

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning nonfiction book,
Slavery by Another Name:
The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II

A Ten-Part, Ten-Hour Limited Series for Television
By Jeanne Veillette Bowerman & Douglas A. Blackmon

Jeanne Veillette Bowerman
jeanne@jeannevb.com
518-331-7706

Logline: Based on a true story. Forty years after the Civil War, the economically downtrodden South falsely arrests thousands of black men and women, forcing them into the newly created prison leasing system – slavery by another name.

THE WORLD

Freedom. That was the promise at the end of the Civil War. Four million once-enslaved African Americans seized upon it, swarmed into new schools, elected thousands to public office, and founded stores, towns and colleges. Three decades later, they owned 16 million acres of American soil.

Decaying streets and rotting cotton brought new challenges. Northern mills and banks that depended on the now collapsed Southern economy could no longer profit. Hence, the most powerful people in America united to do something we would never be taught about in school: Slavery was resurrected.

Southern states created trumped up laws to arrest African-Americans for talking too loudly in front of a white woman, not being able to prove they had a job, or merely walking the railroad tracks. Sheriffs sold them to plantations, mines and factories that used them to crush unions and break strikes. Black voting was abolished. Human auctions resumed. Slavery was an addiction the south couldn't shake.

In the midst of that rising terror, GREEN COTTENHAM, son of former black slaves, struggles to find his place in this new world, determined to not only thrive, but to far exceed any obstacles put before him. He's his own man. Courageous and proud to a fault, until he finds himself shackled and imprisoned, tossed into the catacombs of Pratt Mines, forced to pull out 8 tons of coal a day with chains bound to his ankles and wrists. How can pride and courage live in such darkness? But he knows it'll take just that to survive.

Devoted father, husband and farmer, JON DAVIS, owns his own land. Despite not being able to sign his name, he teaches his children the importance of family, faith, and education. They'll have more than he ever dreamed of, especially when they move north. On an ordinary day of selling eggs to trade for medicine for his gravely ill wife, Davis is arrested, simply because he can be.

There is no such thing as "freedom."

PRIMARY CHARACTERS

GREEN COTTENHAM (22): Green was a free man since birth, and the youngest of nine children born to two former slaves. The Southern whites call men like Green “cigarette dudes” – black men cocky by comparison to their peers. A cigarette sits askew on Green’s lips with a bottle of moonshine and a knife in his pocket. No overalls for this man. He wears trousers with a jacket and necktie. Unlike his parents, he learned to read and write, and sometimes works but too often plays dice at the train station, which causes great tension between him and his conformist older brother, JESSE. Green has big plans for his life; so does his girlfriend. He’s a black Cool Hand Luke.

JON DAVIS (40s): Black landowner and cotton farmer, Davis was born a free man and married NORA. Having no blood offspring of his own, Davis raises Nora’s young children, ALICE and ALBERT, as intensely as he would have his own. He’d do anything to protect them, including die. Davis tirelessly works on his farm, cropping cotton, raising chickens and tending to their children while nursing Nora’s illness. He is the glue that holds their family together. When he’s unexpectedly snatched from their lives while trying to buy medicine for his ailing wife, Albert must step up and be the man of the house.

JOHN PACE (40s): A wealthy plantation owner, Pace operates a generations-old cotton farm as if time stood still, pre Civil War. Together with FLETCHER TURNER, Pace held a contract to lease every prisoner sentenced to hard labor by the two counties. But Pace didn’t stop at those two counties. He’d do anything, legal or illegal, to get the laborers he needed. Pace’s father was a brute of a man, ruling both his slaves and his own son with a strong hand. There was no love lost between father and son. When Pace inherited the farm, he kept one slave from his childhood close to him... CATHERINE. She would remain with him for life.

CATHERINE PACE (40s): Born on the Pace farm and only years old when the Civil War ended, Catherine has worked for the Pace family all her life, first as a slave, then as Pace’s kitchen maid. There’s a closeness between her and Pace unmatched, even by his wife. She struggles between her complicated relationship with her demonic “owner” and trying to use her power over him to help her fellow enslaved workers.

DEPUTY NEWTON EDDINGS (40s): Deputy Eddings stole the election by stuffing the ballot boxes. His pockets are lined by arresting, convicting and transporting prisoners as well as keeping whatever excess remains from the state’s monthly food allowance given him to feed his inmates. There are no limits to his abuse of power, including having sex with black women in exchange for favors to their imprisoned husbands or boyfriends.

ERSKINE RAMSEY (30s): A loner and inventor, this longtime chief of the Tennessee’s company operations, gloats at the profitability of relying on slaves. Ramsey may be a loner, but every so often he reaches out to his childhood friend,

the notorious Pittsburgh industrialist, HENRY CLAY FRICK, but Frick is not a man to be trusted. Frick became partners with Andrew Carnegie of US Steel, eventually taking over management and in charge during one of the most violent union labor strikes in history.

US DEPUTY MARSHAL CHIKE BEAUREGARD (30s): One of the early African American US Deputy Marshals, the Yankee Beauregard defiantly rides into the Southern town of Montgomery, Alabama on his motorcycle, attracting attention not only from the shocked prejudice community, but also from Warren Reese's white secretary, MILDRED ELMORE. President THEODORE ROOSEVELT is clearly making a statement by sending a black lawman to do his bidding. Roosevelt orders Beauregard to aide Warren Reese in his investigation against John Pace and Fletcher Turner for holding blacks against their will. A black marshal in the deep South, Beauregard's eyes are about to be open to his true heritage, sheltered from him by living an educated life up North.

WARREN REESE, JR. (30s): Attorney General of Alabama and newlywed to a prominent socialite, CLARA REESE; a woman laser focused on Reese's burgeoning political career. Reese's father was a Confederate war hero turned sympathizer to African Americans wanting equality and freedom, disgracing his family by running for political office alongside a black candidate. Reese has spent his entire adult life trying to undo the label of "traitor's son," and now faces the challenge of convincing Alabama he's worthy enough to be their next governor. He must push his prejudice aside – as well as his wife's political ambitions for him – to obey President Roosevelt orders and build a case against the new Southern way of life, re-enslaving blacks.

U.S. MARSHAL CHARLES GRAHAM: Warren Reese's best friend, but a racist motherfucker who holds his ground, fights for his beliefs and won't take shit from anyone. He lives and dies by the Confederate flag.

ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES T. HEFLIN: A famed orator, rarely a hint of good nature in his remarks, endlessly determined to undermine Warren Reese at every turn. But behind the man is an even more cunning woman, MRS. HEFLIN. She'll stop at nothing to keep her social standing and her husband in power.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON: Washington was by far the best known and most influential of black leaders in the United States and the founder of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His speeches emphasized black self-improvement, industrial education, and acquiescence to white political power. Washington's urged that blacks accommodate the whites' demands for subservience while building up their own industrial skills, farms, and basic education.

