

Thunder rumbles in the distance...

FADE IN:

INT. SALOON BEDROOM - DAY

GABE closes his pocket watch and looks out the window.

Dark clouds are rolling in.

He shifts the 1860 Spencer rifle resting on his left shoulder and looks down into the deserted, ghost town of Contention.

Gabe's tired eyes dart from one withering structure to another. Not a soul in sight.

He looks out towards the edge of town where the decaying train station lies and follows it's tracks west...nothing.

VOICE

Running a little late, is it?

GABE

It'll be here.

VOICE

Yet the storm arrives right on time.

GABE

It'll be here.

Gabe looks down at his closed pocket watch. He rubs his thumb over the gold cross engraved on it.

VOICE

So much faith in something you've never seen.

Gabe closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

VOICE

Just think, you could've been home right now...tending the crops with your beautiful wife...finishing that barn with your boys...But instead...you've chosen to be stuck here with me.

Gabe looks over to his right...

A MAN IN BLACK sits comfortably at a table in the corner. Feet crossed, resting on top of the table. A black, saddle-brim hat next to his feet. His hands in his lap, sketching something into an old book.

The MAN looks up and smiles at Gabe.

MAN

You know how that makes me feel?

Gabe doesn't return the smile.

GABE

It *will* be here.

The MAN continues his sketch.

MAN

If you say so, boss.

Gabe sets his rifle up against the wall next to a sawed off shotgun and sits down in a chair across from the Man. Gabe pulls out a Colt revolver and empties it, bullet shells bouncing off the floor.

MAN

Tell me something, Gabe. If that train comes, and if you can get me on that train, and I say *if*, you think all your problems will disappear?

Gabe reloads his revolver.

GABE

You're the only problem that's gonna disappear.

MAN

That hurts my feelings, Gabe. You mean after all we've been through we're still not friends?

Gabe holsters his revolver and pulls out another, checking it.

GABE

If you consider us friends than do me a favor and don't talk to me.

MAN

I can do better than that.

GABE
Oh, and how's that?

MAN
I can give you anything you want.

GABE
Is that right?

The Man closes the book, brings his feet down and tosses the book onto the table. The book is an old, worn out bible.

MAN
That's right.

The Man raises his hands. They are chained together.

MAN
All you have to do is let me go.

GABE
Is this your last desperate attempt?

MAN
No, this is me waiting for the right moment. With everyone else dead, that means it's all on you now, Gabe. It's a lot easier to give one man anything than eight men everything.

The thunder grows stronger outside.

(beat)

GABE
Anything, huh?

MAN
Name your price. Buy that pretty little wife of yours a new dress. Make sure your kids get a proper education.

GABE
A lot of men died just to let you walk away?

MAN
Who's to say anyone ever really dies for anything?

The Man shrugs.

MAN
Who's to say out loud anyway?

(beat)

The dissolving sound of thunder turns into an odd whistling noise...like a train approaching.

Gabe's eyes light up. He rushes to the window.

EXT. CONTENTION TRAIN STATION - DAY

A quarter of a mile away from the station a ripple appears out of thin air six feet above the tracks....*the sound of the train's engine growing louder...the wind whips violently.*

...and a TRAIN bursts out of the ripple, belching fire and steam.

It slows until it comes to a complete stop in front of the station.

INT. SALOON BEDROOM - DAY

Gabe grabs the rifle and flings it's strap over his shoulder. He points the revolver at the Man.

GABE
Time to go.

The Man stands up and walks over to the window next to Gabe.

MAN
You think it's gonna be that easy?

Rain begins to fall...

GABE
Afraid to get a little wet?

MAN
I'm not talking about the storm.

Gabe looks out into the town.

EXT. CONTENTION - DAY

The rain turns the dirt ground into a giant pit of mud.

Monstrous noises can be heard...

A DEMONIC HAND pops out of the ground
LIGHTNING rips through the sky
and a DEMON pulls itself out of the mud.
More demons rise from the ground throughout the town.
The demons slowly make their way towards the saloon.

INT. SALOON BEDROOM - DAY

Gabe and the Man watch from the window.

The Man looks at Gabe.

MAN

The offer still stands, Gabe.

The demons can be heard downstairs, crashing through the front entrance.

They both look towards the door.

MAN

Here they come.

Demons are ripping the place apart.

MAN

They will tear you to pieces.

GABE

You can grant me anything?

The Man smiles.

MAN

That's right.

GABE

What if all I wanted was to be back home with my family...away from all of this?

MAN

You would have it.

The demons are getting closer.

Gabe grabs the sawed off shotgun and holsters the revolver.

GABE
And what if I said all I wanted was
to get you on that train?

The Man's smile disappears.

Gabe smashes the window with the butt of the shotgun.

A strong wind blows through...

...opening the bible sitting on the table. On the front page
is the Man's sketch: it's of Gabe, with angelic wings,
staring out the window.

Gabe smiles at the Man.

GABE
Don't forget your hat.