

T R A N Q U I L I T Y
"The Calm before the Storm"
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"THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM"

TEASER

EXT. SPACE

Miscov's dim and charred ship continues to float along in space, powerless to change whatever course it's on.

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE

Miscov's right hand twitches again. His head moves slightly. His eyes slowly open. He blinks and squints, trying to get his bearings.

Miscov sits up and, looking around at his surroundings, realizes where he is and what must have happened.

MISCOV
(desperately)
My ship...my crew.

Miscov slowly stands, having trouble keeping his balance. He staggers over to each member of his crew, inspecting each for any signs of life. There are none.

He then stares out the front window for a brief time, curiously gazing at star patterns he does not recognize.

Miscov turns his attention to the navigation control board. He lunges to it and throws a few switches, but no power returns and nothing on the control board lights up.

Miscov then throws a switch and presses the comm button.

MISCOV (CONT'D)
Can anyone hear me? Report in!

He waits in vane for anyone to answer. No one does. He pounds his fist on the board and yells out in frustration.

MISCOV (CONT'D)
Brennnnnarrrrrrr!!

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY - LATE NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE CREDITS - ONE NAME AT A TIME - BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.

Lizzy and Tobias guard Jamieson as Zeb snoozes.

Tied up in a chair, Jamieson comes to, trying to focus his eyesight and shake off the cobwebs.

Lizzy steps to a position directly before him, cigarette dangling from her lips.

LIZZY

Welcome back to the land of the conscious. How's your face?

JAMIESON

Hurts like hell. Your doin', I suppose?

LIZZY

You don't remember? Jamieson, I'm offended.

JAMIESON

I recall arming a grenade and gettin' ready to throw it. After that, things are a mite fuzzy.

LIZZY

Well...allow me to fill in the details for ya. First, I hit you with a wrench. Then, a right cross. Oh, I also disposed o' the grenade just in the nick o' time.

JAMIESON

Hmmm...you're quite the heroine.
(beat)
So...whatcha gonna do with me?

LIZZY

If I let Tobias have his way, your head wouldn't be hurtin'...there'd be pieces of it scattered everywhere. But you give us some useful intel...and I just might be able to dissuade him o' that.

JAMIESON

Lemme guess...he's upset about his wife and kid...

Tobias has been listening and saying nothing, per Lizzy's request, but he can no longer remain silent.

He stands up and faces Jamieson, looking him square in the eye and jabbing the shotgun barrel under his chin.

TOBIAS

Upset? My wife and little boy were the only things in this world I cared about...and you took 'em from me. Upset ain't the word, mister.

JAMIESON

Whoa, whoa, whoa. You think I killed your wife and kid? I tried ta save 'em!

TOBIAS

I'm a hair's breadth from scattering yer brains all over this part of the ship. You best 'splain yerself right now.

Having first hand experience with Jamieson's deceit, Lizzy speaks up, hoping that Tobias won't be swayed.

LIZZY

Tobias, don't believe a word he says. That swine of a man has turned lying into an art form.

JAMIESON

Look...Tobias...I'll admit to being every bit the weasel that Lizzy claims me to be. But that don't mean I killed your family. For God's sake...you pulled me from the ship wreckage...clothed me, fed me, nursed me back to health. That's not how I repay someone's kindness toward me.

LIZZY

Tobias...he ain't ta be trusted...

TOBIAS

Lizzy, I am inclined to let him have his sayso. If I'm gonna kill a man, I wanna make damn sure I'm doin' it for the right reason. Mister, you tell me what happened that day. But if anything about your story don't ring true to me, so help me God, I am pullin' this trigger.

JAMIESON

Since my life hangs in the balance,
I wonder if we might do this in the
morning? I have a splittin'
headache...

(glances at Lizzy)

...courtesy of Superwoman, here. I
am still woozy...and it's way past
my bedtime.

(turns back to Tobias)

Tobias, I swear I will tell you the
truth about what happened that day.
But I want to get every detail
correct I can't remember much o'
nothin' right now.

Tobias eases his shotgun down from Jamieson's chin.

LIZZY

Tobias, don't tell me you're buyin'
this load o' crap...

TOBIAS

Maybe he's right, Lizzy. We all a
bit cranky and in need o' some
shut-eye. I wanna know 'xactly what
happened to my wife and son. If he
can paint me a clearer pi'ture in
the mornin', I guess I can wait til
then...'sides, he ain't goin'
nowhere.

LIZZY

Alright, then...if that's your
decision, I'll abide by it. But one
of us best be guardin' that...
weasel...at all times.

TOBIAS

You get some sleep. I'll go wake
Zeb.

JAMIESON

Thank-you, Tobias. You won't regret
this.

Tobias looks at Jamieson skeptically, then goes over to Jeb
to wake him as Lizzy closes the cargo bay inside door.

Jamieson's right arm is tied to the arm of the chair but he
still has enough leeway to reach his hand over and dip it
into his other vest pocket, seemingly trying to grasp
something.

JAMIESON (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

Or maybe you will...

INT. DR. GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

Nika and Autumn have already begun to tell Sarah about the impending attack on Lawrence.

SARAH

So you're tellin' me that Quantrill and his men will attack the town at dawn tomorrow morning?

AUTUMN

Yes...we're sure of it.

SARAH

But how can know this to be true?

NIKA

It was Quantrill's men that attacked us on the road. They were braggin' 'bout their plans, figuring we wouldn't be alive long enough to tell anyone. Didn't expect us to be armed and fight back.

AUTUMN

We killed them all...
(eying Val and Sukio)
...but at a hefty price.

SARAH

Well, true or not, the town needs to be warned.

AUTUMN

Agreed. But Sarah, it's late and we're all weary from the day's events. No sense in rousing folk from their beds at this hour. It can wait until morning.

SARAH

I suppose you're right. I best take my leave then. You can spend the night here.

AUTUMN

Your doctor has other arrangements?

SARAH

The stool he's sittin' on. I'll be sure to tell him he has guests before sending him your way.

As Sarah rises and begins to depart, she pauses and looks back at Val.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Somethin' 'bout your captain...
draws me to him. Not just the
resemblance to Joseph...

(pauses)

...would you two mind if I just...
held his hand...for a moment?

Nika and Autumn look at each other, neither one minding.

NIKA

Be my guest.

Sarah walks over to the bed where Val lays, sits on a chair beside him, picks up one of his hands with hers and gently strokes it, gazing lovingly at Val as if he were Joseph.

After a few moments, she puts down Val's hand, gets up, and heads for the door. She stops just before reaching it, turns around, and shows her gratitude, as a solitary tear runs down her cheek.

SARAH

Thank-you, ladies...for everything.
You have no idea how much that
meant to me.

