

THE NEW SONS OF LIBERTY

Written by

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Based on, his novel, with the same title

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The New Sons of Liberty

FADE IN:

EXT. EISENHOWER TUNNEL, COLORADO - DAY

SUPER: PRESENT DAY, EISENHOWER TUNNEL, COLORADO

In the b.g., a steady caravan of moving vans, rental trucks, and pickups evacuate the mountains like a wagon train being chased by Indians. It's August, when tempers rise.

In the f.g., a young, blonde, female TV REPORTER #1 (30) interviews the stodgy GOVERNOR of Colorado (50), doctor-brothers HIRAM (32) and JOSHUA GOLDSTEIN (30), and a weathered, grumpy Native American ROBERT LA POUFRE (57), all nervously sitting on stools.

REPORTER #1

Governor, what's it feel like to lose a third of Colorado?

GOVERNOR

It's devastating! One million Coloradoans forced to move from the newly established Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Apache Reservation.

REPORTER #1

All because unscrupulous U.S. agents cut off a line of a signed treaty before sending it to Washington for ratification one hundred and forty-five years ago.

GOVERNOR

That's what the Supreme Court said. The Indians get it back!

Reporter #1 PULLS UP a MAP of the new reservation.

REPORTER #1

Zooming in on the map, that means all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide, here, to Utah.

GOVERNOR

And, all the water rights, the gas, oil, real estate, ski industry, billions of dollars gone.

ROBERT LA POUDRE
Not gone, re-distributed to Native
Americans. Stolen goods returned.

REPORTER #1
That was Robert La Poudre, who
along with chiefs G. Stands Tall
and Silver Whitehorse, rule the new
Reservation they now own.

GOVERNOR
(to Robert La Poudre)
You never owned that land.

REPORTER #1
Over here we have the doctors who
invented a DNA test of interest.

HIRAM
Hi. I'm Hiram, this is my kid
brother Joshua.

REPORTER #1
Tell us what you invented.

HIRAM
Quick blood test that detects if
you're one-sixteenth Indian.

JOSHUA
Faster than a pregnancy test.

HIRAM
If you're Indian, you get a cut of
the mineral royalties.

JOSHUA
And free rent. Buy our test. It's
just ten dollars plus shipping and
handling.

ROBERT LA POUDRE
Non-Indians are free to lease lands
back from us and stay in their
businesses, but they're panicking.

A sign on a moving van reads: "BETTER DEAD THAN RED."

REPORTER #1
Yes, it looks like many decided to
leave. Where will they all go?

GOVERNOR

We set up Citizen Displacement
Centers for temporary assistance.
Just call the number on the screen
to get assigned a trailer.

REPORTER #1

We expected to see more resistance
after honest hard-working citizens
were thrown out by the Indians.

Robert La Poudre, disgusted, leaves his stool mumbling
loudly.

ROBERT LA POUDRE

That's what we said about you for
five-hundred years. Asshole
imperialists.

GOVERNOR

We won't put up with this for long.
It's a time bomb here.

Sound of a clock ticking.

BEGIN MONTAGE -- GLOOMY SITUATION IN COLORADO

-- EXT. TRAILER PARK, GRANADA, COLORADO - DAY -- Displaced
citizen moving into trailers. Sign reads "Citizen
Displacement Center number eight"

-- EXT. DESERTED COLORADO TOWNS - DAY -- Empty chair lifts
SWAY in the wind at closed ski resorts.

-- INT. MOUNTAIN SCHOOL - DAY -- A few HAPPY Indian kids, and
a few UNHAPPY non-Indians.

END MONTAGE

SUPER: Ten Years Later, August, Friday Morning

INT. SAME SCHOOL - DAY

Shows many happy Indian kids, and a few unhappy non-Indians.
Clock on the wall is ticking.

INT. SAME TRAILER PARK - DAY

SUPER: Citizen Displacement Center #8, Granada, Colorado

The wall clock ticking. It's a hot Friday morning in August.

The weekly bitch session in a double wide trailer-turned-auditorium is not going well for Center Superintendent MERYL LONG (45), a kind cowboy, generous to a fault.

Football-player-type brothers, LUKE (26) and ADAM STENNISON (24) are looking for trouble.

MERYL LONG

We've been over this. The recession lasted longer than anyone believed. Only ten percent of our trailers have air conditioning because we got them from Alaska.

HECKLER #1/MRS. LONG

Does your office have A/C?

The heckler is Long's wife. The crowd CHUCKLES mildly.

MERYL LONG

You know it does, Dear.

HECKLER #2

What about the Ordways?

MERYL LONG

Nothing could have helped the Ordways. Guns and alcohol don't mix.

LUKE STENNISON

My brother and I carry guns, and we could use a drink.

MERYL LONG

Luke and Adam, don't start any trouble. The rest of you, just stay cool while I'm gone horseback riding next week. My wife will meet anyone who still has questions.

The heat is unbearable. Meryl kisses his wife and departs on a well-deserved vacation.

Five minutes later, tempers flare. Meryl's wife breaks it up. Heckler #2 grabs Luke's automatic pistol. It goes off unexpectedly. BAM, BAM, BAM, BAM. Heckler #2 and Mrs. Meryl Long are killed. Luke and Adam flee.

INT. CAR - EISENHOWER TUNNEL, COLORADO - DAY

SILVER WHITEHORSE (36), beautiful but tired, speeds toward Fort Collins, home to her poorly dressed, overly-shy husband, Professor WES POWELL (40), and son, KIT (5).

SILVER

Call home.

The voice-activated wireless phone CALLS home.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

WES (V.O.)

(shyly)

Hello?

SILVER

It's me. Sorry I didn't make it home last night. Commuting to Aspen's a bitch. We have the major water re-negotiations Wednesday. I'm swamped. How's Kit?

CUT TO:

INT. POWELL HOME, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO - DAY

Wes TALKS on an old wall phone, next to a ticking clock.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

WES

He's fine. Thought you were ours Thursday nights to Saturday mornings?

SILVER (V.O.)

I know, I work too hard, but it's a young nation.

KIT (5) LAUGHS as he is CHASED by a cute Nanny, MICHELLE (20), in a bikini top and shorts. Wes avoids eye contact.

SILVER (V.O.)

What's that?

WES

That's Michelle chasing Kit. You have a marriage and child too.

SILVER (V.O.)
I hired Kit a nanny so you could
teach and work on those storm
predictions. Put Kit on.

More laughter from Kit and Michelle. Wes grabs Kit.

KIT
Hi, Mommy. Daddy burned a pan last
night and had to throw it away.
When you coming home?

Kit hands Wes the phone and races after Michelle.

BACK TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

SILVER
Kit? Wes?

WES (V.O.)
When are you coming home?

SILVER
Near Golden. Be there in an hour.
Are your storm models working?

Silver hears Michelle and Kit laughing in the b.g.

WES (V.O.)
My models predict a major
microburst south of Aspen on
Thursday morning.

SILVER
Can't talk now, heavy traffic. See
you by lunch. Love ya.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

EXT. STEPS OF COUNTY JAIL, GOLDEN, COLORADO - DAY

Handsome JIMMY NEWMAN (26) meets SEVERAL REPORTERS (mixed
ages) as he is released from jail.

Beautiful Native American, ALISSA STANDS TALL (24), sneaks in
between Reporter #1 and seasoned Indian reporter ERIC RED
CLOUD, 55.

REPORTER #1

How does it feel to be out after you were falsely accused of the bank bombing on the Reservation?

JIMMY

Told 'em I didn't do it! Dead coyote was left at the door. The Indian gang, the Coyotes, must have done it.

Jimmy eyes and smile at Alissa, who is not smiling.

ERIC RED CLOUD

Why would we blow up our own bank?

JIMMY

Don't know. My family ranched that country for five generations without a bank blowing up.

Again, Jimmy smile toward Alissa. She glares back. Jimmy's former Army buddy, LARRY "SARG" CAEN (26), screeches to stop in a new Corvette.

SARG

Let Jimmy enjoy his freedom after three months. He's gotta get home to his folks at Center Number Eight.

JIMMY

I just want to get back to the good ol' days, like a lotta folks.

Jimmy and Sarg peel away in the car. Alissa whispers to Eric.

ALISSA

He's cute, but he's so wrong. The Coyotes didn't bomb the bank.

ERIC RED CLOUD

Then who did?

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY, WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

SUPER: Internal Terrorist Activity Division

Tough Deputy Director CHARI CHANTELL (39) bursts into her assistant, ANITA ROMO'S (33) office. Anita smile to provide balance to Chari's worried look. Clock on the wall TICKS.

CHARI

Okay, what's up now?

ANITA

Vandalism, Ma'am. It's up inside and outside that new Reservation in Colorado. Blogs are more violent.

CHARI

The Coyotes again?

ANITA

We don't know. It may be ten, or ten thousand terrorists slashing tires of trucks from the big-box stores to prevent competition with small Indian stores. Or...

CHARI

(interrupting)
Or what?

ANITA

Or just restless teenager punks. We can't tell, but it's gettin' worse.

CHARI

The FBI and CIA say it's only intertribal squabbles: the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Apache inside, and the Utes outside.

ANITA

Web traffic hit on three names; one's in prison for life, one just got out, James Newman, and one's in Texas, Travis Key. No Indians.

CHARI

Get me work-ups on the last two.

ANITA

Here they are. Amazing huh?

CHARI

Find out who's leading the Coyotes.

ANITA

We can't, Ma'am. Thousands of e-mails and blogs use the word coyote. They were smart picking that name. We don't have the staff to...

CHARI

(interrupting)

What's Director Lebsock of the BIA doing about the Coyotes?

ANITA

Sending an accountant, Stanley Harrington to Colorado to check out the Displacement Centers and meet with the Reservation chiefs.

CHARI

An accountant? Chief Robert La Poudre is going to eat him alive.

EXT/INT. LAS VEGAS HOTEL - DAY

SUPER: Friday Noon

Robert La Poudre looks at stacks of chips and a table of gifts from a penthouse suite. There's a knock on his door. He pockets a smartphone, and answers the door. It's WILL STROMBERG, 28, weasel-like personal assistant to the Arizona-Nevada "Water-lord", LE ROY HANSON (65).

WILL STROMBERG

Mr. La Poudre, I'm Will Stromberg, Mr. Hansen's P.A.

ROBERT LA POUFRE

Let's get this over with, Mr. Stromberg.

They descend in an elevator, and storm into a board room with a dozen over-stuffed chairs. Only Le Roy Hanson is present.

LE ROY HANSON

Welcome, Mr. La Poudre. Did you like our modest proposal?

ROBERT LA POUFRE

I looked it over.

LE ROY HANSON

As you can see, it's...

ROBERT LA POUFRE

(interrupting)

Ten years out-of-date in pricing, and it fails to recognize climate change and drought cycles, Lee Roy.

LE ROY HANSON
It's Le Roy, and we...

ROBERT LA POUFRE
(interrupting)
Say nothing about water
conservation, drip irrigation, or
xeriscaping, Lee Roy.

LE ROY HANSON
It's Le Roy, and we...

ROBERT LA POUFRE
(interrupting)
Fail to protect the water rights of
southwest Indian tribes. Read your
history Lee Roy. They were here
first.

LE ROY HANSON
We have until Wednesday morning in
Aspen to change it, right?

ROBERT LA POUFRE
Yes, but the clock's ticking.

La Poudre shakes his head in disgust as he exits. Le Roy
makes a phone call.

EXT/INT. SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA - DAY

SUPER: California Water And Trade, Inc.

CEO KATOLINA REMENSKI, 50, a powerful businesswoman, meets
with key staff, idealist DANIEL WHITEHORSE, 35, and
pragmatist, BERNIE HOLCOMB, 42, in a glass-walled office with
small cameras and one clock, ticking.

KATOLINA
Robert La Poudre is on his way.
What are his issues, Bernie?

BERNIE
Ask Daniel, his sister's closer to
him than we are.

Katolina sneers.

DANIEL
I can't change the past.

BERNIE

Okay. Since the Colorado River Pact of nineteen-twenty-two, we've been in trouble and it's getting worse.

KATOLINA

How much worse?

BERNIE

In nineteen-twenty-two, experts guessed the Colorado River produced sixteen-point-four million acre feet per year, but it was really only thirteen-point-five.

DANIEL

So, eight out of ten years, we fight over water that was never there.

KATOLINA

And, the future?

BERNIE

The Indians may reduce our water allocation or make us pay more.

DANIEL

Resulting in what amounts to a mega-drought every year.

BERNIE

And Nevada and Arizona are teaming up to outbid us. We're screwed.

KATOLINA

Remember, we're on open access web, Bernie.

BERNIE

Okay, we're fucked.

Katolina paces in anger.

KATOLINA

What do we offer La Poudre? Daniel, can't you talk to Silver?

DANIEL

We have to deal with Robert. Silver has problems of her own.

KATOLINA

We'd better think of something
before he gets here, or we'll all
be screwed.

Katorina storms out.

EXT. POWELL BACKYARD - DAY

SUPER: Wes Powell/Silver Whitehorse Home, Fort Collins,
Colorado

Huge shade trees suspend a colorful hammock. Wes Powell READS
a book to his son, Kit, 5, as Silver enters the backyard
carrying coffee, sandwiches, and juice.

WES

Two raccoons out looking for lunch.

SILVER

(interrupting)
Find wild berries by the bunch.

KIT

Mommy's home.

SILVER

And, I brought lunch.

Kit fumbles out of the hammock and runs to his mom.

SILVER (CONT'D)

Kit, I missed you so much.
(less enthusiastically)
Missed you too, dear.

KIT

Mommy missed me more than you.

WES

I'm glad you're home.

SILVER

Where's your nanny, Kit?

KIT

She went swimming. We didn't go.

Michelle's swimming suit is really small.

WES

(to Silver)
You hired her.

SILVER

Not helping. I know I'm gone a lot.

WES

I'm sorry, Sweetie. We get by.

Uncomfortable moments pass, thankfully interrupted by a knock on the fence gate. An Express Mailperson, 30, awaits.

WES (CONT'D)

I'll get it.

MAIL PERSON (O.S.)

Express package for Wes Powell.
Didn't make it by eleven. Sorry.

WES

I'll sign. It's me.

Wes signs for the large envelope.

WES (CONT'D)

Looks like eleven to me. Forget it.

MAIL PERSON (O.S.)

Thanks, professor. Doesn't feel
like a textbook this time.

The mail person drives off. Wes tears open the envelope.

WES

It's from our recluse friend, Chad
Hastings the Forth.

SILVER

C-four and Maggie? Where are the
lovebirds? Cape Town? Bora Bora?

WES

Taos, New Mexico. Close. They sent
us three tickets to join the Ron
Highwoods Wilderness Riders,
Leadville to Aspen. Leaves Sunday.

KIT

Horses. Yeah.

SILVER

You mean the Hollywood Wilderness
Wanna-bees. Tickets are ten grand.

KIT

I could be a Indian and a cowboy.

WES

That's an Indian, Kit. And family time. Reconnecting. Bonding. School doesn't start for ten days. Come on, what do ya say?

SILVER

But I've got the big water re-negotiations Wednesday...

WES

(interrupting)

C-four and Maggie already paid for them. We end in Aspen on Tuesday.

KIT

With Aunt Maggie and Uncle Chad?

WES

It'll be like a second honeymoon.

SILVER

A second honeymoon? Didn't you predict a horrible storm?

WES

A wet second honeymoon. Oh come on, Silver, we need this time together.

The old fashioned wall phone rings in the kitchen.

WES (CONT'D)

I'll get it. Don't start lunch without me. It's our first meal together in a week.

Silver remains undecided. Wes gets the call from Anita Romo.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

WES (CONT'D)

Hello.

ANITA (V.O.)

Professor Powell, It's Anita Romo.

WES

Hi Anita. Been a while. How's Chari?

ANITA (V.O.)

Fine. We have some data on vandalism, and we need your modeling skills.

WES

I may be going on a family horse riding trip. Can I do it later?

ANITA (V.O.)

It shouldn't take long. Two hundred points over five years in the east.

