

"THE SECOND MAN'S DENOUEMENT"

AN ORIGINAL 60 MINUTE TELEPLAY

WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

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THE STORY OF A BOY WHO YEARNED TO DRAW BLOOD.
AND THE STORY OF A MAN WHO ALREADY HAD.

"THE SECOND MAN'S DENOUEMENT"

EXT. GREEN HILL OVERLOOKING TOWN - DAY

A YOUNG COUPLE IS SEEN FROM AFAR ROLLING AROUND.

ONE IS ELLRY ESSEX. A YOUNG BOY OF 19, WITH INSANE TENDENCIES BUT A PERFECTED INTENSE STARE IS HIS. ELLRY CAN MANIPULATE PEOPLE WITH THE STARE.

THE OTHER IS ANNIE BRIMM. SHE IS A COOL BUT SEXY 18 YEAR OLD. ANNIE IS SHY, BUT AT TIMES IS KNOWN TO SPEAK HER MIND IF NEEDED.

ELLRY NOW LIES ATOP THE SUBMISSIVE ANNIE. THEY ARE KISSING AND CARRESSING.

ELLRY
BEAUTIFUL. BEEN HERE
THREE DAYS...NO SLEEP.
YOU MAKE IT WORTH IT.

ANNIE
COME HOME WITH ME. I'LL
TELL DAD YOU'RE LOST.

BELLOWING, ELLRY HALFWAY STARES AT ANNIE.

ELLRY
NEVER! A GOOD SOLDIER
CAN WITHSTAND ANYTHING.

ANNIE
BUT YOU HAVE TO SLEEP.
YOU HAVE TO EAT.

ANGRILY, ELLRY PLOPS OFF ANNIE AND BEGINS HIS INTENSE STARE. ALL WEIGHT IS ON HIS RIGHT ELBOW.

ELLRY
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

ANNIE SHYLY LOOKS UP AT ELLRY.

ELLRY (CON'T)
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND,
DO YOU? IT'S ALL
PART OF "THAT."

ANNIE
OF WHAT?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLRY
 WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT.
 SURVIVING. WINNING.
 DEATH. A NEW LIFE.

ANNIE ONLY LOOKS AT ELLRY.

ELLRY (CON'T)
 (SPURTING)
 WAR!

AT THAT, ANNIE LOOKS AWAY. SHE IS UPSET, AND ELLRY TAKES
 HER HEAD IN HAND AND PLACES IT GENTLY ON THE GROUND.

ANNIE
 YOU AND MY FATHER ARE
 THE SAME. WAR, WAR.
 THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE
 THAN THAT. HASN'T
 THERE?

ELLRY
 ONLY ONE THING.

WITH THAT, ELLRY PRESSES HIS LIPS TO ANNIE'S, AND BEGINS
 TO CAUTIOUSLY UNBUTTON THE FRONT OF HER BLOUSE.

INT. TOWN STORE - DAY

A LOUD VOCAL BATTLE IS TAKING PLACE. JARED DUNNING, THE
 STORE KEEP IS ENGAGED WITH A FRANTIC AND UPSET BUYER.

OFF IN A DISTANT CORNER, LYMAN BRIMM IS HIDING, TAKING
 FURIOUS NOTES IN A BOOK.

JARED
 DAMMIT, MAN, IF YOU LISTEN
 THE FIRST TIME, YOU'D HAVE IT.
 I SAID YOU DIDN'T PAY ME
 FOR LAST MONTH'S BILL.

BUYER
 BEG TO DIFFER, BUT YOU
 MOST CERTAINLY INFORMED ME
 THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO
 PAY THIS MONTH'S SERVICE
 CHARGE, BECAUSE I PAID ON
 TIME LAST MONTH.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JARED

NO, NO, NO. YOU HAVE A
CHARGE THIS MONTH, BECAUSE
LAST MONTH'S BILL IS
UNPAID. TRY LISTENING.

BUYER

YOU OBVIOUSLY THINK THAT I
AM A LIAR. THATS GOING TO
COST YOU. I'M LEAVING TO
NOTIFY MY LAWYER. I BID
YOU GOOD DAY.

THE BUYER LEAVES IN A HUFF AND STEALS A PIECE OF FRUIT ON
HIS WAY OUT. JARED SEES HIM STEAL THE FRUIT, BUT SAYS
NOTHING BECAUSE THE BUYER IS OUT OF SIGHT.

JARED

FINE. CALL HIM. FOURTH
TIME THIS YEAR. I PAY MY
LAWYER WHILE HE EATS MY
FRUIT. HELL. WHY ME?

JARED TURNS TOWARD THE WINDOW TO LOOK FOR THE BUYER, AND
NOT LOOKING, SPEAKS TO THE STILL WRITING LYMAN.

JARED (CON'T)

ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH,
SIR?

LYMAN IS STARTLED, AND KNOCKS OVER A CAN OF JELLY BEANS.
FRANTICALLY PICKING THEM UP, HE ATTEMPTS AN ANSWER.

LYMAN

AH, FINE, THANK YOU.

JARED TURNS TO LOOK AT LYMAN. LYMAN IS STILL PICKING UP
THE BEANS, AND HAD SHOVED HIS NOTE PAD INTO HIS BREAST
POCKET.

LYMAN IS A TALL, LANKY FELLOW. A LITTLE WIMPY, BUT A
STRONG SOUL AND FEELING OF DIRECTION SURFACES EVERY NOW
AND AGAIN. LYMAN, LIKE HIS DAUGHTER, IS SHY.

JARED

LET THEM BE. MAYBE OLD
MAN HAMPTON WILL TRIP
ON THEM. GIVE HIM A REAL
REASON TO SUE ME.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LYMAN
TWO POUNDS OF FLOUR.

JARED STOPS, STARES AT LYMAN, THEN GOES TO THE FLOUR.
LIKE ELLRY, LYMAN IS INSANE.

JARED
VERY WELL. YOU MUST
BE NEW IN TOWN. OR
MUST NOT EAT. KNOW
EVERYBODY IN TOWN.

LYMAN, PICKING UP THE LAST BEAN, GOES OVER TO THE COUNTER,
TO CAUTIOUSLY SPEAK WITH JARED.

LYMAN
WE'VE BEEN HERE A SHORT
WHILE.

JARED
WELCOME TO CONCORDE.
WHERE'S YOUR PLACE?

LYMAN
HOUSE WITH BLUE TRIM.
BY THE STEEPLE.

JARED
THE OLD MERITT HOUSE. KNOW
IT WELL. LOST MANY A COIN
LATE NIGHTS IN HIS ATTIC.
GREAT POKER PLAYER. WELL
LIKED FELLOW.

LYMAN
WHAT HAPPENED?

JARED
MOVED TO A SAFER LOCATION
SOMEPLACE NORTH OF HERE.
JUST...GONE...BOOM...OUT
OF TOWN. PEOPLE ALWAYS
WONDER...NO ANSWERS THOUGH.
REAL NICE FOLK THE MERITTS
WERE.

(CONTINUED)

SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING PROPER TO SAY, LYMAN STUTTERS...

LYMAN
WELL. WE LIKE CONCORDE
VERY MUCH.

JARED
NO, NO, NO. DIDN'T MEAN
YOU WEREN'T WELCOME. NOT
AT ALL. WE LIKE NEW
BLOOD. ANY CHILDREN?

LYMAN
ONE. ANNIE. I'D INTRO-
DUCE YOU, BUT SHE LEFT
EARLY THIS MORNING.

JARED
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO
THE DAY. MR.....

LYMAN
AH, BRIMM. FORGIVE ME.
LYMAN BRIMM.

JARED
JARED DUNNING. WHY'D
YOU COME TO CONCORDE.
THINGS ARE HOTTER THAN
HELL AROUND HERE NOW.

LYMAN
GOOD. THATS MY JOB.

JARED
YOU A SOLDIER? DON'T
LOOK LIKE MUCH OF A
FIGHTING MAN. NO.
YOU AIN'T A SOLDIER.

LYMAN
IF CALLED UPON, I CAN
FIRE A MUSKET.

AT THAT, JARED BURSTS OUT LAUGHING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JARED
A MUSKET? JESUS!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-
ONE SAY THAT SINCE
THEM PILGRIM DAYS.

FRIGHTENED, LYMAN LOOKS DOWN.

LYMAN
OH.

LYMAN SHYLY LOOKS UP AT JARED JUST AS ANNIE DID TO ELLRY.

JARED
WE CALL THEM RIFLES
NOW. FOLKS STOPPED
CALLED 'EM MUSKETS
PROBABLY AROUND THE
TIME YOU FATHER WAS
ALIVE.

LYMAN
(ANGRY)
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY
FATHER'S DEAD?

JARED SITS ON THE COUNTER.

JARED
FEELINGS. YOU AIN'T
GOT ANY. YOU CLOSE
'EM OFF SO'S THEY
WON'T GET AWAY. YOUR
INNARDS AIN'T A HORSE.

LYMAN STARES AT JARED.

LYMAN
WHO ARE YOU?

JARED
JUST A MAN THAT SEES
THINGS LIKE THEY ARE.
I'M RIGHT?

DEFEATED, LYMAN NODS.

(CONTINUED)

JARED
THOUGHT SO. HAVEN'T
BEEN WRONG YET. YOU
A REPORTER? I SAW YOU
TAKING SOMETHING DOWN
ON THAT PAD.

LYMAN
NO. NOT A REPORTER.

JARED
WHAT, THEN?

WITH A TERRIBLE LOOK OF GUILT, LYMAN ANSWERS ALMOST IN A
QUIET WHISPER.

LYMAN
I'M A HISTORIAN.

JARED
A HISTORIAN? NEVER
WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT
ONE. GLAD I DIDN'T.
WHERE FROM?

LYMAN
CONNETICUIT. HARTFORD.

JARED
WHY CONCORDE?

UP TO THIS POINT, LYMAN HAS BEEN QUIET. MOST PEOPLE SCOFF
AT HIS BEING A HISTORIAN. BUT, JARED SEEMS TO BE AT LEAST
A BIT INTERESTED...SO LYMAN BEGINS TO OPEN UP.

LYMAN
I CAME TO CONCORDE MASSACHU-
SETTES TO RECORD THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE MINUTE MEN. I HAVE TO
SEE THEM IN ACTION. WHERE CAN
I FIND THEM?

JARED
YOU CAN'T JUST FIND THEM.
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE. IF
YOU LOOK TOO HARD, YOU'LL
SEE NOTHING. IF YOU DON'T
LOOK HARD ENOUGH, YOU'LL
SEE ONLY WHAT YOU WANT TO
SEE. ONE DAY IT'LL COME
TO YOU IF YOU DO IT RIGHT.

CONTINUED: (5)

SLOWLY, LYMAN PAYS JARED, PICKS UP THE SACK OF FLOUR AND BEGINS TO LEAVE THE FRAME. BUT, HE STOPS AND TURNS...

