

Echo Hollow: The Final Cut - Excerpt

December 2nd, 2024 - 12:34 AM

Hey all!

Thank you so much for your patience today, I'm sorry I'm posting so late. I thankfully managed to cop a VHS player from Goodwill for only \$15, but when I got home and hooked it up to my TV, it wasn't displaying the tape or picture at all. I looked it up, and it has nothing to do with the tape. The tape should be playing something, but it's not. The TV is not able to read the player? Idk. Truth is, I'm exhausted and have a final tomorrow morning for one of my toughest classes, so I just need to clock out for the night. I just wanted to pop in real quick so I don't leave you guys hanging. I'm sorry I don't have any major developments.

On another note, if anybody has suggestions on how to fix this, PLEASE let me know. I tried a lot of solutions I found online such as tuning it to a different channel and switching the cables to a different output, but nothing worked for me. I would keep going, I just have to be up super early tomorrow morning. I have work again after my final but I'll come home right away and get everything sorted out before studying for the night.

Thank you again for your patience and I'll update you guys again tomorrow!

December 2nd, 2024 - 11:47 PM

Okay, so I was (thankfully) able to get the TV situation sorted out. It had something to do with the AV cables, they were busted up so I went and got new ones after work. Thank you to u/codywitha_k for the suggestion!

My roommates got back tonight, one of whom is my close friend, and asked about the VHS situation. I told them I hadn't found anything yet and was trying to figure it out. My friend, we'll just call him Stephen for now, sat with me to watch it. My movie enthusiast roommate, we'll call him Michael, told me to update him about it in the morning.

I finally got the tape loaded up, and the screen was just black. The timer on the player was counting up, but there was nothing there. I tried reloading the tape a couple times, thinking something was busted. Stephen helped me look online again for some answers, and lo and behold an image pops up on screen like a minute into the tape. Initially it was just a different shade of black, but I could tell it was trying to display something. The FBI piracy logo thing popped up, and it rolled through a couple other screens. Next, some movie started playing. I don't know what it was, but it was like some western where this older cowboy rides into town and talks with the sheriff. By this point, I assumed I had just found someone's old movie on a VHS tape. I even asked Stephen again if he knew what the movie was or if the tape was maybe his, and he had no idea regarding either. I gotta admit I was pretty disappointed. Part of me had wanted this to be some weird, strange thing that I could share with everybody, but I was also a bit relieved. It eased my mind about the idea that I had just never noticed this box before and it was likely that a past resident had left it there or something.

So anyways, Stephen and I just start joking around and laughing it off, the movie continues. A couple more minutes into the tape it fades to black, and a dark screen with text pops up. We both stopped immediately and watched it. The room was completely silent, only the static from the TV filling the air. The text was simple: *Follow The Trail.*

Stephen and I just looked at each other, confused as hell. We decided to rewind the tape to see if we had missed anything, but it was just the movie the entire time. We rewinded it again, paying close attention to the movie, the story, the sets, the lighting, whatever that may have given us any idea of what the message meant. The old cowboy spoke to the sheriff about an old train car and the sheriff led him to it outside. It was just this

abandoned train car sitting outside the town all by itself. The sheriff pulls the door open as the old cowboy watches, and his eyes go wide. The screen then fades to black and that's it. No trail, nothing else out of the ordinary.

Stephen and I just sat there in disbelief. We tried looking up the movie, but couldn't find anything. We tried "old western with train car", "western old man cowboy and sheriff train car", "western with weird train car", and even browsed through results for old westerns. Nothing we found described the movie at all. We couldn't find it anywhere.

We went to see if Michael was up since he knows everything there is to know about movies, but he was already sleeping by then. It was already late by that point and we both had finals in the morning, so we decided we would figure it out tomorrow.

I can't get the strangeness of it all out of my head. Most importantly, *where did this tape come from?* It was very clearly made as a message, but why was it left in our basement?

I played the tape back from the start and recorded it on my phone so you guys can see. If you have any idea as to what the movie is or what "follow the trail" is supposed to mean, I would love some input. I'm running it through my mind right now and still can't figure it out.

As for future updates, I guess it just depends on what you or me find. Like I said, I hope to look into it further tomorrow with my friend. I'm headed to bed now, so I'll respond to any answers you guys give after work tomorrow. Thank you guys again!

Reply from u/corrupt_formula (December 3rd, 2024 - 2:45AM)

The movie is *Chasing The Wind*. It's some low-budget western made in the 60s with a no-name director and some unknown actors. The entire movie is about that "old cowboy", "Rascal" Ranger Beale, and his life and how he was kidnapped as a baby after his family was killed by a gang. He was raised by the gang and eventually found out what they did to his family, so during this big train heist they were supposed to pull off, he betrays them and kills most of them except the leader, "Treacherous" Tim Ringo. The rest of the movie is about him hunting down Ringo for like a decade and never finding him, until one day he finds out he was killed a couple years prior in a bar fight. He goes to the town seen in your video where he was allegedly killed, and the sheriff walks him to that train car. Where your video cuts out at the door opening, it's supposed to be Ringo, who shoots Beale straight in the chest. The two have a duel and it looks like Ringo has him, but Beale manages to get the upper hand and stabs him in the heart.

It's a pretty straightforward western and, despite how low-budget it is, it's actually not that bad. That's besides the point though. What I left out before and, what I found most interesting, was right after Ringo shoots Beale in the chest, he begins laughing maniacally and says:

"All you had to do was follow the trail, huh?"

Reply from u/hugor03 (December 3rd, 2024 - 12:03 PM)

Holy shit, wow. That's insane. Thank you so much for finding this. Will mention you in an update tonight.

December 3rd, 2024 - 8:01 PM

Another update you guys. So as many of you already saw earlier, user corrupt_formula found the movie, and I have his message pinned on the last post and pasted at the bottom of this one. In short, it's a movie titled *Chasing The Wind* and has to do with some cowboy named Beagle chasing down this bad guy named Ringo. The train car is seen at both the beginning AND the end of the movie, and it's where Ringo is hiding when Beagle arrives. He shoots Beagle and says, "All you had to do was follow the trail."

I looked up the movie and found it on streaming and am planning on watching it tonight with Stephen. I texted Michael about it as well and he said he's never heard of it. I want to see for myself if I can find anything about the meaning of the trail or the train car and if it holds any significance to the story. I will post another update tonight, I just wanted to have a separate post updating you all.