

Northwest Memoirs (working title)
Final Title
"Gates to Eve"

By

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FADE IN. BLUE-SKIES.

1 EXT. NORTHWEST COUNTRY 1

Mt. Hood massive, rises in the distance. The Columbia river flows. A late 1880's lean-to camp site sits above river crest. Coffee brews. Horse grazes. Saddle lies on stump.

2 EXT. MORNING-RIVER BANK 2

Silhouette of a SAMANTHA GATES, trapper, washes her hands after cleaning a fish. Walks up bank to camp carrying fish. Drops fish. Pours coffee. Sits.

Close up on lips.

SAMANTHA GATES
Thanks Lord.

Sam sets pan on fire. Starts cooking fish. Hums a tune. Samantha's brother JEREMIAH appears on the ridge.

SAMANTHA GATES
You gotta be kidding.

Jeremiah rides into camp.

JEREMIAH
Morning Sam.

SAMANTHA GATES
Jeremiah Gates, long lost, finally comes home.

JEREMIAH
Just passing on my way back north.

Gets cup from saddle and pours himself some coffee.

SAMANTHA GATES

Late rusher in Cali couldn't stake a claim?

JEREMIAH

Only money being made is by the shop-keepers. Prices on goods are unholy!

SAMANTHA GATES

Your plans now?

JEREMIAH

Alaskan Territory.

SAMANTHA GATES

Finish up. I got traps to run.

TRANSITION

Valleys, trails, scenic views of Columbia Gorge Region.

3 EXT. MID-MORNING UPPER FOREST, SNOW, EDGE OF CLEARING 3

Burly man, heavy furs, snow-shoes headed for treeline. Sees a deer hanging by rear legs lifeless.

4 EXT. MID-MORNING, LOWER SIDE OF CLEARING. 4

Samantha hand gestures for Jeremiah to stop. Pulls out her telescope. Passes scope to Jeremiah and points to her trap.

JEREMIAH

(in a whisper)

I'll come in from the west.

SAMANTHA GATES

(replies in a whisper)

I'll circle around.

TRAPPER cuts deer's throat.

TRAPPER

(Talking to himself)

A man ought to keep a closer eye on his traps...get to bed early enough to get up and check 'em fore somebody else come along.

Jeremiah throws hatchet. Hatchet sticks in tree next to the Trapper. Time stands still. The Trapper doesn't move.

TRAPPER

(stammering)

Mister? I don't mean no harm. I just figured this trap got forgot.

Jeremiah hides behind a tree. Samantha plots approach, sees trap rope tied to back of the tree Trapper is at. Trapper's clothing makes it impossible to see him reaching for a pistol in his belt. GUN COCKS.

TRAPPER

Since I didn't take your catch I think we can just let things be? I'll step on off.

Trapper shoots. Turns to open forest. REVOLVER HAMMER COCKS at the back of his head.

Trapper drops pistol, raises hand.

TRAPPER

If you shoot me in the back they'll come hunt you down for murder.

Trapper turns. Skinning knife in hand slicing through air. Samantha Gates is hanging from the trap rope, feet propped on tree calmly relaxed. Fires gun.

SAMANTHA GATES

Judgment always comes from above, mister.

Jeremiah approaches. Gun being holstered.

JEREMIAH
That was swift judgment.

SAMANTHA GATES
Sometimes a bullet is the best a man
deserves.

JEREMIAH
Did you know him?

SAMANTHA GATES
We've run across one another.

Samantha turns and guts the deer.

SAMANTHA GATES
I don't want talk about it. Let's
say we both got peace now.

5 EXT. MID-MORNING FORT 5

Courtyard has morning vendors. Soldiers milling about.

6 EXT. COOK HOUSE 6

OLD COOK smokes pipe, watches younger cooks carry in wood.

7 INT. BLACK SMITH SHOP 7

Smith forms horse shoe.

8 INT. COMMANDER'S HOUSE DINING ROOM 8

Housekeeper is serving a late breakfast.

HOUSEKEEPER
More coffee, sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON chews a mouthful.

HOUSEKEEPER
More salt pork? Bread sir?

Jamison looks off blank to the world.

COMMANDER

See if we have any turkey yearlings for supper. Make up enough for the officers and see that the enlisted get chicken.

HOUSEKEEPER

Are you feeling alright Commander?

COMMANDER

The horse meat makes the camp smell like an out house. If the fresh potato have come make 'em mashed with gravy.

HOUSEKEEPER

Yes, sir.

CUT TO

9 EXT. EARLY AFTERNOON SAMANTHA'S CAMP 9

Samantha pulls deer pelt from river. Jeremiah ties up meat for smoking.

JEREMIAH

Sam!? Where's your salt?

SAMANTHA GATES

Look inside under the bed role.

Samantha walks up bank.

SAMANTHA GATES

You think we should bring him down and turn him over?

JEREMIAH

Bears will have gotten hold of him by now.

SAMANTHA GATES

We'll ride in tomorrow and let the Fort know what happened.

JEREMIAH

You really think he might have family out there that'll miss him?

SAMANTHA GATES

Never know.

10 EXT. SAMANTHA'S CAMP SITE RIDGE LINE

10

Pony Express Rider WILLIE THORNBERRY comes up on camp.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Hey down there! Can you hear me?

SAMANTHA GATES

Are you lost?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Pony Express Rider. Is it okay to come down?

SAMANTHA GATES

If you need a horse? We can't spare any, you might as well keep riding.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Just some company for a minute.

JEREMIAH

Come on in, boy.

JEREMIAH

(whispering)

He's just a scared kid, Sam. Be friendly. Pony Express Rider is happy just to see people.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I hear the Fort isn't that far away.

SAMANTHA GATES
You heard correctly.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Can I make it before sunset?

SAMANTHA GATES
I imagine. First time west?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Yes, ma'am. I'm Willie Thornberry.

JEREMIAH
Jeremiah and Samantha Gates,
pleasure.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
You two married long?

JEREMIAH
Brother and sister. Coffee?

11

EXT. MID-MORNING SOLDIERS' CAMP ALONG COLUMBIA RIVER

11

Four soldiers at camp fire filter coffee grounds, eating
jerky and raw potato.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
You're still wet behind the ears.
There ain't no hostile Injuns out
here.

Sergeant O'Neal whittles on a stick.

ENLISTED DEVLIN
How come we have to sit here three
days, Sarge?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
We're sitting cause I let the
Corporal have a few too many.
Commander figured a few days of
drying out would be a good lesson.

CORPORAL O'BRADY
It cost me this month's pay on top.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
(Pointing at a potato)
Let me have a slice.

Back to whittling.

SERGEANT O'NEAL CONT
Keep the grounds for after supper.

CORPORAL O'BRADY
I haven't had a woman in a long time
Sarge.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
You married the Calvary. Get off
that woman thinking. Quit looking at
the kid like he's fresh goods.

ENLISTED DEVLIN
Sergeant? How long does it take to
gain a stripe?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Boy, don't ask me dumb questions.
I'll put in for a stripe when you're
ready.

12 EXT. SAMANTHA'S CAMP SITE

12

Jeremiah comes up from the river, half clothed and dripping.
Samantha is cooking deer, pouring water.

JEREMIAH
Smells good.

SAMANTHA GATES
I won't argue with you. I see you
shaved.

JEREMIAH

I figured a fresh shave, fresh start.

SAMANTHA GATES

I knew you'd come back. Are the rumors true?

JEREMIAH

Yeah they are. The water way ten days north has whale swimming right up into the country side.

SAMANTHA GATES

They say men are finding gold north beyond Canada, where the river beds are made of solid gold.

JEREMIAH

Up in Alaskan Territory is where men are finding nuggets as big as half a corn cob.

SAMANTHA GATES

Are they tales to just keep people moving west for expansion?

JEREMIAH

I think a lot of the stories are people dreaming of what could be there.

SAMANTHA GATES

Good to see you still alive.

Willie Thornberry comes from behind a bush.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Excuse me. You wouldn't have any salve would you? That saddle ain't been kind.

SAMANTHA GATES

(Laughing)

Have a squat. I got what you need.

13 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON FARREL CAMP

13

Family of three, mother, father and teen-age daughter. Table outside, unloaded wagon. Camp fire. Getting ready for supper. PA is a preacher, stern leader.

PA

Set the Bible down, grab the biscuits before we start.

Pa searches for a passage. Ma, drops kettle with biscuits.

PA

Just brush 'em off. The Lord formed man out from earth so thank him for what he provides.

EVE

Pa?

PA

Questions can wait till after the reading of scripture.

Single SHOT is heard off in the distance. Pa turns takes a bullet between his eyes.

MA

(turns to Eve)

Get inside the wagon!

Ma is shot in the chest. Eve panics, grabs Ma. Ma pushes Eve.

MA

(weakly)

Inside the wagon.

