

REQUITED

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE PLAINS - NIGHT

SUPER: "WYOMING TERRITORY - 1868"

Darkening clouds with flashes of lightning and the BOOMING of thunder. Light rain begins to fall.

LIAM SLATER (50s), unshaven with sad, experienced eyes, tugs at the reins of his horse. He stops to pull his coat collar up over unkempt hair. He coughs and spits, staring out over the plains. He snaps the reins and disappears into the storm.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

BIG JIM MCDUFF (60s), a large, intimidating man with a full head of gray hair, and DOC FRAWLEY (60s), a thin, balding man who wears glasses, sit at Big Jim's desk playing chess. Big Jim toys with an arrowhead and then makes a move.

DOC FRAWLEY

Bold move, Jim.

BIG JIM

Well, Doc, you know I like to take chances.

DOC FRAWLEY

Yeah, and you've always done things your own way, consequences be damned.

Big Jim sits back and stares at Doc. He takes a sip of whiskey as Doc makes his move.

BIG JIM

You're the only man in town who challenges me. I like that.

Doc smirks as Big Jim makes his move. KNOCK on the door.

BIG JIM

(annoyed)

Yeah.

ROY McLEARY (30s), a large hulking man with a long nasty scar across his neck peeks in and nods. Big Jim rises and pats Doc's shoulder as he approaches the door.

BIG JIM

Excuse me for a minute...got some business needs my attention.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

The saloon is crowded and noisy. Thunder BOOMS and lightning flashes from the entrance.

Big Jim nods at Roy, who roughly pushes a HOMESTEADER (40s), toward him.

BIG JIM
I want you and your family off my
property by Sunday.

HOMESTEADER
I need more time, Big Jim.

Big Jim grabs his shirt and pushes him against the wall.

BIG JIM
More time ain't gonna bring you the
money to pay what you owe.

Big Jim shoves him into Roy's arms.

BIG JIM
Sunday!

Roy drags the Homesteader away. Big Jim returns to his office.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Big Jim sits down and looks at the chess board.

BIG JIM
Now where were we?

Big Jim picks up his arrowhead as Doc slides a piece forward.

BIG JIM
Lucky charm's workin' tonight. Guess
it will be a good week.

Big Jim moves his piece to tip over Doc's king. Doc smiles as he rises to leave. Big Jim walks Doc to the door, wraps his arm around Doc's shoulder and kisses him on the lips.

BIG JIM
I'll stop by later.

Doc smiles and touches Big Jim on the arm. He exits.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - NIGHT

EMMY HODGES (30s), slender and olive-skinned, half-Shoshone, with long, black hair in a ponytail. She sits in a rocking chair by a roaring fire and works on a blanket.

Several completed blankets lie nearby.

Lightning flashes followed by CLAPS of thunder. Rain pelts the roof. Water drips from a leaking roof into pans scattered around the room.

At Emmy's feet, SKY, a Yellow Lab, whimpers. Emmy reaches down and strokes Sky's head.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Momma?

JOHNNY (8), thin and wiry, appears in the doorway.

JOHNNY

I'm scared.

She opens her arms and Johnny runs to his mother's lap.

EMMY

It's only a storm and will soon pass.

JOHNNY

But Sky is afraid, and he's not scared of anything.

EMMY

Sky is fearful of the unknown and things he cannot understand.

Emmy smiles as she strokes Johnny's head.

EMMY

A long time ago, there was a brave, young warrior from the tribe of your grandfather. His family was starving so he had to go out to search for food. Not long after he left, he found himself in a storm.

JOHNNY

Was he scared?

EMMY

Yes, he was.

JOHNNY

What did he do?

EMMY

He found shelter under some rocks... and he prayed.

Johnny snuggles closer.

EMMY

A flash of lightning revealed a large buck with many points coming toward him. He slowly pulled an arrow from his quiver. With the next flash of lightning, he saw the animal staring at him.

JOHNNY

Why didn't the buck run away?

EMMY

He was giving himself up so that the others could survive. The warrior drew back his arrow and let it fly.

(beat)

The rain stopped as the young warrior stood over the dying buck and prayed for its soul.

JOHNNY

Why?

Emmy smiles and looks down at her son.

EMMY

The buck sacrificed everything it had to give in this life and the young warrior wanted to wish its spirit a safe journey into the next.

Emmy rises and takes Johnny's hand.

EMMY

Are you ready to be a brave, young warrior and go back to sleep?

Johnny nods as Emmy leads him into the bedroom. Sky follows.

INT. JOHNNY AND SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emmy tucks Johnny in as Sky lies down next to the bed.

EMMY

Now it's your turn to comfort and protect Sky.

Johnny reaches down to pet Sky. Emmy kisses her son on the forehead and turns to leave. SARAH (12), pretty with long, dark hair, sits up in her bed.

SARAH

Momma, when will Daddy be home?

Emmy walks over to her daughter and touches her hair.

EMMY

When the sun rises and sets...

SARAH

Momma?

Emmy smiles down at her daughter and tucks her in.

EMMY

In four days, alain cailin. Now go
back to sleep.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

Thunder BOOMS as BABYFACED COWBOY (20s), enters the crowded saloon and shakes off his rain-soaked hat. Roy stands at the entrance holding a shotgun.

Roy's brother, ZACK McLEARY (30s), thin with a scruffy beard and mean piercing eyes, bumps past Babyfaced Cowboy as he joins Roy in surveying the room.

Babyfaced Cowboy scurries to a table where RUGGED COWBOY (20s), sits with GRACIE CLANTON (30s), a full-bodied woman with curly, auburn hair, and TEXAS ROSE (30s), an attractive brunette. Texas Rose rises and walks to the bar.

RUGGED COWBOY

'Bout time you showed up. I almost
had to take them both on.

GRACIE

Son, you'd have died a happy man.

At another table, CHUCK GRIMLEY (40s), stocky and stubbled, plays cards with LONNIE MOSS (30s), tall, lean, sharply dressed, who wears a thin mustache under cold, dark eyes.

Lonnie deals the cards as VIRGIL RILEY (30s), a simple, southern speaking man wearing a Rebel cap, observes.

LONNIE

Time to teach you a valuable lesson.

Rose returns to the other table as Gracie leads Rugged Cowboy up the stairs. Rose places a bottle of whiskey down as Babyfaced Cowboy fondles her backside. She smiles and smacks his hand away.

ROSE

No free touches.

Babyfaced Cowboy laughs, and when he tries to grab her again, Zack spins him around and throws him to the floor. Zack grabs Rose's backside.

ZACK
This is two bits.

He roughly grabs her breasts, causing her to grimace.

ZACK
Four bits.

He grabs her crotch as she winces.

ZACK
And this...you can't afford.

He pushes Rose aside and holds out his hand.

ZACK
Two bits for the feel.

Babyfaced Cowboy tries to stand. Zack pushes him down with his foot.

ZACK
I'm not gonna say it again.

Babyfaced Cowboy drops a coin on the floor. Zack yanks him to his feet and shoves him toward Roy who tosses him out of the saloon. Zack pockets the coin.

EXT. THE PLAINS - NIGHT

Liam rides through the rain and stops at the top of a hill. He looks down into the valley and sees smoke coming from a cabin off in the distance.

From his pocket Liam removes a HAND-WRITTEN MAP on a rough leather strip. He stares at a drawing of the "Hodges Cabin" and the road leading up to the farm. Liam tugs at a necklace which shows the Tree of Life and tucks it under his shirt.

Liam rides toward the cabin as the map falls to the ground.

INT. EMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emmy combs her hair, places the brush down and turns off the lantern. She lies back in bed and stares at the ceiling, listening to the storm.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - NIGHT

Liam rides to the front of the cabin and stops by the porch. He dismounts as he looks at the front door and then over at a nearby barn.

He pulls the horse in the direction of the barn and stops. The barn door CREAKS as he enters.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - NIGHT

Sky sits at the window and watches Liam enter the barn.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - NIGHT

Liam leads his horse into the barn and closes the door. A lightning flash helps him spot a lantern hanging on the wall. He pulls a match from his pocket and lights it.

As he struggles to remove his rifle and saddlebag from his horse, he coughs and spits bloody mucus onto the floor.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

Big Jim strolls over to Lonnie's table. Lonnie looks at his cards and throws some coins on the table. Chuck looks at his cards.

LONNIE

They ain't gonna change, farm boy.

Chuck smiles as he raises Lonnie's bet. Lonnie smiles back and pushes all his coins into the center of the table.

Chuck looks at Lonnie and slowly pushes in all of his coins. Chuck turns over his cards, showing a straight from the Seven to the Jack. He sits back and smiles. Lonnie shakes his head as he reveals a flush.

CHUCK

You're either the luckiest son-of-a-bitch or...

LONNIE

What?

CHUCK

Nothin'.

Lonnie pulls in all the coins.

LONNIE

Didn't think so.

Lonnie picks up the cards, shuffles and deals out three cards.

LONNIE

I'll give you a chance to win back your money.

Chuck looks suspiciously at Lonnie.

LONNIE

Go on. Pick up the cards.

Chuck picks up the three cards.

LONNIE

I'll bet you double or nothing that
I can name the three cards you hold
in your hand.

Chuck places his coins on the table. Lonnie slowly reaches over and takes the cards from Chuck's hand, placing them face up on the table. He points to the first card.

LONNIE

This here's Josh.
(points to the second
card.)
Ike.

He picks up the third card and waves it in Chuck's face.

LONNIE

And this last little stupid fuck is
Chuck.

Everyone at the table ROARS with laughter. Chuck stands.

CHUCK

You cheatin' bastard.

He goes for his gun but before it leaves his holster, Lonnie has his weapon pointed at Chuck.

LONNIE

Sure you want to?

Chuck hesitates and then thrusts his weapon back into his holster. Lonnie smashes Chuck in the head with his gun, knocking him to the floor.

Roy hoists Chuck to his feet as Big Jim walks by.

BIG JIM

(to Roy)
Get him out of here and keep an eye
on the place. I want to meet with
the others.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Big Jim sits at his desk as Lonnie, Zack and Virgil enter.

BIG JIM

(to Zack)
Make sure the whores are washed clean
and dressed up in their finest outfits
for the weekend.

(MORE)

BIG JIM (CONT'D)

(to Virgil)

I want you to start sprucing up the place. Make sure we're well-stocked. I need to have a few words with Lonnie.

Zack and Virgil leave the office.

BIG JIM

Some of these cowboys comin' in will be homesteaders livin' on property I'd like to acquire. I'd appreciate it if you could relieve them of some of their hard-earned cash so that I might make them a generous offer on their land.

Big Jim sits back and lights up a cigar.

BIG JIM

Town's gonna grow, what with the railroad comin' and all.

LONNIE

Make a lot of money.

BIG JIM

It's not all about the money, Lonnie. Got plenty of that. Lookin' to the future and the changing times. Gonna make Laramie a prosperous, civilized and law-abiding town--

LONNIE

Law-abiding?

BIG JIM

(smiling)

It's about perception.

(beat)

Wyoming's gonna be a state someday and I aim to be a big part of making that happen.

KNOCK on the door.

BIG JIM

Yeah?

Rose peeks in.

ROSE

Sorry. I need to speak with you when you're free.

BIG JIM
You can speak your mind in front of
Lonnie. Get your ass in here.

Rose enters and closes the door.

ROSE
I'm leaving, Big Jim.

Big Jim stares at Rose.

BIG JIM
I see.

ROSE
I got a letter from my mother back
in Texas. My father died a few months
back and now she's sick and needs
me. What with him gone, I can go
home again.

BIG JIM
When are you plannin' on leaving?

ROSE
Was thinkin' maybe sometime in the
next day or two.

BIG JIM
Got a big weekend comin' up, Rose,
and I really need your expertise.
(beat)
I'll tell you what. Just give me
this last weekend and I'll pay you
double what you earn and I'll give
you a nice bonus and pay for your
travel. How's that sound?

ROSE
(smiling)
I appreciate your kindness.

He waves her off. Rose exits the office. Lonnie looks at
Big Jim who smiles as he stares at the door.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - MORNING

Liam tosses and turns. Sweat drips from his forehead.

DREAM SEQUENCE - SERIES OF QUICK FLASHES

-- MAGGIE SLATTERY (20s), beautiful, happy and full of life,
is spun around a dance floor by a thirty-year-old Liam.

-- Maggie and Liam exchange wedding vows.

-- Maggie walks past a saloon as a gunshot shatters the window. She falls to the ground.

-- Liam rides to a cabin.

-- Liam enters the cabin and rushes to the bedroom.

LIAM
Sebastian Moss!

-- SEBASTIAN MOSS (20s), hard and sadistic, scrambles from his bed and reaches for his gun.

-- Rain falls on a headstone as Liam rides away.

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

Liam bolts upright as Sky licks his face. He coughs as he tries to push the animal away.

He turns and stares into a shotgun. Beyond the shotgun he sees an angry Emmy and a scared Sarah.

EMMY
What are you doing in my barn, Mister?

Liam tries to focus as Sky continues to lick his face. Emmy turns her head and looks at Sarah.

EMMY
Come get Sky.

Sarah carefully pulls Sky away. Liam, now fully awake, coughs as he holds up his hands.

EMMY
I asked you a question.

Liam stops coughing and looks up at Emmy.

LIAM
Got caught in the storm and was looking for shelter.

EMMY
Well, it's a nice day now.

Liam winces as he rises and coughs. Emmy looks down at his wet clothes.

Liam lurches toward Emmy and grabs the gun. Sky GROWLS as Sarah holds him. Emmy stares hard at Liam.

EMMY
Big Jim send you?

Puzzled, Liam looks over at Sarah and Sky. He sees a frightened Johnny approaching, shovel in hand.

EMMY

Johnny. No.

Liam tosses the gun to Emmy.

LIAM

Sorry to have inconvenienced you.

Liam hobbles to his horse and struggles with the saddle. He pauses to cough again. Liam collapses.

Emmy hands Johnny the gun. She approaches Liam and bends down, placing a hand on his sweaty forehead.

EMMY

We've got to get him inside.

A necklace falls from Liam as Emmy and Sarah help him up. Johnny spots the necklace, pockets it and follows.

INT. EMMY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Emmy and Sarah drop Liam onto the mattress. Emmy yanks off his wet shirt and stares at a scar from an old wound on his chest.

EMMY

Get a wet towel and heat some water.

Sarah rushes out of the room. Johnny, carrying Liam's saddlebags, and Sky enter the room. Sarah rushes back in and hands her mother the towel. Emmy applies it to Liam's forehead and points to the saddlebags.

EMMY

Leave them by the foot of the bed.

Johnny drops them.

EMMY

(to Sarah)

Grab his clothes and wash them outside. Then hang 'em up to dry.

Sarah gathers up Liam's scattered clothes and opens his saddlebags. She finds two small law books, some clothes, a holstered gun and a gun without a holster. She pulls out the un-holstered gun and looks at Emmy.

SARAH

Momma?

Emmy looks at the gun in Sarah's hand and motions for her to put it back. Sarah replaces the weapon and gathers up the clothes. She stares at Liam.

SARAH

Who is he?

