

INYAN

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CUSTER'S LITTLE BIGHORN CEMETERY - DAY

Bone colored gravestones dot the slope of green sage.

A FILM CREW shoots stock footage of the grave stones and the stout obelisk memorial to the Battle of Little Bighorn.

CODY HAINES (40's), the star, focuses on a pickup truck coming toward them. He is a handsome reality cowboy-actor and adventurer. He wears his signature cowboy hat and gun holster.

CAMERA MAN

Why aren't the tombstones in rows?

CODY

It's the exact location where each of Custer's troop were found massacred.

Cody takes notice of the oncoming worn pickup.

CODY

Here he comes. Quick! Get a shot of the truck coming toward us. Lower it when he gets closer.

The Camera Man aims the camera at the oncoming truck.

CODY

The whole episode, season of "Hidden West," is dependent on him.

The truck stops about twenty feet away. Cody moseys over to the driver, RUNNING ELK (40's). He wears dingy construction clothes with a Werewolf mask hiding his face, but long Lakota Indian braids poke out the back.

RUNNING ELK

Keep them away from me. No filming. I'm not dying for this.

Cody extracts a manilla envelope from his pocket.

CODY

You have the GPS coordinates?

RUNNING ELK

I wouldn't be fucking here.

Running Elk snaps the envelope from him and yanks out the hundred dollar bills.

RUNNING ELK
This isn't twenty grand.

CODY
This is the before. The rest is
after we get them and test them for
authenticity. We need a sample.

The Producer rips the paper off a sanitized swab.

RUNNING ELK
What the fuck?

Cody pulls out a swab and inserts it into Running Elk's mouth inside the mask. Cody circles the swab in and around the mouth.

RUNNING ELK
(mouth gaping)
Fah-kin ass-howl.

Cody extracts the swab with the saliva sample and inserts it into a bag and seals it.

CODY
Coordinates?

Jake reluctantly hands him a torn sheet of paper with scribbled GPS numbers.

RUNNING ELK
Under the limbs with prayer ties.

He starts the pickup.

RUNNING ELK
Beware. You will piss off the gods
for this.

The truck speeds off, leaving Cody waving dust from his face.

EXT. WOUNDED KNEE MEMORIAL CEMETERY - DAY

Bone colored gravestones and crosses pepper the field of green sage.

TAKODA (14) kneels at the grave stone engraved with the name "Lost Bird." He is chubby, feminine, and wise like an angelic Sioux Buddha.

He says a prayer in his native Lakota language.

His sister, CHASKA (17) drops a small red prayer bag in front of him. She is a strong Sioux warrior dressed in grunge attire. Her shaved head is not only a bold statement, but reflects her resourceful use of shears to save money.

CHASKA
I didn't have tobacco.

Takoda sniffs the bag.

TAKODA
You put weed in her prayer tie.

CHASKA
She's getting an ounce of good
shit.

Takoda ties the bag to a chained fence nearby.

CHASKA
Hell, the "Lost Bird" will fly
higher now.

TAKODA
You're disrespectful, again.

CHASKA
I don't get it. Protection prayers
and ties didn't help our dad. Let's
go. I still have some leftover weed
to smoke.

She walks toward a pickup truck with Takoda at her heels.

TAKODA
Mom doesn't want us staying out
late.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - NIGHT

The headlights of a dark SUV shine on a bullet-ridden sign reading "Entering Pine Ridge Indian Reservation."

EXT. MOBILE HOME BACKYARD - NIGHT

Behind the dilapidated double-wide, LAKOTA ELDERS dance and chant to the rituals of the Lakota tribe like their ancestors. In amongst the elder drummers is Takoda playing the flute. Beside him is GRAY CLOUD (early 60's) the long gray haired Shaman of his tribe.

Pounding of an electric beat is heard yards away. Beyond the backyard is a broken-down barn where trance music blares.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Trance music plays.

Smoke permeates from a long steel barrel. A blow dart explodes out in a cloud of smoke and strikes the bullseye of a dart board.

Chaska giggles and takes the blowgun from her mouth and smokes pot from a bong. Lakota PARTYGOERS (15-18) drink beer and smoke pot.

CHASKA
Pay up, bitch.

STEVE (17), a handsome and shirtless stud, hands her a twenty dollar bill.

STEVE
Double or nothing?

He snaps up an arrow quiver and bow.

STEVE
Blow darts are for kids.

PARTYGOER
Ooo. We got a challenge.

CHASKA
Really? I'm going to emasculate you.

She snaps up her own bow and quiver and follows him out of the barn.

PARTYGOER 1
Let the Hunger Games begin.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Chaska and Steve exit with the partygoers to a field where an archery target stands.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

Takoda plays the flute and watches the teens leave the barn. The Elders still drum and dance.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE PATH - NIGHT

A Lakota BOY and GIRL (8-10) sit on a limb of a tree over the path.

GIRL
You can kiss me.

BOY
I dunno.

GIRL
C'mon.

BOY
What if I, like, have bad breath?

MALE CHATTER is heard. A glowing light moves closer.

BOY
Shush. Somebody is coming.

Cody leads his Cameraman and a fellow Crew Member down the path toward the kids.

Cody holds his lit cell phone as the Cameraman holds his camera as a flashlight. The Crew Member shuffles along with a shovel and a pick. Cody wears his gun holster.

CODY
We're getting close.

The boy grasps the girl's hand and puts his finger to her mouth to be silent.

CREW MEMBER
These shovels are getting heavy.
That stupid Indian better not have
taken us down the wrong path.

They unknowingly walk under the hanging legs of the children.

They get about twenty feet away and the children's feet drop to the path.

The Crew Member spins upon hearing the feet.

CREW MEMBER
I heard something behind us.

The Camera shines down the vacant path behind them.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

Gray Cloud reads out loud a Lakota prayer in their native language.

In the distance the teens still celebrate and party.

The boy and girl from the path interrupt the prayer.

BOY
Grandpa, grandpa.

The boy runs to Gray Cloud with the girl following. They are catching their breath.

BOY
There's white men with cameras and shovels.

GIRL
One has a gun.

Gray Cloud studies the children.

GRAY CLOUD
Where are these men?

BOY
The path.

GIRL
Porcupine Butte.

Gray Cloud glances toward the dark mountain's shadow.

GRAY CLOUD
Takoda, where is your sister?

He points to the shadow of teens in a distance.

TAKODA
Barn. Probably getting stoned.

GRAY CLOUD
Takoda, why don't you finish the prayer for me?

He kneels to his grandson.

GRAY CLOUD
Do you know where I keep my gun?

The boy nods his head.

GRAY CLOUD

Get it for me. Meet me at the barn.

The boy runs off to the mobile home.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Chaska shoots an arrow into the bullseye as the partiers laugh and clap.

She holds out her hand to Steve with a smirk.

CHASKA

Best out of twenty now?

He dumps two twenty-dollar bills in her palm.

PARTYGOER

You should have given up at best of five.

STEVE

Fuck you.

Chaska slaps his chest.

CHASKA

I think you are growing tits.

She pulls out his pants and glances down into his crotch.

CHASKA

Lost your dick yet?

Gray Cloud joins them with a hand gun.

GRAY CLOUD

I need you.

The partygoers quickly calm down and hide their beers and bongs. The music is turned low.

STEVE

Yes, sir.

He pulls Chaska and Steve away from the other teens. He grasps Chaska's shoulder.

GRAY CLOUD

We must hurry. I need you and Steve to run up to Porcupine Butte. There are men up there trespassing.

Both glance up at the mountain shadows.

GRAY CLOUD
Bring your bows. Don't allow them
to leave until I get there. Now,
run like wolves.

Chaska and Steve grab their quivers and bow.

GRAY CLOUD
HOKA HEY!

This Crazy Horse war cry propels them into the darkness.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

Takoda prays out loud in his native language.

In the distance, the howling of wolves and "Hoke Hey" echo.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE WOODS - NIGHT

Chaska leads Steve racing up the mountain. They howl while running.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE BURIAL SITE - NIGHT

The Crew Member has dug a four feet deep hole under a limb of hanging prayer ties.

The Cameraman films the prayer ties of red and yellow.

CAMERAMAN
What are these?

CODY
Prayer ties. Red is for ancestors
and yellow is to give thanks.

The shovel strikes something solid. He wipes the dirt with his hands and falls back startled.

CREW MEMBER
Fuck! It's a dead animal. Shine the
light.

The Cameraman shines the light into the hide of an animal.

CODY
It's buffalo hide. Take it out.

CREW MEMBER

Hell no.

Cody pushes him away and kneels down to the hide.

CODY

The Sioux wrapped dead bodies in
buffalo hide.

Twigs snap nearby. They all halt and survey the surrounding darkness.

Chaska steps into the light with her raised bow and arrow aimed at Cody. Cody reaches for his gun. An arrow whizzes by his ear into the tree behind him. Before he can react she has another aimed at him. He withdraws his hand away from the holster.

CHASKA

Pretend you're a possum. Don't
move.

CREW MEMBER

Look, a real-life Indian.

STEVE

You're a real-life asshole.

Steve comes into the light aiming an arrow at Cody too.

CODY

We can work this out.

An ATV motor is heard in the distance.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

Takoda stands in the darkness facing the black shadow of the mountain.

TAKODA

Mom is gonna be pissed.

Elders dance to the drums in the distant backyard.

Gunshots pop and muzzle flashes appear on the dark mountain top. Takoda's face becomes worried.

The mountain is but a shadow now.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - AN HOUR LATER

Gray Cloud and Chaska lift a large buffalo hide out of a Gator ATV into the bed of Chaska's truck next to a shovel and pick. Gray Cloud hands her a folded paper which she shoves in her pocket.

GRAY CLOUD

Don't worry. It's going to be alright. You will be protected. After burial, read the protection prayer out loud for the Great Spirit to hear.

She trembles as she adds her bow and quiver to the bed and covers it all with a black tarp.

CHASKA

Shouldn't you do this?

GRAY CLOUD

Be strong. Steve and I have work to do. Your father's spirit lives inside you. Our god must be safe.

They don't notice that Takoda has joined them from behind the truck.

TAKODA

Safe? What is safe?

Gray Cloud pats his shoulder.

GRAY CLOUD

Your first day of school. I prayed for your safety. I was telling Chaska that you both will be safe in a white man's school. If it doesn't work, call me. I will curse them.

Gray Cloud pats Chaska on the shoulder.

GRAY CLOUD

I'll be in touch. Give your mother a kiss and hug from me.

He leaves Takoda and Chaska at the truck.

TAKODA

Mom's going to kill us.

CHASKA

Wrong. She will kill me and kiss you.

They enter the truck.

INT./EXT. POLICE BRONCO/HIGHWAY - NIGHT

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL (late 30's) drives her son, ANDREW MITCHELL (17) along a quiet road through sage fields.

She sits straight-up in her ironed County Sheriff's uniform which hugs her strong frame. Andrew is a taller and lean version of his mother, but muscled in his football jersey.

He reads his cell phone while she sneaks a peek at him.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Did SHE buy you that jersey?

ANDREW MITCHELL

She is Jace.

She nods.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Jace?

ANDREW MITCHELL

No, she didn't buy it. And she is nice. About early thirties. Good shape. Works out. Dyes her hair red. Helps out as a receptionist at his practice. Anything else? Maybe you should interrogate dad.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Get it from the jackass himself.

ANDREW MITCHELL

He's not as angry as you.

She scoffs.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Chaska drives while in deep concentration. Takoda peeks at her from the passenger seat.

CHASKA

Ask away, nosey bear. You know I won't tell you the truth.

TAKODA
What happened on the mountain?

CHASKA
We shewed away some trespassers.

TAKODA
What's in the hide?

CHASKA
Just some of dad's old shit Gray
Cloud borrowed years ago.

TAKODA
Like what?

CHASKA
Shit. Close your fly-trap and think
of an excuse for me to give mom so
we are on the same page. Don't you
have a Yoo-hoo.

He scoffs and takes out a Yoo-hoo box from his backpack.

INT./EXT. POLICE BRONCO/HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Mary still grills Andrew while driving.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Well, did he talk about college?

ANDREW MITCHELL
He thinks he can get me into State.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
You need to raise your grades.

ANDREW MITCHELL
They're OK. Study either Animal or
Sports Medicine. Oh, Dad said they
may come out for the rodeo.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
They? Wonderful. I'm not going to
pretend to like her.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Stop.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
I was thinking you need to
volunteer to pad your resume.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Mom?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

It's harder for white kids.
Colleges have diversity quotas. I
read those Mexican kids whose
parents work at meat plants are
getting the spots now.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Where did you read that?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

I read it. Things have changed for
us. You need to do extra. You don't
have five percent Cherokee. I heard
about this group where they help
children with disabilities ride
horses. Helps them build self-
esteem, gain confidence. Would you
like me to call them?

She drives upon Chaska's truck ahead with a tail light out.
She puts on her brakes and trails.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Look at this. If I wasn't looking I
could have rear-ended this truck.

She flips on her siren.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Let them go. I'm tired from the
flight.

The truck pulls over to the dirt shoulder.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Really? You gonna give them a fix-
it ticket?

She speaks into her loudspeaker.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Slowly, get out of the truck with
your hands out.

ANDREW MITCHELL

C'mon mom.

Chaska exits the driver's side of the truck. Andrew sits up
straight upon seeing Chaska. Mary exits the bronco and
confronts Chaska at the rear bumper.

CHASKA
This piece of shit can't go over
fifty.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Did I say you were speeding?

CHASKA
No, but your fucking sirens infer
it.

Mary notices something dark in the bed.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Be respectful and keep the
profanity between friends. If you
have any.

She flips on her flashlight and shines it on the black tarp.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
What's under the tarp? You reek of
weed.

CHASKA
I smoked a peace pipe earlier.

Chaska yanks the tarp back.

CHASKA
Let me assist. See, no drugs.

Her flashlight shines on the dirty buffalo hide and bow and
quiver in the bed.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Where you coming from?

CHASKA
Pine Ridge.

She flashes the beam upon Chaska's face and then to Takoda
glaring out the back window.

CHASKA
My little brother.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
You're off the reservation.

CHASKA
Going home.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Where's that?

CHASKA
Deadwood.

BRONCO

Andrew's eyes are glued on Chaska.

TRUCK

Mary shines the flashlight back on the buffalo hide and leans toward it.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Carry a hunting license for
buffalo?

CHASKA
I didn't kill it. It's ancient. The
buffalo died like a hundred years
ago. It holds instruments from a
pow wow. Archery competition.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
I'll see for myself.

She is about to untie part of the bag.

(O.S.) Takoda VOMITS

The deputy shines the flashlight beam on the passenger door.
All that is seen is brown liquid splashing into the dirt.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
You better help your brother.

CHASKA
I better get him home.

Mary taps her flashlight on the tail light.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
It's out. I should give you a
ticket just for your attitude.

Mary spins around and says over her shoulder.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Fix the light and your attitude.

She enters the Bronco.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Who was she?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Some disrespectful, pot smokin'
Indian off the reservation.

