

SNOWLANDS

By

Morr Meroz

FADE IN:

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINS - DAWN

The massive, breathtaking view of the SNOWLANDS. A snowy mountain range in the spirit of the Himalaya Mountains.

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINS - DAY

Wind blows through the grass on the rocky mountains. A FROG leaps into frame. It looks around and jumps off.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

The Snowlands are a dangerous place  
for little creatures.

The frog hops from rock to rock in a river. The rocks become more distant, and the frog approaches a giant leap.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

A frog once found itself far and  
alone.

Frog jumps and lands safely, slips, and catches himself.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

And with a hungry leopard.

The frog settles on the slippery rock, as it notices the massive face of a terrifying SNOW LEOPARD staring at it.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

The frog was scared.

The frog attempts to leap back to land, but the leopard simply lunges to the other side to face it again.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

But before the leopard made its  
move, the frog said --

CUT TO:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - NIGHT

A dozen WOLF CUBS sit in a circle around SHEIN, the warm, soft-spoken Himalayan GREY WOLF who's voice we've been hearing. The cubs are mesmerized by the story.

WOLF CUB

Wait! Do the voice!

SHEIN  
(funny voice)  
"I'm the king of the frogs! And if  
you come any closer I'll eat you!"

The cubs LAUGH.

SHEIN (CONT'D)  
The leopard laughed too.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINS - DAY

The leopard circles the frog, smiling.

SHEIN (V.O.)  
But then the frog noticed a few  
hairs that had fallen off the  
leopard when he leaped above him.

The frog looks down at the FUR at its feet and kicks it away.

SHEIN (V.O.)  
The frog told the leopard that  
these are all that's left from the  
leopard he ate earlier, and it's  
his last chance to run or he's  
next!

CUT TO:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - NIGHT

Shein finishes her story.

SHEIN  
And so --

WOLF CUBS  
-- The leopard ran away.

SHEIN  
That's right. The leopard ran away  
from a tiny little frog.

The cubs LAUGH.

FEBA (O.S.)  
That would never happen.

FEBA, a pre-teen wolf cub with white fur (the only one who  
isn't grey) emerges from behind a rock. She's cynical and  
full of angst.

SHEIN  
It's just a story, Feba.

Shein's expression turns somber.

WOLF CUB #1  
(whisper)  
Is that her?

WOLF CUB #2  
(whisper)  
Why is she here?

FEBA  
A leopard wouldn't believe a frog  
can eat it!

TASHI, one of the male cubs in the circle, is annoyed.  
GERIEL, a female cub, sits next to him.

TASHI  
When did you ever see a leopard,  
Feba? You've never been outside the  
Lookout!

GERIEL  
Leave her alone, Tashi.

FEBA  
At least I'm contributing to the  
Pack!

TASHI  
You're not even a part of the Pack!

DUGA (O.S.)  
Tashi!

Tashi freezes. DUGA, the Pack leader and a just ruler,  
appears behind him.

DUGA (CONT'D)  
That's another day of scent de-  
markation for you, young wolf.

TASHI  
What?! But she --

SHEIN  
Move along, cubs. You have hunting  
lessons tomorrow morning.

The cubs pour out of the circle, annoyed.

WOLF CUB #1  
(whisper)  
Tashi's gonna touch poop!

SHEIN  
Scent de-markation?

DUGA  
My idea. They hate it.

Feba LAUGHS. Duga returns a kind smile. Shein remains stern.

SHEIN  
Any news from the Eagles?

DUGA  
No word yet. Any spottings?

SHEIN  
Nothing for miles.

DUGA  
It's getting worse, Shein.

SHEIN  
We'll find something soon, Duga.  
We've had tough winters before. The  
sheep can't all be gone.

DUGA  
Yet they are. Tough winters we can  
handle, but I can't remember a time  
not one sheep was found in the  
entire mountain range.  
(a beat)  
How do you like Watch Duty, fair  
Feba?

FEBA  
I hate it. Hunting lessons seem  
much more fun.

SHEIN  
Feba!

Duga LAUGHS affectionately.

DUGA  
That's quite alright, Shein. She's  
fierce, this one.

SHEIN  
I've noticed.

DUGA  
In a pack, Feba, every job matters.  
Watch Duty is just as important as  
scouting, or hunting --

FEBA  
Or scent de-markation?

He smiles.

DUGA  
Exactly. Be well, ladies.

He nods and runs back to camp. Feba's smile fades.

FEBA  
If I'm such bad luck, why put me on  
Watch Duty?

SHEIN  
Feba --

FEBA  
Why didn't they just banish me?

A beat.

SHEIN  
You know, many animals consider  
white fur to be a sign of strength.

FEBA  
Too bad wolves aren't one of them.

Feba climbs a path to a peak overlooking camp. She watches  
tiny CUBS play, WOLVES converse, eat, and sleep in large  
groups. Shein joins her.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
You don't need to stay with me.

SHEIN  
I like the quiet. Your mother used  
to do Lookout all the time, you  
know.

FEBA  
Really?

SHEIN  
Oh yes. She liked the quiet too.

Feba smiles, but it doesn't last long.

SHEIN (CONT'D)  
What is it, dear?

FEBA  
I'm just tired of being...

SHEIN  
What?

FEBA  
(a beat)  
Wrong.

Shein thinks for a moment, and glances at the sky.

SHEIN  
Look up. What do you see?

FEBA  
Shein...

SHEIN  
What do you see?

Feba SIGHS.

FEBA  
The moon.

SHEIN  
When I feel lost, all I have to do  
is look up at the moon. Its light  
shows me the path when it's too  
dark to see.

FEBA  
So what.

SHEIN  
The wolves down there, they do the  
same thing. They all look up at the  
same moon, just like you.

FEBA  
(a beat)  
Yes. But they're looking at it  
together.

Feba walks away, going back down the path she came from.  
Shein remains in place and lies down sad for the night.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - LOOKOUT - NIGHT

Feba paces around the circled area where Shein read the story to the cubs, and lies down to sleep.

TIME CUT:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - LOOKOUT - NIGHT

Feba sleeps.

DUGA (O.S.)  
You are speaking out of line!

Feba's ears perk up. She gets up and follows the sounds.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - NIGHT

Feba finds the source - the Pack's COUNCIL is in session. A dozen wolves stand in a circle, Duga is at the center, and his Deputy, TOOFAN, strong and stubborn, seems furious.

Feba gets closer and listens from behind a rock.

TOOFAN  
It's the white cub, how do you not see it?

DUGA  
Feba is just a child!

TOOFAN  
White wolves are a sign of death,  
Duga! Why else did you keep her  
away from camp?

DUGA  
I kept her away for her own sake!  
To keep her safe from wolves who  
believe such tales.

TOOFAN  
From the day she was born we have  
seen less and less sheep in the  
mountains. What other answer do you  
have for the Council, Leader?

DUGA  
(a beat)  
I have none.

TOOFAN

Care about her as you may, Duga,  
allowing her to stay around us  
sentences us to starvation and  
death. We lost Kanelia because of  
this cub, now we're all in danger --

SHEIN (O.S.)

Feba is not responsible for her  
mother's death, Toofan.

Shein reveals herself and joins the circle.

TOOFAN

This does not concern you, Shein.  
This is a matter for the Council.

SHEIN

Who would have thought our second-  
in-command would be so scared of a  
little cub?

DUGA

Enough of this. Both of you.

An old and blind wolf named NORBU walks up to speak.

NORBU

Toofan speaks true, Duga. There's a  
curse upon our Pack. As long as we  
allow for the white cub to roam  
among us, we might never find food  
again.

Duga examines the faces of the Council.

DUGA

Is this what the Council Wishes  
for?

No response. Feba stretches her ears in suspense.

DUGA (CONT'D)

I am asking you if this is the Wish  
of the Council?

One by one, the Council Wolves HOWL. Casting their vote. It's  
unanimous.

DUGA (CONT'D)

(defeated)

Very well. A wish has been made and  
the Council shall fulfill it.

SHEIN

Duga!

TOOFAN

I will send for her tonight.

DUGA

No. I will talk to her. She will  
leave camp by sunrise.

TOOFAN

That is not enough, Duga! She must  
be killed!

Feba silently GASPS.

TOOFAN (CONT'D)

We can't risk the Curse. She has to  
die.

Feba steps back in terror. CRACK. She steps on a branch and  
trips.

WOLF COUNCIL MEMBER (O.S.)

Who's there?

Feba gets back on her feet and exposes herself. Her bright  
white fur makes her easy to spot against the black rocks.

TOOFAN

It's her! She's spying on us!

Feba takes off.

SHEIN

FEB!

Feba runs as fast as her little legs can carry her.

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINS - VARIOUS

MONTAGE:

1) Feba runs. She follows a path from the LOOKOUT point and  
reaches a river. She decides to follow it.

2) LATER at a snowy road. An intense snow storm is against  
her.

3) NIGHT TURNS TO DAY. She's still on the path. Storm has  
stopped. She's exhausted.

4) NEW TERRAIN. Different animal shadows watch her as she  
paces. Rodents. Spiders. Birds. She's scared.

EARLY MORNING. She's weak. Walks slower. Eyes tired.

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - EVENING

Feba Arrives at a CONSTRUCT made of tall black rocks. She hears a RUMBLE. She puts her head to the ground. It vibrates.

She looks up to see an animal charging. It's a female SNOW LEOPARD named USHA. Feba freezes, but Usha runs past her.

Feba sees the reason - A HERD of thundering YAKS. They are en route to trample her. She runs too.

FEBA

WAIT!

Feba catches up to Usha, who takes a sharp turn in a fork. The Yaks split at the fork, still charging towards them.

Usha spots an opening in the rocks and digs. Feba quickly helps. They go inside, a second before the yaks hit.

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Usha and Feba roll inside as rocks fall behind them, blocking the opening. No way back. It's dark, little sun penetrates.

USHA

A wolf?

Feba is frozen in place. Scared. Usha circles her. She's a fully matured snow leopard, and does not like company.

USHA (CONT'D)

How did you find me?

(a beat)

Answer me!

Feba takes a deep breath, her lips tremble.

FEBA

I am Feba, Queen of the Stone  
Wolves, Defender of the Moon. If  
you come any closer...

Feba spots a strand of leopard fur by her feet. She quickly picks them up.

FEBA (CONT'D)

(shaky voice)

I... These are the hairs of the  
leopard I just ate...

Usha rolls her eyes and walks away. Feba drops the fur.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Wait!

She tries to catch up.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

USHA

I don't have time for speeches.

FEBA

I... can you help me? I got lost.

USHA

I'm sure the wolves will send someone to find you, once they realize their Moon Queen is gone.

FEBA

I... perhaps I've exaggerated my importance. I wasn't sure if you're going to eat me or not.

USHA

I still might. Leopards kill cubs that aren't their own, you know.

Feba attempts to move past the joke.

FEBA

Where are you going?

USHA

I'm looking for someone.

FEBA

Who?

No answer. They reach a dark passage.

FEBA (CONT'D)

We're going in there?!

USHA

I am. You stay and find your way back.

FEBA

You'll go there alone?

USHA

Leopards are always alone.

Usha approaches the passage. Feba Blocks her way.

FEBA

Who made up that rule?

Usha studies the young innocent cub in front of her.

USHA

What was your name again, wolf?

FEBA

Feba.

USHA

Listen carefully, Feba. I'm looking for someone. I traveled a long way and risked a lot coming here, and I can't have a wolf pup straggling behind me, slowing me down, drawing danger. Stay. away.

She walks past Feba, about to enter the unknown.

FEBA

(to herself)

I thought you didn't have time for speeches...

Usha enters the passage.

FEBA (CONT'D)

You know what? I don't think you're gonna eat me.

Feba pushes past Usha and enters the passage.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - LOOKOUT - EVENING

Shein's at her post. Duga hesitantly approaches.

SHEIN

It's your fault.

DUGA

Shein --

SHEIN

I made a promise I'll keep her safe, and now she's gone.

DUGA

I have to think of the good of the Pack.

SHEIN

You believe she is dangerous?

DUGA

They believe it. And as long as they did, her presence would cause danger to herself and to those around her.

SHEIN

And killing her would make it safer?

DUGA

I would have never allowed for that.

SHEIN

It doesn't matter. She will die out there. Wolves can't survive without the Pack.

A WOLF OFFICER appears behind them.

WOLF OFFICER

Duga! You need to see this.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - EVENING

TWO WOLVES drop A DEAD WOLF at Duga's feet.

DUGA

Oktai...

WOLF OFFICER

He was out for hunting lessons with the cubs. We found him like this by the river.

DUGA

And the cubs?

WOLF OFFICER

No sign of them.

Duga sniffs and licks the wound.

DUGA

A single horn wound. What animal could have done this?

TOOFAN (O.S.)

Not an animal. A curse!

Toofan shows up at the scene, fuming.

TOOFAN (CONT'D)  
You allowed for this to happen.

DUGA  
Step down, Toofan.

TOOFAN  
We let the white cub go, and this  
is our punishment.

DUGA  
This is your last warning!

Duga STOMPS his feet and bares his teeth. Toofan backs off.

DUGA (CONT'D)  
Scouts?

WOLF OFFICER  
We sent three. They haven't come  
back yet.

DUGA  
Send another group.

Wolf Officer nods and takes off. Duga storms past Toofan's contemptuous stare.

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - MAZE - EVENING

Usha and Feba go through a rocky, dark corridor. Usha notices the walls are laced with skulls and bones of different animals. Feba notices too.

FEBA  
I've never met a leopard before.

No response.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Are you from Snow Rock?

Usha looks around.

USHA  
(to herself)  
Another dead-end.

Backtracks.

FEBA  
If you tell me what we're looking  
for --

USHA  
(not listening)  
This place is like a giant maze.

GARVESH (O.S.)  
It IS a maze!

Usha jolts.

USHA  
Who's there?

Around a corner, out crawls GARVESH, a smooth-talking lynx.

GARVESH  
Quite a marvel, isn't it?

USHA  
Come out. Slowly.

He's smaller than Usha. Skin and bones. Clumps of hair  
missing.

