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The image of Cathy, eyes closed, underwater, breathing through a reed in a creek, fills the screen. For several moments, we watch the young Cathy immersed in cool water. Bubbles escape from her nostrils.

SHE HEARS HER MOTHER'S VOICE COMING FROM FARAWAY.

CATHY'S MOTHER

Cathy! Cathy! Where are you!
Cathy, where are you, baby?

She jerks open her eyes, opens her mouth to answer. Wakes up COUGHING.

Allbright holds a cup to her lips, pouring in liquid. Cathy spits it out. Can barely speak.

CATHY

Horse piss?

ALLBRIGHT

Anything to keep you alive. Look.

PULL BACK to show they are on top of a high mesa. The Rio Grande sparkles silver in the distance.

ALLBRIGHT (CONT'D)

We made it, Cath. We're free

Cathy struggles to sit up. She's too weak, but behind Allbright she sees something. Points. Allbright turns. IN THE DISTANCE a cloud of dust rises.

START

CATHY

Levi, they're coming.

Allbright goes to horses. Cathy's won't stand.

CATHY (CONT'D)

She's played out, Levi.

He goes to help her up.

ALLBRIGHT

We'll ride double.

Cathy can't stand.

ALLBRIGHT (CONT'D)

They're coming, heart string. We got to go.

CATHY

No, Levi, I can't make it.

ALLBRIGHT

You can. I'll hold you.

CATHY

The weight'll kill her, Levi, then we'll both get caught. You have to go.

ALLBRIGHT

I can't leave you, Cathy.

CATHY

You can't stay, Levi. I'll come find you. Black man in Mexico. Won't be that hard.

ALLBRIGHT

No, they'll hang you.

CATHY

They won't. Dawbert won't want it getting around that he had a woman in his command. They'll drum me out fast and quiet as they can. Soon as they do, I'll come for you.

ALLBRIGHT

I love you Cathy Williams. I think I even loved you before I knew.

CATHY

You did?

ALLBRIGHT

I did. You make a hell of a man, woman.

Their kiss is a promise that, no matter what happens, they will always be together. Cathy pushes him away.

CATHY

Go, Levi. Ride. Stay alive. For both of us. I'll find you.

He doesn't move.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Go!

ALLBRIGHT

I can't. I....

Cathy pulls out her gun and turns it on herself.

CATHY
Go or I'll pull the trigger.

ALLBRIGHT
(reaches out for gun)
Cathy, no--

CATHY
(cocking trigger)
You know that I will. **END**

Allbright mounts his horse. He turns to reach back to her and Cathy FIRES her gun. The horse, spooked, bolts off. In the last rays of the fading sunset, Cathy watches Levi ride for freedom.

INT. KITCHEN, NEARBY FORT - SAME TIME

Clemmie wipes out a heavy pot. A few other workers clean up. A TROOPER rushes in. He leaves his rifle propped at the edge of the kitchen.

TROOPER
Hey, y'all, you ain't never gonna believe what just come over the wire. Big hunt's on for some troopers making a break for the Mexican border.

Clemmie drops the heavy pot onto the floor.

CLEMMIE
What fort?

TROOPER
(snitches an apple, bites into it)
You know...
(unconcerned wave)

CLEMMIE
(grabs apple)
What fort?

TROOPER
Hey! Gimme my--

Clemmie has a knife at the trooper's neck before he knows what is happening.