

A Forgotten Vendetta

By

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Janette Oke's Novel "When Calls the Heart"

FADE IN:

EXT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Open with a shot of Abigail's Cafe' from main street. People are walking along the street as we ZOOM IN towards the front door of the cafe'.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - DINNING ROOM - DAY

ABIGAIL is alone in her cafe' wiping down tables after the lunch rush. She hears a flicker above her and notices a light bulb has gone out in one of the light fixtures in the ceiling. Walking to the back room, she grabs a new bulb and drags a chair to wall. She stands on top of it but she is barely tall enough to screw it in.

ABIGAIL

Just a little bit more...

Abigail loses her balance and falls to the floor. She hits her head as she falls leaving her unconscious. We PAN BACKWARDS away from Abigail's body towards the front door.

EXT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE'

We keep PANNING BACKWARDS from the front door with a CLOSE UP on the sign saying "CLOSED".

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORREST - DAY

JACK, in plain clothes, is sitting with his back against a tree playing his guitar. His horse is near him enjoying some of the forest grass. ELIZABETH rides up on a horse of her own and stops behind him. She listens without being seen. Elizabeth quietly dismounts, tying her horse to a nearby branch and walks towards him.

ELIZABETH

So, is this what a Mountie does on his day off?

Jack turns surprised. He smiles and sets his guitar next to him. Elizabeth starts to remove her riding gloves and walks towards him.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH
Well, don't stop on my account.

JACK
(laughs)

Jack gets up and walks towards Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(teasingly)
Why Mr. Thornton, what other
secrets are you hiding?

Jack leans towards Elizabeth and whispers something in her ear. She is slightly shocked and pushes him away.

ELIZABETH
Jack!

Jack jumps up and puts his hand out to Elizabeth.

JACK
(smiling)
Go for a ride with me?

Elizabeth accepts his help as he pulls her into a standing position. She walks back her horse and starts fighting with the shoe strap. Jack walks up behind her grabbing the horse reigns.

JACK
Would you like some help?

Elizabeth turns towards him, her back against the horse.

ELIZABETH
(matter of fact)
The last time you "helped" me, you
practically tossed me over the
horse.

JACK
(smiling)
I don't recall that.

ELIZABETH
Oh don't you?

In one swift move, Jack swings up onto his horse. Elizabeth works to figure out the strap, violently swinging it to and fro. Jack rides near her and looks down.

ELIZABETH
(stubbornly)
I'm perfectly capable of
handling...

JACK
(interrupting)
I'm sure you are.

Jack looks down on her and crosses his arms faking a yawn. Elizabeth gives him a threatening stare. She manages to get her foot in the stirrup and pull herself up on the horse. She situates herself smoothing out her dress and lifts an eyebrow to Jack.

ELIZABETH
There. I'm ready.

He nods conceding her success and they begin riding along the forest tree line.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORREST AREA - AFTERNOON

Jack and Elizabeth are slowly riding their horses side by side, as we PAN TOWARDS them.

JACK
How are things going at school?

ELIZABETH
Never a dull moment. It seems one
of the children always has
something going on.

JACK
If I recall its almost time for the
Founders Day play.

ELIZABETH
Don't remind me. I haven't even
started getting things ready.

Jack brings his horse to a stop.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Jack motions towards the land in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

This is what I wanted to show you.

Jack looks out over the land with a facial expression showing he is pleased with himself.

ELIZABETH

(confused)

Are we looking at something specific?

JACK

This, my dear Elizabeth, is where I plan to build a homestead of my own one day.

ELIZABETH

Jack, that's wonderful!

Elizabeth shows a look of astonishment as she follows his view across the land in front of them. Jack looks over at Elizabeth who is still taking in the view.

JACK

I have found myself fond of Hope Valley and one resident in particular.

Jack looks at Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I may be slightly fond of you too.

JACK

Slightly?

Jack grabs the reigns of Elizabeth's horse bringing it closer to his horse. He moves towards her so they are face to face. Thunder rumbles in the distance. We have a shot of a few dark clouds looming on the horizon, behind the duo.

JACK

(whispering)

Maybe it's time we start heading back.

Jack pauses, looking at Elizabeth. He slowly leans towards her for a kiss but is interrupted by a child yelling for help.

MILES (O.S.)

Mountie Jack! Mountie Jack!

(CONTINUED)

Jack turns to see MILES Montgomery running towards them. Jack quickly dismounts and drops down to Miles level.

ELIZABETH

Miles? What are you doing way out here?

MILES

(out of breath)

Emily got her foot stuck between two tree roots by the river bank. She can't get loose. Can you help?

He looks to Jack and then to Elizabeth his eyes pleading with panic. Jack picks up Miles and puts him on his horse and than he jumps on behind him. He turns to address Elizabeth.

JACK

Can you make it back to town okay?

ELIZABETH

No, I'm going with you.

MILES (CONT'D)

(worried)

We were just playing...

ELIZABETH

Its okay Miles, we'll help her.

JACK

Can you show me where she is?

Miles points in the direction he had just come from.

MILES

That way.

Jack kicks his horse into a gallop towards the river. Elizabeth follows right behind them.

OPENING CREDITS

EXT. CAT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jack and Elizabeth ride toward CAT'S house with the children. Miles seated in front of Jack on his horse and EMILY, Miles sister, sitting in front of Elizabeth. The horses come to a stop in front of the Montgomery home.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH
Emily, how is your ankle feeling?

EMILY
I'm okay Miss Thatcher.

ELIZABETH
You were very lucky.

Jack jumps off his horse and grabs Miles and sets him on the ground. Miles runs into his mother's house.

MILES (O.S.)
Mom!

Jack walks around to Elizabeth's horse and gently pulls Emily into his arms.

JACK
Let's get you inside.

Instead of setting her down he carries her to the front of the house. CAT meets them at the door with a worried look on her face. She steps to the side letting Jack carry Emily inside.

CAT
Emily, what have you got yourself into?

Jack walks in and sets Emily in her room on her bed.

JACK
She just had an adventurous day.

CAT
A little too adventurous. I was worried sick.

Cat looks to Jack as she gets Emily settled.

CAT (CONT'D)
Thank you Jack.

They walk to the door and Cat waves to Elizabeth. Jack stops in the door and motions to Elizabeth waiting outside.

JACK
Elizabeth would have come inside to say hello, but I'm not sure she would have made it back up on to her horse.

Elizabeth purses her lips.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH
I heard that Jack Thornton.

Thunder rumbles again in the distance.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Now can you escort me home before I
get soaked?

Jack addresses Cat who is smiling at the couple before her.

JACK (CONT'D)
Good day, Miss Montgomery.

CAT
Jack.

He and Elizabeth head back toward town, while Cat heads back inside. Jack leaves the porch and mounts his horse.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - EVENING

Jack walks Elizabeth up to the front door of the cafe'. She is smiling until she notices the sign says "closed" and no lights are on inside. She grabs Jacks elbow.

ELIZABETH
Jack. Something's not right. It
should be the middle of the dinner
rush.

Jack grabs the door handle but its locked.

JACK
Do you have a spare key?

Elizabeth pulls a key from her satchel and hands it to Jack.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - EVENING

The front door opens revealing a dimly lit room.

ELIZABETH
Abigail?

Elizabeth spots Abigail near the wall.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Abigail!

Elizabeth and Jack run to where Abigail is lying. They kneel beside her.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Abigail.

ABIGAIL

What happened?

JACK

I'll grab the doctor.

Jack leaves quickly and Elizabeth gets up to light a lantern. She puts it on the table and is soon back at Abigail's side.

ABIGAIL

I feel a little dizzy. I must have bumped my head.

ELIZABETH

If I help you, do you think we could make it to the couch?

ABIGAIL

It's worth a shot.

Elizabeth carefully helps Abigail into a standing position, and they slowly start walking towards the back room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM - EVENING

Abigail is sitting up in bed while the town doctor finishes examining her. Elizabeth is standing nearby. The DOCTOR pulls his stethoscope from his ears and begins packing it into his black bag.

DOCTOR

Nothing's broken. However, I suggest you rest a day or two, and I'll check back with you in a week.

ABIGAIL

Who is going to run the cafe?

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR

You best hire some help because you need to take it easy until we rule out any after effects.

A look of concern crosses Abigail's face.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry. We will figure this out. I'll help at night and I know we can find someone to help out during the day.

The doctor closes his bag and stands to leave. Elizabeth walks him to the door.

DOCTOR

You let me know if you need anything.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - BACK ROOM - EVENING

Elizabeth walks the doctor through the parlor to the back door. Jack quickly gets up from his spot on the couch. The doctor stops and opens the door. He put on his coat and hat. Outside it has begun to rain.

DOCTOR

Make sure Abigail doesn't overdo it. She had a pretty serious fall.

ELIZABETH

We will see to it that she rests for the next few days.

The doctor nods and takes his leave. Jack standing where the doctor was a second before, grabs his hat off the hook near the door and turns to Elizabeth. He pulls her into a hug and than slowly draws back just enough to make eye contact.

JACK

She'll be all right.

ELIZABETH

I know. I am more worried about keeping her from jumping right into running things tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

I'll be around to keep an eye on her. I'll threaten to toss her in the jail cell if she won't stay put.

Jack turns and walks outside into the rainy evening. Elizabeth watches him from the doorway as the camera pans backwards.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAIL HOUSE - EVENING

Jack is sitting at his desk writing while RIP, his hound dog huddles in the corner. The rain is still coming down outside and we hear a little bit of thunder.

JACK

(to Rip)

I know, stormy nights are not your favorite.

Rip looks at Jack as if he understands Jack gets up and walks over to pet the dog.

JACK (CONT'D)

Truth be told boy, the rain spoiled my plans today, too.

There is a knock at the jailhouse door. Jack gets up to answer the door.

JACK

(to Rip)

Who could that be at this hour?
And, in this weather?

Jack opens the door to see a woman, CHARLOTTE, he'd never met before. She is dressed in men's clothing, soaking wet from the storm. She is equal in height to Jack and has a large brown overcoat and a gun at her side.

CHARLOTTE

Are you the law in this town?

JACK

I guess one might say that. Name's Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte, most folks call me
Charlie.

Jack reaches out to shake her hand. She reluctantly takes
it.

JACK

So, Charlie, what is it that brings
you to town?

CHARLIE

Business.

Jack notices the hatchet hanging from her side.

JACK

What type of business are you in
and how does it concern me?

Charlie walks past Jack into the jail. Jack closes the door
behind her.

CHARLIE

I hear you took down the Tolliver
gang a while back.

JACK

(suspicious)
Is that right?

CHARLIE

Nate's older brother, Frank, is in
the area. (pause) I plan to bring
him in.

JACK

Don't you think that would be best
left up to the Mounties?

CHARLIE

He's got a price on his head.

JACK

(slightly aggravated)
So, you're a bounty hunter.

CHARLIE

Look. I don't want your help. I just
wanted to let you know that I'll be
in town for a bit.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

I haven't heard of Frank's arrival,
so I'd appreciate it if you keep me
in the loop.

