

FADE IN:

INT. HENRY'S CABIN -- MORNING

HENRY, an eighteen year old average looking fellow with black hair and brown eyes, sleeps with his eyes closed. The bed he's lying on is very small and his feet dangle off the edge. His SNORES are loud and irritating to listen to. He turns to his side, and lays there continuing to sleep.

Unbeknownst to him standing above him is his UNCLE JACK, a forty-nine year old man, who despite his age still loves to have fun. He has a pillow in his hand and SMACKS Henry four times bouncing Henry's head up and down waking him out of his slumber.

Henry violently wakes up and he throws his hands all around trying to stop the smacks.

HENRY

Cut it out willya? I'm still tired.

UNCLE JACK

Now wake up. I thought I told you I wasn't gonna have you sleepin' all day like a bat.

HENRY

I'm still tired from last night.

UNCLE JACK

I told you you'd be tired, but you didn't listen.

(beat)

And I said you'd pay when the mornin' comes. Remember?

Henry lowers his head back on his pillow and shows his back to Uncle Jack.

HENRY

Leave me alone old man.

UNCLE JACK

Wake up. I'm not gonna ask you again... Now I'm warning you. You don't wake up and you'll see what happens.

Henry is already snoring again. Suddenly a fountain of cold water falls on his face and Henry leaps out of bed gasping for air.

INT. HENRY'S CABIN -- LATER

Bacon burnt to the crisp rests on two plates. Next to the bacon are eggs and bread.

Uncle Jack eats the food on his plate and lets the other food get real cold.

Henry comes slowly walking down the steps, yawning on his way. He puts his suspenders on his shoulders. Henry's still tired as he stumbles his way down the steps.

He collapses in a seat across the table from Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack doesn't even look up from his plate when Henry sits down. He's too focused on his meal.

Henry rubs his eyes and yawns once more.

HENRY

Where's Jeremiah? He wasn't in his room.

UNCLE JACK

He's with Beth.

HENRY

Well when's he getting back?

UNCLE JACK

Dunno.

Henry picks up a piece of bacon and takes a bite. He immediately spits it out and begins coughing. Uncle Jack looks up.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

What's wrong with you Henry that's some good bacon you're waistin'.

Henry coughs and holds his throat.

HENRY

(still coughing)

Not only is that bacon burnt, it's ice cold.

(beat)

That's the first time I've ever had burnt bacon that was cold.

UNCLE JACK

(a little offended)

How 'bout next time you wake up bright and early in the mornin' and make breakfast for yourself.

Uncle Jack bites into his bacon, and Henry crunches it up into crumbs.

HENRY

This might just be the worst bacon I've ever had. How could you serve this to someone.

UNCLE JACK

(still eating)

You're lucky that you were never a gun slinger back in the day, because that's all we ever had was burnt, cold, food. We didn't have time to cook things right. We was always on the run. I was just about your age too. Bad times.

HENRY

I remember you saying that back in the day when you was a gunman you were havin' a blast day in and day out.

Henry tries to eat his eggs, but he spits that out too.

UNCLE JACK

I never said anything like that, and **hey** stop spitting out good food.

HENRY

Yes you did. I'm tellin' you your memory is gettin' away from you every day now old man.

UNCLE JACK

Well I guess you're right. Fact is it was a blast sometimes and harsh others. Sure, it was fun to hunt down the bad men. It wasn't fun watching your friends dying.

HENRY

So were you serious about what you were saying earlier?

UNCLE JACK

What was I saying earlier?

HENRY

You were saying that I was lucky that I was never a gunslinger back in the day.

Uncle Jack leans back in his chair.

UNCLE JACK

Well you are lucky you weren't one.
(MORE)

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

The law wasn't as enforced like it is now. Crime was more rampant. People's scalps were being taken just about every day.

Uncle Jack pretends like he's using a knife to scalp away someone's scalp.

HENRY

You think I would've been a good law man just like you?

UNCLE JACK

I was hopin' you weren't gonna ask me that question.

HENRY

Well why not?

UNCLE JACK

Don't take offence to this, but compared to me and the men I rode with you're soft and bein' soft just won't cut it.

HENRY

(offended)

I would've been good. What about Jeremiah? You think Jeremiah would be a good one?

UNCLE JACK

Yes, Jeremiah would've been an excellent law man.

HENRY

Oh you're just saying that because he's your son.

UNCLE JACK

Maybe so.

HENRY

Jeremiah's a horrible shot. And he's slow. What's he got that I don't?

UNCLE JACK

Slow? How fast are you?

HENRY

Gimme your holster old timer.

Uncle Jack takes his holster belt off and hands it to Henry. Henry takes it and wraps it around his own waist.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Watch how quick I am. Maybe you'll
 learn something.

Henry draws his weapon and points it at Uncle Jack. He draws pretty fast.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Fast ain't it?

Henry twirls it back in his holster.

UNCLE JACK
 That's fast, but the real question
 is can you shoot it?

HENRY
 I got a better shot than Wild Bill.

UNCLE JACK
 I doubt that, but do you got guts?

HENRY
 Guts--

UNCLE JACK
 --Jeremiah's got guts and guts is
 enough.

HENRY
 You don't think I got guts?

Henry continues to twirl the gun in his hand while talking.

UNCLE JACK
 Lemme ask you something. Would you
 shoot an *unarmed* man?

HENRY
 An unarmed man? **Unarmed?** No I
 wouldn't shoot an unarmed man.

UNCLE JACK
 Well don't tell any one I said this
 to you, but I've done a few unarmed
 men before, and I'm telling you right
 now it had to be done.

HENRY
 Well that sure is a yellow thing to
 do. At least wait 'til he can arm
 himself.

UNCLE JACK
 And have his men shoot you while
 you're doing the waiting? You
 wouldn't have the guts.

HENRY

Well I'd rather be the man with the good aim and the fast draw than the man with the guts.

UNCLE JACK

Sit down and finish up the rest of your food? It might get colder than it already is.

HENRY

I'm gettin' tired of you bossin' me old man.

Uncle Jack chuckles to himself.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Well what's so funny? You got something to say, then say it.

Henry twirls the gun again and stops it in front of Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack props his feet up on the table and puts his hands behind his head.

UNCLE JACK

I see where you're comin' from. You're eighteen and now you think you don't gotta listen to me no more. Let me tell you somethin' you ain't no man yet.

HENRY

That ain't true.

UNCLE JACK

Well I'll tell you what. I was gonna ask you to go into town today and fetch me some supplies, but I guess with this sudden rebellion you ain't gonna do it. Right?

HENRY

Yeah, right.

UNCLE JACK

Well now just like my pa did with me we're gonna have to shoot for who goes.

HENRY

Are you sure about this old man?

UNCLE JACK

Yeah I'm sure.

HENRY

Because I'm warning you right now I
can shoot real good.

UNCLE JACK

Okay Annie Oakley. Let's see what
you got.

EXT. LAKE -- DAY

The blue water of the lake splashes in the air as JEREMIAH
jumps in. Jeremiah is a handsome young man in his early to
mid-twenties. His hair is cut short and his face is free
from facial hair.

Already treading water in the lake is BETH. She's gorgeous
and her hair reaches down to her shoulders.

BETH

(laughing)

This water's freezing cold.

JEREMIAH

It's not that bad. It's warmer than
it normally is.

BETH

It's not cold huh?

JEREMIAH

No.

Beth splashes water in Jeremiah's face and he covers his
head.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

Okay! Okay it's cold.

They float around in silence for a moment.

BETH

How's your cousin Henry doing?

JEREMIAH

Just fine.

BETH

That boy sure is mighty pretty.

Jeremiah looks down for a moment.

JEREMIAH

Sure.

BETH

Of course he's not as good lookin'
as you.

Jeremiah perks right back up.

BETH (CONT'D)

How's your Uncle Jack doing?

JEREMIAH

Just fine.

BETH

You gonna end up a law man just like he was back in the day? I heard back in the day he shot seven men who had the drop on him.

JEREMIAH

That's impossible to kill seven men who got the drop on you.

BETH

Just what I heard.

JEREMIAH

Well you ain't s'pose to go around believin' every silly little thing you hear.

BETH

Answer my question, would you want to be a lawman.

JEREMIAH

No. Whenever he talks about it just don't sound like nothin' I'd wanna do.

BETH

What sounds so bad 'bout it?

JEREMIAH

The killin'.

(beat)

I don't think I've got the guts to kill another man.

BETH

I don't understand you fellas. Everybody's always makin' a big deal about killin' another man. Just pull the trigger.

JEREMIAH

Well maybe you're right. I just wouldn't be able to stop thinking, what if that was me on the other end of the gun.

BETH

Well the men you'd be killin'
hopefully would be outlaws, and you
ain't never gonna be no outlaw... I
hope.

JEREMIAH

I think I'd be more of a frontiersmen.
Ya know? The first thing I'd do is
leave this small town. Did you know
I ain't never been past Greenlake?
I've been here all my life and I
ain't never seen nothing new. It's
time for me to move on.

(sighs)

I can't wait to leave here.

BETH

Promise me you'll never leave this
town with out me.

JEREMIAH

I dunno. I don't think I could
promise you that.

BETH

Well just why not?

JEREMIAH

Well first off I'm not sure what I
want to do with myself yet, but why
do always say that? Why do you always
tell me never to leave with out you?
If you want to come I guess there'd
be nothin' stoppin' you.

BETH

Because back when I was a little
girl my brother went on some wild
adventure to Missouri... he never
came back. The Indians probably
took his scalp. I don't want that
to happen to you.

JEREMIAH

Well I promise you Beth I'll never
leave you with out coming back.

BETH

When are you gonna to marry me
Jeremiah?

The awkward question catches Jeremiah off guard a little bit
and he hesitates before responding.

JEREMIAH

Well... I don't know.

Beth swims a little closer to him and she kisses Jeremiah on the cheek.

EXT. HENRY'S CABIN -- LATER

Stakes have been set up side-by-side aligned in to two columns. Five stakes in each column.

Henry and Uncle Jack each stand in front of their own columns pistols in hand.

HENRY

What kind of gun is this I got?

UNCLE JACK

It's a colt navy revolver. It's good.

HENRY

How do I know *this* gun's any good?

UNCLE JACK

Well I done kept it real clean over the years.

HENRY

No I mean the type.

UNCLE JACK

The type? It's an excellent type. Wild Bill Hickock used that kinda gun. So I guess he thought so.

HENRY

Wild Bill did?

UNCLE JACK

Yeah.

HENRY

What kind of gun you got?

UNCLE JACK

Schofield.

HENRY

Is it better?

UNCLE JACK

Look kid, both guns shoot straight. I've had both of 'em since I was a cub.

HENRY

Well who goes first?

UNCLE JACK

Don't matter who goes first. I'll win either way.

HENRY

Well then you go first old timer. You probably can't even see the stakes in the ground.

(laughs)

Go ahead and shoot old man.

Uncle Jack ignores Henry's taunts and holsters his pistol. He stares at the stakes for a second then draws his weapon firing five rapid successive rounds knocking down the stakes one by one.

UNCLE JACK

Looks like I still got it. Your turn young man.

Uncle Jack twirls his gun back into his holster.

Henry exhales nervously and holsters his pistol. He waits a few moments and then draws his weapon firing five rounds not one of them hitting any of the stakes.

Henry stares at the stakes dumbfounded. Uncle Jack can't hold his laughter any more and he begins to laugh uncontrollably. He holds his stomach still laughing.

HENRY

That's not funny.

Henry bends down and picks Uncle Jack back up.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Shutup already.

Henry suddenly grasps his heart and falls to the ground shaking and convulsing.

HENRY (CONT'D)

My heart!

Uncle Jack goes down on his knees with him and holds Henry while he goes through the painful experience.

UNCLE JACK

It's almost over... It's almost over just hang in there.

Henry finally stops shaking.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

You okay now?

HENRY

Yeah. That's got to be the worst feeling in the world Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

Are you alright now?

HENRY

Yeah I'm fine.

UNCLE JACK

Your ma used to have those same heart problems. I don't know what it is.

HENRY

Well I'm fine now. I'll still go to town.

UNCLE JACK

Are you sure?

HENRY

Yes.

Uncle Jack takes out a roll of bills. He places it in Henry's hand.

UNCLE JACK

I put in a little extra so you can get yourself a woman while you're in town. Have fun.

Henry snatches the money away.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

Oh and **don't** go drinkin' any liquor while you're in town!

INT. BOB'S SALOON -- LATER

Henry sits at Bob's saloon drinking a shot of whiskey. He downs a glass and lets it ease down his throat. Behind him a group of three loud men play a game of poker.

In the background Henry hears the men talk.

CHARLES, a drunken, dirty, fat man with a beard sits behind Henry at the poker table. Across from him is another man, BERT, an ugly man with a missing arm.

The last man at the table, JOHN, with a thick neck and muscular arms, brings all the money on the table to himself. The other men groan.

CHARLES

He's cheatin'!

JOHN

Now what makes you believe I'm
cheatin' Charles? Honest to God I
ain't.

BERT

Yeah, what makes you believe it?

CHARLES

That's seven hands in a row you done
won. No man's that lucky.

JOHN

Even if I am cheatin', what are you
gonna do about it?

BERT

Yeah, what are you gonna do about?

CHARLES

Trust me John. You don't wanna find
out. Now if you cheat again Imma
put a bullet between your eyes.

Henry doesn't hold his liquor very well. He's a little tipsy.

HENRY

Bob! Bob!

