Doom And Gloom?

Bralon Stiggers

We start the opening scene with maybe a wide shot of the field and a house with the workers tending to the land. We cut into a man, who will be the main character's father and his older brother tending to the land.

Father: Joseph...hey Joe?! (Talking to his son)

Joseph: Yes sir?

Father: Have you seen your brother?

Joseph: No sir. He got up early and ran out to play with some of the other invalids.

Father: Damn that boy's always into something.

We cut to the main character's mother, who's been listening to her husband and son having the conversation of her missing son. She's distressed over the situation.

Gwen: Lord Bless him. (speaking to no one in particular)

We cut to a shot of a young black boy and a young white girl hiding under a bed reading what looks like a history textbook. Only this textbook is of the downfall of what used to be America. Maybe we can flip through some pages to explain what happened. They describe the stock market crashing, the housing market diminishing, banks not being able to pay out money that they owe people/people beginning to pull money out of banks, etc. Then a takeover by the Chinese in what's known as what's called Doom and Gloom. Maybe we can work all this in to introduce the title of the film.

As the kids are flipping through the pages of the textbook, a door flies open. It's an angry white man, or the master of the new age plantation. He's also the father of the little white girl. There's going to be little to no dialogue in this opening sequence. It's going to be presented as a flashback of the main character. The slave owner begins to yell obscenities at the little black kid as he jerks him up and out from under the bed. The little girl begins to beg and plead for her father to stop. That they weren't doing anything wrong. The father begins to drag the boy, who's terrified of what's about to happen to him, as his daughter's holding on to his arm. He throws her off and down to the ground. The mother, Elizabeth, hears all the commotion and sees her daughter getting tossed to the ground. She can do nothing but console her as the father begins to drag the boy outside.

The master, Carl, drags the boy down the porch steps and throws him on the ground.

Carl: Billy! (calls to his son) Get the whip!

The man's son, Billy goes and gets a whip that's hanging somewhere out in the open to intimidate the slaves. By this time, the other slaves hear the commotion and turn their attention to what's happening in front of the house. Billy brings his father the whip. By this time our main character, Warrick, is whimpering and crying. He knows he's in trouble. The master begins to yell more obscenities at the boy as everyone looks on. He begins to whip the boy ferociously, as the boy begins to scream in agony. We get reactions from Elizabeth, who's consoling her daughter, Emily, who is distraught by the whole situation. There's another little child in the house, who's not young enough to know what's going on, but knows it's not good. He's looking out of the screen door.

We cut back to the slaves, who all have saddened looks on their faces. We cut to Warrick's family, who all have looks of terror on their faces.

Gwen: (to her husband) That's Warrick's voice!

There has to be some sort of fence or barrier to separate the slaves from the front of the house. It'll also make it more dramatic for Warrick's father to jump over. He sprints towards the fence, not thinking, and dives over it. We see Joseph, Warrick's older brother watching on in shock and horror. The other slaves begin to console Warrick's mother, Gwen. Meanwhile we see Warrick's father running towards Carl. Billy tries to cut him off as he's doing it, but gets pushed out of the way by the irate father. Carl sees Warrick's father coming at him, so he halts whipping Warrick and turns the whip towards his father. He throws the whip at Warrick's father, but it's too late. He's already tackled Carl to the ground. The men begin to struggle for position. Warrick's father let's off a couple of punches to Carl's face. Carl's somewhat defeated and can no longer defend himself. Warrick's dad goes over to console him. Then, he sees the whip, which was dropped when he tackled Carl, and goes to pick it up. He picks it up and is raisina it over his head when we get a shot of Gwen, being held back by other slaves as she makes a run for the fence. Then she screams "NOO0000!!!!" in bloody terror. Then we hear a shot, "BANG." Warrick's father's eyes go wide and he looks back, confused as to what has just happened. Billy drops the shotgun, in shock at what he'd just done. He's panting heavily and falls down to the ground, landing on his backside, overwhelmed. Warrick is also in shock as he looks at his father, who hass dropped to his knees, clutching his waist. He mouths, "I love you, son." to Warrick as he falls face first. Warrick makes a run for him and tries to wake him up.

We cut to a reaction of Joseph, who's just in utter shock with tears streaming down his face. Gwen has dropped to her knees and is sobbing. We get a shot of Elizabeth and Emily, both crying, clutching at each other. Jacob, the young boy standing at the screen door, is just looking on not knowing what's really happening. Billy's still standing in shock, not sure of what he'd done. Carl gets up and immediately grabs Warrick from his father's clutches. Warrick screams "NOOOO!!!," and begins to fight with Carl, but he's immediately punched and knocked out by the overbearing slave

owner. He's dragged to a shed and locked inside, unconscious. He's seething over being emasculated by one of his slaves. He grabs his whip and heads towards the on looking crowd of slaves. He stops a few feet away from them where they can hear him. He addresses them angrily.

Carl: Let this be a lesson to any of the rest of you niggers who try to get out of turn! You keep your filthy carcasses away from my house and I damn sure better not catch any of you dirty niggers remotely close to my family, let alone one of those little invalids you call children. You don't even look at them in the eye. And don't speak to them unless you're spoken to. Now, does any one of you's got a problem with what just happened here?!

We get a shot of the slaves glaring down at the ground and Gwen still sobbing. They all begin to shake their heads no.

Carl: That's what I thought. Now get your lazy asses back to work. And forget about a lunch break. You can thank your buddy Warrick, and his daddy (points to the dead man) for that one.

