

WAGON TRAIN

WGA 1975809

Written by

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Current revisions

09/14/2023

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INT. SALOON - DAY

SALOON PIANO MUSIC PLAYING

PAN, THE SALOON - PEOPLE HAVING A GOOD TIME

MOVE IN, There are three tables with card games going on at the same time.

A pretty saloon girl clings to the arm of an intoxicated cowboy as she leads him up the stairs.

CLOSE ON, the card game in the middle of the room.

SETH 21, a good-looking, clean-cut, athletic Caucasian male, is standing behind a card player named Jeff, wanting the game to hurry up and finish.

JEFF 40, a gruff, unshaven Caucasian male, the wagon train master, is sitting at the table with what he believes to be the winning hand.

Four other men are sitting at the table, playing poker against him.

A BUSINESSMAN 30-39, a well-dressed Hispanic male.

A DOCTOR 35-40, Caucasian male with spicules and a three-piece suit on.

A BOUNTY HUNTER 30-35, Caucasian male, large, dirty, grungy, and a killer.

A FARMER 35-45, Caucasian male, skinny, run-down, exhausted from life, wearing overalls.

SETH

(urgency)

We need to be going. The herd needs to be brought in before nightfall.

JEFF

(finally has luck on his side)

Don't rush me, son; lady luck is on my side this time. That pot's mine!

After hearing Jeff boast the businessman and the doctor folded their cards one after the other.

The bounty hunter examines his cards closely one more time.

CLOSE ON, Bounty hunter's cards, his hand 2-queens, ace, 1-5, 1-9.

The Bounty Hunter puts his hands together and plots his next move.

The bounty hunter takes a huge chug of whiskey from a bottle sitting beside him.

The bounty hunter throws some more money in the pot.

BOUNTY HUNTER
I called you.

Jeff, the farmer, and the bounty hunter are the remaining players in the game.

The farmer thinks long and hard while staring down his cards. Finally, reason takes over, and he folds, throwing his hand on the table.

Having feelings of remorse for his losses, the farmer lets out a sigh, and then gets up from the table.

The farmer leaves the saloon with his head hung low.

Jeff is overwhelmed and excited at the thought of winning his money back. He carelessly throws the last of his money into the pot.

Jeff proudly lays his cards down on the table for everyone to see.

JEFF
(with confidence)
Two pairs...

CLOSE ON, he has two pairs. (Kings and Tens)

The bounty hunter's lips are dry, so he takes a long drink of liquor from the bottle sitting on the table and sits it back down empty.

BOUNTY HUNTER
(contemptible grin)
It's not your lucky day!

The bounty hunter sits down with his cards on the table.

CLOSE ON, Full House (3 queens and two aces).

JEFF
(upset and a little drunk)
Come-on now. That can't be.

Seth puts his arm on Jeff to keep him from doing something he'll regret.

The bounty hunter looks at the saloon girl.

BOUNTY HUNTER
(to saloon girl)
Get me another bottle, missy.

The bounty hunter then reaches across the table to collect his winnings.

CLOSE ON, the corner of a card is visible in one of the bounty hunter's sleeves.

SETH
You are a cheat, mister!

Seth grabs hold of the bounty hunter's arm and reveals the cards he has hidden in his sleeve.

BOUNTY HUNTER
You're a dead man!

DOCTOR
You've been cheating the entire
time!

The doctor jumps up and draws a small pistol from inside his vest.

The bounty hunter is much quicker and SHOOTS the doctor in the chest.

As Jeff attempts to grab for his money, he is hit in the head with the bottle sitting on the table by the bounty hunter.

Seth draws his six-shooter and aims it at the bounty hunter while he is distracted by Jeff.

The bounty hunter is caught off guard and drops his weapon.

SETH
I'll be taking back the money that
you cheated him out of.

The Hispanic male takes his money back and tips his hat to Seth, then he quickly leaves the saloon.

Seth takes an exact amount and puts it in his pocket.

With his gun still pointed at the bounty hunter, he helps Jeff to his feet.

Jeff is still groggy and bleeding from the top of his head.

With Jeff leaning on Seth, they exit the saloon.

STREET. - CONTINUOUS

Seth puts his gun away while helping Jeff walk down the street.

GUNSHOT

Seth turns to see who it is.

BOUNTY HUNTER

I aim to kill you, boy, so let's get this over with.

SETH

I don't want to kill you, mister. So we'll be on our way.

The bounty hunter FIRES another SHOT at the ground in front of Seth.

BOUNTY HUNTER

I would rather not shoot-ya in the back, but it makes no difference to me.

VIEW FROM SALOON WINDOW: The bounty hunter is on one side of the street, as Seth is sitting Jeff down near a water troupe.

INT. SALOON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLAY 30-35, good-looking, athletic Caucasian male, backs away from the window and turns to the pretty half-naked saloon girl, KARA 18-22, Caucasian Burnett, who is lying on the bed.

CLAY

(to himself)

I knew you would turn up!

(to saloon girl)

I'm going to need a rain check for round three, darling. If you don't mind.

Kara is well satisfied with his stamina.

Clay kisses her and then grabs his two shiny six-shooters in their holsters off the bedpost.

STREET. - CONTINUOUS

After lying Jeff down. Seth fixes his holster and makes sure his gun is ready to fire.

Bounty Hunter POV, He is watching as Seth gets ready.

CLOSE ON, In the distance, his brother BART 25, a dirty Caucasian male, signals to the bounty hunter that he is moving into position.

BOUNTY HUNTER

You shouldn't have called me out
for cheating, boy!

Despite the tense atmosphere, Seth walks out in confidence toward the center of the street. Some 50-75 feet away from the bounty hunter.

SETH

Anyone with any morals knows it's
wrong to cheat a man out of his
hard-earned wages.

BOUNTY HUNTER

(stalling)
You got a bounty on your head, son?

SETH

No, sir. Now, does that mean you're
going to stop talking and actually
draw?

The bounty hunter is looking around.

Bounty Hunter POV, He doesn't see his brother anywhere.

CROWD

Bart is having trouble seeing past the crowd and moves behind the corner of a building to get a clear shot.

Bart's POV, from the end of his rifle, he now has a clear shot of Seth's back.

Bart is suddenly hit in the back of the head and knocked unconscious.

STREET. - CONTINUOUS

The bounty hunter is still looking for his brother to get into position.

BOUNTY HUNTER

(to himself)
Awww, screw it; this kid will be
easy.

The bounty hunter gets his hand very close to his weapon, causing Seth to respond in kind.

WHISTLING

Clay is WHISTLING as he walks out into the street and slowly up to Seth.

SETH

(to Clay)

What do you want, mister? You're here to help him?

CLAY

Nope. He and I have some unfinished business to attend to.

BOUNTY HUNTER

I don't know who the hell you are, but you better mind your business and be on your way.

CLAY

(to Seth)

I know you've probably got this kid, but would you mind if I took it from here?

SETH

Don't call me a kid; my name's Seth.

CLAY

(points to the bounty hunter)

Okay, Seth, do you mind if I...

SETH

Suit yourself; I've got an injured man to get home and a herd to bed down.

Seth turns and walks away toward the injured Jeff.

The bounty hunter is still looking to see where Bart is.

CLAY

If you're looking for your brother, I left him napping back behind the dry goods store.

BOUNTY HUNTER

(annoyed)

Why are you bothering me, mister?

CLAY

You killed a good friend of mine in Laredo, Texas. Actually, your brother shot him in the back.

BOUNTY HUNTER

(trying to remember)

Laredo,... Oh, smiling Jack Anderson! Yeah, he made me 10,000 dollars. Who are you really?

CLAY

The name is Clay Harris.

BOUNTY HUNTER

The name doesn't ring a bell. So, how much are you worth?

CLAY

\$50,000, but you and your back-shooting friends will never live to collect it.

CLOSE ON, In the distance, on the second floor above Clay, there is a small piece of a gun barrel extending out from a window.

Clay notices the gun sticking out the window; he turns and FIRES killing the man before he can shoot.

The man falls out of the window and to the ground.

The bounty hunter takes advantage of the distraction and SHOOTS Clay, hitting him in the right shoulder.

Clay returns FIRE with his six-shooter in his left hand, killing the bounty hunter with a single shot to the head.

ANOTHER BROTHER comes out of the saloon with his guns BLAZING, his target is Clay.

Seth draws his gun and runs up the street to Clay's aid.

SETH

(to the gunman)

Hey!

The brother turns his attention, along with his guns, toward Seth and opens FIRE, just missing Seth.

Seth quickly FIRES two times, hitting the brother in the chest and killing him.

In the distance, Bart groggy, from the head trauma, jumps on a horse and quickly rides out of town.

Seth walks over to Clay.

SETH (CONT'D)
Are you still alive down there?

The saloon girl, Kara, comes rushing over to see if Clay is okay.

CLAY
(to Seth)
Yeah, he got a lucky shot.
(to saloon girl)
Sorry, darling, it looks like I'm going to need another rain check.

Kara kisses Clay on the cheek.

CLAY (CONT'D)
I need to go after him.

SETH
You're in no condition to ride.

CLAY
He'll lead me to him.

SETH
Who?

Clay starts to stand up and then passes out.

SETH (CONT'D)
(to people standing around)
Is there a doctor in town?

The SHERIFF 45-50, salt-n-pepper gray hair and mustache, and a little belly, walks out of the saloon.

SHERIFF
Yeah, he's lying on the floor in the saloon.

SETH
I guess... I'll take him with us back to the wagon train. We have an old army doctor traveling with us. He should be able to patch him up.

SHERIFF

Not so fast; he made mention of a bounty on his head—some \$50,000, if I remember right?

SETH

I don't know anything about that, but if we don't get him to a doctor soon, he's going to die. We ain't leaving for a couple of more days. Besides, with a hundred wagons. We ain't hard to find.

SHERIFF

Okay, it'll take a day or two to hear back from the FEDS. Meanwhile, I'll be checking in on him. You see that he doesn't go anywhere.

The sheriff leaves to send a telegram and check wanted posters.

A wagon loaded down with supplies pulls up next to Seth.

A beautiful young woman EMILY 17-18, Caucasian with long brunet hair pinned up, is driving.

SETH

Where have you been?

EMILY

I was hidden when the shooting started, just like you told me too.

SETH

Good, now climb down here and help me with Jeff, and this other fella that's been shot.

Emily briefly looks at Clay and finds him desirable.

EMILY

(attracted)
He's a looker!

Kara smiles as she sits Clay up.

KARA

(while smiling)
Yeah, and that ain't all.

Emily starts to help the saloon girl as Seth goes to help Jeff.

EMILY
 (to Kara)
 (very curious)
 What do you mean? That ain't all.
 Is there more to him?

Seth stops and walks back to help with Clay.

SETH
 Emily, that's enough... Now go help
 Jeff.

EMILY
 But I want to know.

SETH
 Hush up and go do what you're told.

Seth helps Kara get Clay in the back of the wagon.

Then Kara stops to take a hard look at Seth.

SALOON GIRL
 You're good-looking too; are you
 related?

SETH
 We're not related; I just met the
 man.

SALOON GIRL
 (flirting)
 How long are you going to be in
 town?

SETH
 Not long enough for that.

SALOON GIRL
 (exposing cleavage)
 There's always time for that.

They exchange smiles.

Seth tips his hat to the saloon girl, gets in the wagon,
 takes the reins, and drives it away down the street.

WAGON TRAIN

PAN, The wagon train stretches out for almost a mile.

CLOSE ON, Old army tent with a red medical cross on the side.

Seth drives the team of horses and the wagon right up beside the tent.

SETH
Hey Doc! Are you in there?

Seth jumps off the wagon and then helps Emily off the wagon. Seth quickly looks into the tent, but the doctor isn't in there.

SETH (CONT'D)
Go find Doc; he's probably eating chow. Let him know we've got two people needing his attention. One of them has been shot.

Emily takes off running to go find the doctor.

Seth walks around the back of the wagon to discover that Jeff is now awake and hungover.

SETH (CONT'D)
We're back...

Seth puts the back of his hand in front of Clay's mouth and nose to make sure he is still alive.