Sarah departs. Just then Gonzo lets out a snore.

AUTUMN

I suggest we take that cue from
your pilot and get some sleep
ourselves.

NIKA

Agreed. Tomorrow's gonna be a big
day.

CLOSE-UP ON VAL'S HAND - THE ONE HELD BY SARAH'S - IT
TWITCHES SLIGHTLY.

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY

Lizzy is asleep on a mat on the floor. Tobias sits hunched over in Jeb's former chair.

Jeb is supposed to be guarding Jamieson but gives the appearance of having nodded off in front of him.

Jamieson has finally secured his mini-laser flashlight-looking devise from his vest pocket...and is quietly burning the rope securing his right arm to the chair.

He frees that arm, then does the same to the left arm and both legs.

Jamieson silently stands up and surveys the room, looking for a better weapon to off his captors, but any gun he can spy already lays nestled in the arms of an adversary.

However, he spies the second of the two grenades he secured from the supply room sitting in the corner where he originally sat to ambush Jeb and Tobias.

He quietly creeps over to the corner, grabs the grenade, and silently tiptoes toward the stairs.

Stepping onto the first step creates a LOUD CREAKING NOISE.

Jamieson turns around, expecting the worst, but notices that everyone appears to still be sleeping.

As he turns back around and takes his next step, Zeb opens one eye.

One more step is taken and then Jamieson stops dead in his tracks as he hears the sound of a taser rifle charging up.

ZEB

Where ya think yer goin'?

Jamieson stops, sighs in despair, shakes his head, and turns around, slowly raising his arms.

JAMIESON

Out for a little fresh air?

ZEB

Then yer goin' the wrong way.

JAMIESON

Ya, I tend ta get turned around in someone else's ship after being whacked on the noggin with a pipe wrench.

ZEB

Don't think you'll be needin' that grenade. You best set that down...while ya still can.

Jamieson sets down the grenade, then stands back up, hands still in the air.

ZEB (CONT'D)

Now, walk toward me nice and slow. Any sudden movement, and you'll be in for the shock o' yer life.

Jeb smiles as Jamieson winces.

JAMIESON

(sacastically)

Nice pun...you're hilarious.

ZEB

I have my moments. Lizzy! Tobias!

Lizzy and Tobias both stir from their slumber and, upon realizing Jamieson has escaped his bonds, grab their weapons and train them on him.

ZEB (CONT'D)

Apparently, our guest was not happy with his accomodations.

LIZZY

(to Tobias)

Like I told you, Tobias, he is not to be trusted.

(to Zeb)

I reckon there's only one way to make sure he sleeps a good long while.

ZEB

Yep.

Jeb sets the taser rifle for stun rather than kill and aims at Jamieson.

JAMIESON

Oh please...not that!

LIZZY

Quit your whinin', ya big baby. Ya won't feel a thing.

Zeb BLASTS a surge of electricity into Jamieson. He SCREECHES and CONVULSES for a couple seconds, then drops to the floor, unconscious.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

...or, maybe ya will. Ya sure ya had it on stun, Zeb?

ZEB

Thought so...

(he checks)

...yep. Might need to readjust the voltage, though.

LIZZY

I think I'll retrieve that grenade and search Jamieson. I'm a wee bit curious about how he managed to escape those bonds.

Zeb examines the ropes.

ZEB

Looks like they been burned off.

Lizzy finds the mini-laser and holds it up.

LIZZY

Yup...by this.

TOBIAS

Now what?

LIZZY

He'll be out for several hours. Now we can get a little more sleep. Autumn said the attack on the town occurs at dawn tomorrow. Whether we're jawin' or fightin'...we best be well-rested.

Tobias and Zeb both nod and prepare for some well-deserved shut-eye.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE - LATER THAT MORNING

Gonzo is the first to awaken. He rubs his eyes and tries to get his bearings, finally remembering where he is.

He checks on Sergio and Val - both still unconscious.

He then heads over to Nika and Autumn and wakes them up. Nika immediately heads to Val; Autumn to Sergio, checking his vitals.

NIKA

Any change in Sukio, Autumn?

AUTUMN

I'm afraid not. Respiration is normal; pulse is good. His brain suffered a pretty severe trauma. It's not uncommon for someone with his injury to be unconscious this long. Certainly not a good sign...but no cause for doom and gloom just yet. What about Val?

Just then, Val's hand twitches again. This time, Nika sees it.

NIKA

Val's hand just twitched!

AUTUMN

Well...that's encouraging.

Autumn comes over to the others. She checks his vitals. Eye movement can be seen under Val's eyelids.

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Very encouraging.

(to Val)

Time to wake up, Captain.

Autumn rubs the hand that twitched. Nika runs her hand through Val's hair.

NIKA

C'mon, Captain. Am I gonna have to save your sorry ass again?

The captain has yet to open his eyes but stirs, apparently hearing and recognizing Nika's voice.

VAL

(softly)

That...won't be...necessary...Nika.

Val partially opens his eyes slowly and manages a grin.
Everyone is all smiles.

NIKA

I'd hug you, sir, but I don't want
to tear those nice stitches Autumn
sewed into ya.

Gonzo take Val's other hand and squeezes it.

GONZO

Welcome back, Cap.

Val finally has his eyes wide open and gazes at everyone.

VAL

Well...you all...are a...sight
for...sore eyes. And thank-you.
Glad ta...be back. Nika...I'll take
a rain check...on that hug.

NIKA

Absolutely, sir.

Val tries in vain to sit up, grimacing and lying back down.

AUTUMN

Whoa there, Captain. Glad you're
awake an' all, but you're not going
anywhere for a while. It will take
some time for your body to
regenerate the blood you lost. And
that wound will take some time to
heal. Doc Tanaka must insist on bed
rest for at least another day.

VAL

Not gonna...fight you on...that
one.

NIKA

There is a lot to catch you up on,
sirs...when you're up to it.

VAL

No time...like the present. I've
slept... long enough.

EXT. ANDERSON'S CAMP

Bill Anderson and his men are breaking camp: gathering
supplies, loading them onto their horses, putting out the
campfire, etc.

Jim approaches Bill.

JIM

Hey brother. Did a good night's sleep fix ya up...or you still got that feelin' in yer gut?

BILL

Tossed 'n turned all night. Didn't get much sleep. Can't seem ta shake it.

JIM

You gonna tell Quantrill?

BILL

Nahhh...yer right...it's probably nothin'. William'd just think I was chickenin' out. Round up the rest of the group. We best make haste if we plan to be at Hogback Ridge by nightfall.

JIM

Will do, brother.

Jim parts company to round up the troops. Younger and James approach Bill.

YOUNGER

Sir, just wanted you ta know that we're honored to serve with you and we plan to make you proud.

