

Krieg (short)

By

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EXT. TOWN CENTER - DAWN

1914 Bedrock, California. A female SHOPKEEPER walks through the town center on her way to open her shop. Shopkeeper stops mid step dropping her bag and letting out a scream. Zooming out shows a DEAD GIRL laying at the foot of the towns founding father. Laying face down with traces of blood near by. Transition shot to...

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NOON

By now a small crowd has gathered. A couple of concerned town folk are trying to keep the crowd back so the law can do their work. Deputy FRED Baker stands by the dead girl that is now covered by a blanket. Fred is in his mid 20s, but doesn't look a day over 18. He wears a patch over his right eye, dressed in brown basic pants and a standard blue button up shirt with his badge proudly displayed. His hair shows signs of hat head but due to the sweltering heat it has since been removed and his sleeves have been rolled up. Pushing his way through the crowd is Sheriff BLAIN Connolly. Having grown up reading dime novels as a kid he's now grown up as a burly man still holding on to the wild west mentality, with a cowboy hat complete with six shooter hanging from his side. He's dressed in wool black pants and a white button up shirt with his sheriff badge still as shiny as the day it was made. With a big old red mustache and not a drop of sweat on him.

BLAIN

(approaching Fred)

What we looking at here, Fred?

FRED

A dead girl, Sheriff Connolly.

Blain gives him a dead stare.

BLAIN

More details Fred, and I told you kid you can just call me Blain.

FRED

Sorry Sheriff Conno... I mean Blain.

BLAIN

Show me what we are working with, kid.

Fred shows Blain over to the dead girl removing the blanket. Written in blood by the dead girls hand is a single word "Krieg" on the statue.

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN

Boy howdy, well this is quiet the sight. What's that word there say? (pointing at the blood) Krieg? What does that mean you think?

FRED

Shoot, I didn't even see that. You think it could be some one's name?

Blain thinks it over

BLAIN

Well I think that just might be who we are looking for. Well kid help me roll her over.

Blain and Fred roll the body over carefully and step back from the sight. The body is a young girl in her early 20's. With the body rolled over they can now see her right had is covered in blood. There is a big open wound on her left arm that has left a small pool of blood in the dirt. Her left hand is clenched tight.

BLAIN

What do you make of this kid?

Fred looks away starting to look a bit green.

FRED

I don't know Sheriff, and I don't think I want to know.

BLAIN

Well we better have some one go fetch Doc Woodward.

FRED

(still looking away)
Sheriff? Doc Woodward retired last summer. There is that new lady doctor running his office now. Sheriff?

BLAIN

Ya, kid?

FRED

Have you ever seen any thing like this in all your years?

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN

No I haven't kid. Nor has this town.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The dead girl is laying on an examining table. Now nude but with a sheet covering her top and bottom half. Her arms lay outside the sheet. Dr. LINDSEY HYMAN is looking over the body. Dr. Hyman is in her late 20's very attractive. She wears a standard lab coat. Sheriff Blain stands next to her trying to see what she is looking at. Fred stands away from the body in the back.

DR. HYMAN

Interesting...

BLAIN

Yeah?

DR. HYMAN

Oh, you see this open wound here?

Dr. Hyman points to the wound on her left forearm. She raises the arm so everyone can get a closer look. Blain nods.

DR. HYMAN

You see how the wound is jagged and torn? Well that's a sign this was a bite mark. And I bet...

Blain takes a closer look as Dr. Hyman has moved on to inspect the dead girls mouth. She pulls out a tongue depressor to pry open her mouth. The mouth shows tracks of blood outlining her teeth.

DR. HYMAN

And there you have it. She bit her own arm.

BLAIN

Holy geez. What would make a person do that?

Before Dr. Hyman can respond Fred pukes in a near by garbage can.

BLAIN

Oh don't you pay him no never mind. He still gets a bit squeamish on the job.

(CONTINUED)

DR. HYMAN

Oh it is alright. It happens to the best of us. But to answer your question, I have no idea.

FRED

Sheriff? (fights back a gag) you think it has anything to do with the name we found? The one in blood?