SETH (CONT'D)
Huh, he's still alive.
(to Jeff)
Can you make it inside?

JEFF
(holding his head)
I think so. I sure made a fool of myself today. I just want to apologize.

SETH
You can apologize by getting this wagon train to California.

Jeff slides off the back of the wagon. He is still a little wobbly on his feet.

JEFF
You got it... That's the last time I'm going to take a drink.

SETH
Hold on; I got you.

FOLLOW, Seth helps Jeff inside the tent.

INT. MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Seth helps Jeff up on an old army bed, and he falls right to sleep.

Seth goes out to get Clay.

WAGON

Seth slides Clay to the end of the wagon just as several men and DOC, aka Doctor 40-50, gruff, bearded Caucasian man wearing a partial Confederate uniform, show up to help.

Doc quickly checks Clay out by looking at his wound and checking his breathing.

DOC

Yeah, he'll make it. Let's get him
in the tent.

Several men carry Clay into the tent.

TRAIL - EARLY MORNING

Six cavalry soldiers are leading two wagons driven by two soldiers each.

The leader and riding point is LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS 25, Caucasian male West Point graduate.

Inside the wagons are cuts of meat and other supplies.

Up ahead is a small group of five Cheyenne braves waiting impatiently in front of their horses for them to arrive.

The group of wagons stops in front of the Indians.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS

Where's Red Cloud?

HOWLING OWL 20-25, a Cheyenne Brave walks up to speak with the lieutenant.

HOWLING OWL

I am Howling Owl. And I speak for
my uncle, Red Cloud and the
Cheyenne people. You brought our
winter provisions?

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS

Yes, the army keeps its promises,
even when politicians don't.

Howling Owl sends two braves to check out the supplies in each wagon.

The soldiers in the wagons are getting nervous and acting suspicious.

CLOSE ON, An Indian brave lifts up the canvas tarp covering the supplies to find good supplies. Then a smell catches his nose.

He digs under the supplies and finds rotten meat—lots of it.

BRAVE
(in Cheyenne)
It's bad! Not fit for a dog!

ENGLISH SUBS

HOWLING OWL
(to the lieutenant)
What is this? Why do you break the treaty?

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS
(can't believe it)
We... didn't!

Lieutenant Williams quickly rides next to one of the wagons and gets off his horse to look for himself.

CLOSE ON, the Lieutenant quickly dug through the supplies and found the bad meat.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(to the men sitting in the wagon)
What is the meaning of this?

SOLDIER
It's the major's idea, sir.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS
I will have words with him when we get back to the fort.

AT WAGON TWO

An Indian brave cuts a piece of the tainted meat. He tries to give it to one of the soldiers sitting in the wagon.

INDIAN BRAVE
(upset)
You eat!

SOLDIER
 (hatred for the Indians)
 That's for dogs and injuns!

The Indian brave pulls his knife and is SHOT by the soldier.

CLOSE ON, an arrow quickly flies toward the soldier and finds its mark in his heart. He falls over the side of the wagon, dead.

ALL THE SOLDIERS START FIRING THEIR WEAPONS

An Indian brave is SHOT in the back and falls dead.

Another soldier is shot in the side of the neck with an arrow.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS
 Cease fire! Cease fire! God damn
 it!

Another brave is SHOT in chest, but not before he stabs the soldier to death.

Howling Owl jumps on the back of a soldier sitting on a horse and kills him by cutting his throat. He takes his sidearm as the soldier falls off the horse.

Lieutenant Williams is shot in the thigh by an arrow as he tries to get back on his horse. He falls to the ground and takes up a defensive position next to the wagon.

CLOSE ON, Howling Owl SHOOTS at a soldier several times but misses with the handgun. He rides the horse right next to the soldier, so he doesn't miss.

They SHOOT each other several times before they both fell off their horses.

The last Indian brave goes for his horse and is SHOT in the side.

He manages to get on a horse and is SHOT again.

Despite being severely wounded, he manages to quickly ride away.

SERGEANT MICHAELS
 (to the remaining
 soldiers)
 You go after him; I'll catch up to
 you. I need to help the lieutenant.

The soldiers quickly took off after the wounded Indian brave on horseback.

The lieutenant is trying to get to his feet.

SERGEANT MICHAELS (CONT'D)
Let me help you, sir.

The sergeant helps the lieutenant to his feet.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS
We must let Commander Reynolds know what the major is up to! This act of dishonesty is going to start a war.

SERGEANT MICHAELS
(flipped)
No, you did.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS
What?

SERGEANT MICHAELS
You were stealing and selling the meat in town to the locals. At least that's what it will say in my report.

The lieutenant pushes the sergeant away in order to try to draw his weapon.

The Sergeant SHOTS the Lieutenant in the chest several times, killing him.

Sergeant Michaels grabs Williams horse and mounts him.

SERGEANT MICHAELS (CONT'D)
(to the dead body of the lieutenant)
I hope you don't mind me taking your horse since you won't need it? I didn't think so. Now, I'm going to kill an Injun.

Sergeant Michaels rides off in the direction of his men.

HOURS LATER:

TRAIL

Sergeant Michaels POV, up ahead, his men are taking turns beating on the Cheyenne brave.

Sergeant Michaels rides up to his men and dismounts.

SERGEANT MICHAELS

You were supposed to kill him.

A soldier punches the Indian across the face, causing him to spit blood.

SOLDIER

We thought we would have a little fun first.

SERGEANT MICHAELS

Just kill him. We don't have all night.

SOLDIER

Damn, and I was hoping to beat him to death.

The soldier draws his pistol from its holster and then aims it at the Indian brave, whom he despises. Before he can pull the trigger, an arrow hits him in the chest, right at heart level.

He looks at the arrow now sticking out of his chest. As he falls to the ground, he aimlessly DISCHARGES his weapon into the dirt.

SERGEANT MICHAELS

Injuns!

Arrows are flying in from everywhere. As the soldiers SHOOT out blindly.

Another soldier is wounded by arrows, and then another.

The wounded Indian brave takes the opportunity to escape.

Sergeant Michaels POV, He aims at the wounded Indian who is running away, and just as he is about to shoot him in the back he is hit in the head from behind.

It is an Indian with a tomahawk.

NEXT DAY

INT. CHEYENNE VILLAGE - DAY

Dozens of different-colored teepees with small fires burning.

CLOSE IN, end of the village. Sergeant Michaels is tied up with his arms above his head to a large stake.

A burial scaffold is in the distance. An Indian chief with several feathers in his headdress lights a torch he has in his hand from a small fire nearby.

After saying an Indian prayer, he lights the scaffold on fire and throws the torn pieces in as well.

FOLLOW, He walks back with his wife to greet RED CLOUD 40-50, tall, strong, battle-hardened Cheyenne chief.

His wife shows Red Cloud respect and goes and picks up a thick stick from a large pile of sticks.

Red Cloud embraces the chief as a man and as a grieving parent.

After Red Cloud gives him the blessing, the chief walks over and picks up a large stick.

PULL BACK, The chief is joined by a long line of family members ready to take their turn beating Sergeant Michaels to death.

PULL BACK, Each person uses the sticks on Sergeant Michaels forcefully and unmercifully several times before walking away.

ECHOING SCREAMS OF PAIN FROM SERGEANT MICHAELS

WAGON TRAIN - DAY

People are busy getting things ready to move out in the next day or two. Several women are cleaning up the pots and pans after breakfast.

EXT. MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Emily, is dressed as a surgeon's assistant, exits the medical tent carrying a large pan and dumps it at the side of the tent.

CLOSE ON, Emily dumps bloody water.

Seth rides up on his horse, stops in front of the medical tent, and dismounts.

 SETH
How's he doing?

 EMILY
He's still not awake yet.

SETH
I wasn't talking about him; I was asking about DUKE.

EMILY
Oh, he'll be fine. Doc said he managed to save the leg.

SETH
Now, I don't want you to take a special interest in that Clay feller. He's some kind of gun fighter—probably an outlaw.

EMILY
(romancing the idea)
Gunfighter...

SETH
Don't you go getting any silly ideas in your pretty little head. He's leaving just as soon as he wakes up and is ready to ride.

Doc walks out of the tent while wiping the blood off his hands.

SETH (CONT'D)
(to the Doc)
How's Duke doing?

DOC
(exhausted)
He lost a lot of blood, but I saved the leg. He's still sleeping off the chloroform. Oh, that other feller is awake now; he was wanting to speak with you.

The doctor looks over at an empty bottle of alcohol.

DOC (CONT'D)
I think I need a drink.

The doctor leaves to go find something to drink.

Seth walks toward the tent, and Emily quickly follows close behind him.

Seth turns when he notices his sister following him.

SETH
What are you doing?

EMILY
I'm curious?

Seth shakes his head, and she follows him into the tent.

INT. MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Clay has his sheet up in the air, looking down at his body.

SETH
About time you wake up.

Clay lowers the sheet back down.

CLAY
Did you know I'm naked?

Seth shrugs as Emily has a cute, embarrassed smile.

Seth goes to Duke's bed to check him out.

SETH
So who are you?

CLAY
I'm Clay. Much obliged for all your help.

Duke's pants leg is cut up to his hip with a large, bloody dressing wrapped around it.

When Seth touches his leg, he moans slightly and moves in bed.

CLAY (CONT'D)
(looking around)
By the way, where are my pants?

EMILY
I put them over there on the stand.

CLAY
And you, pretty lady, are?

EMILY
(with a little smile)
Emily.

CLAY
(confused)
Well. Emily, who took them off?

EMILY
(attractive smile)
Me and Doc, but mostly me.

Both Seth and Clay are now looking at Emily.

CLAY
I was shot in the shoulder. They usually don't take your pants off for that.

EMILY
(while smiling)
You can never be too careful, you know?

Emily retrieves Clay's clothing.

CLAY
(to Seth)
Thanks for getting me to a doctor.

SETH
It didn't seem right to let you die in the street.

CLAY
How long was I out?

Clay is checking out his right shoulder.

SETH
Two days.

CLAY
Two days? They probably rode out of the state by now.

SETH
Who?

CLAY
The people that I was tracking.

Emily hands Clay his clothes when a sheriff's badge falls out.

Clay picks up the badge.

SETH
Yours?

CLAY

Not any more. I just forgot to give it back.

SETH

So, why pretend to be an outlaw?

CLAY

It's personal... Now I need to go after them before they disappear into Mexico again.

Clay starts to get dressed and then realizes Emily is still standing there watching.

CLAY (CONT'D)

(to Emily)

I'm going to get dressed now.

Emily doesn't want to move.

SETH

Emily, don't you have chores?

Emily doesn't want to leave.

Seth ushers Emily out of the tent opening.

SETH (CONT'D)

Get dressed, and I'll meet you outside.

Seth exits and closes the tent cover behind him.

EXT. MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

The sheriff mounts his horse. The deputy is already mounted on his horse.

SETH

Sheriff...

SHERIFF

Is Mr. Harris here?

SETH

He'll be out in a second; he's getting dressed.

The Sheriff is looking around with concern on his face.

SETH (CONT'D)
Something else is bothering you,
Sheriff?

SHERIFF
Yeah, we just got word this morning
that Red Cloud left the
reservation.

Clay walks out dressed with his guns on his waist.

CLAY
What happened to piss him off?

SHERIFF
A couple of unscrupulous soldiers
were stealing the beef they were
supposed to deliver to the
Cheyenne.

SETH
How did they get caught?

SHERIFF
One of Red Cloud's nephews
discovered it. They killed him
along with his favorite son-in-law,
Howling Owl.

SETH
We should probably get the wagon
train headed west out of Cheyenne
territory while we have a chance.

Jeff and a couple of hands ride in.

JEFF
I saw you riding in Sheriff, and I
wanted to apologize for my bad
behavior in your town.

SHERIFF
Good, it takes a man to learn from
his mistakes...

SETH
Jeff, the Cheyenne, left the
reservation. I think we should be
pulling out and heading west as
soon as possible.

JEFF
You're right. I'll start passing
the word.

Jeff rides off and sends the other riders in different directions.

