well.

Val is now sitting up in bed and seems stronger and more
cogent.

                    GONZO
          So I'm sitting in the wagon.
          Nothin' ta do but watch over two
          unconscious guys, when, all of a
          sudden, some yokel comes crashin'
          through the window and lands in the
          horse trough. I says "I see the
          locals have met Nika".

Nika turns red as the others laugh, including Val, who then
grimaces and puts his hand over his chest wound.

                    VAL
          Ow...I think, for the sake of my
          stitches, we best hold off on any
          more Nika ass-kickin' stories,
          amusing as they are.

                    GONZO
          Which reminds me...shouldn't we be
          checking in with Lizzy and Jeb?

                    VAL
          Ya...I'd love to hear more about
          this Jamieson fella. Surprised
          Lizzy never told us about him.

Just then, there is a knock on the door.

                    GONZO
          I'll get it...seems to be the only
          thing I'm good for around here.

Gonzo departs for the door. To break the pregnant pause in
the conversation, Val needs to get something off his chest.

                    VAL
          Nika...somethin's been gnawin' at
          me and...well...I owe you an
          apology.

                    NIKA
               (surprised)
          For what?

                    VAL
          I never thanked you for saving my
          sorry carcass...back at the ship...
          when Tobias was about to fill it
          full o' lead.

                    NIKA
          Just doin' what ya hired me ta do.

                    VAL
          And you've done it more times than
          I can count.

                    NIKA
          Seventeen.

                    VAL
          What?

                    NIKA
          Seventeen...the number of times
          I've saved your ass.

                    VAL
          You've been keeping score?

                    NIKA
          Got the ledger in my room if ya
          wanna see it.

Just then, Gonzo returns with Sarah and Doc Griswold, but
nobody notices.

                    VAL
          That's ok...I'll take your word for
          it.
                    (quietly to himself)
          Seventeen, huh...think she mighta
          missed one or two...dozen.

Gonzo clears his throat to get everyone's attention.

                    GONZO
          Ahem...look what the pilot drug in.

Val sees Sarah - the attraction is instant and palpable,
just as it was for Sarah previously.

After a short stare at each other, they look away.