14 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON SOLDIERS' CAMP 14

Soldiers are startled by rifle shots. Begin kicking out the fire.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Douse the fire! Mount up!

15 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON SAMANTHA'S CAMP 15

They hear echo of the shots.

SAMANTHA GATES
It came from east of here.

JEREMIAH
I didn't hear the thump that follows
big game being laid down.

SAMANTHA GATES
There wasn't one.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I heard to stay clear of gun fire.

JEREMIAH
You can keep the fire fed. Sam,
I'm...

SAMANTHA GATES
Going with you.

16 INT. DAY-MORNING FARREL CAMP 16

Lt. Walker enters camp with rifle across saddle. Surveys the camp.

LT. WALKER
Anyone here?

Dismounts. Looks over Ma and Pa. Walks to the wagon.

LT. WALKER
 Little girl, I know you got inside
 the wagon.

Enters wagon.

17 INT. WAGON 17

Pulls blanket off Eve. Slaps her. Has his way. Finishes.

LT. WALKER
 Looks like you're the woman of the
 house now.

Punches Eve unconscious. Wraps her up in a blanket.

18 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON BETWEEN CAMPS ON A TRAIL 18

The soldiers, Samantha and Jeremiah meet.

SAMANTHA GATES
 You heard the shots?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
 Yeah, Sam. You thinking they came
 from this direction?

SAMANTHA GATES
 Believe so. Who's the kid? Army
 stealing from the nursery now days?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
 Let's find out what's going on up
 ahead before we wager on how long
 this one lives or dies out here.

JEREMIAH
 Long time O'Neal. The better life
 treats you the worse it gets on your
 horse.

Sergeant rubs his belly and takes the lead.

Soldiers, Samantha, Jeremiah arrive before Walker, looking at bodies. Lt. Walker approaches the camp from a distance from the east.

Devlin starts to look into wagon.

LT. WALKER

It appears savages have been trading with trappers for guns.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Sir?

LT. WALKER

Whites don't do this kind of thing.

SAMANTHA GATES

Those are gun shots.

LT. WALKER

I know. Savages must have traded with some of YOUR kind.

SAMANTHA GATES

You don't know my kind, Lieutenant.

LT. WALKER

I've dealt with your kind. Miss or mister?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

This is Samantha and Jeremiah Gates. The Gates family...

LT. WALKER

Their name doesn't mean squat Sergeant. You and your men head northeast and find those savages.

SAMANTHA GATES

How do you know it was Indians? Did you see them leaving?

LT. WALKER

Sergeant.

Soldiers remount.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Sir. Boys head on out!

Turns to Sam.

SERGEANT O'NEAL CONT

Sam? Good to see you.

Sergeant and other soldiers head northeast.

JEREMIAH

Lt. I haven't had the pleasure.

LT. WALKER

You still don't. You befriend the Injun, trade women, guns and whatever else with those ungodly savages.

LT. WALKER CONT

(with hatred)

Leave this camp and follow me to the Fort.

JEREMIAH

With all due respect Lt. We aren't under your orders. We'll look around a bit.

LT. WALKER

Dismounting.

I'll place their bodies inside the wagon, take them for burial at the Fort.

JEREMIAH
I'll give you a hand.

LT. Walker waves off Jeremiah.

SAMANTHA GATES
Trappers aren't clean enough to
touch whites?

LT. WALKER
What?

SAMANTHA GATES
Jeremiah, let's ride south for a
bit.

LT. WALKER
Don't let the Mexico border stop
you.

JEREMIAH
I think its time we do.

Jeremiah rides horse over to the wagon and looks inside.

JEREMIAH
Just checking. Nobody looked for
survivors in there yet.

20 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON EAST OF FARREL CAMP

20

Sam and Jeremiah tracking.

SAMANTHA GATES
Did you notice tracks coming into
camp?

JEREMIAH
From the east? Just the couple and
the Lieutenant.

Dismounts, wipes his own horse print away.

JEREMIAH

The shots had to be from a distance.
But who would kill those folks?

SAMANTHA GATES

Who ever it was didn't rob them.

JEREMIAH

Let's head back.

SAMANTHA GATES

What are you thinking about?

They turn horses around.

21 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON ARMY TROOPS NORTHEAST OF FARREL CAMP 21

SERGEANT O'NEAL

There ain't no sign of travel. I
think we're chasing wind.

ENLISTED DEVLIN

You aren't saying...

SERGEANT O'NEAL

I got one of those 'in my gut'
feelings.

They pause, turn around and ride back.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

We need to lay them folks to rest
before the sun goes down. Wolves
will move in.

22 EXT. FARRELL CAMP 22

Samantha and Jeremiah arrive. Camp fire is ash and smoke.
Wagon is gone.

SAMANTHA GATES

The Lieutenant didn't waste time did he.

JEREMIAH

Probably scared when you think about it.

SAMANTHA GATES

Something's wrong.

JEREMIAH

Its the tracks, Sam. Only the wagon, ours and Calvary.

Soldiers ride up.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Where did the wagon go?

SAMANTHA GATES

Walker loaded the couple and took them on for burial.

23 INT. FORT VANCOUVER-DUSK-OFFICER DINING ROOM

23

COMMANDER JAMISON

Gentlemen. New duty rosters will be coming out at the end of the...

Lt. Walker enters hall.

LT. WALKER

Commander Jamison, permission to interrupt?

COMMANDER JAMISON

Can it wait?

LT. WALKER

I've just brought back two souls found east of here shot.

Commotion with the soldiers in the room.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Quiet! Lieutenant? Explain.

LT. WALKER
I was returning from the east when I came across a wagon where two trappers and few of your men had just arrived. I sent the men northeast and the trappers went east looking for the savages that killed the white couple.

COMMANDER JAMISON
And you brought the couple back here, correct?

LT. WALKER
With respect for a Christian burial.

COMMANDER JAMISON
It's too late to start tonight but we'll organize a party to find the killers.

Commander reaches for Bible, grips firmly.

COMMANDER JAMISON
May HE give me the strength, understanding and courage to carry out HIS will.

24 EXT. DUSK-FARRELL CAMP

24

The soldiers are working their way up the ridge to find casings.

Samantha, Jeremiah and Sergeant are looking on the ground in the camp area.

SAMANTHA GATES
Having your men look for casings is
like finding a needle in a haystack.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Yep. Keeps 'em away from me.

SAMANTHA GATES
Why?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Man needs quiet to think things
through.

Walking between victims and wagon location.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Where the wagon was has blood on the
ground.

JEREMIAH
Drippings from when the Lieutenant
loaded the couple.

SAMANTHA GATES
Here's a Bible burnt to almost
nothing.

JEREMIAH
A Bible?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Lieutenant was right, then.

SAMANTHA GATES
I don't know.

JEREMIAH
Indians don't burn books.

SAMANTHA GATES
They just toss them aside.

JEREMIAH

Sam? Are you getting that feeling of something not being right?

SAMANTHA GATES

Let's call it a day before dark sets in.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

The men and I will make camp here.

JEREMIAH

We're just at the River.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

See you two in the morning. BOYS! come in to set up camp.

SAMANTHA GATES

Back in the morning after coffee.

25 EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

25

Fire burns bright. Willie Thornberry jumps from splash in river. Reaches in his saddle bag for a bottle of whiskey. From darkness Jeremiah enters the light.

JEREMIAH

Willie? You old enough for that?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I figure I am.

JEREMIAH

Anybody brave enough to ride full speed across country can have a drink in my book.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

You got a cup?

JEREMIAH

Over there.

WILLIE THORBERRY
Where's your woman? I mean sister.

JEREMIAH
Give her a few.

WILLIE THORBERRY
This is my first trip out this far.

SAMANTHA GATES (O.S.)
It shows. You forgot to pull your
gun when we showed.

WILLIE THORBERRY
I ran out of bullets shooting for
supper last night.

Samantha sits down at fire holds out cup.

SAMANTHA GATES
I'll have a shot.

JEREMIAH
Nobody can be that bad a shot.

WILLIE THORBERRY
I am.

SAMANTHA GATES
It'll come to you over time. Just
take some jerky with you when you
leave tomorrow.

WILLIE THORBERRY
What did you find?

JEREMIAH
Couple was shot.

SAMANTHA GATES
Soldiers from the Fort are near by
and you got a couple of hours ride
in tomorrow.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
 You think the killer is still
 around?

JEREMIAH
 Not likely.

Samantha goes inside her small lean-to. Jeremiah spreads his
 bed role. Willie drinks till he falls over.

26 EXT. MORNING-SAMANTHA'S CAMP

26

Fire is burnt down. Jeremiah is bringing in wood. Samantha
 is coming up bank with fresh water for coffee. Willie is
 moaning about his pounding head.

SAMANTHA GATES
 Morning.

JEREMIAH
 Morning back at you.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
 Damn you two don't have to yell.

