

COMANCHE KID

WESTERN/SHORT

by

Gerlinde Kenkel

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Based on my German Script

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Kenkel20002000@freenet.de

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MAIN CHARACTER:

ISA-TAI (12) aka COMANCHE KID (20)

The only survivor of a Comanche tribe, caused by a massacre of Texas Rangers. He is at a crossroads where he decides whether revenge or forgiveness is more important.

WILHELM (40/48)

Traveling merchant of German descent who finds an injured Indian boy and shows him that not all whites are monsters. He speaks English with a strong German accent.

BILL (38/46)

Former Texas Ranger, driven by hatred of Indians who killed his wife and daughter. In the end, a mental wreck, driven by a longing for death.

KLARA (42)

Sister of Wilhelm and school teacher. A woman with common sense and the desire for her son DAVID (20) to become a decent person.

1 EXT. PRAIRIE - AFTERNOON

1

The sky is darkened. It looks like rain or thunderstorms.

A single covered wagon, pulled by two horses, drives along a lonely road.

It's a wagon of a traveling merchant, packed with everything you need in the Wild West.

SUPER: Texas, May 1849

WILHELM (40) sits on the coach box, looking thoughtfully at the sky.

WILHELM

It doesn't take long, and it
will be pouring out of buckets.
Time to look around for a
shelter.

He stops, stands there to get a better view, and sees a small forest near a river, not far from it an abandoned farm and barn, both in poor condition.

He smiles, looks up.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

Thank God that you have found a
dry place for us.

He sits down and gives the horses the whip. He drives towards the farm.

2 EXT. IN FRONT OF BARN - LATER

2

The sky has darkened. Thick black clouds are gathering. Soon the storm will start.

Jakob has parked his car and horses in front of the barn. He goes to the gate, sees that it is wide and high enough for him and the two horses, but not enough for the waggon.

He unharnesses the horses and leads them to the cave entrance. The horses resist, smell something that scares them.

WILHELM

(soothing)

Don't worry! You're safe here,
there's no one in it but us.

He leads the way, the horses hesitantly follow him on a leash.

It thunders and starts to rain. The horses neigh anxiously.

WILHELM (CONT'D)
 (soothing, gentle)
 Quiet, you two. It's just
 thunder and rain.

The rain is getting heavier. When the rain gets heavier,
 he just manages to enter the barn with the horses.

3 EXT. COMANCHES VILLAGE - MORNING

3

Burning tents, dead Comanches, men, women and children,
 some had their scalps taken off, some women had their
 breasts cut off. Dead horses on the ground.

In all the chaos and dead people stand ISA-TAI (12),
 Comanche boy. Blood flows from his shoulder. But he
 doesn't pull a face of pain.

He walks up to a dead Comanche, takes his knife, bow and
 quiver with arrows. His face turns to stone.

ISA- TAI
 (full of hatred)
 These white men will pay for
 that! I will not rest until I
 have killed all these men!

He looks at the Comanche, from whom he has taken his
 weapons.

ISA- TAI (CONT'D)
 I will avenge our people,
 Father!

He looks around, discovers a single horse, a horse, all in
 black with a pallor on the forehead.

Limping, he walks up to the horse, mounts it, and with a
 war cry from the Comanches, he rides away.

4 EXT. FRONT OF BARN - NOON

4

A campfire with a pot of hot coffee on it is burning.

The horses are harnessed to the wagon.

Wilhelm walks around the car, checks everything, lashes a
 rope that has spanned a wooden water barrel. Then he
 extinguishes the fire with the coffee. He climbs onto the
 coachman's box.

WILHELM
 Come on, you two! We want to be
 home soon.

The horses start moving.

Isa-Tai and the horse come from a small forest. The Indian boy is exhausted and falls off his horse.

Wilhelm sees him, jumps from the coachman's box, runs towards him, bends over him.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

Good God!

He takes out a pocket mirror, which he holds in front of the mouth of the Comanche boy. The mirror is fogged up, Wilhelm is relieved.

He carries the boy to his car, relights the still slightly smoldering campfire, and puts a Bowie knife inside.

With a little water from the barrel, in which he puts a rag, he cleans the wound.

