

Me, Joe and Mr Poe

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT, NEAR COLORADO RIVER - DAY

SUPER: 1905, MOJAVE DESERT, ARIZONA

Mid sixties weathered cowboy MIKE, rides a Dromedary camel. Behind him, in tow, is a fully packed Bactrian camel. The small convoy leaves behind a small port/pier on the Colorado river. A river boat is docked at the port. The land is arid.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
That weathered old cowboy is me.
I've been runnin' supplies to small
mining towns close on forty years
and used camels all that time.

Mike and his convoy continue to ride through the scenic Mojave desert. They travel along a well worn track. The land is covered with desert grasses, desert shrubs, palms, joshua trees and various cacti.

MIKE (V.O)
Served five years in the US Army
Camel Corp. The Army had grand
plans for usin' camels in the
Mojave but with the civil war and
all, those plans kinda came undone.

Mike and his camels ride on, it's almost dusk and the desert looks majestic. The Bactrian moans as it carries its load.

MIKE (V.O)
So I gots ta thinkin', a pack
animal that could go without water
for days, carry three times that of
a horse and survive on just desert
vegetation would be mighty useful
out in the Mojave.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Mike sits on a large stone, reads a Harpers monthly with glasses by the campfire. His bedroll is laid out close by. The campfire burns brightly. The camels are tethered nearby.

MIKE (V.O)
In the twilight, my mind often
wanders back to them early days.
Reminiscin' those wonderful times.

Mike is flat on his back, looking up at the stars.

MIKE (V.O)
 Skippin' back, like a phonograph,
 replayin' all them golden moments.
 Just me, Joe and Mr Poe. Ridin' a
 well worn trail. Us and six camels.

Mike's eyes are closed and he is dreaming.

MIKE (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Unaware these happy carefree days
 would soon be over.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT, NEAR COLORADO RIVER - DAY

SUPER: 1875, MOJAVE DESERT, ARIZONA

Mid thirties cowboy MIKE and mid twenties JOE - who has Down Syndrome both ride Dromedary camels into the desert. Behind in tow are four fully packed Bactrian camels. The convoy leaves behind a busy port and a river boat.

MIKE (V.O)
 (younger voice)
 "Take this kiss upon the brow!
 And, in parting from you now,
 Thus much let me avow -
 You are not wrong, who deem
 That my days have been a dream;"

The convoy travels through the scenic Mojave desert. The land is harsh but beautiful. Mike and Joe both have a carefree smile. They are dirty, unshaven, disheveled and need haircuts.

MIKE (V.O)
 "Yet if hope has flown away,
 In a night, or in a day,
 In a vision, or in none,"

Mike, Joe and the camels ride on, it is almost dusk and the desert looks majestic. The colors of the Mojave desert and its rocky outcrops look spectacular at sunset. The convoy continue on a well worn trail. The Bactrians groan and moan.

MIKE (V.O)
 "Is it therefore the less gone?
 All that we see or seem
 Is but a dream within a dream."

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Mike sits on a large stone and reads a hard covered book by the camp fire. The camels rest, unpacked, tethered nearby.

MIKE

"I stand amid the roar,
Of a surf-tormented shore,
And I hold within my hand,
Grains of the golden sand -
How few! yet how they"
(stops and looks up)

Joe is lying on his bedroll. He is fast asleep and snoring.

MIKE

(places book down)
Well done Mr Poe. You've managed
to put Joe to sleep once again.

Mike covers Joe with a blanket and positions Joe's pillow.

Mike returns to his seat and picks up the open book.

MIKE

(reads page)
Grains of the golden sand. Mmmmm.

Mike lies on his back, looks up at the stars and ponders.

MIKE

(falling asleep)
What does that mean Mr Poe? Grains
of golden sand. What's it all mean?

Mike shuts his eyes and in seconds falls fast asleep.

EXT. SALOON - WILD WEST TOWN - NIGHT

A dozen horses tied up in front of a saloon with swinging doors. Night is filled with the sound of a honky tonk piano, merriment and laughter. Six gun shots, screams then silence.

Stone Brothers exit the swinging doors. TOMMY exits. He is short, unshaven and holds a smoking gun. Tommy is followed by VINCENT and RODNEY, both tall and well groomed. Rodney has a mustache and Vincent a full beard and in a tweed suit.

RODNEY

Now why did you do that for?

TOMMY

Flappity flip! He was cheatin' I
tell ya. No one's that lucky.

VINCENT

But did you have to kill everyone
else at the table?

TOMMY

They all said I lost fair and
square. They was all in on it. Low
down hornswogglers! Now can we gets
goin' before the sheriff shows up.

Tommy is in a hurry to reach his horse. Vincent and Rodney
lag behind. They move in close together.

RODNEY

He's gunna get us killed one day.

VINCENT

Promised Ma we'd watch out for him.
Besides, once he's killed more than
Billy the Kid, he'll slow down.

Tommy quickly mounts his horse. Vincent and Rodney approach
theirs.

RODNEY

Doubt it, he's got a taste for it.

VINCENT

Good thing he's on our side.

Rodney and Vincent mount their horses. The three ride out
of town, Tommy leads.

Full moon passes through the night sky.

INT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Three brothers sit at a large table in a log cabin. Tommy
shovels beans into his mouth. His brothers have more
manners. Heavy set mid forties FARMER and his pretty WIFE
and two attractive teen DAUGHTERS watch on.

WIFE

(nervously)

You boys want more beans?

Tommy grunts he wants more and holds his plate out. His
brothers politely indicate no. She half fills his plate.

WIFE

Water?

Tommy grunts and nods yes. His brothers politely indicate no. She fills up his glass with brown water from a jug.

FARMER

(pleading)

Please don't hurt my family, I have money, fifty dollars hidden under the bed. It's yours. Just please don't hurt my family.

The farmer's young daughters cry and wimper in fear.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Tommy ties up the Farmer's hands to a post. There is hay, rusty tools and farm animals in the barn. Rodney looks on.

FARMER

Please don't hurt my family! I implore you as christians! Mmmmm-
(gagged)

TOMMY

Oh we'll take care of them alright.

Tommy does a suggestive vulgar gesture flicking his tongue. Rodney smirks. The brothers leave the barn.

The farmer tries to free himself with all his might but he's well tied up and there is little slack. He looks determined.

INT. BARN - DAWN

The farmer manages to untie his hands. They are red raw. He undoes his gag and hurries over to one end of the barn.

The farmer retrieves a shotgun hidden behind a wooden chest. He checks the shotgun is loaded. The farmer exits the barn.

INT. LOG CABIN - DAWN

Brothers Rodney and Vincent are asleep on the floor covered in blankets. They're sound asleep with the farmers daughters.

C-R-A-C-K! Sound of the front door as it is kicked in. The farmer rushes in holding the shotgun.

The noisy entrance stirs the brothers awake. The furious farmer has both barrels aimed at them.

FARMER
(furious)
STAND UP AND PREPARE TO MEET YOUR
MAKER YOU EVIL BASTARDS!

Sound of a gun shot. The farmer has a hole between his eyes. He falls to the floor dead.

Tommy is in the bedroom doorway. He wears boxer shorts and holds a smoking gun. He's chewing tobacco and spits dark flem on the farmer's forehead, his dead eyes open.

The grief stricken daughters - both in night gowns - rush to their dead fathers side. They are sobbing hysterically.

The wife pushes past Tommy and rushes to her husband's side. Her hair is down. Her night gown reveals her full figure.

Wife and daughters hysterically mourn over the dead farmer.

GIRLS
Oh, Pa! Oh, sweet, sweet Papa!

WIFE
Why! Why! Why!

TOMMY
Oh shut up!

Tommy fires off his gun in rapid succession. BANG BANG BANG!

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Way too early for that shit.

VINCENT
What did you do that for?

RODNEY
They were such sweet good girls.

TOMMY
Well they're lucky. Good girls go ta heaven. Come on, let's rob a bank or somethin'.

EXT. LOG CABIN - DAY

The log cabin is well alight. Flames engulf the building.

The three brothers are on their horses. They briefly watch the fire from a safe distance and ride away.

EXT. CAMP SITE - DAY

Mike and Joe load up the Bactrian camels at the camp site. Joe is smiling as usual. The packs are heavy and require two to place them up on the camels.

MIKE

So Joe? Mr Poe's dream poem not as good as his others? I'd only read a few lines and you were sound asleep.

JOE

(grinning)

Nah! Pretty borin'. Raven betta.

MIKE

(shrugs)

Yeah, he lost me with grains of the golden sands.

Joe secures a pack on one of the Bactrian camels.

Mike secures a pack on Doris, a cantankerous Bactrian camel.

MIKE

Calm down Doris!

Doris spits a large glob of camel flem all over Mike's face.

MIKE

Oh Doris!

(wipes face)

Can you help me with Doris Joe?

Mike steps back. Joe grins as he secures Doris's pack. Doris is quite calm with Joe handling her.

MIKE

What are you Joe? A camel whisperer?

JOE

(grinning)

Yup! That me! Camel Whip-r.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Mike and Joe's convoy continues through scenic desert. Mike and Joe both smile. They love life. Mike halts the convoy.

MIKE

Time to pay the toll.

Four stern mojave braves on horses block the path ahead. The braves wear beads, feathers and loin cloth. They appear fierce with tribal face tattoos. Two braves have spears, the others - bow and arrow. One brave is young, about twenty.

MIKE

How!

A fierce stern brave approaches. Mike dismounts his camel and takes out two wrapped packages from a pack on his Dromedary. He hands the brave the first wrapped package.

The brave unwraps it. It is a small camp shovel.

MIKE

(gestures digging)
Digging.

The brave looks pleased. Mike hands him the second parcel. The brave unwraps it. It is a large pack of glass beads.

MIKE

For squaw.

Mike gestures a necklace. He notices brave wears a necklace.

MIKE

Or brave.

The brave looks happy, he returns to the other three.

The brave shows the other three the gifts. The other braves look and grunt and nod to indicate their approval.

Mike mounts his camel and the convoy continues past the four braves. As Joe passes the braves, he grins and waves.

The young brave grins and waves back. A stern brave next to the young one gives him a disapproving look. The young brave resumes a stern look. The four braves ride off.

Mike and Joe's camel convoy continues along the well worn trail through the scenic mojave desert.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CYANIDE SPRINGS, ARIZONA - DAY

Mike and Joe's camel convoy enter the main street of Cyanide Springs. It comprises of a dozen wooden buildings - a Bath House, Post/Telegraph Office, Saloon, Church, US Marshal Office/Jail, General Store, School and other buildings.

US MARSHAL EMMETT is a fit mid fifties weathered cowboy. He wears a cowboy hat, gun belt holster and gun and a Marshal's badge. Emmett nails a Wanted poster for the Stone Brothers on a Telegraph pole. He looks up to greet the brothers.

EMMETT

Howdy boys!

Mike halts the camel convoy a few yards before Emmett on the outskirts of town.

MIKE

Marshal.

Joe nods to acknowledge the Marshal.

EMMETT

I'm roundin' up a posse.

(points to poster)

These three from Texas are on a killin' spree, shootin' up half of Arizona. Can I count on you boys to join me?

MIKE

Haven't carried a gun since the war and Joe doesn't carry one either.

EMMETT

Don't carry a gun? How on earth do ya manage to traverse hostile indian territory without a gun?

MIKE

Bribes. We trade trinkets and gifts in exchange for safe passage.

EMMETT

Well let me know if you change your mind. We're headed off to Cripple Creek in a few hours. That's where these desperados were last seen.

Mike tilts his hat and the convoy continues down the street.

Marshall Emmett picks up a pile of wanted posters and a hammer and walks off.

The convoy down main street gets attention from town folk. Prim proper ladies, cowboys, bar girls, prospectors, men dressed in suits, farmers, farm hands and children stare.

The convoy passes the saloon. On the saloon porch is the obnoxious drunk cowboy POOLE. Poole is mid thirties dirty, unkept and mainly in black. He shares a joke with other drunk rogue cowboys. The convoy gets Poole's attention.

POOLE
 (spits)
 HEY SMITH! DO US ALL A FAVOR AND
 GET THEM STUPID ANIMALS OUTA TOWN!
 (other rogues laugh)
 THA' INCLUDES YA STUPID BROTHER!
 (other rogues laugh)

Mike halts the convoy in front of the saloon.

MIKE
 Sorry, didn't hear that! I'm a
 little deaf! Cannons in the war!

Poole looks either side at his fellow rogues and smirks. He swaggers down the porch steps.

Mike turns to Joe and winks. Joe winks blinks back.

Poole approaches Mike's right.

POOLE
 I SAID - DO US ALL A FAVOR AND--

JOE
 RIGHT KICK DO-OR-US!

Mike's camel does a hard right kick which hits Poole in the stomach. Poole is knocked off his feet and onto the dirt.

MIKE
 Now that's one stupid animal!

All onlookers, including Poole's rogues laugh hard. Poole is flat on his back, winded and angry at being made a fool.

The convoy continues past the saloon. Poole slowly gets to his feet and picks up his hat. The crowd is still laughing.

Doris the cranky Bactrian camel spits a huge glob of flem in Poole's face. This makes everyone laugh even harder.

Poole wipes his face with a handkerchief. He is enraged. Poole struggles to pull out his gun from his holster.

ROGUE COWBOY

Poole No!

Poole looks to see the Marshall nearby watching the whole event. He puts his gun away and angrily eyes off Mike.

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

Mike and Joe unload a large pack onto a porch rear of the store. Out of the pack they unload sacks and rolls of material and other items. The porch is half covered with goods unpacked earlier. There is one pack left to unload.