BOB, an older man with a goatee, turns around from his glass
cleaning.

BOB

What?

HENRY

Well pour me another drink bartender.
Do your job. C'mon now.

BOB

Go easy on the liquor now.

HENRY

I am goin' easy! Now pour me another
drink bartender!

Bob pours him another shot of whiskey in Henry's shot glass.

HENRY (CONT'D)

This is a nice town you know that
Bob?

BOB

Yeah, sure Henry.

HENRY

Did you know my ma back in the day
Bob?

BOB

Well sure I knew Margaret Russell.

HENRY

Tell me what she looked like.

BOB

Well. She was a pretty little thing
and--

CHARLES

I knew your ma! Margaret Russell!

The other men at the table laugh.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Best whore north of Mexico!

HENRY

You son of a--

Henry and Charles both jump up from their seats and get in each others faces, but Charles has his revolver under Henry's chin.

CHARLES

What were you gonna say?

BOB

Now put that gun down Charles!

Bert starts laughin' even harder.

BERT

Well you gonna shoot 'em Charlie?

Charles shoves the pistol harder up against Henry's chin. Henry's scared and he closes his eyes tight.

CHARLES

I just might.

The doors of the saloon swing open and there's two men standing there holding Winchesters. The men are chewing tobacco and look even worse than Charles.

Pause.

The man on the right speaks up.

MAN

Any body in here know a Henry Russell?

There's another dead silence.

MAN#2
(to Charles)
Hey ugly.

CHARLES
What?

MAN#2
You know a Henry Russell?

CHARLES
(lowering gun)
This boy right here.

MAN
(pointing to Henry)
Him?

Henry stands there with his mouth open and scared.

CHARLES
(fearful)
Yeah, him.

MAN
(raising Winchester)
Adios Henry.

Bob BLASTS a shot from his shotgun blowing the man backwards outside the saloon and out onto the streets.

Henry draws his colt revolver and FIRES two shots at the man on the left. The first missing and the other nailing the man in the stomach. The man cowers over and falls down.

Henry looks at the man he just killed. He's not sure rather to be happy or to start crying.

BOB
Now what in God's name was that about?

HENRY
I ain't gotta clue what that fella
was talkin' 'bout!

BOB
Best fetch the sheriff so he can
sort this out.

Henry shoves open the swinging doors. A tall man standing across the dirt road begins fanning his schofield towards him. The bullets blast holes next to the wall and inside the saloon. A stray bullet makes its way inside and puts a hole in Bob's eye.

Henry turns back around inside the saloon.

HENRY

Bob!

Bob's head rests on the counter surface blood streaming through his eye and onto the counter.

The men playing poker are up and running out the saloon door. Henry leans over the counter and picks up Bob's shotgun.

He runs up the steps and by the time he's reached the top, the two gun men have followed him inside.

Henry waits at the top of the stairs aiming the gun down the stair case. His heart is pumping and beads of sweat pour down his face. He quickly uses his forearm to wipe the sweat off of his forehead.

The gun men who followed him inside slowly creep their way to the stair case schofiellds in hand. One is behind the other and as soon as the first man comes in sight of Henry. Henry BLOWS him off his feet. The jolt from the shotgun knocks Henry on his back.

The pellets rip through the man's upper chest and in his neck. The other gun man goes down on his knees and looks at his friend's dead body.

GUN MAN

Billy! You shot Billy! Imma kill
you now you!

Henry retreats into a room where he sees a man cowered into the corner.

He climbs his way out the man's window and falls onto the wooden canopy roofing.

Just below him is another man pointing his gun up into the canopy roof and blindly shooting with his rifle.

Bullets and wood splinters shoot up through the roof just behind Henry as he runs to the edge.

Two shots are fired at the man. The man falls down soon engulfed with his own blood.

SHERIFF SAMMY in the middle of the street lowers his rifle down once he's seen that he's killed the man.

Henry leaps off the wooden canopy and lands on the ground.

Foot steps can be heard behind him and Henry swings around to see who is there. Behind him is the meanest, ugliest, dirtiest man you'll ever see. DIRTY DAN. Dirty Dan is just flat out ugly. He wields dual peacemakers.

Henry raises his pistol up and Dirty Dan shoots it right out of Henry's hand. Henry YELLS and falls to his knees holding his bleeding hand.

Dirty Dan opens his mouth revealing brown and yellow teeth.

DIRTY DAN

Imma teach you to trick me again.

He shoves his peacemakers right up against Henry's face.

The nose of a rifle pushes up against the back of Dirty Dan's head. Sheriff Sammy holds the gun there. Sheriff Sammy starts talking showing the many gaps his teeth have.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I reckon you'll be puttin' that gun down if you don't want me to put a hole in the back of your head.

Dirty Dan drops his guns.

DIRTY DAN

(to Henry)

This ain't over!

SHERIFF SAMMY

Aww you bet this is over. You're lucky I didn't kill you just now.

Sheriff Sammy pushes him towards the jail.

A gathering of people have started to come out of their business's and a woman's voice is heard shouting.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Up in the window sheriff!

Sheriff Sammy with amazing speed spins towards the window Henry came out of and shoots a single shot killing the man sticking his gun out. The gathering of people begin clapping.

SHERIFF SAMMY

You alright Henry? I bet that gun fire done scared you.

HENRY

I'm fine.

Henry's eyes begin to swell, and he wipes them before any tears fall out.

SHERIFF SAMMY

First time you done kilt?

HENRY

Yes.

SHERIFF SAMMY

You hit?

HENRY

I'm fine sir. It's just my hand,
it's been shot.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Why don't you come inside. I'll fix
that up.

HENRY

Alright.

SHERIFF SAMMY

You sure you okay son?

HENRY

Yes.

SHERIFF SAMMY

(to Dirty Dan)

Okay big guy get a wiggle on.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE -- LATER

Sheriff Sammy puts the rest of the bandage on Henry's hand. Henry sits in the seat next to him and he taps on the table impatiently.

Pictures of young Sheriff Sammy and other pictures of law man are around the cabin. A few rifles and belly guns are placed on the walls too. Henry stares at them.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I'd say you're a man now. You've
heard gun shots, you've been shot
at, *and* you've shot a man.

HENRY

(smiling)

I reckon you're right Sheriff.

SHERIFF SAMMY

(leaning in)

How's it feel?

HENRY

What you mean?

SHERIFF SAMMY

How's it feel to kill a man?

HENRY

Don't feel like nothin'.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I had a feelin' you were gonna to say that.

HENRY

You did?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Yeah. You see killin's always hyped up to be more than it really is.

HENRY

How so?

SHERIFF SAMMY

I remember when I was around twenty-two and I blew a hole in a man the size of Texas. He cowered over and fell to the ground bleedin' and coughin' up blood, and you know what I did?

HENRY

What? Ran away?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Nope. I just looked at him. I stared at him curious to find out what I was supposed to feel. Well I didn't feel nothin', just like I suspected you not to feel nothing.

HENRY

What'd the man do?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Just some horse thief. He thought he done got away with my horse. I showed him.

Sheriff Sammy shoots a pretend gun.

SHERIFF SAMMY (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Pow.

(to Henry)

Well how's that bandage feel?

HENRY

It's tight.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Good.

The door opens and a short squat man with spectacles walks in, HAROLD. His voice is nasally and high pitched.

HAROLD

That was some show you put on Sheriff.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Why thank you Harold.

HAROLD

I just wanted to come in here and tell you that. You know I was curious maybe you could teach me how to kill people.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Well it's not as hard as you think. In fact I'll give you a quick lesson right now. Aim and shoot.

HAROLD

(laughing)

Okay Sheriff.

(to Henry)

You that boy who them men were trying to kill?

HENRY

Yes sir.

HAROLD

Well, good thing Sheriff Sammy was there or else you'd probably be dead right about now.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Okay Harold why don't you go on back outside and pick them bodies up.

HAROLD

Sure thing Sheriff.

Harold leaves.

Henry rubs his bandaged hand.

HENRY

Hey Sheriff you know who that was with the two guns?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Oh yes. I know who that was. Dirty Dan they call him.

HENRY

(surprised)

That was **Dirty Dan!**

SHERIFF SAMMY

Yup.

HENRY

The fastest gun in the west? Most dangerous outlaw who ever lived?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Well I don't know about all that. I've known men who were faster.

HENRY

I can't wait to tell the boys back at home! Dirty Dan tried to kill me!

SHERIFF SAMMY

How is your Uncle Jack doing? And that cousin of yours Jeremiah? They doin' okay?

HENRY

They're doin' fine.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Hurry up and go to your cabin. Get your Uncle Jack so he can see what you done. I'd like to speak to that old buddy of mine.

HENRY

Sure thing Sheriff.

SHERIFF SAMMY

While you're gone I'll have a few words with Dan. He and I got some catchin' up to do.

Henry runs out the door excited. Sheriff looks out the door and sees if Henry's gone. Sheriff Sammy stands up and walks to the door behind him.

INT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- CONTINUOUS

In the room there's a single jail cell and Dirty Dan is lying down inside it. He's lying on his back and he has his arms over his eyes.

Sheriff Sammy slams the door shut he just walked through startling Dirty Dan.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Wake on up.

DIRTY DAN

Who is it?

SHERIFF SAMMY

You know who it is.

DIRTY DAN

(still covering eyes)

Oh is that you sheriff? I've been missin' you Sheriff Sammy. There ain't been a day I ain't thought about you.

Sheriff Sammy picks up a rifle resting up against the corner of the room.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

I've been missin' you *and* your wife.
(chuckles)
I got to admit I've--

Sheriff Sammy slams on the bars of the cell with the butt of his rifle.

SHERIFF SAMMY

SHUTUP!

DIRTY DAN

Now don't get too upset sheriff.
Just reflecting on great memories
I've had with you and your family.
Good time huh?

Sheriff Sammy begins to unlock the jail cell with his keys.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

Hey what are you doing?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Get out of there.

DIRTY DAN

Why?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Get out!

Dirty Dan does as told and hurries out of the cell. Sheriff Sammy stands dead in his face looking at Dirty Dan like he's his worst enemy.

Then suddenly Sheriff Sammy BASHES Dirty Dan in the face with his rifle. Blood spurts out of Dirty Dan's nose and he falls to the ground.

DIRTY DAN

You broke my nose!

Sheriff Sammy SLAMS Dirty Dan in the back of the head putting Dirty Dan in a daze. Sheriff Sammy gives him a hard kick in the ribs.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I found you! I found you and now you'll face justice for what you did to me! I've been waitin' for this day a long time.

Dirty Dan raises his head up, but Sheriff Sammy SLAMS his head back down to the ground knocking him out cold.

INT. GRASS LAND -- LATER

Henry rides his horse through the grass lands slapping it's sides. He pats his horse on the back of the head and continues to ride through the land.

INT. HENRY'S CABIN -- LATER

Uncle Jack and Jeremiah are having a fist fight and wrestling around. Uncle Jack spins Jeremiah around and puts him in a head lock. Jeremiah twists and turns and tries to break free, but he can't. He elbows Uncle Jack in the ribs.

Henry bursts through the cabin door, and Uncle Jack and Jeremiah stop fighting.

HENRY

What are you two fighting about?

JEREMIAH

This old man thinks he's got the right to tell me what to do.

HENRY

I know Jeremiah. Me and him were having the same quarrel.

UNCLE JACK

What happened to your hand Henry?

Henry gets excited again.

HENRY

Six men just tried to kill me.

JEREMIAH

What! When?

HENRY

When I was in town. Sheriff Sammy sent me to come and get you.

UNCLE JACK

Why was they shootin' at you?

HENRY

Well I dunno yet, Sheriff Sammy wanted me to come here and tell you guys.

UNCLE JACK
They shot you in the hand?

HENRY
Aww yeah, Dirty Dan--

JEREMIAH
--Dirty Dan, you saw Dirty Dan?

HENRY
Yeah.

JEREMIAH
Well what's he look like?

HENRY
Well he's real dirty.

UNCLE JACK
You kill any of 'em?

HENRY
Two.

UNCLE JACK
That a boy.

JEREMIAH
I guess we better head on into town,
and see why them boys was shootin'
at you.

UNCLE JACK
I guess Sheriff Sammy wasn't to happy
to see him come into town.

HENRY
Why do you say that?

UNCLE JACK
Dirty Dan killed his wife. Ever
since then Sheriff Sammy's had a
vendetta against Dirty Dan. There's
no way he's gonna let Dirty Dan
getaway without a hanging. I don't
think you'll have to worry about
him.

EXT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- LATER

Sheriff Sammy watches Henry, Uncle Jack, and Jeremiah tie their horses. He leans up against a wall smoking a cigar and smiles when Uncle Jack sees him.

SHERIFF SAMMY
Well if it ain't the ol' killer.

UNCLE JACK
What's up Sammy?

Uncle Jack and Sheriff Sammy hug.

SHERIFF SAMMY
Uncle Jack you sure are gettin' old.

UNCLE JACK
I wouldn't be talkin' Sammy, you're not agin' very well yourself. You got more wrinkles and white hair than I got.

The two men laugh. Sheriff Sammy looks over to Jeremiah who's smiling.

SHERIFF SAMMY
Well if it ain't Jeremiah! Last time I saw you, you were knee high to a grasshopper.

JEREMIAH
Well you only saw me last month.

Uncle Jack laughs.

UNCLE JACK
And you two were talkin' about my memory.

SHERIFF SAMMY
Why don't you boys c'mon in?

