

Mark Jameson, Sheriff of Golden Spurs, Nevada, greets his brother who just rode in from being gone for four years away at university. He hopes that Chandler will decide to stay permanently, but Chandler has different plans. He means to stay in the town for only four or five days before leaving for Boston where he aspires to start his career.

The Jameson brothers go to the saloon to catch up, but they find the people in a frenzy. Mark asks his acting Deputy, Gus Haddenport what is going on. He is told that a strange man entered town asking where he may trade a significant amount of water for supplies. Being as valuable as it was in such a drought, everyone jumped to the stranger's aid hoping that they may acquire some of his water for themselves. Just as they are talking, two gunshots ring out.

Mark and Chandler race in the direction of the shots. They find an unknown man over a dead man and Will Stacker wounded. He arrests the stranger.

Mark attempts to gather information from the stranger, he claims that he merely acted in self defense. Frustrated by being unable to make any further progress, however, Mark gives up on the stranger and is forced to wait until Will Stacker is conscious and well enough to speak on the matter. Meanwhile, the Jameson's continue their discussion of their future. Chandler pleads for Mark to leave this God-forsaken dust-bucket, but Mark is unwilling to give up on the people to whom his father left him in charge of as Sheriff.

Shouts cause Mark to step outside only to be greeted by an angry mob looking to kill the alleged murderer. Intending to keep to state law, Mark defends the stranger claiming that he has the right to a fair trial. This upsets the people of Golden Spurs to the point of inciting violence.

Mark seeks refuge back inside the jail where Chandler tells him that this man had an item of their father's on his person. They attempt to find where he got the item from, but more shouts outside demand that they release the prisoner or else they will burn the jailhouse down.

Through cryptic answers, they discover that this stranger killed their father. Mark draws his revolver when the jailhouse bursts into flames. Amidst the bedlam, the stranger escapes. They follow his trail to the outskirts of town where he is found with a fuse in his hand. He tells them that the fuse leads to a stack of dynamite in the nearby mountain trails and lights it, sending Mark and Chandler into a race to extinguish the fuse before it blows.

They take a shortcut and catch the fuse in time to cut it. Moments later, they discover a second fuse, hidden in the sand. Sparks fly by and they dive for cover.

Meanwhile in Golden Spurs, the people are preparing to lynch the stranger when they hear the boom. Gus races to the Jameson's aid, but stops at Chestnut Creek where water began flowing again for the first time in nearly four years. He buries his face in the water when Mark and Chandler come floating down the river. They return to Golden Spurs to find the stranger hanging.

Days later, Chandler is preparing to leave, against Mark's pleas, when Gus storms in and announces that nearly a dozen covered wagons are approaching. Realizing that with water available again, people will begin flocking to town once more. Mark tells Chandler that he will need him now more than ever, and Chandler hesitantly agrees... at least for the time being.