WENDELL(60) the store owner wears a striped apron and glasses. He looks on as the brothers unload the last pack.

WENDELL

So what are you boys gunna do when the railway comes through?

MIKE

That's years away and by then we'll have enough for a ranch up north.

JOE

Zoo! Zoo!

MIKE

Yes Joe. First Zoo. Then Ranch.

(to Wendell)

I promised Joe we'd first take a trip back east and visit a zoo.

Wendell smiles and nods.

Joe and Mike finish unloading the last pack. The porch is full with stacks of sacks, rolls of material and other goods.

Wendell looks through the stacks and checks all's delivered.

WENDELL

Well everything seems to be here.

Wendell looks up.

An old Mojave Indian - CHIEF - rides out of the desert towards the store. Chief has long grey hair, partly braided, tattooed face and three feathers in his hat.

MIKE
Who's that?

WENDELL
It's an old injun that helps me
around the store sometimes.
(looks up- shouts)
I'm Okay today Chief! Thank You!

Chief tilts his hat and turns his horse around.

MIKE
HEY CHIEF!

Chief turns his horse back towards the store.

MIKE
I'll pay you one dollar
(gestures one finger)
if you watch my camels
(gestures to camels)
for three hours.
(gestures three fingers)

Chief nods and rides back towards the store.

WENDELL
Now you've done it. My rate for
three hours work's an ounce of
tobacco.
Come in boys and I'll fix you up.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Wendell calculates something with pad and pencil behind a counter. There is an old mechanical cash register and various items are on shelves behind Wendell on the wall.

Joe oggles the candy and licorice behind a glass counter.

Mike reads a magazine. The store is full of various supplies.

WENDELL
Okay that's forty three dollars and
thirty seven cents I owe you.

Mike drops a Harper's Monthly magazine on the counter.

MIKE
I'll get the latest Harper's.
(turns to Joe)
And do you want your usual Joe?

Joe grins and smiles and holds up five fingers.

MIKE
And five sticks of licorice.

WENDELL
Kids do love licorice.
Let's call it forty three even.

Wendell opens a Mechanical cash register to retrieve money.
Mike admires a photograph of two small children on the wall.

MIKE
Nice photograph. Grand children?

WENDELL
Yep. Back east.
See my grand kids Joe?

Joe looks, smiles and nods. Wendell hands Mike the money.

MIKE
Thanks Wendell.
Oh I almost forgot.

Mike runs down an isle, grabs a small shovel and then down another and grabs a bag of beads. He returns with items.

MIKE
I also need to get these.
(places on counter)
Oh and can you gift wrap em?

Wendell gives a surprised look.

INT. BATH HOUSE - DAY

Mike and Joe take hot baths in cast iron tubs side by side.
An old Chinese man CHANG dressed oriental pours hot water from a pot into the bath tubs. He speaks Chinese to Joe.

MIKE
For the hundredth time Chang, Joe's not Chinese. He's an American!

Chang blurts out more Chinese and storms off upset. Mike and Joe look at each and laugh. They are enjoying their bath.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

The Barber/Dentist - MONTY - is mid thirties, bald but handsome with a cockney accent. OLD PETE, an old shabby looking prospector, lies back in a Barber's chair. Monty pulls hard on Pete's tooth with pliers but with no success.

Mike and Joe enter - looking clean and dressed. Monty nods and they sit on a bench near a table stacked with magazines.

MONTY

Won't be long gents. Okay old mate,
let's get that little bugger out.

Monty applies the pliers again to Pete's mouth and uses all his might. He wiggles the pliers back and forth while Old Pete screams. Finally the pliers and tooth give.

MONTY

Right. Got it.
(examines tooth)
Let's hope it was the right one
this time.

Monty places the pliers and tooth in a metal bowl. He gives Old Pete a bottle of whiskey and holds out a bucket. Pete knows the drill, he swigs from the bottle and spits in the bucket. Monty hands him a clean rag and Pete slowly gets up.

MONTY

Don't eat anything for a day and
gargle every hour with salty water.

Old Pete nods and exits. Monty turns to Mike and Joe.

MONTY

Grooming or tooth extraction?

MIKE

Shave and haircut for both of us.

MONTY

Next cab off the rank.

MIKE

You go Joe.

Monty wipes the chair with a rag. Joe sits down and Monty covers him with a sheet and starts lathering up his face.

Mike looks through the stack of magazines.

MIKE

You have any recent Harpers? Most of these are from before the war.

MONTY

(to Joe)

A barber shop with new mags, now that is a novel idea ay squire.

Monty shaves Joe with a straight razor.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CYANIDE SPRINGS, ARIZONA - DAY

GIOVANNI (40s) clean shaven, modestly dressed with jeans and suspenders tethers a grey horse front of Monty's. A small black and white FLUFFY dog with a waggly tail scampers about his feet. Giovanni picks up Fluffy and the two enter Barbers.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Joe reads a children's magazine - Robert Merry's Museum. He is clean shaven and he has had a haircut.

Giovanni enters with Fluffy under his arm. He sits down near Joe. Fluffy sits between them.

Monty cuts Mike's hair. He looks up to acknowledge Giovanni.

MONTY

I only did you this morning. You ain't due for another month.

GIOVANNI

You think-a you could give-a Fluffy a trim. He look-a a bit scruffy.

MONTY

Give us ten minutes. We'll clean up fluff ball out the back.

Mike smiles as he looks in the mirror. Fluffy has his head on Joe's thigh as Joe pats and pampers the friendly pooch. Giovanni reads a paper while Fluffy laps up Joe's attention.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY PARLOR - DAY

A late thirties gent in tweed suit and twirly mustache stands behind a large 1870s box camera.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ready on three. One, two--
Hold it! Hold it!

Mike and Joe, clean shaven and well groomed pose for a photograph. Mike looks solemn but Joe is smiling.

MIKE

What's wrong?

PHOTOGRAPHER

He's smiling.

MIKE

He can't help it. He's happy.

PHOTOGRAPHER

See all these photographs?
(points to wall)
No one's smiling cause no one wants
to be remembered for eternity as a
smiling idio--

MIKE

You walk on thin ice sir!

PHOTOGRAPHER

What I mean to say is, it's not
customary to smile. You also need
to remain perfectly still whilst
being photographed. It's impossible
to hold a smile for that long.

MIKE

How long?

PHOTOGRAPHER

A minute.

MIKE

Is that all? Joe can smile non stop
for a month. He was born smiling.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Very well then. Ready set smile.

Mike and Joe stand very still smiling for a few seconds.

The photographer has his head buried under a small curtain.

Mike and Joe continue smiling for a further few seconds.

The photographer still has his head buried under a curtain.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Just another ten seconds.

Mike and Joe continue smiling for a further few seconds.

The photographer closes the cameras aperture.

PHOTOGRAPHER

And we're done.

Mike rubs his stiff jaw. Joe's fine and is still smiling.

PHOTOGRAPHER

You'll be able to pick up your
portrait in a week.

Mike and Joe nod. Mike continues to rub his jaw. Joe hasn't stopped smiling. Joe and Mike exit.

The photographer sees Mike and Joe outside his window. He shakes his head, covers his face with his hand in dismay.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Smiling for a photograph.

(sighs)

What's next? Selfies suffer?

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

Camels are tied to a tree behind the Store. Chief is close by, in the shade smoking a pipe. His horse is nearby.

Mike tosses Chief a silver dollar. He catches it and smiles.

MIKE

Thanks Chief.

Chief walks up to Joe and holds up his palm to greet him.

CHIEF

kwitch-kah-mah-doom

Joe smiles and waves. The Chief pulls out an eagle feather from his hat and gives it to Joe. Joe looks delighted.

Chief turns to Mike, touches his chest and circles his face.

CHIEF
Sister same.
(points to Joe)

MIKE
Oh so you have a sister that looks
like Joe? She's like Joe?

The Chief repeatedly nods to indicate Mike understands him.

MIKE
Where is she now?
(points to Chief)
Your sister.

The Chief looks a little sad and points to the clouds.

CHIEF
Mmmmmmm
(thinks how to say it)
Shadow land. Shadow land.

Mike is not sure what to say and just nods and half smiles.

The Chief mounts his horse. He smiles at Joe and Mike,
waves bye and rides back into the desert.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Mike and Joe walk the camels near a wooden school house.
They tie the camels to a fence. Joe retrieves the licorice.

In the school yard two small girls aged eight and nine play
hopscotch in the dirt. Not far away, three young boys - all
aged around ten - play marbles.

Under a tree on a bench, not far from the children, an
attractive late twenties school teacher sits reading a book.

The children see Joe and all run towards the fence.

The school teacher MISS JANE looks up from her book and
smiles at Mike and Joe. Miss Jane has a pretty face with
the bluest of blue eyes, perfect skin and a dazzling smile.

Joe hands out the licorice to the excited children. Miss
Jane limps towards the fence. She wears a leg brace.

MISS JANE
Where's my licorice?

Joe shows empty palms. They both smile, it's an old joke.

MISS JANE
Well I better get a hug.

Joe leans forward and Miss Jane gives him a long hug.

Mike is nearby holding a thick book.

MISS JANE
(turns to Mike)
So how did you find Mr Poe Mike?

MIKE
(holding book)
Um.. Interesting.

MISS JANE
Hmm I think that's code for boring.

MIKE
No we both loved The Raven. Dream
within a Dream, didn't understand
all that grains of golden sand.

MISS JANE
Well it's open to interpreta--

AUNT MAY (O.S)
MIKE!

Across the road, headed for Mike is AUNT MAY, round and fat,
mid fifties, large chubby cheeks, glasses and hair in a bun.

Miss Jane and Mike look terrified.

MIKE
Quick, hide me.

MISS JANE
Oh um, sorry Mike. Just remembered.
Recess is over. You're on your own.
(snatches book off Mike)
Bye. Come on children. Everyone
inside. Quickly now! Quickly!

The children wave bye to Joe and head back to the school
house. Miss Jane follows limping and carrying two books.

Aunt May's reached Mike and Joe. She calls out to Miss Jane.

AUNT MAY

Miss Jane? Would you like me to
tell the children some more
stories? I'm free te help anytime!

Miss Jane is at the front door of the small school house.

MISS JANE

Ahhhhh
(lost for words)
Bye.
(ducks into school)

MIKE

Hello Aunt May.

AUNT MAY

Mike.
(looks towards Joe)
Joe.
(beat)
Ahh Mike could we have a word in
private.

MIKE

Hey Joe, could you check on
Dolores. I'm worried she might have
hurt her leg when she kicked Poole.

Joe smiles and walks off back towards the camels.

AUNT MAY

Mike, have you given any more
thought to placing Joe in the new
Asylum at Pueblo.

MIKE

Aunt May for the hundredth time, No
No No!

AUNT MAY

But Mike, you'll be able to have a
life, settle down with Miss Jane.
Joe will be well taken care.

MIKE

Aunt May! My life is great just as it is! And what kinda life will Joe have being locked up in a hospital.

AUNT MAY

Well maybe if he was placed in a hospital years ago you'd still have a mother and I'd still have a sister.

MIKE

Aunt May! When are you going to get it through your thick skull it was an accident! And if anyone's to blame then it should be me!

Aunt May starts blubbering. Mike gives her a handkerchief.

MIKE

I'm sorry for yellin' Aunt May but me and Joe are fine. And besides, there ain't another man in America who can handle them camels better than Joe can. My life is A O-Kay.

Aunt May wipes her eyes.

AUNT MAY

Well at least consider marrying Miss Jane soon. It'd be sure nice if I had some grand nieces and grand nephews before I get too old.

MIKE

Sure Aunt May. I'll give it some thought. Maybe in a year or two.

Aunt May gives a weak smile.

WENDELL (O.S)

Mike!

Wendell rushes to Aunt May and Mike holding a telegram. He's out of breath.

WENDELL

May.

AUNT MAY

Wendell.

WENDELL

Mike I just got this telegram, the damn fools have sent my shipment a week early.

MIKE

What's going on Wendell?

WENDELL

My next shipment's already on a river boat up river. It arrives at Aubrey Landing four tomorrow.

Mike shakes his head. He looks disappointed.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - LATE AFTERNOON

The Mojave is hauntingly beautiful late in the day. The rocky outcrops look spectacular in the late afternoon sun.

EXT. CAMP SITE - DUSK

The camel convoy enter the camp site. The Bactrians' packs are empty. Joe and Mike are clean and shaven but look tired.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Full moon over the desert. Mike and Joe sit on large stones near the campfire. Mike reads the new Harper's monthly.

MIKE

There's a story on Philadelphia Zoo. There's even illustrations of some of their animals. Look.

Mike shows Joe a page with a drawing of camels. Joe chuckles.

JOE

Joe look.
(reaches out)
Owww.

Joe grabs his shoulder. Mike gets up concerned and passes Joe the Harper's Monthly open on the article.

MIKE

You Okay?

JOE
Shore soldier. Shore soldier.

MIKE
Sit still. I'll get the ointment.

Mike gets some ointment/rub from a pack on his Dromedary.

Mike kneels behind Joe and applies the ointment to Joe's shoulder. Joe continues to look at the Zoo article while Mike rubs and massages Joe's shoulder.

The camp fire flickers brightly in the desert night. Mike and Joe sit around the fire. Mike plays the last chorus of Clementine on a harmonica. Joe attempts to sing the chorus.

JOE
Aww ma Clema, Aww ma Clema,
Awww ma dar-len Clematine,
Now ya gone an los forever,
Aww ma darlen Clematiiiiiiiiinnnne.

