

BATO

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Written By

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BOULDERLIGHT PICTURES

OPEN ON THE COSMOS. EVER-EXPANDING DARKNESS. TWINKLING OF SPACE WITH SOUNDS OF CREATION. SWIRLING, SWIRLING...

PULLING BACK

We're not in outer space at all, but witnessing a luminous orb of a TAR BUBBLE about to burst.

THIS. IS. EARTH.

40,000 YEARS AGO

EXT. TAR PIT - NIGHT

HOWLING

A **WOOLLY MAMMOTH CUB** is trapped in the deadly pit-

CRYING OUT-

Left behind.

Alone, it wales again...

Well... not totally alone

DRIPPING FANGS move into frame as

A **SABER TOOTH TIGER** prowls forward

Mammoth Cub has no where to go. Dead to rights

In this world everything is predator or prey

THE SABER TOOTH TIGER MOVES IN FOR THE KILL--

When it stops, hairs raise, senses something...

But its too late--

SPEAR

MEET

EYE

See. Everything is predator. Or prey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Thrown like the wind and sticking out of the giant cat's skull like a planted flag, the saber tooth tiger pitches over INTO THE TAR GRAVE.

The Mammoth Cub can breathe easy...

For one second...

Because a Neanderthal FOOT steps onto the tiger's head and RIPS THE SPEAR OUT. Now we see him...

BATO Ripped for any age but especially late 40's. Scarred, tired, a mane of hair that rivals the king of the jungle. Weathered armor for skin. A face that's hunted and been hunted by everything on this earth.

A GIANT SCAR etched down his eye and across his face from a mauling he should've certainly died from.

Bato wipes his stone spear clean of red. Then turns towards the helpless Cub Mammoth...

You get it now? EVERYTHING is predator. Or prey.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DUSK

Bato lugs pieces of the cub mammoth over his shoulder across the rugged terrain. He's too old for this shit.

He's lost a step. This world is moving on without him and he knows it. But still he presses on. He hears distant--

HOWLING

Followed by another... and another...

Frosty breathe emanating. Bato reluctantly drops the meat and HIDES under an embankment

As the sounds of Wild Wolves

TEAR and DEVOUR his kill

Bato is helpless. Must stay hidden...

Bato eventually gets up to see his family's meal picked to the bone.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRUSH - DAWN

CU OF A PAIR OF FEMALE EYES: ONE GREEN. ONE BLUE

Watching from hidden brush as...

SHRIKE IMPALE - - - RODENT ON BARBED BRANCH

It's brutal. And beautiful.

This 13 YR OLD GIRL IS MEEKA

Prehistoric tomboy. Yes she's beautiful. But what's more, she's curious. She's cunning. She's a small huntress.

She's learning this technique...

Sees the deadly bird take down its prey again

GREEN EYE BLUE EYE

Its given her an idea

She's hunting a pack of **Castoroides (Giant Beaver)**

But instead of charging in,

She lays down and PLAYS DEAD...

Waits for a GIANT BEAVER to sniff around... Which it does

She stays still. Lets it come right up to her...

It's tail patting her... Then her eyes OPEN

And she THROWS THE CRITTER towards a **SPIKED TREE BRANCH--**

SLAP!

A RED HAND covered in paint smacks

A CAVE WALL

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

A BOY, 13, sits at the wall with bowls of various colors

This is **BOOKA**. Meeka's twin brother?

A gentle soul not cut out for this relentless planet

Lost in his own world, Booka's canvas is this rock wall

Those great murals of life back then you see in museums?

He made them.

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

A pregnant Mother, **KAZA**, picks berries nearby and places them in a bucket made out of hide. Her eyes are kind, but her body is strong. The hands pick fruit, but have claws

She smells a LONE FLOWER growing like a weed out of the dusty brush. The searing sun beats down on **BATO**

As he returns with a measly pair of dead rodents slung over his shoulder.

THERE IS ZERO DIALOGUE. THEY COMMUNICATE WITH A PROTO-HUMAN LANGUAGE. Gestures. Grunts. Aggressive & Gentle. Unique to one's own family or tribe.

KAZA tries to hide her smirk at the pitiful catch.

Bato in no mood. He passes her.

She GRUNTS

He stops

She waits

He knows what for

This giant dirty killer ape of a man walks back

And kisses Kaza on the forehead. Then her belly

There is no such thing as **Husband and Wife** yet, but they are it.

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

They enter their home

Bato SURPRISED to find

THE GIANT BEAVER roasting on the fire

Meeka proudly sharpening her home-made spear

Bato looks to Kaza, who simply adds to her wall of baskets: beans, berries, nuts...

Bato charges up to HIS DAUGHTER

SNATCHES **THE SPEAR** FROM HER HANDS

He picks up one of Kaza's **BASKET**

Jams it in her hands

[] will indicate the intended emotion or point

Bato GRUNTS **[GATHER]**

She throws the basket

SWIPES THE SPEAR BACK

Meeka GRUNTS **[HUNTER]**

Bato SNAPS her spear in half

Bato **ROARS**

She FUMES. Storms off

Bato wipes his sweaty face

Looks over to KAZA

Who hands HIM A BASKET

He raises his cro-magnum brow

CUT TO:

EXT. TREE - DAY

BATO SNEAKILY PICKS LARGE BIRD EGGS OUT OF A NEST

He swings down, feet thudding to the ground

Slings the basket off his shoulder and hands to his love

She looks at **THE EGGS**

C-O-U-N-T-I-N-G

She looks to him

Kaza GRUNT/SIGNALS **[TAKE ALL?]**

Bato nods proudly

Kaza shakes her head

Kaza GRUNT/SIGNALS **[NOT ALL]**

She takes ONE EGG out of the basket

MOMENTS LATER:

BATO CLIMBS back up to the nest

and places one egg safely back

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Bato lays his heavy **CLUB & SPEAR** down next to

Little **BOOKA**

Hard at work on this cave wall painting

Bato gazes on **A CAVE WALL**

It's mesmerizing...

But Booka's skill is lost on his father

Bato SWIPES his hand across Booka's mural

Bato grunts **[NO]**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The blunt instrument pulls his son away and sits him down

At THE FIRE PIT

Needing to be lit

Bato stares at Booka

Waiting...

Clear Booka doesn't know how

Bato grows impatient

Grabs a ROCK and puts it in Booka's hand

Booka tries to light the fire

Fumbles

Booka grabs Booka's hands and forces the motion--

Clink

Clink

Clink

The fire STARTS

Bato grunts **[THIS]**

Points to fire

Bato grunts **[THIS]**

Bato grabs the rock club

Bato grunts **[NO THAT]**

Bato points to the cave art

Father son disconnect. The new fire illuminating Booka's eyes as liquid bubbles beneath.

EXT. CAVE CLIFF - SUNSET

Bato sits with Kazo watching the sun set on their land.

A BOWL before them

Kaza pours in pig blood

Bato pours in pig fat

Hands swirl together

a wordless dance

Kaza takes her inked hand

And places her HAND MARK on the cliff

Bato does the same

Putting his HAND MARK over hers

This is the sign of unity. dedication. Love.

Kaza turns to the SETTING SUN. Million dollar view.

She turns to Bato

But he's busy

Repairing his stone club

Kaza slowly turns his face towards the godly glow

Kaza grunts **[SEE?]**

Nods

Kaza shakes her head

Kaza grunts **[NOT JUST LOOK]**

Kaza wraps her arms around him from behind

Places her hands out and motions at the world

Kaza **[SEE]**

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE - NIGHT

The whole family sits by the fire

Bato feeding Kaza. She must eat. Belly must be full.

Kaza pulls out

A BONE FLUTE

Made from a cave bear femur

With her family sitting around her

She **PLAYS BEAUTIFULLY**

Like a singing bird taking flight

Meeka Booka Bato - in a trance

Swayed by this goddess - high pitch and harmony

ON BATO'S STILL FACE...

TRANSITION TO:

LATE AT NIGHT

The family is asleep

The fire about the burn out

BATO'S FACE REMAINS THE SAME...

