

A BAND OF WOLVES

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EXT. WOLF CLAN VILLAGE - DAY

MESOLITHIC men, women, and children gather outside a straw hut in reverent silence. Their dirty, wiry bodies reflect the struggle of living between the Upper Stone Age and Neolithic periods.

A long, mournful CRY spills out from the hut. The men hang their heads. The women WEEP softly.

ULKAN (40s), the leader of the Wolf Clan, makes his way toward the hut from the other side of the village. He parts through the group and arrives at the hut's entrance.

He hears the muffled WAILING inside. It's loud and rhythmic. He draws a deep breaths ... then opens the entrance flap.

INT. ASHA'S HUT - DAY

Older women sway back-and-forth as they CRY over a body at the far end of the hut. One of the older women, YARA (50s), sees Ulkan ... and walks over to him.

YARA
(in Mesolithic language)
*It is time ... for our Great Wolf
Mother to rest.*

NOTE: PRE-INDO-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE WILL BE ITALICIZED FROM THIS POINT FORWARD.

The older women part to the sides and reveal the body they've been crying over.

It's ASHA (60s), the clan matriarch.

Ulkan's eyes well up with tears as he approaches her.

His THREE SONS enter the hut and stand in the background. They are LORCAN (17), RONAN (22), and IVAR (26).

ULKAN
(not looking back)
She makes her journey ... tonight.

TITLE: A BAND OF WOLVES

EXT. WOLF CLAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The clan sits around the main fire in the center of the village. They sway and HUM in a low tone.

Ulkan's woman, RHEA (40s), paints his body and face with red ochre. The older women do the same to his three sons.

Asha's body lays on a carrying frame with a bed of pine needles, leaves, and furs.

Young women carefully place mountain flowers, small tools, and trinkets around her. They cover her with wolf pelts.

Yara grabs a handful of wood ash from the fire and places it in a ceremonial bowl. She adds black berries and ochre ... then crushes it all together with her hands until it becomes a thick, dark paint.

She places the bowl on the carrying frame by Asha's feet.

Ulkan looks down at Asha.

ULKAN
(choking up)
Her love was so strong. What will we do without it now?

Rhea cups his face with her hands. She leans in and touches his forehead with hers.

RHEA
Her love lives on ... in all of us.

Ulkan looks around at the mass of people mourning Asha's death. He nods as he tries to hold back more tears.

The HUMMING intensifies.

Ulkan and his sons walk over to the poles of the frame and lift Asha up in one motion.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Yara leads the way with a torch as Ulkan and his sons carry Asha through the dark forest.

FROM A DISTANCE - we see the outlines of four-legged, wolf-like creatures moving around in the forest.

Lorcan sees the glowing eyes in the darkness. He looks over to the Great Wolf Mother ... and then over to his father.

INT. BURIAL CAVE - STILL LATER

Ulkan and his sons follow Yara through the main caverns ... then through narrow passage ways ... until they finally arrive at a small opening, deep in the cave.

INT. BURIAL CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER

The men set Asha's body down as Yara makes a small fire with the torch. The orange light of the fire illuminates the burial chamber. It's filled with human remains.

Ulkan walks over to a set of remains ... and places his hand on the skull.

ULKAN

You will be with her again soon.

Yara reaches down and picks up the bowl of paint. She hands it to Ulkan as he joins her by a smooth, clean section of cave wall.

He dips his finger into the bowl. A tear spills out over his eye as he raises his finger to create his first mark on the rocky canvas.

ULKAN (CONT'D)

*Will you help me, Yara? I have only
heard the stories. I do not know
... if I can-*

Yara gives him a warm smile as a tear rolls down her cheek.

YARA

*We will tell her story ...
together.*

The fire CRACKLES behind him as his finger touches the stone ... leaving behind a stain on the rock.

He dips his finger again and makes another mark ... and another. It's not clear what he's creating yet. Only small marks, added with firm pressure, can be seen.

He finally steps back and looks at his first drawing. It's a crude, yet clear portrait of a woman.

CLOSE ON - Asha's face. It's marked by age ... trauma ... but still strong and beautiful.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ASHA'S HUT - EARLY MORNING

CLOSE ON - Asha's younger face. She's in her early 20s and SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT now.

FROM ABOVE - we see she's laying on a bed of furs and hides with her man, Kael (20s). The blue glow of the dawn sky leaks in and illuminates their naked bodies.

She hears movement and voices outside. She looks over at Kael. He's still asleep.

She reaches out and moves the entrance flap. More blue light fills the hut.

She sees women moving around the middle of the village by a large fire pit.

Kael drapes his arm over Asha.

KAEL
The sun is still low.

She lets the flap close and turns toward Kael.

ASHA
*You do not have to go. Stay here
... with me.*

KAEL
*I do not want to leave you ... but
I am needed for the hunt-*

ASHA
*I need you, Kael. What if something
happens to you?*

He places his hand on her belly.

KAEL
*I've hunted since I was a boy.
Nothing will happen to me-*

She places her hand on his.

ASHA
What if you do not return in time-

KAEL
I will.

ASHA
But ... what if you don't?

A single tear escapes her eye and rolls down her face.

Kael comes up onto his elbow and looks down at Asha. He reaches over and gently wipes her cheek.

KAEL
*Do not cry. I will return before
the first snow.*

He runs his fingers through her hair ... then leans down and kisses her.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*Then you, me, and the baby will
spend the winter here ... warm and
happy with plenty of meat and hide.*

He smiles. She nods. He kisses her again.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

TWO menacing figures climb down a rocky ledge.

They have scarred, dirty faces and dress in heavy furs. They are an advance element of the LION CLAN'S raiding party.

One of them points out toward the valley below. Light plumes of white smoke stream up from the trees in the distance.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

TWENTY SIX MEN stand at the edge of the village. They say their goodbyes to TWENTY FOUR other women, a DOZEN children of all ages, and a handful of OLDER MEN left behind to protect the village.

Kael stands with them ... waiting for Asha. He smiles when he sees her come out of her hut with a spear in one hand and a water skin in the other.

We follow her as she walks over to Kael, and hands him the spear and water.

He smiles as he wipes away the tears from her face.

He slings the water skin over his shoulder and reaches out to embrace her with his free hand.

She nuzzles his chest and takes in a WHIFF of his smell.

ASHA
(closing her eyes)
I will dream of you.

KAEL
And I will dream of you.

Kael's brother, VIGO (30s), is with his family too.

He hugs his wife, NAIDA (30s), and kisses his two young boys, BERRIN (6) and EANRIN (7), on the head.

EANRIN

When will we go on a hunt with you?

VIGO

(smiling)

*I look forward to the day you both
hunt by my side. For now, I need
you here protecting your mother.*

The boys look up at Naida and nod.

Vigo kisses them all one last time before making his way to the hunting party.

VIGO (CONT'D)

BROTHER!

Kael places his hand on Asha's belly one more time.

He kisses her forehead and smiles.

She smiles back ... holding on to his hand for as long as possible before letting go by the finger tips.

Kael joins Vigo and walks away. He looks over his shoulder and sees her standing there with the other villagers.

Asha watches the group of men slowly disappearing from sight. More tears run down her face.

One of the women, ANWEN (late 20s), walks up and stands next to Asha.

ANWEN

*Do not worry ... the time will go
by quickly ... there is plenty of
work to do before winter.*

Asha looks down at her belly ... and nods.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Kael and the rest of the men pass by streams ... climb down rock faces ... and weave through the trees.

Kael stops to look back. Vigo nudges him with a smile.

VIGO

*The sun has barely moved ... and
you already look back.*

Kael smiles.

HIDDEN IN THE DISTANCE - The hunting party is being watched by the TWO CLANSMEN we saw on the mountain side earlier.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Asha and the other women gather plants, berries, nuts, and insects in the surrounding forest.

A young YARA (15), squats down by a cluster of plants with red berries. She hesitates for a beat ... then reaches out to pick the fruit.

ASHA (O.S.)
Not those.

Yara pulls her hand back. She looks over her shoulder to see Asha standing behind her with a basket. Asha moves next to the young woman and takes a knee by the plants.

ASHA (CONT'D)
A single berry from this plant will have you squatting by a tree all night. More than one ... you may never wake up again.

Yara eyes grow wide. Asha places her hand on Yara's shoulder and smiles wide.

ASHA (CONT'D)
Come, Yara. There are good berries by the brook. I will show you.

Yara nods and helps Asha up to her feet.

EXT. FOREST - BROOK - LATER

The two women walk slowly through the trees until the reach a small brook. There they find bushes of bilberries.

Asha walks up to a bush and reaches out to pick a dark berry. She holds it out for Yara to see ... then eats it. Yara mirrors Asha and takes a berry for herself. She smiles at the sweetness of the fruit.

YARA
I can eat as many of these as I want?

Asha smiles.

ASHA
We should pick a few for the village first ...
(MORE)

ASHA (CONT'D)
*then you can come back and fill
your belly with what's left.*

Yara nods with a smile. The two begin picking the berries and placing them into their baskets-

A twig SNAPS in the distance.

Asha turns and eyes the surrounding forest. Yara is busy picking berries until Asha signals for her to stop.

They both stand quietly like two rabbits listening for the predator in the woods.

Another SNAP ... and then a CRUNCH.

YARA
(whispering)
There.

She points out past the brook. Asha focuses. She sees it. A WOLF peeking its head out from behind a large tree in the distance. The Grey Wolf is a smaller female with a strip of tan fur that goes from it's snout to its tail.

Its yellow eyes focus as it moves its ears around.

YARA (CONT'D)
What do we do?

ASHA
Keep still.

The Wolf slowly moves out toward the two women.

YARA
Asha-

ASHA
Do not move.

Yara panics a bit. She looks down and sees a sharp looking stone. She slowly reaches down and picks it up without losing track of the Wolf moving toward her.

The Wolf takes a few more steps and gets to the edge of the brook. Yara grips the stone tightly ... and winds back to throw-

Asha reaches out for Yara's arm. She shakes her head slowly.

ASHA (CONT'D)
Look. It is heavy with pups.

Yara relaxes. She sees the Wolf is pregnant too.

The Wolf looks up at Asha for a beat. It lowers its snout down to the water and drinks without ever letting Asha out of its sight.

Suddenly, the Wolf stops lapping up water. It snaps its head over to a shadowy stand of trees in the distance.

Asha looks over too ... but doesn't see anything. The Wolf looks back at the women in front of it ... then back out to the shadows ... before deciding to leave the humans alone.

The Wolf trots away in the opposite direction.

Yara EXHALES.

YARA
We should go back.

Asha watches the Wolf disappear into the woods. She looks back out at the shadows that spooked the animal away.

YARA (CONT'D)
Asha. Please.

Asha nods. Yara drops the stone. They walk away from the brook and the berry bushes.

Asha looks over her shoulder one more time at the shadows. She doesn't see anything, but ...

HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS - the Clansmen watch Asha and Yara walk away toward the village. The men share a look ... then sink back further into the woods.

BEGIN MONTAGE

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING MONTAGE TAKES PLACE OVER THE COURSE OF TWO MONTHS.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

The women gather more food for the winter. They store it all neatly around the village.

Little Berrin and Eanrin bring Asha flowers. She smiles at the boys and gives them big kisses on the cheek.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

Kael and the other men walk North along the Carpathian Mountain Range.

They meet and trade with peaceful groups along the way.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

Asha helps Naida sew pieces of hide and fur together for clothing. They gossip and laugh by the fire.

Anwen brings them both food.

EXT. DISTANT MOUNTAIN - DAY

The hunting party begins their accent toward the NORTHERN PASS that leads to the hunting grounds.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Asha's belly is bigger. She struggles to carry water from the stream. Yara helps her along with a smile.

EXT. HUNTING GROUNDS - DAY

Kael and the men arrive at the vast grasslands of their hunting grounds ... and begin tracking the reindeer they came to hunt.

INT. ASHA'S HUT - NIGHT

Asha smiles as she holds up a tiny outfit made of hide and fur. Her hut is warm and cozy ... ready for the baby ... and Kael's return.

EXT. HUNTING GROUNDS - DAY

Kael and Vigo find the herd of reindeer grazing in a large open area.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

Asha moves slowly through the village. She is NINE MONTHS PREGNANT now.

Anwen and Yara see her struggle and rush to her. They help her back to her hut.

EXT. HUNTING GROUNDS - DAY

Kael leads a group of men as they push the reindeer toward a narrow canyon ... where Vigo and the others hurl their spears at the stampeding prey.

END MONTAGE

INT. ASHA'S HUT - DAY

An OLDER WOMAN (late 60s) walks into Asha's hut. She carries water and a bowl of medicinal plants with her.

Asha lays on the ground by the fire with her belly exposed.

Anwen holds her hand and strokes her hair. Yara pokes her head in ... but stays outside.

ASHA
(uncomfortable)
When ... will the child arrive?

OLDER WOMAN
(with a smile)
*Stubborn children do as they
please, girl.*

The Older Woman softly runs her hand over Asha's belly.

A tiny foot pushes up on the skin.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
*And this one ... is very stubborn
... like his father.*

ASHA
It will be a boy?

The Older Woman nods as she adds water to the bowl of leaves and small flowers.

Anwen helps Asha sit up. The Older Woman hands Asha the bowl. Asha GULPS down the bitter liquid.

EXT. HUNTING CAMP - DAY

The men skin and dress their kills.

Some of the men work on tanning hide, while others begin the process of drying the meat over smokey fires.

Kael stands alone at the far end of the camp. He looks up at the evening sky and traces a line with his finger toward where Asha and the village would be to the South.

A NORTHERN WIND suddenly gusts across the grasslands. It swirls through the camp and whips up the fires.

Kael turns to Vigo who is slicing flesh from a carcass.

KAEL
The snow ... it comes early-

VIGO
(standing)
Do not worry-

KAEL
But ... the pass-

VIGO
The pass is wide and clear.

KAEL
(walking toward Vigo)
*I told her I would be back before
the snow!*

VIGO
*Naida and the other women will take
care of her ... and your child.*

Vigo places his hand on his brother's shoulder.

VIGO (CONT'D)
*I know you are missing your woman.
(so the men can hear)*
**WE ALL MISS THE WARMTH OF OUR
WOMEN!**

The men chuckle in agreement.

VIGO (CONT'D)
*But we must finish what we came
here to do.*

Kael nods.

VIGO (CONT'D)
*And when we return ... you will go
back to doing what you do best,
little brother!*

KAEL
And what is that?

VIGO
MAKING ANOTHER BABY!

They all laugh and cheer. Kael turns red ... and grins.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - THE NEXT DAY

The women are busy working in the middle of the village.

They make clothes ... weave baskets ... and chip stone
flakes for small tools.

ASHA
OOOOH.

Asha winces from the baby's kick.

NAIDA
*You should hope it comes today ...
so you can have enough time.*

ASHA
Enough time?

NAIDA
*To rest ... before your man
returns.*
(chuckling)
*He will want to lay with you as
soon as he sees you. If the child
comes now ... it will be less
painful for you.*

The other women LAUGH and nod knowingly-

The sound of a ram's horn BLARES out from a distance.

The women stop what they're doing and begin to congregate in the middle of the village. Asha slowly approaches them as they stare into the forest - trying to figure out where the sound came from.

They all trade looks ... but do not move.

A SCREAM rings out. A few beats later they see Anwen run toward them. She's half naked and bloodied ... and holding a dead child in her arms.

ANWEN
RUN!

A spear hits Anwen in the back before they can fully process what is happening.