INT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- MOMENTS LATER

Dirty Dan's bleeding and caressing his bruised cheeks and nose. He sits at the end of his cot while Uncle Jack leans up against the bars of the cell.

Sheriff Sammy sits down at his desk watching the two talk. Henry picks up different rifles from the walls and aims with them. Jeremiah sits across from the desk propping his head up with his fist.

UNCLE JACK
So you're the man that was shootin' at my nephew?

DIRTY DAN
Yeah that's right.

UNCLE JACK
You look pretty beat up Dan. What happened?

DIRTY DAN
 (pointing to Sheriff
 Sammy)
 That yellow belly behind you roughed
 me up.

UNCLE JACK
 Aww yeah, he sure did.

DIRTY DAN
 What you want?

UNCLE JACK
 I wanna know why you was shootin' at
 my boy mister. Maybe you had the
 right?

Dirty Dan rubs his rib cage and runs his hands up and down
 the bars.

DIRTY DAN
 That boy done tricked me and my boys.

UNCLE JACK
 How so?

DIRTY DAN
 One of my men, Gregory McDaniel,
 came to me one day telling me that
 he found out about some gold.

UNCLE JACK
 Gold?

Everyone jumps up when they hear the word. Henry lowers one
 of the rifles, Jeremiah props his head up, and Sheriff Sammy
 sits up straight.

DIRTY DAN
 Yeah, gold. Greg told me the man's
 name was Henry Russell, the man who
 done told him. He said that Henry
 told him the gold was buried somewhere
 up in the Casgrove Mountains.

UNCLE JACK
 Yeah...

DIRTY DAN
 So me and my boys are off on some
 wild goose chase searchin' for this
 gold. I tell Greg, "there ain't no
 gold in them mountains!" So Greg
 finds that Henry guy again and
 tortures him until he tells us where
 it really is.

(MORE)

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

Turns out it's in the bottom of some dried up well in Northwest Kansas. On some farm. Would you believe it? Anyway that Henry guy got away, and Greg came to me again askin' if I could get some of my boys together and find him and kill him for lyin' to us.

Uncle Jack leans very close to Dirty Dan's face.

UNCLE JACK

Look me in the eyes Dan.

Dirty Dan does as told.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

Are you lying to me?

DIRTY DAN

(honest)

No.

UNCLE JACK

Okay I believe you Dan. You see I can always tell when people lie to me. If they look me in the eyes I can always tell, but I don't understand why'd you try to kill our Henry.

DIRTY DAN

Well like I was saying Henry got away, and my boys told me about what he done did, how he done tricked us. So I took my boys to find this fella who done sent my men on a wild goose chase.

UNCLE JACK

Did **you** ever see the man who tricked you?

DIRTY DAN

Well no, but Greg did and he told me his name. That's all I needed.

UNCLE JACK

So you went searchin' for a Henry Russell.

DIRTY DAN

Yeah.

UNCLE JACK

Well it looks like you done found
the wrong one.

Dirty Dan puts his head in his hands.

DIRTY DAN

Damn.

UNCLE JACK

You ain't too bright are you Dirty
Dan?

DIRTY DAN

You better shut your mouth.

EXT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Jack talks with Jeremiah, Sheriff Sammy and Henry.
They intently listen to what he's saying.

Uncle Jack paces back and forth in an excited state.

UNCLE JACK

We oughta find this gold that boy
was talkin' about.

Jeremiah props himself up against a wall.

JEREMIAH

You don't think he was lyin' do you?

UNCLE JACK

Dirty Dan's stupid enough to tell
the truth. I know his kind. Stupid
as a door knob.

Henry gets Uncle Jack's attention, no one's near as excited
as Uncle Jack.

HENRY

So you think we should go to Kansas
to find the gold?

UNCLE JACK

Yes that's exactly what I'm saying.
Sammy, you should come too.

Sheriff Sammy looks down at the ground while he talks.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Oh no not me Uncle Jack. I've got
to stay with the towns people. They
need me.

JEREMIAH

I don't know about this Jack. What if that fool was lying?

UNCLE JACK

I'm tellin' you, he wasn't lying. I can tell when a man's lyin' when I'm lookin' in his face.

HENRY

Jeremiah might be right Uncle Jack. This might just be another wild goose chase. We'd pack up and leave for nothing, and find nothin'.

UNCLE JACK

You boys ain't thinkin'. You'd be missin' out on a real adventure. Indians on our tail, outlaws breathing down our necks, and horse thieves just tryin' to get the best of us. Well I'll tell you something that sounds just like the good 'ol days. Back when I was a lawman. Remember them days Sammy?

HENRY

Wasn't it just this morning you were saying we weren't fit to be lawmen? That it was never fun to watch your friends dying?

UNCLE JACK

Forget about all that. You boys ain't even been farther than this town. It's time for you boys to see something new.

SHERIFF SAMMY

Well count me out Uncle Jack.

Sheriff Sammy leaves and walks back inside his office.

UNCLE JACK

Oh forget that old man. Boys listen to me I know there's gold there. I know it.

JEREMIAH

In a dried up well? Who puts gold in a dried up well?

UNCLE JACK

Well I'm tellin' you boys something. If ya'll ain't comin' with me, then so be it. I'll go by myself.

HENRY

Well Jeremiah, I'll go if you go.

JEREMIAH

I guess I'll go with the old man.
Without us two out there he'll
probably end up dead.

INT. HENRY'S CABIN -- LATER

Uncle Jack grabs down two rifles collecting dust placed on a shelf. He wipes them off and hands them to Henry. Henry grabs both by the barrel.

UNCLE JACK

Those two guns there are some fine
Winchesters.

HENRY

Alright.

UNCLE JACK

I'll teach you how to shoot 'em later
on.

HENRY

Did Wild Bill use these?

UNCLE JACK

He probably did.

EXT. HENRY'S STABLE -- MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Jack grabs at a horse in the stable. He walks the horse out of the stall. Henry watches him work.

UNCLE JACK

Thunder. Beautiful horse ain't he?
He sure ain't no Crowbait I tell ya
that much.

HENRY

You gonna ride that one?

Henry points to the second to third horse in the stall next to Thunder.

UNCLE JACK

Yup. I'll be Lightning and you'll
be Thunder.

HENRY

Uncle Jack I wanted to talk to you
about something.

UNCLE JACK

What is it?

HENRY

When ma died, where were you?

UNCLE JACK

I was right beside her the whole time she was givin' birth to ya.

HENRY

Really?

UNCLE JACK

Yup.

HENRY

Did she ever get to hold me 'fore she died?

UNCLE JACK

Oh yeah, she held you alright. She wouldn't let go of you. No one could pry you away from her.

HENRY

So when'd she die?

UNCLE JACK

The next mornin' she had lost too much blood and she had a high fever. But she held you alright, and she told me she wanted me to take care of you and no one else.

HENRY

Why was that?

UNCLE JACK

Well I guess she trusted me well enough.

Henry mounts his horse and Uncle Jack mounts his.

HENRY

Tell me more Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

About her?

HENRY

Yeah.

UNCLE JACK

Well alright.

EXT. BETH'S CABIN -- LATER

Jeremiah talks to Beth. It's a little darker than before. The two of them sit next to a trunk under the branches of a tree.

Both of them stare up at the cloudy sky.

BETH

I heard your cousin, Henry, almost died earlier today. People have been sayin' 'bout ten men tried to murder him today.

JEREMIAH

Six men tried to kill him thinkin' he was someone he wasn't.

BETH

What do you mean?

JEREMIAH

They thought he was somebody else. He had the same name as another man who cheated the outlaws out of somethin'.

(turnin' to Beth)

You know who was among the men trying to kill him?

BETH

Who?

JEREMIAH

Dirty Dan.

Beth looks at Jeremiah surprised.

BETH

(shocked)

Dirty Dan? The outlaw? Fastest gun in the west? Most dangerous man in the world?

JEREMIAH

Yup. Henry said he stood face to face with the man. I saw him earlier today too.

BETH

Well what's he look like?

JEREMIAH

He's dirty... and ugly.

BETH

What was he saying?

JEREMIAH
(whispering)
Promise not to tell anyone?

BETH
(whisper)
I promise. I won't tell a soul.

JEREMIAH
(quietly)
He was talkin' about gold.

Beth gets even more excited.

BETH
Gold!

JEREMIAH
Shhh. Yeah, he told us where we
could find it too.

BETH
Where is it?

JEREMIAH
In Northwest Kansas.

BETH
Are you gonna go find it?

JEREMIAH
Well yes.

BETH
When!

JEREMIAH
Today I s'pose. That's why I came
here. To talk to you about it.

BETH
Talk to me about what? Are you
leavin' town today?

JEREMIAH
I'm sorry Beth, but my pa said he'd
leave without me.

BETH
Well are you takin' me withya?

JEREMIAH
You know this journey's no place for
a woman.

BETH

I thought I told you never to leave me Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

I'm sorry Beth, but I've got to.

Beth turns her back to Jeremiah.

BETH

How could you leave me?

JEREMIAH

I'll be back Beth. You're actin' like I'll never come back.

BETH

My brother never came back.

JEREMIAH

What happened to your brother?

BETH

He left lookin' for adventure in Missouri and my ma told him he best leave his scalp here if he's going to Missouri. He didn't listen though and them Indians killed him. He never came back.

JEREMIAH

That won't happen to me Beth. I promise and when I come back
(beat)
I'll marry you Beth Gene.

Beth turns back around and embraces Jeremiah.

BETH

You mean that?

JEREMIAH

I sure do.

They kiss.

EXT. HENRY'S CABIN -- LATER

Uncle Jack and Henry have set up more stakes aligned in two columns. Henry has his gun out and Uncle Jack coaches him. Henry feels a little more comfortable with the gun now.

Behind the two men rifles and a shotgun rests up against the wall of the cabin.

UNCLE JACK

Now seein' that you're right hand is hurt you're gonna have to learn how to shoot with your left.

HENRY

I don't think I can do that Uncle Jack. I'm no good with my left hand.

UNCLE JACK

Well you're gonna have to learn. Now just try to draw. Don't try to shoot just yet.

HENRY

Alright.

Henry draws with his left hand and he has a lot of trouble just feeling for his gun. He misses twice before he finally grabs it and draws it.

UNCLE JACK

(chuckling)

Well, by that time you'll for sure be dead.

HENRY

You're right.

UNCLE JACK

Try shootin'.

HENRY

Okay.

Henry shoots three shots before he finally hits one of the stakes set up in front of him. Once Henry's finished he lowers his head down.

UNCLE JACK

Maybe you're more of a rifle man. Here take this.

Uncle Jack turns around and grabs Winchester. He hands it to Henry. Henry takes it, but he can't even aim with it. Holding the rifle with his left hand is too difficult.

HENRY

I can't aim with this.

UNCLE JACK

What do you mean you can't aim?

HENRY

I've never tried with my left hand.

UNCLE JACK

Alright, well you're gonna have to keep practicing with the pistol then. Oh! I think I got something that might fit you just fine.

HENRY

What's that?

Uncle Jack turns around and grabs a double barrel shotgun. He gives it to Henry.

UNCLE JACK

Now there you go. It's hard to miss with this one.

HENRY

Okay lemme try it.

Henry takes hold of the shotgun and blasts a shot knocking down the stake in front of him and jolting his shoulders back.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I think I like this one.

UNCLE JACK

(laughing)

I guess you'll be stickin' to the shotgun then.

EXT. TOWN -- EVENING

On a hill top looking down at the small town a posse of five outlaws sit on their horses, waiting.

Leading them is, JOSEPH, a young fellow with a beard. He looks down the hill, and then back at his men.

JOSEPH

Now y'all listen up. Those boys got my brother. You aim good and you shoot straight. I want him back-- Peter you got the dynamite?

PETER, a short man wearing a two gun belt, sits next to Joseph and he looks up when he hears his name.

PETER

Yeah I got it. I got enough dynamite to put blow up the whole town.

JOSEPH

Let's go boys!

Joseph and his men charge down the hill blasting their guns up into the sky.

The posse make their way down the hill.

A man walks out of a general store and Joseph sees him.

MAN

What's goin' on?

Joseph lifts up his gun and shoots the man through the chest.

JOSEPH

Hurry up boys!

Peter and three other men leap off of their horses and run to the sheriff's jail. The other four watch their backs as Peter plants the dynamite.

INT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Sheriff Sammy holds onto his rifle tight aiming it out the door that he thinks the outlaws will come through.

Dirty Dan holds onto the bars of the jail cell smiling.

DIRTY DAN

You hear that sheriff?

SHERIFF SAMMY

Shutup!

DIRTY DAN

Those are my boys comin' to get me.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I said shutup!

DIRTY DAN

You better kill me right now, because if I get out of here I got something special for you sheriff.

SHERIFF SAMMY

You shut your mouth or you will be dead!

Suddenly an explosion blasts through the right wall of the office knocking Sheriff Sammy off of his feet and throwing Dirty Dan up against the wall behind him.

A moment of silence occurs and Joseph runs through the smoke brandishing his pistol.

JOSEPH

Dan? That you?

DIRTY DAN

Yeah Joseph get over here!

JOSEPH

Okay Dan.

Sheriff Sammy begins moving around a bit. He rubs his head and massages his forehead. He's still shaken up from the explosion.

DIRTY DAN

Make sure he don't leave!

JOSEPH

Boys get him!

Joseph runs over to Dirty Dan's cell while his men apprehend Sheriff Sammy and stand him up.

Joseph grabs the keys from Sheriff Sammy's belt and unlocks the cell. Dirty Dan walks out with that devilish grin on his face.