ANNIE TUCKER and EMILY ROBINSON: Two African American women enslaved by the law and forced into sexual servitude – Annie at the coal mines and Emily at the John Pace plantation. These women may seem powerless on the surface, but there's a fire in them that knows when and how to fight back.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour One

"Change begins at the dinner table."

SUPER: Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for crime*; whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

--13th Amendment, January 31st, 1865

SUPER: 36 YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

SUPER: BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Never before has a black man eaten dinner with a President of the United States. Not until THEODORE ROOSEVELT impetuously invites BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, the most powerful African American in America. Two powerful men—two powerful agendas. Roosevelt pushes Booker T. to reveal how he can win the Negro vote come reelection. Booker T. offers advice, but only in exchange for a secret alliance. Neither of the men comprehends the firestorm their innocent dinner is about to bring.

"Cigarette dude" GREEN COTTENHAM strolls along the railroad tracks in Booker City, Alabama. Sure, he's supposed to be out looking for work but there's a dice game with his name on it. He runs into FLIRTY GIRL, whose sex appeal could challenge the most loyal buck, let alone the risk-taking Green. She tells him his longtime girlfriend's reverend father sold the Negro church to Tennessee Coal.

Uneducated but dedicated family man, JON DAVIS attends to his invalid wife, NORA. She and their son ALBERT pressure Davis to let Albert go into town alone for the first time to sell a basket of eggs to buy his mother's much-needed medicine. Davis reluctantly agrees but follows at a distance, just in case.

"Seven come eleven!" Pennies lost and won as Green Cottenham shoots dice and swigs moonshine with DINK TUCKER, GLENNIE HELMS and CLIVE WATTS at the train station. Banter about life, dreams, and their struggle of finding jobs. No one wants to work in dangerous coal mines rumored of death and disease, but Green's fascination grows, "Bet they pay mo if it be dangerous."

Davis blends into the dice game to avoid being seen by Albert. He urges Green to earn an honest day's wage at the lumberyard, "Job ain't gonna cross the street. Less ya rather be gamblin'." When Green lines up, the LUMBERYARD FOREMAN shoves him aside, "These purty hands ain't never cut no rails, Boy."

Double-dealing DEPUTY NEWTON EDDINGS spies Green, "Special election. If I win, *your kind* be treated fair." "Fair all I ask," says Green. A moment later, Eddings solicits the Lumberyard Foreman's vote by declaring he'll keep blacks in their place.

Davis and Glennie peek through a window as the storeowners bust Albert's lip. When Davis intervenes, he's ordered to unload crates or go to jail. Despite insisting he just wants to exchange eggs for medicine, he's abruptly arrested for stealing. Albert screams as his father is dragged away in handcuffs.

As Davis and other prisoners shuffle out of the jail, he's horrified to witness a prisoner gouge out his own eyes to avoid his sentence at John Pace's farm. The enraged Deputy tosses the maimed prisoner out, blind and bleeding... but free.

Cottenham family gathers for dinner. Green's 5-year-old NEPHEW beams when his favorite Uncle Green tosses down his dice winnings, claiming to have earned them cutting rails. "Ya git dat money gamblin', Boy?" asks his father. Green stands by his lie, shifts conversation to his ambitions, "One day me 'n my girl be livin' in Booker City's finest. Y'all wait 'n see." Tension mounts between Green and his hardworking older brother, JESSE COTTENHAM, who doesn't respect Green's lifestyle.

On Election Day, Deputy Eddings sucks up to Green and other blacks in line to vote, irritating Green, but his father keeps him in check. Eddings takes out a little insurance and stuffs the ballot box with dead man's votes. ANNIE, sister of Green's dice buddy, Dink Tucker, begs Green for help finding her missing brother.

Death threats against Roosevelt and Booker T. pour into the White House. US ATTORNEY GENERAL KNOX delivers Senator Tillman's stern reaction to their dinner - "We shall have to kill a thousand niggers to get them back to their places." It's not until Knox dumps hundreds of letters on the president's desk from blacks pleading for help to find missing family members that Roosevelt sets a plan in action involving the new Alabama U.S. Attorney Warren Reese and Judge Jones.

Meet WARREN REESE, not exactly the hero Roosevelt thinks he is. Beside his new bride, CLARA, Reese announces his decision to run for Governor. Cocky Alabama Secretary of State, JAMES T. HEFLIN scoffs since Reese's father supported "that nigger-lovin' Roosevelt." Reese insists his father's poor judgment won't keep him from putting blacks in jail, everyone of them, if necessary.

In the haven of church, Green daringly flirts with his longtime girlfriend, SHELLY, the Reverend's daughter as the Cottenhams and black families hang on REVEREND STARR's celebratory words. The church's sale will allow them to build a Negro college. All pray for the missing Dink Tucker, but Green prays to get Shelly alone.

Later, Reverend grills Green about his intentions toward his daughter. Green sweet talks his way into the Reverend's graces, but when alone with his girlfriend, he wants more than just kisses. Shelly insists on holding out for marriage. Green defiantly leaves, "You may rule the roost, Baby, but not the rooster."

Deep in Alabama, a mysterious MOTORCYCLE RIDER explodes through a cloud of dust on a countryside dirt road, startling a white farmer and his sons. During his

journey across the Southern states, Motorcycle Rider stops at a field full of black workers. When he removes his goggles, we see he's African American. One of the black workers warns him, "Best get outta here "for they gets you too."

Davis arrives at JOHN PACE's gargantuan plantation – anything but a 'simple cotton farm.' Filthy black men in shackles and chains hustle about, guard dogs nip at their heels. Pace scoffs at Davis' claim of being innocent and pays for his new slave.

Green's father busts him playing dice at the train station and shames him into finding work. Green dirties his hands to successfully fool Lumberyard Foreman into thinking he's experienced. But when Green can't keep up the pace of cutting rails, the foreman whips and threatens Green at gunpoint, "Best give your heart to Jesus, 'cause your ass is mine." Shaken, Green escapes.

At the riverbank, Green's remorseful father cleans his son's wounds, "Ain't never wanted your skin to know hate." When Green argues his parents should have risen up against their master, his father shares the horrors and realities of surviving being a slave, "Never let 'em see ya broke." Green spats, "No one ever gonna own me."

Students and teachers clean out the churchyard. Flirty Girl taunts Green's girlfriend, Shelly, "Green done told me don't need no marriage to have fun." Shelly runs to her Reverend father. As they leave the grounds, Tennessee Coal industrialist ARTHUR COLYAR oversees black and white workers demolish the church, "This goddamn mine ain't gonna build itself!"

Pace's guard, ALLEN TURNER, tosses Davis into crude slave quarters, surrounded by filthy, shackled men – some naked. After talking to others, he panics his 10-month sentence will turn into life. *How will his sick wife and children survive?*

Deputy Eddings celebrates his victory, reveals his profits from leasing prisoners to Tennessee Coal. Annie, barges in, pleads for help finding her brother, Dink, who yells from his cell. Eddings chains Annie, rips her dress and rapes her, forcing her tearful brother to watch.