Anwen and the child crash to the ground.

They all turn to run. It's every person for themselves as they abandon their village and scatter.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Desperate PANTING and SCREAMS echo through the trees.

ON THE GROUND - a flurry of bare feet flash across the dense forest floor.

Another set of feet, covered in furs from other animals, trample the autumn leaves and dry sticks.

FROM ABOVE THE PINES AND YELLOW LARCH - like ants fleeing a flood - the group of women scramble to take cover behind the bushes and rocks below.

Large, menacing figures follow closely behind.

Asha GASPS for air. Her eyes, in a panicked frenzy, dart around looking for a place to hide.

She holds her swollen belly with one arm as she crashes, barefoot, from one tree to another.

Asha looks back quickly and sees the predators they're all running from fellow humans ... looking for women to take.

She looks around and sees SIX women hiding behind rocks and downed trees. They look at her with a mix of pity and fear as she rushes past.

Asha tries to join one group of FOUR hiding behind an outcrop of rocks, but is quickly pushed away by a woman, VESTA (late 30s).

Asha YELLS out at her in frustration and turns to run again.

Vesta watches her hurry away for a beat and goes back to hush the other THREE hiding behind the rocks in fear.

Asha runs. The SCREAMS of other women swirl around her.

She tries to look back again to see where the men are. She barely looks over her shoulder when an exposed root trips her up mid stride. She tumbles down with a THUD.

She quickly gets up to her knees and looks down at her belly. She lets out a CRY from the pit of her stomach and moves her hands across her belly in a panic.

A tiny hand finally pushes up on her stretched skin.

She lets out a hollow breath of momentary relief.

She tries to get up to her feet ... but can't get her legs to cooperate. She frantically crawls on her hands and knees.

Yara, who was hiding behind a tree, sees Asha and runs to help her. They're both exhausted and struggle to catch their breath as they get up to their feet.

They look back again and see a group of men overtaking Vesta and the other women in the distance.

Vesta lets out a loud SCREAM as the men tackle her to the ground and rip at her clothes.

More LION CLANSMEN run up. They see their fellow clansmen struggling with Vesta on the floor. They look up to the forest in search of a woman for themselves. They see Asha and Yara, point at them, and take off in a full sprint toward them.

Asha and Yara share a terrified look.

Asha tries to push Yara away, nudging her to leave her behind, but the girl will not leave Asha's side.

Yara looks down at the heaving belly for a beat. She tugs at Asha's arm until they're both running again.

Asha's lungs burn and her legs strain to keep her and the baby inside of her moving through the FOREST.

She looks back and sees the men. They are gaining on them. Getting closer and closer. Asha can hear them ... their stomping feet ... their steady breathing.

She vomits her last meal all over herself as she runs down toward a stream.

She lets out a YELL of desperation as her and Yara slide down the steep gradient toward the cascading waters flowing over slick rock.

They both hit the water with a CRASH, slicing their hands and feet along the stream bed and exposed rock as they wade and claw through knee-deep water.

Asha GRUNTS as she strains to reach for the stream bank.

Her hands and knees sink into the gravel and mud with every bit of ground gained. She turns back toward the slope on the opposite side of the stream.

FOUR Clansmen look down on her and the girl. Their chests rise and fall quickly as they catch their breath.

Asha grabs a handful of mud and throws it up toward them as she SCREAMS. The Clansmen sneer at the helpless gesture.

A RUSTLING in the bushes a few meters away grabs the attention of all the men ... except for ONE.

A woman decides to run from her hide in a panic ... exposing the other FOUR who are with her.

The men look over at Asha and Yara on the other side of the stream ... and then back at the other women running away.

They decide to go after the easier targets and rush toward the other women.

The remaining man, TORIN (late 20s), slides down the embankment and goes for Asha and Yara.

Women SCREAM and YELL in the background.

Torin runs into the stream and powers himself to the other side quickly.

He climbs out from the stream and looks for the two women among the trees.

TORIN
I WILL FIND YOU! YOU WILL BE MINE!

IN THE FOREST - not more than a couple meters away from the stream - Asha and Yara hide behind some fallen trees.

Torin quickly finds their wet tracks and begins to calmly follow them into the FOREST.

Yara can see it's just one man now.

She looks over at Asha who is sitting open legged against the log and gulping air.

She sees the heaving belly ... and the fear in Asha's eyes.

Yara stands up from behind the log and YELLS at Torin.

YARA
*COME FOR ME! I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT
KIND OF WOMAN I AM!*

SEVERAL METERS AWAY - Torin sees Yara and begins to trot in her direction.

Asha, in a panic, reaches for the girl's leg to try and pull her down.

ASHA
Yara ... no.

Yara squats down by her and lays her hand on Asha's belly. A tear rolls down Yara's cheek.

YARA
*They will kill the child. You know
this. You must keep running.*

Yara helps Asha up to her feet.

Without saying anything else, she moves from behind the log and heads toward Torin ... who is closing in on them.

Asha takes a beat to take in what is happening.

ASHA

Yara!

YARA

GO!

She looks down at her belly and runs.

Yara reaches down and picks up a small log.

She YELLS and lunges at Torin as he rushes toward her. They collide with a THUD.

FURTHER IN THE FOREST - we see Asha run for her life.

Yara SCREAMS in the distance.

Asha quickly looks over her shoulder and keeps running.

We follow her from clearing to clearing ... then up through the trees ... to see the landscape of the valley her group called home.

UP AHEAD - we see a mountain rage.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The Lion Clansmen sack the huts. Others walk back with the women they have captured.

Their clan leader, YORICK (mid 30s), moves through the violent scene.

He's a giant of a man with large scars on his face. He's dressed in cave lion skin and fur. The large cave lion head he wears as a crown signals his strength and dominant position over the others in the clan.

He turns his attention to the sound of LAUGHTER and YELLING at the far side of the village.

We follow him as he makes his way to a group of his clansmen. He sees what they are LAUGHING at.

Berrin and Eanrin stand in front of their battered mother. They YELL at the clansmen as they thrust their little spears at them.

BERRIN
AHHHH! AHHHH!

Off in the distance, the Old Men are slaughtered by other Clansmen.

The men stop laughing when they see Yorick approach.

YORICK
Lions do not play with their food.

LION CLANSMAN 1
The boys show courage. We can teach them our ways-

Yorick walks up to the boys and strikes them both across the face with his club - WHACK!

Naida SCREAMS.

YORICK
(looking at his kill)
It is weak to allow the children of other men to live among you.

Blood runs from the two small bodies.

YORICK (CONT'D)
We have their women - we make children of our own.

He turns toward his men and lets out a loud YELL as he raises his bloody club.

The other clansmen return the YELL and gesture.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - LATER

Asha finally stops running. All she can hear is her HEART BEAT and HEAVY BREATHING.

She hides behind some large rocks and tries to control her breathing for long enough to listen for the predators who have her on the run.

She swallows a gulp of air and holds it for a few seconds to listen. Nothing.

She EXHALES!

She looks around. It's getting late.

She scrambles to find a place to rest and hide.

A QUICK SEQUENCE OF ASHA PREPARING A HASTY SHELTER.

- She drags some branches and leans them against a boulder.
- She grabs a handful of leaves and some twigs.
- She paws at the ground a few feet from the entrance of the shelter to make a small hole.
- She places the leaves and twigs in the hole and takes out two rocks from a pouch tied to her clothing.
- She strikes them CLACK CLACK to form sparks.

END SEQUENCE

A wolf HOWLS in the distance.

The hairs on her neck stand up.

She concentrates and strikes the stones together until a spark catches on the kindling.

She blows soft puffs of air into the hole until a small fire takes shape below her.

She adds more small sticks to the flame ... and then a few broken logs.

She's hungry. Her mouth is dry. She's in so much pain.

FROM OUTSIDE THE SHELTER - we see a four-legged silhouette cut across the glow of the small flame.

Asha looks out into the darkness. A pair of glowing eyes stare back at her.

She reaches over and grabs a long stick she brought into the shelter. She places one end into the fire while keeping an eye on the beast outside.

She looks down and sees the tip smoke and then smolder.

She adds more fuel to the fire and sinks back toward the boulder behind her.

The glowing eyes move back and forth. The beast is pacing ... measuring its potential target.

She pulls the stick out of the fire. She rubs the charred end against the boulder until a point begins to form.

The eyes creep in closer.

She places the stick back in the fire. Rubs it on the boulder again. She quickly brings the sharpened end of the stick up for inspection. Good enough!

She points the stick out toward the darkness.

The eyes are gone.

A kick from the baby freezes her. She looks down at her belly. She breaks down for a split second - but quickly collects herself.

ASHA

No.

She shakes her head.

ASHA (CONT'D)

This is not the time.

FADE TO:

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - THE NEXT DAY

The sun is still below the horizon.

We hear the CRUNCHING of leaves.

Animals in the forest stop and perk up to listen.

A twig SNAPS.

Torin leads a group of Clansmen through the FOREST. They're following Asha's tracks.

The animals run in the opposite direction.

Torin stops the others. He sees something ... a small stream of black smoke wafting up above a boulder.

He looks down and finds Asha's tracks again. They're leading toward the smoke. Torin smiles ... exposing his dirty teeth.

They all move forward - care to not make a sound.

FROM ABOVE - we see them close in on the shelter where Asha spent the night.

They're right on top of it now.

Torin rushes forward - knocking over the dried branches Asha had leaned on the rock.

It's empty. She's gone.

The men tear the shelter apart looking for any trace of Asha. Nothing.

TORIN
THE WOMAN CAN'T BE FAR.

They begin to look for her tracks again-

A wolf HOWLS far behind them.

They stop and reach for their weapons.

IN THE DISTANCE - a pack of wolves move through the trees. Their snouts are down and ears pinned back. They SNARL as they move toward the men.

The men circle together - spears out - and walk back to where they came from.

LION CLANSMAN 1
Forget the woman. She will die soon enough.

Torin looks back up the mountain one last time.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SAME TIME

Asha looks back over her shoulder - down to where she spent the night - and then looks back up to the mountain range above her.

Asha moves slowly. She has one hand holding her belly and the other her sharpened stick. Her breath comes out in puffs of steam over her chapped lips.

FROM ABOVE - we see more of the landscape. It's beautiful, grand ... and uncaring of the tiny human making her way through it.

Asha stops and leans on her stick. She's exhausted.

Her stomach RUMBLES. The baby pushes up against her belly. They're both hungry.

She looks over and sees something that could be a meal.

She limps over and inspects an outcrop of orange mushrooms on a fallen tree.

Asha frowns as she decides the mushrooms aren't safe to eat.

She reaches down and lifts a small log.

The grubs and bugs try to scurry away from the light, but she gathers a few before they can escape. She moves them around her palm with a finger before popping the handful of insects in her mouth.

She lifts a few more rocks and logs ... gathering more insects to stick in her pouch for later.

Asha continues to move up the mountain side for several beats.

Another GURGLE stops her in her tracks.

She looks down to look at her stomach. She keeps hearing it ... but it's not her stomach.

She concentrates on the sound and walks toward it - careful to not make noise with her feet.

Heel-toe ... heel-toe ...

The sound of TRICKLING and GURGLING water gets louder as she moves closer to the source.

Her eyes grow wide when she sees it ... A NATURAL SPRING!

She falls to her knees by the pool of mineral water forming by a rock face. She makes a bowl out of her hands and lifts up mouthfuls of water to her lips.

Asha drinks until her stomach hurts.

The baby stretches out and kicks.

ASHA

Oooof.

That one was hard. She looks down and gives her unborn child a worried smile.

ASHA (CONT'D)

It will be fine-

She goes to rub her belly but something catches her eye first. It's TWO GIANT PAW PRINTS in the mud next to her.

BROWN BEAR!

She's frozen in place for a few beats. The relief of finding water quickly disappears ... and the terror of becoming a meal takes hold.

She slowly reaches for an empty water skin on her belt.

Her hands reach down to fill the container while her eyes and ears search for any sign of the predator.

She secures the water skin on her belt and reaches down for one more gulp of water before staggering up to her feet.

She can see more signs of the Bear all around now that she's no longer thirsty.

IT'S ALL HORRIBLY IN FOCUS. More tracks. A dung pile. Scarred tree trunks. Some broken twigs with brown hair on the ends.

Her fingers tightly grasp her sharpened stick as she moves cautiously away from the water source she just found.

She continues to slowly move up the MOUNTAIN.

Suddenly, the world around her goes quiet for a few beats.

She notices the wind change directions and swirl around the trees before rushing down to envelope her in cold air.

THE COLD FRONT SWEEPS OVER THE MOUNTAIN

A light drizzle begins to fall as the cold snap turns the landscape dim and grey.

A few drops hit Asha's face as she looks up.

She wipes her face and takes a step forward ... but a JAB OF PAIN in her lower back stops her in her tracks - OUCH!

She looks down and slowly shakes her head.

ASHA (CONT'D)
Please.

She takes a few more steps.

ASHA (CONT'D)
AH!

Another wave of pain bends her over at the hip.

ASHA (CONT'D)
Not here. Not now.

She clinches her teeth as she looks around - quickly trying to find a suitable place to give birth.

Asha takes a few deep breathes and steadies herself. She limps along again ... but doesn't get far.

GAAASP! HER WATER BREAKS.

Amniotic fluid covers the inside of her legs as she starts walking again.

The contractions keep coming in waves - stopping her more and more as she quickly tries to find a safe place for her and her baby.

She's overwhelmed by the mountain and the wilderness. It's all crashing down on her as time runs out.

She looks down. The baby is coming.

ASHA LETS OUT A PRIMAL YELL ...

ASHA (CONT'D)

AHHHHHH!

She falls to her knees.

Big tears roll down her cheeks now as she tries to keep the pain from rushing out in another outburst.

She looks up and sees a hollowed tree trunk ahead. Asha slowly crawls toward it on her hands and knees.

The drizzle turns to sleet ... and then tiny snowflakes.

She reaches the trunk and grabs hold of the two sides of the opening to pull her self up to a squatted position.

She turns into the dead tree to not give her back to the wilderness around her.

She pushes.

ASHA (CONT'D)

AHHH!

She catches her breath ... then pushes again ... and again ... and again -

ASHA (CONT'D)

AHHHHHHHHH!

She hides her face in the crook of her right arm, and CRIES.

She looks down between her legs. She's crowning.

Her eyes grow wide. She's seen this with other women in her group ... but this is her first time.

SHE PUSHES AGAIN.

She reaches down and catches the baby before he can hit the ground, and quickly brings him up to her chest.

She looks around to make sure she's still alone ... and then sits back into the hollow space.

Asha quickly notices that the baby isn't moving.

She holds him away from her chest. He's not breathing.

She begins to rub his little body. Nothing.

She exposes her chest more and holds him close to her again.

She rubs his back and legs for a several beats ...

ASHA (CONT'D)
Come now ... wake up ... breath-

The baby finally stretches out his little arms ... and then lets out a tiny CRY.

BABY
Wah . . . WAAH!

She holds him tight and CRIES for a few beats.

She moves his little head toward her bosom. She touches his mouth with her nipple until he latches on to suckle.

There is relief for a brief moment.

OUTSIDE THE TREE TRUNK - snow falls all around. It's starting to stick to the trees and ground.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

A WOLF sniffs the air. It's the same Wolf Asha and Yara saw by the brook earlier - but it is no longer pregnant.

It moves past areas where Asha had been earlier in the day.

It stops to drink water at the natural spring, and then moves up the mountain again.

The Wolf licks the ground where Asha's water broke.

It lifts its snout up to smell the air again for a few beats, and trots forward.

FROM ABOVE - we see it dart along the path Asha took ... only stopping to sniff where the amniotic fluid fell to the ground.

The Wolf sees the tree trunk where Asha gave birth to her baby. It SNIFFS around and then peers into the hollow.

It sees the steaming pile of afterbirth that Asha has left behind ... and approaches it with caution. It sniffs the area and then lifts the placenta up in its mouth.

The Wolf turns with its find ... and begins to trot back down the mountain toward its den.

A few meters from the tree trunk it encounters the large brown BEAR that's been making this part of the mountain its home.

The Bear - also catching the smell of flesh in the cold air - is there for the same thing that's secured between the Wolf's fangs.

It stands up on its hind legs and ROARS at the Wolf. The Wolf GROWLS back - not letting go of the meal it found.

The Bear darts forward, but it's not fast enough to get to the slender Wolf before she sprints away down the mountain.

The Bear HUFFS and STOMPS as it watches the Wolf get away.

After a few beats it sticks its large snout back down on the snowy ground.

It lumbers toward the tree trunk and SNIFFS and licks the hollow.

It looks up and tries to catch more of the sent in the air.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - STILL LATER

Asha cautiously approaches the small mouth of a mountain-side cave.

She points her sharpened stick toward the dark slit with one hand while cradling her newborn with her other.

We follow Asha as she squeezes through the two boulders and disappears into the darkness.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

It's dark for several beats. All Asha can hear is the sound of the swirling wind ... and her breath.

She pokes and prods the ground - her eyes slowly adjusting to the darkness - until she reaches the back of the space.

It's a dim, small, and shallow cave.

She notices bits of stone and small bones strewn across a slab of stone. The cave has been used before as shelter - but it's not clear how long ago ... or by whom.

She reaches down and picks up a broken spear head and then turns toward the cave opening. It's getting late.

Asha removes as much clothing as she can bare, swaddles her baby tightly with the material, and sets him down on the ground.

She looks down at the child for a few beats.

She hangs her head as she limps away - still in pain from giving birth.

She gets to the cave's opening and looks back at the swaddled babe again.

FROM INSIDE THE CAVE - we see her ... half-naked ... walk out into the cold.

The baby opens his eyes and tries to suckle the cold air above him. He begins to CRY when the cave doesn't give him the milk he needs.

BABY

WAH!

His cries echo around the cave.

We stay with the baby for several beats - looking at the small cave opening for any sign of Asha's return ... but the wind swirls in instead.

BABY (CONT'D)

WAH! WAAAH!

Finally, we see Asha hurry back in with a bundle of twigs and sticks.

She shakes the snow off and walks toward the crying baby.

She drops the kindling down by the baby and picks him up into her arms.

He stops crying as she brings him up to feed.

Asha, with the baby now firmly latched, begins the process of stacking the kindling on the ground.

She sets what she has out in front of her: flint and pyrite stones to create sparks; a water skin; two bone needles and some leather strips; her sharpened stick.

She stands up and walks back to the stone slab in the cave.

She sits back down and places the broken spear head and some left-behind stone flakes next to her tools.

She waits until baby is done feeding and lifts him to her shoulder.

He lets out a tiny BURP that echoes in the cave.

Asha smiles ... and then chuckles.

ASHA
(patting his back gently)
My baby.

The wind picks up outside. Her smile fades.

She sets him down on the ground again and gets to work.

First things first ... Asha starts a fire.

CLICK. CLACK. SPARKS.

EXT. YORICK'S HUT - EVENING

Yorick stands outside his hut with Torin and TWO other clansmen.

YORICK
These little rabbits stored enough food for two winters. We will send out warring parties from here.
(to the Clansmen)
Keep watch of the village. We will kill the men when they return.

The others nod and trot away.

Yorick looks around for a few beats. DOZENS of men and women from the Lion Clan begin setting up a new village as snow falls to the ground around them.

His eyes land on the group of SIXTEEN captured women. They shiver in a huddled mass off to the side as a group of men taunt them. Yara, Naida, and Vesta are among them.

There are no children.

YORICK (CONT'D)
(to Torin)
Bring me your girl.

He pulls the hide flap on his tent to reveal a dead teen.

YORICK (CONT'D)
This one would not lay.

Torin stares at the dead girl.

Her neck is bruised from the giant hands that strangled her.

YORICK (CONT'D)
Do you feel bad when you kill a
rabbit, Torin?

Torin looks up at his leader and shakes his head.

YORICK (CONT'D)
And why is that?

TORIN
Because they are food-

YORICK
Yes, rabbits are for eating ... and
these women are for laying. We hunt
them to make their bellies grow
with more of us. Do not feel for
them ...
(leans in close)
They are not our mothers.

Torin nods and turns toward the captured women.

He stares at Yara. She stares right back at him in defiance.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - NIGHT

Asha sits by the small fire with the baby.

She's trying to figure the best way to attach the broken
spearhead to her sharpened stick.

The baby moves his head. He's hungry again.

Asha looks over as he begins to WHIMPER a bit. She sets her
project down and lifts the baby before he can cry anymore.

She stares deep into the fire for several beats.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

Asha and Kael lock eyes when they pass each other in the village.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

He brings her a gift ... a shell from a beach far away. She smiles. He blushes.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

She kisses him by the stream.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - NIGHT

He holds her tightly in his hut.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

They make passionate love in the forest.

INT. ASHA'S HUT - NIGHT

He rubs her belly when she begins to show.

He smiles. She smiles. They are ... were happy.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - NIGHT

Asha SOBS while her baby - their baby - feeds from her.

She looks back into the fire ... hoping to catch a glimpse of the memories again.

She can't.

EXT. HUNTING CAMP - NIGHT

Kael stares into the camp's main fire.

He reaches out and pokes the flames ... until little embers dance up into the dark sky above him.

He takes his finger ... points it up at a star ... and draws a line toward the South.

KAEL

*I hope you are dreaming of me,
Asha.*

BEHIND KAEL - the men ... tired from hunting and preparing hides and meat all day ... begin to turn in for the night.

Vigo is about to walk into his hut when he sees Kael by the fire. He walks over and sits next to his brother.

VIGO

You are going to be a great father.

Kael looks over.

VIGO (CONT'D)

Do you know how I know this?

(a beat)

Because you are a great hunter!

KAEL

What does hunting have to do with being a father?

VIGO

It has everything to do with it.

Hunting is what feeds our children

... makes them strong ... gives them long lives ... so they can make even more children!

Kael leans in.

KAEL

There is more to children than their stomachs, brother.

VIGO

Tell that to their stomachs.

They chuckle.

VIGO (CONT'D)

My boys are my life. I do all this for them. One day ... they will become hunters ... and then fathers ... and our line will continue.

Kael looks back into the fire.

KAEL

Asha is my life-

VIGO

-You say that because you have not met the child yet-

KAEL

*The child will be my life too ...
because it comes from her.*

The two brothers sit in silence for several beats.

VIGO

(standing up)

*I think it's time to go back to our
families, brother. We've hunted
long enough.*

Kael smiles wide.

VIGO (CONT'D)

*We'll make trades with the northern
men ... then journey back home.*

Kael gets up and hugs his brother.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

A rabbit pokes its head out and then hops out from its burrow onto the snowy ground.

IN THE DISTANCE - we see the Wolf moving quietly and low behind snow-covered shrubs.

We see the rabbit perk its ears around and sniff the air.

We see the Wolf narrow its focus on the rabbit.

The Wolf surges forward. The rabbit scrambles away.

EXT. WOLF'S DEN - LATER

The Wolf arrives at her den without the rabbit.

Two of her Pups come running out. She licks them as they trot under her to feed.

She looks around for her third Pup ...

INT. WOLF'S DEN - MOMENTS LATER

The Wolf pokes her head in. She sees the motionless Pup in the far corner.

She approaches it and sniffs it from head to tail. It doesn't move. It's dead.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

The Wolf moves into a clearing with the Pup in her mouth.

She sets the dead Pup down and WHIMPERS as she sniffs and nudges it for a few beats.

The Wolf lays down next to her Pup ... and sets her head down next to it.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

Asha poke her head out of the cave. She looks around for a few beats ... then moves outside with the spear in hand.

She holds her position just outside the cave entrance for a few beats - listening for any signs of the Bear ... or the clansmen.

All she can hear is the wind whipping through the trees and across the rock faces.

Asha goes back inside the cave.

After a few beats, she emerges again ... this time with the baby securely strapped to her back.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - LATER

Asha arrives at the only pass she can use to get out of the valley ... and it's completely covered by ice and snow.

She turns back down.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - STILL LATER

Asha can hear men talking.

She squats down behind some rocks and waits. She sees them off in the distance.

Asha moves in a different direction ... trying to get around the men ... but she keeps finding small groups of Clansmen every where she goes.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - DAY

The captured women sit on the ground.

Yara tends to Naida, who has a swollen eye and a broken jaw.

NAIDA
(through her teeth)
Vigo ... cannot see me this way-

YARA
-Shhh. Don't speak.

NAIDA

*He will not want me anymore, Yara.
You have to help me ... end it ...
I can't-*

Naida begins to SOB. Yara tries to comfort Naida. She looks over her shoulder and realizes the other women are staring at them.

YARA

*Nobody else is dying. The men will
need our help when they come-*

VESTA

*-Look around, girl. There is
already snow on the ground. They
are not coming-*

YARA

*-They will be here. We will leave
this place. We must stay ready.*

EXT. HUNTING GROUNDS - DAY

Kael and Vigo trade hides for tools with another group of nomadic hunters from the North.

FENRIR (40s), a northern tribesman, stands over the spear heads he's made.

FENRIR

*How long will you be in the hunting
grounds?*

KAEL

*Not long now. We journey back
tomorrow-*

VIGO

*-My poor brother ... he only has
thoughts for his woman and new
child now.*

Fenrir smiles.

FENRIR

*Give him time. We all look forward
to the long hunt once we get older.*

VIGO

To get away from the women!

They chuckle. Kael does not.

FENRIR
In which direction will you journey home?

Kael finds his baring ... and points toward the South.

FENRIR squints and then signals for his teenage son to join them.

FENRIR (CONT'D)
(to his son)
Tell them about the pass.

Kael and Vigo share a worried look.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - MUCH LATER

Kael arrives at the pass in a full sprint.

He pulls up and looks out toward the South in frustration.

KAEL
NO!

There ... where the pass back to their valley should be ... is a giant landslide scar.

A few beats later, we see Vigo run up to Kael.

The older brother is completely out of breath as he hunches over and places his hands on his knees.

Kael shoots him a look and walks away from his brother without saying a word.

BEGIN MONTAGE

Note: This montage represents TWO MONTHS of survival for Asha and travel for Kael. The passage of time will be shown in her physical deterioration.

EXT. DISTANT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Kael and his men begin climbing a steep rock face.

They struggle to hold on to the meat and hides they carry with them.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha gathers what looks to be the last edible plants, roots, and berries from the few bushes and shrubs she can find on the mountain.

EXT. DISTANT MOUNTAIN

Kael and the men move along a precarious walkway high above on a mountain.

One of the men trips. Kael reaches out for him ... but it's no use. The man tumbles to his death below.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Asha goes back out with the baby day after day. She finds less and less food to gather.

EXT. DISTANT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Kael and the men climb down the snowy mountain toward a valley they've never been to before.

They meet a new group of people and trade hides for food.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Asha is digging up a root with her hands when she sees a rabbit hop into a small clearing near by.

She tries to sneak up on it ... but the rabbit sprints away before Asha can even get close enough to throw her spear at it.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE

More snow falls outside the cave.

It accumulates day after day ... and night after night.

EXT. DISTANT FOREST - DAY

Kael and the others walk through waste-high snow. We see that they've left the last of the hide bundles behind.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha paces back and forth around the cave with the baby in her arms.

She's looking thin, tired, and worn out. She begins to CRY in desperation and crumbles down to the cave floor.

END MONTAGE

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha pushes snow away from the cave entrance and walks out into the cold. She looks so thin now. There is little color in her skin.

The baby sleeps, strapped to her back. His cheeks turn rosy in the cold.

Asha staggers forward in the snow. She's not looking around for food or water anymore. She's not looking around for the Bear either.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - LATER

Asha is lost in thought ... weighing her options.

Big tears well up in her eyes. It's all too painful.

FROM A DISTANCE - we see the Wolf moving parallel with Asha for a few beats ... but eventually stops following the ghostly woman moving through the snow.

FROM ABOVE - we see Asha continue moving ... until she arrives at a cliff's edge.

The wind whips at her as she slowly steps forward ... getting closer and closer to the edge.

She looks over the side, down into the deep ravine below, and GASPS softly.

She takes a step back ... but soon collects herself and moves closer to the edge - determined to end the misery.

She takes one more deep breath.

She closes her eyes and opens her arms like a bird ready to take flight for the first time.

ON HER BACK - we see the baby open his deep blue eyes.

Asha puts one foot out into the void.

She hears the baby COO.

Big tears begin to roll down her face as the wind SWIRLS around her.

We see her dangling foot step back from the edge.

She can't do it.

She breaks down and SOBS by the rocky edge.

FADE TO:

INT. BURIAL CHAMBER - NIGHT

Ulkan lowers his paint-stained finger.

His sons trade a look with each other ... and then look over to Yara who is sitting quietly in the corner. She nods.

YARA

*Hunger, pain ... and sorrow ...
can bring the darkest thoughts to
even the strongest people.*

Ulkan makes another mark on the wall.

YARA (CONT'D)

*The suffering was great for all of
us then ... but we all found our
reasons ... to keep breathing.*

BACK TO:

EXT. DISTANT FOREST - DAY

The men sit around a morning fire. They're tired and picking at their sore feet.

The look up to see Kael packed and ready to move out for the day. He looks at them for a beat and then turns to leave.

Vigo gets the men moving ... and they follow Kael.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - DAY

Yara watches the women sleep. Some of them are beginning to show small pregnancy bumps.

She looks over and sees Torin leave his hut.

She focuses on him ... trying to kill him with her eyes.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Snow begins to melt. It's getting warmer on the mountain. Signs of life peak through for the first time in months.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha lays down on the ground next to the baby.

She's made it through the hardest part of the winter, but it's been such a painful experience - and it shows in her face and body.

She barely has the energy to pick her head up at first when baby begins to WHIMPER.

ASHA

*I am sorry ... I have nothing for
you ...*

The baby CRIES. The CRIES fill the cave. She rubs her head. The sound is overwhelming. She sits up slowly.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - LATER

Asha slowly walks down the mountain side with the baby on her back.

Her spear is more of a walking stick now than a weapon.

Every step is more painful than the last.

She stops to look for bugs or worms, but can't find more than a handful.

The sound of GRUNTING a few meters away startles Asha.

She slowly turns her head.

There, in a clearing - highlighted by sun rays streaming down through the trees - is a magnificent BUCK.

It looks at Asha as it moves its ears in different directions.

Asha looks over at her spear ... then back at the Buck.

Her shoulders drop.

There's no way.

ASHA

If Kael were here-

BEAR

ROAR!

The BEAR swipes at the Buck ... and then bites down on its hind quarters before it can escape.

Asha's eyes grow wide.

The Bear continues its attack ... making its way up the Buck's torso.

The Buck SCREAMS out in pain.

Asha slowly backs away and hides behind a tree.

The Bear finally puts the Buck out of its misery and bites down on its neck - CRACK!

Asha peaks her head out from behind the tree.

She sees the Bear rip the Buck apart.

The baby opens his eyes.

Asha hears a sound behind her.

She turns around and sees the Wolf crouched down a few meters behind.

She holds her breath for a beat.

The Wolf focuses on Asha and the baby ... but then turns her attention to the Bear and its meal.

The Wolf moves away from Asha - taking care to not lose track of where the human is - and makes her way to another location near by.

Both Asha and the Wolf watch as the Bear gorges itself.

SNAP. CRACK. GRUNT.

FROM ABOVE - we see the passage of time as the Sun makes its journey over the valley.

ON THE GROUND - The Bear finishes eating.

It looks around for a few beats as it sniffs the air.

Asha and the Wolf watch as the giant predator moves on - leaving the deer carcass behind.

The two look at the dead animal and then at each other for several beats.

Finally, Asha moves forward.

The Wolf surges forward before Asha can take more than a few steps. It gets to the carcass and begins scavenging it.

Asha moves toward the meal slowly.

The Wolf notices Asha. It GROWLS and shows its teeth.

Asha ignores the warning and continues forward. She's so hungry. She needs this.

The Wolf rushes toward Asha and snaps at her.

Asha falls on her bottom and holds her broken spear out toward the Wolf.

The Wolf trots back to the dead deer and goes back to eating. Asha begins to tear up with anger.

She scrambles up and surges forward with her spear.

ASHA
AHHHHHHHHH!

WOLF
SNAAAAAARL!

Asha and the Wolf stand on opposite sides of the carcass as they show each other their weapons for several beats

It's a standoff neither can afford to lose.

Asha hears the baby COO behind her.

She looks at the Wolf and then over at the dead animal they're fighting over.

ASHA
Eat first then! Stupid, greedy animal!

The rage eases from her face as she slowly backs up - the spear still pointed toward the Wolf.

She finally gets to a tree and sits down to wait for the Wolf to finish.

AFTER SEVERAL BEATS - The Wolf looks up from the cavity.

Blood covers her face as she licks her snout.

Asha stands up.

The Wolf GROWLS one more time, but is too full to really contemplate attacking Asha.

She sticks her head into the cavity one more time and rips at the left over organs. She pulls a chunk out and looks at Asha one more time before turning to leave with food for her Pups.

The Wolf disappears down the mountain.

Asha waits a few beats before walking over to the meal.

She looks down at the deer. There's still meat on it.

She rushes forward and claws at the carcass with a piece of stone flake. She grabs what she can from the animal and rips hunk fulls with her teeth.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha eats meat by the fire while the baby lays on his belly next to her.

There's still spots of dried blood from earlier ... but the desperation that comes from deep hunger has vanished from her face.

She's in a better mood.

ASHA

(more to herself)

*We will go back tomorrow ... for
the skin and bones ... make
something from it.*

(to the baby)

Something for you ...

She lays on her side to be face to face with the baby.

She stares at him for a few beats.

ASHA (CONT'D)

*You have ... your father's eyes ...
the color of the sky.*

He sees her ... and smiles. She smiles back.

ASHA (CONT'D)

*He will find us. We will all be
together again.*

EXT. DISTANT RIVER - DAY

Kael, Vigo, and the others approach a wide, dangerous river.

Kael's frustration erupts.

He reaches down, grabs a large rock, and throws it into the raging waters that are in their way.

Vigo walks up and tries to calm him.

VIGO

(whispering)

Do not let them see you despair.

Kael looks over at the men.

He can see they are worried too.

VIGO (CONT'D)
Come. We will find a way.

He SIGHS deep and nods.

The men turn back around.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha walks away from her cave with the baby on her back.

She is still malnourished ... but there is a big difference in the way she moves.

She has a bit more energy from the meat she was able to eat.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

More snow is melting. More vegetation is showing.

We see her make her way to several of her usual stops to gather food and water.

She smiles when she sees a bush with small, red berries.

ASHA
(to the baby)
You will love these ... when they
are ready.

We follow her as she finally makes her way back to where the Buck was killed the day before.

Bones stick out where there had been flesh before. More animals have gotten to the carcass. She looks around for a few beats and approaches with caution.

FROM ABOVE - we see her begin to cut and break what she can from the animal.

She slices the pieces of hide that haven't been torn by fangs and stacks them next to her.

We see her get up and walk over to a large rock. She takes it and walks back to the head.

She uses the rock to break the skull apart.

SNAP. CRACK. GRUNT.

Until the part of the skull with the antlers breaks off the top in a jagged crown.

She grabs a handful of brains and collects it in one of the pieces of hide for later.

IN THE DISTANCE - we see the Wolf crouching behind some bushes. It looks like she's about to attack ... but we hear and then see that she has her Pups with her.

The two rough play with each other a bit, but stop when the Wolf snaps at them gently.

She wants them to see the carcass and scavenge it ... but not until it is safe.

We see Asha gather what she needs and head back toward her cave with arms full of hide and bones.

Asha looks over her shoulder slightly ... but she doesn't see anything. The Wolf waits for a few beats until she can't hear or smell the human anymore.

She leads her Pups to the carcass.

The Pups play and climb on what's left of the carcass. The Wolf lays down and pants as her Pups run around her.

EXT. NATURAL SPRING - LATER

Asha cleans the pieces of hide in the water.

A twig SNAPPING in the distance freezes her for a beat.

She keeps soaking and SCRAPPING the hide.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha mixes the deer brains and wood ash from the fire, and applies it to the hide for "tanning".

She lays the hide over the stone slab.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha lays the hide on boulders to dry in the Sun.

She stretches and works the hide with a stick.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

She cuts the hide with a sharp edge. She takes the pieces and begins to sew them together with her bone needles and plant fibers she's collected.

She holds the outfit up and smiles.

She reaches down and lifts the baby up on her lap and dresses him.

FROM ABOVE - we can see that the cave is becoming their home too. There are now wooden frames for drying hide and baskets in the early stages of the weaving process.

She begins to eat berries, nuts, and insects she's gathered.

She pokes one of the logs in the fire ... and the one on top falls and crashes into the fire.

Her face scrunches with focus.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

We see a simple deadfall trap with a large rock propped up by a stick.

Under the rock are a few berries and nuts.

Braided twine from twisted plant fibers is tied to the stick. We follow the twine a few meters away to Asha's hand.

She's hiding behind a log ... trying to be as still and silent as she possibly can ... waiting for a small creature to fall for her trap.

Nothing happens for several beats as we go back and forth from the trap to Asha's position.

Finally, a rabbit hops forward toward the trap.

It's nose twitching and sniffing the area with every hop.

Asha gets ready.

The rabbit is almost there.

The baby WHIMPERS.

Asha looks back over her shoulder.

ASHA

Shhh.

She looks back toward the trap. The rabbit is frozen in place just a hop or two away from being crushed by the rock.

The baby CRIES.

The rabbit sprints away.

Asha hangs her head.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - LATER

Asha sets her trap again.

It's getting later ... and she's getting tired and hungry.

ON HER BACK - we see that the baby is asleep again.

She ties the twine and walks back behind a rock to hide.

A few beats later another rabbit comes hopping up to the trap. This is it. Her hand tightens on the twine. Her eyes focus in.

The rabbit freezes again. Its ears move side to side.

ASHA
(whispering)
No ... not again.

Suddenly, she sees the rabbit take off in a blur.

Chasing after it is a much larger blur of fur and fangs.

It's the Wolf.

A few meters away from the trap the Wolf catches up to the rabbit and they both go tumbling forward.

The rabbit SCREAMS as the Wolf crunches its spine.

Asha can't believe it.

Her brow furrows with anger.

She reaches over and grabs her spear and begins to step out from behind the tree.

Her hands squeeze the shaft as she watches the Wolf turn with the rabbit in her mouth.

ASHA (CONT'D)
(yelling)
That is mine!

The Wolf sees Asha.

Her ears pin back as she lowers her head down.

The two mothers are again locked in a standoff for food on the mountain.

WOLF
SNAARL!

Asha SCREAMS as she steps forward.

The Wolf backs up as she grips the rabbit tighter between her jaws.

The rabbit's blood drips down onto the ground below.

A sound - off to Asha's right - distracts the two. It's the CRUNCHING sound of large paws trampling the vegetation a few meters away.

BEAR (O.S.)
GRUNT! GRUNT!

Asha looks back over at the Wolf.

Their posture goes from fight to flight in a split second. They both run in the opposite direction at the same time.

OUT OF THE BRUSH LINE - we see the Bear lumber out toward where Asha and Wolf had been a few beats before.

It SNIFFS and licks the pool of rabbit blood.

It looks up and trots in the direction of the fleeing mothers.

FROM ABOVE - we see Asha and the Wolf run. They're moving in the same general direction, but the Wolf is much faster and further ahead than Asha.

Asha sees the Wolf getting away. She looks back and sees the Bear moving toward her in the distance.

The baby opens his eyes from the movement.

She decides to move further into the FOREST instead of trying to move up toward her cave.

We see her slide down an embankment and come up toward an outcrop of rocks.

She rushes toward it and sinks down behind it.

She can hear the Bear get closer with ever GRUNT it makes.

She holds her breath.

The baby begins to WHIMPER.

Asha quickly takes him off her back and holds him close so he'll stop making a sound.

SEVERAL METERS UP THE EMBANKMENT - we see the Bear get parallel to Asha's position.

It's following the trail of rabbit's blood on the ground when it looks down toward the rocks.

It walks over to the embankment ... SNIFFS around ... sees the rabbit's blood ... and keeps moving ... toward the Wolf.

Asha waits a few beats until she can't see or hear the Bear.

ASHA
(to the baby in her arms)
You must learn to keep quiet.

She puts the child back on her back and makes her way up the embankment.

She moves in the direction of her cave ... but then turns around. She can see the drops of rabbit's blood too.

She points her spear out in the direction of the Bear and Wolf and slowly follows behind.

EXT. WOLF'S DEN - LATER

Asha moves through the tree line with her baby. Up ahead she can hear GROWLING and GRUNTING. She grips her spear tight.

There, several meters ahead, she sees the Bear swiping at the Wolf with its giant claws. The Wolf dodges the attacks, but isn't running away this time.

Asha sees why.

Behind the Wolf are her two Pups sticking their little heads out of the den.

The only thing keeping them and the dead rabbit at their feet from the Bear ... is their mother, the Wolf.

The Bear swipes at the Wolf again ... and connects - THAP!

WOLF
YELP!

The Wolf goes flying off to the side.

A large gash on her shoulder begins to ooze with blood.

She gets up slowly ... then surges for the Bear now at the entrance of her den. She jumps on the Bear's side and bites down on its neck.

BEAR
ROAR!

The Bear stands up and shakes the Wolf off. He swipes at the Wolf again and hurls her toward a pile of rocks.

WOLF
YELP!

She looks over, unable to get up again, and watches as the Bear walks over to the dead rabbit and rips it apart with its teeth.

The Bear finishes its small meal and lumbers over to the den. The Wolf tries to get up ... but can't.

The BEAR sticks its snout into the den. We can hear little, muffled GROWLS come out from the den. The Wolf WHIMPERS ... unable to save her babies ... then passes out.

The Bear reaches in with its giant paw ... and pulls out one of the Pups. It's fighting back as much as it can - biting the paw with its tiny fangs - but it's no use.

The poor thing CRIES out in pain as the Bear pins it down - CRUNCH. The Bear crushes the Pup ... and begins to eat it.

Asha covers her mouth to keep a GASP from escaping out.

The other Pup sticks its little head out.

It looks over at its mother ... and then out at toward the trees. It sees Asha hiding behind a tree ... and bolts in her direction.

The Bear swipes at the Pup but misses. It follows it with its eyes as it continues to eat.

The Pup WHIMPERS as it arrives at Asha's feet. It looks over its shoulder and then hides behind the human. Asha looks down at the scared ball of fur ... then up at the Bear.

The Bear lifts its head up and looks over at her.

Something takes over Asha. She grabs the Pup up in her arms and runs away.

We follow Asha as she sprints away from the Bear ... and the Wolf ... with the last Pup tucked under her arm.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - LATER

Asha arrives at the cave. She turns around and looks out for the Bear. Nothing.

She looks down at the Pup in her arms. It's licking her.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - STILL LATER

Asha sits by the fire with the baby in her arms.

The Pup is curled up by her leg and fast asleep.

The Pup lets out a tiny SIGH.

Asha stares into the fire.

ASHA

(to herself)

*This is crazy, Asha. This cannot
... you cannot ... it is not right.*

(looking down again)

*What will I do with you, little
wolf?*

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DREAM

FLASHES of Wolves SNARLING ...

KAEL (O.S.)

ASHA!

BITING ... TEARING FLESH ...

KAEL (CONT'D)

THE CHILD!

HOWLING!

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NEXT DAY

Asha opens her eyes. She hears the sound of LICKING.

FROM BEHIND - she sees the Pup standing over the baby.

All she can see is the baby's feet kicking around and the top of his little head.

Asha SCREAMS.

The Pup scurries away to the far side of the cave.

Asha reaches out for the baby and quickly holds him up.

The baby smiles at her. She flips him around ... checking for any sign of bites ... but finds nothing.

She looks at the Pup with its tail tucked under its legs.

She sets the baby down on his belly. The Pup looks up at Asha and then over at the baby. It slowly walks back toward the two humans.

Asha reaches over for her spear and brings it close as she watches the Pup approach her child.

The Pup locks eyes with the baby. Its ears perk up as it pounces around playfully.

The baby LAUGHS.

Asha is surprised ... its the first time he's done that.

The Pup BARKS playfully and rolls around the baby. The baby LAUGHS and kicks his feet.

Asha CHUCKLES with tears in her eyes.

The Pup walks up to the baby. They get nose to nose. The Pup licks the baby on the face.

Asha smiles.

FLASH ON - THE WOLF LAYING HALF DEAD BY HER DEN.

Asha shakes her head trying to get rid of the image.

She looks over and sees the Pup sitting in front of her now.

FLASH ON - THE BEAR STANDING OVER THE WOLF

Asha shakes her head again.

The Pup tilts its head up at her.

ASHA
I cannot ...

The Pup steps forward and begins licking Asha's foot.

Asha picks up the Pup and looks deep into its eyes.

She SIGHS.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - LATER

FROM OUTSIDE - we see Asha ... with her baby securely attached to her back ... stack large rocks at the entrance of the cave to keep the Pup from getting out.

She looks into the cave and sees the Pup sitting there ... wagging its tail.

ASHA
We will be back.

She hears WHIMPERING as she walks away.

EXT. WOLF'S DEN - LATER

We see Asha approach the scene with caution.

She hides behind a tree at first, but moves forward once she sees there's no sign of the Bear.

She sees the Wolf is still laying on the ground ... motionless.

It's a bloody mess around the den.

The Bear didn't leave much behind ... except for the deep, dark stains of blood.

Asha looks over at the Wolf.

There are large gashes across her side from where the Bear swiped at her with its giant claws.

Asha walks over to a large rock and picks it up.

She makes her way over to the Wolf ... holds the rock high above her head ... and is about to come down with it to crush the Wolf's skull -

The Wolf opens her eyes.

The two lock eyes for a few beats. Asha furrows her brow. The Wolf looks away. Asha grits her teeth ... and heaves the rock. The Wolf flinches.

THUD!

The rock rolls off to the side.

ASHA
It is not your time yet, Wolf. Your Pup still needs you.

We see Asha walk away and leave the Wolf behind.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

We follow Asha as she looks for particular plants.

