

FADE IN:

EXT. OPENING - MONTAGE

We open up to VINTAGE FOOTAGE and STILLs from old westerns, perhaps SILENT FILMS, SLIGHTLY SPED UP. We see COWBOYS on the open range, riding horses, fist fighting, drinking whiskey and just being cowboys. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
I'm sure many of you've heard the legendary tales of the wild west... *

STOCK FOOTAGE: Silent Film - We see a LOCOMOTIVE steaming down the tracks with their BANDITS IN TOW, fast approaching on horses, quick clips of GUNSLINGERS etc. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
...These tales, colored with the hunts and trappings of legendary outlaws. Billy 'the kid', Jesse James, John Wesley Hardin... Not to be outdone by their counterparts on the other side of the law, the men sworn to uphold it, the 'good guys' if you will. John Hicks Adams, Wyatt Earp and the like, in a time where the outlaw ruled the land, these great, tough-as-nails lawmen armed with nothing but a six-shooter and the will to do good, paint the colorful landscape of Americana. Well, I'm here to tell you bout a little known tale you may not be familiar with, and that's of the legendary McShane Brothers of Jasper county... *

We see a medium shot of DONNY and DICKEY McShane, BOTH WEARING SHERIFF BADGES. Clearly not the sharpest tools in the shed, these two idiots look excited but a little embarrassed to be on camera. THE FOOTAGE PAUSES. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
It's probably better I take you back to where it all started...

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

It's the MIDDLE OF THE 1800's. Wilbur Wiley "PA" McShane and Mary Margaret "MA" are skipping hand in hand, through a field of daisies with the youthful ENERGY OF YOUNG LOVE. *

Wearing Sunday school garb, THEY SEEM AWKWARDLY OLD, I mean *
 like really old for their age. Wilbur Wiley, looks to be
 rocking a hair piece and Mary Margaret, a wig with ponytails. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
 Wilbur fell in love with Mary
 Margaret the very moment he laid
 eyes on the young beauty...

EXT. NEAR THE CREEK - DAY - MONTAGE

They sit on a blanket near a picnic basket. She is apparently *
 laughing at one of Wilbur's jokes. They laugh. They're in
 love. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
 She too was smitten with the brash *
 and handsome young sheep herder *
 from Jasper County. *

Glowing with smiles, Mary Margaret takes a Dandelion and *
 blows it, making a wish as the seeds disperse. It is clear *
 that both of them have the same wish. She then leans in for a
 soft kiss...

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
 And although it wasn't pretty,
 often times perhaps, maybe even *
 hard to look at, it was clear that
 these two love birds were to spend
 the rest of their lives together...

INT. CHURCH - DAY - MONTAGE *

Pulling apart from the kiss, the preacher announces them *
 'husband and wife'.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
 Wilbur quickly made an honest woman *
 out of Mary Margaret and *
 they... *

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - DAY - MONTAGE

We see a shot of a BEDROOM DOOR. FROM THE DOOR KNOB, we see a
 SIGN, written in coal that reads, "Do not disterb'. The SIGN
 SHAKES a little bit as we can hear some form of commotion
 from the other side of the door. Ahhh, the sounds of young
 love.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
... wasted no time at all, in
starting a family together. Just a
short time later...

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

The local doctor and a nurse tend to MA as she labors through
the BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD. PA is trying to hold her hand *
and comfort her with little effect. She's having a very hard *
labor.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
The young couple was blessed with
the birth of their first child, um,
well...

Wrapped in a blanket, the nurse holds up their beautiful son,
DONNY as Ma and Pa look on joyously.

That look quickly vanishes from Ma's face. The doctor, still
down near her nether regions, looks up at her with an, 'uh
oh' expression. Ma's eyes widen and they go at it again. The
doctor smiles and gives her a reassuring 'thumbs up'. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
...make that *children*. Yup, that's
right. Rare as it was back then, Ma *
and Pa were blessed with a set of *
beautiful twin boys.

Ma is a hot and sweaty mess and completely war-torn from the *
natural laboring of twins. The nurse then holds TWO BABIES, *
wrapped in blankets, smiling at the new parents.

MA
(to PA)
I hate you.