He stares into the dark entrance of the cave...

It's said the man evolved better eye sight to see at night because of predators... Bato's Green eyes lock

Out of the blackness comes a

A LARGE BLACK SNAKE

Going right for his sleeping family...

But it's Bato that **UNCOILS**

Spears the snake in the head before its fangs reach his loved ones.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BATO'S FACE STILL **HAS NOT CHANGED**

Bato sees alright. This world is dangerous. There's no time to stop and smell the... whatever the saying will be

EXT. DAWN

The sun rises. Nothing stops. Nothing CAN stop.

Especially Bato.

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

He GEARS UP FOR ANOTHER HUNT

SPEAR CLUB FOOD WATER

He passes his sleeping WIFE and DAUGHTER

He goes to wake Booka with a second spear when...

He notices another cave painting

IT'S OF THEM.

FOUR STICK FIGURES

Bato stops for a moment.

Looks at the painting

Looks at them on the floor

Even he can put it together

He lets Booka sleep

Bato kisses Kaza's resting head

Then...

Leaves A FIXED SPEAR next to Meeka

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - DAY

Bato treks through the rugged landscape on the hunt

He treks MILES and MILES away

Tracking MAMMOTH FOOT STEPS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He's getting closer...

Passing MAMMOTH DUNG

Getting closer...

Knows they're over the hill...

He readies the spear

Crests the ridge to find

A PACK OF MAMMOTHS...

DEAD

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

Booka finishes painting one of his walls

He walks by

A PIECE OF FRUIT

He stop to pick it up when--

MEEKA SPRINGS FROM ABOVE

She's a skilled huntress

Wrestles and dominates him

Kaza GRUNTS **[KNOCK IT OFF]**

Meeka playfully lets Booka up

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - DAY

Bato scans the dead pack of MAMMOTH

Not killed. Slayed.

Who could have done this?

He zeros in on something...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sticking out of the dead hairy beasts
Covered in blood, he plucks out

AN ARROW

He's never seen something like it
Sees that the entire pack are impaled by them
Bato maneuvers through the giant bodies
Picks up the trail of

TRACKS

He puts his foot in one of the prints...
These footprints made by people...

4 DISTINCT FOOTPRINTS

He counts on his fingers
1... 2... 3...4
Bato follows the tracks
Forcing him to turn around
Something terrible occurs to him
The foot prints lead back towards

WHERE HE CAME FROM!

EXT. THROUGH THE PLAINS

Bato charges as fast as he can back
Arrow in hand. For an old man he's FAST--
His powerful foot stomps on a spiked rock
Bato **FALLS**

This severely hinders his speed.
Won't stop him. He limps towards the unforgiving sun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Towards home

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

Kaza and her kids return from gathering.

They organize their baskets and prepare for dinner when

FROM THE CAVE ENTRANCE

Suddenly **4 SHADOWS** tower over Bato's Family...

Focusing on the main three wearing **Distinct Masks**

YAMA [THE RUNNER]

KEEGA [THE BEAST]

ZOOK [THE DEVIL]

AND a 4th Figure silhouetted behind them in the cave

Zook is the leader

CUT TO:

EXT. TREE NEST - SAME

A **SNAKE** SLITHERS up and over the nest
Curling around the lone egg left and

DEVOURS IT!

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE - SUNSET

Bato limps quickly up the hill

INSIDE

to find...

We know what he sees

From his face and body

UNCONTROLLED AGONY

Kaza and Booka lay on the floor

In a pool of blood

To their side **A MASKED MAN...**

Dead. Meeka's spear sticking out of him

Bato RIPS THE MASK OFF TO FIND

AN ALIEN UNDERNEATH!

Alien to Bato. He's never seen a man like this.

A smaller nose

Smaller brow ridge

Fairer skin

It's a Homo Sapien

Bato grits his teeth at the foreign dead man when--

Kaza **WEAKLY GRUNTS...**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She's alive! But mortally wounded

Falls by her, Bato cradles her head

His love. His world. The only thing good in this god
forsaken prison of existence.

She's stabbed through her belly

Bato's tears dropping on her

Kaza touches his face gently

Bato pulls Booka's body close too

Holds them in his bear grip, trembling

Kaza again turns Bato's face to

THE CAVE WALL FAMILY PORTRAIT

Kaza slowly WIPES AWAY Booka...

Next wipes away her figure...

CIRCLES MEEKA

Points to Bato's chest

Leaving the paint mark

Points back to Meeka's figure

Kaza motions **THAT WAY**

Bato nods. He looks out the cave

FOOTPRINTS TO FOLLOW

EXT. CAVE CLIFF - SUNDOWN

Bato carries his dying wife out onto the cliffside

He holds her in his big arms

Staring out at the sunset they've watched so many times

But this is the last time

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

This time Kaza takes her hand and places it on the rock

Using her **own blood for her handprint**

Bato won't let her go

Shakes head **[NO]**

Kaza nods her head **[IT'S OK]**

Bato slowly sets her down

He looks around, grabs a sharp rock

SLICES HIS HAND

Puts his bloody handprint over hers

It's the last thing she sees before

Her eyes go quiet.

Bato has seen many die. But he has never died with someone

The sunset reflected in Bato's big eyes...

The fire ignites

(CONTINUED)

RAGE

RAGE

CHEST

BEAT

RAGE!!!!!!

CONTINUED: (3)

Bato SCREAMS at the SUN

He never saw what she saw

There is nothing more to this world than pain

He **ROARS** at the sunset they shared

He hates it. He will never be warm again.

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

Bato gently places Kaza and Booka

into a hole in the rock

Bedded with fresh grass and flowers

He sprinkles thistle, cornflower and yarrow

Over their bodies. Seals them inside.

-He bandages his foot, preparing...

He picks up

KAZA'S BONE FLUTE

Packs it.

BY THE CAVE WALL He picks up

BOOKA'S ART SUPPLIES

Packs them.

But that's the last of the sentimentality

You wanted him, you got him. His eyes focus

Because he plucks out of the dead intruder

MEEKA'S SPEAR

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

Bato emerges

Dressed to hunt

Weaponed up to kill

He kneels at the

FOOTPRINTS

Picks up the scent

He eyes **THE ARROW**

Plucked from the mammoth

He heads in their direction

EXT. EURASIA

Bato marches across the vast landscape

Foot bleeding through the bandage with each step

He does not care

-He finds an **Old Fire Pit**

-He finds **Old Human Feces**

And of course

-He finds **A slain animal**

WITH ARROWS STICKING OUT

EXT. BRUSH

Bato retreats for shade in some brush

After a days trek, his bandage is soaked in mud & blood

He picks a **FRUIT** off a tree and takes a juicy bite

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Right then- A MONKEY swings down and

MONKEY

TAKES

THE

FLUTE

Bato's most cherished possession.

He chases the Monkey

THROUGH THE BRUSH

Up

Down

Side

To

Side

He won't lose it

The monkey finally swings onto a branch

STOPS

Bato **GRUNTS**

The Monkey clutches the flute

Bato grabs a **FRUIT** from the tree

He slowly approaches the monkey

With a trick up his sleeve, he tosses the monkey the fruit

The monkey drops the Flute to catch the Fruit

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bato races on all fours and

SNATCHES

THE FLUTE

BACK

He hugs it. The only thing he has of his Kaza.

The Monkey seems to know he's been tricked!

He YELPS at Bato

Bato SWATS HIM away

He looks at **THE FLUTE**

Fawning over it.

To his, and our, surprise, he brings it to his lips

He blows in it

NOTHING

He tries to make a note

BAD

He tries again

WORSE

BATO BARKS!

Stuffs it back in his satchel. Stupid Idea.

His eyes wet with sorrow. This massive beast broken.

