

N O M A D S

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"The Great Spirit took eight parts to form man: the body from the earth, the bone from the stones, the blood from the dew, the eyes from the depth of the clear water, the beauty from his own image, the light of the eyes from the sun, the thoughts from the waterfalls, the breath from the wind, and the strength from the storms."

- Montechema

EXT. SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS - DAY

A vast, virgin American landscape. Colorful and tranquil.

The majestic plains continue infinitely in all directions. This is a place where the white man doesn't dare to go.

It's 1862. In the next hundred years, this place will change forever... but not yet.

Before this paradise is marred with railways and pipelines, these grasslands have one more story to tell --

THE SILHOUETTES OF THREE RIDERS, atop majestic mustang horses, appear on the horizon, where mountains meet the sky. The riders storm across the landscape. They own the prairie.

They've been riding for a day without rest and do not appear to be slowing. They could go at this hard pace for hours without fatigue. They can even drink the liquid inside their horses' stomachs to hydrate themselves if needed.

These are Comanche scouts, members of one of the last remaining nomadic tribes in the area. They kicked Apaches, Mexicans and Texans off this land. They do not only own the plains, they rule them.

SOMEONE jumps down from a tree in front of us --

ETENIA (8), Comanche. She smiles with pride as she spots the riders. She rushes to her horse, mounts it in a single jump and rides hard for --

THE COMANCHE CAMP.

Hundreds of TIPIS in a valley beside a river. All tipi doors point east. There are a hundred people in camp. At least A THOUSAND GRAZING HORSES.

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Etenia dismounts in a single bound and leaves her horse behind. She storms across the camp, moving through:

- Women dismantling tipis.
- Women painting parfleches and men making saddles.
- Girls playing a game where the objective is to keep a ball from touching ground.

It's everyday life in this camp.

Etenia moves toward a tipi located in the center of the camp. She rushes inside to find --

INT. CHIEF'S TIPI - CONTINUOUS

THE CHIEF (45) is seated, at work on a new arrow. He talks with QUAN (40), the Chief's brother and his right-hand man.

Quan is a skilled hunter and natural leader who has risen to near mythical stature within the community.

(Note: Except when it is explicitly noted, all native dialogue will be in the Comanche language)

ETENIA
The scouts are coming!

CHIEF
(to Etenia)
Tell your mother to bring all three
of them some food.

She nods and storms out, more than happy to help.

QUAN
They took longer than usual.

YAPA (30), one of the riders that we saw on the plain, enters. He is shy, clumsy, and slightly heavier than the rest.

CHIEF
Come, take a seat.

Yapa sits.

YAPA
Thank you.

CHIEF
Now, tell me, where are they?

YAPA
We only found carcasses. All were
shot by the white men.
(pause)
There are no buffalo.

QUAN
(to Yapa)
We came this far because you
thought we would find buffalo here.

Yapa takes this as a provocation.

YAPA
On the last big moon, this is where
we found them.

CHIEF

On the last big moon there were a thousand of us. We cannot do as we did in the past. The world is not like the one our fathers knew.

YAPA

Maybe you should consider leading us north. We found tracks heading there.

QUAN

No, people are tired, we need more rest before we can move again. This is how we have always done it.

The weight on the Chief's shoulders finally gives way.

CHIEF

Yapa is right. We leave at the sunrise. We will starve if we stay here.

Yapa nods in agreement, but Quan doesn't look satisfied.

YAPA

Something else. We saw a small group of Tonkawas prowling.

CHIEF

When the time comes, we will take care of them.

QUAN

(To Yapa)

Did you hear the news?

Yaps looks at him, confused.

QUAN (CONT'D)

You had a boy.

Yapa smiles.

QUAN (CONT'D)

His hair is golden like the sun and his eyes are as blue as the sky.

Yapa stares at him in shock.

QUAN (CONT'D)

And his skin is as white as snow.

Yapa looks at him completely paralyzed, and then a small smile breaks on Quan's face. Yapa realizes he was joking.

CHIEF

Look at your face! You turned white
yourself for a second there!

The Chief and Quan laugh at Yapa. Yapa doesn't know how to react.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

She has not given birth yet, Yapa.
Go visit her now, we will bring you
the food. She better give us a
warrior before we leave these lands
or we will have to roll her north
when we go.

Yapa smiles and leaves the tipi.

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Chief holding the arrows walks next to Quan looking at the camp.

CHIEF

Quan, we will have to travel
lighter.

QUAN

Women are breaking down the
fallen's tipis, we will burn them
today.

CHIEF

Even lighter than that.

Quan, confused, doesn't say anything at first. But then:

QUAN

You want to leave the horses
behind?

CHIEF

We are too easy to track now. We
almost lost all of our people in a
single battle.

QUAN

That was your mistake.

CHIEF

Does one mistake make a man a
failure?

QUAN

Horses are all we have now. What
would our ancestors think?

CHIEF

They would want us to survive. The Great Spirit wants us to survive.

QUAN

If we release the horses, our enemies will take them and become even stronger.

CHIEF

What other choice do we have?

QUAN

To become stronger than we have ever been.

CHIEF

We are one of the only tribes left, Quan. If we lose another fight, we will disappear and our tongue will never be spoken again. Is that not more important than horses?

Quan doesn't seem convinced.

QUAN

We have to fight for our people.

CHIEF

We cannot fight forever.

QUAN

We have to claim what is rightfully ours. You are a war chief, act like one.

Quan moves away without looking back. The Chief can't hide how upset and worried he is.

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - PERIPHERY - LATER

Five riders race their horses. They are only teens, but they race with all they have, as if their lives depend on it.

The winner is TENEWA (15), an athletic girl who looks as if she'll soon be a great warrior. Eager, disciplined and respectful. Everything Comanches want their sons to become.

The Chief contemplates them from the camp. He holds the arrows he was making earlier. He turns to see some other kids trying to hit a tree with improvised bows and arrows.

The Chief looks for someone else, but can't find them...

Then he spots Etenia shooting her arrows.

CHIEF
Etenia! Where is your brother?

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

A hand takes a wooden stick and places it over a small fire until it carbonizes.

The person then draws a line in charcoal on a piece of wood. The drawing continues, the line becoming a very rustic sketch of a fort.

The artist is NACONI (14), a fragile kid with the steady concentration of a surgeon.

The Chief approaches him.

CHIEF
I have been looking for you, son.
Look what I have made for you.

Naconi immediately drops his drawing stick. He knows he was caught doing something wrong.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Let's go practice.

NACONI
I do not want to do that now.

The Chief takes a seat next to Naconi.

CHIEF
Things are changing fast, son. I need you to become a hunter and a warrior. I will need you by my side sooner than I had expected.

NACONI
What do you mean, by your side?

Before the Chief answers, he spots the piece of wood with the illustration of the fort.

CHIEF
What is this?

A beat.

NACONI
It is called "a fort."

CHIEF
A fort?

NACONI

That is what the white men call it.
It is like the one we saw days ago.

CHIEF

How do you know what they call it?

Naconi considers, but can't lie.

NACONI

She told me.

CHIEF

Is she making you forget our
tongue?

NACONI

I only learned some words. We will
have to use it sooner or later.

CHIEF

How much have you been talking to
her about these things?

Naconi doesn't answer, he knows it will get him into trouble.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

How much!?

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Chief walks angrily across the camp. He goes toward the women dismantling the tipis and spots one --

A WHITE WOMAN. Her face is disfigured with scars. Panic on her face as the Chief approaches her. She then spots Naconi walking behind the Chief. Naconi looks very worried and the White Woman realizes what's happening.

The Chief takes her by the hair and violently drags her away from the others. She doesn't even try to defend herself.

NACONI

Is not her fault! I asked her to do
it!

CHIEF

(To Naconi)
Stay back!

Naconi steps away, scared.

A crowd of onlookers gather, watching.

The Chief throws the White Woman onto the ground and puts his foot to her neck.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

If you want to speak your tongue
and talk about your rotten world,
leave now. But if you stay in our
home and use the name we gave you,
you must forget everything about
that world and never talk about it
again.

The Chief lifts his foot and steps away, leaving the White Woman on the ground.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)

Break camp, we are leaving!

The onlookers continue with their work, none go to her aid. The White Woman stands slowly and goes back to her work.

Naconi stays there, feeling sorry for what has just happened.

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - DAWN

Camp is broken. All are getting ready to leave.

Women load the horses with tipis as the sun breaks fully through the clouds. They tie their baggage to the saddles.

Quan is giving food to his three dogs. He enjoys this. They are like family to him.

There is a bonfire built from dozens of tipis. They are burning the tipis of the dead.

There's only one tipi still standing.

Etenia stares at it. What's going on inside? She approaches the tipi slowly. Etenia stops in front of the tipi opening. It is a low door covered with extra pelts.

She lifts the door flap to look inside, when it suddenly opens. She steps back, startled. Yapa comes out of the tipi. He's clumsily carrying a couple of jars which fall to the ground when he sees her. He picks the jars up and walks away, ignoring Etenia.

Etenia peeks inside to see what's going on -- A WOMAN is lying on a bed. There's a pole beside her. A MATRON places a flat warm stone on the Woman's side.

Etenia can see this woman is in labor.

NACONI (O.S.)

We are leaving.

Etenia turns to see Naconi standing behind her.

ETENIA
What about them?

NACONI
They will catch up when she
delivers. Let's go.

EXT. COMANCHE'S CAMP - LATER

The tribe moves away, leaving behind the one tipi where the labor is in process. Horses and mules draw travois piled with tent poles and buffalo hides.

All the women and children walk in front of an enormous herd of horses.

Quan is on horseback. His three dogs are tied to his horse.

Naconi walks with his sister, Etenia, and THE WHITE WOMAN -- revealed to be his mother.

ETENIA
Mother, what happens if we cannot
find any buffalo?

Naconi's mother doesn't answer the question. She continues walking, trying not to think about it.

NACONI
I only wanted to learn about your
world.

NACONI'S MOTHER
Our people are my world now. Your
father is right, there is nothing
outside worth learning, Naconi.

NACONI
How can you say that? Does their
way not seem better? They do not
have to leave their homes to chase
buffalo. They can build huge towns
and create all kinds of magical
things.

NACONI'S MOTHER
Those of us who have settled in one
place have disappeared. Do you want
the same fate for your people?

NACONI
Of course not, but I want something
different for myself.

NACONI'S MOTHER
I will make you a different soup
for dinner, then.

She smiles, but Naconi doesn't respond.

EXT. PLAINS - LATER

Afternoon shadows form on the prairie. The tribe slowly
crosses the expansive grass-lands.

Warriors are in front now, guiding the travelers toward the
wide horizon. The enormous herd of horses is following them.

EXT. ANOTHER PLAIN - LATER

It's been a long journey, but they continue moving.

EXT. COMANCHE'S NEW CAMP - LATER

The women are setting up camp.

Naconi is helping his mother when The Chief arrives.

CHIEF
(To Naconi)
You, come with us.

NACONI
Where?

CHIEF
Hunting. Yapa found a herd.

NACONI'S MOTHER
He is not ready.

CHIEF
He would be if he had not wasted
his time learning useless things.
(To Naconi)
Let's go.

NACONI'S MOTHER
It is too dangerous.

CHIEF
We do not run from danger.

The Chief rides towards his men.

Naconi is confused. He looks at his mother, but she doesn't
say a word. Naconi has no option but to follow his father.

EXT. COMANCHE'S NEW CAMP - DAY

Women, children, and elderly gather around the hunters. The group departs the camp on horseback, followed by a group of women and horses loaded with light tipis.

Half of the tribe stays behind. Most are women and children, though some men stay behind too to protect the camp.

While Tenewa sets up her tipi, she watches the Chief help Naconi ready his horse. Is he going on the hunt?

Yes, Naconi is actually going with the hunting party. Tenewa can't hide her disappointment. She drops the tipi poles and immediately mounts her horse, riding after them and leaving her tipi behind.

Quan, who is traveling with the hunters, realizes Tenewa is following them. He leaves the group and rides toward her.

QUAN
(To Tenewa)
Go back!

TENEWA
My family was killed. If I do not
hunt, I will starve.

QUAN
We will get you food.

TENEWA
I am not a beggar. I am a warrior.

QUAN
You are too young.

TENEWA
I am the same age as Naconi.

QUAN
He has someone to take care of him.

TENEWA
I do not need anyone to take care
of me.

QUAN
Your horse is not ready.

TENEWA
He is more ready than me. I am
going whether you like it or not.

Quan thinks over what to say but can't find an excuse. He turns his back on her and returns to the group.

Tenewa doesn't think twice, she rushes ahead to join them.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

The small hunting party crosses the prairie.

Naconi rides up to his father. The Chief looks at Naconi and continues on in silence for a moment. Then --

CHIEF

You do not see it yet, but you are very important to your people.

NACONI

I am nothing. If I die, it will not matter to the tribe.

CHIEF

If one of us dies, a part of all of us dies with him. Look around, we leave nothing behind, no buildings, no temples, nothing. Our people and the memories of our people are all we have. You are more important to your own people than you are to anyone else in the world. Here, you are the past and the future. Here, son, you are all of us.

Naconi remains in silence, thinking this over.

NACONI

I am not ready for the hunt.

CHIEF

Nobody is ready until they do it.

The Chief looks at Naconi for a moment. He then kicks his horse and moves on, leaving Naconi alone and worried.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

Two dozen of the tribe's best hunters stand in a line. Only three of them are women.

It's the day of the hunt, nothing is more important than this.

Naconi is beside the Chief and can't hide his fear.

Quan and Yapa appear calm.

Tenewa holds her bow tightly. Is she ready or panicking?

Half a mile away from them -- They spot THE BUFFALO HERD. Powerful, brutish, fantastic creatures. The animals detect no sign of danger.

Quan goes toward Naconi and Tenewa.

QUAN

You probably think you are seeing a great many buffalo here today, but not so long ago there were millions. It was once impossible to imagine that they would disappear, but look at what has happened. They know the danger they are in, they are scared, they know they are becoming weak. But buffalo give us life. The Great Spirit has connected us to these creatures by blood. We are not here for their flesh, we have come to honor them.

Quan looks at the buffalo.

QUAN (CONT'D)

They run against the wind, we will move within it. One shot, one kill.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

The hunters advance across the prairie. They encircle the herd, concentrating on what lies ahead.

QUAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hit the animal diagonally behind the ribs, and drive your arrow into its heart. Today you will become hunters. Each hunter needs at least two kills. Remember, do not get too close and you will be fine.

There's a lump in Naconi's throat.

Their ponies leap forward, hooves churning up the ground.

The race is on. The herd is in full flight now, the sound of their stampede rumbles across the sky.

Quan, Yapa and the Chief have caught up with the buffalo. A few more strides and they'll be in.

Naconi speeds up, in a moment he'll be there too.

From the corner of his eye, Naconi spots Tenewa readying her first arrow.

A bull swipes his horns at Tenewa, but Tenewa's horse quickly dodges, nearly throwing Tenewa as he does.

Naconi loads an arrow, aims and shoots -- He misses. Naconi sees a buffalo get hit and fall. A perfect shot from Quan.

Tenewa passes Naconi and shouts --

TENEWA
(To Naconi)
You have to get closer!

Tenewa shoots and hits a buffalo -- This time she kills it! She is really good.