EMMY

Don't know. Now get.

Sarah exits.

JOHNNY

Is he gonna die, Ma?

Emmy smiles and pats her son on his head.

EMMY

Tend to his horse and see that it's fed and groomed.

Emmy turns him around and follows him out of the room.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - MORNING

As Johnny exits, Emmy grabs a container with a sticky, herbal substance and spoons some into a cup. She crosses to the fireplace, ladles hot water into the cup and stirs the mixture. She walks back to the bedroom.

INT. EMMY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Liam shivers under the blankets. She lifts his head up and holds the cup to his lips.

EMMY

Drink this.

Liam tries to take a sip but coughs it out.

EMMY

I know it doesn't taste good, but you have to drink it.

She holds the cup to his lips until he drinks the entire mixture. She lowers his head and places the cup down.

Emmy reaches toward the foot of the bed and pulls a quilt up over the shivering Liam. She exits.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - MORNING

NANCY WRIGHT (60s), a heavysset woman with a long gray ponytail, hops down from her wagon and approaches the cabin.

Johnny loads milk containers on the wagon as Sarah washes Liam's clothes in a tub.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - MORNING

Nancy enters.

NANCY

Johnny tells me you've got company.

Emmy and Nancy approach the bedroom and enter.

INT. EMMY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nancy looks down at Liam as he sleeps.

NANCY

So what're you going to do with him?

EMMY

When he's better, I'll send him on his way.

Nancy stares at Liam.

NANCY

I know him.

EMMY

How?

NANCY

A few days ago I was headin' up to your reservation to collect some wares to sell in town. One of my wheels came loose and I was struggling with the dang thing when suddenly he came out of nowhere and stopped to give me a hand.

EMMY

Who is he?

NANCY

Never said. Finished up, hopped on his horse and rode south.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - MORNING

Emmy hands Nancy some blankets.

EMMY

I want to thank you for selling our supplies.

Nancy waves her off.

NANCY

The womenfolk in town keep askin' me
when I'll have more of these. If
they only knew who made them.

INT. ANNA GRIMLEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lonnie sits on the side of a bed pulling on his boots. ANNA GRIMLEY (30s), blond and slightly overweight, lies in the bed with a sheet pulled up to her chin. Lonnie rises, finishes dressing and straps on his gun holster.

ANNA

We really need that money.

LONNIE

Then you should tell your husband
not to be so stupid and gamble with
what he can't afford to lose.

Anna sits up in bed and grabs Lonnie's hand.

ANNA

Lonnie, please.

Lonnie pulls his hand away and slaps her face.

LONNIE

You ain't nothing but a house-whore.
No better than the bitches at Big
Jim's saloon. I don't pay no woman
for a roll in the sack. Don't ever
forget that.

She cries as he turns and leaves.

EXT. GRIMLEY'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Lonnie strolls out onto the porch, tucking in his shirt as
Chuck rides up and jumps off his horse.

CHUCK

What're you doin' here?

LONNIE

Takin' care of your woman's needs.

Chuck closes in on Lonnie, fists clenched.

CHUCK

You slimy son of a bitch!

Chuck takes a swing at Lonnie who ducks and pushes Chuck to
the ground.

LONNIE

You can still walk away from this.

Chuck rises as Anna runs out of the house to her husband's side and grabs his arm.

ANNA

Chuck, don't.

Chuck pushes her away and turns to face Lonnie. He reaches for his gun. Lonnie draws his weapon with lightning speed and shoots Chuck in the heart.

Anna, crying, rushes over to cradle her husband's body. Lonnie walks to his horse, climbs up and rides off.

INT. EMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liam dozes in bed as Johnny sleeps in a nearby chair. Sky licks Liam's dangling hand, causing Liam to fully awaken. Liam smiles at the dog and pets him.

LIAM

Good boy.

Liam rises, takes a blanket and covers Johnny.

EMMY (O.S.)

Sky doesn't usually like strangers.

Liam turns and sees Emmy in the doorway.

LIAM

How long was I asleep?

EMMY

Goin' on three days now.

Liam coughs as Johnny wakes up.

LIAM

(to Johnny)

What's your name, son?

JOHNNY

Johnny Hodges.

Liam reaches out and shakes Johnny's hand as Emmy exits.

LIAM

Liam Slater.

Emmy returns holding a cup of liquid. She walks over to Liam and hands him the cup. Liam grimaces as he looks down into the cup and smells the contents.

LIAM
 (looking at Emmy)
 Where's my gun?

Emmy moves slowly away.

LIAM
 I'd rather shoot myself before
 drinking anymore of that horse piss.

Johnny LAUGHS as Emmy breaks into a wide grin.

EMMY
 I'd say you're feelin' better.

JOHNNY
 His name is Liam Slater.

Emmy nods and stares at Liam.

EMMY
 Emmy Hodges.

LIAM
 Where are my clothes?

EMMY
 You need to rest some more. You've
 got a touch of pneumonia.

Liam smiles wryly as he looks up at Emmy.

LIAM
 I may not be as young as I once was
 and the years have taken their measure
 but I'll have plenty of time to rest
 soon enough.

Emmy reaches down at the end of the bed, picks up Liam's
 clean clothes and hands them to him.

EMMY
 My daughter, Sarah, washed them.
 (beat)
 Hungry?

Liam nods. Emmy grabs Johnny's hand as she turns to leave.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - NIGHT

Emmy fixes a plate of stew while Sarah pours a cup of coffee.
 Liam enters, followed by Sky.

LIAM
(to Sarah)
I want to thank you for taking care
of my clothes.

Sarah smiles shyly and walks over to the sink to finish the dishes. Liam devours the stew as Emmy sits at the table.

LIAM
This is the best meal I've had in...
I can't remember when.

Emmy nods as Liam sips his coffee. He wrinkles his face as he swallows.

LIAM
Can't say the same for the coffee.

EMMY
It'll be better in the morning when
it's fresh.

Emmy rises and looks at her children.

EMMY
Time for you two to get ready for
bed. Say good night to Mr. Slater.

Sarah and Johnny walk to their bedroom.

SARAH
Good night.

LIAM
(to Johnny)
Thanks for watching over me.

Johnny smiles as he and his sister exit.

EMMY
I'll see you in a few minutes to
tuck you in.

Emmy brings the pot of stew to Liam. She refills his plate as Sky sits down by Liam's side.

EMMY
Careful, he likes to steal.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

SHERIFF FRANK SLOAN (50s), a tall, stocky man, enters the crowded saloon and walks toward Big Jim's office.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Big Jim sits at his desk as Sheriff Sloan enters.

BIG JIM
What can I do for you, Sheriff?

SHERIFF SLOAN
What am I gonna do about Lonnie?

BIG JIM
From what I heard, it was self-defense. Pure and simple.

SHERIFF SLOAN
It's not just that. He's nothing but trouble. Goes off at the slightest provocation.

BIG JIM
Yeah, that's what I like about him. People try to stay on his good side which means less work for you.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Jesus...

Big Jim stands up and glares at Sheriff Sloan.

BIG JIM
Just do the job I pay you for and stay out of his way.

Big Jim comes around the desk as Sheriff Sloan backs away.

BIG JIM
Now get the fuck out of here.

Sheriff Sloan quickly exits. Big Jim stares out at the crowd and notices JESSE (40s), a tall, rangy man, enter the saloon.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

Jesse strolls up to the bar. The Bartender (KEN SHEEN) (40s), approaches.

KEN
What I can getcha?

JESSE
Coffee. And I need to speak with Big Jim.

Ken pours a cup as Gracie sidles up to Jesse.

GRACIE

Care to buy a gal a drink?

Jesse sips his coffee and holds up his left hand, revealing his wedding band.

GRACIE

That don't stop many of the men who come in here, Cowboy.

JESSE

Does me.

Gracie pats him on the shoulder and moves away.

GRACIE

Good for you. Enjoy your coffee.

Ken approaches Big Jim and nods toward Jesse.

KEN

Fella wants to talk to you.

Big Jim watches Zack stroll over to Jesse.

ZACK

Married to that Indian, aint'cha?
Must be like fuckin' an animal.

Jesse slowly turns to Zack who smiles, viciously.

ZACK

I mean, I wouldn't mind takin' her
off your hands for a short period.

Jesse punches Zack in the face. Zack flies across the floor. Jesse stands over him.

JESSE

Don't ever talk about my wife like
that again.

Jesse turns and walks back to the bar. Zack pulls his gun. Big Jim grabs Zack's gun and yanks it away.

BIG JIM

You don't ever back-shoot anybody.
That's a coward's way.

Big Jim yanks Zack to his feet and shoves him away.

BIG JIM

Sorry about that, Jesse.
(beat)
What can I do for you?

JESSE

I come to pay what I owe.

BIG JIM

That so? Have you given any consideration to my offer?

JESSE

I'm not sellin'. I'm raisin' my kids in the only home they've known and I intend to keep doin' the same.

BIG JIM

Most of your neighbors found my offer generous enough to accept and I think you should reconsider.

JESSE

We're stayin' where we are.

BIG JIM

You're making a big mistake. Things can get pretty harsh for you and your family livin' way out there on your own.

JESSE

We'll be fine.

Big Jim breaks into a wide grin.

BIG JIM

Give me a few minutes to get the paperwork on your loan and then we'll settle up.

As Big Jim walks back to his office he pulls Rose aside.

BIG JIM

That Cowpoke standin' at the bar? I want his money as well as the next person's. Use your charms and see to it that he loosens up.

(beat)

Do whatever's necessary.

Rose walks to Jesse as Virgil approaches Big Jim.

VIRGIL

What's so important about Jesse Hodges' land? The railroad ain't goin' anywhere near his place.

BIG JIM

It's not the land. It's what's on and under it.

VIRGIL

Gold?

BIG JIM

Something much more precious. Water.
You control water, you control life.

ROSE sidles up to Jesse.

ROSE

Not up for any fun?

JESSE

I've been herdin' cattle for over a month. I'm tired and smell like cow shit. All I want to do is get home to my family, take a bath and sleep for two or three days.

Rose nods at Ken who turns to refill Jesse's cup. He surreptitiously reaches under the bar and pulls out a small glass medicine bottle. He opens the eyedropper and squeezes a few drops into Jesse's coffee.

He places the coffee on the bar and slides it to Jesse.

Jesse takes a swallow as Anna storms into the saloon and approaches Lonnie.

ANNA

You son of a bitch!

Lonnie looks up as Anna pulls out a gun and SHOTS, wildly, at him. He dives under the table as Roy rushes over and grabs Anna's hand, forcing her to drop the gun.

Big Jim rushes out of his office and sees Roy holding a struggling Anna. Lonnie rises from beneath the table.

BIG JIM

Get her out of here. Take her home and make sure she calms down.

Roy carries Anna out of the saloon as Big Jim grabs her gun.

BIG JIM

Excitement's over. Go back to what you were doing.

Big Jim glances over at Rose and then returns to his office. Rose turns her attention back to Jesse, who holds his head and seems to be unsteady on his feet. Rose steadies him.

ROSE

What's the matter?

JESSE

Don't know.

She grabs him around the shoulders, leading him to the stairs.

ROSE

Maybe you'd better lie down.

EXT. EMMY'S CABIN PORCH - NIGHT

Liam sits on the porch, sipping his coffee with Sky lying next to him as Emmy comes out and sits on the steps.

LIAM

Good kids. You're raisin' 'em right.

EMMY

I do my best.

LIAM

You reap what you sow.

Emmy nods as she looks out into the night.

EMMY

So what do you do, Mr. Slater?

LIAM

Liam. A little of this, a little of that. I heard about a big cattle drive in these here parts, but guess I arrived too late.

EMMY

Old Man Lauder hired some people on a month ago. He has a ranch on the other side of town. Jesse, my husband, signed up for it and should be back tomorrow or the day after.

Liam sips his coffee and looks at Emmy.

LIAM

You're...

Emmy smiles at his hesitation.

EMMY

A half-breed?

LIAM

Was gonna say you have Shoshone blood.

EMMY

My mother was white and my father is Shoshone. Lives with my people on the Wind River Reservation up north.

LIAM

Why'd you leave?

EMMY

I wanted to teach but some people in town didn't want their kids schooled by an Indian. It's alright if I live out here and stop in on occasion--

LIAM

But they don't want to mix with you full-time.

EMMY

(nodding)

It's okay. I met Jesse, and we have two pretty decent kids. I get to school them right here and no one bothers us.

LIAM

Jesse? He a good man?

Emmy looks at Liam as her eyes brighten and a loving smile lights up her face.

EMMY

I've never known anyone better.

Liam nods.

EMMY

You got family, Liam?

Liam stares into her eyes.

LIAM

Yes.

He looks quickly away.

EMMY

Wife? Kids?

Liam ignores the question as he stands up and stretches.

LIAM

I'll be leavin' day after tomorrow.

(beat)

Think I'll turn in.

Liam walks toward the barn.

EMMY
Where're you goin'?

LIAM
I'll sleep in the barn.

EMMY
You're still not--

LIAM
I've slept on the ground for the
last few weeks. I'll be fine. Just
no more of your potions.

Emmy grins as she rises and approaches the front door.

LIAM
Emmy?

Emmy turns. Liam hesitates. Emmy nods and enters the cabin.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - BEDROOM - MORNING

Jesse's eyes open as the sun shines directly on his face. He places a bloody hand over his eyes and quickly pulls it away. He looks over to see Rose lying next to him, dead. He jumps away from the body.

The door flies open. Virgil and Zack rush into the room. As Jesse tries to rise, Zack slams a pistol over his head. Jesse falls back, unconscious. Big Jim enters and looks down at Jesse.

BIG JIM
Virgil. Get him dressed and haul
him over to the Sheriff's office.
(beat)
Zack, get the Doc.

Virgil grabs Jesse's clothes and dresses him. Gracie appears at the door, looks in and SCREAMS. Zack pushes her out into the hallway and closes the door behind him.

Big Jim takes Jesse's gun from the holster and checks it. He turns toward Virgil and SLAPS him.

BIG JIM
What the fuck's wrong with you?
You've got the fucking brains of a
flea. Hand me that pillow.

Virgil hands the pillow to Big Jim. Big Jim kneels and places the gun into the pillow, aiming it at the floor. He squeezes the trigger. POP!

Big Jim places the gun on the floor and stands up. He shoves the pillow at Virgil.

BIG JIM
Get rid of this.

Big Jim slides a rug over the bullet hole.

BIG JIM
Once we get this settled, I want you, Zack and Lonnie to ride out to his spread and inform his half-breed wife about the situation. Tell her if she needs money, I may be willing to help out.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - MORNING

The sun rises as Liam, now clean-shaven except for a mustache, pushes a wheelbarrow of wood near the porch. He stacks the wood, coughs and spits.

Liam sits on the steps, wiping his brow as he reaches for his cup. Sky brings him a stick which he throws toward the woodpile.

Sky chases it, but suddenly stops and BARKS. Liam walks over, picks up the stick and finds a rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. He reaches for a sidearm which is not there.

The rattlesnake springs toward him.

Suddenly, an arrow pierces its head. Liam turns to see Emmy on the porch with a bow in her hands. Liam picks up the arrow holding the snake and walks it over to Emmy.