(CONTINUED)

EXT.DARK ROCK TERRITORY

Bato presses down the hills into

DARK VOLCANIC ROCK FORMATIONS

Shrouded by **MIST**

Bato wades through the **DENSE FOG**

He SEES THE TRACKS - Recognizes their distinct marks

Bato continues to navigate the hot mist until

He stumbles on **DEAD BODIES**

1...2...3...4...5... Neanderthals like him

Struck with **ARROWS**

He pulls out THE ARROW he took from his cave

THEY MATCH

Resolve in Bato's eyes

Steels himself to press on when--

The MIST Clears

Revealing THE REST OF THIS

NEANDERTHAL TRIBE

They could be his relatives by the looks of them. Fat noses, Big Eyes, long hair and beards. Barefoot. Muscular and wild yet gentle genes, wrapped in furs and twine.

CONTINUED: (4)

EIGHT STRONG

Caring for their dead

All looking at Bato

NEANDERTHAL 1 **Points**

NEANDERTHAL 2 GRUNTS **[LOOK!]**

Bato looks down at the

ARROW IN HIS HAND

Bato shakes his head

THE TRIBE GROWLS - grab their weapons

NEANDERTHAL 3 GRUNTS **[ONE OF THEM!]**

Bato again shakes his head **[NO! NOT ME]**

He lowers his weapon, but--

They start to surround him

Bato PLEADS/GRUNTS **[NO WANT THIS]**

But they cannot understand each other

They **GRUNT AND YELL** to one another - They want revenge

ALL EYES ON THE ARROW

The evidence. The murder weapon. This is happening...

This is why you bought your ticket

HERE... WE... GO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

NEANDERTHAL 1 Runs in

Raises his club at Bato

BATO CHOPS HIS ARM

With his STONE CLUB

It ceases to work

Giving Bato a wide open window to

CLUB HIS SKULL TO PIECES

NEANDERTHAL 2 hurls a spear

Bato catches in and simply

STABS IT INTO #2

NEANDERTHAL 3 coming up behind him

Bato chops the spear in half stuck in #2

AND IMPALES #3 ON IT

THE FIVE OTHER NEANDERTHALS

RAIN SPEARS DOWN

Javelins landing all around Bato--

HE **SCURRIES** and **DODGES**

One **SLICES** his arm - Another his leg

Bato retreats down the hill and into

THE TAR PIT

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BATO races across the

HUGE SKELETAL BONES OF A WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Sunk half way into the deadly trap

*The skeletal frame is not pristine white bone preserved for presentation at a museum - there are chunks of rotting flesh hanging off this recently decayed beat

Bato positions himself inside the GIANT RIB CAGE

Chased by the NEANDERTHAL PACK

NEANDERTHAL 4 SWINGS WILDLY

At Bato. His Deadly Club cracking bone

As Bato uses the GIANT RIG CAGE as cover

NEANDERTHAL 4 gives everything he's got

SHATTERS the bone in front of Bato--

He's got nowhere to hide

NEANDERTHAL 4 comes down with his club

But Bato stops him just short of splitting his dome

It's white knuckle struggle until--

Bato pivots and YANKS NEANDERTHAL 4 MOUTH FIRST--

INTO A TUSK

His body goes limp and hangs

Bato grabs his club to carry on

NEANDERTHAL 5 goes over the top

But Bato goes low

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

SIMPLY SPILLS HIS GUTS

Out and he slips on his own entrails and falls

INTO THE PIT

NEANDERTHAL 6 7 & 8

BUM RUSH BATO

But he counters by

CHARGING BACK

He SMASHES ALL FOUR

INTO THE PIT

Bato lands on NEANDERTHAL 6

Crawls over him to get back

sinking him into a dark death

Bato pulls himself up by A TUSK

NEANDERTHAL 7 grabs onto him

Bato uses his foot like a hand

And shoves NEANDERTHAL 7's face

Deeper... Deeper...

Until his mouth fills and his eyes sink

Bato pulls himself out of the pit

COVERED IN TAR

NEANDERTHAL 8 able to get out too

Only them left. One on one

Neanderthal grabs a club

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

But Bato

BITES HIS FINGERS OFF

Simple

NEANDERTHAL 8 drops the club. Clutching his fingers

Bato PICKS UP A LARGE STONE

Goes for the final blow when--

He notices under the dark goo

NEANDERTHAL 8 is a boy

Not much older than Booka

Bato stops

Pitches the stone to the side

Hurt, Out of breath, and covered in toxic residue

Bato grabs the **ARROW**

Bato points to himself/shakes head **[NOT ME]**

Bato points the **WITH THE ARROW**

Bato GRUNTS **[WHERE GO?]**

NEANDERTHAL 8 looks around

Bato points with the arrow

North? South? East?

Bato points West

NEANDERTHAL 8 Grunts **[THAT WAY]**

Bato slowly lets the boy go.

(CONTINUED)

EXT. EURASIA

The Sky races by

A BOULDER

Sits in the middle of the desert terrain

Leaving a trail behind it like its moved on its own

How?

IN THE BRUSH

Bato crests a ridge line to see

A HEARD OF FURRY PIGS

Ready for his slaughter.

He can taste them...

Sets his sight on the older, slower, pig

Bato watches him. Sees himself.

BELLY CRAWLING

Bato sneaks up on the herd

He's undetected, ready to kill when

AN ICE BOULDER FROM THE SKY

STRIKES AND KILLS THE PIG

MORE fall from the sky

CONTINUED: (10)

HAIL STORM!!!

GIANT ICE CHUNKS **PELT THE HERD**

Obliterating the pigs

Bato running for his life

Setting his sights on

A NEARBY CAVE

Bato

ZIGS

And

ZAGS

PIGS DROPPING ALL AROUND

As he races through the herd

HE GETS HIT

The ice chunk chips away a portion of his shoulder

ANOTHER HIT

Hits Bato in the head - face covered in blood

He is **PELTED TO THE FLOOR**

He crawls the rest of the way

Managing to drag himself

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

INTO THE CAVE

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT FALL

Bato sits by a fire

The hail thundering the cavernous walls

He **patches his wound with mud**

After he fixes himself up

He stares at the blank wall

ILLUMINATED BY THE FIRE

It calls to him

He reaches inside his Son's SATCHEL

And pulls out his **PAINTS**

Bato approaches the wall

With an unsure hand

he dips his fingers in the paint

SWIPES THE CAVE WALL

He Swirls the colors

It's abstract

He's almost fighting with the wall

Almost punching it as he throws paint everywhere

He tires himself out, bringing himself to tears

He falls into the paint, covering himself, and gives up

He slides to the floor. Stupid idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EXT. FIELD

Bato CHIPS AWAY at a stone-
Piece
By
Piece

Until he fashions a newly minted **SPEAR TIP**
He reaches into his satchel and pulls out

A HUMAN SKULL

The one intruder Meeka killed
Bato places the skull on a pedestal
He puts distance between him and it
He turns quickly and

Hurls the Spear

Flies through the air

SHATTERING

THE SKULL

Bato is a skilled hunter.
This is what he's built for.
He packs it. Ready.

EXT. FURTHER DOWN

Bato moves with three sets of prints. Recognizes them

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:



Plus a smaller set. He Picks up

A LOCK OF HAIR

Feels it. Smells it.

MEEKA!

Night is falling

The Wind picking up

STORM IS COMING...

You're welcome whoever is cutting the trailer

Bato picks up speed and heads towards the

(CONTINUED)

EXT. RIVERBED

It is now dark. Bato crests the hill and spots

THE 3 HUMAN HUNTERS!