Green succumbs to Flirty Girl's advances, presses her against a window of an abandoned building and buries himself inside her. She smiles, eyeing Shelly Starr and the Reverend through the window, promenading down the street.

Back at The White House, an anxious Roosevelt continues to ignore Booker T.'s communications since their dinner. In walks the black Motorcycle Rider.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Two

“Day after day we looked Death in the face & was afraid to speak.”

Inside Alabama’s Attorney General Warren Reese’s office, the rumbling of an engine lures secretary MILDRED to the window as JUDGE JONES expounds to Reese about the order that has come down from President Roosevelt to investigate black men being held against their wills. Mildred gasps as she observes a black man dismount the motorcycle. As Reese argues with Jones that an investigation would be a waste of time, his office door swings open and the black motorcycle rider, U.S. Deputy Marshal CHIKE BEAUREGARD, enters. Everyone stares at the all too comfortable stranger – especially U.S. Deputy MARSHAL CHARLES GRAHAM who is clearly more racist than Reese. As Jones introduces Beauregard, Graham can’t help but notice the sparks flying between the black Deputy Marshal and Mildred.

The promise of a job in Georgia entices Clive Watts, but Green passes to continue courting Reverend Starr’s daughter, Shelly, as well as playing Flirty Girl.

With promises of marriage, Green eventually persuades Shelly to make love – after all, he sacrificed a job for her.

In the Pace farm’s kitchen, African-American housemaid, CATHERINE is saddened by the violence happening outside the window. John Pace dips bread in the stew Catherine’s preparing. There’s an unexplained closeness between these two.

Davis halts picking cotton as BURLY GUARD drags laborer JAMES ROBINSON to the whipping post after hunting him down from a failed escape. We hear sounds of whipping and cries as Davis is forced to keep picking.

Back at the Cottenham shack, Green regrets not going with Watts to Georgia. Jesse Cottenham, Green’s older brother, insists he settle down and pick cotton with him. Frustrated, Green lashes out at his older brother for settling to be no more than a modern slave, widening their divide.

Jon Davis observes housemaid Catherine’s compassion as she cleans Robinson’s wounds. He begs her to get word to his sick wife. She refuses.

Green reads help wanted ads, spots grand opening of Slope 12 prison – “Be a part of an ever-growing coal industry. Fuel the country and your destiny!” The danger of the mines fascinates him, knowing that kind of danger has to pay well.

Searching for evidence, Marshals Beauregard and Graham confront black men in the woods, questioning them about Pace. Barbaric plantation owner, FLETCH TURNER and cronies come upon the marshals. “Ain’t got no use for your nigger Yankee law down here.” After Turner’s men beat Beauregard unconscious, Graham’s double-dealing alliance with Turner is revealed.

Green and friends spy on the grand opening of the state of the art Slope 12. Freshly planted banana trees surround the pristine building, hiding the fences around the compound. Smiles and crisp white uniforms don the prisoners – a utopia of sorts that only entices Green more. Until guards taunt the young men, who run.

Tennessee Coal's Colyar fires their chief engineer, Erskine Ramsey, after an argument. Ramsey vows to take his progressive inventions and build a rival to the Pratt Mines. He eyes the prisoners as he leaves, mind turning on how to steal them.

Mildred cleans Beaugard's wounds. They discuss her progressive attitudes toward race relations. Beaugard's respect for her infuriates Marshal Graham. Graham confronts Mildred, demanding she cease her flirtations with "that nigger." She retorts with disgust at Graham's bigoted views.

Furious his marshals dropped the ball, Reese insists he'll go to Pace's himself so they can end this charade of an investigation.

A NEW WORKER at Pace's lags behind the others. Allen Turner taunts him by swinging a baseball bat at his arms and legs, "Hey, batta-batta—hey batta-batta. Swing!" The New Worker begs for mercy. When Davis leaps to help, Pace sucker punches him just as Allen Turner smashes the New Worker's head with the bat, splitting it open, blood spraying, "And he knocks it right outta the park!" mimicking a cheering crowd.

Green shoots dice with his friends at the train station. Deputy Eddings rushes over, snatches the dice and accuses Green of riding the trains without a ticket. Green snuffs his cigarette on the floorboards and glares at Eddings, "This don't look like no train to me." Eddings grabs his wrist, slaps cuffs on him. "Oh, you're goin' on a ride of a lifetime, nigga. I promise you that." He drags the defiant Green toward the jail.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Three

"Green around the gills."

LABOR AGENT haggles with Deputy Eddings then leases Green for \$12 a month to work at Tennessee Coal's Pratt Mines. Green yells out, "I ain't done no crime." The men laugh as Eddings slaps a shackle on Green's ankle.

In the train's cattle car full of a dozen prisoners, Green adjusts his heavy chains and peeks through the cracks to see the Lumberyard Forman who had whipped him earlier working his crew. As the train gains speed, they disappear from view.

Burly Guard busts into the Davis family shack while Pace's housemaid, Catherine, tries to tell his young children, ALICE and Albert of their father's whereabouts, but they run away. Burly Guard storms out and forces Catherine back into the wagon.

In the dark of the night, guards drag Green past the coke ovens and banana trees into his sleeping quarters at Slope 12. Cold chains slap on him, connecting to two hundred black men piled on bunk beds. Green gags from the smell as moans in the darkness fill the room.

Before sunrise, Green and prisoners traipse into the dark labyrinth of Pratt Mines at gunpoint. Green squints in disbelief as several white prisoners, including a 14-year-old boy named ABE WYNNE, shuffle past. Guards order Green to pull out an unimaginable quota of 8 tons of coal every day or suffer the consequences.

Deputy Marshal Beauregard guides his motorcycle onto John Pace's farm with Reese in the sidecar. Pace tries to throw them off with an impromptu release of the old slave SCIPIO, claiming it's his final day. Davis is thrilled for Scipio, and his own hope of being released. Reese feels vindicated enough to put the case behind them, but Beauregard's suspicions grow as he observes the nervous reaction of Pace's crony, Justice of the Peace JAMES KENNEDY.

Once Davis and Beauregard are out of sight, guards slap chains back on Scipio.

Davis demands Pace let Scipio go, but Pace has had enough of Davis' "uppity attitude." He shoves Davis into a torture chair, wraps a leather strap around his neck, and turns a crank to squeeze Davis' air pipe as Pace whispers that his sick wife is dead. Davis squirms and gasps for air, Pace declaring, "Every minute of every day, your life is mine. I decide if you live or die." Catherine pleads with Pace, and he stops just moments before Davis' neck snaps.

Green cautiously navigates Slope 12. He learns his mining partner, "BIG JOE," is a cold-blooded murderer and questions why someone so strong doesn't fight back. Big Joe ignores him.

Alienated industrialist, Erskine Ramsey completes construction of the Banner Mines. He grills JAMES W. ENGLISH, who owns half the prisoners in Georgia, for advice on purchasing as many prison laborers as possible so he can cripple his competitor, Tennessee Coal. English is more than happy to play the two off of each other for more profit.

