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Silence of the Land
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN:

1 INT. BANK OF SAN ANTONIO - DAY

GREGORIA DE LA GARZA, 32, waits in front of the steel cage. She stands out in her colorful Mexican dress.

The TELLER, 24, wearing a drab suit and tie, approaches Gregoria. He slides Gregoria's withdrawal slip under the cage.

TELLER
Your balance is zero.

A LARGE MAN, 45, in an expensive suit, gets in line behind Gregoria. He looks at his watch.

GREGORIA
That's not right. I know I have money. Look.

Gregoria gives the teller her record book.

The teller rolls his eyes. He takes a deep breath then looks at Gregoria's ledger.

The teller turns through a few pages then hands it back to Gregoria.

TELLER
You didn't account for charges.
Next.

GREGORIA
Charges?

Three IMPATIENT CUSTOMERS get in line.

The large man moves toward the cage. He stops when Gregoria turns to face him.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)
One moment, sir.

Gregoria turns back to the teller.

The SECURITY GUARD, 52, notices that Gregoria is refusing to leave. He walks toward her.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)
Can you please check again? When my husband died I was told...

The security guard gently puts his hand against Gregoria's back. He applies just enough pressure to direct her toward the door then points to the people in line.

SECURITY GUARD

These people have business to conduct.
Apparently, you don't.

The guard slowly moves Gregoria toward the door.

With tears in her eyes, Gregoria turns to the guard.

GREGORIA

How will I feed my daughters?

SECURITY GUARD

Try a job.

The security guard keeps his hand on Gregoria's back until she's outside. He rudely closes the door then turns around still holding a condescending smirk on his face.

2 EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

A semitrailer stops in the back.

The DRIVER, 38, drops down from the cab. He opens the doors to the trailer. It's filled with MIGRANT WORKERS.

Gregoria and her four daughters, FRANCES, 6, DOROTEA, 8, CONCEPCION, 10, and ELODEA, 11, huddle together in the far corner of the trailer.

Gregoria's eyes are tightly closed indicating she is not asleep.

RICARDO MARTINEZ, 45, is sitting with Gregoria and her daughters. His face is nearly hidden by his wide brimmed hat. With a smile and worried eyes, he looks at Gregoria.

RICARDO

(quietly)
Gregoria.

Gregoria opens her eyes.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Now we eat. Stay close.

The migrant workers pile out of the trailer.

The driver gets out of his truck then walks toward the restaurant.

Gregoria, her daughters, and Ricardo are the last to exit.

Gregoria leads her children toward the cafe.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Gregoria, no.

Ricardo points to a sign on the door that says, "No Mexicans Allowed".

Gregoria and the girls follow him in the opposite direction where the women are building fires and preparing food on a strip of grass between the road and the parking lot.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

I'll get us something to eat.

Gregoria and her four daughters wander through the field looking for a comfortable place to sit.

Ricardo returns with egg and chorizo tacos. He sits down next to Gregoria then notices the expression of fear on the young girls' faces.

RICARDO (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid. We'll be there in three days.

3 LATER

The driver wakes from his nap then gets out of the cab. He opens the doors to the trailer then whistles.

The migrant workers file into the trailer as the driver mocks them by treating them like cattle.

4 EXT. CAULIFLOWER FIELD - DAY

The sun beats down on Gregoria and her daughters as they tie the leaves around the light-green heads of each plant. All of them are soaking wet from the water on the leaves.

A horn blares in the distance so Gregoria leads her daughters out of the field.

5 INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

There's only an old cot and sink in the small room. The bathroom is an outhouse shared by the other workers.

Gregoria collects the cans that the girls use as bowls for their meager dinner.

Ricardo enters the room without knocking. He's holding a newspaper.

GREGORIA
Hola, Ricardo.

Ricardo throws the paper on the stove. The headline says:
NOV. 19, 1941, TREATY RATIFIED.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)
What has gotten you so upset?

RICARDO
They signed the treaty. Our people
will never get our lands back now.

GREGORIA
It will happen, too many visions
have said so.

Ricardo opens the door.

RICARDO
I thought you should know. Buenos
Noches.

GREGORIA
Good-night.

Ricardo leaves.

The girls spread out four tattered blankets on the floor
then lie down.

Gregoria cleans the cans then dries her hands. She kisses
Elodea on the cheek.

ELODEA
Mamma, what did Ricardo mean?

Gregoria begins to cry.

One by one, the girls rise from the floor. Elodea hugs
Gregoria's neck and Frances puts her arms around her legs.
Dorotea and Concepcion gently embrace her waist.

CONCEPCION
Mamma, please, what was Ricardo
talking about?

Gregoria dries her eyes.

GREGORIA

Our family has not always been so poor. Lay down girls, I'll tell you a story.

Gregoria reclines against the wall.

Elodea sits up.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

Domingo lived on a massive rancho in Northern Mexico before it became Texas. Its name was La Parra.

CONCEPCION

Really?

GREGORIA

The rancho was so large that you could ride your horse all day long and still be on our land.

DOROTEA

I love horses.

Dorotea's eyes are wide open with excitement.

GREGORIA

Domingo lived in a hacienda with so many rooms you could get lost. The finest furniture filled every room.

Concepcion sits up.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

They had thousands of cattle with the longest horns. They also raised sheep, goats, and pigs.

FRANCES

I love pigs.

DOROTEA

Tell us more, mamma.

Frances gets up then sits beside her mother.

Gregoria puts her arm around Frances.

GREGORIA

The vaqueros would drive the longhorn cattle to the best grazing...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

6 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - DAY

DOMINGO DE LA GARZA, 32, is an impressive figure as he rides his beautiful black horse, Bonito. He's very handsome. His impeccable clothes exhibit his enormous wealth.

Domingo shouts instructions to his VAQUEROS. Both of them wear sombreros, white cotton shirts with bolero style jackets, and pants that lace up on the sides.

The vaqueros faithfully carry out Domingo's orders. They drive the cattle across Domingo's expansive rancho, a rugged, desolate landscape dominated by cactus and mesquite.

A bull breaks from the herd.

DOMINGO

I've got this.

Domingo chases after the longhorn. With a velvet touch, he skillfully turns his horse on a dime then forces the steer back to the herd.

Domingo's right-hand man, CAPORAL GARCIA, 40, identifies an unbranded longhorn. He maneuvers it away from the other cattle.

Garcia and ANOTHER VAQUERO, 30, spin their lariats forming perfect circles above their heads.

Garcia lassos the beast by its horn. The other vaquero captures a leg. With perfect timing, they pull the bull off its hooves.

Garcia slides a bright colored ring over a horn.

Domingo smiles with pride as he watches the vaqueros lead the cattle into the corral.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Garcia, take care of the ones that need branding. I'm going to Santa Gertrudis.

GARCIA

Yes, Alcalde.

Domingo turns his horse then rides away.

7 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - DAY

Domingo and TWO WITNESSES ride beside his father, LORENZO DE LA GARZA, 60. They stop at the summit of an impressive hill. The land stretches out before them in every direction.

Domingo and Lorenzo dismount. They walk over to an isolated mesquite tree. The two witnesses remain on their horses as they observe the ceremony.

Domingo reverently reads from a scroll.

DOMINGO

On this day in 1834, I, Domingo De La Garza, Mayor of Matamoros, award this land to Lorenzo De La Garza.

Lorenzo looks at the crystal blue sky. He faces north then throws a handful of grass into the air.

LORENZO

To the north.

Lorenzo faces east then he lets some grass float away in the breeze.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

To the east.

Lorenzo smiles then winks at Domingo.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

To the south.

Lorenzo faces the sunset.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

To the west.

Domingo continues to read from the scroll.

DOMINGO

I, herewith, put you in possession of these lands in the name of the Mexican Nation.

Lorenzo kicks the ground then tosses a rock in each direction. He breaks some branches off of the mesquite tree.

LORENZO

This land is now mine to tame and protect.

Domingo turns to the witnesses.

DOMINGO

Thanks Manuel, Pablo, you can go.

The father and son watch the witnesses ride away. They both laugh then hug each other.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Congratulations, Papa.

Domingo and Lorenzo leisurely ride toward Lorenzo's sprawling hacienda.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Santa Anna has put an end to the Anglo immigration. The Americans...

LORENZO

They call themselves Texians. Not American, not Mexican, Texian. It betrays their true intentions.

Lorenzo's mansion, made of limestone and granite, comes into view. The two-story home stretches across the landscape.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

The ban is a good thing. The Anglos have no respect for our country.

DOMINGO

They continue to cross the border illegally but they swear to obey Mexican Law.

LORENZO

Do you see the contradiction? The Anglos will continue to settle this land. No law will stop them.

Lorenzo and Domingo arrive at the front door then dismount.

TWO SERVANTS immediately lead the horses away.

Domingo places his arm around Lorenzo's shoulder.

DOMINGO

You worry too much, old man. Come with me, we have a fiesta to plan.

ANOTHER SERVANT greets them then opens the tall double-doors.

8

EXT. THE STEAMER COMANCHE - DAY - MOVING

RICHARD KING, 23, stands on the deck with CAPTAIN MIFLIN KENEDY, 25. Their clothes are worn-out and shabby.

They silently observe the water and steep cliffs of the Rio Grande.

Mifflin turns to Richard. He speaks with a heavy Irish accents.

MIFFLIN

Santa Anna's abolished all immigrants from the United States.

RICHARD

Those filthy Mexicans can't do that. What about our families?

MIFFLIN

Might be for the best. There won't be any land for them.

The deck hands prepare to unload the merchandise as the Comanche steamship approaches the dock.

RICHARD

That foolish decree means nothin'. This is God's land and we were chosen to possess it.

MIFFLIN

How?

RICHARD

By whatever means necessary.

9 INT. LORENZO'S HACIENDA - PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

The massive party room is supported by pillars of cypress and oak crossbeams. The MARIACHIS, dressed in black, play their violins, accordions, and trumpets.

The polished-stone dance-floor is filled with MEXICAN COUPLES in their finest dress. Beer and tequila flow freely.

The laughing and cheering of the dancers are evidence that everyone's having a fantastic time.

Domingo and his father clap their hands as they watch the dancers.

The women twirl their skirts with delight while the men stomp their boots with passion.

Lorenzo takes a deep breath.

LORENZO

The smell of perfectly roasted beef
makes me wish I could live forever.
But alas, I know I will not.

Domingo studies his father's eyes with concern.

Domingo's brothers, JULIAN DE LA GARZA, 28, and RAFAEL DE LA GARZA, 26, join them. Julian puts his arm around Lorenzo's shoulder.

JULIAN

Felicidades, Father. You can double
the herd now.

LORENZO

I intend to and the sheep as well.
Will your men be able to handle it,
Rafael?

RAFAEL

Of course, of course.

Lorenzo turns to Domingo.

LORENZO

How are things at La Parra?

DOMINGO

God has blessed us. It has been a
prosperous year.

Julian barely pays attention as he looks around the room.

The walls are covered with frescos and paintings of nearly every saint. Statues of the Lady Guadalupe rest in the recesses built into the walls.

JULIAN

The art is new, Papa. How did you
acquire it?

LORENZO

Had my men rescue them from the
missions.

Domingo points to the largest statue. The eyes have been shot out by rifle fire.

DOMINGO

Why would you keep that one?

LORENZO

The Anglos disrespect our icons.
It's here to remind me just how evil
the Americans are.

Rafael stops a SERVANT carrying a tray of shrimp tostada bites. He takes a moment to decide which is the best one then takes it from the platter.

DOMINGO

Papa, things are changing. The
Americans aren't perfect but they
have added to our profits.

JULIAN

It's not about profit, brother.
It's about protecting our legacy.
Our traditions.

LORENZO

Trade with them but do not give your
confidence to the Anglos. They
believe they are better than us.

Domingo puts both hands on his father's shoulders.

DOMINGO

We need them. They are no threat.
Our lands are secure.

A SERVANT carrying an empty platter walks by Lorenzo.

LORENZO

Bring me and my sons tequila. We're
thirsty.

Lorenzo puts his arms around their necks and laughs.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Come with me. I must show you
something.

The servant returns with four half-filled glasses. Lorenzo grabs his tequila. The brothers take their drinks then follow him outside.

10 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - NIGHT

Lorenzo leads them away from the fires and torches until the four of them are standing in a field far from the hacienda.

Lorenzo looks up at the night sky.

LORENZO

See those stars. Our family has been looking at those stars since they came here a hundred years ago.

RAFAEL

We've been fortunate, Papa.

Lorenzo puts his hand on Rafael's shoulder.

Domingo moves away from his brothers to get a better view.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Yes. Never forget, we honor our ancestors by preserving the way of life that's provided so much for us.

Domingo turns back to his father.

DOMINGO

That is important but we must embrace the future. That is how to protect a legacy.

Julian rolls his eyes.

JULIAN

I don't understand why you are so willing to abandon what has given so much to us.

Domingo walks back to Julian.

DOMINGO

It's not that. If we...

Lorenzo stops them.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

No man can see the future. I do know this. Take care of the land and it will work for you.

All three brothers respectfully listen to their father.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Love your animals and they will multiply for you. Treat those who are in your employment as family.

Lorenzo looks at Domingo seeking confirmation.

DOMINGO

Our father's words are true.

LORENZO

If you do those things, we will all
have a prosperous future.

Lorenzo looks into Domingo's eyes

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Domingo, it will be up to you to
preserve our legacy.

Julian looks at Domingo with a slight smirk on his face.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Listen to each other. Together, you
can assure that our family will be
looking at those same stars forever.

All four of them silently gaze at the endless points of light
that completely fill the sky. Lorenzo's wife, GUADALUPE DE
LA GARZA, 49, approaches.

GUADALUPE

Why have my men separated themselves
from the party? We are here to
celebrate. Join me, my love.

11 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - COURTYARD - NIGHT

A SERVANT roasts a side of beef over a large fire. He slowly
turns the handle of the spit with both hands,.

BERNADA RAMIREZ, 19, wearing a white linen shirt with elbow
length sleeves and a red ankle-length petticoat, makes eye
contact with Domingo.

Lorenzo notices she has caught Domingo's attention.

DOMINGO

Who is that in the red dress?

