

# The Abduction

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**PART ONE**

**TEASER**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. RESERVATION - ESTABLISHING - DAY ONE**

**A TOMAHAWK**

comes flying through the air

**WIDER**

to see the tomahawk suddenly stop as the blade slams deep into a round piece of log that's been tied to a tree as a make-shift target.

**ANGLE - INDIANS, CLOUD DANCING AND SULLY**

in the middle of a little throwing competition. The observers nod and murmur in admiration of Cloud Dancing's toss. Some quick bets are made, the odds seeming to favour Cloud Dancing, then all eyes fall on Sully.

**CLOUD DANCING**

They don't think you can hit it.

**SULLY**

They don't?

**CLOUD DANCING**

**You missed last time from here.**

**SULLY**

**I know.**

**And Sully walks another ten feet away.**

**SULLY**

**I shoulda been back farther fore I threw.**

**And he spins around, pulls out his tomahawk, throws smoothly at the log.**

**ANGLE - LOG TARGET**

**As Sully's tomahawk cuts inside of Cloud Dancing's throw, splitting the bull's eye in the center of the tree rings.**

**ANGLE - CLOUD DANCING AND SULLY**

**SULLY**

**Double or nothin'?**

**Cloud Dancing shakes his head.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**The spirits are too much with you today.**

**Sully grins, looks off up to see ...**

**THEIR POV - YOUNG INDIAN BOY**

**racing into camp, quietly spreading an alarm as he passes by each teepee, finally arriving at Cloud Dancing, speaking urgently to him in Cheyenne.**

**CLOUD DANCING (to Sully)**

**Dr. Mike is coming. With soldiers.**

**Cloud Dancing and Sully exchange a look. This news seems to alarm not only them, but a couple of other Indians as well.**

**OLD KNIFE, AND WHITE EYE**

**look at each other, whisper something in Cheyenne. Old Knife, 40's, is a hardened warrior. White Eye, 20's, wears a dirty patch over an injured eye. He looks quite menacing. The Indians confer again, then disappear behind a teepee.**

**ANGLE - ROAD TO RESERVATION**

**as Mike rides in on Flash, leading a small freight wagon driven by two Army Soldiers that's carrying bags of beans, flour, corn.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Sully, Cloud Dancing, their eyes casually darting about, move to greet Mike and the Soldiers.**

**SULLY**

**Didn't expect you til tomorrow?**

**MIKE**

**The Arm wagon train showed up early. I talked these gentlemen into bringing the food right out.**

**Mike dismounts. Soldier #1 climbs down from the seat, moves to the back of the wagon, starts unloading. Soldier #2 looks off, sees something that catches his attention.**

**FAVORING MIKE**

**MIKE**

**Look, Cloud Dancing, there's corn and beans, too, and it's all good.**

**SULLY (covering)**

**We'll help you unload it.**

**Soldier #2 jumps down from the wagon, steps around Sully and heads towards one of the teepees. He passes by Walks on Cloud, Cloud Dancing's son.**

**MIKE**

**I've got a dozen sacks of flour and there's not a worm in it.**

**Cloud Dancing and Sully are watching Soldier #2. Mike realizes something's up.**

**MIKE**

**Sully?**

**ANGLE - SOLDIER #2**

**examines a horse with a war paint marking its face. He turns, looks at Sully. The Soldier starts to draw his Colt. Suddenly, White Eye steps from behind a teepee, sends an arrow into soldier #2's back. He falls out of frame.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as White Eye, Old Knife and six other Dog Soldiers appear from behind and out of the teepees, weapons drawn.**

**ANGLE - SOLDIER #1**

**who drops a bag of flour, turns and runs for his life. Several arrows miss him, then a rifle shot rings out and he goes down.**

**ANGLE - OLD KNIFE**

**lowering the Sharp's rifle from his shoulder, tossing the empty shell.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND SULLY**

**Both stunned by the suddenness of it all. The Dog Soldiers begin to strip the soldiers of their clothes.**

**MIKE**

**What are the Dog Soldiers doing here?**

**SULLY**

**They wouldn't have been here if you'd come tomorrow like you said.**

**MIKE**

**I didn't know they were here.**

**CLOUD DANCING (to Sully)**

**It is not her fault.**

**Mike looks and sees White Eye stripping the soldier he shot in the back with the arrow.**

**MIKE (to Cloud Dancing)**

**Don't let them do that. Stop them**

**Cloud Dancing shakes his head. Mike moves to White Eye.**

**MIKE**

**Stop that.**

**He doesn't, so Mike reaches out and grabs his arm. Big mistake. In an instant White Eye is on his feet, knife drawn, hand locked on Mike's wrist.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**as he reaches for his tomahawk, but it's still in the target.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**You harm her you die.**

**ANGLE - WHITE EYE**

**who doesn't move for a moment. He knows he could kill Mike before Sully could reach**

him, and he seems to toy with the idea ... but there's something in Sully's look and in Cloud Dancing's expression that convinces him to finally let go. White Eye puts his knife away, shoves Mike roughly to Sully.

**ANGLE - SULLY**

as he catches Mike, takes her safely in his arms.

**WIDER**

White Eye continues to strip the soldier's body. Cloud Dancing gestures to other Indians, shouting orders. Mike and Sully watch as Indians grab the rest of the food off the wagon. Old knife grabs Mike's medical bag, opens it.

**MIKE**

No. That's mine.

A Dog Soldier standing next to Old Knife raises his Sharp's rifle at her, cocks it. Old Knife gives Mike a look, then dumps the medical bag in the dirt, squats down and picks through the items, looking for something he wants.

**ANGLE - SULLY AND MIKE**

as Sully holds her back.

**SULLY (whispers)**

Ain't worth dying for.

The village Indians pick up the stripped bodies of the dead soldiers, carry them off.

**MIKE**

What are they going to do?

**SULLY**

Bury em.

**We hold on Mike and Sully**

**END TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. RESERVATION - MOMENTS LATER**

**Two Dog Soldiers race off in the empty wagon.**

**Other Dog Soldiers gather up their belongings, pack their horses, get ready to ride.**

**The Indian Women rake dirt over the blood to cover it.**

**MIKE AND SULLY AND CLOUD DANCING**

**Mike picks up her medical supplies, puts them back in her bag.**

**MIKE**

**What are we going to do?**

**SULLY**

**Nothin'.**

**MIKE**

**Nothing?**

**SULLY**

**It ain't our business.**

**MIKE**

**Those men were murdered.**

**SULLY**

**Those men were killed by their enemy.**

**MIKE**

**They were shot in the back.**

**SULLY (half beat)**

**Anybody asks you, the soldiers dropped off the food. They left and you stayed behind.**

**MIKE**

**You're asking me to lie.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**You tell the truth and the Army will come back and kill everyone here.**

**MIKE**

**But it was the Dog Soldiers who did it. Can't we just explain?**

**There's a shout O.C.**

**ANGLE - DOG SOLDIERS**

**mounting up on their horses. White Eye and Old Knife shouting orders at the others.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**White Eye spins about on his horse. He fires off his rifle into the sky.**

**WHITE EYE (in Cheyenne)**

**Who will join us? Who wants to fight?**

**There is a cry from some of the other Indians in the village. Two Indians climb onto their horses, fire their rifles into the air.**

**WALKS ON CLOUDS**

**unties his horse, swings up.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (shouting in Cheyenne)**

**I, Walks on Cloud, will fight!**

**There is a cheer from the other Dog Soldiers.**

**Cloud Dancing races to the boy, grabs the reins.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Don't go my son.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**I will not stay here to die with the women and old men.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Stay with me.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**No, my father. I have listened to you long enough. It is time to fight.**

**Walks on Cloud grabs at the reins, but Cloud Dancing won't let go. The horse fights, frightened by the gunshots and yelling, jerking his head, pulling away from Cloud Dancing.**

**Walks on Cloud can't stay on and falls, hitting the ground hard. The horse runs away.**

**The Dog Soldiers laugh at Walks on Cloud. White Eye kicks his horse, lets out a cry and leads his men out of the village.**

**ANGLE - WALKS ON CLOUD**

**as he picks himself up from the dirt. He's humiliated. Walks on Cloud gives his father an angry look, then chases after his horse. Cloud Dancing looks over to ...**

**MIKE AND SULLY**

**SULLY**

**Best thing to do is just forget it ever happened.**

**MIKE**

**How can I forget? (Half a beat) How can I?**

**We HOLD on them as we ...**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS - DAY ONE**

**Brian is walking along the board walk, passing in front of the saloon. He's preoccupied with undoing the wrapper on a piece of taffy.**

**The paper's sticking and he's holding it up in one hand when suddenly a horse's face enters shot, plucking the wad of taffy neatly out of Brian's hand.**

**BRIAN**

**Hey!**

**The horse chews the taffy. Brian looks at the horse. The horse looks at Brian. The horse leans over and nuzzles Brian, begging for more candy. It's love at first sight.**

**BRIAN**

**Don't. I ain't got no more. You ate the last piece.**

**The horse sniffs at one of his pockets. It nuzzles him again. Brian scratches his head. Behind Brian the saloon doors open and Hank exits, along with two other men, all of them holding cards in their hands. A few observers gather around.**

**HANK**

**Where is she?**

**MAN**

**Right there.**

**He points to the small horse by Brian**

**HANK**

**That ain't but half a horse.**

**Hank pushes Brian out of the way, reaches out, grabs the reins, jerks the horse's head up, examines her.**

**HANK**

**You're gonna have to throw in the saddle if you wanna see my cards.**

**The man looks at his cards, considers, then nods. Hank fans his hand for all to see.**

**HANK**

**Four Kings.**

**The other man looks at his cards and throws them in the air.**

**MAN**

**Mister, you got yourself a horse.**

**Hank smiles, grabs the reins again, jerks them.**

**HANK**

**Let's see what I've won.**

**Hank moves to the horse to mount up.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Hank starts right out abusing the horse. He tries to get the horse to back up.**

**HANK**

**Don't like that, do you. (To crowd) Feisty little girl.**

**ANGLE - BRIAN**

**watching. We hold on his trouble face as we hear Hank shouting at the horse and the horse crying out.**

**INT. CABIN - DAY ONE**

**Mike is mixing some pain medication. An older woman, Mrs. Caraway, lies in bed. She's got a full leg cast. Sully is stacking some wood by her stove.**

**MIKE**

**Now, Mrs. Caraway, this is going to take a few weeks to heal properly. You've got to stay put. You can't be doing chores on a broken leg.**

**The woman nods.**

**SULLY**

**I'll stop by every couple of days to see how you're doin'.**

**MIKE**

**And Grace will be sending out some food.**

**We hear some horses outside the cabin. Sully and Mike exchange a look. Sully goes to the window, looks out.**

**SULLY**

**Soldiers. (Looks again). General Custer.**

**Sully and Mike exchange a look.**

**EXT. CABIN - DAY ONE**

**Sully comes out as the column of Cavalry approach. Six men on horseback. Custer rides up, stopping in front of the cabin.**

**CUSTER**

**I believe I know you, sir.**

**SULLY**

**Name's Sully.**

**CUSTER (remembering)**

**Yes. Sully. (Half beat) I'm looking for Doctor Quinn. I was told I could find her here.**

**And Mike comes out of the cabin, sees Custer.**

**CUSTER (continued)**

**And so I may. Good day, Doctor Quinn,**

**SULLY**

**What do you want, General?**

**CUSTER (to Sully)**

**Dr. Quinn accompanied two of my men to the reservation to deliver supplies. They have not returned to post. (To Mike). Did you see them leave the reservation?**

**MIKE**

**Yes.**

**CUSTER**

**And what time was it?**

**Mike and Sully exchange a look.**

**MIKE (half beat)**

**I don't recall.**

**There's a long beat while Custer studies Sully and Mike**

**CUSTER (to Mike)**

**I suggest you stay closer to town from now on. There's been an increase in attacks by Cheyenne war parties. I suspect that is what happened to my men. (To Sully) Should that be the case, there will be hell to pay, I assure you.**

**Custer turns his horse, rides out followed by his men. We hold on Mike and Sully watching them go.**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT ONE**

**COLLEEN (V.O.)**

**I vote for chocolate cake.**

**INT. HOMESTEAD - NIGHT ONE Colleen's at the stove. Mike at the table, Matthew sits in a chair, mending a harness. Brian sits across the table from Mike, doing homework.**

**MIKE**

**Let Brian decide, it's his birthday. What do you want?**

**BRIAN**

**I want a horse.**

**COLLEEN**

**A horse?**

**BRIAN**

**She's the best horse I ever saw. She's real smart, and she ain't too big for me. She ain't a pony, she's just too small for Hank.**

**MATTHEW**

**Hank? Hank owns her?**

**BRIAN**

He won her in a poker game.

**MATTHEW**

How do you know he wants to sell the horse?

**BRIAN**

Hank don't even like her. I'm sure we could buy her.

**MIKE**

I don't know if we can afford another horse right now.

Mike looks at Matthew.

**MATTHEW**

Costs a lot of money to keep one, Brian.

**MIKE**

You can ride Flash anytime you want.

**BRIAN**

She's your horse. I want my own. I'm old enough.

**MIKE**

Brian ...

**BRIAN (near tears)**

Hank don't even like her.

And Brian gets up, goes into his alcove. We hold on Mike and the children.

