

BLACK VEIL: EPISODE 1X5, "RUN AND GUN"

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WGAE Registration # I295688

Final Draft

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TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. AIR ISLES - EDEN - DAY

Dense clouds loom in the sky. Doom as thick as the fog blankets Eden.

The BLACK DAGGER airship lurks over the edge of the isle. It's large starboard loading RAMP SLAMS onto the ground. DUST CURLS on impact. MANY PIRATE BOOTS begin to descend down the plank.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET'S PUB - SAME TIME

A continuation of the scene from Episode 4. Quint and Abilene share a corner table, and a couple of beers. They are getting more comfortable with each other.

ABILENE

Tell me about Happy Jack.

QUINT

What's there to say?

He sips his beer.

ABILENE

Have you fought him before?

QUINT

I was there when he disemboweled Slagg. The Jack is half a century old, and a sadistic monster.

Abilene nods and thoughtfully turns the beer mug in her hands.

ABILENE

How does he treat his slave women?

Quint raises an eyebrow. He knows what she's looking for. He wags his head.

QUINT

I'm sorry about your sister. You know the answer to that, Abilene.

Abilene takes a big gulp to hide her feelings. She pauses. A new thought...

ABILENE
Will Happy Jack bargain?

Quint tries to gauge what she's getting at, then it hits him.

QUINT
Thinking of handing over the Shiner?

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - BED ROOM - SAME TIME

Effie is relaxed in her chair with her feet propped up on Kael's bed. As she ponders the boarding pass TICKET she grows troubled. Decision time is drawing near.

KAEL
Is this a dream?

Effie sits up in surprise. Kael is conscious! She reaches out and puts her hand on his arm, welcoming him with a warm smile.

EFFIE
Hey. You're awake.

KAEL
So... not a dream?

Effie smiles again.

EFFIE
No. How do you feel?

Kael blinks and frowns. He glances around the room totally confused, and rightfully so.

KAEL
Am I porting?

Effie crinkles her brow. What's "porting"? Then she seems to understand his meaning.

EFFIE
Yeah, we made port at Eden yesterday.

Kael stares at her for a moment. As his expression twists into scowl it's clear that he remembers something about her. Something bad.

KAEL

You. I remember what you did to me.

Effie backs off expecting another round of blame to be thrown in her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. MERCHANT ROW - SAME TIME

The HANGMAN leads his CREW down a dirt path. First Mate SALVO, as well as THREE RIDGE RUNNER envoy's march on either side.

The menacing sight of these men is scary enough to stop even the most drunken pirate in his, or her tracks.

EDEN'S PEOPLE begin to gather as the Hangman approaches. SIG is at the back of the crowd. The SLAVE TRADER is at the front.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET'S PUB - SAME TIME

The atmosphere is easy in the room. Nobody is aware of the danger is amassing outside.

ABILENE

Do you think you can persuade your crew to work with us?

Quint gives her a lopsided smile.

QUINT

They're not a complicated mind. Put the promise of riches in front of them and they'll follow. Especially now that the alternative is capture and death.

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - BED ROOM - SAME TIME

KAEL

It's your fault. You... you...

Here it comes. Effie prepares for Kael's wrath.

KAEL (cont'd)

You kissed me!

That was not even close to what Effie was expecting. Then it registers what's going on. Kael is high!

KAEL (cont'd)

Admit it. You kissed me, and I liked it.

Effie mutes a laugh and smile.

EFFIE

Yeah, you did.

KAEL

I knew it.

EFFIE

I think we need to decrease your pain meds.

Kael saddens.

KAEL

Why do you want to hurt me?

EFFIE

You'll be fine.

She gently pats his chest.

KAEL

Stop hitting me.

Effie wags her head and reaches to adjust the I.V. drip.

CUT TO:

EXT. MERCHANT ROW - SAME TIME

The Hangman and his crew occupy the street. People are on edge. Is this an invasion? Or something else?

HANGMAN

Somewhere on your isle are crew members of the Blood Raven.

He holds up a WANTED POSTER for all to see, and then hands it to Salvo, who stabs it to a lantern post with a knife.

The crowd MURMURS.

HANGMAN (cont'd)

Bring me the Shiner alive. The well-being of the rest of the crew is negotiable. You will be rewarded for each head.

While people gather around the poster, the Slave Trader approaches the Hangman. They seem to know each other.

SLAVE TRADER

Captain. Is there a reward for information leading to their capture.

The Hangman smirks.

HANGMAN

We've dealt fairly in the past. Speak on.

CUT TO:

DOWN THE STREET Sig retreats toward his office. He glances back to see the Slave Trader point at Sweet's Pub. This is bad. Very, very bad. Then it gets worse when the Slave Trader points at Sig's Office. Sig quickly ducks inside.

The Hangman WHISTLES, and directs SALVO and some men, including TWO RIDGE RUNNER'S toward Sweet's Pub.

Ridge Runner 1 and the other Crew gather around the Hangman as he heads for Sig's.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET'S PUB - SAME TIME

ABILENE

And Slagg? Will he help us?

QUINT

He's as selfish as they come. Why? What are you plotting?

ABILENE
Just looking for angles.

QUINT
You do that with everyone.

ABILENE
If the occasion calls for it.

QUINT
That wasn't a question.
(beat)
I take it you're not a humble rancher
back home?

ABILENE
Ahh, no. Bounty hunter.

Quint nearly chokes on his beer when he laughs. Abilene glares at him. Is he mocking her?

QUINT
No, no. It makes sense. But the
irony...

ABILENE
I'm aware.

QUINT
You've gone from hunter, to hunted-

RAPID MACHINE GUN FIRE rips through the pub from left to right.

Abilene and Quint dive to the floor as the room and people are cut in half in a hail bullets.

MAIN TITLES: BLACK VEIL

END TEASER

ACT ONEEXT. AIR ISLES - SHOALS - BLOOD RAVEN - DAY

The Blood Raven airship hides among the rocky debris of the shoals. The clouds are breaking up, and the winds are picking up.

INT. BLOOD RAVEN - CAPTAIN'S CABIN

Wade, Squirrel, and Isobel strategize around the map table. The MAP they ponder is of Eden and the shoals.

ISOBEL

Maybe it's a friendly ship.

WADE

Their main sail has a skull with a knife in it's eye. Any activity at the docks?

SQUIRREL

No one's left since they arrived.

ISOBEL

Well, it seems to me that the only rational option is for us to take our losses and go home.

She tries to sound compassionate, but she's really not. And now Squirrel has his doubts too.

SQUIRREL

Maybe she's right. How do we know they ain't been caught already.

WADE

Because the airship hasn't left yet. Abilene is expecting us at the scrapyard. That was the plan if trouble arrive. They could be there right now.

Isobel scoffs.

ISOBEL

Wade, you cannot seriously be consider-

WADE

Squirrel, how long before Chief Mechanic Riley is finished with repairs?

SQUIRREL

Our aft booster should be up and running in thirty. But our port side defenses are weak. Why?

Wade doesn't answer, but Isobel knows. She shakes her head in disbelief and disapproval.

Squirrel bounces a blank look between the two opposing forces in the room, Isobel and Wade. He doesn't follow what the issue is, and then it hits him...

SQUIRREL (cont'd)

Jail break?

WADE

We know where they're supposed to be. We just need to get there in one piece.

SQUIRREL

(nod)

Grab them and haul tail.

ISOBEL

Damn fool!

The door opens behind Isobel and Bear escorts Slagg into the room. The pirate Captain is wearing shackles.

ISOBEL (cont'd)

You'll kill us all. If you're going to go charging in there with stupid ideas you may as well surrender now!

Slagg smirks at the dissent in the room. It's nice to see that things are going poorly for his captors.

SLAGG

Your native tells me that your people are lost to the Black Dagger. And the Lady tells me that you've lost your bloody mind. What do you want of me, Plains Drifter?

WADE

Cloud cover is breaking up, and we'll be at full speed shortly.

(MORE)

WADE (cont'd)

The plan is to circle around Eden,
and come up, under the Scrapyard to
get our people out.

SLAGG

You'll die.

His answer is as precise as an arrow to the heart. It hangs in the air to be digested for a moment. Wade and Squirrel are put-off by the quick dismissal of the plan, but Isobel is quite righteous, and crosses her arms in an "I told you so" manner.

SLAGG (cont'd)

The Black Dagger is an Imperial Isles warship, boy. You'll have to expose my ship to her cannons far before you ever reach the isle.

SQUIRREL

Riley mentioned smoke screen tactics with the engine stacks. We could do that.

Slagg laughs. Wade is getting annoyed. Isobel is getting cocky. She doesn't mind Slagg revealing just how dumb their plans are.

SLAGG

You'll die. Have you no sense of the weather? Have you not seen the shifting winds? The clouds are moving to the east. The scrapyard is to the east. And where is that fat imperial pig docked?

SQUIRREL

West.

Slagg raises his brow in a way of intellectual superiority.

WADE

What if we didn't give them such a big target. Take a longboat, sneak in, and bug-out.

SLAGG

You may not die. But you'll get captured, and then you'll die.

That is a useful piece of information that Bear takes note of.

WADE

Then how do we get our people off that damn island?

SLAGG

You need big ammo.

WADE

Half our cannons are down.

SLAGG

They're my cannon's, boy, and I said ammunition, not guns.

SQUIRREL

That don't make a lick of sense.

ISOBEL

He's not going to help us. Even if he does, you would be an idiot to trust him.

SLAGG

(eyes on Wade)

Trust can be bargained. What are you offering me? Freedom? My ship?

Wade leans on the table and stares him down. He won't be intimidated.

WADE

I'm a gambling man, Mr. Slagg. I'm going in with, or without your expert advice. What do you think your odds of survival are without?

That gets Slagg's attention. He considers his options as he looks at the room. His choice is clear.

SLAGG

You land scabs can't pull off what I have in mind on your own. You need an experienced crew. My crew.

Wade doesn't like where this is going, but he knows Slagg is right. He nods, and Isobel has had enough! She grabs Wade and pulls him aside.

ISOBEL

What are you doing? If you let those vermin out they'll try to take the ship from us.

The conversation isn't as private as Isobel had hoped. Squirrel interjects.

SQUIRREL
Most follow Quint now, and Riley,
ain't been no trouble. He's been
teaching me the engines.

Wade nods and moves back to the table.

WADE
Take Riley and pick a crew that hates
Slagg.

Slagg sneers. Squirrel nods, and Isobel storms out. Bear hesitates, and then follows her as if to calm her down.

WADE (cont'd)
Show me your plan.

Slagg leans over the map table and points at the shoals.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - STERNCastle DECK

Isobel angrily walks to the railing and slams her hands down. Nothing is going her way. She's never getting home, and she's never getting off this damn ship!

There's a gentle tug at her arm, which she instantly shirks off.

BEAR
Lady Isobel?

She turns at the voice. It's Bear. She softens. He has been the only one that has looked out for her.

ISOBEL
If we stay here that stupid little
man is going to get us killed.

BEAR
I know.

He takes the rail with her and points at the LONGBOAT on the deck below.

BEAR (cont'd)
I made a promise to your father...
I'm taking you home.

Isobel frowns at the boat, and then him. The idea is dangerous, and she's not sure she likes it, but she likes staying here even less.

With resolve Isobel gives Bear a smart nod.

INT. MASTER SURGEON SIG'S - BED ROOM

After adjusting the flow of pain medicine, Effie situates the I.V. Bag on it's hanger. Kael is staring up at her all starry-eyed. He's feeling really good.

KAEL

Are you real, or a neurographic con... construct designed for my VR pleasure?

What the...? Effie gives him a screwed up expression.

EFFIE

I have no idea what you just said, but it sounds awfully offensive.

KAEL

Then why are you juicing me?

He holds up his arm with the I.V. tube in it.

KAEL (cont'd)

Oh, no. Wait. Am I being exiled again?

Effie sighs. As amusing as this is...

EFFIE

No. You're being annoying.

Now Kael is offended. He gives her a groggy frown.

KAEL

You're annoying. If this is Eden, where's my apple?

EFFIE

Are you hungry?

KAEL

You're hungry.

EFFIE

I'll get you an apple.

KAEEL
You're an apple.

With a slightly humorous wag of her head, Effie turns to leave, but the sound of AUTOMATIC MACHINE GUN FIRE down the street startles her.

Eyes wide with fear, she runs to the window and glances out.

KAEEL (cont'd)
 (quiet plea)
 No, don't jump, apple. I'm sorry.

Sharply, Effie rips herself away from the view. She's frantic. Trouble is here. She starts to gather Kael upright on the bed.

EFFIE
 They found us. We gotta go.

KAEEL
 But I'm not done porting with you.

FOOTSTEPS are heard racing up the hall. Effie freezes at the sound, and then looks for a weapon. Someone is coming for them. She grabs a... TRAY. Kael gives her a look like it's the stupidest thing he's ever seen in his life.

KAEEL (cont'd)
 What are you doing?

Effie positions herself beside the doorway and prepares to swing just as SIG ENTERS. They both recoil at each other.

EFFIE
 Sig!

SIG
 Effie, you have to leave. The
 Hangman is here. There's a bounty
 for the Blood Raven crew.

Sig shoves a prepared BACKPACK into her arms and tries to usher her out of the door. Kael's getting upset.

KAEEL
 Hey, hands off my apple.

Resisting Sig, Effie returns to Kael and continues to gather up his uncoordinated body.

EFFIE
 I'm not leaving without him.

SIG
He'll only slow you down.

Effie shoves Sig away. She gets Kael standing and puts the backpack on him. Then she shoves his I.V. and his meds from the nightstand inside the pack.

SIG (cont'd)
Effie, why are you risking your life for him?

EFFIE
He's a Shiner!

She hooks Kael around her shoulder for support. He likes the closeness to her.

Sig is aghast. He looks harder at Kael.

SIG
He's a...

KAEL
That's right.
(proud)
I'm shiny.

Effie starts to maneuver Kael toward the door, but Sig blocks her.

SIG
That's what this is about? If they want the lad give him up. He's not worth it.

Kael pouts at the insult.

EFFIE
It ain't that simple, now move!

Kael sticks his tongue out as Effie shoulders past Sig into the...

INT. HALLWAY

Sig is right behind Effie as she assists Kael down the narrow passage.

SIG
Effie, the whole isle is sequestered. There's nowhere to run.

They descend a set of STAIRS to the sound of a loud POUNDING on the front door below. She's not listening. She exits the stairs into the...

INT. MAIN OFFICE

They are back in the business area of Sig's practice. There's ANGRY POUNDING at the front door. Kael homes-in on the sound.

KAEL
Somebody's at the door. HELLO!

EFFIE
Shhhh!

Again, Sig blocks Effie's path before she can take the set of SPIRAL STAIRS down to the next level.

SIG
Effie, let me help you.

EFFIE
Then take us through the sub-levels to the scrapyard. The Blood Raven will pick us up there.

The pounding at the door has turned into a RHYTHMIC COLLISION. Kael's getting O.C. about the unanswered knocking at the door.

KAEL
You gonna answer that?

Sig holds Effie's pleading gaze for a moment. He's not happy about it, but...

SIG
All right.

He scoots them both down the STEPS, and the trio disappear below.

A moment passes as we listen to the front door take a beating, and then it is SMASHED IN.

RIDGE RUNNER 1 has powered through the door with his shoulder. Hangman and his MEN pile in.

HANGMAN
Turn the place over. Top to bottom.

They split up. Hangman heads down the spiral stair case to...

INT. BASEMENT SUPPLY ROOM

The room is filled with medical supplies, books, and augment-prosthesis parts.

Hangman and Ridge Runner 1 begin tearing the place apart. PIRATE 1 enters with three others.

PIRATE 1
Nothing upstairs, Cap'n.

RIDGE RUNNER 1
Here!

He's found a door. He turns the knob and it opens about an inch before stopping. Something is in the way.

HANGMAN
Move.

With one swift, hard KICK the door opens and the TRASH BIN that was blocking the door spills over.

In front of them is the start of a SUB-LEVEL tunnel. The path is dark and empty. The only light comes from the far end. A stink hits Ridge Runner 1 in the face and he recoils.

RIDGE RUNNER 1
Ugh. What hell-hole is this?

Three SHADOWS briefly fall across the wall at the far end of the tunnel.

HANGMAN
This way.

Hangman and Ridge Runner 1 move in with FOUR MEN.

EXT. SWEET'S PUB

Bullets spew out of the MINI-MACHINE GUNS MOUNTED ON SALVO'S AUGMENTED HIPS. He's having way too much fun shredding the pub.