GLIMPSES OF THEM VIA LIGHTENING

HE'S FOUND THEM

They're preparing to cross the river in the dark ON

A LOG RAFT

No sign of Meeka - Bato frantically trying to see

Bato **ROARS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

CHARGES down the hill like a rolling boulder

Zook sees him coming down the hill

He nods to **YAMA** to intercept

Zook and Keega shove off

They cross the river and fade into the dark mist

Yama turns and runs towards Bato

Lightning Storm ignites behind

THE STREAKS BURST

UPWARDS! like a growing tree on fire

No Country for Old Bato *You know the scene
I'm talking about. And if you don't you should be fired.*

Its almost **pitch purple black**

YAMA

[THE RUNNER]

VS

BATO

[THE FATHER]

(CONTINUED)

THE HUMAN HUNTERS WEAR NEANDERTHAL SKIN AS MASKS



Like Haunting trophies of their kills

The more "civilized", the more savage

These 3 are murderers and pillagers of Bato's race

Setting the stage for our species two-faced future

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

THEY COLLIDE

YAMA with TWO BONE HATCHETS

Like the goddamn Tasmanian Devil

Spinning and slicing and yelping

Bato deflecting with trusty ROCK CLUB

FIGHTING IN BLACKNESS

SEEN BY LIGHTNING STREAKS

IN GLIMPSES And FRAGMENTS of

SPARKING OF BONE ON ROCK

Their weapons swiping and chipping/sparking off each other in white knuckle close quarter single combat

Yaza thirsty for blood

But Bato wants his soul

Yaza **SLICES N DICES** with his DOUBLE HATCHETS-
cutting Bato arms and chest, leaving him running in red.

Yaza now seemingly runs off into the darkness

Leaving BATO to spin and search his black surroundings

But Yaza has made a crucial mistake

Bato's **LARGER GREEN EYES**

Gives him the advantage in such conditions

LIGHTNING STROBE EFFECT

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly **YAZA'S HATCHET**

Comes flying at Bato

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE he must parry

LIGHTNING STROBE EFFECT

2ND HATCHET FLIES

Almost takes Bato's head off

LIGHTNING STROBE EFFECT

Now Yaza gets a glimpse during the lightning strike

BATO'S SPEAR

Swimming through the air

Striking Yaza in the throat

He DIES tipped up at a 45 degree angle

Slowly **HIS MASK** cracks apart from the blow

Revealing this hideous homo sapien underneath

Bato's face says it all

1 DOWN 2 TO GO

CONTINUED: (7)

EXT. RIVER

Bato is minced meat

He drags his shredded body to the river bed

They are gone

Bato about to dive in when

YELLOW EYES

Appear, glowing in the water

more...

and more...

The river is filled with

CROCODILES

He can't pursue!

Bato looks around

Finds A DEAD CROC CARCASS dried up on land

He grabs it and uses it as a disguise

Bato wades into the deadly water

He slowly crosses the river

THOSE YELLOW EYES on all sides

Tension building...

In the water...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

Blood!

Leaking from Bato's wounds

Leaving a trail in the river

One...

by one...

The Crocodiles move towards the carcass

He's almost to the other side...

WHEN THEY ATTACK!

Crocs biting and tearing at the dead carcass

Bato DARTS OUT from underneath it and

SWIMS FOR HIS LIFE

Yellow eyes in pursuit...

Gaining on him...

About to snatch him

But he makes it to the other side **JUST IN TIME**

Out of breath and severely hurt, he searches

He finds **The Log** they crossed on

But **they are gone**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

SUN GO UP

SUN GO DOWN

Bato moves along the river without break

3 DAYS tracking foot prints...

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHT FALL

Finally Bato must rest

He sits by his made fire

Staring at into the flames

He sees KAZA

He draws STICK FIGURES in the sand

To him, he's Michelangelo and this is his David

Through the fire

He sees MEEKA

He draws a smaller STICK FIGURE in the sand

Bato is starting to understand

In the midst of Bato's masterpiece

Suddenly the River comes alive with

**BRIGHT BLUE GLOWING
BIOLUMINESCENT ALGAE**

It mesmerizes Bato...

Glowing in his eyes

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MUSIC BUILDS

Bato is swept away

He pulls from the Bio Blue Algie and

PAINTS IN GLOWING BLUE!

SWEEPING images of his family

Of his Journey

Splashing and smearing a

GLOWING MURAL

A testament to his growth

He "SEES"

Its cathartic

BATO stands in the middle of his art tapestry

He catches his breath

Sees what he created

Slowly he knows whats next

He pulls Kaza's **FLUTE**

Begins to play

He's better

As all things are with practice

There in the kill-or-be-killed wilderness

In the middle of his revenge hunt

Bato finds something else...

Momentary peace.

EXT. CAVE CLIFF - SUNSET

Bato climbs to the top of hillside cave

Following the sun. Following Kaza's glow

To his surprise he finds **MOUNDS OF BURIED BODIES**

AN OLD MAN bald but with long grey hair. Plucks an arrow out of a body yet to be buried. He eyes up Bato

Bato shakes his head. But OLD MAN is not aggressive

He knows it wasn't him. Old Man looks like an older Bato.

They have a way that they CAN COMMUNICATE

OLD MAN grunts for Bato to help move the body

Bato slowly grabs the other end and places the corpse gently into the dug grave.

Old Man pushes dirt. Bato pushes dirt

Bato looks at the overhanging cave wall near them

A MURAL

Skinny figures Attacking Neanderthals

Illuminated by the fire

OLD MAN comes over - grunts - and guides Bato's gaze

A STORY TOLD with images [haunting music and flames]

Bato follows along the rock mural to see-

-The Humans spreading into their land

-Killing all the mammoth, taking all the resources

-Their new weapons - the bow and arrow - drawn clearly

-And spreading DISEASE

Bato arrives at

-The Old Man's FAMILY images...

Bato looks at the fresh dirt on the four mounds

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLD MAN nods his head somberly.

He pulls out TWO SKULLS

Signals THE NEANDERTHAL SKULL

Old man grunts **[ME. YOU]**

He puts the skull next to Bato's head

Then he grabs the other skull - THE HOMO SAPIEN SKULL

Old Man grunts **[THEM]**

Old Man sets them side by side: sprinkles dirt on the Neanderthal skull until it is almost lost in the earth.

Old Man grunts **[WIPE US OUT]**

Old Man pushes his SATCHEL towards Bato

Bato opens it up: Food, Supplies,

Old Man grunts **[TAKE]**

Bato has never received a gift in his life

Old Man hands Bato **HIS SPEAR**

Bato studies the weight, the sharpness - a well crafted weapon. When he turns to "thank" the Old Man

He finds him standing at the edge of the cliff...

Bato grunts to the Old Man

The Old Man turns to him

Looks down at his buried family

And then tips over the edge!

Bato races towards him but he's too late

Bato has never seen someone kill themselves before. Didn't even know it was an option. He growls at the sunset, but still tries to find Kaza in the cosmos.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EXT. JUNGLE

Bato is back on the war path

Cakes of dried mud packed into his various wounds

His body is old weathered and beaten, but hardened

The Heat Rises

He tracks through wet mud

- a used fire

- arrow heads

Maybe a day behind them

Comes to A CLIFF

He sees the foot prints go AROUND AND DOWN

Bato accesses

Faster to cut straight down

Gain on them

He grabs a vine and

CLIMBS DOWN

Passing beneath dense jungle brush

Bato is stung BY A BUG

He keeps moving down

Bato is scraped by a POISONOUS PLANT

He keeps moving down

20 feet from the bottom

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Vine tears

BATO FALLS!

Yet somehow sinks into a soft landing

He lays on a LARGE PINK PILLOW

He tries to lean up, but a sticky residue holds firm

He witnesses **TRIGGER HAIRS RISING...**

Before Bato knows what hit him, the Pink Pillow

STARTS TO CLOSE

Its now we see Bato has landed in a

Giant Venus Flytrap

Bato tries to move but **THE TEETH CLOSE**

Trapping Bato inside

DIGESTIVE GLANDS secrete around Bato

He tries to break free but the teeth hold tight

He's stuck in a deadly hazy womb

Crushed...

Can't breathe...

Bato squirms--

Reaches into his satchel and

Spills Meeka's Paints

Over the guts of the predator plant

Bato chips his ROCK SPEAR HEADS together--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

IGNITING THE PAINTS

The flames RISE all around Bato
Smoke billows out of the plant's jaws
Bato's about to be engulfed by fire...
And be suffocated from the smoke...

