

Dellavance Creek

ANOTHER'S VOICE
Ambush them on the road --

JASPER'S VOICE
There'll be Union calvary escorting
them to the bank.

Scene 6

The voices die down again, but she hears 'gold', 'bank robbery' and enough to figure out what they're talking about.

THE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Belle ENTERS. All the MEN STOP talking. Belle looks over
at her brother who holds a straight RAZOR.

JASPER
How's Toby?

BELLE
Fever's down.

JASPER
(nods)
I was gonna suggest you cheer us
all by playing the piano, but uh...

Jasper taps his boot on the floor where the ghostly, faded
shadow of where the piano used to be still remains...

JASPER (CONT'D)
Seems to be... missin'.

BELLE
Times are tough.

JASPER
Daddy gave you that piano, you
loved playing...

BELLE
I love my children eating more.

JASPER
You still got a washing basin, or
you sell that too?

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper lathers his face for a shave. Belle sits on the edge
of her bed, watching him. Their eyes meet in the mirror,
their likeness to one another undeniable.

JASPER
What?

12/17

BELLE

You were born with that beard,
weren't you?

(off his laugh)

Why shave it off now?

JASPER

It's time for a change.

BELLE

Or...

Belle walks to the window and pulls back the curtain... she
watches Jaspers men standing guard...

BELLE (CONT'D)

Maybe it'll be harder for witnesses
to identify you. What'd you do?

JASPER

Robbed a saloon in Kansas.

Belle sits on the window sill...

BELLE

And that's how you help the
Confederates win the war?

JASPER

They were Union soldiers, Belle.
Instead of dying in a ditch, they
died drunk and somewhere warm.

BELLE

So now you think you're ready to
rob a bank?

JASPER

Didn't take you long to figure that
out.

BELLE

Less time than it's taking you to
figure out that robbing drunken
soldiers is a far cry easier than
robbing a bank...

JASPER

We didn't plan that. I'm planning
this one.

BELLE

Why here? Why our home town?

13/17

JASPER

32.

JASPER

Because when opportunity knocks...

BELLE

What opportunity? As far as I can tell the bank is as empty as my pantry!

JASPER

Six Union regiments are getting their payday from Deliverance. Coming by stagecoach. Solid gold bars.

BELLE

When's it coming?

JASPER

Don't know.

BELLE

Hell, that's the most important part, Jasper!

JASPER

Well, it's comin' into Deliverance and when it does, we're robbin' it.

BELLE

Not while staying here you're not.

Belle heads for the door. Jasper grabs her arms and pulls her back...

JASPER

I appreciate your hospitality.

Jasper pulls out a wad of cash from his shirt pocket and holds it out for Belle.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Don't act proud, Belle. I can see you're struggling...

Jasper picks up the crumpled lien off her vanity.

JASPER (CONT'D)

Looks like you've been struggling for some time now.

14/17

BELLE

That's Caulfields thinking that with one little piece of paper they can take away what's rightfully mine.

JASPER

Then why not help us rob them blind?

BELLE

(Dazed)

Can't you see my life has changed? I've changed... look at me, Jasper. I've got three younguns who depend on me. Those days of runnin' wild are done for me, and they should be for you, too.

(then)

You really want to help me? I've got cattle to roundup for auction and you've got men.

Off Jasper's silence.

BELLE (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

JASPER

Alright, alright. We can do that.

BELLE

Tell your men we leave at dawn.

Belle goes to leave -- then turns around and TAKES the money from Jasper and EXITS without another word.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Men scattered asleep on the floor. Jasper sleeps in a chair in front of the window.

EXT. HOUSE - PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Cyril sleeps off his whiskey, propped up in a chair on the front porch, his shotgun cradled in his arms.

INT. BELLE'S HOUSE - BELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Belle's eyes snap OPEN as she hears her dog bark... She quickly disentangles herself from Franny; pulls the blankets up around her and Abner, then grabs her shotgun...

END

15/17