He becomes who kills him

A horror story

2 months later
Hey!

Look, a scorpion!

Kill it!

OK, gimme a rock...

Quick! It's gonna run away!

Aw, it ain't gon' any where.

Hey -

Go away, Sarah!

No! What are you doing?

I'm gonna kill this scorpion.

Go inside and help ma.

What're you guys doing?

Ma said to play outside.

I wanna try.

Groan! If we let you try once, will you leave us alone?

Yes, I promise.

She's gonna miss...
CRUNCH

WHOA!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WOW! NICE JOB, SARAH!

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, SARAH? YOU OKAY?

I'M OKAY.

SARAH? YOU OKAY?

HEH, GIRL...

YOUR MAMA TELL YOU TO PLAY OUTSIDE?

YES.

YOU KNOW THAT MEANS SHE'S DOIN' IN THERE--DIRTY THINGS--

SIR... I HAVE TO GO IN.
WON'T DO THAT. THERE'S A SCORPION BEHIND YOU.

NO, THERE ISN'T...

I WEEK LATER

I DAY LATER

OKAY, THEN...
N-No--

Don't you touch me again...

HEEH.

It will all be over soon, child.

OH--

OH thank you--

HAHH--

You will be in a better place...

HKK--

HKK--...

You have done well, William.

She would have known our faces.

Now we have to dump her body.

No...
No, I have to bury her and leave a marker.

It's a good idea to bury her... but no one must find her.

Secrets are important, William.

50 minutes later

No!

IT IS GOOD, WILLIAM. LET US GO.

I have spoken with God...

...and God has forgiven us.
LET US GO HOME NOW. IT'S THE END OF A GLORIOUS DAY.

I DON'T KNOW. HE JUST TURNED HIMSELF IN LAST NIGHT, PADRE...

SAYS HE KILLED THE WESTON GIRL.

WELL, I MUST SPEAK WITH HIM SO -- SO HE MAY UNBURDEN HIMSELF...

TALK FAST -- THE GIRL'S FATHER IS COMING. HE ASKED TO TALK WITH MR. WESTON TOO.

FATHER TIMOTHY.

WILLIAM.

WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS, MY SON?

THIS TERRIBLE THING...

I KILLED THE GIRL BECAUSE I'M A BAD MAN, FATHER...

YOU BETTER, WILLIAM JOSHUA -- IT MAY BE THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE GALLOWS.

SHERIFF TO COUNSEL A MAN TO BE AS JUDAS ISCARIOT -- IS THIS WHERE HE IS?

IS THIS HIM?!

BUT WHAT I WON'T DO IS RAT ON MY ACCompLICES.
MR WESTON--

WHERE IS SHE?!

F--FIRST I WANT TO TELL YOU SOME-

THING SHE SAID.

YOU SON OF A BITCH, WHERE'S MY

DAUGHTER?!

SHE SAID GOODBYE TO

JACOB, AND SAID HE SHOULD

HAVE HER OLL ADA TO

REMEMBER HER BY...

AND GOODBYE TO EZRA,

FOR HE WAS HER PROTECTOR,

AND SAID FOR HIM TO SAY A

PRAYER FOR HER AT

FATHER TIMOTHY'S CHURCH.

AND GOODBYE TO MOTHER--

IT WAS NOT HER FAULT, AND

SHE CAN REMEMBER HER

BY LOOKING UP AT THE

NORTH STAR AT NIGHT--

AND GOODBYE TO YOU, FATHER,

AND SHE WANTED TO TELL YOU

THAT SHE ALWAYS REMEMBERED

A KISS ON THE FOREHEAD

EVERY NIGHT IN BED.

SHE TOLD YOU ALL THIS,

AND YOU STILL KILLED

HER?

YES.

AND BURIED HER ONE MILE

SOUTH OF THE BURNING RIVER

TRAIL.

SHE--SHE TOLD YOU ALL THIS--

THREE ROCKS MARK THE GRAVE.
I told them what I'll tell you... -- I did this because I'm a bad man.

I week later

I told you you'd swing for this, Will Joshua.

The preacher here's gonna talk to you 'bout salvation...

Click

... but you an' me both know where you're goin'.

What would be the purpose of ruining the name of the town preacher, Father?

No good can come of that.

You have a big house, out on the ridge.

You've kept your word, William.
YOU HAVE HORSES AND A LOT OF LAND.

YOU HAVE THE BLESSED LIFE OF A VIRTUOUS MAN...

...AND A SINGLE WORD COULD RUIN IT ALL.

WHY WOULD I EVER WANT TO DO THAT?

WILLIAM JOSHUA—FOR MURDERING SARAH WESTON YOU HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO HANG BY YOUR NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD.

WHAT SAY YOU?

AH.
Everyone -- I am a bad man...

...but I'm not intelligent or educated.

Planning is not something I'm good at.

I can't seem to get anything done on my own...

See... the truth is --

I had an accomplice on the Weston murder --

Someone who could plan...
EVERYONE... GOD SAYS WE CANNOT LET EVIL GO UNPUNISHED.

WE CANNOT ALLOW HIS FORKED TONGUE TO HOLD BACK OUR JUDGMENT.

AMEN.

BESIDES... WHY RUIN THE NAME OF THE TOWN PREACHER?

NO GOOD CAN COME OF THAT AT ALL.

CONCEPT BY MATT LARSEN

END

STORY & ART BY ZANDER CANNON