

<The Family Honor>

Second Draft by Lew Ritter

First Draft written by Lew Ritter and R.L. Tecklenberg.

Based on the book Chasing Pancho Villa by R.L. Tecklenberg.

FADE IN:

Title: Northern Mexico - 1400 hours - July 23, 1917

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - DAY

Shimmering desert heat bounces off the forbidden mountain terrain.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS on horseback escort four Model-T trucks.

A company of troopers from the Negro 24th Infantry Regiment leads the column, while another follows closely behind.

Many of the men wear bandannas around their faces, and pieces of cloth cover their rifles for protection from the dust.

The flanking force is a mounted unit of Negro troopers from the 10th U.S. Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers.

The DRIVER of a truck yells to CAPTAIN BART JAMES, 20's, a white officer on horseback, who commands a company from the 24th.

DRIVER

Captain, how much farther? We've been eating this dust for three days.

James looks at the surrounding terrain.

CAPTAIN JAMES

We should be there by nightfall. Be on the lookout for Villa. He's here somewhere.

EXT. TOP OF RIDGE - DAY

GENERAL PANCHO VILLA sits on a magnificent stallion.

MARIA WASHINGTON, 20s, lovely, multi-racial, young woman, sits on a dark stallion beside him. She is dressed in a low-cut cotton blouse tight against her bosom, dark jacket, and denim jeans with U.S. Cavalry boots.

Villa, with a dark, bushy mustache and weathered face, watches his SOLDIERS (Villistas) take their positions among the rocks.

An AIDE gallops up to him.

PANCHO VILLA

Place the sharpshooters along the ridge. They must not miss.

AIDE

Si, General.

Maria glances at Pancho Villa.

PANCHO VILLA

Today the Americans pay for their
arrogance by tasting Mexican lead.

Villa stares at a single road winding through the mountains,
then at the large dust cloud the Americans have created with
their trucks.

Maria watches the Villistas take their positions.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)

Rapido, muchachos... rapido.

EXT. AMERICAN COLUMN - DAY

The trucks, heavy with supplies and fuel, creep along the
road. Worried, the driver scans the rocks along the ridge.

One black cavalry trooper takes a drink of water. He spots
a whiff of dust just above the ridge flanking them.
Something's not right.

SOLDIER

Captain James...

James turns to the soldier and sees the dust. Suddenly a
volley of shots rings out from the ridge. The black soldier
falls from his horse.

CAPTAIN JAMES

Villistas! Villistas!

The truck drivers dive from their vehicles and take cover.
Bullets strike the cans of fuel packed into the trucks. An
explosion and a ball of fire rise from the first truck.

Another truck is engulfed in flames. The driver is
incinerated by the gasoline blaze before he can escape.

CAPTAIN JAMES (CONT'D)

Form a skirmish line! Rifles at the
ready.

The disciplined troopers from the 24th respond. They line
up facing the ridge. The cavalry troopers flank them, awaiting
the order to assault the ridge.

The Villistas, focused on destroying the supply trucks,
continue firing into them. A third truck catches fire.

James rides out in front of his troopers, drawing his .45 caliber. A soldier joins him.

CAPTAIN JAMES (CONT'D)

Fire!

A volley of fire explodes across the ravine from the Americans' Springfield rifles.

CAPTAIN JAMES (CONT'D)

Fix bayonets! Charge!

The mounted troopers charge up the ridge, yelling and firing their automatic weapons.

A soldier approaches James.

SOLDIER

Sir, they're after the trucks. Not the men.

James looks back. Another explosion. The trucks are all destroyed as red flames engulf them and a ball of black smoke rises into the sky.

EXT. TOP OF RIDGE - LATER

James and his soldiers reach the spot where Pancho Villa and the Villistas were only minutes earlier. One of the Villistas lies unconscious on the ground. The rest of the soldiers have vanished.

Soldiers examine the area. They find brass casings on the ground. One soldier calls to Captain James.

SOLDIER

Captain, you better see this.

James joins the soldier. He stares at the spent cartridges. He recognizes them.

CAPTAIN JAMES

They're shooting at us with American rifles.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG, NEW MEXICO - DAY

GENERAL "BLACK JACK" PERSHING, 50, ramrod straight, leads the expedition against Pancho Villa, inspects the battle-weary troops from the 24th and 10th.

COLONEL SNOW, 40s, bitter, walks with a limp alongside the general.

GENERAL PERSHING
We've failed in our mission, Colonel.
We've chased Villa now for five months
and still nothing to show for it.

COLONEL SNOW
Permission to speak freely?

GENERAL PERSHING
Permission granted.

COLONEL SNOW
One day we think we got him, then as
suddenly he slips away.

GENERAL PERSHING
Maybe, Colonel, I need some new blood.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - MEXICO - DAY

Captain James and LIEUTENANT FLOYD, 20's, flamboyant with a
General Custer style mustache. They examine the boxes of
rifles.

CAPTAIN JAMES
Someone is smuggling them these
weapons to Pancho Villa.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
The bastard.

Lieutenant Floyd spots several documents written in German.

CAPTAIN JAMES
Looks like this goes way beyond the
camp.

Floyd flips through the documents. He grows alarmed.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
If Germans were involved. Best to
leave this matter to the brass. Way
above our pay grade.

CAPTAIN JAMES
I'm going to get to the bottom of
this.

Lieutenant Floyd places his hands on Captain James's shoulder.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
You're treading on dangerous ground,
buddy boy.

Captain James returns his concentration back on his work. He shakes off the young officer's hand.

INT. CAMP FURLONG - BART'S TENT - LATER- NIGHT

Bart sits at his desk. He is absorbed studying the logs. A pair of brown cowboy boots on the creaking floorboard. He spins around, and his expression turns to alarm.

The SOUND of a gunshot. Bart is hit by the bullet. He slumps over his desk, dead.

CUT TO:

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Establishing shot.

INT. EXCLUSIVE GENTLEMAN'S CLUB - DAY

A luxurious paneled room. Several WELL DRESSED MEN sit in chairs smoke cigars, drink wine and converse with fellow members. They play a high stakes card game.

HARRISON JAMES, 30's, impeccable in manner and dress, sits at the table playing cards with the other members. He displays the winning hand to the chagrin of the other members.

CLUB MEMBER

Well, Harrison. Look's like Lady Luck smiles on you again.

Harrison scoops up the money from the winning pot.

INT. PRIVATE CLUB - DAY

Harrison and another Club Member walk through the lushly furnished rooms.

CLUB MEMBER

It's nice to have a private club. No women or family to bother you.

Harrison looks up.

HARRISON

I'm quite content to live in my private suite at the club. Family and women are more trouble than they are worth.

The member holds up a newspaper with the headline: FRENCH ARMY MUTINIES.

CLUB MEMBER

When will the Americans enter the fight?

HARRISON

Never, if I have anything to say in the matter.

(In Latin)

Peace is not the true nature of man.

CLUB MEMBER

Spoken like a true diplomat. I've heard you've going to Paris.

Harrison inspects his timepiece.

HARRISON

Yes, I leave in a week. Excuse me. I have an appointment.

INT. EXCLUSIVE GENTLEMAN'S CLUB - GYM - DAY

Harrison garbed in fencing gear fights his OPPONENT, a young, blond haired club member. Both are expert fencers. They lunge back and forth.

Harrison spots his opening and jabs his opponent in the chest with his foil. Both remove their fencing masks. They congratulate each other.

OPPONENT

Excellent match, Harrison.

They cross sabers.

HARRISON

Keeps your mind and senses sharp.

ANOTHER PART OF THE GYM

BUTCHER, 40's, career bureaucrat, watches the match.

BUTCHER

Looking for Mr. James. Harrison James.

OPPONENT

He's over there.

Butcher wanders over.

BUTCHER

Ah, there you are James. I am a representative of the United States Government. May I call you Harry?

HARRISON
Even close friends don't call me
Harry. You may call me Harrison.

BUTCHER
We suspect that Randolph James
Commodity Brokers is transacting gun
shipments with the bandit Pancho
Villa.

HARRISON
Why speak to me?

BUTCHER
You are a principal of the company?

Harrison grows indignant.

HARRISON
My mother runs it and basically
disinherited me. I'm just a mid-level
diplomat.

BUTCHER
Federal agents tracked a shipment to
the Port of Galveston. The entire
shipment has been temporarily
quarantined.

HARRISON
As I was saying.

BUTCHER
If we tie these allegations to your
family's firm. They are in deep
trouble.

Harrison ponders the conversation. He frowns, disturbed by
the allegations.

EXT. JAMES ESTATE - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

A large palatial estate with manicured lawns. Several motor
cars idle in the driveway.

INT. ESTATE- SERVANT'S QUARTERS- DAY

HUDSON, 50's, head butler, speaks to Harrison. There is a
formal master - servant relationship between the two men.

HUDSON
Good to see you, Mr. Harrison.

Harrison smiles warmly.

HARRISON
Still running this place like a top?

HUDSON
I hope you don't think it out of
place, but we miss you.

Harrison places his hand on Hudson's shoulders. He winks.

HARRISON
We are lucky to be stout hearted
bachelors. Woman are mostly trouble.
Is Mother around?

EXT. REAR OF ESTATE - DAY

Dozens of WELL-DRESSED SOCIALITES gather on the lawn. At the center of the crowd is DOROTHY JAMES, 50's, the grand matron of the James family. She talks to a dignified SENATOR.

Dorothy spots her son, Harrison, weaving through the crowd.

HARRISON
Mother, we need to talk. Excuse us,
Senator.

Harrison pulls Dorothy away.

INT. REAR OF ESTATE - GAZEBO - DAY

Harrison confronts his mother. She sits on a couch in the gazebo.

DOROTHY
Time for your yearly visit? Or do
you owe more money for your gambling
debts?

HARRISON
Thanks to your kind generosity.

Harrison paces in front of his mother.

DOROTHY
I don't like it when you pace.

HARRISON
You were the one who married so soon
after father passed away.

DOROTHY
It was for the good of the company.

HARRISON
We know better, don't we?

DOROTHY
This can wait. I'm entertaining
some of the most important people in
Washington.

Dorothy stands. Harrison drags her back to her seat.

HARRISON
I sent three telegrams and never got
a response.

Dorothy yanks his hand away from her.

DOROTHY
Harrison, our guests. I raised you
better. It's rude to speak of
business at these events.

HARRISON
I've received documents about illegal
gun shipments to Mexico.

DOROTHY
A simple misunderstanding.

HARRISON
Misunderstanding? You violated
Federal law.

DOROTHY
I met personally with Senator Fall
from New Mexico. He resolved the
problem for us.

Harrison is stunned by her coldness.

HARRISON
Better stay on good terms with the
Senator. This problem may not be
over.

A SERVANT approaches and hands Harrison a telegram.

DOROTHY
What now?

HARRISON
(reading)
Dear Mrs. James, I regret to inform
you that Captain Bartlett James died
(MORE)

HARRISON (CONT'D)
on Saturday, September 2, 1917. A preliminary report indicates a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was a fine officer. My deepest condolences. Colonel Kneeland Snow. Commanding, Camp Furlong, New Mexico.

Stunned, Harrison folds the paper and sticks it into his vest pocket. Dorothy faints.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LATER - DAY

A SERVANT escorts a shaken Dorothy to the breakfast table. Harrison sits across from her.

DOROTHY
(Outraged)
It's a disgrace.

HARRISON
For once, mother, we agree.

The servant serves tea to Harrison and Dorothy.

DOROTHY
Harrison, you must find out what happened to him.

HARRISON
The military is handling this... perhaps your friend, Senator Fall.

Dorothy grabs Harrison's hand.

DOROTHY
Every moment lost.

Harrison frowns.

HARRISON
When I get back from Paris, I'll handle this. I leave tomorrow, or I forfeit my assignment.

Harrison turns to walk away.

DOROTHY
It's your brother.

Dorothy burst into fake tears.

HARRISON
Stop pretending. Vulnerability
doesn't become you.

DOROTHY
There's no need to go. Another
diplomat could take the assignment.

Harrison puts down his tea cup.

HARRISON
You never change mother.

DOROTHY
It's your duty to clear the family
name.

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Harrison clears some files from his cluttered desk. A FRIEND,
20's, dapper, well dressed, stands nearby the desk.

FRIEND
I heard the news. Sorry about your
brother.

HARRISON
We were not on speaking terms. Thanks
to our mother.

Harrison slips some files into his briefcase.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
I'm going to Paris next week.

The Friend appears disappointed. He is the bearer of bad
news. He shakes his head and hands him a letter.

FRIEND
Change of plans, I'm afraid. Sorry,
word from the top.

HARRISON
Impossible.

FRIEND
Someone with a lot of influence.
Must know the head of the State
Department.

Harrison is thunderstruck by the news. His eyes widen.

HARRISON
One quick guess.

EXT. STATE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Harrison dashes out into the street. Dorothy sits in the back seat of the car. It is parked by the curb.

HARRISON
Blackmail? This is low even for
you.

Dorothy appears unruffled and proud of her deed.

DOROTHY
I'm still head of the family.

Dorothy places train tickets and an envelope full of cash into his hand.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)
When you get back, we'll talk about
Paris.

Dorothy is unyielding. Harrison expression drops. He realizes that his position is futile.

HARRISON
We will talk. You can be sure of
that.

EXT. BULL RING - MONTERREY MEXICO - DAY

FELIX SOMMERFELD, 30's, handsome, but with eyes like deadly cobras, sits on a bench watching a Bull Fight. The arena is full of Mexicans and German Staffers.

The MATADOR races around the ring chased by the bull. The Matador waits for the bull to get tired. He pulls out his sword and gores the animal.

Sommerfeld is on his feet cheering.

SOMMERFELD
Bravo.

OTTO, a trusted aide, approaches Sommerfeld. He hands him an urgent telegram. He leans over and whispers his message.