LORENZO

That is Bernada Ramirez. Her father
and I go way back. They just moved
here from Mexico City. Hold this.

Lorenzo hands his plate to Domingo then walks directly to
Bernada.

Domingo tries to balance the two plates and his glass. He
sees Lorenzo say something to Bernada and they both laugh.

Bernada looks at Domingo. He nearly drops his drink. Before
he can settle his glass, Bernada and Lorenzo are walking
toward him.

LORENZO (CONT'D)
Bernada Ramirez, this is my son,
Domingo.

Domingo smiles uncomfortably.

DOMINGO
Nice to meet you...

12 EXT. LORENZO'S HACIENDA - ENTRANCE - DAY

Lorenzo collects the paper bags and candles left from last night's party. He lifts his head when he hears three men approaching on horses.

The THREE ANGLOS stop in front of Lorenzo. The young men are wearing ragged and dingy clothes.

Lorenzo rises and stands with courage and dignity.

LORENZO
I will not change my mind.

JAMES HASKILL, 20, moves his horse closer to Lorenzo.

JAMES
Mr. King has raised his offer. Old man, don't be stupid. You have more than you need and he has gold.

LORENZO
My family's land is not for sale at any price. Por favor! Leave!

James dismounts and walks over to Lorenzo. The brims of their hats touch.

JAMES
You should accept Mr. King's offer before he takes it from your widowed wife.

As fast as a rattlesnake strike, Lorenzo pulls his pistol then presses it against James's nose.

James falls to his knees.

The two Anglos with him draw their weapons.

Lorenzo presses the gun harder against his nose.

JAMES
You kill me. My boys will surely shoot you dead.

LORENZO

I do not fear death. Do you?

Lorenzo cocks his pistol.

A bead of sweat runs down James's face.

JAMES

All right. All right.
(to his companions)
Holster your guns, boys.

LORENZO

Do not return. I will not be so
patient next time.

James rises then staggers to his horse. The three young men
ride away laughing like maniacs.

Guadalupe walks up to Lorenzo.

GUADALUPE

What did they want?

LORENZO

What do all Anglos want. Our land.

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

Property is more important to them
than a life. The only land some
have been left with are their graves.

13 INT. RAMIREZ HOME - DAY

Bernada's sitting with her parents in the front room. She
springs to her feet when there's a knock on the door. She
kisses her father, VICTOR RAMIREZ, 54, on the cheek.

BERNADA

Now be nice, Papa. I'm sure he's
very nervous.

Victor and his wife, ANNA RAMIREZ, 37, stand to greet Domingo
as Bernada opens the door.

Domingo looks at her with a sheepish grin on his face.

DOMINGO

Hola, my love. Your parents home?

BERNADA

Of course, silly. We have been
expecting you.

Domingo nervously walks into the home.

Victor shakes his hand.

VICTOR
How are things going at your rancho?

DOMINGO
Very well.

VICTOR
And your father?

A SERVANT presents a tray with small glasses of tequila and tall steins of beer. Victor grabs a glass then Domingo takes a stein.

DOMINGO
My father? He resists change.
Sometimes I feel he prefers tradition
over progress.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
They are equally important. He's a
good man. Please tell him I hope to
get together soon.

Bernada grabs Domingo's hand then leads him to the couch.

Bernada's parents sit down on the chairs across from Domingo and Bernada. They all smile in silence until Bernada gently slaps Domingo's thigh. Her eyes say "get on with it".

DOMINGO
Señor Ramirez, I plan to ask for
your daughter's hand in marriage.

Bernada nervously looks at her father.

VICTOR
That's a relief. I have had enough
of the whispering and crying and
laughing between my wife and daughter.

Bernada looks completely embarrassed.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
It will be nice to have my home return
to normal.

Domingo stands.

DOMINGO

My dowry is not what a woman like Bernada deserves but my lands are vast and my future has promise.

VICTOR

It is obvious you have the blood of your father. Of course you have my blessing but only if she is willing.

Bernada stands.

BERNADA

Yes, Papa. I'm willing. I'm willing.

Bernada giggles then wraps her arms around Domingo.

VICTOR

You could have curbed your enthusiasm. The wife of a mayor must learn that.

BERNADA

Yes, Papa.

ANNA

And a mayor must learn that it is the wife who possesses the wisdom of the family.

Everyone laughs. Anna stands and hugs Domingo then kisses him on each cheek.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Though you didn't ask for my blessing, I gladly give it. Welcome to the family.

14 INT. RICHARD KING'S HOUSE - COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

The walls are made of adobe bricks. The thatched roof protects the dirt floor from the rain.

There are four small rooms separated by curtains and a common area with a large table and chairs.

Richard has his feet up as he talks with Miflin.

RICHARD

The second barge will double our income. We'll be able to get some cattle.

MIFLIN

What's the point? We don't have the land. They've closed the borders and our wives are still in Louisiana.

James walks into the room.

JAMES

I delivered your message. I don't think he's gonna sell.

RICHARD

Miflin, I need to talk to James. Give us a moment.

Richard waits until he knows Miflin's out of earshot. He speaks quietly but his voice seethes with rage.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

That Mexican's sittin' on seventy-five thousand acres. We ain't got two hundred.

Richard puts a disturbing smile on his face.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

It's time to take what's rightfully ours.

JAMES

Magnificent Destiny.

RICHARD

What? Manifest Destiny. Idiot. But you're right. We'll be doin' God's work when we take the land.

Richard looks into James's eyes

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Those lazy, ignorant, Half-breeds have done nothing with that property. I need you to do somethin' for me.

15 INT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

Family and friends attend the wedding of Domingo and Bernada.

Domingo wears white pants and a guayabara which is a white short sleeve shirt fully embroidered on both sides.

Bernada's in a white cotton long straight skirt and a blouse covered with embroidered flowers.

Domingo and Bernada stand across from each other in front of a priest. They say their vows then share a kiss.

Julian spins a silk lariat that's decorated with jewels. With great skill, he lassos both of them.

Bernada removes the rope, then turns it once to make a figure eight. She places it back over her head.

Rafael walks to the altar then gives Domingo an ornately decorated box.

The priest blesses it.

Domingo tips the box. Thirteen gold coins pour into Bernada's hands. She lets the coins fall through her fingers then Domingo hands her the empty box.

Running to the altar, children pick up the coins then give them to Bernada.

The bride and groom, still lassoed, lead the procession out of the church.

16 INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Richard and Miflin are leaning over a map of South Texas. The light from the lantern shows a large rectangle of dashed lines.

RICHARD

I'm gettin' more cattle than I expected. This will be the fence line.

Miflin grabs the lantern and holds it over the map.

MIFLIN

That's the Santa Gertrudis Rancho. You know how they feel about fences. They won't look too kindly...

RICHARD

By the time they notice, it'll be too late.

MIFLIN

They ain't gonna deal.

RICHARD

Then they ain't gonna stay.

Miflin abruptly walks out of the room.

17 EXT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A bank of clouds slowly eats away the stars as it approaches from the south. Miflin bridles his horse.

Richard walks out the door.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
If ye will not drive out the
inhabitants of the land from before
you...

Richard moves close to Miflin.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
...those which ye let remain, shall
be pricks in your eyes and thorns in
your sides.

MIFLIN
Scriptures? You're quotin'
scriptures?

Miflin prepares his saddle.

RICHARD
Suppose God wants us to be here?
Every preacher I know says so.

MIFLIN
It's their land.

RICHARD
They haven't done anything with it.

Miflin mounts his horse.

MIFLIN
I'm with you, Richard. Just never
had somethin' Christian feel so...
wrong.

RICHARD
You have to trust me. This is the
right thing. God has set apart this
land for the righteous.

Miflin rides away into the darkness.

Richard looks at the sky now completely covered by clouds.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

The Lord said lift your eyes now and
look from the place where you are...

Richard holds out his arms.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

,,,northward, southward, eastward,
and westward; for all the land which
you see I give to you.

18 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - DAY

Domingo sits on Bonito at the edge of his property. He sees the BAND OF SHEARERS, thirty-five members of the Coahuiltecan tribe, coming over the hill.

The Natives are being led by their captain, JUAN HERNANDEZ.

DOMINGO

You're late. You said your guys
were the best. At this hour, they
better be.

JUAN

They are. Their ancestors were
trained at the mission. They've
been shearing sheep for generations.

19 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - SHEEP SHEARING SHED - DAY

The long narrow structure has no walls. The pillars are sections of oak trunks spaced closely enough to safely hold up the roof.

Inside the shed, the dust from the disturbed dry ground combined with the fleece flotsam floating in the air makes it seem as if a sandstorm and a snowstorm were occurring.

A shearer grabs a sheep from one of the pens that line three sides of the shed. The Native immobilizes the animal between his legs. In only seconds, he trims the wool from its body.

He throws the fleece to the men who fill the huge bags as they jump into them to compress the wool.

DOMINGO

Six thousand by nightfall?

JUAN

Si, Señor. You will need more bags.

Domingo watches the sweat pour down the Native's faces as he calculates their progress.

Lorenzo's caporal, RUDY TIERRA, 35, rides through La Parra at full speed. He stops in front of Domingo.

RUDY
Alcalde. Alcalde. You're needed at
Santa Gertrudis. You must come at
once.

Rudy leaves as quickly as he came. Domingo yells to Garcia.

DOMINGO
Get Julian, andele!

Domingo prepares his horse.

Garcia returns with Julian.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
Mount your horse, we need to go to
Papa's.

JULIAN
What is it?

DOMINGO
I don't know but in Rudy's eyes...
It must be urgent. Be well-armed.

20 INT. LORENZO'S HACIENDA - ENTRANCE - DAY

Domingo and Julian walk through the fourteen-foot doors made of solid oak. The house is eerily silent until Domingo hears his mother sobbing.

21 BACK ROOM

Guadalupe's crying on the beautiful couch. Rafael holds her hand. She sees Domingo.

Guadalupe runs to Domingo then falls into his arms as her sobbing becomes louder.

DOMINGO
Mamma, what is it?

GUADALUPE
Your father... the Comanche.

Rudy enters the room. He expresses his greetings with a nod.

RUDY

Domingo. Julian. Come with me.

22 INT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - BARN - DAY

The brothers walk through the door and past several vaqueros with Rudy.

Julian sees his father on the ground. He has one arrow embedded in his chest. He runs over to Lorenzo's lifeless body then holds him in his arms.

JULIAN

Papa, you crazy old man. What did they do to you?

Domingo's incensed. He turns to Rudy.

DOMINGO

How did this happen? Why didn't you protect him?

RUDY

Your father must have come out here alone. We discovered him this morning. Nothing has been disturbed.

Domingo studies the scene. He notices Lorenzo's horse standing faithfully by his father's side then he grips Julian's shoulder.

Julian stands back as he wipes his eyes.

DOMINGO

Oh, Papa.

Domingo closes his father's eyes with his hand. He examines the arrow.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Definitely Comanche. No one heard them? One thing the Comanche are not is quiet. Strange.

Domingo rubs the neck of his father's horse.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

They left the horses. Did they take anything?

RUDY

No, Alcalde. Nothing's missing.

DOMINGO

Stranger.

Julian's posture shows he's fuming with anger but his voice betrays he's weakened by sadness.

JULIAN

Rudy, take my father's body. We must prepare him for burial.

DOMINGO

No. Don't touch anything. Julian, get Antonio, he's half Comanche. I want him to see this.

Julian gets in Domingo's face.

JULIAN

Instead of investigating we should be killing Indians.

DOMINGO

The truth is worth a few more minutes.

Julian leaves.

Domingo interrogates the vaqueros until Julian returns with ANTONIO, 27, wearing chaps over his jeans and a buckskin shirt. His straight black hair reaches his waist.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Antonio, will you look around? Something doesn't feel right.

ANTONIO

I'll start outside.

Antonio walks out of the barn.

JULIAN

Are you gonna do what Papa said and protect our legacy or will I have to do it alone?

DOMINGO

We had an agreement with the Comanche. Why would they do this now?

ANTONIO (O.S.)

Alcalde, you should see this.

23 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - OUTSIDE OF BARN - DAY

Domingo and Julian go to Antonio. He waves his hand over some tracks.

ANTONIO

These horses were fighting against their reins. A Comanche is one with his horse. Warriors did not do this.

JULIAN

What are you talking about? I know a Comanche arrow when I see one.

Antonio straightens up then walks into the barn.

Domingo and Julian follow.

24 INT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - BARN - DAY

Antonio walks directly to Lorenzo's body. He looks at the arrow.

ANTONIO

The arrow is Comanche. But the depth isn't right. It looks as if a child pulled the bow.

Antonio tears open Lorenzo's shirt which reveals the wound. He touches his finger to a small amount of blood around the arrow.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Your father was already dead when this was done. I've seen Anglos do this to cover their tracks.

Julian looks with anger at Domingo.

JULIAN

So your American friends did this. Let's kill those bastards.

DOMINGO

(sarcastically)

Should we find out who's responsible for our father's death or just kill them all?

JULIAN

Enough investigating. There's nothing more to learn here.

Julian turns to Rudy.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Take my father to the house. Prepare his casket.

Rudy looks at Domingo for approval.

Domingo nods to Rudy then squats with Antonio next to Lorenzo's body.

DOMINGO

Do nothing else. Look for more tracks. Try to follow them. I need to know who killed my father.

25 EXT. LORENZO'S HACIENDA - GARDEN - DAY

Flowers grow among a variety of cacti. The manicured refuge has a beauty that comes from years of diligent care.

The sound of whispered rosaries and quiet lamenting fills the courtyard.

On the large patio, the rows of chairs are filled with family and friends including representatives from every rancho within a day's ride.

The women's faces are veiled. They wear black lace mantillas that rise nearly a foot above their heads.

Guadalupe's sitting in the front row flanked by Rafael and Julian. Domingo and Bernada are sitting beside them.

A few men slowly walk by Lorenzo's coffin. They have their hats off as they say some final words then make the sign of the cross on Lorenzo's forehead.

Domingo kisses Bernada then rises from his seat. He reverently walks to the dais then faces the enormous crowd.

DOMINGO

We are gathered together to celebrate Lorenzo De La Garza's amazing life on the very land where he was born.

Domingo steps from behind the dais.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

With the courage of a bear and the cunning of a coyote, he made this land prosper and grow.

