

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

THE GOOD DIE YOUNG

Pilot

Written by Liam Goodman

**(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)**

EXT. PINE FOREST TRAIL - DAWN

1864. Stagwood, Michigan.

SANDERS (mid 30s, deputy with hardened features) leads a group of five TOWNSFOLK on a well-trodden path through dense forest.

He holds a rifle at his shoulder, looking into the forest through the iron sights.

They walk slowly, Sanders badly hiding a limp with stealthy movements.

HENDERSON (20s, male, kind eyes but bumbling) sidles up to Sanders.

HENDERSON  
You okay, Deputy?

SANDERS  
Keep quiet.

They keep moving.

Rustling from the forest.

Sanders signals for the Townsfolk to stop.

Everybody points their guns in the general direction of the noise.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
Sheriff, is that you?

Sanders cocks his rifle.

Beat.

The rustling stops.

He lowers his gun.

With a hand movement, Sanders orders Henderson to investigate.

Henderson creeps towards the treeline, pistol first.

His hands shake.

The rustling starts again.

Sanders raises his gun.

HENDERSON

Sheriff?

A BEAR roars from behind the bushes.

Henderson flinches and misfires his gun into the bush as he backs away, terrified.

Sanders and the Townsfolk fire into the bush. The Bear roars again and flees.

Beat.

SANDERS

Goddamn bears.

They move on, with a shellshocked-looking Henderson at the back.

SANDERS (cont'd)

Keep your wits about y'all.

The pace gets faster, and the whole group aims their guns into the treeline.

Henderson watches the path behind him over his shoulder. He trails behind.

SANDERS (cont'd)

Henderson, keep up.

Henderson half runs, trying to keep up with the others.

He glances over his shoulder again and bashes into the TOWNSMAN at the back of the group.

A short stumble, and he's in the middle of what is now a semicircle formation.

In the centre of the semicircle, half of SHERIFF HILL's hat.

It's been torn as if an animal has been at it. Visibly bloody.

HENDERSON

Jesus.

Sanders holds his own hat to his chest.

TOWNSMAN #1

What do you think happened to him?

TOWNSMAN #2  
Think it was a bear?

Sanders picks up the remains of Sheriff Hill's hat.

SANDERS  
Could be.

Beat.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
But I think this has something to  
do with George Lemon.

TITLE: THE GOOD  
DIE YOUNG

EXT. STAGWOOD - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

MOSES (50s, serious cowboy looking aged cowboy) and DUNN (mis 20s, badass looking gun for hire with a rifle slung on her back) ride on horseback up a narrow street into the town square.

It's a logging town of cabins with wooden porches. It's surrounded by pine woods on one side, and one of the Great Lakes on the other.

At the centre of the town square is a platform under construction, BUILDERS working on it with hammers.

Beside the platform is a gallows pole, not yet assembled.

People go about their business as if this is ordinary.

Moses and Dunn ride closer.

People watch them from their cabin porches, furrowed eyebrows.

MOSES  
Looks like somethings not sitting  
right with folk.

DUNN  
Could be our being here.

MOSES  
Never stoped us before.

They ride on in silence.

People on porches touch their guns.

Across the street, a cry is heard. FIVE MEN led by Sanders and Henderson march GEORGE LEMON (20s, hillbilly farmer) into the town centre.

Behind them, OLLIE LEMON ('Lemon' from here on - late teens, hillbilly, innocent looking) follows. He clutches his hat in panic.

Moses and Dunn watch intently, arriving at the square.

Lemon tries to pull them off of George, but is pushed to the ground.

LEMON

Please! He ain't done nothing! I don't know why you think he did!

The Men march George into the Sheriff's Office.

Lemon gets up and stares at the Sheriff's Office in disbelief.

Behind him, MOSES AND DUNN'S HORSES stop.

MOSES

What seems to be the trouble, lil' fella?

Lemon turns to face them.

Beat.

His eyes widen in recognition. He backs away from them and falls over again.

He crawls away from them, backwards.

MOSES (cont'd)

There's nothing to worry about.

Lemon backs into a barrel and stops.

MOSES (cont'd)

I'm Moses Rain, this is Dunn. We're--

LEMON

I know exactly who you are! The outlaw prince and the sharpest shot in the west! Please--

DUNN

That was a long time ago. For better or worse, we've changed.

Moses gives Dunn a harsh look.

Lemon retreats a little further into the barrel.

MOSES

For the better.

Dunn smiles, unapologetically.

Moses dismounts.

Lemon relaxes.

MOSES (cont'd)

What's with all the shouting?

Moses offers a hand and lifts Lemon to his feet.

LEMON

They took my brother. Said he killed the sheriff, but he didn't do it. I swear to God.

Moses and Dunn share a look as if they're having a silent conversation.

Beat.

Dunn sighs and dismounts.

MOSES

We'll look into it.

LEMON

So you believe me?

DUNN

Never said that.

MOSES

But we'll look into it.

They tie their Horses up at the pillars supporting the roof of the Sheriff's Office.

LEMON

I 'pose you'll want compensation. We don't have much in the way of money.

Moses and Dunn make for the Sheriff Office door.

MOSES

Nope.

Lemon looks confused. He runs after them.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Sanders and his Men parade around the office, shouting at George. The room looks more like a log cabin than a place of work. Candle-lit. Purpose-built furniture and taxidermised animal trophies giving it an uncomfortable presence.

There are cast iron cage bars that separate the office from a dingy looking holding cell that holds George. A plain wooden room with a wooden bench and boarded windows.