CHARLIE

I'm sure you would. Especially
since Frank's after the guy that
put his brother in jail.

Charlie winks at Jack, tips her Stetson as she walks by. She
throws a look over her shoulder.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm surprised you didn't get word.
I thought you Mounties had better
communication than that.

Charlie walks out the door shutting it behind her. Jack
walks over to his desk and begins to shuffle through the
mail on his desk. He comes across a confidential envelope
reading "URGENT" on the front. He rapidly opens it.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORREST CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

FRANK TOLLIVER, a bear of a man, sits near a campfire with a
team of questionable cowboys. He is smoking a cigarette and
looking into the flames. He looks up slowly making eye
contact with his team across the fire.

FRANK

This goes down tomorrow. Ya hear?

His men are indifferent to his question. One chugs a drink
from his flask while the other spits out some tobacco. Frank
gets up and grabs the one nearest to him by the collar.

FRANK

I said, do ya hear me?

The man looks at Frank and quickly agrees. Frank releases
him pushing him back towards the ground.

FRANK

I will find and kill the coward who
put him in jail.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SALOON - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie walks into the saloon filled with mill workers enjoying drinks and playing poker. GOWEN and a few of his men are sitting in the corner of the saloon enjoying a game of cards. Piano music filters through the air as she walks towards the bar. Choosing a chair on the far end, she takes a seat as the bartender walks up. Charlie's hair is pinned up underneath her stetson.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

CHARLIE

Gin, please.

The bartender walks away and Charlie is approached by one of the men in the bar, SILAS, who has already had one too many.

SILAS

What brings you to town, Stranger?

Charlie doesn't acknowledge him. The bartender puts her drink in front of her and Silas, half standing, leans closer to her ear. Silas can see from her profile now that she is a woman and he turns to yell back to the bar patrons.

SILAS (CONT'D)

(taunting)

Hey fellas, look what we have here.
This little lady thinks she can
drink with the men.

Silas lays his hand on her arm laughing.

CHARLIE

Remove your hand.

SILAS

(suddenly serious)

What do you plan to do about it?

CHARLIE

Remove your hand, or loose it.

Silas uses his free hand to flick off her hat and it falls towards the bar. Charlie gets up grabbing Silas' arm and pulls it behind his back slamming his face into the bar top. CLOSE UP shot on Silas face smashed into some peanut shells that had been left on the bar. A few men get up from their seats but freeze when Gowen gets up gesturing them to stay put.

(CONTINUED)

GOWEN

I don't believe I've made your acquaintance.

He casually strides over to the bar where Silas is wincing, and Charlie is still holding him in place.

GOWEN (CONT'D)

Silas is drunk. What do you say you let him go home and sleep it off?

Charlie reluctantly lets Silas go, pushing him away from the bar. He loses his balance tripping over the nearest table. Gowen looks over at Silas and then back at Charlie who drains the rest of her drink.

Silas gets up from the floor stumbling towards the saloon doors. We're CLOSE UP on his hand as he grabs a hat from the hook. A hatchet flies in, lodging itself into the wall centimeters from his hand.

We cut back to Charlie at the bar putting her hat back on and staring in Silas' direction.

CHARLIE

I missed on purpose, next time I won't.

Silas quickly exits the bar and Charlie resumes her seat at the bar.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'll take another.

The bartender refills her glass with a slightly shaky hand and she looks up at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(to the bartender)

Sorry about your wall.

The bartender stays quiet and Gowen takes a seat next to her. He signals the bartender for a drink of his own.

GOWEN

The men in this town aren't used to sharing their bar with a woman.

The bartender fills Gowen's glass and he takes a sip staring at Charlie's profile.

CHARLIE

If they keep to themselves then so
will I.

GOWEN

As the mayor of Hope Valley, I'm
going to have to ask what brings
you to town.

Charlie finishes her drink and reaches in her pocket and
pulls out some money. Gowen puts his hand on her arm and
reaches into his pocket pulling out a large coin.

GOWEN (CONT'D)

This ones on me.

Charlie slides his money back in his direction and leaves
her own cash. She gets up and walks to the door, grabbing
her hatchet from the wall, as she pushes through the doors.
Gowen watches her leave but turns back to the bar. He glares
through the bottom of his glass. He chugs the rest of his
drink and gets up to leave. His men join him as he exits the
bar.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - ABIGAIL'S ROOM - MORNING

Abigail is sitting on her bed and Elizabeth is next to her
in a chair. Both are enjoying a cup of coffee. Abigail takes
a sip of her coffee and tries to cover her surprised
reaction. Elizabeth cant help but notice.

ELIZABETH

Oh Abigail, I'm so sorry.

She takes the cup from Abigail and sets it on the side table
as Abigail musters up an understanding look.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I can't even make a decent cup of
coffee, how will I ever take care
of you?

Elizabeth gives her an apologetic look and Abigail smiles.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(disheartened)

I'll probably kill you with my
cooking before the Doc releases you
from bed rest.

(CONTINUED)

She looks up smiling slightly at Abigail and the two women share a laugh. The are interrupted when ROSEMARY yells from downstairs.

ROSEMARY (V.O.)
(sing songy)
Yooo hoo! Abigail! Elizabeth! Help
has arrived!

Elizabeth looks at Abigail in shock.

ELIZABETH
(whispering)
How did she find out?

ABIGAIL
Small town.

ELIZABETH
(whispers)
This can't be happening.

ROSEMARY (O.S.)
Ladies? Are you up there?