WES

That won't take long at all.

ANITA (V.O.)

We'll send you funds for a Ph.D. student, if we can get results by tomorrow. It's confidential.

WES

Geez. Okay. Send me the data and I'll call you tomorrow. Gotta run.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

Wes hangs up. He returns to the backyard. His sandwich is GONE. Kit and Silver smile deviously.

WES (CONT'D)

Who ate my sandwich?

They all burst out laughing.

KIT

Me and mommy.

WES

Mommy and I ate the sandwich.

SILVER

(laughing)

Then you shouldn't be hungry.

Wes snuggles in the hammock with Silver and Kit.

WES

Can we go? Horse riding, camp out, conjoined sleeping bags?

SILVER

Oh, what the hell, I mean heck. A three-day horse ride may give me time to write up Indian oral histories.

The phone rings again. It's MAGGIE ESPOSITO-HASTINGS (34), glowing with a three-month pregnancy. Wes runs to the phone.

WES

Yes, You bet. And I'll get to see
if my storm prediction worked.

KIT

Yeah, pony riding.

Wes finally reaches the phone.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

WES

Hello?

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Wesley. It's Maggie. Can you make
it? Can you make the trip?

WES

So generous of C-four and you.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

We look so forward to vacations
with you. They're always so
exciting. Can you come?

WES

We'll be coming. Special thanks.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Great. Now guess who's also on the
trip? No, put Silver on.

Wes lets the phone dangle. He fetches Silver.

Silver slowly walks to the phone.

SILVER

Coming. Coming. Hi Maggie. Thank
you so much for the generous gift.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Silver, guess who also signed up
for our trip?

Maggie doesn't wait for a guess.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Hamilton Hughes and Angel Garcia.
Can you believe it? Three days with
the biggest movie star and pop
singer in the world.

SILVER
 (half-heartedly)
 Gee. That'll be great. Anybody
 Kit's age?

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 A judge is bringing his daughter.
 And there's a John Penington Meyers
 on the list?

SILVER
 Senator from California?

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 Pick us up at the Leadville
 Airfield tomorrow about four P.M.?

SILVER
 Yes, I guess so.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 We got us all rooms at the
 Leadville Inn and Cafe. Ride out
 the next morning.

SILVER
 Okay. We'd better pack. Pass on our
 thanks to C-four, will ya?

MAGGIE (V.O.)
 Hamilton Hughes. Angel Garcia. Bye
 Silver. Hi to Kit.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

Silver hangs up and smile.

SILVER
 (to herself)
 Second honeymoon? More like Circus
 With the Stars.

WES (O.S.)
 Anyone we need to call, dear?

Silver stares at the ticking wall clock.

SILVER
 I needed to text Robert, my
 brother, G., and Police Chief
 Parker. You need to pack for us.

INT. ASPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

SUPER: Reservation Police Headquarters, Aspen, Colorado

Native American POLICE CHIEF PARKER (32) and White desk clerk, SHELLY HUNT, 45, are engaged in a webcast-conference call to Police (mixed ages) throughout the Reservation.

PARKER

Just two more agenda items people.
Hang in there.

SHELLY

The Coyotes?

Snickers and fake concerns echo from the webcasters.

PARKER

Right. We have a threat level
orange. Word from Washington of the
Coyotes building strength.

SHELLY

(sarcastically)

Right. It's the Utes we have to
worry about. Lastly, the Ron
Highwoods Riders...

PARKER

(interrupting)

Oh yeah. Word leaked that Hamilton
Hughes and Angel Garcia signed up
for the Leadville to Aspen horse
ride beginning Sunday.

CAT CALLS for Angel Garcia over the web.

CAT CALL from Shelly for Hamilton Hughes.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Senator John Meyers from
California, and Silver and her
family will be joining them. Be
safe out there.

Parker CLICKS off his computer so he didn't have to hear the
reactions to Silver's ostentatious vacation.

SHELLY

The Coyotes will hear about this.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIKING TRAIL, COLORADO - DAY

Five young-adult Indians (22-26), Alissa Stands Tall, SAM LITTLE SUN, BRENNNA and JALEN NIGHTWEATHER, and LILLY CROW, HIKE to a remote hill with earphones linked to smartphones.

ALISSA

Sam, take all our electronics back down to the trailhead.

SAM

(reluctant, angry)

I'm never included. Never mind me.

Alissa waits until Sam leaves.

ALISSA

It's nice of Parker to use an easy channel. Good work, Brenna.

BRENNNA

Easy. How was the bomber kid, Jimmy or whatever?

ALISSA

Jimmy Newman, cute, but on the wrong side. Working the fundraiser at Red Rocks for the Camps.

JALEN

And, how will we respond?

ALISSA

With one uninvited visitor, siisiiyei nonoononoutoosi'. A rattlesnake.

INT. SENATOR JOHN MEYERS' OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

The Senator from California (55), a poster child of a mid-life crisis, calls home to MRS. MEYERS (32), a socialite.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

MRS. MEYERS (V.O.)

John Pennington Meyers, I'm not going. There are probably rattlesnakes. Colorado? Horses? Forget it.

SENATOR MEYERS

I suppose you're right.

MRS. MEYERS (V.O.)
Take your secretary. I don't care.

SENATOR MEYERS
She's Chief of Staff, not a...

MRS. MEYERS (V.O.)
(interrupting)
I'll be in Aruba. Don't call me.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

He Hangs up as ugly-Betty-type, Chief of Staff, WINNY TYLER (28) walks in. Her thick glasses say she's all business.

SENATOR MEYERS
Winnie, I'd like you to go on this trip to Colorado.

WINNY
Three-year-old at home. Can't go.

SENATOR MEYERS
The water re-negotiations with the Indians? California lives on Colorado water.

Winnie drops papers on his desk and TURNS to walk out.

SENATOR MEYERS (CONT'D)
Hamilton Hughes and Angel Garcia will be on the horse trip.

Winnie stops, star-struck.

WINNY
Anything for California. We need that Colorado water.

EXT/INT. OFFICE BUILDING, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA - DAY

Building sign reads: CALIFORNIA WATER AND TRADE, INC.

SUPER: FRIDAY NOON

Daniel Whitehorse and Robert La Poudre are texting on smartphones as powerful CEO Katolina Remenski focuses the meeting.

KATOLINA
Mr. La Poudre, I assure you, we wish to protect the water rights of southwest Indian tribes.

ROBERT LA POUFRE
 So what have you done?
 Conservation? Drip irrigation?
 Outlawed golf courses and lawns?

KATOLINA
 We've made significant progress.

ROBERT LA POUFRE
 Daniel, your sister will be horse
 riding with the senator from
 California this week. Maybe she
 could talk sense into him.

DANIEL
 It's a vacation, I think.

ROBERT LA POUFRE
 Heads of State are never on
 vacation.

KATOLINA
 We are authorized by the senator to
 buy the Hastings land in eastern
 Colorado as a plains bison reserve
 for your people.

ROBERT LA POUFRE
 Chad Hastings' land? That a bribe?

Daniel looks sheepish, guilty.

KATOLINA
 Maybe a trade, for a little more
 water allocation, we could...

ROBERT LA POUFRE
 (interrupting)
 Daniel, you work for people who can
 never know your inner songs.

Robert La Poudre storms out, mumbling to himself. Daniel
 follows him to the elevators.

DANIEL
 Robert, you're right. Whatever you
 decide is okay with me.

KATOLINA
 (whispering, avoiding the
 cameras)
 If he wants a revolution, he'll get
 one.

EXT/INT. SHIP TAVERN, BROWN PALACE HOTEL, DENVER - NIGHT

The Ship Tavern is cloaked like a clipper ship, reminiscent of Boston Harbor. Jimmy Newman, Sarg Caen, and four stout young friends (mixed ages) are talking treason in a corner booth. An older WAITRESS (55) interrupts them.

WAITRESS

What can I bring ya boys?

JIMMY

Three pitchers of Samuel Adams,
French bread, and butter, please.

SARG

It's on me, fellas. Keep it.

Larry "Sarg" Caen tosses a hundred-dollar bill to the waitress. The boys wait for her to leave.

JIMMY

Ya see, every time Sarg sent an
anti-Indian blog to the web, cash
appeared in his mailbox.

SARG

The more caustic the blog, the more
bills in the envelope.

JIMMY

More blogs, more cash.

FRIEND #1

Somebody wants trouble.

FRIEND #2

Somebody wants a war.

JIMMY

So the treaty is voided and
Colorado gets the land back from
the Indians.

SARG

Exactly.

The waitress DROPS OFF the beer and bread; smile at Jimmy, and leaves.

FRIEND #1

I thought you gave up fighting
after Iraq, Jimmy.

JIMMY

I did. I'm as non-violent as the next guy. But we can stir the nest.

Dangerous looking men join them, Luke and Adam Stennison.

LUKE STENNISON

Sarg invited us.

SARG

The Stennisons would be the richest people our age in Colorado if the Indians didn't steal their ranches.

ADAM STENNISON

Hi Jimmy. Don't go back to the Center Number Eight for a while. It's a mess.

JIMMY

My folks okay?

LUKE STENNISON

Still disappointed that you got arrested for bank bombing?

JIMMY

I didn't. But I'm still unemployed, and my folks hate that.

ADAM STENNISON

We know. So what are you guys planning?

SARG

Tell 'em about the pipes, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Indians in the north want to force oil and gas companies to exclusively buy their Indian pipes and supplies.

SARG

At high prices. It's a tax.

JIMMY

So, like the Boston Tea Party, I say we protest. We stop an oil supply truck outside the Eisenhower Tunnel and dump the pipes into Clear Creek.

FRIEND #1

I don't know, guys. Colorado doesn't want any trouble.

FRIEND #2

Neither does Washington. They might say it's treason.

JIMMY

But Thomas Paine said, 'For all men being originally equals, no one by birth could have a right to set up his own family in perpetual preference to all others forever.'

SARG

Jimmy's right. Now, if your DNA test says you're part Indian, you're set for life.

ADAM STENNISON

And if you're not part Indian, you lose your ranch, business, and everything, like we did.

JIMMY

It's a harmless protest, civil disobedience, tomorrow at dawn.

FRIEND #1

(reluctantly)
I guess I'll do it.

FRIEND #2

Yeah. Me too.

SARG

Let's stir things up before the fundraiser for the Displacement Centers at Red Rocks tomorrow night.

JIMMY

(proudly)
I thought of a name for ourselves.

LUKE STENNISON

What's that?

JIMMY

The New Sons of Liberty.

ADAM STENNISON

Catchy. Wimpy, but catchy.

JIMMY

(whispering)

Meet at Buffalo Bill's grave site
exit on Highway seventy, six-thirty
A.M. sharp.

ADAM STENNISON

We'll join you. We hate those
Redskins.

SARG

They make a great Buffalo Burger
here, and drink up. It's on me.

LUKE STENNISON

Love to, but we gotta pick someone
up at the airport now. See ya.

JIMMY

First a toast. To the New Sons of
Liberty.

They toast. The Stennisons rush out. Jimmy, Sarg, and the
others settle in for a long night of drinking and eating. The
grandfather clock in the corner of the tavern TICKS.

INT. DENVER AIRPORT - NIGHT

Robert La Poudre CHECKS his watch, PICKS up his bags, and
heads to the parking garage, TALKING TO HIMSELF.

EXT. HIGHWAY TOWARD DENVER AND THE MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Robert is driving east to the Reservation, MUMBLING. The
Stennison brothers drive up ALONG SIDE La Poudre.

Luke, in the back seat, rolls down the window. BLAM BLAM.
Robert is shot twice. Adam speeds off, as Robert's car
scrapes the concrete rail for a half-mile before stopping.

EXT. AUTOMOBILE DEMOLITION CENTER - NIGHT

Adam Stennison hops the fence of the car-crushing yard and
PLACES the 38-special in the AIR FILTER of a damaged Volvo.

INT. STENNISON'S CAR - NIGHT

Luke makes a phone call to COLONEL TRAVIS KEY, 40, a former
officer in Special Forces, now a mercenary.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

LUKE STENNISON

Yes, sir. One of the three heads of the snake is history.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (V.O.)

Did you do your recycling?

LUKE STENNISON

Yes, sir. And, what do you think of this name: The New Sons of Liberty?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (V.O.)

Ooh. Effective. I'll bring your payment to the Red Rocks benefit concert. Two more heads to go.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

EXT. HIGHWAY REST STOP, RATON, NEW MEXICO - NIGHT

Colonel Travis Key CLOSES his smartphone outside a black HUMMER. He and his new girlfriend, DARLENE "DIXIE" BRUSH, 28, prepare to meet the shabby members of a Christian rock 'n roll band. Inside a RENTAL TRUCK is band leader, FRASIER FONTAINE (24), and RANDY BRYANT (24). In a PASSENGER VAN behind them, are LEFTY HECHARD (24) and ARVIN WELLS (24).

FRASIER

I'm Frasier Fontaine. You the guy with the amplifiers?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

That's right. I'm Travis Key, but everybody calls me Colonel.

Everyone STEPS OUT of the vehicles for introductions in the DARK truck stop parking lot.

FRASIER

This here's Randy, Lefty, and Arvin. We're the San Antonio Freedom Band.

ARVIN

'Cept we's from Amarillo, Mr. Key.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

I'm Colonel Travis Key. I answer to Colonel. This is Dixie Brush.

FRASIER

Y'all's call said you'd pay us five grand to haul two amplifiers to Red Rocks in Colorado.

LEFTY

Seems like a lot since we're going there anyway. What's up?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

They just have to be driven slowly, carefully, and handled like egg cartons. Very fragile electronics.

ARVIN

Five grand. That's all they're paying us to headline at Red Rocks.

FRASIER

(interrupting)

We're doing a benefit concert for the Citizen Displacement Centers.

DIXIE

We'd like to ride with you, if you don't mind.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Let's get going and we'll explain on the way.

The amplifiers are carefully loaded. The Colonel rides with Frasier, while Dixie rides in the van. Dixie and the Colonel each carry a basket of fried chicken, which smells great.

INT. RENTAL TRUCK CAB - NIGHT

The Colonel goes to work on Frasier as a cult-like recruiter.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Leader of the band, huh? Does society value you in that role?

FRASIER

It's harder and harder for Christian rock bands to find work.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Do your fans care about you the singer, or you the person?

FRASIER

The singer, I guess.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 Are you being kept from achieving
 your goals? I can offer you real
 societal value and high self-
 esteem.

FRASIER
 But I...

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 (interrupting)
 Just think about a bigger future.
 Have some chicken and rolls. We'll
 talk later.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Cult-recruiting techniques work faster in the van for Dixie.

DIXIE
 I think we'll make a fine team.

ARVIN
 Not sure what you want, but the
 Colonel's chicken is to die for.

DIXIE
 Eat up boys, we'll talk later.

EXT. RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATER, MORRISON, COLORADO - NIGHT

The rental truck and van PULL OFF the road at Red Rocks. The
 marquee reads "BLUE COATS" in big letters at the top, and
 "San Antonio Freedom Band" in small letters beneath. Band
 members are stunned and angry.

SUPER: Red Rocks, Saturday Morning, 1 A.M.

FRASIER
 Second billing at a benefit.

LEFTY
 Our lives are over.

RANDY
 Nothing left.

ARVIN
 Maybe we could switch to calypso,
 jazz, big band,
 (smiling)
 or Mariachi.

The others stare at Arvin, disheartened.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 You boys could tie-in with us. New
 jobs, two-hundred bucks per day,
 adventure?

The Colonel hands an envelope with five-thousand dollars to Frasier. Frasier counts the money.

FRASIER
 What is it y'all do?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 We're the New Sons of Liberty.
 We'll talk after your concert.

ARVIN
 Like Johnny Tremain in the nineteen-
 forty-three book by Ester Forbes?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 As American as the eagle itself.

EXT. BUFFALO BILL'S GRAVE EXIT, HWY 70. - DAY

A golden eagle SOARS above a small herd of bison, as Wes, Silver, and Kit stare through a chain-link fence.

