

SIDE 3

POWELL MONOLOGUE 37-38

HAWKINS. But we lost a lot of the smoked fish

POWELL. Oh

HAWKINS. We lost a lot of bacon.

POWELL. Oh

HAWKINS. And

DUNN. We lost the whiskey.

A groan from everyone.

POWELL. Well.

HAWKINS. I can get to cooking up this rabbit. We'll need to go on another hunt tomorrow.

DUNN. That's no problem, Hawkins. I'll be on the hunt. Tomorrow at dawn.

O.G. As will I

SUMNER. I'll join in.

DUNN. Seneca, join us?

SENECA. Sure.

DUNN. Hall can stay back.

HALL. I've got a lot of work to do.

DUNN. And Goodman, how's your leg?

GOODMAN. It's alright. Just a gash. Nothing extreme.

POWELL. Tomorrow I also propose going down to the wreckage of the No-Name.

O.G. Why?

POWELL. We lost many provisions. I want to see if there is anything worth salvaging.

DUNN. I doubt it

POWELL. Don't be so sure, Dunn. All of our barometers were in that boat.

HALL. And all of our sextants. Which I NEED

POWELL. Not to mention a bunch of other stuff I think we need to go.

DUNN. When do you propose we do that?

Just so you're clear, we could get down there and realize everything is shattered and we've wasted a good two to three hours of daylight

BRADLEY. Come on, Dunn. We'll find something!

DUNN. Shut up, Bradley.

BRADLEY. I'll come with you, Powell. We can split up tomorrow and meet back at this bank by noon.

POWELL. Yeah, have fun hunting for more rabbits, Dunn.

DUNN. We should have never run those rapids. We should have portaged

HAWKINS. Oh Christ

POWELL. Dunn, you know as well as I do that there was hardly a bank along the river all to carry our boats.

DUNN. Why didn't we portage? Tell me, Powell.

POWELL. I didn't want to portage because it was impossible to portage that section of the river.

DUNN. I say we could have tried it. You hardly entertained a very viable option that could have saved us a boat. We have a long way to go yet—

POWELL. We could not have portaged that part of the river.

O.G. We found a bank eventually. We could have found other banks.

SENECA. Why didn't we try to portage again?

POWELL. Oh, you too now?

HAWKINS. Food's up

SENECA. We lost a bunch of shit in our boat. All I'm saying.

DUNN. You didn't want to portage because you're useless when we portage.

POWELL. And I'm not useless when we row, and when there's a man overboard, and when we have to grip walls? If I'm holding on to one thing, I can't hold on to anything else.

DUNN. So tell me, then, Powell, why you are the one in charge of the expedition when you can't execute your own orders?

POWELL. Well. Some of you are here for sport and some of you are here for skill and some of you are here because you get a kick out of

killing bears and some of you are here because it got your ass out of the army on a good note and some of you are here because you have nowhere else to go. You know why I'm here? I'm here because my friend, the fucking PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, needed a better knowledge of the arid lands of this nation. I am here because I was given a job. And in case you didn't know, it's hard for gimps to get jobs around these parts, so I am going to do this job to the best of my ability. And it just so happens that I've run more rivers than any of you all put together—I did the fuckin Mississippi up and down when I was 17 years old and I've done more tributaries than you can name on BOTH of your sorry hands. If you want to go over what we could have done to save the No-Name, then be my guest. But, instead of that, I am going to focus on the marvelous forethought we put into divvying up most of our supplies between each boat. And I'm going to thank God that none of us perished today, and that none of us broke any crucial bones. All of that is a win, in my book. We won't make it to the end of this expedition if we focus on anything other than wins. So, if you don't want to go down to the wreckage tomorrow, then I'm sure I can rely on one of your fellow crew members to be a good sport. You got your fucking cliff, Dunn. Now how about a nice fucking rabbit dinner.

Hawkins plates up a fine plate and gives it to Powell. Powell passes it to Dunn.

Who's next? <-----END

Slow clap from Old Shady.

End of Act One

ACT TWO

2.1 The Next Day

Bradley and Powell climb a jagged cliff to get a better view of the river's course down below. Sumner and Dunn board the Maid of the Canyon and make their way toward the wreckage of the No-Name. A split scene—one on boat navigating a little rapids one on canyon wall.

MAID OF THE CANYON

SUMNER. I was surprised you decided to come along.
DUNN. There's no good hunting around this part of the river. Too cliffy.

SUMNER. You really don't think we'll find anything?

DUNN. Maybe. A bunch of broken glass. Ope! Ope! Steady!

SUMNER. I don't like having this mood around. Stern. Stern. Steady. You and Powell, you guys should talk

DUNN. The last time we talked, I offered my opinion, he ignored it. And now we've gone and lost a boat.

SUMNER. We're gonna lose a boat now and again. We're on a river. Whoa—

DUNN. Bounce your bar. Balance. We're only still in Utah. We can't sustain—

SUMNER. Steady as she goes. Rocks all over

DUNN. we can't sustain this all the way to the Big Canyon. Not if we're all making it through. Powell just loves the sound of his own ideas.

SUMNER. You two are a match made.

DUNN. What? Oh they watch the.

SUMNER. Watchin' Watchin'. You both just think you're always right.