

Sheriff of Nowhere
"The Holdouts"
Pilot Episode
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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SAN LUIS, COLORADO - DAWN

SUPER: SAN LUIS, COLORADO 2034

The sun creeps above the Sangre de Cristo Mountains surrounding the small town. Shadows run as the morning rays chase them down the mostly abandoned streets. Autumn leaves cartwheel as a gentle mountain breeze pushes them.

EXT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - SAME

A simple log home sits in front of a treeline. Chickens rustle about their pen, and a horse kicks up some dirt around his corral.

INT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - SAME

DANIEL'S BEDROOM

An alarm clock is lit up as the sun's light barely peeks through a bedroom window. At 6:00...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

DANIEL JOHNSON (40s), weathered but in good shape for his age, slaps the alarm off. He rolls out of bed.

DANIEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Daniel, tucks in his uniform shirt into his pants. Next, goes his cowboy hat, slow and sure, onto his head. Cowboy, down to his boots.

He UNPLUGS his GUN BELT from the charger on the table, and puts it on. He leaves the room, headed for

JAKE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A hand reaches down toward the peaceful, sleeping JAKE JOHNSON (8). He slowly wakes to the gentle shake of Daniel's hand on his shoulder. He smiles up at Daniel.

DANIEL

Good morning, sleepy head.

JAKE

Mornin' Grampa.

DANIEL

Get dressed and come eat some breakfast. Bus will be here soon.

JAKE

K.

Jake rubs his eyes. Daniel turns with a smile and heads for the door.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Gonna catch bad guys today, Grampa?

Daniel continues out the door without turning.

DANIEL

Always do.

KITCHEN - LATER

Jake finishes his breakfast and slams down some milk.

DANIEL

You're gonna get sick eating that way.

JAKE

Yep.

As he wipes his mouth with his shirt sleeve.

DANIEL

Hey. Use the napkin.

Startled, Jake gets the napkin. He wipes his mouth, but its already on his sleeve.

JAKE

Sorry.

DANIEL

Go straight to my office after school.

JAKE

But we were going to...

DANIEL

Jake.

Jake looks down.

JAKE

Yes sir.

Daniel peeks a grin. Jake notices.

DANIEL

Don't make me call Maggie.

A HONK is heard. Jake hesitates and looks at Daniel, who turns from the stove to look at him.

DANIEL

Go on. Have a good day.

Jake quickly bounces off the chair, grabs his backpack, and bolts out the door.

DANIEL
Learn something.

The door slam is the period to his sentence.

GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel enters and walks toward a cord plugged into the wall. He removes the other end plugged into his SHERIFF'S CAR.

He gets in the car, starts it with hardly a sound, and slowly backs out of the garage. He speeds away, DC motor hum is all that is heard.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

A squirrel hops along the ground covered in leaves. He makes his way up a mound, pauses. Stands on his hind legs, cautious.

A door on the side of the mound OPENS UP. The squirrel jets away. A MAN, in a CAMOUFLAGE CHEMICAL SUIT and GAS MASK, emerges. He has a GEIGER COUNTER in his hand.

The man waves the device back and forth. He taps it, shakes it, then shakes his head. He returns to the mound.

Moments later, the man and ANOTHER MAN come out the side of the mound.

MAN #1
See, it's broken.

MAN #2
There is no way it should read
zero.

Man #1 shows the GEIGER COUNTER to Man #2.

MAN #1
I'm telling you, it is okay. I'm
taking my mask off.

MAN #2
Don't do it. You don't know for
sure.

Man #1 (40s) pulls off his mask, holding his breath. Man #2 grabs his arm. Man #1 exhales, breathes in a full breath of air. He grabs at his throat, obviously struggling and in pain.

MAN #2
I told you. Put your mask back on,
put your mask back on.

Man #2 rushes in to try to help Man #1 get his mask on. Man #1 turns from gagging to laughing. Laughing hard and

pointing at Man #2.

MAN #1
I freakin' got you.

Man #2 (40s) rips his mask off and punches Man #1 in the arm. Man #1 laughs harder.

MAN #2
This is serious, and you're
screwing around.

Man #1 doesn't let up.

MAN #1
You should see your face. Classic.

MAN #2
Let's check things out.

Man #2 begins to pull off his suit as he heads into the mound. Man #1 slowly stops laughing and pauses before going in.

MAN #1
Classic.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - LATER

Both men come out of the mound. They are dressed in camouflage fatigues and camouflage hats. Man #1 throws his AK47 sling over his shoulder, a gun belt around his waist. Man# 2 carries his AK47, and a pistol is holstered at his side.

Man #2 shuts the door to the mound and locks it. He covers it with burlap and leaves. He jogs to catch up to Man #1 who is quickly making his way into the woods.

The squirrel returns to the top of the mound, acorn in hand.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT 1

FADE IN:

E/I. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Daniel pulls his car to a stop in front of his office. He grabs a cord from porch and PLUGS IN his car. He enters the office.

MAGGIE (50s), grey hair and reading glasses hanging on her nose, has a phone propped to her ear with her shoulder as Daniel comes in.

MAGGIE

Sure, Mr. Anderson, I will tell him to call you as soon as he comes in.

Daniel quietly closes the door. He looks through the messages at Maggie's desk.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Yes sir, I'm sure he is quite busy out there in the mountains. I will tell him. Thank you.

Maggie hangs up the phone. Daniel doesn't look up.

DANIEL

That's why I pay you the big bucks.

Maggie shakes her head.

MAGGIE

Big bucks are in the woods, not in my wallet. You are lucky to have me cover your butt like I do.

Daniel glances at her.

DANIEL

I know how valuable you are here. I can't do this without you.

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE

Dang. I fall for that sweet talk every time. And that smile.

Daniel almost blushes.

DANIEL

What did Anderson want?