Sign reads: Buffalo Bill's Grave Site Exit

SUPER: Saturday Morning, 6:30 A.M.

SILVER
 Mother sky, the eagle, is greeting
 mother Earth, the buffalo.

WES
 Tell Kit what Passing Cloud said
 about this area.

SILVER
 He said many tribes fought over
 these hunting grounds.

KIT
 With guns?

SILVER
 Bows and arrows, and war clubs
 mostly.

WES

But the buffalo and the eagle
survive. Okay, let's keep driving.

Wes's family pulls out in their antique Chevy station wagon,
just as Jimmy Newman and his pals drive up in three cars.

JIMMY

Check out this sign.

SARG

Buffalo Bill Cody killed eight-
thousand buffalo in eight months to
feed hard-working railroad workers.

JIMMY

Opening the west for settlers.

SARG

Wild Bill also shot Tall Bull, one
of the fiercest Cheyenne chiefs.

LUKE STENNISON

Can we just go over the plan?

JIMMY

Okay. We snatch the dog kennel van,
sandwich the next pipe supply truck
at the pass, force it to pull over,
and dump the pipes down the pass.

ADAM STENNISON

Why a kennel truck again?

JIMMY

They're filthy with hair. No DNA
trail on us. Now let's go.

Jimmy's plan works flawlessly. The van is JACKED, a pipe
truck is stopPED, and the New Sons of Liberty, in ski masks,
dump the pipes ceremoniously down the pass. They escape.

Sarg Caen documents the exploits of the New Sons of Liberty
on his blog.

The news is cheered at the Citizen Displacement Centers, and
a revolution is forming.

INT. CAR - WEST OF THE EISENHOWER TUNNEL - DAY

Sign reads: Entering the Cheyenne Arapahoe, and Apache
Reservation. No firearms except muzzle-loading hunting rifles
allowed. Please respect the land and culture.

SUPER: 8:30 A.M.

Wes Powell drives slowly as Silver checks her smartphone and Kit sleeps.

SILVER

How could I have missed nine calls
in the tunnel?

WES

Good luck, I suppose.

SILVER

G. sent a text. A group calling
themselves The New Sons of Liberty
dumped a load of oil supply pipes
down Loveland Pass.

WES

We were just there.

SILVER

To protest a tax hike for drilling
on Indian land.

WES

Like the Boston Tea Party.

SILVER

I have orders to pick up a
newspaper and swing up to
Breckenridge to meet a Mr. Stanley
Harrington from the Bureau of
Indian Affairs.

WES

Where in Breckenridge? It's a
little out of our way.

SILVER

Daylight Donuts.

WES

Well, Kit will like that.

EXT. GAS STATION/CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Wes PULLS the car over in Frisco on the way to Breckenridge.
He pumps gas, while Silver grabs a newspaper. Kit wakes up.

SILVER

Shit.

WES

Ear plugs, Kit. Mommy used a bad word by mistake.

SILVER

There was another murder at Citizen Displacement Center Number Eight.

WES

That's awful.

SILVER

And it was the Wind River Reservation that imposed the tax on oil supplies. Like the Stamp Act in seventeen-sixty-five. I'll nip this one in the bud.

Silver walks away from the car and violently screams into her smartphone. She pauses, closes the phone, and wears an angry face back to the car.

EXT. ROAD TO BRECKENRIDGE - DAY

Silver is still fuming from the newspaper stories as they drive ten minutes to Breckenridge to meet Stanley.

WES

Remember, dear, this is supposed to be like a second honeymoon.

SILVER

Yeah. Right.

INT. CAFE/DONUT SHOP - DAY

Rotund Stanley Harrington is downing a plate of pancakes. Silver and Wes PICK HIM OUT of the crowd of Twelve Locals (mixed ages).

SILVER

Mr. Harrington. I'm Silver Whitehorse, this is my husband, Wes Powell, and our son, Kit.

STANLEY

Hi all, I'm Stanley. You order at the counter. Put it on my tab.

KIT

Oh boy, donuts. Thanks, Stanley.

Kit races to the counter.

STANLEY

Pass that syrup, will ya? I'm here to visit the Citizen Displacement Centers, meet tribal leaders, and attend the water re-negotiations with the states on Friday.

SILVER

A peace-keeping mission?

STANLEY

Exactly.

Stanley CONCENTRATES on the huge plate of pancakes. Kit returns to the table with three chocolate donuts.

WES

What have you seen so far?

STANLEY

(to Kit)

Wise selection, Kit. I like you.

(to Silver and Wes)

Center Number Eight is a powder keg. They need air conditioning and jobs.

SILVER

The shooting reported this morning was tragic.

STANLEY

I know. I hope it's not too late.

WES

Too late for what?

STANLEY

My boss will kill me. I ordered every trailer a new AC unit to cool things down.

SILVER

Nice, Stanley. What can we do for you?

STANLEY

I stopped for that quick DNA test. I'm not part-Indian.

SILVER

No oil and gas revenues for you.

STANLEY

Oh. Chari Chantell said to say 'hi'. She golfs with my boss. I'm supposed to be on the lookout for some dangerous gang of Coyotes.

Stanley chews as he and Kit eat up a storm.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

But I would be more worried about the New Sons of Liberty.

WES

Why's that?

STANLEY

Clever slogans are dangerous.

SILVER

Wish we could stay and chat, Stanley, but we have a picnic to get to, then a horse trip from Leadville to Aspen.

STANLEY

The same horse trip the Hollywood stars go on?

WES

That's the one. This one's with Hamilton Hughes and Angel Garcia.

Stanley freezes, star-struck. Wes, Silver, and Kit wave as they EXIT the donut shop. They can still hear Stanley.

STANLEY

Angel Garcia? Oh my God, Angel Garcia.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY, WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

SUPER: Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

Chari Chantell bursts into Anita Romo's office.

CHARI

What is it now?

ANITA

Murder-suicide at Center Eight. Then drilling pipes got tossed down a mountain pass. Perps got away.

CHARI
Clean getaway? How?

ANITA
In a dirty dog kennel van.

CHARI
Clever bastards. Suspects.

ANITA
About two dozen.

CHARI
I want three names.

ANITA
The computer models think Darlene
Brush, 26, James Jefferson Newman
26, from Colorado, and Travis Key,
36, from Texas.

CHARI
Got current locations?

ANITA
Mr. Newman is in Denver.

CHARI
Find 'em all and watch 'em all.

ANITA
Yes, Ma'am.

CHARI
And, find out if Powell analyzed
our statistics on the Coyotes.

EXT./INT. CAR ALONG MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Silver drives Wes's old Chevy wagon. It swerves like a boat
along the thin road between Copper Mountain and Leadville.

WES
Fremont Pass. Wake up Kit.

SILVER
Kit, they call it Fremont Pass
after the White frontiersman who
supposedly discovered it.

WES
(smiling)
Oh, here it comes.

SILVER

When we had discovered it thousands of years before.

KIT

And Christopher Columbus didn't discover America 'cause it was already here.

SILVER

(laughing)
Something like that.

Suddenly, a toll-gate appears in the middle of the road. A sign on the booth reads, "COLORADO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INSPECTION SERVICE." Silver slows to a stop. A uniformed AG INSPECTOR (52) smile in the booth.

SILVER (CONT'D)

What the hell?

WES

Earmuffs, Kit.

SILVER

I mean, heck, is this?

AG INSPECTOR

Welcome to Colorado, Ma'am. You carrying any fruits or vegetables?

SILVER

What's this all about?

AG INSPECTOR

Protecting the citizens of Colorado, Ma'am. Any fruits or vegetables?

WES

(leaning over)
How long's this station been here?

AG INSPECTOR

Dropped off the truck this morning, solar powered batteries charged for the gates. Goin' green, Ma'am.

SILVER

What a schizophrenic message. They wanted the new Reservation to blend into the fabric of the state. Now, there's a damn border crossing? How many more are they planning?

AG INSPECTOR

Can't say, Ma'am. California has
seventeen. Any fruits or
vegetables?

WES

We have three apples for our picnic
up the road here.

KIT

Is the man taking our apples?

SILVER

Yes, but he won't ruin our picnic.

Silver reluctantly HANDS the apples to the Ag inspector, and she speeds away, as well as the old station wagon allows.

Ten minutes later, two camouflaged archers, Luke and Adam Stennison, send two lit sticks of dynamite toward the new Ag station. The Ag Inspector DIVES over the edge of the road. KABOOM, KABOOM.

Down the road, aside a creek, Wes and Silver snuggle on a picnic blanket. Kit is panning for gold.

SILVER (CONT'D)

What statistics are you working on
for Homeland Security?

Silver raises and lowers her hand on his inner thigh.

WES

Chari would kill me if I told.

Her hand raises again.

WES (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay. She told me they were
vandalism points from the east, but
they geo-map to the Reservation.

Silver jumps up annoyed.

SILVER

Crime on our land is our business.

KIT

This pan isn't working, Daddy.

WES

(whispering to Silver)
Neither is this second honeymoon.

A private jet zooms overhead.

WES (CONT'D)

Saved. Let's go pick up Uncle Chad
and Aunt Maggie.

Wes and the family race to the airfield.

EXT. LEADVILLE AIRFIELD - DAY

The jet LANDS, and is met by an Airfield Security Guard (50).
Maggie and Chad Hastings EXIT the cabin with gifts. Everyone
hugs.

WES

Thanks so much for the horse ride
tickets.

SILVER

It was overly generous, as always.

MAGGIE

It's going to be fun. Kit, this is
for you.

Kit OPENS the gift: a riding HELMET shaped like a cowboy hat.
He looks puzzled.

SILVER

Very practical.

CHAD

This is better.

Kit opens a big box containing a GPS8000 GOLD FINDER.

KIT

Cool, Uncle Chad. This is way
better than my daddy's old pan.
Thank you. Can we go try it out?

WES

Let's go back to that stream.

They pile in the old station wagon and head back to the
stream, when a sheriff's car screams past them toward Fremont
Pass. SIRENS blare.

EXT. FREMONT PASS AG STATION - DAY

Reservation sheriff STEPHEN WREN (45), a sharp detective, places a "X" with chalk where the Ag station stood, as an FBI helicopter lands. Bossy-looking Jefferson County Sheriff WALT STONE, 45, and suited FBI agents, FRED BILLINGS (38) and MEREDITH CUMMINS (28), race over.

The Ag Inspector stands to the side of the road with a scraped knee. Debris blocks the road. Cars are backed up. The lead car contains Stanley Harrington.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

We'll take it from here, Sheriff Wren. These agents are FBI. Act of terrorism on Colorado soil.

SHERIFF WREN

I don't think so. Looks like they dropped your Ag Inspection Station on our Reservation by mistake.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

What?

SHERIFF WREN

Fremont Pass, is fifty yards away at that Continental Divide sign.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

But the...

SHERIFF WREN

(interrupting)
Our land, our jurisdiction.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

What about the injured Inspector?

SHERIFF WREN

His scraped knee? I'm thinking of naming this site 'Wounded Knee' like your unwarranted slaughter that claimed three-hundred-fifty Sioux, mostly women and children, in eighteen-ninety in South Dakota.

FBI AGENT BILLINGS

We'll have your badge for this.

FBI AGENT CUMMINS

Really, they massacred children?

SHERIFF WREN

The soldiers were screaming
'Remember Little Bighorn' while
shooting babies.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

Forget the past, Wren. This is now.

SHERIFF WREN

What did the archers look like, Mr.
Border Patrol Ag Inspector?

AG INSPECTOR

I didn't have my distance glasses
on. They looked like elk in ski
masks. We had cameras, if they
didn't get blown up.

SHERIFF WREN

Two elk in ski masks with bows.
Should be easy to locate. Sorry
about your border patrol crossing.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

You haven't heard the last of this.

INT. JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE - DAY

Sheriff Walt Stone bursts into a busy office. Comical DEPUTY
BRIAN PAULY, 25, is frazzled, but laughing.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

Did you put out an APB on the two
Ag Station terrorists?

DEPUTY PAULY

Yes, sir. APB for two elk, ages six
to sixty, wearing ski masks,
carrying bows, arrows, and
dynamite.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

Don't get smart. Did you get the
feeds from the Ag Station cameras?

DEPUTY PAULY

Yes sir -- a old Chevy wagon was
the last car through. We ran the
plates.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

Yes. What?

DEPUTY PAULY

It's owned by J. Wesley Powell of Fort Collins, who is married to, get this, Chief Silver Whitehorse.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

Where are they? Let's go, Pauly.

DEPUTY PAULY

Leadville Inn and Cafe. But we have to stop at the Red Rocks benefit concert for the Centers. We show support every year.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

You're right. Let's hit Red Rocks on the way to Leadville.

They race to the Sheriff's car.

EXT. RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATER, MORRISON, COLORADO - NIGHT

The stage is set for the San Antonio Freedom Band. Jimmy Newman meets concert sleazy promoter, SLY BENHAM, 45.

SUPER: RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATER -- SATURDAY, EARLY EVENING

SLY BENHAM

When you step to the mic, thank the Governor, and Senator John Meyers and his wife.

Jimmy glances backstage and can't believe his eyes. It's Dixie Brush, his ex-girlfriend, with a strange, older man. Behind them are the Stennison brothers loading two amplifiers into a Black Hummer.

SLY BENHAM (CONT'D)

(whispering)

There's a rumor Angel Garcia and Hamilton Hughes will stop by.

JIMMY

Angel Garcia? Wow. Goin' to ask her to sing?

SLY BENHAM

You don't ask Angel Garcia to sing for pennies. It's insulting. Just wave and acknowledge their support for the cause.

JIMMY

Gotcha.
 (yells to Dixie)
 Dixie, is that you?

DIXIE

Hi, Jimmy. This is my friend,
 Colonel Travis Key.

JIMMY

(to Dixie, ignoring Key)
 What are you doing here? Was that
 Luke and Adam Stennison?

DIXIE

I can't talk now. Maybe tomorrow at
 the diner down the street. Eight
 A.M.?

Dixie and the Colonel wink to the band, then disappear
 backstage.

The crowd piles in. Jimmy sees Alissa Stands Tall entering
 alone, wearing a backpack, settling into the middle row. He
 smile, but she doesn't.

The crowd settles down as Jimmy steps to the mic. The San
 Antonio Freedom Band is disgruntled.

JIMMY

Thank you all for coming to support
 the Citizen Displacement Centers.
 (beat; mild applause)
 I'm Jimmy Newman, and I'm here
 because my folks lost our ranch.

The crowd applauds more.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Wow. Maybe you've seen the blog
 about The New Sons of Liberty.

The crowd erupts in a wild standing ovation.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Like to acknowledge our Governor
 (points to an empty seat)
 And Senator John Meyers and his
 wife from California.

Senator Meyers waves, but next to him is his Chief of Staff,
 Winny Tyler, on the big screen.

Suddenly, pop music diva, ANGEL GARCIA (28) walks across the stage in a red-carpet gown, kissing Jimmy Newman on the cheek. He's star-struck. She grabs the mic as handsome movie star HAMILTON HUGHES (28) joins her.

ANGEL GARCIA
Howdy, Colorado. We love you.
Thanks for supporting the Citizen
Displacement Centers.

HAMILTON HUGHES
We love you, Colorado.

Another standing ovation. The stars wave profusely as they EXIT. The crowd settles down, and the band is just about to play, when screams ring out from the middle rows. A young CONCERT GOER (19) claws his way to the exit.

CONCERT GOER
(yells)
Rattlesnake!

The cameras zoom in showing a huge snake on the big screen. The crowd bolts for the exits. Jimmy sees Alissa Stands Tall exit without a backpack.

Sheriff Walt Stone and Detective Pauly race over to the snake. Stone shoots it twice. BLAM BLAM. Now the crowd really panics AND bolts.

SHERIFF WALT STONE
Jimmy Newman. What do you know
about this?

JIMMY
Probably the Coyotes. To ruin our
fundraiser.

Sheriff Stone grabs the dead snake from behind.

SHERIFF WALT STONE
It worked. And this snake was fed
and milked. It wasn't going to bite
anyone.

JIMMY
Pretty smart, really.

