

Black River

Pink Draft

written by

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## ACT I

SUPER ON BLACK

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for in doing so some have entertained angels.

- Hebrews 13:2

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - WINTER - NIGHT

1

ROLL PRE-TITLE SEQUENCE:

As credits roll we see different cut shots of the landscape that our story will play out, a foreshadow of events represented by the elements...

BOW WARRIOR VO

There are legends up in these  
mountains that have never been told.  
Legends that no white man has ever  
heard. And if they were heard they  
wouldn't be believed. Cast off as myth  
or superstition or something fantastic  
like a superhero story or a greek god  
fighting battles among men...or worst.  
But, there is one legend that needs to  
be told. Regardless if it's believed  
or not. Because sooner or later, it  
involves each and every one of us.

\*  
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\*

END PRE-TITLE SEQUENCE:

Black mountains silhouetted against a purple moonlit sky. An eagle SCREAMS...

DAVID CROSS, 30's, runs for his life through a snow-covered, bleak mountainscape. His manic is pressing. Breathing hard.

GUN SHOTS. David instinctively ducks and returns fire from his own gun.

We see he is carrying a burlap sack strapped Robin Hood style over his back.

Another gunshot. This one is closer and HITS a limb at his face.

VOICES are heard in the distance of a Native American tongue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

David is winded and collapses behind a log, breathing heavy.  
Then waits...

Silence. Distant FOOTSTEPS are creeping closer.

NATIVE AMERICAN VOICE  
(In caption)  
Find him!

David concentrates and controls his breathing. He seems to be focusing on something previous.

INT. MR. STONE'S OFFICE NIGHT

2

David is standing in front of a huge oak desk. His employer, MR. STONE, is holding a lit cigar, sipping on a tumbler glass holding bourbon. Blue smoke lazily lofts in the air.

About SIX HIRED THUGS holding machine guns line the office walls, standing guard.

MR. STONE  
They have something that belongs to me  
and I want it back.

DAVID notices an array of primitive weapons hung on the wall behind Mr. Stone. Something directly over head, in the center of this collection is missing.

Their eyes collide.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
It's priceless-

DAVID  
-percentage?

Beat.

MR. STONE  
Ten.

David gets up to leave-

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
-alright, fifteen!

David slights a confident smile.

DAVID  
Consider it done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE watches him leave, swears something unintelligible under his breath while sipping from the glass.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - WINTER - CONTINUOUS

3

David clutches the strap tighter to the burlap sack he's carrying then looks through a crack in the log he's hiding behind.

No sound. No footsteps. No strange voices. Eerily quiet.

The EAGLE circles overhead.

David slowly stands up and moves back a step or two in caution then

a WHISTLING sound-

-an ARROW spears David's leg. His cry of shocking pain ECHOES through the woods like a trumpet.

Three or four energetic voices now rise up after being alerted from David's scream.

The BLOODY ARROWHEAD is sticking through the other side.

David musters desperate strength and forces himself to break the arrow in half. He grunts in pain.

He comes to and looks towards the direction of the voices and in maddening courage and strength he continues his harrowing escape. Fear is his motivator.

The VOICES are getting closer and we can now hear their footsteps. Twigs are SNAPPING. Pebbles are TUMBLING.

An ARROW suddenly sticks into a tree just as David passes behind it, then a closer gun shot rings out like a cannon, this time we can hear it's from a heavy rifle, closer now.

The VOICES are getting closer, forming words of rage.

David quickly stops behind a boulder and on one knee checks for rounds in his clip. Just one shiny brass remains.

David lets out a defeating and hopeless air then to a determine beat then slams the clip back in.

Another powerful RIFLE SHOT, echoing through the still woods. It strikes the boulder and sparks fly in the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

David darts away, finding a small creek to follow.

The VOICES and footsteps are on top of us and now we see they belong to a small group of Native American Indian natives. They carry a bow and arrow, a large antique looking rifle and one of them is carrying a menacing looking HATCHET.

David's little creek has widened to a steady stream. We hear rushing water in the background. He stops to listen for the voices. But hears nothing. A moment of false peace and safety.

Moments later David has found the end of his stream which has become the precipice of a waterfall and is forced to stop. Trapped.

A branch SNAPS and David jerks his head towards it, staring into the outlines of endless black branches in the purple night then raises his gun to the unseen ghosts that pursue him.

Nothing.

Heavy water falling behind him.

CU on David trembling with fear.

Beat.

The eagle screams again over head! Then a swoosh..

- the HATCHET slams into him, sinking deep into his shoulder, cutting the strap to the mysterious sack.

The shocking pain jolts David backwards and sending him tumbling over the waterfall.

WATERFALL BASE - CONTINUOUS

David lands hard in the flowing river.

The current has pushed him down river to a shallow pool on the bank momentarily resting his body in place.

CUT TO:

We come closer to him and we see the hatchet still firmly embedded into flesh and bone. A steady flow of warm blood exits his wound and slips into the pool of water, carried away by the gentle current.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Two, small MOCCASINS made of fur and rope enter frame...

We PAN over David's body...thigh leaking black blood...a torn and marked chest...the hatchet in the shoulder...then we stop on his face. Battered but marked in sharp, attractive lines. A certain hardness and strength.

His eyes are closed. No sigh of life.

...then a small mitten made from the same fur and rope, grasping a KNIFE, enters. It inches towards David's throat...

David's body suddenly takes in air, and returns to unconscious life.

The KNIFE, after a moment of pause, retreats.

The EAGLE circling overhead has stopped screaming.

Panning away from David's face we follow the trickle of blood leaking into the gentle flowing water. The BLOOD stream widens and highlighted in the bright moonlight appears black.

ENTER TITLE: BLACK RIVER

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - RESTING ROOM - DAY

4

It's dark and musty. The air is still. A living quarter full of shadows. The only light revealing the space comes from broken dirty windows and wide cracks in the gaps from the poorly made walls of wood and straw and mud.

But from within the dim light and dark shadows a PRESENCE walks towards us. Going in and out of the shadows we see it is a medium sized figure wearing a grotesque and horrific mask. The MASK looks like it came from a deformed ox skull.

This mysterious presence advances closer to us over ominous MUSIC and ground-shaking bass. As the form gets closer to us the floor and walls and the strange furniture begin to shake as like an earthquake gets closer. Dust rises as the music and bass grow louder. The form is about upon us-

-SMASH CUT TO:

DAVID suddenly awakens and in his confusion looks around the same living space of dim light and dark shadows we just saw. He just had a nightmare of the mysterious presence wearing a mask.

After regaining his composure and settling from his confusion

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

of where he is David begins to realize he is on the floor lying on top of many layers of animal fur hides. Then he begins to remember the events just hours ago.

(flashback omitted, replaced with SOUND flashback)

\*

The remembrance of war and his battle wounds brings on a certain panic in him as he goes from wound to wound to check their severity and as he does WE HEAR the SOUND of the previous action that matches each wound.

THE ARROW TO HIS LEG...barley a mark, just a small scar as though years have past.

THE HATCHET wound in his SHOULDER...the same result, just a small, barely visible line of a scar as though he has lived many years since and just woke up to a healed body.

David is in awe and wonder at the realization that something impossible and wonderful has happened but at the same time he is terrorized in his confusion of this possibility.

Then he remembers something else that creates immediate gravity in him... He desperately looks around in the dark for something but it is not there.

Then suddenly the FRONT DOOR slowly creaks open... the bright daylight from outside shines around a silhouetted petite FORM holding two dead rabbits hanging from a string.

David slowly starts to stand up...

The form holds out a dark KNIFE shown against the beams of light, dust floats in.

David cautiously returns to his sitting position as the form steps inside, closes the door and slowly walks over to him.

David is unsure...

Two moccasins stop at his side and we see they are the two same moccasins earlier then the KNIFE inches towards David's throat and we see it is also the same knife as before.

David, at the edge of panic, looks in the face of the form, trying to get a peak of its features, and as the form inches closer to him some light from the cracked wall shines upon it and reveals that it is the face of a young native American Indian girl wearing a blindfold over her eyes. This is HANNA.

David somehow finds her attractive and innocent and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

personable but as soon as he lets his guard down the blade of the knife lands on his throat. He freezes.

Hanna drops the dead rabbits next to him and with her freed hand goes over his wounds one by one and after a brief touch on each wound she finally takes the knife away.

DAVID

What did you...

Hanna picks up the rabbits and goes into a cooking room where a makeshift stone and mud oven is found with a crude table next to it. She drops the rabbits on the table and sticks the knife blade in the hard wood.

David is perplexed and yet mesmerized at what he is witnessing. He rotates his wounded shoulder with no pain.

CUT TO:

COOKING ROOM

Hanna has quickly made a glowing fire inside the stone oven. It crackles and pops as she adds more straw and brittle twigs.

The warm, orange light reveals more details of the cabin and David's eyes study the scene. This living space is the complete opposite of anything modern David is used to making him a vulnerable inhabitant. His eyes retrain back upon Hanna, the true and experienced inhabitant of this lost world.

Hanna returns to the table and grabs the embedded knife, pauses as though she senses David staring at her, and with all absence of emotion she tears into the rabbits with unnecessary force. FUR floats into the air, the silence is broken by the sound of CRACKLING little bones...She rips off their hides, David winces...the KNIFE cuts meat...the meat is forced on wooden spits then set near the fire.

David comically looks again at all the hides he's sitting on. Did this blind, little girl dispatch these poor animals as well? How is this possible?

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

5

We are moving about a foot above the floor, roving over fallen logs and thick brush.

We cross a tiny stream and then we come to a large boulder

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

which has blood smeared on it.

We hear the same VOICES as earlier talk back and forth in the distance.

CUT TO:

The sound of rushing water is heard as we are following a larger more active stream. Finally we come to the very edge of the stream as it has become a waterfall and we look over the edge and see the white water crashing into the river below.

Looking up about 10 feet from the river we see three native American Indian WARRIORS standing at the edge looking down. The LEFT WARRIOR carries a bow and the RIGHT WARRIOR carries a heavy rifle but the center warrior and larger of the two has nothing in his hands. His mohawk is light gray and his eyes seem to be crystal. This is PALE WOLF and he is the leader of the three.

Pale Wolf seems to spot something in the water.

BOW WARRIOR OS  
Father, what is it?

\*  
\*

From Pale Wolf's POV we see something sparkling under the water.

INT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

6

We are about a foot above the running river and the rushing water is loud. A hand suddenly plunges into the water then slowly pulls out the HATCHET.

Pale Wolf stands up as the other two from the bank look upon their leader being reunite with his sacred weapon.

PALE WOLF  
He is not far. He fell at this spot  
and his wounds are great.

RIFLE WARRIOR looks down stream.

RIFLE WARRIOR  
The Black River has taken him below.  
The witch will find him.

PALE WOLF  
We must hurry.

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rifle Warrior trots down the bank with immediacy. \*

BOW WARRIOR has a LOOK of hesitancy and looks at Pale Wolf. \*

PALE WOLF catches his son's doubt and returns a concerned then annoyed look. Then a disgraced stare that forces BOW WARRIOR to follow Rifle Warrior. \*

The three run off, continuing their pursuit of David. \*

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - RESTING ROOM - DAY

7

A WOODEN BOWL filled with awful looking stew of rabbit and root vegetables and an awkward spoon is pushed at David's side.

David looks up at this mysterious, blindfolded girl in curiosity. Some trepidation. Then at the door for a second or two. Tempted to leave. But his hunger compels him back to the stew. He takes the spoon and eats. Then instantly spits it out and gags.

David falls back choking, gasping for air, grabbing at his throat. He writhes in pain, kicking on his side.

We come close to his FACE and watch his eyes roll back then he falls unconscious.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

8

DAVID is in a canoe, softly floating down a river. It's darker than normal outside as if all the stars are missing. The snow-covered pine trees on either side of the bank are barely visible. He is unsure if what is happening and he feels a sense of helplessness.

FOG suddenly appears on the water.

An eagle SCREAMS over head.

The fog gets thicker as his canoe travels a little faster.

The HOWLS of wolves from the bank...

Then David notices something ahead, in the thick mist...

...rising out of the black water is that same MASKED FIGURE.

David looks around the canoe for any way to control his descent. But there is none. He panics.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The masked form rises higher to meet him...

A DEEP RED LIGHT starts to glow behind the mask figure...

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - RESTING ROOM - NIGHT

9

DAVID awakens in a sweat. Hanna is knelt next to him, laying a folded cloth on his forehead.

DAVID

What did you give me?

Beat.

Hanna stays still, looking in another direction but an ear directed at him.

David looks her over in detail. She has strange marks on her hands. All her clothes are handmade. She's different, from most "humans". Something about her needs to be known.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Who are you?

Beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What did you do to me?

HANNA

Your eyes are not focused.

He tries to hide the accuracy of this intimate assessment. Then sees the same affliction in her.

DAVID

And how would you know something like that?

\*

Beat.

She turns towards him. We come closer to her, to her BLINDFOLD. She wants to tell her secrets, but...

HANNA

Do you want some more stew?

The threat is clear.

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - LATER

10

RAY'S OF MOONLIGHT are highlighted in the dusty air.

DAVID is standing at the

ENTRANCE WAY

of Hanna's sleeping room watching her sleep on a bed of straw and animal hides, covered with another fur hide.

DAVID is wearing a a coat like piece of fur clothing.

He holds the KNIFE at his side.

Beat.

DAVID stares at her with curiosity and hope but still uneasy about her. There is a moment of rescue in him but not enough courage to stay.

David pulls out his cell phone, the light is bright in this darkness.

INSERT SCREEN: "No service."

David puts away his modern device.

He gives Hanna one last look...

...then secures the knife away in his clothing and tightens the fur around his shoulders and steps away.

FRONT DOOR

David slowly opens the door and it makes an old rusted scratching sound. Waits then steps outside.

EXT. HANNA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

11

David slowly closes the door the turns around-

-HANNA!

HANNA

They're here!

The distant sound of BREAKING TWIGS and TUMBLING ROCKS are heard.

David in shock peers over her shoulder and finds three

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

shadows advancing towards them.

David instinctively reaches for the knife in his clothing but Hanna grabs his hand.

His WILD EYES finds her blindfold...

HANNA (CONT'D)  
Hurry! Inside!

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

12

Hanna SHUTS the door hard and hurries David towards the eating room...

David in shock and confusion looks back inside her SLEEPING ROOM and finds the same form just seconds earlier sleeping on the straw bed.

EATING ROOM

Hanna stops at a small clearing in the room.

HANNA  
Here! Down here.

She lifts a secret panel in the floor that opens to a small storage room.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
Hide!

David looks at her in hesitation.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
Now!

The three WARRIORS are getting closer, their VOICES are more clearer outside.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
You must hide, now!

DAVID  
(perplexed)  
Together, right?

\*

The warrior's VOICES are right outside. They are clear now. Their war cries are horrifying and threatening.

Hanna suddenly takes the knife that was hidden in his

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

clothing, perplexing David and pushes him in the black hole and starts shutting the panel back over his head, forcing him down. \*

She covers the panel with a large hide then goes into the

RESTING ROOM

and waits.

SILENCE...

SHADOWS outside interrupts the moonbeams shining in the dusty air as they quietly walk closely along the outside walls. They WHISPER...

The SHADOWS stop at the front door.

BEAT.

The FRONT DOOR SLOWLY opens in making that same old rusted sound and from the moon light THREE INDIAN SHADOWS lurch.

They advance inside and stop a comfortable distance away from Hanna.

The KNIFE is strongly in her grasps.

Pale Wolf brings out his HATCHET in response.

The FRONT DOOR suddenly SLAMS shut! BOW WARRIOR react in shock and fear. \*

PALE WOLF stops short of giving his son a harsh look and stays firm, familiar with Hanna. \*

PALE WOLF  
Where is he, witch?

Hanna stays still.

It is deathly quiet.

A WOLF HOWLS outside! \*

Beat. A SHADOW is seen moving outside in the moonlit woods. \*

Then can hear a GROWL. They are deep and mighty, like a great beast. \*

BOW WARRIOR and RIFLE WARRIOR seem nervous.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pale Wolf reprimands them harshly in their native language and turns back towards Hanna.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
We do not fear your tricks.

