

MONSTERS OF GOD

Episode Two

"Savage Blows"

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FIRST DRAFT

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INT. ADOBE CLASSROOM. DAY

KATIE WESTPORT, early twenties and very pretty, her hair pulled back into a ponytail, stands in front of a classroom of children - various ages, six to ten years old. In her hand, Katie holds a book - the Good Book, in fact. Little SARAH is struggling through a bit of text-

SARAH

And the... L-L-L-...

KATIE

Sound it out, Sarah.

SARAH

(having a very hard time)

L-L-L-

Little Benny interferes.

BENNY

Lord!

(angry)

You should know that!

SARAH

Okay, Benny. I'll run the class. Go ahead, Sarah.

BENNY

But she should know that, Miss Katie.

One of the children, a young boy named TIMOTHY, is distracted by something - a twig cracking. He looks out the window and sees *something*...

Something fleeting...

Something... he can't quite make it out...

But then he does-

It's a COMANCHE INDIAN on horseback, war paint slathered over his thick face, slowly circling the schoolhouse.

SARAH

(continuing)

- Lord set a m-m-m-ark upon Cain
(she pronounces it "Sane")-

KATIE

(correcting her gently)

Cain.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

That is a very understandable mistake. Remember what we said about a soft "C" and a hard "C".

Timothy now looks to the window on the *other* side of the classroom. There is ANOTHER COMANCHE, also on horseback, also circling. Mounted sharks.

SARAH

-Lest any find-ing him should k-k-kill him.

Timothy raises his hand slowly.

KATIE

(mildly irritated)
Yes, Timothy.

TIMOTHY

(quietly)
Indians.

He points out the window. And now we see there are at least FIVE COMANCHE circling the schoolhouse, including SEES TWO MOONS. One of the boys starts crying.

KATIE

(faux calm)
It's okay, children. They'll go away.

Within a few seconds, the door BURSTS OPEN.

SEES TWO MOONS, riding a mustang, enters.

The children scream. Katie is frozen in place, backed up against the blackboard.

KATIE (CONT'D)

We - we - have no problems with you, sir.

Sees Two Moons slowly trots down the center of the schoolroom. His face is stern and determined. He looks around him- looks at the frightened children as if they are troops he is inspecting. He then turns back at Katie.

His mustang reaches her. Sees Two Moons stands calmly above her and then...

SNATCHES her by her ponytail.

Katie screams.

Sees Two Moons begins to back his mustang up, dragging the helpless young teacher with him. The children begin to cry. Katie through her own gasps and tears manages to say-

KATIE (CONT'D)
It will be okay, children.

But it won't be okay. Not by a long shot.

When Sees Two Moons and the struggling Katie get outside, he clutches her hair even more tightly, puts his mustang into full lope, and with his seismic WHOOPING he and KATIE disappear into the horizon, his fellow braves following.

TITLE- MONSTERS OF GOD

ESTABLISHING SHOTS-

Of the desert.

Of the mountains.

The rocks. The cracks in the Earth. The lizards. The snakes.

It is hot as Jesus out here- so desolate that the devil has nowhere to hide - nor would he try.

And now here is Fort Thayer. A few sentries circle the outpost.

CLOSE ON a horse being washed--

EXT. STABLES. FORT THAYER. EARLY MORNING

Several horses are being cleaned and watered by young soldiers. Also conspicuously there are two young black children, a boy and a girl (TOBY, LORRAINE) who are busy washing a beautiful thoroughbred mare, REGAL. They are busy and focused. From afar, we hear COLONEL "TERRIBLE" BILL LANCASTER approaching-

LANCASTER (O.S.)
Are you two little niggers trying
to scrub the black off my horse?

Both the children look up at him. Lancaster walks between them and Regal.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
What did I tell you two 'bout what
you do when the commanding officer
walks up to you?

The two children stand up straight.

LORRAINE
To stand up, straight!

Toby glares at her and then turns back to Lancaster.

TOBY
Sir!

Lancaster can't help but smirk just a bit. It is clear he has a great deal of affection for these kids. Lancaster crosses to his horse and kisses her straight on the lips.

LANCASTER
Regal! How are you this wonderful morning?

LORRAINE
She's doing real fine, sir. She got fed real good.

LANCASTER
Hope she drank up half the Rio Grande with this heat. Hope you two been drinking, too.

TOBY
Yes sir, Colonel.

The children's father, OATIS, comes up on them. He is a sturdy man of forty-three. He is carrying a heavy saddle with him. He's already got his shirt off, sweating up a waterfall.

OATIS
Good morning, sir.

LANCASTER
Morning, Oatis. I need to report your children for trying to scrub the black off of Regal.

OATIS
(to the kids)
Now, what y'all doin' that for? You know the Colonel likes his horse black as coal. Scares the devil out of all that's evil.

TOBY
But daddy. We weren't trying to do that.

Lancaster puts his hands on his hips.

LANCASTER

Now, you two little niggers do know that Regal can understand every word you say.

LORRAINE

Yes, sir. We know, sir.

LANCASTER

Meaning she can tell me what you all say to each other when me or your daddy ain't here.

LORRAINE

Yes, sir. We didn't say nothing about scrubbing the black off of her.

Lancaster nods to them, indicating he is satisfied.

LANCASTER

(to Oatis)

Let's get her saddled up. It's a good day to be from Texas!!

EXT. FORT THAYER. DAY

Mayor Green rides a horse-drawn wagon into the fort. Next to him is the six-year-old ANNABEL. She is quiet and distant. Traumatized. It is relatively early in the morning and very few people are out. A SENTRY stops him.

SENTRY

May I help you, sir?

GREEN

My name is Walton Green. I'm the mayor of Slater. I need to see Colonel Lancaster.

EXT. FORT THAYER. DAY

McQueen is walking with Ayasha who is in handcuffs. Two soldiers escort them - but are out of earshot. William stands directly behind them.

MCQUEEN

(over shoulder to William)

Ask her where her village is.

William does this. There is no response from Ayasha. She lowers her head.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Not important.

(beat, Comanche)

I am from-

(beat, slowly)

Connecticut.

Still no response.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Ask her if she knows where she was born.

She responds in Comanche.

WILLIAM

She says she was born far away.
With the Numina.

McQueen nods. It is an answer he should have expected.

They now come up to Lancaster's office. On the front porch sits little Annabel. OLIVIA, the head laundress, is with her. Obviously Mayor Green is inside with Lancaster. Annabel and Ayasha exchange a look. Ayasha walks up to Annabel and gently touches her yellow hair. She hasn't seen a little blonde girl in twenty years

Annabel pulls away.

ANNABEL

Hi.

And, now, to everybody's amazement-

AYASHA

Hello.

Ayasha moves forward. McQueen leans in to give a hard listen.

AYASHA (CONT'D)

You're pretty.

And she says this very slowly - almost as if she is remembering her native language as she is saying it.

ANNABEL

You're pretty, too.

OLIVIA

Your squaw can speak English.

McQueen is too transfixed to respond.

AYASHA
What is your name?

ANNABEL
My name is Annabel. What 'bout you?

AYASHA
Ayasha.

ANNABEL
Pretty name.

At that moment, Lancaster comes out.

LANCASTER
McQueen, I was wondering where in
fuck you'd gone. Round up Windom-

MCQUEEN
Windom?

LANCASTER
Sergeant Major Reynolds. Find him
and then you and he join me in
here. Probably a good idea to have
witnesses to this conversation.
(re: Ayasha)
What's she doing out here?

MCQUEEN
Regulations, sir. She is required
one hour outside the cell a day.

Lancaster snorts at this and then walks back into the office.

EXT. TEXAS MOUNTAIN. MORNING

Sees Two Moons awakens - a ray of sun serving as his bell
clock. He scrunches his nose and rubs his eyes- very much
like a human, not at all like a savage. He stands up slowly,
stretches his arms high into the air, as if he was planning
to paint the sky.

Two of the other braves lay asleep. Sees Two Moons nudges
them with his feet. They start to groggily awake.

Sees Two Moons walks a few yards away to take his morning
leak.

A *sound*- minor bells clanking is what it seems like- gets his
attention. He turns around - sees something- and then starts
to walk toward the sound. The CAMERA PULLS him so we don't
see what he is walking toward.

After a bit, the CAMERA CIRCLES behind Sees Two Moons and we see what he sees.

BRAVE ONE is atop Katie, raping her- there is no resistance- she is listless, bloodied horribly from having been hit in the face relentlessly- her arms lay motionless by her side, almost as if her hands were pinned. A pair of bells are attached to his pants- and they CLANK-CLANK-CLANK.

