

START

Kat gives Kelly and Robin some food. She notices the apparently torn and patched pieces on their skirts.

KAT

How is it you became acquainted with Captain Slotter?

KELLY

It's our Da is, ma'am. He's the one sold us. Lost at cards, had to pay up or lose his hands.

ROBIN

Captain said he'd cut them off, make sure Da never played again in his life.

KELLY

Was how he made our living.

Kat reaches for Kelly's hand as if to comfort her. Instead, she pulls up her sleeve, revealing the playing card that's hidden there.

KAT

How you make yours as well.

Kat touches one of the patches on Kelly's skirt, pulls at a drawstring, revealing a hidden pocket. Inside, the locket Kelly took from Dr. Rebecca.

KAT (CONT'D)

Is this yours, Kelly?

KELLY

(grins, shrugs)
Ain't nothing else we know, ma'am.

ROBIN

Don't matter now we're old enough be sold as whores.

KAT

And your mother?

Robin's face closes, her eyes, deep and unreadable.

KELLY

She passed in childbed Robin was born.

Kat moves to take Robin's hands, but Robin moves back, leans into Kelly. Trusts nothing and no one except her sister.

Janis Krow

KAT

Your ma's watching over you then.
Keeping you safe.

KELLY

(indicates)

That's the doctors saved us.

Dr. Rebecca and Thomas, just arrived, talk to Jeremiah.

EXT. PRAIRIE CAMP ↓ DAY

Thomas shakes Jeremiah's hand.

THOMAS

I hope you're not inconvenienced,
Mr. Loving.

Jeremiah shakes his head.

JEREMIAH

There is the question of what to do
with them, Dr. Bloom.

THOMAS

I thought someone here might take
them. Yourself, for example.

JEREMIAH

We just took on two boys.

He indicates Neill and Georgie. Kat approaches now. She
nods to Dr. Rebecca who notices the Native beadwork bracelet
on Kat's wrist, and the beadwork and tartan gloves that
Jeremiah wears.

KAT

Do you have children?

THOMAS

No, but--

KAT

Then you take them.

THOMAS

I am retired now. I plan to return
to England. We'll make our home
there. My wife will continue her
medical studies.

Dr. Rebecca meets Kat's eyes, sees judgement in them.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I am prepared to pay the girls' passage to San Francisco. A new life for them there, I should think.

KAT

They'll be put to whore there as here.

DR. REBECCA

They have their wit and the strength of their bodies. They can learn, given the chance.

KAT

They will have no chance.

Kat turns, walks away. Dr. Rebecca, affronted, watches her.

EXT. PRAIRIE CAMP - DAY

Kelly and Robin play jacks on a barrel-top, Neill and Georgie near to them. Neill's shy with girls, Georgie isn't.

GEORGIE

We was conversing over it, me and Neill here. We could marry you then you wouldn't never have to whore.

He bows like a gentleman, sweeps off his hat. Kelly laughs at him. Robin glances at Neill, their eyes catch.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

That's if you grow a bit and stay as pretty.

KELLY

And how old are you for a husband?

GEORGIE

I'm sixteen.

NEILL

No, he ain't. He's twelve and barely.

GEORGIE

(undeterred)
My brother is. Well, almost.

↓

KELLY

(to Neill)

You looking to court us?

Neill's bright red, flustered. His eyes meet Robin's once more. He's hooked.

NEILL

Well, maybe I am...

KELLY

Which one then?

She strides over to him.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Pick.

NEILL

(faltering)

I... I have to see to the wagon.

He walks away, Georgie chasing after him. The girls burst into laughter.

EXT. PRAIRIE CAMP FIELD - DAY

Kat and Jeremiah sit side by side in the long grass. The field here overlooks a river.

KAT

The doctors should take them. They have money and means.

JEREMIAH

They can't. You know as well as they do those girls don't belong in a city or a parlor or any other fancy place.

Kat looks down. Jeremiah sees she's thinking of their child.

KAT

What if we adopt them?

JEREMIAH

They're girls.

She looks sharply at him and he grins, teasing. She looks at the locket she took from Kelly, and frowns.

KAT

They're little thieves. Probably have a taste for gambling.

JEREMIAH

You who rides a stolen horse.

KAT

Depends how you think about that.

JEREMIAH

Okay. Let's think... They can work on our ranch. Raise the chickens, sell the eggs, churn the butter. Put up the berries and the pickle.

KAT

Cook for the hands. Did you speak to Neill and Georgie?

JEREMIAH

They're coming. Happy about it, too. Georgie went off and wept when I asked him. Didn't want me to see.

She smiles. He puts his arm around her.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

This morning we were two. Now we're six. ←

END

EXT. PRAIRIE CAMP - DAY

The field as Kat and Jeremiah talk to Kelly and Robin. Robin offers her hand to Kat who takes it, and the four of them walk back toward the camp. Kelly spots Dr. Rebecca and runs toward her, excited to bursting.

KELLY

Thank you, ma'am! For everything!

She drops the locket into Dr. Rebecca's hand.

KELLY (CONT'D)

It's yours, I found it.

As Dr. Rebecca looks at her, Kelly falters, hesitates.

KELLY (CONT'D)

You saw me take it. I'm awful sorry for the trick. I won't ever again--