

TREATMENT for “Cry Uncle, Sumbody”

EVE LONGACHER (MA)(42) stands on the front porch of the family’s two-story frame farmhouse overlooking their farmland and the green Ohio Valley beyond. Her eyes fix on the covered bridge that crosses over a winding brook at the edge of the Longacher farm – the bridge through which everybody and everything comes and goes. A placard on the bridge reads: EST. 1842.

Ma turns and sits on the porch swing. She looks up when she hears a wagon’s wheels hitting the planks on the floor of the bridge. And, as usual, the family dog, BUCK, hightails it toward the bridge to mooch a ride back with his master, Ma’s only son, DAVID (22).

David climbs the porch steps and glances over at his ma as he goes to open the front door. Ma pats the porch swing, beckoning her son to sit. He sees that she’s been crying – an emotion that David almost never sees in his ma.

A few days earlier, David gathered Ma, his sisters, HANNA (21) and BETH (15), and his fiancée NEL (22) all together to tell them about his decision to enlist in the Union Army, the same unit as his late father – Company G of the Ohio Volunteers. Ma has a hard time accepting her son’s decision, mainly because her husband was killed in action – the first battle of Bull Run.

David sits with his Ma and tries to convince her that his cousin, Ma’s sister’s boy, CHARLES ALLEN CARMICHAEL (21), should come up from Southern Indiana to help with the farm during his absence. Ma points out that Charles Allen’s own father was killed in the war, fighting on the side of the Confederacy and that people up their way might not take too kindly to Charles Allen’s presence up north. David is steadfast in his decision. He gets up and goes inside, leaving Ma alone out on the porch. Hanna eventually comes looking for Ma and sits down next to her.

Ma tells Hanna she tries not to think about losing David to a war she just doesn’t understand. Hanna does her best to convince Ma that that very thought is most likely what was making her so sick over David’s decision. Ma, instead, makes the argument to her daughter that it’s really about things she didn’t normally have to pay much concern to – things like who would farm the place, who would repair the buildings, all things considered “manly” duties.

Hanna mentions Charles Allen. Ma ignores her and expresses her worries about neglecting the school, where she is the head schoolmarm. Ma regains her composure and goes inside the house. Hanna follows.

Reb widow, AMANDA CARMICHAEL (41), argues with her son, Charles Allen, about his future. There seem to be only two choices: stillman or Reb calvaryman. Living only a couple of blocks away from the Ohio River on the Indiana side, Charles Allen is well-acquainted with being on both sides of the river since he was a young scamp.

Quitting school after the 5th grade, Charles Allen worked various jobs on the river, finally becoming a stillman, cooking moonshine. The stills are on the Kentucky side of the river, where Charles Allen gets a good taste of the Southern ways early on – not that New Albany is short on supporters of the Confederacy – those who call themselves ‘Copperheads.’

Today’s argument Amanda Carmichael wins, as she sends Charles Allen traveling reluctantly to her sister Eve Longacher’s farm up north in Ohio. The Longachers need help.

David puts his arm over the OL’ TOWN DOCTOR’S (55) shoulder as they close up office for the night. David asks the Doc to wet his whistle with him at the town pub.

Once inside, David tells the Doc he is off to war, as the BARKEEP serves up two shots. The Doc clinks the shot glasses and wishes David the best. The Doc remains silent as David tells him his reasons for wanting to enlist as a private instead of as an officer. The main point, David says is that he wants to get into the thick of things since he feels he’s already waited too long to join up. The barkeep refills their shot glasses. David then tells the Doc it’s his turn now.

Doc argues that David could do so much more for the Union’s cause as a doctor, something David has heard from everyone. David tells the Doc not to be sending in his medical certification paperwork. The Doc begins twisting the ends of his moustache into neat pointed ends.

Later in the week, the Doc carries a letter over to the town Post Office addressed to the Department of the Army, Chief Medical Officer.

Resigning herself to the fact that David will be leaving them to go off to war, Ma gives up her position at the one room schoolhouse for Hanna. Hanna needs to work. Since the outbreak of the war, most of the male children in the valley over 15 years old have quit school and gone off to battle – many even younger.

Now taking Ma’s position at the school, Hanna worries about some of the local scuttlebutt about her. She confides in her mother, and eventually the rest of the family, about her interest in a local drifter who is widely known to be a tippler, as well as a flim-flammer, named DEWEY TOD (35).

Nel met David while working at the Old Doc’s office in town. She eventually moves in with the Longachers after the passing of her own parents. Hanna and Ma have an easy time teaching Nel all of the household duties. In time, Hanna and Nel become like sisters. Hanna even confides in Nel about her and Charles Allen having a roll in the hayloft over at the Carmichael farm during a visit to Southern Indiana one summer. Both were 15 years old at the time. Younger sister Beth hasn’t been let in on that story at the present. Hanna believes that Beth doesn’t need egged on. All Nel can do is chuckle when certain family situations surface.

Beth has her own thoughts on mores. She swims in the nude beneath the covered bridge when the summer weather starts to sizzle and is caught on several occasions by David, Nel, Hanna, and even Ma. Beth simply brushes them off and refers to herself as a 'naturalist.' She contemplates on how she might be able to take Nel's position at the Ol' Doc's office in town. Although Nel is a trained nurse, Beth feels the Doc could still use a toady.