SCRATCHING on the outside walls!

The other two warriors notice it and are waning.

\*

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Find him!

Rifle Warrior rushes past Hanna, keeping his distance from her, and goes into the cooking room as Bow Warrior looks around in the resting room.

PALE WOLF takes a daring step towards Hanna, proving his courage. He smirks in defiance of her power.

RIFLE WARRIOR

is violently knocking things over while looking around. Then he stops and finds the large hide on the floor.

HANNA

turns an ear to him as Bow Warrior is coming up empty on his end.

RIFLE WARRIOR

bends down and stares at the hide for a beat then slowly looks back at

PALE WOLF.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Where is he?

HANNA hesitates, still focusing on

RIFLE WARRIOR

as he reaches for the hide on the floor.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Where!

HANNA moves her attention back at Pale Wolf then slightly nudges a hint towards her

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SLEEPING ROOM

where the FORM under the fur hide sleeps.

\*

PALE WOLF

makes a motion to Bow Warrior and Bow Warrior rushes into the

SLEEPING ROOM

and stops at the FORM on the straw bed.

RIFLE WARRIOR

stops short of the hidden floor panel and waits for Bow Warrior.

\*

BOW WARRIOR

nervously takes out a long slender knife and reaches for the fur hide to uncover the form.

\*

Great GROWLING from a beast coming from the form!

Bow Warrior hesitates, fear in his bloodshot, fearful EYES and finds Pale Wolf impatient.

\*

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Bow! Now! He has the ancient relic.

Bow Warrior continues but the GROWLS are intensifying...

HANNA starts to chant something under her breath. The walls shake and the dust vibrates in the moon beams.

BOW WARRIOR

is fighting to hide his fear in front of his father...

\*

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Do it! Now! You have the power to end the prophecy!

HANNA'S

chants are getting stronger.

RIFLE WARRIOR

stands up, waiting in boldness.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

BOW WARRIOR grabs the edge of the fur hide covering the form and slowly pulls it back...

The GROWLING from the form gets more intense.

As the FUR HIDE is slowly pulled away a WOLF'S SNOUT appears and with each intense growl it snarls and shows its fangs...and then its brilliant yellow EYES make contact with us!

Bow Warrior leaps back in instant fright, making jabbing motions with his long knife at the wolf as he stumbles over himself..

The WOLF stands up and moves to a dark corner and conceals himself in theconceals himself in the shadow, growling lowly. Within the blackness his YELLOW EYES sparkle and his fangs make an occasional appearance.

BOW WARRIOR escapes and runs out the front door.

RIFLE WARRIOR steps out of the eating room and with caution and perplexity goes to investigate what he just witnessed.

At the

ENTRY WAY

of Hanna's sleeping room Rifle Warrior steadily peers inside.

We are looking at the same dark corner. We ZOOM IN, drawing closer to it.

Back to

RIFLE WARRIOR

We ZOOM INTO his face, his nervous eyes.

Back to the

DARK CORNER

waiting for that wolf to appear. We hold...

But nothing manifests.

RIFLE WARRIOR snuffs at the imaginary beast and smirks at Hanna as he goes outside in contempt to find Bow Warrior.

PALE WOLF

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

comes another step closer to Hanna...

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

We will find him. What he has does not  
belong to him or the fat man.

Hanna's grip on the knife tightens.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

We are coming back. All of us. With  
fire. If you like your solitude then  
you will give him to us and the relic  
he possess.

Pale Wolf turns to leave but stops at the door and turns back  
to her.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

A war is coming for you, witch! A war  
is coming!

Pale Wolf vanishes into the night.

HANNA rushes in to the

EATING ROOM

throws off the fur hide and opens the panel.

WE CRANE DOWN into the black hole. We see nothing.

HANNA

Man! Are you there? Man, come up. It's  
safe.

From the black hole DAVID emerges, being stressed to the  
limit.

Hanna helps him out.

DAVID

What just happened?

David looks around for something.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I heard an animal!

\*

David moves into the

RESTING ROOM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

searching for it then looks into Hanna's sleeping room.

INSIDE HANNA'S SLEEPING ROOM

we see the STRAW BEDDING with nothing on it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(sotto)

There was something here. Right here  
sleeping. I saw it.

David turns to her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I saw it. It was breathing. It was  
you.

HANNA

Everything is good now.

DAVID

No! None of this is good now!

\*

David continues to search for something unseen.

HANNA

You are safe now.

DAVID

Safe? I don't feel very safe.

(beat)

I need answers. Who are you?

HANNA

My name is Hanna.

DAVID

No. Who are you? How did my wounds  
heal so quickly?

Hanna walks over to him and stops close by his side. David is  
disarmed with her presence. A power over him.

David calms some.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What was that sound?

HANNA

You need to rest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

David bends his neck for another look throughout the resting room. Nothing but the stillness as if nothing ever happened.

Hanna takes his face with her hand and moves it towards her to settle him.

DAVID

Can you even see me?

HANNA

Answers will come in the morning.

Her hand rises up to his forehead and stops. His eyes start to fall heavy.

FADE TO BLACK:

After a long beat over OMINOUS MUSIC we see a DEEP RED GLOW appearing in the blackness. It's the same red glow we saw earlier behind the mask form rising up from the river.

The red glow brightens and transitions into a small yellow fire. As the camera focuses and pulls out we see it is a little straw fire inside the brick and mud oven.

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - MORNING

13

EATING ROOM

We are still close to the little crackling straw fire in the brick and mud oven and as the camera focuses completely we notice a small black cast iron skillet being heated up.

A hand holding thick rags pulls out the hot skillet.

HANNA is preparing breakfast.

In the hot BLACK SKILLET a good portion of rustic looking bacon is thrown in and begins to crackle then a couple of eggs are dropped in that instantly turn white in the bacon fat. Then a couple steamed fresh potatoes make their presence and are smashed with a wooden utensil. A meal done right.

HANNA slides the skillet back in the stone oven. She tilts an ear towards the

RESTING ROOM

David slowly starts to make movement of being awoken by the smell of bacon and eggs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The crisp morning sunlight casts a fresh and peaceful feel to the room.

HANNA

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS

--grinds some black coffee beans with a pestle in a stone bowl.

--the black grounds are tossed in a pot of boiling water.

--the black boiling water is poured through a white rag into a cup.

--the black skillet comes out of the oven and is placed on a thick serving board where the cup of coffee and a spoon already sit.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Hanna takes the serving board of food over to

DAVID'S

side where he is trying to wake up.

David's POV: this hearty breakfast in a skillet with steamy coffee is far and away from the rabbit stew earlier.

David hesitates then looks at Hanna who's beautiful facial features, revealed in the morning light put David's trepidation at ease. This encourages him to accept it.

He takes the steamy coffee and sips at it.

DAVID

Strong. But it's good.

HANNA

Strong.

Hanna returns to the eating room satisfied as David scarfs down his breakfast.

And for a moment everything seems normal.

DAVID

Look, I'm going to have to get going.  
I appreciate everything that you've  
done but I have to get back... I have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID (CONT'D)  
to finish something...

David, with a couple more spoonfuls of food finishes his breakfast.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(quieter)  
I have people waiting for me.

Hanna has come back in and takes the serving board away from David just as he finishes the last spoonful of food. But before she takes everything he snatches the cup of coffee and watches her walk away.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Are you going to be okay, with those  
guys coming around?

HANNA

remains silent as she washes the dishes.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(looking at Hanna curiously)  
They don't seem like the friendly  
type.

David waits for any clues but none is given so he sheepishly sips more of this coffee.

HANNA is suddenly at his side without warning with the pot of black water in hand.

Another off event that motivates him to leave. But looking up at her he is sensing more of a communion with her.

David stretches out his cup and she refills it.

As HANNA returns to the eating room...

HANNA  
I can help you find it.

DAVID  
(stunned)  
Find what?

HANNA  
Is that what they were looking for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

David hides behind his coffee cup, looking away.

HANNA

stops washing dishes.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Are you a thief?

DAVID

No. Of course not! What kind of question is that?

HANNA

Then why were you hunted!

David takes a long sip of coffee while looking at her.

DAVID

Your English is pretty good for a native. Who taught you?

Hanna returns to washing dishes, ignoring his question.

DAVID stands up and walks over to

HANNA

David sets his coffee cup down and Hanna gently picks it up and starts washing it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That was the best coffee I've had in a month.

Silent beat.

Hanna pauses.

David's interest in her grows.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Why did you help me? None of this concerns you.

HANNA

It concerns us all. We are all connected.

DAVID

You could have let me die.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA

Letting someone die is the same as  
killing them.

David feels a slight sentiment.

DAVID

Thanks.

HANNA faces him.

HANNA

I'm not ready to let you die yet.

David's ego falls down crested.

\*

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - LATER

14 \*

FRONT DOOR

David is standing at the already open front door and is prepared to leave. He adjust a clothing of fur around his shoulders and begins to step off when Hanna arrives at his side also prepared for the elements in her moccasins and mittens, and a small bag filled with supplies.

She secures the knife on her waist.

DAVID

No. You don't need to come.

HANNA

Yes I do. You need protection.

DAVID

You're my protection? You can't even  
see-

-Hanna in an instant has the knife's blade at his throat!  
Perfect precision.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(nervous)

Right.

Hanna puts the knife away.

After a few final adjustments the two step off.



EXT. HANNA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

15

We are looking down from above as Hanna and David step away from the cabin while the camera pulls out to an EXTREME WIDE ANGLE giving us an idea of their isolation and possible direction in this vast, snow covered wilderness. Just two tiny dots on a map moving to accomplish their goals.

ACT II

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS LANDSCAPE - DAY

16

Quick shots of the outside elements and surroundings.

HANNA and DAVID

trudge through the wilderness, knee high deep snow, stepping over logs. Their trek is arduous.

DAVID

My name is David, by the way.

(beat)

I haven't told you yet.

HANNA

I know.

Uncomfortable beat.

HANNA (CONT'D)

What did you steal?

DAVID

What? No. I told you, I didn't steal anything. It was stolen...I was hired to retrieve what was stolen from my employer.

(beat)

I'm a private contractor. That's what I do. I was returning a trophy.

A single ELK is seen trekking through the snow in the open distance. The animal looks fatter than normal. A struggle of survival.

HANNA

It will give birth tonight. It is being hunted.

DAVID

(preoccupied)

And another thing, if you think I was a thief then why are you helping me?

David looks back at Hanna for any response but none is given. He notices her attention is on the elk. He finds it but is distracted. He looks back at her...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Seriously, why are you helping me?

A WOLF HOWLS in the far distance, echoing in the frozen air.  
The lone ELK pauses and looks up the valley.

HANNA

I was tracking it when I found you.

David has a disconcerting look on his face.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Tonight, we kill it.

David looks back at Hanna with dread and uncertainty.

OMITTED

17

EXT. MOUNTAINS - TWILIGHT

18

The cold sun is starting to drop behind the horizon, bringing  
in early shadows of blue and grey.

Hanna has been leading David on a hunt and they stop suddenly  
behind some foliage. David is out of breath.

HANNA

Here.

She waits a long beat, directing her ears in a certain  
direction.

HANNA (CONT'D)

There! You hear her.

David hears nothing...

...then in the distance we hear the CRIES of the elk.

HANNA (CONT'D)

She is ready.

A wolf HOWLS.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Hurry!

Hanna gets them up and they run off.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - LATER

19

Hanna and David fall behind a fallen log.

DAVID is now breathing hard.

We hear the elk CRY again and she is closer than before.

HANNA looks beyond the tree line from which that are covered and spots her.

HANNA

There. She has fallen in the open and  
is ready to give birth.

The HAUNTING HOWL of the wolf is dangerously close.

David tries to locate the wolf but can't. Its GROWLS  
reverberate throughout the woods.

DAVID

Where is it! I don't see it.

HANNA turns her back to him and is doing something to a thick  
stick...She is now striking it with a rock. Then it glows  
bright. She turns towards him and hands him the stick with a  
rag tied on top which is on fire and begins to take off her  
little bag of supplies.

DAVID is momentarily perplexed.

The elk MOANS...

HANNA

Wait here! I have to help her.

HANNA disappears inside the trees leaving David exposed.

DAVID

Wait!

Beat.

The wolf HOWLS hard.

DAVID jerks behind him in desperation. WE see nothing in the  
trees.

David is in a place of complete helplessness and  
vulnerability. Out of his comfort zone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOMENTS LATER:

The SUN is completely fallen under the horizon now.

STARS start to dot the deep blue sky.

DAVID jumps at every minute sound.

We can clearly hear the BREATHING and GROWLS of the wolf menacing near by.

We look in and among the trees, searching for the wolf. We cant's see him but we can hear him. Growls are coming LEFT then RIGHT. It's like a ghost. Maybe it is a ghost. A wolf spirit on the prowl-

-A BRIGHT RED GLOW is seen darting back and forth in the shadowy trees. The same red glow in his dreams.

The SOUNDS from the wolf are suddenly different now but still on top of us. The sounds seem defensive and fearful.

We follow the bright red light in the darkness. The light is fuller and getting closer as the wolf is getting more desperate and aggressive in its own survival.

Suddenly the wolf lets out a HIGH PITCH SCREECH of instant death!

The BRIGHT RED LIGHT is still now and we can make out that it is flickering like a flame...the flame moves towards us still partially hidden within the trees and fading to YELLOW as it is getting closer then finally emerging out of the dense trees is HANNA, covered in blood.

She stands still in the clearing in front of David to be gazed at. Her posture is triumphant and confident. Elevated and joyous to the point of horror.

DAVID is in shock, trying to put the pieces together.

Hanna walks over to him and the torch...

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hanna..?

Hanna takes the torch from David then secures her blood dripping knife in a pouch and sits down.

From the nearby flame of the torch we can see more of the BLOOD on her in detail. She is almost dripping with it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID is in shock and horror...

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Is that wolf's blood!

HANNA casually answers him-

HANNA  
Is that what you see? You see death  
instead of life?

DAVID holds a beat for understanding.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
*I caught the calf before it fell.*

David gets it but not satisfied. Something else on his mind...

DAVID  
Is that why you came? To use me for  
bait?

HANNA gets up and walks away with the torch...

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Hey!

HANNA  
Night is coming.

DAVID is forced to follow.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

20

The cave's WALLS are occasionally lit up by the flicker of the orange glow made from a little fire built in the center of the room.

On the walls we see crude drawings and ancient hieroglyphics.

HANNA is at the small fire made in a shallow hole preparing meat on large skewers. She skewers some STRANGE LOOKING MEAT on a skinny stick then implants this stick into the ground at an angle where the meat can gently cook hanging over the flames. She takes a different wooden skewer from the ground and walks it over to David who is looking at his phone.

INSERT CELL PHONE FACE:

"No service".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BACK TO SCENE:

DAVID takes the skewer in trepidation and sniffs the meat then after his approval takes a timid bite. Then another more courageous bite.

DAVID  
This is good. Really good. What is it?  
(joking)  
Wolf?

HANNA takes her own skewer from the pit and-

HANNA  
It's afterbirth.

-bites off a big chunk as if it were a bbq rib.

DAVID immediately spits his out in grotesque revulsion. Then gives her an aggravated look while throwing his meat stick off to the side.

HANNA lets out a barely visible mischievous grin as she takes another bite from her skewer.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
No. It's not...

\*

Beat.

DAVID gets up and studies the three or four remaining skewers, pics one and returns back to his spot. He looks at Hanna eating her skewer with appetizing vigor and is about to take a bite-

HANNA (CONT'D)  
-It is wolf.

David throws that skewer away as well.

Her mischievous grin turns into a little giggle.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

21

The little campfire has grown smaller and is accompanied by one remaining skewer.

From the CAVE'S ENTRANCE we see the milky way. A sight not seen from the city.

DAVID ponders his size for a moment in all things relative to

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

life as he looks upon the milky way then turns his attention from the stars to HANNA then remembers the same markings on her wrists are on the wall.