At Pratt Mines, tensions mount between free WHITE UNION miners and black prison laborers. Whites taunt the blacks. One calls Green “nothin’ but a nigga slave.” Green wants to fight, but Big Joe pulls him back. Green spits at Big Joe’s feet, “I ain’t never turnin’ into no nigga slave like you.”

Deputy Marshall Beauregard relentlessly presses Reese to uphold the president’s orders. Reese pushes back, but Beauregard challenges his ethics so that Reese has no choice but to go to Washington to meet with U.S. Attorney General Knox.

Reese travels to Washington to sly his way out of the investigations, but instead, Attorney General Knox agrees to send him “investigators.” Unbeknownst to Reese, those investigators are mere accountants.

Attorney General Knox enters Roosevelt’s office. Ruthless Wall Street financier, JP Morgan, argues the new anti-monopoly laws will destroy businesses. Roosevelt snarls that his office will not be run by greed and money. The everyday man will have the same power as Wall Street. Morgan threatens to destroy any chance Roosevelt has of reelection.

Pratt Mine’s HEAD GUARD scolds former accountant DAVID CAMPBELL, now promoted to prison guard, about consistently falling short of his prisoners’ 8-ton quota. He orders the naïve Campbell to be harsher or he’ll be fired.

Green observes a black laborer push a scared 9-year-old GAL-BOY deep into a cavern where he hears beating and muffled cries. Gal-Boy reminds Green of his own young nephew. He runs to help, but Big Joe insists, “Don’t you be messing with his gal-boy... less you want to be the one he’s fuckin’ instead.”

At Pace’s plantation, old slave Scipio feigns a heart attack. While all are busy tending to him, Davis sneaks from his hiding spot in the cotton field, runs out of the guards’ sight, and escapes to the river.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Four

“New South Rising”

Exhausted and drenched from running through the river, Davis stumbles – hears the faint sound of chickens clucking, smiles and staggers to a full sprint. Just as he reaches his shack, twisted Allen Turner captures and tortures him using the mock cotton gin Albert invented, ripping three of Davis’ fingers off. Albert witnesses the carnage.

Back at Pace’s yard, Burly Guard hog-ties a beaten Davis to a pickaxe to roast in the hot sun, the stumps of what’s left of his fingers bleeding. Catherine wraps his hand.

In Montgomery, Reese, Beauregard and Marshal Graham interview the pathetic lot of “accountants” brought by Chief Investigator REGINALD DAWSON. Reese orders the investigations to begin so he can get back to his Governor campaign.

Race riots set Springfield, Illinois, and Atlanta ablaze. In the aftermath, W.E.B. DUBOIS and Booker T. deliver conflicting messages to the black community. The more well known Booker T. suggests staying the course of integrating into society through agriculture and trade, while Dubois insists black intellectual leaders need to organize and rebel. “Change must be demanded, not waited for.”

Despite Atlanta being in ruins, James W. English sees the ironic bright side of the race riots – not only are more of his company’s bricks needed to rebuild his fair city, but the rioters who were arrested are now his prisoners. It’s good to be the *king*.

Gal-Boy trudges through Green’s mineshaft, carrying a bucket of rancid food. Water suddenly fills the shaft, rising waist-deep. Gal-Boy panics, but Green lifts him above the water as Big Joe struggles with the pump. Crack of a whip grazes Gal-Boy as guards force Green to keep working. He slings Gal-Boy onto his back and continues to shovel coal. Terror fills the shaft until the guards finally let the men escape.

In Pace’s slave quarters, Catherine tenderly cleans Davis’ mangled hand. Delirious, he calls out his dead wife’s name, tears falling.

Catherine returns to Pace’s kitchen with a bloody basin. Pace slaps her and she spats back that their *daddy* hit her harder, revealing their relationship as siblings. Shaken he struck his half-sister, Pace slinks to his library. Catherine follows, pours him a drink. He wipes the blood from her lips.

An investigator scared for his life calls Reese and quits. Frustrated, Reese pours through photographs of horrors discovered by Beauregard and the agents:

SERIES OF SHOTS SHOWING HORRORS:

-- While BLACK MAN tosses bricks on a kiln, HUGE GUARD whips him to death.

-- At Slope 12, SAVAGE GUARD orders Big Joe to attack an EXHAUSTED SLAVE. They face off like gladiators. Big Joe plunges a mining pick into Exhausted Slave's head.

-- Investigator races back to his carriage and VOMITS. PHOTOGRAPHER stands with his camera, snapping pictures.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Reese bolts into a restaurant, late for his dinner with Clara. Secretary of State Heflin and MRS. HEFLIN publicly taunt Reese about his failing investigation. "When you proposed to me, you promised to become governor," Clara spats. He assures her he's committed not to the campaign but to the investigations. She's mortified. Mrs. Heflin declares war on Clara's social standing.

Sunday at Pratt Mines is the only day the laborers rest or see sunlight. Green tosses dice, "Iffun I roll a five, we all run." When they land a five, everyone turns their backs, deflating Green. Gal-Boy points to an OLD PRISONER sitting near Big Joe, both quiet, and whispers, "He try to escape more times than anyone can count... till they broke 'em good."

Guard David Campbell at home with his family. The stress of the mines take a toll on him as he barks at his children and wife, struggling to separate work from life.

Plantation owners Pace, Fletch and Allen Turner, and COSBY meet, worried Reese's agents will find too much evidence. They agree to stick together and hide the prisoners.

Catherine informs Robinson his wife, EMILY, is being kept as a sex slave by one of Pace's guards. As the men beg her to help Emily, she finally reveals herself as being unable because she is Pace's sister – guards come in and snatch Catherine and other slaves off the property, except for Davis and Robinson.

Fletch Turner lines his prisoners up, asking who wants to go home. "I do, Boss." He shocks all and lets him go. Another raises his hand. Turner nods. He runs. A round of "Me too, Boss, me too!" But a six-year-old BOY is too scared to speak up. Turner threatens if any testify against his family he'll skin them and their unborn children alive. They run, including the Boy, but Allen Turner shoots the Boy in the back, dropping him dead, "That nigga never asked permission." Dogs sniff the dead boy's body.

As Green tosses dead bodies of diseased laborers into the nearby furnaces, he eyes Deputy Eddings bringing new prisoners – one being Dink Tucker.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Five

"The fishing exposition."

Mineshafts collapse during explosions at Pratt Mines, injuring and killing both White Union Workers and prison laborers – Green barely makes it out alive, saving Gal-Boy from a collapsing wall. The costs of proper repairs are more than Tennessee Coal is willing to pay. The union threatens to strike if the shafts aren't secured.

Ramsey unveils his new Banner Mine, the largest prison compound in Alabama. He casually mentions Tennessee Coal's financial problems to his childhood friend, HENRY FRICK, Andrew Carnegie's partner in U.S. Steel. Not one to pass up an opportunity to be ruthless, Frick makes a phone call.

Booker T. complains to Roosevelt about W.E.B. DuBois forming the NAACP instead of joining his National Negro Business League, but Roosevelt's distracted with JP Morgan and the potential collapse of the New York Stock Exchange.

Marshals Beauregard and Graham search Turner's property for potential witnesses, but Turner claims he released them. Graham gloats to Beauregard's as only the audience observes a dog drag the arm of the black boy Allen killed into the woods.

In Georgia, Green Cottenham's friend, Clive Watts, discovers the promise of earning \$1 a day was bullshit. Instead, the Foreman refuses to pay, charging Watts and the other workers for food and shelter. Watts threatens to quit if he doesn't get paid.

Beauregard and Graham follow up at Pace's plantation. Five remaining convict slaves, including Davis, lie and claim *not* to be imprisoned against their will. Davis observes Beauregard closely – unsure if a Negro marshal can be trusted. When Graham and Beauregard leave, Pace surprises the five prisoners by releasing them. Davis and the men dash into the woods while Allen Turner laughs and fires shots above their heads.

In Davis' shack, Albert reads to Alice. Floorboards creak – Albert grabs his father's gun but Davis appears from the shadows, engulfs his children in a loving embrace.

Pratt Mines guard David Campbell orders his convict laborers to fix the shafts. One skips the required safety steps to save time to dig his daily quota. When he hammers near the coal seam, an entire wall of rock collapses, crushing him to death. Knowing the daily quotas won't be met, an enraged Campbell snaps, ordering "alakazan degree" for Green – Green's wrists and ankles bound, stretched behind him to mimic the shape of a bow. Guards toss Green into a coffin-like pine box, where he suffers for hours.

Campbell's self-loathing manifests itself. He is fired for not meeting *his* quota.

JP Morgan calls Henry Frick to New York. He has a plan to acquire Tennessee Coal... and put the screws to President Roosevelt.

Upon finishing their first family meal, Davis explains to Albert and Alice that he must meet with the black deputy marshal and give him the evidence he needs to convict Pace. They beg him not to go, but he insists that it's the right thing to do.

At Reese's office, Mildred attempts to impress Beauregard as she talks with Booker T. about his conflicting views from W.E.B. DuBois, a man Beauregard supports. While Booker T. eloquently defends his beliefs, he capitalizes on Beauregard's passion to pressure Reese to find a solution of peace in race relations. Reese feels the investigation has hit a dead-end. Like it or not, prison leasing is completely legal. Knock on the door... Jon Davis enters.

Elated to finally have a key witness, Reese and Beauregard escort Davis to the Negro Boarding House where black witnesses are being kept. The presence of armed policemen makes Davis feel trapped... because he is. He demands his children be brought to him, but Reese refuses. Due to Davis' statements, Reese issues arrest warrants for Fletch Turner and Pace.

Pace, his wife, and daughter attempt to pick cotton. The women complain, wanting their slaves back. Beauregard and Graham arrive with a handcuffed Fletch Turner in the back of their wagon. Beauregard slaps cuffs on John Pace and arrests him.

The night before the trial, Judge Jones demands Reese get his head in the game. When Jones leaves Reese's home, Reese admits to Clara his fears this case will cost him any chance of becoming Governor. Clara reveals she's pregnant and hopes their child won't be ostracized because of his father's choices.

U.S. Steel's Henry Frick visits Roosevelt, explaining JP Morgan needed to bail out several trust companies – one that put up an enormous number of the competing Tennessee Coal's stocks as collateral. If Roosevelt insists on upholding the anti-monopoly laws, and disallowing U.S. Steel from purchasing these stocks, the NY Stock Exchange will collapse upon the opening bell... in one hour. Roosevelt caves. U.S. Steel now owns its biggest competitor.

In preparation for the visit by U.S. Steel president, W.E. COREY, electricity is installed in the Pratt Mines. Some are nervous they'll end up working twenty-four days. While the guards are distracted, word spreads to Green that the Old Prisoner finally escaped.

The morning of the Pace and Turner trial, their lawyer, MICHAEL BULGER, attempts to plea bargain but Reese refuses, and to trial they go. Bulger snarks, "For the record, I'm glad you turned my offer down. This is gonna be a hog-killin' time."

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Six

"Pay now or pay later."

A disgruntled Marshal Beauregard stands in the back of the courthouse, not allowed to sit with the white team of prosecutors. Reese's opening statement is met with boos and disgust, but defense attorney Michael Bulger's words bring cheers.

The bailiff parades eight black men into court, surprising Beauregard by yanking him in line. The witness stops on Davis – face scarred, fingers missing, and identifies him as one of Pace's laborers. When the judge tells Davis he's "free to go," he stands numb. Beauregard takes a shaken Davis to the black section and sits by his side.

When U.S. STEEL president W.E. COREY arrives at the newly acquired Pratt Mines, he's uneasy with the prison leasing policy. As he heads back to Pittsburgh, he insists they stop leasing prisoners but his orders are ignored – 400 more are purchased.

Guards allow the 14-yr-old white prisoner, Abe Wynne, to brew a pot of coffee on an open fire in the yard. When a hog noses against him for food, he splashes the hot coffee on the pig. The guards strip Wynne naked and force Green to stretch him across a barrel. Green and others are aghast as the guard whips Wynne sixty-nine times... *If they beat a white kid that badly, there are no limits to what they'll do to us.*

Every week, Green carries another body to the Pratt Mine graveyard – lives taken by pneumonia, tuberculosis and mining injuries. The deaths push the United Mine Workers into action and a strike begins. Green and other laborers convinced this will help their own working conditions.

At the Georgia lumberyard, Clive Watts and his buddies demand their back pay. When the overseers scoff, they quit and leave. Two white men step out of the darkness and accuse Watts and his friends of not paying for their food at the lumberyard. Watts runs while the others are arrested.

At the trial, Justice of the Peace Kennedy testifies and lies about Pace and Turner's illegal actions. As Reese flounders to make a case, the defendants' confidence grows.

Beauregard brings Albert and Alice to the Negro Boarding House for a joyous reunion with their father. All are devastated to learn the children can't stay, so Beauregard offers a small consolation, giving Albert the book, *Call of the Wild*, and tickets to see the new moving picture, *The Great Train Robbery*. Davis is grateful for Beauregard's compassion.

At Reese's home, Clara snaps at him for not taking the plea deal. She wants this over so he can focus on his campaign and their family. Reese feels pressure from all sides, spots a newspaper on the table with a headline, "BOOKER T. WASHINGTON DIES."

Plantation owner Cosby and his cronies meet for dinner. Rattled to the core, Cosby considers suicide via morphine, but they stop him, insisting the answer is to keep Davis from testifying – Marshal Graham slinks past, telling them Davis has a son...

Davis takes his kids to *The Great Train Robbery*. “Actors” rush the makeshift theater, pretending to be part of the show. As the audience joyously plays along, Burly Guard and his crew of “actors” reveal themselves only to Davis, whispering they’ll kill his boy if he testifies. They kidnap Albert in broad daylight, no one the wiser, except the horrified Davis.

Pratt Mines hire FREE BLACK MEN to break the strike lines. Enraged, white union workers throw stones as they cross the mine’s gates. Big Joe spits as they walk past, revealing one to be Jesse, Green’s older brother. Green’s bittersweet reunion is cut short when Gal-Boy asks if Jesse could get word to his parents. Another free black worker scoffs, “If ya kept dat nose clean, ya wouldn’t be here, now would ya?”

In Georgia, Watts meets and buddies up with GUS CHAPMAN. They reach JOHN S. WILLIAMS’ farm. Williams impressed with Chapman’s bulging muscles, raises his gums to see his teeth, and hires him. Williams scoffs at Watts’ size, but Watts promises to work twice as hard. Williams nods to his black overseer, CLYDE MANNING, who slaps shackles on them. A black man imprisoning other black men. *What kind of hell did they step into?*

Reese calls Davis to the stand. He’s a no show. Judge Jones won’t delay the trial. As Beauregard races out to find Davis, Secretary of State Heflin unabashedly declares he’s running for governor against Reese. The courtroom cheers. Judge Jones advises Reese to start carrying a gun.

In Pratt Mines, Jesse is obedient to an extreme, but riddled with guilt for being able to go home every night, while Green can’t. As he works alongside Green, they talk about family, and he shares that Green’s girlfriend, Shelly, has a new boyfriend. Green’s crushed. They go deeper into a cavern and find the rotting body of the Old Prisoner. Clearly, his escape was not successful. Jesse watches Green carry the body out, tears on his cheeks as he gently lays him at the feet of Savage Guard.

Watts endures torture at Williams Farm by his Black Overseer who “trains” dogs to chase and attack laborers. Gus Chambers unsuccessfully attempts an escape.

Beauregard finds an angry Davis packing his things at the Negro Boarding House and begs him to testify. Davis slams Beauregard... “Take off that badge and be one of us. Save my boy.” Disgusted with Beauregard, Davis takes off.

Beauregard challenges Reese, “Are we going to make history, or enable addiction to slavery?” A knock interrupts them. It’s Kennedy... ready to testify against Pace and also reveals Graham is conspiring with Turner.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Seven

"Exit strategy."

Tension between striking miners and Free Black Men intensifies. Pratt Mines need more workers, which raises pressure on Deputy Eddings to arrest more men. Eddings is so desperate he sends his rape victim, Annie Tucker, to Pratt Mines' kitchens.

Overworked and stressed beyond all that is human, PRISONERS turn on each other. A disagreement between Gal-Boy's mining partner/rapist and another prisoner about who *owns* Gal-Boy erupts into a *fight to the death* using axes, knives, rocks, and bare hands. While the two prisoners engage in combat, Gal-Boy stabs his mining partner/rapist, killing him. Surviving prisoner snatches Gal-Boy, claims ownership. Knife still in hand, Gal-Boy threatens to slice the prisoner to pieces if he ever touches him again. Surviving prisoner backs off Gal-Boy but snatches a different young black worker and declares ownership. Nobody ever touches Gal-Boy again.

At John S. Williams' farm in Georgia, a new worker, IRON JOHN, can't keep up the working pace. A guard whips Iron John mercilessly until the slave begs his captor to just kill him. The guard fires a bullet into Iron John's head – instant death. The guard then orders Watts and Chambers to secure the body to a heavy log and row it out to the middle of the pond. They drag Iron John's body into deep water and the body slowly sinks. Chambers and Watts stare back to shore, realizing they have to escape.

Back at the courthouse, Reese confronts Graham about his betrayal and fires him. A furious Graham sucker-punches Beauregard on his way out of the courthouse.

Davis takes Alice to Jack Avery's Saloon, a juke joint for African Americans, and begs a prostitute to keep her safe while he searches for Albert. She takes Alice in.

Outside Jack Avery's, Davis spots Marshal Graham and his drunk buddies. He follows them into the streets of Montgomery – eventually confronting Graham... *Where is my son?* During their evening stroll, Reese and Clara witness the argument. As Reese gets involved, Graham pulls a gun, threatens them both when a shot rings out and Graham drops. Beauregard's gun smokes as he stands over the dead Marshal Graham. Reese encourages Beauregard to get out of town before a lynch mob forms. Beauregard refuses to abandon the case.

The next morning, Beauregard and Davis show up at Reese's back door. Despite Clara's emotional objections, Reese hatches a plan to rescue Albert.

Beauregard, Davis, and James Robinson break into Turner's plantation, find hidden slaves, including Albert and Robinson's wife, Emily. As everyone flees, Burly Guard chases them down, but Emily snatches a rifle dropped in the scuffle and beats Burly Guard lifeless. Allen Turner aims his gun at Davis, but Beauregard jumps in front of

Davis as both Allen and Albert shoot. Albert's bullet pierces Allen, but not before Beauregard is fatally wounded, dies in an emotional Jon Davis' arms.

During the strike, a conflict between Pratt Mine managers and the guards cause the guards to increase the slaves' workload as punishment due to loss of revenue, death of laborers, and the stress of the strike itself.

In the kitchen, Annie Tucker finds rat poison and mixes it into biscuit batter for the guards' breakfast.

Green plans an elaborate escape but an explosion kills some of the fleeing prisoners. Green escapes being killed but *not* the mines. According to newspaperman, HENRY GRADY, the miners are "roasted and suffocated." The Board of Inspectors of Convicts record the deaths as due to "asphyxiation" with no mention of an escape.

Back inside the courtroom, Reese frantically paces, stalling the trial to wait for Beauregard to return with Davis and Albert. The door bursts open. A blood-stained Davis pushes through, Beauregard's motorcycle goggles in hand. James Robinson, his wife, Albert, and Scipio file in appearing as if they've escaped from hell. Davis informs Reese that Beauregard is dead. With that, Davis takes the stand.

As Clive Watts and Gus Chapman dig a long trench in a field at Williams' farm, they witness a new crop of chained black laborers arrive. Black Overseer yells for Chapman and Watts but there's no sign of them. He unleashes the hounds but still nothing. As the dogs bark far in the distance, a hollow reed juts out of the ground where Watts and Chapman had been digging. The soil rumbles and separates. A dirt-covered Watts emerges, breathing through the hollow reed. He drops the reed and frantically digs in the ground next to him, uncovering Chapman breathing through a reed of his own. The two men sprint in the opposite direction of the barking dogs.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Eight

“The South is an armed camp.”

Disgusted with working conditions, Free Black Men join the strike. Jesse Cottenham begs Green to trade clothes with him and go free. Green won't sentence his brother to prison life. A heartfelt goodbye as Jesse leads 500 free black workers off to join 7,000 United Mine Workers on strike. African American union leader, WILLIAM MILLIN, arrives and leads the charge, barking at the guards, saying they'll break the convict laborers free, if their demands aren't met.