Beth has been hunting, fishing, and doing other virile things with her big brother, David, since she was 5 years old. She also loves to be in on a secret and hops around when Nel lets her in on a jim-dandy. She busts at the seams to tell someone and gives a shrill whistle for Buck.

Before David leaves for camp, Ma decides to teach Beth how to can and put up food. Beth refuses to set foot in the fruit cellar. Previously, Ma gave her an old tin button box with discarded buttons in hopes it might get Beth sewing. Strange as it seems, when David was around nine years old, Ma had an easy time teaching him how to can, cook, and sew. Of course, with a house full of women taking care of his tiniest whim, David sees no point in doing what is mostly tagged as 'sissy chores.' Beth decides that while David's away, she will be the one to drive the mules and till the Longacher soil. She tries her hand at the latter one day, under David's supervision. Beth unearths an arrowhead and beams with delight.

One night, before he is to leave, David gathers them all around the fireplace in the big house so everyone can have their final say. Ma and her girls bake ginger snaps and custard pies, anticipating the family meeting. Beth serves cold cider. David's been dreading this confrontation since Christmas. Now, it's spring. Ma, Hanna, and Nel break down and cry. Beth sits quietly.

As the fireplace embers die out, David tells them all how proud he is of them, and suggests they all take a hand at making him his Yankee uniform. Beth leaves the room to retrieve her button box. She stands before David and opens it. Inside is her arrowhead. She pulls it out and hands it to David, telling him that it will keep him safe.

The night is warm and windy when Charles Allen shows up. After all the hugs and kisses and conversation, the sleeping arrangements are settled with Ma deciding that Charles Allen will stay in the log cabin until after the harvest, then head back to Southern Indiana.

Ma and the girls go to bed, leaving the two men to drink brandy. When the brandy runs out, Charles Allen pulls a canning jar filled with moonshine from out of his carpet bag and they continue to argue back and forth about the war and politics, in general. The conversation comes to a sudden halt when Charles Allen mentions how Beth has really grown up since he last saw her. David tells his cousin not to get any ideas about Beth. They laugh and back-slap and continue to trade tall tales. Charles Allen tells David that he wants to take him to the Yankee enlistment camp when the time comes.

It's fall when the Longacher women wave their good-byes and shed their tears in the front yard of the big house. The wagon and their beloved David disappear into the covered bridge, with Buck trailing. Charles Allen snaps the reins as they continue down the clay road until out of sight.

The TOP SERGEANT looks over at his ragtag bunch of new recruits – a group that includes DAVID LONGACHER. After five minutes of giving them a dressing down, the sergeant informs them that they must learn, in one week's time, how to march, shoot, and, above all, how to follow orders.

Once back in the barracks, there's an old friend of David's named JERRY DIXON (23), who's been in the Army for awhile, and another boyhood friend, PRIVATE SHOE, who listens in. Jerry tells David that they are soon going to be in some major battles. Private Shoe lays on his bunk sweating and coughing. They all jump to their feet as they hear the CAMP BUGLER sound his horn.

Out of nowhere, the sky turns a dark bluish-green and the surrounding trees and crops become deathly still. An eerie silence envelops the farmstead. Off into the horizon, a twister appears. Behind it trail two more, and they are all heading toward the Longacher farm.

Ma grabs Beth by her hand and runs for the fruit cellar. Hanna and Nel are right behind them. They bolt the door and light the lantern that sits on a shelf. The women huddle together as the cellar begins to shake. Then one funnel touches down. The heavy door above them heaves in and out with the mighty force of the wind. Debris flies all around them. In just seconds, everything is mouse quiet. As they come from the cellar, they look to where their house used to be. It is gone. Most everything is gone, including the crops and several trees. The women are speechless. Beth picks up one of Buck's dog bones that lies in the rubble. She yells for him. Ma tells everyone to spread out and search for the family's beloved pet.

David and Jerry's first shitty detail is picket duty near Poney Mountain where some Union soldiers met their fate in front of a firing squad for desertion a while back. The two men stop as shots ring out. Jerry leans back against a tree. David tells him to start digging a dug out. Jerry bitches about the hard red clay. Just as they finish, a minié ball buzzes over their dugout as Jerry reminisces aloud about a girl he once knew that wore pretty dresses made out of flour sacks.

David rises up and pulls the trigger on his rare, and cherished, Spencer rifle. A REB SNIPER falls from a tree 30 yards away. David crawls over to the sniper and rummages around his coat. He rips a cloth name tag from out of the Reb's jacket. Jerry watches David tuck the name tag into his own pocket. He pulls out his jackknife and cuts the bullet out, then quickly stitches up the Reb's shoulder wound. He whispers in the sniper's ear to lie quiet until help comes. David covers the Reb with leaves and weeds. Jerry brings to David's attention that he just aided and abetted the enemy.

David and Jerry return to camp, an uneasy silence between them. The top sergeant wants filled in on what they scouted while out on picket. Jerry flashes a look at David. David reports to the sergeant that there are Reb snipers in the woods.

Charles Allen stops at a local watering hole on his way back to the farm. The crusty barkeep tells Charles Allen he got his cousin to camp just in time, looks like a front coming in. Charles Allen downs his beer and heads for the door. The barkeep motions him back, Hey neighbor, have one on me.