OTTO
We received a message from our source
at the State Department. The brother,
is on his way out to Furlong.

The Matador finishes off the poor animal. Sommerfeld is on his feet.

SOMMERFELD

Bravo, Senor.

Otto hands Sommerfeld several documents, who examines them.

OTTO

His name is Harrison James.

Sommerfeld gets up from his seat.

EXT. BULL RING - ARCHWAY - DAY

Sommerfeld confers with his aide. A glint of deadly recognition in his eyes at the mention of the name.

SOMMERFELD

Send a telegram. Don't take any chances. Send your best man to stop him.

EXT. TRAIN - SOMEWHERE IN WEST TEXAS - NIGHT

A train crosses the flat arid land. In the starlit darkness, the train cars are awash in light.

INT. FANCY DINING CAR - NIGHT

Harrison emerges into the dining car. Fancy linen tablecloths, gleaming cutlery adorn the tables. He is right at home with the fancy environment.

James sits in a secluded corner. He pulls an old photo of an ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN (Miss Jenny) from his vest pocket. He stares at it.

FLASHBACK

Harrison escorts the Attractive Young Woman into church.

RETURN TO SCENE

INT. FANCY DINING CAR - NIGHT

Harrison sticks the photo back in his vest pocket and picks up a copy of a local newspaper. Harrison looks up. A WELL-DRESSED OFFICER is standing in front of him. He has a British accent.

OFFICER

May I sit down? Nice to speak to a gentleman.

Harrison gestures for him to sit.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

I'm looking for some civilized conversation. Hard to find it out here.

HARRISON

What brings you out West?

Harrison pours a glass of wine for the officer

OFFICER

I'm back from the war. I served in the King's Fifth Royal Fusilliers. I'm going to work with American troops... And yourself?

HARRISON

Family matters.

Harrison pours a drink into two glasses. He offers it to the young officer. The young officer notices a military ring on Harrison's finger.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

I served in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. We fought the Moros. Excellent hand-to-hand fighters. They would sneak up on us at night. I learned to sleep with my eyes open.

OFFICER

I spent several months in the trenches. Nasty business.

HARRISON

War is only glorious to those who don't have to fight it.

The young officer clinks glasses with Harrison.

OFFICER

Bravo.

Harrison stares at the man's cheek and spots a faint dueling scar.

HARRISON

You'll excuse me, it's been a long day. I'm heading for bed.

INT. SLEEPING CAR - NIGHT

Harrison sits up in bed reading a book. He places it on his nightstand and turns out the light.

INT. SLEEPING CAR - NIGHT - LATER

The door to the sleeper car slides open.

An ASSASSIN slips in the berth. He approaches the sleeping Harrison with a knife. He steps on a creaky floorboard.

Harrison's eyes snap open. The assassin is the well - dressed officer.

HARRISON

You should cover up your scar better,
Mein Herr.

The assassin lunges at Harrison. Harrison glances around the room for a weapon. He grabs a steel shaving pot and smashes it against the assassin's hand.

The assassin drops the knife. Harrison leaps at him and the two men grapple on the floor. A photo drops out of the assassin's pocket.

Harrison reaches for the nearby chair. He smashes it against the assassin. The assassin rises from the floor and bolts toward the open door.

OUTSIDE BERTH

Sleepy passengers watch with horror as Harrison and the assassin struggle. The assassin knocks Harrison against the metallic post. Harrison is dazed. The assassin races to the next car.

EXT. BETWEEN TRAIN CARS - NIGHT

Harrison tackles the assassin. They wrestle on the open platform between the cars.

HARRISON

I told you, I was a light sleeper.

The assassin reaches for a knife hidden in his boot. He lunges at Harrison. Harrison evades the assassin and he falls, dangling over the tracks.

ASSASSIN

(begging, frantic)
Help me.

Harrison reaches over to help the man. A look of panic engulfs the assassin's face.

HARRISON
Here. Take my hand.

The assassin loses his grip. He screams, as he plunges into the tracks of the train below. Harrison averts his eyes.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Harrison returns to his berth. He is greeted by passengers and a conductor.

CONDUCTOR
Are you all right, Mr. James?

Harrison brushes off the dirt.

HARRISON
Yes, I think you're short one passenger.

Harrison enters his sleeping berth.

INT. HARRISON'S BERTH - NIGHT

Harrison closes the door and picks up the items that the assassin dropped. The photo is a picture of Harrison.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - SOMEWHERE IN WEST TEXAS - DAY

The train has stopped for water and provisions.

TWO WELL DRESSED MEN walk up and down the platform. They scan the passengers, as they disembark from the train. One of the men addresses his companion.

WELL DRESSED MAN
(in German)
He was supposed to be on the train.

The CONDUCTOR stares at Maria, as she walks toward the train.

CONDUCTOR
Hurry along, Miss. The train cannot wait much longer.

Maria climbs aboard the train.

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY

Harrison eats his lunch. He looks out the dining car window and spots Maria climbing onto the train.

INT. WESTERN UNION STATION - DAY

The well dressed man hands the CLERK a message to be transmitted via telegraph.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Pershing and Colonel Snow inspect the Negro Buffalo Soldiers lined up in front of them. Pershing is displeased.

COLONEL SNOW

These troops... Well, they are not the most reliable, sir.

GENERAL PERSHING

Colonel Snow, your dislike of Negro troops is noted, but you are their leader.

COLONEL SNOW

Begging the general's pardon.

GENERAL PERSHING

I know these men. I fought beside them on the frontier.

A soldier drops a heavy wooden crate in front of them. It is stamped "Made in USA. To: Camp Furlong."

The soldier pries open the crate. Inside are a mixture of Browning M - 1 rifles and several foreign made German Mauser rifles.

COLONEL SNOW

These are the weapons we seized after our battle with the bandito Pancho Villa.

Snow is embarrassed.

GENERAL PERSHING

Make sure that no more of our weapons fall into his hands.

Pershing leaves. Snow inspects one of the rifles.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - COLUMBUS, TEXAS - DAY

Harrison steps off the train, wearing his derby and carrying a suitcase. He wipes the perspiration and dust from his face with a silk monogrammed handkerchief.

HARRISON

Washington D.C. it's not.

Maria alight from the next car. She carries several packages. Harrison offers his assistance. He doffs his derby.

HARRISON

A gentleman always assists a lady.

Maria's attitude is frosty. She rebuffs his assistance and walks away.

MARIA

My carriage is nearby.

Harrison is not distressed. He smiles and walks away.

HARRISON

(Under his breath)

Ah, the West. It will take some getting used to.

On the street, several motorcars travel next to the horse-drawn wagons and carriages.

A TROOP OF NEGRO BUFFALO SOLDIERS gallop down the street on horses. Several WHITE PEOPLE spit on the ground as they pass. Harrison approaches a MAN.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Can you point me to a local drinking establishment?

The man points to a bar.

PRIVATE HORATIO JONES, 20's, bulldog with a personality to match, watches Harrison from the distance.

INT. SHANDON'S BAR - DAY

It is a rough working class bar, barely furnished, with straw covering the floor. Harrison places a large bill on the bar. The well dressed Harrison is clearly out of place in this saloon.

HARRISON

A bottle of your finest.

The BARTENDER pulls out a bottle of cheap whiskey. Harrison pours the whiskey into a shot glass and throws it down.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

That will do.

The bartender smirks at the well dressed Harrison.

BARTENDER

What brings your lordship to my humble establishment?

Harrison sees THREE BUFFALO SOLDIERS walk into the bar. Several drunken patrons jeer.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Around back, boys.

WINSTON, one of the Buffalo soldiers, motions toward his gun.

WINSTON

We were hoping we could get a whiskey.

The bartender reluctantly nods, and motions to the bar.

BARTENDER

Coming right up.

Harrison walks over to one of the soldiers.

HARRISON

I'm new around here. I was hoping one of you could help me. Chance, any of you knew Bart James?

WINSTON, 20's, the leader of the Buffalo Soldiers, eye him cautiously. The bartender serves the soldiers whiskey.

WINSTON

Never heard of him.

The Buffalo Soldiers turn their back on him.

HARRISON

He was a captain in the twenty - fourth infantry, second battalion. He was my brother.

A drunken patron curses the Buffalo Soldiers.

DRUNKEN PATRON

Speaking to you, boy.

The drunken patron tosses his beer in the face of the Buffalo Soldier.

A second drunken patron stands up from the table and swings at one of the soldiers, but misses. A Buffalo Soldier knocks him out.

Another drunken patron sneaks up with a club. Before he can hit one of the Buffalo Soldiers, Harrison bashes him over the head with the whiskey bottle. The patron is dazed and stumbles to the floor.

The Buffalo Soldiers admire Harrison's quick moves.

HARRISON

Just thought they were being extremely rude. A man should be able to drink in peace.

Harrison brushes the dust off his jacket. The Buffalo Soldiers smile.

WINSTON

Bart James, he was a fine officer. We were proud to have served with him.

HARRISON

I'm on my way to Camp Furlong. To speak with a Colonel Snow.

The Buffalo Soldier bristles at the mention of the name.

WINSTON

Be careful about talking to Colonel Snow. He don't like colored troops. Bad blood between him and the Captain.

HARRISON

My brother?

The Buffalo Soldier shrugs.

BUFFALO SOLDIER#1

They were yelling at each other. Fought a lot. That's all I know.

Harrison doffs his derby.

HARRISON

Thanks... I'm looking for a place to stay.

The Buffalo Soldier analyzes Harrison. Fine clothes and manner.

WINSTON

You can catch us here. Most nights. Rich white folks stay at the Hoover.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - NIGHT

A fancy frontier hotel filled with polished mahogany floors and gleaming chandeliers. The lobby is full of WELL DRESSED BUSINESSMEN. Several businessmen spot Maria, as she walks through the hotel lobby.

BUSINESSMAN#1

A fine figure of a woman. Very elegant.

BUSINESSMAN #2

Mrs. Washington?

The well dressed businessman winks.

BUSINESSMAN#1

Is she here often? I'd sure like to make her acquaintance.

BUSINESSMAN#2

She owns the place.

The other businessman is dumbfounded.

EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - DAY

Pancho Villa sits on his magnificent stallion. The hungry PEASANTS gather around the wagon. Several SOLDIERS distribute food.

PANCHO VILLA

Make sure they get blankets and water.

Maria emerges from the back of the wagon carrying baskets filled with food. She wears peasant clothing to conceal her elegance. She is a natural beauty even without makeup.

Pancho Villa approaches Maria. He appears haggard and unshaven.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)

You are wealthy and well educated.
You don't have to get involved.

MARIA

They are my people too.

FLASHBACK

A young, abandoned Mexican girl (Maria) wanders through a burnt out village.

RETURN TO SCENE

Maria surveys the crowd of starving peasants.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Pardon me, General.

Maria uncovers a plate of food and gives it to a crying child.

MARIA (CONT'D)
(in Spanish)
Hush, young one. Everything will be
all right.

The PARENTS of the child stare up at Maria with looks of
gratitude.

PANCHO VILLA
You are very good with the children.

Maria sighs.

MARIA
This is as close as I come to being
a mother.

Maria turns to Pancho Villa.

MARIA (CONT'D)
General, I need your help.

Pancho Villa grasp her hand and kisses it.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I need to find those responsible for
murdering an American soldier.

PANCHO VILLA
The Americans are my enemy. They
would have beaten us, if not for the
new rifles.

MARIA
Rifles?

Pancho Villa is reluctant to discuss the matter.

PANCHO VILLA
It's better if you don't know.

MARIA
Not this American... Captain Bart
James. He was different.

A tear drops from her eyes.

PANCHO VILLA
He meant that much to you?

Maria remains silent.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)
You ask much, but I will do what I
can.

EXT. GERMAN EMBASSY - MONTERREY MEXICO - DAY

Sommerfeld walks with Otto through a bazaar. VENDORS hawking all sorts of exotic food and merchandise. Sommerfeld clearly disdains his assignment.

SOMMERFELD
I hate the food, the heat. I
protested being sent here. I wanted
to remain in Germany. My father
refused to speak with me.

OTTO
But the women.

Sommerfeld has a hint of a smile.

OTTO
We have contacted several of the
people you recommended. Including
General Villa.

Sommerfeld's eyes light up at the mention of the name.

SOMMERFELD
It would be a real benefit for
Germany. I would be a hero. Let me
know his answer.

They continue through the bazaar. Sommerfeld notices a GERMAN DIPLOMAT sitting head down at a table. He enjoys a siesta at the local bar.

Sommerfeld slaps him across the face.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)
Real Germans do not take siestas.
If I see that again, I will have you
shipped out.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Maria negotiate at a fancy oak table with a FORMIDABLE LOOKING BUSINESSMAN. They

BUSINESSMAN#1

I heard that you were speak fluent German. Let me take you to dinner some evening.

The Businessman leers at Maria. He strokes her hand. She brushes it off.

MARIA

Let's get down to business. I need to know about guns being smuggled out of army bases.

The Businessman is surprised by her bluntness.

BUSINESSMAN

Madam, I am not in that business.

Maria stares up at the imposing businessman. She will not be intimidated.

MARIA

I've heard otherwise.

BUSINESSMAN

Slanderous lies.

Maria stares at him without flinching.

MARIA

You would find it difficult to do business in this town without me.

The businessman appears flustered by her opposition.

BUSINESSMAN

Very well. I'll speak to some people.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is filled with WELL DRESSED GENTLEMEN. In the rear of the lobby, Harrison sits at a table by himself smoking a cigar.

FLASHBACK

A smiling Harrison introduces an ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN (Miss Jenny) to a party of GUESTS. The Guests welcome the young women to the group.

His brother Bart stands in the background. A look of envy crosses his face.

RETURN TO SCENE

The Desk Clerk walks over to Harrison.

DESK CLERK
Mr. James, your car is ready.

Harrison stubs his cigar into a nearby ashtray.

