

Beast of Virginia

By

Matthew Corley

1039 Rosemont St
Austin, TX 78723
MatthewRobertCorley@gmail.com
469-233-2716

BEAST OF VIRGINIA

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT (1647)

The full moon glows like a chalky white eye set in a pure black socket. SPLASH. The moon ripples. A reflection upon the surface of the murky river.

A boy in colonial attire stands at the water's edge. This is HANS, 10, he would have pockets full of frogs were it not the dead of winter. He hurls a stone-- KERPLUNK.

Hans tosses and catches a pebble as he navigates the jagged riverside.

BRANCHES BREAK. Hans scans his surroundings. Spots something--

A deer grazes in the nearby woods. Hans hurls the pebble. The deer bolts, Hans chases.

MOMENTS LATER

Hans stops to catch his breath, all traces of the deer gone. His jaw drops--

A WATERFALL partially conceals a jagged rocky maw.

Churning water swirls into whirlpools as it collides with boulders that form a precarious crossing.

EXT. GERMAN CAMPSITE - NIGHT

A clearing in the forest. Horses graze near a wagon.

A GERMAN FAMILY warm themselves around a fire. A GERMAN MOTHER mends a pair of trousers. They speak GERMAN:

GERMAN MOTHER

Gilberta. Fetch your brother.

GILBERTA, a blonde teenage girl, looks up from her cross-stitching.

GILBERTA

Willard should.

Her Mother's scowl says it all. Gilberta tosses her cross-stitching. WILLARD, her older brother, grins.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Hans leaps across the last few boulders of the crossing. He peers into the expanding darkness, flings a stone, it ECHOES deep from within.

HANS

Echo!

ECHO... As the echo fades a low GROWL replaces it. Hans backs away. The GROWL intensifies.

A pair of red eyes glow in the darkness.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Gilberta weaves her way through gnarly trees. A WOLF HOWLS in the distance.

GILBERTA

Hans! Hans?

Only wilderness responds.

RIVERSIDE

Gilberta inspects footprints in the mud.

GILBERTA

Hans!? Answer or I swear I'll make you eat dirt.

Gilberta smiles. Hans sprints at her full speed ahead. Her relief transforms to dread.

EXT. GERMAN CAMPSITE - NIGHT

GILBERTA'S SCREAM pierces through the trees. Willard and their Father spring for flintlock muskets.

FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The two men plow through tangled tree limbs. Muskets at the ready.

WILLARD

Gilberta!? Hans!

The two men survey their surroundings. It's the same in all directions-- cold and uninviting.

BRANCHES BREAK. They spin and aim their muskets-- Nothing. A cacophony of WOLF HOWLS break out. They wail through the woods in every direction.

A GROWL nearby. The men frantically search for the origin.

A dark figure tackles the Father. Blood splatters across Willard's face.

He screams and FIRES his MUSKET. The figure lunges forward--

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A fresh coat of snow blankets the ground. The nearby RIVER BABBLES. A rabbit hobbles forward. Its rear half crushed in a metal trap.

A pair of tattered boots crush snow near the rabbit. The boots belong to...

TABITHA FOXE, early 20s, she belongs in these woods and her hair appears to have never seen a brush.

Tabitha pries open the trap with disgust. She inspects the rabbit's injury-- entrails dangle from shredded flesh.

Tabitha CRACKS the rabbit's neck, stuffs it in her knapsack.

RIVERSIDE

The river churns. Frost hides in the shadows of large rocks. Tabitha stomps forward, heaves the metal trap-- SPLASH.

FOREST

Tabitha stalks tracks in the snow. BRANCHES BREAK. Tabitha unsheathes a knife, scans her surroundings--

Nothing but dead trees and snow.

MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha creeps forward in the wake of the tracks. A smile curls across her dirt-speckled face.

A dead stag hangs by its neck in a rope trap, its rear feet chewed off.

Tabitha plunges her knife deep into the stag's chest, saws down vertically.

Draining blood stains the pure white snow a crimson hue.

FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

A flat bloodstained rock. SPLAT. A pile of guts and entrails.

Tabitha grabs a handful of snow, cleans her leather gloves. She removes them, one hand bares an old injury, she's missing the last knuckle on her pinky and ring finger.

She raises her mangled hand to her lips, whistles. A WOLF HOWLS in response. And then ANOTHER. After a moment...

A large red wolf appears. It charges. Tabitha takes off in a sprint. The wolf closes in on her, tackles her.

Tabitha wrestles with the red wolf. It whines happily and licks her. Tabitha laughs, embraces the wolf, this is LOBO.

Several more timid wolves approach. They feast on the guts.

EXT. EDGE OF FOREST - DAY

Tabitha shoves a cart towards a clearing in the trees, the gutted deer carcass positioned atop a stack of logs.

EDGE OF PURITAN VILLAGE

Tabitha trudges along a small dirt path. A couple dozen wood buildings litter a large hill before her. The 'City on a Hill' adorned at its pinnacle by the Meeting-House with a bell tower.

Beautiful snow capped mountains form a backdrop of stark contrast to the surrounding gloomy forest and bleak Village.

SUPER: "THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS. 1647".

Tabitha stops in her tracks. She listens. A GIRL GROANS in pain. Tabitha lowers her cart and hones in on the sound.

RAVINE

A ten foot rocky slope. At the base MARY GREENE, 12, in a Puritan dress, clutches her ankle.

Tabitha appears at the precipice, slides down the incline. She gently squeezes Mary's ankle.

Mary pulls away.

TABITHA
Able to walk?

Mary shakes her head.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Shame. Then you shan't be able to
scale the ravine.

Tabitha stands as if to leave.

MARY
Wait.

Tabitha considers. She reaches into her knapsack and extracts a hellebore, a red leathery flower with dirt clod still attached.

TABITHA
Tis a Christmas rose. Neither the
most beautiful nor fragrant flower.
Yet when the world around wilts and
dies, it has the audacity to bloom.
Would you like it?

Mary nods.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Then earn it.

Tabitha extends a hand, pulls Mary up.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

MR. GREENE, 40s, a balding and boorish man, kneels down. He examines the--

Disemboweled remains of a sheep carcass. Not much left. He inspects the surrounding area, wolf foot prints in the mud.

Mr. Greene extracts a bloody wolf canine from the sheep's guts. A CHURCH BELL RINGS in the distance.

EXT. GREENE CABIN - DAY

A small wood home surrounded by acres of tobacco fields. A nearby barn is larger than the cabin.

The BELL still RINGS in the distance.

Tabitha and Mary trudge toward the cabin. Mary clutches the Christmas rose, she looks up at Tabitha with admiration.

GOODY GREENE, 40s, clearly an unpleasant woman, scowls at the girls. Mr. Greene shuffles up next to her, joins in the scowling. Both are dressed in their Puritan Sunday best. (Goody is an honorific title for married women).

Goody Greene charges as they draw near.

GOODY GREENE

I bade you return by second bell!

Goody Greene grabs Mary, inspects her disheveled clothing.

GOODY GREENE (CONT'D)

You've sullied your dress.

TABITHA

She fell down the ravine.

Goody Greene refuses to acknowledge Tabitha, she rips the Christmas rose from Mary's grasp.

GOODY GREENE

I forbade you to take things from
the heathen.

MARY

Tis a Christmas rose!

Goody Greene rends the flower to shreds, flings the pulp, yanks Mary by the wrist.

Tabitha examines the flower remains, it's beyond saving. The BELL RINGS.

EXT. MEETING HOUSE - DAY

The BELL swings in the tower.

Puritan Congregation march forward in their Sunday best, mostly somber black and white but with the occasional vegetable dyed dress or hatband.

PASTOR HARRISON, 40s, with a stern face but kindly eyes, greets the approaching Congregation.

DANIEL HARRISON, 20s, with the same kindly eyes but a smile to match, nods at the entering Congregation. With each passing nod his eyes taper shut.

Harrison's glare snaps Daniel to attention.

Mr. Greene and Harrison firmly shake hands. Daniel pats Mary atop her head, something catches his eye--

Tabitha shoves her cart towards the Meeting House.

GOODY HARRISON, 40s, lacks both kindly eyes and smile. She glares at Tabitha. Goody Greene whispers with her just out of Harrison's earshot.

GOODY GREENE

The wolf girl disregards the Sabbath, yet your husband does naught?

GOODY HARRISON

Would that he heeded my counsel.

GOODY GREENE

She aims to poison Mary against me.

GOODY HARRISON

God would will it not.

GOODY GREENE

I've seen--

GOODY HARRISON

Tis bootless! While she is protected by that snake of a Magistrate.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW, 50s, with sharp features and a crooked smile, struts towards the Meeting House. Mr. Greene intercepts him.

MR. GREENE

Magistrate, the wolves have been at my sheep again.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Now is hardly an appropriate time for such matters.

MR. GREENE

Yes, but--

Crawshaw waves a dismissive hand at Mr. Greene and trudges forward.

PASTOR HARRISON

Peace be with you, Magistrate.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Very well, Harrison.

Crawshaw pats the sleepy eyed Daniel on the shoulder.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
I'd rather slumber myself.

Crawshaw scurries up the steps, satisfied with himself.
Harrison attempts to conceal his scowl, Daniel his grin.

Tabitha approaches the meeting house.

PASTOR HARRISON
Admonish her.

BACK OF MEETING HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel stands in wait. Tabitha lowers her cart.

TABITHA
Three shall suffice.

DANIEL
You aught naught do this on the
Sabbath, Tabby.

TABITHA
Who am I to control when the stag
triggers the trap?

Tabitha grabs the two remaining legs of the stag, Daniel
moves to help but Tabitha has already plopped the carcass to
the ground.

DANIEL
Attend service. You've already made
a spectacle of your presence.

TABITHA
And suffer their glares?

Daniel digs in his pockets and extracts a couple of pounds.

DANIEL
Perhaps if you attended service...
They should have nothing but
gratitude.

Tabitha snatches the money.

TABITHA
Let them keep their gratitude.

Tabitha grabs her cart and shoves off down the hill. Daniel watches her go. He grins.

INT. MEETING HOUSE - DAY

The nicest building in the village, but that isn't saying much. Wood panels shutter the windows, crosses hang from the wall, and cold hard benches fill the room.

The entire village is present, maybe one hundred in all. Women sit on one side, men the other.

Harrison preaches from an elevated pulpit.

PASTOR HARRISON

This winter has been unforgiving.
We have lost young...

Goody Greene sobs into her palms, Goody Harrison pats her shoulder.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

And old, to sickness and hardship.

Crawshaw crosses his arms, remains stoic. Harrison reads from his leather bound Geneva Bible:

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

Take heart. "The Lord is my
shepherd, I shall not want. He
maketh me to rest in green pasture.

The CONGREGATION nods along, joins in.

CONGREGATION

And leadeth me by the still
waters...

EXT. DIRT ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha shoves her cart towards a small cabin near the edge of the village.

CONGREGATION (V.O.)

He restoreth my soul, and leadeth
me in the paths of righteousness.

Tabitha spots something, she halts.

CONGREGATION (V.O.) (CONT'D)

For his Name's sake.

Tabitha drops her cart. Sprints off into a--

PASTURE OF DEAD GRASS

Tabitha charges full speed ahead.

CONGREGATION (V.O.)
Yea, though I should walk through
the valley of the shadow of death.

INT. MEETING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CONGREGATION
I will fear no evil. For thou art
with me: thy rod and thy staff--"

The DOORS BURST open. The Congregation's heads swivel.

Hans shivers in the doorway, caked in blood and mud. He collapses.

Tabitha bounds up the steps and catches him. Suddenly aware of all the eyes of the Congregation upon her.

EXT. GERMAN CAMPSITE - DAY

A gruesome scene, human and horse body parts strewn about. Crawshaw surveys. DEPUTY SAMUEL, 20s, shadows him.

Crawshaw inspects the German Mother's corpse.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Judge it a bear?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
They should still be in
hibernation.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Mayhap the long winter drove them
out early?

Crawshaw covers his mouth as he leans in for a closer inspection. He reaches for something.

BRANCHES BREAK. Crawshaw and Samuel leap for their muskets.

Daniel stands at the edge of the camp. Samuel eases his nerves with a chuckle.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
What are you doing here?

DANIEL
I thought you may-- Dear Lord.

Daniel gags at the sight of the slaughter.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
The men in the woods are even
worse.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Does your father know you're here?

Daniel shakes his head. Crawshaw grins, he inspects the item he removed from the corpse.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
What is it?

Crawshaw holds up a large canine fang.

INT. TABITHA'S CABIN - DAY

One large room. A ladder to an attic, a small fire under the chimney. Tabitha stirs a cauldron, fills a bowl with stew.

Hans peers into a small enclosure.

TABITHA
Essen sie.

Inside the enclosure a one-eyed rabbit hops around.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Sein Jack. You can pet him...
Reiben.

Hans pets Jack, the hint of a smile curls across his face. Tabitha hands Hans the stew. He scurries over to the table.

Something on a nearby shelf catches Tabitha's eye-- a rough red spessartine garnet. She inspects the garnet as though trying to recall some half-remembered dream.

DANIEL (V.O.)
It's a garnet.

FLASHBACK - EXT. FIELD OF GREEN GRASS - DAY

Teenaged Tabitha clutches the garnet, all fingers and knuckles accounted for. She's a few years younger, but her well groomed hair and smile make her look like a different person.

Daniel's younger as well, but his change nowhere near as drastic.

TABITHA

The ancient Greeks believed garnet protected travelers.

DANIEL

I know. You taught me that when we were ten.

Behind them Tabitha's FATHER readies a single horse wagon.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Harvard eh?