The middle section of the building is decimated. All that remains of the exterior wall is the top and bottom half.

Ridge Runner 2 and 3 watch the turrets on Salvo's guns turn RED. They glance at each other. Is such excessive force is really necessary?

Finally, Salvo stops firing, mostly to let his weapons cool down. He glances at TWO AMMO-PACKING PIRATES behind him. Each carries a SACK of ammo and alternate weapons for Salvo.

SALVO
Top me off.

The Two Pirates start to reload him.

SALVO (cont'd)
(at the Pub)
Anybody alive in there?!

INT. SWEET'S PUB

SALVO (O.S.)
Quint? You still breathing?

Bodies litter the floor, some are moving and injured, some are dead. MOANS from the wounded fill the quiet bar. We CLOSE IN on the BAR COUNTER, which is dinged up, but not one bullet has penetrated.

BEHIND THE BAR COUNTER, Quint, Abilene and the bartender/owner SWEET have taken refuge.

Abilene has her revolver in-hand. She's hunkered down and is as cool as ice.

Quint is staring hard at Sweet, who hugs his MARE'S LEG PISTOL, and looks ready to wet himself.

Quint presses a finger to his lips telling Sweet to stay quiet and stay down. Sweet trembles in fear, but nods.

SALVO (O.S.) (cont'd)
I know you're in there. You and your woman.

Abilene shoots a look at Quint. His woman? Quint innocently shrugs that those aren't his words.

SALVO (O.S.) (cont'd)
Did I get ya? Are you bleeding-out behind Sweet's bulletproof bar?

Abilene checks Sweet with a glance. The man is getting twitchy and she doesn't like it.

She catches Quint's eyes and nods at Sweet. Quint tries to ease the man's anxiety with hand gestures.

SALVO (O.S.) (cont'd)
Come out and we'll discuss your
future.

Quint eyeballs Abilene's revolver and the surge pistol tucked at her side.

QUINT
(whispers)
Gun?

He wants one. Abilene gives him a firm shake of the head, NO. He rolls his eyes in response. He can't believe she still doesn't trust him.

Abilene doesn't notice his disapproval as she starts surveying the area behind the bar for anything useful.

SALVO (O.S.)
I'd like to take you alive, but I'll
take you dead, Quint. What's it
gonna be?

ABILENE
(whispers)
Back exit?

Quint shrugs and looks to Sweet for an answer. Sweet opens his mouth to speak...

SWEET
HERE! THEY'RE IN HERE!

Son of a... before Sweet can blink the barrel of Abilene's revolver is stuck to his forehead. She takes his weapon.

ABILENE
Run.

Sweet hesitates, and then jumps up and starts running toward a HALLWAY. Abilene and Quint watch as he almost makes it, but is shot dead.

ABILENE (cont'd)
Back exit's that way.

Cunning. Quint frowns at the clever, and ruthless move, and then he nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET'S PUB

Salvo looks over at Ridge Runner 2 and his smoking gun. He's not impressed.

SALVO
That was the bartender.

RIDGE RUNNER 2
(shrug)
So.

Salvo motions for his two Ammmo-Packing Pirates.

SALVO
Give me the six-pack.

He takes a knee, and the two pirates begin mounting a small grenade launcher system on either side of his shoulders.

SALVO (cont'd)
You're not getting off the isle,
Quint. The docks are on lock-down.
Everyone is looking for your crew.
You can't hide from me, boy.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET'S PUB - BEHIND THE BAR COUNTER

Quint lowers a broken piece of MIRROR that he was using to see what's going on outside. It's bad news.

QUINT
Grenade launcher. Gun now?

He holds out his hand for a weapon. Abilene, holsters her revolver, and tucks the mare's leg pistol by her side. She then POWERS ON THE SURGE PISTOL.

ABILENE
Nope.

She pulls down a bottle from the shelf, pops the cork with her teeth and offers it to Quint.

ABILENE (cont'd)
Cocktail?

Is she serious? He gives her the biggest, "are you insane", look. Abilene simply quirks an eyebrow and grins.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWEET'S PUB

With his six-pack of grenades in place, Salvo stands and takes aim at the bar. He's done playing games.

SALVO
Times up, mother-

QUINT
Still a full-metal asshole, I see. I wouldn't do that if I were you, Salvo.

From outside the Pub we see Quint pop out from behind the bar with a bottle of booze in his hand. He takes a confident swig.

QUINT (cont'd)
You want the Shiner, right? Well, he's useless without the girl. You blow up the bar, you blow up any chance of finding the Black Isle.

Salvo hesitates. The two Ridge Runners look uncertain.

SALVO
Lies.

QUINT
She has the ability to power his technology out here. But don't take my word for it...

He takes another sip, and then THROWS THE BOTTLE at Salvo. At the same time Abilene stands and SHOOTS THE BOTTLE with the surge pistol, creating a BALL OF FIRE when the alcohol ignites.

Quint lobbs three more bottles at Salvo, and then runs toward the HALLWAY where Sweet's body lies.

Abilene is right behind him skeet shooting the bottles out of the air and creating a large FIERY WALL OF COVER as they exit to the...

INT. HALLWAY STAIRCASE

This is not what Abilene was expecting. A back door, yes. A window, yes. Not a staircase UP.

ABILENE
Up? We're going up?

QUINT
Better than back.

They ascend and come to a DOOR, which leads to:

EXT. SWEET'S PUB - ROOF TOP

Bursting through the door to the roof, Abilene and Quint take their first steps out. They look around for a way down, but there's nothing. They've hit a dead end, and the building below them is in FLAMES.

They look at each other. Maybe this wasn't such a brilliant plan after all.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. EDEN - SWEET'S PUB

Outside the Pub, Salvo and his men are faced with an out of control fire. They can no longer see inside the building.

Salvo directs his men.

SALVO
Go around back.

RIDGE RUNNER 3
Up there!

She points at the ROOFTOP where Abilene and Quint emerge. They see Salvo, he sees them.

SALVO
Feck this.

He sets to launch a grenade at the roof. Ridge Runner 2 stops him.

RIDGE RUNNER 2
The tech! We need her alive.
(at all)
DON'T SHOOT THEM!

Salvo shoves him away and launches the grenade. With a THUNK the projectile exits the tube and arcs toward the rooftop.

EXT. SWEET'S PUB - ROOFTOP

As they consider where to go and what to do next, Abilene and Quint spot the grenade. Now they have no choice.

QUINT
Sodding...! Jump!

They back up and take a running leap over to the...

EXT. BROTHEL ROOFTOP

Sweet's Pub explodes and collapses in a heap just as Abilene and Quint make their landing.

Unfortunately, this building has a pitched roof, and Quint begins to slide a few feet down.

And when Abilene hits the roof the SURGPE PISTOL SKITTERS OUT OF HER HAND AND DOWN THE SHINGLES. Now out of range the pistol loses power.

Quint SCRAMBLES for his footing, and just before the surge pistol flies off the roof, he scoops it up.

QUINT

Got it!

Just to make sure it's no threat, Abilene discretely shuts down the resistor with a TAP OF HER RIGHT PALM.

Quint starts to climb, and Abilene lends a hand to pull him up. At the pitch of the roof they start running toward the next jump. GUN SHOTS pepper their every move.

EXT. MAIN STREET

From the ground, Salvo and his men are tracking and shooting at Abilene and Quint. Ridge Runner 2 is frustrated with the lack of foresight.

RIDGE RUNNER 2

HOLD YOUR FIRE, IDIOTS!

Ridge Runner 3 starts grabbing Pirates. He pushes them in position.

RIDGE RUNNER 3

Ahead of them. Cut them off, and don't shoot them. We want the girl alive!

Salvo glares at the foreigners giving his men orders, but says nothing. Instead, he sees Abilene and Quint make another jump to...

EXT. GENERAL STORE ROOFTOP

The flat roof makes for a softer landing this time. They split and Quint finds an ACCESS LADDER at the side of the building. He looks over the side, and then pulls back.

QUINT

Company.

Abilene has found her own ladder opposite of his. She also backs away from it.

ABILENE

Yep.

MULTIPLE PIRATES emerge from both ACCESS LADDERS on either side of the building. They are surrounded.

Back-to-back now, Abilene and Quint make a stand against the approaching threat. Enemies close in around them, but no guns are drawn. This is going to be a fist fight for the pirates.

Quint glances back at Abilene. She's close enough, but there's no juice in the Surge Pistol. He shakes the weapon.

QUINT

It's not working. Why isn't it working?

Abilene opens fire as the Pirates CHARGE. ONE, TWO SHOTS ring out from the mare's leg pistol before the remaining pirates are on them in an all-out brawl.

THREE Pirates converge on Quint. Fist-for-fist Quint pummels them, and seems to absorb most of the punches that are landed.

As fast as a snake, Abilene has given pause to her pirates. Using the mare's leg like a club she clobbers two pirates until the stock breaks. Another attack comes at her from a different side. She counter-moves and punches him in the face, which in turn ACTIVATES THE SURGE PISTOL in Quint's hand.

In the middle of his fight, Quint notices that the Surge Pistol has powered on. He aims to shoot, and a pirate is blasted backward in a ball of black static. He aims to shoot another, but the Surge Pistol DEACTIVATES... then it's ON again, and then OFF again. He frowns and glances back at Abilene.

He thinks he sees the problem. She's too far away for the Surge Pistol to work.

QUINT (cont'd)

Stay close!

Abilene frowns. He's right, there's a vulnerable gap between them. She backs up.

Quint frowns at the still INACTIVE Surge Pistol. He ducks a punch, avoids another, and tosses a pirate. The Surge Pistol is OFF, then ON, then OFF again. He can't figure out what is happening.

Is it broken? He glances back at Abilene... she's close enough. What's the problem? Then he makes the connection...

Every time she lands a punch with her right hand it activates, or deactivates.

Suddenly, during his epiphany, Quint takes a hit that knocks him to the ground. He raises the Surge Pistol, but it's not working. A HUGE PIRATE is about to stomp his face in.

QUINT (cont'd)
Hit him, lass! Right hand! Hit him!

Abilene frowns. Why is he telling her how to fight? She punches an incoming pirate in the throat. Out of the corner of her eye she sees Quint drop a pirate with a shot from the Surge Pistol. Oh, she gets it now.

Quint gets to his feet and starts to dispatch the flow of Pirates coming up the ladder. But Abilene can't hit with her right hand, so she has to let one pirate slip by.

ABILENE
Behind you!

Quint ducks, turns, and shoots. He nods his thanks, and she moves closer to his back as more pile onto the roof top from the ladder.

ABILENE (cont'd)
This is stupid!

She pulls her revolver and SHOTS into the oncoming horde of pirates. CLICK. CLICK. It's empty.

ABILENE (cont'd)
I'm out! Let's go!

It looks like she's about to grab Quint's hand and run in a gesture of unity, but she SNATCHES THE SURGE PISTOL from his grip, and runs toward the ledge without him.

QUINT
What the... c'mon!

He turns and sprints right behind her.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET

Salvo takes a knee and fires another grenade from below. He watches with a grin as a hole opens up right under Abilene and Quint's jump. They both fall through the fresh, hot opening, and land inside the...

INT. ARMORY

Smoke and debris cover Abilene and Quint. They COUGH and quickly start to get up with bloody scrapes, and sore joints. They have no idea where they are until the smoke starts to settle. Then they both grin like kids in a candy store. The room is filled with guns, ammo, swords, knives, and a dead SHOPKEEPER under the rubble.

QUINT

Gun now?

Like she can stop him.

ABILENE

Yep.

They split and start looting the place for ammo, and weapons.

INT. SUB-LEVEL TUNNELS

The sub-levels are much different than surface living. Carved out of the hard black rock of the isle, this place is a massive multi-level tunnel system with man-made, cave-housing burrowed into the walls. It is dark, dirty, and destitute.

Sig, Effie, and Kael move quickly along the passageways, crossing paths with the malnourished, lame, and forgotten. Some of whom gladly recognize Sig.

SIG

This way.

EFFIE

Sig, what happened here? This was supposed be housing for the water reclamation workers.

SIG

It still is. Keep moving.

They move into another tunnel. The sound of faint, sad FLUTE MUSIC echoes from somewhere. Kael breaks free of Effie, and starts happily grooving to the music.

KAEL
I feel like dancing.

He looks around at the glowing lanterns.

KAEL (cont'd)
What club is this? The music smells weird.

Effie hooks him back under her shoulder to get him moving again, but for a second all he wants to do is dance with her.

EFFIE
We need to go. People are after us.

KAEL
Oh, I didn't know it was their turn. Sorry.

He stops dancing and waves goodbye to the poor people nearby. Effie moves toward Sig who is waiting at the mouth of a larger cave. They regroup and enter...

INT. SUB-LEVEL - SLUMS

Only slightly better than tunnel living conditions, this place is a massive cave with larger pockets of housing. Balconies cascade up the walls, and down below people are buying and selling goods.

As Sig, Effie, and Kael make their way through the crowd a young woman with a baby approaches Sig.

ADRIA
Doc Sig. The baby stopped coughing. The medicine worked.

SIG
Wonderful. But my dear, you must take shelter. The Hangman is coming.

Fear instantly strikes the woman. She turns and yells.

ADRIA
HANGMAN! THE HANGMAN IS COMING!

Totally misreading the SHOUTS in the crowd, Kael CHEERS with them. The crowd scrambles to secure their smaller children, including Adria.

EFFIE

Sig?

Sig uses the chaos in the crowd as cover as he leads them further. Effie frowns as people abandon everything and take to their caves.

SIG

Hangman has a deal. He takes the young ones, and brings in mature workers. They're slaves, Effie. All of them.

Disgusted, Effie follows Sig through the mob of people.

SIG (cont'd)

Water reclamation is this way. We'll take the outer balcony to the scrapyard.

The Hangman and his men enter the cave. The masses of people scurrying makes it impossible to see the bounty.

RIDGE RUNNER 1

We're looking for Master Surgeon Sig!

Everyone is too terrified to listen.

HANGMAN

Spread out! Find them! Start killing people if they don't talk!

His men disperse into the crowd.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - STERNCastle DECK

Slagg is shackled to the railing near the WHEEL, where Wade man's the helm. He's glad to be back on deck and in command of his ship, even if he is still a prisoner.

For the first time we see BLOOD RAVEN CREW working together with the TOWNSFOLK.

Across the deck, Slagg YELLS out orders.

SLAGG

Load anchors to port and starboard!

The sails are raised and the ship picks up speed, dragging its heavy cargo out of the shoals.

SLAGG (cont'd)
Steady.... Let her ride.

More speed is gained, and then...

SLAGG (cont'd)
Cut them loose!

The grappling hooks RELEASE and the four huge boulders continue their momentum toward EDEN.

WADE
Slowing.

He tugs on the lever, and the ship slows allowing the rocks a chance to get to their destination first.

EXT. LONGBOAT

With the shoals and the Blood Raven left behind, Bear steers the LONGBOAT toward EDEN. Isobel sits like a pretty Princess. She's uncertain, but determined to get home.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. ARMORY

Quint has fallen in love with a full-auto shotgun. Abilene and Quint both carry bags full of ammo and other items.

QUINT
Scrapyard?

ABILENE
Get Effie and Kael.

Abilene reloads her revolver, and grabs a lever action carbine rifle. Quint RACKS his shotgun as they head out of the collapsed back wall onto...

EXT. BACK ALLEY

QUINT
Right. At the scrapyard.

They cautiously move from cover to cover.

ABILENE
Sig's.

He can't believe she would take the risk. He stops her cold.

QUINT
No good, lass. The whole isle is out for us. Blood Raven will be at the scrapyard. If Kael and Effie escaped, that's where they'll be.

ABILENE
If not they're gonna need our help. I gotta know for sure.

She turns to leave, and then stops.

ABILENE (cont'd)
Go to the Scrapyard. I'll meet you there.

A pirate pops out. BANG! Abilene shoots him dead.

QUINT
You just want me to draw their fire, while you check out Sig's.

Another pirate intercepts them. BANG! Quint shoots him. He looks to Abilene and she kinda gives him a "you ain't wrong" shrug.

QUINT (cont'd)

All you had to do was ask, lass.

He breaks for it down the street and starts unloading his automatic shotgun at everything. He's a one-man cavalry, drawing fire and taking lives.

For a moment, as Quint takes on what seems like all of Eden, Abilene shows a bit of worry for him. She does care, but she's got other priorities.

With a clear path ahead, thanks to Quint, Abilene heads for Sig's.

INT. SUB-LEVEL - TUNNEL

Sig leads Effie and Kael through a narrow passageway. They are traveling on a raised metal walkway that is about four feet above a stream of running water. It's an aqueduct system that delivers water to the isle. Kael is astonished by it.

KAEL

Are we giants, or really high up?

Effie continues to be Kael's crutch as they hurry along.

EFFIE

How much further?

KAEL

I have to pee.

SIG

Almost there.

They come to a FORK in the tunnel. Sig signals for Effie and Kael to wait while he checks it out.

SIG (cont'd)

Stay here.

Effie nods and leans Kael up against a wall. She rubs her shoulder. It's sore from carrying his weight.

KAEL

I was wrong about you, apple.

Effie frowns at him, and then moves a few paces away to see if they're being followed.

KAEL (cont'd)
You're a good person.

Effie glances back, not sure if he means it, or if it's the painkillers talking. She turns back, watching for danger.

Kael turns away from her and looks down at the running water beneath his feet. He starts fiddling with something in front of himself.

KAEL (cont'd)
You saved me twice.

He holds up three fingers, and then goes back to his business.

Effie remains quiet, but keeps an eye on him and the tunnel. The praise makes her slightly uncomfortable, considering that she was thinking of ditching everybody to save herself a little while ago.

KAEL (cont'd)
You're not shellfish at all. You keep risking your life for me. That's... a thing. You know? Like a really, real thing.

Maybe his words are drug induced, but it touches Effie. However, that candid moment is ruined when she sees him turn around and zip his pants.

EFFIE
Did you just pee in the aqueduct?

KAEL
Pssh... No. There aren't any ducks.

Sig returns and starts to retrieve Kael.

SIG
This way. Hurry.

Effie turns and a GUN SHOT is heard. She ducks and the bullet zips past her.

Sig pushes Kael down, and falls on top of him. The bullet safely hits the wall behind them.

Down the tunnel the Hangman, Ridge Runner 1, and THREE MEN are closing in.

HANGMAN

All I want is the Shiner! Give him
to me and you live.

Sig scrambles to his feet, but collapses again. He grabs his
side. When he pulls out his hand its covered in blood.

EFFIE

Sig!

She starts to apply pressure, but he pushes her away.

SIG

No time. Go.

EFFIE

I'm not leaving you-

SIG

(stern)

GO! You have to get out of here.

He climbs to his feet in clear pain. Effie tries to help,
but he shoves her away again.

SIG (cont'd)

I don't want you to see this. Take
your Shiner and get off the isle.

He pulls out a small pistol and moves to the mouth of the
tunnel where it splits in two directions. He fires back
down the tunnel buying Effie and Kael time to get moving.

Emotions paralyze Effie. She locks eyes with Sig -- her
mentor, her father-figure, her friend. Sorrow, grief, and
agony pull at her. How can she just leave him to die?

KAEL

Apple, what's wrong?

When she looks to Kael, she has her answer. In his
condition he's almost helpless without her. There's nothing
to do here except take Kael and go.

Gulping down a breath of courage and regret, Effie catches
Kael on her shoulder and starts out.

Sig staggers into the right tunnel. He points them down the
left tunnel.

SIG
 Second level. Left side staircase.
 It will take you to the outer
 balcony.

He almost doubles over, and Effie almost turns back for him, but...

SIG (cont'd)
 Just go!

They split. Effie goes left, and Sig stands at the corner of the right tunnel, waiting.

Blood drips from Sig's wound. He can feel himself start to fade. He hears FOOTSTEPS pounding the metal walkway. The sound is closer now. He finds the last bit of strength, and as Ridge Runner 1 enters the opening... BAM! Sig shoots him in the chest, causing the Hangman and his Three Men to pause and fall back.

SIG (cont'd)
 Come and get me, you vile, putrid
 molester!

Sig slides down the wall he's leaning on, but keeps his gun up. He has to hold on, just a little longer. For Effie.

Hangman signals for two of his men to enter and take care of the obstacle. They get ready to breach the tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

Effie and Kael reach a monstrous cavern the depths of which are hidden by a crystal clear lake. Before them is a maze of machines, pumps, pipes, and catwalks. Water flows through various connecting tunnels. The reclamation plant is spread out on various metal platforms. Tanks, and mechanical parts grind out pure waterfalls that feed into the lake, and all of Eden.

KAEL
 Wow. That's a lot of water.

Effie scans the complicated room. She's overwhelmed with the maze of catwalks, and with everything. She doesn't know where to go from here. A brief moment of grief takes her. She almost sits down and gives up, but suddenly there it is, just like Sig said -- the staircase on the left side, which leads up to a second level catwalk. Hope revives her.

EFFIE

Up there.

Just as they start to head off the sound of a GUNSHOT echoes from the tunnels behind. Effie pauses, but doesn't look back. TWO MORE GUNSHOTS react to the first. Then quiet. Effie knows what has happened. Sig is dead.

Angry, and driven not to let Sig's death be in vain, Effie hurries forward with Kael.

EXT. EDEN - MAIN STREET - OUTSIDE SIG'S - DAY

GUNFIRE is concentrated in one direction -- toward Quint who is slipping around cover, and in-and-out of buildings. The entire town is a shooting gallery, everyone is trying to get Quint.

Salvo stands in the middle of the street with his mini-machine guns spraying bullets at Quint. This is personal to him.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDE ALLEY - SAME TIME

Abilene comes around the corner and sees Ridge Runner 2 leveling his gun at Quint across the street. There's no avoiding it, the Ridge Runner is in her way -- or maybe she wants to save Quint.

Silently, she comes up behind the Ridge Runner and WHACKS him across the back of the head with the butt of her rifle. She moves into the MAIN STREET.

Quint is so busy keeping Salvo occupied that he doesn't even know that Abilene just saved his life.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DOCKS - SAME TIME

Faint GUNFIRE is heard coming from the Main Street. Bear and Isobel exit the longboat and are met with Black Dagger PIRATES and guns.

ISOBEL

My name is Lady Isobel Bloxham,
heiress to Duke Bloxham of the Plains
Drifters Pride. We surrender.

(MORE)

ISOBEL (cont'd)
 Deliver me unharmed to my father you
 will be greatly rewarded.

The men roughly take Isobel and Bear into custody and march them off. Isobel is not happy about her rude welcome, and struggles as she is pulled along.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - MAIN STREET - SAME TIME

Abilene travels down the row of STOREFRONTS and finally reaches MASTER SURGEON SIG'S door, only to find it smashed in.

ABILENE
 Doc?

She leans in. The place is totally trashed. She looks disheartened, and thinks the worst.

ABILENE (cont'd)
 Effie?

Halfway through the door, Abilene glances back at the street. She wants to go inside, but she sees Salvo about to unload a grenade on Quint as he sprints for cover.

There's a second of hesitation, and then Abilene hears the THUNK of the grenade exiting the tube. Performing a one-handed spin with the lever action of her carbine to cock it, she CRACKS off a shot as the gun flips back in her hand.

BOOM! The grenade explodes in mid-air before it reaches Quint. The concussion knocks him down though. He's dazed.

Salvo sharply turns to see who ruined his moment of satisfaction. He sees Abilene duck inside Sig's.

SALVO
 Give up, girl.

Ridge Runner 3, and a handful of Pirates drag Quint into the street. Quint is forced to his knees, and Ridge Runner 3 puts a gun to his head.

SALVO (cont'd)
 I've got your man. Surrender, and
 I'll let him live.

Abilene knows that's a lie. She checks her ammo. She's good.

SALVO (cont'd)

No? Okay... How about you come out and I'll let you take a free shot at me. You kill me, and you both walk.

Without a thought, Abilene confidently steps out. She's as cool as Clint Eastwood's, "Man With No Name". She's got this in the bag.

In the middle of the street Abilene positions herself for exactly what she's good at, quick-draw gunfights. She drops the rifle and relaxes her posture, preparing for an easy win.

Smug and grinning in arrogant confidence, Salvo flips down his full metal face mask. He's going to let this play out because he's invincible.

QUINT

What are you... don't- His armor!

Abilene ignores Quint. She's in a steely-eyed zone. This will be over fast.

Impatient, Salvo holds out his hands for the free shot.

SALVO

Well? I'm wai-

BAM! The revolver in her right hand nails Ridge Runner 3 in the head. At the same time the Surge Pistol envelops Salvo in black electricity.

Ridge Runner 3 drops the gun and Quint quickly picks it up holding the other pirates at bay.

Salvo flinches as the electric current surges all around him, and then he laughs.

SALVO (cont'd)

I'm grounded, bitch!

Oh, damn. For the first time it looks like Abilene is in over her head. Perhaps she is. She can't shoot him, and she can't electrocute him. A desperate search for plan B tells us that she's never experienced a loss like this before.

Surrounded, and defeated Quint drops the gun and surrenders.

SALVO (cont'd)

Take them both.

Salvo's men grab Quint, but Abilene levels her revolver at FOUR approaching pirates. She won't give up.

ABILENE

Nope.

The Pirates level their guns at her.

ABILENE (cont'd)

Go ahead. Shoot. This dies with me.

She indicates the Surge Pistol technology. There's hesitation about what to do next.

SALVO

Who says we're going to kill you.
Shoot her in the-

Insanely fast, Abilene rips off FOUR SHOTS dropping all four Pirates. The last shot DINGS Salvo in the bulletproof face mask, just to prove a point.

Salvo staggers back a little at the bullet's impact. He is stunned at the woman's speed.

Suddenly, a strange shade covers the entire street. Is this an eclipse? Abilene's eyes drift upward, behind Salvo, Quint, and the rest. She sees something completely terrifying blocking the sun.

ALL TURN TO LOOK.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DOCKS - SAME TIME

At the top of the metal pier where the mainland meets the docking platforms, the small group of Pirates escort Bear and Isobel toward the Black Dagger where it sits at the edge of town.

ISOBEL

I have surrendered peacefully. Unhand me! When my father hears of this...

Suddenly her struggling stops, and she goes limp in horror. Up in the sky two BOULDERS from the shoals come tumbling in. One rock is as big as a house, the other a bus. Both cast giant shadows across the isle.

The Pirates and Bear turn to see what has caused Isobel to shut up. They are awestruck by the sight of two boulders heading right for the Black Dagger.

Isobel slips her captor and takes off running out of the rocks's path, and back to the DOCKS. Bear breaks free and he is right behind her. The Pirates finally react in self-preservation too.

The Black Daggar's CANNONS ROAR to life!

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUREXT. BLACK DAGGER - MAIN DECK

A small skeleton crew scrambles across the decks. The CANNONS continuously pound the two boulders.

CREWMAN

Fire! Fire all cannons! Hard
starboard! Aft boosters full!

The warship, heavy, slow, and large starts to turn. But it won't be enough.

Cannons spray the boulders, chipping away at the surface. But it won't be enough.

Both rocks are spaced so perfectly that moving in any direction will put the ship in the path of the other rock.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - MAIN STREET - SAME TIME

CANNON FIRE fills the air. Salvo is staring up in disbelief. It looks like the shoals are rolling in. What's worse, the Black Dagger is moving the wrong way to avoid them.

SALVO

Altitude! Get her up, you dumb
scrubs! UP!

The Black Dagger moves forward and tries to turn. There is a deafening CRACK as the boulder that is as big as a house sheers off the bow of the ship.

The Men holding Quint leave him and run for their lives. Everyone runs except Abilene, Quint, and Salvo.

Abilene quickly finishes loading her revolver. She WHISTLES at Quint, and flips the carbine off the ground with her foot. He catches it.

ABILENE

Gun!

QUINT

Yep.

They both cock their weapons as Salvo turns and takes a angry step toward them to finish them both off. His mini-guns are whirling, but before he can get a shot off, Quint and Abilene unleash hell on him. Shot-after-shot knocks Salvo back until their guns click empty.

Salvo shakes off the pounding.

SALVO
Stupid waste of time.

He sets to aim with his grenade launcher. He's going to finish this once and for all.

CRUNCH! One of the boulders makes first impact right on top of Salvo -- thanks to Quint and Abilene shooting him into it's direct path. There's a small muffled explosion under the rock from the grenades going off, and as the boulder SKIPS off the isle it leaves a giant crater behind.

CUT TO:

INT. SUB-LEVEL - WATER RECLAMATION PLANT - SAME TIME

Effie and Kael weave their way around the catwalks. The Hangman, and the last two men of his group give chase. One of the men SHOTS at Effie and Kael as they emerge from around a WATER TANK.

HANGMAN
Stop shooting at them! You'll hit
the Shiner!

Effie and Kael make it to the set of METAL STAIRS. They start to climb when the whole isle quakes violently. They pause.

KAEL
Whoa. Unstable port connection.

SOUNDS of STRESS SHRIEK across the water plant.

EFFIE
That ain't good. Keep moving.

The Hangman stops and looks around too. What he sees in chilling. The shaking has caused a WAVE in the lake to rise, and pipes to spring massive LEAKS.

HANGMAN
Hurry.

Faster now he gets moving again.

Effie and Kael head up the stairs case. The Hangman resumes chase, and then another EARTHQUAKE grips the isle. This time it twists and turns everything in the cavern. The catwalks SCREECH and bend. The tanks crack open and GUSH WATER. STEAM from pipes BURST open.

Panic! The water level is rising fast. The Hangman and his men are knee deep in it now. The WAVE in the lake bounces back in their direction.

Effie and Kael have made it to the second level, and run into the tunnel that leads to the outer balcony.

As the Hangman and his men reach the metal staircase one of his men is swept away in the wave as they climb. The Last Man and the Hangman make it to the the second level and enter the tunnel after Effie and Kael.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - SAME TIME

No time for Victory, the rumbling and quaking intensifies as the two halves of the Black Dagger come crashing into to town along with the other boulder.

Everything in the path of the crumbling ship is leveled. Quint and Abilene run, dodging EXPLODING buildings as they splinter on impact. The boulder is rolling to their left flattening storefronts, and right behind them is the Black Dagger tumbling and throwing debris from the ship in every direction.

Just when they think it couldn't get any worse, underground WATER PIPES BURST into geysers shooting water everywhere.

Our Heroes are losing ground, and running out of road. Quint glances behind. The back half of the airship disintegrates, opening up a slim gap between it and the boulder on their right.

He grabs Abilene, spins back and HUGS her tight just as the ship and the boulder squeeze by. The danger is so close it brushes against them, causing them to step for balance. And then the chaos is gone down the road.

In the aftermath they just stand there in each others arms, breathing heavy, not sure what just happened. A heated moment passes between them. Abilene parts her lips at the temptation holding her.

Quint stares deeply into her eyes, and then she abruptly breaks away to survey the apocalyptic scene surrounding them.

It's total devastation.

All of Eden's surface is decimated. Buildings torn to shreds, water pouring out of the ground, fires blazing. The airship has come to a crumpled mess at the edge of the isle. The boulder has rolled to a stop too.

Abilene and Quint give each other a look. They can't believe they survived that.

 QUINT
Scrapyard?

 ABILENE
Yep.

They start to move with purpose.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - OUTER BALCONY - SAME TIME

A metal balcony stretches the entire circumference of Eden. Portions of the structure are made up of vehicles -- cars, buses, trains, etc. The balcony is anchored below the surface of the isle, and to the rock face. There is access to the sub-level tunnel system, which is currently pouring out water from the flooded reclamation plant.

Effie and Kael are hurrying along the metal walkway. The only thing below them is sky. To their left are two smaller isles connected to Eden's surface by TWO BRIDGES. One is the FUEL DEPOT, the other is the SCRAPYARD.

Kael is mesmerized by the view.

 KAEL
Best. Port. Ever.

He stops and bends dangerously over the railing to look down.

 KAEL (cont'd)
Apple, are we flying?

She hooks him and forces him onward.

EFFIE

Pretty much.

He looks out at the Fuel Depot.

KAEL

Is that an island? How is it just floating there? Apple, look...

EFFIE

Yes. Yes. Go. Go. Go.

HANGMAN

STOP!

The Hangman and his Last Man are right behind them.

Effie takes Kael toward a RAMP in the distance that leads up to Eden's surface and the Scrapyard Bridge. They enter a hollowed out TRAIN CAR just as something IMPACTS Eden again. They slide when the balcony shifts at an angle, but they are able to stop themselves from falling easily enough.

The Hangman isn't as lucky. We see the THIRD BOULDER from the shoals SLAM into the balcony, and RICOCHET off toward the Fuel Depot. As the boulder pulls away it tears part of the balcony from its anchors on Eden, and leaves it dangling in mid-air.

The Hangman and his Last Man go sliding down the torn metal walkway. They both nearly flip off, but manage to catch themselves on the twisted railing. They start to climb back up.

Effie pauses and looks out of the train car window to witness the Hangman's near demise.

