

Third-Eye and Sparrow

Pilot

By
Xochitl Huerta

Logline:

During the California Gold Rush of 1844, a Mexican-American woman and the daughter of a Chinese immigrant experience unforgivable atrocities by a gang of outlaws. They team up to exact their revenge in the precarious Wild West.

Pilot Synopsis

ACT ONE

OUTLAW BRADY (late 20's) begs for his life as THIRD-EYE (mid 20's), masked in black, points their gun in the middle of his forehead. Sex workers run down the hallway to avoid the violence. This is the old wild West of course, and men die everyday. Though he has spilled his guts, Third-Eye pulls the trigger all the same.

Hours later, SPARROW (early 20's), a Chinese-American woman dressed in trousers and boots, arrives at the brothel. She's a familiar face and the sex workers lounging on the porch direct her inside to their madame. JOSEPHINE (late 30's), the madame of the Kernsville brothel, embraces her friend. She's a woman with a regality about her that seems out of place in this small town. Sparrow has been tracking Third-Eye, and she's close. Josephine tells Sparrow to talk to one of her girls, they know where the infamous outlaw has gone. A bump from upstairs lets Sparrow know that her friendly rival is here as well. She goes up and helps SHERIFF ROY (mid 20's), the town's young, but very capable protector, carry down Outlaw Brady's corpse. They have a camaraderie, but Sheriff Roy has a clear disdain for bounty hunters, which is exactly what Sparrow is. Outside the brothel, Sparrow meets up with PENNY (18), the girl whom Josephine referred her to. Penny tells her that she followed Third-Eye to the forest line, and believes that the infamous outlaw may be hiding out in an old cave towards the hills. Sparrow thanks the girl, gets on her horse, and rides off towards the forest.

Sheriff Roy and some MALE CIVILIANS gossip about the tales surrounding Third-Eye. The stories vary from believable to outrageous. As Sheriff Roy watches Sparrow ride off, one

man explains the reasoning behind Third-Eye's name. When the outlaw leaves his victims, he leaves them with a third-eye the size of a bullet right in the middle of their forehead.

ACT TWO

As Sparrow reaches the meeting point of the hills and the forest, she dismounts and ties her horse to a tree. The breeze and sunlight reminds her of a memory. Her father, ZHANG CHEN (30's), teaches a YOUNG SPARROW (8), how to shoot an arrow from a bow. The memory makes her smile, but distracts her for a moment from the incoming danger. A BEARDED MAN (50's) points his rifle at her while his sons, FAT SON, TALL SON, and UGLY SON, surround her with melee weapons in their hands. Sparrow isn't worried, more irritated than anything. They wish to rob and rape her, but before they attack, a GUNSHOT rings out.

The Bearded Man falls to the ground dead, with a bullet sized hole in the middle of his forehead. Third-Eye emerges from the bush, masked and dressed in black. Third-Eye uses the Fat Son's body to block a throwing axe from the Tall Son, then proceeds to headshot him as well. After swiftly avoiding Ugly Son's dagger, Third-Eye ends the fight by breaking his neck. Sparrow smirks, nocks an arrow, and aims it at Third-Eye. All Sparrow can see from their appearance is a nasty scar that runs down Third-Eye's left eye, discoloring it. Now that she has Third-Eye in her sights, she wants the information she's been hunting for: where are The Hounds, an evil gang of outlaws. Third-Eye stays silent, while Sparrow is unrelenting. Then, Sparrow's arms shake from the pressure and Third-Eye tackles her to the ground.

Sparrow knows how to fight, she's quick on her feet and her blows are unforgiving, but Third-Eye proves to be an equally immovable force. In a quick move, Sparrow knocks Third-Eye's hat and bandanna to the ground, and holds a knife to Third-Eye's throat. It is revealed that Third-Eye is... a Mexican woman and her scar rides all the way down, just past her bottom lip. Sparrow is surprised and Third-Eye takes this moment to cock a gun pointed at Sparrow's stomach. It's a standoff, until Sheriff Roy suddenly arrives on the scene with his rifle pointed at the two women. He arrests them both and his deputy, PETE (17) takes them to Kernsville jail.

