

EXT. MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE - DAY

We SEE a beautiful mountain vista with a stream running through it.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREAM - DAY

A man and a young girl, stand fishing.

EMILY
(Looking in the fish
bucket)
I am ahead by two, Dad!

WADE
The day is young yet.

EMILY
I think you have lost your touch.

WADE
My touch is just fine.

WADE looks over at the bank as though he hears something. WE SEE his rifle and gun belt rest on a log. As looks at the other bank, there stands a man pointing a rifle. All of a sudden they are descended upon by six men on horseback.

EMILY
Dad?

WADE
It's ok darling...

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP

WE SEE the leader, BRAWLEY. He's a powerful-looking man with a scar on one side of his face. His six-gun is drawn, and pointing at WADE.

BRAWLEY
You Wade Collins?

WADE
I am.

BRAWLEY
You ain't been so easy to find.

WADE

What do you gentlemen want?

BRAWLEY

Looking for your brother.

WADE

I haven't seen him in years.

BRAWLEY

I find that hard to believe, he used to talk about you all the time.

WADE

We had a falling out some years back. I have no idea where he is.

BRAWLEY

Well, we really need to see him.

WADE

Sorry, I can't help you.

BRAWLEY

I think you're lying. So, I guess we'll just take us something that will get you to see I'm not bluffing.

BRAWLEY looks over at EMILY.

BRAWLEY (CONT'D)

Tell your brother I'll see him at Bear River. He'll understand.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN CABIN - DAY

WE SEE NORA for the first time. She is a beautiful woman, in her early thirties. She stands in the kitchen cutting meat.

In a window behind her, we see a figure move by. NORA is unaware. Then suddenly she stops and looks at the mud room area. She then starts back to work.

Suddenly a man appears in the mud room doorway, gun drawn. Then another man enters through the front door, his gun is also drawn.

NORA

My husband will be back any minute.

ELROY
I don't think so.

SILAS
They said you were a good-looking
woman, they weren't lying!

ELROY
No, they weren't.

SILAS coming closer, puts his gun to her head and then comes
in close behind her.

SILAS
If you don't fight we'll be done
quick with ya.

NORA slowly turns and faces SILAS.

NORA
I won't fight.

SILAS
That a girl.

SILAS runs his hand slowly down her body towards her crotch.
As his hand slowly arrives there, we suddenly see his mouth
open and then we realize he is gasping for air.

SILAS staggers back, as WE SEE NORA is gutting him. ELROY in
complete shock goes to fire but NORA instantly throws the
knife striking him in the throat. He drops the gun and
reaches for the knife.

NORA immediately grabs SILAS's gun and finishes ELROY with a
single shot to the head. She then turns her attention to
SILAS, who is still alive on the floor, firing a quick round
killing him as well.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER - DAY

We SEE NORA ridding up fast, gun drawn. No one is there.
She then sees WADE lying on the bank. She gets to him
quickly turning him over.

He appears to have put up a huge fight. He is barely alive.

NORA
Where is Emily?

WADE
They took her....tell
Quentin..crooked tree....crooked
Tree..

EXT. BUTTE - NIGHT

A large and successful mining town. Even at night, it is an active town.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

On the porch, sit two men. They are watching the town's activity.

Up rides NORA, the older of the two rises to his feet.

AUGUST
Nora? What brings you to town?

Quickly getting off her horse, and walking into the office.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFF OFFICE - NIGHT

NORA and August sit, sharing a whiskey.

AUGUST
I am sure sorry to hear this news,
Nora. We'll get wires out to all
the towns.

NORA
You know what I am going to ask
you, August.

AUGUST
And you know I can't tell you,
Nora.

NORA
(slight pause)
He's going to want to know about
this.

AUGUST
I can get word to him.

NORA
I need to see him, August.

AUGUST
I can convey whatever it is, you
want to tell him.

NORA
I need to tell him this, in person.

AUGUST
We all agreed, Nora.

NORA
August, I would never ask if it
wasn't important. You know that!

AUGUST
(long pause)
Alright, we'll head out at first
light.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - MORNING

NORA & AUGUST are preparing their horses.

AUGUST
I was thinking this morning, I
could send one of my men to fetch
him.

NORA
Have you ever known anyone to fetch
him?

AUGUST
(Realizing) No. It's about a two-
day ride, in some unfriendly
territory.

NORA
Well standing around talking isn't
going to get it done.

On that NORA mounts up.

FLASH BACK

EXT. NORA & WADE'S MOUNTAIN CABIN - DAY

WADE is busy building a fence, and NORA is in the garden picking vegetables.