MIKE
Nice singing Joe. Nice singing.
Big finish. Nice.

Joe is pleased with himself. Mike attempts another song.

MIKE
Not sure if you can remember this
one. Real popular before the war.

Mike plays first few bars of "Dixie" with his own blues style. Joe enjoys listening to Mike play.

EXT. CAMP SITE - LATER

All is quiet and the camp fire embers glow brightly in the desert night. Mike reads the Harper's Monthly while Joe sleeps. Mike gets up to cover Joe with another blanket.

JOE
(half asleep)
Thanks Ma.

MIKE
No Joe it's..

Mike is teary eyed as he lies back on his bedroll. Mike looks up and stares at the stars. Its a starry night.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)

Ma. The one word that could bring me to tears. That night I dreamt of our last day together. The best and worst day of my life.

EXT./INT. MIKE'S CABIN - DAY [DREAM SEQUENCE]

Mike is mid twenties, dressed as a Civil War Union soldier. He rides a horse towards the family log cabin. Mike is happy as he tethers his horse front of the cabin.

Mike knocks on the front door. MA, mid forties attractive dark haired mother, opens the door. Ma is thrilled to see Mike. They hug and Mike enters.

Joe is mid teens and draws pictures at the kitchen table. Mike roughs up Joe's hair. Everyone is smiling. Mike takes out his six shooter civil war revolver and places it on a kitchen bench. He sits down at the table near Joe.

MA
(hugs both sons)
I'm so happy! My two beautiful boys under the same roof.

Everyone's smiling and extremely happy to be together again.

Mike sits on a chair on the porch, still in his uniform, smoking a pipe. Ma comes out with a basket of washed sheets.

MA
I never knew you smoked a pipe.

MIKE
A habit I picked up in the army.
Didn't want to stink up the cabin.
(poses)
Does it make me look distinguished?

MA
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah No!
I'm going to hang out some clean sheets out back. Won't be long.

Mike continues to smoke his pipe. The pipe is empty. BANG. Mike stands upright and rushes inside looking worried.

Young Joe sits at the table in shock. On the table is Mike's army issue six shooter revolver still smoking.

MIKE

Joe! Joe! Are you okay?
 (checks Joe out)
 What were you doing Joe! You could
 have killed yourself!

Mike gives a sigh of relief. He puts the revolver somewhere out of reach. Mike looks around the cabin. He finds a small hole on the rear wall. Mike exits.

Mike walks around the rear of the cabin. There is a clothes line out back with five long lines between 'T' posts. The lines full with sheets. One sheet is covered in red blood.

MIKE

Ma! Ma!

Mike runs and finds his mother lying face up, dead with a gunshot wound to the chest. Her dead eyes open.

MIKE

(blubbering over body)
 Ma! Awwwwwww Ma! No No No!

Ma eerily turns her head towards Mike.

MA

You need to wake up now. They're
 coming. They're coming.

END DREAM SCENE

EXT. CAMP SITE - DAY

BANG BANG. Mike wakes to the sound of gunshots. He quickly gets up and shakes Joe awake. Gestures for him to be quiet.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT, NEAR CAMP SITE - DAY

Tommy stands above a dead horse on a trail in the mojave desert. He is holding a smoking gun. Rodney and Vincent stand nearby. Vincent holds the reins of his horse.

RODNEY

Told ya my horse couldn't carry
 both of us.

TOMMY

What did ya expect me ta do after
Reno went lame? Walk?

VINCENT

All this bickerin' ain't helpin'.
Hopefully someone'll ride by soon.

EXT. CAMP SITE - DAY

Mike and Joe busily secure the empty packs on the camels.

MIKE

(quietly)

Those shots. Think it might be them
Stone Brothers outlaws everyone's
looking for. If it's them, keep a
cool head and follow my lead. Okay?

Joe nods. The brothers finish securing the packs.

Through the brush comes Tommy, Rodney and finally Vincent
leading his horse. Tommy has his gun drawn on Mike and Joe.

TOMMY

Woo hee. Hey boys, looks like the
circus is in town.

Vincent and Rodney shake their heads at the sight.

Mike gives Joe a disappointing nod.

TOMMY

You two, sit down on the ground,
hands on ya head. Well well well,
they say ya can tell what kinda
cowboy someone is by their horse.
So I guess you two are clowns!

The three chuckle. Tommy takes a closer look at Joe.

TOMMY

An looks like one is a china men.

MIKE

(Southern accent)

He ain't no chinamen, he be my
brother. He was born like that.

VINCENT

Down Syndrome. I read about the
condition in Scientific America

TOMMY

That be my learned brother. So
what's wrong with him? Is he crazy?

Mike bites his lip and continues to try and remain calm.

MIKE

Well as they say, there's crazy in
all of us. Just that some have
bigger pieces than others.

Vincent and Rodney give each other a knowing look.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And Joe's the best camel handler
this side of the Rio Grande.

RODNEY

How does all this help our
predicament?

VINCENT

Well Rodney, you're always braggin'
you can ride anything with four
legs and hair.

RODNEY

I was thinkin' mule or donkey. I
ain't crazy enough to try and ride
them. What about you Tommy?

TOMMY

No way! We're gunna have to wait
fer someone else.

Tommy aims his gun at Mike, ready to pull the trigger.

MIKE

Woah. Hold on. Is that any way to
treat a fellow confederate?

RODNEY

You fought for the South?

MIKE

Cavalry. Served in the sixth regiment. Arizona Brigade. After the dirty Yankees killed our Ma and Pa and took our homestead, me and Joe moved North to start over.

Rodney looks convinced but Tommy and Vincent are not.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Killin' a ton of Yankees means nuthin' to me and Joe. Actually after what they did to Ma and Pa only good Yankee's a dead one.

TOMMY

How do we trust that you ain't some dirty Yankee puttin' one over us?

Mike slowly stands up with hands raised. He walks over to his Dromedary and slowly opens his pack. Vincent and Rodney draw their guns and Tommy continues to aim his gun on Mike.

TOMMY

If that's a gun, yer dead.

MIKE

Don't carry a gun. Not safe around Joe.

Mike slowly pulls out his harmonica from the pack. At the first glimmer of metal, all three brothers have their guns aimed on Mike. Mike slowly pulls out the harmonica and shows all it's not a gun. Vincent and Rodney put away their guns.

Mike plays "Dixie" perfectly. The tune puts a smile on all three brothers. Tommy is impressed and puts his gun away.

TOMMY

Wooo eeee! There ain't a Yankee alive that can play like that!

EXT. CAMP SITE - LATER

Joe is on his Dromedary. Mike checks the knots on each Bactrian camel. Tommy is mounted on the second last Bactrian and Rodney on the last. Tommy smiles like a kid at the fair. Vincent is on his horse adjacent to Rodney.

Mike checks the knots as he approaches Tommy who is smiling.

MIKE
 Tickets. Tickets.

Mike checks the knots and ropes on Tommy's Bactrian. Tommy plays along with Mike's light hearted joking.

TOMMY
 (checks pockets)
 I don't seem to have one. Maybe my
 brother's got my ticket.

Mike proceeds with checking the knots and ropes on Rodney's camel. Rodney smiles and plays along with Mike's joking.

RODNEY
 (checks pockets)
 I don't seem to have em either.
 Have you got the tickets Vincent?

VINCENT
 Yeah, I got em right here.
 (pats gun)

MIKE
 You know, seein' we're all from the
 south, this rides on the house.
 Put it down to good ol' southern
 hospitality.

Tommy and Rodney smirk at this remark. They both really like Mike. Vincent looks at Mike more suspiciously. Mike heads back towards the front of the convoy.

VINCENT
 Soon as we get some more horses,
 these two are dead.

RODNEY
 Kill Mike. What for? He's a good
 ol boy. He's a confederate like us.

VINCENT
 He's no more confederate then old
 Abe.
 (beat)
 Said he fought in the sixth
 regiment for the Arizona Cavalry.
 I know there was only five.

RODNEY
 Should we tell Tommy?

VINCENT

Not yet. We need these two alive
for now.

Rodney and Vincent give each other a nod.

Mike checks Joe's rigging on his Dromedary. He leans in
close to Joe.

MIKE

I only have a half knot on this
one. May need to cut the rest
loose when the time comes.

Mike gives Joe a nod. Joe looks a little concerned.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Keep calm and it'll be all okay.

Mike mounts his Dromedary and the camel convoy begins.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

The convoy travels along a well worn trail. The harsh
scenic beauty of the mojave desert surrounds them.

Tommy enjoys the camel ride, smiles like a kid at a fair.

The convoy continues to travel along the trail through
gorges and past sand dunes. Scenic mountains in background.

Four braves on horses block the trail just ahead. It is the
same four from earlier.

Mike stops the convoy. He looks worried.

Mike dismounts from his camel and wanders near Joe.

MIKE

(quietly)

If these cowboys start shootin',
untie them and ride as hard as you
can into the desert.

Mike turns and faces the three Stone brothers smiling.

MIKE (CONT'D)

THIS'LL TAKE A MINUTE, THEN WE'LL
BE OFF AGAIN!

The Indians on horses wait on the trail fifty yards ahead.
 Vincent's hand is on his gun. Rodney's ready to draw as well.
 Tommy looks on and enjoys the show.
 Mike gestures to the Indians with his arms to go away.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 GO AWAY! LEAVE US ALONE! SHOOH!

The Indians look at each other confused and shrug.
 The young friendly Indian approaches Mike on his horse.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 NO! NO! I SAID SHOOH! GO AWAY!

Mike gestures with his arms for the Indians to keep away.

RODNEY
 What the hell is he doin'?

VINCENT
 He's warnin' em. He knows we'll
 shoot em for their horses.
 (looks over to Tommy)
 HEY TOMMY! LET'S GET THEIR HORSES!

Vincent and Rodney have their guns drawn, both shooting.
 BANG BANG.

BANG BANG. The young Indian approaching Mike is shot. He
 falls off his horse. BANG.

Mike keeps low and bolts for his Dromedary.

BANG BANG. Tommy has his gun out, he is shooting as well.

BANG BANG. The other Indians ride off in all directions.

BANG BANG. Another Indian is shot. He falls off his horse.
 BANG.

Mike is back on his Dromedary. He turns to Joe.

MIKE
 UNTIE THE ROPE JOE! NOW!

BANG. Joe yanks on the half knot. BANG BANG.

BANG. Mike and Joe charge their camels into the desert.

BANG BANG. The camels travel quickly past desert grasses, desert plants and cacti. BANG. The ground is uneven and it is a bumpy ride. Everything is a blur. BANG BANG.

BANG. The Bactrians are spooked by the shooting and follow the Dromedaries into the desert. BANG BANG.

Rodney and Tommy hold on tight while firing at Mike and Joe. BANG BANG. It is a very bumpy ride. Rodney falls off.

BANG. Rodney falls onto some desert grass.

BANG. Mike continues to ride his Dromedary hard. He looks back and is pleased to see the Bactrians are far behind.

Mike turns around to Joe. He is alarmed to see Joe slumped forward on his camel motionless. BANG BANG.

MIKE (CONT'D)

JOE! ANSWER ME! JOE!

BANG BANG. Mike is shot in the stomach. He slumps forward unconscious on his camel.

The two Dromedaries continue their way into the desert wilderness carrying their wounded motionless passengers.

Vincent and Rodney ride up to a large Saguaro cactus. Rodney is bareback on an Indian horse. They have another Indian horse in tow. Tommy's face is wedged in an arm of the large cactus, his body stuck to its trunk. He is covered in spines.

Vincent and Rodney giggle. Tommy looks sore and furious.

VINCENT

What happened to you?

TOMMY

Do you need to ask? That damn two humped camel threw me off right on top of this here cactus.

VINCENT

Well this will cheer you up.

Vincent shows Tommy the Indian horse in tow.

TOMMY

If I wasn't in so much pain and
covered in spines I'd hug ya.

(beat)

Hey, could you two help me out of
this? It flickity flickin' hurts!

Vincent and Rodney get down to help Tommy out of the cactus.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Two braves from earlier ride the same horse. The Indian at the rear holds his side and grimaces in pain. Behind them a brave rides a second horse. This horse also carries a dead brave laying crossways behind the rider. The mood is sombre.

The second rider also has in tow Joe and Mike's Dromedaries. Mike and Joe are both slumped on their camels. The convoy of horses and camels slowly traverses the desert. The three braves look solemn.

EXT. SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

The Stone brothers ride along a well worn trail in the mojave desert. Rodney and Tommy ride the indian horses bareback. All three brothers look pleased even though Tommy's face is covered in cactus spines.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN CAMP - DAY

There are half a dozen wickiup huts in a clearing. Mojave desert in the background. Four native children around ten play tag. They run around the huts to avoid being tagged.

Young braves attend to horses. Squaws and braves attend to daily chores. Young braves carry wood for the camp fire.

Elderly squaws grind pulp from a local edible plant into flour using clay pottery bowls. They chant as they work.

Indian Mike refers to as Chief sits on a large stone against a hut. He smokes a pipe and blows smoke rings. Half a dozen toddlers are spell bound by the Chief's parlor tricks.

Two mid teen squaws sit outside enjoying the day. One braids the others hair. They both look excited as they eagerly wave, smile and greet someone.

MOJAVE TEEN SQUAWS

Mosa!

Pretty late teens squaw - MOSA - pony tails and tribal tattoo on chin walks past the young teens. She carries a large woven basket full of corn cobs. Mosa gives the girls a huge smile and waves back as she passes by.

