

INT. JACKSON'S TENT - DAY

Jackson writes behind a large table with maps and papers laid out.

Adjutant Gardiner stands nearby.

The guard knocks on the tents front pole. Gardiner opens the flap.

GUARD

Sir, this red says she knows where Peter McQueen is.

Jackson looks up.

JACKSON

McQueen? Who's there?

GARDINER

(to guard)

Leave them.

Gardiner brings the three inside the tent

JACKSON

Who knows about McQueen?

ANN

I do.

JACKSON

Come here.

She steps to his desk. Billy hides behind Polly. His neck is burned from the rope.

JACKSON

Who are you?

ANN

Ann Copinger.

Jackson peers at her from behind reading glasses. His eyes are vacant blue.

JACKSON

Where is McQueen?

ANN

In the bush.

JACKSON

He was with your party last night.

ANN

No. We are looking for him.

GARDINER

Sir, Creek intelligence reports McQueen and Francis were traveling with a large contingent of women and children. He had to have been with her.

ANN

We had split up. He had gone hunting. We are all very hungry.

JACKSON

How do you know McQueen?

ANN

I am his sister.

Jackson leans forward. Examines Ann.

ANN

I will find him and bring him to you. He will be looking for me.

He focuses on her.

JACKSON

And what will you tell him?

ANN

I will tell him that Sharp Knife will be merciful if he returns with me.

Gardiner glances at Jackson.

Jackson ponders a moment.

JACKSON

Let her go get him.

Gardiner is nonplussed.

JACKSON

Give them three days' rations and set them on their way.

Ann bows and turns away.

Gardiner opens the flap, waves to guard.

GARDINER
(to the guard)
Give them three days' rations and
let 'em go.

GUARD
Sir?

GARDINER
(annoyed)
You heard me, corporal.

GUARD
Right away, sir. Let's go.

The guard escorts the three away. Gardiner turns back toward his general.

GARDINER
Are you sure that's a good idea,
sir?

JACKSON
I know these old red women. They
keep their word better than their
men, that's for sure.

GUARD
(resigned)
Yes sir.