DIRTY DAN

Sheriff Sammy, surprise surprise.
It looks like I ain't gonna hang
after all Sheriff.

Sheriff Sammy's forehead is bleeding and he looks into Dirty Dan's eyes with disgust.

SHERIFF SAMMY

I hope you burn in hell Dan.

DIRTY DAN

Joseph.

JOSEPH

Yeah Dan?

DIRTY DAN

Go behind the desk and get my guns...
an my bowie knife.

JOSEPH

Sure thing Dan.

Joseph scurries over to the desk and grabs Dirty Dan's belt and knife. He hurries it back to Dirty Dan. Dirty Dan gets real close to Sheriff Sammy's face, and let's his bad breath creep up into the Sheriff's face.

DIRTY DAN

Remember when I said I had a little
something special planned for you
Sheriff? Well, I wasn't lying.

Dirty Dan grabs the knife from Joseph, and presses it up against the Sheriff's cheek so hard that it bleeds. The blood trickles down his cheek.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)
 Looks like you'll be going to hell
 first Sheriff.

Dirty Dan slices the Sheriff's stomach splashing blood onto the floor. Sheriff Sammy coughs up blood and stares into Dirty Dan's face.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)
 Say hello to your sweet wife for me
 Sheriff.

Sheriff Sammy screams out loud in a fit of anger, but is quickly silenced when Dirty Dan slits his throat and lets him fall to the ground.

The other outlaws watch in horror as Dan mutilates the Sheriff.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)
 What are you lookin' at me for?
 C'mon boys! Let's go!

EXT. TOWN -- EVENING

Dirty Dan and his men storm out of the jail and mount their horses. Gunshots are blasted towards them from the townspeople, but none of the outlaws are hit.

They charge up the hill and soon out of sight.

EXT. TOWN -- LATER

Jeremiah, Henry, and Uncle Jack trot their horses up to the town. All three of them ride their horses side by side. Jeremiah and Uncle Jack look fine, but Henry looks a little tired already.

Jeremiah has a huge grin on his face the entire time, and Uncle Jack notices it.

UNCLE JACK
 Ever since we left home you've been
 smiling. What are you so happy about?

Jeremiah beams with excitement.

JEREMIAH
 I told Beth, that when I get back
 from this treasure huntin'. I'm
 gonna marry her.

HENRY
 You're gonna marry her?

JEREMIAH

That's right. As soon as I get back.
That's what I plan on doing.

UNCLE JACK

Ain't that great!
(slaps his leg)
Now all we need to do is find Henry
a woman.

Henry chuckles.

JEREMIAH

She's got a sister Henry.

HENRY

She's ten years old Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

Well, in a few years she'll be old
enough for you to like her and in a
few years you'll be old enough for
you to marry her.

HENRY

I guess ya'll are right. It's time
for me to find myself a woman. Have
some kids and finally settle down.

Uncle Jack and Jeremiah look at each other. They burst into
laughter.

UNCLE JACK

I brought a lil' something special
for you boys.

HENRY

What's that Uncle Jack?

Uncle Jack reaches into his saddle bag and pulls out a bottle
of whiskey. He takes a quick swig from the bottle.

UNCLE JACK

I reckon we'll need this to make it
through our journey... You know if
times get a little rough.

HENRY

Well go on and pass it to me then.

UNCLE JACK

No not yet, things haven't gotten
rough yet. We just started maybe
later.

HENRY

C'mon and let me take a quick swig.

UNCLE JACK

When we pass through town you can
buy your own.

The town comes into view.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

Almost there.

In the distance GUNSHOTS are being fired in the town and
SHOUTS and SCREAMS are heard too.

JEREMIAH

What's going on in town?

UNCLE JACK

Let's find out.

The three men charge their horses towards town.

EXT. TOWN -- MOMENTS LATER

A group of townspeople have gathered in the middle of the
road and the undertaker has begun gathering the bodies.
They all talk at the same time until one man finally quiets
them, FRED. A tall man with a bald head.

FRED

Everybody shutup!

(beat)

You see what those men did? They
killed Sheriff Sammy! The best
sheriff this town ever had and
probably will ever have. Let's get
'em! Let's hunt the men who did it
down!

VOICE IN THE CROWD

Dirty Dan's in that group! He'll
kill the whole posse that goes after
him.

FRED

Yeah, Dirty Dan's in the group, but
he's just a man! Just like us. He
bleeds blood doesn't he?

(beat)

Well if he bleeds blood, then he can
be killed! Now like I said let's
fight him and--

UNCLE JACK

Kill him?

Uncle Jack, Henry, and Jeremiah have trotted their horses
into town and stopped just near the group.

VOICE IN THE CROWD

It's Uncle Jack!

UNCLE JACK

Kill him?

FRED

Well what else were you thinking mister?

UNCLE JACK

Well who's gonna do the killin'?

Small Pause.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

Who's got the nerve to do that?

(beat)

You?

Fred backs away a little bit.

FRED

I guess not.

UNCLE JACK

Where's Sheriff Sammy? He and I will deal with his.

FRED

Sheriff Sammy's...dead.

UNCLE JACK

(flabbergasted)

What!

INT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Jack and Jeremiah barge into Sheriff Sammy's jail and see his body strewn across the floor soaked in his own blood, his throat slit.

They immediately walk out. Henry tries to enter, but Jeremiah won't let him go inside.

JEREMIAH

Don't go in there Henry.

HENRY

Lemme see what's in there Jeremiah!

JEREMIAH

Goin' in there won't do you any good Henry.

HENRY

Move out of the way Jeremiah! I can see it if I want to.

Henry pushes Jeremiah out of the way and sees what's left of Sheriff Sammy. He holds his stomach with one hand and his other hand over his mouth.

EXT. SHERIFF SAMMY'S JAIL -- MOMENTS LATER

Henry runs outside and vomits in the middle of the street coughing and wiping the vomit from his mouth.

HENRY

(quietly)
Sheriff Sammy, Sheriff Sammy.

JEREMIAH

I told you not to go in there Henry.
I told you it wouldn't do you any good.

Henry vomits again and falls to his knees this time.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry you had to see that.

Uncle Jack puts his head in his hands. He lets a single tear roll down his face, that he quickly wipes off. He walks next to Henry and sits down with him.

Uncle Jack doesn't let any more tears roll down his face, but he stays teary eyed.

UNCLE JACK

Henry.

HENRY

Yeah Uncle Jack?

UNCLE JACK

That man in there, Sheriff Sammy. He was a good man, and what Dirty Dan done did to him was something horrific. Don't feel sorry for him though, Henry. Because now Sheriff Sammy's off to a hell of a better place than this one. Dirty Dan might not be caught today, tomorrow, or any time this year, but he will be. And when that murderous criminal is caught. He'll go to hell, where he belongs.

Fred walks up to Uncle Jack and Henry a little uncertain.

FRED

So are you fellas gonna go hunt Dirty
Dan down?

Jeremiah and Henry look to Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

Not today mister.

JEREMIAH

(surprised)

What?

UNCLE JACK

I'm too old to hunt, and you two are
too young to die.

(beat)

Henry get up. We've got some treasure
to find.

INT. BETH'S CABIN -- EVENING

Beth SHOUTS at her parents and brother as they block the
door way of the cabin. Every time she makes an attempt to
leave they step in her way.

Her mother, SALLY, a tall red head, and her father, WILLIAM,
a big man with a chubby head, try to calm her down. While
her brother, twenty year old MARTIN, laughs in the corner.

SALLY

Will you calm down Beth! He'll be
back!

BETH

No he won't! He won't come back for
me!

WILLIAM

At least wait 'til morning to calm
down and think about what you're
doing Beth.

SALLY

You think the same thing will happen
to him that happened to your brother?

BETH

I know it will!

Martin starts cracking up even louder now, but stops when
William smacks him in the back of the head crashing him into
the wall in front of him.

WILLIAM

That's enough of that laughing.

BETH

(stern)

Get out of my way mom.

SALLY

Look, Beth. You're goin' to get yourself killed.

BETH

I hate you! I hate all of you!

WILLIAM

Alright. You want to go?

SALLY

Yes.

WILLIAM

Well then get out. But if you come back, you won't have a home to come back to.

SALLY

Fine.

Sally charges outside. Martin can't hold his laughter much longer and he blurts out a giggle.

WILLIAM

What's so funny Martin. You're going with her.

MARTIN

What!

EXT. PLAINS -- EVENING

Uncle Jack begins trotting his horse across a small river. Henry and Jeremiah follow closely behind him. Uncle Jack makes it to the other side before the other two.

A slithering snake swims past Henry, and Henry gets so worried he almost jumps off of his horse.

HENRY

There's snakes in the water!

JEREMIAH

Oh settle down, I see about two of them.

Henry hurriedly splashes his way to the other side and Jeremiah makes it too.

UNCLE JACK

A skinny ol' snake shouldn't scare you Henry. Remember you're a man now.

Uncle Jack laughs, but Henry is still worried.

HENRY

I wasn't scared I just... I just...
(quietly)
I just hate snakes.

JEREMIAH

It's gettin' dark out Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

You're right we best find a place to settle. Henry, find some wood for the fire real quick and Jeremiah and I will find a place to settle. Hurry up too it's gettin' chilly.

Uncle Jack and Jeremiah trot off one way and Henry the other. Soon Henry steps off of his horse and walks with it.

He walks the horse with him over to a tree and starts breaking off tree branches. Henry stops for a moment and has a quick flashback of Sheriff Sammy's grotesque body. He shudders.

A quick rustle is heard off in the distance and Henry spins around. He stares in the direction of the noise.

HENRY

(to his horse)
I guess it's nothing Thunder, just you and me out here.

Henry collects a bundle of sticks and branches and carries them off.

EXT. CAMPFIRE -- NIGHT

All three men sleep under blankets close to the fire. Henry and Jeremiah are wide awake, and Uncle Jack is almost asleep, but Henry continues to talk to him.

HENRY

Uncle Jack... Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

(sleepy)
What is it Henry?

HENRY

You know Uncle Jack, I've been meaning to ask you something.

UNCLE JACK

What is it!

HENRY

How come every body calls you Uncle Jack? Even though you ain't their uncles. I'm the only one that should be calling you Uncle. I'm the only nephew you got.

UNCLE JACK

What?

HENRY

I said how come every body calls you Uncle Jack even though you ain't there uncles?

UNCLE JACK

(irritated)

I don't know. People just started calling me that.

There's a long pause.

HENRY

Uncle Jack... Uncle Jack... Uncle Jack...

No reply.

JEREMIAH

I guess he's a sleep.

Henry sighs.

HENRY

I miss my bed. I miss home.

JEREMIAH

We haven't even been gone a day, and you're already ready to go back?

HENRY

I didn't say I was ready to go back. I said I was missing my home.

JEREMIAH

And your bed.

HENRY

Yeah, and my bed.

JEREMIAH

You know Henry. Today was the first time I've ever seen Uncle Jack cry.

HENRY

He cried?

JEREMIAH

Yeah, only one tear. Sheriff Sammy meant a lot to him. They rode together back in the day when they were both lawmen.

HENRY

Sheriff Sammy. I can't get that picture of him out of my mind. I keep on seein' him. The way he was with all the blood around him.

JEREMIAH

I told you not to go in there Henry. I told you not to look.

HENRY

Yeah well I-- Oh! Oh, my heart! My heart is killing me!

Henry clenches on to his heart. Jeremiah jumps up from his position and runs over to Henry.

JEREMIAH

Uncle Jack! Henry's havin' another pain.

Uncle Jack quickly gets up and runs over to Henry with Jeremiah.

HENRY

My heart!

INT. DIRTY DAN'S CAMPFIRE -- NIGHT

Dirty Dan pretends to be sleeping. He rests on the ground and looks out of the corner of his eye at Joseph and the other four outlaws talking to each other, scheming something.

Peter is trying to persuade the boys into doing something. Dirty Dan tries to listen in.

PETER

(whispering)

I don't think it's right for Dan to get a bigger share of the gold than all of us. We done did most of the work any way. Who does he think he is bossin' us around like we're his slaves.

HECTOR, a large Mexican with a scraggly beard, talks.

HECTOR

Knowin' Dan he'll try and kill every last one of us. You know he could do it too.

PETER

He can't kill all of us. It'd be eight against one.

HECTOR

(firmly)

He could do it.

JACOB, a very short chubby man, throws more wood into the fire.

JACOB

Hector's right. If he wanted to kill us, he could do it. He's the fastest gun in the west.

JOSEPH

I'm his brother for chrissake he won't kill me.

JACOB

You sure about that Joseph? It's Dirty Dan you're talkin' about. Dirty Dan don't care 'bout no one.

JOSEPH

He's my brother!

JACOB

I heard he went into a house one night and killed an entire family in Missouri.

An ugly man with a missing eye named GEORGE pulls a knife from his belt.

GEORGE

Nobody can trust Dan. For all we know he's got it in for all of us. I say we kill him right now. In his sleep.

A GUN SHOT is fired into the air and half of George's head is torn off and blood and brain matter splash onto the men around him. They stare at the dead body in shock.

Dirty Dan stands now with a rifle in his hands pointed in the direction of the men. He staggers a little bit while he stands, he's very drunk.

DIRTY DAN

(drunk)

You gotta a problem with the way I'm running things? Say somethin'!

(beat)

Why all of you are just a bunch of yellow belly cowards. You got something to then just say it.

HECTOR

Why'd you shoot George!