George holds the bars and pushes his face between them.

A Man spits in his face. He's been chewing tobacco.

GEORGE

Goddamned animals. Every single one of you.

Sanders struts to the bars and stares at George down his hat.

SANDERS

Says the man that shot the sheriff.

GEORGE

You got no proof. I'm innocent until proven guilty.

SANDERS

We all know you're guilty.

The front door swings open, into the room. It hits the wall with a slam.

Moses and Dunn stand in the doorway, near-silhouetted by the daylight.

MOSES

We'll be the judge of that.

He steps into the room. Dunn follows.

MOSES (cont'd)

I'm Moses Rain, this here's Dunn.  
We'll be taking over here if you'll  
allow it, sheriff.

SANDERS

Call me Sanders. And I know who you  
are.

(watches them,  
warily.)

Besides, we ain't got a sheriff.  
George here killed him. Found the  
man's hat all torn up near his  
place.

MOSES

You sure he did it?

SANDERS

I know my town, friendo.

MOSES

Fella outside ain't so convinced.

SANDERS

So Ollie Lemon is paying a bounty  
hunter to get his brother out of  
jail?

DUNN

We're not asking for payment.

Sanders looks at her, a bit startled.

Moses takes a step fowards, thumbs in his belt.

MOSES

Listen, fella, it's simple. Y'all  
are disagreeing about whether or  
not this man is guilty, so we're  
here to investigate.

Sanders goes to talk but--

DUNN

Truth is, if this man is a killer  
like you say he is, you'll have no  
problem with us.

MOSES

And if he's innocent, we just saved  
you one good man.

(MORE)

MOSES (cont'd)  
(extends hand)  
So we got your blessing?

Sanders eyes his hand before shaking it.

SANDERS  
Sure. You talk to your man.

He starts to walk away, but turns around.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
Keep it short. You'll talk to me  
after.

Moses tips his hat.

Sanders and the Men leave the room, still eyeing them.

Moses turns, looks to George.

GEORGE  
I didn't kill nobody.

DUNN  
We'll find out.

MOSES  
So you better tell us what you  
know.

GEORGE  
I was looking after the animals  
with my brother all night.

MOSES  
And you can prove that?

GEORGE  
Sure. We got this dog, Heffer. Got  
kicked in the head by a mule. We  
spent the night trying to save her  
life.

Dunn pulls a chair each for herself and Moses and places  
them in front of the bars.

GEORGE (cont'd)  
I swear - they're even saying it  
was her that tore Hill's hat up,  
but she's not gonna be biting  
anything for a while.

Moses and Dunn sit down. Moses rests his head on his fist.

MOSES

If that's the case, George, why are they calling you a murderer?

GEORGE

I couldn't tell you. Damn stupid.

Moses and Dunn share a look.

DUNN

Deputy said he found Hill's hat near your place. All torn up. How you explaining that?

GEORGE

I don't know nothing about that.

Beat.

Moses slaps his knees. Him and Dunn stand.

MOSES

Guess that's case closed, huh?

DUNN

Sure looks that way.

They make for the door.

DUNN (cont'd)

Good luck with the law, George.

George watches them walk away, thinking hard.

Beat.

GEORGE

Me and Sheriff Hill had bad blood, okay? Sanders knew about it.

Moses and Dunn stop. She winks at him.

They turn again.

MOSES

Bad blood?

GEORGE

Sure. We didn't see eye to eye, had some arguments. That's as far as it went.

DUNN

And they think you murdered him?

GEORGE

Town needs someone to blame. I understand, but I didn't do it.

Moses raises an eyebrow at Dunn. He's not telling them everything.

She nods.

They make for the door again.

GEORGE (cont'd)

Where you going?

MOSES

Two sides to a story, George. We gotta hear from the deputy.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Moses and Dunn leave the Sheriff's office. Dunn tips her hat forward, shielding her eyes from the sunlight.

MOSES

There's more to it.

DUNN

(sarcastic)

You think?

They walk down the porch steps.

LEMON (O.S.)

Folks!

Moses turns in Lemon's direction.

Lemon runs to them - he's been waiting outside.

LEMON

You see now? Told you he didn't do nothing.

DUNN

We're still deciding if that's true.

MOSES

Where were you last night, Mr...

LEMON

Lemon, sir.

Moses nods.

LEMON (cont'd)

I was with my brother. Looking after our Heffer. She ain't in a good way. Could've been the bears that got him, for all anyone knows.

Dunn stares him down past her nose.

Beat.

Her gaze moves to Moses. They share a look.

MOSES

Sure thing.

(to Lemon)

We gotta talk to Sanders.

LEMON

Can I come with you?

DUNN

Let us handle this, kid.

EXT. GALLOWS - DAY

Sanders stands on the platform, along with five Builders with tools, ropes, and the like.

A Builder moves a crate underneath the crossbeam. Sanders kicks it and it moves a little. He seems excited.

SANDERS

This thing's gotta be light enough to kick away, but solid enough to support him before that. Understand?

BUILDER

Yes, sir.

SANDERS

Good. This thing's gotta go without a hitch. Big day.

Moses and Dunn stand in front of the gallows, where the audience would at a hanging.

MOSES  
Deputy Sanders.

He looks up, sees them. Smiles.

SANDERS  
Our reformed outlaws, if there ever was such a thing. Satisfied?

MOSES  
We still got some questions.

SANDERS  
(points at  
Sheriff's Office)  
Your man's in there.

DUNN  
We got some questions for you.

