

The Thread that Ties Us

by

JtF

Edit 1

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Jesthefez (at) yahoo.co.uk

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

The stars of a clear sky twinkle down upon mature trees clinging to the steep terrain. Almost at the very top, a glowing TEPEE spans a crevice. The gash of exposed rock scintillates, shimmering with golden flecks and silvery quartz as the full moonlight kisses it.

INT. TEPEE - NIGHT

Surrounded by flickering oil lamps, a NATIVE AMERICAN CHIEF 40s, in full feather headdress but bare chested, sweats profusely as he grinds herbs. He adds them to a dark steaming potion. His clear hazel eyes with pin prick pupils display his drugged, trance-like state.

A central tongue of rock protrudes as most of the floor. Rough stone outcrops on either side give this makeshift altar three levels. A fire flickers against the first step.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

A lone Alpha wolf looks down from the summit. His amber eyes watching the sacred ritual beneath.

INT. TEPEE - NIGHT

The Chief adds the final ingredient. Stirs the brew - raises it with both hands above his head - brings the bejewelled horn cup down with ceremony then drinks deeply.

His heart races, beating faster and louder - he falls back, his breath rasping, catching, wheezing as -

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

The wolf points his nose to the full moon and howls. The combined wheezing and howling sounds become -

EXT/INT. PRARIE TENT - CONT

Guttural screams and gasps of the moment of birth. In a low birthing chair a MOTHER 20s, catches her newborn, scooping her to her chest. Caressing the baby's face and opening the airways, the newborn splutters and cries.

Both are clearly exhausted by their ordeal. The Mother grabs a knife from a cup of steaming water and cuts the cord. She swaddles her baby as they entwine in colorful blankets together.

INT. TEPEE - DAY

The Chief sits wide-eyed and overwhelmed from his ritual. He serenely gazes out towards the horizon from his vantage point. As day becomes night he remains a statue. The life force has left him.

MOTHER AND BABY MONTAGE

A - With baby wrapped to her chest, Mom gathers up their scant belongings, loading them onto two poles making an A sled behind her horse.

B - Travelling, resting, crafting a cradleboard for baby.

C - Travelling beside a river, the horse splashing - baby being bathed. The wolf tracks them at a distance.

D - Travelling through a canyon, terrain changing.

E - Travelling through scrub woodland, sheltering from light rain within a dilapidated shack. Wolf still tracking - a shadow shaggy protector.

F - Travelling to a Native American encampment. Setting up home in a small Teepee at the woodland edge.

G - In the distance, the Wolf meets up with follow pack members. Both have reached home. Seasons rapidly change.

H - The girl as a TODDLER plays with other youngsters. In the distance wolf cubs frolic, chase and play fight.

SUPER: TWENTY YEARS LATER

We see a collection of fabulous charcoal pictures (on paper thin hides) of mother and daughter through the years. Alike yet different, both aging with glowing health and beauty.

The daughter puts the final touches to her latest piece.

With incredible realism and coloring it shows (at the bottom) a handsome Native American Chief, in full feather headdress and accessories. From the top of his head extends a thin thread vertically up into:-

An amber eyed Timber Wolf, open mouthed, alert, majestic.

The thin thread continues up under her own pretty face, then out of the top of her head, up into a dragonfly (at the very top) and again upwards to the picture's edge.

She steps back - pleased with her work.

EXT. NATIVE AMERICAN ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

Under bright stars, Mother and Daughter gaze hypnotically into the crackling flames of a small fire pit. Excited ember fragments whirl and dance within the flames like ethereal fireflies. They chase in tightening spirals up, then glide back downwards into the open heart of each flame.

The full moon reaches apogee in the clear sky. This is signalled by a far off lone wolf howl.

Mom and daughter touch noses, smile broadly then hug.

In the distance another noble amber eyed wolf regards them, then slips away into the night.

FADE TO BLACK.