Isa-Tai groans softly in pain.

Wilhelm looks at the fire. The blade of the knife begins to glow.

He takes the handle of his whip and puts it between the boy's teeth.

Wilhelm takes the knife out of the fire and begins to cut.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

(looks up at the sky)

Almighty, help me!

Isa-Tai wakes up. He sees the glowing blade. He panics. Wilhelm knocks him down with a punch.

Wilhelm continues to cut. Blood oozes from the shoulder of the boy.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

(triumphant)

There it is!

He pulls a bullet out of Isa-Tai's shoulder.

He quickly bandages the bleeding wound with linen cloths, which he takes out of his wagon.

The fire burns ablaze again.

5 EXT. FRONT OF BARN - EVENING

5

The light of the campfire falls on Isa-Tai's face, which is sitting away from the campfire. He wakes up.

Wilhelm fetches some water from the barrel in a coffee pot. He turns his back on the Indian boy. He does not notice that the Comanche boy has woken up.

The young Comanche sees his knife lying next to him in the grass. He stands up, grabs the knife, walks quietly towards the trader. He wants to kill him.

At that moment, Wilhelm turns around, sees the boy, but also that he is bleeding from his shoulder again.

When the Comanche pushes at him, Wilhelm grabs the knife and steals it from the boy. Weakened, Isa-Tai falls to the ground.

WILHELM

(German)

Why don't you understand that I
want to help you?

6 EXT. FRONT OF BARN - NIGHT

6

The moon is shining brightly, the campfire is burning. On the fire, in a pan, sizzles bacon.

Isa-Tai is woken up by the smell. In front of him is Wilhelm, who changes his bandage.

WILHELM

(worried)

Already awake? This is good! Are
you hungry?

The Indian boy does not understand. He speaks the sign language of the prairie Indians.

ISA-TAI

Who are you?

Wilhelm gives him back his knife as a sign of friendship. The Comanche is a bit confused.

WILHELM

(in Comanche sign
language)

I'm a traveling merchant, and I
found you injured. A bullet was
stuck in your stomach. I took
them out.

(MORE)

WILHELM (CONT'D)
 (gives him the bullet)
 You had a fever, but now
 everything is fine. You will get
 well!

Isa-Tai is confused. The whites he had met so far wanted
 to kill him.

ISA-TAI
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 Why are you doing this, white
 man?

WILHELM
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 Because my people and your
 people have made a contract.

ISA-TAI
 (Comanche Sign
 language, angry)
 White men speak with double
 tongues. They promise one thing
 and do another!

WILHELM
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 My people are different from
 other white people. We came two
 years ago across the big water
 from a distant land. A year ago,
 the month of the first buffalo,
 your people and my people signed
 a contract. If
 If you need help, we will help.
 If we need help, you help. I was
 there when Santana, Old Owl and
 Buffalo Hump made peace with us
 on the San Saba River.

ISA-TAI
 (Comanche Sign
 language, considers)
 I've heard about it, white man.

He gains confidence in Wilhelm.

WILHELM
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 What happened?

ISA-TAI
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 White men with a star attacked
 my village, killing everyone.

WILHELM
 (German)
 Texas Ranger! And only you
 survived? Poor boy!

Confused, Isa-Tai looks at Jakob. He translates what has just been said into Comanche sign language.

WILHELM (CONT'D)
 (Comanche Sign
 language)
 If you are well, shall I take
 you to a tribe of the Comanches?
 There are some tribes living
 near my city. You could find a
 new home there.
 (thinks)
 Or you could travel with me. I
 learn from you the language of
 your people, and you learn
 English. I'm sure we can both
 learn a lot from each other.
 What is your name?

ISA-TAI
 (Comanche Sign
 language, loudly)

ISA-TAI.

WILHELM
 (Comanche Sign
 language, smiles)
 Too heavy for a tongue like
 mine. I'm going to call you
 Comanche Kid. If it's okay with
 you?

The Comanche boy hesitates, then nods.

7

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

7

COMANCHE KID (20) sits next to WILHELM (48) on the carriage box. Both eat pemmican.