Sanders' smile drops. He limps down the stairs.

SANDERS  
What do you need.

MOSES  
Where was the hat found?

SANDERS  
On a path between here and the  
Lemon Homestead.

DUNN  
Take us there.

EXT. PINE FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Moses, Dunn, and Sanders ride slowly along the trail on horseback, three abreast. Moses in the middle.

SANDERS  
I'm gonna ask you a question first.

MOSES  
Sure.

Sanders pauses as if to cushion his question.

SANDERS

What happened to you?

Moses looks at him.

SANDERS (cont'd)

I mean, last I heard, you were the last man a fella like me could hope to cross paths with. What happened?

Moses hums, dismissively.

MOSES

(to Dunn)

Keep your gun drawn, no knowing what comes out of that forest.

SANDERS

You got a gun of your own.

Moses produces his gun. He shakes it as if to prove a point.

MOSES

No bullets.

SANDERS

A bounty hunter with an empty six shooter. Huh.

Dunn coughs. Moses looks at her. She tilts her head at him.

DUNN

Think it's time we asked the deputy some questions of our own.

He nods. Looks to Sanders.

MOSES

Tell us about Hill and George Lemon.

SANDERS

Bad blood there. Long history.

DUNN

Tell us more.

SANDERS

I'm not surprised he didn't tell you himself. Very proud man. Sheriff had been blackmailing George for a while.

Moses and Dunn share a look.

MOSES

You sure about that?

SANDERS

Oh, yeah. George told me about it the night before Hill went missing. He'd cheated in a duel, won his homestead from it. Sheriff found out and let him off as long as he snuffed out some troublemaker.

DUNN

So Hill was dirty?

SANDERS

Town needed it.

MOSES

But George told you the night before the disappearance? That don't make much sense.

Sanders sniffs.

He "whoa"s His Horse to a halt.

SANDERS

This is the place.

They dismount. Sanders goes down harder on one leg than the other. Grabs at the saddle to hold himself up.

DUNN

You okay there, Deputy?

Sanders steadies himself.

SANDERS

Old wound. Took a bullet to the leg a couple years back. Plays up sometimes.

He stands up straight.

SANDERS (cont'd)

Bears around here. Be careful.

Dunn takes her rifle from her shoulder.

MOSES

How far is the Lemon stead?

SANDERS

'bout another half mile. Not far on horseback.

DUNN

Thought you said you found the hat by the stead?

MOSES

How far is the bear pit?

SANDERS

Five mile or so. They don't wander that far towards town often.

Sanders removes his hat. Holds it to his chest.

SANDERS (cont'd)

Like I said, I know this town. George had it in for Hill for a while, so the fact that we found the hat anywhere near is telling.

MOSES

With all due respect, Deputy, you've got nothing.

Sanders looks slightly hurt, shields go up.

SANDERS

What are you trying to say?

MOSES

The man told you about the blackmail, probably because he trusted you to solve his problem. He'd have no business killing after that.

DUNN

And to find the hat this far out?

MOSES

Don't make much sense to me.

DUNN

The other Lemon brother said it was just as likely the bears did it.

MOSES

I'm starting to believe him.

Sanders bites his lip. Palms his gun. Squares up to Moses.

SANDERS

Don't see what good you think I'd be doing telling a lie.

MOSES

Me neither. Just think you put the wrong dots together. Easy mistake to make.

Sanders takes his hand off his gun. Puts his thumb behind his belt.

SANDERS

What do you suggest we do, then? Let George go free?

MOSES

You're welcome to hold him as long as you like, friend. But we need to know what happened for sure.

DUNN

So the next step is easy.

Sanders retreats.

MOSES

Who'd be willing to check out the bear pit with us?

SANDERS

You're crazy. You try that you'll die.

MOSES

Which is why we're not going alone.

SANDERS

You're not about to get anybody else killed.

Dunn toys with her rifle.

DUNN

We're not about to let you hang an innocent man.

MOSES

So who can help us?

EXT. SALOON - DAY

Lemon drinks at the bar of a Classic Wild West saloon complete with swinging doors, PATRONS drinking, some playing poker in the corner, and DANCERS on a stage dancing to a honky tonk piano tune.

The place is packed.

Henderson drinks at the other end of the bar from Lemon.

Moses strides through the doors, which bang against the wall. Dunn and Sanders follow.

The room falls silent.

The Patrons turn to face Moses and the gang. They point their pistols.

MOSES  
Settle down, folks.

Sanders steps in front of Moses with a fake looking grin. He puts his hands up in front of himself.

SANDERS  
Mr Rain here has his heart set on finding out what happened to Sheriff Hill. He has a plan.  
(under his breath)  
A damn stupid one.

The Patrons lower their guns.

Dunn taps her fingers on her bicep, annoyed.

MOSES  
We need to find his body. May well be in the bear pit, so we're investigating there.

HENDERSON  
That's suicide.

DUNN  
Just the two of us? Sure. But with your help, we can do it safe.

The Patrons murmur.

MOSES

If you're comfortable never knowing what happened to your sheriff, I suggest you stay here and drink.

Sanders shoots him an exasperated look.

SANDERS

(to Moses)

There was a better way to say that.

MOSES

I'm sure there was.

Lemon stands up.

LEMON

I'll help. I know where the pit is.

DUNN

That's more like it. Who else is man enough?

The Patrons grumble.

Begrudgingly, ten Patrons stand.

INT. SALOON - POKER TABLE - DAY

Another table has been pushed to the poker table to make it large enough for everybody to stand around it.