His eyes never leave Chaska as she gets in the truck.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/ROAD - NIGHT

Chaska drives Takoda past the illuminated Mount Rushmore.

CHASKA
I've seen you drink five Yoo-hoos
in an hour. Nice act back there.
Thanks.

TAKODA
This isn't the way home.

CHASKA
It's a detour. We have an errand to
run.

TAKODA
We are already late. This is going
to make it worse.

Takoda strains to view Rushmore.

TAKODA
This is spiritual Lakota land. Back
in 1868 we were given the Black
Hills in the Treaty of Fort
Laramie. When gold was discovered,
they took it away from us.

CHASKA
Palefaces always took our shit.
Then they desecrate it with that
big fucking eyesore.

TAKODA
Did you know the sculptor was a Ku
Klux Klan member?

CHASKA
No surprise. Half those old white
dudes owned slaves.

He plays an eerie tune on his flute.

EXT. BADLANDS - NIGHT

(O.S.) Takoda's eerie flute tune plays.

In a remote and barren area Gray Cloud extracts the computer chip from the camera. Steve tosses the broken camera into front seat of Cody's SUV.

Gray Cloud lifts a gas canister and douses the inside of the SUV with gasoline.

The SUV explodes in flames.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - NIGHT

Takoda plays the flute.

Chaska and Takoda stand below the moonlit sculpture built in stone of the mighty Chief Crazy Horse. It is that of a warrior larger than the faces on Mount Rushmore. Chaska steals the flute from his mouth.

CHASKA

That tune is creeping me out.

TAKODA

Did you know he hated cameras?
There are no photographs of Crazy Horse.

CHASKA

Then who is it?

TAKODA

It represents all Sioux warriors.

CHASKA

Resembles dad.

Chaska wraps her arm around Takoda and leads him to the truck. She hands him back his flute.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Chaska yanks off the tarp revealing the buffalo hide, bow and arrows and a shovel. Takoda studies it.

CHASKA

We need to bury the buffalo hide.

TAKODA

You said it was shit.

CHASKA

I lied.

TAKODA

What's in it? Looks old.

CHASKA

It is. I know how you like Sioux history and myths. Promise me you won't go bonkers.

TAKODA

Tell me.

CHASKA

OK. Hang on to your pine nuts. It's the bones of Crazy Horse.

Takoda's eyes bulge out.

TAKODA

No fucking way. For real?

CHASKA

Want me to open it up.

TAKODA

Um. He's a god. I don't want something to happen to us.

CHASKA

Help me carry it.

Takoda and Chaska lay the tarp down and put the hide, shovel, and bows and arrows on top.

TAKODA

I saw gun flashes on the hilltop.

CHASKA

Pick up both corners.

They each pick up the corners and carry it into the woods.

CHASKA

The less you know, the better.

TAKODA

I saw you and Steve run toward the mountain with bows.

CHASKA

They were desecrating his grave.

TAKODA
All that time, Crazy Horse was
buried on Porcupine Butte.

CHASKA
The less you know...

TAKODA
...the better. I know.

CHASKA
I needed your help. I was never
good at reading our native
language.

A CLEARING IN THE WOODS

They lower the buffalo hide into a freshly dug grave.

TAKODA
I can't believe I'm burying the
great Crazy Horse. It's an honor.

CHASKA
We will be the only two people who
know his location. It's our secret.
Not Mom's.

Chaska tosses in the bow and arrow.

LATER

They finish spreading dirt and pine needles over the grave.
Chaska pulls out a folded paper from her jeans.

CHASKA
You need to read this.

Takoda unfolds the paper.

TAKODA
What is it?

CHASKA
Gray Cloud said it was a protection
prayer for the Great Spirit. You
know the usual mumbo-jumbo.

Takoda reads the prayer to himself.

CHASKA
He said to read it out loud so all
spirits can hear it.

Takoda stands over the grave and reads from the paper. The ground shakes and a tree limb cracks.

Chaska yanks Takoda away as a huge limb crashes down to where he stood.

They both stare at each other.

CHASKA

Just finish it and let's get out of here.

Takoda is leery of his surroundings and he recites a protection prayer in his native language.

INT./EXT. TRUCK/DEADWOOD CITY STREET - NIGHT

Chaska drives Takoda through the late 1800's old west town filled with casinos and motels.

Takoda points to the "Gold Strike Hotel and Casino."

TAKODA

There's where mom works.

CHASKA

One more time.

TAKODA

Gray Cloud needed help fixing his porch and painting it.

CHASKA

Then?

TAKODA

Then he told ALL the Iktomi stories.

CHASKA

That fills in the gaps.

Chaska pulls into the driveway of a cheap cottage. Takoda sniffs her shirt.

TAKODA

Your shirt will be a smoking gun.
It smells of skunk weed.

Chaska sniffs her shirt.

CHASKA

Just get inside and do your magic.

He jumps out of the truck and goes inside.

Chaska quickly takes the shovel and pick from the bed. She discovers a broken arrow with a flint arrowhead tip.

CHASKA
God damn it. Stupid shit.

She carries it toward the separate garage. "*Funeral March of a Marionette*" is played on a keyboard from the next door porch.

Chaska stops and discovers SUE LEIGHTEN (17) watching her and playing the keyboard. Sue stops playing and they stare at each other. Sue is an Asian-American teen with a slight build who looks about twelve years old.

As Chaska steps away, the "*Funeral March...*" begins again.

INT. CHASKA'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chaska's mother, WACHIWI (late 30's) follows at the heels of Chaska in a room filled with worn furniture and Sioux knick-knacks. She is a smallish and stout Lakota Indian with a charming face and smile. She is dressed in maid attire.

WACHIWI
You're lying to me. It's past eleven.

CHASKA
If I'm lying, Takoda is also lying.

WACHIWI
You fermented those words in his mouth. You're wicked.

Chaska cocks her head at her mom.

CHASKA
Wicked? C'mon, mom?

WACHIWI
Evil then. I know you don't care about your education but your brother does. Tomorrow is his first day of school.

CHASKA

It's mine too. To a WHITE school.
If you cared about him, you
wouldn't have moved us off the
reservation. He, we all, had a
support group there.

WACHIWI

Don't guilt me. I agonized over
this move. I moved you here so I
can have a job. To put a shirt on
your back. Oh, let me sniff your
shirt.

CHASKA

No!

WACHIWI

See? You know it smells of weed.
You are the lying trickster,
Iktomi.

Chaska yanks out two twenty-dollar bills from her pants and
throws them at her.

CHASKA

Sniff yourself. Here is the cost
for my shirts.

Chaska stomps into the bedroom and slams the door. Wachiwi
picks up the bills and goes to Takoda who is on the couch.

WACHIWI

Where did she get this? Selling
drugs now?

TAKODA

She won it in an archery
competition against Steve.

She sits down next to Takoda.

WACHIWI

Your sister is just like your dad.

TAKODA

That is why you named her Chaski,
"the eldest son."

WACHIWI

But I didn't think he would mold
her into a warrior.

Takoda takes off her shoes.

TAKODA
How bout a foot massage?

Wachiwi leans back on the couch with her feet propped up on Takoda's lap.

WACHIWI
You need to get to bed.

TAKODA
You work two shifts?

WACHIWI
I used to dance for hours when I was young. Now?

Takoda massages her feet as Wachiwi winces.

TAKODA
You are getting blisters.

WACHIWI
You are too good to me. I worry for you.

TAKODA
I'll be fine.

WACHIWI
Now, tell me the real story. Not hers.

Takoda glances at the bedroom door closed.

WACHIWI
Was she smoking weed?

TAKODA
Always.

WACHIWI
What else did she do?

TAKODA
You wouldn't believe it.

WACHIWI
She didn't goat you into her misbehavior?

TAKODA
Goad. No goading. This time I'm glad she did. We buried Crazy Horse.

WACHIWI

Please. Don't allow her to rope you
in her web of lies.

Wachiwi studies her boy while getting her foot massage.

INT. SUE'S HOUSE - MORNING

BARNEY LEIGHTEN (early 40's) peeks out his front window
curtains of the modest interior. He is an Asian-American with
a dad-bod. He wears his cook attire.

Sue comes out of the bedroom wearing her school backpack.

SUE

Why are you peeking out the
curtains? You're going to be late
for work.

Sue joins him and peeks out too.

CHASKA'S DRIVEWAY

Wachiwi hops up in the pickup truck in her maid outfit.

BARNEY

She works the same shift as me. I
didn't want to leave at the same
time.

SUE

There's nothing wrong with a
neighborly wave, dad.

BARNEY

Is she Asian?

SUE

I think Native American.

BARNEY

Indian?

SUE

Indigenous, yes.

He gives her a peck on the cheek and opens the front door.

BARNEY

She's gone. Have a good day at
work.

SUE
School. I'm still in high school.

He quickly leaves.

INT. CHASKA'S GARAGE - DAY

Takoda rummages through a toolbox. He lifts up a hammer and swings it like a weapon. He lays it back down and discovers the broken arrow with a flint arrowhead from the night before. There is dried blood on the wood and flint. He swings it and pokes the air with it.

He takes off his backpack and stuffs the broken arrow into it. He is spiffy in his ironed, new school clothes.

CHASKA (O.S.)
Hoke Hey. You're gonna be late.

He runs out the garage and joins her. She is a slob in her grunge wear. She takes notice he was in the garage.

CHASKA
What were you up to?

TAKODA
Looking through dad's old stuff.
You're wearing that?

They walk to the street.

CHASKA
I was about to ask you the same thing.

She playfully pushes him down the street.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Chaska and Takoda stand before the school name and mural of a miner reading, "Home of the Gold Diggers."

TAKODA
Gold diggers killed our people.

Chaska faces him and kneels down.

CHASKA
You are in white territory now.
Playing by their rules and history.
Their whitewashed history.

Be careful in sharing our point of view.

TAKODA
I'll be fine, you I worry for.

Chaska kisses him on the forehead and runs off down the sidewalk.

Takoda opens his backpack and reveals the arrowhead is still there for his protection.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Chaska walks down the hall studying a map. STUDENTS (15-17) congregate near lockers.

Andrew and MARK (17) take notice of her. Mark is a jock and a best friend to Andrew.

VINCE (17), the crazy-eyed prankster, passes her toward Andrew.

VINCE
Who is the cancer victim?

Andrew quickly takes notice of her.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I can't believe she goes here.

MARK
You know her?

ANDREW MITCHELL
Sort of. Not really.

VINCE
Watch this.

FIRECRACKERS explode in a locker and Chaska jumps in surprise and Students scatter.

Mark and Vince laugh.

(O.S.) BELL RINGS

INT. HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS - DAY

STUDENTS mingle and fiddle with their instruments.

Chaska is a bit late and the students stare at her.

MUSIC TEACHER (50's) takes notice of her. He's a burly old bear that looks too similar to the singer Jerry Garcia.

MUSIC TEACHER
What do you play? Uh, is it Chas...

CHASKA
Chaska.

Chaska shrugs.

CHASKA
Drums, I guess.

Some students laugh as he points to the back row.

MUSIC TEACHER
Percussion in the back row. Now, you aren't one of those rowdy students? I mean, drummers can be that way. Keith Moon, John Bonham. No disrespect.

CHASKA
I understand first impressions all too well, Jerry Garcia.

She walks to the back and stops at the keyboard. Chaska studies Sue, who is afraid to make eye contact with her.

MUSIC TEACHER
I'll get you a loaner drum. Which one do you play?

Chaska sits down next to some DRUMMERS.

CHASKA
The loud one.

MUSIC TEACHER
OK. Bass drum it is. Now class, settle down.

The class quiets down.

MUSIC TEACHER
We're going Frank Zappa and King Crimson crazy. We will start off eclectic this year. I want you all to partner with another musician who plays a totally different instrument than you. No brass-on-brass relationships.

Some students moan.

MUSIC TEACHER

Be brave. I want you to choose a
song of your own making and mix it
with only both instruments. Now get
into teams of two.

Students clamor and run about partnering up.

Chaska takes a deep sigh and slouches in her seat. Sue drops
her head on the keyboard in anguish.

The teacher claps to get their attention. A student bangs his
cymbals.

MUSIC TEACHER

Thanks, Josh. Now anybody without a
partner?

STUDENT

Sue-shi.

Students giggle as Sue lifts her head.

STUDENT 2

Baldy.

Chaska scratches her face with the middle finger to the
student.

STUDENTS

Ooo...

MUSIC TEACHER

That wasn't what I thought I saw?

CHASKA

It was the number one. I don't have
a partner or two.

She holds up two fingers.

MUSIC TEACHER

You will join Sue. A bass drum and
keyboards. Makes for an interesting
mix and collaboration.

LATER

Chaska and Sue haven't said a word.

BELL RINGS

Students dash out of the class as Chaska leans into Sue.

CHASKA
School segregation sucks. C-ya,
neighbor.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Takoda eats lunch alone as a football bounces near him.

BRANDEN (14) runs to pick it up and stops. He is an athletic white boy.

BRANDEN
Hey, do you play football? We need
a kid who can play center. A big
kid to block.

TAKODA
I don't know how to play.

BRANDEN
Center is easy. Hike the ball and
block. A baby can do it.

Branden's FRIENDS join him.

FRIEND 1
C'mon. We have little time before
the bell.

BRANDEN
I'm trying to get him to play
center. I told him a baby can do
it.

FRIEND 1
He's Indian.

FRIEND 2
He looks like a baby.

FRIEND 1
A papoose.

They giggle.

FRIEND 2
He's a papoose.

Branden is about to follow and stops.

BRANDEN

Dude, don't mind the idiots. I can teach you if you want to play.

He runs off after his friends.

EXT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - DAY

AGENT DOTSEN (early 30's), husky and attractive, dunks a power bar into her Starbucks coffee cup. She uncomfortably leans against her darkly tinted FBI sedan. She is eight months pregnant.

She winces as she checks her phone.

INT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - DAY

AGENT JEFF HALE (mid 20's) sits on the toilet seat in his FBI uniform with toilet paper covering a cell phone. Jeff is a preppy, ex-baseball player. He speaks in a Boston accent.

AGENT JEFF HALE

It's ten, fourteen Birch Street.
Hurry! Awh shit! He just hit her with his gun. She's screaming.
Hurry! She's bleeding. Yes, he is a black man. Big guy with a beard. He just shoved her in the house and slammed the door. Hurry! I don't know what he is going to do.

He hangs up the cell phone and rises from the toilet.

He sets the phone on the floor and stomps on it until it breaks apart.

EXT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Jeff meets Dotsen at the sedan.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Sorry I'm late. My wife was gabby.

AGENT DOTSEN

When is she moving?

AGENT JEFF HALE

Logistics. Still mapping it out.

She hands him the keys to the car.

AGENT DOTSEN
Change of plans. We're heading to
the Badlands. I'll give you
directions.

She waddles to the passenger door.

TIME DISSOLVE
TO:

INT./EXT. FBI SEDAN/BADLANDS ROAD - DAY

Jeff stares at the harsh lunar like landscape while driving.
Dotsen is on her laptop which rests on her stomach.

