

BELLE BOYD  
SIREN OF THE SHENANDOAH

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Screenplay by: Frank Fusco

FADE IN:

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

A picnic is in progress. Tables are laden with food.

Adults sit at tables - children at other tables.

The atmosphere is festive.

Standing by an adult table is BELLE BOYD, 13, a high-spirited, impulsive girl, who is in a heated discussion with her mother, Mrs. BOYD, 30's.

Belle's gestures indicate that she wants to sit at the adult table. Mrs. Boyd vigorously shakes her head.

Belle stomps off camera.

Moments later, Belle returns riding a horse. Horse and rider circle the picnic tables several times. The horse is very close to the tables and brushes up against one of the adults. Adults yell to Belle to get away. The children are frightened.

Belle reins the horse up to the adult table and lets him eat some food from the table.

MRS. BOYD

Belle, get that horse away!

BELLE

He's an adult. He can eat at your table.

Belle turns the horse and gallops off into the meadow.

MRS. BOYD

What will that girl do next?

INT. RAILROAD CAR - DAY

Belle, now 17, sits in a train car along with other passengers.

A good-looking man sits across from Belle.

He gives Belle the once over, likes what he sees and smiles.

Belle catches his eye and smiles back.

GOOD LOOKING MAN

Are you traveling alone?

BELLE

Now that the war has started I want to be with my family.

GOOD LOOKING MAN

Let the politicians fight the war,  
that's what I say.

HENRY WILKENS, the railroad conductor, walks down the aisle  
and stops beside Belle.

HENRY WILKENS

Nice to see you again, Belle.

BELLE

Hello, Mister Wilkens.

HENRY WILKENS

Guess the war brings you back to  
Martinsburg.

BELLE

The students were sent home. Everyone  
was confused - and scared.

HENRY WILKENS

My son Clarence enlisted. Signed up  
for the regiment Colonel Jackson is  
setting up at Harper's Ferry. Same  
one your father's in.

BELLE

(astonished)

My father enlisted?

HENRY WILKENS

Your father is a fine man and he'll  
make a good soldier.

BELLE

If the army took women, I'd go with  
him.

HENRY WILKENS

I bet you would. You always had  
spunk.

BELLE

If I can't be a soldier, I'll do  
something. I don't know what but  
I'll do something.

TRAIN WHISTLE IS HEARD

HENRY WILKENS

Well, here we are. Excuse me, Belle.

WILKENS heads for the front of the train.

BELLE

Good bye, Mister Wilkens.

Belle stands and extends her hand to the good-looking man.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Good bye, sir.

He takes her hand and holds it.

GOOD LOOKING MAN  
It's too bad we didn't have time to  
get acquainted.

BELLE  
Perhaps another time.

EXT. RAILROAD STATION - MARTINSBURG - SAME DAY - LATER

BELLE exits the train and greets her father, BEN BOYD, a kindly man, late 30's and her sister, MARY, 14, a sincere and well-meaning girl.

The reunion is loving and affectionate.

BELLE  
Oh, papa! I missed you so much!

BELLE hugs BEN.

MARY  
And what about me?

BELLE hugs MARY.

BELLE  
How could I not.

BELLE turns back to BEN.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Mister Wilkens said you enlisted.

BEN  
I'll tell you about it when we get  
home. Your mother can't wait to see  
you.

INT. BOYD HOME - DINING ROOM - SAME DAY - LATER

Belle, Ben, Mary and MRS. BOYD, a proud, family oriented woman, 30's, sit at the dining table eating supper. ELIZA, a young black girl, early 20's, is serving.

BELLE  
Why can't I join the army?

BEN

(laughing)

There's plenty for you to do right here.

MARY

We can sew uniforms and nurse the soldiers when they're hurt in battle. I sewed Daddy's private stripe on his uniform.

BELLE

Shouldn't you be an officer or something?

BEN

I could have, being a land owner. But I enlisted as a private so some man trying to support his family while he's away could earn a few more dollars as an officer.

Belle frowns.

BEN (CONT'D)

The store holds its own and the tobacco crop was good this year. And Belle, speaking of the store, I've got a special assignment for you.

BELLE

What is it?

BEN

Helping Mister Meaders in the store.

BELLE

The store? Mister Meaders is an old stick in the mud. He never says more than hello and maybe good bye if the mood strikes him. And he never smiles.

BEN

You'll figure a way to get along with Mister Meaders. I'm sure that fancy school in Baltimore taught you how to get along with everybody.

MRS. BOYD

I know the customers would rather have you waiting on them instead of Mister stuck-in-the-mud.

Belle wrinkles her nose.

BEN

The regiment leaves in the morning. Our scouts tell us the Yankees are mobilizing for a march into western Virginia. They'll attack the Martinsburg railroad lines.

BELLE

Why the railroad?

BEN

It's important for moving men and supplies to their military posts. We need to know Union troop movements. Our scouts keep us posted.

BELLE

What does a scout do?

BEN

A scout gathers information. Locates the enemy. Determines direction and how many troops.

BELLE

Is it like spying?

BEN

Something like that.

BELLE

Can I be a spy?

BEN

If you really want to be a spy, you can start tomorrow.

BELLE

Really?

BEN

You can spy on Mister Meaders and report back to your mother.

Hearty laughter from all except Belle who again wrinkles her nose at Ben.

INT. BELLE'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY - DAWN

Belle is asleep. Ben, dressed in a Confederate uniform, quietly enters the room, walks to the bed and sits down.

BEN

Belle?

Disturbed by her father's voice, Belle opens her eyes.

BELLE  
Daddy? What is it?

BEN  
I came to say goodbye.

Belle sits up and hugs Ben.

BELLE  
I wish you didn't have to go.

BEN  
The politicians will figure a way to  
end this war before it heats up.

Belle hugs Ben again - they exchange tender words.

BEN (CONT'D)  
I put that pistol you gave me for my  
birthday in the dining room table -  
just in case.

Ben kisses Belle on the cheek and leaves the room.

EXT. BOYD'S EMPORIUM - SAME DAY - LATE MORNING

Visible over the store front is a sign: "BOYD'S EMPORIUM"

Belle walks down the street and enters the

INT. STORE - MOMENTS LATER

MISTER MEADERS, a somber, sullen, middle-aged man unpacks  
boxes.

BELLE  
Good morning, Mister Meaders.

MEADERS  
Morning.

BELLE  
My father asked me to help out while  
he's gone. Is there anything I can  
do?

MEADERS  
I told him I didn't need any help.

BELLE  
There must be something I can do.

MEADERS  
Straighten up the back room. I don't  
have time for it.

BELLE

I'll get started right away.

Belle walks to the back of the store. She looks at the strewn-about items and straightens crates and jars. Satisfied with her work, she walks to the front of the store.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Is there anything else I can do?

Meaders gives Belle a hard stare.

MEADERS

You can stop this war.

BELLE

I don't understand.

MEADERS

What is war about?

BELLE

The girls at school talked about how wrong slavery is.

MEADERS

What do you think war is about?

BELLE

I'm not sure.

MEADERS

It's about killing. That's what any war is about. I saw my share of it in the Mexican War. You won't know what war is until you see a man dead or dying.

BELLE

I didn't know.

MEADERS

How could you? You're too busy fussing with your hair and wearing pretty clothes to know anything. I have to get back to work.

Meaders turns his back on Belle and unpacks a box.

Belle quietly leaves the store.

INT. BOYD HOME - SITTING ROOM - SAME DAY - LATER

Mrs. Boyd and Mary are busy sewing uniforms.

Belle enters the sitting room.

BELLE

What are you doing?

MARY

We're sewing buttons on these uniforms. Tomorrow we're going to knit socks.

MRS. BOYD

How are things at the store?

BELLE

Did you know that Mister Meaders was in the Mexican War?

MRS. BOYD

He doesn't talk about it much.

BELLE

He says war is about killing.

Mrs. Boyd sees Mary frown.

MRS. BOYD

Nobody's going to get killed around here.

Mrs. Boyd glances at Belle.

MRS. BOYD (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there. Take a uniform and start sewing.

BELLE

Yes, ma'am.

Belle picks up a uniform, sits down and exchanges a concerned look with her mother.

MRS. BOYD

(smiles at Mary)

Mary, go over to Miss Quick's and get more buttons for these uniforms.

Mary puts down her sewing.

MARY

I'll be right back.

Mary leaves the sitting room.

MRS. BOYD

I don't want talk about killing.

BELLE

I'm sorry. It's just that -

MRS. BOYD

Mary is scared. So am I. She thinks  
it's fun sewing these damn buttons.

Mrs. Boyd starts to cry.

MRS. BOYD (CONT'D)

I pray God keeps him safe. If  
anything happened to him I -

BOOMING cannon fire is heard.

Belle and Mrs. Boyd are startled.

BELLE

My God! What was that?

Belle runs to the front door and opens it. Confederate  
soldiers run down the street.

GUN FIRE is heard.

EXT. BOYD HOME - PORCH - CONTINUING

Mrs. Boyd and Eliza join Belle on the porch.

Belle sees Ben among the soldiers.

BELLE

Papa! Papa!

Ben leaves the ranks and runs up to the porch.

BEN

(breathing heavily)

We took casualties. Two of them are  
at the Methodist Chapel about a mile  
back. They need help.

GUN FIRE continues.

BEN (CONT'D)

The Yankees are right on our backs.  
They'll take the town.

Ben runs from the porch.

With hands over their mouths in desperation, Belle, Mrs.  
Boyd and Eliza watch as Ben and other soldiers run down the  
road.

INT. METHODIST CHAPEL - SAME DAY - NIGHT

Belle and Eliza are ministering to two wounded Confederate  
soldiers laying on pallets in the aisle. Blood-stained cloths  
are everywhere.

ELIZA

These boys are hurt real bad. If they don't get help soon, they'll die.

BELLE

They're too weak to move. We can't -

The chapel door BANGS open.

Union Sergeant Frederick Martin, a mean-spirited, angry man, 30's, storms into the chapel.

SGT. MARTIN

Rebels!

BELLE

They're hurt!

SGT. MARTIN

Let's see how hurt.

Martin goes to the pallets and kicks each wounded soldier in the side.

The kicks cause the soldiers to cry out in pain.

BELLE

Stop that!

Martin turns towards Belle and leers.

SGT. MARTIN

A sassy rebel female. Pretty too.

Martin grabs Belle's dress - tears the sleeve.

SGT. MARTIN (CONT'D)

Let's you and me be friends, Missy.

Belle slaps Martin's hand away.

BELLE

How dare you!

SGT. MARTIN

You'll be sorry for that, Miss Spitfire!

Martin lunges at Belle and they scuffle. Eliza joins the fray by punching Martin in the back. The scuffling continues until Union Colonel JOHN RIPLEY, 30's, enters the chapel.

RIPLEY

What the hell is going on, Sergeant?

Martin pulls himself together and salutes.

SGT. MARTIN

Sir. I was just -

RIPLEY

That's all, Sergeant. Dismissed.

An embarrassed Martin salutes again and leaves the chapel.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)

I'm Colonel John Ripley. Can I help?

BELLE

Can you help us get these men home?

Ripley eyes the blood-stained sheets and cloths.

RIPLEY

We've established hospital tents nearby. I'll see they get there.

BELLE

In your hands they'll be prisoners.

RIPLEY

They will receive the medical attention they need, Miss.

ELIZA

We can't help these boys, Belle.

BELLE

All right. And thank you for your help with that soldier.

RIPLEY

(smiling)  
Glad to oblige.

Ripley checks the wounded soldiers.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)

You have my word that no harm will come to these men.

Belle kneels next to the wounded soldiers.

BELLE

I wish I could help you but I can't. This man has promised you will be taken care of. God bless you.

Belle and Eliza leave the chapel.

EXT. CHAPEL - MOMENTS LATER

They walk towards a horse drawn buggy.

BELLE

Mister Meaders was right.

ELIZA

About what?

BELLE

War is about killing and dying.  
Said I was only interested in how I  
looked.

ELIZA

(laughing)

He should see you now.

INT. BOYD HOME - DINING ROOM - LATE MORNING

Belle, Mary and Mrs. Boyd eat breakfast.

Eliza is serving.

