"Runaway"

By

Bryson G
EXT. ALABAMA WOODS - DAY
1858

The vegetation extends towards the sky like the claws of a crow. The sun beats down on all beneath it mercilessly. Heavy breathing and fast foot steps seep out of the woods.

ADRIAAN (late 20’s) an African slave in tattered clothes, and shackles around his wrists, navigates the woods. He constantly looks over his branded shoulder.

EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, CAMP SITE - DAY

In another part of the woods, two white bumpkins, YANCY (34) and KRUGER (30), sit on rocks positioned around a modest camp fire. The two are armed with BOWIE KNIVES and COLT 1851 NAVY REVOLVERS. They eat beans and converse.

    KRUGER
    (chomping his beans)
    Some good beans here Yancy.

Yancy just grunts as he shovels beans into his mouth.

    KRUGER
    We gotta catch one soon.

    YANCY
    (mouth full of beans)
    Them niggers fast cowboy. Better be ready.

    KRUGER
    I’m always ready to catch me a coon. What he look like?

    YANCY
    Well...he’s an average looking field nigger. A little on the lean side, quick, and strong. Word is he did a number on Monty Cage’s son.

    KRUGER
    Monty Cage, with the red house?

Yancy nods his head yes.

    YANCY
    Now, I bet he’ll pay handsomely for this particular runaway’s return.
Kruger smiles wide, exposing missing teeth. The ones he has left, sit crookedly.

Yancy pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket. He puts on a pair of stylish readers and looks at it briefly.

**Yancy**

Says here he’ll respond to Adriaan.

(he pockets the paper)

All we gotta do is catch that nigger.

**Kruger**

(rubbing hands together, smiling)

Yeah buddy! Then take our time with that some-umma-bitch!

**Yancy**

Whoa! Hold on now. We go to Cage’s place with his property all beat to hell, we may not get as much for him. He killed his master’s son. We bring him back, untouched, and let Monty Cage do what he pleases with his property and we get more money.

Kruger scratches his noggin.

**Kruger**

(disappointed)

Ah—all right. I was looking forward to havin’ my way with that nigger.

Kruger gets up. He stretches his legs.

**Kruger**

Imma piss, don’t touch my beans when I’m gone.

**Yancy**

(rubs his stomach)

I’m quite satisfied myself.

Kruger walks off, and Yancy brings his spoon over to Kruger’s bowl of beans.
EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, BRUSH - DAY

Kruger finds an area he feels comfortable enough to urinate. He does his thing with a stupid smile on his face.

Adriaan clocks him, and his dumb ass grin. He pays close attention to the decrepit fuck. He notices something...

his KNIFE is hanging from his belt.

As Kruger "jiggles", wrapping up his bathroom break, before he can even zip up his pants...

Adriaan stands ready behind him.

In one smooth motion, Adriaan...

snatches the dangling knife...

buries it into the slave catchers back, while covering his mouth.

    ADRIAAN
    (frantic whisper)
    How do you like it from behind?

Kruger’s screams are muffled. His knees growing weak.

Adriaan twists the blade. Kruger yelps like a bitch. Adriaan then removes the knife, and slits Kruger’s throat barbarically.

Kruger falls face first, dick in the dirt, dead.

EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, CAMP SITE - DAY

Yancy wipes the beans from his yokel face, and draws his gun. He walks over to where his partner was pissing.

EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, BRUSH - DAY

Yancy looks around holding his gun, ready for anything. He finds Kruger.

    YANCY
    Aww shit. Kruger?

Yancy kicks him.
YANCY
Kruger?! C’mon cousin.

Yancy kneels down and examines the knife wound. He’s silently amazed by the size of the cut.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SOME BRUSH

Adriaan is waiting behind some brush, out of sight from Yancy. Adriaan clutches a bloody BOWIE KNIFE as he watches Yancy like a snake watches a mouse before it strikes.

Yancy flips Kruger over. Kruger’s neck has a jagged and grisly wound, blood is still leaking from his mouth. His eyes are rolled back, his face a ghastly death mask. Bottom line...

he got fucked up real bad.