DR. HYMAN

A name in blood? (shivers) How very gruesome.

BLAIN

What can you tell us about the left hand doctor?

Blain and Dr. Hyman go to examine the dead girls still clenched left hand. Dr. Hyman uses the same tongue depressor to pry open the fingers on the left hand. As the hand is preyed open slowly a black iron cross is revealed seared into he dead girls flesh.

DR. HYMAN

A cross? Is this something to do with religion?

FRED

A cross? Looks like an X to me.

Blain ponders on it for a bit.

DR. HYMAN

I heard the more west you go the more serious people get about their religion, but I had no idea it was in Bedrock?

BLAIN

We are god fearing folks, there is no doubt about that, but no folk from around her would do anything like this.

DR. HYMAN

I'm not sure what the cause of death is. These really are the only marks I can see. Is there anything else I can help with? If not I'd like to have the funeral home pick this body up. It gives me the shivers.

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN
No, that will be all Dr. Hyman.
Fred lets go.

As they are starting to leave Fred knocks over a stack of files. He starts to pick them up, but Dr. Hyman stops him.

FRED
Gosh. I'm so sorry Dr. Hyman.

DR. HYMAN
It's no problem. Nothing broken.

Fred is looking down at the files then hands them to Dr. Hyman. They lock eyes and share a moment. Dr. Hyman takes the papers and smiles with a blush.

BLAIN
Come on Fred.

Blain grabs him by the collar and pulls him up and out.

EXT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Blain and Fred walk out of the doctors office, but Blain stops Fred.

FRED
Sheriff?

BLAIN
Fred I want you to go ask around town about this Krieg fellow.

FRED
No problem Sheriff. What about you?

BLAIN
Well, I think I might just head over to Ol Doc Woodward's and pick his brain for a bit.

Fred nods and goes off on his task. Sheriff Blain takes off his hat and for the first time he wipes his brow of sweat.

EXT. BEDROCK, CA - DAY

Montage of Deputy Fred going door to door with various town people. They either slam the door in his face, or they refuse to answer his questions and just shake their heads no. Some people just peek out the window. Finally Fred comes to a smaller farmers house. FARMER opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

FARMER

Howdy.

FRED

Excuse me. I'm Deputy Fred, do you have a moment to answer a couple questions?

FARMER

I don't see why not.

FRED

Well we are looking into the death of a young girl.

FARMER

A death? In this town?

FRED

I'm afraid so. We are looking for a fellow by the name of Krieg. Know any one by that name?

FARMER

Krieg? Hmmm that does ring a bell.

FRED

Oh?

FARMER

Ya, Come to think of it me and a man by the name Krieg helped fix the Pastor's church roof last fall.

FRED

Do you know where I can find this man?

FARMER

He did say he was staying at the Ol Mill since it has been abandon.

FRED

Thank you so much.

Fred shakes the farmers hand.

FARMER

Ain't no problem. Anything for the law.

Fred rushes off as the farmer waves and goes back inside.

EXT. DOC WOODWARD'S PORCH - DUSK

Blain and Doc Woodward sit on the porch sipping lemon aid. Doc Woodward is an older man of about 70 but looks a lot older from his years as a doctor.

WOODWARD

Well that sounds like quite the pickle. Right there in the town center?

BLAIN

Yup. And the new lady doctor has no idea what killed the girl. She seems a bit over her head if you ask me. she was very quick to get the body down to the funeral home.

WOODWARD

Hows about you and I go pay her a visit and see if we can find a bit more about what's going on.

BLAIN

I think that's a good idea, Doc.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DUSK

Fred is hurrying down main street to the Old Mill. Not paying attention he runs into Dr. Hyman coming the opposite way. She drops a small package and some letters. Fred looks surprised.

FRED

Oh, I'm so sorry Dr. Hyman.

Fred picks up all the mail.

DR. HYMAN

Call me Lindsey. And I'm sure you where deep in thought about the dead girl. Any luck?

FRED

Oh yes. I'm headed to a drifter named Krieg that stays out at the Old Mill.

DR. HYMAN

Really that is very interesting.