LIAM
How did you know?

EMMY
Sky's snake bark.

Liam nods as Emmy takes the snake.

EMMY
How long have you been up?

LIAM
Couple of hours. There's coffee.

Emmy goes back inside as Sky comes over and sits by Liam. Liam pets him as Emmy returns with a cup in hand. She sits on a chair and takes a sip. She looks over at the woodpile.

EMMY
You've been busy.

LIAM

No sense letting the day slip away
without doing some chores. Besides,
I had some help.

Johnny walks in from the fields while Sarah exits the barn holding a milk container and a basket of eggs. Emmy gazes at her children, shocked.

EMMY

How did you get them up?

LIAM

(shrugs)

Wasn't out here long before Sarah brought me some coffee. Johnny and Sky soon followed.

Emmy stares at her smiling children as they approach.

LIAM

We fed the horses, milked the cows and mucked the stalls. Noticed the roof needs some repairin'. I'll get to that next.

EMMY

You need to get your strength back.

LIAM

Only way is by honest labor.

EMMY

(shaking her head)

Anything left for me to do?

LIAM

Can you make hotcakes?

INT. JAIL - DAY

Zack BANGS his gun along the bars. Jesse wakes up, scared and haggard. He tries to focus.

ZACK

Goin' out to tell your squaw about your predicament. Want me to give her a little fuck from you?

Jesse rushes to the cell bars and flails at Zack.

JESSE

You leave her alone you son of a bitch!

Zack steps back, laughing. He exits.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Zack mounts his horse and joins Lonnie and Virgil. They ride out of town.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Liam climbs down from the roof, pats Johnny on the head and walks into the barn. Emmy comes out of the cabin with two glasses of lemonade. She hands one to Johnny.

EMMY

Where's Liam?

Johnny points to the barn.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - DAY

Liam coughs as he kicks dirt around, searching for his necklace. Emmy enters and watches him.

EMMY

Lose something?

Liam turns as Emmy approaches, handing him the glass. He takes the glass and gulps it down in one swallow.

LIAM

Noticed coyote tracks and was looking for some traps.

Emmy points to the traps hanging on the wall above where Liam was searching.

EMMY

You've done enough for today. I'll take care of that.

They exit the barn.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Johnny and Sky approach. Emmy looks up at the darkening sky.

EMMY

Storm's coming.

Liam looks at the clouds and sniffs the air.

LIAM

It'll pass to the north.

EMMY

(to Johnny)

Well then, I think you should take Liam up to the lake and catch us some dinner. Lunch will be ready in an hour.

Johnny looks up at Liam, who nods.

LIAM

Go dig up some worms and let me clean up a bit.

Liam follows Emmy into the cabin.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - DAY

Liam washes his hands as Sarah comes in from the bedroom carrying a bucket and a mop. She walks outside and then returns with an empty bucket. She places it by the sink. Liam smiles at her as Emmy works on lunch.

LIAM

How would you like to go fishin' with me and Johnny?

Sarah looks up at Emmy who smiles and nods.

EMMY

Go on, alain cailin.

Liam stares at Emmy as Sarah runs toward her bedroom.

SARAH

I need to change. Be right back.

Liam dries his hands as Emmy comes over to the sink.

EMMY

Nice of you to include her. She doesn't get to have much fun what with helpin' me with the chores.

LIAM

She is a beautiful girl.

EMMY

(shocked)

You know Irish?

Sarah returns from the bedroom and rushes to the door.

SARAH

Let's go. Time's a-wastin'.

Emmy looks at Liam, who shrugs as he follows Sarah.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Lonnie, Zack and Virgil ride toward Emmy's property.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Large, clear, beautiful lake with snow-capped mountains in the background. Johnny fishes as Sky sniffs trees.

Liam baits Sarah's hook and motions for her to drop her line in the water.

JOHNNY

What kind of name is Liam?

LIAM

Irish.

SARAH

Momma says we've got Irish blood...
from grandma.

LIAM

I know. You've got her eyes.

Sarah stares at Liam, puzzled.

SARAH

That's what grandpa always says--

Liam quickly looks away.

LIAM

My father came from Ireland many
years ago and, to honor his father,
named me after him. It's a version
of William.

JOHNNY

Then why not just name you William?

LIAM

Well, if you were born in Ireland,
your name, John, would be Sean, and
it means God is gracious.

Liam looks over at Sarah.

LIAM

Sarah's name means Princess.

Sarah looks back and smiles.

SARAH

What does your name mean?

Sarah's fishing pole bends. She stands up, excited, attempting to pull the fish in.

LIAM

Let him come to you.

Sarah pulls slowly up on the pole as Liam grabs the line and pulls the fish out of the water and onto land. He places his foot down on the fish and bends down to remove the hook.

He holds it toward a beaming Sarah and tosses it in a nearby bucket. Sarah stands proudly as she walks over and gazes at her catch.

SARAH

Can we let him go?

Liam nods. He takes the fish and places it down in the water where it swims away. Johnny's pole dips down.

JOHNNY

I've got one.

Liam and Sarah look over to see Johnny struggling with his pole. Sarah looks up at Liam.

SARAH

Think I'll go give Momma a hand.

LIAM

Go on ahead. We'll be along shortly.

Sarah walks away as Sky follows.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Emmy hangs laundry and notices three riders in the distance as Sarah and Sky approach. Sky BARKS.

SARAH

Is that Daddy?

EMMY

Take Sky inside, wash up and set the table for lunch.

Sarah hesitates but then walks to the cabin.

SARAH

Sky. C'mon, boy.

Sky follows Sarah into the cabin. Emmy watches as Lonnie, Zack and Virgil rein in their horses.

ZACK

Got some bad news for you.

(beat)

Seems your husband got drunk last night and woke up with a dead whore this morning. Killed her.

EMMY

I don't believe you.

ZACK

He's locked up in the jail right now. Big Jim wanted us to ride out to tell you first thing.

EMMY

He didn't do what you say.

Zack dismounts and approaches Emmy.

ZACK

Big Jim says to tell you he wants to help and see if you need any financial assistance during this hard time.

EMMY

You tell Big Jim to go to hell. Now get off my land.

Zack grabs Emmy's shoulders.

ZACK

Listen, half-breed. You don't talk to your betters like that.

Emmy knees him in the groin. He stumbles back, moaning. Virgil hops off the horse and grabs Emmy from behind.

Zack approaches and raises his hand to strike her. Sky appears and leaps up to bite Zack on the arm, driving him to the ground. Lonnie draws his gun and shoots Sky.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Liam turns his head toward the SOUND of the gun fire. Johnny drops his pole and runs toward the cabin. Liam follows.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Emmy, tearfully, stares down at Sky and then back at Lonnie.

EMMY

You bastard.

Zack rises and approaches a defiant Emmy.

ZACK

You need to learn a lesson.

A SHOT rings out. A bullet sprays dust around Zack's feet. All eyes turn toward the porch, where Sarah holds a gun in her shaking hand.

Lonnie stares at the gun in Sarah's hand. He holsters his weapon as Emmy shakes free from Virgil.

LONNIE

Mount up.

ZACK

She ain't gonna shoot nobody.

LONNIE

I said...mount up.

Zack hesitates but then walks back over to his horse, followed by Virgil. As they mount up, Zack looks back at Emmy and points his finger at her.

ZACK

I'll see you again, bitch.

They ride away. Emmy and Sarah approach Sky.

SARAH

(crying)

Why?

Emmy tries to take the gun out of Sarah's shaking hand.

EMMY

It's okay now. Give it to me.

Emmy manages to pry the gun away. She pulls Sarah to her side and holds her.

EXT. PATH - DAY

Johnny stops at the end of the path and looks down at the scene. Liam walks up and stands next to him. Johnny runs to Sky as Liam stares after the retreating riders.

Johnny collapses in tears as he holds the dog close to him. Liam walks up behind and touches Johnny's head. He looks toward Emmy and Sarah.

LIAM

You all right?

Emmy nods and hands the gun to Liam.

EXT. BACKYARD OF EMMY'S CABIN - NIGHT

Liam shovels dirt over Sky's grave as Johnny watches.

JOHNNY

Sky sacrificed himself to help Momma.

Liam pauses to cough.

JOHNNY

(tearfully)

Can I do that?

Liam hands the shovel to Johnny and watches as Johnny shovels harder and harder.

JOHNNY

I want to kill them.

Liam grabs Johnny by the shoulders and shakes him.

LIAM

I never want to hear you say that
ever again. Understood?

Johnny stares defiantly back at Liam.

LIAM

Understood?

Johnny tears up. Liam pulls him close and hugs him.

JOHNNY

Why do men do mean things?

LIAM

The potential for cruelty lies in
all of us.

JOHNNY

And you?

LIAM

Done some things I'm not proud of.

Liam grabs the shovel and finishes placing dirt on the grave. When he is done, he points to a wooden cross. Johnny picks it up and holds it out to Liam.

LIAM

That's for you to do.

Johnny places the cross in the dirt and pushes it down. Liam hands him the shovel and Johnny pounds the cross into the ground. Johnny stands back as Liam places an arm around his shoulder.

They both look down at the cross which reads, "Sky - A great and loving friend."

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - NIGHT

Liam sits at the table, sipping coffee. Emmy exits the bedroom and joins him.

LIAM

Sorry about the gun. I don't keep it loaded.

EMMY

Sarah knows her way around weapons. She just never had to point it at another person before.

LIAM

(nods toward the bedroom)
They asleep?

EMMY

Took awhile. They had a lot of questions about why their father wasn't coming home.

LIAM

What did you tell them?

EMMY

The truth as I know it.

LIAM

And what is the truth?

Emmy breaks down.

EMMY

(tearfully)
Didn't happen. He would never hurt anybody and I know his heart. He would never take up with another woman.

LIAM

Men do things when they taste liquor.

EMMY

(angry)
He doesn't drink. Can't because he reacts poorly to alcohol.

LIAM

He's gonna need a lawyer.

EMMY

It's Big Jim's town. Wouldn't know
who to trust.

(beat)

You're a lawyer.

Liam stares at Emmy.

EMMY

Noticed your books.

LIAM

Not my area of expertise.

Emmy brushes away her tears and shakes her head as she rises.

EMMY

Got a long today tomorrow. I'll be
taking the kids to Nancy's and then
I'm going to see Jesse.

She exits into her bedroom.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - NIGHT

Liam settles down on a pile of hay. He reaches into his
saddlebag, pulls out the un-holstered gun and stares at the
initials SM on the handle. He checks the gun to make sure
it's empty and shoves it under the hay.

He pulls out his law book and reads.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - MORNING

Liam saddles his horse and throws on his saddlebags. He
walks the horse outside.

EXT. EMMY'S BARN - MORNING

He hops up, takes one last look toward the cabin and quietly
rides away.

INT. EMMY'S CABIN (MAIN ROOM) - MORNING

Emmy watches Liam ride off as a tear rolls down her cheek.
Johnny approaches.

JOHNNY

Where's Liam going?

Emmy places an arm around his shoulder and pulls him close.

EMMY

It was time for him to move on.

EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

Liam comes to a crossroads and pauses. He stares in one direction and then the other. He takes a deep breath, snaps the reins and rides off down one of the roads.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Emmy and Sarah sit on the wagon. Emmy looks toward the barn.

EMMY

(loudly)

Johnny. Hasten up, boy. Got to get you settled at Aunt Nancy's before I go see your daddy.

Johnny runs out of the barn and hops on the wagon in between Sarah and his mother.

EMMY

What were you doing?

JOHNNY

(smiling)

Left a note for Liam.

EMMY

(smiles sadly)

Johnny...Liam's not--

She pauses, rubs Johnny's head and snaps the reins.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - MORNING

Big Jim, Sheriff Sloan and TOMMY MOYER (30s), County Prosecutor, well-dressed and clean-shaven, walk to the new courthouse as WORKERS labor on the structure.

Big Jim smiles and nods at PEOPLE who pass by admiring the new construction.

Big Jim waves one of the WORKERS over.

BIG JIM

When will it be ready?

WORKER

Two weeks.

BIG JIM

Better be. I put a lot of money into it.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN - MORNING

Liam rides past a home where the Homesteader and his family pack their belongings on a wagon under Roy's watchful eye.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - MORNING

Liam continues on into town where he sees Big Jim pull out a wad of cash, peel off some bills and hands a few to the Worker. Big Jim and Liam share a glance.

BIG JIM
 (to Worker)
 Treat the boys to lunch.

The Worker smiles and returns to the construction site. Big Jim, Tommy and Sheriff Sloan head back toward the saloon. Sheriff Sloan stares after Liam.

BIG JIM
 (to Sheriff Sloan)
 You know him?

SHERIFF SLOAN
 Not sure.

BIG JIM
 As you know, Sheriff, I've got a
 business and a reputation to protect.

Sheriff Sloan nods as Big Jim lights up a cigar.

BIG JIM
 I need a quick trial, conviction and
 a hangin'. Nobody comes into my
 place and shoots one of my whores
 and doesn't pay the price.
 (to Tommy)
 Gonna be any problems prosecuting
 this case?

TOMMY
 Nah. Judge Meachum is in Cheyenne--

BIG JIM
 Judge Meachum? Everything has to be
 on the up-and-up with him watchin'
 over the proceedings. It better go
 smoothly.

TOMMY
 (nodding)
 He's due here on Friday for his normal
 circuit duties.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

We'll just put this case to the top of the list and get it settled real quick. And the only defense lawyer we've got for Jesse is Chet Aikens.

Big Jim smiles as he takes a puff of his cigar.

TOMMY

One problem.

Big Jim looks over at Tommy with a raised eyebrow.

TOMMY

This trial's gonna attract a lot of people. With the new courthouse not ready, we got no place big enough to seat everyone.

BIG JIM

We'll hold it in the saloon. Get rid of the tables and set up a bunch of chairs and we're all set.

Big Jim turns to Sheriff Sloan.

BIG JIM

Did you send your deputy to advise the Judge about the case?

SHERIFF SLOAN

Elias left an hour ago.

BIG JIM

A tidy little trial with the Honorable Judge. Be good for the town.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - MORNING

Liam rides to the saloon. He gets off his horse and ties him to a railing.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - MORNING

Liam walks in and looks around the room. He notices Zack at the end of the bar talking to Gracie. He sees Lonnie sitting at a table playing poker with two cowboys. He walks up to the bar where Ken cleans glasses.

KEN

What'll it be?

LIAM

Beer.

Ken puts it on the bar as Liam places a coin down. Liam walks over to an empty table near the door, sits down and notices CHET AIKENS (70s), passed out at the table next to him. An empty whiskey bottle lies near his hand.

Liam turns and sees Gracie walking away from Zack. Zack grabs her ass. She spins and shoves him away.

GRACIE

You may be able to get away with that on the other girls but try it again with me and you'll find yourself having trouble pissin' and fuckin'!

Gracie approaches Liam.

GRACIE

Lookin' for some company?

LIAM

Sure. Buy you a drink?

Gracie looks over at Ken and holds up her hand. He nods as Gracie sits down next to Liam.