When the **Venus Flytrap OPENS**

Bato rolls out and plummets to the jungle floor
The Fly Trap melts high above him

THROUGH JUNGLE

SUN SETTING / RISING SUN

Bato re-establishing the trail--
He may have escaped with his life
But the poisonous bugs and plants
have taken a toll on him
His skin is **Red with rash**
Puss bite welts
Drooping yellow eyes

He's an invader in this unknown land
And the jungle has tried to purge him

SUN SETTING

Bato's throat seems to close
He can barely walk, he slows when...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

that's when he hears it

An Animal noise...

Here

There

Everywhere

Closing in

A JAGUAR from what it sounds like

No... now a monkey

No... now a bird

Bato hides under the brush

He waits, oozing with a fever

What animals could these be??

Bato gets his answer when--

DARK FEET skirt by

SILENT

SPEARS

The "Animal noises" intensifying...

Coming from these PEOPLE

Communicating with one another

More dark shadows move in sync

Hunting Bato as he hides in the brush

A PREHISTORIC RAT climbs up on a still Bato

SQUEAKING!

Again and again...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Each feeling like an echo

Bato remains frozen, but

KILLS THE RAT with hit TEETH

Strangles and chops the rat's head

It dangles silently from Bato's jaw

Did they hear it?

SILENCE AGAIN...

Are they gone?

Bato breathes a sigh of relief when--

his BRUSH COVER parts!

And he is knocked out

BLACK

EXT. CAVE

Bato slowly comes to

Finds himself tied up!

Flat on his back, he tries to flex free

But the vines hold tight

Lit by torches, someone approach

A WOMAN

Bato has never seen anyone like this

BONES in nose and ears

FACE PAINT and piercings

She kneels beside him

Bato **GRUNTS** **[NO! AWAY!]**

But she is gentle

Tends to **HIS WOUNDS**

-Mixes syrup and applies to his welts and rashes

-Drips water on his forehead for the fever

She is healing him

Bato has no choice but to accept

He watches as she **pours oil on him**

She holds nice smelling salts to his nose

Then puts them on his body - cleaning his wounds

Patching Bato up

Even massaging his old body. His aches and pains.

He's never received care in his life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

time passes

Bato conveys to THE WOMAN why he must leave
While tied up, he uses her medicinal oils and mixtures
TO PAINT ON THE CAVE WALL

-The Bad Men

-Daughter Taken

-He must find her. Must get free.

It brings tears to THE WOMAN'S EYES

time passes

-Bato fully healed

THE DAY

The Woman secretly passes him

THE BONE FLUTE

She tucks it into the back of his loin cloth
Bato eyes the Woman CRUSHING A PLANT in a bowl
He's never seen it before... white crystalline alkaloid
you Hollywood execs will recognize it...
not clear enough? it's coke!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A noise. People coming...

The Woman takes the powder and puts it to Bato's nose

Makes him SNIFF

KA-POW!!

Right as

CHALK PEOPLE

Approach and pick Bato up

These people covered in dust residue

Pierced with bones and donning skeleton decor

They pick Bato's wooden table up and carry him out

EXT. TUNNEL

Bato only gets glimpses of this

Terrifying Tribe

Each one looks like a worse nightmare

His hallucinatory state adding to the demonic atmosphere

Now getting a glimpse of the bones they were

Not animal...

HUMAN

Did prehistoric tribes eat people? Bet your ass they did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EXT. GEYSER RITUAL SITE

Bato is carried out

20 CHALK PEOPLE surrounding

A Giant Fire Pit

Tied to a 15 foot stake is

A CHARRED CORPSE. Picked clean to the bone

Bato now realizes

He's next

The Chalk People (lets call them what they really are
from now on: CANNIBALS)

Erect Bato's pole upright onto the fire pit

He sees the CANNIBALS surrounding him

Their bone tools are primitive knives and forks

One of them STICKS BATO and licks the blood off the blade

Another CANNIBAL approaches with a torch

This is it

Bato **breathes deep**

The Dust on his lip sucked up into his nose

(CONTINUED)

B A T O
B E R S E R K
M O D E

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Cosmos Explode In Bato's eyes

The fire is LIT UNDERNEATH HIM

Bato digs out

THE FLUTE

Uses the sharp part to

SEVER HIS RESTRAINTS

Bato jumps right as

THE FIRE ENGULFS THE POLE

He lands, and with veins pumping and heart thumping

Drives the Flute right through Cannibal #1's neck

He pulls it back

His symbol of love

Dripping with blood

He tried to be something else. What she wanted.

But they wanted him. So now they got him.

19 CANNIBALS on their feet, weapons ready

Bato disappears into the **Geyer Springs**

Using the Erupting water and mist as cover

CANNIBAL 2 running after with bone spear in hand

Bato reaches through the belching mist and

BREAKS NECK BAREHANDED

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

NOW I HAVE A SPEAR. HO-HO-HO

CANNIBALS 3 & 4 on his trail

He's Michael Myers...

There and then gone...

Geyser Erupts

And

A SPEAR SOARS

Through the bursting water wall

impales both DEAD

The Geyser drops...

Revealing Bato for a split second...

Then HE DISAPPEARS behind it again...

THE CANNIBALS spread out

Wielding their jagged bone saw blades

Bato's silhouette rises behind a geyser

[THIS IS NOW OUR HALLWAY HAMMER FIGHT SCENE FROM OLDBOY]

Through Multiple GEYSERS obscuring OUR VIEW: Bato

CUTS THROUGH THE CANNIBALS

A **RAINBOW** produced in the mist - beauty shrouding the absolute brutality - *this* is Bato's masterpiece

They may look terrifying, but Bato is their nightmare

He rampages in one continuous shot through a sea of them

(CONTINUED)

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

FIVE LEFT

The Geysers subside. Bato steps over the Cannibal Corpses

The Cannibals press in on Bato - using their numbers

With **CLUB AND SPEAR**

Bato takes them on

Deflecting - Countering

It's a ballet of

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BONE CRUSHING

BLOOD SPLATTERING

5

4

3

2

1

He spears THE LAST CANNIBAL

And drags him to the fire--

He shoves him in like roasting a marshmallow

Cannibal squeals

Bato rotates him like a rotisserie chicken

Finally pulls him out

Bato **BITES HIS FACE**

Rips off a bloody charred chunk

But he spits it out

To show he may be barbaric

Bato drives the spear deep -

mercy kill for THE LAST CANNIBAL

EXT. CANNIBAL CAVES

Bato re-gears up

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Supplies - weapons

He sniffs a piece of meat.

Tosses it aside. Grabs water instead.

The Woman watches him pack

She is the only one left

He stops before heading out

The Woman circles the drawing he made of MEEKA

She signals **[HOPE FIND]**

Bato nods

And he gets

BACK ON HIS MISSION

EXT. HILLS - SUNSET

Bato has lost so much time

And sees a **STORM APPROACHING**

All. Is. Lost.

THE STORM HITS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Family Mural in sand Disintegrates

FOOTPRINTS WASHED AWAY

There is no more trail to pick up on

Bato **SCREAMS** from the top of the hills

BATO IS LOST

EXT. EURASIA

The Sky races by - timelapse

The BOULDER

Trekking across the desert terrain on its own

Leaving a trail behind.

(CONTINUED)

BATO WANDERS

2 YEARS

CONTINUED: (2)

North

South

East

West

Desert

Snow

Bato's beard and hair grow long dirty and greyed

His weathered face a pit of despair

He aimlessly scourers the Earth for his daughter

EXT. CLIFF

Bato stands at the edge

Looking at the same cursed sunset Kaza was so fond of

He looks down

Moves his feet closer to the edge

This is it. He tried. He's done

He goes to step off when--

MIGRATING BIRDS FLY BY

He watches them...

Studies them...

Gets an idea

He draws in the sand

STICK FIGURES FOLLOWING WOLLY MAMMOTH - the classic image

He X's out Stick Figure Feet. Circles Wolly Mammoth Feet.

[FOLLOWING THE WRONG FOOT PRINTS] [THEY FOLLOW THE HERD]

(CONTINUED)

EXT. EURASIA

Bato backtracking

He picks up the trail of Mammoth herd and races across the

The plains

across the

The hills

God knows how long the journey is to get back to where he started.

