

# SHADOWS OF AN OUTLAW

by ANDY LIMB & ROY CIVIL

## CHARACTERS

WILD WILLY BOY GARRETT  
EMMELINE GARRETT  
VIRGINIA GARRETT  
BILLY-JO GARRETT

### RANCH-HANDS:

JACKSON WILDE  
RANDY RONCHERO  
MERLE MAYHEM  
JOSHUAH TWITTY age 12

### TOWNSFOLK OF TUMBLEWEED CREEK:

PATSY CROCKETT the absent sheriff's wife  
CINDY RHINESTONE owner of the saloon  
JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ a cowboy  
LUKE RICOCHET Cindy's son  
TAMMY BRAVADO - a widow  
BETTY-LOU TABERNACLE - a widow  
DOLLY RAWHIDE - a widow  
MELODY BANDANA - town whore  
DAISY GATLIN - town whore  
MERCEDES HOUSTON - town whore  
LORETTA RIVERS - town whore  
RANDALL HAGGARD a cowboy/gambler  
BARTENDER  
GUNMAN  
DWIGHT COWPAT - a cowboy  
FARON COOLEY a city gent from the East  
BILL HICKOCK - the piano player  
WAYLON MONTANA - the drunken preacher/ contender for Mayor

### THE ENGLISH CONTINGENT:

REVEREND ABRAHAM PEABODY  
HARRIET PEABODY his sister  
THEIR FATHER [voice-over.]

### WOUNDED KNEE RESERVATION:

BIG CHIEF KNEELING GERBIL  
CROUCHING HAMSTER a young brave - school age  
INDIAN BRAVES youngsters, all of them - school age

### PLUS:

DR HANK PAYCHECK a travelling quack doctor

Any number of townsfolk etc., as desired.

Though this can be done with a large cast, it is also possible to do with doubling and quite a small number. 13 girls and 9 boys is about right, though more colour and sound is gained from larger numbers.

Wild Willy Boy Garrett has only daughters to right his wrongs, since he is unable to do so himself, being wheelchair-bound. Each daughter is given a task but, faced with the

reality of righting their father's largely imagined wrongs, each girl finds out the right course of action.

#### EXTRACT ONE

**WILLY** Emmeline! Virginia! Billy-Jo! I wanna see y'all right away. Where the hell are ya?!

**Enter Emmeline, running, carrying washing and soup pan.**

**EMMELINE** Sorry I'm late, Pa. I've just finished washing your long johns. I do wish you'd change your underwear more than once every three months. I had to get rid of some mighty persistent stains. [**Offers soup.**] Soup? It's your favourite - beaver.

**WILLY** I'll taste it in a minute. Where are your sisters?

**EMMELINE** Last time I saw Virginia she was looking at lots of bits of paper with a hard cover on either side.

**WILLY** You mean she was reading a book?

**EMMELINE** Guess so. Ain't got the time myself.

**WILLY** Nothin' good ever came of anyone readin'. You keep doin' the cookin', the cleanin' and the washin'. The good Lord looks kindly on a woman who works hard in the house. Always remember those Ten Commandments.

**EMMELINE** I can't recall the one that says 'Thou shalt clean out the john with thy bare hands.'

**WILLY** It's in the extended version.

**Enter Virginia, head in book. She's miles away.**

**VIRGINIA reading** 'Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?'

**WILLY** I don't know about any feller called Romeo, but I'm over here and I need to speak to you.

**VIRGINIA** Howdy, Pa! What an enchantin' tale this is. About two doomed lovers. I think I'll be sheddin' bucketfuls of tears by the end. It's by Shakespeare.

**WILLY** Spears! Don't remind me. I had enough of those thrown at me by those redskin devils when we were forcing them into their reservations in '73.

**VIRGINIA** That ain't a polite term no more, Pa. You gotta say Native American Indian.

**WILLY** Horseshit! The only good injun's a dead injun.

**VIRGINIA** But then we wouldn't have any of that wonderful ethnic pottery with its primitive use of shades and colours.