GRACIE

Haven't seen you around here. What's your name?

LIAM

Liam. What's yours?

GRACIE

Gracie.

Ken walks over and places the drink down. Liam looks over at Chet.

LIAM

Who's the drunk?

GRACIE

Chet Aikens. He's the town lawyer.

LIAM

He the only one?

GRACIE

Except for Tommy Moyer...the county prosecutor.

Liam nods toward Lonnie.

LIAM

Who's the card shark?

GRACIE

Lonnie Moss. You don't want to mess
with him. Says his father was
Sebastian Moss, the gunfighter.

Liam raises an eyebrow as he stares at Lonnie.

LIAM

He's not from around here is he?

GRACIE

Why you askin'?

LIAM

Just curious.

Gracie grabs Liam's hand to draw his attention back to her.

GRACIE

Look, Liam. All this talk and
socializing is wonderful and all...
but my time ain't free.

Liam nods and smiles. Gracie stands, pulls Liam to his feet
and leads him toward the stairs.

EXT. NANCY'S YARD - DAY

Emmy, Sarah, Johnny and Nancy stand around Emmy's wagon.
Emmy bends to Johnny.

EMMY

You be a good boy and listen to your
Aunt Nancy.

NANCY

(to Emmy)

Don't you worry none...I've got plenty
of chores to keep these two occupied.

Emmy hops on the wagon and looks down at Nancy.

EMMY

I'd appreciate it if you'd check on
the animals. I'll leave the back of
the barn open so they can come and
go at their pleasure.

Nancy nods. Johnny approaches, reaches up to his mother and
hands her a necklace. Emmy stares at it and looks at Johnny.

EMMY

Where did you find this?

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - BEDROOM - DAY

Liam sits on the bed as he watches Gracie disrobe.

GRACIE

Put the money on the table.

Liam pulls out some bills and places them on the table.

GRACIE

What's your pleasure, Liam?

She straddles Liam as she slowly undoes his buttons.

LIAM

Information.

Gracie pulls away and stares into his eyes.

LIAM

I heard one of the ladies that worked
here was killed the other night.

Gracie stands up.

GRACIE

What are ya lookin' for, Mister?

Liam places more money on the table.

LIAM

The truth.

Gracie picks up the money and throws it in his face.

GRACIE

The truth ain't worth dyin' for.

(beat)

Now take your money and get the fuck
out of here before I start screaming.

She grabs his hands, pulls him to his feet and shoves him
toward the door.

LIAM

Gracie...

GRACIE

I said, get out.

She pushes him again. Liam leaves the money and exits.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam walks down the stairs, buttoning his shirt as Big Jim
enters the saloon.

LONNIE

This here's Josh, Ike...and the last
dumb fuck is Liam.

Lonnie looks up at Liam and laughs as the two cowboys join
in. Liam smiles.

LONNIE

You owe me a buck.

LIAM

No, I don't.

LONNIE

I just named the cards in your hand.

Liam shakes his empty hands.

LIAM

Got no cards in my hand. You just
named the cards on the table.

The two cowboys chuckle. Liam shuffles the deck and deals
three cards.

Liam looks up at Lonnie as Big Jim approaches and stands
next to Virgil.

LIAM

Double or nothing if I can't name
the three cards in front of you by
suit and numerical value.

Lonnie nods. Liam points to the three cards, one at a time.

LIAM

Six of spades, Jack of clubs and
Nine of diamonds.

Lonnie turns over the cards and looks up at Liam.

LONNIE

Not a single match.

LIAM

Pay up.

Lonnie's smile vanishes.

LONNIE

What the fuck're you talkin' about?

LIAM

I said double or nothing if I couldn't
name those three cards by suit and
(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)
numerical value. Well...I couldn't
do it, and you just bet that I could.

Lonnie draws his gun. Liam pulls away from the table, stands and opens his coat to show he's not wearing a gun.

LONNIE
(to Virgil)
Give him your gun belt.

Virgil takes his gun belt off and walks behind Liam. He hooks it around his waist, buckles it up and moves away.

LONNIE
Anytime, old man.

Liam stares at Lonnie, smiles and slowly reaches down with his other hand to remove the gun from the holster with his fingertips. He examines the gun as he places it on the table. Liam unhooks the gun belt and lets it drop.

LONNIE
Fuckin' coward.

Roy and Zack grab Liam as Big Jim approaches.

BIG JIM
(to Liam)
I don't like card sharks in my place
of business.

LIAM
(nods toward Lonnie)
Except for him.

BIG JIM
(smiling)
Yeah, but he's my card shark.
(to Zack and Roy)
Please escort this gentleman out.

Zack and Roy grab Liam by the arms and hustle him toward the door. Liam glances at Gracie with a slight grin. She looks away. Roy and Zack toss Liam out onto the street.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Liam flies onto the ground as Zack and Roy return to the saloon. Liam slowly rises to his hands and knees. He coughs up blood. He struggles to his feet, dusts himself off and walks over to the jail. Virgil follows.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Sheriff Sloan sits at his desk looking through some papers as Liam enters.

SHERIFF SLOAN
What can I do for you?

LIAM
I'm here to see Jesse Hodges.

SHERIFF SLOAN
And just who might you be?

LIAM
Liam Slater. I'm his lawyer.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Chet Aikens is his lawyer.

LIAM
He's been removed from the case.
Now I need to speak with my client
in private.

Sheriff Sloan stands up and smiles.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Private, huh? We got no special
rooms for that kind of thing. You
can speak with him outside his cell.
That's as private as it gets. Got
any firearms?

Liam shows no weapons. The Sheriff leads Liam toward the back of the jail.

INT. JAIL CELL WALKWAY - DAY

Sheriff Sloan stops in front of one of the cells, points and exits. Jesse, disheveled, sits on a bed, head in his hands.

LIAM
Jesse Hodges?

JESSE
Who're you?

LIAM
Emmy sent me. Name's Liam Slater.

Jesse rises and comes over to the door.

JESSE
How the hell do you know Emmy?

LIAM

Long story.

JESSE

I've got all the time in the world.

LIAM

No, you don't. Do you want my help or not?

Jesse doesn't respond so Liam walks away.

JESSE

You a lawyer?

Liam turns and approaches Jesse.

LIAM

I know my way around the court.

(beat)

Tell me what you know or what you remember.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Big Jim sits behind his desk while Lonnie and Zack sit across from him. Virgil enters.

VIRGIL

He went over to the Sheriff's office.

Big Jim nods as Zack rises.

ZACK

If you don't need me for a couple of hours, there's some unfinished business that needs tending to.

INT. JAIL CELL WALKWAY - DAY

Jesse, hands on the bars, looks at Liam.

JESSE

I drank some coffee at the bar and started feeling dizzy and lightheaded. The woman started helping me up the stairs and that's the last thing I remember until morning.

Liam ponders for a second.

JESSE

Don't want the kids to see me like this.

LIAM

Where are your belongings?

JESSE

I guess the Sheriff's got them.

Liam nods and looks at Jesse. He reaches into his waistband, pulls out a book and hands it to Jesse.

JESSE

What's this?

LIAM

A law book. It helps to know a little about the crime you're accused of and the legal procedures involved.

Liam walks away but stops and looks back.

LIAM

In a few minutes, I want you to raise a ruckus. You'll know when.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Liam stops in front of Sheriff Sloan's desk.

LIAM

I need to see his possessions.

Sheriff Sloan stares at Liam.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Ever been to Texas?

LIAM

Been a lot of places.

Sheriff Sloan nods as he opens a drawer. He removes a gun belt and other items and places them on the desk. Liam sifts through the belongings.

LIAM

Where's his money?

SHERIFF SLOAN

What you see is all I've got.

Liam nods and places everything back on the Sheriff's desk. Liam removes the gun from the holster and examines the weapon. He opens the chamber, sniffs the gun and closes the chamber.

Suddenly, the gun FIRES and a bullet flies into the saddlebags hanging on the wall. Sheriff Sloan jumps up and runs around to grab the gun away from a sheepish Liam.

SHERIFF SLOAN

What the fuck are you doing?

Sheriff Sloan shakes his head as Liam takes the saddlebag off the wall and examines the damage. CLANGING is heard from the cell area.

JESSE (O.S.)

(screaming)

What's going on out there?

Sheriff Sloan exits the room toward the cell. Liam opens the saddlebag, removes the spent bullet and pockets it.

Sheriff Sloan returns, grabs the saddlebag out of Liam's hands and places it back on the wall.

LIAM

When's the trial?

SHERIFF SLOAN

Judge Meachum should be here Friday.

Liam raises an eyebrow as Sheriff Sloan puts Jesse's gun back in the holster.

LIAM

Thanks for your time, Sheriff.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Liam walks out and sees Virgil watching him from across the street. Liam turns and walks toward the doctor's office.

As he nears the doctor's office door, he turns to see Zack riding his way. They stare at each other. Zack smiles as he passes and continues out of town.

INT. DOCTOR FRAWLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Liam enters the doctor's office as DAISY, a Yellow Lab, rushes over and jumps up on him.

LIAM

Good girl.

He sees a rifle leaning against the wall and walks over to examine the weapon. He puts it down.

LIAM

Anyone here?

DOC FRAWLEY (O.S.)

In the back room. Come on in.

INT. DOCTOR FRAWLEY'S OFFICE - BACK ROOM - DAY

Liam walks in and sees Doc dressed in a white smock, working over Rose's body. Doc pours himself some whiskey and takes a sip. He offers the bottle to Liam who declines. Doc resumes working.

DOC FRAWLEY

Don't mind Daisy. She's my watchdog.
Least when she ain't makin' puppies.

Daisy goes over to the corner to nurse her five puppies.

LIAM

You the coroner, too?

DOC FRAWLEY

I handle the living, dying or recently
deceased. What's your business?

LIAM

Jesse Hodges.

DOC FRAWLEY

What about him?

LIAM

Need to ask you a few questions about
the woman he allegedly killed.

DOC FRAWLEY

Why're you askin'?

LIAM

I'm his lawyer.

DOC FRAWLEY

Don't remember seein' you around
before.

LIAM

I'm an old friend of the family.

Doc Frawley shakes his head as he turns back to the body.

DOC FRAWLEY

This here's the victim.

Liam examines the body and takes a close look at the wound.

LIAM

Ever in the army, Doc?

DOC FRAWLEY

Yeah. Why do you ask?

LIAM

Saw the Henry rifle out there.

Doc stares at Liam, who continues to scrutinize the wound.

LIAM

Think Jesse Hodges did this?

DOC FRAWLEY

She was shot at close range and he was with her when she died...blood all over him.

LIAM

Accident?

DOC FRAWLEY

Why would he take the time to grab a pillow to silence the shot?

LIAM

(nodding)

He just came off a cattle drive and would have had a lot of cash on him.

DOC FRAWLEY

You thinkin' maybe he caught her tryin' to rob him?

LIAM

The Sheriff let me look through his belongings but there was no money.

(beat)

If he killed her why not just ride off?

DOC FRAWLEY

Guess he passed out from drinkin'.

Liam picks up a jar with a spent bullet inside.

DOC FRAWLEY

The bullet I retrieved from Rose.

LIAM

Know how to match them with guns?

DOC FRAWLEY

I've done a little experimentin'. But around these parts, you usually know who did what to whom.

Liam nods as he pulls Jesse's spent bullet from his pocket and places it on the table.

LIAM

They've been doin' it in England for
over thirty years.

Doc picks up the bullet and examines it.

DOC FRAWLEY

This ain't England, Mr. Slater.
Won't help you in a court of law in
Wyoming.

Liam nods as the front door SQUEAKS open.

LUKE (O.S.)

Doc? Doc?

DOC FRAWLEY

In here, Luke.

LUKE SIMS (30s) comes flying into the room.

LUKE

You gotta come quick. Susie found
Anna Grimley hangin' in her barn.

DOC FRAWLEY

Shit.

Doc Frawley places the bullet down and jumps up, throwing
off his smock. He grabs his bag and runs out after Luke.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Liam walks out and watches Doc and Luke running down the
street. He walks back over to Big Jim's Saloon, where Virgil
sits on the porch. Liam mounts his horse.

LIAM

(to Virgil)

Who'd you fight under, Son?

VIRGIL

What're you talkin' about?

LIAM

You're wearin' a rebel cap and your
weapon is Confederate made, so you
were in the war.

VIRGIL

George E. Pickett.

LIAM

Gettysburg?

Virgil nods.

LIAM
We probably shot at each other.

VIRGIL
(smiling)
Sorry I missed.

Liam smiles, turns his horse and rides away.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Emmy pulls up and reins in the horses. She hops off the wagon and unhitches the animals, leads the horses over to the barn and opens the door.

INT. EMMY'S BARN - DAY

Emmy enters and removes the horse's bridles and brushes one of them. The other horse WHINNIES and paces.

EMMY
Patience, Long Arrow. I'll get to you next.

ZACK (O.S.)
Gave him an Indian name, huh?

Emmy spins around and sees Zack standing in the middle of the barn. She moves out of the stall.

EMMY
What do you want?

Zack smiles as he slowly approaches.

ZACK
I hear you Indian women are wild when it comes to screwin' and I want a little taste of that.

EMMY
Get out.

Emmy spies a pitchfork on the wall.

ZACK
We've got the place all to ourselves. So why don't we just relax and have a good time?

Emmy rushes toward the pitchfork. As she reaches for it, Zack grabs her and spins her around, causing her to fall down. She turns and crawls away.

Zack moves toward her. She looks around for anything she might use as a weapon. He stands over her and she kicks up.

He grabs her leg and spins it around, causing her to roll over onto her stomach.

Zack pounces on her back as she struggles fiercely. He holds her down as his face lowers to the back of her head.

ZACK

You've got to learn your place in this world.

He flips her over on her back and rips at her clothes as she fights him. He pins her arms. She spits in his face. He raises his hand to strike her.

A hand reaches down and grabs Zack's hand. A second hand grabs his collar. Zack is lifted off Emmy and thrown to the side. He rolls away and turns to look up at Liam. He reaches for his gun. Liam kicks it away.

ZACK

You're going to regret this.

Liam punches Zack in the head. Zack falls back as Liam kicks him in the stomach.

Liam picks him up and smashes his fist into Zack's face. Zack flies out of the barn. Liam picks up Zack's gun and examines it as he walks out of the barn.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Zack crawls away as Liam follows, standing over him. He aims the gun into Zack's frightened face.

EMMY (O.S.)

Liam! Stop!

Liam cocks the hammer.

EMMY (O.S.)

Liam, please. Don't do it.

Liam FIRES the gun into the ground.

LIAM

Get his horse. He tied it on the side of the barn.

Liam pulls Zack to his feet and knees him in the groin. He empties the bullets from the gun and returns it to Zack's holster.

Emmy returns with Zack's horse, and Liam tosses him over the saddle. He grabs some rope, secures Zack to the horse and then slaps the animal on the behind. The horse trots away as Emmy comes over and touches Liam's shoulder.

EMMY

Liam?

Liam pulls away and walks toward the fields.

LIAM

I need to be by myself for a period.