LYMAN
MR. DUNNING. IF YOU
WOULD...A...HINT.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO
START. PLEASE...

JARED LOOKS AT LYMAN WITH PLAYFUL EYES.

JARED
YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT ONE.

EXT. GREEN HILL OVERLOOKING TOWN - DAY

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE SAME SCENE. BUT ELLRY AND ANNIE ARE NOW ON THEIR BACKS STARING AT THE SKY.

ANNIE
WHY DID YOU LEAVE HOME?

ELLRY
THE REVOLUTION. MY FATHER
LEFT TO FIGHT AND NEVER CAME
BACK. MY MOTHER WANTED TO
MOVE BACK TO ENGLAND AND
THE KING. SHE DID. I LEFT.
HERE I AM. WITH YOU.

ANNIE
TELL ME MORE.

ELLRY
NO. THAT WAS THE DEAL.
WHEN WE MET IT WAS SPECIAL.
LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

ANNIE
BUT YOU HAVEN'T A HOME.

ELLRY
(MOTIONING)
THIS IS IT. A BARN. A
TREE. ANYPLACE I WANT.
IT'S MORE THAN YOU HAVE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNIE
NOW YOU'RE FOOLING WITH
ME.

ELTRY
LEAVE...IT A MYSTERY THEN.

SOME BEATS.

ANNIE
ARE YOU A MINUTE MAN? MY
FATHER'S TOLD ME OF THEM.

AT THIS, ELLRY BECOMES EXCITED.

ELTRY
NO! I WANT TO FIGHT UNDER
COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN IN NEW
HAMPSHIRE.

NOW, ELLRY BRINGS IN ANNIE WITH HIS QUIET URGENT TONES.

ELTRY (CON'T)
ALLEN HAS THE BEST MEN IN
THE COLONIES. I HAVE TO
KILL FIRST. I CAME TO
CONCORDE IN HOPES THAT I
COULD FIGHT. YOU KNOW...
PROVE MYSELF. PROTECT
WHATS RIGHT. FOLLOW?

ANNIE
MY FATHER. HE HAS THIS
MUSKET THAT HIS FATHER
GAVE HIM. HE CLEANS IT
ALL THE TIME. EVERYDAY
IN THE MORNING, AND RIGHT
BEFORE DINNER.

WE ONLY HAVE THAT ONE GUN.
MOTHER ALWAYS ASKS HIM IF
HE EVER HAD TO FIGHT OR IF
WE WERE IN TROUBLE...WOULD
HE USE THE MUSKET.

DADDY ONLY POLISHES. NEVER
ANSWERS. AT TIMES I CAN SWEAR
I CAN SEE A TEAR. LATER ON HE
JUST PUTS IT BACK ON THE MANTLE.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNIE (CONTINUING)

IT'S LIKE HE NEVER HEARD
US. MAYBE WHEN THE TIME
COMES HE'LL CHANGE HIS
MIND.

ELTRY

NOPE. MINDS DON'T CHANGE.
MEN DO.

ANNIE

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AGAIN, ELLRY LOVES THIS. HE INTENSELY TELLS HIS UNPROVEN
PHILOSOPHIES.

ELTRY

WAR CHANGES PEOPLE. ESPECIALLY
NOW. THE ONLY THING I WANT IS
TO FIGHT FOR THE COLONIES. IF
I DIE DOING IT...THATS EVEN
BETTER. I'LL KNOW IN MY HEART
THAT BEING PART OF HISTORY IS
AS BIG AN HONOR ANY TRUE SOLDIER
CAN BE GIVEN.

ANNIE

BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN
ABOUT 'MINDS NOT CHANGING?'

LIKE A YOUNG CHILD TELLING ONE OF THE BIGGEST SECRETS IN
HIS LIFE, ELLRY RELATES THE FOLLOWING STORY...

ELTRY

BEFORE I ARRIVED HERE IN
CONCORDE...ABOUT THREE DAYS
BEFORE I MET YOU, I MET THIS
SOLDIER IN LEXINGTON. HIS
NAME WAS EDDIE, AND HE WAS
MOVING TO BOSTON TO JOIN THE
SONS OF LIBERTY.

HE TOLD ME THAT DURING HIS
FIRST BATTLE, HE WAS CHARGING
THE FRONT LINE. AMMO WAS EX-
PLODING, SOULS WERE BEING
GRABBED, HORSES WERE SCREAMING,
AND DEAD MEN HUNG FROM BLOODIED
TREES BY THEIR NECKS.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLY (CON'T)

BUT EDDIE DIDN'T CARE. HE
KEPT CHARGING. ANY OTHER
TIME OUTSIDE OF BATTLE, HE
WOULD'VE TURNED AND RAN LIKE
LIGHTNING. BUT HE DIDN'T.
EDDIE DIDN'T CHANGE HIS MIND.

FOR IN BATTLE, WHERE MEN DIE
LIKE TEARDROPS FALL...YOU DON'T
CHANGE YOUR MIND. BECAUSE YOU'VE
BEEN CHANGED. MAYBE NOT IN AN
OUTRIGHT WAY THAT EVERYBODY CAN
SEE...BUT DEEP...INSIDE. DEEP
INSIDE WHERE A MAN'S COURAGE IS
CONCEIVED AND NURTURED.

IT'S CHANGED YOU SO MUCH THAT
ONLY YOU CAN TELL. THEN IT
SLOWLY SCRAPES AWAY YOUR GUTS.
EATS YOU OUT FROM THE INSIDE.
AND IT STAYS THERE.

ONE DAY YOU'LL LOOK AT YOURSELF
AND WONDER. THERE YOU ARE ON THE
EDGE OF FALLING IN. AND YOU REALIZE
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
YOU JUST FALL. BECAUSE WHAT YOU
THOUGHT WAS YOU...NEVER WAS.

SO, YOU WALK AROUND ASKING ALL
SORTS OF TRIVIAL INTERNAL QUES-
TIONS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING YOU
LOST FROM THE INSIDE. AND THE
SAD PART IS...YOU'RE NEVER REALLY
CERTAIN YOU EVER HAD IT.

THEN THE DAY COMES. YOU'LL BE
ALL ALONE, NIGHT WILL DESCEND,
AND YOU'LL ASK IT OUT LOUD. SO
LOUD IN FACT, THAT NOBODY BUT
YOU CAN HEAR IT. A TEAR COMES,
AND YOU FINALLY DO IT.

YOU ASK YOURSELF JUST WHO THE
HELL YOU REALLY ARE. OR WERE.

INT. BRIMM KITCHEN - DAY

LYMAN AND HIS WIFE MARY ARE SITTING AT A LARGE ROUND OAK TABLE. MARY IS DARNING SOCKS. LYMAN POLISHES HIS FATHER'S GUN WITH GREAT CARE AND INTENSITY.

MARY

LYMAN, THE WAY YOU BABY
THAT THING YOU'D THINK
IT CAME FROM YOUR FLESH.

LYMAN CONTINUES TO POLISH, BUT ANSWERS MARY.

LYMAN

I'VE TOLD YOU THAT THIS
IS THE MUSKET MY FATHER
USED TO DEFEND THE HONOR
OF HIS FAMILY. IF IT
WEREN'T FOR THIS MUSKET....

LYMAN LOOKS AT MARY...BUT DOESN'T SEE HER.

LYMAN (CON'T)

THE BRIMM FAMILY WOULDN'T
BE.

MARY

BE WHAT? TELL ME.

LYMAN GOES BACK TO POLISHING AND OILING.

LYMAN

18 YEARS YOU ASK THE SAME
QUESTION. LET IT BE.

LYMAN LOOKS AT MARY. SHE IS UPSET, SO LYMAN TELLS HER THE STORY ONE LAST TIME.

LYMAN (CON'T)

MY FATHER WAS A GREAT MAN.
THE DAY HE MET THE LORD,
HE TOLD ME NOT TO REVEAL
THE SECRET OF THIS MUSKET
UNTIL THE DAY I DIE. I
MUST HONOR THAT.

LYMAN HOLDS THE MUSKET TO THE LIGHT TO EXAMINE HIS WORK,
AND MARY CHANGES THE SUBJECT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY

HOW DID IT GO IN TOWN
TODAY?

LYMAN

I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF
IN FRONT OF THE STORE
KEEP. I'LL HAVE TO USE
A DIFFERENT APPROACH
NEXT TIME. I THOUGHT IF
I PLAYED IGNORANT I'D GET
MORE. BLEW UP IN MY FACE
INSTEAD.

EXT. GREEN HILL OVERLOOKING TOWN - DAY

ANNIE AND ELLRY ARE STANDING, KISSING GOOD-BYE.

ANNIE

MY FATHER WILL KILL ME
IF I MISSED SUPPER.

ELLRY

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM
SOME TIME.

ANNIE

THAT'D BE NICE. I HAVE
TO GO. WHEN WILL I SEE
YOU AGAIN?

ELLRY

WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
WE'LL BOTH KNOW. DON'T
WORRY ANNIE. YOU'D BETTER
BE OFF.

ANNIE LOOK AT ELLRY. ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE'LL NEVER SEE HIM
AGAIN.

ANNIE

I LOVE YOU.

THIS TIME, ELLRY BREAKS HIS STARE, AND ANNIE KISSES HIM
HARD ON THE LIPS...THEN BREAKS AWAY DOWN THE HILL.

ELLRY

HURRY...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLY SEES ANNIE NOW DIP INTO A WOODED AREA. SHE IS OUT OF EARSHOT.

ELLY (CONTINUING)

...BACK.

ELLY NOW PICKS UP A STICK AND CHUCKS IT HIGH INTO THE AIR. WALKING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF ANNIE, ELLY BEGINS TO DO AN IRISH JIG AND WHISTLING "GOD SAVE THE KING." ELLY IS INSANE.

INT. BRIMM KITCHEN - DAY

LYMAN AND MARY ARE STILL SITTING, DISCUSSING THE WEATHER SINCE LYMAN HAD CRAFTILY SKIRTED ALL OTHER ISSUES.

WITH A BURST, ANNIE ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND IT LEADS TO THE KITCHEN. SHE IS OUT OF BREATH AND HER BLOUSE IS MIS-BUTTONED.

ANNIE

SORRY MAMA, PAPPA. DID I MISS SUPPER?

LYMAN

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

ANNIE

(EVADING)
PICKING FLOWERS ON THE HILL.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE I LEFT.

LYMAN

WHERE ARE THE FLOWERS?

ANNIE

I DIDN'T DO IT.

MARY

ANNIE?

ANNIE

(WITH A FLAIR)
I COULDN'T! THEY WERE TOO BEAUTIFUL. HOW COULD I KILL SOMETHING THAT PRETTY FOR NO REAL REASON?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYMAN

HISTORY HAS PROVEN THAT
IN ORDER FOR SOMETHING
NEW TO GROW, SOMETHING
ELSE MUST DIE FIRST.

A FEW BEATS...ANNIE SEARCHES.

ANNIE

How'D IT GO IN TOWN
TODAY?

