

DANCES WITH WOLVES

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Final Draft

INT. FIELD HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

A black screen.

The sound of a knife cutting through boot leather.

hovering
Fade in on the waists of two men (THE SURGEONS)
around a crude operating table.

just
In the extreme background, TWO STRETCHER BEARERS are
leaving.

SURGEON 1 (O.S.)

Is this the last one?

numb.
One of the bearers stops and looks back. His face is
And he nods hollowly.

But we
the
We cannot see the patient stretched out on the table.
do see that the first surgeon has succeeded in getting
man's boot off.

SURGEON 2 (O.S.)

God, what a mess... at least there's
no gangrene.

SURGEON 1 (O.S.)

There will be if it doesn't come
off.

SURGEON 2 (O.S.)

Well I can't see if I can't keep my
eyes open. Let's coffee up... he
can wait a few more minutes.

background
from
As the TWO SURGEONS duck through a tent flap in the
we see a mangled foot, torn by shrapnel, it oozes blood
a cut clear to the bone.

young
lifts
LIEUTENANT JOHN J. DUNBAR'S eyes are now open. He's a
man, his features sharp and handsome. With effort, he
his head and searches the room.

lying in
His eyes come to rest on the form of a legless man
bloodsoaked sheets. He's whimpering like a child.

table.
crate
Dunbar comes to a sitting position on the operating
As his eyes move around the room they come to rest on a
filled with the boots of men who have lost their legs.

the
boots.
A cane travels through space and deftly hooks one of

table.
makes
a
Lieutenant Dunbar brings the boot onto the operating
He tries to pull it on his mangled foot, but the pain
him cry out. Deliberately he breaks the cane and sticks
piece of it between his teeth.

broken
pulls
Tears of pain are rolling down his face. A sweat has
out on his forehead and with great determination he
the boot on.

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

their
is
The two weary surgeons sip on steaming mugs of coffee,
white coats spattered with blood. Their brief respite

interrupted by the sound of a muffled scream.

Together they turn and rush back into the tent.

INT. FIELD HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

small

The operating table is empty save the broken cane and a pool of blood. Dunbar is gone.

LEGEND: ST. DAVID'S FIELD, TENNESSEE - 1862

EXT. CIVIL WAR HILL - DAY

either
green,

In a natural valley below is a peaceful field. And on side of the field, separated by a hundred yards of are low rock walls.

Several dairy cows are lying dead in the field.

of
man

A group of MOUNTED UNION OFFICERS, ride onto the crest the hill and look down at the field. The distinguished with a long grey beard is GENERAL TIDE.

EXT. CONFEDERATE WALL - DAY

of

Ragged CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS crouch sullenly behind one the walls.

EXT. UNION WALL - DAY

equipped

And just behind the other wall are UNION MEN, better perhaps, but just as weary as their enemies.

PEPPER. He
sight.

We hold on one man, an enlisted soldier, SERGEANT chances to glance behind and squints at a strange

The
he

A solitary officer is standing a few feet behind him. sun is at his back, giving him a ghostly feel. Eerily takes a step or two forward. He's limping badly.

The sergeant recognizes him. It's Dunbar.

PEPPER

Lieutenant... izat you?

unnerves
Dunbar says nothing. He just stands and stares. It
the sergeant.

PEPPER

What're you doing here lieutenant?

DUNBAR

This is where I belong... this is my
outfit.

The sergeant stares at Dunbar's foot.

PEPPER

You went to hospital?

DUNBAR

It was no good... what's going on
here?

dives
A ping of riflefire flies overhead and the sergeant
for the wall. He calls over his shoulder.

PEPPER

Better come to cover lieutenant...
those boys are shooters.

Dunbar settles next to the sergeant.

PEPPER

What's goin' on here... seems to be
the question alright... you could
ask the major but he don't know.
He's busy tryin' to figger out how
come the officer's mess run outta
peach ice cream...

too.
The sergeant nods at the distant hill and Dunbar looks

PEPPER

General's come up to see the show
but all he knows is there ain't no
show...

lieutenant
Now he nods toward the trees behind them and the

hunk

follows. Several union men are clustered around a huge
of material attached to a gondola.

PEPPER

We started a balloon up but they
shot her down fore she was ten feet
off the ground... so nobody's made a
run either way. It's been a stand-
off all damn day... and now... the
major, he's lookin' at the general
and he's thinkin' I better do
somethin', and you know what that
means...

answer

the

the

More riflefire comes in and some of the union men
with a few rounds of their own. The sergeant watches
confederate line across the field through a crack in
wall.

looking at

lines.

Lieutenant Dunbar is not watching the enemy. He's
some horses picketed in the trees behind the union
There's a nice bay. There's a big roan.

PEPPER

They're 'sposed to be beat up just
like us but everybody knows that
Tucker's men are tough as cobs. I
sure don't wanna die out there with
them cows.

small,

others.

Dunbar is still watching the horses. He's holding on a
well-muscled buckskin standing a little apart from the
CISCO.

horses.

field,

waving

to

Now he moves away from the wall, heading for the
The sergeant squeezes off a shot. Squinting across the
he sees a rifle with a hat on the tip of its bayonet
at him disrespectfully. The sergeant rolls on his side
reload. He keeps on talking to the lieutenant, but the

lieutenant is gone.

PEPPER

Some of the boys are sayin' that if we ain't gonna fight we could just settle the whole business with a little high stakes poker. Wouldn't that be a sight... a bunch of fellas sittin' in the middle of this field drawin' cards...

sound
are
turns
buckskinne

The sergeant's chatter is interrupted by a sound... the of hoofbeats rushing in behind him. Men on either side scattering, but there's no time for the sergeant. He turns to the sound and cringes against the wall as the belly of a horse soars over his head.

for

Dunbar and his horse hit the ground with a thud and dig the confederate line.

EXT. CONFEDERATE LINE - DAY

headed
shoulder.

Some of the confederate riflemen can see the wild rider for their lines. A sharpshooter (RAY) calls over his

RAY

Tucker!

up

A man in a slouch hat crowned by a jaunty feather looks from an impromptu meeting. TUCKER.

EXT. CIVIL WAR HILL - DAY

spectacle
enemy. He
into

Like the others, General Tide is absorbed with the of a single horseman riding into the teeth of the holds out his hand and an AIDE slips a pocket telescope his palm. The general sights through his telescope.

AIDE

What is it sir?

peers
Tide lowers the telescope, glances at the aide and
back down at the field.

TIDE

Looks like a suicide.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

rising
Dunbar can see the confederate riflemen now. They're
up behind the wall to aim and fire.

wheels
Fifty yards from the enemy line he's still unhit. He
parallel
the buckskin into a sharp left turn and they streak
hard, his
to the confederate flank. The buckskin is charging
heels throwing out clumps of dirt.

away.
The firing is tremendous. The lieutenant's hat is torn
still
A slug lifts off one of the officer's epaulettes, but
no bullet finds him.

EXT. UNION WALL - DAY

their
The entire union line is standing, strangely quiet in
disbelief.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

pulls the
The lieutenant passes the last of the riflemen and
horse is
buckskin up at the far end of the field. The little
pitching and rearing, ready for another run.

coming
The lieutenant bows his head in exhaustion, but a sound
cheer
across the field brings his head up quickly. A great
is rolling along the union line.

EXT. HILL - DAY

tears
General Tide is furiously spurring his horse as he

up. down the hill. His aides are trying desperately to keep

EXT. CONFEDERATE WALL - DAY

Dunbar There's action along the confederate line. The men
end passed are desperately trying to reload. Those at the
pass. are jeering, taunting the lieutenant to take another

doesn't Tucker is moving along the line. The battle ground has
suddenly taken on a festival atmosphere and Tucker
like it.

CONFEDERATE

Come on you son of a bitch -- you
won't make it a second time...

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

DUNBAR

Alright by me.

his Dunbar gazes down along his leg. Blood is pumping from
wound.

DUNBAR

Forgive me Father.

they Again he digs his heels into the buckskin's flanks and
reload. A fly down the line. The confederates are trying to
too few are able to get off a hasty shot, but they're all
late.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

approaches Dunbar swerves in a little closer to the wall as he
standing the other half of the confederate ranks. They're
ready, like a firing squad.

sharpshooter. Tucker has just reached the side of Ray the

the
toward
The lieutenant shuts; his eyes, lets the reins flop on
buckskin's neck and spreads his arms as they thunder
the line of riflemen.

down
itself in
Ray's finger squeezes the trigger, his keen eye sights
the barrel of his gun. THUD... a rifle ball buries
Ray's forehead.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

a
comrades.
The union trooper who fired the fatal shot gets up from
kneeling position and scrambles after some of his

EXT. UNION WALL - DAY

horse
over the wall at a dead run.
With his aides coming behind, General Tide leaps his

thunderous
scurry
The entire Union line pours after him, screaming a
battlecry in unison. Pepper is one of the last to
over the wall.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

chasing
The union troops have the rebels in full flight,
them into the woods beyond the field.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

is
there. And
His
General
eyed.
Suddenly the field is quiet. There is rifle fire in the
distance but otherwise everything is still. The field
almost empty. The three dead dairy cows are still
at one end of the field is a solitary buckskin horse.
rider lies on the ground, a foot hooked in one stirrup.
The sound of men's voices is coming near. Suddenly,
Tide is peering down at him. Dunbar stares back, glassy

DUNBAR

Don't take off my foot.

kneels
General Tide stares down into Dunbar's blank face. He
next to the lieutenant and bends to whisper in his ear.

GENERAL TIDE

You rest easy son... you'll keep
you're foot. As God is my judge,
you'll keep it.

The general looks up at one of his aides.

GENERAL TIDE

Bring up my ambulance...

AIDE

Sir?

GENERAL TIDE

Bring up my ambulance. And bring my
surgeon with it. We've got an officer
who's worth something lying here.

Tide
it
The aide dashes off to do what he's told, as General
gently removes Dunbar's foot from the stirrup and lays
carefully on the ground. The image fades out.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

lone
trip.
buckskin.
The image of a boot fades in, pull back to see that a
rider is coming toward us. He has had a long and dusty
It's Lieutenant Dunbar. He's still riding the little

LEGEND - FORT HAYS. KANSAS - 1863

something
Dunbar pulls up short. He stares thoughtfully at
in the distance.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

The strangeness of this life cannot
be measured. In trying to produce my
own death, I was elevated to the
status of a living hero.

cover
dreary
Dunbar starts forward and the camera swings around to his back. In the distance we can see an isolated and military post.

The sky is very blue. The sun is bright. A rough-hewn, unfenced fort is straight ahead.

well-
center
There are several miscellaneous stone structures, a stocked stable, barracks, officer's quarters and in the of it all, a headquarters building.

powerfully
for the
Lieutenant Dunbar, riding straight and tall on his built buckskin, Cisco, passes into view. He's headed center of the fort.

INT. FORT HAYS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

pauses in
distant
here
Silhouetted against the outside, Lieutenant Dunbar the wide doorway of headquarters. We can hear the sounds of work and life coming from the outside but in it's strangely quiet.

at
from
only a
A SERGEANT sits at a desk in the foyer. Across the way, another desk, is an enlisted CLERK. Both men glance their paperwork at the man in the doorway. But it's glance and they go right on shuffling paper.

with
slick, black hair swings into the foyer. He too has a slackness that echoes the dreariness of this post.

meet at
his
The blue-eyed officer, LIEUTENANT ELGIN, and Dunbar the doorway. Dunbar glances down at a scrap of paper in hand.

DUNBAR

Where can I find Major... Fambrough?

ELGIN

Turn right... all the way to the end
of the hall.

idle

Being roughly the same age and rank these two might
awhile, but Dunbar is eager. He's already moving.

FAMBROUGH (O.S.)

Lt. John J. Dunbar.

DUNBAR

Sir?

one is

Dunbar stops and turns, peering down the hallway. No
there.

INT. FAMBROUGH'S OFFICE - DAY

MAJOR

Sitting behind the desk, holding a set of orders is

FAMBROUGH.

FAMBROUGH

Lt. John J. Dunbar.

Lt. Dunbar is standing in front of the desk.

DUNBAR

Yes sir?

FAMBROUGH

Indian fighter, huh?

DUNBAR

Excuse me?

FAMBROUGH

(indicating paper)

Your orders say you are to be posted
on the frontier. The frontier is
Indian country. I quickly deduced
that you are an Indian fighter.

has sad

times

He arches an eyebrow, challenging the lieutenant. He
swollen eyes. He is an army lifer passed over too many

man.
for promotion and right now does not look like a well

FAMBROUGH

I did not ascend to this position by
being stupid.

DUNBAR

No sir.

silence.
Fambrough returns to the order. Dunbar watches him in

has
The major's tunic is covered with food stains. Sweat
broken out all over his head. His grooming is awful.
His
hands are trembling slightly. Something is very wrong
with
him.

looks
Now the major sees something on the official paper. He
moving
quickly at the lieutenant, then back at the paper,
his lips but making no sound.

FAMBROUGH

It says here you've been decorated.

DUNBAR

Yes sir.

FAMBROUGH

And they sent you out here to be
posted?

DUNBAR

Actually sir, I'm here at my own
request... I want to see the frontier.

FAMBROUGH

You want to see the frontier?

DUNBAR

Yes sir... before it's gone.

The major fixes Dunbar with a sly look.

FAMBROUGH

Such a smart lad coming straight to
me.

the
Fambrough
fill

Still sly, Fambrough digs into a side drawer. There is
distinct clink of glass on glass as he rummages. Now
has what he wants, a blank official form. He begins to
it out, writing in a disturbingly childish way.

FAMBROUGH

Sir Knight, I am sending you on a
knight's errand. You will report to
Captain Cargill at the furthestmost
outpost of the realm... Fort
Sedgewick.

and

He looks over his work with a schoolboy's excitement
affixes his signature with a wild flourish.

FAMBROUGH

My personal seal will assure you
safe passage through many miles of
wild hostile country.

He folds the order and hands it to Dunbar.

DUNBAR

I'm wondering sir, how will I be
getting there?

FAMBROUGH

You think I don't know?

DUNBAR

No sir, it's just that I don't know.

FAMBROUGH

Hold your tongue.

dusty
canvas on

The major turns in his chair to stare through a single,
window. He can see a teamster outside, tying down
a heavily-loaded wagon.

FAMBROUGH

I'm in a generous mood and will grant
your boon. You see that peasant...
he calls himself Timmons... he leaves
this very afternoon for your Fort
Sedgewick. Ride with him if you

like... he knows the way. That is all.

Dunbar stands and salutes. Fambrough returns it snappily.

The lieutenant starts for the door.

FAMBROUGH (O.S.)

Sir Knight...

Dunbar turns around. Fambrough is standing in front of his desk. There's a large, dark splotch on the major's trouser front.

He jams both of his hands into the front of his pants and giggles.

FAMBROUGH

I just pissed in my pants... and nobody can do anything about it.

EXT. FORT HAYS - DAY

Lieutenant Dunbar skips down the steps, picks up Cisco's reins and starts leading the buckskin along the front of the building. He looks briefly at his orders, stops and turns back towards Fambrough's office.

And there is Fambrough with a full glass of booze in hand, toasting the young lieutenant from the window. A wide grin on his face.

EXT. FORT HAYS - DAY

A wagon is pulling slowly away from the lonely headquarters.

EXT. FORT HAYS - DAY

The insane face of Major Fambrough peeks around the corner of a building. On his head is a ridiculous, plumed hat.

the
waving
hand...
startled to
faster.
and
menacingly.

Now he looks both ways, as if preparing to cross a busy street. Seeing that the coast is clear, he minces into parade ground in front of headquarters. The plume is in the breeze and the major carries something in each hand... an officer's sword and a revolver. Except for these items, the unfortunate major is naked. As he trots onto the parade ground, Fambrough is find that Elgin is following him. He begins to run Fambrough halts near the center of the parade ground and turns back on the lieutenant and waves his pistol menacingly.

FAMBROUGH

Noooo, noooo...

ELGIN

It's alright Major.

Fambrough

Now Elgin sees a GRIZZLED SERGEANT approaching from the opposite direction.

SERGEANT

Leave him alone lieutenant... he's cracked.

pistol

Fambrough turns on the voice behind him and waves his at the sergeant.

FAMBROUGH

Nooo, noooo...

the

But Fambrough finds himself staring at the barrel of sergeant's raised pistol.

ELGIN

Don't sergeant.

In a panic Fambrough wheels back on Lieutenant Elgin.

FAMBROUGH

Are you deaf fool. I said I'll have
my crown this instant... this instant!

holds out

Slowly and kindly, Elgin is walking toward him. He
his hand.

ELGIN

Let's have the pistol.

SERGEANT

(to Elgin)

Don't do it.

eyes

crybaby.

But the lieutenant keeps his hand held out. Fambrough
him silently. Then he screws up his face like a

FAMBROUGH

The king is dead... long live the
king.

In one swift motion, Fambrough brings the revolver up,
swallows the barrel and pulls the trigger.

EXT. WAGON - DAY

around

face the

doesn't

race.

absolute

side

spittle.

At the sound of a single shot behind him, Dunbar twists
on the wagon seat. Seeing nothing, he turns back to
front and takes stock of the driver, TIMMONS. He
like what he sees... or smells.

Timmons, is not what would be called a credit to his

If all teamsters were greaseballs he would be their
ruler. His stink must be incredible. He leans over the
of the wagon and hocks out a disgusting stream of

of

endless

Afternoon shadows are slanting across the rolling ocean
prairie. The wagon passes camera, headed towards an
expanse of prairie.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

and The sky is filled with stars. One suddenly catches fire
shoots across the heavens.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Dunbar sits at the fire watching the star burn out.
Timmons is bending over the fire. He farts, then turns
to Dunbar with a smile "good one, huh?".

He spits for good measure and for Dunbar, the moment is broken, but not forgotten.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Were it not for my companion I believe
I would be having the time of my
life. He is quite possibly the foulest
person I have ever met.

this Looking over his shoulder at the journal, we see that
it latest entry is one of many and Dunbar is embellishing
with a drawing of a star.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

supplies. Dunbar is off the seat riding atop the mountain of
He is writing in his journal.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

We have been gone four days now and
still we have seen no signs of life.
Only earth and sky.

Dunbar stops his writing.

DUNBAR

How far do you make the fort?

TIMMONS

Far.

DUNBAR

How far?

TIMMONS

Forty or fifty miles, maybe... what's

the big hurry on Sedgewick?

DUNBAR

It's going to be my post... my home.

TIMMONS

You ain't hard to please, I'll say that.

Timmons slows the wagon and stops. He has seen something.

TIMMONS

Look yonder.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

tall
Timmons'
teamster's

A cluster of bones bleached white, are lying in the grass. Human bones. Dunbar is squatting next to them. head dips into view over his shoulder and the mouth splits into a toothless grin.

TIMMONS

Somebody back east is sayin'... "why don't he write?" Stupid bastard.

comes to
Then,
can
below

The teamster spits and starts for the wagon. Dunbar his feet and examines the burnt out remains of a wagon. he finds an arrow in the grassy wheel. Looking off he only guess at the drama here. The sun is sinking fast the great expanse of prairie.

EXT. SEDGEWICK BLUFF - DAWN

CARGILL,
One
telescope in
and
ready

A hatless soldier in a tattered overcoat, CAPTAIN is on the bluff staring morosely through his telescope. hand rubs a sore spot on his jaw. He sticks the his overcoat pocket. He wedges a hand into his mouth wiggles a loose tooth. He gives it a tug but it is not to come out.

overcoat
it
feet

The breeze is coming up and Captain Cargill pulls his closed. As he slips his last button through the hole, breaks off, bounces off of his foot and rolls a few down the bluff.

move
to

Captain Cargill watches the button forlornly, making no to go after it. He raises his head once more and looks the east. Nothing is out there.

EXT. SEDGEWICK CUT BANK - DAWN

stops,
Their
description.

Cargill is walking along the base of the cut bank. He staring up at a series of holes dug into the bluff. entrance covered with "found" draperies of all He works up the courage to call out.

CARGILL

Corporal Guest... Corporal Guest...
Corporal Guest. Corporal Guest, you
don't have to talk to me... just
please come out.

holes
He
looking

At last there's some real movement behind one of the and CORPORAL GUEST crawls through one of the curtains. neither salutes nor speaks. He blinks down at Cargill, more like a hobo than a soldier.

CARGILL

It's the end... assemble the men in
front of my quarters.

EXT. CARGILL'S QUARTERS - DAY

hut;
are
supply

The "MEN" have lined up in front of Cargill's sad, sod pitiful men. Sick, moth-eaten, crushed in spirit. There nine of them. Just behind Cargill is a half-collapsed house and a broken down corral holding two bony horses.

Cargill has a brave face and a broken heart.

CARGILL

You hate me... but I feel none of the same for you... you men stayed. You stayed after they took all our horses. You stayed after all the others deserted. You stayed on the promise that the army would resupply us. I've looked for that wagon from Fort Hays just as you have... day after miserable day. All I can say is that I'm proud of you. Get your things men, we're leaving this place. The army... can go to hell.

back The zombie troops have already broken ranks, lurching to their holes and gear like a gang of drunks.

sign Cargill walks out of frame to reveal the broken down that hangs askew above his quarters: "Fort Sedgewick."

EXT. SEDGEWICK BLUFF - DUSK

overlooking A solitary WOLF trots along the top of a bluff the river. He has two white socks running up his front legs. An old jagged scar cuts across his muzzle. He's watching the ruins of Fort Sedgewick.

lame The little band of troops, all on foot, with their two horses trailing behind are fading in the distance.

EXT. WAGON CAMP - DAWN

curled The wagon is parked in a shallow depression, its team unhitched. Under the wagon the forms of two men lay up in blankets.

a Dunbar is sleeping peacefully, his nose pressed against turns jacket. Now his nostrils begin to twitch. His face against sour and he wakes to find that he's been sleeping

sleeping the stink of Timmons. Flies buzz about the teamster's
body.
out Dunbar quickly pulls away from the bad smell. He rolls
from under the wagon and clambers to his feet.
going to Lieutenant Dunbar looks out over the prairie. It's
be a spectacular day.
Dunbar In the far distance, a column of buzzards is circling.
wagon. has paused to watch them. He ducks back under the

DUNBAR

Timmons... Timmons.

starts to No response from the deep-sleeping driver. Dunbar
makes move closer to shake him awake but the odor under there
under him think twice. He snatches up the arrow and probes
the wagon.

DUNBAR

Timmons.

The teamster comes awake with a squeal, he joins Dunbar
staring up at the circling birds.

DUNBAR

Something's out there...

TIMMONS

Somethin' dead.

DUNBAR

Might have a look.