EXT. EMMY'S CABIN PORCH - AFTERNOON

Liam returns to the cabin, climbs the stairs and sits on the top step. Emmy comes out of the cabin with a mug of coffee and sits next to him as she hands him the cup.

EMMY

You okay?

LIAM

No. How about you?

EMMY

No worse for the wear.

Liam sips the coffee. Emmy stares at Liam.

EMMY

You were going to kill him.

Liam gazes over at the barn.

EMMY

Have you ever killed anyone?

(beat)

Sorry. I shouldn't have asked that.

LIAM

I was in the war and I seen the terrible things men do to each other. I'm no exception.

They both gaze out over the farm.

EMMY

Why did you come back?

LIAM

Never left. Went into town to see about Jesse and find out about the goings-on.

Emmy storms up, walks away and turns abruptly back to Liam.

EMMY

You did what?

(beat)

Without tellin' me?

LIAM

Emmy, I just...

EMMY

(gets into Liam's
face)

You don't get to decide or do anything
without talkin' to me.

(beat)

What is wrong with you and why all
the secrecy? Is it because I'm a
woman...or do think I'm just some
dumb Indian squaw?

LIAM

(shaking his head)

Felt I could better get information
if I wasn't associated with your
family.

Emmy angrily walks away.

EMMY

They're your family too.

She pulls a necklace from her pocket, turns and throws it at
Liam. The necklace bounces off Liam's chest and falls to
the ground. He picks up the necklace and stares at it.

EMMY

Johnny found it in the barn and
thought it was mine.

Emmy pulls a similar necklace out from her blouse.

EMMY

Crann Bethadh. Tree of life. It's
an Irish symbol of family. This was
my mother's.

Liam shakes his head.

EMMY

When I was a child, a man, my mother's
brother, used to sit me on his knee
and do you know what he called me?

Liam places an arm around her.

LIAM

Alain cailin.

EMMY

You have Shoshone ways and are very
much like my father.

(MORE)

EMMY (CONT'D)

I would ask about the man who was once there but was no more after my mother died.

Liam smiles as a tear moistens his cheek.

EMMY

My mother's name was Slattery. Liam Slater is Bill Slattery. Why, Liam?

LIAM

Felt I owed it to my sister to check on her family.

Emmy stares at Liam.

EMMY

I need to go to Jesse.

LIAM

That can wait until morning. It's getting late and we need to come up with a strategy.

(beat)

Jesse's fine and he's got some readin' to do.

EMMY

(puzzled)

Anything else you're not tellin' me?

LIAM

Oh yeah...I'm his lawyer.

EXT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - NIGHT

Roy, standing at the door of the saloon, sees Zack's horse coming down the street with Zack draped over the saddle. He rushes out, pulls Zack down from the horse and helps him into the saloon.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Liam and Emmy ride to town on a wagon with Liam's horse hitched to the back.

EMMY

I don't like it.

LIAM

What don't you like, Emmy?

EMMY

All the witnesses will be on Big Jim's payroll. He couldn't buy us out or intimidate us, so he's using the white man's system to do his dirty work.

LIAM

I believe the Judge will be fair. He's coming in from Cheyenne--

EMMY

You think Big Jim's money doesn't reach that far?

LIAM

Didn't say that. It's just that I know Judge Meachum.

EMMY

You seem to know a lot about the law and things of that nature. You may be my uncle but I know very little about you.

Liam stares ahead.

EMMY

I've put my trust and faith in your hands to get my husband out and I need to know right now if it's justified. No more secrets.

Liam looks at Emmy.

LIAM

I was a sheriff in a small town in Colorado twenty-five years ago. I knew the judge back then and he was a tough but honest man.

Liam turns his head and stares straight ahead.

LIAM

One day, while I was trackin' down some cattle rustlers, my deputy confronted a gunslinger in the saloon.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. COLORADO SALOON - AFTERNOON

The DEPUTY confronts Sebastian Moss and, as he draws his gun, Sebastian draws his weapon and FIRES three shots. Two hit the Deputy while the third shatters the front window.

EXT. COLORADO SALOON SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Maggie Slattery walks past the window and is struck by the shot. She collapses to the ground.

LIAM (V.O.)
(breaking up)
That woman was my wife.
(beat)
She was carrying our child.

EXT. COLORADO TOWN MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Liam (30) rides into town with two men tied to their horses.

LIAM (V.O.)
I come back and take the rustlers to
the jail.

Liam stops in front of the jail, dismounts and pulls the men from their horses. He walks them into the jail.

INT. COLORADO JAIL - NIGHT

Liam enters the jail and sees JUDGE MEACHUM (40), a tall man with a stern face and penetrating eyes, staring at him.

LIAM (V.O.)
Judge Meachum is there.

Liam locks the men in a cell and walks back to Judge Meachum, who motions for him to sit down.

LIAM (V.O.)
He tells me what happened.

Liam jumps up. Judge Meachum tries to stop him, but Liam punches him in the face and storms out.

EXT. COLORADO COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Liam rides hard and approaches a cabin in the woods. He jumps from his horse, draws his gun and rushes to the front door. He kicks it in.

INT. SEBASTIAN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Liam looks around and runs to the bedroom.

LIAM
Sebastian Moss!

INT. SEBASTIAN'S CABIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liam finds Sebastian struggling to his feet while groping for his gun.

A WOMAN (20s), in the bed SCREAMS as she attempts to cover up. As Sebastian raises his gun, Liam empties his weapon into Sebastian's body.

Judge Meachum appears in the doorway and approaches Liam, who is still pulling the trigger even though the gun is empty. Judge Meachum struggles to pry the gun out of Liam's hand. Liam grabs Sebastian's gun as Judge Meachum shoves him out of the room.

LIAM (V.O.)

The Judge tells me to go to my wife
and take care of what needs takin'
care of.

INT. SEBASTIAN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Liam finds a scared and crying five year old boy standing in the room. Liam closes his eyes, shakes his head and exits.

LIAM (V.O.)

I took a life out of anger. Never
thought he had a family of his own.

EXT. SEBASTIAN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Liam throws down his badge, hops on his horse and rides away.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

It's raining as Liam pauses over the grave and bends down, head bowed. He rises, walks over to his horse, climbs up and rides away.

LIAM (V.O.)

After I buried my family, I packed
the gun away and left town. Haven't
worn one at my side since.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Emmy cries as she reaches over to touch Liam's arm.

EMMY

Oh, Liam.

LIAM

(tearfully)
I should'a been there, Emmy.

EMMY

You were just doing--

Liam turns angrily to Emmy.

LIAM

Don't say I was doing my job! My responsibility was to protect my family...and that I failed to do.

Liam wipes tears from his eyes as he turns to Emmy and smiles.

LIAM

I swore I would never get close to anyone again.

Emmy hugs him.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Liam and Emmy draw stares from Townsfolk as they ride up to the jail. Liam stops the wagon in front of the jail.

LIAM

While you visit Jesse, I'm gonna walk over and see the Doc.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Sheriff Sloan, reading a book, glances up as Emmy enters.

EMMY

I'm here to see Jesse.

Sheriff Sloan ignores her. Emmy moves to the desk, grabs the book and SLAMS it on the desk.

EMMY

I'm here to see my husband!

Sheriff Sloan jumps up and storms around the desk

SHERIFF SLOAN

You fuckin' half-breed...

As he tries to grab her, she steps aside, takes his arm and flips him onto the floor as Big Jim enters.

BIG JIM

What the hell's goin' on here?

Sheriff Sloan struggles to his feet and points at Emmy.

SHERIFF SLOAN

I told that squaw...no visitors.

BIG JIM

(shaking his head)

Let the woman spend time with her husband.

SHERIFF SLOAN

But--

Big Jim glares at Sheriff Sloan who backs down and moves toward the cells.

INT. JAIL CELL WALKWAY - DAY

As Emmy tries to pass, Sheriff Sloan brushes up against her.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Gotta frisk you.

EMMY

Touch me and I will kick you so hard,
your balls will be up in your throat.

Sheriff Sloan backs away and rejoins a smiling Big Jim.

JESSE (O.S.)

Emmy?

Emmy turns and rushes toward the cell. Tearfully, they grab each other's hands and kiss through the cell bars.

JESSE

Em, I'm so sorry.

She brushes back his hair.

EMMY

We know you didn't do what they say.

JESSE

How're the kids?

EMMY

Nancy's watchin' 'em but they sorely
miss their father.

JESSE

(smiling)

That's good. I don't want them to
see me like this.

(beat)

Em, if this don't work out--

Emmy grabs Jesse's hands and stares into his eyes.

EMMY

I don't want to hear talk like that.

JESSE

Gotta face the facts.

EMMY

You're innocent! That's the only fact that matters.

JESSE

Yeah, but that don't help when Big Jim holds all the cards.

EMMY

Big Jim doesn't control everything.

Jesse smiles as he softly touches Emmy's hair.

JESSE

You're a stubborn woman, Mrs. Hodges.

INT. DOC FRAWLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Liam enters to find Doc looking through a microscope.

LIAM

Got anything for me?

DOC FRAWLEY

I checked Jesse over and didn't see or smell any signs of gunpowder residue on his hands or clothes.

LIAM

His gun was fired once.

Doc nods as he takes a bullet from the microscope.

DOC FRAWLEY

This came from Rose. Doesn't match the bullets I pulled from Chuck Grimley. Plus the wound's different.

LIAM

So it wasn't Lonnie.

Doc reaches into a bag and removes another bullet fragment.

DOC FRAWLEY

This is the one you left. No match.

LIAM

That's one of Jesse's.

Liam pulls a bullet fragment from his pocket and places it down as Doc looks up.

LIAM

Zack's.

DOC FRAWLEY
Where did you get...?
(beat)
Nevermind.

LIAM
I'm thinkin' Zack, Big Jim, Virgil
or Roy.

DOC FRAWLEY
Won't be Jim.

LIAM
Any guesses?

DOC FRAWLEY
My money would be on Zack or Virgil.
A sidearm's not Roy's style.

LIAM
Gonna need you to testify.

Doc nods.

LIAM
Honestly.

DOC FRAWLEY
The Captain don't own me.

LIAM
The Captain? Just how do you know
him?

DOC FRAWLEY
We fought the Comanche at the Battle
of Plum Creek.

LIAM
Texas? That was thirty years ago.

Liam walks toward the door.

LIAM
I need to see where Rose was killed
and I need some witnesses with me.

DOC FRAWLEY
I can be there, but you're gonna
have to ask the Sheriff for access.

LIAM
Can we trust him?

DOC FRAWLEY
Absolutely not. But he can get us
into the room.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Liam enters and nods to Sheriff Sloan.

INT. JAIL CELL WALKWAY - DAY

Emmy and Jesse are holding hands as Liam approaches.

LIAM
You two okay?

Emmy smiles sadly and nods.

LIAM
I'll get you a room at the hotel.

EMMY
I'm stayin' with Jesse.

LIAM
The Sheriff?

EMMY
Told him I'm not leavin'. I'll bunk
down in the empty cell.

LIAM
(to Jesse)
Get some sleep tonight. Tomorrow's
gonna be a long day.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Liam sees the Sheriff speaking with ELIAS TUTTLE (30s), a
tall, rangy man.

SHERIFF SLOAN
(to Liam)
This here's my Deputy, Elias Tuttle.
What can I do for you?

LIAM
I want to see where the woman was
killed.

Sheriff Sloan stares at Liam and nods to Elias.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Take Mr. Slater on over.
(to Liam)
Don't want no more trouble.

LIAM
Won't come from me.

Elias stands by the front door. Liam pauses in front of Sheriff Sloan. He leans close.

LIAM
No harm better come to them.

SHERIFF SLOAN
You threatening me?

Sheriff Sloan looks up into Liam's cold stare and backs away.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam and Elias enter and approach Doc.

Zack and Virgil drink at the end of the bar while Lonnie stands outside of Big Jim's door cleaning his gun. Zack stares at Liam as Big Jim and Roy step out of the office.

BIG JIM
(to Liam)
Thought I told you not to come back?

LIAM
Need to take a look at the room.

BIG JIM
And what makes you think I'll let that happen?

LIAM
Judge Meachum won't take kindly if I have to tell him you denied Jesse's lawyer access to the crime scene.

Big Jim pauses and then nods toward the stairs. Liam, Doc and Elias walk up the stairs. Gracie and a customer pass them as they walk down.

BIG JIM
Gracie. My office, now!

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Big Jim closes the door after Gracie enters. He grabs her and throws her up against the wall.

BIG JIM
You were with that cowboy the other day. What did he want?

GRACIE

Same as every other horny asshole
who walks in this place. What's
your problem, Big Jim?

Big Jim slaps her face. He pulls out a gun and holds it to
her head.

BIG JIM

Don't ever lie to me, Gracie.

GRACIE

He asked about the shooting. But I
didn't tell him anything. I swear.

BIG JIM

And you'd better not or you might
end up like Rose. Now get the fuck
out of here.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - BEDROOM - DAY

Liam and Doc enter the room while Elias stands by the door.
Liam looks over at the bed and then walks around the room.

LIAM

(pointing to the bed)
That where you found her?

DOC FRAWLEY

She was lying face up with a bloody
pillow nearby.

Liam looks down at the dusty floor. He sees a clean, round
area. Liam bends down, moves the rug over and it perfectly
covers the clean area. He sees a hole in the floor that was
covered.

LIAM

Anyone got a knife or something sharp?

Elias reaches into his pocket, pulls out a small knife and
hands it to Liam. Liam pries at the hole. He digs out a
spent bullet and looks at it. He hands it up to Doc.

LIAM

Bet that's from Jesse's gun.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Liam approaches Doc's office when the door opens and Big Jim
exits. They stare at each other. Big Jim walks past Liam.

INT. DOC FRAWLEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Liam enters and is greeted by Daisy and her excited puppies as Doc comes out from the back room buttoning up his shirt. Liam holds out a bottle of whiskey.

DOC FRAWLEY

Let's take a walk.
(nodding at the dogs)
Need to exercise 'em a bit.

EXT. FIELDS BEHIND DOC'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The dogs run around and relieve themselves as Doc takes the bottle from Liam. He takes a swig and passes it back.

DOC FRAWLEY

Guess you saw Jim leavin'.

LIAM

None of my concern.

One of the puppies, excitedly, approaches Liam.

DOC FRAWLEY

He likes you.

Liam bends down, picks up the puppy and smiles.

LIAM

You're a rascal, aren't you?

The dog licks Liam's face. Liam places the dog down, drinks from the bottle and passes it back to Doc.

DOC FRAWLEY

You know Jim ain't all bad.

LIAM

Never said he was.

Doc pauses to sip his drink.

DOC FRAWLEY

He was a good soldier, a good
leader...but headstrong, always
wantin' to do things his own way.

(beat)

During one battle in Texas some men
were being overrun and he wanted to
charge to their rescue. He was told
to stand fast but he just couldn't
do that.

Doc takes another swig and hands the bottle to Liam.

DOC FRAWLEY

He saved many lives that day and suffered serious wounds in doing so. But he also disobeyed a direct order and in accordance with military law, had to pay the price.

Doc gazes off in the distance.

