

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

BUCK NAKED, GUNSLINGER

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

For the degree of Master of Arts in Screenwriting

By

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ABSTRACT

BUCK NAKED, GUNSLINGER

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Kansas, 1875, bounty hunter Buck Naked takes to the trail on his beloved horse, Buttercup. His destination is Trails End, a small town known best for The Broken Horse Shoe Saloon, owned by three of the most beautiful, randy, girls the old west has ever seen. On the way Buck is bushwhacked by El Flamingo, a particularly vicious rival in the man hunting business. Buck loses everything; horse, guns, even his clothes in the attack. The conflict escalates when Buck learns that El Flamingo has plans to cheat the girls out of the saloon and turn it into a fern bar. Doc Johnson, physician and part time bounty hunter, turns up dead but leaves a cryptic clue. Buck learns that some of the baddest outlaws in the west have banded together to hunt all bounty hunters and the death toll is raising. When the outlaws kidnap one of the girls, Buck and El Flamingo put their differences aside to fight this new menace. The Girls lend a hand in a climactic battle where they bring forth a devastating war machine, the R.F.R.B.C... Low on ammo, Buck risks it all in a desperate attempt to end the conflict once and for all. Our hero saves the day and wins the girl, his horse, and even his clothes.

Buck Naked, Gunslinger

INT. BLACKSMITHS SHOP -- DAY

Kansas, 1875, in an abandoned BLACKSMITHS SHOP. Raw wood planks make up the walls. The wood has shrunk over the years, and there are gapes letting little bands of bright sunlight into the dark interior. The air is smoky. The fire pit has been stoked and is so hot that even the cement ring making up the pit is glowing red from the heat. The corrugated steel that makes up the roof has seen better days. It is rusted through in many places, allowing a little more light on the scene.

The dappled light does not make the scene pretty: The smithy has been unused for quite some time, as evidenced by the LARGE SPIDER WEBS that have taken over the establishment. There is litter, and quite a few empty whiskey bottles laying about.

THREE LARGE, HAIRY, DIRTY MEN are passing a bottle, now we know where the empties came from. These are the MATTHEWS BROTHERS. Mean as hell, ugly as sin, and dumb as rocks: These men are a good argument against evolution. They are wearing bib overalls, guns and boots - that's it. CLETUS, the "brains" of the group, is flying his bib down low. His huge, hairy gut protrudes impressively. MORT, who likes to hurt people, is thin as a rail. DEVON, the "pretty" one, washes once a month - whether he needs it or not. Between them they have almost enough teeth to fill one healthy mouth. Their combined IQ's barely make it into the triple digits.

There is one other person present: BUCK NAKED, a lantern jawed bounty hunter. His hands are bound with rope. The other end of which is tied to an overhead beam. NUMEROUS CUTS AND BRUISES adorn his face and shirtless body. His head hangs to his chest. In spite of this, he looks good.

The Matthews are laughing together as they turn toward Buck:

CLETUS

Hey! Big Time Bounty Hunter. Why
did you come after us alone,
anyway?

Buck raises his head. He spits blood and looks Cletus in the eye.

BUCK NAKED

I've got a question for you: When
you robbed that stagecoach, why did
you kill them all?

Mort, not the brightest of this dim-witted group, looks up slack jawed.

MORT
They was there.

Devon walks over to the fire and picks up a POKER. It is about six feet long. The tip is red hot. He looks maliciously at Buck.

DEVON
This isn't hot enough yet.

MORT
(helpfully)
You see, when we kill you, we want to do it slow, and painful.

BUCK NAKED
Oh, you need it hotter? Why don't you move it...
(indicating with his chin)
over here.

Devon moves the poker where Buck indicates.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Now just pull it out of the fire a little.

Devon looks questioningly at Buck.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
That puts the tip in the hottest part of the fire.

Devon nods happily and pulls the poker out another foot. The cool end of the rod is just to the side of Buck and in front of Mort.

DEVON
Like this?

BUCK NAKED
Yea, perfect.

Buck swings a leg up, then down hard on the cool end of the poker. The Poker flips the tip up into the air. The cherry hot end hits Mort in the face. The rod is standing roughly vertical, the cool end on the ground and the hot end leaning into Devon's face, SIZZLING AS IT BURNS ITS WAY INTO HIS BRAIN.

As Mort goes down backward, SCREAMING HORRIBLY, Buck hooks the rod with his foot and tilts it toward him. He pushes his bound hands out on either side of the poker, which comes to rest on the knotted rope. The rope bursts into flame.

Buck shakes the burned rope loose and twists away from the poker. Even so, the red hot poker grazes his right arm and falls back on to Mort's ruined face.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

That's gonna leave a mark.

He grabs Mort's gun from his holster and fires one round into the screaming man, ending his torment.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

That's more mercy than you deserve.

Devon and Cletus stand startled for a moment with "What the hell?" written on their faces. They then react and go for their guns, Too late. Buck takes them out with one shot each from Mort's gun

Buck looks down at the three dead men and answers Cletus's question.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I came after you because you needed stopping. I came alone because you're idiots and I'm not.

EXT. ROCKY TRAIL -- DAY

We are in a rocky valley. The trail winds between the large boulders. He is riding BUTTERCUP, a beautiful PALOMINO. Three horses are tied behind them, each bearing one of the Matthews brothers tied face down across the saddle. A shot rings out from above. Buck reflexively ducks as a bullet slams into the rocks nearby.

BUCK NAKED

Oh Crap!

Buck leaps from his horse and takes cover behind a boulder. He peaks around the boulder, trying to find where the shots are coming from. Another bullet slams into the rock just above his head.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Just when the day was going so well...

Buttercup bolts down the trail.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(yelling)
That's it, Buttercup, save your own
ass and leave me here.

OS - A brief WINNIE is heard in the distance.

Buck shakes his head in disgust. He pokes his head out from behind the rocks again and yells:

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Hey! Who are you?

MARIO
(O.S., Italian accent)
My name is Mario. Why do you ask?

This exchange is followed by another gunshot from Mario.

BUCK NAKED
Oh, I just like to know who I'm
going to kill...

Another gunshot from Mario. Buck sees where the puff of gun smoke originates and makes a quick calculation. He fires not at the smoke, but to the side of it. We hear three ricochets as the bullet bounces between the boulders. There is a WET THUD as it hits MARIO in the ass. We see he is wearing blue bib overalls, a cap, big mustache and a red shirt.

Mario lets out a YELP as he jumps up out of cover, both hands on this wounded butt.

Buck smiles grimly and shoots Mario. (Possibly, a couple dollar signs appear over Mario's head.)

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Game over.

Buck whistles for Buttercup, and climbs the rocks to retrieve the body while the horse returns.

EXT. STREETS OF DODGE -- DAY

Buck rides Buttercup down Main Street Dodge, a bustling town with whitewashed buildings and a boardwalk on both sides of the street. As Buck nears the local saloon, His horse automatically turns to the hitching post. Buck pulls on the reins, Speaking to the horse and guiding it past the bar.

BUCK NAKED

Not today, Buttercup, we've got business with the Marshal, then a nice long ride to Trails End. Plenty of time for a drink when we get to The Broken Horse Shoe.

The horse SNORTS LOUDLY at the mention of another "nice long ride."

We now see the rope tied to Buck's saddle. He is leading 4 other horses, each with a dead man draped across the saddle.

EXT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

Buck stops in front of the Marshal's office, ties Buttercup to the hitching post, and goes inside.

INT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Marshal looks up from the paperwork at his desk, in front of a bank of cells, one of which holds a lone prisoner.

MARSHAL

Buck! Good to see you're still on this side of the grass.

Buck shakes the Marshal's hand but looks at the Marshal questioningly.

BUCK NAKED

Why would you worry about that?

MARSHAL

(grimly)
Williams is dead.

BUCK NAKED

Williams? He was a good man. That makes three bounty hunters dead in the past few weeks.

MARSHAL

Bullet in the back. No one saw who did it.

The prisoner steps to the front of his cell, hands on he steel bars, and laughs.

PRISONER

Sounds like someone is hunting the hunters. How do you like being the hunted?

MARSHAL

Quiet in there! You won't be laughing when the judge sentences you to swing.

The prisoner goes quiet.

BUCK NAKED

That's Dalton, tough cookie. Who brought him in?

MARSHAL

The Flamingo Kid. He usually brings them in dead...

BUCK NAKED

Speaking of dead, I've got a little business to conduct with you outside.

The Marshal gets up and tests the prisoners cell door.

MARSHAL

Not taking any chances with this one. Let's see what you've got.

EXT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Marshal approaches the first body and pulls the hair on the back of the head to inspect the face of each one.

BUCK NAKED

The three Matthews brothers, plus a bonus. Not sure who that one is, but he tried to bushwhack me on the trail. Said his name was "Mario."

The Marshal looks sharply at Buck.

MARSHAL

You shot him as you were talking?

BUCK NAKED

Well, he was pretty much still trying to kill me...

The Marshal takes a closer look at the last man.

MARSHAL

I'll telegraph a description.
Probably take a few days to find
out.

BUCK NAKED

That's OK, but I'd like to collect
on The Matthews right away. The
girls at The Broken Horse Shoe are
having some financial problems and
I promised I'd help out.

MARSHAL

No problem, that's \$500 each on the
Matthews, \$1,500 total. Let's go
inside and do the paperwork.

Buck shakes his head in frustration:

BUCK NAKED

If only someday, someone would
invent a way to eliminate all the
paper...

INT. MARSHAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

The Marshal is at his desk, Head bent down at the ledger, pen
in hand, Buck standing next to him.

MARSHAL

OK, that's "Buck Naked"

The Marshal looks up at Buck:

MARSHAL (CONT'D)

How did you get that name, anyway?

BUCK NAKED

I was born on an Indian
reservation, my parents were
missionaries.

FLASHBACK

INT. TEPEE - 30 YEARS AGO - DAY

Crude tepee, but very spacious. Medical Equipment surrounds
the bed where MRS. NAKED lies in the process of giving birth.
Her husband, MR. NAKED, stands nearby, fidgeting and
helpless.

BUCK NAKED (V.O.)
They were a very advanced tribe.

MRS. NAKED
(to Mr. Naked)
This is our tenth child. Nine boys
already. All I wanted was ONE
DAUGHTER. This better be it. You
EVER touch me again and I'll cut it
off and shove it up your -

A MEDICINE MAN approaches the bed and interrupts.

MEDICINE MAN
Good morning, Mrs. Naked. How are
we doing today?

MRS. NAKED
We are fucking giving birth. How
are you fucking doing, asshole?

Medicine Man turns to Mr. Naked:

MEDICINE MAN
The mouth on that woman.

MR. NAKED
Tell me about it.

The Medicine Man studies the chart, then looks up at Mrs.
Naked.

MEDICINE MAN
Well, Mrs. Naked, after nine
children, this should be a
relatively easy birth. Let me just
take a look...

The Medicine Man snaps on rubber gloves and positions himself
between her legs.

MEDICINE MAN (CONT'D)
Yes, the baby is coming along
nic...

The baby shoots out like it was shot from a cannon. It hits
the Medicine man in the face. He almost fumbles the baby but
manages to hold on. He holds the baby up by its feet and
inspects it.

An INDIAN SCRIBE approaches with a large, leather bound book
and quill.

MEDICINE MAN (CONT'D)
Congratulations Mr. And Mrs. Naked,
you have a beautiful, healthy, BABY
BOY.

INDIAN SCRIBE
And what name shall I enter into
The PERMANENT RECORD.

Mrs. Naked collapses back onto the bed.

MRS. NAKED
Oh fuck.

INDIAN SCRIBE
OK, Buck? Buck Naked. Kind of a
funny name...

MR. AND MRS. NAKED
Oh no! Wait! That's not the name!

The Scribe is writing into the volume.

INDIAN SCRIBE
Too Late!

Husband and wife turn to each other then join hands lovingly.

MR. NAKED
We have a beautiful boy. What's in
a name? It's not THAT bad. These
Indian folk have all kinds of
interesting and beautiful names for
their children.

Mrs. Naked turns to the Medicine Man.

MRS. NAKED
How do your people decide on a name
for your children?

MEDICINE MAN
We are all named by the Chief. On
the day of our birth, the chief
walks out of his tent, and the
first thing he sees becomes the
name of the child.

The Nakeds nod as they take this in.

MEDICINE MAN (CONT'D)
Names like Falling Snow, Eagles
Flight, Running Buck, Howling
Wolf...

MR. NAKED
And what is your name, Medicine
Man?

Medicine man crosses his arms and stands proudly.

MEDICINE MAN
Moose Turd Steaming.

The NAKEDS turn to each other with raised eyebrows.

BUCK NAKED (V.O.)
Of course, I got some teasing
growing up. I got into a lot of
fights, but it only made me
tougher. I spent a lot of time
with my best friend, the only one
who didn't rag me about my name.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - 10 YEARS LATER - DAY

Dirt playground behind a LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE. Buck is now
10 years old. He is wearing a cowboy outfit. A LARGE CROWD
of school children are attacking Buck and one other boy, who
we can't see well through the crowd.

The two boys fight off the entire gang of kids. The other boy
is now off screen

SUE - OTHER BOY
(O.S.)
We beat them all again, Right Buck?

Buck's friend, SUE, WEARING A BLACK JOHNNY CASH OUTFIT, walks
on screen and shakes hands with Buck.

10 YEAR OLD BUCK
Right, Sue.

SFX: OPENING RIFF FROM "A BOY NAMED SUE."

RETURN

EXT. ON THE TRAIL - PRESENT - DAY

It is Spring. Everything is green with the promise of new
life. This is a narrow, winding trail, obviously not much
traveled. Sitting high in the saddle, Buck speaks to his
horse:

BUCK NAKED

Well, Buttercup, It's a great day
for a ride, isn't it?

Buttercup snorts and continues along at a relaxed pace.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Gotta pick it up a bit old boy, I
want to make it to Trail's End in
time for happy hour. That's
something new the girls came up
with. Every drink comes with a
happy ending.

Buttercup turns his head to get a better look at Buck,
snorts, and shakes his head derisively.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

It's not going to be all fun and
games. I need to talk to Doc
Johnson.

Reaches into his breast pocket and pulls out a yellow slip of
paper.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Got this telegram from the Doc
saying he needed to see me right
away. Something about "bnty klgs"

Buttercup SNORTS again impatiently:

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I've go no idea what "bnty klgs"
means. Ol' Doc may keep the ladies
happy, but he's too damn cheap to
pay for a decent telegram.

The horse comes to an abrupt halt. There is a big rock slide
blocking the trail. Buck cranes his head left, right, and all
around.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

That's odd: Usually when there's a
rock slide there's a slope for the
rocks to, you know, slide... down.

Buck notices a CRUDELY LETTERED SIGN SAYING "DETOUR" AND AN
ARROW POINTING TO A BARELY DISCERNIBLE PATH THROUGH THE
TREES.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

There we go. Our tax dollars at
work.

Buck shakes the reins and starts down the new path.

EXT. HEAVY FOREST -- DAY

Lots of trees with low hanging branches. Buck is busy looking down, scouting for the next detour sign. If he looked up he might notice a FLASH OF PINK overhead in the trees.

A CELLO Starts playing the THEME FROM JAWS as the pink flash moves among the branches. The volume increases as Buck and the object get closer, suddenly an EXPLOSION OF SOUND as a huge frying pan CRASHES into Buck's head. The sound can only be described as a metallic "KABONG!"

FADE TO BLACK

UP FROM BLACK

EXT. HEAVY FOREST -- DAY

The scene comes slowly into focus. Pretty much as before except for the strange MAN IN PINK CHAPS who is in the process of undressing Buck (Buck is shirtless and his chaps are halfway off). This is EL FLAMINGO, a rival bounty hunter known for his viciousness and his peculiar "habits."