EXT. MAIN GATE - CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Maria confronts a GUARD. He is unmoved by her request.

MARIA
Please, I need to speak with the commanding officer.

GUARD
What's this regarding, ma'am?

MARIA
Captain Bart James.

The Guard hesitates.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I have some information that may shed light on his death. I must speak with Colonel Snow.

GUARD
Are you family?

Maria shakes her head.

MARIA
A friend, a close friend. My name is Maria Washington.

The Guard scans a list of names.

GUARD
I can't let you enter. You're not on my list, and you're not a relative.

MARIA
The colonel needs to talk to me.

GUARD
Ma'am, we have our orders.

Upset, Maria turns, walks toward a nearby horse and buggy.

Harrison sits in the driver's seat of his vehicle. He spots Maria walking toward her horse and buggy. He tips his hat.

HARRISON

Perhaps we got off on the wrong foot.
My name is James. Harrison James.

Maria ignores his overtures. She mounts the passenger seat of the buggy, grabs the reins and take off.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG -MAIN GATE - DAY

Harrison walks toward the main gate. He spots a truck pulling into the gate. The Guard waves it past. It reads Parilla General Store.

The Guard motions for the truck pass into the camp. Harrison waves a letter in the Guard's face.

HARRISON

Colonel Snow.

GUARD

Papers, sir.

Harrison offers the Guard some papers. The Guard motions the car inside.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - COLONEL SNOW'S TENT - DAY

The car halts in front of a large tent. A SOLDIER stands guard outside at attention. Harrison exits the car, hands the soldier some papers. The soldier holds the tent flap open.

The sound of a loud argument. JUAN PARILLA, 30's, wounded ex-veteran, storms out of the tent. He is clearly distraught by his conversation with the colonel.

PARILLA

Hope you got better treatment from
them than I did.

INT. COLONEL SNOW'S TENT - DAY

Colonel Snow stands in front of a mirror shaving.

COLONEL SNOW

Sergeant Parilla. The Army has made
its decision. That's final.

He turns to see Harrison enter the tent.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)

Oh, I thought it was Sergeant Parilla coming back to argue with me. Foolish man.

Harrison offers him his hand to shake. Snow refuses.

HARRISON

Colonel Snow, I'm Harrison James.

Snow snarls at him.

COLONEL SNOW

Can't give a good goddamn who you are.

HARRISON

I've brought a letter of introduction from Senator Fall. He said you would take time to speak to me.

Harrison plucks an envelope from his breast pocket. Snow examines the letter and makes a face.

COLONEL SNOW

You think because you know Senator Fall, you can interrupt my camp?

HARRISON

He's head of the Foreign Relations committee.

COLONEL SNOW

Chicago, New York, all the same to me. Pushy Eastern types.

HARRISON

I'm here to learn about my brother. I expect you to assist in my investigation.

Snow is short with him.

COLONEL SNOW

Captain Blaine, our company lawyer, will have the official report shortly.

HARRISON

You're certain of the conclusions.

Colonel Snow regards him with a look of contempt.

COLONEL SNOW
Mr. James, as difficult as this may seem, your brother wasn't himself lately.

HARRISON
Is that all you can say?

COLONEL SNOW
I don't have time to console bruised feelings.

Snow addresses Harrison.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
I will call when I get the final report. Good day, sir.

EXT. MAIN GATE - CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

CAPTAIN BLAINE, 30's, camp lawyer, bookish, runs up to the gate to meet Harrison.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
Mr. James, I just want you to know that many of us admired your brother.

HARRISON
Thank you for your kind words.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
I want to find Bart's killer. If you need help just ask.

The two men shake hands.

HARRISON
Are you the one who found the body?

CAPTAIN BLAINE
Late, around 11:00. Lying across the floor of his tent between two cots. Snow ordered the body removed.

HARRISON
Did anyone hear the gunshot?

CAPTAIN BLAINE
Gunfire is commonplace on a Saturday night. No one would pay attention.

Blaine pulls Harrison aside.

CAPTAIN BLAINE (CONT'D)

If you want answers. Join us for a friendly poker game. A bunch of us met tonight at the Hoover.

Harrison tips his derby and walks over to the gate.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Harrison shifts his car into drive and speeds away from the camp.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - LOBBY - EVENING

Harrison sits in the lobby. He spies Maria standing nearby hanging drapes. A HOTEL EMPLOYEE assists her.

MARIA

I don't care what the decorator said. In this hotel, I want people to think they are at the most elegant hotel in the West. We spare no expense.

Harrison wanders over to her.

HARRISON

Are we in a better mood? You were a bit testy on our last encounter. Don't you have a staff for that sort of work?

She looks up, distracted.

MARIA

In this hotel, I'm not above getting my hands dirty. Your point, exactly.

HARRISON

Colonel Snow? He's not a very charming fellow.

MARIA

You know him?

Harrison motions to a chair. Maria sits down next to him.

HARRISON

Let's say, we've had our chats. May I?

Harrison sits down next to her. He notices a beautiful locket around her neck. Maria palms the locket.

MARIA

From a special gentlemen.

HARRISON

Tiffany's in New York. I recognize the handy work.

MARIA

(surprised)

You're Bart's brother?

HARRISON

Yes. And you must be the Maria Washington that he mentioned in his letters. What brought you to the camp?

Maria ruminates about her response.

MARIA

The preliminary report says he died of suicide.

HARRISON

The colonel is convinced. You have some doubts?

MARIA

Of all people. It was not like him to do that.

HARRISON

Were you more than...friends?

Maria slaps him across the face.

MARIA

Whatever happened between myself and your brother is none of your damn business.

Harrison recoils and grows defensive.

HARRISON

My brother's death is my only concern.

MARIA

You didn't care about him when he was alive. Don't pretend that you've changed your mind.

She storms off into the next room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Harrison undresses for bed. He looks out the window onto the street. He sees people walking below. A knock on the door.

Harrison opens the door. Standing outside in the hallway is a SOLDIER.

SOLDIER
Mr. James, Colonel Snow wanted me to
give you this final report.

The soldier hands Harrison some papers.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)
If the captain had lived, he would
have been court martialed for failure
to stop the gun running.

Harrison is stunned by the news.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)
Sorry to be the bearer of bad news.

The soldier salutes, turns and leaves.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Harrison drives his vehicle at the main gate. He waves a letter at the guard. The Guard scans the letter and waves him into the compound.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - INNER COMPOUND - DAY

Harrison approaches a group of Buffalo Soldiers. They are stripped to their waist digging trenches. Colonel Snow and Captain Blaine are supervising the work.

HARRISON
(calling)
I have to know the truth about my
brother.

Colonel Snow glares at the men. They remain silent and ignore his request.

One of the soldiers drops his shovel. He exchanges looks with Harrison, as though he has something to say. The others elbow him to remain quiet.

COLONEL SNOW
Could have saved you the trouble.
There is an order not to speak to
you.

HARRISON
Sounds like a tall order.

COLONEL SNOW
The soldiers live and die by the
code of discipline. They are not
going to risk it talking with a
stranger.

Harrison protests, but Snow is adamant.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
Captain Blaine, escort Mr. James out
of my damn camp.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Blaine and Harrison walk side by side. He escorts Harrison
toward the main gate.

BLAINE
I have to apologize for Colonel Snow.

HARRISON
Vindictive.

Blaine looks apologetic.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
I've read over the report.

Harrison is reflective.

HARRISON
So have I. I am a lawyer by trade.
A graduate of Harvard law to be
precise. I pride myself on my legal
knowledge.

Blaine offers a faint smile.

BLAINE
Then, you understand.

HARRISON
I thought there might have been
room for error. It seems complete.
I'll be leaving in the morning.

Blaine salutes.

BLAINE

Sorry, it didn't turn out as you had hoped.

He turns to Harrison.

BLAINE (CONT'D)

Why not join us for one last friendly game of poker.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - DAY

Harrison walks up to the Front Desk clerk. The Desk Clerk is in the process of jotting down information into a book.

HARRISON

Mrs. Washington.

DESK CLERK

She's out for the afternoon. I'm sorry, I can't divulge her schedule.

The Desk clerk returns to his work. An HOTEL EMPLOYEE rushes up to the desk. He carries some parcels.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Washington forgot these. She'll be very angry. I have to get them to her.

The Desk clerk looks up, perturbed.

THE DESK CLERK

Her usual place. The Christ Orphanage. Make it snappy.

Harrison tips his derby.

HARRISON

Thanks for the information.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

Maria drives her buggy up to the front of an old church. She ties up the horses and enters.

INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

A NUN hugs Maria. Maria carries bundles of food and presents for the children into the main hall.

NUN
 (In German)
 Good to see you, my child. You've
 made us so proud.

Maria spots a framed an old photo of herself as a child on
 the table.

MARIA
 I owe my so much.

FLASHBACK: Maria as a young woman accepting her college
 diploma at a German University. A wall poster reads:
 University of Berlin.

Her voice trails off. A look of regret crosses her face.

NUN
 I understand. Some things don't
 always end well.

Maria places the parcels on the table. She hugs the Nun.

NUN (CONT'D)
 The children love it when you read
 to them. Perhaps, someday you will
 have children of your own.

The Nun appears embarrassed by the statement.

NUN (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry, I forgot.

Several SHY YOUNG GIRLS emerge from the church and giggle.
 The nun and Maria walk toward them.

MARIA
 I'm sorry, this is all last minute.
 I forgot some of the packages at the
 hotel.

NUN
 We are sorry to hear about your
 friend, Senior Bart.

Maria's eyes moisten. She struggles to maintain her
 composure.

MARIA
 My choice of men hasn't been the
 best.

The nun holds a piece of paper.

NUN

Don't worry, my child. We have a contact that you requested. She works at the German consulate in Monterrey.

Maria brightens.

NUN (CONT'D)

Tomorrow in El Paso. She will find you, senorita.

(A beat)

Come, the children are waiting.

INT. ORPHANAGE - BACK YARD - LATER - DAY

Several children play in the yard. Maria races after one of the children. She is startled to see Harrison enter the compound. He carries several packages with him.

HARRISON

The clerk at the hotel told me where to find you.

Harrison hands her the packages. Maria eyes Harrison with suspicion.

MARIA

I'll speak with him later.

HARRISON

I just wanted to thank you for the hospitality.

Harrison smiles at the pretty blond haired child.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Precocious. Reminds me of myself when I was that age.

MARIA

Would you like to hold him?

Harrison holds him, but quickly hands the child back to Maria. The child has wet his pants.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Would you like to change him?

Harrison winces at the prospect. Maria chuckles at his discomfort.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You're not a big fan of women or children. Are you Mr. James?

Harrison smiles at the baby. His natural reserve melts.

HARRISON

Very well, madame. I've seen worse in my life. Let's proceed with the operation.

Maria and Harrison walk toward a nearby bathroom.

EXT. CHURCH - BACK YARD - LATER - DAY

Harrison and Maria emerge from the bathroom with the child.

HARRISON

I'm getting ready to leave. Unfortunately, the official report seemed pretty conclusive.

Maria grabs his hand. A look of anger crosses her face.

MARIA

How dare you!

HARRISON

Problems?

Maria offers a look of contempt.

MARIA

Go home, Harrison, I'll prove it myself. I don't need your help

HARRISON

Something that I am unaware of?

Harrison is stung by her angry response.

MARIA

It shows you didn't know your brother very well.

Harrison looks puzzled.

MARIA (CONT'D)

He mentioned that he was up for the bronze star for bravery. Does that sound like a candidate for suicide?

Harrison is stunned by the revelation.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - CASINO - NIGHT

Harrison plays poker around the table with several other OFFICERS including Blaine and Floyd.

BLAINE

You're a very good player, Mr. James.

He shuffles and deals the cards with steely accuracy.

HARRISON

The West must inspire me. I've had a run of good luck.

They look up as Juan Parilla passes the table.

OFFICER

Should we invite Parilla to join us? After all, he was part of our unit. He was Bart's friend.

Blaine sneers at him with an air of superiority.

BLAINE

(emphatic)

Active officers only. He's just a glorified delivery boy.

Parilla thumbs through a large stack of bills.

OFFICER

For a delivery boy, he sure has a lot of money to burn.

Harrison glances over at Parilla. Parilla walks to the end of casino and joins another poker game.

HARRISON

I thought I would get in one more night before I returned East.

The officers raise their shot glasses in salute.

OFFICERS

(in unison)

Safe trip.

Harrison looks over at Blaine.

HARRISON

Your report neglected to mention that he was up for a bronze star for his fight with Pancho Villa.

CAPTAIN BLAINE

An oversight perhaps. Didn't seem relevant.

Harrison looks him dead in the eyes.

HARRISON

It's very relevant. You, of all people.

CAPTAIN BLAINE

James. It's the official Army report. You can't argue with that.

HARRISON

Bronze star winners are not likely candidates for suicide, or court martial.

Harrison reaches into his jacket. He pulls out his return train ticket and rips it up.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Washington D.C. can wait.

Harrison scoops up his winnings and walks away from the table.

INT. PARILLA'S GENERAL STORE - NEXT DAY

Harrison enters the store. It is nicely furnished. A wide potpourri of household goods, clothing etc. are on display. Juan Parilla, the proud storekeeper, stands behind the counter and wears an apron. He recognizes Harrison.

PARILLA

Well, I was wondering when you were going to make it to my store. I was a good friend of your brother's.

HARRISON

Sergeant, He spoke highly of you in his letters.

PARILLA

He saved my life.

Parilla takes him on a tour. He limps a little, revealing a wooden leg.

PARILLA (CONT'D)

Finest dry goods this side of the Pecos.

Parilla pops open a bottle of wine. He pours Harrison a glass.

PARILLA (CONT'D)
 Army treated me poorly after I got wounded.

Harrison inspects one of the pairs of fancy footwear on a rack display.

HARRISON
 A bit rare in these parts.

