Reaparations

EXT. PLANTATION, ESTABLISHING - DUSK

SUPER: Atlanta, Georgia - October 7, 1865

A white mansion sits atop a cotton plantation. The fields are overgrown and should have been picked weeks ago.

ELI (7) plays with a rolling hoop through the rows of crop.

INT. MANSION, DINING ROOM - DUSK

A couple eats dinner at opposite ends of a table. Everything around them is indicative of the confederate south and is covered in dust.

The man is COLONEL HENRY GIBBS (50's). He has a lanky body and a grizzled face. The permanent sneer on his face accentuates a thick, gray mustache which hangs below his lips. His left ear is missing.

The woman is Henry's wife, MELINDA (40's). She's robust and homely.

Henry cuts his meat with a spoon and fork. There's a knife besides his plate, but he does not use it. The meat is tough and the utensils are dull.

MELINDA

You know, you could use a...

Henry stops cutting and stares at her.

MELINDA

Right. No knives.

Henry finally tears a piece off. He puts it in his mouth and gnaws on it.

HENRY

Meat's a bit tough.

MELINDA

Don't blame me. If you hadn't lost the war then maybe we'd still have some extra hands round here.

HENRY

Christ woman. They've been gone for months now and you still don't know (MORE)

CONTINUED: 2.

HENRY (cont'd)

how to cook a decent stake. Them slaves made you incompetent.

Henry abandons the utensils and picks up the hunk of meat with his hands.

MELINDA

Better than being impotent.

Someone KNOCKS at the front door.

HENRY

Someone's at the door.

Another KNOCK. But this time, it's louder.

HENRY

Ain't you going to get that?

MELINDA

Don't you talk to me like I'm some house negro.

Melinda gets up and shuffles into the-

INT. MANSION, HALLWAY

Melinda walks towards the front door.

Yet another KNOCK, even louder than before.

MELINDA

I'm coming. I'm coming.

She opens the door. In the doorway stands a sickly looking black man. He wears a tattered blue soldier's uniform and a scarf around his neck. His yellow fish eyes stare into the unknown. This is AMOS (20's).

MELINDA

(nervously)

May I help you?

**AMOS** 

(with a slight lisp)
I'm looking for Colonel Henry
Gibbs. Might I find him here?

MELINDA

Umm...Henry!

3. CONTINUED:

HENRY (O.S.)

What?

MELINDA

Come here, quick.

HENRY (O.S.)

Damn it woman. This better be good.

Henry enters the hallway with his steak still in hand. He sees Amos and drops the meat.

HENRY

How did you get here?

**AMOS** 

You made a promise to me Harry.

HENRY

Where in god's green earth did you come from?

AMOS

I came to hold you to your word.

Henry glances at Melinda then back at Amos.

HENRY

Word? I ain't promised shit. I don't even know who you are.

**AMOS** 

Maybe this will remind you.

Amos unravels his scarf to reveal a large cut down the side of his neck. Jaundice colored puss and thick red blood dribbles from the wound.

Melinda screams.

MELINDA

Henry? What's going on here? Who is this?

AMOS

HENRY

Just some dead nigger. Just some dead nigger.

HENRY

This can't be true. You ain't real.

Amos takes a dull, rusty KNIFE out from his pocket. There is a picture of General Lee on the handle. Amos crouches down and slides the knife towards Henry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4.

**AMOS** 

Pick it up.

HENRY

What do you want from me?

**AMOS** 

I want you to fulfill your promise Henry. I want you to kill yourself.

HENRY

Get the hell out of here. I don't care what you are or where you're from. Just get! And don't you ever come back!

**AMOS** 

Do it. Do it and I'll spare you your reputation. I won't tell her what you really are.

MELINDA

(to Henry)

Henry? What's he talking about?

Henry's demeanor changes from resistant to hesitant. He picks up the knife and examines it.

HENRY

Ain't no way.

Eli darts through the front door and runs straight to Melinda.

ELI

Mommy! Mommy! I heard you scream and I ran as fast as I could!

**AMOS** 

Stop right there.

Amos whips out a flintlock pistol from beneath his jacket. He points it at Eli.

AMOS

Enough with the horse shit. You either kill yourself or I shoot your son dead in his tracks and tell your wife what you really are.

CONTINUED: 5.

HENRY

I'm sorry. Just, please, don't hurt my boy.

**AMOS** 

Kill yourself and both your wife and son will live. Your past will go with you to the grave.

HENRY

And what if I don't? What will happen to me then?

**AMOS** 

I'll shoot you square in the forehead. Either way, you're a dead man.

Henry drops to his knees and sobs.

HENRY

Why are you doing this to me?

AMOS

Because people like us can't exist in this world. You said so yourself.

Amos pulls back the hammer on his pistol

**AMOS** 

Now fulfill your promise. If you meant what you said, you'll do it.

Henry dries up his tears and grows some balls.

HENRY

To hell with you. Tell her. I don't care. You'll never take me with you.

AMOS

(to Melinda)

Ma'am, your husband is a-

Henry slits his wrists. Streams of crimson flow from the fresh wound. Henry's eyes roll back and he drops to the floor.

Amos aims the pistol at Melinda. BAM! Her face explodes. Pieces of brain and skull splatter on the wallpaper.

Henry is just barely conscious. He looks at his mutilated wife and a tear rolls down his cheek.

CONTINUED: 6.