In the cell, Sparrow berates Third-Eye for not telling Sheriff Roy that she wasn't responsible for the deaths of the Bearded Man and his sons. After a moment, Sparrow tries to coax Third-Eye into telling her where the Hounds are, but Third-Eye is unwilling. When Sparrow accuses Third-Eye of being a Hound, it angers Third-Eye to violence and the women fight to another stalemate once more. After a while, Sparrow tells Third-Eye that she seeks revenge for an atrocity that the Hounds have done to her. Third-Eye reveals that her motivations are the same and that they may benefit from partnering up. Sparrow tells Third-Eye that they'll hang Third-Eye in the morning and it would be best that Third-Eye divulge the information now, but Third-Eye is unusually optimistic. She tells Sparrow to meet her at midnight. Then Pete comes to release Sparrow, but Sparrow is certain she can't trust Third-Eye if she doesn't even know her name. Before she goes, Third-Eye tells her, her name is Sonya.

ACT THREE

Sheriff Roy drops off the corpses at the good DOCTOR JAMES (late 60's). They talk for a little, reminiscing about the last time a woman killed in their town. It was when Sheriff Roy was just a boy, and a woman poisoned her abusive husband. It gives the Sheriff a little perspective on what might have happened here. He thanks the Doctor and excuses himself.

At the brothel, it's a more animated night than usual. Sparrow makes a beeline towards Josephine. She tells the Madame of what happened in the forest and Sparrow considers heading North, investigating towns along the way to find a lead on the Hounds. Sparrow bids Josephine farewell for the night and decides to have a drink on Sheriff Roy. She sits at the bar alone, and a PERVY MAN (40's) sets his sights on her. At the same time, the Sheriff walks in and heads for his friends who are gossiping about the day's events. Everyone is surprised about the news of a woman killer passing through their town.

Meanwhile, the Pervy Man makes his advance towards Sparrow, cupping an unwanted feel of her bottom. She threatens to break his fingers, but he proposes she takes off her clothing instead. She decides to follow through on her threat. The tensions rise, and Sparrow is ready to take on his gaggle of friends, but an unlikely ally steps in. Sheriff Roy inserts himself in the conflict and is able to defuse the situation, sending the Pervy Man to Doctor James. He buys Sparrow a drink and they talk for a while. After six drinks the two of them are drunk and happy, revealing truths to each other they've never had before. Then one thing leads to another, and they stumble into Sparrow's room, fiercely kissing and tearing off each other's clothes. They fall into bed, reserving the moment for them and them only.

ACT FOUR

Sparrow dresses and looks down at Roy's sleeping naked body and smiles. She sees the clock on the wall, grabs her quiver and bow, and promptly heads out. Sparrow stands atop the Northern hill overlooking the town, waiting for Third-Eye. She doesn't take long, and says her greetings by pointing her gun at Sparrow's head. Sparrow is frustratingly confused, but Third-Eye tells her that she knows that Sparrow is a bounty hunter and that she can't trust her. Sparrow queries how Third-Eye escaped jail.

Flashback to earlier, Third-Eye sits in her cell studying Pete. She calls him over and tells him she could beat him with her hands tied behind her back. Pete buys into the challenge, especially so when Third-Eye offers a prize of sex, but sadly for Pete the interaction ends with him unconscious and tied up and Third-Eye already out the door. Sparrow listens to this with a defeated sigh. As Third-Eye fits a sack over Sparrow's head, she tells Sparrow that their journey will be a long one, the destination being: San Francisco. Meanwhile in San Francisco, THE HOUNDS walk alongside the docks of the bay. They are led by BRYANT ADAMS (40's), a man dressed darkly with a mean scar going down the side of his face, quite like the scar Third-Eye bears. He leads his men into a building, a headquarters for the Central Pacific Railroad Company.

The next morning in Kernsville, Sheriff Roy is awakened by Josephine. They've found Sparrow's horse, and Josephine suspects she's been taken. The Sheriff busts into the jailhouse, finding Pete tied up and gagged on the cell floor. While he unties him, he ponders what move to make next. Meanwhile, Third-Eye and Sparrow are making their way through the Kern County wilderness. Sparrow then asks Third-Eye why she killed Outlaw Brady from before if he had disclosed the Hounds' whereabouts. Third-Eye stays silent, but thinks back to yesterday morning.

Outlaw Brady is having relations with one of the sex workers, until Third-Eye breaks into the room and begins to beat the naked man. The sex worker runs out of the room as Third-Eye asks Outlaw Brady if he remembers her. She pulls down her mask, so he may have a good look. His eyes widen as he remembers, but even after giving her the information, Third-Eye makes it crystal clear what her intentions are with any members of the Hounds. That is for them to die brutally, and she pulls the trigger. His head snaps back as his brains splatter the wall behind him.

Third-Eye remembers every detail, but she doesn't answer Sparrow's question. Instead she grips the reins and kicks off toward the horizon.

End of Pilot