

"Sunrise"  
by  
(Joseph Freeman)

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Fade in:

SUPERS: 1861

EXT. ROUNDPOINT'S PLANTATION - DAY

Sunny day slaves working the fields,

LEE ROUNDPOINT: (16) Frail and sickly.

Sits in rockers wrapped in a blanket looking out on plantation.

INT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Fireplace blazing.

Mr. ROUNDPOINT: (70)

Reading paper.

Mrs. ROUNDPOINT:(65)

Knitting in rocker.

Lee Roundpoint Wrap in a blanket, playing with tin soldiers in front of fireplace COUGHING.

DAN ROUNDPOINT:(19)

Reading.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT:(22)

Staring into the fire.

MR. ROUNDPOINT

This Lincoln who the hell does he think he is. He just can't come on down here controlling our industrialization and, trade. With Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, and now Virginia, and, North Carolina all seceding from the Union. That many folks can't be wrong.

Dan lowering book looks to his father.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Well if it's war they want I hear  
some of the boys are starting to  
sign up!

John looks at his father.

MR. ROUNDPOINT

I need you boys all this season,  
maybe next season, lets get this  
one behind us first.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT

A lot of the other families are  
signing up.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Won't be any more fighting left, by  
the time we get there.

MR. ROUNDPOINT

Enough, I get it. Now, who all,  
going tomorrow?

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Me.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT

Me.

LEE ROUNDPOINT

I want to go.

MRS. ROUNDPOINT

Not this time my little soldier  
maybe when your felling better.

INT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME LEE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mrs. Roundpoint rubbing oil on Lee's chest, she hands Lee a  
cup of tea. Lee takes a sip.

MRS. ROUNDPOINT

Good night my love.  
(hugs Lee)

INT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME MRS ROUNDPOINT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mr, and Mrs, Roundpoint in bed.

MRS. ROUNDPOINT

I don't like his wheezing.

MR. ROUNDPOINT

He'll be fine, it's just the wild  
flowers season. Had the same thing  
when I was his age.

EXT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME WOODS - AUTUMN AFTERNOON (LATER)

Mr. Roundpoint, Dan, and John are hunting in the woods. John and Dan come to a shallow ravine. John looks over to see a crop of turkeys. Dan trips John, John falls down ravine. Rifle shot BANG.

DAN ROUNDPOINT O.S.

Got one!

INT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME LEE'S ROOM - DAY

Lee in bed COUGHING. Mrs. Roundpoint enters the room Lee coughs up some blood.

MRS. ROUNDPOINT

Oh no!

EXT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME WOODS - LATER

Mr. Roundpoint, Dan, and John walking. Dan with turkey over shoulder. Loud BELL coming from the Roundpoint's home. They all run in the direction of the BELL.

INT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME LEE'S ROOM - LATER

Doctor looks at Mr, and Mrs, Roundpoint shakes his head. Mrs. Roundpoint puts her hands to her face and cries.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPERS: 1862

EXT. ROUNDPOINT'S HOME - DAY

Mr, and Mrs, Roundpoint, John and Dan clean shaven in Confederate uniforms are posing for a picture by Lee's grave.

SUPERS: 1863 Battle Field Rich Mountain.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD - AFTERNOON

Dead bodies litter the ground. Confederate army holds the line under heavy fire. Soldiers start to brake rank and retreat. John turns his head to see a young boy get shot. John winks at Dan, then puts a wad of tobacco under his lip.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT

Let's go!!

John starts running up the battlefield. Dan and a few other soldiers follow. John starts SHOOTING. John pulls the trigger on an empty handgun. He drops the gun and picks up a rifle from the battlefield starts SHOOTING. Dan has a rifle fitted with bayonet. He shoots a union soldier then bayonets another.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

John, your left!!

John turns and is surprised by a Union soldier. John spits out some tobacco, pulls his Bowie knife jumps, at the man, the knife landing in the man's chest.

John glances over to his brother. John takes the dead man's handgun, picks up another rifle, and keeps running towards the Union line, the others follow.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT: (35) Confederate officer with a battle scar over his left cheek.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

Hold the line! Hold the line!

Union soldiers break through the lines. Confused Confederates starts run. A few men hold the line.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

Retreat, retreat, retreat!!!