TIMMONS

Might stay clear of whatever did the
killin'.

team Timmons' mood is different now. He begins to hitch the
with a new sense of urgency.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

moving
Cargill's
presence.

From a high point on the prairie we can see the wagon west. And no more than half a mile away we can see column, moving east. Neither is aware of the other's

horse.
command. We

Several buzzards are settling on a half-butchered
It's one of the animals that was with Cargill's
can hear men singing. The shaky little column from Fort Sedgewick is marching east for Fort Hays.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

grass.

Dunbar is walking through a little valley of tall, rich
The wagon is nowhere in sight.

He looks back at Cisco who is also wandering by himself searching for prime shoots.

Timmons' wagon comes into view now.

DUNBAR

How come we haven't seen any buffalo?

TIMMONS

Can't figger the stinkin' buffalo.
Sometimes you don't see 'em for days,
sometimes they're thick as curls on
a whore.

DUNBAR

What about Indians?

TIMMONS

Goddamn Indians you'd jus' as soon
not see, lessen the bastards're dead.
Nothing but thieves and beggars.

Timmons, as usual, laughs at his own imagined wit.

alone.

The wagon disappears over a ridge and again, Dunbar is

grass

In gentle awe, he runs his palm over the top of the
swirling about his waist.

brings

A meadow lark's mournful call startles him. Dunbar
his head up at the sound and so does Cisco.

through
own.

Now there's a sudden lifting of the breeze. It sweeps
the valley, making the grass roll with a life of its

the
scans the
aloneness.

The lark's sad call and the sudden violent movement of
wind sends a shudder through Lieutenant Dunbar. He
horizon in all directions, aware all at once of his

in

He flips the reins over Cisco's neck and sticks a foot
the stirrup.

Dunbar heads for the ridge.

EXT. BLUFF - DAY

ground

As Dunbar comes over the hill, he sees the wagon has
to a stop.

The wagon has paused at the edge of a bluff. Dunbar and
Timmons are peering into the little valley below

TIMMONS

Not what you'd call a going concern.

We

The wagon lurches over the edge of the bluff and down.
see the pathetic remains of Fort Sedgewick.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

wagon

A full view of the deserted fort. Timmons sits on the
by himself.

TIMMONS

Ain't nothin' here lieutenant.

Dunbar appears from Cargill's former quarters.

TIMMONS (O.S.)

Everybody's run off... or got kilt.

over to

The lieutenant looks briefly at Timmons, and marches the caved-in supply house. Again he ducks inside.

the

Dunbar emerges from the supply house and stares up at wagon driver.

DUNBAR

Alright...lets unload the wagon.

TIMMONS

What, and leave it all here?

DUNBAR

I'm staying too... we don't know what's happened.

Dunbar moves around to the back of the wagon.

TIMMONS

There ain't nothin' here lieutenant.

DUNBAR

Not at the moment, no.

TIMMONS

So things bein' the way they are we might as well turn around and get started back.

DUNBAR

This is my post...

TIMMONS

This is my... are you crazy boy?

heel

The lieutenant's eyes have gone absolutely black. The of his hand is dropping lightly on the butt of a long at his hip.

revolver

DUNBAR

This is my post! And these are the post's provisions. Now get your ass off that wagon and help me unload.

Timmons leaps down.

INT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

The half-caved in supply house bulges with supplies.

INT. CARGILL'S QUARTERS - DAY

Cargill's late quarters are also filled with new goods. There's barely enough room to reach the little bunk.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DUSK

Timmons is atop his wagon seat, reins in hand.

TIMMONS

Well... I'll let 'em know where you are.

DUNBAR

Good.

TIMMONS

Good luck lieutenant.

DUNBAR

Thank you.

light
Timmons clucks to his team and the wagon pulls out. The
on the prairie is fading fast.

EXT. SEDGEWICK RIVER BANK - DUSK

the
The wolf with two socks is patrolling along the edge of
river.

INT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

incredibly
A lamp turns up, casting a glow over Dunbar's
cramped quarters.

journal
He adjusts the lamp and sits back on the bunk, his
on his lap. He begins an entry.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Have arrived to find Fort Sedgewick deserted. Am now waiting for the garrison's return or word from headquarters. Post is in exceedingly poor condition. Have decided to assign myself clean-up duty beginning tomorrow. Supplies abundant. The

country is everything I dreamed it
would be. There can be no place like
this on earth.

Dunbar signs the entry, yawns contentedly and reaches
to
turn down the lamp.

A wolf howls somewhere outside. It's low at first but
it
keeps on building. At its height, the howl sounds as
though
it is coming from, something gigantic.

Dunbar is still listening after it's gone. He hears
wood
snap in the direction of the river then all is quiet
again.
Without hesitating, he slips the big revolver out of
its
holster and cradling it like a teddy bear, slips it
under
his blanket.

The light is left blazing.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAWN

First light over the sad fort.

INT. QUARTERS - DAWN

Dunbar is sleeping quietly. He opens his eyes and rears
his
head to get his bearings. Then he flops back down and
shuts
his eyes, hoping for more sleep.

He hears two heavy footfalls in rapid succession.

Dunbar holds his breath staring at the doorway.
Quietly, he
pulls his gun aiming it directly at the doorway.

Silence. Suddenly, a shadow starts across the
threshold,
followed quickly by Cisco's big buckskin head. The
horse
watches Dunbar a moment, then looks curiously around
the
room.

EXT. CORRAL - DAY

Dunbar
the
leaving

Dressed in pants, old boots, and a threadbare shirt,
bangs home a nail on the sagging corral gate. He tests
gate's swing and satisfied with this, he latches it
Cisco inside.

he

The lieutenant picks up a water bucket and we follow as
walks the few, quick yards it takes to reach the bank
overlooking the river.

At
away to
bottles, and

When he sees what lies along the slope below, he stops.
this spot just below the fort, a garbage dump falls
the stream. Old containers, sacks, rags, trash,
a thousand other miscellaneous scraps.

down
bucket.

Dunbar hops over the steep lip of the bank and starts
the gentle incline, eyeing the trash as he goes. Now he
reaches the stream and kneels, preparing to dip the

and

He sniffs a bad odor, looks across the stagnant stream
sees something sticking out of the water.

of an
everywhere.

It's a cloven hoof. And further out, another. And part
antler. There are decomposed antelope corpses

EXT. RIVER - DAY

through
bandana.

An antelope skeleton is being pulled from the muck.
Dunbar is stripped to the waist as he drags the body
deep water. Covering his face against the stink is a
His pants are soaked and he's sweating hard.

of

At the stream's edge he heaves the antelope onto a pile
holding several others. Under the bodies is a huge bed
trash which he has already collected.

he
his
The body he tosses up slips and he has to right it. Now
wades back into the river and searches the water with
hands for more.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

garbage
long
with
Dunbar fastens the last of the traces to a pile of
spread out on a sheet of canvas. He picks up a set of
reins, clucks to Cisco and they start up the steep bank
the load.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

A distinct change has taken place with the water. It's
running.

EXT. TRASH PILE - DAY

Dunbar
onto
his
it
Oil is pouring out of a jug and onto the great heap.
empties the last of the oil and throws the empty jug
the pile. He takes the match he's been holding between
teeth and flicks it to life with a fingernail. He flips
onto the heap.

away a
smoke
The fire catches immediately and Dunbar has to back
few steps as the flames send a column of thick, black
into the air.

bigger...
To Dunbar's horror, the smoke billows bigger and
climbing into the sky as a signal for anyone to see.

DUNBAR

Damn... damn.

up the
to
He stoops for his rifle and we follow as he scrambles
slope. The lieutenant clammers over the lip and stops
scan the horizon.

higher
But we continue, following the black smoke as it towers
and higher until it is just a wisp.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

one a
also
in
WARRIORS
Four fantastic faces fill the screen, three together,
little apart. They are tired, frustrated faces, and
very fierce. They are painted. Several wear their hair
spiked roaches, one has brightly-colored eagle feathers
jutting out of his scalp at all angles. The FOUR
are naked from the waist up.

The
stand
direction
They are Pawnee, the scariest of all the Plains Tribes.
man a little apart looks THE TOUGHEST. The four men are
squatting on their haunches and four scrawny ponies
behind them. All the men are staring in the same
from a low rise on the prairie.

smoke
gullies.
It's smoke, a column much smaller than Dunbar's. The
is drifting up from the furthest of a line of rolling

their
ponies.
We can see the whole Indian party now: the four men and
ponies, two injured men on travois and two extra

DIALECT
(PLEASE NOTE: ALL INDIAN DIALOGUE WILL BE IN NATIVE
AS INDICATED BY TRIBE. SUBTITLES WILL BE USED.)

THE TOUGHEST

Only a white man would make a fire
for everyone to see.

1ST PAWNEE

Maybe there's more than one.

another
three
The Toughest turns back to face the others. Without
word, he jumps on his horse. Another silence as the

warriors consider what to do.

2ND PAWNEE

We have no rifles. White men are
sure to have rifles.

3RD PAWNEE

We should forget this and go home.

and
and
The Toughest has listened all the while, growing more
more disgusted. He pulls the blanket from his shoulders
flings it angrily at his companions.

TOUGHEST

Then go. I for one, will not debate
the merit of a single line of smoke
in my own country.

smoke.
He starts his pony walking down the rise toward the

1ST PAWNEE

(shaking his head)

He will not quit until we are all
dead.

two
The Third Pawnee starts after the Toughest. The other
follow.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

the
bacon
pan
We're dropping down through the smoke, right down to
supper fire of Timmons the teamster. He's cooking slab
in a pan. Risking the heat, he dips a finger into the
and sucks off the grease.

second
knocking
There's a sudden swish of sound behind him and a split-
later, an arrow goes deep into the wagon driver's ass
him clear across the fire.

into an
camped
Timmons screams like a half-butchered hog and starts
odd crippled run. He clears the gully where he's been

and struggles up the incline.

catches
Another swish and another scream, as another arrow
him high on the shoulder.

Terrified with pain and fear, Timmons looks back as he
scrambles up the slope.

only
Casual
from
arrow
the
Here comes the Toughest at a lazy gallop. He's riding
with his legs. His hands are busy with bow and arrows.
but blink quick, the Toughest snatches another arrow
the quiver at his waist, strings it and fires. This
catches Timmons in the gut. He falls squirming against
slope.

he
The Toughest is still coming, his face like granite as
fires arrow after arrow.

reached
team
Timmons'
When
out
dirt
The three warriors who came with the Toughest have
the wagon. Two of them are slicing away harness on the
of nice army horses. The third is rifling through
gear. This man unwittingly picks up Timmons' blanket.
he gets a whiff of its stink, the warrior flings it far
on the grass. Then he drops to one knee, scoops up some
and rubs it between his soiled hands.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

of
A lone arrow remains in Timmons' dead body, jutting out
his privates.

scalp
parting
Now the Pawnee warriors pass by, heading for home in no
particular hurry. The Toughest passes by with Timmons'
hanging from his bow. None of the men give Timmons a
glance.

EXT. SEDGEWICK BLUFF - DAY

dirt. We're close on Dunbar, his face is grimy with sweat and

He's working hard at something.

bluff, We pull back and see that Dunbar is half-way up the
Cargill's he's been filling up the pockmarks, the holes where
men once lived.

pauses Exhausted, he stabs the shovel into the fresh earth and
filled. to look over his work, all of the holes have been

sees His eyes sweep over the prairie across the river. He
goes something moving, it's the wolf. Dunbar instinctively
for his rifle.

thoughts. He Before he can bring it up to aim, he has second
then lowers the gun and watches the wolf a moment longer,
walks up the hill and disappears into the sky.

EXT. SEDGEWICK BLUFF - DAY

same Fingers are playing with a button. It appears to be the
atop one that came off Captain Cargill's coat. Dunbar stands
the hill, sighting across the prairie.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

No sign of Captain Cargill's command.
I don't know what to do. Communication
can only take place if I leave and I
don't want to abandon my post.

dried He sticks a hand in his overcoat, pulls out a piece of
meat and bites off a hunk.

the Dunbar starts down the hill toward the fort. He watches
horizon as he goes.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Made a short patrol yesterday p.m...
discovered nothing. Will go further
tomorrow.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DUSK

stoop
over
His long day has drawn to a close. Dunbar sits on the
of his quarters. His journal open in his lap. The sign
the doorway has been straightened. Dunbar is staring at
something.

outline
One hundred yards away, sitting in the grass is the
of a wolf.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

There is a wolf who seems intent on
the goings on here. He does not seem
inclined to be a nuisance however
and aside from Cisco has been my
only company. He has appeared each
afternoon for the past two days. He
has milky white socks on both feet.
If he comes calling tomorrow I will
name him Two Socks.

EXT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

supply
stares
With a grunt Dunbar lugs an army saddle out of the
house and starts for the door. He slows to a stop and
down at the saddle as if in a trance. In a moment he is
tossing the saddle back where he found it.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

glances
Dunbar is leading Cisco to the top of a low hill. He
over his shoulder and sees that he is being followed.

him.
The wolf with two socks stops when Dunbar looks back at

regularly
does
Dunbar watches him curiously for a moment and continues
leading Cisco up the hill. But now he's glancing
over his shoulder and discovers that as he moves, so
the wolf.

out
nothing.

Reaching the top of the hill, Dunbar pauses. He pulls the pocket telescope and sweeps the prairie. There is

last
the

Now Dunbar swings onto Cisco's bare back and with a glance back at the wolf starts down the rise and on to open prairie at an easy canter. We follow for a little distance. Dunbar glances once more over his shoulder.

The wolf is sitting on top of the hill watching. He has decided to come no further.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

against
back
slung

Considerable time has passed. Dunbar, bundled warmly the chill of an oncoming storm, and Cisco are coming into camp from a hunting foray. A brace of grouse is slung over Cisco's withers.

INT. QUARTERS - DAY

broken
and

It's storming outside. Rain is pouring down, its patter from time to time by spectacular flashes of lightning the boom of thunder.

but
place.

But inside it's cozy. The quarters are still crowded considerable order has been brought to bear on the

sits

He is just finishing up the grouse and a pile of bones on the table. Open at his side is his journal.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Almost a month and no one has come. The longer this condition persists, the less inclined I am to believe that anyone will. Rain has forced me indoors for most of two days. I have begun an awning. The work has ruined my hands, but I am excited about the improvement it will bring to this

place.

room
tosses
the
A great bolt of lightning strikes outside, filling the
with violent white light. Dunbar walks to the door and
out a handful of bones. Two Socks scurries to collect
bones and retreats under the shelter of a nearby tree.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

It is the loneliest of times... but
I cannot say that I am unhappy.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

someone is
This
hand, however, is red.
Just as Dunbar did on his trip out with Timmons,
running a palm over the tips of the tall prairie grass.

side.
person of
man.
A lone Indian is standing in the grass, his pony at his
side.
He is a real Indian; tough, wild and free. He is a
special maturity. He radiates wisdom and is a man of
responsibility in his community. He is a Sioux medicine
man.
He is KICKING BIRD.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

pounding
rises,
bush.
bush
of it
Dunbar is squatting naked at the edge of the stream,
the dirt out of his trousers on a little rock ledge. He
wringing out the pants, and wades across the river.
On the opposite bank he spreads the pants on a low
bush.
Then he looks along the river. For some distance every
and shrub is draped with the lieutenant's laundry, all
drying in the sun.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

something.
The spectacular face of Kicking Bird is staring at

the
The
He's looking thoughtfully at the "new" Fort Sedgewick;
tidy grounds, the great awning, the repaired corral.
beautiful, buckskin standing inside.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

along
skin
Comfortable with his nakedness, Dunbar is meandering
the stream in no particular hurry. He's very white. His
practically sparkles in the sun.

part is
Dunbar is making his way up the bluff. The steepest
at the lip and here he drops to all fours.

Dunbar's face comes into view. He freezes.

Someone is creeping under the shade of the awning... an
aboriginal man.

Dunbar's head pops down behind the bluff.

is
His
The lieutenant is down on his naked haunches. His heart
pounding in his ears. Sweat has broken out on his face.
mouth is dry as ash.

shirt,
leggings. A
single,
hair.
a
He's playing back images in fragments. A deerskin
strands of hair sewn along each sleeve. Fringed
dark, faded breechclout. Moccasins with beading. A
large feather drooping behind a head of shiny, black
Braids wrapped in fur. A lethal stone club hanging from
red hand. No eyebrows on a magnificent, primitive face.

legs.
Dunbar stays in a crouch, trying to think on jellied
His breathing has quickened. His mouth is open.

A horses' whinny startles him.

Ever so slowly, the lieutenant peers over the bluff.

slowly
other
and is
over the

The aboriginal man is in the corral. He's walking toward Cisco. One hand is held out reassuringly, the other is grasping a rope. He's making gentle, cooing sounds only a step or two from being able to loop his line over the horse's neck.

DUNBAR

You there!

he

Kicking Bird jumps straight into the air. As he lands whirls to meet the voice that startled him.

are

Dunbar is coming. His hands are clenched and his arms swinging stiffly at his sides.

horror.

Kicking Bird has turned to stone at the sight of this

steps.

With a sharp intake of breath, he staggers back a few

fence as

Then he turns and runs, tearing through the corral

quirts

if it were made of twigs. He leaps onto his horse and

the pony into full gallop.

his

Dunbar is watching from the yard. His jaw is clenched,

hands are still fisted.

The great grassland is empty. Kicking Bird is gone.

INT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

stack.

The first of three carbine boxes is lugged off the

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

Suddenly a

The three boxes are stacked on the open prairie.

the

shovelful of dirt flies out of an unseen spot next to

crates. Another flying shovelful. And another.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Have made first contact with a wild

Indian. One came to the fort and tried to steal my horse. Do not know how many more are in the vicinity but I am taking steps for another visitation. Am burying excess ordnance, lest it fall into enemy hands.

surface of
ground

The last square of sod is placed carefully on the earth. Dunbar drives a bleached rib bone into the at an angle just in front of his cache.

Dunbar steps back from his work. The replaced sod is invisible. The guns will not be found.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

bluff.

The lieutenant sits atop Cisco scouting along the Fort Sedgewick lies in the background.

INT. QUARTERS - DAY

digging
wall
has
and is

Dunbar's journal lies open on his bunk. We hear a sound in the background. The lieutenant is facing the of his quarters. Using a bayonet as a cutting tool, he carved a window out of the sod. He's nearly finished just tidying up.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Have made all the preparations I can think of. I cannot mount an adequate defense but will try to make a big impression when they come. Waiting.

across at
and

Finished, he retreats to his bunk and sits staring his new window. He glances at the journal by his side has a thought. He picks it up and starts to write.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

The man I encountered was a magnificent looking fellow.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAY

His
are
but
most
of his
PRETTY
man
ducked

An old Indian man sits in the shade outside his lodge. skin is leathery, his hair grey and wispy but his eyes bright as diamonds. He is TEN BEARS, well past sixty, still strong enough to be the head man. He is, for the part, oblivious to the GRANDCHILD squirming in his lap. He's smoking a long-stemmed pipe, but the main object of interest is an old woman squatting next to him... SHIELD. She's pounding away at something in a bowl. Ten Bears looks up to notice Kicking Bird. The medicine man is passing not far away and Ten Bears' eyes follow him carefully, not glancing away until Kicking Bird has ducked into his lodge.

TEN BEARS

Kicking Bird has been keeping to himself these last few days. I do not like to see our medicine man walking so alone.

respond.

The old woman looks up from her pounding but does not

TEN BEARS

What does his wife say?

PRETTY SHIELD

He is keeping to himself.

bristles.

Ten Bears gives his wife a challenging look and she

PRETTY SHIELD

That's what she says.

Ten Bears accepts this. Then he looks down at the bowl.

TEN BEARS

Make sure that meat is soft... my teeth hurt.

Bird's

Ten Bears looks once more at the entrance of Kicking lodge.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

but

Kicking Bird sits next to the fire playing with his son he is preoccupied with something.

Bears

There is a rustle of movement at the tent flap, and Ten peers in.

TEN BEARS

May I come in?

Bird

The little boy races over to the old chief, Kicking makes a move to pull him back, but Ten Bears indicates the boy should stay.

TEN BEARS

No, no let him sit with me.

the

There is silence as the two men settle themselves by fire, the little boy content in Ten Bears' lap.

TEN BEARS

Our country seems good this summer, but I have not been out to see it.

KICKING BIRD

Yes... it is good. The grass is rich. The game is plenty and not running away.

TEN BEARS

I am glad to hear it. But the buffalo are late. I always worry about the bellies of our children.

A brief silence.

KICKING BIRD

I was thinking of a dance.

TEN BEARS

Yes, a dance is always a good idea. It would be good to have a strong

sign.

boy
Kicking Bird seems suddenly uncomfortable. The little
leaves.

KICKING BIRD

Yes.

TEN BEARS

There's a funny thing about signs.
They are always flying in our faces.
We know when they are bad or good
but sometimes they are strange and
there is no way to understand them.
Sometimes they make people crazy but
a smart man will take such a sign
into himself and let it run around
for two or three days. If he is still
confused he will tell somebody. He
might come to you or to me and tell
it. A smart man always does that.

without
Ten Bears picks up the pipe and puffs away, seemingly
care.

KICKING BIRD

I have seen such a sign.

TEN BEARS

Oh?

KICKING BIRD

I saw a man, a white man.

Ten Bears' eyes get big for a moment. Then he thinks.

TEN BEARS

Just one?

KICKING BIRD

Just one. He was naked.

Ten Bears thinks some more.

TEN BEARS

Are you sure it was a man?

KICKING BIRD

I saw his sex.

TEN BEARS

Did you speak to him?

KICKING BIRD

No.

Ten Bears rubs at his old eyes with both hands.

TEN BEARS

We will council on this.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - NIGHT

and
peeking
for
most
this

A teenaged boy, SMILES A LOT and his two buddies OTTER
WORM lie prone outside Ten Bears' home. They are
under the tipi's rolled-up sides. Their eyes are wide,
inside there's plenty to see and hear. The village's
influential warriors have squeezed into the lodge for
big and important meeting

INT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - NIGHT

including Ten
WIND
fire.
the

The eldest and most respected men of the band,
Bears, his pal STONE CALF, an influential warrior named
IN HIS HAIR, and Kicking Bird are seated around the
Crowded around them, in a high state of excitement, are
village's leading warriors. The meeting is in progress.

KICKING BIRD

He might be a god or he might be a
special chief -- that's why we are
thinking of having a talk with him.

goes

There is a little murmuring around the fire, and it
silent. Wind In His Hair rises to speak.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I do not care for this talk about a
white man. Whatever kind of white
man he is, he is not Sioux and that
makes him less. We've camped here

for ten days now and each day our scouts find nothing. One old bull with wolves tearing him apart, nothing more. We need meat -- not talk.