Carl spits at the body of Warrick's father as he walks past it. Carl picks Billy up off the ground and tells him, "Good, job son." as they begin to walk towards the house. He pats him on the head and puts his arm around him. They walk up the stairs and we get a shot of the door closing.

The door closes triggers our main character, Warrick, coming to. He realizes what's happened and is sad at first, but wipes his tears with his sleeve cuff. He's angry. He begins to stare at a piece of a tattered American flag, that's been framed. We should somehow blend the dead father's body laying in front of the house with this picture as we fade into scene 2.

Warrick is going to narrate the story for the most part. We cut into Warrick waking up in a cold sweat. He's in the middle of a wooded area and it's nearing dawn. He's panting. The story's advanced a few years and he's older now. He starts to narrate the story...

It happened again. The nightmare from the horrible day. The day of my father's death. I have no one to blame but myself. I try to forget about, but it's always in the back of my mind. Mama told me it wasn't my fault, but deep down I feel like she blames me, though she'd never say nor show it. Joseph's a different story. He's my brother, but things haven't been the same between us since that day. Our bond was broken, or at least something was between us.

He stops narrating the story and gets a realization of where he is, as well as what time it is.

Warrick: (To himself) Shit!

We acknowledge for the first time that he's not alone and cut to a shot of Emily sleeping next to him. She's older as well.

Warrick: (Shaking Emily) Babe! Baby! Get up. We have to go. It's almost morning and you know your dad will be up any minute.

Emily: (Groggy and going through the generic wake up procedures) What time is it? Did we fall asleep?

Warrick: Yeah we did. But we don't have time to talk. I'm heading back. I'll see you later.

Emily: Hey! (Grabs his arm) I love you...

Warrick: I know you do. And I love you, too. But you may be loving a dead man if we don't get out of here.

Warrick and Emily embrace and then he takes off back towards the house. We get a shot of the field, the house, which we already know, and we come upon a couple of shacks, where the slaves live. Warrick climbs through the window quietly, but is met by his older brother.

Joseph: Where the hell have you been?

Warrick: What business is it of yours what I do? You're not Carl and you damn sure aren't daddy.

Joseph: (Slaps Warrick) I'm the patriarch of this family, so it's very much my damned business. You better stop seeing her.

Warrick: Who? You don't know what you're talking about, Joe.

Joseph: I know good and damn well what I'm talking about and what I've seen. You think that if I can figure it out, they won't?

Warrick: Just worry about your own business.

Joseph: You are my business. I'm the one who's had to bail you out of every little mess that you get into and you're about to step into something that can't be washed off with soap and water. You know what your problem is Warrick?

Warrick: Naw I don't, but I'm sure you're gonna tell me.

Joseph: Yeah I will. It's your attitude. You're selfish. You don't think about anyone but yourself. Meanwhile, I have this whole damn family, and not to mention the

others to look after while you're out doing God knows what with the master's daughter. You're not only putting your life in jeopardy, but the future of the whole family and the others. And do you ever think about mama? Do you? Do you know what it would do to her if something happened to you? Do you ever even think about other people before you parade around with her?

You can sense the tension between the conversation of the two. At this point, their mother comes in unannounced and eases it a little.

Gwen: What's going on in here?

Joseph: (Not taking his glare off of Warrick) Nothing mama. I was just telling Warrick that he forgot to put his tools up yesterday after he tended the fields and that I had to clean up his mess so no one would notice. It's nothing.

Warrick: Yeah it's nothing mama. Go back to bed for a little while longer. It isn't time to work yet and you need your rest.

Gwen: (Sensing an issue, but not saying anything) Okay...y'all just keep some of that racket down. People are trying to sleep in here.

Joseph and Warrick are glaring at one another as we cut to Emily climbing into her window. She takes off her jacket and has on her pajamas. She then climbs into bed and pulls the covers over her shoulders. As she does this, her door is opened and her father peaks his head in. She immediately closes her eyes. Carl looks in and gives a smile, unaware that his daughter had just climbed through her window. He closes the door. We got a final shot of Emily letting out a sigh.

Carl walks into his kitchen, where his two sons are sitting at the kitchen table having breakfast. Jacob has aged a bit over the years and is now almost a teenager. Billy is a few years older, but basically looks the same. His wife is standing by the stove making more breakfast for him. He gives her a smile, grabs her by the waist, and leans over to give her an affectionate peck on the cheek.

Elizabeth: Someone's in a good mood today.

Carl: How can I not be when I have something that beautiful standing in my kitchen when I wake up?

Elizabeth: Oh, stop it...

They kiss and play around affectionately some more. The two boys are more than disturbed by what they see from their parents.

Jacob: You guys already have a room. You should use it.

Carl: (Walks over and messes up Jacob's hair) Trust me, we do son.

Elizabeth: (Embarrassed) Carl?!

Carl: What? I'm just telling the truth.

Elizabeth: Was Emily not out of bed yet?

Carl: Nope. She's still in it. Let her get some beauty sleep. She deserves it with all the work she puts in around here.

Billy: Not as much work as I do.

Carl: True. But you're a man. Are you going to let your wife do more work than you when you get your own place someday?

Billy: You mean you guys are going to actually let me leave?

Elizabeth: Oh cheer up sourpuss. You'll get to see the world one day. Well, what's left of it.

Carl: I know it doesn't seem like it, but this is the safest place for you right now. It'll all work itself out. We just have to make sure we're doing our part to ensure that everything's running smoothly. They'll notice and we'll be able to prosper from it.

