

"RESTLESS PEAK"

By

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1st Draft
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FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

Drops of dark drip on the white. BLOOD. Distant gunfire can be heard.

Footprints lead up the slope through of the snow, next to the drops, leading to a pair of MOCCASINED FEET. Someone is staggering feebly through the knee-deep snow.

TEN FISTS, a well-built young tribesman, sinks to his knees into the deep snow, wincing and holding his side. His blood is dripping out from a wound near his stomach. He tries to prop himself up on his long musket rifle.

He is surrounded by dense trees and leans himself up on one, gasping. The sounds of a fierce BATTLE are all around him. He can hear someone shouting, calling out.

A dark shape approaches in a long coat and wide black hat. Ten Fists immediately points his rifle.

FIGURE

(in Crow language)

It's me.

This dark shape is WANDERING SWAN, TEN FISTS older brother and fellow scout. Swan is much older, weather-beaten, grim. He shows obvious relief then concern at Ten Fists wound.

Swan instantly inspects the wound, tearing a wampum string of leather to press down on the bleeding.

The sounds of BATTLE draw closer, flashes of gunfire amongst the trees. Suddenly a SOLDIER wearing a grey tunic jumps out and seeing the two tribesman FIRES. He misses.

Wandering Swan turns instantly, knocks the soldier's knees from under him with his rifle butt. With a smooth motion he brings a concealed tomahawk down on the man's head.

As Swan turns back to Ten Fists, the MASSIVE EXPLOSION lights up the entire mountain, illuminating Swan and Ten Fists' astonished faces.

WANDERING SWAN

(in Crow)

We go.

Swan pulls Ten Fists to his feet and wraps his arm around him. They start to descend the mountain slope as the light from the explosion starts to fade. More gunfire erupts around them.

As they descend, they hear a voice cry out.

VOICE

Halt!

Three rifles emerge from the trees pointing straight at them. They are GREYBACK SOLDIERS, grizzled bearded confederates, who are not in the mood for taking prisoners.

GREYBACK #1

(to Swan)

Where you headed, boys?

Wandering Swan stops Ten Fists from gripping his rifle.

GREYBACK #1

Don't you try it, injun.

GREYBACK #2

(O.S)

What you got back there?

GREYBACK #1

Two Injun Scouts.

GREYBACK #2

Yankee?

GREYBACK #1

Most likely.

GREYBACK #3

We don't have time for prisoners.

The three rifles point directly at Ten Fists and Swan. Swan reaches for his tomahawk when-

The first Greyback SCREAMS out, and disappears into the dark, like something had pulled him back by the heels. The two others turn and fire into the night.

GREYBACK #2

Hell, where'd he go!

Wandering Swan batters him round the greyback of the head with his axe. Before he can turn on the third soldier, something comes up out of the snow and hits the Confederate in the side. Swan and Ten Fists witness his look of horror as something grabs him from beneath the snow and pulls.

As the Confederate also disappears into the night, he can be heard screaming. The land around them has gone strangely quiet. Swan tries to move Ten First further down the slope.

Out of nowhere an ARROW whirls out of the trees. Wandering Swan manages to bat the first one out of the way with his arm, and grimaces in pain.

The other hits Ten Fists in the neck. As Ten Fists screams more arrows whirl around them, hitting tree trunks and snow as Swan tries to flee. Ten Fists has passed out and Swan tries to drag him along.

Swan does not see a shadow descend from the tree behind him, and before even he can react a club hits him from behind.

Swan collapses into the snow like a felled tree and everything goes black.

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRACK - DAY

The surrounding trees come slowly into focus.

Swan drags himself slowly out of the snow. He looks around wildly suddenly remembering.

WANDERING SWAN

(in Crow)

Ten Fists!

His screams echo over the landscape. Behind the trees two men in uniform emerge, with their rifles leveled at him. Army pickets, wearing the blue of then Union Cavalry.

UNION PICKET

Ho, who goes there!

Swan freezes and starts to put his hands up. Another voice addresses the sentries.

VOICE (O/S)

For pity's sake boys, put those away, he's one of ours.

CAPTAIN AIKEN, a tall, broad man with a drooping moustache and generous manner, appears on horseback. Behind him his adjutant drags another smaller horse alongside him.

Behind him can be seen a column of Union Army soldiers climbing up the slope over a barely seen trail. Aiken smiles broadly at Swan.

CAPTAIN AIKEN

Glad to see your in one piece, Swan. We brought up your pony.

His smile fades suddenly.

Where's your brother?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK TOWN - DAY

Hoofs hit the wet slush of the snow-covered track as the line of horse soldiers climb up the hillside. They pass by an old weathered wooden sign, just about falling off a wooden post. Written on it are barely visible letters:

'RESTLESS PEAK'

The climbing column of soldiers on horses meets a column of black smoke that drifts high in the distance over the derelict buildings of Restless Peak.

They pass by the town's store building and further up the main street of the town. It all looks long since abandoned, many of the buildings almost buried in drifts of snow.

They soldiers also pass by a large hotel and the town jailhouse near the town centre.

As they near the town center CAPTAIN AIKEN stops his horse. He stares forward, horrified.

CAPTAIN AIKEN

Holy mother-

He gestures behind him, to his second in command, the company doctor LUITENANT JOSEPH PHILIBEN.

PHILIBEN

Halt!

The column stops immediately. Aiken dismounts his horse, stall looking forward. He walks slowly up to where

Wandering Swan is sitting, on his knees in the snow. His head is bowed and he does not move until Aiken puts his hand on the scouts shoulder.

AIKEN

Swan?

P.O.V of Swan and Aiken, as they look up.

In the center of town are three bloodied, mutilated BODIES, CRUCIFIED on large wooden posts, leaning forward at a strange 30 degree angle, their blood pooled beneath them.

Two of the dead are Confederate soldiers from the forest. The third body is Ten Fists.

Aiken looks on horrified, as do his men behind him. Wandering Swan just looks up at Ten Fists body, hanging from the wood. His face is unrecognizable.

A spot of Ten Fists blood drips on Swan's leathery face. Swan reaches for it, then spreads the drop down on his cheek, grimly staring at his dead brother.

Aiken turns and walks back to his men and Philiben.
Philiben also dismounts.

PHILIBEN

I guess that accounts for the last of the
bushwhackers, Captain?

AIKEN

(TO Philiben)

Just get them down off there, Doctor.

Aiken gestures to one of his men, SEARGENT GRIFFIN.

AIKEN

Sergeant I want every building in this
town searched. Any greybacks left
breathing I want them found.

GRIFFIN

Yes sir.

Several the soldiers disperse some on foot some on
horseback. Aiken walks up close to Philiben. He nods
towards Ten Fist, as the soldiers start to cut them down.

AIKEN

(to Philiben)

You see anything like that before?

PHILIBEN

Not personally. Maybe its a punishment.

AIKEN

They took them prisoner. Why would they
string them up like that?

PHILIBEN

Desperation.

WANDERING SWAN

A warning.

Swan's interruption gets both soldiers attention. Swan usually keeps his opinions to himself. Aiken notices Swan has blood on his hands. He is also holding the shaft of an arrow, thumbing the fletching.

PHILIBEN

A warning? Against what?

AIKEN

You seen anything like this before, Swan?

Swan nods, grabs his rifle and walks some way up the street. He looks up at the column of smoke drifting up over the town, leading up from behind a ridge of trees.

PHILIBEN

Why a warning?

SWAN

How should I know?

PHILIBEN

Then how do you know it's a-?

AIKEN

Both of you button it, you're like two old maids!

He points up at the column of smoke.

I need to know what that is.

PHILIBEN

Ammunition dump maybe?

AIKEN

You take Swan and a few men up there and scout ahead.

PHILIBEN

Sir, do we really need-

AIKEN

It's not up for debate, Lieutenant!

Swan is still staring up at the smoke, even as his brother is being carried away in a cart. Swan is the hard boiled type, and something does not feel right about that smoke.

Philiben reluctantly grabs his rifle and waves Swan ahead.

PHILIBEN

Lead the way.

Aiken watches as Swan, Philiben and a couple of private soldiers start to climb up past the town buildings. He turns and looks back at the crucified men silhouetted against the wide sky. A shudder climbs up his spine.

CUT TO:

Philiben and the soldiers with him are struggling to keep up with Wandering Swan, who seems to almost float up the snow-covered slope. They can see his dark shape flitting through the trees.

For a moment Swan stops dead, which immediately alarms Philiben. The soldiers duck. Swan turns and gestures.

There is a dead body in the snow, its frozen fingers only just protruding through the white.

Philiben approaches the body cautiously as Swan is keeping watch above them. Only part of the body is visible. As Philiben wipes the snow away, he jerks back suddenly.

PHILIBEN

Jesus, Mary...

The face underneath is staring right back at him, frozen solid, though a large part of the flesh has been EATEN AWAY. All that is left is some muscle on the skull and two bulging frozen eyeballs.

Up ahead Swan is looking at something scrawled on an exposed cliff face. A CIRCLE with TWO ARROWS pointing inwards to a point. He takes out the medallion he found near Ten Fists, which is a remarkably similar shape.

Philiben approaches him.

PHILIBEN

I've sent them back to tell the Captain.
Looks like one of those reb's was torn up
by a bear. Or something.

SWAN

There were no tracks.

PHILIBEN

Well, something ate him. It wasn't a tree.
Swan points at the sygil he noticed on cliff.

Another warning?

Swan nods.

What the hell is this place?

WANDERING SWAN

Just keep your head down.

They start to climb up further.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - DAY

As Philiben and Swan climb up through the trees, they can
see a clearing. A couple of old collapsed wooden huts, and
behind that the entrance to a shaft mine.

Smoke is still drifting up from the black hole of the mine.
Again, Swan gestures to Philiben, and they both stop before
reaching the clearing. There is no sign of life, and plenty
of death.

Outside the mine itself are a number of BODIES littered in
the snow. Some wear grey, some wear rougher frontier clothes
and there are some that look like a native tribe, with
buckskin shirts and white painted faces.

All is silent apart from this. There are signs of an
explosion from within the mine shaft itself. The snow
outside is covered in dirt and soot.

PHILIBEN

Guess we missed something.

WANDERING SWAN

Uhuh.

PHILIBEN

Why would they blow up a mine?

WANDERING SWAN

Let's go look.

Philiben grasps Swan's arm. Swan does not like being touched.

PHILIBEN

What if they're not all dead?

WANDERING SWAN

So what?

PHILIBEN

How about you flank up the hill and cover me from there and I'll go look.

Swan can see the sense in this and moves further up the hill above the mine shaft. Philiben watches him go, checks his rifle and breathes hard.

Bowing low Philiben jogs out into the clearing, past some of the dilapidated outhouses and the dead bodies.

Something is watching him through the rotten wooden slats of the out-houses.

Philiben carefully picks his way up to the smoking mine shaft, over the old iron rails. A rusted skip cart has been capsized into the snow and has ben there for some time.

Philiben stares into the darkness of the mine shaft. He can almost hear something, perhaps a distant SCREAM.

He does notice the tribal BRAVE emerging from the broken outhouse, staring malevolently at the back of his skull. His face is obscured by his black and white face paint.

Suddenly the BRAVE SCREAMS loudly and rushes towards PHILIBEN, brandishing a long handles tomahawk.

Philiben is caught by surprise and fumbles with his rifle, making plain his lack of fighting experience.

The howling tribesman bears down on him as Philiben panics, and is just about swing for the Doctors head when-

The Braves head EXPLODES, spitting Philiben with dark blood. The Brave's body still moves forward with the momentum of his charge then collapses in a heap at Philiben's feet, throwing up dust and snow.

Terrified, Philiben tries to catch his breath. He only manages a couple before Wandering Swan's moccasins hit the snow in front of him, his long musket's barrel smoking.

WANDERING SWAN

Ok, Doctor?

Philiben can barely manage a nod. He leans forward to

PHILIBEN

You recognize this tribe?

Swan shakes his head. The Brave has some feathers like the fletching on the arrow Swan had picked out his arm. Swan stares at his twitching body curiously.

WANDERING SWAN

Mountain folk.

PHILIBEN

Is that a fact?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Captain Aiken is idly walking through the square as his men busy themselves dealing with the BODIES of Ten Fists and cutting down the wooden blocks on which they died.

He walks up to a small pile of what turn out be BLEACHED BONES. He picks up one of the bones, grimacing and frowning at it. Just then Sergeant Griffin approaches.

GRIFFIN

Sir, we found one.

AIKEN

One what?

GRIFFIN

A reb. In the jailhouse.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Aiken opens the partially broken door of the jailhouse and steps inside, followed by Griffin. The soldiers already in the jail immediately stand to attention.

At the back of the Jail is one single solitary cell, surrounded by solid iron bars. Behind he bars an OLD MAN is sitting. He stares intently at Aiken as he walks in.

The man is clearly not one of the bushwackers from the forest. His clothes are ragged, stained as if worn for decades and he sports a long straggly beard, which he constantly preens.

His dark eyes fix on Aiken, who for a moment is unnerved.

AIKEN

Hello there.

The old man does not answer.

You have me at a disadvantage.

OLD MAN

That so?

AIKEN

Can I ask your name?

OLD MAN

Samuel. Joseph Samuel.

Aiken notices the dull glint of a badge on his dirty rags.

AIKEN

You represent the law here?

The old man ERUPTS into a cantankerous laugh. None of the soldiers can find any humor, least of all Aiken.

SAMUEL

Deputy Joseph Samuel. At your service.

AIKEN

That so. Deputy. My name is Aiken, Company commander of the Union Army up here in the Bighorn.

SAMUEL

Glad to make your acquaintance.

AIKEN

Likewise.

SAMUEL

What business have you in Restless Peak?

AIKEN

That's an excellent question. We were tracking several rogues of the rebel Confederacy through the mountains. They decided to make a last stand and abducted one of our number. We found him crucified in the town square.

SAMUEL

That's a crying shame.

AIKEN

You know how that happened?

SAMUEL

No sir.

There is some sarcasm to Deputy Samuels response that irks Aiken, and the Captain does not disguise his irritation.

AIKEN

Deputy Samuel, neither myself nor my men are much familiar with this place. It's a mining town?

SAMUEL

That's correct.

AIKEN

What happened to the townsfolk? Restless Peak must have held a sizable population.

SAMUEL

Also correct.

AIKEN

Then where are its people?

SAMUEL

Gone. All gone.

AIKEN

Gone where?

SAMUEL

Well, that's a long story, and I am tired.

AIKEN

I'd like to hear it all the same.

SAMUEL

Can I ask one question first?

AIKEN

Of course.

SAMUEL

What is this Confederacy you talk of?

Aiken frowns. He is losing his patience.

Aiken is about to question this when both soldiers who accompanied with Wandering Swan and Doctor Philiben come RUSHING into the jailhouse, bent double and out of breath.

1ST SOLDIER

Captain, you need to come with us.

AIKEN

What's happened now?

2ND SOLDIER

We found more bodies up on the hill. Looks like the rebs blew a mine!

They all bustle back outside quickly, leaving Samuel on his own behind the bars of his cell. Samuel GRINS widely.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MAIN STREET - DAY

Aiken strides out into the street, followed by the other soldiers. He looks up at the hillside. Whisps of smoke are still visible.

Suddenly the crack of a MUSKET SHOT cuts through the quiet. The soldiers instinctively duck and scramble for their weapons. They start to organize as Sergeant Griffin barks orders. Only Aiken seems unperturbed.

AIKEN

I told those two to come back immediately if there was trouble.

(to Griffin)

Sergeant! Assemble your men and move up there fast. Sounds like our good Lieutenant needs an assist.

GRIFFIN

Yes sir!

The soldiers start to move into the trees behind the buildings of Restless Peak.

Aiken turns to look back into the Jailhouse. He can see Samuel still in his cell, GRINNING MALICIOUSLY at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - DAY

The Brave lies dying in the snow. He sighs softly as his last breath leaves him, fixing Swan with one last look of desperation. Swan is about to level his rifle again, to put him out of his misery, then thinks better of it.

PHILIBEN

Sure hope that's all of them.

Philiben looks back into the cavernous mouth of the damaged mine. It is pitch black inside. He tries to listen, cupping his ears inward.

PHILIBEN

You hear anything in there. Sounds like voices.

Swan is still staring at the Brave, whose gaze is strangely hypnotizing. The Brave wheezes as he dies, trying to speak. Swan leans down closer. The Brave just manages a whisper.

BRAVE

(in native language)

They are free.

Swan frowns. The Brave's last breath is visible in the cold wind and his grey eyes glaze over.

As the brave dies he reaches under his jerkin. Swan instantly cocks his rifle, then sees in his hand what looks like a CIRCLE OF IRON, inside of which are two arrows pointing inwards. The brave casts it aside into the snow.

Swan stares at the dead brave for a moment, then he picks up the iron medallion and stares at it curiously. After wiping it clean pockets it before Philiben notices.

Philiben is still staring into the mouth of the mine.

WANDERING SWAN

Don't go inside.

PHILIBEN

Why the hell not?

WANDERING SWAN

Let's go.

PHILIBEN

For all you know there's gold in there.
Let me remind you who the ranking officer
is here, Mr Swan.

Swan could not care less. He looks over the entrance to the mine.

WANDERING SWAN

You go in, you get lost, I won't find you.

PHILIBEN

Nobody asked you to do a damn thing.

Swan looks over the adit of the mine shaft. It has been sealed with wood and plaster, partially shattered and charred by the explosion.

He also notices more scratched sigils on the inside of the the wood, as if someone were sealed inside the mine shaft.

The nails on the planks look to have been driven in from the INSIDE.

WANDERING SWAN

(to himself)

'They are free'?

A profound look of alarm creeps over Swan's stony face.

PHILIBEN

What was that?

WANDERING SWAN

He said 'They're free'.

PHILIBEN

Who? More Indians?

WANDERING SWAN

I need to see Aiken.

Swan starts to walk back down the slope, leaving Philiben on his own.

PHILIBEN

We should bury these men, no?

WANDERING SWAN

No.

PHILIBEN

(to himself)

Alright. I'll do it myself.

Philiben is aware that Swan has left him on his own. As he turns, he notices something strange. The brave's dead body is SINKING into the thick snow, as if it were being pulled down by an UNSEEN FORCE.

PHILIBEN

What the...Swan?!

Wandering Swan has disappeared back into the trees and is nimbly dashing back down the mountain slope.

Philiben stares at the DISAPPEARING BODY of the tribesman. It looks almost like the snow is eating the cadaver.

PHILIBEN

Jesus.

Now scared too, Philiben backs off and starts to follow Swan back down the hillside towards Restless Peak.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MAIN STREET - DAY

Captain Aiken and a number of his soldiers stand looking up at the hillside, as more move up the slope to try to find Wandering Swan. Seargent Griffin leads them up. Aiken calls after him.

AIKEN

Any sign?

GRIFFIN

No sir. There's no sign of anyone.

AIKEN

Head further up, they may be in trouble.

GRIFFIN

Yes, sir, just a min-

Griffin is suddenly cut off, and Aiken can hear a muffled scream, then gunshots. The soldiers are FIRING at something.

AIKEN

What the hell!

Alarmed Aiken starts to run up to the treeline. Inside he can see his men pointing and firing their guns at something further up the hill. Two soldiers retreat, terrified.

AIKEN

Where's Seargent Griffin?

SOLDIER #1

I dunno, sir, something in the snow took him!

AIKEN

What?!

Aiken draws his pistol, and peers up into the trees. He can hear muffled screams again. Aiken starts barking order.

AIKEN

Retreat, come back down from there!

They can hear more screams, and between the trees Aiken catches a split-second glimpse of one of the soldiers firing his rifle, then disappearing almost instantly, dragged down and out of sight by something unseen.

AIKEN

My God! Everyone get back down here now!

Aiken moves back towards the town Jailhouse with the other terrified soldiers, keeping his pistol ready.

SOLDIER #1

What the hell sir, that ain't rebels!

AIKEN

Just get back, they're using the trees as cover. Get inside the building.

SOLDIER #1

Sir, the deputy is gone!

Aiken turns to look inside the Jailhouse. The soldier is right, the cell is empty, and the cell gate open.

Suddenly there is another noise, that of horses in distress. Something has spooked them badly.

AIKEN

What's wrong with the horses?

The soldiers guarding the stables look in, just as a number of horse's bolt from inside, knocking into one of them, and then running back down the street, screaming horribly.

Aiken runs after them, and manages to catch one by the reins. He manages to hold onto it and calm it down. Aiken then mounts the horse and turns to his men.

AIKEN

I'll try to round them up. We will need those damned horses. Stay inside the jailhouse till I get back.

His scared men do not need told twice. They back into the Jailhouse, staring out the windows. They watch Aiken gallops back down the main street after the other horses, only to witness his horse buck suddenly, throwing Aiken to the ground. The horse then runs away down the street.

Aiken is just pulling himself painfully to his feet, and a soldier runs out to assist him, when Aiken is suddenly SIEZED by something under the snow and pulled under, screaming horribly.

The soldiers can see his body being pulled back and forth, then disappearing into the snow. They can hear him screaming and terrible crunching noise muffled by the snow.

As the soldiers look on, they can see a POOL OF BLOOD gather under the snow. Then everything suddenly goes still.

SOLDIER #1

Captain?

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - DAY

As Wandering Swan SPRINTS nimbly down the slope he can hear screaming in the distance, and then gunfire.

Near the edge of the trees near the town he can see a number of horses galloping at speed down the main street of the town. Hey sound petrified.

Swan instantly slows down, bends low and readies his rifle. He can see some of the soldiers standing near the Jailhouse, all with their weapons levelled at something out of view.

As Swan emerges from the trees, he can seen the soldiers are staring at something in the middle of the town street. A huge red stain in the snow, and what looks like two arms, horribly twisted, protruding out from it.

He can also see Doctor Philiben emerging from the trees int the main town. The soldiers start screaming at him to move back, however he is too far away.

Swan starts to RUN for the Jailhouse, gripping his iron medallion in his hand. He shouts at Philiben.

WANDERING SWAN

Get off the snow!

Philiben is just out of earshot and does not hear. He seems to be making for the horse that Aiken caught and tried to mount.

As he does so a couple of the soldiers try to reach him, moving out into the middle of the street.

WANDERING SWAN

Get off the snow, get inside!

Just at that moment something sweeps up from under the soldiers and knocks them clear off their feet and flying. As both Swan and Philiben watch, they are pulled in different directions and then disappear under the level of the snow, just lumps in the earth.

As Swan runs towards them he can hear screaming and see the flailing for the soldiers limbs under the surface as they are attacked.

He can also see the alarmed Philiben quickly mount Aiken's horse and start to gallop in the other direction, STRAIGHT TOWARDS Swan.

Swan tries to flag Philiben down and catches just a glimpse of the panic on the Doctor's pale face, as the horse SMASHES into Swan at full gallop, knocking him down.

As Swan's head hits the ground, all he can see is the hazy image of Philiben on his horse, galloping away into the horizon. Blood starts to drip into Swan's eyes.

Swan still has the iron medallion held tightly hand, as everything goes black and he passes out, the screams of the dying soldiers echoing in his ears.

FADE TO BLACK

TITLE CARD:

'SIX WEEKS LATER'

FADE IN

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - DAY

Wooden wagon wheels struggle through the slush of snow.

Several horse RIDERS and COVERED WAGONS are struggling slowly and painfully up the hillside towards Restless Peak, passing by the rotted wood sign outside the town.

At the head of this new columns rides a very weary bearded FRONTIERSMAN. He wears a wide-brimmed hat and worn leather jerkin with a fur lined overcoat. A silver badge is just visible under his coat, next to a bandolier.

This frontiersman is MARSHALL AIKEN, and we will discover he is Captain Aiken's brother. Up until this point AIKEN has been obscuring another rider.

Doctor Philiben is riding on a small hardy pony right behind him. Philiben's pony is kept on a shirt leash attached to Aiken's larger horse.

Philiben is wearing civilian clothes and has the beginnings of a beard, apart from this he looks much the same.

He is also riding with both hands tied to the horn of the pony's saddle. He stares daggers into the back of Marshall Aiken's head.

MARSHALL AIKEN

This the place Doctor?

PHILIBEN

This is the place.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Looks quiet enough.

PHILIBEN

(under his breath)

Just you wait.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Come again?

Aiken halts his horse, and turns to look back at Philiben. He stares the doctor down for e moment, bring the whole column to a halt. There are around ten people in all, mostly rough looking, bearded PROSPECTORS, whose pots, pans and other accoutrements clatter as their wagons crawl up the rough track.

TOBY SURLES, black, burly and grumpy, is leading in the first covered wagon. He shouts up ahead.

TOBY

Hey what's the hold up? Get a wiggle on up there.

Aiken turns slowly and move his horse to the side of the track, taking in his surroundings. Whatever his senses are telling him about Restless Peak, it is not comforting.

Philben's pony follows reluctantly as the scowling Toby passes by on his wagon, followed by two others.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(to Toby)

After you.

The town of Restless Peak is in a noticeably worse state than before, with many of the buildings partially collapsed and still buried under high snow drifts. From the surface of the snow it is clear no one has been there for some time. Philiben eyes the snow with some suspicion.

PHILIBEN

This snow seem a little unseasonal to you, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

It's still winter up here Doctor.

Philiben looks unconvinced, and is eyeing the snow closely.

What, you don't like snow either?

PHILIBEN

Not so much.

Marshall Aiken ignores him and carries on his horses trot into the town, past the town's storehouse, the roof which is partially collapsed in. Aiken's horse draws up next to the covered wagon behind Toby.

It is being driven on by a thin bespeccled middle aged man, his winter coat not quite disguising the dog collar underneath. His name is PASTOR YOUNG.

PASTOR YOUNG

What happened to the people here?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Doctor?

Philiben just shrugs. There is not much love between him and this new prospecting expedition to Restless Peak, and this town is the last place Philiben wants to be.

Toby just shakes his head at Philiben. Then he slows his wagon a little and points at something on the side of the Storehouse's wooden walls.

TOBY

What's that there?

Aiken draws up close, pulling along the reluctant Philiben, who is not enjoying the constant push and pull on his leash. Aiken looks down and squints.

Scratched into the wood are a number of stick men, all carved into the wood. They are all upside down. There are around fifteen or twenty of these strange figures. The carvings themselves looking quite new.

Aiken looks back at Philiben again.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Doctor?

PHILIBEN

What?

TOBY

You have any idea what those pictures are?

PHILIBEN

How should I know?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Were they here before?

PHILIBEN

Not that I remember.

TOBY

What do you remember?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Leave him be. You go on into town, make sure those horses are fed.

Toby frowns then moves his wagon along further into Restless, followed by the other wagons.

Marshall Aiken dismounts and walks his horse over to the storehouse building to have a closer look. This drags Philiben along again. He is thoroughly tired of being dragged along for the ride.

MARSHALL AIKEN

These marks look fresh.

PHILIBEN

So?

MARSHALL AIKEN

So you told your court martial no one survived.

PHILIBEN

As far as I knew.

Aiken frowns deeply at him. Then he traces with his finger a mark just next to the upside-down stick men. A circle with two arrows pointing inwards inside it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You know fine well what these marks mean.

PHILIBEN

So what if I do?

Philiben looks around at the mountainous hillsides around them, obscured by the trees, in particular the direction of the old mine. Aiken mounts his horse again.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Sorry doc, didn't intend to make you nervous. You pony up now.

Aiken kicks and his horse starts to trot on into the town, wrenching Philiben forwards again. Philiben stares up into the trees, looking increasingly miserable.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - TREE COVER - DAY

Above the town, from within the dense tree cover, someone or something WATCHES as the riders and covered wagons enter the town of Restless Peak.

They all stop in the centre of the town, opposite the Jailhouse and along from the dilapidated church. Many of the prospectors start to jump down and unfurl the covers.

Shortly behind them Aiken rides up, dragging along Philiben behind him. Whoever is watching focuses closely on Philiben on his small pony.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Aiken stops his horse just before the small square that forms the centre of the town. He finds both Toby and Pastor Young are standing and staring at something.

There are clear TRACKS from the Jailhouse and running back and forth from the church to the tree line behind the stables. Toby instinctively draws his pistol.

TOBY

I'm guessing we're not alone Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Sure looks that way. Lets take a look inside.

He nods towards the Jailhouse. Toby picks up a shotgun from his wagon and throws it at the Pastor, who reluctantly grabs it.

TOBY

Keep a lookout Pastor.

Aiken and Toby keep their weapons handy and step up onto the decking outside the Jailhouse. They peak into through the dirty windows. Inside it is too dark to see much.

Aiken insects the door, which seems to have been repaired also. Then he levels his Winchester and kicks the door inward.

CUT TO:

POV from the trees, watching as Aiken and Toby enter the jailhouse. The other prospectors have armed themselves too. Doctor Philiben still sits on his pony, tied to the saddle.

PHILIBEN

Can these be loosed a little. I mean where can I go from here?

PASTOR YOUNG

Just sit tight.

Pastor Young watches nervously as they can see Aiken and Toby moving inside the jail.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Aiken and Toby enter inside. The jail is dark, with only some rays of sunning penetrating spaces in the old wood of the roof.

At the back is the old jail cell with its strangely bent bars. Aiken walks over to inspect it. There is a bed of hay laid out on a bench and a number of old cans strewn across the stone floor.

AIKEN

Looks like someone has been living in here. Maybe for some time.

TOBY

We were told the town was abandoned.

AIKEN

Not by me, Tobe.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Pastor Young looks down and picks up an old bone in his hand from the square. When he realizes what he has picked up he grimaces and drops it immediately.

PHILIBEN

I'd leave that be if I were you.

PASTOR YOUNG

Keep your lip buttoned, rip.

PHILIBEN

For a man of God, you sure are a hostile Gospel sharp.

PASTOR YOUNG

Philiben, I'm guessing if God liked you any more than I do you wouldn't even be here.

Aiken and Toby emerge from the Jailhouse, looking more than a little nervous. Two more prospectors step up with their rifles, a tall withered old sourdough beard called Chadwick and his grizzled younger brother Davis.

CHADWICK

What's up?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We surely have company. Someone's been holed up in this old calaboose for a good while.

DAVIS

Who?

TOBY

Can't be sure.

PHILIBEN

Could be any saddle bum, or GTT cabron on the lam.

DAVIS

Nobody asked you, deadbeat.

PHILIBEN

Excuse me.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(to Phliben)

Hold your mouth.

(to Chadwick)

These poor barn sours are played out. You find some shelter and stake them.

CHADWICK

Sure thing.

DAVIS

Sir, when do we head up to the mine?

MARSHALL AIKEN

In good time, son, we just arrived. First thing we make sure we aren't rattlesnaked before we start. Myself and Tobe will check out that bone orchard first.

TOBY

We will?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Yeah I have a hunch.

Chadwick, Davis and the Pastor start to lead their horses further up the main street as the Marshall and Toby walk up towards the old broken-down Church.

Philiben is left on his own.

PHILIBEN

Hey, anyone remember me?

CUT TO:

POV from behind the trees on Philiben as he shouts after Aiken and Toby, who ignore him and walk on.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Marshall Aiken and Toby approach the grave yard behind Restless Peak's Church. The door to the church has been broken in and splintered, barely hanging off its hinges.

TOBY

What the hell happened here?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Place sure offers up a lot of questions.

TOBY

There's no sign a squad was even here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Let's test that theory.

The graveyard is full of a mix of very old looking headstones, many of which have capsized, and a number of much more recent crudely made wooden crosses.

Many of the crosses have blue clothe hanging from them, and one has a sword planted on the burial mound.

The graveyard is dominated by a wooden scaffold, on top of which is what looks like a body wrapped in animals skins.

There is no sign of any names, except an iron medallion which is hanging from one of the cross beams on the scaffold.

TOBY

Injuns? Was that your hunch.

MARSHALL AIKEN

It was.

Aiken turns and looks back at Philiben, who stills sits marooned in the street on his pony.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I'd like a word with you, pill. Someone cut him loose of that lizzy.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Philiben stands in the middle of the jail, still with his hands tied in front of him. Toby is leafing through the jailhouse ledger with his feet up on the old desk.

PHILIBEN

Marshall, could you relieve me of these? They pinch a little.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You'll stand there and like it. Your lucky it's not a collar!

Philiben sighs. Aiken is pacing up and down the room, his worn boots throwing up small clouds of white dust. Philiben unsuccessfully stifles a sneeze, as Aiken turns on him.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You should have told me everything.

PHILIBEN

Say what?

MARSHALL AIKEN

You told your trial they were all dead!

PHILIBEN

I assumed-

MARSHALL AIKEN

You assumed? You assumed a whole squad of bluebellies packing iron couldn't lick a pack of mountain goats?

PHILIBEN

I don't recall mentioning goats, Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We should have had this out before we left Sheridan.

PHILIBEN

I am at a loss.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Where are the damned bodies? Fifteen men and their Captain? All we find is an Injun burial?

PHILIBEN

Indian?

TOBY

A whole squad beefed and not one rotten corpse? What's your explanation?

PHILIBEN

I don't have one. The body? Who was it?

MARSHALL AIKEN

No way to tell. We have enough problems here without unwrapping someone else's' bodies. (pause) More than likely it'd be Ten Fists, am I right?

Philiben does not answer. Marshall Stares straight at him.

You told me he was dead.

PHILIBEN

Ten Fists is dead.

Aiken raises an eyebrow at him.

I said, as far as I knew.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damn your French leave! You should have stayed with your men. You're nothing but a damned coward, Philiben and your gonna have to live with that. All I want is my brother's body!

PHILIBEN

I wish I could help.

Toby puts the dusty ledger back down on the desk.

TOBY

Could I just interject? If someone survived up here, where are they right now?

The jailhouse door squeaks open, and Pastor Young looks in and smiles shyly. They all stare at him.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Yeah?

PASTOR YOUNG

If I'm not interrupting, the boys would like to borrow Doctor Philiben for a short while.

PHILIBEN

For what?

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - MAIN STREET - DAY

Outside there is lots of hustle and bustle, as the Prospectors organize themselves with their equipment. Rope, lanterns, dynamite, picks and shovels.

Marshall Aiken is watching from inside the Jailhouse, through its dirty partially broken windows.

Philiben watches the Prosepectors nervously, standing with his wrists still cuffed. Opposite him Chadwick is busy.

PHILIBEN

Is it necessary to head up there already?
We've barely arrived.

CHADWICK

Sooner we assess the drift, see if the
lode is viable, the better. This town
gives me the willies.

Philiben nods gently at this. Chadwick and Davis start
loading their mules with saddle bags of equipment. Philiben
notices how much packed nitroglycerine vials and fuses are
included.

PHILIBEN

That's a whole lot of powder oil.

CHADWICK

That it is.

PHILIBEN

I'm hoping you'll be extra careful.

DAVIS

We are professionals, Mr Philiben.

PHILIBEN

Of course.

Marshall Aiken exits the Jailhouse.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What you look so nervous for, Doc? You
been up here before.

PHILIBEN

You think you could release these,
Marshall? Then I can assist these good men
with their burden.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Nice try.

Philiben just looks exasperated as Davis, Chadwick and Pastor Young all start to climb up the track to Restless Peak's mine. The old sign for the mine is just visible under bushes and snow. Philiben is led up on another leash on Chadwick's mule.

PHILIBEN

Is this necessary?

DAVIS

Marshall's orders.

Across from them Aiken watches, almost allowing himself a grin at Philiben's predicament.

He is joined outside the jailhouse by Toby.

TOBY

Damn its cold up here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Wear more.

TOBY

You're a harsh man, Marshall.

Aiken frowns and peers up into the hills around them, mostly obscured by the tree cover.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You like it up here, Tobe?

TOBY

Not so much. There's definitely more than a chill in the air. You look worried Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I'm just wondering what Alfred went though up here.

Their line of prospectors is just starting to disappear into the hills.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Philiben hasn't told us all he should.

TOBY

You know who's been staying in that
jailhouse?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I have a theory.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE FOREST - DAY

Philiben is miserably struggling to keep up with the mule,
eyeing his surroundings uneasily. The other prospectors
grin at him.

CHADWICK

How much further, doc?

PHILIBEN

Not far.

If anything, the track up to the mine is even more
overgrown than the last time, and it is all he can do to
keep from falling.

Davis notices several symbols scratched into some of the
trees and on a cliff face next to the track.

DAVIS

What the hell are these?

CHADWICK

They're just pictures, boy.

DAVIS

What they mean?

CHADWICK

It's not important.

DAVIS

You know, Mr Philiben.

Philiben just shrugs at him.

PASTOR YOUNG

We almost there, Doctor?

PHILIBEN

I hope so.

DAVIS

You been here before.

PHILIBEN

I didn't keep time on the way?

PASTOR YOUNG

What happened up here, Doctor, they think it necessary to cuff you like that.

PHILIBEN

It's not important.

CHADWICK

I'd say it is.

PHILIBEN

How about you just concentrate on your lode.

Pastor Young and Davis smile. Chadwick does not find this funny.

CHADWICK

When we get back to town I'm gonna inquire with the Marshall.

PHILIBEN

You do that.

They are reaching the curve of the track just before the adit of the gold mine. For a moment Philiben imagines he

can see smoke rising up from the mountain into the sky. He stops for a moment. He is instantly pulled along by the mule, almost losing his footing.

DAVIS

Daisy don't stop for no man.

They all laugh except for Philiben., who is on high alert.

PASTOR YOUNG

Why you look so scared, Dco.

PHILIBEN

I ain't scared. Not with a fine upstanding man of God like you here, sir.

PASTOR YOUNG

I'm not sure I appreciate your tone.

At that moment they turn the corner and glimpse the dark entrance to Restless Peak's old mine.

CHADWICK

That's it!

DAVIS

Is that it Mr Philiben

PHILIBEN

Yup.

There is some caterwauling and shrieks of joy from the other prospectors.

CHADWICK

Looks pretty much intact. That is a surprise.

PHILIBEN

Yeah, it is at that.

Philiben is still nervously watching the trees, as though expecting to be attacked at any moment. The prospectors keep moving at a greater pace, not appreciated by Philiben.

DAVIS

Keep up doc!

Philiben thinks better of swearing at them and stumbles on grumbling to himself. He looks up at the ridge above, to the treeline, and for a moment he thinks he sees the shape of a MAN.

PHILIBEN

(under his breath)

Wait just a-

CHADWICK

What was that?

When Philiben looks again, the shape is gone and he is dragged onwards by his mule.

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - DAY

The line of prospectors near the adit of the shaft mine. Everything is as it was before, except the entrance to shaft has been sealed again, with charred wooden beams and lime plaster. The same markings and sigils are cut into the plaster and wood.

Philiben is clearly not thrilled to be back there and is still scanning the top of the ridge above, looking for movement. Davis watches him closely.

DAVIS

What you looking at?

PHILIBEN

Nothing.

DAVIS

Are there bears up here?

PHILIBEN

Probably. Maybe worse.

CHADWICK

Stop scaring my boy. We're prepared for anything.

He taps his rifle slung about his soldier.

PHILIBEN

Yeah, sure.

Both Chadwick, Davis, the Pastor and a few more of the prospectors start to unpack their bags from the mules and donkeys they had taken up the track.

Philiben is still watching his surroundings closely, especially the snow and trees. Something is watching them.

PASTOR YOUNG

You OK, doctor?

PHILIBEN

I guess.

PASTOR YOUNG

Bad memories.

PHILIBEN

You could say that.

Pastor Young starts to look nervous now too. Most of the mines outhouses have almost totally collapsed, however Philiben still keeps a close eye on them.

Chadwick has picked up a long crowbar and starts to pull at at some of the charred wood panels.

CHADWICK

This was fixed recent.

He looks round at Philiben.

You think some of that mountain tribe came back?

Philiben shrugs.

PHILIBEN

I sure hope not. They were plenty fierce.

DAVIS

You said you only saw one?

PHILIBEN

Only one that was still breathing.

PASTOR YOUNG

What happened to him?

PHILIBEN

He stopped breathing.

Chadwick looks unconvinced.

CHADWICK

Davis, you head to some higher ground with your iron, keep a lookout.

DAVIS

Sure, par.

Chadwick gestures to some of the others.

CHADWICK

You take the other side.

They all apply their crow bars to the wooden, and the thin plaster begins to break away with a loud crack. The noise echoes around the mountainside.

Davis climbs up the side of the slope that leads to the wide cliff face above the mine, and the tree ridge above.

When he looks up, he catches a GLIMPSE of something dark moving. Keeping his pistol close he goes to look.

Down below we can see the men working. Philiben seems to be back away from the mine, dragging the stubborn mule with him. Chadwick looks round at him.

CHADWICK

Now where do you think you are going?

Philiben just smiles awkwardly.

Pastor, keep a close eye on him. Last thing we need is explaining to the Marshall how we lost his fugitive.

The Pastor aims his pistol at Philiben.

PASTOR YOUNG

Now stay right there, Doctor, if you please.

PHILIBEN

True man of God, pastor.

PASTOR YOUNG

The lord helps those who help themselves.

PHILIBEN

To a whole mine?

CHADWICK

Whoever owns this left a long time ago. It's still viable its fair game.

PHILIBEN

You think maybe there was a reason they left. Where all the townsfolk got to?

CHADWICK

That's not my concern.

Chadwick heaves and a huge chunk of plaster and wood comes away. He looks pleased with himself. Just for one moment.

Then the wooden beam at the side of the adit EXPLODES in his face. Chadwick throws himself back screaming, as GUNFIRE erupts from up high on the ridge.

More bullets hit the snow and rocks around them as the prospectors all dive for cover, including Doctor Philiben and Pastor Young. Philiben ducks down behind an outhouse.

PHILIBEN

I knew it.

PASTOR YOUNG

Knew what?

More gunshots ricochet around the mine and cliff face,
throwing up snow, rock and bark into the face of the men.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MAIN STREET - DAY

Back down in the town Aiken and Toby have heard the
gunfire. Aiken calls to a prospector tending to their
horses in the stables across the road.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(To Prospector)

Bring our rifles.

Aiken leaps onto his own horse.

TOBY

You sure it's safe to take a horse up
there, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We'll find out.

He gallops away up the track, which is on a steep incline
for a large animal. Toby watches as he disappears into the
treeline.

More gunfire erupts in the sky above him. Toby decides to
follow on foot.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS CREEK MINE - DAY

A number of the prospectors, including Chadwick and Davis
have retreated into the trees and are returning fire,
though not in any obvious direction.

Across from them Philiben is sheltering behind a tree, as
the poor mule attached to him tries to avoid the bullets.

CHADWICK

You leave Daisy alone you son bitch!

PHILIBEN

That'll tell 'em.

DAVIS

You keep your head down Doc!

PHILIBEN

Sure thing!

Across from them they can see Pastor Young another old prospector hiding behind one of the iron mine carts capsized across the rails.

More bullets rip into the trees around them, sending them ducking into the snow. Philiben eyes them nervously.

PHILIBEN

Keep out the snow!

They can hardly hear them with the gunfire.

DAVIS

What?

PHILIBEN

I said keep off the snow!

CHADWICK

Your cracked, Philiben!

PHILIBEN

Throw me an iron and I'll circle up behind them, flush 'em out for you.

CHADWICK

Not a chance! Just keep your head down!

Philiben does the opposite. He jumps up and bent almost double starts to run back down the track.

CHADWICK

Darned lily-livered-!

More gunfire drowns Chadwick out. Philiben just barely misses being hit, as another bullet bounces off a tree behind him, one marked with a circle marker.

He dives behind a large boulder, and looks up. He is suddenly aware of a DARK SHAPE lurking behind him. A long shadow rises up and he hears a clicking noise, the familiar sound of a Winchester rifle being reloaded.

Philiben instantly freezes, and slowly put his hands up in the air, which are still cuffed.

PHILIBEN

Look, I-I'm just a jailbird. If you let me go I won't say a thing.

There is no response. Philiben chances to look back, and goes white as a sheet.

Wandering Swan is looking RIGHT BACK at him!

Philiben stays rooted to the spot as Swan raises his Winchester.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS CREEK MINE TRACK - DAY

Marshall Aiken is still making his way up the track. He can still hear gunfire and stops his horse just short of the clearing that leads up to the mine.

He dismounts and draws his rifle out of the saddle holster. Ducking down he runs on into the trees.

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - DAY

Just outside the clearing Marshall Aiken runs up towards the edge of the mine entrance. Across from him he sees Philiben slumped against a rock, his chin on his chest.

Chadwick, Davis and Pastor Young are still sheltering in the trees, looking up. The gunfire seems to have stopped.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Who was it?

CHADWICK

Couldn't tell Marshall. They were up on the ridge. They must have been waiting.

MARSHALL AIKEN

How many?

DAVIS

Couldn't tell that either.

Aiken sighs to himself, still looking from side to side. He glances over at Philiben again. He has not moved.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I think the Doctors hurt. You cover me and I'll check he's OK.

Chadwick and Davis both nod, with their rifles handy. Pastor Young watches from inside the mine cart.

PASTOR YOUNG

I'm fine too, Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Sure you are.

Aiken doubles over and jogs over to where Philiben is slumped. He quickly checks for a pulse. Then he slaps Philiben firmly in the jaw.

PHILIBEN

Hey, stop it. I'm awake.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Sleeping on the job again Doctor.

PHILIBEN

How dare you.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Wake up, you ain't shot.

PHILIBEN

About all that isn't round here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

So I heard. Did you see who?

Philiben suddenly looks sheepish.

PHILIBEN

I saw...something.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Something? Men? Who?

PHILIBEN

Maybe the jailbird?

MARSHALL AIKEN

The what?

PHILIBEN

Whoever's been squatting in that jail.
Maybe?

This grabs Aiken's attention.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I'm gonna unhook you from Daisy. No funny
business or I'll shoot you in the back.

PHILIBEN

Thanks.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(to Chadwick)

Chadwick, you grab Daisy and the Pastor
and you skedaddle back down the road.

CHADWICK

You want us to turn tail, no sirree!

MARSHALL AIKEN

Whoever's holed up on that ridge has the bulge on us, old timer. This mine's no use to you with lead poisoning!

DAVIS

That's the truth!

MARSHALL AIKEN

We'll come right back, now we know their here. Keep watch.

(to Philiben)

Can you walk?

PHILIBEN

You can carry me if you'd prefer.

Toby arrives, huffing and puffing on the track.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You took your time.

TOBY

I ain't no use on a hoss, Marshall.

(at Philiben)What's the matter with him.

MARSHALL AIKEN

He's not been shot. Yet.

Toby hauls Philiben to his feet and helps him hobble back down the track. Aiken bends double and retreats back to his own horse, as the other prospectors retreat in a rabble back down the hill.

Chadwick leads his mule Daisy back down, following Davis and Pastor Young. They all disappear into the trees.

Up on the ridge, Wandering Swan watches them go, pulls up his rifle and disappears back into the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - DAY

The remaining prospectors in the town witness Philiben, Toby, Marshall Aiken, Chadwick and Davis retreating back down the hill in a wild rabble.

Aiken has a face like thunder.

PROSPECTOR #1

What happened Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Just a small hitch.

(to Toby, regarding Philiben)

Throw him in the stockade. I have some questions.

Aiken looks back up towards the mountainside.

CHADWICK

What the hell was that Marshall. For sure we had them outnumbered!

MARSHALL AIKEN

That's what you think.

DAVIS

I'm all for heading back up there and apprehending them now.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Don't let me stop you.

Chadwick sits down on the store boxes and tries to catch his breath.

CHADWICK

I need my pipe.

Davis collapses nearby and sinks to his knees.

DAVIS

I never fired my rifle in anger before,
Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

That a fact. You men catch your breath,
then we'll decide on a next move.

CHADWICK

They have a marsksman up there, Marshall?

Aiken nods.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I guess we have ourselves a problem.

Aiken diseappears into the jailhouse. Outside the rest of
the prospectors already look beaten.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Aiken enters just as Toby ushers Philiben into the lone
cell. Philiben sits down and hangs his head.

MARSHALL

What in thunder was that?

PHILIBEN

Which part?

MARSHALL AIKEN

You knew he was up there?

PHILIBEN

Knew who...you ain't making any sense
Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You knew Wandering Swan was still here!

TOBY

Go easy, Marshall.

PHILIBEN

I guessed, that's all. I dare say you were thinking the same. Or your stupider than you look.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You said they were all dead! All of them.

PHILIBEN

I made a statement that's all. I don't make the rules.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What the hell does that mean?

PHILIBEN

I don't decide who lives and dies.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You just leave them to their fate!

TOBY

Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

What?

TOBY

I'd like to know what we're dealing with. We've come a long way just to get shot.

PHILIBEN

Well, you want to tell him or should I?

Toby prepares himself for an answer by sticking his feet up on the desk.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Looks like the good Doctor here left a few facts out of his statement to his court martial. Anything else you left behind?

PHILIBEN

Just my pride.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You'll be here a good time looking for that.

TOBY

Well, I'm guessing we have one question answered.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What would that be?

TOBY

I'm guessing the lode is viable after all or they wouldn't have left a guard.

MARSHALL AIKEN

They? Who's they, Toby?

TOBY

Whoever was shooting at us up there.

PHILIBEN

It's a pertinent question.

TOBY

He ain't no marksman from what I saw.

PHILIBEN

If Swan wanted us dead we'd never have made it down off that mountain.

TOBY

That so, Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I reckon that so. He's protecting the mine.

TOBY

Why on earth would he do that?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Doctor?

PHILIBEN

Well, I'd say let go ask. I think that moments gone.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What did you find up there?

PHILIBEN

I don't care to say.

Aiken has lost patience and draws his pistol, pointing it straight at Philiben. Philiben does not move.

TOBY

Come on Marshall, we had enough shooting for one day.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I want an answer to my question. My brother died up here. He survived four years of war. I want to know why he never left here and this piece of work did.

Philiben just stares right back at him.

PHILIBEN

I don't think you'd believe it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Try me.

Toby and Aiken wait for an answer. Philiben holds his head in his hands, then stands up and walks up the bars. The iron bars have been strangely bent inward.

PHILIBEN

We tracked a whole host of bushwackers up the track to this town. We expected them to make a last stand. I think they tried to blow through the mine's seal. Must have thought they had enough gold they could start another war. The fire in the sky drew us right to them, as well as a whole mountain tribe we didn't even know existed. We arrived late for that war, found most of the greybacks cut to ribbons in the town square. Right out there in the street, they nailed up Ten Fists like a totem. It was Wandering Swan found him.

TOBY

Jesus. That's who you saw up on the hill?

Philiben nods.

He's been here since you left? Staying in this jail?

PHILIBEN

I guess.

MARSHALL AIKEN

He didn't shoot? He must be mightily pissed at you, Doctor.

TOBY

The question is, why would he stay here alone? In this Godforsaken town?

PHILIBEN

Somebody resealed that mine shaft. He was protecting it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You know Doctor, I have the distinct impression you're still keeping us in the dark. What are you not telling us? There's a whole lot of dead men to account for

here. I'm not ready to discount you for blame in that.

PHILIBEN

Sure, I murdered them all myself.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I don't believe that either.

PHILIBEN

Don't unseal that mine, Marshall. Swan will have his reasons. I figure if your employers try this again he won't play so nice.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I expect he'll also want to talk to you personally.

TOBY

What you suggesting? You're not going back up there?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We rode out a long way out here just to sit in a frozen calaboose. If that injun has his reasons I'd like to hear him explain them in person and I'm gonna take the good Doctor here as collateral.

PHILIBEN

I'm more than happy right here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You don't deserve any happy.

(to Toby)

Grab your warbag.