The trumpet BLOWS.

TOMMY: (16) Confederate soldier retreats into the woods with Dan, John and some others.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

You all know where the rally point is. Take the woods back, keep east and spread out.

The smoke on the battlefield clears. The remaining Confederate seeks shelter in the woods. Union army stops short of entering the woods.

INT. RUN DOWN BARN - NIGHT

John, Dan and Tommy. Dan looks out window.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
I'll take first watch.

EXT. CONFEDERATE CAMPSITE - MORNING

John, Dan and Tommy. Walking into camp.

SUPERS: Stoney Point

EXT. BATTLE FIELD STONEY POINT - NIGHT

John Roundpoint, pinned down under mortar fire, peers out from a fox hole, thick smoke, EXPLOSIONS and GUN FIRE.

TOMMY  
Help! Help me!

John peers over his fox hole and sees Tommy running, looking for cover. EXPLOSIONS.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
This way!

John yells again. Tommy still doesn't respond. John jumps out of his fox hole.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD STONEY POINT - DAN'S FOX HOLE - CONTINUOUS

Dan sees John leap from his fox hole.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
What the hell!

John grabs Tommy and leads him back to his fox hole.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - THE NEXT DAY

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
I get it okay. The only way to make it through this war is to not think you're going to make it at all. I get it. But that was a dumb move.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
He reminded me of Lee.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Lee!! Last couple of weeks, you've been acting kind of weird. You got a death wish? Sergeant has a mission for us. Morale busting. There's a union camp across the river. Can I count on you?

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - RIVER CROSSING - NIGHT

Dan and John enter a small boat and sail across the river to the other side. They dock the boat down from the union camp.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Well meet back here. Wait for my signal.

Both scurry into the woods. John positions himself in a tree not far from the union camp.

Dan scurries across to the other side of the camp and positions himself in the grass.

Dan fires BANG, BANG. Union soldiers run out from their tents. John starts shooting BANG, BANG.

Union soldiers point into the trees and across into the grass. Union soldiers shooting BANG, BANG in all directions.

John shoots up a flair. Dan shimmies down the tree and makes his way back to the boat.

EXT. BOAT RIVER CROSSING - NIGHT

John and Dan quietly make their way back across the river. SHOTS are still heard.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - THE NEXT DAY

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

You boys did good last night.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Thank you, Captain.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

That's why I have to send you back out. This one straight from the top. They need a prisoner. They're planning something.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT (CONT'D)  
 Hell, if I know what it is. Take  
 Tommy, and a few others with you.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
 Tommy? Are you sure? He's a bit  
 young.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
 Nay, teach them well and teach them  
 young. He'll do fine I'll keep a  
 watch on him.

John tries to speak, but is cut off by Captain Robert Batt.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
 He needs the experience.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

John, Dan, Tommy approach Captain Robert Batt with two  
 prisoners.

DESERTER: (19) Male.

TOMMY  
 Excuse me, Captain.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
 What is it soldier?

TOMMY  
 We caught this Union soldier in the  
 woods along with this deserter  
 trash.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
 Yeah, chicken shit  
 (kicks the deserter)  
 took off running. Left us all to  
 save his own skin. We found this  
 other Union scum hiding in the  
 woods.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
 Is that right, soldier?

DESERTER  
 Captain, please. I got word my wife  
 and child are down with  
 consumption.



CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

You two.  
 (pointing at Dan and Tommy)  
 Take the prisoner over to the  
 stockade.

Dan Roundpoint and Tommy lead the prisoner away.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

You. Take this deserter round back  
 and shoot him.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT

Captain?

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

You heard me. Can't allow this sort  
 of thing to catch on.

The deserter collapses to the ground. John stands him up and  
 walks him away.

EXT. STOCKADE TENT - LATER

Dan Roundpoint and Tommy walk up with the prisoner.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Lock him up.

Dan spits out more tobacco. Armed soldier escorts prisoner  
 away. The three men are startled by a single gunshot BANG.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - AFTERNOON

Captain Robert Batt addresses a Group of Soldiers.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

Rich Mountain was a hard battle.  
 You boys know what's at stake here  
 don't ya. Or do you care! Our way  
 of life, our women, our children  
 are being threatened. Do you want  
 those union hands touching your  
 women? Owning your lands?