The indian horse and camel convoy approaches the camp.

The Chief notices the convoy's arrival. He looks concerned. The Chief gets up and hurries to meet the convoy.

The entire village, from young to old, have abandoned their chores to meet the convoy.

The convoy arrives at the edge of camp. The entire village surrounds them. Mosa pushes her way through the crowd. She still carries the basket of corn. Mosa frantically looks about for her brother Char-wa but she can't see him.

MOSA

Char-wa?

The injured brave on the first horse looks devastated. He gestures back towards the second horse.

Mosa drops the basket of corn, cobs fly everywhere. She runs to her brother's body on the second horse.

MOSA (CONT'D)

(in Native Yuman)

Nooooooooooooooooooooo!!!

Mosa wails and grieves over her brother's body. The village look on in silence. Everyone grieves the loss.

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE CYANIDE SPRINGS - DUSK

The brothers ride along a dusty dirt track. Tommy and Rodney ride the Indian horses bareback. They approach a fork in the road and a sign 'Cyanide Springs 2 Miles'.

RODNEY

Finally a town. All I want is a bath, a thick steak and a soft bed.

TOMMY

Throw in a couple of beers and a saloon girl and I'm happier than a kitten under a leaky cow.

Rodney and Tommy chuckle.

VINCENT

We'll drop into town tomorrow. For now lets find somewhere outta town to lay low and rest up a while.

TOMMY

No saloon! Ah flockity flick!

RODNEY

Now now Tommy. Vincent has a point. There's a hefty price on our heads and we needs to be at our best before venturin' inta town.

The three take the right fork away from town.

The brothers follow the trail up into the hills.

The brothers ride towards a small cabin with a light on located on the side of a hill. The three tie up their horses near a tree not far from the cabin.

EXT. PORCH OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - NIGHT

Tommy knocks on the cabin door. Old Pete opens the door. He has a shotgun aimed at Tommy.

OLD PETE

What's yer business stranger!!

TOMMY

(sounds frantic)

Beggin' yer pardon but I'm in urgent need of a doctor. I was captured by a bunch of injuns and they threw me into a cactus - face first. Errrrr.

Tommy has a red face covered with spines. Old Pete steps onto the porch for a closer look. He lowers his shotgun.

OLD PETE

That's about the funniest thing I've ever seen.

Old Pete is bent over, roaring hard with laughter. Tommy draws and shoots Pete between the eyes. Old Pete falls down dead, flat on his back on the front porch. Tommy spits dark tobacco flem over Old Pete's forehead, his dead eyes open.

TOMMY

Aimin' fer sympathy, not humor!

Rodney and Vincent step out of the shadows both grinning.

VINCENT

Results the same.

The three step over dead Old Pete and enter the cabin.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - NIGHT

The three brothers sit around a kitchen table drinking Old Pete's whiskey from shot glasses. Rodney pulls out the cactus spines from Tommy's face. Tommy flinches and moans.

RODNEY

Stop flinching. You gotta sit still if you want these spines out!

Rodney tries to pull spines from Tommy's face with tweezers.

TOMMY

But it hurts.
(Rodney pulls one out)
Owww!

INT. MOJAVE INDIAN WICKIUP, SHADOW LAND - NIGHT

Mike lies unconscious in a small mojave hut. He is uncovered and sweats. A paste from ground berries covers his stomach wound. Smoke fills the hut. Mike stirs half awake. A SQUAW early twenties with Down Syndrome enters the hut.

SQUAW

(perfect english)

Mike.

MIKE

(sits up, awake)

Huh. Where am I? Where's Joe?

SQUAW

He's fine. He is being accepted
into the tribe. He wants you there.

MIKE

Huh?

Mike gets up. As he only has his pants on, he covers himself with a blanket. Mike follows the squaw outside.

EXT. SHADOW LAND - NIGHT

Outside the hut it's pitch black. Not one star is in the sky. The ground is dusty and dead flat. Before him is a huge bon fire and hundreds of Indians in traditional garb. A buffalo is being slaughtered and many natives perform a rain dance.

Mike looks around for Joe. He spots him sitting between a chief with a feather headdress and the squaw who woke him. Joe has an eagle feather in his hair and a tattoo under his lip. The chief offers Joe a peace pipe. Mike rushes over.

MIKE

Woah there Joe. I don't think
that's a good -

JOE

(perfect English)

Relax Mike, it's not as if it's
going to kill me.

MIKE

Joe! When did you learn to talk so
well!

JOE

I am now proficient in the
vernacular. As well as English,
I'm fluent in the five dialects of
Yuman as well as German, Greek,
Hebrew, Dutch, Latin and Swahili.

MIKE

That's great!

The squaw with Down Syndrome whispers into Joe's ear.

Mike feels very very tired and dizzy. He holds his head.

JOE

You need to go back now Mike. But before you do, Ma told me to tell you to stop blaming yourself.

Mike is very tired and drowsy. He almost falls. The squaw with Down Syndrome appears beside him. She offers Mike her arm. The squaw steadies Mike and stops him from falling.

JOE (CONT'D)

Oh and Mr Poe told me about the grains of golden sand. They're all the happy moments in your life.

Mike is very very drowsy as he is led back towards the hut.

JOE (CONT'D) (O.S)

Love you Mike. Bye

MIKE

(half asleep)

Love you Joe. See you in the morning.

INT. MOJAVE INDIAN WICKIUP, SHADOW LAND - NIGHT

The squaw lies Mike back down in the hut, where he woke up.

SQUAW

Say hello to Little Frog.

MIKE

(almost asleep)

Who?

The squaw leaves the hut and Mike returns to a deep sleep.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - NIGHT

The moon travels across a starry night sky above the desert.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN CAMP - DAY

There are half a dozen wickiup huts in a clearing. Mojave desert in the background. Small children play, some daily activity from squaws weaving and braves attending horses.

Mosa and Chief stand in the middle of the village. Behind them braves are building a funeral pyre from wooden logs. Mosa and Chief speak in native Yuman with subtitles.

MOSA

Malika! Why do you bother with this one? His kind ruin our crops, attack our people, kill our braves. They treat us like vermin and disrespect our ways. Yet you attend to his wounds. Why?

CHIEF

You are not the only one who lost a brother Mosa. This one is white but he has always respected our people. His brother, that lies near yours, with the moon face, he had a pureness of heart I have only seen once before when I was very young.

Mosa looks very angry at Chief, turns and storms off.

EXT. FRONT OF WOODEN CHURCH - CYANIDE SPRINGS - DAY

The PREACHER (50s), clean white shirt, thin, trimmed beard stands on the front steps of a wooden church. He greets his congregation as they leave, shakes hands with Miss Jane.

TOBY, curious boy of ten and his Ma and Pa, MR and MRS WILLIS - hard working dirt poor farmers - walk towards their buggy.

TOBY

Pa, can I stay in town a while. Davey and Jim Bob said they'd be around Sunday morning and we was gunna hang out by the creek.

MR WILLIS

Well I don't know Toby, you do have some chores and--

TOBY

Oh please Pa. I'll be back well before sundown and I'll do all my chores. I promise.

MR WILLIS

What do you think Ma?

Miss Jane limps to her buggy. She greets the Wills family.

MISS JANE
Howdy Mr Wills, Mrs Wills. Hi Toby.

MRS WILLIS
How's our boy doin' at his
schoolin' Miss Jane?

MISS JANE
Star pupil. You should both be
very proud of this young man.

Mr and Mrs Wills beam with pride.

Miss Jane climbs aboard her buggy. She takes a firm hold of the reins. CLICK CLICK. Miss Jane's buggy slowly drives off.

MISS JANE
Mister Wills. Missus Wills. Bye
Toby. See you tomorrow.

MR WILLIS/MRS WILLIS
Bye

TOBY
Bye Miss Jane.

MRS WILLIS
I can't see harm in Toby spending
time with his friends. As long as
he promises to be home well before
sundown to do all his chores.

Toby looks quite pleased.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CYANIDE SPRING - DAY

TOBY kicks a tin can down the main street. From the Church he passes a building, Telegraph Office, another building, Bath House, Saloon and the Doctor's surgery all to his left. Toby stops at the surgery as it is the eastern end of town.

The Stone brothers ride up to the front of the General store and tie up their horses. The store is opposite the surgery.

Toby notices the three riders. He looks up at a nearby Wanted poster for the Stone brothers on a telegraph pole.

INSERT: Stone Brother's Wanted Poster.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Wendell is behind the counter adding up some numbers in a small notebook. The three brothers walk into the store.

WENDELL

Howdy strangers? Names Wendell.
What brings you to Cyanide Springs?

VINCENT

Howdy Wendell. I'm Ned and this here's my brother's Clem and Jed. We're lookin' at tryin' our hand at some prospectin'.

WENDELL

Well if there's anything I can help you with, I'm open seven days a week - even Sundays.

VINCENT

Well there is a couple of things Wendell. My brother Clem here got thrown into some cactus.

(presents Tommy)

Would you have--

WENDELL

Got just the thing.
(grabs tube off shelf)
This ointment's great for poison ivy, mosquito bites and cactus spines.

VINCENT

Great. We also have two new horses but no saddles or reins. Can you help us out?

WENDELL

Closest saddlery is Fort Yama but I keep a few basic saddles and gear out back. Bring the horses around back and we'll get em sorted.

Vincent tips his hat and the Stone brothers exit the store.

EXT. FRONT OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

The Stone brothers exit the general store. They head for their horses and proceed to untie them.

Toby hides behind a barrel, he spies on the three brothers.

The Stone brothers mount their horses and ride them around to the rear of the store.

Toby checks the brothers have gone and stands up. He glances back at the Stone Brother's wanted poster.

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

The three brothers have dismounted and look on while Wendell fits a new saddle on an indian horse. The other horse already has a new saddle fitted.

WENDELL

Well that's that.

VINCENT

So what's the damage?

WENDELL

Well they're thirty five a piece, so let's say sixty five for both.

The three brothers give a disapproving look.

WENDELL (CONT'D)

If you give me a minute, I'll see if I can work out a better deal.

VINCENT

Thanks friend. Mighty neighborly.

Wendell returns into the store. Rodney and Tommy give Vincent a disapproving look.

TOMMY

Flickity fly Vincent! Why we gotta buy things? We're the Stone brothers! We should just take it.

VINCENT

We're keepin' a low profile.
Remember?

Rodney and Tommy concede and nod in agreement.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Wendell is behind the counter adding up some numbers on a pad. Young Toby cautiously enters with the Wanted Poster.

WENDELL

Hi Toby. I won't be long, just need to finish this sale for two saddles.

TOBY

Mister Miller, those three out back, I think they might be these three on the Wanted poster, the Stone Brothers.

Wendell looks hard at the Wanted poster in shock. He starts to shake. Wendell places the Wanted poster on the counter.

WENDELL

Quick Toby. Don't just stand there. Go tell the Marshall they're here.

TOBY

The Marshall and half the town are in the posse to Cripple Creek.

WENDELL

Well tell whoever you can. Go to the saloon. There'd be a few there keen on the reward money. Go. Go.

Toby rushes out. Wendell looks worried. He stares at the Wanted poster still on the counter.

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

Vincent looks at his pocket watch. Tommy chews tobacco. Rodney rolls his own cigarette. He offers Vincent one.

RODNEY

Smoke?

Vincent nods. Rodney lights Vincent's cigarette. The brothers enjoy a smoke while waiting for Wendell.

INT. SALOON - DAY

Toby nervously walks in to the bar, holds a Wanted poster.

A thickset BARTENDER dries a glass with a cloth.

Toby nervously looks around. The poster in his hand shakes.

The rest of the saloon is near empty. There is only a table with Poole and three cowboys playing poker. A saloon girl stands behind Poole, massages his shoulders as he plays. The four drink shots of whiskey.

The Bartender looks up and scolds Toby.

BARTENDER

If you ain't outta this saloon in three seconds I'll--

TOBY

(holds up the poster)

Th-th-the Stone Brothers. They're out behind Wendell's store.

The cowboys playing poker stop and all look at Toby.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - DAY

Poole and the other three rogue cowboys rush out the swinging doors with their revolvers drawn. They are followed by the Bartender carrying a rifle. All take up their positions around the porch. Some hide behind barrels.

POOLE

We'll just wait and pick em off as they ride on by.

COWBOY #1

Like shootin' fish in a barrel.

COWBOY #2

How we gunna tell who made the winnin' shot if any of em go down?

COWBOY #3

Well it won't be you. You couldn't hit the side of a barn.

COWBOY #2
I'm a better shot than you.

COWBOY #3
In yer dreams.

COWBOY #2
Well I'm better than Lester!

COWBOY #1
I'm a better shot than you and Roy!

All three cowboys start arguing amongst themselves.

POOLE
Will you three stop arguin'. We
ain't shot anyone yet. We'll split
it five ways, fair and square.

BARTENDER
Hey maybe we should bust into the
store and save Wendell.

Poole and the three Rogue cowboys share glances and grin.

POOLE AND OTHER COWBOYS
Nahhhhh!!!

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

The three brothers wait anxiously for Wendell's return.

VINCENT
Wonder what's takin' him?

TOMMY
I'll check on what's the hold up.

VINCENT
Are you sure?

TOMMY
I need to pick up that ointment
too. I got this.

VINCENT
(hands Tommy cash)
You're buyin' it! You're not
stealin' it and you're not killin'
him! Okay?

TOMMY

Flickity flack! What do you take
me for Vincent? A crazed killer?