BUCK NAKED

Hey! Whoa! Slow down there,
partner. Aren't you going to buy me
dinner first?

El Flamingo looks up from his task:

EL FLAMINGO

Would that help?

Buck gets a leg up and gives a kick that sends El Flamingo flying backwards.

BUCK NAKED

Of course not, you freak! Now keep
you hands off of me if you know
what's good for you.

El Flamingo slowly stands, his right hand over his very large COLT REVOLVER.

Buck's hand flies to his gun, death in his eyes.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

SHIT!

Buck realizes he is unarmed, and damn near "buck naked".

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

What did you do to my gun, my
clothes, my...

El Flamingo relaxes but keeps his had close to his holster.

EL FLAMINGO

... Your what? Your dignity?
...Your masculinity? ...Your

BUCK NAKED

(interrupting)

My masculinity is just fine. Now
what the HELL are you doing? Who
the hell are you, any way?

El Flamingo looks shocked:

EL FLAMINGO

You don't recognize me? Everyone
calls me...

Head goes proudly back, right leg comes up and tucked under,
stands on left leg.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

(dramatically)

El Flamingo!

His right leg continues to stay up in an unconscious
imitation of an avian flamingo. He picks at a cuticle.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

I never could figure out why,
though.

Buck is momentarily stricken speechless, he finally
sputters.

BUCK NAKED

You're. You're. You're stand...
You're wearing, you're wearing PINK
CHAPS, for Christ's Sake!

El Flamingo looks up from his cuticles.

EL FLAMINGO

Well, they started out white. You know how hard it is to get blood out of fine leather.

El Flamingo runs his left hand up and down his chaps in what he obviously hopes is a sensuous manner.

Buck shakes his head, trying to forget what he just saw.

BUCK NAKED

Look, why the hell were you undressing me? AND why does my head ache so bad?

El Flamingo shrugs and reaches over his own back. He pulls out a LARGE FRYING PAN.

EL FLAMINGO

This is "El Kabong!" The finest frying pan in the world!

Now Buck is really confused:

BUCK NAKED

OK, so?

EL FLAMINGO

It's why your head hurts, silly. I hit you with it.

BUCK NAKED

Why would you hit me with a dumb old frying pan?

EL FLAMINGO

El Kabong! is no ordinary frying pan, it's special, non-stick surface is...

BUCK NAKED

Enough already! WHY... DID... YOU... HIT... ME?

EL FLAMINGO

It was either that or shoot you - you're welcome.

BUCK NAKED

Why would you want to shoot me?

EL FLAMINGO

Why for the bounty, of course. You are the Tattooed Kid, right?

BUCK NAKED
Do I look like the Tattooed Kid?

Buck stands up, spreads his arms.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Do you see any tattoos?

EL FLAMINGO
Well, no, but I haven't seen all of
you yet.

El Flamingo reaches for Bucks pants. Buck throws an uppercut that lands El Flamingo flat on his back. Buck, hands on hips, looks pretty proud of the punch. He turns away and bends over to pick up his shirt. For just a moment we see a shadow looming over buck, then: KABONG!

FADE TO BLACK

UP FROM BLACK

EXT. HEAVY FOREST -- DAY

Once again our hero awakens, this time with a splitting headache. He looks around. El Flamingo is next to Buttercup, going through Bucks SADDLE BAGS. Buck shivers, then realizes that he is completely unclothed.

BUCK NAKED
Hey! I'm buck naked!

El Flamingo is going through Bucks papers and wanted posters.

EL FLAMINGO
Yes, you are Buck Naked. When I
couldn't find any tattoos, I
checked your saddle bags. Now
aren't you glad I didn't just shoot
you?

BUCK NAKED
No, I mean I'm buck naked. I'm
cold. Gimmie my clothes.

EL FLAMINGO
(ignoring Buck's request)
I really thought you were the
Tattooed kid...

BUCK NAKED
You idiot! The Tattooed Kid is
Chinese.

EL FLAMINGO
You could be in disguise.

BUCK NAKED
and 5 feet tall.

EL FLAMINGO
Lifts?

Buck has had enough.

BUCK NAKED
Where are my clothes? Where is my
hat. Where is my gun? Where am I
going to bury your body when I find
my gun?

El Flamingo turns back to Buttercup and cinches down on the
straps with one hand. The other hand is holding his Colt
steady on Buck.

EL FLAMINGO
All of your possessions are neatly
packed away on "Buttercup", did you
say? I'm going to ride out of here,
and I'm going to take Buttercup
with me. You need some time to cool
down. When I've got a good enough
head start, I'll let your horse go.

Buck starts forward. The Colt clicks four times as El
Flamingo cocks it with one hand. Buck stops dead.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
You can call him back or whistle
him back, or whatever macho way you
call your horse. By the time you
get squared away I'll be long gone
and you'll have a chance to cool
off and better appreciate the great
favor I've doing by not pulling
this trigger.

The gun is cocked, El Flamingo's right leg goes up into his
bird stance, and Buttercup steps sideways - onto El
Flamingo's left foot on the ground. He howls in pain and
stumbles. The gun goes off next to the horses ear. Buttercup
bolts off into the distance.

Buck whistles for his horse but all the beast can hear is the RINGING in it's ears from the gun shot.

Buck watches in horror as Buttercup races in a blind panic toward DEAD MAN'S CLIFF. Even El Flamingo is shocked to see the horse disappear over the edge.

BUCK NAKED

Shit

EL FLAMINGO

Oh Shit.

BUCK NAKED

Shit shit shit.

EL FLAMINGO

Shit.

BUCK NAKED

Enough of this shit. You just cost me my horse and all of my worldly possessions. What are you going to do about it?

EL FLAMINGO

It's not my fault... They should put a sign by that cliff.

BUCK NAKED

Don't be an idiot, horses can't read.

El Flamingo suddenly gets busy with his horse.

EL FLAMINGO

Well, got places to go, people to do.

El Flamingo swings up onto his mount and looks down on Buck, who is just sanding there, naked, cold and vulnerable.

BUCK NAKED

You can't just leave me here. I've got nothing.

El Flamingo suddenly reaches down with a hand out to Buck.

EL FLAMINGO

Grab hold and swing up behind me.

BUCK NAKED

Not that I'm not grateful, but is there some other way?

EL FLAMINGO
You want me behind you?

BUCK NAKED
No, I guess this will do just fine.

EXT. ON THE TRAIL -- DAY

The are back on the main trail, little as it is. You can just see the TOWN OF TRAILS END in the distance. The 2nd floor of the HOTEL and the sign above THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE are welcome landmarks. Both Buck and El Flamingo are a little uncomfortable with their traveling arrangement.

BUCK NAKED
Maybe you should drop me off before we get to town.

EL FLAMINGO
I was thinking the same thing.

BUCK NAKED
You have any spare clothes I can borrow?

EL FLAMINGO
If I did I would have let you wear them before you got on the horse.

BUCK NAKED
Yea, well... How about your saddle blanket. We can cut a hole in the middle for my head...

EL FLAMINGO
I'm not going to...

BUCK NAKED
You owe me.

EL FLAMINGO
(reluctantly)
I guess I do.

El Flamingo reaches for his buck knife in the scabbard on his ankle. The old blanket makes a serviceable serape. Buck tries it on. It smells bad and is a little bit too short for modesty but if he's careful...

SFX: The whistling opening of the THEME FROM "THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY"

BUCK NAKED
Hey! Not too bad. Maybe I can ride
into town after all.

EXT. TRAILS END - MAIN STREET -- DAY

El Flamingo rides up to the hitching post in front of The Broken Horse Shoe. Townsfolk are gathering to check out the new arrivals. Buck dismounts with a flourish. The serape catches in the breeze and blows around his head.

The Saloon girls, SAMANTHA, SERENITY, and DAWN, arrive at the batwings (swinging saloon doors) just in time for the show.

SAMANTHA
Well Buck, when I said I wanted to
see more of you, I was thinking of
someplace a bit more private.

SERENITY
This will do just fine for me.

DAWN
What happened to your pants?

El Flamingo swings off his horse and makes a beeline for the bar. He wants nothing to do with this.

BUCK NAKED
Come on girls, we have to talk.

Buck and the girls troop inside the Broken Horse Shoe.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

Western saloon. Big bar running the length of the back wall, a couple poker tables. A horribly out of tune upright piano, and a few smaller round tables for drinks and limited food service. Buck and the girls are sitting in a corner at one of these smaller tables.

BUCK NAKED
I'm a little low on funds right now

DAWN
You can't afford any pants?

Samantha nudges Dawn, Serenity gives Dawn a dirty look.

SERENITY
Don't complain about the view.

Buck rearranges the serape around himself. Dawn tries to help him with the task. Much to her delight.

Buck slaps Dawn's hand away and starts his tale.

BUCK NAKED

It's a long story, I had a little encounter with El Flamingo...

DAWN

Now I know where you lost your pants.

Everyone at the table turns and gives Buck a look.

BUCK NAKED

Hey! It's not like that. He thought I was the Tattooed Kid...

DAWN

Isn't he Chinese? Are you Chinese? You don't look Chinese.

BUCK NAKED

No, I am not Chinese.

DAWN

Were you squinting your eyes?

SAMANTHA

(to Dawn)

Why don't you go play with your badger?

Buck looks sharply at Samantha

DAWN

OK. Buck! You want to see my badger?

BUCK NAKED

Wha... wh...

SAMANTHA

(laughing at Buck's confusion)

Dawn found a badger living under the saloon. She made it a pet. It turns out that it was a female and now there is a whole family of Honey Badgers out there.

Buck looks a little relieved and disappointed at the same time.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- NIGHT

It's dark outside, the lamps are lit inside, and the place is full of customers. Buck and the girls have been drinking. All of them seem very capable of holding their liquor.

BUCK NAKED

I've really got to see Doc Johnson.
I'm surprised he hasn't shown up
here at the Horse Shoe.

SERENITY

(growing concerned)
It's not like him to miss Happy
Hour, and that was hours ago...

BUCK NAKED

(looking around)
The sheriff isn't here, either.

SAMANTHA

He's transporting a prisoner to
Topeka.

BUCK NAKED

I'm getting a bad feeling.

Buck shoves back his chair and stands.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I think I'll take a little walk to
the hotel.

EXT. MAIN STREET -- NIGHT

There are no street lights. The only illumination is from the moon and what little light spills out from the saloon and other "night time" businesses. There is a long, dark stretch between the Horse Shoe and the hotel, where nothing is open or lit up. Other than Buck and some tethered horses, the street appears deserted.

Buck sets off at a brisk pace, trying to stay warm. He almost misses the SOFT GROAN as he passes the gap between the dry goods store and a store front church.

Buck Stops and listens, trying to make out anything in the pitch dark gap.

BUCK NAKED

Hello. Anybody there?

Another WEAK GROAN answers him.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Are you OK? Who are you? ...Where
are you?

Bucks eyes are getting adjusted to the dark and he makes out the shape of a TALL THIN MAN sitting propped against the wall.

DOC JOHNSON
(weakly)
Buck? Is that you?

BUCK NAKED
Doc? Doc Johnson?

Buck rushes forward to give aid.

Doc Johnson GROANS when Buck touches him. Bucks hands come away bloody, very bloody.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Doc. What happened?

Doc rallies a bit as he tries to get the words out.

DOC JOHNSON
On... way... to saloon... to...
warn.

Doc passes out for a moment then lifts his head.

BUCK NAKED
Take it easy Doc. Take it easy.

Doc grabs Buck's shirt and pulls Buck close.

DOC JOHNSON
Killers... me... other bounty...
hunters... You... Fl, Fl, Fl

BUCK NAKED
El Flamingo?

Doc manages a weak grin and touches Buck on the nose.

DOC JOHNSON
Seren... Seren... Serenity next...
S...

Doc shudders, stiffens, then goes limp.

Buck tenderly leans Doc's body back against the wall.

BUCK NAKED
Good bye, old friend, good bye.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- NIGHT

About two hours later. We know this because there are several more empty bottles on the table. There is a bowl of tortilla chips and a smaller bowl of some nasty looking dip, it is almost empty. Dawn is trying to find her nose with both hands.

DAWN
I can't feel my nose. Is it still there?

Dawn has a look of real concern. Serenity is having trouble finding her mouth with a full shotglass. Most of the brown liquor is spilling out on the table.

SERENITY
Don't worry about your nose, that's not what the customers want to look at anyway.

Samantha is trying to maintain a serious and dignified appearance, but is hampered by fits of giggles.

SAMANTHA
Come, come, come on girls. We promised ourselves we would celebrate when Buck arrived, but he's not even here.

All three women stop what they were doing and look around the room.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
...Is he?

El Flamingo emerges from the shadows, holding an IMPORTANT LOOKING DOCUMENT in his hand.

EL FLAMINGO
Well ladies, and I use the term loosely, how about conducting a little business?

Samantha looks up at El Flamingo suspiciously. She is having trouble focusing on him.

SAMANTHA
I... We... Something is wrong.

DAWN

Yeah, I can't find my fucking nose.

EL FLAMINGO

(looking shocked)

Young lady! Your language is
appalling!

He places the paper on the table and produces an ink well and fountain pen.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

Just sign these silly old papers
then you can go back to your
drinking. Here, have some more of
this delicious PEYOTE DIP I made
just for you.

SERENITY

What do you call it again? "Dip"?
And these crispy pieces of tortilla
are "Chips"?

EL FLAMINGO

Just something new I'm trying out
for when I take over the saloon.

ALL THREE GIRLS

What?

EL FLAMINGO

Oh, nothing. Nothing at all. Just
sign the papers and I'll give you
all the dip you want.

Samantha picks up the paper and works hard to focus on the fine print. She slams her hand down on the table, she almost misses.

SAMANTHA

Only one thing I want from you, and
that's your blood. Girls, he's
trying to cheat us out of The
Broken Horse Shoe.

Serenity and Dawn pause a moment to take it in, then all three draw derringers from their garters.

DAWN

Did you think we was stupid?

EL FLAMINGO

Well, actually I...

SFX: THREE DERRINGERS BEING COCKED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
That is... [BEAT] Goodbye.

El Flamingo turns and dashes for the batwings, just as Buck enters. El Flamingo bounces off of Buck and hits the floor.

Buck finds himself looking down the barrel of three small but deadly guns.

BUCK NAKED
Whoa there.

Buck's hands are up in a placating gesture.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Girls, put down the guns. I have some bad news.

El Flamingo tries to scramble between Buck's legs and out the door. Buck reaches down and grabs a handful of hair. He raises El Flamingo to his feet.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to El Flamingo)
You've been far too familiar with me today, already.

This gets the girls' attention.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
What say we all sit down, (looks at the girls) and put our guns away,

DAWN
(under her breath)
He's just jealous 'cuz he lost his guns.

Buck hears this.

BUCK NAKED
I did not LOSE my guns! This sorry S.O.B lost them for me - and my clothes and my horse, and my money and...

Hand goes fast as lightning to his right hip. A look of frustration crosses his face.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Did I mention he lost my guns?

El Flamingo slowly and carefully tries to step around Buck. Buck is still blocking his way out through the batwings. He nods once at Buck, then turns toward the girls.

EL FLAMINGO
OK, let's not lose our heads
here...

SERENITY
More than likely, your balls.

El Flamingo winces at the thought.

EL FLAMINGO
Yes, I am trying to buy The Broken
Horse Shoe. I was hoping to get it
cheap, but I'm willing to pay a
fair price.

ALL THREE GIRLS
It's not for sale!