Naconi readies his bow again. He moves closer to the herd, maybe too close...

This is his moment. He aims, about to shoot when --

A BULL hits Naconi's horse in the loin. A terrifying impact.

The horse loses balance immediately and stumbles forward violently, but Naconi clings tightly to his horse's mane, trying not to fall.

The horse crashes to the ground sending up a thick cloud of dust.

And to make it worse -- nobody saw what happened.

Naconi's eyes are closed, he appears unconscious. A splash of blood marks his face. He opens his eyes in shock. Disoriented.

More blood splashes his face. Naconi looks around in confusion. He then raises his head to see --

A bull is charging him from just a yard away. That is where the blood is coming from. The herd is crushing his horse as it passes.

Naconi is lying on the ground in the middle of a stampede.

In a panic, Naconi tries to get to his feet but there's something holding him down. He looks to find --

His leg is trapped beneath the horse.

PANG! PANG! Hooves blur past, smashing the ground next to him.

Anxiety hits hard as Naconi realizes he can't stay there any longer or he'll end up shredded like his horse.

Quan shots at another buffalo, but misses this time. He looks over his shoulder -- and is shocked to see that Naconi has disappeared.

Quan quickly splinters off, kicks his horse into a gallop and races towards the back of the herd.

Panic growing as Naconi struggles to pull his leg free of the horse -- Still can't, but he doesn't give up.

PANG! PANG! More buffalo stampede only inches away from him.

Quan is speeding on horseback. He's deeply worried about Naconi.

Then, he spots something in the middle of the stampede --

Naconi on the ground.

The Chief and Yapa realize there's something wrong -- they quickly leave the hunt and race toward Quan.

Quan rides into the herd, traveling with the flow of the animals. He quickly shoots arrows into the buffalo beside him, forcing an opening to Naconi.

Quan jumps off his horse and rushes to Naconi. The boy is covered in blood. Quan is relieved to find him still alive. Naconi is terrified.

Together they lift the heavy horse and free Naconi's leg.

Quan lifts Naconi and brings him to his horse. They know they'll die if they do not get out of there fast.

They're about to mount Quan's horse, when --

Quan's horse is hit by a bull and thrown violently into the stampede

Quan and Naconi look on in shock as the horse disappears into the chaotic cloud of bulls.

The color drains from Quan's face as he realizes they won't get out alive. Quan quickly throws Naconi to the ground and lies down on top of the boy, shielding Naconi with his body.

Another bull storms past. Quan and Naconi are both scared.

Another bull nearly hits them, but now the stampede is fading as the last buffalo storms away. They slowly realize that they're safe.

After a moment, Quan raises his head to look and spots the other riders heading towards them.

The herd is moving off towards the horizon.

The Chief reaches Quan and Naconi and dismounts his horse. Naconi gets to his feet. Surprisingly, he's unhurt.

Nobody says a word for a moment, they're too shocked to speak. Then --

YAPA
We lost the buffalo.

Naconi realizes that they're all looking at the Chief in shame.

QUAN
(To the Chief)
He was not ready, and now we have
to return to our hungry families
empty handed.

Quan is the first to turn his back and walk away. The rest slowly do the same, leaving the Chief and Naconi alone.

NACONI
(To the Chief)
I am sorry.

The Chief can't even look at Naconi, he knows it was his own fault.

The rest of the tribe arrive for the butchering, but to their surprise, the hunt wasn't as big as they'd expected.

Only five buffalo have been killed.

EXT. KILLING GROUND - DAY

Small groups gather around each of the fallen buffalo and begin to butcher the animals.

Tenewa starts butchering the buffalo she killed. Male hunters do not have to do this task.

YAPA
(To Tenewa)
You did well.

She accepts the complement, it's an honor coming from Yapa. Yapa nears a buffalo, when a woman rushes towards him.

WOMAN
(Calling out to him)
Yapa!

He turns to face her.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Your child has arrived. It is a
boy.

He beams. Finally some good news.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

People celebrate around campfires, all feasting on fresh meat. Children play.

Etenia plays with Quan's dogs while feeding them food scraps. This little girl is the soul of the tribe. Even Quan smiles when she's around.

The NEWBORN child is painted with grease mixed with red ochre.

TADAN (55), the medicine man, is performing the ceremony. We'll learn more about him in the future.

TADAN

He is little now, but he will be a great man.

Tadan lifts the baby in his arms as they all celebrate.

Yapa is drunk and dancing with the others. He's very happy about his new son.

Seated at a distance, Naconi stares at his people. He's not taking part on the celebration.

Naconi spots the Chief, seated in the circle, his happiness fading away. The Chief looks smaller, far from the leader we met before.

INT. CHIEF'S TIPI - LATER

Naconi lies on his bed, lost in thought. He looks at his father -- asleep. He then checks on his mother and Etenia -- both are also asleep.

Naconi thinks for a moment longer, then stands. The ground crunches beneath his feet. He listens to the breathing of the three sleeping people -- they do not stir.

He takes a step and listens again -- there's no sound from the others except the noises of sleep. Naconi loses patience, grabs his bow and arrows, and rushes from the tipi.

We stay there, in silence. Close on Etenia who, suddenly --

Open her eyes.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

A cloud breaks apart, a nearly full moon hovers in a restless sky.

Naconi glances across the tipi at their horses tied to a pole. Moves quietly towards the horses. All the PEOPLE are asleep following the intense celebration.

He makes it to the horses. Cautiously, the kid looks for his horse until he finds it. He unties it and takes it with him.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - PERIPHERY - MOMENTS LATER

Naconi walks his horse away from the camp. He stops and looks back to make sure he's not being followed... but he appears to be in the clear.

He continues moving off. As soon as he feels he's safe, he mounts his horse and takes a long last look at the camp.

He's sure about what he wants to do next. Without hesitation, he kicks! Horse and rider speed away into the dark night.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

Naconi advances through the foggy night. He can see very little and rides slowly. The fog blocks all light from the moon and stars above.

This may not have been a good idea after all.

He keeps moving, when he hears a slight movement behind him. He stops the horse and waits, listening --

Nothing. Was it his imagination? He continues on for a moment, when he hears -- A HORSE.

He turns fast. Carefully, peering around. Naconi slowly reaches for his bow and raises it. He draws an arrow and loads it, but the fog obscures his vision.

He waits, bow ready. He can feel a presence in the darkness. He mumbles under his breath.

Slight movement in the fog ahead of him. Then he clearly hears A HORSE approach at a walk.

The kid holds his bow tight and pulls the string back. He looks down the arrow and aims ahead of him --

A silhouette lurks in the fog -- Naconi lowers the bow in shock when he sees --

Etenia. Riding a horse and carrying her small bow and arrows.
He can't believe his eyes.

ETENIA
Where are you going?

NACONI
You should not have come this far!

ETENIA
(Repeating)
Where are you going?

NACONI
Father sent me to do something. Go
back home or he will be mad.

ETENIA
He is asleep.

NACONI
I know he is asleep. He did not
want me to wake him up.

Etenia considers what Naconi said, but --

ETENIA
I do not believe father sent you
here.

NACONI
Well, he did.

ETENIA
Can I go with you?

Screw it -- he makes a big confession.

NACONI
I am leaving the tribe. I do not
belong there. I cannot be what they
wanted me to be. I am not a
warrior, I am not even a hunter.

ETENIA
I do not want you to leave.

NACONI
Please, go back.

ETENIA
Alone?

NACONI
You will be fine. Do not follow me.
Please go.

Naconi takes off riding. Etenia stays there.

ETENIA
Naconi!

Leaving his sister breaks his heart, but he keeps going.

ETENIA (CONT'D)

Naconi!

He doesn't stop. He continues moving until Etenia disappears in the fog behind him.

EXT. BROKEN FOREST - LATER

Naconi continues his ride. He hears a stream, jumps off his horse and moves toward the sound of the water.

He finds it. A creek. Cold water coming down from the mountains. He takes the horse to the water so it can drink. Everything appears calm, when he hears --

A NOISE. He looks around, worried, when suddenly something crosses in front of him moving really fast --

It's A HORSE -- without a rider.

He stares at the horse as it moves away. A thought chills him. He jumps onto his horse and follows the riderless horse as fast as he can.

Naconi storms into the forest and reaches the runaway horse, brings it to a stop. Stupefied with terror he realizes it's -- **Etenia's horse.**

A broken arrow is stuck in Etenia's horse's back.

Naconi doesn't think twice. He turns and storms back towards the foggy area at full speed.

EXT. PRAIRIE - NIGHT

Naconi rides fast, scanning the area for Etenia, but the fog makes it difficult to see.

NACONI

Etenia!

No answer.

NACONI (CONT'D)

Etenia!

He is looking for her desperately, when he hears -- Murmurs. He cautiously approaches, but suddenly -- The murmurs stop.

A deadly silence -- Naconi immediately stops his horse. He's on alert, listening. He suddenly feels threatened.

He exhales softly and takes a shallow breath, too scared to make any noise. The kid looks around, when he spots something on the ground --

A BODY. Naconi jumps off his horse and storms forward to find A NATIVE, dead on the ground, AN ARROW stuck in his neck --

He recognizes the arrow... It's one of Etenia's.

Controlling panic, he looks around to find --

The silhouettes of THREE NATIVE RIDERS IN THE FOG. They are all staring at him. One of them is holding Etenia with him on his horse, her mouth covered by his hand.

They're not friendly, and there's no way he can fight them.

A moment of breathless horror. Naconi stands frozen with nowhere to go. He waits for any reaction, but they do not move. They stand there like statues, watching him.

He realizes he must do something -- Naconi races back to his horse, jumps on and takes off --

An arrow hits the horse in its back, but it doesn't stop.

Naconi doesn't look back. He speeds away as fast as he can, hoping the fog will hide him now.

He hears the horses following him. The men CHANT as they ride and the sound scares the shit out of Naconi, but he keeps moving, it's his only way to survive.

The sound of the men slowly fades into the distance. But Naconi doesn't stop... He keeps running for his life.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - DAWN

First light over the camp as Naconi rides at full speed.

INT. CHIEF'S PIT - MOMENTS LATER

Naconi storms in. They're still asleep.

NACONI

Father!

His father quickly wakes and sits up.

NACONI (CONT'D)

They took her!

CHIEF

What? Who?

NACONI

Etenia! They took Etenia.

The Chief looks towards Etenia's bed but it's empty. He jumps to his feet and leaves the tipi.

Naconi's mother is awake now and staring at Naconi in panic. Naconi follows the Chief out of the tipi.

EXT. TEMPORARY CAMP - DAY

A group of fifteen warriors ride away from the camp. Among the warriors, we can distinguish The Chief, Quan, Yapa, Tenewa and Naconi. The rest of the tribe look on, worried.

EXT. PRAIRIE - DAY

The fog has lifted. Quan pulls Etenia's arrow from the body Naconi found on the ground. All the warriors look at it.

QUAN

Tonkawas.

The Chief and Quan share a look of concern.

QUAN (CONT'D)

We will find her.

They quickly go to their horses.

TENEWA

(To Naconi)

What were you doing this far from camp?

Naconi tries to ignore the question, but then realizes they're all waiting for an answer.

NACONI

My sister and I were racing each other.

TENEWA

You were racing a kid?

CHIEF

This is no place for racing.

NACONI

I did not know. When we got into the fog, I lost her. I tried to find her, but then I found the body. That is when I saw them take her.

Naconi realizes his father is not convinced by his answer, but they are interrupted by an approaching rider... It's Yapa.

YAPA
I found tracks.

This is not the time to put Naconi on trial. They mount their horses.

TENEWA
(To Quan)
Is it true they are man-eaters?

Quan doesn't answer. He kicks his horse and rides away, the rest of the group follows.

EXT. PRAIRIE - LATER

The group rides fast across the vast prairie. Naconi pushes hard to keep up with the other riders.

EXT. VALLEY - HOURS LATER

Yapa, leading the group, stops riding. The others do the same -- Ahead, they see SMOKE RISING from behind a small hill.

They continue up the hill, slowly now, until they can see beyond: A small native camp -- IS BURNING --

They stop and look on in shock. There's A HUGE STAIN on the ground beside the camp. From their position, it's difficult to tell what it is.

They continue forward to get a closer look and see what the stain on the ground is --

A HUNDRED HORSES, ALL DEAD FROM GUNSHOTS.

Chief's face hardens as they cross through this sea of dead toward --

EXT. TONKAWAS' CAMP - DAY

Our war party arrives to find the site of a massacre.

All the Tonkawa men are dead. The few women who survived the attack are struggling to care for the injured. They do not worry about the new riders passing through their camp.

Naconi wanders through the bloody dead, confused.

Tenewa is deeply disturbed by the scene, she wasn't prepared to see this carnage.

Meanwhile, Yapa watches a group of crying children seated beside their mother. He appears to be pondering his own newborn child back home.

Naconi spots a familiar man, dead on the ground --

NACONI
He was one of them.

CHIEF
(To all of them)
Find her.

They all dismount immediately and search the area. The Chief sees a woman dragging a dead man.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
(To the woman, in the
Tonkawa language)
We are looking for one of our
children. Your people captured her.

The woman doesn't seem to understand that the Chief is speaking to her, so deep is her grief.

Naconi moves to help the woman.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
(To Naconi)
Leave her. We are not welcome here.

Naconi ignores the order and goes to the woman anyway.

He tries to help her lift the body, but the woman pushes him away, hard, and yells at him.

Naconi stares at her, confused, as the grieving woman screams at him. She then goes back to the body and continues on her way.

Naconi looks up at his father who levels a long, accusing, "I told you" stare.

The Chief looks to Quan who is speaking with a woman.

Quan finishes with the woman and approaches the Chief.

QUAN
She says a group of white men
attacked them. They killed all
their horses and took a group of
women prisoner.
(Regretfully)
Etenia was among them.

CHIEF
Took them where?

Quan doesn't want to say, but --

QUAN
Out of the territory.

The Chief considers his options for a long BEAT, and then --

CHIEF
(To his people)
Let's go back.

Naconi turns to him in shock.

NACONI
We have to find her.

CHIEF
I can not risk all of my warriors.

NACONI
Please! Do you not realize what is
going happen to her? We need to
find her!

CHIEF
We are going back.

NACONI
Is that why you had children? To
turn your back on them?

An awkward silence. That hit the Chief hard.

The Chief grabs Naconi and throws him to the ground. He then
steps over Naconi and pushes his face down into the mud.

The Chief's frustration is overtaking him.

Naconi can't breathe. He struggles but the Chief is much
stronger than he is. There's nothing Naconi can do.

The other warriors watch the Chief, slight worry on their
faces, but nobody moves to break it up.

The Chief releases Naconi. The boy rolls onto his back in the
mud and breathes deeply.

CHIEF
When I say we go, we go!

EXT. TONKAWAS CAMP PERIPHERY - LATER

Naconi is covered in mud. He walks through the field of dead
horses. The others ride ahead of him, slowly.

Tenewa leads Naconi's riderless horse by rope.

They ride in silence. The Chief is in front of the group, his eyes steady. He is furious and intense. Quan approaches the Chief.

QUAN

If you give me a small group, I will go find her.

CHIEF

You want to join my son on foot?

QUAN

We are going hungry because white men killed the buffalo. Many tribes lost their homes because white men forced them to leave. Look at what they did to their own friends.