Elizabeth sighs and slowly gets up to walk downstairs grabbing the breakfast tray on her way. She gives one last look to Abigail and shakes her head.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - BACK ROOM- MORNING

Elizabeth walks downstairs bringing the tray of coffee downstairs. Rosemary is standing downstairs in the kitchen as Elizabeth makes her way down the stairs.

ROSEMARY
Oh Elizabeth you're looking well.
Considering...

ELIZABETH
(skeptically)
Thank you.

ROSEMARY
The minute I heard, I knew I just
had to come straight away. I just
knew that Abigail was going to need
my help. From the looks of it, I
came just in time.

(CONTINUED)

Rosemary playfully places her hand on Elizabeth's arm as she is still holding the tray from upstairs.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

The poor woman's been through enough, we shouldn't expect her to eat your cooking too.

ELIZABETH

(a bit defensive)

We are doing just fine.

Elizabeth sets down the tray and Rosemary walks over. She pours herself a cup of coffee from the tray and takes a drink. She tries to hold back a gag.

ROSEMARY

Hmmm. (pauses) This cup of coffee disagrees with you.

Elizabeth turns and rolls her eyes.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

I've got this covered. I'll take over the cooking and the cleaning and make sure the cafe is up and running until Abigail recovers.

Rosemary takes off her coat and starts putting on the kitchen apron. She waves her hand towards Elizabeth.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Hurry along now, I'm sure the children are waiting. I can't have the town patrons thinking you may be cooking their breakfast.

Elizabeth holds back a comment and slowly walks up the stairs to grab her things.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM - MORNING

Elizabeth walks up stairs and grabs her shawl. She drapes it across her shoulders and walks towards Abigail's bedside.

ELIZABETH

That woman is a human tornado.

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL

She means well. I've survived worse.

ELIZABETH

Are you sure I can't get you anything before I go?

ABIGAIL

(smiling)

Go. You'll be late for school. I'll be fine.

Elizabeth grabs some school books and exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - MID DAY

Elizabeth is writing the word "Geology" on the board. She turns to face the class.

ELIZABETH

All right children. Does anyone know what the term Geology means?

The children sit still, fearful of being called on. Elizabeth walks down the main aisle of the classroom.

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

Anyone? (pause) Well, Geology is the study of the earth and how its made.

Albert raises his hand.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Yes, Albert?

ALBERT

You mean like rocks?

ELIZABETH

That is exactly right. The study of rocks.

RACHEL

(skeptical)

People study rocks?

The children begin laughing.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

The earth's physical structure tells us a lot about our history. Science shows us how long the earth has been around and sometimes even what happened before we were alive.

RACHEL

How does it do that?

Elizabeth turns and walks back to the front of the classroom. She picks up what looks like a rock from her desk.

ELIZABETH

Children, this is what we call a fossil. I am going to pass it around so you can each take a closer look at it.

Elizabeth hands the fossil to one of the students in the first row.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

A fossil is similar to a rock except it has an impression of a living thing on it. This one looks like it has a leaf on it.

Elizabeth clasps her hands in front of her. Rachel raises her hand.

ELIZABETH

Yes Rachel.

RACHEL

Miss Thatcher have you seen that lady around town that wears mens clothing?

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

What?

RACHEL

I overheard ma say she was starting fights in the saloon.

ELIZABETH

Rachel its not a good idea to repeat what you hear.

(CONTINUED)

MADDIE

But its true! My pa said Silas went running scared after she threw a hatchet at him.

ALBERT

(excited)

A hatchet?

Elizabeth puts her hands on her hips. By this time the fossil has made its way back towards the front of the classroom.

ELIZABETH

Okay children, that's enough.

RACHEL

Ma said her name is Charlie. What kind of name is that?

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

BILLY

Did she knock anyone out?

ELIZABETH

(with warning)

Albert!

Elizabeth walks to the middle of classroom.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

It looks like we are not going to get anything more done today. We will pick up on Geology in tomorrow's class. I would like you all to bring in a rock on your way to school tomorrow so we can study it.

The children quickly disembark from the classroom and Elizabeth is left to stack books and put them on the shelves. She goes to the white board begins to erase it clean. Cat enters the classroom behind her.

CAT

Elizabeth.

Elizabeth jumps putting her hand to her chest.

(CONTINUED)

CAT

Oh I'm sorry. I didn't mean to startle you.

ELIZABETH

Hi Cat, what can I do for you?

CAT

I didn't get to thank you the other night for bringing the children home safely.

ELIZABETH

Of course. Actually I can't take the credit, it was Jack that freed Emily's foot from the tree stump.

CAT

(prodding)

He sure is a fine man.

Elizabeth turns her back to Cat organizing her desk and hides a smile.

ELIZABETH

I wouldn't go telling him that.

CAT

You two make a fine couple.

Jack enters the schoolhouse.

JACK

I happen to agree.

Elizabeth blushes and Cat turns to see Jack walking into the classroom in full Mountie gear.

CAT

(winks at Jack)

Well, my children are waiting for dinner. Thank you both for getting them home safely.

Cat walks away leaving Jack and Elizabeth alone.

ELIZABETH

What brings you all the way out here?

JACK

First, it's not that far. Second, I was wondering if you'd like to join me for dinner tonight?

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

Oh Jack, I would but I'm going to have to check with Abigail first.

JACK

Why don't you offer to cook dinner? Customers will scatter in no time.

Elizabeth jokingly hits Jack in the arm and he laughs.

ELIZABETH

Why is everyone making fun of my cooking today?

She walks past him putting away a few books.

JACK

How about a walk after dinner?