He's alluding working for the Chinese. Warrick will explain this when he narrates the story more. Emily comes from around the corner. She's been listening to the conversation, but no one knew she was there.

Emily: So is that why you make them (the slaves) do all the hard work while you soak up the fruits of their labor?

Elizabeth: (Nervous and awkward) Good morning sweetie. Uhh...did you sleep well?

Emily: Can you not answer the question daddy?

Carl: I don't answer to you, Em. Those people owe us everything. They're forever indebted to us. We rescued them a long time ago and brought them to our country to be our workers. Something went wrong and they were equals for a while and you see where that got us. Now we're here. The Chinks are giving us a chance to right our wrongs and by God that's what I'm going to do to the best of my abilities. I have no remorse for those people out there (points towards the outside window). It's what they were put on this Earth for. To serve us. Can't you see that? This is just the way it was meant to be. We're superior because we're white and they're not.

Emily: This family disgusts me.

She turns and leaves the room. We hear a door slam.

Elizabeth: (Concerned) Emily?

Carl: Let her go. She'll understand one day. (Walks towards the window to watch the workers in the field) Eventually.

We get a shot of Carl looking out of the window at the slaves doing their daily duties in the field. He's holding a cup of coffee. None of the other workers notice that he's there except for Warrick. Carl and Warrick's eyes meet for a second. It will be indicative of their future encounter later in our story. While we show Warrick working, he narrates more of the story.

How we got here is a story that everyone tells every once in a while. It always starts a little different than before, but ends at the exact same place. Right here where we are now. America's economy crashed way back when in a time period known as 'Doom and Gloom'. The Chinese saw this as a great opportunity to take advantage of a weakened America and invaded. The country was unprepared, but did their best to try and fight off the invasion attempt. Needless to say, they were unsuccessful. China took over, but didn't want to totally throw away many of the concepts that had made America a thriving nation for so long.

The Chinese decided to re-establish a new USA on their own terms and completely controlled by their government. So they re-introduced the fundamental principles that the original America was founded on. Though they hated the selfishness and evil of the white man, they respected their willingness to do everything in their power to make sure they were the ones on top. They would give them an opportunity to do the same in the new country, only under their strict Chinese watch. On the contrary, they had no respect for how minorities had never stepped up to the plate during the years of the US and taken a piece of the pie for themselves. They felt as if they were holding one another back, so that only the plight of a few could succeed. They knew that the leaders of this prospering new land and civilization that they'd hope to create would have to have the know how bred in them to do what needed to be done. The Chinese decided that they wanted nothing to do with the Latino survivors that were left over from the war, and thus began shipping them back to their native lands. The blacks, however, they thought could be of use and thus, slavery was reborn.

Of course, the Asians that were already in the US became the new high ranking officials. Well, those that would cooperate with the Chinese government. The others that believed that what was going on was wrong, were simply killed.

We weren't really supposed to know of any of this, but they couldn't completely hide it from us. All of this took place a few generations ago. Three or four to be exact. I don't know the exact years because they don't allow us to have much of, if any, concept of time. Of course we have clocks, but many of the slaves here don't know how to tell

time. They try to suppress us of knowledge, but I try to counteract that by educating the rest of my peers, in the hopes that one day we can rise up against this tyranny.

While this talking is going on, we can make short little clips of the things that he's mentioning.

Slave Friend #1: (To Warrick) We still having that meeting later?

Slave Friend #2: (To Slave 1) SHHHHHHH...What you doin' man? You tryna get us caught?

Warrick: (Calmly) Hey. Both of you calm down. You know Carl and Billy are both watching. Just keep acting like you're working and don't make eye contact with them.

We cut to a shot of Carl and Billy ordering around a group of slaves doing some other work in another part of the field. They look back at the gathering of the two slaves and Warrick.

Carl: You girls stop moving your big lips and get to work with those hos.

Warrick: Yes sir! We'll get right on that. (Waits for Carl to stop looking) I'll talk to you guys tonight at the service. I'll make a break for the bathroom. You come later in intervals.

Slave #2: Intervals?

Warrick: Just don't come at the same time.

Slave #1: You and these big words man. I learn something new everyday.

Joseph: Hey? Did y'all hear what the man said? Get the hell out of dodge before we all have to suffer.

They break apart the conversation. We now cut to Emily getting ready in her room. She reads verses from the Bible at the Sunday service as a way to stay close to Warrick, though her parents don't know that. Billy knocks on her door as she's putting the finishing touches on her ensemble.

Billy: Why do you always have to go to their church gatherings? God didn't create those people. Why do you even care so much about them?

Emily: I don't want to do this right now Billy. You're not going to ruin one of the only opportunities to get out of this house. And if you must know, they can't read. Somebody has to read the Word to them. We're all God's children.

Billy: Shit. If that don't beat all I ever heard of. I don't see how you can stand the stench of 'em. I have to keep a bandana across my face even when we're outside.

Emily: Billy? Will you just leave me be? I don't do this to you, so I'd appreciate it if you'd spare me the ridicule and let me get on with the Lord's work.

Billy: Whoa. Calm down with the attitude little lady. I just saw you gettin' spiffed up for the niggers....

Emily: Don't you dare call them that. You don't do that around me William Jeffrey Thompson. I won't listen to it. (She moves to exit the room with her Bible in her hand)

Billy grabs her arm in a violent matter as she's trying to leave the room. The Bible falls on the floor for dramatic effect and to symbolize that Billy's thrown religion on the ground.

Billy: (Leans into her closely) I hear you. I see you. I know what you're doing.

Emily: I don't know what you're talking about. Let me go.

Billy: I hear you sneaking out of your room at nights through your window and coming back in the morning. I don't follow you because I don't wanna know what you're doing. I can't know what you're doing for the safety of my sanity. I pray you're not doing what I think you are because I'll make you pay, and them. (Stares in her eyes intently) You better stop it, and you better stop it right now. I just want you to know that I'm watching you and that the truth is going to come out soon. When the time's right, everyone will know and you'll be sorry for what you've done to yourself, but most importantly this family. You're an embarrassment and you don't deserve his (Carl's) love. You're a little bitch that gets everything that she wants while the rest of us work hard to maintain what we have. You'd better stop it and you better end whatever you're doing right now.

Emily: I hate you. And with a passion. I hope God has no mercy on your soul for what you've done.

Billy lets her arm go. Elizabeth then comes around the corner.

Elizabeth: Honey are you still going to that gathering tonight?

Emily: Yes mom. I was just leaving.

Billy: (While picking Bible off the ground) Yeah I was just seeing her off. Here, don't forget the Word sis. If you did, what else would you be doing over there with those animals?

Elizabeth: Billy? Don't say things like that in this house.

Billy: Sorry mom. You taught me always to let the truth speak for itself. It sets you free you know.

Emily: She also taught us that if you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all. I'll see you guys later. I won't be long mom.

Emily walks away and passes her smaller brother, Jacob. He's unknowingly been there the whole time the incident was going on. Emily walks outside and runs into her father, Carl, as he's coming in for the night.

Emily: Hi daddy. I'm off to the spiritual gathering to spread the Word. I won't be long.

Carl: Okay sweetie. Be careful and keep a close eye on them to make sure nothing's going on.

Emily: Oh dad. I'm sure they're scared to death of you after the way you constantly brutalize them day in and day out. God's their only relief from that and I feel like it's my responsibility to teach that to them, since they aren't allowed to learn anything else.

Carl: That's the way it should be, honey. I know you don't like to hear that, but it it's true. That's just the way it was meant to be. Now don't be all upset. I apologize for attacking your good intentions. I know God's as proud of you as I am.

He kisses her on the cheek and she walks away.

(Warrick begins to narrate)

One of the only times we get to gather is for Sunday worship. That and funerals. Other than that, more than two males in a room at the same time isn't allowed. The fear of an uprising is always in the back of Carl's mind because of the attempts that have taken place. All of them have been unprepared and random, and they have another thing in common. They've all failed.

Here we can show a clip of a few slaves climbing out of the windows to try and escape, but being caught by a neighbor's dog. Then being brought back to the main house.

The rule is that if you're caught trying to escape, then it's an automatic punishment. By death.

Here we show Billy and Carl shooting the two slaves while they're on their knees facing the camera. Not to be so gruesome, we'll show the barrel of the shotguns pointing at

their heads while they're quivering. We'll pan up just as they're about to fire the shots and show smoke coming out of the barrels. When the shots go off, we'll get a shot of Warrick awaking with a start and sitting up in his bed, then shaking his head. We'll then cut to a shot of Billy smirking and Carl looking uneasy as we cut to the next scene.

We cut to the church service. It's a gathering of only about 12 slaves. There's 4 men (the 2 friend slaves, Joseph and Warrick. There's 6 women. 2 girls and 2 older women. And a couple of little kids. They're all in Warrick and his family's shack. They're in the living room area. We'll show them singing and praising. They're smiling and having a good time. Warrick will narrate a little while this is going on.

We were meeting up to discuss a way to get out of here. The plan was to find a way to escape without anyone knowing. All of us. It'd be tough, but tougher things have been done. I knew most of this place inside and out, and what I didn't know of beyond these woods, Emily knows. She was in on it, too. We never told Joseph. He wouldn't go for something like this. He's always been straight by the book. Especially since what happened to daddy. So, it was up to me to get it done, and I was up to the task.

We'll show more singing and praising. And finally Emily will start reading from the Bible. Warrick and the other slaves will get up one by one to make their way to the bathroom.

Warrick: (To Slave 1, who enters last) Close the door and be quiet. No talking, just listen.

Both slaves nod their heads in agreement.

Warrick: We've only got one shot at this, so we have to do it right. I've got information from a reliable source that we'll be able to make it to the Forbidden Land.

Slave 1: The Forbidden Land?!

Slave 2: Shhhhhh...

Warrick: I'm not going to tell you not to talk again. It's against the rules for us to even be meeting like this. And yes, the Forbidden Land. The source has seen it and can navigate us to there. When we get there, we'll try to make it to a discrete location and hopefully set up a new civilization. But this is a pipe dream and you have to be aware that anything can go wrong at any time. This could be our lives and the lives of the others if it isn't done right. I'll give you more information when the time comes.

Slave 1: So who's this "source" that's going to help us navigate? Can we trust 'em?

Slave 2: Yeah. I don't want just anybody we don't know. I mean, how do we know they're not setting us up to get caught?

Warrick: (Chimes in quickly) They're not. Look, don't worry about it. You can trust me and that's all that matters. I can't tell you who it is right now.

Slave 1: Wait a minute! So it's true. You do still talk to her.

Slave 2: Wait? You mean? In there?

Warrick I don't know what you're talking about.

Slave 1: Ms. Emily??? Oooohh weee...

Slaves 1 and 2 slap hands quietly as they keep teasing Warrick.

Slave 2: I thought it was just a rumor. I don't see how it's even possible that you could even see her.

Slave 1: And she's so delicious. Those eyes, that body, but most importantly that booty. If I had the chance to squeeze...

Warrick cuts him off by grabbing his collar and slamming him against the wall. Slave 2 tries to make Warrick release his grip.

Warrick: (Intense) Don't you ever talk about her that way? You keep your God damned mouth close. Whatever you think or whatever you've heard isn't true. You show her some respect or Carl and Billy will be the least of your worries.

Slave 2: Come on Warrick. Let him go man. He was just joking.

Warrick releases him.

Warrick: Y'all get the hell out of here and wait for the next time I send for you.

Slave 1: I didn't mean nothing by it man. I didn't know.

Warrick: Just get out of here.

Joseph was standing by the door, but moves away towards the kitchen as the 2 slaves are leaving. Both look nervous as Joseph, turns around like he was never by the door and was heading to the bathroom. Warrick comes out and heads towards the kitchen, not making eye contact with his brother. Warrick's mother, Gwen is at the table prepping the others for dinner, then addresses Emily as she's walking out.

Gwen: Ms. Emily, would you like some dinner before you go?

Emily: Oh no ma'am. I don't want you to have to go to the trouble of fixing me a place. Plus, I ate before I came and I'm sure my parents are waiting for me to make it back.

Gwen: We got a lot of food. It's not gonna hurt you to eat a little bit extra.

Emily: Well I would, but I can't. Maybe next time.

Gwen: Alright baby. You be careful walking back.

Warrick: (To Emily) I'll walk you out.

Emily: That's mighty nice of you. You all are too kind to me.

Warrick goes to walk Emily outside. When they're out there, they sneak off to the side of the stairs to talk.

Emily: So what'd they say?

Warrick: They're in, but I think they think something's going on.

Emily: Hmm...I wonder why? Especially after you do things like this.

Warrick: They don't know anything, trust me. That includes their basic knowledge. I mean we do eventually have to tell them though. Not about us, but...you know.

Emily: When the time's right. We can talk about this later. I have to go though. They've been giving me shit all day.

Warrick: When did you start cursing? I guess they're rubbing off on you.

Emily: I don't know. They've just been stressing me out lately. I have to get out of here soon, but I want to make sure everything's right. I'm risking my own life, too, apparently.

Warrick: What do you mean?

Emily: Nothing. I'll talk to you later though. Let's meet up again soon.

Emily leans in and gives Warrick a quick kiss on the cheek as they walk back towards the stairs as some of the others begin to make their way outside.

Emily: Thank you for your generosity Mr. Warrick.

Warrick: Any way that I can be of service ma'am. Have a good night.

They both make their way back to their respect houses as Warrick and Emily both look back. Slaves 1 and 2 are walking away with their family, when Slave 1 catches a glimpse of Warrick and Emily looking lustfully at each other. We cut to a shot of Billy standing off in the darkness. No one is aware that he was there. He only caught the end of the conversation, but he's fuming about what he's seen between Warrick and Emily.

Warrick re-enters his house and goes to eat at the table. His mother is still there, along with Joseph. The mood is somber for some reason. When Warrick enters the kitchen, Joseph and Gwen stop talking.

Warrick: What?

Joseph: You know what, Warrick. What was that tonight?

Warrick: I just walked her outside. She owns us. The least I can do is to make sure she's safe.

Joseph: Don't patronize me. You know good and damn well what I'm talking about.

Gwen: Joseph.

Joseph stands down.

Warrick: (To Gwen) And I'm sure you think the same way he does.

Gwen: Boy who do you think you're talking to?

Warrick: (Backing down) Sorry momma. I meant no disrespect.

Gwen: Then why do you continue to make me play the fool in my own house? Don't patronize me, boy. We all know what's going on. I may be getting older, but I can still see when somebody's trying to pull the wool over my eyes. Especially when it's my own child.

Warrick: Momma, you know I don't mean you or anybody else any harm...

Gwen: (Cuts him off) Then what's with all this mystery? Why're you sneaking off to the bathroom to talk to those boys when you should be praising the Lord that you're still alive. He knows I didn't think you'd make it this long.

Warrick: I don't want to hear this right now. (Goes to walk away)

Gwen: (In a stern manner) Boy, sit down! I know what you're doing and I don't like it. You stop that nonsense and you stop it right now. We all have to answer to a

higher power in this life and if you're not careful, which you're not, then you're going to be answering to him a lot sooner than you expect. That's girl's nothing but trouble and she's white. That's royalty here. I know you don't understand it, and neither do I really, but that's just the way things are. And that's how they'll be until the Lord comes up with a different plan for us.

Cut to a shot of Warrick listening.

Gwen: I can't lose you, Warrick. I lost your daddy and I can't lose you. You're stubborn just like he is. I see it in you everyday. The way you walk. The way you talk. The way you work. You're exactly like he was. I know you care about her and I know you love your family. You're going to have to choose what's more important to you. This world won't let you have both. Now, I'm washing my hands with worrying about you and leaving it up to the Lord. It's up to you now. Do what you think is best. Now go on and eat your dinner before it gets colder than what it is already.

Warrick begins to eat as Joseph leaves and takes his plate to the sink.

I listened to what she said that night, but it wasn't what I wanted to hear. Quite frankly it wasn't her decision to make. For my entire life, I'd been told what to do and I'd follow the rules, to a certain extent and had never gotten anywhere. Anywhere but here. I was never the best at making choices, but I knew what I had to do. I had to let her go.