SHOUTING and CHEERING is heard from the street.

A band plays "Yankee Doodle"

ELIZA

The Yankees are planning a big Fourth  
of July celebration. I hear they're  
going to shoot off fireworks. They  
make me nervous with their strutting  
all over town.

MRS. BOYD

Never mind them, Eliza, they're just  
acting up because our men aren't  
here.

BELLE

I'll stuff my ears with cotton so I  
don't have to listen to their  
celebrating.

ELIZA

When I went to the Emporium this  
morning, I saw some soldiers carrying  
whiskey barrels. They'll be drunk  
before noon.

MRS. BOYD

Everybody stays in the house today.  
Lock the doors and latch the windows.  
No use looking for trouble.

MARY

What if they come here, mama?

BELLE

Don't worry, Mary. We're safe here.

MRS. BOYD

Belle, you shouldn't be as friendly with them as you have been. Some of the women at the Ladies Guild tell me that you've been flirting with those boys.

LOUD YELLING is heard from the street.

BELLE

Staying inside today is a good idea.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BOYD HOME - SAME DAY - LATER

UNION SOLDIERS drink from open whiskey bottles. Some stagger around yelling and leering at passersby.

Sergeant Martin is drunk - a nasty, threatening presence.

SGT. MARTIN

(slurred speech)

Hey, I think Miss Spitfire lives around here.

PRIVATE ANDREWS, 20,s, staggers over to Martin.

PVT. ANDREWS

Miss who?

SGT. MARTIN

The bitch who made me look bad in front of Ripley.

PVT. ANDREWS

Oh, her. She struts around town all the time talking and flirting with the boys, pretty as you please.

Andrews looks at the various houses and shops. He points to the Boyd house.

PVT. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

She lives over there.

Martin blinks a few times through a drunken gaze. He looks at the top of the house.

SGT. MARTIN

There ain't no Union flag flying over that house.

PVT. ANDREWS

Maybe they got rebels in there.

Martin staggers over to a whiskey barrel where three Union soldiers are slurping it down pretty good.

SGT. MARTIN

We're gonna' get some rebels. Let's go!

The five drunk soldiers stagger toward the Boyd house.

INT. BOYD HOME - SITTING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Belle, Mary and Mrs. Boyd are busy sewing buttons on uniforms.

A loud THUD is heard against the front door.

BELLE

What is that?

Belle jumps up and moves to the front hall.

At the second THUD, the door breaks from its hinges and the five drunken soldiers lurch into the front hall.

BELLE (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Get out! Get out right now!

The five soldiers push past Belle and storm into the sitting room.

They leer at a frightened Mary and Mrs. Boyd.

They grab fruit from a bowl on the table and stuff their faces.

Belle appears in the sitting room.

BELLE (CONT'D)

How dare you! You're drunk. Get out!

Sgt. Martin turns to Belle.

SGT. MARTIN

Shut your mouth! We're looking for rebels and we're gonna' hang the Union flag from your roof.

Mrs. Boyd stands and defiantly walks up to Sgt. Martin.

MRS. BOYD

Get out!

SGT. MARTIN

Hand over the rebels.

MRS. BOYD

There are no rebels in this house.  
Get out!

SGT. MARTIN

Since you ain't got rebels we're  
gonna' hang our flag and show  
everybody you ain't rebels.

Belle senses real danger from Martin and slowly makes her way to the

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Belle removes the pistol from a drawer and re-enters the

INT. SITTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Martin is very close to Mrs. Boyd. She gives no ground to the threat standing in front of her.

MRS. BOYD

You will not fly your flag on my  
roof. Every one in this house will  
die before we submit to such shame!

Sgt. Martin moves closer to Mrs. Boyd - a hair's breath from physical contact.

Belle raises the pistol and aims at Martin's back.

BELLE

Get away from my mother!

Sgt. Martin, too drunk to comprehend what Belle just said, grabs Mrs. Boyd by the shoulder.

Belle fires the pistol. BANG.

Sgt. Martin wavers and falls to the floor, face down.

Pvt. Andrews walks up to Martin's body and turns it over.

PVT. ANDREWS

He's dead! She killed him!

Pvt. Andrews, sobered by the sequence of events, turns to Belle.

PVT. ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Please, Miss, put the gun down and  
we'll remove the body. We meant no  
harm.

A dazed Belle drops the pistol and slumps into a chair.

The four soldiers hurriedly roll Martin's body onto a large throw rug and carry it out of the house.

EXT. BOYD HOME - PORCH - CONTINUING

The four soldiers carrying the rug are spotted and surrounded by other soldiers.

SOLDIER

What the hell happened? Why you carrying that rug?

PVT. ANDREWS

Martin is dead! The girl killed him.

SOLDIER

Why did she kill him?

PVT. ANDREWS

She just did. We've got to get him out of here.

As the rug soldiers lumber away, the other soldiers become a raging mob.

CROWD OF SOLDIERS

Burn them out! Burn the rebels out!

The soldiers turn over horse carriages, tear up the buggy wood and pile it up on the porch of the Boyd home.

A fire is started.

The commotion becomes intense as windows are smashed and soldiers fire their side arms in the air.

Townspople run for cover.

From down the street, Ripley, riding a horse, comes galloping up, stops in front of the Boyd home and fires his side arm into air. He maneuvers the horse into the soldiers in an attempt to disperse them.

Ripley dismounts and runs up to the burning pile. He kicks at the wood to break up the fire.

Ripley turns to SGT. BURNS who has joined Ripley in kicking at the fire.

RIPLEY

Sergeant! Get these men under control and back to the barracks. I want a guard placed around this house. No one in and no one out! Is that clear, Sergeant?

SGT. BURNS

Yes sir.

Ripley pushes burning embers from his path, climbs over the broken front door and enters the house.

INT. BOYD HOME - SITTING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Belle, Eliza, Mary and Mrs. Boyd are all dazed and sobbing.

RIPLEY

Is anyone hurt?

BELLE

Go away.

RIPLEY

Will someone tell me what happened?

ELIZA

He was attacking Mrs. Boyd and Belle shot him.

Ripley sees the pistol on the floor and picks it up.

RIPLEY

I'll have some men re-hinge the door.

INT. GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON'S TENT HEADQUARTERS - SAME DAY-EVENING

UNION GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON, 50's, and Ripley sit at a table.

RIPLEY

And there you have it, sir. The girl killed Martin in self-defence.

GENERAL PATTERSON

I'm more concerned with how the men will react to no charges being filed against this girl.

RIPLEY

Martin won't be missed. He was not well-liked and the men who witnessed the shooting backed up what the black girl told me. Martin was going after the mother.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Discipline those fools who broke into the house. And make sure the townspeople know. We need them to stay quiet while we're here as an occupying force.

RIPLEY

I'll see to it, sir. I've posted a guard around the house until things settle down.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Good. Anything else?

RIPLEY

I'm going to visit the girl and her family tomorrow.

INT. BOYD HOME - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Belle and Mrs. Boyd sit and read.

MRS. BOYD

Those guards do make a fuss. They ask after your health at least three times a day. They ask me if there is anything they can do. We're prisoners in our own house. If it wasn't for Eliza being allowed to go to market we would near starve to death.

BELLE

They mean no harm, mama.

MRS. BOYD

Are you sleeping any better?

BELLE

I dream about those boys in the chapel and about daddy and what happened.

A KNOCK on the front door interrupts the conversation.

BELLE (CONT'D)

I'll get it.

Belle walks to the foyer and opens the front door.

Ripley is there.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Hello, Colonel.

RIPLEY

May I come in?

BELLE

Of course.

Belle and Ripley enter the sitting room.

MRS. BOYD  
 (none too pleased to  
 see Ripley)  
 Yes?

RIPLEY  
 My apologies for what happened and  
 to tell you the matter has been  
 dropped. General Patterson sends  
 his regards. I'm sure there will be  
 no further trouble.

MRS. BOYD  
 Can we leave the house?

RIPLEY  
 I'll remove the guard immediately.

The ensuing silence makes Ripley uncomfortable.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)  
 Well, I'll see myself out. Goodbye.

Ripley makes his way out of the house.

BELLE  
 It was nice of him to stop by.

Mrs. Boyd puts a hard stare on Belle.

MRS. BOYD  
 That man is the enemy and I don't  
 want him in this house!

Mrs. Boyd stands and goes to Belle.

MRS. BOYD (CONT'D)  
 My nerves are on edge. Why don't  
 you go to the store and see how Mister  
 Meaders is getting on. The fresh  
 air will do you good.

INT. BOYD'S EMPORIUM - SAME DAY - LATER

Meaders is unpacking boxes.

Belle enters.

Meaders looks up - watches Belle examine various store items.

MEADERS  
 Heard what happened.

Belle continues to examine and pick up items.

BELLE  
 Is there anything I can do?

MEADERS

Put it out of your mind.

Belle looks at Meaders.

BELLE

I killed -

A heart wrenching cry from Belle - Meaders moves quickly to catch Belle before she crumples to the ground.

MEADERS

No shame in crying when you have a reason.

Belle's sobbing brings tears to Meaders' eyes as he holds Belle.

He walks Belle to a bench, sits her down and goes for a handkerchief.

MEADERS (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Belle wipes her eyes.

BELLE

He was going to hurt my mother.

Meaders kneels next to the bench.

MEADERS

You did what a soldier does in war.  
You protected your own. Just like  
your daddy is doing to protect his  
family, this store and your home.

Belle stands.

BELLE

I should be getting home.

Belle starts for the door - turns and faces Meaders.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Belle turns and heads for the door.

MEADERS

(smiling)  
You can fuss with your hair all you  
want.

Belle opens the door and leaves the store.

Meaders goes to the door and watches Belle walk away.

MEADERS (CONT'D)  
(aloud, to himself)  
Now you know what war is all about.

INT. BOYD'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Belle is alone in the store.

A young Union soldier enters.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
Hello, Miss Belle. Do you remember  
me?

BELLE  
Of course I do. You were guarding  
my house. It was so nice of you to  
ask after me and my family.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
Yes, ma'am.

Young soldier inspects the various candies on display.

YOUNG SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
Do you have any candy?

BELLE  
You're looking right at it.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
So I am. I guess I'm a little nervous  
talking to you in a civilian way.  
Had no trouble when I was on duty.

BELLE  
Do I make you nervous?

YOUNG SOLDIER  
I don't get to talk much with girls.

BELLE  
A good looking boy like you should  
have no trouble sparking the girls.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
Maybe I don't try hard enough.

He gazes at the candy.

YOUNG SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
You sure have a lot of candy.

Belle plays into the young soldier's innocence.

BELLE

I'll bet you have more soldiers than  
I have candy.

Bravado time!

YOUNG SOLDIER

We sure do.

BELLE

I'll bet you have a lot of cannon.

YOUNG SOLDIER

Sure do.

Belle sets the bait.

BELLE

Tell me how many soldiers and I'll  
give you a piece of candy.

The fish opens his mouth.

YOUNG SOLDIER

Give me a kiss and I'll tell you how  
many cannon.

BELLE

Tell me first, then I'll give you a  
kiss.

The young soldier leans across the counter.

YOUNG SOLDIER

I could get into a lot of trouble.

BELLE

The only trouble you can get into  
with me is girl trouble.

Belle squeezes his hand.

He whispers in her ear. We don't hear what he says.

YOUNG SOLDIER

You owe me a kiss.

BELLE

Come with me to the back room. You  
don't want anybody seeing you sparking  
a rebel.

Belle leads the young soldier by the hand to the back room  
of the store.

Camera loses sight of them.

INT. BOYD HOME - ELIZA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Eliza is fast asleep.

A soft KNOCK on the door wakes her up.

ELIZA

Who's that?

BELLE

It's Belle.

Belle enters the bedroom.

ELIZA

You have another bad dream?

BELLE

No.

Belle sits on the bed.

BELLE (CONT'D)

I want you to give this note to Mister Baker at the barber shop.

Belle removes a folded piece of paper from her dress pocket.

ELIZA

What's in the note?

BELLE

Information for Colonel Jackson. Mister Baker knows how to get it through Union lines.

ELIZA

Somebody might see me pass the note.