DOC FRAWLEY

They stripped him of everything he was and ever wanted to be. Was never the same after that. Jim decided to make his own rules and he knew how to manipulate the law to his favor.

Doc turns and stares at Liam.

DOC FRAWLEY

I love the man and I won't do anything to cause him harm. But I won't lie for him and he knows that.

INT. TOWN STABLE - NIGHT

Liam, sleeping in the loft, awakens to the sound of horses rustling about below. He grabs his rifle and looks down to see Gracie saddling one of the horses.

LIAM

Leavin' town?

Gracie jumps back, looks up as Liam climbs down the ladder.

GRACIE

Let me be.

Gracie mounts the horse. Liam approaches and grabs the reins.

LIAM

Need you to testify.

GRACIE

Big Jim ain't gonna let that happen. I'll be as dead as Rose. Gonna ride as fast and as far away from this godforsaken town as I can.

Gracie stares at Liam.

GRACIE

You gonna stop me?

LIAM

You'll be livin' the rest of your life lookin' over your shoulder.

GRACIE
I'll take my chances.

LIAM
There's an innocent man sittin' in
jail who's got a wife and two children
wondering if they're ever gonna see
him again.

Gracie closes her eyes, shakes her head and looks away.

GRACIE
Not my concern.

LIAM
I can keep you safe.

GRACIE
(smirking)
Nice knowin' you, Liam.

Liam stares at the front of the stable.

LIAM
Wait.

He leads Gracie's horse to the back door of the stable.

LIAM
Leave this way and go quietly.

Gracie looks at Liam, puzzled. He nods toward the opening.
Gracie slowly moves her horse out as Liam walks to the front.

EXT. TOWN STABLE - NIGHT

Liam exits the stable and looks around.

LIAM
Show yourself.

Virgil approaches from the shadows, gun in hand.

LIAM
What's your business, son?

Zack approaches from Liam's side and knocks him out with his
pistol. Big Jim, Zack and Virgil stand over Liam. Zack
aims his gun at Liam. Big Jim slaps Zack's hand down.

BIG JIM
Tie him up and take care of him away
from town.

ZACK
Be my pleasure.

BIG JIM
Not you. Virgil.

ZACK
I owe him.

BIG JIM
Mistakes are made when it's personal.
(to Virgil)
After you're done with him, track
down Gracie and don't come back till
it's done.

EXT. THE PLAINS - NIGHT

Virgil, riding behind a groggy Liam, has his gun pointed at Liam's back as they trot toward a large rock formation.

VIRGIL
This is far enough. Get down.

Hands tied, Liam struggles to dismount. Virgil dismounts and shoves Liam toward the rocks.

LIAM
Gonna shoot me in the back?

VIRGIL
Turn around.

Liam turns and stares at Virgil. He starts coughing and holds up his hands.

VIRGIL
If you're a prayin' man, now's the
time.

Liam gazes into the distance as Virgil cocks his weapon.

Gracie rushes Virgil and strikes him with a rock. Virgil falls away and turns on Gracie, shoving her to the ground.

Liam swings both hands down on Virgil's arm, knocking the gun out of his hands. As Virgil turns, Liam swings again into Virgil's face. Virgil stumbles back as Liam strikes him again. Virgil collapses.

Liam reaches down and grabs Virgil's knife. He helps Gracie to her feet, hands her the knife and she cuts him free.

GRACIE
Saw what they did. Figured Virgil
wouldn't stop till he tracked me
down.

LIAM

Lucky for me.

GRACIE

You said you can keep me safe but
now I'm havin' second thoughts.

LIAM

(smiling)

Trust me.

Gracie shakes her head and looks toward Virgil.

GRACIE

What about him?

LIAM

When he wakes up, he can walk back
to town. I'd take him to the Sheriff
but I don't think our word would
account for much.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Liam lightly knocks on a door as Gracie stands nervously to his side. The door opens and Liam faces a gun held by Judge Meachum (60s). Judge Meachum stares at Liam.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Bill Slattery?

Judge Meachum reaches out and hands Liam his gun.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Here. Hold this.

Liam takes the gun and Judge Meachum hauls off and punches Liam in the face, dropping him to the floor.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Been waiting twenty-five years to do
that.

Gracie helps Liam to his feet as Judge Meachum takes back his gun. He motions for them to enter.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Liam holds his cheek as Gracie helps him to a chair. She stares at Liam.

GRACIE

Bill Slattery?

LIAM

It's who I used to be.

Judge Meachum turns his attention to Gracie.

JUDGE MEACHUM
And who is this pretty young lady?

LIAM
Gracie Clanton, I want you to meet
the Honorable John Henry Meachum.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - MORNING

Big Jim sits at his desk talking to Zack.

BIG JIM
What do you mean Gracie's gone?

VIRGIL (O.S.)
She's with Liam.

Big Jim looks up at Virgil who stands by the door holding his head. He rises and approaches. He pulls Virgil into the office, shuts the door and slams him against the wall.

BIG JIM
What the fuck are you talking about?
Why isn't he dead?

VIRGIL
She must've followed us.

Big Jim pulls out a gun and jams it into Virgil's face.

BIG JIM
Where the fuck are they?

VIRGIL
Don't know. When I came to, my horse
was gone. Had to walk back to town.

Big Jim slams his fist into Virgil's stomach. Virgil slumps to the floor. Big Jim stands over him and cocks the gun, aiming at Virgil's head.

BIG JIM
I'm through giving you second chances.

Lonnie walks in.

LONNIE
Trial's about to start.

Big Jim kicks Virgil in the side.

BIG JIM
Get the fuck out of my sight.

Virgil scrambles to his feet and exits the room. Big Jim takes out a cigar as he looks up at Lonnie.

BIG JIM

Got a job for you and Roy.

He lights a match and pulls the flame to the cigar.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - MORNING

The saloon is set up like a courtroom. All the seats are full. Roy stands by the front door as Ken, Zack and Virgil sit in the back. Lonnie walks over to Roy and whispers in his ear. They both exit.

Liam walks in and glances over at Virgil. He approaches Jesse and sits down next to him. Tommy is at another table while the JURY is seated along the wall to Jesse's left.

Emmy sits behind her husband. They hold hands.

Elias stands off to the side by Jesse while Sheriff Sloan sits nearby, glancing around the room. Big Jim exits his office and stands at the end of the bar staring at Liam.

The BAILIFF (60s) enters from another room.

BAILIFF

All rise.

Judge Meachum enters, sits in his chair and motions for all to be seated. He glances at Liam and nods.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to Big Jim)

I want to thank Mr. McDuff for allowing us the use of his establishment for the proceedings.

BIG JIM

My pleasure, Your Honor.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to the courtroom)

Let me explain how my courtroom works. I speak. The Prosecutor speaks, the witnesses speak...and the defense attorney speaks. I don't want to hear any other sounds comin' from anyone else. Raise your hands if you understand.

Slowly, all the people in the room raise their hands. The Judge looks at the Sheriff.

JUDGE MEACHUM
Everyone turn in their weapons?

Sheriff Sloan purses his lips and nods to the back of the room where Zack stands, gun in holster.

JUDGE MEACHUM
What's your name, Son?

ZACK
Zack McLeary.

JUDGE MEACHUM
Well, Mr. McLeary, we've established you understand English, so I can only conclude you're just plain stupid.

Zack lowers his hand toward his weapon. Judge Meachum stands and pulls back his robe, revealing his gun.

JUDGE MEACHUM
We can do this any way you want to, but I strongly recommend you hand over your firearm. Either that or decide who will receive your worldly possessions.

Big Jim coughs and shakes his head. Zack raises his arm and allows the Sheriff to take his gun.

JUDGE MEACHUM
Wise decision. Now please be seated so we can get on with this trial.
(beat)
Seems we have a situation where a woman was shot and killed right upstairs and Mr. Jesse Hodges has been charged with the crime.

Judge Meachum nods at Tommy.

JUDGE MEACHUM
State your legal name and what you're doing here.

TOMMY
Thomas A. Moyer, prosecutor representing the Territory of Wyoming.

Judge Meachum looks at Liam.

LIAM
William Slattery for the defense.

JUDGE MEACHUM
 (to Tommy)
 Please proceed, Mr. Moyer.

TOMMY
 I call to the stand Ken Sheen.

BIG JIM...waves Sheriff Sloan over as Ken Sheen walks to the witness chair, swears on the Bible and sits.

BIG JIM
 Who the hell is William Slattery?

SHERIFF SLOAN
 Son of a bitch. Knew I recognized him. He was sheriff in a town in Colorado years ago.

BIG JIM
 So?

SHERIFF SLOAN
 He gunned down Lonnie's father, Sebastian Moss.

TOMMY...approaches the witness stand.

TOMMY
 Mr. Sheen. You were the bartender on the night in question. Please enlighten us as to what occurred.

KEN
 Well, the saloon was crowded what with all the cowpokes comin' in after the cattle drive.

TOMMY
 What about Mr. Hodges?

KEN
 He come in and stood at the bar. He already seemed to have a snootful.

Judge Meachum raises an eyebrow and looks over at Liam.

JUDGE MEACHUM
 Mr. Slattery. Any objections?

LIAM
 No, Judge. I'll address that later.

JUDGE MEACHUM
 (to Tommy)
 Continue.

BIG JIM...turns to Sheriff Sloan.

BIG JIM
Find something on him.

Sheriff Sloan exits.

LIAM...approaches Ken.

LIAM
Mr. Hodges come in here a lot?

KEN
Not too often.

Liam walks around behind the bar, grabs a bottle of whiskey and places it on the bar.

LIAM
This what he was drinking?

KEN
Yeah.

Liam reaches down and pulls up a shotgun and a small glass container with an eyedropper attached. He unloads the weapon and places it on the bar. He gazes at the glass container.

LIAM
What's this concoction?

KEN
Sugar water for coffee.

Liam walks over to Doc and holds it out to him. Doc takes the bottle and sniffs. He squeezes out a drop onto his finger to taste it. He shakes his head at Liam.

LIAM
(turns to Ken)
How could you tell Mr. Hodges was drunk?

KEN
Well, he was slurring his words and was unsteady on his feet. Rose had to help him up the stairs.

EXT. TOWN STABLE - DAY

Lonnie and Roy mount their horses and ride away.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Big Jim confers with Tommy as Judge Meachum gazes over.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Mr. Moyer?

Tommy approaches the bench as Liam joins him.

TOMMY

It has come to my attention that Mr. Slattery may not in fact be a lawyer.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to Liam)

Bill?

LIAM

I spent ten years studying law in England and practicing in Ireland.

TOMMY

(laughing)

England and Ireland. Your Honor?

LIAM

Then I returned, got my papers back east where I worked until the war.

Liam takes some papers from his pocket and hands them to Judge Meachum. Judge Meachum studies them and looks at Tommy.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Continue Mr. Moyer.

TOMMY

Big Jim McDuff.

Big Jim walks over and places his hand on the Bible.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth?

BIG JIM

(smiling)

I always tell the truth.

The saloon erupts with LAUGHTER as Big Jim sits down.

TOMMY

What did Mr. Hodges want to speak with you about?

BIG JIM

I make loans to a lot of homesteaders around these parts to help them out when times are tough.

(MORE)

BIG JIM (CONT'D)

Well, Jesse owes me some money and he was askin' for an extension as he didn't have enough to make his payment. I told him I would think about it after checking over my records.

Jesse jumps up and glares at Big Jim.

JESSE

You're a goddamn liar!

MURMURS ripple through the saloon as Judge Meachum POUNDS his gavel and looks at Liam.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Control your client or I will have him removed from my courtroom.

Liam pulls a reluctant Jesse back down into his seat.

LIAM...approaches Big Jim.

LIAM

It's kinda funny. Jesse just come off a cattle drive with a pocket full of cash. I wonder why he just didn't pay you the money he owed.

BIG JIM

Can't speak for what goes on in a man's mind.

LIAM

I understand Rose was about to leave you to tend to her sick mother. Did you have a problem with that?

BIG JIM

Rose wasn't going anywhere. She loved the job and the money too much. Of course, if she were serious, no one was gonna stop her. She could leave anytime she wanted with my blessing.

Some in the courtroom snicker as Liam returns to his seat.

TOMMY...approaches Doc Frawley, who sits in the witness chair.

TOMMY

Tell me, Doc, what did you find when you arrived on the scene?

DOC FRAWLEY

Rose. Dead. One bullet through the heart. Shot at close range.

TOMMY

When you checked over Mr. Hodges, was he covered with blood?

LIAM

(rising)
Objection. Leading.

TOMMY

What did your examination of Mr. Hodges show?

DOC FRAWLEY

He had a bump on his head and a sizable amount of blood over his clothes and body.

TOMMY

Was the blood his?

DOC FRAWLEY

No.

TOMMY

(walking away)
Thank you, Doc.

LIAM

(to the Judge)
I have no questions now but I'd like to recall the doc later.

Judge Meachum nods as Doc walks back to his seat.

TOMMY

The prosecution rests.

JUDGE MEACHUM

I believe it's time to call a lunch break. Everyone is to return in exactly two hours.

Judge Meachum SLAMS his gavel down.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Big Jim sits behind his desk looking at Tommy while Zack stands off to the side.

BIG JIM

This better end up right.

TOMMY

Relax, Big Jim. He was seen with her walking up to the room and in the morning he was found next to the dead body, covered in her blood.

Big Jim stares at Tommy and then waves him off. Tommy rises and exits. Big Jim opens a desk drawer, pulls out a derringer and hands it to Zack.

BIG JIM

Coverin' all my bets. I'll let you know when it's time.

Sheriff Sloan enters as Zack exits.

BIG JIM

Got anything?

Sheriff Sloan hands Big Jim some papers.

INT. DOC FRAWLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Big Jim sits facing the door as he and Doc play chess. Daisy lies on the floor by Doc as he makes a move.

DOC FRAWLEY

It's not right what you're doing.

Big Jim smiles as he holds up the arrowhead.

BIG JIM

We've been through a lot together since you pulled this out of my back. But you know who I am and what I'll always be. I truly respect your honesty and such...

DOC FRAWLEY

I know, Jim. But people get hurt.

BIG JIM

We're on a journey here, Doc...and in order to reach the promised land sacrifices must be made.

(beat)

I do what I gotta do.

Big Jim puts the arrowhead down and makes his move.

DOC FRAWLEY

Me too, Jim.

Big Jim nods as Doc moves his piece and tips over Big Jim's king. Virgil walks in.

VIRGIL

Judge wants us back in the saloon.

Big Jim waves him off. Virgil leaves. Big Jim smiles sadly at Doc as he stands up. He stares into Doc's eyes as he pats his shoulder. Doc pats Big Jim's hand.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Lonnie and Roy ride hard and fast.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Judge Meachum returns with Gracie at his side. Big Jim glares at her and then at Virgil as Judge Meachum nods to Liam.

LIAM

The defense calls Gracie Clanton.

Judge Meachum helps Gracie to the witness chair as they share a smile. The Bailiff approaches Gracie.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth?

GRACIE

Of course, Darlin'.

Gracie sits down and glares defiantly at Big Jim. Sheriff Sloan enters and walks over to Big Jim. He whispers in his ear and shows him some papers.