**EMMELINE** It's also very heat resistant.

**WILLY** Be quiet! You seen Billy-Jo?

**VIRGINIA** They're branding cattle at Red Sovine Ranch. She's been helpin' out over there.

**Enter Billy-Jo.**

**BILLY-JO** Yee-haw! [**She holds a bloody bull's horn in her hands.**] No damned bull is gonna get the better of me. The toughest one to brand and I did it. Ain't you proud, Pa? [**Thumps him between his shoulder blades.**] You shoulda seen me jump on that bull's back and wrestle him to the ground. He was havin' none of it, but as soon as I wrenched this off his head he came round to my way of thinkin'.

**VIRGINIA** Isn't that rather cruel?

**BILLY-JO** Cattle are like men, Virginia. You gotta whip 'em into shape so they do what you want.

**VIRGINIA** Maybe that's why you ain't got no sweetheart. You're too rough.

**BILLY-JO** Hell, what do I need a sweetheart for? I got my horse and the freedom of the prairie. I don't want to be tied down by some snivellin' little grocery clerk.

**Willy has been gradually getting more irate during this dialogue.**

**EMMELINE** I think Pa wants to speak.

**WILLY** Damn right I do. Now, listen here, boys. [**The sisters look quizzically at each other.**] I've called you all together because there's something mighty important you gotta do for me.

**EMMELINE** Don't worry. Supper's nearly ready, Pa.

**WILLY** Not that, you stupid girl! As you can see, I ain't in the best physical condition and I ain't gettin' any younger. But there are just three things in life I gotta do before the good Lord sends for me.... Y'see, a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do, and if a man can't

do what a man's gotta do, he gets his sons to do it for him. But if that man ain't got no sons to do for that man what a man's gotta do, then he's gotta rely on his daughters to do those things a man's gotta do. That clear?

**EMMELINE** What we gotta do?

**WILLY** Help me get back what I'm owed. Remember I told you about that woman who did me wrong? Cindy Rhinestone. I hear she runs a saloon in the town of Tumbleweed Creek, just south of Dry Gulch Springs. Apparently she's runnin' for Mayor and those townsfolk are so simple-minded, they might even vote for a woman. ... I got information to stop her campaign and make sure she's run out of the two-bit town. But who'd believe an outlaw like me? Wild Willy Boy Garrett? Emmeline, your task is to humiliate that traitor and put a sweet smile back on my face.

**VIRGINIA** D'you want me to go with her?

**WILLY** Only as far as the Indian Reservation. That's where the snake-eyed Injun chief lives who sold me the horse that put me in this chariot. [**He points at the wheelchair.**]

**VIRGINIA** So you'd like me to ask him for some compensation.

**WILLY** No, Virginia, it's much simpler than that. You just gotta kill him.

**VIRGINIA** But, Pa...

**WILLY to Billy Jo** As for you...

**BILLY-JO** You want me to kill Johnny Nighttime. I'll fill him so full of holes they'll be usin' him for a colander.

**WILLY** He's dead already. Shot in the back by the Dodge City Gang a few years since. No, Billy-Jo - as you know, I've never had a son and it's highly unlikely I'll produce one now, so all I want from you is to give me a grandson.

**VIRGINIA** But she ain't got no husband!

**WILLY** Well, she better find one and pretty damned quick.

**BILLY-JO** I don't want one.

**WILLY** I'll make it easier. Let's face it - you don't need to get married to have a baby boy.

**BILLY-JO** I'm a cowgirl - I ain't cattle!

**WILLY** That ain't what the men on the ranch say. [**Billy-Jo goes to hit Willy. Emmeline intervenes.**] Billy-Jo, I can't believe you'd hit a cripple.

**BILLY-JO** I do not want a child!

**VIRGINIA** An' I can't kill!

**WILLY to Emmeline** What about you?

**EMMELINE** I'm still tryin' to think what 'humiliate' means.

**WILLY** What about loyalty?

**EMMELINE** I know what that means.

**WILLY** No loyalty to your father. To this man who brought you up on his own after your mother left.

**VIRGINIA** Pa, you killed her.

**WILLY** It was a fair fight. I'm not askin' you to do anythin' I wouldn't do myself.

**BILLY-JO** I'd like to see you in labour.

**WILLY** But if loyalty means nothin' to you, maybe this will. [**He brings out an old box.**] In here are the deeds to five thousand acres of prime land. Worth a small fortune. You complete these tasks and it's all yours. Just think what you could do with it.