DIRTY DAN

Anybody who wants to kill me dies first. Now who's gotta problem with the way I'm running things?

(beat)

Go on now, I won't shoot.

Peter foolishly speaks.

PETER

I just think we should get a bigger share of--

Dirty Dan pulls the trigger again rocketing a bullet through Peter's head. Once again the men stare at the body, stunned.

JOSEPH

You shot Peter!

DIRTY DAN

Yeah, I shot him... Anybody else?

Joseph stands up.

JOSEPH

(stern)

That was the last straw. You just killed my best friend Dan.

DIRTY DAN

Sit down boy. I might just kill you too, I think you're just 'bout old enough to die.

JOSEPH

Then go ahead Dan. Just try to shoot me.

DIRTY DAN

What you say?

HECTOR

Joseph don't do this. He *will* kill you!

DIRTY DAN

Shutup Hector. If he wants to fight me, he can fight me... And he can die.

HECTOR

He's your brother!

DIRTY DAN

Not anymore he ain't.

Dirty Dan tosses his rifle to the ground, and hovers his hand over one of his peacemakers.

Joseph hovers his hand over his schofield. A long pause occurs.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

Well are you gonna draw or what?

JACOB

Shoot him Joseph!

HECTOR

Don't do this Joe! You know how fast he is.

The remaining four men stand up, worried.

JACOB

Pull your gun Joe, kill him!

DIRTY DAN

You better sit down baby brother. You know I'll kill you.

JACOB

Don't listen to him Joe.

HECTOR

He'll kill you!

JOSEPH

Shutup! Everyone, I need to concentrate. I'm gonna kill you Dan.

DIRTY DAN

Fine with me. Why don't you stop talking and shoot.

JOSEPH

Fine-

Joseph grabs the handle of his gun, and Dirty Dan already has his peacemaker out, aiming it at him. Joseph gazes at the gun in astonishment.

He's amazed at how fast the draw was.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

NO!

Dirty Dan fires a bullet in Joseph's stomach, and pulls out his second peacemaker blasting another one in him.

Joseph keels over and falls to the ground in extreme pain. He curls up and squirms around. Joseph YELLS aloud and the other men begin to surround him. Hector props his head up on his leg, helping him die.

DIRTY DAN

Now ya'll need to get some sleep.
We gotta find some horses in the
mornin'

Dirty Dan returns to his sleeping place and lies down.

EXT. DIRTY DAN'S CAMPFIRE -- EARLY MORNING

Hector's eyes quickly open as Dan gives him a hard kick in the ribs. He coughs and holds himself.

DIRTY DAN

Time to get up! We got work to do
boys.

Hector slowly gets up, and sees the bodies of the men killed the night before. Jacob groggily stands up too.

JACOB

How many horses we got?

DIRTY DAN

Just enough for you to walk.

JACOB

Why can't I double up with someone?

DIRTY DAN

Don't you be questionin' me boy.
Any way that gets tiresome for the
horses. You gotta problem with
walking Jacob?

JACOB

No. No I was just asking.

DIRTY DAN

Good.

Dirty Dan unties his horse from a tree. He props his saddlebag back on the horse's back and gets on it.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

Get your guns ready. We're gonna do
some horse thievin'.

EXT. PLAINS -- MOMENTS LATER

Two black males finish up their meals from their campfire.
One is significantly older than the other one.

The older male is JAMES. He's forty-two, very tall, thick,
and strong. His son, NATHAN, is fifteen and a lot skinnier
than his father.

They eat a helping of beans.

JAMES

I reckon we'll head on to Missouri,
tomorrow. Give our horses a rest.

NATHAN

Is mom and Grandad gonna be there
when we get back?

JAMES

I'm not sure, they said they might
be headin' to Mississippi before we
get back. We'll see 'em soon though,
don't worry.

NATHAN

I wouldn't mind seein' ma when we
get back.

JAMES

Well, we'll be right on our way in
the mornin'.
(turns to fire)
It looks like the fire is dying down.
You mind getting some more wood for
the fire?

NATHAN

Sure pa.

Nathan stands up gets on his horse. He heads behind some
bushes and into a more green area of trees. He dismounts
his horse and walks towards a tree.

He begins snapping off branches. He starts getting a bundle
of them and Nathan puts them under his arm.

James lays down on his back, looks up in the sky, and closes
his eyes. He hears a gun being cocked and he opens his eyes
to see a Colt revolver staring him in the face.

Jacob holds it there.

JACOB

Get up!

JAMES

Please don't shoot me. You can have whatever you want just don't shoot me.

Nathan kneels down and looks through bushes watching his father in danger.

James stands up and looks at Jacob. Jacob notices James' gun in his holster.

JACOB

Hand me that pistol.

James grabs the pistol.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Slowly.

James takes the gun out of his holster slower and Jacob puts it in the front part of his belt.

JAMES

What do you want?

JACOB

That horse yours?

JAMES

Yes.

JACOB

Dan! Dan!

DIRTY DAN

(in the distance)

You found one Jacob?

JACOB

Yeah! I found one!

(to James)

I know there's a boy and another horse out here, I saw 'em.

Dirty Dan and Hector see Jacob with James and a single horse. Dirty Dan dismounts and walks over to Jacob. He spits tobacco on the ground.

DIRTY DAN

Anybody else out here with you sir?
A wife, partner, maybe a kid?

JAMES

No, just me.

JACOB
 (still holding gun)
 He's lying. I saw a boy on a horse
 too.

DIRTY DAN
James now don't lie to me. That
 ain't nice. Now listen good, you
 gonna tell us where that boy and his
 horse is. Or I'm gonna cut every
 last one of your fingers off.

Pause.

JAMES
 (firm)
 No... No.

Hector gets James attention.

HECTOR
 Look, If I were you mister I'd tell
 him where the boy is. Dirty Dan
 ain't bluffin'.

DIRTY DAN
 Oh he's gonna tell us where that boy
 is.
 (to James)
 You gonna tell us.

JAMES
 No I'm not.

Nathan is still watching the entire scene. He begins to
 back up from his hiding spot. While doing so he steps on a
 tree stump and falls backwards on the ground with a loud
 thud.

He drops all of the sticks on the ground and he rolls around
 a bit trying to get back on his feet.

HECTOR
 What was that?

JACOB
 Behind those bushes, I knew I saw
 some boy.

The outlaws hurry and run through the bushes. They spot
 Nathan on his horse riding it into the distance.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 Hand me your rifle Hector!

HECTOR
 No Jacob! No!

JACOB
Give it to me!

HECTOR
You don't want to do this Jacob!

Jacob snatches it out of Hector's hands. Hector tries to get it back, but Dirty Dan holds his arm in front of him.

DIRTY DAN
You stay right there.
(to Jacob)
Do not hit the horse.

JACOB
Alright Dan, I won't hit it.

Jacob aims his rifle at Nathan and concentrates on his target. He pulls the trigger once, and quickly once again.

The horse drops to the ground flipping in to the air and Nathan falls the ground not moving. Jacob drops his head, because he knows he's gonna get it. Dirty Dan turns to him with disgust.

James looks on in the distance almost about to cry.

DIRTY DAN
(frustrated)
I told you to kill the boy, not the horse *and* the boy!

JACOB
Dan! I didn't mean to.

Dirty Dan WHACKS Jacob in the back of the head with his gun knocking him to the ground. Jacob holds his bleeding head, and squirms around a bit on the ground.

James cocks his arm back and punches Dirty Dan in the back of the head knocking him to the floor.

JAMES
You killed my son! You're gonna pay for what you did!

Dirty Dan rolls on his back and plants a bullet perfectly in between James eyes dropping the tall man on his back.

Dirty Dan gets up and shoots the dead body twice more.

DIRTY DAN
Nobody hits me!
(to Hector and Jacob)
Get on your horses we're leaving.

EXT. PLAINS -- CONTINUOUS

GUN SHOTS in the distance are heard. Uncle Jack's horse bucks a little bit. Henry and Jeremiah ride with him.

UNCLE JACK

Gun shots.

HENRY

Where?

UNCLE JACK

East.

JEREMIAH

Let's go.

They charge their horses in the direction of the gun shot.

EXT. PLAINS -- MOMENTS LATER

Nathan opens his eyes. He rolls on his stomach and tries to get up, using his left arm, but he falls back to the ground holding his arm in pain. He's broken it.

He kicks his legs and clenches his eyes shut tight. He tries to manage the pain.

Once the pain subsides he uses his feet only to stand up and he walks over to his dead horse. He gets back down on his knees and sees that the horse's back has been shot and it's bleeding.

NATHAN

Cinnamon. They done shot you in the back. The cowards done shot you in the back.

Nathan stands back up, and starts walking again. A stream of blood crawls down his forehead and he wipes it off. Another stream rolls down his face and Nathan wipes it off once more.

Still the stream continues to roll down his face and before Nathan can wipe it off he collapses to the ground.

EXT. PLAINS -- LATER

Nathan wakes up with his head resting on Uncle Jack's saddle bag. He sees Uncle Jack, Henry, and Jeremiah all looking down at him.

HENRY

Looks like he's awake.

Nathan tries to rub his head with his hand, but he soon remembers he's broken that arm and he drops his hand back to the ground in pain.

On his head is a white bandage wrapped around it.

NATHAN

(quietly)
Where am I?

UNCLE JACK

Nebraska.
(beat)
You hit your head on the ground. We saw you must have fallen off your horse.

NATHAN

What happened?

JEREMIAH

Somebody shot your horse and you fell off.

NATHAN

Where's pa? Where's pa?

JEREMIAH

Is your pa tall? With a round black hat?

NATHAN

Yes.

JEREMIAH

Well.
(beat)
Your pa's... we found him... He's gone.

Nathan puts his right arm over his eyes. If he's crying no one would know.

UNCLE JACK

We better leave him be.
(quietly to Nathan)
Get some rest.

EXT. PLAINS -- LATER

Nathan wakes up again to the sounds of GUN SHOTS. He opens his eyes and sees Uncle Jack and Henry practicing shooting at rocks.

Nathan's left arm is in a homemade sling, and his head is bandaged.

Uncle Jack throws a rock in the air and Henry shoots it down. Surprisingly Henry is doing quite well with his left hand.

HENRY
Throw another one.

Uncle Jack throws it high in the air, and Henry draws his pistol and shoots it down.

HENRY (CONT'D)
I told you Uncle Jack I can't be stopped.

Nathan sees Jeremiah sleeping on his saddle bag close to him, and with his hat over his eyes. Nathan also notices Jeremiah's pistol tucked in his holster. Nathan grabs it.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Throw another one Uncle Jack.

Uncle Jack throws it in the air and before Henry can shoot it, three shots are blasted into the air all hitting the rock.

Jeremiah jumps out of his sleeping position startled. Henry and Uncle Jack turn around to see Nathan with Jeremiah's smoking pistol.

UNCLE JACK
That was some mighty fine shootin' there.

NATHAN
Thanks. My pa taught me.

JEREMIAH
(awake now)
We're sorry about what happened to him Nathan.

NATHAN
There was nothing ya'll could've done about it.

UNCLE JACK
Do you know the man who did the killin'?

NATHAN
No, but I know one of 'em was named Dan. He was an ugly man.

UNCLE JACK
(quietly)
Dirty Dan.

NATHAN

What?

UNCLE JACK

Did the man who did it carry dual
peacemakers?

NATHAN

Yes.

UNCLE JACK

Dirty Dan killed your father.

There's a small pause.

NATHAN

Dirty Dan! I'd do anything to find
that coward and kill him.

Nathan stands up in a hurry.

JEREMIAH

Now wait just a second. You're not
well enough.

NATHAN

(determined)

I don't care. I'm going after him
and I'm gonna kill him.

UNCLE JACK

You know where he's headed?

NATHAN

No, I guess not.

UNCLE JACK

We do. We can help you find him,
but I think it's best for you to
rest first.

NATHAN

Where is this Dirty Dan headed?

Uncle Jack looks at Henry who nods at him, then to Jeremiah
who signals that it's okay.

UNCLE JACK

On a little treasure hunt in Northwest
Kansas. We'll give you a share too,
if you want it.

NATHAN

That's fine with me, but I don't
want much. All I want is him dead.

HENRY
Hey kid.

NATHAN
Yeah?

HENRY
You want to tell me how you shoot
like that?

NATHAN
Sure. It's easy.

Nathan stands next to Henry, and Uncle Jack starts throwing
rocks back in the air.

EXT. BETH'S CAMPFIRE -- NIGHT

Beth and Martin lie on opposite sides of the campfire. Martin
is sitting up on his butt. Beth is lying down trying to get
some sleep, but Martin won't let her.

Martin has a long skinny stick and he hovers it over the
fire trying to light it on fire.

BETH
Shutup Martin. I'm trying to get
some sleep.

MARTIN
This better be one hell of a good
boy for you to go on this expedition
to find him.
(beat)
Beth... say something.

BETH
I'm asleep.

MARTIN
If you're asleep then you wouldn't
be talkin'... Beth.

BETH
What?

MARTIN
This is kind of scary isn't it?
Just us two out here in the dark.

BETH
Shutup!

MARTIN
I wonder where Dirty Dan is?

BETH

Please Martin, be quiet.

MARTIN

You know what they say about Dirty Dan don't you?

Martin throws another stick in the fire and the blaze spurs up.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

They say three years ago somewhere in Arizona a family of four was slaughtered.