TABITHA

Father says he'll be able to sneak me all the books I can read.

DANIEL

You'll be right at home.

A moment passes as the two try to find the words. An impossible task for old friends giving a final farewell.

TABITHA

You'll visit?

DANIEL

Of course.

TABITHA

And if you see Lobo--

DANIEL

I'll give a big steak.

Tabitha clutches Daniel in a tight embrace. Social norms be damned.

A KNOCK.

END OF FLASHBACK

Tabitha fills a bowl from the cauldron, joins Hans at the table.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You know those woods better than anyone.

TABITHA

Why should I help a village that despises me?

DANIEL

The Tabby I know would.

TABITHA

I prefer to eat in silence.

Daniel opens his mouth but can find no words. He retreats, the wind shuts the door with a SLAM!

INT. MEETING HOUSE - DAY

SLAM! Crawshaw SLAMS a GAVEL. Crawshaw presides at an elevated bench.

The Congregation murmurs with an air of panic.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Peace. Peace!

The Congregation settle in their seats.

MR. GREENE

You call peace while the Devil haunts our village?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

The woods only. There be no evidence the beast shall enter our province.

MR. GREENE

Hogwash! My wife and child are crippled with fear.

PASTOR HARRISON

Calm yourself Mr. Greene. Undoubtedly the honorable Magistrate has a plan.

Daniel shifts in his seat next to Harrison.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Henceforth we shall conduct a night
watch. Daniel has been brave enough
to volunteer.

Daniel strides towards the bench. Harrison is taken aback.

DANIEL
My thanks, sire.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
I charge any able-bodied man to do
the same, until we kill this beast.

Daniel takes a seat next to Samuel near the bench. The DOOR
CREAKS open. Tabitha steps inside. The Congregation murmurs.

Tabitha marches forward. The eyes of the Congregation track
her. Goody Harrison blocks Tabitha.

GOODY HARRISON
What are you doing here?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
She's here upon my request.

Tabitha shoves past, approaches the bench.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Have you any notion of the beast
responsible?

Tabitha scans the faces of the room, glares and scowls. A
reassuring smile from Daniel. An encouraging nod from
Crawshaw.

TABITHA
Aye.

MR. GREENE
Of course she does. 'Twas the
wolves.

TABITHA
No.

MR. GREENE
We found the fang. This winter
they've killed two of my sheep.

TABITHA
People are not sheep.

MR. GREENE
 She'd rather a person die than a
 wolf.

TABITHA
 Only those deserving.

MR. GREENE
 The 'wolf girl' admits it!

GOODY GREENE
 Was likely her beast that did the
 slaughter.

TABITHA
 Swine!

Several of the Goodies gasp, none louder than Goody Greene.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
 Hear me. If you should drive out
 the wolves, then nothing shall keep
 the Devil from this place.

GOODY GREENE
 She threatens us!

Several Goodies mutter in agreement. Crawshaw SLAMS his
 GAVEL. They quiet down.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
 It is possible that the wolves were
 merely scavenging.

PASTOR HARRISON
 I worry Magistrate that mayhap your
 judgment be obfuscated.

Harrison glances purposefully at Tabitha.

MR. GREENE
 Agreed!

Crawshaw sighs and considers.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
 Send word. Three pounds per wolf
 head.

Tabitha storms towards the exit. Goody Greene smirks at her.

TABITHA
 The beast take you.

Goody Greene clutches herself as if to faint. Tabitha bursts out the exit. Daniel chases but Harrison blocks his path.

DANIEL

Fools! She seeks only to aid us and you scorn her?

MR. GREENE

Tis she that scorns us.

PASTOR HARRISON

Return to your seat.

Daniel faces off against his father for a moment, then begrudgingly plops back down.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A thin layer of FROST CRUNCHES underneath Tabitha's boots. She treads purposefully through the forest, comes to a stop at a bush with deep purple berries.

Tabitha delicately picks a few berries, secures them in a jar. Approaching FOOTSTEPS grab her attention, she spins--

Harrison looms behind her.

PASTOR HARRISON

You know what you forage?

TABITHA

Belladonna.

PASTOR HARRISON

Deadly nightshade.

TABITHA

Properly diluted tis a powerful pain relief.

PASTOR HARRISON

Your father and I did not agree on much, but we both saw God's grace in botany.

Tabitha collects herself, strides away. Harrison blocks her.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

It acquired its name for a reason.

Tabitha weaves around Harrison, he grabs her arm.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

Take care. It shan't just be you
that is harmed.

Tabitha yanks out of his grip. Harrison watches her walk away.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Tabitha hurries out of the forest. She spots something in the distance, breaks into a sprint towards it.

EXT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - DAY

Crawshaw sits with Mr. Greene.

MR. GREENE

Goody Greene beg me ask. Why do you
leave the boy with that girl?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

She's the only one that speaks any
German.

MR. GREENE

A poor excuse, sir.

Crawshaw rises as he spots something approach. He waves Mr. Greene away.

Mr. Greene snorts and walks away mumbling.

Crawshaw watches an approaching wagon with apprehension.

LEON POIRIER, 30s, a Frenchman in a black waistcoat with a scar across his face, leads a single horse wagon. A flintlock pistol on his hip.

SANI DEHAAYA, 40s, a Navajo dressed in similar fashion, paces along next to the wagon. He carries a sleeping owl in a cage.

LEON

(French accent)

Bonjour Monsieur. I am Leon
Poirier, hunter and trader
extraordinaire.

Crawshaw eyes him suspiciously, casts his gaze on Sani.

LEON (CONT'D)

My brozer and master tracker Sani
Dehaaya.

Sani nods his head.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Why do a Frenchman and Powhatan
trespass?

LEON
Leon Poirier. And Sani is Navajo.

Crawshaw scowls. Leon strides over to the wagon, pulls off the tarp to reveal-- A pile of wolf carcasses.

Crawshaw shuffles over, inspects the contents, lifts the carcass of a wolf pup.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Tis a pup.

LEON
A wolf still.

Crawshaw respectfully returns the pup carcass, withdraws into his Office.

Tabitha charges the wagon, frantically inspects the wolves.

LEON (CONT'D)
Mademoiselle?

Leon reaches for Tabitha. Tabitha spins, her knife already in hand.

TABITHA
You devil.

Leon backs away.

LEON
We're hunters, like them.

TABITHA
Wolves only kill to survive.

Crawshaw returns from his Office, tosses Leon a pouch.

LEON
Exactement.

Leon makes a show of counting the money.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Now be on your way.

LEON
You're three short.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
The bounty was for the beast that
killed the Germans, not pups.

LEON
Then you wasted eighteen pounds.

Leon leads the wagon towards a distant inn.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Those are mine.

Leon pulls out a scroll and reads:

LEON
"Three pounds per wolf head."
You're welcome to them, but the
furs are ours to trade.

Leon marches on towards the inn. Sani nods solemnly at
Tabitha, then follows.

Tabitha clinches her fists, glares at Crawshaw.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

The waning moon drifts behind a blanket of clouds. Daniel
patrols with a torch, his musket slung across his back. All
is quiet. He continues past the--

MEETING HOUSE

A BANG alerts Daniel. He creeps up the entrance stairs.
Another BANG from inside.

Daniel slowly opens the door--

INT. MEETING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Daniel tip-toes down the aisle. A BANG from the back office.
Daniel readies his musket, another BANG. He slowly pushes
open the door into the--

BACK OFFICE

Daniel creeps towards a desk, musket aimed--

A figure leaps up from behind the desk-- Daniel jumps.

PASTOR HARRISON
Daniel?

DANIEL
I nearly shot you.

PASTOR HARRISON
Why would you bring a weapon inside
the Lord's house?

DANIEL
I... heard a banging?

Harrison holds up a hammer. Tosses it onto the desk.

PASTOR HARRISON
It doth not maintain itself.

Daniel is at a loss.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Lend me a hand.

Daniel lowers his musket, helps Harrison lift a desk. They shuffle back a few feet and drop it with a BANG.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Sit.

The two position themselves on the desk.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Your mother and I... fear for you.

DANIEL
I am doing my duty.

PASTOR HARRISON
Tis the destination of your soul
that gives us disquiet.

Daniel realizes his meaning, leaps up from the table.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Do not walk away.

DANIEL
Tabitha's a good person.

PASTOR HARRISON
She curses the Greenes publicly.

DANIEL
The Greenes deserve cursing.

PASTOR HARRISON
Perhaps so.

Harrison collects his thoughts.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Only our Lord knows if she be one
of the Elect. But the damned are as
a whirlpool.

Daniel snatches his musket, storms out before Harrison can protest.

INT. TABITHA'S CABIN - NIGHT

SPLASH! Tabitha drops chunks of potato in a pot, stirs. She removes a kettle from the flames, pours a cup.

Hans wanders around the room. He picks up the spessartine garnet. Tabitha brings him the cup.

TABITHA
Trinken sie.

Hans returns the garnet, sips, scrunches his face in disgust.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
(in German; subtitled)
Can you speak to me about what you
saw?

Hans shuffles over to Jack's(the rabbit) enclosure.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Hans?

Tabitha brings over the garnet.

Hans pets Jack. Tabitha holds up the garnet. They speak in German, subtitled:

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Do you like it?

Hans nods.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
You can have it. If you tell me
what you saw.

HANS
A cave... Red eyes.

Tabitha's eyes widen. The garnet sparkles in the firelight.

INT. BAR & INN - NIGHT

A half dozen Puritan men sip their beers in somber silence. Crawshaw drinks alone in the corner, watching:

Leon and Sani stride up to the bar.

INNKEEPER JACOB, 30s, (Goody Harrison's nephew, shares her permanent scowl) cleans a glass behind the bar.

LEON
Two pints, Monsieur.

JACOB
We don't serve Powhatan filth.

LEON
Très bien. Sani is Navajo.

Jacob scoffs and continues to clean.

LEON (CONT'D)
I understand the confusion. You Puritans all look the same to me.

Jacob fills a single glass, slides it to Leon without a glance towards Sani.

LEON (CONT'D)
Have you ever killed a bear?

JACOB
Ten pence.

LEON
I thought not. Their skulls are so thick a musket can bounce off. Et they can rip a man in two if so inclined. Even so, Sani killed one using a tomahawk. Care to see?

Jacob glares at Leon.

LEON (CONT'D)
(to Sani)
Montre lui.

Sani unsheathes a finely made tomahawk, twirls it in the air in an impressive display, flings it. It sinks into the wall behind Jacob, he flinches.

LEON (CONT'D)
 Could you fetch that? Careful, tis very sharp.

Jacob looks over to a musket he has stashed behind the bar. Leon slaps money down on the bar.

LEON (CONT'D)
 There's an extra pound for damages.

Jacob considers. He rips the tomahawk out of the wall and drops it on the bar, fills a second glass.

LEON (CONT'D)
 Merci. Et we'll take two rooms.

Leon and Sani clink glasses and drink. Something catches Leon's gaze--

ACROSS THE ROOM

Tabitha scans the bar, she hurries over to Crawshaw. He rises as she approaches.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
 Tabitha?

TABITHA
 Gather some men.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
 (indicating a chair)
 Please.

Tabitha considers, joins him at the table.

TABITHA
 I know where the beast responsible dwells.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
 I've been thinking. It'd be prudent for you to return to your old room. There's a spare cot for the boy.

TABITHA
 I say I know the beast's domain, and you speak of me returning to your roof?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

I confess it has been lonely since Elizabeth's passing. But this be for your safety. Until the beast is slain.

TABITHA

That could be this night.

Crawshaw rests a hand on Tabitha. She rises from the table.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Wait. I'll gather the men at dawn. But consider my offer, for the boy's sake.

TABITHA

I'll see you at dawn.

Tabitha makes for the exit. Leon intercepts, offers a beer.

LEON

Mademoiselle, my apologies for your injured sensibilities--

Tabitha grabs the beer, douses Leon's face.

LEON (CONT'D)

Merde!

Tabitha shoves past-- Leon grabs her wrist.

LEON (CONT'D)

That was rude.

His French accent diminished, maybe he's been hamming it up.

TABITHA

Less than you deserve.

LEON

Pray tell. What do I deserve?

TABITHA

Unhand me or you shall see.

Leon smirks, releases her.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

What is this commotion, Frenchman?

Crawshaw marches forward.

LEON
 (accent back)
 Leon Poirier. I was telling
 Mademoiselle to fear not. Sani is
 the best hunter in New England.

TABITHA
 Tis naught.
 (to Leon)
 If you call me Mademoiselle again,
 I shall make you one.

Tabitha strides towards the exit. Crawshaw grins.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Tabitha hurries along the dirt road. She lights her way with
 a torch. The dark woods loom next to her.

She repeatedly looks back over her shoulder, as though she
 suspects that--

SOMETHING WATCHES HER

--from the woods.

EXT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

Tabitha hurries past. It's eerily quiet.

The waning moon conceals itself behind a cloud. A lone WOLF
 HOWLS in the distance.

Tabitha rounds the corner of the Meeting House--

SLAM! Tabitha and Daniel stumble from the collision.

DANIEL
 Tabby?

Tabitha dusts herself off and continues on her way. Daniel
 chases.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 What are you doing out here?

TABITHA
 We ride for the cave at dawn.

DANIEL
 Cave?

EXT. VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha marches forward. Daniel attempts to lead the way, but Tabitha has no interest in being escorted.

They walk in silence for a moment.

TABITHA
Why do you hound me so?

DANIEL
I'm escorting you. For your safety.

TABITHA
What care you of my safety?

DANIEL
You wound me.