BILL

Well son, you take out o' heap of them Yankee sympathizers in Lawrence tomorrow, and you will do just that.

JAMES

We aim to, sir. Oh, and we both have brothers that wanted to join us, but...well, they're a tad wet behind the ears, if ya know what I mean.

BILL

You tell them next you see 'em that I admires their spunk but battle ain't no place for youngins. When they grow up some...learn how ta handle a gun...then they can fight 'long side Bloody Bill Anderson.

YOUNGER

Yes, sir. We'll tell 'em.

BILL

You do that. Now, mount up, boys. We ride long and hard today.

EXT. QUANTRILL'S CAMP

Many of Quantrill's men are having breakfast 'round the campfire...

...when a rider comes into camp, obviously having ridden his horse hard and without rest. He is smallish in stature and seems too old for such a task.

Tired and upset, he makes a beeline for the big tent, but a couple of big men, KOGER and LISBON, block his path.

KOGER

Just where do ya think yer goin' in such a hurry, little man?

MESSENGER

I have an urgent message for Mr. Quantrill. I must get it to him immediately.

LISBON

Give us the message. We'll make sure Quantrill gets it.

MESSENGER

It's not written down - I must tell him personally.

George Todd sees the incident and comes over to investigate.

TODD

What seems to be the problem, boys?

MESSENGER

Sir, I have an urgent message for Mr. Quantrill. I must see him.

TODD

And what does this pertain to?

MESSENGER

Your plans...for Lawrence.

TODD

(to the other two men)
Let him through, boys.
(to the messenger)
Come with me.

Todd takes him to the big tent. They go inside. Quantrill is lying down on a cot and looking pale.

QUANTRILL

George, this had better be important.

TODD

William, you look terrible.

QUANTRILL

Musta got a hold o' some bad
whiskey last night. I'll be fine.
Why are you here?

TODD

This man claims to have an urgent
message that he is to deliver to
you personally.

QUANTRILL

I see.

(turns to the man)

Out with it then. What news?

MESSENGER

Sir. This message is from Sam Bass.
He and his gang got ambushed by
bluecoats. Those that survived,
including Mr. Bass, had to
flee...back to Texas.

(beat)

They won't be here tomorrow.

QUANTRILL

I see.

Quantrill sits up, picks up his six-shooter, and FIRES a
BULLET into the messenger's FOREHEAD, dropping him where he
stood, and stunning Todd.

TODD

Why did you shoot that man? He was
just the messenger!

QUANTRILL

Had to shoot someone. Would ya have
rather it been you?

TODD

William, I realize this is bad
news, but we still have over 100
men ready to fight for you, plus
Anderson and his boys once they
arrive, and who knows how many
others.

QUANTRILL

Perhaps I overreacted...blame it on
the bad whiskey. Dispose of that
body and let me be. I shall join
you once this passes.

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.

AUTUMN
Well...hello again, Sarah. And Doc
Griswold...nice to see you upright.

DOC
I must apologize for last night.
Sarah told me of your predicament.
I hope you were able to make use of
my primitive resources.

AUTUMN
We were, thank-you. And our
condolences on the loss of your
wife.

DOC

Thank-ya kindly. But that's no excuse for the condition I've been puttin' myself in of late. I am truly ashamed.

Val and Sarah continue to exchange quick glances.

Val clears his throat loudly at Nika, getting her attention, then gives a slight nod in Sarah's direction.

NIKA (CONT'D)

Oh yes...so sorry. Val - this is Sarah. Sarah...well...you've already met Val...sort of.

Sarah comes over and shakes hands with Val, who looks perplexed.

VAL

We've met? Pretty sure I'd remember that.

SARAH

I was here earlier when you were still unconscious.

GONZO

Sarah owns the saloon up the road...the one with the busted out window.

Gonzo smirks in Nika's direction. Nika returns the look and then turns to Val.

NIKA

It was Sarah that arranged for us to be here.

AUTUMN

Probably saved your life, Captain.

SARAH

(to Val)

I'm just glad your doing better. If there's anything I can do...

VAL

(smiles)

I'll probably take you up on that.

As Sarah and Val make goo goo eyes at each other...

GONZO

Ok then...remember the call to Lizzy that we haven't made yet?

SARAH

Call?

GONZO

Call...yes...call...as in call
on...pay a visit to. Lizzy's our
engi-...I mean...um...

Sarah looks perplexed but doesn't press the issue. Autumn jumps in to redirect the conversation.

AUTUMN

Shouldn't we be discussing plans on
warning the town about Quantrill?

NIKA

Yes...Sarah, can you set up an town
meeting for later today? We've got
a lot to do and not much time to do
it.

Sarah hesitates momentarily, still curious about Gonzo's incoherent comment.

SARAH

I suppose. Doc, I'll need your
assistance in getting the word out.

DOC

Of course.

GONZO

Nothin' much for me to do around
here. Be happy to help...
(looks at Val)
...if the captain's ok with that.

VAL

Go...with my blessing. Oh...but
ix-nay on the all-cay.

Gonzo shoots a confused look at Val but then, deciphering his pig-latin, nods and winks at Val. He then leaves the room.

Doc and Sarah follow. Sarah gives one last affectionate fleeting glance at Val. He smiles and nods at her.

EXT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

Gonzo, Sarah, and Doc depart the abode and walk toward Tobias' wagon.

GONZO

We might as well take the wagon.
Reach more people faster that way.

SARAH

Agreed. Say...isn't this Tobias'
wagon?

GONZO

Yes, he...ah...loaned it to us.

SARAH

I have a feeling there's a lot
you're not telling me.

GONZO

Sarah...you don't know the half of
it...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM - DAY

Lizzy, Zeb, and Tobias have reconvened in the dining room to grab a bite to eat and swap stories while waiting for Nika to call.

Jamieson is tied up on the floor nearby, still unconscious.

ZEB

So hows come you never told us about this kurr before now, Lizzy.

LIZZY

Jamieson used to be like Val... well, not the movie line thing... but his admirable qualities: bold, assertive, protective of his crew. Then...something happened...he would never share what. He changed...became the selfish egomaniac we've come to know and despise. After we parted ways, I was leery about signing on with another crew, but Val's charisma won me over. I never wanted anyone to know I was ever associated with a sleaze like Jamieson.

Just then, Lizzy's comm buzzes, and Jamieson begins to stir, although this is unseen by the others.

NIKA (V.O.)

Lizzy, this is Nika. You there?

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Nika! I'm here. What's doin'?

INT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

NIKA

(over the comm)

Some good news - the captain is conscious and cogent.

INTERCUT BETWEEN LIZZY AND NIKA

LIZZY

That is good news. What about Dr. Tanaka?