We cut to the next morning and Joseph is heading towards the tool shed to get the materials he needs for work. He's picking up the tools when all of a sudden he's attacked from behind. He gets knocked down to the ground, loses his glasses (for dramatic effect and character purposes, he should wear glasses) and drops all the tools. He's punched, he's kicked and then we cut to a seething Billy. After he's done assaulting Joseph, he pins him down.

Billy: (Angry and intensely) You better tell me what you know and you better tell it right now....

Joseph: (Scared) I don't knows what you talking about, Mr. Billy. I'm just tryna get my chores done for the day. I don't want no trouble, sir.

Billy: Cut out that good boy shit, nigger. What's going on between that hoodlum brother of yours and my whore of a sister, Emily?! Huh? What the hell do you know?

Joseph: I swear it on my daddy, sir. I don't know nothing.

Billy punches Joseph in the face.

Billy: You want this to be your last resting place, boy?

Billy pulls out a knife and holds it to Joseph's throat in a threatening manner.

Joseph: Please don't hurt me, sir. Please don't kill me.

Billy: SHUT UP! Don't start that nigger jibber babble about God knows what. You better tell it and you better tell it good, or your momma's gonna be next.

Joseph: Okay...okay. I don't know nothin', sir. All I know is what I hears through the door last night.

Billy: Keep talking...

Joseph: It was Warrick and them two other boys. They met in the bathroom. Talking about some big plan to get out of here. And that they's...Warrick got a secret partner helping him get to the Forbidden Land and out of here.

Billy: Who is it? Tell me God damnit!

Joseph: Idk...idk. I promise I don't sir. But to me...I...I don't want to talk out of turn, Mr. Billy.

Billy: Spit it out, boy!

Joseph: Well Warrick and Ms. Emily been extra friendly lately. Some nights he leave and don't come home 'til the next morning.

Billy pauses for a moment, then starts to rain down punches on Joseph out of rage. He stops. Then speaks.

Billy: Don't you dare say that you son-of-a-bitch. She wouldn't stoop that low. She wouldn't do that.

Joseph: No, sir. I'm sorry sir. Please don't kill me. Please!

Billy gets off of Joseph abruptly. He then gives him another kick to the stomach for good measure. Joseph's reaching for his glasses. When he does, we see a foot and hear a crunch right next to Joseph's outstretched hands. He then walks out of the shed.

As Joseph lays and agony and Billy's long gone, in walks Warrick. He sees Joseph and immediately runs over to console him. He's distraught.

Warrick: Joe? Joe? What happened? Who did this to you? Tell me who did this?

Joseph pushes Warrick away.

Joseph: This is all your fault. YOU did this! YOU DID THIS! YOU KILLED US!

Warrick: What are you talking about? I haven't done nothing.

Joseph: He knows. He knows God damnit! He knew from the start.

Warrick: Who knew? Talk to me...

Joseph: (Cuts him off) Billy. He knows about everything.

Warrick: You told him?

Joseph: What was I supposed to do? Let you get us all killed? He threatened to hurt momma.

Warrick: You bastard. Do you know what you did?! How...how could you....I'm your flesh and blood....

Joseph: I knew this was gonna happen. I tried to warn you. Just go to work. Just forget about it.

Warrick: What is he gonna do? Did he tell you?

Joseph: Why would he tell me? Just get to work and pretend nothing happened. I don't know what he'll do, but we can't do anything about it. Just get your tools and get out there before the others start to worry.

Warrick is shook up as he knows everything is about to come to an end, literally.

We get a shot of Warrick and his brother out in the field doing some work. Billy's nowhere to be found. We're going to get some more narration from Warrick. At the end of the narration, we're going to see Warrick putting up his tools. Emily's going to walk by and drop of a note in a discrete fashion. Warrick is going to pick up the note. We're going to show it. Then we're going to show a defeated reaction.

The end was near. I could feel it in my bones. Billy wasn't just the type of person to hold on to grudges without redemption. I knew he was going to strike and that I would feel his vengeance soon. Very soon. I just didn't know when.

The next scene is going to take place in the bedroom of Warrick and Joseph. It's night time. Warrick's staring up at the ceiling, then he sits up. He starts to ease out of bed. He puts on his clothes and is making his way towards his window when he feels someone grab his leg.

Joseph: (Whispering) Where are you going?

Warrick: It's no damn business of yours. Let go of me.

Joseph: You need to think what you're about to do through. You're risking the lives of every slave here.

Warrick: They've taken our lives away from us. This is my only satisfaction. Don't deny me of this...

Joseph: She's just temptation, Warrick. Whatever you feel isn't love. It's lust.

Warrick: How would you know? I've never seen you in the company of a woman. And you're not daddy, so don't try to overrule the decisions that I make. You can't.

Joseph: That's enough. I'm done trying to protect you. I'm done trying to reason with you. I just want you to know that this decision that you're making for whatever reason, is going to be the death of you. This is it. You're at your crossroads, Warrick. The outcome of whatever happens after this moment is on your head and won't worry on my heart for any longer. From the time you were a baby I've done nothing but try to look after you, and for whatever reason, you've neglected any type of real relationship with me. And I've tried. Lord knows I have, and I just can't anymore. There's nothing left in me that can physically stop you from going out that window. Just know that no matter what may have happened, whatever resentment you felt I may have harbored towards you was just a figment of your imagination. I never blamed you for what happened. I blame society. I blame a group of people that think that they're superior because of their skin color. Not you. It was in God's plan for daddy to go out that way and there's nothing anybody could've done about it. Nor should anyone be blamed for the way that situation played out. So if you have to go, just know...that I love you and I thought being tough on you was what you needed. You're a good kid. Good luck. I'll care take of her.

