

## **THE HOTTEST PART OF WINTER**

By Paul Allor

Five-Page Comic Script

### **PAGE ONE – FIVE PANELS**

#### **PANEL ONE**

The bedroom of a small cabin in 1890s Montana. **THE MARSHAL** is getting dressed. He has his work shirt on, still unbuttoned, and is pinning his Marshal star to the chest.

**CLARA**, our protagonist, lies in bed. Overall, this panel (and the next few) should give the impression that the Marshal is the hero and Clara a supporting characters, before we flip that expectation on page two.

1. CLARA:                   You're starting awfully early for a Sunday.
2. MARSHAL:               Got a tip on the **Henry Gang!** Gonna pay 'em an early-morning visit.

#### **PANEL TWO**

The Marshal leans in and kisses Clara gently on the forehead.

3. CLARA:                   Sounds exciting.

#### **PANEL THREE**

He's gone, and Clara is out of bed, **FRANTICALLY** pulling on a pair of pants.

#### **PANEL FOUR**

Outside shot, as Clara **JUMPS** out the (first floor) window of the cabin. It's morning, and snowing.

## **PAGE TWO – FIVE PANELS**

### **PANEL ONE**

**Clara is on her horse, bundled up and galloping out of town at top speed through the snowstorm. She has a satchel bag wrapped around her.**

### **PANEL TWO**

**Establishing shot as Clara rides into the Silver Star ranch, toward an abandoned-looking homestead. JOE HENRY stands outside it, and there are a few horses tied to a hitching post.**

### **PANEL THREE**

**Clara sits on her horse by the homestead. Two members of the Henry Gang – Joe and PETE – are gathered around her. The last member, RODDY, is just leaving the house.**

1. CLARA:                   We gotta **ditch** this place! Marshal's on the way.
2. JOE:                     Alright. We didn't plan it this way. But we hit the bank now.
3. JOE:                     Then get outta town.

### **PANEL FOUR**

**Pete mounts his horse while talking to Clara. Behind them Roddy walks up to his horse, holding several sticks of dynamite.**

4. PETE:                    Hey, nice job. You saved our bacon, huh?
5. RODDY:                 Hell, she's been letting the Marshal under her petticoat for months.
6. RODDY:                 'Bout time it finally paid off.

### **PANEL FIVE**

**Clara glares at Roddy, one hand on her pistol. Roddy loads the dynamite into his horse's saddle bags.**

**PAGE THREE – FIVE PANELS**

**PANEL ONE**

**Establishing shot outside the bank, just after an EXPLOSION goes off inside, sending smoke out the windows. Next to the bank, the horses are tied up, but they're rearing back, reacting to the explosion.**

1. SFX:                      Ka-Boom

**PANEL TWO**

**The gang is inside the bank vault. It's filled with cash, and also some debris and sizzling money from the explosion. Joe has picked up a big bundle of the cash, and looks it over.**

2. JOE:                      This is the prize. You know?

**PANEL THREE**

**Clara SHOTS Roddy in the head.**

**PANEL FOUR**

**Joe has just drawn his gun as he's shot, too.**

**PANEL FIVE**

**Clara and Pete stand across the vault, looking at each other. Clara looks sorrowful. Pete is scared shitless.**

3. CLARA:                      Keep your gun holstered, Pete. Let's both of us just walk away.

**PAGE FOUR – FIVE PANELS**

**PANEL ONE**

**Pete pulls his gun –**

**PANEL TWO**

**And is shot from the side.**

**PANEL THREE**

**The Marshal stands just outside the vault entrance with his smoking gun.**

**PANEL FOUR**

**He looks vexed, trying to figure out what to do.**

1. MARSHAL:           Guess now I know why the Henry Gang wasn't at the ranch.
2. MARSHAL (small): This whole time...
3. MARSHAL:           This your way of saying goodbye to these folks?
4. CLARA (OP):        These folks. This line of work. The whole damn thing.

**PANEL FIVE**

**Without saying another word, the Marshal walks away from the vault.**

**PAGE FIVE – THREE PANELS**

**PANEL ONE**

**The Marshal stands in the bank lobby, calling out to Clara.**

1. MARSHAL:           Well?
2. MARSHAL:           Let's go home.

**PANEL THREE**

**The Marshal and Clara walk towards their horses through the snow, his arm wrapped around her.**

**PANEL FIVE**

**Marshall and Clara ride their horses. He looks content. She looks downright happy; like a woman who's just discovered the secret to life.**

**END**