

End of the Line

by

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EXT. DESERTED TRAIN STATION - DAY

Heat rises off rusty train tracks in the dry, barren plains. In the distance a cloud of black, coal-smoke fills the air.

Loose grains of earth shift as a loud rumbling and chugging sound is heard.

A passenger train speeds along the tracks and comes to a slow, grinding, halt at the rundown station.

INT. TRAIN MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

A ceiling fan slowly moves the heat around the room.

A group of grave-looking LAWMEN, dressed in dirt tattered dusters, loom over the TRAIN MANAGER at his desk.

The manager peers over his half-rimmed glasses, O.S., anxiety fills his voice.

TRAIN MANAGER

Captain Pike, I understand the need
for protection but do you really
believe we need to be this
theatrical about it?

An aged CAPTAIN NATHANIEL PIKE glares over his finely cleaned boots planted rudely on a table.

His face brutally scarred near his right eye.

His spurs scrape across.

Pike coughs deeply into his hand and looks up at the manager.

PIKE

O'Mally has successfully robbed six
of your trains in the last month. I
aim to make sure he doesn't make
this his seventh.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A horse bearing JOSHUA O'MALLY closes in on the back end of the train. The brim of his hat pulled low to hide his face.

The passenger train sends dust flying through the air as it continue onward towards its destination.

Two more riders, caked in dust, follow in behind O'Mally.

(CONTINUED)

O'Mally and his gang ride up to the rear of the last car.

O'Mally and one other bandit, wearing a PANCHO, jump off their horses and onto the platform attached to the back of the car.

The remaining rider reigns in the loose horses.

O'Mally goes to open the door but Pancho shoves a gun in his face.

A CLICK as the hammer of a gun is pulled back, Pancho peers down to see O'Mally pointing a gun as well.

PANCHO

I've got both eyes on you this time.

O'Mally looks up from beneath the brim of his hat, sand sticking to the sweat and stubble of his face but his eyes give out a powerful blue glow that pierces through men.

O'MALLY

If you've got both eyes on me, then you won't see the bullet.

PANCHO

Listen O'Mally, 600,000 dollars is a lot, don't forget our deal. No one pulls a fast one on me.

O'MALLY

Everyone gets their share.

Pancho smiles and laughs wickedly

PANCHO

I think maybe... my share'll be bigger this time huh?

Pancho pokes O'Mally with the gun and then holster's it.

O'Mally pulls the rim of his hat lower over his eyes.

Pancho pulls out a sawed off rifle and cocks it. BANG! he shoots and rips the door handle apart.

Both men kick the door down and step into...

INT. FINAL CAR - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally and Pancho enter the lavish passenger car train.

O'Mally shoots the ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR dead.

The PASSENGERS scream out.

Pancho addresses all of them, booming out his demand.

PANCHO
Empty your pockets.

A GROUP OF PANCHO'S BANDITS, hiding in normal business clothes, stand from among the passengers revealing hunting rifles and pistols to quiet down the crowd.

The group viciously grabs the valuables from the passengers.

O'Mally floats through the crowd towards the next compartment, uninterested in the various trinkets, his goal further ahead. He slides open the door to...

EXT. BRIDGING PLATFORM BETWEEN COMPARTMENTS - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally slides open the door and steps into...

INT. TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally peers inside the compartment to look at the passengers and is greeted by the barrel of a single action revolver.

BANG! a gun fires.

O'Mally lifts the brow of his hat and looks at the bullethole embedded in the compartment door near his head. He turns.

A rifle idly smokes behind O'Mally, Pancho laughs.

PANCHO
Good thing you brought me with you
or you'd be awfully dead.

O'MALLY
They knew we were coming

A group of LAWMEN dressed in black run in, guns drawn.

INT. PRIVATE CAR - DAY

At the front end of the train, the business compartment is filled with luxurious leather furniture. At one end is a large vault door with a single dial padlock. Two GAURDS with pump-action shotguns stand at the other.

A pyramid of GOLD BARS is stacked inside of the vault.

Captain Pike, mouth filled with tobacco slides his hand slowly over the gold.

He subtly scopes the room to make sure no one is looking and sneaks a bar inside his pocket.

An officer arrives and startles Pike.

Gunfire can faintly be heard in the b.g.

OFFICER #1

Captain!

PIKE

What is it?

OFFICER #1

There's a commotion at the other end of the train.

PIKE

They made it on?

OFFICER #1

Yes and it seems that some of their men were hiding on the train. At least twenty.

Pike relaxes on one of the leather chairs, pulling his hat over his face as if nothing is wrong.

PIKE

Well we planned for this, our own men are covering every inch of this train... they won't make it far.

OFFICER #1

Sir shouldn't you ...

Pike pushes his hat up and unenthusiastically looks at the officer.

Pike stands disgruntled, straightens his outfit and checks the ammo in his gun. He takes his time till he's satisfied.

(CONTINUED)

PIKE

Lets go.

Pike spits out some tobacco and pauses before walking out of the compartment.

He looks at the vault and then one of the guards...

PIKE (cont'd)

Listen carefully... NO ONE GETS IN!

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

O'Mally, Pancho and their men are pinned down behind seats, bullets whiz by and shatter windows.

Pancho dives to the ground.

O'Mally is showered with glass.

In the midst of the chaos one of the BANDITS grabs a FEMALE PASSENGER and throws her down on a bench seat.

BANDIT #1

Give me your money!

The woman struggles to push him off.

FEMALE PASSENGER

I don't have any.

BANDIT #1

I'm sure we can work something out.