**EXT. GRACE'S CAFE - ESTABLISHING - DAY TWO**

**Mike and Sully are eating. Grace serves a table of soldiers, then sees someone standing nearby. Grace crosses to a soldier's wife.**

**GRACE**

**Afternoon. I'm still servin' lunch if you want a table.**

**The woman looks a little lost. She shakes her head.**

**SOLDIER'S WIFE**

**I'm lookin' for Doctor Quinn.**

**GRACE**

**That's her over there.**

**The woman nods, walks out of shot. We hold on Grace.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND SULLY**

**At their table as the Soldier's wife enters shot.**

**SOLDIER'S WIFE**

**Doctor Quinn? I'm Anna Cottle.**

**MIKE**

**Yes?**

**SOLDIER'S WIFE**

**My husband rode out to the reservation with you. (Mike's look). I was just wonderin' ... if he said anything.**

**The wife looks over at the other soldiers, turns back to Mike. She's right on the edge of her emotions.**

**SOLDIER'S WIFE (whispers)**

**See, I was thinkin', maybe he deserted ... and you knew where I was supposed to meet him ...**

**The tears brim in her eyes. Mike looks at Sully.**

**A Lieutenant at the other table looks over at them.**

**MIKE**

**I'm sorry, he didn't say anything to me.**

**The Lieutenant gets up, crosses to them.**

**Mrs. Cottle, would you care to join us?**

**Anna nods. The Lieutenant escorts her back to their table.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE - SULLY AND MIKE**

**Mike is miserable with guilt.**

**MIKE**

**I have to tell her.**

**SULLY**

**No.**

**Mike looks over at Anna.**

**MIKE**

**She needs to know the truth.**

**SULLY**

**The truth is that if her husband had got away he would have come back with a hundred soldiers and killed everyone in the village.**

**There's a long beat.**

**MIKE**

**If they ask again about what happened, I won't lie.**

**SULLY**

**You know what that'll do?**

**MIKE**

**Those men had families, and they --**

**SULLY**

**Those men were soldiers. And there's a war goin' on here, and only a fool can't see it.**

**MIKE (beat)**

**If they ask me again, I'm not lying.**

**And with that Sully shakes his head, gets up, walks out. We hold on Mike as we**

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**FADE IN**

**EXT. TOWN - ESTABLISHING - DAY THREE**

**DOROTHY (V.O.)**

**Somethin' on your mind?**

**INT. BRAY'S GENERAL STORE - DAY THREE**

**Mike stands before the yarn bin, a couple of samples in her hands. She looks at the samples, then at Dorothy.**

**DOROTHY**

**You been starin' at those two skeins for almost ten minutes.**

**MIKE**

**I can't seem to make up my mind.**

**DOROTHY**

**They're both the same color.**

**Mike looks at them. She shrugs, places the yarn back in the rack.**

**MIKE**

**I really don't need yarn. I need advice.**

**DOROTHY**

**What kind?**

**MIKE (beat)**

**I saw something that happened. Something terrible. I've lied about what I know because I'm afraid if I tell the truth, far worse things will happen.**

**DOROTHY**

**Are you or the children in danger?**

**MIKE**

**No.**

**DOROTHY**

**If what happened is as bad as you say, it's got to be found out before too long. Then people will want to know why you didn't speak up sooner. (Mike's look). What did you see?**

**MIKE**

**I don't want this to end up in your Gazette.**

**DOROTHY**

**It won't ... I been readin' in my newspaper book about somethin' called "off the record."  
Means you can say what you want and I can't print it.**

**MIKE**

**I don't want you to print it or talk about this to anyone.**

**DOROTHY**

**Michaela, this is just between friends.**

**Mike sighs, nods her head, grateful for the chance of confession.**

**EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY THREE**

**Looking through the window to see Dorothy listening to Mike. Camera adjusts to see  
Matthew walking down the street, heading into the saloon.**

**INT. SALOON - DAY THREE**

**Hank's at the bar. Matthew enters.**

**MATTHEW**

**Hank, I need to talk to you.**

**HANK**

**I knew you'd be back.**

**Hank grabs a bottle, pours a drink for Matthew.**

**HANK**

**Got a game startin' up in an hour.**

**He puts the drink in front of Matthew.**

**HANK**

**If you're a little short, I can cover you ...**

**MATTHEW**

**I didn't come to gamble. I came to buy your horse.**

**HANK**

**My horse? What horse?**

**MATTHEW**

**The one you got playin' poker.**

**HANK**

**You want to buy that horse?**

**MATTHEW**

**It's for my brother's birthday. How much?**

**HANK (looks; then)**

**Ain't for sale.**

**Hank slides the drink of whiskey back to himself.**

**HANK**

**But if you'd like to gamble for it ...**

**Hank smiles at Matthew.**

**MATTHEW**

**If you change your mind, let me know.**

**HANK**

**You too.**

**Matthew walks out. Hank drinks the drink himself as we ...**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. MIKE'S CLINIC - DAY THREE**

**Mike opens the door, escorts a patient out. Mike stretches, walks out a few steps, looks down the street past the telegraph office. She's about to go back inside when she seems something.**

**MIKE'S POV - THIN RAIL OF SMOKE**

**rising in the distance, only a few miles away.**

**BACK TO MIKE**

**She shields her eyes, looks again. We move with Mike as she crosses to the porch of the ...**

**EXT. TELEGRAPH OFFICE - DAY THREE**

**She stops in front of the door.**

**MIKE**

**Horace. Come out here.**

**Horace comes out stands, beside her.**

**HORACE**

**What is it?**

**MIKE**

**Look over there. What's that?**

**Horace looks out. A few others are stopping on the street to point.**

**HORACE**

**Smoke.**

**MIKE**

**Forest Fire?**

**HORACE**

**Nothin' but grass over there. Has to be a house. Probably the Klemmer ranch.**

**And then we can hear the faint sound of gunshots riding on the wind.**

**HORACE**

**That's gunfire.**

**Jakes comes running around the corner, napkin still tucked in his shirt.**

**JAKE (shouting)**

**Indian attack! Indian attack! Get your rifles. Let's go! Every man that can ride. Indian attack!**

**And Jake runs back towards his store.**

**HORACE**

**I better wire Denver.**

**Horace goes back inside the telegraph office. Someone begins to ring the fire bell. We hold on Mike, looking off at the growing smoke in the distance.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. KLEMMER RANCH - DAY THREE**

**CLOSE - MIKE**

Looking at something that deeply disturbs her.

**MIKE'S POV - KLEMMER RANCH - DAY THREE**

What's left of it. Main homestead burned down. Fire still going on another structure, but nobody trying to put it out. Bodies of the dead family are covered with blankets. No survivors. Hank, Robert E, Matthew, Jake, Horace, the Reverend and Dorothy are there.

**BACK TO MIKE**

as she surveys the damage. She sees Dorothy talking to another rancher. She's taking notes. Jake enters.

**JAKE**

Dr. Mike?

**MIKE**

Yes.

**JAKE**

Where we gonna bury em all?

For a moment Mike considers it a rhetorical question.

**MIKE**

I don't know, Jake,

**JAKE**

How bout under that oak over there?

**MIKE**

I'm sure that'd be fine.

**Jake exits. Mike looks over to**

**DOROTHY**

**writing in her notepad. She looks up at Mike.**

**BACK TO MIKE**

**exchanging one last glance with Dorothy, before turning and walking away, past the flames, back to her horse.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. CORRAL - DAY THREE**

**By the livery. Brian unwraps a piece of taffy. He carefully sets it on the rail. A beat, then the horse steps over, grabs the candy. Brian pops a piece into his mouth, chews thoughtfully as he scratches the horse's mouth.**

**HANK (O.C.)**

**What're you doin' to my horse?**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Hank is standing behind Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**Nothin'.**

**The horse reacts to Hank, suddenly very nervous.**

**HANK**

**Then why's she actin' so spooked?**

**BRIAN**

**Maybe she don't like you.**

**HANK**

**This horse? This horse loves me, don't you girl?**

**Hank steps up on the fence, reaches out for the halter, but the horse pulls back and he misses it.**

**HANK**

**Come here.**

**The horse backs up to the far side of the small corral. Hank looks around, finds a strip of bridle leather. It'll do. He slaps it on the wood, drops down into the corral.**

**HANK**

**Come here.**

**BRIAN**

**Don't hurt her. She didn't do nothin' ...**

**HANK**

**You leave my horse alone. You hear?**

**Hank cracks the leather.**

**HANK**

**Don't want some stupid kid spoilin' her.**

**Suddenly the horse rears up, strikes out at Hank. Hank jumps back.**

**BRIAN**

**No.**

**Hank swings the leather, driving the horse back. The horse retreats, kicks out with her rear legs, smashes down the rail, turns and runs for it right through**

**EXT. GRACE'S CAFE - DAY THREE**

The horse crashes through the tables, sending customers flying, and takes one leap to bound over the fence. And right behind the horse is Hank, running after it.

**HANK**

**Come back here!**

Hank gives chase, dodging tables, jumping the fence himself.

**ANGLE - THE HORSE**

high tailing it for freedom up the fire road, past the school house.

**ANGLE - HANK**

slowing down, giving up, stopping in the middle of the road.

**ANGLE - BRIAN**

as he runs up to the fence, watches the horse disappear over the rise.

**BRIAN (to himself)**

**Run girl. Run.**

**We hold on Brian.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD BARN - DAWN - DAY FOUR**

Matthew is saddling up his horse. Brian hands him the blanket.

**BRIAN (continued)**

**Where you gonna look first?**

**I'll follow Red Creek, see where the horse crossed it, track her from there.**

**BRIAN**

I been thinkin'. She don't know you. If she's scared, I can talk to her. Maybe I better come with you.

**MATTHEW**

Brian, I'll try my best, but I might not find her. Even if I do, she's still Hank's horse.

**BRIAN**

I know (half beat). Please, Matthew, let me come with you?

**MATTHEW (beat)**

Better get another lariat.

Brian lets out a little cheer as he goes back into the barn. The door to the homestead opens and Mike exits, wearing her bathrobe. She's just awakened.

**MIKE**

Where are you going so early?

**MATTHEW**

Got some things to do in town.

Mike moves closer.

**MIKE**

I think you should stay closer to home until this trouble's over. (Half beat). I'm even thinking we should postpone Brian's birthday party.

**MATTHEW**

What for? Custer's got half the army patrollin' the valley. Dog Soldiers have all headed south.

**Matthew swings the saddle up.**

**MATTHEW**

**Sully comin'?**

**MIKE**

**I don't know.**

**MATTHEW**

**Didn't you ask him?**

**MIKE**

**I haven't seen him for a few days. Have you?**

**MATTHEW**

**Nope. Sure would hate to see him miss it. I know Brian'd want Sully there.**

**Brian comes out of the barn with the lariat.**

**BRIAN (to Matthew)**

**I got one.**

**And then he sees Mike. Brian's about to try and hide the lariat. Matthew takes the lariat, drops it over the saddle horn.**

**MATTHEW**

**Ma, is it all right if Brian comes with me?**

**MIKE**

**You're just going into town and back?**

**BRIAN**

**Yes ma'am.**

**MIKE**

**I guess it's all right.**

**BRIAN**

**Thanks, Ma.**

**Brian kisses Mike. Matthew swings into the saddle and pulls Brian up behind him.**

**MATTHEW**

**We'll be back by supper.**

**As they turn to ride off.**

**MIKE**

**Just be careful.**

**MATTHEW**

**Yes, ma'am.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY FOUR**

**Matthew and Brian are riding along, looking for the horse. Matthew spots something.**

**MATTHEW (whispers)**

**There she is.**

**THEIR POV - THE HORSE**

**grazing on some grass by the edge of the woods.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**MATTHEW (whispers)**

**Get down.**

**BRIAN**

**What're you gonna do?**

**MATTHEW**

**Rope her.**

**Matthew lowers his brother to the ground, picks up the lariat.**

**BRIAN**

**But you don't have to ...**

**And Matthew spurs the horse. The chase is on.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Matthew is riding hard through the woods, lasso up, chasing the small horse. The horse is smart, staying in the trees where Matthew can't make a clean throw and dodge branches at the same time.**

**ANGLE - BRIAN**

**watching from nearby.**

**BRIAN (continued)**

**You're scarin' her. Stop! You don't have to do that!**

**ANGLE - MATTHEW**

**as he cuts his horse back in the other direction, going after the horse.**

**BRIAN**

**Matthew. I can catch her. Let me try.**

## **MOVING WITH MATTHEW**

**He gets a clear opening to make a throw, lets go of the lariat and doesn't dodge a branch in time. The branch snaps off and knocks Matthew from his horse.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as Matthew hits the ground. Brian comes running up to him.**

## **BRIAN**

**Matthew! You all right?**

**Brian pulls the branch off Matthew, who leans up, shakes his head.**

## **MATTHEW**

**You sure you really want that horse?**

**Brian looks over at the horse.**

## **THE HORSE**

**standing in the woods, pawing the ground, ready for the next round.**

## **ANGLE - BRIAN**

**as he takes a piece of taffy out of his pocket.**

## **BRIAN**

**here girl. Got somethin' for you.**

## **ANGLE - THE HORSE**

**looks at Brian, stops pawing.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

as Brian moves closer to the horse, calming her with his voice, holding up the candy for the horse to see. Finally he's close enough. The horse moves to him. Takes the candy. Brian rubs the horse's nose. Slowly he places a rope around the horse's neck.

**BRIAN**

Matthew, it's all right. Come on over here.

Matthew walks slowly yup to them. He's amazed.

**MATTHEW**

How'd you do that?

**BRIAN**

She likes me.

**MATTHEW**

Look, she's hurt.

Matthew moves to the horse, touches a place. Blood.

**MATTHEW**

Must've done it breakin' out of the corral.

**BRIAN**

She gonna be all right?

**MATTHEW**

Don't know. If it gets worse she might go lame. (Half beat). And then she'd have to be put down.

**BRIAN**

No. We'll hide her. She'll get better. She will. Please, Matthew.

**Against his best judgment.**

**MATTHEW**

**All right. We'll keep her out here til she's fit. It'll give us time to figure out what to do.**

**ANGLE - BRIAN**

**with the horse nuzzling him.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. CHURCH - DAY FIVE**

**The congregation exits after services. All the regulars and the Soldier's Wife are there. Mike exits, shakes the Reverend's hand.**

**MIKE (to Reverend)**

**Would you like to join us for some lunch?**

**Mike looks off.**

**THEIR POV**

**the pasture where people are starting to spread out blankets for a picnic. Matthew, Colleen and Brian are setting out a blanket. As they do, Sully approaches from the woods, wearing his buckskins, coming to join them.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**REVEREND**

**Thank you, but I've already accepted an invitation from Mrs. Littlefield.**

**MIKE**

**Oh.**

**A few more people exit the church, shake his hand.**

**MIKE**

Reverend, I was wondering if we might talk later this week?

