

3:10 FROM YUMA

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INT. KITCHEN IN BEN EVANS HOME - EVENING

SUPER: 1882

Alice Evans and Matthew Evans are seated at the kitchen table eating supper. William Evans enters the kitchen and sits down. He is holding a newspaper

ALICE EVANS

(frowns)

Will, where have you been? You should have been back hours ago. Did you have any trouble? Did you get everything I asked? What happened? Why are you so late?

WILLIAM EVANS

(sighs)

I stopped at the train depot.

ALICE EVANS

Why did you stop there?

WILLIAM EVANS

(in an excited tone)

I bought a train ticket to Prescott.

ALICE EVANS

(in a loud voice)

You what? Why did you do that?

WILLIAM EVANS

(holds up the newspaper)

When I was at the general store, I saw a headline in the Tombstone Epitaph about Ben Wade. His trial was just held in Yuma. He was found guilty of robbery, murder and he was sentenced to death. They're going to hang Ben Wade in three days. I'm going to see the territorial governor. I can't let them hang Ben Wade.

ALICE EVANS

(in a louder voice)

Are you crazy? He's a murderer. I forbid you to go.

WILLIAM EVANS

I'm going. You can't stop me.

ALICE EVANS

(in a calmer tone)

Will, he's an evil man and deserves to hang. If it weren't for him, your father would be alive today.

WILLIAM EVANS

(in a serious tone)

Yes mother, he's done some bad things but he's not entirely evil. There's some good in him. He could have killed father himself but he didn't. I saw him get on that train of his own free will. There is some good in that man.

MATTHEW EVANS

(his eyes widen)

Will, can I go with you?

WILLIAM EVANS

(smiles)

No, Matt. You need to stay here and help mother.

ALICE EVANS

(buries her face in her hands)

My GOD!

William Evans is shown on the train to Prescott.

FADE OUT.

INT. TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR'S OFFICE PRESCOTT - DAY

William Evans is sitting outside of the territorial governor's office. He is fidgeting with his hat. The governor's aide walks up to William Evans.

GOVERNOR'S AIDE

(in a formal tone)

Governor Tritle will see you now. Follow me.

William Evans stands and follows the Aide.

GOVERNOR'S AIDE (CONT'D)

You are lucky young man. The governor never sees anyone without an appointment.

William Evans enters the governor's office. Governor Tritle stands up and offers William Evans a handshake.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(smiles)

How do you do young man? I'm Governor Tritle. Please sit down.

WILLIAM EVANS

(sits down)

Thank you sir.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

Now what is so important that you traveled all the way here from Bisbee to see me?

WILLIAM EVANS

It's about Ben Wade, sir. It was my father who put him on the 3:10 to Yuma. He's going to hang tomorrow. I'm here to ask you to spare his life.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(sits back in his chair)

Yes, I heard all about that. So you are Dan Evan's son. Your father was a brave and courageous man. Why should Ben Wade be spared? He's a murderer and is responsible for your father's demise.

WILLIAM EVANS

Sir, he is not responsible for my father's death. Ben Wade helped my father go from the hotel to the train depot. He could have helped to kill my father along the way to the train depot if he wanted to. It was Charlie Prince who killed my father. After Charlie Prince killed my father, Ben Wade shot him and the rest of his gang then he got on the train of his own free will. I was there and saw the whole thing.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(points to William Evans)

You were there and witnessed the whole thing? I did not know that.

WILLIAM EVANS

Yes sir.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(leans forward and sighs)

Son, Ben Wade was judged and found guilty of murder. He is an evil man and must pay for his crimes,

WILLIAM EVANS

(in a pleading tone)

Sir, I know he's done some bad things but I'm positive there is some good in Ben Wade. Please don't let him hang. He didn't have to get on that train. Please, sir.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

I read the transcript of his trial before I signed his death warrant. The trial was brief. I was not aware that he got on the train by himself. Let me think about this over night. I never make hasty decisions.

WILLIAM EVANS

Sir, he's going to hang tomorrow at sunrise.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(with A slight smile)

Not to worry, son. Yuma Territorial Prison has a telegraph station and I'm an early riser. I want you to have dinner with Mrs. Tritle and myself tonight. You are an interesting young man and I want to hear more about your father. You can stay at our home tonight and take the train back to Bisbee in the morning.

WILLIAM EVANS

Thank you sir.

William Evans, Governor Tritle and his wife are shown having dinner and conversing.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEN WADE'S JAIL CELL IN YUMA PRISON - MORNING

Two prison guards approach Ben Wade's cell. Ben Wade is wearing a black sack suit along with a white shirt and sitting on a cot. Guard #1 raps the cell bars with a baton.

GUARD #1
(smiling)
Today's your big day, Wade.

GUARD #2
(laughs)
You didn't escape this time. My brother and I made damn sure sf that.

GUARD #1
You don't remember us, do you?
Three years ago, my brother and I were blamed for your last escape. We damn near got fired and we both lost a months pay because of you. I can't wait to pull that lever, you son of a bitch.

The Warden and a Priest, wearing a purple stole, approach Ben Wades cell.

WARDEN
(in a solemn tone)
It's time Ben.

PRIEST
(puts his hand on Ben Wade's shoulder)
Would you like to say a prayer with me, son?

BEN WADE
(with a slight smile)
Nope. I ain't a Bible thumper, Padre

With a Guard on each side, Ben Wade is walked down a hallway and up a flight of stairs. They enter a small room. Both Guards are grinning as they bind Ben Wade with leather straps and place him on a trapdoor. The Warden faces Ben Wade.

WARDEN
(in a solemn tone)
Ben Wade, you have been found guilty by a jury of your peers of murder and other heinous crimes. You have been sentenced to hang.

(MORE)

WARDEN (CONT'D)

Do you have any last words before
this sentence is carried out?

BEN WADE

(shakes his head and
sighs)

No.

Guard #2 puts a black hood on Ben Wade's head and slips a
noose around his neck.

GUARD #2

(whispers)

See you in hell.

Guard #1 places his hand on a lever and looks at Warden. The
door opens and the Assistant Warden enters. He is holding a
telegram. He quickly grabs Guard #1's hand.

ASSITANT WARDEN

(in a loud voice)

Hold on. Don't pull this lever.
Warden, this telegram just came in
from the Governor. Ben wade has
been given a reprieve.

The Warden reads the telegram and then turns to the Guards.

WARDEN

Take him back to his cell.

GUARD #1

(under his breath)

Shit.

The Guards remove the hood and leather straps. Ben Wade is
visibly shaken as he is walked back to his cell.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEN WADE'S JAIL CELL IN YUMA PRISON - AFTERNOON

SUPER: Later that day

The Warden enters Ben Wades cell. Ben Wade is sitting on a
cot and is staring at the floor.

WARDEN

Wade, you can within seconds of
eternity. The Governor commuted
your sentence to life in prison
without any chance of parole. At
hard labor, I might add.

(MORE)

WARDEN (CONT'D)

It seems that the son of Dan Evans pleaded for your life. I did not know that you got on that train of your own free will. Why on GOD's earth did you do that?

Ben Wade continues to stare at floor and does not answer the Governor.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

I heard of your two escapes from here. You are going to be transferred to a cell in the maximum security area. Is there anything you want to say?

Ben Wade looks up at the Warden.

BEN WADE

(in a quiet meek voice)

Yes sir. Could you please get me a Bible? Could I also get some writing stuff. I want to send that Padre a letter.

WARDEN

(with a slightly surprised look)

Why yes. I can do that for you. Wade, be advised that in view of your two previous escapes from Yuma, my guards have orders to shoot to kill if you try to escape again. Understood?

BEN WADE

Yes sir.

FADE OUT.

EXT. YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON YARD - DAY

SUPER: One month later

Ben Wade and a fellow prisoner are digging a trench. They are guarded by two armed Guards. A Guard Officer appears and addresses Ben Wade.

GUARD OFFICER

(in a stern voice)

Wade, the Warden wants to see you. Let's go. Walk in front of me and don't try any funny stuff.

The Guard officer pats the pistol holstered on his hip.

BEN WADE

Yes, boss.

Ben Wade and the Guard Officer walk through the prison yard to the Warden's office. They reach the Warden's office and the Guard Officer knocks on the office door.

GUARD OFFICER

Sir, Wade is here.

WARDEN

Show him in.

FADE OUT.

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben Wade and the Guard Officer enter the Warden's office. The Priest is seated next to the Warden.

WARDEN

(motions to the Guard
Officer)

Jim, wait outside. I'll call you
when we're through.

GUARD OFFICER

Yes sir.

WARDEN

Sit down Wade. Do you remember this
man?

BEN WADE

Yes sir. I do.

WARDEN

(with a slight smile)

It's seems that Father O'Brien has
traveled here to baptize you.

PRIEST

Yes, that's true, Warden. I
received a rather lengthy letter
from Mr. Wade requesting a Bible
and a baptism.

The Priest turns to Ben Wade.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

Son, I'm overjoyed to see you are ready to repent for your sins and receive Jesus. We can...

The Warden interrupts the Priest.

WARDEN

(in a stern voice)

Yeah, I'm overjoyed too. I just hope for your sake, that this isn't just one of your ploys to escape. Be it known, if you make any moves to try another escape, my Guards have still orders to shoot to kill. Understood?

BEN WADE

Yes sir.

WARDEN

That said, we can baptize you right here in this office.

The Warden smiles slightly.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

I'll be your Godfather if that's okay with you, Wade?

BEN WADE

Yes. Thank you sir.

The Priest reaches in a black leather case. He retrieves a purple stole along with a small bottle of Holy Water and Oil. The Priest puts the stole on and performs the Baptismal Ceremony. He retrieves a Bible from the black leather case and hands it to Ben Wade.

PRIEST

Go in the peace of the Lord, my son.

BEN WADE

Thank you, Father. Thank you, Warden.

WARDEN

(in a stern voice)

Just remember what I said, Wade. Any escape attempts, my guards will shoot to kill.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEN WADE'S JAIL CELL IN YUMA PRISON - EVENING

Rain is falling. Ben Wade is sitting on a cot. He thumbs through the Bible then puts the Bible down and buries his face in his hands. Ben Wade kneels on the floor beside the cot. He clasps his hands in prayer and looks up towards the ceiling. A tear rolls down his cheek. A clap of thunder is heard.

FADE OUT.

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: 5 years later

Ben Wade enter the Warden's office. The Priest is seated next to the Warden.

WARDEN
(motions to Ben Wade)
Sit down, Wade.

BEN WADE
Thank you sir. Hello Father.

PRIEST
Hello Ben.

WARDEN
(with a slight smile)
Wade, I have to admit I'm truly surprised that you've lasted so long here. I really thought you'd of been shot by now. Father O'Brien told me of the letters he's been receiving from you during the past five years and the studying you've been doing. He want's to make you a Deacon in the church. That's quite a turn of events for someone with a past like yours. Tell you what I going to do. I'm going to remove the hard labor part of your sentence. You still will have to work around here. I want you to hold some kind of a church service here on Sundays. Occasionally, we have to carry out an execution here at Yuma Prison. I'd like you to be available to the condemned for spiritual consoling if they so desire. What do you say?

BEN WADE
 (with a surprised look)
 Yes, Warden, I'm grateful for the
 opportunity. I won't let you down.

WARDEN
 (in a solemn tone)
 You better not. My shoot to kill
 order still stands.

Father O'Brien reaches into a black leather case and
 retrieves a purple stole and a clerical collar. He hands them
 to Ben Wade

PRIEST
 (smiles)
 Ben, this isn't much but you can
 wear this when you conduct a
 service. I was wearing this stole
 when we first met. I want you to
 have it. You've come a long way, my
 son.

BEN WADE
 Thank you, Father.

WARDEN
 (looks at Ben Wade)
 For your first assignment, I'd like
 you to talk to a prisoner named
 Lonnie Adams. He's getting hanged
 tomorrow. This kid is only eighteen
 years old and he's having a tough
 time of it.

BEN WADE
 I'll do my best to help him, sir.

FADE OUT.

INT. LONNIE ADAM'S JAIL CELL IN YUMA PRISON - EVENING

Lonnie Adams is standing and looking up at a window with
 bars. He hears Ben Wade enter his cell and turns and faces
 Ben Wade.

LONNIE ADAMS
 What the hell do you want?

BEN WADE
 My name's Ben Wade. The Warden just
 made me a Deacon here at Yuma.

(MORE)

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
He thought you might want to talk
to me. You know....

Lonnie Adams rudely interrupts Ben Wade.

LONNIE ADAMS
(in a snotty tone)
Yeah. I heard about you, Wade. Did
you come in here to give a last
minute reprieve? You can just get
the hell outta here. I ain't
listening to any Bible thumper.

BEN WADE
(in a loud and firm voice)
Sit down.

Lonnie Adams glares at Ben Wade and then Ben Wade stands toe
to toe with Lonnie Adams.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
(in a louder voice)
I said sit down.

Lonnie Adams is visibly shaken by Ben Wade's tone and sits
down on a cot.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
(in a calmer tone)
I didn't come in here to give you a
reprieve. The Warden told me you
might want to talk to me. What I
want to say to you is this. Just
before I stepped on that trapdoor,
I also told a padre that I don't
need to talk to any Bible Thumper.
I was just seconds away from
entering eternity and I was
resigned to my fate. I was bitter,
full of hate and felt no remorse
for all of the bad things I ever
did. When I got that reprieve,
something happened to me inside. I
lost my bitterness and hate. I
started reading the Bible and
believing in a hereafter. I started
asking for forgiveness for my evil
deeds. I can't do anything about
your sentence. You will meet your
maker tomorrow. Lonnie, I'm asking
you to ask for forgiveness and go
in peace tomorrow.

LONNIE ADAMS

(starts to sob)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to kill that bank teller. Wade, I'm leaving behind a young woman who is carrying my child. What will become of her and my child?

BEN WADE

The Lord will take care of them. Accept the Lord and ask for forgiveness and the Lord will take care of you. I'd like be able to tell her that you met your fate with dignity and asked for forgiveness.

LONNIE ADAMS

(visibly shaken)

Will you walk with me tomorrow morning?

Ben Wade places his hand on Lonnie Adam's shoulder.

BEN WADE

Yes, my son.

FADE OUT.

EXT. KITCHEN IN BEN EVANS HOME - DAY

SUPER: 1899

Alice Evans, William Evans, Betty Evans and Danny Evans are seated at the kitchen table eating supper.

ALICE EVANS

(in a concerned tone)

Will, you've been awfully quiet tonight? What's bothering you?

WILLIAM EVANS

(continues to eat)

Nothing, mother.

BETTY EVANS

(looks at her husband)

Yes, Will. What's bothering you?

WILLIAM EVANS

(in a gruff voice)

Nothing, damn it.

DANNY EVANS

(smiling)

I know what's bothering father. When we were in town today, he had another bad argument with Mr. Hollander. I thought they were going to shoot each other. Boy, father was really....

William Evans abruptly interrupts his son, Danny.
(in a stern voice)

WILLIAM EVANS

Danny, shut up.

ALICE EVANS

(looks at William Evans)

Is Mr. Hollander after us again to sell the ranch?

William Evans does not answer his mother and continues eating.

ALICE EVANS (CONT'D)

William, I asked you a question. Answer me.

William Evans puts down his knife and fork.

WILLIAM EVANS

(in a serious tone)

Yes, but it's not Glen Hollander. He's left us pretty much alone after father put Ben Wade on that train. Glen Hollander's a sickly man and his son Jacob is running things. He's ten times worse than his father. Jacob wants to buy the ranch and gave me an ultimatum today. I wonder why the sudden interest again?

DANNY EVANS

(smiles)

Do you want me to shoot that son of a bitch?

WILLIAM EVANS

Daniel.

ALICE EVANS

(with a slight smile)

And who does he remind you of?

(MORE)

ALICE EVANS (CONT'D)
Will, your father gave his life for
this ranch and you've spent your
life building it up. I don't want
to sell this ranch.

WILLIAM EVANS
Neither do I.

FADE OUT.

INT. GLEN HOLLANDER'S OFFICE IN BISBEE - DAY

Glen Hollander and Jacob Hollander are seated in the
Hollander office.

GLENN HOLLANDER
(in a stern voice)
Jacob, I just heard you had another
big go around with Will Evans about
buying their ranch. Why in hell do
you.....

Glenn Hollander coughs violently.

GLENN HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
Why in hell do you want to buy the
Evans ranch? Didn't I tell you to
leave the Evans family alone? I've
had enough grief with them.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(smiles)
Father, you know this area this
area is rich in copper deposits.
Last month I was riding along the
fence line of the Evans ranch and I
noticed some rocks with a green
hue. A green hue can mean copper
deposits. One night I picked up
some rocks from the Evans property.
I sent them to a mining company for
analysis. The report came back very
positive so I had one of their
geologists come out and take a
look. He said it's one of the
richest deposits he's ever seen.
Father, there's a fortune in the
ground out there.

GLENN HOLLANDER
And of course, Evans doesn't know
about this?

JACOB HOLLANDER

(smiles)

Of course not. They'd never sell to us if they knew what's in the ground out there.

GLENN HOLLANDER

(in a loud and angry tone)

God damn you, Jacob. Why don't listen to me? How many times do....

Glenn Hollander coughs more violently. He wipes his mouth with a handkerchief. Blood appears on the handkerchief. He looks at the handkerchief and angrily throws it on the floor.

GLENN HOLLANDER (CONT'D)

(with a raspy voice)

Jacob, how many times do I have to tell to leave the Evans family alone. We're the wealthiest family in the entire county. We don't need to get into the copper business. It's something else, isn't it? You still hold a grudge against Will Evans for marrying Betty. It was your own damn fault. You treated her like shit. No wonder she broke off her engagement to you. Let it go, son. I want you to stop this copper business right now.

Glenn Hollander coughs again. He places his hand on his mouth. Glenn Hollander looks at his hand. There is blood on his hand. He shakes his head and gives a long sigh.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(with a sly grin)

Whatever you say, father.

EXT. YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON YARD - DAY

Ben Wade is kneeling and pulling weeds in the prison garden. The Warden and Governor Tritle approach Ben Wade.

WARDEN

Wade, take a break and come over here. There's someone who wants to meet you.

Ben Wade stands up and walks over to the Warden.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

Wade, this is Governor Augustus Tritle. I should say retired Governor Tritle. He wants to meet you. Augustus, this is Ben Wade.

Ben Wade is startled by the Warden's introduction and his eyes widen.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

(smiles)

How do you do, Ben Wade? The Warden and I are old friends. He's told me a lot about you. Do you remember me?

BEN WADE

Yes, sir. I do. Not a day goes by when I don't think of you. I never did get to thank you personally.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

Father O'Brien is also a good friend of mine. Both he and the Warden have told me of your work here as a minister. That's quite a change from your outlaw days. I have to admit that I was totally against giving you a reprieve until I heard the entire story from Will Evans. You owe your life to that boy. One thing I never understood was why you got on that train of your own free will. You had to know that you'd end up at the end of a rope. Why did you get on that train?

BEN WADE

(sighs)

I don't really know myself, sir. I guess when I saw what that poor rancher was doing to save his ranch and family, I wanted to help him. Truth be told, I really wasn't worried about getting hung. I escaped from Yuma Prison twice before. When I got to Yuma, they dern made sure I wouldn't escape a third time and lose my date with the hangman.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

Well, you are a changed man, Wade,
and I'm glad I listened to Dan
Evan's son.

BEN WADE

(smiles)

I'm glad you listened to him too.
When I was standing on that
trapdoor with a hood over my head
and seconds from meeting my maker,
something happened inside of me. I
truly felt regret for my wasted
life.

GOVERNOR TRITLE

I'll leave you to your gardening.
You take care, Wade. I'm glad we
were able to meet.

BEN WADE

Me too. Thank you, sir

The Warden and Governor Tritle start to walk away. Ben Wade
returns to pulling weeds.

WARDEN

Even though Wade appears to be
reformed man, I still have a shoot
to kill order on him if tries to
escape. Say Augustus, do you think
Wade will ever get released?

GOVERNOR TRITLE

Not a snowball's chance in hell. I
got a lot of heat when I commuted
his death sentence to life.

The Warden and Governor Tritle walk the prison yard. When
they approach the corner of the prison hospital, two
prisoners jump out from the shadows. They seize the Warden
and Governor Tritle and hold knives to their throats. Ben
Wade looks up and notices the capture. He stands up.

PRISONER #1

(grins)

Here's how it's gonna be, Warden.
My partner and I are going to walk
you and the Governor to the gate.
You're going let us out. About a
half mile from here is my partner
with horses and guns. Once we get
mounted and away, we'll let you two
go.

WARDEN

(in firm voice)

I won't do that. Don't be stupid.
Let us go right now. You will never
get away this this.

PRISONER #2

(snarls)

You'll do what we say or die right
here. We don't give a shit what
happens after that.

The Warden sees Prisoner #2 press his knife against Governor
Tritle's neck and draws blood.

WARDEN

(sighs)

Alright. Alright, calm down.

As they all walk towards the gate, Ben Wade rushes toward
them.

BEN WADE

(yells)

Hey wait. Take me with you.

Prisoner #2 turns and looks at Ben Wade.

PRISONER #2

Why should we take you?

BEN WADE

(smiles)

I've escaped twice from here. I
know the ropes. You'll never make
it without me.

PRISONER #2

Bullshit.

Prisoner #1 stops and looks at Prisoner #2

PRISONER #1

Do you know who that is? That's Ben
Wade. He might be real valuable to
us.

Prisoner #1 looks at Ben Wade

PRISONER #1 (CONT'D)

You serious, Wade?

BEN WADE
 (sighs)
 Yup, I've had my fill of Yuma.

Looks of disgust appear on the Warden and Governor Tritle's faces.

PRISONER #1
 Okay, Wade. You try any funny stuff
 and you're a dead man.

They all walk towards the gate. The Warden motion's to the guard tower and the gate opens. They all walk through the gate towards toward two mounted riders holding a string of four horses. In the guard tower, a guard is watching the group with a telescope. As they approach the mounted riders, one of the riders trots toward the group. He stops and points to Ben Wade.

RIDER #1
 Who the hell is this?

PRISONER #1
 (smiles)
 That's Ben Wade.

RIDER #1
 Heard of him. Why bring him along?
 We don't have enough horses.

PRISONER #1
 He might be useful.

RIDER #1
 Okay, if you say so.