NIKA

Still in some kind of a coma, I'm afraid.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

A shame...pass on our well wishes to the Mrs. So...do we have a plan yet?

NIKA

In the process of organizing a town meeting so we can fill everyone in on Quantrill's intentions.

(beat)

How's everything on Tranquility?

LIZZY

Zeb, Tobias, and I are fine. Jamieson...not so much. He has yet to give us any useful intel, which is probably the only thing keepin' him alive.

NIKA

I see. Question...if the town decides to stay and fight - a distinct possibility given that Val seems to be sweet on one of the locals - you and the others have a way to get here? I count four people and one horse.

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM

Jamieson is now awake and responds to what he just heard.

JAMIESON

Two horses.

Everyone is taken aback at first, not knowing Jamieson had regained consciousness, and looks in his direction.

JAMIESON (CONT'D)

My horse should still be tied to a tree on the ship's perimeter. Take it if you must.

TOBIAS

(to Lizzy)

I best go check. It'll need waterin' if it's even still there...mine, too.

(to Jamieson)

When I get back, you are gonna tell me about what happened to my family!

Tobias leaves to go fetch Jamieson's horse. Zeb trains his weapon on Jamieson.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Nika, Jamieson is conscious and jabberin'. Tobias left to go get his horse. Call back when you know if we're stayin' or comin'.

NIKA (V.O.)

Will do. Out.

ZEB

(to Jamieson)

Awful magnanimous o' you. That shock musta done somethin' to ya...

LIZZY

(to Zeb)

Like given him a conscience? Highly unlikely.

(to Jamieson)

What's your angle? I know you've got one.

JAMIESON

Here's how I see it. I tell Tobias the truth about what happened to his family but he doesn't believe me...I'm a dead man. So I need to show him I'm sincere and trustworthy.

LIZZY

The problem with that plan is that you're not and no profusion of good deeds is going to convince me otherwise.

JAMIESON

I don't have to convince you...just him.

ZEB

Well, we ain't gonna let that happen.

JAMIESON

Look....I can see that stealin' your ship isn't an option. It's not space-worthy and you all are too savvy to let that happen. All I want to do is get back home. So how 'bout you let me help us all do that? If and when we return to our own universe, turn me over to the authorities. I don't care. Just get me the hell out of here.

EXT. TRANQUILITY PERIMETER

Tobias finds Jamieson's horse still tied to the tree. He approaches it carefully.

TOBIAS

Hey fella...take it easy...whatsay
we get you some water, huh?

Tobias caresses the horse's mane, unties it from the tree, and leads it back toward the lake, along with his own.

EXT. LAWRENCE MAIN STREET

Having dropped Doc off to inform the business proprietors on the east side of Lawrence about the town meeting, Sarah and Gonzo head toward the outskirts of the west side of town in the wagon.

SARAH

So tell me about Val. Why do you
call him captain? You folk don't
seem to be in the military. What's
he captain of?

GONZO

Our ship...shape little group...of
people.

Gonzo grins uncomfortably at Sarah, hoping that will quell her curiosity. The look on her face says otherwise.

GONZO (CONT'D)

Every group needs a leader. Val is
ours. We call him captain cuz...
that's what he likes to be called.

SARAH

I see. And everyone in your group
is loyal to him?

GONZO

Yup...even Zeb...and that's sayin'
somethin'.

SARAH

Who's Zeb?

Gonzo winces, realizing, again, that he has said too much.

GONZO

Another member of our crew...sade
...crusade...against the evils...
of slavery.

SARAH

Very admirable. And where is
he...and this Lizzy you spoke of
earlier?

GONZO

They...are...both...with Tobias -
at his...your homestead.

SARAH

And why do I get the impression
that you aren't being completely
forthright with me?

The wagon has reached the west end of town. Gonzo pulls on the reins, stopping the horses.

GONZO

Well...what do ya know...west end
o' town already. Boy...time flies
when you're...being interrogated.
You best get ta tellin' the store
owners here about the meetin', huh?

Sarah stares at Gonzo, unconvinced that he is leveling with her.

SARAH

Yes...I best. How 'bout you drive a
little further out of town to the
houses over yonder. Those folk need
to attend as well. I'll meet you
back at the saloon in a bit.

GONZO

Good plan. I'll just head that way
then and...ah...ya...

Gonzo snaps the reins, and with a "hya" the horses take off.

Gonzo keeps his eyes straight ahead as he departs, leaving Sarah to shake her head as she heads toward the general store.

EXT. DIRT ROAD HEADING TO LAWRENCE - DAY

Anderson and his men have traveled all morning and not stopped to eat or to rest the horses.

They stop temporarily to decide whether to press on or not. A rider - their scout - approaches quickly from the north.

SCOUT

(to Anderson)

Blue-bellies headed this way, sir.

ANDERSON (BILL)

How many?

SCOUT

Not sure, sir. Wanted to make sure
I wasn't spotted. Didn't stick
around to count 'em.

ANDERSON

Well, estimate then. Should we engage them?

SCOUT

Wouldn't recommend it, sir. Looked like a whole regiment...50...maybe 60 strong.

ANDERSON

We can't risk the casualties.

Anderson looks around and spies a farm house in the distance to the east.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

That house over yonder...
(points to it)
...is our destination. We'll water and rest the horses for a spell. Hopefully enjoy a little southern hospitality from whoever lives there.

SCOUT

What if they ain't rebels?

ANDERSON

Then we take what we want...by whatever means necessary.

Anderson and his men cut across a field toward the house

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR.

EXT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

Nika tends to Val, Autumn to Sukio. A knock on the door is heard.

NIKA
(loudly)
Let yourself in, please.

Presently, Sarah appears. She and Val once again exchange pleasant glances.

SARAH
Meeting at the saloon right away.

NIKA
Captain, can you travel?

VAL
I think so...just need to take it
easy.

SARAH
Do you need some help?

VAL
'Twould be much appreciated.

With Nika on one side and Sarah on the other, Val is helped out of bed. He walks gingerly but is stronger than he realized.

Nonetheless, he remains gimpy so as to maintain Sarah's assistance.

Nika sees she is the third wheel and backs away, turning to Autumn.

NIKA
Autumn?

AUTUMN
I think I'll stay here with Sukio.
If he should awaken, I want the
first thing he sees to be me.

NIKA
Understandable.

VAL
(to Sarah)
Shall we?

Sarah and Val depart, arm in arm. Nika, bringing up the rear, spies a cane and snatches it on the way out.

EXT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

Nika calls out to Val, getting his attention. He turns around.

She tosses the cane to him. Val easily snags it out of the air, belying his gimpiness.

NIKA

Pretty spry for an old man.