BELLE

You're smart enough to get it to him without being seen. This is very important and it'll help Mister Boyd.

ELIZA

You're gonna' make me feel guilty if I don't?

BELLE

You bet. Take the note and make sure Mister Baker gets it tomorrow.

INT. BOYD HOME - DINING ROOM - NEXT DAY - LATE MORNING

Belle, Mary and Mrs. Boyd eat breakfast.

The front door opens.

Ripley and two Union soldiers, with a crying Eliza in tow, enter and walk into the dining room.

RIPLEY

You are under arrest, Miss Boyd.  
Please come with me.

BELLE

Arrest?

MRS. BOYD

You said the matter was dropped!

RIPLEY

The charge is attempting to pass  
military information to the enemy.

ELIZA

(crying)

They saw me with the note.

Belle stands and leaves with Ripley, the two soldiers and Eliza.

MRS. BOYD

(to herself)

Oh, my God! Oh Belle, what have you  
done?

INT. GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON'S TENT HEADQUARTERS - SAME DAY-LATER

General Patterson, Major JAMES EDWARDS and Colonel TOM THATCHER sit at a table.

Ripley and Belle stand in front of the table.

Eliza is seated in the back of the tent.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Do you realize the seriousness of  
the charge brought against you, Miss  
Boyd?

BELLE

I was trying to help my father. I  
don't want him to die.

GENERAL PATTERSON

You were attempting to pass strategic  
military information to the enemy  
using that girl as your accomplice.

Patterson picks up a document from the table and reads:

GENERAL PATTERSON (CONT'D)  
 Whoever shall give food, ammunition,  
 information to, or aid and abet the  
 enemies of the United States  
 government in any manner whatsoever,  
 shall suffer death or whatever penalty  
 the honorable members of the court-  
 martial shall see fit to inflict.

Patterson places the document on the table.

GENERAL PATTERSON (CONT'D)  
 Do you feel any remorse for your  
 act?

BELLE  
 I was trying to help my father.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
 Your reason does not excuse your  
 act. Do you have anything else to  
 say before I pass sentence.

BELLE  
 No.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
 How old are you?

BELLE  
 Seventeen.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
 Seventeen. You shoot a Union soldier  
 and now you attempt to pass  
 information to the enemy and -

BELLE  
 Your enemies, not mine and -

GENERAL PATTERSON  
 (very angry)  
 That's enough! Do you understand  
 you could be hanged?

Belle loses her balance - Ripley holds her upright.

BELLE  
 May I sit down?

Patterson waves in the direction of an empty chair.

Belle starts to cry - Ripley helps her to the chair.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
 I want your solemn promise that you  
 won't pass any more messages.

Belle moves her hand behind her back and crosses her fingers.  
A sign that she is not telling the truth.

BELLE

I promise, sir.

GENERAL PATTERSON

All right. You may go and take your  
accomplice with you. Colonel Ripley,  
please see that these two get home.

Belle, Ripley and Eliza leave the tent.

COLONEL THATCHER

Well, General, you could have spanked  
her. Heard she likes to be spanked.

GENERAL PATTERSON

What?

COLONEL THATCHER

Heard the men talking about her.  
She's the center of attention. I  
think I know why.

GENERAL PATTERSON

What the hell else could I do?  
Lincoln's order is to handle civilian  
spies with kid gloves. He wants no  
martyrs to the rebel cause.

MAJOR EDWARDS

How much harm could her information  
have done?

GENERAL PATTERSON

Her note was precise. It indicated  
our movement east toward Washington.  
It had troop strength and number of  
cannon. If Jackson was informed, he  
would have been able to defend against  
it.

COLONEL THATCHER

Do you think she understands what  
war is about?

MAJOR EDWARDS

She's a child. How could she?

INT. BOYD HOME - DINING ROOM - SAME DAY - LATER

Mrs. Boyd and Mary sit at the table.

The front door opens. Belle and Eliza enter.

MRS. BOYD  
Belle? Is that you?

Belle and Eliza enter the dining room.

BELLE  
They let me go with a warning.

ELIZA  
They're gonna' hang you next time.  
Lord only knows what they'd do to  
me.

MRS. BOYD  
Hang? Oh my God, Belle! You can't  
stay here. You're going to Front  
Royal and stay with your aunt and  
uncle.

BELLE  
I won't cause any more trouble. I  
want to stay.

Mrs. Boyd stands and goes to Belle.

MRS. BOYD  
Remember when you were twelve and we  
had a Sunday picnic? You didn't  
want to sit at the children's table  
so you got your horse and rode him  
around the tables.

Belle laughs.

MRS. BOYD (CONT'D)  
I knew then that you had a stubborn  
streak. You say you won't cause  
trouble but I know you, Isabella,  
and you won't stop now.

Belle takes a breath.

BELLE  
Can Eliza come with me?

ELIZA  
You're not leaving me here, Miss  
Belle.

Mrs. Boyd hugs Belle.

MRS. BOYD  
Of course she can go. Go pack.  
I'll get someone to take you.

EXT. FRONT ROYAL - STRICKLER HOTEL - DAY

On the lawn in front of the hotel is a sign that reads:  
STRICKLER HOTEL

Belle and Eliza ride up in a horse drawn buggy driven by  
MISTER BALDWIN, 40's.

They climb out of the buggy.

Belle's UNCLE JAMES and AUNT FRANCES emerge from the hotel  
and walk towards Belle and Eliza.

AUNT FRANCES

Oh Belle, it's so good to see you  
again. You too, Eliza.

Belle hugs Aunt Frances.

Belle turns to Uncle James and gives him a hug.

BELLE

Hello, Uncle James.

AUNT FRANCES

Both of you come inside and have  
something to drink.

Belle turns to Mister Baldwin.

BELLE

Thank you for bringing us, Mister  
Baldwin. Come inside for something  
to drink.

MISTER BALDWIN

Thank you, Belle, but I best be  
getting back to Martinsburg. It  
sure was an honor to drive the Siren  
of the Shenandoah.

BELLE

The what?

MISTER BALDWIN

That's what people are calling you.  
What with you trying to pass  
information to Colonel Jackson and  
defending your mother like you did.  
People admire your spirit.

UNCLE JAMES

You've been written up in the Yankee  
newspapers. They call you the rebel  
spy.

Belle places her hand behind her back and crosses her fingers.

BELLE

My lord! I don't want to be famous.

Baldwin tips his hat and climbs up into the buggy and drives off.

Belle, Eliza, Aunt Frances and Uncle James walk toward the hotel.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Belle and Aunt Frances sit at a table.

Uncle James enters the lobby.

UNCLE JAMES

Some of the Manassas wounded are being brought here. They're setting up a hospital just down the road.

BELLE

Is there anything we can do?

UNCLE JAMES

They'll be looking for volunteers. From the size of the area being set up with hospital tents, I'd say there will be quite a few.

AUNT FRANCES

Those poor boys.

BELLE

Eliza and I can help.

UNCLE JAMES

You've never seen anything like what's coming.

BELLE

What if my father was wounded? I'd want someone to help him. Tell whoever is in charge that Eliza and I will be there first thing in the morning.

UNCLE JAMES

I'll go right now and tell them that angels of mercy are on the way.

INT. HOSPITAL TENT - EARLY MORNING

Belle and Eliza talk with DOCTOR ROBERT FIELDS, 30's.

The tent is filled with wounded soldiers on pallets, many are MOANING and SCREAMING.

Orderlies attend to the men.

DR. FIELDS

I appreciate you coming. First we need get you into hospital gowns. Don't want those pretty dresses all bloody.

ELIZA

What's that awful smell?

DR. FIELDS

Gangrene. A bullet wound causes a loss of blood supply to an arm or a leg and the tissue dies. Some of these boys need amputations. If we don't cut off the bad limb, they'll die.

ELIZA

I think I'm going to be sick.

Eliza hurries out of the tent.

BELLE

Me too.

Belle hurries from the tent.

EXT. HOSPITAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Belle and Eliza both gasp and vomit.

ELIZA

If this is war, I'd rather take my chances back in Martinsburg with those Yankees.

BELLE

They really need our help.

Dr. Fields comes out of the hospital tent.

DR. FIELDS

I apologize for not preparing you for that. I'm used to it. Although I don't think you really get used to it. Let's walk over to the supply tent and get you some hospital gowns. That is, if you still want to help.

BELLE

We do.

DR. FIELDS

The supply tent is over there.

Dr. Fields, Belle and Eliza walk to the supply tent and enter.

INT. HOSPITAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

The supply tent is filled with medical supplies, surgical gowns, assorted saws, medical instruments and buckets.

Dr. Fields rummages through a pile of gowns, finds two that look like they'll fit and hands one to Belle and one to Eliza.

ELIZA

Are those water buckets?

DR. FIELDS

Those buckets are used only for amputated body parts. Don't ever drink from them or you'll wind up on a pallet.

Belle and Eliza smile weakly.

BELLE

What do you want us to do?

DR. FIELDS

First, change into those gowns. I'll wait outside.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - SAME DAY - LATER

Uncle James and Aunt Frances sit at a table.

Belle and Eliza, dressed in their dresses and tired and weary, enter the lobby.

AUNT FRANCES

Girls, come over here and sit down. You look like death warmed over.

BELLE

Please don't talk about death. We've seen enough today. Eliza, go get some rest.

ELIZA

You need anything?

BELLE

You've done enough today. Go.

Eliza leaves the lobby.

BELLE (CONT'D)

War is horrible.

UNCLE JAMES

You don't have to go back, Belle.  
I'm sure they'll understand.

BELLE

We have to go back. We have to help  
those boys. They're so -

Belle starts to cry.

Aunt Frances stands and goes to Belle.

AUNT FRANCES

You go ahead and cry.

INT. HOSPITAL TENT - EARLY MORNING

Belle assists Dr. Fields with bandages.

Eliza tends to the wounded. She places cool cloths on  
foreheads.

Other female volunteers are seen ministering to the wounded  
soldiers.

The sound of the maimed and the dying is overwhelming.

Doctors and orderlies perform amputations.

DR. FIELDS

Belle, go to the supply tent. We  
need more quinine. Some of these  
boys have malaria. They won't make  
it without quinine.

BELLE

I'll be right back.

Belle leaves the hospital tent.

Dr. Fields performs a foot amputation and holds the foot in  
his hand.

DR. FIELDS

Eliza, hand me a bucket.

Eliza holds a bucket at arms length. Dr. Fields drops the  
foot into the bucket.

Belle enters the tent. She holds three bottles of quinine.

DR. FIELDS (CONT'D)

We need more than three bottles,  
Belle.

BELLE

This is the last of it.

DR. FIELDS  
There has to be more.

Dr. Fields hurries from the tent.

Belle follows him out.

EXT. HOSPITAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

Belle catches up with Dr. Fields.

BELLE  
There is no more quinine.

DR. FIELDS  
Damn it. I can't keep these boys  
alive without it.

BELLE  
Do the Yankees use quinine?

DR. FIELDS  
Are you going to ask them for some?

BELLE  
The Yankees set up hospital tents in  
Martinsburg for their wounded from  
Harper's Ferry.

DR. FIELDS  
If you're going, go soon.

SUPERIMPOSE: ROAD TO MARTINSBURG

EXT. DUSTY ROAD - DAY

Belle and Eliza ride in a buggy.

ELIZA  
They catch us stealing quinine, they  
hang us for sure.

BELLE  
We have a better chance of getting  
the quinine than anyone else.

ELIZA  
And how are we gonna' do this?

BELLE  
I don't know - yet.

Belle waves to the Union sentries as she rides into  
Martinsburg.

INT. GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON'S TENT HEADQUARTERS - SAME DAY-LATER

General Patterson sits at a table and is reading reports.

Ripley enters, smiling broadly.

RIPLEY  
(smiling)  
Excuse me, General.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
Yes, what is it? Why are you smiling?  
Did the rebels surrender?

RIPLEY  
No, sir. There is someone here to  
see you.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
All right. Bring him in.

Belle enters the tent.

BELLE  
Hello, sir. It's nice to see you  
again.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
Oh, no. What did you do now?

RIPLEY  
Belle is here of her own free will,  
sir.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
Why?