When the entire group gets together, the prisoners and riders shake hands and hugs. The prisoners are given regular clothing and holster rigs with Colt revolvers. The warden and Governor Tritle are set on one horse and bound securely. Ben Wade is given a horse but no weapon. The group rides away slowly. As they are riding, the Warden quietly whispers to Governor Tritle.

WARDEN
 So much for being a changed man.

FADE OUT.

EXT. OPEN PLAINS - AFTERNOON

The group rides slowly along a small creek. Prisoner #1 points to a wooded area in the distance.

PRISONER #1
Stop over there.

The group stops and they dismount. Prisoner #1 cuts the Warden and Governor Tritle's bounds. He helps them dismount. Rider #1 points to the Warden and Governor Tritle.

RIDER #1
What do you want to do with those two?

PRISONER #1
Kill em. That's the son of a bitch that sentenced me to life. The other son of a bitch put me in the hole too many times. What do you say about that, Wade?

Ben Wade gives Prisoner #1 the "Ben Wade" hard stare.

PRISONER #2
(smiles)
I'll do it.

All eyes are Prisoner #2 as he walks over to his horse and reaches for the rifle in a scabbard. Ben Wade notices the Prisoner's and Rider's distraction. Ben Wade lunges at Prisoner #1. As they fall to the ground, he retrieves the Colt revolver from Prisoner #1's holster. Ben Wade rolls free and from a prone position, shoots Prisoner #1 & #2 and Rider #1 & #2. Ben Wade stands up and walks over to the Warden. He hands the Colt revolver, butt first, to the Warden.

BEN WADE
(sighs)
Let's go back to Yuma, sir.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEN WADE'S JAIL CELL IN YUMA PRISON - EVENING

SUPER: One month later

Ben Wade is reading a Bible. The Warden enters Ben Wade's cell. He is holding a telegram.

WARDEN
I just got this from the Governor Murphy. Wade, you are now a free man. You owe your release to Governor Tritle. He and Governor Murphy are old friends. I also put in a good word for you.

(MORE)

WARDEN (CONT'D)

I have to admit, you had me fooled.
I really thought you went back to
your old ways.

BEN WADE

I had to put an act on. That was
the only way I could have saved you
and the Governor. I know those guys
and I was dead certain they'd kill
you and the governor. They had the
upper hand inside the yard and I
had to wait for the right moment to
act.

WARDEN

You're free to go. Any thoughts on
what you're going to do?

BEN WADE

(shakes his head)

I don't know, sir. This is all so
sudden. It's like I'm in a dream.
One thing I will do is visit the
Evans's family. I need to thank Dan
Evan's kid.

INT. KITCHEN IN BEN EVANS HOME - EVENING

Alice Evans, William Evans, Betty Evans and Danny Evans are
seated at the kitchen table eating supper.

ALICE EVANS

(clearly upset)

Will, when Betty and I were in
Bisbee today at the general store,
Jacob Hollander came up to us. He
asked me if we were ready to sell.
I told him, there's no way heaven
that we will ever sell our ranch.
He said, we'll see about that.
What can we do? Why does he want to
buy our ranch?

BETTY EVANS

He's a mean man. He scares me.

WILLIAM EVANS

(in an angry tone)

That bastard. This has gone far
enough. I'll talk to his father
about this tomorrow.

There is a knock on the door. Will opens the door. Ben Wade is standing there. He is holding his hat in his hands.

BEN WADE

Hello kid. Do you remember me?

WILLIAM EVANS

(with a surprised look)

Yes, I do, Ben Wade. How did you get here? Did you escape again? Are you on the run?

BEN WADE

(smiles and shakes his head)

No, you don't have to worry. I'm a free man. I was pardoned a week ago. Here's a letter from the Governor. If you want me to leave, I'll certainly understand.

WILLIAM EVANS

(motions to Ben Wade)

No, you don't have to leave, Come on in.

Ben Wade enters and is taken to the kitchen.

WILLIAM EVANS (CONT'D)

Folk, this is Ben Wade.

ALICE EVANS

We meet again, Ben Wade. Will told me all about Dan's last moments and how you went aboard that train on your own. I would.....

Betty Evans interrupts Alice evans.

BETTY EVANS

(clearly shocked)

Oh my GOD. Did you escape?

WILLIAM EVANS

(smiles)

Not to worry, Betty. He's been pardoned by the Governor and he's a free man.

DANNY EVANS

(his eyes widen)

Can I see your guns, Mr. Wade?

BETTY EVANS
Daniel, you hush up.

BEN WADE
(smiles)
That's okay, ma'am. I don't carry a
gun, son. In fact, I will never
carry one again.

BETTY EVANS
I've heard all about you Mr. Wade.
How on earth did someone like you
get pardoned? Why did you ever come
here?

BEN WADE
Please call me Ben, ma'am. Out of
gratitude, I was pardoned for
saving the Warden's and Governor's
lives. I came here to thank your
husband for saving my life.

Ben Wade turns to Will and extends his hand.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
I never did get to thank you
personally. I was but a few seconds
from meeting my maker and you saved
my life and maybe my soul. Thank
you, Will.

William Evans and Ben Wade shake hands. Ben Wade gives
William Evans a vigorous hug.

DANNY EVANS
Can I shake you hand too, Mr. Wade?

BEN WADE
Sure, son. Say, Will, where is your
other son?

WILLIAM EVANS
Matthew passed away. The
tuberculosis got him. Please sit
down, Ben.

Ben Wade shakes Danny Evans hand then sits down.

ALICE EVANS
Would you like something to eat,
Mr. Wade?

BEN WADE

It's Ben, ma'am. Yes I would, it's been a long time since I've had a home cooked meal. I'm so sorry to hear about your Matthew.

WILLIAM EVANS

(looks at Ben Wade)

What are you going to do now, Ben? Have you made any plans?

BEN WADE

Yes, I have. I'm going out to California. The Warden got me a job as an orderly in the hospital at San Quentin prison. I'm also going to serve as a minister. They want me to be available to counsel condemned prisoners awaiting execution. Lord knows, I've had experience in that area.

WILLIAM EVANS

I hear California is beautiful and the climate is good. Good luck to you out there.

BEN WADE

(smiles)

Thanks, Will. Truth be told, I've always wanted to see an ocean. San Quentin is right off of the Pacific.

WILLIAM EVANS

Where are you staying tonight?

ALICE EVANS

You're welcome to stay with us, Mr. Wade.

BEN WADE

Thank you, ma'am. That's very kind of you but Mr. Tritle arranged a room for me at the Copper Queen in Bisbee for a few nights.

ALICE EVANS

Would you at least have dinner with us again tomorrow evening before you leave for California?

BEN WADE
(smiles)
Yes. I'd love to.

Ben Wade and the Evans family have dinner and converse together. Danny Evans is silent through during dinner. He looks at Ben Wade then breaks his silence.

DANNY EVANS
(looks at his father)
Are you going to take your gun with you tomorrow when you see Mr. Hollander?

BEN WADE
(with a concerned look)
What's that all about?

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a stern voice)
Daniel, shut up. It's really nothing. It seems that all of a sudden, Hollander's son, Jacob, wants to buy our ranch. I'm not sure why the sudden interest again. I'm going into town to talk his father tomorrow. He's pretty much left us alone and I think he'll listen to me and tell Jacob to back off.

BEN WADE
When you're in prison, one has a lot of time on one's hands. I've done a lot of reading while at Yuma. The history of Arizona has always fascinated me. Are you aware that this area is rich in copper deposits. Have you ever had a Geologist look at your land?

WILLIAM EVANS
No, I haven't. Never gave copper a thought. That's not a bad idea. Maybe I ought to.

