All Dead

Chapter 1 A peaceful day turns un-peaceful

Festus was just returning from having accompanied Matt to Hays City having escorted three prisoners for final justice, with Matt going on to pick up another prisoner before planning his return by early tomorrow morning. He was leading his Mule when spotted by Doc who calls out, “what are you doing with that ugly looking nag,” with Festus telling him, “no need to talk about old Ruth thata way.” Doc comes back with, “I was talking to the mule,” which solicits mock laughter from Festus while stating, “Doc, seein you has caused me to miss the company of dem three prisoners we took over to Hays City.” As they speak they hear shots coming from the bank with Festus saying, “I just saw Miss Kitty headed into the bank,” as he hurries over there followed by Doc with Newly soon showing up along with Burke and several other men. Before they can get there, a man walks out holding a gun while saying, “if ya’ll wanna see these people alive again, I suggest you stand where you are and throw down your guns. We done killed one man and we got a dozen more we can start picking off one by one starting with this redhead. By this time he has Kitty by the arm while holding a gun to her head. Festus quietly tells Doc and Newly, I recognize this here man, dat der’s Zane Drummond,” with Doc stating, “I believe he’s a wanted man.” As the bystanders watch helplessly, Drummond grabs a well-dressed man in a suit and tie while asking him to empty his pockets. The man takes out his wallet which contains a fair amount of money, with the gunman telling him, “you made a big mistake by holding out, but if you can run fast enough, you just may get to live. Let’s see how fast you are.” As ne starts to run, the four man gang open fire, with Drummond saying, “let that be an example.”

With the dead man lying in the street, Drummond announces, “that’s two dead, we can make it a few more. You know I changed my mind about Red here, she’s worth keeping alive. She can serve a purpose on a cold night, so she’s going with.” A defiant Festus tells Drummond, “you hain’t gonna git fer.” Drummond walks up to Festus while sticking his gun in his ear while stating, “I don’t remember telling you it was OK to talk.” Putting his gun to Festus’s back, he takes him to the door of the bank with him and the other three accomplices administering beat down. Doc tries to intervene, but is smacked hard in the face by Drummond, who follows it up by delivering a hard kick to the ribs while Doc is on the ground. Drummond tells his gang, “we have eleven people here, how many you boys think we need for hostages?” One of the men by the name of Scorp Frommly responds with, “I say we take five of em, if they become too much trouble along the way, we can just kill a few.” Drummond announces, “sounds about right, we’ll take Red plus this other lady to keep us company.” The other lady Drummond is talking about is young and pretty Dorey Hunt, who is the only other woman in the bank besides Kitty. She came to the bank today to try and buy more time on her mortgage payment. Being a young widowed mother of two small children has been a struggle. Her husband unexpectedly died a year and a half ago, and ever since, Dorey has been trying to hang on to the family’s home, as well as the farm. Looking around, Drummond spots three other candidates as he says, “those three men over there don’t look like the types to give us much trouble, that’ll make five. And just so you know we mean business, here’s what happens if any of you try and follow us.” Having said this, Drummond grabs a man, as he and his gang gun him down. Pointing with his gun to the dead man, he informs the bystanders, “now, ya’ll get my drift? The next time I ain’t gonna be as nice. Now you people show us to five good horses.” Once they have the horses they ride out.

Chapter 2 The Hideout

They ride all day to where it’s now sunset as they come upon an old cabin concealed by the hills and trees. As they approach Drummond tells his gang, “good, it’s still here just the way I remember it.” An elderly man emerges who greets the group with, “howdy ya’ll, name’s Skip Woodley, where ya’ll headed?” Drummond tells the old guy as he pulls his gun and points it at him, “I think we’ll stop here for the night.” Skip starts to speak with Drummond saying, “shut up, you only get to talk when I tell you to, now show us to the grub.” Skip simply nods, has he heads inside the cabin. Once inside the old guy prepares the meat he had stored away in addition to some vegetables as well as setting some bread out. Sitting and turning his head looking around the room, Drummond gets up and starts to explore on his own as he finds several jugs. Skip tells him, “made that myself, your welcome to take them jugs on the road with you.” Drummond answers with, “there’ll be no need for you to tell me what I can and can’t take!” Kitty jumps by protesting, “he doesn’t owe you a thing!” “You know Red, since you like to talk outta turn, I’m gonna turn you over to Mo. Will give you the chance to learn the reason we brung you along.” Drummond’s own words causes him to laugh.