AGENT JEFF HALE
They could have filmed the moonwalk
right here.

AGENT DOTSEN
You aren't one of those conspiracy
nuts?

AGENT JEFF HALE
I'm no pushover, but I need proof.

AGENT DOTSEN
Why did you volunteer for Northern
Plains Task Force? Far from Boston.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Sure as shit, Grand Rapids ain't no
Boston.

AGENT DOTSEN
Rapid City. Grand Rapids is in
Michigan.

AGENT JEFF HALE
I get'em mixed up. This is a place
where I can really start a family.

Dotsen pats her stomach and nods.

AGENT DOTSEN
Be careful what you wish for.

AGENT JEFF HALE
What are we investigating?

AGENT DOTSEN
Missing persons. A wreckage. The
moon rover.

She smiles toward him.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

POLICE OFFICERS surround the remains of Cody's SUV. Agent Dotsen can barely waddle around the remains searching for evidence. Jeff pokes through the debris.

AGENT JEFF HALE
No bodies?

POLICE OFFICER
No crispy critters.

AGENT DOTSEN
Do we know how it started?

POLICE OFFICER
Gasoline. A melted canister next to film equipment.

A tow truck shows up and the officer steps away.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Film equipment? Why the FBI?

AGENT DOTSEN
Do you ever watch "*Lost West*" with Cody Haines?

AGENT JEFF HALE
Dude with the cowboy hat and six shooters? Searches for gold mines and shit?

AGENT DOTSEN
His production company says he is missing with two other of his film crew. The GPS showed the SUV went on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The last signal was here.

Dotsen and Jeff walk back to their car.

AGENT DOTSEN
This needs to be kept on the down-low.

Jeff nods his head.

INT. CASINO LUNCHROOM - DAY

Wachiwi sits at a lunch table opening her sack lunch.

She flips off her shoes to rest her feet.

Suddenly, a WAITER lays down a fresh salad and sandwich in front of her.

WACHIWI

What is this?

WAITER

It is a gift from an admirer.

WACHIWI

Do I owe you?

The waiter shakes his head and leaves.

She scans the room for any admirers.

INT. RAPID CITY HOTEL - DAY

DETECTIVE ROBERTS shows Dotsen and Jeff evidence of computers, papers, and maps.

DETECTIVE ROBERTS

Check this out.

He tweezers a clear plastic bag containing DNA swabs.

DETECTIVE ROBERTS

Taking it to the lab for analysis.
We have studio heads breathing down
our necks. It seems Cody was
working on something big about
Chief Crazy Horse.

Jeff sniffs a glass with some whiskey from a Jack Daniels bottle.

AGENT JEFF HALE

He was working on some Jack too.

Agent Dotsen clicks on the keyboard and Cody Haines in his signature cowboy hat and holster comes on screen.

The video shows rough film cuts of Cody at the Custer Memorial with stock footage of grave stones. On the video screen is Running Elk's truck. It is difficult to see the license plate numbers before the camera goes dark.

DETECTIVE ROBERTS
We're working on enhancing the
footage to get the license number.

AGENT DOTSEN
You think this leads to the
reservation?

DETECTIVE ROBERTS
The vehicle had GPS which provided
us a trail. The SUV was last seen
leaving a Home Depot, where they
bought a shovel and a pick. And
then went onto Pine Ridge. Also, we
found this.

The Detective tweezers the piece of paper with scribbled GPS
coordinates.

Both agents study it.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Lotto?

AGENT DOTSEN
GPS coordinates. What is the
location?

DETECTIVE ROBERTS
Porcupine Butte. Right on the
tiptop.

AGENT DOTSEN
Crap.

AGENT JEFF HALE
What?

AGENT DOTSEN
It's a spiritual place for the
Lakota.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Let's just go now.

Dotsen and Detective scoff at his request.

DETECTIVE ROBERTS
Where did you get the greenhorn?

AGENT DOTSEN
He's from Boston. Only the FBI can
investigate violent crimes on
reservations.

I need to contact the Tribal Police
and warn them we're coming.

DETECTIVE ROBERTS
That's why the FBI is paid the big
bucks.

Dotsen gets on her cell phone.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Takoda waits in front of the school as KIDS walk by.

KID 1
That's Papoose.

The kids giggle as Chaska joins him.

CHASKA
What are those kids laughing at?

He shrugs.

TAKODA
Dunno.

She wraps her arm around him and they walk home.

TAKODA
How was your first day?

CHASKA
I assume the usual. Stare and scare
the weird kid. I did meet Sue, our
neighbor, in band class.

TAKODA
How's she?

CHASKA
They call her the racist name of
Sue-shi.

TAKODA
That's f'd up.

CHASKA
Fucked up indeed.

TAKODA
What instrument do you play?

CHASKA
Bass drum. You will have to teach me.

TAKODA
I play the flute.

CHASKA
Same thing. Sue plays the keyboard.

Chaska pulls out a twenty.

CHASKA
I'll buy you an ice cream.

TAKODA
I thought you gave mom your money.

CHASKA
I won it. I kept a twenty for myself.

TIME DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. HORSE ARENA - DAY

Chaska and Takoda eat ice cream bars passing by. Andrew rides a horse between the barrels of a makeshift barrel race. His popular teen friends, JODI, KAREN, and Mark sit on the side rails watching. The STABLE OWNER is timing him with a stop watch and Mark is filming with his phone.

CHASKA
Let's watch.

Takoda sneezes.

CHASKA
Already? I think your allergy is getting worse. We'll watch from the gate.

She hands him a napkin. He blows his nose and follows her to the gate.

They watch Andrew race between the barrels.

TAKODA
Remember how mad you were when mom sold our dad's horses?

CHASKA

I was pissed. It was a part of dad
I didn't want to let go.

He blows his nose and wipes his watery eyes.

TAKODA

Mom wanted to keep them for you,
but they were too expensive.

CHASKA

I got it. If I didn't give mom
shit, she would think something was
wrong with me.

Andrew misses a barrel and he yanks the reins too tight. The
horse rears up on its hind legs and Andrew is bucked off.

Chaska laughs too loud and his friends take notice of her.

Andrew notices her too as he wipes the dirt from his jeans.

JODI

Really?! Let's see you do better,
bitch.

KAREN

He could have been hurt.

Takoda tugs on Chaska's sleeve.

TAKODA

Let's go.

CHASKA

That princess called me a bitch.

TAKODA

Please, don't.

Chaska enters the ring and goes straight to the horse.

MARK

She's gonna do it.

Mark keeps filming, but on Chaska.

JODI

Andrew, don't let her touch your
horse.

Andrew and Chaska meet at his horse.

CHASKA

May I?

ANDREW MITCHELL

I have a feeling you would take the horse even without my consent.

CHASKA

I'm not a horse thief.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Do you need help getting on?

CHASKA

Bitch, please.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Rover can be feisty at times.

CHASKA

Rover?

ANDREW MITCHELL

I named her when I was, like twelve.

Chaska smiles and goes to the horse's nose. She scratches its nose and whispers a Sioux song to it.

MARK

She's trying to kiss it.

Girls giggle.

Chaska grabs the reins of the horse and swoops into the saddle. She rides past the Owner who clicks and starts the stop watch. Chaska pats the horse's neck and leans into its ear.

CHASKA

We are one. Hoka hey.

She jerks the stirrups and slaps its ass. The horse races forward as she leans around the first barrel. She brings the horse to a full sprint and then swings it into a tight angle around the second barrel.

Andrew is mesmerized by her skill and athleticism.

Chaska is a true warrior and at one with the horse as it goes past the last barrel into a sprint past the timer.

STABLE OWNER

Holy crap.

Mark peers away from the phone.

MARK

Fuck me.

Chaska rides past Takoda. He shakes his head with a smile.

TAKODA

I know what you are going to do.
Don't do it, sister.

Chaska winks and rides the horse around the arena. She performs stunts riding and swinging her legs back and forth across the saddle. She stands up straight on the saddle and gallops it to Andrew.

She jumps off and hands him the reins.

The Stable Owner claps and runs after her. Mark lays his phone down and claps, but the jealous girls stop him with angry glances.

ANDREW MITCHELL

You are amazing.

CHASKA

My dad always said horses are great, kindred spirits to our tribe. Rover just needs some kind, encouraging words and affection.

She heads to Takoda.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Hey!

Andrew follows at her heels.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Would you like to go out sometime?

Chaska stops in her tracks and cocks her head at him as the Owner reaches to her out of breath.

CHASKA

Me?

ANDREW MITCHELL

Yes, you.

CHASKA

I just beat your barrel time.

He shrugs.

ANDREW MITCHELL

So?

She allows her guard down and she is perplexed. The Owner is still heaving for oxygen before he can speak.

CHASKA

You're jumping the starting line,
cowboy.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Andrew. My name is Andrew. What's
yours?

CHASKA

Chaska.

STABLE OWNER

(out of breath)

Would you like to perform in our
rodeo?

Takoda sneezes.

CHASKA

I got to go.

STABLE OWNER

Say, you're Indian, huh? Do some of
those neat tricks during
intermissions and I'll pay you.
Though you would need to wear a
cowboy hat and western attire.

CHASKA

I ain't wearing YOUR cowboy crap.

Chaska and Takoda walk away.

TAKODA

He's cute.

CHASKA

You need to keep that to yourself.

TAKODA

He is. Why are you turning down an
easy rodeo gig?

They mosey away as Takoda sneezes.

EXT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Wachiwi drops out of the truck carrying a bag.

Next door, Barney peeks behind a front porch pillar.

Wachiwi does a double take at the obvious hidden neighbor.

WACHIWI

Hello.

Barney peeks from the side of the pillar.

BARNEY

Uh, hello.

Wachiwi walks toward the front door and stops. She spins on Barney.

WACHIWI

Do we work at the same hotel?

Barney fumbles about on the porch and picks at a shrub.

BARNEY

Yes.

WACHIWI

Maybe if we have the same hours, we
can carpool sometime?

BARNEY

Go together?

Wachiwi nods.

BARNEY

I wouldn't mind the company.

WACHIWI

Save some money too. Have a good
night.

She leaves him on the porch with a huge grin.

INT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Chaska and Takoda watch TV as Wachiwi comes in with the bag.

WACHIWI

Our neighbor is odd.

CHASKA
She's alright.

WACHIWI
Not the daughter, her father. I got
you something today.

The kids glance at each other and then to their mom.

WACHIWI
I know it has been hard and we had
to cut our costs, but here.

She hands Takoda the bag.

TAKODA
Really?.

CHASKA
What is it?

She tries to yank the bag, but he hides it behind his back.

CHASKA
You little Iktomi.

She tickles him until he concedes her the bag. She yanks out
a phone.

CHASKA
We get our phones back?

Takoda gives his mother a hug.

TAKODA
Thank you.

He pulls back and presses the phone.

TAKODA
I'm going to see what a center
does.

Chaska searches her phone.

CHASKA
It kept my contacts. Can we afford
this?

WACHIWI
Just don't use up those byte
things.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE - SUNDOWN

Dotsen reads her phone as she leads Jeff and a couple of TRIBAL POLICE.

AGENT DOTSEN

Almost there.

They head toward the clearing under the canopy of prayer ties.

EXT. MOBILE HOME - SUNDOWN

Gray Cloud peers through binoculars toward the top of the butte. Steve stands near him, worried.

STEVE

This is bad. They've been up there awhile.

GRAY CLOUD

I will provide a protection prayer.
The reservation will protect you.

This doesn't comfort Steve who still looks worried.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE BURIAL SITE - SUNDOWN

Jeff swings at the prayer ties like annoying gnats. Dotsen scoots away leaves with her feet. An unmarked grave is revealed.

The two Tribal Police watch his sacrilegious assault.

AGENT DOTSEN

Who is buried here?

TRIBAL POLICE 1

Not sure.

TRIBAL POLICE 2

Given the prayer ties, a family member of the Lakota.

AGENT DOTSEN

It's freshly dug. The soil hasn't harden from winter. Agent Hale, help me dig this up.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Shovel?

TRIBAL POLICE 1

This is a slap in the face to our
elders and the gods, Agent Dotsen.

Dotsen gets on her knees and digs out the dirt with her
hands. Jeff drops to his knees across from her. Dotsen leans
into Jeff.

AGENT DOTSEN

If we leave, whatever is here will
disappear.

Jeff joins her hand-digging.

INT. CHASKA'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Chaska frantically searches the garage for the broken arrow
while on the phone.

CHASKA

What the fuck, Steve?! The critters
are still up there?

STEVE (O.S.)

We didn't have time to move three
big-ass critters. The FBI have been
up there a long time. We didn't
have time.

CHASKA

Where is Gray Cloud?

Chaska is tossing boxes off the shelf.

STEVE (O.S.)

He is praying.

She stops and spins around.

CHASKA

Fuck! His bogus protection prayers
didn't help my dad. Actually, the
whole reservation didn't help him.
He needed a respirator, not some
hocus pocus bullshit.

STEVE (O.S.)

I'm scared.

CHASKA

Fuck! Keep it together.

Sue stands at the opening holding a laptop.

She is surprised to see Sue.

CHASKA
I got to go. Keep me posted.

SUE
I can come back.

CHASKA
No, it's cool. I'm looking for something. Our project?

Chaska opens up a couple of lawn chairs for them to sit.

CHASKA
What's up?

Sue opens the laptop and presses some buttons.

SUE
You need to check out this posting.

CHASKA
Of what?

SUE
You. It was posted online on our school channel.

CHASKA
Me?

Sue shows her the video of her barrel racing and performing her horse stunts.

CHASKA
Who filmed me?

SUE
Look at the likes. You are sensational. Let's play it again.

Chaska is dumbfounded.

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE BURIAL SITE - NIGHT

The Tribal Police shine flashlights on the grave where a pile of freshly dug dirt lay. Dotsen and Jeff still dig with their hands.

Dotsen grabs a handful of dirt and Cody's muddied and blood ridden face is seen. She falls back on the ground in surprise. Jeff wipes the dirt from Cody's face.

AGENT DOTSEN
It's Cody Haines. Jeff, call for
backup.

Jeff rises and gets on his cell phone. The two Tribal Police
glance at each other.

AGENT JEFF HALE
This is Agent Jeff Hale.

The annoying prayer ties smack him in the head. He yanks them
down with his other hand and throws them to the ground.

AGENT JEFF HALE
We need backup.

Dotsen rises from the grave.

AGENT DOTSEN
Call for the paramedics too.

The Tribal Police shine their flashlights on her. Her pants
are soaked from her pregnancy.

TIME DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE BURIAL SITE - DAY

FBI AGENTS collect evidence and the bodies of the film crew
are attached to gurneys by PARAMEDICS.

Jeff is on his cell phone.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Sir, Cody had a puncture and
laceration on his neck and the
other two bullet wounds to their
heads.

He walks over to the three dead bodies.

AGENT JEFF HALE
How's Agent Dotsen? Still in labor.
Yes, sir. Some locals sniffing
around, but no press.