Ben Wade and the Evans family continue to converse together. Ben Wade gets up to leave. William Evans see's Ben Wade to the door. They shake hands.

WILLIAM EVANS (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow, Ben.

FADE OUT.

INT. GLEN HOLLANDER'S OFFICE IN BISBEE - DAY

William Evans enters the Hollanders office. He is met by Jacob Hollander.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(snarls)
What the hell do you want, Evans?

WILLIAM EVANS
I'm here to see your Father.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(with a sinister smile)
The old man died last night. I'm completely in charge now. What in the hell did you want to see him about?

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a stern and angry tone)
You son of a bitch, keep away from my wife and my mother. We're not selling our ranch to you or anybody else. You hear me?

JACOB HOLLANDER
(grins then laughs)
Oh yeah. You damn well better sell to me or else. I'm through playing games with you.

WILLIAM EVANS
Or else what?

JACOB HOLLANDER
(shakes a finger at William Evans)
You'll find out, my friend. You'll find out.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN IN BEN EVANS HOME - EVENING

Alice Evans, William Evans, Betty Evans, Danny Evans and Ben Wade are seated at the kitchen table conversing during dinner.

BEN WADE
(looks at Alice Evans)
Thank you for having me over.
(MORE)

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
I suspect this will be the last
home cooked meal I'll have for
sometime.

Ben Wade reaches in his coat pocket and retrieves a small
object. He turns to William.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
Before I got here for dinner, I
took a little stroll around your
land and found something quite
interesting.

Ben Wade hands a small rock to William Evans.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
See that green stuff on this rock.
That could mean copper deposits.
There's a lot of rocks laying
around here like this one. You
really ought to have a Geologist
take a look.

WILLIAM EVANS
I'll do that. Thanks for taking a
look. When does your train leave
for California? Will you have
dinner with us again tomorrow?

BEN WADE
I'd love to but the train leaves
tomorrow evening. They say it will
take two days.

BETTY EVANS
(smiles)
I envy you, Mister, uh Ben. I've
always wanted to see California and
San Francisco.

BEN WADE
San Quentin is very close to San
Francisco. Maybe someday, you can
all visit me.

BETTY EVANS
I'd like that.

ALICE EVANS
So would I.

WILLIAM EVANS

I find someone I can trust to watch
this place and maybe we can,
someday.

Alice Evans, William Evans, Betty Evans, Danny Evans and Ben Wade converse during dinner.

BEN WADE

(stands up)

Well folks, I need to be on my way.
I can't begin to tell you how much
meeting you all has meant to me. I
only wish that Dan could be here
too. He was the bravest man I ever
knew. My biggest regret, one that
I'll carry with me to the end of my
days, is that I was unable to stop
Charlie Prince. Dan should be here
right now with all of you instead
of me.

Everyone walks with Ben Wade to the door. William Evans gives Ben Wade a hug.

WILLIAM EVANS

Good luck, Ben.

Ben Wade shakes hands with Betty and Danny Evans. Alice Evans approaches Ben Wade. She looks in his eyes for a few seconds then gives him a hug.

ALICE EVANS

Good bye, Mr. Wade.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PASTURE ON THE EVANS RANCH - DAY

William Evans is repairing a fence. Danny Evans is helping him. William Evans stops working and goes over to a wagon. He takes a drink from a canteen and hands the canteen to Danny Evans.

WILLIAM EVANS

Drink a drink, son. When it's hot
like this you gotta drink plenty of
water.

As William and Danny Evans start to walk back to the fence, Jacob Hollander approaches on horseback. An armed rider is on each side of him. They stop and Jacob Hollander walks up to William Evans.

WILLIAM EVANS (CONT'D)
Get off my property, you son of a
bitch.

GLENN HOLLANDER
(snarls)
You will sell it to me today or
you'll never see your wife again,
alive.

WILLIAM EVANS
(screams)
What?

William Evans shoves Jacob Hollander and reaches in the wagon to retrieve a rifle. Jacob Hollander draws a revolver and shoots William Evans in the chest. William Evans staggers then falls to the ground. Danny Evans kneels by his father.

DANNY EVANS
(screams)
No.

Danny Evans looks up at Jacob Hollander.

DANNY EVANS (CONT'D)
You killed my father.

GLENN HOLLANDER
(grins)
Ah, he ain't gonna die, kid. Not
yet.

Glenn Hollander points his finger at Danny Evans and shakes it.

GLENN HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
You tell that grandmother of yours
to sign over the deed or you'll
never see your mother again. You
got that sonny?

Glenn Hollander motions to the two riders.

GLENN HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
Put him in the wagon.

The two riders put William Evans the wagon. Glenn Hollander tips his hat to Danny Evans. Glenn Hollander and the two riders ride off. Danny Evans drives the wagon back to the ranch house.

FADE OUT.

I/E. EVANS RANCH HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Danny Evans stops the wagon in front of the ranch house porch. The front door opens and Alice Evans appears. Her face is bruised and bleeding. She staggers slowly towards the wagon.

ALICE EVANS
(in a weak voice)
Danny, what happened?

DANNY EVANS
(in a tearful voice)
They shot my dad.

ALICE EVANS
(screams)
Oh, GOD. No, no.

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a weak voice)
Help me into the house.

Danny and Alice Evans slowly help William stagger into the ranch house. He collapses on a bed.

ALICE EVANS
(turns to Danny Evans)
Take the wagon and go into town.
Tell Doctor Jones and the sheriff
to come out here right now.

DANNY EVANS
Where's my mother?

ALICE EVANS
She's not here.

DANNY EVANS
(screams)
Where's my mother?

ALICE EVANS
(in a tearful voice)
Two men took her. You tell the
sheriff that.

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a weak raspy voice)
Forget about the sheriff. Hollander
owns him. Just get the doctor and
don't tell a single person what
happened. Understand?

DANNY EVANS
Where's your Colt?

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a stern tone)
Don't event think of carrying a
gun. We need your help until I can
get back on my feet.

DANNY EVANS
Yes, sir.

ALICE EVANS
(in a frantic voice)
Will, what are we going to do?

WILLIAM EVANS
I don't know, mother. I need to get
back on my feet. Daniel, remember
what I told you. Not a word to
anyone.

ALICE EVANS
(turns to Danny Evans)
Go now. Hurry back.

Danny Evans drivee the wagon to Bisbee.

FADE OUT.

INT. DOCTOR JONES OFFICE IN BISBEE - AFTERNOON

Danny Evans enters Doctor Jones office. Doctor Jones greets
Danny Evans.

DOCTOR JONES
(smiles)
Hello Danny. What brings you out
here.

DANNY EVANS
(in an excited voice)
My dad's been shot. We need you to
go out to our ranch. He needs help,
bad.

DOCTOR JONES
(smile turns to a look of
concern)
Oh my GOD. What happened? How bad
is it? Where is he shot?

DANNY EVANS
He was shot in the chest. It's
pretty bad.

DOCTOR JONES
Who shot him?

DANNY EVANS
(pauses)
I don't know.

DOCTOR JONES
I'll leave right now. Let me get my
bag. My buggy is in the back. I'll
follow you out.

DANNY EVANS
Doctor, please just go. You know
the way. I have something to do in
Bisbee first. I'll be along
shortly.

DOCTOR JONES
Are you sure, son. It'll be getting
dark soon.

DANNY EVANS
Yes, sir. I'll be okay.

FADE OUT.

INT. THE COPPER QUEEN HOLTEL IN BISBEE - EVENING

Danny Evans enters the hotel lobby and walks up to the front desk. The Desk clerk is reading a newspaper and ignores Danny Evans. Danny Evans slaps the bell. The Desk clerk looks up at Danny Evans.