SHERIFF

That leads me to the other reason
I'm here.

The sheriff pulls out a wanted poster and dismounts his horse.

He walks over to where Clay and Seth are standing.

CLAY

Are you going to arrest me,
Sheriff?

SHERIFF

It seems somebody wasn't entirely
truthful during that gunfight.

CLAY

What do you mean?

SHERIFF

There's a fifty thousand dollar
bounty on a William Harris, but
nothing on a Clay Harris.

CLAY

He's dead.

SHERIFF

Who?

CLAY

William, my brother... It happened
in Albany. He was shot in the back
of the head during a card game.

SETH

Sorry to hear that.

SHERIFF

Well, anyway, that gunfight in town
was a justified killing. So you can
be on your way.

The sheriff folds up the wanted poster, puts, it in his pocket, and walks over and mounts his horse.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Son, that's a dangerous game you're
playing... Pretending to be your
brother.

CLAY
I have my reasons.

SHERIFF
(to Seth)
I suppose this is good-bye since
your people are moving out.

SETH
Sheriff, please thank the town's
people for making us feel welcome
these last couple of weeks.

Seth Shakes the sheriff's hand and then tips his hat at the
deputies as they ride off.

SETH (CONT'D)
(to Clay)
You're welcome to ride along with
us until you mend. That is, if you
don't take a liking to my sister?

CLAY
She sure is pretty.

AT THE SIDE OF THE MEDICAL TENT

Emily is listening from where she was peaking into the tent.

CLAY (CONT'D)
But she is a little too young.

AT THE SIDE OF THE MEDICAL TENT

Disappointed, Emily tries to act older.

CLAY (CONT'D)
You have no worries, Seth. She
reminds me of my sister.

SETH
Good, I didn't want to have to
shoot you.

Seth walks away.

CLAY
Well, since you're not going to
shoot me today, how's about
breakfast?

Seth keeps walking.

SETH
I'm sure you'll manage.

Before Emily can make it around the tent, another pretty woman GRACE 25-29, Caucasian female, walks quickly over, carrying a plate of breakfast food for Clay.

CLAY
For me?

Grace smiles as she hands him the plate.

A jealous Emily mean-mugs Grace as she walks by.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Why thank you, darling.

Clay starts eating and really enjoys it.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Is your husband traveling with you?

GRACE
My husband died of cholera two years ago. I'm traveling with my sister and her family.

Clay is smiling with his mouthful of food as he checks her out.

CLAY
(while checking her out)
You don't say...

INT. SMALL WESTERN TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Everybody is going about their business. A buckboard with a family heads out of town. While a wagon filled with supplies travels down the opposite side of the street.

A group of seven men ride into town on their horses, catching the eyes of some of the storekeepers. WHISPERS and pointing as the townspeople know this gang is trouble.

Bart is leading the way.

1. JONAH 30-35, a Caucasian male, leader of the group. He dresses well, has a handlebar mustache, and wears a 6-shooter on his hip. A cold-blooded killer.

2. WADE 25-29, a handsome Caucasian male and younger brother of Jonah.

Pretends to be shy, timid, and weak, but beneath the surface lurks the real monster. He carries a black leather bag at all times and several hidden weapons.

3. PACO 30-40, Hispanic male, with a thirst for blood. He wears a six-shooter and a large knife on his side.

4. JIN 25-40, American Indian. Has no alliance with any Indian tribes. He has participated in the extermination of his fellow Indians. No morals, no values, owes a life debt to Jonah.

5. DARKIE 25-35, very large, dark complexed, African American. Jonah won him in a card game. He kills with his bare hands at Jonah's command.

6. COWBOY 18-21, Caucasian male, dresses in full dirty cowboy attire with a large hat. With his two 6-shooters, he is a lightening-fast gunfighter.

DEPUTY 2 is walking along the streets and looks into a store window.

CLOSE ON, WINDOW REFLECTION - The gang of bounty hunters and gunfighters casually riding through town.

DEPUTY 2 POV, the gang looks like real killers. Rugged and intimidating.

The gang wonders up to the hitching posts in front of the saloon.

JONAH

Is this the place?

BART

Yeah, this is the place.

JONAH

And you think this is the same guy who has been bird-dogging our trail?

BART

I do...

JONAH

Let's find out... Cowboy, go see if they're in jail. Paco, check the hotel.

Everyone starts to go in.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Jin, outside!

Darkie goes over and stands beside Jin as he looks out in front of the saloon.

Jonah comes back out, goes over to Darkie, and puts his arm around him.

JONAH (CONT'D)
What do you smell, Darkie?

Darkie smells the air and then gets a big grin on his face, showing his white teeth.

DARKIE
(smiling)
Whores!

JONAH
If I'm not mistaken, I think I still owe you?

DARKIE
(excited)
Yeah,

Darkie happily follows Jonah into the saloon.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

As the group enters the saloon, the MUSIC STOPS.

Everyone turns to take a look at the strangers who have entered the establishment.

JONAH
I didn't know this was a church!

EVERYONE NERVOUSLY LAUGHS

JONAH (CONT'D)
Don't stop the music on our account.

A nervous piano player turns back around and begins to play.

SOFTER PIANO MUSIC

JONAH (CONT'D)
First things first. Bartender! I need a couple of bottles of whiskey for myself and my boys!

AT THE BAR

The bartender pulls out a couple of whiskey bottles and sits them on the bar counter.

The group makes their way over to the bar.

Paco picks one up and drinks down about half of it, and then grabs a saloon girl as she walks past.

PACO
You'll do for starters.

The saloon girl allows him to put his arm around her, and she guides him up the steps to the bedrooms.

Jonah grabs another saloon girl by the arm.

JONAH
My friend here needs some whore attention, if you know what I mean?

Darkie is starting to grope her, which makes her uncomfortable. She tries to pull away.

JONAH (CONT'D)
What, you don't like dark meat?

Jonah pushes her to the floor. He then grabs another very skinny saloon girl as she comes to her friend's aid.

When she starts to resist, he pulls his gun on her and places it next to her head.

JONAH (CONT'D)
I have never been to a saloon before where the whores, decide who they will pleasure. Now, I promised my friend a good time with a whore. Darling, you'll be that whore.

Jonah is about to backhand the terrified saloon girl.

A black saloon girl who has just finished with a customer walks down the steps.

Seeing what is transpiring, she goes over to Darkie and puts her arms around him.

BLACK SALOON GIRL
What do you say, me and you go up stairs? I already had the desert, and now I'm looking for the meal.

Darkie looks both women over in order to pick one. He grabs the butt of the black saloon girl to make sure she is the one he wants.

DARKIE
(smiles with his bad oral
hygiene)
I choose you.

The black saloon girl then leads Darkie up the steps.

Jonah holsters his weapon and lets go of the saloon girl.

Jonah takes a big drink from a whiskey bottle on the bar and slams it down.

JONAH
(looking around)
What about my little brother?

Wade raises his glass of whiskey up so his brother can see it.

WADE
I'm good...

Jonah removes a gold coin from his pocket and takes the bottle of whiskey off the bar counter.

He goes over to the two girls.

JONAH
(while showing the coin)
Will this buy me a little
forgiveness and a good time?

One of the saloon girls takes the coin from his hand and starts to lead him upstairs.

JONAH (CONT'D)
I was talking to both of you.

The other saloon girl has a change of heart and agrees to join her friend in a three-way sexual encounter.

Jonah raises his whiskey bottle with his arm still around one of the saloon girls while his brother sits at an empty table.

As Jonah goes upstairs, Wade ventures over to the bar to make conversation with the bartender.

Wade glances up into the mirror behind the bar just as Kara comes out of a closed door and puts on a beautiful wrap.

CLOSE ON, Kara's cleavage is exposed.

Wade turns around to see her directly.

KARA
(while waving at the
bartender)
I'll be back later tonight.

Kara smiles briefly at Wade before going out the saloon doors.

WADE POV, as he follows her out the door with his eyes.

WADE
(to the bartender)
Who was that?

BARTENDER
That pretty thing was Kara. Like
she said, she'll be back later
tonight.

Wade finishes his glass, pours another, and quickly finishes it as well.

Wade turns, picks up his bag, and prepares to leave.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Ain't you hanging around until she
gets back?

WADE
No... I catch up to her later.

Wade leaves.

HOURS LATER:

AT A TABLE

Darkie and Paco are sitting at a table trying to play cards.

PACO
It's your bet, Darkie.

Darkie has no clue how to play the game.

PACO (CONT'D)
Very well. I'll help you.

Paco looks at Darkie's cards.

PACO (CONT'D)
You want to bet another dollar.

Paco takes the dollar from Darkie's side of the table and throws it in the pot.

Paco matches Darkie and adds another dollar.

PACO (CONT'D)
I'll see you and raise you another dollar.

This time, when Paco reaches into Darkie's money pile, Darkie grabs his hand.

DARKIE
(angry)
You cheat!

Darkie quickly grabs Paco around the waist from the front, raising him off the floor while squeezing him almost to the point of unconsciousness.

Paco pushes on Darkie's face in an attempt to break his hold. After several seconds of pain and desperation, Paco manages to get to the knife he has in the back of his waistband and strikes Darkie in the nose, breaking his grip.

After recovering, Darkie grabs a chair to smash Paco with.

Paco in turn, draws and aims his six-shooter at Darkie.

JONAH O.S.
Knock it off!

Both Paco and Darkie turn toward Jonah's voice.

Jonah is now walking down the steps while getting dressed.

Darkie sits the chair down as Paco holsters his weapon.

JONAH
Where's cowboy?

Both Darkie and Paco point to the stairs behind Jonah.

Cowboy is walking down the steps, holding his head while nursing a hangover.

COWBOY
Not so loud; my head is exploding.

JONAH
Did you find out anything?

COWBOY
(while walking toward the
bar.)
Yeah, I was going to tell you, but
you were a little busy.

JONAH
Well, what is it?

Cowboy puts his finger up to wait as he drinks down a fourth
of a bottle of whiskey that is sitting on the bar.

JONAH (CONT'D)
So?

COWBOY
The guys who killed Bart's brothers
left town right after the gun
fight. One of them was hit pretty
bad, could even be dead by now.

Jonah looks over and discovers Bart is lying under a table,
passed out from alcohol intoxication.

JONAH
Wait, he needs to hear this.

Jonah walks over and kicks Bart in the ribs to wake him up.

BART
(abruptly awoken)
What the hell!

Bart pulls his weapon from his side.

JONAH
(to Bart)
Put that shit away, and listen up!

COWBOY
According to the deputy, one of
them is riding a wagon train to
California.

Cowboy takes another drink, this time to rinse away his bad
breath, and spits it out.

JONAH
What about the other guy?

COWBOY

I guess he told the bounty hunter his name was Clay Harris and that he had a bounty on his head just before he killed him.

JONAH

Clay Harris, how do I know that name?

None of them have an answer.

The bartender comes out of a door at the side of the bar, ready to clean things up from the night before.

Jonah looks around.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Where's my brother? Where's Wade?

They all respond with either a head nod, a shoulder shrug, no, or "I don't know."

Jonah looks over at the bartender, and draws his weapon, and aims it at him.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Have you seen my brother?

BARTENDER

The quiet younger fellow that rode in with you?

JONAH

Yeah,

BARTENDER

I haven't seen him since last night. When he was sitting at the bar, he was jawing at me.

Jonah is starting to worry.

JONAH

Did anything happen while you were conversing?

The bartender thinks for a moment.

BARTENDER

Not really. wait come to think of it, Kara left early to take care of some problems with her sister. Your brother was kind of smitten by her.

(MORE)

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

I told him to wait; she would be back, but he left anyway. Come to think of it she never did come back to work last night.

JONAH

(to bartender)

Where does she live?

BARTENDER

Management doesn't like for us to let people know where the girls live.

Jonah moves the gun he is holding to the bartender's head.

JONAH

Now what were you saying?

Not wanting to die, the bartender quickly complies.

BARTENDER

Just past the south end of town, the first house on the left. You can't miss it.

Jonah walks over to the saloon doors to talk with Jin.