BRAVE TWO is putting on his breechcloth and deerskin leggings. He has just finished with her.

The following dialogue will be in Comanche.

SEES TWO MOONS
Runs With His Hands!

RUNS WITH HIS HANDS (Brave Two) turns. He looks down at the continuing rape - nonchalant - another day on the plains. Then back up to Sees Two Moons. We keep hearing CLANK-CLANK.

SEES TWO MOONS (CONT'D)
I will bring her back to Slater. So they can see what they have done. What *Lan-Cas-Ter* has done.
(beat)
You and Frozen Water will return to the camp.

The "clanking" stops. The rape is over and FROZEN WATER (the other brave) stands up. He walks away.

RUNS WITH HIS HANDS
But, She is valuable. She is young. We bring her to camp- we give her to the tribe- and then we sell her.

SEES TWO MOONS
That is not why we took her.

Katie, whimpering, turns on her stomach and starts to crawl- leaving a trail of blood. Sees Two Moons observes the pathetic sight. In fact, he can't take his eyes off her.

RUNS WITH HIS HANDS
I promise you, no less than twenty horses for her. The Kiowa will pay at least that.

And Katie continues to drag herself.

RUNS WITH HIS HANDS (CONT'D)
She has value.

Sees Two Moons is clearly annoyed with Runs With His Hands

SEES TWO MOONS

Not anymore.

Sees Two Moons walks over to Katie, circles her, and then KICKS her- brutal and unflinching. Katie lands on her back. Sees Two Moons drops to his knees and straddles her. Katie is crying- but barely- her energy can't withstand it. He pulls out a large knife- a shiny, sharp monster of a knife. He lowers it to her nose and - as our CAMERA DRIFTS AWAY - itself not having the stomach to witness what is happening- he starts to slice it off.

Off of Katie's screams.

INT. LANCASTER'S OFFICE. DAY

Lancaster is behind his desk. He is holding an expended point 56 bullet- some sort of souvenir that he rolls around in his hand. McQueen and Reynolds walk in- Green is in mid-sentence.

GREEN

It is a moral abomination.

McQueen salutes. Reynolds doesn't bother. Instead he just takes a seat. Lancaster speaks to them.

LANCASTER

The Comanche have kidnapped the schoolteacher- what's her name?

GREEN

Her name is Katie Westport. She just started (a few weeks ago)-

LANCASTER

(to the men)

Seems about half a dozen or so snatched her clean from the schoolhouse.

MCQUEEN

My God. Are the children okay?

GREEN

Yes, they were left alone.

MCQUEEN

Why didn't they take them? They always take the children.

Lancaster looks on McQueen with disrespectful apathy. Then-

LANCASTER

God help her out there.

GREEN

We are never going to get anybody to replace her.

MCQUEEN

I do believe that we can help you there. Our orders require us to put a school on post regardless.

(to Lancaster)

I can happily arrange that sir.

LANCASTER

Yes, McQueen. You do that.

(beat)

How about that, mayor? We'll have school right here on post. Have a military escort back and forth every day for the children. We'll even provide the teacher.

Green isn't really hearing any of this- he is still in his own horrified world.

GREEN

This is going to keep happening. They're gonna keep returning until they get what they want.

LANCASTER

I understand.

GREEN

You "understand?" But what're you gonna do?

MCQUEEN

Sir, if I may-

Lancaster gestures for him to speak.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Army regulations do give us the right and the authority under the law to gather a unit, find the woman, seek out the wrong-doers, and bring them to justice.

LANCASTER

Yes. *Justice.*

(beat)

(MORE)

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

If ever there was a relative term.
Now Windom and I, we go back, oh,
over twenty years rangers and
such and I think he'd agree that it
won't mean a fucking thing to go
and shoot up a couple of Comanche.

REYNOLDS

To them, that's expected.

LANCASTER

There's only one way to stop them.
And that is to make sure there
ain't no more of 'em.
They all have to die. Every last
breathing one of 'em. That includes
their babies and their babymakers.

McQueen doesn't let on how inflammatory he thinks this
statement is. He remains quiet. Green lifts up his head. It
sounds odd to him as well.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

But in order to do that, well, I
gotta train these know-nothings on
how to kill Comanche. And, more
important, how not to be killed.
That'll take 'em, what do you
think, Windom, three months?

REYNOLDS

Give or take.

GREEN

Three months???

LANCASTER

Yes, sir. In three months I can
promise five hundred Comanche heads
for you to put on full display.
Why, you can ring the entire town
of Slater with 'em.

Green runs his hands through his hair, a nervous tick.
Lancaster simply doesn't get it.

GREEN

You understand that we had peace.
We had a treaty. They were honoring
their end of the bargain.

LANCASTER

Hmm. Do they even have a word for
"honor." I wonder.

GREEN

They just want this woman back.
This Comanche woman you snatched.
This one woman. And from my
understanding even she doesn't want
to be here.

LANCASTER

That woman- that white woman- that
Christian lady- isn't right in the
head. Give her time- I seen it-
give her time and she'll come to.
In any case she serves a purpose.

GREEN

And what is that?

LANCASTER

She's gonna keep those Comanche
sons of bitches in place. They
ain't traveling hundreds of miles
away to chase bison. They ain't
going anywhere until they get the
chief's wife back. That means these
fuckers will still be there in a
few months when I'm ready to take
my men and soak the ground with
their demon blood.

Lancaster stands.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

In the meantime, I will send a
squad of soldiers down to protect
the good people of Slater.

EXT. LANCASTER'S OFFICE. DAY

Green comes out, obviously unsatisfied with how the
conversation went. The first thing he sees is Ayasha making
braids out of Annabel's hair. His eyes widen.

GREEN

Get away from her.

ANNABEL

It's okay. She's nice.

GREEN

She's a savage!

And Green grabs Ayasha and pulls her away. Ayasha trips and
falls to the ground. Lancaster comes out on the porch.

LANCASTER
Mayor Green!

Green turns around. *What?*

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
Let's try to keep the violence to a
minimum here. How 'bout that?

Green grabs Annabel by her little hand and leaves. McQueen
has witnessed all this.

MCQUEEN
She speaks English.

LANCASTER
(to Ayasha)
Is that right?

Ayasha glares at him.

MCQUEEN
Like a five-year-old. I'm guessing
that was her age when she was
kidnapped.

Lancaster nods, gets it. *Interesting.*

EXT. SLATER CITY LIMIT. DAY

A YOUNG BOY is feeding a goat. Out of nowhere, an ARROW
PIERCES the animal and it drops dead. The young boy stands
frozen. In front of him is SEES TWO MOONS, the bloodied and
mutilated Katie sitting on the saddle behind him. Two other
braves sit on mustangs several feet back.

Sees Two Moons shoves Katie off the horse. She falls to the
hard ground- making a sickening thud, barely conscious.

Sees Two Moons casually gets off of his horse. He picks up
the dead goat, brings it to his horse, and lays it over his
saddle. He turns to the boy.

SEES TWO MOONS
For Lan-Cas-Ter.

Sees Two Moons gets on his horse and rides away.

INT. CHAPEL. DAY

Wilcox is working in the chapel. Several men are there as well, sitting in the pews. McQueen enters. He takes stock of the worshipping soldiers.

MCQUEEN

Gentlemen, this isn't Sunday. We need every soul out there on work detail.

Wilcox is stunned by this. The men gather their stuff and start to head out.

WILCOX

These men are worshipping, Major.

MCQUEEN

(smiling)

God'll always be there, Captain. Time and daylight, not so much.

WILCOX

I will have to talk to the Colonel about this.

MCQUEEN

That would be the next step in the chain of command, yes.

WILCOX

Well, it's tantamount to outrage.

The last of the men leave the Chapel. McQueen turns to Wilcox.

MCQUEEN

You have heard about the tragedy at the school in Slater?

WILCOX

Yes, I have. Will the girl be okay?

MCQUEEN

In years, maybe. Now, starting on Monday, the children of Slater and the children on this fort will be going to school here.

WILCOX

I'm sorry. "Here"? Here as in where?

MCQUEEN

Right in the chapel. Right here.
We're required to do it anyway.
Congressional mandate from last
year. You'll be teaching.

WILCOX

Me?

MCQUEEN

In the absence of a teacher, the
Army chaplain assumes those duties.

(beat)

Do you have an issue?

WILCOX

No sir.

MCQUEEN

We'll be collecting schoolbooks
from Slater and getting 'em up
here.

Wilcox nods. There isn't much he can do about this.