He starts to take off her clothes

O'Mally looks up with a look of, "there's no time for this bullshit amateurism," aggravation

O'Mally stands and knocks the bandit over the back of his head. The bandit slumps to the floor.

O'Mally pokes the brim of his hat up.

O'MALLY

Mam.

O'Mally grabs the bandits rifle and smashes open a window near by and fires out the side killing a lawman.

O'Mally starts walking forward through the car.

BANG! BANG! BANG! He fires rapidly and cocks back the lever with every shot. He steps through the doorway and into...

INT. DINING CAR - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally leaps into the dining car filled with lawmen and pushes a table down for cover.

O'Mally pokes his head over the table, aims efficiently quick, and fires a shot with the rifle.

One LAWMAN dies the rest duck and cover.

O'Mally goes back into cover, bullets break apart the overturned table splintering the wood in large chunks.

A group of bandits haphazardly run into the room, the majority are gunned down immediately.

Pancho crawls slowly across the floor, through the fresh blood of his men, glass and wood shatter around him. He aims his gun carefully and...

BANG! he shoots one of the lawman's feet. The Lawman crumples to the floor, howling in pain.

Pancho drags himself behind the bar, bottles exploding around him as he hides.

The remaining Bandits and Lawmen stand at opposite sides of the car, parallels to one another, and use whatever cover they can in the ensuing battle.

Bullets explode out the barrels of their guns, ricocheting off the walls or hitting their mark causing nameless bodies to fall left and right.

O'Mally throws an empty rifle aside and runs for the door on the opposite side of the Dining car, he dives to...

EXT. BRIDGING PLATFORM BETWEEN CARS - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally climbs a ladder leading to the top of the train.

EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

O'Mally clambers to the top, the sound of the train on the tracks drowning out the bullets below.

Pike stands, waiting, his rangers badge shimmering in the sweltering noon sunlight.

(CONTINUED)

PIKE

I'm stopping you here O'Mally!

O'MALLY

I never thought you'd be doing your own dirty work again Captain.

PIKE

I'd follow you to hell just to make sure you were dead.

Pike strokes the scar beneath his right eye.

O'MALLY

Talk is cheap.

O'Mally situates himself at one end of the train and swings his coat aside revealing his holstered revolver, his hand twitches ready to grab the gun.

MONTAGE---

- 1) The two men stare at each other, unflinching, as the train chugs along.
 - 2) Pike slowly stretches his fingers over the ammo-rounds on his belt, touching each and every one methodically.
 - 3) O'Mally's fingers twitch eagerly.
 - 4) Pike stares at O'Mally, spitting out tobacco
 - 5) O'Mally stares back without blinking.
- The train whistle blows, exaggerated.
- 6) Both men draw and fire.
 - 7) Pike painfully grabs his chest and falls back.

---END MONTAGE.

A moment passes. O'Mally holsters his revolver and strides precariously over the train roof towards Pike's body.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SHANTY TOWN - DAY

A young, 10 year old, O'Mally stands on a chair with a noose loosely strung around his neck.

His MOTHER breaks down and cries, screaming out but its muted by the sound of a train whistle.

In his late 20's Captain Pike, drunkenly disheveled with a thick beard, turns to the woman with something sinister behind his dark eyes as he tightens the noose around the boys neck.

Pike kicks the chair out from the boy.

The woman runs up behind Pike and steals his gun and shoots the noose, releasing O'Mally.

O'Mally runs for it.

Pike shoots the mother at point blank and stares after young O'Mally.

Pike can't focus and his gun wobbles, swaying too and fro. He fires wildly but can't hit O'Mally.

O'Mally finds a gun and fires it at Pike.

The bullet hits Pike right beneath his right eye.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - DAY

Pike rolls over, revealing the bar of gold that he had stolen earlier with O'Malley's bullet embedded inside.

Pike laughs gutturally and coughs, pointing his pistol at O'Mally.

PIKE
Must be my lucky day.

Pike stands, making sure to keep the gun on O'Mally.

PIKE (cont'd)
Knew I'd catch you, boy.

EXT. SIDE OF TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

KA-BOOM! A large, debris-filled, fireball blows out the side of one of the train cars.

EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

The train shakes, the sudden disorientation allows O'Mally to draw his gun.

Pike shoots O'Mally in the left arm.

O'Mally shoots Pike in the chest, he drops dead.

The train comes to an abrupt stop, screeching and sending sparks flying from the tracks.

O'Mally loses his balance and falls.

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS.

O'Mally hits the ground, hard, his hat flying off his head.

The train derails from the track, crumpling in a fiery wreck, metal and wood twisting as it piles up in the sand.

O'Mally stands and limps towards the hissing wreckage.

SUDDENLY a window is blown out by gunfire, Pancho slides out looking extremely pale.

PANCHO

Help me with this! Didn't think the dynamite would pack such a wallop!

O'Mally walks over and looks up to see gold shining majestically in the midday's sun.

Pancho and O'Mally gather up as much gold as they can into a suitcase and linen casing and turn to walk into the desert away from the wreckage.

O'Mally smiles weakly and digs his hat up from the sand.

PANCHO (cont'd)

We're in rough shape O'Mally, but at least we only have to split the loot sixty-forty.

O'Mally lights a cigar for their hallow victory.

(CONTINUED)

Pancho holds onto his stomach and winces, blood pours out from his gut.

PANCHO
Think I'm dyin.

O'Mally stares at Pancho and merely places his hat back on his head and fixes the brim.

O'MALLY
Everyone's dyin.

Pancho laughs, coughing from the pain.

The two make their way into the unforgiving desert plains, gold strapped across their backs.

The wind picks up and kicks the loose dusty earth into the air as they disappear from sight.

THE END