Charles Allen returns to the Longacher place. As he exits the covered bridge and looks up, he sees the destruction. Hanna, Beth, and Nel come running up to him. He hears the word “tornado,” then one of them cries out that they have no place to stay. Charles Allen pulls the wagon to where Ma sits on a large fieldstone. He gets off the wagon and takes Ma’s hand, then walks her over to the old log cabin, which is mostly left intact. He kicks up a piece of metal, dusting it off with his shirt tail. The metal plate reads: AETNA. Ma takes it from Charles Allen’s hand and tucks it into her apron pocket. The girls all look over at the small log cabin. Charles Allen takes charge, telling them that the first thing he’ll do will be to add a lean-to onto the log cabin. For the time being, they all bed down in the barn. Buck eventually emerges from the hayloft.

It takes a week for the additional room to be constructed, and then another week to have everything in its place. Charles Allen takes Ma to the town’s firehouse. The tin plate turns out to be a fire mark. The house is insured and will be rebuilt.

With all the crops gone, Charles Allen’s business up north is finished. He tells Ma he will stay only until he has the log cabin’s roof repaired and the last of its windows fixed. The day before his departure, Charles Allen takes Hanna for a walk in the woods. When they get out of sight, Charles Allen takes her into his arms and gives her a long, deep kiss. He tells her that he plans on heading back south the next morning very early, before the family awakens. Hanna puts her arms around his neck and kisses him back.

His business now finished at the Longacher farm, Charles Allen catches a train bound for Cincinnati, Ohio. He holds up at a cheap boarding house on the waterfront for a couple of days. He leaves, tossing out a trollop that he met on his first night in town and heads down to the river. At the loading plank sits a steamboat, the Masonic Gem – at dock, just as he figured.

Charles Allen tosses his carpet bag over his shoulder and starts up the gangplank of the Masonic Gem. A BOATSWAIN blows his whistle and asks Charles Allen where he thinks he’s going. Charles Allen says he wants to speak to the Captain.

The OLD CAPTAIN (51) stands at the edge of the stern-wheeler and waves Charles Allen aboard. He asks Charles Allen if he’s ever been aboard a paddleboat. Charles Allen tells him no. The Captain asks him to state his business. Charles Allen tells him that he’s just returned from up North, where he’s been helping his cousin and his family. The Captain demands a name. Hesitantly, Charles Allen says, Longacher, David Longacher, sir.

Charles Allen presses on, telling the Captain he’d like to work his way to Louisville, Kentucky. The Captain tells him he has no work for him. Charles Allen reaches into his pocket and pulls out a gold Masonic ring. He hands it to the Captain. The Captain smiles, hands the ring back, and asks where the ring came from. Charles Allen explains that his mother gave it to him after his father was killed in the war. The Captain immediately confronts Charles Allen with a question: North or South? Charles Allen is silent for a moment and then finally answers South, looking the Captain straight in the eye. The Captain

remarks that he came from the East and he's on the Square. Charles Allen shakes his head and displays a quizzical smile. The Captain sees Charles Allen is not a Mason. Nonetheless, he tells Charles Allen to get a pair of bellbottoms from the boatswain – the one with the whistle.

As Charles Allen walks away, the Captain calls out to him. Charles Allen stops and turns. I'll give you the name of a good man, the Captain says. Charles Allen tips his hat.

The Masonic Gem hoists anchor with Charles Allen now part of its crew. It docks at New Albany for three days to take on cargo. Charles Allen takes advantage of the stop and decides to visit his mother before joining up with his Confederate hero, BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN MORGAN and his RAIDERS.

The next day, Jerry tells David that he got them on another detail painting the new ballroom in anticipation of GENERAL CARR'S big shindig.

On the night of General Carr's dance, Jerry snoops around the kitchen. David carries a tray of champagne cocktails and mingles. A PRETTY LADY taps David on his shoulder and points to the champagne. She smiles at him. David asks her if she's old enough to be drinking, to which she blurts out that General Carr is her papa. David tells her that she is very pretty. The young lady reaches out and touches his new marksmans' ribbon. She asks him if he's in the calvary. David tells her that he is not, but mentions that his cousin is with General Morgan's raiders. She says, He's a Confederate then? And then asks David if he rides. David tells her that he not only rides, but informs her that he's also a veterinarian. She asks why he's not an officer as she takes out her dance card and writes down his name. Ladies can't dance with enlisted men, she says.

The next morning, a FIRST LIEUTENANT tells David that General Carr wishes to see him in his headquarters. General Carr advises David that his horse, TROOPER, is lame in his right leg. He asks if it is true that David is a vet, and wants David to tell him about his background in his civilian life. David explains that he graduated from a veterinary college in Kentucky and that for the past two years he has been a student and an assistant to a local doctor back home. The General asks David to look over his horse.

David returns to his barracks. Jerry pulls out a bottle of champagne and smiles. David warns Jerry that one day he'll get busted. David tells Jerry that he ought to trade the champagne for quinine because, in time, the medicine would prove more valuable. Their buddy, Private Shoe, is now layed up in the hospital with smallpox.

Once in Tennessee, Charles Allen catches up to Brigadier General John Morgan and his men. He sees Morgan's masonic ring on his finger, so he uses his father's masonic ring to his advantage for the second time. Charles Allen brags to John Morgan that he is a natural for the calvary since he ran moonshine with two of the best and fastest riders in the county and he could bareback ride in the hills with the best of them. Morgan takes him in.

