

THE BROKEN GUN

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Galloping on horseback, ROBERT HYLAND - a 22-year-old veteran with an expression of grim determination - thundered down the dirt path in pursuit of another man.

Scarred visage and cold eyes staring straight ahead, he charged forward without hesitation.

Robert collides into the man, sending him tumbling to the ground.

He jumps off his horse and watches as the man begins to crawl away.

MAN

Come on. Just let me go.

ROBERT

Can't do that.

The man reaches for his gun, but Robert kicks it out of his hands. He begins pummeling the man.

After flipping the man over, he bound him with rope and then hoisted him onto the back of his horse.

Then he galloped away quickly.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATER

Robert tied his horse to the post outside of Sheriff CLAY MILFORD's office.

The new sheriff had recently been appointed in the small town and stepped out of the building after he heard a noise.

CLAY

Got another one, Robert?

ROBERT

Sheriff Milford.

Clay inspects the man and notices his face, which is full of lacerations and bruises.

CLAY

What happened to him?

ROBERT
He didn't want to be brought in.

CLAY
Jesus.

ROBERT
You said alive. He's alive.

CLAY
Well...

Clay pulls out some cash and hands it to Robert. Robert picks up the man and take him inside the jail.

Robert returns a moment later.

CLAY (CONT'D)
I'm tracking down a lead about a possible target.

ROBERT
When you have something more concrete, you'll know where to find me.

Robert walks to the saloon next door.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert sits at the bar, sipping on a drink. Clay enters and takes the empty stool next to Robert.

CLAY
I got a lead.

ROBERT
(sighs)
Who is it?

CLAY
Lucius Colson.

Robert stops what he's doing and stares a hole threw Clay.

CLAY (CONT'D)
You know him or something.

ROBERT
He was my general in the war.

CLAY
Well, now he's a wanted man.

ROBERT
For what?

CLAY
Apparently, he's still
participating in the slave trade.

ROBERT
What do you mean?

CLAY
He's selling and trading negros.

ROBERT
But how? It's been over a year
since the war ended.

CLAY
Well, word still hasn't traveled to
certain parts of the country yet.
People buy them and then pass them
off as "employees."

Robert took a short time to process his emotions. His anger
was growing rapidly.

ROBERT
I'll do it.

CLAY
What?

ROBERT
(angrily)
I said, I'll do it.

He angrily threw some cash onto the counter, then charged out
of the shop, leaving Clay confused and in pursuit.

EXT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Robert prepares to ride away on his horse, but Clay stops him
from doing so.

CLAY
What's going on?

ROBERT
(sighs)
Lucius and I have... History.

CLAY
Yeah, you said he was your general.

ROBERT
It's more than that. It's... Well,
it... It's complicated.

Robert took off, leaving Clay increasingly confused in his wake.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Robert visits two graves, bearing equal bunches of flowers in his hands.

He carefully divided the bouquets and laid them at each of the gravesites.

ROBERT
I'm sorry it's taken so long. I
should of come sooner, but I've
been looking for him. Lucky for me,
he came to me.

Clay slowly and quietly approaches him from behind.

CLAY
Figured I'd find you here.

ROBERT
What do you want Clay?

CLAY
Is this why you got upset? Did
Lucius have something to do with
your wife's death.

ROBERT
It doesn't matter.

CLAY
Yeah, actually it does. I need to
know if you're doing this as a
bounty hunter or as a vengeful
husband.

ROBERT
Why can't it be both?

He and clay look at each other.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
He's a bad person. One day he'll
rot in hell and I'm gonna be the
person to put him there.

Robert strolled off with a spring in his step.

EXT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DAY

Robert rides up to the house and greeted by a former slave sweeping off the porch.

MAN

If you're looking for Mr. Colson,
he hasn't been here in months.

ROBERT

Do you know where I can find him?

MAN

Some say Montana, some say Oregon.
I don't know.

Robert spots a teenage boy lurking around the corner and listening in to the conversation.

As soon as he notices, the boy immediately jumps and takes off running.

Without wasting any time, Robert chases after him and manages to snag him by the back of his shirt!

ROBERT

Where you off to, boy? You know something?

BOY

(nervously)
No, sir. I don't know nothin'.

ROBERT

(scoffs)
Is that right?

Robert rides as fast as he can past a tree. The boy winces thinking he was gonna hit it.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Consider that a warning. Now, what do you know about Mr. Colson?

BOY

He had another house in Jackson.

ROBERT

Is that right?

The man comes over to confront Robert.

MAN
What are you doing to that boy?

ROBERT
Nothing.

He places the boy back on the ground and rides away.

EXT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DAY

As Robert stopped his horse outside a house that seemed abandoned, he heard the sound of wood being chopped.

He quickly glanced around to make sure he wasn't in any danger before continuing.

Riding to the rear of the house, he notices a big African-American man splitting logs with an axe.

EARL
Can I help you?

ROBERT
Is Mr. Carlson around?

EARL
Nope.

Robert waits to see if he has more to say.

ROBERT
Is he coming back soon?

EARL
(chuckles)
Doubt it.

Robert watches him for a moment.

ROBERT
So, why are you still here?

EARL
I live here.

ROBERT
Any money coming in?

EARL
(scoffs)
Not enough.

ROBERT
You got a horse?

EARL
Why?

ROBERT
You're boss is a wanted man. I was hired to track him down. I could use some help and well, you look like you can handle yourself.

EARL
I can. How much does this pay?

ROBERT
Ha. Way more than you're making now.

EARL
Fair enough.

He runs and saddles up a horse.

EARL (CONT'D)
I'm Earl by the way.

ROBERT
Robert.

They shake hands and then ride off together.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Clay sits at his desk, writing in a notebook. Robert and Earl enter and sit across from him.

CLAY
Who is this?

ROBERT
This is Earl. He's gonna be helping me out.

CLAY
Helping out? But, he's...

EARL
What? A negro.

CLAY
(nervously)
Well... Yeah.

Earl stood up in an aggressive manner and attempted to approach Clay.

Clay reacted quickly by jumping back out of reach. Robert grabs Earl and forces him back into his seat.

ROBERT
Hey, take it easy.

Earl angrily stares at Clay.

CLAY
Keep a leash on him, yeah?

ROBERT
Don't worry about him. Now, tell me what you have on Lucius.

CLAY
(clear throat)
Okay, he has family in Kansas. I've heard he's there and is eventually headed to Montana.

ROBERT
But, Montana is still wild.

CLAY
That's why you need to capture him before he gets there.

ROBERT
Got it. Kansas it is.

Everyone stands up. Robert and Clay greet each other with a handshake. Clay offers his hand to Earl, yet Earl denies him.

He and Robert exit, leaving Clay standing there awkwardly.

EXT. PATH - DAY

Robert and Earl carefully navigate the winding path on horseback as they proceed.

Earl glances up and spots two Native Americans perched atop horses on a ledge.

EARL
You see this?

ROBERT
If they were going to kill us we'd be dead already.

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 (looks at Natives)
 They're just letting us know we're
 in their territory now.

Robert and Earl keep on riding.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Robert and Earl sit around a fire at their makeshift
 campsite.

Unexpectedly, the Camanche tribe members encircle Robert and
 Earl. Both of them rise to their feet.

TRIBESMAN
 Why are you here?

ROBERT
 We're just passing through. We're
 headed to Kansas.

TRIBESMAN
 Hmm. How do we know you're
 government didn't send you for us.

ROBERT
 Look.

As he reaches into his bag, the Camanche pull their weapons
 in response, ready to take aim.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 Woah. Relax. See?

He hands them a wanted poster with Lucius's face on it.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 We're after this man. He's in
 Kansas.

TRIBESMAN
 (to Earl)
 This true.

EARL
 Yes.

TRIBESMAN
 You must leave at first light.

ROBERT
 Of course.

The Camanche disappear into the night.

EARL
Are we safe here?

ROBERT
For now. Be ready to leave in the morning.

They retire to their tents.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The piercing winds blow with tremendous force, almost pushing Robert and Earl off their horses as the tornado draws nearer.

Far away, they spotted the same Camanche tribesman that was there the previous night.

He shouts out to Robert and Earl, beckoning them to follow him, and they comply.

As they descend into the valley, they dismount their horses and shoo them away.

TRIBESMAN
Get down! Lay on your bellies.

They all lie down and wait for the tornado to pass.

TRIBESMAN (CONT'D)
Is everyone alright?

Robert and Earl look at each other to make sure they're okay.

ROBERT
Yeah, we're fine.

EARL
Why did you help us? Last night I got the impression you didn't want us here.

TRIBESMAN
We've been following you. Turns out you were telling the truth. You're not after us. If you're headed to Kansas your guys probably not here anymore.

ROBERT
Why not?

TRIBESMAN

It's tornado season. Kansas gets a lot. I wouldn't be surprised if they were forced to leave.

He whistles for his horses.

ROBERT

Well, I gotta see.

TRIBESMAN

Fair enough. Safe travels.