Tommy enters the rear of the store. Vincent and Rodney exchange a worried look.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY

Wendell is behind the counter, he tries to load a rifle with bullets but his hands shake. Tommy arrives with the cash in his hand. He sees Wendell trying to load the rifle and the Wanted poster on the counter. Tommy draws and shoots.

Blood sprays all over the photograph of the grand children.

Wendell lies dead, a hole in his forehead and his dead eyes open. Tommy spits tobacco flem on Wendell's forehead.

Tommy shoves the cash back in his pocket. He quickly moves around behind the counter and opens the cash register. Tommy grabs all the notes. He puts the notes, a box of cigars and ointment into a brown paper bag and grabs the Wanted Poster.

EXT. REAR OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

Vincent and Rodney are already on their horses. They have their guns drawn and are aiming at the store's rear exit. Tommy appears holding a brown paper bag and a Wanted Poster.

VINCENT

WHAT DID YOU DO?

Tommy holds up the Wanted Poster. Rodney takes a closer look.

RODNEY

The resemblance is uncanny. And my
mustache, so distinguished. That
one's a keeper!

VINCENT

WE NEED TO LEAVE! NOW!

EXT. FRONT OF GENERAL STORE - DAY

The Stone Brothers appear from the rear of the store. Their guns are drawn and ride their horses hard. They come under immediate fire from the shooters at the saloon.

INTERCUT EXT. GENERAL STORE AND EXT. SALOON PORCH - DAY

Shooters on the porch fire several shots at the brothers. The intense gun fire is deafening. Gun smoke fills the air.

The brothers are caught off guard. They pull up their horses and head east out of town. Thanks to poor marksmanship, the brothers escape unscathed. They make a few random shots back towards the saloon as they ride out of town.

Poole and his crew make the odd shot. All look disappointed.

POOLE

We'll that didn't go accordin' to plan. Maybe half of us should have hid behind Doc's surgery.

The other cowboys look upset and nod in agreement.

EXT. ROAD OUT OF TOWN - DAY

The brothers ride off out of town.

INTERCUT EXT. ROAD OUT OF TOWN AND EXT. SALOON PORCH - DAY

The Bartender rests his rifle on a railing and takes aim.

The brothers are far off in the distance riding away.

Vincent is at the rear. He jolts forward, he's been shot. Vincent slumps forward, his arms wrap around his horse's neck. Tommy and Rodney are unaware of Vincent's injury.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - DAY

The Bartender looks pleased. He boasts to the other four.

BARTENDER

Hey I think I got one.

COWBOY #1

Well there ain't anyone layin' in the dirt.

POOLE

Yeah it don't count unless ya shoot em off their horse. Ya need the body to collect the reward.

The Bartender looks bitterly disappointed.

EXT. OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

The Stone brothers arrive at Old Pete's cabin - Tommy and Rodney first. Vincent is slumped forward and arrives well behind his brothers. He is very weak and falls off his horse.

Tommy and Rodney see Vincent fall. They run to his aid.

RODNEY

Vincent, what happened? You okay?

Rodney and Tommy assist Vincent to stand. They look worried. Vincent's shirt is covered in blood and he looks very pale.

VINCENT

(cough cough)

Do I look okay?

Vincent tries to laugh but it turns into a cough. He coughs up blood. Tommy and Rodney support Vincent either side and lead him into the cabin.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

Rodney holds Vincent up while Tommy pulls the blanket back. They lie him down on the bed. Vincent coughs up more blood. Rodney looks very worried. Tommy looks around the room.

TOMMY

We need sheets. We gots ta stop the bleedin' and then he'll be okay. That's it. Stop da bleedin, plenty a rest and it'll be all Okay.

VINCENT

(laughs and coughs)

I'm so glad to hear that Doctor.

Tommy looks around the room for sheets and continues his search outside the room. Rodney looks extremely worried.

RODNEY

Can I get ya anything Vincent, anything ta help with the pain.

VINCENT

Whiskey. Lots and lots of whiskey.

INT. MOJAVE INDIAN WICKIUP - DAY

Mike lies semi-conscious in a small hut. He is only wearing pants. A paste from ground berries covers his stomach wound. Mike slowly wakes up. He can hear women wailing. Mike wraps a blanket around himself and exits the hut.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

Mike looks around. There are about a dozen similar huts spread out in a clearing. One end of the village, a large group of natives gather before a tall pile of wooden logs. There is something on top of the logs.

Old native women wail. Some of the villagers place items on top of the pile. One brave places a bow and arrow, another a spear. The pretty squaw Mosa places some beads and a thatched bowl on the pile.

The wounded brave that was in the ambush approaches Mike. He yells a command at Mike and signals him to stay. The brave walks over to the crowd and mentions something to the Indian. Mike calls Chief and the squaw Mosa. The two approach Mike.

MIKE

(refers to wound)

Thank you for saving me. I'm sorry for interrupting your ceremony but can you tell my brother I'm awake.

The Chief and Mosa look at each other confused.

MOSA

(speaks English)

You do not know what happened?

MIKE

I know he made it. I saw him last night. I saw him. At the big camp fire last night?

The Chief and Mosa stare at Mike, both appear confused.

MIKE

You had the big camp fire, and you were killing a buffallo and the rain dancers. He was with the squaw that looks like him.

(gestures a round face)

The Chief and Mosa are confused what Mike is on about.

MIKE

The squaw with the round face like
my brother Joe. Oh and she said
say hello to little frog.

MOSA

(speaks Yuman)
Little Frog.

The Chief is in shock. He has to sit down.

CHIEF

(speaks Yuman)
Tell him.

MOSA

(speaks Yuman)
He won't understand.

CHIEF

(speaks Yuman)
Tell him!

MOSA

Little Frog was a name his big
sister called him when he was a
child. We think you met his dead
sister when you saw your brother.

MIKE

(confused)
I don't understand what you're
saying. Look can you just take me
to my brother please. Please.

Mosa leads Mike over to a small hut at the edge of the camp.
She gestures to Mike that Joe is inside. Mike enters.

MIKE

(O.S)
Hey what ya doin' sleepy head?
Joe?

(beat)
JOE! No! OH MY GOD NOOOOOO!
NO NO NO NO NO. PLEASE GOD NO!

Mike continues to mourn loudly. Mosa feels Mike's pain.
She lowers her head and wipes away the tears from her eyes.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - DAY

Poole, the Bartender and the other three cowboys are on the porch. Marshal and Toby are on the street facing them.

EMMETT

Looks like me and the posse missed one heck of a show. Can one of ya tell me what happened?

POOLE

Sure Marshal. The kid told us the Stone Brothers were at Wendell's. We set up here expectin' em to ride past. Instead, when they finally left the store they headed East.

EMMETT

(points east out of town)
So they left town that-a way?

POOLE

Ah huh.

BARTENDER

Hey Marshall, I think I hit one. Does that entitle me to any reward?

EMMETT

Sorry. No body, no reward.

COWBOY #1

That's what we told him.

The Bartender looks dejected and is consoled by Poole who slaps him on the back. The five all go back into the saloon.

The Marshal looks at the store and the road leading east out of town to work out what happened. Toby sobs nearby.

EMMETT

Toby, what's wrong?

TOBY

Did I get Mr Miller killed Marshal?
Maybe I shouldn't have told him
about them Stone brothers.

EMMETT

Why I think he'd be real proud that
ya went into the store to warn him.

(looks at saloon)

No one else brave nuff to do that.

(looks back at Toby)

Wendell was just in the wrong place
at the wrong time that's all.

Toby wipes his eyes. Emmett pats Toby on the shoulder.
Toby is more upbeat and musters half a smile.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

Mosa and Chief look on as Mike secures Joe's body crossways
on the second Dromedary.

Nearby the funeral ceremony for Mosa's brother continues.
The whole village is gathered and women continue to wail.

MIKE

(turns to Mosa)

I didn't realize you lost a brother
as well. I'm sorry for your loss.

Mosa nods.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I remember your brother, he always
smiled a lot. He had a good heart.

MOSA

He was always teased by the other
Braves for that.

Mike looks on at the funeral ceremony. He sees a number of
natives placing items on the pyre near the body.

MIKE

What are they doing?

MOSA

As respect, we place something
valuable with the body. To help
the spirit in their transition to
Shadow Land.

MIKE

Is that where I met Joe and his
sister?

Mosa nods.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What was her name?

MOSA

It's not our custom to mention
someone's name after they have
died.

MIKE

What about your name?

MOSA

Mosa.

MIKE

I'm Mike. And his name's not
Chief, is it.

MOSA

No but keep calling him that, he
likes it.

MIKE

How come you speak English?

MOSA

When I was seven, me and my brother
were kidnapped and made house
servants for a rancher and his
wife. We lived with them for two
years before we were rescued.

MIKE

I'm sorry.

MOSA

(angrily)

For what? The kidnapping of our
children? The killing of our
braves? Invading our lands?
Destroying our crops?

MIKE

For everything.

Mosa looks down.

Mike takes out his harmonica from the pack on his Dromedary. He hands it to Mosa.

MOSA
What is this?

MIKE
Something valuable. For your brother.

Mosa looks at it as a thing of beauty.

MOSA
Thank you
(beat)
Mike.

The brave wounded in the ambush stands in the congregation. He glares hard at Mike with jealousy.

Mike climbs onto his Dromedary and turns to address Mosa.

MIKE
The men that killed your brother,
they have killed a lot of my people
as well as Joe. I swear I will
make sure these men are caught and
hung for their crimes.

MOSA
You speak of white man's justice
but what of our justice.

Mike doesn't know what to say. Mosa turns and rejoins the funeral congregation. Mike is left with the Chief.

MIKE
Chief.

The Chief tips his hat and joins the rest of the mourners.

Mike rides off into the desert towing Joe's body on the other Dromedary. Overhead soars an eagle high in the sky.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

Rodney helps a pale Vincent to sit up while Tommy wraps a white sheet around his torso. The bed is soaked in blood.

VINCENT
(very weak, coughs)
Thank you Doctor Tommy.

Rodney lowers Vincent down and positions his pillow.

RODNEY
(looks worried)
Can I get you anything Vincent?

VINCENT
No. I'll just try and sleep.

TOMMY
(more upbeat)
Come on Rodney. Vincent just needs
a good rest and then he'll be all
better. Ain't that right Vincent?

VINCENT
(very tired)
I sure hope so.

TOMMY
Come on Rodney.

Tommy drags Rodney out of the room. Rodney looks worried.

INT. BOTTOM OF GIOVANNI'S MINE - DAY

Giovanni, muddy faced, works with a hand pick bottom of a thirty foot vertical mine shaft. A hand built ladder against one muddy wall, a kerosene lantern hangs off a rung lighting the area. Giovanni sweats as he fills a bucket with dirt.

The lantern flickers and goes out. The bottom of the mine is dimly lit, there is little light from the opening high above.

GIOVANNI
Mama mia!

EXT. ABOVE GIOVANNI'S MINE - DAY

Top of the mine, Fluffy wags his tail and barks cheerfully as Giovanni emerges. Giovanni has the lantern in one hand. The dog runs about, excited to see his master. A shoddy shed stands nearby and a grey horse near the shed.

GIOVANNI

Aaah Fluffy, your Papa he forgot-a
ta fill-a the lantern.

Giovanni grabs a can from the shed with the label 'Kerosene'. He shakes the tin, opens it and looks inside.

GIOVANNI (CONT'D)

Santa Lucia! She's a empty. What-
a I do Fluffy?

Fluffy digs feverishly in some loose dirt nearby. ROOF ROOF!

GIOVANNI (CONT'D)

You smart-a dog Fluffy. Papa got-a
dig. But I no-a have kerosene.

(ponders)

Hey maybe we ask-a Old Pete. What
you think Fluffy? Good idea?

ROOF ROOF. Fluffy is very happy, tail wags like a propeller.

EXT. TRAIL NEAR OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Giovanni leisurely rides horse BRUNO along the trail. Fluffy scampers about. ROOF ROOF. Fluffy's tail wags double time.

GIOVANNI

When I find-a de nugget, Papa's
gunna buy you a steak this thick.

Giovanni gestures a thick steak with two fingers. ROOF ROOF. Giovanni chews on some prairie grass. Bruno snorts BBRRPPP!

GIOVANNI (CONT'D)

Hey Bruno, why-a the long face? I'm
gunna buy you a big-a bag a apples!

Giovanni pats Bruno affectionately. The three continue on.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Rodney and Tommy sit at the kitchen table drinking shots of whisky. Both look miserable. They are startled by ROOF ROOF.

Rodney and Tommy peer out the small window near the table.

BROTHER'S POV: A small fluffy dog scampers about. Giovanni with muddy face and dirty clothes rides up to the cabin.

Tommy draws his gun, ready for action.

TOMMY

Watch me shoot this prospector
right between the eyes, This is--

RODNEY

No wait wait. How do we know he
ain't got a partner or two hidin'
up in them there bushes? I'll see
what he wants and if he's alone.

Tommy puts his gun back in his holster.

TOMMY

Flackity flack! Why didn't I
think-a that? You sure is one
smart cookie Rodney.

RODNEY

Well I play a lot of chess. Always
thinking two moves ahead.

EXT. OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Giovanni ties up Bruno. He looks about for Fluffy. Fluffy digs away at a freshly dug shallow grave near some bushes.

GIOVANNI

Hey Fluffy. Come-a here! You gotta
watch-a for them rattlers. Capisce!

Fluffy leaves the fresh grave, returns to Giovanni's side.

Giovanni knocks on the cabin's front door.