CHIEF

White men have no friends. They are weak, and the weakness of our enemy is our strength.

QUAN

Weak? They can take the daughter of our Chief and do what they please with her.

The Chief keeps moving, pretending he didn't hear that.

QUAN (CONT'D)

It is a time of war. This could be one of many battles, or it could be our last one.

The Chief sighs, tired, exasperated.

CHIEF

Nobody will cry for Etenia more than I will.

The Chief continues moving in silence, but suddenly, he realizes that he's riding alone.

QUAN (O.S.)

To cry for her is to cry for us all.

The Chief stops and turns his horse to find the group stopped behind him.

They are all looking at him in a way that seems to indicate that -- Quan is the leader now.

QUAN (CONT'D)

We have to show our people that we are still the most powerful nation. We all need that, you need that.

CHIEF

(Irritated)

You do not tell me what I need, brother.

YAPA

(To the Chief)

If you allow me, I will join Quan.

That takes the Chief by surprise.

CHIEF

We need you in camp.

YAPA

We found buffalo herd. Our families can hunt and sustain themselves on that meat for a month at least... We will be back before that.

CHIEF

You have a newborn to care for.

YAPA

The more reason to fight for our people.

QUAN

We need our pride back.

An awkward BEAT as the Chief looks at Quan. He realizes this is a battle he will lose.

The Chief takes control of the plan --

CHIEF

Go east. I will send Tadan to join you. He walked that territory long ago. Wait for him when the sun falls.

QUAN

(To one of the riders)

You come with us.

The Chief shows Quan he's the one making decisions --

CHIEF

No, you will take Tenewa.

TENEWA

Why me?

The Chief doesn't answer, he just stares at her. She immediately joins the small group.

CHIEF
We are of The People.

QUAN
We are of The People.

And with that -- Quan, Tenewa and Yapa ride away.

Naconi looks at them as they ride off.

CHIEF
You asked why we have children, we have them because we hope they will survive us to accomplish what we cannot.

Naconi eyes his father. Takes a moment to let this sink in.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
(To Naconi)
Can you do this?

Naconi breathes. He understands what's going on. Then mounts his horse quickly.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Do not come back without her.

Naconi looks at his father, suddenly feeling a cold breeze of fear. Can he shoulder this responsibility?

Naconi gives a barely perceptible nod and takes off.

It takes a while for Naconi to reach the group of riders. He joins them in full gallop, all headed toward the unknown.

A moment later, Naconi looks back at the Chief and others riding in the other direction.

They are on their own now. Off Naconi, adrenaline surging, trying to hide his fear --

EXT. PLAIN - LATER

The daylight grows stronger. Warm beams of sunlight break through the dense greenery above intermittently.

Our group is riding hard in complete silence. They have been going for hours without stopping.

They're tired but Naconi seems to be the only one showing it.

NACONI
I need water.

He looks exhausted. Silence. No one responds. Naconi is about to collapse, but his pride won't let him quit.

He eyes Tenewa, she also looks tired but won't complain. Naconi closes his eyes for a second and tries not to think about how tired he is.

The group continues its course.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

They are all resting now.

Naconi stares at Quan, who is straightening his arrows.

NACONI
We need water.

QUAN
No. You need to be stronger.

Quan looks at Tenewa.

QUAN (CONT'D)
Do you want water?

TENEWA
No.

Quan looks at Naconi with a smile. Naconi stays in silence for a moment and then --

NACONI
(To Quan)
Why do you not respect my father anymore?

QUAN
I would die for him.

NACONI
It does not seem that way.

QUAN
It is not how it seems, it is how it is.

NACONI
You want to be the Chief.

QUAN
I want our people to have a future.

NACONI

A future that you can rule?

QUAN

A future where we are not all dead.

NACONI

Do you not think that he can give us that?

QUAN

Do you? Do you think your father can protect us from the white men?

A BEAT. Naconi doesn't know the answer.

Frustrated, Quan gets to his feet and walks away, leaving Naconi to wonder about his intentions.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Quan walks through the forest, then stops. He breathes deeply while looking across the moonlit forest. It's a quiet and beautiful night.

He then hears -- FOOTSTEPS approaching. Quan draws an arrow and readies himself to attack. He spots two people coming towards him --

It's YAPA. TADAN, the medicine man, is with him.

Tadan spots the arrow loaded in Quan's bow.

TADAN

If you think an old man like me is a threat, you have not seen the real darkness yet.

QUAN

I have survived nights darker than this one, but I am sure I will not survive another one of your farts.

Tadan smiles and continues on his way.

TADAN

And knowing that, you choose to spend the night next to me?

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Our group sits in a circle around a campfire. We join them in the middle of a ritual.

Tadan is seated at the top of a circle. Next to him are Quan and Yapa, then Tenewa and Naconi.

Tadan prepares his pipe.

TADAN

Once there was a badly wounded man walking across a prairie. He walked and walked but fell into a wallow and died. There were many buffalo on the prairie that day watching the man. Then, a buffalo bull who was the leader, noticed the man lying dead. The buffalo needed to protect the wallow, so they made Puha to revive the man. This gave the man the power to cure bullet wounds. He returned to his people and passed the buffalo Puha around to the others.

TENEWA

I want that Puha.

TADAN

First, you will need a man.

TENEWA

I do not want a man.

YAPA

Then marry yourself a buffalo instead.

They all laugh, but Tenewa didn't like the joke.

Tadan takes a pipe, inhales, and draws four puffs of smoke. He then prays. Tadan, Yapa and Quan share the pipe between them.

YAPA (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)

The tracks head east.

TADAN (PRE-LAP)

How many of them are there?

EXT. SUMMIT - DAWN

Our group stands on a hill looking towards the rising sun.

YAPA

Around fifty on horseback, with six wagons and their slaves on foot.

QUAN

We have to hurry. If they get to where they are going, we will have a thousand more of them to fight.

TADAN

We cannot even fight fifty.

NACONI

Maybe we do not have to.

Surprised, they all turn to face Naconi.

NACONI (CONT'D)

We can sneak into their camp when they are sleeping and rescue her.

QUAN

We do not know our enemy. We do not know how they sleep.

YAPA

The kid is right. If we are killed, Etenia will be a slave forever.

TADAN

We can follow them for a couple of days and study them. We will travel at night and rest during the day.

QUAN

(To Tadan)

So you have decided to be the leader now?

TADAN

Common sense is leading us now.

They all head down the hill.

TENEWA

(To Yapa)

How do you know how many they are?

YAPA

The ground has a story to tell, you have only to pay attention to what it says.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUES

They continue downhill when Quan stops suddenly, frozen, sharing a look of concern with Yapa --

Something is happening and they both know it.

They immediately ready their weapons and move quickly.

From a distance they spot--

One of their horses is lying dead on the ground with its throat slashed.

They are all terrified by the sight of the murdered horse.

They look closer and see --

The silhouette of a native man with his back turned to them is standing beside the dead horse.

CLOSER -- the horse killer is dressed as a Tonkawa Warrior and wearing a dirty, torn Confederate jacket over his shoulders.

TONKAWA WARRIOR

(In Tonkawa)

All horses must die. We will lie with them and become seeds again.

He is about to stab the animal with a knife, when Quan shots an arrow into the Warrior's shoulder. The Warrior drops his knife and takes off running.

Tenewa chases him.

The rest rush forward and find that it is Yapa's horse that has been killed.

Yapa falls to his knees in despair. For him, it's like losing a close friend.

They all look devastated.

Yapa lies on the ground beside his dead horse.

Tenewa arrives having captured the Tonkawa Warrior. She pushes the horse killer to the ground.

Quan faces the Tonkawa Warrior.

QUAN

Why did you do this to us?

TONKAWA WARRIOR

(In Tonkawa)

I did not do anything to you, I did it to all things. I will move like an snake, traveling through this world until all the horses are dead.

TENEWA

(To Quan)
What did he say?

TONKAWA WARRIOR

(In Comanche)
All horses must die.

TENEWA

Did you kill all the horses in your camp?

TONKAWA WARRIOR

(In Comanche)
The white men did. They killed all the horses, but before they did that, they murdered my father, my mother and my wife. They tied my little son to a horse and dragged him until his body turned to dust.

A long BEAT.

TONKAWA WARRIOR (CONT'D)

And for a moment, I saw the horse who pulled my son laughing at me. They are evil animals. In order to rid the earth of this horror, all the horses must die.

The Tonkawa Warrior begins to sing.

Quan draws an arrow back, ready to shoot the warrior...

But Tadan signals him not to do it.

QUAN

He is going to get us all killed.

TADAN

If you kill someone who is cursed with sorcery, you will free the ghost and it will haunt you to your grave.

Quan pushes the Tonkawa with his foot, sending him tumbling to the ground.

QUAN

Get out of here, you mad animal.

Quan feigns as if he is going to hit him again.

QUAN (CONT'D)

Leave!

The Tonkawa is visibly scared. He gets to his feet and runs away.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 (To Tadan)
 If I see him again, I will kill
 him.

Quan goes to Tenewa.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 (To Tenewa)
 You will give your horse to Yapa
 and wait here for us.

Tenewa looks at him in shock, then goes to her horse.

TENEWA
 It is my horse.

QUAN
 We are on a mission.

TENEWA
 It was my father's. It is all that
 I have left of him.

QUAN
 You father is dead, but Etenia is
 alive. You will wait here.

Tenewa can't believe what she is hearing.

Quan turns to the others.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 We leave at sundown.
 (to Tadan)
 Do you agree old man?

Tadan nods, "yes."

Tenewa stays there, searching their faces for compassion, but finds none.

Tadan walks away. Yapa is focused on saying good bye to his old friend. Finally, Naconi doesn't know what to do.

EXT. FOREST - DAWN

Naconi is sitting with Tadan. They watch Quan keep look out while mending a hole in his coat, this simple task is his way of tempering his anxiety.

Tenewa is making dinner with Yapa.

NACONI
(to Tadan about Quan)
When I grow up, I will not be like
him.

TADAN
Every man has to follow their own
path.

Naconi looks at Tadan, considering his words.

TADAN (CONT'D)
His heart is broken.

NACONI
Does he have a heart?

TADAN
He was in love when he was your
age. I do not remember her name,
but she was taken away by the white
men. He never saw her again. Some
wounds never heal.

NACONI
Quan in love?

TADAN
We all have our tragedies

NACONI
I cannot imagine that.

TADAN
That is because you see yourself
when you look at him.

NACONI
I am nothing like him.

TADAN
Can you imagine yourself in love,
then?

Naconi doesn't know the answer. Tadan stares at him for a moment, smiles and then moves away.

Naconi stays there, confused. Then lies down, thinking.

He turns and watches Tenewa and Yapa preparing food together.

Suddenly, Tenewa catches Naconi watching her and Naconi looks away nervously.

She stares at him for a moment and then turns around, giving him her back.

Naconi stays there, lost in thought.

TENEWA
 (to Yapa)
 Do you not miss your son?

Yapa doesn't answer, he's not sure what to say.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
 The women said you were afraid to
 be a father.

Yapa looks at her in shock.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
 They said that is the reason that
 you leave camp whenever you can.

YAPA
 Those fools! I leave to find them
 food!

TENEWA
 Are not you afraid?

Yapa loses patience.

YAPA
 Go bother someone else, I am busy
 here.

Tenewa walks away with her head hung low as Yapa tries to go back to cooking, but he's so upset he can't concentrate.

LATER

All sleep except for Quan, who lies against a tree keeping a lookout.

He turns suddenly alert and worried. It's too calm.

Tadan open his eyes, also made nervous by the suspicious calm.

Yapa also wakes up with them. He shows a silent look of concern...

Then, they hear a FOOTSTEP. Tadan wakes Naconi and Tenewa. They all load their bows and take cover in the trees.

They wait in suspense for a while. Naconi is breathing quickly from nerves and tries hard to calm down.

Deep in the forest. Between the trees -- they wait in agony.

Quan hears more FOOTSTEPS. He raises his bow and waits, ready for whatever might emerge from the trees.

Panic causes Naconi to aim erratically in all directions.

Whatever is coming could attack from any side. The sound of footsteps gets closer, approaching without hurry.

They wait in suspense.

Tenewa turns pale from fear. She bites her lip. Her hands are shaking and she tries to control them.

The footsteps come closer -- Then pass and continue.

QUAN steps out to spot --- A SOLDIER walking slowly. Quan is behind him and the soldier doesn't see. Quan looks at his bow, thinking. He takes a deep breath and aims at the soldier's back, when --

A shadow steps out from behind the trees --

ANOTHER SOLDIER. Quan lowers his bow. In panic, they listen to the other soldier approach, then another, and another.

There are A HUNDRED SOLDIERS, on foot, crossing twenty yards away.

Our group stands stone still behind the trees, taking silent breaths. If they make a noise, they'll be killed.

Tenewa's hands shake more and more from nerves. The bow wobbles wildly in her grip. She's in the middle of a panic attack.

She brings the bow to her chest and hugs it in an effort to feel safer.

Tadan stares at Tenewa, who is having a panic attack. She catches Tadan watching her and turns, trying to hide it--

But her feet shift on the ground as she moves -- Bad idea -- The sound echoes across the forest.

One of the soldiers turns in Tenewa's direction. He waits to spot any movement, or hear another sound -- But it doesn't come. He continues his march, but then stops and looks again.

On second thought -- the soldier decides to check. He slowly walks towards where our group is hidden.

They all hear the footsteps approaching.

Out of the corner of his eye, Naconi sees Quan load an arrow into his bow.

All realize there's gonna be a fight.

The soldier gets to one of the trees, about to look around it, when --

They hear the Tonkawa Warrior Singing. The Soldier turns quickly. All the soldiers ready their guns.

Where is that singing coming from? They do not know, but it scares the shit out of the soldiers.

The soldiers follow the sound until they see the Tonkawa Warrior --

The Tonkawa Warrior stands on a big rock, holding his arms open, singing his song with all his heart.

The soldiers aim their guns at him.

SOLDIER
(In English)
It is an ambush!

They immediately turn and aim their guns in every direction... waiting.

But nothing happens.

Then a GENERAL lifts his rifle, goes toward the Tonkawa Warrior, and aims --

BANG! He fires. The shot echoes across the forest and the Tonkawa Warrior's singing stops forever.

The Tonkawa Warrior falls to the ground, dead.

GENERAL
(In English)
It was just that one bastard.

He turns to his Soldiers and --

GENERAL (CONT'D)
(In English)
We will camp here.

They start to set up camp, as our heroes freak out in panic.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

It's been hours. Our heroes are all standing still against the trees. Naconi's legs shake from exhaustion. His lips are so dry that they are bleeding.

Most of the soldiers are sleeping. Some stay awake, standing guard.

Tenewa's eyes are fading. Yapa notices. She's far too weak.

A soldier comes running.

SOLDIER

(In English)

We found five horses, but one of them is dead with its throat cut. There are reds in the area.

Naconi turns to Quan.

NACONI

They found the horses.

Tenewa breathes, trying to regain control of her body. She throws a look towards Yapa. He can see that she is not okay, and then, -- she faints. The sound of her fall echoes across the whole forest.

Quan stares at her, he can't believe it. Yapa quickly rushes to Tenewa's tree, picks her up and hides behind it, as --

Quan sees two guards coming to check on the noise.