The Camanche run off. Robert and Earl look for their horses and eventually find them nearby.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY

Robert and Earl ride by a homestead that was destroyed by the tornado.

Four bandits have taken the family hostage and are looting their possessions by loading them onto a wagon.

ROBERT

(to Earl)

Let's see if you're a good shot.

Robert gallops his way over to the bandits. Earl follows.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Hey!

The bandits stop and look at Robert and Earl.

BANDIT LEADER

(scoffs)

What are you gonna do? It's four on two.

Robert kills two bandits without even blinking. Earl is completely caught off guard.

ROBERT

Now it's two on two.

The bandit runs over and grabs one of the family members and uses them as a human shield.

The other bandit goes to grab his rifle, but Earl puts him down.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Now, would you look at that? Look's
like the numbers are in our favor.

BANDIT LEADER
(terrified)
Let me go.

ROBERT
Release her and leave their things
and you can go.

The bandit leader pushes the hostage away and starts running away. Robert shoots him in the back, killing him.

Robert and Earl get off their horses and begin untying the family.

EARL
I thought you were gonna let him
go.

ROBERT
He didn't deserve to be let go. I
just had to get the family out of
harm's away before I killed him.

Once the mother of the family is freed, she wraps Robert up in a bear hug. He doesn't return the hug.

MOTHER
Oh, thank you, sir.

ROBERT
Sure.

Robert and Earl leave the family.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert and Earl walk into the bustling saloon and make their way over to the bar.

BARTENDER
What can I get for you gentlemen?

Robert is captivated by her beauty and the strong resemblance it his late wife.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Sir?

Earl decides to intervene.

EARL
We'll have your finest whiskey.

BARTENDER
Sure thing.

A bar patron elbows Robert.

BAR PATRON
Stunning, isn't she?

Robert rubs his wedding ring.

BAR PATRON (CONT'D)
She's a recent widow. Boy, what I'd
do to her.

Robert punches him square in the nose and then bounces his
head off the bar.

Instantly, everything in the saloon came to a halt. The
patrons turn their attention to Robert.

He throws some money on the bar and leaves.

Unsure of what to do, Earl follows him.

EXT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Earl chases after Robert and stops him.

EARL
What the hell was that?

ROBERT
Don't worry about it. I'll see you
in the morning.

Robert walks to the hotel. Earl is shocked by Robert's
actions.

EXT. HIDEOUT - DAY

Robert and Earl come across an abandoned hideout. Robert
stands over an old fire.

ROBERT
Logs are still warm. Probably left
yesterday.

EARL
So they did leave after the
tornado.

ROBERT
Most likely.

One of Lucius's men ride up.

MAN
You just missed him.

ROBERT
Who are you?

MAN
A friend of Mr. Carlson's.

ROBERT
Where is he?

MAN
He said he's sorry he couldn't be
here for the reunion.

Robert points his gun at him. The man takes off on his horse.

EARL
Why didn't you shoot him?

ROBERT
We'll track him. Hopefully he'll
lead us right to Lucius.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Robert and Earl carefully track the man. Coming over the horizon is a group of about a dozen men.

They surround Robert and Earl, guns drawn. Robert scoffs.

MAN
Off your horses.

Robert and Earl reluctantly step off their horses. The man hogties Robert and places a bag over his head and throws him on the back of his horse.

The men ride away with all the horses, leaving Earl behind without a horse.

INT. CELL - NIGHT

The man chains Robert to a wall with slaves. He removes the bag from his head.

ROBERT
Hey. Hey!

The man exits. All the slaves stare at Robert.

SLAVE
What the hell are you in here for?

ROBERT
I was hired to arrest Lucius. You must be the slaves he selling.

SLAVE
He says we can't work for him anymore, but I don't understand why.

ROBERT
It's illegal.

SLAVE
(confused)
What?

ROBERT
Slavery was deemed illegal over a year ago. The war is over.

All the slaves become enraged.

SLAVE
So, how can he sell us?

ROBERT
There's still a market for it.
(a beat)
I gotta get outta here.

INT. CELL - MORNING

The man returns and begins unchaining Robert.

ROBERT
What are you doing?

MAN
Lucius wants to see you.

The man puts his gun in Robert's lower back, forcing him outside.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The man continues to push Robert forward with his gun in his lower back.

Robert was quick to react and managed to grab the gun away in time.

This time he doesn't hesitate to put a bullet between the man's eyes.

Robert runs away before anyone can respond to the gunshot.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Robert returns to the house at night. He quietly opens the door and heads inside.

INT. CELL - CONTINUOUS

Upon entering the cell, Robert discovers a gruesome sight -- all of his fellow captives have been slain.

This is a stark reminder that they were held in captivity and their lives are now tragically cut short.

ROBERT
What the fuck?

He looks over the devastation of the men, women, and children that were slaughtered. He angrily runs out.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Robert suddenly comes face to face with LUCIUS COLSON, a prominent war veteran with a hefty white mustache, outside the door of the house.

ROBERT
Lucius.

LUCIUS
We meet again.

ROBERT
Where's your men?

LUCIUS
They're around, don't worry. I
wanted to talk to you for a moment.

ROBERT
About what?

LUCIUS
Your wife.

Robert angrily points his gun at Lucius.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)
(chuckles)
I know they want me alive.

ROBERT
Why do I care?

LUCIUS
You're right. You could kill me. Go
on the run.
(gloating)
I mean, you don't have a family
anymore.

Robert viciously beat Lucius with his gun, prompting a
response from Lucius' men.

The men subsequently arrived with their weapons raised,
taking Robert by surprise.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)
Leave him. Let's get out of here.

Lucius mounts his steed and gallops off with his cohorts.
Robert's rage manifests itself in him punching a tree nearby.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert walks into the saloon and is surprised to see Earl
sitting at the bar. He takes the seat next to him.

EARL
Robert?

ROBERT
Surprised to see me, Earl?

EARL
I went looking for you.

ROBERT
(chuckles)
Oh, you did?

EARL
Yeah, I saw the place they were holding you. There were too many men. I wasn't gonna risk my life for--

ROBERT
Don't worry about it, Earl. There was no need to risk both of us.

EARL
(nodding)
Well, did you get him?

ROBERT
(chuckles)
No, I didn't get him.

EARL
(sighs)
So, what's next?

ROBERT
Try to follow him to Montana.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATION - DAY

Robert and Earl meander onto the reservation, where they tie up their horses.

EAGLE SKIES, an elder of the reservation, comes out and greets Robert.

EAGLE FLIES
Robert.

They shake hands.

ROBERT
Eagle Flies, this is Earl.

Earl and Eagle Flies shake hands.

EAGLE FLIES
Follow me.

Robert and Earl follow Eagle Flies to his tipi.

INT. TIPI - CONTINUOUS

Eagle Flies, Robert, and Earl sit together in a circle.

EAGLE FLIES

What brings you here, Robert?

ROBERT

I need a tracker and you're the best one around.

EAGLE FLIES

Track who.

ROBERT

A man responsible for keeping the slave trade alive.

He hands him the wanted poster. Eagle Flies looks at Robert, realizing his true motivations.

EAGLE FLIES

Isn't this the man that burned your house down with your wife and child inside?

ROBERT

It is.

EAGLE FLIES

Is that your real motivation?

ROBERT

Does it matter? I'm taking down a bad man. Why does my motivations matter? I mean, you can't judge me. Not after what you had me do to the man that hurt your daughter.

EAGLE FLIES

(reluctantly)

Fine. But, here me out, revenge isn't as satisfying as you'd think.

ROBERT

We'll see.

They exit the tipi.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Eagle Flies tracks Lucius's men's footsteps with great caution. Robert and Earl are not far behind, keeping up with him.

Suddenly, Eagle Flies stops.

EAGLE FLIES
This is where I leave you.

ROBERT
What do you mean? We haven't found him yet.

EAGLE FLIES
We're entering Dakota territory.
Our people aren't exactly friends.

ROBERT
(sighs)
Fine. Thanks for your help.

EAGLE FLIES
Keep heading northwest.

Eagle Flies nods and then leaves them.

EARL
Now what?

ROBERT
Now we keep moving.

EARL
But, we don't know where he is.

ROBERT
No, but we know he's headed for Montana. We'll find him there.

Robert and Earl keep riding.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert and Earl cap off their day with a drink at the bar. A man taps on Robert's shoulder. It's one of Lucius' men.

MAN
(aggressive)
What the fuck are you doing her?

Without saying a word, Robert decks him. The man stumbles to the front of the saloon.

Robert tackles him through the window.

EXT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Robert is standing above the man, persistently striking him with his fists.

The patrons of the saloon come out and watch the fight. While some shout their encouragement, others plead for it to end.

Eventually the saloon owner pulls him off.

SALOON OWNER

That's enough.

ROBERT

Eh, he's not worth it.

Robert walks away while the owner checks on the man. Earl follows Robert.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Robert walks around the small old western town. There's a young African-American woman standing outside the general store.