PA passes out and FALLS STRAIGHT BACK. *

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE LIVINGROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

Ma and Pa McShane look miserably exhausted as they sit in *
rocking chairs, both holding their new additions. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

The happiness and joy little Donny
and Lonny brought the McShane
family was nothing short of a
miracle.

*

CUT TO:

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE LIVINGROOM - EVENING - MONTAGE

They lay their sleeping bundles of joy into a tiny bassinet
at bedtime. Ma and Pa look at the boys and a *slight* sense of
HAPPINESS FINALLY COLORS THEIR FACES. The babies are truly
beautiful.

*

They look at each other and their eyes meet. Feeling
romantic, Pa's smile widens and Ma's SMILE DISAPPEARS. She
seems angry.

*

*

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - MONTAGE

We see the bedroom door with the 'Do not Disturb' sign on it
and again, it's shaking.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Now, as the old saying goes,
sometimes lightning *does* strike
twice...

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

*

Ma is in labor again and this time, she's even less happy
about it than the first time. She's seems to be yelling
profanities and blames Pa for her discomfort.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

...and just a year later, Ma and Pa
welcomed two more beautiful baby
boys into the McShane family.

The same nurse as before, a little scared this time, holds up
the two blanketed newborns in presentation to Ma and Pa. We
see a nurse in the background, holding their siblings.

*

*

Ma musters up just enough energy to punch Pa in the
babymakers.

*

*

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE LIVINGROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

Ma and Pa, in the same rocking chairs, now holding TWO newborns each. Bliss is not a word I would use to describe their demeanor, especially MA.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

With the addition of Ricky and Dickey, bliss is the only word that comes to mind when tellin ya what these four boys brought to Ma and Pa.

*
*

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - DAY - MONTAGE

Lil Lonny and Donny sit in a play pen together.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Oddly enough, it seems that neither set of twins really got along with their same age sibling...

*

Lil Lonny takes Donny's pacifier and chucks it across the room laughing. Donny cries.

*

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - DAY - MONTAGE

Ricky and Dickey sit in a play pen. Ricky takes Dickey's pacifier and chucks it across the room laughing. Dickey cries.

*

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY - MONTAGE

Donny and Dickey, now ages 10 and 11 are washing dishes. They are all smiles as Donny is washing and passes the plates to Dickey who dries. They couldn't be happier.

*
*
*

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Dickey and Donny were just cut from a different cloth, I guess. They helped around the house...

*
*

INT. CHURCH - DAY - MONTAGE

Still all smiles, Donny and Dickey sit next to each other reading their bibles. They look at each other, smile, then back to their bibles.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
...were God fearin, church goin
boys...

INT. SCHOOL - DAY - MONTAGE

Awkwardly happy to be in school, Dickey writes the correct answer to 2+2 on the chalkboard. From his desk, Donny smiles proud and gives the 'A-Ok' hand sign, then takes notes. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
Worked really hard on their
studies. Always polite and never
caused a lick of trouble to nobody.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY - MONTAGE

Ricky and Lonny are sitting behind the school, lighting some firecrackers.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
Now, Lonny and Ricky on the other
hand, well that's a different
story.

Lonny THROWS A STRING OF LIT FIRECRACKERS around the side of the school at the nuns. The boys laugh for a second and then run off as a nun approaches. *

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY - MONTAGE

Lonny and Ricky come running out of the General Store with hands full of candy. The SHOP OWNER comes running out after them, shaking his fist at the two trouble makers.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)
Always gettin into trouble and up
to no good.

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - DAY - MONTAGE

Ma opens the door to find a very displeased looking nun who's got Ricky and Lonny by their ears. *

Ma motions them to get in the house. *

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY - MONTAGE

Matilda, aka TILLY, a beautiful thirteen year-old girl was on top of a boy, beating the tar out of him. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

One point of contention between the boys is both Ricky and Donny were smitten over the same gal. *

Donny stood watching, holding some flowers and smiling as always.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Tilly was mean as she was pretty and tougher than any boy in Jasper County... *

We then see that Ricky is in fact, the boy that Tilly is beating the crap out of. Nose bloodied, Ricky just smiles as he's getting pummeled. He too, is smitten with Tilly. *

Tilly stands up and storms towards Donny. Smiling, Donny offers her the flowers. Tilly grabs the flowers, then head butts Donny, knocking him to the ground before storming off. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Being a little rough around the edges didn't matter to the boys. In fact, I think they kinda liked it. One thing's for sure, they both wanted to be her fella. *

Donny slowly stands, rubbing his bloodied nose as Ricky walks up next to him. Both are focused on Tilly. Ricky looks at Donny and shoves him out of frame. *

EXT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE - DAY

Ma and Pa are sitting on the porch as old people in the old west do. Ricky and Lonny come walking up.