INT. CHOW HALL. DAY

McQueen carries a plate of beans into a chow hall full of
enlisted men. He arrives at a table crowded with soldiers. He
is in full-on "eager to please" mode with the troops.

MCQUEEN

You gentlemen mind if I join you?

Nobody at the table has any objection. He sits down.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

I'm Major McQueen. I am your new
executive officer.

The men offer greetings that are slightly muted.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

This is B Company chow hall, right?

One of the soldiers, SIMMONS, nods.

SIMMONS

Yes, sir. Captain Gritt is our
company commander.

MCQUEEN

Yes, I have read all about him.
Good man. So, how is everybody
doing here?

The men mostly shrug.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Now, how many of you all are new to
the Army?

(beat)

Some of you all have served,
though? In the war?

A few nods.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Mostly on the Southern side, I
know. You need not worry about
that, gentlemen. We're all one now.
We're all one.

(changing course)

So, you all must be excited.
Serving under a legend. Colonel
Lancaster.

Simmons starts to get up.

SIMMONS

Good day, sir.

But McQueen senses something.

MCQUEEN

Sit down, Simmons.

(beat)

Please.

Simmons reluctantly does so.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

You have a problem with the
Colonel?

SIMMONS

No, sir.

MCQUEEN

Where you from?

SIMMONS

Raleigh.

MCQUEEN

You fight in the war? I didn't see you indicate either way.

SIMMONS

I was too young. My brother Jeff, though, he died in Antietam.

MCQUEEN

Well, that must be very difficult. Your blood dying like that. And it makes you angry that your commander served for the Union.

SIMMONS

No, sir.

MCQUEEN

Nothing leaves this table.

SIMMONS

I don't mind being commanded by Union soldiers. You seem fine, for example. But Lancaster-

MCQUEEN

Colonel Lancaster.

SIMMONS

Sorry, sir. *Colonel* Lancaster- he's from Texas. He's from the South. And he went and fought against his own people. How you supposed to trust-

Another soldier- BUNSWORTH leaps in-

BUNSWORTH

Simmons, you're an asshole. I'm sorry, sir, but it ain't proper what Simmons is saying. He's our leader and he's tough as nails, the Colonel is. We're lucky.

MCQUEEN

He's barely been here for a month. How do you know he's so tough?

BUNSWORTH

'Cause of his nickname.

MCQUEEN

"The Butcher of Shiloh."

BUNSWORTH
 (putting more emphasis)
 "The Butcher of Shiloh." There's
 that and then there are rumors.

MCQUEEN
 Rumors?

The men don't say anything.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
 Gentlemen, rumors are rumors - I
 won't hold it against him.

BUNSWORTH
 Rumors about what he did to those
 Comanche that he captured.

McQueen raises an eyebrow. Now, for the first time, we see
 that KILLERTON is at the end of table.

EXT. FORT THAYER. NIGHT

McQueen walks out of the tent. Killerton chases after him.

KILLERTON
 Hey!

McQueen stops. Killerton jogs up to him.

KILLERTON (CONT'D)
 McQueen, right?

McQueen looks him over. *Who is this strange man?*

MCQUEEN
 Major McQueen.

KILLERTON
 Ah. Fine. I'm Killerton.

MCQUEEN
 I'm sorry. You're not in uniform.
 What's your rank?

KILLERTON
 Uniforms have an odd way of not
 fittin' me. And my rank is the same
 as anybody I'm talking to.

Before McQueen can express his confusion-

KILLERTON (CONT'D)
I'm on what you'd call special
duty. To combat train the men.

MCQUEEN
Really. Well, you can step down. I
shall be taking over starting
tomorrow.

KILLERTON
Beautiful. More time with the
whores then.
(beat)
Now, sir. Are we going after those
motherfuckers, the ones that stole
the girl?

MCQUEEN
The teacher you mean? The Colonel
has decided-

KILLERTON
(finishing McQueen's
sentence)
That now's not the time to go
seeking. Let's not to go after them
with a dart today when we can go
after them with a howitzer
tomorrow.
(beat)
That'll be the day.

MCQUEEN
You seem to know him well.

KILLERTON
Better than anybody.

McQueen nods. As he starts to walk away-

KILLERTON (CONT'D)
You can be trusted. Right?

MCQUEEN
What kind of question is that?

KILLERTON
A very fucking rude one. My
apologies. I'm sorry.

McQueen nods. Apology accepted.

KILLERTON (CONT'D)

Now, I heard your conversation with the men in there and I didn't like it.

MCQUEEN

Really?

KILLERTON

Personally, I don't like "Terrible Bill." I've known him for longer than anybody except his mom and brother, and not even him on account that he's dead. Tomahawk to the skull. Ugly stuff. Anyway, I don't like Bill- I think he's a prick. But I am the only one- hear this, now- I am the only one certified or allowed to do him any damage.

McQueen kind of sizes up this strange little man. He tilts his hat and walks away.

EXT. LANCASTER'S OFFICE. EARLY EVENING

Lancaster is sitting on his porch trying to pull off his boots. He seems to be having some trouble.

WILCOX

Colonel!

Lancaster looks up. Wilcox jogs up to him.

LANCASTER

Chappy. Excellent. Help me remove these blasted things.

WILCOX

Yessir.

Wilcox grabs the boots- pulls and pulls- until the boot pops off.

LANCASTER

Is there something ya needed?

WILCOX

I must register an objection.

LANCASTER

Let's do the other one now.

Wilcox helps him remove the other boot.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
What's the objection today?

At exactly that moment, the bugle indicating the lowering of the flag is sounded. Both men snap to attention. The bugler finishes.

WILCOX
Your new executive officer came into my tent today- the chapel, I mean- and ordered the parishioners out onto the training ground.

LANCASTER
By parishioners you mean soldiers?

WILCOX
Yessir.

LANCASTER
Individuals who are paid to train?

WILCOX
(frustrated)
Colonel, the men need God in this forsaken desert.

LANCASTER
(laughing)
God gave up on the desert a long time ago, Chappy. Anything else?

Captain Gritt arrives on the scene on his horse.

GRITT
Sir, good evening, sir- Chappy.

LANCASTER
What is it, Captain?

GRITT
The girl, sir? The schoolteacher. The Comanche brought her back.
(beat)
Or some form of her. She's in the hospital.

Lancaster takes a deep breath and steps back into his boots.

INT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT

Lancaster enters the hospital. There are a few men in there, none of them treated for anything particularly severe. They are well enough to notice him when he enters. A couple of men stir enough for Lancaster to gesture to them to lay down.

Lancaster moves to a partition at the end of the hallway.

LANCASTER

Comin' in.

He pulls away the partition. A NURSE is sitting next to a cot where Katie lies. Her face and body are almost mummified by the bandages, blood still seeping into them. Lancaster nods to the nurse. *I need a few minutes.*

After the nurse leaves, Lancaster pulls a seat next to Katie.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

(very quietly)

Are you awake, Miss Westport?

She nods her head.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

May I hold your hand?

She nods her head again.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

My name is Colonel Lancaster. They tell me your name is Katie.

KATIE

Yes.

LANCASTER

My mother's name is Katherine- so I think I like you already.

Katie just nods.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

I want you to know, Katie, that we'll take the best care of you that we can. We have a very good doctor.

(grins)

He may even have gone to medical school.

He squeezes her hand. He is trying not to show it- not to show a hint of weakness-

KATIE

I was very pretty. That's what many a man told me- and not just my papa.

LANCASTER

You still are, Katie. You are still very pretty.

KATIE

How can you tell through the bandages?

LANCASTER

Because of your eyes. Eyes as beautiful as that only exist on a pretty face.

KATIE

I asked to look in a mirror, but they won't let me.

Lancaster smiles gently.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Mayor Green said it's your fault. That you stole one of their women and this is their way of getting her back. Is that true?

His eyes begin to water. He looks around hoping nobody's seeing him like this.

LANCASTER

No. Not at all. Not at all.

KATIE

No man'll ever want me.

The partition is pulled aside. The DOCTOR enters. Lancaster stands.

LANCASTER

Is this all we can do? Bandages? This is all we can do for this brave, brave girl?

DOCTOR

Yes, sir. Other than more morphine, which I'll give her, it's all we can do.

The doctor leans close to her. He examines her bandages.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I am gonna take off these bandages.
Let's see how these stitches are.

The doctor slowly undoes the bandages. Lancaster watches. When they are fully off, he winces, but only slightly.

LANCASTER

I want you to know, Katie, that we're going to get you to San Antonio. They got doctors that specialize in this kind of thing.

Lancaster stands up. He's going to let her rest. The doctor, overhearing the conversation, speaks up.