On the WALL we see that the hieroglyphics are that of a language mix of Pakistanian and native American Indian and depictions of a single person wearing a mask with beams coming from it and other beings, much smaller running away on fire.

This troubles DAVID.

DAVID  
Who are you, really?

HANNA pulls down her sleeve over the markings on her arm.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
They called you a witch. They were  
even afraid to come near you.  
(pointing to the wall)  
Is that what you are?

Hanna looks towards the wall and finds the depiction of the smaller people running away from the central being on fire.

HANNA  
These markings do not say who I am.

DAVID  
It's the same mark. On your arm. Is  
that about you? Tell me.

HANNA  
I am not a witch!

DAVID  
Then how can you do the things I've  
seen you do? Heal my wounds? Live like  
you do, being blind no less?  
(pointing outside)  
Killing a wolf!

HANNA  
I am not a witch!

For a moment the illumination from the fire fades out then comes back. Something supernatural.

DAVID is not convinced of her words.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Long beat between them.

HANNA gets up and walks over to the wall, taking the torch with her. At the wall she places the flame close and we see the first marks of a story running from left to right and as she explains the story she walks down the wall. Her words match each depiction seen.

HANNA (CONT'D)

You and me are the same. We came from the same land. Hundreds of years ago our people fled a civil war that was already hundreds of years old. Seventy two starving families landed in Alaska. But our food was little so we continued to travel lower. Our ancestors were introduced to an older and strange people in these lands. Many families died and were lost. The surviving families hid in caves like this and others adopted the ways of the strange people out of fear. They are not free in their hearts so they attempted freedom by proving their courage to the strange people by killing the families who hid here. As those families perished hope came to the remaining few in a vision to our elders and they spoke of a prophecy that one day one person in the blood line would be born with those markings and together with an ancient gift worn by the chosen one would finally be able to put a stop to the killings of our families.

(beat)

We left one civil war and started another.

DAVID

And that is you? That story is you?

HANNA

No!

DAVID

But you have the mark on you.

HANNA

Those marks were put on me.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA (CONT'D)

I was not born with them. I was marked  
by a mortal.

DAVID studies her...

DAVID

By whom?

HANNA

By the fat man.

INSERT QUICK SHOT OF DAVID'S FLASHBACK:

-Mr. Stone sipping on his bourbon in the tumbler glass with a  
cigar held in between his fingers.

END FLASHBACK:

DAVID

(to himself)

It can't be. Not Mr. Stone.

HANNA

Who is Mr. Stone?

David is surprised that she overheard him.

HANNA returns to her spot next to the small fire.

DAVID

He's my employer. He's the one who  
hired me to bring back his stolen  
possession.

(at her)

That's why those three warriors were  
chasing me. I was taking back what  
they stole.

HANNA

Maybe they were taking back what was  
stolen.

DAVID gets up irritated.

DAVID

I don't know. I'm not getting paid to  
figure out who stole what first.

(beat)

All I know is that I'm getting paid a  
lot of money to return it and if I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID (CONT'D)  
don't I'll have a lot more than three  
people hunting me down.

David looks back at her, looking for sympathy.

Long beat.

She gives in.

HANNA  
Where is this stolen possession?

DAVID  
I don't know. I lost it. I must have  
dropped it when I fell in the river.

QUICK FLASHBACK

The HATCHET hitting David's shoulder. CU of the strap to the  
satchel being cut by the force and slipping off David's  
shoulder.

BACK TO SCENE

DAVID rotates his shoulder checking for pain but there is  
none. He looks at her.

HANNA notices this but avoids the obvious.

HANNA  
I can take you.

DAVID  
You sure I'm not just wolf bait?

Hanna doesn't give in to his sarcasm.

We pull CLOSE to Hanna over solemn music...

HANNA  
(ominous)  
You are not yet free. You are a slave  
to this world, trying to buy your  
freedom with the price of blood.  
(at the wall)  
Just as the few who were enslaved by  
the natives...trying to buy their own  
freedom in blood. But this fear kept  
them in bondage-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID

-Who said I was in fear?

HANNA

You have seen the one, have you not?

David slinks back. He slowly pans to the wall where the big headed being with light beams are coming out from is found. Yes he has seen this being...

HANNA (CONT'D)

Rising out of the Black River?

Fear finds DAVID. He can't pull away from his stare upon it...

DAVID

(to himself)

Just a dream. That's all it was.

HANNA

(rising tone)

A dream...for years now you have the same dream. A path you have been traveling down but won't except. You have ignored your purpose...

\*  
\*

DAVID shoots back at Hanna, as if overcome, unable to control himself.

DAVID

Stop it. Please!

HANNA

...and you won't heed it. You are driven by your desires...

DAVID

Stop!

HANNA

...and the angel of death is waiting for your day of rebellion.

\*

DAVID

NO!

HANNA

It is soon.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLACK RIVER - NIGHT

22

David is in a canoe, softly floating down a river. It's darker than normal outside as if all the stars are missing. The snow-covered pine trees on either side of the bank are barely visible. He is unsure if what is happening and he feels a sense of helplessness.

FOG suddenly appears on the water.

An eagle SCREAMS over head.

The fog gets thicker as his canoe travels a little faster.

The HOWLS of wolves from the bank...

Then David notices something ahead, in the thick mist...

...rising out of the black water is that same masked figure.

David looks around the canoe for any way to control his descent. But there is none. He panics.

The masked form rises higher to meet him...

A BRIGHT RED LIGHT starts to glow behind the mask figure...

The river is at waist level now and as the mask form rises higher we can see that it is holding a MIGHTY WEAPON in both hands.

DAVID is in awe and paralyzed with fear as he looks on.

The growing RED GLOW behind the masked form is now turning into a blaze of fire! The bright flames are beaming out through the heavy fog.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - MORNING

23

DAVID jerks awake.

The little fire is now nothing but smoldering ash. Just a distant remnant of the night before. A callous forethought from the vision.

A simple CUP enters frame in front of David. It steams.

DAVID takes it with both hands then looks up and finds Hanna handing it to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Somehow all the blood on her is gone.

DAVID notices this then looks back at the wall then the smoldering fire...pondering reality...

HANNA

Strong.

DAVID snaps back.

DAVID

Thank you.

David quietly sips, keeping to himself. Hanna's words last night starting to sink in.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

24

David and Hanna exit the cave, stepping into a new day.

In the distant clearing is the ELK and her new calf.

DAVID is stopped by this sight, and for a moment he finally gives the wild thing its due attention. He let's himself be a distant witness to new life...

...then looks in another direction, listening for something...

...no wolf.

HANNA

The Black River. It is not far.

David catches up to Hanna and they move on.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

25

David is following Hanna through the snow covered terrain. DAVID has his eyes fixed on her in curiosity.

QUICK MONTAGE OVER ESCALATING SOUND

--HANNA easily steps over a log.

--HANNA carefully jumps over a tiny creek.

--HANNA ducks under a limb. Hanna- "Watch out.". DAVID clunks his head on the limb.

END MONTAGE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMASH SOUND CUT:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - CONTINUOUS

26

DAVID reacts in pain after hitting his head, then rubs it. Halts for a beat...pride hurt...watching Hanna move around a tree.

DAVID

Hey!

HANNA ignores him and keeps walking forward.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Wait!

David waits for her to acknowledge him but she doesn't.

David start walking after her, while catching up...

DAVID (CONT'D)

I said wait.

(beat)

Hold on.

David catches up to her. At HANNAH'S side. We focus on her BLINDFOLD.

DAVID (CONT'D)

How are you doing that?

HANNA

Doing what?

DAVID

Can you even see where you're going? I mean...sorry, but how are you doing that blindfolded?

HANNA

Yes, I know where I am going. I can see that clearly. Can you?

DAVID takes his hand away from his bumped head.

DAVID

Do you even need that blindfold?

HANNA finally stops.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA

I do not need my eyes to see.

DAVID

Why wear it? Are you hiding a wound?

CU on HANNA turning and facing us, finding us, as if she can see right through the blindfold.

REVERSE ANGLE ON

DAVID. He is looking back at her as if their eyes are locked. The background behind him is heavily blurred.

BACK TO

HANNA.

Beat.

HANNA

There. Do you see?

REVERSE BACK TO

DAVID turns behind him to look as we look and the background comes to focus. We see nothing but endless mountains.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Do you know where you are?

DAVID

No.

HANNA

You see but you are lost.

DAVID is perturbed.

HANNA comes close behind him and covers his eyes with her hands. (This is their first contact.)

David wants to take her hands away...

HANNA (CONT'D)

Do not fear the darkness.

David relaxes.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Do you now know where you are?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

DAVID  
(impatient)  
No.

HANNA  
Listen.

Slowly rising up we hear the SOUNDS of the WILD...

--The WIND rushing through the trees...

--Soft patches of SNOW falling off limbs unto the ground...

--An OWL ruffles its feathers above...

--The CRACKLING of little twigs settling...

Then, something gets DAVID'S attention and he ever so slightly turns his head in a certain direction just like Hanna does.

He holds steady as we come closer to his EAR...

The slight SOUND of water...

DAVID  
I hear something.

QUICK SHOTS OF DAVID'S WATER MEMORIES

--A faucet is turned on and water rushes down the drain.

DAVID jerks his head in a "No".

--Rain water running into a gutter.

Another quick "No" jerk of DAVID'S head.

--A tiny stream flowing over rocks that David leaps over.

No! Not the right pitch.

END QUICK SHOTS

HANNA  
Focus. See it.

QUICK SHOT OF DAVID'S WATER MEMORIES

--DAVID standing at the precipice of a little waterfall looking over the edge to a steady river below. We focus past

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

the SOUND of the little water wall cascading over and to the sound of the river below. The minute baritones and details of its unique rushing water matches the sound in David's EAR.

DAVID

There.

We slowly pan out from HANNA slowly removing her hands over David's eyes as the SOUND of rushing water fades away to David's outstretched arm and hand pointing in the near direction they were previously heading.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That way.

HANNA gives up a little smile.

HANNA

Good. Now you see.

They set off and David feels proud of himself, learning value in his life, but...

DAVID

(respectfully, softly)

Hanna?

This time Hanna pauses for him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

But why stay blindfolded?

Long beat as we come close to her BLINDFOLD...

HANNA

My eyes are not for seeing.

DAVID lingers in this ongoing mystery with slight impatience but has a new tolerance for it. For Hanna. He let's out a worn grin.

HANNA (CONT'D)

Let's go. Your day is nearer and we must hurry.

David's grin falls back to a grim look.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

27

Different shots a foreboding and grim mood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

--Fiery RED CLOUDS race behind wind whipped snow peaks.

--ANGLE UP on a dead, petrified tree.

--PAN over a rotten carcass, nothing but stripped bones and loose fur.

The FIERY RED CLOUDS slow down to a SLOW MOTION and "burn brighter" in the sky...it's starting to look like the heavens are on fire.

As the clouds of fire roll beneath itself we hear the tumbling of heaving builders roll and smash. This sound is filled with BASS and starting to pitch higher as they sound like smaller boulders then into big rocks and then into pebbles under running FEET...

DISSOLVE TO:

ON A BANK NEAR A RIVER

David and Hanna are running at a modest speed as we follow their FEET crushing pebbles and twigs beneath them. We BOOM up and slow to a hold watching them run along a moderate river that is giving off some white rapids.

David is starting to fall behind.

HANNA

We are close. Come on.

DAVID stops and is breathing very hard. He is bending over, hands on knees and spitting up stuff.

HANNA OS

(distant words echo)

Don't stop! Come on!

DAVID looks up and from his POV we see Hanna easily running at an unbelievable pace. We watch HER get further and further away. Her WORDS a far away echo to us until they vanish and are replaced with the rushing of the RIVER.

HANNA is out of earshot. She is running at a determined pace...as though she is running away from something.

DAVID instinctively looks behind him, REVERSING the RIVER and we hold, examining details...

Nothing...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVERSE RIVER

Hanna is gone!

DAVID instant fright and vulnerable.

DAVID

Hanna!

His voice echos. We are looking for her in all possible shadows.

DAVID sees something. It stops him from looking for her but his GAZE is still transfixed forward. Something looks familiar to us...

This IS the Black River in his dreams.

--The ISLE of pines on either side of the banks.

--The lines of the horizon meeting the dull sky.

A SOUND of a heavy bass trumpet reverberates turning into a lull like animal noise.

DAVID hunches his shoulders and starts to turn his head behind him in fearful anticipation...

REVERSE ON RIVER

Through the pines and cedar and moving forward over the water around a bend is a thick MIST that is creeping towards us.

The BASS TRUMPET rolls longer and deeper as the thick mist gets closer...

DAVID immediately turns around and continues his run over the pebbles and twigs towards the last place we saw Hanna.

CUT TO:

FURTHER UP RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

28

Hanna suddenly reaches out of nowhere and grabs David by the arm and yanks him in under an overhang of vegetation and vines hanging off a running cliff.

DAVID lets out a small yelp of fear.

HANNA instantly puts a hand over his mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA

Quiet.

Hanna lets go as David calms then she listens for a beat.

We hear nothing.

HANNA (CONT'D)

They are here with us.

DAVID

Who?

Hanna turns her attention up the cliff and listens. Some dirt and small rocks gently cascade over.

HANNA

Quiet. They are close.

We hear subtle murmuring from the three warriors above us.

DAVID

(whispering)

They're looking for it.

HANNA turns her attention towards David.

HANNA

What is this stolen trophy?

DAVID looks at his shaking eyes into her strange curiosity and is about to say something when heavier rocks begin to tumble down.

HANNA (CONT'D)

We can't stay here.

David looks around for bearing.

DAVID

We need to get to the waterfall before they do.

HANNA grabs his hand and leads them further down the river.

An EAGLE floats overhead, seemingly leading them.

EXT. BLACK RIVER - LATER

29

DAVID and HANNA are further down the river. Hanna still has his hand. She stops them and David looks behind them. No

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

*mist.*

Further down the river in a slight cleft is the small waterfall.

HANNA

Over there.

Hanna leads them again.

CUT TO:

AT THE WATERFALL BASE

David and Hanna arrive where the water hits the river.

DAVID starts looking around.

DAVID

Where is it?

HANNA

When did you lose it?

QUICK FLASHBACK

At the precipice of the waterfall DAVID is hit with the hatchet in the shoulder. CLOSE UP and in SLOW MOTION we see the blade cut through the strap and the bag slips off into the water.

BACK TO SCENE

DAVID realizes where it is and starts to look up towards the waterfall...

PALE WOLF OS

-Looking for this?

WE PAN UP the waterfall and find Pale Wolf holding up David's bag. The two other warriors come up and stop beside either side of their leader.

BOW WARRIOR stretches his bow while RIFLE WARRIOR takes aim.

Hanna squeezes Davids HAND.

DAVID starts looking around the ground for something.

PALE WOLF

I'll make you and the fat man a deal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID keeps looking around...

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
I'll give you this back...

...and finds it! Lying under some snow covered weeds is his GUN.

DAVID looks for an opportune moment to grab it.

Hanna squeezes his hand harder.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
...for a trade.

DAVID eyes the gun again. Back to Pale Wolf...

DAVID  
Yeah! What do you want?

ZOOM TO PALE WOLF'S EYES...

PALE WOLF  
Her eyes.

DAVID is overwhelmed with temptation to reach for his gun-  
-Hanna desperately hangs on to his hand.

DAVID refocuses a mean look back up top.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DAVID AND PALE WOLF

DAVID  
That's never gonna happen!

BOW WARRIOR and RIFLE WARRIOR re-aim their sights.

PALE WOLF  
That's a good deal considering this  
belongs to my people.  
(beat)  
And not to the fat man.

DAVID is about to go for the GUN...

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Have you seen her eyes?

DAVID'S focus on the gun is starting to break. He slight a little look at HANNA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

I have. Once. Years ago when she was younger.

(looking at Hanna)

Much younger.

PALE WOLF gives a predatory grin.

HANNA lowers her head from Pale's Wolf view.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

I saw what she did. We all did. We wrote it on the cave walls.