Belle places her hand behind her back and crosses her fingers.

BELLE  
I wanted to apologize and tell you  
how sorry I am for what I tried to  
do. I realize how foolish I was. I  
am sorry, sir.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
I'm glad you've come to your senses.

BELLE  
Can I stay for a few days? I miss  
my mother and sister so much.

GENERAL PATTERSON  
No harm in that since we will be  
leaving Martinsburg shortly.

BELLE

Thank you, sir. Good bye.

Belle leaves the tent.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Keep an eye on her, Colonel.

RIPLEY

I will, sir.

Ripley salutes and leaves the tent.

EXT. GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON'S TENT HEADQUARTERS - MOMENTS  
LATER

Ripley catches up with Belle.

RIPLEY

What are you up to? You didn't come  
back just to see your family.

Belle places a hand on Ripley's shoulder.

BELLE

Can I trust you, John?

Belle and Ripley walk on, engaged in quiet conversation. We  
see Belle wrap her arm around Ripley's waist.

INT. BOYD HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Belle and Eliza talk in hushed tones.

BELLE

They're leaving Martinsburg. They  
have started to load the medical  
supplies into the wagons. I spotted  
the quinine. I'm going to the wagons  
tonight and take the quinine.

ELIZA

And how are you gonna' do that?

BELLE

Last night I watched the supply  
wagons. They have two sentries  
guarding them. You're going to make  
one of your famous apple pies and  
leave it here in the kitchen. Then  
you're going to walk to the wagons  
and tell the sentries that hospital  
tents make you nervous.

ELIZA

Ain't that the truth.

BELLE

Have them walk back to the house  
for the pie.

ELIZA

What if they don't come back with  
me? What if they ask after you?

BELLE

They'll come with you. Tell them  
I'm in Martinsburg. Those sentries  
are the same ones who were watching  
the house. Remember them coming in  
all the time asking about my health  
and what not?

ELIZA

You think they're sweet on you?

BELLE

I know they are. I'll be watching  
you. When you start back to the  
house, I'll go to the wagons, take  
the quinine and hide it behind the  
trees.

ELIZA

What if somebody sees you?

BELLE

I have a friend.

ELIZA

I'm not gonna' ask who.

BELLE

We have to get that quinine. You  
saw those soldiers -

ELIZA

All right. But what do I say when  
they come back here and start asking  
about you?

BELLE

Tell them I went to the Emporium for  
something to drink. Something to go  
with the apple pie.

ELIZA

Lord have mercy.

BELLE

Start making that pie.

EXT. CONFEDERATE HOSPITAL TENT - EARLY MORNING

Belle and Eliza ride up to the tent in a wagon.

Belle climbs down and calls to an orderly walking to the tent.

BELLE

Excuse me, is Doctor Fields inside.

ORDERLY

Hello, Miss Belle. Yes he is.

BELLE

Would you ask him to step out. I would like to speak to him.

ORDERLY

I'll go get him.

Orderly enters the tent and moments later, Dr. Fields comes out of the tent.

DR. FIELDS

Hello, Belle. How are you?

BELLE

I have a present for you.

Belle walks to the wagon and removes a cover to reveal a supply of quinine.

DR. FIELDS

How did you do it?

BELLE

Let's just say I exchanged an apple pie for the quinine.

DR. FIELDS

You came back just in time. There's a Union regiment moving from the north and we can't defend Front Royal with the few troops here. We'll be leaving shortly.

BELLE

I'm going back to the hotel. Eliza and I left Martinsburg early this morning and we need some sleep. God bless you, Doctor.

Dr. Fields kisses Belle's hand.

DR. FIELDS

God bless you, Belle. God bless you, Eliza.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Uncle James and Aunt Frances sit at a table.

A. W. CLARKE, an obese, unkempt and slovenly man, 30's, sits at the same table. Clarke is drunk.

Belle enters the lobby and walks to the table.

UNCLE JAMES  
Did everything go okay?

BELLE  
Yes, Eliza and I are fine. Tired but otherwise fine.

UNCLE JAMES  
Belle, this is Mister Clarke. He's a newspaper man from New York come to cover the war.

Clarke wobbles to his feet and extends a sweaty paw to Belle.

CLARKE  
Is this the famous Belle Boyd? You are known throughout the North for your, shall we call them exploits?

Belle takes the extended hand with two fingers.

BELLE  
Will you be staying long, Mister Clarke?

Clarke leers at Belle.

CLARKE  
Depends on whether anything interesting is going on here.

Clarke wobbles and grabs the table.

CLARKE (CONT'D)  
Please excuse me, I have to finish my article. I do hope to see you again, Miss Boyd.

BELLE  
(icily)  
Good bye, Mister Clark.

Clarke leaves the table, leers at Belle and stumbles up the stairs.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
What a horrible man! Does he have to stay here?

AUNT FRANCES

We can't afford not to be hospitable.  
We don't want him to write that we  
are not a courteous people.

BELLE

People like him shouldn't be allowed  
to write. He made my skin crawl.

AUNT FRANCES

Stay out of his way and things will  
be fine.

BELLE

I'm tired. I'm going to sleep for a  
week.

UNCLE JAMES

Don't worry about Clarke. He told  
me and Frances that a General  
Patterson and a Union force are moving  
this way. I passed this information  
on and our troops are moving out in  
the morning.

BELLE

Why would that horrible man tell you  
about troop movements?

UNCLE JAMES

(grinning)

I'm an innkeeper. Find a man's  
weakness and use it against him.

Uncle James gives Belle a knowing look.

UNCLE JAMES (CONT'D)

I have a feeling you know what I'm  
talking about.

BELLE

Did you ply that man with liquor,  
Uncle James?

UNCLE JAMES

I was just showing him southern  
hospitality.

All three laugh at the comment. Belle kisses Aunt Frances  
and Uncle James and walks up the stairs.

EXT. FRONT ROYAL HOTEL - DAY

A Union regiment rides up to the front of the hotel.

General Patterson and Ripley dismount and stride into the  
hotel.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Uncle James and Aunt Frances stand in the lobby.

General Patterson and Ripley enter the lobby.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Good day. I am General Patterson, commander of the Union regiment now occupying this town. This is Colonel Ripley, my aide-de-camp. And you are?

UNCLE JAMES

The proprietors.

GENERAL PATTERSON

I am commandeering your hotel as my headquarters. Do you have any guests?

UNCLE JAMES

Our niece and a newspaper man from New York.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Inform them that we are here and they are welcome to stay. We will inconvenience you as little as possible. Do you have a drawing room?

UNCLE JAMES

Yes, it's over there.

GENERAL PATTERSON

May I see it?

Uncle James, Aunt Frances and General Patterson walk towards the drawing room and enter.

INT. DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is medium size with a large table and chairs, and a china closet. Book shelves line a wall. It is filled with books.

GENERAL PATTERSON

This will do nicely. I'll have my men carefully remove your personal items. I'm using this room as my command post.

Belle enters the drawing room.

BELLE

Uncle James, who are those soldiers outside?

A surprised Belle spots General Patterson and Ripley.

AUNT FRANCES

Belle, this is General Patterson and Colonel Ripley. General, this is our niece, Belle Boyd.

GENERAL PATTERSON

(frowning)

We are acquainted.

Patterson locks eyes with Belle.

GENERAL PATTERSON (CONT'D)

I don't suppose you know anything about stolen quinine?

Belle places her hand behind her back and crosses her fingers.

BELLE

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

GENERAL PATTERSON

Quinine was stolen from our medical supplies while you were in Martinsburg.

Uncle James senses the tension between Patterson and Belle - he jumps in.

UNCLE JAMES

May I offer you some refreshment, General?

Patterson continues to stare at Belle.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Thank you. I appreciate the offer.

AUNT FRANCES

Belle, you and Eliza make up rooms for the General and his staff.

BELLE

Right away, Aunt Frances.

Belle makes a hasty retreat from the drawing room.

UNCLE JAMES

Come, gentlemen, let's get that drink.

INT. HOTEL - UPPER FLOOR - LATER

Belle is entering her room - Clarke comes up behind her.

CLARKE

Hello, Missy.

Surprised, Belle turns to Clarke.

BELLE

I'm rather busy.

Clarke, drunk, pushes his bulk against Belle, pinning her to the wall.

CLARKE

Too busy to talk to me?

Belle pushes Clarke away. He leans into Belle and grabs her shoulders.

CLARKE (CONT'D)

Come on, Missy. Be nice to me and I'll write nice things about you.

Belle steps on Clarke's foot - hard.

Clark lets out a YELL and smacks Belle across the cheek.

Her face shows disbelief, then disdain, and then resolve.

Belle knees Clarke in the groin and immediately follows it up with a swift combination of punches to Clarke's face and nose. Her next punch lands on Clarke's left eye and as he brings his hands up to protect his face, Belle's "field goal" kick to Clarke's groin brings the big man crashing to his knees and then to the floor whining like a big, fat baby.

Suddenly, Ripley appears from the stairs. He steps in between Belle and the prostrate Clarke.

RIPLEY

What the hell is going on?

Clarke stands up and tries to reach around Ripley to get at Belle.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)

Stop it! Stop it!

BELLE

I can take care of myself.

Clark's face is scratched, his eye swollen and his nose is bleeding.

Belle's blouse is torn and her mouth is bleeding.

Ripley turns to Clarke.

RIPLEY  
Remove yourself, sir.

CLARKE  
Bitch!

RIPLEY  
Leave! Now!

Clarke stumbles away, mumbling under his breath.

Noticing the blood on Belle's face, Ripley removes a yellow bandanna from his back pocket and wipes Belle's mouth.

She leans into Ripley, completely overcome.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)  
Is this your room?

Belle nods.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)  
Let's get you inside so you can sit down.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ripley helps Belle to the bed and she sits down.

RIPLEY  
I'm going to get the surgeon to look at your face.

BELLE  
I'm all right.

RIPLEY  
Can I call on you this evening? I want to make sure you're all right.

BELLE  
I'll be on the porch around eight.

RIPLEY  
I'll see you then.

EXT. HOTEL - PORCH - SAME DAY - EVENING

Belle and Ripley sit on a porch swing.

RIPLEY  
Did you get some rest?

BELLE  
I feel better than I did this afternoon. I really appreciate your help.

RIPLEY

I'm glad I heard the scuffle.

BELLE

What do you do when you're not rescuing damsels in distress?

RIPLEY

I'm a teacher by profession and a soldier by circumstance. My parents died when I was young. My sister and I lived with our aunt and uncle in Boston. What do you do when you're not beating up men twice your size?

BELLE

I worry about my father and what this war is doing.

RIPLEY

Do you believe in slavery?

BELLE

Where would the slaves go? What would they do? I don't know the answer. The North says it's against slavery but it buys all our cotton.

RIPLEY

When this war is over we'll know the answer.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NEXT DAY - MORNING

Aunt Frances serves breakfast to three Union officers who sit at a table.

The other tables are empty.

Belle enters the dining room and sits at an empty table,

Aunt Frances walks over to Belle.

AUNT FRANCES

Good morning.

Belle notices the empty tables.

BELLE

Where are the rest of the officers?

AUNT FRANCES

They left early this morning. General Patterson said goodbye and rode off with most of the troops.

Belle stands and walks over to the table with the three Union officers. The three stand.

BELLE  
May I sit?

UNION OFFICER #1  
Of course.

The four sit.

BELLE  
I wanted to say goodbye to General  
Patterson. Is he coming back soon?

Belle wipes the officer's lapel to remove non-existent lint. Her hand lingers. The officer feels Belle's hand squeeze his shoulder.

UNION OFFICER #1  
Depends on how soon he catches up  
with Jackson's regiment.

Belle stands up.

BELLE  
I just remembered something. Please  
excuse me.

Belle abruptly walks away from the puzzled officers.

She walks over to Aunt Frances.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Have you seen Mister Clarke?

AUNT FRANCES  
I haven't seen him since yesterday  
afternoon.

BELLE  
I'm going to check on him.

Belle strides out of the dining room.

AUNT FRANCES  
(to herself)  
What is the matter with that girl?

INT. HOTEL - UPPER FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Belle walks down the hallway, stops in front of Clarke's room and KNOCKS on the door.