Domingo moves closer to his family.

DOMINGO

His efforts and sacrifices have
allowed us to have a fortunate life
in this northern province of Mexico.

Domingo goes to his mother.

Guadalupe stands.

Domingo gently holds his mother then turns to Julian.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Julian, the Santa Gertrudis Rancho
is now yours. You're in charge of
one the largest land grants in Tejas.

Domingo looks at Rafael who has tears rolling down his cheeks.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Rafael, our little brother, the day
will soon come when you too shall be
a custodian of our father's legacy.

Domingo goes back to the lectern. He Looks up at the sky.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Father, we miss you so much. We
promise to respect and protect the
land you have tamed and cultivated.

Guadalupe walks to the coffin.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

These fragrances will assure you'll
find your way home.

Guadalupe places five marigolds on the pillow above Lorenzo's
head.

Rafael places five sticks of cinnamon along the side of the
casket.

Julian lines the other side of the coffin with coffee beans.

Domingo lays one large tobacco leaf across Lorenzo's chest.

26 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Domingo reclines on the luxurious couch. He's lost in
thought.

A SERVANT walks into the room.

SERVANT

Can I get you anything, Señor?

Domingo waves him away.

Bernada walks in with a pitcher of tea and a platter of food. She sets it on the table.

BERNADA

Domingo, you must eat.

Bernada sits next to Domingo. She wraps some beef in a tortilla and gives it to her husband.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

You need your strength. You have a legacy to protect.

DOMINGO

You sound like my father. He always talked of legacies and generations. I have no time to think about that.

Bernada holds Domingo's hand.

BERNADA

I think your father was trying to tell you that your family is more important than land or cattle.

DOMINGO

He's right, of course. He was right about the Anglos. Now, one has killed my father.

BERNADA

I love you, Domingo, but the Anglos care nothing about Mexico.

Domingo stands.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

My father told me they've written a Declaration of Independence.

DOMINGO

Do I seek vengeance myself or do I trust the government to provide it?

BERNADA

You seek justice. Whatever form that may take.

Bernada lovingly looks into Domingo's eyes.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

I hate to burden you with more responsibility.

DOMINGO

What is it?

Bernada lightly rubs her stomach as tears well up in Domingo's eyes.

DOMINGO

You mean?

BERNADA

Your mother says I'm almost four months along. Soon you will be a father.

Domingo gently lifts Bernada to her feet.

DOMINGO

I'm so happy. Are you okay? Can I get you anything?

He looks at Bernada's lips and yearns to kiss them. He sees the same desire in her eyes.

They passionately embrace.

27 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - DAY

Domingo helps Julian and the vaqueros direct the herd to a rich grazing area. They are stopped by a fence encroaching on their land.

JULIAN

What's this? Those Americans have no respect for property. They will learn not to claim what isn't theirs.

Julian turns his horse around.

DOMINGO

Wait. I'll talk to them. I'm sure it's only a mistake.

JULIAN

(yells)

Rudy, remove this fence from my property then get the cattle in the corral.

Julian moves his horse near Domingo.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Take care of it, brother, or I'll
teach them a lesson they won't soon
forget.

28 EXT. RICHARD'S PROPERTY - DAY

Domingo and Antonio approach the crude gate.

Antonio jumps from his horse then examines some tracks.

DOMINGO

What is it?

ANTONIO

These tracks, they were left by the
same horse that was there the day
your father died.

DOMINGO

Are you sure? You must be sure.

Antonio convinces Domingo with a look.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

If they did kill my father, you and
I are not armed well enough to
confront them. Let's go.

Domingo and Antonio mount their horses.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Tell my brother and Rudy to meet me
at my house. Tonight.

Domingo and Antonio ride away.

29 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Domingo, Julian, and Rafael sit around a large polished wood
table. Rudy, Garcia, and Antonio are there as well.

Domingo gets up from his chair.

DOMINGO

It appears that Antonio's uncovered
some evidence which points to the
Anglos who live near Santa Gertrudis.

ANTONIO

I found tracks that match the ones I
saw at the barn.

Julian stands.

JULIAN
I don't understand why we're sitting
here talking. It's our duty to avenge
our father's death.

The others murmur in agreement.

DOMINGO
Shedding of more blood isn't the
answer.

JULIAN
That's the talk of a coward.

Domingo puts one hand on Julian's shoulder.

DOMINGO
Things are different now. The old
ways have passed. We must trust the
government to provide justice.

Julian removes Domingo's hand. He goes back to his seat.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
Does everyone understand? No one
kills anybody.

Domingo looks in each of their eyes.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
I'm going to San Antonio to collect
our original titles. We'll resolve
this dispute legally.

Domingo turns to Rafael.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
Can you take care of things while
I'm gone?

Rafael nods.

JULIAN
And what do I do? Stay at home and
try to comfort our grieving mother?

DOMINGO
You have a rancho to protect. Do
it. The vengeance you seek will not
preserve our legacy.

JULIAN

Our vengeance is justified. We have the proof.

DOMINGO

We have tracks that will disappear with the first rain. We need more evidence. I'll find it. I promise.

30 INT. RICHARD'S PROPERTY - DAY

Richard and Miflin inspect the new fence. They reach the edge of their property then see part of it's been removed.

RICHARD

Those damn Mexicans. They're gonna pay for this.

MIFLIN

What did you expect? It's their property.

Richard and Miflin dismount.

Richard looks across the land.

RICHARD

You still don't get it. This is Texas now and soon Texas will be part of the United States.

Richard moves closer to Miflin.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Would you like to be ruled by that dictator, Santa Anna? Mexico's where the Greasers should be. Not here.

MIFLIN

Whatcha gonna do? Force them off their property? They won't leave without a fight.

RICHARD

Then we'll fight.

Miflin places both hands on Richard's shoulders.

MIFLIN

Richard, it's only you and me. Your three ranch hands are just kids. I don't see us winnin' any fight.

RICHARD

Where's your faith? I have a plan.
Don't you believe in the manifest
destiny of the United States?

MIFLIN

I do. So, what's this plan?

RICHARD

In a few days, I'm meetin' Austin at
the border. He's bringin' some
settlers into Mexico.

Richard mounts his horse.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

He's agreed to hire out some of his
Rangers. Their price is high but I
hear they're worth it.

Richard rides away.

Miflin gets in his saddle then hears Richard singing a
familiar hymn. He follows him at a distance.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(singing)

Thy love divine has led us in the
past. In this free land with thee
our lot is cast...

31 EXT. MEXICAN BORDER - DAY

STEPHEN AUSTIN, 40, leads a caravan of three hundred families
to the crossing.

On the Arkansas side, several hastily constructed buildings
have huge signs in their windows that say "Lawyer".

Austin drops from his horse.

32 INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

GLEN, 29, is on a ladder arranging his merchandise. He has
his back to the door.

Stephen walks up to the counter.

AUSTIN

Excuse me.

Glen doesn't turn around.

GLEN

The border's closed. No Americans allowed in Mexico.

Austin throws some paperwork on the counter.

AUSTIN

I have a waiver from Mexico City.

Glen climbs down the ladder.

GLEN

A waiver. That's a good one. I was just joshin'. How can I help you?

Austin shows him the papers.

GLEN (CONT'D)

You really do have one.

AUSTIN

It's required to bring settlers into Mexico.

GLEN

Depends on who you talk to. Hope you didn't work too hard for that.

Glen opens a drawer below the counter.

GLEN (CONT'D)

How many slaves you got?

AUSTIN

Thirty-nine. I need the indentured servant contracts.

GLEN

Got 'em right here. Almost out though. Business has tripled since the closing.

AUSTIN

They all enter illegally?

Glen hands him the papers.

GLEN

Ninety-nine-year contracts. Each slave needs to sign. It's all you need to get around the slave ban.

AUSTIN

I don't like it but no slaves, no cotton.

GLEN

I'm with you, brother. Santa Anna should just accept the fact that Texas is destined to be free.

Austin looks at the merchandise. There are rows of Catholic crucifixes and rosaries for sale. Spanish dictionaries and copies of the U.S. constitution are among the items.

GLEN (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be Catholic. Every Catholic's gotta cross. I got enough for your whole party.

AUSTIN

I assure you sir, my people are here to settle Mexico. They've pledged to obey the Mexican laws.

GLEN

Except for the slaves, right? Let me fix you up with the complete package.

Austin grudgingly purchases what Glen has to sell.

AUSTIN

Lawlessness isn't the way to start a community.

GLEN

Whatever you say. Welcome to Mexico.

Austin leaves the office.

33 INT. BORDER CANTINA - DAY

Richard waits at the bar.

Austin sits down next to him.

They shake hands.

RICHARD

Stephen, good to see you. How's business?

AUSTIN

We started growin' cotton. It's a substantial crop. I should see a profit soon.

The BARTENDER stands across from Stephen.

BARTENDER

Can I get you somethin'?

Austin waves him away.

RICHARD

Are the Rangers with you?

AUSTIN

They are. The settlement's havin' some problems with the Indians. I can only spare three at the moment.

RICHARD

Three, huh? That will work. I've got somethin' they can do while I wait for the others.

AUSTIN

When they finish what I need 'em to do, I'll send Hayes with the rest.

Richard takes a shot of whiskey.

RICHARD

Tell me, Austin. Are the Rangers as tough as their reputation?

AUSTIN

More so. I've seen ten Rangers hold off fifty Indians.

Richard hands some money to Austin.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

They're with my company. Hang tight. I'll send 'em over.

Austin walks out the door.

Richard orders another drink.

34 EXT. SAN ANTONIO - DAY

Domingo rides Bonito through an empty street on his way to San Fernando Cathedral. He notices two-thirds of the homes and businesses have been abandoned.

Domingo dismounts in front of the church.

35 INT. SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL - ENTRANCE - DAY

Domingo reverently walks through the door with his hat in his hand. He's immediately greeted by a PRIEST.

PRIEST
How can I help you, my son?

DOMINGO
Buenos dias, Father. I'm looking
for the land grants.

PRIEST
Come with me.

36 RECORDS ROOM

The shelves have been pulled down and the cabinets have been broken or knocked over.

PRIEST
When Santa Anna was defeated, the
Anglos confiscated all of the records.
Of course, we refused.

DOMINGO
God bless you, Father.

PRIEST
But they put their guns in our faces
and said this is Texas now and those
titles belonged to them.

DOMINGO
Was anyone hurt?

Domingo helps the priest put an empty bookshelf against the wall.

PRIEST
No, but look at this place. The
town looks even worse. It's
Armageddon, I tell you.

The priest escorts Domingo out of the church.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
I knew that day, the devil had entered
our sacred cathedral.

DOMINGO
Do you know where they took the
titles?

PRIEST

One of them told me all of the documents will be taken to the General Land Office.

DOMINGO

Where's that?

The priest stops then turns to Domingo.

PRIEST

It doesn't exist yet. I fear the land grant records will be lost forever.

37 EXT. RICHARD'S PROPERTY - DAY

Richard and Mifflin are in the middle of a field.

RICHARD

We'll put the corral here.

MIFFLIN

How many head you gettin'?

RICHARD

Thousands. It may take...

In the distance, Richard sees a large group of men approaching on horseback.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

They're here.

MIFFLIN

The Rangers?

COLONEL JACK HAYES, 51, and ELEVEN TEXAS RANGERS ride up to Richard and Mifflin.

RICHARD

Colonel Hayes?

Hayes dismounts. The other Rangers remain on their horses. The bearded faces of the unwashed regiment are covered in dust and blood.

The Rangers wear slouched hats and buckskin shirts stained with blood and tobacco. Their pants are tucked inside their high boots.

Each of them have two Colt revolvers and a Bowie knife.

Hayes shakes hands with Richard and Mifflin.

HAYES

Austin said you need some Mexicans removed.

RICHARD

Mifflin, take the Rangers to the well. Make sure they have everything they need to get cleaned up.

Richard watches Mifflin leave with the Rangers.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(to Hayes)

I am very glad to see you, Colonel Hayes. We've got business to discuss. Ride with me to the house.

They both head towards Richard's home.

38 INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Richard and Hayes sit at the table with a map spread out in front of them.

RICHARD

It's the two ranchos north of here.

HAYES

We ain't cheap and we get paid up-front.

RICHARD

I know your price. That will be no problem.

Hayes folds up the map.

HAYES

I'm familiar with the Santa Gertrudis and La Parra ranchos. They're a wealthy family with a lotta workers.

RICHARD

Is that an issue?

HAYES

No, but we do things my way. These are my men and they only follow my orders.

Hayes looks at the poorly constructed walls and the shabby clothes Richard is wearing.

HAYES (CONT'D)

I need to see the money.

Richard reaches below the table. He brings up a small chest.

RICHARD

It's all there. You have a plan?

HAYES

We've gotten rid of Greasers without firin' a shot. I would prefer that. Tell me about the alcalde. Does he have a wife?

RICHARD

They believe Lorenzo De La Garza was killed by the Comanche.

James and his two cohorts come into the room. They're laughing and pushing each other around like children.

Richard pulls James down by his shirt.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(angrily)

I'm in a meetin'. Go find Miflin. You've got a corral to build.

Richard lets go of James's shirt.

James and his companions leave the room.

Richard turns back to Hayes.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

His oldest son runs La Parra. He just got married. What do you have planned?

HAYES

We're goin' to do what you're payin' us to do. Remove Mexicans. Exactly how we do that isn't your concern.

RICHARD

When can you start?

HAYES

I've promised my men some time off at the coast. We'll begin when we get back.

39 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - DAY

Domingo's on a bluff with his horse nearby. From his vantage point, he can see the entire herd of longhorn cattle calmly getting their fill of the lush grass.

The vaqueros have set up camp on the edge of the valley.

Domingo hears a horse slowly approaching from behind. He spins around. Both guns are in his hands, cocked and ready to fire.

RAFAEL

Whoa, Domingo. That's no way to greet your brother.

Domingo holsters his guns.

Rafael drops from his horse then gives his brother a solid hug.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I didn't expect you to be gone for two weeks. What was the delay?

DOMINGO

It was slow going. I couldn't take the normal route. The Anglos are out for Mexican blood.

RAFAEL

They are?

