

FINAL JOURNEY

by

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"I listen to the wind, to the wind of my soul,
Where I'll end up, well I think, only God really knows..."
--Cat Stevens, THE WIND

Authors Note:

This script is about Inuits (Eskimos) of long ago. It was written to be an extremely visual story-telling experience. As such, all characters speak in Inuit dialects but it was the author's intent that no subtitles would be needed for an audience to understand what is happening at any point in the tale.

As to a director's intention, that will be up to her... :)

FADE IN:

EXT. MANPICHU WINTER CAMP - SUNSET

Ten square huts made of wood, bone, rock and fur snuggle in an alcove of high cliffs bordering a frozen harbor and an immense field of snow.

YOUNG ISHA, 5, wearing trousers and a coat with the hood drawn tight around her face in the tradition of her people, runs through the camp looking nervous.

She fiddles with something in her hand as she hurries past scenes familiar to her way of life:

A woman digs food out of a snow pile beside her hut.

A few bold men make weapons, and a kayak, in the cold.

A man and woman play in the snow with their children and dog.

Isha stops at a hut with four low benches out front made of log-halves. Three are covered by woven grass mats.

Isha stares with trepidation at the bare bench, then enters the hut by crawling into a low, small hole.

INT. HUT - CONTINUOUS

Isha crawls through a tunnel leading down a few feet, then up again (to prevent flooding), emerging in a great square room.

A CROWD is gathered around something Isha cannot see because of her height, but SHE HEARS A WOMAN CHANTING IN INUIT.

Isha pushes by everyone to find her graven father NATO, 40, and obedient mother NUTCHA, 35, sitting cross-legged behind her elderly grandmother IMMANNA, 80.

All three face the chanting woman who stands before them RECITING HER SONG WITH VIGOR.

When the song ends, Immanna nods and the woman recedes into the crowd.

A young man replaces her and RECITES ANOTHER SONG IN INUIT.

Nato notices Isha and beckons her.

Isha moves to him, keeping low. Immanna smiles as she passes, and Isha smiles back.

Reaching Nato, however, her smile disappears. She shows him what she carries-- a necklace with a walrus-ivory pendant carved in the likeness of a snow owl.

Displeased by the pendant, Nato shoves Isha to the ground.

The reciting young man STOPS SINGING, alarmed. Immanna looks at Isha, who puts her head down, embarrassed.

Immanna nods at the young man who nods back and returns to the crowd. Nobody takes his place.

Nato stands and lifts Isha by the ear, WHISPERING SOMETHING TO HER and pointing at the hut entrance.

Isha nods and runs back through the crowd towards it.

But when she reaches the entrance, AVANNTA, an Angakok (Holy Man), enters, rising to an unsettling height above her.

Isha stares up at him in awe, but despite the black lines tattooed on his face, and his collar and crown of elaborate feathers and long grasses, he offers her a gentle smile.

Avannta takes Isha's hand and marches her back to Nato, who appears nervous as they approach.

Glaring at Nato, Avannta holds out his hand to Isha.

Isha gives Avannta the pendant and glances anxiously at Immanna who stifles a laugh.

Avannta holds the necklace out before Nato and all present. Everyone bows their head in reverence, including Nato.

AVANNTA

(Reminder: all dialogue is
in real Inuit dialect
with no subtitles)

I knew you would not listen to your
daughter! I gave her the amulet to
present to you until I came, but
this was not good enough for you!
You treat her in a manner that
could curse your family through the
ages! No respect for the young
leads to no respect for the old,
and so ends everything!

Nato lowers his head in fearful obedience.

Avannta steps before Immanna and bows. Immanna bows back and he holds the pendant above her. CHANTING:

AVANNTA (CONT'D)

Oh, great spirits of the world,
take pity on this kind soul who now
does this deed of love for her
family, and those of her village.
Guide her well so she may become
one with your wondrous light.

Finished, Avannta thrusts the pendant at Nato and storms back through the parting crowd, disappearing from the hut.

When he is gone, everyone turns to Nato. Embarrassed, Nato glances at Isha who returns a shy smile.

Anger swells inside him, but he bites it back and turns to Immanna with the pendant.

NATO

Immanna, we thank you for your
sacrifice, and the life you give
us. We will honor your name and
memory for all time.

Nato places the necklace on Immanna, and everyone CHEERS.

Isha CHEERS as well, but is confused about what is happening.

Immanna nods in thanks, then stands with the help of Nato.

With shaking hands, she tries to grab a small, seal-hide bag beside her with an owl etched on it like her necklace. Isha grabs it and nimbly helps her put it over her head.

Immanna smiles again at Isha, this time revealing she no longer has any teeth, and caresses Isha's face.

IMMANNA

Isha, Isha, Isha...

Immanna walks through the crowd towards the exit.

People take her hand as she passes, and bow their foreheads to her palm. Immanna nods to each in return.

At the exit, she glances around the hut for the last time, then bends slowly and crawls out.

EXT. HUT - CONTINUOUS

Immanna exits to find more people have gathered outside.

She passes through them, each bowing to her as well, then walks off towards the snow-covered tundra bordering the camp.

Isha and Nato emerge from the hut, and Nato BLOWS A GREAT MUSK-OX HORN.

Everyone follows Immanna, others from camp stopping what they are doing and joining the procession.

Isha grows excited as they march, but is still confused about what is going on-- everything seeming both a merry and solemn occasion beyond her comprehension.

AT THE EDGE OF CAMP

Three hunters returning from a hunt with a caribou see what is happening and honor Immanna with bows.

They fall in with the crowd as Immanna stops at the edge of camp and turns to regard everyone.

IMMANNA

Thank you for seeing me off. Having
become only a burden, I hope, in
leaving, to bring you all long life
and happiness.

Isha goes pale with shock. She shakes her head and tries to run to Immanna but Nutchka holds her back.

Immanna sees Isha's turmoil. She bends before Isha and pulls from her bag a small wooden sculpture of a winged woman reaching to the sky with outstretched arms.

She hands this to Isha and watches her look at it. Crying, Isha buries her face in Immanna's neck, hugging her tight.

YOUNG ISHA

Don't go, Immanna. Please.

IMMANNA

Be strong, young one. One day I
pray you grow to understand what I
now do for you.

Isha shakes her head, trying to stop the inevitable, and grips Immanna until Nutchka pulls her away.

Immanna wipes Isha's tears and reaches into the sky with a triumphant smile, looking like the figurine she gave Isha.

They regard each other a moment, then Immanna rises and walks out bravely into the vast white field lying outside the camp.

Isha strains to run after Immanna but Nutchka holds her back.

YOUNG ISHA
Immanna! Immanna!

Immanna never looks back. She just keeps walking.

The crowd breaks up, but Isha remains with her family watching Immanna leave. Nato finally turns and heads back.

Isha refuses to leave, so Nutchka lifts her gently and carries her away.

YOUNG ISHA (CONT'D)
Immanna...

Isha's young, strong hands cling tightly to Nutchka. Her eyes, bobbing in Nutchka's arms, remain on Immanna...

EXT. HUT - MANPICHU CAMP - DAY

...ISHA'S EYES, 86 now, bob up and down as well.

Isha sits on a log bench covered with a grass mat, hunched over some animal skins she is trying to sew together into a fur-lined blanket.

Beside her, three old women also work on skins:

JOKKA, 70, makes a pair of mukluk boots. INNATA, 70, a jacket. YANTAVVA, 75, repairs a full-bodied undergarment.

Isha looks in pain as her gnarled hands work the materials.

Once strong, her hands are now calloused and damaged by years of exposure to the elements. They also slightly shake despite her attempts to control them.

Isha winces and drops her squirrel-bone needle. She rubs her hand profusely, trying to hide her pain from the others.

Yantavva puts a questioning hand on Isha's shoulder. Isha shakes it off and continues working as if nothing is wrong.

The others exchange knowing looks before continuing with their own work.

A HORN CALLS IN THE DISTANCE and the women stop working-- Isha thankfully. All four duck into the...

INT. HUT - CONTINUOUS

Divided four ways, Jokka and Innata run to the hut's two closest corners, Isha and Yantavva to the farthest two.

They each grab wooden or clay bowls and run back out.

EXT. LARGE TENT IN THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

Three ice-covered hunters unload two dead seals from a sled.

Isha and the others arrive and fall in with an excited crowd of mostly women and a few stone-faced men.

Everyone raises their bowls and the hunters count them while dancing children run up and touch the seals with delight.

A walrus-stomach sack with fresh water is brought from the tent. The Hunters feed the water to the dead seals as everyone nods and offers the seals words of thanks.

The hunters cut up the seals, first removing the heads and setting them aside, followed by the skin and blubber.

When the hunters have taken the best parts for themselves, they divide the rest into equal parts for everyone gathered.

INT. ISHA'S HUT - LATER

Isha drops her bowl to the floor in her corner, spilling her family's portion of meat and blubber.

Cursing, and rubbing her hands in pain, she gets on her knees and gathers the spilled food back into the bowl.

She glances around cautiously at the hut's other families gathering around bowls of their own.

Nobody seems to have noticed her spill.

Until she notices Yantavva eyeing her suspiciously as Yantavva cuts up her own portion of meat.

Isha grits her teeth and focuses on her cleanup.

When the meat is back in the bowl, Isha unrolls an animal skin containing several knives and grabs a thin one.

She hovers with the knife over the meat, looking nervous about how much her hand is shaking. She steels her resolve and is about to cut the meat when her name is called:

CHOKO (O.S.)

Isha!

Isha looks at the entrance as her granddaughter CHOKO, 8, rushes in, excited, and stares wide-eyed at their meat.

CHOKO (CONT'D)
For us Grandma!?

Isha nods, then gets an idea. She holds out the knife.

ISHA
Would you like to cut it up for the
family today?

Choko's eyes grow even wider. She takes the knife and under Isha's guidance, cuts up the meat.

As they work, Isha glances at Yantavva who shakes her head with disapproval.

INT. HUT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Isha lies under a fur blanket beside Choko, her son SONTU, 45, daughter-in-law NADDA, 35, brother ITO, 60, Ito's wife ATTIMA, 45, and Ito's sons ATTO, 25 and UTOJAN, 27.

Other families lay in the hut's other quarters, all beds consisting of woven grass mats covered with caribou skin.

Everyone is asleep except Isha who stares at the roof, rolling her wrist to work out the pain.

Sleep eluding her, she quietly gets up.

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - NIGHT

Isha exits wearing a parka and sets off for the edge of camp.

As she walks, she closes her eyes and savors the HOWLING WIND rushing around her.

EDGE OF CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Isha stares at the vast arctic field stretching into darkness. The only things moving are flakes of snow, and chips of ice, rolling along in the arms of the WIND.

The GHOSTLY FORM OF AN OLD WOMAN appears on the ice field.

She is followed by FOUR OTHER ELDERLY GHOST WOMEN.

All of them stare at Isha.

Then Immanna appears, a bright blue spirit in the night, and ISHA IS A LITTLE GIRL AGAIN staring at her in awe.

Immanna smiles at Young Isha and holds out an entreating arm towards the arctic field.

The Ghostly Women behind Immanna do the same.

THE WIND PICKS UP INTENSITY and Isha's joy turns to fear. She shakes her head no. THE WIND RISES TO A GALE!

Isha beseeches Immanna with her eyes but Immanna shows no emotion. The Women stare like accusing statues.

The WIND whips around Isha, rising to a frightening level.

Isha finally cannot take anymore.

YOUNG ISHA

NO!

The WIND blows itself away across the ice field, taking with it Immanna and the others ghosts.

ISHA IS HER OLD SELF AGAIN, alone and shaken up in the still arctic night.

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - DAY

Isha sits on her bench lost in thought. She holds her blanket but does not work on it.

The day is surprisingly warm and Jokka and Innta seem to converse about it as they work on their skins.

Yantavva, however, watches Isha.

She elbows Jokka and points at Isha sitting idle. Jokka and Innta shake their heads in disapproval.

Sensing their stares, Isha comes out of her thoughts.

She turns away from them and uses her palms to apply the force needed to push her needle through the thick skins.

After a few of these difficult stitches, however, Isha throws down the blanket in frustration and storms into the hut.

The others look at one another in knowing, busy-body fashion.

INT/EXT. LARGE TENT IN CENTER OF CAMP - NIGHT

A festival is under way INSIDE AND OUTSIDE the great tent.

Children run in and out of it, chasing dogs and laughing.

Several drummers PLAY MUSIC ON HIDE DRUMS.

The entire camp is gathered, people either dancing, eating, or walking about sharing and distributing food.

Isha is the only person not having fun. She sits with Sonto, Nadda, Ito and Attima who LAUGH together, ignoring her.

Isha stares at another family listening with rapture to an elderly grandmother tell a tale.

INT. IMMANNA'S HUT - FLASHBACK

During Immanna's goodbye ceremony, young Isha watches Immanna walk through the crowd as people stare at her with love and respect, offering her their heartfelt farewells.

LARGE TENT - END FLASHBACK

SONTO BARKS AT ISHA, pulling her out of her thoughts.

SONTO
Did you not hear Nadda?!

Isha looks at Nadda who speaks to Isha like a subordinate.

NADDA
I could really go for some of
Kogi's black duck.

Nadda points at KOGI, 40, walking around with strips of black duck meat on a plate.

SONTO
Go! And bring me a strip as well!

Isha gets up and tracks down Kogi.

She returns with several strips of duck which Sonto and Nadda snatch up without even looking at her.

Sonto points at OGGA, 60, an old woman boiling a brew of berries and blubber as she chats with others.

SONTO (CONT'D)
Now get four bowls of Ogga's berry
broth for your family. Five
if you want one for yourself...

Isha nods with dread and carries five bowls to Ogga.

Ogga smiles at Isha, but notices her squint when she fills the bowls with thick, hot brew.

OGGA
Are you alright Isha?

Isha nods, biting back pain. When the bowls are full, Isha makes her way back cringing-- her hands shaking dangerously.

Ogga watches her with a sad, knowing look.

Isha somehow manages to reach her family without dropping a bowl, but as everyone takes one, nobody noticing or caring about her pain, two spill to the floor.

Sonto stands, agitated.

SONTO
What is the matter with you?!

Isha smiles in apology, distractedly rubbing her wrists.

Sonto notices and she stops. Looking around, Isha realizes everyone in camp is staring.

Isha smiles deceptively and, indicating she is going for a walk, disappears into the crowd.

EDGE OF THE GATHERING - MOMENTS LATER

Out of sight, Isha rubs her hands again as she watches all the families, their old included, having a good time.

She also catches women eyeing her suspiciously as they chat.

Isha stops rubbing her hands and stands alone and bored.

Dejected, she pulls from her pocket the small sculpture of the winged woman Immana gave her the day she left.

The sculpture is old now, discolored, with one hand broken.

Isha stares at it sadly, then looks at her own ruined hands.

CHOKO (O.S.)
Grandma! Grandma!

Choko runs over, excited, with an intricate scene sewn onto an animal skin of a man fighting a polar bear with a spear.

Isha puts the sculpture away and points at the skin.

ISHA
Did you make this?

Choko nods. Isha smiles, amazed.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Very good, Choko! Very good!

Choko beams and runs off to show others the skin.

Watching Choko impress everyone, Isha gets an idea.

INT. IMMANNA'S HUT - FLASHBACK

Young Isha sits in Immanna's lap as Immanna teaches her how to properly sew skins into clothes.

Isha marvels at the power in Immanna's hands as Immanna makes skintight seams with beautiful patterns.

YANTAVVA (V.O.)
Isha... Isha...

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - DAY - END FLASHBACK

YANTAVVA
Isha?!

Present-day Isha comes out of her daydream to find herself sitting with Yantavva, Jokka and Innta outside their hut.

She has again zoned out into her own thoughts and has not been working on her blanket.

The women regard Isha with simmering contempt.

Isha turns away from them. She sighs at her blanket, then passes her needle through the material, cringing with pain.

CHOKO (O.S.)
Grandma!

Choko runs up and hugs Isha, then stares in awe at her blanket. Isha shows her the decorative seam she is stitching.

ISHA
You see what I have done? Do you
think you can do the same?

Choko nods. Isha gives her the needle.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Show me.

Isha throws a sly glance at Yantavva, Jokka and Innata who watch with disapproval as Choko does Isha's work for her.

