

SIDE 6

O.G., SENECA, GOODMAN 23-24

MAID OF THE CANYON

HALL. I love it when there's no rocks.

EMMA DEAN

POWELL. Wasn't that GREAT?!! That was GREAT.

DUNN. Narrow. It's getting Narrow up ahead.

Line in

ALL BOATS

ALL. Tie off

EMMA DEAN

POWELL. Get ready for portage

ALL BOATS

HALL. UGH

GOODMAN. Okay

The crews de-boat at a patch of river too narrow to traverse.

Each team prepares to portage their boat, or carry it on land

along the side of the river.

Portaging a large boat involves its crew members lifting it in

tandem above their heads, as one would carry a large plank

of wood.

It is hard work.

But then again.

So is rowing under hot sunlight.

POWELL. Assemble for portage!

READY!!! Aflight! And! Boats up!

1.6 Carrying the No-Name

Goodman is carrying the No-Name from the back, with Seneca and O.G. Howland in the middle and lead, respectively. Goodman is a red-faced British man. The Howlands are tobacco-addled brothers. They have ciggies in their mouths. They are pretty calm. Goodman is struggling a little.

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GOODMAN. I say, how CAN you smoke AND hoist the boat at the same time?

SENECA. O.G. taught me how to roll a cigarette while riding a horse

O.G. Easy as guttin a fish.

SENECA. We did roll these before we left though

O.G. Wanted to keep things movin along.

GOODMAN. I haven't half a mind to smoke. It really funks up my complexion

SENECA. I was gonna offer you one, but it sounds like you don't want it.

GOODMAN. I say this boat IS heavy

O.G. Pretty light if you ask me

GOODMAN. But at least it shields us from the sun

O.G. Yeah sure

SENECA. It's shielding me, but O.G.'s getting it

O.G. A little sun never hurt nobody

GOODMAN. Well I DO burn easily, especially in these summer months. It's all part of my heritage, you see. The Yorkshire-born were never meant to be splayed out on some desert rock. We are used to the doom and gloom, the hurdy gurdy, the sturm and drang, you see. The howling gales and the lost winds.

O.G. *Wuthering Heights*.

GOODMAN. Oh the BRONTË sisters. That's right! You're in the printing business! I was wondering how you knew about—

O.G. I heard the Brontës were crazy.

GOODMAN. Oh yes. They were crazy!

O.G. Yeah I heard that book is all about people who drive their neighbors crazy.

O.G. and Seneca make strange eyes at Goodman.

GOODMAN. I— (*Panting.*) Woo (*Panting.*) Ooh, I'm getting winded. Can we stop a bit?

SENECA. Let's stop a bit.

They stop for a bit, put the boat down. Grunts of "Heave!" and "Ho!" are heard from other groups.

You know how hard it is going to be to pick the boat back up again, right?

O.G. Yeah I know. Goodman's the one who wanted to stop. Didn't you, Goodman?

They both look at Goodman. The Howlands have threatening eyeballs.

GOODMAN. Just for a moment. Just to catch my breath.

Oh! Oh say! Do you see on that rock? It looks like words

Goodman points to a nearby rock. They approach the near-by rock. They read:

O.G. "Ashley. One Eight" ... I can't read the next one...three? or "Five" GOODMAN. I think it's a three. 1835?

ALL. It could also be a five. 1855? 1835? ASHLEY.

FULL CAST. (*Considering this.*) ASHLEY.

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1.7 Campfire

Dusk. The crew is getting ready for dinner, getting the fire ready and getting their knives out. Hawkins is off somewhere with Dunn.

POWELL. Ashley. Is a name I've heard before, from John Baker. Sumner knows Baker.

SUMNER. John Baker is a lunatic, but the tales he tells are often true. Usually.

POWELL. The story of Ashley is true

SUMNER. The story of Ashley is true.

POWELL and SUMNER. Story goes that—

POWELL. Oh did you want to tell it?

SUMNER. No, no you tell it.

POWELL. Story goes that a man by the name of Ashley was one of a party heading down this river. Ashley's boat was felled by the rapids down below.

Ashley and maybe one other man survived, of a crew of five or six.

BRADLEY. Wait, I thought we were the first ones to go down these streams

HALL. Well, we're the first sanctioned by the government

SENECA. Plenty of Natives have run these rivers before us

O.G. And plenty of Americans too, but most of them were deserters on the lam.

Running away from the front lines of the War. So no one counts them.

BRADLEY. I just guess I assumed we were on the frontier. I've always wanted to be the first at something.

POWELL. Make no mistake, Bradley. We are on the Frontier.

But a government-sanctioned frontier is much different than uncharted land.

SUMNER. Believe me, kid. We have boats, we have somebody who makes us coffee. We have a map-maker. This is cushy frontiering.

GOODMAN. Quite comfortable. It's been quite! Comfortable for the most part, I must say.

POWELL. And it's also one of the last frontiers we'll face. So take it all in, crew. You won't be getting paid to run rivers much longer.

HALL. Hey! HAWKINS! There they are!

Hawkins emerges into the clearing with Dunn. They each carry RACKS of fish. Fish in bags and fish on poles.

HAWKINS. FRESH AND FLOPPY FISH