INTERCUT INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN AND EXT. OLD PETE'S CABIN

Tommy is hard against the wall. He spies on Giovanni through the window. Rodney opens the door slightly.

RODNEY

What's yer business stranger!!

GIOVANNI

(concerned)

I'm-a after Ol' Pete. Where-a is-a Ol Pete?

RODNEY

Oh, Uncle Pete's come down bad with small pox. I'm afraid he'll be laid up for a few weeks.

GIOVANNI

(relieved)

Oh you-a famil. Bene! Bene! I no think Old Pete have famil.

RODNEY

That's us. Old Pete's famil. So a--

GIOVANNI

Oh scuzzi. I'm-a Giovanni.

RODNEY

Howdy Giovanni, you travellin' alone?

GIOVANNI

No I gotta the dog Fluffy and Bruno.

Giovanni gestures behind him. Rodney looks past the horse and at the bushes behind.

RODNEY

One moment Giovanni.

Rodney closes the door, speaks low tone to Tommy.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

Has a buddy Bruno in the bushes.

Tommy looks hard, tries to see the partner in the bushes. Rodney opens the door back to Giovanni.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

Sorry, look you should go. This small pox is highly contagious.

GIOVANNI

But I need-a kerosene.

RODNEY

Oh uncle Pete's out too. S orry.

Rodney slams the door shut. Giovanni walks back to his horse dejected.

Fluffy is back digging up the fresh grave on the far end of the yard near some bushes. Old Pete's hand is uncovered.

GIOVANNI

Hey Fluffy, what-a I tell you.
Watch-a out for them rattlers.

ROOF ROOF. Fluffy barks as he exposes more of Pete.

GIOVANNI (CONT'D)

Fluffy, why-a you no listen!

Giovanni is back on Bruno. He rides over to investigate.

Tommy and Rodney look out the window. They notice Giovanni and Fluffy around Old Pete's shallow grave.

Giovanni sees the shallow grave and Old Pete's hand exposed.

GIOVANNI (CONT'D)

Quick-a Fluffy. We gotta leave!

Giovanni tries to get Bruno to race away but the best he can do is a half gallop. Fluffy scampers close behind.

Tommy and Rodney see Giovanni quickly leave the scene. They collect their guns and hats and both head for the door.

TOMMY

I shoul'da killed that I-Tie fella.
Quick let's catch up with him.

RODNEY

What about Bruno?

TOMMY

We'll kill him too.

EXT. TRAIL NEAR OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Giovanni charges Bruno down the side of a hill. Fluffy keeps up, at Bruno's heels. They are off the well worn track. BANG BANG. Bruno drops dead, Giovanni's leg is caught.

Tommy and Rodney pull up their horses near Giovanni. Giovanni is stuck under Bruno and grimaces in pain. Grief-stricken, weeping, Giovanni pats his much loved horse.

GIOVANNI

I'm-a sorry Bruno.

TOMMY

(to Rodney)

Flickity flea! Now don't that beat all. Bruno was his horse yah dope.

RODNEY

(sheepishly)

Simple mistake.

TOMMY

I never killed an I-tie before.

(to Giovanni)

Any last words mister spaghetti?

GIOVANNI

(crying)

I'm-a ready to see my Rosa but please-a no shoota my dog. He's a good-a boy. Take care of him. Si?

TOMMY

Oh I'll take care of Fluff ball.

Tommy shoots Giovanni between the eyes. Tommy spits dark tobacco flem over Giovanni's forehead, his dead eyes open. Fluffy is near Giovanni, he barks for some attention. ROOF.

Tommy begins to dismount.

RODNEY

What are you doin'?

TOMMY

Takin' care of the man's dog.
Here boy, here boy.

Rodney looks on in horror as Tommy 'takes care' of Fluffy. He grimaces as Fluffy yelps and squeals. The dog goes quiet.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CYANIDE SPRINGS - AFTERNOON

Mike is on the edge of town. He is off his Dromedary, leading it and the other camel with Sam's corpse down the main street. There are tears in his eyes.

Aunt May exits a nearby building, she sees Mike and rushes towards him. She looks concerned.

AUNT MAY

Mike. What is it? Where's Joe?

Mike can't speak, he gestures to the second camel. Aunt May takes a closer look.

AUNT MAY (CONT'D)

Nooooo! Not Joe. Not my beautiful Joe. Nooooo! Waaaaaaaaaah! Nooo!

Aunt May holds on to Joe's body. The school yard is this side of town. Miss Jane is under a tree reading. She looks up and notices Mike, Aunt May and the two camels.

Aunt May and Mike console each other. Aunt May sobs hard.

MISS JANE (O.S)

Joe? Joe? Mike why is Joe-

Miss Jane is near Joe's camel. She realizes Joe is dead. Miss Jane covers her face and sobs uncontrollably.

Mike, Aunt May and Miss Jane console each other in the middle of the main street. The Marshall and some other town folk approach the three to see what has happened.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN VILLAGE - DUSK

The sun sets over the desert. The last rays of sunlight give distant rocky outcrops a rich orange hue. The entire village has gathered near the funeral pyre. Mosa has tears in her eyes as she lights the funeral pyre with a torch.

Everyone before the pyre is silent and solemn. All grieve as the flames of the pyre grow and take hold.

INT. DOCTOR SURGERY - NIGHT

DOC, an elderly gent dressed in tweed, examines Mike as he lays on an examination table. Doc uses a magnifying glass.

Mike lies on his stomach as the doctor examines the wound.

DOC

Hmmmm turn over please Mike.

Mike rolls on to his back. He is grief-stricken and quiet.

The Doc's son, CHRIS, a young man in his early twenties - also dressed in tweed - comes in carrying clean bandages.

DOC (CONT'D)

Ahh good you've got the bandages.

(beat)

Mike? This is my son Chris. He just finished Medical school back East. He's joined the practice.

MIKE

(grieving)

Hi.

CHRIS

Hi Mike. I'm sorry for your loss.

Mike has difficulty talking. He can only nod.

DOC

Mind if I let Chris examine your wound Mike?

Mike shakes his head no.

The Doc holds up his magnifying glass over Mike's wound.

DOC (CONT'D)

What do you see Chris?

CHRIS

A clean gunshot wound.

DOC

Anything specific about the wound.

(beat)

The discoloration?

CHRIS

No redness so noooooo

(beat)

Infection?

DOC

Excellent. With any wound, especially seemingly harmless ones, always ensure it's clean. Cause once a wound's septic, the blood poisons and it's goodbye Charlie.

CHRIS

But Dad, the wound was covered in this paste. Looks like some kind of ground berries.

DOC

Indian remedy. The berries must have a natural antiseptic quality. They've been probably using this cure for thousands of years.

CHRIS

Extraordinary!

DOC

Yes it is. We could learn a thing or two from these natives.

(beat - to Mike)

Thanks Mike. You can sit up now. We'll dress the wounds to keep them clean.

Mike sits up. He is silent and grieving. Chris proceeds to dress Mike's wound.

DOC (CONT'D)

Sorry about all the shop talk Mike. I wanted to show Chris the great job the natives did attending to your wound. I know they weren't able to save Joe's life but they did save yours.

Mike is unable to answer the Doc. He looks down as he grieves for Joe. Chris continues to dress Mike's wound.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The pyre is alight and burns brightly in the night. A glimmer of silver in the flames reveals Mike's harmonica.

Mosa and Chief look on at the burning pyre with the rest of the village. There are braves, old warriors, squaws and children. Old women continue to wail and chant.

The moon passes through the desert night sky.

EXT. FRONT OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

It is a sunny day. There is quite a few horse and buggies and horses out the front of Mike's cabin. Distant sound of a congregation singing "Bringing in the Sheaves".

EXT. REAR OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

Congregation sings "Bringing in the Sheaves". Crowd includes Chang, Emmett, Monty, Doc, Chris, Toby and Mr and Mrs Wills.

Front of the congregation is grief stricken Mike in a suit. Either side is Aunt May and Miss Jane both in black.

On a chair under a tree is the Preacher. He listens to the hymn with his eyes closed smiling.

Under the tree is an old grave covered in flowers with a white cross. A simple wooden coffin lies on two planks above an open grave. The open grave is beside the old grave.

The congregation continue the last chorus of "Bringing in the Sheaves". Mike is comforted by Aunt May and Miss Jane.

PREACHER

(stands)

Thank you all for that most joyous rendition. And now some words from our dearly departed's brother Mike.

The Preacher sits back down. Mike stands before the crowd.

MIKE

(teary eyed)

Thank you all for coming today. Thank you Aunt May and Miss Jane for organizin' this funeral at such short notice.

Miss Jane and Aunt May wipe their eyes and nod.

MIKE (CONT'D)

My brother Joe was a simple man. He never put on any airs and graces. What you saw is what you got, a kind honest soul with a heart the size of Texas.

Chang sobs loudly.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Years ago, before the war, when Ma and Pa were still alive and we were just kids, my family was invited by my Aunt Virginia to her daughter's wedding. All of us except Joe.

Aunt May wipes her eyes with a lace handkerchief.

MIKE (CONT'D)

They didn't want Joe there. They said he'd frighten the other guests.

Some of the town folk shake their head in disgust.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Well this didn't sit well with Ma. Ma said family that can't accept their own kind ain't family at all. So from that day Aunt Virginia and her family were never mentioned again.

(beat)

Well not until just now of course.

Some chuckles from Marshal Emmett and other town folk.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Losin' that side of the family never was an issue cause we still had Aunt May and you all who we've always thought of as family.

An old man and his wife shed a tear at this remark.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And how could anyone be scared of someone as sweet and pure as Joe. To know him was to love him. All who've met Joe feels they've been blessed by the experience.

Young Toby and other children look sad.

MIKE (CONT'D)

So finally I wanna say, thank you Joe for being my brother and best friend. I will always love you and will never forget you.

Mike returns by the side of Aunt May and Miss Jane who comfort him.

The Preacher stands and nods to four men one side of the congregation. They move towards the open grave. The Preacher also nods to PINA (40s), a large dark haired lady. She sings a Latin version of "Ave Maria" vocals only.

To the sweet sound of "Ave Maria", four men use ropes already laid out to lift the coffin. Another man removes the planks and they slowly lower the coffin into the grave.

Various members of the congregation shed a tear as the coffin descends to the heartfelt rendition of "Ave Maria".

Mike sobs and is consoled by Aunt May and Miss Jane.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

The pyre has been converted to a pile of black ash.

Mosa and the rest of the village are still standing. All look very tired. Old women continue to wail and chant.

EXT. FRONT OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

A table has been set on the front lawn with a few plates of cut sandwiches and glasses and jugs of home made lemonade. The congregation have broken into small groups chatting amongst themselves. Everyone seems more upbeat, some smiling.

Mike shakes hands with towns folk as they leave for home. Miss Jane and Aunt May stand beside him either side.

The Preacher and the dark haired lady - Pina - approach Mike.

PREACHER

Mike. This is my new wife Pina.
We got married just last month.

MIKE

Hello Pina.

PINA

I'm-a sorry for your loss.

MIKE

Thank you. And thanks for singing.

PREACHER

Pina used to sing opera back east.
She even sang for Lincoln once.

PINA

Well that-a was-a long time ago.

MIKE

Well it was lovely. Joe would have
loved it.

PREACHER

I'm sure he did. Well we have to
go. See you next Sunday Mike?

MIKE

Sure.

Pina and the Preacher leave. Marshall Emmett appears.

EMMETT

Sorry about Joe Mike.

MIKE

(sighs)

Yeah.

EMMETT

Look I know this ain't the time and
place but we got three desperados
on the loose. We could really use
you in the posse. Stop more
innocent folk like Joe and Wendell
from getting killed. Whattaya say?

Mike looks down and thinks hard then back up at Emmett.

MIKE

What time?

EMMETT

(smiles)

Be at the corral at the edge e town
at three. Oh and bring a gun.

(looks off to one side)

Hey Chang, ya comin. Sorry Mike,
gotta get back and I'm Chang's
ride.

Emmett exits towards a buggy. Chang appears in front of
Mike sobbing. He gives Mike a hug and pats his back.

CHANG

Mike! Sorry sorry. Joe very good.
Very good. Sorry!

MIKE

(pats Chang's back)
Thank you Chang. Thank you.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - BEDROOM - DAY

Vincent lies in bed, he looks very pale. He is almost dead.

Rodney and Tommy look on. Tommy has tears in his eyes.

VINCENT

Tommy, can you do me a favor, when
we rode in the other day, I saw
some blue flowers with yellow
stripes. Can you get me a couple.
Indians use em as a miracle cure.

Tommy looks upbeat.

TOMMY

Sure Vincent, I'll go get ya some
now. Won't be long. Hang in there
brother. I'll be right back.

Tommy leaves.

RODNEY

There ain't no blue flowers with
yellow stripes, is there Vincent?

VINCENT

He don't know that.

RODNEY

I warned you Vincent, I warned you
he'd get us killed.

VINCENT

You're alive last time I looked.

RODNEY

What if I ride in ta town and
kidnap the Doc.

VINCENT

It's too late Rodney. My bloods
poisoned. It's gone septic.

RODNEY

You're so darn smart. How do ya know that stuff?

VINCENT

Harper's Monthly. Always read the Editor's Scientific record.

RODNEY

You've always been the smart older one, Tommy the young crazy one and I've always been in the middle. We need ya smarts Vincent. We need it.

VINCENT

Just lay low a while and you'll be okay.

(beat)

I need ya ta do somethin' for me Rodney. It's gunna be hard but you need to promise me you'll do it.