KICKING BIRD

You are right, we need meat today and tomorrow. But we must also have meat in ten years.

Kicking Bird pauses here. Everyone is listening attentively.

KICKING BIRD

But the whites are coming. Our friends the Shoshone and the Kiowa, even our enemies, agree on this -- the whites are coming. More than can be counted.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Kicking Bird is always looking ahead and that is good. But when I hear that more whites are coming -- more than can be counted I want to laugh. We took a hundred horses from these people, there was no honor in it. They don't ride well, they don't shoot well, they're dirty. They have no women, no children. They could not even make it through one winter in our country. And these people are said to flourish? I think they will all be dead in ten years.

His There is a surge of enthusiasm in the lodge and Wind In Hair is riding the crest of it.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I think this white man is probably lost.

This parting shot prompts a good-natured round of laughter.

KICKING BIRD

Wind In His Hair has spoken straight, his words are strong and I have heard them. It's true the whites are a poor race and it's hard to understand them. But when I see one white man alone, without fear in our country,

I do not think he is lost. I think he may have medicine. I see someone who might speak for all the white people who are coming. I think this is a person with which treaties might be struck.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

This white man cannot cover our lodges, or string our bows, or feed our children. I will take some good men... there are many here tonight. We will ride to the soldier fort, we will shoot some arrows into this white man. If he truly has medicine he will not be hurt. If he has no medicine he will be dead.

around
speak.

This is the best idea so far and there is much talk
the fire. They quiet down as Ten Bears prepares to

TEN BEARS

It is easy to become confused by these questions. It is hard to know what to do. No man can tell another how he will be. But I know this... killing a white man is a delicate matter. If you kill one, more are sure to come. We should talk about this some more.

asleep.

He drops his head, closes his eyes and starts to fall
The meeting is over.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - NIGHT

no

Inside the meeting is breaking up. But Smiles A Lot is
longer watching. He's lost in thought, as if he has got
something on his mind.

lodge, he

Now he comes out of it. With a last look into the
sneaks off into the night.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

are

Three boys Otter, Worm and their leader Smiles A Lot,

riding to the fort.

Smiles A Lot stops, just realizing that the other two
have fallen behind. He rides back to investigate.

SMILES A LOT

What's the matter now?

WORM

Otter doesn't want to go.

Smiles a Lot trots his pony over to Otter.

SMILES A LOT

If we take the horse of a white god
they will make up songs about us.

OTTER

Maybe.

SMILES A LOT

They will ask us to go on raids.

OTTER

Who gets the white god horse?

SMILES A LOT

I do... but we share... you and Worm
can ride him too. Who can say this
is not a great plan?

Otter and Worm have blank expressions.

INT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

horse Dunbar is snoring. The lantern is turned down low. A
whinnies loudly and Dunbar arises.

the In the next instant there is a pounding of hooves and
yelping of Indian boys.

rifle Reeling with sleep, Dunbar is up and moving. He grabs a
and lurches for the door.

the As he runs through the door he forgets to duck under
against wooden cross beam. His skull cracks resoundingly

cold. the. overhang and Dunbar slumps onto his back... out

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

prairie The three boys are shrieking as they race across the
Smiles A with their prize. Otter has Cisco by a lead line.
Lot gallops alongside.

SMILES A LOT

Let me take him Otter.

OTTER

I have him.

He's To Smiles A Lot's amazement, Otter is suddenly gone.
zooming backward in midair.

puff Otter comes to ground a few yards back, throwing up a
up, of dust. Cisco has screeched to a halt. Now he rears
sticks his twisting until the rope is free of Otter. Then he
the tail in the air and makes tracks in the direction of
Otter fort. Worm chases after Cisco as Smiles A Lot sees to

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

down Smiles A Lot pulls his pony up next to Otter and peers
at the fallen boy.

SMILES A LOT

What happened?

OTTER

I don't know. My arm doesn't work.

SMILES A LOT

You shouldn't have fallen down...
now we'll get in trouble.

OTTER

It was your idea.

SMILES A LOT

gallops up
This squabble is interrupted by Worm's return. He
and jumps off his pony.

SMILES A LOT

handful
Otter hurt himself.
Worm shakes his head in frustration. Otter grabs a
of dirt and flings it at Smiles A Lot and Worm.

OTTER

(to Worm)
You're not hurt... I'm hurt.

WORM

I will be when my father finds out,
his bow will be across my back.

INT. QUARTERS - DAWN

rolls to
forehead.
He hears movement in the yard and looks out.
Cisco is pawing the ground. The Indian line still
around his
neck.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

fort.
shaving.
his
ritual
stares
right.
Dunbar is sitting naked in the shallow river below the
He has worked up a good lather on his face and is
The big Navy revolver and his gunbelt are slung over
shoulder. Dunbar glances at the far bluff.
Two Socks is sitting quietly, watching the shaving
below.
The lieutenant is finishing shaving his moustache. He
onto the surface of the water trying to get it just
Once again he glances up at Two Socks.

staring Two Socks' attention has been diverted. He's on guard,
intently across the river.

Everything Dunbar looks quickly at the bluff nearest the fort.
is still. He looks back at Two Socks.

The wolf is gone.

Hoofbeats The lieutenant hears something now. Hoofbeats.
coming in a rush.

He bursts from the water and scrambles up the incline.

EXT. CORRAL - DAY

bunched They're streaming past him. FIVE MOUNTED WARRIORS
ponies. around Cisco: raw, powerful men on painted, feathered
Wind In His Hair is one of them.

weapons Their faces are streaked with colorful designs, their
all slung around the shoulders, their nearly naked bodies
glory of sinew and bone. They are the full and breathtaking
war.

passes Dunbar is struck dumb. He stands still as the pageant
in front of him.

that The sight of Dunbar troubles Wind In His Hair, so much
his he pulls up a hundred yards away. He sits a moment on
this whirling pony, trying to decide if he should confront
white god.

his He makes a warrior's choice. Wind In His Hair shouts to
for fellows to go on and charges down the slope... straight
Dunbar.

can't
Dunbar's eyes are fixed on the closing horseman. He
move.
Wind In His Hair is coming flat out, his lance
extended. At
the last moment he pulls up so hard that the black pony
skids
to a sit. The horse is up quickly and hard to manage.
He
itches back and forth only a few feet in front of
Lieutenant
Dunbar.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I am Wind In His Hair. Do you not
see that I am not afraid of you?...
Do you see?

He
Dunbar stares expressionlessly into the Sioux's eyes.
doesn't blink.

after his
Wind In His Hair suddenly turns his pony and whips
comrades. A big smile breaks out across his face.
Dunbar stares after the disappearing horse and rider.
He
feels the weight of the gun and lets it drop to the
ground.

but
For two or three steps he staggers toward the quarters,
faint.
his legs give way and he falls face first in a dead

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

fixed
Wind In His Hair is riding hard and happy. He really
that white god. But as he clears the brow of a rise, a
riderless horse blows past him, running in the opposite
direction.

lines
Cisco's running back, to the fort at full speed, the
of two ropes flying behind him.

warrior
The big warrior's smile is gone. He wheels his pony and
charges over the rise, nearly colliding with another

up
His
The
foot.
ground.
fort,

who has been in hot pursuit of Cisco. The warrior pulls
and looks helplessly at Wind In His Hair. But Wind In
Hair's attention is focused on the rest of his party.
three remaining warriors who rode with him are all on
One is bending over a man lying unconscious on the
The third is limping badly, trying to catch his horse.
Wind In His Hair glances back in the direction of the
but the buckskin is already gone.
He starts down the incline to help his friends.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

double,
their
cantering

Wind In His Hair and his friends, two of them riding
are going slowly home when they see a COURIER coming in
direction. They rein in waiting for the young man
toward them.

He speaks directly to Wind In His Hair.

COURIER

The party that went against the Pawnee
is coming in...

Wind In His Hair says nothing.

COURIER

There are many hearts on the ground.

EXT. INDIAN CAMP - DUSK

of
members
dead

Several travois are parked in a clearing. It's a scene
terrible woe. On the travois are dead bodies. Women
of several families are grieving as they collect the
men.

are

Some are shrieking, some are crying softly, and some
beating themselves.

litter
She's
tangled.

One group is just beginning to hoist a body off its
when a strange looking woman appears in the clearing.
been running. Her light, cherry-colored hair is

rushes
other
her

Her face is creased with pain and disbelief as she
forward, crying out in Sioux. She pushes through the
women and tackles the body, taking it to the ground.
She climbs atop the dead man, cradles his head against
face and says a single word softly.

name
louder.

It is his name and she whispers it again.
Of course there is no answer. With each saying of the
she is more desperate, her voice growing louder and

heavens
away.

She arches her back eerily and wails the name to the
before flinging herself back at the lifeless face.
At last the other mourners feel compelled to drag her
The little woman does not go easily.
Her name is STANDS WITH A FIST.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - NIGHT

moon.

The lieutenant rides, a silhouette against a harvest

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I realize now that I have been wrong.
All this time I have been waiting.
Waiting for what? For someone to
find me? For Indians to take my horse?
To see a buffalo?

INT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

his

Lieutenant Dunbar has gotten a beautiful shine out of

of the

best boots. He's putting the finishing touches on one
toes.

inspect
lying
brushes at

Dunbar places the boot next to its mate and turns to
a dress tunic laid out on the bunk. His open journal is
next to it. He picks at little pieces of lint and
the smudges.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Since I arrived at this post I have
been walking on eggs. It has become
a bad habit and I am sick of it.
Tomorrow morning I will ride out to
the Indians. I do not know the outcome
or the wisdom of this thinking. But
I have become a target and a target
makes a poor impression. I am through
waiting.

EXT. CORRAL - DAY

The buckskin's ears are pricked and his eyes are set.
Something has his complete attention.

like a
knee-
the
belt

The "something" is Lieutenant John Dunbar. He looks
recruiting poster: full dress uniform, red sash, saber
clanking at his side, hair tied in a neat pony tail,
length riding boots. And all of it is gleaming... from
brass buttons to the gold epaulettes to the army issue
buckle.

Dunbar
standing
affixed
the

The red sash flutters and Cisco shies to one side.
slaps at the sash, calms his horse and jumps on.
We stop with them at the supply house. Old Glory is
against one of the crumbling walls. The flag has been
to a long willow branch. Dunbar sweeps it up and sticks
staff into one of his boots.

morning
Two

They start off at a jog, the flag popping in the stiff breeze. Just as they are getting small in the distance, Socks comes into view.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

Watching
lieutenant
listens

Lieutenant Dunbar has ridden deep into the prairie. the sky, he takes a drink out of his canteen. The hears something, he turns Cisco in that direction. He harder. A weird sort of singing. Warily he goes ahead.

EXT. KNOLL - DAY

cottonwood.
is
The
Blood

Stands With A Fist is sitting under a solitary Her hands are folded on her lap. A blood-stained knife held between them. She has ritually slashed her arms. cuts are not deep -- but all are running with blood. pours from a deep cut in her thigh.

She
next
has
turns.

She lets her song fade to nothing and bows her head. dabs at a large pool of blood spreading in the ground to her thigh. Suddenly she's alert. Stands With A Fist heard something too... a strange popping sound. She

feet
sitting
uniform

The gleaming buckskin horse is standing thirty or forty behind her on the top of the knoll. A white soldier is on the horse. A white soldier with a sword, a bright and a red sash. And most amazing of all, no face.

white,
hands is

A shift in the breeze has wrapped the popping red, and blue flag around his head. One of the soldier's trying to claw it away from his face.

Dunbar pulls the flag away.

staring at It's an Indian woman alright. But now that she is
him open-mouthed and afraid, he can see that there is
something odd about her.

slow Too late for further study. She's risen and has taken a
step backward from the knoll. She's covered with blood.
her. Reflexively, he offers a helping hand and calls after

DUNBAR

Wait...

faster She's still backing down the hill, her steps a little
now. He's following her at a walk.

DUNBAR

Wait... you're hurt.

run. She's reached the base of the knoll and has begun to
Dunbar is trotting after her.

DUNBAR

Let me help you.

grass. She She's too weak to run and falls face first in the
starts to crawl.

her Dunbar slips off Cisco and reaches down tentatively for
But he shoulder. She screams at his touch and he pulls away.
follows on foot as she crawls.

DUNBAR

You're hurt... you need help.

out He takes her again, this time holding her firmly. She
struggles mightily, twisting onto her back. She lashes
at his face but he grabs her hands, holding them tight.
They're nose to nose.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Don't...

said

He can't believe he heard it and she can't believe she
it.

back

She spits out a Stream of Sioux curses, throws her head
and wails like a wolf. Then she passes out.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

cuts on

She's lying in the same spot, still unconscious. The
her arms have been bandaged up with strips of Old

Glory.

thigh

Modestly, Dunbar lifts her dress to get at the bad
wound. As he ties it off, the lieutenant notices how
her skin is. He runs a finger over it. She is very
he presses an ear to her heart. She's still breathing.

white

still and

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

uniform,

Fist's

Dunbar is on Cisco. His big impression is gone. The
and his hands and face are smeared with Stands With A
blood. The girl is slung in front of him.

his

a

His arms are holding her. Her face is pressed against
chest. They've come a good distance and are approaching
smokey cloud.

EXT. PONY HERD - DAY

splint

a

Smiles A Lot, Worm and Otter (who now sports a crude
on his arm) are occupying an open space in the midst of
huge pony herd.

boys

They should be on guard against enemies but the three
are sitting on the ground, absorbed in a gambling game.

EXT. PONY HERD - DAY

horses
slope.

Dunbar is skirting the edge of the herd. Leaving the
behind him, the lieutenant makes his way up a gentle

going
used
women,
eyes.

A powerful vision is upon him.

Ten Bears' village is rising slowly, like a curtain
up. The smoke from many fires, the willow poles fanning
against the sky, the conical houses covered with well-
hides, the horses along the river, the children, the
the men. An ancient tableau, fully alive before his

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

village,
human

Dunbar has stopped on the slope leading down to the
taking it all in. No one has seen him. He can hear
voices drifting up from the camp.

the

Stands With A Fist coughs lightly against his tunic and
lieutenant moves Cisco ahead at a walk.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

along
of
woman
of

A woman and her children have come out of the breaks
the river and are marching back to the village when one
the kids sees him. With an ear-splitting shriek, the
grabs up her children and runs screaming for the safety
the village.

to be

There's pandemonium amongst the lodges. Everyone seems
running everywhere at once.

first
up in

Dunbar pulls Cisco to a halt a hundred yards from the
of the conical houses and slides off, taking the girl
his arms.

there
are
town.

The people of Ten Bear's village, realizing now that
is only one white man and that he is carrying someone,
massing with great curiosity on the outskirts of the

ranks.
behind.

Warriors, some of them mounted, have taken the front
The women and children and elderly are standing just

everyone

Initial panic has given way to a steady buzzing as
jockeys for a better look.

suddenly

Still holding Stands With A Fist in his arms, Dunbar
stops on a familiar face... Wind In His Hair.

out...

He lifts the girl resting in his arms and holds her
as in offering.

DUNBAR

She's hurt.

are

The Sioux buzz is stronger now. The mounted warriors
getting excited.

Dunbar
in

Suddenly, Wind In His Hair breaks ranks and starts for
at a determined walk. A nasty war club is held tightly
hand.

Dunbar.
two.

Dunbar stands his ground.

Wind In His Hair halts only a few steps in front of
He barks at the intruder as he takes another step or

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You are not welcome here.

man.

Another step and he is close enough to touch the white

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Go away from us...

is
woman
torn out
pace

Dunbar doesn't flinch. And Wind In His Hair's harangue definitely part bluster. He's very curious about the in Dunbar's arms and now he peers down at her face. The lieutenant looks down too and in a flash she is of his grasp. Holding her in one strong arm, Wind In His Hair backs a or two and shouts once more at the lieutenant.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Go away from us... go now.

marches
Wind
away on

He raises his club and shakes it at Dunbar. Though he doesn't understand the words, Dunbar gets the message. As he goes for his horse, Wind In His Hair back to his people with Stands With A Fist. There is great commotion as the crowd surges in around In His Hair. With a look of profound disappointment, Dunbar walks Cisco.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

the
his
village
at
fight.
suddenly

Otter, Worm and Smiles A Lot are riding in, drawn by ruckus in the village. They see the white soldier on horse leaving the camp. They see the tumult in the and realize they are in trouble, again. Some of the young, mounted warriors are shouting taunts at the departing soldier, calling for him to come back and fight. They seem set to take out after him when Kicking Bird suddenly appears in front of their ponies.

KICKING BIRD

The soldier did not come to fight --
he is going away and we will let
him.

men.
No one is going to argue with one of the band's leading
away.
The young warriors shout a few more taunts and turn

in.
The medicine man glances after the boys who just came
is
Each boy, confronted now by an angry father or uncle,
discipline.
being jerked off his pony. There's going to be

Kicking Bird looks back at the lieutenant.
is a
Dunbar's head is down and his shoulders are slumped. It
turn.
sight that makes the wheels in Kicking Bird's head

INT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - NIGHT

men
Another council is in progress. As before, the leading
warriors
are seated around Ten Bears' fire while the other
close
stand packed in the shadows. Wind In His Hair is seated
to the elders.

TEN BEARS

I am in agreement with Kicking Bird.
We will go down and talk to the white
man and find out what kind of white
man he is.

Wind In His Hair jumps into the conversation.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

If this council decides to talk with
the man at the soldier fort then it
will be so. But in my mind it is not
right that a Sioux chief, a chief as
great as Ten Bears, goes to ask the
business of a puny, trespassing white
man... a white soldier who has only
a smart horse and a few white man
clothes.

custom,
all
mouth

There are many yeses in response to this. As is his
Ten Bears lets the outburst subside, seeming unruffled
the while. Casually, he pops a piece of meat into his
and begins to chew.

TEN BEARS

I will not go... you will go... you
and Kicking Bird. That is all I have
to say.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

is
other
extends

Dunbar is sitting cross-legged in the grass. His mouth
occupied with chewing. In one hand is a knife, in the
is a chunk of slab bacon. He saws off a slice and
it, waiting patiently.

offered
Socks
out

The wolf is sitting only a few feet away. He wants the
meat but cannot bring himself to eat from a human hand.
Finally, Dunbar flips the bacon into the grass and Two
pounces on it. He takes his prize toward the river and
of view.

the

Dunbar starts for his quarters. He stops. The hair on
back of his neck is standing straight up.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

ponies

Six Sioux warriors, THE ESCORT, are sitting atop their
high on the ridge.

glance

Dunbar buttons his tunic and casts a quick, backward
at the quarters. A rifle is standing near the door.

bearings

Dunbar decides not to go after it. He straightens his

Wind

and he watches the approaching riders. It's only two --

the

In His Hair and Kicking Bird. The lieutenant bows at

waist.

DUNBAR

Welcome...
(gesturing at them)
Come... please... sit down.

The two men slide off their ponies. Dunbar throws an unreturned wave to the escort warriors.

There is a moment or two of silence.

DUNBAR

Would you like some coffee? Coffee?

There is no response.

DUNBAR

I'll get some cups.

Dunbar disappears inside his quarters.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

comfortably
cups.
expression.

Wind In His Hair and Kicking Bird are sitting under the awning, each holding steaming army-issue cups. They are staring straight ahead with a curious expression.

Dunbar is turning a handle on a machine. It is a coffee grinder.

dramatic
fresh
and

The last of the beans goes down and Dunbar pauses for effect. Then he pulls out the drawer containing the grounds and passes it to the medicine man. Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair both sniff the contents.

of

Dunbar gestures at their still full mugs -- neither one of them has taken a drink.

DUNBAR

Is the coffee not good? Too strong maybe? Here...

front

Dunbar reaches for a sack by the fire. Holding it in

of of him, Dunbar suggests that Wind In His Hair put some
its contents into his mug.

could Wind In His Hair finally does, but his blank expression
indicates that he doesn't know what difference this
make.

Wind In Dunbar takes a lick at his fingers, suggesting that
face as His Hair should do the same. A smile creeps over his
His the universal appeal of sugar is taking hold. Wind In
Hair has licked every bit off each finger.

DUNBAR

(to Kicking Bird)

Do you want some?

answer. He Wind In His Hair doesn't wait for Kicking Bird's
cup, reaches over and dumps a good amount in Kicking Bird's
adding some more to his own for good measure.

DUNBAR

So what are you guys doing? Looking
for buffalo?

now on There is no response. Wind In His Hair's attention is
Cisco.

DUNBAR

He's a good one... good horse. My
horse.

by a Wind In His Hair's interest borders on rude. Prompted
Hair light tap on his leg from Kicking Bird, Wind In His
turns his attention back to Dunbar.

DUNBAR

Good horse.

No argument from Wind In His Hair.

DUNBAR

My horse. You see any buffalo?

Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair are baffled.

the

The lieutenant is trying to jam a wadded blanket under
back of his tunic.

DUNBAR

Wait just a bit.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

(to Kicking Bird)

His mind is gone.

Dunbar

attitude,

he

snorts

Kicking Bird doesn't respond. He's still intent on the
lieutenant. In wedging the blanket under his tunic,
has become a hunchback. He bends over in a weird
and with a finger peeking over each side of his head,
begins a bizarre display of dancing, punctuated with
and bellows.

KICKING BIRD

Buffalo.

DUNBAR

(incorrectly in Sioux)

Buffalo?

KICKING BIRD

(slowly)

Buffalo.

DUNBAR

(getting it right)

Buffalo.

pleased

Kicking Bird nods his assent and Dunbar flashes a
smile.

DUNBAR

Buffalo.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

walk

Dunbar is watching Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair

Each
withers.
the

their horses up the ridge to meet the waiting escort.
horse has a gift of coffee and sugar slung over its
Occasionally, Wind In His Hair dips a hand into one of
bags and carefully licks each finger.
Dunbar waves up at them but there is no response.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

The sugar didn't figure to last at
that rate any way. I don't believe
I'd go too far in saying that a
foundation for good relations is
being laid.

DISSOLVE INTO:

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

DUNBAR (V.O.)

They have come again, as always the
same two with an escort of six.

and
bulky on
them.

Dunbar is standing in the same spot, it is a new day
Leaving their ever present escort behind, Kicking Bird
Wind In His Hair ride into the fort.
Kicking Bird's pony is carrying something large and
his withers. A buffalo robe. Dunbar walks up to greet
Kicking Bird returns the welcome and signs to him as he
speaks.

KICKING BIRD

Have you seen any buffalo?

Dunbar can only shake his head no.

Kicking Bird accepts this and dismounts.

