MONTFORD

Everyone... listen up!

The cowboys gather around Montford, make a circle around him.

MONTFORD

There's some rustlers out there aimin' to kill us, wanna take our herd.

The Chickasaw and black cowboys look to him with stern eyes.

MONTFORD

You know who we are, where we came from... you know those who came before us. We're warriors, always have been.

Our destiny has been to protect what is ours. That's who we always have been.



No one says a word.

COWBOY

Fightin' don't scare us, sir. We been fightin' all our lives. It's nothing new.

Montford hides his relief as best he can.

MONTFORD

We take watch in shifts tonight, guns loaded.

ISHOLM TRAIL - DAY

Heavy winds blow dust through the dry land.

Montford covers his face with a bandana.

LATER

Chub bundles up with thick bear fur while he drives the wagon.

ENP