

LYNCH

Written by

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OVER BLACK.

TITLE: SHERMAN'S ARMY DESTROYED 317 MILES OF RAILROAD TRACKS FROM LATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1864. THESE TWISTED RAILS BECAME KNOWN AS "SHERMAN'S NECKTIES".

TITLE: AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CIVIL WAR, US LEGISLATION ENACTED THE "RECONSTRUCTION ACTS" THAT LED TO THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA FROM 1865 TO 1877.

SOUND OF TRAIN
ON TRACKS.

INT. TRAIN ROOMETTE - DAY

JOSEPH "JOE" WHITE (20s), fit, handsome, clean uniform is sitting on a train in a semi-private roomette in deep thought staring out the window.

Roomette is shared with COOPER LYNCH (30s), assassin, mean looking, clean shaven, with a heavy mustache, suit, concealing his identity from Joe and the audience with a newspaper. Joe takes notice of Cooper's shiny shoes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

TITLE: ALBANY, NEW YORK 1866

EXT. COLONEL ROSS OFFICE - DAY

Small military base, very basic, lots of activity.

INT. COLONEL ROSS OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is very basic with a receptionist desk and five waiting chairs. Joe is waiting in the lobby and is approached by RECEPTIONIST (20s), plain in appearance.

RECEPTIONIST
The colonel will see you now.

Joe follows the receptionist into Ross's Office.

INT. COLONEL ROSS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office is very basic, Ross's desk, his chair and two guest chairs positioned across from Ross. COLONEL CLARENCE ROSS (40s) Clean Cut, formal uniform, is seated at this desk reading a document, Joe formally salutes Ross.

JOE
Sergeant Joseph White, reporting
for duty, Sir.

Ross doesn't look up.

COLONEL ROSS
At-ease sergeant.

Joe now at-ease. Ross doesn't look up.

COLONEL ROSS (CONT'D)
You a copperhead?

JOE
No sir.

COLONEL ROSS
So you didn't want to fight, now
you want to help Granny in the
south?

JOE
Respectfully Sir. We won. No sense
in pouring salt in an open sore. I
just want to help where I can.

COLONEL ROSS
Hmmm. The smart man in me says no.
The practical man in me says, the
real soldiers don't care to rebuild
that which they just destroyed.

Ross is waiting for Joe's reaction.

COLONEL ROSS (CONT'D)
Well?

JOE
Sir, I'm a real soldier, but not
all soldiers need to kill.

COLONEL ROSS
Don't they though?

JOE
Again, respectfully Sir, I don't
believe so, we all have a part to
do.

Ross looks up.

COLONEL ROSS
Who's your god?

JOE

Sir?

COLONEL ROSS

Your god, what god do you worship?

JOE

Sir, I don't know a lot about religions. I believe in the almighty God. For he spake, and it came to be. He commanded and it stood firm.

COLONEL ROSS

We'll see about that.

Ross signs a document and hands it to Joe and continues shuffling and examining papers on his desk.

COLONEL ROSS (CONT'D)

You're dismissed.

Joe formally salutes Colonel Ross. Ross responds with a half salute without looking up.

EXT. COLONEL ROSS OFFICE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Joe is standing outside of the Colonel's office in deep thought.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

TITLE: KILLIAN, SOUTH CAROLINA 1866

Cooper arrives on his black horse to a hill overlooking a field. He dismounts, ties his horse to a tree and walks a short distance with a noticeable limp. He is in deep thought overlooking field with a rudimentary cross made of sticks in the ground marking a grave in the distance.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

TITLE: Rivers Bridge, South Carolina February 1865

BEGIN FLASHBACK: A battle of gun fire and cannons taking place. Cooper takes a bullet to the leg. As Cooper is watching his brother HENRY LYNCH (20s), he sees his brother explode into pieces as a cannon ball hits him.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Cooper is still in deep thought overlooking the field.