DESK CLERK
(in stern tone)
What do ya want, kid.

DANNY EVANS
What room is Ben Wade in? I've got
to see him.

DESK CLERK
There's no one here by that name.

The Desk clerk begins to read the newspaper again. Danny Evans slaps the bell again.

DANNY EVANS
(in a loud voice)
I know he's here. He told us so.

DESK CLERK
Just who the hell are you?

DANNY EVANS
I'm Daniel Evans, Will Evan's son.
Please, mister, I have to see him.

DESK CLERK
(smiles)
Why didn't you say so. I knew your
grandfather. We were in the Army
together. Ben Wade gave me strict
orders not to let anyone know he's
staying at the Copper Queen. He's
on the top floor in room 401. You
can take those stairs up over
there. Say hello to your dad for
me.

DANNY EVANS
Thank you, sir.

Danny Evans walks up to the fourth floor and knocks on room
401.

BEN WADE
Who is it?

DANNY EVANS
It's me, Danny Evans.

Ben Wade opens the door. He gets a surprised look on his
face.

BEN WADE
Come in kid. You okay? You look out
of sorts. Is something wrong? Why
are you here?

DANNY EVANS
(in a fast and excited
tone)
Mr. Wade, they shot my dad and
kidnapped my mother. You gotta help
us. My dad's in bad shape and can't
move. Please.

BEN WADE
 (his eyes widen)
 What? Slow down. Tell me what happened.

DANNY EVANS
 (calms down)
 Me and my dad were fixing a fence. Jacob Hollander rode up. He and my dad got in an argument and Jacob Hollander shot him in the chest. When we got back to the ranch, some of Hollander's men beat up my grandma and kidnapped my mother. Hollander said if they don't sell the ranch, they'll kill my ma.

BEN WADE
 Did you talk to the sheriff?

DANNY EVANS
 (frowns)
 My dad said Hollander owns the sheriff. Mr. Wade, we don't know what to do.

BEN WADE
 (bites his lip)
 I know what to do.

Ben Wade looks up at the ceiling and whispers under his breath.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
 GOD help me.

Ben Wade picks up a small suitcase and looks at Danny Evans.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
 Let's go, Danny.

FADE OUT.

I/E. INSIDE OF BEN EVANS HOME - EVENING

Danny Evans and Ben Wade ride in the wagon to the Evans ranch. They enter the ranch house. Doctor Jones is talking to Alice Evans. She sees Ben Wade enter and gets a surprised look on her face.

ALICE EVANS
 Mr. Wade, what are you doing her?

Ben Wade removes his hat.

BEN WADE

It's Ben, ma'am. I'm here to help.

Ben Wade looks at Doctor Jones.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)

How is he, doctor?

DOCTOR JONES

(in a serious tone)

He's very lucky. I was able to remove the bullet. The bullet did miss a major artery but he still lost a lot of blood. You will need keep the wound clean so he doesn't get an infection. He's going to be laid up for a while, at least a couple of weeks.

Doctor Jones turns to Alice Evans.

DOCTOR JONES (CONT'D)

I'll stop by in a few days to see how he's doing. Goodbye Mrs. Evans.

ALICE EVANS

Thank you doctor.

Doctor Jones leaves. Ben Wade walks over to William Evan's bedside and stares at him. Ben Wade gets a sorrowful look on his face.

ALICE EVANS (CONT'D)

(with a concerned look)

What are you planning to do, Mister. Uh, Ben?

BEN WADE

I don't know yet, ma'am. I've got to think a bit. Never liked to act hasty in situations like this. What I do know is to just sit tight and be patient. I'm positive you will hear from Hollander again real soon, ma'am.

ALICE EVANS

Please call me Alice.

FADE OUT.

INT. CABIN IN A WOODED AREA NEAR BISBEE - EVENING

Betty Evans is seated next to a table. Her wrists are bound and she has a frightened look on her face. She is guarded by Jake and Jim Keller, both Hollander men. Jake Keller places a plate of stew on the table.

JAKE KELLER

Here's something for you to eat.

BETTY EVANS

What's going to happen to me? Why am I here?

JIM KELLER

(snarls)

Shut up eat.

The door opens and Jacob Hollander enters. He walks over to Betty Evans.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(smiles)

Well, well. Look who's...

Betty Evans interrupts Jacob Hollander.

BETTY EVANS

So you're behind this. Why am I here? What do you want, Jacob? Let me go or my husband will kill you.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(grins)

He ain't gonna be doing any killing, my dear. I shot him.

BETTY EVANS

(screams)

Oh my GOD.

JACOB HOLLANDER

Don't worry. He ain't dead but you will be if he doesn't sell me the ranch.

BETTY EVANS

You bastard. You'll never get away with this.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(smiles)

I already have.

(MORE)

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
 You know, you should have married
 me when you had the chance.

BETTY EVANS
 (spits on Jacob Hollander)
 Never in a million years. I'd
 rather die first.

JACOB HOLLANDER
 (laughs)
 You very well might, my dear but
 maybe I'll take you in that bedroom
 over there and have a go around
 with you first.

Betty Evans looks down and a tear rolls down her cheek.

JAKE KELLER
 What are your plans, boss? Can Jim
 and I have a poke with her?

JACOB HOLLANDER
 (in a stern voice)
 I don't want you boys touching her.
 Any poking to be done, I'll do it.
 We'll wait a few days and let the
 Evan's sweat a bit then I'm going
 to have you boys go out to the
 Evan's ranch and deliver them a
 message.

FADE OUT.

I/E. KITCHEN IN BEN EVANS HOME - MORNING

SUPER: Two days later

Alice Evans, Matthew Evans and Ben Wade are seated at the
 kitchen table drinking coffee. William Evans is bed dosing
 off and on.

DANNY EVANS
 When are we going to hear from
 Hollander? It's been two days now.
 We just can't sit here. We've gotta
 do something.

BEN WADE
 (in a stern voice)
 we have to be patient, Danny.

DANNY EVANS
 (in a loud tone)
 Patient, hell. We've been sitting
 on our asses too long. We gotta....

Alice Evans interrupts Danny Evans.

ALICE EVANS
 Daniel, hush up.

WILLIAM EVANS
 (in a quiet and raspy)
 Daniel, you listen to Ben Wade.

DANNY EVANS
 Yes, sir.

From outside, the sound of riders approaching is heard. The riders stop. A loud voice is heard to say "Hey you, Evan's, get out here". Daniel grabs a shotgun from a gun rack and walks towards the door.

BEN WADE
 (in a firm tone)
 Danny, you give me that gun, right
 now.

Daniel hands the shotgun to Ben Wade. Ben Wade breaks open the shotgun to verify it is loaded. Danny and Alice Evans walk out unto the front porch. They see Jake and Jim Keller mounted on horseback. Jake Keller dismounts and starts walking towards the Evans. He is carrying an envelope. Ben Wade appears and points the shotgun at Jake Keller.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
 (in a loud voice)
 Hold it right here, cowboy. Raise
 your hands.

JAKE KELLER
 (in a nervous tone)
 Okay, okay. Don't shoot. I'm just
 to here give the Evans a letter
 from Jacob Hollander.

Jake Keller waves the envelope.

BEN WADE
 Just stay put. Don't move an inch.
 Danny go get that envelope.

Danny Evans gets the envelope from Jake keller and returns to the porch.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
Now you boy's get outta here,
pronto.

The Evans and Ben Wade watch the Keller's ride off into distance then they enter the ranch house. As they are riding away, Jim Keller turns to Jake Keller.

JIM KELLER
Who the hell was that?

