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EXT. NEW CORRAL - DAY, HOURS LATER

Cathy and Lemuel struggle with a giant post. Suddenly a hand reaches over her head and steadies it. She turns, looks into Allbright's face, radiant with love.

START ALLBRIGHT
Hi there. Cathy. Cathay.

LEMUEL
Thanks, Sarge. I'm gonna run get
the sledge, tamp her in.
(moves away)
You got it?

ALLBRIGHT
I got it.

Lemuel runs off. Cathy glances around, then hisses

CATHY
You done lost your mind? Why don't
you just go on kiss me right here
in front of everybody?

ALLBRIGHT
I was only--

CATHY
You are only gonna get me killed.

ALLBRIGHT
No one will-

CATHY
You know what these jackals'd do to
me, they ever found out? They'd
rape me to death.

ALLBRIGHT
I'd kill the first man lay a finger
on you.

CATHY
You gonna be by my side every
minute of the next year 'til my
hitch is up? Cause that's what
it'd take.

Allbright looks away, tries to master his emotions.

ALLBRIGHT

What am I supposed to do? Forget
what happened? Who you really are?
How I feel?

Cathy glances around. Reed and a crony are staring hard.

CATHY

(whispers)

That's exactly what I want you to
do.

(off his look)

Levi, Army's all I got in this
world. Don't take it away. Please.

ALLBRIGHT

We could get married.

CATHY

Then what? I work as a laundress?
Cook? Whore? Levi, there is no
place out here for a black wife.

He moves to touch her. Cathy jumps back, yells.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Yessir, sergeant, sir! On the
double, sir!

END

She snaps off a salute. Reluctantly Allbright returns it.
Cathy hurries away.

~~INT. TELEGRAPH ROOM - DAY, A WEEK LATER~~

~~Carter and ANOTHER OFFICER wait for the telegraph operator
transcribing a message. The instant he's done, Carter rips
the paper from his hand, reads, tells the other officer.~~

~~CARTER~~

~~It's worse than we thought.
Settlers being massacred from here
south to the Big Bend.~~

~~They leave.~~

~~EXT. FORT, MOVING~~

~~ANOTHER OFFICER~~

~~Chewing Bones?~~

~~CARTER~~

~~Has to be. Victims burned alive.
Bodies mutilated. Girls kidnapped.~~

~~(MORE)~~