Group of Soldiers yells HELL NO!!

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

Well, that's exactly what's gonna  
 happen unless we get into this war  
 and fight.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT (CONT'D)  
 Today we march towards Shiloh,  
 tomorrow morning we surprise them  
 hard.

Group of Soldiers YELLS!

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP TENT - NIGHT

John cleaning his pistol.

TOMMY  
 What are you going to do after the  
 war?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
 Not really sure. What about you?

TOMMY  
 I reckon go home, get married June.  
 That's her name I mean, June. Have  
 some kids. Got a little farm down  
 the way from some kin. Guess that's  
 what I'll do.

SUPERS: Shiloh

EXT. BATTLE FIELD SHILOH - MORNING

Confederate soldiers rush into the camp of Union soldiers,  
 surprise half-dressed, half-armed men. Confederates killing  
 and burning tents, pushing the Union soldiers back to the  
 river. John stumbles over the dead body of a Union soldier.

He looks inside one of the tents. An officer's wife is being  
 raped by a group of Confederate soldiers. The officer is at  
 gun point, forced to watch the rape. The officer rushes one  
 of the men and is shot BANG. One of the soldiers bayonet his  
 wife.

John turns to see more atrocities. Through the smoke he sees  
 someone running towards him. He shoots BANG. John walks up  
 and sees that he shot Tommy. John kneels over Tommy.

TOMMY  
 Why?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
 I...I didn't... Oh, God!

Tommy dies in John's arms.

John is fired on and runs towards a barn to take shelter, and is surprised by a Union soldier. Both raising their guns, the two look each other in the eye. The two men quietly pass each other, moving their separate ways.

INT. CONFEDERATE ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

John and some of the other men quietly lie on their bunks. John is staring up at the ceiling. Small group of men playing cards.

MAN 1:

MAN 2:

Man 2 reaches down to the floor, retrieves a bottle, takes a hard drink, then puts the bottle back on the floor, brushing his hand against his lap.

MAN 2  
Read'em and weep.

Man 3 flips over three jacks.

MAN 1  
I saw that!

MAN 2  
You didn't see anything.

Man 1 reaches over to Man 2. The two start to wrestle. Cards fall out of Man 2's lap.

Man 1 stands up and draws his gun.

MAN 1  
No good cheater! I don't want some  
cheater watching my back tomorrow.

The other men are starting to take notice of what is going on. Man 1 holsters his gun.

MAN 1  
This ain't over.

Man 1 flips over the card table. Money and cards go flying. Man 1 storms out.

INT. CONFEDERATE ARMY BARRACKS - NIGHT

John lies on his bunk dreaming and squirming around. He sees Tommy. Tommy looks up at him. He sees Lee then a dead woman and children pointing their fingers at him.

Dan shakes John out of his dream. John wakes, completely wet from perspiration.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

You alright?

John is silent. He closes his eyes.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Battlefield. Smoky EXPLOSIONS and GUN FIRE. Union and Confederate soldiers fighting hand-to-hand. Dan lights the fuse of a 32-Pound Field Howitzer.

Man 1 sees Man 2 up in front of him patrolling near the tree lines.

Man 1 shoots BANG Man 2 in the back then walks up and spits tobacco on him.

John witnesses the event. An EXPLOSION a few feet away from throws John to the ground.

Dan sees his brother John sitting down on the battlefield with his hands over his head shaking and SHRIEKING.

Dan runs up the battlefield, firing his rifle at Union soldiers. His rifle jams, he drops it and grabs his six shooter firing. Dan SLAPS John.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

What are you doing, get up!

Dan grabs John from the battlefield and carries him off. EXPLOSIONS and GUN FIRE.

Captain Robert Batt witnesses the event.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - NIGHT

Captain Robert Batt stops Dan as he's walking back towards the barracks.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT

Well?

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Well what sir?

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
Looks like he's got an irritable  
heart.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
What?

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
Your brother. I've seen it before,  
inability to cope with war. A  
weakness, I do believe.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
He's fine.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
He better be. Your squad's up  
tonight. Search and destroy.  
There's a small group of union  
soldiers dressing up as civilians.  
Trying to cause some trouble  
amongst the locals.