The group consists of Moses, Dunn, Lemon, Sanders, Henderson, and some Patrons.

Lemon spreads a large map of Stagwood across the table. Moses leans on the table with his hands and studies the map.

The map is decently detailed, drawn with ink. It shows the town itself as well as the surrounding area, including the Lemon Homestead to the town's west, and a cave labelled 'Bear Cave' five or so miles off the path between the Lemon Homestead and Stagwood.

LEMON

This is the town map, drawn by my own ma and pop.

Lemon smiles proudly.

He points at Bear Cave with his finger.

LEMON (cont'd)

This here is Bear Cave. It can be hard to find even with the map to help you, so I'll have to take you there myself.

Moses tips his hat at Lemon.

MOSES

That would be very kind of you.

Lemon smiles and nods - a bit too eagerly - at Moses.

SANDERS

I don't mean to be crapping in your coffee pot, but what's to stop those bears from tearing us limb from limb when we get there?

HENDERSON

He's right, now. Those things are vicious. No telling how many there are, neither.

DUNN

You're doing the Lord's work by asking deputy.

Sanders shoots her a fed up look. Moses sniggers.

DUNN (cont'd)

We'll divide us into two posses. I'll lead the first, Moses'll lead the second.

Handerson stands and waves his arms at her to stop her from talking.

HENDERSON

I do apologise - what makes you think you're qualified to lead a group of folk like us.

Moses raises his eyebrows, enjoying the show.

DUNN

Oh, darling, you must be the only one in this room that never heard of me.

Moses takes a beer bottle from the table and throws it towards the bar as hard as he can.

At an incredible speed, she cross draws her revolver from her holster and shoots the beer bottle from the air.

The room is silent for a moment save for the gunshot ringing out and the tinkle of broken glass hitting the floor.

Beat.

Eyeing Henderson, Dunn blows smoke from the barrel of her revolver.

DUNN (cont'd)  
Will you listen to me now, friendo?

Henderson nods.

DUNN (cont'd)  
Good boy.

She points her revolver at Bear Cave on the map.

DUNN (cont'd)  
My posse - that's...

She points at Henderson and all but two of the Patrons.

DUNN (cont'd)  
...you, you, you, you, and you.  
We're running distraction.

Henderson nods again, clearly terrified.

DUNN (cont'd)  
I'm not going to lie to you, folks,  
this is a dangerous job. You don't  
do as you're told, I can't promise  
you'll get home safe and sound.

SANDERS  
Thought you said it would be safe  
with enough volunteers?

MOSES  
We're finding a dead body in a bear  
pit, Deputy. There's a certain  
implied danger, I'd say.

Sanders' face turns crimson.

SANDERS  
Listen, I'm here for the town.  
Could easier hang the man that I  
know is guilty as sin.

Lemon jumps to his feet, kicking his chair back.

LEMON

You don't know nothing! You're using my own brother as one of them scapegoats and you know it.

Sanders points aggressively at Lemon.

Dunn sits down again and watches them, waiting patiently.

SANDERS

You got no idea what you're talking about, son. I--

Moses whistles loudly and abruptly.

Lemon and Sanders stop and look at him.

MOSES

If you get killed out there it's cause you aren't doing as you're told. I suggest you start now.

Lemon and Sanders nod, reluctantly.

Dunn coughs to draw attention. She stands again and points her revolver at Bear Cave.

DUNN

Now like I was saying, my posse will ride to the mouth of the cave and fire whatever guns we got into its mouth.

She mimes firing with her pistol.

LEMON

That's gonna piss off some bears.

DUNN

Yessiree. All goes to plan, it'll piss them off so much, they'll start chasing us.

She sits down, gestures for Moses to start talking.

MOSES

So while Dunn's posse leads them bears away from the cave, I'll lead my group - that's the rest of ya - into the cave itself.

A Patron goes to talk. With a hand movement, Moses shuts him up.

MOSES (cont'd)  
This, folks, is the easier job of the two. We just gotta find the body and get it out of there if we can.

DUNN  
We're buying them as much time as we can, we get in bad, we go back to town.

MOSES  
So we gotta be quick as a rattlesnake.  
(to group)  
Any questions?

The group explodes into noise - concerns about safety, accusations towards Moses, Dunn, and Lemon, and sniping between Patrons.

Two Patrons start throwing punches at one another.

Lemon rolls his map back up and takes it.

Moses whistles again.

The chaos stops.

MOSES (cont'd)  
Fantastic, folks. We ride in an hour. Else we'll lose the light.

Moses, Dunn, Lemon, and Sanders leave as the chaos starts again.

As they walk towards the door, Dunn holsters her gun and turns to Moses.

DUNN  
You really think this'll work?

MOSES  
The plan'll work. Just gotta hope these folk can follow orders.

The honky tonk piano starts again and the Dancers take the stage. At the poker table, Patrons continue arguing.

A beer bottle hits the wall by the door.

Moses, Dunn, Lemon, and Sanders leave the Saloon.

EXT. PINE FOREST TRAIL - SUNSET

Moses rides up and down the line of Patrons that have arrived, all on horseback. Of MOSES'S POSSE, only Lemon and Sanders have shown. Only Henderson and three other members of DUNN'S POSSE have shown. Everyone but Lemon has a shotgun slung over their shoulder. Dunn's Posse have rifles strapped to their saddles. Three of Dunn's POSSE MEMBERS carry lit torches.

Dunn sits on horseback in front of the Posse Members sizing them up.

Moses comes to the end of the line. He turns and rides back to the middle.