ELIZABETH

Why don't you come by after the dinner rush?

Jack holds out his arm and Elizabeth takes it and they walk out of the classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - ABIGAIL'S ROOM - EVENING - 7PM

Rosemary brings up a dinner tray to Abigail. Abigail closes her Bible and looks up.

ROSEMARY

How are you feeling this evening?

ABIGAIL

I feel fine at the moment.

ROSEMARY

(thoughtful)

I remember when my grandfather, God rest his soul, fell out of the hay loft. He never did fully recuperate.

Abigail tries to hide her exasperation but Rosemary doesn't notice. She sets the tray down on Abigail's lap.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Grandma never did forgive him for that stupid mistake.

(CONTINUED)

Abigail manufactures a smile.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Oh, not that I'm calling your mistake stupid... but it is a little ridiculous when you think about it.

Rosemary pours Abigail a glass of lemonade.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Frank stopped by early this morning to see how you were doing. I just told him I'm sure you'll be up and around in no time.

Rosemary straightens the bed sheets and fluffs the pillow behind Abigail.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Now you two make a fine match if you ask me. What a kind man.

Abigail starts to say something, Rosemary interrupts.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Oh look at the time. I best be getting back to the cafe.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

(sing songey)

Call me if you need anything.

As Rosemary exits we see Abigail take a hesitant sip of lemonade. She gives a look of consent over the pleasant taste.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM - EVENING 7:30PM

Abigail is resting in her room when she hears footsteps coming up the stairs.

ABIGAIL

Rosemary, I'll be good for the...

Gowen makes his way in to her room.

ABIGAIL

Gowen.

(CONTINUED)

GOWEN

Abigail.

ABIGAIL

Get out. For you to be in my room is highly inappropriate.

GOWEN

I just came to check on my investment.

Gowen pulls a nearby chair over to the bedside.

GOWEN (CONT'D)

We have a deal. And, from the looks of it you aren't able to full fill the terms of our agreement at the moment.

ABIGAIL

The cafe is still up and running. Rosemary has seen to that. You'll get your profits this week after all.

GOWEN

I see.

Gowen grabs a piece of uneaten food off of Abigail's dinner tray and takes a bite.

GOWEN (CONT'D)

Well, at least the foods still good. (pauses) Even cold.

ABIGAIL

I would throw you out myself if...

Gowen stands up putting his chair back where he found it and walks to the bedside. He leans over Abigail slightly.

GOWEN

If you're not available to see to the cafe in the next week, I'll just have to see to it myself.

ABIGAIL

(defiantly)

Is that a threat Mr. Gowen?

Gowen stands up.

(CONTINUED)

GOWEN
(confidently)
I don't make threats Mrs. Stanton.
Just promises.

The shot pulls away outside the doorway of Abigail's room and we see Rosemary standing outside the bedroom. Her look of concern shows she had heard the whole conversation.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE COULTER'S OFFICE - EVENING

LEE is sitting at his desk sorting through paperwork. His office is dimly lit by the small light on his desk. The office door swings open and Rosemary comes bursting through. Lee tries to block the light glare from the lamp.

LEE
Rosemary?

Lee stands and walks around his desk to a frantic Rosemary.

LEE
Rosemary what are you doing here at this time of night? I thought you were staying at the cafe'.

Lee comes to stand in front of her.

ROSEMARY
(worried)
Lee, we have a problem. Gowen was just at the cafe'.

Lee pulls Rosemary the rest of the way in to the office shutting the door behind her. He walks over to the desk and sits at the corner of the desk.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)
I was on my way to say goodnight to Abigail when I heard voices in her room. Gowen was there.

Lee stands up quickly, a look of concern crossing his face.

LEE
In her room? Is he still there?

ROSEMARY
No he left. He didn't see me.

Rosemary looks downward.

(CONTINUED)

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

(thoughtful)

At least... At least I don't think
he saw me.

Lee pulls her into an embrace.

ROSEMARY

Lee? This town has been under
Gowen's thumb long enough. He can't
continue to do as he pleases,
tormenting everyone.

LEE

I agree.

Lee releases Rosemary and walks back behind his desk. He
begins shuffling through some papers. He finds what he's
looking for and holds it up for Rosemary to review.

LEE (CONT'D)

(smiling confidently)

I think this will be just what we
need.

Rosemary makes her way around the desk and looks at the
paper in Lee's hands. A slow smile starts to spread across
her face.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Jack and Elizabeth are walking down the boardwalk in front
of the cafe'. Elizabeth has her arm linked in his as they
stroll. The sounds from the saloon can be heard in the
distance.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry we weren't able to have
dinner.

JACK

(smiles)

You must be exhausted. Class all
day and then the cafe' dinner rush.

ELIZABETH

(sly smile)

Truth be told, Rosemary did most of
the work.

The couple stops near the front door facing one another.

(CONTINUED)

JACK
She has her moments.

ELIZABETH
(lifts an eyebrow)
Moments? Is that what you call it?

The share a laugh. The moment is interrupted by the hooting and hollering of the saloon. Elizabeth looks over Jack's shoulder in the direction of the noise.

ELIZABETH
Jack? (pauses) Do you know anything about a new woman in town? The children said her name was Charlie?

Jack looks back towards the saloon and than back to Elizabeth.

JACK
Not too much. She stopped by the jailhouse the other day.

ELIZABETH
What do you suppose she's doing in Hope Valley?

Jack puts a hand on Elizabeth's arm.

JACK
I know she's looking for a fugitive in the area. She says she is a bounty hunter.