DOMINGO

After what Santa Anna did, can you blame them? I'm glad they defeated that bastard.

Domingo leads Rafael to the edge of the bluff. They sit down in the grass.

RAFAEL

Rudy told me that the titles have been moved to the San Patricio courthouse.

DOMINGO

That's good to know. Going to San Antonio was a wasted trip. The Anglos left the cathedral in shambles.

Domingo gets very serious. He looks into Rafael's eyes.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I've heard stories that even Mexicans who fought valiantly for Texas are being gunned down in the streets.

RAFAEL

I wanted Texas to win its independence. I thought it would be good for everyone.

DOMINGO

The Texas constitution guarantees freedom and justice for all but we may not be afforded those rights.

Rafael and Domingo become distracted by the beautiful scene in front of them. The sun has reached the horizon and the sky above the valley is a hundred shades of orange.

RAFAEL

Domingo, I know you and Papa had some difficulties but I always thought you loved him.

DOMINGO

How can you say that?

RAFAEL

Since the funeral, you haven't shed a tear. You haven't mentioned his name.

Domingo stands.

DOMINGO

My responsibilities don't allow me time to grieve over what has passed.

RAFAEL

You remember the rodeo? When the horse sent you flying? You just laid there like you were dead.

DOMINGO

I wanted to give Papa a scare. I was mad about something. I put him through hell, didn't I.

They both start laughing.

RAFAEL

He was scared. Just as he got to you, you jumped to your feet. I thought he was having a heart attack.

Still laughing.

DOMINGO

Remember when I was writing those stories?

RAFAEL

Yeah, they were terrible.

DOMINGO

I know. Papa listened to every one. I'd finish reading and then, with a funny look on his face, he'd say...

Domingo's voice breaks as the memories rush in and the tears start to flow.

Rafael rises to hold his brother.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

I miss him so much. I'll never be the man he was.

RAFAEL

You only need to be the man you are.

It's getting dark so Domingo and Rafael mount their horses then ride down to the camp.

40 EXT. SMALL COASTAL TOWN - DAY

HANK, 30, stumbles out of the cantina. He squints his eyes in the sunlight and sees that Colonel Hayes and the rest of the Rangers have left without him.

Hank angrily mounts his horse then fires his pistol wildly into the air. TWO MEXICANS turn and look at him.

HANK

What are you lookin' at, Greasers?

Hank moves his horse down the sidewalk then almost knocks over a man wearing a pancho with a large sombrero on his head.

HANK (CONT'D)

Get the hell outta here, Half-breed.

Hank turns his horse and sees the local church. An evil grin comes across his face. THREE WOMEN cross in front of him.

HANK (CONT'D)

Outta my way, you damn mongrels.

Hank spurs his horse then rides through the open courtyard toward the town's chapel. He forces his horse through the church's doors.

The racket causes a crowd to form outside the church.

Hank crashes through the chapel doors and into the street. He's dragging a large wooden cross behind his horse.

FATHER SOLIS, 68, stands in the middle of the street. The priest raises his arms.

FATHER SOLIS

Por favor, Señor. Not the cross.

Father Solis is trampled beneath Hank's horse.

Hank stops, turns around, and crushes the already torn and bloodied body a second time. He pulls on the reins then turns his horse around again.

The Mexicans surround Hank's horse then pull Hank from his saddle. They ferociously kick and beat him.

A TEJANO, 60, shouts from the crowd.

TEJANO

Kill the Texas Devil.

41 EXT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - PATIO - DAY

Domingo and Bernada are sitting on their luxurious patio.

DOMINGO

It's a nice afternoon.

BERNADA

You have been so quiet. What is it that you are so reluctant to tell me?

DOMINGO

You know me too well my love. Rafael told me the titles were moved to the San Patricio courthouse.

BERNADA

You just returned. Have someone else go.

Domingo gets out of his chair.

DOMINGO

It's my responsibility. I must get our original land grants.

BERNADA

It's not safe for a Mexican on the road right now.

Domingo gets on one knee in front of Bernada.

DOMINGO

Julian's gonna kill someone if I don't take care of this. I'll be careful. I understand the danger.

BERNADA

I don't think you do. The Texas Rangers killed everyone at the Palmetto Rancho.

DOMINGO

I've heard the stories.

BERNADA

The Anglos stole every weapon those unfortunate souls possessed. They are dangerous and very well-armed.

Domingo looks into Bernada's eyes.

DOMINGO

Bernada, nothing could keep me from returning. I'll travel at night. I'll stay off the main roads.

Bernada holds Domingo's hands. Her pregnancy has become obvious.

BERNADA

Remember, there are two of us who will be desperately waiting for you to come home. Please, be safe.

DOMINGO

I love you, Bernada.

Domingo and Bernada passionately kiss.

42 EXT. SMALL COASTAL TOWN - DAY

The Texas Rangers return to retrieve Hank.

They see their cohort tied to a cross in the middle of the plaza. His skin's hanging off his back in bloody strips.

The Rangers notice Hank is still alive. They cut the ropes then lower him to the ground.

HANK

Kill me. Just kill me.

Without any hesitation, the colonel delivers a bullet into Hank's head. He turns to his men with a disturbing smile on his face.

HAYES

Boys, let's execute some Mexicans.

43 EXT. SAN PATRICIO - NIGHT

After another long and exhausting journey, Domingo reaches the outskirts of town. The village is completely dark.

In the distance, Domingo hears the faint sound of horses coming toward him at full speed. He moves off the main road.

THREE MEN IN SLOUCHED HATS gallop by him.

Domingo gently spurs his horse then slowly rides through the silent town.

The courthouse comes into view. It's soaring tower rises into the night sky. The building is surrounded by a tall wooden fence. A glow emanates from a second-floor window.

Domingo accelerates his pace then quickly sees the courthouse is on fire. He shoots his pistol several times into the air.

Domingo gets to the courthouse then fires his gun again. He sees the flames pouring out of the window then jumps off his horse.

Domingo climbs over the locked fence.

TWO MEN in their thirties show up yelling and firing their revolvers.

Domingo kicks in the front doors.

44 INT. COURTHOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

Domingo fights his way through the flames to get to the second floor.

45 RECORDS ROOM

Domingo breaks through the door.

The room is in flames but the storage cabinet is still intact.

Domingo rushes toward the cabinet just as the tower collapses through the ceiling. He disappears beneath a large section of the roof.

The fire creeps toward the cabinet.

Domingo's head emerges from beneath a large section of tin. He sees the cabinet is now engulfed in flames.

Dazed and injured, Domingo manages to limp his way through the door.

46 EXT. COURTHOUSE - NIGHT

Domingo runs out of the courthouse through the burning doors.

A crowd has gathered to fight the fire.

The fire wagon arrives. One ANGLO, 37, grabs the hose while another one, 18, furiously pushes the handle of the pump up and down.

ANGLO

(shouting)

Look. It's a Mexican! He musta
done this. Get 'em!

In a hail of gun fire, Domingo staggers to his horse. He spurs Bonito and gets away before he can be followed.

47 EXT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Richard and Colonel Hayes are sitting outside.

RICHARD

Are your men rested? Ready to work?

HAYES

We had a good time. Lost a man
though.

RICHARD

What happened?

HAYES

Not important. Tell you one thing,
those Greasers didn't know what hit
'em.

Mifflin joins them. He takes a seat.

MIFFLIN

Evenin' Hayes. What's the plan?

HAYES

We gotta get those Mexicans off of
the property.

MIFFLIN

That's the idea. How you gonna do
that?

Hayes turns to Richard.

HAYES

Your partner asks too many questions.
I could tell 'em but then I'd have
to end 'em.

Mifflin and Hayes stand and face each other. They both are
prepared to draw their pistols.

RICHARD

Gentlemen. We're on the same side.

Mifflin holds his hand away from his gun as Hayes laughs.

HAYES

Your partner just saved your life.

Mifflin and Hayes calm down. They take their seats.

MIFFLIN

I'm all for gettin' rid of 'em but
they have deeds provin' they own the
land.

RICHARD

That's been taken care of.

HAYES

(to Richard)

Now, tell me more about this Domingo
De La Garza? You said he was recently
married?

48 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Bernada's reading a book on the couch. She hears a knock on the door. She struggles to her feet.

49 ENTRANCE

Bernada opens the door. Colonel Hayes stands there with his hat in his hand. He's flanked by two Rangers, STAN, 25, and BUCK, 22, wearing ankle-length leather coats.

The colonel's hair is neatly combed and he looks very handsome in his dress uniform.

HAYES

Good afternoon, ma'am. I'm Colonel Hayes. I've been sent to the area to help with the Comanche problem.

BERNADA

I wasn't aware of any problems.

HAYES

There's been several raids recently. I'd like to speak with you about protection.

BERNADA

Protection? What do you mean?

Hayes puts on a charming smile.

HAYES

Just doin' my job, ma'am. You have a minute?

Bernada takes a hard look at the three of them. They try their best to look harmless. She steps back from the door.

BERNADA

Sure. Come on in. You boys thirsty?

HAYES

Yes, ma'am. If you wouldn't mind.

50 SITTING ROOM

Bernada gestures toward the couch and chairs.

BERNADA

Have a seat. I'll be back with some tea.

HAYES

Thank you, ma'am.

Bernada leaves the room.

Hayes turns to Stan and Buck.

HAYES (CONT'D)

If you threaten a man, he'll fight.
To the death, if necessary.

Hayes glances in the direction Bernada went.

HAYES (CONT'D)

(whispering)

But when you threaten his family,
most times they'll do whatever you
want.

STAN

When we gonna do it boss?

HAYES

(whispering)

Now shut-up. I'll let you know.
Right now, we're gonna have some tea
with the pretty lady.

Bernada returns carrying a pitcher of tea and four glasses
on a silver tray. She sets the glasses on the table, fills
them, then sits down.

BERNADA

I'm all ears, Colonel. What do you
want to tell me?

HAYES

I must say, ma'am. Your home's almost
as beautiful as you are.

Bernada giggles.

HAYES (CONT'D)

I've been hired to make sure nothin'
bad happens to pretty little fillies
like you.

Bernada cools her face with her fan then takes a sip of tea.

HAYES (CONT'D)

If you wouldn't mind. Could you...

Garcia walks into the room.

GARCIA
Is everything okay, Señora?

BERNADA
These gentlemen are here to protect
us from the Comanche.

GARCIA
We haven't had any problems. Would
you like me to stay, Señora?

BERNADA
No. Don't let me keep you. I know
how much work you have. I'll be
fine.

Hayes winks at his Rangers as Garcia leaves.

HAYES
As I was sayin', ma'am. Would it be
possible for you to show me the place?
I'd like to look for vulnerabilities.

BERNADA
Of course, follow me.

Hayes and the Rangers follow Bernada out of the room.

51 GUEST BEDROOM

Bernada shows Hayes the window.

Stan walks in then closes the door.

BERNADA
You can keep it open. No need...

HAYES
Now, boys.

The two Rangers grab Bernada. Before she can make a sound,
they have her mouth taped shut.

HAYES (CONT'D)
You know what to do. I'm gonna have
a smoke.

Hayes looks into Bernada's terrified eyes.

HAYES (CONT'D)

Give this message to your husband.
This is Texas now. All Mexicans
should be in Mexico.

Bernada turns away.

Stan violently grabs Bernada's head and makes her look at
Hayes.

HAYES (CONT'D)

Mr. King wants you to leave this
property. You don't want to be here
when we come back.

Hayes walks out of the room. He closes the door behind him.

52 EXT. DOMINGO'S RANCHO - PATIO - DAY

Hayes walks outside. He smiles then nods to a SERVANT working
in the yard.

Hayes calmly lights his cigar then takes a satisfying drag.

53 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - DAY

Domingo wearily rides toward his mansion. He sees his
hacienda in the distance then spurs Bonito.

Domingo's almost home when Garcia gallops toward him.

GARCIA

Alcalde, come quick. It's your wife.

Domingo whips Bonito's reins.

54 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY

Guadalupe is sitting next to Bernada's bed. Rafael is staring
out the window with Julian. Domingo and Garcia quietly enter.

DOMINGO

(whispering to Garcia)
Who did this?

GARCIA

The Rangers. There were three of
them.

Julian rushes over to Domingo.

JULIAN

They almost killed her. What are you going to do?

Domingo pushes Julian away.

DOMINGO

Not now, Julian.

Domingo goes to his mother. He kisses Guadalupe on the cheek.

GUADALUPE

(whispering)

She's asleep. Don't wake her, Domingo. She needs to sleep.

Bernada's head and nose are covered by bandages. Both of her eyes are swollen shut. The room is silent. Domingo studies Bernada's wounds then turns back to his mother.

DOMINGO

Mamma. How bad is it?

GUADALUPE

Her wounds will heal. Her heart may not. She was terribly frightened.

DOMINGO

Will the baby be okay?

GUADALUPE

That's in God's hands.

Bernada slowly lifts her hand.

BERNADA

(barely audible)

Domingo.

Domingo kneels next to the bed. He holds Bernada's hand in both of his.

DOMINGO

Everyone out. I want to be alone with my wife.

(to Guadalupe)

Thank you, mamma. I need a few minutes.

Guadalupe gently touches Domingo's cheek.

GUADALUPE

Domingo. My son. Always trying to do what's right but sometimes it is hard to know exactly what right is?

DOMINGO

I love you, mamma. I won't be long.

Guadalupe follows her sons out the door.

BERNADA

Domingo, is that you?

Domingo puts his face closer to Bernada's.

DOMINGO

Yes, my love, I just arrived. You've been sleeping.

The tears find a way through her swollen eyes then roll down her cheeks.

BERNADA

I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have trusted them.

DOMINGO

None of that, Bernada. You must stay positive, it'll help you heal.

BERNADA

Our baby's fine, I can feel it.

DOMINGO

I love you so much.

Domingo kisses her as gently as he can.

BERNADA

They told me to give you a message.

DOMINGO

Who? The ones who did this?

BERNADA

It was from Mr. King. They said this is Texas now and that we belong in Mexico.

Bernada trembles. Her head slowly rolls back and forth.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

They are coming back. They enjoyed doing this to me. It was horrible, horrible...

Bernada drifts back to sleep. Domingo puts his lips against her hand.