PARILLA
 We get a few.

Harrison returns the footwear to the display.

PARILLA (CONT'D)
 (embittered)
 They left me no option, but to open this little store for myself.

He pours another glass. Harrison examines a map of the Texas-Mexican coast mounted on the wall.

PARILLA (CONT'D)
 I was going to return to my village along the seacoast. A pretty little town. But, I decided to stay here.

Harrison turns back to Parilla.

HARRISON
 You were close to my brother.

PARILLA
 I was on the base that night. I heard the gunfire, but it's so common that no one thought anything of it.

HARRISON
 What about Colonel Snow? The man reeks of hostility.

Parilla agrees. Harrison downs his drink.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - MAIN GATE - DAY

Colonel Snow storms out of his office. He is belligerent, as he walks up to a GUARD standing at the front gate.

COLONEL SNOW
Has Harrison James tried to gain
entry to this camp?

The Guard shakes his head.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
If he tries to regain entrance to
this camp. You are to deny him
entrance. Do I make myself clear?

GUARD
That's not official protocol.

Snow grabs the guard's rifle, and then thrusts it back into
the startled Guard's hands.

COLONEL SNOW
You understand orders. If he comes
calling, send him away. If he
refuses. Shoot the bastard.

The Guard appears bewildered by the order.

GUARD
Yes, Sir.

COLONEL SNOW
Get me Lieutenant Floyd

Snow limps back toward his office.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - CASINO - NIGHT

It is full of gleaming hard wood and chandeliers. Maria
sits across the room and watches Floyd and several wealthy
businessmen play a friendly game of roulette.

Lieutenant Floyd stands at the front of the table. He flashes
an expensive ring on his hand. He has a pile of chips in
front of him and a pretty girl on his arms.

CARD PLAYER
How did you do that?

LIEUTANANT FLOYD
(to player)
I am a prince among the mere players.
Just talented. Just talented.

Floyd flaunts his good fortune. He pushes a pile of chips
toward the Dealer. He examines his cards and seems confident.

LIEUTANANT FLOYD (CONT'D)

Five on the Red.

The dealer spins the wheel. It flies around the roulette wheel before stopping on a black number.

The Dealer rakes in the chips. Floyd remain unflappable. He puts his foot up on the chair. He wears polished black cowboy boots.

FLOYD

Don't worry about me. I have more money from where that came from.

Blaine enters the casino and walks through the crowd over to Floyd. He shakes his head in disappointment.

BLAINE

(Whispering)

When you stop flaunting your good fortune, the colonel wants to see you. Pronto.

INT. CAMP FURLONG - SNOW'S TENT - NIGHT

Snow works on reports. He looks up, as he notices Lieutenant Floyd towering over him.

COLONEL SNOW

Can't let that damn bandito get his hands on more weapons. I need someone I can trust.

Floyd remains flamboyant and full of bravado.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

You made a wise choice, sir.

COLONEL SNOW

I need someone to be responsible for the weapons lockers. Make sure no other guns make their way to the bandit.

Lieutenant Floyd salutes smartly. He turns and leaves.

INT. CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

Lieutenant Floyd and a SOLDIER examines a crate full of guns. The soldier pries open the crate.

SOLDIER

All accounted for.

Lieutenant Floyd pulls a rifle from the crate and examines it.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
 Good muzzle velocity. Multiple rounds. Good stopping power.

SOLDIER
 Mauser rifles. I don't see too many of them.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
 In the hands of the right soldier. Quite deadly. Our partner gets them.

Lieutenant Floyd lowers the rifle.

SOLDIER
 Begging the Lieutenant's pardon. These will be worth a lot on the black market.

Both soldiers share a conspiratorial smile.

INT. BLAINE'S TENT - NIGHT

Blaine speaks to a MAN hidden in the shadows.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
 My spies have been watching Lieutenant Floyd. He's calling attention to himself with his extravagance

Private Jones emerges from the shadows.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
 I've warned him not to call attention to himself. Night after night, he's at the Hoover.

PRIVATE JONES
 Floyd is a fool. Putting us all at risk.

CAPTAIN BLAINE
 Take care of him.

EXT. MAIN GATE OF CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Harrison gets out of his vehicle. He watches a platoon of Buffalo Soldiers marching inside the camp. He approaches the main gate.

HARRISON

Tell the colonel that I demand to see him.

The Guard bars the gate.

GUARD

Not possible, sir.

HARRISON

I had an appointment with him.

The Guard bars the gate.

GUARD

Colonel Snow's orders. Sir.

A truck stops at the gate. It is marked: General Store. The Guard waves it through.

HARRISON

I have influential friends in Washington.

The Guard turns his attention to Harrison.

GUARD

Doesn't mean spit out here.

The guard remains motionless. Harrison is visibly miffed.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

An enraged Harrison drives his motor vehicle back to the town.

EXT. TOWN - TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY

Harrison strides into a Western Union telegraph office.

INT. TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY

Harrison dictates a telegram to the WESTERN UNION CLERK.

HARRISON

(reciting)

Senator Fall. Request intervention in the matter of Bart James. Colonel Snow refuses to discuss matter of brother's death. Matter most urgent.

The clerk finishes transmitting the telegram.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Harrison grabs a newspaper. He reads the headline. It reads: German U-Boats sink luxury liner Lusitania. He shakes his head in dismay.

INT. GERMAN EMBASSY - SOMMERFELD'S OFFICE - DAY

A nicely decorated office. A German flag hangs on the back wall. Several fancy swords are mounted on the wall. Sommerfeld lifts the matador's sword from the wall. He practices a few stabbing motions with the sword.

SOMMERFELD

I do admire this sport. It is like life. Wait until your enemy is confused or helpless. Then you pounce.

Sommerfeld cackles with delight.

OTTO

I'm afraid that your family refuses to correspond with you.

Sommerfeld appears sober and reflective.

SOMMERFELD

My family were field officers in the Franco- Prussian War. I have been the black sheep of the family, a lowly diplomat. It was a bit of a scandal when I married that woman. I've been trying to restore my reputation ever since.

The German Diplomat enters the room and hands him a telegram.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT

We did as you asked. We offered Villa some weapons and money. He turned us down.

Sommerfeld is outraged. He smashes the sword against the wall.

SOMMERFELD

I will not let some two bit general spoil my mission. If Villa is not interested in dealing with us, we'll deal with the other general. What's his name?

GERMAN DIPLOMAT
His name is Obregon?

Sommerfeld is dismissive.

SOMMERFELD
One Mexican is the same as the other.

EXT. MONTERREY STREET - MEXICO - DAY

Sommerfeld and Otto wind their way through the crowded market place. Many small stalls with VENDORS hawking their wares.

SOMMERFELD
How much further?

The German Aide scans the busy street. He points to a narrow alleyway.

OTTO
The general likes his privacy.

INT. ALLEYWAY - STREET- DAY

Sommerfeld and Otto, the German Aide, walk through the narrow alleyway to decaying wooden building. They enter.

INT. BUILDING - DAY

Sommerfeld meets with OBREGON, 50's, overweight, grandiose, sits at a rear table. He is a Mexican Army general, but wears civilian clothes. Sommerfeld slides some pesos toward the General.

SOMMERFELD
You don't trust us?

OBREGON
Before long, Your officers start dreaming about becoming the next Emperor of Mexico.

Sommerfeld is more amused than angered.

SOMMERFELD
Let me assure you... our mission is to keep the Americans fighting in Mexico.

OBREGON
Give me the weapons, and I will invade the United States and re-take Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

Sommerfeld smiles.

SOMMERFELD

If Mexico attacked, the United States
would hesitate sending troops to the
Western Front.

Obregon offers him a bottle of Mexican brandy and a Sombrero.
Sommerfeld frowns. He appears to be reluctant to accept the
gifts.

OBREGON

You insult me by not taking my gifts.

Sommerfeld smiles.

SOMMERFELD

We can help you, but we need an
alliance. I have a new contact, one
in the American's army.

Sommerfeld puts the ill fitting Sombrero on his head. Obregon
laughs and shakes hands with Sommerfeld.

OBREGON

We work well together my friend.

INT. GERMAN EMBASSY - OFFICE - DAY

CONSUELO, 20's, a pretty Mexican woman, types a report.
Several GERMAN DIPLOMATS talk as they pass by her desk.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT

We tried to negotiate with him. He
turned us down.

The diplomats walk down the hall toward Sommerfeld's office.

Consuelo observes that the room is empty. She walks over to
a table in the corner. She grabs a few documents from the
desk and slides them into a folder.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - EL PASO - DAY

Maria steps off the train. CONSUELO, 20's, attractive,
despite her modest attire, wears a shawl covering her head,
approaches her.

CONSUELO

Senorita Washington?

Maria is suspicious. She eyes the new arrival.

CONSUELO (CONT'D)

I've come from Monterrey to see my sick mamacita. I don't mean to alarm you.

MARIA

How do you know my name?

CONSUELO

The nuns.

Maria looks around. The station appears deserted. She lets down her guard.

MARIA

You took a chance coming here. It is a very dangerous journey.

Consuelo hands her a slip of paper. She stares at the streets.

CONSUELO

It's not safe to talk now. Meet me at the marketplace. Tomorrow. Tell no one.

INT. WESTERN UNION OFFICE - DAY

The Western Union clerk hands Harrison a telegram.

WESTERN UNION CLERK

This just arrived. Marked urgent!

Harrison peels open the telegram.

HARRISON

(reading)

Colonel Snow has made it clear that you are interfering in army business. Sorry, I cannot be of further assistance in this matter. Senator Albert Fall.

Harrison crumples the telegram and tosses it to the ground.

INT. HOOVER - FRONT DESK - LATER - DAY

The Desk Clerk stares up at him.

DESK CLERK

I'm sorry she's out.

HARRISON

Seems to be a habit of hers.

Harrison spots a stack of supplies in the corner.

DESK CLERK

I'm sorry sir, we should have cleared them away. Mr. Parilla supplies us with lots of our supplies.

Harrison reaches over and hands the Desk Clerk some flowers.

HARRISON

Make sure she gets them.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

Maria carries a basket of food. She looks from vendor to vendor. A WOMAN in street clothes and a scarf walks up next to her.

WOMAN

We have all sorts of fresh foods. You find what you are looking for?

Maria recognizes the disguised Consuelo. She motions for Maria to remain silent.

CONSUELO

I have something special for you. Fresh from the farm.

She hands Maria a small parcel.

MARIA

I hope it's fresh.

CONSUELO

Just what you requested.

The two walk from vendor to vendor.

Maria peeks inside her basket. Under the food, she sees a photo. It is a grainy photo of Bart meeting with Sommerfeld.

CONSUELO (CONT'D)

Your American captain. He met with this man from our consulate. Something about guns.

Maria examines a photo and glimpses the name Felix Sommerfeld scrawled across it. A look of surprise crosses her face.

MARIA

Impossible.

CONSUELO
What, senorita?

MARIA
They told me this man was killed
five years ago.

CONSUELO
He is a diplomat at our consulate.
Do you know him?

Maria examines the picture. She is shocked at seeing him.

MARIA
His real name is Joseph Zeigler, he
was a diplomat. I met him while a
student at the University of Berlin.
He was supposed to have died in an
accident onboard a ship in the
Atlantic.

CONSUELO
How do you know him?

Maria turns her gaze away from the photo. The memories are
distant and painful.

MARIA
He was my husband.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

A GERMAN SPY observes Maria and Consuelo talking. He
scribbles some information on a piece of paper, and then
slips it into his pocket.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Consuelo walks toward the train. A sense of urgency in her
steps. The GERMAN SPY suddenly blocks her path.

GERMAN SPY
Sister, I heard you have been looking
for us.

CONSUELO
Leave me alone.

Consuelo turns to run. Two thugs grab her and drag her into
a waiting car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Felix Sommerfeld sits inside the idling automobile.

SOMMERFELD
So, you meet this Maria?

CONSUELO
I gave her the documents. Throw
suspicion away from our contact.

Sommerfeld laughs.

SOMMERFELD
If I miss my guess. She is
headstrong. She will come alone.
It will be good to see my Maria again.

Sommerfeld hands Consuelo several large bills.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)
You will be rewarded.

She counts her money, as she exits the car.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)
Come over to my place. I'll be
waiting. You did good, my little
leibschen.

He leans over and kisses her.

INT. DINING ROOM - HOOVER - NIGHT

Harrison sits down at piano. He plays a spirited rendition
of a Scott Joplin Ragtime melody. Besides him is a bottle
of wine chilling in a bucket.

HARRISON
I thought it would set the mood.

MARIA
Very energetic. I thought you would
be more into classical music.

Maria sits across the room. White table cloth, fresh cut
flowers. She sniffs the flowers.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I just wanted to thanks you for the
flowers and the nice note.

Harrison gets up from the piano, collect a bottle of wine
and sits at the table.

HARRISON
Chateau Le Blanc. An excellent year.
(MORE)

HARRISON (CONT'D)

It pains me to say it. You were right.

She examines the expensive bottle of wine.

MARIA

Is this supposed to impress me.

HARRISON

I was going to say that I've sent a telegram protesting my treatment. My Senator will have to respond. We are very influential.

Maria snorts. She is indignant.

MARIA

Your Senator?

Harrison puffs up with pride.

HARRISON

Madame, we are a very influential family in Washington. We always had a full staff of servants and had reserved tables at the finest restaurants.

MARIA

Well, I scrubbed floors and handled the laundry at the orphanage. Have you always been such a snob and braggart?

He chuckles. He realizes that he is being pompous.

HARRISON

I come by it naturally. What did you want to show me?

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

She pulls the documents and the picture of Bart and Sommerfeld from the sowing basket.

MARIA

Your brother met with this man. Have you ever heard of a man by the name of Felix Sommerfeld?

Harrison frowns.

HARRISON

What sort of name is Felix? Name
doesn't sound dangerous.