ELIZABETH
(disbelief)
A bounty hunter? (pause) A woman? That's an awfully dangerous occupation.

Jack has a concerned look cross his face.

ELIZABETH
What?

Elizabeth pulls away slightly.

ELIZABETH
What aren't you telling me?

JACK
I think it's probably best if we call it a night.

(CONTINUED)

Jack opens the cafe' door and turns to leave. He steps off the porch in front of the cafe'. Elizabeth starts after him.

ELIZABETH

Jack! Wait a second.

Before Jack can respond three men step out of shadows and grab him. He violently struggles but two of the men hold him by the arms and one has his hand over Jack's mouth. Frank Tolliver steps out of the shadows and he looks Elizabeth over.

FRANK

What do we have here?

Jack struggles against the grip of the two men and Elizabeth takes a step back. Elizabeth turns to help Jack but Frank grabs her by the arms and drags her to a horse hitching post. Jack works to get free but the men hold him still.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I'm not going to hurt you my dear,
but since I can't have you
following me...

Frank ties Elizabeth to the post and puts a gag in her mouth. He walks over to Jack and puts a either rag over his nose and mouth. The men drag a lifeless Jack down the alley way to their horses.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE COULTER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Lee and Rosemary are looking down at Lee's desk when they hear the commotion outside.

LEE

(concerned)

Did you hear something?

Lee walks to the window and sees a dark coated stranger across the street tying Elizabeth to a hitching post. He grabs his coat and heads out towards the door. He pats his side. He walks behind the desk and opens a drawer pulling out his gun.

LEE

Stay here.

He walks out the door and Rosemary ignores him and cautiously follows behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - IN FRONT OF CAFE' - NIGHT

As Lee runs towards Elizabeth as the men disappear down the dark ally way between the cafe' and the jail. The hooting and hollering from Frank's men can be heard as they leave town. Lee pulls down the gag from her mouth and begins to untie her hands.

LEE

Elizabeth, are you okay?

Rosemary runs up to the pair.

ELIZABETH

(frantic)

They took Jack.

LEE

I'm going to get help.

As Lee runs towards the direction of the saloon, Elizabeth is left standing in a daze. Rosemary grabs Elizabeth's hand and looks her in the eye.

ROSEMARY

Don't worry. We'll get him back.

Rosemary and Elizabeth make their way to the saloon.

CUT TO:

INT. SALOON - NIGHT

The patrons are drinking and there is piano music playing in the background. Lee bursts through the door.

LEE

Hey! Listen up!

The piano music stops and everyone turns to look at Lee.

LEE (CONT'D)

Constable Jack has been taken by some outlaws just now. We need a group of men to go after him.

Charlie, who is sitting near the bar stands up suddenly her chair flying backwards.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Where?

LEE

Just outside the cafe'.

CHARLIE

Any idea how many?

Rosemary and Elizabeth make their way inside the saloon right behind Lee.

ELIZABETH

Four, maybe five.

Elizabeth notices Gowen sitting in the corner holding a deck of cards ignoring the commotion. She walks in his direction.

ELIZABETH

(pleading)

Mr. Gowen, please do something.

Gowen slowly puts down his cards and looks at Elizabeth.

GOWEN

I don't think its a good idea for me, the Mayor of Hope Valley, to put my life at risk over what clearly has nothing to do with me.

Elizabeth gives him a look of disgust and turns toward the bar.

ELIZABETH

Is there any one willing to help?

LEE

Come on men.

A few men take Lee's lead and follow him out of the saloon to the livery. Charlie walks over to Elizabeth.

CHARLIE

I have an idea where he might be.

Charlie brushes past Elizabeth and Rosemary. Elizabeth gives Rosemary a questioning look and Rosemary just shrugs. They follow Charlie out onto main street.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Charlie is readying her horse as Lee and five men ride up to her location in front of the saloon, one of them with an extra horse. Elizabeth approaches the extra horse and begins to pull herself up.

CHARLIE

Best you stay here. You will just slow us down.

ELIZABETH

(determined)

I'm going with you.

CHARLIE

(warning)

I'd suggest you stay put if you want your Mountie back alive.

Elizabeth backs away from the group as Charlie mounts her horse and looks to Lee and the men.

CHARLIE

What direction?

Lee points towards the alley way between the cafe' and the jail.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I may know where they are. I heard about a campsite a mile north of here. Let's try that first.

Charlie kicks her horse into a run and the men follow after her. We WIDEN with Elizabeth and Rosemary staring after the rescue party.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORREST AREA - FRANKS CAMP - NIGHT

We're CLOSE UP on a tree branch with a rope tied around it. As we WIDEN we see a noose hanging from a tree. One of the men is adjusting it as Frank stares across the flames of the camp fire. Jack is bound and gagged sitting against a tree trunk. Frank gets up and tosses a flask of water in Jack's face.

FRANK

Beautiful night for a hanging'.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FRANK (cont'd)
Wouldn't you agree?

Jack slowly comes to but doesn't move. The men laugh as Frank walks over to Jack and squats in front of him. He pulls the bandanna gag down and it hangs around Jack's neck.

FRANK (CONT'D)
You got any last minute confessions, Jack?

JACK
Do you know the penalty for killing a Mountie?

FRANK
Not really a confession if you ask me.

Frank's men laugh. He points to the noose hanging in the tree. One of his men yanking on the rope.

FRANK (CONT'D)
This here is set to look like a suicide.

Frank stands up as a second man brings over a horse. Jack swallows and looks back to Frank keeping his face expressionless. Frank begins to pet the horse gently on the neck as he looks toward Jack.