(beat)

It was wondrous.

QUICK FLASH

(In the same filter we saw earlier of fiery clouds racing over the mountain tops we are in the same reddish color atmosphere as though we are looking through someone's eyes.)

\*

In this hallucination-like red-orange frame we see several people running from this POV. They are on fire but in this filter it looks more like an aura of twirling mist about them.

IN SLOW MOTION the RUNNING PEOPLE are screaming in pain and fear. They are acting as if they are fully aware of who this person they are running from is. Like it is the devil itself and they are trying to escape hell.

And as the RUNNING PEOPLE scatter in fear and torment different shades of light with different tones of darkness mix and dance from this POV causing people to fall dead.

END FLASH

DAVID shakes his head from this vision he just saw, realizes a great danger.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Do you even know who she is! Has she told you yet!

DAVID SLOWLY looks over to HANNA who is trying to hide her presence from him by slighting away from his interrogating inspection.

PALE WOLF OS

If you ever see her start taking off  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF OS (CONT'D)  
her blindfold...

DAVID LOOKS DEEPER-

PALE WOLF  
...run!

The THREE WARRIORS start to laugh at David's demise.

DAVID shutters at the possibility of who HANNA really is. He rips his hand from Hanna's grip.

HANNA withdrawals some more.

PALE WOLF looks at the satchel and finds a tag patched on it. On the tag is embroidered "DAVID".

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
David!

DAVID responds to his name and looks up.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
She has found you David.

DAVID  
(sotto)  
No...

PALE WOLF  
She has come to escort you in your day.

DAVID  
No. No!

PALE WOLF  
Look at her.

We pan over to her as she is slinking her existence.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
She doesn't even know her true identity. Or at least she won't accept it.

WE SLOWLY COME CLOSER TO HANNA...

She is hiding something from us as she is coward-ing herself from our examination. A shameful notion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF OS

We are all born into this life to do something for our Maker. We are to fulfill this purpose laid out before us...

HANNA feels our/DAVID'S gaze over her and she starts to face us/David.

PALE WOLF OS (CONT'D)

...and if we refuse then we risk the curse that is given to those who rebel.

HANNA'S demeanor is changing. Our/David's curiosity is bringing on consequence.

PALE WOLF OS (CONT'D)

(more intense)

We reject our design. For some it is a fearful thing to behold. So we create our own purpose...

A SHIMMER of RED is about HANNA...she's revealing her true self...

PALE WOLF OS (CONT'D)

Those who are called to kill now start to heal...

DAVID YANKS down some clothing over his shoulder to find his wound...There is none!

PALE WOLF OS (CONT'D)

A calling to death is now a search for life...

(flashback omitted and replaced with ECHO SOUND flashback)

\*

Hanna and David fall behind a fallen log.

DAVID is now breathing hard.

We hear the ELK CRY again.

HANNA OS

There. She has fallen in the open and is ready to give birth.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA VO  
(fading)  
I must help her.

DAVID is nearing panic...

PALE WOLF OS  
Where they are called to offend they  
choose to protect.

(flashback omitted and replace with ECHO SOUND flashback

\*

DAVID VO  
No. You don't need to come.

\*

HANNA VO  
Yes I do. You need *protection*.

\*

DAVID is in disbelief. Starts shaking his head at Hanna.

HANNA'S RED SHIMMER is starting to look like wisps of the sun  
shooting out its gases.

ZOOM to PALE WOLF

PALE WOLF  
And the greatest rebellion of their  
type is casting away the time of their  
duty.

(flashback omitted)

\*

DAVID  
No!

PALE WOLF OS  
She's been waiting for you, David. She  
knew where you'd be on that appointed  
day.

QUICK FLASHBACK

WATERFALL BASE

David lands hard in the flowing river.

The current has pushed him down river to a shallow pool on  
the bank momentarily resting his body in place.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We come closer to him and we see the hatchet still firmly embedded into flesh and bone. A steady flow of warm blood exits his wound and slips into the pool of water, carried away by the gentle current.

Two, small MOCCASINS made of fur and rope enter frame...

We PAN over David's body...thigh leaking black blood...a torn and marked chest...the hatchet in the shoulder...then we stop on his face. Battered but marked in sharp, attractive lines. A certain hardness and strength.

His eyes are closed. No sigh of life.

...then a small mitten made from the same fur and rope, grasping a KNIFE, enters. It inches towards David's throat...

PALE WOLF VO

(deeper, echoing tone)

...she was ready to enact upon His  
will but she refused to obey her  
purpose.

(beat)

Something changed her heart.

David's body suddenly takes in air, and returns to unconscious life.

The KNIFE, after a moment of pause, retreats.

The EAGLE circling overhead has stopped screaming.

END QUICK FLASHBACK

DAVID panics and looks around for bearing...

DAVID

No. I don't believe this. It can't be.

In his panic DAVID finds

HANNA again in her multi-reality state. Her presence is overwhelming in appearance and her shimmering red aura now rapidly vibrates.

DAVID needs a way out then remembers his gun! He finds it right where it had fallen, in the snow covered weeds on the ground.

PALE WOLF notices too something very strange and frightening about HANNA...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

...the red aura is actually coming from underneath her blindfold!

PALE WOLF in an instant as though through his past witness of Hanna's power knows what to do and suddenly reaches in David's satchel and pulls out a horrific looking MASK and holds it in the air.

HANNA instantly drops her arms in a upside down V exposing her tattooed markings on her wrist and SCREAMS.

DAVID immediately lunges for his gun, cocks it and fires the last remaining brass at Pale Wolf. BANG!

The bullet hits PALE WOLF in the shoulder causing him to fall backwards in the little stream above.

BOW WARRIOR and RIFLE WARRIOR jump to their leader in assistance and all three disappear out of view.

HANNA collapses on the bank below and DAVID rushes to her side. She is unconscious.

DAVID puts his gun away and scoops up HANNA in his arms then stands up and looks around for any possible help. Any direction.

Nothing is stirring but the SOUND of the passing river in its eternal purpose.

INT. MR. STONE'S OFFICE NIGHT

29A \*

The FACE of Mr. Stone fills the shot completely. He has been crying profusely and for a long time giving his face a bright red, sweaty look of stress. He opens his eyes and gazes at something ahead of him and once more the pain resurfaces and closes his eyes to cry out in deep anguish and rage.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Reverse shot of Mr. Stone and we see in front of him a wall of his private collection of weapons but in the center of this collection is a voided space with several Hooks and a discoloration of paint of wear the mask once hung. his cries continue, fueled by anger. He is nearly possessed with his emotions of loss.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

A SOUND is heard behind him and he quickly snaps his ear towards the rustling sound.

\*  
\*

Behind him in front of his desk stand SIX MOTIONLESS BLACK CLOSED SECURITY GUARDS/HENCHMAN, each holding an automatic weapon crossed in front of them . MR. STONE'S EYES

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

meticulously scans over every detail of these brainwashed soldiers.

Then that RUSTLING SOUND once again! A sound of undisciplined intolerance that needs to be instantly eradicated. MR. STONES' EYES quickly dart from one guard to the next.

THERE! A BLACK GLOVED HAND holding its weapon ever so slightly moves making that repulsive, unaccepted RUSTLING SOUND!

MR. STONE instantly crabs a hidden 45 under his desk and fires a single shots at this undisciplined soldier. BANG! dish guard immediately lands on the floor dead.

The DOORS swing open and two more identical guards rush in without weapons and carrie the dead guard away.

Mr. Stone wipes his snotty nose and teary eyes with the the hand holding the gun while it smokes in front of him in a sentimental way. A NEW GUARD rushes in with a weapon and immediately replaces the dead guard spot.

Mr. Stone replaces the weapon back under the hidden compartment under his desk.

MR. STONE  
(whispers)  
Patience.

We hold on the SIX SECURITY GUARDS remaining absolutely, deathly still.

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - DUSK

30

Dark except for a few rays of dim light breaking through the broken walls and windows.

The FRONT DOOR is violently kicked open by DAVID who has Hanna in his arms. He collapses inside and falls to one knee as he places her on the fur rugs on the floor with his last ounce of strength.

DAVID is breathing hard, worn from this challenging trip back. He can't stop though, Hanna is unconscious and needs care. Whatever care he can supply...

DAVID pauses with confusion and near helplessness in this attempt, looking around for anything that could help then goes to the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EATING ROOM

and takes a rag, wets it and returns to

HANNA.

David is kneeling next to her, dabbing the cool cloth on her face and under her jaw. This is the first time he has touched her and is doing so without her knowledge.

DAVID takes a moment to study her face and all the lines and details of it...still dabbing with the rag but slowing. In his/our POV eyes she doesn't look offensive or dangerous. But beautiful. Hanna appears to be innocent in this life...

DAVID refocuses...on her BLINDFOLD. His hand slowly come into frame inching closer to it...

HANNA is motionless...

David's FINGERS edge under the blindfold and begins to lift it over her head...

HANNA'S EYES are closed. WE come close to them through DAVID'S POV. HE is mesmerized, her closed eyes and their detail seem beautiful.

DAVID is almost stumped. His expression is agreeable...then pauses with trepidation...

HANNA'S CLOSED EYES...

PALE WOLF VO  
(whispering echo)  
...if you see her eyes...

David's HAND comes into frame then hovers over her face, his thumb resting over one of her eyelids and makes contact...

PALE WOLF VO (CONT'D)  
...run.

David;s THUMB slowly lifts the eyelid open, exposing her EYEBALL...

BLOOD RED! Hanna's exposed eye is so bloodshot that it looks like it could leak blood any second...then the BLACK PUPIL rolls over and DAVID jerks back in a cry of pain and clutches his shoulder!

DAVID is in anguish, jerking on the floor in new pain then

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

grabs his leg with his fingers ripping open wide the hole in his pants made by the arrow earlier and finds the mark where the arrow wounded him...

The ARROW WOUND suddenly appears fresh and reopens by itself, a stream of fresh BLOOD flows out.

DAVID yells out in horror and instantly clenches his bleeding leg. Looks around for something. Takes the wet rag on the floor and presses it against his wound. BLOOD leaks out.

DAVID runs/hobbles to the

EATING ROOM

in a near panic and desperately looks in cupboards and behind little doors for something, SLAMMING them back shut in frustration.

DAVID looks up and finds a towel-like cloth laying on a high shelf and reaches for it but instantly cries out in pain, clutching his shoulder then collapsing to the floor with the towel in his hand and after a moment of regaining strength he tightly wraps his leg with it to a near tourniquet. BLOOD oozes from the towel and through his fingers. David cries out again, but more from an inconvenient anger.

HANNA OS

What's wrong?

David darts around and

HANNA

is quietly standing in the middle of the living room, holding her blindfold at her side.

We quickly find her EYES. They are closed.

DAVID takes a timid step forward.

HANNA

All I have to do is open my eyes and  
you would burst into flames.

DAVID immediately stops.

DAVID

Is that what the blindfold is for!

HANNA puts the blindfold back on...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

HANNA

The blindfold is to stop the questions. I don't need it. My eyes are closed all the time but if I choose to open them the blindfold is useless to stop it.

(beat)

Imagine people seeing you walk around with your eyes constantly closed. Their questions never stop.

DAVID waits a steady beat while grimacing in pain.

HANNA (CONT'D)

It's my curse.

DAVID looks back at her.

DAVID

Is that what happened out there! You started to open them? To use them as a weapon?

HANNA shies.

HANNA

You were in danger! You needed protection! I was trying to help.

DAVID

Help? I didn't need help!

DAVID almost collapses from pain but keeps himself from falling.

Beat, as HANNAH looks on.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I shot him good.

DAVID finally loses strength and falls on the floor. He exhales in pain something deep. Something emotional.

HANNA rushes over to him and falls at his side, taking him, but David resists her. Hanna respects his space.

DAVID settles and sits up right, holding his leg. BLOOD seeps out through the cloth. In his pain he gives Hanna a condemning look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID (CONT'D)

What are you then? Tell me the truth.  
No tricks.

(beat)

Are you a witch or what-

HANNA

-no!

DAVID

Then what, Hanna? What are you?

(rising)

You made a wolf appear in your room  
when I...I mean...I swear I thought  
that was you sleeping in there. I  
watched you breathe.

HANNA builds courage...

HANNA

That wasn't me.

DAVID reexamines her shy posture. She's hiding something.

DAVID

What do you mean? I saw it! You made-

HANNA

That wasn't me!

DAVID waits for the punch...

DAVID

But...

HANNA slowly faces him...

HANNA

David...

DAVID forces himself to stand up as if he might need to run  
away. Then waits with angst...

HANNA (CONT'D)

(with gravity)

That was you.

DAVID is in shock and disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID  
(sotto)  
What?

DAVID takes a step back as Hanna stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
What do you mean? What are you saying?  
(beat)  
Tell me!

HANNA steps closer to him.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Stop! Don't come near me.

HANNA  
David, it was you. You made that wolf  
appear.

DAVID  
Don't lie. Don't lie. No tricks! Tell  
me the truth!

HANNA  
I am honest. I don't lie. It was you.  
There is something about you have yet  
to accept.

DAVID'S mind wanders to an unbelievable revelation that is  
starting to manifest in him, reaching the surface...

HANNA (CONT'D)  
(quieter)  
It was you. You made it happen.

DAVID  
(uncertain)  
I made that thing, *appear*?

HANNA calmly shakes her head.

HANNA  
No. Not appear, but...

DAVID turns to her with fright.

CLOSE ON HANNA

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA (CONT'D)

(louder)

It was you.

(beat)

It has always been you. You just  
didn't know it.

(flashback omitted)

The ECHOING SOUND of a WOLF HOWLING outside.

DAVID shakes his head "No".

HANNA takes another step closer to him...

(flashback omitted)

DAVID is looking at Hannah in sheer panic. Eyes watering  
over.

HANNA (CONT'D)

You follow life wherever you go. To  
end it if necessary. This is your  
nature. Your purpose...you play it out  
in your life...your job.

DAVID rejects this revelation.

HANNA (CONT'D)

I was tracking a wolf for three days  
when I found you.

(flashback omitted)

ECHOING SOUND OF AN EAGLE'S CRY

HANNA (CONT'D)

You have the wolf spirit.

DAVID takes another step backwards.

DAVID

Stop telling lies. That's impossible.  
This place!

(he looks around)

All of it.

HANNA

Things happened long ago in you that  
you remembered as just dreams.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA starts to advanced David.

DAVID suddenly feels uncomfortable. Trapped.

HANNA (CONT'D)

But they weren't.

HANNA stops right in front of a nervous David. She reaches out her hand to his face...

DAVID

Wait. What are you doing?

HANNA

*Remember.*

Hanna touches his FOREHEAD.

BEGIN DAVID'S CHILDHOOD FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET - DAY

31

David (8) and two of his boyhood friends are playing stick ball in the street. The scene is in half slow motion with muffled sounds.

DAVID swings at a pitch and knocks a ball hard over a neighbor's wooden fence.

CLOSE on David as he stares at the fence with a troubled look on his face. In the distant, dream like sound we can hear the two boys voice their disappointment that their ball is lost.

AT THE WOODEN FENCE FULL SPEED

DAVID peaks in between the planks and sees the ball lying in the dirt.

We can hear the background sound of the two boys telling him to go get it.

Through DAVID'S POV we are looking through the space of the planks and see a DOG HOUSE at the far end.

DAVID hesitates, then starts climbing over the fence.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

DAVID lands on the ground making a thud. He looks towards the HOUSE to see if anyone has noticed him. A LITTLE GIRL appears in the upstairs WINDOW.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A SOUND comes from the DOGHOUSE.

Back at the WINDOW, the little girl is gone.

We hear the BOYS telling him to hurry up.

In fear DAVID creeps to the ball without waking the mysterious dog inside.

But he steps on a stick and it CRACKS.

A slight GRUFF from the DOGHOUSE.

DAVID freezes and stares deep into the DOGHOUSE.

We ZOOM into the BLACK VOID of its entrance. The gruff has now turned into a growl. From a boys POV everything is magnified in terror, greater than reality.