She finds YARROW ... then COMFREY ... and then CAENDULA.

She makes her way back to the Wolf.

EXT. WOLF'S DEN - MOMENTS LATER

The Wolf moves a bit when it sees her again ... but can't do more than move it's front paws without wincing with pain.

Asha crushes the plants and flowers on a slab of stone she finds near by ... until it all becomes a thick paste.

She goes to apply it to the Wolf-

WOLF
BARK!

The Wolf SNAPS at Asha.

Asha stands up quickly and frowns.

ASHA
I am trying to help you!

She reaches into her pouch and pulls out straps she's made from the deer hide.

She mounts the Wolf from behind and ties its snout shut with the straps.

The Wolf GROWLS for a bit ... but quickly submits to the human on top of her.

Asha carefully applies the paste on the Wolf's wounds.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

Asha goes back out into the trees.

She gathers two straight, and sturdy branches to serve as the main structure of a litter ... then shorter and thinner branches for the cross pieces ... and finally hand fulls of leaves, moss, and grass.

EXT. WOLF'S DEN - LATER

Asha arranges everything by the Wolf and begins to build the frame. She places the litter next to the Wolf and flips her onto the frame as carefully as she can.

The Wolf winces and WHINES.

Asha pulls the litter away from the den.

EXT. NATURAL SPRING - LATER

Along the way Asha stops to rest, gather food and water, and tend to the baby.

She sits on a rock and watches the Wolf for several beats.

CLOSE ON - the Wolf's heaving chest, yellow eyes, and sharp fangs.

Asha walks over and slowly drips water on the Wolf's snout for her to drink.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Asha continues pulling the Wolf up the mountain.

It takes her the rest of the day to arrive at her cave.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - EVENING

Asha moves the stones and out comes the Pup in a flash.

It runs over to its mother and begins licking her snout. Asha sits and watches the two wolves reconnect.

If wolves could cry of happiness ... they would be doing just that.

EXT. DISTANT MOUNTAIN - THE NEXT DAY

Kael reaches the top of another mountain.

He gets his baring and points down to the South. There's still another mountain range to cross.

VIGO (O.S.)
We must stop brother.

He looks back and sees the others struggle to keep moving.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha sits by the fire with the baby swaddled next to her.

She's focused on the Wolf ... and sounds of pain coming from her.

The Wolf's chest rises and falls as her Pup tries to feed from her. She winces with pain every time the Pup pushes up to get more milk.

Asha gets up and walks over to the stone slab where she's laid out her acquired tools, baskets, and medicinal plants.

She crushes more plants to make a paste and then walks over to the Wolf.

The Wolf GROWLS as she gets closer to her and the Pup ... but is soon quiet when Asha begins to apply the paste to her wounds.

The Wolf keeps watching Asha out of the corner of her eye.

She sees the Pup run around the human in a playful way.

Asha pats the Pup on the top of the head without thinking.

The Wolf relaxes as the medicine begins to work.

Asha stands straight up and shakes her head as she looks at the Wolf she has brought into her cave.

She looks down.

The Pup is licking her feet.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Asha gathers more plants, nuts, and berries on the mountain.

She's careful to look out for signs of the Bear.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

She sets up her deadfall trap but can't seem to get it to work. She has a rabbit right under the large rock ... but it escapes the trap just as the stone falls to the ground.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha continues to care for the Wolf and the Pup. The medicine is working on the wounds ... but the Wolf still can't move much. The Pup snuggles up next to the Wolf.

Asha loosens the leather strap around the Wolf's snout so she can drink water and eat the mashed up insects and grubs that Asha prepares.

The Wolf sniffs the bug mash and looks up at Asha.

ASHA

*That is all we have now. Go on ...
eat it.*

The Pup starts feeding from the Wolf. It's mother notices ... then turns back to the insect meal. She eats it.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Asha fails at trapping several more times ... until she perfects the setup and bait ... and she catches HER FIRST RABBIT.

She quickly guts and dresses the rabbit ... constantly looking over her shoulder and ready to run if the Bear appears. It doesn't.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha picks out pieces of the rabbit from the hot embers of the fire and eats.

The Wolf can now sit up off her side ... but she can't get up or walk yet.

Asha feeds the Wolf the left-over rabbit bones while the Pup plays around the laughing baby.

Asha walks over and picks up the Pup. The Wolf GROWLS low. Asha sets the Pup by the Wolf to feed.

The Wolf looks at Asha for a beat then continues to eat.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Asha keeps gathering food and perfecting her trap.

We see her walk back to the cave with more and more small prey tied to her belt.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

ASHA works on making more clothes for her and the baby with the hides she's collected from trapping.

She looks over and sees the Pup laying next to the baby.

They both look like little fur balls in the fire light.

She smiles.

Asha looks back over to the fire-

THE WOLF IS STANDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FLAMES.

Her yellow eyes piercing through and focusing on Asha.

Asha looks back at the Wolf with the same intensity for several beats.

Without breaking from the stare down ... we see Asha's hand reach over toward a shard of stone.

The Wolf lowers her head. Asha furrows her brow.

Asha's hand hovers over the sharp tool and lands on a few bones with some meat on them.

The Wolf breaks her focus and looks down at the would-be food. Asha grins.

She grabs the bones and tosses them back to where the Wolf had been laying before.

The Wolf follows the bones with her eyes ... looks at Asha for a beat ... then slowly turns toward the meal.

Asha watches as the Wolf goes back to her area, sits, and then eats the scraps - CRUNCH - CRUNCH.

Asha stands up and walks over to the stone slab.

She picks up a small bowl of the medicinal paste she's been using on the Wolf and makes her way over to her.

The Wolf keeps eating as Asha squats down by her and reaches out to apply the medicine-

The Wolf quickly SNAPS back at Asha's hand.

Asha falls on her backside.

ASHA

AHHH!

WOLF

GRRRRR.

The Pup wakes up. Her little tongue sticks out as she YAWNS next to the baby.

The Pup gets up and trots over to the two mothers locked in the middle of yet another stare down.

Asha and the Wolf notice the Pup moving toward them through the corner of their eye.

It lets out tiny BARK.

Both mothers break the stare and turn toward the Pup.

The Pup walks over to the Wolf. She licks her mother's snout and rubs her head under the Wolf's throat.

The Pup then walks over to Asha ... and lays down next to her. She snuggles her little snout up to the human who saved her life.

Asha looks down at the Pup ... and then over to the Wolf.

The Wolf stares at Asha for a few beats ... and then lowers her gaze and head ... to show submission.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha walks out of the cave with the Baby on her back.

The Wolf and Pup follow close behind.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

The FOUR slowly make their way down the mountain side.

Asha gathers more food. She crushes some berries and feeds the baby the sweet fruit. His eyes grow wide. He likes it.

The Wolf watches the Pup run around and play.

Asha yanks her string and traps another rabbit.

The wolves eat the guts Asha drops to the ground. They look up ... looking for more to eat.

ASHA
How about you start hunting?

The Wolf tilts her head.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

- They keep going out day after day ... and catching more prey.
- The Wolf starts to lose her limp ... and begins going out far ahead of her Pup and the two humans.
- Asha and the Wolf quietly move from tree to tree ... stalking unseen prey.
- Asha catches more small prey.
- Asha and the Wolf take off ... trotting through the forest.
- The Wolf catches small prey too. She uses the small squirrel carcass to play tug-of-war with the Pup.

- Asha and the Wolf full on sprint through the forest. We see what they're both after ... a young wild boar.
- The Wolf breaks off and gets up ahead of the boar. She turns it around and chases it ... back toward Asha.
- Asha trips the boar with her spear as it runs back past a tree.
- The Wolf pounces on it!

END MONTAGE

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - NIGHT

Asha holds The baby in her arms as she feeds him some bone marrow from the boar they just killed.

She looks up and sees the two wolves eating too.

The Pup plays around with its food.

Asha smiles.

The Pup catches a glimpse of its tail ... and begins chasing it in circles.

Asha LAUGHS.

The Wolf looks at her ... then looks at the Pup and paws at it gently.

Asha throws them both more food.

The humans and wolves are now the closest they've ever been.

EXT. HUNTING CAMP - NIGHT

The men all huddle together by a fire.

Nobody says a word.

They're tired ... and have little to show for the journey North after trading and dumping the hides.

VIGO

Do not look so sad, men. Tomorrow we will all be back in our warm huts ... belly to belly with our women ... looking deep into their eyes by the fire!

They smile and chuckle a bit.

VIGO (CONT'D)

(to Kael)

*Have you thought of a name for the
child, brother?*

KAEL

*I do not know if it is a boy or
girl-*

VIGO

*It will be a boy! HE will be strong
and cunning ... like all the boys
from our line!*

Kael nods.

KAEL

*Asha will know what to name him
then.*

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - DAY

Asha is laying on her side.

WOLF (O.S.)

GROWWWWWWWL!

Asha opens her eyes.

PUP (O.S.)

Bark - bark!

Asha sees the Baby squirm and cry in front of her.

She hears the low rumble of the Bear GRUNTING outside.

Her sight and hearing adjusts to the background ... where
she can see the wolves GROWLING and BARKING at a dark shadow
at the cave entrance.

It's the Bear trying to get into the cave.

She sits straight up.

The Bear's nose pokes in ... sniffing the ground in steady
WHIFFS.

Asha grabs her spear and waits to see if the Bear will be
able to get in.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The Bear tries to squeeze into the cave ... but the entrance
is too narrow for its giant body.

It jumps up on its hind legs and pushes at the rock face to try to move the boulder in its way.

The Bear begins to lose interest after a few beats. It looks around and sniffs the air.

It moves on, but not before looking back at the cave one last time.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Asha holds her spear tight. The Wolf paces from side to side. The Pup follows her mother around.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - MOMENTS LATER

We follow the Bear down the mountain ... and into the trees ... as it tracks the sent of the boar Asha and the Wolf killed the day before.

FROM ABOVE - we see it lumber along.

The Bear is the apex predator of the mountain ... with no worry for anything but the scent of the blood its following.

We see it get to the clearing where the boar was killed.

The Bear SNIFFS the ground and then licks at the dark blood stain-

WOOOSH! WHAAAP!

We see it has a spear stuck in its back. It gets up on its hind legs and ROOOOAAAARRRRSSSS in pain and anger.

WOOOSH - WOOOSH - WOOOSH!

WHAAAP! WHAAAP! WHAAAP!

THREE spears strike it in the chest.

The Bear GROANS as it looks around.

It doesn't know where the spears are coming from.

It gets another SIX spears to its back and neck. Bright-red blood sputters out of the Bear as it tries to charge its invisible attacker.

WOOOSH - WOOOSH - WOOOSH!

MORE SPEARS!

WHAAAP! WHAAAP! WHAAAP!

The Bear turns to run from the area.

ON THE GROUND - we see fur-covered feet step out into the clearing ... and up to where the blood trail begins.

We see that it's Yorick and his Clansmen.

UP AHEAD - the Bear's steps get shorter and shorter as it loses more and more blood.

It finally collapses and bleeds out.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - LATER

The Lion Clansmen carry the bear skin on a set of long poles and carry large chunks of bear meat over their shoulders.

Torin walks behind Yorick.

Something in the corner of his eye catches Torin's attention. We see him walk away from the group ... toward a group of stacked rocks.

He sees a broken stick ... and some twine.

It's one of Asha's deadfall traps.

He looks around ...

YORICK (O.S.)
TORIN!

Torin runs back to the group.

They continue walking back to the village with their kill.

Torin turns his head up toward the mountain.

EXT. NOMADIC VILLAGE - DAY

Kael's group approaches the sacked village. The realization of what happened sinks in quickly.

They stand in shock at the sight of decomposed, eaten bodies, and destroyed huts.

Kael steps forward.

KAEL
Ash - Asha ...

The men scatter ... looking for their families.

Kael sprints toward his hut.

We follow him as he makes his way to the hut where he was starting a family.

He slows down to quickly see if any of the remains strewn on the ground ... belong to her.

He finally gets to where his hut should be ...

It's completely destroyed.

A few of Asha's things are scattered around.

KAEL (CONT'D)

(low)

No.

BEHIND KAEL - we see ONE of the men run up to Vigo who is standing where his hut should be too.

Vigo listens to him for a beat-

VIGO

(Yelling)

KAEL! Come!

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The men surround the FOUR Lion Clansmen who had been sent to guard the route into the destroyed village.

Kael walks up and sees them cowering on their knees.

One of them looks up at Kael.

VIGO

Where are our families-

LION CLANSMAN 1

(puffing his chest out)

You should all leave this valley.

It belongs to Yorick the lion killer now-

Kael stabs the man in the throat with his spear.

KAEL

(to the other clansmen)

What about you? Do you have anything else to say on where we should go next?

Lion Clansman 2 shakes his head and puts his hands up. The other two follow his lead.

LION CLANSMAN 2
There are still some women left alive-

VIGO
And children?

The Clansmen share a look.

LION CLANSMAN 2
Do not kill us ... we can tell you where they are.

KAEL
You wish to live then?

They nod.

KAEL (CONT'D)
Did our women and children also beg for their lives? Did you listen?

One of the Clansmen pisses himself.

Kael and Vigo share a look then point their spears at the three Clansmen.

LION CLANSMAN 2
No ... please-

Kael, Vigo, and the others stab the Clansmen to death with their spears.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

Asha and the Wolf slowly approach the clearing where the Bear was killed.

They both look and listen for any movement.

They come closer ... and find what's left of the giant predator: a few bones ... and a large blood stain.

The Wolf SNIFFS the area.

Asha looks down at the DOZEN bloody tracks ... and follows them out of the clearing.

They lead down ... to the valley.

INT. ASHA'S CAVE - STILL LATER

Asha runs in with the Wolf right behind her.

She looks at the cave ... the home she's created for her and her baby.

She looks down at the Wolf.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The entire Lion Clan sits around the fire at the center of the village.

The men alone are more than triple the number from Kael's group.

They talk loudly as they feast on the fresh bear meat and drink from large bowls of milky liquid that alters their state of mind.

The Clansmen toss scraps at the captured women.

One of them drapes the bear head and skin over himself and terrorizes Yara, Naida, and the EIGHT other women who are huddled off to the side.

LION CLANSMAN 3
ROAR! ROAR! ROAR!
(to Yara)
You ... girl ... ever lay with a
bear?

LAUGHTER erupts around the center fire.

Yara glares at the Clansman as he turns away.

INT. YORICK'S HUT - NIGHT

Yorick sits cross-legged by the fire.

TWO naked women huddle in fear off to the side.

Vesta lies - motionless but breathing - behind him.

Torin enters the hut.

He sees Yorick ... and slowly approaches the clan leader.

Yorick doesn't acknowledge him at all. He continues to stare at the fire.

Torin opens his mouth to speak-

YORICK
*When will the others return from
the West?*

TORIN
 (freezing in his tracks)
They ... should be here soon-

YORICK
Yes.

Yorick looks up from the fire.

YORICK (CONT'D)
They should.

TORIN
Yes.

(a beat)
*I want to ... take a hunting party
 ... up to the mountain ...
 tomorrow-*

Yorick stands up - completely naked - and moves toward Torin. His massive body towers over him.

YORICK
*You are still hungry, Torin? Was
 there not enough meat from my kill?*

TORIN
*Yes. Yes. There is a great feast
 ... thanks to you.*
 (a nervous beat)
It is not meat we will look for-

Yorick grabs Torin by the shoulders with his giant hands ... and looks deep into his eyes for several beats.

Torin can't hold the gaze and looks away toward the women.

