

HANNAH DUSTIN

by Michael Train

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FADE IN

EXT - BRISTOL PORT, ENGLAND - DAY

DOWNSHOT - A busy working wharf. A small caravel is being laden while crew and shore men move about like ants, moving cargo, fixing lines and hustling about while preparing the ship for departure.

Amidst all this hustle a group of more than two dozen men and women are gathered near the ship and bow their heads in communal prayer, led by their pastor, THOMAS.

CLOSER

PASTOR

...as we forgive those that trespass
against us, oh Lord.

COMMUNAL

Amen.

PASTOR (cont)

Today we deliver ourselves unto God, that
he blesses us our mighty trial by water,
to the New Eden. To a place of heavenly
perfection and innocence, that each of us

begin our new life under His protection
and His guidance.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Worshippers HANNAH and ALFRED DUSTIN. Hannah is in her late 30s, with brilliant red hair, but a classic product of a rigid protestant world that shuns beauty and demands plain dress and strict behavior. Hannah retains a slight smile and a brightness about her...a glow. She holds her hands beneath a belly that shows the first outer hint of pregnancy.

Hannah leans to Alfred, a slightly older, grim-faced product of a culture consumed by belief in an angry, ever present God. She keeps her voice low.

HANNAH

Finally, our child...to be born in
the Lord's own garden. Think of it,
Alfred, after so many years of waiting.
I never believed this could happen.

ALFRED

Shush, Hannah Dustin. Pastor Thomas is
speaking.

(slight smile)

But yes. Our own child. Neither did I
think it would ever come to pass, Hannah.
I had given up hope long ago.

WIDER

PASTOR

My children...take your belongings and
board now. God go with us all.

With excitement, the gathering begins to board the ship with their meager bundles of possessions.

CUT

EXT - OCEAN - LATER

The small ship heads west, leaving the last view of land far behind on the horizon. ROTATE CAMERA as the ship passes to reveal a red sun in the West.

NARRATOR (VO)

"With Catholic King James II on the throne, dissident Protestants choose to leave England and establish their own religious paradise in the unknown vastness of the Americas. But as these immigrants spread their religion deeper into the New World, France's Catholic King Louis calls on his native allies to push them back. The fighting that marks this undeclared war soon leads to eighty years of desperate and vicious fighting known as the French and Indian Wars."

CUT

EXT - DECK OF CARAVELLE - DAY

The crew goes about their work while the worshippers listen to Pastor Thomas. Her red hair escaping from her bonnet, Hannah listens with eyes closed and hands raised in supplication.

PASTOR

...The Lord shall deliver us to a land of milk and honey, a New Canaan, a paradise unlike others can ever know. His new world He hands into our care for it is a perfect world and unblemished by sin and untouched by vice.

CLOSER

Hannah sways slightly, mesmerized by her pastor's words.

CUT

EXT - VISION OF EDEN - DAY

This is Hannah's personal vision, a dream of a perfect English garden surrounding her and her newborn with flowers and fruit trees, gentle animals and smiling native children that offer her delicacies of all kinds. Alfred stands nobly and protectively behind Hannah and her child.

PASTOR (VO) (cont)

For we have been chosen to be God's
Caretaker and it is a great responsibility
for it is His purest creation, from the
fields to the beasts, the birds and
the fish and even to His most sublime and
innocent...the native peoples that inhabit
its forests and live in perfect harmony with
all He has provided.

Hannah looks up to catch Alfred's eyes and reaches out for his hand when a serpent rears up between them.

Hannah GASPS and pulls away.

BACK TO REALITY

Hannah's husband leans close to whisper.

ALFRED

Harmony? We will see. Others talk about
anger between the natives and our Bay
Colony brethren.

(concerned)

Hannah, you are shaking. Are you ill?

Hannah rubs her arms and recovers.

HANNAH

Shhh, Alfred Dustin. I am fine... and
Pastor Thomas knows best, I am sure.

Alfred and Hannah turn to the ship's rail and look far ahead at the

thin line of darkness that marks the New England coast. Hannah closes her eyes, clasps her hands and prays silently.

ALFRED

You pray all will be right, Hannah?

HANNAH

It will be God's will, Alfred. But after so long and at my age I cannot hold back the fear. The terror of not knowing.

ALFRED

As you say, it will be God's will, no matter how it goes. I will be pleased, either way, Hannah.

Hannah looks into Alfred's eyes. Tears well up. She leans her head on his shoulder. Alfred puts an arm around Hannah. They gaze at the New World far ahead.

Hannah places her hands on her belly and slowly rubs.

DIS TO

EXT - SMALL FRONTIER VILLAGE OF HAVERHILL - LATE SUMMER DAY

A half dozen small carts enter the village which consists of a dozen recently-built wood homes and buildings, surrounded by an eight foot palisade of logs. This is the fort that is the villager's refuge during attack. Outside the stockade are more homes and buildings, many under construction, testifying to a busy, growing village.

The village is built around a commons just outside the stockade gate, where sheep graze and children play. Very few men carry muskets, most carry tools or goods. Women carry bundles of clothing or baskets of produce. All look to the arriving carts that bring both supplies and new settlers.

Accompanied by a grizzled sutler, DARBY, Alfred leads one of the carts that holds Hannah and their few personal belongings. Hannah looks about, awed by the activity and more so by the several indians...

regulars that trade with the villagers.

HANNAH

Alfred. Is that one of the natives?

ALFRED

I believe it is. One of the tame ones who have found God I suspect. Otherwise he would not be walking here, in Haverhill village.

HANNAH

And the untamed ones...where are they?

DARBY

Not far enough away from here, Maam. We're at the edge of the known world now and just over those hills the wood holds plenty of blood-thirsty savages.

HANNA

(sure of herself)

Savages, Mister Darby? Only as savage as a newborn, blessed by the Lord. They are innocent of even the knowledge of sin.

DARBY

Don't mean to be disrespectful, Maam, but even a wee innocent babe will grow up to be a terror if left without a regular beating.

Hannah reflectively puts her hands on her belly that is farther along.

DARBY (cont)

Same's with the indian folk around here. Lest they get their heads cracked right good on a regular basis, they become killers. Killers that fear no pain and despise those that do.

HANNAH

I do not understand Mister Darby.
Surely they have compassion for those
in pain.

DARBY

Savage sort of compassion, Maam. They
delight in murdering those captives that
show it. The pain, I mean.

Hannah frowns.

HANNAH

Captives?

ALFRED

Enough, please, Mister Darby. Such talk
can only harm the child.

DARBY

Pardon, Maam. And blesses for the child.

The small caravan stops besides a wooden building that also serves
as the Queen's post. A British flag flies from a tall pine outside
the doorway, where two hard-looking men hold sticks, each with a
tassel of some sort tied from the end. Hannah is curious.

Alfred enters the post.

HANNAH

Mister Darby, if you would, please.
What is it those men hold?

Darby looks towards Alfred before answering.

DARBY

Prizes, Maam. Worth a Queen's guinea
each.

HANNAH

Oh. Prizes secured for what deed,

Mister Darby?

DARBY

Not to harm the child, Maam, but them are scalps that have been taken from savages in these nearby woods. The Governor offers silver for each top knot.

Hannah considers a moment then covers her GASP.

HANNAH

Good Lord, no!

DARBY

It's okay, Maam. Don't hurt them a bit as they're cut once and after they're dead.

Hannah is horrified.

CUT

MONTAGE

- EXT - Alfred and other village men raising the roof on a new home as a slightly more pregnant Hannah helps her neighbor women bring out food and cider.
- EXT - An obviously more pregnant Hannah helping other women work a cider press as children lug baskets of apples. Hannah stops, surprised when the baby kicks hard. Her neighbors gather around and laugh. Hannah joins in the laugh.
- EXT - Hannah hangs her wash on a line. She stops to stare out across the lines of chaff and the bare furrows that point towards the dark line of forest.
- EXT - Hannah suddenly doubles over and grabs her belly. HOLD. Alfred runs into the scene to attend to her.

- EXT - Smoke rises from the tiny home. Snow begins to fall. We hear Hannah's faint CRIES from within. HOLD. We hear the CRY of a newborn.

CUT

EXT - DUSTIN HOME- LATE SPRING DAY

The tiny log and board home sits near the edge of an expanding village, fronting a long field being readied for crops. Another section of the field shows young crops already growing green and full.

Hannah walks the furrows, her infant child, MOLLY, on her back as she drops seeds at regular intervals. Alfred toils at the far edge of the field, digging at a stump.

Hannah stares out across the field at the dense wall of forest. She seems deep in thought as she approaches Alfred. Alfred stops what he's doing and wipes the sweat from his brow.

ALFRED

You seem in a dream, Hannah.

Alfred picks up a gourd and drinks.

HANNAH

(gazing towards the forest)

No. It is only this land. So different from Cornwall. So big and so untouched. Some say it goes on forever, without any end.

ALFRED

(looks towards the forest)

Yes. It would take a thousand men with a thousand axes and a thousand years to leave their mark on this forest.

HANNAH

It scares me also, to know now of how small we are against its endless, shadowy green.

But it is God's doing, is it not, Alfred?
Perfect, even if we cannot fathom it, yes?

ALFRED

Says Pastor Thomas, Hannah. Says he. We may be small but we are God's Chosen children in this land. The Book assures tells us so.

(motions to young crops)

Look! The land is the most fertile ever known. And it was given to us, Hannah. A gift from God.

HANNAH

Yes, you are right. Am I sinful for questioning, Alfred? Am I bad person to even think such things?

ALFRED

Not you, Hannah. You are the most devoted and blessed of all the Chosen. You are incapable of a bad thought. This I know.

Alfred puts his arm around his wife and child.

CLOSER

As Hannah smiles gently but with her eyes are focused on the dark line that marks the forest's edge.

EXT - CLOSE ON FOREST EDGE - CONTINUOUS

We see a place of thick with pines and hardwoods, broken up by light and shadows. HOLD. A deer emerges and bounds away. HOLD. Something else moves among the foliage and it reveals itself to be dark skinned man.

The warrior scans the world on our side of the forest.

CUT

EXT - FOREST ENCAMPMENT - EARLY EVENING

Gathered atop a high hill, two dozen ABENAKI WARRIORS listen as their war chief reveals plans for the next day. ATOSKA is a thick, grim-faced warrior marked by battle scars. His piercing gaze and fixed expression tells us he's not to be questioned.

CAPTAIN DUVOIR, stands off to the side, aloof and focused on cleaning his fingernails. He is tall, red-haired and self-absorbed.

Duvoir is attended by his jaded aide, CORPORAL LEVARGE, and two Canadian frontier scouts.

Behind Atoska, below and in the distance, is a tiny collection of lights that mark the frontier village of Haverhill. Atoska's teenage son, SACHEM, stands near his father, trying to adopt his father's same stern countenance.

ATOSKA

When the next moon rises over our heads
the warriors will enter the village and
fire the lodges.

The warriors grin and nod. Their excitement palpable.

ATOSKA (cont)

When the English emerge from their
holes like angry ants, cut them down.
All of them. Take only the young
women and the strongest children.
Kill all others.

Nearby, comments casually, a hint of satisfaction in his voice.

DUVOIR

Atoska and his warriors are more than
willing to do the King's work. They
enjoy their work immensely.

LEVARGE

Killing English settlers?

DUVOIR

It is not so simple, Corporal Levarge. The King orders that the English be pushed back to the coast, leaving France the hinterland. What could be more fair. The killing is merely an unfortunate consequence of King Louis' fondest wishes.

LEVARGE

Women and children murdered? Surely England will fight back. Is there no other way, Captain?

DUVOIR

No other way. As long as the act rests on the Abenaki warriors, France is free of blame. Make certain your face is darkened tomorrow night. And avoid being identified as a soldier of France.

Duvoir looks at his aide's patched and stained uniform, then himself and grimaces.

DUVOIR

(dramatic flourish)

If my family and friends in Lyon would see me now, I would be disgraced. Here, in this impenetrable wildness, I am dressed like a prince.

Duvoir turns away.

DUVOIR (cont)

Remember, Corporal. No witnesses.

LEVARGE

Of course, Captain Duvoir. No witnesses.

DUVOIR

To nap now. We have much to accomplish
in the next hours.

CUT

EXT - HAVERHILL VILLAGE - NIGHT

A full moon. Quiet. The entire village is dark. Deer forage at the edge of the forest. A DOG BARKS. The deer freeze, then scamper away.

Two Abenaki warriors emerge from the forest edge and sprint silently across the field, towards the village.

INT - DUSTIN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Hannah nurses Molly in the dark. She hums and sings softly to her child.

HANNAH

(hum first)

Sleep, sleep, go to sleep,
close your tired eyes.
The happiness you knew today
you'll dream about tonight.

(repeat hum)

EXT - HOMES OUTSIDE PALISADES - CONTINUOUS

Th two warriors stop near one of the tiny homes. One bends with flint and steel to light two torches. The other calls out to the forest edge, MIMICKING A NIGHT BIRD.

The warriors each take a torch and race to light anything that can burn. More DOGS BARK as flames catch.

Two dozen Abenaki warriors emerge from the forest, many with lit torches. As they enter the village the Abenaki light the homes outside the fort's stockade and take up positions.

VILLAGER (OS)

Fire! Fire!

As villagers race from their homes, they are cut down by SCREAMING WARRIORS.

A few of the village men race out armed and manage to get off a shot before being killed. Women scream, men shout and children race about in confusion.

EXT - DUSTIN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Alfred rushes out from the tiny wooden home and looks about. Two homes down the lane are afire and against the flames silhouettes race back and forth. Hannah emerges, frightened, little Molly carried in a sling on Hannah's chest.

HANNAH

Alfred, what is it?

ALFRED

I'm not sure. I'm not sure of what I'm seeing. Get inside, quickly. And close the door.

Hannah backs inside the door but keeps it ajar and continues to peer out, frightened at the chaos outside.

ALFRED'S POV

Against the flames and the smoke, dark shapes seem to act out shadow puppet-like scenes of violence. Down the lane women SCREAM, children CRY, and men SHOUT OUT WARNINGS of an indian attack. A BELL RING rapidly and then goes silent.

BACK

ALFRED

(frightened)

It's an indian attack. We need to get You and Molly to the fort.

He grabs his axe from inside the door. Hannah holds out Alfred's musket and powder horn.

ALFRED

Yes. Hannah, stay close behind me with little Molly. We run for the stockade and you stop for nothing. Understand? Nothing!

Alfred steps into the smoke-obscured lane and is immediately struck down as a dark figure races past and disappears.

HANNAH

Alfred!

Hannah rushes out into the lane to attend to her husband. She carries Molly in a chest sling. Alfred bleeds heavily from the side of his head.

HANNAH

Alfred!

Hannah is suddenly lifted up under her arms by an unseen assailant. She struggles.

HANNAH

Stop! Put me down.

Hannah goes limp as the Devil himself suddenly appears before Hannah and grabs her jaw tightly, studying her face. Atoska lifts his bloodied knife to her face and pushes back Hannah's bonnet, revealing her red tresses, burning brightly like red gold in the firelight.

Atoska's eyes go wide.

WIDER

HANNAH

No!

Atoska signs for Hannah's assailant to take her away. As he carries

the struggling captive away, Atoska leans down to Alfred.

NEARBY

Looking back as she struggles in the arms of her captor, Hannah screams as Atoska grabs Alfred's hair, carves a half moon along Alfred's hairline, from temple to temple and then pulls the scalp back before severing it with a quick flick of his blade.

HANNAH

Nooooo!

Hannah faints in her captor's arms.

CUT

EXT - EDGE OF FIELDS - CONTINUOUS

Duvoir and his men watch from the edge of the field.

LEVARGE

The English town will be a warning to others. A lesson to be heeded. A massacre to be avoided in the future. Yes?

DUVOIR

Yes, it is. But it is the indians' massacre, not ours. That is what is important.

(cynically)

You see, Levarge, as long as we are not named, France was never involved. The English can claim nothing.

DUVOIR'S POV

On the other side of the fields, Haverhill burns while the SCREAMS and CRIES of villagers and indians create a hellish chorus.

CUT

EXT - VILLAGE COMMONS AREA- CONTINUOUS

The Abenaki warriors push and drag their dozen captives through a scene of fiery hell, passing the bodies of their neighbors and those wounded women, children and men still struggling with their pain.

MONTAGE

- EXT - A man with terrible wound to his stomach cries for help, only to be have his head split by the tomahawk of a brave that sets to scalping his victim.
- EXT - A teenage boy lies trembling in death's spasms, his head a bloody mess where his scalp had been.
- EXT - An elderly woman sits back against a barrel and tries in vain to stem the blood from her severed throat. An arrow strikes her from OS.

NEAR COMMONS

A horrified Hannah and her screaming child are among the captives. Two of the warriors pull curiously at Hannah's flaming red hair. Hannah strikes out at the face of one, who SCREAMS ANGRILY and raises his tomahawk.

ATOSKA (OS)
(Abenaki)

Stop!

The warrior lowers his weapon. Atoska steps up to admire Hannah's hair even as he shoves her ahead.

ATOSKA
(to others)

This woman's hair shows a strong spirit.
It is the color of fire, like the Frenchee,
Duvair. Do no harm to her.

Hannah listens.

ATOSKA (cont)

Take her AND the child to Frenchee Duvoir
and tell him she is my gift until we return
to Canada. Hurry.

WARRIOR 1

But the child is a burden. Leave it.

ATOSKA

No. If woman keeps up, she keeps child.
It is as I say. Go now, before the English
guns follow.

The warriors herd their prisoners across the field, towards the forest.

CLOSER

On Hannah as she looks back, the burning village lighting her hair, her face, her tears...and the backs of the CRYING, captive villagers being led into the wilderness.

CUT

EXT - VILLAGE - DAWN

Militia from nearby villages arrive to witness the aftermath of the attack. Pastor Thomas and Darby lead the men. They pause to look over the still smoking ruins of Haverhill.

They're aghast at the mutilated bodies and the CRYING wounded.

Thomas falls to his knees, his hands clenched before him. He prays out loudly, passionately.

PASTOR

Oh Lord, bless these souls who have had
their lives taken by the idolaters and
those left savaged by the heathens. We
pray thy vengeance will be swift

Two grim-faced MILITIA hurry to the Pastor.

MILITIA 1

Pardon, Pastor Thomas. Best told,
eighteen are dead. Men, women and
children. One indian.

MILITIA 2

Another six or eight looking to die
soon of their wounds.

MILITIA 1

And another score and more taken
prisoner, so far as the villagers can
tell. Some may be hiding in the woods,
though.

DARBY

You can't hide in the woods from these
devils. They can smell an Englishman
from a mile. The missing will be captive,
slaves to the heathen. God help them all.

MILITIA 1

Not much chance for any of them. Not
much at all.

CUT

EXT - FOREST - DAY

The Abenaki warriors lead their captives, tied by twos, neck-to-neck. They climb a stony hill at the head of a valley. Hannah, carrying her infant, is paired with WILLIAM, a 12 year old village boy.

AHEAD ON TRAIL as an OLDER CAPTIVE falters

CAPTIVE

I can't go on. Please. A rest.

He is quickly beaten brutally across head and shoulders by his captor, Sachem. The man drops to the ground and begins to SCREAM.

CAPTIVE

(screams)

Sachem whips out his tomahawk and buries it in the man's head.

ON CAPTIVES

The other captives are a horrified by the sudden violence. One woman faints. She is kicked by the Abenaki women. Before the captive's corpse stops convulsing, Sachem cuts the rope and drags the second captive roughly up the hill.

The other warriors look upon the scene with gleeful disdain for a captive that would scream so easily.

FAVOR HANNAH

Having witnessed the warrior's savagery, she cries uncontrollably but holds back her sobs with a hand and moves up the hill, clutching her child closely. A very frightened William follows close behind.

CUT

EXT - FOREST - NEXT DAY

The warriors lead their captives to a clearing where young braves and women have tended to the war party's bivouac. One of the women coughs violently and spits at the feet of the first captive as they are led into the clearing.

The exhausted and frightened captives are sat down, given skins of water and tossed dried pemmican, which they consume greedily as the Abenaki women look over the captives like horses for sale.

WILLIAM

(to Hannah)

How far do you think we've walked,
Misses Dustin?

HANNAH

I don't know William. I am too tired
to think.

THOMAS

(looking at the sun)

It must have been a day and a half at
least. Maybe a ten hour run if we
could break loose.

An ELDER ABENAKI WOMAN starts to beat William with a stick. He curls
up.

ELDER WOMAN

(Abenaki)

Shut your mouth. No talking.

WILLIAM

Ow!

HANNAH

Show no pain William! They will kill you
if you do.

Another ABENAKI WOMAN begins to beat Hannah.

WOMAN 2

(Abenaki)

You too, red hair!

Hannah covers her child and quietly takes the brunt of the beating
on her shoulders.

DUVOIR (OS)

Enough!

Duvoir and Atoska enter scene. Atoska pushes the women off their
victims. Duvoir steps close and bows to Hannah with an overdone
flourish.

DUVOIR

(to Hannah)

You are absolutely correct, Madame. The Abenaki despise those who cannot bear pain bravely. Such are considered worthless... and usually disposed of. Captain Jean Pierre Louis Duvoir, at your service, Madame.

HANNAH

(pathetic)

Help us, please.

DUVOIR

Alas, I am forbidden to interfere with the business of the Abenaki.

WILLIAM

But you are with them!

LEVARGE

Our King has instructed that we observe, only. The Captain's hands are tied in this matter.

Duvoir mimes his hands tied before him and then, with a smile, shrugs.

DUVOIR

Well said, Corporal Levarge. France does not wage war against England nor its colonists. However, I am sorry to say that your poor village of Haverhill made a very poor choice to settle on the lands of such blood thirsty savages.

(feigned surprise)

Whatever were you silly people thinking

HANNAH

(pleading)

Please! My child.

Duvoir stares at the infant and slowly shakes his head. He turns away, with a hint of a smirk.

LEVARGE

As Captain Duvoir has said, there is nothing to be done. Good day, Madame.

Levarge turns away and hurries to catch up to his captain, leaving Hannah in tears as the Abenaki women return to examining her hair and body. The coughing woman continues to cough close to Hannah and her baby.

NEARBY

Duvoir waits by his tent as Levarge approaches.

DUVOIR

Perhaps you might ask Atoska to extend a courtesy for me and make sure the woman is treated a bit more gently for the next day or so, Corporal.

Levarge seems to know what's coming. His expression shows a hint of disappointment.

LEVARGE

Of course, Captain. And shall I make certain that the woman is bathed?

DUVOIR

Thoroughly, Levarge. I am mildly surprised you asked. Morning will do fine. Get the blood going, eh?

LEVARGE

Certainly, Captain.

Duvoir turns to enter his tent, then pauses. He turns to Levarge.

DUVOIR

And perhaps you will ask about for

something a little less...filthy. I'm sure the Abenaki will find something for the woman in all the loot they took from the village.

LEVARGE

Of course. I will choose something tasteful, myself.

Duvoir smiles as he looks Levarge in the eyes.

DUVOIR

Ah, yes. I do very much appreciate your taste, Levarge. It's just that after so long in this dark wilderness, I've a taste for something a bit brighter. Carry on.

Duvoir enters his tent. Levarge lowers his eyes and takes a deep breath before turning his attentions to his business.

NEARBY

FAVOR Hannah and William as the captives grab greedily at the water and food tossed to them by the Abenaki women.

As she eats, Hannah watches a woman dress a braves' wounded leg, nearby.

CLOSE

The Abenaki woman takes moldy pieces of melon rind and binds them to the brave's leg before wrapping it in ton gingham.

BACK

HANNAH

(to William)

Curious...what that woman is doing.

William looks and offers.

WILLIAM

It's green mold. My Pa says it's a cure for infection. He says...

(chokes up)

He used to say... the indians were right smart about medicine things.

(tears)

My Pa... I don't know if he's alive or dead.

Hannah starts to get teary-eyed and puts an arm around the boy.

NEARBY

A group of YOUNG BRAVES look on, smugly, pointing and taunting. Three of the youths are taken with Hannah's hair and approach her. William cowers and is rewarded with a kick from each. One of the youths begins to hit William about the head with a stick until Hannah grabs it in mid swing.

HANNAH

Stop it! He's just a boy.

The youths play it up among themselves, surprised that woman would dare interfere. One of them grabs Hannah's hair and pulls her out into the clearing. Hannah makes no sound. Another, UNCAS, uses the end of his bow to lift Hannah's torn and filthy skirt.

HANNAH

No!

The youths join to hold Hannah down as Uncas lifts Hannah's skirt higher. At that the Abenaki women jump in and begin to beat the youth with their own sticks.

His friends laugh as UNCAS falls to the ground and tries to scramble away from the vengeful women. They race off to safety when the women turn their sticks on them.

CLOSE ON

Hannah as she recovers from the attack.

HANNAH

Thank you.

One of the women silences Hannah with a switch to her shoulders. Despite the pain Hannah remains silent.

WIDER

The Abenaki women consider Hannah's effort worthy of at least a tiny bit of respect. The woman that struck her gives her an extra pemmican cake and exits.

After the women leave, Hannah breaks the cake and gives William half. As the captives chew the hard meal, Hannah's infant COUGHS and CRIES.

Hannah puts the child to her breast and begins to sing softly.

HANNAH

(humming)

Sleep sleep, go to sleep

Mama holds you tight.

She'll be here through the darkest night.

You'll wake up to her smile.

(repeat hum)

The child calms but the COUGH remains.

CUT

EXT - VALLEY - LATE DAY

Pastor Thomas and Darby lead the Haverhill militia to a clearing at the bottom of the hills north of Haverhill.

CLOSER. The bodies of two captives lay amidst torn cloth, bits of clothing and other discards that indicate a large group passed through. Darby scours the clearing, shaking his head. Pastor Thomas watches from nearby.

DARBY

Don't look healthy, Pastor Thomas.

MILITIA 1

Dark's coming. We ain't never gonna find them now.

Darby joins them.

DARBY

War party's split up. Looks about they took off in five, six different groups. Looks about each took a few of the captives.

PASTOR

Can we follow them, Mister Darby?

DARBY

Looks about two dozen of them...only eight of us.

MILITIA 2

Savages own these woods. No way we're gonna keep up with the devils.

PASTOR

Darby?

DARBY

Get us all scalped or worse, to try.

MILITIA 3

We tried. We won't go further, Pastor Thomas. We have our own families to worry about.

WIDER

Most of the other militiamen nod agreement.

Pastor Thomas nods silently and begins to pray over the two corpses as his colleagues start digging graves nearby.

CUT

EXT - RIVER BANK - PRE-DAWN

Hannah wakes with a startle as Molly is snatched from her arms. She is kicked by the elder Abenaki woman and struck lightly with the stick to get her moving faster.

Hannah tries to jump up to retrieve the child but only manages to waken William, who scrambles backwards on his ass, pulling Hannah down in the dirt.

CLOSER

HANNAH

My baby. Please don't hurt my baby.

Hannah's eyes go wide with fear as the elder woman approaches with a knife. The woman deftly cuts the cord that ties the Hannah and William together.

WIDER

Other women grab Hannah and hold her as a longer cord is loped around her neck. William watches, aghast.

WILLIAM

They're going to hang us?

TRACK as the women manhandle HANNAH towards the river and shove her in. Two of the younger women immediately jump in and remove Hannah's skirt and blouse.

CLOSER

They begin to scrub her with handfuls of aromatic leaves. Hannah squeezes her eyes shut and abandons herself to the rough attention.

LATER

Naked, Hannah sits on the riverbank with her arms around her knees, shivering as a young Abenaki woman brushes her hair.

NEARBY

The elder woman sits, holding Molly in a fur wrap. The baby coughs without stop. The woman dips her finger into a small leather pouch and offers it to the baby to suck. The coughing slows but doesn't stop.

NEARBY

Several Abenaki women excitedly sort through the dresses, bonnets and ribbons that were looted from the village. They try bonnets on each other and tie ribbons in their hair, LAUGHING and GIGGLING.

A gingham dress is chosen and taken to the elder woman. She nods her approval.

LATER

The eastern sky is brightening. The camp is beginning to stir.

NEARBY

Dressed in the gingham, Hannah sits, nursing her baby as two of the women preen her. The elder woman looks on and slowly shakes her head...a look of sadness on her face. The elder waves the others off and holds out her arm for Hannah's baby as Leverage approaches. Hannah is confused.

HANNAH

What?

Leverage bows with the utmost courtesy.

LEVERAGE

Madame. Captain Duvoir offers a request

that you join him for the morning meal.

HANNAH

I do not understand.

LEVARGE

Please, Madame. We have much to do today and the Captain is impatient.

Hannah looks to the elder woman, holding her child. The Abenaki woman merely nods. Levarge offers his hand and, bewildered, Hannah accompanies him towards Duvoirs tent. One of the younger women races after them to put a bonnet on Hannah's head.

CUT

INT - TENT - CONTINUOUS

A single tallow provides a dim, flickering light. HOLD. The tent flap opens and Hannah cautiously peers inside.

DUVOIR (OS)

Please do come in Madame... Excuse me but I do not know your name, Madame.

WIDEN as Hannah steps within, gingerly. A small, crudely-made wooden table holds a flask and pemmican. Duvoir sits crossed legged on his bedding. His uniform blouse is open to the waist.

DUVOIR

Please. Come in...

HANNAH

(weakly)

It's Hannah. Hannah Dustin. I just want to go home. My child and I. Please.

DUVOIR

Impossible, Hannah. Impossible. But for a small while, perhaps, you might

share a distraction from your...our
horrid predicament...yes?

(smirk)

And please do take off that silly bonnet.

Duvoir offers the flask.

DUVOIR (cont)

God knows it isn't cognac but it will
do the job on occasion.

HANNAH

No. No thank you.

DUVOIR

Ah, but Hannah, I insist.

Duvoir moves towards Hannah. She steps back. Duvoir picks up his uniform sash and throws it around Hannah's neck. Before she can reach up and remove it Duvoir steps up and grabs the loose end, pulling Hannah towards him. Hannah freezes. Duvoir reaches out to caress begins Hannah's hair.

DUVOIR

Magnificent. Like silken red gold. Soft.
So very soft. As I remember my sister's
own.

Duvoir lets his hand fall and he squeezes his penis through his pants.

DUVOIR (cont)

How I miss Angeline so.

Hannah stiffens as Duvoir tightens the sash around her neck. He pulls her closer. She struggles to push him away as he feels her breast. Hannah hits at Duvoir with her fists but he smiles and tightens his hold on the scarf, choking Hannah.

Duvoir rips open Hannah's dress. She struggles to stop him. Duvoir smothers her with wet kisses. Dragging Hannah by the neck, Duvoir

throws her down on his palette.

EXT - BIVOUAC - CONTINUOUS

Leverage watches from just outside the camp fire's light.

HANNAH (OS)
(sobbing cries)

Leverage lowers his eyes and turns away as the CRIES continue. TRACK as Leverage passes several braves. They turn their attention to Duvoir's tent, exhibiting looks of disgust before making the Abenaki gesture of "fuck you".

CUT

EXT - RIVER - NEXT DAY

The four canoes move quietly up the river. Hannah holds her coughing child, her blank stare focused far ahead. Her face is bruised and her torn blouse is crudely laced together with rawhide strips. Hannah HUMS the song she'd sung to her child earlier.

EXT - RIVER - NEXT DAY

A light rain falls as the canoes continue upriver. Hannah's child is wracked with coughs and choking. Hannah continues her blank stare, even as the senior woman reaches around her to take the child. Hannah makes no objection.

CLOSER

The woman looks over the child. It's face is grey and the baby is listless as its tiny body tries to cough. The woman WHISTLES out to Atoska's canoe, ahead.

WIDER

Atoska slows his canoe to allow Hannah's to pull aside.

CLOSER

The Abenaki woman motions to the child and shakes her head. She and Atoska exchange heated words before she reluctantly hands the child to the war party leader.

Hannah stirs, bewildered, and reaches for her child.

HANNAH

Give her to me!

Atoska holds the child by the ankles. He pushes the infant beneath the water and holds it there.

HANNAH

(screams)

NO!

Hannah suddenly stands and reaches across the water. The others in her canoe try to compensate by leaning the other way.

HANNAH

You can't! My baby!

Hannah leaps but comes up short as Atoska's canoe shoots away.

CLOSER

Hannah goes into and under the water. She surfaces, spitting. Hannah grabs a lung full of air and immediately dives for her child.

Atoska watches without expression. He turns his canoe and heads up river.

NEARBY

Devoir observes the commotion and calls back.

DUVOIR

(casually)

Do not allow her to drown just yet.

In a few days perhaps, but not now.

Atoska's canoe catches up, Devoir turns and joins the warrior on the trek upstream.

BACK DOWNSTREAM

The Abenaki in their canoes watch the water anxiously until Hannah surfaces for air. One of the braves grabs her hair and holds her until others can help drag her into a canoe. She struggles wildly, overturning one of the canoes.

HANNAH

No! My baby! Let me save my baby.
Please!

CUT

EXT - RIVER SIDE BIVOUAC - NEXT DAY

A massive stone outcrop has created a long, horseshoe bend in the river, marked by an impassible cascade. At the foot of the rapids, the Abenaki women are at work gathering up and bundling supplies and loot.

The older warriors lounge lazily, drinking corn beer. The younger braves load the captives with heavy bundles.

NEABY

A CAPTIVE is given a large bundle by one of the young braves and struggles to lift it onto his shoulders. The bundle drops and opens, scattering its contents. The young brave knocks the captive down and begins to kick him. Th captive starts to cry and sob uncontrollably.

CAPTIVE

I can't. I can't go on.

Atoska storms into the scene and sneers with disgust. He whips out his tomahawk and kills the man. The other captives moan at

witnessing such sudden violence.

NEARBY

Devoir exits his tent. Hitching up his pants with a smile as Levarge waits nearby.

LEVARGE

Good morning Captain.

DUVOIR

Yes, Corporal Levarge. It IS a good morning. However,

(with a tilt of his head)

I'm afraid the fire has dimmed somewhat.
I can't wait to get back to Quebec, as awful as even that sounds.

Duvoir exits scene. HOLD. Hannah shuffles out from the tent, staring ahead, glassy-eyed, with no expression as she tries to hold together the remains of her dress.

Levarge lowers his eyes and then motions for one of the Abenaki women to come to her aid. The woman leads Hannah away, weakly HUMMING Molly's tune.

CUT

EXT - FOREST PATH - LATER

Hannah is led along with the captives who are switched and pushed as they struggle at a pace too slow for the war party.

CLOSER. Hannah HUMS her tune near the end of the line, walking in a seemingly catatonic state. She is followed by Uncas, the same young brave that tried to molest her earlier. The braves and women now treat Hannah as a person who is trapped in a dream walk...her mind in another world.

DIS TO

EXT - CRAGGY MOUNTAIN - DAYS LATER

The war party leads their tired and threadbare captives along a narrow and steep downward trail, high above the river. The trail follows a natural shelf and is broken by a tumble of large boulders.

CLOSER

Hannah is now led at the end of the line, by Uncas, who is more preoccupied with his need to piss than with Hannah, who walks as if in a dream. Hannah slows her steps until most of the others pull away, out of sight.

The fidgety brave pulls Hannah's rope. The two halt. Hannah slumps to the ground and doesn't move. Uncas moves to the edge of the precipice.

ON LINE AHEAD

Sachem is the last brave in line. He calls back, past Hannah, who remains on her knees, motionless.

SACHEM

(Abenaki)

Don't piss into the wind, Uncas.

BACK

Uncas waves Sachem off with an Abenaki gesture to say "fuck you".

ON LINE AHEAD

Sachem moves ahead to catch up to the others, leaving Uncas and Hannah alone. Hannah doesn't move.

AHEAD ON TRAIL

The Abenaki and their captives negotiate the steep descent, a SCREAM causes Sachem to turn suddenly. He witnesses Uncas' fall.

Sachem and another brave race back up the trail and stop. (1)

SACHEM' S POV

Hannah remains in the same position Sachem left her. He rushes to pull Hannah to her feet, roughly. Hannah simply stares blankly. Sachem slaps Hannah hard. Hannah fails to react.

The two braves look at each other wonderingly. The 3rd brave makes the Abenaki sign for crazy woman. It is clear they believe Uncas fell accidentally.

They lead HANNAH down the trail to join the others.

Hannah passes another dead captive that couldn't keep up the pace but shows no reaction other than to begin HUMMING once again.

CUT

EXT - RIVER EDGE - LATE DAY

The Abenaki lead the captives to another river, where canoes have been well hidden. The men begin preparing the canoes as the women set up another bivouac.

NEARBY

While the other captives are goaded into gathering firewood, Hannah is left alone to wander mindlessly about the clearing.

A few of the women watch Hannah and talk.

WOMAN 1
(Abenaki)

The red hair is taken by a spirit.

WOMAN 2
(Abenaki)

More like a demon.

WOMAN 3
(Abenaki)

It doesn't matter now. She is touched by the great spirit. Atoska will know how to deal with her in time.

WOMAN 2
(Abenaki)

Bah! Even Atoska cannot handle a demon. The war chief is beholden to the Frenchee for his strength.

Woman 3 spits.

WOMAN 3
(Abenaki)

The Frenchee are women beaters that need our warriors to fight their English enemies.

She spits again. The others nod.

Hannah approaches. The women make a sign, warding off any malevolent spirit that might be residing in the red-haired woman.

NEARBY

Duvoir's tent has been raised. He and Levarge watch Hannah in her dream state. Duvoir frowns a bit.

DUVOIR

How long has the woman been like this?

LEVARGE

I believe it has been almost two weeks, Captain. We've been on the march for almost three.

DUVOIR

If the weather holds we should be at the top of Champlain in what...three days?

LEVARGE

Correct, Captain.

Duvoir considers.

DUVOIR

I do not believe she will last that long. Have her cleaned up tonight, will you, Corporal? One last go, eh?

LEVARGE

As you wish.

Duvoir enters his tent. Levarge turns away, his lips clenched.

LATER

The bivouac is quiet. After so long on the march the captives are left unattended. The only sound is Duvoir's heavy breathing coming from his tent. Then quiet. After a few moments Duvoir emerges from the tent, naked and clearly dissatisfied.

DUVOI (sotto)

It is like fucking a dead fish.

Duvoir passes Atoska, who wears a grim mask.

DUVOIR

The flaming hair is now yours, my friend.

Atoska watches as Duvoir walks to the river's edge and steps in.

NEARBY

Levarge watches and then hurries to the captain's tent. He hesitates before pulling the flap back to look inside.

INT - TENT - CONTINUOUS

Hannah cowers away in the corner of the tent, rocking back and forth with her arms clutched tightly around her knees. Her eye is swollen shut and new bruises testify to the beating she's received.

CLOSER

Hannah stares into the distance, MUMBLING to herself. Hannah doesn't seem aware of Leverage's presence.

Leverage's expression is one of pity but he can do no more than turn away and let the tent flap close.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - DAYS LATER

Hannah sits at the prow of Atoska's canoe, as the war leader paddles steadily. She remains in the same position that Leverage found her, rocking herself and MUMBLING what could be the words to her song.

CUT

FLASHBACK**MONTAGE**

INT CORNWALL HOME - EVENING. A tiny stone home. Alfred reads the Bible when Hannah nears, takes his hand and places it on her belly. Hannah smiles and nods. Alfred beams with joy.

INT CARAVELLE - DAY. Hannah's baby bump is obvious. Despite the crowded sleeping arrangements of dozens. Hannah pulls Alfred closer and puts his hand on her belly. Alfred flinches as the baby kicks. Both parents cover up their laughs.

INT HAVERHILL HOME - DAY. An exhausted Hannah sits in bed, her swaddled newborn in her arms. Alfred looks down upon his family, with tears welling in his eyes. He reaches for the newborn...

CUT

PRESENT

Hannah suddenly CRIES out and breaks down in tears.

CUT

EXT - RIVER BANK - EARLY EVENING

The canoes pull ashore and the Abenaki get to work setting up their bivouac. The captives, too exhausted and too frightened to try to escape into the unknown wilderness, are left to themselves or ordered to gather wood.

NEARBY

The Abenaki women watch as Hannah shuffles into the clearing and wanders about randomly, MUMBLING her song. The women shake their head and make their sign to ward off evil spirits.

Atoska motions to one woman and gives her some pemmican and corn beer, to bring to Hannah.

The woman steps in front of Hannah and holds out the food. Hannah doesn't react to the offer. The woman shrugs and places the food on a stone, leaving Hannah to her inner demons.

LATER

The bivouac is quiet. Only glowing embers remain of the party's cooking fires. Abenaki and captives alike are fast asleep.

Hannah continues to shuffle about the clearing.

NEARBY

A brave at the outer edge of the clearing wakes, only to shake his head at the crazy red aired woman. He turns away to sleep, revealing the tomahawk that is kept close to his pallet.

CLOSER

Hannah is left alone to wander aimlessly. She continues to shuffles around the clearing until she nears the brave's pallet.

Looking about carefully, Hannah bends quickly, snatches up the tomahawk and with a mighty swing buries it in the brave's skull before covering his head with her body to muffle any cry. The brave stiffens and spasms before going still. (2)

Hannah looks about. She raises the tomahawk as someone moves to her left. William steps closer, staring with horror at the body of the bloodied brave.

Hannah puts her finger to her lips. William nods but then is horrified again as Hannah begins to scalp the brave with his own tomahawk.

Hannah points to the brave's travel bag of pemmican and roasted corn, and his knife.

William hesitates but grabs the items as Hannah shuffles towards another sleeping brave.

She repeats herself and buries the tomahawk in the brave's head before scalping her victim. (3)

NEARBY

Hannah shuffles to where a very frightened William has backed away into the deeper darkness. Hannah takes his hand and the two quietly disappear into the darkness.

CUT

EXT - FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Hannah and William quietly and carefully flee towards the river. As they near the canoes, they surprise an Abenaki woman crouched for a piss.

CLOSER

The surprised woman whirls about, baring a small bone-handled knife. Without missing a step, Hannah slashes the woman's throat open with the tomahawk and races on. (4) Hannah stops.

HANNAH
(whisper)

Put holes in the canoes. All except
one for us. Do it.

As William watches, confused, Hannah turns back. TRACK as she runs to the dead woman.

CLOSER

Hannah reaches for the woman's hair.

FAVOR William as he looks away in disgust before racing to the canoes to begin holing one after another with the second tomahawk.

He stops and wheels about as a CRY OF ALARM is raised back at the bivouac. WAR YELLS pierce the night.

Hannah races to join William at the canoes. One has been left undamaged. She and William manage to push it into the river and get aboard.

TRACK as they start paddle for their lives and make it to midstream.

Behind them, the furious Abenaki reach the river, only to discover their canoes have been damaged.

CLOSER

Atoska stares out across the water, grim-faced. His anger boils up until he SCREAMS. WIDEN as Duvoir and Levarge race into the scene, bewildered.

DUVOIR
(slight panic)

What is it?

LEVARGE
Apparently, the red-haired woman. And a
young boy. The two escaped.

DUVOIR

Surely the Abenaki will bring them back.

LEVARGE

They also killed two braves.

DUVOIR

(anxiety)

Merde! They cannot be allowed to reach the English.

LEVARGE

How can they possibly survive in this wilderness? Besides, Captain, Atoska's braves will bring them back...or kill them. I think, slowly.

CUT

EXT - ON THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

The war party's CRIES and YELPS reaching them across the dark river send shivers through William and Hannah as they look back in panic. They paddle harder.

A full moon is only days away and the crescent reflects off the river surface, ahead of the canoe.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - SUNRISE

The exhausted escapees drift slowly with the river. William turns to stare in awe and a bit of fear at the bloodied killer sitting behind him. Hannah understands his stare.

HANNA

(exhausted)

It was the only way, William. The only way.

William turns back and simply nods.

WILLAIM

Mizz Duston, Maam. Will they come after us?

HANNAH

If they can. If their need for revenge Burns hot enough. That was a Frenchman who led the savages. That will mean war with France...if we take word back to the governor. The officer will want to stop us, for certain. So, paddle William, paddle.

CUT

EXT - RIVER BANK BIVOUAC - CONTINUOUS

Two of the canoes are repaired with bark and pitch while the others are being worked on.

CLOSER

Duvoir, Levarge and two braves take their seats in one while Atoska and three braves take the other.

DUVOIR

That woman cannot be allowed to be a witness.

LEVARGE

It would mean war with the English.

DUVOIR

Damn, a war! My reputation would be destroyed. I would be shunned at every salon in Paris, posted to this land of savages until I die.

LEVARGE

The English would demand the King turn you over for punishment.

DUVOIR

His ministers would insist on it. The woman must be silenced.

The two canoes shove off and hurry down river.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - LATER

Exhausted, Hannah and William look for a place to hide and rest. William points to a small brook that empties into the river. The canoe heads there and the escapees make their way beneath the low, overhanging branches.

TRACK up the brook until Hannah and William hide among the foliage. Hannah looks back and can just see the river through the dense brush.

William holds out the dead brave's food bag. Hannah greedily stuffs a handful of roasted corn in her mouth. William follows. Hannah reaches for more but William pulls back the bag.

WILLIAM

No. We have far to go, Mizz Dustin.

FAVOR Hannah. A look of anger crosses her face that causes William to slide back, away. Hannah gasps, comes to herself and begins to sob into her hands, her body trembling.

CLOSER

William doesn't know what to do, then reaches out cautiously to put his hand on Hannah's shoulder as she sobs.

CUT

FLASHBACK

Hannah revisits the horrors of the attack on Haverhill. She sees her child left alone in the midst of a vision from hell: the flames, the screaming, the killings and the violent chaos.

As Hannah runs to the infant, Atoska's horrific face suddenly comes between them...

MATCH CUT

EXT - CANOE - MINUTES LATER

William's face has replaced that of the war chief's.

ANOTHER ANGLE

William shakes Hannah fully awake. She flails a moment before sitting up with a wide-eyed start.

HANNAH
(whisper)

What...?

WILLIAM
(softly whisper)

No noise, Mizz Dustin. Please. They're here.

Hannah looks about in panic. She nods.

WILLIAM
(whisper)

On the river. I don't think they know where we are.

William points. Hannah looks.

OVER THE SHOULDER

Past Hannah and William. Only partly visible through the dense foliage, the two lead canoes are passing the mouth of the brook.

CUT

EXT - DUVOIR'S CANOE - CONTINUOUS

DUVOIR

A woman and a boy, Leverage. They are at their limit while our Abenaki colleagues don't know the meaning of exhaustion. We will catch up to them soon.

LEVERAGE

I just meant, Captain, that perhaps hiding somewhere along the river. They did manage to kill two of Atoska's braves. They show ability.

DUVOIR

You give them too much credit. The braves likely drank themselves senseless with that awful corn brew. A farm woman and a young boy. No, they are panicked and racing for safety the only way they know...down river.

Leverage doesn't appear so certain. The two canoes pass the brook and continue downstream.

CUT

EXT - BROOK - CONTINUOUS

Hannah and William watch as the two canoes move downstream.

HANNAH

We can't stay on the river. The others will join the Frenchman soon.

WILLIAM

Then how do we get home?

HANNAH

We have to walk. We'll stay close to the river. But not too close.

WILLIAM

By the time they get to the rapids, they'll know we hid somewhere. They'll comeback after us.

HANNAH

They'll wait for us at the rapids. It's our only way. But we'll go around, over the high ridge.

CUT

EXT - HEAD OF RAPIDS - NEXT DAY

Duvoir and Levarge watch as the repaired canoes approach the riverbank. Atoska peers across the river as a brave in the lead canoe raises his hands and turns his palms downwards.

ATOSKA

They do not find the woman and man child.

FAVOR Devoir.

LEVARGE

Then they are on foot.

DUVOIR

Why? They cannot hope to navigate through all this forest. It would take them weeks, even if they could survive.

LEVARGE

No food. No shelter. We could simply leave them to die out here.

DUVOIR

(considers)

Perhaps we haven't given the redhead enough credit. She fooled us all with that crazy dream walk of hers, didn't she?
Smart girl.

WIDEN as Duvoir turns to Atoska.

DUVOIR (cont)

Atoska, my brother. My guess is the woman and the boy are hobbling along, somewhere upstream. It is important that they do not escape.

ATOSKA

The woman is mine, Frenchee. I will not let her go.

Atoska turns towards the canoes, signaling for six braves to join him.

FAVOR Devoir.

DUVOIR

(calls after)

Whatever. Either way, take her far away to your lodge or bring me her scalp. Just don't allow her to pass this place. Auvoir!

CUT

EXT - FOREST - NEXT DAY

Near the high ridge above the river, Hannah and William move cautiously through the forest. Clouds move in, darkening the forest.

CLOSER

Hannah falls to her knees as they come across a small, gurgling stream. She drinks deeply. William joins her.

Finished, Hannah seeks privacy behind a boulder while William looks over their surroundings. TRACK as William wanders away from the stream, along a game path before stopping to grab a handful of roasted corn. As he raises the corn to his mouth his eyes go wide with fear.

CUT

OVER THE SHOULDER POV. One of Atoska's BRAVES stands before him, grinning like a devil as he slowly waves his tomahawk before him.

BRAVE

(pidgin French)

Demon woman. Where she?

(broken English)

Where red hair, English boy?

ANOTHER ANGLE

William backs up slowly, shaking his head. The brave advances menacingly.

WILLIAM

(deliberately loud)

I don't know where she is. She ran away into the forest.

BRAVE

No demon woman heart. I take your heart.

The brave leaps and swings at William just as the boy trips backwards.

CLOSER as the tomahawk slices into William's arm. The brave LAUGHS and steps forward. He places a foot on the boy's chest.

WILLIAM'S POV - UPSHOT

The brave raises his tomahawk for the kill blow. The brave suddenly stiffens with a wide-eyed expression of shock.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The brave turns slowly, silently, reaching for the tomahawk buried in his back. Hannah stands before him, frightened and defenseless as the brave CRIES out and prepares for a killing blow.

William leaps upon the brave's back and stabs him in the neck, over and over with the stolen Abenaki knife. The brave collapses. (5) William steps back, staring wide-eyed at what he'd done.

Hannah moves to William's side and takes the knife from the bloodied, shaking boy. Without hesitating, Hannah turns back to the brave. She scalps the dying brave even as he chokes on his own blood.

An ANIMAL'S CRY sounds from the river below.

HANNAH

William? William! That is no screech owl. We must go. Now.

Covered in his victim's blood, William stares at the dead brave, slowly shaking his head.

WILLIAM

No. No. No. No...

Hannah slaps the boy. William is startled from his fixation on the dead brave and leaps to his feet.

WILLIAM

We have to go.
(pointing upwards)
Over the rocks so they can't track us.

Hannah and William hurry up the hillside.

CUT

EXT - ATOP THE CREST - MINUTES LATER

The crest is mostly a bare rock and boulder-strewn ridge. House-sized boulders that have been piled up against each other

during the last glacial age form a tumbled scree.

The clouds darken quickly as Hannah and William emerge from the tree line and race on tired legs to find a place to hide. Lightning flashes mark the approaching storm.

EXT - BOULDER SCREE - MOMENTS LATER

Hannah reaches the massive scree and pulls William into a dark tunnel formed by the overlapping jumble of boulders.

CUT

INT - TUNNEL

The two squeeze deeply into the darkness until they can go no further. They stop at a place where a glimmer of light falls through, from an opening about seven feet above their heads.

The two shiver at the CRIES of the pursuers, outside and not far away. Hannah hugs William to her and sobs.

HANNAH

I'm sorry, Will. I am so sorry.

WILLIAM

No. We can make it. We have to.

The two are oblivious to a pair of yellow eyes watching from a narrow cleft, deeper into the tunnel.

CLOSER

On dark cleft. The eyes blink.

CUT

EXT - MOUNTAIN TOP - CONTINUOUS

Two young Abenaki braves search for the escapee's spoor but with the dimming light they are unable to find any clues on the bare stone.

They begin to peer in amongst the tumble of boulders, looking for possible hiding places. Both braves carry bows, with arrows held ready.

When the braves near the opening of Hannah's and William's hiding place, BRAVE 2 signals to split up. Brave 2 approaches the tunnel opening. BRAVE 3 climbs the tumble, to look for another opening.

Lightning flashes nearer and a light rain begins to fall.

Brave 2 cautiously nears the tunnel opening, his bow ready.

ABOVE

Brave 3 peers down one opening after another, waiting for lightning flashes to provide a glimpse within each dark recess.

INT - TUNNEL

Hannah and William hold each other tightly as the lightning flashes reveal a shadow moving at the mouth of the tunnel. They turn as the sound of a GUTTURAL PURR breaks the silence. They GASP as a COUGAR emerges slowly from the nearby crevice, its menacing focus on the two interlopers.

ABOVE

Brave 3 peers down into the opening above Hannah and William. Lightning flashes and the brave spy's movement below.

BRAVE 3

They are inside!

He launches an arrow down into the opening. The cougar SCREAMS.

Brave 3 is confused.

BELOW

Brave 2 faces the tunnel opening and readies his bow. The cougar suddenly leaps from the darkness, bowling the brave over as it sinks

its teeth into the brave's neck.

BRAVE 2
(scream)

ABOVE

TRACK as Brave 3 leaps down the tumble.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Brave 3 launches and arrow at the cougar. The cougar runs off. Brave 3 rushes to attend to his companion.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Brave 3 kneels to staunch the bleeding, Brave 2's eyes focus in horror, past his friend.

BRAVE 2's POV

Hannah strikes Brave 3's skull with the tomahawk. The brave stiffens and falls over, kicking. (6) Hannah steps forward and raises the tomahawk over Brave 2. A bright lightning flash is followed a half moment later by a booming thunder clap, just as Hannah starts to bring the tomahawk down. (7)

CUT

EXT - FOREST - LATER

The rain pours down as Atoska and two braves climb through the forest.

A third brave runs downhill to join them, obviously agitated. We are too far away to hear but the third brave passes along his information, almost in tears. Atoska is angry. The other two braves seem fearful.

CLOSER

Atoska angrily waves them all off and continues up the mountain. The other three braves watch a moment before turning away and hurry back

down the mountain.

CUT

EXT - HEAD OF RAPIDS - LATER

The rain has let up. Commotion starts as the two fearful braves from the hillside race into the bivouac, winded. Again, we are too far way to hear as the braves anxiously relate events atop the ridge.

CLOSER

Others gather around the two as they speak in their own dialect.

BRAVE A
(Abenaki)

The red hair showed herself as a panther.

BRAVE B
(Abenaki)

The demon woman ripped put his throat ate Tosha's heart. She is Kash-eki Ko-to!

WIDER

ABENAKI
(anxious walla)

The word, "Kash-eki Ko-to" keeps popping up and at each time the women and some of the braves make the sign to ward off evil.

INT - DUVOIR'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Duvoir preens himself, using a bowl of still water as a mirror. A naked Abenaki woman cautiously watches from his pallet. She touches her jaw tenderly.

Levarge calls from outside.

LEVARGE (OS)

Captain. There are developments.

EXT - TENT - CONTINUOUS

Levarge stands outside. He stiffens to attentions as Duvoir steps out.

DUVOIR

Developments? Please tell me, Corporal, what is it exactly, that you mean by "developments"?

LEVARGE

Atoska's braves have returned, Captain. They say the woman has killed two more braves. And that she has turned into a panther, eaten their hearts and taken their scalps.

DUVOIR

Rubbish!

LEVARGE

Of course. But it is worse. The Abenaki women say the red head is a demon, sent to eat all their hearts. They demand that their men release the captives and abandon us immediately.

Duvoir dons his blouse and heads towards the commotion. Levarge follows.

DUVOIR

So, what if the women think she's a demon?

LEVARGE

Sir, the Abenaki women make policy. The men follow that policy.

DUVOIR

Policy! We shall see.

(to crowd)

What is all this commotion? A few
Abenaki braves have died...heroically,
of course. So why this talk about
demons? The red hair is just a woman.

NEARBY

The worried women watch as Devoir and Leverage approach. One of the women makes a sign to ward off evil and points to Duvoir, ranting in her own language.

WOMAN

(Abenaki)

Kash-eki Ko-to!

ABENAKI

(frightened walla)

The other women agree. A few braves seem to agree.

BRAVE B

(pidgin French)

Red hair is a demon, sent to punish
us.

Most work themselves up for revenge.

BRAVE C

(Abenaki)

The red hair has killed our braves.
The Frenchman brought the demon's wrath.

ELDER WOMAN

(Abenaki)

We must leave this place. Let Kash-eki
Ko-to have the Frenchman.

LEVARGE

She says the burning hair woman is an angry demon that the Frenchee...that would be you...has unleashed upon them. She demands that they abandon us to the demon...er, the red hair woman.

DUVOIR

Silly savages. Call me as soon as Atoska returns.

Duvoir turns back to his tent.

CUT

EXT - BOTTOM OF CRAGGY MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NEXT MORNING

This is the trail leading up the cliff face where Uncas fell to his death on the scree below.

CLOSER

Hannah and William make their way slowly. William stops, clutching his arm where he'd been cut.

WILLIAM

I need to rest. Please.

Hannah looks at the festering wound.

HANNAH

Yes. You need to rest.

She looks about.

HANNAH (cont)

We came this way.

(to William)

Hide in the brush by the river. I'll come back.

WILLIAM

Mizz Dustin. Please don't leave me
Maam.

HANNAH

I need to do something. Just go hide.
And stay quiet, William. No noise.

Hannah hurries off the trail, towards the rockfall at the bottom of the sheer cliff face.

CLOSER

William's eyes well up with tears but he heads into the brush.

CUT

EXT - ROCKFALL - MOMENTS LATER

Hannah navigates the rockfall, looking up to the trail high above and searching the scree. Her nose picks up an odor and she heads to where some crows have settled on Uncas' partly eaten corpse.

Hannah pulls out the small knife she'd taken from the Abenaki woman when she and William escaped. She scatters the cawing crows and grabs the corpse's hair.

CUT

EXT - RIVERSIDE BRUSH - CONTINUOUS

William is curled up beneath the overhanging brush. He snuffles and then begins to cry softly.

NEARBY

Two adolescent braves move quietly but confidently along the river trail. Two women follow, bearing large loads on their backs. The younger woman carries an infant in a chest sling.

The lead brave motions for the others to halt and listen.

WILLIAM (OS)
(faint sobs)

The lead brave motions silently for the other brave to circle around the brush where William hides. The brave slashes the branches with his tomahawk. William screams.

WILLIAM
NO!

WIDER

William leaps up. The lead brave is startled and hesitates, then threatens William with the weapon as he reaches to grab the boy's hair and pull him from the brush. The brave raises his tomahawk and cries out to show his companions he's taken his first captive.

LEAD BRAVE
(Abenaki)
Look! I've caught my first English
rabbit.

ON TRAIL

The companions seem excited at this lucky turn of events.

BRAVE D
(Abenaki, laughing)
We should skin and roast him. I'm
sick and tired of pemmican and corn.

With a scream, Hannah rushes into the scene and barrels into the lead brave. The two fly off into the river with a splash.

HANNAH
(scream)

ON TRAIL

The brave's companions watch I shock. The two women make the sign to ward off evil.

ABENAKI WOMEN

(together)

Kash-eki Ko-to!

The women back away, dumbstruck by Hannah's vicious attack. The other brave hesitates as his companion struggles in the shallows with the demon woman...he backs up.

ON RIVER

Hannah and the brave wrestle in the shallows. The brave tries to escape the mad woman's clutches while Hannah tries to avoid the brave's wild tomahawk swings.

A lucky back-handed swing catches her forehead. The lead brave hesitates as the cut wells up with blood. Hannah screams and launches a maddened attack.

HANNAH

(blood curdling screams)

The brave backs up, clearly frightened. Hannah leaps, knocking the brave off his feet and onto his stomach. Hannah puts all her strength into holding the brave's head under the water. (8)

ON TRAIL

The three frightened Abenaki watch in horror as Hannah kills their companion. Finally, the other brave and raises his tomahawk.

BRAVE D

(war cry)

The brave takes two steps towards the river when Hannah turns her crazed gaze upon him. The brave freezes in his tracks, then turns to flee.

Hannah leaps up and, with the dead brave's tomahawk in hand, slogs through the shallows in pursuit.

HANNAH
(screams)

The Abenaki women drop their baggage as Hannah races towards them. The woman with the infant stumbles and covers her child. Hannah is upon her in a moment and rears back with the weapon held in two hands. Hannah lifts it high over the frightened woman, ready to drive it down in a killing strike. Hannah freezes when she sees the infant.

WILLIAM (OS)
It's only a child! Please!

Hannah doesn't react as William stumbles into the scene. She stares at the infant.

HANNAH'S POV

Hannah imagines she's seeing Molly's face and red hair.

BACK

Hannah's face relaxes. Tears well up in her eyes. William reaches slowly and takes the tomahawk from Hannah's hands. Hannah falls back, off the woman, her chest heaving with silent sobs.

WILLIAM
(to the woman)
You'd better go. Just go.

The woman gets to her feet, her eyes never leaving Hannah, and makes good her escape while William attends to Hannah.

CUT

EXT - BIVOUAC - EVENING

Atoska and his key braves sit around the fire with Duvoir and Leverage. Atoska uses a stick to draw in the sand as he explains to his braves.

ATOSKA
(Abenaki)

Red hair walked along stony hill, here.
Trail starts again here.

LEVARGE

(to Duvoir)

Atoska lost the woman's and the boy's
trail atop the stony mountain but
picked it up again to the west.

DUVOIR

Ah. They are going to try to make
their way around us. Good. That makes
the game more interesting.

Levarge looks at Duvoir, a bit worried.

The Braves talk anxiously among themselves.

BRAVES

(Abenaki)

(anxious walla)

Atoska motions them to silence. Duvoir sneers.

DUVOIR

Kash-eki Ko-to again? Superstitious
twits.

LEVARGE

Some of them say she will eat their
spirits. That she can't be killed.

CLOSE

DUVOIR

She's only a woman, for God's sake. I
fucked a woman, not a witch.

DUVOIR (cont)

(to Atoska)

Atoska, brother. I put my seed in the

red hair. If this woman is Kash-eki
Ko-to, then the demon is mine. I
control her, yes?

The braves MUMBLE amongst themselves.

ATOSKA

Captain Duvoir, they say maybe your seed
create demon inside red hair. Maybe demon
inside you also.

WIDEN

Duvoir considers.

DUVOIR

(sarcastic)

I've heard that before. Soon, though.
Soon we will find this red hair and
I will kill her myself.

Atoska nods.

CUT

EXT - ROCKY RIDGE - DAYS LATER

Hannah and William move along the forested crest of the ridge. They
move at a faster pace now that they carry food taken from the Abenaki's
abandoned baggage.

CLOSER

William's arm is wrapped and in a sling. Hannah's filthy, torn dress
has been replaced by one improvised from calico and Abenaki hides.
William stops and looks up to the sun.

WILLIAM

We're headed west and south but I can't
tell how far. We have to turn east at
some point.

HANNAH

Not until I'm certain.

Hannah moves on. William hurries to catch up.

WILLIAM

But we must be past the indians by now.

HANNAH

I don't want to be past them.

WILLIAM

(confused)

What?

WIDEN

HANNAH

I want to be behind them William.

William stops.

WILLIAM

(anxious)

Hannah! I want to go home.

Hannah stops and turns.

HANNAH

Then go home William.

(she points east)

Home is that way, for you. For me,
there is no going home...until I'm
certain.

Hannah turns and walks. William hesitates, then follows.

CUT

EXT - RIDGE - NIGHT

Hannah sits holding her knees, rocking silently at the edge of an outcrop that provides a sweeping view of the valley and the sandy river bottom below. William sleeps fitfully nearby. The waxing moon is enhanced by a thin cloud cover. Hannah cries silently.

In the faint light, Hannah spots a figure moving across the sandbanks far below. The figure stops and waves back to the tree line. Four other figures move from the tree line and cross the sand bank before stepping carefully through the shallow river.

CLOSE ON WILLIAM

He wakens with Hannah's hand across his mouth.

HANNAH

(whisper)

No noise. They're coming.

WIDEN

Silently the two gather their things and flee along the ridge.

CUT

EXT - RIVER BOTTOM - CONTINUOUS

The five braves move silently through the water and up onto the riverbank. The lead brave sends two of his companions up the hill, towards the ridge. He and the others set off along the river at a lope.

CUT

HIGH DRONE DOWNSHOT - MOVING DOWN RIVER

GAIN ahead as three more figures emerge from the tree line and cross the river, heading for Hannah's and William's side.

GAIN far ahead, passing Hannah and William as they make their way along the ridge. Across the forested ridges and valleys until it

ZOOMS IN on the war party's bivouac, lit by several small camp fires.

CUT

EXT - BIVOUAC - CONTINUOUS

Holding up a hand-drawn map of the area, Levarge points out key landmarks for Duvoir's benefit.

LEVARGE

Most of Atoska's braves are herding them as they would deer on a hunt.

DUVOIR

Ah, the doe is probably somewhere along one of these two ridges that point directly to us, yes?

LEVARGE

Correct Captain.

DUVOIR

She has been running for more than, what...twenty days? Incredible.

LEVARGE

And somehow managed to kill a half dozen braves. Possibly more.

DUVOIR

A pity I can't keep her. But then I would probably wake one morning with my throat cut ear to ear, only to witness the wild woman eating my still beating heart and toasting me with a glass of Bordeaux. An exciting thought, no?

Levarge ignores the grim humor, studying the map instead.

DUVOIR

(disappointed)

No. That would not be a thing to excite you, Colonel Leverage. Would it?

(pause)

No. I think not.

LEVARGE

There is no other way for her to go.

(points to the map)

She must pass through this gap. Afoot or by water but Atoska is waiting for her here.

CLOSE ON MAP

The map shows a narrowing, step-sided valley where the river backs up into a long lake before emptying out into a shallower plain.

DUVOIR

Like a hare before the beaters.

(tired)

I just want to go home, Leverage.

Don't you, my dear?

Duvoir waves Leverage away and opens the flap to his tent. An Abenaki woman waits inside.

CUT

EXT- VALLEY MOUTH - LATER

Atoska and his warriors have arrived at the point where the river empties from the valley and over the cascade. Their canoes are beached on the sand bar He looks about and speaks to his braves.

ATOSKA

(Abenaki)

You four...take the high path to the east.

(to four others)

You. Take your brothers, the high path to the west.

(to the remaining braves)

You. Spread across the mouth of the twin mountains, both sides of the river. I will search up river with my son. I want the red hair. Alive. Go now.

The braves set off. Atoska takes one canoe. His son takes another of the canoes and they shove off, upriver.

CUT

EXT - UPPER VALLEY - EARLY EVENING

Miles farther up the valley, Hannah and William struggle through the trackless forest. Near the ridge top. William's arm is swollen and useless but the boy plods along without complaint, though lagging behind Hannah.

CLOSER

As plods along herself Hannah takes a small melon from the Abenaki food bag. She cuts away the green mold growing on the bruised rind before biting into the fruit.

Hannah stops near a small rill that runs down the hillside, to let William catch up.

WILLIAM

(feverish)

Miss Hannah, do you think it's safe to return to the trail?

HANNAH

No, William. The French cannot let us take witness back to Haverhill, and the savages want revenge. They will look for us until they find us. It's safest to stay off the tracks.

WILLIAM

Can we stop. Just for a while. I
don't feel so well.

CLOSER

William's eyes roll up and the boy collapses. Hannah rushes to his side and feels his head.

HANNAH

Fever.

Hannah unwraps William's arm.

CLOSE

It is red and swollen and puss leaks out of the partly closed gash. Hannah is distraught and not sure what to do. She looks about and rips a part of her tattered, filthy dress.

Wringing the cloth out in the rill, Hannah cools William's brow.

HANNAH

What do I do? What do I do?

Hannah gets an idea. She looks about and sees only dense pine forest.

From the food bag she takes steel and flint and sets them aside as she gathers pine needles and twigs.

At the base of a fallen, rotted pine tree Hannah clears a small space and teases the driest and finest fibers from the rotted log. She puts steel to flint.

CUT

MINUTES LATER

William sleeps fretfully next to the log as Hannah holds the small, stolen knife over the flame. She turns to William...hesitates. Suddenly Hannah's free hand covers William's mouth and she pushes

the knife deep into the infected arm.

William wakes with a start and struggles but Hannah holds her hand tight as she cuts.

HANNAH
(softly)

Shush, baby. Mamma's here. Mamma will
take care of you. Don't you cry.

William faints.

WIDEN

Hannah sits back, exhausted. She turns suddenly and vomits. She sobs. Hannah turns back to William's arm and, taking a breath, squeezes. Puss bursts out and Hannah cleans it as best she can with her torn dress.

Hannah collects herself and takes a second melon from the food bag. It too is covered with green mold, which Hannah slices off with the knife.

She rinses the blood and puss-soaked cloth out in the rill and binds the moldy rind over William's wound.

Hannah collapses back against the log and puts out the small fire.

CUT

EXT - LOG SHELTER - NEXT DAY

The sun is high in the sky when Hannah awakens in a panic, expecting an attack. She realizes she and William are safe and calms herself.

Hannah soaks another strip from her dress and tends to William. William stirs.

HANNAH
Quiet, William. You don't feel so
hot today.

WILLIAM
(groggy)

Where...?

HANNAH
On the road home. But we still have
a long way to go.

Hannah unbinds the wrap on William's arm. The slash is still red but the swelling is down. Hannah cleans the injury as best she can and places another piece of moldy rind on the wound before covering it.

HANNAH
The wound seems better. Have something
to eat and then try to walk.

Hannah hands William a pemmican cake and a gourdful of water. The boy wolfs down both before laying back.

WILLIAM
I think I can walk, Misses Dustin.

HANNAH
It's Hannah. Call me Hannah from
now on.

William nods.

CUT

EXT - VALLEY MOUTH - LATER

Part of the war party has gathered on the sand bank as Atoska and his son return in the canoes.

CLOSER

Atoska leaps out, warily watching the group.

ATOSKA

Why are you not seeking the red hair?

BRAVE 4

We want to go home, Atoska. Let the red hair go on her path.

BRAVE 5

She is a demon.

BRAVE 6

Kash-eki Ko-to!

BRAVE 4

Yes! Kash-eki Ko-to. We cannot fight this demon.

BRAVE 5

We will take our spoils and captives and go home to Quebec.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ATOSKA

The red hair is no demon. And you are not warriors to be frightened by the English woman.

(angry)

I will say when you may return to your lodges.

BRAVE 4

You may be their running dog, Atoska but we will follow the Frenchee no longer.

BRAVE 5

The Frenchee is crazy in his head and his heart is black. The Kash-eki Ko-to comes for him.

BRAVE 6

It is not our fight.

ATOSKA

I say it is our fight, Sota. Six of
your brothers are dead by the red hair.
Only a coward would shame himself by
leaving their spirits unavenged

Sota angrily garbs the tomahawk in his belt. Atoska's son steps forward, his bow already notched with an arrow.

ATOSKA

Your woman will sleep in a cold bed
if you dare, Sota.

Brave 4 steps forward, angry.

BRAVE 4

You and your son will die here if need
be. We go!

Atoska suddenly whips out his knife and thrusts it into Brave 4's belly before ripping upwards.

WIDEN

The gathering steps back, horrified and cowed as Atoska lets the dying brave drop to the sand. Atoska turns on the others.

ATOSKA

Who will dare deny his war chief now?
Step forward with your blade and match
me.

WIDEN

The braves are silenced by the sudden violence. No one makes a sound.

ATOSKA (cont)

Go now. Find the red hair and bring

her to me. I will avenge our brothers.

The braves separate as Atoska and his son watches.

CUT

EXT - PINE FOREST - LATER

Hannah and William sit against the log. Hannah checks the food bag to find it almost empty. William flexes his arm.

HANNAH

We have little left to eat, William.
We must make it back to Haverhill.

WILLIAM

The river below might be the Merrimack.
That would take us home.

HANNAH

The hunters would know that. They
would wait for us. We need to keep
to the pines but with the river
always close by. Are you ready?

William leans on his one good arm and struggles to push himself up. Hannah gathers their dwindling bag of supplies. They both drink heartily from the rill before setting off through the pines.

CUT

EXT - VALLEY - LATER

Atoska leads Duvoir and his men up the valley, along the river. They stop to look towards the ridge crests, where in the distance puffs of white smoke rise through the trees. Atoska turns to Duvoir.

ATOSKA

The warriors signal that red hair
has not passed. The smoke will warn
the woman away from the ridges and

force her down to the river.

DUVOIR

Clever, my brother. Very clever.
But so is the red hair.

Atoska waves the troop forward.

CUT

EXT - PINE FOREST - SUNDOWN - CONTINUOUS

Hannah and William trudge onwards, always south along the ridge crest, to the east of the river. Hannah pauses. William freezes. Hannah sniffs. She moves cautiously and stops at a small clearing.

The cold remains of the small fire Hannah sensed is evidence of recent visitors. Warily, Hannah and William look about. William finds a strip of worked hide...an Abenaki teething toy. Hannah discovers moccasin prints in the soil.

HANNAH

It looks like only women and children.
I see no larger prints.

WILLIAM

Hannah! Look!

William points to a cairn of stones topped with a doll-like effigy. Hannah approaches and picks up the doll.

CLOSER

The doll has a crude dress like Hannah's and its hair is straw that's been dyed red.

WILLIAM

It could be you.

Hannah considers.

HANNAH

Maybe it is me. But why?

William begins dislodging the stones and quickly finds a hide bag filled with food.

WILLIAM

The indians hid this here.

HANNAH

I think they wanted us to find it.

I think its from the women.

William digs into the cache and begins eating roasted corn.

HANNAH (cont)

I'm not sure what it means.

CUT

EXT - MAIN ABENAKI CAMP - NIGHT

Most of the men are gone and a few younger braves stand guard as the women complete their tasks.

At various places around the perimeter of the camp are red-haired doll effigies and small offerings of food, utensils or craftwork.

The eldest Abenaki woman prepares to bed down. She looks about, concerned.

ELDER WOMAN

(Abenaki)

Kash-eki Ko-to, turn your wrath away
from those who honor you.

She makes the signs to ward off evil spirits.

NEARBY

Two of the young braves watch the woman intently. They silently make

the same sign before going back to their watch.

CUT

EXT - RIVER VALLEY - SUNRISE

Duvoir and Levarge join Atoska at the river's edge, peering intently far up the valley. Here and there very faint white puffs of smoke are visible. Farther on, a tiny, dark and steady plume rises from the ridge crest.

DUVOIR

It appears one of your braves has word of the red hair.

ATOSKA

Yes. The black smoke tells me the woman has been seen. She will come to us now.

DUVOIR

Oh, finally. Quebec, here I come.

CUT

EXT - PINE FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Hannah stands in a clearing atop the ridge, looking south. William joins her, wiping the sleep from his eyes.

WILLIAM

What is it?

HANNAH

See the white smoke?

WILLIAM

They're herding us...like my Papa and the others would herd deer down a valley.

HANNAH

Yes.

(turning to the north)

But there. The dark smoke. It's the only one that's not white.

WILLIAM

You think it means something?

Hannah nods.

HANNAH

We have to go. Quickly.

CUT

EXT - RIDGE - LATER

Hannah and William hurry along the almost barren ridge crest. A dark cloud cover moves in.

ROTATE CAMERA

A pair of Abenaki braves lope along, far behind them, while other braves flank their prey along the hillsides, driving Hannah and William towards Duvoir and Atoska.

BACK TO HANNAH

Hannah and William race for their lives along the open ridge crest. A wind picks up as the darkening clouds move in quickly. Lightning flashes in the distance.

Hannah stumbles and goes down, clutching her ankle. William turns to help her up and sees two of their pursuers a mile behind them.

WILLIAM

Come on, Hannah! They're right close behind us. We have to go!

HANNAH

Run, William! I can't. Not anymore.

William struggles to help Hannah up. They move as fast as Hannah's sprained ankle will allow.

Hannah and William come to the end of the ridge, where a jumbled scree of boulders have left a steep climb down. The two begin navigating their way down the scree.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - CONTINUOUS

It rains gently. The wind picks up. Atoska's remaining braves, their camp followers and the Frenchmen have gathered near the bottom of the ridge when a runner approaches the war chief.

RUNNER

The red hair is trapped on the mountain.
She has no way to go except onto your
blade, Atoska.

Atoska grins and nods.

ATOSKA

(to Duvoir)

I will bring you the demon's hair,
Frenchee.

DUVOIR

Whatever makes you happy, my brother.
I am more than pleased to wait down
here.

ATOSKA

You must come. My warriors say you
prefer your tent to facing the demon
that you brought into this world.

Duvoir casually wraps a piece of hide around his pistol's flash pan.

DUVOIR

Your warriors think like children...

ATOSKA

(interrupts)

Our women say you deserve no respect
and that their men should not fight
for the Frenchee any longer.

LEVARGE

(to Duvoir)

Captain, this may be a problem.
Perhaps you should join Atoska and
put to rest any doubts.

DUVOIR

Oh, all right. I will climb the
mountain and scalp the woman myself.
Happy?

(to Atoska and his warriors)

Let's go now.

The war party sets off up the hillside, towards the scree of boulders
above.

CUT

EXT - RIDGE CREST - CONTINUOUS

William crouches among the boulders, hidden as he peers down the
hillside. His eyes widen.

WILLIAM'S POV

Atoska and Duvoir lead their men up the hill.

BACK

WILLIAM

(frantic)

They're coming up the hill!

TRACK as William runs back along the deep, narrow crack in the granite that forms a natural pathway along the ridge top. He stops and looks up.

Hannah stands amongst broken granite slabs, searching back along the ridge crest.

HANNAH'S POV

Two braves approach, about a half mile way.

HANNAH

(panicked)

William! I'm sorry. We're trapped.

WILLIAM

We can't give up!

William tries to climb the crack but can't get any footing.

WILLIAM

Hannah, I'm stuck down here. I want to be with you.

Hannah gets an idea.

HANNAH

William. Do you trust me?

WILLIAM

Huh?

HANNAH

Do you really, really trust me?

William nods.

HANNAH

Go to the far end of the pathway, where the stone is narrowest. Wait

there with your tomahawk.

WILLIAM

Wha...

HANNAH

Just do it. When the braves see you,
scream as loud and as long as you can.
I'll take care of you. I promise.

With tears in his eyes, William nods and retreats down the narrow crack.

CUT

EXT - OPENING TO CRACK - MINUTES LATER

The two pursuing braves hesitate. They scour the wet ground for signs of their prey before continuing into the crack. At the narrowest point the braves slow down and turn sideways to navigate some of the jutting, broken slabs of granite.

WILLIAM (OS)

(wild screams, continuous)

The braves freeze, finding William just yards away, waving his tomahawk like a mad man.

The second brave's head is suddenly crushed by a large slab of falling granite.

The first brave looks up in shock.

BRAVE'S POV

Hannah holding another slab over her head.

BACK

Between William's screaming and the red-haired demon above, the first brave panics and tries to squeeze past his dead companion when the

slab hits him and shatters his shoulder.

The brave goes to his knees, without a cry. He looks up at the wild apparition above him.

BRAVE

(calmly)

Kash-eki Ko-to.

The brave begins to sing his death song

ABOVE

Hannah lifts another stone, ready to throw it down.

BELOW

William suddenly races into the scene and, in a one-armed frenzy, slashes down with his tomahawk, over and over.

WILLIAM

Die! Die!

ABOVE

Hannah holds the stone above her head, watching the boy's moment of beastly insanity. She drops the stone and falls to her knees.

HANNAH

Oh, Lord, it is not right. Please, God,
he is but a child.

Hannah takes a deep breath and leaps to her feet.

BELOW

William is covered in gore. Unmoving, he stares silently past his victim. Silence. Hannah steps up behind William and puts her arms around his chest.

HANNAH

(softly)
It's okay, child. Mama's here. It's
all right.

Hannah gently takes the bloody tomahawk from William's hand and leads him away from the carnage, to a hiding place among the boulders, where the boy sits silently, in shock. Hannah leaves the food bag and kisses William on the forehead.

HANNAH
Be safe, William.

Hannah leaves William.

CUT

EXT- DOWNHILL - MOMENTS LATER

The rain continues and lightning flashes, followed moments later by rolling thunder. Duvoir follows as Atoska's group climbs the hill.

DUVOIR
(sarcastic)
Wouldn't it be just so ironic, Leverage,
if we were to be struck by lightning.

Sachem points.

SACHEM
(Abenaki)
There!

SACHEM'S POV

In the distance, Hannah moves down the slope, attempting to lead the war party away from William.

DUVOIR
Ah, the bird has flown.

CUT

EXT - HILLSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Hannah rushes down the boulder-strewn slope, TOWARDS CAMERA. Behind her, the two pursuing braves crest the ridge. They spy Hannah and give chase.

CLOSER on Hannah as she struggles to maintain her balance. She stops suddenly.

HANNAH'S POV

More braves emerge from the tree line, on a path to intercept her.

BACK

Hannah changes direction and flees towards the boulder scree.

EXT - RIDGE CREST - CONTINUOUS

Two of the braves stop and notch arrows to their bows. They pull back and let loose.

EXT - HILLSIDE

One after the other the arrows miss Hannah. She hesitates and looks back up the hill.

HANNAH'S POV

The two braves have notched fresh arrows. One lets fly.

BACK

Hannah darts to the side and barely misses being struck.

FAVOR TWO BRAVES

The second arrow is let loose.

FAVOR HANNAH

The arrow strikes Hannah in the fleshy side, near her waist.

HANNAH
(scream)

Hannah goes down in pain. As she hits the ground and rolls, the arrow's feathered end of the shaft breaks off and leaving the tip rest of the shaft imbedded.

CLOSE as Hannah grimaces and tries in vain to pull the arrow out from her waist. She rolls over and collapses face down.

A shadow covers Hannah. A moccasin foot kicks her in the ribs. Hannah CRIES out.

HANNAH
(anguish)

Noooooo...

WIDER

Atoska bends down, grinning with pleasure. He rolls her over roughly, causing the arrow's head to push through and emerge. Hannah grabs the shaft that is now sticking out from her body.

HANNAH
(scream of pain)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Duvoir and the others climb near and watch as Atoska straddles Hannah. The war chief pulls out his knife. He squats and grabs Hannah's hair. He pulls it tight, ready to scalp.

CLOSER

With a sudden, mighty effort, Hannah pulls out the arrow shaft...

HANNAH
(screams)

You will not!

...and stabs up, driving the tip deep into Atoska's groin.

FAVOR ATOSKA

Atoska stiffens...a bewildered look on his face. He stands up slowly and looks down at the blood pumping from his severed artery. Atoska looks at Hannah with eyes wide.

ATOSKA

(last breaths)

Kash-eki Ko-to!

The war chief collapses. (9)

WIDER

Cries go up from the warriors that are now rushing to Atoska's side. Maddened, Sachem throws down his bow and arrows and storms towards Hannah.

ANOTHER ANGLE

All eyes are on Atoska's enraged son as he looks down upon his dead father.

CLOSER

Sachem takes out his tomahawk and turns to Hannah. Hannah backs away to the edge of the boulder scree as Sachem follows, expression of insane anger on his face. Sachem raises his weapon.

FAVOR SACHEM

An arrow suddenly erupts through Sachem's neck. WIDEN to reveal William standing behind Atoska's dying son. (10) Sachem's empty bow is held awkwardly in the boy's wounded arm. Fresh blood drips from William's bandaged wound.

ON GATHERING

No one makes a noise. All are awed at what they've just witnessed. Most of the braves make the sign to ward off evil. They MUMBLE amongst themselves. The scene is reminiscent of the moment just after Dorothy killed the witch.

ABENAKI

(awed walla)

Kash-eki Ko-to...

DUVOIR (OS)

Someone please kill that brat!

The gathering redirects their attention.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Duvoir and Leverage climb up the scree to face the woman they'd been chasing for so long.

FAVOR HANNAH

Hannah struggles to rise, leaning back against a boulder.

DUVOIR (cont)

Kill her!

No one moves. William moves to Hannah's side, fumbling with another arrow.

ON GATHERING

BRAVE C

Kash-eki Ko-to!

The others make the sign.

ABENAKI

(together)

Kash-eki Ko-to...

FAVOR DUVOIR

Duvoir looks about, disgusted.

DUVOIR

Kash-eki Ko-to, my derriere! She's just a mad woman. You are all just women.

Duvoir turns to Hannah and raises his pistol. He pulls the trigger but the gunpowder simply sparks and sizzles.

DUVOIR

(overwhelmed)

Oh, come now!

Duvoir starts to withdraw his sword from its scabbard when Hannah cries out.

HANNAH

Die!

She launches herself, Duvoir is taken off guard and is thrown backwards, off the scree and down, out of sight.

DUVOIR

Noooooooooo!

Levarge and William rush to the edge and looks down, aghast.

CUT

DOWNSHOT - BELOW SCREE

Hannah is splayed out in the dirt, twenty feet below. Duvoir hangs suspended near Hannah...his foot caught in the shattered trunk of a dead tree.

LEVARGE

Captain! Are you all right?

BELOW

Duvoir is dazed but trapped awkwardly, upside down.

DUVOIR

I've broken my leg. Help me.

WIDER

The Abenaki braves gather around the scene. The women join them.

DUVOIR

(angry)

Don't just stare, you fools. Help me.

NEAR

Hannah stirs. She raises herself up and discovers her tormentor hanging defenseless. Hannah stands and limps over to Duvoir's sword. She picks up the blade and makes her way to Duvoir.

CLOSER

Hannah has murder in her eyes.

ON DUVOIR

Duvoir sees what's coming.

DUVOIR

(crying)

No. Please.

Hannah grabs Duvoir's red hair and pulls it up hard, making the frightened Frenchman look her in the eyes.

ON GATHERING

The Abenaki braves and their women look on without expression.

FAVOR HANNAH

She raises the sword blade to Duvoir' s head.

DUVOIR

(weeping)

Please no. For love of God, no.

HANNAH

God has nothing to do with this.

ON GATHERING

They watch without emotion.

DUVOIR (OS)

(screams)

Some of the warriors make as if to move against Hannah.

WILLIAM (OS)

(shout)

Stop!

The gathering turns.

ANOTHER ANGLE

William has the bow notched and drawn as best he van manage with the one bad arm.

WILLIAM

(determined)

Nobody touches Hannah Dustin!

The senior Abenaki woman intercedes, with her hands held out.

ABENAKI WOMAN

Kash-eki Ko-to!

She makes the sign. The others make the sign.

WIDER

The gathering begins to turn away and, without a word, leave, start to leave.

ANOTHER ANGLE

From their vantage point above Hannah. Leverage and William watch, bewildered. Hannah looks up, almost daring the French corporal to say something. He doesn't. He turns and exits.

CLOSE

Hannah as she collapses.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - LATER

The last of the Abenaki canoes paddle away, upriver. One canoe is left at the edge of the sand bar, along with bags of food and offerings, including several of the Kash-eki Ko-to dolls.

William helps Hannah towards the canoe.

CUT

EXT - DOWN RIVER - LATER

A lone canoe mostly drifts down river. William does his best to paddle with one good arm while Hannah lies unconscious in the canoe.

CUT

EXT - RIVER - DAYS LATER

DRONE SHOT as the canoe drifts below.

William and Hannah are asleep as the canoe slowly passes a field of ripening corn before coming to a stop at the river bank. WIDEN as two field hands run towards the canoe, their muskets ready.

CUT

EXT - CABIN - DAYS LATER

William sits on a bench in the sun. His arm is bandaged with a clean cloth and he flexes it cautiously. The WOMAN of the house exits checks William's bandage...then nods. Nearby, flies buzz around a small Abenaki pouch that hangs alone on a fence post.

CUT

INT - CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Hannah sits up on a pallet bed, staring into the distance. The FARMER observes her with concern. The woman enters the scene and the two lean together to whisper.

CUT

EXT - HAVERHILL VILLAGE - LATE AUTUMN

Signs of the Abenaki raid remain but they are quickly being hidden by new construction. More people, and noticeably more muskets, make their busy way around the village commons, where sheep graze and children play.

A group of MEN having a heated discussion. Darby is among them.

MAN 1

To think that it could have been my family...taken by the red beasts.

MAN 2

We should call out the militia and teach them savages a lesson, before the weather turns.

DARBY

Can't do it. Gotta stick here for the harvest or starve during the winter.

No two ways...about...it.

Darby's attention is caught by an approaching figure across the commons.

DARBY

Strike me if I ain't seeing a ghost.

MAN 2

What's with you, Darby?

Darby ignores the man and walk towards the approaching figure. The woman walks as if elderly or in pain but with a strong determination.

DARBY

(bewildered)

Hannah? Hannah Dustin? Is it truly
you, Maam?

Hannah doesn't respond. She continues past Darby, her jaw set tight, her gaze fixed ahead. Her face is gaunt, but in the way a martyred saint's might be.

Hannah holds the Abenaki bag we saw on the farmer's fence post. Darby hesitates, then follows.

DARBY

(awed)

It is you, Misses Dustin. How in
the sweet Lord's name...

Hannah continues without a word.

NEAR

Villagers turn to watch while others join Darby as he follows Hannah towards a tiny log building with a British flag set atop a pine pole. This is the new village trade post and the official office for colonial business.

CUT

INT - TRADE POST - MOMENTS LATER

The PROPRIETOR is busy sorting a few pieces of mail. He looks up and does a slight take as Hannah steps up to the counter board. He sets the mail aside.

PROPRIETOR

Morning, Maam. What can I do for you?

Hannah throws her bag on the counter. The proprietor flinches from the smell and looks at Hannah, as if to ask what it is.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Darby and quite a few others squeeze into the post to see what the commotion is about.

CROWD

(walla)

Hannah opens the bag and pulls out the first scalp.

DARBY

Good God! That's an indian's scalp!

Hannah pulls out a second...and a third. The crowd is startled.

MAN

How many's in there?

MAN

Who cut them?

CLOSER ON COUNTER

Ten scalps are laid out.

PROPRIETOR

Don't care where they came from or who in hell cut them but those are

indian scalps for sure. I'm authorized by the Governor to pay a guinea each, Maam. If it's okay, I'll have your coins by day's end.

FAVOR HANNAH

Hannah remains silent. She reaches into the bag and pulls out a red-haired scalp. A collective GASP goes up from the onlookers.

MAN

(surprise)

Lord be just! That ain't no indian scalp.

PROPRIETOR

(shock)

Maam! That's a white man's hair. I can't pay you for that.

CLOSE

Hannah looks the proprietor in the eye.

HANNAH

I'm not selling it.

WIDER

Hannah tucks Duvoir's scalp in her sash and walks out, the onlookers parting silently.

CUT

EXT - VILLAGE COMMONS - CONTINUOUS

A larger crowd has gathered outside. Hannah walks past them and across the commons, back the way she'd come.

FADE

END