Naconi doesn't know what to do. Quan readies his axe. Tadan raises his hand, signaling Quan not to attack, but --

Quan quickly steps out from behind the tree. He grabs the guard and cuts his throat with his axe blade.

Now they're forced to attack. Tadan shoots his arrow into the other guard before they can make a noise.

Quan goes to Tenewa, throws her body over his shoulder, and takes off running, when --

BANG! A bullet hits Yapa in his abdomen.

All hell brakes lose.

In a matter of seconds, A HUNDRED SOLDIERS are chasing them.

Yapa gets to his feet. He can still run.

They shoot arrows, killing as many soldiers as they can but there are too many, they have to retreat.

They run, following a ravine to a river.

QUAN

We cannot leave the horses!

TADAN

We do not have a choice

Bang! Another bullet hits the ground near them.

Quan was right, they have no choice --

They quickly shoot all their arrows into the trees on the other side of the river... they can't let the arrows get wet.

Tenewa is still unconscious. Quan holds her tight, and without hesitation, jumps into the river.

The rest follow Quan, jumping into the water behind him.

The soldiers arrive and fire as many bullets as they can, but our group is out of range.

IN THE RIVER

Tadan holds onto Yapa, who is losing a lot of blood.

Quan loses his grip on Tenewa. The current takes her and she is floating away from him.

Naconi swims hard for Tenewa. He's a way better swimmer than Quan. He's about to get to her when a bullet hits the water beside him.

Naconi swims underwater.

Tenewa continues to float with the current, her body being pushed towards the bank where the soldiers are.

BANG! Another bullet hits the water.

Our group retreats.

One of the soldiers jumps in the water, swims toward Tenewa and grabs her. He pulls her back to the beach.

Quan, Naconi, Tadan and Yapa reach the far bank and climb out off the water.

The soldiers lift Tenewa and carry her away.

Quan pulls an arrow from a tree, raises his bow and loads it.

He aims... following the soldier carrying Tenewa and waiting for the perfect moment --

Quan shoots. The arrow goes through the soldier's eye and drives deep into his head. The soldier briefly tries to pull the arrow out, but dies, and falls like a sack of grain.

Tenewa falls to the ground.

In the corner of his eye, Naconi spots other soldiers headed towards Tenewa.

Quan shoots another arrow, killing another of the soldiers.

Naconi jumps to the water and swims as fast as he can towards the other side.

Tadan and Quan cover him with counter fire.

Naconi arrives on the opposite shore just as another soldier meets him there.

Naconi draws his axe and stabs the other soldier in the stomach.

Naconi pulls Tenewa to her feet and brings her to the water with him.

Naconi spots the Soldier's pistol on the ground. He takes it with him, keeping it hidden.

The stabbed Soldier tries to stop Naconi by grabbing Tenewa by the arm.

Naconi stabs the soldier again and frees Tenewa. Naconi swims toward the other side, bringing Tenewa with him.

Two more soldiers jump into the river and swim after Naconi and Tenewa, but Quan and Tadan kill them with the arrows before they can reach Naconi.

Naconi arrives on the other side with Tenewa in tow.

They're safe -- for now.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Tenewa wakes up disorientated. Naconi gives Tenewa water from his leather canteen and she drinks it desperately. Quan is beside them. Tadan is nearby taking care of Yapa.

NACONI

I saw the soldiers crossing the river. We have to go now.

Yapa gets to his feet.

QUAN

We have to get the horses back. Without them we are nothing.

TADAN

(to Quan)

You should have thought about that before you attacked them.

NACONI

A fight for our horses is a fight we will lose. Yapa is wounded. Do you really think he can fight now?

QUAN

He's still more of a warrior than you or her...

(Pointing at Tenewa)

You are just useless kids.

NACONI

You are right: Three warriors, one of them wounded, and two useless kids against how many of those white soldiers? You said it yourself, without horses we are nothing.

(beat)

My father always says you have to choose your battles.

QUAN

Well, your father is not here. I say we go back.

They don't seem to agree with him.

QUAN (CONT'D)

I will not abandon my horse.

Tadan starts walking away.

TADAN

We have no horses anymore.

The others leave with Tadan while Quan remains there, lost in thought, devastated by the idea of leaving his horse behind.

Finally, there's no other option for Quan but to go with his people.

MOMENTS LATER

They all move in silence. Tadan stares at Naconi for a moment, and then --

TADAN (CONT'D)

(To Naconi)

You already possess all that is necessary for greatness.

With that, Tadan steps away.

Naconi shares a look with Tenewa but she doesn't liked what she heard.

TENEWA

(To Naconi)

If you expect me to thank you for saving my life in the river, it will not happen.

She walks away, leaving Naconi alone.

He then follows the group.

EXT. SUMMIT - DAY.

It's been days and they all look exhausted.

Then, something in the distance causes them to panic --

Eight thousand Apaches are on a forced march. Heavily armed soldiers guard them. The Apaches look exhausted. Some of them fall down, dehydrated, but they are forced to continue or die.

Our group appear horrified by what they see.

TENEWA

Where are they taking them?

No answer.

NACONI

We have to do something.

QUAN

Now you want to do something?

Naconi turns to look at Quan.

QUAN (CONT'D)

These are the white men you admire?
They take our people and turn him
into a herd.

Naconi looks to Tadan, waiting for his support, but --

TADAN

There is nothing we can do for
them.

Naconi stays there for a moment, heartbroken, as he watches the Apaches march on through exhaustion.

TENEWA

Yapa needs to rest.

TADAN

Not here. We will find someplace
safe.

EXT. FOREST. NIGHT

Tadan is nursing Yapa's wound. Tenewa is helping him.

TADAN
 (to Tenewa)
 How are your hands?

TENEWA
 There is nothing wrong with my
 hands.

TADAN
 Have you ever killed a person?

She doesn't answer.

TADAN (CONT'D)
 Maybe you are not meant to do it.

TENEWA
 You know nothing about me.

They continue working in silence, then --

TADAN
 Do you know why we never retrieve
 an arrow which has taken an enemy's
 life?

She doesn't know the answer, but she would never admit that.

TADAN (CONT'D)
 Because in death, we are all
 equals. In order to take an enemy's
 life, you are first cursed with the
 power to become your own enemy.
 (Then)
 No one deserves such a curse.

They continue working in silence as Tenewa thinks about this.

TENEWA
 There is nothing wrong with my
 hands.

She moves on as Quan arrives.

QUAN
 We found the place.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - PERIPHERY - NIGHT

They stand on the outskirts of the big city. Soldiers are everywhere. Our heroes are terrified by what they see.

Naconi is amazed by the size and modernity of the place, but it seems he is not the only one --

YAPA

How many years of work did it take to build this?

TADAN

This is the home of the spirit who brings the winter.

(Then)

Last time I came into a place like this, it was a trap. They killed Spirit Talker along with thirty warriors, three women and two children.

QUAN

I am not scared of them.

TADAN

You do not need to be scared in order to be killed.

QUAN

(To Yapa)

Are you sure she is in there?

YAPA

This is where the tracks led us.

QUAN

I will look.

TENEWA

I will go with you.

QUAN

I cannot carry a woman every time she faints. You stay behind to nurse Yapa's wounds.

That hits Tenewa really hard. Quan looks at Naconi.

QUAN (CONT'D)

You are coming with me.

TADAN

(to Quan)

We need a plan.

QUAN

We are tired of your plans old man.

Naconi is confused, but joins Quan.

TADAN

If they spot you, they will kill you. Let's think this through.

QUAN
We will be back before sunrise.

TENEWA
What if you are not?

QUAN
Wait until nightfall, again, and go
back in to find her.

Quan turns towards the city. Naconi follows Quan.

EXT. STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY - NIGHT

Quan and Naconi walk quietly through the streets of the town. Both know that if they are spotted, they'll be killed.

The city appears desolate. It seems as if everyone must be sleeping, but they hear something --

Quan spots a SOLDIER lying in the street, very drunk. The soldier struggles to get on his feet but clearly can't do it.

They continue on their way, ignoring the poor bastard. They pass a tavern. Music plays inside.

Naconi peeks in through a window -- A group of drunken men party with prostitutes.

Quan grabs Naconi by and forces him to continue walking.

They are startled by a loud whistle and rush to hide. From their hiding spot, they can see an enormous metal structure cut across the land...

It is the first time they've ever seen A TRAIN. But Naconi has heard of them --

NACONI
(In English)
A train...

People spill out of the tavern.

Quan and Naconi rush to an alley and look for a better place to hide.

The train stops and people disembark.

Quan can't believe his eyes. What is this enormous thing? Naconi can't hide his surprise either.

Naconi spots something -- Men are loading a dozen, chained and bound, Indian women into one of the train cars.

Naconi leaps up to see if he can spot Etenia among the women prisoners. He moves closer to have a better look and spots a little girl. Could be Etenia, but Naconi can't see her face.

Naconi keeps walking, trying not to lose sight of the girl.

NACONI (CONT'D)

I see her.

But Quan stops him.

QUAN

They will kill you. This is not the way.

NACONI

We need to rescue her.

Naconi draws the pistol that he stole from the soldier on the riverbank.

NACONI (CONT'D)

We can use this.

QUAN

Where did you get that?

NACONI

It does not matter. Let's go!

But Quan reacts with rage. He grabs Naconi by the neck and shoves him into a wall. Quan disarms Naconi and throws the pistol onto the ground.

QUAN

You bring shame on our people.

NACONI

Because I want to rescue my sister?
At least I am not doing this to
look like a savior.

A BEAT.

NACONI (CONT'D)

That is right, you only want to
rescue Etenia to prove you are the
next in line to be chief.

A BEAT.

QUAN

Why did you come back that night?

A BEAT. Naconi spots the train. They are closing the door.

NACONI
They are leaving...

QUAN
I saw you. You left the camp. Why
did not you go for good?

A long BEAT. Naconi didn't expect Quan to know that.

NACONI
Because of my sister. Because I do
care about her.

QUAN
No. You do not care about her, you
do not care about your father, or
your family or your people. You
only care about yourself.

Quan drops Naconi onto the ground.

QUAN (CONT'D)
They almost killed all our people
and you just ran away?

Naconi doesn't know how to answer.

QUAN (CONT'D)
You dragged your sister into this.

NACONI
She followed me, it was not my
fault.

QUAN
She followed you because she
trusted you and you betrayed her.
Imagine the most terrible things
men do. That will all happen to
her, if it has not already. And for
what?

A BEAT.

QUAN (CONT'D)
Yes, you are right. I want to rule
the tribe if only to make sure that
you do not destroy us.

Naconi looks at Quan for a long time in shock, when --

SOLDIER (O.S.)
(In English)
Hey...

Naconi and Quan turn to discover that two drunken soldiers
are watching them, shocked by what they are seeing.

In the blink of an eye, Quan raises his bow and shoots an arrow through the neck of one of the soldiers, killing him.

The other soldier breaks into a run. Quan sprints after the soldier, catches him and brings him to the ground. Quan draws his axe and --

WE CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Yapa lies on the ground. Tadan puts a buffalo tail into his mouth and then blows on Yapa's wound.

Tadan burns the spines of a prickly pear cactus and splits it in half. He presses the split surface of the cactus against Yapa's wound and binds it tightly.

Tenewa watches the ceremony, totally absorbed by it.

Tadan stands and looks at something in the distance, as if he heard something. Tenewa does the same but can't see anything.

TADAN

(To Tenewa)

You need to trust your ears.

Tenewa spots something moving toward them. She raises her bow, when they spot the soldier that Quan attacked in town.

Then Quan and Naconi appear behind the soldier. The soldier's hands are tied to a wooden stick and his mouth is gagged.

Tenewa and Tadan wait until Quan, Naconi and their prisoner arrive. Tadan looks up, confused.

TADAN (CONT'D)

The white men will look for him and find us.

QUAN

Old man, you spend so much time thinking about the white men that you are becoming like them.

Quan forces the soldier to the ground, draws his axe.

TADAN

(To Quan)

What are you doing?

QUAN

I am doing what has to be done.

Quan looks up at all of them.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 Now, listen. I know you do not like
 it, but this is the way we have
 fought for centuries and it is the
 way we will fight now.

Quan moves to scalp the soldier and looks back at Naconi --

QUAN (CONT'D)
 Ask him where she is.

NACONI
 I do not speak their tongue.

QUAN
 No? Then we will kill him right
 here.

Quan is about to kill him.

Pressure on Naconi is building when --

NACONI
 (In English)
 What is your name?

Silence. They all look at Naconi in shock.

QUAN
 (To Naconi)
 So many lies.

Naconi ignores Quan and goes to the Soldier.

NACONI
 (In English)
 What is your name?

The Soldier looks up at Naconi.

SOLDIER
 (In English)
 Jimmy.

NACONI
 (In English)
 We look for a girl. She captured.
 She is here.

JIMMY
 (In English)
 If she's 'ere, red, her body and
 soul belong to CAPTAIN FOSTER now.

QUAN
 What is he saying?

NACONI

That a Captain owns her now.
(To Jimmy, in English)
Where are they taking her?

JIMMY

(In English)
New York. That's the worst place
someone like you could go, red. Far
as I know, no Indian touches that
city outside of a cage.

QUAN

What did he say, now?

NACONI

They are taking her to another
village called New York. That is
were my mother was born.

Quan kicks Jimmy to the ground.

QUAN

He will take us there.

NACONI

(In English)
You will take us there.

JIMMY

(In English)
You retarded or what?

TENEWA

(To Naconi)
What did he say?

NACONI

(In English, ignoring
Tenewa)
We will not let you go until we
find her.

JIMMY

(In English)
It will take months, you dumbass.

TENEWA

(To Naconi)
What is he saying!?

NACONI

He said it will take us months to
get there.

QUAN

He is lying.

NACONI

Maybe. They are not using horses anymore. They ride on a train, and we do not know-

TADAN

(Interrupting him)
A train?

NACONI

The big metal beast. It moves faster than a hundred horses. We saw one in the village. Ask Quan, he saw it too.

They all look to Quan, waiting for confirmation.

QUAN

It is a trap.
(Pointing at Jimmy)
If we go there, his people will catch us and lock us in a cage.

TADAN

I think we have reached the end of this journey.

QUAN

We are far from the end.

TADAN

This is a test. If we continue, our hearts will become as hard as stone and we will lose all recognition of ourselves.

QUAN

We are not doing this for ourselves.

TADAN

Who are you doing it for, if not yourself? Do you want to rescue her or do you want revenge?

QUAN

We can have both.

TADAN

Now you are the one talking like a white man. Etenia's spirit may be broken already. If we do manage to rescue her, her mind might already be lost forever.

QUAN

We did not come this far to quit.

TADAN

There is one truth: we have
traveled too far.

TENEWA

I remember Etenia running around,
smiling, even when we were all
devastated by death. She is a
strong girl. We all need her, and
because of that, the Great Spirit
will protect her.

They all feel the same way.

Naconi looks at them, they are all confused. He looks to
Jimmy.

NACONI

(In English)

How long takes to go to New York
with train?

JIMMY

(In English)

C'mon, that's even more stupid!

NACONI

(In English)

How long?

JIMMY

(In English)

Four days!

Naconi turns to his team.