SHERIFF WALT STONE
Maybe to throw us off the track of
The New Sons of Liberty.
(staring at Jimmy)
We have to get to Leadville. Don't
leave town. We need to talk.

Cursing away, the sheriff departs with Deputy Pauly.

FRASIER

Jimmy, we're screwed as a band.
We're thinking about working for
the Colonel, like Dixie is.

JIMMY

You know Dixie?

ARVIN

Yeah dude. It pays two-hundred
bucks a day. Join us at breakfast,
just outside the motel down the
street.

JIMMY

I do need a job. Two-hundred bucks
a day?

(to himself)

Who is this Colonel?

EXT./INT. LEADVILLE INN AND CAFE - NIGHT

Historic building, sign reads: LEADVILLE INN AND CAFE,
ESTABLISHED 1882

Wes, Silver, Kit, Maggie, and Chad bounce down the old
staircase, through the lobby/gift shop, and toward the cafe.

WES

I hope the food's good.

WAITRESS (O.S.)

(from far away)

I heard that. Seat yourselves,
cowboys.

KIT

(whispering)

Can we tell her we found gold?

WAITRESS (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

Heard that too. Better tip big.

They sit in a booth. The place mats read "Order the Chili"

SILVER

Maybe we should order the chili.

WES

With three beers, a Coke, and milk?

MAGGIE
I'll have iced tea tonight.

WAITRESS (O.S.)
(from the kitchen)
Gottcha. Five chili, two beers,
Coke, milk, and iced tea.

WES
(very quietly)
She's amazing. Like a bat.

WAITRESS
I heard that. Just kidding. Your
order will be right up.

Sheriff Walt Stone and Deputy Pauly enter the cafe. They mean
business.

SHERIFF WALT STONE
Wes Powell and Silver Whitehorse?
Old Chevy wagon? Fremont Pass?

SILVER
Yes, what's this about?

SHERIFF WALT STONE
It was the last car through the new
Ag Station before it was blown up.

WES
Blown up? For stealing apples?

DEPUTY PAULY
(joking)
Ahh. Motive and opportunity.

SHERIFF WALT STONE
Was it the Coyotes?

DEPUTY PAULY
Or two elk in ski masks? Mammals
gone wild.

SILVER
We don't know anything about it.

WES
We have time-stamped pictures of us
at a picnic well to the south.

DEPUTY PAULY
Ahh. The full-proof alibi.

A cough and throat clearing voice from another booth reveals Stanley Harrington.

STANLEY

Saw the archers. Didn't see Wes or Silver. I did see two huge men in ski masks with bows, heading north, with hilly terrain to hide them.

SILVER

Stanley, good to see you.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

How about planting a rattlesnake at Red Rocks earlier tonight?

CHAD

If you plant them too deep, you can't hear them rattle.

DEPUTY PAULY

They're right about that, Sheriff.

Suddenly, there is CRASH of a body hitting the floor in the gift shop. Everyone runs to see.

STANLEY

It's Meryl Long. Head of Citizen Displacement Center Number Eight.

Long GRASPS a newspaper with his wife's picture on it. Headlines read, "Homicide at Center number eight."

WES

Give him some air.

The crowd moves back. Moments later, Long comes to.

MERYL LONG

We spent our life savings buying jobs for them one at a time.

SILVER

You bought them jobs?

MERYL LONG

We bought them hope. Despair kills like guns and alcohol. My lovely wife bought me this horse riding trip with the last of her nest egg.

MAGGIE

Leaving tomorrow? We're on it.

MERYL LONG

I've got to go back. Can't ride now. Anybody want a free ticket?

STANLEY

With Angel Garcia. I'd love to buy it from you. Holy Angel Garcia.

Meryl tosses the ticket to Stanley.

SHERIFF WALT STONE

We'll find out who's behind this. Just don't none of you, don't leave Colorado. Let's go, Pauly.

DEPUTY PAULY

(joking quietly)

Was that a double or triple negative, Sheriff?

WAITRESS (O.S.)

I heard that.

EXT./INT. MOTEL AND COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SUPER: Early Sunday Morning, Morrison, Colorado

Jimmy Newman steps outside his motel door, facing the coffee shop. He calls Sarg.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

JIMMY

Sarg, it's me Jimmy. I need you to do me two favors.

SARG (V.O.)

Anything.

JIMMY

I want to meet the woman we saw beside the Indian reporter, Eric Red Cloud. I think she's a Coyote.

SARG (V.O.)

No Problem. Next.

JIMMY

Lay low on The New Sons of Liberty. We're safe now, but we're attracting a lot of attention. Gotta go.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

CUT TO:

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY, WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Anita Romo at Homeland Security gets an alert of the call linking the words Jimmy, The New Sons of Liberty, and Coyote.

BACK TO:

Jimmy SHUTS his phone and follows Frasier Fontaine and the band INTO the coffee shop. Dixie Brush SQUEEZES beside Travis Key at a back table.

JIMMY

(to himself)

Step one, make sure Dixie is okay.
Step two, join the group. I need
the job, and to keep an eye on
Dixie.

A resolute Jimmy joins the group at the back table.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Jimmy, I'm Colonel Travis Key.
Everyone calls me Colonel. You know
everyone. Join us.

JIMMY

For breakfast, right?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Dixie speaks highly of you, except
you can't find a job.

FRASIER

And we're all giving up the band to
join the Colonel.

DIXIE

I needed a job, and wound up loving
the guy. How about that, Jimmy?

JIMMY

What's the job?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Certain rich business owners, I
call them our Funding Fathers,
loved your slogan about the New
Sons of Liberty.

JIMMY

Really?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Slogans and catch phrases win wars.

JIMMY

What war?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

For the American way of life:
owning land, working it, buying a
house. You lost all that, we want
it back.

DIXIE

But we're non-violent, just
mischievous.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Like dumping a truckload of pipes
down a mountain pass.

JIMMY

Travis, how did you know?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

(sternly)

It's Colonel. We have our ways.

(smiling)

Here's your account numbers for
today. Pick up your pay at the ATM.

Without a word, the four ex-band members and Dixie take
degradable paper stubs and head to the ATM.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

(whispers to Jimmy)

The revolution is growing. Lots of
support to get Colorado back from
the occupiers.

JIMMY

What's next, Travis?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

It's Colonel. We deliver some hate
mail from the Citizen Displacement
Centers to Chief G. Stand Tall's
house in Aspen.

JIMMY

For two-hundred dollars a day,
Travis?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 We'll pay you five-hundred a day.
 You're a born leader. Your little
 Boston Tea Party stunt was a hit
 with the Funding Fathers.

The group returns with the cash.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
 It's settled then. Here's Jimmy's
 account slip. We'll meet outside
 and drive to Aspen. The mountains
 are beautiful this time of year.

EXT. TRAILHEAD - DAY

SUPER: 9 A.M. Leadville/Twin Lakes Trailhead

An old Indian wrangler in a tall hat and buckskins, RON HIGHWOODS SR. (62), introduces the riders. Everyone is saddled up.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 I'm your host, Ron Highwoods.
 Thanks for signing those waiver
 forms for personal injury. Looks
 like we'll need 'em.

The group chuckles, as two young Indian wranglers (Sam Little Sun and Lilly Crow) collect smartphones, pagers, and cameras.

RON HIGHWOODS SR. (CONT'D)
 You all read and signed the rules.
 No electronics at all. They'll be
 locked up and returned to you three
 days from now in Aspen. Let's
 introduce ourselves.

Ron points to Wes. But Silver jumps in to respond.

SILVER
 I'm Silver Whitehorse, one of the
 Chiefs of the Reservation we'll be
 riding through. That's my husband,
 Wes Powell, a professor at Colorado
 State. He's a little shy. He
 predicts the climate and storms.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 Are we expecting any storms?

WES

(shyly)

Actually, Tuesday morning.

SILVER

And that's our son Kit. Our good friends and real estate moguls, Chad and Maggie Hastings over there bought us this vacation slash second honeymoon.

MAGGIE

And I have a surprise. I'm three months pregnant -- with twins.

CHAD

We couldn't be happier.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

We'll charge 'em for two extra riders.

He points at Senator Meyers.

SENATOR MEYERS

I'm Senator John Meyers, of course, from California on vacation. I wanted to see where our water came from. Call me John. This is Winny Tyler, my Chief of Staff.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Not on this trip. She's just Winny, on vacation. No bosses, kings, or movie stars out here.

Winny smile and waves. Ron points to Hamilton Hughes.

HAMILTON HUGHES

I'm Hamilton Hughes. Maria asked me to come with her, to get us away from Hollywood.

ANGEL GARCIA

My stage name is Angel Garcia, but call me Maria. This should be interesting. Haven't taken a vacation in years, and I've never gotten dusty and dirty. Hope you don't have to see me without my face on.

KIT

Huh?

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
Welcome Hamilton and Maria. Who's
that behind you?

REGGIE
I'm Judge Reggie Reston. This is my
daughter J.J. We're being sent by
my departed wife to spread her
ashes at Independence Pass.

J.J.
I'm a Sophomore at the University
of Virginia. Mom's last wish was
for us to learn how to appreciate
life and Indians, so here we are.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
I do like to tell oral history
stories. And, our student wranglers
and cooks are Sam Little Sun and
Lilly Crow. Most of your fees go to
their college funds.

LILLY CROW
(pointing at Kit's saddle)
What's this metal thing?

Chad rides up to Ron Highwoods.

CHAD
(whispering to Ron)
It's young Kit's special leg brace.
Birth defect. He may not need it.
Very self-conscious.

Ron gives an okay sign to Lilly.

REGGIE
What about grizzly bears and
wolves?

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
There here in record numbers since
we put them back. We carry a few
bows and arrows, and I have the
only emergency smartphone to call
in the Air Force if we need them.
Never used 'em. You're safer in the
mountains than in the city. Now,
let's get up that pass.

Ron leads them away and up the trail. Smiles abound.

INT. LODO LOFTS, DENVER, COLORADO - DAY

Sarg's loft is high class thanks to blog writing. A security door BUZZER sounds. After setting "streaming video" to "on" on his laptop, Sarg Caen races to the door.

SARG
Who is it?

LUKE STENNISON (O.S.)
Luke and Adam. Let us up.

Moments later Luke and Adam burst through the door. Luke grabs the Sarg's laptop computer, with it's mini-camera ON.

ADAM STENNISON
Jimmy says we gotta send out a major blog. What's your password?

SARG
But Jimmy said to lay low.

Adam WHIPS out a pistol with a silencer on it and fires a round into Sarg's knee. ZIP. He screams and falls.

LUKE STENNISON
What's the password?

Adam doesn't wait for an answer. He FIRES a second round into Sarg's other knee. ZIP. Sarg screams more.

ADAM STENNISON
We're doing it with or without you.

Adam aims the pistol at Sarg's head.

SARG
(scared)
Password is S-A-R-G Seventeen-seventy-six.

Luke Stennison TYPES away at the laptop.

LUKE STENNISON
We're in.

ZIP ZIP. Adam fires two bullets into Sarg's heart and head, while Luke types a very specific message. He reads it aloud.

LUKE STENNISON (CONT'D)
The New Sons of Liberty Strike again. We dumped the drilling supplies down Loveland Pass.
(MORE)

LUKE STENNISON (CONT'D)

Those heathen Indians are an occupying army on our land, just as the British were in seventeen-seventy-six. It's time we take America back. Their King George is a snake with three heads, G. Stands Tall, Silver Whitehorse, and Robert La Poudre. Two heads remain thanks to me, Jimmy Newman, who will go down in history as the leader of our Second Revolutionary War for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

ADAM STENNISON

Let's get outta here.

LUKE STENNISON

The Colonel should be taking care of Chief Stands Tall right now.

The laptop's camera sees them calmly exit Sarg's loft.

EXT. CHIEF STANDS TALL HOUSE, ASPEN, COLORADO - DAY

Wrapped in an old towel, Chief G. STANDS TALL, 65, CRAWLS out of his steamy backyard sweat lodge and enters his back door to take a cold shower.

Just around the corner, Frazier Fontaine hops on a bicycle, while Jimmy stares at a digital video camera. Colonel Travis Key holds a blue Backpack, showing a handful of letters. Dixie and the other band members are in the van looking out.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

This backpack is filled with protest letters from the Centers. Frasier will ride down the street, to the back of G. Stands Tall's house, and will slide the backpack into the kitchen from the back door, while Jimmy films it for our Funding Fathers.

FRASIER

Y'all sure the back door is open?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

It's always open. He'll be showering after a sweat. We know his schedule.

JIMMY

Why film it?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Frasier will be disguised. The Funding Fathers want to see it. We don't ask questions. They pay us. Now go, so we can all get paid.

The plan goes as drafted. The van picks everyone up a block away, and they drive off.

G. Stands Tall hears a thump on his front door, steps out of the shower, past the kitchen and backpack, and opens his front door to see an arrow stuck, heart-high, in his door. WILLIAM DULL KNIFE (16) holds a bow and is across the street.

G. runs after him draped in a towel. KABOOM. An explosion destroys the back half of G.'s house. G. and the boy are thrown to the ground. G. catches the young archer.

INT. ASPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

William Dull Knife is defiant in the interrogation room. Police Chief Parker and G. tower over him.

PARKER

William Dull Knife, grandson of Thomas Dull Knife, Ute Chief, do you want a lawyer?

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

I told you. I shot the arrow, but I didn't bomb the old man's house.

G. STANDS TALL

You don't seem the plastic explosives type. Do you know who did this?

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

No. I was counting coup. That's all. You don't own this land. You're richer than flees on a camp dog, and you won't share with the Utes.

PARKER

What do we do with him G.? Lock him up until he's fifty?

G. STANDS TALL

I'll take him back to his grandpa,
while you get help solving the
bombing. I'll disappear. They'll
think I'm dead.

PARKER

You'll have a little talk with the
Utes. I'll call the FBI and DHS.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

What about my truck?

PARKER

We'll send it back in a few days,
if you cooperate.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Other Utes are after you, old man.
I'm not the only one.

G. STANDS TALL

(shrugs)

Will they all have practice arrows?

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

G. Stands Tall and William Dull Knife drive south from
Carbondale toward Cortez in G.'s old RED Suburu wagon.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Is this your piece of shit car?

G. STANDS TALL

Is that your real attitude? I give
most of my salary back to the
Indian college fund. Your arrow's
knock on my door saved my life, ya
know. You're wrong, you know?

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

About what, old man?

G. STANDS TALL

About sharing. We couldn't re-
negotiate our water deals with the
western states until this year.

Wednesday morning in fact. Chief La Poudre is making the Utes
a partner.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

One dollar, I suppose.

G. STANDS TALL

Try one billion dollars over ten years. Who else is trying to hurt me?

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

I heard some crazy Ute brothers talking. Slim Charon and his boys. They didn't think. Uh oh! Too late.

A pickup truck races in the opposite direction past G.'s car, swerving and skidding. Three Utes (mixed ages) are in the truck's bed. SLIM CHARON, (44), unemployed Ute warrior is driving.

SLIM CHARON

That's G.'s car.

BAM. A rifle is fired. G. steps on the gas. Slim turns around in full chase.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

You can't outrun them, old man.

G. STANDS TALL

They're drunk, and shooting. We can't just talk to them.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Don't you know a place to hide?

G. STANDS TALL

Maybe one.

G. skids off the road quickly toward the old town of Marble. It looks like they lost them. He tries his smartphone. No service.

G. STANDS TALL (CONT'D)

My old friend owns horse stables up here. He'll hide us.

Slim's truck finds them. The Chase resumes on a dusty road. G. and William hear SHOTS, but nothing hits them. G. swerves to create more dust, and Slim runs off the road.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

What now, old man? We're trapped in a canyon.

EXT. STABLES, MARBLE, COLORADO - DAY

G.'s car skids to a stop. He tries his smartphone again. No service.

Stable owner, ALEX TREMALL (65) runs out to greet them.

ALEX TREMALL

G., great to see you alive. The radio said your house was blown up.

G. STANDS TALL

It was, but I'm okay, thanks to William Dull Knife here.