MAGGIE

He wouldn't tell me, he wanted to tell you.

DANIEL

That means I'm not gonna like it.

MAGGIE

Just call him. I'm tired of stringing him along.

DANIEL

Thanks again for that. I'll call him.

Daniel makes his way to his desk. He removes his gun belt and PLUGS IT IN to a wall outlet. A CHARGING indicator lights up on the back of the belt.

Daniel grabs the phone and sits down. He dials up LT. RICK ANDERSON.

LT. ANDERSON (V.O.)

Johnson? You in your office?

DANIEL

Whatever it is, I'm busy.

LT. ANDERSON (V.O.)

You never like any assignment I give you.

DANIEL

Your "assignments" usually have nothing to do with my job.

Maggie chuckles in the b.g.

LT. ANDERSON (V.O.)

Sheriff, I need you for security at Mitch Barnes' ranch tonight.

DANIEL

I knew it. Babysitting a rich rancher. What, afraid someone will get drunk and fall out of a tree?

LT. ANDERSON (V.O.)

Johnson, I need you and your deputy at the Barnes' Ranch tonight 7 P.M.

DANIEL

That sounds like an order.

Silence. Pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Alright then, I'll be there.

LT. ANDERSON (V.O.)

Good. I'll see you there.

DANIEL
Lieutenant, I need to talk to you
about these plasma pistols.

Pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Sir?

Nothing.

Daniel looks at Maggie as he hangs up the phone.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
That son-of-a...

MAGGIE
You know he doesn't want to hear
about that.

DANIEL
Little Bear will be thrilled by
this news.

MAGGIE
Just glad I don't have to tell him.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOTHILLS ROAD - DAY

A Native American man (30s), long black hair but wearing a Sheriff's Department uniform, stands staring at the mountains. DEPUTY LITTLE BEAR's trance is disturbed by a car pulling up. Daniel slowly exits the car.

DANIEL
Howdy.

LITTLE BEAR
You bring bad news.

Shock, then a smile on Daniel's face.

DANIEL
How in the hell did you know that?

LITTLE BEAR
It's in my blood.

Daniel approaches Little Bear, who stands by his electric car. A solar panel sits on the roof. Daniel notices.

DANIEL
Car trouble?

LITTLE BEAR
I know you are sending me on a long
journey. I'm preparing.

The corner of Daniel's mouth rises slightly at this.

DANIEL
Unfortunately, you and I patrol
this whole area.

Little Bear continues to stare at the mountains.

LITTLE BEAR
Mountains or the valley?

DANIEL
I need you in the mountains, but I
guess you knew that.

LITTLE BEAR
That's why I face the mountains.

Daniel chuckles.

A communication device on Daniel's belt squawks.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
Base to Sheriff. Base to Sheriff.

Daniel grabs the device.

DANIEL
Go ahead, Maggie.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
There is a fight at the Pitted
Potato Bar. You need to get over
there.

DANIEL
On my way.

Daniel quickly heads for his car. He opens the door and
stands inside the open door.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
By the way, more bad news. We have
to do security at the Barnes'
Ranch.

Little Bear doesn't move.

LITTLE BEAR
Tonight?

DANIEL
Yep.

Daniel gets in his car. He whips it around and heads toward
the valley.

Again, Little Bear shows little emotion.

LITTLE BEAR
Figures.

Little Bear removes the solar panel off the roof of his car, and unplugs it from inside. He gets in, and drives toward the mountains.

EXT. PITTED POTATO BAR - DAY

A crowd surrounds a HISPANIC MAN (30s), blue jeans and dirty t-shirt, tackling a WHITE MAN (20s), ripped flannel shirt and blue jeans. They exchange blows.

Cheers come from the crowd with each punch, as Daniel pulls up.

Daniel's car barely stops, and he is out the door and pulling on the Hispanic Man. Daniel manages to pull him off and is pushing him away. The White Man quickly gets to his feet and mounts an attack.

The moment the White Man reaches the two men, Daniel quickly draws his plasma gun and pistol whips him. The White man falls immediately to the ground - out cold.

The Hispanic Man is still fired up. Daniel holds him back.

DANIEL

What's going on here?

HISPANIC MAN

This piece of crap, called me an uneducated slave.

Hispanic Man pushes on Daniel. Daniel gets in his face.

DANIEL

Do you want some too?

Holds his plasma pistol up. Hispanic man calms down some.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Didn't think so. You may be uneducated, but you're not stupid.

The White Man slowly gets to his feet. The crowd slowly dissipates.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Take him inside. Buy him a drink.

Daniel pushes the Hispanic Man to some of the other HISPANIC MEN. They pat him on the back and guide him toward the bar entrance.

Daniel turns and pulls the White Man to his car.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's over. Everyone back to drinking.

Some in the crowd cheer and head back into the bar.

WHITE MAN

Did you have to do that?

He holds the temple of his head, rubbing it gingerly.

DANIEL

You're lucky I didn't shoot you.

The White Man looks at Daniel, deer-in-the-headlights.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I couldn't hit anything with this.

He holds up the plasma gun and looks at it in disgust. He looks back up at the White Man.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What's going on anyway? What's this fight about?

WHITE MAN

We work, we drink, we call each other names, we fight. That's what we do.

The White Man dusts himself off.

DANIEL

Sounds stupid to me.

WHITE MAN

Yeah, because you are part of THEM.

DANIEL

Them?

WHITE MAN

Yeah, Them. The BIG POTATOES.

Daniel clearly befuddled.

DANIEL

So, I'm THEM BIG POTATOES? You sound like Little Bear.

WHITE MAN

We like Little Bear. He's LITTLE POTATOES, like us.

Daniel sighs.

DANIEL

I understand you farm potatoes, but do you use them in everything you talk about?

WHITE MAN

This is what I mean. Come with me.