We SEE a rider approaching. WADE sees him, and begins to walk to the front porch. After a moment, WADE waves, and the rider waves back. Up rides, QUENTIN. His build and presence, immediately conveys someone with a strong confidence.

He dismounts, and WADE is immediately there, and they hug.

WADE
Brother, it is good to see you!

QUENTIN
You as well, brother!

WADE
How was the trip?

QUENTIN
It was fine.

NORA walks up. QUENTIN turns and is visibly struck by her beauty.

WADE
Quentin, this is Nora, my wife.
Nora, this is Quentin.

QUENTIN removes his hat and extends his hand.

QUENTIN
Nice to make your acquaintance!

NORA
And yours! (Slight pause) you must
be tired and hungry.

NORA opens the front door.

NORA (CONT'D)
Let's get you settled.

CUT TO:

LATER

INT. MOUNTAIN CABIN - NIGHT

NORA, WADE & QUENTIN all sit finishing dinner.

QUENTIN

That was the best meal I have had,
in I don't know how long.

WADE

Now, how long can you stay?

QUENTIN

Well, I really don't know. I don't
have any plans yet.

WADE

What's it like to be a free man,
not taking orders anymore?

QUENTIN

I am not minding it.

WADE hops up.

WADE

That reminds me, I have something
for you.

WADE steps away.

NORA

Are you ready for some pie?

WADE

Oh my goodness, I am so full from
dinner.

NORA

Perhaps, in a while.

WADE, returns with a hat box. He sets it on the table and
opens it. Inside are newspaper clippings, pictures, and a
box. WADE, removes the box.

WADE

This was among mom's things when
she passed. I thought you might
want this.

WADE opens it and inside is a medal of honor. QUENTIN is
obviously uncomfortable seeing it.

WADE (CONT'D)

You got this for Gettysburg, didn't
you?

QUENTIN
(Uncomfortable)
Battle of Winchester...

WADE
What was that like? I read you
battled for days.

QUENTIN
(Trying not to remember)
Yeah....it was a hard-fought
battle.

WADE pulls out a handwritten note.

WADE
Mom wrote down all your
battles...there sure were a lot.

QUENTIN
There were a lot.

WADE
So, what was President Lincoln
like?

QUENTIN
Tall.

Reading QUENTIN'S body language.

NORA
Anyone for pie?

QUENTIN
Sure, that sounds great.

WADE
Tomorrow, can you escort Nora into
town? I have to finish the fence.

QUENTIN
Sure.

QUENTIN sips his drink and glances over at NORA who is
cutting pie.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUTTE - DAY

The town is a bustle of people going about their business. As they pull up to the General Store, we see three men sitting outside eating.

NORA & QUENTIN's wagon comes to rest in front of the general store. QUENTIN secures the horses and then assists NORA down off the wagon. As NORA slowly descends the wagon, her and QUENTIN'S eyes meet. There appears a bit of a spark.

NORA
Thank you.

QUENTIN
My pleasure.

One of the three men comments as NORA walks by.

RUSTY
(After NORA, but to his
buddies)
I wouldn't mind a night with that.

The other two rumble in agreement.

Suddenly up steps QUENTIN staring RUSTY down.

QUENTIN
Show some manners.

RUSTY holds for a second and then breaks eye contact. QUENTIN then gets back on the wagon and heads to the Feed Store.

CUT TO:

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

The owner's wife walks with NORA holding her list of items needed.

TILLY
(Pulling item from the
shelf)
Nora, we just got these in
yesterday, and I saved one for you.

NORA
Oh, that's the one you've been
talking about. That is nice.

We SEE the men from the porch, slowly making their way into the General Store.

CUT TO:

EXT. FEED STORE

Quentin and another younger man, stand loading seed & grain bags into the wagon.

CUT TO:

INT. GENERAL STORE

TILLY comes up from grabbing a bag from the lower shelf. NORA faces her and we SEE RUSTY standing ogling her from behind.

TILLY
(to Rusty)
Do you need some help?

RUSTY
Just admiring the scenery.

RUSTY leans forward and sniffs NORA's hair.

RUSTY (CONT'D)
You sure smell pretty.

NORA quickly turns and faces RUSTY.

NORA
I'd appreciate it if you would let
me shop in peace.

RUSTY holds on to her. Then he sarcastically bows away.

NORA (CONT'D)
(to Tilly)
I think that is all I needed.

TILLY
I'm sorry about that.

NORA
Don't you worry about that.

CUT TO: