

# KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON



Our film takes place in the early 1920s and centers around the true story of an Osage family from Gray Horse, Oklahoma - Lizzie Q and her four daughters, who are targeted to be killed for their money by William Hale, a cattleman from Texas, who has moved into Osage County and befriended the Osage people of Gray Horse and Fairfax.



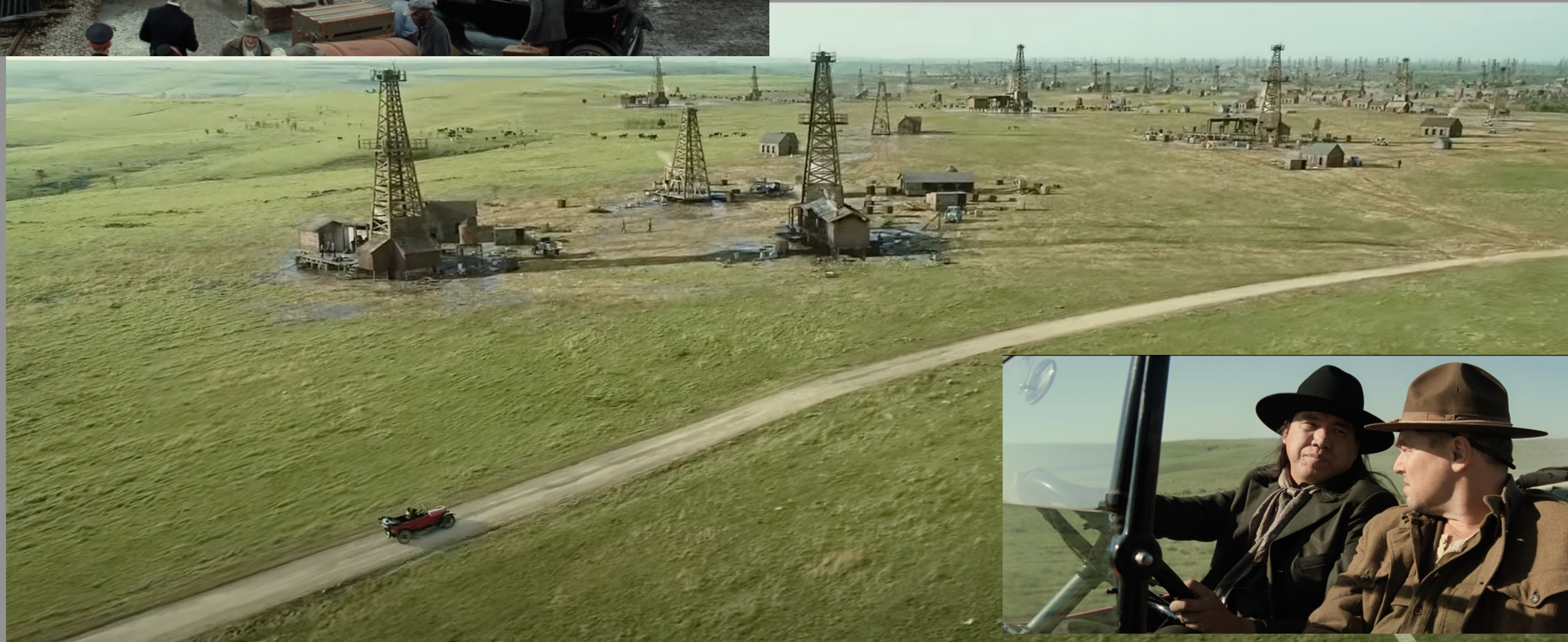
*The Osage Nation was pushed into the Indian territories in the 1870s where they purchased 1,500,000 acres of land from the Cherokees. Before statehood when the Indian Territories became Oklahoma, the Osage negotiated to retain all mineral rights to their land after allotment. Large deposits of oil were discovered on the land and through leases and royalties the Osage people became one of the richest communities, per capita, in the world - and a target of attacks fueled by greed and corruption.*

In 1919, Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio), the nephew of William Hale (Robert De Niro), arrives at the train station in Fairfax, Oklahoma, to look for work with his uncle, William King Hale.





Ernest Burkhart is driven to his uncle's ranch near Gray Horse by Henry Roan (William Belleau), an Osage. As they drive through the oil fields, Ernest asks, *"Who's land is this?"* and Henry Roan answers, *"It's my land."*



By 1920, Hale had amassed about 50,000 acres of Osage land through leases and purchases.



The gate to Hale's property



William Hale, welcomes Ernest to his ranch. They discuss Ernest's future and Hale asks Ernest if he likes Osage women.



This Osage home of the period inspired the design of Lizzie Q's home

Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone) and, at times, Reta (Janae Collins), lived with their mother, Lizzie Q on the Gray Horse reservation. Their younger sister Minnie married a white man, Bill Smith, and they lived on a small farm less than a quarter mile away from Lizzie Q's home. Her sister Anna Brown (Cara Jade Myers) had just purchased a home from William Hale in Fairfax and was living there.