The White Man walks to an old pickup truck, with Daniel following. He opens up the bed that has potatoes in bins on both sides. Left side is small ones, the right side are quite a bit bigger. He points from left to right.

WHITE MAN (CONT'D)
LITTLE POTATOES, BIG POTATOES.

Daniel takes a potato from each side, amazed at the difference.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Man #1 and Man #2 weave through the trees.

MAN #1
You think anyone survived?

MAN #2
Not sure. All I know, we did.

MAN #1
Guess that's all that matters.

MAN #2
Yep.

Man #2 freezes.

MAN #2 (CONT'D)
Hold on.

Man #1 stops. Man #2 pulls his AK47 rifle to a firing position.

MAN #1
What's going on?

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Little Bear drives down a mountain road winding through the trees. He keenly scans the area as he drives, then...

A GUNSHOT

Little Bear's car slams to a stop. He quickly exits and stands. He smells and peers in a certain direction. He pauses, then gets back into the car and speeds on.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Man #1 and Man #2 creep up onto a deer laying on it's side, it bleeds from the throat. Man #1 has a knife in hand. Man #2 reaches with his rifle and pokes at the deer. It's done. He turns to Man #1.

MAN #2
Dinner.

MAN #1

Good shot.

They both bend down to begin the processing of their meal.

E/I. MOUNTAIN ROAD/LITTLE BEAR'S CAR - DAY

Little Bear maneuvers his car down the winding road. He picks up his communication device.

LITTLE BEAR

Maggie. You need to get a hold of the sheriff. I tried him twice. No answer.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

I think he's still at the Pitted Potato.

LITTLE BEAR

Find him. Tell him to meet me on Swisher Road, just past Douglas Fork.

Little Bear veers onto Swisher Road. He slows the car down considerably.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

I'll see what I can do.

LITTLE BEAR

Tell him I heard a gun shot.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Oh dear. I'll get him for you.

LITTLE BEAR

Thanks.

The car is now barely rolling. The driver's window is down, and Little Bear has his head out the window. His eyes are closed, he listens.

EXT. PITTED POTATO BAR - DAY

Daniel stands examining the potatoes. He notices the bins with the small potatoes have an "X" on them. The big bins have a symbol of two arms interlocking and shaking hands - The Union symbol.

DANIEL

Obviously, these are for the Union. Are those just throw aways?

The White Man stares at Daniel in disbelief.

WHITE MAN

You really don't know, do you?

Daniel tosses the potatoes back into their respective containers.

DANIEL

I'm not in the mood for guessing.
I could just clock you in the head
again, and be on my merry way.

WHITE MAN

No. I'm still woozy.

DANIEL

They are all "Union" ones, right?

WHITE MAN

Nope. They go to...

Another pickup pulls up. A MAN (50s), short and fat but dressed nice, gets out. He glares at the White Man standing with the sheriff.

WHITE MAN (CONT'D)

Crap, there's the boss.

The White Man looks at the ground, Daniel notices. Daniel heads in THE BOSS'S direction.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Sheriff. Come in Daniel.

The voice emanates from the front seat of Daniels car. Daniel and The Boss exchange looks before Daniel turns and heads to his car.

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

Daniel, can you hear me? Please
respond.

Daniel reaches in the car and retrieves his communication device.

DANIEL

Go ahead Maggie.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Little Bear needs your assistance.

DANIEL

I'm still here at The Pitted
Potato.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

I know.

Daniel watches as The Boss walks up to the White Man. Out of earshot, the Boss chews him out, get into The Boss's truck and speed off. The White Man's eyes speak volumes in silence to Daniel as they pass by him.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He heard shots.

Daniel snapped back to the conversation.

DANIEL
What? Where?

Daniel gets in the car.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
He said meet him on Swisher Road,
just passed Douglas Fork. Hurry.

Car starts and heads out.

DANIEL
On my way.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Man #1 takes a hind quarter of deer from Man #2, who is on his knees carving up the kill. The faint sound from the road stops Man #2. Man #1 instantly reacts to him.

MAN #1
What?

MAN #2
Hide. Now.

Both men quickly make their way through the trees away from the road. They hide behind some big Douglas Fir trees.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Little Bear brings his car to a stop. He pauses, then slowly exits the vehicle. He leaves the door open. He removes his communicator and puts it on the front seat.

He cautiously enters the woods on the edge of the road. He examines the brush and scans the woods as he slowly moves further in.

Man #1 looks at Man #2, just three trees over. Man #1 takes out his semi-automatic pistol. Man #2 motions to him. Not yet.

Little Bear glides across the foliage, and finds the deer carcass. He bends down and examines it.

Something is not right. Little Bear stands up, looks around him, and then casually heads back toward his car.

Man #1 and Man #2 look at each other. A slow silent exhale from both confirm the eased tension.

Little Bear gets into his car and backs away.

INT. LITTLE BEAR'S CAR - DAY

Little Bear has his communicator in one hand as he slowly backs down the road. At a safe distance -

LITTLE BEAR
Sheriff, you out there?

DANIEL (V.O.)
Heading your way.

LITTLE BEAR
Meet me on Barnes Ranch Road and
Copper.

DANIEL (V.O.)
Thought you were on Swisher Road?

LITTLE BEAR
Had to leave. I'll tell you when
you get there.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Man #1 and Man #2 emerge from their hiding places after Little Bear's car vacates the area. They slowly move back to the deer kill. They quickly remove some more meat.

MAN #1
That was an Indian.

MAN #2
No crap.

Man #2 saws off a huge portion with skill, using his massive hunting knife. He hands it to Man #1.

MAN #2 (CONT'D)
We need to get what we can for now
and move on. He'll be back.

MAN #1
And he probably won't be alone.

They peel off a little more and hurry back into the woods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD - SAME

A SCOPE lens shows them as they make their way through the woods.

Pull back to reveal a GHILLIE SUIT MAN, barely noticeable in the woods. He is prone with a camouflaged rifle, SCOPE to his eye.

He briefly looks up, face painted camouflaged as well, and then returns to viewing.

He watches them and then expertly disappears into the woods.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Little Bear doesn't even move when Daniel slams on the brakes, sliding to a stop in front of him. Little Bear slowly walks over to the passenger door and gets in.

INT. DANIEL'S CAR - DAY

DANIEL

What'd you see?

LITTLE BEAR

Saw a deer carcass, half carved up.
Heard a shot.

DANIEL

Did you see anyone?

LITTLE BEAR

Sensed at least one, maybe two.
Didn't stick around to count 'em.

DANIEL

They're probably gone now, spooked.

LITTLE BEAR

I'll find 'em.

Daniel's grin says it all.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The tires on the electric vehicle spin in the dirt from the road, as he punches it.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

The door flies open. Maggie, sitting at her desk, drops her coffee cup. Jake leaps through the entryway.

JAKE

Gotcha.

Relief shows as Maggie begins the cleanup.

MAGGIE

Jake Johnson. You can't do that to
an old woman like me.

Tosses his pack into a chair, Jake skips to Maggie's desk.

JAKE

You're not old, you're experienced.

Not looking up.

MAGGIE
That sounds like your grandpa.

JAKE
Yep.

Last bit of coffee now soaked into the rag.

MAGGIE
How was school?

Jake plops into a chair across from Maggie.

JAKE
My teacher told us about the
holdouts.

MAGGIE
What'd she say about them?

He ponders the question, as if the answer was on the ceiling.

JAKE
She said they destroy the land, are
terrorists, and all around bad
people.

Maggie doesn't hide the shock.

MAGGIE
She really said that?

JAKE
Yep. They are a menace to society.

He starts pulling out some papers and books from his pack.

MAGGIE
Do you believe that?

Again, he looks up to see if the answer is there.

JAKE
I don't know.

MAGGIE
Well, I know what your grandpa
thinks about them.

Jake alertly.

JAKE
What?

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Daniel and Little Bear exit the car. They walk off the road and into the woods.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 He thinks they are just people.
 Most of them don't know what
 happened.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

They come upon what's left of the deer.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And he believes that most people
 are good.

Little Bear points to the forest floor.

LITTLE BEAR
 Two sets of tracks. This way.

Points deeper into the woods. Daniel stands and looks in
 that direction, but...

He looks down, slowly turns around.

Little Bear starts the tracking.

Daniel now peering keenly in the opposite direction.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUING

View through the SCOPE again. The GHILLIE SUIT MAN, well
 hidden in the trees, follows their every move. He is
 trained on Daniel now.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - CONTINUING

Little Bear stops, notices he's walking alone.

LITTLE BEAR
 Tracks are this way.

No answer.

He makes his way back to Daniel. Stands next to him looking
 the same direction.

LITTLE BEAR (CONT'D)
 You okay?

DANIEL
 Yeah. Someone's out there.

LITTLE BEAR
 I thought I was the Indian?

Daniel chuckles. His concentration broken.

DANIEL
 Okay. Where do the tracks go?

LITTLE BEAR

This way, deeper into the woods.

They return to the tracks leading away from the deer.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUING

The view from the SCOPE follows them. They only get part of the way before...

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - CONTINUING

DANIEL

You know, this could take a while.
We could follow this all night, but
we have other plans now.

LITTLE BEAR

I would rather track than babysit.

DANIEL

Believe me, I would too, but...

LITTLE BEAR

Lieutenant Pain-In-The-Butt would
be...

Beat.

LITTLE BEAR (CONT'D)

Himself.

Daniel is amused by this.

DANIEL

Come on.

Both wind through the trees back to the car waiting on the road.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUING

The SCOPE doesn't miss a step.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - CONTINUING

At the car, Little Bear gets in. Daniel pauses. Squints to see better in the direction he was looking earlier. Shakes his head, gets in. Near silent, the car pulls away down the road.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - LATER

Man #1 and Man #2 plod under the forest canopy, agitated.

MAN #1

We didn't even finish the deer.

MAN #2
You saw the uniform, right?

MAN #1
Yeah. Indian Sheriff?

MAN #2
You're kidding, right? Probably
deputy.

MAN #1
So that means there's more.

MAN #2
And now they'll be looking for us.

They come to a clearing in the trees. As they get close,
they now stalk slowly just at the edge of the treeline.

MAN #2 (CONT'D)
Well, looky there.

EXT. BARNES RANCH HOUSE - DUSK

The clearing reveals THE BARNES RANCH. Wood and stone
accent the massive structure. Smoke smoothly flows from the
many fireplaces.

A HUMMER H1 drives up the long, winding driveway. Valet
greeted it, a MAN driver and WOMAN passenger, exit. The
valet jumps in and drives the H1 to where other vehicles -
JEEPS, MERCEDES SUVs, LAND ROVERS - are parked.

The elegantly dressed Man and Woman go inside the ranch
house.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake sits on the other side of Daniel's desk doing homework.
Maggie is up at a filing cabinet.

Little Bear walks in, then Daniel.

DANIEL
We will have to pick up their trail
in the morning.

Jake whips around.

JAKE
Grampa.

He is at Daniel in a flash. Daniel lifts him up.

DANIEL
How was school?

JAKE
Good.

MAGGIE

Wait 'til you hear about it.

Daniel finishes with his hug and returns Jake to the ground. Little Bear approaches him. Jake's hand snaps into his backpack and retrieves something.

JAKE

Hello, Little Bear.

He holds out his hand to reveal -

A PENCIL

Little Bear accepts the gift as it were gold. He, in return, holds out his hand. Opens it to give -

A STONE CARVED INTO A BEAR

To a wide-eyed Jake.

LITTLE BEAR

Hello, Lightning Cub.