After a day or so of planning, Morgan orders a raid on a nearby militia, looting city and county treasures. His men go on to raid a Masonic lodge, during which time the jewels of the lodge are stolen. They come back to camp with Morgan learning of the theft. He tells Sgt. Charles Allen to take a handful of men and return the jewels to the lodge they were taken from. Charles Allen suggests he go alone. Morgan then tells him maybe it would be best if he and Charles Allen went together. Charles Allen agrees.

Several weeks later, Hanna runs into Dewey Tod. He sweet talks her into traveling south with him in a stolen wagon – the same direction as Charles Allen. Hanna packs a bag and meets Tod one day after school's let out. He and Hanna eventually find themselves selling tobacco and sundries on the battlefields to Yanks and Rebs alike. Hanna keeps her spirits up knowing she will somewhere find Charles Allen.

The fighting picks up as the weather improves and the boys of Company G are now on the march. The Top Sergeant reminds the men to duck whenever they hear the buzzing noise of a minié ball. David fingers the lucky arrowhead that is tucked deep inside his pocket.

David is back at camp sitting around the campfire with several others. Jerry approaches and stands next to David. A COMRADE is in the midst of telling the men how he crossed a worn-out battlefield where corpses were stacked like sandbags, and then being used in fortifications. Some of the wounded and half-dead 'sandbags' were still crying out for their loved ones, Yanks and Rebs alike. Jerry gets uneasy. He turns and walks away from the group.

David pulls out his Valentine's Day card from Nel and grins before tucking it back into his haversack beside his diary. David then admires his letter of commendation signed by General Carr. He folds it carefully back into the same envelope that the letter from the General's daughter was in - the one she gave him before she returned home. She said that Trooper, her father's horse, was fine, but she, herself, was heartbroken. Heartbroken by a foot soldier who'd kissed her. She would forever remember him. Her bright red lipstick adorned the letter, just below her signature.

Later in the day, David gets news that the furlough he'd put in for a few weeks earlier has been approved.

Charles Allen's last battle beside John Morgan comes in Tennessee. Charles Allen is riding on Morgan's right side. The killing is fast and furious. Yanks and Rebs alike and many of their horses fall that day for the cause. Morgan, all of a sudden, turns to the rear and is shot in the back – a mortal wound. Charles Allen continues the forward charge. A Yankee narrowly misses Charles Allen's neck with his sabre and instead lands a deep slice into his left arm. His horse rears with Charles Allen reaching for his saddle, his left arm dangling. He falls and lies, bleeding profusely, on the battlefield when a UNION CALVARY OFFICER seizes upon him to finish him off. He notices the masonic ring on the finger of Charles Allen's mangled arm. The Union officer sheaths his sword and shouts out for a field ambulance.

At home, Ma Longacher rests her hands on David's shoulders. David takes in a deep breath, smelling Ma's home cooking. He wasn't told about the big house being lost in the tornado, nor the fact that Hanna ran off. Ma and the girls were careful not to send him any bad news; nor did David to them. Ma tells David that her sister wrote saying that Charles Allen enjoyed soldiering.

It's a beautiful spring day as David carries Nel through the woods piggyback for a picnic lunch. Deep in the woods, they come upon a grassy meadow. David puts Nel back down and takes her into his arms and kisses her. When they are finished eating, Nel begins to place their leftovers back into the basket. David lies stretched out on their blanket. Nel stands and reaches for David's hand to give him a tug up. David pulls her back down. They make love.

David returns to camp from furlough. The Top Sergeant enters the barracks to tell the men that there's now a big battle near Brandy Station, also that Lincoln issued a proclamation freeing the Negroes. The company will leave camp the next morning.

Charles Allen's Army career might have ended that day, but after healing in a Union field hospital where he meets a nurse named SALLY (22), he is sent to Danville, Virginia. Sgt. Charles Allen is then assigned to Danville Prison where he first becomes the Confederate Major General's orderly. Soon, he is promoted to Lieutenant and becomes the Major General's personal courier. Charles Allen is entrusted with delivering secret messages, maps, and contraband – the contraband being moonshine. The moonshine is used for medicinal purposes at the prison hospital.

In time, Charles Allen starts distilling and selling his own special recipe of dark butterscotch whiskey. He works the still on the outskirts of Danville. Charles Allen bribes lawmen and town officials so he can sell it anywhere to his liking.

A day into their march, the troops cross the Rapidan River at Germanic Ford. The earth there is a vast landscape of scorched ruins. Out of nowhere, a Reb battle cry pierces the air. The Top Sergeant yells, Here they come! The air clouds with smoke from cannon fire. Yankees and Rebs alike charge one another over and over. The battlefield turns into a sea of blood and guts.

David is hit and falls to the ground. A BABY-FACED REB pulls a gleaming bowie knife and stoops down to finish David off. David raises himself and plunges his own bayonet deep into the boy's throat. Minutes later, the Rebs retreat.

David manages to crawl to the base of a tree. He props himself against it and takes out his knife. He picks up a broken tree branch and puts it into his mouth, biting down hard on it. He winces as he cuts into his leg muscle and then pries out a spent minié ball with his fingers. He pulls a bottle of whiskey from his haversack and pours it into the wound, then wraps it. David tucks the leaded ball into his pocket next to his lucky arrowhead. He wipes his forehead with his bandana and fades out of consciousness.

UNION GENERAL SEDGWICK trots his horse back and forth, surveying the troops after the battle. Sedgwick dismounts to confer with the other officers. David regains consciousness with Jerry telling him that the troops are next tramping to the Spotsylvania Court House. The Top Sergeant informs them that reports from headquarters are that over 60,000 Rebs are said to be lying in the weeds for them; he mutters that the Reb's complement is more like 100,000 men.