SUPER: EIGHT YEARS LATER

Wilhelm looks longingly at the picture of a woman, KLARA (42) and a young man, DAVID (26).

COMANCHE KID

Who are they?

WILHELM

My sister Klara, and her son David. Both live in Fredericksburg. Klara is a teacher, her son took over my shop when he was old enough for it.

(longing)

How are they doing after all these years?

COMANCHE KID

How long have you not seen them?

WILHELM

Certainly more than nine years ago. I always wanted to go to Fredericksburg, but first we had to do business in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

(smiles)

And, I wanted to learn the language of your people.

COMANCHE KID

What you are good at. And, you taught me English, and a few words in German.

They eat and drive on in silence.

Wilhelm looks at his foster son. He wants to tell him something.

WILHELM

Do you know why I came to Fredericksburg?

COMANCHE KID

No?

WILHELM

I'll tell you. At that time, my family lived in a big city in Germany, with the name Frankfurt. We had a shop, a Butchery.

COMANCHE KID

And? What happened?

WILHELM

We have been robbed. And, when we fought back, we were threatened.

COMANCHE KID

By whom?

WILHELM

From the richest man in town. He wanted the shop and our home, had claimed that we owed him a lot of money.

(laughs bitterly)

Yet it was he who owed us money. Four thousand Thalers!

We went to court, but he presented forged promissory notes. The judge believed him, not us. He was a relative of this man. Then he threatened to kill us all if we didn't leave. We came to America to be safe from persecution. And here, too, we see others being persecuted and killed because they stand in the way of some.

COMANCHE KID

Just like us Comanches!

WILHELM

Exactly! And that disgusts me!

COMANCHE KID

How far is it to Fredericksburg?

WILHELM

About two days' journey.

COMANCHE KID

Then let's go!

Wilhelm drives the horses.

8

EXT. FREDERICKSBURG/BEFORE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

8

Wilhelm's covered wagon stops in front of a school. The flag of the USA flies on a flagpole. It has 15 stars in the shape of a star.

Comanche Kid gets off his horse, fetches two small feed bags of oats from the wagon, which he puts on both wagon horses.

The school bell rings. Children stream out of the building, laughing and excited, past the two men.

Klara comes home from school, a boy on her hands, both of whom look at her angrily. Both are about twelve years old

KLARA

How many times have I told you not to pull the girls by the hair? If I catch you doing it again, it will be a beating. Understood?

She lets go of the two boys, looks at them sternly. The boys have understood, run away.

Klara sees her brother; and her stern face turns into a cheerful, laughing face. She runs up to Wilhelm and hugs him.

WILHELM

Hello little sister.

KLARA

Well, you prowler? Finally, found your way home?
 (glimpses Comanche Kid)
 And so this is the young man of whom you have told me so much in your letters.
 (shakes Comanche Kid's hand)
 Welcome to Fredericksburg, my boy!
 (thinks)
 You're probably hungry! Why don't you come to dinner with us tonight!

Both men nod.

WILHELM

Could we stay with you for a few days?

KLARA

Stupid question!
 (to Comanche Kid)
 He has hardly changed in all these years?

COMANCHE KID

I don't know what he used to be like, Ma'am, but as long as I've known him, he's hardly changed.

KLARA

The "Ma'am", let it be, my name is Klara.

9

INT. KLARA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - EVENING

9

A small kitchen with a self-made table, six chairs, and an old stove on which there are two copper pots.

Around the table sit Klara, David, Wilhelm and Comanche Kid.

Surprised, Comanche Kid looks first at his plate, then over to Wilhelm, who is sitting opposite him.

WILHELM

That's Hoppelpoppel. My favorite dish.

The Comanche looks questioningly at Klara.

KLARA

This is a dish that is prepared from meat and vegetable scraps. In our case, it consists of rabbit meat, chicken, fried potatoes, corn and cabbage.

(smiles)

Go ahead! It tastes good!

DAVID

(to Comanche Kid,
quietly)

Go ahead. Mom is a good cook!

Hesitantly, the Comanche eats something. He likes it. Klara takes note of it with relief.

KLARA

(to Wilhelm)

Tell me, brother, what you experienced on your journeys. I mean what you didn't write to us.