TORIN (CONT'D)
There ... is someone ... up there-

The women share a look. Yorick GRUNTS.

TORIN (CONT'D)
*I ... want to make sure it's not
 ... the other men.*

Yorick stares at Torin for a few more beats. He reaches out and wraps his giant hand around Torin's neck.

He squeezes slowly ... until Torin begins to GASP for air.

YORICK
*I sometimes wonder why my father
 showed such weakness ...*
 (MORE)

YORICK (CONT'D)
*in not killing you, Torin. Your
mother ... must have been great to
lay with.*

Yorick let's go of his grip and turns away to sit back down.

Torin takes in air as he holds his neck.

YORICK (CONT'D)
Take three men with you.

Torin nods.

YORICK (CONT'D)
*When you return. Kill any of the
women who are no yet with child.
They are no use to us if they do
not give us more lions.*

A tear runs down Vesta's face.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - NEXT DAY

It's early in the morning when we see Torin and THREE other
clansmen leave the village.

The other clan members lay around the ground ... still full
and inebriated from the the night's feast.

IN THE SURROUNDING FOREST - we see Kael and Vigo hiding in
the shadows. They watch as Torin and his men walk away with
spears in hand.

Kael and Vigo sink back into the forest.

We follow them as they sneak back toward their men.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Torin and the others move through the valley.

They pass the destroyed village ... then move down and over
the stream.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - LATER

Torin squats down by the trap he found the day before.

He finds ... wolf ... and human tracks ...

TORIN
It's ... a woman.

FLASH ON - ASHA RUNNING AWAY FROM TORIN. He can see her running ... and then turn her head over her shoulder ... so he can see her panicked face.

BACK WITH THE CLANSMEN - Torin bites his lip.

LION CLANSMAN 4
(over Torin's shoulder)
With a wolf? That ... cannot be.

Torin looks back at the Clansman ... and then up toward the mountain.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

The men begin waking up and slowly moving around. Their women start their daily routine.

Yara and the others sit quietly in their area.

Several dark figures move through the forest around the village. It's Kael and his men.

We follow them as they sneak up as close as they can without making a sound.

Kael moves forward slowly ... spear and stone knife in hand.

He focuses on the different women in the village, trying to see if he can find Asha in the day light ... but she's nowhere to be found.

TWO Lion Clansmen move to the outer edge of the village.

They both walk over to a tree and begin to urinate on it.

One of the Clansmen - still seeing the world in vivid colors and geometric projections - looks out toward the trees.

He sees a fiery bird flying at him.

WOOOOOSH! A spear hits him in the chest ... WHAP!

The other one turns and YELLS for help, but is quickly hit by another spear in the back before he can say anything.

Kael's men storm the village - AHHHHHH!

The women in the village who are awake SCREAM.

One of the Clansmen stumbles to his hut and disappears into it for a beat. He comes out with the ram's horn and BLARES it as loud as he can.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SAME TIME

Torin and the others turn toward the sound of the horn coming from the valley below.

The men all exchange a look.

Torin turns away from them and begins walking up the mountain again.

TORIN
Come. This is it ... she must be here-

LION CLANSMAN 4
-Torin! The signal!

The THREE clansmen shake their heads ... and run back down toward their village.

We see that he is just a few meters away from Asha's cave.

EXT. ASHA'S CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Torin keeps walking toward the cave.

FROM BEHIND - we watch him disappear into the darkness.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

The men from the forest and the men from the village clash in hand-to-hand fighting with spears, clubs, and stone knives.

Kael glides through the fray - hitting a rival in the chest with his spear and slicing another with his knife.

He dodges attack after attack and makes his way into the village.

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE VILLAGE - we see Yorick emerge from his hut with his spears in hand. He quickly kills ONE ... TWO ... and THREE men from Kael's group.

BACK WITH KAELE - we see him encounter a large Clansman by a group of huts. The Clansman lunges at Kael ... but misses as Kael ducks under the swiping knife.

Kael slices the Clansman's legs as he moves low to the ground. The Clansman falls to his knees when his tendons and ligaments give out.

Kael kicks him in the chest and rushes toward the falling foe. He mounts the man and knocks him out with swift hammer fists to the face.

IN THE DISTANCE - we see Vigo and other men free their women. Vigo lifts Naida up from the ground.

VIGO
Naida! The boys?

She shakes her head and begins to SOB in his arms.

He quickly leads her away from the village.

Yorick rallies his men around him. He kills another TWO men with swift efficiency.

The Lion Clan begins to push Kael's group back to the forest.

Kael kills another Clansman in the middle of the village ... but he can see that the surprise attack is starting to shift in the Lion Clan's favor.

Too many of his men lay on the ground dead ... and more are running away.

He turns to retreat ... but stops cold when he hears a baby CRY out from a hut.

He runs over and opens a hut flap.

He finds women huddled in fear. He can see each of their faces ... none of them are Asha.

Kael moves to another hut ...

KAEL
ASHA!

And another hut ... he tries to locate the crying ...

He rushes for one of the huts and opens the flap. It's another scared woman ... holding her baby. He realizes it isn't Asha either.

FROM BEHIND - we see a hand reach out for Kael.

It's Yara ... pulling and urging him to retreat.

YARA
She is not here!

Kael looks into the hut one more time - focusing on the crying baby for a beat - and then retreats into the forest with Yara and the rest of his men.

Spears and stones WHIZ and WOOSH by their heads as they escape into the trees.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - MOMENTS LATER

The THREE clansman that went up the mountain with Torin are now rushing back down.

FROM A FAR - we see Asha hiding behind the trees with the Baby and the two wolves.

She watches as the THREE men run past them down the mountain.

She looks down at the Wolf and Pup ... and smiles.

We follow her as she moves from the hide out toward a rocky ledge. She looks out toward the valley.

ASHA

Kael.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Kael's group continues their retreat.

Kael YELLS for them to stop and regroup.

There are FOURTEEN men left ... and EIGHT women.

THREE of the men, including Vigo, have reunited with their women ... the others have not.

They line up and wait for the rival clan to continue chasing them ... but there's nothing.

KAEL

(turning to Yara)

Where is Asha?

YARA

I ... I do not ... know.

Kael looks concerned.

YARA (CONT'D)

*She was alive ... and the child too
... when I last saw her-*

Vigo approaches them with Naida barely hanging on to him.

VIGO

We must keep moving ... we are not safe here-

KAEL

Asha is alive. I must find her-

VIGO

(placing hand on Kael's shoulder)

Brother ... if she is alive we will find her ... but there is little you can do if we are all killed here now.

They can hear the Lion Clan moving in the distance.

Kael takes a deep breath and nods.

They all run further into the forest and continue their retreat.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - MOMENTS LATER

The Wolf looks over her shoulder.

She ... smells something.

Asha is still looking out toward the valley when the Wolf picks up the Pup in her mouth and walks away.

ASHA

I knew you would return-

The ram's horn BLARES out again THREE times. The sound echos across the valley.

TORIN (O.S.)

Your men failed.

Asha whips around.

Torin is standing there ... smiling at her menacingly.

TORIN (CONT'D)

The horn ... it means the clan is regrouping. Your people ... your man ... they're all dead.

He steps forward.

Asha points her spear in his direction as she steps back.

ASHA
STAY AWAY!

TORIN
I do not want to hurt you, woman.
 (a beat)
I was like you people once. Scared
and weak. I tried to fight back ...
but it was of no use. The Lion Clan
is stronger.

Torin keeps stepping forward ...

Asha keeps stepping backward ... until she's on the very edge of the cliff.

She looks down. Rocks crumble under her foot and fall below.

The baby opens his eyes and begins to coo.

TORIN (CONT'D)
Agree to be mine. Here. Now. We can
leave this place ... you ... and me
... even the child.

Torin keeps moving forward.

TORIN (CONT'D)
I have learned how to be a man. You
will never suffer again. I will
take care of you-

Asha thrusts her spear at him.

TORIN (CONT'D)
 (getting closer)
What will you do with that? You are
not a killer-

Asha thrusts her spear at Torin's head - and slashes his cheek with the sharp edge.

TORIN (CONT'D)
 Ah!

Blood trickles down from the cut.

ASHA
I SAID STAY AWAY!

He reaches for his face.

She looks around for way to escape.

He looks at the blood on his hand.

She tries to move to her right - but he cuts her off.

She's trapped.

TORIN

I'm glad you got away when you did.

(a beat)

*Now ... I will not have to share
you with Yorick.*

He takes out his stone blade.

TORIN (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

*Do you remember ... at the stream
... I said you would be mine. You
didn't believe it then ... but ...
here we are-*

Asha hurls the spear at Torin.

WOOSH! WHAAP!

It pierces his left shoulder.

TORIN (CONT'D)

AHHHHH!

He reaches up and pulls it out of his shoulder. Blood spatters from the wound ... but it does not stop him.

He moves toward an unarmed Asha.

TORIN (CONT'D)

(menacing)

*It is my turn now, woman. To make
you bleed-*

He hears the Wolf behind him.

WOLF (O.S.)

GRRRRRRRRR.

Torin turns around slowly.

He sees the Wolf. She's set to pounce.

He YELLS at the Wolf. The Wolf flies toward him and latches on to his throat with her fangs.

He drops the stone knife as he falls back.

TORIN
(bloody)
ARRGGHH! AAAARRRRGGGGHHHHH!

The Wolf is mounted on Torin ... ripping his neck to shreds until he bleeds out ... and dies.

Asha steps away from the ledge and slowly walks toward the Wolf. She sees what the Wolf is capable of ... what she can do to a human ... if she wanted to.

She reaches down and picks up the blade.

ASHA
*I am glad you are my sister now,
Wolf.*

The Wolf looks up. Her snout is covered in Torin's blood.

The Pup comes running out from the trees.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Yorick - covered in blood - walks back to the village with his Clansmen.

He looks around and sees the dead laying on the ground.

THE RAM'S HORN BLARES OUT THE SIGNAL TO REGROUP ONE MORE TIME.

More men come streaming out from the forest and meet just outside the village.

They all gather around their leader.

Yoricks chest heaves with rage.

He lets out a WAR CRY that can be heard for miles!

The Clansmen YELL too.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Kael and the others continue their escape.

The men - battered and bruised from the battle - limp along.

The women - weakened from months of abuse and malnutrition - struggle to keep moving too.

Vigo signals to halt as Naida collapses in his arms.

The men gather the women behind some downed trees and create a small perimeter around them.

There isn't a sense of victory ... just ... pain of the realization of what happened ... and how hard life will be moving forward.

VIGO
Naida ... the boys?

NAIDA
They ... were so brave, Vigo. They protected me ... until ... the end.

Naida CRIES. He kisses her on the forehead and wanders off ... and sits on a rock.

Kael - the only one who seems to still be hopeful - walks over to him ... and begins pacing back and forth in front of his brother.

The other men watch the two brothers ... and wait for their leaders to make a plan.

VIGO
Sit down, brother-

KAEL
Where can she be?

VIGO
Perhaps ... it is time to move on-

Kael stops pacing. He's enraged by Vigo's words.

KAEL
MOVE ON?

Yara looks over.

KAEL (CONT'D)
Asha is alive!

The other men share looks with each other.

VIGO
You don't know that to be true-

KAEL
She is strong! I know she is alive-

VIGO
I know this is difficult-

KAEL
Difficult? You have your woman-

Vigo bolts up and grabs his brother.

VIGO
 (between his teeth)
My boys ... were killed! My woman-

Vigo fights from tearing up.

Kael looks at the women. Naida ... Yara ... the others. They have been brutalized beyond words.

VIGO (CONT'D)
You were right ... to not want to leave ... brother. This is all ... my fault. What kind of man am I now?

A tear falls down Vigo's cheek. Kael lowers his head ... and hugs his brother tight.

VIGO (CONT'D)
We must keep moving ... continue living ... find a new home.

They hold each other for several beats.

KAEL
 (pulling away)
You are right ... we must continue moving to survive.
 (a beat)
But I cannot survive ... not without Asha.

Vigo looks over at Naida. Tears flow down her face.

KAEL (CONT'D)
I will go back. I will find her ... on my own.

Vigo looks around to the other men.

They all nod in agreement.

VIGO
If you do not find her-

KAEL
I will find her - and meet you all in the Northern hunting grounds.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

We see the group resume their escape. Yara sees Kael and Vigo at the tail end of the group.

Vigo takes out his stone knife ... and hands it over to Kael. Kael nods.

Vigo turns to walk away.

KAEL

Vigo!

Vigo turns.

KAEL (CONT'D)

*You must warn others of these men
... what they do to people.*

Vigo nods.

Kael turns and begins to walk in the opposite direction.

Vigo walks past Yara ... who continues to watch Kael walk away into the forest.

DEEP IN THE FOREST - we see Kael move from tree to tree ... careful to be as quiet as possible.

We follow him for several beats ... as he quickly moves over rocks and streams.

He arrives at a clearing ... and is about to take a step forward into it-

YARA (O.S.)

(whispering)

Stop.

Kael freezes. He looks over his shoulder to see the girl behind him.

YARA (CONT'D)

They are out there ... waiting for us ... I can smell them.

Yara begins to quietly walk backwards.

Kael sinks back ... and looks toward the trees and bushes on the far side of the clearing.

He sees them ... hiding in the bushes ... ready to ambush.

Kael follows Yara's lead and backs up.

We see them both move back, deeper into the forest ... until Kael grabs Yara by the shoulder.

KAEL

What are you doing here, girl?

YARA

I'm here to help you find, Asha-

KAEL

It is too dangerous-

YARA

Yes, that's why I'm here.

Yara turns to walk away.

KAEL

You need to go back to the group-

YARA

Those men ... what they did to us-

She looks down for a beat.

YARA (CONT'D)

I have seen the worst of them ... I know who they are. You will need my help.

She turns toward the mountains.

KAEL

Where are you going?

YARA

(not looking back)

We cannot travel through the valley. They will be waiting.

EXT. WESTERN MOUNTAIN SIDE - LATER

Kael and Yara look down at the vast valley and the mountain range that walls it off.

Yara points down into the valley.

YARA

We had just crossed the stream ... there.

Kael nods.

We follow the two over a rocky pass that cuts across the side of a mountain side.

They pass under a waterfall ... and then down a ledge.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - STILL LATER

They are approaching a clearing when they hear people TALKING.

LION CLANSMAN 5 (O.S.)
Get Moving!

Kael and Yara hide.

Down from a mountain pass come THREE Lion Clansmen.

They're escorting SIX WOMEN they've captured from a group to the West.

The Women look battered ... their feet and clothes torn to shreds by the elements and their assailants.

One of them collapses to the ground. A Clansman walks over to her and kicks her side.

LION CLANSMAN 6
Get up!

BACK IN THE BUSHES - Yara clinches her teeth.

She reaches down and picks up a rock and begins to move. Kael stops her.

YARA
(through her teeth)
We have to help them-

KAEL
Not now-

YARA
You don't understand-

KAEL
You are right.

Kael gently turns Yara's gaze toward him.

KAEL (CONT'D)
I do not understand what you suffered through, Yara.
(a beat)
What they did to you.

Yara fights back tears of anger.

YARA
We cannot let them hurt them-

KAEL
There are too many of them. You
know this ...

Tears flow down Yara's face as they both watch the men take the captured women down the path.

They both stand up from their hide after several beats.

Yara begins to walk away - still hurt that she could not help the women.

LION CLANSMAN 6 (O.S.)
AAAAAAHHHHH! AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

They look down the path toward the YELLING and SCREAMING.