Union General Sedgwick re-mounts and rides amongst the troops. He shouts out that he's ashamed of them. He says that they are so far back from the Reb's line that a minié ball couldn't reach either side. Union General Sedgwick chides the men that the Rebs couldn't hit an elephant in the ass from where they're standing. Just then, a minié ball buzzes through the air, striking the General. He falls from his horse. David crawls to the General, taking a hold of the mortally wounded General. David pulls him back off of the battlefield and props him against a tree. The General's eye is dislodged, hanging down on his cheek. David pushes it back into its socket, takes his bandana, and ties it around the General's head, pulling the General's campaign hat down over his eyes.

There is a foreboding quiet before the air once again explodes with the sound of artillery and cannons bursting out in every direction.

A few days later, David is well enough and takes a couple of men to scout an out of the way barn and several outbuildings. They encounter and then must kill another dozen or so Rebs who refuse to surrender. Upon returning to camp, David tells Jerry and some others of a sickening sight he witnessed at the Rebel works – hundreds of Rebel dead, laying in the mud, most barefoot. David tells the men it's craziness, that all of them are Americans, same as themselves. David announces that he saw the boy he shot die today; he would pray for him tonight.

On their way down south, Dewey Tod and Hanna hadn't traveled 100 miles when Hanna catches Tod drinking whiskey. She calls him out. He had promised her back home that he quit for good. She reminds him that she was raised in the ways of the church. He tells her that he is sick and tired of her telling him anything and that if she doesn't shut up, he is going to kick her ass out into the wilderness. Hanna stops bickering and starts to pray.

Charles Allen continues to engage in skirmishes for the Southern cause. During one such battle, he befriends a Negro slave named René and takes him in as his right hand man. While delivering moonshine, he learns René was not only worked at a still, but that he is also active in the Underground Railroad and has connections.

Tired and worn, the troops march into one of the bloodiest battles thus far in the war at Cold Harbor. By the time David's company arrives, the fighting has already raged on for several days. Rebs are reduced to digging with bayonets, cups, and their bare hands. They stack up their comrade's corpses as part of their earthworks. The Rebs have held their ground, though outnumbered nearly 2:1.

UNION CAPTAIN SNODGRASS digs his spurs into his horse's flank and motions the troops, including David's company, to follow him. David turns to his men and holds up his arms for them to stop. He tells Jerry that Snodgrass is drunk again. Captain Snodgrass is hit and falls off his horse. Jerry bolts out onto the battlefield after him and takes a hit. David crouches and rushes over to Jerry and the captain. He grabs them both by their coat collars and drags them back from the Reb line. The captain's spyglass rolls out of his breast pocket. David retrieves it and sweeps the battlefield with the spyglass. He watches a tobacco vendor shot off the buckboard of his sutler's wagon. He pulls the spyglass away from his face as he sees their company colors fall. Then he yells, Pull back, boys! David rushes back out to the battlefield and picks up their colors along with ANOTHER WOUNDED YANK.

Once they are a safe distance back from the fighting, he unbuttons the boy's blouse. The boy asks David if he's a doctor. David gives him a piece of the broken flag pole and tells the boy to bite down hard on it. David takes his jackknife and slices the flesh on the boy's arm where the minié ball is lodged. The boy passes out. David reaches into his haversack and pours some whiskey into the wound. He rips a strip of the company flag and wraps the boy's arm. The boy lies moaning. David trickles some water into the boy's mouth, then hands him the recovered minié ball and tells him he can show it to his grandchildren some day.

Jerry, who lies nearby, asks where his minié ball is. David tells him that it is probably still in the air, since he was only knicked. Jerry asks for some whiskey. David shakes his head and tells Jerry the ball didn't even break his skin. Jerry extends his hand and tells David it's for his nerves.

With Hanna bickering about his rueful and unkept ways, Tod brutally beats Hanna during one of his drunken bouts. He slashes a deep cut across Hanna's brow and kicks her out of the wagon in the middle of the night with all her belongings.

Hours later, the troops continue their march. David looks over at the young boy marching beside him, the company colors still wrapped tightly around his arm. Look around, son. You still see the glory of this war? David asks him. The boy tells David his name is WOLF KROUSE (18). David observes the unfamiliar patch sewn on Wolf's jacket. Wolf explains to David that he is a Hundred Days Man. Wolf then unwraps his arm and rolls up his sleeve. Wolf asks David how his wound looks. David smiles and nods, then pats him on his back. The company finally stops to bivouac at the James River.

In a grove of trees just a piece up the river from them, David spots a rainbow painted sutler's wagon. He tells Wolf that word is there are some fancy girls selling their wares out of the wagon. David tells Wolf to go over to check it out. Jerry wants to go with Wolf, but David tells him no. Jerry asks David where Wolf is from. David tells him that Wolf is a Hoosier who's been separated from General Lew Wallace's 8th Corps. Jerry asks if he is another copperhead like David's cousin, Charles Allen. David tells Jerry that, indeed, his cousin and Wolf are both Hoosiers from New Albany.

David gets concerned that Wolf's been gone too long. He heads for the painted wagon with Jerry tagging at his heels. David tips his hat to three females standing outside the wagon. Two of the women look to

be in their twenties, and the third, a strawberry blonde, is a young girl. Jerry goes inside their wagon to have his way with the young girl, EVETTE (16).