ALEX TREMALL

I'm sorry to hear about Robert.

G. STANDS TALL

Robert? La Poudre? What?

ALEX TREMALL

I thought you knew. He was shot dead in Denver Friday night. The Police waited to find next-to-kin.

G. sinks to the ground. A moment later, he springs up.

G. STANDS TALL

We have to get out of here. They're trying to kill us all. We have to warn Silver in the Wilderness.

ALEX TREMALL

Take my horses, I got plenty of canned foods, jerky, bows, arrows, and blankets. Go.

G. STANDS TALL

We can't pay you.

ALEX TREMALL

Your tribe hasn't collected my lease money in five years since the grizzlies and wolves went wild. I owe ya.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Why should I go, old man?

G. STANDS TALL

One billion reasons for your Utes, if we stay live.

(MORE)

G. STANDS TALL (CONT'D)
 Alex, Slim Charon is after us.
 Contact Chief Parker. Have him call
 the boy's grandpa.

G. and William saddle the horses and pack supplies, bows, and arrows. Alex drives his jeep down the road to stall Slim Charon's oncoming truck. G. and William ride up to the first overlook. BLAM BLAM. They turn to see Slim Charon aiming his rifle at the jeep.

G. STANDS TALL (CONT'D)
 Let's get out of here. Follow me.

G. and William race OFF into the Wakan Wilderness.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE
 Slow down, crazy old man. I've
 ridden a skateboard more than a
 horse. This is a big Wilderness.
 Where is this Silver Whitehorse?

Back at Alex Tremel's stables, Slim Charon and three Utes are saddling up horses.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

SUPER: Independence Pass Trail

The tired riders DISMOUNT. Ron Highwoods Sr. escorts Reggie and J.J. Reston ceremoniously to a cliff face to spread the ashes. He prays in Cheyenne. The others, except Stanley, gather around. They see a WOLF in the distance below.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 Stanley, you coming?

STANLEY
 I'm just dead. Uh oh, sorry.

REGGIE
 This was my wife's last wish.

Reggie spreads the ashes from a copper-plated box.

J.J.
 She said we had lessons to learn.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 The wolf we saw will guide her
 spirit to the next life.

REGGIE
 Can we go home now? We'll pay.

J.J.

Mom didn't bring us here to say goodbye. She brought us here to re-connect with life. We're not going home yet.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Wise woman.

They trudge back to set up camp, brush and feed the horses and mules, and prepare the camp for dinner.

After dinner, Ron Highwoods Sr., dresses in beaded Indian deerskins and with a ceremonial pipe, tells the Arapahoe story of creation.

RON HIGHWOODS SR. (CONT'D)

...And that is how the Creator worked with the First Pipe Keeper to create all we see today.

KIT

The duck and the turtle are proof.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

That's right, Kit. And the greatest gift from the Creator is the ability to think.

MAGGIE

And Wesley thinks we're in for quite a storm on Tuesday morning.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Is that right?

WES

My models did suggest a very high probability for a microburst.

STANLEY

How accurate are your predictions?

WES

Plus or minus a day or two, I suppose.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

We'll be down into a thick, safe forest two days from now.

SILVER

My brilliant husband might be wrong about the storm.

KIT

Daddy's gold finding pan didn't
work either.

They all laugh around the tiny campfire, continuing the conversation, smiling and laughing well into the night. Kit falls asleep in his mom's arms. We pick up a the campfire conversation later that night.

HAMILTON HUGHES

So, because of the high insurance,
they don't let me do my own stunts.

ANGEL GARCIA

But it keeps you safe.

HAMILTON HUGHES

Too safe. I'm missing the thrill of
it all. I'd love that.

J.J.

Read your last picture bombed.

HAMILTON HUGHES

The critics said I was wooden when
I wasn't frightened. I have a
passion for action, and they won't
let me act.

CHAD

Action? That's why I fly my jet.

MAGGIE

That's why I fly with him.

SILVER

I'm here to re-connect with my
family, forget about the Chief-
thing. What about you, Maria?

ANGEL GARCIA

I needed a break from singing and
Hollywood. My dad was a plumber and
he sang Mariachi. The family joke
was he had the pipes, but I had the
(beat)
Breasts.

J.J.

And, every girl wants to be you.

ANGEL GARCIA

I hope they don't want to be the slutty princess my contract calls for. They never let me dress normal. In public, it has to be tight pants and cleavage.

STANLEY

That's kind of sad, Ms. Garcia.

ANGEL GARCIA

Call me Maria, Stanley. And, thanks. It is sad. But I'm not sad here!

J.J.

Are you and Hamilton a real couple? The tabloids say 'no'.

HAMILTON HUGHES

I may be crazy, but I'm not stupid.

He jumps all over Angel, kissing her madly.

ANGEL GARCIA

You nut case. You're getting my hair all dirty.

WINNY

Tell them why you're here, John.

SENATOR MEYERS

To prove that the great state of California values this Indian Reservation as a partner.

WINNY

He wants the water. I want to see the old west before it's all tamed like Washington, D.C.

REGGIE

Boy, was my wife upset with me.

J.J.

Tell 'em why, Daddy.

REGGIE

I sat on a case involving tribes deciding whether Indians could disallow White coal miners from displaying a nativity scene on leased Indian lands.

J.J.

He wrote that the Indians
overstepped their bounds. My mom
wouldn't talk to him for a month.

REGGIE

She wanted me to learn more about
the Indians that I disrespected.

STANLEY

That's why I'm here. To learn.

Ron Highwoods Sr. listens from inside his tent.

RON HIGHWOODS SR. (O.S.)

You all better learn to get some
sleep. Dawn comes early, and evil
spirits roam the night.

EXT. EISENHOWER TUNNEL, COLORADO - NIGHT

Colonel Travis Key organizes a group of black-clad misfits,
armed with rifles of some kind strapped to their backs.

SUPER: Eisenhower Tunnel (Colorado side) - 2 A.M.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

We've been over the plan many
times. No speaking. You run up to
the tunnel, shoot at the windows,
and stop the traffic counters.

ARVIN

Why we doin' this again?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

So the Indians get less highway
funds. Simple. Then, you all run to
the van, and we drive and hide.

DIXIE

Right in the Reservation. They'll
never find us in the mountains.

The Colonel gives the hand signal. His team races to the base
of the tunnel, whips out their weapons, and fire a barrage --
of paint balls. Even the sloppy shooting is covering that
glass windows, while security guards are looking up at the
highly distracting Perseid meteor showers.

The Colonel SENDS a text message to the Stennison brothers,
who are just out of view.

TEXT MESSAGE: The Sons of Liberty will not fail -- Jimmy.

The paint-ballers return, hop in the van, and drive through the tunnel to the Reservation as the Stennisons arrive at the tunnel. The Stennisons wait five minutes, then SET plastic explosives unseen by the meteor-watching guards. Luke and Adam drive through the tunnel. Halfway down the pass, KABOOM, KABOOM.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

The Colonel's van is twenty miles away. They hear only a slight RUMBLE, RUMBLE.

FRASIER

What was that, Colonel?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Thunder probably. New guys, introduce yourselves.

HIRAM

I'm Hiram Goldstein. My brother, Joshua, right here, and me invented that rapid DNA test for Indians.

JOSHUA

Except we felt like Nazis when the Indians used it on non-Native Americans to force them to leave or lease their land.

JIMMY

That's how my folks lost theirs.

HIRAM

We're sorry, okay? We got drummed out of the A.M.A.

JOSHUA

So, we hooked up with the Colonel.

JAY MILES

I'm Jay Miles. Yeah, the retired football player.

MELISSA MILES

The idiot football player. He sunk all every penny into western Colorado real estate.

JAY MILES

We're broke. We hooked up with the Colonel. Sounds like we're all tired of living. That's what we have in common.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

We are great patriots of these United States. That's what we have in common. Get some sleep everyone. We'll get to know each other better on the horse ride.

JIMMY

What horse ride?

DIXIE

Yeah, what horse ride, Colonel?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

(sternly)

The Founding Fathers fund. I do the planning. Y'all follow orders.

INT. CHARI CHANTELL HOME, WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT

Chari Chantell is tossing and turning in bed. The phone on the nightstand rings with a RED light.

SUPER: Chari Chantell Home, Washington, D.C., Monday 4:35 A.M.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

ANITA (V.O.)

I'm just following orders, Ma'am.

CHARI

Get on with it.

ANITA (V.O.)

It's a trifecta. Chief Robert La Poudre was murdered Friday night. We just got word. Chief G. Stands Tall's house was bombed in Aspen.

CHARI

(still groggy)

And?

ANITA (V.O.)

The Eisenhower Tunnel was bombed minutes ago.

CHARI

Suspects?

ANITA (V.O.)

A dead coyote was found by the tunnel, suggesting the Coyotes.

CHARI

Inter-tribal squabbles again.

ANITA (V.O.)

But we intercepted a text message, geo-referenced at the tunnel, that said, "The Sons of Liberty will not fail, Jimmy."

CHARI

Get me Police Chief Parker.

ANITA (V.O.)

I've got him on line two.

PARKER (V.O.)

Can we get any help from the FBI, DHS, hell, anybody?

CHARI

Police Chief Parker, it's four-thirty-five A.M. You're lucky you have us. The dead coyote tells the FBI you have internal troubles with the Coyotes. I can't get you help here.

PARKER (V.O.)

Any suggestions?

CHARI

Somebody wants to start a revolution. If you fight back, you lose the Reservation.

PARKER (V.O.)

I figured that out. I need proof.

CHARI

Anita and I can fly out as observers.

ANITA (V.O.)

I have a jet standing by, Ma'am.

PARKER (V.O.)

If we don't have a semblance of self-government by the Wednesday water re-negotiations, we're goners.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Ron Highwoods is frantically looking in everyone's tents. Silver and Wes are naked and asleep in a big sleeping bag.

SUPER: Independence Pass, Monday, Dawn

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Winnie and Lilly are gone.

WES

Kit's gone too.

Wes and Silver jump from their sleeping bag, and rush to get dressed, while pandemonium ensues on the Pass.

Moment's later, a stunning Alissa Stands Tall rides in from the north.

SILVER

Alissa? What are you doing here?
Where's our son?

ALISSA

I didn't want him to hear this.
Robert La Poudre was murdered, my
dad's house was bombed, and the
Eisenhower Tunnel was bombed.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

What for? And where are our horses?

ALISSA

I rode all night to warn you,
Silver. They'll be after you next.

SAM

Our horses escaped.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

We have to round up the horses and
get out of here. Alissa, do you
have a smartphone?

ALISSA

Yes.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Call Police Chief Parker.

Sam Little Sun races to Alissa's horse, pulls her off, grabs the phone and smashes it on the rocky ground.

SAM

The Coyote leader should have done more. You're no revolutionary.

ALISSA

We're non-violent. You knew that when you joined us.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Sam, you're fired when we get to Aspen. Now, go fetch the horses.

Everyone but Sam Little Sun fetches the stock. Stanley finally awakens in his tent.

STANLEY

Did I miss breakfast?

EXT. WAKAN WILDERNESS - DAY

SUPER: Wakan Wilderness, same morning.

G. Stands Tall and William Dull Knife slowly stir near a small lake below a mountain pass.

G. STANDS TALL

No breakfast. Let's go. Slim and his boys might be right behind us.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Relax, old man. We lost 'em.

BAM. A rifle shot shatters the morning peace. Slim Charon and his three friends stand on the pass.

G. STANDS TALL

Their horses rode all night. We can out run them and warn Silver.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

(to himself)

I can't believe we Utes are the bad guys.

They ride off, deeper into the Wakan Wilderness.

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Colonel Travis Key and the real bad guys are saddling up in Aspen, seemingly to hide out and relax. JUNIOR HIGHWOODS (32) is the lead wrangler, with help from Jalen and Brenna Nightweather (also members of the Coyotes).

SUPER: Ron Highwoods' Stables West, Aspen, 8 A.M.

The Stennison brothers hike cross-country to hide a cache of pistols and smartphones up the trail.

Back at the stables, Jimmy is having second thoughts.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

Howdy folks. I'm Ron Highwoods Jr., call me Junior. Thanks for signing the safety waivers, looks like we'll need 'em.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Let's get on with the ride.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

(ignoring him)

Remember, no electronics of any kind, including smartphones and cameras, and no firearms.

DIXIE

I remember when this was a road to Leadville. Leave it to the Indians to turn a perfectly good road into a dusty trail.

JIMMY

I disagree. Rode horses all my life. It's true wilderness now with grizzlies and wolves. I love it.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Dixie's right.

DIXIE

That's why I'm with the Colonel now.

FRASIER

(angry at Jimmy)

The Indians stole your family's land, and you like it?

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

Okay riders, let's not get political, let's enjoy the horse ride.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

I command you all to just shut up right now and ride.

JIMMY

That's it. I don't fit in with your crusade and all this 'Colonel' crap. I'm outta here.

Jimmy dismounts, and tosses his several hundred dollars at the Colonel's horse's hooves. Jalen and Brenna look worried.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

This trip cost ten grand each. Get back here. That's an order!

JIMMY

Sorry, Dixie. I never could take orders. You gonna be okay?

DIXIE

Yes. I'm at home with the Colonel.

Jimmy starts walking back toward downtown Aspen. Once out of view, the Stennison brothers show up at the stables.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Here are those other two riders we paid for. Saddle 'em up.

Junior Highwoods is apprehensive about the Colonel and his group, but they saddle up and take off up the trail.

Soon, the Stennison brothers motion to the wranglers, Jalen and Brenna, that they have to stop to relieve themselves. The Stennisons retrieve their cache of guns.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Ron Highwoods Sr. and his riders round up the horses and mules, but Sam Little Sun looks despondent.

SUPER: INDEPENDENCE PASS, 1:15 P.M.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Okay, we're finally packed up and ready to go. Thank you all for rounding up the stock.

LILLY CROW

That silly horse, Booster, would have gone northeast all the way to Aspen if we didn't catch him.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Mind of his own, that one. Good catch, Lilly.

REGGIE

Which direction are we going?

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

We can't go back to Leadville. They blew up the tunnel and an Ag Inspection Station in that direction.

SENATOR MEYERS

But they blew up that Indian Chief's house in Aspen.

ALISSA

That's my father you're talking about.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

We'll head to Aspen. That's the direction Police Chief Parker will be coming from to rescue us.

Sam Little Sun pulls out a pistol, aiming it at Ron.

Everyone is shocked. Silver and Wes position their horses in front of Kit's pony. Reggie moves in front of J.J., Chad moves in front of Maggie, and Senator Meyers sheepishly moves behind Winny.

SAM

Nobody move. Nobody talks. We'll wait right here for a phone call.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

What's going on here, Sam?

BLAM. Sam shoots Ron near his chest sending him face down to the ground leaking blood.

SAM

I said nobody moves and nobody talks until I get a phone call.

EXT. TAGERTS LAKE - DAY

Junior Highwoods HALTS his riders for lunch at a beautiful lake, but Colonel Travis Key has no intention of stopping.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

We'll stop for lunch and rest the horses. It'll be short. Great bears and wolves are just to the south.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

No, we'll press on up the trail.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

I'm leading this group. We'll stop.

The Stennison brothers dismount and pull out pistols, aiming at Junior. Jalen and Brenna dismount and whisper.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Your time is up, Junior. Tie him to that tree. Hand me my pistol and smartphone.

Without hesitation, the Stennison's TIE Junior to a tree.

The Colonel makes a smartphone call to Sam Little Sun.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

Do you have them covered?

SAM (V.O.)

(nervous)

Yes sir. But I had to shoot Ron.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

He was a traitor to the United States. It's okay. It will keep the others still until we get there.

SAM (V.O.)

You gotta hurry.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Don't get weak on us, Sam.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

The Colonel slams his smartphone shut.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
 Hiram, test his blood. If he's
 Indian, I'll shoot him. And, I can
 always tell an Indian.

Hiram is scared, but he follows orders. The pin-prick test
 acts quickly.

HIRAM
 (astonished)
 He's...he's White.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 I keep my word. I won't shoot him.
 Cover him with the honey Junior
 said we were having for lunch.

While the Stennisons cover Junior with honey, Jalen and
 Brenna escape south into the forest. BLAM BLAM. The Colonel
 fires two shots and just misses the escapees.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
 Luke, Adam. Go get them. Kill 'em.

LUKE STENNISON
 But our only real target is up on
 the pass.

ADAM STENNISON
 Yeah, send these other guys. Our
 stirrups were tied together by
 those crazy Indians.

DIXIE
 What are we doing?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 Shut up, Dixie. Lefty, Joshua,
 Randy, and you, take your horses
 and scare them into the grizzly
 areas to the south. Then meet us on
 the Pass.

ARVIN
 It's Arvin, sir. How far do we
 chase 'em?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 I don't care, a half hour or so,
 just long enough so they don't make
 it back to Aspen. Idiot. We'll
 shoot the others if you desert.

HIRAM

Our lives are ruined.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

You each ruined your lives long
before today.

DIXIE

But, we're not murderers.

The Colonel shrugs. Lefty, Joshua, Randy, and Arvin ride-off south, reluctantly. Frazier, Dixie, Jay and Melissa Miles look trapped like captives.

FRASIER

Come on Colonel, what's the plan?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

You to do as you're told or I send
the FBI the video of you blowing up
a Chief's house, and blowing up the
Eisenhower Tunnel. Follow the
Stennison's and me up that trail to
Independence Pass. All of you.

The Stennisons lead, followed by Dixie and Frasier, then the Colonel.

Jay and Melissa Miles let the Colonel get ahead of them, and simply turn their horses and race back to Aspen.

The Colonel rides ahead to lead the others.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

The Miles' deserted. If anyone else
tries to leave, shoot them.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Sam Little Sun shakes the pistol all around. Wes dismounts, drawing the aim of Sam's gun.

WES

Sam, it's too late. The Air Force
rescue team from NORAD will be here
soon.

SAM

(nervously)

We were bound to lose this land to
a superior aggressor like we did
the first time.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

There are no jobs for us off the Reservation. We can't live in the past. There's no emergency phone. Ron hates them. There's no rescue team.

SILVER

There's always an emergency phone, especially with important people.

Sam points his gun at anyone who speaks.

CHAD

Like the black box in an airplane.

MAGGIE

They have to carry an emergency phone.

WES

It's the law.

SAM

We can't go back. Show me this phone.

Wes slowly steps to his son's pony, and slowly uncovers the meter portion of the GPS Gold Finder they sneaked on the trip. He turns it on and lights flicker.

WES

Ron called in the rescue, while you were wandering about. It's over.

SAM

Colonel said there were no other phones. I was going to be rich.

WES

Put down the gun. We'll help you.

SAM

He lied to me. Everyone lied to me. They have always lied to me.

Without flinching, Sam SHOVES the pistol in his mouth and slowly squeezes the trigger. Stanley shields Kit from the sight, and Wes and Silver race to Kit. Winny and Lilly race to Ron's body and turn it over.

LILLY CROW

Ron's alive! He's breathing.

WINNY

Get me two clean T-shirts, quick.

Winnie packs Ron's bleeding underarm with one T-shirt, while tying the other around his shoulder to keep in place. J.J. races over with water and splashes it on Ron.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

I'm okay. I heard the shot, fell, and closed my eyes. I was afraid.

SILVER

Totally understandable.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

I'm not a good leader. I should have carried an emergency phone. I'm not even Indian, my ancestors are from the South Pacific and Greece.

STANLEY

What? Could have fooled me.

WES

We don't have time to talk. This Colonel guy is on his way here, probably from the east or west.

SILVER

What should we do, Wes?

WES

Hide Sam. Lilly, send Booster and the mules north again. We'll head south over Green Mountain Saddle.

SENATOR MEYERS

Who put you in charge?

WES

I know the country well. I think I can save my family, and all of you.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

I only know this one trail. There are too many grizzlies and wolves to the south.

WES

At least they don't have guns. Pack for two days, with a minimum of supplies on the horses.

CHAD

Like granola bars, and fruit? What about the two small propane stoves?

WES

Take them, and the GPS Gold Finder. We need the GPS. Sleeping bags and rain ponchos. Remember, that big storm is tomorrow morning.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Just keep us from the great bears.

EXT. CREEK JUNCTION - DAY

Jalen and Brenna Nightweather climb to the top of a thick fir tree. Lefty and Randy ride by on horseback, into the thick forest. Arvin and Joshua lag a hundred yards behind them. Branches crackle nearby.

LEFTY

What's that? Might be the Indians.

RANDY

Look, it's just a cute baby bear. Down there.

Louder branches crackle upslope. A huge sow bear is separated from her cub. The grizzly ROARS. Lefty is bucked off, and Randy rides further into the thick forest and is knocked OFF his horse by a LOW LIMB. The grizzly KILLS them both as Arvin and Joshua ride up on the scene. They race up the trail to the Pass without looking back. After a long silence, they speak.

JOSHUA

Sorry about your band mates, Arvin.

ARVIN

Actually, they never liked me. Do we have to go back to the Colonel?

JOSHUA

If we don't go back, he'll kill my brother.

ARVIN

And Frasier. He likes me. Being a patriot sucks more than I thought.

Jalen and Brenna wait for the bears to leave, round up the horses and head south.

INT. ASPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Desk clerk, Shelly Hunt, barely notices as Jimmy Newman approaches the front desk.

JIMMY

Jimmy Newman, turning myself in.

SHELLY

Take a seat, Mr. Newman. We're a bit preoccupied.

(pointing to a newspaper)
Haven't you see the headlines?

JIMMY

(reading aloud)

Three bombings: Chief G. Stands Tall's house, Agriculture Inspection Station, and the Eisenhower Tunnel?

(to Shelly)

I think I'm partially responsible for two of these.

Shelly looks up, grabs the intercom, and yells.

SHELLY

Parker, better come quick.

JIMMY

Who are those people with you in that photo on your desk, if you don't mind me asking?

SHELLY

That was at our picnic last year. That's me, Chief G. Stands Tall, his daughter Alissa, Robert La Poudre, God rest his soul...

Police Chief Parker bursts into the room, spilling coffee.

JIMMY

(to himself)

Alissa. Wow.

(to Parker)

I'm Jimmy Newman. We need to talk.

PARKER

Do you want an attorney?

JIMMY

They're bigger criminals than me.

PARKER
I take it you're not dangerous?

JIMMY
Not dangerous, just stupid.

Shelly grabs a recent Fax.

SHELLY
G. never checked in at Hotchkiss.
He's missing with that Dull Knife kid.

PARKER
(to Shelly)
Put out an APB. Have 'em converge
towards the Marble cut off.
(To Jimmy)
Jimmy, I know you were a football
player. You're not gonna run, are
you?

JIMMY
No, sir. I just need to talk.

Jimmy rapidly repeats his whole story in fifteen minutes.

PARKER
We have a blog here that says you
and your New Sons of Liberty dumped
the pipes, murdered Robert La
Poudre, bombed G.'s house and the
Tunnel, and that you're after
Silver Whitehorse.

JIMMY
Like I said, we dumped the pipes,
and we've been set up for
everything else. It's Travis Key, I
tell ya.

PARKER
Ya know where we can find him?

JIMMY
They left this morning on a horse
trip from Aspen to Leadville.

PARKER
Silver is coming from the other
direction.
(to Shelly)
Get me Chari Chantell at Homeland
Security.

(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)
 (to Jimmy)
 Who sent the blog?

JIMMY
 Sarg, I mean, Larry Caen, C-A-E-N,
 at the Lodo Lofts in Denver. I
 can't believe he would...

PARKER
 (interrupting)
 Shelly, have Denver detectives drop
 in on Caen.

SHELLY
 Chari Chantell and Anita Romo are
 coming out for a horse riding
 rescue.

PARKER
 Did you get me the photos and work-
 ups of everybody.

SHELLY
 Got 'em all, except Travis Key. No
 photo. Dropped off the Earth after
 Iraq.

PARKER
 Get me an emergency helicopter to
 Independence Pass.

SHELLY
 No can do. Severe thunderstorms
 predicted. Everything's grounded.

Parker paces. Shelly's phone rings. She whispers into the
 phone, then yells.

SHELLY (CONT'D)
 Chari Chantell on Line One!

Parker grabs the phone.

PARKER
 Yes, Ma'am, horses, jeep,
 helicopter, the works. Planning
 tonight, rescue tomorrow. Got it.
 What do you mean there are only two
 of you?
 (beat)
 I see. Goodbye.

As soon and Parker hangs up, the phone rings again. Shelly
 answers with whispers, then yells.

SHELLY
Denver Homicide on Line Two!

PARKER
Parker here.
(beat)
Shot four times, both knees, heart,
and head. Got it. Thanks.

As soon and Parker hangs up, the phone rings again. Shelly answers with whispers.

JIMMY
That was Larry Caen, wasn't it?

PARKER
I'm sorry, Jimmy. Any ideas?

JIMMY
One. Travis Key.

SHELLY
(yells)
Sheriff Killdeer from Paonia on
Line One! He found G.'s car. Took
off riding into the Wilderness with
the Dull Knife kid, chased by Slim
Charon and three Utes.

PARKER
Where's he going?

SHELLY
To save his skin?

PARKER
No. He's warning Silver Whitehorse
and preventing a war.

JIMMY
Prevent a war?

PARKER
If we enter into a war with the
United States or the Utes, the
treaty is voided, and we lose the
Reservation.

JIMMY
Is Alissa Stands Tall single?

Parker stares, bewildered with Jimmy.

EXT. GREEN MOUNTAIN SADDLE - DAY

Afternoon thunderclouds build as Wes Powell and company head south. With binoculars, Powell sees the Stennisons charging north after Booster and the mules. Lilly and Alissa race past Powell smiling. The diversion works. The wind howls.

WES

Silver and Chad, can you please get everyone off this rock and into a thick forest quickly? My storm may be here one day early.

SILVER

(to Chad)

I'll take point, you get the stragglers.

CHAD

You got it.

Powell hides atop the saddle to monitor the enemy.

A storm approaches. Powell runs down the trail to the forest, where the group is relieved to see him.

SUPER: 4 P.M., Lincoln Creek Trail

Powell's group hides and rests in the forest near the creek. A black helicopter zooms overhead.

SILVER

Should I go out into a clearing and wave down the chopper?

WES

No. It had no numbers or identifiers.

It's there's, not ours. We have to assume they have support for supplies, weapons, and reinforcements.

The group saddens. Then, from the north, Jalen and Brenna Nightweather ride into view. Ron Highwoods Sr. smile.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Jalen, Brenna, I'm so glad to see you, but why are you here?

JALEN

The crazy man, Travis Key, tied your son to a tree at the Aspen Trail at Lincoln Creek.

BRENNA

Then, his men chased us into
grizzly habitat.

JALEN

Then, a great bear killed two of
our pursuers. They are nine strong.

BRENNA

We need to rescue Junior.

JALEN

Yes, they have three pistols and
smartphones, riding to Independence
Pass to get Silver.

BRENNA

(to Silver)

They call you the third head of the
snake.

WES

They must have been after Robert La
Poudre and G. Stands Tall too.

HAMILTON HUGHES

(to Jalen and Brenna)

I'll go with you. We'll rescue
Ron's son, then rejoin our group.

SILVER

It may be too dangerous.

ANGEL GARCIA

Hamilton has played tougher
characters than this. If he wants
to be somebody real for once, you
have to let him.

HAMILTON HUGHES

Can we use the bows and practice
arrows?

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Please save my son.

Jalen, Brenna, and Hamilton race back toward the Lincoln
Creek junction, while the others take refuge in the trees.
The storm builds.

WES

Ron, maybe you could tell us a
story while we wait.

SILVER

Could I write it down, Ron?

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

Yes, of course. Okay. This story took place close to here, in a creek like this. Utes controlled this area, but Arapahoe hunters would sneak in to kill Ute game. One of the Arapahoes had a magic knife that would keep him alive as long as he carried it. When they were skinning an elk they shot, four Ute warriors attacked them. The Arapahoe dropped his knife in the stream, but the Utes let them live. Very rare.

KIT

Can I go look for the knife with the Gold Finder, Daddy?

WES

Quickly, if your Uncle Chad and Aunt Maggie help you. We need a GPS reading.

They use the GPS Gold Finder to get their location. Kit FINDS a discarded fishing knife, but he is convinced it is THE Magic knife. Ron wraps it in a leather sheath for safe transport as Kit grips it tightly. The storm unleashes.

WES (CONT'D)

Spread out in groups of two or three. Separate the horses. Squat above your rubber-soled shoes.

SENATOR MEYERS

What for?

WES

So lightning doesn't kill all of us in one strike.

Angel Garcia grabs Stanley's hand and races off fifty yards. Stanley is in heaven as rain drenches them all. The others pair-up or triple-up, but Senator sits alone. The thunderstorm is relentless for thirty minutes.

WES (CONT'D)

Is everyone okay?

REGGIE

Actually, I've never felt so alive.

J.J.
 Maybe mom sent the storm.

WES
 It was a day early according to my models, but I'm glad we're okay.

SILVER
 I'm afraid our pursuers will be able to follow us easily from tracks in the mud.

WES
 (thinking aloud)
 What if we head south, then turn back after it dries out?

SILVER
 I get it. Then we head back and pick up Jalen, Brenna, Hamilton, and Junior.

WES
 Then we'll head up New York Creek, to the ski hut, then on to Aspen on the old jeep trail.

SENATOR MEYERS
 Do you think we'll all make it? We have a cripple and a kid with us.

ALISSA
 We'll help each other.

ANGEL GARCIA
 (realizing wet hair and dripping makeup)
 We'll all make it.

WES
 Let's head south.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Colonel Travis Key, Dixie Brush, and Frasier Fontaine are met by the Stennison brothers from the north and Joshua and Arvin from the west. Everyone is saddle-sore and tired.

SUPER: 4:30 PM INDEPENDENCE PASS

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 (to Luke and Adam)
 Where the hell are they?

LUKE STENNISON
We don't think they went north.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
How can you be sure?

ADAM STENNISON
Only one horse, lots of mules.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
(to Joshua and Arvin)
And where are Randy and Lefty?

ARVIN
Big ol' bear got 'em, that's where.
They got ripped apart.

Frasier and Dixie are mortified. The Colonel's smartphone rings.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
Team Two, cryptic channel three.
It's about time.

The Colonel rides thirty yards away, out of ear shot.

DIXIE
What's this Team Two bullshit?

Hiram isn't about to find out. With his helmet DOWN, he RIDES his horse right at Luke and knocks him off his horse.

HIRAM
Run you guys, get outta here.
They're gonna kill us all.

Adam draws his pistol, shoots Hiram dead, BAM, while Arvin, Dixie, Frasier, and Joshua gallop away toward Aspen.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
After them, you idiots. Keep Dixie,
Frasier, and the horses alive.

EXT. TRAIL NEAR INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Luke and Adam give chase. They SHOOT Joshua dead a mile down the trail. Arvin hops off his horse and scrambles down a boulder field. His horse stops the horses of Frasier and Dixie, who are nabbed by Luke and Adam.

EXT. INDEPENDENCE PASS - DAY

Team Two runs up from west of the Pass including LIEUTENANT KRUGER (54), two male soldiers (30), BONES and MIX; and two female soldiers (30), PHILLY and HARDWARE. They see Hiram, dead. The soldiers are well-armed and dressed to kill.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

We got the down payment for the job. Where are the real perps?

Luke and Adam return with pistols drawn on Dixie and Frasier.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Where are the others?

LUKE STENNISON

Joshua's dead. The idiot ran away on foot. The bears will get him. But we got extra horses.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

And, we have Team Two, automatic rifles, and horses. We're fine.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

Your Team One is falling apart.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Of course, I anticipated this. That's why there's a Team Two.

DIXIE

You're going to blame this on Frasier and me. Is that the plan?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Gag 'em.

Luke and Adam gag Frasier and Dixie. Kruger looks for signs.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

They went south. I'll send Bones and Hardware east and south to be sure they don't double back.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

Kill Jay, Melissa, Junior, and what's his name if you catch 'em. Let's go finish the job.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

Our deal is to catch them and hold them, not kill them.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 (very angry, yelling)
 Catch 'em then. I'll kill 'em.

EXT. TRAIL-CREEK CROSSING - DAY

It's a magnificent SUNSET. Wes turns the group around to head back north.

SUPER: Lincoln Creek-Taber Creek Crossing

WES
 Ride quietly, but quickly right behind me in single file, like elephants, trunk to tail.

SILVER
 Kit, we have to play the quiet game, okay?

Kit NODS 'yes', and puts a finger in front of his lips.

SENATOR MEYERS
 Are you sure they don't know where we are?

KIT
 You lose.

SILVER
 (angry look to Senator)
 Let's start the quiet game again.

Soon, Powell's group meets up with a smiling Hamilton Hughes, Junior Highwoods, and Jalen and Brenna Nightweather.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS
 Pop, you okay? I heard you were shot.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 Junior, you okay? I heard you were tied to a tree.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS
 And covered with honey, and we're not Indians. I know from the DNA test. But, it's great to see you.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
 I was worried sick. Oh, it's just a wound under my arm pit.

(MORE)

RON HIGHWOODS SR. (CONT'D)
And I'm sorry I lied about the
Indian story, but we needed the
business after your mother died.

WES
Hate to interrupt, but that Colonel
will discover our ruse soon. We
need to get up New York Creek.

SENATOR MEYERS
At night? We'll never make it.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS
Those people are killers.

SILVER
We'll be your Dog Soldiers. Wes,
you go ahead with Kit, J.J., and
the others.

WES
Silver, it's...

SILVER
(interrupting)
I'm the best archer here. Jalen's
next, Hamilton after Jalen. Kit,
can we borrow your magic knife?

Kit HANDS the magic knife over immediately.

KIT
It will keep you safe.

ALISSA
I'll hang back with Brenna. Maybe
we can slow them down a bit.

Powell reluctantly leads the others up New York Creek. A wolf
HOWLS in the distance.

SILVER
Great idea, Alissa, let's see if we
can hunt up a deer to attract
wolves and bears.

Silver and the new Dog Soldiers kill a deer, and open it up
on the trail before riding up New York Creek.

BEGIN MONTAGE - THE COLONEL PURSUES POWELL AND COMPANY -
NIGHT

-- At the valley bottom from the Green Mountain Saddle, Lieutenant Kruger chastises Philly for slowing down the group. The Colonel takes less pity, and shoots her.

-- The Colonel realizes he's been fooled by the trail south, and turns north after Silver.

-- They spot the hoof prints turning up New York Creek, but hear wolves growling over the spoils of the deer.

END MONTAGE

EXT. NEW YORK CREEK - NIGHT

Bones and Hardware JOIN the Colonel from the north.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
Did you kill Junior and the others?

BONES
We didn't see anyone. We saw a big
"A" in the sand where you said the
Indian was tied up.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
Damn him. Arvin. His name is Arvin.

The Colonel commands Mix, Bones, and Hardware up the trail to frighten off the wolves, but one wolf growls from the side bank, attacks Hardware in the throat, and she falls off her horse, bleeding to death.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
Damn it. They may be four hours
ahead. Where are they, Kruger?

EXT. HEADWATERS OF NEW YORK CREEK - NIGHT

Powell and company arrive at the headwaters of New York Creek. They pack backpacks, let the horses FREE, and HIKE up a steep, rocky trail following Wes and flashlight beams.

SUPER: Late Monday Night - Top of New York Creek

Leader, Wes, bribes Kit with chocolate, Angel bribes Stanley with chocolate, Junior helps Ron, and J.J. guides Reggie on the cross-country hike. A wolf howls.

SILVER

(to Wes)

We archers, Hamilton, Jalen, and I,
may hang back, while you head to
the ski hut.

HAMILTON HUGHES

Dog Soldiers. Yes.

WES

(whispering)

Promise me you'll race ahead to us
if they get close.

SILVER

Always, my love.

Wes KISSES Silver. Silver, Hamilton, and Jalen, hang back
with the two bows and practice arrows. Senator Meyers huffs
and puffs up to Wes.

SENATOR MEYERS

What's this crazy plan again?

WES

The ski hut is three miles ahead.
We'll break in, start a fire in the
Franklin stove, sleep until dawn,
then hike twelve miles into Aspen.

MAGGIE

Sounds like a perfect vacation.

CHAD

I can carry extra gear for anyone
who gets tired.

ALISSA

So can Brenna, Maria, Lilly, and I.

ANGEL GARCIA

You bet. Anything to keep ahead of
those monsters after Silver.

SENATOR MEYERS

Who picked up Sam's pistol?

ALISSA

I did. No one gets it. We're non-
violent.

SENATOR MEYERS

Great. Non-violent Dog Soldiers.
They wouldn't have stopped Hitler
or Saddam Hussein.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

I'll take the pistol. They pointed
one at my head this morning. I
could point it at theirs.

Alissa reluctantly hands the pistol over to Junior.

WES

Let's all hope we don't need it.

The group trudges in the dark toward the ski hut.

INT. ASPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Chari Chantell and Anita Romo burst into police headquarters.

CHARI

I'm Chari Chantell, this is Anita
Romo, from Homeland Security. We're
here to see Chief Parker.

SHELLY

I'm Shelly Hunt. Glad you made it.

Anita looks over in the corner and sees Jimmy Newman.

ANITA

Aren't you James Newman? I
recognize you from your mug shots.

JIMMY

I'm Jimmy, and I already confessed.
You're taking me to prison. Sorry
to bother you so late.

CHARI

Why isn't this man behind bars?

Chief Parker enters with two cups of coffee.

JIMMY

Oh, I'm not dangerous, just stupid.

PARKER

Jimmy's cooperating. I'm Parker.
You must be Chari and Anita.

CHARI

(to Jimmy)

Yes, we know about the pipe dumping
and your New Sons of Liberty.

ANITA

And we have streaming video of the
Stennison brothers shooting
Lawrence Caen.

CHARI

We have some questions about the
tunnel bombing, but our priority is
locating Silver Whitehorse, Senator
Meyers, and Travis Key.

PARKER

They could be anywhere. It's dark,
rugged, and remote. Where are your
SWAT teams and choppers?

CHARI

Lucky you have us. Washington
claims it's an tribal dispute with
the Utes. They won't get involved.

SHELLY

That figures. They're banking on
failure and surrender again.

JIMMY

And the Colonel is smart. Doesn't
leave a trail.

CHARI

We'll handle this, young man.

JIMMY

But, my girlfriend's in danger.

Jimmy slides over to Shelly's desk to see Alissa's photo.

ANITA

Ms. Dixie Brush, daughter of
Pentagon brass, General Brush?

JIMMY

(mumbling to himself)

I meant Alissa Stands Tall.

CHARI

Any word on Chief Stands Tall?

SHELLY
He's in the wilderness too.

PARKER
And Jimmy's the only one who can
identify Travis Key on sight.

ANITA
He's right, Ma'am. No photo.

CHARI
What's their motive?

JIMMY
Assassination, political
instability, chaos, anything to get
the land back.

CHARI
Smart boy. What's their support?

PARKER
We think they may have been re-
supplied by a chopper. They may
have some firepower.

CHARI
Let's hope not. We'll see you
tomorrow morning at the trailhead.

SHELLY
Hope Silver and her family are
okay.

CHARI
They're a hard group to catch,
believe me. Knowing Wes and Silver,
they're okay. We'll meet here at
sunrise.

Chari and Anita leave the police station. Parker and Jimmy
review maps.

EXT. SKI HUT - NIGHT

Wes is carrying Kit piggyback. He stumbles up to the locked
ski hut. The others are in a long line behind him.

WES
Midnight. We made it.

CHAD
What do we do now?

WES

We break in, start a fire, eat and sleep for six hours. Then, we hike along the old jeep trail to Aspen.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.

How far back are our Dog Soldiers?

WES

Silver is a mile and a half back at the overlook to the canyon with Hamilton.

ALISSA

Jalen and I will swap as lookouts in two hours.

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

Brenna and I will relieve them in four hours.

BRENNA

Here come J.J., Reggie, and Winny.

WES

Glad you made it. Feel proud, but not too proud. We have to break in.

REGGIE

Not guilty, if I get to sleep in there.

Wes sets Kit down, breaks a window, and he and Chad LIFT J.J. through to open the door. They stumble into the dark hut, as Maria trudges up to the hut, with Stanley behind.

WES

Maria, you made it. Way to go.

ANGEL GARCIA

I was coaxing Stanley by walking in front of him.

WES

Brilliant. Stanley, you made it.

STANLEY

Thanks to a Guardian Angel.

MAGGIE

The twins got in quite a hike tonight. I hope they'll sleep.

WINNY

I'll start a fire.

WES

Thanks, Winny. The water in the jugs is safe. Drink a lot, everyone. Eat a snack, and get some sleep. One more night and day. Stay with us and we'll all be okay. None of them can walk another inch. They are dead tired.

INT. SKI HUT - NIGHT.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- Two hours later, Alissa and Jalen leave as Silver and Hamilton enter the hut. They snuggle beside their partners, who are fast asleep.

-- Two hours later, Alissa and Jalen return, as Junior and Brenna head out to the lookout spot.

-- Two hours later, the ski brightens, waking Wes in a panic. He grabs the map and races outside. Silver stirs, leaves Kit to sleep, and joins Wes. They hear a rifle shot in the distance. BAM.

END MONTAGE

WES

Silver, did you hear that?

SILVER

They sound close. We may not be able to outrun them. I'll wake the others.

Everyone scurries in the hut, drinking water, and slamming in powerbars, while Wes and Silver study the map. Junior and Brenna run up.

WES

How far behind us are they?

BRENNNA

They'll be here in an hour. Hamilton put his hat on a rock across the canyon, so they headed that way.

WES

Good job, Hamilton, and all of you,
but...

JUNIOR HIGHWOODS

(interrupting)

We can't out run them can we? Maybe
we'll have to fight.

ALISSA

Most of us are non-violent. We
won't stoop to murder.

SENATOR MEYERS

It's self-defense.

SILVER

'Thou shalt not kill' doesn't have
any loopholes in it. We've done
what we could.

Silver holds a sleeping Kit and joins Wes, who SCANS the
exhausted, injured group. His expression says it all.
Everyone's eyes sink to the ground in despair.

Suddenly, they are interrupted by a warm gust of wind. Powell
looks up to see tremendous thunderclouds building in the
morning sky.

WES

Did you feel that?

MAGGIE

And look at those clouds. It's
here, isn't it, Wesley?

SENATOR MEYERS

What's here?

WES

This might be it. The big
microburst.

SILVER

We have to get everybody off of
this ridge, don't we?

WES

Now! Down Waterfall Gulch to the
ghost town of Ashcroft. Let's go.

SENATOR MEYERS

Our pursuers will stop here. Let's
dump the water. I'll catch up.

Meyers dumps the water in the hut, then adds the canisters of propane to the back of the wood-burning stove. He races to rejoin the hikers beginning their descent of the gulch.

EXT. WEST IN THE WILDERNESS - DAY

SUPER: Six miles west in the wilderness

G. Stands Tall and William Dull Knife awaken to the same warm wind.

G. STANDS TALL

Unusual. Clouds are forming early.
We'd better hurry to Ashcroft.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

How far away is it?

G. STANDS TALL

About six miles away. We should be
back in Aspen tonight.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Why the rush, I'm beginning to like
it out here.

G. STANDS TALL

The water negotiation meetings with
the states. Remember? Your billion
dollars?

William smile a genuine smile as they ride-off.

EXT. RON HIGHWOODS STABLES WEST, ASPEN - DAY

Chari Chantell and Anita arrive in one jeep, followed by Police Chief Parker and Jimmy Newman in another jeep. A stable boy, JESSE MEDICINE BOW (15), greets them.

CHARI

We've got to hurry. We've gotten
calls all morning about an uprising
of Citizen Displacement Center
folks calling themselves the New
Sons of Liberty.

PARKER

I know. They're congregating on the
other side of the Tunnel. They
might be armed.

ANITA

Why can't we get a chopper to
extract Silver and G. Stands Tall?

PARKER

The Weather Service has grounded
everything. Freak storm coming.

JIMMY

We've got to ride out and stop the
Colonel, or he'll kill them all.

JESSE

Howdy, folks. Hi Parker. I'll get
your horses.

PARKER

Good. We need to get to Silver
Whitehorse and Senator Meyers
before your guest, Travis Key, gets
to them.

JESSE

But our guest list is secret.

ANITA

Our hackers got it easily.

CHARI

Homeland Security, Internal
Terrorism.

JESSE

One of them forgot a blue backpack.
I didn't touch it.

PARKER

Blue backpack? I'll call the bomb
squad. Keep everyone away from it.

CHARI

G's house had a blue backpack.

Arvin Wells comes running down the trail to them. He's
exhausted and can't speak, while catching his breath.

JIMMY

Arvin, you're alive.

ARVIN

Barely, I ran all night. I escaped.
Lefty and Randy got killed by a
bear. The Colonel had the
Goldsteins shot.

PARKER

What?

ARVIN

Shot 'em to get horses for Team Two. Army dudes. Worse than the Stennisons. Dixie and Frasier are like hostages. The Colonel's crazy with this New Sons of Liberty stuff.

CHARI

Where are they?

ARVIN

Not on this trail.

Parker stares at a map.

PARKER

They must have gone south then west to avoid them. Maybe the old jeep trail or coming out from Ashcroft.

We'll take the jeeps.

JIMMY

We've got to save Dixie, Frazier, and Alissa too.

Chari and Anita get instructions from Parker, head to Ashcroft on the old two-track low jeep road, while Parker and Jimmy take the old two-track high jeep road.

EXT. ACROSS THE VALLEY - DAY

SUPER: Two miles southwest of Ashcroft, the ghost town.

G. Stands Tall and William Dull Knife descend on a steep, narrow, next to a stream, in a light rain.

Slim Charon stands blocks the trail, rifle in hand.

G. STANDS TALL

Slim, how did you find us? How did you beat us here?

SLIM CHARON

You forget, this was all Ute land.

G. STANDS TALL

Don't hurt the boy. He's my prisoner.

SLIM CHARON

What did he do, hit a parking meter?

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

I shot an arrow, heart-high, into his door.

SLIM CHARON

Your dad would be proud. Your weak grandpa, the chief, could care less.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

I don't act to please my elders, I act to please those yet to be born.

SLIM CHARON

Great. An unemployed philosopher.

G. STANDS TALL

Like your three gang members?

SLIM CHARON

Oh. Is unemployment a club sport? They returned Tremall's horses and untied him. We were drunk.

G. STANDS TALL

Why do you still chase us now?

SLIM CHARON

Depression, hatred, jealousy, the past, the present. You pick.

Slim aims his rifle above G.'s head.

G. STANDS TALL

Will all our people disappear when I am dead?

William guides his horse between Slim and G. to shield him.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

Chief G. Stands Tall will share the water money, if we grow up.

Slim's hands tremble from the DT's.

SLIM CHARON

Maybe I want Robert La Poudre's job. Sorry he was shot. It wasn't Utes. There aren't many of us left. Maybe it is time to grow up.

With that, Slim heaves his rifle into a deep ravine and creek. The rain intensifies.

G. STANDS TALL

(laughing)

Burying a hatchet is one thing.
That rifle cost a hundred bucks.
May as well join us to warn Silver,
we think she's in trouble.

WILLIAM DULL KNIFE

We better hurry. Storm's here.

The three race toward the ghost town, Ashcroft.

EXT. SKI HUT - DAY

Colonel Travis Key and company ATTACK the hut. The Stennison brothers and Lieutenant Kruger look for CLUES. Dixie and Frazier are still tied up and guarded by Bones and Mix. The moderate rain turns to heavy hail with lightning.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

They were here, less than an hour ago, and a fire is still burning.

ADAM STENNISON

They can't outrun us back to Aspen.

LUKE STENNISON

We got 'em.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

They would get off this ridge for safety. Where would they go?

LIEUTENANT KRUGER

I got it, down Waterfall Creek to the old ghost town. Let's go.

BONES

I'll catch right up. I need some water from the hut.

Bones runs into the hut. Seconds later, KABOOM. The gas canisters explode in the wood stove, killing Bones.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

He didn't follow orders. Let's go.

EXT. WATERFALL GULCH - DAY

Wes and Silver GUIDE their group quickly down the STEEP CREEK, past small WATERFALLS in a TORRENTIAL RAIN, SLIPPING as they reach the confluence of the much larger Castle Creek, SEPARATING them from the ghost town.

SILVER

How are going to cross this one?

KIT

Piggyback?

WES

There's a cable and bucket pulley over the creek.

Castle Creek RAGES in the storm. The bucket and rope are across the creek when the others join them.

WES (CONT'D)

I'll pull myself across and toss the rope to you.

SILVER

Be careful.

Wes struggles across, throws the rope, and they get everyone, but Stanley across. A WOLF appears behind Stanley, rushing him to squeeze into the bucket. The wolf DISAPPEARS. While being PULLED across, a rifle shot hits the bucket. BAM.

WES

Take cover in the old building.

Silver and Jalen launch practice arrows in the direction of the rifle shot by Lieutenant Kruger. Colonel Key slides down the slope in the rain. Key grabs the rifle. BAM.

Stanley is SHOT in the leg, while exiting the bucket.

ALISSA

I'm racing to the old lodge to get more bows and real arrows.

BAM BAM. Gunshots surround her, but she safely escapes when William Dull Knife rides across the meadow to the creek, shielding Wes and Stanley. William shoots an arrow in the Colonel's direction, just missing him.

WES

Thanks, kid. See if you can pull down the cable system.

Wes and C4 drag Stanley to the old saloon. Wes, Silver, and everyone except Stanley and Kit try to pull down the cables, but they can't. It's stuck.

Slim Charon and G. Stands Tall race IN to help, as rifle shots are fired by the Colonel's men. No one is hit.

Alissa returns with more bows and arrows. She sees her dad.

ALISSA
Dad. You're okay.

G. STANDS TALL
Never better. Silver, are you and the family okay?

SILVER
Never better.

More shots. They finally pull down the cable system pole. They race to the old saloon for cover.

INT. OLD SALOON, ASHCROFT - DAY

Rain pounds the old building as Powell and company collapse in near-exhaustion.

RON HIGHWOODS SR.
Wish we had a smartphone.

G. STANDS TALL
I've got one, but the battery's been dead for days.

WES
The Gold-Finder has a battery.

C4
Bet I could make it work.

Chad connects the Gold Finder battery to the phone. Wes grabs it and DIALS the one emergency number he knows.

EXT. ONE MILE DOWNSTREAM - DAY

SUPER: One mile from the ghost town.

Two jeeps skid to a stop as the road ends. Parker, Jimmy, Chari and Anita hop out by a crumbling bridge.

PARKER
They could be anywhere.

Chari Chantell's phone rings. She's stunned, but answers it.

BEGIN PHONE CONVERSATION

WES (O.S.)
We're in the old saloon at
Ashcroft, the ghost town. Bad guys
with guns across the creek.

The phone goes DEAD.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

CHARI
Caller ID said G. Stands Tall, but
that was Powell. They're right up
ahead in the ghost town.

BAM BAM.

PARKER
Rifle shots. This side of the
creek. You two take that side.
Jimmy and I will take this side.

CHARI
Hurry.

EXT. ASHCROFT GHOST TOWN - DAY

The Colonel and his men can't cross the creek. In anger, he
fires several rounds at the saloon.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
(whispers)
Kruger and Mix get upslope to
prevent escapes. No one leaves.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER
We'll fire warning shots, but we're
not killing anyone. Not our deal.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
Follow orders or you'll be shot for
treason. Team Three, remember?

Kruger and Mix trudge upslope with automatic rifles.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
(yells)
This is Colonel Travis Key of the
New Sons of Liberty.
(MORE)

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

We sent soldiers to upslope vantage points to shoot anyone who tries to escape. Send out Silver Whitehorse, and we'll let everyone else live.

INT./EXT. OLD SALOON, GHOST TOWN, AND CREEK - DAY

WES

(yells)

No deal!

(whispers)

Hope the smartphone worked.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

We have a chopper on the way. You might want to reconsider.

A helicopter with six rifles protruding appears from the south, despite the heavy storm.

Powell and the others look up from the saloon door. A funnel cloud appears. The Colonel calls the pilot on his smartphone.

SILVER

It's over. They'll kill us all if I don't surrender.

SENATOR MEYERS

She's right.

WES

Wait. Look.

HELICOPTER PILOT (V.O.)

Colonel. You bastard. You'll never threaten me or my family again.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

You're all paid to finish the job, now finish it.

HELICOPTER PILOT

Team Three is finished, sir.

The chopper pilot jerks his chopper directly to the funnel cloud. It tosses the chopper side to side, rips it up a thousand feet, then spits it angrily to the ground with soldiers screaming. KABOOM.

EXT. UPSLOPE FROM THE GHOST TOWN AND CREEK - DAY

Lieutenant Kruger and Mix are upslope, firing rifles to prevent escapees when the chopper crashes.

LIEUTENANT KRUGER
 Fubar, Colonel. We're out of here.
 Keep your money. No exit strategy.
 You're on your own.

Kruger and Mix drop their heavy rifles and scramble upslope to get away.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 Get back here, Kruger. Finish your
 job. We know where you live.

ADAM STENNISON
 What's Fubar?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 Never mind.

LUKE STENNISON
 It means Fucked Up Beyond Any
 Recognition.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 Shut up and bring me the hostages.

One of the three horses ESCAPES toward Aspen. Slim Charon crawls after it carrying a bow and arrows. The Colonel shoots at the horse, but misses because of rain in his eyes.

BAM BAM. Wes crawls out the opposite direction to draw the Colonel's fire as Slim crawls back to the old saloon with the horse. BAM.

Wes gets shot in the shoulder.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)
 I said, no one leaves.

Inside the old saloon, Silver patches up Wes's shoulder as he scans the room. Things look bleak.

WES
 I'll go try to negotiate with him.

G. STANDS TALL
 I'll go too.

SENATOR MEYERS
 Me too.

WES

The rest of you, stay put.

(yells)

Hold your fire, we're coming out.

The rain ends. With hands high in the air, Wes, G., and the senator walk to the creek, where they see three trees with rifles pointing out from behind. Near two of the trees, Dixie and Frasier kneel, readied for execution by Adam and Luke.

Belt-high rocks safeguard Wes, G., and the senator.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

G. Stands Tall, what a pleasant surprise. You must be Wes Powell.

WES

That's right.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

You almost got away from us. Send out Silver Whitehorse, or we'll shoot our hostages.

SENATOR MEYERS

We surrender. Here's our only gun.

Senator Meyers throws the pistol across the creek, which is not running nearly as fast as it was before.

In the saloon, Silver and others strain to listen in.

SILVER

(whispers)

Looks like there's only three of them. Stanley, watch over Kit. I'll distract them, while the rest of you surround them.

Kit hugs his mom, who walks defiantly to the creek.

SILVER (CONT'D)

(yells)

I'm the one you're after. Let the others go.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

We want Stands Tall too.

SILVER

You want our water and land back. That's it, isn't it? It's not about patriotism, it's about money.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 I'll be remembered like General
 George Washington, Davy Crockett,
 and Daniel Boone rolled into one.

Reggie steps out to shield the others crawling behind him. He has a bow and arrow behind his back and stops one step in front of Silver.

REGGIE
 You'll be forgotten as a terrorist.

SENATOR MEYERS
 We've got to surrender. The creek's
 dropping. They'll be able to cross
 it in a few minutes.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 We can cross it now John, if you
 throw us that rope.

SILVER
 John?

WES
 The Senator is in on it. They kill
 everyone but him, and he returns a
 hero. President, maybe.

WINNY (O.S.)
 (yells)
 You son of a bitch! That's why you
 had me wire funds to Austin!

The Senator bends to grab the rope to toss it to the Colonel, but William shoots his hand with an arrow. The Senator screams.

SENATOR MEYERS
 You were supposed to scare them,
 not kill them! Who else is paying
 you?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY
 The New Sons of Liberty no longer
 require your services, John.

The Colonel shoots the Senator in the heart. BAM, BAM, BAM.

Wes, Silver, Reggie, and G. dive behind the rocks.

WES
 You plan to kill all the Indians
 again, Mr. Key? A second genocide?

REGGIE

The United States doesn't kill innocent people?

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

If you don't count a hundred thousand Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or the fire bombing of Dresden, the napalm in Vietnam, or the cluster bombs and drones in Iraq and Afghanistan. You pay your taxes. Their deaths are a small price for our liberty.

SILVER

Actually, in eighteen-fifty-nine, John Stuart Mill defined true liberty as both the freedom to act and the absence of coercion.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

That's it. Kill them all.

Hearing that from behind tall willows, Parker jumps Adam, while Jimmy jumps Luke. Chari and Anita crash through the willows downstream, guns drawn.

CHARI

Freeze. Homeland Security. We have you surrounded.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY

That's highly unlikely.

Colonel Travis Key stares at Chari and Anita, then looks upstream for potential escape, but he sees Alissa, Brenna, Lilly, and Jalen with hunting arrows pointed at him. Behind him is Parker with a pistol, and Junior and Slim with bows. Across the creek, Silver takes the bow behind Reggie, and she AIMS an arrow at the Colonel's chest.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

I, I surrender. I was just doing a job for my country that everyone in the Citizen Displacement Centers wanted to do. I'm a hero.

He tosses down his rifle, and slowly removes his pistol. He pulls it quickly to his mouth.

COLONEL TRAVIS KEY (CONT'D)

The New Sons of Liberty will never die.

Before he can pull the trigger, William Dull Knife shoots a practice arrow into Key's wrist, knocking out the pistol. Chari and Anita jump on Travis Key and cuff him.

CHARI

They won't be calling you Colonel
in Guantanamo.

EXT. ASHCROFT GHOST TOWN - DAY

SUPER: Twenty minutes later.

It looks like a modern suburban crime scene, with yellow tape, choppers, FBI agents, and TV and news reporters (mixed ages) carpet the ghost town. The sun shines.

FBI AGENT BILLINGS

We'll take over Police Chief
Parker, a U.S. Senator has been
murdered. Here are my orders.

PARKER

Right. And you'll send me complete
copies of everything? Right?

Stanley Harrington is placed on a stretcher, with Angel, Hamilton, Wes, Silver, and Kit at his side. They hear a News Reporter #1 a short distance away.

REPORTER #1 (O.S.)

This is the spot where the
respected senator from California,
John Meyers, was savagely gunned
down by an assassin on this massive
Indian reservation in Colorado.

HAMILTON HUGHES

I've learned a lot from all of you,
especially Kit. You're all braver
in real life than I am in the
movies.

KIT

Thank you, Hamilton.

ANGEL GARCIA

And Stanley, now that you've seen
me dirty, wet, and without makeup,
I hope we'll still be friends.

STANLEY

You're even more real and more of
an angel in my eyes.

(MORE)

STANLEY (CONT'D)

I'm honored to call you
(beat)
Maria.

Maria kisses Stanley as a medical crew takes him, Maria, and Hamilton to an awaiting chopper. Frasier comforts Dixie nearby. A TV Reporter #1 (45) is interviewing Jimmy.

JIMMY

Peaceful demonstrations are one thing, but it all got way out of hand. We forgot what's really important.

Jimmy joins Alissa, J.J., Kit, William, Chad, Maggie, Brenna, Lilly, and Jalen, who are sitting in a circle, Indian-style, in the meadow.

REPORTER #1

That was Jimmy Newman, head of the New Sons of Liberty, who is inspiring many protests at the borders of these occupied lands.

JIMMY

(to Alissa)
Sorry about that idiot reporter.

ALISSA

(smiling)
It's okay. You're learning.

KIT

Aunt Maggie and Uncle Chad, you can have my magic knife.

MAGGIE

How sweet. It will keep our babies safe from bad guys.

C4

We'll get you a new gold finder.

KIT

That's okay. Daddy's old pan will work just fine.

Standing just outside the saloon are Silver, Wes, and Eric Red Cloud.

SILVER

I sure hope that our next generation values its diplomats as much as its soldiers.

ERIC RED CLOUD
Eric Red Cloud, High Mountain News.
Can I quote you on that, Silver?

SILVER
You bet Eric, and I'll give you the
whole story in day or two.

Chari, Anita, Reggie, and J.J. walk past Powell and Silver on
the way to one chopper, while Travis Key and the Stennisons,
in cuffs, are being hauled to another chopper.

CHARI
You two have the most exciting
vacations of anyone.

ANITA
We wouldn't miss 'em. We're giving
these two a free ride back east.

REGGIE
Wes and Silver, you taught us much.

SILVER
(to Reggie)
Your wife was the real teacher.

J.J.
I think she sent the funnel cloud
too.

They all hug. The choppers DEPART. G. Stands Tall, Slim, and
the Highwoods walk up to Silver, but the TV News Reporter #1
steps in.

REPORTER #1
Chiefs Silver Whitehorse and G.
Stands Tall, your water
renegotiations with the western
States are tomorrow morning. How
could you afford to take vacations
now?

G. Stands Tall throws his arms around Slim and Ron Sr.

G. STANDS TALL
Nothing like a wilderness ride to
clear one's head.

SILVER
(winking at Wes)
My husband and I were on a second
honeymoon.

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, ASPEN - DAY

SUPER: The next day. Reservation Headquarters, Aspen

G., Silver, Slim, and William dress casually against the backdrop of a dozen business suits. Slim is drinking coffee. Le Roy Hansen, Katolina Remenski, Daniel, and Winny attend.

G. STANDS TALL

We've decided to establish the Robert La Poudre Fund, and with our partners, the Utes, we increase our water rates to the states to help the forgotten tribes throughout the country.

SILVER

And, we're recommending drastic conservation measures to preserve water for future generations.

Anger and nervousness fill the room. Heads drop. Only G., Silver, Slim, William, Daniel, and Winny are smiling.

EXT. EISENHOWER TUNNEL, COLORADO - DAY

Powell's old station wagon heads to the tunnel, east toward Denver and Fort Collins. It's a tranquil, sunny afternoon. Wes, Silver, and Kit are smiling and in love.

INT. CAR - WEST OF THE EISENHOWER TUNNEL - DAY

WES

I was nice of all those folks from the Citizen Displacement Centers to work together with the tribe to open the tunnels.

SILVER

To thank Stanley for getting them air conditioning.

WES

And it was nice of your tribe to lease Jimmy Newman's land back for a dollar for ninety-nine years.

SILVER

Did you see Alissa and him?
Chemistry sure trumps history.

WES

It did in our case. And, I'm glad we'll get much more time together.

SILVER

Two days in Aspen and five days home. Family first from now on.

KIT

Yeah. And, can we go horse riding next summer too?

They LAUGH as they EXIT the tunnel, but see a new road sign: ENTERING COLORADO, UNITED STATES, AGRICULTURE INSPECTION STATION AHEAD, PREPARE TO STOP.

Two armed guards stand at attention by the kiosk. An old-style clock TICKS inside.

WES

God bless America, here we go again.

We SEE a spy plane LOOKING DOWN on the Ag Station.

BEGIN MONTAGE -- an Epilogue of scenes

-- Colonel Travis Key is brutally murdered in his holding cell in New York, before being transferred to Guantanamo Bay.

-- Homeland Security investigates a Las Vegas connection with Le Roy Hansen, but the FBI seizes all the records.

-- No copies of any evidence, photos, or interrogations are released to Police Chief Parker.

-- The FBI reports conclude that evidence suggesting any wrong-doing by Senator John Meyers was inconclusive.

-- The Columbus Day Parade on Monday, October 8, 2018, features more than one thousand armed militia members calling themselves The New Sons of Liberty.

END MONTAGE

FADE OUT.

THE END