Jonah looks at Jin like he is asking a question. Jim nods his head yes, which weighs heavily on Jonah.

JONAH

(to Jin)

Get the horses ready! I'll get my brother.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jonah is helping his brother Wade get on his horse.

BART

He's going to be alright?

JONAH

Yeah, I just had a little too much to drink.

Cowboy notices the fresh blood stain on Jonah's shirt.

COWBOY

(pointing to the blood)

It happened again?

JONAH
Yeah, things got out of hand.

Jonah walks close to Darkie's horse.

JONAH (CONT'D)
(to Darkie)
Kill the bartender, then catch up.

Darkie dismounts his horse and runs back into the saloon.

Jonah takes off out of town, with his gang following closely behind.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

The bartender is retrieving bottles of whiskey from the bottom shelves when he is attacked by Darkie from behind. After a brief struggle, Darkie snaps the bartender's neck, killing him.

EXT. WAGON TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

VIEW OF THE LONG WAGON TRAIN: all lined up and ready to move out. Cattle and other live stock are positioned to move with the wagon train.

CLOSE ON, Seth's wagon, a RIDER on horseback quickly rides toward them, shouting out instructions.

RIDER
Move out, move out!

The rider passes by and continues to yell out.

Seth is on horseback, watching to make sure everything is going well.

Emily is sitting in front of the wagon with the reins in her hands.

Emily snaps the reins and starts her wagon moving as the wagon in front moves away.

Clay comes running out of the woods, still pulling up and fastening his pants.

SETH
I'm glad you could join us.

Clay is trying to catch the moving wagon.

CLAY

It took a little longer than usual.

Clay gets up on the wagon.

SETH

It couldn't be all those pies that
the single women keep bringing you.
Now, could it?

CLAY

(smiling)

A little constipation is a small
price to pay for making so many
beautiful women happy.

Seth laughs and shakes his head as he rides up ahead of the wagon.

INT. WAGON - CONTINUOUS

Clay sits down next to Emily.

CLAY

How are you this morning, darling?

Emily gives him a look of disappointment.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Okay, then, I think I'll get a
little shut-eye. You need me; I'll
be right over here.

Emily has something bothering her.

Clay makes himself comfortable, lays back, and pulls his hat over his eyes.

EMILY

(jealous)

I've got a bone to pick with you,
Clay. Last night Sarah saw you near
Rachel's wagon eating her apple pie
and having a good old time. Rachel
ain't but 2 years older than me,
and you don't give me the time of
day. So, you think Rachel is
prettier than me?

Emily looks over at Clay, seeking a response.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Are you listening to me?

(Clay SNORING) softly, then slowly gets louder.

EMILY (CONT'D)
 For God's sake, what were you doing
 last night?
 (looks at Clay)
 You can't even stay awake to talk.

CLOSE ON, As Clay pretends to sleep, a little smile appears
 across his face.

EMILY (CONT'D)
 Well, both Sarah and Magee think
 I'm prettier than Rachel. So, quit
 frankly... I don't know what you
 see in her?

HOURS LATER:

Emily is still sitting in the front, holding the reins of the
 wagon.

EMILY (CONT'D)
 And you know, I'm not someone who
 would talk you head off or be
 irritating in any way. I've been
 told by many people that I would
 make a perfect wife. I cook, I
 clean, and I aim to please...

CLAY
 (mumbling)
 Do you really want to please me?

Emily briefly fixes her hair and smooths out her dress.

EMILY
 (excited)
 Why, surely I do.

CLAY
 Then, shut up! You're giving me a
 headache.

Emily gets mad.

She drops the reins and goes back into the wagon to be alone
 and pout.

CLOSE ON, the horse's reins fall off the wagon and get caught
 on a bush.

In a chain of events, the horses' heads are turned, and the
 wagon slowly goes off the trail and into a rocky area.

CLOSE ON, It hits a large rock, which breaks the wheel of the wagon. Sending Clay tumbling off the wagon and onto the ground.

The wagon wheel collapses, and the axle hits the ground.

Seth rides up on his horse and grabs the reins.

SETH
(to the horses)
Woe, woe... there.

The wagon comes to a stop.

Seth quickly dismounts to go look into the wagon.

SETH POV, Emily is slowly sitting up, holding her head.

SETH (CONT'D)
(angry at Emily)
What the hell happened?

Emily climbs out from under the wagon cover.

EMILY
I guess I,

CLAY
(while walking up)
I must have fallen asleep. I owe
you a wheel and the labor to put it
on.

Emily is surprised that Clay is taking the blame.

SETH
Alright, then, let's get busy. We
don't have a lot of daylight left.

EMILY
What about the others?

SETH
They're going to stop at the
clearing about two miles up ahead.

INT. SMALL WESTERN TOWN

The sheriff and the deputy ride into town and stop at the hitching post in front of the sheriff's office.

They dismount and are about to go in when Deputy 2 comes running up with a heavy heart.

DEPUTY 2

Sheriff, I'm glad you're back. We have a situation—a murder. Well, it's the worst thing I've ever seen in my life.

SHERIFF

Whose murder?

DEPUTY 2

One of the pretty saloon girls, Kara.

SHERIFF

Do we know who did it?

DEPUTY 2

There was a group of men who rode into town yesterday. They were asking questions about the two men who shot the bounty hunter. I suspect one of them has done it.

The sheriff adjusts his sidearm.

SHERIFF

They're still in town?

DEPUTY 2

No, sir, they all rode out this morning.

SHERIFF

The guilty always run... Well, show us where she is.

Deputy 2 agrees and leads the way down the street as the sheriff and the other deputy follow.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The deputy stops at the front door, allowing the sheriff to reach for the bloody door handle.

CLOSE ON, bloody door handle, and bloody hand prints on the door.

The sheriff takes out a handkerchief, opens the door with it, and goes in.

Deputy 2 doesn't follow.

SHERIFF
You ain't coming?

DEPUTY 2
No, sir, I can't stomach that
again.
(he puts his head in his
hands)
She's in the back bedroom.

The sheriff and the deputy continue into the house.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The two walk through the living room and discover a bloody
drag trail leading off in the opposite direction of the
bedroom.

SHERIFF
(to Deputy)
See where that goes, then meet me
in the bedroom.

The deputy follows the bloody drag trail into another room as
the sheriff proceeds to the bedroom.

The sheriff arrives at the half-open bedroom and pauses
briefly.

He proceeds into the room.

CLOSE ON, Blood is all over the walls.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
(to himself)
My God!

Something is sitting in the bed, hidden under a bloody sheet.

The sheriff walks over and pulls down the bloody sheet to
reveal Kara.

The Sheriff GASPS.

Kara's eyes have been cut out. She has her arms stretched out
and is tied to the bed.

Her breasts were mutilated.

The sheriff pulls the sheet down a little further and looks
down.

Shocked by what he has seen, he turns and throws up.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

A goddamn sick animal did this!

The deputy walks into the room and is quickly overwhelmed by what is revealed.

DEPUTY

I ain't never seen nothing like this, and I hunt every winter.

The sheriff is overwhelmed with emotion.

SHERIFF

Whoever did this needs to be put down, before he kills again! Get someone to help you clean this up. Don't let her sister see her like this.

DEPUTY

(reluctant to tell)

Sheriff, her sister is in the other room. And she ain't in much better condition.

The sheriff covers Kara back up.

SHERIFF

Go on, do what I told you. I'll start forming a pose! We'll go after them in the morning.

WAGON

The sun has set and is about to go down.

Several large rocks are piled under the axle as Seth is about to use a large tree branch to lift the wagon up in order to put the new wagon wheel on.

CLAY

Alright, get it up and hold it steady.

Seth pulls down on the branch as hard as he can, and the wagon axle comes up off the rocks that were supporting it.

CLOSE ON, Clay is trying to put the wheel on, but it needs to go up a little higher.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Just a little higher.

Seth pulls down a little more on the branch.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Some help over here, darling.

Emily anxiously runs over and puts her arms around Clay, causing him to almost drop the wheel off the axle.

SETH
What are you doing, Emily? Get the axle bearing!

Clay smiles at Emily, who is hanging on.

CLAY
It's right over there.

EMILY
Oh, okay.

Emily gets the axle bearing, and as Clay slides to the side, she puts it on.

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER:

Clay is at the reins and driving the horses in order to catch up to the wagon train.

Seth is riding beside the wagon and continues to look around as if they are being followed.

CLAY
What is it?

SETH
We have Indians following us. I believe it's Cheyenne.

CLAY
How many?

SETH
I count 4...

In the distance, two Cheyenne braves on horseback make their presence known by riding on a hilltop.

EMILY
Six!

SETH

I don't think they're looking to attack, or else they would have killed us already.

CLAY

Just the same... Darling, you take over.

Clay hands Emily the reins and gets out the rifle that is sitting on the side of the wagon.

After loading the rifle, Clay looks up.

CLAY'S POV, the Indians on horseback have vanished.

HOURS LATER:

WAGON TRAIN

It is dark outside as the wagon drives up to the campfires. Jeff is sitting at the campfire, drinking a cup of coffee, when Clay and Seth walk up.

JEFF

We were going back to look for you in the morning if you hadn't shown up.

SETH

We had some visitors along the way.

JEFF

Who was that?

SETH

Cheyenne braves, six of them.

JEFF

They didn't attack, so what did they want?

SETH

Don't know. But I think we better be ready just in case they decide to attack.

JEFF

Yeah, I'll spread the word; we'll keep a full guard tonight.

INT. SMALL TOWN - DAY

Several men on horseback are just waiting for the sheriff to come out and mount his horse to get the pose on its way.

The sheriff comes out of the office.

SHERIFF

I sent word to the next two towns over to be on the lookout for our killers.

The sheriff mounts his horse.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Let's bring these sons of bitches back alive. So we can hang them for what they did!

The sheriff leads the pose out of town on a good fast gallop.

WAGON TRAIN

The wagon train is moving nice and slowly, with Jeff and several other armed men in front.

WAGON

Emily is driving her wagon and looks back toward the rear of the wagon train.

A small herd of cattle is walking behind the wagon.

Behind the herd, Seth and Clay are on horseback.

SETH

I've been meaning to ask you: Why did you pick a fight with that bounty hunter back there in town?

CLAY

I've been following them for over a year. I figured if I killed one of them, it would lead me to the rest.

SETH

So, there were more than just the bounty hunter and his brothers?

CLAY

Yeah, there are six more of them that I need to kill until I find him.

SETH

Him, who?

Before Clay can answer, a group of 10 Cheyenne braves ride up along the wagon train, several of them near Emily's wagon.

CLAY

Emily!

Clay rides up quickly to put himself between the Indian braves and Emily.

The Cheyenne warriors taunt Clay and then ride off, YELLING a War CRY.

Seth rides up beside Clay.

SETH

Stay with Emily. There's a valley up ahead; we'll circle the wagons there!

Seth rides off to the head of the wagon train.

HEAD OF WAGON TRAIN

Seth arrives at the front of the wagon train.

SETH

(to Jeff)

We got Cheyenne braves in the rear.

JEFF

Okay, but we have the whole goddamn Indian nation up here!

Seth's POV, hundreds of Indian braves line the tops of the hills and mountains.

SETH

We need to circle the wagons until we know what their intention is.

JEFF

My thoughts exactly.

Jeff turns to the people in the first wagon.

JEFF (CONT'D)

(yells)

Circle the wagons on me!

Jeff takes off at trot, and the wagons all speed up to follow.

MOUNTAIN VIEW:

The wagons come through the valley and quickly form a large circle.

The people exit the wagons and take cover under them.

INT. WAGON CIRCLE

Seth jumps off his horse and takes cover near the front of the circled wagons.

Two dozen braves ride fast and hard, circling the wagon train once and riding away.

JEFF
(turns to Seth)
What do you think that was about?

SETH
I don't know.

Clay is walking up.

CLAY
They were scouts, looking us over.

SETH
For what?

CLAY
Food maybe... There's only one way to find out.

JEFF
You're going out there?

CLAY
Not me, us... Seth is going with me.

SETH
I didn't realize you hit your head when you fell off the wagon.