Isha nods proudly as she watches Choko's every move, correcting her when she goes astray.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Good. Good. No, no-- be careful
with your loops...

INT. ISHA'S HUT - NIGHT

Isha sits alone in her corner chewing crimps into walrus-skin soles intended for mukluks.

Everyone else is gathered in the center of the hut, around a main fire, listening to Sonto TELL STORIES.

Isha suddenly cringes and puts her hand to her jaw in pain.

Yantavva, Jokka and Innata notice and whisper to each other.

Isha turns away, angry, and opens her mouth to continue crimping, but CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

Sonto pauses his story as everyone turns to stare at Isha.

Embarrassed, Isha waves for Sonto to continue.

Annoyed, Sonto resumes his story, and everyone turns back to listen again except Yantavva, Jokka and Innata who grin with evil pleasure at one another.

Isha looks helplessly at her walrus sole. She throws it to the floor and curls up on her bed mat, fighting back tears.

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - DAY

Isha sits with Choko again working on skins under Isha's guidance. Yantavva, Jokka, and Innata are not happy.

INT. ISHA'S HUT - NIGHT

As everyone readies for bed, Isha notices Yantavva and Jokka talking with Sonto as he inspects Isha's new blanket.

Isha looks at Choko playing with some children. Choko has noticed the interest in the blanket and smiles. Isha frowns.

Sonto approaches, holding the blanket in an accusing manner.

SONTO
Isha? Are you making this blanket?

Isha acts confused by his question and nods.

SONTO (CONT'D)
Or is Choko making it so you can
shirk your responsibilities?

Sonto points at Choko who runs over with a grin.

Isha sneaks Choko a warning look then shakes her head.

ISHA
No. I have been working on that
blanket myself.

Choko looks crestfallen. Sonto stares at Isha with suspicion.

He holds the blanket out to Choko.

SONTO
Choko! Did you help Isha make this
blanket?

Choko gazes at Isha, confused. Isha gives her another warning look. Choko grows upset and shakes her head at Sonto.

SONTO (CONT'D)
You're not lying to me, are you?

Choko stares at the floor, about to cry. Sonto glares at Isha. He looks at her hands, which she hides from him.

Sonto throws the blanket to the floor in disgust. He grabs his parka and storms out of the hut.

Isha notices Choko is now crying. Isha touches her shoulder but Choko runs to Nadda.

Isha sees everyone staring at her with judgemental eyes, especially Yantavva and Jokka.

She looks down and shakes her head.

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - DAY

Isha sits with Yantavva, Jokka and Innata on her log. She searches around, but Choko is nowhere to be seen.

Avoiding eye contact with the others, she bites back her pain and works the final stitches needed to complete her blanket.

INT. ISHA'S HUT - NIGHT

As everyone sleeps, Isha lies awake staring at the ceiling.

She stretches and notices her old, broken hands. With a sigh and some painful exertion, she gets up.

EXT. EDGE OF ENCAMPMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Isha stares out at the void listening to the MOANING WIND.

Immanna appears glowing before Isha, not looking pleased.

The Five Old Women Ghosts appear behind Immanna, staring at Isha with disapproval. Isha looks uneasy.

Without turning, one of the women suddenly dissolves and reappears with her back turned to Isha.

Isha is horrified.

Another woman dissolves the same way. Then another, and another, until all five women stand with their backs to Isha.

Only Immanna remains staring at her.

Isha pleads silently with Immanna not to forsake her, but, looking sad, Immanna slowly fades until her back is turned.

All six apparitions finally disappear, leaving Isha alone and distressed in the arctic night.

EXT. ISHA'S HUT - DAY

Yantavva, Jokka and Innta work on their skins but Isha is nowhere to be seen. They occasionally glance, like concerned gossips, from Isha's empty log to the hut entrance.

A HORN BLOWS across camp and they run into the hut, excited.

INT. HUT - CONTINUOUS

Yantavva and the others freeze, startled to find Isha in her corner bundled head to foot in her new blanket, staring at the smoldering fire in the center of the hut.

Isha is so still she looks dead.

The others look at one another, not sure what to do.

Innta and Jokka grab their family bowls as Yantavva creeps towards Isha.

YANTAVVA

Isha?

Isha does not move. Jokka and Innta watch nervously from the exit as Yantavva reaches towards Isha's frozen, staring face.

Isha suddenly looks at Yantavva who SCREAMS, startled.

Spooked, Jokka and Innta run from the hut.

Angry, Yantavva stomps to her corner.

YANTAVVA (CONT'D)

Games! Now you play games?! Hunters
have returned with food and thanks
to you, I will now probably get
none! And you will get even less if
you're going to sit there all day!

Yantavva grabs her bowl and leaves.

Isha remains, staring at the fire.

EXT. CENTER TENT

Everyone has gathered before three hunters divvying caribou.

Isha arrives, looking horrible, and stands wrapped in her new blanket watching the commotion.

Yantavva gets some meat and stomps to Isha with it.

YANTAVVA

Where is your bowl Isha? Are you
going to let your family go hungry?

Isha opens her blanket and her bowl falls out to the ground.

Yantavva looks at Isha like she has gone mad.

Isha drops the blanket and holds up her hands.

They will not stop shaking.

Understanding, Yantavva hangs her head.

INT. TORNA'S HUT

TORNA, 50, stands naked in the center of a small hut with his eyes closed, MUTTERING A MANTRA. His body is completely covered by lines of black tattoo.

Torna opens his eyes and with deliberate, ritualized movements, first puts on garments necessary for survival, then decorative pieces made of wolf and bear fur.

He adorns jewelry made of claw, bone and stone, and a complex headband made of seagull feathers and long stalks of grass.

Having transformed into an Angakok, Torna exits the hut.

EXT. MANPICHU CAMP

Torna walks through the camp, drawing attention.

Many stop whatever they are doing and follow him.

When Torna arrives at Isha's hut, he crawls inside past the four log benches that now sit empty in the snow-- Isha's no longer having its woven grass mat covering.

INT. ISHA'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Torna emerges to find a CROWD gathered, much like the one from Immanna's goodbye ceremony, only now Isha sits in the place of honor. She, however, does not look happy.

Ogga stands before her SINGING, but instead of enjoying her song, Isha looks like she is merely tolerating it.

Ogga finishes and steps back into the crowd. Nobody steps forward to take her place.

Isha looks at Torna who holds up a hide necklace. Everyone bows their head.

Torna walks through the crowd and stands before Isha. Isha stares at him, looking neither excited nor upset-- just numb.

TORNA

Isha, as you make your final
journey, may all kind tornaks guide
you to your final resting place.
Long may you be remembered in song,
that many others shall now live
because of your sacrifice.

The crowd nods in assent. Isha bends her head without enthusiasm and allows Torna to put the necklace on her.

Isha notices the pendant hanging from it is carved like a polar bear.

She looks at Torna who smiles in a secretive, reassuring way, then stretches his arms over her and CHANTS A MANTRA.

As he chants, Isha spies Yantavva, Jokka and Innata looking mock-sad. She frowns, then notices Choko standing with Nadda.

Isha smiles but Choko hangs her head, avoiding eye-contact.

Isha looks down as well, hurt.

Torna FINISHES HIS CHANT and regards Isha a moment before marching out of the hut.

Sonto, sitting cross-legged behind Isha, stands.

SONTO

Does anyone else have anything they
wish to say to Isha?

Sonto stares around, perhaps a little too severely, and nobody else steps forward.

Isha is disappointed but tries to hide it as Sonto nods and steps before her.

SONTO (CONT'D)

Mother, the time has come. With
love in our hearts, we set you free
to the wind and snow, and thank you
a final time.

CROWD

Thank you, Isha.

Isha nods in ritual fashion, but doesn't look like she believes Sonto's words.

She tries to stand but lacks the strength.

Sonto helps her up and grabs her satchel. As she takes it, she looks at him-- old pain and anger echoing in her eyes.

Sonto stares back without emotion, then holds out his arm towards the exit.

Choko runs out. Isha opens her mouth to stop her, but Choko disappears too quickly.

Taking a deep breath, and holding back her fear, Isha makes her way through the crowd.

As she passes, people grab Isha's hands and bend their foreheads to her palms in ceremonial appreciation.

Isha grimaces with pain each time this happens, turning her attempted smiles of appreciation into angry-looking sneers.

EXT. HUT - MOMENTS LATER - SUNSET

The crowd that followed Torna to the hut has remained.

Isha exits the hut and tries to pass everyone as fast as she can, but is stopped repeatedly and offered thanks.

Sonto BLOWS A MUSK-OX HORN and more people begin to show.

As Isha progresses towards the edge of the village, she searches for Choko, but Choko is nowhere to be found.

Dread grows on her face.

AT THE EDGE OF THE ENCAMPMENT, Isha turns, looking afraid, and faces the LARGE CROWD that has followed her.

Her family gathers beside her and Isha notices Sonto is carrying Choko in his arms.

Isha smiles, but Choko will still not look at her.

Isha clears her throat. Like someone who does not want to go but has no other choice:

ISHA

Tribesman, thank you for coming to see me off. As my mother would have done, had she not died so young, and as my grandmother did before her, I leave now, so that I will not become a burden to you. Remember me and my sacrifice.

Isha turns to Choko.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Choko? Will you not look at me a final time before I go?

Choko stubbornly refuses to look at Isha.

Sonto tries to get Choko to cooperate but she won't budge. He turns so Choko faces Isha, but Choko switches shoulders.

Hurt, Isha reaches into her satchel and pulls out the small sculpture of a winged woman Immana gave her.

ISHA (CONT'D)

I want to give you the toy my grandmother gave me when she went away. I know you like it, you've played with it enough times... Won't you take it and say goodbye?

Choko does not turn around.

Tears grow in Isha's eyes, but she gently smiles.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I want you to have it.

Isha puts the toy in Choko's hand but Choko drops it and wiggles to be let down.

Sonto lowers Choko who pounces accidentally on the figurine, cracking it in two, and runs off into the crowd.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Choko!

But Choko does not come back.

Isha looks down at the broken figurine crushed in the snow. She bends and picks up the two pieces with difficulty.

Embarrassed, Sonto aids her.

Isha stares in disbelief at the broken statuette. She looks for Choko again but she is gone, leaving only the crowd.

Isha's family approach one by one and give her stiff hugs.

Sonto steps up last battling mixed emotions. Staring from the tundra to Isha, he seems to want to say something but can't.

Isha searches his face, trying to read him, but Sonto becomes uncomfortable and puts on his old, hardened demeanor.

He hugs Isha in an informal way then steps back.

Isha nods sadly, used to this, then turns to face the vast ice field awaiting her.

The moment of truth has arrived and numb terror creeps into Isha's eyes. She looks at the broken figurine, then once more for Choko, but Choko is gone.

Isha takes a deep breath and, holding back tears, musters all her strength and extends a foot, taking her first painful step away from the tribe.

She takes another, easier step. Then another.

Soon she has left her people and is walking away from everything she has ever known, step by fearful step.

WHEN ISHA HAS GONE A GREAT DISTANCE, she turns and looks back. Most of the crowd has dispersed but her family remains.

Choko is still nowhere to be seen. Isha turns away and keeps moving, never looking back again.

TUNDRA - AFTER SUNSET

On and on Isha walks alone across a white, sparse landscape, heading towards a sunset fading behind distant mountains.

MOUNTAIN SLOPES - NIGHT

The temperature has dropped as Isha reaches the roots of the mountains and scrambles up snowy rocks in blue moonlight.

AFTER A BIT OF CLIMBING, Isha is panting and almost falls.

She sits on a rock to catch her breath and takes off her pack.

Glancing around, as if worried someone might be watching, Isha reaches deep into her pack and pulls out two small bundles wrapped in seal hide.

Isha considers the wraps, then puts one back. She opens the other, revealing a chunk of frozen seal meat.

Isha gnaws on the hard, cold meat as best she can, occasionally stopping because of pain in her jaw.

The wind picks up a notch. Isha reaches into her parka and, from beneath her garments, pulls out her new blanket.

Looking around again nervously, as if she is not supposed to have the blanket, she wraps herself in it.

She notices a rocky alcove behind her with a few scraggly bushes growing within it.

Isha staggers into it and sits to escape the wind.

She continues eating, looking sad and tired.

LATER

Isha sleeps, bundled up behind the bushes.

The wind increases and snow blows in on her, growing steadily worse until Isha wakes in the middle of a STRANGE BLIZZARD.

Alarmed, Isha gets up and steps out of the alcove, realizing the snow only seems to be attacking her!

IMMANNA APPEARS, glowing before Isha with her hair and clothes unaffected by the gale.

Isha is unnerved, but Immanna merely smiles.

Immanna removes her clothes, revealing her ancient ghost-body to the elements. Naked, Immanna turns and, with a wave for Isha to follow, walks away into the storm and disappears.

Isha shakes her head and backs away, but JOLTS WHEN SHE BACKS INTO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.

Turning, she comes face to face with a skeleton wearing Immanna's hair and clothes, frozen in the rocks behind her.

THE SKELETON LUNGES AT HER!

MOUNTAIN ALCOVE - NIGHT

ISHA WAKES, still in the alcove-- the skeleton, Immanna, and storm just a dream in an otherwise peaceful night.

Calming, Isha gets up out of the shelter.

The landscape is still lit a beautiful blue by the moon.

Feeling better, Isha turns, startled to find a LARGE WHITE SNOW OWL perched on top of her shelter.

The owl regards Isha then takes off with a HOOT, flying further up the mountain.

Isha watches it fly out of sight. Thinking, she grabs her pack and starts climbing after it.

MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

The sun beats down surprisingly strong.

Hot and out of breath, Isha glances up in disbelief at the sun just as she reaches a high rock valley crossing to the other side of the mountain.

A SOUND drifts to Isha from that far side-- THE SOUND OF SOMETHING BIG AND ROARING.

Isha's eyes light up and she hurries through the pass until she is greeted by the sight of the mighty ocean stretching out from a beach far below to the endless horizon.

It is a breath-taking sight:

Just beyond a great border of ice, HUNDREDS OF KILLER WHALES dive and surface among a flotilla of glaciers breaking up and floating away in the surprising warmth of the new day.

Isha takes it all in with the awed look of someone who has stumbled upon an old friend she has not seen in a long time.

Emotions swelling, Isha SINGS A BITTERSWEET SONG TO THE WHALES as she makes her way down towards the beach.

BEACH - LATER

Exhausted and aching, Isha rests her blanket against a bolder in a spot where the snow has melted to reveal rocky sand.

Isha sit-collapses and reaches into her pack, unexpectedly finding the top half of the broken figurine Immanna gave her.

She stares at it a moment, then digs out the other half and sets them both in the sand.

She pulls out a last bite of seal-meat from the patty she started the night before and pops it in her mouth.

HUMMING HER SONG, she watches the whales migrate.

BEACH - NIGHT

Isha sleeps against the boulder. THE SOUND OF AN ANIMAL BLOWING A SPRAY OF WATER wakes her.

As Isha gets her bearings, SHE HEARS THE SOUND AGAIN.

Isha stands and sees a KILLER WHALE fifty feet away, staring at her just beyond the ice bordering the beach.

Amazed, Isha steps onto the ice and approaches it, but before she can reach the whale, it ducks back into the water.

Isha hurries to the end of the ice, but the whale is gone.

IMMANNA (V.O)

Isha...

Isha turns to find she is alone. But she realizes the ice has detached from the beach and is making its way out to sea!

A POLAR BEAR sits on the shore reaching for her as if beckoning her to come back.

Isha runs to the edge of the ice but the divide is too great to jump.

The Polar Bear ROARS and stretches out its paws, but Isha can only watch as the gap widens.

A CRACKING SOUND causes Isha to turn.

The ice is breaking up! The Beluga slips into a crack and disappears into the dark ocean.

Isha turns back to the beach to find the bear replaced by a YOUNG MAN, just barely a boy, his face lost in shadow.

He is dressed differently than anyone from Isha's village and beckons Isha to jump, even though the distance is impossible.

MORE CRACKING SOUNDS EXPLODE BEHIND ISHA as the ice crumbles towards her! The man-boy beckons.

Isha is terrified but can't jump-- it's too far.

The ice crumbles beneath her feet. It is only a matter of time before she falls into the ocean and drowns.

Isha closes her eyes and with no other options, leaps out over the dark water towards the man-boy...

BEACH - DAY

Isha wakes in a panic, realizing she has again been dreaming. She is still lying against the boulder, and the sun is still in the sky, though it will soon set.

She looks at the water. The whales are gone, as is the large chunk of ice ringing the beach before her. Isha stares at this, amazed, then hears a FAMILIAR BARKING.

Eyes wide, Isha sees TWO SEALS frolicking not far away.

Without taking her eyes off them, Isha grabs a good sized rock and slowly stands, cringing from stiffness.

The seals notice her and she freezes. She ventures a small step in their direction.

The seals break for the water!

ISHA CRIES OUT and hurls the rock as hard as she can. The rock hits the sand near one and sails by without harm.

In a panic, Isha grabs more rocks and hurls them as well, but the seals disappear into the ocean.

Breathing hard and cringing from pain in her hands and body, Isha falls to her knees and stares helplessly at the water.

A TORRENT OF ANGUISH swells inside her and ISHA SUDDENLY SCREAMS and throws every rock she can at the ocean.

She throws and SCREAMS until she collapses, defeated and uncaring in the rocky sand.

Isha cries uncontrollably, as if letting go of all the pain and torment she has kept bottled up inside for so long.

BEACH - NIGHT

Isha walks along the beach in the moonlight, lost in thought.

Most of the ice has floated away now, and the rocky beach has appeared again in many places, littered with driftwood.

Using a stick now as a walking cane, she pops the last of her food into her mouth and finishes it in pain-ridden bites.

Though dishevelled and tired, eyes puffy from tears, Isha looks a little healthier for having let out her pain.

Crossing a snowy region of beach, she happens on some tracks coming out of the water.

She stops. The tracks were made by a human hauling a kayak!

Twenty feet from the water, the tracks indicate the kayak was put on a sleigh which was pulled in the direction of the cliffs behind the beach.

Isha thinks a moment, then follows the tracks.

CLIFFS BEHIND BEACH - LATER

High up in the rocks, Isha climbs, out of breath.

She reaches a pass where the tracks cross to the far side of the cliffs. With a final look back at the beach far below, Isha follows the tracks through the rocks.

ON THE FAR SIDE, she emerges to find a vast arctic wasteland illuminated in blue moonlight.

Isha searches the cliffs below, and the tundra beyond, but does not see any signs of life.

IMMANNA (O.S.)

Isha.

Isha spins to find Immanna GLOWING on the ocean side of the pass.

Immanna wavers slightly, her hair flowing in the air as if appearing from underwater. She beckons Isha slowly as a GLOWING FISH SWIMS BY HER IN MID-AIR.

Isha backs away, shaking her head, and ALMOST FALLS OFF A LEDGE.

She turns, getting her footing, and notices the great white owl from the night before perched on a rock, watching her.

The owl HOOTS and takes off into the night.

Isha reaches for it, not wanting it to go, but the owl flies out over the tundra and disappears from sight.

Isha looks disappointed, then realizes the owl was heading in the direction of A SMALL FIRE BURNING OFF IN THE DISTANCE.

Her eyes widen, amazed.

In the darkness, THE OWL HOOTS, beckoning her.

Isha looks back at the pass to find Immanna gone. She smiles apologetically, then descends the cliff, following the owl, and the fire beyond.

ARCTIC FIELD - DAY

Exhausted, Isha follows the mukluk and sled tracks across the tundra, now wearing Eskimo sunglasses-- a strap of hide tied to her face with a thin slit cut in it to see through.

Her feet fall heavy in the melting snow, making walking difficult, but Isha keeps moving like a person possessed.

She glances into the sky, looking for the owl.

Isha stops suddenly and lifts her sunglasses.

NOT FAR AHEAD are the remains of a fire sheltered against a snowdrift.

Isha hurries to the spot and inspects the area.

The fire has been out for hours, and the tracks continue off into the snow again, heading for a line of nearby hills.

She finds a scattering of bones in the dead coals, one in particular still bearing a small mount of meat.

Isha falls to her knees, devouring it like a starving person, then digs around for other left-overs.

SOMETHING BIG GROWLS in the direction the tracks lead.

Isha stops chewing and surveys the landscape but doesn't see anything. She continues searching for more food.

ANOTHER GROWL IN THE DISTANCE. Isha pauses again, thinking.

She throws all the bones into her pack and, fighting exhaustion, uses her walking stick to get to her feet and stagger off, following the tracks.

SNOW HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Isha follows the tracks up a low hill.

Near the top, she hears A LARGE ANIMAL GRUNT and freezes.

After a moment, she peeks over the hill. Below on the far side, a GIANT POLAR BEAR is ravishing a hide pack, trying to get its head inside.

Next to the bear is a turned over sleigh and kayak, but no sign of their owner.

The polar bear pulls its chewing head out of the pack and looks to its left, checking on something, then saunters over and inspects the kayak, nudging it with its head.

Isha looks in the direction the bear stared and sees, hiding in the rocks with a spear in his hand, TATOMATAHUN, 14, a man-boy resembling the figure from her dream the day before.

BEACH - DREAM FLASHBACK

Isha stands on the drifting ice as at the dark-faced man-boy beckons her to jump.

SNOWY HILLS - PRESENT

Isha stares in awe at Tato. Remembering something, she digs out the pendant Torna gave her of a sculpted polar bear.

She looks again at Tato peeking anxiously at the bear from behind his rock.

The bear is busy with the kayak. Not being spied, Tato tries to creep from his hiding place but the bear immediately GROWLS in his direction.

Tato jumps back behind the rocks and closes his eyes in fear, gripping his spear with white knuckles.

The bear turns back to the kayak and flips it over with its head. It pounces on the kayak, snapping it in two.

Tato pops his head up, staring in disbelief at his busted kayak. He ducks back behind the rock, shaking his head.

Isha looks from the bear to Tato, unsure what to do. She creeps around the hill in Tato's direction.

The bear returns to the pack, again sticking its head inside.

Tato takes the opportunity to rise up and approach it. He looks terrified but, this time, the bear does not notice him.

Isha's eyes go wide with worry. She shakes her head "no" but is too afraid to make a noise.

When Tato is just a few feet away, the bear pulls its head from the pack, chewing something, and sees him.

Tato freezes as it rears up on its back legs and BELLOWS at him. Tato runs for the rocks. The bear chases him!

Fearing for the boy, Isha jumps up, YELLING and waving her hands to distract the bear.

The bear stops and peers up at her. Tato dives behind his rocks and peers up as well-- both very surprised to see her.

The bear ROARS at Isha.

Sensing her own vulnerability, Isha ducks behind her hill and looks around for a weapon. There is nothing.

THE BEAR ROARS AGAIN. Isha closes her eyes, petrified.

The bear GROWLS, UNCERTAIN. After a long silence, Isha opens her eyes. She gathers her nerves and peers over the hill.

The bear is leaving, walking away from Tato and herself.

Tato stares up at Isha, still shocked. He stands and watches the bear leave, then looks back at Isha. She smiles.

Tato scowls, surprising her, then mopes over to inspect the remains of his pack, sleigh, and broken kayak.

Angry, he raises his spear and SCREAMS at the bear, waving and taunting for it to return.

But the bear disappears from sight.

Tato glares at Isha and collects his stuff, shaking his head.

Confused, Isha climbs down the hill. Tato avoids eye-contact.

ISHA
Are you alright?

Tato glances at her, annoyed, then snatches up his pack and laments at a long tear in it.

Isha notices tracks on the ground of Tato and the bear sparring before Tato ran to hide in the rocks.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Did polar bear attack you, or did
you attack polar bear?

Tato looks at Isha, skeptical. She points at the tracks. Tato shakes his head and goes back to inspecting his pack.

He dumps its contents and grabs some homemade string, and a fold of hide holding a whalebone needle.

Tato threads the needle and begins patching his pack.

Isha watches, not knowing what else to say or do.

Tato glances at her again and she tries to show compassion on her tired face. Tato rolls his eyes.

TATO
(in Attopa; another Inuit
dialect)
I do not understand your dialect.
Do you speak Attopa?

Isha is confused by his language.

ISHA
(in Manpichu)
Excuse me? Do you speak Manpichu?

Tato stands and sticks out his chest, trying to look bold and defiant rather than just impatient.

TATO
 (in Attopa)
 I am Attopa. Do you speak Attopa?

Isha stares, not comprehending. She shakes her head.

Tato throws up his hands and goes back to his pack. Isha looks around, frustrated. She finally points at herself.

ISHA
 (in Manpichu)
 I am Isha.

Tato glances at her like someone tolerating an extremely annoying person. Isha points at herself again.

ISHA (CONT'D)
 Isha.

Understanding, Tato's impatience breaks a little. He stands and points at himself, puffing out his chest.

TATO
 Tatomatahun.

He nods with import and sits back down, continuing his pack repairs. Isha smiles, having come to know the male ego.

ISHA
 Tatomatahun.

Tato nods, looking skeptical of her smile. Isha glances around, thinking again. She points at the bear tracks.

ISHA (CONT'D)
 Great White Bear?

Tato takes an impatient breath and points in the direction the bear went.

TATO
 Uk-thluk.

Isha makes a questioning face, still pointing at the tracks.

ISHA
 Uk-thluk?

Tato nods. Isha smiles. Tato stands and points at himself, acting out his words:

TATO

Tatomatahun hunt great Uk-thluk.
Tatomatahun kill great Uk-thluk.
Tatomatahun becomes a man.

He goes back to fixing his pack, throwing her wary glances.

Isha nods, getting the main gist, then notices the way he is sewing his pack. She shakes her head and steps towards him.

ISHA

No, no, no. That will never last.

Tato jumps into a startled, defensive position. Isha freezes.

She offers a shy smile and approaches slow, holding out her hands in an unaggressive manner.

ISHA (CONT'D)

It's alright. I only want to help.

Tato is confused by her intent, but Isha carefully grabs the pack and needle from him.

Tato looks incredulous of her gall, but lets her take them.

Isha shows him a better way to sew his pack together, biting back the pain in her hands.

ISHA (CONT'D)

You see? Like this. You need to
loop it...

Isha continues working, cringing.

Tato notices how much superior her sewing is to the way he was doing it. He repeats her words in her dialect:

TATO

(in Manpichu)

"Loop it?"

Isha smiles and nods. Tato nods, pleased with himself, and walks over to inspect his sleigh.

He uprights it and checks a cracked runner. He shakes his head and looks at his busted-beyond-repair kayak.

Isha glances around at the caribou bones the bear scattered from Tato's pack. She points at them.

ISHA

Do you have any other food left?

Tato does not understand.

Isha points at her mouth and belly, then the bones again.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Food? Do you have any other food?

Tato picks up a disgusting mass of meat left by the bear. He grimaces and shakes his head.

Isha nods, disappointed. She peeks at some spears lying by his sled, but seeing him notice, focuses on his pack again.

Tato frowns. He surveys the landscape, especially the direction of the bear, then looks at all the scattered food.

Knowing he's being manipulated, Tato snatches up a big spear and smaller bird-spear.

He stares at Isha working on his pack and nods, accepting her work on it. He points at himself, then out at the wilderness.

TATO

Tatomatahun will go find food. If I
find some, I will share it with
Isha for helping with pack.

Tato heads off in the opposite direction of the bear. Isha does not understand his words, but seeing his belongings still around her, figures out his meaning and smiles.

EXT. SHELTER IN HILLS - NIGHT

Sheltered among the rocks, Isha sleeps while Tato cooks a rabbit over the fire. Beside the fire is a pile of brush and the remains of Tato's kayak.

The sleigh lays nearby, with the fresh rabbit hide stretched over it to dry. Tato checks the meat and nods.

TATO

Isha. Food.

Tato cuts the rabbit on a flat rock with a stone knife.

Isha opens her eyes and Tato hands her some meat. He lifts his own piece to eat but Isha stops him.

ISHA

Ut-ut-ut-ut!

Tato looks at her confused.

Isha throws a small piece of her meat into the fire, then takes some ash and tosses it into the wind.

Tato is shocked by the waste of food.

Isha smiles shyly and, with a grateful nod at Tato, devours her meat. Tato shakes his head and eats as well.

Isha makes a pleased face at the taste of the food. Tato nods, not surprised, and sits back against a rock.

He grabs a rabbit leg and invites Isha to take more. Isha nods in appreciation and grabs more meat.

They eat in silence. Tato grabs his pack and inspects Isha's work, looking impressed.

TATO

Good. Very good.

Isha nods, understanding. She grabs a huge chunk of rabbit and devours it, savoring every bite, even with pain in her jaw, until she realizes what a pig she is being.

Embarrassed, she covers her mouth with one hand, and points at it with the other, repeating Tato's word.

ISHA

(in Tato's Attopa)

Good.

Tato smiles, finding humor in this.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(Attopa)

Very good!

Tato LAUGHS then notices the fire is dying. He throws a piece of his kayak on it and his momentary happiness disappears as he watches it burn. Isha notices this and feels for him.

ISHA (CONT'D)

I am sorry. About your kayak.

Tato looks at her confused and Isha puts a hand over her heart and opens it towards him in a gesture of sorrow.

ISHA (CONT'D)

I am sorry.

She points at the kayak and Tato nods, getting her meaning. He shakes his head in anger, but not at her.

TATO

Uk-thluk.

Tato grabs more meat and stares at the fire as he eats, growing introspective. Isha watches him, thinking.

ISHA

Was Tatomatahun hunting Uk-thluk or
did Uk-thluk hunt Tatomatahun?

Tato looks at her, not comprehending. Isha points at him and motions like she is attacking something with a spear.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Did Tatomatahun attack Uk-thluk?

Tato becomes briefly embarrassed then nods, puffing himself up like the answer should be self-evident.

TATO

Tatomatahun hunt Uk-thluk!

He snatches a piece of meat and turns away from her, staring angrily at the fire.

Isha nods, starting to understand.

SHELTER IN HILLS - MORNING

Isha awakens, wrapped in her blanket, beside the remains of the fire. She sits up, stiff, to find Tato gone, along with is his sleigh and belongings.

She looks around, disappointed.

ISHA

Tatomatahun?

ARCTIC FIELD - LATER

Wearing her sunglasses again, Isha follows Tato's tracks.

Due to the strong sun, her feet keep sinking in the snow, making progress difficult, but she continues onward.

Tato's tracks overtake polar bear tracks. Isha follows both.

LATER

ISHA sees a FIGURE in the distance hunched over and watching something at the edge of a snowdrift. Tato!

Excited, she hurries.

FIFTY FEET AWAY, Tato sees her coming. He does not look pleased and turns back to look over the drift.

When close, Tato motions for her to get low and be quiet.

Isha creeps up beside Tato, then peers over the drift.

BELOW ON THE FAR SIDE, the giant Polar Bear frolics in a wide, icy stream, seeming to be both washing himself and playing, unaware of their presence.

Isha notices how tightly Tato grips his big spear, obviously battling some inner turmoil.

The bear climbs out of the stream on the opposite side and saunters away, shaking water from its fur.

Tato draws in a deep breath and summons his strength, about to leap up and attack...

...but ultimately does nothing. Just watches the bear leave, his chest deflating with his courage.

Tato hangs his head in defeat and shame.

Isha stares at him, sympathetic.

ARCTIC FIELD - NIGHT

Sitting on skins against a large rock serving as their only shelter, Isha blocks the wind for Tato as he tries to light a fire with two pieces of flint and some wood shavings.

When the shavings ignite, Tato throws some leaves and brush on them. Soon they have a roaring little fire.

Tato sits back, watching it, then spots Isha staring at him.

ISHA
Uk-thluk. Why?

Isha points at his spear in puzzlement.

Tato seems to understand but does not want to answer. He stares at the fire as Isha watches him.

Exasperated, he leans over and draws stick figures in the snow of a man, a woman, and a child.

He points at the...

TATO

Man.

Tato raises his hand high to show the height and the stature of a man. Isha nods and Tato points at the woman and Isha.

TATO (CONT'D)

Woman.

Isha nods and smiles, comprehending.

Tato points at the drawing of the child.

TATO (CONT'D)

Boy.

He points at himself.

TATO (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun. Boy.

Isha nods, her smile fading.

Tato draws a polar bear beside the boy, then a spear in the boy's hand extending into the bear.

Tato crosses out the bear and draws a man beside it. He points from the boy to the man.