WOMAN

Sir, can you help me?

ROBERT

What is it?

WOMAN

My people are disappearing.

ROBERT

What do you mean?

WOMAN

Four of my friends disappeared overnight. Have you seen them?

ROBERT

What do they look like.

WOMAN

Well, they're negroes, sir. The only ones in this town.

ROBERT

Nah, I haven't seen any other negro besides you and my friend. Can I ask you something?

WOMAN

Sure, sir.

Robert shows her the wanted poster.

ROBERT

Have you seen this man?

WOMAN

Yeah, he was here about three or four days ago.

(a beat)

Is he the one behind my friends missing?

ROBERT

I'm afraid so. He's been kidnapping former slaves selling them back into slavery.

WOMAN

Are you here to stop him?

ROBERT

I am.

She hugs Robert, who tries to pull away.

WOMAN

Good luck.

She leaves him.

EXT. PATH - DAY

A wagon, with the unfortunate kidnapped slaves tightly enclosed in it, is dragged along the worn-down path.

Robert and Earl gallop along each side of the wagon.

ROBERT

Stop the wagon!

MAN

I'm not gonna do that.

The passenger pulls his gun and aims it at Robert. Earl shoots the passenger.

The man driving starts freaking out as the dead body falls on top of him.

MAN (CONT'D)
Woah, woah.

He stops the wagon.

MAN (CONT'D)
I don't have any money, okay?

ROBERT
I don't want your money. I want you to free these people.

MAN
I can't do that. My boss'll kill me.

ROBERT
If you don't I'll kill you right now.

He points his gun at the man.

MAN
Alright, alright.

The man gets down and opens the cage for the people to get out. They all exit the wagon, confused.

Robert puts a bullet in the back of the man's head. The slaves look at Robert, unsure of what to think or do.

ROBERT
Do you know where they were taking you?

SLAVE
I heard them say something about a log cabin a mile up the road.

ROBERT
Thanks.

Robert and Earl take off.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Robert and Earl stumble upon a fierce river, its waters furiously rushing by.

EARL

Now what?

ROBERT

We need to find the best place to cross.

EARL

I'm not much of a rider, Robert.

ROBERT

I understand, Earl, but we need to cross.

EARL

(reluctantly)

Yeah.

They continue riding along the riverbank a bit further.

ROBERT

Here. We'll cross here. Now, take it nice and slow, but not too slow or the stream'll take you with it.

Earl cautiously crosses the river, with the water rising halfway up his horse.

He proceeds with caution. He'd made it halfway across the river when his horse lost its footing and got swept downstream, the horse breaks a leg in the process.

Robert gallops as fast as he can down the river, following Earl.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Grab this!

Robert whips out his lasso and Earl eagerly grabs onto it. Robert drags him to the shoreline, and Earl pauses to take a few deep breaths.

EARL

I told you, I can't ride that well.

ROBERT

(laughs)

Come on. Let's get you a new horse.

He helps Earl onto the back of his horse.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Robert and Earl come across an abandoned camp and get off their horses to search it. Robert stands over the fire.

ROBERT
Looks like they must have left this morning.

EARL
How can you tell?

ROBERT
The warmth of the fire. It was put out less than a day ago.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Robert inspects the tent closely and discovers something beneath the sleeping bag.

He pulls it out, opens it and reads it.

ROBERT
Jesus.

Earl enters.

EARL
What is it?

ROBERT
It's a ledger. He's kept track of all the slaves he's sold.

EARL
What's a ledge?

ROBERT
It's a book where you keep information.

EARL
Lucius left it behind.

ROBERT
I guess so.
(reading)
Wait. I recognize this name. He was Lucius' right hand man during the war. I think he's a sheriff in Iowa now.

EARL
We're going to Iowa.

ROBERT
Yep.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Robert and Earl have a good view of the sheriff's office from their spot on the hill.

Suddenly, KANE BARBER, who is of smaller stature, emerges from it.

He leaps onto a horse and Robert and Earl scramble after him, taking care not to be spotted.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - LATER

Kane ties his horse to a post outside a home on the outskirts of the town.

After he goes in, Robert and Earl proceed to knock on the door.

When Kane answers the door, Robert forces his way inside.

INT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Kane nervously backs away from Robert and Earl.

KANE
Robert? Is that you?

He extends his hand to Robert expecting a friendly exchange, but Robert ignores him.

ROBERT
Where is she?

KANE
Who?

ROBERT
The slave you bought illegally.

KANE
(scoffs)
What do you care about these
niggers?
(realizing)
(MORE)

KANE (CONT'D)

Oh, right you married one, you damn nigger lover.

Robert pistol whips him. Kane holds his now broken nose after falling to the ground.

ROBERT

I asked you were she was.

KANE

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

Robert kicks him in the face.

ROBERT

I'm giving you a chance to make it out of this alive. On account you saving my life during the war.

KANE

(chuckles)

If had known you were such a nigger lover, I wouldn't have.

Robert shoots him in the leg. Kane belches out in pain.

ROBERT

Last chance.

KANE

Fuck you.

Robert shoots and kills him.

ROBERT

(to Earl)

Hurry up and look for her.
Someone's had to have heard the
gunshots.

They quickly look around the house. Earl stops when notices some floorboards sound different when he steps on them.

He removes the rug to reveal a hidden door.

EARL

Over here.

Robert joins him as they open the door.

INT. CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Earl descend into the basement and discover a frightened woman quivering in the corner. Approaching her softly, Robert attempts to reassure her.

ROBERT

It's okay, ma'am. We're here to help.

He shatters her shackles, allowing her to realize she's free. She promptly flees the scene with all the speed she can muster.

INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

Lucius paces around in front of his men like he's holding a meeting.

LUCIUS

Men, before we move any further, we need to go back for my ledger.

MAN

Ledger?

LUCIUS

Yes, I need it back.

MAN

(confused)

But, what's a ledger?

LUCIUS

Jesus Christ, you're all fucking idiots. It's a book and I need it back. Now, odds are Robert's already been to our old camp and found the ledger. He's probably made his way into town by now. Kill him and take back the ledger.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

Lucius' men ride to town as fast as they can.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Robert and Earl slowly make their way through town. Suddenly, Lucius' men stand across from them, blocking their path.

ROBERT
What is this?

MAN
Give us the ledger.

ROBERT
(chuckles)
I see. Lucius sent you.

MAN
Give. Us. The. Ledger.

ROBERT
I don't think so.

He fires his weapon and the man tumbles off his horse. Earl and he both leap from their horses and take cover.

Gunfire is exchanged between them and Lucius' group of men. Eventually, Robert and Earl kill off all the men in the street.

EARL
We gotta get out of here.

ROBERT
Yeah.

More of Lucius' men show up. They jump on their horses and gallop out of there.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CONTINUOUS

Lucius' people give pursuit to Robert & Earl. Shots are exchanged between them.

Unfortunately, one of the bullets struck Earl in his back and he was thrown off his steed.

ROBERT
Fuck!

Robert kills a couple of Lucius' men. He loses the rest and stops at the ledge of a cliff.

He forces the horse off the cliff in order to make it look like he died. He hides behind a tree.

He grabs the back of his arm and realizes he's bleeding. A bullet must have grazed his arm.

He wraps his bandana around the wound. A few moments later, Lucius' men appear. They look over the edge and see the dead.

MAN

Go down there and get the ledger.

The men go down to the bottom of the cliff. Once they're gone, Robert runs back to Earl's body. He clutches his body.

ROBERT

(tearfully)

I'm sorry.

He escapes.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Robert walks down a trail all alone, lost in his thoughts. Suddenly, a Native American tribe surrounds him.

ROBERT

(softly)

Oh, shit.

TRIBESMAN

What brings you here?

ROBERT

I'm just passing through.

TRIBESMAN

Without a horse?

ROBERT

He died a ways back.

Examining him intently, the tribesman attempts to determine whether he poses a threat or not.

TRIBESMAN

You need a horse?

ROBERT

If you have one to spare.

(a beat)

I'll pay you for your troubles.

TRIBESMAN

(motioning)

Hop on.

Robert hops on the back of his horse. They ride away.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATION - LATER

Robert rides in with tribe just at it's starting to get dark. The dominant structures were simple dwellings made of wood and skins.

Robert jumps off the back of the horse.

TRIBESMAN
(pointing)
You can stay in that tipi over there.

ROBERT
All right.

The tribesmen leave him. He walks over to the tipi.

INT. TIPI - CONTINUOUS

Robert enters the tipi and a tribesman stares at him.

TRIBESMAN
(pointing)
That's your bed.

Robert nods and lies down.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATION - MORNING

Robert joins some of the tribesmen by a group of stabled horses.

TRIBESMAN
These are your options.

Robert checks out the horses before picking an all white one. He saddles the horse and jumps on it.

ROBERT
I'll take this one.

He tosses some money to tribesman.

TRIBESMAN
Where you headed anyway?

ROBERT
Montana.

