

SIEGE

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1 EXT. BOTTOMLAND CABIN- MORNING

Except for a narrow tramped down path leading to a dilapidated cabin, it is surrounded on three sides by impenetrable thick overgrown grass. It is partially hidden from view by a tall stately oak tree. Behind it flows a dark creek with a solid wall of trees along the opposite bank. There is no wind to stir the air or make waves in the grass. It is dead still. A wisp of smoke curling up from somewhere around the cabin is the only sign of human presence. The only sounds come from the buzz of flies and the croak of frogs.

2 EXT. TREELINE- MORNING

Four men crouch in the tall grass between trees. They are hard men with determined expressions, each holding a rifle and sporting a pistol on their hips. One of the men is in the uniform of the local sheriff. He is ROCK HARDIGAN (38, muscular but beginning to be past his prime). He scans the cabin through his binoculars.

To his side is PEACH DELLUMS, (45, pale, overweight) He is prosperous, not really dressed for the occasion. He mops his brow and his reddening cheeks while licking his dry lips. He keeps stealing glances at Rock. waiting for some response.

The men watch Rock, waiting for him to give them the order but Rock simply watches the cabin.

PEACH
Ya think that ol' rumrunner
Laird's in there with 'em?

ROCK
Don't have the foggiest?

PEACH
Ya think he's mixed up with 'em?

ROCK
Doubt it. Ol' Laird ain't got the
oomph to do something as energetic
as robbing your bank, Peach.

PEACH
Maybe he's the brains of that
outfit.

Rock give him a look "Are you kidding?" He returns to his binoculars. Peach bites his lip and grasps his rifle barrel tighter.

PEACH
You think they got guns?

ROCK
I don't know. You say they didn't show one when they robbed you and I've never seen Laird with one.

PEACH
Then we ought'a rush them.

ROCK
You think that's a good idea, do you?

PEACH
They can't get us all..

ROCK
No, but you're the slowest runner and biggest target. You should think about that.

Peach frowns and glares across the field. The insult bites deep because it is true.

PEACH
Well, then, what are you going to do? Wait for them to die of old age? If we wait too long they'll get away when it's too dark for us to see anything.

ROCK
Night's a long way off yet.

PEACH
So you're just going to wait them out.

ROCK
That's about the size of it. Were they local boys?

PEACH
I never seen them before.

ROCK
So they don't likely know the
layout around here.

PEACH
So?

ROCK
So if you were them, what would
you do? Cross country or
downstream?

PEACH
How the hell would I know? Maybe
downstream. Hounds couldn't track
them.

ROCK
That's the way I see it too.
Peach, you take these guys around
back of the house and wait. I'll
knock on Laird's door. It might
flush them out.

PEACH
And if it don't?

ROCK
Well then you have my permission
to charge the place guns
a-blazing, if that's what you want
to do. I'll give you a half hour
to get into position. Go.

Peach hisses at the two other men and they follow him,
walking low in the grass. Rock continues to scope out the
cabin through his binoculars. He checks his watch.

3 EXT. BOTTOMLAND FIELD- LATER

Rock checks his watch again, checks the load on his pistol
and then raises his rifle.

ROCK
You boys are surrounded. Come out
with your hands up.

Rock waits. There is no movement anywhere. He raises his
rifle and fires two rounds into the door.

ROCK
Last chance.

A fusillade echoes from somewhere behind the cabin.

Rock leaps to his feet and begins to run toward the cabin, cursing loudly as he pushes his way through the tangling grass.

4 EXT. CABIN DAY

The door is thrown open and a man (Laird, 60, filthy) bolts from the cabin straight for Rock. As soon as he sees Rock, he stops and raises his hands. He turns back to look at the cabin then lowers his hands and begins running again.

ROCK
Hold it right there Laird

LAIRD
You best high-tail it out of here
sheriff. Them dumb som'bitches hit
my still. It's gonna blow.

Laird kicks into gear and Rock reverses course and falls in behind him.

5 EXT. TREELINE- DAY

They reach the safety of the treeline at the base of the hill and crown behind a trunk, heaving for air. Rock looks up toward the cabin.

6 EXT. BOTTOMLAND FIELD- DAY

From behind the cabin Peach and the two men chug their way through the grass, stumbling and falling until they reach the treeline. Peach looks like he's going to drop dead any second.

ROCK
What happened? Did you get them?
You didn't just leave them there,
did you?

PEACH

We never did see no robbers. They must still be in there.

LAIRD

You dumb sum'bitch. There weren't no bank robbers in my house. I run those two shitheels off last night. They was trying to steal my 'shine.

PEACH

Were they carrying a bag, or a satchel?

LAIRD

Nope, they left empty-handed with an ass-load of rock salt.

PEACH

Then my money is still in your cabin. Thank God.

7 EXT. CABIN- DAY

The cabin disintegrates from a massive explosion. The remains of the building float back to earth and disappear into a cloud of dust and flame.

8 EXT. TREELINE- DAY

LAIRD

My house!

PEACH

My money!

ROCK

My God.