CLAY
I've dealt with the Cheyenne before; they're honorable people.

SETH

You don't remember the sheriff
saying they were on the warpath?

CLAY

They have enough young braves in
the hills to kill every man, woman,
and child in this wagon train. We
need to make a gesture of
friendship.

JEFF

What the hell's a gesture of
friendship?

CLAY

A few heads of cattle.

Seth ponders the idea.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Either that, or they kill us and
take them all.

SETH

I gather up enough to last them for
a month or two. At least until we
are out of their territory.

CLAY

Good. Now I'll need something
white.

A pretty girl in the next wagonr pulls off her underwear and
hands them to Clay.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Sweetheart, that's good, but I was
thinking more like a shirt of a
towel.

EXT. CIRCLED WAGON TRAIN

Clay and Seth ride out with several heads of cattle. Clay is
carrying a white flag.

Red Cloud, three smaller chiefs, and several braves ride out
to meet them.

MEETING

The braves ride around, looking the cattle over, and then take them.

RED CLOUD

I am Red Cloud, and this is Cheyenne land.

(he gestures with his arm)

Why are you on our land?

CLAY

I'm Clay, and this is Seth. They are just passing through on their way to California.

RED CLOUD

You said, They... why are you on my land?

CLAY

I'm tracking a man who killed my sister. Wait, that's not entirely true...

He raises concern among the warriors.

CLAY (CONT'D)

It is not a man; it is a demon that I'm tracking. It brings death with it. It kills women for sport and summons a lust that can only come from the great fire of death.

(Emotional)

When I found what was left of my sister. She had been violated while having her insides torn out.

RED CLOUD

I have never heard of such a demon. But I have seen evil in some men's hearts that is beyond the limits of a civilized people. For such a man as this, he and the demon within him must be destroyed.

The Cheyenne warriors are concerned to hear about a demon being on the loose. The medicine man is acting very concerned.

RED CLOUD (CONT'D)

Go in peace... May you find and kill this demon that walks like a man.

The Cheyenne turn and ride away.

NEXT DAY

They ride into what appears to be a deserted campsite, led by the sheriff.

One of the men, JAMES, gets down from his horse and checks the smoldering ashes from the fire.

JAMES

They couldn't have left more than
twenty minutes ago.

GUN FIRE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS EMERGES.

The pose tries to return FIRE, but is quickly killed. The sheriff is hit a couple of times by GUNFIRE, but still manages to ride off and escape.

Paco is still SHOOTING at the sheriff as he rides off.

Jonah walks out of his cover.

JONAH

You were right, cowboy. That was a
stupid pose.

PACO

Should I go after the sheriff?

JONAH

Nah, he'll be dead by morning.
Let's go find that wagon train.

INT. WAGON TRAIN

The wagon train is stretched out and moving again.

Clay is on his horse when he rides up to the wagon.

WAGON

Emily is driving the wagon as Seth sits on his horse.

CLAY

I just wanted to stop and say good-
bye and thank you.

EMILY

You don't have to go.

CLAY

Yeah, I do... I owe it to my sister.

SETH

Where are you headed?

CLAY

There's a town close by called Rapid City. I'll try to pick up their trail again there.

Emily stops the wagon and wants to give Clay a hug.

CLAY (CONT'D)

You mind?

SETH

Nah, go ahead.

Clay dismounts and gives Emily a hug. She takes it a step further and starts passionately kissing him.

Clay opens his eyes and notices that Seth now has his gun pointed at him. He lifts his hands up in the air to surrender.

SETH (CONT'D)

Emily, Emily, that's enough!

Emily releases her embrace and gets back on the wagon.

CLAY

(to Seth)

I owe you for saving my life.
Thanks; I won't forget it.

Seth rides over to Clay and shakes his hand as Clay mounts his horse.

SETH

Be careful.

Clay tips his hand at Emily and rides off.

CLAY

Yeah, you too.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Jin is on foot, looking over wagon wheel tracks.

JONAH

How long?

JIN

Four, maybe five days.

Wade is rubbing his head.

WADE

I don't feel so good.

Paco throws Wade a canteen of water.

PACO

Drink up. It will help.

Jin is checking out other tracks.

JONAH

Jin, What's wrong?

JIN

Cheyenne, many braves.

BART

You ain't scared, are you?

JIN

The crow fears no one, especially
the Cheyenne!

COWBOY

Well, that's good. We wouldn't want
you to run off if we had to kill a
few of them.

Jin smiles at the thought of killing Cheyenne braves.

WAGON TRAIN

The wagon train has stopped for the day, and the people are
setting up camp.

Several women, including Emily, take empty buckets down to
the creek to get water.

CREEK - CONTINUOUS

As Emily and the other women from the wagon train arrive,
they find Indian women on the other side of the creek bank,
also retrieving water in containers made from animal skins.

There is an awkwardness in the air. No one knows how to react to each other's presence.

A beautiful young Indian woman drops her skin bladder into the water, and it starts to float away. Emily steps out into the water and recovers it.

Emily looks back at the ladies from the wagon train and then proceeds to cross over to give the water skin back.

CREEK BANK - CONTINUOUS

Emily hands the water skin back to the young Cheyenne woman. The young Cheyenne woman, CATORI 18, admires Emily's hair and then wants to touch it.

Emily lets down her long, beautiful hair and welcomes Catori to touch it.

Emily, in turn, begins to admire the Cheyenne woman's dress. Catori takes off and gives Emily a beaded necklace.

Emily looks at the beaded necklace.

EMILY

Its beautiful! Wait, I've got something I can give you.

Emily removes the cross necklace she is wearing and gives it as a trade to young Catori.

CATORI

Thank you.

EMILY

You speak English?

CATORI

I go to school on the reservation.

EMILY

I'll be going back to school once we get to California.

CATORI

My name is Catori. It means (she is of spirit).

EMILY

Catori, it sounds so pretty. I'm Emily...

Both women are happy to make a new friend.

After filling up their skins, an older Cheyenne women signal that they are to leave.

CATORI

I go now. I'll come again.

EMILY

It was nice to meet you.

They exchange smiles as the Cheyenne women leave with the full animal skins. The Cheyenne women talk among themselves about the good encounter.

Emily shows the necklace to the other young women on the wagon train.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Isn't it beautiful?

The young women on the wagon train admire her new necklace.

MONTAGE -- (EMILY AND CATORI DEVELOPING A FRIENDSHIP)

1.) -- Emily and Catori run into each other at the creek bed while getting water. They exchange smiles. Emily helps Catori adjust her carrying strap for her water.

2.) -- Emily walks to the creek bed and discovers Catori is trying to read an old, worn-out, broken book. Emily looks at it and tries to help her read.

3.) -- Emily is sitting on the bank when Catori comes up and offers to do her hair. Indian style.

Emily shows her new hairstyle to Seth, who likes it.

4.) -- Early in the morning, Emily is sitting beside Catori on the creek bank as Catori reads to her from a children's book.

5.) -- Both the Cheyenne girls and Caucasian girls are wading in the creek to bathe. Catori starts a playful water fight with the girls from the wagon train.

WAGON

GIRLS PLAYING AND LAUGHING

Seth decides to go and investigate.

CREEK

Seth walks down to take a look. The girls are caught off guard and start covering up.

Embarrassed, Seth waves and smiles at the Cheyenne girls as they leave.

The girls from the wagon train only get partially dressed as they walk past Seth, smiling.

1 DAY LATER:

WAGON - EVENING

It is starting to get dark outside; the sun has set.

Emily has just finished cooking a meal. And sets out three plates.

Seth happens by and looks into the kettle and then at the plates.

SETH
Someday, you'll meet the right man.

EMILY
(infatuated)
Clay, was the right man.

SETH
He loves women. Men like that can't settle down. And besides that, he was too old for you. You need to meet someone your own age.

EMILY
Momma was half Daddy's age when they got married and had us.

SETH
Yeah, and look how early Daddy died. Leaving momma to care for us by herself.

EMILY
Daddy was never home most of the time anyway. He was always down at the saloon.

Seth hears something in the distance.

SETH
Shhh.

EMILY
What?

SETH
Someone's coming.

Seth grabs his rifle from its resting place next to the wagon.

Jonah rides up on his horse. Seth quickly aims his rifle at Jonah.

JONAH
Evening folks, we were hoping we could share your campfire for a spell. We've been riding hard for four days.

SETH
(While looking around)
Who's we?

JONAH
My friends and traveling associates.

SETH
Come on up here into the light so I can get a look at you.

Cowboy rides up into the light and tips his hat at Emily. Paco rides up, followed by Wade.

SETH (CONT'D)
I heard more horses.

Jin rides up, followed by Bart, who slowly rides in.

SETH (CONT'D)
I saw that fellow before, back in town. Yeah. You were with that bounty hunter.

BART
It's one of them!

SETH
I'm going to need you all to put your hands in the air nice and slow. Emily! Get back behind the wagon.

Emily goes back behind the wagon. Then, in seconds, Darkie comes out from the back of the wagon with Emily in a choke hold.

SETH (CONT'D)
Let her go!

Seth aims his rifle at Darkie.

JONAH
I've seen him snap many a neck in a second, but none so pretty. So, I would put that rifle down so we could talk.

SETH
Don't hurt her. I'm putting it down.

Seth lays his rifle on the ground and puts up his hands.

SETH (CONT'D)
Now let her go!

JONAH
Now with the pistol,

Seth pulls out his pistol and lays it on the ground.

Jonah signals Darkie to release Emily.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Now where's the other guy?

SETH
I don't know what you're talking about.

BART
You were with him in the street when you shot my brother, Bret.

JONAH
Do we need to Kill your wife, or is it your sister?

EMILY
Clay's not here.

Emily realizes she said too much.

Paco looks at the three plates.

PACO
He seems to be having supper, or is
there someone else?

EMILY
I forgot he left and set it out.

COWBOY
It sounds like she's sweet on him.

JONAH
If he's not here, then where did he
go?

SETH
He went looking for you guys.

PACO
Where?

SETH
He mentioned something about
Laredo.

Someone steps on and breaks A SMALL TREE BRANCH down by the
creek.

JONAH
Who else is on this wagon?

SETH
No one.

CATORI O.S.
(faintly calling out)
Emily, Emily!

JONAH
Who is she?

EMILY
She's a friend, Cheyenne.

WADE
(dark smile)
I'll check it out.

Wade starts to leave.

JONAH
Take Paco with you.

WADE

No, I got it!

JONAH

Okay, brother, you handle it.

Wade leaves for the creek.

EMILY

Don't you dare hurt her!

Bart gets right up into Emily's face.

BART

You better worry more about what we are going to do to you.

Emily gets nervous.

JONAH

Knock it off! Tie him up, and keep her close by just in case somebody wonders over from the other wagons.

Cowboy and Paco tie Seth up to the wagon wheel.

SETH

Just go while you still can. I already told you he left for Laredo.

Cowboy walks over to talk with Jonah and the other guys.

COWBOY

I don't buy this guy's story. That guy dogged our trail halfway across the territory, and then he's going to go all the way back to Texas.

JONAH

Cowboy, you and Paco make your way up the wagon train and look for him.

PACO

You got it, Amigo.

Paco and Cowboy mount up on their horse, then leave into the dark toward the other campfires.

CATORI SCREAMS

Everyone turns to look toward the creek.

EMILY
(concerned)
What's he doing?

Emily kicks Bart in the groin and takes off, running toward the creek.

Jonah aims his gun at Emily.

JONAH
Get back here girl! Damn it.

Jonah changes his mind about shooting and runs after Emily.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Darkie, keep an eye on him. If he gets loose, kill him.

Darkie gets up in Seth's face.

DARKIE
(to Seth)
Somebody's gonna die, maybe it's you.

Seth stares back at Darkie as he struggles with the ropes to get free.

WOODS

A campfire is burning. Clay moves his saddle close to the fire and makes himself comfortable.

He lies down and pulls his hat over his face, preparing to sleep.

FAINT RUSTLING OF LEAVES

Clay slowly places his hand on one of his six-shooters.

The stranger bursts through the trees.