Nika grins slyly at Val, who sports a "don't spoil this" look.

VAL

Ya...must be healin' faster than I thought.

NIKA

Hold on to it, sir. I'm sure it'll come in handy.

The three continue on to the saloon.

EXT. LAWRENCE - MAIN STREET

Gonzo pulls the wagon up in front of the saloon. He has several passengers. They exit the wagon and enter the saloon.

As Gonzo dismounts from the wagon, he sees Val and the others walking his way. He goes out to greet them and the four enter the saloon together.

INT. LAWRENCE SALOON

Many of the townsfolk are gathered. Nothing can be discerned but a loud murmur from the crowd.

The mayor comes before everyone and calls the meeting to order with the pounding of a gavel.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

I hearby call this meeting to order.

Everyone quiets down.

MAYOR COLLAMORE (CONT'D)

I apologize for the short notice but Sarah insists that its importance is such that this meeting needed to be called right away. Since I do not know of its nature other than that it involves Quantrill, I will let Sarah fill you in.

The mayor nods at Sarah, who comes to the front of the crowd.

SARAH

I realize you all have better things to do than sit in a meeting. But I have become privy to information that affects us all, and I felt it necessary to gather us so that we can make a decision as a town.

Judge Carpenter, one of the more prominent residents, stands up and speaks his mind.

JUDGE CARPENTER

What's so gosh-darn important, that we have to listen to you carry on? I got a case to hear. A man's life hangs in the balance.

SARAH

With all due respect, Judge, the life of every man, woman, and child in this town hangs in the balance. You will understand the gravity of this situation once I tell you all what I have learned.

The murmur of the crowd begins again as the attendees look at each other, puzzled, and speaking in hushed voices.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

Everyone please quiet down. The sooner Sarah can finish speaking her piece, the sooner we can all get back to business as usual.

The crowd quiets down some.

SARAH

Folks...there will be no going back to business as usual once you hear what I have to say.

The crowd grows silent.

SARAH (CONT'D)

For some time now, we have known that William Quantrill wishes to do us harm. Many of you think he wouldn't dare attack - that he couldn't amass the necessary numbers given the Union presence still in our general area.

(beat)

I am here today to tell you that it is a false hope that you cling to.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I have it on good authority that Quantrill has, in fact, gathered a horde of like-minded ruffians - maybe 300 strong - and is planning to attack our beloved town...at dawn tomorrow!

The murmur of the crowd returns. The judge stands up again.

JUDGE CARPENTER

That's nonsense. What proof do you have?

SARAH

The two women some of you met last night were part of a group that was ambushed by men on route to join Quantrill. They came to town to seek medical attention for their wounded, yes, but also to warn us of what they had learned. Nika?

Sarah motions to Nika to join her in front of the crowd. She hesitates at first, then begrudgingly comes forward.

NIKA

I know I didn't make the greatest of first impressions on many of you here last night but I want to assure you that our intentions are simply to make you aware of what we found out.

JUDGE CARPENTER

And, pray tell, what would that be?

NIKA

As we told Sarah, earlier, the brigands that stopped us were bragging about what they were going to do to this town. They didn't figure we'd fight back. We killed all four of them, but three of us were wounded, two seriously. One has recovered and is with us. The other is still unconscious.

Reverend Snyder stands and addresses Nika.

REV SNYDER

You seem like a sincere and well-mannered young woman...

A voice in the crowd yells out.

VOICE

You didn't see what she did to Hicks and Barlow last night!

The crowd erupts in laughter. Barlow is among those in the crowd and scowls while turning beet red.

REV SNYDER

Yes...well, be that as it may...how can we be sure you are telling the truth? For all we know, you could be spies of Quantrill.

Sarah interrupts.

SARAH

Reverend, if they are spies, why would they inform us of Quantrill's plans? Would tend to eliminate the element of surprise, don't you think? Besides, we all know someone who is helping Nika and her friends - Tobias Evanston. He let them borrow his wagon - it's out front.

Barlow, hoping to redeem himself in the eyes of his friends, stands up and addresses that comment.

BARLOW

Ya, well how do we know they borrowed it? Hell, they coulda bushwhacked Tobias and stole that wagon.

Nika comes forward again next to Sarah to answer that as calls of "ya", "that's right", and "you tell her, Barlow" can be heard emanating from the crowd over the murmur. Then the earlier-heard voice sounds off again.

VOICE

You best sit down, Barlow, 'fore you get another whoopin' from the lady.

Again, the crowd erupts with laughter. Nika addresses Barlow, who sits back down, and then the others.

NIKA

Sir, I have no wish to embarrass you. Tobias is with the rest of our group, safe and sound, back at our sh-...camp, which is not far from his homestead.

SARAH

Folks, the threat is real. Either we devise a plan to thwart Quantrill's attack, or many of you in attendance today will not be here at this time tomorrow. The man is ruthless and will not hesitate to put a bullet in your head, even if you beg for mercy.

Judge Carpenter stands back up to address the group.

JUDGE CARPENTER

Sarah, you talk as if you know the man. Have you had dealings with him before?

Sarah hesitates, looking down as if ashamed, then looks back up and at the judge.

SARAH

I have...so trust me when I say, this William Quantrill is not the school teacher some of you knew three years ago. He despises anyone and anything associated with abolition. If given the chance, he will put you down...all of you.

Reverend Snyder stands up again and speaks to everyone.

REV SNYDER

Does anyone know how to find him? Perhaps we can reason with him. He might not attack if he knows that we are aware of his plan.

SARAH

Forgive me, Reverend, but that is folly. The man's heart is filled with hatred and revenge. If any of you were to try to talk him out of this...you would be his first victims.

Barlow stands up again.

BARLOW

Well then, Sarah, what do we do?

SARAH

First we vote. Do we flee...or fight? If the latter, we lay a trap for him. They won't be expecting any resistance. Shoot enough of his men and the rest will scatter. Most are cowards, not willing to die for a cause like Quantrill.

The Mayor stands back up and pounds his gavel.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

Thank-you, Sarah.

(beat)

Well...good citizens of Lawrence, a threat like this must not be taken lightly. Whether accurate or exaggerated, steps must be taken to

(MORE)

MAYOR COLLAMORE (cont'd)
 secure our well-being. I hereby
 call for a vote. Do I hear a
 second.

JUDGE CARPENTER
 I second.

MAYOR COLLAMORE
 All in favor of staying and
 fighting?

A chorus of "aye"s can be heard from the crowd.

MAYOR COLLAMORE (CONT'D)
 Opposed?

Only a few "nay"s can be discerned.

MAYOR COLLAMORE (CONT'D)
 The aye's have it...we fight for
 our town. That said, those of you
 that wish not to are free leave for
 a day or two. No hard feelings when
 you return.
 (to Sarah)
 Sarah, can your friends tell us
 anything else that would be helpful
 in planning our defense?