Mo Brisdale is a born killer who has been riding with Drummond the longest of the three gang members. He carries a Bowie knife with an eight-inch blade on his opposite hip from his side arm, and enjoys using it. Zane Drummond is about the only man he fears, and he fears him less and less every day. Upon hearing Drummond’s words Brisdale tells him, “I think me and the lady will get along real fine Zane.” Drummond then turns to skip and says, “You know this territory well do ya Skip?” “Know it like the back of my hand.” “That’s what I’m afraid of, you may just slip out and give our position away.” “Well I got no call to do that.” “Sorry but can’t take that chance.” Hearing this Brisdale says, “you want me to take em out and kill em Zane? Just sharpened my knife last night, and am anxious to try it out.” “No Mo, I don’t want to have you do that.” Drummond’s words causes Skip to breathe a sigh of relief. “No, I’m gonna have the boys take care of him.” Hearing this Kitty jumps up and loudly says, “YOU CAN’T JUST KILL HIM!!!” “I can do whatever I want Red. Too bad Skip, I hate to have to do this, you make some real good whisky. Nothing personal, just business. Here’s a jug Mo for you and Red to sip on later.” Drummond tells Kitty as he points his gun towards the door of a bedroom, “alright, in there Red. And don’t worry about being lonely, Mo will join you after we talk a spell.” He then points to Dorey while telling her, “You get in that other room, and not to worry. As long as you can satisfy me, I’ll let you live.” He now turns his attention to Skip as he tells him, “alright, outside.” Shortly after Skip is taken outside, multiple gunshots are heard.

Once all the members of the gang are back inside, Drummond tells Frommly and other gang member Verlow Cline, as he points to the three male hostages with his gun, “take these three out to the shed and tie em up, they can spend the night out there.” Brisdale inquires, “why don’t we just kill em now Zane?” “I know you’re anxious to try your newly sharpened blade out Mo, but just have to be patient.” Once they are outside Drummond tells Brisdale, “we’ll keep the hostages around for now as leverage in the event Dillon shows up. We can use em to draw Dillon in and whoever’s with him. Once we get Dillon close enough, we can kill him. Then when we’re in the clear, we can kill whoever’s left out of those three and keep Red and the other one around until we get tired of em.” Kitty listens closely as she overhears what they are planning. After they get finished talking Brisdale joins Kitty, as he tells her “we had a real nice haul today Red. Between that and our last two heists, we have over twenty five grand. You and me can do some high livin on that.” Kitty responds with, “I like the high life. Too bad has to be a four-way split. Could have more fun if it was only split three ways. Just think how much further it would go.” “You know Red, I figured at some point you’d start to come around. I just may be able to make that happen. I’ll be back in just a bit.” Brisdale goes back in the main room where the two other men, Scorp Frommly and Verlow Cline have been drinking the homemade whisky, not realizing its potency. By this time Drummond has joined Dorey in the other remaining room. Brisdale says to the two gang members, “drink up boys.” As they continue drinking, Brisdale tells them as he feigns a good-natured tone while laughing, “some good whiskey is just the thing to celebrate all that money we’ve taken in. Hope you boys don’t spend your shares all in one place.” Hearing this the two gang members raise their glasses with Frommly saying, “here’s to the money,” with Cline following suite while echoing Frommly’s words, “to the money!” Cline by now has drank so much he passes out as they speak, with Frommly still coherent, but feeling the effects from the strong drink in a major way.

Seeing Frommly is good and drunk Brisdale tells him, “this whisky can go to a man’s head. Let’s get us a breath of fresh air Scorp.” As they step outside Brisdale plunges his Bowie knife into Frommly and twists and turns it as he falls to the ground dead. Brisdale then heads back inside to the room Kitty is in and announces in a tone of a man who feels he has just accomplished something, “we’re down to just three Red, more spending loot for me and you,” to which Kitty tells him, “I knew you were a man who could handle a situation.” Just then they hear the sound of a door opening, with Brisdale saying, “that’s Zane, I’ll go smooth things over. “Zane, Scorp tried to steal the money for himself, but I put a stop to it. You won’t have to worry about him anymore. Good thing I sharpened my blade last night. Made things quick and easy.” “What! You and me were the only ones who knew where the money was! How did you let him find where we hid it? Now we have one less man to confront Dillon if he shows up!” “I had no choice Zane, it was that or have him ride off with the money, you should be thanking me!" “Thanking you? For killing Scorp when we need all hands on deck in case we have to deal with Dillon, not to mention anyone he has with him!” “Well Zane, as good as you claim to be with a gun, Dillon shouldn’t be any worry. When did you start becoming unsure of yourself? Or maybe you’re not the gunman you claim.” “Don’t get smart with me Mo, this ain’t some type of a quick draw contest! The way it stands now, is it’s down to you and me and that drunken passed out idiot Verlow. Hope it’s not too much to ask for you not to kill him!” Having said his peace, Zane goes back in the other room where Dorey is.