**BILLY-JO** I could own my own ranch.

**VIRGINIA** I could build a school house.

**EMMELINE** I could pay somebody to do the washin'....

## EXTRACT TWO

**CINDY** Before you disperse, may I remind you that all candidates for the vacant post of Mayor will be giving their final addresses in the saloon on Wednesday 23rd.

[**Groans from crowd.**] As owner of the saloon and your independent candidate, Cindy Rhinestone, I'm sure we can arrange for drinks to be on the house.

**Cheers from crowd. Cindy approaches Luke.**

**LUKE** You don't ever miss an opportunity, do you, Ma?

**CINDY** If I become Mayor, I'll have an opportunity to change this town for the better.

**LUKE** What you got in mind? Providin' disabled access for the whorehouse?

**CINDY** All this has got to go. This murder and mayhem.

**LUKE** This ain't murder. This is the law.

**CINDY** Killin' a man in cold blood in the street?

**LUKE** You know what he did, Ma, he stole my horse.

**CINDY** I'm sure you could have used your brains to persuade him to give it back.

**LUKE** Weren't you watchin', Ma? That's just what I did. [**Holds out his gun.**] And as for brains, people ain't too particular about what goes on inside my head, just frightened about what might go through theirs. [**Holds gun to Cindy's head.**] Haw, haw, haw!

**CINDY** Sometimes I'm glad your father can't see you now.

**LUKE** Mr Johnny Nighttime? I get sick 'n' tired hearin' about him.

**CINDY** He stood up for us.

**LUKE** Well, he ain't standin' now. He's lyin' belly upwards under six feet of mud in Boot Hill.

**CINDY** He saved our lives from the Dodge City Gang.

**LUKE** And lost his. He made the mistake of trying to talk his way out of trouble. I'm different. I'm much more lucid with a gun in my hand. See ya, Ma.

### EXTRACT THREE

**BILLY-JO** We'll let the horses rest up awhile down by the river. I figure we got a coupla more days riding and we'll be getting close to the Injun reservation.

**VIRGINIA** That's when I got to shoot that Indian Chief. I can't take a man's life, Billy-Jo. It's a sacred thing. It's something we should treasure - like our virginity. Which reminds me... I can't believe you even thought about letting one of those ranch-hands actually.....

**BILLY-JO** They didn't lay a finger on me. I want a baby, not a moose. I'm gonna make sure I find a nice, upstandin' gentleman in Tumbleweed. Then I can do my duty. Now we gotta make sure you do yours.

**EMMELINE** She ain't even fired a gun, let alone killed no one. She didn't even shoot those coyotes when they were after our chickens.

**VIRGINIA** They looked so darned cute: a happy family frolicking about in the grass.

**BILLY-JO** Quit that talk now. I'm gonna teach you how to shoot - and shoot to kill....You gotta have a strong eye an' a firm grasp on the trigger. A rifle's what you need so you're far enough away not to see the pain on his face when he crumples onto the ground in a bloody heap.

**VIRGINIA** I think I'm going to be sick.

**BILLY-JO** Listen, now. Take the rifle ... put it up against your shoulder ... Don't fire just yet. Emmeline - you go over there...

**EMMELINE** She ain't gonna shoot me!

**BILLY-JO** No. You're goin' to put this bottle on that rock. [**Emmeline walks over to the rock.**] Virginia, take aim and ...

**VIRGINIA** Fire! [**Virginia fires. Emmeline drops the bottle in alarm.**]

**EMMELINE** Sweet baby Jesus! You nearly shot me in the arse!

**BILLY-JO** It sure makes a bigger target than the bottle.

**VIRGINIA** Sorry, Emmeline. Guess I got a bit nervous.

**EMMELINE** How the hell d'you think I feel? [**Emmeline takes the bottle and puts it on the rock.**] Now give me plenty of time to get away. [**She moves away.**]

**BILLY-JO** Be calm, be careful and, in your own time... begin.

**Virginia fires four shots. No hit.**

**VIRGINIA** I ain't done too well, have I?

**EMMELINE** Don't know about that. Lookee here. [**Picks up dead squirrels.**] She's just shot us some dinner.

**VIRGINIA** Oh those poor squirrels.

**BILLY-JO exasperated** Virginia, don't you worry about firing the rifle at the Chief. Just grab it with this end... [**Takes barrel end.**]... run up to him and hit him square between the eyes.