EXT. WOODS - EVENING

Dan, John, and a few other soldiers, on patrol. Dan points to  
an old rundown plantation.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
I see it.

EXT. PLANTATION - LATER

The men make their way quietly up to the house. Dan points to  
a SOUND he hears.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
I hear it too.  
(whispering)

NOISE coming from the barn.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Let's go. You three come with me.  
(whispering)

EXT BARN - LATER

John, Dan and

SOLDIER 1: (22)

Are standing by the back barn doors John uses his foot to knock in the barn doors.

INT. BARN - EVENING

Dan, John and Soldier 1 enter from the left and right, guns drawn. John stands in the middle of the men, getting the jump on four black Union soldiers dressing up as civilians.

SOLDIER 1  
Union scum n-n-n-niggers!

One Union soldier reaches for a shotgun and is shot in the head by Soldier 1.

Dan fires on two others, hitting both in the chest. John has his gun drawn, on the last soldier but doesn't shoot.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Shoot him!

John stands motionless.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Do it!

John turns, looks at his brother, then glances to the floor. John lowers his gun.

John stands there motionless. The last Union soldier goes for his gun. Dan shoots, killing him. Soldier 1 runs through the front doors of the barn and back to the other soldiers waiting for them. Dan walks over to John and pushes him.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
What the fuck is wrong with you?

Dan walks outside. He hears indistinguishable voices, sees Soldier 1 pointing over to the barn, the other men are looking at Dan.

EXT. CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT'S TENT - DAY

John standing in front of the Captain's desk.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
You know I could have you shot.

John looks down.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
Every soldier in my command. Has to  
look out for each other. We must  
all work as one. What would you  
have me do here?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Permission to speak?

Captain nods.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
I've seen things I can't get out of  
my head captain. Our own men  
raping, stealing, shooting  
prisoners. Old grudges being  
settled on the battle field.

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
What the hell are you talking  
about! Look around you. This is  
war, god damn it. I've got about  
100 regular soldiers and about 250  
militia. You think all of them like  
each other? We all have to turn our  
heads to some things, keep the  
bigger picture in mind, winning  
this war.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Winning at what cost?

CAPTAIN ROBERT BATT  
Any! And all! Look, the men don't  
trust you. You might be the next  
one of those battlefield grudges. I  
suggest you pull up your boot  
straps. I don't want to see you  
again.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - LATER

John is walking towards the barracks. He runs into Dan  
smoking outside. Dan bumps into John.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
What is it?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Are we right? Is all this right?

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Of course where right, right as  
rain. They're in there right now  
talking about you, calling you a  
coward. Did you hear me a coward!!  
I vouched for you, and this is what  
I get.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
(shaking head)  
There are too many men dying on  
both sides.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
This is war. I told you don't get  
to involved. You use to be the  
first one to run into battle.

John interrupts.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
War!! Rape-in and pillaging. I'm  
not sure about any of this anymore,  
and that's the truth of it. People  
dying all around - for what fuckin?  
Possessions, crazy.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Your the one talking crazy!

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Do you think God cares if you're a  
Union or Confederate soldier before  
he let's you into heaven?

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
God is on our side. You getting  
yellow?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Well if god is on our side. Who be  
against us. But it seems to me like  
we're always on the other side of  
just being right. I'm not afraid to  
die, but not for this.

DAN ROUNDPOINT  
Then what about honor?



JOHN ROUNDPOINT

Honor?

(laughing)

Two bullies trying to impose their will. And neither one man enough to settle this thing between them. They have to use us like dog-gone pawns. Hell, look around you. We're all poor men, fighting the war of rich men.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Our families' not rich. You uppity hypocritic.

Dan hits John the two fight. John gets knocked down, Dan gets knocked down twice, the second time Dan draws his gun on John. Dan scrambles to his feet spits out blood, gun still on John.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Hell I'll be dad shamed if you aren't already dead anyway.

Dan holsters gun.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT

I'm leaving tonight.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

They shoot people for walking.

EXT. CONFEDERATE ARMY CAMP - NIGHT

John wearing a combination of a Confederate uniform and civilian clothes, throws a pack over his horse. Dan sees John riding off.

