

JEBEDIAH
Permission granted.

JONES
Sir, are we doing the right thing?

JEBEDIAH
Yes.

JONES
Do you really think they're all
infected?

JEBEDIAH
You know my answer.

JONES
It's just...I don't know if you
believe in God, sir. Forgive me,
but I've never seen you pray. But I
do, sir. And I know that one day
I'll have to account for all my
actions in this life.

(beat)
What will I tell God, sir, about
what we done here today? How I
helped murder those people just
trying to survive.

Jebediah lowers his eyes, deep in thought.

EXT. SALLY'S SALOON - CONTINUOUS

The survivors cross the street in a thin line. Their faces
show weariness and fear but also endurance and determination.

JEBEDIAH (V.O.)
You tell God that we are not all-
powerful beings. And that we did
the best we could with what we had.
(beat)
Remember that. And go to God with a
clear conscience. May he have mercy
on these last few souls.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The group runs in and heads to the back. Chief slows down
when his attention is stolen by the liquor behind the bar.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The group sees Zeke and Sally struggling to get the heavy doors open. Long and Everett run up.

LONG
What's wrong?

ZEKE
That rotten partner of yours barred the doors from the other side.

EVERETT
Let's just blast our way through.

SALLY
These doors are solid oak and half a foot thick. You ain't got the firepower.

ZEKE
What we need is a good wood chopping axe.

The group turns to Chief, but he's missing. His axe is on the ground. Ray goes back to grab it. He glimpses Chief behind the bar, slumped on the ground swigging whiskey. Ray runs back to the doors and swings at it. The axe barely bites.

LONG
Fantastic.

Gunshots echo from outside. Long and Everett investigate.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Outside they see Jimmy and Sarah, the couple from the train, running for their lives toward the bar. Jimmy pauses to fire a couple more rounds behind him. He sees Everett and Long.

JIMMY
They're coming! They're coming!

Jimmy and Sarah run in, breathless. It's quiet for a moment, but the moans of the undead and the various sounds of the infected rise steadily around them. Outside, dark shapes coalesce into a writhing horde. They shuffle toward the bar.

Long and Everett jump into action, both knowing exactly what needs to be done. They move furniture against the front windows and door, creating a weak barricade.

LONG

Zeke! Sally! We need you out here!

EVERETT

Bring the ammo!

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Zeke goes running. Sally grabs the sack of ammunition and fishes out a box of rifle rounds and hands it to Maggie.

SALLY

Anything gets past us, you shoot.

(to Ray)

Whatever happens, you don't stop working on those doors.

Ray nods in determination, and Sally runs to the front room.

TOMMY

Mama, I'm scared.

MAGGIE

It's gonna be alright. You need to be strong now. Help me reload.

Tommy opens the box of rounds and hands some to Maggie. Sarah comes running to the back terrified.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The undead press their dead faces against the fragile glass windows. Farther behind, infected move quickly in the dark.

EVERETT

We have to buy enough time to break through those doors.

(to Sally and Zeke)

We're on the same side now.

The undead slap and paw at the windows, door, and walls. There's a steady pounding and scratching all around them. The survivors reflexively step toward the center of the room.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

We can do this. Work together.

The windows and door creak in protest one last time before snapping and shattering. The undead stumble inside.

LONG

Send them back to Hell.

The group opens fire, dropping the first wave of undead. But as soon as they fall, there's another to replace it. The survivors continue to blast away, finding a rhythm between firing and reloading. Occasionally, infected break through.

A Headbanger has to be tripped and shot in the back of the head. Yoohoos climb walls, and attack from odd angles. Spitters are dealt with from behind cover. But it's the relentless waves of undead that begin to overwhelm the group.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Whenever undead get past the front room, Maggie expertly kills them, with Tommy handing her rounds dutifully.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JIMMY

There are too many!

ZEKE

Keep fighting, you sumbitch!

There's no time to reload, and the group resorts to melee attacks. Their backs are against the bar, and the odds look too much to overcome. Suddenly, Chief stands up behind the bar. He throws down his empty bottle of whiskey in anger.

He looks at his festering knuckles and blackening veins and climbs the bar to retrieve his TOMAHAWKS. Then, with a warcry, he leaps into the fray of undead. With his blades, Chief is an unstoppable force, and he clears the bar.

Drenched in the blood of his enemies, Chief inhales the aroma of the battle, then he turns to Zeke and Sally.

CHIEF

My debt to you is paid.

Zeke and Sally nod in respect. Chief smiles wryly before hurling himself into the fray outside. Capitalizing on Chief's sacrifice, the survivors re-barricade the entrances.

EVERETT

Someone's gotta reload.

JIMMY

(beat)

Sarah! Sarah! Get out here!

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Sarah is terrified. She can't bring herself to go.

MAGGIE

Get out there. Your man needs you.

Sarah grits her teeth before running out.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarah sees the carnage and freezes.

JIMMY

Honey, you gotta reload the guns.

SARAH

What? Why?