Sarah looks at Nika, who turns to Val and Gonzo.

NIKA
 We'd better get Autumn.

Val nods.

VAL
 Nika, you and Gonzo go. Take the
 wagon. It's faster.

NIKA
 But what about...

VAL
 I'll be fine.

Val glances at Sarah, who smiles back at him. Nika "gets it"
 and grabs Gonzo. The two depart.

INT. SERENITY DINING ROOM

Tobias enters the room. Lizzy and Jeb still watch over
 Jamieson.

TOBIAS
 Found the other horse. Watered 'em
 both. They be tied up just outside
 the ship.

LIZZY

Good...now what to do with you...

She turns to Jamieson, eyeing him disdainfully.

TOBIAS

Well...I fill him full o' holes...
or I don't. Depends on what he got
to say to me.

JAMIESON

'Suppose I can't put it off any
longer...

TOBIAS

Not if ya wanna keep breathin'.

Tobias raises his shotgun and points it at Jamieson.

JAMIESON

Fine...Tobias...this is the
honest-to-God truth. I did not kill
your family...

TOBIAS

(angrily)

Then who did!

JAMIESON

Can't say for sure...

The following events unfold as Jamieson describes them...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT/EXT. MONTAGE - TOBIAS' HOUSE / BARN - DAY

JAMIESON (V.O.)

Tobias...you had left for town
about an hour earlier. Isaac was
helping me repair a stall in the
barn when Ruth called us for lunch.
I sent Isaac on ahead and told him
to tell Ruth I'd be along in a bit
but not to wait for me. About 15
minutes later, I hear a scream
comin' from the house. I rushed up
there quick as I could and burst
into the house, pistol in hand.
There were three men, all sportin'
pillow cases over their heads. One
had wrangled Isaac...another had
subdued Ruth. I raised my gun to
fire but musta got whacked on the
head by a fourth man, behind me.
When I came to, Ruth and Isaac lay
dead on the floor, their throats
slit. The men were gone.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM - DAY

Tobias stands, mouth agape - stunned by what he has heard. His shotgun lowers.

TOBIAS

If that's what really happened that day, then why'd you run?

JAMIESON

I got scared. I couldn't bear to be here when you discovered this... didn't think you'd believe my story.

LIZZY

Well, I certainly don't...and you shouldn't either, Tobias.

JAMIESON

I have proof...sort of.

TOBIAS

And what might that be?

JAMIESON

One of the pillow cases, with holes cut out for eyes. Found it a couple miles from your house when I was ridin' away. I'm guessin' one of those men discarded it. It's in one o' my saddle bags. Go check if you don't believe me.

TOBIAS

If you ain't shootin' straight with me and I come back empty-handed, you best be thinkin' 'bout what you want on your tombstone.

Tobias hands his shotgun to Lizzy and departs the dining room to check out Jamieson's story.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. WAGON - LAWRENCE MAIN STREET - DAY

Gonzo and a fidgety Autumn ride in the wagon toward the saloon.

AUTUMN

Just not comfortable leaving Sergio at a time like this.

GONZO

Relax, Dr. Tanaka. He's in good hands. Nika can handle any situation, as I'm sure you've observed.

AUTUMN

If he awakens and my heightened empathy allows me to sense this...

GONZO

Then we'll get back in the wagon and I'll drive you to him immediately.

Autumn nods and sighs, seeming to be a little more at peace with the situation.

The wagon arrives at the saloon. Gonzo and Autumn exit it and head inside to join the others.

INT. LAWRENCE SALOON

The men are bickering among themselves as to the best strategy to thwart Quantrill's attack.

Sarah and Val seem more preoccupied with themselves than the ongoing argument but do acknowledge Gonzo and Autumn as they enter. The mayor also notices and addresses Autumn.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

Ah...you must be Dr. Tanaka. Sarah speaks highly of you.

The mayor and Autumn shake hands.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

I understand you can provide us with some insight as to Quantrill's plans so that we may better protect the town.

AUTUMN

Well, I fancy myself as a bit a hist-...um...yes, I believe I can.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

By all means then...do tell. Boys,
hush up and let the lady speak.

The small crowd of men left over from the earlier meeting direct their attention to Autumn as she prepares to impart her knowledge of the event to them.

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM - DAY

Tobias walks back into the dining room, holding the pillow case. Zeb is half-dozing. Lizzy keeps the shotgun trained on Jamieson.

JAMIESON

See! What I tell ya!

LIZZY

That don't prove nothin'. Ya coulda taken any ole' pillow case, cut holes in it yourself, and stuffed it in your saddlebag, just to give credence to that whopper ya told earlier.

TOBIAS

Now Lizzy...if I'm to take the life of another man, I wanna make damn sure he done what I think he done...and this does cast doubt.

JAMIESON

Thank-you, Tobias...for at least considering that I might be tellin' the truth...which I am.

Tobias motions to Lizzy to lower the shotgun. She does.

TOBIAS

Alright, then...I don't kill you on one condition...

JAMIESON

And that would be?

TOBIAS

You help me bring to justice - my justice - the men you say are responsible for the deaths of my wife and son.

JAMIESON

That I can - and will - do.

(beat)

You know...none of you have bothered to ask how I ended up back here or what I've been doin' for that last two years.

LIZZY

Why bother? You'd just lie to us
like you do about everything else.

JAMIESON

Lizzy, why is it so hard for you to
believe that I'm tellin' the truth?

LIZZY

Because you do it so infrequently.
Are we just supposed to forget that
a few hours ago, you tried to kill
us all and steal the ship?

TOBIAS

Lizzy, I know you've had dealin's
with the man before and ya got yer
reasons for feelin' like ya
do...but so do I. After I took him
in, Jamieson never gave me no
trouble til...that day. I say we at
least check out his story.

LIZZY

And how do we do that?

TOBIAS

(to Jamieson)

You got any idea who the culprits
might be?

JAMIESON

Got a hunch...and I know where we
might start lookin', too...

INT. LAWRENCE SALOON - LATE AFTERNOON

The townsfolk have been discussing how best to protect
themselves, using Autumn's intel and seem to have come up
with a plan.

AUTUMN

Ok, let's review. One group -
probably Bass' - will attack from
the south. Mayor - you and your men
will cover that area.

Mayor Collamore nods, along with the group assigned to him.

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Anderson's men are coming up from
the south but will actually lay
siege to the west side of town
first. Judge - have your men posted
there.

Judge Carpenter acknowledges Autumn, as do the members of
his group.

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Quantrill's men will enter town from the east, riding down from Hogback Ridge.

REV SNYDER

Is that where they are now?