DOCTOR

Actually, Colonel, the lady is going to have to get used to this. Modern medicine can't handle it.

LANCASTER

That so?

DOCTOR

She can have pain-killers. And after the nerve endings have died she won't need even that.

LANCASTER

Doc, can I see you outside for a moment?

The Doctor nods. The second they get outside the partition, Lancaster grabs him and DRAGS him down the length of the hospital. The patients watch this with some kind of shock. Lancaster literally hurls him outside-

EXT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT

The Doctor lands on the ground. Lancaster stands over him.

LANCASTER

You are very lucky that you're all we got in terms of a doctor. Otherwise, I'd break you in two.

He lifts the Doctor up by his collar.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

That's a lady- a suffering lady- and you're not to forget that. She don't need to "hear it like it is."

The Doctor nods. He gets it. Lancaster walks away...

INT. JAIL CELL. NIGHT

Ayasha is startled by Lancaster walking in. Another PRISONER in the adjoining cell gets to his feet.

PRISONER
Colonel Lancaster, sir- I been
unjustly incriminated-

LANCASTER
Shut the fuck up, soldier. Rot in
here like a man.

Ayasha has backed up into the cell. Lancaster stares at her - filled with resentment - not at her, but at his *plan* - his plan that will spew blood and hell before it can be completed in its final inferno.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
What is your name?

AYASHA
Ayasha.

LANCASTER
Those shackles ain't coming off
until a Christian name rolls off
them lips.

He turns and walks out.

I/E. SLATER SALOON/BORDELLO. NIGHT.

THE FOLLOWING IS A STEADICAM SHOT STARTING FROM HERE...

Lancaster, stooped, beaten, walks into the saloon. A few soldiers notice him but say nothing.

We FOLLOW him up the stairs.

When he gets to the top flight he walks down the hallway.

LANCASTER
Irais!

We FOLLOW behind him as he opens the door and finds a whore with an old man. He slams the door shut.

We FOLLOW behind him as he opens the door and finds a man getting dressed after finishing with a whore... He slams the door shut.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Irais! Where the hell are ya?

He opens the final door. A NAKED MAN is atop of Irais. She's bored to death so is especially alert when Lancaster enters.

We follow Lancaster into the room as he grabs the unsuspecting naked man and FLINGS him out into the hallway.

STEADICAM ends here.

Lancaster slams the door shut and locks it. Irais sits up.

IRAIS

Terrible Bill!

LANCASTER

Tell me you are not in love with that man.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK from the other side of the door.

IRAIS

(smiling rosily)

I am not in love with that man.

Irais starts to put her clothes on.

LANCASTER

Keep 'em off.

(then in Spanish)

Basta.

From the other side of the door..

NAKED MAN (O.C.)

Please, I just need my clothes.

Lancaster takes off his pants. Irais lays her head down on the pillow. This is somehow crazy romantic for her.

BANG BANG BANG from the naked man.

Lancaster starts to make love to her. It's not the aggressive sex from the first episode. It's pure, gentle lovemaking. Cathartic.

LANCASTER

The inside of you is a special place, Irais.

IRAIS

I do not understand.

LANCASTER

Aw, hell, yes you do.

And, of course she does understand. She's a woman. She just needs to look at him to understand he is a man in pain, in a spiritual pain, and that he needs some bona fide love.

BANG BANG BANG from the naked man. Lancaster continues, then he holds Irais's face and kisses her.

THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE IS A STEADICAM STARTING FROM HERE...

EXT. FORT THAYER/ INT. MCQUEEN'S HOUSE. NIGHT

We FOLLOW Cynthia, carrying a lantern, as she walks through the pitch blackness of Fort Thayer. We FOLLOW her as she climbs up the stairs of one house and onto the porch. We FOLLOW her as she enters the house. We FOLLOW her as she walks through the house. We FOLLOW her still as she enters...

A bedroom. We see a man asleep in the bed. Cynthia puts the lantern on top of a dresser. The lantern now illuminates the bed. The man remains asleep. Cynthia pulls down her undergarment from beneath her dress.

Cynthia goes to the bed and stands over the snoring man. She pulls back the sheets. The man is wearing only underwear.

She starts to stroke him. The man mumbles in his sleep, just barely stirred. Now, she pulls out his cock and begins to go down on him. The man stirs some more.

The man is now erect. Cynthia climbs on top of him and starts to ride him. Now, the man awakens. He lifts himself up on his elbows. It's McQueen.

MCQUEEN

Mrs. Lancaster!

Cynthia rides him harder.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Stop it!

He grabs her by her hips and pulls her off. She falls off the side of the bed. But, she's okay. She's even laughing.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing, ma'am?

She gets up and kisses McQueen on the forehead as if he were a child she was saying "good night" to.

Cynthia grabs the lantern and, for the first time, walks TOWARD us into a close-up. Right before she exits the room-

CYNTHIA

You are really quite adorable.

We linger on the dumbfounded McQueen as the...

STEADICAM SHOT ENDS.

EXT. FORT THAYER. NIGHT

Lancaster, lantern in hand, is walking across the parade ground. He notices Cynthia walking into their home. Odd. So late at night. He gives thought to something.

INT. MCQUEEN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

McQueen lays awake in bed staring at the ceiling. *Did that really just happen?* As he grapples with that question, the DOOR BURSTS OPEN. McQueen leaps up.

LANCASTER

MAJOR MCQUEEN!

McQueen gets to his feet.

MCQUEEN

Sir.

Lancaster notices something...

LANCASTER

Unless you wanna fuck me, I'd put that away.

McQueen notices he is "hanging out" of his drawers. He adjusts himself. Now Lancaster stares at him. McQueen hopes Cynthia wasn't dumb enough to have confessed to Lancaster what just happened.

Lancaster sits down on a small wooden stool.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Sit down. I ain't gonna have you towering above me.

McQueen sits down on the edge of his bed.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
You got a wife back home, I
suppose?

MCQUEEN
Yessir.

LANCASTER
What's her name?

MCQUEEN
Her name's Hillary.

LANCASTER
You love her?

MCQUEEN
Very much.

LANCASTER
And you're loyal to her? I mean,
people would understand, you're
away from home, in horrible
circumstances-

MCQUEEN
Always faithful.

LANCASTER
Well, damn that's good to know.
(beat)
We're responsible for 'em. You
know. The women.

MCQUEEN
Of course, sir.

LANCASTER
It's not just because they're weak
and we're strong. They're mothers.
They give our children milk.
(beat)
You're from a place where people
smile, McQueen. Ain't much cause to
smile in Texas if you gotta know.
But we're gonna change all of that.
(beat)
We're gonna win this war, Major.
And when we do it'll be written
about, I can promise you that.

MCQUEEN
Yes, sir.

LANCASTER
But I can only do it with loyal
men.

MCQUEEN
Of course.

Lancaster nods, happy his message came across.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
But, sir-

McQueen can see that Lancaster is drifting into a stupor-

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
Sir?

Lancaster looks up.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
The country isn't at war.

LANCASTER
(standing)
Is that what they told ya?

Lancaster starts to stumble out.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
Good night, McQueen.
(beat)
Thank you for that loyalty.

As Lancaster walks out he stumbles over the lantern. As soon as it hits the ground it ignites a small fire. McQueen leaps out of bed to put it out.

He does so successfully. Then McQueen hears something. From outside, Lancaster is singing "Yellow Rose of Texas."

INT. LANCASTER HOME. NIGHT

Lancaster is looking through a trunk- pulling this and that out. Cynthia comes up behind him.

CYNTHIA
Are you okay, Bill?

Lancaster finds what he is looking for.

LANCASTER
Yeah, I'm okay. Go back to bed,
Cynthia. Go back to bed.

CYNTHIA
Can I help you?

LANCASTER
Get to bed!

INT. BARRACKS. NIGHT

The men are asleep. The amount of snoring is so intense it is almost comical. Lancaster enters the room. One of the men who is awake notices Lancaster. He leaps out of bed.

AWAKE SOLDIER
ATTENTION!!!!!! ATTENTION!!!

Most of the men get out of bed, some quickly, some groggily.

LANCASTER
Which of you lumps is in charge of
reveille?

EXT. FORT THAYER. PARADE GROUND

Most of the unit is standing at attention. McQueen is inspecting them, Reynolds by his side with a notepad. McQueen comes on to a soldier by the name of MAHER.

MCQUEEN
What's your name, soldier?

MAHER
Corporal Maher, sir.

MCQUEEN
Maher when was the last time that
you had your uniform cleaned?