(beat)

They say the family was all sleeping peacefully. And late one night the father hears a racket outside. So he gets out of bed, tells his wife to go back to sleep and searches outside. He's looking for the source of the noise. After a good ten minutes he decides to go back inside, but as soon as he turns around a knife pierces his back. You know what happened then?

BETH

(a little frightened)

What?

MARTIN

Dirty Dan goes inside the house. He finds the rooms of the children and you know what he does? He guts 'em. He guts 'em with his bowie knife. Splatters their guts all over the floor, and... and he eats it.

BETH

He does what?

MARTIN

I said he eats it. He eats the guts.

BETH

No.

MARTIN

Yes.

BETH

No.

MARTIN

Oh yes.

BETH

Who told you that story, how would anyone know it was Dirty Dan who did it?

MARTIN

I didn't say nothing about the mother. She got away safe, but those memories still haunt her.

(beat)

Well, I guess you better head onto bed. Try to get some sleep, if you can.

EXT. PLAINS -- MORNING

Martin's kneeling down next to one of the two horses who seems to have trouble getting up.

Beth is beginning to wake up and she sees Martin having trouble.

BETH

What's wrong Martin?

MARTIN

There's something wrong with Sugar.

BETH

What is it?

Beth gets up and walks over to Martin.

MARTIN

I dunno, he won't get up. I think he might have the fever.

BETH

Maybe you're right.

Beth kneels down next to Sugar, the horse, and strokes him. Sugar moves around a little bit, but he can't get up.

MARTIN

I'm going to have to put him down.

BETH

(surprised)

What?

MARTIN

We can't just leave him out here to rot. It's better like this.

BETH

Martin, you can't just shoot him.

MARTIN

I don't understand Beth. Would you rather have me just leave him out here and let the bugs and animals eat him alive?

BETH

But he's your favorite horse.

MARTIN

I know Beth, but it has to be done.

BETH

Fine.

Beth stands up and walks back to the campfire to gather her things. While her back is turned Martin shoots Sugar, and Beth cringes when she hears the bullet enter the flesh of the animal.

Martin stands up and tucks his pistol back in his holster.

MARTIN

Untie your horse Beth.

BETH

Okay.

Beth unties her horse from the tree.

MARTIN

Now put your saddlebag on your horse.
Let's go.

Beth does as told and places her saddlebag on the back of her horse. Martin mounts it first then Beth behind him. They ride off.

EXT. PLAINS -- LATER

Henry and now his group of four ride their horses, and just over a small hill they see they're coming close to a new town.

They trot their horses as they talk.

UNCLE JACK

I guess we'll make a quick stop up here.

HENRY

Don't you think we oughta keep on riding, and try to beat Dirty Dan and his men.

JEREMIAH

Henry might be right Uncle Jack this has turned into more of a race now.

UNCLE JACK

Nonsense. If Dirty Dan and his men are stealing horses because they're short, than we're way ahead of them.

JEREMIAH

This might not be such a great idea pa.

UNCLE JACK

Why don't we ask James.
(to Nathan)
What do you want to do?

NATHAN

I don't care about the gold. The only thing I care about is killing Dirty Dan.

UNCLE JACK

Why don't we just stop here for a little bit?

HENRY

Alright Uncle Jack, but only for one night then we're off.

NATHAN

How do ya'll know where the gold is?

HENRY

Northwest Kansas. In some dried up well near a cabin. By a farm.

NATHAN

I hope you're right. It'd be a shame to go all the way down there and not find anything.

UNCLE JACK

Not this again. I'm telling you boys it's fine. He wasn't lying. Forget about all that. When we get into town I'm getting all three of ya'll women. Imma get one for Henry, Jeremiah, and you Nathan.

NATHAN

Not me Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

Why not?

NATHAN

My father brought me up Christian,
and he always said buying woman was
wrong. I don't intend on ever buying
a woman. It's against what I believe
in.

Uncle Jack starts clapping his hands together.

UNCLE JACK

Good. I wish I had as strong of a
will as you... but I don't. So as
soon as I get into town I plan on
buying one.

(to Henry)

How about you boy?

HENRY

Me?

UNCLE JACK

Yeah you.

HENRY

I think I'm going with Nathan on
this one. I don't want none of it.

NATHAN

That's right Henry.

UNCLE JACK

Why not Henry?

HENRY

Well--

UNCLE JACK

--You haven't been to church in ages
so you can't use that one.

JEREMIAH

He's just a little nervous that's
all. Henry ain't never been with no
woman before.

HENRY

That ain't true Jeremiah!

UNCLE JACK

So you Jeremiah. What about you.

JEREMIAH

You can count me in Uncle Jack.

HENRY

Jeremiah, I thought you said you
were gonna marry Beth.

JEREMIAH

I am.

NATHAN

You're breaking the trust between
you two.

JEREMIAH

Well she ain't ever gonna know.
Unless one of you pigs tells her.

UNCLE JACK

My mouth is closed.

NATHAN

I don't even know her.

Henry doesn't say anything.

JEREMIAH

Henry.

HENRY

Well I might have to say something.

JEREMIAH

You do, and I'll kill you.

HENRY

I wonder what Beth's doing right
now?

JEREMIAH

She's probably at home where she
belongs.

EXT. NEW TOWN -- AFTERNOON

The group of four trot their horses on into town and stop
them in front of a saloon. They tie the horses up and
dismount.

Henry and Nathan have a little trouble since their arms are
in bandages.

INT. SALOON -- MOMENTS LATER

Leading the group Uncle Jack pushes open the door to the
saloon and props himself down at the bar along with Jeremiah.

The place is pretty jam packed and no clear voice can be
heard through the loud chatter. Music from the piano plays.

Men are playing poker, men are getting drunk, and men are
shouting in angry disputes.

UNCLE JACK
 (shouting over noise)
 Henry, Nathan. Here's some money to
 check into a hotel.

Uncle Jack hands Henry a wad of cash, and they sit at chairs
 in the saloon.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)
 Hey Bartender!

The bartender, an obese man with a double chin, leans into
 hear Uncle Jack.

BARTENDER
 How can I help you mister?

UNCLE JACK
 You see this young man sittin' next
 to me?

Jeremiah smiles.

BARTENDER
 Yeah.

UNCLE JACK
 Me and him have been on a long, *long*
 journey. And we were hopin' we could
 stop into town and be with some women
 for the night.

BARTENDER
 Ya'll got any money?

UNCLE JACK
 Yeah we got some.

BARTENDER
 How much?

UNCLE JACK
 We gotta enough trust me. Now I
 want the best girls in the house.
 Understand?

BARTENDER
 I got you.
 (to Sarah)
 Hey Sarah!

A chubby woman, SARAH, leans on a poker player, but she stands
 up from the crowd when she hears her name.

SARAH
 Yes?

BARTENDER

Can you show this man a good time?

SARAH

Yes I can.

Uncle Jack smiles and leaves with the woman upstairs.

BARTENDER

(to Jeremiah)

And for you.

Jeremiah perks up.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Carol!

CAROL stands up from a chair at a poker game. She is surprisingly attractive. Carol has a little glum look in her eyes that she tries to hide.

CAROL

Yes sir?

BARTENDER

Escort this man upstairs.

Carol and Jeremiah leave to the upstairs.

Nathan and Henry have been watching the entire episode. Henry rests his head on the back of the chair.

NATHAN

How much farther do you think?

HENRY

How much farther to what?

NATHAN

How much farther 'til we find the gold?

Heads of two men sitting behind Henry and Nathan perk up when they hear the word "gold."

HENRY

Oh it's not much farther at all I mean we're in the southernmost part of Nebraska and it's in Northern Kansas, so it shouldn't be much longer at all.

NATHAN

Is it Northeast Kansas?

HENRY

No Northwest Kansas.

NATHAN

Oh yeah that's right.

(beat)

So do you really think that this gold is in a dried up well? I mean who puts gold in a dried up well on a farm?

HENRY

Uncle Jack as long as I've known him has only been wrong a few times. He can tell when people are lying. If he looks them straight in the eye he can tell.

The two men at the table behind them look at each other and smile. One of them is UGLY whose name describes his physical appearances, and the other is LAWRENCE, who wouldn't be that bad looking if he still had his right ear. His right ear has been cut off.

LAWRENCE

(whispering)

Did you hear that Ugly?

UGLY

Yeah I heard 'em.

LAWRENCE

We ain't that far from Kansas.

UGLY

Let's get the rest of the boys, and we can go on a little treasure hunt.

LAWRENCE

What happens if they get there first?

Ugly whips out his schofield.

UGLY

Then they're gonna get a bullet from this gun, and we take the gold.

LAWRENCE

Let's go tell the boys.

The two men stand up and walk out of the saloon. Henry and Nathan notice the two men leave, and they leave soon after to the hotel.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM -- MORNING

Jeremiah is sleeping and has his hands behind his head. Carol has her head on his chest. Tears roll down her face.

Jeremiah doesn't notice until he hears her snuffle.

JEREMIAH
What's wrong?

CAROL
Nothing.

JEREMIAH
C'mon tell me what's wrong.

CAROL
(ignoring question)
Do you have your money?

JEREMIAH
Yeah I've got it.

Jeremiah reaches over to the night stand and grabs the money.
He hands it to her.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
There you go.

CAROL
So where are you from?

JEREMIAH
Nebraska.

Carol wipes away tears.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
I don't understand. Why are you
crying?

CAROL
Do you love me Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH
(jokingly)
Of course I love you sweetheart.

CAROL
No, do you really really love me
like you love your ma.

JEREMIAH
Sure.

CAROL
Then run away with me.

JEREMIAH
What?

CAROL
Run away with me and we can go where
ever you want to go.

JEREMIAH
I don't even know you.

CAROL
You know me.

JEREMIAH
No I don't.

CAROL
What do you want to know?

JEREMIAH
I dunno. I just don't know you.

CAROL
I like ice cream, my favorite color
is red, I--

JEREMIAH
No. That's not what I mean. I don't
know anything about you. Like the
kind of person you are. I just don't
know if I'd like you as a person.

CAROL
Why don't you like me!

JEREMIAH
I didn't say that Carol.

CAROL
(shouting)
I don't understand Imma good person!

JEREMIAH
Stop shouting!

CAROL
I hate you! I hate you!

JEREMIAH
What's the matter with you?

Carol jumps out of bed and starts throwing things about.

CAROL
Who do you think you are Jeremiah?
What makes you so special? What
makes you so special that you can
reject me? You aren't anything
compared to me! I hate you! I **hate**
you! You make me sick!

Carol runs around the bed and Jeremiah is just watching
dumbfounded.

Carol gets on her knees and grabs Jeremiah's pistol off the floor and out of the holster.

JEREMIAH

Stop!

Before she can aim it at Jeremiah, he's already jumped out of bed, and trying to wrestle the gun away from her. He tugs and tugs until suddenly the gun goes off and BLASTS a hole into Carol's chest.

Jeremiah looks at the body stunned.

Another moment later and an unhealthily skinny man, JIMMY, bursts through the door and looks down at Carol, then back at Jeremiah, and then back at Carol. He gasps.

JIMMY

What have you done!

EXT. SALOON -- LATER

Two lawmen hold onto each arm of Jeremiah and tug him towards the jail. A mob of people follow him cursing and spitting at him.

Jeremiah, still in his underwear struggles as best he can to break free.

A VOICE IN THE CROWD

You're gonna pay for what you did!

VOICE IN THE CROWD

He killed Carol! He killed Carol!

Uncle Jack burst through the doors of the saloon and he sees what's happening. He runs towards the mob of men and tries to reach Jeremiah, but he's punched in the face, and he falls to the ground bloody from the nose.

Henry and Nathan storm out of the hotel not too far from the mob and run to Uncle Jack who is still on the ground bleeding.

HENRY

(shouting over the
noise)

Uncle Jack, Uncle Jack what's going
on?

UNCLE JACK

(shouting)
They're gonna put Jeremiah in jail!

NATHAN

What'd he do?

UNCLE JACK

I don't know! Stop them!

A GUN SHOT is blasted into the air and the mob goes silent as they stare at Henry with the gun in the air, and Nathan standing next to him.

NATHAN

What's going on here!

A long silence occurs until a balding man speaks up.

BALDING MAN

We're gonna lynch this man for what he did!

People start shouting out in agreement once more, but Henry silences them with another GUN SHOT.

NATHAN

What is his crime?

BALDING MAN

He killed Carol! The best woman in this town!

Uncle Jack finally stands up.

UNCLE JACK

My son didn't kill anyone!

BALDING MAN

Oh yeah he did, Jimmy saw him. Didn't you Jim?

Jimmy is standing next to the sheriff.

JIMMY

Yeah, I saw the whole thing!

HENRY

You liar!

Jeremiah struggles to speak his face is a little beaten up.

JEREMIAH

I didn't kill her she took my gun and it was an accident!

BALDING MAN

You'll hang no matter what!

HENRY

You touch him and I'll blow your head off!

Henry raises his revolver up towards the Balding Man.

JEREMIAH
No Henry. They'll kill you!

NATHAN
Doesn't he get a fair trial? Who's
the sheriff in town?

BALDING MAN
I am the sheriff!

The Balding Man pushes back his suit jacket revealing his
sheriff badge.

INT. JAIL -- LATER

Jeremiah sits on his cot in jail very sad and gloomy. Uncle
Jack, Henry, and Nathan stand on the outside of the jail.

Jeremiah doesn't cry and his voice doesn't even quiver.

JEREMIAH
I can't believe this is happening to
me.

HENRY
Don't you get a trial?

JEREMIAH
I guess not.

NATHAN
What kind of town is this?

UNCLE JACK
We're gonna get you back Jeremiah,
don't worry.

HENRY
So what happened exactly?

JEREMIAH
She was aimin' to run away with me.
I could tell there was something
wrong with her, because she was crying
pretty hard. When I told her that I
didn't want to go away with her she
got real upset. She was acting so
strange. She was scarin' me. She
grabbed my gun, tried to shoot me,
and I tried to take it from her and
I kept on pulling on the gun again
and again and then I accidentally
shot her.

UNCLE JACK
So it was self-defense?

JEREMIAH

Yes.

NATHAN

Well I guess we'll have to break you out.

HENRY

Nathan's right. We've got to.

JEREMIAH

Please don't try and rescue me. Did you know who that sheriff was?

UNCLE JACK

Who was he?

JEREMIAH

That was Big Tim. They say his draw is just as fast as Dirty Dan's. If you ya'll try and save me you'll just be dead along with me.

UNCLE JACK

I guess you're right Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

Please don't try to save me. You'll fail.

UNCLE JACK

We won't Jeremiah.

Uncle Jack shakes Jeremiah's hand through the jail bars.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

I love you kid.

JEREMIAH

I love you too pa.

Henry and Nathan shake Jeremiah's hand.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

I'll see you boys.

NATHAN

It was nice meeting you Jeremiah.

HENRY

I'm gonna miss you Jeremiah.

EXT. JAIL -- DAY

A crowd of people stand in waiting for Jeremiah. A few moments later and Jeremiah is being walked out of the jail with BIG TIM, and another lawman.

They walk him up steps and onto a platform. Jeremiah looks out into the crowd to find his friends. After awhile he sees Uncle Jack, Henry, and Nathan all standing amongst the crowd.

Big Tim walks Jeremiah to the center of the platform, and a preacher begins speaking.

PREACHER

Oh good lord please have mercy on
this troubled youth I see before me.
Please forgive him of his wrong doings
and bless him lord. This young man
has done a horrible thing lord, but
please accept him into your kingdom.

Big Tim gets real close to Jeremiah, and puts the noose around his neck. Big Tim leans in even closer.

BIG TIME

(whispering)
Adios you coward.

Big Tim walks off to the side of the platform.

Henry cocks his revolver and is about to lift it up when Uncle Jack lowers his hand back down to his waist.

UNCLE JACK

(whispering)
I've already lost one boy today, I
ain't gonna lose another.

Jeremiah gives one last look to Uncle Jack. Big Tim nods to the man behind the lever. The man nods back and pulls down on it.

The floor beneath Jeremiah falls out and Jeremiah falls through the gap. Just as Jeremiah falls Henry gets another stabbing pain in his heart and he drops to the ground. Nathan turns away.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

Jeremiah!

Jeremiah writhes around for a little bit coughing, gasping, and turning red. He stops moving.

Jeremiah dies.

EXT. PLAINS -- MORNING

Dirty Dan slams his foot down on Martin's face, and Martin violently gets up, his face bruised, and his nose bleeding.

Martin sees Dirty Dan, Hector, and Jacob standing in front of him.

MARTIN

Who are you! Where'd you come from!

DIRTY DAN

It's time to wake up little boy.

Beth hears Dirty Dan and she jumps out of her sleep and stands behind Martin shaking in her pants.

BETH

(scared)

Who are you? What do you want?

DIRTY DAN

I'm Dirty Dan.

Martin and Beth gasp. Both are very scared.

DIRTY DAN (CONT'D)

You sure are a pretty little thing.

MARTIN

You shutup! Don't you touch her.

Hector and Jacob start laughing.

JACOB

Finally a little fun.

DIRTY DAN

Let's get her boys.

MARTIN

Wait!

DIRTY DAN

What?

MARTIN

(confident)

No.

Dirty Dan looks back at his men, smiles and then looks back at Martin.

DIRTY DAN

Yes.

MARTIN

Don't I get a chance to... ya know.
Fight for her?

DIRTY DAN

What do you mean?

MARTIN

You and me have stand off. Whoever kills the other keeps the girl, and whoever doesn't when well... dies. Just you and me though, and make your pals promise not to gun me down once this is over.

BETH

No Martin.

MARTIN

I have to do this.

Hector grabs Dirty Dan's shoulder.

HECTOR

He's just a kid Dan.

DIRTY DAN

Shutup Hector.

(to Martin)

I'll do the countdown for ya. Okay?

MARTIN

Have Beth do it.

DIRTY DAN

Don't think so.

MARTIN

At least have one of your men do it.

DIRTY DAN

Fine with me. Hector.

HECTOR

What?

DIRTY DAN

Do a countdown, to three.

MARTIN

No, to five.

DIRTY DAN

Al--

MARTIN

--Make it six.

DIRTY DAN

Doesn't matter when the countdown ends. You're still going to die. Okay Hector.

HECTOR

Fine Dan. One...

Martin hovers his hand over his pistol, and Dirty Dan does the same.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Two...

Dirty Dan stares at Martin's eyes trying to get inside him, but Martin just looks at Dirty Dan's stomach.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Three...

Martin unexpectedly draws his weapon and fires at Dirty Dan knocking him backwards.

JACOB

You cheat--

Jacob falls down when Martin puts another bullet in his chest. Hector has his gun out, but takes a bullet in the head. He stands there for a moment with his eyes rolled in the back of his head. He takes one step forward, pauses, and then fires his gun towards the ground. He falls to the earth with a thud.

Martin and Beth stare at the bodies for a moment. Martin is completely flabbergasted, he's shocked, he's stunned. Beth breaks the silence.

BETH

WHEW! That was amazing! How did you do that? You **killed** Dirty Dan. You just shot and **killed** Dirty Dan. Martin... you shot Dirty Dan and you killed him. Wow. How did you... do that?

Martin tries to hold in his excitement as best he can. He's trying to stay *cool*.

MARTIN

Well I guess me cheating played a hand in it.

BETH

Not only did you kill Dirty Dan you killed two other men! Martin how did you did you do that?

MARTIN

I dunno. Luck I s'pose.
(twirls gun in holster)
Or maybe I'm just that fast.

Beth smiles.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
We better go on and move. I think I
see the next town up ahead.

Martin puts his hand above his eyes and sees a little of the
next town.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Let's go Beth.

Martin and Beth double up on their horse and ride off.

BETH
I can't wait to tell Jeremiah. My
brother killed Dirty Dan!

INT. SALOON -- NIGHT

Uncle Jack downs another shot of whiskey and slams it back
down on the table. Nathan and Henry sit on either side of
Uncle Jack.

The Saloon looks and sounds just like it did when the group
came into town the first day.

UNCLE JACK
(ridiculously drunk)
Bartender.

Uncle Jack sways in his seat when he talks.

BARTENDER
What?

UNCLE JACK
Bartender... are you
(beat)
Gonna get me...

BARTENDER
What?

Pause.

UNCLE JACK
A drink?

NATHAN
I think you've had enough.

UNCLE JACK
Don't tell me what to do! Imma grown
man! A lot older than you.

Nathan winces at the horrible breath emerging from Uncle Jack's mouth, crawling up his nose, and surrounding his entire body.

HENRY

Why don't we go back to the hotel,
alright?

UNCLE JACK

Not with out my baby.

NATHAN

Who's your baby?

Uncle Jack grabs the bottle of whiskey tight, steps off of his stool and collapses face first on the floor.

EXT. SALOON -- MOMENTS LATER

Nathan holds Uncle Jack's feet and Henry holds his arms. Uncle Jack still manages to drink his whiskey. Henry and Nathan struggle to carry him.

HENRY

That's enough whiskey.

UNCLE JACK

Not today boys!

(beat)

! There once was a man!

(to Henry)

Wait how did that go again Henry?

HENRY

How did what go?

UNCLE JACK

The song I'm singing!

HENRY

I dunno.

UNCLE JACK

*! There once was a man...with a big
round hat! That's it!*

They make it to the steps of the hotel.

UNCLE JACK (CONT'D)

*! There once was a man with a big
round hat and his name was Jimbo!*

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- LATER

Uncle Jack lies in bed with beads of sweat pouring down his face. He still drinks the whiskey.

Henry sits next to Uncle Jack and Nathan sits in a chair looking out of the hotel window.

HENRY

You've got to stop drinking Uncle Jack.

UNCLE JACK

(quietly)

! There once was a man with a big round hat and his name was Jimbo!

HENRY

Uncle Jack... Uncle Jack.

Uncle Jack ignores Henry. He stops singing and finally falls to sleep.

NATHAN

What now Henry?

HENRY

Huh?

NATHAN

What are we going to do now?

HENRY

I dunno. I don't even know if Uncle Jack wants to go for the gold anymore. He's still upset about Jeremiah.

NATHAN

It's a shame what happened to his son.

HENRY

Yeah... it is.

NATHAN

Henry we've still got to get Dirty Dan.

HENRY

This really isn't the time to talk about Dirty Dan.

NATHAN

You told me you'd help me kill him.

HENRY

Yeah I guess I did say that, but Nathan I'm getting tired of seein' dead bodies. I'm getting tired of the look, the smell, I'm tired of it all.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

I don't want to kill any more men.
I don't like the feelin' I get.
Especially after what happened to
Jeremiah.

NATHAN

You promised me Henry.

HENRY

If I see him then I reckon I'll have
to help you.

NATHAN

That's right. That's got to be the
only thing I got on my mind right
now. Killing Dirty Dan.

HENRY

(about Uncle Jack)

Dang. He sure is sweatin' up a storm
ain't he?

Nathan turns around and looks at Uncle Jack.

NATHAN

Is he alright?

HENRY

I dunno.

Nathan returns his view towards the window.

NATHAN

Somebody's comin' into town.

Henry stands up from his chair.

HENRY

Who is it?

NATHAN

A young man and a young woman.

Henry walks over to Nathan and looks out the window at the
two riders.

HENRY

Are you kiddin' me?

NATHAN

What? Who is it?

Henry ignores the question and runs out of the room leaving
Nathan by himself perplexed.

EXT. HOTEL -- MOMENTS LATER

Henry runs out of the saloon, and sees Martin and Beth tying up their horses.

HENRY
Beth? Martin?

They both turn and look at Henry. Beth sees him and jumps up in the air in excitement.

BETH
Henry!

She gives him a hug and kisses him on the cheek. Martin walks up to him and shakes his hand.

MARTIN
Hey Henry.

HENRY
How you doin' Martin?

MARTIN
Good.

Both Martin and Beth are a little taken back at how unexcited Henry is to see them.

HENRY
What are you guys doin' out here?

BETH
We're out here lookin' for Jeremiah.

MARTIN
Mom made me come with her.

BETH
Henry listen to this. Martin killed Dirty Dan and two of his men. He actually killed them, they were in a stand off.

MARTIN
I gotta admit I had to cheat a little bit.

HENRY
That's great.

BETH
Aren't you surprised to hear that?

HENRY
Um.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

Jeremiah was... hung just yesterday.

(beat)

He's dead.

BETH

What!

MARTIN

No.

HENRY

He was accused of a murder he didn't
commit.

BETH

NO!

Beth collapses on the ground crying getting attention from all the bystanders walking by. Martin and Henry pull her back up and they walk towards the saloon.

BETH (CONT'D)

Jeremiah!

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Beth sits on the bed crying very loudly. Uncle Jack is on the other side of the bed. He's sleeping through Beth's loud wails.

Martin tries to calm her down and Nathan and Henry watch from a distance.

BETH

(sobbing)

I told him he wouldn't come back. I
told him that I new I'd never see
him again.

MARTIN

I'm sorry Beth.

HENRY

He told us he wanted to marry you
when he got back.

BETH

He told me that too. If he hadn't
had gone with you he'd still be alive!

MARTIN

Beth, it's not their fault.

BETH

Yes it is!

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)
How could you let him go! Martin we
should have come sooner.

MARTIN
Beth, please--

BETH
--Who was the man that killed him?

HENRY
The sheriff of this town.

BETH
Let's kill him.

MARTIN
Beth.

BETH
Just do the same thing you did to
Dirty Dan.

NATHAN
What'd he do to Dirty Dan?

BETH
He killed him!

NATHAN
You mean Dirty Dan's dead?

MARTIN
Yes. He's dead.

Nathan looks down to the floor. He isn't sure what to feel.
He just stares at the floor.

BETH
Did ya'll ever find that gold or
what?

Nathan looks up when hears the word "gold" and stares at
Henry.

NATHAN
Let's find it Henry. Let's get this
gold.

HENRY
That's what Jeremiah would've wanted
us to do.

Beth slowly stops crying and looks at Uncle Jack.

BETH
Is Uncle Jack okay?

HENRY

What are you talking about?

Beth shakes Uncle Jack, and he doesn't wake up. Henry walks over to him and puts his hand on Uncle Jack's head.

HENRY (CONT'D)

He's burning up!

Henry shakes Uncle Jack hard, but Uncle Jack still just lies there.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Uncle Jack!

EXT. GRAVE YARD -- DAY

Beth, Martin, Henry, and Nathan look at the gravestone. They stare at the gravestone in complete silence for a good time. There isn't one happy face.

The men have their hats on their chests.

HENRY

I'm gonna miss you Uncle Jack. I'm gonna miss you so much.

Another silence.

BETH

Can somebody say something? How about you Martin?

MARTIN

I didn't really know him well.

NATHAN

I didn't really know him either,
(beat)
But I could tell he was a good man.
I could tell he was a good man to
Henry and a good man to Jeremiah.
He was good to me and I only knew
him for a few days. I only knew him
for a few days and I miss him as I
miss my father. I knew he did some
sinning, but everyone sins.