**REVEREND**

Well, I'm leavin' for Denver in the mornin'. But I'll be back in two days.

**JAKE (O.C.)**

Look! It's General Custer.

**REVEREND**

Can it wait til then?

Mike turns to see ...

**FOLLOWING GENERAL CUSTER**

and his men, riding into town by the tents. Old Knife is tied to the Army horse he stole. Custer and his men spot the crowd, turn into the pasture and ride up to the church.

**EXT. CHURCH - DAY FIVE**

**CUSTER**

Dr. Quinn.

Mike steps out from the crowd. Sully crosses over to stand beside her.

**CUSTER**

I believe this belongs to you.

Custer holds up her stethoscope.

**CUSTER**

This Indian was wearing it when we captured him. He was also riding a stolen Army horse.

**Custer throws the stethoscope down.**

**CUSTER**

**I know you were there, Dr. Quinn.**

**A beat.**

**MIKE (with difficulty)**

**Yes, I was.**

**CUSTER**

**I want to know what happened.**

**MIKE (beat)**

**The two men who came to bring supplies to the village were killed by Dog Soldiers.**

**The Soldier's Widow nearly faints. She cries out. Horace and Jake help hold her up. Mike turns to her.**

**MIKE**

**I'm sorry ... I ...**

**CUSTER**

**Was this Indian one of those who killed my men?**

**Mike looks at Sully, then back to Custer.**

**MIKE**

**Yes.**

**CUSTER**

**Did anybody else see what happened? Was anyone with you?**

**Mike doesn't look at Sully, but straight ahead.**

**MIKE**

**I was alone.**

**CUSTER (beat; then)**

**Did you see where my men were buried? I'd like to claim their remains.**

**Mike shakes her head.**

**CUSTER**

**Sergeant?**

**A Sergeant steps his horse up to Custer.**

**SERGEANT**

**Yes, sir.**

**CUSTER**

**Take this murdering Indian to Fort Collins and when you get there, hang him.**

**SERGEANT**

**Yes, sir.**

**CUSTER**

**And when you return with reinforcements, we're going back to that village.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Custer spurs his horse, rides away. We HOLD on Mike and Sully.**

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**EXT. RESERVATION - DAY SIX**

**LONG SHOT - MIKE AND SULLY**

riding along a ridge line, heading into the hills. They rein up.

**CLOSER**

**MIKE**

Why are we stopping?

Sully gives her a look. He's still very angry.

**SULLY**

Quit askin' questions and do what I tell you. (Beat). We better get off and walk. Everybody's a little jittery right now. We go ridin' in we might get shot.

Sully dismounts.

**MIKE**

But we've got to warn them.

**SULLY**

Custer won't be here until tomorrow.

**MIKE**

How do you know that?

**SULLY**

Cause \*men\* usually do what they say.

Mike dismounts.

**MIKE**

**And women don't?**

**Sully starts walking. Mike follows, leading her horse.**

**MOVING WITH THEM**

**SULLY**

**This whole thing shouldn't have happened.**

**MIKE**

**What were the Dog Soldiers doing in the village? I thought you and Cloud Dancing said you were keeping them away?**

**SULLY**

**They were only stayin' the night.**

**MIKE**

**Well, then it's as much your fault as mine, so you can stop blaming me.**

**Mike stops walking but Sully continues.**

**MIKE**

**I can't change the fact that two men died because I showed up a day early.**

**Sully stops.**

**MIKE**

**Two lives have been lost, and it doesn't matter if they were soldiers or Indians. What matters is how we stop his incident from becoming a terrible war.**

**Sully turns to face her.**

**SULLY**

**It's already too late to do that.**

**Sully looks off to see**

**EXT. RESERVATION**

**A frenzy of packing, horses, people running back and forth. A hurried exodus in progress.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND SULLY**

**Cloud Dancing walks up to them**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**We will go into the mountains where his horses cannot follow us.**

**MIKE**

**What about your teepees?**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**We will come back for them when Custer is gone.**

**MIKE**

**What if he doesn't leave?**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Then we will come back to fight.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Walks on Cloud rides up on his horse.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**How did Custer find out his soldiers were here? Who told him?**

## **CLOUD DANCING**

**It does not matter.**

**Walks on Cloud looks at Sully.**

## **WALKS ON CLOUD**

**This man has scouted for the Army. Maybe he betrays us.**

**Walks on Cloud reaches back to his quiver for an arrow, but as his hand sets on the feathers, Sully has his tomahawk out and ready to throw.**

## **MIKE**

**I told them!**

**Walks on Cloud slowly lowers his empty hand.**

## **CLOUD DANCING**

**looks at Mike.**

## **MIKE**

**I'm sorry. I couldn't lie.**

**Mike can't hold his eyes.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

## **WALKS ON CLOUD**

**You who are my father's friends are now my enemies. If we meet again, I will kill you.**

**He pulls back on his horse, whirling away from them.**

## **WALKS ON CLOUDS**

**I go to join the Dog Soldiers and fight. (To Cloud Dancing) run away with the women and**

children. You have become an old man and I will no longer listen to you.

Walks on Cloud rides out of the village.

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

Mike turns to Cloud Dancing.

**MIKE**

I'm sorry ...

Cloud Dancing walks away. WE HOLD on MIKE and SULLY, while the panic swirls about them.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY SIX**

Matthew and Brian are doing chores outside the barn. Hank rides up.

**HANK**

Afternoon boys.

**BRIAN**

Ma ain't here.

**HANK**

Ain't your ma I'm looking for. (Beat). I'm lookin' for a horse.

**MATTHEW**

A horse?

**HANK**

You wouldn't have an extra one hangin' round, would you?

**BRIAN**

No, sir, no extra horses here.

Colleen comes out of the barn with a pail of milk. Hank looks into the barn, only sees the cow and Matthew's horse.

**HANK**

Thought you might since Loren says you was buyin' extra oats and ... (to Brian) ... extra taffy this week.

Brian and Matthew exchange a look.

**MATTHEW**

Your horse ain't here.

**HANK**

Well, if someone was to find my horse and still keep her when they knew I was out lookin' for her, I'd say that fella was no bettern' a horse thief. Wouldn't you?

**BRIAN**

Horse thief?

**HANK**

And you know what happens to horse thieves.

Hank rides out.

**COLLEEN**

What is going on?

**MATTHEW/BRIAN**

Nothin'.

**On their looks. We HOLD on Brian and Matthew.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS - DAY SIX**

**The stage coach comes racing into town. The Reverend is driving. He pulls to a stop.**

**REVEREND**

**Help! Get Dr. Mike.**

**Loren comes racing out of the store. Dorothy runs to get Dr. Mike. Horace, Myra, Jake and Robert E come down to look.**

**LOREN**

**What happened?**

**REVEREND**

**Indians attacked the stage about two miles from here.**

**JAKE**

**You're hit.**

**The Reverend looks at his jacket, sees the blood.**

**ROBERT E**

**We'll help you down.**

**Jake and Robert E move to help him.**

**LOREN**

**Where's the driver?**

**REVEREND**

**Dead.**

**Loren's looking in the window of the stage.**

**LOREN**

**So's everyone in here.**

**Mike comes running up with Dorothy as they help the Reverend down to the ground. She checks the wound.**

**LOREN**

**Indians attacked em.**

**MIKE**

**Who else is hurt? Where are they?**

**LOREN**

**He's the only one survived.**

**They look at Mike. A beat, then ...**

**MIKE**

**Can you walk?**

**REVEREND**

**Yes.**

**He starts to stand up but collapses. Jake and Robert E catch him.**

**MIKE**

**Hurry. I've got to stop the bleeding.**

**She leads and they follow with the Reverend, heading for the clinic.**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY SIX**

Brian is walking along a path. He passes CAMERA. He's carrying a rucksack.

A moment later, Colleen appears, coming up the trail, following him. Brian stops for a moment. We HEAR a HORSE WHINNY somewhere nearby. Brian takes off running.

**ANGLE - COLLEEN**

behind a tree, watching him disappear deeper into the woods, and then she follows after him. As she runs we HEAR the horse again.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - TEMPORARY CORRAL - DAY SIX**

Matthew and Brian have built in the woods. Some poles tied between trees/ They've made a shelter over a hay crib. Brian is feeding the horse some taffy. Colleen appears behind him, hiding in the trees. Brian has unpacked his knapsack, has some medicine out and is rubbing it on the horse's leg wound.

**BRIAN**

This is for your leg.

Colleen moves closer, touched by what she sees her brother doing. The horse smells her now and whinnies a warning. Brian looks about, sees Colleen.

**BRIAN**

You followed me!

**COLLEEN**

You said you weren't doin' nothin'. Looks like you are.

She moves closer. The horse is cautious.

**BRIAN**

It's all right, she's my sister. She won't hurt you.

**The horse calms down. Colleen examines the wound.**

**COLLEEN**

**What happened to her?**

**BRIAN**

**She did it runnin' away from Hank.**

**COLLEEN**

**This is Hank's horse? (He nods). The one you wanted?**

**BRIAN**

**And she's mine now.**

**COLLEEN**

**You can't keep her. You heard what Hank said. It's the same as stealin'.**

**BRIAN**

**But she ran away.**

**COLLEEN**

**And she's gotta go back.**

**BRIAN**

**I lover her, Colleen. I want to keep her.**

**COLLEEN**

**This horse is hurt bad. That cut looks infected. She could die.**

**BRIAN**

**You can make her better. You can do it, Colleen, please?**

**COLLEEN**

**No, I can't. I don't know how. You gotta take her to Robert E. He'll know what to do.**

**BRIAN**

**But I do that, Hank'll get her.**

**COLLEEN**

**If you really love this horse, you'll do what's right for her, no matter what happens.**

**We HOLD on BRIAN**

**CUT TO:**

**INT. CLINIC - DAY SIX**

**Mike bandages the Reverend's arm, rests it in a sling. Dorothy is there, taking notes.**

**REVEREND**

**We'd stopped to water the horses and Aspen creek. Suddenly there was all this shouting and guns going off. Driver got killed, so I grabbed the reins. (Beat). Never driven a stage coach in my life.**

**MIKE**

**You were very brave.**

**We HEAR HORSES riding up outside.**

**EXT. CLINIC - DAY SIX**

**Custer and a detail of six MEN. In the back of a wagon are several Dog Soldiers. Mike and Dorothy exit the clinic, followed by the Reverend. Custer has dismounted, is looking over this prisoners.**

**CUSTER**

**This one's dead .. . him, too ... this one's alive. (To Mike). See what you can do for this Indian. (To Soldiers) Well, get him down from there.**

**The two soldiers start to pull the wounded Indian from the back of the wagon. Custer sees the Reverend's wound.**

**CUSTER**

**What happened to you, Reverend?**

**DOROTHY**

**He was on a stage coach that got ambushed by Cheyenne.**

**CUSTER**

**When did this happen?**

**DOROTHY**

**This mornin'.**

**MIKE**

**General, I'd like to know why the Army isn't doing a better job of protecting us?**

**CUSTER**

**We're doing our best, Doctor Quinn, but it's difficult to prevail as long as prominent citizens continue to foster sympathy for the renegade Cheyenne.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**The Indian Mike is examining breaks free from the soldier's grasp with one last burst of strength. He shouts a wary cry and lunges for Mike, grabs her by the throat.**

**Custer takes a rifle from one of the soldiers and slams the butt into a bloody wound on the Indian's back. The Indian screams and lets go of Mike, falls to the ground, unconscious. Mike holds her throat, coughs.**

**CUSTER**

**Here.**

**Custer offers Mike his canteen. She shakes her head.**

**MIKE**

**I'm all right.**

**The Sergeant kneels by the Indian, checks his eyes. He looks up at Custer.**

**SERGEANT**

**He's dead, sir.**

**CUSTER**

**Well, I lied, Dr. Quinn. I won't be needing your services after all. I apologize. I'm sure you don't like being lied to anymore than I do. (To Sergeant). Sergeant, muster up a burial detail. (To Reverend). Perhaps you'd like to say a few words over their graves, Reverend.**

**REVEREND**

**I hope they burn in hell.**

**Mike is disturbed the Reverend's comment. The Reverend walks away towards his church. We HOLD on Mike and Custer watching him go.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. ROBERT E'S BARN - DAY SIX**

**Robert E is dressing the wound on the horse.**

**ROBERT E**

**Well, I've done the best I can. The rest is up to her.**

**BRIAN**

**Thanks, Robert E.**

**Brian unwraps a taffy, offers it to the horse, but the horse doesn't want it. Brian sadly puts the candy back in his pocket.**

**MATTHEW**

**I better go tell Hank we found his horse.**

**Brian looks like he's lost all hope. Matthew starts out.**

**BRIAN**

**Ask Hank again, will you?**

**MATTHEW**

**Brian, he ain't gonna sell.**

**BRIAN**

**There's gotta be a way. Ask him. Please?**

**Matthew nods, thinks for a moment. Then he walks away. We HOLD on Brian and Robert E.**

**INT. SALOON - DAY SIX**

**Matthew enters. Myra is at the bar.**

**MYRA**

**Hey, Matthew.**

**MATTHEW**

**Myra. Is that poker game still on for this week?**

**MYRA**

**Sure is. You gonna play?**

**MATTHEW**

Thinkin' about it.

**MYRA**

Thought you gave up gamblin'.

**MATTHEW**

I did. Where's Hank?

**MYRA**

In back. You want me to tell him you changed your mind?

**MATTHEW**

I will.

Matthew isn't too happy about doing this as he heads out the back of the saloon.

**INT. WINDOWLESS BACK ROOM - SALOON - DAY SIX**

A single oil lamp flame reflects on three half-full whiskey bottles lined up on a board. There's a funnel sticking in one of them. A stream of water rushes down it.