**EMMELINE** She couldn't hit a cow's backside with a banjo...

## EXTRACT FOUR

*In a previous scene it has been learned that the Indian Chief, Virginia is supposed to kill is a cultured man who has learned English from a Scotsman and believes that education bestows dignity on human beings.*

**The chief is teaching a small group of Indian braves.**

**CHIEF** Kima - sabi - pot-a-chi. In English, you will translate after me.

**BRAVES** What pleasant weather we are having.

**Virginia enters unseen.**

**CHIEF** Honini-gal-cra-silva-link

**BRAVES** Can you direct me to the station?

**CHIEF** Min-awa - Kylie - Little - Erva

**BRAVES** Come on, baby, let's do the locomotion.

**CHIEF spotting Virginia** Miss Virginia, what a pleasant surprise.

**VIRGINIA** Carry on, Chief, it's very interesting.

**CHIEF** No, I'm due to finish. The children can only take so much of a foreign language. I'll let them go. Depo-che - Kam-ala

**All Braves go apart from Crouching Hamster, who offers Virginia a wooden trinket.**

**HAMSTER** Aka - wey - dollar?

**CHIEF shaking his head** Na-ne-me ban-gome.

**Hamster runs off.**

**VIRGINIA** I feel impolite not taking his gift.

**CHIEF** He was trying to sell you it. That's all he expects from white people. But I told him you were here to help him, not take from him.

**VIRGINIA** You feel I can be of some assistance to you?

**CHIEF** Those best equipped to teach are those most willing to learn. We can learn from each other.

**VIRGINIA** I brought you this. [**Gives him her copy of 'Romeo and Juliet'.**]

**CHIEF** *Romeo and Juliet*? Thank you.

**VIRGINIA** I'm afraid it ain't got a happy ending.

**CHIEF** What has these days? Even when war is over, there are always some who would like to start again.

**VIRGINIA** And love?

**CHIEF** With love, perhaps, we should be thankful for a happy beginning. [**Pause.**] Do your sisters know you are here?

**VIRGINIA** I guess so. They knew I had to see you again. I hope you don't think they're prejudiced or nothin'. Billy-Jo's a bit wild, but her heart's in the right place and, well - Emmeline, she wouldn't know how to spell it, let alone be it.

**CHIEF** And your father?

**VIRGINIA** Bigotry comes too easy to him.

**CHIEF** Then it must be your mother's light shining in those eyes.

**VIRGINIA** Perhaps so. I never got the chance to know her. Your father must be proud of you.

**CHIEF** If he was alive, I hope he would be. You see, Virginia, my father was white and my mother was a squaw. It took many moons, but he was gradually accepted into the Indian camp. But he sent me away to be educated and civilised.... When I returned, I wanted to ride into camp proudly holding my certificate high like a tomahawk. But no one came running out to greet me. The Seventh Cavalry had been there a few hours before, had attacked the camp in order to force us off our land. There were small fires burning where the tepees had been, so I walked between these and past the wailing children. And it was then that I saw them. My mother - stretched out on the ground, butchered. My father - hanging by a rope, his tongue cut out. Then from behind me I heard the sound of laughter. When I turned round, I could see it was coming from the soldiers. I stared at them and they stared back at me. Me, with my smart suit, my

colourful waistcoat, polished boots - my new hat. Then one of them came over to shake my hand. Because that's the civilised thing to do.

**Silence.**

**VIRGINIA** I'm surprised you didn't take revenge.

**CHIEF** How many lifetimes would I need for that? [**Pause.**] Let me show you round my home. You can stay as long as you want.