MARY

YOUR FATHER MADE A FOOL
OF HIMSELF.

ANNIE

YOU'RE RIGHT, DAD.
HISTORY DOES REPEAT
ITSELF.

WITH THAT, LYMAN AND MARY CHUCKLE AT THE WIT OF THEIR ONLY
CHILD.

ANNIE GOES TO THE WASH BASIN TO WASH HER HANDS AND TO HER
TERROR NOTICES THAT SHE BUTTONED HER BLOUSE WRONG. EXCITEDLY
SHE PROPER'S IT.

CAREFULLY, LYMAN GETS UP AND GINGERLY REPLACES THE MUSKET
TO ITS HOME ABOVE THE MANTLEPIECE.

AS ANNIE WASHES, THE INSANE LYMAN TIP TOES OVER TO HIS
DAUGHTER AND SETS HIS HANDS ON HER SHOULDER AND SLOWLY
TURNS HER 180 DEGREES TO FACE HIM.

ANNIE THINKS HER FATHER KNOWS AND WILL YELL.

LYMAN

ANNIE... I JUST WANT YOU TO
KNOW...THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS...
I LOVE YOU. NO MATTER WHAT.

GENTLY, LYMAN PLACES A LIGHT KISS ON ANNIE'S FOREHEAD AND
HUGS HER TIGHTLY. WE SEE ANNIE'S RELIEVED FACE OVER LYMAN'S
SOULDER.

(CONTINUED)

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

ELTRY IS STROLLING AROUND THE FORREST EATING A JERKY STICK AND A HALF EATEN APPLE RESTS IN HIS LEFT PALM.

BEGINNING TO SUCK A SELFISH LUMP OF JUICE OUT OF THE APPLE, ELLRY DUMBLY TRIPS AND FALLS INTO A LEAFY THICKET.

GETTING QUICKLY UP LIKE A FIGHTER KNOCKED DOWN IN THE FIRST FEW SECONDS OF THE FIRST ROUND BY A BLIND PUNCH, ELLRY SEARCHES AND SEARCHES FOR THE THING HE TRIPPED OVER.

IN PICKING OFF THE DIRT AND ANTS FROM HIS APPLE, ELLRY DISCOVERS THAT AT THE FOOT OF AN OMINOUS ROTTING TREE STUMP IS A PARTIALLY DECOMPOSED BODY OF A SOLDIER. A MINUTE MAN.

THE MAN'S FACE IS ELEGANTLY SPATTERED WITH LEAVES AND DROPLETS OF BLOOD. THE MAN HASN'T BEEN DEAD LONG, AND IN CLOSER SCRUTINY, ONE CAN SEE THAT HE WAS KILLED BY A BULLET THROUGH THE NECK.

IN A STRANGE BUT TRUE WAY, THIS UNKNOWN SOLDIER LOOKS SERENE AND CALM. ALMOST AS IF HE FINALLY KNOWS WHO AND WHAT HE IS. OR WAS.

INTENSELY STARING AT THE DEAD PATRIOT, ELLRY HAS NO REACTION. IN FACT, HE IS HAPPY. FOR NOW HE HAS A GUN AND HAT OF HIS OWN. WILLED TO HIM BY SOME UNKNOWN FRIEND.

ELTRY HAS BEEN CHANGED. HE IS NOW TOUGH...BUT IN A CHILDLIKE WAY. ALONE IN THE WOODS, ELLRY STICKS THE PISTOL DOWN THE FRONT OF HIS TROUSERS AND PUTS THE HAT ON HIS HEAD.

LIKE AN INSANE CHILD, ELLRY BEGINS TO PLAY ACT AS IF HE IS 5 YEARS OLD AND IN HIS VERY OWN ROOM LATE AT NIGHT. ELLRY'S AUDIENCE IS THE FORREST.

ELTRY HAS CHOSEN TO GO BACK IN TIME TO THE DAY AND SPEECH WHEN MUSKETS WERE THE NORM.

ELTRY

REST YE, BROTHER...FOR YOU
HAVE FOUGHT WELL. TIME IS
NOW YOURS AND PEACE WILL BE
WITH YOU FOREVER.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLRY (CONTINUING)
LADY LIBERTY WILL KEEP YOUR
SOUL, AND DEMOCRACY IS IN
THE SAFETY OF YOUR HEART.

MAD AS A LOON, ELLRY NOW BEGINS AN ANGRY CHARADE AND
SCREAMS AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS AT THE FORREST. EVEN
THOUGH HE SEES HIMSELF AS A FIGHTING MAN...HE IS A
SMALL, SCARED, CHILD.

ELLRY (CON'T)
BACK OFF REDCOAT! FOR YOU
KNOW NOT WHO YOU FACE!
YOU MUST DEFEAT THE GREATEST
GENERAL IN HISTORY... GENERAL
OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, ELLRY
ESSEX OF THE 7TH BRIGADE.

FIRE IF YOU DARE FOOL, FOR
DEATH WILL BE YOUR BED MATE.

SURRENDER, GENERAL, YOU
CANNOT WIN AGAINST THE
ODDS! THE TOADS IN THE
POND...THE OWL IN THE
TREE...THE VOICE OF THE
WIND ARE ALL ON THIS
SIDE! I COMMAND THE
FORCES OF GOOD THAT WILL
DESTROY YOUR BASTARD LOVING
SOULS...

KILL ME IF YOU DARE! YOU
WILL FAIL, FOR WE HAVE THE
STRONGEST DESIRE OF ANY
ARMY IN THE HISTORY OF THE
STATES!

WHAT? WHAT OF MY FRIEND?
THE HONOR WHICH IS HIS IS
PAYMENT ENOUGH! EDDIE WILL
LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEARTS
OF ALL MEN THAT HOLD LIBERTY
AS THE CONTENT OF A MAN'S
CHARACTER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT A FORETHOUGHT, A LONE BIRD FLITS QUICKLY BY ELLRY. HE THROWS HIMSELF BEHIND THE STUMP AND BESIDE THE ROTTING BODY.

ELLRY
BAYONETS! BAYONETS! MEN!
INFANTRY! FOR THE SAKE OF
DEAR GOD WHERE HAVE YOU ALL
GONE?

SEARCHING FOR HIS "ARMY" ELLRY SHOUTS...

ELLRY (CON'T)
I AM GENERAL ELLRY ESSEX!
I COMMAND YOU TO MY SIDE
TO FIGHT LIKE MEN. LIKE
EDDIE! OBEY ME DAMN YOU.
ALL OF YOU ARE DAMMED TO
ROT IN HELL.

LIKE A TERRIFIED CAT, ELLRY "PEEK" OVER THE STUMP TO TRY AND GET A BETTER GLIMPSE OF THE "BRITISH ARMY."

ELLRY (CON'T)
LAUGH? MAKE A MOCKERY OF
ME? THEY'LL BE BACK. IF
YOU SLEEP TONIGHT WE WILL
TREAD INTO THE SANCTUARY
OF YOUR MINDS AND SMASH
YOU SKULLS!

THEN YOUR DREAMS OF VICTORY
WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN
COLD, DEAD, GREY CELLS!

LEAPING TO HIS FEET, ELLRY FIRES THE PISTOL IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE "ENEMY."

ELLRY (CON'T)
DIE YOU BASTARDS, FOR
LIBERTY LIVES! DIE...
YOU UGLY BASTARDS FOR
LIBERTY LIVES!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

INSTANTLY ELLRY IS OUT OF HIS MADDNESS. HE LOOKS AROUND, CONFUSED AT THE FOREST AND SEES IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

ELLRY, TIRED AND HUNGRY FROM THREE DAYS OF FAMINE AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS SLUMPS BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND AND RESTS ON THE STUMP.

EYEING THE DEAD MAN, ELLRY SOBS. HE THEN PLACES HIS WEARY HEAD GENTLY ON THE DEAD WARRIOR'S CHEST. THROUGH SOFT TEARS...ELLRY SPEAKS.

ELLRY
DIE LIBERTY, FOR BASTARDS
LIVE. REST YE BROTHER.
YOU HAVE NOT FAILED, YET.
REST YE.

INT. MEETING HOUSE - NIGHT

LIEUTENANT WOODSON IS CHATTING WITH HIS COMMANDER IN THE DOORWAY.

LT. WOODSON IS SHORT, TART AND KNOWS HIS STUFF.

COMMANDER
RIDE LIKE WILDFIRE.
NO STOPS IN CAMBRIDGE.

WOODSON
WHERE'LL I STAY? THE
CRENSHAW'S WERE DIS-
COVERED A FEW WEEKS
BACK.

COMMANDER
UPON ARRIVING IN
CONCORDE...YOU'LL STAY
IN THE WESTING HOUSE.
IT'S A SMALL FAMILY
RUN INN. THEY'LL
NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
MORE SECURE THAT WAY.

WOODSON
DO I IDENTIFY MYSELF?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMMANDER
IF YOU FEEL THE MOOD
IS RIGHT. AFTER ALL...
WE ARE FIGHTING FOR THEM.

WOODSON NODS AND SCAMPERS OFF.

COMMANDER (CON'T)
NO STOPS IN CAMBRIDGE!
SET UP AND SCOUT THE
TOWN PROPERLY! IF
NOT...

WOODSON
(UPCUT)
THE REVOLUTION WILL
PERISH. YOU'VE TOLD
ME BEFORE. NOT TO
WORRY. I'M FIRST
LT. WOODSON. I KNOW
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WOODSON FLIES AWAY ON HIS HORSE, AND THE COMMANDER WATCHES
HIM LEAVE AND SPEAKS TO HIMSELF.

COMMANDER
THATS WHAT I TOLD MY
WIFE ON OUR WEDDING
NIGHT.

EXT. BRIMM BACKYARD - DAY

ANNIE IS WATERING FLOWERS. LYMAN COMES INTO THE BACKYARD
AND IS SCRIBBLING SOMETHING FURIOUSLY ON HIS PAD.

LYMAN
HELP ME, ANNIE. THE SUN
SEEMS TO CAST A DIFFERNT
GLOW HERE THAN IT DID IN
CONNETICUIT. I WANT TO
RECORD IT IMMEDIATELY
BUT I CAN'T FIND THE
PROPER WORDING.

ANNIE
LOOKS THE SAME TO ME.

AGAIN, THE CRAZY LYMAN DROPS HIS PAD AND LOOKS AT ANNIE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYMAN

DAMMIT! LOOK. LOOK AT THE WAY IT BEATS DOWN ON THAT RIVER BED. THEN LOOK TO YOUR LEFT AND SEE THE WAY THE ROCKS TOSS THE STREAM OF LIGHT BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE TIPS OF THE WILDFLOWERS. ONE SECOND IT'S SERENE, THE NEXT A JACKRABBIT SEARCHING FOR A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE IF IT STANDS STILL IT'LL GET CAUGHT. KEEP MOVING OR DIE. DON'T YOU SEE IT?

ANNIE

I THINK I DO. THE BEAMS SEEMS TO HAVE A PURPOSE?