Seasons pummel Bato

The wear and tear would've killed anyone else, but Bato

PRESSES ON

Bato presses through thick brush to come upon

HOT SPRINGS

Rust colored with baby blue steaming water

And it, **A HOMO SAPIEN WOMAN**, bathing

Bato hides, he has never seen such a thing

Fair skin, slender frame, straight neck...

Its as if he's looking at a piece of art

A BOY'S SCREAM startles her and Bato

THE WOMAN grabs an animal fur to drapes it over her body

DOWN THE HILL

The Woman runs to where the screams are coming from

CONTINUED: (4)

A BOY, no older than Booka, is trapped as

BLUE LAVA ERUPTS

[really exists in Ethiopia - check it out. The poster art people can thank me later]



All around him from seams in the steaming ground

The Woman cannot get to him...

The menacing ooze spewing closer to him...

Suddenly BARE FEET run on the scorched earth

Calloused and unaffected by the bubbling heat

Bato runs up and embankment and launches himself

OVER THE GLOWING MAGMA

He lands and grabs the boy

Picks him right off his feet as

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

The ground beneath him **SPEWS GLOWING BLUE** that incinerates everything in sight

Bato runs through the toxic fumes and

Lands the boy safely back at the feet of his Mother

THE WOMAN looks at Bato - so grateful

THE BOY looks to Bato - drying his eyes

BATO looks back at them - seeing

KAZA and BOOKA

He almost breaks to pieces

A tear drops from his big round eye

He turns to his Mother and motions at

BATO'S SCAR

THE WOMAN touches Bato's face

Runs her hand down the raised patch of scarred skin

With one motion, one look - a **thank you**

A beat. But before anything more can be expressed -

The Earth cracks again - Toxic Blue Bubbling up

He grunts at them to FLEE

The Woman grabs her son and retreats down the hillside

He cannot follow. But knows he's getting close...

Bato turns to see something in the distance...

A cave on the distant hillside. His cave

EXT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

How far has Bato come? This far.

He enters the barren and dark cave that used to be his home. Only his shadow moves in the vacant cavern.

He looks over the worn and smeared mural of his family.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With the last of his son's art supplies, Bato uses his mastery of the craft now to

Re-paint his Family

-KAZA -BOOKA -MEEKA

Re-circles her, his mission.

It's love. They're alive on the wall. The representation is primal but its expressive, its abstract and realist

He's come so far, but for what?

He lays next to his wife's grave - almost spooning it

Mourning it. Missing it. That's when he hears it...

a HEARD OF MAMMOTH sound off

In the distance. It echoes in the cave. Bato's **eyes open**

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - DAY

The hunting ground from the beginning of the story

CRESTING THE HILL

Bato finds

THE MAMMOTH HERD have returned--

And so have **THE MASKED HUMANS**

Found them

5 of them working together to kill a Mastodon by a cliffside

Bato sneaks down and spies on them

Masterful hunters

They take down the giant beast as a unit

Carve it up and begin to drag it away. Bato follows...

THROUGH RAINFOREST

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUN DOWN

SUN UP

Hot on their trail

They split up. Bato follows one...

Not like him, he steps on a branch

SNAP!

THE MASKED Figure turns

Instantly **FIRES AN ARROW**

Bato **CATCHES IT**

One inch closer and he'd be dead

He's never seen a weapon like this

The arrow comes from the bow

Bato snaps the arrow in half--

And closes the distance

MASKED FIGURE **FIRES AGAIN**

Bato ducks it

MASKED FIGURE **FIRES ONE LAST TIME**

Bato DEFLECTS it with his bone club

He **BULLDOZES** Masked Figure onto its back

Bato straddles Masked Figure

Grabs a GIANT STONE beside them

Raises it over his head to **SMASH!**

When he sees past the mask...

GREEN EYE BLUE EYE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bato whips the mask off--

And looks upon a young warrior woman 2 years older:

MEEKA

He freezes

The magnitude knocking the wind out him

Meeka knocks him off and scurries to her feet

She doesn't recognize the greyed and disheveled Bato

The fierce warrior draws **HER SPEAR**

Bato draws something else...

HER MOTHER'S FLUTE

Bato puts it to his lips and plays

2 years spent lost searching providing him practice

He plays Her Mother's tune beautifully. Perfectly.

GREEN **BLUE** eyes tearing up... realizing...

She slowly steps to him. Parts his ratty hair to see

HER FATHER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

They embrace

Reunited

He sees the young woman she's become
Sees what she must have become to survive
He holds her face with his bear mitt hands
For the breifest of moments he is complete
But it's short-lived

HORNS SOUND!

Bato looks around
THE MASKED TRIBE
Using BONES AS HORNS
To communicate with each other

Meeka grunts **[GO!]**

Bato grunts **[NO!]**

MORE HORNS SOUND!

Meeka grunts **[GO!]**

Meeka grunts **[NO!]**

The Masked Tribe closes in through the dense jungle--
Meeka grabs her horn
And runs in the other way

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BLOWING HER HORN

The Tribe turns and follows

Bato tries to pursue but she's smaller and faster

She's up and over-- swinging on

THE VINES

Something he clearly taught her as a girl

She draws the majority of the pack away--

But **TWO MASKED HUMANS** stay on Bato's tail

BATO takes to the VINES

His massive power allowing him to swing

Fast and sure

TWO MASKED HUMANS follow on foot

Bato maneuvers like a trapezius

He glides by **MASKED HUMAN 1**

LEAVES A CANNIBAL BONE DAGGER in his neck

Dead before he knew what hit him

MASKED HUMAN 2 POV: looking up - losing Bato in sunlight

Sees him TOO LATE

Bato drops from the vine DRIVES HIS SPEAR STRAIGHT DOWN

Through **MASKED HUMAN 2's mouth and out his skull**

Bato calls out for Meeka when

He's **KNOCKED TO THE GROUND**

Bato shakes it off, sees the fight before him...

KEEGA a roided out Bane mixed with a mutated Rottweiler. Bulging veins. No neck. Mask stitched together gruesomely like Leatherface. Bones sticking out his forehead like a Darth Maul. #1 Halloween costume at Party City this fall.

(CONTINUED)

KEEGA

[THE BEAST]

VS

BATO

[THE FATHER]

CONTINUED: (6)

KEEGA with a **MASSIVE BONE SLEDGE HAMMER**

Wastes no time setting in on Bato

He SWINGS

Bato raises his club to deflect

The Hammer simply BURSTS Bato's club apart--

Sending him flying back from the impact

Bato scurries and dodges as Keega whales

Nearly missing him - sending dents into the earth

Keega **SWINGS** again

Bato ducking - the HAMMER driving into a tree trunk

Sticking. Keega instead grabs Bato and slams his head

Into the stuck sledge hammer

Bato once more falls to the bloody dirt

He can't keep up much longer

Bato scurries to his feet and

takes to the VINES

But Keega doesn't play games

He hurls his hammer and strikes Bato in the back

Sending him cascading off the vine into--

THE QUICKSAND

Bato struggles to move

Can't pry himself loose

Keega walks on the edge

He wraps a vine around Bato's neck

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HANGING HIM

Keega watches Bato squirm

His lights dimming...

His journey ending...

KEEGA JERKS!

He looks down to see...

An ARROW IN HIS CHEST

Bato turns to see

Meeka at the grip of the bow

Keega slowly tips over--

Plants face-first into the quicksand and submerges

Bato not far from joining him - up to his ears...

Meeka races to her Father and with all her might

DRAGS HIM OUT

Father and Daughter breathe a sigh of relief

BUT THOSE HORNS...

They tribe is relentless. Closing in again.