Daniel shakes his head.

DANIEL

Now that's a fair trade. Thought I told you not to do that with him.

Little Bear gladly accepts his gift.

LITTLE BEAR

Lightning Cub is learning a valuable lesson.

DANIEL

Yeah, give crap, receive gold.

LITTLE BEAR

No. It is much deeper than that. You know.

The laugh gives him away.

DANIEL

Well, at least you now have a pencil.

Maggie is putting papers away.

MAGGIE

Tell your grandpa what you learned at school.

JAKE

Maggie says the teacher is wrong.

Daniel glances at Maggie. He knows what's coming.

DANIEL

About what?

JAKE

The teacher said that the holdouts
are bad people.

MAGGIE

And...

JAKE

Mess up the planet.

MAGGIE

And...

JAKE

Terrorists and a menace to society.

Shock hits Daniel, even Little Bear's eyebrows show his
reaction.

DANIEL

They're just people, like you and
me.

JAKE

And Maggie and Little Bear?

DANIEL

Yep. They just see things
different. Some have been in the
mountains a long time.

Daniel bends down to look Jake in the eyes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You let me decide who is good and
bad. Okay?

JAKE

Okay.

Daniel stands. He removes his hat and puts it on Jake. He
looks at Maggie.

DANIEL

Maggie, can you take Jake home and
watch him 'til I get back?

Maggie comes over and puts her arm around Jake.

MAGGIE

Looks like it's you, me, pizza and
cake.

JAKE

Yea.

Little Bear shows his disdain.

DANIEL

Thanks. We shouldn't be too long.

Daniel takes his hat off of Jake's head.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Be good for Maggie. I'll see you later.

JAKE

K.

Little Bear heads for the door. Daniel is not far behind. Before he closes the door -

MAGGIE

Still think the holdouts are good?

He pauses at the doorway, looks down, puts his hat on his head.

DANIEL

I hope so.

He walks out and shuts the door behind him.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Daniel steps off the porch. He unplugs the charging cord from his car.

Little Bear stands next to his car with the door open.

DANIEL

You get over to the Barnes' Ranch.

Daniel follows the retractable cord back to it's location.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I want you on perimeter. I'll take inside.

LITTLE BEAR

I take it you aren't going over there right now.

Daniel heads back to his car.

DANIEL

Gotta make a stop.

Little Bear chuckles.

LITTLE BEAR

Tell her I said Hello.

Daniel hesitates before he gets in.

DANIEL

Who?

Little Bear sits in his car. Door still open.

LITTLE BEAR

You better take your snake bite kit.

With that, he laughs and shuts his door.

DANIEL

I don't know what you are talking about.

Little Bear pulls up along side Daniel. Rolls down the passenger side window.

LITTLE BEAR

Where you're going is more dangerous than the any Holdouts.

He laughs, rolls the window up, and takes off.

DANIEL

That was a long time ago.

Daniel gets in and shuts his door. He starts the car. Pauses.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Just hope I don't run into her.

Daniel speeds off.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

A parking lot with a speckle of vehicles remain. Daniel whips into an empty space. He exits his car and puts his hat on.

He walks up to the school, removes his hat, and enters.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Daniel walks down the hallway lined with lockers. He stops in front of a door.

He tries to open it. Locked. He peers in. Looks down the hallway and sighs. He shakes his head and ambles away from the door down the hallway.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The door is open. The glass on the door reads:

PRINCIPAL MILLER

A neat but paper piled desk is near a window that looks out onto the playground outside. Seated is SUZANNE MILLER (late 30s, early 40s), pretty and professional. A phone is in her hand.

SUZANNE MILLER

Yes, Mrs. Jenkins. I'm sure Johnny didn't mean to throw the rock at her.

Suzanne writes on a paper as she talks.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

The way I see it, if he sits inside during recess, there is no way any rocks can be thrown.

Daniel passes by. Suzanne does a double take, but returns back to the conversation.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

You are welcome to come here and talk about it --

Suzanne looks down, continues to write.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

-- but nothing will change.

Daniel peeks in. Suzanne sees him.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

I have a visitor. Come if you must, Johnny's still in trouble.

Daniel stands in the doorway.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Mrs. Jenkins.

Suzanne hangs up the phone. She looks like she sees a ghost. Then, a smiles starts.

DANIEL

Mrs. Miller.

A reaction. Not good. All business now.

SUZANNE MILLER

Sheriff. It's been a while.

Daniel steps in.

DANIEL

Yep.

SUZANNE MILLER

What can I do for you?

Daniel motions to one of the chairs opposite Suzanne's desk.

DANIEL

May I?

SUZANNE MILLER

Of course.

Daniel sits down. He puts his hat gently on the desk.

DANIEL

I needed to talk to Mrs. Phelps,
but she's not in.

SUZANNE MILLER

Yes, on Friday she has yoga so she
leaves as soon as school is out.

Daniel's face says it all.

DANIEL

Yoga?

SUZANNE MILLER

It's good for --

Suzanne gets back on track.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

Is there something I can help you
with?

Daniel rubs his chin. Hesitates.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

Well?

DANIEL

Jacob said Mrs. Phelps told the
class that the Holdouts were bad
people.

Suzanne doesn't buy it.

SUZANNE MILLER

I'm sure she didn't mean that.

Daniel looks like he expected that response.

DANIEL

She said they were terrorists and
are killing the planet.

Suzanne shakes her head.

SUZANNE MILLER

Jacob must have heard her wrong.

Daniel throws his head back.

DANIEL

Of course. Jacob has a hearing problem. That's it. Problem solved.

SUZANNE MILLER

Now wait a minute, Daniel. I didn't say that.

Daniel continues.

DANIEL

The FEMALE teacher COULDN'T have said that. The MALE little boy MUST HAVE heard it wrong.

Suzanne tries to keep it together.