Amos kneels down to Eli's level. He burrows his hand into his infected neck wound and pulls out a bloodied LOCKET. He hands it to Eli.

**AMOS** 

Take this. Everything will make sense when you're older.

Still alive, Henry sees Amos handing Eli the locket. Sheer panic overwhelms him. He must retrieve that locket. He reaches for Eli and the locket, but keels over.

Amos stands tall. He walks out the front door and disappears into the setting sun.

EXT. CAMP SUMTER, ESTABLISHING - DAY

SUPER: Anderson, Georgia - April 7, 1865 (six months prior)

Henry rides into a POW camp on a black horse. He wears a gray confederacy uniform decorated with a wide array of medals. He has both ears.

The camp is packed with thousands of union soldiers fenced in by a stockade wall.

INT. CAMP SUMTER, CORRIDOR - DAY

WALT (14) guards a door. He dresses like a soldier though he barely looks like a man.

Henry approaches him. Walt salutes him.

WALT

Afternoon Colonel.

HENRY

At ease soldier.

WALT

Would you like me to retrieve your whip?

**HENRY** 

That won't be necessary.

Henry takes off his white gloves.

HENRY

I'll just be using my fists this time.

CONTINUED: 7.

WALT

Any word from General Lee?

HENRY

It's over. Lee's planning to surrender the day after next. There's simply no way for the confederacy to rebound. Not after losing Five Forks and Sayler's Creek.

WALT

What will happend to the prisoners?

HENRY

There will be an exchange at Union headquarters in Jacksonville. All prisoners are expected to be transferred there.

WALT

Should I notify the camp commander?

HENRY

No. Let me talk to my brother. Gotta alleviate some frustrations first.

WALT

Beat him real good for me. Beat him before he's a free man.

HENRY

I'll make note of it. Do me a favor and stand guard. And don't come in-

WALT

No matter what. Same as always.

Henry opens the door and walks into the-

INT. CAMP SUMTER, PRISON CELL

Henry locks the door behind him. A heavy shadow hides his face.

Amos backs into a corner. He's strong and muscular, nothing like before. His eyes are focused and white. For a prisoner, he's in good condition. A bit rugged, but well maintained. No one else occupies the cell but him.

CONTINUED: 8.

**AMOS** 

(without a lisp)

Who is it?

Henry stands still, face covered. He fiddles with something in his pocket.

**AMOS** 

Don't come any closer or I'll hurt you. I know people. Important people.

Henry steps forward and into the light. Amos breathes a sigh of relief as a huge smile forms across his face. He leaps forward and the two embrace.

**AMOS** 

They don't treat me as well as you do when you're gone. No one treats me as well as you do.

Henry and Amos kiss.

**AMOS** 

What did Lee want? Good news I hope.

HENRY

The war's expected to last through the Summer months. Possibly longer.

**AMOS** 

But I thought it was nearing the end? I overheard the soldiers talking about Sayler's Creek. They said it was the confederacy's last stand.

HENRY

It was...until the French decided to help. That's why Lee wanted to meet. Reinforcements are on their way now.

**AMOS** 

That means-

HENRY

Everything will stay the way it is...at least for a little while longer.

CONTINUED: 9.

**AMOS** 

This is wonderful news. Kiss me Henry.

**HENRY** 

You still got that locket I gave you?

Amos pulls a LOCKET out from beneath his shirt. He opens it to reveal a picture of himself and Henry.

**AMOS** 

I keep it close to my heart. I stare at it for hours when you're gone.

**HENRY** 

We'll be together forever soon. I promise.

AMOS

I love you.

A tear wells up in Henry's eye.

HENRY

I love you too.

Henry and Amos kiss. But this time, more passionately. Hormones escalate quickly and the two have each other's tongues down their throats.

Henry pulls a rusty kitchen KNIFE out of his pocket. Lee's face is on the handle.

Suddenly, fear grips Amos' face. His eyes bulge. He tries to pull away from Henry's face, but Henry has his tongue clenched in his teeth. Amos screams.

Henry takes the knife and slices it down the side of Amos' neck. Blood sprays everywhere. Amos' body drops to the floor. Amos' tongue hangs by a thread.

Henry nearly vomits. There's blood in and around his mouth. He gags on its metallic flavor.

Henry breaks down. He weeps violently, but quitely. He cradles Amos in his arms and runs his fingers through his hair.

HENRY

CONTINUED: 10.

HENRY (cont'd)

exist in this world. Ain't no way. But we'll be together soon. I promise.

Henry kisses Amos on the forehead and closes his eyelids. He lays his body on the ground.

Henry yanks the necklace from Amos' neck and pushes it deep inside his throat, nestling it down in his esoghogus.

Henry stretches his left ear and draws the knife to its edges.

INT. CAMP SUMTER, CORRIDOR - DAY

Henry bursts from the prison door, cradling the left side of his head. Blood pours from between his fingers.

WALT

Sir! Oh my god!

HENRY

God damn it! He cut me!

WALT

What happened?

HENRY

He came at me with a kitchen knife. How in the hell did that bastard get a kitchen knife?

WALT

Where is he?

**HENRY** 

Dead. I wrestled the knife from him and stabbed him in the throat.

WALT

But I thought you said we needed him. Something about it being crucial to the war that he stay alive?

HENRY

Not anymore. Now he's just some dead nigger.

CUT TO BLACK.