Wilhelm smiles. He loves to tell stories. Then his gaze darkens.

WILHELM

Not much good.

(looks at Comanche Kid)

Especially not for Indians.

DAVID

Why not?

WILHELM

Everywhere we went, we saw whites robbing the Indians of their land, raping their wives, and killing them for no reason.

(MORE)

WILHELM (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Sometimes I'm ashamed to be a white man!

DAVID

But that doesn't happen here! Since the treaty of 1847 between the Comanches and us, there has been peace.

(to Comanche Kid)

We help each other when we are in need. Even the Texas Rangers who are here at the moment can't change that. They are always in the saloon of the city, which belongs to an American from New York.

Comanche Kid's face freezes. In his mind's eye, he sees how his parents were murdered, how Texas Rangers slaughtered his tribe. And he sees the face of BILL (38) with his scar on his left eye.

He gets up, runs out. Wilhelm follows him.

KLARA

What is the boy up with?

10 INT. STABLE - MOMENTS LATER

10

Comanche Kid is saddled a horse when Wilhelm enters the stable and walks towards the Comanche.

WILHELM

Don't ride into town, my boy.

COMANCHE KID

(lashes strap tightly)

Why not? Texas Rangers destroyed my family. They have slaughtered my people like cattle!

(full of hatred)

You didn't see their smashed corpses, the women whose breasts were cut off. The bellies of pregnant women that have been slashed. You didn't see what I saw!

WILHELM

No, I didn't! But I saw different things in my old country.

(sadly)

I have seen houses set on fire, houses in which there were people. People who have been

(MORE)

WILHELM (CONT'D)

burned. I have seen Jews, men,
women and children, being
slaughtered. Women who were
raped and then beaten to death.

(louder, insistent)

Hate only breeds new hatred, my
boy! Suffering only produces new
suffering if you don't manage to
break this cycle.

(thinks)

There is a Jewish proverb that
says: "No worse enemy than the
former friend". Conversely, this
means that there is no better
friend than a former enemy.

Comanche Kid grabs the reins and throws them over the
horse's head. His look says that he doesn't want to hear
Wilhelm's words.

He gets on the horse, spurs it on, rides off.

Wilhelm looks after him sadly.

11 INT. KLARA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - SHORTLY LATER

11

Klara and David look expectantly at Wilhelm, who is just
walking through the door.

KLARA

(worried)

What about the boy?

WILHELM

The ghosts of the past have
caught up with him.

Both look at Wilhelm uncomprehendingly.

WILHELM (CONT'D)

I never wrote to you how we met.

KLARA

You had written to us that you
had found him injured and had
taken care of him.

WILHELM

That's true, but it's not the
whole truth!

DAVID

So, what is the whole truth?

WILHELM

Just before I found him, Texas
Rangers killed his family and

(MORE)

WILHELM (CONT'D)
 destroyed his village. No one
 else had survived.

David hits his head.

DAVID
 And I also trumpeted that they
 were in Fredericksburg. Am I a
 fool!

WILHELM
 It is NOT your fault!. I should
 have written it to you in one of
 my letters.

(anxious, worried)
 I hope the boy doesn't commit
 any stupidity? The Texans are
 quick with rifles and the rope
 when it comes to Indians.

DAVID
 Well, I can understand him well.
 If someone were to do such a
 thing to my family or people, my
 heart would also be full of
 revenge.

KLARA
 You don't know what you're
 talking about, son! Your uncle
 and I, we've seen how hate makes
 people do horrible things. We
 were in 1838 in
 Frankfurt, saw how the hatred of
 us turned humans into beasts,
 incited by politicians and the
 clergy of the city. We saw shops
 destroyed and looted, people
 beaten up and killed just
 because they were Jews.

(insistently)
 Then we understood that hatred
 only breeds new hatred, and that
 one should forgive instead of
 hate.

12 EXT. FREDERICKSBURG/MAIN STREET - LATER

12

A few lanterns filled with candles lead the way as
 Comanche Kid rides down the main street.

He stops in front of the saloon, dismounts, ties up his
 horse, and goes up the two steps to the saloon. He walks
 through the swing doors.

