

# **THE SINGING BONE**

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SUPER: COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA - 1950

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The glow of an oil lamp casts just enough light for IRENE COVILLE (70), to focus on her knitting. She rocks back and forth as her arthritic hands work the needles.

NELSON COVILLE (75), sprawled out on a recliner, eyes closed, mouth wide open, snores rhythmically.

A dog BARKS. Irene looks up. She listens. The barking stops. She resumes her knitting until . . .

An inhuman SCREAM rings out. Nelson wakes with such a start it sucks the air from his lungs. Irene jumps to her feet, Nelson struggles to get out of his chair.

IRENE

What in God's name was that?

He stumbles to the closet, slides his feet in his boots and grabs a shotgun. Irene's eyes widen. Nelson opens the front door and looks back at Irene.

NELSON

Lock the windows and doors.

An animal WAILS. Nelson takes off, disappearing into the night. Irene stands frozen in fear.

Moments later, from the darkness, a GUNSHOT then a human SCREAM. Irene knows instantly, it's Nelson.

INT. GATOR BOB'S

Cigarette smoke hovers over a pool table as LEVI WHARTON (30), white t-shirt with rolled up sleeves that enhance his muscular arms, leans in to line up his shot.

LEVI

Eight ball in the side pocket.

His SCRUFFY opponent watches skeptically. Levi shoots, but SIRENS from a passing police car cause him to miss.

LEVI

Son of a bitch!

Scruffy laughs. Levi signals to pretty waitress CANDY CONWAY(18), who unenthusiastically approaches.

LEVI

Set this bastard up with a beer  
and a shot, sweet thang.

She turns, rolling her eyes in disgust. Levi lustfully watches her ass as she walks away. Scruffy notices.

SCRUFFY

Ain't that yer brother's girl?

A few more police cars race by, SIRENS at full blast.

LEVI

What the hell's goin' on tonight?

The handful of bar patrons watch in alarm as a police car pulls in front of Gator Bob's. All eyes are on the front door when SHERRIFF CONWAY (55), enters.

SHERRIFF CONWAY

I want everyone to return to your  
homes immediately. . .It's back.

Now panic stricken, the patrons file out quickly, except Levi. He doesn't move. The Sherriff signals for Candy.

SHERRIFF CONWAY

I'm taking you home. Your momma's  
waiting for you.

Sherriff Conway puts his arm around Candy, leading her out but Levi blocks the door.

LEVI

You put a price on its head yet?

SHERRIFF CONWAY

Two thousand. You goin' alone?

Levi looks toward Candy and smiles wickedly.

LEVI

I think I can handle it alone.

A look of relief washes over Candy's face.

LEVI

But with two, I can pretty much guarantee a kill.

The Sherriff nods in approval. Candy's eyes well up. Levi steps aside as the Sherriff escorts his daughter out. Candy looks back, her eyes pleading. Levi smirks.

EXT. SMALL MOBILE HOME - DAWN

A lone trailer sits amongst overgrown vegetation.

INT. MOBILE HOME

The space is cramped but neat. A book, "BEING AND NOTHINGNESS" lay on the chest of a sleeping BILLY WHARTON (20), scrunched up on a small couch.

A loud KNOCK on the door wakes him abruptly. The door opens, Levi enters toting two shotguns.

LEVI

Get yer ass up. We got a job.

Bewildered, Billy wipes the drool from his face.

INT. PICK-UP TRUCK

Still not fully awake, Billy looks over at Levi.

BILLY

Do I have a say?

LEVI

I'm dropping you here, on the East side of the woods, I'll enter from the West. That's how we trap it.

BILLY

I'm not a hunter, Levi.

LEVI

You got a gun. You're a hunter.

Levi pulls the truck over.

LEVI

We get a thousand each if we kill this thing.

LEVI (cont)

Hell, you need it worse than I do  
boy. . .impregnating the Sherriff's  
daughter like you did.

Levi laughs as Billy reluctantly gets out and continues laughing as he drives away, leaving Billy in the dust.

Billy stares at the thick forest before him. He pulls a machete from his bag and enters swinging.

EXT. SWAMPY FOREST - LATE AFTERNOON

Sweaty and stricken with bug bites, Billy rests on a tree stump. An OLD INDIAN stands quietly behind him.

A twig SNAPS. Billy turns. The Indian is gone but a long spear lay where he stood. Billy picks it up and studies the carvings of a warrior slaying a beast.

A GROWL comes from the thick brush in front of him. Billy freezes. He watches helplessly as bushes sway and branches snap as something moves closer.

Suddenly, the BEAST, with the head of a wild boar and the body of a man, leaps out of the brush.

Billy lunges the spear directly into the beast's heart. It lets out an inhuman SCREAM.

EXT. FOREST - UNDER BRIDGE - SAME TIME

The inhuman SCREAM echoes though the forest. Levi cowers under a small bridge. His hand trembles as he raises a bottle of whiskey to his lips and gulps.

EXT. FOREST - UNDER BRIDGE - MORNING

Empty whiskey bottle next to him, Levi awakens from the sound of FOOTSTEPS above. He readies his shotgun.

Through the slats he sees the boar. He shoots over and over, splintering the wooden bridge until it breaks.

Billy, the beast strapped to his back, falls into the stream. Shocked, Levi stands over the two dead bodies.

SUPER: TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Twigs snap under the boots of Sherriff Conway and his FRIEND as they stalk a deer. His friend takes aim. BAM! A miss. The deer runs away.

SHERRIFF CONWAY

Losing you're touch there old man!

His friend flips him the middle finger. Conway laughs.

SHERRIFF CONWAY

I gotta take a piss.

The Sherriff seeks privacy under a broken, wooden bridge. He scans the ground as he pees and notices a small, white bone a few feet away.

He zips up then picks up the bone, studies it for a moment then puts it in his pocket.

EXT. RANCH HOME - BACK YARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Decorated with balloons, streamers and a banner "HAPPY 2<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY LEVI, JR.". People gather around watching little Levi, seated on Candy's lap, rip open his gifts.

Big Levi, gut hanging over his shorts and beer in hand, stands nearby not at all interested in the party.

Little Levi opens a small box and pulls out a bright white bone whittled into a flute. He's perplexed.

SHERRIFF CONWAY

You blow into it Levi.

Levi blows, spit flies. Everyone laughs. He tries again. This time, a beautiful tune plays. Surprised, he keeps blowing. Words flow out. People are stunned.

FLUTE

My son, my son the truth shall  
be sung - My brother, he slew me  
to marry your mother - Now it's  
time for justice to be done -

Shocked, big Levi drops his beer. Everyone watches as he grabs his chest in agony and falls to the ground, dead. An inhuman SCREAM fills the air.