Buck takes charge, pushes El Flamingo Toward the table.

BUCK NAKED
Grab a chair and sit! Move over
girls. I've got some bad news.

Buck grabs a chair for himself, turns it backward and sits resting his chin on his arms across the back of the chair.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
No good way to say it. Doc Johnson
is dead...

GASPS from the women. An even bigger GASP from El Flamingo.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
...We need to find out who did it,
and why.

EXT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- NIGHT

It's cold, it's late, it's dark. The girls, dressed in their skimpy "work clothes", are shivering but are ignoring it as best they can. The group; Buck, the girls, El Flamingo, are walking back to the DARK ALLEY.

SAMANTHA
(to Buck)
This is where it happened?

BUCK NAKED

This is where I found him. It's so
damn dark I could barely see Doc,
let alone search for clues.

Suddenly, the whole scene lights up. The group looks around
and at each other in confusion. All except Dawn, who is in
the back, holding a kerosene lantern.

DAWN

And they call me dumb.

EL FLAMINGO

I'll be damned.

SERENITY

That goes without saying.

Buck scans the area but sees nothing.

EL FLAMINGO

There's nothing here, no clues,
nothing.

BUCK NAKED

There is ALWAYS something.
Everybody spread out and look
closely for anything that points to
who did this. We need answers

They all search the area but come up empty.

EL FLAMINGO

What was the question? There's
nothing here.

A HONEY BADGER wanders into the light. Ignoring the rest of
the group, it walks up to Dawn, stops at her feet, and looks
up expectantly.

DAWN

No, Baby, no treat for you until
you bring me something.

BUCK NAKED

What's going on ?

DAWN

It's a game we play. She brings me
something, a smooth stone or a
shiny bit of metal, and I give her
a treat.

Dawn bends over and strokes the badger's fur.

DAWN (CONT'D)
(looks at Buck
mischievously)
You sure you don't want to pet my
badger?

BUCK NAKED
Not if it's got teeth.

Dawn snickers, then turns to the badger.

DAWN
Go on, find Mommy a present.

The badger waddles around the area, sniffing the ground and looking for treasure. Suddenly it stops and digs furiously. It uncovers A SCRAP OF PAPER and picks it up in it's teeth.

BUCK NAKED
Hey! That's right where I found
Doc. He must have buried that
piece of paper to keep his attacker
from taking it.

Buck reaches for the scrap in the badger's teeth. The Badger growls, snarls, and spits viciously at Buck - without dropping the paper.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Whoa! Take it easy there friend.

The badger snarls at Buck again, then turns and waddles over to Dawn. It drops the scrap at Dawn's feet then waits expectantly.

DAWN
(baby voice)
What a good girl you are. What a
good girl.

Dawn reaches into her bodice and produces a scrap of chicken. She holds it out and the badger gently takes the meat from Dawn's hand then turns and waddles happily away.

EL FLAMINGO
(looking at Dawn's chest)
I wonder what else she has in
there.

Both Serenity and Samantha turn and smack El Flamingo on the arms.

BUCK NAKED
(looking at paper scrap)
Hey! This is part of a prison
release form. Most of it is gone.
Early release for "Mad D..."?

He starts snapping his fingers.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Mad Dirt... Mad Donkey... Mad Dawn

Dawn looks at Buck and scowls.

DAWN
Don't make me turn Baby loose on
you.

BUCK NAKED
(continues)
Mad Dog! Mad Dog Madison!

Serenity turns white.

SERENITY
Oh God.

BUCK NAKED
(turns to Serenity)
What?

SERENITY
(hands shaking)
Mad Dog Madison! My father
testified against him at his trial.
Mad Dog swore that he'd make Daddy
pay, said he'd take care of me,
too.

Shocked looks all around.

BUCK NAKED
If we're going up against Mad Dog
Madison I need supplies, a horse,
guns... lots of guns.

EL FLAMINGO
Who is this "We" you're talking
about? No skin off my teeth if he
takes Serenity. One less to deal
with for The Horse Shoe.

The girls are going for their garters. Buck makes a hands
down gesture.

BUCK NAKED
Wait a minute before you kill him
ladies.

SAMANTHA
Why? He's nothing but trouble.

SERENITY
And a lousy tipper.

DAWN
And he smells better than me!

EL FLAMINGO
Rose water, and an occasional bath.

BUCK NAKED
(turns to El Flamingo)
Mad Dog swore vengeance on all the
bounty hunters who chased him down.
You're on the list, too.

El Flamingo ponders this for a moment.

EL FLAMINGO
OK, I'm in.

BUCK NAKED
Good. Now let's get the ladies back
to The Horse Shoe, then you and I
are going to check out Doc
Johnson's hotel room.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE "GUEST ROOM"-- NIGHT

Small room, DRESSER with LARGE MIRROR, BIG BRASS BED.

Buck, the girls and El Flamingo Enter.

BUCK NAKED
Why'd you drag me up here?

SAMANTHA
One of our special customers, used
to stay here for a week at a time.
He'd tell his wife he was on a
business trip.

SERENITY
He was usually on something... or
some one.

DAWN

He left real fast one day, when his
wife showed up looking for him.

Buck and El Flamingo exchange looks.

Samantha points out the window.

SAMANTHA

He left through the window. Last I
saw of him was his big, hairy...

BUCK NAKED

That's enough for me.

EL FLAMINGO

I could stand to hear a little
more.

BUCK NAKED

Stow it, Flamer.

EL FLAMINGO

(interrupting)

"El Flamingo", or just plain
"Flamingo" if you must.

El Flamingo is back on one leg and picking on a cuticle. He
bats his eyelashes coquettishly.

The girls all wear "What the Hell?" Expressions. Buck just
looks tired.

BUCK NAKED

OK, "El Flamingo"...
(turns to Samantha)
Once more: Why are we here?

Dawn chimes in

DAWN

Why is anybody here? Nihilism
states that life is without
objective meaning, the question has
intrigued and baffled man
throughout the ages...

SERENITY

(shaking her head)

We've got to get rid of that
encyclopedia...

Samantha walks to the dresser and pulls open the drawers.
They are full of neatly folded clothes.

SAMANTHA

He was about your size. It's been months. Don't think he's coming back.

SERENITY

Wife probably killed him.

BUCK NAKED

(overcome)

Thank you! I'm getting fleas from this horse blanket.

SAMANTHA

No problem. I'll just add it to your bill.

BUCK NAKED

What?

Samantha just smiles.

Buck tears through the drawers like a kid on Christmas. He selects some pieces and turns around, everyone is watching him.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

All right. This isn't a peep show. Everybody out!

The girls reluctantly file out of the room. El Flamingo Just stands quietly in a corner.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

You, too.

El Flamingo pouts as he leaves the room.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- NIGHT

El Flamingo and the three girls are at their usual table, waiting for Buck.

SERENITY

(to El Flamingo)

So, how do you get the peyote dip so smooth?

EL FLAMINGO

The trick is to place the buttons in your boots and then walk for a mile or so. It really tenderizes them. Then you...

SERENITY
(turning a little green)
That's OK. I think I've heard
enough.

Buck walks down the stairs, making as much of an appearance
as a straight man can. He walks to the group's table:

BUCK NAKED
Ladies, that includes you, too,
Flamingo, I feel like a new man.

EL FLAMINGO
See if you can find one for me,
too.

El Flamingo just earned a pissed of look from Buck, and
giggles from the girls.

Buck sits and stretches in his new clothes. He looks
contented.

BUCK NAKED
Bartender, bring a round beers for
the table here.

BARTENDER
How about some chips and dip to go
with it.

SERENITY
No!

The bartender looks disappointed.

BARTENDER
You sure? Everybody loves it.

A pan of the room shows everyone giggling and scarfing the
dip.

EL FLAMINGO
See? I don't even own the bar yet
and already I'm a success.

SAMANTHA
Buck! I've got a gift for you, at a
reasonable price.

BUCK NAKED
Doe's it involve sweating and a lot
of heavy breathing?

SAMANTHA
No, but it involves killing...

BUCK NAKED
Tell me more.

SAMANTHA
Got a gun that's been behind the bar for a long time. Ever hear of a flintlock?

BUCK NAKED
(sighs)
It sure beats throwing rocks at a armed gunman.

Samantha presents the gun to Buck.

SAMANTHA
It'll be...

BUCK NAKED
(interrupting)
On my bill.

SAMANTHA
A girl's got to watch out for herself.

The batwings swing open and a corpulent, well dressed man walks to their table. This is the BANKER, in suit and tie, shoes so shiny that they reflect star light into the room.

BANKER
Good evening ladies, Sirs. How's business? Good I hope, you have three days before your next payment comes due.

The girls all look like they just tasted something rotten.

Samantha waves the bartender over to bring the banker a drink, on the house.

SAMANTHA
Yes, business is good. We could use a little extension, though. Cash flow...

The bartender presents a bottle and a shotglass.

BARTENDER
The best scotch in the house.

The banker looks at the bottle critically, then at the shot glass.

The banker takes a sip.

BANKER
Yes, this will do. Leave the
bottle. Bring a tumbler.

He downs the shot and pours himself another.

BANKER (CONT'D)
Excellent! I am afraid that there
is no negotiation. If you don't
make the payment, in full, within
the next three days, the Broken
Horse Shoe will be in default and
the new owner will take possession.

El Flamingo licks his lips.

The bartender returns with a tumbler.

The banker abandons the shotglass and starts to fill the tumbler.

Samantha reaches across the table and grabs the bottle, she then takes the tumbler and pours the contents back into the bottle.

The banker looks shocked

SAMANTHA
You expect me to feed you booze
when you steal my business and sell
it for profit?

BANKER
You should know how this works by
now.

The banker reaches across the table and runs a finger around Samantha's cheek and lips.

DAWN
(repulsed)
Ewww!

BUCK NAKED
You should leave now.

The banker gets up slowly, hands and arms quivering as he rises.

BANKER

Three days!

The banker makes a fast exit.

BUCK NAKED

We need to check out Doc's hotel room. You girls stay here and protect Serenity. El Flamingo and I can handle this.

INT. DOC JOHNSON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Doc Johnson's room is as neat as a pin,

Clothes folded neatly, a place for everything and everything in it's place.

Buck and El Flamingo enter the room quickly, Buck in front, El flamingo hanging a bit back. Buck quickly scans the room, sees El Flamingo just inside the door.

BUCK NAKED

What the hell are you doing?

EL FLAMINGO

I'm covering your back.

BUCK NAKED

Covering my... It's my front that I'm concerned about. We know no one is hiding outside the door.

EL FLAMINGO

OK, I was just a little worried about what might happen when you pull the trigger on that antique relic.

BUCK NAKED

Well, I'm hoping that it will go "bang" and the bad man will drop dead.

Buck looks warily at the flintlock.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I am REALLY hoping that.

EL FLAMINGO
(snorts)
Well, you're not dead yet, room is
empty. Maybe you won't need to pull
the trigger.

El Flamingo strides into the room and starts going through
the drawers.

BUCK NAKED
Maybe, but it hardly ever works out
that way.

EL FLAMINGO
(Muttering)
The night's young.

El Flamingo Digs into the DRESSER .

BUCK NAKED
(turns to El Flamingo)
Take it easy there, show some
respect.

EL FLAMINGO
(dismissive)
I don't think the Ol' Doc really
cares anymore.

Buck digs to the bottom of Doc's MEDICAL BAG. Among other
things are VARIOUS SEX TOYS. Bruce looks puzzled. El.
Flamingo look over as Buck examines a GIANT DILDO

BUCK NAKED
(puzzled look)
What do you suppose???

El Flamingo glances quickly at Buck's find then goes back to
searching the dresser drawers.

EL FLAMINGO
Oh, yeah. I have one of those.

BUCK NAKED
(looking more puzzled then
ever)
What? Why? How?...

EL FLAMINGO
If you have to ask.

Buck digs to the bottom of the bag and comes up with a
COLLECTION OF WANTED POSTERS.

BUCK NAKED
Now THIS is interesting.

El Flamingo digs a collection of FRENCH POSTCARDS out from under Doc's neatly folded underwear.

EL FLAMINGO
So is this.

El Flamingo sits on the edge of the bed and shuffles through the deck. Buck gives him a disgusted look and sits on the other side of the bed, studying the wanted posters. After a short while, they both start peeking over each others shoulders.

BUCK NAKED
Wanna trade?

EL FLAMINGO
No.

El Flamingo gets off the bed and walks to the window for more light. a SHOT rings out, barely missing him. He ducks below the sill.

BUCK NAKED
Why can't I get a moments peace.

There is a HAMMERING NOISE at the door. Buck rushes to the door and tries to open it. It won't budge.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(yelling to El Flamingo)
Someone just nailed the door shut.
I can't budge it.

El Flamingo carefully lifts his head to peer out the window, another shot rings out.

EL FLAMINGO
(Ducks back down)
How could this get any worse?

A LIT KEROSENE LANTERN flies through the window. It breaks and FLAMES spread in a circle across the floor, followed by another SHOT.

BUCK NAKED
You had to ask.

El Flamingo scampers across the room on his hands and knees. He stands up next to Buck, out of sight from the window.

Buck and El Flamingo dash around the room, try to stamp the fire out. Every time they pass in front of the window another SHOT rings out.

Buck rips the QUILT off of the bed and throws it on the fire. The quilt immediately bursts into flames.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
They ought to make those things
fire proof.

EL FLAMINGO
(Still stomping at the
flames)
I'm too pretty to die in a
barbecue.

In frustration El Flamingo stomps his foot HARD. The floor around the flames gives an ominous CREAK. This gets Buck's attention.

BUCK NAKED
(Rushes to the dresser)
Flamingo!

EL FLAMINGO
(interrupting)
That's "El Flamingo".

BUCK NAKED
Shut up. Help me with the dresser.

EL FLAMINGO
Screw the dresser! We are trapped
in a burning room! We can't go out
the door. We can't go out the
window.

Another gunshot interrupts El Flamingo for a moment.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
WE... ARE... TRAPPED!

BUCK NAKED
Not if we go out through the floor.

Buck stamps his own foot on the floor, close to the flames. An EVEN LOUDER CREAK comes from the floor.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
The fire is burning through the
beams below the floor.
(MORE)

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

If we jump from the dresser into the middle of the hottest part of the fire, the shock of our combined weight just might break us through to the first floor.

EL FLAMINGO

And if the floor doesn't break?

BUCK NAKED

Then we find out if you really are too pretty to barbecue.

EL FLAMINGO

Don't have much choice...

El Flamingo helps Buck position the dresser next to the flames. More RANDOM SHOTS from out the window.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

Luckily the smoke is spoiling his aim.

BUCK NAKED

You have a funny concept of "luck".

Dresser in place, they both climb on top of the dresser. They stand side by side, looking into the flames.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Right into the center, the hottest, most burned part of the floor.

The look into the fire, at each other, then back to the fire.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

We jump on "Three". Are you ready, El FLAMER?

EL FLAMINGO

I hate you.

BUCK NAKED

Life's a bitch. One (BEAT) Two (BEAT) Three!

Our heros simultaneously leap into the center of the flames. There is a LOUD CRASH and they are swallowed out of sight.

INT. STAGE IN HOTEL BAR

Bigger stage than in The Broken Horse Shoe, but just as noisy. LOUD MUSIC ends as a trick shot artist leaves the stage.

IMPRESARIO

Let's have a big round of applause for Feral Bill Hickok. Others are Wilder, but they don't work as cheap. Our next act will really astound you...

Suddenly the ceiling over the stage collapses with fire and smoke. Buck and El Flamingo emerge as the smoke clears. THE CROWD GOES WILD! They are on their feet, applauding. In the audience, one drunk turns to the other:

DRUNK #1

Hell of an entrance.