13 INT. FREDERICKSBURG/SALOON - MOMENTS LATER

13

The owner (35) washes glasses. Men play poker, have fun with the bar girls. Some Texas Rangers drink at the bar.

It becomes quiet when Comanche Kid enters the room.

Hostile looks look at him. A Texas Ranger at the bar draws his Colt.

TEXAS RANGER 1

How is it, redskin? Would you like a bullet?

The men at the bar laugh.

MAN 1(30) gets up from the poker table, approaches the Comanches threateningly.

MAN 1

(hostile, hateful)

What do we have here? A redskin in the clothes of a white man. You must have killed a lot of us, didn't you?

The Comanche looks at him as if he were scum. The white man notices this and wants to hit him.

OWNER

There is no beating in my saloon!
(goes to Comanche Kid)
Can you read?

He points to a sign above the bar mirror.

CLOSE-UP SIGN: DOGS AND REDSKINS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER.

COMANCHE KID

I'm looking for a man. A Texas Ranger. He has a scar across his left eye.

TEXAS RANGER 2

Even if we knew, we wouldn't tell you!

The owner gives two Texas Rangers a sign. They get up and come to him.

OWNER

(to the Texas Rangers)
Show this...
(contemptuously)
... Gentleman, please, where the door is.

The two Texas Rangers grab the Comanche and lift it up. He doesn't resist when they throw him through the saloon door.

BILL (46) comes out of a room with a dirty cloth and begins to clean the spittoons. He is drunk, his movements slightly shaky. He needs something to drink.

The owner goes to him.

OWNER

The Indian is looking for you,
Bill! I think he wants to kill
you. So be careful.

The owner pushes him aside as Bill wets his tongue. He knows what his employee wants.

William is about to reach for his pistol when he realizes that it is no longer there.

BILL

I need something to drink, boss.

OWNER

There is only something after
work, you know that!

BILL

But I need something now! Just a
small drink, please!

The owner goes behind the bar, pours a glassful, goes to Bill, who stares addicted at the full glass.

The innkeeper pours the whisky over his head. The men and women laugh.

OWNER

There you have your whisky,
Bill. Cheers!

William, humiliated, wants to reach for his revolver again when he realizes again that he no longer has it.

OWNER (CONT'D)

(laughs)

You want to shoot me? Do you
remember? Two years ago you sold
me the pistol and belt for a
bottle of whisky.

(points to his weapon)

Looks good on me, don't you
think?

Embarrassed, Bill looks down at the ground. He knows that he is down!

- 14 EXT. FREDERICKSBURG/MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER 14
- A pair of lovers kiss in front of the stable and move on.
- Comanche Kid leads his horse into the rental stable. He gives a silver dollar to the boy standing in front of the entrance.
- COMANCHE KID
- The horse stays overnight. Give him something to drink and feed. You don't need to groom it!
- The boy pockets the money without even looking at the Indian.
- BOY
- Put the horse under yourself, dirty Injun!
- Comanche Kid brings his horse into the stable.
- 15 INT. FREDERICKSBURG/STABLE - SHORTLY LATER 15
- Two oil lamps are burning in the barn, both hanging on hooks.
- Comanche Kid leads his horse into a small fence, unsaddles it, lays the saddle in a corner to the ground.
- He takes his rifle and closes the gate. He goes up the ladder to the hayloft.
- 16 INT. STABLE/HAYLOFT - MIDNIGHT 16
- The tower clock strikes midnight.
- Comanche Kid looks out of the skylight at the saloon.
- Everything is quiet.
- 17 INT. KLARA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT 17
- Klara washes the dishes, David and Wilhelm dry off. Wilhelm is nervous.
- Klara looks at her brother. She understands.
- KLARA
- Come on, ride off. Try to prevent the worst.
- DAVID
- Perhaps you will be in time, uncle?

Wilhelm's gaze silently asks both of them if he should really ride. Klara and David nod.

WILHELM

I hope I'll get there in time.
But I will not intervene. The
boy has to decide for himself
what kind of man he wants to be!

He hands David the towel and leaves the room.