Joseph pats him on the back and walks back to his bed. Warrick crawls out the window and heads towards the woods. Emily's standing by a tree and starts to smile when she meets Warrick's eyes. Warrick is smiling, as well. He's elated to see her. As Warrick moves closer, she suddenly starts to shudder. There's a look of panic on her face. Warrick is unaware that behind him is Billy. He's been following him. He has his shotgun in hand. Emily goes to scream no, but it's too late. Billy clubs Warrick in the back of the head with his shotgun. Emily runs towards Warrick as he falls in a heap. She checks on him then turns in anger towards Billy.

Emily: What's wrong with you? How could you do that? You evil bastard? Why the hell are you following me? You know what? You're not a man. No. Because a man wouldn't have to sneak up on people or hide behind the barrel of a shotgun to escape the fear of having to face another man. A man doesn't shoot other men when their backs are turned.

She's walking towards Billy as she's saying these things and getting closer in his face. Billy's seething.

Emily: You've always been a scared little boy. Always doing what daddy tells you. You've done nothing to prove you have any manhood at all. You're a sick and sadistic individual that gets off on the pain of others. You're nothing, Billy. Nothing but a coward.

Billy explodes with anger and back hands his sister in the face.

Billy: Shut up! You're not a princess, you're a bitch, a slut and a whore! (He kicks her in the gut.) You're gonna turn your back on me and this family, for what? This nigger? (Points at Warrick) You wanna sleep with scum, then I'm gonna treat you like it. I'm going to expose you for who you really are, once and for all. Get up! (He pulls her by her hair) Come on. Let's go!

Billy grabs Emily by the hair. He fashions a makeshift pully by wrapping a rope around the legs of Warrick, who's still unconscious. They make their way towards their home as Billy is dragging Emily by the hair and Warrick by the legs.

When they make it to the house, Billy throws Emily down. He then yells "EVERYBODY UP RIGHT NOW!" and shoots his shotgun in the air. Warrick is still unconscious. The slaves start to peak out of their homes with grim looks on their faces. The lights come on in the big house and Carl comes out first. Elizabeth stands at the screen door looking on, along with Jacob.

Carl: What the hell's going on out here, Billy? Emily? What happened?

Emily: (Distraught and crying) Daddy...you have to stop him. He's a monster.

Billy: (Billy kicks his sister again) Shut up, whore!

Carl: Billy have you lost your God damned mind! (He starts to walk over towards his daughter to console her)

Billy: Hold on before you pass judgment on me. I'm the last of your worries. Before you get too comfy consoling your princess, ask her what she's been doing? Ask her where she was tonight and who knows how many of the others. Go 'head. Ask her?

Carl: What're you talking about? Why are you hitting your sister? What is he talking about, Em?

Emily: (Gasping for breath) Daddy. Do you love me?

Carl: Of course I love you, sweetie. Why would you think...why would you even say that I don't? Everything I do is for your benefit. For the benefit of the entire family.

Emily: Then why do you hate? You hate these people when they're no worse off than we are. The color of their skin doesn't change the fact that they're human beings, yet you treat them like they're no better than animals. How can a person with that cold of a heart begin to know what love feels like?

Carl: Honey, I told you. They're not people. God put them here to serve us. Nothing more, nothing less than that.

Emily: How dare you, blaspheme the name of the Lord. You take that back.

Carl: What? What's going on damnit?!

Emily: You're so oblivious to everything around you. Look at this. Take a look at everything, dad. This is nothing. We own nothing. We belong to the Chinese. We can't even leave this land without permission. How does that make us any better than them? Huh? How does it? You have nothing. And by your logic, in His eyes, you're nothing but a servant to the Chinese. Nothing more, nothing less.

Carl: You watch your tone, Em.

Emily: I'm tired of watching my tone, dad. I'm sick of this. This unspoken injustice. I can't take it anymore. You're old and you're senile. You've turned your son into a psychopathic killer. You're a gutless killer, constantly shooting men in the back when they've done nothing but search for a freedom that none of us will ever know. I don't know who you are. I don't know what you stand for because I've never seen you do anything but make decisions like an obedient servant man. The man I always thought I knew showed nothing but love and affection for his family, but was a hateful tyrant to people who wanted nothing more than to fulfill his wishes. It's not them who you really hate. It's yourself.

Carl: (Pauses to take everything in) Where is all this coming from?

Billy: (To Emily) Are you gonna tell him or not?

Carl: Shut up, Billy! You've done and said enough. Just shut up and let her talk. (To Emily) Now what are you driving at, Emily?

Emily: You know. You've always known. You knew I never stopped seeing Warrick. And yeah, I snuck off to see him.

Carl: But I forbade you. I...I made an example out of his father. That was for you. To show you that it wasn't to be tolerated.

Emily: Why? Because you think they're so bad? You can't stop me from seeing him. I love him and he feels the same.

Billy: See? Do you see now? This is your little princess. This is the daughter you've raised.

Carl: I told you to shut your damned mouth, Billy. This has nothing to do with you. (He stops consoling Emily and walks away sad and confused) Damnit!

Emily: I'm not sorry, daddy. I can't help it. We've got the same soul. We're almost the same person. It's been this way since we were born. What I feel for him...what we feel for each other...it won't change.