SUZANNE MILLER

I'm just saying --

Daniel's arms are now in the air.

DANIEL

It's always the same with you, Sue.

Professionalism is now gone.

SUZANNE MILLER

Now look here. I didn't accuse Jacob of anything. You just took it that way. Like always.

Daniel stands up.

DANIEL

Men just can't hear things, and women are never wrong.

Suzanne now stands.

SUZANNE MILLER

We are not going to have this conversation. How many times do I have to tell you?

Daniel hears that.

DANIEL

See? Now, my hearing is bad. It must be genetics.

SUZANNE MILLER

You are not going to pull me into one of these again. We are talking about Jacob.

Daniel turns around.

DANIEL

No. You were accusing Jacob.

Suzanne points at him.

SUZANNE MILLER

See. You did it again. That's not what I said.

Daniel puts his hands on her desk. Faces her.

DANIEL

That's what I heard.

Suzanne attempts to collect herself.

SUZANNE MILLER

Can we get back to the main point?

DANIEL

Fine.

Suzanne sits down.

SUZANNE MILLER

Now, I will talk with Mrs. Phelps to get her side.

DANIEL

She said "her side" already.

Suzanne glares, but doesn't fall for it again.

SUZANNE MILLER

Sit down, Sheriff.

Daniel tightens his lips. Sits down in the chair.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

Like I said. I will talk to her on Monday. I will also talk to Jacob first thing.

Daniel shakes his head.

SUZANNE MILLER (CONT'D)

I take that as acceptable?

Daniel calms a bit.

DANIEL

Sure.

Suzanne writes on some paper.

SUZANNE MILLER

Is there anything else? I'm trying to get out of here myself.

Daniel sighs.

DANIEL

No.

Suzanne looks up. Tries to smile.

SUZANNE MILLER

Have a good day, Sheriff.

Suzanne looks back down and writes some more.

Daniel gets up. He retrieves his hat from the desk. He pauses a moment.

DANIEL

You too, Sue.

He turns and leaves the office.

When Daniel is gone, Suzanne stops writing and looks up. She sinks back into the chair. The emotion then hits.

SUZANNE MILLER

UUUUGGGGHHHH.

Suzanne pushes the papers on her desk.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

INT. BARNES RANCH HOUSE - NIGHT

Music plays, people dance, servers serve, you can almost smell the money. Daniel walks through the crowd and sticks out like a sore thumb. Dirty uniform, cowboy hat and boots, don't quite fit.

He finds LT. RICK ANDERSON (40s), African-American man, three-piece suit, prim and pressed. He is engaged in conversation with MITCH BARNES (50s), white man, oozes success.

LT. ANDERSON

Sheriff. I was just talking about you.

Barnes stretches out a hand.

BARNES

Mitch Barnes. Enjoying the party?

Daniel shakes his hand, looks at Anderson.

DANIEL

I'm working. Little Bear is patrolling the perimeter.

Barnes' eyes move to Daniels plasma pistol strapped to his hip.

BARNES

I see. You even look the part.

Daniel "quick draws" his plasma gun. Barnes jumps back.

LT. ANDERSON

Are you kidding me?

He returns it to it's holster.

DANIEL

No need to be scared. These things can't hit crap.

Barnes shaken, but recovers.

BARNES

So why do you carry it then?

DANIEL

Exactly. Why do I carry this?

Glares at Anderson.

LT. ANDERSON
We've been through this. I don't
want to...

Daniel's view moves to a gun case. Inside are many rifles.
He motions with his head.

DANIEL
Aren't those illegal?

Barnes smiles. Doesn't look at it, only at Daniel.

BARNES
Those are locked up.

Back at Barnes.

DANIEL
Who has the key?

Barnes looks to Anderson for help.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - BARNES RANCH - NIGHT

Crouched down behind trees at the edge of the clearing, Man
#1 and Man #2 whisper.

MAN #2
We need to get our hands on one of
those cars.

MAN #1
Yeah. I saw a Jeep I could live
with.

MAN #2
I'll cover you from out here.

MAN #1
Hey, why do I have to go?

MAN #2
Because I'm a better shot.

Man #1 shakes his head.

MAN #1
I knew I should have practiced
more.

MAN #2
Get going. Stay low and use cover.

Man #1 flashes his disbelief.

MAN #1
No crap. Just cover me.

Man #1 raises up, cranes his neck left to right, and takes off in a low crouching run toward the parked vehicles.

Binoculars up, Man #2 scans the area.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - SAME

SCOPE POV:

From behind, Man #2 is seen looking around.

View pulls back to show the barely visible GHILLIE SUIT MAN, like a clump of leaves next to a tree. Slight movement is all that is noticeable.

INT. BARNES RANCH HOUSE - NIGHT

A SERVANT, in a tuxedo, approaches. On his tray, champagne and wine. He offers to the men.

BARNES

Ah, yes.

Barnes takes a glass of champagne.

BARNES (CONT'D)

Sheriff?

Not amused.

DANIEL

On duty. It means something to me.

Anderson takes a glass of wine.

LT. ANDERSON

Well, I'm not on duty.

Agitation takes over Daniel.

DANIEL

Lieutenant, we really need to get new weapons.

He again draws his plasma gun from the holster.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Six shots, and not even accurate, isn't going to cut it.

LT. ANDERSON

This isn't the place.

Daniel holsters the gun.

DANIEL

And it's a matter of time before that car runs out of juice on the mountain.

Barnes snickers.

LT. ANDERSON
Enough, Johnson.

Daniel points to the gun case.

DANIEL
At least someone around here has
decent weapons and cars.

The professional image melts, as Anderson loses his cool.

LT. ANDERSON
Sheriff, I've had it up to here
with your complaining. I'm going
to...

GUN FIRE

erupts outside the ranch house. The sound of a PLASMA GUN

FIRES OFF

in intervals.