18 INT/EXT. HAYLOFT/MAINSTREET - SHORTLY LATER

18

Comanche Kid looks out of the barn window. He sees Texas Rangers coming out of the saloon, as well as other guests.

The light in the saloon is extinguished. The owner comes out, and so does Bill. Bill carries an almost empty bottle of whisky in his right hand. He staggers.

The Comanche immediately recognizes Bill by his scar.

Images of his father, killed by Bill, as well as that of his scalped mother, appear in him. His face distorts with hatred.

He sees the former Texas Ranger staggering towards the stable. The Comanche goes to the ladder.

19 INT. FREDERICKSBURG/STABLE - MOMENTS LATER

19

The Comanche goes down the ladder and sees Bill fall into the hay, slurring. He cries, holds a picture in his hand.

BILL

(slurs)

I miss you so much, my Rebecca
and my Julia! Not a day goes by
without me thinking of you!

Comanche Kid gets closer until he stands a few steps in front of the former Texas Ranger. He puts on his rifle.

At first Bill doesn't notice him, then he sees first the barrel of the gun, then the Comanche.

BILL (CONT'D)

So you want to kill me, yes? Go
ahead! I have nothing left to
live for!

COMANCHE KID

Do you remember me? I was still
a boy then.

(MORE)

COMANCHE KID (CONT'D)

(full of hatred)

At that time I saw how you and your men attacked our village, how you killed men, women and children, scalped them, and raped the women before you killed them.

(threatening)

I saw how you killed my father! I saw you and your men burn down the village and shoot at our horses.

(pull the trigger)

That's what you're going to pay for today, white man!

BILL

Yes, kill me, Indian! I deserve it. I did what you accuse me of, and much more. But, before you pull the trigger you should know why I did that!

He gives the Comanche a worn-out photograph.

COMANCHE KID

Who is this?

BILL

My wife Julia and our daughter Rebecca.

(softly, crying)

It all started four months ago, before we invaded your village.

20

EXT. BILL'S RANCH - NOON - FLASHBACK

20

A small ranch in the middle of the prairie. Nearby a small forest. Black smoke comes out of the chimney.

BILL (40) is sitting on his horse, next to him are JULIA (30) and daughter REBECCA (10), who is handing her father a water bottle. He has the scar, wears the star of the Texas Ranger on his coat.

JULIA

When are you coming back?

BILL

I don't know! We pursue a horde of Apaches who cross the Rio Grande to Mexico to rob and rape. We want to confront them when they set foot on Texas border again.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)
 (insistently)
 Lock the door and keep the rifle
 handy. You never know in these
 times!

REBECCA
 Will you bring us something,
 Dad?

BILL
 If I come to a city, sure!

His daughter beams.

In the grove, a twig is quietly pushed aside. It is the
 hand of an Indian. He sees Bill riding away. The Indian
 smiles.

21 EXT. BILL'S RANCH - LATER - FLASHBACK

21

In her own world, Rebecca squats and plays with a straw
 doll, which she "feeds" with a wooden spoon.

Julia comes out of the house and looks around for her
 daughter.

JULIA
 Becky, come into the house. You
 are supposed to help me cook.

REBECCA
 (stands up)
 Yes, Mom!

She walks towards the house. Suddenly, the arrow of an
 Indian hit her in the back.

Horrified, Julia turns around and sees an Indian rushing
 towards her with a tomahawk. He splits her skull.

Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, several Indians appear,
 about half a dozen.

One of the Indians gives a sign. Two Indians set fire to
 the house, an Indian go to the barn, and comes out with a
 cow and two horses.

The war cry of the Apaches is heard.

The Indians mount their horses and take their booty with
 them. They ride away.

Rebecca crawls to her mother, seeks her protection. When
 she realizes that her mother is dead, she cries.

One of the Indians comes back and shoots two more arrows
 into her back. Rebecca is dead.

The Indian mounts his horse and follows the others.

The house is ablaze.

22 EXT. BILL'S RANCH - EVENING - FLASHBACK

22

Bill is standing in front of the house. He cries as he lays blankets over the bodies of Rebecca and Julia.

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

His face contorts with hatred as he mounts his horse.