Outside, David tells them he's not there for pleasure, but rather for business. The blonde woman introduces herself as Sally. She tells him she is a nurse. David takes his bayonet off the muzzle end of his rifle and asks Sally to light the wick of their oil lamp. He heats the tip of his bayonet until it is red hot. David exposes his leg wound, then squeezes it, making it bleed. He sears the wound. Sally closes it with three stitches. She tells David that he is not only handsome, but skillful as well. Inside, Evette gives Jerry a cut rose to remember her by. Jerry tries to give her all the money he has, along with a gold cross that his mother gave him when he left home to join the Union Army. Evette refuses his money.

David hands the women some greenbacks and tells Sally to head for Danville; he's heard it's peaceful there, for the time being.

Wolf asks David why the three girls would become whores. David tells him that war brings out the worst in folks. Wolf says, But even mother and daughter? David urges Wolf to start writing letters to his sister, Beth. Wolf smiles.

Sally and her traveling companions happen upon Hanna while on their way to Danville. Sally stitches up the gash over Hanna's eye and the prostitutes take her in.

They eventually spot Tod's tobacco wagon. Sally and Evette's mother go over to it and give Tod enough moonshine until he falls over dead drunk. Hanna bursts in, grabs his jackknife and slashes his cheek before plunging it into his belly. Sally and the mother then dress him in a Yankee uniform and drop his body off during the night at a nearby Reb camp. They return to his wagon, set it ablaze, and then skedaddle.

One morning while breaking camp after another skirmish, René shouts out for Lt. Charles Allen to take a look at a disheveled Yankee lying on the ground. Charles Allen rolls the Yankee over with his boot. He tells René that the man ain't asleep, he's dead. A Rebel sergeant named GRIZZLY (30), burly, with an unkept beard and shoulder length hair, approaches and picks up a jackknife and an empty bottle of Canadian rye and scratches his head. Grizzly tells René to get another officer on the double.

They all look over the body and examine the items now laying next to it. The man starts to groan. Convinced he is a spy, they throw him over the back of a horse and carry him back to Danville Prison.

Back home, Ma Longacher sits peeling potatoes as Nel snaps green beans. Beth paces back and forth. Ma tells her youngest to sit down. Ma stops to read a letter from David. Beth sits and reads her letter from Wolf. Nel makes sure her letter is tucked safely inside her apron pocket. Beth announces to the family that Wolf is quite pretty. The women giggle at young Beth. She scowls.

The troops rest in a shaded grove. David is distracted by Jerry, who lets out a little howl. Jerry's cut rose pricks his finger as he's trying to stuff it into his breast pocket. Jerry looks over at David and asks if he thinks the pretty camp followers will follow them. David smiles.

Sally and the women push on, traveling the back roads toward Danville. Evette's mother suddenly dies of yellow jack. The girls give her a proper burial in a shaded cove.

Sally and Hanna talk each evening after Evette retires to bed. They bond. Soon, they discover that they both love Charles Allen.

During the night, the Union's 1st Brigade returns from Frederick. They learn the Rebs are advancing on Monocacy.

The fight begins. David squeezes the trigger of his Spencer rifle non-stop. Wolf runs his bayonet clear through a Reb. David shoots the Reb off of Wolf. The Union bugler sounds retreat just as a minié ball shatters the bugler's head. David is hit again in his right leg. He falls. A Reb reloads, cocks the hammer on his musket and points it at David's head. Suddenly, a Yankee officer begins waving a white flag back and forth. He yells, Surrender, men! The Reb standing over David yells, We whooped you damn Yankees! A Reb officer looks at the Reb private and shouts, Stand down, soldier! Then, he instructs one of his sergeants to start collecting the Yanks' weapons.

Grizzly picks up David's Spencer rifle. David passes out. When he comes back to consciousness, he feels throbbing in his leg. He looks down to see blood bleeding through his pant leg.

Back home, Nel sits with Beth on the creek bank next to the covered bridge. Nel reaches into her pocket and pulls out her letter from David. Nel reveals to Beth that David and Wolf have been captured by the Rebs and that they are being taken to Danville Prison. Beth is unphased at the news and presses Nel to know the secret that she was going to tell her. Nel declares that David asked her to marry him when he was home on furlough. Nel adds that she hopes she is not pregnant. Beth smiles and hugs her. She then tells Nel that she is falling in love with Wolf.

Back at Danville Prison, Charles Allen walks over to solitary to check on the Yankee spy prisoner. He asks him if he has any final requests or if he would like to visit with a preacher. The spy tells him no. Charles Allen informs the spy that his execution will be at 7 a.m. sharp the next morning. The spy tells Charles Allen that he has a big surprise for him and the firing squad before he is shot. The spy says he won't tell him everything but before the deed is done, he will give him his name and the name of the individual that stabbed him.

At 6 a.m. the morning of the execution, Charles Allen brings the spy some biscuits and grits. The prisoner pushes them away and blurts out it was his cousin Hanna who stabbed him. Charles Allen asks, How'd you know my cousin? The spy smiles and says, She was my girl. My name is Dewey Tod. Charles Allen says, I don't know you. The spy smiles and says, In about half an hour, you and them rednecks on the

firing line will. Charles Allen tells him, No hard feelings and pulls out a jar of LEFTY'S WHISKEY and hands it to him. Dewey Tod smacks his lips and takes a sip, then a big pull off the jar.