MARIA

He is a German diplomat and a spy. I
knew him as Joseph Ziegler.

HARRISON

Past tense?

MARIA

We were married. He was reported
missing five years ago. Somehow, he
survived and wound up in Mexico.

They examine the photo of Bart and Sommerfeld. Harrison
shows a glint of recognition.

MARIA (CONT'D)

What is it?

He stares at the photo. He shakes his head. He can't believe
it.

HARRISON

Nothing.

Harrison changes the subject.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

If this photo is accurate. Then
Bart may have been guilty of running
guns after all.

A hush falls over the dinner table.

INT. HOOVER - LOBBY - NIGHT

Winston enters the staid hotel. It causes a stir from the
White GUESTS as he makes his way through the lobby. The
guests eye the newcomers with suspicion.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Winston enters the dining room. He approaches Harrison and
Maria.

WINSTON

I got your note.

HARRISON

I need a favor.

He turns to Maria and shakes his head.

HARRISON

A word of caution, Madame. Don't do anything until I get back.

Maria ponders the request. A reluctant look crosses her face.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Promise me.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

Harrison squeezes into the back of an Army supply truck. It is loaded with supplies. He is unhappy that his fine clothes are getting wrinkled.

WINSTON (O.S.)

I knew a man of your refinement would find it difficult.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - FRONT GATE - NIGHT

Winston drives the truck into the compound. A soldier at the gate waves the truck through the gates.

INT. COMPOUND - NIGHT

Harrison slips out of the truck and dusts off his clothes. Winston motions for Harrison to follow him.

Harrison notices a truck marked: Parilla's General Store.

WINSTON

Your former sergeant does a lot of business with the army.

Harrison walks over to inspect the vehicle. He spots a partial licence plate with numbers and letters 4AU. Winston pulls him away.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

I had my men leave horses tied up at the southern end of the camp for our escape.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - BART'S TENT - NIGHT

Harrison and Winston sneak into Bart's tent. They spot several of the buildings in the camp are in various stages of demolition.

INT. BART'S TENT - NIGHT

The tent is unoccupied. Harrison walks over to a cot to examine it.

WINSTON

From what I understand, the colonel found him. He was here on the floor between the cots, blood everywhere.

Harrison examines the dry blood stains.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

My men told me that they wrapped him up and took him away quickly.

Harrison examines a tear in the side of the tent. He touches it. The edges are ragged.

HARRISON

The bullet must have made that hole.

WINSTON

The medical examiner described the wound as a self-inflicted gunshot.

HARRISON

But it doesn't add up. Look where the hole is in the canvas. Some of the men claim that Bart was found dead at his desk.

Harrison measures the angle between the hole and the desk.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

The angle is all wrong.

Harrison circles the desk. His mind racing with thoughts.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Unless someone was in the tent with Bart. Then the killer moved his body after he was dead.

Winston appears confused.

WINSTON

To make it look like a suicide?

WINSTON (CONT'D)

The men tell me that Private Peck was on duty outside the quartermaster's tent that night.

HARRISON
Can we talk to him?

WINSTON
He went AWOL.

A SENTRY passes the tent. Harrison and Winston duck behind some furniture in the back of the tent.

HARRISON
We need to find Peck.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

Harrison and Winston move from tent to tent, infiltrating from tent to tent out of view of the guards. They reach a large tent and Winston motions them inside.

INT. LARGE TENT - NIGHT

A long line of cots with soldiers fast asleep. Winston makes his way to a cot and wakes up one of the soldier.

WINSTON
We need to find Private Peck.

Harrison recognizes the Buffalo Soldiers from the bar. They are sitting up in their cots.

BUFFALO SOLDIER #1
Better do it quick. We have our orders to ship out to France by the end of the month.

Harrison is dismayed by the news. He peeks outside the tent. The buildings are in various states of demolition.

BUFFALO SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)
Yes, sir. We've been ordered to move out.

BUFFALO SOLDIER #2
Peck often joked about a Chiquita he had in the Tres Hermanos mountains. The army discouraged that sort of relationship. I'm certain you can find him there.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

Harrison and Winston sneak out of the camp. They race toward The two tethered horses. They mount their horses and race off into the night.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - LOBBY - LATER

The Desk Clerk watches Harrison approach his desk. Harrison looms over and intimidates the harried desk clerk. He divulges the information about Maria's location.

DESK CLERK

(stammering)

She left about half hour ago. To the center of town.

EXT. TOWN - STREET - NIGHT

Maria drive along the street in her buggy.

EXT. STOREFRONT - TOWN - NIGHT

She approaches a store front that reads: Lawrence Ames, Customs Broker.

INT. - BUILDING - NIGHT

Maria enters the office. Sommerfeld and several other German SPIES wait inside with their weapons drawn.

Maria is stunned to see him. Sommerfeld approaches and caresses Maria's hair.

SOMMERFELD

Ah, women, they make highs higher and lows more frequent. Welcome, my dear Liebschen.

Maria spits in his face.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Is that any way to greet me? After all these years.

MARIA

I've done my best to forget.

SOMMERFELD?

Where is your friend? Herr James. He owes me a rematch.

Maria stares at him, struggling to comprehend.

MARIA

You bastard.

SOMMERFELD

We'll share the love later.

EXT. OUTSIDE STOREFRONT - NIGHT

An UNSEEN MAN stares at store front. Maria and Sommerfeld are clearly visible in the front window.

INT. STOREFRONT - NIGHT

A shotgun blast shatters the front window. Glass flying. Sommerfeld and the German spies duck for cover to avoid the flying fragments.

Harrison aims his rifle and shatters the light in the front of the store.

In the confusion, Maria snatches the weapon from the hand of one of the German spies. She smashes him in the face with the handle of the gun. The spy screams in pain.

She searches the room for an opportunity to escape. The way is blocked. She spots a desk and ducks behind it for protection.

INT. STOREFRONT - NIGHT

Harrison and several Buffalo soldiers charge into the store with weapons blazing. The rifle shots ricochet off the walls. They shred the walls, furniture and the nearby fixtures. Glass shatters and falls to the ground.

INT. STOREFRONT - NIGHT

The Germans are silhouetted against the remaining light in the rear of the office. A stray bullet hits one of the spies.

Harrison and the Buffalo Soldiers are covered by the darkness. Sommerfeld and the spies shoot wildly at the advancing soldiers. They duck behind the shattered furniture for cover.

Sommerfeld realizes they are the proverbial sitting ducks. Outgunned and blinded, he orders a hasty retreat.

SOMMERFELD

Leave her!

They race toward the exit at the back of the store.

INT. STORE FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

Sommerfeld motions toward his men. They grab Maria and drag her kicking and screaming toward the back of the store. She fights back, but is overpowered.

SOMMERFELD

Gag her. Take her out the back door.

EXT. REAR OF STOREFRONT - TOWN - NIGHT

Sommerfeld and his men leap onto waiting horses. They beat a hasty retreat and gallop off down the street.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A grateful Maria runs over and kisses Harrison.

MARIA

Thank you.

Harrison's eyes flare. He grows angry. Maria is surprised by his response.

HARRISON

That was crazy and reckless. You could have been killed. I tried to warn you to wait for me.

Maria is feisty and doesn't back down.

MARIA

If I waited for you, they might have gotten away. I didn't get to where I am by being cautious. I can handle my own affairs.

HARRISON

If tonight's an example.

It's Maria's turn on the attack.

MARIA

You knew him, Sommerfeld. Don't deny it.

Harrison brushes past her. He is in no mood to explain.

HARRISON

Another time, Madame.

INT. STORE FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

Winston and Harrison examine the body of the dead German. Harrison notices some papers stuffed into the pocket of the dead German. He grabs them and stuffs them into his jacket.

WINSTON

If your looking for someone who might be stealing the weapons. Lt. Floyd seems to be making too much money for an Army officer.

HARRISON

Maybe we should have a little chat.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The room is crowded with SOLDIERS, BUSINESSMEN AND WELL DRESSED PROSTITUTES. Billowing clouds of smoke fill the air.

A drunken Lieutenant Floyd has a small pile of poker chips in front of him. He slides the chips toward the DEALER and lays out his hand.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

Straight.

DEALER

Full house.

The dealer reels in the chips. Floyd has nothing in front of him.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

I'm out, gentlemen.

Floyd staggers from the table.

BAR

Private Jones observes Floyd, as he stumbles out of the hotel.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Harrison starts for the hotel and sees a drunken Floyd sitting nearby on the ground. Harrison approaches him.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

Well, well, Mr. James.

Harrison assists the drunken Floyd to a bench.

HARRISON

We better get you cleaned up.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

Just like your brother, I, too, am a West Point graduate.

Floyd stands to salute and almost falls over. Harrison catches him and leads him up a back stairs.

HARRISON

Better go through the back.

Harrison leads the drunken Floyd up the stairs. A figure looms in the alley. It is Private Jones. He pulls a sniper rifle from it's case.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Harrison force-feeds Floyd coffee to sober him up.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
Did he tell you that I was a ne'er-
do-well. That my father bought me
this commission?

HARRISON
You live very well for an officer.
Too well.

Lieutenant Floyd smirks.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
I win at cards.

Harrison grabs him by the shirt collar.

HARRISON
Just cards?

Floyd appears confused by Harrison's angry tone.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD
I don't know what you're talking
about.

Harrison releases him. Floyd collapses onto the ground. His wallet falls out of his pants pocket. Harrison scoops it up. It is stuffed with large bills and a torn bill of lading. He examines the bill of lading.

HARRISON
Not an officer's pay.

Floyd feigns ignorance. Harrison slams him against the wall.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
The truth.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Private Jones aims his weapon at the open window. He lines up his shot. Harrison steps into the open window. A perfect shot.

INT. FLOYD'S ROOM - NIGHT

Floyd springs up from his bed. He steps in front of Harrison.

LIEUTENANT FLOYD

I can cut you in.

A SHOT EXPLODES from outside the window. Harrison dives to the floor as a second then third shot RINGS OUT.

Harrison draws his gun and races to the window. He sees a SHADOWY FIGURE run along the porch outside and jump to the next building.

Harrison fires his gun. The figure continues running. Harrison turns to find Floyd's body sprawled on the bed, a gunshot wound to his head. Harrison opens the door.

HARRISON

We need help! A man has been shot!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

A chaotic scene. The room is filled with POLICE OFFICERS and their SERGEANT. They take notes and collect evidence. A CORONER covers Floyd's body and leaves.

Harrison approaches the officer.

HARRISON

I think that I was the target. Floyd was just collateral damage.

SERGEANT

People been gossiping about you since you arrived.

The sergeant sees Harrison's gun on the drawer and examines it.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Nice pistol you have there, amigo. Colt automatic... thirty-two caliber. I'll keep it as evidence.

HARRISON

I took a room at the Hoover. You know where to reach me.

The sergeant blocks his path.

SERGEANT

If a horse had humps, it would be a camel. You, sir, are under arrest

The Sergeant motions to two officers. They snap handcuffs on Harrison and take him away. Harrison maintains his dignity.

EXT. HOOVER HOTEL - NIGHT

Maria pulls up in her buggy.

INT. HOOVER HOTEL - NIGHT

Maria searches the lobby. She approaches a DESK CLERK.

MARIA
Have you seen Mr. James?

DESK CLERK
He hasn't returned, ma'am.

Maria frowns. Her face full of concern.

The Desk Clerk hands her a note. She reads it and then places it in her pocket.

DESK CLERK (CONT'D)
I have heard they are holding someone
in the jail. Sounds like your Mr.
James.

Maria races out of the hotel.

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Harrison pulls some papers from his pocket. He sees a blood soaked piece of paper with a cryptic set of numbers and letters. They read: 14AU3.

As he scans it, a DEPUTY opens up the cell. Harrison sits on the bench. He has his jacket hung up on the hook in the cell.

HARRISON
Time for my hanging?

The deputy motions to leave.

DEPUTY
You're free to go. Someone posted
bail.

HARRISON
A good samaritan in these parts? He
must have wandered in by accident.

The deputy smiles.

DEPUTY

Don't go far. You still haven't
been cleared of the shooting.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Maria signs papers releasing Harrison. He dons his jacket
and derby, and walks over to her.

MARIA

Well, Don Quixote, was the castle
dungeon comfortable?

HARRISON

Why, Mrs. Washington. What took you
so long? I was beginning to worry
that you couldn't find the jail.

Maria is unimpressed with his levity. Maria grabs Harrison's
hand and leads him out.

MARIA

You can thank me later.

HARRISON

Sitting in that cell, I thought I
had all the time in the world.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Maria drives her buggy down the street. Harrison sits on
the passenger side.

MARIA

The truth. How do you know him?
Tell me the truth or you can rot in
the jail.

An awkward silence. Harrison unburdens himself.

HARRISON

I was working for the State
Department. We had a secret meeting
with the German delegation. They
were trying to negotiate an end to
the war. Your ex - husband was one
of the delegation.

Maria stares at him, open mouthed.

HARRISON

I refused to offer them generous
terms. They walked out.

MARIA
A Rematch. At what?

Harrison stares at Maria.

HARRISON
We met later at a casino. He cheated at cards. I called him on it. It ended in a fist fight. It was foolish.

Maria shakes her head at him. She sighs. Harrison sits on a stoop. He is deflated.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
Worse than that. After that incident, I ordered the weapons embargo that enabled the gun running.

MARIA
I've found out about trusting Germans the hard way.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
The people at the State Department warned me that it was a bad policy, but I was stubborn. So proud and full of myself.

Harrison slumps down on the nearby curb. A heavy feeling of guilt descends upon him.

HARRISON (CONT'D)
The Germans must have felt that the only way they could force a truce was to find a Mexican ally. I might have set up the conditions for my own brother's death.

She places her hand around his shoulders. She is sympathetic.