He did some things that God probably
won't like much, but I've got a
feeling. I've got one of those gut
feelings that even though I didn't
know this man well at all, I just
know he's in heaven. I know he's in
heaven with the angels and... pa.

Nathan stops and starts to tear up.

MARTIN

I guess I could say something then.

(beat)

Well... Uncle Jack. You had to have been a great father, because I knew your sons real well, and they turned out to be some fine young men. Jeremiah was tall like you and Henry had your looks. They were respectable like you.

The kids were just great young men. The way they were is a little of their fault. But it's mostly your fault for molding the young me into who they are today. I guess I'll see you soon Uncle Jack. I know you're gone, but we won't forget you.

BETH

Uncle Jack you had to have been the sweetest man I ever knew, and one of the best. I remember you saying some of the funniest things. You had me laughing all the time even when I was sad. There's no way I'll ever forget you.

There won't be a day when I don't remember some of the things you said to me, some of the things you taught me, and some of the things that made me be a better person. You're one of the best men I've ever met. I'll never forget your name.

Henry starts to say something, but he begins to tear up.

BETH (CONT'D)

It's okay Henry, it's okay.

NATHAN

I guess it's time to go on home and--

Henry interrupts startling everyone in the group.

HENRY

No! We set out on a mission and we're gonna finish it. That's what Uncle Jack would've wanted us to do. He wouldn't have wanted us to give up just because he's dead. He'd want us to keep on pushin' forward. We're not going back home. We're going to find the gold!

Nathan kneels down to Henry's face.

NATHAN

Henry. Henry it's time to go home.

Henry stands back up.

HENRY

I'm not going any where, but South.

BETH

Hasn't enough blood been spilt?

HENRY

We set out to do something, and we're goin' to finish it. Now who's comin'?

Henry turns around and looks at the Gravestone.

NATHAN

I'm not gonna let you go the rest of the trip without any body. I guess I'll go with you.

Martin looks over at Beth and she shakes her head "yes".

MARTIN

I guess we're in too.

HENRY

Thank you. Now there's a few things I'd like to say to my Uncle before we go.

INT. CABIN -- LATER

Eight men talk in a cabin. There's a table set up in the center. Ugly and Lawrence sit at the table with two others. One of them, ARTHUR, an average sized man with a scar on his forehead and through his eyeball. Another man also sits at the table, SEBASTIAN, he's almost short enough to be a midget.

LEONARD and EMANUEL stand near the table. Leonard is muscle bound and Emanuel is a very scrawny man.

FERNANDO, a man with a massive beard covering his face sits alone by the fireplace. Next to the door is RALPH, another man with a lot of facial hair mostly around his upper lip.

All eight men are speaking loudly, but stop when Ugly commands them.

UGLY

Everybody shutup! Now listen up. I don't know how many these boys got with 'em.

(MORE)

UGLY (CONT'D)

But we know for sure there's gonna be at least two of 'em.

LEONARD

Let's kill both of 'em. Easy.

LAWRENCE

No. Not that easy, we said we don't know how many there are. There might have a lot more than eight men like us.

ARTHUR

If we go in there guns blazin' not too many people can stop the eight of us.

RALPH

Let's go chargin' in there!

UGLY

You think we should just go chargin' in there?

EMANUEL

I dunno, but I tell you one thing we've got to get a move on and fast.

SEBASTIAN

We should've been gone yesterday! For all we know they've already found it.

UGLY

They ain't found it yet.

EMANUEL

How do you know?

RALPH

How *could* you know that?

LAWRENCE

He just does alright. The boys looked young so that means they're inexperienced.

ARTHUR

How young were they?

LEONARD

Yeah, I don't want to kill no kids.

ARTHUR

I wouldn't mind, I was just curious.

LAWRENCE

Maybe around seventeen years old.

SEBASTIAN

Well that's just old enough to die as for as I'm concerned. When you turn fourteen you can die. These boys are around three years ahead of time before it becomes okay to kill 'em.

LEONARD

I don't want to kill no kids.

RALPH

Didn't you just hear what Sebastian said? The boys are three years ahead of the time to die.

LEONARD

They're too young for me.

Leonard turns to Fernando who hasn't said a single word.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

What do you think Fernando?

Fernando doesn't take his glance off the fireplace. He continues his into the fire as he talks to Leonard. A double barrel shotgun rests in his lap.

FERNANDO

All I know is that there's a time for killing no matter how young you are. Everybody dies. Some old. Some young. Everyone goes. If we kill these two kids all we'll be doing is speeding up their very short lives. I will **not** hesitate to gun down anyone who stands in my way of the gold. As far as I can see it. That gold's mine.

EXT. PLAINS -- MORNING

Henry leads Beth, Nathan, and Martin on horseback. They race their horses across the plains in search for the first farm they come across.

HENRY (V.O.)

You were the only real father I ever had. Nobody really knows who my real father was... just some drunk deadbeat. You were there for me Uncle Jack, and not too many people would've done what you did.

(MORE)

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

You didn't have to take me in like you did.

You could've thrown me on the streets like I've seen happen to so many other kids, but you were there for me. You were there for me when it mattered, and that Uncle Jack means the world to me. I just wish I could've said this to you before you died. I'm... I'm gonna miss you Uncle Jack, I'm gonna miss you so much.

The group finally nears a farm. It appears to be uninhabited. They dismount their horses.

There's a well near the side of the house and Henry sprints over to it.

HENRY (CONT'D)

This might be it!

The rest run over to his position.

HENRY (CONT'D)

This might be it.

Martin grabs the bucket and drops it in the well. He pulls it back up. He looks inside it and, the bucket is filled with water.

MARTIN

No.

NATHAN

This is foolish Henry. It's time to go back.

HENRY

No! I'm not going back, there's gold out there just waitin' for us to find it.

BETH

We've been searching for days Henry. There hasn't been a farm we haven't come across. I'm gettin' so tired.

MARTIN

She is a lady, Henry.

HENRY

Oh stop your fussin'.

BETH

Please Henry let's go back.

NATHAN

I think it's time you start admittin'
there ain't no gold out here.

HENRY

(angry)

If you want to quit, then quit. I
don't care. I ain't gonna go back
with no gold!

The cocking of a pistol is heard near the house, everyone turns to see who it is. Two men. One the father the other the son. The father has a rifle and the son has the pistol aimed their way.

Martin raises his hands up.

MARTIN

We don't want no quarrel.

FATHER

What do you want?

NATHAN

Just a drink of water.

FATHER

Well, get your drink and go on.
Your the second group of people this
week who's come by.

BETH

We'll be goin' sir.

FATHER

Go on then.

EXT. PLAINS -- DAY

The group is riding once again, but this time they're trotting their horses. They're not running them like before. Martin is about to fall off his horse he's so sleepy, but Nathan pushes him back up.

Off in the distance is a torn down farm. The stables are beat down and the house is falling a part. It's very worn down.

HENRY

That's it!

NATHAN

How do you know?

HENRY
Trust me that's it.

EXT. FARM -- MOMENTS LATER

The group surrounds the dried up well. Nathan pokes his head in and looks down into what looks like an eternity of darkness.

NATHAN
Are you sure it's in there?

HENRY
Yeah I'm sure.

BETH
How are you going to get in there?

HENRY
I'll go down with the bucket, and you'll pull me back up.

MARTIN
Beth better go down. She's the lightest one here.

HENRY
We'll pull you back up I promise.

BETH
Alright.

Martin, Henry, and Nathan hold onto the other side of the rope as Beth holds on for dear life. They slowly ease her down the well until there's no more slack left.

HENRY
(shouting)
Are you okay!

BETH
(shouting)
Yeah, I'm at the bottom!

HENRY
What's at the bottom?!?

Long pause, as they eagerly wait for an answer.

BETH
Gold! There's gold at the bottom!

The men get so excited that they almost let go of the rope they're holding.

On top of a slope looking down the tip of a steady rifle appears. Fernando is holding it.

The rifle is aimed dead for Martin. Fernando pulls the trigger and Martin falls to the earth. Right as Martin falls eight men charge down the hill.

HENRY

Oh no! Beth you stay down there.

BETH

What's going on!

NATHAN

There's a hell of a lot of men shooting at us!

Nathan picks Martin up who only has a shoulder wound. They run around the farm house and stop for cover.

MARTIN

It hurts! They shot me!

NATHAN

I can't believe this. How'd they find out?

HENRY

Martin?

MARTIN

Yeah?

HENRY

Can you shoot?

MARTIN

(pulling out pistol)
Yeah.

HENRY

I'm gonna run for the horses and get the shotgun.

NATHAN

Get my rifle too.

HENRY

Ya'll have to cover me!

NATHAN

We got you now go!

Nathan shoves Henry out in the open, and Henry runs to the horses. Nathan and Martin BLASTS their guns toward the men coming down the hill. GUN SHOTS are shot into the air creating an uncomfortable and dangerous environment.

Henry quickly pulls his shotgun out from his horse and takes Nathan's rifle from his.

Just as he's doing so Henry's horse is shot and it falls to the ground bloody.

Henry runs back to his position and his hat is shot off his head.

HENRY

Nice job boys.

Henry hands Martin his revolver, and hands Nathan his rifle. Henry has his shotgun gripped tightly in his hands. Martin has two pistols, he has a little trouble keeping the one up in his left hand.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Alright let's-- AHHH!

Henry grasps his heart.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Oh no not now!

NATHAN

This is not the time for this Henry.

HENRY

I'm sorry Nathan!

MARTIN

It's alright.

(sighs)

Rest here and Nathan and I will go out.

HENRY

It hurts so bad! AHHH!

LAWRENCE (O.S.)

C'mon out boys! We ain't gonna hurt you now.

Nathan quickly pokes his head and rifle out shooting at Lawrence. Lawrence takes the shot in his stomach and falls to the earth holding his bleeding belly.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Kill 'am all!

Nathan turns to Martin.

NATHAN

You go that way, I'll go this way.

Martin runs off to the other side of the farmhouse quickly dispatching of the lone, Arthur, who falls to the ground with a bullet hole in his forehead.

The outlaws realize where Martin is and they charge to the other side of the farmhouse. Martin stands in the opening with his two pistols blazing away until both guns are empty. Emanuel, Ralph, and Sebastian fall to the ground dead.

Martin can't reload in time enough and the rest of the men gun him down.

Unbeknownst to the outlaws Nathan has flanked them. Just as Martin falls to the earth Nathan, with amazing speed kills Leonard and Ugly just as they turn around.

Henry has just come out of hiding, his minor heart problem has subsided. Nathan turns to Henry and smiles.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

We got 'em Henry! We got--

GUN SHOT is fired again and Nathan is hit in the back. The look on his face is completely dumbfounded as he falls to his knees then his stomach.

Fernando stands behind him with his rifle.

HENRY

You just shot that man in the back!

Fernando turns to see Henry.

FERNANDO

And you're next.

Fernando lifts his rifle up again and shoots. CLICK. It's empty. He throws the rifle down and pulls his pistol out. Henry stands there with his shotgun, and he raises it just as Fernando shoots.

The gun EXPLODES in Fernando's hand, and he falls to his knees holding his burnt fist. Fernando SCREAMS in pain.

Henry slowly walks his way up to Fernando and puts the shotgun in his face. Henry's face is expressionless.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)

You wouldn't shoot an unarmed man would you?

Henry remembers his Uncle Jack asking him the same question in the beginning.

HENRY

Yeah I would.

Henry shoots and blows Fernando's head off leaving Fernando on the ground, dead.

NATHAN

(dying)

Henry.

Henry sees Nathan on the ground still dying.

HENRY

Nathan!

Henry bends down to Nathan's level and props Nathan's head on his knee.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Nathan, you're going to be alright.
You're going to be okay. You're not
going to die.

NATHAN

It's okay Henry. I know I'm dead.

HENRY

Where's Martin?

Nathan points to Martin, riddled with bullet holes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Oh no. Please don't go Nathan.

NATHAN

It's okay I want to. I finally get
to see pa again. Don't cry Henry.
You've used up enough tears.

Nathan closes his eyes and dies. Henry stands up, and he doesn't cry just like Nathan asked him not to.

BETH (O.S.)

Is someone gonna tell me what's goin'
on up there!

EXT. TOWN -- DAY

Henry rides with Beth on their horses. Neither of them are content at all. Their faces are expressionless. They're not happy, sad, or sick. They're just expressionless.

They stop in front of a shop and dismount.

INT. SHOP -- MOMENTS LATER

The store owner, CARL, turns around when he sees the two youths.

CARL

How are you two doin' today!

HENRY
Just fine sir.

Beth hands the pouch of gold to Henry who lays it out on the table. He opens it up and some of the gold spills out.

HENRY (CONT'D)
You want this?

CARL
Where did you find this?

HENRY
Does it matter? You want it or not?

CARL
Okay lemme see it.

Carl picks up one of the gold pieces and examines it. He looks at it for about three seconds and slams it back down to the table.

CARL (CONT'D)
I really don't appreciate this.

HENRY
Don't appreciate what?

BETH
What's this guy talking about?

CARL
Get out of my store. Get out now!

HENRY
Hey--

CARL
You think I'm stupid? You can't
cheat me.
(firmly)
This is **Fool's Gold**.

The words stab into Henry's heart like a knife and he's utterly shocked. Beth almost faints.

HENRY
It's what?

CARL
Fool's Gold.