

SIDE 2

DUNN, POWELL 29-31

Seneca and Hawkins step back from each other.

O.G., I advise you to go over behind that tree and smoke your cigarette

O.G. Hey

POWELL. And come back, and thank Hawkins and Dunn for the fish we eat tonight. Seneca, the bond you share with O.G. is very touching. But you have to learn to hold your temper. No dessert for you

Hawkins laughs because there is never dessert.

And Hawkins

HAWKINS. Yes sir

POWELL. If someone wants to filch tobacco on my watch, that should be on his conscience, not yours. I say that as a nonsmoker though so I understand it may be more frustrating for others. Raise your hand if you smoke.

Seneca, O.G., Hawkins Hall, and Old Shady raise their hands.

Bradley sort of half raises his hand.

BRADLEY. I mean I smoke when I'm stressed but—

POWELL. Alright, so you guys should work out some sort of system with the tobacco, because I think it's stupid that I should be bothered with it.

SUMNER. Before we dig in tonight, to this feast, I would like to make a toast.

Dunn is pouring whiskey for people

John Baker described Ashley as a good man.

I'm sure his crew were good men.

I'd like to raise my glass full of nothing—

DUNN. *(Whisper.)* I got the whiskey

SUMNER. *(Picking up on that.)* I'd like to raise my glass of future-whiskey

To Ashley and his crew.

Ashley was brave for attempting what he did.

And he was noble for leaving us a warning of what's to come.

To Ashley.

ALL. To Ashley.

A silence.

O.G. I gotta take a leak

O.G. leaves. They watch him go.

HAWKINS. Alright, let's dig in.

Tin plates passed around.

The sounds of forks on tin plates and fish-eating

OLD SHADY. *(A little song.)*

Tin fish tin fish tin fish dinner

What a dish for a pack of sinners

Tin fish tin fish on my plate

What a dish at any rate

Tin fish tin fish from the river

It took my heart so I took its silver

Tin fish tin fish in my belly

Fish on tin gets my tin smelly

Tin fish tin fish tin fish time

Tin fish tin fish fish sublime.

O.G. returns. A slow clap from somewhere. Old Shady grins to himself.

1.8 The Morning Summit

The next morning. Dunn and Powell atop a cliff nearby. The sun is near to rising.

START HERE----->

DUNN. And then you see how it turns, there? Right beneath that cliff. It's a sharp one. And then from there you see the foam? White water for a mile. Hell, two miles.

POWELL. So we just have to make it down that slope and past that white water.

DUNN. And then we'll be in the clear. We could portage and avoid it entirely. It would take us twice as long to make it to calm water, but I think it's worth it—

POWELL. We'll make it with a few lines. We get one boat down

first, then we throw lines and the lines guide us into the clear. It's already getting late. If we want to make it to a feasible camping ground by nightfall we should just run it.

DUNN. I just want to make sure we make the right choice

POWELL. Aw, Dunn. We won't know if it's the right choice until we've made it!

Let's head down. But first. Would you look at that cliff?

Vermilion, look. The way the sun is hitting those walls as it rises.

DUNN. Rust

Orange groves

I'd never seen stones this color.

POWELL. We ARE in a unique position, Dunn. Our eyes, the eyes of hunters and explorers and land-rovers like us. Our eyes will be old some day, and new eyes will not see the things we see with such a sheen.

DUNN. Well, that's why we're the luckiest on earth. To see it first.

POWELL. It's strange to me. A few generations from now, it will seem normal. This whole country, built on the idea of newness. Eventually it all gets old.

DUNN. We're not even to the Big Canyon yet.

POWELL. Hell, we might all be dead before we get there. Here, let's name this cliff after you, in case we make it no further.

DUNN. What?? Really?

POWELL. Really. It fits all the Unwritten Rules.

DUNN. Rule 1: I am the sole discoverer of the thing. Did I do that?

POWELL. You used it to pinpoint the crest where the rapids start.

DUNN. Rule 2: I Accomplished something directly in relation to the thing.

POWELL. You mapped our journey forth. And Rule 3: No one objects and everyone agrees. I agree!

DUNN. Wow. Okay!

POWELL. Here we go. Okay!

"I hereby name that cliff Dunn's Cliff after William Dunn."
There you go.

DUNN. Hah!

Dunn takes a look out over his domain.

Wow

POWELL. How does it feel?

DUNN. Nice. Maybe I'll come back to live on it, once we're through the Big Canyon. I wonder if the government will sanction this land once our expedition is over.

POWELL. It all comes down to how dangerous it is to inhabit.

DUNN. Well the Natives have lived in these lands for centuries.

POWELL. Well, they've also probably named all this land already.

And here we are

naming it after ourselves.

END

1.9 Rapids from Dunn's Cliff

The Men are in the midst of running the rapids. It is getting the best of them. It is loud and they can hardly hear each other. The No-Name has yet to navigate a very precarious pass.

NO-NAME

O.G. Strong Strong And Heave!

SENECA. Ho!

O.G. Heave!

SENECA. Ho! Keep it moving—O.G? O.G. we're getting pulled

O.G. I feel it

GOODMAN. There's a patch of deer, bounding over—

O.G. GOODMAN watch the water, keep rowing

GOODMAN. Oh no—Foam, it's foaming. WHITE WATER!

O.G. Sharp Left

ALL. Left

GOODMAN. So this is how Ashley's men died