TRIBESMAN

What for?

ROBERT

To collect a bounty.

TRIBESMAN

A bounty?

ROBERT

It's where the government pays to
kill bad men.

TRIBESMAN

The government should put a bounty
on itself.

ROBERT

(chuckles)

No argument here. Y'all take care.

He rides away peacefully.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Robert slowly rides though Main Street. Sweat pores from his
body. He clears his throat and then falls off his horse.

A couple citizens help him up and drag him to the nearby
doctor's office.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The citizen's drag Robert's unconscious body into the chair
in the office.

DOCTOR

What's wrong with him?

CIVILIAN

I-- I don't know. He just collapsed
in the street.

DOCTOR

Okay. Thanks.

The civilian exits as the doctor examines Robert.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Robert suddenly wakes to find the doctor intently looking at him and a thick bandage around his arm.

The sudden shock startled him.

ROBERT
(groans)
What happened?

DOCTOR
That infection in your arm nearly killed you. I gave you some bromine for the infection and morphine for the pain.

ROBERT
Thanks, doc.

Robert tries to leave.

DOCTOR
Woah, woah. Where you going?

ROBERT
I have business to attend to.

DOCTOR
We have to make sure you're rid of this infection. Or at least the fever.

ROBERT
I'll be fine.

He exits to the chagrin of the doctor.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Robert stealthily approaches an African-American man who appears to be observing a house intently.

He startles the man who pulls a machete in self defense.

ROBERT
Hey, take it easy.

The slave shakes from the nervousness.

SLAVE
(nervously)
Who are you?

ROBERT
I'm Robert Hyland. I was hired to
kill Lucius Colson.

SLAVE
(confused)
Kill him?

ROBERT
He's a bad man. He needs to be
stopped. Now, can you lower the
machete, please?

The slave lowers his weapon.

SLAVE
Sorry. It's just... My wife's in
there.

ROBERT
So I guess we both need to get in
there.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

Two men stand guard outside the home. Suddenly bullets fly,
one through the foreheads of each man.

Robert and the slave are positioned behind a couple of trees
when two more men appear from the house.

A couple more men come out of the house, only to be met by
bullets themselves. Robert looks to the slave.

ROBERT
Is that all of them?

SLAVE
Uh... There should be one more.

ROBERT
Okay.

Robert cocked his gun and advanced towards the house.
Suddenly, a man appeared with a shotgun pointed at him, yet
Robert had an opening - the man hesitated momentarily -
giving Robert an opportunity to take his life.

Robert and the slave enter the house.

INT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Robert and the slave bursts through the door. Robert follows the slave into a back room.

SLAVE

Martha?

They enter the room.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Robert and the slave enter the room where five other slaves, including a young child, are tied to furniture.

They hurry up and release them. The slave whispers something to his wife and child.

The child runs up and hugs Robert's leg.

CHILD

Thank you, sir.

Robert can't help but think of the family he once had. The slaves exit.

ROBERT

Wait. Was he ever here?

SLAVE

I only saw him the first day. Three days ago.

ROBERT

Okay.

SLAVE

I did hear him say he hired some gunmen to kill someone.

ROBERT

Me?

SLAVE

(shrugs)
Probably.

The slave leaves Robert to drown in his thoughts.

EXT. PATH - DAY

A famed gunman, CLAYTON ACKERMAN, gallops in front of Robert, causing him to come to a complete stop.

CLAYTON
Robert Hyland.

ROBERT
(scoffs)
Clayton.

CLAYTON
I figure you know why I'm here.

ROBERT
You're the person he hired?

CLAYTON
Yup.

ROBERT
You know what kind of person he is,
right?

CLAYTON
Who cares? He can be whatever he
wants to be with the amount of
money he's paying me.

ROBERT
And you still want to duel? Why not
just kill me?

CLAYTON
I still have some respect for
myself.

They both dismount from their steeds and positioned themselves back-to-back, taking thirty steps away from each other.

They turn and face each other. Robert's a quicker draw as shoots Clayton through the shoulder.

Robert walks over and stands over Clayton who grasps his shoulder and groans in pain.

He tries to reach for gun that is now out of reach. Robert kicks farther away.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

Wait. River boat. I'm supposed to meet his right hand man, Quincy Sutherland, at a high stakes gambling match on a river boat.

(a beat)

Now, do it.

Robert shoots him in the face and puts him out of his misery. He seems upset that he had to do that.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

Robert is standing near the riverboat, wearing a sharp looking suit.

Nonetheless, discomfort is noticeable on his face. He starts to walk onto the boat when he's stopped by a couple of guards.

GUARD

All patrons must hand over their weapons.

Robert grudgingly relinquishes his gun with a deep sigh.

ROBERT

Fine.

Robert enters the boat.

INT. RIVER BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Robert sits at a poker table across from QUINCY SUTHERLAND, a business man who's never seen a hard days work in his life.

DEALER

Welcome, sir.

ROBERT

(sighs)

Thanks.

The cards are dealt. The men place their bets. A waiter comes over and whispers something in Quincy's ear.

QUINCY

I fold.

He exits with the waiter. Robert waits till his next turn to fold. He follows Quincy.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Robert hides out in the hallway as he listens in to Quincy's conversation with more of Lucius' men.

QUINCY

He wants to get tonight? To Canada?
Why?

Robert walks away.

ROBERT

(quietly)
Canada?

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Robert enters the general store and walks around, keeping one eye outside the window.

That's when he notices Lucius ride up outside with ten other men. Robert rushes outside.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - CONTINUOUS

Robert stands in front of Lucius and his men.

ROBERT

Hey! Let's end this.

LUCIUS

(surprised)
Robert. I guess this means Clayton didn't get the job done. I guess if you want something done, you gotta do it yourself.

He pulls his gun on Robert, who takes cover around the corner of the general store.

He exchanges gunfire with Lucius and his men while Lucius escapes.

Lucius kills four of the men before the rest run off scared.

ROBERT

(disappointed)
Damn it.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Robert rides up on a group of injured men. One of the men draw their gun on him.

MAN
State your business.

ROBERT
Woah. I'm just looking for someone.

MAN
Us too.

ROBERT
What happened here?

MAN
A group of men came and took two of our men.

ROBERT
Did your men happen to be negros?

MAN
Uh, yeah.

ROBERT
(sighs)
Damn it. Are any of you able to fight?

MAN
I'm sure a few of us can.

ROBERT
Get your shit together. Let's go get your men back.

MAN
Why would you help us?

ROBERT
The person responsible for taking your people is most likely the man I am looking for. Now, let's go.

MAN
Yes, sir.

He gathers up a couple of able-bodied men and they ride out with Robert.

EXT. PATH - LATER

Robert and the gang hang out a top a ridge. Robert looks through a pair of binoculars at Lucius' men.

ROBERT
There they are. Do you see your men?

MAN
No, but those are the ones who took him.

ROBERT
(nodding)
Let's go.

They ride after the men. They try to blindside them, but the gang is picked off by Lucius' men pretty easily.

They soon have Robert surrounded. Quincy unarms Robert. He hogties and blindfolds him and throws him on his horse.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Quincy removes Robert's blindfold. Robert finds himself chained to the ceiling.

Lucius enters and stands face to face with Robert.

LUCIUS
(scoffs)
I can't believe you thought those inbred fucks would actually help you.

ROBERT
We meet again.

LUCIUS
Who all knows about me, Robert?

ROBERT
What?

Lucius punches him square in the ribs a few times.

LUCIUS
Who else is coming after me?

ROBERT
No one.

LUCIUS
(scoffs)
Yeah, right.

He hits Robert a few more times.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)
I know you have connections,
Robert. Now, who else is working
with you.

ROBERT
Lucius, the only hands that're
gonna kill you is mine.

LUCIUS
You really are one stubborn son of
a bitch, aren't you? You were
supposed to be a confederate.

ROBERT
I was.

LUCIUS
No, you were forced to fight with
us. You married a nigger for
Christ's sake.

ROBERT
I loved her.

LUCIUS
I know you did. But, they're not
like us. We are better than them in
so many ways. She tainted you. Made
you dirty your line. They had to
die.

Robert spits on him. Lucius takes a brand and heats it up in
the fire. He brands Robert in the middle of his chest.

Robert screams louder than he's ever screamed in his life.

INT. CELLAR - LATER

Robert hangs from the ceiling, struggling to stay conscious.
His body is battered and bleeding profusely from his chest.

His wife, ALISHA, appears in front of him.

ROBERT
(weakly)
Alisha?

ALISHA
Yes, Robert.

ROBERT
No, no, you're...

ALISHA
I'm here to tell you not to give
up.

ROBERT
But, he's won... Again.

ALISHA
You have to stop him. Once and for
all.

Robert nods. He swings his legs and pulls a chair over to him and stands on it.

He yanks the chains from the wooden ceiling above him and ducks behind the door.

Immediately after, a guard strides in. Robert sneaks up on him from behind and placed him in a chokehold with his chains.