GARVESH  
Easy to get lost in, yes. Very  
easy.

USHA  
What is your name?

GARVESH  
Names... they lose meaning in here.  
I pray you don't stay here long  
enough to see for yourselves.

USHA  
I won't.

Usha walks away. He follows.

GARVESH  
It is certainly nice to have  
company, I won't lie.

No answer.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
Garvesh, that was my name, if I  
remember correctly. And you ladies  
are?

USHA  
Usha. And this is Fubo.

FEBA  
Feba!

GARVESH  
And what are you doing so far away  
from Snow Rock, Usha?

USHA  
I'm on my way to the Springs.

GARVESH  
There's no way to Sanai Springs  
from here, dear. You're in Migoi's  
Maze now.

FEBA  
Migoi's Maze?

GARVESH  
The Snub-nose Tribe built it a long  
time ago.

FEBA  
To keep intruders out?

GARVESH  
Sweetie, you don't build a maze to  
keep someone out.

USHA  
You build it to keep someone in.

Garvesh crooked smile spreads as he nods.

GARVESH  
You see, dearest, The Snub-Nosed  
kill their offsprings if they are  
not born right. And when Migoi was  
born...

CUT TO:

EXT. MONKEY CAMP - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

EXTREME CLOSE UP on the face of a young monstrous SNUB-NOSED  
MONKEY. Mostly in the shadow, not many details visible.

GARVESH (V.O.)  
He was a deformed abomination. A  
monster.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Lightning. A SNUB-NOSED MONKEY holds LITTLE MIGOI by the  
tail, dangling from a cliff.

GARVESH (V.O.)  
They tossed him down to the Maze.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - MAZE - EVENING

Garvesh continues his story.

GARVESH  
But Migoi was strong. He didn't  
die. He survived in here, long  
after the tribe dispersed, living  
on critters and the occasional  
unsuspecting visitor.

Feba's half-scared, yet enthralled in the tale.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
Or so the stories say. One thing is  
certain, though, there's no way out  
of here. This is your new home.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - MAZE - NIGHT

They camp deeper in the maze. Garvesh lays on his back and  
stares at the stars. Feba lies next to him. Usha on guard.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
So why are you going to the  
Springs, if I may ask?

USHA  
I'm looking for someone.

GARVESH  
(a beat)  
Since we're stuck in here, you  
might as well tell us your story,  
Usha. Who is it you're looking for?

FEBA  
(to Garvesh)  
She doesn't say much.

USHA  
That's enough.

GARVESH  
I'm simply making conv --

USHA  
I didn't come here for your  
stories. Or yours. I'm going to  
find a way out of here. Try to stay  
out of my way.

Feba frowns. Garvesh backs down. Usha lies down to sleep.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

A pack of YELLOW-THROATED MARTENS (small carnivorous rodents, dangerous in large numbers) wait on a deserted cliff. The MARTEN LEADER at the front.

MARTEN #1  
What does he look like?

MARTEN LEADER  
A monster.

LOUD STOMPS are heard. A creature approaches. It's SHERAB. We only see his shadow, which is the shape of a beast that resembles a monstrous unicorn with a GIANT SINGLE HORN.

SHERAB  
We have the cubs. But one appears  
to be missing. A white one. She's  
the one we need.

Sherab tosses a DEAD SHEEP on the ground. The Martens swarm and munch down on it. Their leader stands still.

SHERAB (CONT'D)  
Bring me the white cub and you will  
have more sheep than you can ever  
eat.

MARTEN LEADER  
We'll find her.

Marten Leader slithers away. His ARMY follows, leaving the carcass behind, completely eaten.

EXT. BLACK RIDGE - MAZE - MORNING

Garvesh and Feba are fast asleep.

USHA (O.S.)

Tracks.

Garvesh and Feba lazily open their eyes. They join Usha, who's examining MONKEY TRACKS.

USHA (CONT'D)

These are fresh. They lead inside.

She follows the tracks.

GARVESH

You're following them?

USHA

Whoever made these didn't come the way we did. They could lead us to an exit.

GARVESH

It could be dangerous.

Usha paces forward. Feba follows, passing Garvesh with a smug look. He reluctantly follows.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MIGOI'S MAZE - DEEPER - LATER

Usha leads, sniffs the tracks. Feba and Garvesh linger behind. FIREFLIES BUZZ around them.

GARVESH

It's true!

Feba LAUGHS.

FEBA

You are lying!

GARVESH

My father's mother was a wolf. That makes me part wolf!

FEBA

Wolf and lynx don't make cubs!

GARVESH

Ask your mother! I'm sure one of your ancestors was a lynx.

FEBA

I never met my parents. But someone told me...

Feba's smile vanishes. A forced smile takes its place. A FIREFLY hangs in the air in front of her face. It lights up.

FEBA (CONT'D)

They said my great grandfather was a polar bear. And that's why I have white fur.

GARVESH

There you go, see?

FEBA

I think they were trying to make me feel better. Polar bears don't even live around here.

Feba goes quiet. Firefly flies away.

GARVESH

I didn't want to say anything earlier, the way your friend looks at me, but I did see another wolf come around here not too long ago. He had white fur, just like yours.

Feba's eyes widen.

FEBA

Who was it?

GARVESH

I didn't talk to him. Cats and dogs don't often play nice. But I can show you where he went.

EXT. MAZE - BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Garvesh's hand reveals a SECRET PATH behind a vine curtain.

GARVESH

I can't risk joining you.

Feba peaks into the darkness beyond the vines.

EXT. MAZE - TRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Usha follows the tracks. She notices her companions are gone.

USHA

Feba?

She scoffs and keeps going. Not her problem.

INT. DARK CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Feba treads in a dark narrow passage. A cave within the maze.

FEBA

Hello?

ECHO. A few more steps. A spider runs on the ground behind her. She doesn't see it.

CRACK.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Is someone here?

CRUNCH. She steps down on a shattered skull. Another glance reveals animal bones and skeletons around her.

It's a graveyard.

She GASPS and trips backwards. She sinks and falls down an icy pit, sharp bamboos protrude from its sides. A trap.

She hangs to one of the sticks with her mouth. It breaks and she slips, cuts herself on another on her way down. Through rocks, ice and wood, she lands at the bottom of the pit.

Around her are a bunch dead animals.

EXT. MAZE - TRACKS - DAY

Garvesh walks, smiling. A firefly hangs in front of him. He SWATS it away. It drops to the ground, light slowly fades.

EXT. MAZE - TRACKS END - DAY

Usha reaches a DEAD END. Tracks end in front of a giant wall.

USHA

No, this doesn't make sense.

GARVESH (O.S.)

Clever trick, isn't it? I taught him that.

Usha turns. Garvesh blocks the path back. Her eyes dart.

GARVESH (CONT'D)

He walks backwards to lure his pray to a dead end.

USHA

Who?

Usha now notices the giant FIGURE behind Garvesh.

GARVESH

My stories couldn't do him justice,  
so I thought you should meet him  
face to face. Usha, this is Migoi.

MIGOI STOMPS into the light - a huge and deformed ape! A scarier Yeti with small feet, huge arms and misshapen head.

EXT. MAZE - PIT - DAY

Feba examines the wall around her. Not steep, but the bamboos make it a tricky climb.

A tiny COUGH echoes. Some bones roll on the ground.

FEBA

Is someone there?

She tip toes to a pile of bones. Behind it, a tiny Pallas Cat (fat wild cat with puffy fur) named BATU shakes in fear.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Hey there.

BATU

BATU!

He SQUEAKS and zooms to hide behind a different pile.

FEBA

Don't run! I won't hurt you. I'm  
trapped here too.

Batu raises his head behind a skeleton of similar size. He then puffs himself and growls. It's more cute than scary. Feba gets closer.

FEBA (CONT'D)

You can come out.

Cornered, Batu charges towards her, leaps at her arm and bites. Feba doesn't even flinch, only smiles. Batu slowly lets go. He licks the bite mark submissively.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Who are you, little cat?

BATU

Batu.

FEBA

I'm Feba.

She approaches the edge of the pit, Batu runs to her side.

FEBA (CONT'D)

These don't look too hard to climb.  
Get on top of me and I'll get us  
out.

He shakes his head frantically and attempts to pull her back.

FEBA (CONT'D)

What is it?

Pulls harder.

FEBA (CONT'D)

If we could only get rid of those  
sticks.

She touches the closest bamboo. Batu still pulling her away.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Stop! We have to try!

Batu slips and rolls backwards into a pile of bones. Feba  
bites the bamboo and pulls until it's yanked out.

FEBA (CONT'D)

See? Easy.

BATU

Batu!

He points out the big JUMPING SPIDER on her paw. Composed,  
she shakes her paw, but the spider leaps to her face. A few  
frantic swings and she gets it off.

Panic strikes her as more spiders come out of the hole made  
by the bamboo. Dozens.

BATU (CONT'D)

BATU!

Feba thinks quickly, and climbs.

FEBA

Get on! NOW!

Feba leaps to the next stick. Rips it off. Spiders come out.  
Batu runs towards her, a sea of spiders under his feet.

She swats a few spiders off her head, slips back, powers through, climbs higher and higher. Batu leaps on top of her.

She keeps climbing, removing bamboos in her path. Hundreds of spiders swarm her. One of them bites her back. She winces.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Almost there...

Feba pulls the last bamboo and a stream of spiders flood out. She plugs the hole with her paw, and with enormous effort makes it to the top.

They both shake the remaining spiders off. They PANT.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
He lied to me. It was a trap. And I believed him...

BATU  
Batu?

FEBA  
He said there's no way out of --

She stops. Examines Batu.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Batu, how did you get inside the maze?

CUT TO:

EXT. MAZE - NARROW PATH - DAY

Batu rushes through a winding corridor, Feba behind him.

FEBA  
Wait! WAIT!

He runs faster, on a mission. He stops as Feba catches up. He shows her a TINY CRACK in the wall. He easily slips through and signals her to do the same.

EXT. OUTSIDE MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Feba squeezes through a small crack in an icy wall, followed by Batu. She looks around.

FEBA  
We're on the other side!

She smiles. Batu runs ahead, signaling her to follow him. She pauses for a moment and looks back at the maze.

EXT. MAZE - TRACKS END - DAY

Usha faces her end. Migoi slowly approaches.

GARVESH  
(to Migoi)  
I told you I got a big one for you!  
Have you had leopard before?

MIGOI  
LEOPARD!

His voice is a RUMBLE.

USHA  
Migoi, listen to me.

GARVESH  
He can't hear you. I've been  
starving him. He loses control when  
he's hungry.

USHA  
I can help you. I know how you  
feel.

GARVESH  
Pathetic cat! Your begging only  
makes your end sadder!

Migoi gets closer.

USHA  
I was also alone for a long time.  
Too long. You lost your family. I  
did too.

GARVESH  
Don't listen to her lies!

USHA  
But I can get us out of here.

He stops.

MIGOI  
OUT?

GARVESH

What are you doing?! Kill her now!  
Or I'll starve you for twice as  
long, you giant baboon!

Migoi cowers. He proceeds towards Usha. There's no escape.

USHA

Migoi, please --

FEBA (O.S.)

MIGOI!

A bone hits the ground, rolls away from Feba's feet. Migoi turns to her.

FEBA (CONT'D)

I am Feba, Queen of the Stone  
Wolves, Defender of the Moon.

USHA

(to herself)

Oh no.

FEBA

If you come any closer I'll eat  
you!

Feba comes closer to Migoi and stares him down.

USHA

(whispers)

What are you doing?

Feba ignores her. Migoi is confused. He spots the large bone on the ground and ROARS, spit flies everywhere.

FEBA

That's from the monkey I ate  
earlier. He was much bigger than  
you. Bow now, or you'll be next.

The moment hangs. Then Usha slowly bows.

MIGOI

QUEEN?

GARVESH

What are you doing?! She's a child!

Migoi snaps again, angry. He charges Feba and stops an inch from her face. She doesn't waiver. He gets scared again and slowly bows. Garvesh's face turn maniacal.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
THAT'S ENOUGH! We have to eat!

Garvesh charges towards Feba, but Usha block his way. He lost this fight. He quickly backs away, scared.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
Please... I'm... I'm hungry...

USHA  
Go. Now.

He runs away, deeper into the maze. Feba smiles.

EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAINS - OUTSIDE MAZE - DAY

BOOM. The crack in the maze shakes. BOOM. Another hit cracks it open. Through the hole comes Migoi, followed by Usha and Feba. They bask in the sun. Batu pops behind a rock, shaking.

BATU  
Batu?

FEBA  
Don't be scared, they're with me.

Batu runs and climbs Feba in a flash, settling on her head. Usha turns to Migoi, questioning a winding path.

USHA  
You can go wherever you want.  
You're free.

MIGOI  
FREE.

He bows to Feba and makes his way down the path, SINGING in an unknown language.

USHA  
(cold)  
You can come with me to Sanai  
Springs. There's a safe road from  
there back to The Stone Colonies.

FEBA  
Well, I was thinking... maybe I can  
come with you, help you look for --

USHA  
I told you when I met you --

FEBA

"Leopards are alone forever and ever," yes, I remember, but you saw what I can do! I'm not going to drag you down! I can help!

USHA

Do you think this is a GAME? Think you're so clever, risking BOTH of our lives?!

FEBA

I... I saved you!

USHA

You distracted me!

FEBA

I found the exit for us!

USHA

And how did you find it?

FEBA

Wit and intuition!

Feba notices the bleeding spider-bite on her shoulder.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Might have ran into some spiders.

Batu puts his hand to cover the spider bite.

USHA

(a beat)

You're a child.

Usha scoffs and walks away.

FEBA

I thought he was trying to help...  
he told me...

(whispers)

He was lying. I get that now. But I don't have anywhere else to go.  
Please.

USHA

I'll take you to the Springs.  
You're on your own after that.

Usha walks ahead. Feba and Batu follow, sad.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - HILL - NIGHT

Duga hears BIRD CRIES. He sees a massive EAGLE CONVOCATION above him.

WIDER ANGLE shows thousands of BIRDS of all kinds. They're leaving. Wolf Officer approaches.