**VIRGINIA** Chief? Should you always be true to your father?

**CHIEF** You can only be true to your heart. Come.

**He holds out his hand. Virginia takes it.**

EXTRACT FIVE

**Tammy, Betty-Lou and Dolly sit. Loretta, Melody and Cindy stand as Daisy and Mercedes fit Billy-Jo into a dress. Emmeline is by the dressing-table.**

**BILLY-JO** I don't know why I have to be trussed up like some turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

**LORETTA** You'll be givin' thanks to us when you entice a man - dressed like that. Now, should you wear a hat? [**She puts one on Billy-Jo's head, but Billy-Jo throws it off.**]

**BILLY-JO** I'm not wearin' no Easter bonnet like some prissy little school teacher.

**TAMMY** You've done her up real nice, Loretta. Reminds me when Burt and I went a-courtin'.

**BETTY-LOU** Your idea a courtin' was runnin' straight into the barn before supper. Your Pa was always lookin' for you.

**TAMMY winking and laughing** I was only tryin' to find a needle in a haystack.

**EMMELINE looking at perfumes on the dressing-table** You got lots of pretty things here. [**Holds up one perfume.**]

**MELODY** I ain't seen this before. [**She takes it and reads the label.**] Passion Flower.

**LORETTA** That's the one. Spray a little on Billy-Jo. But not too much. She only wants one man - not a stagecoach full of 'em.

**BILLY-JO** That stinks!

**DAISY** That ain't a stink, that's a scent. You've been spending too much of your time next to cowboys and cattle to appreciate the finer things in life.

**BILLY-JO** Is that it? Can I just go down to the saloon now?

**MERCEDES** Not yet. We got you lookin' good, we got you smellin' good, now we got to get you actin' good.

**BILLY-JO** What you talkin' about?

**MERCEDES** I'm talkin' about your attitude. Maybe you should mellow a little.

**BILLY-JO** Bullshit! Mellow! I am mellow - ain't I mellow, Emmeline?

**EMMELINE** I sometimes think you let your anger ride roughshod over your common sense.

**BILLY-JO** Where the hell that come from?

**CINDY** Emmeline's right. If you're a bit more sensitive you won't end up with the first man that comes along. We don't want you to make a mistake.

**BETTY-LOU** And we've all made those - ain't we, Cindy?

**DOLLY** Tell her about that murderin' polecat you were nearly hitched to.

**CINDY** He ain't worth a second of our conversation.

**TAMMY** What was his name - Willy or Billy or somethin'. You said he used to get real angry and hit ya.

**BILLY-JO** Maybe he had a reason.

**CINDY** Being bull-whipped till you're black and blue because his supper's not ready on time - that's a reason?

**BILLY-JO** No, of course it ain't. I'm sorry.

**CINDY** It's all in the past.

**LORETTA** Now let's get Billy-Jo ready for the present. I'm goin' to show you exactly how you behave when you go back down into the saloon. I'm goin' to play the part of you, so we need someone to be the man. Daisy - you be the one.

**DAISY** Why me?

**LORETTA** Because you're the only one of us who's got a moustache! I'm jokin'. Now, come on. You be the man at the bar before Billy-Jo comes in.

**DAISY** What sort of man? Big, small, handsome, ugly? Young? Old?

**LORETTA** I don't mind - just be a man. Any old cowboy will do.

**DAISY** Right, I got it. Here goes. [**Exaggerated display of masculine characteristics - chewing tobacco and spitting it out, feeling crotch, itching, belching, smoking etc.**]

**LORETTA** What the hell is that?

**DAISY** I'm a man.

**LORETTA** You're an animal.

**BETTY-LOU** Ain't much difference sometimes.

**LORETTA** Just tone it down a little. Now, I'm comin' in as Billy-Jo. That's Billy-Jo as she normally is. You ready?

**DAISY** I'm ready. Just got to light my cigar. [**Loretta walks in as Billy-Jo.**] Howdy, gal. My Name's Tex. I've got three thousand head of cattle and the biggest ranch this side of Red River.

**LORETTA** My name's Billy-Jo and I want a baby.

**DAISY** So do I. Come on, let's get started. [**She grabs Loretta's hand and moves off with her.**]

**LORETTA fighting free** No, no, no! What d'you think you're doin'? I'm tryin' to show Billy-Jo that her approach is all wrong. That if you're too forward you'll frighten a man.

