

The Bone Orchard

by
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1 EXT. CEMETERY - EVENING 1

A dozen CHINESE MEN conduct a TAOIST funeral: Burn sticks of incense. Mutter their prayers over a CORPSE.

2 EXT. FOOTHILLS - EVENING 2

An ornate PALANQUIN - a wheelless carriage born on the shoulders of four Chinese men, races the setting sun.

Nearby, SHI MAN TAU (40's) and his teenage daughter SHI JIN pick WILDFLOWERS. The carriage passes. They quicken their pace.

3 EXT. CEMETERY - EVENING 3

Burning JOSS PAPER MONEY on an alter, the men lower the coffin into a fresh grave.

Suddenly a Chinese Man stops. Notes the passing Palanquin.

CHINESE MAN (SUBTITLE)

He's here...

The men chase after the carriage. Cheering.

The progression gives every sense of an ancient Chinese setting, until...

DEACON (O.S.)

Well... you don't see that every day...

DEACON CORLEY (29) - a well dressed American gunslinger with an easy air of command about him, rides forward.

He stops next to an OLD WEST town SIGN reading: "BEAUTON pop 837".

Underneath these letters, someone has scratched "THE BONE ORCHARD".

And what a boomtown it is: DRUNKS and WHORES strut the dusty street. Step aside for horses and wagons.

No one even bothers raise an eyebrow at the Chinese procession.

Deacon rides on into town, another SHADOWED RIDER following after him. Hat pulled low, we can't make out this rider's features...

4 INT. SALOON - NIGHT

4

CLEMENT WALKER (28) focuses his attention on the irate JASPER across the poker table. An untrustworthy charmer by nature, Clement's got his ever-present smile on now in full effect.

JASPER

You're a God damn cheat!

CLEMENT

Now Jasper, whatever would make you say a damn dirty thing like that?

JASPER

Because... You... you cheat!

The drunken Jasper reaches for the money on the table. Clement's hand flashes to the butt of his REVOLVER.

CLEMENT

Touch it, and I'll let fly.

Still, Jasper considers his own weapon. Freezes when a strong hand descends to his shoulder.

Deacon bestows the most milk-curdling of grins upon Jasper.

DEACON

You got to ask yourself, is that worth spilling blood over? To me it just looks like money.

Deacon turns his gaze to Clement, whose smile fades.

DEACON

Howdy, Clement.

CLEMENT

Deacon.

The celebratory air of the saloon falls completely silent.

DEACON

You been cheating again, Clem?

CLEMENT

Hell no.

DEACON

How many hand's you win at?

CLEMENT
 I don't keep track.
 (beat)
 Six or so.

DEACON
 You was cheating.

CLEMENT
 Was not. Won it fair and square.

DEACON
 Mind letting me in on your secret
 then?

CLEMENT
 Don't think I will.

CREE (O.S.)
 The reflection.

Deacon's shadowed companion, LUCRETIA 'CREE' CORLEY (19) steps in behind Jasper. Sullen but striking, she dresses as a man, her tangled hair her only feminine attribute.

CLEMENT
 Hell and damnation, look who's all
 grown up. Why, miss Lucretia
 Corley, you might be the prettiest
 thing ever graced this burg.

Holding a CARD in her hand, Cree draws their attention to its REFLECTION in the window.

CREE
 And you're so full of shit, it's
 coming out your mouth.

Clement gives her a WINK. Cree's hand drops to her REVOLVER.

CLEMENT
 Keep talking like that, Cree and
 I'm going to have to put you over
 my knee...

You could hear a pin drop in the room.

CLEMENT
 Why don't everyone run along now.
 Looks like me and the Corleys have
 some talking to do...

The crowd clears out, Jasper leading the way. Clement slowly stands. His eyes never leave Deacon's.

CLEMENT
Been a long time.

DEACON
It has. Too long...

The two rush towards each other and... EMBRACE.

CLEMENT
Goddam it's good to see you. What are you doing walking into my town this time of night?

DEACON
Looking for you and your sorry hide.

CLEMENT
You ride all the way tonight? You look tired enough to fall over. Let's find you a place.

5 EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

5

Clement leads Deacon and Cree past whorehouses and saloons.

CLEMENT
With all the train work going on most of the hotels is full up, but I know one... Hell, I know Beauton like the back of my hand.

DEACON
You mean, "The Bone Orchard".

CLEMENT
We have a fine cemetery. Growing almost as fast as the town itself. Sure, it looks like just another train town, but we got all the comforts of home.

(beat)
Hey, you want a two-dollar whore?

DEACON
As if I could afford that.

CLEMENT
If you're needing a loan I've got plenty to tide you over.

DEACON
No. We pay our own way. Sides, we're just passing through.

CLEMENT

Nah, you've got to keep me company here. I have me a sweet little gig with the railway here. I'm sure I could set you up with something.

DEACON

And do what? I don't exactly cotton to laying rails.

CLEMENT

No way going you'll lay them rails. That's Coolie work.

DEACON

Coolie?

Clement points to Man Tau and Jin as they hurry past with a bouquet of WILDFLOWERS.

CLEMENT

Coolies. Brought them over from China to work the tracks. Got themselves their own town other side of the cemetery. It's hard bullwork; you don't want any part of it.

DEACON

In that case, think we'll only stay a night or two. No sense in getting settled.

CLEMENT

Tell you what... Meet with me first light tomorrow and I assure you, you'll wind up staying.

DEACON

Sure thing, Clem.

CLEMENT

Now this is all hinging on one thing though: You got to stop calling me Clem. I go by Tex here.
(off Deacon's look)

What?

DEACON

Tex?

CLEMENT

On account I'm from Texas.

DEACON
Ain't no way I'm calling you that.

CLEMENT
Why the hell not?

DEACON
'Cause we all came up together.

CLEMENT
So?

DEACON
So, same town: same state. If
being from Texas will get you that
name, then you might as well start
calling me 'Tex'. Or Cree here.

They look over at Cree. She dourly stares back.

The boys laugh. Head on down the street.

6 EXT. THE CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

6

At the edge of the cemetery, both Man Tau and Jin stop.

She regards the desolate graveyard.

JIN (SUBTITLE)
It's bad luck to disturb the dead.

MAN TAU (SUBTITLE)
I know, but this may be our only
chance, Jin.

He starts forwards. Jin does not follow.

MAN TAU
It will be alright. Just hold your
breath...

Both take large gulps of air. Hurry through.

7 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - NIGHT

7

Deacon and Cree enter. Peer about the rough room.

CREE
I liked the street better.

DEACON
Clement said the owner's a friend,
and right now we'll take any friend
we can get.

MADELINE COOK (20's) - a fiery young Scotswoman, nearly spilling out her dress, cleans up behind the bar.

DEACON

Evening ma'am. You full up for the night?

MADELINE

We got room if ye've got hard currency.

Deacon produces cash. Signs the REGISTRY. She notes the name.

MADELINE

So, yer a Deacon are ye?

DEACON

Momma always prayed I'd go into the service of God. Ended up in Man's instead. Name stuck though.

MADELINE

I'm Madeline. Maddie if we're friendly. Yer room's at the top of the stairs, to the left. There's a bath if you're needing, and breakfast in the morning.

Cree heads for the stairs, but Deacon just can't take his eyes off of the lovely Madeline.

DEACON

Maddie, if you don't mind my asking, where you hail from? I know you're not a local. No, let me guess...

Madeline's smile disappears at Deacon's next words.

DEACON

... you're English?

She can only blink as she gathers her wits. Finally...

MADELINE

Come here.

DEACON

Pardon?

MADELINE

Come in a wee bit closer.

Deacon leans in, ready for a kiss. But Madeline BELTS him.
Cree spins around, her hand already on her gun.

But faster yet, Madeline pulls a double barrel SHOTGUN from under the bar. Aims for Cree.

MADELINE

I'm Scottish by birth; British by law. Being as we're not in jolly ol' England, I guess that just makes me Scottish...

Cree's hand remains on her gun.

MADELINE

...and so help me if you don't take your hand away from that pistol I'll cut you down.

Cree still doesn't move.

DEACON

You pull in your horns Cree, before you get 'em pulled off!

Reluctantly Cree releases her gun.

Deacon stands, his most disarming smile brought to bear.

DEACON

Didn't mean to cause offense. Suppose it would be the same if you had called me a Yank. Might I be forgiven?

Madeline lowers her gun.

MADELINE

Aye, I'll forgive ignorance once.

DEACON

Quite the scatter gun you got there.

MADELINE

Ye needn't have worried about your lady-friend. I keep one barrel full of rock salt for when folks get too much pepper in them.

DEACON

And the other barrel?

Madeline just smiles.

DEACON
Evening, ma'am.

Deacon herds Cree up the stairs.

CREE
I could have had her.

DEACON
That's not the point. We're
supposed to be keeping you safe.

CREE
But she made you look the fool.

DEACON
No, the fool's the one who don't
know when to stop picking fights.
You reign yourself in, Cree.

With a humph, Cree heads into the room.

Deacon smiles down at Madeline.

DEACON
'Sides... I hear bitting and
scratching's how the Scottish make
their wooing...

8 EXT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

8

Man Tau and Jin arrive at an ornate MEETING HOUSE in the
center of the Chinese side of town. He knocks.

A BODYGUARD answers.

MAN TAU (SUBTITLE)
We wish to speak to the illustrious
Bei Sheng.

BODYGUARD (SUBTITLE)
My master has traveled far and is
tired.

MAN TAU
Please, this is very important.

BODYGUARD
He has no time for the likes of
you. Begone!

Man Tau pushes forward. The Bodyguard raises his hand to strike...

When suddenly the Bodyguard FLIES against the wall! As if thrown by a strong wind.

BEI SHENG (SUBTITLE)

Halt!

BEI SHENG (30's) steps forward. Well dressed, he conducts himself with authority.

Though he outweighs the man quite a bit, the Bodyguard cowers before Bei Sheng.

BEI SHENG

I have come to this country to see the treatment of our people. If I do not speak to them, how can I know? Please, come in.

They follow Bei Sheng inside.

BEI SHENG

Why are you up so late? Only ghosts are out this time of night.

MAN TAU

I ask that your excellence would do me the honor of accepting the most humble of gifts.

Man Tau presents the WILDFLOWERS to Bei Sheng.

MAN TAU

These are flowers freshly picked from the hills nearby. Unlike any growing in China.

BEI SHENG

Yes, I saw many such as these on my trek here. They are quite beautiful.

MAN TAU

They are, but they are wild. Untended and unkempt they grow.

(beat)

Sir, my daughter Jin is like these flowers. Though beautiful, she grows in a wild land, unknown to the civilized world... Waiting for some stranger to pluck her as he passes.

BEI SHENG

That is every father's concern, but it is said "The thorn defends the rose, harming only those who would steal the blossom".

MAN TAU

That is true, but my daughter has no thorns, no will to harm another. Sir, this land is too hard for the likes of her. Please, take her back home with you. Do not let her grow up as a wildflower, but as a exquisite and cultivated rose.

Bei Sheng considers as Jin looks to her father. Shocked.

BEI SHENG

Such a precious gift cannot be refused.

He takes the flowers from Man Tau's hands.

MAN TAU

I humbly thank you, sir.

JIN

Father?...

MAN TAU

It is for the best, Jin. Obey me in this. It is for the best.

Kissing her forehead, Man Tau departs.

9 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - NIGHT

9

Cree sleeps in the single bed. Deacon camps out on the floor.

The sound of clomping BOOTS approaches their door. Deacon sits up. Ready for trouble.

But the sound of the boots moves on.

Deacon looks to Cree. Sees her eyes open and watching. Silently she puts her pistol back on the night stand.

Deacon lies back, but sleep won't come. Again he looks to Cree. Finds her fast asleep.

10 INT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT 10

The Bodyguard leads Jin into a back room where a large BOX sits. Hands her a blanket.

BODYGUARD (SUBTITLE)
Touch nothing.

11 EXT. FOOTHILLS - MORNING 11

Mounted up, Deacon, Cree and Clement wait at the top of a hill. A cloud of DUST approaches in the distance.

CLEMENT
There we go...

DEACON
What is it?

CLEMENT
A reason for you to stay. Cree,
you wait here.

Cree opens her mouth to argue.

DEACON
Sounds good, don't it Cree? You're
going to stay put. Understand?

Cree defiantly holds Deacon's gaze. Spits on the ground.

DEACON
Don't make me tell you a second
time, Cree.

Deacon and Clement ride on a little further. Clement looks back. Sees Cree roll herself a CIGARETTE.

CLEMENT
I swear, she's still the same
scrawny thing what wants to play
with the boys. Like when we was
kids.

DEACON
No. She's changed.

CLEMENT
Changed how?

But Deacon will not answer.

Clement points to the STAGECOACH cresting a nearby hill.

CLEMENT

That's the monthly stage from Sacramento, full up of wages for the train company. They just finishing a hard ride, so before they come into town they're going to stop at that stream there. Several thousand dollars waiting by that water...

The Stagecoach comes to rest at the STREAM.

DEACON

Now hold on there. I ain't about to rob nobody.

CLEMENT

Course not. You think I'd ask you to dry-gulch a fellow employee of the railway?

Deacon has no answer for this. Clement laughs.

CLEMENT

We ain't going to rob it... We're going to rescue it.

Four BANDITS emerge from their cover around the stream. Take the Stagecoach completely by surprise.

CLEMENT

Just follow my lead.

Clement spurs his horse on. Deacon follows.

Cree watches the boys descend. She pops her neck - another bad habit she's picked up...

...And as she does she catches a glimpse of a GLINT shining this side of the stream.

She takes a heavy drag. Tosses the cigarette away.

12

EXT. STREAM - MOMENTS LATER

12

Deacon draws his pistol as Clement rides towards the stream. They're almost there when several SHOTS sound.

CLEMENT

What? No...

Clement and Deacon arrive at the stream. Find the four masked Bandits standing over the CORPSES of the stagecoach guards.

CLEMENT

What the Goddam hell is going on here?

BANDIT

Guard went for his gun. Got himself shot. The others too.

CLEMENT

That wasn't in the plan.

BANDIT

Plan got changed when he went for his gun.

(eyes Deacon)

Who's this dandy?

Concealing his pistol in his lap, Deacons glares back at the Bandit.

CLEMENT

Cool it. Both of you. Dammit, no one was supposed to get killed. You was just supposed to scare 'em.

BANDIT

Like I said, plan changed. We improvised.

CLEMENT

Well, improvisation's over as of right now.

Clement considers the dead bodies. Finally...

CLEMENT

You boys ride out of here. We'll say we never saw you. Give you a couple of hours to get gone first. How's that sound?