MAHER
About a month ago I'd say, sir.

MCQUEEN
Well, I think you're due for
another cleaning- and a mending of
that pocket.

MAHER
Yessir- but, sir, I don't have
another uniform to wear in the
meantime. My other was stolen-
right from duffel, sir.

McQueen looks to the next soldier, PALIN.

MCQUEEN
Soldier, you have an extra uniform?

PALIN
Yessir.

MCQUEEN
OK, let Maher borrow your spare one until he cleans his own uniform.

PALIN
Sir- ain't gonna let some Reb asshole wear my clothes, sir.

McQueen looks him up and down.

MCQUEEN
Private Palin, this man is not a reb. He is an American fighting man who you will have to count on in the field of battle. You will lend him your uniform *as ordered*.

Palin remains stoic.

REYNOLDS
Right about now is when you'd be saying, "Yes, sir!"

PALIN
(seething)
Yessir.

They now come up on Private Taylor. McQueen notices his medal for conspicuous courage. He gives it a look-over.

MCQUEEN
This is unauthorized- It's illegal.

REYNOLDS
Special dispensation from the Colonel, sir.

We hear the bugling of "REVEILLE." Reynolds stops what he is doing and stands at attention, thrusting out his chest, and-

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
REGIMENT- ATT-EN-TION!

All the soldiers, McQueen included, come to attention.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
PRESENT ARMS!

The men salute. We follow McQueen's eyes as he follows the flag up and up and up.

And then McQueen's eyes come to a squint. There it is-

The **flag of Texas** flies atop the flagpole.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
Order Arms! Fall Out!!!

McQueen stops Reynolds. He points to the flag.

MCQUEEN
Master Sergeant-

REYNOLDS
You will have to take that up with the Colonel, sir. But if you ask me, that's a thing of beauty.

EXT. COMANCHERIA. DAY

Sees Two Moons is riding up the mountainside when another Comanche, a year or two younger, approaches him. This is WOLF HEART. (The following conversation takes place in Comanche.)

SEES TWO MOONS
Everything okay while I was gone?

They start to ride together. The camera will be FAIRLY TIGHT on the two of them as they continue their conversation.

WOLF HEART
Did you think we couldn't exist without you?

SEES TWO MOONS
How is father?

WOLF HEART
Very sad. I'm worried for him.

SEES TWO MOONS
Ayasha is fine. We'll get her back.

WOLF HEART
You and father are both stupid with love for this woman.

SEES TWO MOONS
She is more than just a woman.

WOLF HEART

But she is just a woman. Nothing special. She is good for fucking and skinning buffalo. Nothing more. Father doesn't even fuck anymore.

SEES TWO MOONS

That is not the point.

WOLF HEART

No. Of course not. Because you still fuck. But you have a wife and two slaves and captives to fuck.

SEES TWO MOONS

We are getting Ayasha back. We are bringing back father's wife.

WOLF HEART

The buffalo will be gone soon. We must follow them before they get too far away and we will all starve.

SEES TWO MOONS

None of us will starve!

Sees Two Moons gallops away in a fury. We see we are in a Comanche village - hundreds of braves training, women working and skinning, children playing, hundreds of horses, meat smoking over low fires. An entire primitive metropolis.

EXT. FORT THAYER. DAY

Lancaster is outside the fort training Regal at a fast clip. He slows her down a bit. Rubs her back.

LANCASTER

Regal, ya may be the world's most beautiful beast, ya know that?

McQueen comes riding up on his horse.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Morning, McQueen. First day training the men, huh?

MCQUEEN

Good morning, sir. Yes sir. First day. Starting soon. I was wondering if I could have (a word).

LANCASTER
I need a word myself.

MCQUEEN
Oh?

LANCASTER
My wife has insisted that I invite you to dinner tonight at my quarters. Oatis will prepare a feast of feasts for us.

MCQUEEN
Your wife requested this, sir?

LANCASTER
An accommodating girl isn't she?

MCQUEEN
Well, yes sir. I wouldn't know that, but she seems wonderful.

LANCASTER
Is what you need to talk about important?

MCQUEEN
In fact it is.

LANCASTER
Must we dealt with at this moment?

MCQUEEN
Well, no...

LANCASTER
Then I need to train Regal a while more. We can yap over this or that regulation later. Seven-thirty. Tonight.

Lancaster digs into his horse and is riding off. When Lancaster is out of earshot-

MCQUEEN
(to himself)
An accommodating girl.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM. DAY

Cynthia barks orders to five women there. Olivia included.

CYNTHIA

You women are using far too much water. There ain't a drop to waste-

OLIVIA

Ma'am-

CYNTHIA

What is it, Olivia?

OLIVIA

Ma'am. You're the Colonel's wife. Wouldn't you rather be doing Colonel's wife things than spending time with us?

CYNTHIA

Are you challenging my authority?

McQueen walks in. The women all stiffen up.

OLIVIA

(not noticing McQueen)

Ma'am, see, I'm not exactly sure what that authority might be.

MCQUEEN

Mrs. Lancaster. Ladies.

The woman all greet the handsome soldier. He looks to Cynthia with a polite nod of the head.

EXT. LAUNDRY TENT. DAY

They situate themselves just far enough away for privacy.

CYNTHIA

What can I do for you, Major?

MCQUEEN

I was hoping ma'am, we could talk about the events of last night.

CYNTHIA

That was very lovely.

MCQUEEN

No. Mrs. Lancaster, it wasn't lovely. Not at all.

CYNTHIA

Am I not feminine enough for you? Do you have eyes on somebody else?

MCQUEEN

What? Somebody else? No.

CYNTHIA

Thank goodness.

MCQUEEN

Ma'am- that wasn't supposed to happen - what happened.

CYNTHIA

I am sorry, Major McQueen. What is it that wasn't supposed to happen?

MCQUEEN

The lovemaking with me without my consent.

CYNTHIA

Without your consent? Are you saying I raped you? Should we notify the authorities?

MCQUEEN

I have a wife. I have children. Your husband's my commander.

CYNTHIA

There is no doubt we have a connection. It's been so long since I have had such a (connection).

MCQUEEN

Connection? Ma'am, it's very possible that you are-
(holds himself)
It can never happen again. I would prefer if we treat last night's events as if they never happened.

CYNTHIA

I know. It "never happened."
(leans in)
You let me know when you want it to never happen again.

MCQUEEN

Never, ma'am. Never.

CYNTHIA

You know, I can be very discreet. I can't think of a single reason now why my husband has to know.

She gives the befuddled McQueen a kiss on the cheek and walks back into the laundry tent. Was that some kind of threat?

EXT. FORTH THAYER PARADE GROUND. DAY

McQueen is on his horse, watching the men training. What is going on right now is exactly this:

Four soldiers clumsily ride their horses to a stop - a kind of screeching stop. ALL FOUR dismount. Three of the men grab their long rifles and run forward, landing on their stomachs and taking aim.

The fourth soldier holds the reins of all the other horses.

The three soldiers on the ground don't fire weapons. Instead-

SOLDIERS
(yelling)
Bang-bang-bang!

McQueen cocks his fist in the air, like a coach who has seen his team score. Again, it seems like McQueen wants to be liked- he's trying so hard here.

MCQUEEN
Yes. Perfect. You've invigorated
me, second platoon. Well done
second platoon. Third platoon. Go!

Now, the soldier of third platoon repeat the action. They ride, dismount, man holds the reins, "bang-bang-bang."

Killerton is sitting down on the ground watching all of this with a kind of bemusement.

Lancaster, riding Regal, comes up on this. He looks at the resting Killerton who has lit up a giant cigar.

LANCASTER
What in the name of fuck are you
sitting around for?

Killerton points to the training.

KILLERTON
With all due respect, Bill- I'm
"learning how it's done."

Lancaster shakes his head with a smirk. He trots over right behind McQueen.

LANCASTER
Major McQueen.

McQueen rides up to the Colonel and exchanges salutes.

MCQUEEN
I think the men are vastly
improving.

LANCASTER
"Bang-bang?"

MCQUEEN
Men are requisitioned just ten
bullets a month. Need to preserve
the ammo.

LANCASTER
Ah. Very logical. But, major, you
don't seem to be doing this quite
by the book.

MCQUEEN
How so, sir?

LANCASTER
Well, Private Lewis there holding
the horses? He needs to wrap the
reins around his hands good and
taut.

MCQUEEN
Ah, a little something I forgot.
Thank you, sir.

LANCASTER
You are very welcome.

MCQUEEN
(yelling)
Lewis! Wrap the reins around your
hands!!!