RODNEY

Anything Vincent. Anything.

VINCENT

I need you to kill me. Pick up a pillow and smother me with it.

RODNEY

Huh?

VINCENT

I'm in so much pain Rodney and it ain't gunna get better. Please Rodney please, before Tommy comes back.

RODNEY

I can't--

VINCENT

You promised! Now do it!

Tears stream down Rodney's face. He picks up a pillow.

RODNEY

Bye Vincent.

VINCENT

Bye--

Rodney holds the pillow firmly over Vincent's face. Vincent's body and arms thrash violently about for a few long seconds then stop. Rodney sobs hard.

EXT. FRONT OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

Everyone has left Joe's funeral and Mike is on his own. He looks through a pack on his Dromedary. He pulls out a small package and opens it. He unwraps a small camp shovel.

EXT. REAR OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike is near the tree where his mother and Joe's graves are. He has the shovel in his hand. Mike stands up against the tree and takes two large steps towards the cabin. Mike gets down on the ground and begins to dig a hole with the shovel.

Mike digs about a foot down and hits something. It's a metal box. Mike digs some more and pulls out of the hole the box.

MIKE

(looks at mother's grave)

I'm sorry!

(beat)

I know I promised, I know!

(teary eyed)

But I can't see any other way.

(crying)

I'm sorry Ma. Please forgive me.

Mike stands up, picks up the metal box and walks back to the cabin. Tears stream down his face.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Rodney and Tommy sit at the kitchen table drinking shots of whiskey. They are both very upset.

TOMMY

If only I'd found them blue flowers
with yella stripes. Maybe Vincent
would be alive right now.

RODNEY

Tommy. There isn't any blue
flowers with yellow stripes.

TOMMY

Well flickity flack Rodney! That's what I'm tellin' ya. Them damn injuns musta taken em all!

Rodney rolls his eyes. Tommy pours himself another shot of whiskey.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Well ya know what we need to do now, don't ya Rodney.

RODNEY

Lay low and stay alive. Actually they were Vincent's dying words, for us to lay low awhile.

TOMMY

Plenty a time to lay low after we get some sweet revenge.

RODNEY

Well I think lay low means just that. Lay low and avoid anything such as revenge.

TOMMY

You mean ta tell me you're happy ta let that town get away with shootin' our dear brother in the back. Is that what yer sayin' cause you is soundin' like a real pussy Rodney!

RODNEY

(sighs)

What do ya have in mind?

TOMMY

Look what I found out back.

Tommy grabs a metal box from under the table and puts it on the table. He opens it. Inside are 8 sticks of dynamite.

RODNEY

Woah! What do ya plan to do with them?

TOMMY

I plan ta level that shit hole of a town startin' with that saloon.

INT. MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike sits at the kitchen table. The metal box is open before him. Mike cleans a union army six shooter with an oily rag. He checks every part of the gun is in working order.

Mike pulls out a box of bullets from the metal box. He loads the six shooter with bullets. Mike looks disappointed as he holds the six shooter in his hands and ponders.

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE CYANIDE SPRINGS - DAY

Rodney and Tommy are on their horses. Both smoke cigars. Tommy has four sticks of dynamite in his hand.

RODNEY

What's the plan and what's with these cigars? My eyes are burnin'.

TOMMY

Okay we've both got four sticks of dynamite and two six shooters. You ride up ahead to keep me covered while I blow up the right side a town, startin with the saloon. The cigar's ta light the dynamite. When we gets ta the end a town, we ride back. Then it's your turn ta blow up the other side and I'll cover you. I call it a ride by.

RODNEY

(looks worried)

Well it sounds like a good plan.

TOMMY

It's a great plan. If Vincent were alive, well flap, he'd even like it.

INT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Marshal Emmett has his feet up reading a Harper's Monthly. He sips his coffee and chuckles as he reads something funny.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Miss Jane limps out of the Telegraph Office.

Aunt May and other town folk are about attending to business.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Monty is in the Barber shop. There are no customers. He sweeps up some hair. Monty looks out the large windows.

Monty can see Miss Jane limping across the street.

Monty romantically admires Miss Jane, his head resting on the broom handle. He returns to sweeping the shop floor.

EXT. EAST END OF MAIN STREET - DAY

Rodney rides into town with his gun drawn. Riding behind him, holding sticks of dynamite is Tommy. This end of town - where the store, surgery, saloon and bath house are - is quiet. Rodney and Tommy's ride into town goes undetected.

INT. SALOON - DAY

The Bartender dries a glass behind the bar.

The saloon is near empty. At a table is Poole and three rogue cowboys playing poker. A saloon girl stands behind Poole. She massages his shoulders as he plays poker. The four all drink whiskey.

COWBOY #1

I fold.

COWBOY #2

I'm out.

Cowboy 3 throws five chips into the center of the table.

COWBOY #3

I'll see ya. What have ya got?

Poole turns over four cards revealing two black Aces and two black eights.

An object flies into the saloon over the swinging doors. All in the saloon stop to see what was thrown in. On the floor is a stick of dynamite with a very short fuse still alight.

POOLE

Oh Shit!

EXT. EAST END OF MAIN STREET - DAY

The saloon is blown to smithereens. Wood, smoke, dust and debris is thrown high in the air. The explosion is deafening.

INT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Marshal Emmett's startled by a loud explosion. His coffee mug's fallen to the floor as well as a picture mounted on the wall. Emmett grabs his rifle and heads for the door.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

The Bath House is blown to smithereens. Wood, smoke, dust and debris is thrown high in the air. Explosion is deafening.

Rodney is fifteen yards in front of Tommy and shoots at anyone on the street. A saloon girl is shot down.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Monty looks out the window and sees folks run for cover. He can see Miss Jane still on the street. She limps for cover.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Monty rushes to Miss Jane's aid. Miss Jane is only yards from the Barber shop door. Monty picks up Miss Jane in a bear hug and pulls her backwards back into the Barber shop.

INTERCUT INT. BARBER SHOP AND EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Monty falls backwards onto the floor with Miss Jane on top.

Tommy lights up a stick of dynamite and throws it at the Telegraph/Post Office. He continues riding down the street.

Rodney continues to shoot randomly, he shoots down an elderly lady and takes a shot at the Barber shop window.

Monty is on the floor with Miss Jane on top. Their faces only inches apart. They scrunch their eyes shut as the shop's windows and mirrors shatter to pieces. They open their eyes and share a warm "love at first sight" smile.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Rodney changes revolvers. He continues to ride and shoot with Tommy not far behind. The Telegraph office blows sky high in the background. The noise from the explosion is deafening, as dust, smoke and debris fly high into the air.

Tommy is not far behind riding his horse. He has one stick left in his hand and lights it with his cigar.

Rodney shoots an old cowboy on the street and a young mother. Tommy behind him throws the last stick of dynamite.

SMASH. The last stick of dynamite flies through a front window of the town church.

Rodney continues to shoot, he tries to gun down an old prospector but only gets a CLICK. Rodney is out of bullets.

The church blows to smithereens. The noise from the explosion is deafening, as dust, smoke and debris fly high into the air. The church is reduced to a pile of wood.

Rodney and Tommy are at the end of town. Tommy has no more sticks of dynamite and draws one of his six shooters.

Marshal Emmett hides behind a barrell. He takes a huge breath and steps out. Emmett takes a shot at Rodney.

The bullet hits Rodney's pack. There is a massive explosion and Rodney and his horse are vaporized. All that remains on the ground are four horses hooves. The sound is deafening.

TOMMY

Noooooooooooooooooooo!

Tommy sees the Marshal. He shoots him between the eyes. BANG.

Tommy rides up to the Marshal's body. He spits a large tobacco flem on the Marshal's forehead, his dead eyes open.

Tommy looks crazed with anger as well as devastated.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

FLOP FLOP FLIPPITY FLOP FLOP! YOU
IS ALL GOD DAMN HORNSWOGGLERS! AAH!

The main street looks like a war zone with one side demolished and dead bodies everywhere. A cowboy steps out from behind a building. BANG. He's shot. A saloon girl playing dead on the street runs. BANG. She's shot down.

A cowboy with a rifle on top of a two story building gives away his position. BANG BANG. He falls to the street dead. Chang runs for cover from behind a barrel. BANG. CLICK. Chang is hit in the thigh. He howls in pain.

Tommy fires his gun. CLICK CLICK. He is out of bullets.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 (tears in his eyes)
 I AM GUNNA BE BACK AND I'M GUNNA
 KILL EVERYONE OF YOU DIRTY YELLA
 BELLY HORNSWOGGLERS! YOU IS ALL
 DEAD! FLICKITY FLICK! YA HEAR?

Tommy turns his horse around and bolts out of town. Within seconds Tommy and his horse are no longer in sight.

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE CYANIDE SPRINGS - DAY

Mike rides his camel on a well worn trail into town. He is still grieving over Joe, unaware of what lays ahead.

EXT. EAST END OF MAIN STREET - DAY

Mike rides into town. He's alarmed at the state of the town. One side of the town is half flattened and a few dead bodies are scattered on the main street. Some town folk look through the demolished buildings searching for survivors.

The Doc checks a body on the street with an 1870s stethoscope, beside him is his leather Doctors bag opened on the ground. He shakes his head no. His son, Chris, covers the body with a blanket. They move on to the next body.

The Bath House is gone but two cast iron tubs still stand.

Mike is in shock. Everywhere there is death and destruction. On the street ahead is a dead cowboy, his dead eyes open. A young cowboy sobs as he holds a dead saloon girl, shot down in the street.

Toby and his father mourn over Toby's mother, shot down a little further ahead.

Mike looks anxious. He looks from side to side.

Up ahead Miss Jane helps an old cowboy. She ties a clean rag around the cowboys arm. Close by is Monty, helping an injured young man off the street. The Barber shop windows nearby are shattered. A few dead bodies lay nearby.

Mike continues his slow ride down the street. He is in shock, slowly absorbing the magnitude of the destruction.

MIKE

Miss Jane! Are you okay?

MISS JANE

A little shaken but I'm okay.

MIKE

Have you seen Aunt May?

MISS JANE

No, sorry Mike. The last time I saw her was before all of this. She was headed that side of town.
(gestures West direction)

Miss Jane continues to attend to the cowboy's wound.

Mike appears anxious as he rides on in search of Aunt May. He rides past the demolished Telegraph/Post office.

Town folk search through the demolished Telegraph Office.

Mike continues down the street. More injured and dead folk lie on the road. Mike rides past the Photography Parlor.

Aunt May attends to Chang who's thigh is heavily bleeding. She has a sheet wrapped around the wound. Chang is in pain. Aunt May holds his hand to comfort him.

MIKE (O.S)

Aunt May? Are you Okay?

AUNT MAY

(looks up, sees Mike)
Oh Mike. What a terrible terrible day.

MIKE

What happened Aunt May?

AUNT MAY

Them Stone Brothers. There were two of em. One was usin' dynamite, blowin' things up. And the other was shootin' folks down.

MIKE

Where's the Marshal?

AUNT MAY

(looks over her shoulder)
He's just over there. They killed
him Mike. Shot him.

Mike rides his camel a few yards further down the street
where Marshal Emmett lay dead with his dead eyes open and
rifle nearby. Not far away is just four horses hooves.

MIKE

(to Aunt May)
What happened here Aunt May?

AUNT MAY

Emmett shot at one of em and he
just blew up like a fire cracker.
Both him and his horse. Boom.

MIKE

Any idea where the last one was
headed?

AUNT MAY

No idea but he had such a potty
mouth and he swore he'd be back to
finish us all off. I've never been
so scared Mike. He was pure evil!

Mike rides a little further to the demolished town church.

The Preacher and his wife Pina search through the wreckage,
trying to salvage bibles and other valuables.

MIKE

Preacher. Pina.

The Preacher and Pina look devastated. Pina nods and returns
to search through the debris. The Preacher approaches Mike.

MIKE

Sorry about the church. Any idea
where the last brother was headed?

PREACHER

No idea Mike. What kind of animal
destroys a house of God.
(shakes head in disgust)

MIKE

Preacher, do you know of any
prospectors who uses dynamite in
these parts.

The preacher has a long think. He remembers something.

PREACHER

A couple a summers back Old Pete
tried usin' a few sticks in his
mine. Remember cause I heard the
explosion and his mine's five miles
away.

MIKE

Have you seen Old Pete of late?

PREACHER

See him every Sunday except for
this Sunday just gone by.

MIKE

Where's old Pete live Preacher?

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Tommy sits at the kitchen table. There is a shot glass and a half bottle of whiskey on the table. His double gun belt holster hangs over the top rail of a kitchen chair. Tommy looks as if he has a massive headache. He drinks a shot.

Tommy starts smacking himself on the side of the head.

TOMMY

STUPID! STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!

Tommy pours himself another shot of whiskey and quickly swallows it down.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(looks up)

I'm gunna make em pay Rodney. You
too Vincent. I'm gunna make every
one of them yella belly
hornswogglers pay. Flickity flea!
I'll drink to that!

Tommy swallows down another shot. He gets up and grabs a box of bullets from a kitchen bench and a gun from his holster strung over the chair. Tommy sits down and pours himself another shot. He then proceeds to load his gun.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
(loading gun)
I'll creep into town after sundown
and I'll put a bullet into every
one of them hornswogglers. Between
their flickity flickin' eyes.

Tommy swallows down another shot of whiskey and immediately pours himself another.

EXT. PORCH OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike creeps slowly onto the porch. He holds in his hand his civil war six shooter. Mike peers through the window.

