

## RESTLESS PEAK TREATMENT

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### Logline

A rag-tag group of greedy prospectors are shocked to discover a ghost town's abandoned silver mine is fiercely protected by a man they thought long dead.

### Main Characters

**Wandering Swan** - A stubborn Crow scout who finds himself marooned in Restless Peak.

**Marshall Aiken** - A tough frontiersman who agrees to lead the prospector's expedition to Restless, to search for his brother.

**Doctor Philiben** - The cowardly Union Army Doctor who abandons Wandering Swan to his fate.

### Synopsis

Winter 1868, Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming.

While hunting Confederate bushwhackers through the snow-covered mountains, Crow scouts **Wandering Swan** and **Ten Fists** witness a massive explosion on the ridge above them.

When they investigate Ten Fists is ambushed and captured. Swan pursues the assailants to a decaying and seemingly deserted mining town called Restless Peak.

There Swan finds Ten Fists and two rebels. All three have been crucified and left hanging in the town square. Swan's own squad of Union Army troops arrive soon after, drawn by the explosion.

The army Captain, **Aiken**, comforts Swan and the Army Doctor, **Philiben**, tends to Ten Fists body, as the soldiers search the town for whoever attacked them.

Swan volunteers to investigate the trail of smoke left by the explosion. Philiben is sent with him and they climb up to an overgrown mountain track. Swan finds several Native American warning signs cut into the trees and cliffs on the way.

At the end of the track, they find an empty mine to be the source of the smoke. Someone had tried to blow it up.

Inside the town Jailhouse, the soldiers encounter an ageing, hysterical old man, **Deputy Samuels**, who has locked himself in a cell. He is apparently the only remaining resident.

Reaching the mine, Swan is forced to kill a tribal **Brave** who attacks Philiben. As he dies the Brave tells Swan 'they are free' in his own language.

The Brave has a small leather medallion, a 'medicine shield', around his neck which Swan keeps for himself. Philiben thinks he can hear voices inside the smoking mining shaft.

As Swan and Philiben return to Restless, the Brave's body is sucked down into the snow.

Aiken hears Swan's gunfire and sends soldiers to help. While they are distracted, Samuels disappears from the jail cell and the squad's horses inexplicably stampede in terror.

When the soldiers try to stop their mounts, Wandering Swan and Philiben return just in time to witness Captain Aiken and his men being attacked by something emerging from the snow.

Amidst the chaos the panicked Philiben grabs Aiken's own horse and flees, riding it straight through Swan to escape.

Swan is knocked over and left bleeding in the snow, watching Philiben ride away as he loses consciousness. As Swan blacks out he holds onto the medicine shield. All he can hear is the screaming of the soldiers.

Several weeks later, a caravan of covered wagons approaches Restless Peak. This well-equipped and armed expedition of **prospectors** is led by a U.S. Marshall, **Thomas Aiken**.

Marshall Aiken, who we will discover is the brother of Captain Aiken, is also accompanied by Philiben, now in civilian clothes and handcuffed to a horse, a prisoner.

The prospectors find freshly dug graves in the Churchyard, and evidence that someone has been living in the jail cell recently. Meanwhile, someone, or something, is watching from the trees.

The prospectors prove impatient to reach the town's mine and a thoroughly reluctant Philiben is forced to lead them.

As they approach the mine, they find the entrance has been resealed with old wooden planks and lime plaster. More warning symbols have been carved and scrawled into the mine's shaft and surrounding cliffs.

As the prospectors try to reopen the mine, gunfire breaks out from the ridge above. When Philiben makes a run for safety he sees Wandering Swan staring right back at him in the trees.

Swan does not fire his rifle and instead disappears back into forest that surrounds the derelict mine.

After this, the prospectors and Marshall Aiken demand Philiben tells them who attacked. Philiben is still in shock and is unable to answer. Aiken orders him imprisoned in the town jail.

As night falls Aiken demands Philiben tell him what he saw at the mine, accusing him of keeping information back, especially about what happened to the Union soldiers. Philiben finally admits he saw Swan, whom they considered dead.

Aiken rides up to the mine to confront Swan. He draws the scout into the open and Swan is shot by **Chadwick**, another prospector. They take Swans body back down to the town, where Philiben is forced to care for him in the cell.

Another prospector, **Toby**, tells the others something he has read in the jail ledgers, written by a Deputy Joseph Samuels. It tells of a battle between the **townsfolk** and things he calls '**Snow Wraiths**'.

These snow wraiths appeared after the miners opened a strange lime plaster seal inside the mine. During this battle, the surviving townsfolk evacuated the town and took shelter in the mine. Samuels stayed and barricaded himself in the jail cell.

With Swan and Philiben now locked up, Chadwick takes things into his own hands and blows up the mines recent seal with nitro-glycerine.

In the ensuing chaos, Swan and Philiben manage to break out of their rotten wooden cell. Swan is alarmed by the fact the mine is open, and runs back up the track, leaving Philiben behind.

Marshall Aiken and Toby have already reached the mine to investigate the explosion. There is no sign of Chadwick, so they enter the mine to look for him.

Inside they hear strange sounds, of distant voices, and a strong cold breeze. Deeper inside they also discover a massive chasm, which seems to be bottomless. Its walls are a smooth dark obsidian and are covered in strange hieroglyphs.

Outside the mine, Swan finds the dead body of Chadwick, buried deep in the snow. His flesh has been partly eaten away, drained of blood and frozen.

Toby is killed when something in the dark pulls him into the chasm, and Aiken is only saved from the same fate by Swan.

When they try to escape the mine, Aiken finds an antechamber full of old broken crucifixes, medicine shields and a massive heap of bleached bones and skulls. The remains of the townsfolk?

The remaining prospectors are attacked by the now unleashed snow wraiths. One of them is killed when their own horses stampede and trample him. Others flee into the forest.

As the panic grows, Swan advises they pack the mine with explosives and destroy it once and for all. Aiken, Philiben and Swan frantically pack the mineshaft with all the nitro-glycerine and black powder they can find.

As they prepare to detonate the explosives, Swan notices his horse has returned and tries to retrieve it. When Swan leaves, Philiben seals Aiken, who is setting the fuse, inside the shaft.

As Swan guides his horse back up the track, he is ambushed by Philiben, who threatens to shoot Swan if he does not help him escape.

When Philiben tries to steal Swan's horse the Snow Wraiths attack, and he is dragged under the snow. In his panic Philiben fires his pistol, injuring Swan.

As Swan bleeds on the snow, he can do nothing except listen to Philiben's screams. The snow around Philiben's crushed body fills with a pool of red blood. Swan witnesses several horrific '**blood wraiths**' rise up out of Philiben's blood.

Trapped in the mine, Aiken is confronted by Deputy Samuels, who tries to convince him not to destroy it. Aiken realises he has no escape and sets off the explosive with his gun. Aiken, and Samuels are consumed by the massive explosion, which collapses the mine completely.

As the blood wraiths creep towards him, Swan tears off his medicine shield and throws it away.

As Swan sees the flames from the mine explosion rising into the sky the blood wraiths simply drift away on the wind.

Swan blacks out from the pain, only to be revived by his horse, and he crawls feebly onto its saddle. As he finally escapes from Restless Peak, Swan looks back to see the distant shape of Deputy Samuels waving back at him.

THE END