TABITHA
When they went after the wolves,
you did nothing.

EXT. TABITHA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Tabitha and Daniel walk in silence. They reach the front door, flickering candlelight shines through the cracks.

DANIEL
You're right.

Tabitha taps a secret knock.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Lobo still lives.

TABITHA
For now.

The DOOR UNLATCHES, swings open to reveal Hans.

DANIEL
Does the offer for stew remain?

FROM A DISTANCE

The two enter Tabitha's cabin. But we linger... Something watches them.

INT. TABITHA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Tabitha, Daniel and Hans all have empty bowls scattered in front of them.

DANIEL
--hosen auf mein... Kopf.

Hans grins.

TABITHA
You said you wear pants upon your head.

DANIEL
When the mood arises.
(points at himself)
Hosen Kopf.

Hans chuckles.

TABITHA
Tis the first he's smiled.

Tabitha and Daniel share a look.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Schlafenszeit.

HANS
(groans)
Geschichte? Er sagt es?

TABITHA
He wants you to tell him a bedtime story.

LATER

Hans sleeps in his bunk. Tabitha cleans the table. Daniel inspects the room. He picks up the garnet.

DANIEL
You still have this?

Tabitha hurries over, snatches the garnet with her gloved hand.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You need not wear the gloves.

Tabitha clenches her fist, concealing her mangled fingers. She returns to cleaning.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I didn't mean to--

TABITHA
Should you not return to your
watch?

A moment of awkward silence. Tabitha keeps cleaning.

DANIEL
Perhaps I should.

Tabitha nods. Daniel gathers his things, makes for the exit.
He goes to open the door, reconsiders.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Why do you tarry in this village?

TABITHA
I wait for spring is all.

DANIEL
You could have left right after
Crawshaw found you. Yet you linger.

TABITHA
My presence disturbs you so?

DANIEL
You mistake me--

Daniel rests a hand on Tabitha's shoulder, she flinches.
CRASH! The bowls shatter on the floor.

TABITHA
It's you that's mistaken.

Tabitha gathers the bowl shards. Daniel hurries to help.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Some things can never be unbroken.

Tabitha dumps the shards in a refuse barrel.

DANIEL
This is a village of hypocrites.
Only you are true. If that is
broken then I do not wish to be
mended.

TABITHA
I am not so virtuous.

DANIEL
I want nothing more than to leave
this place with you.

TABITHA
You would abscond with a murderer?

DANIEL
A murderer? That's not possible.

Tabitha stares with steely resolve.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I would still leave with you.

TABITHA
I will not leave until the beast is
slain.

The two let the moment idle in silence.

DANIEL
I should go.

Tabitha nods. Daniel shuffles towards the door, he pauses at
the door, turns to Tabitha--

SLAM! The front door quakes in its frame. SOMETHING GROWLS
outside.

HANS
Der Untier!

SLAM! The door cracks. Daniel rushes to the bookshelf.

DANIEL
Tabby!

Tabitha hurries over, they blockade the door with the shelf.
SLAM! The door breaks but is stopped short by the shelf.

Hans bolts to the ladder in the back of the room.

HANS
Schnell! Schnell!

Hans scurries up the ladder and disappears into the attic.

Daniel and Tabitha race for the ladder. Tabitha stops and
grabs a jug and lantern, hurries to the ladder.

Daniel sees her up first then follows. SLAM! The BOOKSHELF
CRACKS.

ATTIC

Hans cowers in a corner. Tabitha springs through the opening, reaches down for Daniel. Daniel grabs the hatch.

DANIEL
Keep him safe.

Daniel slams the hatch closed from below. CLICK. He bolts the latch.

TABITHA
Daniel!

TABITHA'S CABIN

Daniel leaps down from the ladder, readies his musket.

SLAM! The BOOKSHELF SHATTERS.

DANIEL
We forsake you, Devil! You shall
not enter this place.

Daniel aims his musket. SLAM! The DOOR BURSTS open. A dark figure stands in the darkness beyond the door. Red eyes.

ATTIC

BANG! A MUSKET SHOT. A commotion below.

Tabitha holds the latch with her mangled hand, she trembles. She falters.

DANIEL releases a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM.

Tabitha finds her resolve, starts to open the latch. Hans grabs her hand, shakes his head. He holds a trembling finger to his lips.

They both listen-- it's quiet.

Tabitha peeks through cracks in the hatch. A dark figure flashes beneath. Tabitha jumps back, muffles her gasp.

SOMETHING below SNIFFS. Tabitha and Hans look at one another, not daring to blink.

After a beat the sniffing stops. All is quiet again. Tabitha and Hans both breathe a sigh of relief.

SLAM! The HATCH CRACKS open. Tabitha is knocked onto her back. A hairy black arm reaches through the crack and clutches Hans' ankle.

Hans screams. Tabitha grabs him but the hairy arm rips him from her grip.

In a flash Tabitha unsheathes her knife, plunges it into the hairy hand.

The BEAST HOWLS and yanks its hand away.

Hans scurries away. Tabitha attempts to shut the hatch but the latch is broken.

TABITHA

Hans, the jug! Krug!

Hans shakes his head and hugs his knees.

Tabitha springs for the jug. SLAM! The HATCH BURSTS open. The dark figure rises from the opening.

Tabitha hurls the jug at the figure, IT SHATTERS. Tabitha flings the lantern. WHOOSH! Flammable liquid.

Flames engulf the dark figure. It drops down the hatch.

The flames spread and grow. Tabitha rushes to a small window, pries it open.

Below, the flaming figure flees into the woods.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Hans!

Hans scurries to the window. Tabitha climbs out and--

EXT. TABITHA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

--drops down. Hans climbs out the window-- drops. Tabitha catches him. She charges back into--

INT. TABITHA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Flames spread across the ceiling, the walls catch fire.

Daniel lies in a bloody heap. Tabitha rushes to him. Bloody gashes cover his chest and throat.

He looks up at her with fading eyes... Tries to speak but only manages to gurgle blood.

Tabitha presses on the injuries futilely attempting to impede the blood flow. She looks into his eyes.

TABITHA

I will leave with you.

A smile curls across his face. The life fades from his eyes.

Tabitha kisses him. A desperate attempt to keep his soul in this world just a moment longer.

CRASH! A flaming beam collapses from the ceiling.

Hans peers in from the doorway.

HANS

Jack!

TABITHA

Quick!

Hans darts to the enclosure, grabs Jack and rushes out. Tabitha hoists Daniel.

EXT. TABITHA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha drags Daniel out the doorway as flames engulf the frame. She halts at a safe distance and clutches Daniel.

Daniel's eyes stare off, lifeless.

A dozen torch lights flicker in the distance. Hans huddles up next to Tabitha.

Flames consume her Cabin.

INT. TABITHA'S CABIN REMAINS - DAY

Crawshaw sifts through the charred remnants. Samuel watches over his shoulder.

A light dusting of snow falls through the collapsed roof.

Crawshaw picks something out of the wreckage-- a foot long bloodstained blade with no handle.

EXT. TABITHA'S CABIN REMAINS - CONTINUOUS

The morning sun peeks over the horizon. The sun's rays reflect off the snow.

Tabitha still clings to Daniel's lifeless body, both covered in blood and a layer of snow.

Hans shivers next to her, clutching Jack.

A group of Villagers huddle around to spectate. Goody Harrison breaks through the crowd.

GOODY HARRISON
No, no, no!

Goody Harrison shoves Tabitha aside, embraces Daniel.

GOODY HARRISON (CONT'D)
What have you done?

Tabitha shakes her head, stunned. The crowd gathers in, the Greens among them.

GOODY HARRISON (CONT'D)
She brought the Devil here!

Crawshaw and Samuel emerge from the wreckage and hurry towards the commotion.

GOODY GREENE
We all heard her summon him.

Goody Harrison charges Tabitha.

GOODY HARRISON
You've killed him!

TABITHA
No.

Goody Harrison wallops Tabitha across the face. Tabitha's cheek reddens but she doesn't respond.

Goody Harrison grabs a handful of Tabitha's hair. Tabitha claws at her. Harrison rushes forward to subdue Goody H.

Crawshaw helps break the women apart. Guides Tabitha away from the scene. Tabitha struggles to get back to Daniel.

INT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - DAY

Tabitha is pale, still covered in dried blood. Crawshaw hands her a rag, but she just stares off into space.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Can I fetch you anything? Tea?

Tabitha doesn't even look his way.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Will you tell me what occurred?

TABITHA
Where is Hans?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
He's safe.

TABITHA
Where?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
He's with the Greenes.

Tabitha finally looks at Crawshaw, an icy cold glare.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Tis for his own good. The boy can
hardly stay with you in a cell.

Tabitha looks ready to pounce across the table.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
I know you are no witch, but due
process must reign.

TABITHA
A witch?

GOODY GREENE (V.O.)
That's correct.

INT. MEETING HOUSE - DAY

Goody Greene sits in a witness chair. Crawshaw presides.
Harrison stands on the floor, questioning Goody Greene.

GOODY GREENE
I've witnessed her consorting with
beasts. And she has a rabbit
familiar.

Tabitha clinches her fists at the defendant table.

PASTOR HARRISON
Anything else give you cause to
believe that she be a witch?

GOODY GREENE

Aye. I suspect it was her
maleficium that caused my infant
to... to...

Goody Greene breaks down into tears. Harrison remains stoic for a moment, then provides an awkward pat on her shoulder.

PASTOR HARRISON

There, there.

Tabitha notices a palm sized wooden cross on the table before her, she casually rests her hand over it.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

But I'm afraid suspicions be not
evidence.

GOODY GREENE

She seeks to possess my Mary!

LATER

Mary stares at her feet in the witness chair. Tabitha watches her with concern, the wooden cross missing from the table.

PASTOR HARRISON

You understand the weight of this,
child? The Lord damns all liars.

Mary nods. Harrison approaches carrying a Christmas rose.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

Did Tabitha Foxe give you a flower
similar to this one?

Mary hesitates, then nods. Harrison extracts a jar from his pocket containing deep purple berries.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

And did she offer you one of these
berries?

Mary shakes her head.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

You're positive?

Mary gingerly nods. Harrison turns to face the Villagers that fill the Meeting House, holds up the jar for them to see.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
 I witnessed the accused forage
 these deadly nightshade berries.
 Which are used in conjunction with
 this poisonous hellebore to concoct
 a witch's flying ointment.

Mary jumps to her feet.

MARY
 Tis a Christmas rose! Tabitha
 gifted it to me for being strong
 when I fell in the ravine.

PASTOR HARRISON
 Poisonous nevertheless.

MARY
 My mother cared only of my torn
 dress.

GOODY GREENE
 The devil's tongue causes such
 falsehoods. Before the witch's
 influence she was an obedient
 child.

Mary slumps in her chair, defeated.

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Tabitha sits in her cell bed examining her garnet.

Samuel battles with slumber while on guard duty. Someone
 enters. FOOTSTEPS. Samuel leaps to attention.

LEON
 I wish a word with mademoiselle.

Samuel reaches for his musket.

LEON (CONT'D)
 I wouldn't.

Leon rests his hand on the hilt of his flintlock pistol.

LEON (CONT'D)
 I advise you fetch your Magistrate.
 I believe he's at the bar.

Samuel retreats from the room. Leon strides over to the cell.

LEON (CONT'D)
Bonjour, mademoiselle.

Tabitha turns her back to him.

LEON (CONT'D)
You saw the beast?

Tabitha stares at the wall.

LEON (CONT'D)
Tabitha.

Tabitha faces him. They size each other up. Her eyes move to the scar across his face.

LEON (CONT'D)
What did you see?

TABITHA
Evil.

The DOOR OPENS. Crawshaw rushes in, Samuel at his back.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
What are you doing here, Frenchman?

LEON
Leon Poirier.

Crawshaw unslings his musket. Leon doesn't react, but keeps his hand close to his pistol.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
I couldn't help but notice your arrival to this village was quite fortuitous.

LEON
The ambition of any bounty hunter.

Leon smirks, considers and drops his accent.

LEON (CONT'D)
When you realize your error, light a smoke fire at midday. I'll bring you the head of the beast for one hundred pounds, not a pence less.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Samuel, fetch Jacob from the bar. The two of you escort Leon and his 'brozer' out of the village. If they resist, shoot them.

LEON

No need. You have terrible beer
anyway.

Leon strides towards the exit, he steals a final glimpse of
Tabitha before he slips out, Samuel follows.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Are you harmed?

TABITHA

Only by this farce of a trial.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

There are legitimate claims.

TABITHA

Legitimate?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Claims by legitimate people.

Tabitha paces like an animal in a cage. Crawshaw opens the
cell, enters.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)

I have been pondering a solution.

Crawshaw locks the cell behind him, approaches Tabitha.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)

I perchance could have the charges
dropped. If you were my wife.

Tabitha is stunned.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)

You needn't share my bedchamber. At
least not until you are ready.

TABITHA

You're still in mourning.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Elizabeth was dutiful. She would
not want me alone.

Crawshaw closes in on her, Tabitha backs away.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)

I've loved you as my own daughter
since pulling you from that den.

Tabitha is backed into a corner.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
I let you live on your own without
protest.

Crawshaw caresses Tabitha's face, she cringes. Crawshaw
glowers.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
There is to be an inspection.

TABITHA
What?

INT. MEETING HOUSE, BACK OFFICE - DAY

GOODY HARRISON
You heard me.

Tabitha holds her head high. Goody Harrison glares at her.

GOODY HARRISON (CONT'D)
You can do this willingly or
forcefully, tis all the same to me.
Now, disrobe.