Dunbar throws his customary wave but the escort remains
noncommittal.

EXT. HILL - DUSK

against

Dunbar is lying on his buffalo robe, his hand runs

journal. the grain of the thick fur. He begins writing in his

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I believe I am dealing with Kiowa
Indians as I have heard that word on
several occasions.

practicing He rolls on his back, and lays aside the journal,
the hand signals.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I am learning the Kiowa words for
head, hand, horse, fire, coffee,
buffalo, hello and goodbye.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

haunches It's raining. High on a hill, the Indian escort waits
stoically, horses heads bowed in the drizzle. On the
of one of the ponies is a single deer.

Down below, Wind In His Hair and Kicking Bird are still
mounted and converse with Dunbar using sign talk.

DUNBAR

No, I haven't seen any buffalo. Are
you hungry? I have food... are you
hungry?

Kicking Dunbar suggests they take some of his supplies but
three Bird will not stand for this. He waves Dunbar off. The
wave to men say their goodbyes, and Dunbar as usual throws a
the six men on the hill.

react Unexpectedly, one of them returns it and the other five
with surprise.

ESCORT 1

He waved.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Nothing I have been told about these
people is correct. They are not
beggars and thieves. They are not
the bogeymen they have been made out

to be.

hill, Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair disappear over the
followed by their escort.

Lightning bursts far out on the prairie.

INT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

He is Dunbar huddles beneath the warmth of his buffalo robe.
finishing up the second of two drawings. It is a
portrait of Wind In His Hair, he carefully titles it "The Fierce
One."

He has already completed a likeness of Kicking Bird and
underneath it the words "The Quiet One."

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

Fist Several children are playing close-by as Stands With A
works over a staked-out hide, scraping away the excess
flesh. Though her arms are lined with scabs her work is
methodical and unforced. She seems recovered.

KICKING BIRD (O.S.)

Stands With A Fist.

She looks up to see the medicine man looming over her.

KICKING BIRD

We will talk awhile.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

tipi is Except for Kicking Bird and Stands With A Fist, the
in empty. They are just seating themselves at the firepit
Kicking the center of the lodge. A brief silence, during which
Bird studies the girl with the bowed head.

KICKING BIRD

Your wounds are healing well?

STANDS WITH A FIST

Yes.

KICKING BIRD

You are happy here, with my family?

STANDS WITH A FIST

I am glad to be here. I am missing my husband.

KICKING BIRD

Perhaps you will marry again when the time is right.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Perhaps.

A Kicking Bird is leading up to something and Stands With Fist fears it. She keeps her head bowed.

KICKING BIRD

We have word from many places that the whites are...

She Kicking Bird stops himself, he knows this must be hard. brings her green eyes to bear on the medicine man, waiting to hear more.

KICKING BIRD

They are coming into everyone's country. They will soon be in ours I think. This white man who lives at the old soldier fort, the one who calls himself loo ten tant... I have visited him and I believe his heart is a good one. He knows things about the whites which we do not.

He pauses letting this sink in.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I am afraid of the man at the fort.

KICKING BIRD

He is only one man.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I am afraid that he will tell some whites that I am here. I am afraid that they will try to take me away.

KICKING BIRD

Every warrior in camp would fight them if they tried.

defeatist She is not much reassured by this. In the way of a she lowers her eyes once more.

KICKING BIRD

I cannot make the white man talk. Loo ten tant does not know Sioux.

Kicking Bird waits. Still she does not raise her head.

KICKING BIRD

You have a certain medicine which no other Sioux -- man or woman -- has.

STANDS WITH A FIST

It has been a long time since I made the talk.

KICKING BIRD

I do not ask this for myself... I ask this for all our people.

STANDS WITH A FIST

It's dead in me.

KICKING BIRD

I want you to try and remember the the word.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I don't know how.

KICKING BIRD

You don't want to know.

of the This outburst shocks Stands With A Fist, she runs out lodge.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

covered looks at Stands With A Fist rushes past BLACK SHAWL, her face with tears. Now Kicking Bird comes out. Black Shawl Kicking Bird, his face is not happy.

BLACK SHAWL

Will she make the white words?

KICKING BIRD

Perhaps I am asking too much.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Stands With A Fist is tearing through the thick willows growing alongside the river. She's crying her heart out.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The big cry is over, but Stands With A Fist is still sniffling as she emerges on a little patch of beach-next to the river. She sits herself down under a cottonwood and looks hollowly at the surface of the water in front of her.

Somewhere in the distance is the sound of many drums, with a sigh she drops her head.

Then, as if shocked by some unseen force, her eyes spring open. Wide and unblinking, her eyes stare deeply into space.

Someone is calling. The voice is so faint at first that the word can't be heard. But the calling grows and suddenly the word is upon her.

VOICE

Christine...

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A little girl of seven, CHRISTINE, is lying in the grass of a sod roof. Next to her is ten year-old WILLIE. They are planning their wedding and staring up at the sky.

Like many youngsters she's not eager to heed the persistent call of her mother.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Christine... where are you?

edge
child. She
Reluctantly, the little girl gets up and looks over the
of the roof to see her mother holding yet another
seems anxious.

CHRISTINE

I'm right here mother...

MOTHER

Get inside both of you.

CHRISTINE

Why?

MOTHER

Just do what I... oh God! Stay where
you are. Keep down do you hear me?

are
moving out to meet them.
FOUR PAWNEE are riding up in the background. TWO MEN

CHRISTINE

Who is it Willie?

muzzle-
loading rifle is by his side. He whispers to her.
Willie is peeking over the edge of the roof. An old

WILLIE

They look like Pawnee... my father
and your father are talking to them.

talking
to the four mounted Pawnee warriors.
Down in the yard, out beyond a rough table set with the
leavings of a Sunday dinner, two white men on foot are

house
Pawnee
an
end, the two white men turn back to the house.
It's an argument. As a baby cries somewhere inside the
the two white men sign the Indians to go away. The
make no move to go however, and with their patience at

white
One of the warriors brings his hatchet down and nails a

and
down

man between the shoulder blades. The injured man grunts
hops sideways. The other runs for the house but is cut
by arrows.

Women begin to scream.

fear.

Willie is scooting down the roof, his face white with

WILLIE

Run Christine...

CHRISTINE

Why?

WILLIE

Just run!

the

He gives her a hard shove which sends her rolling down
roof.

WILLIE

Run!

natural
us. In
roof,
then

Christine runs past the point where the roof meets the
hillside and down into the draw. She's running toward
the background we can see Willie on the edge of the
aiming his squirrel gun into the yard. He fires once,
grasping the gun like a club, he leaps off the roof and
disappears.

fast as

Christine never looks back. She runs up the draw as
her skinny young legs can carry her.

EXT. HOLE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

ground,
Then,
cracking

The moon is up. Christine is feebly clawing at the
trying to pry herself out of a tiny hole. She gives up.
from the burrow's dark entrance comes the thin,
voice of a little girl.

CHRISTINE

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray
the lord my soul to keep. If I die
before I wake, I pray the lord my
soul to take.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

the
feet
Stands With A Fist is still in shock. The drumming in
village is very loud now. She rises unsteadily to her
and starts back to camp.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - NIGHT

hear a
The moon is full. As we look down on the fort we can
new sound coming off the prairie. A light rumbling.

INT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

rumbling
lights the
from
Lieutenant Dunbar is asleep in the moonlight. The
is getting louder. It wakes him. He gropes about,
lantern and listens to the strange, powerful sound.
Something's in the air. He holds the lantern toward the
ceiling. Particles of dirt and dust are being shaken
the roof. It's the earth that's trembling.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - NIGHT

bluff
The
of
Dressed in only pants and boots, Dunbar walks along the
above the river, his lantern held out in front of him.
sound is tremendous now. Dunbar stops as a great wall
dust rises before him.

the
wall of dust, he recognizes the sound... the sound of
thousands of hoofbeats.

darting
force
He sees one veer out. And now another. And another,
briefly from the great cloud of dust. The most powerful

on

on the prairie now seems like the most powerful force
earth as it thunders by.

The buffalo.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

Dunbar and Cisco are running flat out in the moonlight.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

the far

The village is coming up. A great fire is blazing at
end. Horse and rider speed past the first lodge.

gallops

trying

word

It's an important mission for the lieutenant. As he
through the village, he says one word over and over,
to remember the correct pronunciation. It's the Sioux
for buffalo.

EXT. FIRE - NIGHT

center

dancing.

doesn't

charge

Everyone has gathered around the great blaze. In the
of the circle close to the fire, the buffalo men are
Others are dancing too. The music is very loud.

The little buckskin is out of his head with speed. He
answer the bit when Dunbar first tries to pull him up.
People scatter in all directions, as Dunbar and Cisco
into their midst.

sits

stay on

onto his

Dunbar pulls back with all his might, and the buckskin
down. He's wet from his long ride, and Dunbar can't
his back. As Cisco rears, he slides off and tumbles
back.

the

warriors

Angry warriors pile on top of him. Dunbar shouts out
word for buffalo, yelling it over and over as the

pummel him.

deal the
dust.
strength, he

So many men have rushed into the fray that none can

lieutenant a decisive blow. They roll about in the

Just as Dunbar's cries have begun to lose their

feels a sudden lessening of the weight upon him.

His

As the men pile off, Dunbar is left flat on his back.

lip is split and blood is streaming from his nose.

covered

He's looking into a familiar face. The man's head is

Bird.

with the full skin and feathers of an eagle. Kicking

DUNBAR

Buffalo...

brings his

Kicking Bird doesn't understand or can't hear. He

face close to Dunbar's.

DUNBAR

Buffalo...

(making horns with
his fingers)

Buffalo.

KICKING BIRD

Buffalo?

DUNBAR

Yes. Buffalo.

Kicking Bird raises up and yells it out to his people.

KICKING BIRD

The buffalo have come.

the

For a fleeting moment there is shocked silence. Then

Sioux explode with excitement.

are

Still dazed, Dunbar is pulled to his feet. The people

surging in around him with yelps of joy.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

tremendous
side to

A wide stretch of prairie, falling away to nothing.
The buffalo have left a trail in the form of a
swath of torn-up ground, several hundred yards from
side.

column.
by
His
Behind
is

Indians on horseback move into the picture.
Most of Ten Bears' camp is moving out in a long, noisy
Spirits are high. First come the lead scouts, followed
Ten Bears and his advisors, Kicking Bird and Wind In
Hair among them. A large body of warriors come next.
Behind these men are the women, children and elderly. Dunbar
is riding at the head of the last group.

People
dried

The attitudes of the people have changed significantly.
who catch his eye are openly smiling at the lieutenant.
An old woman comes alongside and offers him a piece of
meat, patting his hand as he takes it.

Here comes Smiles A Lot, Worm and Otter, all on ponies,
galloping up beside him. They want to play.

SMILES A LOT

Loo ten tant...

lieutenant

He motions for Dunbar to break ranks and while the
is puzzling this out, a chorus of cries comes from the
column's front.

Three far-ranging scouts are coming in at a run.

EXT. COLUMN - DAY

report.
important

The scouts pull up in front of Ten Bears to make their
There's no way to know what's going on but something
is happening.

to the
shirts
In
column

Wind In His Hair suddenly breaks ranks and rides back
main body of warriors. A dozen warriors strip off their
and leggings. They're ready in moments. Then, with Wind
His Hair leading them, the party breaks away from the
and rides east at a gallop.

The column resumes its southward march.

EXT. COLUMN - DAY

The day has grown hot as the column continues its march
through changing terrain.

monstrous.
With
interest.

Dunbar is suffering some. The heat and dust are
At the moment however, he's most concerned with Stands
A Fist. She's riding closeby and he watches her with

quickly
has

It's easier to see now that she was once white.
Suddenly she looks in his direction. The lieutenant
tips his hat, but she turns her shy eyes away before he
finished the motion.

out

Kicking Bird is riding down the line. The medicine man
gestures Dunbar forward and the lieutenant guides Cisco
of line.

the

Through her tangled hair, Stands With A Fist watches
soldier and the medicine man ride up the line.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

flank of

Dunbar and Kicking Bird are riding together at the
Ten Bears' entourage.

strange
up

Far in the distance, the lieutenant sees something
on the prairie... pink bumps are dotting the landscape
ahead. And black specks are moving about on the bumps.

EXT. KILLING GROUND - DAY

of a
has
in
Beneath droves of scavenging black birds lies the body
buffalo. His hide has been peeled off and his tongue
been cut out. The rest of his body has been left to rot
the sun.

through
five
stripped
The column, so noisy and happy before, winds its way
the killing ground in silence. There must be twenty-
buffalo like the one we saw close up, all of them
and rotting.

medicine
Dunbar
killing
Dunbar looks queasy. The lieutenant glances at the
man riding next to him. Kicking Bird looks sick too.
looks away. The entire column is stretched along the
ground, looking.

new
And
wagon
A naked cow, covered with birds, lies on her side. Her
born calf, doomed to death, cries for his dead mother.
next to the calf, Dunbar sees something else. He sees
tracks and the booted footprints of white men.

EXT. KILLING GROUND - DAY

deeper
The column is clear of the killing ground and heading
into the prairie. They have left everything untouched.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - DAY

With A
Lieutenant
perhaps
While Kicking Bird's lodge rises behind her, Stands
Fist digs out a firepit. She looks up from her work.
Watching bashfully from several yards away is
Dunbar. Now that she has seen him he starts forward,
to try some more talk.

KICKING BIRD (O.S.)

Loo ten tant...

just
gathered
that
Dunbar turns to find Kicking Bird sitting on a pony
behind him. Two dozen mounted BUFFALO SCOUTS are
around him. Kicking Bird points at Cisco, indicating
Dunbar should join them.

away
Tipping his hat to Stands With A Fist, Dunbar hustles
to his horse.

bothering
temporary
hands... the
Stands With A Fist faces the pit she's digging, not
to look up as hoofbeats drum their way out of the
camp. She seems to have lost herself in her own
hands that are digging out the soft prairie earth.

there
smiling
There is crying but when Stands With A Fist looks up
is just one of Kicking Bird's children standing there
at her. She goes back to her digging.

INT. HOLE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

move.
The first light streaks through the burrow entrance.
Christine is exerting herself mightily in an effort to
But she can't and again she begins to cry.

And a
foe.
More sounds from down below in the canyon. Hoofbeats.
whinny or two. No way to tell whether this is friend or
But she can't stay in the burrow.

CHRISTINE

Help...

She listens. The hoofbeats are gone.

CHRISTINE

(louder)

Help me...

(screaming)
Please... I need to get out.

Someone is coming up the slope.

burrow
The
BIRD.

A moment later, hands are clawing at the walls of the
and she is looking into three, surprised Sioux faces.
face in the center is recognizable. A YOUNGER KICKING

EXT. BUFFALO DRAW - DUSK

base

Two dozen riderless Indian ponies are tethered at the
of the draw.

EXT. BUFFALO DRAW - DUSK

Lieutenant
reach

With Kicking Bird and the other buffalo scouts,
Dunbar is sneaking up one side of the draw. They all
the summit together and peer over.

They are there by the thousands, grazing quietly in the
twilight. The buffalo.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

to
covered
big

The buffalo scouts, Dunbar included, are galloping back
the temporary camp. It looms ahead of them, the hide-
lodges glowing like candles in the last light of day. A
fire is blazing in the center of camp.

camp.
looks

Dunbar hangs back as the other riders go into the noisy
A special event of some kind is taking place. As he
this scene over, Dunbar sees something remarkable.

Back in the shadows, behind the fire, is a wagon.

the
people

Dunbar and Cisco pace back and forth on the fringes of
camp. The lieutenant searches for any sign of the white

the
who came in the wagon, but finding none, he focuses on
dancers moving in a circle around the big fire.

Dunbar's
One of the men waving his lance is Wind In His Hair.
people.
eyes track up the lance and there he finds the white
scalp,
Hanging from Wind In His Hair's lance tip is a fresh
too.
blonde and wavy. Several of the other men have scalps
None of the hair is Indian.

fresh
Dunbar can see into the wagonbed now. A couple of dozen
come
buffalo hides are stacked in the wagonbed. It's all
and
clear. The white men who killed the buffalo for hides
tongues have themselves been killed.
Dunbar slowly retreats into the shadows.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

camp
Cisco has been hobbled nearby, and with the temporary
his
glowing on the plains a half-mile away, Dunbar spreads
blanket on the open plain.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAWN

A
A huddled body lies covered by the army issue blanket.
shape.
moccasined foot comes into view and prods the blanketed
blanket.
Lieutenant Dunbar's waking face pops out of the

but
Standing over him is Wind In His Hair, stripped of all
downward,
his breechclout. The barrel of his rifle is hanging
swaying in front of the lieutenant's face.

have run
It is occurring to the lieutenant that his time may
out.

sights
recoil.

The warrior swings his rifle into a shooting position,
after some imaginary game and imitates the rifle's

He stares down at Dunbar with a smile, lifts his rifle
overhead and barks out a cry of victory.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - DAY

ready
more

The band's best hunters, two dozen of them, are making
to chase the buffalo. It's the big time, no event is
important. The villagers -- mostly women, children, and
elderly -- have gathered around each of the hunters.

Dunbar
Great
Right
Cisco's

The largest audience has gathered around Lieutenant
and Wind In His Hair. Wind In His Hair's pony is ready.
bolts of yellow lightning adorn his shoulders and rump.
now the warrior is drawing the same design along
rump.

by
Dunbar

Dunbar reads this correctly as a great honor and stands
silently. Wind In His Hair is finished. He looks at
and nods at the paint as if asking for a response.

DUNBAR

I wish I knew what to say.

circle

A Sioux voice, using english words, sails out of the
of watchers.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Say... thank you.

Startled the men turn to the sound. The other Sioux are
stunned too.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(indicating the paint)

His speed... his power... you have.

DUNBAR

Thank you.

He takes the warrior's hand in his own and shakes it
crisply.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

They're
animals
others
He
his
It's the first time we've seen the buffalo up close.
fantastic creatures, powerful, brutish, untameable
from another age. A great bull turns away from the
and lifts his purple, horned head to sniff the breeze.
can detect no sign of trouble and eventually returns to
browsing.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

out
motion.
The hunters are advancing across the prairie, spreading
in a formation that will encircle part of the herd.
The lightning bolts on Wind In His Hair's pony are in
Cisco's bolts are moving too.

what
to --
Kicking
back.
There's a lump in Dunbar's throat. He knows nothing of
is expected of him but he's doing it anyway. He glances
his right at Wind In His Hair and to his left at
Bird. They're both concentrated on what lies ahead.
From the corner of his eye, he sees Kicking Bird look
The lieutenant looks too.

hunters
them as
Smiles A
Lot.
It's a minor flap. Three or four youngsters, eager to
distinguish themselves have trailed too close to the
and are being turned back. Dunbar recognizes one of
the boy who took charge of Cisco at the village...

front.
Like Kicking Bird, Dunbar swings his face back to the

the They're close enough now to hear the low bellowing of
herd.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

leap A strike far up on the horned formation. Their ponies
forward. The mad dash is on.

lieutenant Dunbar's hat flies off at first spurt and now the
and his horse are hurling over the prairie. The little
buckskin seems to know what is expected of him and has
put every ounce of his muscle to speed. They're burning up
the ground.

to When Dunbar looks back over his shoulder, he's shocked
far find that the best buffalo ponies the Sioux's have are
behind. He and Cisco are on their own.

stampede The herd is in full flight and the sound of their
running is overwhelming. The buffalo are very fast but Cisco is
and gaining with every stride. They've formed a great
wall in front of him and now Dunbar can see their rumps
tails and flying hooves.

eyes as Dunbar takes a solid grip on his rifle and shuts his
deafening. if in prayer. The sound of thousands of hooves is

strides Dunbar and Cisco have caught the buffalo. A few more
and they'll be in.

head Dunbar and Cisco are running with the buffalo. A shaggy
too moves in and swipes at Cisco, but the little horse is
quick and too smart. He dodges away, nearly dumping the
lieutenant in the process.

Dunbar rights himself and fires. It's a wild shot, only
grazing the buffalo's shoulder. The report of the gun

swirling

instantly scatters the herd and Dunbar pulls up, dust all around him.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

zeroing

Sioux hunters stream past him, every man for himself in on targets.

him.

Dunbar starts to dismount but something he sees stops

of

A hundred yards away a small hunter is after a handful of buffalo who have splintered off from the rest. It's Smiles A Lot, trying to make a kill of his own. As Dunbar watches, the boy's inexperienced horse shies away and bucks, pitching the kid to the ground.

his

A big bull breaks away from the splinter group, lowers head and charges.

from his

Dunbar kicks Cisco into a run, spits a spare bullet mouth and rams it into the chamber.

bull is

Smiles A Lot is picking himself off the ground. The bull is in full charge.

the

Dunbar is riding with his knees. Both hands are holding rifle. He'll never make it to the boy in time. He's got to make the shot. He squeezes the trigger.

big

The bullet plows home, exploding the bull's heart. The buffalo's legs collapse but the momentum of his charge puts him into a skid. He comes to rest only a few yards away from Smiles A Lot.

is

The boy stands as the lieutenant rides up. Smiles A Lot is dazed but he's okay.

one, a few he Dunbar hops off next to the dead buffalo. He's a huge real grandfather and the lieutenant loses himself for a moments in contemplation of this tremendous kill. Now looks back to check the boy.

from the Smiles A Lot has caught his pony and is racing away scene of his humiliation.

attention in The sounds of approaching riders turns Dunbar's a different direction.

The entire village is streaming onto the plains for the butchering.

In His The riders bearing down on him are being lead by Wind Hair.

broadly, Wind In His Hair jumps off his pony and, smiling slaps Dunbar's back with a good-natured blow of congratulations.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

kneeling finds The buffalo has been split open and Wind In His Hair, at the bull's side, is feeling around in the cavity. He what he's looking for and gives it a jerk.

to idea, It's the liver, still warm and steaming. He offers it Dunbar but the lieutenant, not having the faintest only looks at it blankly.

A sizable crowd has gathered to watch this ritual.

and the what Wind In His Hair sticks the fresh liver in his mouth happily bites off a chunk, letting the juices run from edges of his mouth. Now he figures the lieutenant knows to do, and hands the liver back to him.

of so Dunbar doesn't want to do this, but with the pressure many eyes and so much good will, he has little choice. Tentatively, he bites off a small piece and chews it thoughtfully. It's good.

bite. Encouraged by this good taste, Dunbar takes a man-sized the Shrill Sioux voices rise all around him as they cheer his lieutenant. Dunbar holds the liver triumphantly over head.