DAN ROUNDPOINT

Deserter, coward!

Dan shoots BANG. John jumps over fence. Bullet just misses him. John turns around sees Dan shoot again BANG.

INT. TRAIN COACH SOME WHERE IN TEXAS - DAY

BUTCH DAVIS: (40) Male Mayor of Hatcherson County, balding, and portly.

RAILROAD MAN: (30) Thin, wearing glasses.

The two are sitting in the caboose talking and smoking. A photographer is taking a picture of the men together. POOF.

RAILROAD MAN

Damn shame the President gave all that prime land to a bunch of heathens and niggers. We could have dispensed it better. We need to drop more rails and connect this big country of ours. Hell, they can ride the train if they want. We'll just add some more fencing to the cattle section. Everyone wins, right?

They laugh. Butch Davis points to a large train model. Both men look on. The photographer takes another picture. POOF.

BUTCH DAVIS

Look here. This black area is what the government has designated as Indian / Slave townships. You can see we already control most of the area. We can't buy the land directly from the government. The Blacks and Indians have to sell it to us direct. They're selling. Just got a few holdouts.

RAILROAD MAN

Holdouts. We need those lands and mineral rights. Hell the mineral rights will make us more money then tracks and trains. It's the future.

BUTCH DAVIS

Relax they can't hold out forever, and I have a little gentleman's agreement with the folks in town. Store owners won't sell them everything they need for the winter. They'll freeze or sell. Anyway the Sheriff is a good friend of mine.

Railroad Man nods.

RAILROAD MAN

Good. They said you were a man who could deliver.

BUTCH DAVIS

I'll deliver aright, you just make sure you do the same.

RAILROAD MAN  
Of course mayor.

BUTCH DAVIS  
That would be Governor Davis.

RAILROAD MAN  
Certainly Governor.

Train comes to a stop.

EXT. CABOOSE OF TRAIN - LATER

People are starting to gather outside the caboose. Butch Davis and the Railroad Man walk out. Butch Davis addresses the crowd. Photographer takes a picture POOF.

BUTCH DAVIS  
I just got on this here train yesterday in Hatcherson and today I'm in the lovely county of Lockwood. This same trip by wagon would have taken me two days and two nights on the trail. This fine gentlemen here next to me is president of the West End Railroad. I have had the pleasure of being asked to ride the railroads and talk to you all about what a fine experience this way of travel is. Just sit back and relax. I tell you the food is great, and the seats are soft. The accommodations are just like home or better. I'll ride the train from now on to get to any where I've got to go.

RAILROAD MAN  
That's right Mayor. We spared no expense to provide our passengers with the very best in travel. We'll be adding more than two hundred miles of track to what's here already, linking all of this land together. I invite you all to come and join us as we make history together. Come on aboard. The ride's on us.

People make their way onto the train. Train steams off down the tracks.

SUPERS: 1865 "SIX MONTHS AFTER CIVIL WAR"

EXT. MINING SHAFT - DAY

John is working in the mines. Scraggly, over-grown beard.

JOHN ROUNDPOINT (O.S.)  
Throw down that bucket, will ya?

From above, the miner lowers the bucket down the shaft. John fills the bucket with rocks and pulls on the rope, the Bucket is lifted up.

EXT. MINING SHAFT - AFTERNOON

A bucket of rocks falls down a mining shaft, killing one of the miners.

EXT. MINING CAMP LUNCH TENT - CONTINUOUS

John eating lunch. Some miners are working in the background. A man runs to a tower and pulls on a rope. A bell RINGS across the mining camp.

EXT. MINE - DAY

John sees a buckboard wagon caring a coffin. Wagon continues down the road, passing John.

EXT. MINING CAMP PAY TENT - AFTERNOON

John walks in. PAY MASTER is sitting behind the desk.

PAY MASTER  
Can I help you?

JOHN ROUNDPOINT  
Moving on.

PAY MASTER  
Can't say I blame you, she, this  
damn mine is dying out, all played  
out if you ask me.

Pay Master opens a big book and flips the pages. John stops him pointing to a signature on the page.

PAY MASTER  
Sign here, next to your name.

John signs Pay Master hands him an envelope. Once outside, John opens the envelope and thumbs through the money.