TATO (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun. Man.

Isha nods, getting it. Tato must kill a polar bear so he can return to his community as a man.

Tato turns back to the fire. Isha watches him, noting the fear and worry in his eyes.

ARCTIC FIELD - DAWN

Isha wakes to THE SOUND OF TATO CRYING.

Sitting up, she finds him standing at the drift where they overlooked the bear.

He is holding his big spear and the reins to his packed sleigh, but he does not move.

Isha gets up and approaches him.

Hearing her come, Tato wipes his eyes. Isha puts a hand on his shoulder and he tears up again.

ICY STREAM - LATER

Isha and Tato climb down a rocky slope to the stream the bear was frolicking in the day before.

Bear tracks still remain, leading to the horizon.

Isha and Tato look for a place to cross.

Not too far away, several chunks of ice have piled against one another, creating a possible bridge across the water.

Tato inspects it but the "bridge" looks more perilous than expected. The ice seems likely to break up if disturbed.

Isha gazes downstream, but sees no other place to cross.

Tato tests an ice slab with his foot and steps onto it.

THE ICE SQUEALS AS IT SCRAPES AGAINST OTHER SLABS!

Isha cringes with concern but the ice holds. Isha shakes her head at him, not liking this idea.

Tato grins and takes another tentative step, then another. When nothing happens, he pulls his sleigh up onto the ice.

Isha can hardly watch, but the ice holds as Tato creeps to where his ice chunk meets with two others.

He considers the two paths before him: One ice chunk tilts at a dangerous angle, the other at a safer angle, but ends two feet from the far side of the stream.

Tato puts a foot onto the latter ice. It seems stable enough.

He takes a deep breath and steps fully onto it.

Isha watches on pins and needles as Tato proceeds forward holding his spear out for balance.

He slowly pulls his sled onto the new ice and it miraculously holds without slipping.

Tato smiles big-time at Isha and takes another step.

THE ICE INSTANTLY SINKS INTO THE WATER BENEATH HIS FEET, SLIDING HIS SLEIGH TOWARDS HIM FROM BEHIND.

Isha's eyes widen with fear.

ISHA

TATO!

Thinking quick, Tato runs forward as best he can, pulling his sleigh with him, and leaps from the ice.

He lands on the far side but slips, letting go of the sleigh reins.

The sleigh slides sideways on the ice until one runner falls over the side and threatens to topple into the water.

Tato reaches for the dropped reins with his spear, but the sleigh tips and falls into the water, bobbing briefly before sinking beneath the icy depths.

Tato's pack momentarily floats to the surface. Before it disappears, he snags it with his spear.

Isha stares at Tato in a disapproving, "I told you so" way.

Tato frowns and waves for her to follow. Isha looks at him like he is crazy. Tato points at the bear tracks in an impatient manner and waves again.

Isha looks around for help but there is none to find.

With a shake of her head, Isha makes sure her pack is secure on her back and puts a tentative foot onto the first ice chunk. It still seems sturdy enough.

Tato nods at her. Holding back anger, Isha carefully steps onto the ice, cringing from pain in her thigh. The ice holds.

Isha studies the short, slippery distance she has to cross to the next block. Taking a deep breath, she puts her arms out for balance and creeps forward, one foot after another.

She reaches the middle of the stream where her ice block pushes against the other two.

Tato waves her on, a strange mixture of concern, excitement and admiration on his face.

Despite her fear, Isha is touched by his attention.

She studies the two paths before her. With the one block still too steep, she steps onto the ice Tato chose.

ISHA SLIPS! But manages to right herself at the last minute, grimacing with pain as she stabilizes herself.

But the jolt causes the block to slip from the others and bob loosely in the water, threatening to flip!

Isha stands frozen, trying to maintain balance. Tato's eyes mirror the fear in her own.

He waves for Isha to keep coming but Isha shakes her head and closes her eyes in panic.

TATO
Isha! You must hurry!

Isha shakes her head and will not open her eyes.

TATO (CONT'D)
Isha!

BEACH - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Isha opens her eyes to find herself floating out to sea on ice as the polar bear beckons her to jump from the beach.

The polar bear turns into the dark-faced man-boy.

Isha watches amazed as the man-boy's face becomes visible, revealing himself to be Tato.

TATO (O.S.)
Isha!

STREAM - DAY - END FLASHBACK

Isha opens her eyes and looks at Tato waving for her to jump.

Behind Tato, off in the distance, she notices a bird flying in a circle as if calling her as well.

A LARGE WHITE OWL.

TATO
Isha, jump!

Isha smiles at Tato, becoming calm. It takes him off guard.

Maintaining eye contact with Tato, Isha puts her arms down and, summoning her courage, breaks into a RUN.

Tato's eyes widen as Isha bolts across the ice.

With each step, the ice rears up dangerously beneath her feet, but somehow she keeps finding her footing until, at the end of the block, Isha leaps off looking bold and beautiful.

Tato catches her as she barely reaches the stream edge, and pulls her forward, both collapsing to the ground.

CRACK! The two turn back as the ice blocks dislodge from one another and float away, making retreat impossible.

Isha looks at Tato and sees newfound respect in his eyes. She smiles and looks to the sky but the owl is gone.

Isha stands, with Tato's help, and proceeds off in the direction of the bear.

Tato watches her a moment, still amazed, then follows.

VAST ARCTIC FIELD - DAY

Isha and Tato follow the tracks across a desert of snow.

LATER

They sit in the middle of nowhere eating the last of their meat. Tato keeps glancing at Isha, studying her like he wants to ask something. Finally:

TATO

Why are you out here alone, Isha?

Isha does not understand.

TATO (CONT'D)

Don't you have a family somewhere?

Isha shakes her head, still not getting it.

Frustrated, he draws a picture like his last one-- of a boy, a man, and a woman. He circles all three.

TATO (CONT'D)

Family.

Isha nods, understanding. Tato circles the drawing once more and points at her.

TATO (CONT'D)

Family?

Isha thinks a moment then draws, within the family circle, an old woman with a walking stick. She points at herself.

Tato nods.

Isha makes sewing motions, and points at her clothes and the little drawn family.

Tato nods again, understanding Isha's place in the family.

Isha grimaces and crinkles her hands into claws. She grabs her jaw in pain, and shakes her head.

With a stony face, she draws an arrow leading from her image inside the circle to outside the circle.

She shows Tato her clawed, shaking hands and draws the arrow again, underlining the significance of why she was exiled.

Isha draws the picture of herself as the Old Woman outside the circle now, and crosses out her image inside the circle.

Tato looks horrified. He points at their surroundings, and pantomimes dying-- "but you'll die out here all alone!"

His pantomime is unintentionally comical, making Isha smile before nodding soberly-- "yes, that is the point of it."

Isha crosses out the Old Woman outside the circle.

Tato shakes his head and points at himself.

TATO (CONT'D)
With my people...

Tato circles all the family members again, including the Old Woman Isha has crossed out. He points at himself again and the large, inclusive circle.

TATO (CONT'D)
Family.

He nods with import and Isha nods back with a sad smile.

Tato makes a clawed hand and a pushing away motion while shaking his head. He points at Isha and the Old Woman image-- his people would never do this because someone is feeble.

He instead reaches for Isha and makes a pulling, hugging motion towards himself.

Isha nods and shrugs-- "yeah, well, what're you gonna do?"

She waves in dismissive fashion at the drawings, but as she eats her food, Tato notes her sadness return.

TUNDRA - LATER

Isha and Tato follow the bear tracks while SINGING A SIMPLE SONG TOGETHER WITH A LOT OF HUMMING IN IT. They each know the tune until Tato makes a mistake.

Isha laughs and REPEATS THE CORRECT WORDS.

Tato nods, acknowledging his mistake. THEY SING AGAIN and Tato smiles as they pass the part where he erred.

Climbing a low rise, Isha freezes, noticing something ahead.

Tato climbs up beside her to discover a massive herd of reindeer rummaging not far ahead in the snow.

Isha and Tato squat. Isha nods at Tato who creeps off, excited, in a swift loop towards the reindeer.

Tato moves too fast, however. Isha cringes and waves for him to slow down, but he does not look back.

Sure enough, one reindeer spots Tato coming. Tato dives behind a snowdrift AS ALL THE REINDEER raise their heads.

When Tato pops his head up again to check on them, they take off like STOMPING THUNDER in the opposite direction.

Tato yells in dismay, and launches his spear in desperation at the receding animals, but he does not come close.

The reindeer fade to little brown dots in the distance.

Isha shakes her head at Tato in disapproval and continues on, following the bear tracks.

Head bowed, Tato retrieves his fruitless spear.

ROCKY FIELD - NIGHT

In a rocky area where the snow has disappeared around some boulders, Isha sits before a small fire, fueling it with smoking grasses and thin shrubbery.

She watches Tato throw his spear at a snowman from a respectable distance.

He scores a direct hit to the snowman's chest, toppling it, and raises his arms in triumph.

Isha nods, acknowledging his good aim, but puts up a halting finger. She painfully gets up and, indicating for Tato to pay attention, creeps to him in a stealthy manner.

Tato knows what she is doing and nods, embarrassed.

Isha shakes her head and stomps through the snow making big movements and A LOT OF NOISE. Tato nods again.

Isha smiles and grabs his spear for him, giving it back to him in an impressed, encouraging manner.

ISHA
(in choppy Attopa)
Good, Tatomatahun. Good.

Tato smiles at her approval, and use of his language, until HIS STOMACH GROWLS.

Isha raises a sober eyebrow at him and returns to the fire.

Tato looks around, thinking.

A look of determination grows in his eyes. Gripping his spear with sudden purpose, Tato runs off into the night.

Isha watches him go, then grins at the fire.

ROCKY FIELD - MORNING

Isha awakens to the sound of SOMETHING CRACKLING.

She turns to find Tato cooking several ptarmigans (birds) over the fire with his spear.

Tato smiles and creeps along the ground as Isha had instructed, then points at the three ptarmigans.

Isha smiles with delight.

ARCTIC FIELD - LATER

The temperature has dropped. Isha and Tato are bundled up as they follow the bear tracks, glancing with concern at the dark clouds moving in above.

They come to an overhang where the tracks run down a steep incline then cross a short expanse to an ice cave.

Numerous tracks to and from the cave tells them they have found the bear's home. Most of the tracks lead around the incline to the left, and out of sight.

Isha notes the fear returning to Tato's eyes-- the look of someone who has stumbled upon the lair of a mortal enemy.

Tato removes his pack extra slow, trying to delay the inevitable, and sets it in the snow.

He checks his spear, and the stone knife on his belt, then looks at Isha. A swallow catches in his throat.

Isha opens her mouth, but closes it again-- not knowing what to say, nor how to even say it.

Tato smiles, understanding, and with a "here goes nothing" look, creeps down the incline.

Isha watches him go, growing nervous. Finally:

ISHA
(loud whisper)
Tato!

Tato peers back from halfway down the incline.

Isha motions for him to come back up. She throws a dismissive wave at the cave and offers an embarrassed half-smile.

Tato considers going back up, but instead returns her half-smile and creeps down the rest of the incline.

Isha looks as scared as Tato as he approaches the cave, glancing everywhere, ready for an ambush at any moment.

He slows down, little by little, until his fear wins out and he stops ten feet from the cave.

Isha's eyes widen, nervous Tato has seen or heard something.

Nothing happens for a long time-- Tato just stands frozen, staring at the cave as a COLD WIND BLOWS.

AN OWL HOOTS SOMEWHERE ABOVE, and Tato's paralysis breaks.

HE RUNS, PETRIFIED, to the side of the cave, pressing his back against the ice and closing his eyes.

Isha watches, anxious. Tato shakes his head, but it is hard to tell if this is fear or anger at himself.

He looks very much like a boy again and Isha's heart goes out to him. She looks around but doesn't know what to do.

Snow falls and Isha looks at the sky.

High above, she spots the white owl flying. ANOTHER HOOT reaches her on the WIND.

The strange calmness returns to her, and she looks at Tato mouthing a prayer of some kind.

With a determined look, Isha drops her pack and descends.

HEARING SOMETHING APPROACH IN THE SNOW, Tato opens his eyes in a panic and is shocked to see Isha heading for the cave.

Isha points at Tato in a way that says "you stay right there," then DISAPPEARS INSIDE.

Tato's surprise melts to indignation. He peeks...

INSIDE THE CAVE

Isha creeps down a long corridor of rock and ice toward a GLOWING BLUE LIGHT.

She notes animal bones all over the floor. A FOX SKULL EXPLODES WITH A CRUNCH BENEATH HER FOOT and she freezes.

OUTSIDE, Tato nervously grabs his head.

INSIDE, nothing happens. Isha creeps forward again.

She reaches the end of the corridor and presses her back against the wall, bracing herself.

Isha sees Tato peering at her from outside, eyes wide.

She summons her courage and peeks around the wall at a

VAST CAVERN, lit by a wall of ice on one side that GLOWS BRIGHT BLUE IN THE FADING DAYLIGHT.

In the center, snowflakes, illuminated by a thin shaft of light, twinkle down from a hole in the ceiling.

Hundreds of bones lie everywhere, as do several big pieces of driftwood that must have been carried in by humans long ago.

Scraggy bushes and spiny vegetation grow here and there.

And in the back of the cavern, against the glowing ice wall, is a clearing of dried grasses where the bear must sleep.

But there is no sign of the bear.

Relieved, Isha looks back at Tato watching with bated breath.

Isha smiles and notices snow falling behind him.

Making up her mind about something, she walks back...

OUTSIDE

Tato stares dumbfounded as Isha scrambles back up the incline and grabs their packs.

She returns, pointing up as she walks back into the cave.

ISHA
It's snowing out.

Tato gazes after her in disbelief.

He looks up at the falling snow then checks the direction the bear tracks lead. With a sigh, he enters the cave.

INSIDE THE CORRIDOR

Tato walks slow, noting the bones-- spear at the ready.

At the end, he peeks around the wall.

BLUE-LIT CAVERN

Tato's eyes widen, finding Isha digging through his pack on the bear's straw bed.

She retrieves his flint rocks and holds them out to him as she walks over to the light shaft.

Snow still filters down from the hole above. Isha stands in an area where it does not fall.

ISHA

Here. Make fire.

Isha points at the ground then up at the ceiling.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Smoke go up through hole.

Tato points at the bear's bed and the corridor behind him.

TATO

Uk-thluk?!

Isha does not appear worried.

ISHA

Make Fire. Keep Uk-thluk away.

Isha sparks the flints together and makes running away motions with her fingers. She then drops the flints and waves her hands in pain from the pantomime she just did.

Tato frowns. Isha gathers fuel as best she can for a fire.

Tato looks out of the cave where there is only swirling snow.

Shaking his head, he walks over and stands over the flint rocks like a pouting child.

He catches Isha glance at him as she bends to grab some twigs. He puffs himself up, perturbed.

TATO

Isha!

Tato points at himself and makes an attacking motion like he is throwing his spear.

TATO (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun, hunter! Kill Uk-thluk.

He acts out killing a bear to get his message across.

TATO (CONT'D)

Not Isha! Isha no hunt Uk-thluk!

He points at her, shaking his head, then snatches up his flint rocks. He frowns at them, then looks around for kindling, avoiding her gaze.

Isha watches him, understanding her interference in his bear hunt has insulted him, even if she was only trying to help.

LATER

Isha and Tato sit around a fire, the smoke indeed rising up through the hole above.

Snow still falls from the hole, but lands behind them on the opposite side of a great driftwood log they have dragged over to sit against.

Another log has been dragged over so that one end protrudes into the fire, burning nicely.

As they sit, Tato rubs one of his mukluks with a broad blunt stick, trying to soften it up. Isha watches.

She looks at her old, useless hands. Tato notices, looking like he again wants to ask her something he doesn't know how.

He finally leans over and draws a little boy, a man and a woman in some sand between them. He circles the man and woman, and points at the woman.

TATO

Isha.

Isha nods. Looking inquisitive, Tato points at the man next to the woman.

Isha smiles at the innocence of his inquiry but shakes her head. She crosses out the man and tilts her head to the side with her tongue hanging out, indicating her husband has died.

Tato points at the boy.

Isha nods and puts up three fingers-- she had three children. But she closes two fingers, revealing only one is alive.

