**SCENE I. Before JEDEDIAH'S house.**

*Enter JEDEDIAH and ALVIN*

**ALVIN**

You cain’t be a lettin’ this git to you, Jedediah; You got ta be strong, fer Daisy’s sake.

**JEDEDIAH**

It’s no use a tryin’ ta make me feel better, Alvin. I just cain’t quit a thankin’ about it. Why this is the craziestest thang whut I done ever saw. I knowd my daughter, well enuff to know she ain’t a lyin’ ta me about this thang. And, I know Jethro well enough to know he ain’t a lyin’ bout it neither. Why, I feel like I kin trust Abner like my ownliest son. Now that thar Butch, I’d druther walk around here a carryin’ a rattlesnake in my pocket than be a trustin’ that Revenuer, but them other boys, seems like good boys to me. That’s whut I cain’t figger out. Why, I hain’t never been a hurt like this. Why are them boys a hurtin’ me so?

**ALVIN**

Men do strange thangs, that’s fer sure. Whatever the reason, brother, I’m here fer ye.

**JEDEDIAH**

Reason! Reason! Where’s the dad burnt reason in this whole thang. All I’ma knowin’ is that them boys done disgraced my daughter, and she’s the onliest daughter I got. I know in my heart she’s a tellin’ me the truth, and them boys is gonna regret the day they messed with Jedediah Hogue. Here come them Bald Knobbers now!

*Enter JETHRO and ABNER*

**JETHRO**

Good day, Gentlemen.

**ABNER**

(Knodding) Fellas.

**JEDEDIAH**

Hold on Gentlemen yourselves.

**JETHRO**

We’re in a heap of a hurry, Jedediah.

**JEDEDIAH**

Hurry are ya? Well how fast is you a goin’ now?

**JETHRO**

Stop right thar, old man. We ain’t a lookin’ fer no trouble with yuins?

**ALVIN**

Watch em’ Jedediah, you done seen what they’re about.

**ABNER**

What are you a meanin’ by that?

**JEDEDIAH**

You both done wronged me and my family. That’s what I’ma meanin’ by that. Go ahead an’ reach fer that huntin’ knife boy. I ain’t afeard of a cowartly possum like you!

**ABNER**

I won’t be a pullin’ no weapon to deal with the likes o somebody yer age.

**JEDEDIAH**

Don’t be a makin’ jokes at me, you durn young whippersnapper! I ain’t no fool and even though I’m old enough to be yore daddy, an’ I’ll whoop you like a skint pole cat! Abner, you have wronged my innocent child and me, and thanks to yer lyin’ villainy, my precious baby is daid! Kilt by yer selfish scandal. I don’t know why you done whut you done, but thanks to you my girl done lies buried with her ancistors.

**ABNER**

Are you a sayin’ that Daisy is daid?

**JEDEDIAH**

Yes sir! An It’s you who done kilt her. You and Jethro’s and Butches lies.

**JETHRO**

You is dead wrong, old man!

**ABNER**

Away! I’ll be a havin’ no more to do with this or you.

**JEDEDIAH**

What’s a matter, boy. You so use to killin’ children that you afraid to kill a man?

**ALVIN**

He’ll have to be a killin’ the two of us, brother. But first, let him give me a try.  
Boy, you ain’t never been a whooped like the whoopin’ I’m about to put on you.

**JEDEDIAH**

Brother,--

**ALVIN**

I loved my niece, Jedediah, and now she’s been slander’d to death by these here boys, these braggarts, whippersnappers!

**JEDEDIAH**

But, brother Alvin,--

**ALVIN**

Don’t worry Jedediah, I’ll be a taken care o this myself.

**JETHRO**

Now fellas, we ain’t a puttin’ up with this no more. We are very sad fer the loss o your daughter, but I swar to you both, what we done charged her with is very true and full of proof. We done seen her with our own two eyeballs.

**JEDEDIAH**

But Cap’n Jethro-

**JETHRO**

I will not hear you.

**JEDEDIAH**

No? Come, brother; away! I will be heard.

**ALVIN**

You shore will, brother. Some o us here is gonna be real sorry fer some o the thangs they done.

*Exit JEDEDIAH and ALVIN*

**JETHRO**

Thank goodness, here comes Bubba.

***Enter BUBBA***

**ABNER**

Yer a mighty welcome sight, Bubba?

**BUBBA**

Howdy, Jethro.

**JETHRO**

You pert near arrived right in the middle of a ruckus.

**ABNER**

We liked ta almost had our noses snapped off by two old men with no teeth.

**JETHRO**

I don’t care if’n they are old, I wouldn’t won’t to tangle with Jedediah and his brother right now.

**BUBBA**

I’d like a word er two with you, Abner?

**ABNER**

What’s the matter with you Bubba, you’re a lookin’ kind o upset?

**BUBBA**

[Aside to ABNER] You are a villain; and I ain’t a jokin’. I’ma challengin’ you to a mountain duel and you know the last mountain duel I wast in, I done kilt a man. Between the two o you, you have kilt an innocent sweet girl. This thang you have done, will go down heavy on you. I’ll be aspectin’ to hear from you, boy.

**Abner**

You’re wrong, Bubba.

**BUBBA**

Fare you well, boy: you know my mind. Cap’n, for your friendship all these years, I’ma a thankin’ you.but, I must discontinue your company: your brother, Butch hast done fled the mountain, and you have amonst yerselves done kilt a sweet and innocent lady. As far as yer boy there goes, he’s been challenged. I’d be a sharpenin’ your blade if’n I twere you.

*Exit*

**JETHRO**

He ain’t a jokin’.