FRANK (CONT'D)
A beautiful horse. Cept' she's a bit skittish around snakes. (pause)
I guess that's unfortunate for you Mountie.

JACK
Nate broke the law.

Frank moves back towards Jack and grabs him by the collar.

FRANK
Don't you even speak his name.

He lets Jack go throwing his head backward against the tree.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORREST AREA - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on some dirt with a horse print in it. We WIDEN to see Charlie squatting down to inspect the print and the men behind her on their horses.

CHARLIE

This way.

Charlie gets on her horse and trots farther into the forest with the men behind her. They go about 20 feet when she holds up her hand signaling them to stop. She looks back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(speaking quietly)

I don't know what we are going to find when we get there, but the camp is just around the edge here.

She motions to the north.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Our best bet is to surround them.
Here's the plan.

The men gather around Charlie as she whispers their plan of action.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORREST AREA - FRANKS CAMP - NIGHT

Jack is now sitting on top of a horse. He is sitting bareback with a the rope noose tied around his neck. His hands are tied in front of him as he holds onto the horses mane for balance.

FRANK

Any last words Mountie?

One of Frank's men comes forward with a bag tied at the top, the sound of a snake hissing from within.

ANOTHER ANGLE

In the nearby forest area Charlie and the men are slowly approaching the camp. Charlie motions Lee to take the men and surround the camp as she stays the course heading straight towards Frank and his men.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK (CONT'D)

Okay. Suit yerself.

Frank nods to one of his men who starts to loosen the bag as the others look on. Before anyone can react, Charlie's hatchet soars through the air hitting the tree branch and cutting the rope. It falls and hangs loosely at Jack's side. Frank turns, gun drawn, as Charlie rides into the campsite.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Who the hell are you?

Jack digs his heels into the horse and it springs forward knocking Frank to the ground. Frank's gun slides across the forest floor. Charlie dismounts grabbing the his gun and holstering it behind her. Frank's men run towards her but Lee jumps from behind a tree landing a surprising punch into one of the men's chin taking him off guard.

The men begin to tussle and one of the men break free cocking his gun. He aims it at Charlie and Frank. Jack, hands still tied, has removed the snake from the bag and tosses it at the man with the gun. He drops the gun and tries to free himself from the snake.

Charlie is now kneeling on the back of a disoriented Frank. She quickly ties his hands behind him and looks up to assess the situation. She runs over to Jack pull her knife out and she expertly cutting through the rope around his wrists.

With a few more accurately placed punches Jack, Lee and the men from town make quick work of Frank's three men restraining them alongside Frank.

LEE

(out of breath)

All in a days work.

Jack walks up to Lee who is bent over with his hands on his knees catching his breath. Jack pats him on the back.

JACK

Something like that.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - IN FRONT OF THE CAFE - NIGHT

Elizabeth pulls her shawl tighter around her wrapping her arms around herself. Rosemary sits quietly next to her.

(CONTINUED)

ROSEMARY
I'm worried about him, too.

ELIZABETH
(curious)
Jack? or Lee?

ROSEMARY
Both of course.

ELIZABETH
I've never been good with waiting.

Rosemary starts to say something but Elizabeth interrupts her.

ELIZABETH(CONT'D)
Who was that man and what does he
want with Jack?

The sound of horse hoofs are heard off screen.

ROSEMARY
Looks like you can ask him
yourself.

Elizabeth slowly gets up and walks towards the edge of the boardwalk. She grabs onto the wooden porch beam for support.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see Jack riding up with Charlie and the townsmen. Frank and his men are restrained behind them. Jack slows his horse to a stop in front of the saloon where Elizabeth is standing. He nods to her, his face serious and then proceeds to ride past her to the jailhouse. Elizabeth's countenance falls as she watches them ride by.

Charlie, Lee, and the townsmen follow, escorting Frank and his men to jail.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABIGAIL'S CAFE' - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth is sitting alone in the cafe'. She is in a little bit of a daze. Suddenly her expression changes to anger and she briskly stands up and heads to the front door. She grabs her shawl and swings open the front door. Jack standing there in front of her.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH
(surprised)
Jack.

JACK
Can I come in?

ELIZABETH
Of course.

Jack steps inside the cafe leaving the door open.

JACK
I wanted to check on you the minute
I got back but...

ELIZABETH
(interrupts)
I understand.

Elizabeth looks down at the hands fidgeting with her shawl.
Jack places his hand on hers and she looks up.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I think in this case, I'm the one
who should be checking on you.

Jack pulls her into a hug. We're CLOSE UP on Jack's face as
he holds her.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Is this how it's always going to
be? You in danger and me nearly
losing myself each time?

JACK
(quietly)
I know the fear and the feeling of
helplessness. How do you think I
felt when I watched as he
manhandled you?

ELIZABETH
But Jack, he wasn't after me.

JACK
I couldn't bear the thought of him
hurting you.

ELIZABETH
You were just doing your job.

Jack pulls back to look at Elizabeth. He puts a hand to her
cheek.

(CONTINUED)

JACK (CONT'D)

We can rest easy now that Frank and his men are in jail. Whatever comes our way, good or bad, we'll face it together.

Jack lowers his hand and walks towards the door.

JACK

Goodnight Elizabeth.

Closing the door behind him, we PAN TOWARD Elizabeth who is still staring at the spot Jack had just been. A look of reservation on her face.

ELIZABETH

(whispered)

Goodnight Jack.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - ABIGAIL'S ROOM - MORNING

Abigail is sitting in a chair when Elizabeth walks up with a breakfast tray. She quietly sets it on the side table.