LIAM

You were there on the night in question. Did you have any contact with Mr. Hodges?

GRACIE

Not as much as I'd have liked.

CHUCKLES from the crowd. Liam smiles.

LIAM

Tell us about your, uh, contact.

GRACIE

I noticed him when he first came in. He was standing at the bar drinking coffee...

LIAM

Coffee? Not whiskey?

GRACIE

Well, I took it to be coffee.

(MORE)

GRACIE (CONT'D)

Anyway, I walk over and ask if he's interested in some company for a good time and he tells me straight out, thanks but no thanks. He just wanted to speak with Big Jim.

LIAM

What happened next?

GRACIE

After the ruckus with Anna and Lonnie, I see Rose helpin' "Mr. I'm married" up the stairs.

LIAM

Then what?

GRACIE

A few minutes later, I make my own business transaction and take the lucky cuss to my office...upstairs. Well, after a while, we're in the process of consummatin' the deal and I hear men's voices comin' from the next room. Then I hear what sounds like a muffled pop.

LIAM

Thank you, Miss Clanton.

Liam walks away as Tommy saunters over.

TOMMY

Gracie, you're a whore, right?

JUDGE MEACHUM

Mr. Moyer. You will show her the courtesy of addressing her respectfully.

TOMMY

Sorry, Your Honor. Miss Clanton, you're a whore, right?

GRACIE

A damn good one, too. Ask any man here, they'll tell you.

CHUCKLES from the crowd.

TOMMY

Part of your job is to lie...so why should we believe anything you say?

Gracie sits up and stares at Tommy.

GRACIE

And you're a lawyer. Most of your job is to lie. So why should we believe anything you say?

SHERIFF SLOAN...enters and walks up to Liam.

SHERIFF SLOAN

William Slattery. You're under arrest for the murder of Sebastian Moss and bank robberies in Texas.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Sarah and Johnny exit the barn as Nancy stares off in the distance and sees the dust of two riders approaching.

NANCY

Quick. Up on the wagon.

Sarah and Johnny hop onto to the wagon. Nancy mounts. She snaps the reins and the horses gallop toward the path leading to the lake.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Sheriff Sloan, Tommy and Liam stand before Judge Meachum.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to Sheriff Sloan)

What is this all about?

Sheriff Sloan hands Judge Meachum some papers. He reads through the material and looks back at Sheriff Sloan.

JUDGE MEACHUM

This warrant for the murder of Sebastian Moss is twenty-five years old and it's horseshit. I cleared Mr. Slattery because he shot Moss while performing his duties as sheriff.

(beat)

Now what's this about Mr. Slattery and this other crime?

SHERIFF SLOAN

On July tenth, eighteen sixty-three Mr. Slattery robbed a bank in Laredo, Texas.

Judge Meachum scans the warrants.

JUDGE MEACHUM

This only provides a description. How do you know it was Mr. Slattery?

SHERIFF SLOAN

I was a witness.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Lonnie and Roy ride onto the property. Lonnie looks down at the wagon wheel tracks and then up at the path.

LONNIE

Someone just left here in a hurry.

He motions for Roy to check it out. Roy gallops up the path as Lonnie dismounts.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Judge Meachum stares at Liam as he hands him the warrant.

JUDGE MEACHUM

What about this, Bill?

LIAM

Wasn't me.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Got an alibi?

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Roy rides back and approaches Lonnie.

ROY

Three people in a wagon riding hard around the lake. Want me to take care of them?

LONNIE

Ain't got the time. Let's do what we came here to do and get back to town. You check out the barn and I'll do the cabin.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam reads through the warrant and glances at Sheriff Sloan.

LIAM

For one thing I've never been to Texas. For another, I was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg on July third, eighteen sixty-three and spent two months in a hospital.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Can you prove it?

Liam unbuttons his shirt and shows his chest wound.

SHERIFF SLOAN
That proves nothing.

Judge Meachum shakes his head.

JUDGE MEACHUM
(to Sheriff Sloan)
Take Mr. Slattery and Mr. Hodges
back over to the jail.

Jesse hands Emmy Liam's law book and points to a page as Sheriff Sloan motions for Liam to exit the saloon.

EMMY (O.S.)
Your honor?

All eyes turn to Emmy who holds up Liam's book.

EMMY
I think this will clear up the matter.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Lonnie exits the cabin. He holds a long, thick stick wrapped with hay. He lights the end and tosses it through the front door. The inside of the cabin erupts in flames.

Roy exits the barn and approaches Lonnie with a gun in his hand. He gives it to Lonnie.

ROY
What do you make of this?

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Emmy hands the book to Judge Meachum.

JUDGE MEACHUM
A law book?

JESSE
Look at the inscription.

Judge Meachum opens the book and studies the hand writing which shows:

"William, Your sacrifice shall not have been in vain nor will it ever be forgotten. A. Lincoln 10 July, 1863"

JUDGE MEACHUM
(to Sheriff Sloan)
You and I will have words later.

EXT. EMMY'S YARD - DAY

Lonnie stares at the gun which shows: S M

LONNIE

Where did you find this?

ROY

Buried under some hay by his belongings.

Lonnie sprints to his horse, mounts up and rides away. Roy lights a torch and throws it into the barn. As the cabin and barn burn, Roy mounts his horse and rides after Lonnie.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam turns to Doc Frawley.

LIAM

I'd like to recall Doc Frawley.

Doc walks over to the witness chair.

JUDGE MEACHUM

You're still under oath, Doc.

Doc nods and sits down. Liam picks up a bullet and hands it to Doc.

LIAM

Is this the bullet that killed Rose?

DOC FRAWLEY

Yes.

LIAM

Did it come from Mr. Hodges' gun?

DOC FRAWLEY

No.

TOMMY

(rising)

Objection.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Counselors, approach the bench.

Liam and Tommy approach and stand before Judge Meachum.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to Liam)

Just what do you think you're trying to accomplish here?

LIAM

A bullet fired from a gun leaves certain markings. I'm trying to prove that the bullet fired from Jesse's gun could not have killed the victim.

TOMMY

Your Honor, I have never heard of such a thing.

LIAM

(to Tommy)

General Stonewall Jackson was shot and killed by one of his own men in eighteen sixty-three. When they removed the bullet, they found it to be a sixty-seven caliber ball projectile typical of those used by his forces. The Union soldiers used the fifty-eight caliber Minnie ball in their rifles.

TOMMY

Your Honor...

Judge Meachum waves him off.

JUDGE MEACHUM

(to Liam)

That's all very interesting, Mr. Slattery but this is an inexact science and I'm going to sustain Mr. Moyer's objection. Move on.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Roy catches up to Lonnie as they ride hard and fast.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam walks over to the bar. He grabs a bottle of whiskey and a shot glass. He pours a small amount in the glass and places it in front of Jesse. He approaches Doc.

LIAM

I want to talk about poor reactions to alcohol for a minute.

TOMMY

Your Honor, relevance?

Judge Meachum raises an eyebrow and looks at Liam.

LIAM

If the court will indulge me for just a minute, this is an important subject in order to prove the innocence of Jesse Hodges.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Make it quick.

LIAM

What are the symptoms if someone can't tolerate whiskey?

DOC FRAWLEY

Immediate flushing of the skin, abdominal discomfort and vomiting.

LIAM

Is it fatal?

DOC FRAWLEY

Can be, depending on the amount ingested. A little won't kill a person but it will make him very sick for a short period of time.

Liam walks back to his table and picks up the bottle he found behind the bar. He walks over and hands it to Doc.

LIAM

This is the bottle I found behind the bar that Mr. Sheen claimed was sugar water. What is it?

DOC FRAWLEY

Chloral hydrate.

LIAM

And what does this do to a person?

DOC FRAWLEY

Initially, it will cause slurred speech and unsteadiness. Eventually, it will put you to sleep like a baby.

LIAM

(to Judge Meachum)

I need the Doc to attend to Jesse.

Judge Meachum gives Liam a puzzled look and then nods to Doc, who stands up and walks over to Jesse. He sits down as Liam approaches and hands the shot glass to Jesse.

LIAM

Sorry, Jesse. But it's important to do this.

Jesse smiles weakly and takes a sip of the whiskey. Doc holds out a bucket as Jesse's face turns red and he grabs his stomach. He vomits into the bucket as Doc holds him.

JUDGE MEACHUM

We'll take a fifteen minute recess.

Emmy comes to Jesse's side and helps him to his feet. She stares up at Liam.

EMMY

He gonna be free?

LIAM

(worried)

Don't know.

EMMY

(pleading)

Liam?

Liam ponders and then grins.

LIAM

Where's the butcher shop?

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Doc is back on the stand as a sickly Jesse is being held by Emmy. Judge Meachum looks at Emmy.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Where's your lawyer?

Emmy shrugs as Judge Meachum looks around the courtroom.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Anybody seen Mr. Slater?

Liam walks in, carrying part of a pig carcass.

LIAM

Sorry I'm late.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Fixin' on a barbecue?

Liam smiles and slams the carcass on the bar.

TOMMY

(rising)

Your Honor, now what is he doing?

JUDGE MEACHUM

Approach.

Liam and Tommy approach the Judge.

JUDGE MEACHUM
Mr. Slattery?

LIAM
Bullets fired from different caliber
guns will cause different kinds of
wounds as they enter a body.

TOMMY
Judge. You've already ruled on this
bullet matching fantasy concocted by
Mr. Slattery and--

LIAM
This is not about the bullets so
much as it's about the wound...and
I've got an expert on the stand who
has seen and examined a lot of firearm
injuries.

TOMMY
Your Honor...

JUDGE MEACHUM
Pipe down, Mr. Moyer. I wanna see
what he's up to.

Tommy storms back to his seat as Liam turns to Doc.

LIAM
Doc, you were in the army and must
have treated hundreds of bullet wounds
from rifles to handguns.

DOC FRAWLEY
More than I'd like to remember.

Liam holds up Jesse's gun.

LIAM
This is Mr. Hodges' gun. It's an
eighteen forty-nine pocket Smith &
Wesson, thirty-two caliber.

Liam walks over to the pig carcass, picks up a pillow and
FIRES the gun into the carcass, stunning the crowd. Tommy
jumps to his feet.

TOMMY
This is absurd, Your Honor!

JUDGE MEACHUM
Sit down, Mr. Moyer.

Tommy sits as Liam walks over to Elias, who hands him another gun. Liam approaches the pig carcass, picks up the pillow and FIRES the gun into carcass.

LIAM
(to the Judge)
I'd like Doc to examine both wounds.

Judge Meachum nods to Doc, who rises and approaches the pig carcass. He closely examines one wound and then the other. He returns to the witness chair. Liam approaches with a gun in each hand.

LIAM
Did either of those wounds match the wound that killed Rose?

DOC FRAWLEY
Yes.

LIAM
How could you tell the difference?

DOC FRAWLEY
The first entry wound in the carcass was smaller and cleaner. The other caused a lot more damage.

Liam holds up Jesse's gun.

LIAM
This is Mr. Hodges' gun. A lot of folks in town carry this type of weapon.

Liam holds up the other gun.

LIAM
This is a percussion six-shot cap and ball and was made in Georgia. Which weapon was used to kill Rose?

Doc points to the percussion six-shot.

DOC FRAWLEY
Jesse's gun didn't kill Rose.

The crowd becomes loud and vocal. Big Jim nods at Zack, who moves toward Virgil. Judge Meachum POUNDS the gavel to quiet the courtroom. He looks at Liam.

JUDGE MEACHUM
Whose weapon is that?

LIAM

Only one person in town carries a gun like this because he fought for the South.

Liam turns and looks at Virgil. Zack thrusts the derringer into Virgil's hand. Virgil stands up.

ZACK

He's got a gun.

Virgil, frightened, moves toward the front door of the saloon holding the gun above his head. A SHOT is fired and explodes into Virgil's forehead.

Everyone gasps as Virgil falls to the floor. Big Jim holds a smoking gun as he stares at where Virgil once stood. He places the gun on the bar. Judge Meachum POUNDS his gavel.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Emmy and Jesse prepare to climb onto their wagon as Liam approaches holding a puppy. He hands the dog to a smiling Emmy. Jesse shakes Liam's hand.

LIAM

Go see your children. They need to be with their father and you need to be with them.

Jesse climbs onto the wagon and Emmy hands the puppy to him. Emmy gazes up at Liam and hugs him.

LIAM

I'll meet up with you all later. I need to speak with the Judge.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Liam enters and sees Judge Meachum sitting at a table having a drink with Gracie. Liam sits as Gracie hands him her glass. She grabs the bottle and pours him a drink.

LIAM

Where you headin'?

GRACIE

I hear Texas is pretty country, and I want to see Rose's mom.

LIAM

Will you have any trouble leavin'?

GRACIE

The Judge asked me to ride along with him when he leaves. Took him up on the offer.

LIAM

You're a good woman, Gracie Clanton.

Gracie winks as she turns to leave.

GRACIE

Not too good, Mr. Slater.

Liam watches as she walks up the stairs.

LIAM

Guess Big Jim will get away with killin' Virgil.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Yep.

(beat)

So what now? You movin' on?

LIAM

Ain't over yet. Big Jim's not the kind to let things go unfinished.

Judge Meachum nods as he a sips his drink.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Times are a changin' what with the railroad and all. Soon everyone will have to abide by the written law. There's a movement to give women the right to vote, and I suspect they'll be servin' on juries, too.

LIAM

They can't mess it up any more than we have.

INT. BIG JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Big Jim sits at his desk as Zack walks in.

ZACK

They're all headin' out. We gonna do anything?

BIG JIM

We'll wait for Lonnie and Roy.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Liam rides alongside of Judge Meachum and Gracie who are in a wagon. They come to a fork in the road and stop.

JUDGE MEACHUM

Guess this is where we part company.

Liam nods and looks back at Gracie.

LIAM

Make him an honest man, Gracie.

GRACIE

No promises.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Ken pours Big Jim a drink as Lonnie storms in.

LONNIE

Where the fuck is he?

Roy enters.

BIG JIM

I suspect on his way to meet up with Jesse and his family. Surprised you didn't see him on the way into town.

Lonnie rushes out the door. Big Jim smiles, looking at Roy.

ROY

We came the back way.

EXT. ROAD TO THE HODGES' CABIN - DAY

Emmy, Jesse, Sarah and Johnny ride on the wagon. Johnny holds his puppy.

JESSE

Can't help wondering who those men were Nancy said came upon our land.

As they turn a bend in the road, they see smoke coming from up ahead. Jesse snaps the reins causing the horses to move faster. As they approach their home, they see the cabin and the barn in flames.

Jesse jumps off the wagon as the barn collapses. He looks toward the burning cabin and rushes to the trough of water. He hastily fills a bucket, tosses bucket after bucket onto the fire. Emmy holds Sarah and Johnny close to her side.

EMMY

Jesse...Jesse. Stop! It's hopeless.

Jesse keeps throwing water on the fire which has now totally engulfed the cabin.

EMMY

Jesse!

Jesse collapses to the ground. Johnny and Sarah rush to him. Emmy approaches and touches his arm.

EMMY

I think it's time to move on.