Lewis does that.

Now Lancaster takes his revolver and shoots at the feet of
the private.

Naturally, the horses are freaked out. They all turn and run
away, dragging the poor private with them. The other men are
stunned to see this.

LANCASTER
Sergeant Major?

Reynolds now takes off after the dragged private. McQueen is a little stunned by this. Lancaster smiles at McQueen. Then Lancaster turns to the soldiers.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

You, son- stand over there by the trough.

(to another)

You stand by the armory.

The two soldiers follow orders and stand at attention at their appointed spots.

Lancaster trots his horse among the men.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

In order to defeat the savages you will have to fight from your horse. Get off of your steed and you will die as sure as you would walking off of a cliff.

(beat)

I know Mr. Killerton has been teaching you how to ride. But you need more. All of you grab your balls.

All the men grab their balls.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

If they don't feel like steel yet, well, we gotta work on that.

The men laugh. Reynolds brings back the pathetic private who was dragged away.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Ah, Private Lewis. You are okay? Or are you one of those pussies who can't deal with a little bit of dragging?

PRIVATE LEWIS

No, sir.

REYNOLDS

He's fine, sir, a real man.

LANCASTER

Outstanding!

(back to the men)

(MORE)

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

You have to train your horse to love you, to obey you, and to lope with the smooth ease of running water. It's from the lope that you can get off the best shot.

Lancaster now gallops Regal about fifty yards away and turns around. He puts revolvers in both hands.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Let's show 'em, Regal.

And Regal moves into a gorgeous lope- a fast lope- the men watch in astonishment as Lancaster fires both revolvers at the same time in different directions while on the move.

BAM, the cap from the private by the trough gets knocked off.

BAM, at the same time the cap from the private by the armory gets knocked off.

Both men nearly fucking faint.

McQueen watches this. That was pretty fucking good.

Lancaster trots back in front of the soldiers.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Please don't try this with your friends until you have had more instruction from Mr. Killerton.
(turns to Killerton)
Mr. Killerton! You may take over.

KILLERTON

Anything for Texas, sir.

As Killerton rides away, Lancaster comes to McQueen.

MCQUEEN

That was impressive, sir. Risky, I suppose.

LANCASTER

All you can do is "suppose," Major. Those boys were safer with me shooting caps off their heads than they would be shaving.

MCQUEEN

For the record, sir, I was training the men in accordance with-

LANCASTER

Regulations. Yes, I know.

Lancaster smiles at this - he's starting to get a reputation out here.

MCQUEEN

Yes sir. What I meant to say is I was training the man in accordance with their capabilities.

(beat)

You were firing off a Winchester. The men only have Sharps carbines.

LANCASTER

And some just have muskets. Even worse.

MCQUEEN

Right. They're one shooters. They can't go into battle with that. Not mounted, anyway.

LANCASTER

(almost amused)

Especially against the Comanche.

MCQUEEN

If they had Spencers that would work - that's twenty rounds a minute - that could turn the battlefield around. But, I checked, and, sir, none have been requisitioned for Fort Thayer. None.

LANCASTER

Yeah. Fuckin' Washington. Never has a dime for the soldier. Especially after the war.

(beat)

Hmmm. Well, tell you what. Why don't the men pretend they have Spencers.

MCQUEEN

"Pretend"?

LANCASTER

Yes, like the "bang-bang".

MCQUEEN

Are you serious?

LANCASTER

I am.

MCQUEEN

Okay, sir, but- they need to train with what they have. If, for some reason, we get into a battle with the Comanche-

LANCASTER

And we will-

MCQUEEN

Their pretend Spencers aren't going to do them a lot of good.

LANCASTER

Thank you for your opinion. Nevertheless, I'd like for you to humor a crazy old kook like me. Mr. Killerton will run the training. You will oversee.

Even though he is taken aback by all of this-

MCQUEEN

As you wish, sir.

INT. TEEPEE- COMMANCHERIA. NIGHT

SEES TWO MOONS makes love to his wife- HAIR WITH SNAKES. She is a pretty woman- maybe twenty years old. And the point here is they are indeed making love.

SEES TWO MOONS

(quietly)

I want you to put your thighs on my shoulders.

Hair With Snakes moves into this sexual position. She moans loudly as he trusts deeply in her.

SEES TWO MOONS (CONT'D)

(proudly)

You see!

From outside the teepee-

WOLF HEART (O.C.)

Sees Two Moons!

Sees Two Moons is irritated with this interruption.

WOLF HEART (CONT'D)
We are wanted at the council.

HAIR WITH SNAKES
Why is there a council?

SEES TWO MOONS
(still thrusting)
I will be back soon.

And then he pulls up, is on his feet, and out the tepee and what seems to be one move.

INT. LANCASTER LIBRARY. NIGHT

In a room brimming with candles, a fully uniformed McQueen is looking through some of Lancaster's books. Cynthia walks in and stands behind him. She puts her hand on his back.

CYNTHIA
Anything you haven't read, Mr. McQueen?

MCQUEEN
I'm afraid I have not read the entire Folio.

CYNTHIA
That was my daddy's collection. I got it on his passing. My brother wasn't interested.

MCQUEEN
What does he do, your brother?

CYNTHIA
Railways now. If you'd put that book back, you can return and read it anytime. Bill and the others are at the table, and feeling particularly carnivorous tonight.

INT. DINING ROOM. NIGHT

The dining room table has around it a few officers: There is CAPTAIN GRITT, CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE and his wife ELOISE, CHAPLAIN WILCOX, MAJOR GEFFEN, KILLERTON, CYNTHIA, MCQUEEN, and LANCASTER. They are all consuming beef and wine.

Standing against the wall in the back of the room are Lorraine and Toby, Oatis' little children.

CAPTAIN GRITT

The word is that when General Grant becomes President Grant we're going to have to make nice with the Comanche and all the tribes.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE

How do you hear this, Henry?

CAPTAIN GRITT

My father's on staff with the Indian Bureau. That's the talk.

LANCASTER

What do you think about all this, McQueen?

MCQUEEN

Think I'll steer away from politics. I'll serve with faith in my civilian leaders, though.

Killerton, who quite obviously has the worst table manners, talking with a full mouth, chimes in.

KILLERTON

Well, I ain't voting for Grant if this bullshit is true, then.

ELOISE

Why not, Mr. - I am sorry, Mr.-

KILLERTON

Killerton. Spelled just like it sounds. Or so I been told.

ELOISE

And why not support Grant's peace?

KILLERTON

Grant, he's-

(to Lancaster)

No offense, Bill. I know you like the prick, but fuck him. The man is responsible for the deaths and mutilations of a million of his own people and he wants to pansy into Washington and coddle these devils.

ELOISE

They're only devils because we turn them into such, Mr. Killerton.

KILLERTON
 (still chewing)
 What's your name, honey?

ELOISE
 Eloise.

KILLERTON
 Well, Eloise, You ever been fucked
 by a Comanche?

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
 Hold on there, (Killerton).

ELOISE
 (in command of her
 husband)
 I have not so much as met a
 Comanche.

KILLERTON
 Ah, well, if you had, and maybe one
 day, you will, I assure you the
 experience would stick in your
 mind. Because to them rapin' is
 fuckin' and fuckin' is rapin'. And,
 it ain't gonna be just one, it's
 gonna be forty or fifty of 'em. And
 they ain't gonna just fuck you with
 their cocks. They're gonna fuck you
 with sticks, and spears, and
 buffalo bones.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
 Mr. Killerton!

KILLERTON
 Now, if ya happen to be pregnant.
 They'll slice up yer belly and take
 out your child and eat him.

LANCASTER
 Okay, then, I think your point is
 made, Kelly.

But it's not. Not yet-

KILLERTON
 After every man there has raped
 you, and after they've sold your
 pussy to other tribes and Mexicans
 a hundred times over, then it's
 time for them to have fun.

(MORE)

KILLERTON (CONT'D)

They'll slice off your ears, and then your nose. And after that, they'll either show you mercy and burn you alive or they'll enslave you.

Bainbridge is blue in the face from anger - looking over at Lancaster and wondering why this has not stopped.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE

Idiotic, Killerton! They'd have to go through me first to get Eloise.

KILLERTON

Now there's a challenge for 'em.
(smirks)
Captain, you ain't never even seen a Comanche have you? When you do, get ready to find out what your own cock tastes like, 'cause it's getting chopped off and thrust down your throat.

Killerton takes another bite of his food.

KILLERTON (CONT'D)

After all this is done to you, Eloise, you can look 'em in the eye and say, "I forgive you. Because inside I know the angels that you are."