**WIDER**

to see Hank cutting his whiskey with water from a dirty pitcher. He fills the whiskey bottle with water, corks it, sets it in a case on the floor. He's nearly done.

**MATTHEW**

Hank?

**MATTHEW**

standing in the door.

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

Hank turns around, blocking Matthew's view of his profitable work with his body. Hank remains cool. In the dark there's a chance Matthew didn't see anything.

**HANK**

What do you want?

Matthew looks at Hank, then down at the box on the floor. He's seen enough to know he doesn't have to say anything.

**MATTHEW**

I came to tell you I found your horse.

**HANK**

You did?

**MATTHEW**

It's over at Robert E's. She got hurt runnin' away, but I think she'll be all right.

**HANK**

Much obliged. Anything else? I'm busy.

**MATTHEW**

My brother wants to buy that horse. He's willin' to work for it, doin' chores for you. What do you say?

**HANK (beat; then)**

You let me back you in the next big poker game, you can buy the horse with your share of the winnin's.

**MATTHEW**

I could do that, but it'll mean more to Brian if he earns it himself. He'll understand the

value of workin' hard and gettin' what you pay for. Wouldn't want to cheat him out of that, would we?

Matthew looks at the bottles. Hank knows he's been had.

**HANK**

No, we wouldn't.

**MATTHEW**

When do you want him to start?

**HANK**

Tomorrow would be fine.

**MATTHEW (smiles)**

I'll tell him

Matthew exits. Hank frowns, picks up a bottle of his whiskey, takes a drink.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. FOREST - NIGHT SIX**

Wolf and Sully walk through the woods, stop to check a trap. It's empty. Sully hears something, looks up.

**SULLY'S POV - HORSES MOVING THROUGH THE TREES**

but barely visible. Gradually we can make out buckskin covered legs, moccasins, rifles.

**CLOSE - SULLY**

holding his breath, gesturing to Wolf not to move. He pulls back behind a tree, hidden in the shadows. Looking left and right. Nowhere to run.

**A CHEYENNE WAR PARTY**

Ten Dog Soldiers move through the trees, dark, dangerous, carrying unlit torches. One of them hears something, stops the horses. He points.

### INDIAN'S POV - THE WOODS

to see Wolf running away.

### BACK TO THE WAR PARTY

who ride on, thinking it was only an animal out hunting. They ride past the spot where Sully stood.

### ANGLE - LARGE THREE BRANCH

where Sully holds onto a branch, suspended above them as they pass beneath him.

### ANOTHER ANGLE

as the War party rides on deeper into the forest. A beat, then Sully drops down from the tree. He takes off running through the woods, going in a different direction around the war party.

### EXT. CLINIC - NIGHT SIX

Mike is closing up. She steps out, shuts the door. She steps off the porch, looks over to the church. The lights on inside. She turns around and suddenly

### SULLY

Is right behind her.

### MIKE

Sully. You frightened me.

### SULLY

Where is everybody?

### MIKE

**in church. The Reverend called a meeting. Where have you been?**

**SULLY**

**With Cloud Dancin', in the mountains. Come on.**

**He grabs her arm, starts pulling her with him towards the church.**

**MIKE**

**What's wrong?**

**SULLY**

**Where are the children?**

**MIKE**

**At home. Sully ....**

**They are just about in the middle of the road when Sully spots them coming.**

**THEIR POV - ACROSS THE BRIDGE**

**of the war party riding full out, torches blazing in the wind.**

**BACK TO SULLY AND MIKE**

**as Sully quickly pulls Mike in the other direction. The first rifle shot rings out, just missing them. They take refuge between the telegraph office and the clinic. Sully has his tomahawk out and shelters Mike with his body, ready to fight.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as the war party rides quickly through the town, throwing their torches at the buildings, escaping into the night. One torch lands on the second story of the clinic.**

**EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT SIX**

**As Hank and Jake come out the front door followed by a few other men.**

**JAKE**

**I heard a rifle. I know I did.**

**HANK**

**Look.**

**THEIR POV - TOWN - NIGHT SIX**

**with a few fires starting to break out.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**JAKE**

**The town's on fire!**

**And with that they start running.**

**EXT. TOWN - NIGHT SIX**

**A fire burns on the telegraph porch.**

**Sully is throwing water on it with a bucket when Jake and Hank reach him.**

**JAKE**

**What happened?**

**SULLY**

**Indians.**

**MIKE**

**Sully! Up there! The clinic's on fire!**

**ANGLE - CLINIC**

**on the second story about six feet of the banister is starting to catch fire, flames licking**

**to the roof.**

**Sully runs, springs off a wagon parked in front and leaps to the second story porch, swings over the railing, kicks the torch away, takes out his tomahawk, and hacks off the burning railing, shoves it into the street. He looks down at Mike.**

**SULLY'S POV - THE STREET**

**with the town fighting the fires, putting them out. Everything is going crazy.**

**ANGLE - MIKE**

**looking back at Sully, wondering what they've done.**

**We HOLD on her as we**

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS - DAY SEVEN**

**The bell on the church is ringing an alarm. Wagons are parked in the meadow. We see the burned parts of buildings from the night before.**

**People are gathering at the church for a town meeting.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. CHURCH - DAY SEVEN**

**The Reverend at the pulpit, arm in a sling. Loren, Jake and Horace stand behind him. The church is filled with our regulars. Sully sits with Mike.**

**REVEREND**

**It's become evident that the Army cannot protect us any longer.**

**HANK**

**That's for sure.**

**REVEREND**

**So the citizen's committee is recommending everyone move into town until the Dog Soldiers have been captured.**

**HANK**

**Or killed.**

**JAKE**

**We're gonna barricade the roads comin' in, and we'll be takin' turns keepin' a lookout.**

**REVEREND**

**We need any man that can carry a gun to see us after this meeting.**

**SULLY**

**The Dog Soldiers won't be comin' back for a while.**

**HANK**

**How do you know?**

**SULLY**

**Because the Army's chasin' em.**

**HANK**

**Hope you're right, Sully cause any Indian that shows up, or anybody looks like an Indian is gonna get shot.**

**HORACE**

**Dr. mike, we was wonderin' if we could use the clinic as a shelter?**

**MIKE**

**Yes, you may, but I think we all should calm down first. Not every Indian in Colorado is a Dog Soldier trying to kill us.**

**HANK**

**Give em time, they will be.**

**There's a murmur of agreement from the crowd. We HOLD on Mike and Sully.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike stands at the door, assigning people to rooms as they arrive.**

**MIKE**

**Horace will show you upstairs.**

**HORACE**

**Right this way.**

**A family follows Horace through the door. Dorothy steps up.**

**DOROTHY**

**Got room for any more?**

**MIKE (looks at list)**

**Two beds left. Did you see Mrs. Caraway anywhere?**

**DOROTHY**

**No. Can't say I have.**

**MIKE**

**She broke her hip last week.**

**DOROTHY**

**I didn't know.**

**MIKE**

**I guess nobody else does either.**

**Another family walks up to Mike and Dorothy as we ...**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike comes out with her medical bag, Matthew follows carrying some blankets.**

**MATTHEW**

**If Brian cleans up everyday for a few hours, Hank said he could pay it off in a month.**

**Matthew throws the blankets into the back of their wagon.**

**MIKE**

**I don't like the idea of Brian working in a saloon.**

**MATTHEW**

**Myra said she'd keep an eye out for him. Besides, it'll be durin' the day, and nothin's going' on then anyway.**

**Mike gives Matthew a look.**

**MIKE**

**He must really want that horse.**

**Sully appears.**

**SULLY**

**Where you think you're goin'?**

**MIKE**

**Mrs. Caraway is still at her cabin. Matthew and I are going to get her.**

**SULLY**

**I'll go with him. You stay here.**

**MIKE**

**Sully, I have to go. Her leg is broken. She'll need an injection of morphine to make the journey.**

**SULLY**

**Show me how. I'll do it.**

**MIKE**

**You can't. You wouldn't know how much to give. I'll be all right. You said the Army was chasing the Dog Soldiers and they wouldn't be back near us for a while.**

**SULLY**

**Truth is, there's no tellin' where they are or what they'll do.**

**MIKE**

**I can't leave her out there. If we go now, we should have no trouble.**

**It's against Sully's better judgment.**

**SULLY**

**Fine, have it your way. But I'll drive.**

**Sully swings up into the seat, pulls her up. Mike looks at Matthew.**

**MIKE**

**Tell Brian he can take the job, but I want you to watch out for him, too.**

**MATTHEW**

**I will.**

**MIKE**

**We'll be back by dark.**

**SULLY**

**Heyaah.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**The wagon rolls out of town. Matthew watches it go.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SALOON - DAY SEVEN**

**Brian walks along the boardwalk, after school. Myra is standing outside with a customer.**

**MYRA**

**Afternoon, Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**Hello, Myra**

**MYRA**

**Hank's expectin' you. He's around the side there.**

**Brian nods, walks around the building. He stops when he sees ...**

**ANGLE - HANK**

**HANK**

Well, right on time. I like that in my employees.

**BRIAN**

What do you want me to do first?

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

to see Hank is standing in front of a table, half a dozen spittoons on it. There's a bucket, some soap, towels.

**HANK**

You can start with these.

Hank takes a last drag on his cheroot, drops it into one of the spittoons. We hear a HISS.

**ANGLE - BRIAN**

as he puts down his books, starts to roll up his sleeves. Hank walks past him.

**HANK**

Clean em out, make em shine.

**EXT. STREET - LATER**

**SIX CAVALRY SOLDIERS** including the Sergeant ride in, leading a wagon. In the back of the wagon is Mrs. Caraway.

**EXT. CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

as the wagon pulls up, stops. Colleen comes out of the clinic with Matthew.

**SERGEANT**

Got a woman here with a broken leg. General Custer told us to bring her to Dr. Quinn.

**COLLEEN**

She's gone but I'll take care of her. Can you carry her inside?

The soldiers start to unload Mrs. Caraway.

**MATTHEW**

Colleen, that's the woman Ma and Sully were goin' to get.

**ANGLE - SERGEANT**

**SERGEANT (announcing)**

We expect reinforcements from Denver within a day. Until then, I suggest all of you stay close to town. The Dog Soldiers are raiding all around here.

**BACK TO COLLEEN AND MATTHEW**

**MATTHEW**

I gotta go get em.

**COLLEEN**

No, Matthew.

Matthew unties his horse, mounts up.

**MATTHEW**

You know Ma will keep lookin' for her. Longer they stay out, more chance of runnin' into war parties. (Half beat). Take care of Brian til I get back.

Matthew rides out. We HOLD on Colleen for a moment, then she goes into the clinic to see after her patient.

**EXT. CARAWAY CABIN - DAY SEVEN**

All seems peaceful and calm. Twilight. Mike's wagon tied up near the house. Camera

moves to reveal a dead Dog Soldier near the wagon. And then another dead Dog Soldier.

**INT. CABIN - DAY SEVEN**

Mike and Sully sit side by side on the floor, backs to the fireplace wall. Sully is looking up at the ceiling. He's got a rifle in his hands, barrel pointed up. There's an Indian on the roof. He motions for Mike to be still. He cocks the rifle, follows the sound on the roof.

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

Sully fires. There's a hit and the Indian falls off the roof, landing outside the window. Sully ejects the shell, reaches down to the box of ammunition.

**INSERT - AMMUNITION**

only two bullets left.

**BACK TO SCENE**

as Sully loads the rifle. We can hear an Indian shouting something to them.

**MIKE**

What's he saying?

**SULLY**

They'll let me go if I give you up.

**MIKE**

Sully ...

**SULLY**

He's lyin'. They're gonna kill us both as soon as it gets dark.

**MIKE**

You've got to go.

**SULLY**

**No.**

**MIKE**

**You could get away. You know you could.**

**SULLY**

**I won't leave you.**

**Mike moves closer to him. She looks deep into his eyes.**

**MIKE**

**I want to know you'll look after the children. (Half beat). Kiss me once, then go.**

**And Sully takes her in his arms. He kisses her deeply, with tenderness, and then kisses her harder, longer, with passion and she responds, pressing herself to him, tears filling her eyes, at last, surrender to it all. Finally they separate.**

**MIKE**

**Now, go ....**

**SUDDENLY THE DOOR**

**slams open and three Dog Soldiers race in. Sully pushes Mike to the side as a Dog Soldier tackles him, hitting the floor.**

**While Sully and the Indian fight, the other two Dog Soldiers grab Mike, pull her out the door. Mike screams and struggles.**

**ANGLE - SULLY AND INDIAN**

**on the floor, rolling around. The Indian has his knife out and they wrestle for it. Sully disarms the Indian, knocks him out with a kick.**

**Sully grabs the rifle, runs to the door.**

## **EXT. CABIN - DAY SEVEN**

**Mike is being put up on a horse. A shot rings out, one Dog Soldier falls. They all turn to look.**

### **ANGLE - SULLY**

**standing in the cabin door, reloading his last shell.**

### **ANGLE - DOG SOLDIERS**

**and Mike on one horse. The rider turns to look at Sully. It's White Eye. Half a dozen Dog Soldiers return fire at the cabin.**

### **ANGLE - SULLY**

**in the cabin door, pulling back as the gunshots splinter the log frame. By the time Sully steps back out again, the Indians are riding away. He raises his rifle ...**

### **SULLY'S POV - THE DOG SOLDIERS AND MIKE**

**disappearing into the woods. Sully's gun sights on White Eye and Mike but not shot.**

### **BACK TO SCENE**

**Sully runs a few yards after them, chasing into the woods, trying to get a shot, dodging their bullets. Wolf runs with him.**

### **SULLY**

**Go boy, stay with her.**

### **SULLY'S POV - THE INDIANS**

**splitting up and going in different directions as they get farther from him, disappearing into thick forest that's growing darker by the minute.**

### **BACK TO SULLY**

**who runs another fifteen yards, then stops, not sure which way to go.**

**SULLY (shouting)**

**I will never leave you. I will find you!**

**END ACT FOUR - PART ONE**

**PART TWO**

**ACT ONE**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS - NIGHT SEVEN**

**Lanterns glow in the half a dozen soldier's tents set up in the meadow, more of the 7th Cavalry encamped for the night.**

**ANGLE - EUCALYPTUS ROAD**

**There's two soldiers guarding the road. One of them looks up when he hears something.**

**SOLDIER #1**

**What's that?**

**THEIR POV - LONG LENS - SULLY**

**driving Mike's wagon hard and fast, racing down the road toward them.**

**ANGLE - SOLDIER # 1**

**who, seeing only Sully and his long hair, raises his rifle.**

**SOLDIER # 1**

**It's an Indian ...**

**He sites him in.**

**ANGLE - SOLDIERS # 1's POV - SULLY**

who doesn't see him or hear him above the clatter of wheels and hooves, and keeps driving.