Little DAVID wets himself and a pool of urine forms at his feet.

CLOSER in the BLACK VOID... The GROWLS are thunderous to us.

DAVID is shaking...

Stepping out of the DARK ENTRANCE is a BLACK DOG showing his teeth.

We can still hear the MUFFLED SOUNDS from the two boys egging him on.

DAVID looks back at the fence for an escape then back at the dog.

IN SLOW MOTION the DOG charges...

DAVID is frozen in fear as we ZOOM towards him from the dog's POV. But his LIP purses and his BROW furls.

FROM THE TWO BOY'S SIDE OF THE FENCE

A HOWL from a wolf.

The TWO BOYS slowly come close to the fence...then a tremendous THUMP to the fence where they stand. They shoot back a step.

A YELP from the dog and a TEARING of flesh and CRACKING of bone sound...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SILENCE...

The two boys look at each other.

More RATTLING on the fence as the boys look up in fear...

DAVID emerges over the fence with the ball in his hand.

DAVID lands on his feet in front of the two boys with a certain confidence in his eyes.

The larger of the boys tries to take ball from David's grip but David pushes him to the ground and then gives the other boy a hard look who instinctively steps aside.

DAVID walks into the street and picks up the bat and walks away without looking back.

The two boys rush to the fence and looks through the spaces and from their POV we see a BLOODY MESS!

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

32

DAVID is searching his thoughts then peers into HANNA'S SLEEPING ROOM...

WE CUT to her BED then to the DARK CORNER and hold...

DAVID looks back at HANNA with a certain renewed confidence.

HANNA

It started again when you came here.

Years of doubt about his secret ability has suddenly been erased in David's mind.

DAVID

Why now?

HANNA

Maybe it's this place.

(beat)

Or...

DAVID

Or what?

HANNA

(mysteriously)

Maybe something else.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA makes a beeline towards David-

DAVID  
(still uneasy)  
Whoa.

HANNA starts looking under his clothing...pulling the back of his shirt up...sliding up his sleeves, looking for something.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Whoa!

HANNA  
(sotto)  
It's got to be here.

DAVID  
Hey. What are you doing?

HANNA  
Looking for something.

HANNA ruffles his hair near his neck then suddenly stops.

DAVID  
Looking for what?

HANNA rolls up one of her sleeves above one of her wrist exposing her tattooed marks of the prophecy and shows David.

HANNA  
This.

DAVID  
You've got to be crazy. I have no birthmarks, especially that one-

HANNA  
-that you know about.

Hanna rifles through David's hair again just under the base of his skull...

CLOSE UP on David's HAIR where Hanna sifts through it...We see something and

HANNA stops.

HANNA (CONT'D)  
There.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CLOSE UP on David's HAIR as Hanna rifles again and stops right on the hidden MARK. It is barely noticeable.

Hanna brings up her TATTOOED MARK on her wrist next to David's mark under his hair...It's a match

HANNA (CONT'D)

It's the same mark.

Hanna lowers her arm and faces him and holds a beat as David waits.

HANNA (CONT'D)

That's why. It's not this place. It's me. We're connected somehow.

\*

DAVID loses strength again and begins to slump.

HANNA helps David to her bed in her

SLEEPING ROOM.

DAVID is quickly losing strength and starting to sweat.

HANNA momentarily leaves then comes back with a wet rag and bowl of water. She dips the rag into the water, rings it out and places it on his forehead.

More BLOOD drips from his leg.

DAVID groans in new pain and clutches his shoulder.

Hanna moves his hand away and looks under his shirt and we see a fresh black and blue MARK that has appeared.

HANNA (CONT'D)

You're getting worse. We're running out of time.

(facing him)

Your day is coming closer.

DAVID

What day? What day have you been talking about?

HANNA

Your *death* day.

DAVID

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA

We all have one David. Your's was two days ago.

\*

DAVID

What are you talking about!

\*

HANNA

You were meant to die in the Black River two days ago.

David groans again.

HANNA attempts to make him comfortable.

DAVID

Can't you just do what you did before?

HANNA

I can't. I only postponed it. I can't do it again without a great sacrifice.  
(solemn)

When you reject your purpose the universe has a way of completing it and when it does it happens much more violently and quickly.

The WOUND on David's shoulder suddenly splits open and fresh blood pours out! DAVID cries out in great pain.

HANNA re-soaks the rag and places it on his shoulder.

David struggles to cope then finally catches his breath.

DAVID

I'm sorry now that I looked at you.

HANNA

That was only a peek. Imagine when I release all this power, like a weapon...

HANNA suddenly pauses.

DAVID

What?

HANNA

(sotto)  
Like a weapon.  
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA (CONT'D)

I saw what was in your satchel bag  
when we were at the waterfall. I saw  
the weapon you are trying to return.

DAVID

What weapon? It's just a mask.

HANNA

No. It is not. Didn't you see what it  
did to me when Pale Wolf exposed it?

DAVID

You're telling me he used that thing  
against you as though he knew what it  
would do to you?

HANNA

(beat)

Yes.

DAVID

Tell me, what did I get myself into.

HANNA

That mask, it is no ordinary mask.

BEGIN MONTAGE OF MASK ORIGIN

--The scene CLOSE UP and is ash grey in color. Four pairs of  
HANDS belonging to natives scrape out heaps of mud. There is  
a low hum in the background, maybe from human chanting or  
maybe from something more sinister.

HANNA VO

After a sacrifice was met, their gods  
told them where to find it.

The hands scrape faster...and faster to the rising  
hum...until...a skull of a deformed bull's head is uncovered.  
Its horns are broken off. The skull looks as though the  
animal had Elephantiasis.

The hands work fast and furious until the skull is unearthed.  
We FOLLOW it as it is raised up in the air for anybody to  
witness...higher until it stops at a level with a distant  
fire in the background. The YELLOW flames flicker through the  
skull's eye sockets and as the ash grey scene FADES OUT the  
yellow flames behind the skull looks like two glowing red  
eyes blazing right at us!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

--The SKULL is being boiled in a large cauldron where the liquid it is in is blood looking.

An old woman's HAND pours in ashes in the red boiling liquid and stirs the pot. Chants are barely heard in the distance.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They were dedicating it. Giving it power.

DAVID VO

Over what?

HANNA VO

Over me!

SMASH CUT TO:

--A younger HANNA, wearing a blindfold, is standing in the center of the reservation, making motions with her hands and with every distinct wave a terrorized person is hurdled through the air as if an invisible force is slinging bodies around...against a tree!...another thrown to the ground...and yet another is tossed upside down and lands hard on the ground. Little HANNA is easily destroying people.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

I was more powerful than they feared.  
I couldn't be stopped. The prophecy  
written against them came true...

A RED GLOW flares up behind LITTLE HANNA'S BLINDFOLD...

QUICK FLASH

CAVE

A yellow light flickers against the cave's wall and WE PULL IN TIGHT on the DRAWING of the enlarged head being with shooting beams coming from it and the other smaller beings running away on fire.

END QUICK FLASH

The RED GLOW turns into sharp beams illuminating out in all directions.

From LITTLE HANNA'S POV we see through an hallucination of red filter lenses and in SLOW MOTION smaller beings run from Hanna in terror. These BEINGS spontaneously ignite. The scene is horrendous.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They knew they were doomed. And instead of leaving the Black River that led them to this place they devised a plan to protect themselves from my judgment.

An old WOMAN enters in front of our red lens frame. She looks like a medicine doctor or a witch with charms dangling from her. She is very close to us.

OLD WOMAN

WITCH!

--A crowd of Natives walk together to an open clearing in the woods and stops in front of a large ancient STATUE with horrible carvings on it. The surrounding woods appear dead in this spot. The NATIVES fall to their knees.

We COME CLOSE to the top of this statue where a demon looking face is carved...

HANNA VO

So they asked for help from their false god.

--The four sets of ash grey HANDS feverishly scramble in the mud, revealing the white skull underneath.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

Their false god told them where to dig.

--The SKULL is raised high in front of a fire in the dark night. The flaming eyes stare at us with HUMMING BASS!

--HANNA is sleeping on a bed of straw in the

CAVE

from earlier.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They found me, as I was hiding away from their persecution and judgment.

Four sets of ash grey HANDS violently confine her to the ground and quickly tie her with thick rope but as they do they are unaware that HANNA has secretly taken a flint arrowhead from off the ground nearby. She is pushed down to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA, lying from her back, facing the small group, begins to emit the searing RED GLOW from behind her blindfold but-

-from her RED LENS POV WE CLOSE UP on the SKULL, fixed with ropes from the edges, that is held right in front of her by the four pairs of ash grey hands. It comes near to us until the red glow fades away to DARKNESS.

REVERSE POV, the HANDS fix the skull onto her face like a mask, securing it with the rope attached to it as Hanna SCREAMS.

--In a canoe HANNA, wearing the mask, is floated down the BLACK RIVER. It is foggy on the river, still and eerie.

A WOLF HOWLS.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They were going to get rid of their  
little problem.

CUT TO:

--HANNA is dumped over-board and she disappears under the river's deep depths.

HANNA lands at the bottom and starts to struggle free then after a moment she pulls out the hidden arrowhead and starts cutting herself free from her binds.

Moments later the binds snap loose and she pushes her way above.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They thought they could end me.

RISING out of the water in SLOW MOTION is HANNA wearing the horrific skull. Her presence is menacing.

HANNA is about waist-high when she raises up both arms where the ropes dangle freely.

The SMALL GROUP in the canoe look back behind them and find Hanna rising up.

HANNA, with freed hands, reaches behind her and unties the mask. The skull comes loose and she throws it into the water.

The SMALL GROUP (the four ash grey natives and the witch doctor) are horrified.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

They had every right to be in afraid.

HANNA takes off her blindfold.

The atmosphere and the air changes to a lull pressure, shadows of clouds where there are no clouds...a grey-ing of color over trees and water. It's a coldness enveloping.

From Hanna's EYES a piercing crystal fire. White hot. And from behind a deep red glow, like the sun. Impending doom around her. Massive bass humming moving heavy air.

The SMALL GROUP immediately start rowing their canoe away from Hannah in haste.

HANNA VO (CONT'D)

And for the first time, I opened my eyes and allowed this curse to be unleashed on those who followed the ways of the native natives long ago.

A GIANT SHOCK WAVE of LIGHT suddenly rolls over the SMALL GROUP and they simply disappear as though they were never there just leaving the canoe to float away.

CLOSE ON HANNA and her EYES...the bright light from then dims and we can finally see her real natural eyes...they are so crystal like they look as though an undiscovered sea is churning and crashing in between the cliffs...

The BLINDFOLD comes up and covers them.

Hanna leaves the river...

MOMENTS LATER:

The CAMERA MOVES up along a ledge and behind a boulder and we find PALE WOLF, RIFLE WARRIOR and BOW WARRIOR crouched. They have been witnessing this whole scene in secret.

From their POV they watch HANNA step out of the Black River and disappear into the woods.

The THREE are amazed and say something inaudible to each other then step off.

MOMENTS LATER:

The THREE come up to the bank and stop. They are looking around for something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Moments later RIFLE WARRIOR finds something floating in the shallows and says something quick and inaudible to the other two who immediately rush over to him and stop. Something at their feet...

SLOWLY PANNING DOWN we come upon the SKULL resting in the lazy water with its ropes waving in the water like calm tentacles.

PALE WOLF reaches down and pulls out the skull. He stares at it. Empowered by IT.

COMING CLOSER TO IT the HUMMING BASS QUES UP.

END MONTAGE OF MASK ORIGIN

In Hanna's

SLEEPING ROOM - NIGHT

DAVID is barely awake and sweating.

Hanna is still wiping his forehead with the cool rag.

HANNA

I never knew what happened to the mask after that day...until Pale Wolf took it out of your satchel and raised it up.

DAVID turns to her in guilt.

DAVID

(weak)

Hanna, I didn't know what it meant...I was just doing a job.

HANNA drops the rag in the bowl and sits still next to him on the floor.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

HANNA

Pale Wolf must have sold it to the fat man for money. And when his money ran out they stole it and wanted to return it for a reward.

HANNA turns towards him.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

HANNA (CONT'D)

But I guess you were first in line.  
And because of your two's earthly  
greed death follows you.  
(beat)

HANNA (CONT'D)

My knife became a coward and I spared  
you from your day.

SOUNDS of twigs breaking outside.

HANNA (CONT'D)

And now you led them back here.

David realizes what he's done.

DAVID

They found the mask. They got what  
they wanted?

HANNA

No.

More twigs breaking and leaves rustling.

HANNA (CONT'D)

A war is coming. It follows  
you...EVERYWHERE!

HANNA gets up and walk out.

DAVID

Hanna. Wait. I'm sorry. I didn't know.

DAVID let's his head fall back unto the straw bed. His HEAD  
is sweaty with beads of perspiration. His EYES fall heavy.  
David falls unconscious.

EXT. BLACK RIVER - NIGHT

33

DAVID is in a canoe, softy floating down a river. It's darker  
than normal outside as if all the stars are missing. The snow-  
covered pine trees on either side of the bank are barely  
visible. He is unsure if what is happening and he feels a  
sense of helplessness.

FOG suddenly appears on the water.

An eagle SCREAMS over head.

The fog gets thicker as his canoe travels a little faster.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The HOWLS of wolves from the bank...

Then David notices something ahead, in the thick mist...

...rising out of the black water is that same masked figure.

David looks around the canoe for any way to control his descent. But there is none. He panics.

The masked form rises higher to meet him...

A BRIGHT RED LIGHT starts to glow behind the mask figure...

The river is at waist level now and as the mask form rises higher we can see that it is holding a MIGHTY WEAPON in both hands.

DAVID is in awe and paralyzed with fear as he looks on.

The growing RED GLOW behind the masked form is now turning into a blaze of fire! The bright flames are beaming out through the heavy fog.

David's canoe is getting closer to this intimidating form as the RED GLOW intensifies.

Now we can see that the mighty weapon is a SPIKY SWORD, something homemade where its intent is to draw out fear from the enemy.

The masked ENTITY now raises this weapon above its head...

DAVID is so close now that he is starting to raise his eyes up to it.

For the first time we can hear HORSE BREATHING from this creature and its CHEST take in air.

And just before the mighty sword comes down to strike David he/we see suddenly get a glimpse of another FIGURE right behind the mask form. The FACE of the figure is whited out by a bright light in the very center but fading red.

DAVID look back up to the MASKED FORM and the SWORD comes down but we are blinded by a WHITE FLASH!

SMASH CUT TO:

BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT FADES OUT:

INT. HANNA'S CABIN - SLEEPING ROOM - NIGHT

34

DAVID slowly comes out of his sleep and makes sense of his surroundings. It's darker than it was when Hanna was speaking with him earlier but there's a sharp yellow light coming from the living room seen from the DOORWAY of the sleeping room.

DAVID instinctively tries to get up but instantly regrets it.

BLOOD all over his wounded leg, more than before.

David looks under the collar to his shirt and finds a SEVERELY WOUNDED SHOULDER.

We hear an inaudible voice in the living room and a shadow moving.

DAVID fights his pain and stands up with a grimace.

FROM DAVID'S POV we are moving towards the door to the living room and as we go through the scene is lit up by a flaming torch held by a BOW WARRIOR near the front door. Beside him is Rifle Warrior and Pale Wolf who is holding David's satchel with something in it. Pale Wolf's NECK has a bandage on it from David's shot.

HANNA is standing still in the middle of the room with her head lowered. A look of a prisoner.

PALE WOLF notices David and looks over his GHASTLY WOUNDS, then smirks.

PALE WOLF

I told you we were coming back with  
fire.

BOW WARRIOR

(confused)

And yet they came back.

The FLICKERING TORCH.

DAVID looks back at the STRAW BED in the sleeping room. Then back at Pale Wolf.

Bow Warrior's paranoia increases-

BOW WARRIOR (CONT'D)

Why!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID

-What do you want?

(at the satchel)

You already have Mr. Stone's prize.  
You can have my fee, too. Just leave  
her here.