WOLF OFFICER  
The scout has returned.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - NIGHT

Scout reports to Duga.

WOLF SCOUT  
The Eagles --

DUGA  
I saw them. Any birds left on the mountains?

WOLF SCOUT  
Only the Vultures, but they won't talk to a wolf.  
(a beat)  
We found the missing scout group in the forest by the river. Dead.

DUGA  
Horn wounds?

TOOFAN (O.S.)  
Single horn wounds. One for each.

Toofan approaches from the shadows, TWO WOLVES by his side.

TOOFAN (CONT'D)  
Your Pack is under attack, Commander, while you sit and do nothing!

DUGA  
(snaps)  
And what would you do, Toofan?

TOOFAN  
Leave. Move the pack somewhere safer.

DUGA  
Run away? Leave the cubs behind?

TOOFAN

The cubs are dead! You saw what these monsters do. If we stay they'll pick at us one by one until we are too weak to defend ourselves, and then they'll finish us off.

DUGA

If one of those cubs was your own --

TOOFAN

I would have done what is necessary for the Pack to survive. There's no more food, and death is everywhere. If you don't do something about it, I --

DUGA

What?

TOOFAN

(a beat)

The Council will lose faith in your ability to lead us.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - DUGA'S NOOK - NIGHT

Duga enters his nook. Shein is there.

DUGA

Shein.

SHEIN

(a beat)

I'm sorry. It wasn't your fault what happened to Feba.

DUGA

Yes, it was. But I'm going to fix it.

Shein is caught off-guard by his response. Then it clicks.

SHEIN

You're going out there.

DUGA

I have to.

SHEIN

You are our leader! What if something happens to you?

DUGA

I know our Council, and I know Toofan. I am not safe here anymore. My only chance to save this Pack, as well as my own life, is to find out what's causing this.

SHEIN

I'm coming with you.

DUGA

No. I need you here. I need someone I can trust to watch over our Pack while I'm away.

She nods. They bring their foreheads together, a goodbye hug. Duga takes off into the night.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - NIGHT

A Geyser BLASTS. Mongolian THROAT SINGING echoes. A steamy pond at the center. Around it, responsible for the singing, a BAND OF PALLAS CATS (same as Batu).

In the audience are a PANDA BEAR (hitting invisible drums with bamboo), a group of small RED PANDAS (comically tackling each other), and a Himalayan MONAL PHESANT (fancy peacock) trying to lure a shy PEAHEN.

It's a nightclub. The bursting geysers keep the beat, the cats sing their tunes. A fun place to find yourself on a cold Saturday night in the Snowy Mountains.

Usha, Feba and Batu walk in. A BLACK BEAR blocks their path.

BLACK BEAR

Leopard. Wolf.

(a beat)

No killing. Safe place.

Usha nods. Batu nods with utmost seriousness. Black Bear lets them pass.

Inside, Feba overhears an old SAND FOX talking to an old MUSK DEER. Usha isn't listening.

SAND FOX

All gone! The wolves are losing hope. They were here the other day looking for them.

(MORE)

## SAND FOX (CONT'D)

Can't imagine who would hurt little  
cubs... our world is slowly  
changing, friend. First the sheep  
vanish...

Conversation fades out as Usha and Feba pass them.

## USHA

We'll stay here for the night.  
Tomorrow --

## FEBA

-- We go our separate ways, I know.

Music stops. Cat BAND LEADER sees them and rushes over.

## BAND LEADER

Batu!

Batu hides behind Feba's ears, but is obviously spotted. Band  
Leader points to him and MUMBLES, angry.

## FEBA

Hey! Leave him alone!

Band Leader ignores her, proceeds to scold Batu in Gibberish.  
Batu sadly leaps off Feba and follows him.

## FEBA (CONT'D)

Batu!

Batu sends Feba one last pathetic look, and joins the band.  
They resume performing.

## USHA

He must have gotten lost.

## FEBA

Or tried to escape.

## USHA

He's not your problem.

Feba SCOFFS at Usha in contempt and stomps away.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Edge of Sanai Springs. Music still faintly heard. A group of  
three OLD BROWN BEARS huddled around a geyser for warmth.

## USHA

I'm sorry to interrupt.

They all GROWL loudly.

OLD BEAR #1  
WHAT?

OLD BEAR #2  
Who's there?!

OLD BEAR #3  
It's a LEOPARD!

OLD BEAR #2  
A leopard?!

OLD BEAR #1  
There're no leopards around here!

The bears are blind. They shout when they speak.

OLD BEAR #2  
YOU! Come closer!

Usha gets closer.

OLD BEAR #3  
Can you tell that PANDA to stop  
with that NOISE?!

Points to a Panda DRUMMING on a rock with bamboo sticks.

OLD BEAR #3 (CONT'D)  
(to the panda)  
WILL YOU STOP IT WITH THE NOISE?!

Panda smiles. Stops.

USHA  
I have a question --

OLD BEAR #1  
You ARE a leopard, aren't you?

USHA  
Yes, I came for --

OLD BEAR #3  
I told you it was a leopard!

USHA  
I'm looking --

OLD BEAR #2  
Leopards live in Snow Rock. Is she  
looking for Snow Rock?

OLD BEAR #3  
I CAN'T HEAR HER! Are you looking  
for Snow Rock, sweetie?

USHA  
No, I'm looking for --

OLD BEAR #3  
SHE'S NOT LOOKING FOR SNOW ROCK!

OLD BEAR #2  
Oh, good! It's far!

USHA  
BEARS!

They go silent. Band's MUSIC lightly heard.

USHA (CONT'D)  
I am looking for The Seeress.  
You've been here longer than  
anyone. Do you know where can I  
find her?

They look at each other in silence.

OLD BEAR #1  
THE SEERESS!

OLD BEAR #2  
I THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD! Didn't she  
die?

OLD BEAR #1  
SHE DIDN'T DIE!

OLD BEAR #2  
Then who am I thinking of?

OLD BEAR #3  
THAT WAS KARMANIAH!

OLD BEAR #2  
YES! KARMANIAH! I LIKED HER! WHAT  
HAPPENED TO HER?

OLD BEAR #1  
SHE DIED!

OLD BEAR #2  
Oh yes. Very sad.

Hope slowly drains from Usha's face. The Panda DRUMS with the  
bamboos again, louder than before.

OLD BEAR #3  
WILL YOU STOP IT WITH THE STICKS  
YOU ROTTEN PANDA!

Panda smiles and stops.

Usha slowly walks back. As she passes the Panda, the band's  
SONG TURNS INTO A SINGLE LASTING NOTE. It's mesmerizing.  
Animals around stop and listen. Eyes get glossy. Hypnotized.

PANDA  
They can't resist the tune.

The Panda chews her bamboo. She acts slow, as if a bit drunk.

USHA  
Who?

PANDA  
Look around you. Some animals can't  
resist it. The lesser-minded ones,  
mostly.

The Monal Pheasant glares with a silly smile. The Red  
Pandas too. All frozen in place.

PANDA (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Even the old fellas.

Points to the Brown Bears, now wearing goofy smiles.

PANDA (CONT'D)  
Not me. I may be fat, but up  
here...  
(points to her head)  
The stars are all aligned.

Bites another piece of the bamboo.

PANDA (CONT'D)  
Your friend is mad at you.

Panda gestures towards Feba, who watches the band with an  
exaggerated frown.

USHA  
She's not my friend.

PANDA  
Such anger rarely comes from a  
stranger.

USHA

She's an angry wolf. And she lies a lot.

Panda LAUGHS hysterically.

PANDA

TRUTH! Now that's an idea. If truth is so important to you, then tell me... why are you looking for the Seeress?

Usha opens her mouth to speak. Panda pokes it with the Bamboo.

PANDA (CONT'D)

Uh-uh! The truth!

USHA

(a beat)

I lost my son. I was hoping the Seeress can help me find him.

PANDA

The Seeress isn't too keen on resolving family issues. Cubs running away from home and such.

USHA

He didn't run --

PANDA

But if you wish to try, I can tell you where she is.

Usha freezes.

USHA

You know where she is?

PANDA

Here's a piece of wisdom for you, honey: When looking for something truly important, never trust old male bears to tell you where to find it. She lives in Indus Forest.

USHA

Indus Forest. So that means --

PANDA

Getting past the Clearing. Yes.

Usha looks worried.

USHA

I guess she didn't want any visitors.

(a beat)

Why did you tell me?

PANDA

I saw someone who needed help, so I helped. Isn't that what one does?

Usha looks to Feba, far away. She's about to reply, but -

COUGH! The MUSICAL SINGLE NOTE BREAKS. It's Batu. He's in a coughing fit, unable sing. Hypnotized animals come out of it, annoyed.

The band members get mad at Batu. They point and scold him. Batu walks away, embarrassed, as a small rock hits his head, thrown by a band member. Feba notices.

FEBA

Hey!

Panda and Usha watch from afar.

PANDA

Go. Your friend needs you.

USHA

Thank you.

Usha takes off.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - CONTINUOUS

Feba confronts the Band.

FEBA

Stop it!

The band members aren't impressed. They throw another stone.

FEBA (CONT'D)

I said, STOP IT!

They HISS at Feba for butting in. She takes a step back, slapping the air in front of her. The cats get angrier.

ROAR! Usha stands behind Feba.

USHA

That's enough.

Her voice calm, yet firm. Crowd watches. Black Bear on guard.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Move along.

The Cats sneer and walk away. Crowd resumes its business.

FEBA  
I don't need your help.  
(turns to Batu)  
Why were they so mad at you?

Batu looks down, embarrassed. WHIMPERS quietly.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
That's why you tried to leave.

He nods and WHIMPERS some more.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
I thought your singing was great! I  
can't sing at all. Maybe you can  
teach me.

He looks up with a huge smile, and then burst into a THROAT-  
SINGING SOLO. Feba attempts to copy him.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - NIGHT

Feba lies on the ground. Batu SNORES next to her. Usha  
approaches.

USHA  
You take good care of him. He's  
lucky to have found you.

Feba looks away. Ignoring. Angry.

USHA (CONT'D)  
And...  
(a beat)  
I suppose I was lucky you were  
there. Back at the maze.

Feba looks at her. She didn't expect that.

USHA (CONT'D)  
You did save me. And you did find  
the exit. With... wit...

FEBA  
And intuition. Yes, I did.

They smile.

USHA

Why don't you want to go back home,  
Feba?

FEBA

Before I left... they only let me  
stay because my mom was our  
leader's deputy. She died when I  
was born. They think a wolf with  
white fur brings bad luck, so the  
only way I could stay is if I kept  
to the edge of camp. On lookout. My  
mom's friend watched over me.

She smiles and gazes up to the moon.

FEBA (CONT'D)

But then... it doesn't matter. I  
can't go back. I have no home  
anymore.

Usha considers the story, and is saddened.

USHA

Have you heard of the Seeress?

FEBA

A Seeress?

USHA

Yes. A truth-teller. She sees more  
than is visible.

FEBA

Is that who you're looking for?

Usha nods.

USHA

She helps those who are lost, and  
those who have lost.

(a beat)

The way there is going to be  
dangerous. If you come with me...

Feba perks up.

USHA (CONT'D)

You'll need to listen and do as I  
say.

FEBA

Does that mean --

USHA  
We'll leave first thing in the  
morning. Sleep well, Queen Feba.

Usha walks away, leaving Feba smiling.

EXT. MIGOI'S MAZE - NIGHT

The Marten Army swarms a familiar area of the maze. Marten Leader finds a few WHITE HAIRS on the ground.

MARTEN LEADER  
The cub was here. Couldn't have  
gone far. Search the maze!

GARVESH (O.S.)  
You'll spend eternity scouring this  
maze, but you will not find the cub  
you're looking for.

Garvesh creeps out of the shadows, meeker than ever.

GARVESH (CONT'D)  
She was here, though, yes... she  
was here.

The Martens swarm him like wasps and pin him to the ground.  
Marten Leader approaches slowly.

MARTEN LEADER  
Talk fast, or die slowly.

Garvesh smiles.

GARVESH  
She went to the hot springs. Got a  
big leopard with her. A tough one.

Marten Leader nods and turns to leave.

MARTEN LEADER  
Kill him.

GARVESH  
WHAT? NO! I told you where she is!

MARTEN LEADER  
And that is why you'll die quickly.

GARVESH  
NO! PLEASE! PLEASE!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Usha and Feba, with Batu on her back, reach a river.

USHA  
The Indus River leads to Indus  
Forest. We should be able to follow  
it from here.

Usha looks around her.

FEBA  
What is it?

USHA  
Rivers are a good place to find  
food. Are you hungry?

EXT. RIVER - DAY

A WILD BOAR grazes at the river-side. Feba's blue eyes pop from the grass. Usha behind her.

USHA  
Keep to slow and steady motion.

Feba takes one step. Usha signals to stop, then takes a few graceful steps herself. Feba observes and attempts to copy. She makes one graceful step, but then resumes her clumsy stomps. The boar raises its head and bolts.

FEBA  
What now?!

USHA  
Now we chase.

Usha smiles briefly and takes off chasing the boar.

BATU  
Batu?

Usha chases with intense focus. Feba struggles to keep up. The river turns, and so does the Boar. So does Usha. Feba isn't behind her. Usha notices and stops in place. She backtracks to find Feba standing by the river, frozen.

USHA  
Feba?

Usha sees what stopped Feba - THREE DEAD WOLVES on the ground. Usha tense up, looks around for the killer.

FEBA

Are they...

Usha examines them.

USHA

Did you know them?

Feba nods.

USHA (CONT'D)

I've never seen anything like it.

Usha looks worried. Batu examines the bodies with disgust.

USHA (CONT'D)

We should stay off the river.  
Whoever did this might still be  
around.

DEEP VOICE (O.S.)

He only wanders 'round at night  
time.

Usha and Feba startle. They look around for the speaker. Batu  
leaps on Feba's head.

DEEP VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

'Long as you're gone before it's  
dark, you'll be safe.

The river moves. A long scaly mouth is the source. Two eyes  
rise from the water. It's a GHARIAL (long-mouthed crocodile).

Feba jolts backwards.