Tabitha doesn't budge. Goody Harrison stomps towards her,
grabs her blouse.

Tabitha snatches her wrist, twists. Goody Harrison yelps.

GOODY HARRISON (CONT'D)
Suit yourself.

Goody Harrison marches over to the door, knocks. The door
swings open, Jacob and Samuel enter.

Tabitha squares off and takes a defensive posture. Jacob and
Samuel lurch forward.

TABITHA
Stay away.

Jacob lunges and wrestles her. Tabitha sends feet and fists
flying.

JACOB
Samuel!

Samuel hesitates, moves in to help. It takes everything
they've got to pin her.

TABITHA
No!

Tabitha squirms and fights as Goody Harrison rips open Tabitha's coat.

Jacob gropes Tabitha as he helps strip her. Samuel pins her legs but averts his eyes.

Jacob squeezes her breasts as he rips the fabric of her blouse. Tabitha fights and kicks to no avail. Her lower abdomen is marked by dozens of old scars.

Jacob moves his hand between her thighs, rips off her skirt. The same scars cover her upper thighs.

Tabitha lays fully stripped. She covers her last bit of dignity with her hands. The old scars on her abdomen and thighs on full display.

JACOB

She looks to have fornicated with
the devil himself.

Goody Harrison marches forward with a straight razor and a satisfied smirk.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Tabitha lays in her cell, curled in a fetal position. Her hair has been shaved down to an inch. Samuel sets a cup down near the bars.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

I brought you some tea. I'm...

Samuel slinks away from the cell. Tabitha continues to stare at the wall.

FLASHBACK - EXT. ROAD - DAY

A wagon rolls along. Teenaged Tabitha with her long braided hair sits inspecting the garnet, her Father at the reins.

FATHER

Get down, Tabby.

Tabitha hunkers down, the wagon rolls to a stop. She peeks to see why--

An UGLY MAN stands in the road.

UGLY MAN

G'marrow, kind sir. Horse gave out on me. Wondering if I might trouble you for a lift?

FATHER

I'm afraid there's no room. There's a village couple days back on foot.

The Ugly Man spots Tabitha ducked down in the wagon, he ambles forward.

UGLY MAN

I see you have a youngin' wit you?

Her Father reaches for his musket.

UGLY MAN (CONT'D)

Whoa now. Meant no harm.

The Ugly Man steps back. Her Father lowers his musket. The Ugly Man nods.

BANG! A musket-ball shreds through her Father's throat. He collapses. Tabitha screams. BANG! A second shot kills the horse.

Tabitha leaps from the wagon and takes off. The Ugly Man tackles her.

A second BANDIT approaches and searches the wagon.

Tabitha kicks and screams. The Ugly Man tries to pin her. Tabitha sinks her teeth into his arm, rips a chunk of flesh.

The Ugly Man wails. Tabitha breaks free.

He grabs her ankle, trips her. Leaps atop her, draws a knife.

UGLY MAN (CONT'D)

You want do this rough?

The Ugly Man slashes at her clothing. He slices shallow cuts into her thighs and lower abdomen.

The other Bandit approaches carrying a large silver cross.

BANDIT

This should fetch a few pound.

UGLY MAN

Quit blabberin'!

The Bandit helps pin Tabitha. She continues to scream and fight. The Ugly Man pulls down his pants. His hairy bare ass--

SLAM! Lobo tackles the Ugly Man, rips at his groin.

Before the second Bandit can react, Lobo lunges at his throat.

Tabitha stands and collects herself, covered in small shallow cuts. She staggers over to her Father.

He lies in a pool of blood, dead.

Tabitha staggers back to Lobo, who still rips at the throat of the second Bandit. The Ugly Man groans, clutches his groin.

Tabitha picks up the knife. Steps over to the Ugly Man, her hand trembles. He looks up at her.

UGLY MAN (CONT'D)
You little bi--

Tabitha sinks the blade into his skull.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. JAILHOUSE - DAY

Tabitha stares at the wall. The cup of tea left by Samuel still sits untouched.

Crawshaw stands outside the cell.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Leave us.

Samuel shuffles out of the room. Crawshaw enters the cell and locks it behind him.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
I'm sorry that you had to go
through that.

Crawshaw worms his way next to Tabitha on the bed.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
But we were able to confirm that
you have no witch's teat.

Crawshaw delicately places a hand on Tabitha.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Unfortunately, fornication is to be
added to the charges.

Tabitha slips out of the bed and hurries to the far end of
the cell.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Have you reconsidered my offer?

Crawshaw creeps towards Tabitha.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
It's the only way I can protect
you.

Crawshaw closes in gently. Tabitha is trapped in the corner.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
Elizabeth was loving and dutiful,
but she was never exciting.

Crawshaw leans in, his crooked smile inches from her face.
She recoils.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
I disgust you so? You'd rather hang
by your neck than share my bed?

TABITHA
A thousand times.

Crawshaw grabs Tabitha by the throat. Tabitha smacks him. He
releases her. She retreats.

Crawshaw fingers the scratch on his cheek... blood. He grins.
He tackles Tabitha. They crash onto the bed.

Tabitha knees him, rips off his keys and bolts for the door.
She fumbles to get the key in the lock, twists--

Crawshaw hurls her across the cell, her head slams into the
wooden bed-frame.

Tabitha rolls, staggered. Crawshaw strides forward, hunger in
his eyes.

Tabitha reaches under the bed and grabs the wooden cross, the
base has been sharpened to a point.

PASTOR HARRISON (O.S.)
Am I interrupting?

Crawshaw collects himself. Tabitha returns the cross to its hiding place.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Merely confirming the inspection
results.

Crawshaw exits the cell and locks it behind him.

PASTOR HARRISON
I'll have a word with her.

Crawshaw peers at Harrison, then glances at Tabitha.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
If you need anything...

Crawshaw retreats from the room.

Harrison watches him go, pulls up a chair.

PASTOR HARRISON
You're to hang.

Tabitha is numb to this.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
You were wrong. People are sheep.
When they're afraid, they need
someone to blame.

Tabitha sits up and faces Harrison.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Daniel loved you. Did you love him?

Tabitha grants him a slight nod.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Then you have a choice.

Harrison pulls out his personal gilded Bible, slides it between the bars.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Repent. Search for God's grace.
Pray you be one of the Elect and
mayhaps you shall see him again.

Harrison opens the Bible, revealing a key in the center.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
If it's yourself you love, flee and
never look back.

TABITHA

Why?

PASTOR HARRISON

For Daniel.

EXT. GREENE FARM - DAY

Hans sprints full speed ahead, Jack(the one-eyed rabbit) clasped in his arms.

The low winter sun clutches the horizon.

EDGE OF PURITAN VILLAGE

Hans releases Jack into the shrubbery.

HANS

Schnell!

Hans slaps dirt at Jack, he hops away.

HANS (CONT'D)

Nein!

Hans one-eighties. Mr. Greene charges forward, aims his musket-- Hans shoves him.

BANG! The shot misses by a mile. Mr. Greene scowls.

MR. GREENE

That was your supper.

INT. GREENE CABIN - NIGHT

The three members of the Greene family eat at the table in silence.

Hans slouches near the fire. Mary approaches with a bowl, she offers Hans a half-full bowl of mush.

MARY

Father said you may have my leftovers.

Hans checks-- Mr. Greene nods curtly.

GOODY GREENE

Eat that over here child.

Hans takes the bowl and climbs up to the table. Goody Greene inspects him-- he's not an uncomely boy.

GOODY GREENE (CONT'D)
Speak any English?

HANS
(to Mary)
Thank you.

Goody Greene nods in approval.

Mr. Greene abruptly rises, slides on his coat.

GOODY GREENE
Now?

MR. GREENE
I'm not to be disturbed.

INT. JAILHOUSE - NIGHT

Tabitha sits in her bunk. She thumbs through the pages of Harrison's bible. She subtly keeps an eye fixed on--

Samuel. He props his feet on the desk and nods his head in a battle with slumber.

EXT. GREENE FARM - NIGHT

The crescent moon hangs low on the horizon.

Mr. Greene shoves a wheelbarrow. Inside are two skinned wolf carcasses. He stops under a large gnarled tree.

He tosses a rope over a branch. Hoists up the first carcass. Then the other.

He nods satisfied. The wolf carcasses dangle from the tree like macabre ornaments.

INT. GREENE BARN - NIGHT

The space contains about a dozen animals. A horse, a couple cows, sheep. A cat swishes her tail on the rafters.

Mr. Greene stores the wheelbarrow in a corner. He double checks the lock on the door.

Mr. Greene surveys the animals. Come to the sheep at last. He caresses the face of a sheep.

The sheep BAAS and pulls away. Mr. Greene shushes the sheep. Comforts her with gentle strokes.

Mr. Greene triple checks his surroundings. He unfastens his trousers. All the BARN ANIMALS WAIL nervously. SOMETHING RUSTLES outside.

EXT. GREENE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Greene creeps out of the barn. He aims his lantern and a pitchfork towards the darkness.

MR. GREENE
I'll do the same to you as I did
your friends.

Mr. Greene slowly makes his way around the barn. Nothing.
The BARN ANIMALS WAIL again. Mr. Greene rushes back into--

INT. GREENE BARN - CONTINUOUS

The female sheep lies in a pool of blood. Mr. Greene rushes to her.

A dark figure approaches him from behind. Red eyes.

INT. GREENE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

MR. GREENE'S SCREAM reverberates through the walls. Mary and Hans cower in fear.

Goody Greene grabs a musket.

GOODY GREENE
Stay here.

EXT. GREENE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Goody Greene inches forward. Musket aimed.

GOODY GREENE
Mr. Greene? I heard a shout.

Goody Greene tiptoes towards the barn. The door swings open--

Mr. Greene staggers out, he clutches his groin-- a bloody mess of entrails dangle between his fingers.

Goody Greene screams-- CRUNCH! A pitchfork impales her skull, one prong through her eye another her mouth.

The barn light casts a flickering shadow of the Beast, it stands on its hind legs.

INT. GREENE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

SLAM! The door shakes in its frame. Mary screams.

SLAM! The door shatters. Hans shields Mary.

INT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - NIGHT

Samuel's eyes shoot open. The point of Tabitha's wooden cross pressed against his neck.

Tabitha nods towards the cell.

EXT. GREENE BARN - NIGHT

Tabitha sneaks past the carnage, Samuel's musket slung across her back. It's horrific--

The pitchfork impaled through Goody Greene's head pierces straight into the ground.

Mr. Greene's corpse is nearby, decapitated.

Tabitha peers inside the--

INT. GREENE BARN - CONTINUOUS

A bloodbath. Blood and entrails coat the walls and floor. Not a sign of life. Other than the BARN FLIES BUZZING.

INT. GREENE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha climbs through the shattered door frame.

TABITHA

Hans? Mary?

Tabitha investigates. The place is in ruin-- table flipped, shelves toppled, debris scattered. But no blood. Nor sign of Hans or Mary. SOMETHING RUSTLES behind a board.

Tabitha creeps up to the board, yanks it away--

The CAT(from the rafters) YOWLS and darts! Tabitha jumps.
MEN SHOUT in the distance. HOUNDS BARK.

EXT. GREENE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha hurries out. BANG! A WOOD PLANK next to her SHATTERS.

JACOB
Over here!

Jacob quickens to reload his musket. Tabitha bolts.

TOBACCO FIELD

Tabitha leaps over crops and sprints for the distant
treeline.

Behind her dozens of torchlights converge. MEN SHOUT. HOUNDS
WAIL.

The CHURCH BELL RINGS.

EDGE OF THE VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha bounds into the thick shrubbery. The lights of
torches close behind her. HORSES GALLOP.

FOREST

Tabitha plows through gnarled branches. They claw at her
face.

The CHURCH BELL FADES. But the HOUNDS CLOSE IN.

RIVER

Tabitha splashes through the water, bounds across rocks until
she reaches the far side.

But she stays in the shallow water, charges upstream.

FOREST CLEARING

Tabitha catches her breath. The HOUNDS BARELY AUDIBLE. She
marches on through the dead weeds.

A BRANCH BREAKS.

Tabitha unslings her musket. Creeps forward. Something--
 She spins and aims. It's an OWL, it HOOTS. Tabitha grins.
 In a flash a hand wrests away her musket, slams her to the
 ground. Sani stands above her.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sani sits Tabitha down next to a fire. Her hands bound.

Leon tosses a log onto the fire. Outside the firelight,
 darkness surrounds them. A single horse rests nearby.

Leon hunkers down across the fire. He examines Tabitha's
 sharpened wooden cross.

Sani offers Tabitha a cup of broth.

SANI
 For your head.

Tabitha takes it in her bound hands.

TABITHA
 You speak English?

LEON
 It's you Puritans that only bother
 to speak one language.

Leon tosses the cross into the flames.

LEON (CONT'D)
 The less people think you
 understand, the more they will say
 in front of you, 'wolf girl'. You
 cut your hair?

Tabitha glares at Leon.

LEON (CONT'D)
 I like it.

Tabitha runs a hand through her short hair. Sani squats down
 next to his wares, including the owl cage.

SANI
 Huc-quo!

An Owl(the same one Tabitha nearly shot- SCOUT) lands on the
 cage. Sani opens a pouch and tosses Scout a chunk of red
 meat.

LEON
Which do you prefer? 'Wolf girl' or
mademoiselle?

Tabitha seethes. Leon laughs.

LEON (CONT'D)
Not in the mood to jest?

A WOLF HOWLS in the distance.

LEON (CONT'D)
Why do they call you 'wolf girl'?
Surely its more than you raising a
wolf pup?

Tabitha stares into the flames, she picks up a stick and
casually stokes the fire.

LEON (CONT'D)
Put that down.

Tabitha drops the stick, one end still in the flames.

Leon drinks whiskey from a jug. Tabitha notices one of his
hands is wrapped in bandage.

LEON (CONT'D)
Do you know why we're here?

TABITHA
The bounty on the wolves.

Sani and Leon share a knowing look. Leon nods at him.

SANI
A beast in this valley has killed
dozens.

LEON
Any outsider that draws too near.
Strange that it has left the
inhabitants of your village in
peace. Until now, of course.

SANI
The Powhatans call this place the
valley of death.

LEON
I guess nobody warned the poor
German bastards. In France we call
it loup garou.

TABITHA

I know the cave where it dwells.
I'll lead you there at first light.

LEON

We wait until your Magistrate
lights the signal fire.

TABITHA

It took Hans and Mary.

LEON

Then if fortunate, they're already
dead.

A somber moment passes. Leon takes another swig from his jug.

SANI

I'm retiring. Alhosh.

On command, Scout flies up into a tree above the campsite. Sani looks from Tabitha to Leon, mild concern in his eyes. He disappears into a small tent at the edge of the firelight.

TABITHA

You're afraid.

LEON

First rule of bounty hunting, never
do anything for free that you can
get paid for.

TABITHA

More will die.

LEON

Incentive.

Leon takes another swig of whiskey, he eyes Tabitha. She looks him in the eyes.

TABITHA

I know what you desire. I'll let
you. But we leave at first light.

Leon takes another chug of whiskey. Considers.

LEON

Also never pay for what you can get
for free.

Tabitha shies under his gaze.

TABITHA

Might I at least have some of that?

Leon staggers over, hands Tabitha the jug. She sips, coughs and stamps her foot.

LEON

Oui. It'll put hair on your chest.

Tabitha chugs. Leon reaches for the jug.

LEON (CONT'D)

Careful, mademoi--

Tabitha grabs the stick from the fire.

WHOOSH! She spits a fireball in his face!

Leon's hair catches fire, he pats at the flames. Tabitha SMASHES the JUG over his head.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tabitha sprints full speed ahead. Her hands still bound together.

She raises her mangled hand to her lips and whistles.

MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha plows ahead. Leaps over a fallen log--

CLANK! A METAL TRAP SNAPS on her leg. Tabitha screams in agony. She covers her mouth, sucks in the pain but can't help but to let out a groan. SOMETHING GROWLS nearby.

Tabitha scans the darkness. ANOTHER GROWL. A pair of yellow eyes flicker in the darkness.

A large malnourished black bear emerges. GROWLS.

Tabitha struggles to free her hands from their bindings. She manages to slip her mangled hand free, reaches for the nearest rock, hurls it.

The bear flinches, stands on two legs and ROARS.

Tabitha puts her mangled hand to her mouth and lets out another whistle. She grabs the metal trap, steel teeth sunk deep into flesh.

She grunts as she fails to pry it open.

The bear stamps forward. Tabitha grabs the nearest stick and swings wildly.

The bear smacks the stick out of her hands. Moves for the kill.

SLAM! Lobo(the large red wolf) tackles the bear. Two more wolves tackle the bear from the side. They snap at its legs. The bear topples.

Lobo rips at the bear's throat. Blood gushes. The bear struggles, releases a DEATH WAIL.

Lobo releases the bear, approaches Tabitha. Lobo sniffs Tabitha's injured leg.

Tabitha embraces Lobo in a hug. Lobo whines happily, licks Tabitha in the face. She beams, momentarily forgetting the pain in her leg.

An owl lands on a nearby tree, it's Scout. Scout looks right at Tabitha and HOOTS.

Tabitha pushes Lobo.

TABITHA

Go.

Lobo stumbles. Tabitha shoves harder.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Run!

Lobo jolts over to the other two wolves. All three retreat towards the darkness.

Tabitha pries open the trap, rips her leg out. The bushes nearby rustle--

Sani springs ahead, halts when he spots Tabitha.

LEON (O.S.)

WHERE IS SHE--

Leon stops beside Sani, his hair singed and mild burns on his face. He looks from Tabitha to the wolves.

Lobo turns back and looks at Tabitha, Leon raises his musket.

TABITHA

No!

Tabitha jumps in Leon's line of fire, he holds. Lobo disappears into the darkness.

Sani quickens to the bear corpse, whips out his tomahawk and slices open the gut.

Leon notices Tabitha's leg, he can't help but smirk.

SANI
It was starving.

LEON
We'll take the pelt. Leave the rest
for the wolves.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Tabitha sits next to the fire. Leon leans over her injured leg with a needle and thread. He pierces it through flesh. Tabitha grunts.

LEON
I'd be lying if I said I didn't
enjoy this.

TABITHA
Curse your traps.

LEON
We don't use traps.

TABITHA
Then who--

Leon pokes Tabitha with the needle, twitches. Tabitha yelps.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Give it here.

LEON
(passes the needle)
I'd offer you some pain relief, but
you smashed it over my head.

Tabitha grimaces but skillfully threads the needle through flesh. Leon watches, impressed.

LEON (CONT'D)
That was the wolf you raised?

TABITHA
(nods)
Lobo.

Leon uses a piece of charcoal to fill in his eyebrows.

LEON

You sure you're no witch? I've never seen a wolf come to someone's rescue.

Tabitha hesitates. She finishes her stitching as she tells her story:

TABITHA

Daniel and I found Lobo. Mother and siblings all dead, but Lobo refused to resort to cannibalism. I raised Lobo, but when the villagers found out... They would've killed Lobo had Daniel not warned me.

LEON

So you released him, and he became leader of a pack?

TABITHA

She. Lobo's a female.

Tabitha ties a knot at the end of the thread. Leon cuts the excess with a knife.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

But yes. She was leader of what was probably the largest pack in the Appalachians. Until you came along.

Leon, for the first time, has a look that could almost be described as shame.

Sani approaches with a pouch of ointment, tosses it to Tabitha.

She rubs the ointment across her injury.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

You sure you're no loup garou? I stabbed the beast in the hand.

Leon examines his bandaged hand with guilt.

LEON

I cut it skinning a wolf.

EXT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Day and night mean nothing down in this cavern. A single candle flickers, dimly lighting a cell. WATER DRIPS.

Inside the cell Gilberta(the German girl from the start) hugs her knees.

GILBERTA
Nicht noch einmal. Nicht noch
einmal.

The DUNGEON DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS approach.

GILBERTA (CONT'D)
Bitte. Please...

A bandaged hand sets a plate down in the cell. Bloody red meat.

The hand slides the plate over to Gilberta. She stares at it in horror. And hunger.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Tabitha staggers towards the embers of last night's fire. She rubs her eyes and surveys her surroundings.

No sign of Leon or Sani. Scout watches from his perch.

TABITHA
Good morning.

Scout CHIRPS and flies off. Tabitha spots Leon's pack.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tabitha limps ahead as quick as her leg will allow, Leon's pack slung across her back. She hobbles over a log. She spots something--

Deep purple nightshade berries. Tabitha collects a few, pockets them. Hurries forward--

Leon steps out from behind a tree, fastening his trousers.

LEON
Searching for the bathroom?

Tabitha grabs a stick and strikes a defensive posture.

TABITHA
I'm leaving for the cave.

Leon rests his hand on the hilt of his flintlock pistol.

LEON
I thought we had an understanding.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Tabitha plops down. Leon tosses sticks onto the embers.

TABITHA
(points to a pot)
Pass me that.

Leon hesitates then tosses Tabitha the pot. Tabitha drops a nightshade berry into the pot, fills it with water then sets it over the embers.

Scout lands on his perch.

LEON
Did you find anything?

Sani emerges from the brush, tosses Leon a scroll. Leon unfurls the scroll, smirks as he reads.

LEON (CONT'D)
You appear to be popular.

Leon tosses Tabitha the scroll, she inspects it--

A Bounty with a crude drawing of Tabitha.

TABITHA
Fifteen pounds?

LEON
I've only seen two higher. Those
were very dangerous men.

Sani joins them next to the fire, notices the nightshade berry in the pot.

TABITHA
Will you turn me in?

LEON
We'd be lousy bounty hunters if we
didn't.

Tabitha stirs the pot with a stick.

LEON (CONT'D)
I'll strike you a bargain. Take us
to this cave, help us kill the loup
garou and I'll release you.

TABITHA
With eighteen pounds.

LEON
Pardon?

TABITHA
I heard you ask Crawshaw for one hundred. Thirty-three would be my share, minus the fifteen for not turning me in.

LEON
You have no share.
(beat)
Five pounds.

TABITHA
Eighteen and a third.

Leon is flummoxed, but before he can protest--

SANI
Deal.

Leon glowers at Sani, he shrugs.

SANI (CONT'D)
I like her.

LEON
The difference is coming from your share.

Leon walks away from the fire. Tabitha removes the pot, pours some of the water into a cup.

SANI
Nightshade?

Tabitha nods.

SANI (CONT'D)
Take care. That will show you things you do not wish to see.

TABITHA
I know.

Tabitha sips the water. She lies back and stares straight up at the sky.

The branches above her begin to blur and swirl.

FLASHBACK - EXT. FOREST - DAY

Teenaged Tabitha staggers forward. Her hair once again a long tangled mess. Her clothes are tattered, the cuts on her thighs and abdomen still fresh. She clutches the silver cross.

Lobo leads the way, looks back.

EXT. WOLF DEN - DAY

Tabitha climbs a rocky slope. Lobo watches from the summit.

Tabitha reaches the summit. Boulders lean against each other to form a small hollow. A dozen wolves glare at her dubiously.

A black wolf snarls. Lobo corrects him with a nip. The black wolf approaches Tabitha, sniffs her hand, licks.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tabitha rubs two sticks together, a futile attempt to start a fire.

WOLF DEN

The wolves sleep in a pile. Tabitha shuffles forward and curls up next to them.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tabitha attempts to arrange sticks into a rudimentary trap.

Lobo approaches with a rabbit, drops it at Tabitha's feet.

Tabitha takes the dead rabbit, unsure what to do with it. Her STOMACH GROWLS. She holds the carcass to her mouth, but she can't do it.

She tosses the carcass to the black wolf. Another wolf fights for the carcass, they rip it in two.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tabitha watches from a distance-- The pack of wolves take down a deer. Her STOMACH GROWLS.

The wolves rip at the deer carcass. Fangs. Blood. Entrails. Tabitha staggers up to the kill. The wolves make room.

Tabitha hesitates, she stares at the bloody red meat. Dives in, rips and devours the flesh. Blood drips down her chin.

EXT. FOREST - LATER - DAY

Tabitha is older and looks like she now belongs here. She wears clothing fashioned from deer hide. Her hair a tangled mess.

She carries a spear. The silver cross ground to a point and fastened at the end. She stalks a deer.

The deer notices her, takes off. SNAP! A trap catches the deer. Tabitha charges forward, jabs the spear into the deer's throat. Whistles.

The wolves come running. They muzzle her hand and feast on the kill.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

Tabitha reflects light off the cross. A fish gulps at the reflection. Tabitha plunges her spear. Misses.

Tabitha continues on along down the river. She comes to the WATERFALL and the boulder crossing. Spots the cave.

Tabitha leaps across the boulders. They shift under her feet.

EXT. CAVE

Tabitha peers into the darkness. The GROWL of the BEAST. The red eyes. Tabitha backs away. A boulder dislodges and rolls--

Tabitha screams. Her hand pinned between two boulders.

The Beast approaches. It appears to be formed of the darkness itself.

Tabitha pokes out with her spear. It's knocked from her grasp, disappears into the river.

Tabitha struggles to free her hand. She rips it from the rocks. She raises the bloody mangled hand to her lips. Whistles. The red eyes of the Beast loom over her.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Leon shakes Tabitha awake. Her eyes shoot open. She sees the red eyes of the Beast.

Tabitha shoves Leon, he crashes backwards. She leaps to her feet, drenched in sweat.

LEON

I thought you were dying.

Tabitha gathers her bearings, wiggles her injured foot.

TABITHA

Nightshade.

Tabitha leans over a log and vomits.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

LEON

If you expect a third of the bounty, I expect you to be an efficient killer.

Leon, Sani and Tabitha face a distant target (the bounty drawing of Tabitha) attached to a tree.

Tabitha holds her musket, takes aim at the target. BANG! The shot misses the tree completely.

TABITHA

I hate muskets.

LEON

It shall take more than a fierce attitude to kill a loup garou.

Sani whips out his tomahawk, throws, hits the target dead center.

Leon hands Tabitha his knife.

LEON (CONT'D)

You may want to move forward.

Tabitha limps forward a few paces and prepares to throw.

LEON (CONT'D)

Make sure you relax your wrist and follow through or--

Tabitha hurls the knife. It sinks into the base of the tree.

LEON (CONT'D)
At least you hit the tree.

TABITHA
I'm better with traps.

LEON
I thought you hated them?

TABITHA
The metal ones. I make traps for
catching deer or fish...

LEON
Fish? Keep practicing.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Leon and Tabitha crouch in the bushes.

A deer grazes in a snowy clearing. Scout lands in a tree
above the deer.

LEON
(whispering)
Sani is what the Navajo call a yee
naaldlooshii.

Scout swoops down and tags the deer, it bolts in the opposite
direction. Right towards--

Sani springs from a bush, one swing of his tomahawk nearly
cleaves the deer's head off.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Sani skins the deer. Scout watches from his perch, Tabitha
approaches.

TABITHA
What's his name?

SANI
A-nah-ne-dzin.