MARIA
I think it's time we stop competing with each other and work together.
(a beat.)
I got a note from someone, I want you to meet.

EXT. STABLE OUTSIDE TOWN - DAY

Maria drives her buggy toward a stable. Waiting with two fresh horses are Winston and one of his men.

MARIA
Harrison, I will be your guide.

HARRISON
Somewhere scenic?

MARIA
Feel free to back out.

Harrison has come too far to back down. He gets out of the buggy and mounts one of the horses. Maria mounts the other horse. Maria and Harrison gallop out of the stable.

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Harrison and Maria ride their horses and raise a large dust cloud along the trail.

EXT. OASIS - DAY

Maria and Harrison stop near a pond. Harrison offers Maria his hand.

HARRISON
Let me help you down.

Maria hesitates, and then offers her hand. She curtseys and smiles.

MARIA
Not many gentlemen left.

HARRISON
I was Don Quixote in my other life.

They dip their canteens into the cool waters. Harrison stoops to pluck a beautiful wild flower from the ground.

HARRISON
It pales besides your beauty.

He places it in Maria's hair. She curtseys and smiles at him.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison sit around the roaring campfire.

MARIA
Bart and I were in love. But his
biggest love was the Army.

Harrison leans forward.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We had a falling out. He told me that he intended to go to France, if America ever got into the war.

HARRISON

Than you never had a chance to make up?

Maria appears dispirited.

MARIA

I did love him, but it's too late. Once this matter is settled, I have to move on with my life.

She toys with the flower in her hair. She leans over to kiss him.

MARIA (CONT'D)

May I call you Harry? Harrison is so ...formal.

Harrison smiles.

HARRISON

Sounds good when it comes from you.

EXT. DESERT - LATER - NIGHT

A Group of Villistas charge into camp. The Villistas are led by a man on a white horse wearing a thick black Moustache.

Maria and Harrison stare at the man on the horse. It is Pancho Villa, impressive with his big sombrero, pistols and moustache. Pancho Villa dismounts and kisses her hand.

PANCHO VILLA

Senor James. You have become something of a legend in the short time you are here. Much like myself.

Pancho Villa laughs.

EXT. DESERT CAMP - LATER - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison sit around a campfire with Pancho Villa and some of his men. Pancho Villa smiles. Harrison examines him and scowls.

PANCHO VILLA

It seems many people are chasing Pancho Villa. I am a convenient enemy.

Harrison confronts Villa.

HARRISON

You are a mere bandito. You crossed our border. Attacked our posts. I should shoot you right here.

Pancho Villa's eyes flare. He grabs a gun and aims it at Harrison.

PANCHO VILLA

The Germans gave us the guns that we used to ambush your brother's company. They were trying to bribe me into helping them. I refused.

Pancho Villa appears contrite.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)

I realize that they have ambitions beyond helping me. I have reached out to the American government. Your brother was the one who contacted me.

HARRISON

Then my brother wasn't running guns?

PANCHO VILLA

No, he went undercover under the orders of General Pershing. They are more eager to move their troops to France than to fight me.

Pancho Villa lowers his weapon. Harrison is relieved.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)

Your real enemy are the Germans.

HARRISON

Did they murder my brother?

PANCHO VILLA

In war it is difficult to know who your friends are.

(A beat)

All I can tell you is that we are no longer enemies. We are allies.

The two former enemies shake hands.

EXT. VILLA CAMP - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison talk around the roaring campfire.

Maria reaches out to touch his hand. There is a sympathy in her eyes.

MARIA

Bart would be pleased to see you here.

The sun illuminates the darkened night sky.

HARRISON

Thank Mr. Villa for his hospitality. I need to find Private Peck. Tres Hermanos is a good ride. I can make it by morning.

MARIA

You need me.

Harrison appears surprised by her response.

HARRISON

It's better if I go alone.

MARIA

You don't know these mountains as well as I do.

(a beat)

Who is going to translate for you?

HARRISON

You're logic is impeccable.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Harrison and Maria gallops up a steep mountain trail. He spots three tall mountains in the distance.

HARRISON

(smiles)

Tres Hermanos. Three Brothers.

NEARBY MOUNTAIN RIDGE

A man stares down at Harrison and Maria. He pulls the binoculars away. It is Private Jones.

EXT. VILLAGE - MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Harrison and Maria rides into the village. VILLAGERS eye the pair with suspicion. Harrison dismounts his horse and speaks to the crowd.

HARRISON

I am not with the military. I need
to speak with Private Peck.

The villagers block their path. Among the crowd are the
Parents of the hungry child from an earlier scene. They
recognize Maria. They run up to her.

PARENTS

(in Spanish)
She is one of us, let her through.

The Parents point to a little makeshift hut at the end of
the dirt road.

Maria and Harrison ride through the crowd like Moses and the
Red Sea.

EXT. PECK'S HUT - DAY

PRIVATE PECK, thin, nervous, spots the duo riding up to the
hut. He grabs his gun and races out to meet them.

He waves his gun at them.

PRIVATE PECK

Turn around.

Harrison turns and sees Peck. He tries to reassure him.

HARRISON

My name is Harrison James. My brother
was Captain Bart James.

Peck lowers his weapon. He motions for them to enter his
hut.

INT. PECK'S HUT - DAY

It is ramshackle barely furnished room with castoff furniture.
Somehow, they have made it a home. Peck offers Harrison and
Maria a drink.

PRIVATE PECK

Always show guests hospitality.

HARRISON

Did you hear any argument between my
brother and another man the night of
his death?

PRIVATE PECK

I was on guard duty.

HARRISON

But, surely, You heard a shot?

Peck hesitates.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Please, it's important you remember what happened.

Peck sips his drink.

INT. HUT - DAY

Harrison and Peck sit at the table. They discuss matters over a bottle of tequila.

ANOTHER PART OF THE ROOM

Maria chats with PECK'S WIFE, a young Mexican woman. She cradles a newborn, a mixed-blood child.

Maria demonstrates how to change the baby's diapers. The wife is appreciative. Maria bring the baby over to Harrison.

MARIA

Would you like to hold him?.

Harrison appears reluctant to hold the child. The child stares up at him with wide open eyes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

He wouldn't bite.

Harrison cradles the child. Harrison's heart melts. There is a gentleness in his manner that we hadn't seen before.

PECK

This is the best thing that ever happened to me.

(a beat)

You make such a beautiful couple.
How long have you been married?

Harrison hands the baby back to Maria. Maria laughs. Peck smiles at the young child.

MARIA

Yes, how long have we been married?

Harrison is mortified by the question. He becomes all business, and hands Peck some money.

HARRISON

Private, we are not married! We are not married.

Maria is horrified.

MARIA

Not if he were the last man on earth.

HARRISON

However, she is a most intelligent and charming lady.

She smiles. She has begun to see Harrison in a new light.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

You don't have to hide. I can help you and your family.

PRIVATE PECK

Why would they believe me? Colonel Snow will just blame me for the murder and missing weapons.

HARRISON

Weapons?

PRIVATE PECK

That's why I left. Captain Blaine put me in charge of weapons duty. But, each week some went missing. That night, I heard Captain James arguing with a man.

HARRISON

Did you recognize the man?

PRIVATE PECK

(hesitates)

No, it was dark. I just heard voices. Lots of shouting.

HARRISON

Then what happened?

PECK

I heard a shot. I ran to get help. When the captain told me it was a suicide, I knew it was their way of saying, keep quiet or else.

Harrison springs up from the table. He has a determined look in his eyes.

HARRISON

Will you come back with me? I'll get you the best lawyer money can buy. My family has connections in Washington. We're very powerful.

Peck appears fearful. He speaks slowly.

PRIVATE PECK

I'll be next. I'll never see my wife or child again.

EXT. VILLAGE HUT - DAY

Maria packs her horse for the return trip. She pets the animal and feeds it some food scraps.

PRIVATE JONES (O.S.)

Well, I have no problem killing a woman.

Maria spins around and observes Jones leveling a sniper's rifle at her.

INT. PECK'S HUT - DAY

From the open window, Harrison observes Jones threatening Maria.

HARRISON

Is there a back way?

Peck motions toward the back door.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

Harrison infiltrates into the woods behind Jones and Maria. He grabs Jones from behind and places him in a headlock. He gasps for air. Kicking and screaming, to no avail. Jones drops the weapon.

Maria picks it up.

HARRISON

If you hurt this woman. You will regret it more. You killed the lieutenant.

PRIVATE JONES

(Struggling, defiant)

He was weak. He would ruin everything.

Harrison tightens his grip on Jones. He has no intention of letting up.

HARRISON

Snow and Floyd was selling weapons.
That's what my brother found out,
isn't it?

JONES

You don't know what your talking
about. My partner has a grudge
against the army. He's getting his
revenge by running guns to a Mexican
General.

Harrison ponders the information. Momentarily, he loosens his grip. Jones elbows Harrison in the stomach. He is momentarily stunned. Harrison releases him. Jones grabs the gun from Maria's hands and knocks her down.

Harrison regains his bearings and launches himself at Private Jones. They grapple for the gun. Harrison wrestles the gun from Private Jones's grip and smacks him in the neck with the rifle butt. Jones collapses and gasps for air.

Harrison grabs the rifle, aims and fires at Jones. Jones collapses to the ground. Harrison checks his pockets.

He spots a faded bill of lading. The company name is indistinct, but at the bottom, he spots a truck license plate 14AU.

Maria appears relieved.

MARIA

Good riddance to bad rubbish.

HARRISON

Maria, what am I going to do with
you?

MARIA

Well, my dear. For one thing, I'm
getting tired of you rescuing me.

Peck chuckles at the bickering couple.

PRIVATE PECK

Time I set the record straight.

Peck pulls out some official papers written in German from his pocket. He hands them to Harrison.

PRIVATE PECK (CONT'D)

The captain gave them to me. He wanted me to keep them in case anything happened to him.

Harrison places the documents in a saddlebag.

HARRISON

We'll examine them later. Let's get moving.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Harrison, Maria and Peck ride their horses up a steep ridge. Peck surveys the area.

PRIVATE PECK

I suggest we stay put until night. We're too easy to spot in the day.

Peck gallops behind some rocks. Harrison and Maria follow.

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - DAY

It is a rocky and uncomfortable ground. Maria chafes at the location.

MARIA

Couldn't we find some tranquil little oasis to hide out?

HARRISON

Mrs. James, I think we are going to have our first marital spat.

Maria is unamused.

MARIA

Are we headed for a divorce this soon? Makes me homesick for the Hoover.

HARRISON

Let's make the best of this. Someday, I'll take you to some of the finest restaurants in Washington.

MARIA

Is that an invitation?

Harrison lies down on the hard, rocky surface. He motions for Maria to rest in his arms. She smiles at him and falls asleep.

INT. CREVICE - NIGHT

Maria awakens and stretches. Harrison and Peck survey the desert. Peck peers over the rocks, searching the desert.

PRIVATE PECK

I think it's safe. Let's go.

The trio mount their horses.

HARRISON

Private, I owe you.

Peck nods. A SHOT suddenly rings out. Peck tumbles from his horse. Maria dismounts and inspects the body of Private Peck. She sees that he is dead.

Harrison scours the rocks for the assailant. A rifle blast is heard and Harrison's horse is shot out from under him. It collapses to it's side with Harrison trapped beneath.

Maria is mortified. She rushes toward him. Harrison waves her away.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Get down.

Otto, the gunman, fires at Maria. She ducks behind a nearby boulder.

Harrison struggles to free himself. The gunman emerges from the nearby rocks and head toward him.

OTTO

Keep still.

Desperate, Harrison spots his gun on the ground. It is beyond his reach. He struggles to reach it. He remains pinned under the horse.

Otto, the gunman, emerges from the tree line. Harrison is shielded from the gunfire by the horse. He fires, but the round hits the horse. Maria emerges from the cover of the rocks and shoots the gunman. He collapses to the ground.

Maria helps Harrison prop up the horse. He removes his leg from under the horse's body.

MARIA

Always tidying up after you.

He chuckles.

HARRISON

You know how it is when you have the children over.

Harrison limps over to the man. He has light-colored hair and a dueling scar.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Let me guess. Another Kraut.

Harrison searches Otto's pockets and finds some identification papers written in German and a crude hand drawn map.

EXT. ROCKS - LATER - EVENING

Harrison and Maria finish burying Peck. They lowers their heads and says a prayer.

HARRISON

You deserve a proper Christian burial my friend.

(In Latin)

May God rest your soul.

Harrison places some stones to mark the grave. He limps over to Peck's horse that stands nearby. He drags himself onto the saddle and they gallops off.

EXT. TRES HERMANOS - VILLAGE - DAY

Sommerfeld and his men point their weapons at the terrified villagers. They are too scared to speak to the strangers.

SOMMERFELD

I am looking for a Negro soldier. I know he is here. His child was just born.

One of Sommerfeld's men translate his speech into Spanish. The villagers still do not answer. Frustrated, Sommerfeld pulls a gun from his holster.

He fires his gun into the air to demonstrate his meaning.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

I made my point.

Peck's wife emerges from a makeshift hut holding her baby. Sommerfeld walks over and eyes the mixed-breed baby.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Where is he?

Sommerfeld's man translates.

PECK'S WIFE

Se fue al borden... tres horas
pasado... Con un gringo.

SOMMERFELD'S MAN

(to Sommerfeld)

He left a few hours ago for the
border... with an American and a
woman.

SOMMERFELD

Harrison...

Sommerfeld leaps onto his horse, shouting orders to his men.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Spread out. We are looking for three
people... they will probably hide
until nightfall. We'll be ready for
them.

Sommerfeld and his men gallop out of the village.

EXT. DESERT - ROCKS - NIGHT

A moonlit sky. One of Sommerfeld's men holds a torch that
illuminates the desert terrain. Sommerfeld stands over the
body of the dead German man.

He steels himself as he recognizes that the body laying on
the ground was his aide Otto.

