

JONATHAN (cont'd)

Go on.

The rope moved, Jonathan leads Paul down the steps. The crowd is dispersing now.

Once at the bottom of the steps, Jonathan notices his wife's lingering stare. Is she looking at Paul for the outlaw? He isn't sure. When Mabel sees that Paul has been noticed, the woman turns and begins her walk.

JONATHAN

(to Merriweather)

Take him back to jail.

(to Lemmy)

And make sure he stays here till the Marshals arrive.

Jonathan takes a step over his wife's shoulder.

LEMMY

Yeah, where you going?

JONATHAN

I'm going to try to talk the boys down.

Lemmy huffs as Merriweather puts the gun back into Paul's spine and shoves him towards the jail.

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EXT. TOWN - STREET - MORNING

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Mabel stops in front of the general store. She watches without showing that she is as Paul goes by. He also does his best to ignore her.

JONATHAN (O.S.)

What are you doing here?

Mabel tucks her handbag beneath her arm. Her husband stands behind her, concerned.

MABEL

The whole town was.

JONATHAN

I told you it'd be best to stay in the house.

MABEL

That house doesn't have own me, Jonathan...

(CONTINUED)

And she almost says, "Neither do you any longer" but she doesn't.

JONATHAN

I only mean the best for you. To keep you safe.

MABEL

Or is that you don't want your wife to see the things you take part in.

An OLDER COUPLE passes them up the stairs to the store. He waits to respond till they are inside.

JONATHAN

My part is the law. And I do my best to abide by it.

(beat)

As we all should.

She takes this as a statement about her disobedience. She turns away from him.

MABEL

(continuing her walk home)

As you wish.

It's not what he wants. He wants to be closer to her, not further away.

JONATHAN

You speak less and less to me, these days.

MABEL

My father warned you I was a quiet girl.

JONATHAN

He told me you would not be so shy with time.

MABEL

I'm sorry he sold you what-

This drives him to catch her arm, bring her towards him.

JONATHAN

Mabel. What has become of you?

MABEL

A woman can change, just like a man.

(CONTINUED)

It pains her to be so close to him, to keep these secrets inside as he pleads with her with his eyes, a confused husband.

JONATHAN

Even when the seasons change, they don't do so without reason.

She can barely keep from hiding the truth.

MABEL

It will pass.

(beat)

Soon, there will be no reason for concern. I promise you.

This brings him little comfort as he loosens his grip on her.

MABEL

Go on back to the house. I'll be there shortly.

JONATHAN

I won't be coming home.

This surprises her, unsure what he means.

JONATHAN

There's a boy up on the church. I've got to get him down somehow.

MABEL

A boy?

She looks now, able to see the outline of Marcus on the church steeple. The sight of him almost sends her over the edge.

JONATHAN

One of the horse thief's friends, he must have-

MABEL

(to herself)

Marcus.

Jonathan knows she said something but didn't quite hear it.

MABEL

I hope you can. Please take care of yourself.