Lancaster is eager to break things up. He yells out the room-

LANCASTER

Oatis!!!!

Lancaster notices that McQueen's wine glass is empty. He turns to Lorraine and Toby.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Well, is one of you two adorable niggers gonna fill the Major's glass?

Lorraine runs forward with some wine and fills up the glass.

MCQUEEN

Thank you.

Killerton is not done.

KILLERTON

I don't agree with Terrible Bill on much, but I do agree that there is no peace to be made. Anyway, peace puts me out of a job.

And for that, Killerton gets some laughs. But not from Bainbridge.

Oatis enters the room.

LANCASTER

Oatis.

(re: beef)

Did you slaughter this beast on your own?

OATIS

Yes, sir. And not long ago at that.

LANCASTER

Well, you did a spectacular job.

(to the room)

Have you ever feasted on a piece of beef this delicious?

(before anyone can answer)

You put your special spices into it, didn't ya, Oatis?

Oatis nods. Grinning with pride.

CYNTHIA

Thank you, Oatis. It's wonderful.

Oatis nods and then smiles to his kids before he leaves.

LANCASTER

I freed Oatis in 1848.

(to the children)

Your daddy was a slave once. You know that?

TOBY

Yes, sir.

LANCASTER

Cynthia's daddy gave him and his wife Sarah to us as part of a dowry. But we freed him and he's been loyal as white on rice ever since.

MCQUEEN

I imagine he would be, sir.

LANCASTER
So, McQueen, what do you think
about this so-called Quaker policy?

MCQUEEN
Well, it's not implemented, so-

LANCASTER
Let's have fun with the
hypothetical then.

McQueen nods. He smiles.

MCQUEEN
If it comes from President Grant, I
would say his judgment has been
well proven.

LANCASTER
(laughing hard)
By God, you're good at that. The
non-answer answer!
(beat)
How many battles you fought, son?

MCQUEEN
I fought at Gettysburg, sir. Led a
platoon.

LANCASTER
Gettysburg. That was a shit fight.

MCQUEEN
It was memorable.

Lancaster lifts his glass.

LANCASTER
Here is to memories from hell.

Everybody at the table raises their glasses.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)
By the way, you wanted to talk to
me about something earlier today.

MCQUEEN
That can wait, sir.

LANCASTER
Oh, I have nobody here but trusted
advisors and such. Go ahead.

MCQUEEN

I was just going to talk to you
about the flying of the Texan flag.

LANCASTER

Yes?

MCQUEEN

Well, this is a United States
outpost.

LANCASTER

In Texas.

MCQUEEN

Well, yes, of course, but the
cavalry protects the United States.

LANCASTER

I am quite sure that the people of
New York or Charleston do not feel
threatened by the Comanche Indians.
As long as they are ravaging
Texans, Texas will know that it is
in our hearts.

MCQUEEN

It's just an irregular-

LANCASTER

(near anger for first
time)

The fucking flag stays!

And McQueen gives him a look- one we haven't seen yet- of
defiance.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

(recovering)

Forgive me, everybody. This is an
emotional topic for me.

(beat)

Does anybody else at this table
object to the Texan flag flying
over this post?

Nobody responds. Or rather, nobody dares to respond.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Ah, well, majority rules then,
Major McQueen. We do live in a
Democracy after all.

MCQUEEN

Yes, sir.

Cynthia decides to alter the tension.

CYNTHIA

Where are you from, Major McQueen?

MCQUEEN

I received my commission at West Point.

CYNTHIA

Oh, we all know that. I mean where did you grow up?

MCQUEEN

Connecticut ma'am. Greenwich.

CYNTHIA

What do people do in Greenwich?
What did your father do?

MCQUEEN

He's a lawyer, ma'am.

LANCASTER

(laughing)

"First we kill all the lawyers."

CYNTHIA

Not nice, Bill.

LANCASTER

It's Shakespeare for God's sake, Cynthia. I read it in one of your daddy's books.

MCQUEEN

"Henry VI." You know it's a rather misinterpreted line. The character was talking about eliminating those who were for law and order. People who might stand in the way of a revolution. Shakespeare was showing the importance lawyers play in society. The importance of following the rules.

LANCASTER

That's very impressive how you circled your way back to the topic of following rules.

MCQUEEN
It is indeed, sir.

Lancaster looks up at the clock.

LANCASTER
According to Cynthia's daddy's big
clock-

CYNTHIA
My brother didn't want that either.

LANCASTER
-It's just about nine. Time for us
to show you a tradition I have
instituted here at Fort Thayer,
McQueen.
(he turns around)
OATIS!!!

MCQUEEN
Tradition, sir?

Oatis comes in.

Everybody starts to file out of the dining room.

LANCASTER
Ready for the Bonfire Games, Oatis?

OATIS
Yes, sir. I am.

TOBY/LORRAINE
CAN WE COME, DADDY? CAN WE?

OATIS looks down at them sternly.

OATIS
We already done discussed this. You
go on to the house and get some
sleep. You ain't allowed nowhere
near that place.

The children pout.

LANCASTER
You're a tougher master than I ever
coulda' been, Oatis.
(to McQueen)
Let's go. I will walk you over
there.

EXT. LANCASTER HOME. NIGHT

The guests file out. Bainbridge excuses himself from his peeved wife and jogs over to Killerton.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
Excuse me, Mr. Killerton.
(beat)
I need a word with you.

KILLERTON
Sure. Go ahead.

Bainbridge summons up some courage.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
Sir, I found your behavior in there coarse and intolerable. And, furthermore, it was to a lovely lady. More to the point, that lady was my wife-

KILLERTON
Whoa. Whoa. When you asked me for a "word", that's what I thought you meant. A "word". Not a speech.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
You need to (understand)-

KILLERTON
Let me guess. She was on you for not standing up to me in there and now you gotta put on a show. Right?

Bainbridge doesn't immediately answer.

KILLERTON (CONT'D)
Look, Bainbridge, I'm not much into talkin' out problems. If you want we can fight. Fists. Knives. Guns. Whatever you want.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE
What?

Killerton points out the fort gates.

KILLERTON
I'm camping about three hundred yards that way. We can go out there and you can give me a beating.
(MORE)

KILLERTON (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll get in a lucky punch or two, but, you know, I fully expect to be taught a lesson.

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE

Sir, I am an officer in the United States Cavalry.

KILLERTON

And your wife's a cunt. Guess you both lose.

And Killerton leaves. Eloise walks up to her husband.

ELOISE

Well?

CAPTAIN BAINBRIDGE

He'll behave like a gentleman around you from now on.

EXT. COMANCHERIA. NIGHT

Several Comanches sit around a fire. Included is SEES TWO MOONS, WOLF HEART, and the CHIEF.

SEES TWO MOONS

She was in their jail. She was wearing the chains that the whites put their slaves in.

The Chief's heart seems to sink in front of us.

WOLF HEART

Father, I know that Ayasha is not an ordinary wife. She is special to all of us. But you have other wives. You can acquire other wives.

Sees Two Moons turns to his brother in disgust. He finds it hard to believe that suggestion was made.

CHIEF

We will not allow this man to enslave her.

SEES TWO MOONS

Lancaster. He is a monster, Father. He tortured and mutilated men from this tribe. He has probably already raped her and given her to the other bluecoats.

The Chief literally begins to weep.

SEES TWO MOONS (CONT'D)

Father, I have already taken vengeance on one of their women. These are things the white man is not accustomed to having happen. Perhaps, perhaps soon, they will want to suffer no more and give you back Ayasha.

WOLF HEART

Or perhaps you will bring all the bluecoats down upon us.

SEES TWO MOONS

I saw the men there. They cannot find us. They can not fight us. If they try, we will destroy them. But we can't go down there, either. Not to the fort.

(he leans forward)

We will beat them by taking everything they have around them- one by one. Little by little. The white man's heart is fragile.

WOLF HEART

Father- while we take the time to do this, our people will get more and more hungry. We must travel with the bison. Remember, father, in the end, she is not one of us.

The Chief stands up. He lights a torch.

SEES TWO MOONS

Wolf Heart, if you ever speak of her in this way, you will be banished. This woman is the mother of my last child!

The Chief walks away. Wolf Heart himself stands.

WOLF HEART

What I know, Sees Two Moons, is that this will likely get us all killed. We will be looking down from the happy hunting ground and wondering where the Numina went.

And off the fire here in Comancheria-

EXT. PARADE GROUND. NIGHT

With a huge bonfire burning, most of the soldiers watch a bare-knuckles prize fight between an immense man - they call him CHARLEY THE BULL - and another very fit soldier, Taylor. (Our award winner from episode one.)