ELIZABETH

(feigning a smile)

Good morning Abigail.

Abigail takes note of her demeanor.

ABIGAIL

Good morning. (pause) Something on your mind?

Elizabeth fills her cup and hands it to her. She makes a cup for herself before she sits across from Abigail.

ELIZABETH

Jack found himself in some serious trouble last night.

ABIGAIL

I heard.

Elizabeth looks up surprised.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Rosemary.

Abigail sets down her cup.

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
And what about you?

ELIZABETH
Me?

ABIGAIL
Weren't you with Jack last night?

ELIZABETH
Yes...I was.

Abigail gives her an understanding glance.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
The hardest part is I believe Jack knew something was not right. Last night on our walk, he shut down when I asked him about Charlie.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Surely there are things about his work that he is unable to share.

ELIZABETH
I understand that but he should have taken precautions or reached out to another Mountie for help.

Elizabeth sets her cup down.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I fear this secrecy will eventually cause a divide between us. If I'm being honest, it maybe be doing so already.

ABIGAIL
It sounds like last night would have happened regardless of what Jack had told you prior. Maybe he was trying to prevent you from worrying about him.

ELIZABETH
I suppose. (pause) But he does not need to protect me. I'm stronger than he thinks.

ABIGAIL
Have you considered how he must feel? He saw you were in danger and was helpless to do anything about it.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

I was not in the danger that he was.

ABIGAIL

I doubt he would agree. If I were to guess, he's probably carrying around his on share of guilt over the the whole ordeal and just doesn't know how to share that with you.

Abigail touches Elizabeth's hand.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I'm not sure if you gathered this yet Elizabeth, but men are not the best communicators.

The women share a laugh at Jack's expense.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAILHOUSE - MORNING

Jack and Charlie are standing in front of the jail as the Mounties escort Frank and his men from the premises.

CHARLIE

I can't believe I let you talk me into handing these guys over.

JACK

(smiling)

You'll still get your reward money.

Jack escorts Charlie down the stairs towards her horse.

CHARLIE

You ever think about changing professions? There is a lot of freedom in my line of work.

JACK

(laughs)

I think I'm fine right here in Hope Valley.

Charlie gets on her horse and looks over towards the cafe where Elizabeth is standing talking to one of the ladies in town. She gives Jack a knowing glance.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

I get the feeling there is more to it than that.

Charlie smiles at Jack and steers her horse towards the street.

JACK

I appreciate what you did out there. I can't say I'd be here without your help.

CHARLIE

You owe me. And, I always collect on a debt. See ya around "Mountie".

She kicks the flanks of her horse and Jack watches as she rides out of town.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - MID DAY

We're CLOSE IN on Jack's hands setting up a few old cans along a tree stump. Elizabeth stands a few feet away. Jack slowly walks back towards her.

JACK

The trick to being a good aim is controlling your breathing.

ELIZABETH

(playing along)
Really...

JACK

I suggest taking a few breaths to relax yourself. Than give it a try.

Jack hands Elizabeth the firearm and she takes it from him. She turns to face the middle of the tree stump with the cans about 10-15 feet away from her.

ELIZABETH

I suppose this will come in handy the next time you need a woman to save you.

Jack laughs.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(smiling)
I'm serious.

JACK
I just think considering the events
of the last few days, it would be a
good idea if you knew how to
protect yourself.

ELIZABETH
Why? Are you worried about me?

JACK
(tenderly)
Always.

Elizabeth takes aim at the cans and Jack walks up behind her
steadying her arm. She looks back at him.

ELIZABETH
I think I have the hang of it.

Elizabeth looks towards the cans and shoots the gun hitting
the first can. She quickly fires another shot sending a
second can flying.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Looks like the lesson's over.

She walks by a stunned Jack and without making eye contact
hands him the firearm.

JACK
Well Miss Thatcher, it seems you
have some secrets of your own.

Jack looks back towards the tree stump baffled and looks
down to the gun in his hand.

JACK (CONT'D)
How did you learn to...

ELIZABETH
My father took me hunting. He
demanded I know how to use a gun
before I was able to go with him. I
never said I couldn't shoot, I just
choose not too.

Jack holsters the gun.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

I guess I don't need to worry the
next time I'm kidnapped.

Elizabeth turns and walks towards their horses.

ELIZABETH

That depends. I'm still mad at you
for letting yourself get nabbed in
the first place.

Jack walks up behind her and she turns to face him.

JACK

I'll try to stay out of trouble.
(pause) I could get used to the
idea of you saving me for a change.

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

You make it sound like I'm always
the one getting in trouble?

Jack laughs and Elizabeth crosses her arms.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(defensively)

I may just have to call Charlie...

Jack put a finger to her lips silencing her. Smiling he
takes her hand and they turn to look at the sunset in front
of them.

JACK

How about we both agree to stay out
of trouble for awhile.

Smile at each other. We PAN BACKWARDS on the couple from
behind.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MERCANTILE STORE - AFTERNOON

Ned, the owner of the mercantile store, is restocking the
shelves when the Doctor walks in with a solemn look on his
face.

NED

Hey Doc.

Ned walks over to the counter to speak with the doctor.

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR
Good afternoon.

NED
Those supplies you needed were
delivered yesterday. (pauses)
Everything okay?

The doctor looks around to see if anyone else is in the
store.

DOCTOR
(worried)
I just received word from the next
town over. They are reporting that
Typhoid has hit the area.

FADE OUT

**Typhoid vaccines came out in 1908, don't worry Elizabeth
Thatcher was vaccinated before heading west to Hope Valley.
:)**