Tod points to the label and says, This is better than the Canadian you trumped up on me. He offers the jar to Charles Allen. Charles Allen takes a small sip and hands it back, telling Tod it's all for him. Tod asks if he's got a cigar. Charles Allen shakes his head no and tells him the damn Yankees burned all their tobacco crops. Tod mutters, Them sons-of-bitches. Charles Allen reaches into his jacket and pulls out a plug of tobacco and takes a chew, then passes it to Tod, telling him they didn't quite get all of it.

Tod now has most all of the whiskey in his belly. Charles Allen nods for him to finish it off, telling him that he can get another jar for him if he likes. Tod drops his head and waves Charles Allen off, muttering something. Charles Allen calls the sergeant standing guard to help him take the spy over to the execution site.

Charles Allen asks the prisoner if he has any last words. As he stands with his back to the wall, tobacco juice drools down his chin and he half-smiles. Charles Allen nods to the sergeant to give the order. The sergeant shouts out, Ball, ammo! Lock and load! Prepare to fire... fire! Blood runs from Tod's nose, mixing with the tobacco juice as his body jerks before collapsing.

David, Wolf, Jerry, and other captured Yanks continue their march toward Danville. A CONFEDERATE PROVOST MARSHAL on horseback blows his whistle and points to an apple orchard just off the road. He calls them all to a halt. Just then, a starving dog runs past them to snatch up a dead squirrel in the road. One of the prisoners lunges after it. Grizzly says, Look over yonder, Yank! One of yer boys is taking a piece of meat right out that hound dog's mouth!

As they near the center of town in Danville, the Confederate Color Guard hoists the Stars and Bars as a drummer boy beats out a march. Behind the company of Yankee prisoners there is now converged a group of thirty-some Negro prisoners. Grizzly says, Y'all see them niggers, Yanks? Was slaves, now about to become soldiers. Not Yankee soldiers, but Confederate soldiers. Y'all startin' to see the irony of it all? David mutters aloud, It seems neither the South or the North are sure what the war is all about. Grizzly shoots David a look.

Sally, Hanna, and Evette finally arrive in Danville. They stop at a general store for supplies. Charles Allen is delivering moonshine at the same time and immediately recognizes Hanna. He notices the pink healing knife cut across her brow and approaches. Both Hanna and Sally notice him at the same time. They all go to where they can talk in private.

Hanna says that she killed Dewey Tod. Charles Allen puts his hand over her mouth, telling her that he was shot by a Confederate firing squad. The chief investigator charged him with being a Yankee spy. Hanna begins to repeat Tod's name, but Charles Allen cuts her off. He tells her nobody cares what his name is, nor do they care to hear it. Charles Allen informs her that he was the officer in charge of the investigation as well as the firing squad, so if anyone killed any spy, it was not her. Sally reassures

Hanna, telling her that bad things happen in war. Sally turns to Charles Allen and asks him if he was ever introduced to the Yankee doctor that took his left arm off? Charles Allen shakes his head, No, and adds, Nor do I know any of the Yankee's names that I killed. Sally kisses his Masonic ring and hands it to him.

With the war nearing its end, Hanna tries to convince Charles Allen to become an honest member of the community back in Ohio. Sally accepts Charles Allen as he is. Charles Allen becomes a Mason and marries Sally in a Danville church.

Before traveling back to New Albany, Charles Allen arranges passage through René for Hanna and Evette by way of the Underground Railroad back to Ohio. It is also agreed that Evette will go live with the Dixons, thereby honoring Jerry's last wishes.

Danville Prison turns out to be nothing more than a rundown, overcrowded, three-story tobacco house. Walking inside, the men observe human excrement floating in puddles of urine. Grizzly nudges the prisoners with the butt of his newly acquired rifle – David's Spencer – and tells the prisoners to just pick a spot.

After a few days in captivity, David comes to realize that Grizzly is the one in charge of their prison building. David pulls his commendation letter from General Carr out of his haversack and gives it to Grizzly. David asks him to see that the commanding officer gets it. Grizzly eyes the letter and warns David it better be good. Then David reaches into his pocket and hands the sniper's name tag over to Grizzly. He asks Grizzly to get it to the Reb sniper's family and tell them that their boy said he loved them and would see them soon.

A couple days later, Grizzly comes for David telling him the CONFEDERATE MAJOR GENERAL wants to see him. The Major General lays down General Carr's letter just as David walks in. The Major General tells David that he is impressed with his credentials and reveals that they have no doctor in camp. David hands the Major General a list he's compiled, a list of things that need to be done – things meant to make everyone feel somewhat human again.

The Major General asks David if he's ever performed surgery. David shows him both of his own healing wounds. The Major General tells David that they had a nurse but she ran off with a young one-armed cavalry lieutenant and a young girl shortly before David and the new company of Union prisoners arrived at Danville. The Major General mentions that the nurse arrived in a rainbow colored sutler's wagon, and that he had a couple of his Confederate soldiers white wash it and paint a nurse's emblem on it. They were here for about a month when they up and said they were headed for Kentucky, the Major General tells him. He shakes his head and then says they got married in a Danville church and further, the boy became a Mason during his stay. The Major General looks down for what seems a long time. Finally, he says that the lieutenant told him that everyone in General Morgan's calvary was killed except for him and a few others, and that now he was headed toward the Wilderness to continue their fight. The Major General says he encouraged the lieutenant to stay at Danville and be his orderly. The

Major General informs David that since his letter indicates that the Federal Army awarded David his Brevet commission of Major, he will be honored that rank during his time as a prisoner of Danville.