MOSES

Clearly, some folks haven't been able to be here on account of the colour of their bellies. That's a damned shame.

Dunn rides forward.

DUNN

But fear not. We still got enough of us to make this plan work just fine.

MOSES

Y'all know your jobs. You know which group you're in. All we ask, tonight...

DUNN

...and we can't stress this enough...

MOSES

...is that you do as you're goddamned told. Got it?

The Posse Members nod.

DUNN

'kay then. If you're with me, we ride now.

She turns her Horse and rides into the woods without turning back. Dunn's Posse follows.

SANDERS

You better know what you're doing,  
Moses Rain.

Moses smiles at him, cockily.

MOSES

Make sure you don't fall off your  
horse now, Deputy.

EXT. BEAR CAVE - SUNSET

A scary-looking cave cut into a jagged mountainside. At the mouth is a clearing. The dusty dirt is littered with animal bones and sharp stones.

The sunset gives everything a bleak red tint. Despite the sunlight, however, the cave itself is pitch black.

From the forest appears Dunn's Posse.

Dunn draws a line in the air by her head with her fist, signalling a stop.

Dunn's Posse slows their HORSES down to a stop.

Dunn tilts her head as she looks into the cave.

She heel-kicks Her Horse gently. It walks slowly towards the cave mouth.

She signals her Posse to follow, slowly. They do so, hesitantly.

Henderson shivers.

As they draw near to the centre of the clearing, the sounds of BEARS moving and growling at one another are clear.

Henderson cringes as the sound of flesh being torn comes from the cave.

In the centre of the clearing, Dunn signals for her Posse to form a line.

The five members of Dunn's Posse line up and stop Their Horses.

A Bear sniffs and grumbles in the cave.

Dunn takes the rifle from her saddle and checks it.

Dunn's Posse take their weapons and follow suit.

HENDERSON'S HORSE whinnies nervously.

A low growl comes from the cave.

Beat.

BDUNN

Fire!

They fire into the cave.

EXT. PINE FOREST TRAIL - SUNSET

Moses looks in the direction of the gunfire. He smiles.

MOSES

Ride on.

Lemon and Sanders follow Moses, unsure, as he rides towards Bear Cave.

Lemon rides up alongside Moses.

LEMON

Say, when this is done and my brother's safe, how about I join you guys on the next adventure?

MOSES

We'll see how you feel after this one.

EXT. BEAR CAVE - SUNSET

Dunn's Posse fires into the cave at an irregular rhythm until they run out of rifle ammo.

Beat.

A growl comes from the cave that starts low, but quickly gets louder.

Henderson turns white as a sheet.

DUNN

Wait. Hold your positions.

The growl turns into a series of long roars that overlap each other.

HENDERSON

You gotta be joking - y'all can catch up.

Henderson rides into the forest.

DUNN

Asshole.

Dunn holds a fist in the air.

Four Bears run out of the cave and at Dunn's Posse. They're huge - easily as big as the Posse's Horses. The ALPHA BEAR leads the charge.

The Bears are covered in wounds - some old, some new and still bleeding. They look demonic.

They get within ten meters of Dunn's Posse.

Dunn brings her fist down.

DUNN (cont'd)

Now!

Dunn's Posse rides into the forest.

The Bears gallop after them, not far behind.

EXT. PINE FORST - SUNSET

Semi-dense forest. Tall pines and mossy rocks populate the area, forcing Dunn's Posse to weave between them.

They catch up with Henderson, who smiles at Dunn condescendingly.

Dunn looks over her shoulder. The Bears are close behind them.

Henderson follows Dunn's eyeline and, seeing the Bears, widens his eyes and speeds up.

She faces forwards again and sees a fallen tree obstructing her path.

She heel-kicks Her Horse again. It speeds up.

Dunn's Posse follows suit.

One by one, Their Horses jump over the fallen tree.

The Bears follow, scaling the fallen tree. They leave deep claw marks on the wood.

EXT. BEAR CAVE - SUNSET

Moses, Lemon, and Sanders dismount Their Horses at the mouth of Bear Cave.

Sanders winces as his bad leg hits the ground. Moses looks at him, concerned.

Sanders unslings his shotgun from his shoulder.

Moses takes an oil lamp from his saddlebag. He gives it to Sanders.

SANDERS

You better not tell me I'm not going in there armed. There's bound to be some bears still in there.

Moses holds the oil lamp in front of Sanders.

MOSES

Give your shotgun to Lemon. I trust him to stay on his feet when he fires the damned thing.

SANDERS

But--

MOSES

I ain't asking. You got your pistol, don't you?

Sanders huffs and does as he's told.

Lemon smiles awkwardly as he takes the shotgun.

Sanders hobbles to Moses and snatches the lamp.

He produces a box of matches from his jacket pocket. Lights the lamp.

He unholsters his pistol and groans.

SANDERS

Let's get this suicide mission over with.

Moses and Lemon follow him into the cave.

LEMON

You know, that was a lot of  
gunfire. I wouldn't be surprised if  
Dunn flushed them all outta there.

MOSES

Here's to hoping.

INT. BEAR CAVE - NIGHT

A pitch black, creepy cave, lit only by Sanders' oil lamp. The stone floor is littered with piles of bones and viscera that crack and scrape as Moses, Lemon, and Sanders walk. The light barely reaches the walls.

They all group together closely, looking about themselves, paranoid. Moses and Lemon grip their shotguns.

A shape looms in the darkness. The light wobbles as Sanders is shocked by the sight of it.

Moses raises a finger. He and Lemon sidle closer to the shape, shotguns pointed.

Sanders shakes as he walks closer to it. That, combined with his limping, makes the light wobble further. His knuckles whiten around his gun.

As they get closer the shape is revealed to be the partly stripped corpse of a bison. Half of the face is stripped away, showing part of a smiling skull.

They breathe a collective sigh of relief.

MOSES

(whispering)

Keep on.

LEMON

Yessir.

They keep going.

As they walk onwards, the light stops reaching to the cave walls. There are bones all over the floor.

They grimace. Sanders covers his mouth and nose with his sleeve.

The shape of a pile looms ahead of them. Moses points in the direction of it.

They get closer to the pile until they see the shape of a cowboy boot.

EXT. PINE FOREST - DUSK

Dunn's Posse rides through the forest at a breakneck pace.

Dunn rides in front. She looks over her shoulder.

She looks ahead briefly before looking over her shoulder again, concerned, as if she's searching for something.

DUNN  
(shouting)  
Slow!

Dunn's Posse look amongst themselves, unsure.

They slow.

HENDERSON  
What's happening?

DUNN  
Shh.

HENDERSON  
Dunn--

DUNN  
Shh. Shut up.

Their Horses come to a halt.

She closes her eyes, listening. Strains herself.

Silence.

DUNN (cont'd)  
Have we lost them?

They all listen.

Beat.

POSSE MEMBER  
Shit.

A branch snaps behind Dunn.

She turns quickly as the Alpha Bear bursts from the forest, into the torchlight.

A Posse Member screams.

Dunn fires her shotgun, landing a direct hit to the Alpha Bear's face.

It goes down hard.

Beat.

The Alpha Bear gets back up again. Pink flesh is exposed on the left side of its face.

It roars.

Branches break and paws thud as more Bears approach from the same direction.

Dunn shoots the Alpha Bear again, only making it stumble.

DUNN

Go!

She whips her reigns. They ride back towards the cave.

INT. BEAR CAVE - NIGHT

Moses moves forwards towards the boot. Sanders stays put.

MOSES

Walk on, Sanders, I can't see a thing.

SANDERS

But--

MOSES

That's an order.

Sanders swallows, as if to swallow his pride. He steps forward.

Light is cast onto the body of Sheriff Hill. He's strewn atop a rock. Intestines dangle from a maw in his torso. His lower jaw is missing.

LEMON

Jesus.

The sound of gunshots echo through the cave from the forest.

SANDERS

We need to go. Now.

MOSES  
(distracted)

Wait.

He steps towards Sheriff Hill. Lemon follows.

MOSES (cont'd)  
Is that...

He looks at Sheriff Hill's head. There's an unmistakable bullet wound through the head.

LEMON  
He's been shot. Looks like an exit wound.

MOSES  
So he had his back to the killer.

SANDERS  
What's it matter? We need to go now. All it does is prove that George shot him before he got here.

Lemon turns and cocks his shotgun.

Sanders steps to him.

LEMON  
Like hell he did!

Lemon pushes Sanders with the barrel of his shotgun.

Sanders staggers backwards, fighting for balance.

SANDERS  
I'm sorry you gotta hear it, Ollie, but if anyone killed the Sheriff, it was your piece of shit brother.

Lemon aims the gun at him.

LEMON  
How about you, huh? Bet you ain't sorry to see the back of him!

SANDERS  
You bastard!

Sanders goes to run at him.

MOSES  
Enough!

He gets between them.

MOSES (cont'd)  
Lemon's right. Just 'cause Hill's  
been shot, don't make it George.  
You two start fighting and we're  
never getting out of here.

Another shot from outside echoes through the cave, followed  
by a distant scream.

MOSES (cont'd)  
And we gotta go.

EXT. PINE FOREST - DUSK

Dunn's Posse races through the trees.

Dunn looks genuinely worried.

Bears gallop behind them. They are shadowed by the treeline.

The fallen tree can be seen once again ahead of them.

Henderson speeds in front.

HENDERSON  
I ain't dying here!

DUNN  
Stay in the torchlight! You're  
blind out there!

HENDERSON  
I'll take my chances!

She heel kicks Her Horse again and leans in.

Henderson's Horse jumps too late. It stumbles over the tree  
and falls.

Henderson is thrown from it. He tumbles across the floor.

Dunn's jumps Her Horse over the tree, followed by her Posse.

A Posse Member looks behind to Henderson.

The Alpha Bear climbs up onto the fallen tree.

POSSE MEMBER  
Wait!

DUNN  
No time. Ride on!

The Posse Member rides on, still watching Henderson.

The Alpha Bear jumps down and onto Henderson, who tries to shoot it but misses. The other Bears are burst from the surrounding forest and go for him.

They begin to fight over him.

Dunn winces as Henderson and His Horse scream.

EXT. BEAR CAVE - DUSK

Moses, Lemon, and Sanders run out of Bear Cave.

They mount Their Horses again. Moses and Lemon quickly. Sanders struggles.

As they trot Their Horses away, Dunn's Posse emerge from the forest.

Dunn's Posse races past Moses' Posse.

Moses whips his reigns and leads his Posse after Dunn's Posse.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Moses, Lemon, and Sanders halt Their Horses by Dunn's Posse, who stand on the porch.

SANDERS  
Henderson?

Dunn shakes her head.

DUNN  
He ran ahead. Couldn't see and fell off. Nothing I could do.

Sanders dismounts His Horse in a rush.

SANDERS  
The hell do you mean?  
(points at Dunn)  
You told us that we'd be safe in numbers.

Moses dismounts behind him, boots hit the floor hard.

MOSES

We also told you that it would be a risk.

Sanders draws his pistol. Steps to Moses.

SANDERS

A risk that got a man killed. Just to prove that the bastard in there shot him.

Moses holds the barrel of Sanders' pistol.

LEMON

We don't know that.

SANDERS

Like hell.

Sanders snatches his gun away from Moses and makes for the Sheriff's Office.

Moses, Dunn, and Lemon follow.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

George sleeps on the holding cell bench.

Sanders kicks the door open, hard.

George jumps awake, falls off the bench in panic.

Sanders marches towards him, gun first.

SANDERS

This has gone on long enough, you old bastard!

Moses, Dunn, and Lemon rush in through the door.

LEMON

George! Watch out!

MOSES

Pull yourself together, Deputy!

Sanders turns, points the gun at Moses.

SANDERS

All you've done since you got here was cause trouble.

He points his gun at George, still staring Moses down.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
This man is a murderer. Your investigation has only slowed down justice and killed another man.

LEMON  
He ain't no murderer!

SANDERS  
Sheriff Hill had been shot before he ended up in that cave.

He strides towards Lemon, still aiming at George.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
How do you explain that?

MOSES  
Calm down, now, Sanders. Like I said before, that gunshot could've come from anybody who can hold a six shooter straight.

LEMON  
Including you!

Sanders shoots Lemon a rageful stare.

SANDERS  
You calling me a murderer, boy?

DUNN  
He'd be right to if you killed his brother in cold blood.

Dunn puts her hand to her revolver, but Moses ushers her not to.

SANDERS  
It's what's coming to him. Blood for blood.

MOSES  
Won't do you no good at all.

SANDERS  
We'll see.

Sanders marches to the cell bars and brandishes his gun at George, who's hands are up.

MOSES

Deputy--

SANDERS

(shouting)

This has gone on long enough.

(calmer)

Now let me do what I gotta do,  
outlaw.

Sanders squeezes the trigger but before he pulls it all the way...

LEMON

(screaming)

You bastard!

Lemon runs at Sanders full pelt, knocking him into the cell bars.

Sanders fires the pistol and misses George as Lemon knocks him down.

They tumble to the ground together, fighting over the gun.

Moses nods to Dunn. She readies her rifle.

Lemon gets on top of Sanders, nearly has him pinned, but Sanders kicks him in the stomach.

Lemon falls onto his back. George rushes over to him from behind the cell bars.

GEORGE

Little brother!

(to Sanders)

He's had enough, Sanders!

Sanders stands, unstably, and points his gun at Lemon. His bad leg is bleeding.

Moses rushes over, stands between them. Holds Sanders' gun to his own chest.

MOSES

He's dazed, Sanders. He ain't a  
threat to you.

Dunn cocks her rifle.

DUNN

Take a walk, Deputy. Calm down.

MOSES

I'd do as she says.

Sanders snorts at him.

He brings his arm up and then down again, hard, to pistol whip Moses.

Moses catches his arm just in time. Pushes Sanders away and draws his own pistol.

SANDERS

I know that ain't loaded.

MOSES

You wanna find out if I told you the truth?

He points his pistol at Sanders.

SANDERS

You haven't changed at all.

Sanders glares at Moses, then Dunn. He holsters his gun.

SANDERS (cont'd)

I'm coming back with manpower.

Sanders makes for the door. Everybody watches him leave.

George shakes a still winded Lemon's shoulder.

GEORGE

You okay, little brother?

Lemon gasps for breath.

LEMON

I didn't get his leg.

Moses looks at Lemon, and then to the door. Realisation floods his face.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Townfolk crowd around the Sheriff's Office. They hold lanterns and torches, like a mob. It looks like the whole town is out.

Sanders leaves the Sheriff's Office. He makes his way down the porch steps, struggling.

Moses stands in the doorway. He watches Sanders limp.

TOWNSMAN  
What's going on, Deputy?

SANDERS  
Found our murderer. We were right  
all along.

He glares at Moses over his shoulder.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
We trusted a crook! A killer!

The crowd of Townsfolk parts as Sanders limps through it.

Moses half-jogs down the Sheriff's Office stairs.

MOSES  
Wait there, Deputy!

Sanders stops. Back to Moses. Draws his gun.

MOSES (cont'd)  
How often do old wounds like that  
bleed?

Sanders looks to his leg, and sees the blood soaking through  
his trousers.

SANDERS  
Something must've got my leg in the  
cave.  
(turns to Moses)  
Or when Ollie Lemon assaulted me.

He turns. Their eyes meet. Neither flinch.

MOSES  
You know damned well that no bear  
nor man did that tonight.

A Townsman puts his hand on Sanders' shoulder.

TOWNSMAN  
You okay there, Deputy?

Sanders turns on him like a rabid dog.

SANDERS  
I'm goddamned fine! Let me handle  
this.

The Townsman staggers back. The surrounding Townsfolk take a step backwards.

Moses saunters forwards.

MOSES  
You're the violent type, aren't you, Deputy?

SANDERS  
You don't know what you're saying.

MOSES  
Got no problem using threats as a way of making people behave.

Sanders bites his lip. Shakes like he might fall apart.

MOSES (cont'd)  
I bet you'd follow through on those threats if you needed to, huh?

SANDERS  
You're goddamn right I could.

The Townsfolk gasp.

He raises his gun. Moses does the same.

SANDERS (cont'd)  
You done nothing but cause trouble since you got here. Got a man killed trying to set a killer free.

MOSES  
But George Lemon ain't the killer, is he?

Sanders' face hardens.

MOSES (cont'd)  
The rest of the town don't know this, but you told me yourself that Sheriff Hill had been blackmailing George Lemon for years. So it makes sense that he'd want to see Hill dead the most. But if he was gonna kill the Sheriff...

Moses cocks his gun.

MOSES (cont'd)  
...why would he tell you about the  
blackmail the night before?

The Townsfolk murmur. Sanders raises his finger to silence them.

SANDERS  
You're lying.

MOSES  
You knew about the blackmail from  
day one, didn't you Sanders? I bet  
you loved having someone else out  
there doing your dirty work.

The Townsfolk murmur again. It starts low but quickly grows louder.

Sanders narrows his eyes.

MOSES (cont'd)  
So when George told you about the  
blackmail, you realised how  
delicate your little situation was.

SANDERS  
Shut up.

MOSES  
You realised you could have control  
if you wanted it. Take his place.

SANDERS  
You don't know what you're talking  
about.

MOSES  
You took the Sheriff out into the  
woods...

SANDERS  
If you know what's good for you...

The Townsfolk's murmuring grows louder.

MOSES  
...and you shot him in the head as  
he walked in front of you.

SANDERS  
You'll shut your damned mouth!

Sanders cocks his pistol and fires it at Moses, getting the brim of his hat.

The murmuring stops.

Moses' hat hits the floor.

Beat.

Moses whistles.

MOSES  
Mustv'e hit a nerve.

SANDERS  
I won't miss the next one. And I  
know that your gun ain't loaded.

Moses smiles at him.

DUNN (O.S.)  
You're right.

Dunn shoots the ground next to his feet.

DUNN  
But mine is.

She stands on the Sheriff's Office porch with her rifle in hand. The barrel smokes.

A still half-keeled-over Lemon stands beside her, pointing his gun as best he can.

MOSES  
Thank you for joining us, Dunn. And  
may I say, Lemon, you're quite the  
detective.

Dunn smiles at Moses sweetly. Lemon chuckles and clutches his stomach, pained.

LEMON  
I'm glad you think so.

DUNN  
Drop the peashooter, Deputy.

Beat.

Sanders drops his gun.

The Townsfolk usher Sanders towards Moses. He resists, but they overpower him.

MOSES

You took the body into the woods.  
Left it outside Bear Cave. Like the  
name suggests, bears come, and you  
get on your horse and ride for your  
life.

DUNN

Except one got you on the leg.

MOSES

A flesh wound, really.

Sanders spits in Moses' direction.

Moses glares at him.

Beat.

Sanders tries to run at Moses but the Townsfolk restrain him.

DUNN

You gotta hand it to him, folks, he  
even managed to keep most of the  
Sheriff's hat.

MOSES

Perfect for planting near the house  
of the only other man that knew  
anything about your little  
blackmailing situation.

LEMON

My brother.

Sanders struggles against the Townsfolk's grip.

SANDERS

You're letting filth reign on this  
town.

Moses strides up to Sanders.

MOSES

No. Don't you dare say that. You  
are the filth in this town. You're  
a killer and a liar.

SANDERS

I did what I had to do.

Moses points his gun at Sanders' chest.

Sanders squirms, terrified.

MOSES

For your own good...

He pulls the trigger. The gun clicks.

MOSES (cont'd)

...stop talking.

Sanders half-collapses in a state of relieved shock.

Moses walks to the Sheriff's Office porch and climbs the stairs. Sanders struggles against the Townsfolk's grip.

SANDERS

I'll kill you for this, Moses Rain!

Moses chuckles to himself as he enters the Sheriff's Office.

MOSES

Heard that one before.

EXT. LEMON HOMESTEAD - DAY

A quaint wooden cottage with a large garden full of vegetable patches and animal pens. A woodchip path leads from the front gate to the front door.

Lemon and George stand by the front door. George pets HEFFER.

Moses and Dunn walk along the path. Dunn brushes a hedgerow with her hand. Moses tilts his head at a chicken coop.

MOSES

Cozy living, here.

DUNN

I wouldn't mind it.

Moses nods, slightly surprised.

They reach Lemon and George.

GEORGE

Thank you again, folks. Be fair to say I'd be dead if it weren't for the two of you.

MOSES

And your brother, most of all.

GEORGE

There anything else I can do for you before you hit the road?

DUNN

Make sure you take care of yourself. No more letting folk push you around.

George smiles. Heffer opens her mouth, revealing toothless gums.

MOSES

And try not to let them hang Sanders. I know he did you wrong, but bloodshed just makes more bloodshed later down the line.

Dunn chuckles.

DUNN

You're getting softer by the day, old man.

Moses raises his eyebrows in disdain, but also agreement.

MOSES

That reminds me.  
(to Lemon)  
You ready?

LEMON

Sure am.

Moses tips his hat to George.

GEORGE

Stay safe, now.

LEMON

I could say the same thing to you.

EXT. LAKESIDE PATH - DAY

A path alongside a lake so large that the opposite edge can't be seen. The waters are still. Stagwood's lumber mill can just about be seen along the coast behind Moses, Dunn, and Lemon as they ride on horseback.

LEMON

Where to?

MOSES

I'm not sure, partner. But we'll find what we're looking for.

LEMON

And what's that?

Dunn grins.

DUNN

Trouble.

CREDITS