SOMMERFELD

My friend. I'll make it up to you.

In the distance, he spots Peck's makeshift grave.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Finish the job. They couldn't have
gotten far.

Sommerfeld leaps back on his horse and leads his men back
down the trail.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Harrison and Maria rides slowly through the desert. Weakened,
he struggles to ride, but tumbles to the ground. Maria
dismounts and runs to his aide.

Harrison lies on the ground, his horse a few feet away. He
summons all of his strength.

HARRISON

(to himself)

I am not going to die in this God
forsaken place.

Maria props him up and leads him over to a nearby stream.

EXT. OASIS - NIGHT

A MAN Comes into view and offers Harrison a sip of water.

SOMMERFELD

I don't want you to die just yet.

Harrison looks up. It is Sommerfeld and his men. Harrison slumps unconscious.

The other Germans grab Maria.

MARIA

Touch me and I'll kill you.

GERMAN

Looks like we have a little spitfire
here.

A second German pulls out a drug soaked rag. They place it over her mouth. She slumps into unconsciousness.

EXT. HACIENDA - DAY

Sommerfeld and his men ride onto the grounds of the Hacienda. Harrison and Maria are bound and tied to the horses. They are both unconscious.

INT. HACIENDA - MEXICO - NIGHT

Harrison slumps in his chair. He groans, and is barely unconscious.

Sommerfeld and another German Spy enter the room. The German Spy yanks Harrison from the chair and pins his arms.

Sommerfeld circles Harrison and pummels him repeatedly. Harrison is weakened and unable to defend himself.

SOMMERFELD

This is for Otto.

Sommerfeld rubs his chin. He punches him again.

SOMMERFELD

This one is for me.

Harrison collapses onto the floor. Sommerfeld exits the room.

INT. HACIENDA - ANOTHER ROOM -MEXICO - DAY

Maria slowly wakes. Her hands are bound with ropes. The German who captured her stands guard. She pleads with another German.

MARIA
Please, let me go.

GERMAN MAN
And miss the party?

Maria sees Sommerfeld enter the room. He approaches her and strokes her hair.

MARIA
Where is Harrison? What did you do to him. If you hurt him.

Maria has a look of concern.

SOMMERFELD
I think you should be more worried about your self.

MARIA
You bastard. You were a bully then, and you're a bully now. You haven't changed.

Sommerfeld chuckles.

SOMMERFELD
You have reinvented yourself. You are a very resourceful woman.

MARIA
Joseph, what are you doing?

The mention of his old name infuriates him. He slaps her across the face.

SOMMERFELD
I'm not Joseph anymore. The man you knew as Joseph Zeigler is as dead as the marriage that we once shared.

MARIA
We loved each other. At the University.

Sommerfeld's eyes narrow.

SOMMERFELD

My family was against the marriage.
Do you realize what a disgrace it
was for me to marry a mixed-race
whore?

Maria spits in his face. Defiant.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Then, you were barren. You could
not have children. The ultimate
disgrace to a man of my stature.

Sommerfeld pulls up a chair and sits next to Maria.

MARIA

So, now you are Felix Sommerfeld,
the great German spy?

SOMMERFELD

After being rescued, I worked for
the German mission in Istanbul.
They made me a diplomat working on a
deal with the United States.

Sommerfeld's hand shakes.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Just the result of an illness that I
contracted from the Turks.

His tone is cold and businesslike.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

General Obregon is our ally. With
his help, Germany will win the war.
I will be a hero and welcomed back
to Germany and my family.

MARIA

Is it worth the bloodshed?

SOMMERFELD

I will be free to leave this God
forsaken country. That's my only
concern

Another GERMAN SPY enters the room. He speaks to Sommerfeld.

GERMAN SPY

(in German)

Our contact will be waiting for us
in the port.

Sommerfeld slaps the spy.

SOMMERFELD

You fool, she understands German.
Wait till nightfall, then do what
you want with her. She doesn't
interest me anymore.

Sommerfeld leaves.

EXT. RIO GRANDE - DAY

General Obregon, head of Mexico's Army, wears a ceremonial
uniform, stands on the bank of the Rio Grande. He stares
through binoculars. A MEXICAN LIEUTENANT joins him.

General Obregon pulls down the binoculars. The General hands
the Mexican officer the binoculars.

GENERAL OBREGON

Take a look.

The Mexican Officer scans the horizon.

GENERAL OBREGON (CONT'D)

Someday, fifty thousand men will
cross the Rio Grande to fight the
Americans. Retake the Southwest.

The Mexican Officer pulls down the binoculars and stares at
General Obregon.

MEXICAN OFFICER

The Americans will not let you take
it back easily.

Sommerfeld and Parilla rides up to them.

SOMMERFELD

We need to move up the invasion.
I've just gotten word that the
Americans are planning to pull out
of Mexico.

OBREGON

When we get the weapons that you
promised. We will be ready.

Sommerfeld mounts his horse and rides off.

INT. HACIENDA - LATER - DAY

Maria squirms in her chair. She is bound by the ropes. She struggles, but cannot get free. The German Man enters, gloats. The man stares at Maria's curvy body. He has a gun in his hand.

GERMAN MAN

If you are nice to me, I will make
this painless.

The man places the gun on the table. He passionately kisses Maria. She struggles with the ropes and tries to kick him. The German Man laughs and slaps her.

GERMAN MAN (CONT'D)

Two can play.

Maria spots a knife tied to his ankle. Her tone becomes seductive.

MARIA

You are more attractive than Senor
Sommerfeld. If you want me, you
should ask first.

The German Man eyes her with lust. The German Man reaches over to caress her.

Maria struggles with her bonds, as the German grows distracted. She reaches for the knife, grabs it and stabs him. The German Man grimaces and collapses to the floor.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I wish Joseph had been just as
passionate.

Maria slices the ropes, grabs the man's gun and races out of the room.

INT. HACIENDA - ANOTHER ROOM - NIGHT

Maria slips into the room. She finds Harrison groggy, but awake.

HARRISON

I'm a little preoccupied up at the
moment.

She unties Harrison. Maria leans over to kiss him.

MARIA

It was not your destiny to die in
the desert...Harry. We have to leave.

EXT. HACIENDA - LATE DAY

Maria and Harrison slips out of the house and dashes toward the tethered horses. A half dressed Consuelo races out of the house with a weapon in her hand.

Maria and Consuelo confront each other. Maria is taken back.

MARIA

Bitch!

Consuelo reaches for her weapon. An angry Maria doesn't hesitate. She shoots her.

HARRISON

Did you know her?

Maria stares at the body of Consuelo. She seethes with anger.

MARIA

She made a poor choice of friends.

They mount the horses. She loosens the reins of the other horses. They scatter in many directions.

Maria and Harrison gallops off. Sommerfeld's other men run out of the nearby barn, yelling and struggle to recapture some of the runaway horses.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

A weary Maria and Harrison gallops toward the nearby town.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An exhausted Maria and Harrison dismount.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - PARLOR - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison are both dressed.

HARRISON

If the Americans pulls out, then
I'll never find Bart's killer.

Harrison examines the documents that he took from the German.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

A map. Most curious.

Maria examines the map. She pulls a book from the shelf. She compares the rough sketched map with a map from a book.

MARIA

It's a map of the Mexican coast.
The X. There's a little seaport town.
A little fishing village.

Harrison's mind races.

HARRISON

A perfect place to ship guns to boats
and run them around the coast.
Something about that town.

MARIA

To Obregon.

INT. CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

Several men are loading a truck with crates. The license
plate reads 134AU. Parilla exits the truck.

PARILLA

Quickly, men.

From behind a tent, they are observed by Winston and a second
Buffalo soldier.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is guarded by several ARMED SERVANTS. Winston and
a second Buffalo Soldiers ride up to the house. They knock
on the front door.

WINSTON

We thought you should know... There's
a big shipment of rifles movin' out.
Of camp.

Harrison and Maria pace the floor.

HARRISON

How long ago?

WINSTON

Maybe an hour or so.

Maria grows alarmed.

MARIA

Maybe we can intercept them.

EXT. BORDER - SUNRISE

Sommerfeld and his men, all well-armed, wait at the border.
Four wagons filled with the crates loaded with automatic

rifles approach. Leading the convoy is Captain Blaine. Blaine rides up to Sommerfeld.

CAPTAIN BLAINE

As promised.

Blaine points to the wagons. One of Sommerfeld's men finishes inspecting the wagons.

CAPTAIN BLAINE (CONT'D)

Our partner helped us get them out of camp. We unloaded them on to these wagons. Excellent killing machines.

SOMMERFELD

Until next time.

Sommerfeld grabs the reins of his horse and turns to leave.

CAPTAIN BLAINE

Aren't you forgetting something?

Sommerfeld looks back and smiles.

SOMMERFELD

I am a poor host. How foolish of me.

Sommerfeld nods to his men. They hand Blaine a saddle bag filled with crisp American dollars.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

I just want a record of this transaction. I just like accurate records.

CAPTAIN BLAINE

How very German of you.

Sommerfeld records his payment to Blaine and places the documents in his saddlebag.

SOMMERFELD

Our partner wants us to cut out the competition.

He grabs a gun and shoots Blaine. Blaine tumbles from his horse.

INT. COLONEL'S SNOW - NIGHT

Colonel Snow sits at his desk reading reports. A SOLDIER hands him a report.

SOLDIER
We're breaking down the buildings as
ordered.

COLONEL SNOW
We have to be out within the month.
We're heading for a training camp in
England before we get to France.
Have you seen Captain Blaine?

Soldier shakes his head.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
I need his reports.

SOLDIER
We haven't seen him.

Snow gets up from his desk.

COLONEL SNOW
He's been acting very suspicious
lately. I'll get them myself.

INT. BLAINE'S TENT - DAY

Colonel Snow searches for the reports. He rummages through
papers on the desk. He finds nothing suspicious.

He turns to go and scans the book shelves. He admires the
meticulous selection of books.

One of the volumes on the book shelf appears out of place.
It is titled "Von Clauswitz On War." Snow plucks the book
from the shelf.

He rifles the book. Several loose pages fall from the book.
He inspects the pages.

COLONEL SNOW
Bastard.

The pages are copies of Bart's missing logs. Included are
some shipping manifests from Parilla's General Store.

EXT. DESERT - MEXICO - DAY

The four wagons travel across the desert. Sommerfeld and
his men drive the wagons across the vast desert.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Maria and Harrison look down at Sommerfeld's convoy. Maria
looks through her binoculars.

Harrison chafes at wearing the casual western garb.

HARRISON
Damned uncomfortable.

MARIA
Stop fussing. You finally look like
you fit in.

Maria chuckles at Harrison's discomfort.

HARRISON
Now I know why you people are so
damn uncivilized.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I notified Pancho Villa. He'll be
waiting in the mountains. That
shipment will never reach Obregon's
troops.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Sommerfeld spots a trail going up the mountains. He rides
up to the first wagon and motions to the lead driver.

SOMMERFELD
Follow that trail to the left.

The driver turns the wagon. The convoy follows.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Confused, Maria looks down at the column of wagons.

MARIA
He's turning... toward the ocean.

Harrison looks through the binoculars.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Obregon is South. This doesn't make
sense.

HARRISON
Unless he's planning to ship them on
a boat from the port.

EXT. PORT CITY - EVENING

The wagon train and the soldiers arrives in the port city.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - EVENING

Sommerfeld's men unload the weapons into a large warehouse. Sommerfeld talks to one of his men.

SOMMERFELD

Make this fast.

Sommerfeld rides away.

BUILDING

Maria and Harrison peak out from behind the building.

HARRISON

Time we took a look.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Harrison and Maria sneak up to the warehouse. It is heavily guarded. Harrison looks up at the roof.

He motions for Maria to join him. There is a ladder leading up to the roof.

EXT. ROOFTOP - WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Harrison and Maria jump across to the roof. They spot a few loose boards. Harrison pries open the boards and drops a rope down into the warehouse. The pair shimmy down a rope leading into the warehouse.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

The huge warehouse is filled with crates full of weapons. Harrison and Maria hide behind some large wooden crates.

HARRISON

Let's get closer.

Maria places her hand on his shoulder.

MARIA

Be careful, Harry.

INT. WAREHOUSE FLOOR - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison watch as the soldiers move other weapons crates nearby. The soldiers are running a portable generator. Several cans of gas are laying alongside the machine.

MARIA

As long as the General doesn't have these weapons, Villa has a chance.

Maria notices a crate that is marked: Randall James Brokers. She peels the label off. It reads Trans Oceanic Shippers.

HARRISON

They were using my family's company
as a front.

The soldiers sneaks out of the warehouse for a cigarette.

MARIA

I have an idea.

Maria takes advantage of their absence. She sneaks over and grabs one of the nearby cans of gasoline. She starts pouring the gas along the length of the floor. Harrison strikes a match. The gas is ignited and starts to burn.

MARIA

Let's get out of here.

The smoke and fire begin to spread.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Harrison and Maria race out of the smoking warehouse.

MARIA

Harrison.

Maria looks up and sees Sommerfeld and two of his men waiting for them..

SOMMERFELD

Put out the fire and salvage the
weapons. We'll get them to Obregon
over the mountains.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The fire begins to consume the warehouse. The Germans furiously fight the blaze. They move crates of weapons out of the burning warehouse.

MARIA

Harrison!

Harrison rushes from his hiding spot to Maria's aid. One of Sommerfeld's men slips behind him and bludgeons him with a rifle butt. Harrison collapses to the ground.

INT. OFFICE - WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Maria and Harrison awaken. They are bound with ropes and sit in front of Sommerfeld and men.

HARRISON

Are you going to execute us?

SOMMERFELD

I should kill you for killing my poor Consuelo. However, my orders are to hand both of you over to the General. They will have the privilege.

Sommerfeld gloats.

MARIA

You're using Obregon. Why keep all these weapons here?