TOBY

Why? Am I going too?

MARSHALL AIKEN

You got anything white?

CUT TO:

Both Marshall and Toby are loading up their weapons, as the other prospectors look on nervously.

DAVIS

You loaded for bear Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Hopefully it won't come to that.

(to Toby)

You find anything?

Toby holds up a stick with a small white handkerchief on it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Genius.

Chadwick hooks Daisy the mule back to the cuffed Philiben.

PHILIBEN

Oh come, this is old.

TOBY

Daisy loves you Doc.

CHADWICK

She'll bring you home safe.

PHILIBEN

I'll hold her to that.

CHADWICK

Marshall, you fire we'll come running.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Don't you dare. It comes to that we'll see it out or we won't come back at all. That

happens you come back here with the whole Yankee army. You hear me?

CHADWICK

Yes sir.

DAVIS

We're not gonna ride out on a rail for that Comanche, Marshall.

PHILIBEN

He's not Comanche.

CHADWICK

We can assist, Marshall. This is as close I come to a score in years.

MARSHALL AIKEN

They'll be others, Chad. Less of us Swan see's the better. Also we got this.

He holds up Toby's handkerchief. They all laugh, except Toby. Marshall Aiken puts his hand on Chadwick's thin shoulder.

MARSHALL AIKEN

This may still work out old timer. You just sit tight.

Aiken, Toby and Philiben begin to climb again. Chadwick, Davis and Pastor Young watch. Young tends the rest of the animals, as Chadwick grips his rifle.

DAVIS

We gonna let that injun head us off, par?

CHADWICK

I hardly think. Go fetch the beans.

Davis smiles and pulls up the lid of one of their boxes. It is full of bullets. They start to follow the Marshall.

PASTOR YOUNG

Where you boys going? Don't leave me alone
in this place.

Chadwick and Davis also disappear into the forest. The
pastor stares around at the dead town.

PASTOR YOUNG

(to his horse)

Guess it's just you and me now, Mosey.

EXT. RESTLESS CREEK MINE - DAY

Aiken and Toby jog quickly up to the mine adit. It is
almost invisible in the cliffside and snow. Some way back
is Philiben, still struggling behind Daisy.

TOBY

What now, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We let him see Philiben out in the open.
Try to talk him down. I'd like to hear
Swan's side of this tale.

TOBY

What if Swan shoots him?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We can shake his hand.

TOBY

That's cold.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What's cold is leaving your squad behind.
I reckon Swan will have something to say
in that also. If Swan wants him full of
lead I can't blame him.

Philiben looks ready to collapse. Aiken just watches as
Toby leads Daisy off the track and unhooks Philiben.

Philiben collapses to his knees.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Get to your feet Doctor. Let Swan see you.
Philiben has just about enough energy to glare back.

PHILIBEN

Fuck you Marshall.

Aiken grins at him.

TOBY

I hate your schemes Marshall. They're
gonna get us all dead.

Aiken stands up, looking up at the tree lined ridge above
the entrance to the mine.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Swan? The jigs up. Why don't you just come
down now? We don't want anyone hurt now.
We've had enough of that already.

A short way behind them, unseen, Chadwick and Davis creep
up through the trees with their rifles handy. They scan the
treeline above.

Unaware Aiken steps out into the mine clearing. The wooden
panels have been replaced on the adit of the mine. There
are tracks visible in the snow.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We know it's you. You let the Doctor here
see you, so you must have a reason. How
about you come down and explain all this?

Just silence. Everyone keeps a close eye on the trees.

I'm sorry about Ten Fists. I lost my
brother here too. All I want is to know
what happened. All we want is peace.

WANDERING SWAN (O.S.)

All you want is the mine.

Swan's loud voice echoes throughout the clearing, amongst the trees and cliff face above the mineshaft. It is impossible to know from which direction it came.

TOBY

Why would you want to stop us?

Aiken waves at Toby to stop. Toby just shrugs at him. Aiken nods at Philiben.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Say something.

Philiben's expression just says 'What?'. Philiben sighs and looks up into the trees.

PHLIBEN

Swan? You can't stay up here forever. You have no rights to this place.

As Philiben speaks Chadwick is climbing up the side of the cliff face, keeping low amongst the trees. He stops and holds up his Whitforth rifle, looking through its scope.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(to Philiben)

That it?

Philiben just shrugs.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Were not going anywhere, Swan. We have a job to do. I can't guarantee we won't go through you no matter what. You're outnumbered. We only want to understand why you're standing in our way.

WANDERING SWAN (O.S)

Why's not important.

TOBY

It's pretty damn important. Man must make a living here.

Aiken makes a 'shoosh' gesture towards you.

(back at Aiken)

You shoosh, dammit!

Aiken waves him back.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Swan! I suggest an amnesty. We put up our weapons in plain sight and you do the same. Then you come on down and we will discuss a concordat. How that sound?

Toby mouths the words 'A what?'.

I mean an accord.

At that moment Philiben notices Chadwick up on the hill. He frowns and looks over at Aiken. Aiken has not seen him.

There is a long pause as they wait for an answer. Chadwick is still looking through his scope, scanning the tree line. The wind whistle through the clearing.

All of them wait, holding their breath. Then suddenly something hits the snow in front of them. It is a rifle. Wandering Swan's rifle.

When they look up they see the shape of Swan amongst the trees looking down at them. Philiben and Toby looks up at the scout in some awe, as Aiken smiles. Chadwick cocks his rifle, and looks back down the scope.

Swan just looks grimly down at them, scowling.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We have a deal?

Swan nods and is just about to reply, when a shot rings out. Swan sways, then his body topples forward, and then down the hill past the trees, and comes to a stop just in front of Philiben.

Chadwick stands up holding up his rifle in triumph.

CHADWICK

That's how you catch a tartar, Marshall!

MARSHALL AIKEN

You stupid son of a bitch. He was coming
down on his own steam!

CHADWICK

He's down now!

Toby runs up to check Swan's body.

TOBY

He's still breathing!

(to Philiben)

Doc, can you help?

Philiben turns to Aiken, brandishing his irons.

PHILIBEN

Cut me loose?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK - DAY

Pastor Young is standing next to the town Church, staring
at the many gravestones and mounds that fill it. He bends
down and picks up something out the dirt.

He picks out a rusted IRON MEDALLION out the earth. It is
covered in caked dried dirt an snow. On the inside are two
arrow shapes pointing inward. Young examines it closely.

Then he hears a SHOUT coming from further up the street.
People are coming back down the slope above. Two of them
are bearing a stretcher and are moving quickly back across
the street towards the jailhouse.

DAVIS

(shouting at Pastor)

We got him, Pastor!

Pastor Young drops the iron medallion back on the mound and
starts to run up the street.

PASTOR YOUNG

Who?

DAVIS

The Injun guarding the mine. Par shot him.

PASTOR YOUNG

Aw hell.

DAVIS

Isn't that a little sacrilegious, Pastor?

Young runs after Toby and Chadwick who are handling the stretcher, followed closely by Aiken. Quite a ways behind is Philiben who leads Daisy back down the hill.

Philiben shouts after them.

PHILIBEN

Lay him in the cell and I'll look him over.

(to Pastor Young)

You bring any medical equipment on this escapade?

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

The door swings in as Toby and Chadwick enter with the stretcher, followed closely by Aiken and Philiben, set loose of the mule. Davis and Pastor Young hover around outside, looking in.

EXT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Pastor Young and Davis watch through the windows as Toby and Chadwick put the stretcher with Wandering Swan on the old bed in the cell.

PASTOR YOUNG

What happened?

DAVIS

Par shot him with the Whitworth.

PASTOR YOUNG

Why?

DAVIS

He was in the damn way!

CUT TO:

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Toby leans over Wandering Swans body. Swan is bleeding from the side of his mouth and is out cold. He is noticeably still breathing.

TOBY

He gonna make it Doc?

PHILIBEN

Slug just winged him. Looks like he hit his head in the fall. Just as well that old man couldn't hit a barn.

Toby notices the iron medallion round his neck.

TOBY

What's this?

PHILIBEN

No idea.

TOBY

Looks just like those pictures up on the cliff.

Aiken looks round at the rather sheepish looking Chadwick.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damn you, Chadwick, that was unnecessary!

CHADWICK

It was very necessary.

TOBY

He was coming down of his own accord!

CHADWICK

Says you.

MARSHALL AIKEN

He disarmed himself. You saw it.

CHADWICK

He may have had a concealed weapon.

MARSHALL AIKEN

A concealed weapon. You didn't give him much chance to un-conceal it!

TOBY

Why would he put himself in harsm way like that. Just for a hole in the ground. Makes no sense.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Well, when he wakes up we can ask him. If he ever does.

CHADWICK

I only grazed him!

MARSHALL AIKEN

I guess you meant that too? Just as well you can't shoot for shit, old timer. You'd have a murder case on your hands.

CHADWICK

You can't murder an injun!

TOBY

Says who?

CHADWICK

Marshall, I represent a great many interests on this mission. Time is money, and gold is more money! I made an decision in the best interests of my stakeholders!

MARSHALL AIKEN

Stakeholders! That's rich!

PHILIBEN

What makes you think there's anything left up in that drift? If there was why would all these townsfolk have left?

TOBY

I'm not sure they did leave. Not in the manner you hint at.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What the hell does that mean?

TOBY

I was reading some of those ledgers stored up in here. There's quite the story.

Philiben looks up at them, as he wraps a wide bandage round Wandering Swans head. Swan is still out cold.

PHILIBEN

Well, don't keep us in suspense Tobe.

Toby looks a little uncertain then he walks over to the desk and takes out one of the dusty ledgers.

TOBY

I found this sitting in Swan's cell. I guess he was reading them over too.

Toby opens up the ledger.

The last entry is from one of the Deputies, a Joseph Samuels.

None of those present are familiar with the name, even Philiben, who only caught a glimpse of Samuels as he left.

Even so a strange quiet passes across all the men. They are suddenly intrigued.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Go on.

TOBY

He says he was cut off just near to the storehouse. Something pulled him off his horse out of the snow. His horse was dragged underneath, and he could hear it screaming underground, like it was being dragged down into hell.

This raises a few eyebrows. Philiben finishes with Swan's bandage and listens in. Toby continues.

'I could see something rising up out of the snow near the storehouse, next to where they'd take Bessie.' That's the horse. 'I shot a whole revolver at it with no effect. It had limbs and a face but was in no way human. So I left my horse and ran back up the main drag back to the Jailhouse. I could hear more screams as I went. I'm not sure who made it up to the mine, so I've decided to barricade myself in the cell, and take my chances. There's next to no chance I can make it out of Restless on foot. If anyone ever reads-' It just cuts off there.

CHADWICK

Well, that is a tale.

TOBY

It's dated '46.

Aiken just stands there chewing his jaw. Toby stares back at him.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Swan's been here for almost a year. He seemed fine till an hour ago.

TOBY

Still, sure is thought provoking.

PHILIBEN

Sure is.

CHADWICK

So, when do we start?

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK JAILHOUSE - DAY

Aiken paces outside of the jail, up and down the creaking wood of the walk way. The snow had turned to slush under his feet. Toby stands close by looking up at the mountain above them.

TOBY

You know what the townsfolk here called that mountain?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Enlighten me.

TOBY

Deuce Mountain. What did you think of the Deputies story?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I think...I don't know what to think.

TOBY

I'd never heard of this town before. I thought I knew these hills like the back of my arm.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I never been here either. I still wish I hadn't. I hope to leave as soon as possible.

Toby nods.

TOBY

Chadwick's hell bent on opening up that shaft. Legally speaking we can't stop.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What does legal even mean up here?

TOBY

It means you, Marshall.

They both laugh.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I rarely felt a chill up my spine as I did reaching this place.

TOBY

Same here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What say, we let Chadwick have his moment, and then we get the hell out. If they want to stay let them.

TOBY

Suits me. It'll be dark soon.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Your up fist to look after the guest house.

INT. JAILHOUSE CELL - NIGHT

POV of cell roof. The wood is largely intact, just a few glimpses of snow and sky here and there. It is dark outside. Outside some stars are just visible.

Suddenly, Deputy Samuels huge grinning FACE comes into view and bears downwards with his scraggy beard.

SAMUELS

They're free.

Samuels chortles to himself, his laughter echoing into the distance.

Wandering Swan suddenly SITS UP, blinking and almost falling off his bed with sudden shock. Philiben reaches out to him and steadies him with arm on the shoulder.

PHILIBEN

Whoa there, soldier.

Philiben sits opposite him, watching him closely. Swan's head is still in a bandage. He touches his head and winces.

PHILIBEN

I'd stay as still as possible if I were you. You took quite a hit. Bullet just grazed your skull then you fell off that cliff. I'm surprised your still breathing.

WANDERING SWAN

Why am in here. With you?

PHILIBEN

They wanted me to keep an eye on you safely. I guess they don't trust either of us to behave.

Philiben nods over towards Toby, who is snoring softly propped up on the chair and old desk. His six shooter lies on the desk nearby.

WANDERING SWAN

I need out.