Clay draws his weapon and prepares to shoot. Before he can discharge his weapon, the stranger falls to the ground.

Clay goes over to check the stranger out.

When he rolls him over, he discovers it is the sheriff. And he is barely alive, with multiple gunshot wounds.

CLAY
(recognizes the man)
Sheriff, what the hell are you
doing here?

The sheriff is gravely wounded.

SHERIFF
(having trouble speaking)
Water...

CLAY
Sure thing.

Clay grabs his canteen from his saddle, rushes back over to the sheriff, and gives him a drink.

SHERIFF
Thanks...

CLAY
What the hell happened?

SHERIFF
(short of breath)
We were chasing a group of killers
headed your way.

CLAY
What happened?

SHERIFF
They ambushed us. Killed everyone.
I'm just too stubborn to die yet.
(looks down at his gunshot
wounds)

CLAY
You said they were headed my way.

SHERIFF
They know you were with the wagon
train.
(getting thirsty)

Clay gives the sheriff a couple sips of water.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
(dying)
One of them is a sick animal. What
he did to that poor girl, Kara.
(shakes his head in
disgust)

CLAY
(worried)
What did he do to Kara? Is she
alright? ...Sheriff!

The sheriff GASPS and dies in his arms.

CLAY SCREAMS OUT IN ANGUISH

He sits the Sheriff down, snatches up his saddle, and quickly gets his horse ready to ride.

WOODS

Emily arrives at the woods first, stopping briefly to look back and see how much of a lead she has.

It has gotten much darker, with only the moonlight to see by. Emily is ahead of Jonah, trying to be as quiet as she can.

Their pace slows as they both have trouble seeing where they are going.

RUSTLING OF LEAVES

Emily is making her way toward the FAINT SOUND OF MOANING while going around several trees.

SOMEONE BEING HIT REPEATEDLY

EMILY'S POV, A flash of something shiny moved back and forth several times in the moonlight.

She slowly moves forward until she can see Wade standing over someone while he rests.

Wade hears Emily and turns toward her with an evil smile across his face. His entire persona has been changed to that of a person consumed by pure evil.

EMILY'S POV, Wade draws his hand back, and for a brief second, the moonlight hits it just right, revealing a large, shiny knife in it.

He swings the knife down and buries it deeply into Catori's chest who is lying on the ground covered in blood.

EMILY
(screams)
No-oo!

Emily stands there, terrified and in shock, unable to move in any direction.

Wade has trouble pulling the knife out of Catori's chest and stands on her chest to pull it out.

Wade wipes the blood on his hand and across his face, stopping briefly to lick the knife while looking at Emily.

WADE

Soon, I'll set you free too!

Wade slowly walks toward Emily, but before he can reach her, Jonah grabs her by the shoulder and pulls her back.

JONAH

Wade, what are you doing? You promised you could stop for a while.

EMBANKMENT

A Cheyenne woman comes looking for Catori and walks down the creek embankment.

CHEYENNE WOMAN'S POV, She sees Wade with a knife and Catori lying bloody and dead on the ground.

Overwhelmed with grief and anger, the Cheyenne woman draws her knife and runs across the creek toward Wade and Jonah.

CHEYENNE WOMAN YELLING

Jonah gives Wade a look of disappointment. Then he draws his weapon and SHOTS the Cheyenne woman dead.

Emily can't believe what is transpiring.

JONAH

Wash off quickly in the creek. We need to be leaving before the whole damn tribe shows up.

Jonah grabs Emily by the hair.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Lets go.

Jonah walks a few feet away with Emily and then turns around.

JONAH (CONT'D)

(to Wade)
Don't be long, or I just might let the Indians have you.

Emily and Jonah continue walking toward the wagon train.

Wade cuts a piece of Catori's beaded clothing as a souvenir. He places it in his leather bag, which he takes everywhere with him.

He then goes to the creek and begins washing off.

WAGON TRAIN

Jeff and two men are walking toward Emily's wagon when they run into Cowboy and Paco.

JEFF

Who the hell are you?

COWBOY

We're just looking for somebody;
maybe you can help us?

JEFF

Who fired a shot?

PACO

I think it was me, Amigo!

Paco draws and SHOOTs Jeff in the shoulder. Jeff returns FIRE, hitting Cowboy in the upper left leg.

Paco SHOOTs one of the men, killing him. The remaining man SHOOT and miss Paco.

Cowboy SHOOTs and kills the last man.

As Jeff is trying to shoot his weapon again, an Indian axe hits him in the back of the head, killing him.

Paco is trying to figure out where the axe came from.

Jin walks out of the darkness, goes over, and pulls his axe out of Jeff's head.

JIN

If I were Cheyenne, you would both
be dead now. We must go.

WAGON

Seth has managed to free his legs and is strangling Darkie with the rope around his feet.

Emily and Jonah emerge from the woods.

Jonah realizes what is going on and SHOOTs Seth in the head, allowing Darkie to escape with his life.

EMILY

Seth!

Darkie kicks Seth's unconscious body several times.

Emily is crying as Paco, Jin, and a wounded Cowboy ride up.

JONAH

Did you find him?

PACO

He's not here.

JONAH

Alright, we'll take little Miss Emily here. And we'll use her as bait to lure him out of hiding.

JIN

His tracks lead toward a nearby town, three-days ride from here.

Wade walks up, still wiping off.

PACO

(suspiciously)

Hell of a time to take a bath? What could make you so dirty, Amigo?

JONAH

Leave it be, Paco.

WADE

No matter how much of a mess I make, my big brother always knows how to clean it up, right, Jonah?

JONAH

(upset with his brother)

Shut up and get on your horse!

Wade touches Emily's shoulder, on the way to his horse, she fearfully shrugs it off.

Jonah mounts his horse, and Jin pushes Emily up onto the back of the horse. Jin mounts his horse.

JONAH (CONT'D)

We need to get them off our scent.

Jonah pulls his pistol.

He takes off, riding down the wagon train.

PULL BACK

RIDGE VIEW: The gang travels along the wagon train at a gallop. SHOOTING indiscriminately at men, women, and children.

Their murders Visible by the campfire lights.

30 MINUTES LATER:

Clay rides hard into camp. As his horse comes to a stop, Clay has both of his pistols drawn before he hits the ground.

CLAY
(while looking around)
Emily! Seth!

Receiving no answer, Clay goes to the back of the covered wagon and peeks in.

He quickly comes out and looks around.

SETH MOANS SOFTLY

Clay quickly makes his way to the wagon wheel to find Seth still tied up and slumped over on the ground.

CLAY (CONT'D)
You alive?

SETH
Oh, my head.

Clay puts his pistols away, gets out his knife, and cuts Seth's ropes.

CLAY
Hold your head up and let me look
at you.

CLOSE ON, the bullet just grazed Seth across the right side of his head and temporal area.

CLAY (CONT'D)
You'll live.

SETH
Help me get up.

Clay helps an unsteady Seth to his feet.

CLAY
Where's Emily?

SETH
They must have taken her.

CLAY
Who were they?

SETH
Friends of the men we killed back
in town. I recognized the one that
got away.

Seth gets his bearings back, then goes to the back of his wagon and retrieves a gun he had hidden there.

SETH (CONT'D)
Get me to my horse, and we'll go
after them.

INT. WOODS

An Indian brave discovers the Cheyenne woman who was shot. He looks around and spots Catori's body.

The Cheyenne brave YELLS A WAR CRY.

WAGON

Clay and Seth turn toward the direction of the WAR CRY.

SOMETHING FALLS OFF THE WAGON.

Clay and Seth both draw their pistols and turn in the direction of the noise.

A YOUNG GIRL, with a gunshot wound to the stomach is holding onto the wagon, barely able to stand up.

They both rush to her side, with Clay catching her in his arms.

CLAY
What the hell happened?

Before the young girl can answer, she passes out.

FOLLOW, An arrow hits the wagon just above Clay's head.

Both Clay and Seth turn and SHOOT the Cheyenne brave who has emerged from the woods.

SEVERAL MORE ARROWS HIT ALL AROUND.

SETH

We have to get the wagons moving,
or people are going to be
slaughtered!

CLAY

I'll put her in the wagon. You get
things moving!

CLAY'S POV, Clay turns the corner as a Cheyenne brave tries to hit him with a tomahawk. The warrior is SHOT and killed by Seth as he is mounting his horse.

Seth quickly rides off to warn others.

Clay lays the wounded young girl down in the back of the wagon.

He quickly ties his horse to the back of the wagon, and with a quick SNAP of the reins, he starts the wagon moving quickly.

WAGON TRAIN

Seth is riding by while yelling instructions.

SETH

(yelling)

Get the wagons moving; we're under
attack!

HEAD OF WAGON TRAIN

The family is lying dead around the campfire. Seth jumps off his horse, quickly ties it up to the wagon, and gets in. He SNAPS the reins.

SETH (CONT'D)

(to get the horses moving)

Heeyah!

The wagon takes off quickly, with the other wagons following close behind.

The sun is breaking through, and the veil of darkness is lifting.

VIEW FROM RIDGE: The wagon train is moving quickly into a valley. Two dozen Cheyenne braves on horseback are in pursuit.

WAGON

Clay is reaching around the cover on the wagon and SHOOTING at the Cheyenne braves who are SHOOTING at him.

BACK OF WAGON

A Cheyenne brave has caught up and managed to make his way into the back of the covered wagon. With his knife out, he approaches the head of the wagon to kill Clay.

The Indian brave stumbles when he goes to stab Clay and misses. Clay tries to shoot the brave with his pistol but drops it when the wagon hits a large pothole.

They exchange punches, with the Cheyenne brave getting the better of Clay. The Indian brave knocks Clay down and gets onto his chest. He tries desperately to drive the knife into Clay's chest.

GUNSHOT

The Indian brave falls over dead.

The wounded young girl has found Clay's gun and shot the Cheyenne brave.

CLAY

Thanks; keep pressure on that wound.

Clay takes the pistol back from her.

FRONT OF WAGON TRAIN

Two Cheyenne braves, one from each side, attempt to get aboard the wagon in order to stop it.

While Seth is kicking one Indian brave off the side of the wagon, the other one grabs him around his neck and attempts to stab him in the chest.

Seth manages to pull the knife down and throw the brave into the team of horses. As the Indian brave tries to get turned around, he is SHOT by Seth and falls off the side of the wagon.

SETH POV, Up ahead is a large clearing.

SETH
 (to himself)
 This place is as good as any to
 make our stand.

Seth SNAPS his reins and drives the wagon into a large circle.

ON THE RIDGE

RED CLOUD, 3 CHEYENNE CHIEFS, AND THE MEDICINE MAN ON HORSEBACK.

RED CLOUDS POV, The wagons are circling. Once the circle is complete, the wagon train stops, and people climb down and take up defensive positions under the wagons.

With a head nod, Red Cloud gives the signal to begin the next phase of the attack.

One of the chiefs moves to the edge of the ridge on his horse.

VIEW FROM THE VALLEY BELOW:

The Cheyenne chief raises his hands and gives a WAR CRY.

The 20 or more well-armed braves on horseback join in on the WAR CRY. They then gallop in full stride to attack the wagon train.

FOLLOW, the Indian braves as they attack the encircled wagons. A couple of men are killed on the first pass.

WAGON TRAIN

Seth and three men are standing beside the first wagon, ready for the second attack.

Clay runs up with his pistols in his hands.

CLAY
 We need to send a message. Shoot
 their horses.

SETH
 Why?

CLAY
 They're easier to hit, and it will
 sure as hell slow them down.

SETH

Alright, you heard him: shoot the horses.

The Cheyenne braves are in full gallop as they move in for another attack.

BULLETS FLYING EVERYWHERE

The first brave rider passes by. As the next two braves approach, Clay steps out from under the cover of the wagon, FIRING both pistols.

The horses are shot and fall, throwing their riders into the dirt.

As one of the Cheyenne braves stands up, he is SHOT multiple times.

Seth SHOOTs the leader of the approaching group off his horse.

The next horse is SHOT and drops, causing a collision among the following horses.

Several Cheyenne braves crash into the ground.

Only one Indian brave manages to get back on his feet before another rider rescues him.

The Cheyenne break off their attack and return to the main force.

CHEERS

SETH (CONT'D)

Alright, we gave them something to think about. Now, we need to come up with a plan.

CLAY

Why the hell did they attack us? When I left, we were getting along nicely.

SETH

I think those men who took Emily did something bad to one of the Indian girls down by the creek.

Clay's heart drops.

CLAY

Damn, then they have a right to be angry.

SETH

Yeah, but it's misplaced. And they'll kill all of us without knowing the truth.

CLAY

Not if I can help it.

SETH

What are you going to do?

CLAY

I'm going out to talk to them.

SETH

They'll kill you before you get within a hundred yards of Red Cloud.

CLAY

Not if they don't recognize me.

Clay takes his shirt off, causing a smile on one of the young woman's face.

Clay grabs some dark axial grease and wipes it on his face.

SETH

So, how are we going to do this?

MINUTES LATER:

After some debate, a new group of Indian braves on horseback approached, with WAR CRIES leading their charge.

SETH (CONT'D)

Remember, we need to take out the brave on the black pony.

As the Cheyenne braves begin their circle, the lead brave is shot off his horse.

A second brave SHOOTs an African man under a wagon with his family.

SETH POV, he has the Indian brave on the black pony in his sights.

SETH (CONT'D)

Now!

Everyone starts FIRING at that Indian brave. His horse is hit, and it goes down.

Just as the Indian brave and his horse hit the ground.

ON THE RIDGE

RED CLOUDS VIEW: The Indian brave on the black pony goes down behind the view of a wagon.

WAGON TRAIN

Clay and his horse stand up from where they had been pretending to be dead.

Clay quickly rides off and joins the Indian braves, now circling back to the main Cheyenne force.

MAIN INDIAN FORCE

Clay is riding at the back of the group of Indian braves.

CLAY'S POV, Red Cloud is now with the main force, surrounded by his three chiefs and the medicine man.

The medicine man's horse gets spooked.

Clay breaks off from the group of Indian braves and heads straight for Red Cloud.

Before they realize what is happening, Clay jumps off his horse and knocks one of the chiefs off theirs.

In a brazen move, Clay follows him to the ground, holding a pistol on him and one on Red Cloud.

CLAY

I just want to talk!

Dozens of Cheyenne braves are now aiming their weapons at Clay.

RED CLOUD

You say you want to talk, but you bring weapons of war?

CLAY

It was to get your attention. Now that I have it, I'm putting these down.

Clay drops his pistols.

The chief, who was head captive, draws his knife and puts it against Clay's neck.

Red Cloud waves him off.

RED CLOUD
Speak...

CLAY
Those people in the wagons didn't have anything to do with the death of the Cheyenne girl.

RED CLOUD
What do you know about my niece Catori's death?

CLAY
Those men that I spoke of when we talked last. They came looking for me.

RED CLOUD
And where are these men now?

CLAY
I don't know. They road off before I returned. They took a young girl that I am fond of with them. I fear her fate will be the same as Catori's and my sister's if I do not stop them.

The medicine man is disturbed and unsettled in his spirit. He circles around Clay and throws red powder at him.

After using his hand to write something on Clay's back, he goes and converses with Red Cloud.

QUIET WHISPER

Red Cloud tries to calm the medicine man down.

RED CLOUD
(to Clay)
What was done to my niece was not done by human hands. This evil is unknown to us. My medicine man believes there are two ways to free our people of this evil.

(MORE)

RED CLOUD (CONT'D)

One, we burn you, and the evil will leave when it can no longer smell your scent.

CLAY

I would gladly do it, but it would deny me my revenge.

Red Cloud looks back at the medicine man.

RED CLOUD

The second is that we allow you to capture this evil and bring it back here so that the medicine man may destroy it forever.

CLAY

I need to take someone from the wagon train with me. His sister is the one that they have taken.

Red Cloud contemplates for a moment and then motions for a large Cheyenne to come to him.

The Indian brave named STRONG BEAR 18-21, 6' 2" tall, 225 pounds, comes riding up ready for a fight.

RED CLOUD

You may have a friend, but you will also have strong bear.

CLAY

Who is he?

RED CLOUD

He was to marry Catori. He, too, will have his revenge.

CLOSE ON, Strong Bear's face is one of anger and grief.

RED CLOUD (CONT'D)

Go now; you have three days. Then everyone in the wagons shall die.

CLAY

Three days.

Clay picks up his pistols and holsters them.

He quickly mounts his horse and motions for Strong Bear to follow.

TRAIL - DAY

They travel to a fork in the trail and stop.

Strong Bear bends over as he checks for horse tracks.

STRONG BEAR

(head nod in the direction
he wants them to follow)

We go.

MONTAGE OF TRAIL

1.) -- The three men stop at a campfire to check the ashes and see how long ago they were there.

2.) -- They track the gang to a creek and have difficulty finding where they left the creek bed. After several seconds, Strong Bear finds where they came out from, and they continue their pursuit.

3.) -- They lose the tracks in the woods. They circled several times, trying to figure it out. Then, Seth notices something hanging from a tree and rides hard to get it.

CLOSE ON, a small piece of material from Emily's dress.

SETH

She's still alive.

CLAY

That's good news;

Strong Bear can't rejoice in their good news; he can only think of his loss and his burning desire for revenge.

4.) -- They come to the bottom of a ridge. The trail leads up into the hills. They follow.

END OF MONTAGE

GANG

The group has stopped for a few minutes to sit, rest, and drink some water.

Cowboy needs help getting off his horse.

COWBOY

Some help!

Darkie and Paco help Cowboy down to a rock to sit on. Paco looks at Cowboy's leg.

His leg wound continues to seep blood and is starting to turn a brownish color.

PACO
(to Jonah)
He needs to get to a doctor before
he loses the leg.

JONAH
When we get to town, he can see a
doctor. Right now, we sit and wait.

BART
We don't even know if this guy is
around anymore.

JONAH
He's around... He likes pretty
girls, and I think he's taking a
liking to that one.
(points at Emily)

BART
Since we're talking about her, what
are we going to do with her? You
know, after we kill her sweetheart?

JONAH
You can draw lots for her or take
turns. Either way, she's not
leaving this canyon alive.

CLOSE ON, Emily is tearing a small piece of her dress.

Jin comes riding up on his horse.

JIN
We have company. Three riders, two
miles back.

JONAH
Did you get a look at them?

JIN
Two whites traveling with a
Cheyenne brave.

JONAH
It seems our boy is looking for us
after all. Let's set up a welcome
party.

CLOSE ON, Emily face as she is relieved to hear someone is
looking for her.

JONAH (CONT'D)
 (turns to Wade)
 That Cheyenne brave is probably
 looking for you. You must have
 killed his squall.

Wade has a weird, evil smile on his face. Something catches
 Jonah's eye.

JONAH (CONT'D)
 You little bitch!

Jonah walks over as Emily is trying to hide the piece of
 material.

Jonah backhanded Emily in the face, knocking her off the
 rock.

EMILY CRIES OUT

He then takes the piece of material from her hand.

JONAH (CONT'D)
 You've been leading him right to us
 the whole time.

EMILY
 (while rubbing her left
 eye)
 He's going to kill you-all!

LAUGHTER

Jonah grabs her by the arm.

JONAH
 Sassy, I like that. After I kill
 your boyfriend, I might just keep
 you for myself. Well, at least for
 a little while.

Jonah throws her to the ground.

JONAH (CONT'D)
 Bart, tie her up. Paco, take the
 high ground to the left. Darkie,
 stay close by. She tries to escape,
 or signal her boyfriend, snap her
 damn neck.

Jonah walks over to where Cowboy is resting, carrying a
 rifle.

JONAH (CONT'D)
To draw them in, I need you to stay
out in the open.

COWBOY
Where the hell am I going to go? I
can't walk.

JONAH
We kill this fool who's been on our
trail. Then we'll get you to a
doctor. I promise. Take this.

Jonah hands Cowboy the rifle.

COWBOY
Where are you going?

JONAH
I'll just be a hundred yards up on
the right. Just keep them in my
crosshairs.

Cowboy makes sure the rifle is loaded and sits it next to the
rock.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Alright, Jin, go get them. Everyone
should take cover.

Emily is tied up and gagged, sitting on a rock just 20-30
feet away from Cowboy.

Darkie hides in the bushes right behind Emily. Jonah walks
onto the ridge. Wade and Bart take up positions behind
several large rocks.

TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Strong Bear is looking down at the ground, searching for
tracks.

CLOSE ON, tracks leading up the ridge through the trees.

They follow the horse tracks to a clearing.

CLAY
We go on foot from here.

They dismount.

Clay and Seth quickly drew their pistols. Strong Bear takes his rifle off his horse and pulls his tomahawk from his waistband.

They slowly and quietly make their way toward Emily's position.

Something catches Strong Bear's attention, and he begins to move off in another direction.

CLAY (CONT'D)
(whispering)
What are you doing?

STRONG BEAR
Go, save your woman.

Strong bear disappears into the treeline.

Clay and Seth continue advancing toward an opening in the trees.

Emily is visible in the distance.

SETH
I only see one. I'm going to get my sister.

Clay grabs Seth's arm.

CLAY
Wait, let me work up the side of the ridge before you walk into their trap.

Seth agrees

SETH
Don't take too long.

Clay starts working his way around the perimeter toward the top of the ridge.

WOODS

Strong bear is moving cautiously, knowing that his prey is nearby.

A WHOOSHING SOUND

Strong Bear turns as an axe flies right at him. He knocks the axe away with the butt of his rifle.

The rifle is destroyed.

Jin steps out off the trees and FIRES his rifle. The bullet hits Strong Bear in the upper left shoulder. Before Jin can fire again, Strong Bear disappears into the woods.

Jin walks over to where Strong Bear was standing and touches the blood on the ground to see how badly he has wounded Strong Bear.

SETH

SINGLE SHOT

Seth can't wait any longer and steps into the clearing to get his sister.

PACO

He is lying against a rock with his weapon aimed in Emily's direction.

RIFLE VIEW: His sights are trained on Emily until Seth steps into the clearing, and then he makes Seth his target.

SETH

He gets within 10 feet of Emily when Cowboy notices him.

SETH

Put your hands up where I can see them!

COWBOY

You don't need me to kill you, boy;
you're already dead!
(Laughs)

WADE

Wade and Bart are trying to get a clear shot at Seth when they hear a noise coming from behind them.

KICKING ROCKS

Wade motions for Bart to check it out.

Bart reluctantly goes to check it out.

BART

He turns in the direction of the noise, and before he can do anything, Clay has the jump on him.

CLAY

Put the gun down. That is, unless you want to join your brothers in hell.

BART

I'm faster than both my brothers... If it were me, you were facing in the street back there, I would have killed ya.

Clay decides to see just how fast Bart is and holsters his pistols.

BART (CONT'D)

You're a fool, mister.

Bart acts like he is going to holster his pistol, but instead he brings it right up to shoot Clay.

CLOSE ON, Clay's gun draw is incredible fast.

Clay SHOTS Bart in the head right between his eyes and holsters his pistol before Bart's body hits the ground.

CLAY

It's going to be lonely at your momma's house come Thanks Giving. Then, again you probably killed your momma.

WADE

He gets scared, and abandons his position, and starts moving up to be with his brother.

SETH

GUN SHOT

Cowboy takes the opportunity of the distraction to go for his gun.

Before Cowboy can even get his six-shooter out of his holster, Seth has already SHOT him two times.

As Seth turns toward Emily, he is SHOT through the left shoulder, and he drops to the ground.

CLOSE ON, Emily works the gag down under her chin and SCREAMS.

TWO MORE SHOTS

Both SHOTS barely miss Seth. Seth manages to jump up and run toward Emily.

THREE MORE SHOTS, ALL MISS

Seth hits Emily with his body, knocking her down behind the large rock that she was sitting on.

TWO MORE BULLETS RICOCHET OFF THE ROCK.

Emily does the best she can to hug her brother.