BANDIT

What about the money?

CLEMENT

What about it?

BANDIT

We just gave ourselves dates dancing at the end of a rope. Figure we deserve some recompense.

Clement glances at their drawn weapons.

CLEMENT

Well, I don't see why not. We don't need--

DEACON

--No.

CLEMENT

Deacon?

DEACON

Throw down your arms. We're taking you in.

CLEMENT

Deacon, no...

But the Bandit just smiles at Deacon.

BANDIT

Que? No habla ingles...

The other Bandits laugh. But Deacon doesn't falter.

DEACON

Baja las pistolas...

Their laughter falls silent.

DEACON

...Assholes.

CLEMENT

Deacon! We ain't doing nothing. Let them keep the lucre.

DEACON

I said lay down your arms!

The Bandit looks to his cohorts. They shake their heads no.

BANDIT

You're one dumb son of a bitch, what don't even know when you're outnumbered and outgunned.

The Bandit reaches for his gun...

DEACON

Before you kill us, you should know something.

BANDIT

What's that, boy?

DEACON

You're wearing a dead man's boots.

Deacon SHOOTs the Bandit. Then the man next to him.

Clement draws his weapon. Trains it on the remaining men.

CLEMENT

Drop the guns. Don't go doing anything to join your friends here.

BANDIT 2

You're going to pay for this, Clem.

Clement cocks his hammer back.

CLEMENT

Name's Tex. You'll do well to remember that.

The Bandits drop their guns.

BANDIT 2

Oh, you're going to pay big...

BOOM: A bullet knocks Deacon's HAT off!

Dismounting, he and Clement flee as a SNIPER takes pop-shots.

DEACON

They got a sniper.

CLEMENT

No shit!?

They find cover as the Bandits join the melee. Pin the boys down.

BANDIT 2

You're a dead man, Clem!

Clement peeks over a rock. Fires back.

CLEMENT

Name's Tex, dammit!

A bullet ricochets by Clement's head. He ducks back.

CLEMENT

What we going to do?

DEACON

You're asking me? I'm just following your lead.

CLEMENT
 Now's not the time to get uppity,
 Deacon.

Deacon considers as bullets dance about them.

CLEMENT
 Well?

DEACON
 Alright, you're going to make for
 those trees while I--

A far-away SHOT cuts him off. A Bandit falls down. Dead.

DEACON
 Dammit, Cree...

Two more reports sound and the remaining BANDITS fall.

Deacon and Clement peer over the rock. See Cree calmly
 strolling over to the stream.

Clement can't take his eyes off her as she boldly makes her
 way to them, every bit an avenging angel.

CLEMENT
 She's a killer... A killer to the
 manner born...

Cree strides right to Clement. Shoves her gun in his face.

CREE
 You set them up!

DEACON
 Cree, don't!

CREE
 You set them up.

CLEMENT
 Guess I did. So?

CREE
 What's to keep you from setting us
 up?

CLEMENT
 Well hell, girl. I hardly knew
 them. Us... well, we're friends.

Gently Deacon pushes Cree's gun down.

DEACON
Let's get this wagon back to town.

Clement heads to the coach. Cree pulls Deacon aside.

CREE
I don't like him.

DEACON
I know.

CREE
Don't want to tie to him neither.

DEACON
Nor I, but right now he's the only
friend we got.

Picking up his aerated hat, Deacon heads on.

13 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

13

Clement and Deacon sit across from MR. MAXWELL (50's) - head
superintendent of the town's railroad, and the SHERIFF (40's)
- a fair and savvy lawman.

MR. MAXWELL
So, Mr. Corley--

DEACON
--Deacon if you please, sir.

MR. MAXWELL
Deacon. Tex here tells me we have
you two to thank for the retention
of this month's payroll.

DEACON
Yes sir, Mr. Maxwell. I helped out
best I could.

Mr. Maxwell tosses a lump of CASH onto the table.

MR. MAXWELL
And I believe I owe you a great
deal of thanks.

Eyeing the money, Deacon does not claim it.

MR. MAXWELL
Go on son, it's yours. And well
earned.

Deacon reaches out...

SHERIFF

You mind telling me what you and
Tex was doing out there at that
time of morning?

Sitting back in his chair, Deacon ignores the money.

DEACON

Well, "Tex" here was showing me lay
of the land. Saw some men trying
to take what weren't theirs.
Decided to step in.

SHERIFF

And you took out five armed men,
just the two of you?

Clement opens his mouth--

DEACON

--Yes sir, just the two of us.

SHERIFF

Must have been some bang-up
shooting on your part.

DEACON

I can handle a pistol if that's
what you're asking.

SHERIFF

You in the army?

DEACON

Was.

SHERIFF

Fought in the War Between the
States did you? Mind sharing which
side you was on?

Deacon stares sullenly back.

MR. MAXWELL

It's alright, boy. No one's
judging mistakes of the past here.
Go on and answer the man.

DEACON

We lost, sir.

MR. MAXWELL

That's quite alright. I myself--

DEACON

--But I can say my unit never saw defeat. Not once in over a year of hard fighting.

Deacon turns his attention back to the Sheriff.

DEACON

We done here?

SHERIFF

Feel free to take your money and get out.

DEACON

While I appreciate the offer, as I see it, that money's Mr. Maxwell's. I was just doing my job.

SHERIFF

And what job is that?

DEACON

Assisting Mr. Maxwell here in the administration of his railroad... If he'll take me on in that capacity that is.

Mr. Maxwell extends his hand. All smiles.

MR. MAXWELL

I'd be happy if you'd start tomorrow.

DEACON

Way I see it sir, you should be happy I started today.

Deacon gathers his hat. Shoves his finger through the HOLE.

He retrieves the top bill from the wad of cash.

DEACON

If you don't mind, I could use a new hat.

MR. MAXWELL

Take two, son. Buy yourself a Jim-dandy hat.

Exiting to the hallway, Deacon finds Cree waiting for him.

DEACON
You heard it all, huh?

CREE
We was supposed to be just passing through.

DEACON
Thought we might stay. I like it here.

CREE
I don't.

She pulls him close.

CREE
You fancy yourself the big hero, but you're just a thief. All you did was steal my killings.

DEACON
"Killing a man ain't nothing to be proud of"--

CREE
--Living without taking a life is." Daddy sold me that lie too. That's why he'd never teach me to shoot.

DEACON
It's not so bad here, Cree. You can lay low.

Cree's hand unconsciously darts to her weapon.

CREE
I don't lay well.

DEACON
Well, you're going to have to learn.

Clement steps out into the hall.

CLEMENT
Told you, you'd stay. Now we need--
Seeing their state, he falls silent.

CLEMENT
Trouble in paradise?

DEACON
Nothing we can't handle.

15 INT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

15

Jin waits in her room. Silently stares at the BOX. About her size, black lines crisscross it in a grid pattern.

Curiosity getting the better of her, Jin reaches for it...

BEI SHENG (SUBTITLE)
What are you doing!?

A great WIND suddenly FLINGS Jin to the ground!

Bei Sheng sprints into the room. Grabs her hand.

Jin recoils; ready for him to strike. But Bei Sheng examines the box. Makes sure all the lines are intact.

JIN(SUBTITLE)
What is it?

THUNK: The box shifts as if jarred from within. Both Bei Sheng and Jin flinch, but the room becomes silent.

BEI SHENG
A weapon; one my family has wielded by for generations.

JIN
I am sorry, sir.

BEI SHENG
Do not apologize. Like any weapon, we have adorned it in trappings tempting to the eyes. And that the eye covets the hand must touch.

He realizes he still holds her hand. He releases her.

BEI SHENG
It is only natural you would be curious with nothing to do here. Tell me, do you speak English?

JIN (ENGLISH)
Yes sir.

BEI SHENG
Excellent. You shall be my translator.

Bei Sheng leads Jin out of the room.

16 INT. SALOON - NIGHT

16

Drunk beyond measure, Deacon, Cree, and Clement sit around a bottle of whiskey. Clement hoists a glass.

CLEMENT

To old friends and new jobs... and hats far too nice for the likes of us...

The three hoist their glasses. Down their rot-gut.

Clement grabs Deacon's fancy new HAT. Almost puts it on.

DEACON

Don't you dare. Wearing a man's hat's like kissing on his lady.

Clement looks to Cree. She gives him a stare that could drop birds from the sky.

He tosses Deacon his hat back.

CLEMENT

Come on; lets get a wiggle on before daylight catches up with us.

17 EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

17

The three wander down the street. Their path takes them on a collision course with the approaching Bei Sheng and Jin.

Bei Sheng does not step aside, and Clement BUMPS him.

CLEMENT

Watch it!

Bei Sheng doesn't say a word. Looks back curiously.

CLEMENT

What you staring at, Coolie?

DEACON

You jostled him, Clem.

CLEMENT

So? He shouldn't be on this side of town. What do you want me to do, apologize?

(bad Chinese accent)

Meeso sorry... You ugly, yellow--

DEACON

--Lay off!

CLEMENT

What got your back up? They're just Coolies. Don't even know what I'm saying.

DEACON

Don't matter. They're people, same as us.

Clement stops. Suddenly sober.

CLEMENT

When you fought in the war, how many blue-coats you kill what thought like that, Lieutenant Corley?

DEACON

That's not what I was fighting.

CLEMENT

Yeah? Maybe that's why we lost.

Cree steps behind Deacon. Sizes Clement up.

DEACON

I didn't exactly see you on the front lines with me, Clement.

Clement's eyes wander to Cree. She WINKS evilly.

CLEMENT

Find you in the morning, Lieutenant.

He wanders away.

Deacon turns back to Jin and Bei Sheng.

DEACON

I'm very sorry for that.

JIN (ENGLISH)

Thank you.

Jin and Bei Sheng turn to leave.

DEACON

What's your name, sweetheart?

JIN

Jin.

DEACON
Jin's a right pretty name.

JIN
Then thank you again.

Bei Sheng scowls. Pulls Jin along.

18 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - MORNING

18

Deacon digs into his breakfast. Cree dips her spoon in the gruel. Casts a mistrustful eye at the nearby Madeline.

CREE
Think she's trying to poison us.

DEACON
You hush your mouth, Cree.

He cuts into a fried concoction. Calls out to Madeline.

DEACON
What kind of pudding did you say
this was again?

MADELINE
Red.

DEACON
Damndest pudding I ever seen.

Clement enters. Unnoticed to all but Cree, Madeline instinctively reaches for her shotgun.

CLEMENT
Come on, Deacon. We've got a
meeting to attend.

DEACON
A meeting, you say. I must be
moving up in the world.

CLEMENT
Stick by me and you'll be running
this railroad inside a year.

Deacon follows Clement out the door.

Cree looks disdainfully at the breakfast. Drops her spoon.

As Cree heads upstairs, Madeline walks out the door.

19 INT. HOTEL - DAY 19

Madeline enters another hotel/ saloon, carrying several TOWELS. The OWNER nods to her.

MADELINE
Got washings for Tex.

The Owner reaches for them.

MADELINE
No need for you to trouble you
none; I'll drop them off meself.
He still in four?

SALOON OWNER
Yep.

Madeline heads up the stairs.

20 INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 20

Letting herself into Clement's room, Madeline immediately sets to going through his things.

She finds a BAG under the mattress, full of gambling winnings. Rifling through it, she finds a gold RING.

MADELINE
No...

Pocketing the ring, she replaces the bag.

21 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING 21

Cree lowers herself into a steaming bath.

Gone is her tough attitude as she closes her eyes and smiles.

22 EXT. TRAINLINE - MORNING 22

Leading Deacon on horseback, Clement easily picks his way up into the mountains.

They approach a gaping TUNNEL: Dozens of Chinese men port rock from the mountain as white workers lay the tracks.

They spot Mr. Maxwell accompanied by Jin and Bei Sheng.

MR. MAXWELL
You're late.

CLEMENT
Had to break the new guy in, sir.

Jin immediately TRANSLATES Clement's words for Bei Sheng.

CLEMENT
What's she doing?

MR. MAXWELL
Translating for Mr. Sheng here.

CLEMENT
You mean she speaks English?

MR. MAXWELL
Wouldn't be much of a translator if
she didn't.

CLEMENT
Well, shit on me.

To Clement's surprise Jin translates his last phrase.

Bei Sheng looks back to him quizzically.

23

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

23

Luxuriating in the bath, Cree appears asleep in a scene strikingly similar to "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly".

Suddenly Madeline enters with a handful of TOWELS. Cree doesn't even open her eyes.

CREE
What do you want, English?

MADELINE
What did I say about calling me
that?

CREE
I don't see your shotgun with you.

MADELINE
And ye don't have yers.

CREE
Who says I don't?

Madeline looks to the counter. See's Cree's empty holster.

MADELINE
Ye got a gun in there with ye?
Bathing with a pistol?
(silence from Cree)
Why, I never. That may be the
silliest thing I ever heard of.

Madeline reaches for Cree's holster...

THWACK! A KNIFE imbeds itself inches from Madeline's hand.

CREE

You're right: Gun would be silly.

Madeline looks to the quivering blade.

MADELINE

Thought you might want some towels.

Madeline drops the towels.

MADELINE

I hear yer man got a job.

CREE

He's not my man; he's my brother.

MADELINE

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

CREE

Weren't meant to.

Madeline examines Cree's dusty clothes.

MADELINE

Ye want yer things cleaned? I could loan ye a dress while you get them washed.

Cree actually laughs. Sinks deeper into the bath.

Madeline heads away.

CREE

Who's Jack?

The name stops Madeline dead in her tracks.

MADELINE

He's my father. He owns the place.

CREE

Then how come I ain't seen him around?

MADELINE

He went missing about a month back. Got himself mixed up in town politics. Said the Coolies deserved equal pay.

CREE
That was good of him.

MADELINE
Was stupid, is what it was. Caring
for others got him killed, and no
one but me cared when he went
missing.

Madeline opens the door.

MADELINE
Ye should know though, last person
he was with was yer friend Tex.

CREE
He's not my friend.

MADELINE
Ye'll do well to remember that.

24 EXT. TUNNEL - AFTERNOON

24

Mr. Maxwell leads Clement, Deacon, Jin and Bei Sheng through
the tunnel as Chinese people work around them.

Jin continues to translate his words.

MR. MAXWELL
...We started this tunnel few
months back. It intersects some
old silver mines towards the
surface, and we haven't had a
chance to fill those in yet. The
government pays us 48 thousand
dollars a mile here through the
mountains. Problem is we can't go
more than seven, eight inches a
day.

Mr. Maxwell picks up a stick of DYNAMITE.

MR. MAXWELL
That's why we rely on dynamite.
Without it we'd be down to pick and
shovel.

Maxwell places the dynamite precariously back on the stack.

MR. MAXWELL
Anything else he wants to see?

Bei Sheng speaks. Jin responds for him.

JIN (ENGLISH)
He says he's finished.

MR. MAXWELL
Very good.

Mr. Maxwell leads them on the long trek back out.

BOOM! A sudden EXPLOSION goes off behind them!

A falling ROCK bashes Jin's head. Knocks her unconscious.

MR. MAXWELL
Hell and damnation!

Deacon tries to revive Jin as an Irish FOREMAN runs up.

FOREMAN
Some dynamite went off.
Caused a cave in. Looks like some
of the workers are caught in there.

MR. MAXWELL
How many?

FOREMAN
Ten. Maybe fifteen.

Mr. Maxwell looks to Jin. Sees she is unconscious.

MR. MAXWELL
Get her out of here.

Deacon carries the girl outside. Maxwell turns back to the Foreman.

MR. MAXWELL
Them Coolies down there?

FOREMAN
Yes sir.

MR. MAXWELL
Wait until I get this one out of
here, then start clearing it out.

The Foreman starts away, but Maxwell grabs him.

MR. MAXWELL
Use the dynamite.

FOREMAN
Sir?

MR. MAXWELL
 You heard me. We've lost too much
 time as is.

FOREMAN
 But the men...

MR. MAXWELL
 They're just Coolies. Use the
 dynamite or you'll find yourself
 there digging beside them.

He looks to Bei Sheng.

MR. MAXWELL
 Come on.

But Bei Sheng doesn't move. Maxwell grabs his arm.

MR. MAXWELL
 I said come on.

25 EXT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

25

Mr. Maxwell leads Clement and Bei Sheng outside to find
 Deacon and a revived Jin.

MR. MAXWELL
 Please tell him I'm very sorry that
 happened and I hope he's safe.

Jin translates and Bei Sheng responds.

JIN (ENGLISH)
 He says he understands.
 (beat)
 He also asks if you would do him
 the honor of receiving him for
 dinner. He has something he wishes
 to impart to you.

26 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

26

Sitting around a grand table, Mr. Maxwell, Bei Sheng and Jin
 finish their meal. Behind Bei Sheng stands his Bodyguard.
 Behind him: Bei Sheng's box.

THUNK! Again the box rocks. Draws everyone's attention.

Bei Sheng sets down his fork.

MR. MAXWELL
 I trust he enjoyed his meal.

JIN (ENGLISH)

He also hopes you particularly enjoyed yours. And he asks if you two can now speak... as men.

Mr. Maxwell eyes the rather conspicuous box.

MR. MAXWELL

Certainly, but I'm wondering, Mr. Sheng, what's this gift you've got? What's in the box?

To Maxwell's surprise, Bei Sheng addresses him directly.

BEI SHENG (ENGLISH)

My name is Mr. Bei, not Sheng. In Chinese the family name comes first. And this is a surprise, not a gift.

MR. MAXWELL

You'll have to forgive me.

Bei Sheng nods to Jin, who produces a PARCHMENT from her sleeve. Hides it under the table.

The Bodyguard removes the lid of the box. Reveals JIONG ZHAO - a beautiful Chinese woman dressed in traditional attire, her hair a luminous WHITE.

Obscuring her face is another yellow PARCHMENT, covered in Taoist CHARACTERS.

MR. MAXWELL

What is this?

BEI SHENG

Two hundred years ago there was a prosperous man: Wu Kexi. And he had a concubine, Jiong Zhao, whose name means "Bright Dawn".

Mr. Maxwell walks to the box. Examines the immobile Jiong Zhao as if in a trance.

BEI SHENG

And Kexi loved Jiong Zhao, completely and to the exclusion of all else. But one day tragedy struck his household and Jiong Zhao died of sickness.

Mr. Maxwell runs his hand through Jiong Zhao's hair.

MR. MAXWELL

So beautiful...

BEI SHENG

Now Kexi, though he was a wise man, could not part with her, could not find the heart to bury her. He hid her away in his room, away from his family, and would spend each day alone with her. Talking to her as if she were still alive. Each day his family would stand outside his door and hear him speak to the dead girl.

(beat)

And then one night his family heard him scream.

Maxwell takes hold of the parchment obscuring Jiong Zhao's face...

BEI SHENG

They say Jiong Zhao came back for Kexi, just as she has come for you.

MR. MAXWELL

Thank you for this gift.

...Maxwell pulls the paper away from Jiong Zhao's face.

BEI SHENG

Oh, this is no gift.

Jiong Zhao's eyes flutter open.

MR. MAXWELL

How... how is she still alive?

Sprouting FANGS, Jiong Zhao BITES deep into Maxwell's neck.

BEI SHENG

She is not.

Bei Sheng motions to Jin. But Jin does not notice; transfixed by the horror before her.

BEI SHENG

That night Jiong Zhao came back from death, not as the woman she was, but as a Jiang Shi: the hungry dead who walk as the living. She devoured Kexi and his family that night, and tormented the province for another 50 years.

(MORE)

BEI SHENG (cont'd)
Until she was finally stopped by my
ancestors.

Maxwell stares straight at Bei Sheng as his eyes go glassy.

BEI SHENG
Like you she lives off the blood of
others. She too is an evil thing,
so I find it fitting she puts an
end to you.

Again Bei Sheng motions to Jin. And as he does Jiong Zhao's
gaze snaps to him.

BEI SHENG
Jin? The parchment!

Jiong Zhao lunges forward. BITES deep into his jugular.
The Bodyguard runs from the room. Jiong Zhao gives chase.
His SCREAM sounds from the hallway.

The parchment flutters to the floor as Jin darts under the
table.

Jin watches the dying Bei Sheng crawl towards the parchment.
He stops inches away.

BEI SHENG
The parchment...

Jiong Zhao reenters as a death-rattle escapes Bei Sheng.
From her position on the floor Jin sees only Jiong Zhao's
robes flutter as she walks to the parchment.
Jiong Zhao picks it up. Walks on. Her feet come to a stop
right before Jin.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
You breathe too loudly, little one.

The vampire pulls Jin to her feet. With a scream, Jin shuts
her eyes.

Ignoring the girl, Jiong Zhao studies the parchment.

NOTE: Jiong Zhao knows no other language and ALWAYS speaks
in CHINESE. When addressing her, Jin does the same.

JIONG ZHAO

For many ages this man's family has
used their paltry magic to keep me
their slave.

She rips the parchment in two. Drops it on Bei Sheng.

JIONG ZHAO

But I am a slave no more.
(beat)
Open your eyes.

Reluctantly Jin does so.

Jiong Zhao turns Jin's head back and forth, her long NAILS
dangerously close to Jin's eyes.

JIONG ZHAO

Can you speak? Do you have a
tongue and sense?

JIN (SUBTITLE)

Yes... I can speak...

JIONG ZHAO

Good.
(points to Maxwell)
I have never seen barbarians such
as he. Where has he invaded from?

Jin opens her mouth, but no words come.

JIONG ZHAO

Find your voice, girl...

JIN (SUBTITLE)

It is very difficult to explain.
These men are not invaders. We are
the ones in their land.

JIONG ZHAO

Where?

JIN

California.

JIONG ZHAO

I have never heard of such a place.
You make up stories.

JIN

No! We are no longer in China. We
are many miles east, across the
sea.

JIONG ZHAO

Japan?

JIN

No; another continent.

Jiong Zhao releases the girl. Looking about the room she notes the GAS LAMPS - truly a marvel to her.

JIN

Much has changed while you were asleep.

Looking at her strange surrounding, Jiong Zhao nods.

JIONG ZHAO

I see.

(beat)

I must see more...

Jiong Zhao pulls the girl towards the stairs.

27

27

28

MONTAGE

28

In a BAR Clement, Deacon and Cree sit at cards. A SINGER hefts his guitar and begins this old traditional song:

SINGER

This is called, The Devil Made Texas.

Letting themselves out an attic window, Jiong Zhao and Jin stand on Maxwell's roof. Examine the bustling town below.

SINGER

The Devil in hell they say he was chained/ And there for a thousand years he remained/ He neither complained nor did he groan/ But decided to start up a hell of his own/ Where he could torment the souls of men/ Without being locked in a prison den/ So he asked the good Lord if he had any sand/ Left over from making this great land.

Grabbing hold of Jin, Jiong Zhao suddenly takes FLIGHT.

SINGER

The Lord answered yes I've got
 plenty of sand/ But it's a way down
 south on the Rio Grande/ And tell
 you the truth the stuff is so poor/
 I doubt it will do for a hell
 anymore.

Cree sets down her cards. Listens intently to the Singer.

SINGER

The Devil went down and looked over
 the brook/ Decided if this was his
 deal he was took/ For after
 considering both carefully and
 well/ He decided the place was too
 dry for a hell.

Jin and Jiong Zhao land unobserved in an alley.

SINGER

But the Lord, just to get the stuff
 off of his hands/ He promised the
 Devil he'd water the land/ He had
 some old water that was of no use/
 A regular old bog-hole that stunk
 like the deuce.

Clement shoves the cards to Cree: Her deal. Cree lets them
 sit.

SINGER

So the deal was struck and deed was
 given/ The Lord he went back to his
 spread up in heaven/ And the Devil
 soon found he had everything
 needed/ To make him a hell and I'll
 say he succeeded.

Jin follows Jiong Zhao down the streets as the vampire takes
 in her new surroundings.

To her surprise, no one pays her any attention.

SINGER

He scattered tarantulas on all the
 roads/ Put thorns on the cactus and
 horns on the toads/ He sprinkled
 the sand with millions of ants/ So
 the man who will sit must wear
 soles on his pants.

Deacon pokes Cree's arm. She still ignores him.

SINGER

He lengthened the horn of the Texas
steer/ And added an inch to the
jackrabbit's ear/ The wild boar
roams the black chaparral/ It's a
hell of a place we've got for a
hell.

Jiong Zhao's leads Jin to the same bar in which our heroes
sit.

SINGER

But then just add some more spice
to his Hades/ The Devil he went and
made Texas ladies/ Their legs are
long and their eyes are sweet/ But
their lips will lead you to
infernal heat.

Clement notices Jiong Zhao and Jin. Points them out to
Deacon.

He nods to Jin. She looks away.

SINGER

Avoid them lads if you want into
heaven/ Just a dalliance and you
will ne'er be forgiven/ They'll
give you a kiss and then you will
shout/ I've got hell on the inside
as well as the out.

The crowd applauds half-heartedly.

Slowly Cree too turns to behold Jiong Zhao. Their eyes lock.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

They do not fear me.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

They don't know what you are.

JIONG ZHAO

They will soon enough.

Jiong Zhao pulls Jin out into the night.

29

EXT. CHINESE VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

29

Jiong Zhao boldly leads Jin on into the Chinese side of town.

Outside a hut, several Chinese MEN play Fan Tan. One looks
up. Sees Jiong Zhao and her white hair.

CHINESE MAN

Jiang Shi!!

The effect of his words is immediate: The village becomes an instant ghost-town. Through the windows the Chinese watch Jiong Zhao walk unchallenged.

Suddenly Jin's father, Man Tau runs out, a SWORD in his hand.

MAN TAU (SUBTITLE)

Get away from my daughter!

JIONG ZHAO

I think not. She is mine now.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

Do not fight her, father. You have already given me up. Now let me go.

MAN TAU

Not to this monster!

Man Tau runs forward. But Jiong Zhao takes FLIGHT before he can land his blow.

MAN TAU

Jin. Run.

Jiong Zhao lands on Man Tau. Easily disarms him.

JIONG ZHAO

Be proud: Your daughter is precious to me.

She pulls him close. Ready to bite.

JIN

No! Do not kill him!

JIONG ZHAO

And what will you offer me for his life?

Jin's eyes meet her father's. She can find no words.

JIONG ZHAO

You take too long...

With a flick of her wrist, Jiong Zhao SNAPS Man Tau's neck.

She drops his body. Addresses the village.

JIONG ZHAO
Will anyone else challenge me?

Silence is her only answer. She walks on.

Stopping before one house, Jiong Zhao looks down to the THRESHOLD - a wooden board six inches above the ground.

JIONG ZHAO
Ah, you remember Feng Shui. Very good. You know two wisdoms: Fear and the Feng Shui...

Jiong Zhao touches the door. SPARKS shoot out from her hand. She doesn't even flinch.

JIONG ZHAO
...but you are fools if you think either will keep you from me! I shall return tomorrow night, and anyone who remains will discover the truth of my words!

Jiong Zhao flies away straight at Jin. Catching hold the girl, she escapes into the night.

Jin's SCREAM trail after them.

30

I/E. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

30

Shortly before dawn, Jiong Zhao alights with Jin on Maxwell's roof.

Pulling Jin through the window into the ATTIC, Jiong Zhao covers it. Looking about, she finds an old TABLE.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
Come, little one.

JIN (SUBTITLE)
Will you kill me now?

JIONG ZHAO
No, we are going to sleep.

JIN
I would rather die than live another day!

Jiong Zhao grabs hold of Jin.

JIONG ZHAO
Then you have learned your first
lesson: Do not fear death...

Her teeth gnash, inches from Jin's neck.

JIONG ZHAO
...Fear only me!

Jiong Zhao lays down on the table. Pulls the girl atop her.

As daylight breaks, Jiong Zhao falls into a comatose state.

Struggling, Jin can not break the vampire's grip. Her tears
fall onto Jiong Zhao as the world awakens...

31 EXT. MAIN STREET - MORNING

31

Deacon, Cree and Clement watch as the Chinese people leave
town. With all their worldly possessions they trudge down
the road.

DEACON
They look spooked.

CLEMENT
I don't get it: Not the first
explosion we had round here. No
reason for them to all pack up.

The Sheriff saunters by. Also watches the procession.

CLEMENT
Hey Sheriff, why don't you stop
them?

SHERIFF
They ain't breaking the law.

CLEMENT
They're breaking their contracts.

SHERIFF
Feel free to stop them then.

The Sheriff ambles on.

DEACON
He's got a point. We should do
something.

32 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - DAY

32

Clement and Deacon enter, Cree trailing.

CLEMENT
Hello?... Mr. Maxwell?...

Deacon splits off. Heads upstairs.

DEACON
Mr. Maxwell?...

He stumbles over the drained body the Bodyguard.

DEACON
Clement; I got a body here!

CLEMENT
Got two as well! Jesus!

Deacon hurries to the dinning room.

33 INT. MAXWELL'S ATTIC - CONTINUOUS 33

Upstairs, Jin has fallen asleep, completely unaware of the people below.

34 EXT. FOOTHILLS - DAY 34

Pushing through the last of the Chinese procession, RANGER MANNY (50's) heads towards the town.

Dressed unassuming in poncho and sombrero, he doesn't look at all menacing... Until one notices the steel in his eyes. Or the huge COLT pistols at his belt.

35 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - DAY 35

The Sheriff and DEPUTY stand over the bodies with Deacon, Cree and Clement.

Clement keeps a handkerchief over his face.

CLEMENT
I think it was the cholera.

SHERIFF
Cholera don't make a man bleed out.

CLEMENT
Then it was some other damn Coolie disease. Who knows what they brought with them.

The Deputy quickly covers his own face with a kerchief.

SHERIFF

It don't look like no disease...
But best safe rather'n sorry.
We'll wait and see what the Doc has
to say.

DEPUTY

Doc's up at the Preston Place.
Susie's expecting.

SHERIFF

Then quarantine the house until he
gets back.

36 INT. MAXWELL'S ATTIC - CONTINUOUS 36

Jin awakens. Hears the voices below.
She looks to Jiong Zhao - the vampire doesn't flinch.

37 I/E. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 37

The Sheriff leads them towards the door. Looks to Deacon.

SHERIFF

That's another three bodies shown
up since you been to town.

DEACON

You suggesting something, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

Just making observations.

He SLAMS the door on his way out.

38 INT. MAXWELL'S ATTIC - CONTINUOUS 38

Jin struggles, but cannot break Jiong Zhao's grasp.

JIN (ENGLISH)

Help!... Please help!...

39 EXT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 39

Outside, no one hears Jin's cries.

SHERIFF

No need to upset no one 'bout this
if you'll take my meaning. Not
until we know something for sure.

The Sheriff and Deputy head one direction. Deacon, Clement
and Cree another.

Suddenly Cree stops. Stares back at the house.

DEACON
Something on your mind, Cree?

CREE
Just wondering what you're going to do for a job now.

CLEMENT
Don't you go worrying bout that none: The train company ain't broke. We'll ship in another crop of Coolies inside a week.

40 EXT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - AFTERNOON 40

Sitting out on a porch across the street, Deacon, Clement and Cree share a bottle of whiskey.

Up the road rides Manny.

Cree draws Deacon's attention to the man.

Without even giving the three a glance, Manny rides up to Jack's Free House. Enters.

Clement notices the siblings' interest.

CLEMENT
What?

DEACON
Might be nothing.

But Deacon's hand is already at his pistol...

41 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 41

Madeline waits on the bar as Deacon leads Cree and Clement to the register. Spins it around.

MADELINE
Now hold on there...

A look from Deacon silences her. He reads.

DEACON
Just says Manny. What's his last name?

MADELINE

He didn't feel like leaving it; I didn't feel moved to go asking. He took the room opposite yours.

DEACON

Did he now?

CLEMENT

What's going on here?

Deacon ignores the man. Looks to Cree.

CREE

You saw how he was wearing them cannons.

DEACON

Yeah...

CLEMENT

You're kidding me: You're scared of that broken down old vacq? He don't look tough enough to blow down a dandelion.

DEACON

Nah, we ain't scared of him. But you mind staying here with Cree while I check on something?

Deacon leaves. As soon as he's out the door Cree heads upstairs, Clement following.

UPSTAIRS

Cree stares at the door opposite hers. Taking a COIN from her pocket, she creeps up to it.

CLEMENT

What you--

CREE

Hush!

She jams the coin between the door and the frame.

Cree enters her own room, Clement following.

CLEMENT

Mind telling me what you just did?

She ignores him.

CLEMENT
Hey, I asked--

Grabbing him by the throat, Cree whispers harshly:

CREE
--I thought I told you to hush.

CLEMENT
Yeah, but--

Cree squeezes. Chokes Clement.

The door opens...

Keeping Clement between her and it, Cree draws her gun. Points it directly at the entering Deacon.

DEACON
You take care of his door?

Cree nods. Lowers her weapon.

DEACON
Right. Well, looks like time we turn in.

CLEMENT
But it's hardly even dark out.

DEACON
Been a long day. If you'd excuse us...

Deacon leads Clement to the door. At the threshold he stops. Offers Clement his hand.

DEACON
Just wanted to say thanks. You've helped us more than you can know, Tex.

CLEMENT
What you running from, Deacon?

Deacon says nothing. Clement looks to Deacon's hand. Refuses to shake it.

CLEMENT
Don't you call me Tex again. It sounds as natural as a horse on its hinders coming from your mouth.

He exits.

42 EXT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 42

Stepping outside, Clement sees Deacon and Cree's HORSES at the post.

He looks up to their window. Watches the lights go out.

CLEMENT

What kind of trouble you two in?

Clement heads back inside. Takes a seat facing the stairs.

43 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - NIGHT 43

The sun sets outside as Jin lays against the motionless Jiong Zhao.

Suddenly the vampire's eyes open. She thrusts Jin away as her fangs sprout.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

I hunger...

Jin exposes her neck. Steps forward.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

Then feed and be done with it.

Despite the fevered need, Jiong Zhao fights the call of blood.

Her fangs finally recede.

JIN

Why won't you end this?

Jiong Zhao pulls her close.

JIONG ZHAO

I have need of you, child.

44 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - NIGHT 44

The door to Manny's room opens. The COIN plummets towards the ground.

Manny's foot shoots out. Catches the coin with his boot before it hits the ground.

He shuts the door. Replaces the coin.

45 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - NIGHT 45

Jiong Zhao and Jin enter the dining room.

Jin reaches for the leftover food. The vampire slaps her hand away.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
If I can control my hunger, you
will as well.

Jiong Zhao's eyes turn to Bei Sheng's corpse.

JIONG ZHAO
Tell me, how many souls does one
have?

JIN (SUBTITLE)
Two: The higher and the lower.

Bei Sheng stirs. Opens his dead, clouded eyes.

JIONG ZHAO
Very good. Sometimes though when
one dies the lower soul is caught
as breath within the body, and when
the body is not buried it rises as
Jiang Shi.

Jin spots Bei Sheng. GASPS. Bei Sheng's eyes turn instantly towards her.

JIONG ZHAO
When they awaken, they have only
the lower soul. With an animal's
hunger, they seek food from the
blood of the living.

Bei Sheng stumbles to his feet.

JIONG ZHAO
It is only with time that thought
and control return, and when they
do the Jiang Shi's hair turns white
as a sign of power.

Bei Sheng shambles towards Jin. The girl cowers behind Jiong Zhao.

JIONG ZHAO
If you seek my protection, it comes
with a price. Swear your obedience
to me.

JIN
Never!

Jiong Zhao shoves Jin forward.

JIONG ZHAO

Then deal with him yourself.

Bei Sheng lunges for the girl. Jin barely dodges away.

The dead man slowly follows Jin around the room.

Jin darts to the door. Throws it open...

...to discover the vampire Bodyguard waiting for her.

She backs away into a corner. The vampires slowly advance.

JIN

Help!

JIONG ZHAO

Your obedience, do you swear it?

JIN

Yes!

JIONG ZHAO

Then hold your breath.

Jin does so. Both vampires freeze, suddenly unable to find her.

JIONG ZHAO

The young Jiang Shi see the living
by their breath. Now come to me.

Passing scant inches from the blind vampires, Jin approaches Jiong Zhao. Jiong Zhao takes hold of the girl's face.

JIONG ZHAO

You are truly mine now. Swear it.

JIN

Yes.

(beat)

Mistress.

As Jin breathes again the vampires start towards her.

JIONG ZHAO

Hold!

The vampires immediately stop.

JIONG ZHAO

We will find you two food soon
enough. Follow me, but do not
touch this girl.

46 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 46

Deacon peeks out his door. Notices the coin in the doorway of the room across from his.

DEACON

Let's go...

47 INT. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 47

Jiong Zhao starts away when movement from the ground stops her.

Maxwell rises to his feet; his blind eyes searching.

JIONG ZHAO

So, barbarians have souls as well...

Maxwell starts towards Jin.

JIONG ZHAO

Hold!

He lunges for the girl.

Jiong Zhao catches him. Effortlessly throws him to the far wall. He SLAMS into it hard.

A BOOKCASE falls atop him. Pins him to the ground.

JIONG ZHAO

He cannot understand my words. He is useless.

48 EXT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 48

Deacon and Cree sneak out their window onto the roof. He takes her hand. Lowers her down.

She quickly gets the horses as he follows. Together they lead the horses away.

Across the street Manny steps out of the shadows. He carries his RIFLE in one hand, a length of ROPE in the other.

Without a sound, he shadows the two.

49 I/E. MAXWELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 49

Maxwell pushes the bookcase off. Mindlessly he shambles out of the house and into the night

His path leads towards the CEMETERY.

50 EXT. CHINESE VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS 50

Moving through the deserted village, Jasper leads another THIEF along.

THIEF
Place sure is spooky.

JASPER
Quit your whining and let's see if they left anything good behind...

51 EXT. CEMETERY - LATER 51

Cree and Deacon mount up at the Cemetery's edge.

Manny hides in the shadow of a nearby tree. His rifle trained on Deacon.

Unseen by all, the vampire Maxwell wanders nearby.

CREE
So, where to now?

DEACON
Don't rightly know.

Cree pops her neck.

CREE
Then let's head back. Clem was right: We don't have nothing to fear from that man.

Manny shifts his aim from Deacon to Cree.

DEACON
Thought you was itching to move on.

CREE
Moving, not running.

Deacon considers their plight. EXHALES heavily.

The vampire Maxwell catches sight of Deacon. He approaches, arms outstretched.

CREE
Deacon?...

Deacon spots Maxwell. Cannot see the vampire's face in the shadows.

DEACON
 Sorry to disturb you there, mister.
 Didn't think we'd be finding anyone
 out here in the bone orchard.

Maxwell still advances. Spooks the horses.

DEACON
 Why don't you just stop there?

But Maxwell doesn't stop. Deacon draws his gun.

DEACON
 Listen mister, we don't want
 trouble, but you're going to stop
 right now before I stop you.

Maxwell steps into the light.

DEACON
 Mr. Maxwell?...

The vampire opens his mouth. Reveals his FANGS.

DEACON
 What the!?

Maxwell lunges forward.

Deacon FIRES. Catches Maxwell in the shoulder.

This doesn't even phase the vampire.

Maxwell grabs hold of Deacon. Tries to pull the boy from his horse.

Deacon struggles to maintain his mount. FIRES wild several times.

52 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

52

Sitting by the stairs, Clement watches the Sheriff chat up Madeline.

The sound of Deacon's SHOTS waft in on the wind.

Clement looks outside. Sees the horses are missing.

CLEMENT
 Son of a bitch!

He bolts out the door, the Sheriff watching him run.

53 EXT. CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

53

Cree's horse THROWS her. She lands hard.

Maxwell finally wrests Deacon from his own horse. BITES into Deacon's arm.

DEACON
Mother of God!

Maxwell Pulls the boy close. Exposes his neck...

DEACON
Cree!?

Cree rolls on the ground. Takes aim. FIRES...

...Maxwell's head EXPLODES.

DEACON
Thank Christ.

Cree stumbles to her feet. Keeps her gun trained on Maxwell.

CREE
This ain't right, Deacon.

DEACON
No shit? Mad bastard just bit me!

CREE
He's a dead man.

DEACON
I know that. You shot him.

CREE
That's not what I meant.

DEACON
Then what?

Manny steps out behind Cree! STRIKES her in the head with his rifle.

DEACON
Cree!

Her gun goes flying as she falls. Manny trains his on Deacon.

MANNY
Hands away from your guns, son.

Deacon ignores him. Steps towards the injured Cree. Manny cocks his rifle.

Deacon stops dead.

DEACON
I need to know she's alright.

MANNY
She is. Now let's both make sure she stays that way: Drop your belt.

Deacon reaches for his belt.

MANNY
Your other hand.

Using his off-hand, Deacon drops his gun belt to the ground.

MANNY
Kick it over here, then drop to the ground. Face away from me. I don't want to see your eyes.

Deacon does so. Coming to slightly, Cree notices her gun. Crawls slowly towards it.

MANNY
Don't draw this out.

Manny pulls Cree's hands together. Ties them tight.

DEACON
Cree, what's happening?

MANNY
She's fine.

CLEMENT (O.S.)
Deacon! Cree!

MANNY
Don't you say a word.

Deacon keeps his mouth shut as Manny pulls the bloody Cree to her feet. He pushes her towards the awaiting horses, but she falls to her knees.

MANNY
Get up.

But Cree just smiles.

CREE
Clement! Over here!

MANNY
You shouldn't have done that...

Clement runs up. Finds Manny pointing his gun at Cree.

CLEMENT
What the hell's going on here?

No one answers. Clement draws. Aims for Manny.

CLEMENT
You put the rifle down and tell me
what you're doing to my friends!

MANNY
This don't involve you.

CLEMENT
The hell it don't. I said drop the
rifle.

Manny doesn't even glance at Clement.

CREE
Drill him, Clem.

DEACON
Shut up, Cree!

CLEMENT
You've got until the count of
three. One... Two...

SHERIFF (O.S.)
You best put your own gun away too,
Tex.

Everyone turns to find the Sheriff standing calmly by.

SHERIFF
Any more rough-housing and some one
will end up in tears.

Several other people arrive, including the Deputy.

SHERIFF
So... bit of a disagreement?

The other Thief looks up as Jasper rifles through the hut.

THIEF

I swear I heard gunshots.

JASPER

Good: means there's other trouble about. Ain't nobody going to pay attention to the two of us then.

The Thief looks out the window. Sees Jiong Zhao and Jin arriving.

THIEF

Someone's outside.

Jasper looks too. Smiles lecherously.

JASPER

Ain't nothing but Coolies. Women folk at that...

55

EXT. CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

55

Cree tries to stand. Manny shoves her back down.

MANNY

She's wanted back in Texas.

SHERIFF

That's nice to know, but I was talking about that body over there.

He hunkers next to Maxwell's corpse.

DEACON

He attacked me. Was self-defense.

SHERIFF

Who did?

DEACON

Mr. Maxwell.

SHERIFF

Mr. Maxwell? That's rather odd, considering his condition and all.

DEACON

Look at his clothes; those are his.

SHERIFF

The clothes might be, sure. But the head's missing. Sure was a good shot of yours.

CREE
Weren't his!

DEACON
Cree!...

SHERIFF
You shot this man?

CREE
He attacked my brother.

SHERIFF
Well then, that's one killing
accounted for.

He stands. Turns to Manny.

SHERIFF
You say she's wanted?

DEACON
No she ain't.

The Deputy shoves Deacon.

DEPUTY
He weren't talking to you.

MANNY
She murdered a man back home.

DEACON
That's a damn lie.

MANNY
I got papers.

Manny hands some PAPERS to the Sheriff.

SHERIFF
Says she's wanted for murder.

DEACON
Sir, believe me: She was acquitted
of that.

The Deputy shoves Deacon again.

DEPUTY
You shut up.

Defiantly, Deacon stares back.

SHERIFF
These are old.

MANNY
Don't mean they ain't official.

SHERIFF
What's your interest in this girl?
You a bounty hunter?

MANNY
I'm a Texas Ranger.

Manny hands a BADGE to the Sheriff. He examines it. Hands it on to his Deputy.

DEACON
And how long have the Texas Rangers
been chasing after innocent girls?

MANNY
You ever looked her in the eyes,
son? She ain't innocent.

The Deputy flips the badge over in his hand.

DEPUTY
This ain't nothing but a peso cut
up.

MANNY
All our badges are made from pesos.

DEACON
It's a Texas tradition.

DEPUTY
Well, you're a long way from Texas.

MANNY
Don't see how that changes much.

DEPUTY
And I don't see why hailing from
there makes you think you're so
damn special. Hell, I been to
Texas. Ain't nothing more than
where the devil took a squat.

MANNY
Son, you say other bad word about
my home I'm going to have to ring
your bell.

DEPUTY

Oh, don't go insulting Texas, eh?
You mind telling me what state's
safe? How about Tennessee? Mind
if I say everyone from there ain't
nothing more than slack-jawed
sister fu--

Suddenly Deacon PUNCHES the Deputy.

DEACON

Davy Crockett was from Tennessee!

The Deputy falls hard. Looks up to the Sheriff for help.

SHERIFF

You did have that coming.

The Sheriff hands the papers back.

SHERIFF

Looks like everything's in order.

Manny reaches for Cree.

SHERIFF

Mind telling me what you think
you're doing?

MANNY

Taking her in.

SHERIFF

Not my prisoner, you're not. She
shot a man tonight. I do thank you
for trussing her up though.

The Sheriff reaches for Cree. Deacon steps between them.

DEACON

You can't put her in jail.

SHERIFF

You'd rather I cut her loose?

Deacon looks to Manny.

SHERIFF

I thought not.

Jin kneels over the hastily constructed GRAVE of her Father.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

I have no money to burn for you,
Father, no food to set out for your
ghost. I can only pray that your
spirit finds the way home to rest.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Enough mourning. I did not bite
him; his spirit is free. Consider
it my gift to you.

JASPER (O.S.)

Hello, ladies...

Jasper and the Thief step into the light.

JIONG ZHAO

Appreciate it; it will not be given
to others...

JIN (ENGLISH)

Leave! Run away now!

JASPER

Ah... ain't no reason to do that.
We're just getting acquainted...

JIN (ENGLISH)

You should have run.

Suddenly Bei Sheng and the Bodyguard materialize from the
shadows behind Jiong Zhao.

JASPER

Hey, it's not like that. We don't
want any trouble from your men-
folk.

JIN (ENGLISH)

It's not the men you should worry
about.

Jiong Zhao FLIES to the Thief. BITES his throat.

Jasper tries to run, but Jiong Zhao catches him. Tosses him
to her two waiting minions.

Jin looks away from the carnage.

JIONG ZHAO

No. Do not turn away. You will
watch.

Reluctantly Jin forces herself to obey.

57 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

57

The Sheriff cuts Cree's hands free. Shoves her into a CELL.
He turns back to Deacon, Clement, the Deputy and Manny.

SHERIFF

There, she's safe. You can all
head home now.

MANNY

I wasn't going to say anything in
front of your people, but she's
mine.

SHERIFF

Is she now?

MANNY

I told you: She's wanted in Texas.

SHERIFF

She's wanted here as well.

MANNY

I got papers--

SHERIFF

--You got nothing. She may be in
trouble elsewhere, but tonight she
shot someone. In my town! I'm the
law here, and you better remember
that before I have to teach you
something you don't forget. Sabe?

DEACON

I--

SHERIFF

--Shut up, boy! You may not see
it, but I just did your sister a
good turn. Now you best get out of
here before I change my mind. All
of you!

The men file out the room, the Deputy last.

SHERIFF

Not you. You stay.

DEPUTY

But I--

SHERIFF
 --Are staying with her tonight.
 I'll relieve you in the morning.

The Sheriff tosses the Deputy the KEYS. Heads towards the door.

SHERIFF
 Don't you go near her.

DEPUTY
 Sir?

SHERIFF
 You heard me.

58 EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

58

Deacon heads back to his hotel, Clement trailing. Up ahead he spots Manny, the Ranger's back to them.

Deacon draws his gun. Takes aim...

Clement SHOVES up against a wall. Pushes the gun down.

CLEMENT
 Deacon!

DEACON
 Why didn't you let me--

CLEMENT
 --Shoot him with his back turned!
 I ain't no friend if I let you do
 that, and you ain't no friend of
 mine you try again.

Deacon tries to walk on. Clement pushes him back against the wall.

DEACON
 What you doing?

CLEMENT
 You're asking me that? Think maybe
 I'll ask the questions. I'll start
 with what was that Ranger saying
 about Cree. She murdered someone?

DEACON
 No she didn't.

CLEMENT

You've said that. Now how about you make me believe it?

DEACON

You remember McGinnis' boy?

CLEMENT

William. Yeah, what about him?

DEACON

She shot him, shot him dead. But it wasn't murder. It was self-defense and a judge said as much when she stood trial.

CLEMENT

Then what's that Ranger doing after her?

DEACON

He may be a Ranger, but he's not about on Ranger business if he's tracking her. William's dad was a rich man. He offered a bounty on her, for whoever could bring her back. He wants her alive, but not to stand trial. He wants revenge.

CLEMENT

Why didn't you tell me?

Deacon can't meet his eyes.

CLEMENT

You didn't trust me?

DEACON

It's not that. It... Look, I thought we could get away from it, if we ran far enough, fast enough, she'd be safe.

(beat)

I was wrong, Clement, and now I don't know what to do.

Clement offers Deacon his hand.

CLEMENT

You could start by asking for some help.

Deacon takes his hand.

CLEMENT

Come tomorrow we'll find her a lawyer.

DEACON

But we can't just leave her there.

CLEMENT

Actually, that's the best thing we can do. We know exactly where she is, and that peckerwood can't get to her while she is. She's safe.

(beat)

Hell, tonight may be the first good night of sleep she's got since she killed that man.

59 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

59

The Deputy hooks the KEYS on his belt. Turns to Cree with the most devilish of grins.

DEPUTY

Looks like we're alone now...

Cree just ignores him as she examines her cot.

DEPUTY

Didn't you hear me?

He takes a heavy step towards her.

CREE

Your boss said stay away from me.

DEPUTY

Did he now?

He takes another step.

DEPUTY

Looks to me there's nothing keeping me away from you 'cept an inch of steel...

Jangling his keys, he comes forward again. Stops scant inches from her cage.

DEPUTY

...I wonder how someone could get around that?

Cree looks the man up and down. Walking slowly, she comes toward him. Stops with just the bars between them.

CREE

I'm wondering that too...

As she stares him down, the keys quit their jangling. The Deputy's looks into Cree's eyes. Smile fades.

CREE

If you're going to stare down the devil, best not to blink.

The Deputy tries to maintain her stare, but cannot. Finally looks away.

CREE

Too bad; I already killed one man tonight.

DEPUTY

But you're locked up, ain't you? There's nothing hard about killing, long as you don't mind getting caught. I've done me some killing too, but you don't see me in there with you, do you? God, I remember the last fellow, thought he was hot stuff, just like you. Know what his crime was?

Cree is silent.

DEPUTY

I didn't like him. So I took him for a walk. Know what he said right before I put a bullet in him? Said, "a man who's born to be hung has no fear of drowning". Damndest thing I ever heard. Any idea what it means?

Cree is silent.

DEPUTY

I'll just let you mull it over.

The Deputy takes a seat, still watching the girl.

DEPUTY

I only hope you stick around long enough for me to help you figure it out...

The Deputy pulls his hat over his eyes.

60

EXT. CHINESE VILLAGE - NIGHT

60

Jiong Zhao drops the Thief. The other two vampires continue to gorge themselves on Jasper.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

I understand why you told my people to leave now: They were the only one's who knew what you are. They were the only one's who could stop you.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Very good, child. You are indeed clever.

Jiong Zhao looks to the sky.

JIONG ZHAO

Dawn approaches. I require a different place to rest this day. Is there a cave nearby?

Silence from Jin.

JIONG ZHAO

Remain clever if you wish to remain living.

JIN

There is a tunnel close to here.

JIONG ZHAO

That will do.

She turns to the other vampires. Notices their piteous looks.

JIONG ZHAO

You are still hungry? Very well: you may hunt. But bring your food to the tunnel. Immediately.

She takes flight with Jin. The vampires scuttle off down the deserted streets.

61

I/E. SHERIFF'S STATION - LATER

61

INSIDE Cree and the Deputy sleep.

OUTSIDE a DRUNK wanders on the road. As the vampires bring him down, he lets out a YELP.

The Deputy awakens.

DEPUTY
 What was that? One of your
 friends?

They hear a MOAN from outside.

The Deputy opens the door. Sees a vampire hunkered over his
 victim.

DEPUTY
 Hey! Get away from him. Head on
 back to your side of town. You
 hear me, Coolie?

The vampire looks up, his face covered in blood.

DEPUTY
 Oh, sweet Jesus!

The Deputy tries to draw, but the other vampire blind-sides
 the him before he can do a thing.

INSIDE Cree listens, unable to see a thing.

62

INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - NIGHT

62

At the dead end of the tunnel, Jiong Zhao examines her
 surroundings.

Standing between the girl and her freedom, the vampires Bei
 Sheng and the Bodyguard hold the bodies of their victims.
 Including the Deputy.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
 I will rest here. You two stay
 stand watch. Do not let anything
 pass you.
 (eyes Jin)
 Including her...

Jiong Zhao lays down.

Jin eyes the vampires. They eye her back.

Finally Jin lays down on the hard rock floor.

63

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - MORNING

63

A plate of FOOD in his hands, Deacon enters. Finds Manny
 waiting with the Sheriff.

DEACON
 Brought some breakfast for my
 sister.

SHERIFF

Right thoughtful of you. Go on then.

Deacon heads to Cree's cell.

DEACON

Maddie made this up for you.

Cree takes the plate as Deacon watches her sadly.

DEACON

Pa was right, I should have never taught you to shoot.

CREE

But you did, Deacon. You did.

Cree takes a bite. Pushes the food aside.

CREE

Am I being punished?

SHERIFF

I'd eat that if I were you. You're not getting anything more until dinner time.

The Sheriff rolls himself a CIGARETTE. Notices Manny watching him rather intently.

SHERIFF

Care for one?

MANNY

No. My wife made me give up the smoke.

SHERIFF

That's a good woman you got.

He lights up. Takes a big drag.

DEACON

How long you plan on holding her?

SHERIFF

I was planning on calling for judge today, but we had some more bodies show up last night. Found them in the street on the Coolie side. Cut up the same as Maxwell. So, I went back to check on him.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (cont'd)
You know what? His body was
missing. So were the rest of them.

DEACON
What does that mean?

SHERIFF
Means I need some help.

DEACON
Ain't no way I'm helping you.

SHERIFF
Weren't talking to you.
(to Manny)
How 'bout it, Ranger?

MANNY
I'm here for the girl. Not to help
the locals.

SHERIFF
Good thing today they're one in the
same. Think you can mind her for
the day; keep an eye on her for me?

DEACON
What? No way she's safe here with
him.

SHERIFF
He ain't going to kill her here,
and he can't take her nowhere
neither. Deputy has the keys and
he's gone missing. Know anything
about that?

DEACON
Nope.

SHERIFF
Thought not. But if you want your
sister out of there, you're going
to help me find the keys.

He ushers Deacon out the door as Manny takes a seat. Smiles broadly.

SHERIFF
See: Now everybody's helping out.

He and Deacon exit.

Manny stares down at the Sheriff's tobacco.

CREE
Mind rolling me one?

He ignores her.

CREE
I asked for a cigarette, Ranger.

Manny grudgingly rolls her a smoke.

CREE
You could roll yourself one while
you're at it.

MANNY
I quit.

CREE
You'll quit when you're dead.

Finished with the CIGARETTE, Manny brings it to the girl.

Her eyes never leaving his, Cree takes the cigarette.

CREE
I need a light.

He lights a match. Cree bends forwards for it.

CREE
Before this is over I'm going to
see you dead.

She lights up, blowing a big cloud in his face.

MANNY
I'm not afraid of you, little girl.

CREE
You ought be.

MANNY
Yeah, you're real mean, ain't ya?

Suddenly Manny SNATCHES the cigarette away.

Taking a big drag, he lets the smoke escape his mouth.

MANNY
I've wiped meaner than you off my
boots.

He offers her the cigarette back. She stalks away.

With a laugh Manny heads back to his chair with his smoke.

64 I/E. TUNNEL - DAY

64

A dozen or so Irish WORKERS approach the tunnel.

WORKER

Don't see why we're here without
the Coolies. I don't want to risk
my neck down there.

FOREMAN

You want to get paid for the day?
We're here aren't we? We show up,
they've got to pay us whether we
work or not. Now get down there...

The Workers all head into the Tunnel...

The ECHOES of the approaching Irish Workers descends down to
the vampires' nest.

Jiong Zhao's eyes flutter open.

65 EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

65

Walking down the street, Clement notices an irate Deacon.

DEACON

I got to find that Deputy.

CLEMENT

I know a few places he frequents.

The two head off.

66 INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - MOMENTS LATER

66

Jiong Zhao covers her ears from the noise.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Who attacks us?

JIN (SUBTITLE)

No one attacks. It is just the
workers. They will not harm us.

JIONG ZHAO

You are right. They will not.
(to the vampires)
Go. Kill them all.

The vampires depart for the unsuspecting Workers.

SCREAMS echo down the tunnel. Jin can do nothing but listen.

67

INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - EVENING

67

A tired Deacon enters the establishment. Gives a nod to Madeline.

MADELINE

You look knackered.

DEACON

I do believe I'll drown myself for a few.

UPSTAIRS Manny exits from the bathroom just as Deacon arrives.

Instinctively Deacon reaches for his pistol. Finds Manny already has his in hand.

MANNY

You and I live hard lives, son. If you're going to live past thirty you've got to learn some tricks.

Keeping his gun trained on Deacon, Manny backs up to his room. Flips a COIN to Deacon.

MANNY

You'd be wise to give more respect to the ones that have.

Deacon catches the coin. Recognizes it as the one Cree planted earlier.

Manny shuts his door.

68

I/E. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - NIGHT

68

As the sun sets, Jiong Zhao awakens. Looks about as the Irish workers awaken as new vampires.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

And now it truly begins.

The vampires rush out the tunnel and into the night.

Jiong Zhao follows them to the cave mouth. The exhausted Jin limps after her.

Together they watch the vampires spill down towards the town.

JIONG ZHAO

To think I was once as they.
Mindless, powerless, without even a
voice... It is inconceivable, is
it not?

Jin does not answer. Jiong Zhao turns to find the girl
passed out.

JIONG ZHAO

Child?

Jin does not stir. Carefully Jiong Zhao lays her clawed hand
to the girl's throat. Feels for a pulse.

Gingerly she lifts Jin into her arms. Slowly walks to town.

69 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT 69

A plate of FOOD in his hands, the Sheriff approaches Cree.
She nearly salivates at the inviting grub.

SHERIFF

Guess you're hungry this time,
ain't ya?

Cree refuses to answer. But she can't tear her eyes away.

70 EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS 70

The first wave of vampires hits the town.

The few people on the street are immediately brought down.
No one even has the chance to yell.

Like army ants, the vampires swarm and kill everyone they
find. Cut a swath from one side of the town to the other.

71 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - CONTINUOUS 71

The Sheriff approaches Cree when a sudden NOISE outside draws
his attention.

SHERIFF

Who's out there?

Ignoring the ravenous girl, he sets the food down. Heads to
the door.

Cree desperately strains for the food, just out of her reach.

The Sheriff opens the door. Finds his Deputy waiting.

SHERIFF

Where have--

The Deputy grabs the Sheriff. RIPS out his throat.

Cree looks up from the food.

CREE

What the?...

The Deputy rushes the cage. Cree leaps back. Barely avoids him as he SLAMS into the bars.

Another vampire enters. Runs to catch Cree. She retreats to the back wall. Next to a bared WINDOW.

A HAND reaches through the window, grasping for her.

Scarcely eluding this, Cree presses herself into the corner.

Outside the SCREAMS of those less fortunate assail her.

72 INT. WHORE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 72

A WHORE nuzzles at Clement's neck as he sips a drink.

CLEMENT

Why, I do believe my mother warned me about girls like you...

73 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 73

UPSTAIRS in his room, Manny takes out a LOCKET. Stares at the picture of his wife within.

MANNY

Don't worry, Joya. I'm coming home soon. All you got to do is hold out...

DOWNSTAIRS Madeline brings her only PATRON a drink. On her way back to the bar, the door swings open...

UPSTAIRS Deacon relaxes in the bath. His head underwater, he's completely oblivious to the world.

DOWNSTAIRS Madeline looks up: Jasper shambles towards her.

PATRON

Jeez Jasper, you look rough...

His attention deflected, Jasper rushes the Patron. Sinks his teeth into the man.

Madeline grabs her SHOTGUN.

BOOM! The buckshot carves a chunk out of Jasper. He falls.

UPSTAIRS both Deacon and Manny hear the blast.

Manny starts for the door, but stops himself. Looks to the locket.

MANNY

No. Not tonight. Let someone else deal with it...

DOWNSTAIRS Madeline looks to the fallen Jasper.

MADELINE

What the bloody hell... Jasper, I'm so sor--

The vampire stumbles to his feet. Comes straight for her.

She tries to reload her spent buckshot, but before she can Jasper knocks the gun from her hand.

The vampire is on her immediately. She struggles as his mouth descends...

...A SHOT knocks the vampire back!

DEACON (O.S.)

Come on, you bastard!

A barely dressed Deacon comes down the stairs. Fires shot after shot into Jasper as the vampire lumbers at him.

Deacon runs out of ammo! He reaches for his other gun...

BOOM! Jasper's torso DISINTEGRATES!

Jasper's waist remains standing...

DEACON

Good God, girl. What was that?

MADELINE

Me salt round. It was the only one I had loaded.

Finally the legs fall to the floor with a thunk.

DEACON

You have any more?

MADELINE

Aye.

DEACON

Then load 'em now.

The two turn to the front door as new vampires enter.

74 INT. WHORE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

74

Clement stands. Forces the Whore off his lap.

CLEMENT

Why I do believe it's about that
time...

He and the girl head for the stairs. She stops.

WHORE

Did you hear that?

CLEMENT

Hear what?

The front door swings open. Several vampires enter the main
room. Screams erupt.

75 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

75

UPSTAIRS Manny tries his best to ignore the ruckus below as
he rolls himself a CIGARETTE.

But his hands are shaking. Too much to roll the smoke.

Finally he puts one together. He strikes a match. Looks to
the wavering flame.

MANNY

Dammit.

He lights his cigarette. Takes a drag.

Calmly he sets it down. Grabs his RIFLE...

76 INT. WHORE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

76

Clement fires as a vampire comes straight for him.

The shots have no effect on the creature.

It's right on top of him. Grabs his neck...

Clement sets his barrel right to the vampires' head.

BOOM! It falls to the ground. Lifeless.

Another vampire advances. Clement takes aim...

CLICK - Out of ammo.

CLEMENT

Dammit!

Clement runs deeper into the house, the Whore and vampire following.

77 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

77

Desperately Madeline tries to reload as Deacon runs out of ammo. A vampire reaches for her...

BOOM! His head EXPLODES!

Manny cocks his rifle on the stairwell.

MANNY

Get upstairs. Now!

Deacon and Madeline do just that as Manny covers their retreat. Each time he fires it's a head-shot: Each time a vampire falls. Never to stand again.

MANNY

My room!

He follows the two into his room.

As they shut the door behind him he walks to his cigarette. Takes a well-deserved drag.

78 INT. WHORE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

78

Clement stumbles into a back room with no windows. Slamming the door, he braces it as he reloads.

WHORE (O.S.)

Help! Please, let me in!

Clement turns to open the door. The girl SCREAMS.

He takes aim, ready for the door to fly open.

But the door never does, and Clement is alone. Tears in his eyes, he listens to everyone die on the other side.

79 EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

79

Pandemonium reigns on the streets as vampires drag down anything living. Walking untroubled among them, Jiong Zhao carries Jin.

Jin's eyes flutter open.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
You are weak, child. Where can we
find you food?

JIN (SUBTITLE)
The General Store.

JIONG ZHAO
You will show me.

80 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

80

Madeline and Manny brace the door. As Manny places a chair, Deacon grabs it.

DEACON
My sister...

MANNY
There's nothing we can do for her,
son.

But Deacon runs for the door. Manny aims for the boy.

Deacon stops short.

MANNY
Good boy...

81 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LATER

81

Gone now are the other vampires, leaving only Cree and the Deputy.

He still presses up against the bars to reach her.

Cree moves laterally down her cage. He shadows her.

CREE
Won't give up, will you?

She moves again. Again he follows her.

CREE
You must really hate me.

Cree SPITS on the vampire. It dribbles down the Deputy's face as he waits for her to come closer.

CREE

The feeling's mutual.

82

INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - LATER

82

A still nearly-nude Deacon and Madeline stand ready as Manny waits by the window.

MADELINE

That... that was Jasper. God, I've served him a hundred times. What could have happened to the man?

DEACON

That wasn't a man. That was a monster.

(beat)

What I don't get is I shot them over and again, but they didn't die. How do you kill something what won't die?

MANNY

Shoot them in the head.

DEACON

You dealt with these before?

MANNY

Son, in my time I've seen a lot of strange things. I've seen men I swore was dead draw guns on me. I've seen wolves size of horses what disappear when daylight comes. I've played poker with someone I swore was the Devil, though he said his name was Scratch... but I ain't never seen nothing that don't die when you put a bullet through the brain pan.

Manny watches out the window as Deacon considers his words.

MANNY

Course, I ain't never seen nothing like this before neither...

Deacon and Madeline look out the window. See Jiong Zhao carrying Jin down the street.

83 EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS 83

Jin looks up to see Deacon and friends in the window. Quickly she draws Jiong Zhao's attention to the GENERAL STORE.

Jiong Zhao pushes the door open. Inside the scared STORE OWNER cowers.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
Ah... it appears we will both find
food here...

84 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LATER 84

Cree stares at the awaiting vampire, her gaze trailing to the KEYS still at his belt.

Carefully she judges the distance.

She slides herself slowly forward... inch by inch towards his waiting arms...

CREE
Shoot, or give up the gun...

Finally she LUNGES forward. Dodges his grasp and grabs not the keys, but the PISTOL at his waist.

She FIRES straight through his chest. Drops him instantly.

CREE
Didn't see that coming, did you?

Laying on her belly, she reaches for his body. Snags his pants. She pulls, dragging him slowly forward.

The Deputy sits up. Fangs bared.

CREE
Son of a bitch!

Cree scrambles for her gun. He races out into the night.

CREE
Come back here. I said come back
here, dammit!

85 INT. GENERAL STORE - LATER 85

Dropping the body of the drained Store Owner, Jiong Zhao turns to Jin.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
Now, where is your food?

Jin stumbles about in the dark until she finds MATCHES. She strikes one; it FLARES to light.

JIONG ZHAO
How did you do that?

JIN (SUBTITLE)
They're just matches.
(strikes another)
They light from anything.

But Jiong Zhao does not find the match so benign. Jin approaches, the fire held between them.

JIN
You fear fire? Does it hurt you?

JIONG ZHAO
I fear nothing.

Yet Jiong Zhao backs away from Jin as the flame slowly extinguishes. Finally it sputters out.

Jiong Zhao snatches the book of matches from the girl. Places them in her belt sash.

JIONG ZHAO
Find your food.

Jin does as Jiong Zhao examines everything in the room.

JIONG ZHAO
Such wonders this new age has to offer. Who would have guessed that a little girl from such a small province would find herself here...

Unseen to Jiong Zhao, Jin finds a PENCIL. Quickly she WRITES on the counter.

JIONG ZHAO
I was always a clever child, smarter than my brothers. But they were sent to serve the prefect, while I was sold as a concubine. My cleverness meant nothing to my master. My body was the only thing his eyes could see. There was nothing I could ever do to stop him. I was powerless...

Picking up a clay POT, Jiong Zhao crushes it in her hand.

JIONG ZHAO

I remember what it was like when my memories returned. Years had passed since I had awakened as Jiang Shi, and suddenly I found myself with strength beyond that of any man. I remember realizing my power, and I swore... I swore I would never be weak again. The world will know my power...

Jin drops the pencil just as Jiong Zhao turns back. Jin makes a half-hearted attempt at eating.

JIONG ZHAO

I tried to eat as you do once. I found a household and made them prepare me their daily meal. The food was like ashes on my tongue. It was nothing to sweet tang of their blood.

(beat)

When you are done, gather up more to take back with us. We will not return here again.

Jin follows Jiong Zhao into the night.

86 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAWN

86

The sun threatens on the horizon as the vampires flee to the tunnel.

Wind blows through the empty, bloody streets.

87 INT. JACK'S FREE HOUSE - MORNING

87

Nestled next to each other, Deacon and Madeline sleep. Manny nudges them awake.

MANNY

Someone's coming up the stairs.

FOOTSTEPS approach outside. They draw their weapons.

CLEMENT (O.S.)

Hello? Is there anyone left...
Anyone alive?

DEACON

Clement?

Deacon shoves the barricade aside.

Clement opens the door... only to find himself on the business end of Madeline's shotgun.

DEACON
Hey, what's the idea here?

MADELINE
How do we know he's not one of them?

CLEMENT
Well, I'm not trying to kill you, which is more than you can say at the moment.

Madeline sets the gun aside. Clement looks to the mostly undressed Deacon.

CLEMENT
I interrupt something?

Deacon blushes.

MANNY
How'd you survive?

CLEMENT
I hid. 'Till they was gone.
(beat)
I tell you, it's hell out there. I didn't see a living soul on the way here. No people, no dogs, no horses. Everything's dead.

DEACON
Everything?...

Deacon rushes out the door. Starts down the stairs.

CLEMENT
Think you should at least get dressed first?

Deacon pauses. Heads back to his room for his things.

88

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - MORNING

88

Cree sleeps with the pistol in her hand.

The door bursts open. Quickly she aims as Deacon enters.

He stops dead.

DEACON
It's good to see you.

CREE
You too.

Manny, Clement, and Madeline enter. Cree immediately switches her aim for the Ranger.

DEACON
Don't you dare, Cree.

CREE
Man's trying to kill me.

DEACON
But he saved my life last night.

Cree lets the gun down. Deacon examines the lock.

CREE
Don't waste shots trying to open it. Don't work.

DEACON
We'll figure something out.

CREE
Well, in the mean time, think you could find me some food? I'm so hungry I could eat English's slop.

MADELINE
Good to see you too.

89 INT. GENERAL STORE - MORNING

89

Their weapons drawn, the four enter the General Store. Moving towards the food they see the CORPSE of the Owner.

They give it a wide berth.

Clement closes the window shade as the others gather foodstuffs.

Deacon notices Jin's NOTE.

DEACON
Look at this.
(reads)
Leave now! The monsters are in the train tunnel. They can't see you if you hold your breath. Run when it's light out. --Jin

CLEMENT
That's the translator, ain't it?
(Deacon nods)
Good advice she's got there.

DEACON
I wonder if she's still alive.

MANNY
We done here?

DEACON
Not yet.

Deacon searches among the barrels when suddenly the Store Owner rises as a VAMPIRE.

Only Madeline notices him as he heads for Clement. She doesn't say a thing.

The vampire grabs hold of Clement. Pulls him close.

CLEMENT
Jesus!

Clement struggles. Tries his best to keep it from biting his throat.

Manny takes aim.

DEACON
Wait! Don't kill it!

With a shrug, Manny shoots the vampire's knees out.

It falls to the floor. Clement distances himself from it.

DEACON
Everyone okay?

CLEMENT
Yeah. I'm having a hog-killing
good time!

Clement levels his gun at the wounded vampire as it still drags itself at him.

DEACON
No!

CLEMENT
Why the hell not!

DEACON
Because I need to see something.

Opening a barrel, Deacon grabs a handful of SALT. Throws it on the vampire.

As soon as the salt hits the creature's skin, it MELTS.

CLEMENT
Well, I'll be. What was that?

DEACON
Salt. Plain salt.

They watch as the vampire's head melts away to bubbling goop.

CLEMENT
I'm thinking we need to take that salt...

90 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LATER

90

Cree eats ravenously as Madeline and Deacon load shotgun SHELLS with salt.

Clement and Manny examine Cree's cage.

CLEMENT
Damn thing's near impenetrable.

CREE
I almost had the key last night. Deputy still has it. Got his gun though.

MANNY
Girl's got her priorities...

CLEMENT
You know... some dynamite would get that door right open.

CREE
Dynamite?

CLEMENT
Pop that puppy open faster than a fiver will spread a whore's thighs.

CREE
Hell no!

DEACON
You have some?

CLEMENT

No. But I know where it is. You do too.

Deacon shakes his head.

DEACON

The tunnel. Shit.

CREE

What's wrong with it?

DEACON

Monster's in the tunnel.

CREE

Good: Means no dynamite.

MANNY

We won't stand a chance in there.

DEACON

Yes we will.

From his pack, Deacon takes out a wooden box. Revertantly opens it to produce a strange oversized PISTOL.

MANNY

What's that?

DEACON

Something I picked up in the war. They were testing them towards the end, and I never had the chance to return mine. It's a shot-pistol: A glorified revolver set to fire shotgun shells. It'll carve a hole the size of your head through a man and still have 5 more shots for his friends.

He spins the revolver's wheel. Deftly locks it into place.

MANNY

You've got yourself a fancy scatter-gun. So what?

DEACON

So, we're going to fill it full of salt. You saw what just a handful did to those things. We're on even footing long as we got this.

MANNY

I'm still not liking this idea.

DEACON

You want her out of there don't you? If so, you'll be pitching in.

MANNY

Fine.

DEACON

Then it's agreed.

CREE

No it's not. I didn't agree to nothing. No way I'm letting you put dynamite anywhere near me.

DEACON

It's the only way, Cree.

Deacon leads the rest of the group out the door.

CREE

You find another way!

Desperately she SHOOTs the lock. It RICOCHETS back. Scarcely misses her.

CREE

Dammit!

She checks her revolver: One bullet left.

CREE

I got one shot left, and I'm going to shoot the first person I see with dynamite! You hear me? First person!

91 EXT. TRAINLINE - AFTERNOON

91

Marching up the mountain, the group remains armed and ready.

CLEMENT

Why you think Jin told us to run while it's light out?

DEACON

You seen any around in daylight? Maybe it hurts them.

CLEMENT

Daylight hurts them? That may be the most beef-witted thing I ever heard come out of your mouth, Deacon.

DEACON

It ain't so strange. We know salt hurts them.

CLEMENT

Well yeah, that makes sense. You ever been shot with salt? Stings like a son of a bitch.

DEACON

But it don't kill you. Kills them.

CLEMENT

Yeah, but sunlight? That's just goosey.

DEACON

Hurts bats.

CLEMENT

No it don't. They just don't like it.

DEACON

Maybe those monsters don't like it neither.

CLEMENT

You telling me you think something that can take six shots and keep coming has an aversion to something simple like sunlight? Only an idiot would spout something so stupid. I mean really, think about it. Does that make any sense at all?

Ignoring Clement, the rest of the group continues on.

CLEMENT

Really though, sounds like something someone just made up...

Arriving at the mouth of the Tunnel, they warily look in.

DEACON

As I remember it, the dynamite was about half way down. The Ranger and I will go in for it while you two stay up here and make sure nothing gets behind us. The tunnel intersects some mines, so make sure none of them cut us off. Anyone have any problems with that?

CLEMENT

Yeah, I do.

Clement pulls Deacon aside from the other two.

CLEMENT

Why is it you get to go in with the resident hard-case, leaving me with the girl all ass and attitude? Did I mention she don't like me too well neither?

DEACON

This is how it's got to be.

CLEMENT

No, this is shit. It should be me and you in there, Deacon.

DEACON

It can't play that way. I need you up here watching my back. If anything happens to me in there and the Ranger lives, you're going to have to make sure he doesn't end up with Cree. You're the only one I can trust to make sure she's alright. Promise me you'll make sure she comes through this safe. Promise me.

CLEMENT

You know, I remember when we were kids coming up. I never had to ask you to have my back, and you never had to ask me neither. A lot of time has passed since then...

(pulls Deacon close)

...but the way I see it, nothing's changed. You just make sure you come out alright.

The two return to find Manny and Madeline lighting TORCHES.

Taking one, Deacon leads Manny into the tunnel. They go a few feet down to where the MINE branches off.

DEACON

Cover this point. Make sure nothing comes past here but us.

Madeline and Clement move to the spot. Deacon and Manny continue on.

MANNY

We're not just after the dynamite are we? You're hoping to save that Coolie girl.

DEACON

The way I see it, the dynamite's our first priority, but if we do find her we'll take her with us. If you take issue with that, speak up now.

MANNY

No issue. It's the right thing to do.

DEACON

Funny: A man ready to take an innocent girl back to her death, telling me what the right thing is.

MANNY

Son, knowing the right thing don't always mean you do it. You love your sister, so much you'd do the wrong thing to save her. Me, I love my wife same way.

(beat)

Enough jawing. Let's head on.

They continue on down into the tunnel.

93

INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - CONTINUOUS

93

At the end of the tunnel Jiong Zhao and Jin sleep when an ECHO from Deacon and Manny's conversation trails down.

Jin stirs. Checks to find Jiong Zhao still asleep and her vampire sentries both quite awake.

JIN (ENGLISH)

(to herself)

Go back. You need to go back.

But the echoes continue. Jiong Zhao opens her eyes.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
More intruders.

The other vampires stalk up the tunnel towards our heroes.
Jiong Zhao promptly falls back asleep.

JIN (ENGLISH)
They're coming!

Jiong Zhao's eyes snap open again.

94 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

94

Deacon and Manny stop as they hear Jin's warning.

DEACON
Guess she's still alive.

They hear SNARLS from the approaching vampires below.

MANNY
But she's not the only thing moving
down here.

DEACON
No sense in doing this quiet now.
Jin, come to us! We'll get you
out!

The sound of the vampires gets closer...

95 INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - CONTINUOUS

95

Jiong Zhao grabs hold of Jin's throat.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)
What did you say to them?

JIN (SUBTITLE)
I told them to get out. No one
else needs die today.

JIONG ZHAO
They will die if I choose it.

The woman tightens her grip. Jin winces.

JIONG ZHAO
You are becoming willful...

96 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 96

The first vampire steps into view.

MANNY

He's yours.

Deacon fires. BOOM: The vampire vanishes.

Another comes forward. Manny brings it down.

97 INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - CONTINUOUS 97

The amplified sound of Deacon's shot ECHOES down the tunnel.

Jiong Zhao releases Jin. Covers her ears.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Ah... the thunder...

Jiong Zhao writhes under the echoes.

Jin looks to her unaffected guards.

98 INT. MINESHAFT - CONTINUOUS 98

The sound of the fire-fight below reaches Madeline and Clement.

The peer into the mineshaft. See a vampire coming forward.

CLEMENT

Looks like they stirred up the
hornets.

He fires. Brings it down.

Another approaches. Clement takes aim when...

CLEMENT

Well, I'll be a son of a bitch...

...He notices it's the Deputy, the KEYS still at his waist.

CLEMENT

We been looking for you.

Firing, Clement fells him.

99 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 99

Mowing down any vampire they see, Deacon and Manny arrive at a box of DYNAMITE. Deacon starts towards it when...

MANNY

What the hell are you doing! The torch, don't let it near the dynamite!

Manny grabs the dynamite while Deacon covers them.

MANNY

Let's go.

DEACON

The girl!

MANNY

She better hurry.

DEACON

Jin, come on if you're coming!

100 INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - CONTINUOUS 100

Hearing Deacon's words, Jin looks to the writhing Jiong Zhao.

Taking a big breath, Jin runs right past her sentries. Out towards freedom.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

No! Bring her back!

The two vampires look about. Cannot find the invisible girl.

101 INT. MINESHAFT - CONTINUOUS 101

Clement moves into the mine shaft to claim his prize. So intent is Clement on the keys, he doesn't see the vampire near him until it's too late...

He braces for his end... when the vampire EXPLODES from Madeline's blast.

CLEMENT

Thank you. He would have killed--

Madeline SLAMS her gun into Clement's head. Knocks him down.

102 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 102

Blindly Jin makes her way up the tunnel.

DEACON (O.S.)

Jin? You on your way?

Against her better judgement, Jin calls out.

JIN (ENGLISH)
I'm coming!

The vampire sentries spot her. Head right for her.

103

INT. MINESHAFT - CONTINUOUS

103

Nearly unconscious, Clement rolls to face Madeline.

MADELINE
Is that what ye did to me da? Is
that how ye killed him? Or did ye
shoot him in the back?

CLEMENT
What?...

His head swimming, he tries to focus on her.

MADELINE
Tell me how you did it?

CLEMENT
I didn't do nothing.

She produces her father's RING. Brandishes it before him.

MADELINE
This ring's me da's. I found in
your room. You took it after you
killed him!

CLEMENT
I won it from him in a game.
Maddie, your dad and me was
friends.

Madeline smacks him again.

MADELINE
You don't get to say that! Tell me
you killed him. Tell me you killed
him and I'll let you live!

CLEMENT
But I didn't...

Madeline brings the shotgun round to fire. Clement tosses
the keys to her.

CLEMENT
Take the keys... please just take
the keys...

He slips unconscious.

Madeline prepares to fire again, but can't bring herself to.

MADELINE
You deserve this... You deserve
this and more...

A NOISE makes her look up. She spots another vampire.

She takes aims. It halts...

104 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 104

The vampires close on her heels, Jin sees the light from Deacon's torch ahead.

The strain finally too much for her, she BREATHES again.

JIN (ENGLISH)
I'm coming!

The vampires nearly have her... Their fingers brush her hair!

BOOM! BOOM! Deacon's shots bring them down.

Jin falls to her knees before him.

DEACON
Glad you made it.

He offers her his hand.

DEACON
Come on, let's get out of here...

105 INT. MINESHAFT - CONTINUOUS 105

Never taking her eyes off the vampire, Madeline picks up the keys. Slowly backs away to the tunnel.

The Vampire goes straight for Clement. She watches it tear into Clement's throat.

MADELINE
You deserve this...

The Vampire looks up at her. She blows it away.

106 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 106

Carrying the dynamite, Manny leads the way as Deacon covers their rear. Up ahead they spot Madeline and her torch.

DEACON
Maddie. My, aren't you a...

But Deacon's words fail when he doesn't see Clement.

DEACON
Clem?

Deacon beholds the body of his friend.

DEACON
Clement... No...

MADELINE
(shows keys)
He got you these... before...

Deacon's knees buckle. He falls to the ground.

MANNY
You can mourn him outside.

Manny and Madeline head out. Deacon stares at Clement.

JIN
We need to go.

Jin offers him her hand.

107 INT. TUNNEL - THE VAMPIRE NEST - CONTINUOUS 107

Her ears still ringing, Jiong Zhao forces herself towards the entrance.

108 EXT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER 108

The group bursts out into the daylight.

JIN (ENGLISH)
We need to hurry. The dark is coming. They will come with it.

MANNY
You know what they are?

JIN
They are Jiang Shi, the restless spirits of the unburied.

MADELINE
Restless me arse. Ruthless is what you mean.

JIN
We must hurry. We will be safe in
my village. She cannot enter the
buildings there.

DEACON
"She"?

JIONG ZHAO (O.S.)
Jin...

They turn to see Jiong Zhao at the mouth of the tunnel.
Slowly she steps out into the burning light.

JIN
She...

Jiong Zhao takes a step forward. SIZZLES in the sunlight.

JIONG ZHAO
Come back to me, child. You belong
to me.

JIN (SUBTITLE)
I was never yours.

JIONG ZHAO
Come back to me. Do it now and I
will let them live.

DEACON
What she say?

JIN (ENGLISH)
She says she will let you live if I
go back to her now.

MANNY
She's giving us a pass? For you?

JIN
Yes.

DEACON
Why she want you so bad?

JIN
Why don't you ask her that?

DEACON
I can't talk your language.

JIN
And she cannot speak yours.

MANNY
Can we trust her?

JIN
I believe so.

DEACON
Don't matter.

Deacon fires at Jiong Zhao with his shot-pistol. She FLIES back into the tunnel as the blast barely misses her.

DEACON
Now let's get my sister...

The sun setting behind them, the group hurries back to town.

109 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - EVENING 109

Deacon bursts through the door. Cree levels her gun.

CREE
I'm not fooling.

DEACON
Get your back down, Cree. We got the key.

CREE
What about the dynamite?

MANNY
Got that too.

Everyone else enters. Deacon unlocks Cree's cage.

110 INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 110

The sun finally sets. And when it does Clement rises to stand along with the other vampires.

With a SCREAM of rage, Jiong Zhao takes flight out of the tunnel and into the night. The vampires stream after her.

111 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - CONTINUOUS 111

Cree looks about.

CREE
Where's Clem?

DEACON
He... He didn't make it.

Cree pulls him to her.

CREE
I'm sorry, Deacon.

Even at this distance they hear Jiong Zhao's scream.

CREE
I'm going to need a better gun.
And cartridges.

112 EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

112

Jin now carrying the dynamite, the group races towards the CEMETERY, past numerous dead BODIES in the street.

CREE
Where are we going?

JIN
In the center of my village there is a meeting house large enough for us. They will not be able to get in there.

CREE
Why not?

JIN
My people practise feng shui, the right arrangement of space. The Jiang Shi cannot pass if a special board is placed...
(off Cree's blank stare)
Magic.

CREE
Oh.

The dead bodies in the streets slowly stand as VAMPIRES.

JIN
Remember, they can't see you if you hold your breath.

CREE
Why not?

JIN
Magic.

They arrive at the edge of the Cemetery as the first vampire stumbles forward. Manny drops him with a shot.

Suddenly Jiong Zhao SWOOPS from the sky at Jin.

DEACON

Jin!

He pushes the girl out of the way in time. Jiong Zhao flies away, Cree watching.

DEACON

She can fly?

CREE

Magic.

Approaching vampires cut them off.

MADELINE

Let's see if that breath bit works.

They hold their breath as they move forward. Blinded, the vampires are like fish in a barrel to our heroes.

They are almost through the cemetery when Jiong Zhao swoops in again. Grabs Madeline.

DEACON

Maddie!

Deacon hits Jiong Zhao with a glancing SHOT, forcing her to drop Madeline... close to a knot of vampires.

The vampires are on her immediately. Biting into her flesh, they are unable to kill her before Deacon's gun obliterates them all.

DEACON

Come on...

Helping the wounded woman along, Deacon leads the group into the Chinese village.

JIN

Here.

113 INT. MEETING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

113

Jin leads them into the Meeting House. The pursuing vampires all stop at the threshold. Unable to enter.

Deacon does his best to bind Madeline's grievous wounds.

MADELINE

How bad is it?

DEACON

It's only a few scratches. I've done worse to myself shaving.

MADELINE

You're a bloody liar.

CREE

Deacon, you need to see this.

Following Cree's gaze, Deacon spies the vampire Clement.

DEACON

Clem?

Clement growls at him.

CREE

You want to put him down?

DEACON

Do it for me, Cree. I don't have the heart.

Cree takes aim, but Clement moves out of her field of vision before she can get the shot off.

Suddenly Jiong Zhao alights before them. Grabs hold of the door. SPARKS shoot out from her hands.

DEACON

Are you sure she can't get in here?

JIN

Yes.

With a cry of pain, Jiong Zhao finally lets go.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Jin! You will come out here now! Do not make me harm you. My vengeance is a terrible thing.

Deacon readies his weapon, but Jin stops him. She faces Jiong Zhao.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

My father once told me, "He who seeks vengeance must dig two graves, one for his enemy, the other for himself". Because of you my father is buried. May your body also rot in this earth, and may your soul rot in hell.

JIONG ZHAO

Very well. If you will not come to me willingly...

Stalking off to a nearby HAY-BIN, Jiong Zhao removes her MATCHES. Lights the bin on fire.

She grabs two burning BRANDS. Throws them onto the building.

The roof quickly catches fire. A SPARK falls through, nearly landing on the DYNAMITE!

DEACON

Move the dynamite into the center of the room! Quick!

Everyone battles the fire, but it grows worse.

Too injured to help, Madeline sits by the dynamite.

She tries to stem the blood dripping down her neck. Looks from the blaze to the waiting vampires outside.

MADELINE

A man born to be hanged has no fear of drowning...

CREE

What was that, English?

MADELINE

An old Scottish saying me da was fond of. Means--

CREE

--I know what it means. Deputy told it to me when I was locked up. Said he heard it from the last man he killed.

MADELINE

He killed me da?

CREE

Don't know for sure.

Cree looks outside. Sees the vampires surrounding them.

CREE

But you'll be able to ask him yourself soon enough, looks like.

Following her gaze, Madeline catches a glimpse of Clement.

MADELINE

No...

The rest of the group gives up on the spreading flames.

DEACON

We're going to have to make a run
for it.

CREE

Think maybe she's expecting that?

DEACON

It's not like we really have a
choice. You want to burn to death?

CREE

Better than coming back as one of
them.

MADELINE

I know what we're going to do.

Grabbing two sticks of DYNAMITE, Madeline limps away.

MADELINE

Make the most of this...

Lighting the dynamite on a nearby flame, Madeline rushes
outside. Mustering her failing strength, she leads the
vampires away.

MADELINE

Come on then, ye bastards!...

They swarm her. Bring her to the ground.

She finds the vampire Clement at her side. Smiles.

MADELINE

I deserve this...

Jiong Zhao approaches the fallen girl. Notices the burning
fuses of the dynamite.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

Get away from her! It's a trap!

But the vampires don't understand. Jiong Zhao takes flight.

DEACON

Maddie!

The dynamite EXPLODES. Sends Jiong Zhao reeling.

A smoldering piece of roof falls near the remaining dynamite.

MANNY

Go now!

The survivors rush out into the night. Scant seconds before the building EXPLODES.

Running from the conflagration, Deacon leads Cree and Manny towards the foothills.

Only Jin remains to watch the village that was her home burn.

JIN

Goodbye.

Without looking back, Jin follows the rest on their trek.

114 EXT. CHINESE VILLAGE - LATER 114

Trapped under RUBBLE, Jiong Zhao comes to.

Shoving the debris aside, she takes flight.

115 EXT. FOOTHILLS - NIGHT 115

The night wears on for our survivors. Deacon looks to the weary Jin as she stumbles.

DEACON

We'll rest here tonight.

MANNY

We'll stop when it's daylight.

DEACON

She can't make it 'til daylight.
We rest here.

MANNY

It's not a good idea.

CREE

The two of us say it's time to
stop.

They make for some nearby trees. Cree pulls Deacon aside.

CREE

What are we going to do with him?

DEACON

How can you go asking that now? He
saved my life. Yours too.

CREE

Man's gunning for me. Look him in the eyes and tell me he's not planning it still.

DEACON

Fine. We'll split a watch.

She starts away.

DEACON

We did good, Cree. Didn't we?

CREE

We did.

Cree heads back to the camp. Looks to Jin. Sees the girl shiver.

CREE

Here.

Cree tosses the girl her duster.

JIN

Thank you.

Without so much as a nod, Cree rolls over to sleep.

116 EXT. FOOTHILLS - LATER

116

Flying high up, Jiong Zhao circles the town in an ever widening gyre.

Her search takes her above the foothills, where she spots our heroes.

117 EXT. FOOTHILLS - MOMENTS LATER

117

Tired beyond measure, Deacon tries his best to stay awake.

His head droops. Against his will, he falls asleep.

A sudden NOISE awakens Deacon. He aims his shot-pistol.

Finding nothing, he sets the weapon back on the ground.

DEACON

Wake up, Deacon. Wake up.

Slapping himself in the face, Deacon stands. Walks away from the group... leaving his shot-pistol on the ground...

Deacon wanders away, his waking mind returning. Looks back to his sleeping sister.

DEACON

Lord, if you're up there... Please let her make it through this. Let Cree...

Jiong Zhao alights nearby the sleeping group.

DEACON

No!

Drawing his PISTOL, Deacon fires several times. Runs right for Jiong Zhao.

She flies straight at him. Catches him in her hands.

Cree awakens just as Jiong Zhao BITES into Deacon's neck.

CREE

Deacon!

Cree draws, but Jiong Zhao turns. Keeps Deacon between them.

DEACON

Cree. Run.

Taking flight with the boy, Jiong Zhao drops Deacon as she soars away ahead of the coming dawn.

He comes down with a crash.

DEACON

Cree?...

Cree cradles her dying brother.

CREE

I'm here, Deacon.

DEACON

I tried... I always tried to look out for you...

CREE

I know you did. I never made it easy on you either.

(beat)

I'm sorry, Deacon.

DEACON

The stars... the stars are out... So beautiful...

Deacon's last breath escapes him. Head bowed, Cree's tears fall onto his face.

CREE

Deacon?...

Manny approaches. GRABS both her and Deacon's pistols away.

118 EXT. CAVE - MORNING 118

Desperately flying away from the approaching sunlight, Jiong Zhao spots a nearby CAVE.

Just as the sun breaks the horizon, she steps inside.

119 EXT. FOOTHILLS - CONTINUOUS 119

Dully Cree looks to Manny, the fire in her eyes now out.

CREE

My brother's dead.

MANNY

And I'm sorry for your loss, but I still need you.

CREE

I have to bury him.

MANNY

You got a shovel? I don't.

CREE

My brother was killed by one of them monsters, just like Clement. That mean he's going to come back as one himself?

JIN

If he remains unburied. Yes.

CREE

I'm not leaving him to become that.

MANNY

You don't have a choice in the matter. We're leaving. Now.

Cree pops her neck.

CREE

It's a long way back to Texas, Ranger.

(MORE)

CREE (cont'd)

We don't take care of my brother, I promise you, I will get loose. And I will kill you. Look me in the eyes; you know I will.

(beat)

If you let me take care of Deacon, I'll go back with you quiet as a lamb. I won't fight you.

MANNY

I have your word on that?

CREE

You do. It's the only thing I have left now.

MANNY

How do you plan to do it? You ain't going to be able to make a hole big enough for him with your hands. And I ain't stepping foot back to that town.

CREE

Let me wait to see if he comes back. If he does, I need to put him down.

MANNY

You'd shoot your own brother?

CREE

My brother's dead.

MANNY

Alright. Use his salt-gun.

CREE

That gun was his pride and joy. I won't use it on him.

MANNY

Fine.

Manny opens Cree's revolver. Unloads all but one bullet. Tosses it to her.

MANNY

I'm taking you at your word. You got one shot for him. Try me and I'll forget about your bounty.

(to Jin)

You're free to go.

Jin looks about the desolate landscape. To the smoking town.

JIN

I have nowhere to go now.

MANNY

You stick to me and keep an eye
out for more of those monsters, you
can come with us. I'll make sure
you stay safe.

Manny takes the shot-pistol and backs up to the trees to sit.
His eyes never leave Cree.

But the fight has gone out of the girl. She doesn't even go
for her pistol.

She brushes the dust off her brother. Straightens his
clothes. Places PENNIES over his eyes.

With that she kneels before him. Waits for dusk.

120

EXT. FOOTHILLS - AFTERNOON

120

Awakening from a nap, Jin looks over. Sees Manny watching
her.

Jin goes to Cree. Puts her hand on Cree's shoulder.

JIN

Your brother was a good man. He
saved my life.

Cree shrugs Jin's hand away.

CREE

Saved mine too. More than once.

JIN

I do not know what that man wants
with you, but for your brother's
sake I will help you escape.

CREE

No. It's time to answer for what
I've done.

JIN

My father once told me "Failure is
not falling down, but refusing to
get up".

CREE

You misunderstand: I'm not going back to die. I'm going back to kill them men we've been running from. Starting with the Ranger. Running's what got Deacon killed, and I'm never running again.

(beat)

But right now, I'm mourning my brother.

Again Jin puts her hand on Cree's shoulder. And this time it remains. Together they watch the sun sink in the horizon.

121 INT. CAVE - EVENING 121

The sun sets. Jiong Zhao awakens.

122 EXT. FOOTHILLS - CONTINUOUS 122

The sun passes past the horizon.

Cree makes her way to the revolver. Picks it up.

CREE

Wait with the Ranger. I want to be alone with my brother.

Jin does so.

Putting her duster back on, Cree pops her neck. The wait is not long: Deacon rises shakily to his feet.

CREE

Deacon?

The vampire turns on her. She looks him in his dead face as he shambles towards her.

CREE

You're not my brother...

Cree SHOTS him between the eyes.

He falls. Never to stand again.

CREE

Goodbye.

She drops her empty weapon.

CREE

Let's go home.

Turning, Cree finds Jiong Zhao DRINKING the last bit of life from Manny!

CREE

Shit.

Jiong Zhao drops Manny's drained body. Looks to Jin.

JIONG ZHAO (SUBTITLE)

You have caused me much pain,
child. And I am not forgiving by
nature. Tell me why I should not
destroy you now?

JIN (SUBTITLE)

Who will you demonstrate your power
to when I am gone?

Jiong Zhao steps towards her.

JIONG ZHAO

I will find another.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

But it will not be me. Let us
live, and I will follow you until I
die.

JIONG ZHAO

You promised me your obedience once
before. Your words were false.

JIN (SUBTITLE)

I did not know your power then. I
know it now, as does she. Let her
live to spread the story of Jiong
Zhao, the terror of this land.
Please, she will tell your story
and I will stand by your side.

Jiong Zhao looks over Cree, who stares back with killer's eyes.

JIONG ZHAO

This one... she does not fear
death... She does not even fear
me...

Jiong Zhao finally looks away. A smile creases Cree's face.

CREE

Jin, get my gun.

Jiong Zhao launches herself at Cree, and the final battle is on:

Jiong Zhao attacks with her claws. RIPS Cree with them.

Cree tries to keep her distance, but the vampire's attacks are too much.

CREE

Where's that gun, Jin?

Finally Jiong Zhao catches hold of Cree. Pulling her close, Jiong Zhao's fangs barely sink into Cree's neck...

BOOM!

Jiong Zhao winces at the sound of Deacon's shot-pistol. A few feet away, Jin points it into the air.

Jin levels it at the vampire. But Jiong Zhao keeps Cree between them.

CREE

Shoot her.

JIN (ENGLISH)

But I'll hit you.

CREE

You'll hit her too. Shoot!

Jin fires. Cree takes the brunt of the blast of salt.

CREE

Again!

Jin fires again. And again Cree takes most of the damage. Though she winces, Cree refuses to cry out.

JIONG ZHAO

Put the weapon down, child.

Jin cannot bring herself to fire again.

CREE

What are you doing? Fire!

JIN (ENGLISH)

I can't.

CREE

Fire, dammit!

But Jin lowers the gun.

JIONG ZHAO
 So, you see now, child. You see
 there is nothing you can do to hurt
 me...

Jiong Zhao's words touch off Jin's memory. She looks to
 Jiong Zhao's sash. Sees the MATCHES sticking out.

JIONG ZHAO
 You are truly mine now...

JIN (ENGLISH)
 There are Lucifer matches in her
 belt. Fire hurts her. Understand?

Cree nods.

JIONG ZHAO
 What did you say to her?

JIN (SUBTITLE)
 I told her how to destroy you.

JIONG ZHAO
 What?...

Cree STRIKES Jiong Zhao several times at the waist. The
 blows are soft, hardly causing any damage.

Jiong Zhao laughs.

JIONG ZHAO
 This is how you think I will be
 defeated?

Jin sees the first wisp of SMOKE rising from the vampire.

JIN (SUBTITLE)
 Yes. Yes I do.

Suddenly Jiong Zhao bursts into FLAMES.

CREE
 Now!

Cree drops to the ground. Jin fires. AGAIN and AGAIN!

Jiong Zhao EXPLODES. Sends flaming shrapnel everywhere.

JIN (ENGLISH)
 May you fly swiftly to hell.

Broken and bloody on the ground, Cree still finds the
 strength to smile.

CREE

Good... You did good, Jin...

Jin helps her up. Leads her to Jiong's Zhao's smoldering remains.

Cree spits. Puts out the last bit of fire.

123

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

123

Throwing shovels full of dirt on two new GRAVES, Cree works hard. Jin watches nearby when an approaching NOISE draws her attention.

A new batch of Chinese people enter the town. Jin heads to them as Cree finishes up.

Picking up a makeshift TOMBSTONE, Cree sets it at one of the graves. It reads: CLEMENT 'TEX' WALKER - FRIEND TO THE END.

Retrieving the second TOMBSTONE, Cree stares at it.

It reads: DEACON CORLEY - IN GOD'S SERVICE NOW.

Cree hefts a PACK and heads away. At the edge of the cemetery she looks back to Jin.

Jin raises her hand in salute. Cree returns the gesture.

She then pops her neck, revealing two healing SCARS from Jiong Zhao's bite on her throat.

With that she heads on back home to Texas...

124

124

125

EXT. FOOTHILLS - EVENING

125

The sun sets over the foothills as night spreads its shadow over Manny's corpse.

Slowly, laboriously, he rises. Peers about the fresh darkness with his blind, dead eyes.

He takes a step. Then another.

Each step takes him back home...