TABITHA
What does that mean?

Tabitha reaches out to pet Scout, he nips her, draws blood.
Tabitha flinches and sucks her finger.

SANI
He bites. But you can call him
Scout.

Scout CHIRPS. Tabitha sits next to the fire, unwinds the bandage from her leg.

TABITHA
Leon said you were a yee naald...

SANI
Yee naaldlooshii. That's what some
members of my tribe believed.

Tabitha inspects her leg injury, it's healed a fair bit, but scabs still cover her leg. She applies ointment.

TABITHA
You're not?

SANI
A yee naaldlooshii is said to be
able to transform into an animal,
control people with their minds and
travel hundreds of miles in an
hour. I have a trained owl, and for
this I was chased from my home.

Tabitha tosses her old bandages into the fire.

TABITHA
Why?

SANI
The same reason as you. Fear.

TABITHA
Do you miss it?

SANI
I miss her.

TABITHA
Her?

SANI
She was my home. Now this is.

The two share a moment of silence. Leon trudges forward with a basket of foraged food.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

Leon fills a canteen. Tabitha soaks her injury in the water.

LEON

Until recently the beast killed
only outsiders. What changed?

TABITHA

You killed the wolves. They warded
it from the village.

LEON

Doubtful. The loup garou is likely
someone from your village.

TABITHA

(considers)

Crawshaw. He wanted Daniel out of
the way so he could...

LEON

And the Greenes?

TABITHA

They were testifying against me.
Perhaps he thought with them gone
he could keep me in that cell.

LEON

Merde. He'll hardly pay us a bounty
to kill himself.

Leon spots something shimmering in the water. He extracts a
silver cross, one end sharpened to a point.

Tabitha reaches for the cross, Leon pulls away.

TABITHA

That's mine.

LEON

Then why was it in the river?

TABITHA

I lost it.

LEON

Well, I found it.

TABITHA

It was my mother's.

LEON
 Make you a deal, once we collect
 the bounty, I'll sell it to you.

Leon strides away.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha limps along. Leon nowhere in sight. A BRANCH BREAKS.
 Tabitha spins to see--

Samuel and Jacob march forward with muskets aimed.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
 Don't try anything, Tabitha.

TABITHA
 Samuel.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
 March. That way.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Tabitha limps ahead. Nearby is the flat bloodstained rock(the
 one Tabitha dropped guts on in opening).

Jacob and Samuel march behind her.

JACOB
 You know Deputy, I think we'd be
 within our rights to extract some
 enjoyment from this witch.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
 The Magistrate wants her unharmed.

JACOB
 Who said anything about harming
 her?

DEPUTY SAMUEL
 No.

The two start to size each other up when Tabitha takes a
 turn.

JACOB
 Where are you going?

TABITHA

The village. That way leads to a
gorge. Unless you want to scale up
and down a thirty foot rock face?

Jacob and Samuel look to one another, uncertain. They follow
Tabitha's lead.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha steps up on a log, then hops ahead.

Samuel follows, but doesn't hop. SNAP. A rope trap springs!
Flips Samuel upside down and lifts him in the air.

Tabitha lunges for Samuel's musket. Jacob fumbles for his.
Tabitha beats him to the draw.

TABITHA

Drop it.

Jacob tosses his musket, bolts into the woods. Tabitha keeps
him in her sights, but lets him flee.

She collects his musket. Samuel dangles upside down.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

Crawshaw said he'd have me in the
stocks if I lost another musket!

Tabitha aims the musket. Samuel flinches. BANG! The rope
snaps. Samuel crashes to the ground.

Tabitha tosses him the empty musket. The two share a look.
Tabitha limps away.

EXT. CAMPSTIE - DAY

Leon and Sani gather their supplies in a flurry. BRANCHES
BREAK. They stop in their tracks.

Tabitha stumbles into the camp, musket slung across her back.

TABITHA

We leave for the cave. Now.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Several horses gallop towards the--

EXT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Crawshaw rises and approaches the riders. Jacob and Samuel dismount.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Gather every able bodied man.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Perhaps we should let her go, sir.

Crawshaw marches over to Samuel.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
You return with her, or you don't return.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
I think she be no witch, sir. Twice she has spared me when she had me at her mercy.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
That sounds to me as evidence of a conspirator.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
No, sir--

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
You were after all the one charged with guarding her.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
No, sir. I mean, yes, sir. But I know not how she escaped.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Bring her back to this village, or I shall personally wrap the noose around your neck.

Jacob grins. Samuel bows his head in defeat.

INT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

Harrison reads through his gilded Bible by candlelight, he scribbles notes on a parchment. A KNOCK on the DOOR.

Harrison opens-- it's Crawshaw.

PASTOR HARRISON
Magistrate--

Crawshaw shoves past Harrison, continues into the--

BACK OFFICE

Crawshaw snoops around the room, more a display of power than searching for anything in particular.

Harrison enters and crosses to a small stove.

PASTOR HARRISON
Anything I might assist you in
finding?

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Tabitha. You realize you were the
last to see her before her escape?

Harrison pulls a kettle off the stove, pours two cups.

PASTOR HARRISON
I thought that was your deputy?

Crawshaw pulls an archaic book off a shelf, thumbs through--
Latin passages. Crude terrifying images. Sacrifice.
Cannibalism.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
What is this?

PASTOR HARRISON
A biblical account of ritualistic
sacrifice.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
You speak Latin?

PASTOR HARRISON
There's an interesting passage. A
man sacrificed everything to
transform into the Lord's vessel
and battle the servants of Hell.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Surely you don't believe such
blasphemy?

PASTOR HARRISON
Of course not. But it is a
fascinating read. Tea?

Harrison passes Crawshaw a cup. Crawshaw sips.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
What did you say to the girl?

PASTOR HARRISON
I advised her to find our Lord.

Crawshaw crosses to the desk. A wave of nausea hits him. He steadies himself on the desk. Sets his cup down. CRASH! It SHATTERS on the floor.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Surely you don't think I aided the girl? She murdered my son.

Crawshaw bends down to pick up the cup fragments.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Did she?

PASTOR HARRISON
It was you that locked her up for witchcraft, Crawshaw.

Crawshaw scoops up cup fragments with trembling hands. He notices the liquid draining down a crack in the floor.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Upon... your wife's request.

Crawshaw follows the crack with his finger. It seems to form a square. A trap door?

INT. SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

Darkness. A crack of light. The trap door opens. Crawshaw peers down into the shaft, Harrison looms above him.

Crawshaw looks up at Harrison, confused. Harrison pummels him.

Crawshaw collapses down the shaft.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Tabitha leads the way. Leon and Sani follow. Sani guides the pack horse.

Tabitha stumbles as she climbs over a log.

LEON
Need a rest?

TABITHA

Do you?

Sani smirks. Tabitha limps ahead.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

The low winter sun sinks below the distant treeline. Tabitha hobbles along next to the river.

TABITHA

So how is it a Navajo and a Frenchman came to be traveling companions?

SANI

I would be dead if not for him.

LEON

Yeah, well... There was a profit in it.

SANI

He lies.

LEON

I can't count the pounds I've made with you at my side. That's a profit.

Boulders in the water form a familiar crossing. A waterfall. And below it, the jagged maw. All three take in the sight.

TABITHA

Shall we?

LEON

We should rest. Go at first light.

INT. CAVE PASSAGE - NIGHT

A single torch flickers in the darkness.

Crawshaw stumbles forward, bloodied with his hands bound. Harrison shoves him along the narrow rocky passage.

Two faint voices echo in the distance...

MARY (O.S.)

Help!

HANS (O.S.)

Hilfe!

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Is that Mary Greene?

PASTOR HARRISON
The innocent lambs must bare
witness to our Saviour's return.

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Harrison shoves Crawshaw into the dark room, bolts a metal door behind them.

Crawshaw scans his grim surroundings. Gilberta watches from in her cell.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
What is this place?

Harrison shoves Crawshaw towards a pair of wall shackles. Crawshaw resists. Harrison slams him into the wall, shackles him.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW (CONT'D)
You killed your own son?

PASTOR HARRISON
You are mistaken, sir. I am but a
humble servant.

Harrison disappears into a dark corner.

GILBERTA
Nicht noch einmal.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW
Who's the girl?

Harrison reemerges from the darkness carrying an ornate goblet and a pitcher.

PASTOR HARRISON
The Lord has chosen her.

Harrison crosses to Gilberta. Fills an ornate goblet with the contents of the pitcher. He offers Gilberta the goblet.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
I offer you the choice, as always.
For we can not be righteous without
temptation.

Gilberta takes the goblet and drinks, then retreats to the bunk in her cell. Harrison marches over to Crawshaw.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Why?

PASTOR HARRISON

The Lord has fought long and hard
to keep my village pure.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

Our village.

Harrison bends down next to Crawshaw, refills the goblet.

PASTOR HARRISON

And it has been tainted by
heathens, liars, and lechers.

MAGISTRATE CRAWSHAW

You're one to speak.

PASTOR HARRISON

I take no pleasure in this.

Harrison grabs Crawshaw by the chin, forces the contents of
the goblet down his throat. Crawshaw chokes and gags.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The black water churns over the boulders. The full moonlight
shimmers on the waves.

CAMPSITE

The nearby WATERFALL ROARS. Tabitha, Leon and Sani are
gathered around a fire. The pack horse grazes nearby. Sani is
in the middle of telling a story:

SANI

If it had been an inch, I'd be
speaking an octave higher.

Leon laughs heartily.

TABITHA

Sounds like you two have been on
quite the adventures.

Scout lands on a nearby log.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

(to Scout)

My apologies, you three.

Scout CHIRPS. Sani chuckles.

SANI

Tell her the one with the cougar
and the widow.

LEON

We swore to never speak of that.

TABITHA

Now you must tell.

SANI

If he won't, I shall.

LEON

Don't make me shoot you.

SANI

We were near Quebec at a small port
town, when we came across a widow
who was... well endowed, and I'm
not speaking of her inheritance.

Tabitha grins.

LEON

Why'd you have to smash the
whiskey?

SANI

And believe it or not, she was
immediately infatuated with our
Leon.

TABITHA

I don't believe it.

LEON

I'll have you know, not all women
share in your disgust.

TABITHA

Not all women have my good sense.

Sani laughs. Leon smirks.

SANI

So we're at a bar when this widow--

Leon rises abruptly and stumbles down to the--

RIVERSIDE

Leon turns his back to the campsite. He stares across the water into the cave as he relieves himself.

CAMPSITE

TABITHA
So the widow?

LEON (O.S.)
Come here!

Sani rushes over. Tabitha follows down to the--

RIVERSIDE

LEON
Listen.

The sound of the WATER FALL drowns out most sound. But from the cave-- a very FAINT SCREAM.

CAMPSITE

Tabitha gathers supplies in a frenzy. Her musket. A torch.

LEON
We wait for first light.

TABITHA
That could be Hans.

LEON
Or it could be the loup garou transforming. Why do you care so much about that kid anyway?

TABITHA
He doesn't have anybody else.

Leon and Sani move for their packs.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The three stand at the precipice of darkness. Their torch lights seem incapable of penetrating the gloom.

A FAINT SCREAM ECHOES from the black. The three share a look, a moment of hesitation. Then Tabitha bounds into the void.

SANI

At'ahalo.

Scout lands on a boulder near the lip of the cave. Sani follows into the darkness. Leon sighs.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The three creep single file by torch light. The walls close in on them. In the flickering torch light the walls and ground of the cave appear to move.

They are moving. Millions of--

TABITHA

Cave crickets.

They crunch under their feet. Fall into their hair from the ceiling.

The three press on through the crawling hell into a--

CHASM

Now their torch light seems incapable of reaching the walls. Smothered by the pure black of the cave.

The CLICKING of BATS fills the cave. The floor coated in guano.

A HOWL ECHOES through the cave. The three scan the darkness. Nothing. Only the bat eyes reflecting the light from above.

The three continue forward. Tabitha slips, nearly falls into a crevice. The bottom an abyss.

TABITHA

How far down do you think it goes?

LEON

To hell itself.

Sani lights an extra torch. Drops it into the darkness. It seems to fall forever until it disappears with a SPLASH.

LEON (CONT'D)

Come on.

Leon takes the lead. They navigate the edge of the crevice. The floor narrows until they have to walk single file again, the wall on one side, darkness the other. They come to a--

NARROW PASSAGE

Not large enough to stand. They crouch forward.

A HOWL ECHOES through the passage. Leon looks back, concerned, he trips.

Fangs, black fur, red eyes. Leon draws his pistol. Sani chuckles.

LEON

It's dead?

SANI

A disguise.

Leon holds his torch up to the costume. Severely burnt black fur covers what appears to be a dented steel breastplate.

Leon illuminates the mask, a black wolf head sewn with human flesh and red glass eyes that catch the light.

Sani picks something up-- a twelve-inch bloodstained blade.

WIDER PASSAGE

Not by much. They still move single file, but now have enough room to stand.

Leon halts. A dozen metal traps cover the ground before him. Barely space for a foot between them.

TABITHA

Should we set them off?

LEON

Too loud. We need the element of surprise.

Leon cautiously tracks forward, his foot between two traps.

LEON (CONT'D)

There's a path. Step where I step.

Leon continues forward. Sani follows in his footsteps. Tabitha takes up the rear.

Leon nears the far end of the traps. CLICK. A pressure plate. HISS. A line of black powder ignites. The spark crawls up the wall of the cave.

LEON (CONT'D)

Back!

BOOM! Leon dives forward. Sani tackles Tabitha, they barely clear the rocks and traps.

CRASH! Rocks fall. A cloud of dust. The dust settles. The rocks form a--

BARRICADE

Tabitha and Sani on one side, Leon disappeared on the other. Tabitha and Sani charge forward, dig at the pile of rocks. Several too heavy to lift. An impossible blockage.

TABITHA

Leon?

Tabitha and Sani struggle futilely to clear the barricade. The LOW GROWL of the BEAST reverberates through the cave.

SANI

Leon?

Leon groans from the--

OTHER SIDE OF BARRICADE

A large rock pins Leon's arm to the ground.

LEON

I'm alive.

SANI (O.S.)

Hold on. We're going to go get the shovel and pick-axe.

Leon's pack and contents are scattered before him, including the silver cross and his pistol.

Leon reaches for his pistol, it's between two rocks just out of range. The GROWL of the BEAST grows closer.

LEON

Merde.

Leon grabs nearby rocks with his free hand, does his best to conceal himself. He snuffs out his torch. Darkness.

A moment passes. SOMETHING RUSTLES nearby. The GROWL of the BEAST. It SNIFFS. Leon holds his breath.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Tabitha and Sani charge out of the darkness.

SANI
Njiljeeh!

Scout flies off in a hurry.

CAMPSITE

They rush to the packhorse. Sani extracts a shovel from a bag, hands it to Tabitha.

Scout lands on a nearby tree, CHIRPS. Sani looks around in a panic.

SANI
Get down!

Sani grabs Tabitha, dives to the ground. BANG! A musket ball hits the pack horse, it CRASHES to the ground.

Jacob steps from the brush with a smoking musket. He starts to reload.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Hold your fire.

Samuel and a posse of men emerge from the brush, muskets drawn.

TABITHA
We need your help. The beast--

JACOB
Silence, witch.

TABITHA
Samuel. This is the beast's cave.
Now is our chance to kill it.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Perhaps she speaks the truth?

JACOB
An obvious trap.

TABITHA
Our friend is in there.

JACOB
Don't forget your orders, Deputy.

Samuel hangs his head. The men and horses encircle Tabitha and Sani. They surrender.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Tabitha and Sani are marched forward at musket point.

Jacob examines Sani's tomahawk.

TABITHA

Samuel--

JACOB

Another word and I'll slice out
your witch tongue.

EXT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - DAY

Samuel exits the building. He approaches the waiting group.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

There's no sign of him.

TABITHA

You must listen--

Jacob knocks Tabitha to the ground. Sani helps her up.

GOODY HARRISON (O.S.)

You've capture the witch?

Goody Harrison rushes forward.

JACOB

Where is the Pastor?

GOODY HARRISON

He's missing this morning.

The Villagers shuffle and murmur, clearly concerned.

JACOB

Likely this witch's doing. That
means you're in charge Deputy.

GOODY HARRISON

She killed my Daniel and the
Greenes. They should hang.

The Villagers agree. Sani and Tabitha clasp hands. Samuel considers, clearly in over his head.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

I think... Perhaps we should wait
for the Pastor or Magistrate.

TABITHA

Samuel, I'm trying to help--

Jacob clutches Tabitha by the throat, squeezes.

JACOB

If you lack the conviction to
protect this village, then I shall.

Sani strikes like a viper, rips the tomahawk from Jacob's
grip. Jacob reacts. Sani swings. HACK!

Three bloody fingers drop into the snow. Jacob clutches his
bloody hand, screams.

SANI

Run!

VILLAGER #1 aims at Sani, Scout swoops down and claws at his
eyes. He screams and flails.

Tabitha rushes towards an opening in the crowd.

VILLAGER #2 aims at Tabitha. WHOOSH! Sani's tomahawk lodges
into his shoulder.

BANG! Sani is SHOT. Still on his feet. He charges a couple
Villagers before they can ready their muskets.

Scout is knocked out of the air. VILLAGER #3 aims at the owl--
Tabitha tackles him. The SHOT misses.

BANG! Sani is shot again, he collapses.

SANI (CONT'D)

Ye-tsan...

Scout takes off, flutters away. Villagers seize Tabitha.

EXT. GALLOWS - DAY

Two Villagers drag Sani towards a noose. He struggles with
what little energy he can conjure.

Tabitha watches below next to Samuel.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

I'm sorry.

TABITHA

You're a coward.

The Villagers fit the noose around Sani's neck, they look to Samuel. He stares at the ground.

GOODY HARRISON

Do it!

Sani looks Tabitha in the eyes, smiles and nods. The floor drops from under him, the rope goes taut.

Tabitha forces herself to maintain eye contact. Sani's eyes bulge but he keeps his gaze on Tabitha. The life fades...

There is sadness but no fear in Tabitha's gaze.

GOODY HARRISON (CONT'D)

You're next.

So she is. Two Villagers grab Tabitha and lead her to the noose. She shakes them off and walks up the stairs on her own. They begin to fit the noose around her neck.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

Wait.

The Villagers halt. Samuel charges up the stairs.

DEPUTY SAMUEL (CONT'D)

She be not convicted. We mustn't
let fear drive us.

Goody Harrison marches up the stairs.

GOODY HARRISON

I think it be time you stand down,
Deputy.

VILLAGERS

She's a witch! Conspirator! Hang
her!

Samuel bows his head in defeat. Goody Harrison fits the noose around Tabitha's neck.

GOODY HARRISON

For Daniel.

Tabitha scans the faces of the Villagers: fear, anger, cowardice. All three on the face of Goody Harrison.

TABITHA

I pity you.

Tabitha closes her eyes. Accepts her fate.

PASTOR HARRISON (O.S.)
What's going on here?

The Villagers turn to see Harrison stomp forward.

INT. MEETING HOUSE, BACK OFFICE - DAY

Tabitha huddles with a blanket. Harrison prepares a kettle.

TABITHA
They killed Sani...

PASTOR HARRISON
I'm sorry for that. It wasn't their
place to cast judgement.

TABITHA
Leon is--

PASTOR HARRISON
The Frenchman?

Harrison pours two cups, brings one to Tabitha.

TABITHA
He's in danger.

Tabitha tries to rise, but Harrison rests a hand on her
shoulder.

PASTOR HARRISON
Rest. Drink your tea.

TABITHA
There's no time.

PASTOR HARRISON
At least while I gather the men.
And then you may take us to him.

Tabitha goes to sip her tea, it's too hot, she blows on it.

TABITHA
It's Crawshaw. It must be.

PASTOR HARRISON
Sorry?

TABITHA
He wanted me as his wife. He killed
Daniel.

PASTOR HARRISON
Crawshaw was many things, but he
was no murderer.

TABITHA
You must believe me.

PASTOR HARRISON
Dishonesty was never your sin. Now
rest, I shall gather the men.

Tabitha gulps her tea. Harrison crosses the room towards the exit.

Tabitha notices something glint on the desk. She moves Harrison's gilded Bible to reveal: the silver cross. The realization buffets Tabitha.

TABITHA
What do you mean 'he was'?

Harrison bolts the door closed. Tabitha moves to react but is hit by a wave of nausea. Her TEA CUP SHATTERS on the floor.

Everything blurs and swirls. Tabitha collapses to the ground.

FADE TO:

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Tabitha's eyes shoot open. Darkness. The DRIP of WATER. She's chained to a table. Ankles and wrists strapped to the four corners.

Her eyes adjust. Gilberta sits on her bed in a cell. A pair of severed arms dangle from wall shackles.

Tabitha struggles to break free. Gilberta presses her face between the bars.

GILBERTA
Es ist sinnlos.

Tabitha spasms violently. She catches her breath.

TABITHA
You're Gilberta?

Gilberta backs away from the bars.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Han's Schwester?

GILBERTA
You know Hans?

TABITHA
(nods)
You speak English?

GILBERTA
Little. Hans. He is alive?

Tabitha's expression answers the question. Gilberta collapses to the ground, hugs her knees.

TABITHA
Gilberta. We need to--

The DOOR CREAKS OPEN. Harrison drags an unconscious Leon over to the wall shackles. He removes the severed arms, shackles Leon in their place.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
You killed Daniel.

PASTOR HARRISON
I am but a humble servant.

TABITHA
Your own son--

PASTOR HARRISON
No--

TABITHA
And you killed him.

PASTOR HARRISON
No! The Lord saved him. You'd have damned him with your wanton ways.

Harrison leans over Tabitha.

TABITHA
Why-- why give me the key to the cell?

PASTOR HARRISON
It was not their place to judge.
Nor is it mine. Only our Lord knows
if you be one of the Elect.

Harrison collects the severed arms.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
But we shall soon witness.

Harrison strides out-- the DOOR SLAMS, LATCHES.

TABITHA

Leon?

Leon's eyes flicker open. He's weak. One arm a bloody mess.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

When I saw the cross, I thought you dead.

LEON

The rocks. He didn't see me... or my pistol.

TABITHA

Sani's dead.

Leon surveys his surroundings. Takes it in.

LEON

We'll be joining him soon.

TABITHA

We mustn't just surrender.

LEON

You we're right. I deserve this.

TABITHA

I was wrong about you.

LEON

No, you were right.

Leon looks to be trapped in a far away past.

TABITHA

We must focus.

LEON

I left my sister... I was no older than the boy. We were both trapped with the loup garou.

TABITHA (O.S.)

Leon...

LEON

He slashed me. And I ran. I convinced myself I was going to get help. I could hear her screams. I should've turned back. I--

TABITHA
You were a child.

LEON
I never even looked back.

TABITHA
I was attacked. My father killed. I spent two years living alone with the wolves. Do you know what kept me going?

Leon shakes his head.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
Knowing I had been loved. Not even death can take that. Your sister loved you. Sani loved you. You owe it to them to keep fighting.

LEON
Look at me. Sobbing like an infant.

Leon examines his shackled hands, the bloody mess of an arm.

LEON (CONT'D)
They're pin shackles. We just need something to pry the pin.

TABITHA
Gilberta.

GILBERTA
It's not safe.

TABITHA
Think of Hans.

GILBERTA
I can't.

TABITHA
Please. I need a stick or something.

Gilberta paces in her cell.

TABITHA (CONT'D)
We can stop him from hurting anyone else.

Gilberta picks something up. Approaches the bars.

GILBERTA

I have a bone.

Gilberta holds up what looks to be a finger bone.

TABITHA

Okay. Toss it to me.

GILBERTA

(in German; subtitled)

What if I miss?

TABITHA

Nicht.

Gilberta waves her arm in a practice motion. Tosses-- the BONE RATTLES on the edge of the table, near Tabitha's mangled hand.

Tabitha bends her wrist backwards, reaches-- just out of range. She struggles, a fingertip brushes it. The bone spins, almost falls off the table.

Gilberta presses against the bars.

Tabitha stretches-- gets a fingertip on it. Slides it towards her. The DOOR OPENS. Tabitha conceals the bone in her palm.

Harrison marches into the room carrying a pitcher and ornate goblet. He stops outside Gilberta's cell. Fills and offers the goblet.

Gilberta looks to Tabitha, she shakes her head. But Gilberta drinks.

PASTOR HARRISON

She carries within her the second coming.

Gilberta slumps into her bunk. Harrison marches over to Leon.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

He whose flesh we have feasted upon, now feasts upon ours.

Harrison clutches Leon by the jaw. Leon struggles. Harrison forces the contents of the goblet down his throat.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)

We traveled half a world to create our Zion.

While distracted, Tabitha quickly pulls out the finger bone. She pries at the pin. The bone slips off.

Leon chokes the last of it. Harrison advances on Tabitha. She conceals the bone.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
The Lord aided me in keeping away
outside corruption.

Harrison looms above Tabitha. He refills the goblet. Tabitha takes extra care to keep the bone hidden.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
And now He shall purify the rot
from within.

Harrison forces Tabitha's mouth open, pours. Tabitha struggles, chokes and manages to spit it out.

Harrison sets the goblet and pitcher down. Disappears into a dark corner of the room.

Tabitha hastens to pry the pin with the bone. Finally manages to get the bone lodged under the pin. She struggles to push it. Harrison's FOOTSTEPS. She hides the bone.

Harrison approaches with a funnel. Gilberta gags.

TABITHA
What did you give them?

PASTOR HARRISON
Nightshade. Not a fatal dose. But
enough to reveal the true form of
our Lord.

Tabitha struggles. Harrison shoves the funnel down her throat, pours directly from the pitcher. The contents swirl down the funnel into Tabitha, he rips out the funnel.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
Behold, the Lord cometh out of his
place to punish the inhabitants of
the Earth for their iniquity.

Tabitha chokes and gags. Harrison fills the goblet, drinks.

PASTOR HARRISON (CONT'D)
The Earth shall disclose her blood,
and shall no more cover her slain.

Harrison marches back towards the dark corner. Stops. He returns to Tabitha, a smile on his face. He pries open her mangled hand and takes the finger bone.

Harrison studies the bone. He "tsks" Gilberta. Tosses it.

Tabitha struggles with all her might. Leon begins to convulse. Tabitha screams in frustration.

Harrison carries a candle into the dark corner of the room. Lights more until there are seven points of light, revealing:

An altar with a large cross. Spread out on the altar are the pieces of the "Beast" outfit. The fur covered breastplate, the claws - one fitted with four blades, the mask - a monstrosity of sewn together wolf and human flesh.

Harrison arranges the pieces before him. Kneels in prayer.

Tabitha watches. She begins to breathe deeply, the world begins to blur and swirl. She gags.

LEON

Tabitha...

PASTOR HARRISON

(chanting in Latin)

Domine deus meus. Facientque mihi
lupus. Deprecor dimitte me ut
iracundiam vestram...

