

Long and his brother are Chinese train robbers in Arizona, 1869. They are being tracked by an intrepid U.S. Marshall who has been trying to bring them to justice for 10 years. After another successful train robbery, Long and his brother ride to the silver mining boom town of Epitaph, where the Marshall and his posse have set up a trap for them. Fortunately for Long and his brother, they know a secret way into town.

Unfortunately, Long runs into the Marshall who confronts Long in the street and they draw pistols on each other. But Long senses the Marshall's men and a fierce firefight ensues. Long's brother is killed in the exchange, but Long is able to kill the entire posse except for the Marshall. Now out of bullets, Long is essentially defenseless as the Marshall approaches with gun drawn. Unable to kill a defenseless man, the Marshall arrests Long and puts him in a cell at the local jail.

While Long waits to be transported to another state for his crimes, events are happening around town. A snake oil salesman sells a dubious elixir of immortality to some townsfolk. A man is bitten by a rabid dog that was eating another dog. A meteor flies overhead at night, crashing into the stake of a couple of out-of-luck prospectors who consider the meteorite as a precious metal. The snake oil salesman is killed by Indian bandits on his way out of town and his cart full of liquids falls into the local water supply. The Indians are captured and quickly tried and sentenced to hang. During the hanging, the last Indian curses the land, invoking the spirits of his ancestors to rise and avenge him. Lastly, a sick soldier is carted off by his comrades to the local military fort where military doctors will care for him.

When the soldiers arrive, they report that the sick soldier has died, but when they check on him, he stands and attacks three soldiers, biting them. The sick soldier is killed with a bullet to the head, but the bitten soldiers begin attacking others. It takes an entire line of soldiers in formation with rifles to kill all the bitten soldiers. The commanding officer makes the decision to contain the source of the affliction at Epitaph.

It's the dead of night at the town, various townsfolk are dying and coming back to life inexplicably. The undead manifest in different ways. Some run, some walk, some spit. The horses are spooked and run off into the dark, leaving townsfolk more or less stranded.

The Marshall returns to the jail which is in the center of the large town to free Long and get him to safety. Along the way, they meet other survivors and finally reach one of the town entrances. They see bonfires have been lit to form a perimeter around the town by the soldiers. Some townsfolk run to the soldiers to be saved, but they are gunned down instead. Soldiers begin throwing torches at buildings.

When Long and the survivors pause to consider their options, some survivors notice Long is the Marshall's prisoner and question the Marshall's decision to keep Long with them. Long explains their history.

15 years ago, when Long and his brother were helping build railroads, using dynamite to blast through mountains, Long's brother was severely beaten by a foreman. Long retaliated against the foreman, but accidentally killed him. He and his brother fled, riding off on one of the munitions carts loaded with dynamite and small arms. They became outlaws. They taught themselves how to shoot pistols and rifles and how to speak English fluently. Then they used dynamite to blow up the tracks they built and began robbing trains.

During one robbery where Long and brother planned to blow up a bridge, Long's brother used too long of a wick and the bridge collapsed too late for the engineer to stop the train. The Marshall was on that train with his wife and child. As passenger cars began plummeting, the Marshall was spared because he was in baggage looking for his child's teddy bear. His wife made a valiant effort to run to the rear of the train with their child, but arrived just in time to lock eyes with the Marshall as she and their child fell to their deaths. The Marshall has been trying to bring Long to justice ever since.

Long remembers the secret passage he used to sneak into town and shares the plan with the others. They decide to tool up at a local gun shop and fight their way back to the saloon on the other side of town. They wade through the undead, losing some survivors on the way. Only a handful make it to the saloon, including Long, the Marshall, and a widow and her child. The secret passage is blocked by debris and needs to be broken through with an axe.

Long and the Marshall take turns breaking through while other survivors try to hold off the undead spilling into the saloon. Long and the Marshall break through, but as the Marshall turns to pull the widow and her child in, the undead horde yank them away and devour them in front of the Marshall's eyes. Long drags the Marshall away to the horses Long and his brother left just outside of town.

Long is about to mount his horse and ride off when the Marshall reminds him that he can't let Long get away. They have one last pistol duel against the backdrop of a burning town, and Long shoots the Marshall in the stomach. The Marshall slumps to the ground and Long rides off into a sunrise.

But as Long fades into the distance, the Marshall rises as an undead.