Green's girlfriend, Shelly, sits in church with her new beau. Green's family prays as his father clutches Green's dice. As Reverend Starr delivers a sermon of faith, hope, a filthy Watts, free from Williams' farm, stands in the doorway.

Green and others hope the strikers will break them free as they overhear William Millin yelling demands for justice. Green plots another escape, but others are tired of his plans leaving prisoners dead.

Annie Tucker reunites with her brother, Dink, as she dishes out breakfast. Dink reaches for Annie's poisoned biscuits, but she slaps his hand. A suspicious guard interrupts the siblings and ends up taking the tainted biscuit from Dink.

In the dark of the night, black and white strikers raise the stakes by dynamiting the homes of leading Pratt Mine officials as well as white and black free miners who continue to work.

U.S. Steel's Henry Frick petitions the state for militiamen to break the strike. He imports sixty "Texas sharpshooters" to help defend the mines. Union workers fear a repeat of Frick's striking miner massacre years earlier.

Guards frantically push Green and others past their limits to produce. Dehydrated, exhausted, and dropping like flies, one prisoner so desperate he drinks stagnant water in the passageways mixed with human waste. Green shows signs of illness.

A guard vomits and curls in a ball in agonizing pain. Annie peers from a distance ... and smiles.

The specter of black and white miners unified against the coal companies terrifies the elite of Birmingham. They pressure for the arrest of the black union leader William Millin. He's handcuffed and paraded to jail.

Coal mine owners at the Pratt and Banner mines respond with an aggressive campaign to divide the union along racial lines. In the middle of the night, they send guards to snatch black union leader William Millin from jail and lynch him, leaving

him swinging in a tree, visible to the strikers on their way to the picket lines. Jesse cuts him down.

Alabama GOVERNOR BRAXTON COMER calls in the state militia.

Davis testifies that Allen Turner kidnapped his son and shot Marshal Beauregard to death. When questioned about his arrest, Davis states he never committed a crime. All he wanted was to sell eggs for medicine. He raises his shirt to reveal a back latticed with deep scars. Judge Jones has Allen Turner arrested.

Reese calls Catharine to the stand, badgering her to admit her role on the Pace farm. She weeps, unwilling to reveal their sibling bond. Pace yells out for Reese to leave her alone. Jones orders Catherine off the stand.

Reese gets Pace on the stand and pushes hard until he finally admits Catherine is his sister. The crowd groans in disgust, including Fletch Turner.

Justice of the Peace Kennedy takes the stand and flips his previous testimony, now admitting to sanctioning false arrests and bogus trials. Turner and Pace are livid. Fletch Turner retaliates by taking the stand and betraying Pace.

With closing arguments the next day, Reese corners Pace in the courthouse hallway and urges him to plead guilty. He refuses.

Reese returns home to tell Clara and his heartbroken secretary, Mildred, that Beauregard was killed. Clara finally shows the emotional support Reese needs.

When Birmingham citizens threaten a riot worse than Springfield unless the strike ends, the Pratt and Banner mine leaders ban together with Governor Comer.

Outside the Pratt Mines, the union leader reads Governor Comer's letter aloud to the black and white strikers. Comer declares he is, "outraged at the attempts to establish social equality between black and white miners." He demands the strike end and adds that he would not tolerate "eight or nine thousand idle niggers in the State of Alabama." His last line lingers in the air... one WHITE SYMPATHETIC MINER puts an arm around Jesse, "Fuck him. I'm not going back."

When the strike continues, Governor Comer declares, "This unrest is a threat to white supremacy," and dispatches the militia to break up the strikers' camps.

Annie Tucker scrambles to her secret hiding place in the kitchen as the militia arrives at the Pratt Mines, cutting down tents and destroying strikers' property. Jesse and strikers battle to stand their ground. Inside the gate, Green et al are on edge, praying the strikers win this new Civil War.

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Nine

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Pace rants to his wife about his business falling apart without his laborers. His wife leaves the room crying, “Why can't it stay as it's always been?” Catherine explains to a dumbfounded Pace if he accepts *her* as an equal, he needs to accept all blacks.

Reese arrives at Jack Avery's Saloon to find Davis. They share drinks and memories of Beaugard. Reese's evolution from racist to champion for justice now complete.

Pace enters the saloon and surrenders to Reese. When Reese purposely turns away, Davis stands equal to his “master” and sucker-punches Pace. Reese smiles.

Strikers try to defend the slashing of their tents by the militia, but realize their fight is futile. Even if they win today's battle, they're out of money and in need of work. The White Sympathetic Miner apologizes to Jesse Cottenham – things will never change for either of them. The strike ends.

As the sun rises, Green's eyes scan free miners returning, hoping to find his brother, but only white miners return. Deputy Eddings marches in a fresh contingent of black prisoners. Life at the mines goes back to “normal.” Green's spirits crushed.

A dirt-covered Gus Chapman staggers into the federal courthouse in Atlanta and reports John S. Williams for holding men against their will.

Green stumbles into the camp infirmary, crippled with excruciating stabbing pains. A DOCTOR diagnoses him with syphilis and gives him two sticks to help him walk.

When Big Joe tells Gal-Boy they can be partners since Green is sick, Gal-Boy's pride swells. As they dig for coal, Gal-Boy asks Big Joe if he really killed that man for kicking his dog. Big Joe admits he did... and doesn't regret it. He offers Gal-Boy advice, “Only way to survive is be stronger than the man who holds you down.” He taps Gal-Boy's chest, “Stronger here... inside... don't ever let them get ya here.”

Big Joe loads his coal car in the shaft, then slips. His hand grazes a bare electrical line, and he dies instantly. Gal-Boy screams and pounds on his chest to no avail.

With tear-stained face, Gal-Boy guides a mule carrying Big Joe's body out of the mineshaft to the sounds of a huge explosion coming from the BANNER MINE.

The tense relationship with the union over the strike as well as loss of prison laborers leaves Ramsey's Banner Mines vulnerable. Leaders at the Pratt Mines gloat that Ramsey is getting his payback. U.S. Steel's Henry Frick ignores pleas of help from his old childhood friend.

Two FEDERAL OFFICERS enter John S. Williams' farm, but he smooth-talks his way out of arrest as they sip sweet tea. The agents explain the antipeonage statute, warning him not to violate it further. Williams eyes the Officers leave, then whispers to Black Overseer, "You gotta get rid of all the stockade niggers before they ruin us."

Coroner's jury declares Ramsey is not at fault for the explosion, allowing Deputy Eddings to bring in new prison laborers to the Banner Mines.

Green becomes blind, losing control of his legs. Laying in the prison hospital, he remembers his father's advice and prays to heal and get back to his family.

Before delivering closing arguments, Reese, Pace, Bulger and the like meet with Judge Jones. Pace proclaims his guilty plea. Jones sentences Pace to five years for each of the eleven charges, but because of Pace's failing health, agrees to release Pace on a \$5,000 bond. Davis observes in the doorway of the room, crushed.