GHARIAL

Didn't mean to scare ya. Not too  
many ways of coming up from the  
water without the risk of scarin'  
someone.

FEBA

I wasn't scared!

GHARIAL

That's great to hear, little wolf.  
Say...

The Gharial opens his mouth. In it, a small branch with long  
thorns, one of them stuck in his gums.

GHARIAL (CONT'D)  
Would you be so kind and help me  
get one of these pesky needles out?

USHA  
Don't get any closer, Feba. He can  
snap you in half.

Feba examines the large thorn, causing mild bleeding in the  
gums. She slowly approaches the crocodile. Usha is tense.

FEBA  
Are you gonna snap me in half?

The Gharial shakes his massive head no, water SPLASHES on  
Feba from the movement.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Promise?

He nods. SPLASHING some more.

Feba is the size of a single tooth. She gets closer as he  
opens his mouth even wider. She slowly gets inside the giant  
mouth, and slowly pulls out the thorn with her mouth.

The Gharial snaps his jaw shut as soon as Feba is back on  
land, SPLASHING with joy. Berry branch tossed to the ground.

GHARIAL  
Much better. Thank you wolf. I  
don't know why I bother with these  
fruits. But food has been hard to  
come by around here lately.  
(a beat)  
I'm sorry about your friends.

He looks to the dead wolves.

USHA  
Have you seen what did this?

GHARIAL  
(aggressive)  
I believe I was talking to the  
wolf!

Feba smiles as Usha is forced to stay quiet.

FEBA  
Have you seen what did this?

GHARIAL

Like I said, he only comes out here during nighttime. Couldn't see a thing. He stays outta the water. Scared of it. Every night he walks by the river, back and forth. Like he's guarding it, but never goes inside.

USHA

Was he alone?

Throws a contentious glance at Usha. Then turns to Feba.

GHARIAL

S'far as I heard. Took out these poor dogs by himself. Quickly, too.

Feba reexamines the dead wolves.

FEBA

Cavaliers of the Pack. Duga's champions. They're the strongest fighters in our tribe.

USHA

Yet some creature had no problem killing all three of them.

FEBA

Four. There are always four Champions.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - ENTRANCE - EVENING

A WOLF carries the BODY of another WOLF on his back. He's badly wounded and limping, barely staying awake.

A WOLF LOOKOUT spots them from afar.

WOLF LOOKOUT

THEY'RE BACK! DUGA'S BACK!

A pack of WOLF GUARDS rush to greet them. The wolf carrying Duga collapses as soon as they reach him.

Shein watches from afar as the wolves huddle around the two.

WOLF GUARD #1

He's dead.

WOLF GUARD #2  
Duga's dead!

Shein's face fill with sadness and dread.

INT. INDUS RIVER - CAVE - NIGHT

Feba lies in the cave. Batu SNORES. Usha wanders in, a branch of SEA BUCKTHORN BERRIES in her mouth. Drops it on the floor.

USHA  
Eat.

Feba takes a bite. It's VERY sour. She spits it out as red juices pour out of her mouth.

FEBA  
Ugh! Is that what the crocodile was eating??

USHA  
It's food. If you don't like it,  
You're welcome to go look for that  
boar.

Feba looks outside, takes another bite from the fruit. Makes an exaggerated sour face. Usha can't resist a tiny smile.

USHA (CONT'D)  
It's a Buckthorn Berry.

Feba attempts to grab another berry off the branch, but long sharp thorns are in her way.

FEBA  
OUCH!

USHA  
One of the only fruits that can  
survive this cold. They don't taste  
great, and they're well protected,  
but they'll keep you alive.

FEBA  
Hey, can I ask you something?

Usha chews.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
In the maze, I heard you telling  
Migoi you lost family. Who did you  
lose?

USHA  
(a beat)  
My son. Tao.

FEBA  
What happened to him?

USHA  
He was young, not much older than  
you. One day I woke up and... he  
was gone.

FEBA  
So he's still out there.

USHA  
I've been looking for him since.

FEBA  
Is that why you're looking for the  
Seeress?

Usha nods.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
What are you gonna do after you  
find him?

USHA  
I... I haven't thought about that.

FEBA  
Go back home together? Maybe the  
three of us can start our own Pack!

USHA  
Leopards don't live in packs.

FEBA  
So what's the point of having a  
family if you can't stay with them?

USHA  
Go to sleep, Feba. We have a long  
day ahead of us.

FEBA  
I'll never understand leopards.

Feba reluctantly lies down and YAWNS.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Usha, do you think the Seeress can  
help me find a new home?

Usha is already sleeping. Feba closes her eyes too.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - HILL - SUNSET

Toofan addresses the entire Wolves Tribe. They bicker.

WOLF #1

This is getting worse and worse!

WOLF #2

Where are our cubs?

WOLF #3

They're gonna kill us one by one!

WOLF #1

What are we going to do without  
Duga?

TOOFAN

WOLVES!

They quiet down.

TOOFAN (CONT'D)

The Stone Lands are changing. First  
it was the sheep that vanished.  
Then the goats and the tahrs. The  
ibex and the argali. You all saw  
the birds in the sky, looking for a  
new home. And so must we.

Nervous CHATTER in the crowd.

TOOFAN (CONT'D)

Duga tried to keep us safe, and I  
will carry that mission onwards.  
But I fear staying here is no  
longer possible.

The crowd is shocked. Among them is Shein, angry.

WOLF #1

What about our cubs?

TOOFAN

We have done all that we can. By  
doing so we have lost more brothers  
and sisters. All we can do now is  
try to move on. Build a new life  
somewhere else.

SHEIN (O.S.)

Coward!

Silence in the crowd.

SHEIN (CONT'D)  
You'll have us running? Hiding?

TOOFAN  
Shein. The safety of our --

SHEIN  
Your leader died trying to find  
your cubs! He gave his life for all  
of you! We owe him to find who's  
responsible for this!

The crowd WHISPERS. Toofan restrains himself.

TOOFAN  
Duga's death was unfortunate. But a  
single life isn't worth more than  
the survival of the pack. Duga knew  
that --

SHEIN  
Don't pretend to understand what  
Duga knew.

TOOFAN  
SHEIN!

Silence. She restrains herself and leaves.

EXT. WOLVES DEN - OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

Shein storms out towards the den border. She's spotted by a  
Wolf Scout. A tense moment.

WOLF SCOUT  
I will give you until morning. Then  
I must report you.

SHEIN  
Thank you.

WOLF SCOUT  
Where will you go?

SHEIN  
I'm going to find who did this.

She takes off.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - END - DAY

Two small figures, Usha and Feba, overlook a far away forest.

USHA  
Indus Forest is past this Clearing.

A steep mountain full of ledges spirals towards the forest.  
Under it - a massive clearing, completely white with snow.

USHA (CONT'D)  
We're going to have to climb. Stick  
to the rocks.

Usha leaps to the first ledge and keeps climbing.

FEBA  
Uh... climb?

Feba follows. Wolves aren't the amazing mountaineers leopards  
are, and it shows.

A few more leaps. Feba lands on a ledge, almost slips. Batu  
tries to stabilize on her head.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Why can't we just walk through the  
snow down there?

USHA  
It's too dangerous. Keep going,  
you're doing great!

FEBA  
(to herself)  
I'm doing great... doing great.

Another leap. Usha is further ahead. Feba approaches a  
challenging vault.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Uhh... Usha! I don't think I can  
make this jump.

Usha turns back, sees Feba frozen in place. Feba looks down.  
A few pebbles roll off. Scary.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
I can't... I can't do it.

Usha goes back a few ledges, gets closer to Feba.

USHA  
I know this is scary, Feba, but  
there's no other way but up.

Feba looks down, then at the ledge in front of her.

FEBA  
 (to herself)  
 No other way but up...

Feba focuses and lunges. She barely makes it, hangs on the ledge. She tries lifting herself, but slips. She tries again. Makes it. She's safe on the rock.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
 I did it!

The rock breaks in half. Falls with Feba on it. Batu springs to another rock at the last moment. Usha GASPS.

FEBA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 USHA!

USHA  
 FEBA!

Feba softens her fall by hanging to a few ledges on the way down, but ends up in the Clearing.

She lands in the soft, deep snow. Usha is high above, horrified. Feba burrows herself out, unhurt.

FEBA  
 (to herself)  
 That wasn't so bad.

USHA  
 FEBA! DON'T MOVE!

Usha lunges from ledge to ledge until she's as close as she can get to Feba while staying on the rocks above.

FEBA  
 Don't worry! I'm --

USHA  
 STOP!

WOOSH. A shadow zooms above Feba. She freezes in place.

USHA (CONT'D)  
 (calm voice)  
 Don't. Move. And no matter what,  
 don't look up.

Feba's eyes dart. Head stays still.

USHA (CONT'D)  
 Keep your eyes to the ground.

From above, Feba is invisible against the white snow. A FLURRY OF WINGS flashes. Searching. SHRIEKS.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Now, slowly, start walking towards  
the forest.

Feba takes a slow step. Then another. Usha walks the rocky ledges above her. Batu behind her.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Good. Keep it slow.

A SHADOW circles above her.

A few paces in, Feba notices a MARMOT walking next to her. He's covered in snow. Uses it as camouflage. He passes her.

She spots another one, and then another. They all journey together, covered in snow.

USHA (CONT'D)  
You're almost there.

One of the Marmots slips and sheds some snow. From above, he's now a BROWN SMUDGE.

The chilling CRIES of VULTURES echo through the valley. The marmot panics and rushes. Sheds more snow. Almost all of it. Makes a run for it as the SHRIEKS get louder.

USHA (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Get down. Now.

Feba listens. Flattens herself into the snow.

Like homing missiles, CINEREOUS VULTURES swarm the marmot. Dozens of them. They create a giant pile of birds around it.

Feba witnesses the horrifying display and GASPS.

A Vulture sticks its head out from the pile. SNIFFS the air. Feba closes her mouth. Vulture resumes eating.

The vultures take off and leave behind nothing but RED SNOW.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Keep moving.

Feba frozen. Shakes her head no.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Feba, you can do this.

A SHRIEK from above. Feba's eyes dart up, head stays down.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Keep walking. Don't look up.

She takes a step. Another. Shadows circle above her. She freezes. Resists looking up.

USHA (CONT'D)  
One step at a time.

Feba takes a few steps. Gets the hang of it. Feels confident. Then she slips. Vultures SHRIEK. Batu SQUEALS.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Feba!

Without a thought Feba looks up at the sky. Usha GASPS.

Feba is now a pair of BLUE EYES against the white snow. Easy to spot. The vultures flock towards her.

Feba attempts to run for it as Usha follows from the rocks.

USHA (CONT'D)  
FEBA!

Feba runs. The Vultures strike. Usha leaps at Feba and burrows them both in the snow.

BATU  
BATU!!!

The swarm lands on the spot Feba occupied a moment earlier. They frantically poke their beaks at the ground. SCREECHING.

Batu watches in suspense.

A thin RED TRAIL begins to spiral away from the swarm, towards the Forest.

A CLOSER LOOK shows a bump that plows through the snow, leaving traces of blood behind.

One Vulture notices it and leaves the swarm. He follows the bump, puzzled. Then notices it's Usha's back and SHRIEKS.

The swarm stops and flocks towards the vulture, who now SCREECHES even more. Usha rises from the snow. Feba under her, safe.

USHA  
GO!

They both leap from the snow and charge towards the forest.  
The vultures chase.

They almost make contact, as Usha and Feba lunge to the  
forest entrance, and make it inside. The vultures fly away.

EXT. INDUS FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Usha and Feba PANT. They look back at the Clearing. Vultures  
fly away in the distance. Feba is excited.

FEBA

We made it! I ran so fast!

Usha checks their surroundings. She paces deeper into the  
forest as Feba follows.

USHA

We should find cover. We're still  
exposed here.

FEBA

This was amazing! They almost...

(a beat)

You could have died.

(a beat)

For me!

No response.

FEBA (CONT'D)

You know what that makes us...

USHA

(to herself)

Don't say a pa --

FEBA

A pack!

Usha SIGHS.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Feba's Firewolves! Feba's...

Feral... BEASTS!

USHA

Stop...

FEBA

Nonono... THE FEBAS!

BATU  
(imitates in his language)  
AH - BATUS!

Usha sighs. Feba thinks for a moment. Jokes aside.

FEBA  
What is it with the whole "leopards  
are alone" thing?

USHA  
What do you mean?

FEBA  
Do you spend your whole life by  
yourself?

USHA  
Not all of it. I had a sister and a  
mother when I was a cub.

FEBA  
And what happened?

USHA  
When my mother decided I was ready,  
she left. One day, I woke up and  
she was gone. I never saw her  
again.

Feba stares at Usha in disbelief.

FEBA  
That's the saddest thing I ever  
heard.

USHA  
It's not sad, it's what we do!

Feba tries to hide her shock.

FEBA  
(whispers to Batu)  
This explains a lot.

Batu rolls his eyes in agreement.

BATU  
(whispers)  
Batu...

Usha winces and HISSES in pain.

FEBA  
What's wrong?

USHA  
I'm...

Usha collapses. Feba GASPS.

FEBA  
Usha! Usha!

Feba rushes over and notices Usha's back is full of gashes.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Usha! Get up! Please! I don't...  
(looks around)  
I don't know... what do I do...

She's all alone in the dark Forest.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - NIGHT

Quiet. Black Bear on guard. The Marten Leader slowly approaches. Black Bear STOMPS his foot to block him.

BLACK BEAR  
Rodent. No killing. Safe place.

MARTEN LEADER  
There's no reason for concern,  
friend. Me and a few of my friends  
are simply looking for someone.  
Would you mind if we came in and  
ask around?

Black Bear notices an endless sea of EYES leer from the trees around camp. It's the Marten Army. Hundreds of them.

BLACK BEAR  
Safe place.

The Bear STOMPS his feet on the ground.

MARTEN LEADER  
Safe place?

Marten Leader climbs Black Bear so he's in front of his face.

MARTEN LEADER (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
The Snowlands have no such thing.

Dozens of martens lunge at Black Bear's legs, cause him to collapse to the ground.