The door opens - Clarke sees Belle.

CLARKE

Get out!

Clarke attempts to shut the door - Belle pushes her way into the room.

BELLE

A very reliable source has told me that the Yankees are hunting down General Jackson's regiment. If you don't tell me what I want to know, I will tell my Uncle James to make sure that General Jackson and my father hear about you molesting me.

Clarke is concerned.

CLARKE

What do you want to know?

BELLE

Where are the troops going?

CLARKE

I can't tell you that.

BELLE

Can't or won't.

CLARKE

Listen, Missy, I can't -

BELLE

Don't Missy me, you fat slob. I want to know where the troops are going. If you don't tell me, we can plan your funeral right now!

Clarke sits on the bed and buries his head in his hands.

CLARKE

Patterson knows that Jackson is heading towards Front Royal from the west. There will be three Union contingents ready to converge from the east, north and south. The closer Jackson gets to Front Royal, the tighter the noose.

BELLE

My God! Oh, daddy!

Clarke stands up.

CLARKE

There are troops stationed a mile south. One company is guarding the railroad and one company is at the wagon bridge. If Jackson shows his rebel face, we'll be planning *his* funeral.

Belle and Clarke lock eyes.

Eliza rushes into the room.

ELIZA

Stonewall's regiment is at the top of the hill!

CLARKE

He's a goner. And so is your beloved daddy!

BELLE

Not if I can help it.

Belle shoves Clarke onto the bed, pushes Eliza out into the hall, takes the door key from the inside keyhole, slams the door and locks it.

CLARKE

(from inside the room)  
Let me out, you bitch!

BELLE

(from the hall)  
Goodbye, you fat Yankee!

EXT. HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Belle runs out of the hotel and approaches a group of townspeople standing around watching Union troops running in all directions.

BELLE

I have information that must be taken to Colonel Jackson.

A townspeople throws Belle an amused look.

TOWNSPERSON

Do it yourself.

BELLE

Coward!

Belle runs down the street and right into Ripley.

RIPLEY

Where are you going? It's not safe  
out here.

BELLE

Oh, John. My father is...

Ripley interrupts.

RIPLEY

Closer than we thought. Jackson  
surprised our outside pickets and  
his regiment is right over that hill.

Ripley points in the direction of a hill beyond the town.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)

Get back to the hotel. I have to  
go.

Belle watches Ripley run up the street.

BELLE

(to herself)

So do I, John. So do I.

Belle runs in the opposite direction right past the Union  
artillery and field cannon aimed at the hill.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Belle runs through the woods towards the hill.

Her running figure attracts GUNFIRE from both Union and  
Confederate guns.

Belle continues to run.

Bullets whiz by, spraying dirt and dust.

Belle falls over a tree branch, gets up and continues on.

A bullet shoots through her skirt and another bullet grazes  
her arm. She cries out in pain, loses her balance and falls  
again.

She picks herself up and, desperate to be recognized, reaches  
into her skirt pocket and pulls out Ripley's blood stained  
yellow bandanna and waves it frantically at the Confederate  
troops at the top of the hill.

EXT. TOP OF THE HILL - CONTINUOUS

FROM BEN BOYD'S POV: He sights his rifle and aims at the  
running figure.

The yellow bandanna distracts him.

He sees Belle.

BEN

Don't shoot! That's my daughter!

The Confederate troops cease firing, Belle reaches the top of the hill and collapses in her father's arms.

Confederate troops surround Belle and Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing? You could have been killed! Your arm is bleeding!

BELLE

They mean to trap you from behind. The town has only a few troops. If you hurry down the hill you can beat them.

BEN

Somebody go tell General Jackson what Belle just said.

Word spreads and the Confederate force gathers at the top of the hill and charges down toward Front Royal.

Guns blaze. Troops whoop and holler as they run through the trees into Front Royal.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - NEXT DAY - MORNING

Belle, with her arm bandaged, sits at a table with Ben.

Confederate troops sit around the lobby. They talk quietly.

BELLE

I wish you didn't have to go.

BEN

We have orders to move east. The Yankees will be back and they still occupy Martinsburg.

BELLE

I'd be safer in Martinsburg.

BEN

They know it was you who ran through the trees.

Ben gives Belle a loving look.

BEN (CONT'D)

I almost killed you.

Belle starts to cry.

Ben reaches over and hugs Belle.

Belle cries on Ben's shoulder.

BELLE

I love you, papa.

BEN

I love you too. You're very brave  
and I'm very proud of you.

Ben unfolds himself from Belle and stands.

The other soldiers in the lobby grab their gear and begin to leave the lobby.

BEN (CONT'D)

I have to go.

Belle watches Ben leave the lobby.

INT. HOTEL - BELLE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Belle and Eliza look out the window at Union troops marching down the street.

ELIZA

I hope they're not planning on setting  
up house again.

BELLE

Jackson and my father are far away.

ELIZA

But you're not.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

Aunt Frances enters the room.

AUNT FRANCES

There's someone here to see you.

BELLE

It must be John.

Belle leaves the room.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Belle enters the lobby and is surprised by what she sees.

Colonel Tom Thatcher, who we saw previously at Belle's court-martial, and LUCAS CRIDGE, a steely-eyed man, 40's, stand in the lobby.

Cridge is dressed in civilian clothes.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
Are you Belle Boyd?

BELLE  
Yes.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
My name is Lucas Cridge. I believe you have met Colonel Thatcher on a previous occasion when you were charged with trying to pass information to the enemy.

BELLE  
Hello, Colonel Thatcher.

Thatcher salutes Belle.

COLONEL THATCHER  
Miss Belle.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
You are under arrest for aiding and abetting an enemy of the United States.

Uncle James and Aunt Frances enter the lobby and stand beside Belle.

Cridge removes a note from his coat pocket and reads:

LUCAS CRIDGE (CONT'D)  
"You will proceed immediately to Front Royal, Virginia and arrest, if found there, Miss Belle Boyd and transport her to Washington where she is to be incarcerated. Signed, Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War."

BELLE  
What have I done?

LUCAS CRIDGE  
You are an enemy of the United States and as such, I am to escort you to the Federal prison in Washington.

Uncle James catches Belle as she wobbles at the news.

AUNT FRANCES  
You can't do this! She's a child!

LUCAS CRIDGE  
I have my orders. She's allowed to bring her clothes as none will be issued to her at the prison.

Cridge turns to Belle.

LUCAS CRIDGE (CONT'D)  
Hurry up and pack. I don't have  
time to waste.

Belle turns and slowly walks towards the stairs.

Cridge follows Belle to the stairs.

Aunt Frances and Uncle James look on in sorrow.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BELLE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

BELLE  
Can I tidy up my room before you  
enter?

LUCAS CRIDGE  
Oh no you don't.

Cridge pushes past Belle and enters

INT. BELLE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cridge goes through dresser drawers. He removes the mattress from the bed and turns it upside down. He turns Belle's dresses inside out. He inspects undergarments and throws them on the floor. He looks under the bed and removes a leather pouch. He opens the pouch and finds messages.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
(smirking)  
Just making sure you don't deliver  
these messages to the rebels.

He rips up the messages - throws the scraps at Belle.

Cridge looks under the bed again - finds a pistol.

LUCAS CRIDGE (CONT'D)  
Another trophy from the rebel spy.  
I'll take this as evidence.

Cridge strides from the room into the hallway.

LUCAS CRIDGE (CONT'D)  
(from the hallway)  
You have thirty minutes to pack your  
hussy clothes. Don't attempt to  
jump out the window. The hotel is  
surrounded by troops. Start packing.

Cridge strides away - his laughter is heard.

Belle looks at the room, sits on the floor and cries into the heap of clothing that surrounds her.

SUPERIMPOSE: "WASHINGTON, D.C. - OLD CAPITOL PRISON - JULY, 1862"

INT. OLD CAP PRISON - WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Belle stands alone in the office.

The prison warden, WILLIAM WOOD, 50's, a cordial man, enters the office.

WARDEN WOOD

Miss Boyd, my name is William Wood. I am the warden of this prison. I will attempt to make you as comfortable as possible. Come, let me show you to your room.

INT. PRISON CELL - LATER

The cell is dingy - contains a rickety bed, washstand, small table, cracked mirror, two old chairs and a broom.

Belle and Warden Wood enter the cell.

WARDEN WOOD

I hope the accommodations are suitable. I will grant you any reasonable request. I will leave the cell door unlocked if you promise not to leave. If you are caught outside the cell, I will have it locked. Your trunk will be brought up later. Goodbye.

Wood leaves the cell.

Belle eyes the dusty cell, walks to a corner and cries.

Two Union soldiers enter the cell - they carry Belle's trunk.

Belle wipes her eyes.

BELLE

Thank you. Put it anywhere.

The soldiers place the trunk in a corner and leave the cell.

Warden Wood and Lucas Cridge enter the cell.

WARDEN WOOD

Mister Cridge has come to interview you on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Lucas eyes the cell.

LUCAS CRIDGE

I've come to take your confession.  
We have plenty of evidence against  
you.

BELLE

I want to go home.

LUCAS CRIDGE

This is your home - for now. But I  
tell you what. Swear allegiance to  
the Union and you can go home right  
now.

Belle, frustrated, angry and scared, picks up the broom and  
hits Wood and Cridge. They are forced to back up towards  
the cell door.

BELLE

Get out! Get out!

CHEERS and YELLS of support are heard from nearby cells.

Wood and Cridge retreat to the corridor.

LUCAS CRIDGE

You haven't seen the last of me!

Belle throws the broom in the direction of the cell door -  
it falls harmlessly to the floor.

Belle slams the cell door shut and falls onto the bed,  
punching the pillow and crying once again.

INT. BELLE'S PRISON CELL - LATER - EVENING

Belle moves her clothes from one pile to another - she tries  
to make the cell as livable as possible.

An untouched food tray is seen on the table.

PRIVATE ROBERT GRANGER, early 20's, kind face and manner,  
walks up to Belle's cell.

PVT. GRANGER

Hello, Miss Boyd.

BELLE

Hello.

PVT. GRANGER

My name is Robert Granger.

Granger looks at the food tray.

PVT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

You didn't eat.

BELLE

I wasn't hungry.

PVT. GRANGER

It doesn't look appetizing. I'll be right back.

Belle fiddles with the pile of clothes - folding and unfolding the same dress.

Granger walks up to the cell door.

PVT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

I got some peaches. I hope you like peaches.

BELLE

Please, come in.

Granger enters the cell and hands Belle three peaches.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Belle places one peach under the pillow on the bed, gives one peach back to Granger. She begins eating the third peach.

Belle and Granger eat their peaches.

SERGEANT FRANK GARRISON, 30's, a surly, unlikable sort, storms into the cell.

SGT. GARRISON

What the hell is going on?

Granger is surprised by the appearance of Garrison and drops his peach into Belle's lap.

SGT. GARRISON (CONT'D)

Making nice to the rebel bitch?  
I'll deal with that peach!

Garrison walks to Belle, puts his hand on the peach on her lap and pushes - hard.

Belle yells and slaps Garrison across the face.

BELLE

How dare you! Get out!

SGT. GARRISON

You hussy! You ain't seen the last of me!

Garrison storms out of the cell.

BELLE

Who was that?

PVT. GRANGER

That was Sergeant Garrison. He has a mean streak. I'm sorry about what just happened.

BELLE

It's not your fault. Here.

Belle hands Granger the peach from her lap.

PVT. GRANGER

Thank you. Goodbye.

Granger leaves the cell.

Belle cries.

SUPERIMPOSE: "THREE WEEKS LATER"

INT. BELLE'S PRISON CELL - MORNING

Belle, gaunt looking, sits on the cell floor - she stares at the ceiling.

There is a KNOCK on the cell door.

BELLE

(in a weak voice)

Come in.

DOCTOR EDWARD BATES, 50's, a kindly man, enters the cell.

DOCTOR BATES

Hello Belle, I'm Doctor Bates.

Dr. Bates is surprised by Belle's condition.

DOCTOR BATES (CONT'D)

You look terrible.

BELLE

I want to go home.

DOCTOR BATES

Let me help you to the bed.

Bates helps Belle stand up and walks her to the bed.

Bates checks Belle's pulse, examines her eyes, squeezes her hands.

DOCTOR BATES (CONT'D)

I understand you eat very little.

BELLE

I want to go home.

DOCTOR BATES

If I could send you home, I would. I am going to improve your food and tell the warden to let you exercise in the yard. Sitting in this cell isn't helping you. Good day, Miss Boyd. I'm seeing the warden right now.

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - SAME DAY - LATER

Warden Wood sits at his desk.

Dr. Bates enters the office.

WARDEN WOOD

Hello, Doctor. Am I sick?

DOCTOR BATES

No time for jokes. Have you seen Belle Boyd lately?

WARDEN WOOD

I've been busy. Why?

DOCTOR BATES

She is undernourished and in great need of fresh air and exercise. Get her some decent food and give her yard privileges.

WARDEN WOOD

She gets no special treatment.

DOCTOR BATES

Do you want a Joan of Arc on your hands? You read the papers. Every day it's another story about Belle Boyd the rebel spy. That whole thing at Front Royal has been blown out of proportion.

WARDEN WOOD

I need permission from the War Department.

DOCTOR BATES

Get it or else I will have her removed from your jail. Imagine what the papers will make out of poor Belle Boyd. Too sick to stay in her cell.

EXT. PRISON YARD - AFTERNOON

Belle walks up and down the yard.

Prisoners whose cells face the yard watch Belle as she strolls along.

Belle SINGS.

BELLE

I wish I was in the land of cotton.  
Old times there are not forgotten.  
Look away! Look away! Look away!  
Dixie Land.

Some of the prisoners start singing.

BELLE AND PRISONERS

In Dixie Land where I was born in  
early on one frosty morning. Look  
Away! Look Away! Look Away! Dixie  
Land.

Passersby in the street stop to watch and listen in amazement.

BELLE AND PRISONERS (CONT'D)

Then I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray!  
Hooray! In Dixie Land I'll take my  
stand to live and die in Dixie.  
Away! Away! Away down South in  
Dixie. Away! Away! Away down South  
in Dixie.

Warden Wood and Sgt. Garrison enter the prison yard.

Wood walks up to Belle who is still singing.

WARDEN WOOD

That's enough singing.

Belle stops singing.

BELLE

Is my time up?

WARDEN WOOD

It is for today.

Warden Wood takes Belle by the arm to escort her out of the yard.

Passersby and prisoners begin to BOO.

WARDEN WOOD (CONT'D)

Do you see what you've done? You've  
got everybody riled up, just like  
you always do.

Warden Wood turns to Sgt. Garrison.

WARDEN WOOD (CONT'D)  
Put her back in her cell, Sergeant.

Garrison grabs Belle roughly by the arm and pushes her inside the prison door.

INT. PRISON - CONTINUOUS

Garrison pushes Belle - begins to drag her forward.

BELLE  
You're hurting me!

SGT. GARRISON  
Shut up!

Garrison drags Belle to her cell, shoves her inside and pushes her onto the bed.

SGT. GARRISON (CONT'D)  
Still feel like singing?

Garrison leaves the cell just as Belle throws the bed pillow in his direction.

INT. BELLE'S PRISON CELL - DAY

We see Belle enjoying a meal - soup, potatoes, steak, pears, peaches and coffee. Sugar cubes lay next to the coffee cup.

Private Granger walks by. Belle sees him - calls out.

BELLE  
Would you like some of this food?  
There is enough here for all of  
Washington.

Granger walks into the cell.

PVT. GRANGER  
Better not. The peaches got me into  
trouble the last time.

BELLE  
I hope it wasn't too much trouble.

PVT. GRANGER  
Sergeant Garrison yelled at me then  
he stomped away.

VOICES are heard in the corridor.

PVT. GRANGER (CONT'D)  
I have to go. Garrison is coming  
for changing of the guard.

Granger hurries from the cell.

Garrison walks down the corridor and stops outside of Belle's cell.

He stares at Belle's dinner tray and enters the cell.

SGT. GARRISON  
So that's your reward for almost  
causing a mutiny?

BELLE  
We were singing. That's all.

Garrison picks up a pear.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Doctor Bates prescribed this food.

Garrison puts the pear in his pocket.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Do you think I could give some sugar  
cubes to the prisoners across the  
hall?

SGT. GARRISON  
Sure, why not.

Belle picks up a handful of sugar cubes and walks out of her cell.

She is about to hand some cubes to a prisoner across the corridor.

Garrison smashes the butt-end of his pistol into Belle's hand causing her to cry out in pain and fall to the floor. She holds her hand and cries.

SGT. GARRISON (CONT'D)  
That's for slapping me in the face,  
bitch.

Belle, in pain, stands up.

BELLE  
I want to see Warden Wood.

SGT. GARRISON  
Like hell!

Belle attempts to walk past Garrison - he pulls a knife and points it at Belle's stomach.

SGT. GARRISON (CONT'D)  
You're not going anywhere.

Belle pushes the knife away - Garrison pins Belle to the wall - and attempts to kiss her.

Belle screams, frees her undamaged hand and punches Garrison in the jaw. The fight begins.

The fighting and shouting cause prisoners to yell and holler.

Sentries appear - they take Garrison away.

Belle is exhausted from the fight - she slowly sinks to the floor.

BELLE

(crying)

I want to go home. I just want to go home.

SUPERIMPOSE: TWO WEEKS LATER

EXT. BELLE'S PRISON CELL - DAY

Warden Wood walks down the corridor.

WARDEN WOOD

All you rebels get ready! You're all going to Dixie tomorrow! Oh, happy day!

Warden Wood stands outside Belle's cell.

WARDEN WOOD (CONT'D)

Did you hear me, Miss Boyd? You're going home.

BELLE

What happened. Did the North surrender?

WARDEN WOOD

A prisoner exchange agreement has been reached. And you're leaving because of all the publicity. But let me make one thing clear. You are being exchanged but not pardoned. If you are caught inside Union lines you will be sent back here.

BELLE

I am free?

WARDEN WOOD

Pack your belongings. I can't wait to have an empty jail all to myself.

EXT. PRISON - NEXT DAY - DAY

Prisoners are seen making their way out of the prison.

They climb into wagons.

Belle and Warden Wood stand off to the side.

WARDEN WOOD

A wagon is coming for you. It's best if you don't travel with the other prisoners.

BELLE

Afraid I might start singing?

WARDEN WOOD

Something like that.

A Union military wagon drives up to the prison.

Colonel Ripley climbs down.

BELLE

John!

RIPLEY

Hello, Miss Boyd.

WARDEN WOOD

You two know each other?

RIPLEY

I was at Front Royal when Miss Boyd warned Jackson of our trap. I requested this assignment to make sure she goes behind rebel lines.

WARDEN WOOD

Well Colonel, she's all yours.

Warden Wood turns and leaves.

RIPLEY

(to Belle)

Get in the wagon.

Ripley helps Belle into the wagon.

He puts her trunk in the back of the wagon and climbs into the wagon.

BELLE

Are you taking me home?

RIPLEY

I will take you to the Confederate lines at Winchester. They will take you from there.

EXT. OUTSIDE WINCHESTER - ROAD - - DAY

FROM BELLE'S POV IN THE WAGON:

A contingent of Confederate soldiers stand on the road.

Ripley stops the wagon.

Confederate SERGEANT SCOTT walks toward the wagon holding a white flag of truce.

SGT. SCOTT

Hello, Miss Boyd. I am Sergeant Scott. We will escort you from here.

Scott stares at Ripley.

SGT. SCOTT (CONT'D)

Did this Yankee treat you respectfully, ma'am?

BELLE

With the utmost courtesy.

SGT. SCOTT

You're a Southern treasure and we don't want anything to happen to you.

Scott helps Belle down from the wagon.

Other Confederate soldiers off-load Belle's trunk from the back of the wagon.

BELLE

Goodbye, John.

Ripley nods at Belle, turns the wagon around and drives off.

SGT. SCOTT

(to Belle)

We have to make a stop before you go wherever it is you're going.

BELLE

And where might that be?

Scott smiles.

SGT. SCOTT

It's a surprise.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ENCAMPMENT OF STONEWALL JACKSON - DAY

Tents are arrayed in an open field.

Soldiers clean rifles and busy themselves around cook fires.

Confederate regimental and battle flags wave in the breeze.

Belle's wagon drives through the camp - soldiers stop their work and salute the passing Belle.

The wagon stops in front of a large tent.

COLONEL JACKSON steps from the tent.

BELLE  
(in a surprised voice)  
Colonel Jackson!

COLONEL JACKSON  
Hello, Miss Boyd. I'm glad to finally  
meet the hero of Front Royal.

Belle stumbles from the wagon in her rush to meet Jackson.

BELLE  
Oh, sir. It's an honor to meet you.

COLONEL JACKSON  
The honor is mine, Belle. I asked  
Sergeant Scott to escort you here so  
I could properly thank you for your  
service to the Confederacy.

A Confederate squad, in full dress uniform, approaches Jackson, stops and stands at attention.

Musicians form up behind Belle.

COLONEL JACKSON (CONT'D)  
On behalf of myself, the Army and  
the Confederacy, I thank you for the  
immense service you have rendered  
your country. It is my privilege to  
commission you as Captain and honorary  
aide-de-camp. Sergeant Scott, may I  
have the package from my tent.

SGT. SCOTT  
Yes, sir!

Scott salutes and enters the tent.

He comes out holding a package wrapped in paper.

He unwraps the package to reveal a full dress Confederate uniform and hands it to Jackson.

COLONEL JACKSON

(smiling)

This is for you, Captain Belle Boyd.

Jackson hands the stunned Belle a Captain's uniform coat, skirt, boots and hat.

The musicians begin to play "DIXIE"

BELLE

I don't know what to say.

"PUT IT ON" is heard from the assembled soldiers.

COLONEL JACKSON

Why don't you change in my tent?

Belle looks around at the tribute being given her.

COLONEL JACKSON (CONT'D)

Go on. They worship you.

Belle enters the tent.

Two soldiers close the tent flaps and respectfully stand guard.

INT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Belle stares at the uniform.

BELLE

(to herself)

Oh, daddy. I wish you were here to see this.

Belle begins to change into the uniform.

EXT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Belle comes out of the tent dressed in the uniform.

Cheering erupts from the soldiers.

The musicians play on.

INT. JACKSON'S TENT - LATER

Belle and Jackson eat.

Belle is in her uniform.

COLONEL JACKSON

What are your plans?

BELLE

I'm going home. I miss my family so much.

COLONEL JACKSON

It's not safe. Martinsburg is in Union hands. I understand that you can be sent back to prison if you are caught in Union territory. Do you have family further south?

BELLE

Yes. I have relatives in Tennessee. I could visit them for awhile and then go to Richmond.

COLONEL JACKSON

What would you do in Richmond?

BELLE

Visit President Davis.

COLONEL JACKSON

Make sure you appear in civilian clothes. The citizens of Richmond wouldn't know what to make of Captain Belle Boyd.

BELLE

I will treasure this uniform forever, sir. I can't thank you enough for such an honor.

COLONEL JACKSON

It's well deserved. Your presence here has lifted the spirits of the entire regiment. They have prepared a tent for you. I've never seen battle hardened men act like school girls over how your tent should be furnished.

Jackson stands and Belle follows suit.

COLONEL JACKSON (CONT'D)

May I show you to your tent, Captain?

EXT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jackson and Belle walk towards a tent.

COLONEL JACKSON

Here it is. We all hope the accommodations meet with your approval.

Jackson salutes Belle.

COLONEL JACKSON (CONT'D)  
I will say good night.

BELLE  
Good night, sir. Thank you so much.

INT. BELLE'S TENT - MOMENT LATER

FROM BELLE'S POV:

The tent is decorated with two lit silver candle sticks.

A lace table cloth covers a make shift table.

A rocking chair stands in a corner.

A woven rug covers the dirt floor.

A quilted coverlet covers the cot.

BELLE  
(to herself)  
It's beautiful.

MUMBLING is heard outside the tent.

Belle opens the tent flap and sees:

EXT. BELLE'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Sergeant Scott and several soldiers stand about with hang dog expressions.

SGT. SCOTT  
We hope you like the tent, ma'am.

BELLE  
It's lovely. But you didn't have to go to so much trouble.

SGT. SCOTT  
We heard about your poor treatment in that Yankee prison. Read about it too. We wanted to make you as comfortable as we could.

Belle approaches Scott and kisses his cheek.

BELLE  
Thank you.

Belle walks up to each soldier standing by Scott and kisses each one on the cheek.

SUPERIMPOSE: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA - MARCH, 1864

INT. JEFFERSON DAVIS' OFFICE - AFTERNOON

JEFFERSON DAVIS sits at a desk.

Belle sits in a chair in front of the desk.

A large Confederate flag is visible on the wall.

JEFF DAVIS

So you come to offer your service to the Confederacy.

BELLE

The two men I admire most in this world are dead. My father and Colonel Jackson would be alive today if it wasn't for this war. I'm tired of visiting relatives. I want to help.

Davis stands and paces in thoughtful contemplation.

JEFF DAVIS

How would you like to go to Europe?

BELLE

Europe?

JEFF DAVIS

Yes. England and France. It is important that they recognize the sovereignty of the Confederate States. You are an international celebrity respected for your activities for the Confederate cause.

BELLE

When do I leave?

SUPERIMPOSE: WILMINGTON, VIRGINIA - MAY 9, 1864

EXT. DECK OF THE GREYHOUND

Belle stands topside gazing out at the water.

The deck is piled high with cotton and assorted crates and barrels.

The ship moves through the water.

All is quiet until, off camera, we hear: SAIL HO!

There is a rush of activity as sailors rush aft.

Sails are unfurled - the call for MORE STEAM is heard.

A Union cruiser, The Connecticut, closes the distance between itself and the Greyhound.

The captain of the Greyhound, CAPTAIN HENRY, rushes to Belle's side.

CAPTAIN HENRY

Miss Belle, I declare to you that,  
if you weren't on board, I would  
burn her to the water's edge rather  
than see a single bale of our cotton  
fall into the hands of those bastards.

BELLE

Burn her. I am not afraid. Do what  
you must to make sure they don't get  
this vessel.

Captain Henry turns from Belle and approaches several of his officers. His conversation is animated. A lot of gesturing among the officers.

Captain Henry walks back to Belle.

CAPTAIN HENRY

It's too late to burn her now. Their  
ship is almost on us. We must  
surrender!

Suddenly, a HUMMING sound is heard and a one hundred pound bolt whizzes just past Belle's head and splashes into the water on the other side of the Greyhound.

CAPTAIN HENRY (CONT'D)

God damn it! They're going to sink  
us!

An off camera VOICE is heard: "Steamer ahoy! Haul down that flag, or we'll pour a broadside into you!"

Captain Henry nods to the WHEELMAN.

CAPTAIN HENRY (CONT'D)

Lower the colors.

The wheelman lowers the British flag.

Sailors busy themselves with throwing kegs, crates and barrels overboard.

Captain Henry jumps overboard and swims away.

A crew boat rows from The Connecticut to The Greyhound.

A rope is dropped from The Greyhound and ENSIGN SAMUEL HARDINGE, climbs the rope followed by the boat crew.

Belle stares at Hardinge who stares back. They hold each other's gaze.

Hardinge approaches Belle.

HARDINGE

I am now in command of this vessel.  
Please consider yourself a passenger,  
not a prisoner. There is nothing to  
be afraid of.

BELLE

I was never frightened of a Yankee,  
Mister -

HARDINGE

John Hardinge.

BELLE

May I retire to my cabin? This turn  
of events has completely drained me.

EXT. THE GREYHOUND - DECK - MOONLIT EVENING

Belle and Hardinge sit together by the wheel.

Their shoulders touch and they speak in hushed undertones.

Camera closes in on them - mic up

HARDINGE

I want you to marry me.

Belle studies Hardinge.

BELLE

Such a union would have serious  
consequences. Let me think about  
it.

HARDINGE

I understand. There is time before  
we tie up in Boston.

SUPERIMPOSE - BOSTON HARBOR

The Greyhound is tied up at a dock.

EXT. DECK OF THE GREYHOUND - MORNING

UNION ADMIRAL SILAS STRINGHAM and Hardinge stand on the deck.

STRINGHAM

The escape of Captain Henry rests on  
your shoulders. You are under arrest.  
You will come with me. The Greyhound  
has been cleared to proceed to Canada.  
The War Department wants no more of  
Belle Boyd.

SUPERIMPOSE: NIAGARA, CANADA

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Belle sits at a desk and writes a letter.

VOICE-OVER OF LETTER BELLE IS WRITING

Dear Mama:

I hope this letter finds you well. Forgive me for not writing sooner but circumstances prevented me. I don't know how long I will be here. We heard that Union spies are waiting for me to make a mistake and walk across the Suspension Bridge to the American side. They wish to entrap me and make me their prisoner again. I have been in contact with Confederate agents who have secured funds for my journey to Europe. I will write you if and when I get there.

Love, Belle

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Hardinge is in the cell.

Admiral Stringham stands outside the cell and reads from a letter he is holding.

STRINGHAM

For your neglect of duty in permitting the captain of the prize steamer Greyhound under your charge to escape, you are hereby dismissed from the Navy of the United States as an Acting Ensign.

HARDINGE

Now I can go to Europe.

SUPERIMPOSE: PICADILLY, ENGLAND

INT. ST. JAMES CHURCH - DAY

Belle, is dressed in white and faces the altar. Hardinge stands next to Belle. He is dressed in a black broadcloth suit.

A MAN and a WOMAN stand behind Belle and Hardinge. They are the witnesses.

The REVEREND THOMAS HARDY faces Belle and Hardinge.

REV. HARDY

Do you Samuel Hardinge, take Isabella Boyd to be your lawfully wedded wife. To have and to hold, for richer or poorer 'til death do you part?

HARDINGE

I do.

REV. HARDY

And do you, Isabella Boyd, take Samuel Hardinge to be your lawfully wedded husband? To have and to hold, for richer or poorer, 'til death do you part?

BELLE

I do.

REV. HARDY

Then, by the power vested in me by Almighty God and the Church of England, I pronounce you man and wife. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. You may kiss the bride, Mister Hardinge.

Hardinge plants one on Belle.

Reverend Hardy and the two witnesses congratulate the happy couple.

REV. HARDY (CONT'D)

Do you plan a honeymoon?

BELLE

John leaves for America with dispatches for the Confederate government and to see my family. Your prime minister has graciously invited me to visit him. I hope to persuade him to recognize the Confederate States as a sovereign nation.

REV. HARDY

Well, good luck to both of you.

BELLE

Thank you for performing the ceremony on such short notice. We both appreciate your kindness and arranging for the witnesses.

REV. HARDY

My cousins were delighted when I told them that the celebrated Belle Boyd needed witnesses for her wedding.

BELLE

Celebrated?

REV. HARDY

You are known internationally, my dear. The French newspapers call you La Belle Rebelle.

HARDINGE

So I guess I'll be known as the husband of Belle Boyd and my wife eternally referred to as Belle Boyd.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME DAY - NIGHT

Belle and Hardinge lay in bed entwined in each other's arms.

One lit candle creates a soft, romantic atmosphere.

BELLE

I wish we could stay like this forever.

HARDINGE

Our lives won't be our own until this damn war is over.

BELLE

I want to go back to America with you.

HARDINGE

If they catch you

BELLE

Would they really hang me?

HARDINGE

You have no idea how dangerous they think you are.

BELLE

But it's not safe for you either. You have renounced your allegiance to the Union. By marrying me you are a traitor.

HARDINGE

You are my symbol of courage and resistance.

BELLE

I don't feel very resistant at the moment.

HARDINGE

I'm glad you said that.

Hardinge sits up and blows out the candle.

SUPERIMPOSE: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

INT. OFFICE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS - DAY

Davis and Hardinge are seated.

A Confederate flag is visible.

An opened dispatch pouch is on the desk.

JEFF DAVIS

I appreciate your bringing these  
dispatches.

Davis rummages through the various papers.

JEFF DAVIS (CONT'D)

Did Miss Boyd indicate that there  
was any hope of the English and the  
French recognizing the Confederacy?

HARDINGE

History is not on your side. The  
English cannot and will not ask their  
citizens to approve something they  
abolished more than twenty-five years  
ago.

JEFF DAVIS

Do you believe in our cause?

HARDINGE

I believe in Belle, not your cause.  
I delivered those dispatches so you  
would know your cause is lost.

Jeff stands and paces the room. He is uncomfortable with  
the tense conversation.

JEFF DAVIS

Please tell Miss Boyd I appreciate  
her service. I know you are anxious  
to be on your way, so I won't hold  
you any longer.

Hardinge stands.

HARDINGE

I am on my way to Martinsburg to  
visit her family.

SUPERIMPOSE: MARTINSBURG, VIRGINIA

Hardinge rides up the road in a wagon.

Union troops block his way.

Hardinge stops the wagon.

Lucas Cridge, on a horse, rides up to Hardinge.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
Mister Sam Hardinge?

HARDINGE  
How did you know I was here?

LUCAS CRIDGE  
Your famous wife is easy to keep track of. The minister who married the two of you is no friend of slavery. He informed our people that you were coming back with dispatches for the rebels.

HARDINGE  
What happens now?

LUCAS CRIDGE  
I am placing you under arrest for treason and desertion.

SUPERIMPOSE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Warden Wood sits at a desk.

Hardinge stands in front of the desk.

WARDEN WOOD  
Well, *Mister Belle Boyd*. How the worm turns, wouldn't you say? Having you as a guest of my prison is the next best thing to having your wife here again.

Wood stands up.

WARDEN WOOD (CONT'D)  
Come with me, I'll show you your new home.

SUPERIMPOSE: TWO MONTHS LATER

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Hardinge sits in the cell - holds his head in his hands.

Lucas Cridge, dressed in a suit, walks up to the cell door, unlocks it, and steps in.

LUCAS CRIDGE

Are you ready now to tell me what were in those dispatches you took to Richmond?

HARDINGE

I keep telling you I don't know.

LUCAS CRIDGE

Of course you do. I'll make a deal with you. If you tell me what information was given to Davis, I'll see to it that you receive your mail.

HARDINGE

I have mail?

LUCAS CRIDGE

From your lovely bride. She misses you so much.

HARDINGE

You read my mail? You have no right to read my mail!

LUCAS CRIDGE

You have no rights! You are at the tender mercies of the United States Government, which is *me*! Now, tell me what I want to know!

The dilemma Hardinge faces is captured in the look on his face. He makes a decision.

HARDINGE

Let me have the letters. Then I'll tell you what you want to know.

Cridge reaches into his coat pocket - removes an envelope - hands it to Hardinge.

LUCAS CRIDGE

I'll let you read it in private.  
I'll be back in the morning.

Cridge leaves the cell. Hardinge removes the letter from the envelope along with some paper money.

Hardinge reads the letter.

VOICE OVER - BELLE

BELLE

(voice over)

Dear Sam: My heart grieves for your circumstance.

(MORE)

BELLE (CONT'D)

I know it is your love for me that has caused it. Be strong my love; I am lost without you. I will hold you in my heart and await the day we are together again. Yours in true love, Belle.

SUPERIMPOSE: LONDON, ENGLAND

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Belle sits on an examination table talking with DOCTOR WATKINS.

BELLE

Was I right?

DR. WATKINS

Quite. I understand your husband is not in the best of circumstances back home.

BELLE

I'm going to do something about that right now.

SUPERIMPOSE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Hardinge sits in his cell. A figure of despair.

Cridge enters the cell and throws a packet of letters onto the floor.

LUCAS CRIDGE

Enough of your beating around the bush! Tell me what I want to know or I'll burn these letters.

Hardinge senses the reality of his situation.

HARDINGE

The English will not recognize the Confederacy unless they abolish slavery.

LUCAS CRIDGE

Will the French come in on the rebel side?

HARDINGE

Only if the English come in.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
 Will the Catholic Church recognize  
 the Confederacy? Will the pope speak  
 from both sides of his holy mouth?

HARDINGE  
 No.

LUCAS CRIDGE  
 So this war is about over.