Lancaster is watching. Sitting next to him are Cynthia and Oatis. He pays particular attention to this, leaning forward, hands on his chin, evaluating - this is in direct contrast to the whooping and hollering going on around him. McQueen sits behind Lancaster taking all this in-

The basic theme to the fight is that Charley the Bull is beating the shit out of Taylor. It's BAM to the body, BAM to the head, BAM to the back--the velocity and power of the punches reverberates with the crowd.

Taylor goes down. On his knees.

CHARLEY THE BULL
Stay down, you reb pussy.

Reb pussy? Did you just call me a reb pussy?

Taylor gets on one knee and shakes his head as if it will thwart his pain.

LANCASTER
(sotto)
Thatta boy, Taylor. Let's see some of that conspicuous courage.

CHARLEY THE BULL
You get up, it may be the last time that you ever do that.

But now Taylor indeed gets to his feet. He rather gingerly raises his hands into a boxing stance.

The crowd goes apeshit.

Cynthia clutches her husband's knees out of nervousness.

Taylor throws a punch and misses wildly. Charley the Bull grabs him and wraps his arm and hold's Taylor's head tightly, squeezing the life outta him.

With his other hand, Charley starts to punch Taylor in the face - ferociously - BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM.

It is impossible for Taylor to defend himself-

BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM

Taylor's body goes limp. He is unconscious-

BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM

McQueen moves forward to stop it- but Reynolds gets there first. He pulls Charley away. Taylor, alive, but barely, drops to the ground like a rag doll.

REYNOLDS

Don't want a murder charge now, do you, Charley?

As Taylor is dragged away - and right past McQueen - Charley raises his arms in triumph.

CHARLEY THE BULL

Power of the Union. No son of a bitch can beat Charley the Bull!!!!

And as the men cheer wildly. Lancaster gets to his feet. He raises his arms to silence one and all.

LANCASTER

I say bullshit on ya. You can be beaten. You can be trounced.

CHARLEY THE BULL

No sir, that ain't the truth. Would you like to try, sir?

The men laugh and so does Lancaster.

LANCASTER

No, I think I'd like to remain well enough to fight the savages. But...

Lancaster points to Oatis.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

I think this nigger can snap you in two. A head of cattle if he can't.

CHARLEY THE BULL

Well, sir, the nigger gentleman can try.

LANCASTER

Oatis, can you defeat this man?

OATIS

(quietly)

Well, sir, he's awful tough--but, I thinks, maybe, yes, I can beat him.

LANCASTER

Charley, when Oatis here has you crying like a newborn I don't wanna hear excuses like you're tired or he was too hard to see at night.

CHARLEY

(yelling over to Oatis)
Let's fight, nigger.

The crowd goes apeshit. Oatis takes off his shirt.

McQueen comes over to Lancaster.

MCQUEEN

Sir, I think this may not be advisable. In fact, this entire-

LANCASTER

It's advisable.

The fight has begun. The crowd is screaming ugly epithets.

Oatis takes the first swing and connects squarely with Charley the Bull. Charley goes down, his nose a bloodied mess. Charley is on his knees. The crowd goes quiet. Lancaster turns to Cynthia and nods to her, a small smile.

Charley gets to his feet and RUNS toward Oatis, who sidesteps and manages to clock Charley with another hook that also sends him to the ground. He slowly gets on his feet.

From somewhere in the crowd, Oatis hears something--

LORRAINE (O.S.)

Don't hurt him, daddy.

Oatis turns to see his daughter and her brother. In defiance of his rules, they have come to fight night. He stands transfixed on his daughter for a second- just enough time for Charley to give Oatis a SLAM to the back of his head.

Oatis drops to his knees.

In a violation of the fighting code, Charley grabs Oatis's arm, brings it behind his back, and CRACK - breaks his arm.

As Oatis screams in pain, Charley lifts him up and THROWS him into the bonfire.

The crowd loves it - and the racist cheers grow even louder.

Lancaster runs over, takes off his coat and puts out the fire on Oatis. Lancaster cradles him.

LANCASTER

You gonna be okay. That man didn't
fight like a man at all.

Lancaster turns around. He looks up at Charley the Bull.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

If it weren't for the fact that I
need a man like you to fight the
Comanche- I'd have you arrested.

CHARLEY THE BULL

I believe you owe me a head of
beef, sir.

Charley turns to the crowd and raises his arms in
celebration. They cheer for him.

CHARLEY THE BULL (CONT'D)

No nigger! No Reb. No nobody!!!

At that moment, little Lorraine jumps on Charley's leg-
Pounding him with her tiny fists. Charley just picks her up
and puts her down nonchalantly and walks away.

From across the way, McQueen and Lancaster share a bitter
look. Lancaster yells out-

LANCASTER

Doc! Where the hell are you!!!

Toby and Lorraine come up on their dad.

TOBY

Daddy. Are you okay?

Oatis smiles. But he is weakened and in agony.

OATIS

I'll be okay.

LANCASTER

Your daddy's got a lotta man in
him. He's gonna be fine.

Cynthia walks in.

CYNTHIA

My God, Oatis.

LANCASTER

Cynthia - take the children and
bring 'em to the house.

(to kids)

(MORE)

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Toby, Lorraine- you'll stay with Mrs. Lancaster and me tonight. Your daddy's gonna be in the hospital for a spell.

EXT. LANCASTER PORCH. NIGHT

Lancaster sits on his porch, smoking a cigar. Relaxing. That was quite a night. He looks out at the dying bonfire. McQueen passes him on his way home.

MCQUEEN

Thank you for dinner, sir.

LANCASTER

That disturbed you? Fight night?

McQueen shrugs rather than answer.

MCQUEEN

How will Oatis be, sir?

LANCASTER

Doc says he can't slaughter a head of beef or fix a fence or masturbate for seven weeks.

MCQUEEN

That's too bad.

LANCASTER

(almost sotto)

Gonna need a new servant for while.

(beat)

You have issue with that, don't ya? With fight night.

MCQUEEN

Because of incidents like tonight, sir. Yes, I do.

Lancaster nods. He understands McQueen's concerns. But he also understands that this simply isn't McQueen's world.

LANCASTER

These troops here who have seen war, they'll be fine, Major McQueen. But most haven't. They're children, most of them. The only violence they know is from their daddy's whuppin' their behind when they were growing up. These men must understand violence.

(MORE)

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

They have to goddamn worship it. To not turn from it. The first time they see blood gushing from another man can't be when they meet the Comanche. It'll be too late.

(beat)

We gotta teach 'em 'bout violence.

MCQUEEN

Sir, I serve at your pleasure.

He salutes and starts to walk away. Then he stops himself.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

You know, sir. The Texan flag. It's going to have to go.

(beat)

This is the United States of America.

A wry smile from Lancaster. Then he gets deadly serious.

LANCASTER

I know my purpose, Major. I know it.

MCQUEEN

I am sure you do, sir.

LANCASTER

Man's got two lives. The second one starts when he realizes he has just one.

McQueen nods to that.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

My understanding, Mr. McQueen, is that the reinforcements you recommended will be here tomorrow.

He salutes again and walks away.

Lancaster puts the cigar out on the porch.

INT. MCQUEEN'S BEDROOM. MORNING

It isn't the shaft of light slicing into his face that awakens McQueen. It's the Bugle call of Reveille. *Fuck*. He overslept.

He pulls himself out of bed as Reveille continues. He opens the window and looks out on the parade ground. He does this just in time to see-

The flag of Texas making it to the top of the pole.

Ne nods to himself - a realization of the impossible situation he is in.

Even though he is just in his briefs, he sits down at his desk. He pulls out a sheath of paper from his satchel. He takes out a pen. Takes a deep breath.

We see what he is writing- Scattered words-

May 23rd, 1867

Colonel William Lancaster

Observations

Violations

In the BG we hear the scattered sounds of life beginning at the fort... horses neighing, orders being barked. And then he hears a BUGLE signaling an arrival.

EXT. PARADE GROUND. DAY

McQueen walks out and finds that all the soldiers are amassing at the center of the grounds. He pushes through them and sees what they see-

TEN BLACK SOLDIERS- all dressed in Cavalry blue- are marching in behind a young white captain named JEWISON.

In his whole life McQueen has never seen a black man in a cavalry uniform. From behind him comes Lancaster on his horse.

LANCASTER

Your reenforcements, Major McQueen.

McQueen turns around to face him.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

And they're all yours.

And with that, Lancaster rides around the crowd to go meet his new troops.