PALE WOLF

(sly grin)

No...We're taking her back to the  
village. To get those marks burnt off.

HANNA pulls her sleeves down over her wrists to hide her  
cursed marks.

DAVID unconsciously reaches for the back of his head. \*

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

The mask is for our protection until  
then.

HANNA

No. There is another way.

DAVID

Hanna! No!

HANNA

You won't need the mask to bind me.

DAVID

(a hard whisper to her)

Hanna, please!

PALE WOLF looks them over in suspicion.

PALE WOLF

What are you two playing at?

(nervous beat)

Speak!

HANNA

You won't need the mask to bind me.  
Just rope.

BOW WARRIOR

(at Pale Wolf)

Don't listen to her, father! She's  
lying. She will burn right through  
them. She will kill us! \*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANNA

No! I can prove it.

HANNA turns towards a weak DAVID.

HANNA (CONT'D)

I can heal him. For good.

DAVID

Hanna. Please. You will be weakened if you do.

PALE WOLF

What are you talking about?

DAVID

Your medicine woman...witch doctor, whatever she has cursed her with the power to end lives at will. A weapon to use against your enemies. But in this slavery of darkness she turned on you and became a plague to your people. Now this mask you have, it binds this power she has. But every time she rebels against that curse she weakens and loses that ability. You won't need the mask.

\*

BOW WARRIOR

Liar! Both of them. It's a trick!

PALE WOLF

Bow!

\*

\*

RIFLE WARRIOR aims his gun at David and is ready to gun him down.

HANNA

No!

DAVID

Go ahead! Put me out of my misery!  
You's be doing me a favor!

HANNA

NO!

(beat)

I can prove it.

BOW WARRIOR

Father!

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF gives her the satisfaction of waiting in curiosity.

HANNA

I can prove it.

HANNA slowly walks over to David and stops close in front of him. She is facing him. A Romeo and Juliet about to be torn apart.

HANNA (CONT'D)

When I touch him, he will be free. But his blackness will be transferred upon me and I will carry his burden.

PALE WOLF is unsure and can't comprehend.

BOW WARRIOR

(in the background)

She's lying...

RIFLE WARRIOR cocks his weapon and takes steady aim.

DAVID is coming to regret his life in front of Hanna. She is untouchable to him. He is unworthy of her sacrifice.

HANNA

(speaking to Pale Wolf while facing David)

And then you will be able to look into my eyes without dying.

DAVID

(sotto)

No... Please.

HANNA turns her head at Pale Wolf, waiting for his decision...

PALE WOLF holds...

BOW WARRIOR

Father! It's a trick. She intends to burn us.

\*

BEAT on PALE WOLF.

PALE WOLF

Put the rifle on the witch.

RIFLE WARRIOR moves his aim on Hanna.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

I don't think you're faster than his  
bullet.

Bow Warrior is nervous. \*

HANNA re-faces David and raises her hand to his forehead,  
stopping inches from his FACE.

DAVID is near a broken spirit. His eyes wander to her  
shameful tattoos on her raised wrist. \*

DAVID

I don't deserve your sacrifice. If you  
do this, you'll die. They will kill  
you. \*

PALE WOLF

(at Rifle Warrior)

Get ready! \*

RIFLE WARRIOR moves his FINGER on the trigger...

HANNA leans close to DAVID...

HANNA

(whispers to him)

So your wolf spirit will live.

HANNA raises her hand up to touch him...

DAVID

Hanna! No!

-HANNA'S FINGER TIPS touch his forehead-

-DAVID cries out from her intense power.

The CABIN shakes and pops.

WIND fills the room causing the FLAME from the torch to  
flicker violently until it is completely blown out.

RIFLE WARRIOR

I can't see!

DAVID writhes in pain.

PALE WOLF

Bow Warrior! Relight the torch!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID is now screaming...

MOON BEAMS shooting from the cracks in the walls are the only light enhancing the scene, chasing away the blackest shadows.

DUST and DIRT vibrate in between the razors of moon light.

DAVID is at the end of his endurance...

Suddenly the WIND vanishes and the cabin ceases to rattle and David stops screaming.

From the slight moon beams coming from the cracked walls we can see DAVID lying on the floor, unconscious and HANNA still standing in place.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Bow!

BOW WARRIOR

(trying to relight the torch)

I'm trying! I'm trying!

HANNA then turns towards the THREE WARRIORS and from their POV she looks like a dimly lit aspiration. (Shades of light and dark grays.)

RIFLE WARRIOR, still holding his rifle on Hanna, has moved his nervous eye to BOW WARRIOR who struggling with a flint and rock.

PALE WOLF OS

Bow!

Bow Warrior STRIKES again. A SPARK FLIES but nothing happens.

HANNA is slowly taking off her blindfold. RIFFLE WARRIOR sees this-

RIFLE WARRIOR

The mask! Use the mask! She will send us to the underworld if you don't.

PALE WOLF quickly reaches in to take out the mask...

HANNA has taken off her blindfold and drops IT on the floor.

RIFLE WARRIOR OS

Hurry!

HANNA'S EYES start to glow WHITE in the surrounding shadows.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

A ghostly look.

The MASK comes out, that grotesque animal skull, just as Bow Warrior relights the TORCH-

HANNA is calmly standing in her place still as WE PAN up to her face and to her EYES. BIG and full of COLORS, but, crystal. Like two living diamonds.

\*

The THREE WARRIORS are stumped and check themselves. All is fine.

HANNA

See, you will not need the mask to  
bind me.

PALE WOLF looks at DAVID, who is coming out of unconsciousness. He is lying on his side, near a fetal position. He opens his EYES and the find HANNA, and her radiant eyes. DAVID is transfixed.

PALE WOLF

Tie her wrists.

RIFLE WARRIOR begins to tie Hanna's wrist as she keeps her EYES on David.

PALE WOLF OS

Victory!

Bow Warrior and Rifle Warrior hoot a learned native cry of victory taught from the early natives.

DAVID casually looks over his WOUNDS. They are completely healed. He looks back up at HANNA who is being mercilessly tied up as she still looks upon him with her LOVING EYES.

DAVID shies his eyes away from hers in shame and unworthiness.

PALE WOLF looks down at the defeated David in disgust. He a proven warrior, David, a shamed modern man.

PALE WOLF

Let's go. We will present her to the  
people as a captured angel, fallen  
from the stars.

DAVID rises his head at Pale Wolf in tremendous courage and defiance, rage in his eyes...only WE can hear a LOW GROWL of a wolf.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Tonight, we burn this witch!

Bow Warrior and Rifle Warrior voice another victory cry as Hanna is dragged towards the front door by her ropes while DAVID helplessly looks on with his own EYES of care over her.

PALE WOLF throws the useless ANIMAL SKULL at David's side interrupting his and Hanna's connection.

DAVID, back on Pale Wolf.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
Keep your money. And never come back.

The EYES of DAVID are burning a hole of murderous rage right through Pale Wolf. His EYES shine with a faint tint of red. \*

PALE WOLF smirks one last time then yanks Hanna through the front door, Rifle warrior following but BOW WARRIOR, stops and and picks up Hanna's blindfold then slings the lit TORCH into the sleeping room and onto the straw bed. It instantly ignites. \*

BOW WARRIOR gives David a reluctant and regretful look. Then hurries out. \*

The WARRIORS VICTORY YELPS are heard outside but fade away.

DAVID jumps up and lunges at the front door to follow...

FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR

DAVID comes flying out a few steps into the open space of the woods and feverishly looks for Hanna.

DAVID'S POV LOOKING OUT INTO THE WOODS

PITCH BLACK...nothing can be seen.

DAVID looks upward into the SKY and we see CLOUDS covering the moon and stars.

DAVID takes a few more daring steps out towards the woods then stops and stares into

DEEP DARKNESS...

DAVID closes his eyes and concentrates...

CLOSE ON DAVID'S EAR

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The SOUNDS of the mountain start to increase in volume.

---A distant OWL.

-RUFFLING of leaves on the ground by a small animal.

-Then a faint CRY from HANNA.

David opens his EYES and we see a few nearby trees in front of him highlighted yellow. The color fades in and out.

DAVID turns around and realizes the light is coming from the flames building up from inside the CABIN.

STEADY CAM follows DAVID as he rushes in the partially burning

CABIN,

into the

SLEEPING ROOM

and starts to beat the INFLAMED STRAW BED with a fur hide. But it is useless.

David looks around and finds his GUN nearby on the floor and picks it up but instantly CRIES OUT and drops it in pain as it is searing hot.

In the

LIVING ROOM

David runs in and picks up the MASK and dashes

OUTSIDE

and stops, turns around to gaze at the BURNING CABIN.

CLOSE UP ON DAVID'S BACK as we SLOWLY PAN DOWN and STOP right in front of the MASK he's holding. Through the EYES SOCKETS of the animal skull we see FLAMES raging.

ZOOM IN on the BLAZING RED EYES. OMINOUS MUSIC ROLLS.

ACT III

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNRISE

35

WE are ZOOMED IN on DAVID and follow him as he stammers past a few trees in near darkness, (he's been walking through the woods all night).

Just a hint of BLUE LIGHT revealing the scene.

As we follow him for a few more seconds the dim blue light suddenly brightens as if a canopy has just been removed overhead letting more light fall down.

REVERSE ON DAVID emerging out of the woods...

A SEMI TRUCK flies by in the foreground.

CUT TO:

DAVID is hitchhiking next to the highway, thumb out. The SKULL hanging from his hand.

Several CARS go by without stopping.

CUT TO:

Finally, a PICKUP TRUCK slows and stops next to David. The passenger's side window rolls down and we see a well meaning man's face.

PICKUP DRIVER

You okay?

DAVID, holding the relic by his side...

DAVID

(looking down the highway)

Just need to get somewhere.

The PICKUP DRIVER quickly peeks at the STRANGE ANIMAL SKULL in David's hand. Then looks back at DAVID with uncertainty.

DAVID (CONT'D)

At the end of Hope Drive.

(nervous beat)

You know where that's at?

Reluctant beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PICKUP DRIVER  
Yeah. Come on. Get it.

David gets in.

INSIDE TRUCK

David shuts the door. Places the SKULL in the floorboard.

The DRIVER takes another peek at it then back at DAVID who is avoiding his stare.

The DRIVER clears his throat of something then puts the truck in drive.

From a POV FROM WITHIN THE WOODS we watch the truck drive away.

INT. MR. STONE'S OFFICE - DAY

36

ANGLE ON OFFICE DOOR being opened and MR. STONE, fat, wearing suspenders over a stained button up shirt walking through followed by six armed personal, a worthless, hack security detail.

MR. STONE is staring at something as he walks towards the back of the room.

Mr. Stone stops at a side wall in front of a liquor bench. He pours himself some fine scotch from a crystal bottle as he from time to time keeps turning his head towards something, as if this thing has possessed his attention.

Mr. Stone takes a quick sip from the glass tumbler and head to his

DESK

then sits in his great chair...his little thrown.

The SIX SECURITY GUARDS line both walls next to Mr. Stone, three on either side then in some practiced coordination they do a "parade rest". An overly embellished movement for their class.

MR. STONE lights a cigar while his EYES dart back and forth to that mysterious object of desire.

The ZIPPO is flung on the desk as MR. STONE swivels his chair around to look upon that object-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE UP ON THE BACK OF THE CHAIR

As WE PAN UP...from the center of the CHAIR...to the top finding MR. STONE'S HEAD...a wisp of CIGAR SMOKE... in the background is an unfocused back wall...

The BACK WALL starts to focus and we see it's the earlier wall from before where many UNIQUE WEAPONS are displayed. Mr. Stone's pride and joy.

QUICK SHOTS OF THE UNIQUE WEAPONS

--A TERRIFYING CLUB from a cannibalistic tribe.

--A WAILERS HOOK and HARPOON.

--A HORRIFYING SWORD with spikes.

--CROSSED K-BARS, military issue.

--A DAMAGED BATTLE HAMMER, obviously used, from the dark ages.

END QUICK SHOTS OF THE UNIQUE WEAPONS

We focus on several SPACES where the spots are empty, where previous weapons used to hang, only etched by a dusty shadow made from their resting place...

QUICK SHOTS OF EMPTY OUTLINED SPACES

--A BOW and ARROW.

--A HATCHET.

--A FRONTIER RIFLE.

END QUICK SHOTS OF EMPTY OUTLINED SPACES

Finally, the camera rests on an outlined spot of the display and ZOOMS OUT revealing it is the very center of the collection on the wall. From the outline of dust is the MASK.

MR. STONE whips around, facing us, FURIOUS, and screams out to nobody in particular except to the inattentive security guards acting as living statues...

MR. STONE  
Where is he!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

INSIDE PICKUP TRUCK

ON DRIVER who's been building up courage at this point to ask David about the strange animal skull. He keeps darting his eyes back and forth from the mask to the road. He can't help it.

DAVID seems agitated.

PICKUP DRIVER  
So...where's all your camping gear?

Beat.

DAVID  
I don't have any.  
(beat)  
Got lost. I've been walking all night.

DRIVER keeps eyeing the mask.

PICKUP DRIVER  
See you picked up a souvenir along the way.

David finally looks at the driver, dead in the eye. EYES full of sorrow, rage, despair...

The DRIVER regrets his pry. Makes light of the situation...

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)  
Well, you never know what you'll find in there...do ya?

Shocked lightning from David! Almost hysteric.

The SOUND of a great beast GROWLING.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)  
Whoa!

The DRIVER jerks his head towards the bed of the truck looking through the window for the beast he just heard but there is nothing.

The DRIVER looks back at David with embarrassing fear.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)  
Did you hear...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

David's EYES are wild.

DAVID  
Could you go faster?

PICKUP DRIVER  
That's certainly not a problem.

The driver guns it.

DAVID satisfied with the driver's compliance looks out his window and notices something up in the air.

DAVID'S POV

We see the EAGLE soaring over head. It SCREAMS.

FROM THE EAGLES POV

The PICKUP TRUCK is small, flowing down a winding, black highway looking like a black river. OMINOUS MUSIC...

WE ZOOM OUT until the truck looks like a dot on a barren map, traveling to its destination.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

38

We go from one TERRIFYING NATIVE FACE to the next. Young and old. The NATIVES stumble over themselves in fear and run for safety.

PALE WOLF, BOW WARRIOR and RIFLE WARRIOR enter the village dragging HANNA behind them with rope.

She is blindfolded with a new, RED BLINDFOLD from the three.

PALE WOLF  
Do not be afraid!

The SCARED NATIVES calm with uncertainty. One yells out, "Where is the mask!".

PALE WOLF stops Hanna.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
There is no need! This angel is mortal! Watch.

Pale Wolf slides down the RED BLINDFOLD from her face and positions it over her mouth as a gag.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

HANNA'S EYES are closed.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)  
 (to Hanna)  
 Open your eyes.  
 (beat)  
 Open them!

HANNA slowly opens her EYES...revealing her big, starlight color. The eyes of pure righteousness, shaming all others.

The fear from the NATIVES turn to confident chastisement. They suddenly grow bold and safe. Their new found safety turns to anger...than to violence.

ELDER NATIVE  
 Burn her! Burn the witch!

The natives hurl rocks and food at HANNA in anger, striking her face and body.

The rest of the crowd rises up with the elder, chanting, "Burn her, burn her!".

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

39

The pickup truck turns onto

HOPE DRIVE

INSIDE THE TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

The DRIVER seems a little uneasy. DAVID is impatient.

PICKUP DRIVER  
 Now where?

DAVID  
 All the way to the end.  
 (beat)  
 Up the canyon. Hurry.

The truck suddenly stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing!

The DRIVER can't even look at David and is on the verge of stuttering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PICKUP DRIVER  
I can't anymore. I'm sorry.

The DRIVER finally turns to David.

PICKUP DRIVER (CONT'D)  
I know who lives up there.  
(beat)  
We all do. I'm sorry. Will you please  
just get out and have a nice day.

DAVID stares at the driver with steady intensity for a beat but then softens and decides to have a nice day after all.

David gets out of the truck taking the mask with him, closes the door and looks through the window.

DAVID  
Thank you. You too.

The TRUCK speeds away in the other direction.

DAVID looks up the canyon and starts walking...

As we watch David walk away from us up the street the atmosphere slowly darkens, like an eclipse event. The natural color of the world fades to a slow RED GLOW.

A low REVERBERATING BASS SOUND as the red lens darkens. The darker the red gets the louder and deeper the bass.

DISSOLVE TO:

In DEEP RED the FACE of Hanna... She is growing weak. The gag still in her mouth. She is sweating and exhausted. We SLOWLY PULL AWAY until we see her hands are tied to a stake above her head.

Eventually the RED fades to BLACK

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN AUDIO:

SOMEONE'S VO  
He's here.

MR. STONE VO  
Finally. Bring that scab to me.

FADE IN:

INT. MR. STONE'S OFFICE - NIGHTFALL

40

The DOORS to the office swing open revealing TWO SECURITY GUARDS escorting DAVID in who is triumphantly carrying the long lost relic, the ANIMAL SKULL.

The two security guards take their position at either side of Mr. Stone's desk.

DAVID is giving Mr. Stone a MURDEROUS look.

MR. STONE casually sips from his tumbler while holding a lit cigar. He looks David over with contempt and suspicion then brings the cigar to his mouth.

IN SLOW MOTION

CLOSE UP on MR. STONE blowing out the heavy smoke. BLUE SMOKE suffocates the frame.

One of David's free hands reaches under his waistband behind his back to pull out his gun. His eyes searches the two security guard...

His GUN is partially pulled out when-

SMASH CUT TO:

FOUR other security guards enter the room and line the walls. All six guards stand frozen in place.

David cautiously slides his gun back under its hiding place.

Mr. Stone dashing his cigar in the ash tray, releasing loose embers.

MR. STONE

I was beginning to worry about you.

DAVID doesn't flinch. He's all business. The mask is held behind him.

MR. STONE takes a look. Notices it. Relaxes.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

What happened out there? Get lost.

All six of the GUARDS CHUCKLE in perfect unison, driven by fearful obedience. Their chuckle SMASHES TO A QUICK and SILENT HALT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID is comically vexed at this display.

DAVID  
Somebody found me.

MR. STONE lets a little admirable grin escape the corner of his mouth. Then takes another sip.

DAVID impatiently cracks his neck.

MR. STONE  
Well, anyway, it looks like you came out unscathed.

DAVID lets a half breath jump out.

MR. STONE SNAPS his fingers!

One of the security guards instantly arrives at the desk and throws down a LITTLE BLACK BOX then jumps back into place at the wall.

DAVID looks them over with a certain peculiarity. If they didn't move he wouldn't believe they were human.

MR. STONE puts a hand on the box.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
(playful but deadly)  
Come and get it.

DAVID advances-

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
-Slowly!

DAVID CREEPS up to the desk and stops.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
Now, hand it over...slowly.

DAVID centers the IMPISH MASK in front of his employer.

MR. STONE waits a beat then slowly lays his BEADY BLACK EYES on it. Then starts to fake cry while taking it from David.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
Oh how I've missed you. My sweet,  
sweet darling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE UP ON THE SKULL. A LOW BASS SOUND is heard.

CLOSE UP ON MR. STONE as he is putting his face closer to it. He closes his eyes then softly kisses the mask.

An awkward beat.

Suddenly, Mr. Stone puts the mask down carelessly on the desk as if the romance is not for prying eyes then put his hand back on the LITTLE BLACK BOX.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

So. I guess you want what's in this box, don't you?

DAVID doesn't have time for this stupid man.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

Well. Don't you-

DAVID

-Don't I what?

A YELLOW GOLDEN LIGHT SHINES on DAVID'S FACE. His eyes are transfixed on the prize, but just for a moment-

-Mr. Stone slams the lid back down.

MR. STONE

Say it. I want you to say that you want what's inside this box.

(beat)

Just say it.

DAVID square up a dead look right in this lowlife's eye. MR. STONE squares up as well. A face off.

David wants to end this, right now. All of it. The temptation is killing him.

HANNA VO

(echoing)

...you are not free.

DAVID softens his stare...

MR. STONE settles some as though he won some contest.

Mr. Stone slides the BOX away...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE  
I guess not.

DAVID  
The deal isn't finished.

Mr. Stone stops, a little upbeat.

MR. STONE  
Oh?

DAVID  
I found *her*.

Mr. Stone slacks into his seat. A square blow has landed. He counters.

MR. STONE  
(intimidating)  
Who?

DAVID  
Your darling.

MR. STONE glances at the dead animal's skull.

MR. STONE  
She's dead.

Beat.

DAVID  
No.

David opens his shirt to where the hatchet wounded his SHOULDER, now barely a line of scar tissue.

David reveals the HEALED WOUND through the ripped hole in his pants. Nothing but a small discoloration now.

MR. STONE is in an emotional fit of reserved rage from being duped and of being overjoyed of this news.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
She was in hiding. Deep, within the woods.

MR. STONE drifts off...ponders the time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE  
(sotto)  
My darling...

DAVID  
I know you've missed her...  
(jabbing)  
...after she ran from you...

MR. STONE almost erupts in rage.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
...and what it would mean to have her  
back again.

The game of power is shifting.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
To control the greatest weapon the  
world has ever seen...

MR. STONE is nearing the end of his resolve...

CLOSE ON DAVID.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Say it. I want you to say it.

Long beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(playful but deadly)  
All you have to do is say it.

MR. STONE  
How much-

DAVID  
-Double-

MR. STONE  
-Done!

MR. STONE comes out of his angst and looks hard at David.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
But this time...

DAVID is reaching for the BOX while keeping his eyes on Mr. Stone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
...we're coming with you.

ALL SIX of the SECURITY GUARDS begin to CHUCKLE in unison.  
Their practiced chuckle lulls away in a low base...

...A REVERBERATING LOW BASS.

FADE TO BLACK:

OUT OF THE BLACKNESS THE FRAME SLOWLY TURNS INTO A DEEP RED:

The LOW BASS SOUND INCREASES. The red frame starts shifting like waves in an ocean...making solid shapes...until we see the CLOSE UP FACE of HANNA behind invisible heat waves. The gag still in her mouth. She is more and more weary and weakened. She fights for survival...

The face of Hanna in the red frame DISSOLVES into FULL COLOR and a CLOSE UP of...

INT. PERSONNEL CARRIER - NIGHT

41

DAVID.

He is looking straight at us...piercing eyes of objection and focus and determination.

WE ZOOM OUT and see that he is sitting on a bench inside a personnel carrier or truck being rattled by a shaky ride.

ZOOMING OUT FURTHER we see the SECURITY GUARDS with their machine guns, sitting motionless in their own overly and comically disciplined reality.

The CAMERA REVERSES DAVID'S POV onto MR. STONE.

STILL SLOWLY ZOOMING OUT we see Mr. Stone is holding the MASK in his lap.

REVERSE BACK TO DAVID, ZOOMING IN QUICKER, SHOOTING EXTREME CLOSE UP INTO HIS EYES. His dark color fades to a DEEP RED IRIS.

HOLD a beat...

A NOTICEABLE GROWL FROM A WOLF!

SMASH CUT TO:



INT. PERSONNEL CARRIER - SECONDS LATER

42

ANGLE ON

DAVID who is looking at his watch.

MR. STONE

So!

ALL the SECURITY GUARDS suddenly STOMP one foot on the floor in perfect unison for no apparent reason other than to wake David from his daydream and force his attention on their boss.

MR. STONE has a little grin of power about him. DAVID could care less.

MR. STONE clears his throat.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

Those natives out there, they talk about a death day... You ever hear something like that?

DAVID ignores him.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

It's like a birthday but for the day you die.

(holding for dramatic effect)

Sort of like a surprise. Like a surprise party.

DAVID allows his attention to slightly be given to his employer. He barely looks up at Mr. Stone.

MR. STONE tilts his head and pauses as if trying to hear something outside the truck. Then back at David.

BEADY BLACK EYES.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

We're about to go to a party.

(evil grin)

A war party.

The SECURITY GUARDS SUDDENLY CHARGE THEIR WEAPONS ALL AT ONCE. ALL SIX BOLTS SLAM FORWARD!

DAVID is now fully awaken from his daydream.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mr. Stone's GRIN grows more devilish...

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
Tell me Mr. Cross... Do you know when  
you're having your death day?

DAVID  
Yes.

MR. STONE  
(surprised and insulted)  
Oh, you do, do ya!  
(beat)  
And what day is that?

DAVID  
It was yesterday.

MR. STONE IS STUMPED. LOOKS over David's WOUNDS. Understands how they were healed. Then looks into the mask and finally back at DAVID with an air of concern. He's about to say something-

DAVID (CONT'D)  
-When's yours?

MR. STONE is FURIOUS all over again as David counters with another solid jab.

TWO SECURITY GUARDS nearest David simultaneously punch him in the gut!

MR. STONE  
(at the driver)  
FASTER!

We hear the ENGINE pulling harder.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

43

The SOUND of a rock slowly scraping metal...

Pale Wolf is sharpening his axe with a round stone. SHHHHTT!

A wet whipping sound in the background... SLASHHH!

SHHHHTT! SSHHHHTT!

And another SLASHHH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF stops his sharpening and looks down on the white ground and we see a tiny river of blood inching its way towards his moccasin.

SLASHHH! Followed by a THUDD!

He moves his foot away before the blood touches him.

SLASSHH!

We PAN LOW over the river of blood, gently rising up revealing an UNCONSCIOUS HANNA dangling from the post she's tied to, covered in her own blood!

Standing slumped and exhausted are three natives holding two whips and a club. they can barely raise their arms. They turn their heads at Pale Wolf.

PALE WOLF studies Hanna's bloody body for a split second then makes a violent hand gesture at them and barks out something in Inuit.

The THREE reposition themselves and a blood saturated WHIP strikes Hanna's unresponsive, limp body.

SSHHHTT!

SLASHH!

A DARK CLOUD covers the sun, casting shadows over them all...then THUNDER is heard rumbling through the valley.

The trickle of Hanna's innocent BLOOD looks like a small BLACK RIVER.

\*

INT. PERSONNEL CARRIER - CONTINUOUS

44

MR. STONE'S stubborn eyes finds DAVID'S, weary and hard. Then back at the MASK. THUNDER is heard in the distance. SAVID turns towards the sound, irritating mr. Stone.

\*

\*

MR. STONE

Do you even know what this is?

David ignores this question. Tired from the games. Something troubles him. Time is slipping away.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

(continues as if speaking to himself)

Think of it as a silencer for the  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
greatest weapon you ever saw. You strap this on when she falls asleep and she's as harmless as a mouse. Part of their voodoo practices or something of that nature. A *counter-measure*...

Mr. Stone glances at David, searching for any reaction, but David is in his own world, ignoring him, thinking of Hanna.

\*

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
I guess that's why she ran away...got tired of waking up with this thing tied to her face all the time. I'd want to sleep in peace, too. Even if it meant dying.

DAVID finally eyes him. Mr. Stone grins with satisfaction.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
And of course those wannabe natives lived in fear all over again when they found out she was loose, running around in their backyard. With her runnin' wild out there burning up whomever she pleased. Eventually, they came and stole the mask...for their own protection, you see. I don't blame them really. I'd be scared too.

(beat)

That's when you came in. A hired gun to get the mask back. But...here's the question...why would I pay to get the silencer if I don't have the gun?

DAVID starts to perk up. The game of power is shifting again!

DAVID senses something, a little trepidation. A feeling of uncertainty.

MR. STONE looks David over in disgust and resentment.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
(while slyly a black wince)  
Look at you. You used to be so sure of yourself. So confident. Always thinking you could beat the odds.

DAVID lifts his head full and looks at Mr. Stone with growing concern. Fueling his provocation. Turning to hate with every word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
Thought you would never lose. Ever.  
(beat)  
But you still managed to mess things  
up. Didn't you?

DAVID is ready for an attack...and ready to go on the attack himself.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
You had no idea what you were getting  
yourself into. Or the consequences.  
All you were thinking about was the  
score.

CLOSE ON MR. STONE who's relishing this moment.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
And never a thought that there was  
someone out there who was smarter than  
you at every turn.

DAVID is now hanging on every word, becoming credulous.

ZOOM IN ON MR. STONE.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
(acidic, malicious)  
You were never paid to get the  
silencer...

\*

Mr. Stone fiddles with the MASK...

DAVID starts to look around the SECURITY GUARDS' FACES with  
anxiety. THEY ALL START TO GRIN something *harrowing*.

\*

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
*...you were hired to find the gun!*

In an instant the FOUR SECURITY GUARDS nearest David clamp a  
hand on his body in perfect unison, restraining his struggle  
while at the very same time the other TWO SECURITY GUARDS  
cross their weapons in front of their boss, protecting him.

\*

David stops struggling and slowly peers at his nemesis.

\*

Mr. Stone settles in with confidence and security.

\*

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
They never stole the mask of course...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

45

MR. STONE marches with his SIX SECURITY GUARDS right at us, three on each side of him, carrying the MASK. One of the front security guards is carry a black box. Three other security guards are carrying a bow and arrow, a heavy rifle and a hatchet. They are marching towards us.

REVERSE on PALE WOLF, BOW WARRIOR and RIFLE WARRIOR in the center of the village who stand up in curiosity, dropping whatever chores they were doing.

The TWO GROUPS come together and stand FACE TO FACE.

MR. STONE VO  
...I made them a deal...

The BLACK BOX is presented to Pale Wolf. The lid opens. YELLOW LIGHT SHINES BRIGHT ON PALE WOLF'S FACE. He is mesmerized. The LID is SLAMMED SHUT then quickly withdrawn.

PALE WOLF looks back at Mr. Stone. His attention stolen.

MR. STONE VO (CONT'D)  
...I told him a cocky little runt was going to come and take the mask. As I was paying him to do. And when he did for them to push you towards the Black River where she was rumored to be hiding. I was hoping she would come out and help, being she wanted nothing to do with her destructive nature and all. And she did. She came out of hiding. Perfectly. To help you!

EXT. WOODS -DAY

46

Pale Wolf, Bow Warrior and Rifle Warrior are following a BLOOD TRAIL through the snow covered floor.

MR. STONE VO  
Your blood led them right to her door.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

47

Pale Wolf, Bow Warrior and Rifle Warrior come to an open clearing among some heavy vegetation in a small gorge.

WE ZOOM IN the camouflage and spot a humbly made CABIN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. STONE VO  
 Good plan until the mask got lost.  
 They showed their courage, though.  
 Good little warriors.

INSIDE THE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The FRONT DOOR SLOWLY opens inward making that same old rusted sound and from the moon light we see THREE SHADOWS lurching.

They advance inside and stop a comfortable distance away from Hanna.

The KNIFE is strongly clapped in her grasps. \*

PALE WOLF brings out his HATCHET in response.

The FRONT DOOR suddenly SLAMS shut! BOW and RIFLE WARRIOR react in shock.

PALE WOLF stays firm, familiar with Hanna.

PALE WOLF  
*Where is he, witch?*

Hanna stays still.

MR. STONE VO  
 Nothing they could do without the  
mask. And they knew it. \*

The THREE WARRIORS wait in hesitation and fear. \*

FADE and DISSOLVE TO... \*

END FLASHBACK:

...RED TINT SCREEN... A limp and bloodied HANNA is pulled into a "cross" position by a lever pulled down by Rifle Warrior that raises the post two feet as it stretches her arms outward. \*

Some GASOLINE is poured at the base where some kindling is laid. \*

PALE WOLF hands his son a lit torch. BOW WARRIOR reluctantly takes it. ZOOM BOW WARRIOR'S empathetic face... \*

DISSOLVE TO: \*

INT. PERSONNEL CARRIER - CONTINUOUS

48

...CLOSE UP ON THE MASK. PAN UP to MR. STONE'S confident air.

\*

The four security guards still have DAVID secure as he thinks of a counter-measure....