EXT. KILLING GROUND - DAY

buffalo. Little butchering parties cluster around each fallen

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

Flame begins to lick at each of the bodies and we match dissolve -- the clusters of people have become groups surrounding fires at the temporary camp.

EXT. FEASTING FIRE - NIGHT

feasting on All over camp people are crowding around fires, are fresh meat. Children are playing everywhere, the dogs people having a field day with scraps and the voices of the are happy.

In At a little distance, we see Lieutenant Dunbar and Wind His Hair excusing themselves from one of the fires. They start toward us. Wind In His Hair is sucking on a rib bone and seems to show no sign of slowing down his celebrating. Dunbar, following a couple paces behind, is a different story. He's had it. He spreads his hands to indicate an over-sized belly.

DUNBAR

Look I'm full... I can't tell the

story again.

Wind In His Hair doesn't seem to hear. He points at the epaulettes on Dunbar's tunic.

DUNBAR

Go ahead.

lieutenant's
The
Wind In His Hair reaches out and fingers the gold bars. He fingers a couple of the brass buttons as well. The tunic is something he obviously puts much store in.

DUNBAR

(signing)

You want to try... put it on.

He unbuttons the tunic.

DUNBAR

Here.

Hair
tunic.
those
He
He sloughs off the tunic and hands it over. Wind In His Hair slips out of the magnificent bone-pipe breastplate he's wearing and gives it to Dunbar as he wriggles into the tunic. The fit is too tight, the material too scratchy but those things are of little consequence to Wind In His Hair. He loves the tunic.

His
Hair helps him with the ties. With urging signs he asks the lieutenant to put on the breastplate. Dunbar slips it over his head and Wind In

breastplate
over the
looks
Now it's the lieutenant's turn to be amazed. The Hair helps him with the ties. as craftsmanship at its finest. He runs his fingers over the ridges of bone now covering him from neck to waist. He looks up at Wind In His Hair.

been
The warrior nods approvingly, as though a good deal has struck.

DUNBAR

This is too much... I can't take
this...

But for Wind In His Hair it is already a trade.

toward

Wind In His Hair spots the next fireside and veers
it. Dunbar holds him back.

DUNBAR

I can't... No more...

Wind In His Hair grins. He holds up a single finger.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

One more... eat...

DUNBAR

I can't, I'm full... very full...

Still holding up the finger, he guides Dunbar into the
firelight of the next party.

Women

Immediately, men jump up to greet the celebrities.
begin to saw off more meat.

EXT. FEASTING FIRE - NIGHT

faces

As Dunbar gnaws on a rib, he glances at the friendly
around the fire. His eyes suddenly stop their roving.

the

A BIG WARRIOR is wearing the military hat he lost on
hunt. It's a little too big. The brim touches the top
big warrior's ears.

of the

him.

Now the Big Warrior notices that Dunbar is staring at
Their eyes meet.

DUNBAR

That's my hat.

the

At the sound of these words the cheerful talk around
fire begins to fade.

hat.

Dunbar touches the top of his head and points to his

DUNBAR

My hat.

BIG WARRIOR

I found it on the prairie. It's mine.

speaks. A silence falls between the two men. wind In His Hair

WIND IN HIS HAIR

That hat belongs to my friend here.

BIG WARRIOR

He left it on the prairie. He didn't want it.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You can see that he wants it now.

The Big Warrior shakes his head. He won't budge.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

We all know that is a soldier hat. We all know who wears it. If you want to keep it that's alright. But give something for it.

Big Warrior thinks for a moment then abruptly gets to his feet.

beautiful He looks at his waist and unfastens a knife in a worked scabbard. He tosses it across to Dunbar.

looks his trade. The lieutenant examines the trade item a moment. Now he back at the big warrior. A smile breaks slowly across face and Dunbar nods. At last he smiles back. It's a

it And at that, the cheerful voices around the fire are at again.

light Dunbar takes his new knife out and as he watches the flicker off the blade a voice comes into his ear.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

(pointing to his head)

Good trade.

Dunbar looks into his smiling face. He laughs.

DUNBAR

Yes, it's good. But, I have to sleep.

He excuses himself and walks away from the light of the
fire,
his
finds himself alone in the shadows, still marveling at
breastplate.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

Wind In His Hair finishes sucking on the rib bone and
tosses
walking
His
it to a dog that's been trailing him. Kicking Bird is
toward him. He notices the new tunic and gives wind In
Hair a dubious look.

KICKING BIRD

Where is loo ten tant?

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I ate him.

Kicking Bird reaches out and feels the strange material
on
either side of Wind In His Hair's chest.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I traded for it.

KICKING BIRD

Does it scratch the skin?

WIND IN HIS HAIR

A little. But do you see how good it
looks. Everyone says it looks good.
Everyone.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

Dunbar keeps to the shadows as he makes his way through
camp.
Now he slows his step.

There's
feminine.

Light from another fire is spilling into his path.
music too. And singing. The voices are high and

hearted.

Dunbar peers around a lodge. A group of young women are
dancing in a clockwise circle. Their steps are light-
This is dancing purely for the fun of it.

lodge
tant's"
along
as he

One of the young women spots him standing behind the
and there's a wave of shy giggling as news of "loo ten
presence is passed along. Embarrassed, Dunbar starts
the fringe of the fires, nodding politely to the women
goes.

takes
Whatever
insistent

One has more courage than the others. She breaks out,
his hand and steers him gently into the dance circle.
resistance he might have is buried by the girl's
encouragement. She keeps showing him the step and the
lieutenant tries to pick it up.

Awkward
order,
himself.

The movement is simple and the music is mesmerizing.
at first, Dunbar quickly gets the hang of it. In short
he's keeping up with the others. And he's enjoying

along
that
devil

Soon he has relaxed enough to shut his eyes, carried
by the eternal sound of the drums. He doesn't notice
the circle has begun to shrink. There is a touch of the
in their eyes.

him.
pleasant
then all

He bumps into somebody and the woman behind bumps into
But the girls just laugh and so does Dunbar. It was a
accident. But quickly there's another accident. And
their bodies are squeezing against his. The girls are

him murmuring good things to him. Their hands are touching everywhere.

The It's okay with Dunbar. Everybody's having a good time. away drumming suddenly stops however, and the women scatter Bird from the fire, leaving Dunbar suddenly alone. Kicking is standing not far off.

DUNBAR

They asked me to dance...

The medicine man says nothing.

DUNBAR

I was just dancing...

Finally, The lieutenant does a step or two, trying to explain. that strange half-smile appears on Kicking Bird's face.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - NIGHT

the Stands With A Fist has been watching everything from tipi flap. Now she ducks back inside.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - NIGHT

Dunbar The fire is still burning in the center of the lodge. is sleeping soundly.

There's It's not a moment later that we hear the soft sounds of mumbling somewhere in the lodge. Then it's quiet.

that mumbling again. And now a woman's giggle.

looks Dunbar stirs, waking and curious, sits up a little and across the fire. There is movement on Kicking Bird's platform.

view The medicine man's head and that of his wife come into shadow. for a second or two before they sink back down into

forceful. The movements and sound that follow become more

They're having sex.

happen
children,
Fist's
Embarrassed, the lieutenant averts his eyes, they
over the forms of Kicking Bird's deeply sleeping
the low-burning fire, and settle on Stands With A
back.

over
smiling
Lieutenant Dunbar, the sounds of lovemaking floating
him, peers again in that direction only to meet the
eyes of Kicking Bird and his wife.

He
doesn't
Embarrassed again, he stares open-eyed at the ceiling.
looks like a man who knows something is happening but
know what it is.

move.
Stands With A Fist's eyes are open too. She doesn't

EXT. VILLAGE - DAWN

eastern
horizon.
The faintest seam of light is starting to glow on the

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

direction.
His feet leave a trail in the wet grass.
The camera pans off the tipi to the eastern horizon.
It's the pony herd. And Dunbar is walking in that

their
heads and prick their ears at Dunbar's approach.

he
stops and gives a long whistle.
Dunbar walks to the edge of this great sea of horses,

pony.
other.
herd.
A figure, previously unseen, sits up on the back of a
It's Smiles A Lot. He and Dunbar glance blankly at each
But in a moment, both are distracted by movement in the

who is
reunited

Horses are being gently eased out of the way by Cisco answering Dunbar's call. A moment later and they are at the edge of the herd.

him
come
take

Grasping a hunk of Cisco's mane, Dunbar starts to lead back to the village. The temporary camp is starting to take life. And with Cisco at his side, Dunbar pauses to take in the scene.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DUSK

join
camp.
gives a

An escort of six warriors is galloping up the bluff to join the rest of the column as they make their way back to camp. Dunbar looks on, a travois of meat next to him and gives a last wave.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

To stay any longer would've been useless. We had all the meat we could possibly carry. We had hunted for three days, losing half a dozen ponies and only three men injured. Many times I have felt alone but until this afternoon, I have never felt completely lonely.

INT. QUARTERS - DAY

resemblance

The person we see from the waist up bears little resemblance to the Lieutenant Dunbar we've known.

His

His long hair hides his face on his slightly bent head. His skin is not so white anymore, and the great bone-pipe breastplate covers his torso.

action. It
to

Dunbar starts to write and stops, he repeats this action. It is clear that as Lieutenant Dunbar, he can find nothing to say. He lays the pen down momentarily.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Made a long patrol today. There is nothing to report. The truth is I am bored.

paws.
flour
Watching
with

There is the scurry of movement and the scratch of tiny
His eyes roam to the place in the corner where sacks of
and hard biscuits and other provisions are stored.
the sacks more closely, he sees that they are infested
mice.

the old
And

Restlessly, he walks to the doorway, gazing out onto
fort. The awning is beginning to tear at the corner.
then he spots something.

EXT. QUARTERS - DAY

quarters.
and
blood
eyes

A large prairie chicken is lying in front of the
Dunbar squats next to it. It's neck carries punctures,
when he dabs a finger on the wounds, he finds that the
is still wet. The lieutenant rises slowly, his sharp
sweeping the fort.

He's waiting patiently in his usual spot on the bluff overlooking the river. Two Socks.

friend,
that

Dunbar smiles and shakes his head. Watching his old
he picks up the bird and begins to pluck with an ease
suggests he's had some experience.

EXT. QUARTERS - NIGHT

still on
carcass
his

Dunbar is gnawing happily at the last of the bird,
its skewer. After a couple of bites, he slips the
off the stick and chucks it out to Two Socks. He licks
fingers and gazes out into the night.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

Though only two days it seems like a week. I am missing the company of my new friends. I can see all of their faces, but somehow it is not enough. Tomorrow, I will make an unannounced visit. After all, they are my neighbors, what can it hurt?

EXT. BLUFF - NIGHT

shadows.
to
Two Socks has taken his dinner and retreated to the
He munches contentedly until a strange sound jolts him
attention.

the
At the fort is an odd sight. Dunbar is dancing around
fire, occasionally singing out an energetic whoop.

of
Two Socks is caught up in the scene and lets out a howl
his own. It could be the stone age.

EXT. BLUFF - NIGHT

strange
Down
The silhouettes of three Indians are watching the
performance below. One of them is Wind In His Hair.
below Dunbar continues to dance.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

pretty
nothing.
the
There is nothing for miles.
Cisco and Dunbar are walking toward us. His boots are
worn and his striped trousers have faded to almost
The breastplate shines in the sun. His rifle lies in
crook of his arm, Indian style.

Dunbar twists around on Cisco and looks back across the prairie. He calls out.

DUNBAR

Go home.

then
Dunbar watches a moment to see if he's done any good,
turns forward with a sour look.

DUNBAR

Damn him.

borders
Socks is
Dunbar.
Dunbar makes his way through a small, grassy valley
by rolling slopes. He looks across the prairie. Two
about fifty yards out, trotting parallel to Cisco and

Socks
Exasperated Dunbar pulls Cisco up and slides off. Two
sits, waiting and watching.

EXT. BLUFF - DAY

is
within
stamps a
Far down in the valley the figure of Lieutenant Dunbar
striding through the grass. He looks angry. When he's
a few feet of Two Socks, Dunbar waves his arms and
foot Two Socks scurries to one side but doesn't go far.

DUNBAR

C'mon Two Socks... you can't go...
so go home.

few
Dunbar repeats his shooing motion and the wolf hops a
feet.

DUNBAR

Alright then, don't go home. But
stay... stay right here.

mournful
is
for
Dunbar turns away and as he does a long, low and
howl swells behind him. He looks back. Two Socks muzzle
high in the air and one eye is trained on Dunbar hoping
a good reaction.

Two
Sock with a roar.
Like an angry father who's had too much, Dunbar charges

DUNBAR

You go home.

The wolf races away this time and Dunbar immediately runs for Cisco, hoping to reach his horse and ditch Two Socks. But he's running long before the wolf comes bouncing alongside. Dunbar weaves out at him, startling Two Socks. He sidles away but as he does the lieutenant reaches out and gives the base of his tail a good hard squeeze. It might as well be a firecracker. Tow Socks gives a yelp and shoots off with his tail tucked. Dunbar laughs out loud. He watches until the wolf has gone a fair distance without sign of slowing down. Then still chuckling to himself, he turns once again and starts for Cisco at a trot. But moments later, something grabs at one of his ankles, the lieutenant's legs tangle and he goes down face first into the grass. Dunbar's lying on his belly. Not knowing what hit him, he rolls onto his side for a closer look. There's Two Socks, sitting in the grass a few feet back. Dunbar sits up cross-legged and smiles at his old friend. Two Socks catches something suddenly, perhaps from a shift in the wind, and starts to slink away. Dunbar peers over the grass up at the bluff. It's Stone Calf, Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

The Indian entourage is riding slowly toward Lieutenant Dunbar. Stone Calf is at Kicking Bird's side.

STONE CALF

You were right about loo ten tant --
he is a special white man.

Kicking Bird watches Dunbar as he replies.

KICKING BIRD

Yes, he is special... he should have
a real name.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

the
Lieutenant Dunbar's arrival this day is different from
ones which have gone before.

him,
friend.
shake
Young mounted warriors have ridden out to swarm around
but they're full of good cheer reserved for a special
There's much backslapping and a few of them lean in to
hands as they have seen him do.

their
friendly.
look of
parade
But some of the men have chosen to remain in front of
lodges. Their expressionless faces anything but
None of this is lost on Wind In His Hair. He has the
a secret service man watching a president, as the
moves through the village.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

A
There's
Kicking
with
between
gives
The escorts dismount and so does the lieutenant. Smiles
Lot suddenly comes forward and grasps Cisco's reins.
a brief tug of war. But before it gets out of hand,
Bird is reassuring Dunbar with calm words and a smile,
the lieutenant watching, the boy takes Cisco's muzzle
his hands and blows breath into each nostril. He too
Dunbar a reassuring smile.

gently
In the next moment, the lieutenant finds himself being
pushed into Kicking Bird's lodge.

on
is
As Kicking Bird is about to duck in behind him, a hand
his arm stops him. It is Wind In His Hair and his tone
strong with friendly advice.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Not everyone thinks it is a good
idea that he is here.

KICKING BIRD

I know.

about.
Wind In His Hair turns to the people that have gathered

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Kicking Bird has business with the
white man. Let him do it.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

being
Kicking Bird's pipe is a beautiful piece of work. It's
smoked.

to
something
Kicking Bird puffs away a few times and hands the pipe
Dunbar. The lieutenant, aware that the pipe is
special, handles it with care.

mouth
of
He looks to Kicking Bird for guidance as he puts his
to the tip. The medicine man reassures him with a wave
the hand and Dunbar begins to puff.

smokes
Dunbar coughs lightly at the harsh tobacco but he
well, watching the bowl pulse with life at each puff.

pipe
He stops now and lowers the pipe. He stares down. The
seems almost alive as it lays in his hands.

it he
Dunbar hands the pipe back, and as Kicking Bird takes
hears the light tinkling of bells.

shadow

Dunbar hears it too. As he looks toward the sound, a
falls across the arbor's entrance.

KICKING BIRD

We were waiting for you.

and

Stands With A Fist ducks through the arbor's entrance
seats herself between Dunbar and Kicking Bird.

one

her

are

bracelet.

the

Stands With A Fist is wearing a band of bells around
ankle. She has a pair of simple but pretty moccasins on
feet. Her dress is old but well-cared for. Animal teeth
sewn along her bodice. On her wrist is a solid brass
bracelet. Her hair is tied back loosely with a bret, accenting
feminine in her face.

not

Her whiteness seems to show more than ever. But it is
dominant. The Sioux is dominant.

KICKING BIRD

(to Dunbar)

Welcome. It is good that you are
here.

time

Kicking Bird looks to Stands With A Fist. She takes her
and the words are accented but they are close enough.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Hullo. You here... good.

with

The words are sweet music to the lieutenant. He replies
a feeling of great relief.

DUNBAR

Thank you... I feel good.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(to Kicking Bird)

He thanks you. It is good.

KICKING BIRD

Ask him why he is at the soldier

fort.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(to Dunbar)

Uhh... you... come...

waited

Dunbar jumps in. There are things he wants to know, has a long time to know.

DUNBAR

Wait... what is your name?

STANDS WITH A FIST

Our... names?

KICKING BIRD

What does he say?

STANDS WITH A FIST

He wants to know how we are called.

KICKING BIRD

Ahhh... He's right. I'm sorry.

quite

The medicine man nods agreeably. He smiles at Dunbar, right, introductions should come first.

STANDS WITH A FIST

He... he... Kick...

DUNBAR

Kick?

STANDS WITH A FIST

More.

Dunbar

She kicks at the ground with the toe of her moccasin. doesn't get it. She kicks a little harder.

DUNBAR

Kicking?

STANDS WITH A FIST

Kicking... yes... Kicking... Bird.

DUNBAR

(to Kicking Bird)

Kicking Bird...

(to Stands With A

Fist)

What does he... is he a chief?

seconds

Stands With A Fist has the word but it takes a few
to make it come out of her mouth.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Hul... hal... ho-lee... holy... holy
man.

DUNBAR

Oh...

(glancing at Kicking
Bird)

Dunbar

A brief silence. Kicking Bird seems ready to speak but
is too quick.

DUNBAR

(to Stands With A
Fist)

Your name... you.

She thinks. It's hard. She smiles thinly.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I don't know.

An idea comes to her. She stands up quickly.

DUNBAR

Up? Get up?

STANDS WITH A FIST

No.

She repeats the movement again.

DUNBAR

Stand.

Her smile is a little wider this time.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Yes... Stands.

Dunbar starts to speak but she cuts him off.

STANDS WITH A FIST

More...

(thinking)
Wiff...
(quickly)
With.

She draw something in the dirt. It's an "A".

DUNBAR

Stands With A...

Now she makes a fist and holds it close to Dunbar's
face.

DUNBAR

Fist?

She nods.

DUNBAR

Stands With A Fist. I'm John... John
Dunbar.

STANDS WITH A FIST

John Dunbar.

DUNBAR

Yes.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Kicking Bird and Dunbar are strolling through camp
engaged
in a real conversation, Stands With A Fist is just
behind
them.

DUNBAR (V.O.)

I try to answer all of Kicking Bird's
questions but I know he is frustrated
with me. He always wants to know how
many more white people are coming. I
tell him that it is impossible for
me to say. When he persists I tell
him that the white people will most
likely pass through this country and
nothing more.

Kicking Bird and Stands With A Fist are walking away
from
Dunbar, who takes a few steps in the opposite direction
before

glances
him.
pausing. Toward the end of the following speech he
back at them and Stands With A Fist glances back at

DUNBAR (V.O.)

But I am speaking to him in half-truths. One day there will be too many, but I cannot bring myself to tell him that. I am sure that Stands With A Fist knows.

INT. DUNBAR'S LODGE - NIGHT

cleaning
the big navy revolver.
His surroundings are completely Indian, Dunbar is

DUNBAR (V.O.)

A war party is going against the Pawnee soon and I have asked to go. I sensed that I have made a mistake in doing so but I could not bring myself to take it back. They are my friends and from what little I gather the Pawnee have been very hard on these people. I hope I have not overstepped my bounds.

and
The lodge flap rustles and in comes Stands With A Fist
Kicking Bird. Dunbar stands to greet them.

DUNBAR

I'm glad to see you... please sit.

Kicking Bird speaks and Stands With A Fist translates.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(translating)

Kicking Bird wants to know why you want to make war on the Pawnee. They have done nothing to you.

DUNBAR

They are Sioux enemies.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(translating)

Only Sioux warriors will go.

DUNBAR

I asked that he would think about my going.

STANDS WITH A FIST

He has.

DUNBAR

Then tell him this. I have been a warrior for longer than many of the young men that will go on this war party. Tell him.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(translating)

He says that the Sioux way of being a warrior is not the white way. You are not ready.

DUNBAR

I know, I understand. But I cannot learn these ways in camp.

She translates this to Kicking Bird. The medicine man hesitates then speaks once more.

STANDS WITH A FIST

He asks that you watch over his family while he is gone.

unable Dunbar looks to Kicking Bird then to Stands With A Fist to mask his disappointment.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(on her own)

This thing he asks you... it is a great honor for you.

Kicking Dunbar thinks a moment longer and speaks directly to Bird.

DUNBAR

I will be happy to watch over your family.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(translating)

He thanks Dances With Wolves for coming.

DUNBAR

Who is Dances With Wolves?

STANDS WITH A FIST

It is the name which everyone is calling you now.

He thinks and remembers the night with Two Socks.

DUNBAR

Dances With Wolves... that's right.
(to Stands With A
Fist)
How do you say it?

STANDS WITH A FIST

(in Sioux)
Dances With Wolves.

DUNBAR

(in Sioux to Kicking
Bird)
Dances With Wolves.

The medicine man smiles.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

husband's
Black Shawl is hurrying out of the lodge with her
bow and arrows.

except
A war party of twenty warriors is mounted and everyone
sleeping children is out to say goodbye.

horse
Kicking
verge of
Stands With A Fist is helping to load Kicking Bird's
with last minute preparations. Out of the tipi comes
Bird's eldest child. He is sleepy but almost on the
tears as he knows what is happening.

father
Kicking Bird picks up the boy. What is said is between
and son. And it is just a look.

speak
be no
He hands the child to Stands With A Fist, and pauses to
with his wife. She comes close to tears but there will

his crying. None from Kicking Bird either. He steps back to horse.

KICKING BIRD

(to Stands With A

Fist)

Keep on with the white man talk if it pleases you.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I like to make the white man talk.

lodge. Dances With Wolves is standing alone in front of his

shakes Wind In His Hair is riding past. He reaches down and

Dances With Wolves' hand. The big warrior smiles.

eyes Dances With Wolves watches the warriors go by, but his

faces of begin to wander. He's looking for someone among the

the women. Who ever it is, he can't find her.