JAKE KELLER
Ben Wade.

JIM KELLER
Shit.

FADE OUT.

INT. CABIN IN A WOODED AREA NEAR BISBEE - AFTERNOON

Jacob Hollander and Betty Wade are sitting at a table. Her wrists are bound and her left ring finger is heavily bandaged. She is in pain.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(laughs)
Well my dear, my little souvenir will let them know I'm serious. Too bad we never got hooked up. It's not too late. Why don't you leave that dumb husband of yours. You'd could have a damn good life with me. You could have anything your little heart desires.

Betty Evans does not reply. The door opens and Jake and Jim Keller enter.

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
Did you give the Evan's the envelope?

JAKE KELLER
(frowns)
Yeah, I did, boss, but you got a big problem.

JACOB HOLLANDER
What big problem?

JAKE KELLER
Ben Wade is with them.

JACOB HOLLANDER

So?

JAKE KELLER

I said Ben Wade. Ain't you heard of him?

Upon hearing Ben Wade mentioned, Betty Evan's eyes widen.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(snarls)

Yeah, I heard of him, you dumb shit. He don't scare me none.

FADE OUT.

INT. EVANS RANCH HOUSE - LATER

Alice Evans, Matthew Evans and Ben Wade are seated at the kitchen table. William Evans is bed dosing off and on. Alice Evans opens the envelope. Inside is a letter and an object wrapped in a bloody rag. Betty Evans opens the envelope. Inside is a letter and an object wrapped up in a bloody rag. Alice unrolls the bloody rag. Inside is a bloody ring finger with a gold band on it.

ALICE EVANS

(screams)

Oh my GOD. That's Betty's wedding ring. That's her finger. What will we do?

Ben Wade looks at the bloody finger. His face takes on the "Ben Wade" hard stare. Ben Wade's face turns to a look of calmness and he looks at Alice Evans.

BEN WADE

Alice, try to calm down. Please read the letter.

Alice Evans calms down. She unfolds the letter and starts reading it.

ALICE EVANS

I want Alice Evans to go into Bisbee tomorrow morning and meet my man in the town square at 9:00 AM. He will take her to a place where she will sign the deed over to me. After she signs the deed, I'll let Betty Evans go. No tricks. Come alone or Betty dies.

(MORE)

ALICE EVANS (CONT'D)
**You know I'm serious by the
souvenir I gave you. Then all of
you Evans will leave the territory
or I'll kill you all. It's signed,
Jacob.**

WILLIAM EVANS
(in a raspy voice)
That son of a bitch. Someone come
here. Help me up.

BEN WADE
You ain't in any position to go
anywhere, Will. Just, relax, I've
got a idea.

Ben Wade turns to Alice Evans.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
Alice, I want you to meet
Hollander's man tomorrow in Bisbee.
Do you have a rig, a buggy? How
would you get there?

ALICE EVANS
No. We just have a small freight
wagon. Why do you ask? Are you
suggesting I sign the ranch over?

BEN WADE
No. If you do sign the ranch over
to Hollander, it won't end there.
He will still kill all of you.

ALICE EVANS
(in a frantic tone)
What can we do?

BEN WADE
Just be patient. Give me some time.
I know what to do. Danny, let's
have a look at that wagon.

FADE OUT.

I/E. BARN ON THE EVANS RANCH - LATER

Ben Wade and Danny Evans walk over and enter the barn. Ben Wade carefully walks around and inspects the wagon. Danny watches Ben Wade with a puzzled look.

BEN WADE

(with a slight smile)

This will work. Danny, where are your carpenter tools. We've got some work to do? We're going to raise the floor slightly and put in a false bottom.

DANNY EVANS

Why do that?

BEN WADE

(in a stern voice)

Just get the tools. I'll explain later when I'm done. Do you have any loose boards around here?

DANNY EVANS

Yes, sir. I'll get them.

Ben Evans goes to work on the wagon. He removes the existing wagon floor and fastens it together with spare boards. He adds a sub floor. Ben Wade stops and wipes his brow. He looks at Danny.

BEN WADE

(smiles)

Good thing my old man was a carpenter. I used to help him when I was your age.

Ben Wade finishes working.

DANNY EVANS

(smiles)

You don't need to explain. I see what you're going to do.

BEN WADE

Let's make sure this works the way I want it to. I'm going to lay down on that new floor I added. When I'm down, then put the old floor over me. Let it rest on those slats.

Ben Wade points to the slats and then lays down on the new sub floor. Danny places the old floor over Ben Wade.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)

(in a muffled voice)

How's it look, Danny?

DANNY EVANS

(smiles)

Looks good, Mr. Wade. You can't
tell anyone's in there.

Ben Wade raises the old floor up and gets out of the wagon.
He looks at Danny Evans.

BEN WADE

What does your father have in the
line of firearms? How many pistols
does he have?

FADE OUT.

EXT. EVANS RANCH HOUSE PORCH - EVENING

Ben Wade is sitting on the porch smoking a thin cigar. Alice
Evans comes out and sits beside him.

BEN WADE

Hope the smoke doesn't bother you.
This is a nasty habit I picked up
at Yuma to replace drinking. I
haven't had a drink since I was at
Yuma.

ALICE EVANS

Would you like one now. Will has
some good Tennessee whiskey. I have
some every so often.

BEN WADE

No thank you, alice. I gave up
drinking, besides I want a clear
head tomorrow.

ALICE EVANS

Danny told me what you plan on
doing tomorrow. That's sounds way
too risky. Maybe we should just
sell the damn place. We have enough
to make a new start somewhere.

BEN WADE

Like I told you, Hollander won't
let you walk away from here. I know
his kind. We have to bring this to
an end, now. It ain't risky for me.
I've been in much worse situations,
beside we will have the element of
surprise on our side.

Alice looks into Ben Wade's eyes

ALICE EVANS

(in a serious tone)

Ben, there's something you should know. For many years, I cursed and despised you. I blamed you for Dan's death.

Ben Wade tries to interrupt.

ALICE EVANS (CONT'D)

No. No, please let me finish. In spite of how many times Danny told me how you got on that train of your own free will, I still blamed you for Dan's death. I feel different now. I've lost those hateful feelings. I do see some good in you.

Ben Wade holds Alice Evan's hands and looks into her eyes.

BEN WADE

Alice, you were not wrong in hating me. I really am directly responsible for Dan. I can't deny that. I wish that I could have met someone like you at a different time and in a different place.

ALICE EVANS

Ben, I want...

Danny Evans steps out on the porch and interrupts Alice Evans.

DANNY EVANS

Ben, my father want's to see you.

Ben looks at Alice and sighs then gets up and enters the ranch house. He stands by Will Evans bedside. Will Evans struggles to sit up then falls back down.

WILLIAM EVANS

(in weak voice)

Son of a bitch. Ben, help me get up. I want to help you tomorrow.

BEN WADE

You ain't going anywhere, Will. Not for a while. You can help me by making sure Danny stays put tomorrow.

(MORE)

BEN WADE (CONT'D)

I know what I'm doing and after tomorrow, everything will be okay. When I was at Yuma, I read a lot of books. I remember reading about the Trojan Horse in Homer's Odyssey. We're going to give Hollander the "Evans of Bisbee" horse. Trust me, Will. I'll get your wife back, unharmed.

WILLIAM EVANS

(sighs)

I know you will. Thank you, Ben.

FADE OUT.

I/E. BISBEE - LATER

Ben Wade leaves the Evans ranch on horseback. He rides into Bisbee and studies the town square. Ben Wade rides over to the telegraph office and enters. Ben Wade talks to the telegraph operator. The telegraph operator writes on a pad then starts sending a message. When he is through sending, Ben Wade hands him a gold coin and tips his hat. Ben Wade rides back to the Evans ranch.