DRUNK #2

I wonder what they're going to do next.

Buck and El Flamingo dust themselves off then march off the stage and out the door. The entire crowd is perplexed.

EXT. MAIN STREET HOTEL -- NIGHT

Buck and El Flamingo emerge from the Hotel, coughing from the smoke.

BUCK NAKED

Where are the firefighters?

EL FLAMINGO

I'm more concerned with where the shooter is.

Both Buck and El Flamingo are now scanning the rooftops as well as the street.

BUCK NAKED

The shooter, and his friend with the hammer, probably took off as soon as the floor went. They would assume we were dead, and seeing that arson is a hanging offense, usually immediate at the hands of a very angry lynch mob...

El Flamingo nods but continues scanning the rooftops.

EL FLAMINGO
You're probably right, but just in
case you're not...

BUCK NAKED
Yep, until this is over, We've got
to watch our backs... Why don't I
hear the fire bell?

A few people are gathering but mostly spectators.

Buck and El Flamingo take off running.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Buck and El Flamingo arrive at the TOWN SQUARE. Not much to
it. Located in the center of town, it consists of a WELL, a
FLAGPOLE, TWO BENCHES and a ARCH WITH A BELL SUSPENDED UP
HIGH so the sound of it's ringing will carry throughout the
town.

There is an MAN IN A DIRTY WHITE NIGHTSHIRT standing under
the bell in confusion. He has a severed length of rope in his
hand. The rope has been cut just below the bell.

BUCK NAKED
Now we know why no one is out to
fight the fire.

EL FLAMINGO
They wanted to make sure any
evidence was destroyed in the
flames.

Buck pulls the flintlock from his belt and looks at it in
disgust then puts it back. He thrusts his hand out to EL
Flamingo.

BUCK NAKED
Give me your gun

El Flamingo hands him a backup gun he has been secretly
carrying. Buck gives the gun, then El Flamingo a look, then
turns and fan-fires 6 rounds at the bell. RINGING THE ALARM.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
That ought to do it. God! It feels
good to fire a six-shooter again.

Buck reluctantly holds the gun out to El Flamingo.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(angrily)
I can't believe you've been letting
me risk my ass with the flintlock.

EL FLAMINGO
Keep it.

He pulls six rounds out of his belt and holds them out to
Buck.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
Won't do you much good without
these.

BUCK NAKED
(touched)
You've been holding out on me all
this time. What made you change
your mind?

EL FLAMINGO
Don't get all mushy on me. If
we're going to be watching each
other's backs I'd prefer you were
better armed.

Buck reloads

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
It's a shame to waste good bullets
on a bad shot, though.

Buck finishes reloading and glances over his shoulder at the
bell above and behind him. He spins the cylinder and without
a second look, fires one round over his shoulder. The bell
RINGS.

BUCK NAKED
Yep, terrible shot. A
disappointment to my Daddy.

Buck reaches to El Flamingo with his palm up. El Flamingo
drops a bullet into Bucks hand.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Thanks, partner.

A disorganised crowd has gathered in the square, most have
brought buckets.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Let's see if we can save the hotel.

Buck and El Flamingo survey the group. It mostly consists of the late night crowd from the saloons.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I can smell the booze from here.
Don't know if I want them that
close to the fire.

Buck cranes his neck looking at the flaming building in the distance.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to El Flamingo)
'Bout 300 feet. Set up a bucket
line. I'm going to see if I can
scrounge up some more water.

EL FLAMINGO
Leaving me to do the dirty work?

BUCK NAKED
What are friends for?

Buck turns and addresses the noisy crowd.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
All right! Settle down! You all
know how a bucket line works. El
Flamingo will be in charge. We all
have to work together to be
effective. Follow his orders.

A BIG RED-NECK IN BIB OVERALLS looks angrily at El Flamingo.

RED-NECK
Boy! I'm telling you, I ain't gonna
take orders from your kind.

EL FLAMINGO
You ever been in the army?

RED-NECK
Fought the injins.

EL FLAMINGO
That makes it easy: I don't ask,
you don't Tell.

RED-NECK
You can't...

El Flamingo whips out his Colt in a blur. It is pointed at the red-neck's chest.

EL FLAMINGO
Are you telling me?

RED-NECK
(swallowing)
No Sir.

EL FLAMINGO
You're smarter then you look. Man
the well. I want you filling
buckets. I'm not asking again.

BUCK NAKED
(to El Flamingo)
Nice work.
(to the crowd)
All right I want three men and a
sturdy wagon to collect full rain
barrels and take them to the hotel.
Any volunteers?

VOLUNTEER #1
I got a nice wagon, it'll take the
weight.

BUCK NAKED
Pick two men and get going. We're
going to need a lot of water.

The Girls show up DRESSED LIKE NURSES.

SAMANTHA
Hi Buck. We closed the saloon
early.

SERENITY
The place was pretty empty, anyway.

DAWN
Now we know where they went.

Buck, as well as most of the men, is checking out their
"uniforms".

BUCK NAKED
You girls trying out a new act?

SERENITY
It was supposed to be a surprise
for you.

SAMANTHA
But now we can try them out for
real.

MAN IN CROWD
Man, I hope I get hurt.

BUCK NAKED
(to man in crowd)
Lay a hand on THAT nurse and you'll
need a doctor.

SAMANTHA
Buck!

BUCK NAKED
He's got dirty hands.

Man in crowd moves to the far end of the bucket line. Buck gets real busy looking for the men with the wagon to return.

SERENITY
(to Samantha)
You going to let him cramp your
style?

SAMANTHA
(to Serenity)
He can cramp anything he wants.

DAWN
(to Samantha)
Hey! I'm wearing the uniform, too.
How come you're the only one who
gets to play doctor?

EXT. MAIN STREET HOTEL -- TWO HOURS LATER

The street is a muddy mess, with some blood mixed in. Weary, filthy, people drop their buckets and sit where ever they can find a reasonably dry spot. The fire is out. The hotel is saved.

Buck and El Flamingo emerge from the building. They are walking slow, almost stumbling, and covered in soot. They approach our Nurses, their uniforms now bloodstained. They look just as tired, but somehow RAVISHING.

BUCK NAKED
Well, girls, The fire is out. We
got real lucky, we managed to
mostly contain it to the stage and
Doc's room upstairs. Just minor
damage to the rest of the building.

El Flamingo steps up, his alligator boots making swishing noises.

EL FLAMINGO

I wish I could say the same for these alligator boots. They're ruined. They cost me a fortune.

DAWN

Aren't alligators water proof?

SAMANTHA

Only until you remove their skin, Honey.

DAWN

Oh...

MR. BLACKBURN, who owns the hotel, approaches our group. Despite the fact that he worked hard pulling burned/burning furniture from the building, he looks dirty but respectable.

MR. BLACKBURN

Oh Mr. Naked, Mr. Flamingo, Ladies (he says ladies with respect). I just want to thank you for all you have done. The hotel would not be standing if not for your heroic efforts. If there is ever anything I can do for you, it shall be done. I am in your debt.

EL FLAMINGO

It's El Flamin...

El Flamingo starts to lift his leg but is just two damn tired. He wearily puts he leg back down.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

go. You're welcome.

BUCK NAKED

We'll be back in the morning

EL FLAMINGO

(interrupting)

Not too early.

BUCK NAKED

I want to go through the remains of Doc's room, if it's all right with you.

MR. BLACKBURN

Of course, of course. Anything you need.

BUCK NAKED

All I need right now is sleep.

MR. BLACKBURN

I am afraid I am a few rooms short at the moment, but I am sure I can find something. You might have to double up, though.

SAMANTHA

Thank you very much, but the only "doubling up" Buck's going to be doing is at the Broken Horse Shoe.

MR. BLACKBURN

Oh! I See! I mean not "See," but "understand." Oh dear...

Our Five heroes turn and walk wearily down Main Street to The Broken Horse Shoe and bed.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

It is late morning. The CLOSED SIGN is still in the window from last night. The door behind the batwings is closed and bolted. Buck, El Flamingo, Samantha, Serenity, and Dawn are all at their favorite table, ravenously devouring HEAPING PLATES OF EGGS, BACON, POTATOES, AND TOAST. THREE COFFEE POTS SIT ON THE TABLE, TWO ARE EMPTY AND THE THIRD IS HALF FULL.

DAWN

Boy, being a hero sure makes you hungry.

SAMANTHA

Nobody's a hero. We just did what had to be done.

EL FLAMINGO

Still, I am a hero.

BUCK NAKED

Feels good to do something just because it's right, doesn't it?

EL FLAMINGO

Yes, but I don't plan to make a habit of it.

SERENITY

I think there is a good man inside
you just waiting to get out.

EL FLAMINGO

Plenty of good men... never mind.

Buck puts his fork down and tries to stifle a belch. He
pushes his plate away and stretches his arms over his head.

BUCK NAKED

Feels good to be alive, doesn't it?

Dawn smirks

DAWN

Somebody doubled up last night.

SAMANTHA

(red faced)

Dawn!

DAWN

I could hear you.

SERENITY

We all could hear you.

EL FLAMINGO

I couldn't hear you.

Everyone turns to look at El Flamingo.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

Really. I tried. Some kind of
animals were fighting, jumping
around or something, moaning in
pa... Oh...

BUCK NAKED

(jumps up from his chair)

OK! Lets clear the table and lay
out our plans for the day.

INT. KITCHEN

Everyone gets real busy taking plates to the kitchen rinsing
glasses, cleaning the griddle, anything to avoid eye contact.
All five of them are in the tiny kitchen at the same time.
They start bumping into each other and make eye contact. The
tension is broken and they all BURST INTO LAUGHTER.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

The gang is back at their favorite table. Samantha is sitting next to Buck, practically on his lap. The Closed sign is still up and the door locked. Even so FESTUS, the town drunk, is BEATING ON THE DOOR behind the batwings.

BUCK NAKED

(yells)

We're closed! Go away!

SAMANTHA

(to Buck)

Hey. You can't chase my customers away. Just because you took advantage of me last night doesn't mean you can run my business.

Samantha turns her head toward the door and yells.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

We're closed! Go away!

Festus keeps banging on the door.

BUCK NAKED

I've got a head ache and he's not helping. (looks around the table)
Mind if I shoot him?

SAMANTHA

You won't do that, and thank you for taking advantage of me.

Samantha gives Buck a peck on the ear.

EL FLAMINGO

Buck may not shoot him, but I will if he doesn't stop.

SERENITY

You better not, he's one of our best customers.

DAWN

Yeah, and he plays a pretty good fiddle.

More BANGING on the door. El Flamingo stands, faces the door, and slowly draws his gun.

EL FLAMINGO

Want to see him play the harp?

DAWN

No!

Everyone turns to Dawn, surprised at her outburst. Dawn gets red faced and looks down.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I kinda like him.

El Flamingo lowers his gun and looks at Dawn. Samantha and Buck grin. Serenity looks concerned.

SERENITY

(Directly to Dawn)

Have you been alone with him? Did he try anything?

DAWN

(indignant)

I am a lady, and he is a perfect gentleman with me. He plays me songs on his violin.

SERENITY

You mean his fiddle.

DAWN

When he's liquored up and playing a hoe down, it's a fiddle. When he plays love songs for me it's a violin.

That said, Dawn tosses her head back, gets up and sashays to the door.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Don't you dare shoot him, I'll quiet him down.

She opens the door, and Festus starts to push his way in. He sees that it's Dawn and stops. He removes his BEAT-UP, FILTHY STETSON and holds it nervously in both hands.

FESTUS

Go... Good morning Miss Dawn. You sure look purty this morning - Not that you don't look purty other mornings...

Festus sees that everybody is looking at him and Dawn.

FESTUS (CONT'D)

(spoken quickly)

Not that I've seen you other
mornings, 'septing in here. Heck!
I see you here dang near every
morning, pert near every day...

DAWN

Festus! Language!

Festus's hands are working overtime on his hat, he looks
terrified.

El Flamingo leans over to Buck and whispers.

EL FLAMINGO

I'm tempted to shoot him now. Just
to put him out of his misery.

Buck and Samantha turn to El Flamingo.

BUCK NAKED

(softly)

Poor man. We've all been there.

SAMANTHA

(giggles)

When's the last time you were
flummoxed like that?

BUCK NAKED

The first time I saw you.

El Flamingo looks disgusted.

EL FLAMINGO

Maybe I should just shoot myself.

Festus and Dawn whisper urgently back and forth, then Dawn
speaks up.

DAWN

(to the group)

Festus and I are going out for a
while. He wants to ... Feed my
badger.

They go out. As the group stares at the closed door, Serenity
mutters.

SERENITY

I'll just bet he does.

EXT. MAIN STREET HOTEL - DAY

It looks like the whole town turned out to view the damage in the daylight. Lots of soot on the facade. The front glass is on the ground in shards. There is a lot of debris in the street. Mr. Blackburn is supervising the cleanup.

MR. BLACKBURN

I want the street cleared within the hour.

Buck and El Flamingo approach the hotel, Mr. Blackburn turns and sees them.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)

Oh! Mr. Naked, Mr. Fla...

El Flamingo stops and stands on one leg somewhat menacingly.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)

I mean El Flamingo. What can I do for you?

BUCK NAKED

It looks like you've got the cleanup under control.

MR. BLACKBURN

We will be back in shape in no time, Mr. Naked. The glass for the front window is going to take some time though...

BUCK NAKED

I am sure it will. Listen, we need to check out Doc's room before the crew gets to it.

El Flamingo is back to standing on two feet, he has one hand covering his gun as he scans the cleanup crew. Mr. Blackburn looks quizzically at Buck.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

El Flamingo is just being cautious. In case our friends from last night are with your crew.

MR. BLACKBURN

These good gentlemen are from my hotel staff, and a some of the local citizens have volunteered to help out, in exchange for a few drinks at the bar.

Through the missing window we see workers going in for a shot then returning to work. The BARTENDER is busy.

BUCK NAKED

It might be cheaper just to pay them in cash.

MR. BLACKBURN

Mayhap so, Mr. Naked, they appear to be a thirsty bunch, but I am grateful for their help.

Buck scans the workers, some are already a little unstable on their feet.

BUCK NAKED

Come on, El Flamingo, let's see what's left of Doc's room.

Buck tips his hat in a salute to Mr. Blackburn as he and El Flamingo make their way inside.

INT. DOC JOHNSON'S ROOM - DAY

Buck and El Flamingo enter. The room is a CHARRED MESS with a big hole in the center where the two made their escape. THE DRESSER IS HANGING WITH TWO LEGS OVER THE HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

EL FLAMINGO

Well, look at this.

The FRENCH POSTCARDS are still on the bed. The WANTED POSTERS have blown around the room and are mostly burned.

Buck starts collecting the burned remnants of the posters while El Flamingo gathers the postcards.

BUCK NAKED

Why are you wasting you time with those? We're looking for clues here.

EL FLAMINGO

Maybe Doc had a reason for collecting these.

BUCK NAKED

I've got an idea what the reason was.

EL FLAMINGO

Oh!

El Flamingo puts the deck down on the bed and wipes his hands on his chaps, then starts tapping the walls, looking for a secret panel.

BUCK NAKED

Really?

Buck goes to the bed and picks up the deck and starts flipping quickly through it, just in time for Samantha, Serenity, and Dawn to walk in.

SAMANTHA

So that's how you spend your spare time.

DAWN

Are we going to play cards?

SERENITY

Not with those, we aren't.

Buck Stops at one card, looks closer, looks questioningly at Serenity, back at the card, back at Serenity. He shakes his head and puts the deck down.

BUCK NAKED

(to the girls)

Just looking for clues.

The girls walk further into the room. Dawn walks up to the edge of the hole and peers down.

DAWN

Hello.

Dawn tilts her head over the hole

SAMANTHA

(to Dawn)

What are you doing?

DAWN

I'm listening for my echo.

SERENITY

Just get away from the edge. It's not safe.

Buck and El Flamingo complete a circuit of the room, finding nothing.

Dawn wanders over to the dresser.

DAWN
Did you guys check in the drawers?

BUCK NAKED
First thing last night, don't
bother...

Dawn pulls a drawer, on the end of the dresser farthest from the hole, completely out to get a better look.

The end hanging over the hole is now heaver and THE DRESSER TILTS, THEN SLIDES DOWN THE HOLE.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Look out below!

VOICE FROM BELOW
Augh!

SFX: BIG CRASH

VOICE FROM BELOW (CONT'D)
(moaning)
Ohhhhhhhh.

Buck and the others carefully step to the hole and look down, all wincing at what they see.

BUCK NAKED
That's got to hurt.

Buck points at the overturned dresser.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Hey, look. There's a little metal box or something on the underside of the dresser.

EL FLAMINGO
We better get down there quick,
before someone else takes it.

Dawn gets on her hands and knees looking for a way down. Buck takes her arm.

BUCK NAKED
We'll use the stairs.

INT. STAGE IN HOTEL BAR - DAY

The group arrives as the unfortunate worker is being carried outside for treatment.

Thee Dresser has been tossed aside by the crew. It is laying on it's back, the box is exposed on the bottom, held in place by a bracket.

BUCK NAKED

I guess they were too busy to notice this.

Buck grabs the LOCKED CASHBOX and pulls it from the bracket.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I don't suppose anybody found a key in Doc's room.

Head shakes all around.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Let's get this back to the Horse Shoe and open it up.

Two of the volunteers stop to watch as the group leaves. They hurry down a side street.

EXT. MAIN STREET -- DAY

As they approach the alley where Doc died, two MASKED MEN with guns drawn, step out of the shadows. #1 covers Buck and El Flamingo, #2 grabs Samantha from behind.

MASKED MAN #1

Hold it right there.

Both Buck and El Flamingo start to go for their guns.

MASKED MAN #2

I'll kill her if you try anything.

Our heros reluctantly raise their hands to shoulder height, Buck still holding the cash box in his left hand.

BUCK NAKED

Now take it easy. Nobody needs to get hurt here.

MASKED MAN #1

Just hand over the cashbox and I'll decide who gets hurt or not.

SERENITY

(playing the ditz)

Oh! You want our money? Here, I got some for you...

Serenity lifts her skirt, exposing her garter, money is stashed in it, stripper style. They can't help it, both Masked Men turn their attention to Serenity for just a moment. That moment is long enough. Samantha breaks free, Buck and El Flamingo draw and fire. El Flamingo fanning his revolver until empty.

SERENITY (CONT'D)

(smirking)

Never underestimate the power of a woman.

EL FLAMINGO

Or a Colt.

El Flamingo lovingly strokes the barrel then blows the smoke from it before reloading.

BUCK NAKED

(to El Flamingo)

You didn't have to kill them.

EL FLAMINGO

Why not?

BUCK NAKED

They were in the work crew at the hotel. I recognize their clothes. They were waiting for us. Now we can't question them.

EL FLAMINGO

Well pardon me for saving your life.

BUCK NAKED

Saving my life? (points to dead man) he had his gun pointed at your chest when I shot him.

EL FLAMINGO

(pointing at other dead man)

Well, he had HIS gun pointing at YOUR chest when I shot HIM.

DAWN

Looks like you two are watching out for each other now.

Both men stop with their mouths open and digest this.

BUCK NAKED

You didn't have to kill them.

EL FLAMINGO

Yes I did.

SAMANTHA

Stop it you two. By the way, thank you both for saving my life. You, too, Serenity. When did you start carrying your money in your garter?

DAWN

...And where do you keep the change?

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

The Bar is open and the CUSTOMERS are thirsty. The Girls are busy selling drinks and dreams. Back at their favorite table, Buck and El Flamingo are trying to open the cash box. Buck tries using his trail knife to pick the lock - no luck. They try prying the top open but still no luck.

BUCK NAKED

Whatever is in this box better be important. I'm getting real tired of this.

El Flamingo jumps up, quick draws, and blows the lock away. The entire saloon goes quiet and still, all eyes on El Flamingo and Buck, then everybody goes back to carousing as if nothing has happened at all.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Boy, that's your answer to everything, isn't it?

EL FLAMINGO

You're welcome.

The girls come over to watch as Buck and El Flamingo go through the contents.

BUCK NAKED

Let's see, that's \$5,450 in cash, a wedding ring, a gold watch, and a notebook...

EL FLAMINGO

How are we going to split up the cash?

Everyone turns to El Flamingo and stares silently, then turns to Buck as he speaks.

BUCK NAKED

We don't "split it up". We find his next of kin and do the right thing.

EL FLAMINGO

Oh, split it with them?

Everyone turns silently to El Flamingo, then back to Buck.

BUCK NAKED

Dock may have had a will or something, I'll check with the bank manager.

EL FLAMINGO

We'll check with the bank manager.

Buck gives El Flamingo a dirty look.

BUCK NAKED

Whatever. I'm more interested in this notebook. One of the papers is torn. I wonder if this fit's...

Buck pulls the scrap of paper from the alley out of his pocket and places it next to the damaged page in the notebook. It fits, it completes Mad Dogs release form.

EL FLAMINGO

OK, so we knew Mad Dog was being released already.

Buck turns the pieces of paper over.

BUCK NAKED

There's something on the back. It's hand written. It's so faint I didn't see it last night. This appears to be a list of names.

SAMANTHA

Who's on it?

SERENITY

What's it for?

BUCK NAKED

It's mostly bounty hunters, with some additions...

El Flamingo steps forward and peers over Buck's shoulder at the list.

EL FLAMINGO

Three are crossed off, they're
dead.

BUCK NAKED

The fourth is not crossed off, but
it would be Doc...

DAWN

It's like a shopping list for
murder?

BUCK NAKED

It looks that way.

Samantha senses something more.

SAMANTHA

Something else, what aren't you
telling us, Buck.

Buck closes the notebook and looks at the girls.

BUCK NAKED

Samantha, Serenity, you are both on
the list.

The GIRLS ALL GASP.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

There is something else, almost
like a signature at the bottom.
"TT". I wonder what that means.

EL FLAMINGO

Don't sweat it. The list of names
is what's important. And we already
know about Mad Dog...

The girls all nod, but Buck looks worried.

BUCK NAKED

No, I've got a feeling this is
important. Real important. I need
some time to think about it.

A horse whinnies outside the saloon as another patron ties it
to the hitching post. Buck looks through the swinging
batwings hopefully. The horse is a Bay. Buck sadly turns his
head back to the pieces of paper.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

It sounded like... For a moment I
thought it might be Buttercup...
(MORE)

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I used to talk these things out
with her...

Samantha steps behind Buck and places a tender hand on his
shoulder.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I've got to go. I'll be back in a
couple of hours.

Buck gets up and walks out of the saloon. El Flamingo gets
up to go with him.

SAMANTHA
(to El Flamingo)
No, let him go. He really loved
that horse.

El Flamingo throws himself back into his chair.

EL FLAMINGO
And he calls ME a freak.

EXT./INT. STABLE - DAY

Barn with horses inside, small fenced area behind the
building. CAL, the stable hand, is mucking out one of the
stalls as Buck enters.

BUCK NAKED
Hello. Can you help me?

The stable hand leans his shovel against the railing. He puts
both filthy hands on his back.

CAL
(small groan of pleasure
as he arches his back)
I will if I can, I'm grateful for
the break.

BUCK NAKED
I need to ride out to boot hill,
only be gone for an hour or two. I
need a horse.

Cal perks up at the thought of a new customer.

CAL
Well, then you've come to the right
place.
(MORE)

CAL (CONT'D)

I've got a whole barn full of new
and used horses and I am sure that
we can put you onto one today.

With a flourish Cal points out his stock of horses.

CAL (CONT'D)

This one over here was owned by a
little old lady who only rode it to
church on Sundays. That Mustang
over there is the sportiest horse
you'll ever own, and this...

Buck interrupts Cal in his spiel.

BUCK NAKED

Wait up a minute, I'm a little low
on funds right now and I'm
wondering if you can lend me a
horse.

CAL

This is a business: selling new and
previously loved horses is how I
earn my living.

Buck looks saddened after hearing "Previously Loved Horses."
Cal notices this and takes pity.

CAL (CONT'D)

You lost a horse recently, didn't
you? Well I can set you up with a
horse even you can afford! [BEAT]
How much do you have?

Buck digs in the pockets of his second hand pants. He comes
up with three pennies and a dime.

BUCK NAKED

This is it.

Cal looks at Buck for a moment, thinking.

CAL

Maybe I can lend you something for
a couple hours. We'll call it a
..."test ride." Follow me out
back.

BUCK NAKED

Test ride?

There are three animals in the corral behind the stable. TWO
ARE VERY OLD HORSES.

One is lame and the other is so sway backed that it's stomach almost touches the ground. The third animal is A LITTLE BURRO.

CAL

This is our bargain showroom, where you can get a lot of horse for very little money. I'm thinking that you are an Ass Man.

BUCK NAKED

(very angry)

Just what the hell are you saying.

Cal puts both hands up in supplication, eyeing Bucks hand as it moves to cover his holster.

CAL

No! No! I mean the kind you ride.

BUCK NAKED

(angrier yet)

You're no helping your case...

CAL

I mean like a donkey, or in this case, a burro.

BUCK NAKED

Oh.

Buck cools down and Cal looks very relieved as Buck's hand moves away from his gun.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

He's kinda small...

CAL

He's a compact model. Why don't you take him for a spin? These sporty models are very easy to handle.

Cal slips a rope around the creature's neck in loo of a bridle and holds it out to Buck.

BUCK NAKED

Not much in the way of options...

Buck climbs on the burro's back and sits there for a moment, trying to get comfortable. His legs almost reach the ground.

CAL
You know, I think you will really
enjoy the ride, and the sporty feel
of being so close to the ground.

Cal sticks his hand out. Buck is confused for a moment then
drops the thirteen cents into Cal's hand.

CAL (CONT'D)
We'll call it "rent" but if you are
not back by sundown, well call it a
"down payment."

BUCK NAKED
Thank you, I guess.

CAL
No, thank you! And be sure to stop
and say "Hi!" To my dog, Spot, on
the way out.

Cal points to a large cage with an OSTRICH in it.

BUCK NAKED
(very confused)
Yes, I'll do that.

EXT. BOOT HILL - DAY

Desolate place. More TUMBLEWEEDS blowing in the wind than
DESICCATED FLOWERS. A few DEAD TREES and a lot of ROTTING
WOOD CROSSES. Scattered around are a few GRANITE HEADSTONES.
Buck sits on one, looking into eternity.

BUCK NAKED
Well, Buttercup, here I am, and
here you... aren't.

Buck plucks a grass stalk from in front of his perch and
chews on it, apparently thinking deep thoughts. After a while
he looks down between his legs to see the name of his host.

The tombstone reads "Hear lies Mavis Findelberg, died of the
plague." Horrified, Buck spits out the grass and frantically
wipes his tongue with his hands.

SFX: We seem to hear a GHOSTLY WHINNYING HORSE LAUGH in the
distance.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Yeah, not so funny. You're already
dead. I miss you, but I'm in no
hurry to join you.

Buck stands up and the wind blows off his Stetson. Buck looks pissed. He turns around, facing the headstone, and bends down quickly to grab his hat. He SMACKS his head on the tombstone and knocks himself out.

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE - DAY

EVERYTHING IS BLURRY. He lies where he fell. A golden horse muzzle nudges him awake. Buck sits up to find Buttercup bathed in a golden light. She paws the ground impatiently until Buck stands and follows her to another tombstone. Buck reads the inscription "Billy Thompson - Hung".

BUCK NAKED
(echoing)
So why are you showing me
Thompson's Tombstone?

The horse makes an EXASPERATED SNORT and knocks Buck over the monument. She then touches the monument repeatedly with her muzzle.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
So what's the big deal about
Tombstone's Thompson, I mean
Thomp...

The horse nods its head and paws the ground.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(excited)
Tombstone Thompson! He swore
vengeance when his brother Billy
was hung, and Mad Dog is in it just
for the joy of killing.

RETURN - BOOT HILL

Buck wakes up curled on Mavis Findelberg's grave. He sits up and feels the knot on his forehead.

BUCK NAKED
Just a dream, but I've got to
check.

Buck retraces his steps from the dream and reads the gravestone: Billy Thompson - Hung.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Weird. It was nice seeing Buttercup
again, though.

Buck stands in thought a few moments then with a start:

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
We are in bigger trouble then we
thought. Gotta warn everyone,
protect the girls...

He runs toward the burro, who is grazing, facing away from him. Buck does the Hero's Mount: jump from behind, both hands on it's rump and vault onto its back. The burro is much shorter and lower then Buttercup. Buck vaults right over the burro and hits the ground hard. He painfully gets up and slowly mounts the beast.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(snaps the reins)
I gotta get a real horse.
Yo! Let's go!

The burro ambles off at it's own pace.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I Really got to get a real horse.

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

The saloon is busy with the mid-day crowd. Most of the patrons are just drinking lunch. Samantha, Serenity, and Dawn are busy taking care of business.

Serenity is trying to placate an ANGRY CUSTOMER. There is an EMPTY BEER PITCHER on the table

ANGRY CUSTOMER
I rode all the way from Southfork
for a beer and some of that dip
everyone was talking about. I want
that dip.
(grins)
I hear you can't even feel your
nose...

SERENITY
I don't care how far you rode, we
don't have any more of the dip. How
'bout a shot of tequila instead?

ANGRY CUSTOMER
Will I be able to feel my nose?

Serenity picks up the empty beer pitcher and takes an angry swipe at the table top with a cloth. She practically shoves the picture in his face.

SERENITY

Tell you what: drink three shots of
tequila, then I'll hit you in the
face with this and we'll find out.

Serenity turns her back and walks behind the bar, where
Samantha and Dawn are busy serving the serious drinkers.

SAMANTHA

(to Serenity)

Tough customer?

SERENITY

Nothing I can't handle. He wants
some of that dip.

DAWN

Lotta people asking about the dip.

SERENITY

This one just won't stop. I'm
going to check the kitchen.

SAMANTHA

Don't be long, 'we're swamped
behind the bar.

Serenity walks through the door the leads to the kitchen.
Samantha and Dawn continue serving drinks. Suddenly, from the
kitchen comes a SCREAM, the CRASH of falling cookware, and
the SLAM of the back door. This is followed by the SOUND OF
GALLOPING HOOVES fading into the distance.

The customers all look up from their glasses and seeing no
immediate threat, go back to drinking. We see that the Angry
Customer is no longer at his table.

Samantha and Dawn look at each other in shock.

SAMANTHA AND DAWN

Serenity!

EXT./INT. STABLE -- DAY

Buck arrives aboard the burro. We seem him coming head on.
Though he is an excellent horseman, he's riding a burro with
no saddle and primitive tack. The result is that his butt is
bouncing on the burros bony back. He is in pain and winces
each time his ass hits the ...er "ass". Cal steps outside to
greet Buck.

CAL

Hi there Buck! Didn't I tell you she was a smooth ride? What will it take to put you in the saddle today?

BUCK NAKED

Saddle? You didn't give me any saddle!

CAL

'Course not, my friend. At these low, low prices, I can't afford to give everyone a free saddle, I'm losing money on the burro as it is.