COOPER

(sinister)

I will kill them. I will kill them
all. I will avenge your death.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

HARRIET KILLIAN (20s) very pretty, brunette hair, and LUCILLE HAMILTON (20s) very pretty, red hair are fishing in the river, a very quiet area with slow moving water. Harriet pulls in a fish. The girls are laughing and enjoying their time.

LUCILLE

Did you hear of those workers?

HARRIET

You mean the union soldier workers?

EXT. WORKERS CAMP - DAY

The workers camp is one hundred square acres, with construction of tents and buildings and a horse ring and corral for their twenty horses, all surrounded by the construction of a basic wood fence. There are about thirty workers, both black and white.

COLONEL SYLVESTER TRAVIS (30s) clean cut, fit, but with dirty clothes speaking with SERGEANT LYSANDER HAYES "Lysander" (20s) Black, tall, very fit, strong man.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Let me school you something,
Sergeant.

LYSANDER

Yes, Sir.

COLONEL TRAVIS

You ain't never going to be equal
when you leave these grounds. You
ain't gettin' equal pay, ain't no
negros gettin' equal pay.

LYSANDER

Yessir.

COLONEL TRAVIS

But here, you get equal pay and three squares. I don't care what they say up north or down here.

LYSANDER

Much obliged, Colonel.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Not so fast. That don't mean you work the same. You and your men need to work harder, longer days.

LYSANDER

Yes Colonel.

COLONEL TRAVIS

That's just how it is. You need to be better.

LYSANDER

Yes Colonel.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Dismissed.

Lysander salutes Travis, Travis responds with a salute.

As Lysander is walking towards his men that are laughing and joking around with one another, Lysander smiles.

INT. EXT. KILLIAN HOME - NIGHT

Killian Home sits on the Killian Land of 500 acres with an a large home indicating semi-wealth, a large barn, and two other distiller buildings with a large steel and copper distiller, a horse ring and horse stable, a row of lemon trees and a field of grain. There is a long road that leads from the main road to the home.

ROGER KILLIAN (50s) large, husky man with a heavy silver beard is reading a book, very serious person. Roger hears horses rustling outside.

ROGER

I'll get you dirty rats.

Roger grabs his gun and exits home and stands on the front porch in silence as he scans the land.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Hmmm.

EXT. KILLIAN TRAIN STATION - DAY

Train is arriving into the Killian Train Station which is very small, with a small station platform about thirty meters with a separation of whites near front of train and blacks near the rear.

Joe, wearing a union soldier uniform is exiting train, to several mean stares from passengers waiting to board, as well as women hiding their children. Joe examines his map and begins to walk away.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - LATER

Joe is walking down a dirt road, with grain fields on each side, in the hot sun. He stops and drinks from a canteen and checks his map again.

EXT. WORKERS CAMP - LATER

Joe is approaching the front gate of the workers camp and greeted by PRIVATE #1 (16 yrs), there is a horse nearby tied to the fence.

GUARD #1
State your business!

Joe salutes the private, the private doesn't reciprocate.

JOE
Sergeant Joseph White, I'm here to see Colonel Travis.

GUARD #1
Sergeant, huh?

JOE
Yes, private.

GUARD #1
I have orders not to let anyone in.

JOE
Well, if you'd like, I can catch the next train back to Albany and have my colonel send a telegram asking why y-o-u private wouldn't let me in.

Guard pauses, then opens gate.

GUARD #1
You may enter.

Joe gives another salute, the private responds with a salute.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)
You'll find Colonel Travis two
hundred meters ahead.

JOE
Much obliged.

Joe continues on foot.

EXT. WORKERS CAMP - DAY - SEVERAL DAYS LATER

Joe and THOMAS BAUER "Bauer" (20s) Fit, shaggy sun bleached hair, both shirtless near the top of a windmill completing installation. Joe is mechanically inclined. The other workers, both black and white are building the campsite and erecting buildings and tents below them. Bauer is handing tools to Joe while Joe works on the windmill.

JOE
I think I got it, mauser.

Bauer hands Joe a mauser wrench. And Joe begins to twist a piece of metal.