He takes a few steps into the woods away from the other
agents and presses a number on his phone.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Hey, this is Jeff. Do you have a
number for that guy at TMZ?

The guy who gave us money for info
on the Wahlberg's kid. I have a
fuckin' doozy I can collect on.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - MORNING

Deputy Mary Mitchell points a TV controller to turn off the
news.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Get your ass off the pot. I can
take you this morning.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)
It appears Deadwood has a new Annie
Oakley. Check out this viral video
from our local high school.

Andrew jogs out ready for school.

They both watch the video of Chaska's horse performance.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
That's that rude Indian. Why is she
riding your horse?

ANDREW MITCHELL
She goes to our school.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
You didn't tell me you knew her.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I don't. I just met her.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Why is she riding Rover?

ANDREW MITCHELL
Check her out. She's knows how to
ride.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Get in the car.

Mary clicks off the TV.

INT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Wachiwi and Takoda watch the same newscast showing Chaska's
performance.

TAKODA
She made the news.

WACHIWI
Who's horse is that? She didn't
steal it?

Chaska joins them and is surprised to find herself on TV.

TAKODA
You made the morning news.

CHASKA
What the hell?

WACHIWI
Who's horse?

CHASKA
Some kid.

TAKODA
A cute boy.

Wachiwi and Chaska glance at him.

TAKODA
He asked her out for a date.

WACHIWI
You refused?

TAKODA
She always refuses.

Chaska clicks off the TV.

CHASKA
We're going to be late, dweeb. Oh,
by the way, our neighbor has a
crush on you.

TAKODA
Me?

CHASKA
No, the father. He has a crush on
mom.

WACHIWI
Me?

Chaska pushes Takoda to the door.

EXT. DEADWOOD RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Chaska walks Takoda to school.

TAKODA
You're gonna be famous. My sister
is on TV.

CHASKA
Did you take a broken arrow from
the garage?

TAKODA
Uh, no.

A pickup truck drives next to them. Gray Cloud is being
driven by Steve.

TAKODA
That is Gray Cloud's truck.

Gray Cloud rolls down the window.

GRAY CLOUD
Good morning, Takoda and Chaska.

TAKODA
Morning. Why are...

CHASKA
(interrupting)
Why are you here?

GRAY CLOUD
Came into town to shop at Home
Depot. Takoda, do you mind if I
talk to your sister, alone?

CHASKA
Get going.

She pushes him.

CHASKA
I'll catch up.

Takoda walks away.

STEVE
They found the bodies.

Chaska nods in thought.

GRAY CLOUD
Is it safe? Did you do what I
asked?

CHASKA
Yes. That same night.

GRAY CLOUD
And, you read the prayer?

She nods.

CHASKA
Word for word.

GRAY CLOUD
Nothing else happened?

CHASKA
Nothing. Just like your protection
prayers for my father. Nothing. He
died anyway.

GRAY CLOUD
In our lives, our beliefs are
tested. Your tribe is here for you,
Chaska. You are a brave Lakota like
your father. We must stay together.

She smirks and slaps the side of the truck.

CHASKA
Don't worry about me. I hear school
bells ringing.

She races off after Takoda.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

Jeff works on the case and reviews the enhanced photograph of
the license plate number of Running Elk. His SUPERVISOR
tosses a report on his desk.

SUPERVISOR
Preliminary autopsy report. Keep it
locked up.

AGENT JEFF HALE
We have an identification of the
truck at Custer's Last Stand.

SUPERVISOR

Little Bighorn. Are you up to the challenge of this case? Agent Dotsen won't be back for a month tops.

AGENT JEFF HALE

I got this, boss. I had many turf war investigations in gang cases.

SUPERVISOR

The Reservation is the Sioux's own sovereign turf. Be mindful of their beliefs and rituals. Allow for Agent Dotsen's advice.

One desk phone rings. The ring is followed by a succession of office calls. Lastly, the Supervisor's phone rings.

SUPERVISOR

What the hell?

He answers it as Jeff coyly glances back to the report.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Chaska walks down the hall as the other STUDENTS nod and greet her like a celebrity.

Jodi and Karen glare at her with jealousy from their lockers.

Andrew joins her.

CHASKA

Look what you did. People I don't know say "hello."

ANDREW MITCHELL

What is wrong? Mark downloaded it. Think of it as a friendly icebreaker.

She nods to Jodi and Karen.

CHASKA

Or eye-stabs from enemies.

ANDREW MITCHELL

They're OK. They aren't Plastics.

CHASKA

A *Mean Girls* reference?

He cocks his head with an adorable smirk.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I thought about what you said.

They get to band class.

CHASKA
I have band.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Will you go out with me?

CHASKA
I will complicate your life.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I'm not the one scared of a
relationship. Tonight?

CHASKA
I have a place to go.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I can tag along.

Andrew overreacts with a clown frown.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Pahleeze?

CHASKA
Stop the cutesy act.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You find me cute?

CHASKA
My brother does. Want me to pick
you up at home?

ANDREW MITCHELL
Not a good idea.

CHASKA
Meet me at the stables then.

BAND CLASS

Chaska sits in her chair and a new drum waits for her. Sue
and the class stare at the weird kid turned cool.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Branden and his friends walk past Takoda tossing the football between them. Takoda is watching his sister on his phone.

FRIEND 1

Is Papoose watching Indian porn?

The friend yanks the phone away from him.

Branden yanks it back out of his friend's hand.

BRANDEN

Give it back.

Branden watches the video from the phone.

BRANDEN

I saw this on TV.

TAKODA

It's my sister.

FRIEND 2

That's your sister?

BRANDEN

She is amazing.

FRIEND 1

She's hot. They called her the new Annie Oakley.

TAKODA

You should see her shoot an arrow or blow a dart.

BRANDEN

Really? Blow darts too?

TAKODA

I can introduce.

BRANDEN

Cool. Let's go in the field. I'll show you how to play center.

Takoda joins them with a wide welcoming smile.

INT. COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

The OFFICERS and Deputy Mitchell are glued to the TV. A picture of Cody Haines is on with a banner reading "Cody Haines Killed."

OFFICER 1

He was found buried on the reservation with two of his film crew.

OFFICER 2

My friend at the morgue said he was killed by an arrowhead.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

How do they know?

OFFICER 2

They discovered a small flint chip lodged in his neck.

Mary flashes back to her drive a few nights before.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

She shines her flashlight on the dirty buffalo hide and bow and quiver in the bed of Chaska's truck.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Where you coming from?

CHASKA

Pine Ridge.

She flashes the beam upon Chaska's face and then to Takoda who glares out the back window.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

INT. COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Mary is on her cell.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Is this the FBI?

She taps her side holster waiting to provide a tip.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Agent Dotsen holds her newborn baby in bed. Her girlfriend, NANCY, tousles the few hairs on the baby's head.

NANCY
She has hair like her mommy.

AGENT DOTSEN
Which mommy?

NANCY
Surely not mine. She hatched from your egg.

A picture of Cody Haines is on the TV news.

AGENT DOTSEN
Somebody snitched to the press. Can you get me my phone?

NANCY
You aren't on the clock. You are on baby patrol now.

Nancy gives her the phone anyway. She presses it and holds it to her ear with her free hand.

AGENT DOTSEN
You married me and my work.

She adjusts it to ear as the baby squirms. She waits. Hangs up and dials another number.

AGENT DOTSEN
Can I speak to Agent Hale? This is Dotsen. His phone is off. Yes, a beautiful baby boy. Thank you. I'll send photos. Where is Agent Hale? I know, I've seen the news. When he comes in have him call me.

Nancy yanks the phone from her hand.

EXT. SWEAT LODGE - DAY

Running Elk adds a hot stone into the steaming rock pit. Many ELDERS sit around the circular lodge praying and chanting.

Jeff and three FBI AGENTS barge in with guns drawn.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Don't move.

The Elders hide their eyes from the brash sunlight.

ELDER 1

Who invades our prayers, our Inipi?

Jeff wipes the sweat from his brow.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Running Elk. You all look-alike.
Who is Running Elk?

Running Elk quickly tries to escape but is subdued and detained.

RUNNING ELK

I did nothing.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Give the dude a towel and put him
in the car.

ELDER 2

We don't desecrate your churches.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Get back to your homo sing along
orgy.

OUTSIDE

Running Elk is led to a FBI car as Jeff follows.

RUNNING ELK

You killed me. My family.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Geesh. Don't overreact, Geronimo.
We're only going to ask you
questions.

RUNNING ELK

Those elders are all my family.
Family related to the god Crazy
Horse. You sentenced me to death.

Jeff rolls his eyes.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Andrew enters the passenger seat of the Police Bronco. Mary drives.

MARY
How's school?

ANDREW MITCHELL
Same as yesterday. Can you drop me
off at the stables?

MARY
Who are you meeting?

ANDREW MITCHELL
Nobody.

MARY
It better not be that Indian. You
know Cody Haines was killed that
night when we pulled her over. She
was coming back from Pine Ridge.

She drives onto the street.

ANDREW MITCHELL
So?

MARY
He was killed with an arrow with a
flint tip. She had a bow an arrow
and a large buffalo pelt in the
truck bed.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I'm meeting Mark.

MARY
Good. I'm trying to provide her
name to the FBI.

ANDREW MITCHELL
FBI?

Mary drives through town.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Takoda exits the school with Branden.

(O.S.) Truck honk.

Chaska waits for her brother. Branden smacks Takoda's side.

BRANDEN
That's her. Annie.

They run to the truck with their backpacks.

TAKODA
It's Chaska.

Branden stares at her as Takoda opens the passenger door.

CHASKA
What's his problem?

TAKODA
Bye, Branden.

BRANDEN
Can I get a ride?

TAKODA
Can he? It would be cool if you
did.

CHASKA
Suppose. But your ass is sitting in
the middle.

Branden is all excited as Takoda sits next to his sister with
his backpack.

TAKODA
Why do you have the truck?

CHASKA
We need to run an errand.

Creepy Branden never takes his eyes off Chaska who notices an
arrow sticking out of Takoda's backpack. She touches the tip
of the arrowhead.

CHASKA
You lil' bastard.

TAKODA
What?

CHASKA
I'm rubbing off on you.

She deeply sighs in relief.

INT. FBI INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Jeff and an AGENT sit across from Running Elk.

RUNNING ELK

I told you. I provided them with GPS coordinates to a grave site.

JEFF

Their own graves.

RUNNING ELK

I don't know who killed them.

JEFF

Maybe Indians? Buried on a reservation? You tell me?

RUNNING ELK

The Great Spirit killed them. They desecrated our land.

JEFF

Your DNA is on the swabs. Why would Cody want your DNA?

RUNNING ELK

Because Oglala Takoda was my great ancestor. Cody needed it to verify the bones in the grave.

JEFF

Verify whose bones? Whose grave?

RUNNING ELK

To the secret grave of Oglala Takoda. Crazy Horse.

Jeff and the Agent's mouths drop for a moment.

JEFF

How much were you paid?

RUNNING ELK

Ten thousand for the location, another ten upon verification.

JEFF

There were no Crazy bones in the grave.

RUNNING ELK

He once said, "...my bones will be turned into stone and my joints into flint in my grave, but my spirit will rise."

Jeff checks a new dinging text.

JEFF

OK, Yoda. We have confirmed you were working in the gas fields when he was killed. You may go.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/STABLES - DAY

Chaska drives to the horse arena with Takoda.

CHASKA

That kid is creepy.

TAKODA

He's popular. He showed me how to play center. I'm going to join the football team.

Chaska studies him. Takoda notices Andrew sitting on the horse rails.

CHASKA

You aren't being pressured?

TAKODA

No. I want to. He's coming?

The truck stops at the rails as Andrew jumps off and into the truck.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Howdy!

He scoots and squishes Takoda and his backpack into Chaska. He holds out his hand to Takoda.

ANDREW MITCHELL

We weren't formally introduced.

CHASKA

This is my brother, Takoda. This is Andrew.

Takoda shakes his hand.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Glad to meet you. Where we headin'?

CHASKA

Some place you have never been before. Why don't you toss my brother's backpack in the bed?

He jumps out and drops the backpack in the bed. He doesn't notice the arrow sticking out or his mother's surveillance from a far parking lot in the Bronco.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

Jeff walks back to his desk. An AGENT covers a phone mouthpiece nearby.

AGENT 2

I have that deputy on the line again. She says she has a tip on the case. She's persistent.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Persistently annoying. Take the tip from her.

AGENT 2

And remember to call Dotsen.

The Agent goes back to the phone.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/RESERVATION ENTRANCE - DAY

Chaska drives the truck toward the entrance. They pass a slew of MEDIA, armed FBI AGENTS and WHITE TEENS in trucks on the side of the road.

TAKODA

What's happening?

They slowly drive toward an Indian blockade. Trucks filled with Lakota MEN stand guard with rifles across the road.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Cody Haines murders.

TAKODA

Cody Haines the cowboy?

ANDREW MITCHELL

He was murdered. Here. We aren't going in there, are we?

CHASKA

It is our land.

Chaska drives up to the trucks.

A Lakota guard greets Chaska.

LAKOTA GUARD
Hey Chaska.

CHASKA
Quite a welcome party.

LAKOTA GUARD
Shit's getting tense with reporters
and FBI. Hey, Takoda. Who is the
paleface?

Andrew gives him a nervous nod.

CHASKA
A friend. I can vouch for him.

The guard waves his hand.

LAKOTA GUARD
Move the trucks.

The trucks open a space on the road for them to drive
through. Takoda cocks his head to Chaska.

TAKODA
Cody Haines? *The Lost West*?

Chaska stares straight ahead like she never heard his
question and secretly squeezes Takoda's thigh.

TAKODA
Ouch.

INT./EXT. RUNNING ELK'S TRUCK/RURAL ROAD - DAY

Running Elk drives past Gray Cloud's pickup coming in the
other direction.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
This is getting out of control.
It's all over cable news, 24-7.

Running Elk glances in his rearview mirror as Gray Cloud's
pickup performs a three-point turn to follow him.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
You have a leaker.

AGENT JEFF HALE (O.S.)
We ID'd Running Elk and brought him
in for questioning.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
I heard from fellow Agents and the
Tribal Police. You raided a sweat
lodge filled with Elders.

Running Elk yanks out a hand gun from under his seat and lays
it next to him.

AGENT JEFF HALE (O.S.)
We got a motive. It appears Running
Elk was paid to give the
whereabouts of Crazy Horse's grave.

He stomps on the gas and the truck lurches faster.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
If that is the case, you killed
Running Elk.

Gray Cloud's truck picks up speed behind him.

Running Elk keeps his eyes on the rearview mirror.

AGENT JEFF HALE (O.S.)
I think you are overreacting.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
Crazy Horse is a god to them. They
have hidden his gravesite for over
a hundred years. You don't get it.

He doesn't notice that a stringer is set across the road
ahead.

He slams on the gas pedal to go faster. He quickly glances
ahead and catches view of the spikes too late.

(O.S.) Baby cries.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
Baby is hungry. Work with the tribe
and not against it.

WHOMP! Tires blow out and Running Elk loses control of the
truck. It swerves and flips over and over into a roll.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
Keep me posted. I don't want
reports from cable news. Take care.

The wrecked truck comes to a rest on its bashed roof.

Gray Cloud exits his truck nearby with a handgun and peeks
into what remains of the cab.

Running Elk is bloody with bones broken. Gray Cloud shoots Running Elk point blank in the head.

EXT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Mary pulls the Bronco along the curb in front of the house.
She exits and knocks on the front door with no answer.
She snoops around the house to the garage.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

Andrew surveys the rundown mobile homes and houses as they pass by. Chaska and Takoda take notice of his wonderment.

CHASKA

It must be a third-world country to you.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Uh, it's...

TAKODA

Poor. The unemployment is over eighty percent.

CHASKA

The suicide rate is a hundred and fifty percent higher than the national average.

ANDREW MITCHELL

It sure isn't Deadwood.

CHASKA

The reservations lack in resources...

TAKODA

...but makes up for it in spiritualism.

Chaska points to a single wide trailer.

CHASKA

That was ours. See the horse pins. We had four pintos.

ANDREW MITCHELL

What happened?

TAKODA
Our dad died of COVID.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I'm sorry.

CHASKA
So are we. We had to sell the horses and the trailer. That's why mom moved us to Deadwood. She needed work.

Chaska parks the truck near the Wounded Knee Memorial Cemetery. Steve, shirtless, sits on top of the hood of a car.

ANDREW MITCHELL
What's this?

CHASKA
A great place for a first date.

Chaska, Andrew, and Takoda get out of the truck.

TAKODA
This is a date?

Chaska smacks his head.

TAKODA
Hey! It's the Wounded Knee Memorial.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Wounded Knee Massacre?

CHASKA
One in the same. Why don't you take Andrew on a tour? Show him your buddy, Little Bird.

TAKODA
Lost Bird.

Takoda leads Andrew to the entrance. Andrew glances back as Chaska and Steve meet.

TAKODA
Don't be jealous. Chaska doesn't like him that way. She's probably only buying weed.

INT. CHASKA'S GARAGE - DAY

Mary snoops through the contents of the garage and walks out toward the backyard.

"Funeral March of a Marionette" is played on a keyboard from the next door porch.

Mary stops and discovers Sue watching her and playing the keyboard. She stops playing and they stare at each other.

Mary nods to her and steps away. The music begins again.

EXT. CASINO - DAY

Wachiwi waits on a bench with her shoes off and massages her foot. She wears her maid outfit.

Barney walks out in his cook outfit and is surprised to find her.

WACHIWI

Hi, neighbor.

BARNEY

Hello. Do you need a ride?

WACHIWI

I'm waiting on a Lyft. The kids took the truck and I've done enough walking for the day.

BARNEY

Call it off. I'll take you.

WACHIWI

Are you a cook?

He bashfully nods.

WACHIWI

You know I've been dining well the past few days. Wonderful lunches. The tuna melt was especially good today.

BARNEY

I don't know what you are talking about.

WACHIWI

I haven't said it yet.

BARNEY

I'll get the car and pick you up.
Stay here.

He skips away.

EXT. WOUNDED KNEE MEMORIAL CEMETERY - DAY

Takoda and Andrew stand in front of the obelisk.

TAKODA

It was also known as the Ghost
Dance War.

ANDREW MITCHELL

What is a ghost dance?

TAKODA

It was part a ritual dance
performance and religious ceremony.
Sitting Bull believed it would
drive away white settlers and bring
back our traditional lands, like
the Black Hills, and our way of
life.

ANDREW MITCHELL

A dance caused this?

TAKODA

It wasn't *Footloose*. Whites
believed it brought upon violence.
So, the calvary killed more than
two-hundred and fifty men, women,
and children.

ANDREW MITCHELL

They don't teach this in our
history class.

TAKODA

They did in mine.

STEVE'S CAR

Chaska and Steve sit on his hood talking.

STEVE

I'm afraid. This is out of control.
Running Elk was killed hours ago.

CHASKA

Running Elk? By who?

STEVE

The elders are saying the FBI. They raided a sweat lodge and took him away. He was found with a bullet to the head. Gray Cloud says it was an FBI hit job.

CHASKA

You don't believe that?

STEVE

Running Elk gave them the location of Crazy Horse's grave. It's the same M.O. Gray Cloud used on those guys. He's starting his own uprising.

CHASKA

He's a shaman.

STEVE

He's a killer. You saw him. He enjoyed it. He had a fucking orgasm. We could have let them go and claimed self-defense. We trusted him.

CHASKA

The tribe trusts him.

STEVE

I think if both of us went to the FBI, they would believe our story. I don't want to go down for this. I know we don't have much of a future here, but it's all I got. I won't make it in Leavenworth.

Chaska stands on the ground.

CHASKA

If we finger Gray Cloud, we'll have a hole in our heads too. Even our families. Let's see how it plays out.

STEVE

I'm worried, Chaska. Shit's real. I really don't know.

He stands on the ground. She hugs him.

CHASKA

Be strong.

Andrew watches the hug from the cemetery.

CHASKA

Do you have a couple of joints?

Steve notices Andrew watching.

STEVE

It's not in your or his best interest to bring a white boy on the reservation. You might think about moving your family back here too. It's dangerous. The storm clouds are growing.

CEMETERY

Takoda yanks Andrew over to the grave of Lost Bird.

TAKODA

I promise, she doesn't like him sexually. She does like a challenge, but what she really wants and needs is affection.

They stand over the grave of Lost Bird.

TAKODA

Now, where was I. After the massacre, the government outlawed our religion, language, and culture. They made children attend Native American boarding schools and forced them to speak English, study American subjects and attend their church.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Safety through cultural assimilation.

Chaska joins them.

CHASKA

Cultural assimilation? Better watch out Takoda will have you praying in our Lakota language.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Who's the Lost Bird?

CHASKA

Ah, shit. We'll be here forever.

TAKODA

When the Lost Bird was only a baby,
her mother was wounded during the
massacre. She hid along the bank of
the creek with her daughter wrapped
in her arms. Her mother died from
her wound and the freezing cold.
Lost Bird lived in her dead
mother's arms for four days until
she was found.

CHASKA

Cut to the end. She was adopted by
white folk and lived a shitty life
as a sideshow Indian.

TAKODA

That didn't do her justice. I'm
going to pray for her.

Takoda kneels to pray and Chaska pulls Andrew away.

CHASKA

He always felt a connection to her.

ANDREW MITCHELL

I think it's great he keeps the
history alive. He's a smart kid.

CHASKA

My parents always said he got the
brains and I got the horse sense.

They walk together toward the truck.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Did you get your weed?

CHASKA

My brother thinks I'm chronic.
Though he did give me two joints.

She lights one and inhales. She hands off the joint to him.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Isn't it against the law?

Chaska laughs.

CHASKA

You are on the reservation, Deputy
Andrew. It's part of our or my
culture.

He takes a toke.

EXT. SUE'S HOUSE - DAY

Barney exits the car and skips around and opens the passenger door for Wachiwi.

WACHIWI

Thank you for the ride and the lunches.

BARNEY

Your welcome.

Wachiwi walks toward her house and stops.

WACHIWI

Why don't you allow me to cook for you and your daughter?

BARNEY

When?

WACHIWI

Tonight. Give me an hour and the kids should be home. I'll make a pot of bison stew.

BARNEY

I'd love to.

He scampers to his front door.

EXT. RUNNING ELK'S CAR WRECK - DAY

Jeff is on his cell as the car is hoisted on a tow truck.

JEFF

Listen, I need to bust this case. My boss is getting heat from Senators and I may be pulled off the case. I fucked up in Boston and I surely can't fuck up in South Dakota.

He bends down and studies the burnt asphalt tire marks.

JEFF

Get in touch with the production company.

Between them and TMZ put a two hundred thousand dollar reward on any tips leading to the arrest of the murderers. Some Indian will shoot their mouth off. It will buy an overdose in drugs.

He walks back to the sedan.

EXT. WOUNDED KNEE MEMORIAL CEMETERY - DAY

Chaska hands the last bit of the joint to Andrew to finish. He takes a toke and it falls in the bed of the truck.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You should ride the rodeo.

He reaches for it and discovers the arrowhead from the broken arrow sticking out of Takoda's backpack.

CHASKA
I don't have a horse.

Takoda and Chaska jumps in the truck.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You can ride Rover.

Andrew reaches down in the bed.

TAKODA
Before we leave, can we stop by the library?

EXT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Barney and Sue stand on the porch. Barney is dressed in his only suit from ten years back. He holds a bottle of wine.

BARNEY
How do I look?

SUE
Like an alcoholic Jehovah Witness.

Sue knocks on the door.

WACHIWI (O.S.)
Be right there.

Barney nervously fidgets with the wine. Sue takes it from his hands.

SUE
Before you break it.

The door opens.

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/DEADWOOD STREET - SUNDOWN

Chaska and Takoda stare at the large expensive homes on the street. Takoda has two books on his lap. Andrew is rigid and tense in the passenger seat.

TAKODA
You're rich.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You can just drop me off here.

TAKODA
No way. I want see what my sister
is marrying into.

Chaska flicks her brother's head. Andrew points at a large log cabin. He breathes a sigh of relief when he doesn't see his mother's Bronco out front.

A Police SIREN goes off behind them. Andrew's head drops back and Chaska angrily glances in the rearview mirror.

CHASKA
It's that fucking bitch again.

Chaska pulls over on the shoulder.

Andrew closes his eyes as his mother the Deputy comes to the driver's side window.

CHASKA
What now?

She writes out a ticket and flips it to Chaska.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Your taillight is still out.

CHASKA
I didn't even turn on my lights
yet.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Didn't have to. And my son is
making bad decisions. Get to the
house, Andrew.

Chaska and Takoda turn to Andrew who is getting out of the truck like a dog with his tail between his legs.

TIME DISSOLVE
TO:

INT./EXT. CHASKA'S TRUCK/ROAD - SUNDOWN

Chaska drives Takoda back home.

CHASKA
Creep lied to me.

TAKODA
He just never told you.

CHASKA
He knew I would get mad. How did he know?

She slaps the steering wheel.

CHASKA
He was in the car when I was pulled over the first time.

TAKODA
He still likes you. He is embarrassed of his mom. Just like you get.

They pull up into the driveway and see their mother Ghost Dancing in the window.

CHASKA
What is she doing now?

TAKODA
You know her name means, "dancing girl." I have to tell you something.

Chaska parks the truck into the driveway. She holds the steering wheel, ready to accept Takoda's sexual coming out.

CHASKA
Don't worry yourself. I know already.

TAKODA
You do?

CHASKA

Uh, go on.

TAKODA

On the mountain, I didn't complete
Gray Cloud's curse.

Chaska studies him.

CHASKA

Curse?

Takoda holds up a book that reads *INYAN*.

TAKODA

It was evil. It called for the
resurrection of Inyan to revenge
white people. When the earth shook,
I said a protection prayer instead,
for you.

CHASKA

I don't need a prayer.

Takoda shrugs his shoulders.

TAKODA

This trouble is beyond your teen or
normal disturbances.

CHASKA

Let's see why mom is embarrassing
us.

They exit the truck.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andrew comes out of his room and confronts his mom who sits
on the sofa glued to the news.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

I finally got through and provided
the investigator with her name and
address.

ANDREW MITCHELL

You're embarrassing. You
embarrassed me in front of her.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
She could be a killer. A mother
protects her son. I'm only
protecting you.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Let's prove it then.

Andrew drops the broken arrow on her lap.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I found it on her brother. Take it
to your monster lab and analyze it.
When it comes back negative for
human blood, Doctor Jekyll, you owe
me and her an apology.

She is afraid to touch the broken and blood-stained arrow on
her lap.

INT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sue and Barney sit on the sofa having just ate from the stew
on the table. Sue has her keyboard on her lap. Chaska and
Takoda are at the door, dumbfounded at their guests.

Wachiwi breathes heavy from the dance.

WACHIWI
There you are. Come in. I was just
showing Sue the Ghost Dance.

WACHIWI
Sue says you are working on a
project together and wanted to know
about the music. Takoda, play it
for her while I get you some stew.

BARNEY
I'd really love the recipe. Maybe
we can put it on the lunch menu.

WACHIWI
Really? It's a tradition in my
tribe.

Wachiwi scoots off to the kitchen.

LATER

Takoda plays the flute while Chaska plays a drum beat. Sue
listens and toys on the keyboard. They play the hypnotic
music of the Ghost Dance.

Wachiwi and Barney sit nearby watching their kids.

BARNEY

She wants to be a Dead Mouse.

SUE

Not mouse dad, Deadmau five.

Barney shrugs.

BARNEY

Dead Mouse six then.

SUE

I got it.

Takoda and Chaska stop playing as Sue takes over on the keyboards.

She plays the tune again, but electronically in a trance-like beat.

CHASKA

Damn. That is good.

WACHIWI

Get your father's pow-wow costume.

TAKODA

It doesn't fit me.

WACHIWI

Chaska?

She runs off.

Wachiwi grabs Barney's hand and lifts him up.

WACHIWI

I'll show you.

Sue plays as Wachiwi shows Barney the steps of the dance.

He tries to follow Wachiwi's dance steps, but miserably fails.

Takoda and Sue laugh which leads to Barney and Wachiwi laughing.

WACHIWI

You better stick to cooking.

They laugh harder.

(O.S.) Chaska caws like a raven.

It grabs everybody's attention.

Sue plays the trance-like Ghost Dance as Chaska enters like an Indian raven.

She dances the Ghost Dance like the warriors before battle.

Everybody is mesmerized by the ritual dance as she sways with black feathers and wings on her arms.

WACHIWI

Warriors would do this dance before
battle. My late husband would
perform this at pow-wows.

Chaska dances to the music with tear-filled eyes.

EXT. RAPID CITY APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

(O.S.) Ghost Dance music plays.

Jeff sits at a kitchen table holding a pen ready to sign a divorce decree. His holster is on the table. He takes a shot of whiskey and wipes his watery eyes. He signs the divorce.

(O.S.) Knock.

He grabs his gun and goes to the door.

He slowly opens it to Steve.

EXT. SUE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sue plays some chords on her porch as Chaska meets her.

CHASKA

You're really talented.

SUE

Thanks. Is my dad still making a
fool of himself?

Chaska sits on the porch.

CHASKA

Yeah. So is my mom. It's been a
while since she has been able to
smile.

SUE
You're dad died of COVID?

CHASKA
Yes. He was so strong and all it took was a virus. He didn't want to leave the reservation to get care and thought he could overcome it with strength and prayer. Where's your mom?

SUE
She is in the military on active duty.

CHASKA
When is she coming back?

SUE
She has been away on active duty for seven years. She will never be back.

CHASKA
That sucks.

SUE
Yep. By the way, a female deputy was nosing around your garage today.

Chaska glances toward the garage and smiles.

SUE
These killings are making folks paranoid. Next thing you know they will build internment camps.

Chaska nods her head.

CHASKA
They already have reservations.

INT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Wachiwi shakes Chaska and Takoda up. Takoda has the Inyan book open on the bed.

WACHIWI
Up sleepy brains.

TAKODA
It's heads, mom. Sleepy heads.

WACHIWI

You can take the truck to school.

Wachiwi has a bounce in her step in her maid outfit.

CHASKA

Mom, it's Saturday.

Wachiwi cocks her head.

WACHIWI

So it is. I was wondering why a cute boy was grazing his horses on our lawn. Barney and I are carpooling.

Takoda yanks open the curtain as Chaska peeks out.

(O.S.) Horse nays.

CHASKA

What the hell?

TAKODA

Mom, you know you don't date co-workers.

WACHIWI

I'll take your advice when you actually get a job.

LATER

Takoda eats cereal while reading the book and watching the TV News. Chaska walks past dressed.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

There has been a break in the Cody Haines case. A witness has come forward accepting the reward. It appears the FBI has a named suspect in the crime.

Chaska freezes at the TV.

TAKODA

Do you know who it is?

CHASKA

Why would I know? You're gonna be late for school.

TAKODA

We have no school. I'm going to
play football with my friends
today.

Chaska stares at him for a second until a horse nays outside.

EXT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Andrew holds the reins of two horses on the lawn as Chaska
steps out.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Your mom is nice compared to you-
know-who.

CHASKA

Why didn't you tell me about your
mom?

He shrugs as Chaska goes straight to the horse and cuddles up
to it while scratching it's head.

CHASKA

Hey, Rover.

ANDREW MITCHELL

You are more comfortable with
horses than people.

She nods knowing it is true.

ANDREW MITCHELL

I should have told you, but I
didn't think you would go out with
me.

CHASKA

Probably not, but you would be
truthful.

ANDREW MITCHELL

My point exactly. Hop on. I'll take
you to breakfast.

Andrew and Chaska mount the horses.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

Jeff stands with FBI AGENTS with guns drawn at the Indian
barricade.

Gray Cloud has a rifle in his hand behind a pickup. It is pointed at Jeff.

Newscasters and Camera Men film the standoff.

Jeff speaks in a bullhorn.

AGENT JEFF HALE

If Gray Cloud comes forward, this
will end without any violence.

The Lakota guards glance toward Gray Cloud.

GRAY CLOUD

Another white man lie. The FBI will
kill you just like they did Running
Elk.

INT. DOTSEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Agent Dotsen feeds the BABY from her breast with Nancy glued to the TV news of the standoff.

AGENT DOTSEN

He doesn't get it. Gray Cloud is a
Shaman.

NANCY

There's still such thing as a
Shaman?

AGENT DOTSEN

He's a well respected elder of the
tribe. The Lakota will not allow
him to be arrested. They need me
there to lower the tension. This
will not end well if force is used.

NANCY

We need you here.

Dotsen looks down upon her suckling baby.

EXT. MCDONALDS - DAY

Chaska and Andrew rides horses at the drive-thru window. They get their breakfast bags.

INT. POLICE LAB - DAY

Mary watches a TV about the Indian standoff as a LAB
TECHNICIAN completes a DNA match.

LAB TECH
We have a match.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
With who?

LAB TECH
Holy crap. Cody Haines.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
I knew it.

She gets on her cell phone.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

Jeff and Agents are waiting behind FBI sedans with guns drawn
in a standoff with the Lakota tribe.

JEFF
Where are they?

His cell phone rings.

JEFF
Agent Hale. What? Where? Get it to
the FBI labs. Who is Chaska? God
damn it. Find her and arrest her.

He hangs up.

AGENT 1
What was that?

JEFF
They found the murder weapon with
Cody's blood. It appears that
stupid Indian held back
information. There were more than
he and Gray Cloud there that night.

He focuses on Gray Cloud behind a truck holding a rifle.

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY - DAY

Chaska and Andrew eat at the gravestones of Wild Bill Hickok
and Calamity Jane with their horses tied to the fence.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Seems we are always finding
ourselves at cemeteries.

Chaska looks over the Deadwood city below.

CHASKA
Are you going to follow in your
mother's footsteps into law
enforcement?

ANDREW MITCHELL
My dad wants me to be a doctor like
him. I thought I'd meet him half-
way in animal medicine. How 'bout
you? You should take up the offer
performing for the rodeo.

CHASKA
I'm no sideshow Indian. Train
horses maybe. My prospects appear
limited.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Don't sell yourself short. You are
an amazing talent.

Embarrassed, Chaska glances into the cemetery.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Do you know they even segregated
the dead?

He points to a section of the cemetery.

ANDREW MITCHELL
That's the Chinese section and over
there is the Jewish area.

CHASKA
Is there an Indian section? Your
mother was snooping around our
garage yesterday.

ANDREW MITCHELL
She is obsessed with you. Not like
my obsession.

Andrew touches her shoulder. She retreats from his touch.

CHASKA
Why did you do that?

ANDREW MITCHELL
You're like a wild filly.

CHASKA
Now, I'm a horse?

Andrew laughs.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Skittish, yes. But, no, you are so much more. I just wanted to touch you.

He touches her shoulder again. This time she doesn't move away. She meets his eyes and he kisses her. She pulls her head away and kisses him back even harder.

Chaska's cell phone rings. She quickly answers.

CHASKA
Takoda, Takoda stop yammering. Who is outside?

Chaska's eyes grow wide.

CHASKA
Takoda, listen. Leave the house. Take your backpack with you. Meet me at the stables. I'll be there in a few. Be brave. Remember to take the backpack.

She hangs up and unties the reins from the fence.

CHASKA
The police are in the front of the house with your mom.

ANDREW MITCHELL
It can't be. I gave the broken arrow to my mom to analyze.

Chaska glares at him.

CHASKA
Broken arrow? How did you get that?

ANDREW MITCHELL
I took it from Takoda's backpack. I wanted to show my mother you had nothing to do with Cody's murder.

Chaska quickly mounts the horse.

CHASKA
I was there, Andrew. That arrow
killed Cody Haines.

She yanks the reins and the horse gallops away. Andrew mounts his horse in shock.

EXT. CHASKA'S HOUSE - DAY

Takoda hides on the other side of the garage as the POLICE surround the house. He is nervous and afraid, clutching his backpack.

Mary sneaks around the garage corner with her gun drawn.

Sue opens her backyard gate and motions Takoda to come.

Takoda scampers into Sue's backyard as Mary comes around the corner aiming her revolver.

The Police break into the front door of Chaska's house.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chaska rides the horse, galloping through the trees as Andrew follows a distance away.

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Takoda runs to the horse arena where Jodi sits on her horse and Karen watches from on top of the gate.

Takoda catches his breath in front of them. He wears his backpack.

JODI
You're Chaska's little brother?

TAKODA
Have you seen her? She's with
Andrew.

Karen seethes in jealousy.

KAREN
Neither one.

Takoda sneezes from his horse allergy.

JODI
Can you ride like your sister?

TAKODA

No.

Jodi glances over at Karen.

JODI

I bet he can.

KAREN

Why don't you show us?

JODI

You can ride my horse.

Jodi dismounts.

TAKODA

No, thank you.

Jodi forces the reins in his hands.

JODI

Show us how a real Indian warrior
rides.

He sneezes again and his eyes water.

KAREN

Come on. Show us.

JODI

You aren't a puss or a fag?

KAREN

Is there such thing as a queer
Indian?

Takoda wipes the snot from his nose with his shirt sleeve.

JODI

We just want to see you ride.

Takoda takes the reins.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

More reinforcements are brought in on both sides of the
blockade.

Jeff is met with two FBI SNIPERS. He hands them photographs
of Gray Cloud.

AGENT JEFF HALE
This is our man. If any shots are
fired, I want to see this guy in a
pine box.

They scatter around the armored FBI vehicles. Jeff's cell
phone rings.

AGENT JEFF HALE
This is Agent Hale.

SUPERVISOR (O.S.)
De-escalate this situation now.
It's all over the news. I have
senator's calling. The President.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Sir, he is a shot away.

SUPERVISOR (O.S.)
I'm bringing Agent Dotsen back to
calm things down.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Sir?

An old pickup truck with armed Lakota teens drives up to the
Indian side of the blockade.

EXT. HORSE ARENA - DAY

Takoda reaches and inserts his sneaker in the stirrup.

JODI
A real warrior.

Takoda swings his leg across the saddle to the other side. He
wipes his watery eyes with his arm.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

Gray Cloud stands and motions the new ENFORCEMENTS to spread
out.

BANG! An Indian truck backfires.

A GUNSHOT follows as Gray Cloud is shot in the head. He
collapses dead in the dirt.

A chorus of "Hoka hey" sounds out from the Lakota warriors.

An explosion of gunshots volley between the warring groups.

SUPERVISOR (O.S.)
What the fuck is happening?

AGENT JEFF HALE
They escalated it.

Bullets storm into cars and armored vehicles.

FBI Agents and Lakota warriors fall dead.

EXT. HORSE ARENA - DAY

Jodi slaps the horse's ass. It takes off with Takoda barely hanging onto the reins.

Jodi and Karen laugh as Takoda bounces off the saddle with each gallop.

Takoda tries to rein in the horse with his nose running and his eyes watering.

He slips off the saddle as the horse runs along the rail. He loses his balance and falls to the rail side just missing the iron fencing.

His foot is caught in the stirrup. The horse runs toward the rails again, but this time, Takoda's head smacks the rail and he is yanked out of the stirrup.

His body lies motionless in a cloud of dust.

EXT. PINE RIDGE RESERVATION ROAD - DAY

From a cloud of dust, bodies of Indians lay bullet-ridden in the dirt. A few agents also lie dead. Wounded agents and Jeff walk toward the dead Indians with guns drawn.

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Chaska gallops toward the arena where Jodi and Karen and OTHERS gather around a body.

Chaska moves closer and can identify Takoda lying motionless in the dirt.

CHASKA
What did you do?!

She jumps off the horse and climbs over the rail. She shoves the onlookers and drops to her knees at Takoda.

CHASKA
Takoda, Takoda...

STABLE OWNER
The paramedics are coming.

(O.S.) Sirens grow.

CHASKA
Who did this?

Andrew joins the circle staring down at Takoda.

KAREN
It was an accident.

Chaska rises up and confronts Karen.

CHASKA
My brother doesn't ride horses. He
is allergic to them, cunt.

Chaska puts all her anger in her fist and punches Karen in the face.

Karen falls back and Chaska follows pounding her with her fists.

The Owner yanks her off Karen. Chaska is crying and seething with anger as blood seeps out of Karen's nose.

CHASKA
Do you know what his name means? "A
friend to everyone." He wouldn't
hurt you. He wouldn't hurt anyone.
And you did this to him.

POLICE and PARAMEDICS drive up to the arena. Andrew tries to yank her away. He meets the fire in her eyes.

CHASKA
You did this.

The PARAMEDICS rush to help Takoda.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You must go. I'll make sure he gets
to the hospital.

Deputy Mitchell's Bronco comes around a bend.

ANDREW MITCHELL
It's my mother.

Chaska snaps up her brother's backpack and backs away from the scene and then races to Rover. She jumps in the saddle and races away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wachiwi prays at Takoda's bedside. Takoda is unconscious wearing a bandage on his head. Barney and Sue are in the room too.

Jeff enters with Mary.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Ms. Sitting Bear.

Wachiwi stops her prayer and focuses on Jeff and the Deputy.

AGENT JEFF HALE
I'm sorry about your son, but I must ask you some questions about your daughter.

WACHIWI
I don't know where she is. If I knew I'd have her arrested for what she did to her brother.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Can we talk alone?

Wachiwi glances over to Barney and Sue.

BARNEY
No. Can't you see a mother is grieving, praying for her hurt child?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Your daughter is a fugitive. She is wanted in the murder of Cody Haines.

Sue confronts Jeff and Mary.

SUE
You started an Indian war. She doesn't want you here. Get out!

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
And who are you?

Agent Dotsen surprises them at the door.

AGENT DOTSEN
Get out, Agent Hale.

Jeff and Mary spin toward Agent Dotsen.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Who are you?

Agent Dotsen points to the door.

AGENT DOTSEN
I'm taking back this case. Get out,
agent. It's logistics. Take your
ass back to Boston. There's a
complaint that you swatted your ex.

Agent Dotsen gets in Mary's face.

AGENT DOTSEN
Deputy, you have no damn authority
here. Get the hell out.

Jeff and Mary leave like disciplined dogs.

AGENT DOTSEN
Ms. Sitting Bear, I'm sorry for
their behavior. I pray your son
gets better.

She nods to Sue and Barney and exits.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chaska rides the horse concealed within the tree line.

She dismounts and searches her brother's backpack. She finds
a candy bar and quickly eats it.

She looks further and finds a Yoo-hoo packet. Tears come to
her eyes.

CHASKA
They need to pay for what they did
to you. What they did to our
people.

She drinks from it.

A crumbled paper sticking out of the backpack catches her
eye. She extracts Gray Cloud's curse.

Twigs snap (O.S.)

A deer appears about twenty feet away.

Rifle blasts (O.S.)

The deer collapses dead.

Chaska rises as a HUNTER appears from the woods.

HUNTER

You're the Indian who killed Cody
Haines. Started the Wounded Knee
battle.

CHASKA

What battle?

HUNTER

The second battle of Wounded Knee.
Over twenty Indians dead.

They stare at each other for a tense moment. The Hunter spins
and runs away.

Chaska jumps on the horse with the paper and gallops away.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jeff stands defeated in the parking lot on the cell phone.

AGENT JEFF HALE

Yes sir. I'll get back as soon as
possible.

Mary drives up in her Bronco as he hangs up.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

A hunter spotted her near the
memorial. Jump in.

AGENT JEFF HALE

But...

He glances over at Agent Dotsen exiting the hospital.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

You did the right thing. Those
Indians deserved what is coming to
them.

Jeff jogs to the passenger door.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY

Mark drives his truck up to the curb and Vince follows in another pickup. TEENAGERS are in the bed of both trucks drinking beer.

Andrew comes out of the house.

MARK
C'mon, Indian lover.

The teenagers laugh as they hide guns. In the bed of Vince's truck is dynamite.

Andrew jumps in the passenger seat.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Fuckin' Vince is coming? I wanted
to search for her with only us.

MARK
More the better.

Andrew tosses him a quizzical glance.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SLOPE - DAY

Two Bloodhounds bark and sniff up the slope. Mary, Jeff, and the POLICE DOG HANDLER follow.

AGENT JEFF HALE
It's going to be sundown soon.

OVERHEAD

Drones fly searching the forest for Chaska.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Chaska hides the horse amongst some brush under a canopy of trees.

Bloodhounds bark roughly two football fields away.

She unfolds the crumpled paper curse and walks in the clearing to Crazy Horse's grave.

A drone swoops down and hovers over her.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

A monitor shows Chaska standing over the grave. Agent Dotsen and AGENTS view the monitor screen.

AGENT DOTSEN
Get the coordinates. Lord knows
what will happen if Jeff and that
Deputy get to her first. I want my
agents there now.

Agents scramble away as Agent Dotsen points to the monitor.

AGENT DOTSEN
Take me closer. Is that a grave?

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

Mark and Vince park their trucks in front of the memorial.
Andrew gets out and stares at the large warrior face.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Why are we here?

The teens jump out of the bed of the truck and carry guns and
rock climbing gear. Vincent carries some dynamite.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Is that dynamite?

VINCE
Sure the fuck it is.

He confronts Mark and Vince.

ANDREW MITCHELL
What are you doing?

VINCE
We're gonna blow the fucking Indian
off our mountain. Or, at least,
give him some bad acne.

Vince nudges past Andrew.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Chaska stands over the grave.

(O.S.) Bloodhounds barks grow.

(O.S.) A whiz of a drone flies near.

Chaska looks above her head and discovers the drone hovering and circling around her.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The dogs climb to the top with Jeff, Mary, and the Handler behind.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

Vince and the Teens hammer in spikes in the warrior's face and Vince climbs up the cheek.

Steve and Andrew stand below.

ANDREW MITCHELL
You know this is wrong.

MARK
Those Indians killed our people.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Those Indians are Americans too.
They are Native Americans.

MARK
They aren't like us, Andrew. They
think they are better than us. They
go by their own laws.

Vincent hammers and chisels a hole for the dynamite. He inserts the dynamite in the hole and drops the dangling fuse.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP GRAVE - DAY

Chaska stands over the grave and reads the curse in the Lakota language. She has difficulty saying the words.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

Agent Dotsen watches the drone monitor of Chaska reading the curse. She talks into the microphone.

AGENT DOTSEN
Move closer. What is she reading? I
want to hear.

The drone moves closer. The Lakota curse is being read.

AGENT DOTSEN
Can anyone speak Lakota?

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Mary, Jeff, and the Handler get to edge of the clearing and discover Chaska reading over the grave. Mary and Jeff aim their weapons at her. The Handler leashes the dogs.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Chaska, stop!

AGENT JEFF HALE
You are wanted for the murder of
Cody Haines.

They step into the clearing.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

The fuse is lit and measuredly climbs up the side of the stone warrior's face toward the dynamite.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

Agent Dotsen watches the monitor as Jeff, Mary, and the Handler surround Chaska.

AGENT DOTSEN
They better not kill her. How long
till our agents are there?

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP GRAVE - DAY

Chaska is having difficulty reading the Lakota words, but she keeps reading it.

She is scared and worried she may be shot. Her voice cracks and she manages to complete the curse.

She raises her head to the sky where the drone is seen.

MARY
Get on your knees with hands held
high.

Chaska falls to her knees with her head and hands lifted toward the sky. Tears run down her face.

CHASKA
Please mighty Inyan help my people.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

The fuse inches closer to the dynamite.

From above the warrior's head storm clouds gather. Lightning cracks and thunder booms.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP GRAVE - DAY

Clouds gather with lightning streaks and thunder clapping.

Chaska stares up into the brewing storm.

A lightning bolt strikes the drone and it explodes.

Jeff, Mary and the Handler are afraid. From the bushes the horse rises in fear and nays.

The ground begins to rumble like an earthquake. Small fissures open in the soil from under their feet.

HANDLER

I'm getting my dogs off the
mountain.

He yanks the dog's leashes and escapes out of view.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

Andrew, Mark, Vincent, and the Teens take cover as the fuse reaches the dynamite.

There is a quiet calm in the storm until a massive EXPLOSION of stone and powder erupts.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP GRAVE - DAY

The massive explosion causes the earth to shake and Jeff and Mary to lose their balance.

Chaska takes the opportunity to dash to the horse. She keeps her balance as the earth angrily shakes.

She calms the horse and jumps in the saddle.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

The monitor screen is dark as Agent Dotsen yells into the microphone.

AGENT DOTSEN
What happened?

Another AGENT races up to her.

AGENT 3
There's been an explosion.
Earthquake.

She glances into her reflection in the gray screen.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

The rock dust dissipates and a huge crater is revealed in the stone warrior's face. The explosion produces a menacing scar and wound.

Mark, Vince, and the Teens celebrate with whistles, claps, and high-fives.

Andrew can't take his eyes off the warrior's wounded face.

The storm builds above and it becomes dark. The earth begins to rumble and roar under their feet.

From the gaping crater in the warrior's face a STREAM OF BLOOD cascades down the stone.

TEEN 1
What is that?

STEVE
It's blood.

TEEN 1
The fucking Indian is bleeding.

The ground fractures as trees fall.

The warrior comes alive. Not like a human, but a stone monster. The bleeding subsides to a trickle and leaves a dark scar-like trail.

Everybody flees for the truck.

Andrew is mesmerized as the earth's crust breaks from the mountain revealing a body of a crouched warrior.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SLOPE - DAY

Chaska rides down the crumbling mountain on the horse.

Behind her, Mary and Jeff hasten down on foot as an avalanche of trees and earth fall deathly close behind them.

EXT. CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL - DAY

The crouched stone warrior raises up. The loose rock and soil surrounding its body rains down and around Andrew.

The giant stands upright and opens its dark cavernous eyes.

It lowers its head and fixes upon Andrew.

A giant stone foot rises and stomps down toward Andrew.

Andrew dives and escapes as the monster foot booms into the earth.

Andrew races toward Mark's truck.

Teens slap on the truck's wall from the bed.

TEEN 1

Hurry! Let's get the fuck out of here!

TEEN 2

Fuck him. Let's go!

Steve, in the driver's seat, motions to Andrew to hurry. Vincent's truck kicks up dust as it speeds away

MARK

C'mon!

Andrew is less than ten feet from the truck when the other giant foot slams down and flattens the truck like a small matchbox.

Andrew freezes as his friend's screams are extinguished.

Andrew raises his head and discovers the menacing warrior peering down at him.

He sprints into the dense forest.

Behind him stone feet drop like bombs which crack trees like matchsticks. Andrew is but an insect escaping.

He freezes as a stone foot slams the ground in front of him.

He spins around to flee, but the other foot pounds down inches from crushing him between the two.

From above, tree limbs break and rain down. A mighty stone hand reaches for him. The fingers reach like giant slabs of concrete ten feet from him.

Chaska gallops up on the horse.

CHASKA

Get on!

The monster hand is inches from crushing him as he climbs on the stone foot to jump on the horse. The stone foot begins to rise. He leaps down on the back of the horse clinging to Chaska's waist.

Chaska kicks the stirrups and slaps the horses rear and they race away from the giant.

The giant's feet drop bombs faster than before.

Chaska slaloms through the tree trunks like barrel racing.

ANDREW MITCHELL

It killed Steve.

The booming of footsteps is further away.

CHASKA

It's going in another direction.

ANDREW MITCHELL

It bled. They dynamited the face and it bled.

CHASKA

It's Inyan.

ANDREW MITCHELL

What? What is Inyan?

CHASKA

The stone god. I buried Crazy Horse on the mountain. Gray Cloud wanted me to read the Lakota curse. I read it as your mother was about to arrest me.

ANDREW MITCHELL

My mother?

He glances up at the half collapsed mountain.

ANDREW MITCHELL

She's up there. Is she alive?

Chaska nods.

CHASKA

She was fleeing after me. On foot.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Did you kill Cody Haines?

CHASKA

No. Cody drew his pistol and Steve shot the arrow into his neck. Gray Cloud murdered the other two.

ANDREW MITCHELL

I don't know if I can believe you.

CHASKA

You have to.

ANDREW MITCHELL

I need to find my mom.

CHASKA

She's with the FBI agent.

ANDREW MITCHELL

What is the curse? How many people will it kill?

CHASKA

I dunno.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Dunno?

CHASKA

It was for revenge.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Revenge can have a broad meaning.

CHASKA

I don't know. Knowing Gray Cloud, kill all white settlers.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Where's it going?

Booms are heard in the distance where Chaska points. The storm clouds hang over and disguise the giant.

CHASKA

That direction.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Where would it go? If you are a
Lakota warrior, where would you go?

CHASKA

If it was me...

A sudden realization captures her face.

CHASKA

We need to ride. Your mom is
strong. She will survive.

She kicks the stirrups into the horse's side and races
through the woods.

CHASKA

Hang on.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - SUNDOWN

Jeff and Mary stand on an overlook next to the Bronco
watching the dense storm clouds with bolts of lightning
surrounding the giant. Each lightning bolt reveals another
part of its massive muscled body.

AGENT JEFF HALE

What is it?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

That Indian witch conjured it up.
We need to stop it.

They jump into the Bronco. Mary tries her radio and only
static is heard.

AGENT JEFF HALE

It's the storm.

Jeff pulls out his cell phone and it doesn't work.

EXT. FOREST - SUNDOWN

Chaska and Andrew race toward the booming stomps of the
giant's feet.

CHASKA

We need to get in front of it.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Go to the right. There's a short
cut to the visitor's center.

Chaska races through a sage field.

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE - NIGHT

The four Presidents' heads are illuminated for tourist photos at the Visitor Center below. TOURISTS sit at the outdoor amphitheater, taking pictures.

Storm clouds bellow with a crack of lightning and thunder.

Chaska and Andrew gallop to PARK RANGERS near the parking lot.

PARK RANGER 1
No horses in the park.

CHASKA
You need to get them out.

ANDREW MITCHELL
It's coming.

(O.S.) Boom! Each giant step shakes the ground.

PARK RANGER 2
What is that?

ANDREW MITCHELL
You need to save them.

CHASKA
We have no time.

Chaska shoves the Ranger out of the way and rides up to the visitor center.

The tourists are bewildered and frozen from the rattle and cracking of the cement floor.

The storm engulfs the tourists.

(O.S.) Thunder claps.

The lights on the monument go dark. All the lights go out in rolling darkness.

Tourists panic and scream in utter darkness.

(O.S.) Booms and cracks from the giant steps grow.

Lightning bolts illuminate the surrounding and reveals the giant warrior standing before the president's faces.

The Tourists scramble for the exits.

The warrior stomps on a group of fleeing tourists. Blood sprays out from the stone foot.

The giant uproots trees and chucks them at the fleeing tourists. A mother holds her baby and a tree slams into them.

Tourists clamor and flee past Chaska and Andrew to their cars.

The warrior slams its massive fists into the visitor center like a bomb.

GIFT CENTER

The ceiling collapses on the tourists still inside.

Andrew and Chaska dismount.

ANDREW MITCHELL

How do we stop it? It's killing everybody.

CHASKA

There must be a way. Takoda was reading a book about Inyan. Takoda knows about these myths.

ANDREW MITCHELL

This is no fucking myth.

CHASKA

He may know how to stop it.

Lightning reveals the warrior has turned its back on the visitor center.

ANDREW MITCHELL

It's leaving.

Each lightning bolt of illumination shows the giant moving toward the stone presidents.

CHASKA

No, it's not leaving. You asked what I would do if I was a fucking stone warrior. I'd do it too.

Lightning reveals the warrior with clenched fists at the heads of Washington and Jefferson.

The warrior punches the faces of the presidents. Lightning reveals the sculpture breaking with each powerful exploding punch. The mountain rumbles and the earth shakes.

Andrew throws a questioning glance at Chaska.

CHASKA

It's an eyesore for my people.

The presidents' faces crumble and turn to rubble.

MINUTES LATER

Wounded Tourists cry. Dead bodies lay bloodied by all the wreckage. Chaska rummages through dead bodies pockets and belongings.

ANDREW MITCHELL

What are you doing?

CHASKA

Your horse won't get us to Deadwood in time.

She yanks out remote keys from a pocket of a dead OLD MAN.

He is surprised by her lack empathy.

CHASKA

C'mon.

She runs toward the parking lot.

INT./EXT. BRONCO/MOUNT RUSHMORE ROAD - NIGHT

Mary drives Jeff in the middle of a storm. Jeff tries to see the mountain.

AGENT JEFF HALE

It's there already.

Tourist cars and RV's swerve on the road from an entrance. They barely miss the Bronco.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

We need to get to Deadwood and call the military. If we stay close to this monster and the storm, we can't stop it.

Mary slams down on the gas pedal and turns on her emergency lights and siren.

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Chaska walks among the left over parked cars. Cars swerve to avoid hitting her.

MEADOW

Just past the parking lot, Andrew smacks the saddle-less horse.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I'll be back for you.

It gallops into the dark meadow.

PARKING LOT

Chaska presses the electronic key.

CHASKA
Holy shit!

Andrew runs toward Chaska.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Did you find it?

CHASKA
Yes.

A massive RV flashes its lights about fifty yards away.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Damn!

MINUTES LATER

Chaska opens the side door of the RV. Something SCURRIES inside.

A CORGI dog greets and scares them at the door.

INT. FBI OFFICE - NIGHT

The doppler radar image shows on the monitor staying in one place.

AGENT DOTSEN
The storm is not moving. It's just staying on the mountain. We need to get there and find out what this is. Call the Air Force and see if they can explain this.

The Agent gets on his cell phone.

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE - NIGHT

Through the brightly lit lightning strikes the giant pulverizes Teddy.

INT./EXT. RV/HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Chaska is swerving the giant RV past the other cars like her horse around barrels.

Andrew comforts the Corgi in his lap in the passenger seat.

CHASKA
What's its name?

Andrew reads the collar and rolls his eyes.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Donald.

Chaska shakes her head and presses down on the accelerator.

TIME DISSOLVE
TO:

EXT. DEADWOOD HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Sue sits on a visitor's bench eating a sandwich. She watches the oncoming storm and lightning show in the distance.

The RV squeals and brakes into the parking lot.

Sue takes a bite of her sandwich as the RV brakes next to her. To her surprise, Chaska and Andrew exit.

CHASKA
Sue!

SUE
Did you steal the bus?

CHASKA
No. Well, yes, but is Takoda alright?

SUE
They had to drain the fluid around his brain but he is conscious.

CHASKA

Thank god.

Chaska is about to run into the entrance but Sue stops her.

SUE

There's FBI at his door.

Chaska studies Sue in a red hoodie.

INT./EXT. BRONCO/DEADWOOD MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Jeff studies the bars on his phone light up as Mary drives.

AGENT JEFF HALE

I got service.

He calls on his cell phone.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)

Jeff. It's about goddamn time.
Where are you? Do you have the
girl?

AGENT JEFF HALE

We were about to arrest her.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)

Where is she?

AGENT JEFF HALE

I don't know. However, listen. You
need to call the military. There is
a giant stone warrior killing
tourists at Mount Rushmore.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)

You're done Jeff. What don't you
know about, "off the case."

AGENT JEFF HALE

I know it sounds like Godzilla or
King Kong crazy, but this ain't no
monster movie.

Mary yanks the phone away from Jeff.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Listen, damn it. It hides in the
storm.

AGENT DOTSEN (O.S.)
The giant stone King Kong hides in
the storm?

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Don't be patronizing, bitch. Send
in the Air Force and save lives.

She tosses the phone back to Jeff.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Dotsen, you have to believe us.

AGENT DOTSEN (V.O.)
I'm leaving now for Deadwood. You
are leaving South Dakota now.

Jeff hangs up.

INT. HOSPITAL HALL - NIGHT

An FBI AGENT sits guard in front of Takoda's room.

Chaska walks down the hall with a red hoodie on. The Agent
doesn't even look at her.

Chaska must drop a bed pan to grab the Agent's attention.

The Agent takes notice of her and gives chase.

STAIRWELL

Chaska runs in the stairwell where Sue waits.

Chaska zips off the hoodie and Sue quickly zips it on.

Chaska tip toes up the stairs as Sue stomps down.

The FBI Agent opens the stairwell door and discovers Sue
wearing the red hoodie down a flight of stairs. He gives
chase.

Chaska tip toes down from the upstairs landing.

INT./EXT. BRONCO/DEADWOOD COUNTY SHERIFF - NIGHT

Mary drives as Jeff checks the lightning strobing closer.

Jeff's cell phone dings from a text.

He reads it.

AGENT JEFF HALE
Chaska has been sighted at the
hospital.

Mary makes a hard turn and presses on the gas pedal.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Chaska enters the room and discovers Wachiwi holding Takoda's hand. His head is bandaged but he is conscious. Barney watches the newscast showing a storm over Mount Rushmore.

CHASKA
Mom! Takoda! Thank god you are
alive.

She comes to the bed, but her mother confronts her.

WACHIWI
You did this to your brother.

CHASKA
I didn't!

WACHIWI
You were supposed to watch him. The
police raided our house. The FBI
stands outside the room. You are
wanted for murder.

CHASKA
I didn't murder anybody, mom.
Everybody thinks I did. I didn't!

Wachiwi pushes Chaska.

WACHIWI
I don't believe you! Get out!

TAKODA
Stop yelling.

CHASKA
I wouldn't hurt my brother. Or you.

WACHIWI
Get out before something worse
happens.

Takoda turns up the volume on the TV to stop their arguing.

A frightened TOURIST is being interviewed on TV:

TOURIST

It was huge! It killed everyone in its path. I saw a mother and child crushed. It just kept pounding and stomping people.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

What was it?

TOURIST

It's still out there. It's a giant stone Indian.

(O.S.) Thunder crashes and the Tourist jumps in fright.

Chaska takes the TV controller and flips off the TV.

TAKODA

You went back. You read the curse.

WACHIWI

What curse?

She goes to Takoda's side.

CHASKA

How do we stop it?

WACHIWI

What curse?!

TAKODA

Inyan.

BARNEY

Who is Inyan?

CHASKA

Cody Haines dug up Crazy Horse's bones. Steve and Gray Cloud killed them for it. I buried the bones above the memorial and I read a curse Gray Cloud wrote.

TAKODA

It was a curse to bring revenge upon the white settlers. It resurrected the great rock god, Inyan to bring upon revenge.

WACHIWI

Inyan is here?

(O.S.) Giant thunder claps.

The hospital room shakes.

CHASKA
It's coming. We need to get out of here.

WACHIWI
You brought this curse upon us?

CHASKA
It was Gray Cloud. Takoda, how do we stop it?

(O.S.) Thunder booms and the windows rattle and the bed scoots.

CHASKA
We need to get out of here. Andrew and I have an RV downstairs.

WACHIWI
Takoda is not healthy to leave.

CHASKA
That warrior doesn't care if it takes collateral damage. If you stay here, you, all of you will die.

Chaska goes to Takoda.

CHASKA
I'm sorry I brought this upon my family, but we all need you.

EXT. DEADWOOD HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The Bronco's tires squeal into the parking lot where Andrew comforts the dog by the RV.

Mary and Jeff confront Andrew.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Where is she?

ANDREW MITCHELL
You made it down the mountain. Did you see it?

Mary and Jeff are with Andrew watching the storm move closer.

ANDREW MITCHELL
It's coming!

The earth shakes and car alarms sound.

Lightning and thunder clouds beset them.

The FBI Agent drags Sue over to the RV.

FBI AGENT 2
She's here.

JEFF
Who?

FBI AGENT 2
Chaska.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
That's not her.

The hoodie comes off, revealing Sue. Chaska leads Wachiwi, Barney, and Takoda from the hospital exit.

Barney notices his daughter detained.

BARNEY
Sue!

Jeff, Mary, Andrew and the Agent spin upon them.

(O.S.) Booming thunder.

All the lights of the hospital and parking lot go out. The blackout rolls across the whole town.

Before anybody can react, Barney uses kung fu and high kicks the FBI agent. He disarms the agent and aims the gun at Jeff and Mary. Though the gun trembles from his nerves.

Chaska, Takoda, and Wachiwi are impressed and speechless.

SUE
Dad might not dance, but he is a
black belt master.

BARNEY
Get in the RV. Give me your car
keys.

Mary hands Barney the keys and he throws them far away.

Chaska, Takoda, Wachiwi and Sue climb aboard the RV.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Andrew, don't get in there. You
need to stay with me. Your mother.

CHASKA

Andrew?

Andrew hands the dog to Chaska.

ANDREW MITCHELL

I need to stay with my mom.

Chaska glares at Mary who tries to hide a smirk that her son chose her.

The booms become clear giant footsteps.

The earth shakes with each step.

Barney jumps in the RV and Chaska drives off leaving Mary, Jeff, and Andrew.

Mary races for the Bronco.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Hurry.

AGENT JEFF HALE

The keys?

She yanks another set from her trousers.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL

Those are house keys. C'mon son.

They jump into the Bronco.

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY - NIGHT

The lightning illuminates the grave marker of Wild Bill Hickok.

BOOM!

The giant stone foot crushes the grave.

BOOM!

The giant stone foot comes down upon trees.

The giant warrior stomps down Boot Hill toward the town.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

GAMBLERS run from the darkness to the exits carrying money and poker chips.

Chips and coins rattle upon each oncoming, booming step.

INT./EXT. RV/DEADWOOD MAIN ST. - NIGHT

Chaska stops the RV in the middle of the road. It is completely dark.

Lightning illuminates the street.

The giant warrior stands at the end of the street like an outlaw.

TAKODA
It is Inyan.

CHASKA
How do I stop it?

SUE
First, reverse.

Vince's truck drives from a side street between the giant and the RV.

Vince parks the truck with a FRIEND. The friend flees from it leaving Vince by the bed. He waves his arms to get the giant's attention.

VINCE
Over here, over here, you fuckin' redskin!

The giant lowers its sight to Vince. Vince gives the giant the sports gesture of the Tomahawk chop.

Vince flees from the truck as the giant is about to stomp down on the truck, but instead it reaches for it.

The giant grasps the truck and lifts it up to throw at Vince who hides by a building.

BOOM! A colossal explosion shatters the truck with the giant's hand. Bits of stone burst out. The RV's front window shatters. Stone projectiles go into the radiator, causing steam and stones burst its tires.

Sharp stone shards jettison and impale Vince and his friend.

Smoke clears as the giant stands missing a hand. A jagged limb remains.

It stomps toward the RV now enraged.

Chaska is unable to start the RV.

CHASKA
We need to run.

From behind the RV, the Bronco skids to a stop.

Andrew jumps out with Mary and Jeff following.

ANDREW MITCHELL
We can save them.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
She murdered someone.

ANDREW MITCHELL
She said she didn't.

The giant craters the road with each step. It tears down power lines as it come toward the RV.

RV

Chaska spins to Takoda who is praying.

CHASKA
What are you doing?

TAKODA
I'm praying. A protection prayer.

CHASKA
We need more than that. We need to run, mom.

SUE
We need to go.

Takoda winces from his pain.

TAKODA
The only thing that may stop it is a sacrifice. Inyan sacrificed blood for oceans. Like the Sun Dance a warrior must sacrifice himself.

Wachiwi motions over to Sue and Barney.

WACHIWI
You two must go. I'll stay with my family.

Chaska looks forward at the giant breaking buildings stomping deathly close.

Sue and Barney escape out the side door.

She opens the driver's side door of the RV.

WACHIWI
What are you doing?

CHASKA
I'll stop it. I need to clean up my
mess for a change.

INT. DEADWOOD MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The giant warrior steps down on a car with a smash and scoots
it away.

Chaska tepidly walks toward the warrior.

Andrew steps toward her but Mary aims her gun at him.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Chaska! No!

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
Don't follow her.

ANDREW MITCHELL
What are going to do? Shoot your
own son? I believe her, mom.

Chaska moves closer to the warrior. She stays steady with
each crushing stomp of its foot.

ANDREW MITCHELL
I need to help her.

DEPUTY MARY MITCHELL
She's worthless.

Andrew races toward Chaska.

ANDREW MITCHELL
Chaska!

(O.S.) Gunshot.

Chaska spins to see Andrew falling to the ground holding his
brazen leg.

CHASKA
Andrew!

Mary holds the smoking gun.

Chaska stoically turns back to the warrior.

CHASKA

Inyan! Stop! No more bloodshed. No more killing.

The warrior lowers its stone head and dark cavernous eyes to her.

CHASKA

Your revenge is over. It's over.

Inyan raises its giant foot over her. A dark shadow is cast upon her.

CHASKA

Don't take my family. Take me.

Unlike the Chaska before, she drops to her knees and prays.

CHASKA

Please take me. Oh mighty Inyan and god Crazy Horse. The massacres must stop. I'm the one who brought you to life and cursed those you killed. Please allow me to be the last one killed. Take me, mighty Inyan.

The giant's foot slams down inches beside her. Chaska weeps on her knees.

The giant reaches down to her.

Chaska climbs into its stone palm. She cries and prays in her Lakota language.

It raises its hand in front of its face.

Chaska cries more and her tears fall upon the stone hand.

Her tears are absorbed into the stone.

The giant steps toward the RV and Andrew and his mother.

CHASKA

Crush me. May I be the last.

RV

Wachiwi and Takoda pray in their Lakota language holding each other tight.

However, the warrior turns its head upon Jeff.

JEFF

Oh, no.

He backpedals to flee from the warrior.

With the jagged limb, the warrior reaches for Jeff. Jeff spins to run, but is stopped by the limb. He spins again to run, but the jagged daggers of stone of the limb penetrates and crushes him and his scream.

CHASKA

No more!

She slaps the stone.

CHASKA

Crush me!

Andrew holds his leg and his mother shoots at the stone. Her shots ricochet off its face.

The warrior steps toward Andrew where his mother is now helping him rise to his feet.

Chaska cries harder as she can see the warrior focusing on Andrew.

Her tears are further absorbed into the stone.

CHASKA

Punish me, dear Inyan.

The warrior's foot rises up and goes toward Andrew and his mother.

As the foot comes crashing down, Andrew shoves his mother away from him.

ANDREW MITCHELL

Take me instead.

CHASKA

Andrew!

The giant foot crashes down. It is unsure who it crushed since neither Andrew or his mother is seen.

Right beside the massive foot, Mary rises to her feet in shock and loss.

Chaska sobs even more.

CHASKA

Andrew!

More tears are absorbed into the stone hand.

The hand begins to fissure like the physical weathering of rain.

The giant gazes down upon Chaska.

The warrior's face begins to crack.

The hand begins to fissure as it sets Chaska down in front of the RV.

Lightning shoots across the sky and strikes the giant warrior.

The lightning splinters off pieces of the warrior and they drop to the ground.

Mary rushes for safety of the Bronco.

The warrior crumbles from inside. Huge cracks spread upon its body. Large pieces of granite rain down around Chaska and on top of the RV.

The warrior breaks apart and massive slabs of granite fall cratering the road and smashing the RV roof. More windows of the RV shatter out.

Lightning bolts shoot into the warrior.

The mighty stone warrior crumbles and collapses down in an avalanche of stone. The RV is almost buried in rubble.

MINUTES LATER

The storm dissipates and the sky is clear except for stars.

Some building lights come on.

From down the street, Agent Dotsen exits a FBI sedan with other AGENTS.

From a side building, Sue and Barney step out covered in dust.

The side door of the RV breaks open as Wachiwi and Takoda exit. Takoda carries the dog which licks his face.

From behind the RV in the crushed Bronco, Mary sobs for her lost son.

Takoda sneezes from being allergic to the dog. He lays the dog down as Wachiwi crawls on the stones searching for Chaska.

The Corgi barks at a hole under the RV. Wachiwi peers into the hole and discovers Chaska. Wachiwi prays in her native language and Chaska opens her eyes.

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH CEMETERY - DAY

TWO WEEKS LATER (SUPER)

Chaska secures a prayer tie and adds it to the flowers at the grave site of "ANDREW MITCHELL."

Her eyes are filled with tears as she kneels and prays.

AGENT DOTSEN (V.O.)
I'm sorry for your loss.

INT. STABLES - DAY

Chaska washes down Rover and whispers to it in Lakota.

Agent Dotsen sits on a bale of hay nearby petting the Corgi.

CHASKA
Me too. It's amazing how the
government could distort reality
and rewrite history.

AGENT DOTSEN
A freak electrical storm with hail
the size of boulders was the cause
of destruction.

CHASKA
When those who witnessed Inyan are
dead and gone, what will remain of
the past will be an Indian legend.

AGENT DOTSEN
Nothing more than a superstition.
What did you whisper to the horse?

CHASKA
I told him Andrew's spirit will
always be with us.

AGENT DOTSEN
Just to tie up loose ends. You are
the only person who knows how Cody
Haines was killed.

CHASKA

Did they ever determine if Steve's death was a murder or suicide?

AGENT DOTSEN

The jail deemed it a suicide, but, you never know, the guards were all white that night.

The stable owner drives and slows by in a golf cart.

STABLE OWNER

Make sure you wash the outside pens.

CHASKA

Will do.

He speeds on.

AGENT DOTSEN

What happened on top of Porcupine Butte?

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. PORCUPINE BUTTE BURIAL SITE - NIGHT

Chaska and Steve keep the arrows aimed at Cody Haines as Gray Cloud drives up on his Gator.

Gray Cloud reaches for his gun next to him on the seat.

Cody reaches for his holster.

Two arrows fly.

One arrow whizzes by his head and sticks in the tree. The other sticks into Cody's neck.

He falls to his knees trying to hold in the blood from his wound. He topples over.

CHASKA (V.O.)

One missed, one struck his neck.

Gray Cloud then shoots both of the film crew in the head.

CHASKA (V.O.)

Gray Cloud murdered them both.

FLASHBACK ENDS:

INT. STABLES - DAY

Chaska combs the mane of the horse with Agent Dotsen rising from the hay bale.

AGENT DOTSEN
I'll complete my report.

CHASKA
You never asked whose arrow missed
the target.

AGENT DOTSEN
Only you and God knows now.

She wipes the bits of hay off her clothes, pats the dog's head, and walks away.

Chaska goes back to combing the horse's mane.

SUPER: "I will return to you in stone" - Crazy Horse

FADE OUT:

THE END.