FADE OUT.

I/E. EVANS RANCH HOUSE - LATER

As Ben Wade rides up to the ranch house, Danny Evans steps out onto the porch.

DANNY EVANS

Where have you been? We're getting worried about you.

BEN WADE

(smiles)

Just took a little ride to clear my head for tomorrow.

Ben Wade dismounts and walks up to Danny Evans.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)

(in a stern voice)

Tomorrow, I want you to stay with your father. Do not follow us. Keep that scatter gun handy.

DANNY EVANS
But Mister Wade, I could help you
to...

Ben Wade interrupts Danny Evans and taps his finger on Danny
Evan's chest.

BEN WADE
(in a very stern voice)
You listen to me, kid. You stay
with your father, understand?

DANNY EVANS
Yes sir.

FADE OUT.

I/E. BARN ON THE EVANS RANCH - MORNING

Ben Wade, Alice Evans and Danny Evans are standing next to
the wagon. Ben Wade draws a Colt from a holster and checks to
see if the gun is loaded. Danny Evans hands Ben Evans another
Colt. Ben Wade checks to see if it is loaded then tucks it in
his waist band.

BEN WADE
(looks at Alice Evans)
Remember what I told you, try to
stay calm and say nothing. Let them
do all the talking. When you see me
enter, lay down quickly on the
floor and keep your head down.

Alice Evans has a nervous look on her face. Ben Wade gives
Alice Evans a quick kiss on her forehead.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
Don't worry, my dear. You will do
just fine.

Ben Wade turns to Danny Evans.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)
And you stay put like I told you
and watch your father. I don't
expect any trouble but keep that
scatter gun handy just in case.
After you put the floor over me,
throw those blankets in. Keep em'
folded. Okay, let's go.

Ben Wade lays down on the sub floor. Danny Evans places the old floor over Ben Wade and puts the folded blankets into the wagon. Alice Evans leaves for Bisbee. Danny Evans follows the wagon at safe distance.

FADE OUT.

EXT. BISBEE - MORNING

Alice Evans arrives in Bisbee and goes to the town square. It is deserted. She waits, nervously. Jim Keller arrives. He looks in the wagon then dismounts. Jim Keller searches Alice Evans.

JIM KELLER

The boss wanted me to make sure
you're not healed. Okay, lady.
Follow me and no tricks.

Alice Evans follows Jim Keller. Danny Evans follows them at a safe distance.

FADE OUT.

I/E. CABIN IN A WOODED AREA NEAR BISBEE - MORNING

Alice Evans and Jim Keller arrive at Hollander's cabin. Jacob Hollander comes outside to meet them.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(frowns)
You took long enough. Did you
search her?

JIM KELLER

Yeah. She's clean. That wagon was
really slow, boss.

JACOB HOLLANDER

Did you check inside the wagon?

JIM KELLER

There's just a couple of blankets
on the floor.

JACOB HOLLANDER

Did you check under the blankets?

JIM KELLER

Nothing under them. They're folded,
boss.

JACOB HOLLANDER
Okay, bring her in.

They all enter the cabin. Betty Evans is seated in a chair next to a table. Her hands are bound. On the table are documents and a small stack of bills. Two men, holding Winchesters are standing on right side of Jacob Hollander. Jacob Hollander motions to Alice Evans.

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
Sit your ass down there.

Alice Evans sits down in front of the documents. Jim Keller moves to the left side of Jacob Hollander.

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)
Okay, lady. Sign all of those papers where the **x** is. There's two hundred in cash to take with you.

With a frown, Alice Evan's slowly signs the documents and picks up the cash. She stands up and looks at Betty Evans then turns to Jacob Hollander.

ALICE EVANS
Cut her loose.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(sneers)
She ain't going anywhere just yet. When I'm sure you and your family are out of the territory, I'll put her on a train. You can send me a wire where to send her.

ALICE EVANS
(screams)
You bastard. You said you'd let her go after I signed the ranch over.

JACOB HOLLANDER
(laughs)
I'm not stupid. When I'm sure all of you Evans are out of the territory, then I'll let her go. You try any shit, and I'll kill her and the rest of your whole damn family.

The door opens and Ben Wade bursts in. He is holding a Colt revolver. Alice Evans drops to the floor. Jim Keller pulls a revolver from a holster. Ben Wade shoots him between the eyes. The other two men raise their Winchesters.

Ben Wade shoots them and quickly points the Colt at Jacob Hollander. Jacob Hollander raises his arms and smiles. Ben Wade's face takes on the "Ben Wade" hard stare.

BEN WADE

Don't make a move or you're a dead man.

Jacob Hollander gets a big grin on his face and laughs.

BEN WADE (CONT'D)

Well now, this is the first I've seen a man who's going to prison laugh.

The door opens and Danny Evans bursts in. He is holding a shotgun.

DANNY EVANS

Need any help?

Ben Wade is distracted as he glances at Danny Evans. A bedroom door opens and Jake Keller steps out with a Winchester and shoots Ben Wade in the chest. Ben Wade falls to the floor. Alice Evans screams and kneels down by Ben Wade and cradles his head in her lap.

JAKE KELLER

(points rifle at Danny)
Drop it, sonny.

Danny Evans drops the shotgun. Jacob Hollander stands over Ben Wade.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(smiles)
As I said, I'm not stupid. I just knew that you'd try something, Wade. Didn't work, did it?

Ben Wade looks up at Alice Evans with a sorrowful look.

ALICE EVANS

Oh, Ben.

BEN WADE

Good bye, my dear.

Ben Wade closes his eyes and dies. Alice hugs Ben Wade tightly and puts her face next to his. Jacob Hollander kicks Alice Evans.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(sneers)

Alright, that's enough. Take your kid and get the hell outta here. Remember what I told you.

Alice Evans looks up at Jacob Hollander with a look of hate.

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)

I said get the hell outta here, now.

The door opens and four armed men with badges burst in. Jake Keller raises the Winchester and is immediately shot by two of the armed men. The other two men aim their revolvers at Jacob Hollander. He raises his hands.

JACOB HOLLANDER (CONT'D)

(sneers)

Who the hell are you?

ARMED MAN

We are Federal Marshals, sent here by Governor Murphy. You are under arrest, sir.

JACOB HOLLANDER

(laughs)

Yeah, well just wait till the sheriff gets word of this.

ARMED MAN

(smiles)

He's back in bisbee, under arrest. Your little game is over with.

Alice Evans stands up and looks at the Armed man.

ALICE EVANS

How did you know to come out here?

ARMED MAN

Ben Wade wired Governor Murphy. We followed your son out here. Wade said your son would probably follow you in the wagon. He was right. Actually, we've been following Hollander's activities for quite a while. You are not the only people he's ever gone after.

One of the Armed Men handcuffs Jacob Hollander and escorts him out.

ARMED MAN (CONT'D)

Ma'am, my men will escort you back home.

ALICE EVANS

Sir, would you put Mr. Wade in my wagon. There's some blankets in it. Please cover him.

FADE OUT.

EXT. EVANS RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Will, Alice and Danny Evans along with Father O'Brien, Governor Tritle and the four Armed Man are standing next to three graves. Emma Nelson is standing off to the side. The markers say "Daniel Evans", "Matthew Evans" and "Ben Wade".

Father O'Brien is wearing the purple stole and holding Ben Wade's Bible.

PRIEST

Rest in peace, my son.

Emma Nelson starts to sing "Beautiful River". Everyone joins in the singing.

A tear rolls down Alice Evan's cheek.

THE END