MA *

What you boys been up to?! *

YOUNG LONNY *

Nothin.

MA

(in disbelief)

Uh huh. Nothin good.

The boys go and sit on the porch. Lonny proceeds to PICK HIS NOSE. Shortly thereafter, he is hit in the head with a flying shoe. *

MA (CONT'D)

What ya doin over there, diggin for gold?! *

YOUNG LONNY *

No! *

BEAT

Lonny's eyes start to sparkle and a smile creeps in as he looks at his soiled finger. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

That seemed to be a defining moment in the boys' life. *

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

The house is asleep. Lonny quietly goes over to Ricky and wakes him up. *

YOUNG RICKY *

(trying to sleep)

What? *

YOUNG LONNY *

(whispering)

Git up. *

YOUNG RICKY *

What... what is it? *

Ricky starts to wake. *

YOUNG LONNY *

Shhh. Be quiet. Look, I got us some tools... *

Young Lonny shows Ricky a small pick axe, a lantern and some tape. *

YOUNG RICKY *

What's that fer? *

YOUNG LONNY *

Fer diggin... *

Ricky looks at him confused. *

YOUNG LONNY (CONT'D) *
Diggin for gold. We gonna be rich *
little brother. *

EXT. MINES OUTSIDE OF JASPER - DAWN

Ricky and Lonny run towards the mines in excitement with big *
dreams of their coming riches. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.) *
That seemed to be the beginning of *
the end for those boys. Greed and *
Lonny's newfound obsession for gold *
put them in harm's way. Pa always *
warned them to stay away from those *
mines, but this wasn't the first *
time they didn't listen. *
Unfortunately...

We see about 200 yards away, two CONTRACTORS, standing near a *
TNT detonator. One of them plunges the handle down and the *
MINES EXPLODE. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.) *
...it looked to be their last. *

EXT. FUNERAL - DAY

The grief stricken family gathers around TWO SMALL GRAVE *
SITES as a preacher says what preachers say at funerals. *

Donny and Dickey hold their hats over their chests and sob at *
the loss of their brothers. Tilly is in the background, *
beating the crap out of some boy. They watch the caskets *
being lowered into the ground. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.) *
Unable to locate the remains, *
little Lonny and Ricky McShane were *
presumed dead. *

LITTLE DONNY *
(to Pa) *
Hey Pa, if we couldn't find Lonny *
or Ricky nowheres, who's in them *
boxes? *

Pa hadn't considered this. He looks to the caskets confused, *
then just shrugs, before resuming his mourning rituals. Tilly *
punches some kid in the face in the background. *

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

As much trouble as those boys were,
they was gonna be missed something
terrible. Mary Margaret was never
quite the same after they passed.
Other than giving birth to two back
to back sets of twins, before the
advent of anesthesia, this was the
most painful thing she would ever
endure. And although the boys
didn't quite get along, they were
brothers, twin brothers at that,
and one thing Wilbur always used to
say is, 'Family is family and kin
is kin and blood is thicker than
anything else.'

INT. THE MCSHANE HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY - 20 YEARS LATER

We see TWO SHERIFF BADGES, TWO HATS and TWO PISTOLS sitting
on the dresser. The pistols are grabbed and we hear them
being holstered.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

Time passed as it always does.
Ricky and Lonny were gone, but they
were never forgotten...

The HATS are grabbed, then the BADGES that we follow up to
meet the 'grown up' versions of Donny and Dickey McShane.
They're facing each other and checking each other out,
straightening badges, wiping lint off each other as mirrors
weren't common back in those days. They're all smiles and
seem to lack the general toughness found in most lawmen.

SAM ELLIOT (V.O.)

And it was no surprise to anyone
that Donny and Dickey grew up to
become the very first dual sheriffs
of Jasper County, or any county for
that matter.

DICKEY

How do I look?

DONNY

You look good. What about me?

DICKEY

Awesome...

DONNY

I do?