DOMINGO

I should have been here protecting you, not our land. No, my love. I swear. This will not happen again.

Domingo gently lowers Bernada's hand. He kisses her on the cheek then quietly walks out of the room.

55 INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Richard's pacing back and forth.

Hayes walks in then casually sits down. He leans back in his chair then lights a cigar.

Hayes rests his boots on the table then smiles at Richard.

HAYES

Now that's a good cigar.

RICHARD

Though you may be in no hurry to finish what I've generously paid you for, I can assure you, sir, I am.

Hayes lets his chair fall back on all four legs.

HAYES

I know your kind. You find somethin' in the Bible that gives you permission to do whatever you want.

Hayes looks directly in Richard's eyes.

HAYES (CONT'D)

I know killin' Mexicans ain't gonna get me closer to heaven but I do it for the money.

Hayes reclines in his chair then puffs on his cigar.

HAYES (CONT'D)

At least I admit it. We've gotta lot in common. Both of us are motivated by one thing, greed.

RICHARD
 You done? You feel better now?
 Look, my family's waitin' in
 Louisiana. Miflin's too.

Richard gets in Hayes's face.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
 The ranch hands I hired will find
 work somewhere else. I need those
 Mexicans off of that land.

Hayes smiles then stands up. He extinguishes his cigar on
 the table.

HAYES
 You can tell everyone that the land
 will be available any day now. You
 ready to take it?

RICHARD
 I'm ready. We're all ready. You
 get that place cleared out and I'll
 hire you and your men permanently.

HAYES
 I'll consider it.

RICHARD
 I'm willin' to give you a substantial
 parcel of land if your efforts are
 successful.

56 EXT. LORENZO'S GRAVE - DAY

Domingo's standing in front of his father's grave.

DOMINGO
 What should I do, Papa?

Julian quietly walks up behind his brother.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
 Do I protect our land and place the
 family at risk or protect the family
 and lose our land?

JULIAN
 That is a big question, brother.

Domingo turns around.

DOMINGO
 What are you doing here?

JULIAN
Hey, I loved Papa too.

Julian and Domingo face their father's grave.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
How's Bernada?

DOMINGO
She's getting stronger everyday.

JULIAN
And the baby?

DOMINGO
The baby's fine as well. The birth
will be soon. What is it, Julian?

Julian continues to look at his father's grave with his back
toward Domingo.

JULIAN
I came here to convince you we must
fight for our land.

DOMINGO
King has the Rangers working for
him. Protection of our land may
come at too high a price.

Julian faces his brother.

JULIAN
I understand. Our father cherished
this land but I know he would never
have put us at risk to keep it.

DOMINGO
Me too. Bring everyone in your
employment to La Parra. Let me know
when the arrangements are complete.

JULIAN
That may take some time but I'll
make it happen.

Domingo and Julian mount their horses and ride away.

57 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

The largest room in the hacienda is packed with Natives,
vaqueros, and servants. Bernada and Guadalupe sit in the
front row of chairs with Rudy and Garcia.

The noise of a hundred conversations fill the room.

Domingo, Julian, and Rafael enter then sit behind a table in front of the crowd. Everyone who isn't seated rushes to find a chair. Many are left standing.

Domingo rises then moves in front of the large group. It takes a little time before everyone gets quiet.

DOMINGO

Welcome, everyone. I scheduled this meeting because I've made a decision that will affect every one of you.

Domingo looks across the immense crowd. He grabs a glass of water then turns back to Julian.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I didn't realize we had so many in our employment.

Domingo faces the group.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

You all know of the recent difficulties we've endured. Your words and actions helped us through.

Domingo looks lovingly at Bernada.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I thank you for helping my wife. She's feeling better every day and the baby is perfectly healthy.

The people applaud. It takes great effort for Bernada to get out of her chair. She turns to the crowd then waves.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, we are not here to celebrate. It is not safe to remain at Santa Gertrudis or La Parra.

The crowd begins to murmur. Domingo waits for it to die down.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Mr. King has decided he wants our property. He's hired the Texas Rangers to take our land by force.

A VOICE FROM THE CROWD

What will happen to us? We have nowhere to go. Santa Gertrudis is our home.

DOMINGO

Like those at La Parra, you are all part of our family and your safety is my number one priority.

Rafael and Julian get up. They stand next to Domingo

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

My uncle has a vacant rancho south of Matamoros. The massive hacienda has plenty of room for everyone.

Domingo drinks some water.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

We'll abandon Santa Gertrudis. Julian and I will stay behind and bring the Santa Gertrudis livestock to La Parra.

JULIAN

We will be able to defend La Parra. That will give us time to find a way to get Santa Gertrudis back.

DOMINGO

The important thing is that all of you will be safe in Matamoros.

A collective gasp is heard from the crowd. Bernada stands.

BERNADA

No, Domingo. You can't.

DOMINGO

Rafael will lead the exodus to Mexico and he will oversee the rancho.

Guadalupe begins to cry. Bernada hands her a handkerchief.

JULIAN

None of you can return until we know our lands and all of you will be safe once again.

RAFAEL

We will leave as soon as preparations can be made. Take everything. We do not know when we will return.

DOMINGO

May God be with you and with His help we will prevail.

Domingo, Julian, and Rafael turn away from the crowd. Everyone there is stunned.

The room is silent for a moment and then a hundred conversations begin.

JULIAN
(to Domingo)
Nice job. We have no choice.

DOMINGO
I know. I still intend to keep our property. We must do everything we can to stop King.

Rafael walks over to Domingo.

RAFAEL
I want to help you fight. Someone else can lead everyone to Matamoros.

DOMINGO
They will follow you, they respect you. If the worst happens it'll be up to you to preserve our legacy.

Domingo sees the fear in Rafael's eyes.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
We'll be fine. When the threat's over you'll lead everyone back. I need you to coordinate the evacuation.

Bernada approaches Domingo.

BERNADA
You can't do this. I won't go without you.

DOMINGO
You must leave. All I care about is that you remain safe. That's all that matters.

BERNADA
It is too dangerous. What about your safety? Or Julian's?

DOMINGO
Everything will be back to normal soon. I don't intend to lose this fight.

Julian joins Domingo and Bernada.

JULIAN

There's no other way, Bernada. I'll look after Domingo, you have my word. This is only temporary.

Guadalupe takes Bernada by the hand.

GUADALUPE

Come with me. They have work to do. We need to prepare for the journey.

A crowd begins to form in front of the brothers.

DOMINGO

My mother's right. I'll be home soon. Trust me, there's no other option. I won't abandon our land.

Bernada and Guadalupe walk away.

Rudy and Garcia approach the brothers. Rudy walks over to Julian.

RUDY

Of course, I volunteer to stay. I'll fight with you. You have a plan?

Julian smiles.

JULIAN

Working on it.

RUDY

My men will begin preparations to move the livestock. This is a dark time but the sun always rises.

Several workers are crowded around Rafael. Garcia stands next to Domingo.

GARCIA

Look at Rafael. He's a true leader. The people love him.

DOMINGO

Yes they do. Rafael will lead them well.

GARCIA

I'll help defend the rancho. It's the only home I've ever known, I don't want to lose it.

Domingo grips Garcia's shoulder.

DOMINGO

My father always loved and respected you. You've been a worthy and faithful caporal.

GARCIA

I still grieve over your father. I'll give my life to protect his legacy.

DOMINGO

I know, Garcia. It won't come to that.

GARCIA

We'll begin expanding the corral at first light.

More people crowd around. The brothers address their concerns.

58 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Domingo wearily walks through the door.

Bernada greets him.

BERNADA

It's so late.

DOMINGO

The people are scared. They had many questions. I did my best to reduce their anxiety.

Bernada grabs Domingo's hand.

59 BEDROOM

Domingo lays next to Bernada in bed.

BERNADA

Carl came by. He was not happy. He said you refused his offer to stay because his wife is pregnant.

DOMINGO

He needs to be with his family.

BERNADA

Have you forgotten your wife is pregnant as well? She can have the comfort of her husband but I cannot?

DOMINGO

Carl has a choice. I don't.

Bernada angrily gets out of bed.

BERNADA

You do have a choice. Leave with us. Don't look back. We can make a new life in Mexico.

DOMINGO

I must defend our land.

BERNADA

I don't understand how you can push me away so easily.

Bernada begins to cry.

Domingo holds Bernada.

DOMINGO

I need to protect the land for our descendants. You will assure we have descendants to occupy the land.

BERNADA

Are those lands worth your life or your brothers? You've always told me, have faith in the government.

DOMINGO

I'm afraid my faith in receiving justice from the Anglos has been misplaced.

Bernada pulls away from Domingo's arms.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Their arrogance and prejudice against us will never allow them to see us as equals.

BERNADA

Then why would you want to stay?

DOMINGO

Because this is De La Garza land and
I refuse to let those devils take
it.

Domingo lays down.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I will not discuss this any longer.
It's been a long day for both of us.

Bernada grabs a blanket and pillow then leaves the room.

60 EXT. TEXAS WILDERNESS - DAY

Domingo and Julian drive the cattle and sheep across the
rugged terrain. The vaqueros expertly move the herds toward
La Parra.

Domingo rides over to Julian.

DOMINGO

You think those are ours?

Domingo turns then points at two bulls far from the herd.

JULIAN

Most likely.

DOMINGO

We should get a...

JULIAN

I'll get them. You are far too slow.

Julian spurs his horse.

DOMINGO

(yells)

Not if I get there first.

Bonito accelerates to full speed in seconds.

Domingo quickly catches up to Julian. Their horses run side-
by-side.

They smile at each other.

Their magnificent steeds leap over every obstacle in their
way.

Domingo arrives first. He turns his horse around just as
Julian gets there.

JULIAN

You win again. You always win.

DOMINGO

Don't feel bad brother. I'm older.
I've had more time to practice.
Let's get these guys to the herd.

Domingo and Julian slowly ride toward the two longhorns.

61 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - DAY

As the sun goes down, Domingo and Julian witness another painted sky. They watch the vaqueros bring the animals to the corral.

JULIAN

We have had a wonderful life.

DOMINGO

Yes we have. Soon, things will be
back to normal. We'll enjoy that
life again.

JULIAN

From the day we were born, the food
that has given us strength has come
from this land.

Domingo looks across the property.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Our lungs have grown accustomed to
this air. We don't only own this
land, we are this land.

Domingo sees a herd of white-tail deer frolicking in a field.
He watches a hawk swoop down then catch a mouse in its talons.

DOMINGO

We are as much a part of this land
as the grass or the coyotes.

JULIAN

We can't let them take it from us.

Garcia rides over to them.

GARCIA

That's the last of them.

DOMINGO

Well done. All of you have worked very hard. You and your men enjoy a good meal then have a restful sleep.

GARCIA

Thank you, Alcalde.

Garcia rides off.

Domingo turns back to Julian.

DOMINGO

We have a good plan. When King is gone...

JULIAN

You mean dead.

DOMINGO

...and the lands are safe, everyone will come back and all of this will just be a bad memory.

62 INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Richard and Mifflin sit at the table. Mifflin's writing a letter to his wife.

MIFFLIN

So what should I tell Lucy? When should she come?

RICHARD

Tell her to get everything together. They will be leavin' soon.

Hayes walks into the room.

HAYES

There ain't any doubt. They're abandonin' Santa Gertrudis.

RICHARD

And La Parra?

HAYES

It kinda looks like they ain't plannin' on leavin' La Parra. At least not anytime soon.

RICHARD

You're supposed to remove 'em from both properties.

Mifflin grabs Richard's arm.

MIFFLIN

Let's get settled at Santa Gertrudis,
there's plenty of time to take La
Parra.

63 EXT. SANTA GERTRUDIS RANCHO - ENTRANCE - DAY

The sun has just risen. The carriages and carts are packed
and ready to go. The hacienda has been completely cleared
out. Domingo stands with Bernada.

DOMINGO

Have you taken everything you need?
I don't know how long you'll have to
stay.

BERNADA

Everything, except you.

DOMINGO

Bernada, we have talked...

BERNADA

I know, my husband. Yes, I have
everything.

Rafael shouts a few orders then walks over to them.

RAFAEL

We're ready. It'll take us a few
days with this many people.

DOMINGO

I'm proud of you, Rafael. You've
done a fine job. I'll see you soon,
you have my word.

RAFAEL

I hope so, brother.

Rafael sees a woman struggling with a mule.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

(yelling)

No, you can't pull him like that.
You must persuade him. I'll be there
in a second.

(to Domingo)

I've gotta go. I love you.

Rafael leaves to attend to the woman.

DOMINGO

It's time, my love. My heart's breaking. If there was any other way.

BERNADA

Do you really think you have a chance?

DOMINGO

Rudy and Garcia are staying. So are twelve vaqueros. We have a good plan. I do believe we have a chance.

BERNADA

I love you, Domingo. Do what you need to do. We will be waiting to return.

Bernada and Domingo share a long passionate kiss.

The front of the caravan begins to move as Rafael leads the way.

Bernada gets in the carriage.

The driver urges the horses to move.

Domingo watches until the caravan is completely out of sight.

64 INT. GENERAL LAND OFFICE - DAY

Richard enters. He's enthusiastically greeted by his friend JIM CALLAWAY.

JIM

If it ain't Richard King. Been a long time. Always glad to see the man who saved my life.

RICHARD

How many times do I have to tell you? I didn't do anything. You would've been fine.

JIM

That's what you say.

Jim walks around the counter then embraces Richard.

RICHARD

I heard you were workin' for the Land Office. Didn't know it was this one. How you doin', my friend?

JIM

They got me runnin' the place. Can you believe it?

Richard smiles as Jim walks back behind the counter.

JIM (CONT'D)

How can I help you, Richard?

RICHARD

I need new titles for some land I own. The originals were destroyed in the San Patricio fire.

JIM

You're in the right place. Happens all the time. You have a description of the property's boundaries?

Richard hands him a few papers.

JIM (CONT'D)

Let me check the records.

Jim goes to the back room with the papers then quickly returns.

JIM (CONT'D)

Ain't nobody else claimed it. It's just a matter of havin' the property retitled. I can do that right now.

65 INT. LORENZO'S HACIENDA - KITCHEN - DAY

Opened boxes and crates are everywhere. Hayes is in the kitchen with a few of the Rangers.

Richard walks up to Hayes.

HAYES

The place is yours and we didn't have to fire a shot.

RICHARD

You're not done. My men have searched every square inch of this property. The cattle and sheep are gone.

HAYES

I bet the Mexicans took the animals to La Parra.

The other Rangers leave the kitchen.

RICHARD

I need the cattle. I need those sheep. I paid you to take both ranchos.

HAYES

And we will. Get your families settled. Hire who you need. Build your fences.

RICHARD

What are you waitin' for?

HAYES

They're expectin' us. Give 'em a little time to let their guard down. It'll make things a lot easier.

66 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Julian and Domingo are playing poker with a few vaqueros. Julian throws down his cards.

JULIAN

How long are they going to wait? I don't think they're going to attack.

DOMINGO

They will attack. Men like King will never have enough property.

Two of the vaqueros look at their cards then fold them in disgust.

JULIAN

Maybe we should attack them.

DOMINGO

We don't have enough men. It would be suicide. Our only chance is to defeat them when they attack us here.

JULIAN

I'm getting tired of waiting.

DOMINGO

We have the cattle. I promise you, he wants our cattle. Be patient.

Domingo shows his cards. He smiles then collects his chips.

JULIAN

I wish he'd make his move and get this over with.

DOMINGO

Be careful what you wish for, brother.
Deal the cards.

Rudy quickly comes into the room.

RUDY

They're coming.

JULIAN

Who's coming?

RUDY

The Rangers. It looks like there's
about forty of them.

Everyone at the table stands.

DOMINGO

Forty, are you sure? How close are
they?

RUDY

I saw them myself. Forty Rangers on
horseback. They're less than an
hour away.

DOMINGO

Get your weapons. Arm yourselves
well. Meet back here in five minutes.

Everybody leaves the meeting room.

67 BEDROOM

Domingo and Julian stand in front of their weapons. They
pick up their revolvers.

JULIAN

Wish we had more bullets.

Julian holds out his sword in front of his face. He looks
at it and smiles.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

This won't run out of ammunition.

Julian and Domingo slide their swords into their sheaths.
The guns go in their holsters. They hang the daggers from
their belts.

DOMINGO

We can do this. They won't expect
our cannons.

The brothers leave to meet the others.

68 MEETING ROOM

Rudy and Garcia are waiting as the vaqueros file in.

DOMINGO

Four of you will man the cannons.
How many shots we got?

GARCIA

Two for each of them.

DOMINGO

Shoot the cannons as soon as they're
in range. Make them count. Then
take your places.

Some of the men are holding rifles. Others are cleaning out
their pistols. All of them are counting bullets.

JULIAN

You know the ammo situation. Wait
until you have a clear shot.

DOMINGO

If we can keep them from entering
the hacienda, we'll win. Shoot to
kill. We have to end this.

69 EXT. SOUTH OF DOMINGO'S MANSION - DAY

Hayes and his Rangers get as close as they can without being
seen. They stop their horses then twenty men dismount.

Dummies made from clothes stuffed with hay and wide-brimmed
hats are tied to the empty saddles.

The men who gave up their horses head out on foot to attack
the mansion from the North.

Every Ranger on horseback holds the bridle of a horse with
the dummies. All forty horses line-up across the top of the
hill.

Hayes rides next to Stan.

HAYES

Are you sure their scout saw us?

STAN

Yes, sir. They should be convinced
that their watchin' the entire troop.

HAYES

I bet their tryin' to figure out
whether we're stupid or crazy.

70 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - SOUTH ROOM - DAY

Julian sees the Rangers.

JULIAN

Those arrogant bastards.
(yelling)
Rudy. Get Domingo. Get Garcia.
They need to see this.

Rudy runs out of the room.

Julian moves closer to Antonio.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

What do you think they're up to?

ANTONIO

They want us to know their strength
but Hayes is known for his deceptive
tactics.

Domingo and Garcia enter the room.

JULIAN

Look, is that all of them, Garcia?

Garcia counts.

GARCIA

Yep. All forty.

DOMINGO

They're staying out of range. Maybe
they're trying to intimidate us. At
least they're all in one place.

JULIAN

Garcia, tell everyone to come over
here and bring the other cannon.

GARCIA

Yes, sir.

One-by-one the other vaqueros enter the south room.

DOMINGO

If the whole troop attacks from the south. Fire the cannons as soon as they get in range.

JULIAN

Don't let them get to the house. Empty your weapons if you have to.

DOMINGO

I'm not sure what they're doing but we'll be able to pick them off like sitting ducks.

71 EXT. NORTH OF DOMINGO'S MANSION - DAY

The Rangers on foot reach their positions then wait for the signal.

72 EXT. SOUTH OF DOMINGO'S MANSION - DAY

Hayes fires his rifle into the air. The line of Rangers gallop toward the mansion yelling and shooting their weapons then they abruptly stop.

73 EXT. NORTH OF DOMINGO'S MANSION - DAY

The Rangers on foot get the signal then quietly enter the house.

74 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - SOUTH ROOM - DAY

Julian moves next to Domingo.

JULIAN

What was that about?

DOMINGO

It's almost as if they're putting on a show, like they want us to watch them.

JULIAN

Do you think...

Domingo sees hay spill out from a dummy when it falls from a horse.

DOMINGO

(yelling)

Everyone out. Move. Get out of here.

Two Rangers charge into the room through one of the doors. They fire their rifles.

Two of Domingo's men fall down dead.

Three more Rangers come through the other door.

Three vaqueros from Santa Gertrudis are killed. The remaining vaqueros take cover then fire back.

Two Rangers go down.

75 HALLWAY

Julian and Domingo escape from the room. They hear Rangers approaching from the north end of the hall.

Domingo studies the wall.

DOMINGO

There's a weak spot... right... here. Ready?

Julian nods his head.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Go.

76 LIVING ROOM

Domingo and Julian crash through the wall then fire their weapons.

One surprised Ranger hits the ground with a bullet in his head.

Another Ranger slides down the wall dead.

The remaining Ranger fires back and misses.

Julian and Domingo slide behind the couch.

Julian rises then fires.

The last Ranger in the room falls dead.

77 BACK ROOM

Domingo and Julian run through another door then see two more Rangers.

Domingo kills one.

Julian kills the other.

DOMINGO
Stick close to me.

Julian follows Domingo to a concealed door.

78 HIDDEN ROOM

Domingo closes the door behind them.

JULIAN
You think any of our men are still
alive?

DOMINGO
I don't know but I'm out of ammo.

JULIAN
Me too.

DOMINGO
It won't take long for them to find
us. We need to get outside.

Domingo looks through a window and watches several Rangers run through the courtyard. He also sees Bonito hitched to a post nearby.

Shots can be heard coming from every part of the mansion.

JULIAN
What is this room?

DOMINGO
I built it when I expanded the
mansion. Thought it may come in
handy. Just in case.

Domingo sees a group of Rangers gather in the courtyard then two Rangers with rifles stay behind when the rest leave.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
There's only two of them. This may
be our chance.

JULIAN
We're out of bullets.

DOMINGO
We have these.

Domingo draws his sword from its sheath.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
If we can take those two out.
Bonito's right there. We'll have a
clear path to the creek.

Domingo points at Bonito.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
The reeds growing on the bank are
ten feet tall. If we make it to the
creek, we can get out of this alive.

Julian shakes his head then takes off his hat. He wipes his
brow.

JULIAN
So I guess this is it. Tell me,
brother, you think we have a chance?

Domingo laughs.

DOMINGO
A chance.

JULIAN
Then let's do this.

DOMINGO
Do whatever's required to protect
what's ours. Julian, if we lose
both ranchos, we'll have nothing.

JULIAN
No, that's not true. Thanks to you,
we'll have our families.

Julian stands up.

The two Rangers are standing directly in front of the windows.

DOMINGO
You ready?

JULIAN
Ready.

Julian and Domingo take a few steps back. They draw their swords.

DOMINGO

We have to get to those reeds.

Domingo and Julian run toward the windows.

79 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Domingo and Julian crash through the windows with shards of glass exploding around the brothers. It's hand-to-hand combat as they fight the Rangers side by side.

The Rangers use their rifles to protect themselves from the swords.

Julian's sword is blocked. He grabs his dagger with his other hand then embeds it in the Ranger's neck.

The Ranger falls to the ground, dead.

Julian sees a Ranger rise from behind a bush on the edge of the courtyard. He has his rifle aimed at Domingo.

Julian dives between Domingo and the Ranger. A shot rings out then Julian is hit in the chest.

Domingo finishes off his Ranger by sliding his dagger across his throat.

The Ranger falls down dead.

Domingo locates the Ranger that shot Julian. He throws his dagger and it finds the Ranger's heart.

The courtyard becomes silent except for the sound of occasional gunfire from different parts of the mansion.

Domingo runs to his brother and sees that Julian is alive but mortally wounded.

Julian smiles then tries to speak but can't as Domingo holds him in his arms

DOMINGO

Don't talk, brother. I'm here.
It'll be all right.

Domingo looks at Julian's wound then grimaces.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

The Ranger's are dead. We will all
be safe.

As Domingo looks in his brother's eyes, Julian's life slips away.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Why did you do it, brother? You didn't need to protect me. It was my time to die not yours.

Garcia's shirt is covered in blood as he runs into the courtyard. He's brandishing two pistols.

He sees Domingo holding Julian's lifeless body.

GARCIA

Get your horse.

DOMINGO

Julian's dead.

GARCIA

We've lost. There's nothing else you can do here. Get your brother to his family. I'll cover you.

Domingo throws Julian's body over his horse.

Garcia shoots a Ranger as he enters the courtyard.

Domingo secures Julian's body with some rope then mounts Bonito.

GARCIA (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Get out of here. Go. Now.

Domingo whips the reins then spurs Bonito. He rides out of sight.

Four Rangers enter the courtyard.

Garcia takes one of the Rangers out.

The other Rangers shoot Garcia multiple times.

Garcia falls down, dead.

80 INT. MATAMOROS RANCHO - BERNADA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bernada lies on her back in her large, beautiful bed. She has a crushing grip on two towels tied to each bedpost as she bites down on a clothespin in her mouth.

Guadalupe's kneeling in front of Bernada's open legs. A NATIVE WOMAN gives Bernada a small glass filled with whiskey.

GUADALUPE

I can see the baby's head. Push.

Bernada's face becomes twisted with pain as she screams out in agony.

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

It's coming. Push Bernada, push.

Bernada's child is released from her womb. Guadalupe slaps the baby on the bottom to make him cry. She takes a close look at the baby.

With the umbilical cord still attached, Guadalupe hands the child to Bernada.

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

It's a boy.

Bernada takes the baby in her arms then smiles.

Guadalupe clamps two clothespins on the umbilical cord.

She cuts the cord between them.

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

You've done well. He's a little early but he seems perfectly healthy. We'll leave you alone with your child.

Guadalupe signals to the Native women to leave

GUADALUPE (CONT'D)

We'll be back in a few minutes to clean him up and let you get some rest.

BERNADA

Thank you, mamma.

The Native women leave the room followed by Guadalupe.

81 EXT. MATAMOROS RANCHO - DAY

Domingo slowly rides Bonito to the entrance of the hacienda. He's met by TWO SERVANTS. One of them runs back inside.

Domingo dismounts then unties Julian's body.

The servant grabs Bonito's reins.

DOMINGO

Treat Bonito well. It has been a long ride.

Domingo walks toward the door with Julian in his arms.

The servant leads Bonito away.

Before Domingo gets to the door, Rafael runs out to meet him. At the sight of Julian's body, Rafael falls to his knees.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

Bernada's the next to come outside. She sees Domingo holding Julian's body in his arms. They look in each other's tear-filled eyes.

Two vaqueros come through the door.

RAFAEL

Take Julian. We must construct a casket and prepare him for burial.

Domingo hesitates before handing over Julian then reluctantly gives up his body.

Guadalupe runs through the door with two SERVANTS close behind.

GUADALUPE

No. No. Not Julian.

Guadalupe's hysterical until she swoons with grief. She's caught by a servant who brings her inside the hacienda.

Bernada gently places her hand on Domingo's cheek as tears fill her eyes.

BERNADA

I'm so sorry, Domingo. I must check on Mamma. I'm happy you're here.

Bernada goes into the hacienda.

RAFAEL

What happened?

DOMINGO

There was far too many of them. We had no chance.

RAFAEL

Rudy? Garcia?

Domingo shakes his head "no".

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Anyone?

DOMINGO

Only me. Garcia gave his life so I
could escape.

Rafael puts his arm around Domingo. They enter the mansion.

82 INT. MATAMORAS HACIENDA - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone's in tears. Guadalupe lies on the couch murmuring incoherently.

Bernada wipes Guadalupe's face with a towel. She sees Domingo and Rafael enter then gets the attention of a FEMALE SERVANT.

BERNADA

Take care of the Señora.

Domingo and Rafael go to their mother.

Bernada walks over to Domingo then grabs his hand.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

My love. Come with me. Even in the
midst of this most terrible tragedy,
you have one thing to celebrate.

Domingo looks into Bernada's eyes.

DOMINGO

You mean...

BERNADA

Come with me, my husband.

83 BEDROOM

Bernada puts her finger to her lips.

BERNADA

He's sleeping. We should try to be
quiet.

DOMINGO

He's?

Bernada leads Domingo to the crib where his son's asleep.

BERNADA

(whispering)

Domingo let me introduce you to your son, Albino Julian De La Garza.

DOMINGO

My son. I have a son.

Domingo holds Bernada in his arms.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Thank you for this gift. You gave him Julian's name. That's wonderful.

BERNADA

Julian made me promise.

DOMINGO

That sounds just like him. I'll miss him so much.

BERNADA

I know, Domingo, we all will.

Domingo takes his arms from around Bernada. He sits on the bed.

DOMINGO

You have taken care of our legacy well. I have failed miserably.

BERNADA

You did all that you could. You protected every person who's here.

DOMINGO

But not my brother.

BERNADA

Your brother is with your father now. Lorenzo was probably craving company.

Bernada sits on the bed next to Domingo.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

Julian wanted to protect our land as much as you did. There's nothing you could have done to dissuade him.

DOMINGO

We have nothing left. All is lost. What will we do to survive?

BERNADA

This rancho's very nice. You should be proud of Rafael. He's already accomplished many things.

DOMINGO

We'll stay here. We have nowhere else to go.

Domingo walks to the crib.

BERNADA

We will make a wonderful life here. You've protected all of us. We're all safe because of you.

Domingo gazes at his son.

DOMINGO

I know he's sleeping but I must hold him. Would you mind?

BERNADA

Hold your son, Domingo.

Domingo's hands tremble as he picks up Albino as gently as he can.

The baby wakes but doesn't cry then he looks into Domingo's eyes.

DOMINGO

Hello, my son. I'm your father. Though I wasn't at your birth, I promise to always be here for you.

Domingo looks back at Bernada.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

He smiled. I swear he smiled. You think he can understand me?

BERNADA

Of course. He's your son.

DOMINGO

My son. You gave me a son.

Bernada joins Domingo.

She gently tickles Albino.

BERNADA

You're a good baby, aren't you?
What do you think of your father? I
did pretty good, didn't I.

84 INT. MATAMOROS HACIENDA - DINING ROOM - DAY

Rafael and Domingo are sitting at the dining room table.

RAFAEL

...and there are free-range cattle
all over this area. We have already
acquired dozens.

DOMINGO

And no one has claimed them?

RAFAEL

They have no brands. These tumultuous
times also bring opportunities.

A servant, RODRIGO, walks into the room.

RODRIGO

Señor, two men are at the front door.
They're asking for Domingo. Important
business they said. They're Anglos.

DOMINGO

Tell them to get off the property
and never come back.

RAFAEL

Brother. Brother. Hold on. We
should see what this is about.

(to Rodrigo)

It's fine, Rodrigo. Please escort
them to us.

Domingo puts his hand on his gun.

Rafael and Domingo stand when two Anglos, WILLIAM BOURLAND,
30, and JAMES MILLER, 36, enter the dining room. Both of
them are carrying brief cases.

Domingo makes no attempt to conceal his gun.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

How can we help you, gentlemen?

BOURLAND

The question is how can we help you?

Bourland steps forward offering to shake hands. Domingo refuses but Rafael obliges him.

RAFAEL

Don't mind my brother. He's not too trusting.

BOURLAND

I'm William Bourland and this is my associate James Miller. We represent the Texas Land Commission.

DOMINGO

This is Mexico. What do you want?

BOURLAND

We are investigating disputed land claims. Have you had any disputes over land ownership?

Bourland takes a notebook and pen out of his brief case.

RAFAEL

Disputes. That's a nice way of putting it. Yes, we have had some disputes.

BOURLAND

And you are?

RAFAEL

Rafael De La Garza. Exactly why are you here?

Bourland and Miller both write down his name.

BOURLAND

Pleasure to meet you, sir. We are actually lookin' for Domingo De La Garza.

Rafael sees Domingo subtly put his finger to his lips.

RAFAEL

And for what purpose do you wish to talk with this person?

BOURLAND

Do you know him?

RAFAEL

I would be happy to relay a message.

Bourland rifles through his brief case. He pulls out another notebook then thumbs through the pages.

BOURLAND

It appears there were a few fragments of land grant titles found after the San Patricio fire.

Domingo steps forward.

BOURLAND (CONT'D)

One of them had a Mr. Domingo De La Garza's signature on it.

DOMINGO

Fragments? Land titles?

BOURLAND

Not enough to consider it an official document but we do have his signature, if we...

DOMINGO

I'm Domingo De La Garza.

Domingo and Bourland shake hands.

BOURLAND

Pleasure to meet you, Mr Garza. You are a hard man to find.

DOMINGO

De La Garza, the last name is De La Garza.

BOURLAND

Excuse me. Mr. De La Garza. Do you mind if we sit down? It's been a long day.

Rafael gestures that they can.

Miller walks up to Rafael and Domingo then shakes both of their hands. Everyone takes a seat.

BOURLAND (CONT'D)

We were able to match you with the La Parra Rancho and determine it's location. I actually went there.

RAFAEL

You did?

BOURLAND

A Mr. King has claimed ownership of the land. Do you know anything about that?

DOMINGO

He stole it. I lost my brother in the process.

Bourland looks back at Miller.

BOURLAND

I'm sorry for your loss. Do you have any other kind of documentation that proves the land was yours?

DOMINGO

I have a copy I made myself of the title but it has all the information.

Bourland looks at Miller. His face tells him that more documentation is needed.

BOURLAND

Is there anything else?

DOMINGO

I have a copy of the survey the general land office made which proves the land was ours.

BOURLAND

Is that all?

DOMINGO

I have the land grant for sixty-six thousand acres that was granted to me by Mexico.

Bourland looks at Miller, this time he nods affirmatively.

BOURLAND

May I see it, please?

DOMINGO

I know exactly where they are.

Domingo leaves the dining room.

RAFAEL

Do you have any records for a Lorenzo De La Garza?

BOURLAND

As a matter of fact we do but unfortunately he's deceased. That can make things difficult.

Domingo returns with the copies. He hands them to Bourland.

DOMINGO

I also have my personal ledger where I keep detailed records of all my property.

Bourland shows them to Miller. They say a few things to each other too quietly for the brothers to hear. Miller nods then Bourland turns back to Domingo.

BOURLAND

These documents and the signature we have is quite sufficient. Some have reclaimed their land with much less.

Domingo and Rafael look at each other in disbelief.

DOMINGO

Are you saying we have a chance to get our land back?

BOURLAND

I assure you, Mr. De La Garza, we're committed to the return of land to its rightful owners.

MILLER

Especially that which has been taken by disreputable means.

BOURLAND

All that's required is that I take these to the General Land Office and retittle the land in your name.

Domingo snatches his documents from Bourland.

DOMINGO

You want to take the last remaining documents, of any kind, that prove the land was ours.

BOURLAND

Yes, sir. It would be very difficult without them.

Bernada enters the dining room with Albino.

DOMINGO

Then I'll go with you. I will not part with those documents.

BOURLAND

That would be a little unusual.

DOMINGO

It's the only way.

Bourland looks at Miller.

Miller shrugs his shoulders.

BOURLAND

I have no objections to that. We'll take passage on a steam ship very soon. You may come if you like.

RAFAEL

No, Domingo, you've been away from your family far too long. I'll go. It's a boat ride down the Rio Grande.

Domingo looks at Bernada and what she wants him to do is all over her face.

DOMINGO

It seems safe enough and not too far of a trip.

BOURLAND

Oh yes, only a small thing, about three days, no hazards.

RAFAEL

Then it's settled. When do we leave?

85 INT. DOMINGO'S MANSION - ENTRANCE - DAY

Mifflin's supervising the occupation of La Parra Rancho. Richard's there, too.

SERVANTS are bringing in furniture and boxes.

James approaches Richard.

JAMES

You wanted to see me, sir.

RICHARD

Is everyone gettin' moved in? How's the property look?

JAMES

You did really good, Mr. King. They haven't even counted the longhorns and sheep yet. There's too many.

RICHARD

Let's go somewhere we can have a
little privacy. I've got somethin'
I need you to do.

Richard and James go outside.

86 EXT. LA PARRA RANCHO - GAZEBO - DAY

Richard and James sit down on the covered benches.

RICHARD

I have an important mission for you.

JAMES

Anything, Mr. King.

RICHARD

The two ranchos are ours but I need
you to tie up some loose ends.

JAMES

Whatever you need.

Richard looks out over the land.

RICHARD

I plan on doubling the land we got.
Before that can happen, we gotta get
rid of the remainin' land grants.

JAMES

What's your plan?

RICHARD

Two lawyers are collectin' land grants
from the Mexicans in order to give
those Greasers their lands back.

JAMES

You want me to kill 'em?

Richard goes back to the gazebo.

RICHARD

No. That shouldn't be necessary. I
happen to know they will soon be
takin' those documents on a steamship.

JAMES

Want me to blow it up?

RICHARD

It's a one-man job, James. Leave your buddies here. I want you to get those titles and sink that ship.

87 EXT. STEAMSHIP - DAY

James stands on the dock with three sheep. He's met by Bourland.

BOURLAND

No passengers. Government business.

JAMES

I gotta get these breeders to the United States. It's very important and needs to be done immediately.

James pulls out a big wad of cash.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'm sure we can work somethin' out.

Bourland takes the cash.

BOURLAND

Fine, if you keep the boiler goin' while you're on board. I'm gettin' tired of shovelin'.

JAMES

No problem.

BOURLAND

I'll have to search you first.

James boards the ship with his sheep. The captain moves the ship down the Rio Grande.

Bourland and Miller are on the deck with Rafael.

Bourland holds the box with the titles.

BOURLAND (CONT'D)

You sure you don't wanna put your documents with the others. They'll be safer in the cargo hold.

James moves close enough to hear the conversation.

RAFAEL

Not as safe as with me. Besides, I gave my word. The documents will stay in my possession.

88 INT. BELOW DECK - BOILER ROOM - DAY

James removes three sticks of dynamite and a loaded revolver that he concealed on the sheep. He places the dynamite near the boiler then measures out a long fuse.

James attaches the fuse to the dynamite then lights it.

89 CARGO HOLD

Rafael guards the titles outside of the locked closet.

90 EXT. STEAMSHIP - DECK - DAY

James goes to the upper deck. Bourland and Miller are looking out over the water. Their backs are to James as he pulls out his gun.

JAMES
Hands up. Slowly.

91 INT. BELOW DECK - BOILER ROOM - DAY

The fuse continues to burn.

92 EXT. STEAMSHIP - DECK - DAY

Bourland and Miller turn around and see James pointing his gun at them. They put up their arms.

JAMES
Gentlemen, you can jump or I'll push
your dead bodies over the deck.
Either way you're gettin' wet.

Bourland and Miller just stand there.

James fires twice. Bourland's reaction indicates the bullets were close to their heads.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Now.

Bourland and Miller jump into the river.

James quickly heads for the titles.

93 INT. BELOW DECK - BOILER ROOM - DAY

The lit fuse gets closer to the dynamite.

94 CARGO HOLD

Rafael hears the gunfire. He draws his weapon.

Rafael breaks down the door to the closet then grabs the box containing the titles. He starts up the stairs.

James stops Rafael at the top of the stairs.

JAMES

Well, I thank you kindly, just what I was lookin' for.

RAFAEL

The titles belong to us. It's De La Garza land and you'll never possess them.

James begins to laugh.

95 BOILER ROOM

The fuse is only seconds away from reaching the dynamite.

96 CARGO HOLD

James cocks his pistol.

JAMES

I knew you were Lorenzo's boy. That's exactly what he said just before I killed him. Like father like son.

Rafael has his pistol snug against the bottom of the box as he holds it.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I gotta tell you. He didn't put up much of a fight.

RAFAEL

Is that so?

Rafael empties his gun into James.

James falls down, dead.

As Rafael begins to climb the stairs to the upper deck, the dynamite blows the steamship to smithereens. What's left of the ship rapidly sinks with no sign of Rafael anywhere.

97 INT. MATAMOROS RANCHO - KITCHEN - DAY

Domingo and Bernada are sitting at the kitchen table. Domingo reads a newspaper as Bernada holds a bottle of milk that she's feeding to Albino.

BERNADA

I really like it here. It's so peaceful. Everyone seems really happy.

DOMINGO

We won't have much of a future livin' on borrowed land.

BERNADA

Rafael seems to think if we improve the land. Plant crops, raise some cattle. It'll probably be ours.

DOMINGO

The paper says that Juan Seguin is taking up the fight. He promises to return stolen land to the Mexicans.

Bernada puts the bottle down then lays Albino in his crib next to the table.

BERNADA

He's such a good baby. I can tell he's gonna be a smart one.

DOMINGO

Yeah? Maybe, if we wait long enough, he'll be able to figure out how to get our lands back.

BERNADA

Domingo, you'll never be happy if you can't stop obsessing over La Parra and Santa Gertrudis.

Bernada puts her arms around Domingo's neck.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

Sometimes it's better to accept things as they are.

DOMINGO

You mean give up. I'm not prepared to do that. Rafael should be getting back soon.

BERNADA

Those lawyers were confident we'll be able to get our lands back from King.

DOMINGO

King won't leave our property alive which is fine with me. I just hope I'm the one that gets to kill him.

A SERVANT walks into the kitchen. He's holding a telegram that has just been delivered by a courier.

BERNADA

You shouldn't talk like that, Domingo. It's bad for your spirit.

SERVANT

This is addressed to you, Señor. It's from a Mr. Bourland.

The servant hands Domingo the letter.

DOMINGO

Very good, thank you.

Domingo shows the letter to Bernada.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

It's probably an update on their progress. I hope it's going well.

Domingo opens the envelope and reads the telegram out loud.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Mr. De La Garza, I regret to inform you...

Bernada covers her mouth with her hand.

BERNADA

Oh no.

Domingo can hardly continue.

DOMINGO

The steamship was attacked as we traveled up the Rio Grande. The titles have been lost.

BERNADA

What about Rafael? Does it say anything about Rafael?

Domingo holds up a finger and his voice becomes quiet as tears fill his eyes. He continues to read.

DOMINGO

The steamship was lost in a terrible explosion. It now sits on the bottom of the deep river.

BERNADA

What does it say about Rafael?

DOMINGO

After an extensive search, your brother was not found. I'm afraid he must have died in the explosion.

Domingo sits down.

The silence is deafening as Bernada and Domingo sit there only able to look at each other.

A tear falls down Domingo's cheek. He crumples the letter in his hand.

Bernada sees the sorrow and hatred in Domingo's eyes.

BERNADA

He may not be dead. They didn't recover a body.

Domingo gets out of his chair so violently that he knocks it over.

BERNADA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Domingo walks away without saying anything.

98 EXT. JULIAN'S GRAVE - DAY

Domingo sobs as he stands in front of the headstone.

DOMINGO

Once again, my brother has given his life while protecting me. I'm left with the misery of a broken heart.

Domingo falls to his knees.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I am a worthless man. I've lost our land. I've lost those who mean the most to me. I don't deserve to exist.

RAFAEL

That's a little harsh. You're really too hard on yourself, Domingo.

Domingo turns around. He cautiously approaches Rafael then gently touches his head.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Yes. I'm real. You haven't gotten rid of me yet.

Domingo falls prostrate on the ground and sobs uncontrollably.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

My dear brother. I love you too.

Rafael lifts Domingo to his feet then they embrace.

99 INT. MATAMORAS RANCHO - KITCHEN - DAY

Domingo sits at the table with Rafael.

RAFAEL

I kept my word. The copy of the title remained in my possession. It got a little soggy but it's fine.

Rafael hands the land grants to Domingo.

DOMINGO

You're a better man than me.

Rafael looks into Domingo's eyes.

RAFAEL

I killed the man who murdered our father. He was one of King's men.

DOMINGO

He was?

RAFAEL

He confessed when he thought he was going to kill me. He wasn't a smart man.

DOMINGO

I'm so proud of you. You've done well. I guess that's some form of justice. This isn't over.

Domingo shows the paper to Rafael.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Seguin has promised to get our lands back. I'm taking the title and I'm going to pay him a visit in Austin.

100 INT. SENATE OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Domingo sits on the couch. Juan's secretary approaches Domingo.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, sir. The office will be closin' soon. Senator Seguin's a very busy man. Without an...

DOMINGO

I'm not leaving until I talk to him. Tell Seguin if he cares at all about his heritage he'll talk to me.

JUAN SEGUIN, 33, walks out of his office with JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO, 44. They are both impressive figures.

SEGUIN

Not one government document has been translated to Spanish. They say Texas can't afford it.

NAVARRO

We need a face to represent the hardships and injustices felt by the Mexican people.

SEGUIN

Right, the two of us are perceived as benefiting from those injustices.

NAVARRO

We may be able to evoke an emotional response from the house.

Domingo rushes up to them.

DOMINGO

Senator, Senator, I must talk to you...

The secretary grabs Domingo's shoulder then tries to pull him away from Seguin.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, Senator. I tried to explain how busy you were. He refuses to leave.

Seguin looks irritated.

SEGUIN

Sir, we have procedures for these kind of things. An appointment...

Navarro grabs Seguin's arm and whispers.

NAVARRO

A face, Juan. We need a face.

SEGUIN

It's fine, Dolores. I'll listen to what he has to say.

(to Domingo)

Come into my office, sir.

Navarro leaves.

101 INT. SEGUIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Seguin sits down behind his extravagant desk. He gestures for Domingo to have a seat.

SEGUIN

How can I help you?

DOMINGO

I have come to plead for my family's land...

102 LATER

Seguin rises from his seat and shakes Domingo's hand.

SEGUIN

Mr. De La Garza, unfortunately, your family's story is similar to many I've heard.

DOMINGO

That's why I'm here, sir. You're truly my last hope.

SEGUIN

Representative Navarro and I are committed to support the interests of the Tejano community.

DOMINGO

Do you believe we can get our stolen lands back?

Seguin walks from behind his desk.

SEGUIN

I do. The rights of the Mexico-
Texians have been guaranteed by the
Constitution and the Laws of Texas.

Seguin looks into Domingo's eyes.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

We have lacked a person to represent
the victims. Would you be willing
to fulfill such a role?

DOMINGO

I would. What would you like me to
do?

SEGUIN

The government moves slowly. Most
do not share my enthusiasm for this
cause. Can you remain in town?

DOMINGO

I can but I have nowhere to stay.

Seguin leaves his office then returns with his secretary.

SEGUIN

This is Miss Williams. She'll set
you up in a room. We'll take on
this fight together.

DOMINGO

Thank you, Senator. I'll do what I
can.

103 EXT. SAN ANTONIO COURTHOUSE - DAY

The plaza is filled with newspaper reporters and concerned
citizens.

Seguin and Navarro enter the plaza with Domingo. They're
besieged by reporters and fans seeking autographs.

A REPORTER makes his way through the crowd.

REPORTER

You're here to support the bill you've
introduced which may be the most
important legislation thus far.

SEGUIN

This bill's about equity. Race should never be a consideration when deciding who is protected by the Constitution.

REPORTER

Mr. Navarro, the bill has received very little support. What do you hope to accomplish today?

Navarro gestures to Domingo to stand with him.

NAVARRO

I intend to change the minds of those who oppose this bill.

Navarro puts his arm around Domingo's shoulder.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

This is Domingo De La Garza. He represents the Mexicans who have had their lands stolen.

REPORTER

Mr. De La Garza, what do you hope will be the outcome of today's proceedings?

DOMINGO

Many families have possessed their land for hundreds of years, I only want those lands returned to them.

Seguin and Navarro slowly make their way through the throng of people then enter the courthouse with Domingo.

104 INT. SAN ANTONIO COURTHOUSE - DAY

The seats are filled with members of the Texas House of Representatives and interested observers. Domingo's sitting in the front row.

It becomes quiet for a moment when Senator Seguin walks in with Navarro. Seguin stands before the people.

SEGUIN

I am here to personally introduce my bill which is of great importance to our great nation.

The loud conversations within the courthouse start up again.

Seguin sees that no one seems to be paying any attention at all.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

This bill concerns those of Mexican ancestry and the integrity of this new independent Republic as well.

Murmurs are heard throughout the courtroom.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

There's no question that the Anglo-Americans are known to enslave people of other races and steal land.

A few politicians walk out in protest.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

You must realize this is an opportunity to bring Texas back into the "Gran Familia Mexicana".

The courtroom begins to quiet down.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

Allowing the original settlers to recover their territorial integrity will make Texas a stronger nation.

Some representatives look up at Seguin displaying their interest.

SEGUIN (CONT'D)

It's my hope that you'll listen with a clear and open mind then understand you must support this bill.

Seguin takes a seat next to Navarro and Domingo without any words of agreement from those in the courtroom.

Representative Navarro stands before the members of Congress then looks across an obviously hostile audience. He takes a deep breath.

NAVARRO

This bill authorizes the commissioner general of the land office to issue titles to certain individuals.

Grumbles of disapproval are heard from the crowd.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

I join with my colleague, Senator Seguin, in support of his bill which I believe to be equitable.

Navarro sees several representatives shaking their head negatively.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

There are living or have lived various individuals who are descendants of the earliest settlers.

Navarro unveils a map that highlights the many ranchos which have been stolen from the Mexican people.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

These Lands were granted and settled during the existence of the Spanish and Mexican governments.

A CONGRESSMAN stands and interrupts.

CONGRESSMAN

This is no longer Mexico, sir, it's Texas now.

NAVARRO

It's certain these families have continued to cultivate these lands for more than a hundred years.

The courtroom gets loud again.

The Speaker bangs his gavel.

SPEAKER

We must have order.

The congressman leaves his seat and angrily walks out.

Navarro shakes his head in disgust as the commotion caused by the congressman's outburst finally settles down and Navarro continues.

NAVARRO

So unquestioned has been their ownership of lands that the owners felt no need for further action.

Richard walks into the courtroom with Mifflin Kenedy and an entourage.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Those who had titles have lost them which is quite common with the outbreak of courthouse fires.

Richard finds a seat.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

And an even more suspicious sinking of a ship that carried hundreds of original titles.

Richard lights his cigar.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Those troubles have seriously affected the ill-fated settlements over a long series of years.

Richard stands.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

The land holders are ignorant and destitute of this new nation's legal forms.

RICHARD

Ignorant is right, we all know your heart's with Mexico, Navarro.

NAVARRO

The long and undisputed possession of their lands gives them the right to keep their titles and property.

Members of the house sitting around Richard slap his back in support. A few others shake his hand while others laugh.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Justice demands they keep the titles which is established by article 47 of the colonization law of 1825.

The legislators don't seem to be interested as several conversations are going on as Navarro speaks.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

If these land titles were stolen through trickery the families would have no written evidence of a title.

Some of the observers begin to listen to Navarro but those in Congress pay no attention to him.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Will our laws deprive them of their property simply because they have no proof of title?

The lawyers in the room give Navarro their attention.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Law and equity provides that these individuals have an indisputable right to possession of their land.

A representative stands.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

These people know nothing of the forms necessary to their defense or the language in which they are worded.

REPRESENTATIVE

Only a traitor would imply that these good Texians have obtained their lands through nefarious means.

NAVARRO

There are men who are hungry for land and encouraged by holes in existing laws.

The courtroom becomes noisy again.

The speaker bangs his gavel until everyone settles down.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

Some have violently forced the owners off their land knowing they are ignorant of our court's procedures.

SPEAKER

Order in the court. You must pay Mr. Navarro the respect he deserves as any member of the House.

More representatives walk out of the courtroom.

NAVARRO

If they have burdened themselves with the expense of a lawsuit they face the dishonest seekers of land.

Navarro holds up the bill in one hand.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

These men threaten the safety of their families or involve them in incomprehensible judicial forms.

Navarro holds up a long list of the families who have had their lands taken from them in his other hand.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

What law declares these individuals
in question should not have their
titles ratified and confirmed?

The conversations stop and now everyone is listening.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

I have a letter to a Mr. King who
has taken possession of land which
rightfully belongs to others.

Richard's face shows he has become incensed.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

He obtained this property by forcing
the owners to abandon their ancient
and just rights to their land.

Richard stands up then throws down his cigar.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

To allow this sort of unlawfulness
shall complete the ruin of that class
of frontier settlers.

RICHARD

Libel is a serious charge, Navarro.
Your poor Mexicans may not be able
to sue but I sure can.

Senator Seguin stands then faces Richard.

SEGUIN

I know the land of which you speak.
It was obtained only through the
most suspicious of circumstances.

The Speaker bangs his gavel.

SPEAKER

Sir, this is not the place. We have
courts that will address the issue.

Domingo stands then turns around as angry as Richard.

DOMINGO

You, sir, killed my brother, beat up
my wife, then tried to kill the only
remaining brother I had.

The speaker bangs his gavel until it breaks.

SPEAKER

One more outburst from either of you
and I will have you escorted out of
this room.

Richard looks at Domingo with hate-filled eyes.

RICHARD

Sit down, Greaser, no one's interested
in what you have to say. Go back to
Mexico where you belong.

An OBSERVER shouts from his seat.

OBSERVER

Hear, hear.

The speaker grabs another gavel then pounds on his desk.

SPEAKER

Sergeant, please escort that man out
of here.

The SERGEANT OF ARMS escorts Richard out of the courtroom.

Navarro looks across the room then watches arguments occurring
among the members of the house. The courtroom is equally
divided on their opinions concerning the Mexican families.

Navarro hangs his head as he waits for the noise to quiet
down.

Order finally returns. Navarro raises his head with a tear
in his eye. He continues.

NAVARRO

I hope in the name of justice and in
heaven that this bill may meet the
sanction of this honorable body.

A few members of the house stand and begin to applaud. They
are joined by some observers and soon almost everyone there
is on their feet.

Navarro approaches Seguin and Domingo.

SEGUIN

That was a fabulous speech. You may
have convinced them.

NAVARRO

I certainly hope so.

DOMINGO

Thank you, sir. I could never dream of having someone such as yourself fighting for my cause.

SEGUIN

This will affect all of us. Not just the Mexican people but the Anglos as well.

On the way out Navarro is given words of encouragement and shakes many hands.

The three of them walk through the courtroom doors.

105 EXT. SAN ANTONIO COURTHOUSE - DAY

The arguments and conversations continue in the plaza.

As soon as Seguin, Navarro, and Domingo enter the courtyard they are separated by reporters asking them questions.

Domingo finally breaks through the circle of humanity then goes to Seguin who is speaking with some reporters.

SEGUIN

It is only through the courage of men like Domingo De La Garza that we have a chance to win this fight.

Some reporters begin to ask Domingo questions.

106 LATER

Everyone finally leaves the courtyard. Only Seguin and Domingo are left.

DOMINGO

Senator, when do you suppose we'll get our lands back.

SEGUIN

A vote must be taken and then, if it passes, it must be enforced. You will be contacted.

DOMINGO

The faster the better...

Seguin is now more like a politician than a friend.

SEGUIN

I've done all I can do. I see very little chance of anything coming from this. I will contact you.

Seguin leaves the courtyard.

Richard walks toward Domingo with several hired hands by his side.

Domingo and Richard are finally face-to-face.

RICHARD

You want your lands back?

Richard reaches into a satchel he's carrying then pulls out a handful of dirt. He throws it at Domingo's feet.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Here you go. That's the only part of your land you will ever see again.

Richard and his entourage walk away laughing. Domingo is standing in the courtyard alone as the sun begins to set. He has lost all hope then looks up at the sky.

DOMINGO

Father, I know of nothing else that I can do. I fear I have failed to protect your legacy.

LORENZO (V.O.)

Domingo, Domingo. Tough times don't last. Tough people do. Like you, my son.

107 INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Gregoria is finishing her story.

GREGORIA

When my mother moved us to Brownsville, she told me all about the bad things she saw.

Frances holds on to her mother.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

The Anglos killed many of our relatives then dragged their bodies through town to warn the Mexicans.

FRANCES

What else did they do?

GREGORIA

They threw the bodies into a pit of alligators. The Anglos killed my uncles to steal our rancho.

Elodea becomes frightened.

ELODEA

That's terrible, Mamma.

GREGORIA

The King family stole all of our lands. My grandparents went to lawyers and they didn't care much.

CONCEPCION

That's so unfair.

GREGORIA

The lawyers said if they tried to get their lands back they would be killed.

Gregoria takes a deep breath then sees so much emotion in her daughter's eyes. She smiles.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

I still believe we will get our lands back someday. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo said that we would.

All four girls are now as close to their mother as they can get.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

The fourteenth amendment says citizens have the right to the pursuit of life, liberty, and property.

Dorotea lets out a long yawn.

GREGORIA (CONT'D)

Okay, girls. It's very late. You need to get some sleep. I can tell you more stories tomorrow.

The girls straighten out their blankets then lie down.

FRANCES

Good-night, mamma. I love you.

DOROTEA

Love you too, mamma.

Gregoria gives all of them another hug.

CONCEPCION

I can't wait to hear another story.
Love you.

ELODEA

I hope our family will get our lands
back.

GREGORIA

We will my dear. One day we will.
Now go to sleep girls and may God
make each of you a Saint.

FADE OUT.

THE END