EMILY
(relieved)
I thought they killed you.

SETH
You should know by now that I ain't
easy to kill.

Emily smiles and turns to allow Seth to untie her. She then tears a large piece of her dress and stuffs it into the bullet wound to stop the bleeding.

WOODS

Jin is walking along very quietly until he is attacked by Strong Bear who breaks his axe on Jin's rifle.

Jin turns to shoot a defiant Strong Bear.

CLICK, CLICK,

The rifle doesn't fire.

Strong Bear rushes Jin. Jin swings the rifle at Strong Bear's head, but he ducks and tackles Jin, knocking the rifle from his hands.

As Strong Bear is striking Jin, he suddenly jumps up because Jin has cut him across his stomach.

An angry, strong bear pulls his own knife.

They square off.

PACO

He is looking around to try and get a better shot at Seth.

CLAY

Yeah, friend, you want to drop that
rifle?

Clay is standing right behind Paco. Paco throws the rifle to
the side.

PACO

Who the hell are you?

CLAY

I'm Clay Harris, and one of you
sick sons of a bitch butchered my
sister.

PACO

I'm sorry, my friend, but I am not
the one you want.

CLOSE ON, Paco secretly picks up a handful of dirt.

PACO (CONT'D)

But I will tell you who it is!

Clay gets too close and is hit in the face with the dirt.

Paco turns, draws, and FIRES his pistol, hitting Clay in the
right ear.

Clay returns FIRE several times, killing Paco.

SETH

As Seth and Emily look up from the rock, Darkie grabs Seth
from behind by the neck and begins choking him.

Emily tries desperately to break Darkie's hold.

CLOSE ON, Seth's face, he is almost ready to go unconscious.

In a last-chance attempt to escape, Seth headbutts Darkie in
the face several times until he lets go.

Darkie pushes Emily out of the way and grabs Seth again,
overpowering him with pure strength.

Darkie gets a top position on Seth and begins crushing his
windpipe.

GUN SHOT

Darkie slowly falls off of Seth's chest.

Seth looks up.

SETH'S POV, Clay is holding his rifle in the air so that Seth can see who it is.

They briefly celebrate.

GUN SHOT

Clay is shot and falls over an embankment.

WOODS

Both Jin and Strong Bear are cut in several different places on their bodies as they continue circling each other.

Jin lunges with his knife and is stabbed in the armpit by Strong Bear. Then, Strong Bear breaks Jin's arm, forcing him to drop the knife.

Strong Bear then grabs Jin by the hair.

STRONG BEAR

You will no longer be their eyes.
You shall wonder here and in the
afterlife, without eyes.

Strong Bear stabs Jin through the eye.

JIN SCREAMS

When Jin drops to the ground, Strong bear stabs him in the other eye.

CLOSE ON, Jin is bleeding from both eye sockets.

JONAH

Jonah is searching to make sure that he killed Clay. He comes across a wounded Clay lying on the ground.

JONAH

Who the hell are you?

CLAY

That's the second time someone has
asked me that today.

JONAH

I think that it that is only right
you tell me, before I kill you.

CLAY

I'm Clay Harris, and one of you
butchered my sister.

JONAH

You're going to have to be more
specific... Where?

CLAY

In Abilene. She was a teacher.

JONAH

It doesn't ring a bell.

SLIDING ROCKS

Jonah turns toward the sound.

Wade is standing there.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Maybe that one was done by my
little brother here. I remember all
of mine. Like how they screamed and
begged for mercy.

WADE

Yeah, I remember. She had beautiful
strawberry hair. She was fun.

Clay tries to reach for one of his pistols, but Jonah steps
on his hand and takes the weapon.

CLAY

You're monsters!

JONAH

Maybe, maybe not... Hell, they
don't even have a name for what we
are. But, it won't matter in a
minute because you'll be dead.
Along with every other person who
knows about us.

As Jonah is about to pull the trigger, he is SHOT in the side
and drops the weapon.

Clay has pulled out his other pistol and is now aiming it at
a wounded Jonah.

Wade slips away.

SETH

Seth and Emily are making their way along a rock face. Out of nowhere, Seth is SHOT and falls off the cliff. Leaving Emily standing on the rock alone and in shock.

Wade walks up, holding his gun to Emily.

WADE

We have some unfinished business.

Wade grabs her by the arm and briefly looks over the edge to make sure Seth is dead.

WADE POV, Seth's body lies some fifteen feet down.

Emily looks down and grieves for her brother.

WADE (CONT'D)

He can't help you now; no one can.

FOLLOW, Wade is walking Emily back down the ridge to the horses.

Wade takes a rope from his saddle and ties Emily's hands with it.

He then takes out a knife and runs the dull side across her face. Emily is terrified.

He cuts a small piece of material from her dress and places it into his leather bag that is on his horse.

EMILY

What are you doing?

WADE

It's a little something to remember you by. Now get on the horse.

Wade helps Emily on the horse, but before he can get on, Emily kicks the horse, and it takes off running.

Wade aims his gun, but before he can shoot, Strong Bear tackles him.

They go back and forth until Strong Bear gets the mounted position on Wade's chest and begins to rein down punches over and over again.

Strong Bear stops and picks up a large rock, preparing to smash Wade's head in.

WADE (CONT'D)

(demonic)

Do it! Go ahead! I'm not scared of death; I am death!

HORSES ARRIVING

Strong Bear stops and looks around. Dozens of Cheyenne braves are surrounding them. Two Indian braves are now holding Jonah.

MEDICINE MAN

(in Cheyenne)

You can not kill a demon in that way. You will only allow it to wander our land and bring with it more death.

ENGLISH SUBS

Strong Bear reluctantly throws the rock to the side and gets up.

Two Cheyenne braves quickly restrained Wade.

In the background, two braves on horseback are pulling an Indian litter with someone on it.

WAGON TRAIN - NIGHT

Most of the survivors of the wagon train are sitting together around a large campfire.

FAINT MALE SCREAMS

Emily is sitting with her head down, deep in thought. A wounded Clay, with his head and his side bandaged, walks up to talk.

CLAY

I got these from the doc.

Clay tries to hand Emily two cotton balls.

EMILY

No thanks,

CLAY

That sound doesn't bother you?

EMILY

I know I shouldn't say it, but I like it.

Clay has a surprised look on his face.

EMILY (CONT'D)

What I mean to say is, what they did to Catori, your sister, and... God knows how many others. They are finally answering for those evil deeds.

Emily starts to CRY.

Clay puts his arm around her, and she responds by putting her head in his chest.

HOURS LATER:

It is morning, and the sun is out. They have fallen asleep.

Clay is the first to awake; he looks around before waking Emily up.

CLAY

I need to get started burying people.

HOURS LATER:

OPEN FIELD

There are a dozen freshly dug graves, each with a homemade cross at the head.

Emily walks up with riding clothes on.

EMILY

I'm taking a buckboard to go get my brother.

CLAY

I'll go with you.

SETH O.S.

There's no need for all that.

Emily and Clay turn in surprise. Emily is overwhelmed with emotion and runs to embrace Seth.

EMILY

I thought you were dead.

SETH

I did too! It seemed like every time my spirit would try to leave my body, the medicine man would pull it back.

SNAKE RATTLES

Everyone turns.

The medicine man is standing beside his horse. Strong Bear is standing beside him. Red Cloud remains mounted on horseback.

SETH (CONT'D)

There's something to be said about Indian medicine.

The medicine man turns and leaves with a small CHUCKLE.

RED CLOUD

The curse has been broken. Your people are free to travel through our land.

Red Cloud turns and rides away.

Clay walks up to shake Strong Bear's hand. Strong Bear instead goes to his horse, removes Wade's leather bag, and returns.

STRONG BEAR

One of the demons, posing as a man, collected trophies from its killings.

Strong Bear removes the necklace that Emily gave to Catori.

Emily walks over to see the necklace.

EMILY

It's my necklace.

STRONG BEAR

She told me you had given it to her. She would want you to have it.

Strong Bear hands it to Emily.

STRONG BEAR (CONT'D)

(to Clay)

Your spirit may find peace in what you find in here.

Strong Bear hands the leather bag to Clay.

CLAY
May Catori's spirit now be at
peace.

Strong Bear agrees, then, after shaking Clay's hand Indian style, Strong Bear mounts his horse and rides off.

Clay finds a place to sit down. Then he places the bag on his lap.

For several seconds, he hesitates to open it as emotions come to the surface.

CLOSE ON, the bag is almost full of small trophies.

Clay goes through several different keepsakes until he comes across a necklace.

The necklace brings him to tears; it is Kara's.

CLAY'S MEMORY OF KARA

INT. SALOON - BEDROOM- DAY

He is kissing Kara as she lays on the bed, not wanting to get up.

She finally stands up, goes and looks out the window. She asks Clay to come over, and he helps her put it on. Clay walks over and carefully fastens it on.

END OF CLAY'S MEMORY OF KARA

Clay sets it to the side and continues going through the bag until he comes across a hair ribbon.

CLOSE ON, hair ribbon.

CLAY'S MEMORY OF HIS SISTER

INT. SMALL SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

A beautiful young 18-19, strawberry-blond female school teacher is helping her students, several of them Cheyenne children.

CLOSE ON, Hair ribbon.

Someone enters the classroom; she looks up.

CLAY'S POV, his sister looks so beautiful and happy.

CLAY'S SISTER

Look everyone, it's my brother, the Sheriff, who's come to visit.

CLOSE ON, Sheriff's badge on Clay's chest.

CLAY

I have to leave town for a few days. They need me to testify at the Murphy trial.

Clay's sister gives him a hug.

CLAY'S SISTER

Be careful. Hurry back.

CLAY

I will, and the town will be fine. Nothing ever happens around here anyways.

OPEN FIELD

Clay is sobbing with his hand over his face. After a couple of seconds, he gains control of his emotions.

Emily puts her hand on Clay's shoulder to comfort him.

CLAY

I should have never left town that day.

EMILY

You couldn't have known they would show up.

CLAY

If only I had been there, I could have stopped it.

SETH

There were 10 of them; you wouldn't have stood a chance.

CLAY

At least I would have been there to try.

SETH

And you would probably both be dead.

(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

Bad things happen to good people,
not because of anything we did or
didn't do, but because there are
evil people in this world. Just
like the ones we brought to
justice.

Clay now has his sheriff's badge in his hand.

CLAY

(while holding his badge)
It wasn't the law's justice I
delivered.

SETH

Nope, but it was justice for their
victims.

WIDER VIEW: There are three very small holes dug in front of
the freshly dug normal-size graves.

Emily approaches one of the holes with the necklace in her
hand.

SETH (CONT'D)

Emily, are you sure?

Emily shakes her head yes as she places her necklace into one
of the small holes.

Clay places Kara's necklace into the next hole. Then he
places his sister's ribbon in the last hole and begins
burying the items in the holes.

SETH (CONT'D)

(To Clay)
What are your plans now that your
search is over?

Emily is listening in, hoping that he will stay.

CLAY

I think I would like to sit here a
spell and think about it.

WAGON TRAIN

The wagons are all lined up and ready to move out. Emily
checks her wagon one last time, gets up on the running board,
and takes the reins.

Seth rides by on horseback, yelling.

SETH
Wagon ho, let's move them out!

Emily has a disappointed look on her face as she starts the wagon moving.

A HORSE RIDING UP FAST ON THE OTHER SIDE

Emily tries to look and see who it is.

Clay climbs off his horse, climbs in the wagon, and sits down beside her.

CLAY
I'm not sure if I'm the marrying
type, but we can try—that is if
you'll have me?

Emily starts kissing and hugging Clay, causing the wagon to stray off the trail.

SETH

Seth sees the wagon go off the trail and rides his horse quickly to find out why.

WAGON

When Clay notices Seth riding up, he pushes Emily gently away.

SETH
If you break her heart, we'll have
to see who's the fastest man.

CLAY
Let's hope that never happens.

Seth agrees and turns to head toward the front of the wagon train.

FADE TO:

OPEN FIELD - GRAVE SITE

Clay's sheriff's badge is lying on top of one of the small graves.

THE END