INT. ARBOR - DAY

fidgety. Dances With Wolves sits alone in the arbor. He's

been Now he hears a light tinkling of bells, the sounds he's waiting to hear.

Her feet appear in the doorway.

STANDS WITH A FIST (O.S.)

Dances With Wolves?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I'm here.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

through Dances with Wolves and Stands With A Fist are walking

other. the village, talking and pointing things out to each

STANDS WITH A FIST

(slowly in english)

Grass grows on the prairie.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(not sure in Sioux)

Fire lives on the prairie.

Stands With A Fist chuckles but politely checks
herself.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Wrong.

She smiles and tries again.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(in english)

That man is a fighter.

He really wants to get one right on the first try. His
brows
come together as he concentrates.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Again.

He listens hard.

STANDS WITH A FIST

That man is a fighter.

Dances With Wolves thinks some more. When he speaks it
is
with quiet confidence.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(in english)

Alright... I have it...

(in Sioux)

That man...

STANDS WITH A FIST

Yes...

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Is...

Dances With Wolves' eyes get big. He leans forward for
emphasis his whole face lit with the joy of having the
right
answer.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

A... bone!

Stands With A Fist doubles up and falls onto her side,
laughing all the way.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

A bone... right?

back
that

Stands With A Fist doesn't really hear. She's rocking
and forth on the floor of the arbor, laughing so hard
her eyes are tearing.

Dances

Her laughter subsides to an occasional chuckle but
With Wolves is quiet. He gazes at her face.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

What is the word for beautiful?

gaze.

Stands With A Fist hesitates in her answer, meeting his
A little boy pokes his head in.

LITTLE BOY

What are you doing here?

to

The moment is broken. Stands With A Fist brings herself
respond.

STANDS WITH A FIST

It is hot. We are sitting in the
shade.

trots in
squirm

This makes so much sense to the little boy that he
and flings himself on Stands With a Fist's lap. Then a
or two.

LITTLE BOY

I'm hungry.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Alright.

Dances
Smiles

Stands With A Fist leads the little boy off to a lodge.
With Wolves watches her walk away. From out of nowhere,
A Lot appears. He's been milling about the arbor

smile. eavesdropping, and looks over to Dunbar with a teasing

SMILES A LOT

...a bone.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - NIGHT

bed, Black Shawl is settling the youngest children in for
children. Stands With A Fist is playing with the oldest of the
They're setting up a child's tipi.

BLACK SHAWL

How is Dances With Wolves?

Stands With A Fist stares straight ahead as if she were
wondering the same thing. Which she was.

STANDS WITH A FIST

What do you mean?

BLACK SHAWL

How is he learning?

STANDS WITH A FIST

He learns well... he is fast.

Case closed, she goes back to playing and Black Shawl
continues putting the kids to bed.

did She looks again at Stands With A Fist wondering "what
you think I meant?"

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

waiting for Dunbar is sitting on Cisco. It's plain he's been
someone.

lugging Stands With A Fist pulls aside the lodge flap, she's
a couple water bags.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

You go for water?

His Sioux is perfect, and she smiles.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Yes.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Let us take you.

EXT. RIVER TRAIL - DAY

the
Stands
waist.

Cisco makes his way down the river trail, he shies at
flurry of wings as a covey of quail fly up before them.
With A Fist tightens her grip around Dances With Wolves

EXT. RIVER - DAY

bags.
eddying

Stands With A Fist draws water into a set of bladder
Dances With Wolves squats next to her, staring at the
stream.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

How did you get your name?

the

Stands With A Fist smiles to herself as she fills up
last of the bags.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I was not very old when I came to be
with the people... I was made to
work.

Dances

She lugs the filled bags onto shore and sits next to
With Wolves.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I worked every day... very hard...
there was a woman who didn't like
me. She called me bad names...
sometimes she beat me. One day she
was calling me these bad names, her
face in my face, and I hit her. I
was not very big, but she fell down.
She fell hard and didn't move. I
stood over her with my fist and asked
if any other woman wanted to call me
bad names...

(laughing at the
recollection)

No one bothered me after that day.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I would not think so.

A little silence.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Show me where you hit her.

gently at
They
cold.

He taps his jaw. She makes a fist and brushes very the point of his jaw. Dances With Wolves' eyes flutter. roll up in his head and he keels over backward... out

lightly
revives.

She goes with the joke. Bending over him she slaps at each side of his cheeks, until Dances With Wolves He sits up, rubbing his jaw.

awkwardness
with
draws

Neither one acknowledges the joke and, a sudden falls between them. Stands With A Fist fiddles shyly the ties on the water bags while Dances With Wolves lines in the earth with a stick.

question.

Finally he works up the courage to ask a delicate

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Why are you not married?

stops
quickly

The question comes as a jolt to Stands With A Fist. She her fiddling. A visible stiffness overtakes her. She stands up.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I must go.

knows
the
path.

Dances With Wolves doesn't know what to do. He only that he should not have asked the question. She slings heavy bags over her shoulders and starts back up the

Dances With Wolves jumps to his feet.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I'm sorry. Let me help...

But the words are delivered to her back. She is already hurrying up the path with her heavy load.

STANDS WITH A FIST

No.

She
horses
kicks violently at the nearest innocent bystander. The
shy out of the way.

He's left alone at the waters edge, frustrated and
confused.
He watches her go for a moment. Then he lets the stick
drop
from his hand. He stares at it for a second then gives
it a
vicious little kick.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

lodge,
Stands With A Fist is sitting in the middle of the
she starts when Black Shawl walks in.

BLACK SHAWL

You are not talking today?

STANDS WITH A FIST

No, I'm not.

Black Shawl gives her a deeper look, then lets it go.

INT. ARBOR - DUSK

the
evening.
The sun is setting and the village is settling in for

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - NIGHT

stares-
is
Lying on his bed, Dances With Wolves looks sleepy as he
across at the small fire. Even, in his drowsiness, it

certain
easy to see he's concentrating... in this case on a
someone.

INT. ARBOR - DAY

Again, Dances With Wolves is waiting. This time, not so
patiently. He gives up and leaves in search of
something.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

half-
very
gone
Dances With Wolves is wandering through the village,
heartedly looking for Stands With A Fist. The day is
hot and the village is quiet. Most of the people have
to shade.

A
painting a
He sees Stone Calf sitting in the shade behind a lodge.
newly made shield hangs from a tripod and he is
design on it.

EXT. STONE CALF'S LODGE - DAY

watching
Dances With Wolves sits in the shade with Stone Calf,
the older man paint.

STONE CALF

Some of your words are wrong... but
you are learning fast. That is good.
What can I tell you today?

has
Dances With Wolves is a little taken aback. The elder
read his mind. He decides to speak it.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I want to know about Stands With A
Fist.

gives his
to
For the first time, Stone Calf leaves his work. He
visitor a quick and penetrating look. Then he goes back
his shield.

STONE CALF

What is your question?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

There is no man with her.

Stone Calf considers before he speaks. It is not something he wants to get into.

STONE CALF

She is in mourning.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I do not understand "mourning".

STONE CALF

She is crying for someone.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Crying for who?

STONE CALF

It is not polite to speak of the dead... But I will tell you... you are new. She cries for her husband. He was killed not long ago.

The blood has gone out of Dances With Wolves' face. He tries to digest this.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

How long will she cry?

STONE CALF

It is Kicking Bird's place to say when she is finished.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

Stands With A Fist kneels before Black Shawl, the older woman is combing out the tangles in her hair. Black Shawl senses a tension in the girl and gently tries to pry it out of her.

BLACK SHAWL

People are talking about you...

Stands With A Fist stiffens a bit.

STANDS WITH A FIST

What are they saying?

BLACK SHAWL

They are proud of the medicine you
are making with Dances With Wolves.

Stands With A Fist is quiet.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I have hurt him and I must go talk
to him.

BLACK SHAWL

You can't, he is gone.

- she
With

is
betrayed

Stands With A Fist bolts up, racing to the lodge flap -
pulls it aside and is stunned by the sight of Dances
Wolves' abandoned lodge -- Cisco is nowhere to be seen.
She turns away, tears coming to her eyes. Black Shawl
beside her watching -- the girl's emotions have
her.

child
now."

Black Shawl takes the crying girl into her arms. A
runs into the lodge but Black Shawl indicates "not

in his

The message is clearly understood, and the child digs
heels and heads the other way.

EXT. FORT - DAY

that

The breeze is up and the remaining shreds of canvas
were once the awning are flying like tattered flags.

will
time.

Leading Cisco, Dances With Wolves walks into view. It
be his last visit to his old home and he is taking his

is

He watches the blowing canvas. The sound of it snapping
all that can be heard.

in, but
gives

He steps over to the supply house. He starts to peer when he places a hand against the sod, part of the wall way.

INT. QUARTERS - PAY

still
is
smiling at

Part of the old bed has collapsed but some of it is strong enough for support and here Dances With Wolves sitting as he leafs through his beloved journal. He reads a little entry here and there, sometimes the memory.

Reaching
letting

A few blank pages remain at the back of the book. these he closes the journal and holds it on his lap, his mind run for a moment.

and

Now he notices the old pen and ink. He picks them up opens the journal for one last entry.

himself

He writes: "I love Stands With A Fist" and signs "Dances With Wolves."

his
moves

Something is moving outside and Dunbar stops, drawing gun out. He drops the book on the bed and carefully outside.

EXT. QUARTERS - DAY

up
at

Lying in the sun a few feet away is Two Socks. He looks hopefully at Dances With Wolves. The two partners stare each other for a moment.

at
close to

Then Dances With Wolves reaches into a little day pouch his side and pulls out a strip of jerky. He squats the ground and offers the meat to the wolf.

His
and
onto

Two Socks is up now. He takes several tentative steps.
nose sniffs at the meat and he opens his mouth. Teeth
fingers touch as the wolf takes the meat delicately.
Now, in his customary style, he moves away, heading out
the prairie with his prize.

vaults
of

Dances With Wolves watches a moment longer. Then he
onto Cisco's back and they canter off in the direction
the village.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

mind is

Stands With A Fist is wading through the water, her
far away.

of
to

In a moment there is a shift in the wind. The rustling
the trees alerts her to a presence she had not thought
feel before.

man

Gradually, she raises her eyes to see the figure of a
moving through the trees... Dances With Wolves.

opens

Stands With A Fist walks slowly out of the water. He
his arms and she melts into them, letting her head rest
against his chest.

STANDS WITH A FIST

I am in mourning.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I know... Stone Calf told me.

him.

She presses her body full against his, feeling all of

STANDS WITH A FIST

No one can know... we must be careful.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Yes.

STANDS WITH A FIST

We must be careful.

supporting
willow

She climbs higher into his arms for a moment. Then,
each other, the lovers move into the cover of the
breaks along the river.

EXT. RIVER PATH - DAY

willows
Wolves
holding

The path leading to the river is deserted.
Suddenly, a couple steps out of the cover of the
alongside the path. Stands With A Fist and Dances With
look up and down the path. They start for the village,
hands.

few
Dances

As they near the top of the trail their hands part. A
steps later and someone calls from the bushes startling
with Wolves.

SMILES A LOT

What are you doing?

is

Smiles A Lot, Worm and Otter are sitting pathside. Worm
holding a sack.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Nothin'.

Smiles A Lot looks to Stands With A Fist.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Nothin'.

the

Worm opens the sack. A large, wriggling snake lies in
bottom.

WORM

We got a snake.

OTTER

We're gonna see if it can swim the
river. You wanna come?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Okay.

Stands
down
of

The two parties split up and everyone says goodbye to With A Fist. She makes her way up to the village. Dances With Wolves watches her go. Turning back to head to the river, he is greeted by the open hissing mouth of Worm's snake.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Don't do that!

Wolves
curious,
Wolves'
his
there
Wolves.

Worm and Otter laugh and race off down the path. Smiles A Lot and Dances With Wolves follow, Dances With a little ahead. Something on his back, something has captured Smiles A Lot's attention. There's a strange coating of fuzz on Dances With back. Something occurs to Smiles A Lot. He stops and turns, eyes going up the trail. Stands With A Fist is walking toward the village, it's on her back too... cattail fuzz. Smiles A Lot laughs and runs to catch Dances With. The boy slaps Dunbar with a knowing pat and a big grin.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - NIGHT

pipe.
overhead.
comes

Dances with Wolves sits at his cozy fire, working on a pipe. He follows a low rumble of thunder as it rolls overhead. Thunder booms again and suddenly Stands With A Fist comes through the lodge flap.

at
they
of

Dances With Wolves comes to his feet. They stare across each other. Dances With Wolves walks slowly to her and embrace lightly. Stands With A Fist starts to slip out her dress.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

four
dead. All

Indian riders are coming into camp. There are three or four of them. One man is slung over a pony's back. He's of the others are wounded.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - NIGHT

sex.
more
an

Dances With Wolves and Stands With A Fist are having sex. The sounds of their love-making are suddenly joined by more insistent sounds from outside. Urgent yelling. The lovers freeze. Stands With A Fist props herself on an elbow, listening.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Trouble...

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

scene
real
fire

Dances With Wolves hurries through a light rain to the scene of a commotion going on at Ten Bears' lodge. There's a real sense of panic in the air by the time he reaches the fire outside Ten Bears' lodge.

his
injuries
skull
fro,

It's a wild scene. Ten Bears is trying to huddle with his advisors, the wounded men are trying to tend their injuries and the rest of the warriors in camp are holding little skull sessions amidst much shouting. Women are running to and fro, rounding up their children.

way

Dances With Wolves spots Stands With A Fist making her
toward him. Her eyes are big with terror.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Pawnee... a big party... thirty or
forty men.

(indicating wounded)

The Kiowa hunters found them not far
to the north. The Pawnee are coming
his way. Soon they will find our
camp.

him.

Stone Calf is just passing by. Dances With Wolves stops

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Stone Calf... I follow you.

The older man doesn't mince words.

STONE CALF

The Pawnee do not come for horses,
they come for blood... and with many
men gone, we are few.

Dances With Wolves nods.

STONE CALF

Get your weapons and come to my lodge.

STANDS WITH A FIST

(to Dances With Wolves)

I will go.

behind

She rushes off and Dances With Wolves falls into step

revelation

Stone Calf. He hasn't gone two steps before a
hits him.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Stone Calf... wait...

The older warrior faces him.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I have guns... many far-shooting
guns.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - NIGHT

and
side,

Amid the pandemonium of the village, Dances With Wolves
Ten Bears are talking. Stone Calf stands at Ten Bears'
listening.

TEN BEARS

No, the ride is long... the weather
is bad. We can spare no men.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Guns would make one warrior like
two.

Stone

The idea intrigues Ten Bears. As he thinks, he looks to
Calf. But the elder warrior says nothing.

TEN BEARS

Take one man and go quickly.

quick
busy
resolutely.
Smiles A
that he

Dances With Wolves turns away now, hoping to make a
choice. But in their excitement all the warriors are
running to and fro. Only one person is standing
He is staring straight at Dances With Wolves. It is
Lot, and from the look on his face it's easy to see
wants to be chosen.

make

Dances With Wolves returns the boy's stare, trying to
up his mind. He turns to Ten Bears.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I will take Smiles A Lot.

Dances

Ten Bears looks briefly at Smiles A Lot. He too can see
resolve in the boy's face. Now he looks once again at
With Wolves. He nods.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

fork

Rain is pouring now. Thunder is still booming. A great
of lightning illuminates the ruins of the old fort. And
nearby, it reveals two riders out in the grass.

couple
rain
haystack.

Dances With Wolves and Smiles A Lot have brought a
extra horses with travois, but is is dark and in the
they've been reduced to looking for a needle in a

covers

Dances With Wolves' face is grim with frustration as it
the ground at Cisco's feet.

Over
sound

Smiles A Lot and his pony are walking the soggy ground.
the tumult of the storm there is the faint but distinct
of a "snap".

feet.
over

He's staring curiously at the ground beneath his pony's
Smiles a Lot jumps off and, going on all fours, he paws
the ground.

face.
gropes

His hand grasps something and he holds it up to his
It's a sliver of bone shattered at one end. Quickly he
some more and finds the other half. Together they are a
buffalo rib.

SMILES A LOT

(shouting over the
storm)

Dances With Wolves... Dances With
Wolves.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

is

Frenzied hands claw away mud and sod. Something wooden
uncovered; the lid of a rifle crate.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAWN

the

The sky is still full of thunder and lightning but in
breaking dawn the storm can be seen to be lifting.

finders

The village is just ahead down a long slope as the gun
come into view.

Wolves A great bolt of lightning hits just as Dances With
starts down the slope. He sees something.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Wait.

Smiles A Lot stops. Dances With Wolves squints into the
feeble light. He can see the outline of the village below, but
upriver the light is still too murky to make anything
out.

Another bolt of lightning flashes. There they are. A
long line of horsemen crossing river a mile or so upstream
from the village. The Pawnee.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAWN

In front of Ten Bears' lodge, Dances With Wolves is
passing out the last of the rifles. Warriors are grabbing
handfuls of bullets out of an open ammo box.

Ten Bears is watching this procedure. And while he
watches, he thinks.

The guns have been passed out and, except for a slight
murmur among the warriors, it's strangely quiet. The band's
best fighters are gone and many men don't know what to do
next. They're looking to Ten Bears for leadership.

But the old man is looking at Dances With Wolves. He
holds up a hand for quiet.

TEN BEARS

Hear us now.

(to Dances With Wolves)

A white soldier with many far-shooting
guns... how would he fight the Pawnee?

Everyone is waiting.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I would hide in the village.

Bears
The warriors send up a chorus of derisive cries but Ten
angrily quiets them.

TEN BEARS

Dances With Wolves has not finished.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I would let the enemy think we are
asleep... let him come close. Then
we would shoot together and run to
fight them, drive them into the river
and kill so many that they would
never trouble us again.

Ten Bears smiles.

TEN BEARS

I am of the same mind as Dances With
Wolves... we should kill so many
that they never trouble us again.

EXT. RIVER - DAWN

edge,
jerk
Two of the camp dogs are lapping water at the river's
behind them lies the quiet village. Suddenly both heads
up.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

Smiles
old
Dances With Wolves steps into the lodge, followed by
A Lot. They both have rifles and Dances With Wolves'
long-barreled revolver is holstered at his waist.
Before him is a quiet, tense scene.

platform.
of
The women are huddled together on a single sleeping
Kicking Bird's three children nestled between them. Two
the kids are crying softly.

a
Black Shawl grips a hatchet and Stands With A Fist has
rifle. They will both fight. But they are both scared.

glimpse,
for.

Everyone in the village has a life at stake. In one
Dances With Wolves understands what he will be fighting

out

He looks once more at the women and children and ducks
of the lodge.

EXT. RIVER - DAWN

bodies
river
There is

The feet of the enemy are moving past the dogs, whose
are still and riddled with arrows. In front of them the
is full of Pawnee crossing over toward the village.
no sound.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAWN

and an
in
river,
quiet as

It has stopped raining but the ground is still soaked
early morning fog is swirling through the camp. Clumped
groups of five or six, behind the lodges nearest the
are Sioux warriors with rifles. They're absolutely
they wait for the enemy.

down

Dances With Wolves looks across a clearing that slopes
to the breaks fronting the river. Nothing.

men

Wait. A movement. And another. Another. The heads of
lurking in the fog. He glances at the defenders.

lodges

Most of the warriors are huddled behind the line of
watching him. Ten Bears raises a hand.

fiercest,

The Pawnee are visible now, a war party at its
painted and feathered and armed to the teeth.

of

Coming on foot, the first of them have reached the edge
the clearing. They start into a stealthy trot, more and

more

of them breaking into a run.

Ten A Pawnee war cry goes up and, as the others join in.
Bears lowers his hand.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

lodges In ragged formation, the Sioux pour from behind the
charge. and thirty rifles fire into the vanguard of the Pawnee

the The smoke of many rifles mixes with the ground fog as
Wolves Sioux run screaming down on the Pawnee. Dances With
screams too as he runs flat out down the slope.

they A Pawnee warrior suddenly looms out of the smoke and
crash together violently.

for The two fighters tumble over the ground, each grappling
is an advantage. The hand to hand fighting all around them
surreal furious and, shrouded in smoke and fog, it has a
quality.

holster Dances With Wolves works the Navy revolver from its
and shoots the Pawnee in the face.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

lodge. A child sticks his head out from under the edge of the
sight. Momentarily he is jerked back into the lodge out of

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

is Now there's a ripping at the lodge entrance. The flap
child being torn away. Black Shawl is desperately pulling the
back from the edge of the lodge.

his Suddenly, there he is... a Pawnee warrior. But now it's

aim,
explodes

turn to be surprised. He sees Stands with A Fist taking
and it's too late. She fires the rifle and the Pawnee
back out of the lodge.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAWN

glimpse
trot,

Through the smoke, Dances With Wolves can just catch a
of Ten Bears. He is moving through the village at a
loading his gun.

sights and
once

He spots a Sioux warrior grappling with a Pawnee,
shoots the Pawnee point blank. He trots off, reloading
more.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

to
the
and

Dances With Wolves is bumped from behind and is knocked
his knees. It's a frantic Pawnee war horse, loose on
battlefield. Dances With Wolves grabs a hunk of mane
swings onto his back.

terrible
river.

He has a real view now. The Pawnee are taking a
licking. Already they are being beaten back to the

arrows

A turbaned enemy is falling back to the river, firing
as he goes. Dances With Wolves goes after him.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAWN

staggers
in a

Still clutching his hatchet, a wounded Pawnee half
toward Ten Bears' lodge. He is bleeding profusely and
very bad mood. He reaches the closed lodge flap.

INT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAWN

ready

Pretty Shield stands in front of a group of children,
to defend them.

and
through
his
already
Shield
Stone

The Pawnee is inside now. He has a wild desperate look in a moment his hatchet will be flailing its way these people.

But he never takes a step. Instead he suddenly sinks to knees and we see another arrow join the one that is buried in his back. The warrior keels over and Pretty Shield looks through the open flap to see the grinning face of Calf.

Without hesitation, Pretty Shield snatches a half-burned log from the fire and finishes the Pawnee.

The children watch, their faces a mixture of horror and intrigue.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

With
hill
momentum, the

Coming off the pony like a rodeo bulldogger, Dances Wolves crashes through the river taking the Pawnee in a headlock.