Laughter from Samantha and Jeremiah.

SAMANTHA GATES
 You better get some coffee in you.

JEREMIAH
 It'll catch in a couple.

SAMANTHA GATES
 Be right back, grounds are inside.

JEREMIAH
 How's the head?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
 I guess I'm not made for whiskey
 anymore than carrying a gun.

JEREMIAH

You might want to just settle down
in a town and find a trade.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I don't know what I'd do.

JEREMIAH

Blacksmithing is a good trade. So's
farming.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I'm going to be sick.

SAMANTHA GATES

Water and grounds. Where's he
running off to?

Willie pukes off screen.

SAMANTHA GATES

I guess he won't be having
breakfast.

JEREMIAH

Guess not.

SAMANTHA GATES

Changes subject.

I was thinking about it last night.

JEREMIAH

Yeah?

SAMANTHA GATES

The couple's camp wasn't torn up.

JEREMIAH

Think they were traveling with
someone and got into it over
something?

SAMANTHA GATES

Not likely. They would've taken the kettle or tore things up looking for something.

JEREMIAH

Indians would have torn the place looking for weapons and ammunition or something to trade.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Not if they got a girl.

JEREMIAH

What are you saying?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I heard tales of Indians just taking the white girls and killing the folks.

SAMANTHA GATES

That means it might be Indians. Covering tracks so nobody comes looking for the girl?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I'm gonna head on. I don't think I can handle coffee or nothing else this morning.

SAMANTHA GATES

Get well. Tell the Commander at the Fort that Sam and Jeremiah Gates are looking for a girl who might have been with her folks on the wagon.

JEREMIAH

I think the Lieutenant might have been onto something.

SAMANTHA GATES

Experience tells a man a lot when he
rides up on something.

JEREMIAH

Coffee?

27 EXT. MORNING-FARRELL CAMP

27

One soldier is urinating by the horses. Devlin is making coffee, cooking potato and salt pork. Sergeant is whittling. Corporal O'Brady stares at Devlin with lust.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

O'Brady, quit looking at the kid
that way.

CORPORAL O'BRADY

Yeah, Sarge. I was just wondering...

SERGEANT O'NEAL

A lot longer than you if you don't
quit thinking those thoughts. I'll
put you down myself.

ENLISTED DEVLIN

Sergeant?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Its too early to be asking dumb
questions.

ENLISTED DEVLIN

What do you think happened here?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Don't really know.

ENLISTED DEVLIN

Do you think a person's soul haunts
where they died?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

I have never been a book reader, but they say they go off to heaven from every preacher I ever heard.

28 INT. MORNING-COMMANDER'S HOUSE DINING ROOM

28

The Housekeeper is pouring coffee. Second Housekeeper is setting out biscuits, eggs and bacon buffet style.

Commander Jamison is talking in a corner with a couple of Captains. Lt. Walker stands close by Commander eating with coffee.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Gentlemen, let's break this to order. Help yourselves to breakfast this morning.

Motions for the Housekeepers to leave.

COMMANDER JAMISON

I don't want anyone to think I am harsh but there is a community and Fort to run here.

Motions for everyone to have a seat.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Have a seat. The happenings of yesterday don't require a rallying of the troops.

Begins to pace the floor in thought.

COMMANDER JAMISON

An isolated event requires limited troops and resources. Currently we have Sergeant O'Neal looking for the killers.

Pauses behind his chair.

COMMANDER JAMISON
 Funeral services will take place
 this afternoon. The Chaplain will
 conduct services and all officers
 will attend.

COMMANDER JAMISON
 (Sitting down.)
 Lt. Walker will return to the field,
 get a report from O'Neal, give him a
 three day order to find them or
 return back to the Fort.

LT. WALKER
 Shall I take additional men, sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON
 Take two. The rest go about your
 duties until this afternoon.

Commander holds up his cup.

COMMANDER JAMISON
 Open the doors. Have the
 Housekeepers let some fresh air in
 as well.

29 EXT. MORNING-FARREL CAMP

29

Soldiers are at ease. Horses tied up. Fire is out. Sergeant
 is whittling on same branch. Animal shape is starting to
 appear. Samantha and Jeremiah Gates ride up.

JEREMIAH
 Morning boys.

SAMANTHA GATES
 Morning.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
 I've been thinking the Lieutenant
 might know a thing or two after all.

SAMANTHA GATES

We had the same conversation this morning.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Thinking it might be Indians, covering up tracks.

JEREMIAH

Pretty much.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

We'll never find'em if they don't want found.

JEREMIAH

You're right.

Jeremiah looks around at the scenery.

JEREMIAH

O'Neal, Sam and I need to report a shooting yesterday. A trapper was trying to steal a deer.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Was it self defense or did you sneak up on him?

SAMANTHA GATES

A bit of both to be honest. He took a shot in the back of the head. I just happened to be above him when he turned racking his knife through the air.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

I've known you two along time and your Pop. You say it happened in self defense, I got no problem with it.

SAMANTHA GATES
Thanks O'Neal.

JEREMIAH
The truth will set you free.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I have to tell the Lieutenant when
he comes for report but with the
Indian trouble you won't have none.

SAMANTHA GATES
We're going back up to bury him
proper.

TRANSITIONS

River flowing, dense forest, waterfalls.

30 EXT. MID-MORNING UPPER FOREST, SNOW, EDGE OF CLEARING 30

Burly Trapper unmoved. Quiet. Calmness. Samantha begins to
rub her face first then Jeremiah. They halt horses about
10-15 feet before reaching the Trapper.

SAMANTHA GATES
I hope to hell that isn't him.

JEREMIAH
Smells worse dead than alive!

SAMANTHA GATES
Flesh doesn't rot like that in the
cold.

JEREMIAH
I don't think I can get much
closer...

Pukes. Backs horse up.

SAMANTHA GATES
Here's a scarf. Wash up.

SAMANTHA GATES CONT

We got to bury the man.

Jeremiah pukes and gags. Backs horse up more.

JEREMIAH

I just can't, Sam. That's God awful.

SAMANTHA GATES

I'll put the rope on him and we'll
drag 'em off to a stream and let him
wash up.

Dismounts starts to tie him up. Opens fur hears growling.

JEREMIAH

What the hell happened to him?

Samantha holds up a puppy that is eating his intestines.

SAMANTHA GATES

This guy got hungry. Must have ate
into his end-trails.

31

EXT. MORNING-FORT

31

Willie Thornberry is backside sore. Walking rubs him the
wrong way. Takes in all the Fort has to offer. Sees the Old
Cook.

OLD COOK

If you can't do what I tell you,
when I tell and how I tell you...
I'll find someone who will.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Morning.

OLD COOK

What?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I just heard you might be looking
for another hand.

OLD COOK
You ease dropping?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
No sir. But you were....

OLD COOK
I was what? You don't hear those
pans in there clanking?

OLD COOK CONT
You were sticking your nose in is
what you were doing. Get on.

Willie Thornberry walks off toward the Blacksmith.

32 INT. BLACKSMITH SHOP

32

Furnace stoked. Blacksmith is pounding out nails on the
anvil.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Morning?

Smith ignores him.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Morning?

Willie walks up close to Smith so he can see him.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Morning. My name is Willie
Thornberry and I'm looking for work.

Blacksmith stops pounding.

BLACKSMITH
First off, I couldn't hear a thing
you said. Second, you greet a man
first.

Blacksmith throws his hammer.

BLACKSMITH
Well say something.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Morning. My name is Willie
Thornberry and I'm looking for work.

BLACKSMITH
What kind of work have you done?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I ran with the Pony Express to get
here.

BLACKSMITH
You don't like riding horses?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
They don't agree with me.

BLACKSMITH
Ever shoe a horse?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
No, sir?

BLACKSMITH
Ever forge a nail?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I'm looking to learn a trade.

BLACKSMITH
I get fellows in here every day
saying the same thing. What makes
you different?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I'm not a quitter.

BLACKSMITH
What did you do with the Pony
Express position?

Willie Thornberry thinks, limps out.

33 EXT. FORT COURT YARD

33

Willie Thornberry walks over, unties horse, leaves headed
east.

Gets stopped by an Indian couple with furs.

LONGNIGHTS (MALE)
Excuse me?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Yeah?

LONGNIGHTS (MALE)
My wife and I came to trade some
furs.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
And?

LONGNIGHTS (MALE)
They won't sell us whiskey.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I got you.

Willie reaches his hand out to shake and whispers in his
ear.

34 EXT. MORNING MOUNTAIN STREAM.

34

Samantha and Jeremiah arrive with Trapper in tow. Horses walk out into current.

JEREMIAH

My word. Fresh air. Amazing what a little water will do for a man.

SAMANTHA GATES

We might be best off giving him an Indian burial.

JEREMIAH

Fire would be best.

Removes hat.