**TAMMY** That's right. Wait till you're married and then start to frighten 'em.

**LORETTA** Let's try again. Now, watch me closely. I'm gonna be nice and demure, and smile like an angel. [**She sees Daisy miming putting out her cigar.**] What you doin'?

**DAISY** I'm givin' up smokin'. It ain't nice to smoke in front of a lady. You comin' in now?

**LORETTA** Yeah. Now, see how I walk, Billy-Jo. Not like I been on a horse for ten days. Just short little steps until I sit down sweetly and wait for a man to come to me.

[**Pause. Nothing happens.**] Well... come on, then.

**DAISY** Oh right. [**She walks over.**] Howdy, Ma'am. Would you like a drink?

**LORETTA** That's very kind of you. A glass of water please.

**DAISY** Glass of water? You always drink whisky.

**LORETTA exasperated** I'm not me, I'm her. But not her now, her as she should be.

**DAISY** Sorry, let's start again. Would you ...

**LORETTA** Forget the drink. Now, Billy-Jo, you got to engage the gentleman in some polite conversation. Nothin' controversial... Nothin' to do with babies.... Somethin' like the weather. [**As Billy-Jo.**] We've had an awful amount of rain lately.

**DAISY** It's been torrential.

**LORETTA** I hope it doesn't continue.

**DAISY** If it does, I might have to cancel the church fete.

**LORETTA** That would be terrible.

**DAISY** Not necessarily. We could spend all our day makin' babies. [**Loretta looks incredulously at Daisy.**] What? You said that approach would work.

**LORETTA** Not as soon as she sits down!

**DAISY** Let's have another go. I'm enjoyin' this.

**LORETTA** I think she's seen enough. What the hell possesses you to want a baby, I don't know. But let's get you down to that saloon. All the great and good of Tumbleweed Creek will be there now.

**All exit apart from Cindy and Emmeline. Emmeline is still exploring the contents of the dressing-table.**

**CINDY** You like those things, don't ya?

**EMMELINE** I ain't never seen so many. [*Holds up a bottle.*] What's this one called?

**CINDY reads** Desire. Go on, use it. Loretta won't mind.

**EMMELINE** I'm not rightly sure...

**CINDY** Here, put a dab behind each ear. [*Cindy moves Emmeline's hair.*] Like this... [*Sees birthmark.*] What's that?

**EMMELINE** Oh, it ain't dirt. it's a birthmark. We all got one similar. When I was a baby I used to scrub and scrub to try and get it off. it doesn't look bad, does it?

**CINDY taken aback** It's fine. You can hardly see it.

**EMMELINE** You all right, Miss Rhinestone? You look like you seen a ghost.

**CINDY to herself** Maybe I have.

**EMMELINE** Pa says these sorta things are a waste of money but it ain't no crime to smell nice, is it? Better than smellin' of smoke from the kitchen. [*Pause.*] I've felt a lot better not doin' that for a coupla weeks. Always runnin' round after Pa. I know he can't do a lot for himself but that's no excuse for hittin' me when I make a mistake.

**CINDY** You shouldn't let him do that.

**EMMELINE** I don't pay it no mind normally. A bruise wears off as quick as a dirty mark on a pair of britches. [*Pause.*] Sometimes I wish I could do somethin' else.

**CINDY** Maybe I could help.

**EMMELINE** That's mighty kind of you, Miss, but I ain't had no schoolin'. Can't read nor write. I ain't too bright. Hell - Pa says if I'd been the star of Bethlehem leadin' the three Wise Men to baby Jesus, they'd still be lookin' for him now.

**CINDY** I'll teach you.

**EMMELINE** I think that would be a tougher job than being Mayor. Which reminds me, I gotta say somethin' about that. No matter - I'm sure I'll remember it soon.

**CINDY** So you're quite happy to go back home and play the slave girl for the rest of your life.

**EMMELINE** I'm not saying I'm happy to do it. It's my duty to Pa.

**CINDY** What about the duty to yourself?