Somehow they both keep their feet and hurtle down the at a weird run. A small cottonwood stops their Pawnee taking most of the blow.

and
Shortly, he

Dances With Wolves grabs either side of the man's head starts banging his skull against the tree trunk. notices that the man's eyes are dead.

broken

The Pawnee was impaled on impact by the stub of a branch low on the trunk.

sight and

Dances With Wolves shrinks back from this gruesome staggers toward the village.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAWN

for Stone Calf, his bow and arrow at the ready, is looking more enemies to kill.

an Suddenly from the corner of his eye the old man senses his attack. But he is too late. A Pawnee war club crushes skull and the old man collapses.

warrior Now we can see his attacker. It is the fierce Pawnee the who killed Timmons the wagon driver. He glowers down at man's body of Stone Calf and swings his club toward the old head once again.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

time Dances With Wolves squints toward the village just in white- to see the Toughest take another shot at the prostrate, headed form of Stone Calf.

Dances With Wolves begins to run.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAWN

is The Toughest has his knife to Stone Calf's forehead and him in preparing to scalp his victim when something strikes the lower leg.

calf. He He looks down to find a small arrow imbedded in his Lot, looks up to see three boys, Otter, Worm, and Smiles A huddled at the edge of the battlefield.

him. He turns back to finish the job when another arrow hits Enraged he breaks off the arrow, leaps onto a horse and charges the kids.

them. Their faces go ashen as the Toughest bears down on

and

Otter's arrow flies weakly into the air. The boys turn
run for their lives.

sees

The Toughest would catch them with ease but now, he
half a dozen howling Sioux warriors angling in to cut
off. He knows in a glance that the fight has been lost.
He also knows that he can still escape if he changes
direction.
He veers for the river.

him

He

direction.

The Sioux are distraught. The Toughest will get away.

is

But wait, Dances with Wolves is at full speed now. He
streaking across the battlefield.

driven

shoulder

Suddenly, the Pawnee himself is hurtling through space,
there by the full force impact of Dances With Wolves'
which has caught him rib high.

Both men hit the ground grappling and rolling.

Wolves

vital

arm.

A knife flashes in the Toughest's hand and Dances With
can only react quick enough to keep the knife from a
spot. As it is, the blade lays open a huge gash on his

his. He

sadistically.

They square off. The Toughest knows the advantage is
smiles grimly at Dances With Wolves and grunts

simultaneous

fall,

But the sound from his throat is cut short by the
arrival of five Sioux arrows. Before the Pawnee can
six Sioux warriors are on him tearing him to pieces.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

that the

Dances With Wolves climbs to his feet and discovers
battlefield is no longer so. The fighting has stopped.

lay

It's a scene of carnage and joy. The Pawnee attackers
where they fell.

SIOUX 1

I killed this one.

SIOUX 2

This one still breathes.

around

The Sioux victors are in high spirits as they hop
finishing off the wounded and counting coup on the

dead.

streaked

Dances With Wolves looks down at himself. His body is
with blood, much of it his own. His arm is bleeding
but he is too repulsed to move forward and too
retreat into the breaks.

freely

exhausted to

body of

Dances With Wolves now looks up to see the lifeless
Stone Calf. Ten Bears is hugging him. Pretty Shield
to kneel beside her mourning husband.

starts

SIOUX 3 (O.S.)

Dances With Wolves...

around

Before he knows it, Sioux fighters are moving all
him, chanting his name. Like ants rolling a pebble up a
they push him into the middle of the battlefield. In a
he allows himself to be carried along.

hill,

daze

emerging

When he looks up again he can see women and children
from the lodges.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (V.O.)

It was hard to know how to feel. I
had never been in a battle like this
one. This had not been a fight for
territory or riches or to make men
free. This battle had no ego. It had
been fought to preserve the food
stores that would see us through

winter, to protect the lives of women and children and loved ones only a few feet away. I felt a pride I had never felt before.

of a
around
Dances With Wolves looks down and recognizes the face of a man he has just killed. Several warriors are crowding around him now. Dances With Wolves points at the body.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I shot this one.

1ST WARRIOR

Yes, I saw you shoot him.

2ND WARRIOR

You killed that one too.

knot
continues
hugging
As the sun breaks fully through the clouds, the little knot of warriors, Dances With Wolves in their midst, continues its triumphant tour of the battleground. The men are hugging and slapping each other on the back.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (V.O.)

I had never really known who John Dunbar was. Perhaps because the name itself had no meaning. But as I heard my Sioux name being called over and over, I knew for the first time who I really was.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

its
riders
with
The war party with Kicking Bird and Wind In His Hair at its head has halted in the middle of nowhere. The Sioux riders are coming toward them at a run. They pull up, excited with what they have to tell.

start
The returning war party and the two riders who met them start ahead at a gallop.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - NIGHT

away. Black Shawl and Stands With A Fist are clearing things

The medicine man has hosted a dinner party which is now winding down.

several Wind In His Hair is there, Dances With Wolves and
the men other prominent warriors. It's purely social and all
are enjoying themselves.

With Dances With Wolves sneaks a look of affection at Stands
A Fist, and she returns it.

he Then, with more theatricality than is really necessary,
his stretches his arms and yawns. Wind In His Hair looks at
friend with surprise.

Dances With Wolves gets to his feet.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

There is gambling tonight... at Horse
Back's lodge. Horse Back's games are
always good.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I am tired... and Horse Back already
has a good rifle of mine.

(to Kicking Bird)

thank you...

(to all)

goodnight.

another He slips out. In a few seconds, the men have pick up
topic to jawbone.

exit, They pay no attention to Stands With A Fist's momentary
notices. But Black Shawl does, it doesn't bother her, but she

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - NIGHT

under The medicine man's wife is already in bed as he slips
the covers with a grunt.

BLACK SHAWL

How long will Stands With A Fist
mourn?

Kicking Bird gives his wife an odd look.

KICKING BIRD

I don't know.

BLACK SHAWL

I hope it will not be too long.

Kicking Bird rises on his elbows.

KICKING BIRD

Something has happened? Well what?

BLACK SHAWL

She has found love again.

KICKING BIRD

With who?

BLACK SHAWL

Dances With Wolves.

KICKING BIRD

Are you certain of this?

BLACK SHAWL

When you see them together you will
know.

Kicking Bird stares wearily across the floor.

KICKING BIRD

What are people saying? They're not
angry?

BLACK SHAWL

No. They like the match. It makes
sense. They are both white.

KICKING BIRD

I suppose I will be the one to say
something.

A brief silence.

BLACK SHAWL

She's your daughter now.

Kicking Bird glances up frustrated with himself.

BLACK SHAWL

You can't see everything coming.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

Kicking
of

Stands With A Fist is walking through the village with Bird's youngest child. They're both carrying armloads of firewood.

Here comes Kicking Bird. He's out of breath.

KICKING BIRD

Stands With A Fist.

STANDS WITH A FIST

Yes.

KICKING BIRD

You are no longer a widow.

Stands
announcement.

Kicking Bird turns abruptly and stalks off, leaving With A Fist to ponder the meaning of his curt announcement. A smile gradually works onto her face.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

from

Dances With Wolves sits waiting as a voice comes to him from the outside.

steps

Wind In His Hair's face pokes through the entrance. He steps inside, followed by Smiles A Lot.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

There's talk that you want to get married.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

To who?

Wind In His Hair and Smiles A Lot share a smile.

SMILES A LOT

To Stands With A Fist.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

That's the one isn't it?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

She's in mourning.

SMILES A LOT

Not today.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

She has been released. Kicking Bird did it.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

He did?

around
Wind In His Hair isn't really listening. He glances
the lodge curiously.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

What are you doing?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Kicking Bird told me to wait.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You might be waiting a long time.
Smiles A Lot says he saw Kicking
Bird riding on the prairie...

Smiles A Lot whispers in the warrior's ear.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

He says he was talking to himself.
When a medicine man is the last to
know he can take it pretty hard.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

What do I do?

Wind In His Hair looks around at the sparse furnishing.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You are pretty poor my friend and a
Sioux girl is not for free. I don't
know if you can get married.

lodge.
A long silence. Dances With Wolves looks around his

Wind In His Hair is right. He really has nothing.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I have the buckskin...

WIND IN HIS HAIR

That's too much medicine.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(to Smiles A Lot)

Do you think the buckskin is too much medicine?

His Smiles A Lot is on the hot seat. He looks to Wind In Hair, but no luck -- he's on his own.

SMILES A LOT

For a girl.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Maybe we can help you... wait here for us.

Wind In His Hair and Smiles A Lot leave.

EXT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

exchange Wind In His Hair and Smiles A Lot are greeted by seven chuckling warriors. They've been listening to the and move off with the two "helpers".

EXT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

which Dances With Wolves is inspecting several new ponies are tied outside his tipi. Now he notices an old couple approaching.

have The old couple leaves a gift along with others that already been brought. The old folks are shy and so is Dances With Wolves. They glance at one another and smile but do not speak.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (V.O.)

I thought we had been discreet but apparently we fooled no one.

EXT. VILLAGE - DUSK

of
home.
Dances With Wolves ties the last of the ponies in front
Kicking Bird's lodge and starts back toward his own

DANCES WITH WOLVES (V.O.)

Wind In His Hair said if the match
was accepted the ponies would be
gone in the morning.

standing
Dances With Wolves looks over his shoulder at the
ponies then he continues on.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - NIGHT

slips out
flap,
Dances With Wolves tosses and turns in his bed. He
of the covers and ducks his head through the lodge
checking again on the ponies.

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

The ponies are gone.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

gleams,
have
Dances With Wolves' hair is shiny. His breastplate
the officer's pants have been dusted and his old boots
something resembling a shine. The groom is ready.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Turn around...

Dances With Wolves does a three-sixty.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

Pretty good...

something
A brief silence as Wind In His Hair contemplates
he wants to say.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You know, the man she mourned for
was my best friend.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I didn't know that.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

He was a good man. It's been hard
for me. I am not the thinker Kicking
Bird is. But I think he went away
from her because you were coming.
That is how I see it now.

men. The sound of music and people outside distracts both

EXT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

A Kicking Bird is leading the wedding party. Stands With
a Fist by his side. She glows with the special beauty of
a bride.

simple Many people are standing about quietly, more like
peaceful observers than participants. The whole village is as
as we will ever see it.

Fist Kicking Bird steps forward, his wife and Stands With A
following in his footsteps.

KICKING BIRD

This is a good day for me.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

And for me.

KICKING BIRD

Stands With A Fist... if you want
this man, take his hand in yours.

with Shyly, she holds out a slender, graceful hand. Dances
Wolves meets it with one of his own.

for The medicine man looks Dances With Wolves in the eyes
several seconds.

At Dances With Wolves also begins to speak... internally.
man first the volume of his voice and that of the medicine

begins to are nearly equal, but Kicking Bird's voice quickly
fade.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (V.O.)

I had never been married before. I don't know if all grooms have the same experience. But as Kicking Bird began to speak about what was expected of a Sioux husband, my mind began to swim in a way that shut out everything but her. The tiny details of her costume. The contours of her shape. The light in her eyes. The smallness of her feet. I knew that the love between us would be served.

it The medicine man's voice cuts back in. He's had to say
twice.

KICKING BIRD

Have you heard all that I have said?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Yes.

KICKING BIRD

Good, then take her inside... she is your wife.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Oh... good... thank you... goodbye...

is The newlyweds disappear into their new home. The flap
against dropped and there it stays. The light begins to change,
growing darker, the wind comes up, blowing leaves
the door. In the distance there is thunder.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

in The lodge flap is still closed. But now it is covered
sunshine.

bundled Smiles A Lot, Worm and Otter are just across the way,
watching now against the chill of oncoming winter. They're

on
meat

too. Smiles A Lot is standing next to Worm, -- Otter is his haunches. Both are gnawing at a breakfast of dried as they talk nonchalantly.

WORM

Dances With Wolves' door is closed
alot these days.

SMILES A LOT

They're trying to make a baby.

The two older boys look down at Otter.

OTTER

I know that.

SMILES A LOT

You would think they could have made
a baby by now.

WORM

Maybe they're having a hard time.
Some people have a hard time.

SMILES A LOT

I don't think they're having a hard
time.

OTTER

Me neither.

lodge.

A silence as the boys watch smoke curl out of the
Worm laughs to himself.

OTTER

Maybe we should pull the smoke flap
closed. Then they would come out.

eyes

The boys look at each other for the first time, their
brightening. What a great idea!

lodge
another

The two boys are stalking toward Dances With Wolves'
when they see something that makes them peel off in
direction.

It's Kicking Bird, coming to call.

KICKING BIRD

Dances With Wolves, are you in there?

steps
In a moment the lodge flap opens and Dances With Wolves
outside. He's fully dressed but a little disheveled.

KICKING BIRD

I am riding today to a far away place.
It is a place I haven't seen for a
long time. A sacred place. I would
like you to come with me.

Dances With Wolves ponders this.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

by
Kicking Bird and Dances With Wolves are cantering side
side across the open prairie.

glances
They pull their horses to a walk and Kicking Bird
Dances With Wolves' direction.

Dances With Wolves' glances back and smiles.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

It's good to be out.

KICKING BIRD

Yes it must be.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

We are trying for a baby.

KICKING BIRD

No waiting?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

No waiting.

The medicine man keeps looking at his protege. There is
virtually no semblance of Lieutenant Dunbar left.

KICKING BIRD

I was just thinking that of all the
trails in this life, there is one
that matters more than all the others.
It is the trail of a true human being.
I think you are on this trail and it

is good to see.

Dances With Wolves doesn't reply, but he is blushing a little.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

Dances With Wolves and Kicking Bird gallop their horses to the crest of a steep hill and rein to a halt.

Down below, miles distant, is the curving line of a river.

But there is a section of river, directly before them, that cannot be seen. It is screened by a mammoth stand of trees, some of them towering a hundred feet or more.

He glances at Dances With Wolves but his companion doesn't see. He's staring in wonder at the great forest before him.

KICKING BIRD

It is said that all the animals were born here... that from here they spread over the prairies to feed all the people. Even our enemies say this is a sacred place.

They start toward the river at a walk.

EXT. BROKEN FOREST - DAY

The two riders come out of the sunlight and onto a shaded path leading into the forest. They've only gone a few yards when Kicking Bird pulls to a stop. The men sit on their horses in complete silence. Dances With Wolves is still fully entranced.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

It's quiet.

But Kicking Bird does not acknowledge his companion's words. He seems to be concentrating on the quiet. The quiet is wrong and Kicking Bird knows it. He moves forward slowly.

attention
buzzing
moment.
overhead.

Bird
down

Wolves
horribly

rot

Wolves
from

swarming
Badgers,
of

flank
percent

Wolves
placed

Following behind Kicking Bird, Dances With Wolves' is focused on the tree tops above him. A curious sound has started up and is growing louder by the moment. Perhaps there are bees swarming in the branches overhead.

Now he is distracted by Cisco coming to a stop. Kicking Bird too has stopped. Just ahead the forest opens into an incredible cathedral-like expanse. Sunlight streams down onto the floor in beautiful pools.

But still there is a deathly quiet and Dances With Wolves can see now that this remarkable place has been desecrated.

Trees have been felled everywhere, most of them left to rot for no explicable reason.

At the same time he sees this destruction Dances With Wolves realizes that the strange buzzing sound is not coming overhead but from the forest floor.

The insects are not bees. They are flies and they are swarming over dozens of carcasses strewn over the ground. Badgers, skunks, squirrels and other small animals, nearly all of them killed merely for target practice.

The men and their ponies move on. Deer carcasses are everywhere, many of them horribly mutilated. A choice flank portion is cut away here and there, while ninety-five percent of the bodies have been left to rot.

Heads and legs have been chopped off. Dances With Wolves passes by a spot where several deer heads have been placed

conversation.

nose to nose as if the heads were having a
Someone's perverted idea of humor.

they
The
felled
hovels.

The men ride through the carnage in a sad daze.
Now they reach the center of the cathedral and here
find a few crude leantos, hewn from freshly cut wood.
people who stayed here had bigger plans for all the
wood, but lost ambition and settled for these ugly

all,
shot

A great pile of wild turkeys, perhaps twenty birds in
sit to one side. They haven't even been plucked. Just
and left to rot.

in a

Dances With Wolves notices half a dozen liquor bottles
heap of trash.

man
Wolves'

He cannot bring himself to look at Kicking Bird. Any
would be repulsed at these sights, but in Dances With
case there is a feeling of shame as well.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

We must wait for these people...

Kicking Bird says nothing for a long time.

KICKING BIRD

No, they've been gone a week maybe
more... we will water the horses and
go home.

He turns his pony away.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

great sea

Kicking Bird and Dances With Wolves are alone on a
of prairie.

roasted,

There's a little fire going. A sage hen is being

of
thoughts,
but for some time we hear nothing but the light crackle
the fire. Each man is preoccupied with his own
thoughts of the broken forest.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

You have asked me many times about
the white people... you always ask
how many more are coming.

Dances With Wolves looks at his friend and mentor.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

There will be a lot my friend...
more than can be counted.

KICKING BIRD

Help me to know how many.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Like the stars.

him
This is what Kicking Bird wanted to know. And it hits
like a rock.

Wolves
wasn't
Kicking Bird bows his head in thought while Dances With
raises his. He never wanted to say this, he wishes it
true.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

It makes me afraid for all the Sioux.

INT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAY

it
The old man puffs away at his trusty pipe. Now he lays
down. Kicking Bird and Dances With Wolves are waiting
patiently.

TEN BEARS

It's hard to know what to do.

into
rawhide
slowly.
The old man gets up, walks to his bedside, reaches up
the sacred rigging above and takes down a melon-sized
bundle. He brings this back to the fire and unwraps it

Spanish

Inside is a rusted hunk of metal, the helmet of a conquistador.

TEN BEARS

The men who wore this came in the time of my grandfather's grandfather. Eventually, we drove them out. Then the Mexicans came. In my own time the whites came... the Texans. They have been like all the others who find something they want in our country. They take it without asking. I have always been a peaceful man, happy to be in my own country and wanting nothing from the white people. Nothing at all. But I think you are right. I think they will keep coming. When I think of that, I look at this bundle. Our country is all that we want. We will fight to keep it.

He picks up his pipe and puffs deeply.

TEN BEARS

Tomorrow morning we will strike the village and go to the winter camp.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

The whole camp is being struck. There is activity everywhere.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

Stands With A Fist is packing and so is Dances With Wolves. He is putting away the shield that Stone Calf once worked on. She pauses to stroke her husband's leg tenderly.

STANDS WITH A FIST

You have everything from the soldier fort?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

No, there is nothing for me there.

Stands with A Fist laughs as she starts out of the lodge.

STANDS WITH A FIST

That's good.

case,
But as he tightens the leather thongs on the shield
Dances With Wolves' face begins to cloud.

EXT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

up
Dances With Wolves bolts out of the lodge and snatches
Cisco's reins. He calls urgently to Stands with A Fist.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Stands With A Fist... wait...

EXT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAY

minute
The village is about ready to move, just a few last
flurries of activity.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

The words in the book are like a
trail for people to follow. It tells
everything about my life here. I
must get it.

KICKING BIRD

We cannot wait for you.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I will catch up.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

the
Dances With Wolves and Cisco are cantering quickly over
open prairie.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

With
Old Fort Sedgewick is just beyond the next rise. Dances
Wolves eases Cisco into a full run.

Wolves
They fly so quickly over the rise that Dances With
has no time to react.

with
There must be forty or fifty of them; talking, walking,
working and playing. Old Fort Sedgewick is crawling

them. Blue-coated soldiers.

cargo
men
screaming

Just in front of him is a deep-bedded wagon carrying a
of SOLDIERS. They've been out cutting wood. But now the
in the wagon are scrambling for their rifles and
out the alarm... "Indians!"

Cisco

Dances With Wolves puts everything he has into pulling
up.

teen-
Cisco
wagon.

The soldiers in the wagon, a collection of pimply-faced
agers and middle-aged rabble, are aiming their rifles.
rears high in the air as the volley is fired from the

hard
thing

Dances With Wolves is pitched off to one side, landing
on the ground. When he gets his senses back the first
he sees is Cisco. The buckskin is lying very still.

him,
in

Oblivious to the shouts of the soldiers racing toward
Dances With Wolves runs crab-like to his horse's side.
Cisco's been shot several times, one bullet taking him
the heart. He's dead.

Dances With Wolves whirls to face the soldiers.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

You killed him...

the
everything

That's the last thing he says. A rifle stock slams into
side of his face and as soldiers swarm over him,
goes black.

EXT. COLUMN - DAY

riding
terribly

Ten Bears village is on the trail. Kicking Bird is
down the line. He notices Stands With A Fist. She is

distraught.

half-
In His

Kicking Bird glances at the sun. The day is more than
over. He kicks his pony back up the line next to Wind
Hair.

KICKING BIRD

Something has happened... Dances
With Wolves is not coming.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

He must have trouble.

KICKING BIRD

Pick two good men with fast ponies
and send them back to the soldier
fort.

INT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

ruined
swollen
split

Dances With Wolves lies unconscious on the floor of the
supply house. One side of his face is grotesquely
from the blow he took. Blood still seeps from a long
of the skin along his cheek.

of

He groans. Voice are playing about his ears, the voices
white men. He opens his eyes.

directly in
crumbled

A bearish, bearded SERGEANT BAUER, is squatting
front of him. Behind the sergeant, peering over the
walls like visitors at a zoo, are a crowd of ordinary
soldiers.

BAUER

Spivey...

only,

A pitiful looking man, SPIVEY, who is a soldier by name
answers up.

SPIVEY

Yessir sergeant...

SERGEANT BAUER

Tell the major he's wakin' up... and
move your worthless ass.

Wolves.
The sergeant's smallish eyes are fixed on Dances With
sitting
With some effort he manages to get himself into a
position against the back wall.

SERGEANT BAUER

Got yourself a helluva shiner, didn't
ya?

crushed
Dances With Wolves only blinks at him. His cheek is
and so is his spirit.

Someone calls attention and two officers walk into the
roofless supply house. One is a MAJOR, one is a young
lieutenant -- Lieutenant Elgin -- the officer Dances
With
the
Wolves bumped into at Fort Hays. Neither one recognizes
other.

MAJOR

Does he speak english?

SERGEANT BAUER

Don't know sir... you speak english?

Talk english?

(kicking at one of
Dances With Wolves'
boots)

Talk?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I speak english...

Everyone is shocked at the clarity of the words.

MAJOR

Who are you?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Lieutenant John. J. Dunbar. This is
my post.

MAJOR

Why are you dressed like this?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I came out from Fort Hays last April.
But there was no one here.

The major and the lieutenant exchange whispers.

ELGIN

You have proof of that?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

My journal is on the bunk in my
quarters. My orders are in the
journal. It will tell you everything.

ELGIN

Spivey, you and Edwards were here
first. Did you find anything... a
journal.

Spivey shifts uncomfortably.

SPIVEY

We didn't see nothin' sir.

ELGIN

Where's Edwards?