AUTUMN

I believe so, yes.

The look on Reverend Snyder's face seems to indicate the wheels are turning. He glances over at Doc Griswold. Both nod.

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Mr. Bell, you and your group of the towns' best marksmen will hold up in the buildings there. Position your men as best you see fit.

G. W. BELL, county clerk and resident sharpshooter, nods, but Barlow does not, instead eyeing Autumn suspiciously.

AUTUMN (CONT'D)

The attack will occur at dawn. I suggest all groups be in place and ready by 5 am. Any questions?

Barlow uses the opportunity to speak out.

BARLOW

Ya...hows come you know so dad-gum much about all this?

Autumn isn't quite sure how to answer that and turns to Val, who quickly comes up with a story to try to satisfy Barlow.

VAL

Don't think we've had the pleasure, young man. Captain Val Brennar. My squad and I have been gathering intel on Quantrill and have known for quite some time now that he planned to attack your town. Only recently did we discover that said attack would occur tomorrow morning; hence, our reason for being here.

BARLOW

And you are here by whose authority?

Val looks at Autumn as if to pass the ball back to her.

AUTUMN

General Ewing, of course.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

Enough with the interrogation,
Barlow. These folk are here to help
us. Let them. That said, Autumn, I
am curious about Senator Lane...

AUTUMN

Oh yes, thanks for bringing that
up. Where is he now?

MAYOR COLLAMORE

Got a telegram stating that his
return to Lawrence would be delayed
a couple days due to pressing
legislative business. He was to
return from Topeka today on the
noon stagecoach.

AUTUMN

A fortuitous delay - one of the
main reasons for tomorrow morning's
attack is to take out the Senator.
Just as well for him if he's not
here.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

I know he'll be upset when he finds
out the town got attacked by
bushwhackers and he wasn't here to
help defend it.

AUTUMN

Better he be upset than dead.

MAYOR COLLAMORE

I suppose you're right.

(beat)

Well, thank-you so much. This has
been...enlightening...and helpful.

(to the crowd)

I suggest we disperse now and ready
our defenses.

As townsfolk exit the saloon, Val and company stay together
for a bit longer.

AUTUMN

I'm anxious to get back to Sukio.

GONZO

No problem. I'll take you back
there now. Anyone else for Doc
Griswold's office?

VAL

Think I'll set here a spell...get
better acquainted with the
proprietor of this fine
establishment.

He and Sarah smile fondly at each other. Gonzo smirks and shakes his head; then he and Autumn depart.

Doc Griswold, Reverend Snyder, and Barlow look to be scheming as they stride briskly toward the east side of town. Gonzo notices and furls a brow, suspecting they are up to something.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE - DUSK

Nika is watching over Sukio, who is still unconscious. She hears a buzz from her comm and then Lizzy's voice.

LIZZY (V.O.)

Nika - Lizzy here - pick up.

NIKA

(over the comm)

Lizzy - good to hear from you. Any news?

EXT. TRANQUILITY

As Lizzy and Jeb watch, Jamieson and Tobias finish packing their saddlebags, mount their horses, and take off.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Well...we have a problem...Jamieson has convinced Tobias that he didn't kill his family but has a hunch who might have and where to find 'em. The two of 'em just now rode off to go find the culprits.

INTERCUT BETWEEN LIZZY AND NIKA.

NIKA

You have any idea where they're goin'?

LIZZY

They wouldn't say. They headed east...maybe someplace close to Lawrence.

NIKA

I sure hope not Hogback Ridge. From what Autumn says, Quantrill and his men are there now, planning their attack.

LIZZY

So did the town vote to vamoose or stay and scrap?

INT. DOC GRISWOLD'S OFFICE

NIKA

(over the comm)

Don't know. Autumn and the others aren't back yet...wait...

The front door can be heard opening. Autumn enters the room and rushes to be by Sergio's side. Her anticipation fades when she sees he is still unconscious.

NIKA
 (over the comm)
 ...they just returned.
 (to Autumn)
 What's the plan?

Autumn is lost in thought as she stares at Sukio longingly.

Nika turns to Gonzo, who has just entered.

NIKA (CONT'D)
 Gonzo, what did the town decide?

GONZO
 Some are leaving; most are staying.
 Autumn helped them devise a plan to
 ambush the enemy forces when they
 enter the town.

NIKA
 (over the comm)
 Sounds like we could use two more
 guns...

LIZZY (V.O.)
 Well...send the wagon.

NIKA
 (over the comm)
 Will do. Out.

Nika turns to Gonzo, who heard the conversation.

GONZO
 I heard...let's go. Better stop at
 the saloon and update the captain.

Nika turns to Autumn, but before she can say anything...

AUTUMN
 I'll be fine - go!

Gonzo and Nika depart.

EXT. FARM SOUTH OF LAWRENCE - DUSK

Bill Anderson and his men ride onto the property they earlier viewed from a distance. They stop at a clearing between the house and barn, where a well can be clearly seen.

JIM
 Maybe nobody's home.

BILL

Perhaps...but be on your guard just the same. They coulda seen us comin'. Might be a gun aimed at you or me right now.

A shout is heard coming from the house. The barrel of a rifle juts out of a window a few inches.

HUSBAND (O.S.)

You people are trespassin' on my homestead. Take leave of this property right now, 'fore I put a bullet in ya.

BILL

Whoever you are in the house, we mean you no harm. We've traveled a great distance today and want only to water our horses. Then we'll be on our way.

Bill begins to dismount but stops when the man responses with a warning shot that whisks Bill's hat off his head.

HUSBAND (O.S.)

I warned ya. Next time'll be through the heart!

BILL

Can I at least go pick up my hat?

HUSBAND (O.S.)

I suppose...but make it quick...and no tricks.

Bill dismounts, then gives a look and a nod to his men, who draw their weapons, aiming for the house window. Bill picks up and dusts off his hat, places it back on his head, and then addresses the house's occupant(s).

BILL

I asked nicely. Now, I'm tellin' ya. We are gonna water our horses. You shoot me...I got 30 men, all with itchy trigger fingers. You might get one or two of us but when all is said and done, we will have pilfered whatever food and supplies we need and the corpses of you and your loved ones will lay among the smoldering ruins of what once was your humble abode. If that's what you want, by all means, pull that trigger. But if you wish to see another sunrise, I suggest you lay down your weapon and come out with your arms outstretched to the heavens.

After a few moments, the rifle barrel retreats. Seconds later, the front door opens and the man walks out, hands in the air.

HUSBAND

I've done what you asked. Now please, just water your horses and be on your way.

BILL

Had you been a little more hospitable, we would have done just that. But, you see my friend...

Bill takes his hat off and puts his finger through the bullet hole.