Screams inside from the guests ring out.

DANIEL
Everyone. Away from the windows.

People duck for cover and run. They just clear one of the
windows as it

SHATTERS

from a bullet.

Daniel grabs the panicked Anderson.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Get these people to a safe place.

He quickly draws his PLASMA GUN and heads for the door,
weaving through the scared patrons.

Anderson looks to Barnes crouched behind a high-backed
chair.

LT. ANDERSON
Let's go.

They both spring up and corral the terrified people toward a
ballroom away from the action. After they clear the room,
Anderson and Barnes peer out the doorway.

LT. ANDERSON
I wish I had my gun.

BARNES

Hold on.

Barnes heads off toward another room.

LT. ANDERSON

Where are you going?

Moments later, Barnes emerges. He quickly takes cover next to Anderson. Barnes hands him a .45 semi-auto pistol.

LT. ANDERSON

After this is over, we need to talk.

EXT. BARNES RANCH HOUSE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Little Bear is on one side of a 4x4 pickup truck, The large wheel and pickup bed is all that protects him from -

A HAIL OF BULLETS

He returns fire from his PLASMA GUN, ducking back again from the onslaught.

Daniel runs from the door, and makes it to a Mercedes sedan. He pokes his head enough to see the shooter, in camouflage fatigues. Daniel aims, fires.

Man #1 jumps back behind the Jeep, as the BLAST from Daniel's PLASMA PISTOL bounces off the back bumper. He turns 45 degrees to Daniel and rakes the Mercedes with fury.

Seeing his opportunity, Little Bear steadies himself. Props his gun on the bed and fires.

The Jeep windshield

SHATTERS

Man #1 falls backward. Another

BLAST

hits the ground beside him. He scrambles to the side of the Jeep. He ejects his magazine, loads another.

Daniel moves quickly behind another vehicle as Little Bear FIRES his six shots. Daniel looks at his charger on his belt -

3/4 CHARGED.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - BARNES RANCH - NIGHT

Man #2 breathes steadily. Through his sights, Daniel crouches behind a vehicle. Finger on the trigger.

BANG

Daniel is jolted by the sound. He looks to the treeline to see Man #2, back arched, fall face down.

SCOPE POV:

Same view, from behind. GUILLE SUIT MAN slides the bolt to eject the spent cartridge, loads another.

Man #1 sees his buddy shot. Rage takes over. He stands, yells, and begins a non-stop

BARRAGE OF BULLETS

He walks toward the truck where Little Bear is.

Daniel checks the charger -

ALMOST FULL CHARGE

Little Bear can't do anything but kneel behind the truck wheel. Bullets

PING

all around him.

As Man #1 approaches, Little Bear closes his eyes. His pistol in his hand, he makes his peace.

Daniel looks again -

NEAR FULL

He helplessly looks on, as Man #1 seems unstoppable.

Man #1 pauses, at the truck only for a second to get a good aim.

BANG BANG BANG

Man #1 drops.

Lt. Anderson stands beside another vehicle, .45 in hand.

Daniel raises up. He runs over to the truck where Little Bear is.

Little Bear gets up, dusts himself off.

DANIEL

You alright?

LITTLE BEAR

I probably won't know until tomorrow.

Daniel puts his hand on Little Bear's shoulder, in relief for both of them. Anderson walks up to them.

DANIEL

Thanks boss.

Anderson shakes his head in disgust.

LT. ANDERSON

Holdouts. This is why I can't
stand them.

FADE OUT:

END ACT 3

ACT 4

FADE IN:

EXT. BARNES RANCH - NEAR TREELINE - NIGHT

The body of Man #2 lies face down on the ground. Little Bear kneels down examining the body with a flashlight.

Spotlights start to pop on in the parking lot, as Daniel and Lt. Anderson approach together.

DANIEL
He would've shot me for sure.

LITTLE BEAR
Gunshot to the back.

DANIEL
Back? Did you sneak up behind him?

Daniel looks at Lt. Anderson for an answer. Confusion written on Anderson's face.

LT. ANDERSON
You think I did this?

DANIEL
Sure. Neither one of us have a "real" gun, only you.

Anderson scratches his head.

LT. ANDERSON
I didn't shoot him.

Now the confusion is spreading.

DANIEL
Well, then he shot himself.

Shakes his head.

LT. ANDERSON
Ridiculous. Ricochet maybe?

Little Bear stands and looks about.

LITTLE BEAR
Can't tell in this darkness.

LT. ANDERSON
Our troops will investigate further tomorrow. Drones will canvas the area as well.

Daniel's attention returns to the woods. The blackness within the trees pulls his gaze. Little Bear notices.

LITTLE BEAR

You okay?

His stare is unbroken.

DANIEL

Same feeling as I did in the woods earlier.

LT. ANDERSON

Hopefully, we can get to the bottom of all this.

Anderson is ignored.

LITTLE BEAR

Friendly or foe?

DANIEL

Not sure.

In his own thoughts, Anderson turns back toward the ranch house.

LT. ANDERSON

If it was a ricochet, it would have hit over there...

The woods now draw Little Bear's attention.

LITTLE BEAR

We need to find their tracks. Find their bunker.

Swinging around, Anderson continues.

LT. ANDERSON

And somewhere over there.

DANIEL

We'll pick them up in the morning. We need to find it before the government troops do.

Little Bear looks at Daniel.

LITTLE BEAR

We always do.

The trance is broken, Daniel shakes his head as he acknowledges Little Bear. He smiles and they both head off toward the parking lot.

LT. ANDERSON

Hey, what were you guys talking about?

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - NIGHT

Through the lens of NIGHT VISION GOGGLES, someone shifts through the trees. A mound is seen ahead. Our squirrel freezes on top, then darts away scared to death.

Now move to the side of the mound. A hand moves down and fishes through the brush, pulls up burlap, revealing steps leading down to a door.