LION CLANSMAN 6 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
GET IT OFF ME!

Kael and Yara run toward the sound. They come up on the path. Kael's eyes grow wide.

HE SEES HER!

YARA (V.O.)
I still have visions of her ...
fighting for those women.

Asha is swinging her spear and YELLING at Lion Clansman 5.

YARA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
She had changed ... become fierce
... like the wolf.

The Wolf has Lion Clansman 6's arm in her jaws while the SIX Women attack the remaining Clansman with rocks and logs.

The Women CRUSH the remaining Clansman's skull with rocks.

The Wolf moves up and SNAPS Lion Clansman 6's neck. He's dead. She hears something behind her and turns to see Kael and Yara approaching.

WOLF
GRRRRRRRRR.

They both freeze when they see the Wolf.

Asha looks up.

ASHA
Kael!

Kael
ASHA!

ASHA
Do not move!

She dodges a thrusting spear.

ASHA (CONT'D)
I will come to you!

The captured Women grab rocks and sticks and charge at the last clansman who is now facing Asha.

Lion Clansman 5 hears them coming from behind.

He turns to kill one of them with his spear ... but he is quickly over run. Asha stabs him in the back with her spear as the Women swarm him.

Asha looks up and sees the Wolf ready to pounce on Kael.

ASHA (CONT'D)
No!

She sprints up the path.

Kael watches the woman he loves ... the mother of his child ... the survivor ... the hunter ... and now the warrior ... rush up toward him.

She stands in front of him and Yara with her hands out to calm the Wolf.

The Wolf keeps her eye on Kael as Asha walks up to her slowly.

Asha kneels down to meet the Wolf's eyes.

Asha takes the baby from her back and holds him up for the Wolf to see.

ASHA (CONT'D)
You see ... my Pup?

The Wolf licks the air and blinks slowly.

Her tail and ears relax.

Asha stands up and walks toward Kael.

She hands the baby over to him and hugs him from the side.

ASHA (CONT'D)
This is my Pup's father.

They both crumble down to their knees as they CRY from joy.

KAEL
What is my boy's name?

ASHA
Ulkan.

KAEL
Ul-kan. A brother - to the wolves.

Kael WEEPS as he brings his child close and kisses him on the head over and over again.

Yara wipes big tears from her eyes.

The remaining FIVE WOMEN slowly approach. Their rage fades at the sight of the reunited family.

Asha and Kael embrace - forming a cocoon around Ulkan.

Wolf and Pup sniff Kael a bit, and then lay next to Asha.

FROM ABOVE, we see Yara and the Women form a circle around Asha and her family.

FADE TO:

INT. BURIAL CHAMBER - NIGHT

ON THE CAVE WALL, we see the SIX figures standing around the family of FIVE in the middle.

Ulkan steps back from the cave wall.

Yara walks up to him.

YARA
I would do it all again ... just to witness her strength that day.

He turns to her with tears in his eyes.

YARA (CONT'D)
Just to see him hold you ... for the first time.

Ulkan hugs her tight. They cry for a few beats.

LORCAN
*Was that ... when she became the
 Great Wolf Mother?*

They look back at Ulkan's sons. They also have tears in their eyes.

Yara shakes her head.

YARA
*More blood would have to spill
 before that.*

Ulkan slowly turns back toward the wall. He dips his finger in the paint.

BACK TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

The dim light of dawn highlights the landscape.

Yara and the FIVE freed women rest by a small, underground fire. Kael sleeps with Ulkan in his arms.

Yara opens her eyes.

She sees Asha approaching the hasty camp holding three rabbits ... and followed by the Wolf and Pup.

Yara sits up as Asha sits by the fire.

YARA
You ... are a hunter now?

Asha adds wood to the fire. She smiles warmly at Yara.

ASHA
Hunger is a good teacher.

She begins skinning and gutting the rabbits in quick, efficient motions.

She tosses the guts to the Wolf and Pup.

The other Women begin waking up too.

They are MAIA (early 20s), ISMENE (early 20s), HYALE (late 20s), ULLA (late 20s), and WREN (30).

NOTE: THEY WILL LATER MARK ASHA'S DEATH WITH THEIR MOURNFUL WAILING.

Wren and Ulla get up and approach Asha.

WREN
*Allow us to prepare the meal,
 sister.*
 (signaling toward Kael
 and Ulkan)
Be with your family.

Asha hands the rabbits to the two women ... and walks over to her man and child.

Kael hasn't slept this heavy for months.

We see Asha's hand touch his face. He opens his eyes and sees Asha laying next him.

Ulkan is snuggled between the two. Kael smiles ... then looks up-

FROM BELOW - he sees the Wolf standing over them ... looking straight down at him.

ASHA (O.S.)
She will get used to you.

KAEL
I hope so.

Asha looks down at a sleeping Ulkan. She smiles ... but her face betrays her pain when she locks eyes with Kael.

KAEL (CONT'D)
What is wrong?

Asha takes a deep breath.

ASHA
*You promised to be back before the
 first snow. I needed you.*

KAEL
*The way back was blocked. I
 couldn't-*

He sees Asha's eyes fill with tears. She holds them back the best she can, but they spill out over her cheek.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*I am sorry, Asha. I tried to get
 back as quickly as I could. I know
 it will be hard to forgive me ...*

Kael's eyes water too now. He looks down at Ulkan for a beat ... then reaches out to hold Asha's hand.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*I will spend the rest of my days
 being here for you ... and my boy-*

The Pup walks up and lays between Asha and Kael. It snuggles up to Ulkan and yawns. Kael looks down at the Pup ... then up at the Wolf.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*These wolves ... they are part of
 our family now too?*

Asha nods. She reaches up and rubs the side of the Wolf's face. The Wolf pants and wags her tail.

KAEL (CONT'D)
Then I will be here for them too.

Asha gently squeezes Kael's hand and gives him the warmest smile. He smiles back.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*I will never leave your side again,
 Asha. Where I go ... you all go
 too.*

ASHA
Good.

They look lovingly into each others eyes for several beats.

ASHA (CONT'D)
What will we do now?

KAEL
*Vigo and the others are moving to
 the hunting grounds.*

ASHA
*Do you believe these men ... will
 just let us escape?*

Kael slowly shakes his head.

EXT. LION CLAN VILLAGE - DAY

Women begin breaking down the village.

Yorick stands in the middle of his men.

They prepare themselves for the long walk to the North.

KAEL (V.O.)

*They will try to follow us on the
most used route to the hunting
grounds ...*

Yorick covers his face with blood and wood ash. He puts the cave lion head on.

KAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*Then they will find out ... like we
did ... that the pass to the North
is gone.*

FROM AN ELEVATED POSITION - Yorick watches his clan move through the forest.

KAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*They will arrive there ... sometime
when the trees change color ... and
they will have to find another way
around.*

The Clansmen look menacing in their painted faces.

ASHA (V.O.)

That will give us time?

KAEL (V.O.)

Yes.

IN THE DISTANCE - we see Kael, Asha, and the Wolf hiding.

They watch the large mass of people kick up dust on their way out of the valley.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

Yara looks over at the reunited family.

The other women stand behind her ... listening to the conversation too.

YARA

Time for what?

KAEL

(sitting up)

To prepare ... for the fight.

They all look at each other.

WREN

You will need more help.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The new group of humans and wolves leaves the valley via the western pass.

Yara and the freed women now carry the spears or stone blades they took from the dead clansmen.

Asha carries Ulkan on her back as the Wolf follows closely behind.

Kael carries the growing Pup in a side pouch. He looks down and sees the tiny wolf looking up at him. He smiles.

He then looks over at the Wolf. She's staring right at him as she walks. She shows him her fangs too.

His smile vanishes.

FROM ABOVE - we see them work their way down the backside of the mountain ... over rocks ... and across streams.

EXT. NEW VALLEY - LATER

The freed women move to the front of the formation and begin to lead the way.

They keep moving - as the day progresses - through the adjacent valley until they reach a lake at the North end.

WREN

(to Asha, Kael, and Yara)

This is where they found ... and took us.

MAIA

While we washed.

They all continue walking until they finally reach a village on the far end of the lake.

EXT. LAKE VILLAGE - EVENING

Villagers begin approaching the group when they see the women returning ... until they see the Wolf among them.

They scatter and run back to their huts.

Eventually, a few hunters meet the group in the middle of the village.

Two of them recognize the women and rush to them.

WOLF
GROWWWWWLLLLL.

They point their spears at the Wolf.

Asha, Kael, and Yara point their spears at them.

The Wolf moves to protect Asha.

WREN
*Put your weapons down, brothers.
These are the people who saved us.*

LAKE HUNTER 1
They ... walk with a wolf!

WREN
*The Wolf ... saved us also. It is
our friend.*

LAKE HUNTER 2
It does not look friendly, sister.

They all stand with spears pointed at each other for several beats ... until Wren's man, HALDAN (30s) calls out.

HALDAN
Wren!

Wren sees him and rushes toward him.

They embrace and kiss.

HALDAN (CONT'D)
I thought I had lost you-

WREN
(low)
*The mother, Asha ... and her wolf
... they helped us escape up on the
mountain. We killed the men who
took us by force ... before they
could ... make us theirs ...*

Haldan holds Wren's face between his hands.

WREN (CONT'D)
We must help them fight now.

Haldan nods. He looks over at the group and his men.

HALDAN
 (to the hunters)
*Put down your spears, you fools!
 Welcome your new brother and
 sisters.*

They all lower their weapons slowly.

Haldan walks up to Asha, Kael, Yara, and the wolves.

WOLF
 GROWL.

Haldan takes a small step back. Asha takes a knee and strokes the Wolf's neck until she relaxes and sits.

Haldan is impressed.

HALDAN
This wolf ... belongs to you?

ASHA
*She is not a thing to hold on to. I
 help her ... and she helps me. We
 are a family.*

Haldan nods. In front of everyone, he takes his blade and slices his palm with it. He squeezes his fist until blood spills on the ground below.

HALDAN
*Our spears belong ... to this ...
 band of wolves. We will help them
 because they helped us. We will be
 their family too.*

EXT. LAKE VILLAGE - NIGHT

Asha, Kael, Yara, and the wolves sit around the fire with the freed women and the lake hunters.

Asha shares food with the Wolf while she feeds Ulkan.

The Pup plays with Yara.

HALDAN
 (to Kael)
Your brother's men?

Kael picks up THIRTEEN pebbles from the ground and shows them to Haldan in the palm of his hand.

HALDAN (CONT'D)
And the Lion Clan?

Kael grabs two handfuls of pebbles.

Haldan looks at his hunters.

LAKE HUNTER 1
Where is your brother now?

KAEL
*He is moving to the hunting grounds
 to the North.*

HALDAN
What if he does not make it-

KAEL
He will make it.

HALDAN
 (to Asha)
*What do you believe ... Wolf
 Mother?*

Asha looks up.

We see her ... sitting crossed legged by the fire ... with a baby latched to her breast ... and the Wolf laying next to her. She sees that everyone is looking at her ... waiting for her to say something.

ASHA
*We have already seen what these men
 are capable of. One village ... one
 band ... is not enough to stop them
 from murdering children and taking
 women.*

(a beat)
*We must all come together now ...
 every group on this land ... to rid
 ourselves of the Lion Clan and
 their leader once and for all.*

(another beat)
*If we do not unite in this one
 great fight ... and allow them to
 get stronger ... then we will all
 suffer by their hand one day.*

There is silence for several beats as we look at the individual faces by the fire.

HALDAN
 (to his hunters)
*Send runners ahead to warn the
 people. Let them know we are on the
 war path to stop the Lion Clan.*

The TWO Lake Hunters stand up.

WREN
(to Maia and Ismene)
Go with them. Tell them all what
you know.

The women nod and stand up.

WREN (CONT'D)
And tell them ... the Wolf Mother
leads us.

Haldan stands up and YELLS ... his people join him.

Kael looks over at Asha and smiles.

She smiles back.

EXT. THE LAKE - LATER

The lake looks like a giant mirror as the full Moon
illuminates the valley below.

We see Kael remove his clothes by the lake shore and slowly
steps into the water.

He makes his way into the water until he is waste deep in it
... and begins cleaning himself from head to toe.

A few beats later ... we see Asha approach the lake ...
close behind her is the Wolf.

She removes her clothes too ... and walks into the water
with Kael.

The Wolf lays down by the water.

KAEL
(smiling)
The boy?

ASHA
(smiling back)
With Yara.

Kael looks over and sees the Wolf by the shore.

ASHA (CONT'D)
She will not mind ... Wolf Father-

KAEL
(softly)
No.

He caresses her cheek.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*Do not call me that, Asha. I am
proud to be your man ... but I have
not earned that title ... not like
you have.*

He kisses her forehead.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*When you became my woman ... I was
so proud of myself ... because I
thought you were so beautiful. When
I knew we would have a child
together ... I was even more proud
of myself ... because I thought you
would be a great mother.*

She smiles.

KAEL (CONT'D)
*But now ... I see you are also
strong and brave. I'm no longer
proud of myself. I am proud of you.*

ASHA
*I am happy that you came back to me
... and that I am still your woman
... because I still think you are
very beautiful, Kael.*

They both CHUCKLE a bit.

ASHA (CONT'D)
*And nothing would make me more
proud than to have even more
children with you.*

Asha kisses him.

They look deep into each others eyes.

KAEL
*I have been dreaming of this moment
since the day I left you.*

ASHA
I know.

The two embrace and sink down into the water. They make
passionate love under the silver light of the Moon.

EXT. FOREST - THE NEXT DAY

Men and women finish packing the Lake Village.

Yara stands off to the side as she watches them begin to line up for the long walk North.

KAEL (O.S.)

Yara.

She turns toward him.

KAEL (CONT'D)

*Do not think I will ever forget
what you did for Asha and our
child.*

(a beat)

*On my blood ... they will pay for
what they did with their lives.*

Kael holds out his stone blade.

YARA

What is this?

KAEL

This is my promise to you.

(a beat)

*I will never try to stop you from
fighting anyone who hurts our
people again.*

Yara looks over to Asha who is standing at the front with Ulkan and the wolves. She nods at Kael - SNIFFING hard to keep the tears from falling from her eyes.

YARA

*You couldn't stop me again ... even
if you wanted to.*

Kael nods.

YARA (CONT'D)

*This is my promise to you then. I
will be by Asha's side until the
end ... and I will watch over Ulkan
until my dying breath.*

She reaches out and takes hold of the blade.

They both turn and join Asha at the front of the THIRTY-person formation. Haldan and Wren meet them there too.

Asha and the Wolf take a step forward. They all follow.

BEGIN MONTAGE

NOTE: The following montage depicts the race North between the Band of Wolves and the Lion Clan.

EXT. MESOLITHIC LANDSCAPE - DAY

The Band of Wolves move North ... over streams ... under water falls ... up hills ... and down narrow mountain passes.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - DAY

The runners arrive at a village to the North. They talk to the people in the middle of the village.

EXT. VALLEY VILLAGE - DAY

Parallel to the Band of Wolves ... the Lion Clan attacks another village.

They are ruthless in their assault. They kill all the men ... all the children ... and take the women prisoners.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - DAY

The Band of Wolves approach the village where the runners had been. The people are waiting for them ... packed and ready to join the formation North. They see Asha with the Wolf ... and bow their heads.

EXT. EASTERN VALLEY - DAY

They continue to encounter more villages ... with more people ready to join them.

The Band of Wolves is becoming a larger clan ... numbering close to a HUNDRED people.

EXT. WESTERN VALLEY - DAY

The Lion Clan moves North too. They continue attacking villages for food, supplies ... and women. They leave behind a scar of death and destruction behind them.

EXT. HUNTING GROUNDS - DAY

The Band of Wolves look out at the expansive grasslands of the hunting grounds. Asha looks over at Kael ... he nods.

They have won the first part of the fight.

END MONTAGE

EXT. NORTHERN PASS - DAY

Yorick makes his way through a gaggle of clansmen. He looks out at where the pass should be. It's gone.

YORICK YELLS IN ANGER.

EXT. WOLF ENCAMPMENT - EVENING

On the other side of the pass people are busy setting up camp by a gentle stream.

We see men and women erecting huts, gathering supplies ... and fetching water.

The leaders of the new Wolf Clan gather by a fire.

Kael draws a rough depiction of the hunting grounds and the surrounding landmarks with a long stick.

KAEL

(using the stick)

They will have to enter through the East ... here. They will not make it here before the snow if they try another route.

He looks up at the new faces.

KAEL (CONT'D)

The fight should begin ... here.

He points at the open space on the other side of the Eastern pass where they all are ...

KAEL (CONT'D)

And end ... here.

He creates a small circle on the ground ... by a narrow canyon. They nod.

HALDAN

And your brother?

Kael is silent for a beat.

ASHA

(petting the Wolf)

He will be here. Vigo knows the way.

Kael nods at Asha.

HALDAN

How long do you believe we have?

KAEL

For a leader who cares about his people? Until the next full Moon.

(a beat)

For one who is driven by rage?

FLASH ON - YORICK YELLING AT HIS CLANSMEN TO CONTINUE MOVING UP A NARROW MOUNTAIN LEDGE.

BACK AT THE WOLF ENCAMPMENT - we see all the new faces waiting for Kael's word.

KAEL (CONT'D)

By the half Moon.

One of the new leaders, MADOC (30s), stands up.

MADOC

We must begin preparing for battle now!

Another new leader, OSSIAN (late 20s), stands up.

OSSIAN

We will need more spears ... blades!

MADOC

The boys will need to train!

The men nod their heads in agreement.

WREN

What will the Wolf Mother have us do?

Asha looks up ... weighing her words carefully.

ASHA

Yes, all of that is important ...

(a beat)

The Lion Clan comes to take everything from us ... everything we care for ... and value.

Now is the time to prepare ... but it is also the time to be with your people. Play with your children.

Eat your favorite meal.

Lay with the one you love.

(MORE)

ASHA (CONT'D)

(standing up)

*Many of us will not see the next
Spring. We must remember now ...
what we are fighting for ... before
the blood begins to spill on the
cold ground.*

Asha walks away with the Wolf.

Kael stands up after a beat and follows her.

The leaders all sit in silence as they exchange looks.

Asha takes Ulkan from Yara ... kisses him on the forehead ... and makes her way to the stream bank with Kael and the two wolves.

They watch the sun set over the sea of grass in front of them.

KAEL

*You are worried we will not win
this fight?*

Asha shakes her head. She looks back over her shoulder at the encampment.

ASHA

*I'm worried we'll never stop
fighting once we start ... that we
can stop them from killing and
taking more people ... destroy them
all ... but that they have already
changed us ... made us more like
them than we know.*

(a beat)

*They want me to lead ... but I'm
worried that I will not be able to
stop us from turning into great
killers too-*

KAEL

We will never be like them-

He looks back at the encampment and sees what Asha sees.

Yara ... stabbing and slashing the air with her knife ... imagining herself trusting the stone blade into a Clansman.

Asha and Kael share a long look. The Wolf trots over to them and lays down at Asha's feet.

KAEL (CONT'D)

You have nothing to worry about.
You have already won over ... and
changed the way of this wolf, Asha.
Before you ... she was a great
killer too ... an animal to be
feared out in the forest. But now
... she lays down at your feet.

Kael takes Asha's hands into his.

KAEL (CONT'D)

Yara is filled with anger for what
the Lion Clan did to her. But it is
the strength of your love ... as a
mother ... that will keep her and
the rest of us from becoming like
our enemy. If you lead us ... like
you did these wolves ... we will
only be able to use our spears and
knives for good.

Asha nods.

EXT. EASTERN MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

The Lion Clan reaches the top of the Eastern range as the
Sun begins to rise behind them.

Yorick looks out at the hunting grounds ... and sees
NOTHING.

The encampment is completely gone.

Lion Clansman 4 approaches Yorick with caution.

LION CLANSMAN 4

(fearful)

Yorick-

Yorick whips his head around.

LION CLANSMAN 4 (CONT'D)

The men ... they ... need to eat-

YORICK

The men will eat when I say they
can eat!

The Clansmen look down and nod.

The Lion Clan begins its decent down the mountain.

The almost EIGHTY Clansmen lead the way ... through the pass ... and toward the grasslands.

They are tired and hungry. They no longer looking as menacing as they had before.

They finally arrive at the location of the Wolf Encampment.

The Clansmen see signs that people were recently here ... but everyone is gone.

Some of the Clansmen rush toward the stream and begin gulping down water by the handfuls.

Lion Clansman 4 looks back toward the rest of the clan.

They are spread out ... too tired and hungry to hold any real kind of formation.

WOOSH - WOOSH - WOOSH!

Spears come flying out of the tall grass on the other side of the stream.

WHAP! WHAP! WHAP!

They hit TWO clansmen.

Lion Clansman 4 looks out ... and sees TWO heads pop up above the grass. Then another THREE.

LION CLANSMAN 4
There! Attack-

A spear hits him in the chest - WHAP!

Yorick and his men sprint forward in a rage. The fighters from the Wolf Clan run in the opposite direction.

FROM ABOVE - We see the Lion Clansmen begin to the chase after the FIVE fighters.

They crash into the stream ... as the fighters part the grass with their bodies.

IN THE GRASS - we see another FOUR fighters crouched down. They watch as the FIVE pass them by and then stand up.

They take aim with their spears ... and hurl them toward the clansmen.

WOOSH - WHAP!

They hit another TWO clansmen and turn to run.

SEVENTY-FIVE more to go ...

Yorick passes his men as he YELLS at them to push forward.

He looks up and sees FOUR more spears coming at him in the air. Yorick dodges them as they hit the ground behind him.

FROM ABOVE - we see the entire group of fighters pull away through the grass.

Yorick and his Clansmen finally clear the tall grass.

He looks up and sees the group of THIRTEEN fighters sprinting toward the canyon.

He YELLS and takes off after them.

His Clansmen exchange an exhausted look ... and run after their leader.

BACK WITH THE REST OF THE LION CLAN - we see the women and some men begin to set up a hasty camp.

TWENTY captured women are led toward the stream by some Clansmen. They collapse by the edge of the water ... too exhausted to even drink.

One of the women look up ... she sees dark outlines coming from the West.

It's Yara, Wren, the freed women ... and at least FORTY other men and women from the different groups of the Wolf Clan ... rushing toward the rear of the Lion Clan.

The free women CRASH into the hasty camp.

Spears and blades cut through the men who meet the attack.

The Lion Clan women quickly surrender once they see the first group of men die in front of them.

They are too tired to fight anymore.

EXT. CANYON ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Yorick and his Clansmen reach the mouth of the canyon.

They hear YELLING far behind them by the STREAM. Some of the Clansmen turn to run back ... but Yorick stops them.

YORICK
THIS WAY!

We follow Yorick and his Clansmen into the canyon. They move slowly with their spears pointed forward.

EXT. NARROW CANYON - CONTINUOUS

The wind swirls down into the canyon as they make a slight turn ... and finally find the rest of the Wolf Clan about a hundred meters in front of them.

FROM ABOVE - we see that the two sides are evenly numbered.

IN THE CANYON - Asha and the Wolf stand in the front with Kael, Haldan, and the other leaders.

Yorick signals for the Lion Clan to halt.

He steps forward.

YORICK
*You will all die today - scared,
 little rabbits.*

He lifts his spear up and gives a thunderous BATTLE CRY.

His clansmen follow his lead and YELL at the top of their lungs too.

The Wolf Clan looks to its mother.

Asha steps forward. The Wolf moves next to her.

ASHA
*We are not rabbits. And we are not
 scared.*
 (back to her people)
*Especially not of these mangy lions
 you bring here today, YORICK!*

The Wolf Clan LAUGHS.

Yorick fumes.

YORICK
*IS THIS THE KIND OF MEN YOU ARE?
 YOU LET A WOMAN LEAD YOU-*

ASHA
*THERE ARE NO MEN OR WOMEN HERE
 TODAY!*
 (a beat)
*THERE ARE ONLY WOLVES IN FRONT OF
 YOU NOW!*

The Wolf Clan gives its BATTLE CRY - a deep, long ...

WOLF CLAN
HOOOOOOOOOWL!

Yorick's face explodes with rage as he YELLS and charges forward toward Asha and the Wolf clan. His men follow.

The Wolf Clan charges forward to meet them.

The bodies CRASH together with a loud THUD.

Yorick draws first blood as he drives his spear into Ossian's chest.

He quickly draws two stone blades from his belt and begins slicing and stabbing away at another THREE men.

Asha and Kael move swiftly as they watch each other's back in the middle of the fray.

Asha stabs one Clansmen ... as Kael kills another who is trying to attack her from behind.

CLOSE BY - the Wolf has her fangs locked on one Clansman's groin. She shakes her head furiously as the Clansman SCREAMS in agony. Haldan runs by and slices the man's neck with his blade. The Wolf moves on to her next target.

Clansman after Clansman fall dead to the ground ... but the fight is mostly even as Yorick and his best men continue to cut through the Wolf Clan.

They are tired and hungry ... but they have more experience fighting ... and it's starting to show.

More blood. More carnage. MORE SCREAMING.

The neat fighting turns ugly ... as both sides begin using whatever they can find to kill each other.

Modac uses a large rock to CRUSH one Clansman's skull as Haldan chokes another to death.

The Clansmen begin taking the upper hand as they push the Wolf Clan back deeper into the Canyon.

Yorick kills another two men ... and sees Asha and Kael a few meters away.

His eyes grow wide as he rushes toward Asha.

He reaches over - while in a full sprint - and pulls a spear out of one his dead Clansmen.

He grins maniacally as he winds up to throw the spear at Asha. The spear is about to leave his hand-

The Wolf launched herself at Yorick's torso.

YORICK
AHHH!

The spear misses high above Asha's head. She looks over and sees the Wolf now latched onto Yorick's arm.

The Wolf clinches her jaw and thrashes it around.

Yorick punches the Wolf with his other fist ... but she will not let go.

Asha rushes toward the Wolf. Her men follow.

Yorick falls back to the ground with the Wolf still on his arm. Blood flies everywhere as she keeps thrashing and thrashing her head.

YORICK (CONT'D)
AAARRRRRGHHHH!

Yorick looks to his side and sees a blade laying on the ground. He reaches for it.

In a split second he picks it up ... and stabs the Wolf with it over and over again.

WOLF
YELP!

The Wolf falls to ground.

ASHA
NO!

Yorick looks at his mangled arm ... and then up to see the Wolf Clan rushing toward him. He scrambles to his feet, turns away from the fight, and calls for his clan to ...

YORICK
RETREAT!

The Clansmen leave their dead and wounded behind as they rush back toward the canyon entrance.

The Wolf Clan YELLS as they give chase through the canyon.

Everyone ... except for Asha and Kael.

Asha sees the Wolf's shallow breathing.

She falls to her knees beside the Wolf and tries to stop the blood from spilling out of her.

ASHA
(tearing up)
No ... no ... it is not your time
yet, Wolf ... your ... your Pup
still needs you ... no ... please
... no!

The blood oozes out between the her fingers.

The Wolf looks over at Asha. She takes one more breath ... and dies.

Kael puts his hand on Asha shoulder.

Asha YELLS!

EXT. CANYON ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Yorick continues his retreat.

He looks back over his shoulder to see some of his Clansmen overtaken by the chasing Wolf Clan.

He turns back around and sees the grasslands in front of him. Then he sees dark figures running at him from the tall grass. He squints ...

It's Vigo and his men ... accompanied by Fenrir and FIFTY more NORTHERN TRIBESMAN.

A flurry of spears, rocks, and arrows come flying at Yorick and the beaten Lion Clan.

YORICK
AAAAAHHHHHHHHHH-

Yorick and his men are cut down by the projectiles.

EXT. NARROW CANYON - CONTINUOUS

The Wolf Clan and the Northern Tribesmen walk back to their leader. They see Asha and Kael kneeling over the Wolf's lifeless body.

A QUICK SEQUENCE OF THE WOLF CLAN CARRYING THE WOLF BACK TO THEIR NEW ENCAMPMENT

- The men create a carrying frames from broken spears, leather straps, and their clothing.

- They place their dead on the carrying frames ... including the Wolf.

- Asha leads the way as they all take turns carrying the Wolf and the other men out of the canyon ... across the grassland ... and to the new encampment several kilometers away.

- They arrive at the encampment where Yara and the other women are waiting for them.

END SEQUENCE.

The Wolf Clan CHEERS when they first see Asha ... but stop when they realize they are carrying the dead with them.

Naida comes out of a hut ... carrying Ulkan in her arms. She walks toward Asha.

Asha reaches out for Ulkan with tears in her eyes.

The Pup comes out of the hut too ... and runs to Asha.

FLASH ON - THE PUP RUNNING AT ASHA FROM THE DEN

Asha SOBS as she remembers the scared wolf Pup that changed her life.

She turns toward the Wolf ... and leads the Pup to her mother.

The men lower the carrying frame. The Pup rushes to her mother and WHIMPERS as she licks her snout and face.

The men try to fight back tears ... but cannot stop them from rolling down their cheeks.

Asha hands Kael their baby.

She kneels down by the Pup and strokes her head softly.

The Pup looks up at Asha.

ASHA

*We are your family now, little Pup.
All of us.*

The men nod.

The women nod.

FROM ABOVE - we see how large the Wolf Clan has become.

FADE TO.

INT. BURIAL CAVE - NIGHT

Ulkan sets the bowl of paint down.

FROM A DISTANCE - we see the entire story drawn on the cave wall. Kael and Asha ... the attack ... Ulkan's birth ... the hard winter and difficult decision ... the Bear ... the Wolf ... the fighting ... and Asha's rise to Great Wolf Mother.

Ulkan walks over to his mother and kneels beside her. Tears fill his eyes ... until he can no longer hold it in any longer. He CRIES out for several beats.

Yara stands beside him and places her hand on his shoulder.

Ulkan leans over and kisses Asha on the head.

ULKAN

Rest now ... Great Wolf Mother. We will continue what you started.

His sons wipe tears from their eyes.

Ulkan gets up to his feet with one of the wolf pelts in his hand. He turns to Yara and gently places it over her left shoulder. He leans in and kisses her forehead.

ULKAN (CONT'D)

Show us the way ... Great Wolf Mother.

A tear rolls down Yara's face. She nods.

Yara takes hold of the torch and they all walk out of the hollow space ... back out through narrow passage ways ... the main caverns ... before arriving at the cave entrance.

Yara stops short of the entrance as the light from her torch catches on four pair of glowing eyes.

FROM INSIDE THE CAVE - we see FOUR wolves walk in from the darkness.

Ulkan steps forward until he is right next to them. He looks down at one of them and smiles.

The wolves all sit. Ulkan's hand reaches out and scratches one of them on the head.

They all walk out of the cave.

The humans ... and the wolves.

THE END