SOMMERFELD

I wanted to give him a few weapons at a time to see if he was worthy of our alliance.

HARRISON

The General wants to regain the land they lost in the Mexican- American war.

SOMMERFELD

It is a Mexican dream and easy to manipulate.

MARIA

So Germany benefits?

HARRISON

(suddenly realizing)

If Mexico attacked, the United States could not fight a war on two fronts.

SOMMERFELD

Now, I think we have an appointment with General Obregon.

(to men)

Get the new wagons ready.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Two heavily loaded wagons are escorted by Sommerfeld's soldiers.

INT. WAGON - DAY

Maria and Harrison sit inside the wagon. They are securely bound with rope.

HARRISON

I'm sorry to have it end like this.
At the business end of a firing squad.

Maria appears hopeful.

MARIA

We'll find a way.

HARRISON

Perhaps. I didn't expect it to end
like this. I hoped to end my days
in Paris

MARIA

I dreaded being alone for the rest
of my days. I dreamed of being a
grand lady and helping the orphanage
one day.

HARRISON

If we get out of this, I'll build
you a new one. The kids were sweet.

Maria is amused.

MARIA

Why, Harrison James, are you getting
sentimental in your old age? Perhaps
you are finally admitting that you
missed not having a family.

Harrison grows embarrassed.

HARRISON

Madame, it's not in my makeup.

Maria laughs.

MARIA

You are more sentimental than you
let on... Harry.

Maria leans over to kiss him. He softens and leans forward
and embraces her.

HARRISON

I guess, I hide it well.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

The convoy has set up camp for the night. Maria sleeps on
the floor of the wagon. Harrison stares out at Sommerfeld
and his soldiers.

HARRISON

(calling)

Does a condemned man get a last meal?

Sommerfeld walks over with a bucket of water. Harrison drinks.

SOMMERFELD

Never let it be said that I am not a gracious host.

HARRISON

My brother was betrayed by a soldier in his unit? It was Colonel Snow.

Harrison leans forward, probing.

SOMMERFELD

No, it was a man that Bart thought he trusted. A man betrayed by your army.

HARRISON

Parilla? Of course, he could run supplies in and out of the camp without anyone giving it a second thought.

Sommerfeld grows angry and pushes him away.

SOMMERFELD

You are too inquisitive. It's getting late.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

The column of wagons rolls down the road. The terrain grows rougher and the trail narrows along the mountain passes.

INT. WAGON - DAY

Harrison and Maria stare up at the rugged mountains. The scenery is lush, green and magnificent.

MARIA

You never wanted a family? Your mother must have been a dreadful woman.

HARRISON

You would probably detest her as much as I did.

They both laugh.

MARIA

She sounds wicked. I must meet her.

The wagon jots as it hits a patch of rocks. A floorboard in the wagon is jarred loose.

EXT. TOP OF MOUNTAINS - DAY

Villistas run to take their positions along the ridge. Pancho Villa looks down and smiles.

PANCHO VILLA

Now. We are evenly matched, my friend.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

Sommerfeld stares up at the mountains. He sees a whiff of dust and stops. He spots rocks sliding down the side of the mountain.

SOMMERFELD

Pancho Villa!

A volley of SHOTS ECHOES from the overhanging cliffs. Sommerfeld's men are hit. They crumple to the ground.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

They are only bandits. They are no match.

Sommerfeld and his men take cover behind the rocks and fire back.

INT. WAGON - DAY

Maria lies down in the wagon. Harrison struggles to sever the ropes on the jagged edge of the loose floorboard.

MOUNTAIN RIDGE

Pancho Villa motions his men forward.

PANCHO VILLA

Keep them trapped. Do not let them escape!

MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Sommerfeld's men try to move the wagons out of the mountain pass. They are met by Villistas hiding behind rocks.

WAGON

Harrison leans forward and scrapes the ropes against the jagged floorboard. He loosens his bonds and frees himself. He unties Maria. The two leap out of the wagon and hide under it.

HARRISON

Stay here. Sommerfeld cannot get away.

MARIA

Till death us do part?

Harrison dashes to the next wagon. He sneaks up behind one of Sommerfeld's men and wraps the remains of the bonds around his neck in a chokehold.

The soldier struggles and grabs a knife from his belt. Harrison wrestles the knife from the soldier and plunges it into his stomach. He slumps to the ground. Harrison grabs the man's sword and rifle.

HARRISON

Don't run away.

SOMMERFELD'S SOLDIERS

continue firing against the shadowy targets in the hills. Sommerfeld's men panic, as they are picked off one by one.

PANCHO VILLA'S VOICE

Surrender!

SOMMERFELD

General Villa, I will live to see you hang.

Villa's men continue to fire down at Sommerfeld and his soldiers.

Sommerfeld grabs two pistols and yells to his men.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Keep firing!

There is a massive exchange of gunfire. Sommerfeld slips from his position and climbs behind some rocks. Harrison sees him running into the mountains. He grabs a sword from the nearby fallen soldier.

MOUNTAIN

Sommerfeld makes his way to the top. He encounters a Villista in his path and shoots him.

Harrison follows Sommerfeld. He sees him at the top of the mountain and fires. Sommerfeld fires back.

PANCHO VILLA

sees Harrison chasing Sommerfeld. He motions to two Villistas.

TOP OF MOUNTAIN

Harrison and Sommerfeld exchange fire. Harrison forces Sommerfeld into a dead end. Sommerfeld realizes there is no way out.

HARRISON

Throw down your weapon.

Harrison reaches the back of the dead end, but there is no Sommerfeld. A VOICE calls out behind him.

SOMMERFELD (O.S.)

Looking for me?

Harrison drops his rifle, saber. He turns and spots Sommerfeld emerges from behind a sharp crevice.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

I'll make it quick.

He points his saber at Harrison's neck.

HARRISON

Villa's men are everywhere.

SOMMERFELD

I am a survivor.

Sommerfeld stares into the blazing noon day sun. It distracts him. Harrison leaps at him, knocking both men to the ground. They grapple, but Sommerfeld knocks him out of the way and retrieves his saber.

Harrison and Sommerfeld lunge at each other with their sabers. Both perform cat like moves at each other. Sommerfeld is more agile and gains the upper hand.

SOMMERFELD (CONT'D)

Pray for a quick death.

Sommerfeld lunges at Harrison. Sommerfeld's grip hand begins to tremble. Harrison spots the weakness and sidesteps the saber.

Sommerfeld is caught off balance. Harrison takes advantage of Sommerfeld's momentary weakness. He strikes him in the midsection. Sommerfeld keels over onto the ground. Blood seeps from his wounds.

Maria runs over the hill. She spots Sommerfeld's body sprawled on the ground.

MARIA

I've changed my mind about a reconciliation.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

Sommerfeld's men throw down their weapons as the Villistas surround them.

Several Villistas jump into the wagons and grab the weapons. The Villistas cheer.

Pancho Villa arrives on his stallion. He dismounts and celebrates with his men.

VILLISTAS

Viva Pancho Villa! Viva Pancho Villa!

MOUNTAINSIDE

Maria walk down to the trail, accompanied by two Villistas. Harrison and Maria joins Pancho Villa and kisses him.

PANCHO VILLA

We have won a great victory here.

A Villista brings over Sommerfeld's horse.

VILLISTA

General.

Pancho Villa examines the saddlebags. Inside are pouches containing documents about Sommerfeld's transactions with Blaine.

Pancho Villa looks at the documents and hands them to Harrison.

PANCHO VILLA

Our German friends kept very detailed records.

Harrison looks at the documents. He nods in approval.

HARRISON
Names and dates. Yes, very much.

PANCHO VILLA
Good.

Pancho Villa mounts his stallion in one graceful motion.

PANCHO VILLA (CONT'D)
Today, our fight begins anew.

HARRISON
Until we meet again, General.

PANCHO VILLA
You will not see me again. I believe
your chase is over.

Villa rides ahead.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

A GUARD stands duty. Harrison gallops up to the gates.

HARRISON
Colonel Snow...

GUARD
I'm sorry, Mr. James. I have orders
not to allow you in this camp.

Harrison hands the guard some documents. The Guard doesn't respond.

HARRISON
Unless you like digging latrines,
I'd open that gate.

INT. COLONEL SNOW'S OFFICE - DAY

Colonel Snow stares out the window. He spots Harrison standing by the gate. He grabs some of Blaine's records, hat and riding crop and races out of the office.

EXT. GATES OF CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Colonel Snow rushes up to the gate.

COLONEL SNOW
Let 'em in.

The guard appears confused, but obeys the Colonel's orders.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
Have you seen Sargent Parilla?

GUARD
He and his truck came in about half
an hour ago.

Colonel Snow motions for the guard to open the gate.

COLONEL SNOW
That's an order, private.

A surprised Harrison enters the compound. Snow puts his hand on Harrison's shoulder. Snow is all business. No sense of regret.

COLONEL SNOW (CONT'D)
We have business to attend to.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - DAY

Colonel Snow and Harrison race toward the supply tent.

COLONEL SNOW
Seems I was wrong about you.

HARRISON
Our captain was doing more than
collecting payroll in El Paso.

The two men race into the heart of the compound.

COLONEL SNOW
I hate a slacker.

INT. SUPPLY TENT - DAY

Colonel Snow and Harrison charge into the tent. Parilla and a helper are busy unloading supplies. Parilla wears his pair of brown cowboy boots. He is shocked to see Snow and Harrison.

COLONEL SNOW
We need a word with you.

Parilla appears confident, as Harrison confronts him.

FLASHBACK

Parilla and Bart arguing. Bart waves the logs and shipping documents in Parilla's face. Parilla explodes and whips out a gun.

Parilla shoots Bart, and then drags him over to his desk. He places the gun in Bart's hand to make it appear to be a suicide.

RETURN TO SCENE

HARRISON

You realized my brother was suspicious when you saw him going through the duty rosters. That's when you decided to kill him.

PARILLA

I'm a businessman. That's all.

Harrison pulls out records from Sommerfeld's pouches.

HARRISON

Sommerfeld kept records of transactions and payoffs. Your records.

Parilla remains defiant.

PARILLA

I deal with all sorts of people.

Harrison drops a duty roster on a table.

HARRISON

You wanted revenge for what the army did to you.

FLASHBACK

Parilla as he charges out of Snow's tent in the early scene. He yells at Colonel Snow as Harrison waits to enter.

RETURN TO SCENE

PARILLA

I'm a simple businessman. I protest.

Parilla looks to Colonel Snow. No sympathies.

HARRISON

You signed out his weapon and forged his signature. Made it look like a suicide. But it was murder.

Harrison approaches him.

Parilla gulps. He dashes out of the tent into the open compound. Harrison races out of the tent.

He is close behind him.

EXT. CAMP FURLONG - NIGHT

The two men race toward the gates of the camp. They race past a sentry post guarded with barbed wire and a pile of wooden posts.

HARRISON

Parilla, you have nowhere to run.

Parilla ignores the warning and races toward the edge of the compound.

Parilla vanishes behind a nearby tent. Harrison stands in front of the barbed wire. Like a cornered beast, Parilla emerges and charges Harrison.

The two men grapple in the center of the compound. The other soldiers gather around to watch the spectacle.

Parilla reaches for his revolver. He aims it at Harrison.

PARILLA

I'll see you in hell.

Harrison grabs a wooden post from the nearby pile. He slams Parilla's bad hand. Parilla screams, and falls backward onto the wickedly sharp barbed wire.

HARRISON

A razor thin margin of error.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Harrison assists his mother out of the coach. He accompanies her toward the grave side burial site for Bart James.

DOROTHY

Things are settled.

HARRISON

No, mother. You did your best to keep the two of us at odds.

DOROTHY

I never meant to harm you or your brother.

HARRISON

Bart is at rest. Perhaps, some day, we can put this behind us.

Harrison and Dorothy watch as soldiers lift Bart's casket, covered with an American flag, and lower it into a grave. Many distinguished GUESTS attend the burial service.

An OFFICER presents Dorothy with a folded flag and a Distinguished Service Medal.

OFFICER

To Captain Bart James... for his courage and dedication to duty while making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country.

An HONOR GUARD OF SOLDIERS fire their rifles into the air.

CEMETERY - LATER

Guests leave the cemetery. Harrison rolls Dorothy toward her car. A chauffeur stands outside the vehicle.

DOROTHY

I am proud of you, Harrison. Our family honor has been restored.

HARRISON

Bart deserved it.

DOROTHY

If you like, I'll set you up at the State Department. You'll have any appointment you desire. I'll speak directly to the Secretary of State.

Maria walks toward Harrison and his mother. The mother is taken back by the newcomer.

HARRISON

Everything I need is not in Paris.

DOROTHY

I don't understand.

Maria leans over to kiss Harrison.

HARRISON

I do. And I think Bart did as well.

DOROTHY

Wait, there are many matters to settle.

Harrison embraces his mother, turns and leaves. Dorothy is mystified. He appears relieved.

HARRISON

I'll send you my new address. You
can send me letter...If I get it.

EXT. ORPHANAGE GROUNDS - DAY

A new extension is being added to the building. WORKMEN
are building the frame of the new wing.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE ORPHANAGE YARD - DAY

The Nun speaks to Maria.

NUN

I am so happy for you.

MARIA

Bart and I have found peace. Excuse
me the children are waiting.

Maria plays with the children. She does not see Harrison
entering the grounds.

Harrison walks over to Maria. He carries a set of rolled up
blueprints.

HARRISON

It will be far grander than I
imagined. Money is no object.

MARIA

It will draw children for miles
around....

Harrison unrolls the drawings.

HARRISON

It will be grand.

MARIA

Still time to change your mind.

He embraces her. There is a sense of genuine warmth in the
embrace.

HARRISON

(smiles)
I've found a new home.

Maria kisses Harrison. The two start playing with the
children.

FADE OUT

THE END