Fred hands Dr. Hyman her package and mail.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

I don't suppose you would like to go out this evening, Lindsey?

DR. HYMAN

I'd love too! Oh but I'm going for a visit back home to Kansas. But when I get back?

FRED

Yes that's perfect.

Fred kisses Dr. Hyman's hand and she goes into the post office. Fred turns to head to the Old Mill with a big smile on his face and a skip in his step.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DUSK

Blain and Doc Woodward stand over the dead girl.

WOODWARD

Well our young lady doctor was correct. This is a self inflicted bite mark (pointing at the left arm wound) And this branding is from her grabbing a very hot cross as opposed of getting branded like cattle.

Woodward examines the dead girls scalp.

WOODWARD

This is interesting indeed. Take a look here Sheriff. See these burn marks? And what appears to be needle marks?

They look closer at a ring of round burn marks with a needle prick in the middle of each one. They go all around the dead girl's head.

BLAIN

Geez what do you think those came from? You think that's what killed her, Doc?

WOODWARD

No, I don't believe so. Hand me the pencil, Sheriff.

(CONTINUED)

Blain reaches behind him and grabs a pencil and hands it to Woodward. Woodward uses the pencil to pry open the dead girls mouth. He reaches in and pulls out the girls tongue that is black.

WOODWARD

There is your cause of death right there.

BLAIN

a black tongue?

WOODWARD

I've seen this before. It's from a sedative. You take to much and it can kill you. This is from a certain kind though. You know those quacks that go from town to town peddling those miracle cures for headaches and such. Well this is one of those miracle cures. And from the look of this tongue it's one of those tonics those German fellows sale.

They sit in silence.

WOODWARD

And by those bruises on her wrist and ankles I would say she was restrained and didn't do it her self.

They both ponder what this means.

EXT. OLD MILL - NIGHT

Fred is walking up to the mill. He has his gun and hat on now.

FRED

Hello? Krieg?

Fred hears a sound behind him. Fred turns and draws his gun. Standing there is the man called KRIEG. He is dressed in typical drifter attire. Clothing pieces of clothes to keep warm. His hands are up.

KRIEG

(thick Cajun accent)
Ease, der fella.

Fred looks at his gun and eases it back into the holster.

(CONTINUED)

FRED
Are you Krieg?

KRIEG
Krieg. (correcting tone) Aye. What
can I do fer ya law man?

FRED
I'm Deputy Fred. Did you help
repair the church roof last fall?

KRIEG
Aye. I be doin gods work dem days.

FRED
You a religious man?

KRIEG
Aye. As we all shud.

FRED
Thank you. I'll leave you be now.

KRIEG
Aye. Dat be fine. Anythin for da
law.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

Blain and Woodward come walking out. Fred comes running up
and out of breath.

FRED
Sheriff... Sheriff...

BLAIN
Calm down kid. What's gotten you in
such a dizzy?

FRED
I found him Sheriff. I found Krieg
out at the Old Mill.

BLAIN
Shoot kid, you went with out me?
What's gotten into that skull of
yours? Excuse us Doc. I have to see
what all this fuss is about.

WOODWARD
Don't worry about it Sheriff. You
boys be careful there is no telling
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODWARD (cont'd)
what kind of mad man you are
dealing with.

Blain and Fred head off the way Fred came. Woodward watches them go with a worried look on his face.

EXT. OLD MILL - NIGHT

Blain and Fred approach the Old Mill with guns drawn.

BLAIN
You never go alone to talk with a
suspect. Specially one as dangerous
as this guy.

FRED
He didn't seem dangerous. He talked
funny to.

BLAIN
Like a German?

FRED
I'm not sure what that is.

BLAIN
It's some country from across the
ocean. Krieg!

FRED
Krieg! It's Deputy Fred!

They approach the mill opening.

BLAIN
Krieg!

FRED
What's this?

Fred bends down and picks up a letter. He looks it over.

BLAIN
Well you probably spooked him and
he's long gone by now.

FRED
Hey Sheriff this letter is
addressed to a Craig. How did the
dead girl spell it?

Blain looks at the letter.

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN

Hmm. K-R-I-E-G if I remember right.