Yancy puts his hand on his partner’s chest, before laughing maniacally. He twirls his revolver on his finger, and fires it blindly into the brush at a rapid rate. This guy is fast.

Adriaan stands suffering from paralysis by analysis, in other words, he’s not quite sure what to do.

YANCY
(yelling)
Come on out you sheep headed nigra.
I want that black ass now boy, fuck the money!

Yancy shoots again, laughing with tears beginning to well up in his eyes.

YANCY
Fuck the money!

Adriaan makes his move while Yancy is in an emotional state. He takes a big jagged rock and clunks Yancy over the head, dazing him, blood running down his face.

Adriaan stands over the fallen Yancy.

ADRIAAN
Where’s north?

YANCY
(punch drunk)
North? Nigga you crazy?! Your black ass is coming back with me, to the big house. Master Cage ’ill teach you niggas.
Adriaan boinks him on the head again.

    ADRIAAN
    North?! Where is it?!

Yancy clutching his head. His face becoming a crimson mask.

    YANCY
    (reluctantly)
    It’s thatta way nigga.

Yancy point him in the right direction.

    ADRIAAN
    Much obliged.

    YANCY
    Obliged? Nigga your literate?!

Adriaan comes down with the jagged rock repeatedly. Adriaan doesn’t stop until Yancy’s body goes limp, and his eyes go dead.

Adriaan drops the bloody rock and heads north.

EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, CLEARING - DAY

An open clearing sits wide with grass swaying in the wind. Tall trees surround the opening.

Adriaan takes the area in. Nervousness consumes his face, he treads carefully.

He walks out into the clearing slowly, his eyes focused on his surroundings. Calm, quiet, and uncomfortable is the air around him.

THEN...

a bird flies from the trees into the air. Adriaan watches the bird fly high, and away...

BOOM!

Adriaan wails in pain as he clutches his mangled shoulder. He falls to the floor in immense pain.

Fancy black BOOTS emerge from the trees to the downed escapee. The baby faced REMY JOURDAINE (32) sports a dashing fitted FROCK COAT with a FLOWER, and fancy black leather gloves. He twirls his LEMAT REVOLVER while he smirks.
Adriaan looks up to see his cruel overseer cockily walking toward him. The slick looking overseer stands over the fallen runaway.

REMY
My, my, my. If it isn’t the ever elusive Adriaan Cage.

Adriaan’s cries of pain have eerily stopped. He only breathes heavily. The two lock eyes.

Adriaan wearing a malevolent face. Fire in his eyes...

Remy smiles cockily, exposing straight white teeth.

CUT TO

INT. BARN, T-CRUCIFIX - NIGHT-FLASHBACK

The barn is empty and basic. A few stables, hay sits in a corner bundled up, and gardening tools lean against the wall.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BARN

A "T" shaped crucifix sits sturdy in the dirt. An exhausted, shirtless, and bloodied Adriaan is strapped to the device. His neck secured by a leather belt, slightly choking him, his hands also tied to the device. Remy circles him like a shark...

a CAT O’ NINE TAILS WHIP in his hand.

REMY
How many times is it now?

Remy uses his fingers to count, he mutters the numbers to himself. He stops at four.

REMY
Four. Four times you’ve tried to escape. I must concede, you don’t give up do you?

Adriaan just tries to stay conscious, struggling to anyway.

REMY
We’ve branded you...

A wicked scar sits rised on Adriaan’s shoulder, it reads: "Cage"
REMY
...we hung your pregnant lady friend, Elizabeth.

Adriaan reacts. Remy notices, and walks to him.

REMY
Don’t worry...that half nigger in her belly was mine. But...
(he chuckles)
it was a nigger, and had no future.

Adriaan tries to free himself by angrily jumping at Remy. Not happening, he’s in there tight.

REMY
We’ve held your brothers head under water till he stopped moving. Remember that?

Adriaan is fuming, but can’t do anything.