**ABNER**

He shore ain’t. I’m a guessin’ he’s a doin’ this fer Violet.

**JETHRO**

And he’s done challenged you, Abner.

**ABNER**

Most sincerely.

**JETHRO**

Did he not say, my brother was fled? Why would he run off without tellin’ us?

*Enter ROSCOE, BARNEY, and the Watch, with JOHN BOY and OTIS*

**ROSCOE**

What you do in the dark, comes out in the light. That’s whut momma done always tol’ me.

**JETHRO**

How now? These two raggly tags work fer my brother. What are ya’ll a doin’ to ‘em?

**ABNER**

Have they done somethin’?

**JETHRO**

Officers, what are the charges on these two?

**ROSCOE**

The firs thang they done was ta lie. Then, after that, they done spoke untruths. Secondly, they are slanderers, and sixth and lastly, they done belied Jedediah’s daughter, Daisy. Thirdly, they hast verified unjust thangs, and in conclusion, they is lyin’, horse theivin’ , revenuers.

**JETHRO**

What have ya’ll to say fer yerselves? This here Mountain constable is too cunnin’ to figger out.

**OTIS**

Cap’n Jethro, here it is. I’ll be a tellin’ you the truth, and then you kin let Abner here be a killin’ me. I have deceived even yer very eyes. What even yer wisdom didn’t discover, these shallow fools here done figgered out. Thesein’s, overhurt me a tellin’ John Boy here how I done wooed Beulah whilest callin’ her “Daisy” and havin’ her put on a wig ta make her look like Daisy, so’s that yuin’s would be a thankin, that she was a cheatin’ on Abner, here. It was Butch whut done put us up to it. He done paid me $20. Now, Miss Daisy is daid on my account and Butch’s accusin’ fanger. Right now, I’d just apprediate it if’n you’d be a doin’ me in. Give me whut a villain deserves.

**JETHRO**

I cain’t believe whut I’ma hearin’?

**ABNER**

My precious Daisy. She loved me after all?

**JETHRO**

That’s why he done left Pine Mountain. That sorry no good varmint.

**ABNER**

Sweet Daisy! I have done kilt my true love.

**ROSCOE**

Come, neighbors. Let’s take these here two scalliwags to the jailhouse. By this time, the judge hast done informed Jedediah about what they done.

**BARNEY**

Look, here comes the judge with Jedediah as we speak.

***Re-enter JEDEDIAH and ALVIN, with the Judge***

**JEDEDIAH**

Which ones are the villains, so’s that I kin lay my own eyeballs on them.

**OTIS**

That’d be me, Mr. Hogue.

**JEDEDIAH**

Are you the sorry critter whut done slandered my innocent girl to death?

**OTIS**

Yea, even me alone.

**JEDEDIAH**

That’s not so, villain. You had yerself plenty o hep right cheer with these two fine Mountain Men.

**ABNER**

I don’t know whut to say, Jedediah other than to tell you to give me any punishment you can dream of and I’ll be a grateful fer it. Fer I have wronged you and Daisy even though I thought I wast a doin’ the right thang.

**JETHRO**

Punish me, too Jedediah. Anythang that might make you feel better.

**JEDEDIAH**

I cain’t brang my daughter back, that’s impossible, but tell everbody on this here Mountain, that Daisy wast true and loyal ever day o her life and that she had been falsly slandered. Tonight, hang her an epitaph on her tomb what sang it to her bones. Then, tomorry, come to my house. Since you could not be my son, be my nephew. Fer my brother, Alvin, hast a daughter the spittin image o mine. She alone is a gonna end up a ownin’ this here Mountain whenst me and Alvin are gone. Marry her instead, and there will die my revenge;

**ABNER**

Your kindness brangs tears to me. I’ll be there bright and early, and be glad to do yer will.

**JEDEDIAH**

Tomorry then I will expect your comin’. I’ll be a goin’ home myself now. I’ll be a needin’ an explanation from Beulah as to whut her part in this thang wast. She must o been hiret by Butch also.

**OTIS**

No, I swar, she’s as innocent as she can be. She didn’t know whut my plan was. As long as I knowed her, she’s been as good as gold. She wouldn’t never hurt nobody on purpose.

**ROSCOE**

Yess’r. The watchmen, judge, Barney an’ myself done determined that this here bald knobber done fooled Miss Beulah, too. She didn’t have no clue whut Butch and Otis, here was up ta.

**JEDEDIAH**

I’ma a thankin’ you an’ yer good men fer the good work whut ya’ll done done.

**ROSCOE**

Comin’ from you, Jedediah, that means a lot! Me an’ the boys was proud and honored to be a doin’ it.

**JEDEDIAH**

This here’s fer you.

**ROSCOE**

I couldn’t be a takin’ that. Well, if’n yuse insist.

**JEDEDIAH**

Go, I discharge you of yer prisoner, and I tBubba ye.

**ROSCOE**

I leave an arrant knave with you and the Cap’n; which  I’m a hopin’ you’ll be usin’ to sit a good example. I hope that God’ll be a blessing you and Pine Mountain. Be seein’s yuin’s on the other side. Come neighbor.

***Exit ROSCOE and BARNEY***

**JEDEDIAH**

Until tomorry morning, fellas, farewell.

**ALVIN**

Farewell, fellas: we look for you tomorry.

**JETHRO**

We will not fail; we’ll be there.

**ABNER**

Tonight I'll mourn with Daisy.

**JEDEDIAH**

[To the Watch] Bring these fellas with ya to the jailhouse. We'll  
talk with Beulah and find out how she got mixed up with the likes o thesin’.

*Exit*