JEREMIAH CONT

Sorry I put the pup down.

SAMANTHA GATES

It had to be done. Poor thing.

Drags Trapper closer to shore. Dismounts.

SAMANTHA GATES

Let him wash while we gather wood.

35 EXT. MID-DAY FARREL CAMP

35

Soldiers ready for lunch. Lt. Walker and two enlisted men appear in the distance and approach.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Here comes the Lieutenant. Plan on eating quick, boys.

They all stand, group arrives.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Afternoon sir. Lunch is just about ready.

LT. WALKER
I need report.

LT. WALKER CONT
(Dismounting)
I hope you can tell me something.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
No sir. We searched and couldn't
find tracks all morning. Figured we
would be best meeting up with you
here.

LT. WALKER
Good work, Sergeant. What about
those trappers?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I got to report they told me of a
shooting of a Trapper stealing and
then trying to take them out.
Self-defense is my ruling.

Lt. Walker stares, then paces.

LT. WALKER
I would like to see this trapper.
Where's the body?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Gates said they were going up to
bury him.

LT. WALKER
Where?

Sergeant looks toward the mountain ridges.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Up there, sir.

LT. WALKER
After chow.. split up and find them.

36 EXT. AFTERNOON MOUNTAIN STREAM

36

Bonfire is built and Trapper laid on top.

JEREMIAH

Lord forgive this man for his sins.
Forgive our sins. Thanks for the
days we have coming. Amen.

SAMANTHA GATES

Amen. Get the fire on it. I can't
forgive him but I feel at peace with
it now.

JEREMIAH

What do you mean?

SAMANTHA GATES

He caught me bathing a few months
back. I couldn't do anything.

JEREMIAH

Sorry Sam.

37 EXT. AFTERNOON ON RIVER

37

Willie Thornberry walks, horse in tow. Sings about how his
backside is raw. Stops to get drink, wets head. Sees blanket
washed up. Investigates. Looks around. Eastward he spots Eve
hanging on a rock still in water.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Hey! Hey! Hey! Are you ok?

Runs toward the Eve.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

Let me take a look at you.

Eve pulls away at first.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Hey, my name is Willie. I'm out here alone too. Just hold on a second. I won't do nothing to hurt you.

Eve looks Willie over as she pushes him away, gets out of the water and heads up the bank.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Hey!

Willie follows her.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

Hey, now. Can you...

Chases, catches Eve holds her still.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Now listen. I ain't much older than you. Where are your parents?

Pauses.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

I can't help you if you don't talk to me. If you keep running I am going have one raw hind end.

Chases and pauses again.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

I can barely walk thanks to my saddle.

Eve cracks a small smile.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

Some people say the truth hurts. I'm living proof a lie hurts even more.

Eve listens.

FLASHBACK:

Eve is wrapped in blanket, on back of Walker's horse.
Walker's horse is walked into river. Eve is dropped in.
Eve, begins to drown, she is floating down river.
Eve is pulled out of water to the bank.
Unwrapped. Male and female Indian faces.
The female strokes Eve's face, smiles.
Indians hear Willie signing, smile at Eve and take off.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

I lied when I told the Pony Express
I could ride a horse. Never been on
one but their horses were already
broke. I just hopped on and took off
with the mail.

Eve smiles again.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

Can we go back and get the horse?

EVE

Yeah.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

You may not of caught it the first
time around. My name is Willie,
Willie Thornberry.

EVE

Evellynn Goodheart, named after my
Pa's mom. Everybody calls me Eve.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Pleasures mine, Eve.

38 EXT. AFTERNOON FERREL CAMP

38

Lunch is finishing. Couple soldiers bring horses in from grazing. Lt. Walker leaning up against tree searching ridge line.

LT. WALKER

There it is! There they are.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Where? Who? Lieutenant?

LT. WALKER

The Trappers, up there. See the smoke?

Sergeant and soldiers look for smoke.

LT. WALKER CONT

Mounts his horse.

Mount up. I've got to find out if I can trust them as much as you claim I can Sergeant.

TRANSITION

Mountainous views, cliffs, waterfalls, clearing in forest.

EXT. AFTERNOON MOUNTAIN STREAM BURIAL

Jeremiah and Samantha Gates are eating rabbit. Jeremiah fills canteen in stream.

JEREMIAH

Pine sure made him smell better.

(SAMANTHA GATES)

(Chuckles.)

I didn't know if you would be able to eat.

SAMANTHA GATES

Do you think they'll find out who
killed those folks?

JEREMIAH

Not likely. Indians are going to get
the blame. First few that come near
here are as good as strung up.

SAMANTHA GATES

Guilty until proven innocent. Seems
wrong.

JEREMIAH

You should be the one talking about
judging.

SAMANTHA GATES

I know what that man did to me. Then
he was going steal more from me.
Don't talk to me.

JEREMIAH

About what? Judgment? You and I both
know we could have taken him in.

SAMANTHA GATES

He was evil. I know Jeremiah. I felt
his evil and I wasn't going to let
another woman ever feel that.

JEREMIAH

You're right. Enough said.

Sound of horses.

JEREMIAH

You hear that?

Samantha kills the fire. Pushes fire into stream.

Soldiers arrive and throw rope into burial and pull out Trapper's body.

Jeremiah steps into sight. Samantha says hidden with horses.

JEREMIAH

Afternoon Lieutenant. Why are you pulling a man out from his burial?

LT. WALKER

I want to see if this man was shot from behind or not.

JEREMIAH

It was a fair fight even if he got hit from behind.

LT. WALKER

How could that be? The two of you might have come up on the Trapper and ambushed him, right?

Pauses.

LT. WALKER CONT

Saw he had game? Decided you want a little easy pay?

JEREMIAH

You are figuring this ALL WRONG.

LT. WALKER

Am I?

JEREMIAH

He shot at me, swung his knife at Sam.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Lieutenant! Shot in the back of the head.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
 (turning to Lieutenant)
 That don't mean it was...

LT. WALKER
 Stand down Sergeant. Sergeant McCoy
 place this man under arrest.

Jeremiah bolts into woods. GUN SHOTS heard, bullets lodge in trees. One lands close to Samantha's head as she holds the horses. Lt. Walker enters wood-edge. No sight of Gates.

39

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS WOODS.

39

SAMANTHA GATES
 I heard every word. It ain't true.

JEREMIAH
 Keep riding in the thicket.

Jeremiah signals stop.

SAMANTHA GATES
 (whispering)
 Night fall in a few hours.

JEREMIAH
 (whispers)
 Hold quiet.

Gestures to dismount and remain quiet.

LT. WALKER
 (yells into woods)
 I always knew you were a couple of
 killers. You can't hide or out run
 me. Come out. Turn yourselves in.

Jeremiah motions quiet and to follow him slowly.

LT. WALKER

(yelling)

I hunted cowards like you after the war. You don't have what it takes to keep running as long as I will be following you.

Jeremiah and Samantha walk the horses into a cave.

40 INT. LATE AFTERNOON-CAVE

40

Jeremiah gestures to remain quiet. Looks out and around forest.

JEREMIAH

(Whispering)

The mountain has tons of these caves around here. No talking. Stay here, I got to find out where he is and direction he's headed.

SAMANTHA GATES

Be careful.

41 EXT. LATE-AFTERNOON SAMANTHA'S CAMP

41

Willie Thornberry and Eve Goodheart wander into Samantha's camp. Willie folds a couple of blankets for Eve to sit on.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I'll get us a fire going.

Willie mixes the ashes up to find burning coals. Grabs fire wood from a small pile.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

While that catches, I'll fill up the canteen, put on some coffee. You do drink coffee right?

Eve is back to silent staring.

WILLIE THORBERRY
Be right back.

Goes over bank to river.

WILLIE THORBERRY
(talking to self)
One minute nice and a few words then
nothing. I don't understand girls at
all.

42 INT. LATE-AFTERNOON CAVE

42

Samantha is quietly sharpening her knife to pass time. She hears movement outside the cave. Looks at horses to see their heads are blanketed still. Breathes deep and takes a squat stance for attacking.

JEREMIAH
Coming in Sam. Don't shoot me.

SAMANTHA GATES
That you, Jeremiah?

Jeremiah walks in.

JEREMIAH
Of course. They made it up to the
next clearing and Walker split them
into two groups.

SAMANTHA GATES
How are we going to get out of this?
A man shot in the back of the head?
It's hard to beat a charge like
that.

JEREMIAH
I know it is.

SAMANTHA GATES
Alaskan Territory don't sound bad
right now.

JEREMIAH

I think its going to be a long
night. Good you covered the horses.

SAMANTHA GATES

At dawn I think we should be able to
make it down, back to camp and head
north.

JEREMIAH

If Walker sent for more troops?

SAMANTHA GATES

Then we would be best just leaving
camp and going east.

JEREMIAH

Why is this guy so angry at us?