PHILIBEN

You bounce back fast don't you, Swan. What's the rush? There's not even a decent bed-house round these parts.

Philiben giggles to himself, and puts his fingers through his beard.

PHILIBEN

What, you lost your sense of humour?

Swan is not interested at all in what Philiben is saying and scans the cell for a weakness.

PHILIBEN

You know, I...I'm real sorry I left you like that. I didn't mean to leave you behind. Or anyone. I suppose I panicked.

Swan stands up on the bed looking at the join between the cell bars and the wood.

PHILIBEN

If I knew you'd survived...or anyone. I
guess I just winged you huh?

Swan pokes at the wood at the join. It is rotten and starts
to give way slightly.

WANDERING SWAN

Help. Or keep quiet.

PHILIBEN

You're choosing to leave now? If anyone
could have found their way out of here on
foot I'm guessing it's you.

Philiben notices the iron medallion that Swan is wearing.

What's that?

Swan keeps poking at the wood. Toby shifts in his seat, and
Swan watches him for a moment.

PHILIBEN

It looks like those carvings in the trees.

WANDERING SWAN

Uhuh.

PHILIBEN

That mountain tribe made them. The one you
shot. It was them?

WANDERING SWAN

You always talk too much. You should stick
to medicine.

PHILIBEN

I guess they helped you survive up here.
That it?

WANDERING SWAN

They're all dead.

PHILIBEN

Oh. Not much survives up here, huh. Except you. Were you responsible for that?

WANDERING SWAN

No. I finished what they started. Then it stopped.

PHILIBEN

It stopped? What killed all our men? Why didn't it come after you?

WANDERING SWAN

Stop talking.

PHILIBEN

Did you seal the mine?

WANDERING SWAN

Help. Or shut up.

PHILIBEN

Did you seal that mine off?

WANDERING SWAN

I finished what they started. Then it stopped.

PHILIBEN

What if they unseal it? This all starts again?

Swan keeps digging at the old wood, a little more frantically than before.

Shit.

Philiben stands up and grips the cell bars, trying to shake them. They do not move an inch.

We need those keys. Toby!

Toby does not respond; he just keeps on snoring.

Toby!

Toby stirs for a moment. Then his eyes flick open. Swan instantly freezes.

TOBY

What up? You two not getting along?

He looks up at Swan.

What you up to up there?

PHILIBEN

Toby, now you need to listen up.

CUT TO

EXT. STABLES BARN - NIGHT

Chadwick, Davis, Pastor Young and Marshall Aiken are all gathered round the fire underneath the stables barn. The barns doors are mostly falling apart, and the men do their best to keep warm. Chadwick is sipping whisky.

DAVIS

I hate this damn place already. Feels like the grave.

CHADWICK

A cup of brown gargle, a yellow hammer and a wag-tail in the morning will you see you right.

DAVIS

I sure hope. Feels too cold up here, not just with the wind. You ever heard of this place before Pastor?

Pastor Young just shakes his head slightly. He seems lost in thought.

DAVIS

How about you, Marshall? You heard of Restless?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Not till recent.

DAVIS

That story Toby read from the ledger. Was that true?

No one wants to answer that.

I'm sure glad I can't read sometimes.

CHADWICK

Speak of the devil.

Toby appears at the bar doorway.

Hey night hawk, weren't you tasked with keeping an eye on those two rattlesnakes.

TOBY

I don't take orders from you.

Chadwick bristles at this. Aiken immediately steps in.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What's the problem?

TOBY

Swan's awake. Doctor Philiben thinks he has something to tell us?

CHADWICK

Like what? It's all just bad medicine and we should skedaddle, is that right?

Chadwick laughs to himself, his breath whistling through the gaps in his rotten teeth. No one else finds this funny.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Is it important?

TOBY

I think so.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Well, enlighten us.

TOBY

I think you all should hear this for yourself.

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Swan sit still in his cell staring at the roof, listening. He can almost hear something whispering. Philiben is watching him with some discomfort.

PHILIBEN

Quite a breeze though here, ain't it? What you looking at?

WANDERING SWAN

The roof?

Philiben just shakes his head. At that moment the jailhouse door opens and Aiken walks in, closely followed by the others including Chadwick still has his whisky in hand. Pastor Young stays outside.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Well, I'm all ears.

PHILIBEN

Say what? It's freezing in here Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

So?

Wandering Swan is staring coldly at Chadwick.

CHADWICK

(to Wandering Swan)

What you eyeballing at, crow?

PHILIBEN

Looks like he's looking at you. Wonder why that would be?

DAVIS

Guess he takes exception to you, par.

PHILIBEN

Just as well your old man couldn't slap a bull's rump with his head up its ass.

Davis tries not to smirk. Chadwick's slams his whisky down on the nearby desk, his hand going to his pistol. The two cell mates do not even move.

CHADWICK

You care to repeat that, pill?

PHILIBEN

Lay off that neck oil, moss back.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Hey, that's enough! Toby here said you had something to opine.

Philiben looks back at Swan. Swan does not move and keeps staring at Chadwick.

We don't have all night.

PHILIBEN

We have the whole night. You'd be wise to take heed of all this. I may not have been entirely honest about the events here in Restless Peak.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Excuse me if I am not shocked by that.

PHILIBEN

Swan's been holed up here a good time. I told you he'd have his reasons. That mine up there is no ordinary notch.

CHADWICK

Bull!

MARSHALL AIKEN

Button your lip! I don't wanna hear your
jaw flapping any more than necessary,
Philiben, you say what needs said. Right
now.

Aiken points at Swan.

WANDERING SWAN

Leave the mine alone.

DAVIS

Or what?

WANDERING SWAN

Or you die.

Davis and Chadwick both burst out laughing. Toby's face is
stone, which stops Aiken's smirk in its tracks.

CHADWICK

You taking this gut-stealer for serious
Marshall?

Aiken turns Toby.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What you think?

TOBY

Hear them out.

CHADWICK

I heard enough. You can't believe a word
this red has to say, he tried to plug us
already. Come on Davis.

DAVIS

Par I wanna-

CHADWICK

Get out!

Chadwick leaves with the reluctant Davis, slamming the jail door almost off its hinges. They can hear him complaining his way back to the stables. Then Chadwick starts singing, loudly.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damn sourdough.

TOBY

(to Philiben)

You wanna tell the Marshall what you told me?

PHILIBEN

Swan?

Swan tries to stand up, and with some help from Philiben grips onto the cell bars.

WANDERING SWAN

You should go home. There is no gold here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You know that for a fact?

Swan nods.

TOBY

He said there's something in the mine killed all the soldiers. Including the Captain.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What something?

(to Philiben)

What do you know about this?

PHILIBEN

I know Swan's telling the truth. You don't want to open it up again. I said before it was no use coming up here.

MARSHALL AIKEN

To protect your neck.

PHILIBEN

I didn't kill anyone.

MARSHALL AIKEN

(to Wandering Swan)

Is that the truth?

Swan is reluctant to answer this. Philiben eyes him nervously.

PHILIBEN

I may have been a little rash in my attempt to escape this place.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Rash?

WANDERING SWAN

He didn't kill your brothers men.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Well, who the hell did?

WANDERING SWAN

When the mine is open, they are free.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What? Toby, what the hell-

TOBY

If I hadn't read that ledger, I wouldn't believe a word either. Something ain't right about this place. You said it yourself.

Aiken turns back to Swan.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What do you suggest we do? We come out with no stake in this place we don't get paid. It's that simple.

PHILIBEN

Ah, now I understand. That's why you broke me out of jail then dumped me back in this one. You want a stake? How much?

TOBY

Twenty percent.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Toby, shut the hell up!

PHILIBEN

So this isn't just brotherly love? I'm so disappointed in you Marshall.

TOBY

How we expect them to tell the truth if we don't reciprocate?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Don't what?

PHILIBEN

Recipr-

MARSHALL AIKEN

Nobody asked you!

Davis suddenly comes back into the jail.

DAVIS

Pars going back up to the mine on his own!
The bustle out as Philiben and Wandering Swan watch.

PHILIBIN

Can we just leave this damned town now?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS CREEK MINE - NIGHT

The moon is bright in the sky about Deuce Mountain.

Chadwick is striding briskly up the track towards the mine clearing, swigging whiskey and muttering to himself. He holds a lantern in his other hand.

When he reaches the edge of the clearing he looks up at the entrance to the mine. Even its seal of wood is hard to see in just the pale moonlight. Chadwick suddenly has second thoughts. Then with another swig he continues.

CHADWICK

Lets see now.

He puts down his lantern and whisky and picks up an iron crow bar and starts to hack at the seal, break off shards of wood and plaster. He starts to curse to himself.

The seal mostly holds in place, and Chadwick frustratingly smashes at it with the bar, screaming. For a moment he stops, hearing the distant sounds of voices. He puts his ear to the surface of the chalk and lime seal.

Then he realises that the voices are coming up the mountain from the town below.

CHADWICK

Your not gonna beat me!

He looks around for the supplies that the prospectors had left in the broken outhouses and uncovers his packs of nitroglycerine bottles. He starts laughing hysterically.

CHADWICK

You in trouble now!

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE TRACK - DAY

Marshall Aiken, Toby and Davis are all hustling up hill as fast as they can. Davis is leading them by some way, leaving the two older men puffing behind.

DAVIS

Par?! Where are, tell us!

MARSHALL AIKEN

We know where is!

TOBY

I hate going uphill.

MARSHALL AIKEN

That boys gonna have very mountain tiger
in the vicinity coming this way.

Aiken holds up his rifle as he tries his best to keep walking. Toby struggles on behind him. Davis eyes Aiken's rifle with alarm.

DAVIS

You gonna shoot him my old man, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

No, I ain't gonna shoot him. I'm just
gonna punch his lights out!

TOBY

He's an old man.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Not when he's drunk he isn't!

At that moment they can see something light up on the horizon, and they all instinctively duck down low.

TOBY

What the-

The sky lights up in a blaze of fire, and then the sound and shockwave hits. The whole mountainside is lit up by the explosion as all the men hits the ground at the same time.

CUT TO:

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Both Philiben and Wandering Swan see the windows of the jail light up, then the thundering sound in the distance.

PHILIBEN

Ah hell! You ever heard of déjà vu?

Swan has already been digging into the wood above the cell bars with a hunting knife. He speeds up frantically.

PHILIBEN

Where were you hiding that?

WANDERING SWAN

Help. Now.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

The fire and smoke is still rising into the sky, blazing a trail towards the mine itself. Nearby, Chadwicks head pops up, and he jogs up towards the adit, cheering joyfully.

Behind the rest of the men approach, watching Chadwick dancing like a manic silhouette against the flames. Chadwick watches the seal smolder and fall away from the entrance and catches a glimpse of the darkness inside.

The smile starts to fade away from his lips. He can just hear the others calling to him.

DAVIS

Par? What have you done?

TOBY

He must have used all that power oil!

MARSHALL AIKEN

That crazy old-

Suddenly another sound rises up on the mountainside, above the sound of the burning wood and plaster, and Chadwick's yelps of joy. Davis runs towards him.

TOBY

What the hell is that?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I don't know.

Chadwick watches the seal smolder, melt and fall away from the entrance and catches a glimpse of the darkness inside.

The smile starts to fade away from his lips. He can just hear the others calling to him.

CUT TO:

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Both Philiben and Wandering Swan can hear the sounds drifting down the mountain, a kind of spectral scream.

WANDERING SWAN

They're free.

PHILIBEN

Oh that's just great!

Swan keeps digging at the rotten wood frantically.

Maybe we'll be safer in here?

WANDERING SWAN

Nope.

PHILIBEN

You stayed in here for months.

WANDERING SWAN

Only when the mine was sealed.

The screams seem to draw closer. Philiben looks back at the bed and draws out a wooden strut and breaks it in half, then he joins Swan in digging into the wood, pushing at the iron bars as he does so.

PHILIBEN

Faster!

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

Toby and Marshall Aiken are rooted to the spot, listening to the echoing screams that seem to surround them. In front of them Chadwick and Davis are approaching the mine entrance itself.

TOBY

That ain't no animal, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Not one I've heard.

TOBY

What do we do?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Just stand fast. I'm thinking.

TOBY

What the hell are they doing?

Both Davis and Chadwick approach the mine, stepping over the burning debris. Davis turns back and waves at them.

DAVIS

All clear Marshall. Let's take a look!

TOBY

All clear? Didn't they just hear that?

The screams have faded away, lingering on the wind.

You're not gonna go look in there are you?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I think I just might.

Aiken starts to walk up towards the mine. Toby watches him in horror for a moment, then decides to follow.

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

As Philiben and Swan frantically try to dig their way through the jail wooden around their cage, Pastor Young comes rushing into the room.

PASTOR YOUNG

Where the hell is everybody?

PHILIBEN

They went up the hill to enjoy the fireworks. You didn't see?

PASTOR YOUNG

Yeah I saw, what happened.

WANDERING SWAN

They blew up the mine.

PASTOR YOUNG

I guessed that.

PHILIBEN

It's becoming a bad habit.

PASTOR YOUNG

The horses they're going insane. I think they might bolt or hurt themselves.

PHILIBEN

That's the least of our worries right now, pastor.

PASTOR YOUNG

What you boys doing?

Philiben pulls at the cell bars, which already seem to be loosening from the wall.

PHILIBEN

Just a little more.

PASTOR YOUNG

You gonna break out? How about I fetch the keys.

SWANDERING SWAN

Stand back.

PHILIBEN

Too late Pastor! Stand clear!

Swan pulls back on the bars and then lets go. All in one the wall of iron plummets onto the jail cell floor throwing up a huge plume of dust which leaves the Pastor coughing.

Swan and Philiben waste no time leaving, followed by a flustered Pastor Young.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Both Marshall Aiken and Toby stand outside the entrance to the mine trying to see inside. It is pitch black. There is no sign of Chadwick.

TOBY

Chadwick?

All around them debris is burning despite the snow. The wind seems to have risen around them, blowing the flames towards them.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Where the hell did he go?

Davis is still behind them cowering in fear.

DAVIS

Par, where you got to?

TOBY

He must have gone in?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Can't see a damn thing. Chadwick, you in there?

Silence. Just the crackling of fire and the wind.

Davis, how about you go warn the pastor?
We'll need all the help we have up here.

DAVIS

Yes sir. You gonna find par?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I sure hope so.

Davis runs back down the track towards the town.

TOBY

You wanna leave those two on their own in that cell?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Where they gonna go?

Aiken leans into one of the old mine outhouses with his lantern, and picks up an old pick axe. He knocks against the wooden wall, knocking the metal axe off.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We're gonna need more light.

Toby picks up some wood as well.

EXT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Philiben and Swan step out of the Jailhouse, looking up at the mountain above. They can see the fires burning.

PHILIBEN

We never learn.

WANDERING SWAN

I tried to warn them.

PHILIBEN

We could just leave?

Philiben looks hopefully at Swan, who instead of answering starts running up towards the mine track. Philiben watches him go.

PHILIBEN

Guess not.

At that moment they can hear the horses in the stable screaming. They sound terrified.

PASTOR YOUNG

Oh God!

Pastor Young runs off towards the stables, stumbling in the snow.

PHILIBEN

Pastor! Stay with us!

PASTOR YOUNG

The Marshall told me to look after the horses!

The Pastor disappears into the stables, and for a moment everything is silent.

Then out of the dark and snow all the horses come running, all wild eyed with fear and frothing at the mouth. They almost charge straight into Philiben who throws himself into the snow face first.

He looks up to see the horses disappear into the darkness. He sighs and drags himself up. Swan, Pastor Young and the horses are nowhere to be seen. Philiben raises himself to his feet. He is completely alone.

Then he can hear more screams coming from further up the hillside.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

Both Aiken and Toby step into the mouth of the mine entrance, peering into the dark. They both hold flaming torches, with lanterns pinned to their gun belts.

There is detritus and trash everywhere, and scorchmarks all over the wooden beams holding up the roof of the mine.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Lot of damage.

TOBY

It's been blown up twice. Far as we know.
Guess they made this one to last.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Why?

TOBY

Lets find out.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Chadwick? Where'd you go?

They move in further, through the dark. They notice more of
the tribal signs inside, scrawled into the wooden uprights
and stone walls.

TOBY

What the hell are all these marks?

MARSHALL AIKEN

If you wanna go fetch Swan I'm sure he'll
tell us.

TOBY

I doubt it. I'm guessing he'll be pissed
we're in here at all.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You can't stop progress. Look it forks off
further down.

The tunnel does fork like a snakes tongue into another
smaller tunnel. They continue to walk further down the
drift of the mine.

TOBY

Wait, you hear that?

MARSHALL AIKEN

What?

TOBY

Voices?

Marshall strains to hear. There are definitely sounds coming from further down the tunnel.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Chadwick? That you?

No answer.

Where's that old rip got to?

They reach the fork in the tunnel.

TOBY

Which way?

MARSHALL AIKEN

You wanna split up.

TOBY

No.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We'll maybe find him faster.

TOBY

I'm betting on him finding us.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Hey Chadwick! I'm losing my patience!

Marshall Aikens voice echoes through the tunnels, reverberating and coming back almost as loud.

TOBY

What the hell?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Did someone shout back?

TOBY

I guess we're heading this way.

They move off to the right, down the smaller tunnel, disappearing into the dark.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

Swan is breathing hard as he runs up the side of the hillside again through the trees. He can hear the sounds of the horses screaming back down near the town and turns.

He catches a glimpse of the horses running off down the main street of the town, making the most horrible noise.

Swan sighs hard. Lightning does strike twice. When he turns he almost trip up over something? When he looks down, in the pale moonlight he can see fingers poking up through the snow. A hat as well pokes through it.

Swan leans down slowly, his eyes widening in fear. Someone is buried in the snow. When he wipes away the surface snow, he sees Davis' face staring back at him. He looks frozen solid, his face contorted in a horrible death mask.

Underneath the snow part of his face has been eaten away. Swan leans back in shock, looking around him wildly. There is no sign of any movement though, and he continues to climb up the hillside quickly.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS CREEK MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Philiben holds up his lantern. The light only just penetrates not the large barn of the stables, where only just a few moments ago their horses were housed.

All is dark and silent inside.

PHILIBEN

Pastor? Where'd you go?

No answer. It is now just silent and dark, only some pale moonbeams penetrating the wooden roof.

PHILIBEN

We don't have time for this? We gotta get those horses back!

Still no answer. Philiben sees something glint in the snow. It is the Pastors glasses, which have been crushed and broken. A small amount of blood is dripping off them.

Philiben drops them back in the snow.

INT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

Aiken and Toby continue to explore the mine shaft, having to duck down to move forward. They can still hear the sounds of voices coming from down the dark shaft.

TOBY

What the hell is that?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Sure doesn't sound like Chadwick.

TOBY

Sounds like a whole lot of people. Shouting and screaming.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You got better ears than me.

TOBY

Maybe we should head back, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Leave that old soak in here, what if he kills himself.

TOBY

He should know better.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Let's see what's at the end of this tunnel then we'll head back out. It's getting real cramped in here.

TOBY

Colder too, there's a breeze coming up.
Can you feel it.

There is a definite wind coming back up the tunnel towards them, playing with the flames of their torches, threatening to blow them out.

Aiken is looking around him with some confusion and runs his hands over the walls around them.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What the hell is this?

TOBY

What?

MARSHALL AIKEN

This stone. It's not anything ive ever seen before. It's like obsidian. What the hell were they mining down here?

TOBY

I guess it wasn't silver?

Toby is about to step forward when Aiken suddenly sticks out an arm in front of him.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Wait!

Toby's feet have reached an edge. Toby looks down in horror, and steps back slowly.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You feel that?

TOBY

Yeah, it's definitely a wind.

Aiken holds up his torch, which just illuminates what looks like a massive chasm or chamber, walled with the black rock from the tunnel.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Would you look at that?

TOBY

Can't even see the end of it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Doesn't look natural. The walls are smooth.

Aiken kneels down and drops his torch. They both watch it descend and down and then disappear in utter dark.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Jeez, that's deep.

TOBY

Maybe we head back now?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - DAY

Wandering Swan runs up to the clearing outside the mine, looking around wildly. There is no sign of life or noise, just the blackness of the mine entrance.

Swan approaches it and looks in. There is no sound, except a slight breeze that is blowing out of it. The wind blows back in Swan's face.

WANDERING SWAN

Marshall?

Swan's voice echoes down into the tunnel. He peers inside, and for a moment thinks he can hear voices inside, then the wind starts to blow stronger. Swan grips his iron medallion tightly in his hand, then clambers into the shaft.

CUT TO:

INT. MINESHAFT - NIGHT

Both Toby and Aiken are trying to make their way back up the mine shaft, and with only one torch are struggling to see ahead. The torch itself is going out.

TOBY

Winds getting up.

The torch is blown forward, and is close to going out totally.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Keep moving.

TOBY

Did we come this way before?

MARSHALL AIKEN

I can't be sure.

At that moment the wind blows out the torch. It is almost dark apart from the lanterns tied to their belts. Toby is starting to panic.

TOBY

We're lost in here, ain't we?

MARSHALL AIKEN

Just hold on, we keep moving upwards,
we'll reach the end. Stay close.

They start hearing other noises behind them, which sounds like screams or voices. Toby looks back, and for sees what almost looks like a PALE FACE emerging from the dark.

Toby instantly screams and runs down the tunnel, leaving Marshall Aiken on his own.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Toby! You come back here!

Aiken reluctantly starts to follow Toby down the dark of the shaft, and hears a shrill scream coming from the other end.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Toby!

He steps out and realizes that he is suddenly in a much larger space again. When he looks down he sees Toby some

way down on a slope, terrified and holding the side of the cliff face for dear life.

TOBY

Marshall!

MARSHALL AIKEN

Hold on Toby, I'm coming for ya!

TOBY

Marshall, somethings pulling me. I can feel it. Come quick!

The panic and fear is obvious in Toby's voice, and the Marshall scrabbles to reach him. He can just glimpse another huge chasm down below Toby.

The wind is whipping round Aiken too and his hat flies off into the darkness, as he scrabbles down on his knees trying to reach Toby.

He stretches out his fingers towards Toby.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Reach out Toby, I'll catch you!

TOBY

I let go they'll pull me in Marshall! I know it!

MARSHALL AIKEN

Reach, boy!

Toby tries to reach Aiken's outstretched hand, then he screams again and just before Aiken can reach him, Toby's head is pulled violently back and his grip slips. Just as the horrified Aiken reach for him he disappears and falls back into the darkness, screaming.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Toby!

Aiken can hear his scream echoing forever, then dying away into an echoing silence. Aiken has just a moment to let

this sink in, then realizes he is also starting to fall, scrabbling at the sides of a slope.

He tries desperately to pull himself up and starts to scream himself as the wind continues to whirl around him. He is losing his grip and slipping when-

A HAND grabs his arm and grips it tightly.

Aiken looks round to see Swan staring down at him. Swan reach out another hand and Aiken takes a hold of it, and Swan heaves him back up.

As Swan pulls him to safety Aiken collapses onto his knees.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damn, that was close. Thankyou.

Swan nods.

Toby's gone. You find anyone else?

Swan shakes his head.

Then we'd best go look.

WANDERING SWAN

You should rest.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I'll rest when we're out of this hole.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

Philiben emerges into the mine clearing. There is no sign of anyone around, and mine entrance is just an empty dark mouth. As Philiben approaches it he also can hear sounds.

PHILIBEN

Hello? Can you hear me?

Philiben looks around at the snow covered trees and hillsides around with suspicion. There is definitely something stirring in the wind, which is whipping up the snow too.

PHILIBEN

Ah, hell.

(looking in the mine)

Marshall? Swan? You in there?

At that moment Swan emerges from the mine, leading an exhausted Aiken back out too. They both collapse onto their knees. Aiken almost bends double in pain.

PHILIBEN

Thank God! What happened in there?

Swan just looks at him.

WANDERING SWAN

Where were you?

PHILIBEN

I was trying to find us some horses. They're all gone. I think the Pastor's gone too. Did you find Chadwick?

MARSHALL AIKEN

No, and we lost Toby down there.

WANDERING SWAN

I found Davis. Buried in the snow.

PHILIBEN

Well then I guess it's just us.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damned place is cursed.

PHILIBEN

I-

MARSHALL AIKEN

Now is not the time for for smart assery
'I told you so's' from you.

PHILIBEN

Sure. So what do we do now? Do I just walk back to jail.

Aiken has just the streng to swing and sock Philiben in the jaw. Philiben collapses back into the snow.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Damn you, son of a-! They should have hung you when they had the chance. How about I do that now! I'm gonna find me a tree!

Aiken is about to follow up his attack when Swan holds out his hand to stop him.

WANDERING SWAN

We need him.

Aiken turns to Swan, angry enough to attack him too. Swans grim and calm composure has a cooling effect on Aiken's temper however, as Philiben lies there in the snow, his mouth bleeding. Some of the blood drips onto the snow.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You have any suggestions, Swan?

Swan looks back at the mine.

WANDERING SWAN

Blow it sky high. With everything we have left.

PHILIBEN

We already tried that twice.

MARSHALL AIKEN

That was just enough to open it up. What if we wanted to pull it down?

PHILIBEN

How much nitro is there left?

CUT TO:

Philiben, Aiken and Wandering Swan all start ransacking the Prospecting stores and the outhouses for explosive. Philiben unpacks the bags of supplies brought up to the mine, and Swan and Aiken look through the buildings.

PHILIBEN

There's around ten vials of oil powder and some old tnt. We light a fuse inside next to the internal timber it could pull it all down. Only thing is-

MARSHALL AIKEN

What?

PHILIBEN

I'm guessing we'll need to go some way inside again. Make sure it collapses on itself. You up for that?

MARSHALL AIKEN

As long as you go first. I'm sure there was more vials back down in the town. The Pastor was storing them in the snow to keep them stable.

WANDERING SWAN

I'll go. I'm faster.