SPIVEY

He's outside. But he didn't see
nothin' either.

bottom
Elgin indicates to the major that he will get to the
of this and walks out the door -- the major follows.

themselves,
off
prisoner
in
Dances With Wolves lets his head slump forward. The men
gathered around the supply house murmur among
commenting on the prisoner. They can't take their eyes
him. Neither can Sergeant Bauer. He watches the
from a distance. Then he walks across the floor, squats
front of him and whispers coarsely in his face.

SERGEANT BAUER

You turned Injun, din'cha?

sergeant.
Dances With Wolves lifts his head and stares at the

SERGEANT BAUER

Din'cha?

The major and the lieutenant suddenly reappear.

ELGIN

What is your name?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Dunbar... D.U.N.B.A.R... John.

ELGIN

You say you are an officer?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Did you read my orders?

ELGIN

No.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

It was in my journal.

ELGIN

There are no orders and there is no journal.

There is a silence as Dances With Wolves takes this in.

Elgin tries again.

ELGIN

Why are you out of uniform?

Dances With Wolves takes a long time to answer.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I have to relieve myself.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

walked
Surrounded by guards, Dances With Wolves is being
toward a clump of bushes.

it
He glances out at the prairie. Cisco's body lies where
fell. Black birds are pecking it.

GUARD

Here you... eyes front.

and
he

A rifle butt bangs him hard between the shoulder blades
Dances With Wolves attacks. Before anyone else can move
has taken the offending soldier to the ground and is
strangling him.

Another rifle butt crashes against his skull and again
everything goes black.

INT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

to
that
assembled.

Water drips from Dances With Wolves' head and he comes
again. As he moves he hears a jangling and discovers
his hands and feet are in chains. Everyone has

ELGIN

Why are you out of uniform?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

What is the army doing out here?

Sergeant Bauer shoves Dances With Wolves with his gun.

BAUER

Lieutenant's askin' the questions
here.

Elgin quickly steps in.

ELGIN

We are charged with apprehending
hostiles, recovering stolen property
and retrieving white captives taken
in hostile raidings.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

There are no hostiles.

MAJOR

We will ascertain that for ourselves.
Now if you guide us to these camps
and serve as an interpreter, your
conduct will be reevaluated.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

What conduct?

MAJOR

Your status as a traitor might improve should you choose to cooperate with the United States Army.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(quietly)

There is nothing for you to do out here.

Elgin can see that the major's attitude and inexperience has killed any chance of communication. He makes one last try on his own.

ELGIN

Are you willing to cooperate or not?

MAJOR

Well, speak up...

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(lowly in Sioux)

I am Dances With Wolves...

MAJOR

What's that?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(loudly in Sioux)

I am Dances With Wolves... I have nothing to say to you. You are not worth talking to.

The major is surprised. Elgin is not. The major turns on his heel and walks out. Lieutenant Elgin stares at Dances With Wolves.

ELGIN

Sergeant... have a detail take him down to the river... let him clean up his face.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Dances With Wolves kneels by the river, splashing water lightly on his battered face. Half a dozen soldiers are lounging around watching him.

EXT. BUSHES - DAY

soldier,
Dances
his
journal.
not

Trooper Spivey is crapping in the bushes. Another
CRAPPER, is crapping not far away. Spivey can see
With Wolves in the distance, still splashing water on
face.

Now he slips something out of his tunic. It's the
He opens it and starts to tear out a page, trying hard
to make noise.

CRAPPER (O.S.)

You got paper over there Spivey?

SPIVEY

What's it to you?

CRAPPER

Well gimme some shitbird.

Spivey thinks.

SPIVEY

Can you read?

CRAPPER

Naw, I can't read. What the hell do
you care... you can't either.

Spivey looks down at the stolen journal, thinking.

SPIVEY

Alright... hold your horses.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

the
back
awkwardly

Two Sioux scouts watch from the brow of a slope above
fort. Having spotted Dances With Wolves, they withdraw.
We see Dances With Wolves at a distance, being marched
to his "cell" by the detail of soldiers. He's moving
in his chains.

INT. SUPPLY HOUSE - DAY

Spivey
Sergeant
He
something

Dances With Wolves is half-dozing against the wall when
walks in with a plate of army gruel. He's followed by
Bauer. Spivey sets the plate in front of the prisoner.
admires the breastplate and like a crow eyeing
shiny, he thinks to grab for it.

Dances
Terrified,

Suddenly a pair of manacled hands lock on his wrists.
With Wolves face is inches away from Spiveys.
Spivey pulls away, kicking over the plate of food as he
scrambles to safety across the room.

SERGEANT BAUER

Lap it up Injun.

plate
splashes

Dances With Wolves sticks a toe under the lip of the
and flips it over. Most of it hits Spivey, a little
on Bauer. Spivey moves to kick the prisoner, but Bauer
intercedes with his rifle.

SERGEANT BAUER

Go on ahead Injun... You'll just get
hungrier is all... but mebbe that
don't matter. Word is they're gonna
ship you back to Hays. And they'll
hang you once you get there.

out

Bauer and Spivey leave him and Dances With Wolves kicks
viciously at the spilled plate.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - DAY

halted
jumping
mounts.

There's a tremendous upheaval. Ten Bears' band has
its march. SIX PAINTED WARRIORS all heavily armed are
onto their ponies and being handed the lines to spare
Wind In His Hair is their leader.

The whole village is up to see them off.

rides

Smiles A Lot, painted and carrying a bow and quiver

the into the midst of the group. Wind In His Hair studies
resolute boy.

WIND IN HIS HAIR

You will hold our horses... nothing
more.

Smiles A Lot nods.

party With a great whooping from the villagers, the rescue
roars out of camp.

EXT. SEDGEWICK - DAY

SOLDIERS. The wagon is pulling out with an escort of SEVEN

the Dances With Wolves' spirits are very low as he sits in
Elgin is bed of the jolting wagon. Spivey is guarding him.
leading the detail.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY.

any Dances with Wolves watches a ridge in the distance for
sign of riders.

SPIVEY

I don't see nobody.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

out on Elgin and one of the escort soldiers are scouting far
the prairie. The lieutenant pauses and looks back at
coming. wagon. It is far behind in the distance, but still

EXT. WAGON - DAY

the Dances With Wolves is dozing as the wagon jolts across
opens ground. Suddenly a shot rings out. Dances With Wolves
his eyes.

on the The wagon driver is aiming his rifle out at something prairie. He fires again.

Two Dances With Wolves looks over the wagon bed and sees
in his Socks. He's standing still, fifty yards away. Staring
old inquisitive way at the wagon.

SPIVEY

Lookit the stupid bastard... he ain't even runnin'.

Two shots ring out in rapid succession.

BAUER

Don't shoot, I seen 'em first... it's my shot.

missed. Sergeant Bauer fires his own round. Everyone has
Bauer is jamming another cartridge into the chamber.

DRIVER

It's my shot goddamit.

with his Now Spivey decides to get into the act. He rises up
rifle aiming.

SPIVEY

You dumb sons a bitches.

the Before he can fire, there's a rattling of chains. And
under next moment, Spivey's feet are being pulled out from
into him by Dances With Wolves. His rifle fires harmlessly
space.

the Bauer turns from the wagon seat and slams the back of
falls prisoner's head with the gunstock. Dances With Wolves
back, letting go of the shaken Spivey.
Bauer smiles at Spivey contemptuously.

BAUER

He mighta killed you.

rifle
In the next instant, Spivey gives Dances With Wolves a resounding crack in the sternum with the butt of his and he goes down on his back.

out
More shots are fired. Dazedly, Dances With Wolves looks and sees Two Socks still running parallel to the wagon. There's another shot and then shouting.

SOLDIER 1

I got him...

SOLDIER 2

The hell you did...

SOLDIER 1

I got him... dead shot boys.

Spivey is still poking Dances With Wolves.

SPIVEY

You want more?... get up... get up.

ELGIN

Spivey!

Elgin has ridden alongside the wagon.

ELGIN

I see you bash the prisoner once more and I'll put those shackles on you...

ring
Elgin's men are headed up towards Two Socks when shots out.

ELGIN

You men! Get back to your places.

but
of six
try
The camera continues over the hill to Two Socks' body, it is no where in sight. Instead the Indian war party is waiting silently in ambush. Frustrated, they will again.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

river.
river

The wagon is making its way steadily down, toward the
Dances With Wolves watches the line of growth along the
get closer, his eyes and ears and nose full alert.

With

If they come this will be the place to do it. Dances
Wolves will make the most of this hope.

than a
wagon

The wagon moves down a narrow pathway, not much more
game trail. The lieutenant raises his hand and the
halts at the river's edge.

other
ambush.

A soldier rides back and forth in the water on the
side of the river. He's checking for any signs of
The soldier starts back to them.

SOLDIER

All clear lieutenant...

"all
all

Elgin starts into the water, followed by the wagon. The
clear" sign means nothing to Dances With Wolves. He's
keyed up.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

few
taken.
in his

Elgin and a soldier are leading the way. They're only a
yards from the opposite bank when the lieutenant is
Elgin is completely surprised to find an arrow buried
chest.

hits
full
and

The outrider is about to pull up his gun when an arrow
him square in the gut. He brings his head up to see the
force of Wind In His Hair, stringing up another arrow
taking aim.

Wind In

Just as the outrider is struggling to raise his gun,

heart.

His Hair fires off another arrow deep into the man's
The impact sends him flying out of the saddle, dead.
Wind In His Hair comes on, leading five Sioux warriors.

EXT. WAGON - DAY

Spivey's
rifle

Dances With Wolves has looped the shackles around
neck in a death grip when he sees Bauer leveling his
at the approaching riders.

sending the
Bauer
sends
the
pony

Dances With Wolves aims a vicious kick at Bauer,
rifle flying, and Bauer over the edge of the wagon.
flounders in the water, fumbling for his pistol. He
off a round taking one of the on rushing warriors in
shoulder. The Sioux loses his seat and tumbles off the
into the water, wounded.

EXT. WAGON - DAY

as

Dances With Wolves snaps the loop around Spivey's neck
hard as he can and bone breaks.

on

Dances With Wolves is beating Spivey furiously with his
chains. He keeps whacking until the blood is spreading
the surface of the water.

he is

The frantic driver is about to make a run for it when
impaled with a Sioux lance.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

tail

The two soldiers in the back of the wagon have turned
and are splashing back across the river.

them

As they scramble up the bank, two Sioux warriors meet
and cut them down with hatchets.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Bauer
river
In the midst of the smoke and confusion of the battle,
has made his way to the cover of the weeds along the
bank.

and
Lot.
Crashing through the thicket, he comes to a clearing
there in the shallows, comes face to face with Smiles A
The boy is standing in the shallows holding the extra
horses.

white
into
hammer
The boy is so frightened at the sudden sight of this
soldier that he doesn't move. Bauer sticks his revolver
Smiles A Lot's face and pulls the trigger. But the
only clicks. The gun is empty.

and
all
Bauer pistol-whips the boy, knocking him to the ground
grabs for the closest of the horses. But the ponies are
stirred up now and starting to run down the river.

horse
on.
Hair
Bauer succeeds in grabbing a hunk of mane, but the
he's gotten hold of is moving too fast for him to get
But now Bauer hears a bone-chilling whoop. Wind In His
is coming.

skullcracker
around.
His pony plows through the water at full speed. A
dangles from one hand. The warrior begins to whirl it

step, a
the
Terrified, Bauer turns to run. Before he can take a
hatchet buries itself to the hilt. Smiles A Lot is at
other end. But Bauer is not through.

his
Hair
His hands are around the boy's neck, choking him with
last seconds of life. A larger than life Wind In His
draws even and swings his club. Bauer's head explodes,

cannot

covering Smiles A Lot in blood -- the sergeant's hands
be seen.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Hair are
rifles
and

Still in chains, Dances With Wolves and Wind In His
dragging Elgin's body onto shore. Dances With Wolves
through the dead man's pockets. He finds a set of keys
plops down to unlock his shackles.

Lot

The wounded Indian warrior is being tended to. Smiles A
is downstream washing Bauer's blood off.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

dead
out.

A warrior is stripping down Spivey. He holds up the
man's tunic, but doesn't notice that something plops

out
forever.

It's the journal. It floats off into the current, well
of Dances With Wolves field of vision. It is lost

EXT. RIVER - DAY

a

The journal continues its downstream journey. Suddenly
small hand reaches down and scoops it out of the water.

the

Smiles A Lot holds the book close to his face amazed at
sight of words.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Dances

The party is mounting. Smiles A Lot rides up next to
With Wolves.

SMILES A LOT

Dances With Wolves... look.

regarding

He offers the book. Dances With Wolves takes it,
the journal.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DUSK

The rescue party is cantering across the prairie.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

(to Wind In His Hair)

We go South?

WIND IN HIS HAIR

We will ride South for two days...
then turn East. No one must follow.

sets
This doesn't seem to bother Wind In His Hair. But it
Dances With Wolves to thinking.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

ridge.
The sound of a single drum calls attention to eight
silhouettes on horseback making their way down the
the
The entire village begins to rumble with excitement as
news spreads.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

Dances
racing
The rescue party is walking down the trail single file.
With Wolves is a few slots back. All the village is
up the canyon to greet them.

With
lifts
Stands With A Fist leads them all. She runs to Dances
Wolves. She jumps all over her husband and finally he
her up on his pony.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DAY

bed.
The couple we have come to know are sitting on their

hair.
is
people can
Dances With Wolves is combing Stands With A Fist's
It's something he is doing with care and affection. She
loving it as much as he. They are together as two
be and yet it is a hard time.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

You have nothing to say?

STANDS WITH A FIST

What can I tell you?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

What ever is on your mind.

STANDS WITH A FIST

We have decided. You are my husband.
I am your wife. That is all I know.

sighs.
and
Dances With Wolves lays his forehead on her back. He
Then he pulls away, slips a robe around his shoulders
walks out of the lodge.
Sadly, she watches him go.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

to
surrounded
men
We follow a pair of boots walking in the snow. Pan up
find an ORDERLY bringing coffee to a MAJOR. He is
by other officers and in front of him a large column of
is moving toward the snow covered mountains.

The Major tosses the remaining coffee in a fire and he
prepares to mount.

We pan up with the smoke and the steam.

EXT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAY

It's cold in the Sioux camp. A warm column of smoke is
spiraling out of Ten Bears' lodge.

INT. TEN BEARS' LODGE - DAY

including
howling
goes
Several men are gathered around Ten Bears' fire,
Kicking Bird, Wind In His Hair and Dances With Wolves.
All the men are draped with blankets. The wind is
outside. The men are engaged in small talk as the pipe

around the circle.

man
Wolves

The pipe comes around to Dances With Wolves, and the next to him must nudge him to attention. Dances With takes the pipe and begins to smoke.
Ten Bears watches him closely.

TEN BEARS

(to Dances With Wolves)

Dances With Wolves is quiet these days.

the

He does not reply. He smokes a little more and passes pipe.

TEN BEARS

Is his heart bad?

Dances With Wolves glances at the men around the fire.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Killing the soldiers at the river was a good thing. It made me free and my heart was big to see my friends coming to help me. I did not mind killing those men. I was glad to do it.

He searches for the right words.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

But the soldiers hate me now like they hate no other. I am more than an enemy to them, I am a traitor. They will hunt for me. They will not give up. And when they find me they find you and that cannot happen.

Hair

Objections break out all around the fire. Wind In His jumps to his feet and even Kicking Bird is protesting.

TEN BEARS

Quiet!... sit down Wind In His Hair. You are hurting an old man's ears with your loud talk.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

are
The column of soldiers can be heard but not seen. They
moving forward, singing the Battle Hymn of The
Republic.

INT. DANCES WITH WOLVES' LODGE - DUSK

cozy
Stands With A Fist is building up the fire in their
home. Dances With Wolves works on a long-stemmed pipe
which
is in the last stages of completion.

TEN BEARS (O.S.)

Dances With Wolves?

the
Dances With Wolves gets up, opens the flap and admits
old chief. A few snowflakes cling to his wispy hair.
He goes straight to the fire and sits.

TEN BEARS

Ahh... this is a nice fire... at my
age a good fire is better than
anything.

places
Stands With A Fist brings two small bowls of food,
else.
them next to the men and busies herself with something
eat.
Though neither one is much interested they begin to

TEN BEARS

I wondered how your bad heart was
doing and though I would come by and
see for myself. This place doesn't
look so bad-hearted.

Dances With Wolves smiles.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

No, we are happy.

TEN BEARS

But you are leaving anyway?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I have talked with Stands With a
Fist and we will go together.

TEN BEARS

Have you told this to Kicking Bird
or to Wind In His Hair.

again in
It's anguish for Dances with Wolves to think about his
friends. He shakes his head "no". Ten Bears thinks
silence.

TEN BEARS

You are the only white man I have
ever known. I have thought about you
alot. More than you know.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

That does not surprise me.

TEN BEARS

You have always spoken with your
heart. And like all of us, you are a
free man and can do anything you
like. When I look across this fire,
I do not see a white soldier. I see
only a Sioux named Dances With Wolves.
And there is nothing they hate so
much as a Sioux.

makes
Ten Bears words always have purpose and as always, he
his point.

nearly
He pauses for a moment and notices Dances with Wolves'
finished pipe.

TEN BEARS

You are making a pipe?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Yes?

the
Ten Bears holds out a hand and Dances with Wolves hands
pipe to him. Ten Bears inspects it briefly.

TEN BEARS

This might be a pretty good pipe...
how does it smoke?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I don't know, I haven't tried it

yet.

TEN BEARS

Let's smoke it awhile... it is good
to pass the time this way.

EXT. WINTER CAMP - DAWN

Dances
a
think.
stops
He
it. The
sight.

From a little distance, Wind In His Hair is watching
With Wolves' lodge. His face is full of uncertainty and
kind of pain we have never seen before. He is in agony.
He starts forward but after a few yards he stops to
He turns back but has only gone a few steps when he
and turns to face Dances With Wolves' lodge once more.
starts for the tipi again, but he can't go thru with
proud warrior turns away and walks quickly out of

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

horses
twelve
horses,
we
and
removing
etc.,

The column is moving at a leisurely walk when the
start to bunch up. They're stopping.
Everyone waits while far up ahead, a group of ten or
men examine the ground. White officers sits atop their
while their scouts scour the ground. They've found a
significant trail.
The scouts are Indian, and by their distinctive dress,
recognize them. They are Pawnee.
The Pawnee scouts come racing up. Their horses are wet
have come a good distance. The scouts are very excited.
The men have dismounted. They prepare for battle,
any equipment that might rattle -- tin cups, plates,
tossing the discards into a growing pile.

INT. KICKING BIRD'S LODGE - DAWN

pipe
medicine

Black Shawl watches as Kicking Bird slips a magnificent
into its buckskin case. Now he looks at her. The
man too is in a kind of pain we have not seen before.

EXT. WINTER CAMP - DAWN

through
standing in

Carrying the pipe he made, Dances With Wolves walks
the village. Suddenly he stops. Kicking Bird is
the middle of the empty avenue.

slow

Like gunfighters, the two men approach each other at a
and deliberate walk.

parting
with a

Gradually they realize that each has selected the same
gift. It's heartbreaking. Kicking Bird tries to cover
casual question, but it's all fake.

KICKING BIRD

You've finished your pipe? How does
it smoke?

DANCES WITH WOLVES

I'm told it smokes well.

Bird
be

Dances With Wolves moves to make the exchange. Kicking
does the same. From one hand to the other. Men couldn't
closer.

KICKING BIRD

It doesn't seem possible that we
could come this far.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

You were the first man I ever wanted
to be like. I will not forget you.

Neither can speak. There is only goodbye.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

trotting

The column of soldiers is not in a rush, but they're now to make better time.

EXT. WINTER CAMP - DAY

Two

Stands With A Fist sits on a pony outside the lodge. pack horses are loaded with their things.

follow

Dances With Wolves swings onto his pony's back and we as they start out of the village. No one is standing in to watch them leave. No one is crying. In fact, people are making the motions of going about their regular work.

rose

are

most

quiet,

But it's all fake too. The whole village is sad and the obvious sign is that there is no sound. In the awful most people avert their eyes as the two pass by.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

the

have

brings

through

Dances With Wolves and Stands With A Fist have reached head of the trail leading out of the winter camp. They just begun to ascend when a voice, calling from afar, them to a halt. The sound echoes through the canyons, the village.

WIND IN HIS HAIR (O.S.)

(calling)

Dances With Wolves...

EXT. CANYON - DAY

looks

as

person.

His pony is jacked up and, as always, Wind In His Hair the perfect warrior. But now his face is full of stress he screams out the message he could not deliver in

WIND IN HIS HAIR

I am Wind In His Hair...

EXT. WINTER CAMP - DAY

Everyone in the camp has stopped to listen.

WIND IN HIS HAIR (O.S.)

Can you not see that I am your friend?

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

Dances With Wolves looks ready to crack.

WIND IN HIS HAIR (O.S.)

Can you not see that you will always
be my friend?

fade
few
more

Dances With Wolves lets the unhappy echo of these words
away before he starts his pony again. We follow for a
yards. Then the call comes a second time. If anything,
urgent than before.

WIND IN HIS HAIR (O.S.)

Dances With Wolves...

as the

Dances With Wolves stops. He drops his head painfully
sound of his own name booms through his head.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DUSK

drawn.

Troops are moving through the trees quietly, sabers

EXT. CANYON RIM - DUSK

are
looking

The rest of the troops have moved to the edge. They too
quiet. Down below, the Pawnee scouts are milling about
for sign.

arriving on
canyon
to
gone.

The soldiers from the canyon floor are silently
the scene. The Pawnee look to the lead scout on the
rim. They have no answer, and the lead scout has none
give the general at his side. Ten Bears' village is

EXT. CANYON RIM - DUSK

drawing
In
for
above
brilliant, a

Wind In His Hair and several other warriors are just back from unseen vantage points on the canyon rim. Wind His Hair glances back and hesitates, as though waiting for someone. A great, yellow full moon has just appeared the opposite rim of the canyon. The yellow is a great spotlight of golden color.

walking
his
spine-

A wolf steps into the light on the opposite rim. He's in the backdrop of the moon. The wolf suddenly arches back, sticks his muzzle in the air and produces a tingling howl. The sound bounces all over the canyon. Dances With Wolves is at the canyon's rim. He listens a long time, fully entranced by the wolf's howl. He is still listening when it is gone. A whisper floats out of the night behind him.

WIND IN HIS HAIR (O.S.)

Dances With Wolves...

turns

Dances With Wolves shrinks back from the canyon's rim, and trots off into the darkness, following his friends.

FADE TO

BLACK

THE END