LYMAN

(TRIUMPHANT)
YES! THATS IT! A PURPOSE!

LYMAN SPEAKS OUT LOUD AS HE WRITES IN HIS PAD.

LYMAN

THE FEW TIMES THAT THE FUROR OF THE REVOLUTION SLEEPS IN THE BACK OF MEN'S MINDS...ONE CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE POWER OF THE SUN.

NEVER LACKING, THE SUN SEARCHES FOR A MAN TO INHIBIT. TO FUEL HIM WITH THE ENERGY THAT ALLOWS A MAN TO TRAVEL BEYOND HIS OWN LIMITATIONS.

EXCITEMENT RUNS AS HIGH AS THE SUN'S STRONGEST BEAM REACHING FOR THE HEAVENS. AND A COMMON MAN CAN'T HELP BUT TO FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LYMAN (CONTINUING)

PRIDE THAT COMES FROM THE WARMTH OF LIBERTY. EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE RECORDED FROM A FAR AWAY TREE, OR AS CLOSE AS A FIELD OF BATTLE, THE HISTORY ONE IS A WITNESS TO CANNOT BE DESCRIBED. IT'S A FEELING.

ANNIE

THATS VERY GOOD. I BELIEVE YOU'VE CAPTURED THE TENSION IN THE AIR THAT HOLDS THIS TOWN CAPTIVE.

LYMAN

HMM. I'LL HAVE TO USE THAT.

ANNIE

HELP ME. I HAVE TO DIG NOW.

EVADING RESPONSIBILITY, LYAMN TURNS AND LEAVES.

LYMAN

TOMORROW. I HAVE TO GO BACK INTO TOWN.

EXT. BACK ALLEY OF LOCAL PUB - NIGHT

IT IS CLOSE TO COMPLETE DARKNESS. ELLRY IS SITTING ON A BARREL OUTSIDE THE BACK DOOR OF THE PUB. HE HAS ON HIS HAT AND IS HAVING GREAT TROUBLE WITH THE PISTOL. HE IS BACK TO NORMAL.

WITH A GENTLE TOUCH, ELLRY TRIES TO GET THE GUN UNSTUCK.

FROM AFAR WE CAN SEE LYMAN APPROACHING. HE IS JOTTING NOTES AND FROM THE STREET SPIES ELLRY. ELLRY SEES NOTHING BECAUSE HE IS ABSORBED.

THE TWO WIERDOS MEET. LYMAN STOPS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF ELLRY, BUT ELLRY IGNORES. BEFORE SPEAKING, LYMAN LOOKS INTENTLY AT ELLRY THEN JOTS A FEW SENTENCES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYMAN
PROBLEMS, BOY?

CALMLY, BUT WITH RESTRAINED TENSION, ELLRY SPEAKS. LIES.

ELLRY
I AM A SERGEANT WITH
THE FIRST BATALLION.

ELLRY POINT TO HIS HAT, AND INDEED, ACCORDING TO THAT HE IS A SGT.

ELLRY (CON'T)
SGT. ESSEX.

LYMAN
SO YOU LEAD MEN.

ELLRY
YEP. DON'T YOU BELIEVE
ME?

LYMAN
SEEN COMBAT?

ELLRY
NOPE. I WILL THOUGH.

LYMAN
WHERE'D YOU GET THE HAT.
LOOKS A LITTLE BIG.

ELLRY MOVES ONLY HIS EYES AND INDEED IT IS LARGE.
HE CHANGES HIS ATTITUDE. HE CONTINUES TO LIE.

ELLRY
MY BROTHER GAVE IT TO
ME. EDDIE. WHO ARE
YOU?

LYMAN
LYMAN BRIMM. WHERE'S
YOUR BROTHER NOW?
DOESN'T HE NEED THE HAT?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLRY
DUNNO. HE'S A TOUGH
ONE. PROBABLY CARVING
UP A REDCOAT RIGHT NOW.

LYMAN SCRIBBLES THIS FALSE INFO DOWN. THEN LYMAN STARTS
MAKING STRANGE NOISES AND BELCHING AND CHURNING...

THIS THROWS ELLRY, BECAUSE UP TO THIS POINT, HE HAS BEEN
THE CRAZY ONE. ELLRY USES HIS INTENSE STARE AND LOOKS AT
LYMAN.

ELLRY
YOU'RE INSANE.

LOOKING AT ELLRY'S MAD MAN STARE, LYMAN STOPS.

LYMAN
SO ARE YOU.

ELLRY
I AM NOT.

LYMAN
NEITHER AM I.

THEY HAVE BOTH DENIED THE TRUTH, AND DEEP INSIDE THEY BOTH
KNOW WHO AND WHAT EACH OTHER IS MADE OF. THE CONFRONTATION
COMPLETE, ELLRY GOES BACK TO CAUTIOSLY GETTING HIS GUN'S
FIRING PIN FREE.

LYMAN
A SISSY COULD PUT
MORE PRESSURE ON THE
HAMMER THAN YOU.

ELLRY
IT'S DELICATE. A
PISTOL IS A COMPLI-
CATED INSTRUMENT.

LYMAN
AH, HA. A COMPLICATED
PROBLEM. I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR ONE. HAND
IT OVER.

GRABBING THE PISTOL FROM ELLRY, LYMAN BEGINS A SHORT, TRITE
HISTORICAL LECTURE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELLRY
YOU BUST THAT, AND
I'LL HAVE TO HURT YOU.

LYMAN
SGT. ESSEX. YOU MUST
CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT.

ELLRY
I HAVEN'T A BLADE.

LYMAN STARES AT ELLRY. NORMALLY A PERSON WOULD FEEL GUILTY OR ASHAMED, OR LOOK AWAY. ELLRY ONLY STARES BACK. LYMAN CONTINUES.

LYMAN
THE GORDIAN KNOT IS A
KNOT MADE OF BARK AND
TWINE. THE KNOT WAS
USED TO FASTEN THE
YOLK AND TONGUE OF A
CHARIOT IN ANCIENT
GORDIUM, CAPITAL OF
PHRYGIA IN ASIA MINOR.

ELLRY SIGHS AND SLEEP BEGINS TO CREEP INTO HIS EYES.

LYMAN (CON'T)
IT WAS BELIEVED THAT
WHO EVER SUCCEEDED IN
UNTYING THE KNOT WOULD
RULE ALL OF ASIA BECAUSE
THE KING OF GORDIUM HAD
TIED THE KNOT.

WHEN GREEK KING ALEXANDER
THE GREAT INVADED ASIA HE
WENT TO GORDIUM AND FAILED
IN HIS QUEST TO UNTIE THE
KNOT.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, ALEX-
ANDER THEN DREW HIS SWORD
AND SEVERED THE KNOT WITH
ONE BLOW!

ALEXANDER LATER WENT ON TO
BRING THE EMPIRE OF THE
PERSIANS, 50 TIMES LARGER
THAN GREECE UNDER HIS DOMINATION.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LYMAN (CONTINUING)
 THUS, ALEXANDER'S CONQUESTS
 FULFILLED THE PROFECY AND
 "CUTTING THE GORDIAN KNOT"
 CAME TO MEAN SOLVING A
 COMPLICATED PROBLEM BY A
 BOLD AND DARING ACTION.

LYMAN LOOKS PLEASED.

ELTRY
 MY PISTOL IS STILL JAMMED.

WITH THE MOVES OF A QUICK FOX, LYMAN TOSSES THE PISTOL HIGH
 INTO THE AIR. ELLRY AND LYMAN SCRAMBLE FOR WHAT LITTLE
 COVER THEY CAN FIND IN THE CROWDED ALLEY.

THE PISTOL SCREAMS BACK DOWN TO THE EARTH AND DISCHARGES
 WITH A LOUD "BOOM." FOR AN INSTANT THE TWO CRAZIES STARE.

THEN, PICKING UP THE PISTOL, ELLRY TAKES IT IN HAND AND
 BEGINS SHAKING IT IN LYMAN'S FACE.

ELTRY
 FOOL! YOU COULD'VE KILLED
 SOMEBODY. NAMELY ME! YOU'RE
 INSANE!

LYMAN
 IT WAS A DARING ACTION. THE
 PROBLEM IS SOLVED. YOUR
 GORDIAN KNOT HAS BEEN CUT,
 SGT.

ELTRY STOPS SHORT, LOOKS AT THE PISTOL WITH HIS INTENSE
 STARE. WITH HIS THUMB, ELLRY FIRES THE SPENT WEAPON A
 FEW TIMES. INDEED, IT IS NOW IN PERFECT WORKING ORDER.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

IT IS A CRAMMED PUB, AND LYMAN AND ELLRY ARE SITTING RIGHT
 IN FRONT OF A ROARING FIRE.

THE TWO HAVE SHARED A FEW BREWS AND ARE OFF THEIR CORKS A
 BIT. THEY SEEM TO ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.

LYMAN
 ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL
 YOU. I'M A HISTORIAN.

THEY LAUGH.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLRY
THATS ALL, EH? THE
WAY YOU WERE ACTING I
THOUGHT YOU WERE A
SPY FOR THE BRITISH.

LYMAN
ITS INTERESTING. SOME
THINK THAT I'M LOOKING
FOR SOME AWFUL TERRIBLE
FAMILY SECRET THAT THEY
HAVE LOCKERED AWAY IN
THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS.

I'M JUST DOING A JOB THAT
HAS TO BE DONE.

ELLRY
WHY DO YOU DO IT?

LYMAN SLAMS HIS HEAD DOWN ON THE TABLE. HE LOOKS UP VERY
TIRED AND VERY WEARY. HE'S TOLD THE STORY A THOUSAND TIMES,
AND HE DOESN'T WANT TO TELL IT AGAIN. HE DOES ANYWAY.

LYMAN
LET ME SHOW YOU.

LYMAN TEARS OUT A PIECE OF PAPER FROM THE NOTE PAD. HE HANDS
IT, PLUS HIS WRITING INSTRUMENT TO ELLRY.

LYMAN (CON'T)
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

ELLRY
NOT REALLY. I KNOW HER
THOUGH.

LYMAN
FINE. THAT'LL BE GOOD
ENOUGH.

WITHOUT ME SEEING, WRITE
HER NAME ON THAT PIECE
OF PAPER.

LYMAN LOOKS AWAY, AS ELLRY SCRIBES "ANNIE" ON THE SHEET.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLRY
DONE.

LYMAN
FOLD IT IN HALVES,
TWICE.

ELLRY DOES IT, AND USES THE BOTTOM OF HIS BEER MUG TO
DEFINE THE CREASE.

ELLRY
DONE.

LYMAN
NOW HAND IT OVER.

ELLRY
WHAT?

LYMAN
(SLOWLY)
GIVE IT TO ME.

RELUCTANTLY, ELLRY HANDS THE PAPER TO LYMAN. WITH A WIDE
GRIN LYMAN STROKES THE PAPER UNDERNEATH HIS CHIN AND WITH
A FLICK OF THE WRIST TOSSES IT INTO THE FIRE.