BILL (CONT'D)

...you have put a hole in my favorite hat. An unforgivable offense, I'm afraid.

Bill quickly draws his revolvers, firing both into the man, who collapses in a heap. The wife rushes out the door to her husband in tears. She cries at his side for a moment, the raises her head and, with a look of determination, stands and charges at Bill, wielding a butcher knife.

WIFE

You bastard...I'll kill you!

BLAM! A shot is fired from the gun of one of Anderson's men, stopping the woman in her tracks. She looks down, covering the bullet wound to her chest with her hand.

She pulls back a bloody palm, staring at it momentarily. She looks up at Bill, wide-eyed and frightened, then takes her last breath and crumbles to the ground.

Bill stands there, stunned for a moment. He then angrily turns around and addresses his men.

BILL

Who fired that shot?

William Blackmore raises his hand and speaks up.

BLACKMORE

I did, sir. She was comin' at ya with a knife.

Anderson walks over to Blackmore and reaches up to him as if to shake his hand.

When Blackmore grasps Anderson's hand with his, Anderson yanks Blackmore off his horse and to the ground. Bloody Bill stomp his boot on Blackmore's chest and puts a revolver to his head.

ANDERSON

That she was...and if I desire
someone's assistance, I shall ask
for it...which I did not.

Anderson then addresses everyone present.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Let me remind you, one and all,
that we are southern gentlemen. We
do not kill women and children.
Sadly, it seems at least one of you
has yet to learn that lesson.

BLAM. Anderson pulls the trigger on his revolver, sending
Blackmore to his death.

ANDERSON

Jim, James, Younger, and the Wade
brothers...help me water the
horses. The rest o' you boys take
whatever spoils you see fit. Then
drag the bodies inside the house
and burn it down.

Anderson's men carry out their orders with reverence and
fear.

EXT. BASE OF HOGBACK RIDGE - EARLY EVENING

Barlow, Rev Snyder, and Doc Griswold, having ridden their
horses out of town to the base of Hogback Ridge, are now
ascending the ridge.

DOC GRISWOLD

I'm beginning to have my doubts
about this plan...

BARLOW

Chickenin' out, are ya, Doc?

DOC GRISWOLD

Just not sure it's the wisest
course of action, that's all.

REV SNYDER

We all agreed earlier...this is the
best way to avoid the bloodshed
that tomorrow morning will surely
bring.

BARLOW

You do want to regain your status
with the community, don't ya, doc?

Doc Griswold hesitates, then nods.

BARLOW (CONT'D)
 And reverend...think of all the
 lives you'll be savin'...that's
 bound to sit well with the
 Almighty.

Rev Snyder also nods and smiles, then addresses Barlow.

REV SNYDER
 What's in it for you, Barlow.

BARLOW
 Oh...I have my reasons.

The threesome ride a little further up the ridge. Suddenly,
 a voice is heard from behind some bushes.

TUCKER (O.S.)
 That's close enough. Who are you
 and whatta you want?

BARLOW
 We are citizens of Lawrence. We
 wish to speak to Mr. Quantrill. We
 have information we believe he will
 find...useful.

TUCKER (O.S.)
 Wait right there. Throw down yer
 weapons. I will get word to
 Quantrill that you're here. And
 you'd better pray he's in a good
 mood.

TUCKER waves at his associate - WEBB - farther up the hill
 to get word to Quantrill. He departs.

EXT. HOGBACK RIDGE - QUANTRILL'S CAMP

As men sit around the campfire, cleaning their guns and
 swapping stories, the previously seen scout runs into camp,
 out of breath.

WEBB
 Where's Quantrill? In his tent?

A nearby man nods. Webb rushes to the tent. Koger stands
 guard.

KOGER
 What's got your panties in a bind,
 Webb?

WEBB
 Three locals a little ways down the
 ridge wantin' to speak to
 Quantrill. Says they got
 information he'll want to hear.

Koger disappears into the tent, then reappears moments later.

KOGER

Boss says send 'em up. Just be sure to disarm 'em, first.

Webb nods and hurriedly departs.

EXT. HOGBACK RIDGE - DOWN THE HILL FROM CAMP

Doc Griswold takes a flask from an inside pocket of his vest and takes a swig of the whiskey within.

DOC GRISWOLD

Gettin' a real bad feelin' 'bout this.

BARLOW

Doc, if your courage comes from a bottle, you best down the contents of that flask.

Just then, Webb joins Tucker and relays the message from camp.

TUCKER

Must be your lucky night. Boss is willin' to hear ya out. Follow me.

Webb stays put as Tucker leads the others up the hill.

EXT. HOGBACK RIDGE - QUANTRILL'S CAMP

Quantrill and Todd exit the tent. They exchange pleasantries with some of the men as they make their way to the campfire.

Shortly, Tucker and the threesome ride slowly into camp. They dismount and also head for the campfire. Koger steps in front of them and inspects them for weapons. Finding none, he lets them pass.

They come before Quantrill and Todd. Doc is visibly nervous and reaches for his flask. Several men in observance draw iron. With a shaky hand, Doc reveals the flask and takes a drink.

TODD

Reachin' for somethin' inside your vest is liable to get you killed, old man. Now, state your business and be quick about it.

REV SNYDER

I am Reverend Snyder. We have come from Lawrence with a warning that should save many lives...on your side as well as ours.

QUANTRILL
And by that you mean?

BARLOW
Sir...the town knows...about
tomorrow.

Barlow smirks at Quantrill, whose stern expression is slowly replaced with a devilish grin.

QUANTRILL
Excellent work...Mr. Barlow.

Rev Snyder and Doc Griswold both turn and stare at Barlow, shocked at the turn of events.

END OF ACT SIX

TAG

INT. LAWRENCE SALOON - NIGHT

Nika and Gonzo are in an empty saloon. They carry the replacement glass to the front window frame.

GONZO

So how come we got the place all to ourselves?

NIKA

Sarah closed it down - didn't want anyone drinkin' tonight. We need everyone sober tomorrow morning.

They raise the glass pane into place and prepare to seal it.

GONZO

I can't believe I'm replacing a window and not driving the wagon.

NIKA

Captain's orders. No sense in complainin'. Let's just make the best of it.

GONZO

Ya, well I sure hope Val knows what he's doin'.

NIKA

Sarah's a smart lady. You know first hand how intuitive...and inquisitive she is...woulda figured things out soon enough anyways. Better she finds out this way.

EXT. ROAD BACK TO TRANQUILITY - NIGHT

The wagon is seen from behind. As the moon rises in the background sky, the wagon tootles down the dusty dirt road. Val's arm can be seen coming around the back of Sarah, who leans her head against Val's shoulder.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG

END OF EPISODE