She leans over and draws a man next to the boy, then an arrow from the boy to the man, and crosses out the boy.

Tato nods, understanding her surviving son has grown up.

Isha draws a little girl next to the man-- a granddaughter.

ISHA

Choko.

Tato smiles.

But Isha becomes sad, looking at the drawing of Choko, and pushes the thoughts away.

She draws a picture of a boy and a girl. Circling them, she points at the girl and looks at Tato.

Tato blushes and shakes his head. He focuses on his mukluk.

Isha smiles, then notices Tato is sporting an erection under his clothes.

Her eyes widen, but when Tato looks at her again she acts like she has not noticed anything and grabs his other mukluk.

She digs through the firewood and finds a blunt stick. Isha rubs his mukluk, even though it obviously hurts her hands.

Tato is touched but stops her. He makes his hand into a claw and shakes his head, indicating he doesn't want her hurting herself to help him.

Isha waves him off and continues working, pain and all. Tato smiles and works on his own mukluk.

When he thinks Isha is not looking, he shifts himself to hide his erection.

Isha sees from the corner of her eye and hides a smile.

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Tato wakes to the SOUND OF BONES RATTLING.

Remembering where he is, he jumps up with a start and snatches his spear.

The cavern is lit blue again from daylight pouring through the ice wall, but there is no sign of a bear, nor Isha.

TATO

Isha?

RATTLING BONES ANSWER from the corridor leading out of the cave. Tato notices a formless shadow moving in it.

Nervous, Tato creeps toward it, holding his spear ready.

Summoning his courage, he peeks INTO THE CORRIDOR...

...to find Isha picking up bones as she cleans the cave.

He lets out a sigh of relief.

Seeing him awake, Isha smiles nonchalantly and drops an armful of bones on a pile against one wall.

ISHA

(in Manpichu)

Good morning, Tato.

Tato half-smiles back, embarrassed he was spooked by her.

TATO

(in Attopa)

Good morning.

Isha tilts her head, his way of saying "good morning" very similar to her own.

ISHA

(imitating Attopa)

Good morning?

She indicates the sun outside, and Tato nods.

TATO

(in Attopa)

Good morning.

Isha looks pleased. Points at herself.

ISHA

(in Manpichu)

Good MOR-ning.

Tato nods, hearing the difference.

Noticing something at Tato's feet, she walks over and picks up a large walrus skull. Fresher than many other skulls, it still has the lower jaw attached by dried, shriveled muscle.

Excited, she shows it to a confused Tato.

Isha carries the skull to the cave's entrance where the snow has risen three feet overnight.

Isha places the skull on top of a small pyramid of skulls she has erected on the left side of the entrance.

Tato looks concerned by the pile. Isha laughs.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Uk-thluk...

Isha puts clawed hands in the air and acts like a polar bear. She pretends to see the skulls and become scared.

She makes a walking away gesture with her fingers.

Tato is skeptical and Isha invites him to inspect the pile.

Tato steps closer, not liking it. Smelling something odd he notices the snow around the skulls is yellow.

He looks at Isha, who nods and points at her groin.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Urine.

She smiles and points from his groin to the pile.

ISHA (CONT'D)

You do too. Go urine. No Uk-thluk.

She waves him on, then disappears into the cave.

Tato watches her go like she's gone mad, then looks out at the freshly fallen snow. The bear tracks are all gone-- the world outside seems pristine and new.

Tato glances back at the skulls. Shaking his head, he makes sure Isha is not around and drops the front of his pants.

He relieves himself on the skulls just as Isha appears again.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato...

Tato jumps, turning away in anger and embarrassment.

TATO

Hey, hey!

Isha stops, surprised and amused. His repeated looks over his shoulder to see what she is doing only fans her humor.

Isha reveals she has found an exotic whalebone spearhead, carved in a beautiful, intricate way.

Tato finishes and, forgetting his anger, sets his own spear down and takes the large spearhead from her.

He inspects it, amazed. Isha points at a particular seal skull in the pyramid with a large hole in it.

Tato nods, impressed.

ISHA

Now...

Isha takes back the spearhead, hands Tato his spear, and points at his feet.

ISHA (CONT'D)

...get dressed. Go hunting. Food.

Isha indicates "dressed", "hunting", and "food" with pantomimes, and strolls back down the corridor.

Tato frowns, not pleased to be parted with the spearhead.

He looks out of the cave and his anxiety returns.

Isha brings his mukluks, parka, pack and knife and bends at his feet to help get him dressed. Embarrassed, Tato lifts his foot to allow Isha to put one of his mukluks on.

Because of pain in her shaking hands, however, she cannot fully do this task, so Tato bends and finishes for her.

Isha helps Tato put on his parka, cringing the whole time, and hands him his pack and knife.

Dressed, Tato looks at Isha. Standing so close, the two share an awkward moment before Isha steps back and waves him off.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Go my son. Hunt with honor.

Tato nods, getting her gist.

Grabbing his spear, and slinging his pack over his shoulder, he takes a deep breath and walks out of the cave.

He only gets a few feet before stopping, nervous again.

Isha gets an idea.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato...

Tato watches, confused, as Isha grabs a fox skull from the pile and carries it to him, shaking the urine off it.

She puts the skull into his pack and pats it there. Tato stares at her in confusion and disgust.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Uk-thluk.

Isha smiles and disappears back into the cave. Tato looks at his pack and shakes his head.

He peers in the direction the bear tracks lead before the snow covered them, then heads the opposite direction.

ARCTIC FIELD - LATER

Tato staggers along, hot and tired. From the tracks behind him, he has travelled a great distance.

He stops and sits for a rest, scooping up snow to eat. He checks the sun's position in the sky and shakes his head, disappointed.

The landscape is empty in all directions.

Frustrated, he lays back in the snow and stretches out his arms and legs as he blankly stares at the sky.

LATER

Tato walks even further out, looking even more tired as he eats dried ptarmigan. The sun is on its way back down the sky and there is still no sign of food anywhere.

He stops and gazes at the distance he's crossed. Glancing around, trying to figure out what to do, he finally hangs his head in defeat and starts back, following his own tracks.

LATER

Tato passes a snow angel marking where he stopped earlier to lay in the snow. He does not even glance at it.

SNOW HILL - SUNSET

Tato travels along an incline that is steepening into the big hill where the caves lies, not far ahead.

Crestfallen, he still stares around for any signs of food but the situation looks hopeless.

A BLUR OF MOVEMENT AT THE TOP OF THE HILL causes him to freeze. He waits, not moving a muscle.

It happens again! Something furry and white is up there, but the glimpse was too quick to see what it was-- rabbit? Fox? Paw of a frolicking polar bear?

Tato creeps up the incline, careful to stay low and quiet.

Near the top, two foxes suddenly appear-- the blur culprits!

Tato ducks, excited, but the foxes take no notice of him, spooked by something on top of the incline.

Tato raises his spear.

The foxes bolt, one speeding away from Tato down the hill, the other running straight at him, too unnerved by something behind it to even care he is there.

Tato launches his spear, striking the fox dead before it reaches him! He smiles, triumphant.

RUMBLE! TATO HEARS THE POUNDING OF MANY APPROACHING PAWS AT THE TOP OF THE INCLINE AND HIS SMILE FADES.

Looking up, his eyes widen as five wolves pour over the hill in pursuit of the foxes.

Three wolves chase after the escaping fox, but two come after his and, finding Tato there, immediately BARK and circle him.

Tato grabs his knife and turns with the wolves, maintaining eye contact as best he can.

He tries to grab his spear, BUT ONE OF THE WOLVES CHARGES!

Tato falls back, spilling his backpack and swinging his knife at the wolf, clipping it's nose!

THE WOLF SHRIEKS and takes off after the other fox.

The other wolf remains, BARKING FIERCELY AT TATO.

Tato backs away, still on the ground, and the wolf charges, but stops at the fox, sniffing it. The wolf opens its mouth to grab the fox, but Tato YELLS.

THE WOLF ERUPTS ANOTHER BARRAGE OF VICIOUS BARKS and, moving quicker than expected, charges forward, right on top of Tato!

Tato freezes as it creeps forward, GROWLING OMINOUSLY and sniffing up his leg.

Tato is petrified as the wolf reaches his abdomen.

It suddenly stops, spooked by something.

The wolf sniffs down beneath Tato's body to his open pack.

IT MAKES A NERVOUS WHINE.

The wolf backs away a few feet and EXPLODES WITH BARKS.

Tato cringes, petrified. The wolf turns and races off after the rest of his pack.

Tato lays there a moment catching his breath, then moves, confused, to see what spooked the wolf.

There in the snow, among the things that fell from his pack, is the urine-soaked fox skull Isha had placed there.

Tato picks it up and stares at it, amazed.

EXT. CAVE - DUSK

Tato arrives back carrying the dead fox in one hand and the fox skull in the other.

He sees no bear (or wolf) tracks anywhere and smiles at Isha's skull pyramid.

He glances where the bear tracks lead before the snow covered them and, seeing nothing, enters the cave in good spirits.

INSIDE THE CAVE

Tato finds all the bones have been piled in one corner, and all wood and fuel stacked besides a small crackling fire.

Tending the fire, Isha claps when she sees Tato and his fox.

Tato holds up the fox skull and kisses it. Isha smiles.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Isha and Tato sit around the fire, eating.

The fox's fur and strips of meat are stretched on a driftwood log behind them.

A melting snow pile in a far corner reveals various innards buried there to keep fresh.

As they eat, Isha and Tato communicate in the sand between them. From the wolf drawings, and lone figure facing them, it's obvious Tato has been telling the story of his hunt.

Tato suddenly BARKS at Isha, startling her into LAUGHTER.

Tato creeps towards her like a powerful, prowling wolf, looking Isha in the eyes and smiling in a cocky way.

He sniffs her foot then works his way up her leg, the action strangely erotic.

Isha stiffens, caught-off-guard. When Tato reaches her upper thigh, his head very close to her breasts, he stops to look at them, momentarily forgetting what he is doing.

After an awkward silence, Tato sits up straight, producing the fox skull from behind him and acting surprised.

He stands and runs away, pretending to be a wolf again. Isha LAUGHS and claps at his humorous ending.

Tato runs back, smiling, and sits beside her, eating more.

ISHA
(in choppy Attopa)
Good, good! Very good Tato!

Tato blushes. Isha notices he is again sporting an erection.

Tato catches her looking, and Isha turns away, also blushing.

Tato shifts himself to hide his erection.

Changing the subject, Isha notices Tato wearing his mukluks and waves his feet towards her.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Tato, give me your mukluks.

Catching her meaning, Tato takes off a mukluk and hands it to her. Isha picks up her blunt stick from the night before and rubs it down, biting back the aching in her hands.

Tato notices her pain as he takes off his other mukluk.

TATO

Isha...

He tries to take the mukluk from her, but Isha pulls it out of his reach.

ISHA

No!

She keeps working, avoiding his gaze.

Tato smiles and takes the opportunity to look her over. Isha is old, yes, but beneath her skimpy clothes, he can see her womanly form all too well in the firelight.

Especially the curve of her breasts, which he was so near moments before...

Isha looks up and Tato turns away, embarrassed. He grabs a stick and rubs down his other mukluk.

INT. CAVE - LATER

Isha lies on the straw bed beside Tato, staring at the ceiling as the fire throws shadows across it.

Drifting toward sleep, she sees SILHOUETTED IMAGES OF WOMEN APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING IN THE DANCING SHADOWS.

The images become more numerous as Isha fades until one shadow of a woman becomes more distinct than all the others.

This shadow seems to originate from the wall behind Isha, even though there is no light source for it.

As Isha watches, the shadow grows as if someone is approaching her from behind.

IMMANNA (V.O.)

Isha...

Isha opens her eyes wide and turns, but there is nothing behind her except the dark ice wall.

SUDDENLY, THE FIRE FADES AND EVERYTHING GOES DARK.

A small, pulsating blue light appears in the ice wall, as if a heart is beating within it.

The light grows brighter, revealing a NUDE OLD WOMAN frozen within the wall, curled like she is in a womb.

Isha stands and backs away. By the strange blue light, she notices Tato is gone.

IMMANNA (V.O.)

Isha...

BUMP! Hitting something, Isha turns, startled to find Tato standing there, completely nude, WITH THE HEAD OF A WOLF!

The Tato-wolf's mouth opens and speaks.

TATO-WOLF

Isha!

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Isha awakens with a start! Just a dream...

But Tato is gone!

TATO (O.S.)

Good morning, Isha...

Isha turns to find Tato, half-dressed, yawning as he disappears into the corridor leading out of the cave.

Isha looks at the wall behind her. It glows now with the normal light of day. Nobody frozen within it.

Isha shakes her head, trying to clear the dream.

She notices much of their snow pile in the corner has melted, revealing animal skulls into which they have stored some of the more delicate parts of the fox.

The skulls seem to stare at Isha accusingly.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

In high-spirits, Tato urinates on the skull pyramid.

Seeing the only tracks visible outside are his own and Isha's, he smiles.

Tato finishes his business and spots a long spear inside the cave. The spearhead Isha found is fastened to the top.

Next to it is a short stick with the fox-skull fastened on.

Tato grabs the spear in shock and hefts it in his hands. He tries to wiggle the spearhead, amazed at how well it is made.

He pulls it back and makes to throw it, but doesn't. Just getting a feel for it.

Tato grabs the fox-stick, impressed by its decorative ptarmigan feathers. He waves it around in jovial fashion, then tucks it into the pants.

He takes a few steps and spins, pulling out the fox-stick and brandishing it beside the spear as if battling unseen foes.

Apparently victorious, Tato raises both arms high into the air and HOWLS LIKE A TRIUMPHANT WOLF.

INSIDE THE CAVE

Isha hears his yell and smiles.

EXT. CAVE - LATER - DAY

Tato exits wearing his parka and all his gear, including the fox-skull stick tucked into his belt beside his knife. He carries his new spear alongside his old one.

Isha waves him off.

Tato stops where he stopped yesterday and looks at his tracks leading off to the right. He turns to the left, and stares in the direction the bear tracks used to lead.

Tato glances back at Isha watching him from the cave.

He smiles at her with confidence and walks off to his left, following the direction of the hidden bear tracks.

Isha looks a little worried about his new direction.

TUNDRA - LATER

Tato creeps along the fading incline of their ice-cave hill, staying low, expecting a bear attack at any moment.

The incline eventually bends away to the left, revealing a great open space stretching to the horizon.

From the area's flatness, and the way it is ringed by small shrubs and trees, it appears to be a great gulf, or lake of some kind, frozen and covered with snow.

Tato walks to the edge of the ice, looking around, but there is nothing of note in every direction.

He checks the ice, which seems sturdy, and walks out onto it, continuing to scan the area.

AFTER ONE HUNDRED YARDS, Tato stops, noticing far off to his left, a protrusion of some kind, covered in snow and sticking up from the otherwise smooth ice surface.

Tato looks around again then sets off for the oddity.

As he nears it, Tato sees the protrusion is actually a crater where something large broke down through the ice.

Because of the snow, however, there are no tracks anywhere.

Tato stops ten feet away and uses his spears to check the ice around the crater. It seems solid.

He keeps going but, within a few feet, gets on his stomach and slides carefully to the crater.

He reaches down and wipes away snow from the center of the crater, revealing a thin layer of new ice.

Tato clears away more snow and finds old frozen blood on one side of the new ice. He also finds a few small chunks of meat, which he chips off and sniffs.

Clearing away more snow, he uncovers a big polar bear track.

Tato looks around again, nervous, but there are no signs of a bear in any direction.

He reveals more prints and blood heading off to the horizon.

Tato gets up, thinking. He marches off in the direction of the bear, but stops after a few steps.

Tato looks anxious. He glances at the crater, back toward the cave, then in the direction of the bear tracks.

At last, he stomps back to the crater and sets his spears and pack down, not looking pleased with himself.

He straddles an ice chunk and kicks the thin ice in the center of the crater until he breaks through.

INT. CAVE - LATER

The light is fading from the ice wall. Isha sits beside some smoldering coals in almost total darkness, rubbing the pelt of the first rabbit Tato caught, trying to dry it out.

Tears of pain drip from her eyes and she rubs and rubs.

She finally SCREAMS OUT and drops the pelt. Her hands shake uncontrollably and she stares at them in anger.

Isha SCREAMS AGAIN, lays her head back, and cries.