Harrison pours the remaining contents of the pitcher over his head. He continues to chant. Convulses.

LEON

I just... Thank you.

Tabitha focuses her effort on her mangled hand. Pulls with all of her might... pulls... CRACK her thumb BREAKS. Tabitha screams, squeezes her mangled hand free.

Harrison spasms and screams. He slides on pieces of the costume-- the breastplate, the gloves. No, it's more like they fuse with him. His screams transform into howls.

Tabitha unshackles herself, hastens over to Leon.

LEON (CONT'D)

Tu es fou.

Tabitha frees Leon. He moves for the exit. Tabitha rushes to the finger bone, then Gilberta's cell. She picks at the lock.

LEON (CONT'D)

There's no time!

Tabitha fumbles with the lock. The BONE SNAPS.

LEON (CONT'D)

She's safe. We must get my pistol.

Tabitha pokes at the lock with a bone fragment.

GILBERTA

Just go.

TABITHA

I'm not leaving you.

Harrison pulls on the mask and howls in pain as it fuses with his skull. He writhes on the ground.

Tabitha jabs futilely at the lock.

GILBERTA

I have the key.

TABITHA

What?

LEON

Merde!

GILBERTA

It's not safe outside.

LEON

Tabitha!

Tabitha looks back to Leon, she shakes her head. Leon hesitates, then bolts from the room.

TABITHA

Hans would want you to fight.

Gilberta wavers. She rushes to her bed and grabs the key. Gilberta unlocks the cell.

Harrison growls and rises. Not Harrison in a costume... the Beast. Long razor sharp claws, black fur, red eyes. The contorted face of a hell hound. A loup garou. Werewolf.

Tabitha and Gilberta rush for the exit. The Beast dives at them, just missing.

EXT. CAVE PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha slams the door shut, latches it. SLAM! It buckles. Gilberta grabs a torch from a wall sconce.

The girls rush forward into the darkness. Behind them-- SLAM! SLAM! SMASH!

Tabitha and Gilberta charge forward until they reach a--

FORK IN THE CAVE

GILBERTA
Which way?

TABITHA
Listen.

Behind them is the unmistakable GROWL of the BEAST. But coming from one of the passages...

HANS (O.S.)
(distant)
Hilfe!

GILBERTA
Hans!

Gilberta charges after the voice. Tabitha on her heels. The passage continues to narrow until they reach a--

DEAD END

HANS (O.S.)
(closer)
Gilberta?

Tabitha locates the source of the voice, a crack in the wall, just big enough for one person to squeeze through.

TABITHA
Here!

Gilberta squeezes into the crack, she gets half way in--

GILBERTA
I'm stuck!

The BEAST HOWLS, its red eyes flicker in the darkness.

Tabitha shoves Gilberta, she grunts and squeezes through. Tabitha climbs into the crack.

The Beast charges.

Tabitha forces herself into the--

CRACK

Tabitha scrapes flesh from her face against the jagged rocks.

The Beast slashes, razor sharp claws inches from her face. He slices her shoulder. Tabitha screams, squeezes out of range.

The red eyes of the Beast glare into the crack, disappear. Tabitha continues on through into a--

DECAY CHAMBER

Gilberta clasps a hand over her nose and mouth. Tabitha staggers forward, she reels at the stench of decay. She holds up her torch to reveal:

Piles of severed heads, limbs, torsos all in various states of decay. Tattered clothing of Quakers and Powhatans adorn the dismembered bodies. Tabitha and Gilberta gag.

The ground crawls with maggots. A worm slithers through an empty eye socket.

The two forge ahead, stepping over skulls and body parts. Maggots squish between their toes.

They scale a pile of rot that blocks the exit. Crawshaw's mangled limbless cadaver at the pinnacle.

HANS (O.S.)
(nearby)
Hilfe!

Gilberta plows over the carnage into a--

HOLDING BLOCK

A series of small cells with barely enough room to lay down. Hans and Mary (Greene, the daughter) both shiver in cells.

GILBERTA
Hans!

Gilberta hastens to unlock their cell. Hans and Gilberta embrace. Mary staggers forward.

TABITHA
Are you okay?

MARY
I want to go home.

INT. NARROW PASSAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Tabitha leads the way. The children in the middle with Gilberta in the rear.

The GROWL of the BEAST echoes through the cave.

The narrow passage opens into an--

ANTECHAMBER

Several passages combine. The GROWL of the BEAST comes from one. Tabitha surveys their options.

TABITHA

There!

Tabitha points to a ladder which ascends to the trapdoor. Cracks of light pierce through the wood planks.

Gilberta helps Hans and Mary up the ladder. Tabitha keeps watch. The red eyes of the Beast flicker in a passage.

Tabitha scurries up the ladder, right below Gilberta. Hans presses on the trapdoor, it's locked.

The red eyes of the Beast glare up at Tabitha. He clutches her foot, slams her to the ground. The Beast looms above her.

BANG! The SHOT knocks the Beast on its side-- Leon holds his smoking pistol.

LEON

Get them out of here!

Tabitha looks to Leon. Their eyes say it all. She nods.

SHAFT

Tabitha bounds up the ladder. Squeezes past Gilberta and the children. Slams her shoulder onto the hatch.

ANTECHAMBER

Leon and the Beast circle one another, size each other up.

LEON

Come on, you mangy mongrel.

The Beast howls and lunges forward-- Leon dodges, slugs the Beast in the ribs. The Beast ROARS.

SHAFT

Tabitha slams the hatch. Again. And again. It CRACKS. Tabitha pushes the hatch open.

ANTECHAMBER

The Beast lunges at Leon. Leon dodges, but he's too slow. The Beast impales Leon in the gut.

It's not the claws of the Beast, but four blades that pierce through Leon's back.

The Beast rips its claw away. Leon drops to the ground.

A bright white light illuminates Leon's face... perhaps from the trapdoor opening. A smile curls across his face.

LEON
(in French; subtitled)
Sister...

The claws of the Beast come down.

INT. MEETING HOUSE, BACK OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tabitha peers solemnly through the opening as Gilberta climbs through. Tabitha slams it closed.

Tabitha grabs the silver cross off the desk. Leads them out into the main--

MEETING HOUSE

Tabitha slams the door closed behind them, locks it.

CRASH! The BEAST BREAKS through the hatch in the Back Office.

TABITHA
The bell tower!

Gilberta leads the children to a rope that extends up to the bell. Tabitha braces the door.

SLAM! The DOOR SHATTERS. Tabitha is flung forward over benches. The Beast scans the room, spots Gilberta scaling the rope. The Beast lurches forward.

Tabitha reaches for the first thing she can find, Harrison's gilded Bible, she flings it, smacks the Beast.

The Beast faces Tabitha, ROARS and charges.

EXT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

Tabitha leaps down the entry stairs. The Beast slams through the doors behind her.

VILLAGE

Tabitha sprints forward, a hitch in her gait. The Beast bounds after her on all fours.

Behind them the CHURCH BELL RINGS.

EXT. MAGISTRATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Samuel steps outside to investigate the CHURCH BELL and spots Tabitha in the distance, the Beast in pursuit.

Samuel ducks inside, reemerges with his musket.

EXT. GALLOWS - CONTINUOUS

Sani's lifeless body still hangs. Scout perches above. Sani's tomahawk is imbedded in a support post.

Tabitha leaps up the steps, dislodges the tomahawk and leaps off the far end. The Beast still on her tail.

EXT. BAR & INN - NIGHT

Tabitha rounds a corner of the building, she charges into a field toward the distant treeline.

BANG! The SHOT knocks Tabitha off her feet, face first into the snow. Blood blackens the snow around her.

Jacob lowers his smoking musket, his smug face turns to dread. He sees--

Harrison stomp forward in his disguise. Sewn together wolf pelt and human flesh. The red eyes flicker in the torch light. Not a supernatural being but still a haunting visage.

Jacob hastens to reload his musket. Slowed by his injured hand. Not enough time. He swings his musket like a club.

Empowered by the nightshade, Harrison blocks, rams the four twelve-inch blades right through Jacob's throat.

Blood surges like a waterfall. Jacob gurgles blood.

FIELD OF SNOW

Tabitha groans. Her left shoulder seeps blood from the musket injury. She tries to push herself up, but collapses.

In the distance, she sees the Beast eviscerate Jacob.

She spots something peeking through a nearby bush... a red leathery hellebore flower, the Christmas rose. She smiles.

Tabitha forces herself to her feet, staggers forward. The Beast turns its attention back towards her. Charges.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tabitha ducks and weaves through the branches. The tomahawk in her good hand, the silver cross stuffed in her waistband.

The Beast plows through the thick brush behind her.

RIVER

A narrow crossing. Tabitha splashes through the water. She whistles as she scurries up the bank.

A WOLF HOWLS in the distance. Tabitha makes for the direction of the howl.

THICKET

Tabitha is turned around. She spins trying to reorient herself. Searches for signs of the Beast. Nothing.

A WOLF HOWLS nearby. Tabitha whistles--

THE BEAST LUNGES from the darkness! Tabitha dives. The Beast's claws graze her back.

Tabitha grunts and hobbles in the direction of the wolf howl.

FOREST CLEARING

The bloodstained rock. Tabitha staggers forward. The Beast plows into the clearing.

The Beast charges. Tabitha doesn't look back. Three wolves burst into the clearing. Lobo, Beta and Gamma. The Beast turns to face them.

Tabitha shuffles towards a tree at the edge of the clearing.

Beta leaps at the Beast. SMACK! Beta yelps and crumples to the ground, his throat slashed.

Lobo bites down on the Beast's arm, Gamma clamps down on a leg. The wolves shake ferociously.

The Beast ROARS. Slashes Lobo in the ribs. Lobo releases.

The Beast slams Gamma in the back of the neck, killing him instantly.

A powerful kick knocks Lobo to the ground. The Beast stomps forward toward the injured wolf.

TABITHA

Hey!

The Beast GROWLS and faces Tabitha. The tomahawk twirls through the air-- lodges in the Beast's shoulder.

For a moment, Tabitha sees him as he is, Harrison in his costume. He rips the tomahawk out of his breastplate. ROARS. The Beast once more.

Tabitha steps back, strikes a defensive posture with the silver cross in her good hand. She's chosen the location of her final stand.

The Beast charges. Tabitha roars with everything she's got.

Scout swoops down, pecks at the Beast's face. The Beast stumbles, smacks Scout away. The Beast prepares to lunge--

SNAP! The rope trap catches the Beast's rear leg, flips it. Tabitha lunges! Plunges the cross into the Beast's throat.

The Beast HOWLS in pain, frantically swings its claws. Tabitha leaps back.

The Beast grabs at the cross. No, not the Beast... Harrison in his costume. He gurgles blood. Swings futilely at Tabitha. Blood gushes from his neck. His arms drop to the ground.

Tabitha stumbles over to Lobo. Lobo WHIMPERS. Tabitha drops and clutches the wolf. Both covered in their own blood. With his last bit of energy, Lobo licks Tabitha one last time.

Through the trees a half dozen torch lights approach. Samuel leads a group of men. They stop dead at the gruesome scene.

They scan their surroundings. They creep towards Harrison's lifeless body.

Samuel slowly pulls back Harrison's mask. Holds his torch up to reveal Harrison's face. The Villagers gasp in disbelief.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Harrison's corpse is tied to a stake. His wolf costume at his feet. Samuel sets it ablaze with a torch.

EXT. DANIEL'S GRAVE - DAY

Tabitha kneels at the fresh grave, her arm in a sling. She digs a few inches into the dirt. Places the spessartine garnet in the hole. Covers it.

TABITHA
Safe travels.

EXT. GALLOWS - DAY

The entire Village has gathered to witness.

Two Villagers drag Goody Harrison towards the noose. She kicks and screams.

EXT. WAGON - DAY

Gilberta helps Tabitha load Lobo's corpse into the back of the wagon.

Leon and Sani's corpses are already there, covered in a white cloth.

EXT. GALLOWS - DAY

Samuel solemnly reads from a parchment.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
Goody Harrison you have been found
guilty of conspiracy to practice
witchcraft.

The Villagers fit the noose around Goody Harrison.

GOODY HARRISON
I knew naught!

BANG! The Villagers all spin to see--

Tabitha holsters Leon's pistol. She marches forward. The Villagers step aside, parting like the red sea.

Tabitha ascends the steps, hands Samuel a parchment. Samuel unfurls and reads. He fumbles with a pouch, hands Tabitha a bundle of bills.

Tabitha looks to Goody Harrison. Goody Harrison glares in bewilderment.

TABITHA
Release her.

DEPUTY SAMUEL
But--

Tabitha stares at Samuel. He shrinks under her gaze, nods to the Hangman.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Tabitha limps towards her distant wagon. Gilberta, Hans and Mary load up the front.

Goody Harrison catches up to Tabitha.

GOODY HARRISON
Why?

TABITHA
For Daniel.

This halts Goody Harrison in her tracks for a moment.

GOODY HARRISON
You must take me to the next village. They'll shun me as a witch, if not kill me.

Tabitha leaves her without so much as a glance back.

EXT. WAGON - DAY

Gilberta, Mary and Hans sit in the front. Scout sits on his perch, one wing wrapped in bandage. Hans helps Tabitha up into the wagon.

The Villagers gather to watch them off. Tabitha scans their faces. She sees the same fear as before, but their anger has been replaced with awe. Samuel approaches from the crowd.

DEPUTY SAMUEL

Where will you go?

TABITHA

To find a home.

Tabitha whips the reins. The pack horse pulls the wagon towards the treeline. The New Moon hides in the daylight, low on the horizon.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END