The conditions in the prison barracks begin to show improvement.

In the barracks, David is reading to the men from the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" when he gets the news that Jerry is in the hospital. A couple of days later, a REB HOSPITAL ORDERLY hands David a letter from Jerry addressed to Jerry's folks back home. The orderly tells him it was Grizzly who told him to find David and tell him his buddy died sometime during the night.

David asks to see Jerry one last time. When they arrive at the hospital, the orderly points to where Jerry lies covered with a sheet. David pulls the sheet back and is shocked. He spots the bruised slap marks on Jerry's face. David pulls the sheet down further. One of Jerry's hands is closed into a tight fist. David pries it open to reveal a bloodied Reb butternut cotton identification tag stuck to Jerry's palm. David takes it and slips it into his own jacket.

David requests to speak to the Confederate Major General again. He is escorted to the Major General's tent. David tells him that his comrade, Jerry Dixon, was more than likely killed by a couple of Reb cooks. He tells the Major General that Jerry suspected the cooks were stealing meat and having it picked up by a civilian profiteer. Jerry made sure to tell anyone who would listen, David says. David hands the Reb's bloodied name tag over to the Major General and tells him, This will answer any questions you have.

Hanna shows up at her home in Ohio with René after saying her goodbyes to Charles Allen and Sally back in New Albany. Charles Allen slips a jar of moonshine into Hanna's bag to take back to David. The label reads: LEFTY'S SPECIAL WHISKEY. He tells her to tell David that this is the 'medicine' he used at Danville Prison's hospital – distilled by his ol' cousin, Charles Allen.

David and Wolf, and the rest of the paroled Yankee prisoners, leave Danville Prison at midnight and are put on a train to Richmond. From there, they march to Libby Prison for one night. The newly exchanged Union soldiers arrive by boat at Annapolis, Maryland, where they are issued new uniforms and equipment.

The train stops at a small jerk-water town and the men get off to stretch their legs. Wolf wants to know where they're going to stay. David stumbles and tells Wolf he needs quinine.

David comes to sitting in a tavern at a table next to an open window. He rubs his eyes to make out Wolf sitting across from him. Wolf says he needed a drink. David says, Let's go. Wolf says, I could go for one more shot of whiskey. David tells him that he's already had one too many.

The Masonic Gem ties up at New Albany. The big paddleboat's whistle blows its loud and measured beats. The Captain looks around as he disembarks and sees Charles Allen and Sally sitting on a riverside bench.

After an exchange of pleasantries, the Captain asks Charles Allen if the name he gave him did any good. Charles Allen informs the Captain that he's setting up a still in the rolling hills of Southern Indiana, but that his new wife, Sally, thanks to him, is working as a nurse at the local hospital. They are living in a house close to the river, not too far from Charles Allen's mother. The Captain asks Sally if she minds if he steals Charles Allen away for fifteen minutes or so. Sally waves him off, flashing a warm smile.

The Captain puts his arm over Charles Allen's shoulder and asks about his cousin up North's whereabouts. Charles Allen shrugs. The sign over the door of THE WATERING HOLE INN squeaks as a gust of wind blows. The loud blast of a whistle echoes off the river. Well, did you make contact with David, the Captain asks again. Charles Allen slams the screen door as they walk in.

David and Wolf finally de-train at David's hometown and David rents a buggy from the livery stable. The owners refuse his money, welcoming David home. David and Wolf set out for the Longacher's place.

Buck sits next to Ma on the front porch of their new two-story farmhouse. Buck barks. Ma tells Buck that it's the Dixon buggy coming up the road. The dog lies down.

Mister Dixon helps Missus Dixon out of the buggy. Ma pats Missus Dixon on her arm and tells her how sorry she is about their son Jerry's passing. Missus Dixon hands Jerry's last letter to Ma and tells her that David sent them a memorial and a note along with it explaining everything. A light rain begins to fall, so the three of them step up beneath the covered porch. Missus Dixon tells Ma not to count on anybody coming to their social since the Longacher family has been known to side up with the South at times. Ma calls Evette outside onto the porch and says, Take this young girl with you, she wants to tell you about her and Jerry. Missus Dixon sees that Evette is wearing Jerry's gold cross.

Mister Dixon tips his hat as he snaps the horse whip. The Dixon buggy passes through the covered bridge and continues down the clay road. Missus Dixon sniffs the single rose she holds and presses it into her Bible. She pulls Evette closer to her.

Ma, Hanna, Nel, and Beth change into their Sunday best, and gather on the front porch, anxiously awaiting David and Wolf's arrival. Ma looks at all the empty tables and chairs set up in the yard. Beth points to Nel who wears a rain duster. She tells Nel to look at the rainbow, it's stopped raining. Beth goes to help Nel take off the duster when she notices that Nel is wearing Ma's white wedding dress. Hanna smiles.

Just then, Buck jumps off the porch and runs toward the covered bridge. The women watch. They notice buggies and surreys by the dozens lining up as far as the eye can see down the clay road, headed their way.

Buck runs at one of the wagons toward the front of the line and jumps up onto it, into David's lap. David and Wolf wave their blue kepis in the air.