Coming back to herself, she realizes snowflakes are filtering down through the hole above.

She sits up and looks with concern at the corridor leading out of the cave just as Tato arrives back.

Exhausted, Tato holds a bundle of fresh kindling on one shoulder. In his other hand, he holds a rope, which he pulls forward to reveal a dead seal.

Isha explodes with relief, excitement, and pride for Tato.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Isha and Tato sit around a fire eating seal. In their storage corner, fresh heaps of snow have been piled over the remaining portions of seal meat.

The seal skin is stretched on a log beside the fox skin.

A life-sized hole has been drawn in the sand between them, with bear tracks around it.

Tato hunches by the hole, aiming his spear at it.

He points at the hole, and with boyish energy, imitates a seal popping up its head.

Isha laughs at Tato's performance.

Tato pretends to throw his spear and stands in triumph.

Isha claps as Tato returns and sits proudly beside her.

Tato waves his fox-skull stick like a good luck talisman.

Isha nods, pleased he likes it.

Tato HOWLS LIKE A WOLF and Isha LAUGHS.

Encouraged, Tato crawls to her, sniffing again like he did the night before.

Isha tries to keep a look of humor on her face, but things get awkward as Tato sniffs his way up her body again and stops once more at her breasts.

His sniffing degenerates to just staring at them.

Mesmerized, Tato reaches out tentatively and puts his hand on one of her breasts. He slowly massages it, fascinated.

Isha sits frozen, unsure what to do.

Tato looks at her other breast and, getting into a better position, gently massages this one with his other hand.

After a moment, he notes the tense look on her face.

Looking at his hands on her body, Tato backs away to his spot by the fire and hangs his head, embarrassed.

He also tries to hide his obvious erection.

Isha watches him fumble awkwardly with himself, unable to fully hide it, and her heart goes out to him.

Tato turns away and continues eating, sitting in a strange way to hide his manhood from her.

Nervous but determined, Isha scoots towards him.

Seeing her coming, Tato freezes. She passes right over the hunting images he has drawn in the sand, destroying them.

Beside Tato, Isha surprises him by reaching over in a business-like manner and putting a hand inside his pants.

Slowly, Isha starts moving her hand, masturbating him.

Tato closes his eyes, his body quaking from the unexpected pleasure this gives him.

Isha is all business as she does her deed, biting back pain in her hands, until Tato's BREATHING GETS LOUDER.

She moves her hand faster until Tato arches his body and GRUNTS.

When done, he collapses against the log.

Isha pulls her hand out, still all businesslike, and wipes it on some straw before scooting back to her spot by the fire.

When his breathing returns to normal, Tato looks at Isha, unsure how to react. Isha smiles politely and turns to the fire, continuing her meal.

Tato opens his pants to check on himself.

He rubs the area, seeming unsure what just happened, and glances at Isha before staring at the fire as well.

But a smile appears on his face and grows until he is grinning ear to ear, unable to help himself.

Isha catches his eye, and because of the innocent delight she sees there, can't help but smile as well.

CAVE - NIGHT

Isha sleeps. A DRAGGING NOISE stirs her and she awakens to find the fire burning bright.

SHE HEARS A LARGE GROWL and looks at the corridor as a great polar bear struts bowlegged into the cavern.

Scared, Isha looks at Tato sleeping besides her with his face turned away. She shakes him, but Tato does not stir.

ISHA
(whispers)
Tato!

The polar bear sniffs the air and gazes at Isha. It ROARS and approaches her.

Wide-eyed, Isha shakes Tato even more.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Tato! Tatomatahun!

Tato does not stir, even as the approaching bear ROARS AGAIN.

Desperate, Isha turns Tato over.

Tato's head is now a wolf-skull. Isha SCREAMS.

The bear towers up over her, and as it stands, Isha sees it has two female human breasts protruding from its chest.

The bear opens its mouth to roar, revealing Immanna's head alive inside its jaws, staring in anger at Isha.

Isha's eyes widen with shock and fear.

IMMANNA
(commanding tone)
ISHA!

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Isha jerks awake from her dream, the cave lit bright around her-- no sign of the bear.

Tato sits up as well, spooked. He looks at her with concern.

TATO

Isha?

Isha smiles that everything is okay, but looks worried.

Tato rubs his eyes and yawns. Looking down, they both see he has woken up with an erection in his pants.

Tato smiles self-consciously at Isha who points towards the corridor, telling him to go take care of his business outside and leave her out of it.

Smiling, Tato heads for the corridor as ordered.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Outside, Tato steps up to the skull pyramid and urinates.

He looks down at the snow...

...NOTICES A BEAR TRACK RIGHT NEXT TO THE PYRAMID!

He glances around, eyes widening. The entire area outside the cave is littered with bear tracks!

No sign of the bear itself, though.

Tato finishes his business and stalks around, investigating.

The bear came from the right and approached the cave until it reached the skull pyramid.

It then walked around a bit and set off to the left.

Tato runs back inside the cave.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Isha grabs seal meat from their melting snow pile as Tato barges in, excited.

TATO

Isha! Uk-thluk!

He drops to the floor and puts on his mukluks. Isha looks concerned and he points towards the mouth of the cave.

TATO (CONT'D)

Tracks, outside!

Tato makes walking motions in the sand beneath his feet.

Isha does not like the enthusiastic way he is dressing and points at his mukluks with a questioning look.

Tato stands proudly.

TATO (CONT'D)
Tatomatahun hunt Uk-thluk!

Tato makes a spear-throwing motion to emphasize his meaning.

Isha shakes her head, scared.

ISHA
(choppy Attopa)
Tato, no! No, hunt Uk-thluk!

Tato is confused. He nods his head.

TATO
Tatomatahun hunt Uk-thluk.
Tatomatahun become man.

ISHA
No...

Isha looks around in a panic but doesn't seem to know what she can say or do to stop him.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Uk-thluk...

She makes a RIPPING SOUND and a claw motion across her neck.

Tato shakes his head, angry.

TATO
No! Tatomatahun kill Uk-thluk!

He makes a stabbing motion for emphasis.

ISHA
(choppy Attopa)
No! Uk-thluk kill Tatomatahun!

Tato stares at Isha in disbelief. But his anger dissipates into humor at her concern.

He grabs his fox-skull stick and holds it up with confidence.

TATO
Tatomatahun kill Uk-thluk.

Isha turns to the fire looking worried and refusing to make eye-contact as she busies herself with rekindling a flame.

Tato shakes his head and continues dressing for his hunt. He notices Isha fighting back tears.

Dressed, knife and fox-skull stuck in his belt, two spears in hand, Tato packs some meat from their snow-pile.

Putting on his pack, he steps before Isha who avoids his gaze as she struggles with the fire.

A tear falls from one eye, rolling down her cheek.

Tato lifts it with a finger and holds it before her.

TATO (CONT'D)

Isha cry... because Isha afraid Uk-
thluk kill Tatomatahun?

He makes a slashing motion across his throat on "kill."

Isha wipes her face and looks at him. She shakes her head.

ISHA

(choppy Attopa)
Isha cry...

She points at the tear on his finger.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(choppy Attopa)
...because Tatomatahun kill Uk-
thluk.

Isha turns away and busies herself again with the fire.

Unsure what to make of her words, Tato walks slowly to the corridor leading out of the cave.

Isha glances at him leaving, wrestling with something.

When almost out of sight:

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato.

Tato stares back at her.

Isha nods with encouragement.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Good luck.

She focuses back on the fire which she finally gets going.

Tato returns and grabs her gently by the shoulders.

When she looks at him, he presses his forehead against hers and rubs her nose with his in an "Eskimo kiss."

Isha makes a sad smile and Tato pulls back, also smiling.

They regard one another, then Tato makes a sweeping turn and exits the cave.

Alone, Isha's face cracks with fear and sadness. She fights back a fresh wave of tears but proves unsuccessful.

As she cries, snowflakes begin to fall from the hole above.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Leaving, Tato also discovers the snowfall.

He looks nervously at the bear tracks getting covered and runs off into the snow, following them.

INT. CAVE - LATER - DAY

Isha sits staring at the fire, lost in thought.

All her tears have dried, leaving streaks on her sooty face.

Black smoke wafts around her. She realizes her seal meat is burning and jerks it out of the flames.

Numb, Isha picks off what she can, and eats.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Isha walks out fully dressed and pulling a small makeshift sleigh constructed from branches and straps of hide.

Tato's tracks, and the bear's, are almost gone from the snow.

Isha stares into the distance where the world is white-washed by falling snow.

She follows the fading tracks, pulling the sleigh behind her.

TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Isha breaks up a small bush not far along the incline and piles its sticks on her sled.

She hurts her hands breaking a particularly thick branch and walks around in a circle, shaking them out in pain.

She stares off into the tundra but there is nothing to see.

She looks at the sky where daylight is fading fast behind the clouds.

Emotionless, she throws the last batch of sticks on the sled and walks back towards the cave.

EXT. CAVE - LATER

Reaching the mouth, Isha looks back once more for Tato. Sees nothing but falling snow.

With a nod, she scoops some armfuls of snow onto her sleigh.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Isha sits alone by a small fire.

A GHOSTLY BREEZE MOANS IN THE CORRIDOR. Isha looks up, hoping to see Tato returning, but nobody appears.

Isha inspects the snow drifting down through the hole above and stares back at the crackling fire.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Isha stands at the mouth of the cave holding up a spluttering torch made from seal blubber.

The snow has tapered off in intensity but is still falling.

On the ground, all tracks, including her own from earlier, have been covered with snow.

She stares into the night looking worried.

ISHA
Tatomatahun!

Her voice echoes off the incline and far-off mountains, getting thrown around in a strange manner.

ECHO
Tatomatahun...! Tatomatahun...!

But nothing else answers her.

Biting back her fear, Isha notices the skull pyramid is covered by snow and brushes it off.

She accidentally collapses part of it, knocking the walrus skull to the ground.

Triggering her pent up anger, Isha SCREAMS and kicks the pyramid apart-- throwing skulls everywhere and smashing a large reindeer skull against the wall.

Isha collapses, exhausted, and sits at the mouth of the cave, staring out at the indifferent, falling snow.

All the skulls she threw lay upright in the snow, facing her.

Isha stares at them, totally spent.

Sleep washes over her and, as she dozes, A FAR AWAY VOICE CALLS TO HER ON THE WIND.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Isha...

Isha takes no notice, too tired to care.

ONE OF THE SKULLS OPENS IT'S JAWS AND CALLS TO HER.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Isha!

Isha is not phased by the strangeness of this occurrence.

Another skull calls:

ANOTHER WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Isha...

A GHOSTLY WOMAN floats up from one of the skulls wearing a ghostly image of the skull on top of her head.

The ghost stares in beckoning fashion at Isha.

ANOTHER SKULL CALLS OUT, and another GHOSTLY WOMAN rises.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
Isha...

Two more skulls call out and TWO MORE WOMEN rise...

Soon, all the skulls are clamoring until NINE WOMEN have risen and stand beckoning and judging Isha.

GHOST WOMEN (V.O.)
Isha... Isha... Isha!

Isha stares back, growing angry at them.

The Ghost Women fall silent.

IMMANNA (V.O.)
Isha...

Isha notices the walrus skull facing her. It moves as it speaks in Immanna's voice:

IMMANNA (V.O.)
Isha...

Immanna's ghost rises from the skull, towering over Isha.

Immanna points out at the darkness and all the Ghost Women do the same, imploring Isha to fulfill her destiny.

Isha gazes out in the direction Tato disappeared.

She stands slowly and painfully, giving Immanna and the other ghosts a rebellious look, then storms back into the cave.

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Isha awakens in rough shape, curled up alone by a dead fire.

She sits up stiff, not surprised but not happy to find Tato still gone. Daylight shines from the hole above.

Isha pokes the dead coals. She smiles without humor, resigned to the fact that things are no longer going her way.

LATER

Fully dressed, Isha has packed all supplies in the cave onto her little sleigh.

She grabs her walking stick and, with a final glance around the den, takes the sleigh reins and exits.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Outside, the skulls are now half-buried in snow. Only the walrus skull avoided the snowfall enough to still stare at her in judging fashion.

Isha lifts it. As she stares in its empty eyes, the lower jaw creaks open and Isha hears a FADED, DISTANT VOICE CALL HER.

TATO (O.S)

Isha...

Isha looks unnerved by this. She stares out at the distance but sees nothing.

She heads out in the direction Tato went, pulling her sleigh with her.

TUNDRA - MOMENTS LATER

Isha looks worried as she continues on. She does not see anything in any direction.

She starts moving faster. And faster.

Isha soon runs through the snow, panic growing on her face.

She climbs a ridge and freezes.

Down below, in a great circle of blood, is Tato.

Isha gasps and races towards him, leaving her sleigh behind.

ISHA

Tato! TATO!

Isha hurries to him, finding him lying face down in the red snow beside a severed polar bear head.

Isha jumps beside him and turns him over finding him clutching a bloody polar bear arm.

His face, looking close to frostbite, is badly slashed by three claws, one scratch having just missed an eye. He also has deep gauges on his chest and thigh.

Isha shakes him.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato?

Tato does not respond. Isha shakes him harder.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato?!

Tato awakens and flails, trying to fight her off-- not recognizing her.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato! Tato!

Hearing her, Tato stops his attack and stares weakly at her.

TATO

Isha?

Isha nods, fighting back tears.

TATO (CONT'D)

Uk-thluk...

Isha nods again.

TATO (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun... is a man.

Tato shuts his eyes and passes out.

ISHA

Tato? Tato?!

Isha looks up desperately at her sleigh.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Isha, near exhaustion, drops Tato onto the straw-bed and collapses beside him.

Tato awakens and calls out, feverish:

TATO

Isha! Isha!

Isha leans over him, taking his hand.

ISHA

I'm here. Isha is here. You're safe...

Tato calms, seeing her. Smiles weakly.

TATO

Tatomatahun kill...

Tato's head falls back. Isha nods and gently pets his hair.

ISHA

Shhhh...

She inspects his wounds as Tato drifts unconscious. They are deep and ugly.

Tato suddenly jumps up.

TATO

Uk-thluk head! The arm!

He starts crawling back out towards the cave entrance but Isha jumps up and shows him the sleigh which bears the arm and polar bear head.

ISHA

Here-- here! Everything is here and you are safe now!

Tato looks relieved, seeing them. He almost manages a weak smile at her before collapsing again.

THE WORLD SPINS AROUND HIM.

INT. CAVE - TATO'S DELIRIUM MONTAGE

Tato keeps opening his eyes to see, MOSTLY FROM HIS OWN POV:

Isha drags Tato with difficulty to the straw-bed.

Isha goes through his pack and grabs his flints.

Tato stares at the ceiling. He turns his head to Isha putting sticks on a blazing fire. He looks back at the ceiling AND A POLAR BEAR SHADOW LOOMS DOWN OVER HIM!

EXT. SNOWSTORM - DAY - FLASHBACK

A BRIEF, HORRIFIC, GLIMPSE OF A GIANT POLAR BEAR SLASHING AT HIM IN A SNOWSTORM.

BACK IN THE CAVE - DAY - END FLASHBACK

Tato jumps up SCREAMING.

Isha appears beside him and soothes him until he calms. She applies a steaming animal hide to the scratches on his face.

SNOWSTORM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Tato's cheek explodes with bright red blood as a pure white polar bear paw slashes him.

BACK IN THE CAVE - DAY - END FLASHBACK

Tato wakes, SCREAMING, and claws the hide from his face.

Isha soothes him, stroking his hair until he drifts unconscious. She lays the hide back on his wounds.

SNOWSTORM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Tato's chest is gashed, his blood spilling onto the snow.

BACK IN CAVE - DAY - END FLASHBACK

Tato awakens as Isha applies a fresh hide to his chest wound.

A POLAR BEAR LOOMS OVER HER SHOULDER WATCHING HIM.

Tato closes his eyes...

CAVE AT NIGHT

...and immediately opens them to find it dark with Isha tending the wound on his thigh.

Tato grabs her wrist, surprising her, and guides her hand to his crotch. He laughs, insanely, and passes out again.

SNOWSTORM - DAY - FLASHBACK

THE POLAR BEAR ATTACKS, RELENTLESS!

Tato thrusts his old spear into the bear, but the spear breaks before going in far.