Buck dismounts the burro painfully and hands the rope to Cal.

CAL (CONT'D)

I'll have this little beauty taken out back and given a good wash in a minute. Better buy her up quick! I've got a young married couple on the way out right now, looking for a starter horse...

BUCK NAKED

(interrupting)

In the first place, that's not a horse, and in the second, I will NEVER ride that beast again. (pointing to the ostrich) I'd ride your dog, Spot, first.

CAL

Humm, I never thought about that. Let me run some numbers by my manager...

Mr. Blackburn rides up on a beautiful black horse. Cal bolts past Buck to greet him.

CAL (CONT'D)

Mr. Blackburn! So good to see you. Your new horse has arrived and she's a beauty. We've installed those new light weight sports horse shoes you requested and she handles like a dream.

MR. Blackburn dismounts, turns and sees Buck. Blackburn throws his arms open and smiles.

MR. BLACKBURN

Why Mr. Naked, it is so good to see you. Thank you again for what you did last night. The insurance man came out, the insurance company will take care of the bills.

Mr. Blackburn stops talking for a BEAT and looks off into space.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)

He's like a good neighbor...

Cal drops the rope and grabs the reins of Mr. Blackwell's horse.

CAL

I'll just put your trade-in in the barn...

Mr. Blackburn notices the burro for the first time. He turns to Buck.

MR. BLACKBURN

Can you imagine the poor pathetic soul who rides an animal like that?

BUCK NAKED

(embarrassed)

I'm afraid that I can, and I'm only borrowing it.

Mr. Blackburn looks shocked, then pitying, then embarrassed, himself.

MR. BLACKBURN

Mr. Naked, I am so sorry. I ...Now I remember the workers gossiping, you know how the drinking class is.

BUCK NAKED

(interrupting)

I'm somewhat familiar with it.

MR. BLACKBURN

(continues)

...Something about your horse and a cliff. All your belongings, too.

BUCK NAKED

Yeah, well...

Mr. Blackburn put's out a hand and stops Buck.

MR. BLACKBURN
Why did you not say something?

Buck's face shows that has no idea where this is going.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)
I meant it when I said anything I
can do.

Mr Blackburn imperiously snaps his fingers and points to Cal
then to his trade-in horse.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)
Sir! Please have that horse cleaned
and groomed right away. You are
then to turn him over to his new
owner, Mr. Naked.

CAL
But, you'll lose your trade-in
allowance.

MR. BLACKBURN
That's quite all right. Just see
that it's groomed right away.

Buck is taken aback.

BUCK NAKED
Mr. Blackburn, that's very generous
of you, but I just can't...

MR. BLACKBURN
(interrupting)
Nonsense, I owe you a debt of
gratitude, and I intend to pay it.

Mr. Blackburn leans over to Buck shields his mouth with his
hand as he says softly.

MR. BLACKBURN (CONT'D)
Besides, they always screw you on
the trade-in anyway.

EXT./INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

Buck rides up to the hitching post on his new mount. He
speaks to it as he ties the reigns.

BUCK NAKED
You're no buttercup, but you're a
good horse.

Buck gives the horse a couple absent minded pats on the neck. The horse stands patiently, no response.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I guess you're the strong, silent type.

As Buck to enter the saloon, Samantha and Dawn race out of the batwings, Tears in their eyes.

DAWN
Buck! Ser, Ser, Ser, Serenity is gone!

SAMANTHA
We were pretty busy with the lunch crowd. Serenity... She... She went to the kitchen to see if there was any of that dip left...

DAWN
We heard a scream, then stuff breaking...

Buck swings his head scanning the area quickly.

BUCK NAKED
Let's get you inside. Where was El Flamingo? He was supposed to be looking after you.

SAMANTHA
He went see the sheriff about Mad Dog.

DAWN
That was a while back.

They walk through the batwings. The drinkers turn their heads toward Buck, get one look at his SCOWL, then get real interested in their drinks.

BUCK NAKED
(to the patrons)
Did any of you see anything? Did any of you do anything? Big bunch of heros you are.

One drinker speaks up timidly.

DRINKER
There was a man at that table over there.

The drinker points to the Angry Customer's table.

DRINKER (CONT'D)
He wanted the dip, he kept
insisting she check the kitchen.
When she did, there was a scream
(nodding his head toward
the kitchen)
Then he left.

Buck turns toward the girls.

BUCK NAKED
It was a setup.
(angrily)
Where's El Flamingo

DAWN
He went to see the sheriff...

BUCK NAKED
I know.

Bucks hand involuntarily goes to his gun.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
I know.

Buck turns and stalks out of the saloon.

EXT. MAIN STREET -- DAY

As Buck approaches the sheriff's office, we see El Flamingo coming from the other way. El Flamingo smiles slightly and starts to speak. He is stopped by a fist to the mouth.

BUCK NAKED
You son of a bitch!

El Flamingo is knocked onto his back. Buck's gun is out before El Flamingo hits the dirt. His finger is on the trigger and the barrel centered on El Flamingo's chest.

El Flamingo looks up at Buck with a glare and his hand twitches toward his gun. Buck's finger tightens on the trigger.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Give me a reason not to pull the
trigger.

El Flamingo slowly moves his hand away from his gun. He is now as angry as Buck.

EL FLAMINGO
You'd be better off if you did.

Slowly, El Flamingo moves his hand back to cover his holster.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
Maybe it's time to see who's
fastest.

CLOSE-UP ON A DOUBLE BARRELED SHOTGUN, THE TRIGGERS BEING
COCKED. SFX: CLICK, CLICK

RETURN

SHERIFF
That would be me.

Buck and El Flamingo freeze, then slowly turn their heads to
see the sheriff covering them with the shotgun.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
You might be able to outdraw me in
a fair fight. Hell, I know you both
could - but I don't aim to make
this a fair fight. Finger on the
trigger, two barrels loaded with
double-ought buck. Enough to blow
the both of you straight to hell
before you can turn to face me.

Buck and El Flamingo are both trying to look in two
directions at the same time.

BUCK NAKED
This is none of your business,
sheriff. It's between El Flamer
and me.

EL FLAMINGO
"El Flamer?" I've had enough of
your snide attitude. You're going
to die.

BUCK NAKED
It's my gun pointed at your chest.

SHERIFF
And my shotgun pointed at both of
you.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I come back from Topeka to find
Doc's been murdered, the hotel
burnt nearly to the ground, vicious
criminals on the loose, people
getting high on "dip."

(glares at Buck)

You parading around practically
naked.

EL FLAMINGO

(snickering)

That's "buck naked."

Buck lowers his gun a bit during the sheriff's rant, now he
snaps it back up - pointed directly at El Flamingo's heart.

SHERIFF

(continues)

... And you two in the middle of it
all. It's beginning to sound like
I'd be better off pulling the
trigger. Stop squabbling like
children on the playground and grow
the hell up.

Buck and El Flamingo look at each other, then down like
scolded children.

EL FLAMINGO

(pointing at Buck)

He started it.

BUCK NAKED

Me? You wander off instead of
looking after the girls and
Serenity gets kidnapped.

EL FLAMINGO

Me? Wandering off? What about you
and your "I've got to clear my head
and morn my horse..."

(suddenly realizing the
impact of Buck's words)

Serenity's been kidnapped?

The sheriff lowers his shotgun and puts one hand on his
forehead as if in pain.

SHERIFF

Oh shit...

EXT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

Buck and El Flamingo are getting their horses ready for a hard ride, cinching up the saddle, checking supplies, etc. We might notice that El Flamingo's nose is slightly swollen. Samantha and Dawn are fretting about. Festus is trying to comfort Dawn.

FESTUS

Don't you worry, sweetheart, I'll
protect you while they're gone.
Twenty-four hours a day, I'll be
here.

Festus has one arm around Dawn's shoulder, the other arm is holding a tumbler. He raises it to his lips and finishes off the brown liquor. He looks mournfully at the empty glass.

FESTUS (CONT'D)

Mighty thirsty work, though.

He turns and unsteadily goes inside for a refill. El Flamingo sees this and shakes his head.

EL FLAMINGO

There go the weeks profits. I
don't know how much protection
he'll be.

DAWN

Look how well it turned out with
you two.

Buck winces. El Flamingo tries WHISTLING A LITTLE TUNE.

SAMANTHA

Don't count Festus out. He's not
too bad with that hand cannon of
his.

This gets El Flamingo's attention.

EL FLAMINGO

Hand Cannon?

Dawn and Festus return, his glass full to the brim, but not for long.

FESTUS

'Guess that's what it is.

Festus pulls his gun out, cautiously, not wanting to alarm the two gunslingers. It is a CRUDELY MODIFIED SHOTGUN.

The barrel has been cut down to about 6 inches, most of the stock has been removed, leaving a rough hand grip.

FESTUS (CONT'D)

(proudly)

Modified it myself. It kicks like a mule, but what it does at the business end is worse.

He strokes the shortened barrel lovingly

FESTUS (CONT'D)

You see, I drink a little

Everyone's eyes roll at this.

FESTUS (CONT'D)

...And sometimes my hand shakes a bit, but all you have to do is point and pull the trigger. Aiming is optional.

Both bounty hunters nod their heads and look more closely at the weapon. El Flamingo raises his eyebrows.

EL FLAMINGO

I'd like to see that in action.

BUCK NAKED

Not sure I would. Gotta be real messy.

FESTUS

(soberly)

Yep... it is.

Dawn suddenly notices El Flamingo's swollen nose.

DAWN

What happened to your nose?

El Flamingo touches it carefully.

EL FLAMINGO

I ran into something...

BUCK NAKED

Yeah, my fist.

Buck gets a quizzical look from Dawn and a dirty one from El Flamingo. Buck and El flamingo mount up and turn for the open trail as those left on the porch wave goodbye.

EL FLAMINGO

(to Buck)

I thought we were going to let
bygones be bygones.

BUCK NAKED

We are. With that beak, though, you
look even more like a flamingo.

EL FLAMINGO

I'm warning you...

The sound of their bickering fades as they ride into the
distance.

EXT. ON THE TRAIL -- DAY

Buck and El Flamingo are riding side by side, Buck on the
left. Normally they would be one in front of the other on
this NARROW TRAIL, but the two alpha males refuse to follow
the other. The result is that they are practically brushing
shoulders as they ride.

EL FLAMINGO

We're lost. We should have taken
that trail to the left a few miles
back.

BUCK NAKED

We could have, and then lost an
hour and a half going the long way.

El Flamingo points ahead to a crossroads.

EL FLAMINGO

We need to take the crossroad

BUCK NAKED

Finally! We agree on something.

Both riders keep jostling for a position in the lead. As they
reach the crossroad, both riders confidently turn to the
side, Buck to the left, El Flamingo to the right. A smug look
is on each man's face as they each take the lead, neither
looking back at the other, enjoying the silence from the
other man for a change. Even the footsteps from the other's
horse seem to be fading into the distance.

LEFT TRAIL

Buck is sitting smugly in the saddle.

BUCK NAKED

I'm glad you finally stopped your childish attempts to lead when obviously I am the better tracker. No offence, you are almost as good as me.

RIGHT TRAIL

El Flamingo is proudly holding his head up high. He is unconsciously pulling his right leg out of the stirrup, trying to strike his signature pose.

EL FLAMINGO

See how easy that was? No need to feel shame. I just happen to be the better tracker. Watch me and learn.

LEFT TRAIL

Buck is noticing the quiet, tilts his head, listening.

BUCK NAKED

Hey. You're awfully quiet back there. Are you sulking?

Buck turns in the saddle and looks behind. His starts in surprise.

RIGHT TRAIL

El Flamingo is also noticing something is wrong. He turns his head from side to side, trying to figure out what it is.

EL FLAMINGO

Buck?

No answer, El Flamingo cleans his ears with his fingers, first the right, then the left.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

Buck?

El Flamingo turns his head and looks back. His jaw drops in surprise.

CENTER TRAIL

LONG SHOT of the CROSSROADS. Main trail is straight ahead, no riders. Off on the left trail and on the right trail there is one rider each, both looking very small in the distance.

LEFT TRAIL

Buck looks pissed. He cups his hands around his mouth and hollers.

BUCK NAKED

Hey! Idiot! You're going the wrong way!

RIGHT TRAIL

El Flamingo is dancing his horse in a small circle, frustration written on his face.

EL FLAMINGO

(yelling and waving his arm)

It's this way! Can't you do anything right?

A WOMAN SCREAMS in the distance, from up the center trail.

CENTER TRAIL

The rider on the left and the rider on the right both sit up straight in their saddles, then race toward the center trail and each other.

CROSSROADS

Buck and El Flamingo meet where they departed, at the crossroads.

BUCK NAKED

What the hell? You were supposed to be following me on the left fork.

EL FLAMINGO

No, you were supposed to be following me on the right.

Another DISTANT SCREAM from down the middle trail.

BUCK NAKED
Hell, we both blew it, let's go get
Serenity.

EL FLAMINGO
How do you know it's her.

Look of disgust from Buck.

BUCK NAKED
Really? Even if it wasn't, there
is a damsel in distress.

EL FLAMINGO
"Damsel in Distress?" Aren't we all
hoity-toity.

BUCK NAKED
Just shut up and follow me.

EL FLAMINGO
No, you shut...

BUCK NAKED
(interrupting)
Just ride!

They both gallop up the trail towards the woods, jockeying
for the lead all the way.

EXT. HEAVY FOREST -- DAY

They enter the wooded area cautiously, looking through the
trees for signs of the outlaws. They speak under their
breath.

BUCK NAKED
They could have a lookout in the
trees.

EL FLAMINGO
What kind of idiot would crawl
around in the branches?

Buck gives El Flamingo a hard look.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
Oh.

They hear the snicker of winded horses and freeze. Buck pats
his mount's neck, silently encouraging it not to answer. Buck
dismounts and hands the reins to El Flamingo.

BUCK NAKED
Now hold on this time, OK?

El flamingo remains mounted while he takes the bridle.

EL FLAMINGO
Geeze! Send a man's horse over a
cliff just ONE time.

Buck starts cautiously forward while El Flamingo keeps watch from his horse. He sees three men in a clearing that would not be visible from the trail. Serenity's hands are bound and she is seated on the back of one man's horse.

BUCK NAKED
(whispering to himself)
Hold on Girl, help is on the way.

Buck scurries back to El Flamingo and the horses.

EL FLAMINGO
Did you find them? How many?

El Flamingo pulls his gun and double checks it, he spins the cylinder and counts bullets.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)
6 beans in the barrel. Enough to
kill all the bad guys?

BUCK NAKED
Only three, but they're waiting for
something, maybe the rest of the
gang.

EL FLAMINGO
Let's kill them now and wait for
the others to show up.

BUCK NAKED
Too dangerous. Serenity is tied up,
they could shoot her or use her as
a hostage.

EL FLAMINGO
She'll have to take her chances.

BUCK NAKED
Nope, I have a better idea.

EL FLAMINGO
Does it involve killing?

BUCK NAKED

Maybe

El Flamingo looks dismissively at Buck, pulls his gun, and starts toward the clearing on foot. Buck moves to block his way.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Probably.

EL FLAMINGO

(sighs)

Tell me the plan.

BUCK NAKED

Later! I hear horses.

They lash both their own horses to a tree and make their way back through the woods, working their way closer to the clearing.

The outlaws have also heard the incoming horses. One pulls Serenity off of his horse and with an arm around her neck and a gun to her head is ready to use her as a shield. They are ready to greet the new arrivals with smiles or bullets.

EL FLAMINGO

I think we can take them.

BUCK NAKED

We don't know what's coming down the trail, or how many. I'm not going to risk Serenity's life when there's a better way.