KAEL

That's a big rock.

Effie looks out at what Kael sees. The third boulder rolls right into the Fuel Depot creating a massive EXPLOSION.

She pulls Kael down to avoid the initial heat wave from the blast. A huge fountain of FIRE and SMOKE begins to permeate the entire area, and fill the train car.

Another peek out of the window tells Effie all she needs to know. The Hangman survived, and he's still coming. She grabs Kael and hurries him out of the train car, back onto the open walkway. She turns him and points him up at the Scrapyard Bridge.

EFFIE
See that?

KAEL
A bridge.

EFFIE
I need you to run there as fast as you can and cross it. Understand? Don't stop until you get to the other side. I'll be right behind you.

KAEL
Is this a race?

EFFIE
Yes. Go!

He heads off in a limping jog.

EFFIE (cont'd)
FASTER!

Kael picks up the pace.

Satisfied and hopeful that he'll make it, Effie turns her attention toward stalling the trouble coming her way.

EXT. BLOOD RAVEN - STERNCastle DECK - SAME TIME

The Blood Raven is not far behind the last boulder coming in to Eden. So close now, they can see the devastation that was caused by the first two boulders impacting the isle.

LOOKOUT
She's down! The Black Dagger is down!

CHEERS from the crew.

SLAGG
Keep your heads, we've not won yet!

The EXPLOSION from the FUEL DEPOT turns the small isle into a blazing inferno.

WADE
Any sign of our people?

Slagg and the Lookout search the Scrapyard.

SLAGG
Can't see through the smoke.

WADE
You said the wind would be blowing east.

SLAGG
I said what I had to, Plains Drifter.
(beat)
There's movement. A man... the Shiner is crossing the bridge.

Wade steers the ship hard, and breaks from the wake of the last boulder.

WADE
We're going in.

SLAGG
Wait... he's doing something over the side. That damn fool's going to jump!

There's concerned looks, and then...

THROUGH SPYGLASS

We see Kael dangerously leaning over the railing on the bridge. Something falls out of his mouth.

BACK TO SHOT

LOOKOUT
I think. Yes! He's spitting off the bridge, Captain!

EXT. MAIN STREET - SAME TIME

Abilene and Quint continue to navigate the disaster left behind by the Black Dagger and the boulders crushing the town. They climb, crawl, and carefully hurry through the rubble. They are exhausted, but they push on.

The explosion from the Fuel Depot stops them dead in their tracks. Abilene and Quint look urgently as the flames and smoke rise from the distant isle.

QUINT
That's the fuel depot.

They push harder through the tangled mess of debris. Eventually they break through to a clear path ahead.

A path that leads straight to the Scrapyard Bridge. From here they can already see someone on the other side waving at them.

They run for it. This is it! Everyone has made it!

EXT. OUTER BALCONY - SAME TIME

Black smoke suffocates the air. With a bandanna covering her nose and mouth, Effie patiently waits outside the Train Car. FOOTSTEPS and COUGHING are heard from inside. The Hangman and his Last Man are approaching.

Effie readies herself. Through the blinding smoke the Last Man exits first. Effie gives him a linebacker-style shoulder tackle, which nearly flips him over the railing. When she turns, she ELBOWS the Hangman in the face.

The Hangman stumbles back into the TRAIN CAR, and Effie is on top of him, throwing more Elbows into his head.

EFFIE

For Sig, you bastard!

As revenge drives her, she doesn't see the Last Man come up behind her. He puts her in a choke-hold and yanks her off the Hangman.

Effie struggles, but to no avail. The Hangman stands, wipes his bloodied face. He looks her over. This small thing got the drop on him? He backhands her and motions for the Last Man to drag her along as he exits.

EXT. SCRAPYARD - BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Kael stares out across the airspace at Eden as Abilene and Quint arrive by his side. But someone important is missing from the reunion.

ABILENE

Kael. You're awake. Where's Effie?

Kael points back across Eden. Abilene and Quint catch their breath, and turn to see The Hangman manhandling Effie up the balcony ramp.

ABILENE (cont'd)

Son of a...

A rush of anger envelops her. Abilene pulls her revolver, checks the ammo. It's empty. She switches to the Surge Pistol and powers it up. Effie is not getting left behind.

Quint sees something that Abilene is too blind to see at the moment. He jumps in front of her to stop her from going back over the bridge.

QUINT

What are you doing?

ABILENE

Move.

She knocks him out of the way. She's on a mission to save a friend -- to save the family she couldn't save when she was a child.

She's a few yards onto the bridge when Quint rushes back in and starts pushing her backwards.

QUINT

You won't make it, Abilene. Look!

He forcibly turns her toward the LAST BOULDER heading right for them. She doesn't want to hear it, or see it. She moves forward again, but Quint grabs her hard and squares her in the eyes. He's not letting her do this.

QUINT (cont'd)

If you die, you'll never save her.

He's right and she hates it. If she hesitates any longer they're both dead. She turns and he follows as they mad-dash the few yards back to the Scrapyard. They DIVE to solid ground just as the boulder SLAMS into the Scrapyard and takes out the bridge.

Safely on the ground, they look at each other as if feeling something move beneath them. It registers on their faces what is happening...

The isle's edge starts to crumble, forcing Abilene and Quint up again before the ground gives out. They run one more time and jump to solid ground just before the earth falls out from under them.

A quiet pause to catch their breath. They look up and see Kael standing there, still staring across at Eden. He's sad.

KAEL

I lost my Apple.

Abilene and Quint both frown. He's acting weird, but they dismiss it as they get up.

As the Scrapyard begins to slowly drift away from Eden, Abilene gazes out across the growing gap.

The Hangman is standing on Eden with Effie in his clutches. He gives Abilene a hard stare, and she returns the silent threat with one of her own.

This is far from over. She'll make damn sure of that.

QUINT

Blood Raven is here. We'll get Doc
Harper back, but we have to go.

He tugs at Abilene, and she looks at him, and then Kael. When she turns back to Eden, the Hangman and Effie are gone.

Only then does Abilene leave.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEEXT. AIR ISLES - BLOOD RAVEN - MAIN DECK

The Blood Raven departs Eden using the smoke from the Fuel Depot and the fading sunlight as cover.

On deck, Abilene, Kael, and Quint exit the LONGBOAT, and the Crew welcomes them aboard.

Quint notices that his Pirates are now mixed-in with the Townfolk. It's a good sign, and he approves.

Abilene starts to bee-line for Wade, who is up at the helm. She sees Slagg with him and frowns. But before she can actually get moving, Squirrel intercepts her with a welcoming hug, which she does not want.

SQUIRREL

You made it! Did you see the airship
get nailed by our rocks?

(glancing around)

Where's Doc Harper?

Still focused on the upper deck, Abilene doesn't respond. She pushes past.

Squirrel looks to Quint for an answer.

QUINT

Hangman has her. Can you take him to
the Captain's Cabin?

He points to Kael, and then follows quickly after Abilene to the...

EXT. STERNCASTLE DECK

Slagg is shackled to the railing in front of the wheel where Wade stands. Slagg scowls at his betrayer, Quint, as he arrives. Quint glares back.

QUINT

What's this doing here?

SLAGG

Saving your stinking lives, boy.

Abilene stops at Wade's side. She has one thing on her mind, and she's determined to get it done.

ABILENE

Turn the ship around. We're going
back for Doc Harper.

Shock hits Wade. He's disturbed by the news, and by
Abilene's orders.

WADE

She didn't make it?

Slagg's laugh mocks Abilene.

SLAGG

There's no going back, Abilene. You
lost the Doc, but you gained the
Shiner.

Abilene snaps a murderous glare at Slagg. She is a breath
away from losing her cool, and Slagg isn't helping. Perhaps
he knows that.

ABILENE

Shut up.

SLAGG

I guess we know which one is more
valuable to you now.

WHAM! Abilene is on him like lightning, landing a punch
before anybody sees it coming, least of all Slagg. The
Captain falls back into the railing hard. He lands on the
ground with a bloody mouth.

As fast as he can, Quint holds Abilene back before she can
strike again. She pushes him away and spins back to Wade,
who is a little scared of her now.

ABILENE

Turn now, or I will, Wade.

Slagg's laugh taunts her again. He spits blood on the deck.
He's going to have fun with this.

SLAGG

Go on then. Do as the lass says.
Turn around and give me exactly what
I want.