BACK IN CAVE - DAY - END FLASHBACK

Tato opens his eyes to find THE POLAR BEAR LEANING DOWN UPON HIM IN THE CAVERN!

He throws his arm up in a jabbing motion, hitting Isha.

SNOWSTORM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Tato thrusts his new spear into the bear, this time sinking the spear deep.

THE BEAR ROARS OUT IN PAIN.

BACK IN CAVE - NIGHT - END FLASHBACK

Tato jumps up in fright.

Isha is there, soothing him. She gives him snow to eat.

Tato lays back, eating, and stares at the ice wall.

IT GROWS BRIGHT BLUE, THEN FADES. GLOWS AGAIN, THEN FADES.

AS IT GLOWS A THIRD TIME, Tato looks at Isha, finding instead A POLAR BEAR HOLDING OUT THE SNOW.

Tato is surprised, but accepts the bear's offering.

The wall glows exceedingly bright, turning the whole world blue, then WHITE...

INT. CAVE - MORNING - END DELIRIUM SEQUENCE

...THE WHITE FADES as Tato opens his eyes.

The cavern is lit with the normal blue light of morning.

He stares around with lucid eyes that no longer show signs of delirium.

Tato sits up, weak and squinting from pain.

Besides him, Isha wakes, groggy but concerned.

ISHA

Tato?

Tato touches the wounds healing on his face, then pulls back the hide on his chest, checking the wound beneath.

He looks at Isha who smiles and grabs some fresh snow from a nearby pile. She offers it to him and he graciously accepts.

As he eats, parched, Isha gets up with obvious difficulty and goes to their food pile, pulling out some strips of meat.

He sees the bear head staring at him from the melting snow. He notes, with a touch of sadness, how unshapely it is in death, all drooping and soggy.

Isha brings him some meat.

ISHA (CONT'D)
Here. Eat. Eat.

Tato accepts the meat but, before eating any, throws a small piece in the ashes of the fire.

He smiles at Isha then devours the rest of the meat. Isha smiles back, proud.

Tato sees the bear arm protruding from the pile too and, remembering something, tries to get to his feet.

Isha helps him up, and he hobbles to the snow pile where he pulls the arm out.

Tato carries the arm to Isha and presents it like a gift.

Isha doesn't understand at first, but Tato holds it out, insistent. Isha points at herself and Tato nods.

She takes the arm, touched.

Tato nods at her in thanks.

LATER THAT EVENING

Isha sits by the fire roasting bear meat.

Behind her, the fur from the arm dries on a log, all five claws pulled out and drying as well.

Tato stands before her reenacting his fight with the bear.

He holds the fox-skull stick in one hand, and in the other holds the spear Isha made him.

He fights his unseen polar bear and pantomimes a huge claw scratching him across his face. Isha GASPS with horror.

BEHIND HIM ON THE CAVERN WALL, Tato's shadow imitates him, only on the wall, THE SHADOW OF THE BEAR CAN ALSO BE SEEN.

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Isha awakens, HEARING MOVEMENT.

Sitting up, she sees Tato fully dressed and packing his belongings. He smiles at her in good spirits.

TATO
Good morning, Isha!

She nods, watching him pack his bag.

ISHA
Going hunting?

She makes a throwing motion to indicate her meaning.

Tato shakes his head.

TATO
Home.

Isha shakes her head, not understanding.

Still smiling, Tato draws stick figures on the ground of a man, woman and little boy. Tato points at the little boy.

TATO (CONT'D)
Tatomatahun.

Isha nods. Tato crosses out the boy and redraws him as big as the man. He points at the new man-boy.

TATO (CONT'D)
Tato.

Isha nods, understanding, and looks proud of Tato.

ISHA
Tatomatahun man.

Tato nods and circles all three figures. He points at it.

TATO
Home.

Isha smiles, but does not understand. Tato circles the figures again and points from himself to the circle.

TATO (CONT'D)
Tatomatahun go home.

Tato makes a walking gesture in the air with his fingers.

Understanding, Isha's smile fades. She stands, scared.

ISHA
 (repeating his Attopa)
 Tatomatahun go home?

Tato nods, confused by her fear. Isha shakes her head.

He holds up a finger, telling her to wait, then draws a woman next to the image of himself and points at Isha.

TATO
 Isha.

Tato circles all four figures and looks at her, excited.

TATO (CONT'D)
 Home! Tatomatahun and Isha go to
 Tatomatahun's home!

He points at both of them for emphasis.

Isha walks away shaking her head.

ISHA
 No, no, no. Tatomatahun...

Isha holds up her shaking hands, making them into claws.

ISHA (CONT'D)
 Isha!

She bends to his drawing and draws an arrow from her own image to outside the "home" circle.

Tato shakes his head and, smiling to reassure her that is not a problem, crosses out the Isha outside the circle.

He redraws her inside the circle and re-circles all of them.

TATO
 Home.

Isha looks away, not pleased by his stubbornness.

Tato points at each figure. Circles them again.

TATO (CONT'D)
 Tatomatahun... Isha... Home!

He points from Isha to his heart.

TATO (CONT'D)
 Isha comes to Tatomatahun's home.

Tato takes out a necklace he has made of the five claws from his polar bear, and holds them out to her with import.

Seeing this, and the imploring, sincere look on his face, Isha hangs her head in resignation.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Isha and Tato leave, Isha wearing the claw necklace, and Tato pulling the sleigh loaded with all their supplies, including the polar bear head sitting atop a mound of snow.

Everything is tied down with twigs, reeds, and cloth strips.

AT THE TOP OF THE INCLINE, Isha looks back at the cave a final time.

Tato smiles encouragingly at her. Isha does not share his optimism but follows him away.

ARTIC FIELD - LATER

Isha and Tato trek back the way they originally came when they followed the bear tracks across the tundra.

Isha stares, almost sorrowfully, at the passing scenery.

Not far off, a gust of wind kicks up some snow in a mini-twister. Within it, ISHA SEES IMMANNA MADE ENTIRELY OF SNOWFLAKES BECKONING HER before the gust disappears.

ROCKY AREA WHERE THEY CAMPED LONG AGO - DAY

They sit lost in their own thoughts as they eat left over bear and seal meat, the area now covered with snow.

PERILOUS STREAM THEY CROSSED EARLIER - SUNSET

They reach the stream, now frozen over in many places, and cross much easier this time around.

BIG ROCK - NIGHT

Isha spoons Tato under the solitary rock they camped beneath the day they spied the polar bear frolicking in the stream.

Bundled to the hilt, and covered by all their furs and skins, they huddle by a small fire that fights for survival against fierce winds and a heavy snowfall.

Beside them, the sleigh lays against the rock, guarding the polar bear head.

BIG ROCK - MORNING

Snow covers a mound that was once Isha and Tato.

Two foxes dig around the sleigh, trying to get the bear head.

They almost have it when the mound moves. A hand protrudes from the snow, followed by Tato waking up.

Tato spots the foxes and pops up with his spear.

The foxes take off like lightening and Tato races after them.

When gone, Isha sits up from beneath the snow looking tired. She glances around, confused-- not sure what is happening.

ARCTIC FIELD - LATER

Isha and Tato cross the snow with their sleigh, TATO SINGING THE SONG ISHA TAUGHT HIM WHEN THEY FIRST BEGAN TRAVELLING.

He catches her eye and almost draws a smile.

HILLS - DAY

Isha and Tato climb into the hills where they first met.

SHELTER - FAR SIDE OF HILLS - NIGHT

In the very spot Tato made the fire Isha followed from the ocean cliffs, Tato and Isha spoon by a small dying flame.

Tato sleeps, but Isha lies awake staring at the claw necklace. Tato's hand moves, holding her closer.

She smiles at this-- a small, sad one-- and, tucking the necklace beneath her parka, closes her eyes to sleep.

ARCTIC FIELD - DAY

TATO SINGS AGAIN as they approach the ocean cliffs.

Isha spots something off to their right and stops.

Looking, Tato spies a mother polar bear and two cubs running across the snow in the distance, enjoying themselves.

EXCITED, TATO CALLS OUT, no longer afraid of them.

One of the cubs stops and looks at him as its mother and sibling continue running.

The cub stares a moment, then gallops off after its family.

Tato smiles at Isha who nods and continues on.

Tato follows, looking concerned about her, as the bears saunter away in the distance.

CLIFFS BORDERING THE OCEAN - SUNSET

Isha and Tato lumber up into the rocky cliffs.

AT THE TOP

They silently behold the sun setting in the mighty sea.

CLIFFS - NIGHT

In a shallow alcove overlooking the water, Isha and Tato sit around a cozy fire eating the last of their meat while Isha instructs Tato how to sew a set of mittens from rabbit fur.

Isha nods as Tato nears completion. Tato smiles at her.

TATO

One more day.

Isha does not understand. Tato holds up a finger to indicate "one" then makes a walking gesture and points down the beach.

TATO (CONT'D)

One more day to Tatomatahun home.

Isha nods, understanding, and withdraws a little.

Tato continues working on the mitten but keeps an eye on her.

ISHA

Tato...

She opens her mouth to say something, then notices how he is sewing and shakes her head.

ISHA (CONT'D)

No, no...

Isha makes looping motions with her fingers. Tato nods and does as instructed, making loops and pushing the needle through each until he completes the mitten.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Good.

TATO

(in Isha's Manpichu)

Good!

Tato puts on both mittens and holds his hands up to Isha in a funny way. She smiles.

He jumps up, excited, and stretches his arms toward the ocean, LETTING OUT A GREAT WOLF HOWL.

Isha can't help but smile at this-- a true smile finally.

She draws a man in the snow beside her and points at it.

ISHA

Tatomatahun.

(in Attopa)

Man.

Tato nods. He points at the bear head being guarded again by the sleigh and some rocks.

Isha draws a woman beside the image of Tato.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(in Attopa)

Wo-man.

Tato's smile grows a hint of self-consciousness.

Isha points down the beach, then circles the two images and points at each.

ISHA (NO SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)

(in Manpichu and Attopa)

Tatomatahun marries wo-man, yes?

Tato sits and looks away, seeming nervous.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tato?

Tato won't look at Isha for a while. Then, like someone trying to keep the fun going at a party that is dying, he points at the woman.

TATO

Isha!

He smiles in a provocative, exaggerated manner.

Isha is humored by his jest, but shakes her head.

She points at the woman, completely serious.

ISHA

Tatomatahun marries wo-man?

Isha circles the figures again and points down the beach.

Tato's smile fades to a trapped look. He nods, embarrassed.

Isha smiles and puts a reassuring hand on his shoulder.

He looks at her and she smiles proudly.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Good. Tato marries wo-man, good.

Tato fiddles nervously with the mittens.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun knows wo-man?

Tato does not understanding.

Isha points at her eyes and the woman. Tato nods and self-consciously touches the scratches on his face.

Isha grabs his hand and shakes her head, telling him not to worry about his face.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(in Manpichu and Attopa)

Wo-man sees Tatomatahun...

She points at her eyes again and at Tato, then mimics a claw slash across her own face.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Uk-thluk!

Isha swoons and grabs her heart, indicating his woman will swoon when she sees him and his brave scars.

Embarrassed, Tato throws his mittens at Isha who, acting mock-shocked, throws them back.

Tato's eyes widen and he playfully jumps at her, causing her to fall back, surprised and LAUGHING.

Tato straddles her, careful not to hurt her. Isha can't stop laughing and Tato grins down at her in total happiness.

TATO
Tatomatahun loves Isha.

Isha cocks her head, not understanding his words, or the strange seriousness on his face.

TATO (CONT'D)
Tatomatahun loves Isha.

Tato makes a fist against his heart and opens it towards her.

Isha gets his meaning and her smile dies. She stares at Tato a long time, profoundly touched. A tear comes to her eye.

ISHA
And Isha loves Tatomatahun.

Tato rolls off and lays beside her, embracing her.

Isha tenses at first, but sensing the innocence in his grip, slowly puts her own arm over his and holds him back.

She lifts her head and sees his face pressed to her side, eyes closed tight, like a loving grandson merely holding his grandmother.

Isha lays her head back and stares up at the sky.

A smile of contentment slowly lights up her face and with it,
WE HEAR TATO AND ISHA SINGING HAPPILY TOGETHER.

Isha closes her eyes.

BEACH - MORNING

ISHA AND TATO SING, looking out at the water, or each other, as they stroll along the shore.

Tato suddenly stops, seeing something ahead.

He runs off, excited, leaving Isha and the sleigh behind.

TATO
Father! Kootoko! Matakko!

FAR AHEAD

THREE MEN, Tato's father KIKITOK, 38, and two brothers KOOTOKO, 16, and MATAKKO, 19, drag kayaks from the sea.

They look up, hearing Tato's yells, and their eyes widen.

KIKITOK

Tato!

Kikitok drops his kayak and runs to Tato. Matakko and Kootoko secure the kayaks and hurry after him.

When they meet, Kikitok swoops Tato up in his great arms and swings him around in a loving hug.

Matakko and Kootoko jump on Tato and try to kill him with happy bear hugs. They all talk at once:

KIKITOK (CONT'D)
Tato! You're alright?!

MATAKKO AND KOOTOKO
Did you do it?! You did,
didn't you?!

TATO

Dad! Brothers! I did it! I did it!

Kikitok, Matakko and Kootoko go insane with excitement.

DOWN THE BEACH, Isha smiles and grabs the sleigh.

Kikitok breaks away from Tato, looking at him with pride. He inspects the scratches on Tato's face.

Tato looks about to explain when Isha arrives with the sled, attracting everyone's attention.

Tato grins and stands beside her.

TATO (CONT'D)

Father, brothers, I want to
introduce Isha, who I met on my
hunt. Isha mended my clothes when I
first met her, and mended my body
when Uk-thluk hurt me. She made
weapons I used to defeat Uk-thluk,
and taught me much about life in
the short time I have known her.

Isha nods respectfully as Tato speaks, not understanding everything but following the general gist of his words as he points at things like his scars and clothes.

The looks of awe Tato's family gives her when he finishes, however, surprises her. Kikitok nods at her with such sincere thanks, she nods back, embarrassed.

Tato turns to Isha.

TATO (CONT'D)

Isha. This is my father, Kikitok,
and brothers Matakko and Kootoko.

Isha nods at each.

Tato grabs the polar bear head from the sled and holds it
high for his family. They are amazed by its immense size.

KIKITOK

Tatomatahun! Such a big Uk-thluk!

Tato grins with pride and hands it to Kikitok who beams.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

You did good son. You did very
good! You are a man now. A man!

Tato blushes and Isha smiles, understanding.

EXT. ATTOPA CAMP - NIGHT

A snowstorm whips around a group of low huts and assorted
igloos sheltered in some cliffs bordering the ocean.

A FEW INUIT MEN AND WOMEN run to a large central hut.

INT. CENTER HUT - CONTINUOUS

They enter to find A LARGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE celebrating
with food, dancing and music played on drums and flutes.

Isha sits in a corner watching the spectacle. MEN AND WOMAN
repeatedly nod at her with approval.

One woman carries over a fresh bowl of "Eskimo ice cream"
(frozen blubber and berries).

Isha politely shakes her head but the woman will not take no
for an answer. Isha graciously accepts the bowl with an
embarrassed smile.

ISHA

(In Attopa)

Thank... you...

The woman looks surprised and impressed with Isha.

BERRY WOMAN

You're welcome! You're welcome! So
you do speak our language?!

Isha stares back, completely confused. The woman realizes Isha doesn't understand and LAUGHS.

She waves at Isha that it's okay, and walks back to her family who all stare at Isha, smiling.

Isha nods politely at them and gazes at the back of the hut where Tato sits beside GINANA, 14, a captivating young woman.

They each wear decorative clothing and sit silent and stiff. A tall woman offers them food and Ginana takes some.

Isha looks happy for Tato who catches her eye. They share a brief moment alone together in the crowd before Kikitok, in a fancy robe, steps beside Tato and everyone silences.

Kikitok pulls Tato up beside him and stares in his eyes.

KIKITOK

As everyone knows, my son
Tatomatahun, like his brothers
before him, and myself, my father,
and his father too, has completed
the trials, and is now a man.

Isha watches, not fully understanding, but getting it anyway.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

He has faced death and proven
himself a worthy heir to one day
lead our clan should the time ever
come. Look now at the size of the
Uk-thluk Tato has conquered!