NACONI

The train will take us there in
four days.

QUAN

This is madness.

NACONI

Yes, it is madness. But you said we
have to show our people that we are
the most powerful nation. Are you
planing to do that by being afraid
of a train?

Quan doesn't like being called a coward. He looks at Naconi
in silence.

TENEWA

I am not afraid of a train.

TADAN

Because you are young and dumb.

Quan looks at Yapa, unconscious on the ground.

QUAN

What about Yapa?

NACONI

At least he will be forced to stay still for four days. We can nurse him back to health.

They all remain silent as they contemplate their options.

INT./EXT. TRAIN CAR - NIGHT

Our group is standing in front of a train car. Jimmy is with them, his mouth gagged. They don't know what to do.

Naconi and Tenewa touch the train car, trying to understand how the gate opens, but they can't figure it out. They keep pushing everything lever they can find. Finally, frustrated, they start hitting the metal beams but all seems useless.

QUAN

(Pointing at Jimmy)
Ask him.

NACONI

He will scream if we take off his gag.

Then Tenewa pushes something and the gate slides open. She jumps up inside a cargo train car. She grabs Jimmy and lifts him inside the cargo car with her.

Yapa gets into the train car also... When suddenly it starts to move.

Tadan, Quan and Naconi rush to get in as the train speeds up.

Naconi is the last one out. He runs after the train car but it's leaving him behind. He runs faster.

Tenewa reaches out for Naconi from the open train door. Naconi runs faster and just barely manages to grab Tenewa's hand. She pulls him inside.

Naconi lies on the floor, exhausted.

They all sit quietly. There are boxes piled around them, but they have plenty of space to rest.

There's an awkward silence in the air. For the first time, they are not in control. They do not know where they're headed or what's going to happen.

Nobody wants to say it, but they are all thinking the same thing -- they've crossed a threshold into the unknown.

EXT. TRAIN/PLAINS - DAY

The Train moves at full speed across the peaceful landscape.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

It's been days. They all look tired and dehydrated. Quan smokes his pipe.

QUAN

I wonder if someone is feeding my dogs.

TADAN

Everyone loves your dogs, even when they shit all over the camp.

QUAN

That does not mean they will feed them.

TADAN

Do not worry, as long as there is dried meat to eat, no one is going to eat dogs.

Quan shoots an angry look at Tadan who is now laughing. Naconi turns to Jimmy.

NACONI

(In English)

Tell more about Captain Foster.

Jimmy considers, and then --

JIMMY

(In English)

He's a British military officer.

NACONI

(In English)

British?

JIMMY

(In English)

British! From England. Don't you know what England is?

Naconi doesn't answer, he doesn't know. Jimmy appears frustrated.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(In English)

Jesus Christ! It's an island all the way across the fuckin' ocean. 'Far I know, Foster's advising the States on the removal of... Indians. That's all I know.

NACONI

(In English)

Removal?

JIMMY

(In English)

They've been relocating you fellas to a place where you'll be safe.

Tenewa goes to one of the crates in the train car. She tries to open it, but it's sealed with nails.

She tries harder and manages to open the box. She steps back in horror when she sees what's inside --

Dozens of Indian scalps. Tenewa empties the box onto the floor. The rest look on in shock.

NACONI

(To Jimmy, in English)

A place where we are safe?

JIMMY

Jesus! You are the savages who started scalping people. We do it 'cause you did it first. You ain't got to pretend you're nice because I've seen what you done to the other red niggers.

QUAN

What is he saying?

NACONI

He is asking us to spare his life.

QUAN

He does not look like he is begging.

NACONI

(To Jimmy, in English)

You begging, right?

Jimmy looks at Quan and lowers his head.

TENEWA (O.S.)

This does not look good.

Tadan turns to find Tenewa next to Yapa. Yapa lies on the ground, drenched in sweat. Tadan goes to Yapa's side and looks at his wound --

It looks really bad. Tadan takes a madstone from his bag and places it over Yapa's wound.

Tadan takes his FIRE DRILL and places over a small rag. He sprinkles some gun powder on the rag.

JIMMY

(In English)

That useless shit can't do nothing.

TADAN

We need to find prickly pears.

QUAN

We are not going to jump off this thing.

Tadan spins the stick between his palms until he makes fire. He then lights his pipe.

TADAN

He will die. We do not even have water to give him.

NACONI

(To Tadan)

There is nothing else you can do?

TADAN

I am doing all I can.

Tadan raises his pipe, draws on it, and exhales the smoke onto Yapa's wound.

YAPA

(Hallucinating)

My wife, I see my wife. Where is my son? Quan, where is my son?

Quan doesn't know what to say. He's really worried about Yapa. Naconi rushes to Yapa's side.

NACONI

(To Yapa)

He is fine, your son is fine.

LATER

They are all quiet. Naconi is seated next to Yapa, lost in thought, when he realizes Yapa is waking up.

NACONI (CONT'D)
How are you?

A long beat.

YAPA
(To Naconi)
Am I a good father?

Naconi looks at Yapa. He appears a little better and seems conscious now.

NACONI
Of course you are.

Yapa takes a stick and bends it into a circle. He strings some white beads onto the stick and covers it like a collar.

NACONI (CONT'D)
You have to rest.

Yapa ignores Naconi. He ties a bird's claw to the stick and gives it to Naconi.

Naconi doesn't know what to do.

YAPA
I need you to do something for me.
(a beat)
Take my Puha.

Naconi doesn't know what to do.

YAPA (CONT'D)
This claw will protect you from
bullet wounds. That is why I am
still alive.

NACONI
I... I cannot take this.

Yapa grabs Naconi's hand.

YAPA
It will become your Puha. It has
been mine for many years and now we
will share it.

NACONI
I am sorry. I do not believe in...

YAPA
It will come to you when you are
ready. Not before or after. Please,
take it. I can now see the eternal
home beyond the sun.
(a beat)
(MORE)

YAPA (CONT'D)

You are my only option here. I need you to give it to my son. Quan and Tadan have their own Puha and I can't give it to Tenewa. If I die, he will not be protected.

Naconi hesitates, then takes it.

YAPA (CONT'D)

You will feel the call, I know you will. When that happens, find a lonely place. The further you are from others, the clearer your vision will be. Every man can be his own priest and his own prophet, Naconi. Listen carefully and you will become someone new.

Naconi looks at the claw for a while, then turns to Yapa, who is now looking at the ceiling.

YAPA (CONT'D)

(Murmuring)

You will become someone new...

Naconi stays there, worried. Then shares a look with Tadan. He returns his look with something that could loosely be considered a smile, then --

Tadan starts to sing --

TADAN

(Singing)

*Going away tonight;
Be gone a long time.*

QUAN

(To Tadan)

Of all the medicine men, you have the ugliest voice I have ever heard.

Tadan smiles and sings even louder.

TADAN

(Singing)

*While I am gone;
I will be thinking of you.*

They are startled by a LOUD WHISTLE. Tadan stops singing.

JIMMY

(In English)

Welcome to hell.

Naconi stands and crosses to the gate. He slides it open a little to see what's going on outside -- The train has finally arrived at the wildest place on the new continent: New York City.

Naconi looks at the city and is both amazed and overwhelmed by the sight of it.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(In English)

Not only will you never find the girl, God as my witness, you won't leave this city alive.

(To Naconi)

Tell them! Tell them you just killed them all, you stupid savage.

That thought sends chills down Naconi's spine. Maybe the American's English doesn't need translation because the whole group is thinking the same thing.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY, RAILROAD - CONTINUES

The train crosses the Big Apple, still under construction, until it stops at the terminal.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

Naconi peeks outside. There's no one around their train car. They are far from the passenger platform, stopped in an area for freight cargo.

NACONI

I will find a way to escape.

Naconi opens the gate.

TADAN

Take Tenewa with you.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - CONTINUOUS

Naconi and Tenewa jump out of the train car. They close the door behind them and walk away.

They circle the train car but stop when they see a group of soldiers in the distance -- They have to find another way to get out of here.

They go to the next freight car and hide. From there, Naconi spots an abandoned building.

NACONI

We should check inside and see if
we can hide there until nightfall.

They both go toward the building to check.

INT. TRAIN CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Quan moves toward Tadan and Yapa.

QUAN

Is he going to live?

TADAN

It looks as if the Great Spirit
wants to take him soon.

Quan lowers his head, devastated, when -- The door slides open and -- Five heavily armed soldiers and one Commander look inside the train car.

As soon as Jimmy spots them --

JIMMY

(In English)
Help! Help!!!

The soldiers immediately ready their guns. Quan, Tadan and Yapa don't stand a chance.

Jimmy rushes toward the soldiers. They grab him and take him away from the Comanches.

Quan reaches for his bow, but a soldier spots him and points his gun.

COMMANDER

(In English)
Don't move!

Quan doesn't have to speak English to understand the threat.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)

(In English)
Get out!

The Comanches exit the train car at gunpoint.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)

(In English)
Get out!

Tadan and Quan jump out of the train.

Jimmy runs away immediately. One of the soldiers spots Yapa on the floor. The soldier jumps inside the train car and drags Yapa to the door, then throws him out of the train.

Tadan goes to help Yapa, but the Commander quickly raises his gun and --

SHOOTS Tadan in the chest, killing him instantly. His lifeless body falls onto the mud as the remaining Comanche stare on in shock.

A long moment of cold silence. It happened so fast, they didn't even have the time to react.

Quan draws his axe, lunges forward and attacks the Commander, but -- He's out numbered and badly beaten.

SOLDIER 2 checks on Yapa.

SOLDIER 2
(In English)
He's almost dead.

COMMANDER
(In English)
Shoot him.

The Soldier 2 readies his gun and points it at Yapa. He's about to shoot, when --

NACONI
(In English)
Step back!

They turn to find Naconi pointing his gun at Soldier 2.

Tenewa has her bow and arrow aimed at the others.

In horror, Naconi and Tenewa look at Tadan's dead body on the ground. They are utterly devastated.

Tenewa looks at her own hands, they begin to shake. She tries hard to steady herself and aims the arrow at the Soldier.

One of the Soldiers turns his pistol on Naconi, but Tenewa shots an arrow, killing him instantly.

She's killed a person for the first time. In less than a second, Tenewa has loaded another arrow and is ready to shoot again. Her hands, now, are as firm as a stone.

Quan slowly gets to his feet and goes to Tadan's body. He is definitely dead. Quan contemplates his dead friend lying on the ground, and then --

Quan draws his axe and moves toward the Commander. The Commander takes a step back, scared of Quan.

NACONI (CONT'D)
 (To Quan)
 Wait!

Quan stops. He levels a long accusing stare at Naconi.

NACONI (CONT'D)
 (In English)
 Where is Captain Foster?

COMMANDER
 (In English)
 What?

Quan grabs the Commander, then draws his axe and slices the Commander's arm off with one single blow.

Quan pushes the Commander against the train, his axe to the Commander's neck.

NACONI
 (In English)
 Where is Captain Foster?

COMMANDER
 (In English)
 I... I... Don't know where he is staying, he's waiting for his boat, it's named The Silvia. That's all I know.

Quan looks to Naconi.

NACONI
 We have the information.

Quan cuts the Commander's throat with the axe.

NACONI (CONT'D)
 (In English)
 (To the other soldiers)
 Get in!

The soldiers climb inside the train car. Naconi closes the door and locks it from the outside.

Quan carries Tadan's body and Naconi carries Yapa. They move away from the rails.

We see, in the distance, Jimmy coming toward the train car... He is leading a fresh group of soldiers.

The soldiers arrive and find the dead. They then spot our group crossing the rails. The soldiers charge, ready to shot, when a train crosses between the Comanches and the soldiers.

The soldiers are stuck. Our group has been given an opportunity to escape.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - LATER

Naconi, Quan and Tenewa enter. Quan and Naconi are carrying Yapa's unconscious body and Tadan's dead body.

There's a deadly silence in the air.

They lie the bodies on the ground. Nobody speaks. They're all still in shock.

They sit in silence for a long time. Then Quan gets on his feet and moves toward Tadan's body. He looks through Tadan's bag and finds -- The red paint. Quan uses it to paint Tadan's face. Naconi and Tenewa watch Quan as he works.

When Quan finishes, he looks for something inside his own bag. He finds a blanket and wraps Tadan's body with it. Then, he lifts Tadan's body onto his shoulder and leaves the room.

Naconi and Tenewa stay there in silence for a while.

TENEWA

Maybe we should have gone back.

Naconi doesn't know what to say. Then he spots Tadan's bag on the floor. He takes it and looks inside.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Naconi and Tenewa are sleeping on improvised mattresses beside Yapa, when Quan enters the warehouse carrying his leather canteen.

He moves toward Naconi and wakes him up. Naconi looks at him, confused. Quan gives Naconi the canteen. Naconi doesn't think it twice -- He gulps as much water as he can.

Tenewa wakes and drinks some water as well.

QUAN

We will have to hide here and move only at night.

Naconi nods in agreement.

QUAN (CONT'D)

We have to think like they do. The Great Spirit will guide us. He is looking after us.

Quan walks away. Naconi and Tenewa are a little worried about him.

LATER

They are all sleeping. Naconi opens his eyes. He quietly stands, goes to the door and leaves the building.

EXT. NEW YORK, STREET - NIGHT

Naconi walks out onto the street. There's no one around. He looks at the buildings and streets in amazement, unable to believe his eyes.

He takes something from his bag -- AN OLD ROLLED DAGUERREOTYPE. It's a picture of his mother from when she was a teenager. In the photo, she is standing in front of a house.

Naconi looks around, trying to find his mother's house, but it's useless. It could be anywhere.

Naconi hears a MAN'S VOICE. He quickly looks for a place to hide and spots a building with a flight of stairs in back. He goes to the stairs and climbs up.

A GUY appears. He is walking with a WOMAN who is dressed like a prostitute.

GUY
(In English)
A whore is a whore.

WOMAN
(In English)
It's not who I am, It's what I do.

The Guy grabs the Woman, presses her against a wall and starts to kiss her. She laughs.

The Guy grabs her breast and lifts her skirt. Naconi spots TWO OTHER MEN moving toward them.

The Guy is too busy to notice them.

Naconi realizes one of the approaching men is holding a knife. The two men reach the couple and one of them stabs the Guy in the neck.

The Woman quickly backs off. The Guy presses his hand against his neck, futilely, trying to stop the bleeding. Then he falls to the ground, writhing in agony.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(In English)
(to the two men)
You took too long.

They get down on their knees and steal all they can from the Guy as he dies.

One of the men takes the victim's shoes. When there's nothing else to steal, they rush off, leaving the Guy half naked and dead on the ground.

In shock, Naconi continues looking at the murdered man.

Suddenly realizes that there's a SHIRTLESS GUY looking down at him from a window.

SHIRTLESS GUY
(In English)
Hey! What are you doing here?

Naconi immediately backs off, but --

SHIRTLESS GUY (CONT'D)
(In English)
There's an Indian over here!

Naconi is about to run out into the street when he spots the Two Guys and the Woman turning back towards him.

SHIRTLESS GUY (CONT'D)
(In English)
Everybody! There's an Indian over here!

Naconi, now in a panic, tries to find another way to escape. He spots an open window and jumps inside to --

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Naconi falls onto the floor inside an apartment. He quickly jumps his feet and tries to find a way out, but doesn't see one.

