

ROBERT

~~Cowards, we're all cowards!~~

FARMER DALE

~~(hushed)~~

~~Keep it down lest they hear and
double back!~~

START-----

CHAPTER V: EXT. REVIVAL FIELD - DAY

The Harpes ride slowly down a forest road. They come upon a few people walking down the road. A few more paces and they encounter a larger crowd. The crowd seems entranced, they walk slowly, some look to the sky, others whisper to themselves.

BIG HARPE

~~What's all this?~~

LITTLE HARPE

~~Crowd's too somber for a hangin'~~

Big Harpe trots to catch up to a group walking off the forest road and towards a field.

BIG HARPE

What news?

REVIVALIST

It's Preacher Eli. He's holding a revival, all are welcome. Join us brother.

Big Harpe peers through the trees and is mesmerized by the large crowd gathered around a slender man perched atop a wagon.

Big Harpe dismounts, ties his horse to the tree and joins the crowd as they flow towards the preacher.

Little Harpe hands the reins to Sally and jumps down to follow his brother.

LITTLE HARPE

Where you goin? C'mon, too many people here.

Big Harpe ignores his brother and continues to wade through the crowd, a head above most.

A man is lifted onto the wagon to stand next to the preacher.

(CONTINUED)

Preacher Eli places his hand on the man's head.

PREACHER ELI

In the name of the good Lord, let
the bottle tempt you no more!

The man falls to his knees sobbing and convulsing. The crowd echoes with AMENS.

PREACHER ELI

Brothers and Sisters, I welcome you
today into the presence of our
Lord. He is here, here with us all,
right now!

Big Harpe looks around in awe with the rest of the crowd. Little Harpe has reached his brother but wears a bemused smile.

The Harpe women hover near the forest road, keeping their distance.

PREACHER ELI

And His message is that he loves
you! Loves you all, and wants you
to sin no more! Refrain from drink
and loose women, refrain from
casting a covetous eye on your
neighbor, refrain from cussin' and
taking his name in vain!

CROWD

Amen!

LITTLE HARPE

(quietly to Big Harpe)

If he loved us so much, he'd send
more of them loose women instead of
urgin' us to refrain.

PREACHER ELI

He loves you! Loves you like a
mother. Nothin' you done, nothin'
you could ever do would make him
give up on lovin' you!

LITTLE HARPE

(quietly to Big Harpe)

Well alright, he'll pardon you the
loose women then.

Little Harpe nudges Big Harpe expecting a laugh, but Big Harpe stays focused on the preacher, tears welling in his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

PREACHER ELI

The lord wants you to know this
love. Isn't that right lord?

A TRUMPET BLARES and the crowd stands in stunned silence.
Some drop to their knees to pray.

Little Harpe leaves his brother's side and makes his way
around the perimeter of the crowd.

PREACHER ELI

I hear it! The trumpet of Gabriel
calling. Do you hear it brothers
and sister? Do you hear it calling?

A TRUMPET BLARES again and the crowd shudders.

Big Harpe continues to edge towards the wagon, eyes fixed on
the preacher.

From the side of the crowd, Little Harpe calls out.

LITTLE HARPE

I see him! I see Gabriel, and he's
a lot darker than I thought he'd
be!

Little Harpe throws a rock into a tree along the side of the
field, and a little black boy hops down out of the tree,
dropping a battered horn behind him. The boy runs for the
woods and Little Harpe doubles over laughing.

The crowd starts to murmur ominously.

CROWD

Charlatan! False prophet! He's
takin' us for fools!

A rock flies at the preacher who barely dodges it.

PREACHER ELI

Now my brothers and sisters,
please...

Another rock pelts him as he crouches to take cover in the
wagon. The crowd surges forward pushing and clawing at the
wagon.

They begin to rock it and finally tip the wagon and the
preacher tumbles out.

He scrambles to his feet and dashes towards the tree line.
The crowd follows close behind.

(CONTINUED)

Big Harpe remains still, standing by the overturned wagon as the angry crowd flows around him. Little Harpe, still laughing, staggers over to his brother.

LITTLE HARPE

That preacher sure can run, look at him go!

END-----

CHAPTER V: EXT. HARPES' CAMP - NIGHT

~~The Harpes gather round a campfire in the deep woods. Little Harpe is acting out the events of the day for the women while Big Harpe sulks, away from the group.~~

~~LITTLE HARPE~~

~~So I throws a rock and it hits the tree right aside his head. He comes tumblin' out of the tree, and the horn comes clattering after. When that crowd saw the trumpet hit the ground!~~

~~Little Harpe and the women start laughing. Sally's baby CRIES, disturbed by the laughter. She tries to calm him down.~~

~~BIG HARPE~~

~~Keep that one quiet, can't a man get no peace in his own camp!~~

~~Little Harpe ignores his brother and continues.~~

~~LITTLE HARPE~~

~~Imagine! Those hicks thinkin' the lord hisself would come down to some muddy Kentucky field cause some backwoods preacher stood on a wagon and called for him!~~

~~The baby CRIES louder and Sally stands to walk, trying to calm him.~~

~~BIG HARPE~~

~~Keep it down dammit! One day them regulators is gonna hear that screamin' and we're all gonna hang for it!~~

~~Little Harpe spins to face his brother.~~

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