John S. Williams and Black Overseer declare to their workers they now understand peonage is wrong and promise to release them. The workers are ecstatic, but before they go, they just need a little more work done that day...

SERIES OF SHOTS – JOHN S. WILLIAMS "FREEING" SLAVES

-- EXT. FOREST – As two black workers dig a well, Williams' SON orders one to smash a shovel over the other black man's head. As his friend dies, the tearful worker drops his shovel. A GUNSHOT sends a bullet through his head – he falls.

-- EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT – John S. Williams drives his car to an isolated bridge and orders the Black Overseer to attach rock-filled bags to three workers' chains. The black men plead for their lives, but are shoved off the bridge. As Black Overseer grabs the last worker, he begs, "I'll do it myself." Black Overseer shows empathy for his fellow black man. The slave whimpers, "Lord have mercy," and jumps.

-- EXT. WOODS – MORNING – John S. Williams and Black Overseer take two black workers into the nearby woods to cut trees. At the edge of the forest, John S. Williams sinks his axe into a worker's back while Black Overseer splits the other's skull open with his axe. Williams instructs Black Overseer to keep hitting the worker until all signs of life cease. Then... John S. Williams goes to church.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

—

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME

Hour Ten

“Slavery is not a crime”

Reese delivers an emotional closing argument. “Yes, I am my father's son... And I pray my own son will have his grandfather's strength and fortitude to stand up for justice.” He emphatically states prison leasing is simply *slavery by another name*.

Judge Jones delivers shocking instructions to the jury for deliberation – they *must* find Turner guilty.

Waiting for the jury to deliver a verdict, Davis and his children lay in their bed at the juke joint. Alice asks why the white people hate them so much. Davis responds, “They just hate needin’ us.”

Just thirteen days after entering the prison hospital, Green is blind and immobile, and mistakes Gal-Boy for his young Nephew, repeating his own father’s advice, “Never let ‘em see ya broke... an’ no gamblin’, ya hear me?” Gal-Boy can’t bear to tell him Big Joe died. He places his hand on Green’s heart and whispers, “Ya won, Green. They didn’t get ya here.” A tear falls down Green’s cheek as he gasps his last breath.

Pratt Mine leader proclaims to Alabama officials they want to extend their prison-leasing contract for at least one more year. The state responds that it intends to not only lease all the new convicts to Erskine Ramsey’s Banner Mine, they’ll also acquire the ones Pratt Mine currently has. Not surprisingly, Ramsey bribed the officials.

Pratt Mine leader retorts, “I wish to enter a very vigorous protest against this action, as it is manifestly unfair to take the men from us,” but the state is unswayed.

Gal-Boy witnesses the last remaining two hundred state convicts held at the Pratt Mines march out under guard and turned over to the Banner Mine. The guard tells Gal-Boy to stay put because his release is being processed. But is it? Should he run? Should he trust them? He eyes the gates. In the confusion of the exodus, Annie finds Dink and sneaks him into her hiding place in the kitchen... then to ultimate escape.

Fletch Turner’s jury returns, unable to reach a unanimous decision. Reese is crushed and publicly chastises them for the injustice. Exhausted, Judge Jones declares a mistrial. But Fletch Turner shocks all by entering a guilty plea in exchange for all murder charges being dropped against his son, Allen. Cosby and the others chime in they too, will plea guilty for their upcoming cases.

Judge Jones accepts all pleas and fines each man a mere one thousand dollars.

A furious Reese confronts Judge Jones in his chambers but Jones is done. The point was made, he says. The word will spread that these prominent Southern men were found guilty and that is all the president wanted.

Davis and his children enter the Judge's chambers, equally enraged. Judge Jones praises Davis' bravery in testifying – stating their father has begun the true emancipation of his people. But a mob forms outside, lead by Heflin. Rocks PING off the windows. Davis asks, "That sound like freedom to you?" Judge Jones tosses his pistol to Davis, urging him to flea out the back. Reese distracts the mob while Davis and his children slip out... followed by a gun-wielding Allen Turner.

As they run into a train tunnel, Allen Turner snatches Albert who stabs him in the leg with a file. Davis insists his children run for their lives, but they don't want to leave him. Davis assures them, "Love you more than life. Now get. Do what we planned." The children run as Davis and Turner fire shots off screen. No one emerges from the tunnel.

Reaching the Davis shack, Albert and Alice frantically pack up but not before Albert smashes his homemade cotton gin that disfigured his father's hand.

A young white boy fishes in the river near the John S. Williams farm. Decomposing bodies of black men rise to the surface. He runs...

Federal Officers stand over dead bodies. One recognizes them from Williams's farm.

Hounds bark as a government car approaches the farm. John S. Williams sips sweet tea in his rocker as the Officers stride toward him and Clyde Manning, the Black Overseer. The Officers slap handcuffs on both men.

Gal-Boy helps place Green's body in the ground among the debris and decomposed bodies of the burial field's mass grave. As he shovels dirt on Green's corpse, a guard hollers to not look so sad – he's being released today.

The Pratt Mines LABOR AGENT takes Gal-Boy into town to process his release. As Gal-Boy waits on a bench, his eyes lock with a shackle-wearing John S. Williams as he passes. The Labor Agent emerges, hands Gal-Boy several coins, "Don't let me see ya back here, Boy." Gal-Boy scurries off as Deputy Eddings hands over five prisoners to the Labor Agent... all of them white.

Reese drives Beauregard's motorcycle and passes Judge Jones, both hopeful Davis made it out alive.

At the train station, Albert and Alice slip into a freight car and peek outside, hoping to be joined by their father, but there's no sign of him. Albert comforts Alice and reads from *Call of the Wild* as their train heads North – "They would never get another rope around his neck. Upon that he was resolved."

SCROLL OVER BLACK SCREEN:

“John S. Williams was the only white man found guilty in Georgia of killing a black man during the ninety years between 1877 and 1966.”

“The fate of Jon Davis remains unknown. The ending of the trial marked the beginning of the great migration of two million African-Americans out of the South.”

“Thomas J. Heflin was elected to Congress one year later. In 1920, he became a United States Senator and would hold that position for 10 years.”

“In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt pardoned John Pace on a promise never to hold slaves again. Shortly after, Pace resumed leasing slaves from the county jail.”

“In 1907, Fletcher Turner was elected to represent Tallapoosa County in the Alabama House of Representatives.”

“Warren Reese became a private attorney. Ninety years later, his grandson, Judge Eugene Reese, ordered the state of Alabama to finally begin providing equal funding for the education of all children, regardless of race.”

“Between 1903 and World War II, the NAACP and Department of Justice investigated hundreds of cases of involuntary servitude in the South. In 1951, President Harry Truman finally signed legislation making the holding of a slave a federal crime in the United States.”

The final images with no text or distraction are the real, haunting pictures taken in the 1930's of enslaved men by photographer John Spivak.