Kikitok points at Matakko who lifts Tato's polar bear head high for all to see. The crowd murmurs, impressed.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

Tato shall lead us in wisdom and
strength should I, or his brothers,
ever fall, does anyone not agree?

Kikitok and Tato glance around but nobody says anything. Tato stops on Isha and stares at her as his father speaks.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

Tato has also marked the day by
taking a wife-- the worthy daughter
of Tribesman Gadaloook... Ginana!

Ginana stands and steps beside Tatomatahun.

GADALOOK, 30, her father, steps up beside her.

Tato looks at Ginana and Isha uses the opportunity to stand and move carefully towards the exit.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

Tatomatahun would also like to mark this occasion by adopting someone new into our esteemed family: the kind woman, Isha!

Kikitok points at Isha, catching her off guard as everyone suddenly pats her back, or grabs her hands in thanks. Isha nods at everyone, confused and embarrassed.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

Isha cared for Tato during his hunt, when his clothes and pack needed mending, and aided him back to health after he battled his great Uk-thluk and was wounded.

People grow even more congratulatory towards Isha.

KIKITOK (CONT'D)

Isha...!

Kikitok holds out his arms, beckoning Isha to come stand beside him. A path is cleared for her.

Caught, Isha smiles in appreciation and approaches Kikitok.

As she comes, looking nervous, she catches Tato's eye and he stifles a laugh.

Isha stands beside Kikitok and stares out at the entire clan peering back at her in sincere gratitude.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - NIGHT

Isha and TATO'S ENTIRE FAMILY stand outside a hut in the cold, the older members talking, the younger members playing a game that looks like a ritualized form of tag.

Tato and Ginana emerge from the hut sweaty, out of breath, and naked beneath thick fur blankets.

The family cheers and hugs them in congratulations.

When it is Isha's turn to congratulate Tato, they share a private smile as Isha presses her forehead to his, in the manner of his people

But while head to head and looking at each other so close, their smiles quickly grow into HAPPY LAUGHTER.

INT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - LATER

Isha lays with the rest of the family in her own comfy place near Tato, wrapped in thick, warm blankets of fur.

She stares up at the ceiling lost in deep thought, though it is hard to say whether she is happy or sad.

EXT. ATTOPA CAMP - DAY

Struggling against the harsh winds of a nasty storm, Isha and Ginana are lead through camp by Matakko's wife, NEDERKA, 19, and Kootoko's wife, OOMA, 16.

They reach a long work hut and all four woman enter.

INT. WORK HUT - CONTINUOUS

MANY WOMEN OF THE CAMP are gathered here doing chores together such as sewing, mending, and food preparation.

Entering, Ginana is received with excitement by all the women who rush over to hear her news.

VARIOUS WOMEN

So, how was it? You're a wife now,
eh?! And such a handsome husband!

Isha steps aside in the shuffle and watches with a kind smile. Nederka implores her to sit on a fur-covered bench.

Soon the women break from Ginana and go to Isha to offer signs of welcome and thanks, many sitting beside her.

VARIOUS WOMEN (CONT'D)

So you saved Tato from the Uk-thluk
wounds? How did you meet? Are you
enjoying yourself?

Isha tries to understand everyone, but politely indicates by pointing at her mouth and ears that she does not.

The women smile and wave this off as not mattering.

Young girls bring the women the items they were working on before Isha and Ginana arrived, and the women accept everything graciously from the children.

The women around Isha work and gossip happily, all the while trying to keep Isha in on the discussion as best they can.

Isha watches them, noting with surprise that nobody has asked her to do anything, and nobody seems to care.

Isha studies their sewing, noting how differently they do it from the way her people sew.

She takes interest as a woman beside her spreads gooey liquid on the inside of a waterproof seal-skin jacket and presses a fur liner against the goo.

The woman hands the jacket to another woman who sews the liner to it. Isha inquires about the goo.

Smiling, the woman spreads goo on a spare skin. She presses a second skin to the first and hands them to Isha who is amazed to find she cannot pull them apart.

Isha non-verbally offers to help spread goo on the skins, but the woman kindly refuses, indicating Isha should just sit back and relax.

Another woman asks Isha a question. The center of attention, Isha listens, trying to understand what the woman is asking.

INT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - NIGHT

Isha plays with MOOTOHAN, 4, Matakko's son. Mootohan has a small wooden sculpture of a seal, and Isha has a bear. Together they hunt and stalk one another, having fun.

Mootohan notices Isha's bear pendant and Isha takes it off and gives it to him. Mootohan is delighted.

Ginana, Nederka and Ooma tend to a nearby seal-oil fire, smiling as they watch Mootohan and Isha play.

OUTSIDE, A STORM SHRIEKS, rattling the hut. Isha looks up at snow billowing across an opaque window on the roof.

A shadow fills the entrance tunnel as Tato, Kikitok, Matakko and Kootoko emerge, covered in snow and looking downcast.

The women get up and greet them. Mootohan runs to Matakko to show him the pendant Isha gave him.

Isha merely stands, not knowing what to do.

The men shrug at the women, revealing they came back empty-handed. Ginana and Ooma help them take off their parkas as Nederka puts one on.

Seeing Nederka, Isha grabs her own parka, but Nederka waves for her to just relax and disappears from the hut.

Isha sits back down as the men come to sit near her. Tato rubs noses with Ginana, then sits beside Isha, smiling.

But his smile fades as he points at the horrid weather they had to battle beyond the window above.

Nederka enters with some left-over seal, and Isha notices how small an amount it is. Ooma, also seeing this, meets Nederka at the fire and ARGUES WITH HER about the food.

Ooma counts everyone, Isha included, and gestures with disapproval at Nederka's small portion of meat.

Nederka indicates there is not much meat left and they will have to suffice with what she has brought.

Isha looks concerned as she watches them argue.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - MORNING

The entire family leaves the hut to discover snow still falling, though not as bad as the night before.

The women and men spilt up, the men going off to hunt, the woman to the work tent.

Mootohan holds Isha's hand today as they cross the camp.

INT. WOMEN'S WORK HUT - LATER

The women sit around Isha like the day before, teaching Isha their language as they work.

Mootohan sits beside Isha, playing with his sculptured toys as she listens to the women.

Again noticing the different way they sew, Isha leans over and points at the pants one woman is sewing.

The woman holds them up and Isha admires her stitching.

Isha picks up some spare pieces of skin and a needle and painfully sews them together.

The women look on, curious, as Isha sews as many stitches as she can before the pain in her hands becomes unbearable.

Isha hands what she has done to the woman making pants. The woman is amazed by Isha's handiwork. Isha makes pulling apart motions, daring her to test the stitches' strength.

The woman tries to pull the skin apart and is even more impressed. The other women lean in and inspect the skin, passing it around for everyone to have a look.

The women entreat Isha to show them how to do her stitching. Isha obliges them, looking happy and proud by their favor.

A WOMAN SUDDENLY ENTERS, YELLING WITH EXCITEMENT. The women all stand and get dressed to go outside, Isha included.

INT. CENTER ATTOPA HUT - DAY

Five snow-covered hunters drop a small reindeer before a gathering of ASSORTED WOMEN AND MEN from the camp.

Isha holds an excited Mootohan out of the way as the hunters cut up the deer and everyone else waits in an orderly manner.

EXT. CENTER ATTOPA HUT - LATER

Isha, Mootohan, Nederka, Ginana and Ooma leave the hut, as other women do, carrying a small piece of divided meat.

Isha amuses and distracts Mootohan as they walk back to their hut, but can't help notice Nederka and Ooma ARGUE over the small amount of meat they have.

INT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - NIGHT

Tato, Kikitok, Matakko and Kootoko return from their hunt, again empty handed. Ginana, Nederka and Ooma look let down but try to cheer everyone up by serving the reindeer meat.

Isha is concerned by the small portions, especially little Mootohan's. She tries to refuse her own meal, but Ooma waves this off as nonsense and hands her a plate.

Nederka and Matakko give Mootohan some of their food and, seeing this, Isha becomes distraught.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Isha lays awake among the sleeping family, lost in thought.

EXT. MANPICHU WINTER CAMP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Immanna smiles down on the sad face of Young Isha then walks out onto the tundra.

Isha cries out to her as Nutchka carries her away.

FROM FAR AWAY, Immanna turns and stares back at Isha-- peace, love, pride and responsibility shining in her eyes.

INT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - END FLASHBACK

Isha sits up and looks at her new family sleeping around her.

She ends on Tato, asleep beside Ginana. She stares at him with motherly love then gets up, careful not to wake anyone.

EXT. ATTOPA CAMP - NIGHT

Isha walks to the edge of the camp. The night is clear now and the moon shines brightly on the white land.

Isha gazes expectantly out at the tundra, then puts a hand to her mouth.

ISHA

Immanna?!

Isha smiles, hopeful, but nothing happens.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Immanna?

Again, nobody appears. Disappointment spreads on Isha's face.

The moonlight dims. Isha looks up to see incoming storm clouds. The wind picks up and snow begins to fall.

Isha is bothered by this omen, but with the wind and snow getting worse, heads back for the hut.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - DAY

Tato and Kikitok stand outside in their hunting gear looking disappointed as a ferocious blizzard rages around them.

They climb back into the hut.

INSIDE

Matakko and Kootoko, dressed for hunting, glance at Tato and Kikitok as they enter.

Kikitok shakes his head and they sit down, crestfallen.

Ginana and Ooma help the men take off their parkas. Nederka grabs her coat and goes outside looking worried.

Isha, playing with Mootohan, looks more upset than anyone.

Seeing this, Tato sits with Isha. He inquires about her sadness but she shakes it off as if everything is fine.

Nederka returns with an even smaller piece of old seal meat than last time. Isha becomes even more dismayed.

Tato notes this with growing concern and confusion.

LATER THAT NIGHT

While everyone sleeps, Isha is again restless and stares at her claw necklace as the WIND RAGES OUTSIDE LIKE A FIEND.

She gets up quietly and heads for the exit, Tato noticing.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - MOMENTS LATER

Isha stares out at the swirling blizzard. She makes up her mind about something and a strange calmness settles on her.

Tato emerges from the hut and gives her a look inquiring what is wrong.

With a bittersweet smile, Isha points at her heart and makes walking motions with her fingers out at the unseen distance.

Tato doesn't understand, but Isha nods in a way that says he knows what she is saying.

Slowly, disbelief crosses Tato's face and he shakes his head.

Isha nods again and digs into an ice mound near the hut. She retrieves a small, frozen piece of stored seal meat and holds it out towards him.

Shaking his head in panic, Tato points at himself and makes hunting motions-- he will go out and find more food so that she does not have to leave.

Isha smiles and puts the meat back. She looks Tato in the eyes, points at her heart, then at his.

ISHA
(in slow Attopa)
Isha... loves... Tatomatahun.
(points at heart)
Isha wants...

ISHA (CONT'D)

(makes signs of strength)

Tatomatahun grow strong.

(makes signs of death)

Not Tato die.

(makes signs of leaving)

Isha must go.

Tato shakes his head, tears coming to his eyes. Isha hugs him in a tight, soothing way, but Tato continues to shake his head in denial.

INT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - DAY

Matakko and Kootoko stand at the hut entrance trying to keep a defiant, fully dressed Tato from leaving, but Tato pushes past them with his spear and leaves anyway.

The brothers look at Kikitok, playing with Mootohan.

Kikitok waves for them to let Tato go and glances at Isha sitting with the women doing their chores.

They share a knowing look as Ooma hands Isha a bowl of the sticky goo the women use between skins.

Isha takes it with a gracious nod and pulls out something we do not see.

OUTSIDE THE HUT - CONTINUOUS

A RELENTLESS BLIZZARD PUMMELS TATO.

He repeatedly marches off into the squall in an attempt to go hunting despite the weather, but keeps stopping, knowing it is hopeless.

He looks back at the hut but cannot bring himself to return.

He puts his hands to his face and breaks down in tears.

INSIDE THE HUT - LATER

Tato enters looking angry and defeated.

He sees Kikitok and Isha sitting together at the back of the hut in conference.

Both stare at Tato with decided looks he does not like.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - DAY

The storm has abated into a light snow with hardly any wind.

Three men and women from surrounding huts run into Tato's.

INSIDE

The hut is CROWDED WITH PEOPLE. A line has formed before Isha who sits at the back beside Kikitok and a stone-faced Tato.

Each person in line takes a turn stepping up and offering warm wishes and thanks to Isha.

Many women from the camp, and all those of Tato's household, look like they are holding back tears.

Mootohan enjoys the gathering, not understanding its purpose.

As people thank her, Isha glances at Tato but he will not look at her.

EXT. TATO'S FAMILY HUT - LATER

Isha exits carrying her old pack. She is followed by Tato, Kikitok, Nederka holding Mootohan, then everyone else.

A CROWD WAITS outside, the weather momentarily breaking from its savagery.

Everyone offers thanks and signs of love to Isha. When done, Isha makes her way towards the outskirts of the camp.

Tato walks stone-faced beside her, the rest of the community following behind.

Isha breathes deep as she proceeds, becoming at peace with herself and the world.

Seeing Tato's pain, she reaches out and takes his hand. The gesture almost destroys his resolve, and he fights to hold back fresh tears.

AT THE EDGE OF THE CAMP

Isha turns to the crowd.

She steps before Ooma and Kootoko and bows her head in thanks. She does the same to Kikitok, who bows his head back.

Isha steps before Matakko and Nederka holding a squirming Mootohan. Isha thanks them and smiles lovingly at Mootohan.

Mootohan reaches for Isha, wanting her to hold him.

She pulls the sculpture of the winged woman from her pack. It has been repaired with the strange glue found at the camp.

Isha hands it to Mootohan who is delighted by the new toy.

Isha then steps before Ginana and Tato.

Isha looks deep into Tato's eyes. Her look, and the finality of the moment, almost unleash his tears but he holds them in, not letting any fall.

Tato shakes his head at Isha, making a walking away motion.

TATO

Don't go.

(makes a flying gesture)

Don't die.

Isha smiles with nothing but love.

ISHA

(imitates Tato's
pantomime)

Isha not die now. Thanks to
Tatomatahun...

(grabs her heart)

...Isha has now truly lived.

Isha emphasizes "lived" by making an exploding motion from her heart. Tato can no longer help himself, and his tears fall freely from his eyes.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(in Attopa)

Thank you, Tatomatahun.

Isha grabs Tato's head and pushes her forehead against his, as he once did to her in the cave.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(in Attopa)

Isha will always love Tatomatahun.

Tato shuts his eyes, letting her words roll over him like heat.

TATO

And Tatomatahun will always love
Isha.

Isha smiles and rubs Tato's nose.

She takes off the claw necklace and hands it back to him. She then puts Ginana's hand in Tato's and nods at them.

Isha looks at the rest of the crowd and, with a final smile, turns away and heads out into the waiting storm.

Mootohan STARTS BAWLING, seeing Isha leave, and Isha, hearing his cries, smiles and closes her eyes, finally feeling the love she once felt for Immanna when Immanna left.

Isha looks back at Tato who waves goodbye. Tears of happiness appear in her eyes and she waves back.

As they stare at each other like that, THE STORM MOVES IN AND SWALLOWS THEM UP FROM ONE ANOTHER-- Tato forever disappearing from Isha in the swirling white mist, and she from him.

ALONE, Isha turns to the waiting snow, ready to finally meet her destiny.

A GLOWING WOMAN appears to Isha's left, smiling. With a nod, the woman puts out her arm to guide Isha past.

ANOTHER WOMAN appears on Isha's right and does the same, followed by ANOTHER WOMAN, and ANOTHER.

Soon Isha is passing through a column of women, ALL GLOWING BRIGHT BLUE IN THE PURE WHITENESS OF THE STORM.

And there, waiting at the end, smiling proudly, is Immanna with the great white owl perched on her shoulder.

As Isha nears her, Immanna steps aside and puts out her arm as well, entreating Isha to pass. The white owl flies ahead, guiding Isha once more as it disappears into the white snow.

Isha passes Immanna, as implored, and facing the raging white nothingness before her, begins removing her clothes.

Onwards Isha walks, bravely disrobing, until finally, naked as the day she was born, Isha walks through the destructive elements of a life-taking blizzard, wearing only a defiant smile of pure happiness.

FADE TO WHITE: