

THE HANGMANS NOOSE

Written by

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Based on The Short Story

ACT 1

FADE IN

EXT.-DAY-THE GALLOS

The sun is high in the sky and the sky is a dark blue. We see several men sitting on the ground. The camera pans and we see there is a large crowd gathered. The camera continues to pan we see there is a hanging gallos and there are three men with a noose around each of their necks. Suddenly the floor drops and the men follow. It's sort of quick. we can see the bodies spasm for a few moments before they stop.

The camera cuts to two men sitting on the ground. They are sitting very close to each other. They look at each other silently communicating with each other. The next three men in front of them are pulled up and taken to the gallos.

NICK (V.O.)

We thought we could do what we do
and get away clean. We were sorely
wrong about that.

CUT TO:
FLASHBACK ONE
MONTH EARLIER.

EXT.-DAY-A LOCAL BANK

Shots ring out as two men come running out of the bank. They have two bags with them. They run to their horses and jump on as fast as they can. The sheriff rides up as the robbers get on their horses.

JACK

(with an urgent push to
his voice)

Damn it, Nick I ain't about to
leave you!

Jack pulls his gun to shoot the sheriff. Before he can get a shot off Jack's gun goes flying and Jack is now holding his hand. Nick looks over at Jack and then over at the sheriff with his gun smoking. Nick look back over at Jack and see's he is bleeding from his side.

NICK

Jack, I think we been cooked.

Nick gets off of his horse and then holds up his hands, and walks over to help Jack off of his horse.

NICK (CONT'D)

We surrender sheriff. You won't get no more trouble out of us.

INT. NIGHT-THE JAIL CELLS

Nick is laying down on his cot in his jail cell. Jack is in cell next to him.

NICK (V.O.)

I spent the night before our trial thinking about everything Jack and I had done together.

A montage of images of Nick and Jack robbing banks, and wooing women, and general shenanigans they had gotten up to as kids.

NICK (V.O.)

We had a lot of fun before we had gotten caught. My pa had always told me I would end up here one day. I guess he was right.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. DAY-MORNING-

Nick wakes up to a deputy clanging a metal coffee cup on the cell bars.

DEPUTY

Wake up, you no good reprobates!
It's time to go see the judge! And
just your luck. It's Judge
Deadwyler, and she is a hangin'
judge.

Nick and Jack look at each with apprehensively.

JACK:

Well that doesn't sound good for
us.

NICK

No, Jack. It most certainly does
not sound good for us.

INT. DAY-THE COURT ROOM

The Judge's bench is empty as Nick and Jack are led into the court room. The audience gallery was full. Nick and Jack kept their heads down and didn't look at anyone. They sat down in the chairs at their table. There was an attorney already sitting at the table when they got there.

ANTHONY

Hello gentlemen. My name is Anthony
Burk. I'll be your attorney. This
judge requires that all defendants
have representation. Don't worry
about paying me. The court has
already taken care of it. This will
be a short event today. The Judge
has already heard from the Sheriff
in chambers.

NICK

Well that sounds just a bit odd to
me. I'm already starting to feel a
noose around my neck. So what
you're tellin' us is that the Judge
has already heard from the law and
has already decided our fate?

ANTHONY

Well. In short. Yes. That would be the long and short of it.

NICK

That doesn't sound fair at all. I expect you to say something to the judge. I'm not saying we didn't try to rob that bank. I just don't think we should hang for it.

A side door opens and a bailiff comes out.

BAILIFF

All rise for the honorable Judge Annabelle Deadwyler.

Everyone in the courtroom stands up. Judge Deadwyler quickly walks in and takes her seat on the bench.

JUDGE DEADWYLER

You may all be seated. Bailiff announce the case.

BAILIFF

We are addressing Nick Tuning and Jack Kincaid verses Deadwood county on the charge of bank robbery and attempted murder.

JUDGE DEADWYLER

How do the both of you plea?

Nick slowly stands up to address the Judge.

NICK

Innocent of the attempted murder. Guilty for the Bank Robbery. We didn't try to kill anyone, and we didn't want too kill anyone.

JUDGE DEADWYLER

(looks up from the file she was reading)

According to the sheriff. Your partner Jack was going to shot him.

NICK

That's not entirely true your honor. Although Jack had drawn his gun. The sheriff shot it out of his hand before he could do anything. Jack wasn't even pointing it at the sheriff