

YOUNG RIDERS

"William's Station"

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(Based on the historic records of the Express which culminated in the Pyramid Lake War- the last major Indian confrontation. It all began with the rape of two Paiute girls at William's Station and the memory of not being able to stop it haunts Lou...)

ACT ONE

A) At WILLIAM'S STATION we see 5 rough looking TRADERS drag 2 PAIUTE GIRLS into the BARN. We hear BOOTH tell JOE to get more whiskey.

B) IKE comes in from a run and passes a lucky rabbit's foot to BUCK, who then goes out. They have been debating about superstitions and spirituality. LOU is gone and everyone else is doing chores.

C) LOU arrives at WILLIAM'S. As she comes in, she hears screams from the BARN that everyone else is ignoring. She can't ignore it and goes to investigate. Looking in a window, she sees some of the men have stripped down to their unders. They left their guns by the door.

She busts in with her gun drawn to stop it. She orders them all to back away from the GIRLS. Just as the GIRLS are about to get away, JOE comes back and sneaks up behind LOU. She has to drop her weapon.

BOOTH

Now just run along, boy, if ya ain't man enough
to join in the fun.

LOU backs away and out the BARN as RIDER 1 comes in. She gets the mail bag and takes off as more screams ring in her ears.

D) BUCK is riding along. Suddenly, his horse is spooked by a snake. It rears up, throwing BUCK to the ground. He hits his head on a rock as he lands and is knocked out.

ACT TWO

A) LOU is at HOME with KID, HICKOK, CODY, IKE, EMMA and TEASPOON. She is withdrawn and keeps to herself. The others wonder what is wrong.

B) Later in the day, BUCK comes to.
He is very dizzy and hurt- he doesn't know why he's there or where he is. The

horse has been long gone. BUCK feels the blood on his head and then up at the hot sun. He's got to find water and he looks around the desolate area. Where to go?

C) IKE is on the porch waiting for Buck to come in. As RIDER 2 gets closer, IKE sees its not his friend and gets the others. RIDER 2 explains how Buck never showed up at the station, so he rode on. IKE is frantic- they have to find him. They all can't go so CODY volunteers with IKE. The two of them leave.

D) BUCK is wandering around in the nearby foothills, barely hanging on. Finally, he spots a stream, but collapses before he can get to it.

ACT THREE

A) BUCK is laying there by the stream as it gets dark. He appears dead, but then we hear an angelic voice.

CORN MOTHER

Arise Buck and face me.

BUCK opens his eyes. He hesitates, still feeling disoriented, then he stands up. He turns around to see his body still lying there.

B) It's evening as IKE and CODY arrive at a SWING STATION which would have been BUCK's first stop. He's not there. The boys switch mounts and go on.

C) We see it's night at the BUNKHOUSE. LOU, KID and HICKOK are sleeping. LOU is in the midst of a nightmare about the rape and the voice of BOOTH taunts her.

BOOTH (VO)

Join in the fun, boy. Ain't ya man enough? Why lookee here, Joe. This ain't no boy, it's a girl. A girl dressed up like a boy. Now we're really gonna have some fun...

KID and HICKOK wake her where she bolts up, screaming; "don't touch me!"

D) BUCK is standing before the CORN MOTHER. There is a light around her even though there is no apparent source. He is surprised she is so young for being the Mother of the Kiowa. She explains she is many things to many people. Because of his faith, she was able to come and return him to life. He pulls out the rabbit foot. She is humored by the token saying all things have as much or as little power as you give it.

E) LOU, KID and HICKOK are sitting at the table in the BUNKHOUSE. LOU is shaking, but won't let KID comfort her as HICKOK gets her coffee. She explains to them what happened and how mixed up she feels; vulnerable as a woman and useless disguised as a man who couldn't stop it.

F) IKE and CODY arrive at the last STATION- BUCK's turn-around point. It's too dark to search anymore so they turn in for the night.

G) RIDER 3 comes in the next morning at EMMA'S and announces he saw a fire at WILLIAM'S. LOU, KID, HICKOK and TEASPOON ride out.

H) They approach WILLIAM'S from the backside. The MAIN BUILDING is ablaze. The bodies of the 4 TRADERS, including JOE are behind a makeshift barricade. TEASPOON sees the lances and arrows and identifies them as PAIUTE. They circle around and see the PAIUTE leaving from the other side with the 2 GIRLS.

A man staggers up from behind a barricade. LOU sees it is BOOTH. She raises her gun and aims, knowing he is the man responsible for all this. KID tries to stop her, saying he should be brought to justice. At the same time, a PAIUTE SCOUT sees him and raises his rifle as well. Several shots ring out and BOOTH goes down, but did LOU kill him?

ACT FOUR

A) LOU turns back to them. KID is disappointed and the others don't know what to think. LOU is shaken, but it's all over now.

B) BUCK wakes up on the ground, fully coherent. He finds the rabbit foot in his pocket and wonders if it was a dream. However, his head is healed and looks very healthy- almost radiant. He starts off after orienting himself to the right direction.

C) Shortly IKE and CODY come upon him on the trail. They expected to find him half dead and he isn't. What happened?

D) Back at EMMA'S, BUCK tries to tell the others about the Corn Mother and gets mixed reviews. KID is trying his best to resolve what happened with LOU.

E) RIDER 3 returns. He tells them how the settlers from Carson City-near near William's Station-are forming a posse to seek revenge on the "savages"

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for the death of the 5 Traders. Do they want to be a part of it?

TEASPOON says the Express has to stay out of it. The posses are blowing things out of proportion and are looking to pick a fight with the Indians. LOU quietly reminds them about the rape and asks who are the real "savages"?

THE END