**ANGLE - WIDER ON THE SOLDIERS**

Soldier # 2 now sees ...

**MATTHEW**

As he rides to the side of the wagon.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Soldier # 2 lunges at the upheld rifle.

**SOLDER # 2**

No ... don't shoot!

But the soldier fires.

**ANGLE - SULLY**

who hears the bullet miss his ear by an inch.

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

as Sully drives past the two soldiers who jump out of the way.

**SULLY**

Look out!

The shot is enough to alert the town and the Army.

**ANGLE - SOLDIERS**

who pop out of their tents to see what's going on.

**ANGLE - SULLY**

and the wagon, pulling to a stop in front of the general store. Matthew is right behind him. Sully jumps down, Matthew dismounts. Sully and Matthew run to the store, bang on the door.

**SULLY**

Loren? Loren, open up.

Loren appears at the door.

**LOREN**

What's the matter?

**CUT TO:**

**ANGLE - CLINIC - DAY SEVEN**

Colleen and Brian come out.

**BRIAN**

Hey, that's Ma's wagon.

Colleen and Brian head for the store, as do other townsfolk drawn by the shot and the shouting.

**INT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT SEVEN**

Sully is grabbing supplies for his journey, handing them to Matthew, who follows him about the store. Jerky, matches, a blanket, some rifle shells.

**LOREN**

What're you doin'?

**SULLY**

You got any rope?

**LOREN**

**Rope?**

**Sully looks up at a shelf. He takes down some supplies, hands them to Matthew.**

**Colleen and Brian enter, along with Horace.**

**COLLEEN**

**Where's Dr. Mike?**

**Sully turns to the children, he moves to them, and after a beat ...**

**SULLY**

**the Dog Soldiers got her.**

**BRIAN**

**They got Ma?**

**COLLEEN**

**But how?**

**SULLY**

**We got attacked on our way to get that lady that was hurt.**

**COLLEEN**

**Why didn't you stop them?**

**SULLY**

**I tried, but there were too many.**

**Horace steps back over to the door, shouts to the street.**

**HORACE (shouting)**

**Dog Soldiers kidnapped Dr. Mike!**

**BRIAN**

**Why'd the Indians want to hurt Ma? She didn't do nothin'.**

**COLLEEN**

**Ma's been their friend.**

**SULLY**

**These Indians ain't her friends. These are bad Indians. (Half beat). Look, I know she's alive. (To Brian) And I'm gonna find her. (To Colleen) I swear to you. I'll find her.**

**EXT. GENERAL STORE - NIGHT SEVEN**

**Sully comes out. Robert E has a horse waiting for him.**

**ROBERT E**

**Here you go, Sully. Fastest I got.**

**SULLY**

**Thanks Robert E.**

**Sully ties on his supplies. The children, Loren, Dorothy stand on the porch. Other town members gathered around. Sully pulls Mike's medical bag from the wagon.**

**SULLY (to Colleen)**

**I'm gonna take this with me. She'll be wantin' it.**

**Colleen fights tears, gives a hopeful nod. Grace puts her arms about Colleen and Brian.**

**GRACE**

**We'll look after everybody til you get back.**

**Sully ties the medical bag to the horse. He's about to mount up with General Custer and**

**some soldiers come walking through the crowd.**

**CUSTER**

**What's this about a kidnapping?**

**DOROTHY**

**Dr. Quinn has been taken prisoner by Dog Soldiers.**

**HORACE**

**Sully can show you where to start lookin'.**

**CUSTER**

**Tonight?**

**DOROTHY**

**Why not?**

**CUSTER**

**There's no Indian scout alive that can track at night, madame. I'll be send some men to begin searching at dawn.**

**Sully mounts up.**

**SULLY**

**Be too late by then.**

**ROBERT E**

**Let me get a horse, and I'll go with you.**

**MATTHEW**

**Me, too.**

**CUSTER**

**Anyone who leaves this town forfeits my guarantee of protection. (To Sully) If you want my advice --**

**SULLY**

**I don't.**

**CUSTER**

**Do as you wish, but anyone who rides out of here tonight does so at their own risk. Don't expect the Army to come rescue you.**

**Grace touches Robert E on the arm, gives him a worried look.**

**SULLY (to Robert E, Matthew)**

**I could use the help, but I'll travel faster alone.**

**SULLY (to Custer)**

**Last I saw the war party, they were headed south west of Dry Creek. Start lookin' there in the morning'. I'll mark a trail for you to follow.**

**CUSTER**

**I assure you, my scouts will have no trouble --**

**SULLY**

**Excuse me, General, but from here on out, you're gonna be needin' all the help you can get.**

**Sully spurs his horse, rides quickly out of town. We HOLD on Custer.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT SEVEN**

**Through the trees we can see a small Indian village. WE PULL BACK to REVEAL Wolf**

**standing quietly, watching.**

## **INT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT SEVEN**

**A cooking fire tended by some women. There are more Dog Soldiers now, twenty of them seated around, eating. They are passing through, spending the night.**

**The people of the village wait on them. The children stand in the shadows, looking, pointing. White Eye sits by the fire. Mike is next to him. She's tid up. She's bruised, her dress torn, a scratch on her face. They offer her no food. She stares at it hungrily.**

**White Eye finishes eating, stands, pulls Mike up by her arm. It hurt her.**

## **MIKE**

**Please ...**

**White Eye starts pulling her towards a tepee. Another Dog Soldier steps in front of him, starts to argue. This Dog Soldier thinks he should have Mike. He suddenly grabs her away from White Eye, pulls out a knife, starts waving it, saying why not just kill her now instead of fighting over her. The argument escalates. More shouting. White Eye begins daring the Dog Soldier to kill her.**

**Suddenly Walks on Cloud appears, calming both of them down, pointing to Mike. What he says finally makes sense to the two men. The Dog Soldier holds up his knife, cuts Mike's hands free. The Dog Soldier and White Eye sit back down again.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Walks on Cloud leads Mike a few steps away from the others, sits her down. He kneels beside her and offers her some water. She drinks. She splashes some on her face. He hands her some food. Mike eats hungrily. She drinks again, empties the cup. Walks on Cloud pours her more water.**

**A beat as Mike looks around, sensing it's safe to speak.**

## **MIKE (whispers)**

**Thank you. I know that your father ...**

## **WALKS ON CLOUD**

**This is not about my father. I reminded them you are worth nothing to us dead.**

**Walks on Cloud picks up some rawhide lace, grabs Mike's hands, jerking the food away, and roughly starts to tie her up again. We HOLD on MIKE.**

**CUT TO:**

**INT. HANK'S SALOON - DAY EIGHT**

**Early morning. Nobody there. Brian is sweeping up. He knocks over an empty whiskey bottle. It breaks. Brian looks about, starts to clean it up.**

**Hank comes staggering in from the back room, gun drawn, in his night shirt. He sees it's Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**Sorry.**

**HANK**

**What're you doin' here?**

**BRIAN**

**Cleanin' up.**

**HANK**

**Oh. (Beat). Well .... you don't gotta be doin' this .... I mean, I thought with your Ma and all, you might not feel like showin' up for a while.**

**BRIAN**

**Colleen said we should just keep doin' what we were doin' ... like Ma was here.**

**Hank looks at Brian.**

**HANK**

**Don't forget the corners.**

**He exits. Brian starts sweeping again.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. CHURCH - DAY EIGHT**

**The Reverend is sweeping down his steps. He looks up to see ...**

**EXT. EUCALYPTUS ROAD - DAY EIGHT**

**A procession of 50 Indians makes their way down the road. The Indians are tied together. Guarding them are members of Custer's 7th. Leading the pack is Custer.**

**The soldiers drive the Indians out into the pasture. In the line we see Cloud Dancing, other members of his village, children, old ones.**

**EXT. MEADOW AND ARMY CAMP - DAY EIGHT**

**Custer and the Sergeant are talking.**

**CUSTER**

**We'll build an enclosure here. See if there's some barbed wire in town.**

**SERGEANT**

**Yes, sir.**

**The Sergeant exits, Custer looks over at the Reverend.**

**ANGLE - REVEREND**

**looks back at Custer, and the Indians. His hand on his wound, the anger still in his eyes.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY EIGHT**

**Wolf suddenly appears from the brush, running up a trail. A moment later Sully appears, riding the horse, following him.**

## **ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST**

**Wolf has stopped at a crossroads, not sure which way to go. Sully rides up, dismounts. He kneels to look at a footprint in the dirt. He looks up. They are close. He ties up the horse.**

**SULLY (to Wolf)**

**This way.**

**Sully takes off down a trail with Wolf right behind him.**

## **EXT. RIVER - DAY EIGHT**

**A wide part of the river, between two cliffs. Sully and Wolf appear in the rocks on one side. Sully looks across the river.**

## **SULLY'S POV - HIGH CLIFFS - DAY EIGHT**

**on the other side. Hard to see with the sun in your eyes.**

**CUT TO:**

**as we PULL BACK to see a rifle pointed at Sully.**

## **ANGLE - MIKE**

**being held, a gag tied in her mouth. Her eyes filled with terror. Nothing she can do.**

## **ANGLE - SULLY**

**as he starts to step from behind the cover of a rock.**

## **ANGLE - MIKE**

**struggling with the Indian that holds her.**

## **ANGLE - MIKE'S FOOT**

**as she finds a small rock by her foot and kicks it over the side.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**Who hears the rock tumbling down the canyon wall. He jumps back behind the rock just as bullet misses him. It echoes in the canyon.**

**SULLY**

**Dr. Mike!**

**ANGLE- MIKE**

**who hears Sully's voice and cries out through the gag.**

**MIKE (screams)**

**Sully!**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**running from cover to another boulder. A shot just misses him.**

**WIDER ON THE RIVER**

**to see his problem. No cover. Nothing but open, and water.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND THE INDIANS**

**already starting to get away with her. Walks on Cloud stops at the top of the cliff.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (shouting)**

**Don't follow us or we will kill her.**

**SULLY (shouting)**

**Is she all right? Let me see her! Dr. Mike!**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (shouts)**

**You want see her alive, you tell Custer to let my father and his village to free.**

**SULLY (shouts)**

**What are you sayin'?**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (shouts)**

**They are his prisoners.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (O.C.)**

**Tell Custer we will trade our prisoner for his.**

**Sully steps out from the rocks, looks up, then turns to Wolf.**

**SULLY Stay with em.**

**Wolf moves to the water, dives in, starts to swim across.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**Sully runs, starts climbing out of the canyon, heading back to his horse. He stops, looks back ...**

**SULLY'S POV - WOLF**

**pulling himself out of the water, shaking off, and running after the Indians.**

**SULLY**

**rides back into the woods.**

**EXT. TOWN - DAY EIGHT**

**A barbed wire fence, high enough to keep people in, set out in the field. All the Indians inside. Soldiers sit with rifles pointed at the Indians.**

**ANGLE - SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY EIGHT**

where the children are out playing, but mostly watching the Army and the Indians from a distance. Colleen and Brian are there.

#### **EXT. PASTURE - DAY EIGHT**

Sully comes riding up out of the woods behind the church, stopping, not believing what he sees. He rides up to the fence.

#### **COLLEEN AND BRIAN**

spot him.

#### **COLLEEN**

It's Sully.

And they both run for him.

#### **MOVING WITH SULLY**

as he rides up by the faces of the Indians, looking out through the barbed wire. Women, children, old ones. Sully dismounts when he sees Cloud Dancing.

#### **SULLY**

Cloud Dancing? What happened?

#### **CLOUD DANCING**

We did not run fast enough, or far enough.

A Soldier comes up to Sully.

#### **SOLDIER**

Hey, you, get away from the prisoners.

The soldier makes the mistake of trying to push Sully with the rifle butt. Sully whirls around, backhands the soldier, sending him tumbling, but hangs on to the rifle.