There's a closed door in the corner, but he doesn't know what it is or how to use it.

Naconi goes to a wood paneled wall and hits it hard, trying to break through.

He stops in shock when he sees a KID staring at him from a doorframe.

Naconi hits the wall again, but stops when the kid starts moving toward him. Naconi is panicking.

The Kid walks to the door, twists the handle and opens the door, showing Naconi how to use it.

Naconi stays there for a moment, thinking what to do...

Then quickly grabs a coat and storms out the door.

EXT. NEW YORK, STREET - LATER

Naconi walks the streets wrapped in the stolen coat.

A carriage comes barreling towards him. Naconi quickly jumps out of the way and turns down an alley, trying to avoid being seen by anyone.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - LATER

Naconi enters, they are all sleeping. He's still wearing the stolen coat.

Naconi goes to his mattress and lies down on it, when he spots Yapa looking up at him.

Naconi ignores Yapa and tries to sleep, but he can't. There's so much spinning around in his head.

Then Naconi turns to see Tadan is still looking at him, but there's something strange about his look. His eyes don't move at all.

Naconi approaches Tadan slowly. Is he dead? He moves his hand to Yapa's face, when Tadan looks at Naconi.

TADAN
Where are we?

Naconi breaths again with relief.

EXT. NEW YORK - DAY

Days have passed.

The buildings are huge masses of concrete and wood. The streets surrounding them are paved with cobblestones.

It is the heart of the New World.

The Hudson River harbor is crowded with the tall masts of sailing ships.

And then... SNOW begins to fall.

EXT. HARBOR, ROOFTOP - SUNSET

Tenewa and Yapa are hidden on the roof of a building, watching the harbor. Yapa seems completely recovered now. They look at the ships sailing in the river.

The sun has nearly set and it's so cold they can barely breathe.

They wear stolen clothes. But their disguises are not warm enough for the brutal winter weather.

Yapa looks to see an enormous ship is arriving.

YAPA

What is the point of building something like that if it is only used for transporting slaves?

Tenewa can't answer that.

TENEWA

What if they are already gone?

YAPA

We are doing what we can.

TENEWA

Do you not want to go back?

A long beat. Of course he wants to go back.

TENEWA (CONT'D)

This place is too cold.

Yapa takes off his coat and offers it to her, but she refuses it.

TENEWA (CONT'D)

If you can stand this weather, I can also.

YAPA

This is not a competition, you could die.

Tenewa looks toward the horizon. The sun is setting and night is coming on.

TENEWA

It is time to look at the ships.

Tenewa puts it on her hat and her disguise is complete.

EXT. PIERS, HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT

Tenewa and Yapa walk beside the ships. They are looking for one in particular, but there are so many.

Then Tenewa stops, she's spotted something. Yapa stops to look as well. He compares the name of this ship to the poorly written text on a piece of cloth -- THE SILVIA.

This ship, though, is called -- THE SLOAN.

YAPA
This is it.

TENEWA
(Pointing at the letters on
the cloth)
No, this is different.

Yapa compares the texts again and moves on, frustrated.

YAPA
I have seen you looking at Naconi.

A long beat.

YAPA (CONT'D)
There is no shame in looking after
a man. A woman can be both a
warrior and a wife.

TENEWA
I like you better when you are
quiet.

Yapa smiles. They both continue on their way. The snow continues to slowly paint our heroes and the streets in cool white.

INT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Naconi and Quan walk past the alley. They cover their bodies with the stolen cloth.

Naconi moves to a trash can and looks inside.

QUAN
I will die before eating something
from there.

NACONI
When was the last time you ate
anything at all?

Quan doesn't answer, maybe he can't even remember. Quan is staring at Naconi who moves to the trash can.

QUAN
Is this the place you dreamed of?

Naconi turns to Quan.

NACONI
One day we will die, but these
buildings will live forever.

QUAN

A big cage is still a cage. White men have a great hunger for rotten places.

A beat.

QUAN (CONT'D)

Where were you planning to go when you left us?

NACONI

I do not know.

QUAN

What were you expecting to find?

NACONI

I do not know!

QUAN

You thought the white men were going to accept you? That they would give you a name? That they would treat you as an equal? White men are a terror.

NACONI

Everyone is a terror to someone.

QUAN

You are a terror to your own people.

A beat.

NACONI

Why did you not try to find the girl you were in love with?

Quan looks at Naconi in shock.

QUAN

What?

NACONI

Tadan told me about her.

A long beat. Quan tries to process this.

NACONI (CONT'D)

If you care so much about your people, why did you abandon her?

QUAN

Such talk will put a curse on you.

NACONI
 But I do not believe in curses.
 Were you afraid?

Quan loses patience with Naconi --

QUAN
 They killed her in front of me.
 They did it because I tried to save
 her. I was young and scared, I
 accept that, but I did not abandon
 her.

NACONI
 I did not know that.

QUAN
 There are so many things you do not
 know, but you still talk as if you
 know the beginning and end of every
 story.

A beat.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 Tell me Naconi, do you know the end
 of this story? Are we going to find
 your sister before all these empty
 places fall apart?

A beat.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Naconi lies on the mattress, trying to sleep. He spots Quan,
 awake and staring out the window. He looks at Tenewa, she
 can't sleep either.

Yapa is on the other side of the room smoking from his pipe.

They are all falling apart.

A thought forms in Naconi's mind. A crazy thought...

EXT. HARBOR, ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Yapa watches the harbor. It's so cold he can't move.

Quan is standing ten yards away from him. He stands on the
 edge. His mind is somewhere far away, then he spots something
 in the street --

It's a three legged dog, standing there like a statue. He
 stays there for a long moment, when --

Tenewa arrives.

TENEWA
We want to show you something.

YAPA
Did you find the ship?

TENEWA
No. But come.

Yapa doesn't know what to do. He looks to Quan who is still lost in his thoughts.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
(To Quan)
Quan! Come, you will like this.

No answer.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
Yapa?

Yapa, hesitates, his eyes on Tenewa. He then walks towards her and they head off, leaving Quan alone.

Looking back at the street, the dog is gone.

EXT. HARBOR ALLEY - LATER

Tenewa walks with Yapa in silence. Yapa stops, frozen in surprise by what he sees ahead of him --

It's Naconi. He has FOUR HORSES with him.

NACONI
Where is Quan?

TENEWA
There is something wrong with him.

YAPA
What is this?

NACONI
You will see.

Naconi gives a horse to Yapa. Yapa doesn't understand what's going on.

NACONI (CONT'D)
Wait here.

Naconi takes one horse and leads it away.

YAPA
What is going on?

INT. HARBOR, CARGO BAY - MOMENTS LATER

A hand hits a padlock with a metal rod repeatedly until the padlock breaks away.

WIDER -- Naconi is the one doing this. He removes the shattered lock and opens the door.

EXT. HARBOR, ALLEY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Tenewa looks behind some wooden crates and finds what she has hidden there -- YAPA'S BOW AND ARROWS. Tenewa tosses them to Yapa. He takes the weapon -- Still in the dark about what's going on.

INT. HARBOR, CARGO BAY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Naconi stares at the open door. The inside is so dark that we can't see what's happening there.

Naconi hits the wall with the metal rod -- There's a noise growing louder -- Naconi hits the wall again.

EXT. HARBOR / ALLEY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Yapa stares at his arrows. Looks up to the cargo bay, still trying to understand.

Tenewa quickly mounts her horse.

INT. HARBOR, CARGO BAY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Naconi hits the wall again -- This time he hears a huge noise coming, something we have heard before, it's the sound of --

Hooves churning up the earth --

EXT. HARBOR / ALLEY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

-- Yapa gets it. He quickly mounts his horse.

He looks towards the open door and spots Naconi jumping out of the way as -- A herd of buffalo charge the place in full flight.

We already know that the sound of a buffalo stampede rumbles across the sky, but this time there's something happening that we haven't seen before --

The herd is moving into New York City.

Yapa can't believe his eyes. Tenewa shares a look with him and returns the smile.

Naconi jumps on his horse and without saying a single word --

The hunt begins.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY, STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

It's chaos as the huge animals barrel through the city.

For a moment -- Our heroes feel at home once again. Naconi, Yapa and Tenewa have caught up with the buffalo.

They all ready their first arrows, but the streets are so narrow that it's really difficult to get the distance that they need to shoot well.

Naconi is about to fire an arrow, when a bull swipes his horns at him.

This time -- Naconi quickly dodges. He's learned some things since the last hunt.

The herd reaches the end of the street and is forced to turn right.

Naconi approaches Yapa.

YAPA

We have to open a gap.

Yapa aims and shoots at the back of a buffalo. The bull tacks to its left, forcing another two buffaloes to break from the herd.

This is the opportunity they've been waiting for...

Tenewa and Yapa form a wall and force the two buffaloes away from the herd.

The two buffaloes charge into an alley --

EXT. NEW YORK CITY, ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Naconi speeds his horse while aiming at the buffalo.

TENEWA

Get closer!

Naconi moves closer to the buffalo. He aims and shoots --

But misses. Naconi loads another arrow. He moves in and shoots -- This time the buffalo falls. A perfect shot. His first kill.

Naconi can't believe his eyes. But he doesn't stop. He speeds up to help Yapa and Tenewa while they hunt the other buffalo.

For the first time in his life, Naconi feels part of a team, and he's enjoying it.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

They've built a big fire inside.

Naconi, Yapa and Tenewa celebrate around the fire, feasting on fresh meat.

It reminds us of their camp. Their tribe on The Great Plains. This time Naconi laughs, enjoying the celebration. They all know that they needed this.

Tenewa is preparing the meat. Yapa and Naconi are dancing around the fire.

Naconi breaks away from the fire and looks around for Quan, but he's nowhere to be found. Naconi returns to the celebration. It's an amazing night for them.

LATER

Naconi lies on his mattress trying to fall asleep. He turns and spots Tenewa -- She's watching him from where she lies her bed.

They look at each other for a long moment. Tenewa opens her blanket and Naconi can see her naked body beneath.

Naconi doesn't move. He's considering what to do. Tenewa covers herself again and turns away in frustration, giving him her back.

Naconi looks at her, confused, and then -- He gets to his feet and goes to her. He climbs under her blanket and kisses her neck. She turns to face him and --

They kiss passionately.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The smoke from the fire spills out of the warehouse windows and dissipates into the dark sky.

It's an amazing night in the center of the wild white world.

EXT. HARBOR, ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Yapa and Tenewa watch the harbor in silence for a while.

YAPA

I want to see my son grow up.

(beat)

What is the point of having a son
if you are not around to see him
become a man?

A long beat.

YAPA (CONT'D)

I think it is time to go back.

Tenewa moves to the edge, ignoring what Yapa said.

She spots something in the distance -- A ship entering the harbor.

TENEWA

That is the third ship today.

YAPA

Did you hear what I said?

Of course she did, but --

TENEWA

Let's take a closer look.

EXT. HARBOR, CARGO BAY - LATER

Yapa and Tenewa sneak the ships, looking at each.

They see the new ship that they spotted from the roof of the warehouse. They see its name --

THE SILVIA

An ocean steamer, embodying the highest level of naval technology realized by mankind.

That is the one they've been waiting for!

YAPA
This is it.

TENEWA
This is it.

There's a deadly silence in the air. Yapa suddenly stops and looks around. Tenewa does too.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
There is something wrong.

Yapa looks at Tenewa. He's proud of her.

YAPA
We are being watched.

A long beat.

YAPA (CONT'D)
Find a place to hide. Do not go back to the warehouse until you are sure no one is following you.

TENEWA
What are you going to do?

Yapa spots the shadow of a person moving quickly in the darkness. Then another one. There's obviously something going on.

YAPA
I will find my way out. There is no time. Go!

Yapa and Tenewa part ways.

Yapa moves fast without running. He crosses the cargo bay then stops --

He turns to check if he is being followed -- But sees nothing. He looks left and right, then vanishes around a corner.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Yapa is running through a crowd of pedestrians and trying not to show his face.

It's very risky but there's no other way. Then, he hears a horse. He turns around and spots a couple of soldiers on horseback moving towards him.

Now he is sure he's being followed. They'll be on him in a few seconds. He turns down another street, but --

Sees a SOLDIER there. Yapa picks up into a half-run, then turns another corner, when --

BANG! A bullet hits just inches away from him. He freezes and turns to find he is surrounded by ARMED SOLDIERS.

One of them goes to him and removes his coat, revealing the Comanche he is.

The soldiers move on Yapa.

We see the silhouette of a person watching from his hiding place in the shadows --

IT'S TENEWA. She watches in shock as the soldiers take Yapa away with them. She moves toward them, when she spots more soldiers. She is forced to hide.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Naconi is asleep on the mattress. Tenewa enters the warehouse and wakes Naconi.

Naconi wakes up with a start.

TENEWA
They took Yapa.

NACONI
Who did?

TENEWA
The soldiers.

Tenewa realizes that Quan is already awake and watching them.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
I followed them. They took him to a house.
(pause)
There is more.

Naconi stares at her. Waiting.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
The ship has arrived.

NACONI
The Silvia?

TENEWA
Yes, but, they knew we were there.

QUAN
Of course they did.

They turn to find Quan who is sitting on the ground in the darkness.

QUAN (CONT'D)

What did you think was going to happen when you freed all those buffaloes into the street?

A beat. Maybe he is right.

TENEWA

If they know about us now, they will be waiting for us

NACONI

(To Yapa)

Do you think Etenia is in this house?

TENEWA

Yapa is in there, that is something I know for certain. What can we do now?

(to Naconi)

I rely on your wisdom.

NACONI

My wisdom? I am just a kid.

TENEWA

There are no kids in this room. I will do as you say.

Naconi steps away, trying to think of what to do. He looks at Quan, who stares back at him.

QUAN

(To Naconi)

Have you surrendered already?

NACONI

I will surrender when I am dead, but not before.

TENEWA

Then we know what we have to do.

EXT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A two-story wooden house in Yorkville, built in the Federal style. The house is being guarded by two soldiers. Everything is covered in fresh snow.

Naconi, Tenewa and Quan are watching Foster's house from their hiding place -- a building that's under construction.

Quan raises his pipe, draws in, and exhales the smoke towards the moon.

QUAN
 Mother, if it be your will, let
 these men bring Yapa back alive.

Tenewa takes a puff from the pipe, then offers it to Naconi. Naconi hesitates, but he too finally draws on the pipe. They all wait for a long moment, and then --

NACONI
 We are of The People.

QUAN AND TENEWA
 We are of The People.

Our heroes move silently from roof to roof until they reach Foster's house. They climb down to an open window and slowly enter, one by one.

We stay there for a long moment without knowing what's going on inside.

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, STAIRS - NIGHT

The place is quiet. The people inside must be asleep. Naconi, Tenewa and Quan walk down the hallway and then part ways:

Quan goes downstairs. Naconi breaks to the right and Tenewa to the left. They make no noise as they walk.

Slowly, we move through a hallway with many doors.

Naconi opens a door quietly -- and finds an empty room. He moves on towards another room -- and opens the door to find:

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- A couple sleeping inside. Naconi slowly moves toward them, when the SLEEPING MAN hears his footsteps and jumps out of bed.

Naconi immediately raises his bow and aims his arrow at the man.