SALLY

Because we're too busy saving your rump. Now get behind that bar.

Sarah does so and everyone's guns immediately land in front of her. She begins to reload.

EXT. SALLY'S SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Chief has built piles of bodies and arms and legs around him, but eventually, he slows down from too many wounds. The undead close in, but stop just short of finishing him off. Instead, they turn their attention on the saloon once more.

Chief falls to his knees. His hands shake, and the black veins in his arm now reach all the way to his chest. He disappears behind the horde of undead and infected.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Tired, Ray's swings are farther apart, but then the axe head breaks through a door! The crack is just wide enough for Ray to slip his hand in and try to dislodge Sam's shotgun from barring the door. Unfortunately, Ray can't budge it.

RAY

I'M ALMOST THROUGH!

(goes back to chopping)

I ain't gonna die here. I ain't gonna die here.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The group has plugged the windows with furniture and barricaded the door. Sarah has most of the guns reloaded.

LONG
They're coming!

The group runs for their guns as the windows are overrun.

INSERT SARAH POV

She frantically reloads, focusing on nothing else. As soon as she pushes one reloaded gun away an empty one lands in front of her. She yelps whenever snapping teeth and clawing hands cross her vision, but someone always rescues her.

BACK TO SCENE

With Sarah reloading for them, the group is able to manage the attackers. But Chief's piercing warcry stuns everyone.

LONG (CONT'D)
Oh no.

He looks at the door which has held firm for now. Suddenly, two tomahawk blades splinter the door. Another blow takes it off its hinges, revealing Chief, but he's changed, wild and furious, with black veins crisscrossing his body and face.

He charges at Long, who reaches behind himself and grabs a pistol. He whips around, aims at Chief's skull, and pulls the trigger. CLICK! Empty. Long tosses the gun back and sighs.

LONG (CONT'D)
Of course.

He fights off Chief with his bare hands, but Chief is relentless. Those with loaded guns shoot at him, but only manage flesh wounds. The group's split attention has allowed more undead to spill inside and into the back corridor.

Everett moves to help, but gets tangled up by undead.

EVERETT
Maggie!

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Maggie fires at undead, killing the last one. But as it falls, it reveals Chief standing behind it.

Maggie extends her palm to Tommy. When she doesn't receive a round she turns to him. He looks back in fear, showing the empty box to her.

MAGGIE

Ray!

Ray turns, sweaty. Chief's ghastly sight only frustrates him.

RAY

I ain't gonna die today.

As Chief charges, Ray meets him. Maggie joins him, swinging her rifle like a club, but she's knocked back and dazed. Ray fights valiantly, but is no match for Chief's superior speed. In a killing stroke, Chief slides a blade over Ray's throat.

TOMMY

Ray!

Chief snaps his head to Tommy, forgetting Ray entirely. With the last of his strength, Ray picks up Chief and smashes him against the ceiling and then the floor. Then he takes Chief's head and smashes it over and over until Chief is still.

Ray mumbles something, then collapses and dies. Tommy is about to run to him when Maggie holds him back. She approaches Ray and winces as she touches his shoulder. Then she picks up his axe and continues working on the doors.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The fight is turning against the group as the undead seem endless. Long takes a freshly reloaded pistol and aims at the undead at the door, but he stops when he sees Bao! He's alive and well! Long can't believe his EYES. Bao slowly approaches.

Stunned, Long lowers his gun as Bao reaches out. Suddenly, Bao is clubbed in the face by Sally wielding a table leg.

SALLY

That ain't your brother anymore!

Long looks again, and Bao is indeed undead. Sally pushes Bao back, but Bao manages to grab Sally's arm, pulling Sally into the undead fray. She cries out as she's pulled into the mob outside. Long fires into the crowd but it's not enough.

ZEKE

Sally!

EXT. SALLY'S SALOON - CONTINUOUS

Heroically, Zeke clambers over undead to get to Sally, who is fighting off Bao as she's bitten and clawed at by other undead. Zeke pulls Bao off her revealing the DYNAMITE still tucked in Bao's belt. Sally grabs it and holds it up.

She locks eyes with Zeke who nods back grimly. Together, they press their bodies against Bao, locking him between them.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Long can't see his friends in the writhing mass, and undead enter the saloon unchallenged without enough defenders.

ZEKE
(shouting)
LONG! DYNAMITE!

Long sees Sally's hand shoot up from the crowd, holding dynamite. Zeke's hand rises to wrap around Sally's. The horde parts just enough to reveal Zeke and Sally's pained faces as they're eaten alive. Bao locks eyes with Long.

Everett sees Long raise his pistol and realizes what's about to happen. He grabs Jimmy and throws him over the bar top before jumping behind it himself and throwing Sarah down. Long fires a single bullet and explodes the dynamite.

The blast sends Long flying behind the bar.

EXT. SALLY'S SALOON - SIMULTANEOUS

The blast lays waste to the undead horde in the area.

EXT. DESERT RIDGE - SIMULTANEOUS

The blast lights up the night, startling Jebediah and Jones.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The survivors rise from behind the bar. The entire front wall is missing. A defense is impossible now. The town fire is close, outlining undead against the backdrop of the blaze. Everett helps Long stand as the group moves to the back.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The saloon has caught on fire, and flames lick inside. Maggie shields Tommy with her body, but she's also made progress on Ray's work. A few more hits should do it. Suddenly, flaming debris from the roof falls and breaks through the doors.

Sarah, still terrified, almost cheers, but Long silences her. He motions for Jimmy and Sarah to go through the doors. They drop through together. Long follows, then Everett.

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sarah peers down the passage and sees light. Panicked, she runs toward it.

JIMMY
Sarah, wait!
(runs after her)

EXT. DESERT OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Lying at the entrance of the passage is Sam. He's dead, but still clutches his silver ore. Sarah runs by, avoiding him. Jimmy runs to Sarah, but his ankle snags on something. Sam has risen as undead and is holding Jimmy's leg.

INT. SECRET PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Everett turns to receive Tommy when he sees Ray, risen as undead, standing behind Maggie.

EVERETT
Look out!

Too late. Ray grabs Maggie who drops Tommy. Everett and Long are about to climb back up when they hear Sarah scream.

EVERETT (CONT'D)
Go help them. I've got this.

Long runs off. Everett is about to climb up when more debris falls and blocks him from getting to Maggie.

EXT. DESERT OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Sam has Jimmy pressed against a wall, and Sarah can't seem to pull Sam off. Long runs up and pushes Sam to the ground. Then he takes Sam's silver ore and smashes Sam's face with it until there's nothing left to smash.

INT. SALLY'S SALOON - BACK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Maggie manages to fight off Ray, pushing him to the front room. She notices that the undead horde has reassembled, and she rushes back to Everett in a panic.

MAGGIE

They're here! Take Tommy! Take him!

She picks up Tommy and tries to feed him through the debris. Everett stretches, but can't quite reach him. Everett's eyes widen as undead and infected spill into the corridor. His fingers touch Tommy's just as the undead reach Maggie.

Maggie's desperate eyes lock with Everett's. He cries out helplessly as Maggie and Tommy are snatched away. More flaming debris falls on the doors, knocking Everett back.

EXT. DESERT OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Long hands Bao's horse to Jimmy. He and Sarah get on.

LONG

The Marshal and his family will take the cart. You get as far away from here as fast as you can. Avoid everyone you see, especially soldiers. If you get stopped, you tell them you were on your way to Bisbee and you were ambushed by Indians. Now go.

JIMMY

Thank you, mister. We won't forget what you done for us.

They're about to ride off when Long stops them. He fishes for something in his breast pocket and offers it to Sarah. It's her wedding ring. Without a word and with tears in her eyes, she takes it. Jimmy nods thankfully at Long then rides off.

Long moves to the other horse and leads it away from the hitching post as Everett shuffles out of the passageway.

LONG

Where's Maggie and...?

Everett stares into the distance, shaking his head slightly. The two men stand in silence for a few moments. A stiff breeze carries embers from Epitaph past. In the distance, the town creaks and roars from the blaze that lights the sky.

LONG (CONT'D)

(pause)

We can't stay here, Marshal. The sun is rising, and the soldiers will find us. We need to go.

Long is about to mount his horse--

EVERETT

I haven't forgotten.

LONG

(sighs)

I wish you would. We've both lost our families. That's enough justice for one lifetime. Let's just live what's left of our lives.

He turns to mount his horse when he hears a gun cock.

EVERETT

You know I can't let you go.

Long looks over his shoulder just enough to see Everett pointing his pistol at him.

LONG

You know I can't let you take me.

His hand slowly slides toward his gun belt. Everett sighs.

EVERETT

Don't. Don't try it. I'm already drawn. Not even you're fast enough to beat me like this.

LONG

(sighs)

Why does everyone keep saying that?

With incredible speed, Long half turns while drawing his pistol and fires a bullet through Everett's chest. Everett looks surprised, as if he had just seen the impossible. He falls over, and Long walks up to him.

Everett lies on the ground, coughing blood and reaching for something. His gun lies just beyond his grasp, and Long kicks it away. But Everett keeps reaching for something. Long notices Everett's pocket watch and places it in his hand.

Everett looks relieved as he opens it. Inside, is a broken timepiece and a small photograph of his wife and child in the lid. He admires their faces in his final moments. The glow of the fire engulfing Epitaph dims on his face.

Long looks up to see the sky brightening. He collects himself, mounts his horse, and rides fast away from Epitaph.

EXT. ARIZONA PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

When he's far enough away, Long slows down and lets the warmth of the sunrise bathe his face. He breathes in deeply, savoring life. Then he allows himself to smile. If he had a harmonica, he would play it.

EXT. DESERT OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

The area is quiet and veiled in shadow. In the distance, Long can be seen riding away. Suddenly, seemingly with purpose, Everett rises as undead. He sees Long and shuffles forward.