He then grabbed the key from his pocket and freed himself.

Then, he takes the guards gun before exiting.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Robert ducks behind a wagon. He listens in on a conversation between two guards.

GUARD
What's taking Matthew so long?

The guard enters the house.

ROBERT
(softly)
Shit.

He sneaks his way to the stables. He jumps on the back of a horse and rides in the opposite direction of the men.

He can here the guards yelling in the distance. He speeds up on the horse and gets out of there.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Robert enters the office and sits across from the sheriff at his desk. The sheriff can tell Robert's exhausted.

SHERIFF
What the hell happened to you?

ROBERT
I need men.

SHERIFF
What for?

Robert pulls out the wanted poster and throws it on his desk.

ROBERT
For this bounty.

The sheriff checks out the poster.

SHERIFF
Do you know where he is?

ROBERT
I do.

SHERIFF
I can get some men together.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATER

The sheriff and a dozen men he's gathered up surround Robert.

ROBERT
Before we do this, you all need to
there's a good chance most of you
won't come back. This is your last
chance to bow out.

He waits to see if anyone leaves, but no one does.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Good. Let's ride!

Robert and the men take off on their horses at top speed.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - LATER

Robert and his men catch Lucius' men off guard, killing a lot of them right away.

A couple of Robert's men get shot and killed off their horse, including the sheriff.

Robert and his men are able to finish off Lucius' men. There's no sign of Lucius.

ROBERT
Where the hell is he?

He looks at all the bloody bodies lying around.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
He's not here. Check the buildings.

He gets off his horse and goes inside the homestead.

INT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Robert breaks through the door, his gun drawn. He checks every room, only to find them empty.

He holsters his weapon and then exits.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Robert comes out of the house. He looks at the men that survived.

ROBERT
(disappointed)
I'm sorry. He's not here.

Suddenly, Lucius and a handful of men return to the homestead. Robert and Lucius make eye contact.

Lucius turns and runs while his men exchange gunfire with Robert's men. Robert chases after him.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Robert chases down Lucius and kicks him off his horse. Robert gets on top of him and starts pummeling him.

LUCIUS
Come on. I'm just trying to make a living the same way I always have.

ROBERT
Your reasoning is bullshit.

He beats Lucius within an inch of his life. One of Lucius's men shows up and tackles Robert off of Lucius.

He holds Robert to the ground.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
No.

The other men help Lucius back to his feet and on his horse. His face is swollen so bad you can't even see his eyes.

LUCIUS
Leave him and take his horse.
(to Robert)
Say thanks to the sheriff for warning me.

Lucius and his men ride away. Robert draws his gun and points it at the back of Lucius.

He thinks better of it, realizing he would be killed instantly if he pulled the trigger.

ROBERT
Damn it.

He yells in frustration.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - LATER

Robert returns to the homestead, on a mission to find the sheriff, who is nursing a flesh wound.

Without saying a word, he walks up and clocks the sheriff square in the nose.

He stands over top of him like he's gonna pummel him, but the other two survivors stop him.

MAN
Woah. What's going on?

ROBERT
He warned him!

MAN
(confused)
What?

Robert quickly draws his gun and shoots the sheriff. The men nervously stand back from Robert.

ROBERT

You all better not be helping him
either or you'll face the same
fate.

He storms into the homestead.

INT. HOMESTEAD - CONTINUOUS

Robert rifles through all the drawers. He turns the house upside down while looking for clues.

He finally finds a piece of paper. It's a list of people who helped Lucius at some point.

ROBERT

Jesus.
(recognizing)
Is that...

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert enters the saloon. He sits next to MALACHI BARNETT, a man who served in the war alongside Robert.

He's surprised, yet happy to see him.

ROBERT

Malachi, what are you doing here?

MALACHI

I received a letter from Lucius.

ROBERT

You still talk to Lucius.

MALACHI

(chuckles)
Talk to him? I work for him.

ROBERT

What? But, during the war you and I
were the only ones who didn't want
to fight for the confederates.

MALACHI

(sighs)

I know, but watching the economy struggle since the end of the war, I... I guess I sees where Lucius was coming from is all.

ROBERT

But, slavery--

MALACHI

What can I say, Robert? The money's too good. I was tired of seeing my family struggle. Anyway, he brought me out here to kill you.

He points his gun at Robert under the table.

ROBERT

Then do it. The place is empty. Nobody'll know.

MALACHI

I'm giving you a chance to change your mind. Come work for us.

ROBERT

Well... How good is the money?

MALACHI

(chuckles)

Better than anything else you'll ever see. So, are you in?

ROBERT

Hell yeah. I mean, if the money's as good as you say.

MALACHI

Oh, it is.

He vulnerably places his gun on the table, Robert saw his chance to shoot him straight in the chest and send him flying back out of the chair.

Robert chugs the rest of Malachi's drink and then exits.

EXT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Robert calmly exits the saloon. He notices an African-American woman frantically running around the town.

He approaches her.

ROBERT
What's wrong, ma'am?

WOMAN
(frantically)
My daughter. He took my daughter.

ROBERT
Who did?

WOMAN
I don't know. Some white man.

ROBERT
When?

WOMAN
Just now. They went towards the
mountains.

Robert mounts his steed and takes off after them.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

A pair of men sit around a fire with the girl tied to their wagon. Robert rides up on them, catching them off guard.

MAN
You better get out of here.

Robert shoots the man dead. He turns his gun on the other man.

MAN 2
Woah. Take it easy. You can have
the girl.

ROBERT
Where is he?
(angrily)
Where's Lucius?

MAN 2
(nervously)
He's probably in Canada already.

Robert shoots him dead. He walks over to the girl. She's frightened.

ROBERT
It's okay. Your mom sent me.

He frees the girl. He mounts his horse and helps the girl on as well.

EXT. TOWN - LATER

The woman nervously paces around outside the general store. Robert approaches with the girl.

WOMAN
Oh, thank God.

The girl jumps off the horse to hug her mother.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(to Robert)
Thank you, sir.

She starts to give Robert money, but he turns it down.

ROBERT
Keep it.

The woman and her daughter head back to their house. Robert watches them and starts to tear up as he starts thinking about his own family.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Robert comes across a group of immigrants traveling. He rides alongside the leader.

IMMIGRANT
Sir?

ROBERT
Where you folks headed?

IMMIGRANT
Trying to find somewhere to set up
a town.

ROBERT
(chuckles)
You're about to be in the mountains
if you keep going.

The immigrant stops the caravan.

IMMIGRANT
What about this spot then?

ROBERT

It's either here or you start heading back. You won't survive the mountains.

IMMIGRANT

This is our spot then.

The immigrant jumps off his wagon.

IMMIGRANT (CONT'D)

(yelling in German)

This is our spot! Unload!

The other immigrants begin unloading their wagons.

IMMIGRANT (CONT'D)

It's starting to get dark. You're welcome to stay here.

ROBERT

You sure?

The immigrant nods.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Robert wakes up in the middle of the night as he hears the leader talking to one of the immigrants.

IMMIGRANT

Did you see anything up ahead?

SCOUT

There's an Indian tribe, but not many of them. We can take them and their land.

IMMIGRANT

Good.

Robert pretends to sleep as the immigrant returns to his tent.

Robert waits for him to sleep and then slits his throat. He hurries out of the tent.

EXT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Robert quietly prepares his horse before taking off as fast as he can.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN CAMP - MORNING

Robert arrives at the Natives camp, startling them. They all draw their weapons on him.

ROBERT

Woah. I need to speak with someone.

They all stare at him, confused.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

English?

The chief comes out of his tipi.

CHIEF

I speak English.

ROBERT

There's not a lot of time. There's a group of travelers who plan to attack.

CHIEF

I appreciate your concern, but we can protect ourselves.

ROBERT

I'm sure you can, but--

CHIEF

You can leave now.

The chief head back to his tipi.

ROBERT

But... Damn it.

Robert rides away, annoyed.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN CAMP - LATER

Robert watches the natives through a pair of binoculars. He nervously waits the arrival of the immigrants.

They arrive and a battle ensues between them and the tribe. They pick off the natives pretty easily with their guns while the natives only have bows.

ROBERT

Damn it.

Robert's seen enough. He rides down and starts helping the natives kill the immigrants. Eventually they kill them all.

The chief approaches Robert. He extends his hand to Robert. He hesitates for a moment and then shakes his hand.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Don't be so stubborn next time.

He exits.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Robert is resting comfortably with his feet up at the desk and sipping on a drink as he reads the newspaper.

He comes across an article about a bounty hunter named ALBERT STEPHEN.

ROBERT
(softly)
Oh, shit.

He storms out of the room.

EXT. RANCH - DAY

Albert brushes a horse in his stables. Robert rides up to him.

ALBERT
Robert? What the hell are you doing here?

ROBERT
We need to talk, Albert.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Robert and Albert sit at the dinner table together.

ALBERT
So, you need help capturing Lucius.

ROBERT
Yes. You helped me during the war even though we were on separate sides.

ALBERT
I helped you because I knew the
type of man you are.

ROBERT
And you know what type of man
Lucius is.

ALBERT
(a beat)
My wife won't be happy about this.

ROBERT
(smiling)
So, you're in?

ALBERT
I'm in.

They shake hands.

EXT. RANCH - DAY

Robert sits on his horse, waiting for Albert. He watches as
Albert and his wife argue.

Albert tries to hug her, but she pulls away. Albert mounts a
horse and joins Robert.

ROBERT
Everything alright?

ALBERT
I told you she wouldn't be happy.

Robert smiles as they ride away together.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Robert and Albert walks around store, collecting supplies.

ALBERT
Before we go after them, there's
something I need to do.

ROBERT
What is it?

ALBERT
There's a group of men putting
together an army.

ROBERT
Hold outs from the war?

ALBERT
Confederates.

ROBERT
(nodding)
Okay. We'll take care of them and
then we'll go after Lucius.

ALBERT
Yeah.

They finish up their shopping.

EXT. ABANDONED MILITARY BASE - DAY

Soldiers of the Confederacy carry out practice drills around
the perimeter of the base.

Robert & Albert are positioned at the entrance to observe.

ROBERT
How do you want to do this?

Albert pulls out a stick of dynamite.

ALBERT
We'll catch them by surprise.

He lights the dynamite and throws it into the base. The
explosion kills half the confederates and sends the others
scrambling.

Albert and Robert are able to use the chaos to their
advantage and kill the rest of them.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Robert and Albert sit atop a mountain, looking down at a
heavily guarded ranch.

ROBERT
What are we doing here?

ALBERT
You said he's in Montana, right?

ROBERT
That's what I've heard, yes.

ALBERT

I've heard about this place.
Apparently, there's a theory in
town that people are being held
captive here.

ROBERT

You think it's Lucius?

ALBERT

It's worth a shot.

ROBERT

It's too heavily armed to go in
shootin.

ALBERT

That's why we set a distraction.

ROBERT

(intrigued)
Distraction?

ALBERT

We set off an explosion nearby and
then we sneak in and see what's
going on.

ROBERT

(nodding)
Let's do it.

Albert places some dynamite on a tree. He lights as he and
Robert hide. The explosion causes a fire in the woods.

The men guarding the ranch start yelling incoherently and run
over to try and do something about the fire.

As they clear out, Robert and Albert sneak into the house.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert search the house and find nobody there.

ROBERT

Any signs of Lucius?

ALBERT

None.
(a beat)
Let's check the barn.

Robert nods. They exit.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert enter the barn to find a family of former slaves tied up. They free them.

SLAVE

Thank you. They were going to take us to California.

ROBERT

California?

SLAVE

That's were boss man is headed. Make more money there.

Robert and Albert look at each other to acknowledge they received the information. They all sneak out of the barn.

INT. BATH - NIGHT

Robert sits in a bath smoking a cigar as a woman bathes him. He's lost in his own thoughts.

ROBERT

You know, I was a slave owner. I participated in the trade. Maybe I'm not any better than him.

The woman keeps bathing him.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I don't know. I did marry her. I loved her.

WOMAN

You were a nigger lover?

Robert grabs her by the throat.

ROBERT

Don't say that. I loved her. Regardless of her skin color.

He let's her go. She runs out of the room trying to catch her breath.

EXT. PATH - DAY

Robert and Albert ride along on their way to California. Suddenly, they come across a group of natives blocking the path.

There's some African-American members in their tribe.

TRIBESMAN
What brings you here?

ROBERT
We're headed to California.

TRIBESMAN
Were from?

ROBERT
I'm from Mississippi. He's from--

TRIBESMAN
A confederate. You're not welcome here.

ROBERT
(scoffs)
We lost the war. I know that. In fact, I'm trying to stop someone from continuing with it.

TRIBESMAN
What does that mean?

ALBERT
Sir, there's a gentleman participating in the slave trade. Now, we have reason to believe he's in California.

TRIBESMAN
What's this man's name?

The tribesmen draw their weapons on Robert as he reaches into his pocket.

ROBERT
Woah. It's okay.

He grabs the wanted poster and passes to the tribesman.

TRIBESMAN
This is the man you're after?

ROBERT
Yes. We need to hurry before he sells more men. Once they're gone...

TRIBESMAN
You may pass.

The other tribesmen look at him like he's crazy.

ROBERT

Thank you.

Robert and Albert safely pass through with the tribes eyes on them the whole time.

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

Robert and Albert enjoy a drink together in an extremely busy saloon.

ROBERT

I remember him talking about a city called Dublin.

ALBERT

Like the one in Ireland?

ROBERT

Yes. Well no, this one is in California.

ALBERT

To Dublin we go.

They clink their glasses together.

EXT. ABANDONED TOWN - DAY

As Robert and Albert make their way to California, they come across an abandoned town.

There's a signs hanging all over that read: "SCARLET FEVER! GET OUT!"

ROBERT

That's not good.

ALBERT

These signs are pretty old. We should be fine.

They spot a man entering a building while trying not to be spotted. Robert runs into the building after him.

INT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Robert tackles the man before goes into a secret underground tunnel.

ROBERT
What are you doing?

MAN
I...

Robert looks down the tunnel.

ROBERT
Where does this lead?

MAN
A house outside of town.

ROBERT
Is this for Lucius Colson?

MAN
(lying terribly)
What? No.

Robert beats the man nearly to death. Albert enters and pulls Robert off the man.

ALBERT
Take it easy, Robert.

ROBERT
This takes us to him. We're almost there.

ALBERT
(to man)
Is that true?

The man sighs and nods.

ROBERT
Then we attack tonight.

ALBERT
What about him?

ROBERT
We can't risk him telling Lucius.

He slices the throat of the man.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Robert and Albert stand outside the secret tunnel, holding lanterns.

ROBERT
You ready?

ALBERT
Let's go.

They enter the tunnel.

INT. SECRET TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert tiptoed cautiously down the murky tunnel, the only light being emitted from their lanterns.

Eventually, they come across a door that goes up into a house. Albert cracks the door open.

He lights a stick of dynamite and throws it inside. They wait for the explosion as they hear the screams of the men inside.

ALBERT
Alright, let's go.

They enter the house.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert enter the house to find a few men dead with their body parts thrown all over the place.

There's a couple wounded men trying to make an exit. Robert kills one and then steps on the other ones wounds, causing him to yell out in pain.

ROBERT
(angrily)
Wounded.

MAN
(laughs)
You'll never catch him. He'll
always be one step ahead.

Robert puts a bullet between his eyes.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Taking cover on the smoky and dusty Civil War battlefield, Robert sees debris and blood flying through the air.

As the sound of gunfire fills the air, the man beside him falls over, dead.

Robert's attention is drawn to a house on fire in the distance. He slowly walks over to it as the battle continues.

He drops to his knees as watches his house burn. Lucius and a few others ride around the house laughing and setting off celebratory gunfire.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Robert suddenly wakes from his dream, covered in sweat. He sits up in the bed.

There's a moment of doubt that comes over him. He exits the room.

EXT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DAY

Robert and Albert watch the house from a distance.

ROBERT
What are we doing here?

ALBERT
The family that lives here kept
there slaves on as employees.

ROBERT
There's no way they can afford that
and keep this place running.

ALBERT
That's why I think it's possible
they might sell the slaves to
Lucius.

ROBERT
(nodding)
So, we're just gonna wait and see
if he shows up?

ALBERT
No. We're gonna pretend we're
interested.

Robert nods and they head down to the house. They're greeted by the patriarch, EUGENE TROY.

EUGENE
Can I help you gentlemen?

ALBERT
I'm albert and this my associate
Robert. We may have a business
opportunity for you.

EUGENE
What is it?

Albert looks around at the slaves.

ALBERT
It'd be better if we talked in
private.

EUGENE
(sighs)
Okay, but you must hurry. I'm
expecting company.

They enter the house.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert sit next to each other as Eugene sits
across from them.

EUGENE
So, what is this business
opportunity you two have for me?

ALBERT
We would like to know how much it
would cost to buy your negros from
you.

EUGENE
Buy them? Why, that's illegal.

An awkward beat. Eugene starts laughing. Robert and Albert
awkwardly join in.

EUGENE (CONT'D)
If you truly want them, ten
thousand for the house niggers and
eight thousand for the field
niggers.

Robert and Albert quietly talk to each other. A slave comes
in and whispers something to Eugene.

EUGENE (CONT'D)
If you'll excuse me gentlemen. My
guest has arrived.

He exits. Curious, Robert and Albert follow after him.

EXT. PLANTATION HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert emerge to find Lucius and Eugene engaged in a conversation.

However, as soon as Robert and Lucius make eye contact, they begin to shoot at each other.

Lucius' men provide cover for his escape, resulting in Eugene getting caught in the crossfire and ending up dead.

Robert and Albert are able to kill a few of Lucius' men while the others make their escape. All the slaves gather around.

ROBERT
(awkwardly)
Uh... I guess you're all free to go.

He chuckles nervously.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

Robert and Albert hitch their horses outside their hotel.

ROBERT
I'm headed to the saloon. You coming?

ALBERT
Nah, I'm gonna hit the hay.

ROBERT
Alright, I'll see you in the morning.

Albert enters the hotel while Robert heads for the saloon.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Robert enters and sees Lucius sitting at the bar alone. He checks his surroundings and doesn't see any of Lucius' men, only the bartender and a few other patrons.

He grabs a stool and breaks it over Lucius' back. Everyone in the saloon stops and watches.

Robert gets on top of Lucius and starts beating on him. Lucius blocks a punch and pulls him in for a headbutt.

Robert rolls off of him. The patrons gasp as they see Lucius pulls knife. One patron runs out.

Lucius takes a couple swipes with the knife, but misses. Lucius nearly falls and drops his knife.

Robert grabs him from behind and starts choking him out. The patron returns with the sheriff.

The sheriff fires a round into the air. Robert release Lucius.

Lucius rolls around on the ground trying to catch his breath.

SHERIFF

What the hell's going on here?

ROBERT

He's a wanted man, sheriff.

He shows the sheriff the wanted poster.

SHERIFF

I guess he is.

ROBERT

So arrest him.

SHERIFF

You have no jurisdiction here. This is California. We are not part of the United States. You understand? Now, leave my town.

ROBERT

But--

SHERIFF

Leave!

Robert exits the saloon.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Robert exits the saloon at the same time Albert exits the hotel.

ALBERT

What the hell was all that commotion?

ROBERT

He's here.

ALBERT
Lucius? Did you kill him?

ROBERT
No. The sheriff won't let me.

Robert goes to grab his rifle off his horse, but Albert stops him.

ALBERT
Don't. No one will make it out of her alive if you do that.

Their attention turns to the sheriff escorting Lucius out of the saloon. Lucius gets on his horse and rides away.

SHERIFF
I'm gonna give him a head start.
You two won't be going anywhere tonight.

He takes their horses.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
You can have them back in the morning.

Robert and Albert angrily watch as he takes their horses.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING

Robert reads an article in a newspaper about an African-American family being taken from their homes in the middle of the night.

Albert enters.

ALBERT
I got out horses. You ready?

ROBERT
We need to check out this house.

ALBERT
Why?

He reads the newspaper article.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Oh, shit. Let's go.

The hustle out of there.

EXT. BEATEN DOWN HOUSE - LATER

Robert and Albert ride up to the house and look around for clues.

ROBERT
Anything?

ALBERT
Nothing.
(pointing)
There are horse tracks over there.

ROBERT
Let's follow them.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Robert and Albert come across three men camped out. They have the family locked inside a caged wagon.

ROBERT
What are you doing?

He startles the men. They draw their guns.

MAN
None of your business.

The family watches closely. Albert approaches them.

MAN (CONT'D)
Get away from them.

ALBERT
What'd they do?

MAN
(nervously)
Does it matter? They're niggers.

Albert looks at the man.

ALBERT
It matters. In fact, they match the description of a family taken from their home.

MAN
Nah. Different family.

ALBERT
I'm sure.

He and Robert quickly kill the other two men. The last man nervously puts down his gun.

MAN

Okay, okay. Lucius Colson paid me for them.

ROBERT

Where are you supposed to take them?

MAN

I'm supposed to meet him in a town restaurant about five miles to the south.

ROBERT

When?

MAN

In two days.

Robert kills him. Albert frees the family.

ALBERT

You need help getting back home?

SLAVE

No. We got it. Thanks.

The former slaves take the men's horses.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Robert and Albert and patiently wait for Lucius' arrival. A waiter sneaks out the back.

ROBERT

Did you see that?

ALBERT

Yeah. Do you think they work for Lucius?

ROBERT

Could be coincidence.

ALBERT

Maybe.

A few moments later the waiter returns.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Robert and Albert have waited all day and Lucius never showed.

ROBERT
(whispering)
I'll meet you out back.

Robert exits. A few moments later Albert joins him.

EXT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Robert leans against a post as he waits for the waiter to come out. Albert paces around nervously.

The waiter finally come out. Robert grabs him by the back of the neck and leads him away.

ROBERT
We need to talk.

They lead him down a dark alley way.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Are you working for Lucius?

WAITER
(playing dumb)
Who?

Robert punches him in the gut.

ROBERT
You know who?

WAITER
Okay. Yes. He pays me to keep an eye out for any threats.

ROBERT
Hmm. And you told him we were here?

The waiter nods.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
(sighs)
Damn it, kid. How many others are working for him?

WAITER
Pretty much the whole town.

Robert and Albert look at each other, disappointed.

ROBERT
Fine. Get out of here.

The waiter runs away.

ALBERT
Now what?

ROBERT
We're gonna have to be way more discreet.

Albert nods.

EXT. TOWN OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Lying prone, Robert and Albert use a pair of binoculars to observe the town.

ALBERT
Any sign of him?

ROBERT
Not yet.

They come to a sudden halt upon hearing the distinct sound of a gun being cocked.

Turning around, they find two men standing over them.

MAN
Get up.

Robert and Albert slowly get back to their feet. Albert wrestles the gun away from the one of the men.

Robert tries to do the same from the other man, but ends up catching a stray to the shoulder.

He yells out in pain. Albert kills the two men. Albert places Robert on his horse and rides off as fast as he can.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Albert frantically enters the office while helping Robert inside.

ALBERT
Help he's been shot.

RECEPTIONIST
(pointing)
In there.

Albert places Robert in the chair. He backs away, concerned for his friend.

INT. LOBBY - LATER

Albert sits in the lobby, his head hanging. Robert enters with his arm in a sling.

ALBERT
Wh-- You're fine?

ROBERT
Yeah, doc said bullet went straight through. I just have to wear this stupid sling for a while.

ALBERT
(sighs in relief)
Thanks God.

ROBERT
Let's get outta here.

They exit.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Robert puts on a coat as Alisha angrily stands in the corner.

ALISHA
So, you're doing this then.

ROBERT
I have to, Alisha.

ALISHA
No, you don't, Robert. You don't have to fight in this war. We can go out west together. Please?

ROBERT
I... I'm sorry.

He exits the house, leaving Alisha to drown in her sorrows.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Robert splashes water in his face to wake himself up.

ROBERT
(softly)
I failed you.

EXT. TOWN OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Robert and Albert once again resort to stalking the town from a distance.

ALBERT
Are you sure this is a good idea?

ROBERT
Yes. They'll come into town for supplies and when they leave we follow them.

Albert nods. Robert observes through his binoculars as Lucius' men finish loading a wagon and prepare to depart.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Here we go.

They follow the wagon from a distance. Two men ride the wagon.

EXT. PATH - LATER

Following the wagon from a distance, Robert and Albert watch as it suddenly comes to a stop.

Pointing their rifles, the men begin shooting at Robert and Albert, but their shots miss.

The sudden gunfire startles the horses, causing Robert and Albert to be bucked off.

Taking cover behind a boulder as bullets fly past them, Robert and Albert begin to return fire while the men duck behind the wagon.

Robert hears one of the men's guns jam. He decides to go right after them and kills one as he panics trying to load his gun.

As the other man raises his gun to shoot Robert, Albert fires first, saving Robert's life. Robert nods in appreciation.

ALBERT

Now what?

ROBERT

(sighs)

We can keep following this path,
but they most likely lead us in the
wrong direction on purpose.

ALBERT

Yeah.

ROBERT

How far away do you think those
slaves have gotten? The ones we
freed, I mean.

ALBERT

(blows raspberry)

It's been a week. Too far for us to
catch up to.

ROBERT

(disappointed)

Damn.

ALBERT

There is a chance they went to
Oregon.

ROBERT

(confused)

Oregon? Why Oregon?

ALBERT

I heard there's an all black town
being built there.

ROBERT

Huh. To Oregon it is.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Robert and Albert meander through town. All the civilians
seem to be black.

ROBERT

(to Albert)

I think we're in the right place.

The sheriff comes and greets them.

SHERIFF

Who are you? You're kind is not
welcome here.

ROBERT

Well, we were hoping to find some
people we know, but...

A group of men come barreling out of the saloon.

SLAVE 1

Hey! I know you. You saved me.

SLAVE 2

And me.

Others start to speak up as people who were saved by them.
Robert has a moment of pride.

ROBERT

If you'd all speak to me at the
saloon.

He enters the saloon. The others follow.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Robert and Albert stand in front of the group of fifteen
former slaves that have gathered around.

ROBERT

I know that you all have busy lives
so I'll try and keep this short. We
need soldiers. Soldiers to help us
take down Lucius Colson once and
for all.

One by one they all begin to volunteer.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Okay, so, now we just need to find
where he's located.

A woman steps forward.

WOMAN

I've been there.

ROBERT

(confused)
Where?