Fairfax, a small farming town, by 1920, had become a bustling town of oil workers and crooks looking for a quick buck. The main street of the town was not paved until late in 1924.



Hale had known Lizzie Q and her daughters since they were young.

He had a plan for Ernest to marry Mollie. Knowing if her mother and sisters were to die, Mollie would inherit their land and 'headrights'. If Mollie then died, Ernest would inherit everything from Mollie.

Hale got Ernest a job driving a taxi, so he could meet Mollie.







Lizzie Q (Tattoo Cardinal), sees Ernest in her home and leaves the room.



Mollie invites Ernest into her home. After a short courtship, Ernest and Mollie get married. By 1921 they have two children; James and Elizabeth.



Mollie and her sisters at her wedding, in traditional Osage wedding dress.





Mollie's sister, Minnie (Jillian Dion), died first. She was married to Bill Smith (Jason Isabel) and died of a mysterious 'wasting disease.' Her husband, described in government records as a horse thief, was known for beating her but was never questioned about her death. Hale worried for Minnie and had a hatred for Bill.

Minnie's sister Reta Kyle, married Bill Smith after she died.





On May 21, 1921, Mollie's sister Anna is shot in the head and killed in a ravine by Ernest's brother, Byron Burkhart (Scott Shepherd) and Kelsie Morrison (Louis Cancelmi).

Hale and Ernest comfort Mollie at Anna's violent autopsy in the ravine where her body was found.



Mollie and Reta at Anna's casket.

Ernest comforts Mollie as arrangements are made for Anna's funeral.





Mollie and her daughter pray near her home.

Two months later, Lizzie Q dies of unknown causes, but her doctors are also the doctors to Mollie and her sisters. They performed the autopsy on Anna and are close to William Hale.

Mollie and Reta are scared as they experience their family dying around them.





Mollie goes to her church and talks with the priest about her fears.

Reta is scared to live on a small farm in the country and decides to move to Fairfax for her safety. She buys a house from one of her doctors.





Mollie is suffering from diabetes and Hale has arranged for her to use a new drug called insulin. Her doctors, the Shoun brothers are picking it up at the train station and altering it. Mollie is getting sicker and does not want to take any medicine from those doctors. She only trusts Ernest to give her the injections.



Mollie and Ernest at Hale's home with his wife and daughter, tell him that Mollie is pregnant.





Enraged by Ernest's disobedience, Hale berates his nephew in a Masonic lodge. Ernest's brother Byron assists Hale.



Ernest and Mollie visit with Bill and Reta at their new home in Fairfax.



Later that night, Reta and Bill's house explodes! Killing Reta, Bill, and their maid.



Mollie and her family hid in the basement after the explosion.





Investigator Tom White (Jesse Plemons) talks with William Hale about the Osage deaths in Fairfax.

The Osage paid the Federal Bureau to come to Osage County, from Washington D.C., to investigate the mounting deaths. Many Osage were dying of mysterious deaths and murders in cases that were not only not solved but not investigated.



Near death, Federal Bureau agents rush a dying Mollie to the hospital.

Mollie is getting progressively worse under Ernest's care. The insulin is not working.





The Federal Bureau arrests Ernest and Hale in January 1926.



While in jail, Ernest learns that his third child with Mollie has died.



Lawyers, guardians, police, and politicians meet at Hale's ranch to convince Ernest not to testify against Hale.





Away from Ernest and her doctors, Mollie's health has improved.

She asks Ernest,

*"What did you give me."*

He does not answer.

Tom White allows Ernest to meet with Mollie on the Prairie near Gray Horse - in the hope Ernest will testify against Hale in court.







Ernest testifies in Federal Court against William Hale. William Hale and Mollie listen to Ernest's testimony.



the courtroom was built inside a church, in Pawhuska.



In the coda of the film, Martin Scorsese appears as an announcer. William Hale was sentenced to life for the death of Henry Roan and Ernest Burkhart was sentenced to life for the death of Bill Smith and Reta Smith. Kelsie Morrison was convicted for the death of Anna Brown. Byron Burkhart testified against Morrison and was never charged for Anna's death. No one else was prosecuted for more than 60 Osage deaths during the Reign of Terror. Ernest, Hale, and Morrison were paroled in 1947, and Ernest received a full pardon in 1965.

**Jack Fisk**  
Production Designer

**Meghan McClure**  
**Matthew Gatlin**  
**Michael Diner**  
Supervising Art Directors

**Spencer Davison**  
Art Director

**Landon Lott**  
Second Unit Art Director/Illustrator

**Gary McMonnies**  
**Addie Roanhorse**  
Assistant Art Directors

**Sarah Forrest**  
**Bryan Lane**  
**Cierra Madison**  
**Ron Mason**  
**Brian Waits**  
Set Designers

**Karen Tenyck**  
Graphic Artist

**Adam Willis**  
Set Decorator