43 INT. NIGHT-SAMANTHA'S CAMP

43

Fire is burning outside lean-to. Eve is laying down, asleep
but eyes wide open. Outside light trickles in. Willie's
shadow shuts out light from room.

EVE

(in dreamstate)

Stop. Please. Stop.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Are you alright? I'm just checking
on you.

EVE

(awakens)

I was dreaming.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Nightmare type?

EVE

Yeah. Can I have some water?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

You want me to bring it in or hand
it in?

EVE

You can bring it in, Willie.

44 EXT. NIGHT-SAMANTHA'S CAMP

44

Willie gets the canteen. Wipes his hair down. Tucks his
shirt in. Enters lean-to.

45 INT. NIGHT-SAMANTHA'S CAMP

45

Awkward moment.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Here you go. I just brought...

EVE

You don't have to talk.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Well I...

EVE

Shhh. Lay down.

Willie lays down on his stomach.

EVE

My momma use to lay with me when I
got scared. She used to. I could
hear her breathing when my eyes were
closed. That's when I knew I was
safe.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Where are your folks, Eve?

EVE

Do you have anybody out here?

WILLIE THORBERRY

I got myself. My folks left me when I was about 12 or so. Grew up in the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Missouri is the state where the James Gang worked out of. It must have been exciting riding with...

EVE

Do you always talk so much?

WILLIE THORBERRY

Nervous condition is what I'm told causes it. Some folks just get that when they feel out of place or awkward or...

EVE

I get it. One of the ladies in my Pa's old church use to rattle on when we would go by her house for supper. That woman had more sins to confess than anybody I ever met.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Where's your Pa?

EVE

Let me not answer questions right now.

Eve closes her eyes.

WILLIE THORBERRY

In the morn...

EVE

I called you in here so I could close my eyes and listen to you breathe.. not to talk all night.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Right.

Goes to roll over and is reminded about his raw backside.

46 EXT. NIGHT-WALKER'S MOUNTAIN CAMP

46

Two soldiers sleeping. Sergeant McCoy on watch. Lt. Walker returns from woods. Has more coffee.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Lt. Walker?

LT. WALKER
Yeah? Just speak freely.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Thank you, sir.

Pours himself coffee.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Something doesn't make sense to me.

LT. WALKER
Second thought. Limit the conversation to weather, family, back home. I don't need you thinking for me when we're looking for fugitives.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Yes, sir.

Silence.

47 INT. CAVE

47

Moonlight provides enough to see. Samantha has her head on Jeremiah's shoulder. They share a blanket.

SAMANTHA GATES
Who would of thought today was going to end up like this?

JEREMIAH
Not me.

SAMANTHA GATES
(changing the subject)
So whatever happened to her?

JEREMIAH
She left me for a fella who wore
make-up, sang, danced and quoted
Shakespeare.

SAMANTHA GATES
(in disbelief)
No.

JEREMIAH
True. Said he offered the world
compared to my humble desires.

SAMANTHA GATES
How long now?

JEREMIAH
I floated around a couple months
before I headed back.

SAMANTHA GATES
Anything worth seeing out there?

JEREMIAH
If you like desert sand or flat
land. I guess I'm still roaming in a
way. Alaskan Territory, just another
place to hide for a while.

SAMANTHA GATES
When we were kids, we never any
troubles in these woods.

JEREMIAH
Its the modern age, where trains
will cross America. Some day
everyone will have gas or electric
lights in their house.

SAMANTHA GATES

I don't think I ever want a house.
Maybe a cabin, but that's as close
to a house as I want. Wooden
shutters to keep storms out or let
fresh air in.

JEREMIAH

Dream about your cabin. I'll see
what I can do. Night.

FADE TO BLACK.

48 INT. LT.WALKER'S GUN BARREL 48

A cleaning rag pulls out of gun barrel with Lt. Walker
cleaning it.

49 EXT. MORNING-WALKER CAMP 49

Lt. Walker cleans his gun. Soldier wakes and watches
Lt.Walker. Sergeant McCoy obvious thinking showing facial
expressions.

LT. WALKER

McCoy? I have had enough of your
thinking. Return to post, give
report and tell the Commander I will
return tomorrow with the fugitives
or request papers to pursue them.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Yes, sir. But...

LT. WALKER

Why does every Sergeant 'think'? Do
what you're told and don't question.

50 INT. MORNING-SAMANTHA'S LEAN-TO 50

Eve is watching Willie sleep for a moment. Eve exits. Willie wakes up.

51 EXT. MORNING-SAMANTHA'S CAMP 51

Eve checks coffee pot and places it on fire. Adds more wood. Sits and stares into fire. Willie looks out of lean to and watches Eve.

FLASHBACK

Eve is sitting in the front row of church as her Pa preaches. Simple bench church with poor folk attending. Eve is fixed on Pa's face.

PA

The blind receive their sight, and
the lame walk, the lepers are
cleansed, and the deaf hear, the
dead are raised up, and the poor
have the gospel preached to them.
And blessed is he, whosoever shall
not be offended in me.

Pa motions to stand.

PA

This is our last service together.
We've been called west. I don't know
the purpose. I serve without
question. I know we head for a much
greater place. May God bless you,
take care of you.

Eve sees Pa get shot. Every second slows to a crawl when she turns to her Ma getting shot and falling and pushing her away. Eve jolts to reality. Willie puts his hand on hers.

WILLIE THORBERRY

You alright?

EVE

Day dreaming again.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

You looked at home till you came back. You had fear in your eyes, right at the end. I could see it.

EVE

I was. My Pa was a Preacher. Stern but fair. Believed in God with all his heart. Loved Ma secondly. She accepted that as his wife. He only..

Tear streams down her face.

EVE

...he only taught four things in all my life of hearing him preach. God performs miracles for those of faith, evil is present on earth, you can be forgiven and you will receive the rewards you have stored up by what you do to others.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

You talk like they passed away.

52

INT. CAVE

52

Gates are waking. Jeremiah takes a look outside.

JEREMIAH

I was thinking we best split up for a few days.

SAMANTHA GATES

What are you thinking?

JEREMIAH

I'm going to lead them south, giving you time to head north.

SAMANTHA GATES

It won't work. If they are chasing
you south it won't be a couple days.

JEREMIAH

Look at where we are.

SAMANTHA GATES

A cave.

JEREMIAH

And I know every cave between here
and California. It'll work.

SAMANTHA GATES

You got till night fall to meet me
on the rivers edge north of the Fort
where the sandbars are.

JEREMIAH

Give me till tomorrow night so I can
get them far enough south.

SAMANTHA GATES

Jeremiah, don't let me down. They
want us for murder.

Samantha unblinds horses and gives Jeremiah both reins.

SAMANTHA GATES

I can make it down to the river
faster off trail. Take them both.
This girl will find her way home
from anywhere.

53

EXT. MID-MORNING MOUNTAINOUS TRAIL

53

Sergeant McCoy are riding toward Fort. Sergeant
O'Neal, O'Brady, and Devlin ride ahead.

SERGEANT MCCOY

O'Neal!

The three stop and look around.

SERGEANT MCCOY

O'Neal, the pompous ass sent me back to give report.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

McCoy, like me mother always said, "When I count five potato, you come in and I only have four, something don't add up."

SERGEANT MCCOY

My mother always said going into church, the priest takes two alter boys under his wing. One will serve the congregation the other will service the priest. It took me awhile, but I learned to read a man who has self-interest and service in his heart.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

We're going down to Samantha's camp to see if they packed up and high-tailed it.

SERGEANT MCCOY

If you don't mind?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Not at all. I'll go a step farther.

SERGEANT MCCOY

What might that be?

54

EXT. MORNING-WALKER CAMP

54

Lt. Walker paces back and forth. Outside Jeremiah whisper's in Samantha's horse's ear.

JEREMIAH
(whispering)
Go find her. Go home.

Lt. Walker hears the horse, scopes the woods and sees Jeremiah.

LT. WALKER
(yelling)
There he is!

Lt. Walker jumps his horse and the chase is on. The men follow.

LT. WALKER CONT
Stop!

Horse's breathe is mist.

LT. WALKER CONT
I'll run you to the ends of the
earth!

Tree branches become moving obstacles. Fallen trees, leaps of faith. Soldier one falls into a blackberry briar when his horse catches a thick vine.

Lt. Walker's horse's breathe is defined in the air along with it's stride.

Soldier two's horse goes into a ravine. Soldier breaks his neck on far side. Horse and soldier mangled.

LT. WALKER
(determined)
You can't out run me!

Jeremiah approaches a waterfall's upper edge.

Jeremiah stands up, drops reins seeing a 200 foot waterfall. The horse stops.

Jeremiah is catapulted into the air over the pool below.

Lt. Walker in pursuit rams Jeremiah's horse over the edge as he stops.

Jeremiah goes feet first into the pool below followed by his horse.

55 EXT. TOP OF FALLS 55

Lt. Walker frightened, amazed, lost. Dismounts and looks over the edge. Below Jeremiah's horse lays dead.

LT. WALKER
Now for your sister.

56 EXT. BELOW WATERFALL-POOL 56

Jeremiah is looking up through waterfall at the Lieutenant. Soaked, shivering, sore, focused.

Under a ledge near pond. Longnight and Barebones(wife), are hiding. Looking into the falls at Jeremiah.

57 EXT. AFTERNOON-SAMANTHA'S CAMP 57

Eve is bringing in firewood. Looks around for Willie. Looks at the coffee pot on the fire.

FLASHBACK

Eve is sitting in the front row of Pa's church.

PA

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The Bible goes on in Philippians to say, Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. Let me repeat that, whatever situation I am to be content.

EVE

Pa what if someone does harm to us?

PA

For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

EVE

Pa? What does...

Willie sings about his fish coming from the river. Eve snaps to reality.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

(singing)

I caught the biggest fish in the river, do da day. Look Eve.

EVE

That's really a big fish. Coffee?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Sounds good. Have you seen Jeremiah
or Sam Gates?

EVE

I don't know who they are.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

I know she, Sam, is the one who
lives here and I think her brother
stays here too.

EVE

I thought this was your camp.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Oh, no.

Willie puts fish on stick and starts it cooking. Soldiers
appear just above the camp on the ridge.

58

EXT. AFTERNOON ON RIDGE ABOVE SAMANTHA'S CAMP

58

Soldiers halt.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

That's Sams camp down there.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Is that them?

Oneal pulls out his rifle and looks through the scope.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

No. I've never seen them before.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Let's go check into it.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Besides this is where I planned on
giving you my 'one farther'.

The two men start riding down to the camp.

SERGEANT MCCOY
You never told me what that was.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Told you I'd show you when we got here.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Oneal those are just a couple of kids down there.

59 EXT. DUSK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

59

Eve sees soldiers coming, hides in lean-to. Willie stands still sore.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
How are men?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Isn't this Samantha Gates' camp?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Yes sir.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Who might you be?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Willie Thornberry. And you are?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Sergeant Oneal. This is Sergeant McCoy. Sam and I go back a ways. Is she around?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Take a rest and wait for her if you want. That's what we're doing.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Do you know where she's at or when she'll be back?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

No sir.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Why are you waiting for her?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

She told me stop in on my way back east.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Let's have a rest for a bit.

McCoy nods. The two men dismount.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Boys, take the horses over there and give them a rest. Build a fire over that way.

60 EXT. DUSK FOREST

60

Jeremiah, Longnight, Barebones headed towards Samantha's camp.

Jeremiah halts.

JEREMIAH

I appreciate you resetting my shoulder back there. I don't think it's wise you two come any farther with me. (2 beats) I've got to get things straightened out for me and Sam.

61 EXT. DUSK FOREST

61

Samantha is off trail making her way back to camp.

Samantha sees Lt. Walker on trail.

Lt. Walker stops. Looks around. Sniffs air.

Samantha freezes.

Walker looks around slowly.

Samantha and Walker lock eyes.

Walker pulls revolver, smiles.

62

EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

62

Sergeant Oneal and Sergeant McCoy sit at the fire with Willie. Soldiers have built a separate fire.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

So, you two are hunting Sam and Jeremiah for killing a thief?

SERGEANT MCCOY

I think we're looking for ghost.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Speaking of ghost. I was wondering.

Motions for McCoy to stand.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Its a ghost from your past.

McCoy stands up.

SERGEANT MCCOY

And what pas...

Oneal punches him in the mouth.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Your Catholic up bringing.

SERGEANT MCCOY

You must be talking about Sister Mary.

Oneal punches him in the mouth.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Why would you say that?

SERGEANT MCCOY
Because you hit like she did.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I would a Protestant.

SERGEANT MCCOY
That would explain a lot.

McCoy punches him in the mouth.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
As if you would understand.

Sergeants are dancing around as if boxing.

SERGEANT MCCOY
A little fist-a-cuffs makes a man
miss his home-land.

McCoy punches him in the mouth. Soldiers beginning gathering
around.

63 EXT. DARK FOREST OFF TRAIL

63

Lt. Walker has Samantha at gun point.

LT. WALKER
Are you wondering what happened to
your brother? What was his name?

SAMANTHA GATES
Jeremiah. What do you mean, was?

LT. WALKER
Running like the coward he was.

Slaps Samantha.

LT. WALKER
He stepped off a cliff at full
gallop.

Tosses Samantha a piece of rope.

LT. WALKER
Tie up. Ankles first.

Samantha rubs her cheek and begins to tie ankles.

LT. WALKER
I'm gonna take you back for a
hanging.

SAMANTHA GATES
Why?

LT. WALKER
You killed that Trapper in cold
blood.

SAMANTHA GATES
No. And you know it.

LT. WALKER
I figured you killed that couple
because they heard the shots.

SAMANTHA GATES
The Trapper was up way too high for
them to hear anything.

Samantha begins to tie her hands.

LT. WALKER
It just makes sense to me.

Pointing gun at Samantha's head.

LT. WALKER
The last woman I had was in Dodge
City. She was young. 14-15 years
old. But she...

SAMANTHA GATES
You sick, S-O-B.

LT. WALKER
Maybe.

Walker reaches over and pulls the hand ties tight. Pushes Samantha back onto the ground. Taunts her with his gun running down her body.

64 EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

64

The men gathered around in a circle.

SERGEANT MCCOY
There are two kind of men in this world.

McCoy punches Oneal.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
And what kind of men would that be?

Oneal punches McCoy.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Bleeders and breeders.

McCoy punches Oneal.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Then you would be a bleeder then?

Oneal punches McCoy

SERGEANT MCCOY
(laughing)
I was thinking drinkers and thinkers.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Shall we have a drink and then get on with this?

McCoy continues to laugh. Drops his hands. Oneal punches him out.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Catholics.

65 EXT. DARK FOREST OFF TRAIL

65

Jeremiah is rushing down a trail to Samantha's camp. He stops. Lt. Walker is talking off in the distance.

LT. WALKER
I take that back. The last one I had
was a few days ago.

SAMANTHA GATES
What do you mean?

LT. WALKER
A little thing, traveling with her
folks.

SAMANTHA GATES
You mean the two people who were
shot by the Indians?

LT. WALKER
You and your brother are going to
pay for their killing. You know that
don't you?

Jeremiah has moved in close enough to hear clearly.

LT. WALKER
The way the story goes is...

Longnight leaps from brush, slams Walker from behind with a limb.

Jeremiah still hurt. unties Samantha. They mount Walker's horse.

SAMANTHA GATES

What are we going to do about him?

JEREMIAH

Leave him.

SAMANTHA GATES

Why not take him?

JEREMIAH

Two reasons. There is a little girl out here some where and unless he kills himself we have time to tell our side of things.

Nods at Longnight and Barebones. Indians dart back into forest.

Jerks horse to head down the trail.

66

INT. NIGHT-SAMANTHA'S CAMP LEAN-TO

66

Eve is shaking, sweating, staring.

FLASHBACK

Pa is in his church starting a sermon.

PA

John 10:10 declares, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. We go on to read in 16:33, I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Pa walks down to Eve and holds her face in his hands.

PA

Like our father in heaven says, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

EVE

I'm scared. I am reminded by the soldiers what happened.

PA

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Eve wakes. Finds strength to go outside.

67

EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

67

Two Sergeants trading punches as soldiers near find it humorous.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Good Catholic boys make great Catholic men.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

If their father's haven't turned them into daughters before the...

SERGEANT MCCOY

I couldn't let you finish that one my friend.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
My sister slaps bread dough harder
than you hit.

SERGEANT MCCOY
I figured you were a bleeder not a
fighter. I'm taking it easy on you.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I think you rather take me over your
knee then?

SERGEANT MCCOY
What brought this all on anyway?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I was missing the old neighborhood
when you said you were Catholic.

SERGEANT MCCOY
What does that have to do with
fist-a-cuffs?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I feel like a young man again.

Eve comes out and stands next to Willie.

68

EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

68

Jeremiah and Samantha are riding.

JEREMIAH
I don't know how we can clear our
names yet.

SAMANTHA GATES
We just tell them the truth.

JEREMIAH
That doesn't always work.

SAMANTHA GATES
It always works.

JEREMIAH

I've seen crowds take matters into their own hands while the law just stands by.

SAMANTHA GATES

That's why I like being out here.

JEREMIAH

Justice out here is different than anywhere else.

69 EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

69

Walker is waking. Groans in pain. Gets his bearing. Stumbles to stand up, begins walking down trail.

70 EXT. DARK FORT. COMMANDER'S PORCH.

70

Commander and two officers have a relaxed conversation.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Lt. Walker is a forceful man isn't he?

CAPTAIN WALLACE

He has his moments, sir.

CAPTAIN DEVAL

Abrasive is the word I would use.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Something about him reporting Indians as the killers, is contrary to my experiences up here.

CAPTAIN DEVAL

I am inclined to agree, sir.

Commander reaches for whiskey.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Gentlemen? Care for

CAPTAIN WALLACE
Thank you, sir.

CAPTAIN DEVAL
Two fingers, sir.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Have either of you heard from the
patrols?

CAPTAIN WALLACE
Not as of dark, sir.

COMMANDER JAMISON
In the morning, send a couple of the
enlisted out to get report. Also
Captain Wallace? Send a couple north
to see if the tribes have heard
anything about renegade Indians
moving west.

CAPTAIN WALLACE
Are you doubting Lt. Walker
officially, sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON
Not at all. I just have one of those
feelings in my gut, like you get
just before a battle... you know the
out-come before the first shot is
fired but have to ride it out until
the last shot cuts the air.

71 EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

71

Eve is being held by Willie. The sergeants are exhausted and
just walking around in circles.

SERGEANT MCCOY
I think you've had enough.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
I would say the same thing for you.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Then I will offer you two a snip of
whiskey.

Willie gets whiskey from his bag. Two bottles.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I got this for my aches and pains.

Willie rubs his backside. Sergeants look at one another
laugh, hug, walk to campfire.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Back over to the fire. No more
excitement boys.

McCoy rubs his jaw.

SERGEANT MCCOY
You still have it in you.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Old dogs still like to play on
occasion.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I still don't know what that was
about.

SERGEANT MCCOY
We go back a-ways the Sergeant and
I.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
A man just has to get things out of
his system.

SERGEANT MCCOY

It takes another man feeling the same way to pull out the frustration once in awhile.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Why frustrated?

SERGEANT MCCOY

There's a man out there who is wet behind the ears when it comes to doing what's right.

WILLIE THORBERRY

What do you mean by that?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

You offered a drink. Are you going to pour it?

WILLIE THORBERRY

Sure.

Eve has moved back near the lean-to.

WILLIE THORBERRY

I still don't get it.

SERGEANT MCCOY

Some men are just born full of hate and blame. The Sergeant and I are sitting here because...

SERGEANT O'NEAL

In our gut we know something isn't right. We have to do what we were told and we're putting it off as long as possible. Now pour me another, lad.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Eve? Are you ok?

EVE
I'm just watching.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
You can come over, we don't bite.

Eve goes inside lean-to.

SERGEANT MCCOY
She's a pretty thing.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Yeah, I found her on the water's
edge.

SERGEANT MCCOY
Now you got me confused.

72 EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

72

Jeremiah slumps forward on the saddle.

SAMANTHA GATES
Jeremiah? Are you alright?

JEREMIAH
Just worn out.

SAMANTHA GATES
Let's take a rest a minute.

Horse halts, Samantha dismounts. Sees blood dripping off
Jeremiah's boot.

SAMANTHA GATES
What happened? You're bleeding.

JEREMIAH
The Lieutenant's sword got me in the
leg, just as I was going over the
cliff.

Samantha helps Jeremiah dismount.

JEREMIAH

He didn't know he got my leg.

SAMANTHA GATES

Let's take a look.

Samantha rips pants open enough to see wound. Wipes her forehead with the back of bloody hand.

SAMANTHA GATES

It looks bad and its deep.

Samantha takes a piece of leather from her clothing makes tourniquet.

SAMANTHA GATES

The Indians did a good job of keeping you alive. I think we can keep moving after we get the bleeding stopped.

JEREMIAH

I need a drink.

SAMANTHA GATES

It'll have to be water.

Samantha gets canteen from the saddle.

SAMANTHA GATES

Drink slow. I'm going to bandage that and then you can ease on and off with the tourniquet until it stops bleeding or until we get you stitched up.

Samantha gets blanket from saddle and begins to rip it into smaller pieces.

JEREMIAH

Do you think the Lieutenant has come to by now?

SAMANTHA GATES

We have a few hours on him, if he has. Don't worry about him.

73 EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

73

Lt. Walker is stretching his arms as he walks. He begins moving faster down the trail.

LT. WALKER

(mutters)

As God as my witness. Never. Never.
Do you hear me up there. Never.

Walker fades into the blackness.

74 INT. COMMANDER'S HOUSE DINING ROOM

74

The Commander is tapping his fingers on a table as he stands alone. He pours himself the last drink from bottle.

COMMANDER JAMISON

A liar, is a liar, is a liar. By any other name, he's still a liar.

Slams hand on table.

COMMANDER JAMISON

I don't have to wait till morning to get to the bottom of this.

Housekeeper hurries in.

HOUSEKEEPER

Is everything alright, sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON

I've got child to attend to.

HOUSEKEEPER

Sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON
 Pack a couple of meals for three
 men. Oh? would you get a pot of
 coffee ready.

An Enlisted man steps into the room. Housekeeper leaves.

ENLISTED PAULSON
 Sir? Everything alright sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON
 Fine. Go get the Captains from
 earlier. Tell the stable boy to get
 three horses ready.

ENLISTED PAULSON
 Yes, sir.

Paulson leaves.

COMMANDER JAMISON
 (talking to self)
 Why in the name... I can't sleep and
 you won't... You never made me look
 foolish before. I have to trust in
 you this time as well.

75 INT. NIGHT-SAMANTHA'S CAMP LEAN-TO

75

Eve is praying.

FLASHBACK

Pa is preaching in his church.

PA

Psalms 26, Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Psalms 43, For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Job 30:28 I go about blackened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.

He bows his head as in prayer.

PA

Ecclesiastes 3:17 I thought in my heart, "God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed. Revelation 14:12 This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Him.

EVE

Pa? Why do you remind me of what happened instead of letting me forget?

PA

Philippians 4:6-7, Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest.

- 76 EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL 76
- Lt. Walker furious and exhausted pauses for a breather.
See a campfire off in the forest.
- LT. WALKER
Found you, Gates.
- Heads toward fire.
- 77 EXT. DARK FOREST SMALL INDIAN CAMPFIRE 77
- Longnight and Barebones eating fish.
Walker has his sword drawn behind them.
Drives sword into Longnight. Slashes Barebones.
- LT. WALKER
Filth.
- Bites a piece of fish.
- LT. WALKER
You were just in the wrong place at
the wrong time.
- Another bite.
- LT. WALKER
Now we know who killed that couple.
- 78 EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL 78
- Samantha rides the horse while Jeremiah sleeps on her back
moaning.
- 79 EXT. DARK FORT. 79
- Commander and two Captains riding out into the night.

CAPTAIN WALLACE

Sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON

Just trust me without question. Its something we have to be there for.

CAPTAIN WALLACE

What about your earlier orders?

COMMANDER JAMISON

This ride is more important than orders.

80 INT. SAMANTHA'S LEAN-TO

80

Eve sits. Willie is outside door.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Eve? Eve? Are you still awake in there?

EVE

Yes.

WILLIE THORBERRY

Can I talk to you?

EVE

Come in.

WILLIE THORBERRY

I'm just going to stick my head in.

EVE

What's your question?

WILLIE THORBERRY

I wanted to know what you don't like about soldiers?

EVE

I'm searching for that answer myself.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Will you let me know when you find out?

EVE

Sure.

81 EXT. DARK SAMANTHA'S CAMP

81

Sergeants are laughing. Willie returns to fire.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

What's so funny?

SERGEANT MCCOY

O'Neal just shared a good one. Tell it again.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

Its an old one.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Here you go.

Pours O'Neal a drink.

SERGEANT O'NEAL

There was once an Irishman named Murphy who walked into an American Bar. He sat down and asked the Bartender "Give me three shots o' your finest Irish Whiskey!" the Bartender complies. After about a week the bartender asks, "Murphy, would it be better for yeh if I put all three shots of Irish Whiskey into one glass?" Murphy replied, "well no. See I have two other brothers back at home, Patrick and Owen, and every time I come into a Pub or Bar I order a shot for each of them so I can remember the good times." Well, after another week of this routine, Murphy comes into the bar and only asks for two shots of Irish Whiskey. The bartender immediately says "Murphy, is everything ok? Did somethin' happen to one of your brothers?" "Oh no", Murphy said, "I just decided to quit drinkin!" Willie pours around of drinks.

The men erupt in laughter.

SERGEANT MCCOY

I got one for you. A young couple on their wedding night were in their honeymoon suite. As they were undressing for bed, the husband, a big burly man, tossed his trousers to his new bride and said: "Here, put these on." She put them on and the waist was twice the size of her body. "I can't wear your trousers," she said. "That's right," said the husband, "and don't you ever forget it. I'm the one who wears the trousers in this relationship." With that she flipped him her knickers and said: "Try these on." He tried them on and found he could only get them on as far as his kneecaps. "Hell," he said. "I can't get into your knickers!" She replied: "That's right... and that's the way it is going to stay until your attitude changes."

The men laugh twice as hard.

82

EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

82

Samantha halts. Wakes Jeremiah, helps him dismount. Samantha dismounts.

SAMANTHA GATES

It's time we take a look at that leg.

JEREMIAH

The bleeding stopped.

SAMANTHA GATES

The sun will be coming up soon.

JEREMIAH

I'll take another drink, if you
don't mind.

SAMANTHA GATES

Not at all. I'll change out
dressings while we're here.

Samantha begins to walk away. Jeremiah grabs her arm.

JEREMIAH

Thanks Sam.

83

EXT.DARK ON TRAIL BY RIVER

83

Commander and two Captains riding.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Halt.

CAPTAIN DEVAL

Everything alright, sir?

COMMANDER JAMISON

The sun will be rising soon, sir.

CAPTAIN WALLACE

Biscuit, sir?

Commander dismounts.

COMMANDER JAMISON

I just need to walk a minute.
Stretch out these old legs.

84

EXT. DARK FOREST ON TRAIL

84

Lt. Walker appears from black. Stops running.

LT. WALKER

(talking to self)

You're almost there. Don't stop on
me now.

Rubs his legs, stretches, continues walking.

85 EXT. DARK-SAMANTHA'S CAMP

85

Willie is sobering up, listening to the Sergeants snore. Get's up and places more wood on fire. Puts coffee on.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

(Talking to self)

Sun will be coming up soon. Where are you Jeremiah, Sam? Sure, hope things are ok with you.

Canteen is emptied.

WILLIE THORNBERRY CONT

I'm starting to feel like a woman always fetching water.

Willie goes down to the river.

86 EXT.DARK-RIDGE ABOVE SAMANTHA'S CAMP

86

Lt. Walker appears.

Lt. Walker sneaks into camp.

Lt. Walker goes inside lean-to.

87 INT. DARK-SAMANTHA'S CAMP LEAN-TO

87

Walker sees Eve. Cups her mouth as he lays down next to her.

LT. WALKER

(Whispering.)

I see you are tougher than I figured.

Climbs on top of her adding weight.

LT. WALKER

I see two ways of making my plans come to pass. One, I drag you off or two, you go along with forgetting everything about me.

Eve nods yes.

LT. WALKER

Have you told anyone what I did?

Eve nods no.

LT. WALKER

Can I trust you?

Eve nods yes.

LT. WALKER

If I take my hand away and you scream... I'm a dead man anyway so I will just kill you. Understand?

Eve nods yes. Walker pulls his hand away slightly.

LT. WALKER

I'm going to trust you and back out of here, OK?

Eve nods yes.

LT. WALKER

I'll be seeing you in just awhile.

Walker begins to leave.

LT. WALKER

Oh, Indians shot your folks and took you and dropped you in the river. Understand?

Eve nods yes. Walker looks around and crawls out.

Willie is coming up the river bank with water. He sees Walker walking away from lean-to to fire.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Can I help you?

LT. WALKER

I was just checking to see if anyone was inside.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Like who?

LT. WALKER

Is that coffee ready?

SERGEANT O'NEAL

(still asleep)

What's the difference between an Irish wedding and an Irish wake?

(laughing)

One less Drunk.

LT. WALKER

Lt. Walker.

Extends his hand. Willie puts a cup in it.

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Willie Thornberry. Coffee's ready.

LT. WALKER

The hand was for shaking. How were you raised Willie?

WILLIE THORNBERRY

Who are you looking for?

Willie goes and looks inside lean-to.

LT. WALKER
Samantha and Jeremiah Gates. I found
and killed the Indians who shot a
family earlier today.

Willie returns, sits, offers hand.

LT. WALKER
That's more friendly. Who is that
young lady inside?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
Evelyn Goodheart. She's a preacher's
daughter. Found her in the river. I
don't know anything about her. She
doesn't talk much at all.

LT. WALKER
Really? Did she say how she got in
the water?

WILLIE THORNBERRY
No. I figured something bad
happened. Now you kind of filled in
the blanks a bit for me.

Willie pours himself coffee.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
What about the Gates? What are they
wanted for?

LT. WALKER
They killed a man in cold blood for
his furs.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
That doesn't even feel right.

Daybreak. Lt. Walker stands, wakes Sergeant with his boot.

LT. WALKER
Wake up Sergeant. You talk in your
sleep and snore too loud.

Sergeants wake. O'Neal farts.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Lieutenant? A bit of a night?

LT. WALKER
I can see by your faces. What
happened? And why aren't you back at
the Fort like I ordered?

SERGEANT MCCOY
I stopped in for a rest. I'm headed
out right now, sir.

Sergeant McCoy shuffles over to soldiers to wake them.

LT. WALKER
Any sign of the Gates?

SERGEANT O'NEAL
No, sir. I figured this is where
they would head back to first.

Commander and Captains enter camp.

WILLIE THORNBERRY
I guess I'm putting on more coffee.

89

EXT.DAY BREAK-RIDGE ABOVE SAMANTHA'S CAMP

89

Samantha and Jeremiah arrive. Dismount. Push horse off.

SAMANTHA GATES
It looks like they brought enough
men to find us.

JEREMIAH
Get down Sam. Give me a minute to
think.

SAMANTHA GATES
I don't have to.

JEREMIAH
What do you mean by that?

SAMANTHA GATES
You need a doctor. We go down there
and tell them the truth.

JEREMIAH
If you do that then I will cover you
from up here.

SAMANTHA GATES
What do you mean cover me?

JEREMIAH
That's Walker down there.

SAMANTHA GATES
He's going to have to hang.

Samantha heads down ridge. Jeremiah hides below grass.

SAMANTHA GATES
Commander! Hey Commander!

Everyone turns to Samantha. Lt. Walker draws side-arm.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Put that away. I've known Sam since
she was knee high.

LT. WALKER
She's a cold blooded killer, sir.

COMMANDER JAMISON
What are you saying?

LT. WALKER
The men and I yesterday while were
patrolling found out her and her
brother...

COMMANDER JAMISON
Jeremiah.

LT. WALKER
Killed a trapper up in the hills for
his furs.

Samantha walks into grouping.

SAMANTHA GATES
I beg to differ with you,
Lieutenant. The Trapper was stealing
my catch, fired on us first.

Lt. Walker draws side-arm, pointing it at Samantha.

LT. WALKER
Are you calling me a liar?

COMMANDER JAMISON 70
Holster it now.

Waits, but Lt. Walker refuses.

COMMANDER
I said to holster your side-arm!

LT. WALKER
I've seen what this woman and her
brother did. They were even burning
the man's body.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
If this is an inquiry, sir...

LT. WALKER
Quiet.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
Commander I want to explain a few
things.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Go ahead, Sergeant.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
We did come up on the Gates burning
the Trapper.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Tell me why, Sam.

SAMANTHA GATES
It was an Indian type burial.

SERGEANT O'NEAL
That's what got me thinking when we
pulled the Trapper. He had on all
his pelts. Sam and Jeremiah didn't
take anything off of him.

SAMANTHA GATES
If I was going to kill a man for
pelts...

COMMANDER JAMISON
I got the point. Well, taken to
Sergeant.

Commander looks at Lt. Walker.

COMMANDER JAMISON
Holster the side-arm.

LT. WALKER
No, sir. She called me a liar.

Eve appears behind Lt. Walker.

EVE
Because you are.

Surprised look and wonder on Lt. Walker's face.

EVE

You shot and killed my Pa and Ma.

Turns to Commander.

EVE CONT

He took me and tried to kill drown
me in the river.

COMMANDER JAMISON

Holy God. She's a child?

Lt. Walker grabs her and puts gun to her head.

LT. WALKER

Back up. Now! We are going to just
ride out of here.

EVE

Indians saved me and brought me to
shore.

LT. WALKER

Quiet.

COMMANDER JAMISON

You won't make it a day, Lieutenant.

LT. WALKER

I will. I'll make it a lifetime,
Commander.

Single shot from ridge. Lt. Walker is shot in shoulder,
drops side-arm.

Samantha, Commander, Two Captains, O'Neal, O'Brady, shoot
Lieutenant Walker.

Lt. Walker falls and crawls for his side-arm.

Samantha fires, moves side-arm inches farther from Walker's reach.

COMMANDER JAMISON

If he doesn't bleed to death a Court Martial is in order. Load him up men.

Sergeant O'Neal goes to turn Lt. Walker over. Lt. Walker stabs O'Neal.

Single SHOT from ridge to Lt. Walker's head.

90

EXT. DAY BREAK-RIDGE ABOVE SAMANTHA'S CAMP

90

Jeremiah alone.

JEREMIAH

Judgment always comes from above.

THE END.