IN THE CLEARING

A horse and rider comes into the clearing. The rider causally dismounts. The outlaws level their guns.

MAD DOG

Pointing guns at me is most unwise.

The outlaws quickly lower their weapons.

OUTLAW #1

Mad Dog, I could have shot you.

MAD DOG

(unconcerned)

Do you know what would happen to you?

OUTLAW #1

No.

MAD DOG

You don't want to find out.

Mad Dog whistles a brief note and three other men on horseback ride into the clearing, rifles at the ready.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

...But you didn't shoot me, so we can skip on to more pleasant things.

He reaches into his saddle bag and produces a bottle of whiskey. He looks at the bottle, and at the three men.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

You know what will happen if you waste Mad Dog's gift?

He tosses the bottle high into the air. The three rifle men pick their targets. There is a scramble, but Outlaw #1 manages to catch the bottle, and it almost slips through his sweaty hands. There are 3 rapid clicks, one as each rifleman cocks his weapon. Outlaw #1 holds on to the bottle, the riflemen unset the hammers and look disappointed, Mad Dog laughs out loud.

MAD DOG'S MAN

Enjoy boys!

With shaking hands the outlaws pass the bottle and take huge gulps of the liquor.

OUTLAW #1

Smooth, best I've ever tasted.

The other two nod their heads vigorously.

MAD DOG

Mad Dog is generous when his men do well.

The bottle is passed back to outlaw #1. He takes it and looks longingly at the contents before offering it to Mad Dog.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

No, but thank you. We have other
(grim smile)
...Appetites.

Outlaw #1 has just regretfully lost his interest in the booze. He passes the bottle to his two comrades, who finish it off quickly.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

I see you brought the girl. That is good. Where is the cashbox?

All the color drains from Outlaw #1's face. His comrades freeze in their tracks.

OUTLAW #1

No, no. The men we sent to get it are dead. Killed by Buck and the bitches.

IN THE FOREST

El Flamingo takes offence

EL FLAMINGO

Hey! I killed those men.

BUCK NAKED

(hisses)

Shut the fuck up!

IN THE CLEARING

Mad Dog looks up as if he heard something. He listens a moment longer, then turns to his pray.

MAD DOG

You sent them. Do you know what will happen to you?

Outlaw #1 is terrified. He backs away, hands up in supplication.

OUTLAW #1

I... No...

Three rifles CRACK and Outlaw #1 is thrown backward by the blasts.

An almost orgasmic smile drifts across Mad Dog's face.

MAD DOG

(softly)

Other appetites.

IN THE FOREST

Buck and El Flamingo look at each other in shock.

EL FLAMINGO
Those men need killing.

BUCK NAKED
(grimly)
Got to get Serenity to safety
first. Do you have your frying pan
with you?

EL FLAMINGO
"El Kabong!" and I are inseparable.

IN THE CLEARING

Serenity's hands are still bound, she stands frozen in horror. Mad Dog turns to his riflemen and Serenity makes a break for it. Mad Dog spurs his horse and races along side of the running woman. Still on his horse, he kicks her in the back of the head, sending her to the ground face first.

MAD DOG
Get up, bitch!

Serenity lies still, stunned by the boot to the head.

IN THE FOREST

Buck jumps to his feet, El Flamingo grabs Buck's holster belt and yanks hard, pulling Buck back down. Buck turns to El Flamingo, madness in his eyes.

BUCK NAKED
You don't EVER...

El Flamingo, hands forward placatingly:

EL FLAMINGO
(quickly and under breath)
I can't believe that I'm now the
voice of reason. All three riflemen
are covering Serenity, looking for
an excuse.

Buck turns his head back to the clearing.

BUCK NAKED
That man is going to die.

IN THE CLEARING

Mad Dog cocks his head again, listening. Buck and El Flamingo hug the earth, invisible to him. Mad Dog dismounts and pulls Serenity upright by her hair, face to face. She opens her eyes and spits in his face. Mad Dog lets is run down his chin.

MAD DOG

You'll pay for that. You'll pay for your father testifying against me. You are going to wish you were never born.

He drags her by the hair back to the middle of the clearing.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Mount up.

Outlaw #2 points to the body of Outlaw #1.

OUTLAW #2

What about him?

MAD DOG

Leave him for the wolves. Put her on his horse. Tie her face down across the saddle, like a dead body. She'll be that way soon enough.

The six mounted men line up by rank, single file for the narrow trail: Mad Dog, the riflemen, the outlaws, followed by Serenity. Her horse it tied by a long rope to the horse carrying the last man.

IN THE FOREST

Buck and El Flamingo watch them file out of the clearing.

BUCK NAKED

Perfect. They'll stick to the main trail, but if we hurry and take the route along the cliff we can get ahead of them.

EL FLAMINGO

Then what?

BUCK NAKED

Then you put "El Kabong!" Back to work.

El Flamingo smiles at the thought. The two mount up and gallop quickly through the forest.

LATER

Buck and El Flamingo have set their trap. Buck is out of sight off the trail with the horses, a flash of pink chaps in the trees shows us that El Flamingo is ready for action. Both men go still as Mad Dog and his men approach.

The riders pass under El Flamingo's perch one by one. The last rider, Outlaw #2 with the rope pulling Serenity's horse, is now passing under El Flamingo. His frying pan is wrapped in a familiar saddle blanket with a hole in the center.

EL FLAMINGO
(softly to himself)
These blankets are so useful...

El Flamingo swings. There is a SOFT KABONG NOISE mostly muffled by the blanket. Outlaw #2 falls to the ground unconscious. El Flamingo drops from the tree into the saddle and rides the horse quietly to Bucks hiding place.

BUCK NAKED
Nice work.

EL FLAMINGO
Of course, for I am
(strikes the pose)
El Flamingo!

From under the last horse, where Serenity is still tied across the saddle face down.

SERENITY
Yeah, yeah, congratulations. Now do you want to untie me? I've got a headache and I've been looking at this horse's balls for the last hour.

EL FLAMINGO
..And you're complaining?

Buck unties Serenity and helps her off the horse. She stretches the kinks out of her back and exhales strongly through her nose several times.

BUCK NAKED
Are you OK?

SERENITY

Other than the headache and the fact that I can't get the smell of horse balls out of my nose, I'm fine.

She throws her arms around Buck and hugs him tightly, Then sneezes all over his back. She let's go of Buck and steps back.

SERENITY (CONT'D)

That took care of the smell, anyway.

EL FLAMINGO

Some people like...

SERENITY

(interrupting)

And thank you, El Flamingo. Was that the famous "El Kabong!" I hear so much about? I thought it would be louder.

EL FLAMINGO

Actually, Buck had an idea to muffle the noise so the...

BUCK NAKED

(interrupts)

Save it for later. We've got to get out of here before they look back and miss Serenity.

The three mount up and ride hard back to Trails End. As they top the low rise before trails end, they see a dense cloud of black smoke raising into the air.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

I've got that bad feeling again.

They stop at the highest point in the trail look for Main Street in the distance. Too much smoke blocks the view.

EL FLAMINGO

Could be the hotel again...

SERENITY

You don't believe that, do you?

They race down the hill and straight toward the conflagration.

EXT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- DAY

The volunteer firefighters are hard at work as Buck, El Flamingo and Serenity arrive on their spent horses. The Saloon is engulfed in flames and the upper story CREAKS OMINOUSLY as it appears to settle into the lower floor.

SERENITY

Samantha! Dawn! ...Festus!

Serenity leaps off her mount and rushes toward the flames, only to be pushed back by the tremendous heat.

Buck and El Flamingo join the bucket brigade. It becomes apparent to Buck that they are losing the battle. He turns to address the volunteers.

BUCK NAKED

Listen up! The Broken Horse Shoe
(a little choked up) ...The Broken
Horse Shoe is a goner. Don't waste
any more water on it. Form two
lines and soak the buildings on
both sides.

Buck Scans the crowd for signs of the girls and Festus.

EL FLAMINGO

(placing a hand on Bucks
shoulder)

You go look after the girls. I'll
take care of the water brigade.

Buck appears both moved and distant at the same time. He turns to go.

BUCK NAKED

Thanks.

(shouts)

Samantha! Serenity! Dawn! Festus!

No one is going to hear him over the ROAR OF THE FIRE AND THE SHOUTING OF THE VOLUNTEERS. Buck races around to the back. There is no one there, but there is a lot of FRESHLY BROKEN GLASS. Buck finds a bottle that didn't break, not far from it is the remains of a KEROSENE SOAKED RAG.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Tombstone!

Buck charges to the front of the building and scans the crowd again. Looking for his friends, but also for unfamiliar faces. He spots El Flamingo at the head of the bucked line.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
El Flamingo! We gotta talk.

El Flamingo steps out of the line and walks to Buck.

EL FLAMINGO
Did you find the girls?

BUCK NAKED
No But I found one of those bottle
things they threw at us in the
hotel. Looks like the work of
Tombstone

EL FLAMINGO
We know where Mad Dog was. Think
they're working together?

BUCK NAKED
The timing makes more sense that
way.

EL FLAMINGO
We're in trouble. They'll be coming
for us.

BUCK NAKED
We've got to prepare for war.

The fire is burning out. Not much left of the Horse Shoe
except for burning embers. Buck looks in each direction. The
side buildings appear to have escaped damage. Buck looks back
at the saloon

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
May she rest in peace.

Buck feels something pulling on his pant cuff. He looks down.
It's the HONEY BADGER. It now releases the cuff in sits,
looking for a treat.

SAMANTHA, SERENITY AND DAWN
Buck!

They great him with hugs and kisses, along with some tears.

EL FLAMINGO
Hey! What about me?

The girls all look at him doubtfully for a moment, then all
give him a group hug. He portends to want to fight them off,
but his face shows he is liking it.

BUCK NAKED
Where were you?

EL FLAMINGO
We were worried.

El Flamingo realizes what he just said and flushes with embarrassment.

SAMANTHA
We set up another nursing station
in the dry goods store.

DAWN
No sexy uniforms this time, though.

Festus comes staggering up to the group.

FESTUS
I've been rescuing the badgers from
under the saloon.
(reaches down to scratch
the badger under the
chin)
Ah. I also saved some of the
whiskey. It's in the dry goods
store at the nursing station.

SAMANTHA
(looking archly at festus)
The pile seems to be getting
smaller, though.

FESTUS
Yes, Ma'am.

SAMANTHA
This wasn't an accident.

BUCK NAKED
No, We're up against both Tombstone
and Mad Dog. It's war. They're
coming for us. A lot of people are
going to die.

DAWN
I'm ready for them.

Everyone turns to look at Dawn.

SAMANTHA
She's been reading again.

Dawn looks smug.

BUCK NAKED
We're homeless right now.

The volunteer fire fighting crew is breaking up. Our heroes are standing in front of a large, steaming, pile of ashes and embers.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Now one is going to take us in.
They're good people but they don't
want to attract this kind of
trouble. I don't blame them.

EL FLAMINGO
They'll be coming down the trail,
probably before nightfall.

BUCK NAKED
Yep, We should make our stand at
the edge of town. We need to set up
some defenses.

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

On the edge of the woods. Trees provide some cover. Last stand. Make it or break it. Buck, El Flamingo, Serenity, Samantha, Dawn, Festus are all gathered behind a BARRICADE of broken tree Branches and scrap lumber. They all have modern CAMOUFLAGE on their faces. On the girls it looks sexy: cat eyes, lips, cheek bones, etc. Festus looks more like a circus clown.

BUCK NAKED
(to the girls)
Check out the supplies. We need the
ammo close to hand. I hope we have
enough.

Serenity and Samantha salute Buck and turn to leave.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Always the smart asses.

Dawn and Festus stay behind.

DAWN
We've been working on a special
weapon. We better go collect the
"ammunition" for it.

Dawn looks worried. Festus puts a comforting hand on your shoulder.

FESTUS

Don't worry about them. They are tuff as hell. Worry more about the other guys.

BUCK NAKED

Just what are you two up to?

DAWN

You'll see. I think you'll be impressed.

Dawn and Festus turn and leave.

BUCK NAKED

(to El Flamingo)

Tell me again why we are wearing all this make-up?

EL FLAMINGO

I've always wanted... Er... Because it makes us harder to see, silly.

BUCK NAKED

Yeah... Right...

Buck and El Flamingo inspect the fortifications, looking down the trail from time for the first sign of the attack.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

We're not going to get much warning when they get here. How about you getting into the trees and acting as look out?

EL FLAMINGO

Good ides.

El Flamingo checks his gun and ammo belt, pulls "El Kabong!" out and kisses it for luck. He climbs into the trees and finds a comfortable perch. Buck looks up as he disappears into the trees.

BUCK NAKED

(to himself)

He's not such a bad guy, after all.

Samantha and Serenity return and join Buck at the Barricade.

SAMANTHA

We're as ready as we'll ever be, Dawn and Festus are fiddling around with this big wooden thing, they should be here pretty soon.

SERENITY
Now what do we do?

BUCK NAKED
We wait.

They all crouch down behind the barricade, guns drawn, nerves on edge. The sound of THUNDERING HOOVES starts to build in the distance.

EL FLAMINGO
(calling from the trees)
Here they come! Must be about 20 of them.

Guns out. Sweaty palms wiped. Eyes forward. Buck calls out.

BUCK NAKED
Don't shoot until I give word. Let them all come into view before we open fire.

The THUNDER increases in volume and the first riders appear. They see the barricade but don't slow down. Our heroes re arrange their grip on their weapons.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Steady, hold your fire.

The rest of the outlaw band appears, riding hard. Bringing up the rear is A WAGON, ITS LOAD COVERED BY A TARP, DRAWN BY FOUR HORSES, U.S. ARMY STENCILED ON THE SIDES. El Flamingo has his carbine out and pointed downrange.

EL FLAMINGO
I can take the lead rider...

BUCK NAKED
(yells)
Now!

El flamingo fires. The lead rider falls from his horse. Our heroes open fire as the outlaws quickly dismount and run for cover, returning fire. Several of them fall dead before they reach safety.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
Three down, that's a good start.

From his vantage point in the trees, El Flamingo calls out.

EL FLAMINGO

Four!

(He lines the carbine on
another man and pulls the
trigger)

Five!

The outlaws are all under cover now and laying siege on our
heros, trading shots. The shooting stops. Mad Dog calls out.

MAD DOG

Naked! You got lucky, You've killed
four of my men.

EL FLAMINGO

(from the trees)

Five!

Mad Dog casually fires a shot into the trees. The bullet
snaps a small branch inches from El flamingo's head. El
Flamingo ducks.

MAD DOG

As I was saying, you got lucky.
Your luck has just run out.

BUCK NAKED

Maybe so, but not my ammo. Try to
take us and you're going to die.

A Gravely voice, TOMBSTONE THOMPSON, dressed in black,
answers.

TOMBSTONE THOMPSON

You brought me in, Naked, and I
went to prison. The bounty was
"dead or alive," You should have
made it "dead."

BUCK NAKED

Tombstone? That your gravely voice?
I won't make that mistake again.

TOMBSTONE THOMPSON

No, you won't, because you're going
to die. All of you, including the
Serenity bitch who's daddy
testified against me, and "El
Flamer," who's always been a pain
in my ass.

EL FLAMINGO

(sits up on his perch)

Hey!

Mad Dog fires another shot into the trees, trimming another small branch close to El Flamingo's head, causing him to duck down again.

MAD DOG

Speaking of ammo. How's yours holding out?

(taunting)

Maybe we can lend you some. You see, we made a little withdrawal from the U.S. Armory. A whole wagon load. We can just keep you pinned down until you're out of bullets, Then the fun begins.