Stepping down the steps to the door, again a hand juts out, tries the handle. Locked. Move back, a kick above the knob. As the door flies open, a pistol seen in the ready position.

INT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake leaps into his bed, and shimmies into the covers. Daniel is not far behind, and tucks him in.

JAKE

Grampa?

DANIEL

No stalling, it's late.

He ignores this.

JAKE

Were you talking to Maggie about the holdouts?

DANIEL

You aren't supposed to listen to adult conversations.

JAKE

Were you?

Obviously, Jake will not let up.

DANIEL

Yes. Now go to sleep.

Jake continues.

JAKE

Did they really try to shoot you and Little Bear?

A sigh and a pause.

DANIEL

Yes.

JAKE

Were you scared?

DANIEL

Of course.

Jake shakes his head.

JAKE

I don't think you were, and I know
Little Bear wasn't.

Daniel sits at the edge of Jake's bed.

DANIEL

We were both scared. I can tell
you that.

JAKE

So doesn't that mean the holdouts
are bad?

This makes Daniel ponder. Controls his emotions.

DANIEL

Remember, you let me decide if they
are good or bad.

JAKE

Well, are they?

Experience wins.

DANIEL

Bad, is you not getting enough
sleep. We can talk tomorrow.

Obviously not happy with the answer, but knows his place.

JAKE

Okay. Goodnight.

Daniel leans in and kisses him on the forehead.

DANIEL

Goodnight, Jake.

He stands and turns out the light on the bedside table.
Daniel goes to the doorway and pulls the door, leaving a
crack as he leaves.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - BUNKER - NIGHT

The view from the NIGHT VISION GOGGLES scans the one room
bunker. Many shelves line the walls, occupied with a myriad
of canned foods. An old couch is to one side with a chair
beside it.

A bag comes into view, thrown onto a counter in the back
corner of the bunker. Arms work the shelves, pulling off
many of the canned items. Inspect, place in the bag,
continues.

The bag is lifted and moved across the room to a large cedar chest on the floor. The lid is lifted, and the POV moves closer. It is filled with guns and ammunition.

UNKNOWN MAN (V.O.)

Bingo.

INT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Maggie folds blankets as Daniel enters the room. He puts his hand on her shoulder.

DANIEL

Just leave them there, Maggie.

MAGGIE

We made a mess. I need to clean up.

She moves to the coffee table, and sweeps popcorn remnants into the bowl.

DANIEL

Don't worry about that. I'll get it. You need to get on home.

Maggie wipes her hands, stands and looks at Daniel. She can see the weariness in his face.

MAGGIE

Okay, but I don't like it. I know you had a long day.

DANIEL

Yeah. Now I have to explain to Jake what happened.

MAGGIE

I'm sure he'll understand.

DANIEL

Maybe what happened, but not why it happened.

Maggie retrieves her coat from the comfy chair beside the table. Daniel helps her put it on.

MAGGIE

Do you know why it happened?

Pauses a moment.

DANIEL

We get some, like these two, every once in a while.

Slings her purse over her shoulder.

MAGGIE

Let's hope there aren't many more
like them.

With that, she heads for the door.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

There is pizza in the fridge. You
can offer some to Little Bear, but
I know he won't take it.

A smile and a snort.

DANIEL

I don't think he eats anything he
doesn't track down and kill
himself.

Maggie walks out the door.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

It's a wonder he eats at all.

DANIEL

Goodnight and thanks. Be careful
going home.

He shuts the door, and heads out the back porch door.

FADE OUT:

END ACT 4

TAG

EXT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

A cool breeze blows leaves at the feet of Little Bear. He and Daniel sit on chairs, both face out into the night. Daniel, eyes closed, takes in the air with a long breath. Exhales long and slow.

DANIEL

You know, me and my dad would be getting ready for hunting season about this time of year.

Little Bear slowly looks at Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Guns would be cleaned, gear prepped, knives sharpened.

His eyes return back to the nothingness.

INT. BUNKER - SAME

NIGHT VISION GOGGLES show hands rustle through the cedar chest with weapons. A Smith and Wesson Governor, six shot revolver, is pulled out. Studies it close.

UNKNOWN MAN (V.O.)

Nice.

Digs more into the chest and yanks a western style gun belt, with a holster. The revolver slides right in. Perfect. Tosses it into the bag.

One more dive in, hands come out with ammunition. Tosses it into the bag. An arm slides through one of the pack's straps. Hoists it over the shoulder.

LITTLE BEAR (V.O.)

My father said your father tracks like an Indian.

EXT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - BACK PORCH - SAME

Daniel shows his surprise.

DANIEL

I thought you didn't like the word "Indian?"

A grin almost peeks out of Little Bear's mouth.

LITTLE BEAR

You keep up with the "Cowboy" look, I guess I'll have to be the "Indian."

They both laugh.

INT. BUNKER - SAME

The NIGHT VISION GOGGLES move around the bunker.

DANIEL (V.O.)

We need to get to their bunker
first thing.

LITTLE BEAR (V.O.)

You think we'll find anything?

The view moves toward the door, swings open.

EXT. BUNKER - SAME

Through the goggles we move out, turn around, and show something in one hand.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Last one was all burned out.

The other hand pulls a pin out of the object. He tosses the object in. The view turns around and quickly makes it up the steps.

BOOM.

The goggles spin around to show the bunker going up in a flash. It burns quick, and then extinguished.

EXT. JOHNSON LOG HOME - BACK PORCH - SAME

Daniel takes a sip of coffee, sets it on the table, and sits back into his chair. Little Bear arms crossed, sits motionless. Daniel's eyes close again.

DANIEL

What do you know about potatoes?

A reaction. Not much of one, but one nonetheless.

LITTLE BEAR

Potatoes?

FADE OUT:

END OF PILOT