Jesse rises and stares at her.

JESSE

What do you mean?

Emmy turns to Sarah.

EMMY

You and Johnny see about the horses.

Sarah leads Johnny to the wagon as Emmy turns to Jesse.

EMMY

It's not worth it. This land's too violent right now and I fear for the children.

JESSE

And what? Move to your reservation?

(beat)

No, Em. We'll rebuild. We worked too damn hard to make a home for our family and I'm not gonna be frightened off by a bunch of--

EMMY

Jesse! Think of the kids. Do you think Big Jim is gonna stop?

Jesse brushes past her as he unhitches one of the horses.

EMMY

What are you doing?

JESSE

Big Jim owes us, Emmy.

He mounts the horse.

EMMY

You're going to get yourself killed.

JESSE

This is something I gotta do.
Sometimes, the more you got to lose,
the less scared you get, and Big Jim
ain't gonna scare me no more.

EMMY

(pointing at the kids)
And what do I tell them when their
father is carried off in a box? He
was a proud, brave man who stood up
for what he believed was right?

Jesse looks down at Emmy and shakes his head.

EMMY

(tearfully)
You are a stupid, foolish white man.
(beat)
We won't be here if you get back.

Sarah, crying, runs over and grabs his leg.

SARAH

Daddy, please. Don't go.

JESSE

You go on and take care of your mother
and Johnny. I promise I'll meet up
with you all later.

Jesse reaches down and pats his daughter on her head. He
takes one more look at his family and rides away.

EXT. ROAD TO TOWN - DAY

Jesse rides hard and pulls up as he sees a rider approaching.
Liam rides up alongside of Jesse.

LIAM

Where're you headin' in such a rush?

JESSE

Big Jim burned down our place.

LIAM

Where are Emmy and the kids?

JESSE

On the way to the reservation.

LIAM

And just what are you plannin' to
accomplish?

JESSE
Gonna make Big Jim pay what he owes.

LIAM
All by yourself?

JESSE
If need be.

LIAM
Look, Jesse. I know what it's like
to lose something that matters...
but think before you run off crazy
with anger and lose what's most
important in your life.

JESSE
Don't try to stop me, Liam.

Liam punches Jesse, who falls to the ground. Liam hops off his horse, grabs a rope, ties Jesse up and hauls him over his horse.

EXT. ROAD TO THE RESERVATION - DAY

Emmy, Sarah and Johnny ride on the wagon. Johnny turns and sees a rider coming up, followed by a horse with a body draped over the saddle.

JOHNNY
It's Liam!

Emmy pulls on the reins to stop the wagon. Liam pulls up his horse and hops off. Johnny and Sarah jump from the wagon and run to him. They hug. Emmy walks over to the horse where Jesse is tied.

LIAM
Had to stop him from doing something
stupid.

Liam hands Jesse's gun to Emmy. She tucks it into her waistband as Liam pulls an unconscious Jesse from the horse and throws him on the back of the wagon.

EMMY
I'm concerned about Nancy.

LIAM
I'll check on her and meet up with
you all at the reservation.

Liam hugs Sarah and Johnny. Emmy approaches. Liam squeezes her shoulder as he hops on his horse. Liam grabs Jesse's horse by the reins.

LIAM

Just to make sure Jesse can't come
ridin' back. I'll leave the horse
at Nancy's.

EXT. ROAD TO THE RESERVATION - DAY

Emmy drives the wagon with Jesse and the kids by her side.
Emmy looks over at a brooding Jesse.

EMMY

He did what was right.

Jesse shakes his head.

JESSE

It's my job to do for my family.

EMMY

It's your job to be here for your
family and not lyin' dead in some
town street because of your damn
fool pride.

Sarah looks back and sees a rider quickly approaching.

SARAH

Liam's come back.

JESSE

That's not Liam.

Lonnie rides up and pulls out his gun.

LONNIE

Everybody, off the wagon. Hands
where I can see 'em.

No one moves. Lonnie FIRES a shot into the air.

LONNIE

Now!

Jesse hops off and helps Sarah and Johnny down as Emmy climbs
down. Emmy comes around as Johnny runs to her side. Sarah
hugs her father.

LONNIE

Where is he?

JESSE

Who?

Lonnie FIRES into the ground by Jesse's feet.

LONNIE

Don't be stupid. Where is he?

EMMY

Probably heading back to Colorado.

Lonnie aims his weapon at Sarah.

LONNIE

Girl, you come on over here.

Jesse moves in front of Sarah. Lonnie shoots Jesse in the shoulder. He falls to the ground as Sarah SCREAMS.

Emmy and Johnny rush to Jesse's side. Lonnie rides over and scoops Sarah up onto his lap. She struggles fiercely. Emmy runs at him and grabs his leg.

EMMY

Let her go, you bastard!

Lonnie kicks Emmy in the chest. She falls to the ground.

LONNIE

You tell him I'll be waiting. And
if anyone follows or comes after me
but Liam...she dies.

Lonnie turns his horse and rides away. Emmy rises and rushes to the wagon to grab the gun. She hears Sarah scream.

SARAH

Mommy!

Tears in her eyes, she aims the gun at the departing figures. She slowly lowers it.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Daddy's hurt real bad.

EXT. THE PLAINS - DAY

Lonnie rides holding Sarah who turns her head to Lonnie.

SARAH

You gonna hurt me?

Lonnie ignores her.

SARAH

Why'd you shoot my daddy?

Lonnie shakes his head.

SARAH

I asked you a question. Why'd you shoot--

LONNIE

Just shut up. I could'a killed him and left you without a father like your friend Liam did me.

Lonnie snaps the reins to urge his horse forward.

EXT. RESERVATION - DAY

Liam rides through the Indian village and sees Johnny sitting outside of one of the tents playing with his puppy. He stops and dismounts. Johnny turns to see him and runs to his arms.

JOHNNY

(crying)
Liam.

LIAM

What's wrong, Boy?

JOHNNY

He shot my dad...and took Sarah.

LIAM

Who?

EMMY (O.S.)

(tearfully)
Lonnie Moss.

Liam puts Johnny down and turns to Emmy.

LIAM

Why?

EMMY

He was looking for you.

Emmy enters the tent as Liam follows.

INT. TENT - DAY

Emmy tends to an unconscious Jesse. Liam places a hand on Emmy's shoulder.

LIAM

How is he?

EMMY

Infection's under control so I think he'll be okay...but we've got to get Sarah.

Liam pulls away and charges out of the tent. Emmy follows.

EXT. RESERVATION - DAY

Liam and Emmy step out of the tent as CHIEF WHITE CLOUD (50s), a powerfully built man with braided hair, approaches. Liam and Chief White Cloud clasp forearms and embrace.

CHIEF WHITE CLOUD
Welcome, brother.

Liam walks over to his horse and removes his gun and holster from the saddlebag.

He straps on the holster and takes out the gun. He loads it and slams it back into the holster.

Johnny rushes over and grabs Liam's leg. Liam smiles and bends down.

LIAM
Your parents want what's best for
you and right now they need you to
be strong. Can you do that?

Johnny nods and Liam hugs him. Liam walks his horse over to Chief White Cloud. They embrace.

LIAM
(turning to Emmy)
You gonna stay here?

EMMY
I can't live and raise my family in
the white man's world.

LIAM
Nothin' you done wrong, Emmy. Give
it a little time and some thought.

Emmy smiles through her tears and embraces him. Liam holds her face between his two hands and kisses her on the forehead.

LIAM
I'll see that she comes home to you,
alain cailin.

Liam mounts his horse. He reaches into his saddlebag and removes an envelope. He hands it to Emmy.

Emmy looks into the envelope and then up at Liam.

EMMY
What is all this money?

Liam takes her hand and closes it over the envelope.

LIAM

Rebuild, Emmy. You, Jesse and the kids need to start over. Teach again...here and back there.

He takes one last look back and turns to ride away. Chief White Cloud places his arm around Emmy's shoulder.

CHIEF WHITE CLOUD

The tribes always fought but when the white man came, he brought his own kind of terrible violence. My father was a great, proud warrior and one day, he returned with two beautiful white children.

Chief White Cloud taps his heart.

CHIEF WHITE CLOUD

In here...Liam will always be Shoshone.

(taps his head)

But here...he was and always will be a white man.

Chief White Cloud holds Emmy as they stare toward the path.

CHIEF WHITE CLOUD

He returned to our village two weeks ago. He wanted to see his family once again.

EMMY

He's dying, isn't he?

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Liam rides into town and stops in front of the jail. He dismounts, pulls out his gun and walks in.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Sheriff Sloan sits behind his desk while Elias stands nearby. As the Sheriff rises, Liam points his weapon at him.

LIAM

Guns on the desk.

Elias looks at Sheriff Sloan who removes his weapon from his holster and does as told. Elias too. Liam takes the cell keys from the wall.

LIAM

Into the cells.

Sheriff Sloan and Elias walk toward the cells as Liam follows.

INT. JAIL CELL WALKWAY - DAY

Elias enters the cell and Liam shoves Sheriff Sloan in. He locks the door.

SHERIFF SLOAN
You won't get away with this.

LIAM
Don't expect to.

Liam turns and exits.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Liam throws the keys on the floor behind the desk, grabs a shotgun from the wall and checks to make sure it's loaded. He exits.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Liam heads toward the saloon. Roy comes out and sees Liam. Roy stumbles as he tries to raise his shotgun. Liam FIRES his shotgun into Roy's chest. Roy slumps to the ground as Liam enters the saloon.

INT. BIG JIM'S SALOON - DAY

Liam sees Ken reaching under the bar for his shotgun. Liam FIRES. Ken falls to the floor, pulling the trigger. His SHOT goes into the ceiling.

Zack runs out of Big Jim's office, gun in hand. He aims at Liam and FIRES. The bullet strikes the butt of the shotgun, causing Liam to fall back a step.

As Zack is about to fire again, Liam tosses the shotgun at him. It hits Zack in the chest. Zack flinches. Before he can take another shot, Liam draws his handgun and FIRES a shot into Zack's chest. Zack falls to the floor. Liam FIRES another bullet into Zack's forehead.

The door to Big Jim's office SLAMS shut. Liam walks over to the door and pounds on it.

LIAM
Where is she?

LONNIE (O.S.)
Bill Slattery.

Liam turns toward the front of the saloon.

LONNIE (O.S.)
I've got what you're looking for out here. Come and get her.

Liam walks to the front door of the saloon and looks out.

EXT. TOWN MAIN STREET - DAY

Lonnie stands behind a frightened Sarah. Liam exits the saloon and approaches Lonnie and Sarah.

LIAM
You okay, Sarah?

LONNIE
I haven't touched her. Yet.

LIAM
This is between you and me.

LONNIE
Holster your gun.

LIAM
(Holsters his gun)
Now let her go.

Lonnie releases Sarah, who runs to Liam. He bends down as she grabs onto him and hugs him. She's crying.

LIAM
It's alright, honey. You're safe.

Liam looks over and sees Doc standing in front of his office. He turns Sarah around and points toward Doc.

LIAM
Go to Doc Frawley. He'll bring you home to your family.

Sarah hesitates and looks back at Liam. He smiles and nods. Sarah runs to Doc, who grabs her and takes her inside.

LONNIE
You killed my father.

LIAM
He needed killin'.

LONNIE
Well, I figure it's my time to make up for that.

Liam notices Lonnie's holstered gun.

LIAM
See you found your pa's gun.

LONNIE
Seems only right.

LIAM

Two words of advice.

LONNIE

Make 'em good ones. They'll be your last.

LIAM

Motivation. You want me to die for somethin' I done twenty-five years ago to your father.

(beat)

And I can't let you live for somethin' you're gonna do to that young girl and her family.

Lonnie smiles.

LIAM

Focus. You can't let yourself be distracted. The smallest thing can mean the difference between livin' and dyin'.

They continue to circle. Liam stops and points to the gun in Lonnie's holster.

LIAM

That was your father's. I took it off him and kept it after I put six bullets into his cowardly body.

Lonnie's eyes tighten. His face burns with anger. He reaches for his gun as Liam ducks down to the right and reaches for his. SHOTS ring out.

Liam falls to the ground, wounded in the shoulder. His gun slides out of his hand. Lonnie smiles as he approaches.

Lonnie raises his gun. Suddenly his hand twitches. He stares at his gun hand and then looks down at the wound in his gut. Blood seeps through his shirt.

He gazes at Liam as the gun falls from his hand. He slumps to the ground, falling over onto his side.

Liam grabs his gun and rises to his feet. He limps over to Lonnie and places Lonnie's father's gun on Lonnie's chest.

A SHOT rings out. A bullet tears into Liam's back. He tries to stand up but falls to the ground on his back. He looks up and sees Big Jim standing over him, smiling. Big Jim holds a smoking gun.

BIG JIM

You've caused me some trouble, Mr. Slater. But your time is over.

Liam tries to reach for his weapon but Big Jim places his foot on Liam's hand. Big Jim slowly raises the gun and points it at Liam's face.

DOC FRAWLEY (O.S.)

Enough, Jim.

Big Jim looks over at Doc who aims his rifle at him.

DOC FRAWLEY

You don't have to do this.

Doc tosses the arrowhead on the ground near Big Jim's feet. Big Jim smiles, sadly as he looks at the arrowhead and back at Doc.

Big Jim turns to Liam. He cocks the hammer of the gun.

Suddenly, Big Jim pauses, surprised. He looks down at his chest and sees an arrow sticking out.

EMMY (O.S.)

You have not earned the right to see him die.

Big Jim raises his eyes to see Emmy drawing back her bow.

EMMY

You reap what you sow.

She releases another arrow, which strikes him in his heart.

The gun drops from his hand as he falls to the ground. He reaches out, grabs the arrowhead and pulls it to his chest. He gazes over at Doc as he dies.

Doc approaches Big Jim and kneels down. Tearfully, he gently closes Big Jim's eyes and kisses him on the lips.

Emmy rushes over to Liam's side and grabs his hand as Doc approaches to examine Liam's wounds. He glances up into Emmy's face and shakes his head. Tears roll down her cheek as Sarah runs over. Emmy holds her.

Liam looks up as he struggles to speak.

LIAM

Your momma was a good woman. You're very much like her.

Liam coughs and squeezes her hand. He looks into her eyes.

LIAM

Take me home, Emmy. I need to be
with my wife and child.

Emmy nods as tears flow from her eyes. Liam smiles one last time and closes his eyes.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Emmy, Jesse, Sarah and Johnny stand in front of a newly covered grave.

Next to Liam's grave is a headstone which reads, "Maggie Slattery - 1828 to 1858 - Loving wife and mother. Liam Slattery Junior - 1858 to 1858 - Beloved son."

Emmy bends down and places a flower on Liam's grave.

Liam's headstone reads, "William "Liam" Slattery - Determined Protector - 1813 to 1868 - Loving husband and father."

Emmy rises, hugs her children and falls into Jesse's arms as she looks out over the cemetery. In a field, off in the distance, she sees a doe and her fawn grazing. A majestic buck with a large rack of antlers stares back at her.

Emmy smiles.

The buck snorts and nods. He turns and walks to his family.

FADE OUT