It's a man in his 40s. And his name: JACOB E. FOSTER. They stare at each other in silence.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 So it's true...

NACONI
 (In English)
 Where is Yapa?

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 ... The myth of the Comanches
 coming to the white world.

NACONI
 (In English)
 Where is he?

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 How long have you been following
 me?

NACONI
 (In English)
 Foster?

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 Captain Foster to you.

NACONI
 (In English)
 You have my sister too.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 She's not your sister anymore,
 she's mine. Her and your friend
 too.

The woman lying in the bed wakes up and backs away, visibly
 terrified by Naconi.

Naconi draws his arrow back.

NACONI
 (In English)
 Where are they?

CAPTAIN FOSTER
 (In English)
 You think I'll get on my knees and
 beg for my life? To a savage like
 you? I'm not afraid. Your weak
 arrows can't kill me. I'll cut off
 your head and hang it on my wall.

Captain Foster takes a step toward Naconi. Naconi is now
 slightly intimidated by Foster.

They hear a noise -- A door being opened. Naconi turns to spot a little girl, CAPTAIN FOSTER'S YOUNG DAUGHTER (8), coming in from the room next door.

CAPTAIN FOSTER'S DAUGHTER
Father?

CAPTAIN FOSTER
(To his daughter)
Go back to your room.

She doesn't move.

CAPTAIN FOSTER (CONT'D)
Go back now.

And then -- Two GUN SHOTS are fired downstairs. Naconi is momentarily distracted by the sound.

Captain Foster takes advantage of this distraction and finds the Colt Walker on his bedside table.

Naconi shoots the arrow, hitting Foster in his arm. Foster returns fire before Naconi can take cover.

BANG! Foster misses. Naconi realizes he can't win this fight. He runs from the room as another of Foster's bullets cracks into the wall beside Naconi.

Foster walks to the door with the arrow still stuck in his arm. He fires after Naconi until the pistol is empty. Foster returns to his bedside table for another cylinder of bullets.

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Tenewa is frozen in shock by what she sees in front of her:

Yapa hanging by his neck. Dead. Badly beaten and covered in blood.

Tenewa looks at Yapa, heartbroken, then moves quickly for him. She raises his axe, cuts the rope and takes Yapa down.

Then Quan enters. He spots Yapa's dead body and can't believe it.

QUAN
Get Naconi.

Tenewa doesn't move.

QUAN (CONT'D)
Get him now!

Tenewa leaves immediately. Quan heaves Yapa's body onto his shoulder and moves toward the door when --

A KNOCK -- Quan turns his head to spot another door -- A
LOCKED DOOR -- Another KNOCK --

QUAN (CONT'D)
(Calling out)
Who is in there?

And then -- Many people start knocking at the door and calling for help.

All of them speak in different native languages.

Quan looks at it in shock. He leaves Yapa, rushes to the door and tries to open it, but there's a big lock. Quan hits the door.

QUAN (CONT'D)
Etenia?

But there are so many people calling from inside that he can't distinguish a single voice or even a single language.

Quan hits the lock, trying to open it, but it is useless. He looks around for something to use to break the padlock, but can't find anything.

Quan rushes to Yapa, grabs him and leaves the basement --

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Quan rushes into another room, looking desperately for something he can use to break the lock.

He passes a dead soldier lying on the ground.

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Naconi hides behind a wall as Captain Foster looks for him. Naconi waits for a moment, and then -- he storms downstairs.

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, FIRST FLOOR - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Naconi arrives downstairs. Looks up to find Tenewa looking back at him, when --

BANG! A bullet hits Tenewa in the abdomen.

Naconi turns to see the soldier who fired the gun.

In the blink of an eye, Naconi loads an arrow into his bow and fires it through the soldier's heart, killing him instantly.

They take cover and stay there in silence while Naconi tries to think of a way to escape.

The entire house is stone silent now.

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Quan grabs a metal jar, maybe he can break the lock with it. He turns back towards the basement, when a soldier steps in front of the door, blocking Quan's way.

The soldier shoots at Quan, forcing him to find a place to hide. The soldiers are getting closer.

Quan realizes that he won't be able to go back into the basement prison. He decides to leave the basement behind. He spots a pistol next to a dead soldier and takes it --

INT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE, FIRST FLOOR - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Naconi opens the front door and looks outside --

There's no one around. Quan runs through the house and stops beside them in the doorway.

Naconi and Tenewa spot Yapa's dead body. Naconi can't move, he can't even breathe. He stays there in shock, his guard down. It's as if time had stopped.

QUAN

(To Naconi)

Take Tenewa with you. There are people locked in a room underground. Maybe Etenia is in there with them.

TENEWA

We will not leave you.

NACONI

We have to leave now.

QUAN

We have to free them.

BANG! A bullet hits Naconi in the back of his shoulder --

He falls to the ground.

Naconi is wounded but alive. The bullet only scratched his skin. He drags himself to away and takes cover.

NACONI

(to Quan)

We have to go.

Quan turns and fires the gun at Captain Foster, forcing Foster to take cover.

Naconi grabs Tenewa. He and Quan storm out of the house.

EXT. CAPTAIN FOSTER'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUSLY

-- Quan runs from the house with Yapa's body on his back. But Yapa is so heavy that Quan loses his footing and falls to the ground.

Quan spots a couple of soldiers rushing towards Foster's house. Quan fires the gun at them, driving them back. Naconi covers Quan.

Then they spots more soldiers coming. Captain Foster charges out of the house.

Quan thinks about what to do. He'll be surrounded in matter of seconds. He leaves Yapa's body and rushes into an alley.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - LATER

Naconi and Tenewa enter. They are completely devastated.

Naconi helps Tenewa down onto the mattress. Naconi tries to control Tenewa's bleeding. The wound on her abdomen looks really bad.

A moment later, Quan enters.

NACONI
(To Quan)
I need your help!

QUAN
We have to go back now.

NACONI
(To Quan)
Tenewa needs your help, Quan!

QUAN
We are going to lose her again.

NACONI
There is nothing we can do right now, but we can save her.

QUAN
You cannot save her. You are like an evil spirit that destroys everything you touch.

Quan draws the pistol and points it at Naconi.

NACONI
I thought you did not like white
men's guns.

QUAN
You do not deserve an arrow of
mine.

TENEWA
Quan, stop.

Quan looks down at Tenewa.

NACONI
We failed.

QUAN
No. You failed your people. Your
sister is trapped in that house.

NACONI
Did you see her?

A beat. Quan doesn't answer.

NACONI (CONT'D)
Did you actually hear her voice? We
are chasing a ghost that will turn
us into ghosts ourselves.

QUAN
We will not give up. It is either
victory or death.

NACONI
How many more people have to die
for this?

QUAN
All that are necessary.

NACONI
You cannot go back to that house.

QUAN
No. I will go to the ship instead.

NACONI
Do you have any idea where that
ship is going?

QUAN
I will follow it to the eternal
home beyond the sun.

Naconi realizes Quan has lost his mind. This is a waste of
time.

NACONI
 (To Tenewa)
 Let's go home together.

QUAN
 You do not have a home. You are not
 welcome with my people. If I find
 you there, I will kill you.

Naconi doesn't move.

QUAN (CONT'D)
 Just because we share blood does
 not mean I will not spill yours. Do
 not go back there.

Quan looks at Tenewa. He stays there for a quiet moment, and
 then -- Quan runs off.

Naconi remains there, like an statue condemned to stillness
 for all eternity.

LATER

Tenewa is lying on the ground. Naconi is next to her, very
 worried.

She looks at him but doesn't seem to recognize him. Naconi
 spots the wound on her abdomen, it looks really bad.

TENEWA
 Father?

NACONI
 No. It is me, Naconi.

She doesn't answer. She just lowers her head again. She
 doesn't have the strength.

Naconi looks at her in shock --

She's dying. He takes something from his bag -- it's the
pipe. He tries to start a fire, tries and tries, but he's so
 anxious he can't get it to work.

He tries again and again, but can't do it.

TENEWA
 I want to die in our home, not
 stuck behind these walls.

Naconi looks at her, he's clearly heartbroken.

NACONI
 You are not going to die, Tenewa.

Tenewa coughs. Naconi is horrified to see blood coming from her mouth.

TENEWA
Where is the moon mother?

Naconi tries hard not to cry.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
I cannot see it.

NACONI
She is there, outside.

TENEWA
Where?

Naconi doesn't know what to say. He is so devastated.

TENEWA (CONT'D)
Where, Naconi?

Then Naconi gets to his feet and steps away.

We stay with Tenewa, lying on the floor, delirious.

Then Naconi comes back carrying a rope. He goes to Tenewa and wraps the rope around her back. With that we:

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, BACKSTAIRS - NIGHT

Naconi climbs up. Tenewa is holding onto his back, her body tied to his.

It's as hard as it sounds. It appears nearly impossible for Naconi to climb all the way up with Tenewa on his back.

Tenewa spots the moon.

TENEWA
I can see the moon.

NACONI
We are almost there.

Naconi continues his incredible task. Every step up is a nightmare, but this kid will not give up.

And against all odds -- he makes it to the top.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Naconi climbs onto the rooftop with Tenewa. He unties her quickly.

She looks at the moon in silence and smiles.

TENEWA

I feel that I am with my people
now.

NACONI

You are with them. We are all
looking at the same moon mother
together.

Naconi looks at her for a while. He then takes the collar Yapa gave him and ties it around her neck.

NACONI (CONT'D)

I share my Puha with you. I know
you wanted to have it.

She looks at him for a while and smiles. He tries not to cry, but he can't stop himself.

She then lies down in his lap to rest. Naconi stays there, looking at the moon. It is magnificent. It's clear why they think it is a goddess.

Naconi looks down at Tenewa to discover that she's not breathing.

A deadly silence. He waits for a long, long moment, then --

He opens the bag and finds Tadan's red paint. He starts to paint her face with it.

LATER

Tenewa is wrapped in cloth, burning atop a funeral pyre.

Naconi watches. He can't hide his severe sadness. He stays there, in silence, trying to think of what to do.

He doesn't move for a long time, he doesn't even have the strength to try. Then he spots something --

A BIRD flying overhead.

Naconi stares at the bird as it crosses the sky. He follows it with his eyes until it disappears behind the clouds.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

THE SILVIA is enormous and imposing. It appears deserted except for A COUPLE OF SAILORS visibly standing guard.

Naconi climbs up a rope that hangs down from the stern of the ship. He reaches the top and boards the vessel unnoticed.

EXT. THE SILVIA - NIGHT

Naconi moves slowly across the forecastle looking for a place to hide. He knows he needs to pick a spot where no one will ever find him.

Naconi reaches a staircase to the main entry point --

INT. THE SILVIA - CONTINUOUS

Naconi walks down a hallway when he hears voices. He slips into a room and hides until A COUPLE OF SAILORS pass.

Naconi continues down the hallway and finds another staircase. He takes it downstairs --

INT. THE SILVIA, ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Naconi searches the engine room for a hiding place, until he gets to --

INT. THE SILVIA, THE BILGE - CONTINUOUS

The lowest level of the ship's hull, beneath the waterline.

It's dark and far away from any populated areas on the ship. To Naconi, it looks like a good place to hide.

Naconi just sits down on the floor and waits. He touches the wound on the shoulder and looks at his hand --

BLOOD. We see Naconi's wound for the first time. The bullet didn't hit him head on, it only skimmed his shoulder, leaving a deep slash in his skin. The wound is painful but not severe...

... And there's nothing he can do about it.

DAYS HAVE PASSED

Naconi lies on the ground, asleep. He is awoken by the sound of people. He jumps to his feet and goes to a wall to find cover.

A group of sailors walk around the bilge. One of them enters the area where Naconi has been hiding.

Naconi waits in agony as the sailors pass by without seeing him. Then he hears a whistle, a big whistle and --

The ships begins to move.

Naconi looks around with fear in his eyes. His future is uncertain and he can't hide how scared he is at that moment.

And then water begins to come inside the bilge. Naconi steps back from the dark water, realizing it wasn't a good idea to hide there after all. Still, he has nowhere else to go.

He looks on in shock as the room slowly fills with water. Fortunately, as the water enters, a pump activates and pushes it out. The room will never completely fill with water. But it's not going to be a nice trip.

EXT. THE SILVIA - DAY

Naconi, hidden, watches in panic as the ship pulls away from port.

EXT. THE SILVIA, DECK - DAY

The sky is very blue and the sun is bright. The Silvia, looking majestic, sales away from port and moves into the open sea.

INT. THE SILVIA, THE BILGE - NIGHT

Naconi is freezing. He looks at the water inside the room. It is dirty and horrible.

EXT. THE SILVIA, DECK - NIGHT

The Silvia cuts through the waves in the vast night. It's late and very cold. There are no sailors around.

Naconi walks slowly across the deck. He's weak and about to collapse. He's gone days without water or food. He finds a bucket with water inside but it's stagnant and smells horrible

Naconi finds a piece of sailing canvas that has collected a puddle of rainwater. He smells it -- it seems fine. He drinks the water and it's so good! Then he hears someone coming. He hides, but realizes it's only A LITTLE GIRL.

More accurately -- It's CAPTAIN FOSTER'S YOUNG DAUGHTER. We recognize her from the shootout at Foster's house.

Then Naconi spots Captain Foster walking with her.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
I told you it was cold outside.

CAPTAIN FOSTER'S DAUGHTER
I just wanted to see the stars,
father.

Foster and his daughter leave the forecastle. Naconi slips out of his hiding place, when he spots something in front of him --

A BIRD is perched on the railing. Maybe this is the same bird he saw flying above the Hudson River...

Naconi can't believe his eyes. He stares at it, as if it were a ghost. What is a bird doing here?

The bird alights and flies high up towards the mast.

Naconi follows the bird with his eyes. Then he goes after it. He spots the bird perched on the crow's nest. Naconi looks around to make sure nobody is watching.

Naconi contemplates what he's about to do, and then -- He starts to climb. When he is halfway up, his foot slips --

He's about to fall, but he manages to hang on. He is very weak and nearly loses his grip. He looks down -- It would be a deadly fall. He tightens his grip and then -- Naconi continues his climb --

EXT. THE SILVIA - CROW'S NEST - NIGHT

Naconi makes it up the main mast. He sees the bird perched there, as still as a statue, it's eyes looking away. It doesn't appear to be scared of Naconi.

Naconi is so weak, he has to lie down on the floor of the crow's nest. He doesn't know what in the hell he is doing up there.

The bird is still there -- Looking at the horizon...

Naconi stares at the bird for a while. He processes this and then -- Naconi reaches inside his bag. He finds -- Tadan's pipe. Naconi looks up at the bird again, and it flies away.

Naconi stays there, thinking. Then he looks at the pipe again and puts it down on the floor. He finds Tadan's FIRE DRILL inside the bag and starts working with it to build a fire. He tries and tries but can't get it to light.

He tries again and again until the fire takes. He smiles to himself and then lights the pipe.

He gets to his feet, looking for the bird, but he can't see it anymore. Was it only his imagination?

But he knows what to do now -- He takes a puff of smoke and blows it into the air. He looks up as the smoke drifts toward stars.

There's newfound determination in his eyes. He touches his wound again and looks at his hand --

Blood. He then takes a puff and blows it onto his back, aiming the smoke at his wound.

