

ALLBRIGHT

Do what you have to, Washington.

Cathy flinches at the SOUND OF A GUNSHOT.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

The detachment is halted as the Indian scout studies the tracks they are following. After several moments, the scout looks up and points in a direction perpendicular to the one they have been following.

Cathy watches in alarm as Dawbert motions the detachment to go that way. THEY MOVE OUT.

Cathy rides up to Allbright. The patrol has spread out. No one is around to hear.

START

CATHY

Levi, stop them. You know that Chewing Bones' leading us on a wild goose chase.

ALLBRIGHT

Wild? Led us straight to that alkali lake. That wasn't wild. Pretty smart in fact. Now part of his band is leading us deeper into the badlands while most of the band stays safe.

CATHY

Levi, you got to tell the colonel.

ALLBRIGHT

Only thing I "got to do" is stay black and die.

CATHY

Us too? Levi, I don't want to die.

Allbright glances around.

ALLBRIGHT

Cathy, can leave. I've got it all planned out.

CATHY

Leave? You mean desert?
(concerned)

Do you need water cuz you are talkin' out of your head.

ALLBRIGHT

We can do it. We can be free.
Really free.

CATHY

Levi, they'd put that tracker on us
and we'd be shot before we could
die of thirst. We don't have enough
water.

ALLBRIGHT

I know a water hole less than two
days ride from here.

CATHY

Levi, no. There is no life for me
out there. In here, in the army,
I'm someone. Out there.... A
black woman? Out there I'm nothing.
Nothing.

ALLBRIGHT

Cathy, remember that time I first
ever talked to Chewing Bones.
Remember you asked me what he said.
I wouldn't tell you.

(Cathy nods)

What he said ... What he said was
that if his enemy ever enslaved him
and if he somehow got free, he
would torture then kill that enemy
as slowly as possible. He would
not become his enemy's slave again.
Chewing Bones asked me why I was my
enemy's slave. He asked me why I
was helping the white man make
slaves of the red man. Cathy, I
don't have an answer anymore.

(long pause)

I don't have an answer. Come with
me.

CATHY

Levi, they'll hang us as deserters.

ALLBRIGHT

Not if they don't catch us. Cathy,
I can lead us to water. I can lead
us to freedom. Will you come?

She nods.

ALLBRIGHT (CONT'D)

Good. Tell Lemuel.

↓ END