Marten Leader jumps off and enters the Springs as more martens swarm Black Bear, keeping him on the ground.

The crowd is silent. Scared.

MARTEN LEADER (CONT'D)  
No one needs to die tonight,  
friends. I only need the wolf cub.  
Tell me where she is and we'll  
leave quietly.

The old Sand Fox gets up.

SAND FOX  
We're not scared, rat! Sanai  
Springs is a Haven for all animals!

Before the Sand Fox can say another word he is grabbed by numerous Martens and dragged towards the Marten Leader.

SAND FOX (CONT'D)  
Hey! Get off me! You can't do this  
here! This is a Safe Place! BEAR!  
GET THEM OFF!

Black Bear tries to get up, but he is pinned to the ground. The Martens drag the fox towards one of the geysers. They pin his head against a geyser hole.

MARTEN LEADER  
We'll start with you then.

SAND FOX  
No! NO! Please! I take it back! I  
didn't mean --

A Geyser BLASTS nearby.

MARTEN LEADER  
These things are dangerously  
unpredictable. They can go off at  
any moment.

Sand Fox struggles but can't escape. Another Geyser EXPLODES.

MARTEN LEADER (CONT'D)  
So tell me, old friend, have you  
seen a white wolf cub?

The geyser starts to shake. Animals around GASP.

SAND FOX

I saw her! She was here! She had a  
Leopard with her. They left the  
next day! That's all I saw.

MARTEN LEADER

Left where?

SAND FOX

I... I didn't see! I...

PANDA

They went to Snow Rock.

The Marten Leader spots the panda as she chews bamboo in the shadows. He signals his soldiers to let the Fox go, a moment before the geyser BLASTS. Fox PANTS in relief.

MARTEN LEADER

Is that so? And why would a wolf go  
to Snow Rock?

PANDA

I didn't ask.

The Marten's eyes narrow. He stares at the panda.

MARTEN LEADER

You are lying.

(a beat)

But you do know where they went.  
Take her to the geysers!

A Marten leaps at the panda. She swats him off with her Bamboo.

OLD BEAR #1 (O.S.)

The Seeress!

The Marten Leader looks to the bears.

OLD BEAR #1 (CONT'D)

She was looking for The Seeress.  
Now, please, leave us in peace.

Marten Leader thinks for a moment. He then turns to one of the martens.

MARTEN LEADER

Tell Sherab. Mother will want to  
know about this.

The marten nods and takes off.

EXT. INDUS FOREST - NIGHT

Lost and scared, Feba lies next to Usha's unconscious body.

FEBA  
(whispers)  
And the frog told the leopard that  
he can jump higher than him. No,  
jump LONGER! But the Leopard was  
laughing...

Feba searches around in panic. It's too dark to see beyond  
the closest tree.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Laughing and laughing at the little  
Frog... and the...

She sees EYES looking at her from the trees.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
The Frog told the Leopard he'll eat  
him...

Monkey GRUNTS and SQUEALS heard from the trees. Feba lowers  
herself as much as she can, but it's no use. GREY LANGUR  
MONKEYS drop from the trees, one by one. They approach her.

The last to drop is KAHN. The fiercest of them all. He's  
missing one arm, and holds a sharp bamboo like a sword.

He gets close to Feba. SNIFFS Usha. Gestures his friends.  
They surround Usha and lift her.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Stop! Who are you?

Feba gets up and rushes towards them. Kahn GRUNTS as he  
blocks her with his bamboo, sharp-end pointed at her. The  
monkeys march Usha's body into the forest.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Where are you taking her! Wait!

They don't respond. Feba reluctantly follows.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - MORNING

Shein examines the bodies of the three DEAD WOLVES. She  
SNIFFS the air and takes off, sprinting up the river.

EXT. INDUS FOREST - NOON

Feba follows the monkeys carrying Usha. They bend and coil around different paths as the forest thickens.

Without notice, the monkeys spread their bamboo-holding arms to hit wooden BELL-SHAPED items hanging from the trees. It creates a gentle DRUMMING noise. Feba rushes to Kahn.

FEBA

What are they doing?

KAHN

Telling Popo we are here.

FEBA

Who's Popo?

Kahn scowls at her.

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - COMMON AREA - NIGHT

A ring-shaped clearing, surrounded by trees, with a massive TREE TRUNK as the ring's diamond.

The camp is bustling. Some MONKEYS sleep on trees, some groom each other, a few YOUNGLINGS play, and some stand guard.

Kahn and his entourage enter the main camp area. Monkeys around them BANG on similar bell-shaped items. They all watch as Kahn's group carry a leopard, with a wolf cub and a little cat behind them.

FEBA

(whispers)

What is this place?

The Monkeys lay Usha on the ground at the center of camp.

Then the crowd goes silent. An extremely old female langur Monkey, POPO, comes out of the giant tree trunk and approaches them.

KAHN

Popo!

He nods as Popo passes him. She lays a gentle hand on his shoulder, then leans to inspect Usha.

Popo circles Usha, lifts her paw, puts an ear against her chest. She signals, and the monkeys lift up and carry Usha to the tree trunk.

FEBA

Wait! Where are you taking her?

Feba runs after Usha. Popo lifts her old hand in the air.

POPO

Stay. Do not worry.

Kahn blocks Feba from following. She looks at him, scared.

FEBA

What is she going to do to her?

CUT TO:

INT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - LATER

Usha GASPS in pain, her eyes snap open.

POPO

QUIET! Stay still!

Usha lies inside a massive circular wooden compound. Next to her Popo rubs HERBAL MIXTURE on one of her wounds.

USHA

Where am I?

POPO

In a moment, we'll talk. Now - stay still.

Usha looks around. The trunk is empty, two GUARDS at the entryway. Popo finishes her work, Usha WINCES in pain.

POPO (CONT'D)

Done! Now stand.

Usha slowly gets on her feet.

USHA

What is this place? Where is --

POPO

Your small wolf is waiting outside with her smaller cat.

Usha takes a painful unstable step, testing her strength.

POPO (CONT'D)

Not often do you see a cat and a wolf travel together.

USHA  
Yes. And this is why.

She limps, examines her wounds. She looks at Popo.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Who are you? What is this place?

POPO  
I am Popo. Matron of this tribe.

USHA  
I'm U --

POPO  
Usha and Feba. Yes, I heard about  
you.

Migoi bursts into the trunk.

USHA  
Migoi?!

Migoi GRUNTS and dashes to Usha with a huge smile. Kahn  
arrives behind him.

MIGOI  
FREE!

POPO  
After you set him free, Kahn found  
Migoi and brought him here.

KAHN  
Migoi told me a leopard and a wolf  
freed him.

USHA  
How did you find us?

Usha looks at Popo. Something clicks.

USHA (CONT'D)  
You're... The Seeress.

Feba busts in, sprints to Usha. Guards try to block her but  
she goes past them.

FEBA  
Usha! You're alive! Migoi is here!  
Are you --

Usha faces Feba with a smile full of relief.

USHA  
I'm fine. I'm... absolutely fine.

CUT TO:

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - COMMON AREA - NIGHT

Spirits are high. Some monkeys dance, some eat, some brawl. Batu attempts to blow a dart from a bamboo while monkeys watch and LAUGH. Feba lies close to Usha, both watching Batu.

FEBA  
You're finally gonna find your son.  
I'm happy for you, Usha.

Feba forces a smile.

USHA  
And you'll get to talk to her too!  
I'm sure she'll help you find a new home.

Feba's smile fades.

FEBA  
Maybe I can come with you. Help you look for him, you know?

USHA  
(a beat)  
I'd like that.

Feba's face lights up. Popo comes out of her trunk and quietly signals Usha to come in.

INT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - CONTINUOUS

Usha and Popo are alone in the trunk.

POPO  
You feel better?

USHA  
Yes. Thank you.

Popo puts the herbs in nooks on the trunk's walls.

USHA (CONT'D)  
I was looking for you. I have --

POPO  
You must rest. You are still wounded.

USHA  
I... have a --

POPO  
You have a question. I know, that is why they all look for me. The questions, I didn't mind. It's the answers that proved dangerous. Some don't like what they hear.

USHA  
I'm look --

POPO  
You are looking for your son.

Usha's mouth stays open.

POPO (CONT'D)  
I am the Seeress, you know.

USHA  
I... yes. Do you know where he is?

POPO  
You saved one of our own, so I will answer your question. But answers are a tricky thing. Once I give it to you, you cannot give it back.

USHA  
Please, I want to know. What happened to my son?

POPO  
You are in pain. I have seen what happens when pain takes over.

USHA  
Just tell me! Please.

Popo sighs. Takes a deep breath.

POPO  
I cannot tell you. But I can help you see.

She puts her hand on Usha's head.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOW ROCK - OUTSIDE USHA'S CAVE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Usha overlooks the sprawling mountains in distress.

USHA  
TAO!

CUT TO:

INT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - NIGHT

Usha's eyes are shut. Feba quietly enters the Trunk, unseen.

USHA  
I remember this! But I need to see  
where he --

POPO  
Not where. Why!

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOW ROCK - USHA'S CAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Usha and TAO argue inside the home cave.

TAO  
But I'm ready!

USHA  
That is not for you to decide!

TAO  
What else do I need to do, mom?!

CUT TO:

INT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - NIGHT

Popo's hand remains on Usha's head. Her eyes closed.

USHA  
What is this?

POPO  
You couldn't let him go. Still  
can't.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOW ROCK - USHA'S CAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Usha is asleep. Tao sneaks out of the cave.

POPO (V.O.)  
So he left.

CUT TO:

INT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - NIGHT

Usha opens her eyes in shock. Popo takes her hand off. Usha struggles not to fall, she backs away and storms out, passing Feba without noticing her.

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - COMMON AREA

Usha paces through the camp, blazing with anger. She approaches the camp's exit. Feba's after her.

FEBA

Usha!

Usha can't hear her. Feba catches up to her.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Usha, wait! Where are you going?

USHA

I'm leaving.

FEBA

(perplexed)

Let me just get Batu...

USHA

No. You're not coming with me.

FEBA

What?

USHA

I'm going back home.

FEBA

I'm going with you! You said --

USHA

You can't go with me!

FEBA

Why?!

USHA

I'm a leopard! I live alone! I can't be the one teaching you how the world works!

FEBA

I didn't ask you to teach --

USHA  
I did more than enough for you.  
You'll have to figure out the rest  
on your own.

FEBA  
(whispers)  
I don't want a teacher --

USHA  
I am not your mother, Feba!

The final punch in the gut. Feba stares at Usha, bewildered.  
Her eyes sparkle.

USHA (CONT'D)  
(trembling)  
This was a mistake... all of it.

Usha turns from her and leaves camp.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

Usha leaves the INDUS FOREST. Not looking back.

She arrives at the ROCKS spiraling above the SNOW CLEARING.  
She sprints, lunges from ledge to ledge with fury.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - NIGHT

She runs along the river. Night time or not, she doesn't  
care. Dozens of Gharial EYES pop up from the river.

EXT. SANAI SPRINGS - NIGHT

Usha enters, PANTING. Black Bear isn't there. Geysers are  
unattended and the steaming springs are deserted.

A flash of lightning reveals a FIGURE at the spring's center.  
Usha approaches the figure, bewildered. As she gets closer we  
see Usha's mother NISHA. A mature and stern snow leopard.

NISHA  
What are you doing, Usha?

USHA  
(a beat)  
Mom?

NISHA  
You knew he didn't run away. He was  
old enough to have his own cubs.

USHA

I was going to leave him when he was ready.

NISHA

Stop hiding behind your lies, Usha. You have always been soft. I tried best I could to make a Rock out of you. But you keep breaking. Taking another cub under your wing --

USHA

I didn't take her under my wing! I left her and I will never see her again!

NISHA

(a beat)

Good. Stop fighting who you are, Usha, or you'll never be at peace.

A flash of lightning and Nisha is gone. In her place, a ROCK, vaguely shaped like a leopard. Usha is alone in the rain.

PANDA (O.S.)

She's in danger.

Panda sits against a rock in the dark, badly hurt. Usha rushes towards her.

USHA

What happened here? Are you --

PANDA

(coughs)

They're looking for her. Your wolf. They know she went to the Seeress.

USHA

Who's looking for her?

The Panda is barely conscious. Not focused.

PANDA

H... have you seen my bamboo? I think I lost it.

Usha stares sadly at the dying Panda. She finds the BROKEN BAMBOO on the ground and brings it to her. The Panda holds it gently, smiles, and closes her eyes.

In the corner of her eye, Usha spots a fresh Sea-Buckthorn Berry branch. She goes near it, smells it. She takes another look at the leopard-shaped rock and scowls.

Anger and sadness turn to determination. She takes off.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

Usha runs back as fast as she can, with a new sense of purpose. Her injuries hurt. Blood slowly flows from her back.

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - LOOKOUT - NIGHT

MONKEY SCOUT hangs from a tree. He sees something in the distance. He quickly leaps to another branch and hits a WOODEN BELL repeatedly with a stick.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - NIGHT

Shein follows the river. She hears a movement in the grass. Then a GROWL. She quickly hides behind a rock and listens.

BEAST #1 (O.S.)  
Mother is angry.

BEAST #2 (O.S.)  
They should have the white cub soon.

BEAST #1 (O.S.)  
The Blood Moon is almost --

BEAST #2 (O.S.)  
QUIET!

They stop moving. Shein holds her breath.

BEAST #1 (O.S.)  
I smell it too. More wolves?

Shein sees their large horse-shaped shadows approach. Then a third beast comes from the woods. We know his voice.

SHERAB (O.S.)  
Brothers! Mother wants everyone back! The ceremonies are about to begin!

They GRUNT and thunder up the river. A few moments pass and Shein comes out from hiding. She goes after them.

EXT. INDUS FOREST - NIGHT

Usha reaches the path that leads to Popo's Camp. She sees the WOODEN BELLS. No monkeys around.

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - COMMON AREA - NIGHT

Usha rushes into the empty camp.

BATU

Batu!

Usha spots Batu on a tree, hiding.

USHA

Batu! Where is she? FEBA!

KAHN (O.S.)

She was taken.

Kahn is perched on a rock.

USHA

Why didn't you help her?!

POPO

She didn't let us help her.

Popo comes out of her Tree Trunk.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNKNOWN ROAD - NIGHT

Feba is led on a path. Martens surround her. The Marten Leader in the front. No fear in her eyes. Only sadness.

POPO (V.O.)

She didn't want us getting hurt.

She went without a fight.

They reach a cliff.

MARTEN LEADER

Stop. We wait here.

He stares at the cliff. Waiting.

FEBA

Who are we waiting for?

CUT TO:

INT. POPO'S CAMP - COMMON AREA - NIGHT

Usha, Kahn and Popo in the center of camp.

USHA

Where did they take her?

POPO  
I do not know where, but I know  
who.

USHA  
Who?

KAHN  
Umanga. The rodents work for her.

USHA  
Who's Umanga?

POPO  
There comes a time when a Seer must  
find their replacement. I thought  
Umanga was the one. But I made a  
mistake.

USHA  
What does she want with Feba?

POPO  
(a beat)  
Come. I'll show you.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNKNOWN ROAD - NIGHT

Feba spots someone coming over the edge cliff. A small female  
Himalayan sheep named MYO leaps onto the cliff. Feba can't  
hide her surprise.

FEBA  
(whispers)  
A sheep...

MYO  
Wonderful night, isn't it?

Her voice is beautiful, soft.

MYO (CONT'D)  
Stay away from her, rodents! Did  
they hurt you, my love?

The martens begrudgingly stand back.

MARTEN LEADER  
We didn't touch her, Myo. We said  
we'll bring her here, safe.

MYO

You must be Feba. The White Cub. We waited for you for quite some time. I hear you got lost in the mountains. Is that true?

Feba doesn't answer.

MYO (CONT'D)

There's nothing wrong with being lost. My name is Myo. Would you like to come with me?

MARTEN LEADER

She's not going anywhere until we get what we were promised.

MYO

Don't speak to me like one of your rats, vermin!

MARTEN LEADER

Sherab promised us that if we deliver the cub --

SHERAB (O.S.)

Your reward is waiting for you at the Grotto.

A large figure approaches behind Myo. It's Sherab, and we finally get to see him. A gigantic ARGALI Sheep (wild mountain sheep) with one huge horn. The other one is missing.

The martens GROWL, but slowly pour out of the cliff.

Feba GASPS as she looks at Sherab.

FEBA

(whispers)

One horn...

MYO

Come here, my love. Please excuse Sherab's less-than-comforting presence. He is only here to watch over you until we get back.

FEBA

Where are we going?

MYO

You're scared, aren't you, child?  
(a beat)

MYO (CONT'D)

You mustn't be scared, dear. We  
love all children of the mountains.  
You're not afraid of love, are you?

FEBA

Not usually. The way you say it  
does creep me out, though.

Myo's smile spasms, then reverts back.

MYO

Come. Mother is waiting for you.

FEBA

Mother?

MYO

Our Mother. Umanga.

CUT TO:

EXT. POPO'S CAMP - TREE TRUNK - NIGHT

Popo opens a tiny old stump which serves as a box. Usha and Kahn watch. Popo opens the box to see a RED SAPRIA FLOWER in it. It's fully bloomed.

POPO

The Sapria flower only blooms when  
a Blood Moon approaches.

USHA

A Blood Moon?

POPO

Have you heard of the Blood Moon  
ritual?

USHA

You mean --

KAHN

Bring the dead back to life.

POPO

Very dark kind of incantation. When  
an animal dies, it is usually a  
part of nature's balance. A wolf  
hunts a sheep so they can eat. A  
leopard slips from a cliff, and  
dies from the fall.

(MORE)

POPO (CONT'D)

But when an animal is killed out of hate, or vengeance, or even love, its death disrupts nature's balance, and can be undone.

KAHN

For a price.

USHA

What price?

POPO

This ritual is about restoring nature's balance. When a Blood Moon occurs, the blood of the disrupter must be spilled.

USHA

The blood of... she's going to sacrifice Feba?

POPO

Umanga was always curious about the Blood Moon Ritual. When I refused showing her how it's done she changed, she turned against me. I haven't seen her since. She must have deciphered the ritual herself.

USHA

But why Feba?

POPO

That, I admit, I don't know.

USHA

Aren't you supposed to be the Seeress?

Kahn frowns. Popo smiles, sadly.

POPO

Umanga knows the Ways of the Seer. Seeing into her intentions is something I cannot do.

USHA

So what can we do?

POPO

We must go after her.

KAHN

Popo! You cannot --

POPO

I am done running from my mistakes,  
old friend, as they always seem to  
find me. This is a journey I must  
see through.

KAHN

Then I will see it with you.

They nod to each other.

USHA

I'm ready when you are.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - BORDER - DAWN

Myo leads Feba through a narrow valley. They reach the entrance. Through it, Feba witnesses the grandeur of the KINGDOM. A massive amphitheater of rocks, littered with thousands of sheep, ibexes, tahrs and argali.

In the center, the missing WOLF CUBS are held captive. Feba grasps her situation. She is scared. Myo leads Feba through the cacophonous crowd. Feba studies her surroundings.

FEBA

I heard all the sheep were gone.

MYO

Gone? Not at all! We've been living  
here, together. Since Mother came  
along, we stopped worrying about  
being hunted. She keeps us safe.

Feba spots the wolf cubs through the crowd. Then the crowd goes silent. Myo halts in place.

MYO (CONT'D)

(whispers)

She's here.

Slow heavy STOMPS are heard from the distance. The sheep make way, red-sea-style, to create a path for UMANGA to cross.

Feba spots Umanga's giant FIGURE as she approaches. As she gets closer we can finally see her -

A giant ancient MARKHOR (a large goat with screw-shaped horns), twice the size of the largest beast there. Her horns twist and curl in front of her face, SNAKES coil around them. HISSING. She reaches terrified Feba and examines her.

UMANGA  
Come closer, child.

Feba freezes. Myo nudges her closer. Umanga smells her face.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
Beautiful. Simply beautiful. My  
daughter is beautiful too. Would  
you like to meet her?

Feba, still in shock, remains silent.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HER?

Her voice turns maniacal and unnatural. Her eyes flash RED.

FEBBA  
Y... yes! Yes.

Umanga smiles, calmly.

UMANGA  
Soon. You will meet her soon. Myo,  
Put her with the others.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - DAY

Usha sprints along the river. Migoi next to her, with Popo sitting on his shoulders. Batu and Kahn run behind them.

POPO  
You blame yourself.

USHA  
If I haven't left her there --

POPO  
Guilt is a crooked road, my friend,  
and it does not go in a line, but  
in a circle.

USHA  
How do you get out of that circle?

POPO  
With humility. Realizing there is  
very little in this world we can  
control, if any.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - UPPER CLIFF

Shein scouts the Kingdom, taking in the sight of the horde of sheep around the rocky amphitheater. She spots the wolf cubs.

SHEIN  
(whisper)  
The cubs.

She turns back.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - DAY

Feba is thrown into an alcove guarded by an ARGALI SHEEP (large horned sheep). They are the warriors of the tribe.

In the alcove are the other WOLF CUBS, about a dozen of them, including Tashi and Geriel. They look at Feba like she dropped from outer-space. They WHISPER as she enters.

WOLF CUB #1  
It's that white wolf!

WOLF CUB #2  
What is she doing here?

TASHI  
She's bad luck!

GERIEL  
Yeah, things have been going really great for us so far.

TASHI  
Shut up, Geriel!

Feba remains in her corner as the others stare at her.

EXT. SHERAB'S GROTTO - DAY

The martens enter a dark alcove. In it are dozens of DEAD SHEEP scattered on mounds of snow. They are about to feast.

MARTEN LEADER  
Wait. Something isn't right.

The ravenous martens ignore him and rush towards their meal. The first marten reaches a sheep. The sheep raises its head from the snow, revealing MASSIVE HORNS. It's no harmless sheep. It's an ARGALI WARRIOR. One by one, the sheep emerge, with more coming out from the mounds of snow they hid under.

MARTEN LEADER (CONT'D)  
NO! NO!!! SHERAB!

He turns to the entrance, and watches a boulder slowly block it with Sherab's silhouette behind it.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - DAY

Shein runs along the river when she hears someone. She hides behind a tree.

USHA (O.S.)  
This is where the bodies were. It  
has to be the right way.

KAHN (O.S.)  
I don't see any bodies.

USHA (O.S.)  
They were here! Feba recognized  
them. They must have --

Shein comes out of her hiding. They all freeze.

SHEIN  
Did you say Feba was here?

USHA  
Who are you?

SHEIN  
How do you know her?

USHA  
Who are you?!

A beat.

SHEIN  
I'm Shein. I'm a member of Feba's  
Pack. I found her and the other  
cubs. They are well guarded. I'm  
going back to get help. I'll be  
back with the other wolves by  
tomorrow.

POPO  
Feba will be dead by tomorrow. If  
you know where they are, I suggest  
you take us there now or she will  
not make it through the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - UPPER BORDER - DAY

Shein and Usha's posse scout the Kingdom's border.

USHA

Did you see where they were holding them?

SHEIN

It's a circular alcove at the deepest part of their camp. There's a lot of sheep between them and us.

KAHN

What about that boulder? Migoi can push it down. It will crush them.

He points to a massive BOULDER at the edge of a cliff.

SHEIN

A boulder this big will create an avalanche. The cubs could get crushed as well. It's too dangerous.

USHA

What if we sneak from the back?

SHEIN

There's no entrance on the other side.

USHA

Then we make one.

She looks at Migoi. He smiles, clueless.

EXT/INT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - DAY

Feba sits alone. Hopeless. Geriel approaches.

GERIEL

They don't like it when we scatter. You should come sit with us.

FEBA

I don't care. Leave me alone.

GERIEL

Please. You don't know Sherab. He --

STOMP.

GERIEL (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Please --

SHERAB (O.S.)  
WHITE CUB!

They both freeze as the shadow of Sherab's long curvy horn is cast on Feba.

SHERAB (CONT'D)  
Go back to the others.

FEBA  
It's you, isn't it?

SHERAB  
NOW!

FEBA  
You're the one who killed those  
wolves!

MYO (O.S.)  
Sherab! What is all this noise?

Sherab GROWLS.

SHERAB  
The white cub speaks out of line.

MYO  
Is that true, my love?

Feba is too furious to answer. Her face says "do your worst."

MYO (CONT'D)  
Well then, you all know the rules.

Sherab aims his HORN at Feba, like a gun.

MYO (CONT'D)  
When we are out of line... our  
friends pay the fine.

His aim shifts to Geriel.

FEBA  
What? No!

Too late. He slashes Geriel's face. Not fatal, but leaves a long gash of blood. Feba is shocked with rage.

MYO  
Ah ah ah... think hard about the  
next thing you say if you don't  
want another friend of yours to  
blossom.

Feba stays quiet, giving them the stare of death.

MYO (CONT'D)  
That's much better, my love. Now  
please, scamp along and join the  
others.

Myo's creepy smile burns into Feba's eyes. Sherab STOMPS the ground, victorious, and leaves with Myo.

His stomp makes a few pebbles drop from the steep wall of rocks above the alcove. Feba notices and looks up.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - OUTER BORDER - DAY

Usha, Shein, Migoi, Kahn, Popo and Batu are on the other side of the wall closest to the cubs alcove.

POW! Migoi hits the rock again. No use. The wall is basically a massive mountainside with rocks bigger than him.

SHEIN  
We'll never get through. And the  
noise will attract the sheep. I  
hope you had another plan.

Batu spots something in the rocks.

BATU  
Batu!

He runs to a crevice in the wall.

USHA  
Batu? What is it?

He squeezes and vanishes inside.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Batu?

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Feba sits with the rest of the cubs when she hears a NOISE from the alcove. A familiar CRY. It gets louder and louder. She gets closer to the interior wall of the cave, the other cubs watch her in puzzlement.

BATU (O.S.)  
Batu... Batu... BATU!!!

Batu finally makes it inside the alcove, squirms his fat body through impossible gaps in the rocks.

He leaps on Feba, hugging her and crying with happiness.

FEBA

Batu! How did... where... what are you doing here?

BATU

Batu! BATU!

He points outside. Feba knows who's on the other side. She smiles.

FEBA

I'm so glad to see you!

The cubs slowly approach the two of them.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Batu. I have a plan to get us out of here, but I need your help.

BATU

Batu!

He salutes. Tashi steps forward, aggressive.

TASHI

Hey! It's your fault we're stuck here!

He comes closer.

TASHI (CONT'D)

Yeah, my dad told me white wolves are unnatural and cause bad luck! Look what you did to Geriel! Get back to the group before someone else gets hurt!

SLAP!

She knocks him down faster and harder than physics allow. He drops to the ground as she moves towards the others.

FEBA

Anyone else has any more interesting family stories to tell, or would you like to help me get us out of here?

There's a new Feba in town. Geriel smiles.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - AFTERNOON

Batu squeezes into the alcove after a short trip outside.

FEBA

Batu!

He rushes over to Feba. Tashi rubs his red cheek.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Everyone is in place?

BATU

Batu!

FEBA

Good work! Get to the top and wait  
for my signal.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - CLIFF - AFTERNOON

Three ARGALI SHEEP stand guard. A tiny rock hits one on the head. He turns and immediately gets PUNCHED by Migoi.

Shein and Usha take down the other two before they can react. Popo and Kahn come out. Kahn peers down at the rocky wall leading to the cubs holding area.

KAHN

What if it doesn't work?

USHA

I trust her.

SHEIN

Wolves aren't great climbers.

A beat.

USHA

She'll get them here.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - AFTERNOON

Feba addresses the group of cubs.

FEBA

You can't focus on the fall. Only  
on the rock ahead of you. Don't  
look down, and don't look up. Focus  
only on the next ledge. It's a long  
climb, but you can do it.

WOLF CUB #1  
Have you ever climbed something so high?

FEBA  
Yes.

WOLF CUB #1  
Did you fall?

A beat.

FEBA  
Look, I know this is scary, but if you want to make it out of here, there's no other way but up. Are you ready?

They are scared but inspired. Tashi looks away, bitter. Cheek still red. Feba turns to look at the rocky wall above them.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
We'll have to be fast. We won't have much time once Batu starts.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - EVENING

Hundreds of sheep, ibexes and tahrs in every direction. Some graze, some sleep, and some bunched in large groups.

A SINGLE NOTE of Mongolian THROAT SINGING slowly echoes through the amphitheater. It gets louder and louder.

The sheep freeze in place. Raise their heads to the sky, listening. Eyes get glossy. A smile spreads on their faces.

Batu stands on a tall rock, focused on maintaining the hypnotizing note, like he did in Sanai Springs.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - HOLDING AREA - EVENING

The guards are hypnotized. Some cubs already climb the wall. Feba is still on the ground to ensure they all get on.

FEBA  
(whispers)  
Come on! Hurry!

Another wolf CUB passes her and begins his climb.

ON THE CLIFF Usha and the rest look down from above.

SHEIN  
I see one!

Usha searches for Feba. All wolves are GREY. She's nervous.

The dozen wolf cubs slowly make their way through a steep rocky wall. They carefully jump from ledge to ledge.

CLOSE ON Batu. He COUGHS, but quickly resumes his SONG. Some sheep snap out of it. They shake their heads in confusion.

Feba is midway through the climb. She nervously glances at the sheep.

FEBA

We gotta go faster!

Below her a few wolves struggle.

ON THE CLIFF Usha searches for Feba in the pack of climbing wolves.

USHA

I'm going down there.

KAHN

There's nothing you can do! You'll just get in their way.

USHA

I have to make sure she makes it.

SHEIN

Look!

Feba's white fur emerge from the rocks. Usha smiles.

CLOSE ON Feba, as she watches the cubs climb next to her.

First cubs make it to the cliff. Shein takes them one by one and leads them out. Usha still waits for Feba.

Most cubs are out, Feba climbs faster, but --

TASHI (O.S.)

Help!

Tashi dangles from a rock. Below is a long fall. Feba rushes back to help. She lands on the closest rock to him.

FEBA

Come on! You can do it! Pull harder!

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - CONTINUOUS

Batu COUGHS again, this time he can't stop. A coughing fit.

More and more sheep snap out of hypnosis, irritated and confused. Myo snaps out of it and looks around.

MYO

THE CUBS! They're getting away!

ON THE WALL Tashi tries harder, but it's no use. He can't lift himself up.

TASHI

Just go. I can't do it.

IN THE HOLDING CELL, The ARGALI WARRIORS (led by Sherab) arrive, and greeted by Myo. They look up at the rocky wall.

MYO

Go get them back! Toss them to the ground if you have to!

The two Argali Warriors gracefully hop on the rocks.

MYO (CONT'D)

Send the rest to the cliffs.

Sherab nods.

ON THE CLIFF, the cubs (other than Feba and Tashi) are safe.

USHA

She's not there. Where did she go?

SHEIN

The singing. It stopped.

Usha thinks for a moment and leaps down to the rocks.

SHEIN (CONT'D)

Usha!

But Usha is gone. In the distance, Shein spots dozens of Argali Warriors coming their way.

IN THE HOLDING CELL Myo waits with Sherab. She nods to him. He STOMPS his front legs on the ground with massive force. The wall shakes.

ON THE WALL Feba sees the Argali coming from below. Considers what to do. She feels the earth SHAKE under her.

TASHI

If you don't go we'll both die.

FEBA

I'm not leaving you behind!

The Argali get closer. Tashi starts to slip.

TASHI  
I'm scared.

Feba ignores the impending doom of the Argali and collapsing rocks around her.

FEBA  
Me too.

They smile. Feba looks to the moon. Tashi does too. He finally loses his grip and falls --

Or he would have if Usha didn't grab him by the scruff of his neck and tossed him up to the rock.

USHA  
Go! Now!

Feba's face lights up.

FEBA  
Usha! I --

USHA  
I know, I'm sorry. For everything.  
I'll keep them busy. You have to go.

FEBA  
No. I'm staying with you.

USHA  
Please, Feba. I can't lose you again. Go. I'll be right behind you.

Feba lingers. Tears in her eyes. But she waivers and leaves.

The rock under them quickly begins to collapse. Feba and Tashi leap and climb as the rocks THUNDEROUSLY implode.

The Argali reach them. Faster and more agile than any wolf or leopard. They're going after Feba. Usha intercepts.

She fights one off, another attacks from behind. Rocks crumble. Feba and Tashi climb as fast as possible.

Shein and the rest wait for Usha and Feba as the Argali get closer to them. She bends down and spots Feba.

SHEIN  
 (whispers)  
 Come on, Feba.

IN THE HOLDING CELL, Myo gives Sherab another nod. An Argali stands next to them.

ARGALI WARRIOR #1  
 Our sheep are up there!

She doesn't care. Nods again. Sherab STOMPS. The area shakes.

MYO  
 The white cub must not get away.

ON THE WALL Usha faces an Argali when the QUAKE happens, stronger than before. The sheep falls to its death.

Usha watches Feba as the wall collapses around her. Feba's almost at the top. Usha smiles, and falls. Feba turns to see the RUMBLE of stones.

FEBA  
 USHA!

She is frozen. Something grabs her. It's Migoi. Tashi is grabbed by Shein right as the rest of the rocks collapse.

SHEIN  
 We gotta go! NOW!

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - EVENING

A platoon of Argali Warriors chases the group. Shein leads the cubs, Migoi carries Popo. Kahn carries Batu.

SHEIN  
 They're getting close! We have to go faster!

The Argali Warriors chase them around the river bend. Feba notices Gharial eyes popping from the water.

FEBA  
 Jump in the water! Quick!

SHEIN  
 The water?!

FEBA  
 TRUST ME!

Feba jumps in the river. The rest follow suit. They make their way to the river's center.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
They're scared of the river.

Dozens of Gharial eyes pop all around the river, and then their long mouths and sharp teeth.

SHEIN  
I don't think it's the river that scares them.

The Argali platoon reaches the river edge and halts.

ARGALI WARRIOR #1  
What do we do?

The gharial all open their huge mouths at once, and the terrified argali turn back and run away. The Gharial turn their gazes to the group.

KAHN  
(whispers to Feba)  
How is this better than before?

GHARIAL  
Hello again, wolf!

FEBA  
Thanks for the help.

GHARIAL  
Never seen wolves run away from sheep.  
(a beat)  
Where's your unpleasant friend?

FEBA  
The monster got her.

INT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - UMANGA'S ALCOVE - EVENING

Usha lies on the ground, badly hurt. A LULLABY being hummed. She slowly opens her eyes.

UMANGA (O.S.)  
I didn't mean to wake you.

Usha sees more clearly. Umanga comes out of the shadow.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
You suffered quite a few injuries on your way down here.  
(MORE)

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
I'm surprised you survived.  
Pleasantly surprised, of course.

Usha tries to get on her feet, but falls flat. Umanga comes closer, HUMMING.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
I used to sing this to my daughter.  
Would you like to meet her?

EXT. INDUS RIVER - OUTSIDE CAVE - EVENING

Shein comes out of the cave and joins Feba, Kahn and Popo.

FEBA  
We need to go back for her.

SHEIN  
Feba --

FEBA  
You don't know her, she's strong.  
She's still alive, I'm sure of it.  
She saved my life more times than I  
can count. I have to try and save  
her.

KAHN  
Even if she is alive, they would  
have already killed her by now.

POPO  
Umanga will keep her alive. It is  
the white cub she is after. If the  
leopard survived, Umanga will try  
to use her to get to Feba.

SHEIN  
What does that mad sheep want with  
her?

CUT TO:

INT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - UMANGA'S ALCOVE - EVENING

Umanga drops a tiny BROKEN HORN next to Usha's face.

UMANGA  
Her name was Tuya. The wolf who  
killed her was already dead when I  
found her. Can you guess what  
killed that wolf?

She circles Usha as she speaks.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
(whisper)  
Childbirth.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Umanga weeps at her DAUGHTER's body, a DEAD WOLF next to it. Then she spots something far in the distance. A bright WHITE NEWBORN WOLF, walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - UMANGA'S ALCOVE - EVENING

Usha considers the story.

USHA  
The Blood Moon Ritual.

UMANGA  
The white cub is my only chance to bring my daughter back. The blood of her killer.

Usha PANTS and winces in pain.

USHA  
Feba didn't kill your daughter.

UMANGA  
No. But her mother did. And she carries her mother's blood. That'll work just the same.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDUS RIVER - OUTSIDE CAVE - EVENING

Fabe paces anxiously.

FEBA  
If I don't go back, Umanga will just keep going after me, and more will get hurt. I need to get Usha out, and make sure Umanga can't hurt anyone anymore.

SHEIN  
We should go back to the Pack and get help!

FEBA  
Do you really think they'll come  
back here? for me?

Shein looks down.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Or for a Leopard?

Still no answer.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Take the cubs home. I'm going back  
for her.

SHEIN  
I promised I will keep you safe.  
I'm not letting you go by yourself.

POPO  
We will go together.

KAHN  
Popo! You can't --

POPO  
I must try to fix the damage I have  
caused.

MIGOI  
MIGOI COME! PROTECT QUEEN FEBA!

SHEIN  
All entrances will be heavily  
guarded.

KAHN  
Well, White Wolf, do you have a  
plan?

Feba spots the discarded sea-buckthorn berry branch on the  
ground.

FEBA  
Actually, I do. But it's a bit  
crazy.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOW CLEARING - EVENING

Feba stands on a rock gazing at the vultures hovering above.  
Kahn and Shein wait on a higher ledge. Kahn holds a berry.

KAHN  
This is crazy...

SHEIN  
Sheep are killing wolves. Crazy  
times inspire crazy ideas.

FEBA (O.S.)  
NOW!

SHEIN  
Throw it!

Kahn throws the berry. It explodes on the white snow,  
creating a blood-like ORANGE-RED SPLAT.

Vultures SHRIEK. They flock to the red spot, piling on it.  
Feba slowly comes out of her hiding spot.

FEBA  
Vultures!

The noise of PECKING and wings FLUTTER muffles her call.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
HEY!

They stop. Heads turn to her. The VULTURE LEADER soars  
towards her. Bigger than the others, his face is dark red.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
Stop! Before you do anything, hear  
me out.

He halts for a moment and extends his long neck towards Feba.  
The rest of the vultures quickly form a circle around her.

FEBA (CONT'D)  
There's less and less food since  
the sheep vanished. I'm sure you  
noticed it. I can take you to a  
massive herd, trapped in one place,  
just waiting to be eaten. I can  
take you there right now, but  
you'll have to help me. What do you  
say?

INT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - UMANGA'S ALCOVE - NIGHT

Umanga circles Usha.

UMANGA  
Though I look like one, I am not a  
monster, Usha.

USHA

Killing a bunch of wolf cubs...  
seems pretty monstrous to me.

UMANGA

Have you had any children, Usha?

USHA

(a beat)  
I had a son.

UMANGA

And tell me, if you lost your son,  
would you do anything in your power  
to get him back?

Usha's anger turns to sadness.

USHA

Yes.  
(a beat)  
She won't come for me. She's a  
wolf. I'm a leopard. You're wasting  
your time.

UMANGA

Not many leopards would risk their  
lives for a wolf. She means  
something to you. And my guess is  
you mean something to her. And when  
she comes for you, she will die.

She rubs her face against the little broken horn.

UMANGA (CONT'D)

And I will have my daughter back.

Sherab enters the cave.

SHERAB

They're here.

UMANGA

Wonderful! Right on time.

SHERAB

Not the wolf. Her.

Umanga's lips curl. She smells the fully-bloomed Sapria  
flower kept in the corner of the cave.

UMANGA

Please prepare our guest for the  
Blood Moon ritual.

Umanga leaves. Sherab turns to Usha and slams his horn against her head.

EXT. INDUS RIVER - OUTSIDE CAVE - EVENING

Batu displays his dart-blowing skills to a bunch of uninterested cubs. Tashi enters the cave.

TASHI

I think they're gone. We can go.

GERIEL

Got it! After me, everyone!

BATU

Batu?

Confused, Batu blocks them in the entrance.

GERIEL

We're going to help them!

BATU

Batu!

TASHI

You didn't really think we're gonna just sit here and wait, right?

Batu refuses to let them leave the cave.

TASHI (CONT'D)

It's very simple, Babu --

BATU

Batu!

TASHI

You can either move out of the way,  
or go for a swim with the  
alligators.

Batu notices a dozen eyes pop in the river. He GULPS.

EXT. PATH TO UMANGA'S KINGDOM - NIGHT

Popo and Kahn make their way inside.

KAHN

You didn't have to do this, Popo.  
It is too dangerous.

POPO  
 There is hope the friend I once  
 knew still exists inside the  
 monster.

KAHN  
 How do we get her to come out?

POPO  
 When she sees I'm here... she'll  
 come.

They approach the massive circular amphitheater. The entrance unfolds in front of them. Herds of sheep everywhere. Kahn is nervous. Popo is focused and calm.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Popo and Kahn are greeted by Myo, escorted by three Argali Warriors.

MYO  
 Popo! Is that you? Have you come  
 here to die?

KAHN  
 Insolent sheep!

Popo raises her hand, silencing Kahn.

POPO  
 I came to talk to her, Myo. Tell  
 her I am here.

MYO  
 Umanga will not come running simply  
 because --

POPO  
 UMANGA!

Popo slams her walking stick on the ground. Her voice echoes, and is followed by a deafening silence.

Myo's lips curl in contempt. She backs off, fear in her eyes.

A HUM echoes through the Kingdom. The sheep slowly part, creating a path leading to a snowy mound. On it lies Usha, unconscious.

Umanga emerges behind Usha. She makes her way between the sheep. They bow as she passes. The snakes on her horns HISS.

UMANGA

You knew what will happen if you came here, yet you did. For her? A leopard?

POPO

Not for her. For you.

Umanga LAUGHS.

POPO (CONT'D)

I know there's still a part of you that could be redeemed.

UMANGA

Don't pretend it's my benefit you're after! You came here to redeem yourself. You feel guilt.

POPO

I made a mistake teaching you the Ways of the Seer, yes. I thought we could do great things together.

UMANGA

You weren't wrong, Popo. I will do great things. I will get my daughter back, and we will lead the Sheep together. We'll walk the Snowlands, not as prey, but as rulers!

With that said, the Full Moon above them turns RED.

UMANGA (CONT'D)

And so it begins! Take her away.

Kahn unsheathes his bamboo sword, but Popo signals him to stand down.

POPO

You have to let her go. You won't get her back, friend. Please.

Umanga halts. She turns back to Popo and whispers in her ear.

UMANGA

I will kill every living creature in here until I do.

Umanga leaves.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - UPPER CLIFF - NIGHT

Migoi and Shein watch the scene from a cliff. Next to them is a the giant BOULDER.

SHEIN

She's going back. Push! Now!

Migoi GRUMBLES as he puts all his strength behind the giant boulder, slowly pushing it down the cliff.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - NIGHT

Umanga hears a low RUMBLE. She looks up to see a ROCKS AVALANCHE approach. She turns back to Popo with fiery eyes. The sheep panic and run in all directions.

UMANGA

WATCH THE LEOPARD!

Umanga runs away. Kahn pulls Popo by the arm, but she pulls it back.

KAHN

We need to go!

POPO

My journey is not finished, my dear friend.

Kahn nods and stands next to her, his sword ready.

The avalanche creates a MASSIVE CRACK through the center of the Kingdom. Most sheep are on the other side of it, blocked.

Usha lies on the mound, Argali Warriors cluster around her.

VOICE FROM ABOVE

(barely heard)

Woooooooo!!!

ARGALI WARRIOR #1

Did you hear something?

A shadow appears above them. They look up.

FEBA

Woohoo!!!

Feba rides on the Vulture Leader's back, clutched to his neck, grinning. A FLOCK of vultures behind them. They dive, one by one, like missiles, picking at the sheep. The sheep scatter in a panic.

Popo and Kahn stand still as the sheep around them run away.  
Kahn looks up at flying Feba.

KAHN  
She has lost her mind.

Shein and Migoi watch Feba from the cliff.

SHEIN  
It worked!

Migoi smiles. Shein turns to leave.

SHEIN (CONT'D)  
Now we have to finish it.

Feba is still up in the sky, next to her are hundreds of  
vultures.

FEBA  
Over there! I see her!

She spots Usha and aims her vulture towards her.

Myo looks around in fear. She retreats.

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Myo sees an Argali Warrior in the shadows, still as a statue.

MYO  
Don't just stand there! Get the  
others! We need HELP!

The Argali stares at her blankly, then topples over. Behind  
him is Tashi.

TASHI  
You seem lost.

Myo startles. She looks to her sides frantically.

WOLF CUB #1  
There's nothing wrong with being  
lost.

She tries to bolt, but more and more cubs come out of the  
shadows.

WOLF CUB #2  
Where are you going? Are you  
scared?

They close in on her.

WOLF CUB #3

You're not scared of love, aren't you?

MYO

My love! My wonderful children of the mountain! I'm... I'm so glad you're safe...

GERIEL (O.S.)

You know our rules...

Geriel comes out last, the gash on her face still fresh.

GERIEL (CONT'D)

When we are out of line...

They completely surround her.

TASHI

We die!

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINDGOM - NIGHT

Feba gets closer to the ground, Usha in her sights.

FEBA

Keep straight.

Vulture CRIES. They dive towards Usha.

FEBA (CONT'D)

We didn't really discuss landing, how exactly --

Her Vulture banks and drops her on the snow mound next to Usha. Feba tumbles and rolls.

FEBA (CONT'D)

That's one way of doing it.

She runs to Usha, who's still unconscious.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Usha! Usha, get up!

Usha slowly comes to.

FEBA (CONT'D)

Get up! We have to go!

USHA

Feba?

FEBA

Yeah, it's me, saving you once again, but we have to get out of here, now!

USHA

Go back... run... you have to run --

FEBA

I'm not going without you, so get on your feet and let's go!

USHA

You don't understand... you have to go... it's a trap --

The ground shakes. The mound of snow under them rises, and a huge horn comes out. Usha falls to the sides. Snow falls off to reveal the massive shape of Sherab.

Feba struggles trying to escape, but it's no use. Sherab charges behind her and stabs her with his horn. Usha sees it, lacking the strength to move.

USHA (CONT'D)

(whisper)

No...

Popo watches from a distance as Kahn fights off sheep around her. The cubs make it to the scene and freeze in place as they witness what happened.

GERIEL

(whispers)

Feba.

Feba slowly slides down from the horn. Umanga comes out from hiding and approaches Feba, who struggles to breath. She drops the tiny HORN on the ground next to Feba. Sherab stands guard behind her.

UMANGA

A Sacrifice was made! The Blood Moon ritual has begun!

She looks up as the red moon. It shines a red SPOT LIGHT on Feba. The little horn moves.

UMANGA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I will see you soon, my sweet.

The quiet breaks as Shein leaps at Sherab, clings to his horn with her jaw. Sherab SHREIKS in pain. He tries to shake her off, and hits her against a rock. They topple Umanga over. The little Horn rolls away.

UMANGA (CONT'D)  
CAREFUL! YOU'LL DISTURB THE RITUAL!

Umanga gets back to her feet and brings the horn back to its place. Popo makes her way towards Umanga.

KAHN  
Popo! Stay back!

BACK TO Sherab, he manages to shake Shein off his horn.

SHEIN  
I'm not done with you.

SHERAB  
I hope not. Wolves are my favorite.

She attacks again. Sherab blocks every attempt with his horn.

Umanga watches the vibrating horn near Feba. The cubs try to get to her but are blocked by a ring of Argali Warriors. Usha slowly gets to her feet.

BACK TO Shein and Sherab. They circle each other.

SHEIN  
What're you going to do when you  
lose your last horn, sheep?

SHERAB  
I didn't lose a horn. I took it  
out. Easier to kill with one. You  
will see very soon.

Shein's face can't hide her disgust. She leaps at his horn again, holds it with her jaw as he swings it around.

SHERAB (CONT'D)  
You think the wolves before you  
didn't try breaking it?

Their eyes lock as she dangles in front of his face.

SHERAB (CONT'D)  
They all ended up the same way. And  
now, you will too. I'm done toying  
with you.

He prepares for a large swing, as Usha leaps and joins Shein on the horn. Usha is bigger, heavier, with a stronger jaw.

Sherab is startled. His swings are now heavy and clumsy. He can't hold their weight. The horn starts to crack.

SHERAB (CONT'D)

No... NO!

Usha and Shein hold on. Sherab collapses under the weight. He makes one final effort, lift them for one more swing and --

CRACK! The horn breaks with a sickening sound. The sheep around GASP as their strongest lieutenant is defeated.

Sherab gets up, both horns missing. He is scared and pathetic. He WHIMPERS and runs away.

USHA

Leave him.

SHEIN

He killed --

USHA

He can't harm anyone anymore. We need to go.

CLOSER ON Umanga. She turns her head, watches Sherab fleeing. She's nervous. Looks at the horn.

UMANGA

(whispers)

Come to me, my baby. Where are you?

The horn keeps vibrating as Feba PANTS. The horn settles. Red light around it. Umanga stares at it with a giant smile. The horn slowly floats. Then the horn drops to the ground. Nothing happens. Umanga's smile slowly turns to a scowl.

UMANGA (CONT'D)

WHAT'S THIS?! Why isn't it working?!

Umanga rushes to Feba and HOWLS in her face.

UMANGA (CONT'D)

I SAW IT! YOUR MOTHER KILLED MY  
BABY! JUST BEFORE SHE DIED! WHY  
ISN'T IT WORKING?!

SHEIN

Feba's mother didn't kill your  
child.

Umanga turns her head with rage.

SHEIN (CONT'D)  
I was with her before she died. She  
was trying to help her.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Shein implores KANELIA to go, but Kanelia tries to push the  
stump off the LAMB.

SHEIN (V.O.)  
Your lamb was trapped under a tree  
stump. Kanelia was trying to save  
her. Wolves only cull the herd. We  
go after the old and the sick.  
Never children.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - NIGHT

Shein continues.

SHEIN  
I tried telling her it's too late,  
but she pushed herself, trying to  
get the tree off your child.  
Instead, she hurt herself and went  
into labor.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Shein escorts little Feba away from the scene. It's the same  
scene we saw in Umanga's flashback.

SHEIN (V.O.)  
She wasn't going to make it, so I  
took her cub back to Camp.

CUT TO:

EXT. UMANGA'S KINGDOM - NIGHT

Shein continues.

SHEIN  
She stayed there and died next to  
your daughter.

Feba hears it, half awake. For a split second, humanity is revealed in Umanga's eyes as she listens to the story, but rage quickly consumes her.

UMANGA

ENOUGH LIES! Tell me what to do!  
Tell me or die!

POPO

We are not lying. See the truth  
around you. See what you have done.  
You gathered your kin in a false  
quest. You have hurt those who  
cared about you. I beg of you, old  
friend, let her go.

The sheep listen as Popo speaks, looking at each other with doubt. Umanga looks at her tribe. Remorse and fear in her eyes. Then she gets on her back legs and HOWLS.

UMANGA

KILL THEM!

No one moves. Umanga HOWLS and charges Popo, slams her massive horned head at her, and tosses her against a rock.

KAHN

POPO!

Kahn attacks Umanga, but she easily tosses him aside.

UMANGA

KILL ALL OF THEM!

FEBA (O.S.)

Hey, Snake-face...

Umanga turns to see Feba with the tiny horn under her paw.

UMANGA

No...

FEBA

You want your daughter back. Go get  
her.

She flings the horn to the crack created by the avalanche.

UMANGA

NO!!!

Umanga stampedes towards the rolling horn. The Horn falls down the crack, Umanga leaps after it to her death.

The Argali Warriors hear Umanga's SCREAM. Realizing they lost, they flee. The other sheep follow. The battle is over.

Usha runs to Feba. She's lying on the ground, barely breathing. Usha gets close, tears flowing.

USHA

(whispers)

Please get up... please, Feba. You can't die now. It's over, you can't die now.

No response. Usha cries. Popo's badly hurt, lying against a rock. She slowly and painfully gets up.

USHA (CONT'D)

I was lost when you found me. I didn't realize it, but I was. I thought I'd never find a way to not be lost again. I guess I thought we had that in common. But that's not true. You were never lost. You may have felt that you were... you thought I was showing you the way, but it was the other way around.

As Usha speaks, the wolf cubs slowly surround them. Migoi joins. Then Shein. Kahn, and Batu. Popo limps her way too.

USHA (CONT'D)

I don't know if you can hear me, Feba, but I wanted to say... thank you.

Usha gets as close as she can to Feba.

USHA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

You were the best pack I could have asked for.

Usha lets her go and walks away. Everyone watches, silent. Popo watches the Blood Moon, its redness slowly fading. She holds her side, it's bleeding badly. She snaps the spear from Kahn's hands.

POPO

Watch over our tribe, old friend.  
And please forgive me.

KAHN

Popo!

She limps quickly towards Feba. HISSES as she goes. She reaches Feba and with one quick motion stabs her in the heart. Feba GASPS for a moment, and draws her last breath. Usha turns to Popo, baffled.

POPO  
I never truly left my circle of  
guilt. Perhaps, this would be my  
way out.

Popo collapses next to Feba. Dead.

KAHN  
POPO!

A quiet moment passes, and the Moon lights up like a red projector, illuminating Feba.

USHA  
(whispers)  
A sacrifice. The blood of the  
disruptor.

Feba slowly floats, rays of red light illuminate her. Her arms slowly move. Then she drops slowly to the ground and opens her eyes.

USHA (CONT'D)  
Feba!

Usha rushes over, and rubs her face against Feba with exaggerated affection. Feba is weak, but smiling.

USHA (CONT'D)  
You're alive!

FEBA  
What happened?

USHA  
You're alive. And I'm with you.  
That's all that matters.

FEBA  
I thought... leopards are always  
alone.

Usha LAUGHS.

USHA  
Who made up that rule?

The cubs rush over and lick Feba from all directions.

TASHI  
Feba! You were dead!  
(to Geriel)  
Did you see that?!

GERIEL  
I was right here.

Feba LAUGHS as the cubs crowd her, excited.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAWN

The group make their way back home. Feba walks with Usha and Kahn by her side. Migoi carries Batu. Shein leads the cubs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOLVES DEN - DAY

The Council is in session. Shein at the center. The tribe watches from the rocks around camp. Cubs united with their parents. Feba (Batu on her head) next to Usha Kahn and Migoi.

NORBU  
By the power of the Great Council  
of the Moon Tribe of the Stoneland  
Wolves, we vote on the appointment  
of our new Chief. What does the  
Council wish?

One by one (except Toofan), the Council members HOWL. The howl grows stronger as more join. They cast their vote.

NORBU (CONT'D)  
A wish has been made and the  
Council shall fulfill it. Shein, we  
honor you as our new Leader.

The entire tribe HOWLS with joy. Wolf parents nod to Feba with appreciation.

USHA  
You're finally home.

FEBA  
Why does it feel... sad?

USHA  
Because goodbyes are sad.

FEBA  
You don't have to leave, you know.

USHA  
I'm --

FEBA  
A leopard, I know --

USHA  
going to miss you, Feba.

A tear runs down Feba's face.

FEBA  
I'll miss you too, Usha.

Usha turns to Batu.

USHA  
Take care of her.

BATU  
Batu!

He salutes. Geriel gets in between them.

GERIEL  
Feba! You gotta come see this.  
Tashi said he found a Mammoth tusk  
in the Scout's Path! I told him  
it's probably an elephant tusk, but  
he --

TASHI (O.S.)  
DID YOU GET HER?

GERIEL  
WE'RE COMING! Let's go!

Geriel takes off. Feba looks to Usha, who gestures her to follow. Feba runs after Geriel, grinning. Usha watches her go with a smile.

Usha turns and leaves.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**