Meeka helps Bato to his feet and they flee

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

Meeka leading her Father through the brush--
The horns getting louder and louder behind--
They screech to a full stop as they come to

A WATERFALL

Meeka hesitates

Bato grabs her by the hand

Gives her a reassured look

She nods

1...2...3

Bato jumps

But Meeka doesn't budge--

ZOOK [THE DEVIL]

Grabs her

Bato tries to stop himself but its too late

He falls - never taking his eyes off his daughter

She's pulled away by the Masked Devil

Bato **PLUMMETS** to the sharp rocks below

And is **SWEPT AWAY** by the current

DOWNSTREAM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Bato is carried through the white rapids--

Flows into an **UNDERGROUND CAVE**

And is **KNOCKED OUT** on a rock in the cavernous shore

EXT. PEACEFUL VILLAGE

Flowing down on a site not seen before

A CROP GROWS in a row of planted crops.

A FARM

HUTS

Made from Grass and Stone

Primitive seeds of Civilization

INT. HUT

Hands **hang THE ZOOK DEVIL MASK on the wall**

ZOOK turns, looking like a milk toast human. Pale white.

But the more civilized humans look, the more savage they tend to be. Dead eyes. Calculated. Advanced for this world. He walks over to MEEKA, clearly his slave-wife

In a bizarro-world fashion, he forces her to recreate the BATO/KAZA love symbol ritual: They mix their hands together in the fat and blood and put their hand prints on the inside of the hut's wall.

Zook leaves his hand print. Meeka slow to add hers

When he turns away, she smears it

Zook simply stands in the middle of the room and sticks his tongue out. In an act of dominance. Meeka approaches and must be submissive... for now. She goes to suck his tongue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UNDERGROUND CAVE

Bato JERKS AWAY

His bloody skull leaking into the underground steam

It's quiet... He's alone...

Well, maybe not

In the darkness something moves

Bato stares - **THE SAME STARE FROM THE BEGINNING**

His big green eyes forming an image in the blackness

Suddenly **BIG GLOWING EYES** stare back at him

Bato now sees that he's surrounded by

BONES

Animal carcasses ripped apart

Out of the darkness steps...

HOMO HABILIS

One of the earliest members of the homo genus

While Homo Sapiens seek to overtake Neanderthals as the dominant race, Bato's species overtook this species long ago.

But in this turbulent time when several species competed for dominance, this is still a formidable foe one-on-one

Standing at 7ft tall, covered in hair, making it look

HALF HUMAN-HALF APE

Bato has unfortunately stumbled on its LAIR. Clear it's been hidden for much of its life. Maybe the last of its kind. It's a shame what must happen next...

(CONTINUED)

HOMO
HABILIS
[THE HANDYMAN]
VS
BATO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Homo Habilis ROARS **ROARS**

It echoes throughout the cavern

Homo Habilis **TOWERS OVER BATO**

Bato grabs a giant bone to use as a club

But Homo Habilis **BREAKS IT IN HALF** and

THROWS BATO clear across the cave

Bato smashes into the rock wall

Still Dazed and confused when

Homo Habilis grabs his arms

Steps on him and pulls--

ALMOST RIPPING HIS ARMS OFF

BATO SCREAMS IN AGONY

All Bato can do is GET FERAL

He sinks his teeth in Homo Habilis' leg

Homo Habilis picks Bato up **OVER HIS HEAD**

And **BODYSLAMS him to the rock floor**

Bato is broken and windless

Homo Habilis picks up **A GAINT ROCK**

HURLS IT DOWN ON BATO--

Who rolls out of the way just in time

Bato sees a saber tooth tiger carcass behind his legs--

So Bato kicks Homo Habilis backwards

Tripping him over

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Bato gets to his feet and pulls Homo Habilis under the Saber Tooth Tiger's large jaws and--

BATO PILED RIVES ON TOP OF IT

Homo Habilis's head in the jaws

Bato rolls over... Can't go on...

Until he spots

THE KILLER COKE PLANT

Growing quietly in the corner

EXT. PEACEFUL VILLAGE

CU: ON A CAVE DRAWING ON A ROCK

A MENACING FIGURE drawn in black with **A SCAR**

Zook shows Meeka

She looks at it... Knows who it represents...

Zook grunts to her. She is able to comprehend:

FLASHBACK

-A HUMAN HUNTING PARTY chases down a HELL PIG (Hairy Rhino) They use team work to trap and kill the hunt-

Suddenly...

BATO

Crests a hill and FIRES HIS SPEARS into the humans-

They run for their lives but he chases them down-

With them dead he steals their kill

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

- This happens **OVER AND OVER** again
- Bato raiding their hunting parties
- Slaying anyone who encroaches on his territory

He is savage and merciless

EXT. TAR PIT - NIGHT

Where the baby mammoth is trapped.

REVEAL: Human Hunter bodies floating in the tar pit, spears protruding out from them, slain by Bato competing for the resource.

HE **ROARS** like a cave dwelling monster

FLASHBACK VILLAGE

-A man tells the story of what happened by A GIANT FIRE

The whole camp listening

He draws THE BOOGEY MAN BATO image on the giant rock

-Villagers approach the 3 MEN: **YAMA, KEEGA, ZOOK**

To deal with the brute--

FLASHBACK BATO CAVE

Yama, Keega, Zook and the 4th Human track MEEKA, who disobeyed her father and left the cave, back to the lair

INT. BATO FAMILY CAVE

When the men approach - The fire is blinding inside

They see a figure - silhouetted by the fire-

The image grows on the cave wall and is HUGE

They FIRE THE ARROWS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The figure slumps. It's only then when Zook realizes they have struck Bato's wife and son
Zook is remorseful. This was not the mission.
Suddenly a spear HITS 4TH HUMAN in the chest-
Yama and Keega go to kill Meeka- but Zook stops them-
Sees her beauty, her eyes, her fierceness...
In an act of mercy, he takes her with them.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

Meeka stares at the haunting image of her Father...
He is to them what they are to her.
Music rising...
Because their Boogeyman is coming...

CUE: COMMANDO GEAR UP

-Bato crushes the plant into powder
-Bato **GOES TO TOWN** making SPEAR after SPEAR
-He chips and sharpens them to perfection
-Dips the tips in nearby tarp pit
-lights one on fire and hurls into a brush
-**IT IGNITES** He sees its potential
-Plucks a Hip Disc bone from the cave
-He takes the ARROWS he's saved
-Breaks off the arrowheads and
-**FASTENS THEM TO HIS KNUCKLES**
this will be the payoff we didn't get in THE GREY
-Mixes plants and oils to create colorful paint
But Bato does not paint some peaceful mural
-He paints on himself. War Paint. Killing is Bato's art

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EXT. PEACEFUL VILLAGE

-FARMLAND

-HUTS (built and being built)

-COMMUNITY

People working together to pick crops

Carry a prehistoric deer together hanging by a pole

EXT. FARM FIELD

Meeka carrying a basket

Reduced to picking in the field

Clearly watched by **A GUARD**

OVER THE HILL



BATO crests, armed to the teeth

Behind him...

A DRAMATIC SUNRISE coinciding with A HYBRID ECLIPSE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A shadow spreads over the peaceful village

The discs of the sun and the moon exactly coincide

Making Planet Earth resemble an Alien purple atmosphere

MOVE OVER RAMBO The Bato action figure now has the fireplace mantle

He sinks down the hill under the cover of darkness

And sneaks **Through The Farmland**

Meeka stares at the burning blacked out sky

She's nudged by THE GUARD **[BACK TO WORK]**

HE's answered by a **SPEAR** thrown into his chest

GUARD pitches over

Meeka turns to see

HER FATHER

Bato takes the basket from her

Throws it to the side

Plucks out the spear from the dead guard

HANDS IT TO HER

A beat. Everything building to this

Meeka's hands wrap around the weapon

Bato looks at his daughter with pride

THE GUARDS SOUND THE HORNS

They know **they must fight their way out**

Meeka wipes her spear clean

Bato lights a **FLAMING SPEAR**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

50 HOMO SAPIENS assembling their weapons and
running out into the morning darkness for the battle

Bato hurls **the FLAMING SPEAR** into one of the huts

It catches the straw fire immediately

Smoking them out

Easy targets for

Bato and Meeka to CUT DOWN

They're already down FOUR

Bato throws

FLAMING SPEAR

After

FLAMING SPEAR

Creating total chaos

HOMO SAPIEN ARCHERS

Assemble, four strong

They have the advantage

Bato can't close the distance

But we now see what he built in the cave

The round bone disc he uses as **A SHIELD**

A GAME CHANGER

He steamrolls forward

DEFLECTING and **BLOCKING** the arrows

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Allowing him to get close enough to