PHILIBEN

Hell you say.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Fast as you can, and watch your back, boy. We have no idea what we're dealing with here.

WANDERING SWAN

You've not been here long enough.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Good luck, son.

Swan runs back and disappears down the slope into the darkness. Aiken turns to Philiben.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Let's get to work, Doc.

CUT TO:

Swan running down the track past the trees, the whole town below him is bathed a strange spectral glow, underneath a full moon which reflects off the snow.

Wandering Swan takes no time to admire they review. He instantly searches through the stores in the stables, stepping round two dead horses lying on its floor.

The horses are horribly mauled and bleeding, pooled on the ground. Swan quickly looks through all the boxes and bags left by the prospectors. There is just one box left that contains the white jars of nitroglycerine.

Swan quickly fills a bag full of the vials and throws it round his shoulder. Then he sees something moving amongst the trees, and instantly freezes.

Out of the trees emerges Daisy the mule.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTLESS PEAK MINESHAFT - NIGHT

Aiken and Philiben walk carefully back down the shaft carrying the nitro and tnt.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Think this is far enough in?

PHILIBEN

Maybe. I'm not even sure if we have enough to pull it all down.

MARSHALL AIKEN

We'll find out.

They starts stacking the vials and the TNT next to the thick wooden uprights on either side of the mine tunnels. Philiben starts to set up a fuse and unrolls it, moving back up the tunnel.

As he does so Aiken can feel that breeze on his hands again, and notices something glinting in the dark some way across the shaft. He stands up and walk towards it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Doc?

Philiben is out of earshot. Aiken continues to walk towards the glint in the dark.

CUT TO:

Philiben emerges out of the mine with the fuse trailing behind him. He kneels down, pulls up the fuse and a small knife, and cuts through it. Then he stops.

PHILIBEN

How do we light it?

(shouting into the mine_

Marshall, you have any lucifers in there?

MARSHALL AIKEN (O/S)

In the outhouse!

Philiben goes into look, and after grabbing the matches he notices something else. A hammer.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK STABLES - NIGHT

Swan packs the last of the nitro into Daisy's backpacks, and looks back up at the mountain. He starts to lead Daisy back up the track towards the mine.

Then he notices something odd. There is someone sitting in the jail. An old man with a beard, grinning at him.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

Aiken walks towards the wall, and notices there is a thin opening in the stone, just wide enough to squeeze into. He pulls himself through and emerges into another room.

INT. MINE ANTECHAMBER - NIGHT

Inside Aiken finds himself in another room, large and obviously carved out the rock itself. There are a number of boxes, old jars, and dusty satchells. There also seem to be books, candles and old cans, all in heaps.

It looks as if people have been staying there, as there are also clothes, torn trousers, bits of carpets, rotten blankets and dresses.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What in the hell?

Aiken walks up to a large iron casket and opens it up. It instantly collapses and a huge number of rusty iron medallions pour out.

When Aiken picks one up it is identical to the one Wandering Swan picked off the Brave's dead body. Aiken dismisses it and throws it aside.

Then he notices something else in the dark, and holds up his small lantern.

Aiken's eyes widen. It is a SKULL.

As he moves closer, he sees more skulls, and more, and then piles and piles of bleached white dusty bones in a piled stack against the walls of the antechamber.

All around the bones are the detritus left by people, old pictures, books, jewelry and pipes. Aiken leans down and picks up one that says 'Diary 1846'.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Oh no.

Suddenly he hears a distant banging noise and turns.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

Philiben is frantically nailing back the planks of wood that were across the entrance to the old mine. He has already covered most of the adit when he sees the shape of Marshall Aiken approaching.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What the hell are you doing you crazy-

PHILIBEN

I'm not going back to jail, Marshall. Not for any price.

Aiken starts clawing at the wood with his fingers.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You cant hole me up in here, you don't know whats back here, Philiben.

PHILIBEN

I know enough. I'll send someone back for you once I'm home free. I promise.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You son of a bitch, I couldn't give a damn about your promises!

Philiben pushes through the remains of the fuse.

PHILIBEN

Good luck Marshall.

Aiken tips his hat then runs off down the track back towards the town.

MARSHALL AIKEN

You come back here now, or I'll-

Aiken suddenly hears a noise from behind him, and low hiss and a cackle. He looks round slowly and peers into the darkness. Something in there is moving, the shapes of people.

CUT TO:

Wandering Swan leads Daisy as fast she will go up the rough track towards the mine, which is not fast at all. He grunts frustratedly at the old mule.

Just at that moment he sees Philiben come rushing back down the track.

PHILIBEN

Swan! I'm sure glad to see you! You found Daisy?

WANDERING SWAN

Where's the Marshall?

PHILIBEN

He's still inside setting up.

WANDERING SWAN

We blow the mine then we leave.

PHILIBEN

Suits me.

Swan keeps leading Daisy up the track. Then he hears a click and turns. Philiben is holding his pistol.

PHILIBEN

We're going back down the mountain, Swan, and we're gonna leave.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTLESS CREEK MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

Aiken turns to peer back into the deep dark of the mine. There is a definite shape moving inside.

Aiken raises his lantern, which is fading fast.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Who goes there?

VOICE (O/S)

No need to fear Marshall.

The figure of the deputy Joseph Samuels steps forward into the light, grinning from ear to ear at the Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Who the hell are you?

SAMUELS

Deputy Joseph Samuels at your service.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MIN STREET - NIGHT

Both Philiben and Wandering Swan emerge onto the main street, Swan still leading the mule. Everything seems quiet. A full moon lights their way.

They both eye the town in front of them nervously.

WANDERING SWAN

What about the Marshall?

PHILIBEN

He can look after himself.

WANDERING SWAN

We both gonna ride the mule?

PHILIBEN

Those horses won't have gone far. We'll round some up easy.

WANDERING SWAN

I don't see any horses.

Swan stops and turns towards Philiben, suddenly swinging out his fist which connects to Philiben, while simultaneously reaching for his pistol.

Philiben almost instantly gathers himself, even as he holds his bleeding nose. He instantly raises his pistol before Swan can draw his.

You really wanna die out here in the snow, injun? Cos I have no issue with that.

The blood from Philiben's bleeding nose drips on the snow.

At that moment the wind starts to whip through the trees around them, throwing up whirlwinds from the snow drifts. In the wind screams start to rise, filling the ears of Philiben and Swan.

They both start to run, Swan dragging Daisy as quickly as he can.

CUT TO:

Aiken stares at the scraggly dirty old man in front of him, only the slight sparkle of his tin badge showing his rank.

MARSHALL AIKEN

How'd you know who I am?

SAMUEL

We know all about you Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

We? That the royal 'we'? I don't buy that, deputy.

SAMUEL

You're brother told us.

MARSHALL AIKEN

My brother? He's here?

SAMUEL

Sure is.

MARSHALL AIKEN

Can I see him?

SAMUELS

All in good time. We have a few questions of our own first.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What if I say I don't have time for that.

SAMUEL

You're not going anywhere, Marshall.

A low howling noise seems to rise up deep down in the tunnel, and a wind rises, blowing against Aiken. Looking

past Samuels nasty grin, Aiken eyes the nitro packed round the uprights.

MARSHALL AIKEN

How long have you been up here, deputy?

SAMUELS

Long, long time. Longer than I can remember.

MARSHALL AIKEN

What happened to all these townsfolk?

SAMUELS

They stayed too.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Philiben and Swan try their best to wade through the snow with difficulty. Philiben's nose still bleeds, and they are now wading almost chest deep into the snow drifts.

PHILIBEN

You should cut that animal free, she's gonna hold us up.

WANDERING SWAN

I'm not leaving her. Keep moving.

PHILIBEN

You're funeral.

PHILIBEN

This snow getting deeper? I can hardly move?

Swan looks behind him. There are shapes moving in the whirlwinds of snow, closing in on them. For a moment he can glimpse a face in the dark, then many faces. He closes his eyes tight.

The screaming noise rises in their ears, prompting noises of distress from Daisy. Swan holds the animal's head to calm it, and he grips the iron medallion on his neck.

Then suddenly everything goes silent.

PHILIBEN

Swan?

Swan turns to see a look of horror on Philiben's face.

I can't move.

Swan just stares at him. Daisy the mule is making the most horrible, terrified noises. The mule's terrified cries are echoed in Philiben's eyes.

Swan stretches out a hand towards Philiben, who tries to reach it with his own. Then Philiben's eyes widen, and he is suddenly pulled back into the snow.

In his panic Philiben fires his pistol, and screams as he disappears underneath the snow drift.

His hand stops just before it disappears completely. Swan has managed to grab his hand. His grip is already loosening through, as Philiben is being pulled back.

Swan tries desperately to hold onto him.

PHILIBEN

Swan?

Swan loses his grip and Philiben disappears under the white. Swan can hear him screaming underneath, the cries fading as Philiben is being pulled back into the town.

Swan runs back up into the main street as best he can through the snow. He can still hear Philiben's muffled screaming.

WANDERING SWAN

Where are you?

Then the screaming stops suddenly, and there is the most horrific crunching noise. Swan can just see Philiben's fingers clutching at the surface of the snow.

The fingers contort and twist horribly as the crunching noses continue, and there is one last scream.

Then silence. The snow around Philiben starts to turn red. Swan stares in horror as the red starts to expand through the snow towards him.

Swan turns and tries to run, then winces in pain. He has been shot in the side, with the last bullet Philiben fired in panic.

Swan sinks to his knees with the pain and tries to apply pressure to his wound, as something starts to rise from the pool of red that closes in on him.

Swan turns and looks back round over his shoulder. Something is forming out the red snow. Swan swings out his pistol and starts to fire.

CUT TO:

Aiken is staring at Samuels hideous grin, still eyeing the stacks of nitro packed into the tunnel. His pistol hovers at his hip.

SAMUELS

That iron won't help you in here Marshall.

MARSHALL AIKEN

That so?

SAMUELS

I guarantee it.

MARSHALL AIKEN

I'll take my chances.

SAMUELS

No need. Don't you want to see your beloved brother one last time? Shoot the shit for a while? Wouldn't that ease your mind, Marshall?

MARSHALL AIKEN

What do I have to do?

SAMUELS

Nothing at all.

Aiken sees a number of other shapes emerge from behind Samuels, many spectral dark shapes of men, women and children. Samuels grins widely, his teeth rotten and black. He holds out his old gnarled hand to Aiken.

SAMUELS

You're welcome to come with us, back down to Restless.

Aiken's face hardens. He looks at the deputy's hand.

AIKEN

I think not.

He pulls his pistol to the side and fires into the nitro around them. The flame of the explosion obscures him and Samuels in the inferno.

CUT TO:

Swan empties his pistol at whatever is coming towards him, something emerging from the widening pool of blood under the snow.

Desperately Swan turns and tries to run back through the snow, collapsing with the pain from his wound. He starts to crawl through the snow, leaving a trail of blood behind him. The shapes are still closing in.

Swan manages to reach the decking outside of Restless Peaks' storehouse and desperately tries to drag himself up onto it, wincing badly and out of breath.

Fall back onto the snow in exhaustion, he turns over and grips the iron medallion. The shapes of blood have paused, watching him. They are the vague shapes of people, staring at him, their faces spectral in the moonlight and their bodies the dark of red blood.

They stare at Swan, whispering to him.

Swan turns, grabs the iron medallion, and rips it from his neck, throwing it away into the snow.

SWAN

Come on.

At that moment, the sky lights up with the explosion as the mine is engulfed in flame. The noise fills Swans ears as the whole of Restless Peak town is illuminated by the fire that rises above the mountain.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK MINE - NIGHT

The mine entrance starts to give way and collapse in on itself, throwing up a huge amount of dust, debris and flame as it collapses in on itself.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK STOREHOUSE - NIGHT

Swans eyelids start to droop as his view goes blurry. As debris from the mine explosion rains down around him, the blood shapes that stalk Swan fade away back into the night.

Swan passes out in the snow and his view goes dark.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTLESS PEAK STOREHOUSE - DAY

It is morning. The sun is just visible in the grey sky, above Swan's dark body, prostrate in the white.

Swan can feel something on his face. He reaches out and tries to push whatever it is away.

When he opens his eyes, he can see Daisy the mule's gentle furry face staring down at him, licking at his dirty bloodstained face.

For the first time Swan almost smiles, then winces again. He holds his side wound and tries to pull himself up between the decking of the storehouse and Daisy's harness.

Propping himself up he manages to throw his leg painfully over Daisy's back, and pull himself up onto the animal.

Bent almost double he kicks slightly, and Daisy starts to walk slowly away from Restless, and back down the track, past the old sign saying:

"RESTLESS PEAK"

CUT TO:

C.U. of an old GNARLED HAND picking up Swan's bloodied iron medallion out of the white snow.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRACK - DAY

As Swan and Daisy descend slowly back down the pass and out of the town it starts to snow again.

Just before he leaves the town completely, Swan stops Daisy and looks back. He catches a glimpse of an old man in a hat, waving back at him.

Swan then leads Daisy on and the mule turns a corner of the track, disappearing from view into the snow.

THE END