Quint grabs him by the shirt and hauls him to his feet.

QUINT

Enough of you, old man.

Slagg nods at the SPYGLASS on the rail.

SLAGG
See for yourself. Traitor.

Quint frowns at the spyglass, and then picks it up. He survey's the horizon of Eden.

THROUGH SPYGLASS

The airship Happy Jack is closing in on Eden. The laughing skull emblem is in plain view through the smokey air.

BACK TO SHOT

Quint looks at Abilene sorry for what she is about to see as he hands her the spyglass. She takes it as Slagg smiles a bloody grin.

Abilene scans the sky with the spyglass. Her look of determination fades. The evidence is undeniable. She can't save Effie.

SLAGG (cont'd)
What's it going to be, Abilene? Take my ship and crew straight into the hell that you save them from? Or run while you still can?

Silence, as Abilene lowers the spyglass, and then...

WADE
We have plenty of fuel and engines, but we can't out-gun them with half a battery.

Quint remains quiet and neutral. He doesn't like leaving Effie behind any more than Abilene does, but deep down he knows it's too late. And it looks like Abilene has come to that conclusion too.

SLAGG
Maybe Happy Jack will do the same to your Doc Harper as he did to my Celeste. Then you'll know. Then you'll feel my--

She THROWS the SPYGLASS at him, and shoves the active Surge Pistol right into the side of Slagg's face. Oh, how she wants to pull the trigger and shut him up for good.

Slagg grins.

SLAGG (cont'd)

Do it. Put me down, or I'll plague
you until I rot your core, woman.

Quint looks out across the ship. The crew is watching.
Slagg is playing them, trying to make Abilene the villain.

WADE

I hate the bastard too. But without
his help we'd all be dead.

Quint reaches for Abilene's gun-hand.

Gritting her teeth, and almost snarling at Slagg, Abilene
looking for someone to blame, and hate, and Slagg is the
perfect outlet for her emotions.

QUINT

Not like this.

He slowly lowers her gun-hand, and she sharply turns away.
Slagg grins in victory. He's had his fun.

QUINT (cont'd)

Put him back in the brig.

A TOWNSMAN unlocks Slagg from the rail and starts to lead
him away. Slagg calls back one more lovely thought to
torment Abilene.

SLAGG

He won't kill her! Not right away.
There's still time! You and I are
going to be the same very soon!

A final laugh is cut off as he is taken below deck. The
ship falls quiet. A quiet that sees Abilene pacing the deck
like a caged animal full of energy but no way to release it.

QUINT

We'll find a way to get her back.

Abilene doesn't want to hear the hollow promise, she wants
action. Without a word she heads into the Captain's Cabin.

Quint watches her go, and then starts to follow.

WADE

Wouldn't do that if I were you.

Quint stops. He reconsiders. Perhaps he's right. He turns
back to Wade.

QUINT
I'll take the wheel for a while.

Wade hands it over.

WADE
I didn't have any other choice, you know. Aerial warfare ain't my thing. I took a gamble. It paid off. Sorta.

Quint says nothing. Wade turns to leave, but pauses.

WADE (cont'd)
Hey, did Lady Isobel and Bear make it to Eden?

Quint gives him a solid frown.

QUINT
You sent them after us?

WADE
No. A longboat is missing, and so are they. I figured they either tried to surrender, or left for home.
(shrug)
Either way, they're on their own now.

QUINT
Aye.

Wade leaves. Quint looks back at the Captain's Cabin with concern.

EXT. EDEN - MAIN STREET - NIGHT

In the wasteland of Eden, SURVIVORS wander in the background while the Hangman stands waiting with his SMALL CREW, and his prisoners -- Effie, Isobel, and Bear.

Bruises are evident on Effie's face, and much like everyone else she is filthy with the smoke and dirt of Eden. However, unlike everyone else Effie has a noose around her neck, which is tied to her hands behind her back. One small movement of her hands and the noose tightens.

The Hangman and his crew wait to receive company.

Effie turns her attention to Bear and Isobel standing beside her. Two thoughts tug at her expression: How did they get here, and why are they standing free along side the Hangman?

Isobel sees Effie looking at her, questioning her. At first she's sympathetic to Effie's condition, but then she realizes that she is being judged.

ISOBEL

It's your own fault. All you had to do was surrender and go home.

Effie says nothing, but she's clearly ticked off. She looks in Bear's direction, but he ignores her. That's her answer. Bear is with Isobel -- as usual.

ISOBEL (cont'd)

Daddy!

Relieved to see her father, Isobel runs and leaps into Duke Bloxham's arms. Bear casually follows.

Angel, Magnus, Big Irish, and a handful of Happy Jack Crew make their approach.

BLOXHAM

My darling girl. Are you well? Did they harm you?

ISOBEL

I'm not at my best, but I'm fine. I can't believe you're here. I'm so happy to see you.

She hugs him again, and he kisses her head.

BLOXHAM

Nothing could keep me away. Magnus, would you be so kind as to escort my daughter to my quarters?

He nods and Isobel parts from her father reluctantly.

BLOXHAM (cont'd)

I'll be along shortly. Get cleaned up and have a decent meal. We'll talk in a while.

Before Magnus leaves with Isobel, he gives Effie one heck of a look that promises pain.

Effie looks down at the ground beneath her feet. She's so screwed...

Bear walks with Bloxham and the others as they approach the Hangman.

BEAR
I kept my promise.

BLOXHAM
You are true to your word, and I
thank you, Flaming Bear.

That's it? Bear scowls.

BEAR
My tribe. You said you'd free them.

BLOXHAM
Indeed. And I had every intention of
doing so, but the situation has
changed beyond my control. I'm
sorry.

Bear quietly bristles in silence. All of this was for nothing? He betrayed Abilene, Effie, and the others for nothing? He keeps his anger bottled up, and watches with disdain as the Duke moves with Angel and Big Irish toward Effie and the Hangman.

ANGEL
Is this all? An entire isle
destroyed and this
(at Effie)
is all you have to show for it?

Hangman yanks back the noose on Effie's neck and she winces. She is his prize, not theirs.

HANGMAN
I lost my ship, my first mate, and
most of my crew while you did
nothing, but sit and wait. I am not
your hound to send and retrieve.
This is my bounty. She belongs to
the Imperial Isles.

BLOXHAM
Correction. Doc Harper, here, is of
the Plains Drifters Pride, and my
personal property. She is in
servitude to me.

Hangman scorns him with a laugh.

HANGMAN
You have no property. Your Pride
stripped you of title and land.
(MORE)

HANGMAN (cont'd)
 You're lucky I gave back your
 daughter and native.

Effie and Bear both look at Bloxham with surprise, and a bit of well-deserved revenge.

Bloxham steps toward the Hangman. His temper begins to flare, but Big Irish interrupts.

BIG IRISH
 He's not wrong, but the Plains
 Drifter belongs to Lady Orlean now.
 She comes with us.

HANGMAN
 The girl will be interrogated, and
 the Imperial Isles will share what we
 learn.

ANGEL
 You are a Captain of no ship, which
 makes you nothing in the Free Isles.
 The girl belongs to Happy Jack. He
will have her.

The mere mention of that name raises Effie's fear level. Whomever she ends up with, won't be good.

HANGMAN
 I'm not under your laws Free Woman.
 Tell The Jack he can have seconds
 when I'm done with her. Now depart,
 or none will have her.

Hangman sticks a knife to Effie's neck.

ANGEL
 As you wish.

Angel wags her head and sighs like she's backing down. But with a flick of her wrist the problem is solved. A THROWING KNIFE LODGES in the Hangman's eye socket and he collapses instantly. His remaining crew back down.

ANGEL (cont'd)
 (at Bloxham)
 Get the girl. We're done here.

She heads back to the ship. Bloxham motions for Bear to take Effie. He does so in a soft way that shows he is sorry.

We follow Effie as she is marched toward Happy Jack's airship. With every step closer a cold terror overwhelms her. After all of her running, Effie has ended up right back here -- captive, not just to Bloxham and Magnus, but to Happy Jack, the very man she escaped in the first place.

Saturated with worry and dread, Effie keeps her eyes on the ground. She's brought to a hard stop at the BOARDING PLANK. A MAN'S HAND reaches out and lifts her chin. Slowly, she locks eyes with HAPPY JACK. She expects the worst, but something strange happens...

Effie's expression shifts from pure fear, to confusion.
Something is wrong.

BOOM OUT.

THE END