DAVID

There was no guarantee she would find  
me or I would ever find her for that  
matter. What kind of nonsense is this!

\*

\*

MR. STONE doesn't budge in his resolve towards David.

DAVID resists despair...

DAVID (CONT'D)

What made you think we would find one  
another?

MR. STONE leans close...

MR. STONE

*Because, you two carry the same mark.*

\*

David instinctively reaches for the BACK OF HIS HEAD where Hanna found his mark earlier but is restrained by the four guards.

\*

\*

\*

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

You two are attracted to one another  
like two magnets because of that mark.  
You can't help but find one another.  
You've probably done it before  
sometime in your life but didn't know  
it. But she was there.

QUICK FLASH OF DAVID RETRIEVING THE BALL:

DAVID (8) lands on the ground making a thud. He looks towards the HOUSE to see if anyone has noticed him. A LITTLE GIRL appears in the upstairs WINDOW.

END QUICK FLASH OF DAVID RETRIEVING THE BALL.

DAVID lets his hand fall from his neck in disbelief.

Mr. Stone SNAPS his fingers! A SECURITY GUARD reaches behind him and pulls out something long and heavy wrapped in a large cloth. He hands it to Mr. Stone...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

You two have always been near to one  
another. You just didn't know it.

\*  
\*

MR. STONE casually nods and TWO SECURITY GUARDS near him  
begin to bound David's hands.

CLOSE UP ON FOUR ASH GREY HANDS OF THE SECURITY GUARDS  
binding David's wrists feverishly.

Mr. Stone slowly starts to unwrap the mysterious object.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)

It's funny with the power of belief  
can do to someone. It can give you the  
power to do things you never thought  
you could do, even the things you hate  
to do.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DAVID is hit hard with this possibility.

DAVID

(sotto)

No.

MR. STONE

But she's not the problem, is she Mr.  
Cross?

Mr. Stone finishes unwrapping the mysterious object and we  
see it is the SWORD WITH SPIKES.

DAVID

No. It can't be. I don't believe it.

MR. STONE

She's not the one, with the real  
mark...She's not the one the  
prophecies foretold!

QUICK FLASH OF THE CAVE:

\*

On the WALL we see that the hieroglyphics are that of a  
language mix of Pakistanian and native American Indian and  
depictions of a single person wearing a mask with beams  
coming from it and other beings, much smaller running away on  
fire.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

HANNA pulls down her sleeve over the MARKINGS on her arm.

\*

END QUICK FLASH OF THE CAVE:

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FEAR hits DAVID hard!

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
She's not the real monster here, is she?

HANNA VO  
...it's you, David. It's always been you.

DAVID  
NO!

MR. STONE  
Do it!

The TWO SECURITY GUARDS takes the mask and forcefully lock it to David's face. \*

FOUR ASH GREY HANDS wrestle the contraption as David fights. They almost have it secured... \*

A GREAT HOWL from a WOLF fills the carrier.

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
Hurry!

The FOUR ASH GREY HANDS complete the task and slowly move away as though there were a beast is in their presence. An uncaged animal. \*

MR. STONE nervously awaits... \*

From Mr. Stone's POV:

CLOSE UP ON THE SKULL. IT raises up to look at us.

MR. STONE settles back in his seat, still keeping a watchful eye on David.

DAVID is BREATHING HARD, like he's been running through the woods. His RIB CAGE expands fully as we hear low, DEEP BASS of a GROWL. Animalistic. \*

MR. STONE (CONT'D)  
(eyes wide in terror)  
No...no, this is the real beast. \*

EXTREME CLOSE UP on DAVID'S EYES. In the corners, they are DEEP RED, vibrating with rage... \*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Long beat as we hold on David's eyes...

The screen slowly changes to a RED TINT. Hanna's SCREAMS can be heard in the distance, an echoing sound heard only by David, as with sensitive ears from a wild animal.

Through David's POV the SCREEN is consumed with FIRE as Hanna's SCREAMS grow louder.

DAVID becomes more and more agitated as Mr. Stone nervously watches him.

In the FLAMES we start to make out the image of Hanna on the cross burning alive!

In a SMASH SOUND of HANNA'S SCREAMS DAVID stands up suddenly, breaking the guards' hold-

-but, Mr. Stone quickly reacts from his fear and stabs David in the side with his spiky sword.

DAVID reacts in great angst and pain and a MIGHTY HOWL is heard from outside the carrier!

CUT TO:

BACK TO REGULAR COLOR

CLOSE UP on the DRIVER who over reacts to the monstrous sound and swerves away from an imaginary beast and loses control of the

CARRIER

causing it to run off the edge of the road and down the embankment and SMASHING into the Black River!

CUT TO:

BLACK RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

One by one the GUARDS pop up from under the water, finding their bearing before heading to the banks. (they no longer move in a robotic fashion).

MR. STONE pops up, looks around and finds his GUARDS clamoring up the banks to safety. He is vulnerable without his little army to protect him. His invented structure of safety and order is destroyed.

An EAGLE'S SCREAM cries out! Mr. Stone looks up and follows

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

it soaring away, down the river where he suddenly finds something rising up out of the water...the horns from the mask appear...

The HOWLS of several wolves are heard from the bank...

Mr. Stone jerks his head towards the howls and witness his six guards being torn to pieces! It's gory and horrific as these hellhounds destroy these imps.

That familiar DEEP BASS SOUND like mountains crushing the landscape reverberates into Mr. Stone's chest as he forces his attention back to that monster rising out of the Black River as a thick mist rushes past it, partially obscuring it's details...

Mr. Stone's bravado is taken over by immense fear and desperately looks for an avenue of escape. But there is none. He panics.

The masked form rises higher to meet him...

A BRIGHT RED LIGHT starts to glow behind the masked figure filling life all around it, taking over Mr. Stone's soul...

The river is at the beast's waist level now and as the masked form rises higher we can see that it is holding a MIGHTY WEAPON in both hands, as the thick red mist envelopes him like a mighty Angel of Death rising out of hell.

Mr. Stone is in awe and paralyzed with fear as he looks on.

The growing RED LIGHT behind the masked form is now turning into a blaze of FIRE! The bright flames are beaming out through the heavy mist and fog.

Mr. Stone realizes that he involuntarily getting closer to this intimidating form as the RED GLOW intensifies. An unrighteous soul being drawn to his impending doom and judgment and the closer Mr. Stone gets to his Reckoning the more he panics as little screams escape from his filthy mouth.

Rising above this angel of death and swaying in and out of the deep mist we can see that the mighty weapon is the SPIKY SWORD.

The masked ENTITY now positions this weapon above its head in a striking pose...Mr Stone is just a few feet from his doom as he is diminished in size by this entity as its own size and strength overtakes this insignificant soul.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mr. Stone is so close now that he is starting to raise his eyes up to it.

For the first time we can hear HORSE BREATHING from this creature as its CHEST takes in air. This is a nightmare to behold making Mr. Stone instantly regret all his evil.

And just before the mighty sword comes down to strike Mr. Stone he/we suddenly get a glimpse of another FIGURE right behind the mask form. The FACE of the figure is whited out by a bright light in the very center but fading red. We can see that it has long hair like Hanna but renewed and fierce in purity. A sinless being with a right to slay.

Mr. Stone looks back up to the MASKED FORM and the SWORD comes down and we are blinded by a WHITE FLASH that instantly annihilates Mr. Stone's Mind Body Soul and Spirit.

WHITE FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

49 \*

WHITE FLASH FADE IN:

DAVID, with the mask still locked onto his head (held in place with a complex mechanism) is walking down a narrow path dragging the spiky sword behind him with an oppressed air. His clothes are drenched with blood as if somebody just exploded near him and this blood is leaving a long red stained trail in the white snow after him.

It is deathly quiet. No sounds of nature whatsoever. Every now and then there is a solemn flake of snow falling to the ground like flakey tears falling from the nearby mourning of trees that he sidesteps.

We follow his staggered footsteps as David contemplates his purpose and future. There is a grey tint to this scene, filled with dread and loss. No color in an empty life.

Suddenly, Pale Wolf, right at home in this environment, steps out from behind a tree, right in David's path.

DAVID stops, sword partially hidden behind him.

PALE WOLF, who is unsure who is wearing the ancient mask, studies David for a second before recognizing him.

PALE WOLF

We told you to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RIFLE WARRIOR and BOW WARRIOR reveal themselves from behind different trees and move next to their leader. All three are holding their respected weapons.

Bow Warrior is standing in shame and meekness. This catches David's eye and Bow Warrior shies away in guilt.

Pale Wolf and Rifle Warrior look David over who is just standing there, limp and weak, baring the weight of the skull like a circus freak to pry at. They begin to laugh at him, a white fool to them, lost in life, lost in their mountain.

David slowly pulls the menacing sword around by his side.

The two stop laughing at him. Then Rifle Warrior notices all the blood on his clothes and the long blood trail behind him. He raises his rifle at him and cocks it with rage.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

(to RW)

Wait!

Pale Wolf takes a step closer to David and stops. Looks him over a bit.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Where are you going? We told you to leave!

David remains still. Pale Wolf is slighted and looks to Rifle Warrior who is enraged.

DAVID

To fulfill my purpose.

Pale Wolf eyes the bloodied sword held in David's grip.

PALE WOLF

You think you are a great warrior like me!

Pale Wolf takes another threatening step closer and stops.

BOW WARRIOR

(fearful)

Who's blood is that?

PALE WOLF

Bow! You coward! You disgrace me!

Rifle Warrior waits for the answer in curiosity...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pale Wolf turns back towards David and waits as well.

RIFLE WARRIOR  
(whispering)  
He came from the village.

David's clothes continue to drip blood, forming a little pool at his feet which begins a tiny black river edging towards Pale Wolf.

RIFLE WARRIOR is about to blow in rage!

RIFLE WARRIOR (CONT'D)  
He killed them!

The TINY BLACK RIVER nears the feet of Pale Wolf who is forced to take a step back. A retreating step that wounds his pride.

PALE WOLF  
(shock)  
How many?

BOW WARRIOR is astounded with fear.

DAVID remains still.

RIFLE WARRIOR  
How many!

CLOSE ON David's red eyes...

DAVID  
All of them.

PALE WOLF looks closer at David. He has changed.

PALE WOLF  
(soto)  
The prophecy. He's the-

RIFLE WARRIOR  
NO!

In a rage Rifle Warrior aims his rifle at David and...

PALE WOLF  
Rifle! No! Wait-!

-BANG!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID doesn't even budge.

Pale Wolf steps further back next to Riffle Warrior and waits...

The HOWLS of wolves are heard in the distant trees. BOW WARRIOR nervously looks around as does Riffle Warrior.

The howls are getting closer and we start to hear their feet running back and forth in the snow.

Pale Wolf peers into the background and we can see the wolves crossing each other like in a kaleidoscope.

Suddenly, the same heavy mist as before rolls in as it fell heavy from the tree tops and pushing out as it settles on the ground. Soon, all three warriors are separated by the deep fog.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Bow! Where are you!

Beat...

A nearby HOWL-

-Then a voice cries out! We hear a struggle between man and beast. Horrific sounds.

CUT TO:

We are following the back of a frantic Pale Wolf in the dense fog who is swinging wildly with his axe while running without purpose.

CUT TO:

We are still following Pale Wolf through the heavy fog-layden woods as he has become more panic stricken and breathing heavier. He is about to collapse with exhaustion when he slams into a tree and nearly knocks himself out!

CUT TO:

Pale Wolf is stumbling around the trees, blinded by the heavy mist. He continues to swing in the air with his axe but losing his strength and his willingness to survive. This is wearing him down and frustrating him. Pale Wolf finally collapses to his knees out of exhaustion.

PALE WOLF realizes he can't go on and defeat is imminent. He

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

tries to peer through the fog but sees nothing. And nothing is heard.

Beat.

We begin to hear a heavy and beastly breathing as before in the Black River. This creates a new fear in Pale Wolf and he gets to his feet, axe in front of him.

The monstrous breathing gets louder and nearer.

Pale Wolf spins in a circle, protecting his back.

The breathing is right on top of us!

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Where are you!

Just then a body crashes into him from out of the fog and just as he is about to swing his axe he realizes it is Rifle Warrior.

RIFLE WARRIOR, still holding his weapon, is a mangled mess and dripping with blood. He is in a sheer panic, quickly looking behind him.

Pale Wolf finds bite marks all over him.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Rifle?

Rifle Warrior is petrified.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

Rifle! What happened! Where's my son?

RIFLE WARRIOR

He's not human. We have to leave! Or we will be sent to the under world.

Rifle Warrior tries to drag Pale Wolf away-

PALE WOLF

No! Not without my son!

An EAGLE SCREAMS overhead somewhere. The two nervously stand still, listening, looking.

RIFLE WARRIOR

It's coming!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALE WOLF

Quiet!

The deep mist in front of them begins to turn red. A giant shadow advances towards them.

Rifle Warrior starts firing his weapon at the shadow. BANG! BANG! BANG! CLICK. CLICK.

The mist is in a DEEP RED now with a bright WHITE glow around it. The white glow becomes an obscured flame then a full on blaze of righteous judgement right in front of them. Judgement has come for them

Rifle Warrior throws down his weapon in submission but it is too late. Without his control he is gravitating towards the red mist and flames. He starts to scream out in horror!

In a SMASH SOUND a massive amount of blood and flesh sprays PALE WOLF, baptizing him in Rifle Warrior's own exploding body. He is vexed in fear and amazement.

From out of the deep red mist and flames appears a partially hidden DAVID, dawning the skull and holding the sword.

PALE WOLF peers at the skull in front of him, totally perplexed.

PALE WOLF (CONT'D)

(soto)

It was all a lie.

The ground vibrates violently as the air waves melt in power transforming everything a red tint.

The horrid beast raises his sword above his head in a striking position and holds as the flames grow brighter, causing nearby branches to catch fire.

PALE WOLF lets out his final wale of horror and

IN SLOW MOTION

The SWORD comes down and transforms into a wave of a firey white blaze where every individual flame becomes a dozen white skeletal hands reaching inside Pale Wolf's chest then with a final rightful effort they violently rip out his screaming soul where his flesh explodes into something fierce in REAL TIME.

VIEW LOOKING DOWN we see two bloody explosions on the white

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

snow where two people used to exist.

EXT. VALLEY - LATER

DAVID, dripping with blood, walks up to a collapsed and dying Bow Warrior lying in the snow. He is barely alive.

David's shadow covers him and he manages to look up at the masked man. Bow Warrior starts to breath heavy, knowing what is about to come. He stretches out a hand towards David, clenching something, pleading for his life with the last of his strength. He is whispering something that we can't understand.

David looks him over and finds a gunshot wound in his upper chest from where he is bleeding from.

Bow Warrior's whispers get stronger. His hand falls at his side from weakness.

David kneels down and gets close to his mouth and we finally understand his words.

BOW WARRIOR

I'm...sorry.

The last breath leaves Bow Warrior as his body slumps lifelessly.

Still kneeling, David notices something in the hand of Bow Warrior. He opens his hand and pulls from it Hanna's blindfold. David stands up and studies Bow Warrior for a moment...

EXT. VALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

We are looking down at Bow Warrior's lifeless body lying in the snow. He is covered with a thin, fresh layer of fallen snow. There is no blood anywhere. As if he never bled.

Bow Warrior suddenly jerks awake and after a moment of coming to he stands up and looks around his self as we PAN UP gaining a wider shot of his surrounding.

As we are panning higher the sword and the mask are laying partially buried in the snow and after a moment of doing a few half circles out of confusion, Bow Warrior picks them up and walks out of view.

CUT TO:

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

52 \*

Bow Warrior is walking away from us towards the setting sun  
dropping below the valley floor, dragging the sword behind  
him, heading to somewhere mysterious.

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BOW WARRIOR VO

I don't know what happened to all that  
blood that was laying out there. Maybe  
the snow covered it up. Maybe it never  
really happened at all. All I know is  
that I woke up with a new life, and he  
was already gone. And just like  
that...his story was over and the  
legend of Black River was born.

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