#### **SULLY**

**Where's General Custer?**

**WIDER ANGLE**

**as Custer comes walking up.**

**CUSTER**

**Right here.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**throws the rifle to the soldier.**

**SULLY**

**You've got to let them go.**

**CUSTER**

**They are my prisoners.**

**SULLY**

**What did they do?**

**CUSTER**

**They are under arrest for leaving their reservation and for aiding and abetting the enemy.**

**Colleen and Brian come running up.**

**COLLEEN**

**Sully. Where's Dr. Mike? Did you find her?**

**SULLY**

**She's all right.**

**Colleen and Brian grab hold of Sully.**

**BRIAN**

**Why didn't you bring her home?**

**COLLEEN**

**Where is she?**

**Sully looks up at Custer.**

**SULLY**

**The Dog Soldiers know you have taken this village captive. They said they'll trade Dr. Mike for these Indians.**

**Custer gives him a look.**

**CUSTER**

**Out of the question.**

**SULLY**

**But these aren't Dog Soldiers. They're children, and women and old men. You're not at war with them, are you?**

**Custer leans down to Brian and Colleen.**

**CUSTER**

**You children want to see you mother again, don't you?**

**BRIAN (quietly)**

**Yes, sir.**

**Custer looks at the prisoners. He thinks for a moment.**

**CUSTER**

**Well, I think that can be arranged. (To Sully) I want you to deliver a message to the Dog Soldiers. Tell them that unless Dr. Quinn is returned safely, I will begin executing these prisoners as soon as a gallows can be constructed.**

**Custer exits. We HOLD on Sully and the children as we**

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. DOG SOLDIER CAMP - DAY NINE**

**By the river. Mike bathes her arms and face in the water. Hard to do with your hands tied. White Eye crouches on the bank of river, staring at her bare shoulders and white skin.**

**A DOG SOLDIER**

**acting as a lookout, crouches in the high rocks. He something in the distance, points to it.**

**DOG SOLDIER (in Cheyenne)**

**Someone's coming.**

**EXT. DOG SOLDIER CAMP - DAY NINE**

**as the riders appear. Two Dog Soldiers (#2 and Lone Heart, wounded in the shoulder) approach. The camp goes to meet them. Walks on Cloud helps Lone Heart down, sets him on the ground.**

**Mike walks up from the river. The other Indians pull at the wound, move the shirt way. Mike looks at Walks on Cloud.**

**MIKE (to Walks on Cloud)**

**Tell them they have to stop the bleeding.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**Lone Heart killed two soldiers this morning. He says he is ready to die.**

**MIKE**

**But he doesn't have to. Tell them I can help.**

**Walks on Cloud ignores her. Mike grabs at her dress, rips a long strip of it. She folds it for a bandage, then moves to the group of men, kneels down by Lone Heart.**

**MIKE**

**I can help. (In Cheyenne) Help.**

**Slowly she reaches out with the bandage and places it on the wound. She gestures for them to press on it. One Indian places his hand on the bandage. Mike presses down hard on the man's hand.**

**MIKE**

**Hold it down. Like that. Yes. Hold it there.**

**Mike gets up, moves back to the side of the river, starts gathering cattails, some mud.**

**MIKE**

**We can make a plaster.**

**She gestures. Walks on Cloud watches her try and make the others understand.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (in Cheyenne)**

**She says to put it on his wound. To stop the blood.**

**The others listen, then nod. One of the Indians takes the mud from her, starts to apply it.**

**White Eye starts talking to Dog Soldier # 2, gesturing, asking questions.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND WALKS ON CLOUD**

**Walks on Cloud looks at her. He's curious.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**Will it work?**

**MIKE**

**I believe so. Your father taught me how to do it.**

**Walks on Cloud turns away.**

**MIKE**

**He taught me many good things.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**Then how could you betray him?**

**MIKE**

**I didn't know the Dog Soldiers were hiding in your village. Had I known, I never would have brought the Army with me that day.**

**He looks at her and sees the remorse is genuine and heartfelt. Then they look up to see --**

**ANGLE - WHITE EYE starting to shout orders to the other Dog Soldiers.**

**MIKE**

**What's he saying?**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**We are going. White Eye wants to leave now before the Army comes.**

**MIKE**

**But that man can't travel.**

**The Indians begin to mount up. Two Dog Soldiers prop Lone Heart against a rock. Walks**

**on Cloud grabs Mike.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**Get on the horse.**

**MIKE**

**But you can't leave him here.**

**Mike gets up on the horse.**

**MIKE**

**Somebody has to take care of him or he'll die.**

**White Eye shouts something to the other Indians. He takes out his rifle.**

**MIKE**

**No!**

**White Eye swings the rifle around and fires off a shot in another direction.**

**ANGLE - MIKE**

**looking to see what he was shooting at.**

**MIKE'S POV - WOLF**

**running for cover deeper into the woods.**

**BACK TO MIKE**

**wondering if she saw what she thinks she saw. Walks on Cloud takes her reins, starts to lead her horse away.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

**The wolves will kill him.**

**Mike looks back.**

**MIKE'S POV - LONE HEART**

**seated against the rock.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**as the Dog Soldiers ride out, Mike looking over her shoulder for any sign of Wolf. Suddenly hopeful that Sully might near.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY NINE**

**Sully follows a trail, running through the woods.**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY NINE**

**as Sully comes running up a path. He passes by a large old Oak tree, and as he passes, a Dog Soldier steps out, raises a rifle and shoots at Sully's back.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**running away from us. The bullet catches him in the arm, and he goes down, falling off the trail, rolling down the hill side.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as Sully comes to a stop against a tree trunk. He sits up, grabs at his shoulder. Blood, but it's only a flesh wound. He hears a war cry, looks up.**

**SULLY'S POV - TWO DOG SOLDIERS**

**come racing down through the trees, tomahawks drawn.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Sully is barely on his feet when the first Dog Soldier slams into him. Sully flips him over, slugs him, knocking him out, but then gets hit from behind by the other Dog Soldier. Sully falls over on his back.**

**Sully looks up.**

**ANGLE - THE DOG SOLDIER**

**raises his tomahawk for the kill. Suddenly Wolf flies into FRAME, knocking the Dog Soldier over.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**The Dog Soldier swings at Wolf with his tomahawk, connects to his leg. Wolf cries out, goes down.**

**The Indian starts to hack at the dog and Sully suddenly appears behind him and knocks the Indian out with a blow. Sully takes a moment to catch his breath, then looks over to see ...**

**WOLF**

**is sitting up, holding his wounded paw in the air. It's bleeding. Sully moves to him, examines the paw.**

**SULLY**

**Not too deep. It's gonna be all right, boy.**

**Sully takes Dr. Mike's bag from his pack, gets some bandages out.**

**SULLY**

**You know where she is, boy? She all right? They haven't hurt her, have they?**

**He ties a bandage on Wolf's paw. He scratches Wolf's head.**

**SULLY**

**Thanks. (Half beat) All right, take me to her.**

**Wolf barks, then starts off on the trail, hopping on three legs.**

**SULLY**

**Find her.**

**And they disappear into the woods.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. TOWN - DAY NINE**

**Soldiers are building a four station gallows in the meadow, in front of the barbed wire camp. It's about half way completed.**

**INT. JAKE'S BARBERSHOP - DAY NINE**

**Jake shaves Horace. Loren is reading a paper. Hank is smoking a cigar.**

**JAKE**

**You really think General Custer's gonna hang em all? Women and children?**

**HANK**

**Custer shot his own men. What do you think?**

**LOREN**

**The sooner they're all done way with, the better. Them Indians are only standin' in the way of everything we want to do with this country.**

**HORACE**

**Is that any reason to kill em?**

**LOREN**

**It's their fault for not stayin' where we put em.**

**HORACE**

**That's cause they got no food on the reservation.**

**JAKE**

**Indians are a different animal. We can't live together.**

**HORACE**

**Maybe not, but Dr. Mike said there's no reason we shouldn't try and get along.**

**HANK**

**And look what happened to her. Bet she's sayin' somethin' different now.**

**JAKE**

**Sully ain't gonna find her.**

**HANK**

**If he does, he won't want what's left.**

**LOREN**

**I feel sorry for her, but she brought it on herself.**

**JAKE**

**Ain't that the truth. Always in the middle, tryin' to talk things out.**

**LOREN**

**World don't work that way.**

**JAKE (to Horace)**

**There, you're done. That'll be two bits, Horace.**

**Horace steps out of the chair, pays Jake.**

**HORACE**

**I used to think we could all get along. Guess that ain't possible anymore.**

**LOREN**

**It's like the Reverend said on Sunday, "can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?"**

**HANK**

**Somebody kills, they gotta pay for it.**

**LOREN**

**Bible says so. Eye for an eye.**

**JAKE**

**Tooth for a tooth.**

**HORACE**

**I got a telegram this mornin'. There's a reporter comin' from the Denver paper to write about it.**

**JAKE**

**Well, I guess people all over the world are gonna know what happened here.**

**HORACE**

**Are we sure this is somethin' we want to be famous for?**

**Horace exits. We HOLD on the men.**

**CUT TO:**

**INT. LOREN'S STORE - DAY NINE**

**Dorothy is running her press when Brian enters.**

**DOROTHY**

**Hello, Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**I need some more soap.**

**DOROTHY**

**Already?**

**Brian's pants are wet. His knees are dirty. He's been scrubbing floors. He's tired and a mess. Dorothy shakes her head.**

**DOROTHY**

**What's he got you washin' now?**

**She moves to a counter, picks up a bar of soap.**

**BRIAN**

**The tables and chairs.**

**DOROTHY**

**He's workin' you awful hard.**

**BRIAN**

**I don't mind. Got nothin' else to do. Can't go home. Can't play in the woods ... all I can do is ...**

**Brian fights his tears. Dorothy puts her arm around him.**

**BRIAN**

**Sully'll find Ma, won't he?**

**DOROTHY**

**Brian, I know if anybody in this world can find Dr. Mike, Sully can.**

**Brian nods. He starts to go out.**

**DOROTHY**

**Here, you forgot somethin'.**

**She goes to the candy box, gets two pieces of taffy, hands them to Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**Thanks.**

**EXT. STREET - DAY NINE**

**Brian comes out of the general store, looks to see if Hank is still in Jake's barbershop. He is, but his back is to us. Brian looks over at the saloon, then waits for a passing wagon to give him cover, jumps behind it, and makes a run for the livery. The streets are busy with people taking refuge in the town.**

**EXT. ROBERT E'S LIVERY - DAY NINE**

**Robert E is working his forge. Brian runs out from behind the wagon.**

**BRIAN**

**How's she doin'?**

**ROBERT E**

**Eatin' better today.**

**BRIAN**

**What about her leg?**

**I won't know til I take the bandage off.**

**Brian turns, starts for the corral.**

**ROBERT E**

**Brian, the leg don't heal right, that horse won't be worth nothin'.**

**BRIAN**

**I'd be takin' her anyway, Robert E, just to make sure Hank don't hurt her no more.**

**Brian exits. We HOLD on Robert E.**

**ANGLE - CORRAL**

**Brian climbs up on the rail. The horse comes over to him. He unwraps a piece of taffy, holds it out to the horse. The horse sniffs it, for a moment seems interested.**

**BRIAN**

**Go ahead. Go on, girl.**

**But finally the horse doesn't take it. Disappointed, Brian wraps the taffy up, puts it in his pocket.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SMALL INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT NINE**

**Different than the one we've seen. Another stop on the trail for the Dog Soldiers. Three teepees, scattered about. Full moon lighting up the forest.**

**The women of the village serve the Dog Soldiers.**

**White Eye looks at Mike, seated on the other side of the fire . He decides he's waited long enough. He wants her.**

**ANGLE - MIKE**

**as White Eye steps around the fire to face her. He grabs her arms and pulls her up. She starts to fight him and he slaps her hard, knocking her down.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as Walks on Cloud appears and helps Mike to stand up again. Then Walks on Cloud pulls**

**of his bone necklace.**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (in Cheyenne)**

**I will trade you for her.**

**White Eye looks at the necklace. He nods, takes it. Walks on Cloud grabs Mike by the arm, starts ushering her to the farthest teepee.**

**MOVING WITH THEM**

**as they pass the other Dog Soldiers, who murmur their approval and envy.**

**MIKE**

**Please ...**

**WALKS ON CLOUD (shouts in Cheyenne)**

**I am Walks on Cloud. Remember this day.**

**And he pushes Mike into the teepee, pulls the flap shut behind them.**

**ANGLE - WHITE EYE**

**looking at the necklace, turning it over in his hands, and then looking back at the teepee. Reconsidering the deal,**

**INT. TEEPEE**

**Mike is looking at Walks on Cloud. She's terrified. He takes his knife out.**

**MIKE**

**Please ... please don't.**

**He grabs her hands.**

**MIKE (screams)**

**Please ... don't hurt me!**

**EXT. TEEPEE**

White Eye and the other Indians look up, nod and speak to each other. White Eye stands, starts for the teepee.

**INT. TEEPEE**

Mike looks at Walks on Cloud surprise in her face as he cuts her hands free. He gestures for her to be quiet, then he steps to the back of the teepee, cuts it open.

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

Go.

**MIKE**

What?

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

White Eye will not let you live. He has said so. (Mike's look). I do not want my father and all those innocent people to die. Their ghosts will haunt me forever. You are the only one who can save them. You must go.

**MIKE**

I ...

**WALKS ON CLOUD**

Go.

As Mike goes out the side of the teepee ..

**WHITE EYE (O.C.) (In Cheyenne)**

I have changed my mind.

Walks on Cloud turns around to see.

## **ANGLE - WHITE EYE**

stepping into the teepee. He looks around, doesn't see Mike.

## **EXT. WOODS - NIGHT NINE**

Mike is moving through the brush, as quickly as she can. She's not that far away from the teepees. We can see the campfire in the distance behind her. And we can hear the shouting voices of White Eye and Walks on Cloud ... there's a gunshot.

Mike stops for a moment, looks back at the teepees. We hear the shouts of the Dog Soldiers starting to look for her. Mike starts running again.

## **EXT. WOODS - NEW ANGLE**

The Dog Soldiers spread out, looking for signs of her. White Eye follows her trail silently, knowing he's closing in. He finds a broken sapling, a piece of cloth.

## **ANGLE - MIKE**

running, looking for a hiding place. And then she sees it.