Chapter 3 No honor among thieves

Brisdale rejoins Kitty as he tells her, “Zane was none too happy, but to hell with him, he knows he has to live with it.” Kitty tells him as she moves closer, “I like a man who’s not afraid to stand up to the head guy. Makes me think you’re the one who should have been running the show.” She now puts both arms around his neck as she speaks softly in his ear, “I like the way you handle things, just think if we had all the money. You don’t even need the other two, you have me to help take care of the Marshal if he shows up. Between the two of us, should be easy to set him up. I already have a plan for that. I wouldn’t even listen to Zane if I were you. With the two of us as a team, what do you need with him?” “You know your right Red, we don’t need Verlow or Zane. Now’s the perfect time to get them out of the way. Won’t have to worry about Verlow waking back up and I can catch Zane by surprise.” As she kisses him Kitty tells Brisdale, “a man who takes charge the way you do is what turns me on.” Brisdale pulls Kitty closer with full force while pressing his lips hard to hers while digging into her back. He then takes hold of the back of her shoulders the way a drowning man would clutch a life raft, and once again yanks her up against him with a sudden jolt. This time he presses his lips even harder to hers in anticipation of an encounter with Kitty. Kitty responds with, “I like a man who treats a woman rough.” Hearing this Brisdale once again presses his lips to Kitty’s with even greater force with her stopping and saying, “just as soon as you take care of the other two, we’ll have all the money and will be just the two of us to celebrate. I got some pretty rough stuff of my own I’m anxious to show you.”

Feeling the exhilaration from the thought of being with Kitty, it takes everything he has for Brisdale to maintain his excitement. Thinking about the money however, causes him to regain control as he heads back into the other room where he knifes a passed out Verlow Cline. Drummond hearing the noise, steps out from his room to see what’s going on. Just as he is getting ready to confront Brisdale, Drummond is shot dead with Brisdale already having his gun drawn in anticipation of Drummond emerging from other the room. Brisdale now points the gun at Dorey with his finger on the trigger as he says, “to bad little lady but this is the end of the road. Just like Zane would always say, nothing personal, just business.” Hearing what is taking place, Kitty appears while telling him, “we can take care of her later. Right now is a time to celebrate, so don’t keep me waiting. Thinking about all that money has me turned on, would be a shame to let that go to waste.” Brisdale now turns his attention to Kitty as he locks Dorey in the other room and goes and grabs the saddlebags containing the loot, and follows Kitty back in the room she has been staying while pulling out a handful of the money and saying, “over twenty five grand here Red!” Kitty now puts her arms around him as they lock lips. By now Brisdale is mad with lust as Kitty whispers in his ear, “I’ve got something you’re really going to feel.” With Brisdale having dropped his guard by now, Kitty discreetly removes his knife and drives it deeply into his mid-section with full force as she twists it while turning it upward and pushing and twisting with all her strength. With blood drooling out his mouth, Brisdale falls lifelessly to the floor.

Making sure Brisdale is dead, Kitty hurries to the other room where she embraces Dory while telling her, “it’s all over. They can’t hurt us now.” She then goes and unties the other three while telling them, “we’re out of danger.” When everyone is back in the cabin and the dead outlaws are taken outside, Kitty tells the others, “we have food and water for now, we can hold up here for a day and wait and see if Matt shows up. Is early morning, if Matt is headed this way he could get here later this afternoon.” As afternoon approaches Kitty takes a position on a hill with a view where you can see for miles. She knows Matt will be coming in cautiously as not to be seen. An hour before sundown Kitty spots two men on horseback she recognizes as Matt and Festus. As they approach she stands waiving her arms and hollering, Matt, Festus, over here!” Is a happy reunion with the three embracing with Kitty telling Matt and Festus, “their all dead.” A surprised and relieved Matt asks, “how did that happen Kitty?” As Kitty heads toward the cabin she tells him, “come on, I’ll tell the two of you all about it.” “Well that being the case Kitty, someone has a five thousand dollar reward coming, these were wanted men.” Kitty thinks to herself, “that five thousand will be enough to give Dorey the money she needs to pay off her place with some left over to help her and her kids.”