EL FLAMINGO

Enough of this shit.

El Flamingo fires a shot, knocking the hat from Mad Dog's head.

MAD DOG

All right men, take that pink piss ant out.

The gang of desperados UNLOADS on El Flamingo. The area surrounding the gang is completely obscured by gun smoke. El Flamingo's tree is completely denuded in seconds. El Flamingo is forced to use "El Kabong!" As a shield, deflecting bullets right and left. Each time a bullet hits it makes a loud CLANG.

EL FLAMINGO

Oh! "El Kabong!" Your special, no stick surface is being ruined!

Our heroes on the ground return fire. And the gun battle rages.

BUCK NAKED

Make your shots count. We're getting low on ammo.

Buck snaps off a couple quick shots, Dropping another baddy.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Where are Dawn and Festus? I hope they are bringing more bullets.

DAWN

(from behind Buck)

Right here, with something even better.

Festus and Dawn are walking the burro, who is pulling a wheeled contraption cobbled from wood, rope and chicken wire.

FESTUS

It's the RFBBC, uh, BFCBA, CB...

DAWN

The RFRBC. Rapid Fire Rabid Badger Catapult. I got the idea from that old encyclopedia.

The RFRBC looks a lot like a medieval catapult, but there is a cage in back, in this case, loaded with badgers. There is a trap door on this cage and when the weapon is cocked the door is opened and one badger at a time drops into the bowl and is then launched at the enemy.

SAMANTHA

(to Dawn)

Oh, honey, you're going to launch your pets at
(nods at the outlaws)
Them?

DAWN

They want to help out, and they're tough.

SAMANTHA

They might get hurt.

DAWN

Honey Badger don't give a shit.

Buck inspects the device in awe.

BUCK NAKED

You built this?

DAWN

Me and Festus.

BUCK NAKED

...And it works?

DAWN

I've launched Baby in it a few times. She likes it. She gets a little cranky if she doesn't get a treat, though.

BUCK NAKED

Fire it up, before El Flamingo's goose is cooked.

EL FLAMINGO
(still deflecting bullets
with his frying pan)
I heard that, just hurry up. My
ears are ringing and my cookware is
getting sticky.

Everyone looks up at El Flamingo suspiciously.

Dawn and Festus carefully aim the weapon, then turn the crank
arming it. A badger falls in the bowl. Dawn calls out.

DAWN
Hey, Mad Dog. Better turn around
and leave now while you still can.

Mad dog pokes his head out from behind a tree.

MAD DOG
Why? What are you going to do about
it, dummy?

DAWN
I'm sending you one of my pet
badgers - you better take good care
of it.

MAD DOG
Badgers? We don't need no stinking
badgers.

After a quick adjustment, Dawn pulls the lever on the release
mechanism. The Badger is launched like a rocket and hits Mad
Dog in the face. It clings to his face and starts chewing.
Mad Dog screams in pain and steps out from behind the tree.
Seeing his shot, buck fires and Mad Dog goes down.

DAWN
So, who's the dummy now?

The badger is totally pissed and starts after the other
outlaws, causing pandemonium.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Crank her up festus. This is fun.

Festus cranks while Dawn sets up for the next shot. Another
badger sits in the bowl and is launched in a high arc. It
hits the ground in front of an outlaw who sighs in relief.
Then the badger lunges and latches on to his groin with it's
teeth. The SCREAMS are horrible.

BUCK NAKED
Did she say "Fun?"

El Flamingo is busy firing his carbine, too busy racking up bounty money to pay any attention. Serenity and Samantha are both impressed and horrified as this new side of Dawn is revealed.

SAMANTHA

Yes, I think she did.

BUCK NAKED

Remind me to NEVER piss her off.

SERENITY

Good idea.

In the tree, El Flamingo's carbine goes "CLICK," empty. He reaches into a pocket for more rounds. It's as empty as his ammo belt. He looks down to his friends.

EL FLAMINGO

Hey! A few more bad guys to kill here, 10 or 12 left alive and kicking. They look pissed off. Toss me some .38s.

Buck checks his ammo belt, then his pockets. He has less than a dozen bullets left.

BUCK NAKED

I've got some bad news.

SFX: SPROING. SNAP, CRACK.

DAWN

I've got some bad news, too.

El Flamingo drops down out of the tree. He looks mournfully at his beloved frying pan. It's deformed and full of pock marks where bullets have hit it.

EL FLAMINGO

Guess I've got some ba...

He looks away from the frying pan and sees everyone emptying out their pockets, looking for spare bullets. He looks to the RFRBC and sees the main shaft has broken free, taking part of the frame with it. He looks back to the frying pan and sadly tosses it aside.

EL FLAMINGO (CONT'D)

Never mind.

The two badgers come waddling back, looking to Dawn for their reward. She gives them both a treat from her bodice.

BUCK NAKED

(to Dawn)

You wouldn't happen to have any
bullets in there, would you?

Dawn gives Buck a murderous look.

SERENITY

(to Buck)

Would now be a good time to remind
you what not to do?

BUCK NAKED

(ignoring Serenity's
remark)

We're down to our last few bullets.
The R-E-S-P-C-T ...Um ...Catapult
is kaput. They have a wagon full of
ammo, and they want to kill us.
[BEAT] We are in trouble.

SAMANTHA

What are we going to do?

EL FLAMINGO

I say we fight to the last bullet,
then beat them to death with
whatever we can grab... Go out in a
blaze of glory.

El Flamingo strikes the one legged pose, puts his hand over
his heart, and gazes nobly into the sky.

BUCK NAKED

Maybe I can create a diversion
while you all make your escape.

EL FLAMINGO

Better yet.

The girls all glare at El Flamingo. Dawn picks up a badger
and glares threateningly at him.

BUCK NAKED

They are wondering what we're up to
right now. When they figure out
that we're out of ammo, they'll be
all over us...

Buck ducks as a random bullet whizzes over his head. He gazes
in the direction of the outlaw gang and to the mostly
obscured cliff beyond.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

At least I'll die close to
Buttercup. That's the spot where
she went over.

Buck continues brooding for a moment longer, then his face
lights up in excitement.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. If we can get THEM
to go over the cliff...

Everyone gathers close around Buck, hope in their eyes.

SAMANTHA

I knew you'd think of something.

BUCK NAKED

Well, it's a long shot, but it just
might work. Listen up.

They all huddle while Buck explains his plan. The girls GASP
as one. El Flamingo looks grim as he nods his head. Festus
reaches out and solemnly shakes Buck's hand.

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - EVENING

The group is huddled together. They have been waiting for
night to fall

BUCK NAKED

OK, if the plan is going to work,
it has to be now. Dark enough to
spoil their aim.

SAMANTHA

And soon dark enough that they
won't see where they're going until
it's too late.

EL FLAMINGO

'Bout out of ammo.

BUCK NAKED

Ready?

The all look at each other in the gathering gloom. Their
looks show that they know this may be for the last time. They
all nod in the affirmative.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Let's do it.

They all start laying down fire at the outlaws, expending their precious ammunition in an ultimate gamble. The outlaws reply tenfold, barely denting their lethal supply.

EL FLAMINGO

I'm hit!

A FEW BEATS LATER

DAWN

Serenity is down!

A FEW BEATS LATER

FESTUS

Oh God! Dawn!

A FEW BEATS LATER

Only two guns firing now. We see that El Flamingo, Serenity, and Dawn are fine, just staying out of sight.

A FEW BEATS LATER

Now only Buck is firing. He stops and shouts out as in hysterics.

BUCK NAKED

They're dead! They're all dead! You son's of bitches! You killed them all!.

Buck Runs to the horses and leaps onto his mount. He wheels the horse about and races to the barricade, the horse clearing it clumsily.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

(to the horse)

Almost didn't make it there. You're a brave horse but no Buttercup. I hope you're up to this.

Buck races toward the entrenched gang and yells like a demented man.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

(top of his lungs)

I'll kill you all you sons of bitches. I'll kill you all.

Buck empties his gun at the shocked outlaws.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to himself)
That's the last of the ammo, this
better work.

Buck veers off into the direction of the fatale cliff before
the gang recovers enough to plug him at short range.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(top of lungs)
Catch me if you can, ass holes!

The entire gang mounts up and gives chase. Buck sees this
over his shoulder and smiles grimly.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
That's it. Come and get me.

In the darkness it is almost impossible to see the edge of
the cliff or even the trees lining the edge.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to the horse)
I hope you understand me because
our lives depend on it.

THE CLIFF

Even in daylight the cliff has proved deadly, the rise of the
ground and the trees growing along the edge pretty much mask
the lethal rim. Buck slows the horse a little to allow the
gang to catch up.

BUCK NAKED
This is going to be tight.

Buck enters the trees at a full gallop. He flicks the reigns
to the left.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to the horse)
This is where to turn left to avoid
plunging to your doom.

The horse understands nothing. It sees the edge of the cliff
and locks up the breaks. The horse skids to a stop at the
brink, Buck is thrown over the horses head and OFF THE CLIFF!

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
What the fu...

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
The black means nothing to me.

Buttercup snorts and backs up, pulling Buck to safety.

THE CLIFF

The girls, El Flamingo, and Festus arrive, dewy eyed.

SAMANTHA
Poor Buck. He died to save our
asses.

FROM BELOW:

BUCK NAKED
Your asses are worth saving, but
not worth dieing over.

El Flamingo is pissed.

EL FLAMINGO
My ass isn't... Oh!

BUCK NAKED
Pull me up! I've go an old friend
with me, too.

SAMANTHA
What old friend?

Samantha lays down with her head over the ledge. From her POV she can see Buck and buttercup's muzzle.

From Bucks POV we see Samantha, then the others as they all lay down by the edge to get a look.

DAWN
Hi Buck? That your horse?

BUCK NAKED
(Big Smile)
Yes, it is.

Buck reaches out and strokes the horses muzzle and mane.

EL FLAMINGO
We can throw you a rope and pull
you up, but the horse weighs too
much. Might have to shoot her.

Buttercup WHINNIES, shakes her head, and backs up under the ledge.

BUCK NAKED

Don't you worry Buttercup, nobody is going to shoot you, and I'm not going to leave you again. We'll figure something out.

El Flamingo tosses the end of the rope down to Buck. Buck grabs hold of it. Buttercup takes the back of Bucks belt in her mouth and tries to hold Buck back.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Let go, Buttercup, I've got to get up there so we can figure out how to get you up.

Buttercup WHINNIES and shakes her head.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Let go. I promise I'll get you up there. Just got to figure something out...

THE CLIFF

The Girls CHEER as Buck is DRAGGED up the cliff and across the dirt. He lets go of the rope and scrambles to his feet. We hear Buttercup WHINNY from below.

BUCK NAKED

(to the horse below)

I'm OK, We'll get you up soon.

Buck looks worried. He looks all around for something or some inspiration. The others are also looking, their expressions are puzzled. Buck's gaze stops on the busted catapult in the distance.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

(triumphantly)

I've got it!

The group turns to Buck then follows his line of sight.

EL FLAMINGO

That just might work.

BUCK NAKED

It's got to work. I'm not leaving Buttercup again, It's broken as a catapult, but it's got pulleys, rope and a frame.

Buck gazes up into the sky.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

It looks like the moon is coming out from behind the clouds. That will give us some light, but not enough. Festus, Dawn, start gathering some wood and make a fire by the edge of the cliff.

(to the rest of the group)

Come on. Lets drag the catapult over here and get to work.

LATER.

The catapult has been reborn. It's frame is reconfigured and lashed together. It now looks like a LARGE WOODEN CRANE. Buck gives the long arm an experimental push and it swings out over the cliff.

BUCK NAKED

Beautiful! Good work, everybody. Now we just have to hang the sling off the end and you guys can crank me down to my horse.

DAWN

How are you getting back up?

BUCK NAKED

I'm coming back up in style: riding Buttercup.

A concerned WHINNY from below. Buck turns to address the horse.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm sure it'll carry the both of us. Don't be such a worry wort.

Buck turns and inspects the lashings one more time. He is hiding his worried expression from the others.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

(to himself)

God, I hope this works...

(To all)

OK, the fire is getting low, lets do this and go home.

Buck steps into the sling and strikes a heroic pose as they swing him out over the cliff and crank him downward.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

OK! We're ready> Crank us up!

The crane CREAKS OMINOUSLY as it takes the burden upward. The frame suddenly shifts a little. Everyone freezes. Buck and Buttercup are hanging out in space. El Flamingo and Festus frantically inspect the device.

EL FLAMINGO
I think she'll hold.

FESTUS
Them is good knots I tied. She'll hold.

Behind his back, Festus is crossing his fingers.

BUCK NAKED
All right. Start cranking.

Everyone is tense, the machine is CREAKING LOUDER now. Finally, Buck appears at the end of the arm. He is sitting on the horse as if riding it into the sunset.

SAMANTHA
(yells to Buck)
Why the pose?

BUCK NAKED
(grimly)
In case it fails. I always wanted to die in the saddle.

Buttercup turns her head toward Buck and WHINNIES PITIFULLY.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
(to Buttercup)
No, I'm not planning on dieing today!
(to all)
Hurry up and swing me in, you think this is some kind of carnival ride?

El Flamingo looks thoughtful at that, then he and Festus carefully swing their precious cargo in toward solid ground. OMINOUS LOUDER CREAKS, A LOUD SNAP. The girls rush to the arm and help swing it in. Buck and the horse swing sickeningly in the harness. Just as they swing over solid ground (3 feet over the ground) the line SNAPS. Buck and Buttercup drop out of the contraption and land upright, Buck still sitting in the saddle. The arm swings back out into space and snaps off. The rope is still attached to the frame and the rest of the contraption follows it over the cliff.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)
So! What's for dinner?

INT. THE BROKEN HORSE SHOE -- ONE MONTH LATER-- NIGHT

The saloon has been rebuilt. It looks like before only cleaner and with fresh paint. There are more FEMALE CUSTOMERS these days. The stage has a new addition: A STRIPPER POLE. The gang is at their favorite spot, right where the old table was, only this table is a little bigger to accommodate the new regulars. In addition to Buck, Samantha, Serenity and Dawn, we have Festus, and El Flamingo is now a permanent and welcome guest at the table.

BUCK NAKED

Well, the town folks really came through for us. They all lent a hand in rebuilding the saloon and provided most of the materials as well.

EL FLAMINGO

I still think it would have made a great fern bar, but The Broken Horse Shoe is part of my life now.

SAMANTHA

Yep and our share of the bounties on Mad Dog the Tombstone gang paid off the papers on the place.

SERENITY

Dawn! Stop walking around like your wrist is broken, We've all seen the ring Festus bought you.

FESTUS

We made a deal, I'll stick to sarsaparilla, and she'll wear the engagement ring here at work.

DAWN

(gives Festus a hug)
It may cut into my tips, but I want to whole world to know that you're my man.

We hear a familiar WHINNY outside the batwings.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Buttercup sounds pissed.

BUCK NAKED

Nah. She's just giving her boyfriend a hard time. She wouldn't let me sell the black. I guess it was love at first sight.

SAMANTHA

(to Buck)
You jealous?

BUCK NAKED

Nah. Well,
(Buck looks down at his
pants for a second)
Maybe just a little.

Buck gazes at the stripper pole.

BUCK NAKED (CONT'D)

(to El Flamingo)
Thanks again for the pole, it's
been good for business.

EL FLAMINGO

It comes all the way from France.

SAMANTHA

Speaking of which, time to put my
man to work.

Buck stands up grousing, but he's doing his best to hide a grin. The piano player strikes up a tune and Buck dances to the pole. The women in the audience applaud enthusiastically while the men offer catcalls, but even they don't seem to mind that much.