## **ANGLE - LARGE HOLLOW LOG**

off the path. Mike enters the shot, climbs into the log, pulls some leaves and brush over her. We hear foot steps, the voices of the Dog Soldiers. A few pass very close to her. Mike nearly screams when something crawls over her hand. She listens for the longest time, thinking they've moved on. And slowly she climbs from her hiding place. She turns to run and

## **WHITE EYE**

is there, waiting for her. He grabs her and she screams and fights with him, but he shoves her away. She hits her back and head on a tree, and the blow stuns her. Mike slumps to the ground. She doesn't move. We HOLD on Mike, White Eye shouting to the others that he's found her as we

## **END ACT TWO**

## **ACT THREE**

**FADE IN**

**EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY TEN**

**Sully is looking at the faces of the women and children gathered in front of the teepees. Wolf is sniffing around.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**Was she here?**

**SULLY'S POV - INDIAN FACES**

**gathered about him, none of them showing any sign of understanding, or not wanting to.**

**BACK TO SULLY**

**seeing he's being stonewalled out of fear.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**I know she was here.**

**Sully moves to one of the ELDERS.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**She is a friend of the Cheyenne. Help me find her.**

**He steps over to a WOMAN**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**Was she all right? Can you tell me. Please?**

**He looks around for any friendly face, any help. Nothing.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**Do you not understand? The woman is my heart song.**

**He places his hand on his chest.**

**SULLY (in Cheyenne)**

**Help me find her. (Half beat - in English) Help me.**

**Sully looks at the faces again. An Elder Grandmother raises her hand, points off in a direction.**

**GRANDMOTHER (in Cheyenne)**

**They took her to the rivers.**

**Sully nods his thanks. Then the Grandmother holds up the bone necklace Walks on Cloud traded. She gives it to Sully. He turns and runs out of camp with Wolf following close behind him**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. MEADOW - DAY TEN**

**A Guard is stopping Matthew and Colleen from going to the barbed wire fence. They have four buckets of water which they set down.**

**GUARD**

**It's the General's orders.**

**COLLEEN**

**It's water. They haven't had a drink all day.**

**ANGLE - CLOUD DANCING**

**and the women and children, standing by the fence.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**GUARD**

**You can't give em nothin'.**

**The guard tips over one of the buckets.**

**MATTHEW**

**Hey.**

**ANGLE - CHURCH**

**where the Reverend has been watching it all.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**COLLEEN**

**You can't treat them like this. You haven't given them food, or water ...**

**GUARD**

**They're Indians. And they're gonna hang in a couple of days, so it don't matter.**

**The Reverend steps up, having overheard. He picks up a bucket.**

**REVEREND**

**Even the Romans gave water to the condemned.**

**The Reverend carries the bucket over to the fence. Matthew and Colleen give the soldier a look, then pick up the other buckets and take them to the Indians at the fence. They ladle water out.**

**ANGLE - THE REVEREND**

**gives water to the children. He looks up to see**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**On the other side, watching him. His hands are tied.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Thank you.**

**The Reverend offers the ladle to Cloud Dancing.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**The children first. I will wait.**

**A woman takes the ladle, shares it with her child.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Reverend?**

**REVEREND**

**Yes?**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**I have asked to speak with the General, but he will not come. Would you ask him for me?**

**The Reverend nods. He considers he may have let his anger take him down a wrong path.**

**REVEREND**

**Do you know where Dr. Mike is? If you do, I'll tell Custer and he can go get her and you'll be set free. All he wants to do is get her back unharmed.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**I do not know where she is.**

**REVEREND (beat)**

**Then I must pray that Sully will find her.**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**I have prayed. I have prayed to know how our Gods let this happen.**

**REVEREND**

**And were your prayers answered?**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**The spirits don't speak to me. Will you ask your God if this is His plan? Is this what your God wants?**

**The Reverend looks at Cloud Dancing. He looks at the children and old men and women being given water by Colleen and Matthew. And then he looks up at**

**THEIR POV - THE GALLOWS**

**nearly competed, waiting in the meadow to be used.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**CLOUD DANCING**

**Will you ask him for me?**

**We HOLD on the Reverend as we**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SIDE OF THE SALOON - DAY TEN**

**Brian is splitting some firewood into kindling. He's got a pretty good stack going. He picks up another log, starts splitting it. Myra sticks her head out of one of the backroom windows.**

**MYRA**

**Brian?**

**BRIAN**

**Hello, Myra.**

**MYRA**

**Why don't you stop now?**

**BRIAN**

**But Hank wanted the whole box filled up.**

**MYRA**

**Well, Hank ain't here and he don't know how much it's disturbin' the customers. It's all right. I'll tell him. You won't get in trouble.**

**Brian puts down the hatchet.**

**MYRA**

**Brian ...**

**BRIAN**

**Yes?**

**MYRA**

**Everything's gonna be all right.**

**BRIAN**

**Yes, ma'am.**

**Myra goes back inside. Brian pulls on his jacket, his hand goes in his pocket. He pulls out a taffy.**

**EXT. CORRAL - DAY TEN**

**Brian looks at the horse.**

**BRIAN**

**Hey girl.**

**The horse comes over to him. Brian takes out a taffy, sets it on the rail. The horse sniffs it, and then takes it.**

**BRIAN**

**You ate it.**

**Brian quickly unwraps another one, holds it out. The horse takes it, eats it.**

**BRIAN**

**You ate another one. (Shouts) Robert E! Robert E!**

**ROBERT E (O.C.)**

**Round here.**

**Brian jumps down, starts running around the livery to find him.**

**EXT. ROBERT E'S LIVERY - DAY TEN**

**Robert E is working on a buggy, talking to a customer. Brian runs up.**

**BRIAN**

**Robert E. Come quick. The horse.**

**ROBERT E**

**Brian, I'm helpin' this man.**

**BRIAN**

**You've got to come now. She's gonna be all right.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. STREET - DAY TEN**

**Robert E. Has the horse on line, walking her down the center of town. The horse steps**

**smartly, feeling well again.**

**ROBERT E**

**You're right, Brian, she's gonna be just fine.**

**He turns her around. Brian is overjoyed. They pass by in front of the saloon.**

**ANGLE - SALOON - DAY TEN**

**Hank is standing outside, talking with a customer. He looks up to see Brian, Robert E and the horse.**

**BRIAN**

**Hey, Hank, look she's all better. She's gonna be fine. Ain't that great!**

**ANGLE - BRIAN AND ROBERT E**

**as they turn and head back the other way, towards the livery.**

**ANGLE - HANK AND CUSTOMER**

**CUSTOMER**

**Nice horse.**

**HANK**

**She's mine. Comes from racin' stock.**

**CUSTOMER**

**Really? (Half beat). She for sale?**

**HANK**

**You interested?**

**CUSTOMER**

**If the price is right.**

**HANK**

**Make me an offer.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY TEN**

**CLOSE - MIKE**

**White Eye holds a hand over her gagged mouth so she can't cry out.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**to see the distant Cavalry searching for them. The Army is riding in the wrong direction, away from the Indians. White Eye nods to his soldiers.**

**Mike sees all hope ride away with the Army.**

**EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY TEN**

**Sully and Wolf at the foot of some boulders. Wolf is whimpering.**

**SULLY**

**Too much for you to climb. You go on back.**

**Wolf whimpers.**

**SULLY**

**Go on.**

**The wolf turns and limps off. Sully starts up the rocky trail.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. LIVERY CORRAL - DAY TEN**

**Brian is brushing down the horse when Hank enters, leans on the fence.**

**BRIAN**

**Hank, I was thinkin', maybe I can work after school, too.**

**HANK**

**What for?**

**BRIAN**

**So I'd have the horse sooner. How many more hours I gotta work to pay it off?**

**HANK**

**I ain't figured it exactly.**

**BRIAN**

**I can't wait for Ma to see her.**

**HANK**

**Brian ...**

**BRIAN**

**Robert E said Sully's most likely found Ma by now, and they're on the way back.**

**HANK**

**Brian, I sold the horse.**

**BRIAN**

**What do you mean, you sold her?**

**HANK**

**There's this man that wanted her. Paid me what I asked.**

**BRIAN**

**But she's my horse. You said I could work for her.**

**HANK**

**Well, that was before I thought she'd heal up. Look, I'll pay you for what you did.**

**Hank reaches in his pocket, pulls out a couple of dollars. He hands the money to Brian who won't take it.**

**BRIAN**

**I don't want the money. I want the horse.**

**HANK**

**You can't have her. She's sold.**

**HANK**

**You want the money or not?**

**BRIAN**

**I want my horse.**

**Hank moves into the corral, grabs the reins.**

**BRIAN**

**You got no right to sell her. She's mine. We had a deal.**

**HANK**

**Deal's off. Look, there'll be other horses. This is business. You're too young to understand.**

**The horse pulls on the reins but Hank jerks them hard, leads the horse out of the corral. Robert E comes up behind Brian.**

**BRIAN**

**It ain't fair! It ain't fair, Hank. We had a deal,**

**Brian starts to cry and falls into Robert E's arms.**

**EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY TEN**

**Loren is sweeping as Hank leads the horse past him.**

**BRIAN (O.C.)**

**We had a deal.**

**Loren looks back down the street.**

**LOREN'S POV - ROBERT E AND BRIAN**

**Brian is comforted by Robert E.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Loren looks over at the saloon.**

**LOREN'S POV - THE SALOON - DAY TEN**

**Hank hands the reins to the customer. They shake.**

**BACK TO LOREN**

**frowning at what he's seen.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY TEN**

**Sully has reached the top of the climb, looks for a sign, but no tracks to read in the rocks. He looks about. The sun is going down. Sully strips off all his unnecessary gear, down to basics, sits on the ground. He closes his eyes and tries to center himself, to listen, with every fibre of his being.**

## **EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY TEN**

White Eye and the other Dog Soldiers stop to make camp. One of the Indians moves to Mike. She seems groggy, in pain. The Indian has a canteen, wants to offer her a drink. He loosens her gag and she surprises him by screaming with her last ounce of strength, shoving him aside and making a run for it.

**MIKE**

**Sully!**

The Indians chase her.

**CUT TO:**

## **EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY TEN**

where Sully sits with his eyes closed. He opens them. Some part of him hears her cry. He gets up quickly, grabs his gear, looks about, picks a direction, takes off running.

## **EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY TEN**

Two of the Dog Soldiers finally catch Mike and silence her again. White Eye pulls off her boots, throws them away.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

## **EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY TEN**

Sully runs along the trail, knowing he's closing in on her. He leaps over the boulders, climbing fast. He gets to a parting in the rocks, looks out, then ducks back for cover. Slowly he looks over the rocks again.

## **SULLY'S POV - THE DOG SOLDIERS**

and in the middle of them, making their way up a switchback trail, is Mike, being pulled along on a rope. Her feet are getting bruised on the stones.

**BACK TO SULLY**

**His eyes brimming with emotion for having found her.**

**SULLY (quietly)**

**I will never leave you again. Never.**

**A beat, then Sully moves out to follow them.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. GRACE'S CAFE - NIGHT TEN**

**Grace is serving hot soup to a line of people. Dorothy, Loren, Colleen move through the line. Grace serves Colleen.**

**GRACE**

**What about Brian?**

**COLLEEN**

**He's not hungry.**

**Colleen looks over to a table.**

**THEIR POV - BRIAN AND MATTHEW**

**sitting at a table. Brian looks inconsolable.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Grace ladles out a bowl. Loren shakes his head.**

**LOREN**

**It's terrible. Treatin' the boy like that.**

**GRACE**

**Sure is. Here, Colleen, take this soup. Boy's gotta eat. Maybe you can get him to change his mind.**

**LOREN**

**Maybe I can.**

**Loren hands his bowl to Dorothy and steps out of the soup line.**

**DOROTHY**

**Loren?**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Loren doesn't go to Brian's table, but heads between the telegraph office and the clinic, straight for the saloon.**

**INT. SALOON - NIGHT TEN**

**Loren enters, finds Hank at the bar.**

**HANK**

**What'll you have Loren?**

**LOREN**

**I want that horse your promised Brian.**

**HANK**

**Horse is gone. I sold it.**

**LOREN**

**You had a deal with that boy.**

**HANK**

**So?**

**LOREN**

**Well, a deal's a deal and you got to honor it.**

**HANK**

**No I don't. Not with a kid.**

**LOREN**

**Especially with a kid. His whole world is upside down right now. That horse is about the only thing he's had to hang onto and it's gone.**

**HANK**

**He'll get over it (smiles). Come on Loren, I doubled my money. It's business. You'd do the same thing.**

**LOREN (beat; then)**

**Maybe you're right. (Hank nods). Oh, you know that shipment of whiskey you got comin' in?**

**HANK**

**Yeah.**

**LOREN**

**The cost just went up fifty cents a bottle.**

**HANK**

**Wait a minute.**

**LOREN**

**And that silk fabric your girls been wantin'? Just doubled in price.**

**HANK**

**You can't do this Loren.**

**LOREN**

**You'll get over it.**

**Hank picks up a glass, smashes it on the floor. Loren turns at the door.**

**HANK**

**Damn.**

**LOREN**

**Wouldn't be doin' that too much, Hank. Price of glass has gone up, too.**

**Loren exits. We HOLD on Hank.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. DOG SOLDIER CAMP - NIGHT TEN**

**A small fire burns. No teepees, just camping on the ground, on blankets. There are 15 Dog Soldiers.**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

**in the rocks, watching, His face is smeared with mud, his hair tied back. He studies the camp. He moves silently out of view, disappearing into the night.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Mike is sitting up against a rock, exhausted. The Indians are talking. We faintly hear a call. A night bird. Mike opens her eyes, listens again. Something she recognizes. Sully? Again the call.**

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT TEN**

**Sully gives the call once more.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Mike is certain now it's Sully. She struggles to hide her feelings. She wants to cry, but stops herself. She looks about, wondering what to do. She looks at While Eye.**

**MIKE**

**I have to go (in Cheyenne) Bathroom.**

**White Eye says something to a Dog Soldier. He grabs Mike and leads her off into the woods.**

**EXT. WOODS - NEW ANGLE**

**White Eye leads her down to the riverside. Mike stands by the water, looking about, wondering where Sully is.**

**WHITE EYE (in Cheyenne)**

**Go on.**

**MIKE**

**Turn your back.**

**Mike gestures for the Indian to turn around. He doesn't but gestures for her to go ahead. Mike doesn't move. While Eye crosses to her, begins to undo her skirt ... Mike pushes him back.**

**MIKE**

**No ...**

**White Eye tries to kiss Mike, but she fights him. He grows angry, holds Mike away from him, rears back his fist to slug her when**

**SULLY**

**comes flying in, knocking White Eye down.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as they both tumble on the ground, spring up with knives and tomahawks drawn. White**

Eye could call for help, but he's confident he doesn't need it. He looks back in the direction of the camp. We can hear the voices, but he doesn't call out. He turns to face Sully. This will be just between them. They skirmish quickly. White Eye cuts Sully on the forearm. Suddenly, White Eye flips the knife over in his hand to throw it but his target isn't Sully, it's Mike. White Eye starts to throw his knife at Mike. Sully throws his tomahawk and knocks White Eye's hand away.

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

Sully charges White Eye, tackles him. They struggle on the ground for only a moment ... Sully turns the knife on White Eye and is about to kill him. White Eye cries out for help.

## **WHITE EYE**

Ahhhhhhh!

Sully slugs White Eye, knocks him out.

## **EXT. CAMP - NIGHT TEN**

One of the Dog Soldiers heard the cry. He looks off into the woods.

## **EXT. WOODS - NIGHT TEN**

Sully grabs Mike. He kisses her deeply.

We hear one of the Dog Soldiers calling out.

## **DOG SOLDIER (O.C.)**

White Eye! White Eye!

And then the sound of them coming closer. They carry small torches.

## **SULLY**

Can you walk?

## **MIKE**

Not very well.

**SULLY**

**Then we'll have to swim.**

**Sully picks her up, carries her down to the water.**

**SULLY**

**Hang on to me.**

**Sully goes into the water. Mike moves around, holds onto his shoulders. He starts swimming out into the water. The Indians come running down through the trees, torches up, shouting for White Eye to answer them.**

**ANGLE - MIKE AND SULLY**

**moving silently through the dark water, Sully's strong arms carrying them to safety, the torches flickering in the woods in the distance behind them, Mike's face next to Sully's, tied forever by this moment as we ...**

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. WOODS - DAY ELEVEN**

**The war party moves through the woods, searching for Sully and Mike. White Eye leads the pack.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. SHALLOW CAVE - DAY ELEVEN**

**Mike is asleep on a bed of pine boughs. Mike awakens with a start, looks around. She has on her camisole.**

**MIKE**

**Sully?**

**ANGLE - SULLY**

standing guard by the cave entrance, looking out over the view. Some of their clothes laying on the rocks in the sun, drying.

**SULLY**

I'm here.

Sully moves to her. Mike holds out her hand and Sully takes it.

**SULLY**

We're safe.

He kisses her hand. She touches his face. Sully looks into her eyes. There's something he wants to ask, but he can't yet.

**SULLY**

I found some wild berries and a honey comb while you were sleeping.

Sully sets out a packet of leaves, unwraps them to reveal a few berries and piece of honeycomb.

**SULLY**

It'll be dark in a couple of hours. We'll go then. We should be in Colorado Springs sometime tomorrow.

He picks up his canteen, pours water in his hands.

**MIKE**

I can't walk.

**SULLY**

I'll carry you.

**Sully picks ups one of her injured feet, tenderly washes it. There's a long beat while they can't look at each other. Sully pours more water in his hands, starts to wash the other foot.**

**SULLY**

**Did they ... hurt you?**

**Mike looks up at him. They both know what he means.**

**MIKE**

**No.**

**Sully nods. Nothing more to say.**

**SULLY**

**You better try and eat somethin'.**

**Mike nods, but the tears are starting to fill her eyes. She reaches out, places her fingers in the honey.**

**CLOSER**

**as Mike brings her hand to her lips and tastes the honey as if she were tasting life again. A beat, then Sully enters and kisses her tenderly on the lips.**

**MIKE**

**Hold me.**

**WIDER**

**and he does, sheltering her in his arms as they wait for the night to come.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. TOWN - NIGHT ELEVEN**

**Lanterns light the gallows. Some Army carpenters working on a few final railings.**

**ANGLE - CLOUD DANCING**

**and the other Indians watching the preparation.**

**ANGLE - SOLDIERS ON THE GALLOWS**

**A Soldier flips the trip lever. The doors open and four sand bags snap the ropes tight.**

**ANGLE - REVEREND**

**watching this.**

**CUT TO:**

**INT. SALOON - NIGHT ELEVEN**

**Custer stands at the bar, having a drink, talking with Hank, Jake and Loren. Some other Army men sit at tables, having a drink.**

**The Reverend enters, crosses to General Custer.**

**REVEREND**

**General, may I have a word with you?**

**CUSTER**

**Certainly, Reverend. Just allow me to finish my drink and I'll meet you outside.**

**REVEREND**

**What I have to say they all can hear. I want you to call off the executions.**

**CUSTER**

**Forgive me, Reverend, but you're the man who said those Indians could burn in hell. Didn't you?**

**REVEREND**

**Yes.**

**CUSTER**

**Well ...**

**REVEREND**

**I was angry and frightened when I said that. And I was wrong. And you are wrong to punish innocent people for the crimes of others.**

**JAKE**

**Come on Reverend, they're all guilty of somethin', even if we didn't see em do it.**

**HANK**

**That's right. They're Indians.**

**LOREN**

**And the fewer we got to worry about, the better.**

**CUSTER**

**As you can see, Reverend, the public shares the same opinion as I do. So, unless Dr. Quinn is returned by noon tomorrow, the executions will go as scheduled.**

**HANK**

**Let me get you another drink, General.**

**The Reverend turns and exits. We hold on Custer watching them go.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAWN - DAY TWELVE (STOCK)**

**the sun is just breaking the horizon. We hear a rifle shot echo in the mountains.**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY TWELVE**

Another rifle shot and a bullet slams into a rock inches from Sully and Mike. Mike and Sully take refuge in some rocks as other bullets just miss them.

**ANGLE - BELOW**

to see White Eye climbing up after them, leading the pack of fifteen Dog Soldiers.

**BACK TO SULLY AND MIKE**

They are on a ledge, looking up at ten feet of vertical rock face.

**SULLY**

Start climbing.

Sully picks up a large rock, throws it down the hill.

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

as it starts a small landslide, but the rocks only slow down the Dog Soldiers. White Eye has already moved to the side of the trail and has lost no time. He's gaining on them.

**BACK TO SULLY AND MIKE**

as Sully climbs, helping Mike up the wall.

**EXT. TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY TWELVE**

Sully pulls Mike up on the high, flat point. They look out.

**THEIR POV - RIVER BELOW**

Nowhere to run. The only escape is straight down. It's a one hundred and fifty foot drop to the water.

**BACK TO SCENE**

**as Mike and Sully look at the water.**

**CUT TO:**

**THE DOG SOLDIERS**

**climbing the hill now, moments away. They keep up a war cry.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Sully is looking around for any other way out. Mike turns to see White Eye climb up onto the flat rock behind them.**

**MIKE**

**Sully!**

**White Eye throws his tomahawk at Sully's back, but Sully ducks it just in time.**

**ANGLE - LOOKING DOWN**

**as the tomahawk falls into the water far below.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**as White Eye charges for Sully. They fall down on the ledge, rolling very close to the water side. They push apart and get back on their feet.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**White Eye shoves Sully back, gets the upper hand, and is about to throw Sully off the cliff side.**

**Sully head butts White Eye, flips him over, sending both of them falling down into the canyon ... but Sully manages to grab a rock and stop his fall.**

**ANGLE - DOG SOLDIERS**

**below who are climbing up past White Eye's broken body, laying on the rocks.**

**BACK TO SCENE**

**Mike has moved to the edge of the plateau.**

**MIKE**

**Sully!**

**She lays down, reaches out her hand to him. He grabs hold of her hand and pulls himself up where he can grab another rock. A bullet slams into the rock beside him. He looks down.**

**THEIR POV - DOWN THE HILL**

**to see the Dog Soldiers closing in.**

**ANGLE - SULLY AND MIKE**

**as he pulls himself up on the flat. They move to the edge overlooking the river.**

**SULLY**

**It's too far.**

**The shouts of the Dog Soldiers getting closer. Sully has his knife out.**

**MIKE**

**Sully, I can swim.**

**He looks at her, realizes she's willing to jump. He puts his knife back in the scabbard. And he picks her up ..**

**SULLY**

**I love you.**

**MIKE**

**I love you.**

**Sully and Mike run for the edge of the cliff.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as they hit the water, disappearing under it.**

## **ANGLE - PLATEAU OF MOUNTAIN**

**as the first Dog Soldiers make it to the top, look over the side of the hill, firing their rifles into the water below.**

## **ANGLE - RIVER**

**for the longest time nothing in view ... and then, suddenly, Mike and Sully surface from behind a large rock in the water, hidden from view of the Dog Soldiers above them.**

## **SULLY**

**You all right?**

## **MIKE**

**Yes.**

**Sully and Mike make their way to the shallow, start to climb out.**

## **MIKE**

**Sully, look.**

## **THEIR POV - THE WOODS - DAY TWELVE**

**and coming out of the woods comes Wolf, still limping.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**as they move into the woods. Wolf greets them.**

## **SULLY**

**Find my horse, boy. Go on.**

**And Wolf takes off. Sully picks up Mike and follows Wolf, disappearing into the woods as we ...**

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. MEADOW - DAY TWELVE**

**A crowd gathered in the meadow, waiting for the hangings to begin.**

**ANGLE - GALLOWS**

**where four Indians are lined up at the ropes. Black hoods on their heads, hands and feet tied. Cloud Dancing stands in line with the next group of four, his hands tied.**

**ANGLE - CUSTER**

**looking at his pocket watch, closes it up.**

**CUSTER**

**Reverend, you got anything to say over these prisoners, you better do it now.**

**ANGLE - REVEREND**

**Brian, Colleen and Matthew walk up.**

**REVEREND**

**I don't, but these children have something to say to you.**

**BRIAN**

**General Custer, we want you to let Cloud Dancing and his people go.**

**MATTHEW**

**We don't want you to hang anybody.**

**COLLEEN**

**That's not gonna get Ma and Sully back here any quicker.**

**BRIAN**

**But we know they're comin'.**

**MATTHEW**

**They'll be here. We just have to wait a little longer.**

**COLLEEN**

**Please.**

**CUSTER (a beat, then)**

**Sergeant?**

**SERGEANT**

**Yes Sir.**

**CUSTER**

**We'll wait five minutes.**

**REVEREND**

**You won't have to ... look.**

**COLLEEN**

**Sully!**

**BRIAN**

**He's got Ma!**

**THEIR POV - EUCALYPTUS ROAD**

**as Sully and Mike come riding double on his horse. They ride down into the meadow.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

The children run to greet them. Sully pulls the horse up. Matthew helps Mike down. The children embrace her.

**SULLY**

Let em all go, General.

Custer looks up at the executioner holding the release lever.

## **ANGLE - EXECUTIONER**

as he pushes the lever and the trap doors drop.

## **ANGLE - SULLY**

**SULLY**

No ...

He spurs the horse, leans over and steals a saber from the Sergeant as he rides by.

## **ANGLE - GALLOWS**

as Sully rides past, slicing the four ropes with the saber, dropping the Indians to the ground.

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

Sully turns the horse, rides back to Custer.

**SULLY**

You gave your word. Let em go.

Custer looks at his men, at the Indians.

**CUSTER**

Release the prisoners.

**ANGLE - GALLOWS**

as Cloud Dancing walks down the steps. The Reverend cuts his hands free as Mike and Sully enter.

**CLOUD DANCING**

I'm grateful my spirits were listening to my prayers.

**REVEREND**

I'm grateful mine were too.

**ANGLE - INDIANS**

next to the gallows being released by the soldiers. They are shaken up but not hurt.

**BACK TO SCENE**

**SULLY**

Cloud Dancing ... I am sorry, but ... Walks on Cloud ...

**CLOUD DANCING**

My son is dead?

**MIKE**

Yes.

**CLOUD DANCING**

Did the Army kill him?

**SULLY**

No. It was White Eye.

**MIKE**

**He died saving my life so I could come back and save yours.**

**Sully takes the Bone necklace from his pouch, hands it to Cloud Dancing. Cloud Dancing is overcome with emotion and can say nothing. He turns and walks away. Sully puts his arm around Mike.**

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY TWELVE**

**Mike, Sully, and the children. Birthday party in progress. Some unwrapped presents in view. Colleen and Matthew are setting up a game of pin the tail on the donkey on the side of the barn. Mike, Sully and Brian at a table they've moved outside.**

**MIKE**

**Any more cake?**

**BRIAN**

**No, thank you.**

**Mike looks at Sully. Brian's not too happy.**

**SULLY**

**Wanna go try out your new fishin' pole tomorrow?**

**BRIAN**

**I guess so.**

**Colleen moves over.**

**COLLEEN**

**Come on, Brian, you're it.**

**She pulls him away from the table.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Matthew ties the blindfold on Brian and starts spinning him around.**

## **ANGLE - MIKE AND SULLY**

**Mike sees something.**

## **MIKE**

**Sully. Look.**

## **THEIR POV - DOWN THE ROAD**

**and coming up is Hank, riding a horse and leading the little horse Brian wanted.**

## **BACK TO SCENE**

**as Brian stops spinning and Matthew points him to the game.**

## **MATTHEW**

**Go on.**

**Colleen now spots Hank and gestures to Matthew to look. He does.**

## **ANOTHER ANGLE**

**As Hank rides up. Brian sticks the tail in the barn. He pulls off his blindfold. He sees the horse.**

## **BRIAN**

**Hey!**

**Brian runs up as Hank hands the reins to Matthew.**

## **HANK (to Brian)**

**Here's your horse.**

**BRIAN**

**She's mine?**

**HANK**

**Deal's a deal.**

**Brian hugs his horse, nuzzles her.**

**SULLY**

**What changed your mind, Hank?**

**HANK**

**Sometimes it's just good business for a man to keep his word.**

**Hank turns and rides out.**

**ANOTHER ANGLE**

**Matthew helps Brian up on his horse. Brian unwraps a piece of taffy.**

**BRIAN**

**Here you go, girl.**

**The horse takes it.**

**MIKE**

**She likes candy?**

**BRIAN**

**She's got a sweet tooth.**

**MIKE**

**I guess she is your horse.**

**SULLY**

**What're you gonna call her?**

**BRIAN**

**Taffy.**

**We HOLD on them as we ...**

**END OF ACT FOUR - PART TWO**

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