Cridge picks the packet of letters up from the floor - hands them to Hardinge.

LUCAS CRIDGE (CONT'D)  
 I'll save you the trouble of reading  
 your wife's love letters. You're  
 going to be the father of a rebel  
 baby.

Cridge quickly leaves the cell and locks the door as Hardinge lunges towards the door.

HARDINGE  
 You bastard!

SUPERIMPOSE: WASHINGTON, D.C. - THE WHITE HOUSE

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN talks with Secretary of War, EDWIN STANTON.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN  
 Am I to understand that if she  
 publishes her memoirs many Union  
 politicians and Union military  
 officers could be embarrassed?

EDWIN STANTON  
 It's hard to tell what is truth and  
 what is fiction when it comes to  
 Belle Boyd. The newspapers have  
 made her a celebrity and any snippet  
 of information concerning her comings  
 and goings tend to be exaggerated.

Lincoln picks up a letter.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN  
 She threatens to reveal to the world  
 her treatment at the hands of prison  
 officials if her husband is not  
 immediately returned to her. Any  
 suggestions, Edwin?

EDWIN STANTON

I think releasing her husband would be the wisest course of action, Mister President.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Take care of it, Edwin.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Hardinge sits on the cot and reads Belle's letters.

Warden Wood enters the cell.

WARDEN WOOD

You are free to go.

HARDINGE

What did you say?

WARDEN WOOD

You are no longer welcome here. Go.

HARDINGE

What happened?

WARDEN WOOD

Your wife wrote to President Lincoln. All hell broke loose.

Warden Wood removes a letter from his pocket.

WARDEN WOOD (CONT'D)

Here is your release, take it and go.

EXT. PRISON - LATER

Hardinge walks away from the prison.

Cridge walks up.

HARDINGE

Goodbye, Cridge.

LUCAS CRIDGE

Goodbye, Sam. No hard feelings?

Hardinge punches Cridge in the mouth - Cridge falls down.

HARDINGE

That's for violating my wife's personal garments at Front Royal and for reading my mail, you bastard!

Hardinge continues down the street.

Cridge stands up.

LUCAS CRIDGE

I didn't steal the money she sent  
you.

MONTAGE:

Hardinge walks in the rain.

Boards a ship - coughs heavily.

Disembarks the ship and runs to the waiting Belle.

END MONTAGE

EXT. DOCK

Belle and Hardinge hold each other and cry.

BELLE

I was so worried.

HARDINGE

It's over now. How are you and the  
baby?

Hardinge places his hand on Belle's stomach - has a coughing  
fit.

BELLE

Are you all right?

HARDINGE

I'm very tired. Had to make my way  
from Washington to New York to catch  
the ship. I had to walk part of the  
way. It rained a lot.

BELLE

Let's get you home and into some  
clean clothes.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Hardinge lays in bed - coughs in his sleep.

Doctor Watkins stands next to the bed - a look of concern on  
his face.

Belle is lighting candles.

DR. WATKINS

I need to speak with you outside,  
Belle.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DR. WATKINS

He has pneumonia. His lungs are congested and his vital signs are weak. I'll be back in the morning.

BELLE

Thank you.

Doctor Watkins exits. Belle walks back into the

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Belle straighten covers, brush Hardinge's hair back from his forehead and light more candles.

Belle sits in a chair beside the bed and tenderly holds Hardinge's hand.

SUPERIMPOSE: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

EXT. ROOF OF THE CONFEDERATE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

THREE UNION SOLDIERS remove a large Confederate flag from atop the building. They hoist a large Union flag in its place.

SERGEANT BURNS, a tough-looking, war-weary veteran, 30's, stands on the ground watching the soldiers on the roof.

Visible and standing to the side are MRS. BOWEN, a proud, determined woman, 50's and MRS. JENKINS, a strong-willed, force woman, 50's.

A soldier on the roof throws the Confederate flag down to Burns.

ROOF SOLDIER

Hey, Sergeant, we don't have to wipe ourselves with tree branches for awhile.

Burns laughs, takes out a knife as if to cut up the flag.

MRS. BOWEN

Don't cut up that flag.

SGT. BURNS

This your flag.

MRS. BOWEN

It means a great deal to me. My son and brother died for that flag. I will fight you before I let you cut it up.

Burns looks at Mrs. Jenkins.

SGT. BURNS

And you, ma'am? Will you join in  
the fight to save this flag?

MRS. JENKINS

My husband has been missing for two  
years. He would not me to let you  
cut up that flag if I could stop  
you.

Burns senses the pride and determination of the two women.

SGT. BURNS

If you were in my shoes, what would  
you do?

Mrs. Bowen steps closer to Burns.

MRS. BOWEN

Good and brave men died on both sides.  
If I were you I'd step aside and  
leave that flag be. It means nothing  
to you but it means a great deal to  
us.

Burns looks long and hard at the two determined women. He  
makes his decision.

SGT. BURNS

I believe it does. No disrespect  
was meant to your kinfolk.

Burns bends over to pick up the flag.

MRS. JENKINS

We will tend to the flag.

Burns backs away from the flag.

Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Bowen walk to the flag, pick it up and  
carefully fold it. Mrs. Jenkins hands the flag to Mrs. Bowen  
and the two women walk away.

As they pass Sergeant Burns, he removes his hat in a gesture  
of respect.

The roof soldiers also remove their hats.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The day is dark and dreary. A misty rain falls.

Belle and a few mourners stand next to a closed coffin in an  
open grave.

A minister prays over the grave.

When the minister finishes the service, Belle steps up to the grave, picks up a handful of dirt and drops the dirt into the grave.

BELLE

I will miss you, Sam.

As the mourners walk away, Belle is approached by a news reporter.

REPORTER

Sorry for your loss, Miss Boyd. Can I ask what your plans are?

BELLE

I'm going home to have my baby.

SUPERIMPOSE: MARTINSBURG

EXT. BOYD HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Belle rocks a cradle. Mrs. Boyd sits next to Belle.

MRS. BOYD

It's so good to have you home. The end of the war made that possible.

BELLE

Yes it did. I'm going take care of my baby and help Mister Meaders in the store.

MRS. BOYD

Mister Meaders can run the store. You should take time for yourself.

BELLE

Working in the store will take my mind off of Sam and daddy.

MRS. BOYD

All that time in prison, Sam in prison, your father dead and buried. Everything lost.

Belle takes the baby out of the cradle and hands it to her mother.

BELLE

But look what we gained.

MRS. BOYD

She is beautiful.

Belle and Mrs. Boyd coo over the baby.

Eliza and Mary come out onto the porch.

ELIZA  
It's my turn to hold her.

MARY  
No it's not. It's my turn.

BELLE  
Mary, take the baby. Eliza, come  
walk with me.

Belle and Eliza leave the porch and walk down the street.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
I never thanked you for all you did  
to help me.

ELIZA  
Glad to help.

BELLE  
Now that the war is over, where will  
you go?

ELIZA  
I'm staying right here with the only  
family I got. I could have left  
anytime. Your daddy freed me the  
day he bought me. He gave me a paper  
to prove it. He said I could stay  
as long as I wanted. All I had to  
do was help around the house.

BELLE  
He never told me.

ELIZA  
Your mother and Mister Meaders knew.

BELLE  
Thank you for telling me.

ELIZA  
Let's go back to the house. It's my  
turn to hold the baby.

INT. THE EMPORIUM - DAY

Belle is busy behind the counter.

A bassinet sits next to her on the counter.

Belle peeks into the bassinet.

BELLE

Good morning, Grace. Did you sleep well?

The front door opens and DAVID CARTER, 40's, a thin, gaunt man, enters the store.

Carter's Confederate uniform is shabby and torn. There are no buttons on his uniform coat.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Good morning, Mister Carter.

Belle notices the absence of buttons.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Did you stop by for some coat buttons?

MISTER CARTER

I stopped in to see the baby.

BELLE

You can't go around without any buttons on your coat.

Belle rummages through a drawer full of buttons.

Meaders enters the store - looks at Mister Carter.

MEADERS

So they got you too.

MISTER CARTER

Took 'em this morning.

BELLE

What are you two talking about?

MISTER CARTER

Yankees say all Confederate insignia buttons must be removed. Hats, coats and pants.

BELLE

I've been so busy with the baby I didn't notice it.

MISTER CARTER

We're still the enemy. It's worse now that General Patterson is in charge.

BELLE

General Patterson?

MISTER CARTER

Came about a week ago.

BELLE

Where is he?

MISTER CARTER

He set up a command post at the  
Martinsburg hotel.

BELLE

I'm going home, Mister Meaders.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Belle, dressed in her Confederate uniform, walks with a  
purposeful stride.

Townspeople and Union soldiers stare and gawk at the sight  
of Belle in her uniform.

The crowd follows Belle to the

EXT. MARTINSBURG HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Belle strides into the lobby.

A DUTY CORPORAL looks up from a desk - dumbfounded at the  
sight of Belle's uniform

BELLE

I want to see General Patterson now!

DUTY CORPORAL

Who, what is calling, sir, eh, ma'am.

BELLE

You tell him that Captain Belle Boyd  
demands to see him now!

DUTY CORPORAL

Yes, sir. I mean yes, ma'am, Captain.

The Duty Corporal walks to a door and enters.

General Patterson comes out and stares at Belle.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Good God, woman! What are you doing?  
What are you wearing?

BELLE

I am complying with your button  
decree. Take them if you want them.

Belle sticks her chest out.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Go on. Take them.

Patterson raises his hands and backs up.

GENERAL PATTERSON

I'm not touching your buttons or anything else. Please leave.

BELLE

I'm not leaving until you remove my buttons or rescind the order. How dare you humiliate brave soldiers like this!

GENERAL PATTERSON

It's a Federal order signed by President Johnson. The Confederate insignia is not to be displayed in any manner.

BELLE

Lincoln would never have done this! You know it and I know it!

GENERAL PATTERSON

Lincoln is dead. Andrew Johnson is President.

BELLE

So you have no authority in your own jurisdiction?

GENERAL PATTERSON

It's not for me to rescind.

BELLE

Very well. I will remove my coat buttons. But know this, General, I am not wearing an undergarment above my waist.

Patterson's eyes go wide.

Belle twists off a coat button.

BELLE (CONT'D)

That's one.

She tosses the button at Patterson.

GENERAL PATTERSON

Don't do that!

Belle twists off a second button.

BELLE

That's two.

She tosses the second button at Patterson.

GENERAL PATTERSON

There's nothing I can do.

Belle twists off a third button.

BELLE

That's three.

GENERAL PATTERSON

All right. The order is rescinded.  
Now leave.

BELLE

Not yet. The United States Army  
will pay for replacing all confiscated  
buttons as well as the cost of having  
the buttons sewn back on.

GENERAL PATTERSON

But -

Belle puts a hand on a coat button.

BELLE

I'm running out of buttons, General.

GENERAL PATTERSON

All right. I agree. Now leave.  
And take those people outside with  
you.

Belle throws a salute to Patterson, smartly turns and walks  
into the street.

EXT. HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Belle addresses the crowd standing in front of the hotel.

BELLE

The button order has been rescinded.

Crowd yells and shouts its approval.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Tell all Confederate veterans who  
need buttons to go to Boyd's Emporium.  
The buttons and the sewing will be  
paid for by General Patterson.

The crowd continues cheering as Belle walks up the street.

General Patterson and the Duty Corporal step out onto the hotel porch. They watch Belle walk triumphantly up the street.

DUTY CORPORAL

Who is *that*, sir?

GENERAL PATTERSON

*That* is Belle Boyd, Siren of the Shenandoah.

SUPERIMPOSE: FOUR YEARS LATER

EXT. WOODS - EARLY AFTERNOON

Belle and GRACE, now 5, picnic in the woods.

Grace opens a picnic basket and removes a yellow bandanna with three Confederate buttons sewn on.

GRACE

Tell me again about the buttons, Mommy.

Belle takes the yellow bandanna and points to the buttons.

BELLE

This button is for Stonewall Jackson, who was a soldier. This button is for your grand daddy, who was a soldier. And this button is for your daddy, who also was a soldier.

GRACE

Were you a soldier, Mommy?

Belle looks at Grace and smiles.