We watch Naconi. He is high up on the main mast, surrounded by an amazing array of stars, performing a ritual that he never thought he would do in his life:

CUT TO:

INT. THE SILVIA, THE BILGE - DAY

Naconi is sleeping on the floor. The dirty water splashes his face and wakes him up. He sits up and waits.

Then he remembers something. He touches the wound on his back and looks at it -- NO BLOOD anymore. He's still weak, but he's recovering.

EXT. NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN - NIGHT

The Silvia sailing across glorious, open waters.

EXT. THE SILVIA, DECK - NIGHT

Looking for water, Naconi crosses the deck towards the sail he drank from before. There's some water there and he drinks. He starts to leave, when something comes to mind.

He returns to the sail and decides to hide there and watch.

Naconi waits and waits. He starts to hear people coming and he runs off.

ANOTHER NIGHT

Naconi is hidden, waiting beside the canvas -- Nothing happens.

INT. THE SILVIA, THE BILGE - DAY

Naconi stands in the dark water that's collected in the bilge. He is trying to catch a fish caught inside the ship.

He shoots it with an arrow and starts eating it immediately. He's starving.

EXT. THE SILVIA, DECK - NIGHT

Naconi is hidden, watching the puddle of water in the sail.

When he spots something... A person moving in the shadows toward the sail canvas.

The person is Quan. Once there, Quan quickly fills his leather canteen with some water and rushes off.

Naconi quietly follows Quan to the ship's lifeboats. Each rowboat is stored on the deck, nested one atop the other in a stack.

Quan climbs inside one of the ship's boats and Naconi follows him in.

INT. THE SILVIA, LIFEBOATS - CONTINUOUS

Naconi spots Quan climbing into a hatch.

INT. THE SILVIA, LIFEBOATS, CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Naconi enters to find Quan sitting on the ground. He looks up at Naconi, deeply confused.

QUAN
Where is Tenewa?

A long beat.

NACONI
She died.

Quan looks at him for a while, then he lowers his head. He knew this moment was coming.

NACONI (CONT'D)
I know it was all my fault.

A long silence, and then --

QUAN
I found her.

Naconi looks at Quan, even more confused.

QUAN (CONT'D)
I found Etenia.

Naconi can't believe what he's hearing.

QUAN (CONT'D)
They have her in a cage. She did not recognize me.

NACONI
Where is she?

QUAN
(Looking at his hands)
These hands have won many wars, but they are different now. Will Father Sun not recognize me anymore, either? What have they done to me?

Quan stares at Naconi, waiting for an answer, but --

NACONI
Where is she?

INT. THE SILVIA, CARGO BAY - NIGHT

Naconi finds a locked grate in the floor. He looks through the grate and finds dozens of natives inside. They all lie on the floor, all lacking the strength to stand.

Naconi looks for Etenia but can't see her.

NACONI
Etenia...

Nothing. Some of them wake up and look at him.

NACONI (CONT'D)
Etenia...

Someone steps forward from out of the dark --

It's Etenia. She is staring at him in amazement.

Naconi looks at her in shock. He can't believe she's standing there. He's been waiting for this moment for a long time. They stay still, staring at each other in silence. Neither says a single word. Just then, he hears a noise --

Someone is coming. But he doesn't want to leave her alone again. He doesn't know what to do. More people are coming. Now he hears people running. There's something strange happening.

NACONI (CONT'D)
I will be back. I promise I will.

He has no other option. He runs off, leaving Etenia behind. She stares at the grate where she last saw Naconi, motionless.

INT. THE SILVIA, LIFEBOATS, CABIN - NIGHT

Naconi enters the cabin to find Quan very agitated. There's something strange happening and Naconi knows it.

QUAN

I know how we can force them to give Etenia back. Then she will remember who we are.

Naconi doesn't understand. Then Quan reaches for a piece of cloth that's covering something he's been hiding. He pulls the cloth back to expose --

CAPTAIN FOSTER'S YOUNG DAUGHTER is there, gaged. She is so scared, she can't even move.

The image chills Naconi and the color drains from his face.

QUAN (CONT'D)

We will trade for Etenia.

NACONI

What have you done? They are going to kill us all, Quan.

QUAN

We will not let them.

NACONI

Have you seen where we are? There is nowhere left to run.

QUAN

We will not run away. We are the strongest people in the world. They are nothing compared to us.

Naconi, in shock, realizes that there's no point in arguing with Quan.

They hear yelling all over the ship. The crew is looking for the little girl.

Naconi moves toward the girl, but Quan stops him.

NACONI

We have to release her.

QUAN

I will not let you do that.

Naconi pushes Quan away and begins to untie the girl. Quan grabs Naconi by the neck and pushes him back against the wall.

But this time, Naconi hits back. Naconi continues to untie the little girl.

NACONI
(In English)
We are not bad.

Quan hits Naconi with the back of his axe, sending Naconi to the ground.

QUAN
Do not make me kill you.

Naconi stares up at Quan. He knows Quan is capable of killing him, but even still --

Naconi moves for the girl again. Quan grabs Naconi. Naconi kicks Quan really hard and the axe falls to the floor.

Naconi takes the axe and raises it.

QUAN (CONT'D)
You are too much of a coward to do it.

Naconi thinks about what to do.

QUAN (CONT'D)
You are a weak fool.

Naconi drives the axe, with all his might, into -- The floor beside Quan's head.

NACONI
I will not let you drag me into your misery. If you want to die, do it yourself.

Naconi kneels beside the girl again, leaving Quan lying on the floor, devastated, when --

A blast of light fills the room.

Naconi looks up and sees a group of sailors climbing down into the room. Before Naconi can react, one of the soldiers kicks him in the head and jumps on top of him.

In matter of seconds, Quan and Naconi are captured by the sailors.

EXT. THE SILVIA, DECK - DAY

Naconi and Quan are on their knees, tied up. A group of sailors is watching them.

Someone approaches -- It's CAPTAIN FOSTER, full of rage. He is holding Quan's bow and arrows.

Naconi sees the expression on Foster's face and realizes this is the end.

QUAN
(To Naconi)
You are a great warrior.

Naconi looks at Quan in disbelief, he can't believe his ears.

QUAN (CONT'D)
You are...

CAPTAIN FOSTER
(In English)
English!

The Captain loads an arrow into the bow and aims at Quan.

QUAN
(To Naconi)
Take care of my dogs.

Naconi looks at Quan in panic. Quan turns his face to the sun.

QUAN (CONT'D)
Father Sun, have pity on me.

Then the Captain releases the arrow and -- Fires at Quan, hitting him in the chest.

Naconi tries to move towards Quan, but the Sailors grab him and pull him back.

NACONI
Quan!

Quan is still alive.

QUAN
May I ride in the valley ten
thousand fold longer and wider than
home.

The Captain pulls the arrow from Quan's body, then steps back and aims at him again.

Quan raises his head and stares at the Captain.

QUAN (CONT'D)
I am of The People.

The Captain fires. The arrow rips into Quan's chest once again.

Quan can't speak. But he's still breathing.

The Captain moves towards Quan again and pulls the arrow free of his body again.

Naconi can't look. He can't even breathe.

The Captain shoots Quan again. This time, Quan falls dead on the deck.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
(In English)
In my house, you speak English.

The Captain pulls the arrow from Quan's body once again, loads it into the bow and aims it at Naconi.

He waits and waits. Naconi speaks in Comanche language --

NACONI
I am not afraid.

The Captain remains there, waiting. He didn't understand what Naconi said, but still --

He lowers the bow.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
(In English)
Those sounds you made mean nothing anymore, but my words will stay in your mind for the rest of your miserable life.
(beat)
Doesn't that tell you who won this fight?

The sailors grab Quan's lifeless body to throw him overboard. Naconi lurches forward, trying to stop them, but it's useless.

CAPTAIN FOSTER (CONT'D)
(In English)
A man can't change the shape of the sea.

Quan's body vanishes beneath the waves.

INT. THE SILVIA, CARGO BAY - DAY

The sailors put Naconi in chains. His hands are bolted to the wall and his ankles to the ground. The gauge is tight and he can't even sit down.

They are inside the room where the other natives are kept. All look on in shock at what's happening to Naconi.

The sailors then leave the room and lock the grate behind them.

Naconi can't move. His entire body is shivering. He spots someone approaching him -- It's Etenia.

She nears him and touches his skin, as if checking that this isn't a dream. When she realizes that her brother is actually there, she takes him in her arms.

NACONI

I am sorry. I am sorry. I am sorry.

EXT. RIVER THAMES / PORT OF LONDON - DAY

The Silvia sails into the port of London. The majestic city skyline towers beyond.

EXT. PORT OF LONDON - NIGHT

A group of soldiers receive Captain Foster. They escort him and his family off the Silvia.

A WELL DRESSED MAN joins Captain Foster.

WELL DRESSED MAN

How was the trip, Captain?

CAPTAIN FOSTER

It was a nightmare. I'll never set foot in that savage land again.

The group of natives steps out of the ship in chains.

SOLDIER

(To the Natives)

Move, move!

It looks like an illegal operation. The soldiers keep an eye out, making sure no police are watching.

WELL DRESSED MAN

(Looking at the Natives)

I see you brought company. A little risky these days.

CAPTAIN FOSTER

In two weeks we'll take them to Portugal where there is still a healthy slave market for these savages.

They load all the natives into a large carriage.

INT. BARN, CAPTAIN FOSTER LONDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Naconi lies on the ground looking at Etenia, who sleeps next to him. The other Natives are sleeping around them.

Everyone there is wounded in some way. So much suffering. Naconi lies there while infinite sadness devours his soul.

Naconi can't believe that he's found her, but is also heartbroken that he couldn't save her. He remains there, contemplating her for a long time.

Then, he hears something. He turns to see the barn door is being slowly opened.

He sits up, watching the door and trying to understand what's going on.

Then he sees it -- It's Captain Foster's Daughter. She looks around the barn, trying to find something or *someone* --

When she spots Naconi. She waits there for a moment, and then she leaves the barn.

Leaving the door open behind her. Naconi looks at the door, considering this. Is it a trap? He keeps his eyes on the open door as he processes this.

Finally, he can't wait anymore. He turns to Etenia and wakes her up.

NACONI

(To Etenia)

We have to go.

She doesn't understand. Naconi gets to his feet and pulls her up. He moves quickly towards the door and leaves the barn without looking back.

We stay there as the other natives start to realize what is going on. One of them gets to his feet, goes to the door and leaves. The others decide to stay, too scared to risk it.

EXT. CAPTAIN FOSTER LONDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Naconi leaves the barn with Etenia. He spots Captain Foster's daughter entering her house.

Then he spots a couple of arrows stuck in a tree. Foster has been practicing. Naconi grabs one of the arrows.

He looks at the house again.

NACONI
He is in there.

Naconi looks at Etenia severely.

NACONI (CONT'D)
Go hide. I have something to do.

Naconi starts toward the house when Etenia grabs his arm. Naconi stops and looks at her.

She doesn't say a word, but her grip is very tight and she won't let go.

Naconi looks from her hand to her eyes, he appears painfully conflicted.

NACONI (CONT'D)
He must suffer for what he has done.

She doesn't let go. He isn't quite sure about what to do next. Naconi can see in her face that she's scared to lose him again.

Naconi nods vaguely, and then -- He takes her hand and they walk off, leaving Captain Foster's house behind.

But we stay there, watching the house. We know something is going to happen --- And then, it does --

The front door opens and Captain Foster comes out carrying a shotgun. He sees that the door to the barn is open. He rushes to it and locks it again.

He looks back at the house to find his daughter standing in the doorway with her mother.

CAPTAIN FOSTER
You will pay for this.

He then turns and goes into the forest to track Naconi and Etenia down.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Naconi and Etenia move slowly between the trees. They stop suddenly and look around. Naconi still holds the arrow he took from the tree.

Then, they hear a footsteps behind them.

Naconi quickly grabs Etenia and carries her behind a tree. He hugs her, shielding her with his body when --

BANG! A bullet blasts the tree.

They stay there, immobile. They hear Captain Foster load the shotgun and move toward them, then --

BANG! Another bullet hits the tree. They hear his footsteps and the sound of him loading the shotgun again.

Captain is getting closer.

Naconi looks at the arrow, considering what do to. They hear him draw nearer.

NACONI

Do not move.

BANG! Another bullet.

Captain Foster begins to load his gun again. But this time, Naconi grabs Etenia and pushes her tightly against the tree.

Naconi turns and charges Captain Foster.

We stay with Etenia, she tries not to move. She hears fighting, then the sound of them falling to the ground...

BANG! A shotgun blast. Then more fighting --

BANG! Another bullet is fired. She hears someone and then --
Silence.

Etenia stays there, paralyzed with fear. She hears footsteps approaching slowly. She doesn't want to look, but she knows she has to.

She peeks to find --

Captain Foster, covered in blood. He lunges for her, trying to grab her.

She steps back, terrified. She looks around desperately for Naconi, when -- Naconi appears and stabs Foster with the arrow one more time.

Foster falls to the ground, dead. Naconi remains standing behind him, still holding the arrow. Then he goes to his sister. He is not hurt.

He hugs her, then he takes her hand. He picks up the shotgun and they run off together, leaving Captain Foster's dead body behind.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. OCEAN STEAMER, THE BILGE - DAY

Etenia lies on the floor alone, asleep.

After a moment, Naconi enters carrying a canteen. Foster's shotgun is tied to his back. He wakes Etenia and gives her some water. She drinks it.

NACONI
Do not drink all of it. We will
need it.

She stops drinking. Naconi sits next to her.

NACONI (CONT'D)
Why do you not speak anymore?

She doesn't answer. He thinks of what to say, and then --

NACONI (CONT'D)
Do you want to hear a story?

She doesn't react.

NACONI (CONT'D)
A long time ago, there was a badly
wounded man walking across a
prairie like the one where our home
is.

Etenia looks at him, suddenly interested.

NACONI (CONT'D)
The man walked and walked, but he
was so weak that he fell into a
wallow and died. There were many
buffalo on the prairie that day
watching the man.

ETENIA
Why were they watching him?

A beat. Naconi smiles as he hears her voice.

NACONI
Because... Because he was a
stranger to them. Then, the
leader... The buffalo bull who was
the leader, told the others they
needed to protect the wallow.

EXT. GREAT PLAINS - DAY

A vast, virgin American landscape. As colorful and tranquil as we have ever seen. It reflects so much calm.

NACONI (O.S.)

So they made a Puha to revive the man and it gave him the power to heal bullet wounds. He returned to his people and shared the buffalo Puha with all the others. And they told this story to their sons, and those sons passed it on to their own children, and now you know it. Now you are part of us all.

A HORSE approach at a walk, moving slowly across the prairie.

The rider is Naconi. Etenia is sitting on the mount behind him. The ride quietly for a long time. Then Naconi stops.

ETENIA

I like how this place smells.

NACONI

I like how it smells too.

The wind blows, we can almost smell the fragrance of the prairie.

ETENIA

Are we far from home?

He takes the shotgun and throws it onto the ground.

NACONI

We are already home.

They ride in silence toward the vast horizon as the sun shines across the great plain.

They cross the vast prairie into a beautiful sunset which seems to say goodbye.

A place where nature and divinity become one.

FADE TO BLACK.

- THE END -