CHOP THEM DOWN

Meanwhile

Meeka is a force to behold

With the backdrop of the eclipse and huts ablaze

She fights cat-like

Agile with the spear

Confident in her kills

Bato is blunt force trauma

Meeka is ballerina dealing death

Four more down. Never stood a chance

THE WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN RUN FOR THEIR LIVES

Fleeing the flaming village

Those unwise enough to stay and fight suffer the wrath

Bato is surrounded by **FIVE HOMO SAPIENS**

He brings up the arrowhead tips secured to his knuckles

HE SPINS LIKE A BLENDER

CUTTING THEM **TO PIECES**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

-Carotid arteries

-Femoral arteries

Bato does not know the names, only that they squirt

He's a tornado of **BLOOD AND BLADE**

Say it with me: '**R-E-D-B-A-N-D T-R-A-I-L-E-R**'

He FINISHES IN **A FOUNTAIN OF DEATH**

Covered in blood

Thirsty for more

Meeka's spear breaks

She picks up **the bow**

NOW THE SMOKE IS SO INTENSE *WE ENTER*

The 2ND PART OF THE FIGHT

The Smoke blinding the homo sapiens

A THICK SWIRLING PURPLE AND YELLOW HAZE

Giving Bato and Meeka perfect cover to

PICK THEM OFF

One-by-one

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

IN PURPLE SMOKE HAZE

Homo Sapiens search for the intruders

AN ARROW Finds the thigh of one Homo Sapien

He stumbles and limps

Giving Bato the opening to spring from the cloud cover

And SPEAR HIM DEAD

The Homo Sapiens volley Spears towards them

But hit nothing but smoke debris

A SPEAR reaches out of the smoke

Runs through 2 MORE and pulls them into the abyss

Meeka's arrows come out of nowhere

-Heart -Lungs -Neck

Killshots everytime

The Homo Sapiens are blind

But Bato's BIG GREEN EYES see

He's a Demon - snatching them to hell

She's a Tigress - clawing her away through them. A

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

But now its time for the main event

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

The FINAL PART OF THE FIGHT

The Eclipse passes

Sunlight shining through the smoke

ASH FLUTTERING LIKE SNOWFLAKES

And as the darkness parts...

ZOOK, in full mask and war attire appears

But this won't be a one-on-one fight

Zook, a leader, too smart for that

He approaches with **FOUR MINIONS**

Will overpower Bato with numbers

Meeka whispers in Bato's ear

He looks at her. Nods

Meeka runs away

The Men begin to circle Bato

Bato reaches into his pouch

Digs in and breathes deep--

THE KILLER COKE

His veins bulge - His teeth snarl

Bato **ROARS**

(CONTINUED)

ZOOK

[THE DEVIL]

VS

BATO

[THE FATHER]

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

ZOOK points them to do his bidding

the **HOMO SAPIENS CHARGE**

Bato **BEATS THEM WITH HIS BARE HANDS**

Punching dents into them

Snapping their limbs

ZOOK circles

STABS BATO IN THE BACK

Bato screams

Pulls HOMO SAPIEN 1'S HEAD OFF FROM THE JAW

Bato smashes **HOMO SAPEIN 2's** face with his own head

He headbutts him until there is nothing left

ZOOK again

SHIVS HIM IN THE SIDE

Bato stumbles, can't catch him

Must **BREAK HOMO SAPIEN 3 APART**

ZOOK pops through the flying ash

FOR ONE LAST CHEAP SHOT SPEAR

Gets Bato in the gut

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Bato **SCREEEAAAAMMMMS**

Takes it out on **HOMO SAPIEN 4**

Grabs his head and pushes it

180 degrees behind him

There is no one left to kill

Bato stumbles out of gas

ZOOK finally approaches

Spear drawn with the upperhand

Bato pitches himself

DOWN THE LARGE HILL

He slides next to a rotted Mammoth Carcass

It's actually a whole field of rotting dead Mammoth bodies. The Wild West buffalo's 40,000 before. Humans ruin everything they touch. They spread like disease.

But they will inherit the earth.

And this is the day Bato leaves it.

ZOOK walks down the hill emotionless

EXT. KILLING FIELD

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

Bato rests against the GIANT MAMMOTH CARCASS

He accepts his fate

THE MASKED ZOOK readies his spear

Before he drives Bato through

He removes his mask

Zook gives a sick grin

motions to their surroundings

Zook grunts/signals **[ALL. ME. ALL]**

Bato grunts/signals **[NOT... ALL]**

Bato tosses THE FLUTE to ZOOK

(The monkey trick)

Zook reflexes catches the flute, dropping the spear

Right then

Meeka SPRINGS from inside the Rotting Wooly Mammoth

Covered in Blood

And **RAMS ZOOK** through the tusk

(the shrike move)

That's a double set up and pay off

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

Zook is impaled, held upright

Meeka walks up to him

to give him a final kiss

But **BITES HIS TONGUE OFF**

Meeka grunts **[SUCK. THAT]**

Meeka helps Bato up

Sees he's badly hurt

It doesn't matter to him

His mission is complete

He looks to the sun

Points to the cliff

Meeka nods

EXT. VILLAGE

Meeka helps Bato through the smoldering village

There is death and carnage everywhere

Through the SMOKE, Bato sees

THE WOMAN (from before) trapped in the rubble

She trembles at the sight of Bato...

Bato shakes his head. Grunts **[NO HARM]**

Bato pulls the fallen rock wall off her

Clears the debris and wipes her face clean

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

He pulls her up, trying his best to be gentle--

As he does, its revealed they are standing in front of

THE CAVE PAINTING ROCK WALL

BATO'S TERRIFYING MONSTER IMAGE inscribed for him to **see**

And he does

He stares at it

And it stares back at him

When suddenly...

AN ARROW strikes him in the chest

MEEKA turns and sees THE BOY

With a bow

MEEKA SCREAMS!!!!

Draws her spear

But Bato holds her tight

Bato shakes his head at her

Meeka struggles to get free

Then sees THE WOMAN, THE MOTHER

Run over to THE BOY, HER SON

Bato watches as they flee through the smoking mist

He reassures Meeka, He slumps back onto the rock wall and slides down, smearing the Boogie Man Bato image in blood.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE

Meeka sets down Bato

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

They watch the sun as him and Kaza once did.

Bato slowly turns her face towards the godly glow

Bato grunts **[SEE?]**

Meeka nods

Bato shakes his head

Bato grunts **[NOT JUST LOOK]**

Bato places his hands out and motions at the world

Bato **[SEE]**

Meeka takes it in

Nods. She does.

A Father Daughter moment

He grunts to her - she can understand - *but we can't*

FLASHBACK

-The **WOOLLY MAMMOTH CUB** trapped in the deadly pit-

-CRYING OUT. Left behind.

-The **SABER TOOTH TIGER** prowls forward

-**THE SPEAR** Thrown into the giant cat's skull

-Bato wipes his stone spear clean of red. Then turns towards the helpless Cub Mammoth...

...But that's when Bato sees...

THE MOTHER. Comes back for the cub.

Instead of spearing it, Bato extends his spear

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

He helps THE MAMMOTH CUB out of the pit

The cub is reunited with its mother

Bato watches them go

He then turns--

To carve up the Sabertooth instead

OUT OF FLASHBACK

Meeka can't believe it

Bato did listen to Kaza

Her Father hands her

The BONE FLUTE

And hands her the spear

Signals **[BOTH]**

Meeka tears up

Bato looks to her

Puts his hand to his chest

Bato SPEAKS: **"BATO"**

Then puts his hand to her

Bato SPEAKS: **"BATO"**

And with that, he goes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

Meeka slowly sets him down

She stands like a warrior, eying the horizon

GREEN EYE BLUE EYE

The sequel is set up.

TO BLACK