

**FRED HART - SCENE #1**

INT. SMALL TENEMENT ROOM - NIGHT

Fred looks passed out on the tiny bed as Pearl sits on its edge. She stares out the window through which the city light casts a pattern on her face.

Her husband isn't quite out, reaching for a glass with a sip left in it.

PEARL

Fred.

He tilts the glass back as far as it will go.

PEARL

What if we went out west?

She looks back at him and for a moment let's the idea get her excited.

PEARL

Live life like Bill and Annie  
Oakley. We could find ourselves a  
cabin in the Rockies, raise horses  
and chickens...

His expression is blank. It's not even clear if he's listening until he suddenly starts to chuckle. Her excitement fades just as his laughter turns into a coughing fit.

FREDERICK HART

(between the coughs)

You sure would like that, wouldn't  
ya? Get me scalped by some red man  
or worse.

She looks back at the window.

FREDERICK HART

Hey. Ya might fit in there anyhow.  
Be some injun's wife... what do  
they call 'em?

Pearl gets up.

PEARL

I ain't tired yet.

She moves to the door.

(CONTINUED)

PEARL

I won't be gone but a little while.

FREDERICK HART

A squaw!

(cackles)

That's it. A goddamn squaw.

She shuts the door behind her.

**FRED HART - SCENE #2**

EXT. PEARL'S FAMILY HOME - GARDEN

On the two seat garden bench, Pearl keeps her distance from Fred.

FREDERICK HART

I was not of my right mind.

She leans away as he moves his hand to the space between them.

FREDERICK HART

Pearl, you know that intolerable drunk in Chicago is not truly the man you married.

His way is persuasive but he remains reticent.

PEARL

Then where did he come from?

FREDERICK HART

I must confess... I do know. But I can assure you he has left.

(beat)

Never to be seen again.

Now, he moves his hand closer to her, pressed against her skirt. She does not reject it.

PEARL

And we'd go to Arizona?

He sees this question as a small victory.

FREDERICK HART

You told me you wanted a Western life.

(CONTINUED)

She stares off at the trees of the garden, some part of her still craving the West.

FREDERICK HART

I'd like to provide it for you,  
Pearl.

CLOSE ON his fingers as they caress her leg through the material. She does not stop him.

PEARL

And the child? Will she go with us?

FREDERICK HART

I think it best we establish  
ourselves first and then send for  
her. Your mother may watch her in  
the meantime.

Pearl wrestles with it, still unsettled in her decisions.

FREDERICK HART

And wouldn't it be nice to have  
some time to ourselves? Without a  
care in the world.

She looks at him, with his charming eyes that might woo anyone. She so wants to believe him.

FREDERICK HART

We've never really had that. Have  
we?

CLOSE ON her hand as she tentatively wraps her fingers around his.

PEARL

We haven't.