FLASH ON
Remy sweating while maniacally, yelling, and holding one of his slaves heads under water as he flops about.

BACK TO THE BARN

REMY
Now, why haven’t we hung you, and fed your unsightly body to the dogs yet? We paid a handsom sum for you, and we plan to get our money’s worth before we get rid of you.

Remy readys his whip.

REMY
Until then, lets have a little fun, shall we?

ADRIAAN
No!

CUT BACK TO
EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, CLEARING - DAY

Adriaan leans back, fucked up, looking defeated. Remy sees the look in Adriaan’s face and smiles brightly.

He tosses his gun, and grabs his whip.

REMY
Look who it is. You remeber Charlotte do you not?

ADRIAAN
To hell with you white folks.

REMY (disreguards him)
Get up. Time to get back to the big house. You’re to be hung for the death of Johnathan Cage.

Adriaan leans back and breathes deep.

CUT TO

INT. MASTER CAGE’S HOUSE, JOHN’S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

JOHNATHAN CAGE (21) lies sleep on his bed in his modest room. His gun and holster sit on the night stand. He looks peaceful.

Adriaan creeps through the door slowly, his face full of rage. He stares at Johnathan...

FLASH ON

A black shoulder being seared with a BRANDING IRON. Adriaan howls in pain. Johnathan sniffs the air.

JOHNATHAN
Smells like chicken.

Johnathan laughs.

BACK TO JOHNATHANS ROOM

Adriaan stare a hole into the kids head. He clocks the gun on the nightstand. He grabs it, cocks the hammer, and aims it.

Johnathan wakes up, startled at what he sees.
ADRIAAN
I wouldn’t make too much noise. You know how master Cage is when he’s disturbed.

Johnathan is frozen in fear.

Adriaan snatches the pillow from beneath Johnathans head. Adriaan puts the shaft of the gun to his lips, an extension of his finger.

ADRIAAN
Shhhh...

Adriaan puts the pillow over Johnathan’s face slowly. Johnathan leans back not knowing what to expect. Adriaan aims...

BOOM!

CUT BACK TO

EXT. ALABAMA WOODS, CLEARING - DAY

Remy unravels his whip Charlotte. He takes a few steps back.

REMY
Get up and turn around.

Adriaan just looks at Remy.

REMY
Get up! Turn around! Now!

Adriaan ignores him. Remy smiles before whipping him anyway. The whip rips at Adriaans arms (defensive wounds) chest, face, and legs.

Adriaan rolls around trying to avoid the incoming strikes.

REMY
(getting winded)
Yeah, that got your black ass moving, didn’t it?!

Remy laughs as he whips Adriaan...

UNTIL...

Adriaan catches the whip in his bloody grip. Remy tries to yank it from him, but Adriaan has got it in a death grip. Fucked up shoulder and all, Adriaan is actually giving Remy problems.
REMY

Let go nigger!

Adriaan gets to his feet. The two engage in a brief tug-of-war, before Remy lets go.

Remy runs for his gun, but Adriaan runs at Remy, lunges at him, and tackles him before he can get his gun.

The two struggle a bit before Adriaan over powers Remy. Adriaan wraps the chain connecting his shackles around the fancy overseer’s neck, and squeezes it nice and tight.

Remy’s eyes narrow, tears begin to fall as he struggles to breathe. Adriaan breathes aggressively.

After a bit, Adriaan positions his knees on the inside of his wrists for more leverage. He forces his legs apart, which force his wrists apart, which causes the chain to tighten around Remy’s neck even more. Remy really begins to panic...

THEN...

SNAP!

The pressure snaps Remy’s neck.

Adriaan rolls off the despicable bastard, he takes a quick breather. Adriaan gets to his feet, grabs the LeMat and stares down at his former overseer.

Remy’s eyes move, and in the blink of an eye, Adriaan lets off eight rounds of ammo at point blank range...

with each shot, his eyes show a powerful satisfaction. As for Remy...it’s curtains.

Adriaan drops the gun on Remy’s dead body, and heads north to his freedom.

FADE TO BLACK

END