Carl: I don't wanna hear that. (Pauses) You embarrassed me. You sicken me, Em.

Billy: Now you're talkin'.

Emily: We're the same.

Carl: (Cuts her off) No you're not the same. What could you possibly have in common with a nigger? What is it that makes you want to help those people? Is it to get back at me? To make me feel like the worst father on the face of the earth? Well congratulations because you've succeeded. But I'm gonna let you in on something, you're the worst possible daughter that a father could have. You're disobedient, and you're too smart for your own good. There's no place in this world for a woman thinks she knows more than a man. From now on, you're no longer my daughter. You're not my little girl. You're nothing to me.

Emily: I stopped being your little girl a long time ago...Carl.

Warrick is starting to stir and move around a little bit.

Billy: Well look who decided to wake up from his nap. Funny thing is you're about to take another one. A more permanent one in fact.

We cut to a shot of one of the slaves that was in the bathroom with Warrick earlier running into Warrick's house. Joseph's standing on the porch and his mother is at the door listening.

Joseph: What is it?

Slave 2: (Shakes his head) It's...it's Warrick. They've got him. Him and Ms. Emily.

Joseph gives off a loud sigh. Gwen let's out an "Oh my Lord" as tears begin to come down her face. Joseph goes to console her.

Gwen: It's happening again, Joe. It's happening again.

Joseph: Don't worry about it momma. I'm not gonna let nothing happen. Don't worry.

Gwen: What are you gonna do? Don't go off and try to be a hero like your daddy. Don't do it, Joseph. I prayed about it and it's in the hands of the Lord. Just let it take its course.

Joseph: I know, momma. Just go back in the house. Don't worry about a thing.

Joseph follows the slave to the edge of the fence to watch as the rest of the drama unfolds.

We cut back to the drama of Warrick, Emily, Carl and Billy.

Billy: How you feelin? (To Warrick)

Warrick: (Rubbing his head) What's going on? (Looks at Emily) Em? (To Billy) What did you do?!

Billy: (Kicks Warrick in the ribs) Shut up, boy! You don't get to question me. Do you know what you've done to this family? Let me tell you. You've fucked it up. (Simultaneously kicks him in the ribs)

Warrick: (To Emily) Everything will be alright, Em. Don't worry.

Billy: (Shoves the butt of the shotgun into Warrick's skull) It's not gonna be alright for either of you, but especially you.

Emily: Billy don't. Please don't.

Billy: Oh I am. (Aims the shotgun at Warrick)

Emily: Don't Billy! NOOOOO!!!

Carl: Billy...(Pauses) (Looks at Emily) If you're gonna do it, then do it right. Put him on his knees.

Emily: (Crawls over and grabs Billy's legs) Please don't. Not like this. You don't have to do this.

Billy: (Shoves her off) Get off of me, you whore! (He pulls Warrick up by his arms) Get on your knees like a good boy. The quicker you do this, the quicker it'll be over.

We cut to a shot of Elizabeth and Jacob. Elizabeth is crying and can't believe what she's witnessing. Jacob runs off to the back of the house. A defenseless Warrick looks at Emily in defeat. He gets to his knees and is ready to accept his fate. Billy raises the

gun, but as he's doing so, Joseph tackles him out of nowhere. The gun flies out of Billy's hand and onto the ground next to them. They struggle as Joseph gets in a few shots on Billy. The rest of the slaves look on in amazement as we get a quick shot of their reaction. As Joseph is mounted on top of Billy, Carl flies in to make the save. He tackles Joseph, but Joseph gains the advantage as they struggle for a little while. Warrick goes over to check on Emily. Joseph is besting Carl, but they're still rolling around. Billy goes to grab the gun. Warrick sees this and goes to grab Billy from behind. He's too weak to do any damage as Billy quickly takes a baseball swing with the butt of the gun sending Warrick down to the ground. He goes to take aim at Joseph, but he doesn't have a good shot. Instead, he takes a baseball swing with the butt of the gun and knocks Joseph out cold. Carl is spent and injured. Billy's out of breath, but not defeated. He waves the gun at Warrick.

Billy: (Out of breath and pointing the gun at Warrick) Get away from him! Get up, nigger. Get on your God damned knees. I've had enough of this bullshit.

Warrick does as he's told. He gets on his knees. He holds up his head and then closes his eyes as if he's saying his last prayer. In one last act of defiance, Emily hugs Warrick.

Warrick: Don't Em. Just let it be. God'll take care of it. Just let it be.

Emily: You're killing both of us. Come on do it.

Billy: Your wish is my command, princess.

Billy goes to aim the gun at Warrick's back for the final time. Emily embraces Warrick as tight as she can and closes her eyes. We get a final shot of Billy looking into his scope, steadying his aim in the middle of Warrick's back and sliding his finger over the trigger. Between each of these actions, we'll get a shot of Elizabeth's reaction, which will be of her looking away, the slaves with tears in their eyes and Gwen rocking her youngest in a rocking chair humming a church hymn with tears streaming down her face. Elizabeth should be shown last for the best effect of her turning away. It will add to the suspense the most. Then all of a sudden we hear a shot. We'll get a quick reaction of Carl's eyes widening. Emily's eyes will widen with fear as she falls back. As she's falling back, Warrick's eyes remain closed and his body goes limp as he falls forward. (All of this is in slow motion) Then we'll see Billy's body, with his eyes wide with shock and pain, fall forward on top of Warrick and Emily. We'll see a barrel lowering, then we'll see Jacob standing there with tears in streaming down his face and fear in his eyes.

END.