WITH A TRIUMPHANT LOOK, LYMAN LOOKS TO ELLRY.

ELLRY
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

LYMAN
TO PROVE MY POINT.

ELLRY
WHAT?

LYMAN
DID YOU WRITE ON THAT
PAPER?

ELLRY
YES.

LYMAN
DID IT EXIST?

ELLRY
YES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LYMAN
PROVE IT.

ELTRY
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? PROVE WHAT?

LYMAN
SHOW ME THE PAPER.

ELTRY REALLY STARES AT LYMAN. THIS TIME, HE SPEAKS IN A LOW,
MENACING TONE. LYMAN DOESN'T NOTICE.

ELTRY
HOW CAN I? YOU THREW
IT IN THE FIRE.

LYMAN
NO I DIDN'T.

AT THIS, ELLRY PLOPS BACK IN HIS CHAIR, PUTS HIS ARMS
BEHIND HIS HEAD AND STARES, STARES, STARES.

ELTRY
I SAW YOU.

LYMAN
NO YOU DIDN'T.

ELTRY
WHERE THE HELL IS THE
PAPER?

LYMAN
WHAT PAPER?

ELTRY
THE PAPER YOU HAD ME
WRITE ON.

LYMAN
THERE NEVER WAS ONE.

ELTRY
BUT I HELD IT BETWEEN
MY FINGERS!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LYMAN
CAN YOU PROVE IT?

ELTRY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LYMAN
IF THE PAPER EXISTED...
FIND SOMEONE WHO
SAW IT BESIDES YOU.

ELTRY LOOKS AROUND THE PUB. HE SEES GIGGLING WOMEN AND DRUNKS. NO ONE SAW IT, AND ELTRY KNOWS THAT.

ELTRY
I SAW IT. I HELD IT.
SO DID YOU.

LYMAN
NO I DIDN'T. THE PAPER
NEVER WAS.

ELTRY
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

WITH THAT, LYMAN BECOMES POSSESSED. WITH A GREAT QUIET PASSION, LYMAN SPEAKS...

LYMAN
NO! DAMMIT BOY, ITS NOT
WHAT I SAY. IT'S WHAT
YOU SAY...IT'S WHAT A
MAN SAYS BEFORE HE DIES...
ITS WHAT LITTLE GIRLS SAY
WHEN THEY SCRAPE THEIR
KNEE...ITS WHAT A MAN TELLS
A WOMAN IN A PRIVATE MOMENT.

IT'S WHAT THEY SAY. THE
PEOPLE . THEIR WORDS.
NO MINE.

ELTRY
I AM CONFUSED.

LYMAN
HELL! DON'T YOU SEE IT?
HISTORY. THAT PIECE OF
PAPER YOU HELD WAS HISTORY.
THATS WHY I DO IT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELLRY

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

LYMAN HAS A QUICK LOOK OF DESPAIR. IT VANISHES WHEN HE
DECIDES TO BE CLEAR CUT.

LYMAN

SOMETHING EXISTS ONLY
WHEN SOMEBODY CARES
ENOUGH TO RECORD IT.
NOT ONLY RECORD, BUT
PRESERVE IT. THATS THE
KEY MY BOY...TO PRESERVE
WHAT HAPPENS AT ALL COSTS..

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T...
IF YOU LET IT BE LOST,
FORGOTTEN, OR TOSSED INTO
THE FIRE OF YESTERDAY...
IT NEVER HAPPENED. YOU
CAN'T PROVE IT. THATS
WHERE HISTORY CHANGES
FROM TODAY'S FORGOTTEN
PARABLE TO TOMORROW'S
FUTURE.

YOU SEE IT, DON'T YOU
BOY?

ELLRY

I THINK SO. SO EVEN
THOUGH I WROTE ON THE
PAPER, I REALLY DIDN'T.
BECAUSE I CAN'T PROVE
IT.

LYMAN

EXACTLY! OTHER PEOPLE
HAVE TO TAKE PART, UNDER-
STAND THE MEANING...OTHER-
WISE TRAGEDY TAKES OVER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ELTRY
 WHATS THE SAYING.
 'THOSE WHO CANNOT
 REMEMBER THE PAST ARE
 CONDEMNED TO REPEAT
 IT?'

LYMAN
 NOW, YOU'VE GOT IT! IF
 IT WEREN'T FOR PEOPLE
 LIKE ME RECORDING THINGS
 THAT GO ON...OUR FUTURE
 WOULD BE CONDEMNED TO THE
 PAST. CIRCLING AROUND
 ITSELF. NEVER EXPANDING.
 NEVER GROWING. NO CHANCE
 IN HELL TO EXCEED TOMORROW'S
 DREAMS.

ELTRY
 FANTASTIC!

LYMAN
 DO YOU KNOW THAT OVER 300
 MEN HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES
 TO THE REVOLUTION IN A
 SMALL TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA
 ALONE?

ELTRY
 No.

LYMAN
 DO YOU KNOW WHY?

ELTRY
 No.

LYMAN
 I DIDN'T EITHER. JAMES
 MCHUEY KNOWS.

ELTRY
 JAMES MCHUEY. ANOTHER
 HISTORIAN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

LYMAN
HE'S HARRISBURG'S ONLY
MAN THAT CARES ENOUGH
TO PRESERVE THE LIVES
OF 300 DEAD MEN.

YOU MUST ACT FAST.

ELLY
WHY?

LYMAN
TO CAPTURE THE MOMENT
AS CLOSE TO THE TRUTH
AS POSSIBLE. THE TRUE
SENSE...THE BEGINNING...
THE BIRTH OF THAT MOMENT.

ELLY
SO, DO IT QUICK, HUH?

LYMAN
NO! FASTER.

ELLY
SECONDS?

LYMAN
INDEED. HOW LONG DID IT
TAKE THE PAPER TO DISSOLVE?

ELLY
A MOMENT.

LYMAN
IN SECONDS.

ELLY
ONE. MAYBE TWO.

LYMAN GETS CRAZY AGAIN. AND TUGS AT HIS HAIR.

LYMAN
ARRUGH! NOT TWO SECONDS.
NOT EVEN A SINGLE! A SPLIT
SECOND. PROBABLY QUICKER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

ELLYR LOOKS AT THE BAR TAB, THEN TO THE FIRE. PICKING UP THE TAB, BUT LOOKING AWAY, ELLRY TOSSES THE BILL INTO THE FIRE. IT IS GONE.

ELLYR
GONE. IT ONLY TOOK A
SECOND AND POOF. AMAZING.

EXT. ROAD TO CONCORDE - NIGHT

LT. WOODSON IS RIDING HIS HORSE FULL TILT TO CONCORDE FROM LEXINGTON. AS HE SLICES BY THE CAMERA, WE HEAR THE HORSE'S HOOFBEATS TRAIL OFF IN THE DISTANCE OF THE NIGHT.

EXT. WOODEN BRIDGE OUTSIDE TOWN - NIGHT

ANNIE IS WAITING ALONE FOR ELLRY. AS ANNIE LOOKS ABOUT, ELLRY LEAPS TO THE GROUND FROM THE TREE ALONGSIDE THE BRIDGE AND SCARES THE DRESS OFF ANNIE...ALMOST.

ELLYR
GREETINGS, BEAUTIFUL!

ANNIE
ELLYR! YOU SCARED ME
SO. PLEASE DON'T DO
THAT.

ELLYR
I'M HAPPY YOU CAME.

ANNIE
WHY DO WE HAVE TO
MEET IN SUCH PLACES?
COME TO MY HOUSE. YOU
CAN STAY IN THE ATTIC.

ELLYR
THANKS. JUST WHAT I
NEED. AN ATTIC.

GOOD SOLDIERS MUST BE ABLE
TO SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN.
I HAVEN'T HAD A FULL NIGHT'S
SLEEP SINCE I MET YOU. BUT
I WAS ABLE TO SNEAK UP ON
YOU SECRETLY. I'M GETTING
BETTER. I HAVE TO DO IT
THIS WAY SO I CAN BE A GENERAL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNIE

BUT FIGHTING IS MORE
THAN STAYING AWAKE AND
STARVING YOURSELF.
NOT TO MENTION 18 YEAR
OLD GIRLS WHO ARE SCARED
OF THE DARK.

ELLYR LOOKS AT ANNIE IN A FUNNY WAY. NOT HIS USUAL STARE.
HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE CAN'T SEE HIS "LOGIC."

ELLYR

YOU DON'T THINK I CAN
DO IT.

ANNIE

WELL CAN YOU? IT
SHOULDN'T MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE WHAT I
THINK. IT'S WHAT YOU
THINK. YOU'RE PUTTING
YOUR LIFE IN THE FIRE
WHEN YOU FIGHT. NOT
MINE.

ELLYR

I AM THE GREAT SGT.
ELLYR ESSEX OF THE
COLONIAL CONTINENTAL
ARMY.

ANNIE

STOP IT.

ELLYR

ANNIE?

ANNIE

GET SOME REST. I'LL
BRING A BLANKET FROM
HOME.

ELLYR TURNS AWAY FROM ANNIE.

ANNIE (CON'T)

I'VE HURT YOU. HAVEN'T
I?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLRY IGNORES THE QUESTION.

ANNIE
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
THE HILL THE OTHER
DAY WAS SOMETHING
THAT HARDLY EVER
HAPPENS. IT WAS A
FEELING THAT WILL LIVE
FOREVER IN MY MEMORIES.

BUT BEYOND THAT...

ELLRY LOOKS TO THE GROUND.

ELLRY
GONE. IT ONLY TOOK A
SECOND AND POOF.

ANNIE GOES TO ELLRY AND SPINS HIM AROUND TO FACE HER. HE
LOOKS AT THE GROUND.

ANNIE
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT.

AT THAT INSTANT, LT. WOODSON COMES TEARING ACROSS THE
WOODEN BRIDGE. HE ALMOST RUNS DOWN THE YOUNG COUPLE.

ELLRY CHANGES MOODS AND IS EXCITED.

ELLRY
DID YOU SEE THAT?

ANNIE
IT WAS A MAN.

ELLRY
NOT JUST A MAN! AN
OFFICER. I'M CERTAIN
OF IT.

ANNIE
WE DO HAVE A FULL MOON.

ELLRY
THAT MAN WAS AN OFFICER
IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.
HE'S HEADING INTO TOWN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANNIE
SOMETHING MUST BE
TAKING PLACE.

ELTRY
NOT JUST SOMETHING.
THIS IS IT. THE BRITISH
MUST BE PLANNING AN
ATTACK. HE CAME FROM
LEXINGTON.

ELTRY BEGINS TO LEAVE...THEN COMES BACK TO ANNIE.

ELTRY (CON'T)
I MUST GO. I HAVE TO
JOIN THE FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM. I'LL SEE YOU
SOON. I LOVE YOU.

ELTRY SPRINTS OFF THE BRIDGE LEAVING ANNIE ALONE. WE STAY
WITH ANNIE FOR A BEAT. WE SEE IN HER FACE A LOOK OF PRIDE,
BUT ALSO A LOOK OF FRIGHTFUL DISMAY.

EXT. WESTING HOUSE INN - NIGHT

ELTRY IS HEAVING FOR AIR AND HAS POSITIONED HIMSELF DIRECTLY
OUTSIDE AN OPEN WINDOW TO THE LOBBY. WE ONLY HEAR THE
CONVERSATION AND SEE ELLRY'S REACTIONS.

WOODSON
EVENING, 'MAM. I NEED
A ROOM FOR THIS NIGHT.

LADY
YES, SIR. I SEE YOU'RE
WITH THE ARMY.

ELTRY LEAPS TO HIS FEET, EXHAUSTION FORGOTTEN, AND LOOKS IN
THE WINDOW.

WOODSON
A SPECIAL DIVISION.

LADY
YOU KNOW WASHINGTON?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOODSON

YES. I AM CURRENTLY
SERVING UNDER COLONELS
ALLEN AND ARNOLD.

LADY

ETHAN ALLEN?

WOODSON

AND BENNEDICT ARNOLD.
A GREAT STRATEGIST.

LADY

WHATS THE NAME AGAIN?

WOODSON

LT. OTIS WOODSON. I'M
WITH THE GREEN MOUNTAIN
BOYS.

LADY

YOU HAVE ROOM 7, FLOOR 3.
ENJOY YOUR STAY. BREAK-
FAST IS AT 6:30AM. AFTER
THAT, YOU FEND FOR YOUR-
SELF.

WOODSON

ORDERS RECEIVED.

WITH A WARM SMILE, WOODSON STOMPS UP THE STAIRS TO HIS
ROOM.

ELLRY, MEANWHILE, HAS A LOOK OF WONDERMENT. HE IS PLANNING
HIS OWN STRATEGY.

EXT. BRIMM BACKYARD FLOWER GARDEN - DAY

ALONE, ANNIE IS WORKING WITH HER FLOWERS. THEY ARE LILIES.

ANNIE

TAKE YOUR TIME. YOU HAVE
PLENTY OF TIME TO BECOME
SOMETHING. TIME IS ON
YOUR SIDE. WE HAVE TO
GIVE YOU TO ELLRY AND SHOW
HIM THAT THERE'S MORE TO
LIVING THAN FIGHTING IN A
WAR. DRINK, DRINK, DRINK
MY LILIES. MY PRETTY LILIES.

(CONTINUED)

EXT. TOWN STREETS - DAY

IT IS VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING. BEFORE 6:30AM. LT. WOODSON HAS BEEN SCOURING THE ENTIRE TOWN FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. HE IS FULLY ARMED.

AS THE LT. MOVES INTO AN ALLEYWAY, ELLRY MOVES IN BEHIND HIM LIKE A PANTHER READYING TO STRIKE.

SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE, ELLRY STARTLES THE LT.

ELLRY
LIEUTENANT! I AM ELLRY
ESSEX OF CONCORDE MASSA-
CHUSETTS. I AM HERE TO
RIDE THE WINGS OF HONOR
AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

THE LT. IS NOT IMPRESSED. FASTER THAN A BLINK ELLRY FINDS THE LT'S. SWORD NAPPING AT HIS NECK. LIEUTENANT WOODSON IS FUMING.

WOODSON
THIS IS TREASON! DEATH
TO YOU. YOU LECHEROUS
SCUM.

ELLRY STARES AT THE SWORD, BUT DOES NOT MOVE HIS HEAD. ELLRY'S EYES ARE READY TO FLEE FROM HIS SKULL.

WOODSON (CON'T)
SPEAK NOW, TRAITOR. FOR
IN A SWIFT SECOND, YOUR
THROAT WILL BE MINE...
AND STREAMING THE BLOOD
OF THE KING.

NOT WANTING TO DIE DISHONORABLY, ELLRY SCOURS HIS BRAIN FOR SOMETHING INTELLIGENT TO SAY. DEFTLY, ELLRY SPEAKS A PHRASE THAT LYMAN TAUGHT HIM.

ELLRY
ENSE PETIT PLACIDAM SUB
LIBERATE QUIETEN.

A CALMER LOOK TAKES OVER WOODSON. CAUTIOSLY THE LT. WITH-
DRAWS THE SWORD FROM ELLRY'S THROAT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOODSON
'BY THE SWORD WE SEEK
PEACE. BUT PEACE ONLY
UNDER LIBERTY.'

ELLYR LOOKS RELIEVED, BUT STAYS STILL. AFTER A BEAT, THE
LT. REPLACES HIS SWORD IN IT'S SCABBARD.

WOODSON (CON'T)
WHAT DO YOU WANT, BOY?

ELLYR
TO FIGHT. IN THE WAR.
THE REVOLUTION.

WOODSON
WHO ARE YOU?

ELLYR
ELLYR ESSEX. I LIVE IN
CONCORDE FOR THE TIME...
BUT I PLAN TO LEAVE SOON.
YOU SEE -- I WANT TO BE A
GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY.

WOODSON SEEMS PLEASED, BUT NONE-THE-LESS SUSPICIOUS.

WOODSON
WHY?

ELLYR IS ASTONISHED. NEVER BEFORE HAS ANYONE REALLY ASKED
'WHY?' WHEN ELLRY TELLS THEM THAT HE JUST WANTS TO FIGHT
AND DIE IN THE REVOLUTION...THEY THINK HIM A DEDICATED
PATRIOT. NOT LIEUTENANT OTIS WOODSON.

ELLYR
WHY. WHY DO I WANT TO
BE A GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY?

WOODSON
(WITH PASSION)
NO, SON. WHY DO YOU WANT
TO FIGHT?

ELLYR
(UNCONVINCING)
BECAUSE ITS THE RIGHT
THING TO DO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WOODSON
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

ELLRY
EVERYBODY KNOWS.

WOODSON
INDEED. BUT YOU'RE
WRONG. YOU ARE REALLY
DEAD WRONG ELLRY. LOOK
AT THIS TOWN.

THE LT. MAKES A SWEEPING MOTION WITH HIS ARMS. HE IS SOFTER
IN TONE WHEN HE EXPLAINS THIS TO A CONFUSED ELLRY.

WOODSON
I BET YOU'D BE SURPRISED
TO FIND OUT HOW MANY PEOPLE
IN THIS TOWN ARE SCARED TO
DEATH. THEY HAVE NO REAL
CONTROL OVER WHAT HAPPENS
TO THEM. MOST OF THEM
DON'T SUPPORT THE REVOL-
UTION.

ELLRY
FIND THEM! TEACH THEM.

WOODSON
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND FIRST.
UNDER THE KING THINGS WERE
QUIETER. THE MONARCH WAS
AN OCEAN AWAY AND MOST OF
THE TIME LIFE WAS PLEASANT.

ELLRY
So?

WOODSON
LET ME CONTINUE. TROUBLE
SPREADS. THE COMMON CITIZEN
IS CAUGHT INBETWEEN. HE HAS
NO IDEA IF HE SHOULD FOLLOW
TRADITION OR JOIN THE RADICALS.
THE CRAZIES.

THINK OF THE CONFUSION! ON ONE
HAND HE'S A LORY. THE OTHER...
HE COULD BE HANGED FOR SUPPORTING
THE REBELS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELLY

BUT, DAMMIT, LT. I
WANT TO FIGHT. THAT
MUST COUNT FOR SOMETHING!

WOODSON

IT DOES. AGAINST YOU.
NO CONTROL. FOCUS IT.
THEN USE IT.

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS GOOD.
BUT THE REVOLUTION IS NOT
A FIGHT. IT'S A CAUSE. IN
FACT...THE REASON WE'RE IN
A FIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE TALK
FAILED.

THE REBEL WARRIORS ARE SUP-
PORTING FREEDOM FROM TYRANTS.
THE COLONIAL GOAL IS NOT TO
KILL MEN...OR GET KILLED.
THE GOAL IS TO SET MEN
FREE. LET THEM CHOOSE
THEIR OWN FATE. THAT ONLY
COMES WITH TIME.

ELLY

I CAN'T JUST SIT.

WOODSON

JOIN THE CAUSE. WE CAN USE
SOME NEW BLOOD.

ELLY

(WHINING)

BUT I WANT TO SERVE UNDER
COLONEL ALLEN OR ARNOLD.
I WANT TO BE A GREEN MOUNTAIN
BOY.

WOODSON

YOU MUST PROVE YOURSELF
WORTHY. PATIENCE AND
TIME SHOULD BE YOUR ALLIES.

ELLY

BUT HOW CAN I PROVE MYSELF?
HELP ME...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WOODSON
I ALREADY HAVE.

ELTRY
ALL RIGHT. BUT I WANT
TO PROVE MYSELF TO MYSELF
FIRST. HOW CAN I DO THAT?

WITH A SMILE, WOODSON RELATES...

WOODSON
IN BATTLE.

A FEW BEATS PASS BY AS THE TWO THINK OF WHAT HAS JUST BEEN
SAID.

ELTRY
WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR
EARLIER?

WOODSON
ONLY OBSERVING. ESCAPE
AND ACCESS ROUTES.

ELTRY
I WAS RIGHT! THERE IS
GOING TO BE A BATTLE
SOON!

WOODSON
POSSIBLY.

ELTRY
PLEASE. TELL ME WHAT YOU
KNOW.

WOODSON
NOT EVERYTHING. I WILL TELL
YOU I AM ON MY WAY TO HELP
DEFEAT THE BRITISH AT FORT
TICONDEROGA AND LAKE
CHAMPLAIN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

I CAN SAY THAT THE ATTACK
WILL COME AS A SURPRISE TO
THE BRITISH. WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT FOR
MONTHS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELLRY
WHAT ABOUT CONCORDE?
ARE WE SAFE?

WOODSON
I HAVE AN IDEA. IT WILL
MOST LIKELY TAKE PLACE IN
THIS AREA. BEYOND THAT...
I CANNOT DISCLOSE...

ELLRY
GOD. IT IS GOING TO
HAPPEN. WHEN? PLEASE.

WOODSON DEBATES IF HE SHOULD SAY ANY MORE. HE DOES.

WOODSON
(A SMILE)
SOON. REMEMBER WHAT I
TOLD YOU.

WOODSON BEGINS TO LEAVE, BUT ELLRY CHASES BEHIND.

ELLRY
HOW SOON? A WEEK, MONTHS?
A YEAR...HOURS..MINUTES?
SECONDS?

WOODSON DEBATES AGAIN, BUT DECIDES AGAINST ANYTHING MORE.
HE BECOMES OBTUSE.

WOODSON
ASK THE BRITISH.

LEAVING ELLRY ALONE IN THE ALLEY...WOODSON TREADS OFF INTO
THE NEW SUNLIGHT. ELLRY IS CAUTIOUSLY EXCITED BUT VERY
UNCERTAIN AND SCARED. SOMETHING BIG IS AHEAD AND BY GOD
HE ISN'T GOING TO MISS OUT ON THIS ONE.

EXT. DIRT ROAD INTO CONCORDE - DAY

IT IS DAWN, AND THE DATE IS APRIL 19, 1775. ELLRY ESSEX
HAS GIVEN IN AND IS SLEEPING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

HE IS SPRAWLED AND HIS PISTOL LIES ATOP HIS HEAVING CHEST...
AND HIS HAT COVERS HIS FACE. AS MOST PEOPLE WHO DON'T
SLEEP FOR THREE DAYS GOING...ELLRY IS DEAD TO THE WORLD
AND KONKED TO THE LIMITS OF CONFUSION.

FROM AFAR A LONE HORSEMAN GALLOPS INTO THE FRAME. HE PULLS
BACK UPON SEEING ELLRY IN THE ROAD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAN
HEY THERE. CLEAR THE
ROAD. THE TIME IS
PASSING FOR THE SCENE.

ELTRY IS GROGGY. HE TRIES TO USE HIS INTIMIDATING STARE
ON THE MAN...BUT HE IS OUT OF IT.

MAN (CON'T)
WHY AREN'T YOU PREPARED
SGT? THE FIGHTING IS
TO BEGIN IN SECONDS.

ELTRY SNAPS INTO REALITY.

ELTRY
MY GOD. WHAT DID YOU
SAY?

MAN
THE BATTLE! MEN FROM
LEXINGTON HAVE BEEN
TRAVELING THIS ROAD
FOR HOURS IN ORDER TO
REACH CONCORDE BY
DAWN.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING.
REVERE, DAWES AND PRES-
COTT ALERTED THE MINUTE
MEN IN LEXINGTON. YOU
KNEW NOTHING OF THIS?

ELTRY IS IN A PINCH. HE LIES AND STARES.

ELTRY
I WAS ASSIGNED. I WAS
PLACED HERE TO GATHER
THE LAST. ARE YOU?

MAN
YES. THEY SAID AT LEAST
70 MINUTE MEN WOULD BE IN
CONCORDE. IS THAT TRUE?

ELTRY
THATS ABOUT IT. 70 MEN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE MAN BEGINS TO PULL AWAY.

MAN

I'LL SEE YOU. SGT.....

ELTRY

ESSEX. SGT. ELLRY
ESSEX OF THE GREEN
MOUNTAIN BOYS.

MAN

IT'S AN HONOR, SGT.
THE REDCOATS ARE IN FOR
QUITE A FIGHT.

TO ARMS, FRIEND!

WITH THAT, THE MAN RIDES INTO CONCORDE. ELLRY SCRAMBLES FOR THE PISTOL, FIXES HIS HAT...AND SPRINTS INTO THE TOWN.

EXT. CENTER OF TOWN/CONCORDE - DAY

THE TOWN IS IN A FUROR AS ELLRY ENTERS. ELLRY IS AWED BY THE ORGANIZED MAYHEM FOR A FEW BEATS. THE ONLY MEN LEFT IN TOWN ARE ELLRY, JARED THE STOREKEEP, AND LYMAN.

JARED LEAVES THE SCENE, AND ELLRY GOES OVER TO LYMAN, WHO IS SCURRYING ABOUT TAKING NOTES. LYMAN HAS A RIFLE.

ELTRY

LYMAN.

LYMAN

MY BOY! EXCITING, ISN'T IT?
I CAN'T SEEM TO WRITE THE
THOUGHTS DOWN QUICK ENOUGH.

IT'S ALL SO REAL, BUT IN A
DREAM LIKE WAY. AN INCRE-
DIBLE DREAM AT THAT.

IT'S LIKE THE LONE TAPESTRY
HAS BEEN DRAWN AND THE LIGHTS
SILENCED FOR THE SACRED...YET
FINAL DENOUEMENT.

I'LL HAVE TO USE THAT.

LYMAN JOTS IT DOWN, AS ELLRY BECOMES SERIOUS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELTRY SPEAKS SHAPRLY TO LYMAN.

ELTRY
GIVE ME YOUR RIFLE.
TODAY IS THE DAY. I
MUST PROVE MYSELF TO
...ME.

LYMAN LOOKS SADLY AT ELLRY, BUT GIVES IT TO HIM ANYWAY.

LYMAN
IT'S NOT MINE. JARED'S.
IT'S THE ONLY ONE I HAVE.

ELTRY
YOU MUST HAVE ANOTHER
AT HOME?

THINKING OF THE MUSKET...LYMAN CONCEDES.

LYMAN
YOU USE THAT ONE. I KNOW
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
HISTORY DEMANDS IT. MY
FATHER WISHES IT. THIS IS
THE DAY.

ELTRY DIDN'T HEAR LYMAN'S LAST FEW LINES. ELLRY TWIRLS
THE RIFLE ABOUT, THEN BURNS HIS LEATHER BOOTS TO WHERE
THE ACTION IS TAKING PLACE.

THEN ELLRY STOPS AND SPEAKS TO LYMAN FROM AFAR.

ELTRY
THANK YOU. I'LL WRITE THIS
DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WOULDN'T WANT THIS TO BE
LOST! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU UP
THERE. BE THERE QUICKLY.

TO ARMS, FRIEND!

LYMAN NODS UNWILLINGLY AND ELLRY IS GONE. LYMAN LOOKS AT
HIS HANDS AND BEGINS TO WEEP. HE KNOWS THIS IS THE DAY.

WITH A SINCERE LOOK OF FRIGHT AND SADDNESS...LYMAN MAKES
HIS WAY SLOWLY TO HIS HOME.

EXT. FERTILE HILLY COVE - DAY

THE SUN BEGINS IT'S RISE. THE BRITISH AND COLONISTS ARE FACING EACH OTHER. THE TENSION IS SET. EYEBALL TO EYEBALL FROM A PACE OF 30 FEET. BUT TIME HAS BEEN SLOWED AND THE EARTH HOT AND THE MEN CAN ALMOST SMELL THE OPPOSITION'S BREATH.

ELTRY STEAMS TO THE END OF THE LINE, AND STANDS NEXT TO JARED. JARED SMILES WARILY AT ELLRY. HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HIS GUN.

ELTRY
WHAT'S HAPPENED?

JARED
THEY WANT US TO LEAVE
OR THEY'LL RUN US OUT.

ELTRY NODS AND TRIES TO CATCH HIS BREATH. ELLRY THEN SPIES LT. WOODSON ATOP HIS HORSE AND BANTERING WITH THE BRITISH OFFICERS.

ELTRY STRAINS TO HEAR WHAT IS BEING STATED...BUT CANNOT. HE IS TOO FAR AWAY.

ELTRY SPEAKS TO JARED.

ELTRY
WHY DON'T WE OPEN FIRE?
WE CAN GET MOST OF THEM
IF WE SCATTER.

JARED
NO, NO NO. PROVOCATION.
THE COLONISTS MUST KEEP
PEACE AT ALL COSTS. LET
THEM FIRE THE ROUND.

OTHERWISE, WE'LL BE SEEN
AS A BUNCH OF THUGS LOOKING
FOR A BRAWL TO WIN AND MEN
TO MURDER.

LIKE THROWING THE FIRST PUNCH.
WE CAN HIT JUST AS HARD WHEN
WE'RE ATTACKED. NO, SON. WE
WAIT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AT THAT MOMENT, LYMAN STEPS INTO THE FRAME. HE STANDS NEXT TO ELLRY AND SEEMS TRANSFIXED BY A MEMORY.

LYMAN LOOKS LIKE A BEATEN MAN BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN. HE'S BEEN FIGHTING HIS OWN MENTAL WAR. LYMAN HAS HIS FATHER'S LOADED MUSKET AND IT SHINES IN THE NEWBORN SUNLIGHT.

ELLRY LOOKS TO LYMAN AND BEGINS TO GREET HIM. BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, ALL THE MEN RAISE THE WEAPONS TO THEIR SHOULDERS AND TAKE AIM. LT. WOODSON HAS HIS HAND ABOVE HIS HEAD, AS DOES THE BRITISH COMMANDER.

LT. WOODSON SHOUTS TO THE MEN, BUT IT GETS LOST IN THE DISTANCE OF THE HILLS AND SKY.

A STAND OFF.

WITH SILENCE DEAFENING...NOTHING HAPPENS. YOU CAN HEAR CHESTS HEAVING.

WITHOUT WARNING! LYMAN BRIMM FIRES THE MUSKET INTO THE BAND OF REDCOATS! CONFUSION.

THREE FALL TO THE SHOT, AND HELL HAS TAKEN OVER. THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN. MEN CRY AND FALL. SHOTS FILL THE AIR AND CONFUSION REIGNS.

LYMAN FALLS BACK AND BEGINS TO RUN AWAY. HE TRAVELS DOWN THE HILL. LYMAN BRIMM, A COLONIST, HAS FIRED 'THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD.' IT WILL LIVE IN THE HISTORY OF A NATION'S FUTURE.

WITH LYMAN GONE, ELLRY ATTEMPTS TO TRACK LYMAN'S PLIGHT... BUT A MAN FALLS INTO ELLRY'S ARMS.

LOOKING AT HIS FACE, ELLRY FINDS TO HIS HORROR, IT IS JARED DUNNING.

SCARED, ELLRY DROPS JARED AND THE RIFLE AND FLEES TO FIND LYMAN.

AS WE SEE ELLRY FLING HIMSELF DOWN THE HILL...WE CAN HEAR LT. WOODSON FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE IS SCREAMING.

EXT. OAK TREE AT FOOT OF BATTLE HILL - DAY

LYMAN IS BAWLING LIKE A CHILD. THE PUMPING ROD IS NEXT TO HIM AND WE KNOW THAT HE HAS RE-LOADED THE MUSKET.

THROUGHOUT THIS SCENE BATTLE SHOTS AND CRIES CAN BE HEARD.

FROM A DOMINANT ALOFT POV, LYMAN LOOKS LIKE A HOLY CROSS. HIS BODY IS THE VERTICLE PIECE AND THE MUSKET LIES HORIZONTAL TO HIM. LYMAN IS ON THE GROUND IN THE FETAL POSITION.

ELTRY COMES DOWN THE HILL WITH GREAT SPEED, SEES LYMAN AND STOPS DEAD ON A DIME IN FRONT OF LYMAN.

KNOWING THAT ELTRY IS THERE, LYMAN SPEAKS WITHOUT LOOKING UP FROM THE DIRT.

LYMAN
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
AREN'T THEY?

ELTRY
YES. MOST OF THEM.
WHY DID YOU FIRE?
YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?

LYMAN NODS IN THE DIRT. HE MUMBLES THROUGH TEARS.

ELTRY (CON'T)
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

ELTRY HAS BECOME A MAN. HE TAKES OVER. HE IS CONFIDENT AND A LITTLE ANGRY. WE SEE A DIFFERENT ELTRY IN THIS FINAL SCENE.

LYMAN
A SECOND. THATS ALL IT
TOOK. IT FINALLY HAPPENED.
IN A SECOND. JUST LIKE
HE SAID IT WOULD. IT ONLY
TOOK A SECOND.

ELTRY IS LOST. BUT DEEP CONCERN IS ON HIS FACE. NO STARE.

ELTRY
WHAT FINALLY HAPPENED?

LYMAN
THE SECOND MAN.

(CONT NUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLRY
THE WHAT?

LYMAN
ME. I'M THE SECOND
MAN.

ELLRY
THE SECOND MAN.

LYMAN
MY FATHER. HE WAS
BEFORE ME. THE FIRST.
I'M NEXT. JUST LIKE HE
SAID. THE SECOND MAN.

ELLRY SEARCHES, BUT STILL DOESN'T GET IT.

ELLRY
YOU'RE SECOND. THE SHOT.
IT ONLY TOOK A SECOND?

LYMAN
NO. CODE. SECOND MAN.
IT'S A CODE NAME.

ELLRY
LYMAN. WHAT THE HELL IS
GOING ON? CODE NAME?
YOU NEXT? YOUR FATHER?

LYMAN
YOU KNOW ELLRY. IT'S
FUNNY. I WAS BEGINNING
TO LIKE IT HERE.

ELLRY
DAMN YOU! TELL ME!

ELLRY GOES TO LYMAN AND ROUGHLY STANDS HIM UP. ELLRY SHAKES
LYMAN BACK AND FORTH BUT IT DOES NO GOOD.

ELLRY
IN THE NAME OF GOD.
WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?
LET IT OUT FROM INSIDE!

LYMAN GETS RIGID, AND FLATLY TELLS ELLRY HIS INSIDE SECRET.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LYMAN
I'M A TRAITOR. A
SPY.

ELTRY
(DISBELIEF)
YOU?

LYMAN
ENGLAND'S SECOND MAN.

ELTRY LETS GO OF LYMAN AND BEGINS TO PACE THINKING THAT
THAT WILL HELP CLEAR UP THE FOG RESTING IN HIS MIND.

ELTRY
LYMAN, WHY? ALL THE
THINGS YOU TAUGHT ME.
LIES? THOSE WERE LIES?

LYMAN
NO. THATS THE PROBLEM.
YOU CAN'T SEE IT YET
CAN YOU?

LYMAN BEGINS TO WEEP AGAIN, AND ELLRY GOES TO THE OAK TREE
AND LEANS AGAINST IT'S BARK.

LYMAN (CON'T)
I GOT CAUGHT UP. THE
FREEDOM. EXCITEMENT.
TO LOVE A COUNTRY.
TO HATE ANOTHER.

ELTRY
WHY DID YOU LET IT HAPPEN?

LYMAN GAINS SOME CONTROL.

LYMAN
TRADITION. HISTORIC
FAMILY TRADITION. IT
WAS MY FATHER. HE MURDERED
A REBEL FOR THE ENGLISH
WHEN I WAS A BOY. THE
REVOLUTION WAS STILL IN
BRITAIN AT THE TIME.

MY FATHER WAS THE VICTIM
OF A REBEL REVOLT. I
WATCHED HIM DIE.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LYMAN (CONTINUING)

WITH ONE LAST GASP HE TOLD
ME TO FINISH THE JOB. IT
WAS MY TURN TO CARRY ON.
HE NEVER FINISHED THE JOB.

SO, I REPORTED FOR DUTY.
'BECOME PART OF THEM.' THEY
TOLD ME. THEY'D DECIDE THE
DAY AND TIME.

THIS MORNING. IT WAS THE
DAY. HE WAS MY FATHER.
THATS WHY. HIS MUSKET.

LYMAN, IN TRYING TO RATIONALIZE HIS OWN BEHAVIOR LOOKS TO
ELLRY.

ELLRY

YOU'RE A LIE. EVERYTHING
YOU STOOD FOR HAS BEEN
FALSE. DIRTY, LYING
BASTARD.

LYMAN

I KNOW. BUT I CAN CHANGE.
I CAN CLEANSE THE HISTORY
OF THE THE NATION. I CAN.

ELLRY

DAMMIT! YOU CAN NOT.
ITS TOO LATE. MEN ARE
DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU.
HELL, THE COLONISTS ARE
IN SHAME. YOU DIDN'T
ONLY KILL MEN IN THAT
DEADLY SECOND LYMAN.
YOU KILLED ME...YOU KILLED
THIS TREE...THE FUTURE.

HELL. YOU MURDERED TIME
ITSELF.

LYMAN

I KNOW. THATS WHY YOU
MUST KILL ME.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ELLRY IS TAKEN FOR A LOSS.

ELLRY

NOW WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KILL YOU? I'D BE A
MURDERER.

LYMAN

A SAVIOR. THE PUB.
WHEN I THREW THE PAPER
INTO THE FLAMES. YOU
MUST DO THE SAME.

ELLRY

I CAN'T.

LYMAN

YOU MUST. IT CANNOT BE
RECORDED. KILL ME. I'LL
NEVER HAVE EXISTED.

ELLRY

IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
I WON'T TELL. NEITHER
WILL YOU. THINGS HAPPENED
FAST UP THERE. THE OTHERS
THAT SAW YOU ARE DEAD NOW
ANYWAY.

LYMAN

I'VE GOT TO PAY FOR MY
CRIME. MY ONE, FOR ALL
THEIRS. NOT AN EVEN
TRADE...BUT ALL I CAN
OFFER IS MY LIFE. MY FUTURE.

THINK OF MY ANNIE. MY
ONLY CHILD.

ELLRY IS ASTOUNDED.

ELLRY

ANNIE!

LYMAN

THINK OF HER. THE
PAIN OF HAVING A FATHER
LIKE ME.

ELLRY

ANNIE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELLRY WANTS TO ASK IF IT'S THE SAME ANNIE. SOMETHING INSIDE TELLS HIM THAT IT IS.

LYMAN

THEY DON'T KNOW. LET THEM THINK THAT THEIR FATHER DIED ON A BLANKET OF PEACEFUL HONOR...COVERED IN LAURELS...RATHER THAN A TRAITOR HANGED BY HIS NECK FROM A TREE WATERED BY A MAN'S BLOOD.

ELLRY UNDERSTANDS LYMAN'S DEMENTED PHILOSOPHIES.

LYMAN GRABS THE MUSKET AND WRAPS ELLRY'S HANDS ABOUT IT.

LYMAN

YOU CAN DO IT. I KNOW. PUT A CLEAN END TO THE SECOND MAN.

CUT THE GORDAIN KNOT.

ELLRY, LIKE A MAN DAMNED EITHER WAY AGREES WORDLESSLY TO HONOR LYMAN'S DEATH WISH. THE GUN GLISTENS IN THE EYE OF THE CAMERA. LIKE A NEW STAR ABOUT TO EXPLODE.

ELLRY

(SOMBER)

GONE. IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND AND POOF.

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR YOU LYMAN.

LYMAN

I KNOW. YOU'RE DOING IT FOR MY FAMILY. ANNIE. MY WIFE. THE COLONIES.

IN A WHISPER, ELLRY STATES WHO'S DEATH HE IS AVENGING.

ELLRY

No. THIS IS FOR EDDIE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BEFORE GOING TO HIS KNEES...LYMAN HAS ONE LAST BITE OF INFORMATION. A PERSONAL QUOTE.

LYMAN

THE DAY IT HAPPENED. MY
FATHER TOLD ME SOMETHING.
MEANS NOTHING TO ME NOW.

MAYBE IT'LL MEAN SOMETHING
TO YOU LATER. IN YOUR FUTURE.

ELTRY LOOKS AT LYMAN WITH COMPASSION.

LYMAN (CON'T)

(CHOKING TEARS)

HE SAID, '...FEAR IS THE
MAIN SOURCE OF SELF DEFEAT
...AND ONE OF THE MAIN
CAUSES OF CRUELTY. TO
CONQUER FEAR...IS THE
BEGINNING OF WISDOM.'

LYMAN GOES TO HIS KNEES, PUTS HIS HEAD BACK, OPENS HIS MOUTH, AND INSERTS THE MUZZLE OF THE MUSKET INTO HIS MOUTH AS BEST HE CAN.

LYMAN LOOKS SKYWARD AND TEARS BEGIN TO WELL AND FLOW. ELLRY BEGINS THE FINAL SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER.

WAIT! LYMAN HAS A BETTER, SAFER IDEA. ONE CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES. LYMAN URGES ELLRY TO REMOVE THE MUKSET. NOT TO FIRE THE WEAPON. ELLRY TAKES HIS FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER AND BEGINS TO REMOVE THE MUZZLE.

A SHOT RINGS OUT!

LYMAN FALLS TO THE EARTH. ANOTHER NAMELESS CASUALTY. LYMAN IS RESTING IN HIS OWN BLOOD BENEATH THE OAK TREE. ELLRY DIDN'T FIRE...BUT LYMAN IS DEAD FROM A BULLET THROUGH THE NECK. JUST LIKE EDDIE.

WITH AN ANGRY RAGE, ELLRY SCREAMS LIKE LT. WOODSON... AND GRATES HIS EYES ON THE LANDSCAPE LOOKING FOR LYMAN'S MURDERER.

POSITIONED ON THE BATTLE HILL, TO ELLRY'S HORROR...STANDS A CRACK PLATOON OF 13 REDCOATS. ALL RIFLES ARE TRAINED ON ELLRY. AFTER KILLING LYMAN...THEY PREPARE TO END ELLRY'S LIFE IN THE SAME MURDEROUS MANNER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

ELLYRY'S FACE TELLS US THAT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. LYMAN WASN'T TO DIE. AT LEAST NOT YET. BUT...WITHIN A SECOND LYMAN IS A CORPSE.

WE SEE THE REDCOATS TAKE CAREFUL AIM AT ELLRY. NEXT, WE ARE IN A CLOSE UP OF ELLRY'S FACE. WE ARE WITNESS TO ELLRY'S MOST INTENSE STARE. IN THE STARE, WE CAN SEE THAT ELLRY KNOWS HE IS TO BE GUNNED DOWN AND KILLED.

ELLYRY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, REALIZES THAT HE IS JUST LIKE ALL MEN. IN THE SECOND BEFORE THEY DIE... THEY UNDERSTAND THAT NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED AFTER ALL. THATS JUST THE WAY IT IS...WAS.

FROM THE FROZEN FRAME OF ELLRY'S FACE AND STARE -- THE ONLY SOUND IS A LONE BULLET. WE HEAR IT TEAR IN AND BURST OUT OF ELLRY'S NECK. FINALLY...ELLYRY IS JUST LIKE ALL THE REST; ANOTHER NAMELESS CASUALTY.

ELLYRY'S ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT IT ONLY TOOK...A SECOND.

THE END

"THE SECOND MAN'S DENOUEMENT"