WOMAN

His... Where he does all his
business in California.

ALBERT

Could you lead us there?

WOMAN

Absolutely.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCIUS' HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A vast and beautiful land with a large plantation house in
the center.

Robert, Albert, and the former slaves rush onto the land.
They kill all the guards that were hanging around outside.

ROBERT

Lucius! We've come for you! Come on
out!

They wait for him to come out, but he never does.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Don't make us come in there!
(a beat, softly)
Shit.

He gets off his horse and enters the house.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Robert enters the house and immediately notices the back door
has been left wide open. He runs over and looks out.

Albert enters.

ROBERT

He's gone.

ALBERT

Shit. Well, he couldn't have gone
far.

CUT TO:

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

A depressed Robert and Albert drink with their new friends. Suddenly, they hear gunshots outside.

LUCIUS (V.O.)
(angrily)
Robert Hyland! It's time we finish
this.

Surprised, Robert goes outside. Everyone else follows.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Lucius stands in the center of town, pacing around impatiently. Robert stands across from him.

ROBERT
You want to finish this? Then let's
finish it.

They start to prepare for a duel when the sheriff comes out.

SHERIFF
I will not have this in my town.
Now, the two of you need to leave.

MAN
Let him kill Lucius!

SHERIFF
I will do no such thing. This is
over. You want to do this, not in
my town.

ROBERT
We'll do it at your old plantation
house.

LUCIUS
Fine by me. Come alone.

Lucius walks away.

ALBERT
(to Robert)
Why didn't you kill him?

ROBERT
The sheriff would have had my head.
Besides, Alisha would want me to do
this right.

ALBERT

(chuckles)

Do it right? We're here to kill him. That's it. That's all. There is no right or wrong way to do it. You should have just done it.

Albert walks away disappointed.

EXT. LUCIUS' HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Lucius nervously paces around outside his home. Robert rides up to him.

LUCIUS

You come alone?

ROBERT

Yes. You?

LUCIUS

I am a man of my word, Robert. Despite what you might think of me.

ROBERT

Fine. Let's do this.

Lucius snaps his fingers and his men suddenly surround Robert.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

What is this?

LUCIUS

This is the end for you.

Suddenly, Lucius' men start to get killed one by one. Lucius is shocked. Albert rides up to them.

Even Robert is caught by surprise.

ALBERT

(to Robert)

Didn't think I'd let you do this alone, did you?

ROBERT

Albert, I--

ALBERT

(to Lucius)

As for you, it's time for you to--

Lucius shoots and kills Albert. Robert grabs his gun and starts shooting at him, only grazing the back of Lucius' leg.

ROBERT

Damn it.

Robert chases after Lucius through the woods. Lucius holds onto the back of his leg as he can't put any pressure on it.

He hears Robert coming. He stands up and takes a shot. The bullet takes off Robert's ear.

The ghost of his wife appears above him as he lies there on the ground.

ALISHA

I forgive you. None of this was
your fault.

Robert forces himself back to his feet, blood dripping from his ear.

He walks over to where Lucius was, his gun ready to be fired. When he gets there, he finds Lucius is now gone.

EXT. TOWN - LATER

Robert stumbles back into town. He faints from the blood loss. A man runs over to check on him.

He waves for others to come and help him inside the saloon.

INT. SALOON - CONTINUOUS

The men place Robert on the table.

MAN

Get me some bandages.

A man exits and returns moments later with bandages.

MAN (CONT'D)

And some alcohol.

A different man grabs a bottle of vodka. The man cleans the wound with the alcohol. He bandages him up.

MAN 2

Now what?

MAN
Now, we wait.

CUT TO:

INT. SALOON - LATER

The men sit patiently as they wait to see if Robert will wake up. Suddenly he comes to. He groans in pain.

ROBERT
Fuck.

MAN
Are you alright?

ROBERT
Yeah. Did you find Lucius?

MAN
No. Sorry.

Robert gathers his things.

MAN (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

ROBERT
To finish this.

He exits with a purpose.

EXT. LUCIUS' HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Robert returns to the place he was shot. He looks around for clues as to where Lucius could have went.

ROBERT
(pointing)
He had to have gone that way.

He starts walking in that direction.

EXT. BROKEN DOWN SHACK - LATER

Robert eventually comes across a broken down shack. He grabs his gun. He takes a deep breath before entering.

INT. BROKEN DOWN SHACK - CONTINUOUS

Robert enters to find Lucius covered in sweat, succumbing to the infection in his gunshot wound.

LUCIUS
(weakly)
Finally. Fin--

Robert shoots him in the forehead. Robert sits on the ground. He places his face in his hands and begins sobbing.

His wife appears before him.

ALISHA
You did it. You did it.

ROBERT
But at what cost?

He wipes his nose, stands up, and brushes himself off. He grabs Lucius' body and carries it out.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Robert returns to his home town with Lucius' dead body on the back of his horse. Clay comes out to greet him.

CLAY
Holy shit. You actually did it.

ROBERT
I did.

CLAY
What the fuck happened to your head?

ROBERT
Lucius here shot me.

CLAY
Well, you can put his body out back.

ROBERT
Okay.

He carries the body to the back of the sheriff's office.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Robert sits across from Clay. Clay tosses him the money for the bounty. Clay can tell his demeanor has changed.

CLAY
What's wrong with you?

ROBERT
It's just... I thought I'd feel better about all this once he was dead, but...

CLAY
(sighs)
His death won't change the ones he's ruined, but it does stop him from causing any more problems for others.

ROBERT
I guess.

He shrugs and shakes hands with Clay before exiting.

EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY

After hitching his horse outside Albert's house, Robert takes a deep breath and knocks on the door.

Albert's wife, JESSICA, answers the door.

JESSICA
Robert?

She looks around for Albert.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
No.

She begins sobbing and falls into Robert's arms. She starts slapping Robert in the chest.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(angrily)
This is all your fault! Why did you have to take him? Why?

ROBERT
I... I'm sorry.

She wipes away her tears.

JESSICA

Just go.

Robert stands there, trying to figure out what to say.
Jessica pushes him away.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

LEAVE!

Robert gets back on his horse and rides away.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Robert walks in and sees Clay placing a man in a cell.

ROBERT

What's you want to talk about,
Clay?

Clay reaches into a drawer and grabs a badge. He tosses it to Robert.

CLAY

Be my deputy.

ROBERT

(confused)
What?

CLAY

It's time you settle down. Stop
running away from your problems.

ROBERT

How would this help me?

CLAY

Stay local. Meet someone. Hell,
start a family.

ROBERT

I...

CLAY

You can.

ROBERT

I'll think about it.

CLAY

Don't take too long.

Robert nods and exits.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Robert places a poster on the bulletin board that reads, "HYLAND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES." A woman approaches him.

WOMAN

Do you find missing people?

ROBERT

Yes, ma'am, I do.

WOMAN

Can you find my daughter? I'm afraid she may have gone to the bayou.

ROBERT

Are you sure? The bayou's pretty far, ma'am.

WOMAN

I'm afraid she went with that nigger she's been seeing.

ROBERT

(scoffs)

How old's your daughter, ma'am?

WOMAN

Fifteen.

ROBERT

Hmm. If I bring her back how can you be sure she won't just run off again?

WOMAN

I... I guess I don't. It's just... A fifteen year old should not be off with a forty year old.

The age difference catches Robert by surprise.

ROBERT

Okay, ma'am, I'll find your daughter and bring her back.

WOMAN

(sigh of relief)

Oh, thank you, sir.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

GERALD, the man who ran away with the woman's daughter, walks around the store. LINDA, stays nearby.

Robert stealthily shops while keeping an eye on them. He watches as Gerald aggressively whispers something to Linda.

He grabs her by the arm and drags her out. Robert follows.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

Robert watches as he drags Linda through town by the arm, tears flowing down her face.

Robert follows undetected as Gerald leads Linda to a house at the edge of town.

Robert peaks into the window to see how many people are inside. He watches as Gerald backhands Linda.

He angrily kicks in the door.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A surprised Gerald looks up at Robert.

GERALD

What the--

Robert blasts him in the chest. He reaches a hand out to a terrified Linda.

LINDA

Who are you?

ROBERT

Your mom sent me.

She stares at Gerald's dead body.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

You need to come with me.

LINDA

What? No. I loved him.

ROBERT

I doubt that. Now please, don't make me drag you out of here.

She hesitates for a moment, but eventually takes his hand.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Robert arrives with Linda and hands her over to her mom.

WOMAN
Oh, thank you.

She enters the train alongside her daughter. Clay walks up to Robert.

CLAY
This is what you're doing instead
of being my deputy?

ROBERT
Yup.

CLAY
Why?

ROBERT
I'd rather help families than work
for the state.

Robert walks away.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Robert stands in front of the graves of his wife and child.

ROBERT
I know you'd be proud. I know you
want me to move on and I think I'm
finally ready to do that. You
changed me for ever. I love you.

He kisses both headstones.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END