BILL

I swear by all that is sacred to me, that from now on I will kill every Indian I can lay hands on.

(gently)

I'm coming back so you can get a decent funeral, the way you deserve!

He rides away.

23 INT. FREDERICKSBURG/STABLE - MOMENTS LATER - PRESENT DAY

23

BILL

(cries)

That's how it was then, my boy. And now kill me! That's what you came here for. Believe me, you're doing me a favor!

Comanche Kid realizes that Bill's hate was the cause of the attack on his village.

The words Wilhelm come to his mind.

WILHELM (V.O.)

No, I didn't! But in my old homeland see something else.

(sadly)

I have seen houses set on fire, houses in which there were people. People who have been burned. I have seen Jews, men, women and children, being slaughtered. Women who raped, and then beaten to death.

(louder)

Hate only breeds new hate, my boy! Suffering only produces new suffering if you don't manage to break this cycle.

(MORE)

WILHELM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(thinks)

There is a Jewish proverb that says: "No worse enemy than the former friend". Conversely, this means that there is no better friend than a former enemy.

The Comanche puts his rifle aside.

COMANCHE KID

Enough violence has happened.
Enough people have died.

(starts crying)

Your hate killed my people, and my hate would have killed you, white man. Hate is not good. It destroys the heart. That's why I forgive you.

The former Texas Ranger looks at the Comanches in disbelief.

BILL

Why don't you kill me, redskin?
I deserve it!

COMANCHE KID

Higher than death is life! Live for your family. Just as I will try to live for my people!

The Comanche takes his rifle and goes to his horse.

William looks after him in disbelief.

24

EXT. FREDERICKSBURG/BEFORE STABLE - MOMENTS LATER

24

Comanche Kid leads his horse out of the stable. He is surprised to look into the face of Wilhelm, who looks at him questioningly.

The Indian shakes his head almost imperceptibly. Wilhelm is relieved when he sees Bill coming out of the stable.

Bill walks up to both of them. He clasps the Comanche's hands, shakes them.

BILL

Thank you!

He goes back to the stable.

COMANCHE KID

I want to go home.

Both get on their horses and ride away.

25

EXT. FREDERICKSBURG/BEFORE SCHOOL - NOON

25

Children play in front of the school building. Wilhelm's wagon is parked in front of the building, filled to the brim with goods.

Wilhelm sits on the box, Comanche Kid next to him, a horse is tied to the wagon. It is unsaddled.

David and Klara are standing in front of the car.

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Bill comes to them, shakes hands with everyone. He seems sober.

BILL

I wanted to say goodbye to all of you.

(to Comanche Kid)

Thank you again for everything you have done for me! I stopped working in the saloon, and I haven't been drinking for a week.

DAVID

That's certainly hard!

BILL

Every day is a new fight against oneself!

KLARA

If you want, we'll help you, Bill. For now, you could stay with us.

DAVID

And, since my uncle is gone again, I would be able to use some help in the store. Do you want to start with me? Free board and lodging, as well as ten dollars a month?

Bill looks at mother and son as if Christmas, Easter and the 4th of July fall on the same day. He nods.

WILHELM

(to Klara)

So, until next time, sister heart!

KLARA

Next time, don't wait another eight years.

COMANCHE KID

We'll come earlier, I promise. I
want a new portion
Hoppelpoppel to eat.

Klara is startled.

KLARA

I forgot!

She goes into the school building, comes out a short time
later with a filled tablecloth.

KLARA (CONT'D)

Something to eat on the trip.
David killed a deer yesterday. I
fried parts of it at night.
Enjoy it, guys!

The Comanche takes the package, there is Wilhelm, who
stows it under the trestle. Everyone hugs each other.

While Wilhelm gets the horses running and slowly
disappears into the horizon, William, Klara and David look
after them.

SUPER:

In March 1847, the general secretary of the Mainz Noble
Association, which had ordered the settlement of
Frederiksburg and other German-founded towns on the San
Saba River, concluded a peace treaty with the Comanche
chiefs Santana, Old Owl and Buffalo Hump, which went down
in American history as the only treaty between Indians and
whites that was never broken.

FADE OUT:

THE END