FRED

k-r-i-e-g?

Fred thinks a moment.

FRED

Shoot.

BLAIN

What is it kid?

FRED

You remember when we where in
Lindsey's I mean Dr. Hyman's
office? Well when I knocked over
that stack of papers. I was picking
them up and one of them had written
on it Operation Krieg!

Flash back to Fred picking up the papers as he glaces down
the paper reads Operation Krieg, the rest is in German.

BLAIN

Shoot kid. Why didn't you speak up?

FRED

I couldn't read the rest of the
witting. It was all spelt funny.

BLAIN

I guess we better go pay the doctor
a visit.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Blain and Fred sneak around Dr. Hyman's office. They are
searching for paper work but there is none to be found.

FRED

It's gone it's all gone. What's
this?

Fred spots a large cabinet slightly moved away from the
wall. He slides it away from the wall. Behind is a door with
the knob removed.

BLAIN

Kid you may have one eye but it's
the eye of a hawk. That's Doc

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN (cont'd)
Woodward's cellar. I forgot it was
even here.

INT. HYMAN'S LAB - NIGHT

Blain and Fred come down the creaky stairs guns drawn. Hyman's lab is filled with maps and charts lining the walls. All written in German. In the center of the room restrained to a table is Craig's lifeless body. On his head is electrodes with needles injected into his head.

BLAIN
What have we walked into?

They search around the room. Fred checks on Craig.

FRED
He's dead. This was Craig.

BLAIN
Check this out, kid.

They stand over a table with charts all labeled Operation Krieg all over them sitting on top is an Iron cross medal. Fred takes a look but then continues to search the lab.

BLAIN
Operation Krieg? Why did the dead
girl write that.

Fred comes back.

FRED
She's gone and it seems like a lot
of stuff has been packed up.

BLAIN
Where do you think she ran off to?

FRED
She mentioned going back home to
Kansas.

BLAIN
I think she's from a long ways from
Kansas, kid.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Dr. Hyman stands on the boarding platform with a suitcase by her side. She is impatiently waiting for a train.

BLAIN
(off screen)
Hyman!

Dr. Hyman looks around and sees Blain and Fred slowly approaching her with guns pointed at her.

DR. HYMAN
Sheriff? Fred?

Fred avoids eye contact.

DR. HYMAN
Fred? What's going on?

FRED
Lindsey, your going to want to stay
right there.

Dr. Hyman looks innocently at Fred. Fred still avoids eye contact. She looks at Blain and sees his cold stare. She turns around and bolts into the train yard.

BLAIN
Stop! Fred circle around make sure
she doesn't double back.

Blain follows Dr. Hyman. Fred heads the opposite way.

EXT. TRAIN YARD - NIGHT

Train yard has a couple older trains due to Bedrock being a small town. Blain cautiously makes his way through the train grave yard.

BLAIN
Hyman! Give it up!

A shot rings out and Blain drops with a gun shot in his leg. His pistol slides away. Dr. Hyman steps out of the shadows with a smoking gun.

DR. HYMAN
So you think you have it all
figured out.

(CONTINUED)

BLAIN

(laughing)

I don't have a darn thing figured out lady. I know your German and you killed a girl and Craig.

DR. HYMAN

I didn't kill them. I tested the boundaries of their minds. I manipulated them and I broke them. I wasn't planning on that girl escaping but I knew you would never figure it out.

BLAIN

I may not know what Krieg or Operation Krieg means but I still tracked you down and I will stop you.

Blain reaches for his gun but Dr. Hyman kicks it away.

DR. HYMAN

Stupid American. Stop me? Krieg means WAR! German will soon be marching across the world. We will unite the world under imperialism. Soon the first shot will be fired and the world will be ours. Stop me? you can't stop us!

A shot rings out. Dr. Hyman looks down as a red spot in her torso begins to grow. She spins around and drops to the ground. Fred stands behind her with a smoking gun.

DR. HYMAN

Fred? I thought...

Dr. Hyman passes away.

FRED

I guess that wraps that up.

BLAIN

Kid, I think this is far from over and there is nothing we can do...