JOE (CONT'D)
Give me that F clamp.

Bauer hands Joe the F clamp. Joe applies the F clamp and continues to work with the mauser wrench.

JOE (CONT'D)
(grunting)
Just one more pull.

The windmill begins to work and the men below cheer until they see Harriet and Lucille arrive driving a single horse carriage with two wood barrels on the back. Harriet admires Joe working on the windmill and notices he's very good working with his hands.

When the cheering stops, it catches Joe and Bauer's attention as they were focussed on the repair, but now they too both see Harriet and Lucille. They begin to climb down.

BAUER
Clearly you missed your calling.

JOE

Did I? I'm fixin, that's what I love.

BAUER

You know we ain't gettin' no hero's welcome, no medals, nuttin.

JOE

But I'll sleep well tonight.

BAUER

Yeah, on the dirt.

Joe and Bauer and the rest of the men admire the ladies. Colonel Travis approaches the ladies.

COLONEL TRAVIS

(tipping his hat)

Ladies.

HARRIET

Good day Sir.

LUCILLE

Good day Sir.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Good day.

Harriet looks to Lucille to do that talking.

LUCILLE

Greetings Sir. We have some lemon water for the men.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Lemon water, huh?

HARRIET

Yes Sir, we picked the lemons ourselves from my daddy's orchard.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Your daddy's a farmer?

HARRIET

I suppose we are all farmers, but he's more of a whiskey man himself.

COLONEL TRAVIS

Now that would get my attention.

Lucille opens a trunk on the back and hands Travis two bottles of whiskey.

COLONEL TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Mighty kind of you to oblige.

Travis opens one of the bottles and drinks from it, he's very satisfied with the taste.

COLONEL TRAVIS (CONT'D)
Your daddy made this?

HARRIET
Yes, Sir. He's knows whiskey.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING WORKERS CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The three brothers SHADRACH KILLIAN (20s), SEBASTIAN KILLIAN (20s), and WILLIAM "BILLY" KILLIAN (Teens) on horseback stop about a quarter mile from the Worker's Camp. Shadrach observes via binoculars.

BILLY
What do you reckon, Shad?

SHADRACH
I recon a Scalawag under our roof.

SEBASTIAN
How many guns they got?

SHADRACH
None I can see.

The two other brothers look at one another as Shadrach continues to look on intently.

EXT. WORKERS CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Travis takes another drink.

COLONEL TRAVIS
REST!

Joe and Bauer have climbed down from the windmill, nudge one another and join the other men in line to drink using the cups they have tied to their belts.

The whites form one line in front of one barrel and the blacks form another line in front of the other barrel.

Each man thanks the ladies with a tip of their hat as they dip their cups. Bauer takes a liking to Lucille.

BAUER

Mighty kind of you ma'am, thank
you.

Bauer tips his hat to both ladies, Lucille bats her
eyelashes. Joes steps up and smiles at Harriet.

JOE

Thank you ma'am.

Joe tips his hat and Harriet smiles and gives a friendly nod.
Joe walks away with Bauer and looks back and both Harriet and
Joe exchange smiles.

A covered horse-drawn carriage with two men seated in the
front arrives delivering mail.

TRAVIS

POST!

The men that are not in line gather around the covered wagon,
but Bauer and Joe remain smiling at the ladies.

LUCILLE

Don't you want your postal?

BAUER

I got all I need right here.

Lucille smiles and bats her eyelashes. Joe rolls his eyes and
places his hand on Bauer's shoulder.

BAUER (CONT'D)

Ok, Robert Louis Stevenson, time to
go back to work.

Both men walk away. Lucille is clearly flattered.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING WORKERS CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Shadrach sees this exchange via the binoculars and stays
focused on Joe. Shadrach is clearly angered.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

Joe yanks on his fishing rod and pulls in a fish. As he is
putting his fish in his sack, he hears rustling in the
bushes, he's startled and turns quickly. But it's too dark to
see anything, but knows someone or an animal is there. Joe
holds up his lantern.