MIKE'S POV: Tommy drinks whiskey. His gun is on the table near the bottle.

Mike creeps away from the window. He stares at the six shooter in his hand.

EXT. NEAR OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike shoves his gun back into a pack on his Dromedary. His camel is tied up behind a large bush.

MIKE
A promise is a promise.

EXT. PORCH OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike creeps slowly onto the front porch. He peers through the window.

MIKE'S POV: Tommy drinks whiskey. His six shooter is still near the bottle.

INT. OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Tommy sits at the kitchen table drinking whiskey. The door flies open. Mike charges in, takes Tommy by surprise. Mike lunges for the six shooter. Tommy reaches too.

Mike has two hands on the gun. So does Tommy. Mike's behind Tommy, who is still seated. In the struggle that ensues, the whiskey bottle, glasses and chairs are knocked over.

Tommy manages to stand with Mike on his back. Tommy twists and turns side to side in an effort to throw Mike off. Mike has a firm grip on the six shooter and holds on tight.

Mike and Tommy are on their feet, both have a solid grip on the gun which points up. The struggle continues. Mike and Tommy crash into a kitchen cupboard. BANG. Tommy slams Mike hard into a wall. BANG BANG. Mike holds on.

Tommy uses all his strength to slowly point the gun towards Mike. Mike uses all his might to aim it away. BANG. A window smashes. BANG. A shot is fired at the stove.

Tommy again twists side to side in an effort to throw Mike off. BANG. Tommy spins around fast. Mike loses his grip. He's flung onto a cast iron stove against the wall.

Tommy points his gun at Mike who's fallen back against the stove. Mike's hand behind him searches. It finds the handle of a heavy cast iron frypan. Mike gets a firm grip.

TOMMY

Flippity flap! What kinda idiot turns up to a gun fight unarmed?

MIKE

One that can count.

Tommy has a confused look. He shoots. CLICK CLICK.

Mike takes hold of the frypan and knocks Tommy out. Tommy is on the floor knocked out cold.

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike rides his Dromedary. In tow is the second Dromedary with Tommy securely bound. Old Pete's cabin left far behind.

TOMMY

Where are ya takin me?

MIKE

To Justice.

EXT. TRAIL NEAR OLD PETE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike with Tommy in tow ride along the same well worn trail that leads to the fork with sign 'Cyanide Springs 2 Miles'.

TOMMY

I know I'm gunna meet my maker
soon, but we all gotta go sometime
right?

They ride on. Tommy is talkative. Mike is silent and ignores Tommy. He stares straight dead ahead.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'll be more famous than Billy the
Kid. Killed lots more then Billy
so it stands ta reason, don't it.

The convoy travels down the trail. Mike remains silent and ignores Tommy. He looks straight ahead.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

My brother Vincent said they print
photographs in newspapers now.
Call it haff tone or somethin'.

The convoy continues down the trail. Mike remains silent, Tommy talkative. Mike's focus is straight ahead.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Anyways, I reckon my photograph
will be on the front page of every
newspaper in the country. Imagine!

The small convoy come to a fork in the trail. A sign on one fork says 'Cyanide Springs 2 Miles'. Mike takes the other fork out into the desert. Tommy looks back at the sign.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hey the town's back thata way.
(ponders)
Oh I get it - take me to the next
town where you won't need to share
the reward. Hey you're smart
mister. Real smart!

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Mike leads the two camel convoy with Tommy bound into the desert. Mike is silent. Tommy is quiet too. He admires this land of cacti, joshua trees, grasses and rocky outcrops. Tommy appreciates the Mojave's timeless beauty.

Mike leads the two camel convoy off the well worn trail into the desert. Tommy doesn't notice they've left the trail. Tommy enjoys the camel ride through the desert grasses and past the various varieties of cacti and the odd joshua tree.

EXT. MOJAVE INDIAN CAMP - DAY

It is a typical day at the Indian camp. Children play tag around the huts. Old squaws make flour. Young braves collect wood. Older braves attend to horses. Young squaws braid each other's hair. Chief smokes his pipe.

Mike's camel convoy arrives at the outskirts of the camp. Mike halts his convoy.

Most of the village come out to meet Mike. A crowd gathers ten yards before Mike's camel convoy. Large fierce braves stand at the front of the crowd. Mosa and Chief push their way through the crowd. They stand before Mike.

TOMMY
(surprised)
Hey mister, what's goin' on?

Mike gets off his Dromedary. He shoves Tommy off the second Dromedary still bound. Tommy hits the ground hard.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Owww! Hey, what are ya doin'?

MIKE
(to Mosa)
This is one of the three
responsible for killing your
brother. The other two are dead.

Mosa smiles. She turns to a few fierce braves standing near.

MOSA
(speaks in Yuman)
This man killed my brother.

The fierce braves roughly drag Tommy through the crowd and away into the camp. Tommy looks extremely frightened.

TOMMY
HEY WHAT'S GOIN' ON? HEY MISTER,
YOU SAID YOU WERE TAKIN' ME TO
JUSTICE. WHAT ARE YA DOIN'?

Tommy no longer moves and he can no longer be seen under the sea of red bull ants that cover his entire body.

A rattle snake slithers away nearby.

EXT. REAR OF MIKE'S CABIN - DAY

Mike digs a small hole near Ma's grave. He uses the small camp shovel. Mike buries the metal box, covers it with dirt.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
The next day I buried the gun again
down near Ma and Joe. I was sure
glad I hadn't broken my promise.

EXT. NEAR BANK OF COLORADO RIVER - DAY

Two Bactrian camels are near the edge of the river bank. Mike slowly approaches the camels with a lasso. He creeps up close, anticipates the camels to run. Mike creeps up closer and easily lassos the camels. Both camels are submissive.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
A few days later, Chief told me his
people had seen two camels down by
the river. When I found em, they
went along without a fuss as if
they was waitin' fer me to show up.

Mike rides off along a well worn track now with one Dromedary and two Bactrian camels in tow. The desert is spectacular as usual. An eagle soars high above.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Mike slowly rides his camel convoy of two Dromedary and two Bactrian camels into town. One Dromedary and both Bactrians are fully loaded with supplies. Mike halts his convoy.

The Preacher and other town folk are rebuilding the church. The frame is almost complete. The Preacher hammers a nail. He looks up and sees Mike, smiles and waves.

MIKE (V.O)
 (gruff voice)
 And it weren't long before the folk
 of Cyanide Springs got around to
 rebuildin' their town.

Mike smiles and waves back. He continues on down the street where similar construction is under way.

MIKE (V.O)
 (gruff voice)
 That's how the west was won.
 Through tenacity and hard work.

Mike continues on down the street. He stops in front of the Bath House which is half built. Chang hammers some wood whilst Aunt May holds up some framework. Aunt May looks up and waves.

MIKE (V.O)
 (gruff voice)
 And so out of the ashes a new town
 blossomed and so too did romance.

Mike smiles and waves back.

Chang hits his thumb with the hammer. He throws the hammer down and waves his thumb about in pain. Aunt May calms him down and kisses his thumb better. Aunt May touches Chang's face and calms him down. Chang looks at Aunt May with love.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

Mike reads a Harpers monthly magazine near a camp fire. He reads a funny story and laughs. He points to the story and looks up as if to tell someone.

Other side of the campfire is a large stone where Joe used to sit but no one is there. Mike looks sad and goes back to reading the magazine.

MIKE (V.O)
 (gruff voice)
 I continued on with deliverin'
 supplies to Cyanide Springs via
 camel. But it just wasn't fun
 anymore. It had lost its zing.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DUSK

Mike leads a convoy of four camels. The second Dromedary and both Bactrians are fully loaded. The convoy travels through the scenic desert with its harsh timeless beauty.

MIKE (V.O)

(gruff voice)

The seasons came and went. The railway finally came but made no difference to me. Supply to remote towns such as Cyanide Springs was still handled by pack animals.

The convoy continues through scenic desert. High up in the sky an eagle soars. Mike stops to view the sunset. The desert, especially the rocky outcrops are glorious in the late afternoon sun.

MIKE (V.O)

(gruff voice)

Some times, when the days near done, I can just make out two people, walkin' hand in hand, in the haze on the horizon.

It's sunset and on the horizon there's a glimmer. Looks like two figures walking side by side. An eagle soars in the sky.

MIKE (V.O)

(gruff voice)

I'm certain it must be Joe and the chief's sister, going for a late afternoon stroll in shadow land.

Mike holds up his arms and waves wildly.

MIKE

HEY! OVER HERE! JOE! JOE! OVER
HERE!

Sunset is almost over and the figures on the horizon have disappeared.

Mike stares hard at the horizon. Tears in his eyes.

MIKE

(waves)

Bye Joe!

EXT. CAMP SITE - DAY**SUPER: 1905, MOJAVE DESERT, ARIZONA**

Old weathered Mike moves slowly as he secures the packs on a Bactrian camel at the camp site. The camels look very old and worn out like Mike. It is a cloudy day.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Mike and his two camel convoy slowly travel the well worn trail in the scenic desert. The harsh timeless beauty of the mojave desert is as glorious as ever. Mike looks very old and tired.

Up ahead is an old brave on a horse blocking the trail. He resembles the wounded brave in the Stone Brother's ambush.

Mike stops his camel convoy of two. He waves to the brave.

The old brave waves back and rides off.

Mike and his camel convoy continue along the well worn trail.

EXT. CYANIDE SPRINGS - LATE AFTERNOON

Mike rides his Dromedary with the fully packed Bactrian in tow into town. The town has street lights and an asphalt main road and side walks. A horseless carriage drives by.

Mike rides past the rebuilt church and other buildings. The town is now twice the size. Some stores have fancy signs.

Miss Jane is up ahead on the side walk. She is in front of the Barber shop. Miss Jane is mid fifties but still attractive and slim. She gives Mike a huge wave and a smile.

Mike returns with a big smile and waves as he passes her by.

The barber shop door opens. Monty steps out. Monty is mid sixties, totally bald but still has a spring in his step. He and Miss Jane walk along the side walk slowly arm in arm.

EXT. NEAR MIKE'S CABIN - NIGHT

It is a full moon and Mike and his two camels, now unloaded, approach the family cabin. The cabin is dark and quiet.

INT. MIKE'S CABIN - NIGHT

Mike is at the edge of a wooden dining table. It appears he is eating alone. Mike takes a drink from a glass.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
Life doesn't always turn out as you
plan.
(beat)
Sadly me and Joe never did visit
the zoo.

Wider view of table reveals two dark haired strapping teen boys. On the other end of the table is Mosa, about fifty, very beautiful with pony tails and tribal tattoo under her lip. Mosa smiles at Mike and Mike returns the smile.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
And Joe would have made a great
uncle.

The boys tell a funny story and both boys laugh. Mosa laughs. Mike laughs. The whole family enjoy their family time together. Mike looks at his family and smiles.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
Still in my mind, whenever I
reminisce. Whenever I dig deep
into that well of golden sand, he's
very much alive.

Mike looks up on the wall and smiles. It is the photograph of him and Joe together smiling.

MIKE (V.O)
(gruff voice)
The two of us without a trouble in
the world. Livin' a care free life,
leadin' a convoy of camels along a
well worn trail in the Mojave.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

It is 1875 again and Mike and Joe sit around the same camp fire. Mike reads a poem from a thick hard covered book.

MIKE (V.O)
 (gruff voice)
 Just me, Joe and Mr Poe.

Joe sits on the edge of his rock anxiously listening to Mike recite Edgar Alan Poe's 'The Raven'.

Mike looks scary as the flames of the camp fire dance on his face. This makes his reading of the Raven more frightening.

MIKE
 "And the Raven never flitting,
 Still is sitting, still is sitting,
 On the pallid bust of Pallas,
 Just above my chamber door."

Joe looks anxious and frightened as he listens to Mike. His eyes are wide open and his jaw has dropped in half shock.

MIKE (O.S)
 "And his eyes have all the seeming,
 Of a demon's that is dreaming,
 And the lamp-light o'er him
 streaming,
 Throws his shadow on the floor."

Mike continues to read the Raven as the light of the flames eerily light up his face.

MIKE
 "And my soul from out that shadow
 that lies floating on the floor,
 (emphasizes last line)
 Shall be lifted - nevermore!"

Joe's eyes are wide open, his jaws dropped and he looks terrified. Joe drops his cup but doesn't notice.

Mike slams the book shut and places it on the ground.

MIKE
 Well it's getting late. Think we
 should call it a day so we can get
 an early start in the morning.

Mike walks over to his bedroll and lies down. Joe does the same.

Joe is flat on his back but his eyes are wide open. He keeps looking around.

Mike is on his back and his eyes are shut.

MIKE

Night Joe.

JOE

(frightened)

Night.

There is a strange bird noise in the dark. Both Joe and Mike sit up.

MIKE

What was that?

JOE

(frightened)

Raven?

Mike stands up and walks over to his Dromedary. Joe sits up.

MIKE

Can't sleep. How about a sing
along?

JOE

(smiling)

Good good.

Mike gets out his harmonica and Joe and Mike resume their places around the camp fire.

Mike plays a decent rendition of 'Oh! Susanna'. Joe sings the first part of the first verse and joins in with the chorus. Joe sways from left to right enjoying the melody.

JOE

(singing)

"Come from Alabama,
Banjo on my knee."

(long beat till chorus)

"Oh! Susanna. Don't cry for me.
Come from Alabama,
With banjo on my knee!"

Mike continues to play 'Oh! Susanna'. Joe smiles, he is happy. He continues to sway side to side and sing along.

FADE OUT.