

SEE

Episode Two
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INT. KANZUA POWER STATION, CORRIDOR

It's half dark and we are unsure where we are.

A man dressed in leather, led by a dog is unrolling a long cable all the way down the length of the corridor in half darkness. We come close to the thick electric cable as it uncoils.

The courtier then clatters through a door and we are flooded with light and the sound of a large crowd.

EXT. PUBLIC EXECUTION ARENA

The courtier has emerged into a concrete arena that has been fashioned from cooling towers and turbine housing. Once there was a giant pool of water in a round tank but this had been drained to create a circular bowl a hundred yards across.

Most of the population of Payan town are gathered on what was once a car park where ropes have been strung for people to hang onto or use as rails. The crowd are filled with anticipation.

We see the courtier bring the end of the unrolled cable to the transformer. He feels with a wooden stick for a connection and plugs the cable into it. The transformer crackles and wines a little and the crowd begin to cheer.

INT. KANZUA POWER STATION, SECOND CORRIDOR

Two men and a woman, almost naked, are being dragged down the corridor by guards, shepherded by ferocious dogs which snap at them. A guard clatters open a door and they emerge onto the same platform.

EXT. PUBLIC EXECUTION GALLERY

We now see that, beside the transformer, three metal chairs have been constructed with cables leading to the transformer. The condemned men and woman hear the wine of the transformer and shrink back and sob. They are bundled into the iron chairs and strapped in. One of the guards then throws buckets of water over them as they weep and struggle.

Then Queen Kane emerges from a third door and walks out into the arena. The shape of the bowl means that the sound of the condemned prisoner's sobs and screams is amplified.

Queen Kane is accompanied by Lord Dune and three other courtiers. Her dog begins to bark and appears to be known to the crowd and they instantly fall silent.

Queen Kane is wearing her robe of shells and bells and now the only sound in the deep concrete bowl is the sound of her robes as she walks.

Queen Kane walks to a place in front of the condemned men and woman. They now have their heads bowed as they sob and mumble prayers...

QUEEN KANE

Payan. We are Holy. We are Chosen.

The crowd repeat her words in ragged unison. Queen Kane then begins to feed a string through her fingers...

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Behold three who come to serve as witnesses that fire comes from loose tongues. Owen of Carmichael parish, Selatyn of Woodstock Parish, Lena, free woman, chemist.

A prisoner splutters...

PRISONER

Please your majesty...

A guard kicks him hard in the chest. Queen Kane runs the string through her fingers slowly...

QUEEN KANE

These three are convicted by the court of spreading malicious gossip and heresy. And of uttering the names of heretics. And of spreading lies against the God flame.

A pause.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

As a consequence, all three will now feel the power of God and we will allow only him to dispense justice.

She finds a second string and begins to feed it through her fingers...

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

The power of the flame in the sky has been brought down to earth in this place, and only this place, for the Payan to deliver God's justice.

Queen Kane walks without hesitation toward the transformer. She feels for a switch.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Just as lightning strikes in the rain, so justice strikes in the tears of heretics, amen, amen etc etc...

A pause.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Hear their repentance. Dream the edge of their fate in the air.

She flicks a switch. A huge electrical charge hits the iron chairs and the prisoners begin to scream in agony. Their bodies smoulder and smoke as they die slowly, screaming.

At the same time, there is an electrical arc above the crowd and the crowd feel the crackle of static and charged particles in the air. The hair of the crowd stands on end as they feel the mysterious power of God.

Soldiers use large metal panels as fans and begin to fan the smoke over the crowd. The smoke becomes thick and acrid and the smell of burning flesh swirls inside the arena.

Queen Kane announces to the population....

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Hear them bear witness to the power of the God Flame at my fingertips. Smell their flesh as it turns to sacred smoke.

Clouds of oily smoke drift across the crowd as the prisoners continue to scream in death agony. Queen Kane speaks in a matter-of-fact voice.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

People of Payan. Do feel free to consider idle conversation. But God always hears.

She walks from the platform as the prisoners continue to writhe and scream. The people begin to chant...

PEOPLE

We are Payan, we are holy, we are chosen.

They repeat as the heretics begin to burn.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE - MORNING

The sun is rising beautifully over a mountain valley.

We see the waterfall which the Alkenny villagers found at the end of the first episode. Beside it, small shelters have been built and a rudimentary fence has been constructed...

Caption: 'Alkenny Sanctuary - dawn'

The village is sleeping but, in wide, we see Baba Voss walking through the village with the baby twins in a basket made from reeds.

EXT. VALLEY EDGE

We join Baba Voss as he walks and sweeps a long staff across the ground ahead and softly repeats....

BABA VOSS

Ba, ba, ba,ba,ba....

He listens to the echo of his voice. He stops a yard away from the edge. He looks up and faces the sun. His eyes are open and reflect the sunlight. One of the twins is crying. In the distance, a hundred yards away, we see the rest of the camp sleeping. Baba Voss prays...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

God Flame. Bless us this day and give us warmth and strength. Help us build our new home in this new place and guide us in our construction.

A pause. He adds almost to himself...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Bless these babies and all our children. Bless the...

Suddenly...

From behind a huge GRIZZLY BEAR leaps at Baba Voss and snarls. Baba Voss twists and staggers and falls. He hits the steep slope and begins to roll fast, the reed basket held tight in his arms.

He rolls and crashes down the valley slope, and the huge grizzly goes bounding after him.

The valley floor is a hundred feet down and Baba Voss rolls and tumbles all the way down.

EXT. VALLEY FLOOR, BESIDE A RIVER

We join Baba Voss as he gets to his feet and frantically feels the babies. He feels blood and tastes it but then realizes it is his own blood from a wound on his head.

One of the babies is crying, the other isn't. Baba Voss shakes him gently.

BABA VOSS

Please. Cry. Please. Be alive...

The second baby cries and Baba Voss takes a huge sigh of relief. But then, the sound of the grizzly, snarling, close. Baba Voss instantly drops to the ground and is hidden in the long grass. He whispers...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Smoke of the holy fire, hide us.
Smoke we pray, hide us.

He listens and hears the bear paws skimming through the rough grass.

He turns his face around to try to locate the approach with his ears. We rise up above the grass and see the bear walking slowly, sniffing the air.

The bear stops to scratch and takes a drink of water from the stream. But then one of the babies cries out.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

No. Shh shh shh.

He puts his giant hand over the baby's face but the baby cries and the other baby cries too. Baba Voss listens as the bear stands on its hind legs and sniffs the breeze.

The bear growls and approaches as the babies continue to cry.

Baba Voss lays the babies down in the long grass then pulls a long dagger from his belt. He moves quickly away from the babies and begins to yell.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey! Bababababa! Here!

The bear stops and sniffs the air. Baba sniffs the air too and begins to approach the bear. Meanwhile the twins are crying louder....

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

No! Here! Hey! Hey!

Baba Voss begins to yell. But the bear has sniffed the babies and begins to lope toward them. Baba Voss can hear the change of direction and hurries to cut the bear off.

He stumbles and then quickly gets back to his feet. The bear sees Baba approach and begins to snarl and bare its teeth. Baba brandishes his weapons and yells and growls as fiercely as the bear.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)
Come to me! Come to me!

The bear snarls and rears up and we see it is a beast eight feet tall. The babies are crying louder now and Baba uses the noise to locate them and get in front of them.

The bear wants the easy meat of the babies and begins to trot around Baba Voss to get to them. Baba stumbles then runs to cut off his approach and jabs at the beast with his dagger. The stab misses and Baba then begins to spin wildly on the spot with his dagger outstretched.

The spin is a fighting technique that we will see often. He clips the bear and the bear rises up.

Baba stabs and swirls his club as the bear snarls and then lunges. The bear takes a blow to the shoulder but with one swipe of its paw it knocks Baba Voss onto the ground. His spear is gone and he only now has the club.

Baba Voss is bleeding but gets quickly to his feet and begins to spin on the spot and swipe. The bear tries to get around him but Baba Voss cuts him off again.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)
You face me! Me!

He snarls and swipes at the bear but the bear suddenly flies at Baba Voss and in a flurry of paws knocks the club out of Baba Voss's hand. Baba is on all fours. The bear takes its time, sniffing blood and licking some blood from the grass.

The babies have stopped crying but the bear can see a little arm waving in the air. Baba Voss gets to his feet once more, empty handed but with fists clenched. The bear is now almost upon the babies and rears up.

Baba punches wildly at thin air as the bear prepares to fall upon the babies. (The setting, the lake, the mountains are all beautiful in the sun as we prepare for this horror).

The bear is close and licks the face of the first baby. He bares his teeth and rises up again, ready for the kill. All is lost. Baba is about to throw himself at the bear....

BUT THEN AN ARROW FLIES.

An arrow shoots through the air and hits the bear directly in the heart. The bear roars in agony and twists as blood pumps from the heart muscle.

Baba Voss hears the strangled roar and freezes. The babies are crying. The bear drops down onto all fours and rears up again. More blood pumps. The bear drops and rises once more but when he drops to all fours for a third time his body crumples onto the arrow and it is driven deeper in.

The bear rolls in death agony and finally is still.

Baba Voss is shocked, panting. He reaches out and feels the fur of the dead bear and feels the wetness of blood. He tastes the blood on his fingers to be sure.

He scrambles toward the babies and feels two faces alive and he scoops them up and hugs them tight.

He gets to his feet and sniffs the air frantically. He turns through 360 degrees.

As he turns, we see a man standing twenty yards away with a bow and arrow in his hand. We will learn it is Jerlamarel.

Jerlamarel wears a cloak with a hood which almost hides his face. He has a quiver of arrows on his back.

Baba Voss can detect something in the air but isn't sure what. He freezes. We come close to Jerlamarel and glimpse his eyes in the darkness of the hood.

The moment we come to his face we can tell that he can SEE. His eyes are focused on Baba Voss and the dead bear and the babies.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Who's there?

Jerlamarel steps closer and he peers at the babies. Baba Voss feels his breath and spins.

BABA VOSS (SHOCKED) (CONT'D)

Answer me. Who's there?

Jerlamarel reaches out and touches Baba Voss's arm.

JERLAMAREL

I see my children are in good hands.

Baba flinches and steps back...

BABA VOSS

Your children?

A pause. This time Baba Voss reaches out a hand....

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Are you the man my wife calls Jerlamarel? Is that you?

JERLAMAREL

Yes.

We see emotion in Baba Voss's eyes.

BABA VOSS

Have you come to take them?

As Jerlamarel speaks he studies the babies' eyes....

JERLAMAREL

No. I am forced to live my life as a fugitive. They are safer with you.

Jerlamarel raises his hand over the face of one of the babies to shades her eyes. He judges her reaction to light and dark as he speaks....

JERLAMAREL (CONT'D)

I only stayed close to make sure you found the sanctuary and to kill the bears in the valley...

Jerlamarel shades the eyes of the second baby and assesses with a squint....

JERLAMAREL (CONT'D)

...giving you time to make your traps and build your fences. I believe this bear is the last of them.

Jerlamarel takes the shade from the baby's eyes. He half smiles as he studies the two infants, (satisfied that they can see?). He then takes Baba Voss's hand and clasps it with both hands.

JERLAMAREL (CONT'D)

But now I must move on and continue my journey.

BABA VOSS

What journey?

When Jerlamarel takes back his hand, Baba Voss finds he has left a METAL KEY in his hand. Baba Voss squeezes it to identify it...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

What is this?

JERLAMAREL

At the sanctuary beside the waterfall, there is a ledge. Climb on it. Above that you will find a box. Made of God bone.

Jerlamarel reaches out and touches each baby in turn as he speaks.

JERLAMAREL (CONT'D)

I have given you the key to open
the box...

BABA VOSS

What is 'a key?'

JERLAMAREL

Speak to Paris. Tell her the
contents of the box are for my
children. Only they will understand
what's inside. Open the box when
they are four summers old.

Jerlamarel touches Baba Voss's face.

JERLAMAREL (CONT'D)

They will be filled with surprises.
Love them and care for them.

Jerlamarel turns to walk away. Baba Voss calls out...

BABA VOSS

Wait! I have questions! Will the
babies also have your power?

Jerlamarel half turns and calls back...

JERLAMAREL

Name them Haniwa and Kofun. That
way I will know them when they come
to me....

BABA VOSS

And when will they come to you?

JERLAMAREL

The answers are inside the box.

He walks. Baba Voss calls out...

BABA VOSS

Wait! Jerlamarel!

Baba Voss's voice echoes as Jerlamarel continues to walk.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH, LEDGE

In the spot where Baba Voss said his prayer, Paris is now
standing and hearing Baba Voss calling Jerlamarel's name. His
voice echoes. There are dark clouds on the horizon. She
turns to walk back to the village.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, SMALL SHELTER

Maghra is sleeping and wakes when Baba Voss enters with the babies. She sniffs the air. Baba Voss lays the babies down and hands Maghra a single purple flower. She feels it and smells it...

BABA VOSS

This new home really is paradise.

Maghra feels for the babies and takes them and holds them...

MAGHRA

Where have you been?

BABA VOSS

I went to pray.

Maghra kisses the two babies in turn and speaks brightly...

MAGHRA

Oh my little ones, my poor deluded husband still believes he can lie to me and I will not hear it in his voice. Baba Voss you married an Ayura.

Baba Voss reacts, always caught out, almost amused....

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

So where have you really been? What happened?

A pause. Baba Voss hesitates.

BABA VOSS

Jerlamarel...

A pause.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

...Happened.

Maghra reacts.

MAGHRA

What do you mean?

Before Maghra can speak...

BABA VOSS

Unbidden there was a bear, a prophesy and I believe somewhere a box.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, COMMUNAL FIRE

An approaching thunderstorm has darkened the sky on the horizon and thunder rumbles.

The people of new Alkeny have begun to build their new village. Homes are under construction and we come close to various work sites to see the technology of construction.

Tools hang from belts. Metal has been recycled to make hammers and chisels. There is a communal fire in the middle of the village and it is used to cut timbers to length.

Nails are home made and precious.

The village is being built in a semi circle around the waterfall, where now some naked villagers are taking showers, or washing clothes.

We move through the activity and, as a roof beam is raised, we rise up. In a rainbow arcing off the waterfall, we see a silver metal box sitting on a high ledge.

To us it is very visible, glinting in the sun, but to the villagers it is invisible.

As we move down we see Baba Voss walking through the waterfall, spray splashing off his big frame. He is carrying his large wooden staff.

As he emerges from the waterfall the Dreamer calls out...

DREAMER

Baba Voss! We must begin to dig the bear traps. We have been lucky so far.

Baba Voss walks on....

BABA VOSS

The God flame will ensure our luck continues.

Baba Voss walks on to a rocky recess to the left of the waterfalls. He is now hidden by vines and bushes and trees which grow at crazy angles from the sheer rock.

He begins to feel the rock face and reaches up. He feels a ledge. He uses a tree trunk that emerges from a fissure in the rock to lift his mighty frame.

We climb with him as he begins to scale the wall. Above his head the box is clearly in sight. Baba Voss reaches up for another trunk and we see a RATTLE SNAKE curled around a branch and eyeing the approaching hand.

We think Baba is about to be bitten but Baba Voss listens and sniffs the air and freezes. The snake rattles quietly.

Faster than a snake Baba Voss whacks it with his staff and it coils around his stick. With contempt he scrapes the coils off his staff with his foot.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Dinner.

He puts the snake into his tunic and reaches up again. He begins to sweep with his staff and feels the clink of metal. He climbs up on his knees and runs his hand along the lid of the box.

It is a silver steel trunk and on the handle Baba Voss finds a knotted leather string. He licks his fingers and begins to feel the words. He reacts.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, VILLAGE PLATEAU

We see Baba Voss walking through the activity of the village with the metal box in his hands. As he walks a voice calls out...

VOICE

Baba Voss! Your tread is heavy.
Is that my roof beam?

Baba Voss walks on...

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S DWELLING

We are close on the lid of the box and see Maghra's hand as she clunks the key against the lid.

BABA VOSS

The string says there is a small hole. You put the stick Jerlamarel gave me into the hole and turn it around.

They both begin to feel the box with both hands, looking for the hole. Baba Voss whispers...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

He said when I open it, I should speak to Paris.

Maghra reacts but continues to feel and finds the keyhole.

MAGHRA

Whatever is inside is a gift for my children. I will choose who we speak to...

Maghra fumbles the wrong end of the key toward the hole...

BABA VOSS

But Paris always knows things...

Maghra has turned the key around and it fits into the hole. Maghra speaks fast and certain.

MAGHRA

Paris knows prophecies and fate and chosen ones but the babies.

She turns the key.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

...are just babies.

Maghra pulls open the lid of the steel box.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

And they are mine.

We see that the inside is filled with BOOKS. Maghra takes out the first and we see a kindergarten book with a picture of an apple and the letter 'a' beside it.

There is also a knotted string stuck to the page. Baba Voss is feeling the knotted string that is attached to the lid.

BABA VOSS

His message says we must keep what is on top on top and what is at the bottom at the bottom.

Paris begins to feel and sniff the books and turn the pages. We see the alphabet with pictures of creatures or objects beginning with each letter, along with a knotted string translation.

She hands the books to Baba Voss and he sniffs it.

MAGHRA

Do you know what it is?

Baba Voss fans the pages and feels the breeze from them.

BABA VOSS

No. Thin tree bark of some kind.

Baba Voss tears off a corner and tastes it. He spits it out. Maghra puts the book back and takes another. It is another reading book for small children and has a string attached with knots tied. She digs deeper and, in the firelight, we see a book for older children. Then a book for young adults, a science book.

Beneath them there are text books, books of philosophy, engineering manuals. We only glimpse the books for now but we will learn the box contains a directory of human knowledge, a careful selection of technical, practical and literary.

Maghra sniffs a 'Complete Works of Shakespeare'.

MAGHRA

What use can these blocks be to the children?

BABA VOSS

Jerlamarel said when they grow they will surprise us.

Maghra hears footsteps. She hurriedly puts the books back and Maghra closes the lid with a soft click. Paris enters. Even as she steps inside she 'feels' something and hesitates. Then she sits.

PARIS

The air tingles my skin. Is everything alright?

Baba Voss is about to speak but Maghra puts her finger to his lips.

MAGHRA

Everything is fine.

PARIS

Where are the babies?

MAGHRA

They are sleeping.

Paris sniffs the air. She angles her head. To us the box is clearly visible. For Paris it is a faint musty smell of paper.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

What did you want Paris?

Paris is on guard. She reaches out toward the box and Maghra takes her hand as if in affection and feels her pulse.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Your heart is fast.

Paris turns her hand and puts her fingers to Maghra's pulse.

PARIS

Yours too.

MAGHRA

Always when my husband is close.

A pause. Baba Voss dare not speak. Finally...

PARIS

I am anxious because the dreamer has suggested you have the babies baptised.

Maghra continues to wrap the children.

MAGHRA

There is no rush.

Paris takes her hand back.

PARIS

Some in the village are uneasy.

Maghra knows already but defies...

MAGHRA

Why would they be uneasy?

PARIS

This mountain is new but the people brought their old superstitions.

MAGHRA

You mean they think my babies might be witches....

PARIS

Maghra....

A villager walks by outside and she falls silent for a moment. Then...

PARIS (CONT'D)

It is Baba Voss's job to protect the babies from bears and wolves. It is my job to protect them from suspicion. Our village is just being born. People believe the mark of baptism will ensure the blessing of God Flame....

MAGHRA

And burn away the evil of the truth.

PARIS

Let's leave the truth for another day.

Paris hesitates, sniffs the air...

PARIS (CONT'D)

And speaking of the truth, I feel something unspoken.

Baba Voss excels....

BABA VOSS

What you feel is the fact that just as you entered we were about to make pleasure together.

(MORE)

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

For the first time since the birth.
You may feel enthusiasm and
reluctance mixed.

Maghra is impressed by Baba's lie. Paris though is not convinced. She gets to her feet...

PARIS

They want the baptism to be
tonight. When you are...done, I
suggest you accept.

A pause.

BABA VOSS

Tell the Dreamer we will accept.

A pause.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

But if I hear anyone calling my
babies 'witches' I will baptise
them in their own blood.

Paris hesitates, 'feels' the air again, then leaves.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE - NIGHT

The villagers are sitting around a fire and, in preparation for a ceremony, their appearance is more sinister. Some are naked or wearing whole animal skins. They are all clacking hollow sticks together in a rhythm as three young girls sing an exquisite harmony.

The singing is like the wailing of the wind or the howling of animals but it is tuneful.

All the people have their blind eyes open and the flames reflect on their irises. As we join, an old stainless steel pot (battered and worn down) is being passed around the circle. The pot has been fitted with a rectangular wooden handle.

The pot issues white smoke from burning embers and, as the pot arrives at each person, they each drop a small handful of dried leaves into the embers. The smoke that comes is dark grey and thicker. Each person puts their head over the pot and takes an open mouthful of the smoke and breaths deeply.

(We will learn the herb is a powerful narcotic of the *datuna innoxia* family, which the people cultivate).

The smokers cough on the smoke then exhale with a deep sigh of pleasure (like a crack cocaine smoker). We may notice they keep their leaves in small mouse skin pouches which still have the mouse heads attached. Those who have not yet received the metal pot fidget anxiously as they wait.

Once a smoker has taken a mouthful of smoke they ease back and raise their heads to the sky.

We follow the trail of smoke as it orbits the fire. We see that one of the villagers who takes the pot is GETHER BAX. He sucks smoke and raises his head along with the others.

He passes it to his auntie, Souter Bax.

GETHER BAX

While they are smoking, show me the Shadow.

Gether and Souter get to their feet.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, EDGE OF THE FIRELIGHT

Where the fire light meets darkness we see a curious sight. A girl in her twenties whose naked body is covered in white powder (ground lime and ash). Even her face is powdered and her hair is cut short and filled with the same powder.

She is standing as still as a statue and at first we might think she is indeed a statue made from white stone. Souter Bax and Gether follow a string and Souter feels a thick knot.

SOUTER BAX

Hopefully she is here somewhere.
Shadow? It is Souter Bax. Are you there?

The statue makes a single noise, like a small pop...

SHADOW

Pa.

SOUTER BAX

There.

Souter and Gether approach the source of the sound, their hands outstretched, but the Shadow has already stepped a yard to her left.

GETHER BAX

I have only ever heard stories. I didn't even know we had a Shadow living among us in the village.

SOUTER BAX

That is why shadows are shadows.
No one knows who they are or even that they exist.

The shadow writhes away from the outstretched hands, her movements like a snake.

GETHER BAX

Are you sure there is someone here...

In response...

SHADOW

Pa.

Souter and Gether turn. Gether whispers to Souter...

GETHER BAX

So who the hell is it, do you think?

SOUTER BAX

Someone we probably talk to every day. Someone who happens to be born with the power to hide her body.

Gether Bax sniffs the air, feels around.

GETHER BAX

How do you even know it's a woman?

SOUTER BAX

Shadows are always women. Men are too clumsy and vain. Only women can disappear. It is an ancient witch craft...

GETHER BAX

And she has agreed to help us?

Gether Bax reaches out and the Shadow elegantly steps around him without making a noise. Souter and Gether's attempts to locate her should become comical and the Shadow enjoys it.

SOUTER BAX

I left a message at the altar asking for the help of a shadow. And here she is. I think...

SHADOW

Pa.

Gether Bax sniffs the air and whispers.

GETHER BAX

I smell only rock. I hear no breathing.

Souter speaks all around...

SOUTER BAX

So Shadow, what do you want as payment for your services?

The shadow is silent and motionless, having moved a yard away now.

SOUTER BAX (CONT'D)
Shadows do things for their own reasons. Sometimes for fun.

Souter raises her voice again...

SOUTER BAX (CONT'D)
But you will carry out the task I asked, yes Shadow?

SHADOW
Pa.

Gether makes a sudden lunge for the source of the sound but the Shadow is too fast.

SOUTER BAX
She moves only when others move.

GETHER BAX
What about ayuras?

SOUTER BAX
Even they can not hear her...

GETHER BAX
A presage would sense her thinking...

SOUTER BAX
No. She shuts off her thoughts.

A pause. We come close to the shadow's white painted face.

SOUTER BAX (CONT'D)
She is in another place.
Undetectable. Even dogs think they are made of stone.

Gether Bax angles his head, not sure where to aim his voice...

GETHER BAX
Shadow you will hide yourself in the place agreed and report what you hear?

Silence. Gether and Souter turn through 360 degrees.

SOUTER BAX
Actually now I think she has gone.

The tiniest of smiles on the Shadow's face. Gether and Souter Bax head back for the fire. The shadow remains totally motionless.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, FIRESIDE

At last the smoking pot has reached the Dreamer, the only man who is on his feet. He has a whole bear skin slung over his otherwise naked body. In one hand he carries a rolled up sheet of clear plastic. In the other a branding iron.

The pot is brought to him and leaves are placed for him in the flames.

He then sucks in a great plume of the oily smoke and gasps with pleasure. At the same time he reaches out and finds the head of a young girl. He pulls the girl close and we infer she begins to suck his cock.

He lets the smoke trail slowly from his mouth, with his eyes now open to the black sky as the girl sucks.

Baba Voss then joins from the darkness with the babies in his arms. He kneels down in a spot across the fire from the Dreamer. As he sits, the drumming stops.

There is silence for a while as the girl sucks the Dreamer's cock. Then the Dreamer speaks with smoke...

DREAMER

Soul turned to flame. Flesh turned
to smoke.

He reaches orgasm and the smoking pot clouds his face in smoke. The Dreamer then pulls the girl to her feet. He blows the last of the smoke and the girl sucks it in. The Dreamer touches her face.

She blows the smoke out and the Dreamer sucks the smoke in again, a kind of ritualized kiss at a distance of one inch, the connection made by narcotic smoke. (These 'smoke kisses' will be a feature of relationships.)

DREAMER (CONT'D)

Now bring the new borns.

Baba Voss offers the babies and we see his look of uncertainty.

BABA VOSS

For your holy blessing, Dreamer.

The Dreamer steps closer to the fire. We now see that his flesh is covered in deep brands of square and rectangular designs, all deep enough to be felt rather than seen.

He pulls the branding iron from the embers of the fire. The end is red hot and has been twisted around into a flat square, the size of a postage stamp.

Meanwhile Baba Voss has laid the babies on a wolf skin.

He exposes their arms. The babies cry in the firelight. The Dreamer comes close with his hot brand. He is businesslike, almost bored.

DREAMER

Flesh turned to smoke. Protect them
from devils, dogs and Screechers.
Bears and broken paths. Rid them of
possession...

We come close to the open eyes of Gether and Souter Bax...

DREAMER (CONT'D)

And keep them safe inside the law
of Alkenny...

He hesitates and corrects himself...

DREAMER (CONT'D)

...of new Alkenny.

A pause.

DREAMER (CONT'D)

Amen.

Baba Voss raises his head to the sky and we stay with his flinching face as the Dreamer puts a brand on the bare upper arm of each of the babies (which we do not see). A curl of smoke rises from each brand of burnt skin.

(We also see the Dreamer flinch a little. We might begin to guess he doesn't care for this work).

We hear the babies cry out. The rhythm of the sticks and the wailing of the singers continues. Baba Voss wipes a tear and then scoops up the babies and bundles them up in their furs.

The Dreamer then calls out.

DREAMER (CONT'D)

Now give thanks to God by giving
sacred pleasure to each other.

The singing stops and the clacking stops. In the new silence all the villagers rise to their knees and turn to each other. In ones and twos they begin to grope and feel those nearest. They kiss and embrace and we see that soon they will be having sex. The animal skins fall away and we see the flames reflected on their flesh.

The Dreamer takes a deep and weary breath as his bones crack and he sits on his bear skin. He seems tired of his authority as he sits. Then the young girl who sucked his cock comes to him and kneels.

The Dreamer sniffs the air and feels her face. He grabs her face and kisses her deeply.

The young girl touches the tip of his nose then puts her head on his arm.

Baba Voss gathers up the crying babies and heads away from the fire.

As he walks we see the white shape of the Shadow waiting entirely motionless ahead in the half light..

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, PATH TO BABA VOSS'S SHELTER

Baba Voss walks with the crying babies. As he passes, the Shadow suddenly clicks into life like a machine. She begins to match Baba Voss's stride exactly, like a mime mimicking Baba's giant stride. When Baba Voss puts his foot down she puts her foot down.

The shadow follows Baba toward the dwelling.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, NEW DWELLING - NIGHT

Maghra is organizing the dwelling, which is still half finished but it protects from wind and rain. Paris is here too and is preparing a bundle of herbs in a shallow wooden bowl and a smooth stick.

Maghra sniffs the air as Paris tears herbs into the bowl.

MAGHRA

You found sage? And mint?

PARIS

A little. To dress the wounds from the baptism.

MAGHRA

You risked yourself.

Paris is only half joking when she says...

PARIS

Anything for Prince Kofun and Princess Haniwa.

Paris pounds the herbs. As she works Paris fishes for information.

PARIS (CONT'D)

They are pretty names. Where did they come from?

MAGHRA

They are names in my family.

PARIS

They don't sound like Mascaripoc names....

Maghra changes the subject.

MAGHRA

The herbs were easy to find?

PARIS

They were just a little way down the slope. This new mountain is very kind.

MAGHRA

Because Jerlamarel chose it for us.

Paris spits into the pot to moisten it.

PARIS

I heard Baba Voss calling his name this morning

MAGHRA

He was praying.

PARIS

To a *new* God?

MAGHRA

For a new beginning.

Paris pounds her herbs and takes a pebble from beside the fire and uses a flat stick to scoop it up and drop into her mixture, which sizzles...

PARIS

And the new beginning begins with secrets.

A pause.

MAGHRA

What secrets?

At this moment Baba Voss appears with the babies. They are both crying in pain. He strides into the dwelling and, matching his step, the shadow enters too.

Once she is inside the Shadow freezes and becomes entirely still, a statue once more.

Meanwhile, Baba hands the crying babies to Maghra who grunts in anger and begins to apply the dressing that Paris made...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

My babies, did those stupid people hurt you with their ceremonies?..

PARIS
Hush, Maghra.

Maghra settles her babies.

MAGHRA
Who will hear?

The shadow is standing five yards away, not moving, and even though to us she is hugely present Paris, Maghra and Baba Voss are oblivious.

Maghra is being defiant...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)
Paris, actually we would like to be alone.

Baba reacts to her rudeness.

BABA VOSS
Maghra?...

Maghra is bright and busy...

MAGHRA
Sleep well, Paris. Good night.

Paris is about to speak but Baba Voss speaks first...

BABA VOSS
Maghra my love...

Paris gets to her feet.

PARIS
Very well, she has taken my herbs but needs no help..

BABA VOSS
Paris, wait.

MAGHRA
She thinks we have secrets...

The shadow angles her head.

PARIS
I said I sense secrets...

MAGHRA
Are we not allowed secrets?

BABA VOSS
Enough!

Baba Voss takes Maghra's hand and Paris's hand and puts them together. After a moment their fingers entwine. Paris sits down once more.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

We five in this hut are now our own tribe. Just we five.

The shadow is white in the firelight...

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

And Maghra? I am chief of the tribe...

MAGHRA

You are a big lump.

BABA VOSS

...Who is ordering you to speak to Paris about the box.

PARIS

What box?

A pause. Maghra makes a decision.

MAGHRA

Very well.

Maghra gets up and pushes a pile of furs onto the ground. At the edge of the firelight the Shadow's head twitches just a fraction. Baba Voss grabs the box and brings it close. Maghra reaches into the box and hands the first reading book to Paris who feels and sniffs it.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

This morning Jerlamarel directed Baba to this.

The Shadow's head slowly turns to hear more clearly. Paris reaches out and feels the smooth steel. Maghra takes out a book...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

These things were inside.

Paris takes the book and reacts with wonder and touches the pages reverently.

BABA VOSS

And more of the same.

Baba hands her another book. Paris gasps...

MAGHRA

What? Do you know what they are?

Paris fills with emotion. Finally she speaks softly...

PARIS

Yes. They are things I thought I would never hold in my hand. Sometimes I wondered if they were just legends.

A pause.

PARIS (CONT'D)

They are books.

MAGHRA

What are 'books'?

Paris fights emotion.

PARIS

My grandmother told me stories about them and I dreamt them with her.

Paris fans the pages and the breeze blows her face. Smoke swirls. The shadow very slowly stretches out a hand to feel the breeze....

PARIS (CONT'D)

Books are silent. But they speak. They can be burnt but they are more powerful than fire. They speak directly into the imagination. But only to those with the power to understand.

Paris kneels beside the box and runs her hands over the covers of the volumes inside...

PARIS (CONT'D)

All the knowledge of the ancient ones was contained in them.

BABA VOSS

But how do we hear them speak? I hear nothing.

At that moment one of the babies wakes and cries. A pause.

PARIS

Neither do I.

A pause.

BABA VOSS

My grandmother's grandmother had some books of her own but the Holy Guardians burnt them all in the reign of King Mustafa.

She takes a breath...

PARIS

I thought they had all been burnt.

We come close to the Shadow as she absorbs the information...

BABA VOSS

Jerlamarel said we should wait four summers then give them to the children.

PARIS

So he must believe they have inherited his power to hear silence.

The Shadow absorbs.

MAGHRA

What if these things harm them?

PARIS

No harm will come from books.

MAGHRA

How can you be sure?

Paris takes a dry text book on mechanical engineering and pushes it against the soft skin of her cheek.

PARIS

We must bury them. Like precious seeds. And in four summers...

Maghra interrupts...

MAGHRA

...And in four summers I will decide.

A pause. Paris hears Maghra's ownership of the issue and accepts it. For now. She gets to her feet and her bones crack.

PARIS

No one must know about this. Not until the children are grown.

Maghra and Baba Voss look sombre. Paris turns to leave and hesitates for just half a second as if suddenly troubled. Then she walks. As Paris walks by, the shadow instantly adopts an identical gate and exits under cover of the crying baby.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S HUT

We see Paris emerge from the hut and walk. Paris stops dead again and waits and the Shadow stops too.

We see that Paris suspects something, feels something. An owl hoots and she dismisses her feeling. Paris walks and after she has gone the Shadow walks quickly into the darkness.

EXT. WATERFALL - NIGHT

In the moonlit waterfall we see the Shadow washing off the powder that covered her naked body. Slowly her face emerges. (We will learn that this is BOW LION). She is beautiful and will become an important character.

She has a leather string wrapped around her body with intricate knots already tied.

After a moment Gather Bax approaches the waterfall. He calls out under the roar of water...

GETHER BAX

Shadow? I'm here. Are you there?

The shadow steps forward and unties a knot in the leather string. She drapes it around Gether Bax's neck and pulls it tight. Gether reacts. He can't resist...

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

Who are you?

The shadow laughs and steps back into the shimmering moonlit waterfall.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

You must want payment. What do you want?

The shadow uses the noise of the waterfall to walk away.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, SOUTER BAX DWELLING - NIGHT

Souter Bax and TILLER BAX (Souter's husband, Gether's uncle) are waiting as Gether enters. He is carrying the leather string.

GETHER BAX

She wouldn't speak but she tied what she heard.

Gether begins to feel the end of the string and pass it on to Souter, who passes it on in turn to Tiller. Gether Bax 'reads aloud'.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

There were three. Baba Voss, Paris and Maghra.

Souter Bax stops...

SOUTER BAX

Of course Paris was there. She is the queen of the coven.

Gether Bax feeds the string through...

GETHER BAX

They spoke about the baptism. About the best way to heal the wounds.

He feels more quickly....

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

They talked about how they should cover the roof of the dwelling, skins or tree bark. How to stop the babies getting cold..

Souter Bax feels the end of the leather string as it runs out.

SOUTER BAX

What else?

GETHER BAX

There is nothing else.

SOUTER BAX

They didn't talk of witchcraft? Of the baby devils.

GETHER BAX

No. Nothing.

SOUTER BAX

Perhaps the Shadow is lying. Perhaps she is a witch just like them.

Tiller Bax pulls the string through.

TILLER BAX

Why do you hate them so much?

GETHER BAX

You have to ask?

A silence. The fire crackles. Tiller Bax withdraws a little.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

My mother was burnt alive. She burns still in my head.

TILLER BAX

It wasn't just Baba Voss, the whole village found her guilty...

SOUTER BAX (INTERRUPTING)
...Of a crime she committed under
the craft of a witch.

TILLER BAX
What proof is there....

GETHER BAX
Paris put voices in her head. She
told my mother to murder my father.

TILLER BAX
Perhaps those voices were her
own....

Gether Bax suddenly leaps to his feet....

GETHER BAX
No! Paris speaks to your soul.
Sometimes I hear her too.
Whispering to me. But I fight her.

Souter Bax takes his arm and Gether Bax stops. Tiller Bax
stirs the ashes of the fire.

TILLER BAX
Perhaps.

A pause. We see tears welling in Gether Bax's eyes...

GETHER BAX
My mother burns still. Whenever
sleep comes, I smell the smoke.

Souter Bax takes hold of him and hugs him...

SOUTER BAX
My sister will be avenged. Some
day. I have made my vow at the
altar.

A pause. Gether Bax gets to his feet to leave. Souter Bax
calls after him...

SOUTER BAX (CONT'D)
If the Shadow asks for gifts, give
her nothing.

Gether Bax leaves.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, DREAMERS'S LODGE - NIGHT

The lodge is a long house, larger and grander than the other
dwellings. Everything human-made inside the lodge is square
or rectangular.

We find the Dreamer sleeping. Then he stirs when he hears footsteps. As he sits up, Bow Lion (the Shadow) slips into the shelter. She is naked but pulls on a bear skin.

BOW
Hello Dad. It's me.

The Dreamer sniffs the air then reaches out and feels her face.

DREAMER
My little Bow. Where have you been?

BOW
Working. I had an assignment.

DREAMER (QUICKLY)
Bow, I wish you wouldn't work for other people....

BOW
I enjoy it.

Bow Lion goes to a bucket and takes a cup of water.

DREAMER
Who hired you?

BOW
Souter and Gether Bax.

The Dreamer reacts wearily...

DREAMER
And let me guess, they sent you to the house of Baba Voss.

Bow pulls her fur robe tight.

BOW
Yes.

The Dreamer adds fuel to the fire.

DREAMER
And what did you hear?

Bow comes close and the Dreamer puts his arm around her. We come close to Bow. We see her decide to lie to her father too....

BOW
I heard just a boring conversation about how to make a roof.

A pause. The Dreamer hears something in her voice. Does the Dreamer hear the lie? Perhaps. He holds her close...

DREAMER

My dear please stop doing this kind
of thing...

Bow interrupts....

BOW

...except when it is you who sends
me. The holy Priest who hears
everyone's secrets in his dreams...

DREAMER (SUSPICIOUS)

You are only of use to me if you
report what you hear faithfully.

A pause. Perhaps the Dreamer does suspect she heard more than
she is saying. Bow perhaps often holds her tongue. She sits
back away from his embrace...

BOW

Do you think I am as good a Shadow
as my mother was?

The Dreamer smiles at the memory....

DREAMER

The ancient craft of the Shadow is
always passed undiminished. But I
doubt anyone will ever be as good
as she was.

A pause. The Dreamer's blind eyes moisten in the firelight.

DREAMER (CONT'D)

Sometimes I even tell myself she is
here yet. Beside me. Beyond my
perception...

We come close to the Dreamer's face. Then he reacts.

DREAMER (CONT'D)

Bow? Are you still there?

Bow has gone.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, VILLAGE EDGE - THE HOUR BEFORE DAWN

In silhouette against moonlight we see Baba Voss digging a
hole beneath an oak tree. The silver box of books glistens
in moonlight.

Maghra stands solemnly a little way away. Then Baba Voss
heaves the box into the hole. Baba and Maghra begin to
shovel dirt onto the top of the box. We come close to Maghra
and sense she perhaps wants this box to be buried forever.
She straightens and her face is bathed in moonlight...

BABA VOSS

Where are the seeds?

Maghra reaches into her pocket and produces a handful of seeds. Baba Voss feels them.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

We will plant the hyacinths above
the box to mark the spot. In four
summers we will return.

Maghra nods gently. Then she pours the seeds into Baba Voss' hand in moonlight...

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

...under the same moon TAMACTI JUN is sitting by a fire. His army are resting by other fires on a small mountain plateau. Their dogs howl at the Moon.

An officer in full uniform hurries to Tamacti with a long, un-knotted length of leather.

Tamacti looks to be exhausted.

OFFICER

You wish to send a message?

TAMACTI JUN

To Queen Kane.

The officer sits and begins to knot the string as Tamacti Jun dictates. His blind eyes reflect flames and bitterness as he reluctantly begins...

TAMACTI JUN (CONT'D)

We have been searching the
mountains of the sun grave land for
three months now.

A pause.

TAMACTI JUN

We have no scent, no markers, no
clues. The pre-sagers feel nothing
but bears....

EXT. FIRESIDE - LATER

We time cut to the officer tying the completed message to the leg of a pigeon. Tamacti's dictation continues in voiceover...

TAMACTI JUN (OOV)

There are endless forests and
valleys and ravines here, deep fast
rivers....

EXT. DAWN SKY

We fly with the pigeon with the message trailing, over the
lost remains of a city where the odd window reflects morning
light...

TAMACTI JUN (OOV)

We pray to God always for guidance
but we get no word. Jerlamarel and
his litter are lost to us....

Suddenly....

INT. QUEEN KANE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Queen Kane is sitting in her hard-backed chair in her oddly
furnished chamber. She sits in a shaft of moonlight that
enters through the high barred window. Outside we hear the
roar of the turbine. Her dog sits patiently in the corner.

Lord Dune has the same knotted message between his fingers
and reads aloud, taking up the message from Tamacti...

LORD DUNE

...so now with heavy heart I seek
your instruction. Is my mission
ended? Should we return? From your
humble and devoted servant, Tamacti
Jun....

Lord Dune puts the leather aside as he completes the
message...

LORD DUNE (CONT'D)

...Witchfinder general in the land
of Sun grave.

A pause. Queen Kane looks thwarted, angry at her
powerlessness. Lord Dune speaks carefully....

LORD DUNE (CONT'D)

DO you wish to reply, your majesty?

A pause.

QUEEN KANE

Yes.

A pause.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

How many children does Tamacti Jun have?

A pause. Lord Dune appears to know where this is heading before we do.

LORD DUNE

I believe seven. Your Highness....

Queen Kane speaks over him....

QUEEN KANE

How old is the oldest.

LORD DUNE

He is just now a man, but please....

QUEEN KANE

Chop off his head. There. The solution.

Queen Kane nods gently. Lord Dune's fears are confirmed.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Send the head to Tamacti Jun with my kind regards and with the message that I will kill one of his children on this day, every year that he fails to find Jerlamarel...

Lord Dune is about to speak but Queen Kane ploughs on...

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

Also, in my chamber there is a door that keeps banging in the wind, all night keeping me awake. Send someone to fix it.

Lord Dune considers speaking but decides against it.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)

But first I wish to pray. Send my lady in to lick me.

Lord Dune gets to his feet.

LORD DUNE

Yes your highness.

Lord Dune walks. Queen Kane listens to the roar of water from the turbines. Then she speaks softly to the barred window...

QUEEN KANE

Oh Jerlamarel.

A pause. (A shock).

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
...My love.

A pause. She continues almost playfully.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Where are you, you difficult beast?

She smiles....

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Once we spoke to each other without
words all the time. But you no
longer speak to me.

She raises her blind eyes to the barred window

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
So I will attempt to speak to you.

After a moment the door opens and a LADY IN WAITING in black
fox fur hurries inside. She touches Queen Kane's hand with
two fingers.

LADY
Your highness.

QUEEN KANE
I wish to send a message on a
prayer.

The Lady in waiting immediately kneels and pushes Queen
Kane's skirt back from her knees all the way up to her hips.
She then puts her head between Queen Kane's legs and we infer
begins to perform oral sex on her.

Queen Kane waits a moment then sighs with pleasure. She then
begins to speak.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Jerlamarel, on the power of this
pleasure I send a prayer to you.

Queen Kane reacts to pleasure.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
I want you to come home. This game
has gone on too long. I am sorry
for what I did. If you return, you
will be given a Royal pardon.

She reacts to more pleasure.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
On one condition.

The dog stirs...

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Come back to me and give me
children with the power. Your
power...

She sighs with pleasure and grabs the Lady's hair...

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
You have given your seed to some
slut in the land of Sun grave. Why
not me? If you come back and give
me children you will be King.

She breaths more quickly....

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
I will proclaim the Vishiona
heresy. I will renounce the old
Gods.

A pause....

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Because our children will be the
Gods. Come back to me Jerlamarel.

On her orgasm....

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
Forever and ever Amen.

A pause. Queen Kane gently pulls the lady in waiting away from her and she stands. Queen Kane offers her a black napkin then stands.

QUEEN KANE (CONT'D)
You heard me speak a forbidden
name.

The Lady is already beginning to panic...

LADY IN WAITING
I heard nothing your majesty.

Queen Kane smiles and touches her face.

QUEEN KANE
Can you be trusted not to repeat
the name?

LADY IN WAITING
Your majesty...

Queen Kane has produced a sharp metal knife. She calmly drives it into the Lady in Waiting's heart.

They are together in an embrace for a moment then the lady falls to the floor.

Queen Kane takes a moment then whispers....

QUEEN KANE
Oh Jerlamarel....

EXT. FIRESIDE - NIGHT

In flickering firelight we find Jerlamarel sleeping under a bear skin. His eyes flicker and then open. He reacts to his dream. He half smiles....

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAWN

We see a beautiful sunrise as the sun just emerges over a ridge and bathes the valley in orange light.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, PLATEAU

The communal fire is now glowing embers. Villagers are all gathered to face the rising sun. They stand with their eyes wide open as the first shafts of sunlight hit their faces.

They don't blink and we see the sun reflected in their irises.

The Dreamer is bare-chested and speaks as part of a daily ritual....

DREAMER
God-Flame, bring to us a new day of warmth and hope and inspiration for our fires. Spare us from what is outside. Bless our walls and fences. Keep us safe inside. Shield us from the awful beyond. Amen.

The villagers chant 'Amen'. We come close to Paris, and then to Gether and Souter Bax.

DREAMER (CONT'D)
Now let us continue to build our new home.

The villagers all reach up and take hold of ropes to send them toward traps and fields. Two of them follow a rope to the fire and begin to waft the embers back into life.

Another day begins in new Alkenny village.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, PLATEAU

We time cut to see the villagers stacking logs for construction. Lunch has been set out on a communal mat, slabs of dried meat near to the fire. A boy waves away birds who are trying to feast with random sweeps of a long stick.

We see Baba Voss emerging from the perimeter with a giant log in his arms. As he walks, he calls out....

BABA VOSS

Bababababababa! Man's length of
timber to left and right.
Babababababa.

At last he reaches the heat of the fire and drops the log down...

Time cut...

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

The same log is being hauled with ropes into position in a post hole. The villagers unite to push the log down and there is a cheer...

Others are stringing ropes to act as tram lines across the village.

Time cut.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

We find Baba Voss yelling with exertion as he shoves a split log onto a roof. We see that the village is almost built....

Time cut

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

The village is now complete and Baba Voss and others are working on a wooden perimeter made from sharpened timber. They place a timber into the last remaining gap.

Baba Voss stretches his back and raises his head to the sky. He roars with joy.

BABA VOSS

Our home is complete! God protect
New Alkenny!

The villagers cheer.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, PARIS'S HUT

Paris is sleeping on the floor beside a small fire. It is early morning.

Caption: 2619. Two years later...

The caption stays on screen. Suddenly Paris's door flies open and Maghra enters.

MAGHRA

Paris come. Come quick.

Paris sits up, alarmed...

PARIS

What's happened?

Maghra grabs her arm and pulls her to her feet...

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S DWELLING

We find HANIWA and KOFUN AT THE AGE OF TWO, playing on the reed mats that cover the floor. The small fire has a wall of stones around it to keep the babies away. As we join the babies Maghra drags Paris inside.

MAGHRA

I swear, I swear, I swear it's true...

Maghra takes a small toy horse from inside her tunic. It is carved from wood and carefully smoothed and polished. Maghra puts the horse into Paris's hand.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

There. Their favorite toy. Place it. Anywhere. Anywhere you like.

Paris is puzzled....

PARIS

What *is* this?

MAGHRA

The horse has no smell and makes no noise. Just put it on the floor anywhere you like.

Paris knows the dwelling well and walks a few paces away from the door and puts the horse down.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Now come back to me.

Paris returns.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Haniwa. Kofun. Where is your horse? Find your horse.

We see that Paris perhaps suspects what this is about before it plays out. We stay on her face as we see the twins (out of focus) toddle by and walk toward the toy horse.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Do you have the horse?

HANIWA

Yes, I have it mama.

MAGHRA

Good girl. Bring it to auntie P.

Paris waits. A few seconds later she feels Haniwa tug at her arm. Paris falls to her knees. She feels the toy horse being put into her hand.

Paris takes a breath. Maghra is feverish....

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Now, now, now....

Maghra dips her finger into the ash of the fire.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Paris, give me your hand.

Maghra takes Paris's hand.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Open it out.

Paris stretches out her hand and offers her palm.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

I am drawing a shape on your hand with ash from the fire.

Maghra draws a circle on Paris's palm.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Kofun. Come here.

They both hear Kofun approach.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

On auntie Paris's hand there is a shape. Draw the same shape with your finger on her other hand.

Paris holds up both hands with palms outstretched. On her left hand we see the circle drawn in ash. Kofun comes to her and draws a circle on her right palm with his finger.

As the circle is completed....

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

How did he know what I drew? If I don't put ash on my finger they don't know. If I use ash they know.

Now for the first time we focus on Haniwa and Kofun.

They are two beautiful two year old children. And as we come close to their smiling faces it is evident that they can SEE.

Their eyes sparkle as they focus on Paris, who is frozen. Maghra is on her knees too and she reaches out and takes Haniwa and Kofun in her arms. She begins to speak quickly and softly....

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

They never stumble or collide. They know morning has come before we hear the birds. They asked about the lake beyond the wall even though I have never told them about it. They tell me the shape of the Moon each night.

Maghra now takes Paris's face in her hands...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

I raise my hand and ask how many fingers am I holding up and they always know. Always. Always.

Paris instinctively puts her hand over Maghra's mouth. Haniwa and Kofun return to their toys. Maghra removes Paris's hand...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Paris, they have it. They have the power of Jerlamarel...

PARIS

Hush.

Maghra whispers...

MAGHRA

He said the power is like dreaming but real. Like the things in your head when a story teller tells a story but without the need of a story teller.

A pause.

PARIS

Light is the story teller.

Paris takes Maghra's face in her hand.

PARIS (CONT'D)

Maghra?

At that moment Baba Voss enters, carrying two dead rabbits.

BABA VOSS

I bring rabbits for my little rabbits. Where are you my babies?

Haniwa and Kofun yell and immediately run to Baba Voss and he reaches out for them then picks them up and spins them around. Baba Voss then stops and sniffs the air.

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Maghra? There are two here, is that you Paris?

PARIS

Yes it's me.

Baba Voss senses the atmosphere. He puts the two children down.

BABA VOSS

I feel something in the air.

MAGHRA

No. Nothing.

PARIS

Yes. Something.

Paris takes Maghra's hand.

PARIS (TO MAGHRA) (CONT'D)

We five are our own tribe. Remember? You have shared this with me, you must share it with him.

BABA VOSS

Share what?

PARIS

Baba Voss, you should sit down.

BABA VOSS

What's happened?

MAGHRA

Something....

A pause. Maghra takes Paris's hand...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

...wonderful I think.
Something you must never, ever tell
to anyone.

Baba Voss steps closer and sits down on a log.

PARIS

Baba Voss.

She gestures toward the sound of the playing children...

PARIS (CONT'D)

The world just changed.

Suddenly driving music begins....

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

The driving music continues and covers a montage of the children growing up.

To begin with, we see the TWINS at three years old. It is Fall and the trees inside the village perimeter are shedding their leaves in cascades of gold and red.

(Throughout the visual, images should be pastoral and luscious, emphasizing the importance of vision and the horror of its absence).

The twins are catching falling leaves and laughing in the wind. We see Maghra walking toward them with her arms outstretched. She calls out against the wind...

MAGHRA

Haniwa! Kofun!

The children turn and race toward her. She hugs them tight in a shower of leaves...

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

KOFUN

Catching leaves.

MAGHRA

Remember, remember, remember,
always remember. You must keep
your eyes closed. Learn to do
everything with eyes closed.

She puts her hand gently over their sparkling eyes and they close them tight.

MAGHRA (CONT'D)

Let the leaves fall.

Maghra walks them back toward the village. As she does, she sniffs the air. We see Baba Voss standing at the edge of the orchard in a shower of falling leaves. He calls out...

BABA VOSS

Maghra?

She comes to him. Baba Voss puts his big hands on the children's heads....

BABA VOSS (CONT'D)

Soon it will be time to dig
hyacinths. You must decide.

A pause. Kofun opens his eyes and whispers....

KOFUN

Mama, the leaves are so beautiful.

Maghra hears. A pause. She makes her decision.

Time cut...

EXT. VILLAGE PLATEAU - NIGHT TIME

We find a growth of hyacinths hidden from the village by trees. Baba Voss approaches them with a shovel in his hand. He sniffs the air for the scent of hyacinths. Then he reaches out and plucks a flower and crushes it under his nose.

He begins to dig.....

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S DWELLING

The place is completed now and lived in. We find Kofun and Haniwa, aged FOUR, standing side-by-side with their eyes closed. Then we move to see Maghra and Paris and Baba Voss kneeling around the steel box that Jerlamarel left, cleaning off the soil.

Baba Voss takes out the key and opens the box.

MAGHRA

Now children you can open your
eyes.

Kofun and Haniwa open their eyes. They see the box and the books.

HANIWA

What is it?

PARIS

You tell us.

Maghra looks tentative. Haniwa goes to the box. She takes out the kindergarten primer. Kofun takes another children's book.

HANIWA
What are they?

PARIS
Books. We think they are books.

We see the picture of an apple with the letter 'a' beside it.

HANIWA
It's an apple.

MAGHRA
An apple?

HANIWA
Yes.

Maghra reaches out and touches the book.

MAGHRA
It doesn't feel like an apple.

PARIS
If it were an apple it would have gone rotten by now.

Haniwa is confused.

HANIWA
It is the same as an apple.

BABA VOSS
How can it be the same as an apple if it isn't an apple?

HANIWA
I don't know. But it is.

PARIS
Kofun. What about you?

KOFUN
Mine's a tree.

There is unease among the adults. Baba Voss dares to touch the book.

BABA VOSS
Some tree. Children, are you teasing us?

HANIWA/KOFUN
No.

HANIWA

Mine's an apple. His is a tree.
That's it.

A long pause.

PARIS

Already we are the children and
they are the teachers.

BABA VOSS

Jerlamarel said they would be full
of surprises.

KOFUN

Who is Jerlamarel?

Baba Voss reaches out and takes Maghra's hand.

BABA VOSS

It is time for this too.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, HERB PATCH

The music resumes. We hear children yelling.

We see a seven year old boy (who we will quickly realize is
KOFUN AT AGE SEVEN) engaged in a fight with a much bigger boy
in the middle of a herb plantation at the edge of the
village.

Caption: Five years later.

Other children are gathering around the sound of the fight
and are yelling encouragement. Kofun shouts out...

KOFUN

Meeko tried to steal my bundle and
now the big fat ox is trying to
bully me.

BOY

I am no ox! Stand still and fight!

The children begin to chant Kofun's name.

Even as we join, we can tell that Kofun can see, and he is
using his power to easily evade the swings and swipes of the
bigger boy. He then cheekily goes around his back and slaps
the bigger boy.

KOFUN

That was a smack to his big ox
head!

The kids all laugh. The boy spins and tries a kick but Kofun
reaches out and upends him. The boy lands with a thump.

KOFUN (CONT'D)

And that was the ox taking a little nap.

More laughter. Then a seven year old girl (HANIWA) races through the rows of kids and yells....

HANIWA

Kofun, what are you doing?

KOFUN

I caught him stealing my herb bundle.

Haniwa comes to him and hisses under the noise of the chanting...

HANIWA

What did Mommy tell us? She said keep your eyes closed. You close your eyes or we burn. We must not attract attention.

Kofun reacts with weary disgust. The bigger boy is now on his feet, breathing hard.

BOY

I smell you, you little rat. Stand and fight!

Kofun gets his breath then steps back and closes his eyes.

KOFUN (EYES CLOSED)

I'm here you big ox. Bababababa.

The big boy flies at him and Kofun is knocked to the floor.

As Kofun clears shot, we might notice Gether Bax hovering nearby, listening.

Suddenly...

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE, TAMACTI JUN'S ENCAMPMENT

A horse gallops on a mountain pass with a ravine dropping into mist below. The rider carries a leather bundle the shape of a football.

We ride with him toward a mountain encampment where a hundred soldiers are resting beside camp fires.

We find Tamacti Jun sitting alone by his own fire. He looks older and thinner and his blind eyes reflect the flames. He is waiting for something.

He hears the gallop of hooves and reacts. In the near distance the rider with the bundle dismounts and he hastily speaks to some of the soldiers who take his horse.

The rider calls out....

RIDER

From her Majesty Queen Kane. News from the City. Letters from your loved ones.

A pause. He adds with a tremor of fear in his voice...

RIDER (CONT'D)

And a gift for Tamacti Jun.

We come close to the leather bundle and see a thick lock of blond hair dangling from it.

EXT. SMALL MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

We see Tamacti Jun's cavalry thundering into an isolated village. They spin their killing ropes but this time to tangle up the villagers as they try to flee.

Some villagers are killed. Tamacti's men leap from their horses and grab women and children and haul them to the ground. Tamacti wheels his horse...

TAMACTI JUN

Death or reward! We seek a witch named Jerlamarel! Who here has heard that name?!

There are screams.

TAMACTI JUN (CONT'D)

And a woman named Maghra with two devil children! Give her up and you will live!

A village elder staggers to his feet...

ELDER

There is no one here of that name!

Tamacti Jun growls with fury....

TAMACTI JUN

Burn them all!

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S DWELLING

We find Kofun and Haniwa playing alone. They are both reading children's books from the box and studying the pictures. They hear someone coming and scramble in a practised routine to put the books away.

Then they see it is Maghra and they relax.

EXT. SECOND MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

In a village either side of a stream we see a dozen bodies hanging from trees. Tamacti Jun's men are rampaging and bodies are burning on a central fire.

We come close to Tamacti Jun who has his head raised to the sun with his blind eyes open....

TAMACTI JUN

Help me God Flame. Help me find
what I seek...

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE - NIGHT

Gether Bax is sitting alone beside the deep stream that flows from the waterfall. He is lost in thought as he feels the flow of the water with his hands. Then he splashes his face.

He puts one hand back into the water and feels the flow. He lets the water cool him for a moment. Then an idea occurs to him. It's as if Tamacti Jun's prayer has reached him. His hand stiffens in the water. He leaps to his feet.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

Gether Bax walks quickly through the village toward Souter Bax's dwelling. A knotted length of leather hangs from his hand. He ducks inside.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, SOUTER BAX'S DWELLING

Souter Bax and Tiller Bax are cooking dinner on the open flame, a skinned squirrel. Gether Bax speaks quickly.

GETHER BAX

I have had an idea...

He gathers his breath....

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

I know how to get a message to the
Witchfinder General. Come...

Souter Bax reacts but Tiller Bax continues cooking.

TILLER BAX

We're cooking. Sit. Eat. Grow up.

Gether Bax stares murder at Tiller Bax.

GETHER BAX

Souter, come.

Souter Bax gets to her feet, pulling free from Tiller.

EXT. WATERFALL - NIGHT

We see the cascading water in moonlight and then follow its flow through the village. At the edge of the village we then find Souter and Gether Bax, standing beside the deep stream that flows down the mountain.

Gether Bax kneels down. He has the knotted string and a length of wood. He begins to wind the leather around the length of wood. Souter Bax kneels too.

SOUTER BAX

What are you doing?

Gether Bax is working fast, his hands shaking. He presses the wound up coil to Souter Bax's cheek.

GETHER BAX

I have written a message. I will drop the message into the river. It will flow downstream. Through a dozen different valleys. Who knows who will find it.

Souter Bax sits back, incredulous.

SOUTER BAX

A beaver will find it. Or it will snag on a rock.

GETHER BAX

Perhaps. But what if we do the same thing every single day?

He begins to pull the leather tight and tie it off with venom.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

Twice a day, three times a day. The message I will write says follow the river upstream and you will find the children of Jerlamarel.

SOUTER BAX

You would do this every day?

Gether Bax ploughs on...

GETHER BAX

Every village knows the Witchfinder is seeking him. They will know there is a reward. Someone will find one of our messages and take it to him. Eventually.

A pause.

SOUTER BAX

There are so many valleys and streams. It could take years.

GETHER BAX

Yes. Yes. It could.

He grabs her face.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

But at least there will be hope.

He smiles.

GETHER BAX (CONT'D)

All my heart needs is hope.

Gether Bax drops the message into the water. We watch it flow quickly downstream.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE

The music resumes.

We find an open air class of children of various ages, sitting on the grass as a middle-aged woman (TEACHER) takes class.

Most of the children are sitting with their (sightless) eyes open. Two of the children sit with their eyes closed. This is HANIWA AND KOFUN AT AGE TWELVE.

The children all have lengths of string in their hands. The teacher is addressing the class...

TEACHER

Put a loop in the string and put your first finger through it.

The children all do as they are told, except for Kofun. As the teacher continues, Kofun opens his eyes and glances at Haniwa. Haniwa has her eyes closed.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now make a second loop and put the second loop into the first and pull tight.

All the children (including Haniwa with her eyes closed) make the knot. Kofun instead flicks a small pebble at Haniwa and she opens her eyes.

Kofun sticks his tongue out at her. She glares at him and mouths '*close your eyes*'.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Think of the first loop as a mouse's head and the second as the trap. Put the head in the trap.

Kofun quickly and casually makes the knot, aided by his eye sight.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

This knot means something or someone has been caught or is stuck in a bad place.

KOFUN (SOFTLY)

Yes. Me.

The teacher comes close...

TEACHER

Kofun? Let me read.

She takes Kofun's string and feels his knot.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Very good.

After the teacher has passed by, Kofun peers out over the valley. He (and we) see a magnificent RAINBOW forming an arc over the valley.

Kofun instinctively stands and whispers...

KOFUN

Wow.

The teacher turns to his voice and Haniwa opens her eyes. Haniwa follows his eye line to the rainbow.

TEACHER

Kofun? What is it?

Kofun stares at the rainbow.

KOFUN (SOFTLY)

Nothing.

TEACHER

Kofun. I heard you stand. Please sit down.

Haniwa and Kofun alone see the beauty of the rainbow. Haniwa gestures at him to sit and Kofun slowly sits...

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now pull out your knots and we will move on to the symbol for freedom....

Then, to Kofun's surprise, Haniwa gets to her feet to look at the rainbow. She stares at it and we see tears welling. Kofun hisses....

KOFUN

Haniwa? What are you doing?

The teacher hears the whisper and comes close. She gropes the air and feels Haniwa's head...

TEACHER

First your brother and now you. Why are you standing?

The teacher feels Haniwa's face and feels the tear....

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Why are you crying?

A pause. Haniwa looks down to Kofun and he looks to her. He sees a change in her eyes....

HANIWA

I can feel the blood my mother said would come. I need to go to my mother.

The teacher reacts....

TEACHER

Very well, go, go.

Haniwa runs.

EXT. LEDGE ABOVE THE WATERFALL

We see Haniwa climb onto the ledge where Jerlamarel left the box of books. She stares out across the mountain valley. She feels a new energy rising inside her. Above the roar of the waterfall she yells....

HANIWA

Father! I don't care who hears!!
Your gift is beautiful!!

We come close to Haniwa and she closes her eyes.

INT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, MAGHRA'S DWELLING

Kofun and Haniwa are now using the knotted strings that Jerlamarel left inside each of the reading books which translate the letters into the phonemes of the string language.

KOFUN

'A'. Look. This shape means 'a'.

We see the apple picture and the letter 'A' in the book. Haniwa leans in...

HANIWA

A for apple.

EXT. ORCHARD WITHIN NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE - DAWN

The music swells.

At the western end of the enclosure there is a stand of six apple trees which have been cultivated for fruit (the same trees that shed their leaves in autumn).

In a beautiful misty dawn we see the villagers gathering the fallen apples and putting them into baskets. They grub along the ground with their hands feeling for apples.

We see Kofun and Haniwa, still at twelve, cheating a little as they look around for apples to pick up. Then Haniwa straightens and looks up. Right above her head there is a clutch of apples hanging within arm's reach. She peers at them. Kofun notices and straightens too.

Haniwa reaches up and tugs the apples from the branch. Kofun hesitates then reaches up and pulls two more fresh apples from the branch. (Slowly Kofun and Haniwa will swap roles and Haniwa will become the rebellious one).

As Kofun pulls a twig snaps and a villager nearby with keen ears twists his head to listen. As Haniwa and Kofun put their apples in their baskets, the music continues...

EXT. RIVERSIDE

In half darkness we find Gether Bax walking to the edge of the stream with the waterfall beyond. He drops a stick and a message into the stream. He looks up and offers a small prayer....

EXT. VILLAGE PERIMETER - DAY.

We find Haniwa and Kofun walking quickly with books in their hands. Haniwa puts the books down beneath a tree and then grabs a log. Kofun grabs a second and third.

With practised ease they lay the logs across a gap in the rocks, a ravine six feet wide with a deep drop. They use the logs as a bridge and they both quickly walk across the bridge.

Once across they quickly store the logs on the other side, ready for their return. They walk on and then sit down in a pool of light to study their books.

We come close to them. Haniwa and Kofun are reading history books. We glimpse depictions of Medieval soldiers carrying and using bows and arrows. Kofun is eating an apple.

KOFUN

Haniwa, look. It's called a bow and arrow.

Haniwa takes the book and studies it.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, OPEN AIR CLASS

The twins are sitting in a silent exam with the children all writing a sentence in knots on lengths of cord.

We see that this time Kofun has his eyes closed and it is Haniwa who has her eyes open.

She has two loops already in her cord. There is a stick nearby. She puts a loop around the stick to hold it in place. She then has an idea.

She bends the stick and attaches the second loop to the other end of the stick. She now has a bow.

She smiles and picks up another twig. She strings it into her bow and fires it at Kofun. It hits him and he opens his eyes.

EXT. VILLAGE PERIMETER

We find Haniwa and Kofun together. Kofun has cut a sapling to length and Haniwa has a length of leather in her hands. They have a book open with an image of a bow and arrow. Kofun hands her the sapling and Haniwa quickly threads the leather around one end of the sapling and bends it to tie the string to the other end.

Now she has a bow. Kofun hands her an arrow. She is about to string it when Kofun sees something.

Just a few yards away, they both see the SHADOW (Bow Lion) standing motionless beneath a small apple tree. Haniwa and Kofun are shocked and then curious. They get to their feet and approach. The Shadow blinks in surprise at their approach.

HANIWA

What are you doing here?

Bow blinks again and looks horrified but stays still. Kofun reaches out to touch her and she writhes away from his hand but he sees her move and grabs her arm.

Bow is astonished. After a horrified moment.

BOW

No one can touch a shadow. How do you know I'm here?

HANIWA

Because we can s....

Kofun puts his hand over Haniwa's mouth.

KOFUN

We heard you. What do you want?

Bow looks deeply suspicious.

BOW

How could you hear me? I didn't make a noise.

Haniwa growls...

HANIWA

You are Bow Lion, the Dreamer's daughter but in some sort of white paint.

BOW

What is 'white'?

HANIWA (QUICKLY)

What do you want?

Bow, at last, drops her frozen posture....

BOW

First, I want to know how you know who I am.

KOFUN

From your voice. Why are you spying on us.

Bow is adjusting, reaching conclusions...

BOW

You always come out here on your own. I wanted to know why.

Kofun smiles.

HANIWA

You look so funny...

BOW

I what so funny?

KOFUN

Hush.

A pause. Bow reaches out and touches Haniwa's face.

BOW

Perhaps you know I'm here because of your books.

Kofun and Haniwa react.

BOW (CONT'D)

That's the word isn't it? I remember Paris saying it when you were babies.

Haniwa suddenly grabs Bow and twists her around in her arms.

HANIWA

What do you know?

A pause. Bow takes the move calmly....

BOW

I know a secret. I think. Or part of a secret. But I never shared it. Not even with my father.

Haniwa lets her go.

HANIWA

You are a shadow. I have heard stories. A kind of witchcraft..

BOW

And I have heard stories too. About your father.

A pause. Haniwa peers at Bow.

HANIWA

In all these years you've known about the books and told no one.

Bow Lion smiles....

BOW

I am a shadow. I am always
curious. That is how we are. I like
to know people's secrets.

A pause.

BOW (CONT'D)

But I can be trusted.

A pause. Kofun glances at Haniwa and sees she is warming to
Bow. He decides to close this down...

KOFUN

Bow Lion. Why don't you go away now
and leave us alone.

HANIWA

She could betray us.

KOFUN

She wouldn't dare.

BOW

I would dare. I would easily dare.
But I won't.

KOFUN

Why?

Haniwa is studying Bow and Bow touches Haniwa's face.

BOW

Because most people bore me.

A pause. She takes Bow's arm.

HANIWA

Me too.

Kofun reacts with quiet irritation...

KOFUN

Dear God.

BOW (TO HANIWA)

He believes in God?

HANIWA

Ignore him.

KOFUN

Yes, ignore me. Tell the world and
then we burn.

BOW

Tell the world what?

A pause.

HANIWA
You have a power, Bow Lion.

BOW
As do you I think.

Haniwa takes Bow's hand.

HANIWA
Shadows know secrets. Tell me
everyone's secrets. Fun.

BOW
Fun.

Haniwa leads Bow back to where she was sitting with Kofun. As they go...

BOW (CONT'D)
What was that word you said? What
is 'white'?

Kofun looks on with trepidation. He looks up to the sky...

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, BEYOND THE PERIMETER

A sunrise. A stag grazes then raises his head and sniffs the air. Suddenly an arrow flies and the stag falls.

We see a much larger bow and arrow being pulled tight by HANIWA, NOW SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD. She lets the arrow fly and hits a small deer. The deer falls.

NOW WE MEET OUR HEROES AS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THROUGHOUT OUR STORY.

Haniwa has her hair pulled back and is dressed in fine looking furs. She is a woman now and has begun to look like a warrior. KOFUN AT SEVENTEEN is almost a man and is equally composed physically.

Haniwa and Kofun stride toward the fallen deer. Baba Voss stumbles in their wake. Haniwa puts her knee on the carcass and pulls out the bloody arrow tip. Then a voice...

BOW (OOV)
Did you hit?

We come around and see Bow Lion, also older and as she will be in our story. She is now a woman of thirty, beautiful and elegant as a ballerina. Haniwa and Kofun smile to each other.

HANIWA
Of course we hit.

Baba Voss has arrived, breathless, wrapped in furs. Haniwa puts her arrow back in its quiver. Baba Voss reaches down and feels the deer carcass.

BABA VOSS

How I wish light would tell me stories too.

Bow joins them and we see that Bow is now a confidante in the circle of those who know. Kofun is peering at the other villagers...

KOFUN

People are beginning to wonder why your traps are always full.

Haniwa seems unconcerned.

HANIWA

Put it down to prayer and careful construction.

As Haniwa stares at the other villagers groping for wood we see a look of contempt in her eyes. Kofun sees it and takes her bow....

KOFUN

I will hide this, Haniwa. Then, we close our eyes and go home.

We sense that now Haniwa is the fully formed rebel and Kofun the one who wants to maintain the secret.

HANIWA

I don't want to go home yet.

Kofun turns. From her pack Haniwa takes out a book and we glimpse stellar constellations on the cover. She sits on the grass and opens it. We see it is a book of astronomical charts with maps of the stars.

She kneels down and turns the pages. Bow joins her and feels the pages with the flat of her palm.

BOW

What book is this Haniwa?

BABA VOSS

I don't like it when she says that word. Haniwa, we must go home...

HANIWA

Daddy why don't you take the carcass back. I want to wait until it gets dark.

BABA VOSS

You use words I do not understand.

HANIWA

Tonight I want to study the stars.

Bow Lion sniffs the book...

BOW

Perhaps you can describe them to me.

BABA VOSS

What if bears come?

Kofun (a little jealous of Bow) sits.

HANIWA

It's alright Dad. I will stay.

Baba Voss reacts.

BABA VOSS

So I will carry the carcass back all on my own.

Haniwa turns a page in the book of stars....

HANIWA

Good for your back daddy.

Baba Voss reacts. He then kneels down and takes Haniwa's face in his giant hand.

BABA VOSS

Please. You have a gift but do not despise those who don't.

Haniwa reacts and almost instantly looks contrite. She is a good woman being tested by the restrictions of this life. Kofun looks to her. Baba Voss stands and heaves the deer carcass onto his back and walks. Haniwa and Kofun watch him walk away and we perhaps feel a connection with him being broken.

BOW

Tell me about the stars....

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - NIGHT

We see the dark sky filled with STARS. Then we move down and see Haniwa and Kofun consulting their astronomy book by firelight. Bow sits with her knees pulled to her chest. They look up and consult...

HANIWA

The smaller one beside the Moon is Saturn....

KOFUN

And that one beside Jupiter is
Mars....

HANIWA

The red planet...

BOW

What is red?

Haniwa gets to her feet and stares upwards.

HANIWA

Oh Bow. The universe. The book
says it is a complex collection of
planets all gathered into galaxies
but more and more and more the book
is not enough. It fills you up.
Earth is just one tiny speck.
But it too is vast.

She then kneels down in front of Kofun.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

Kofun I want to go out into the
world. Soon. I can't stay here.

Kofun lowers his head.

BOW

I will come too.

KOFUN

Not yet. We're not ready.

He stares into the fire.

KOFUN (CONT'D)

We are just two...

HANIWA

We are Gods.

KOFUN

What are you talking about?

HANIWA

They can't even imagine...

BOW

I believe in you Haniwa....

KOFUN

You what?

HANIWA

Kofun, I actually think you prefer
it when your eyes are closed
because then you are like everyone
else.

Kofun stands and walks. Haniwa calls after him...

HANIWA (CONT'D)

In the morning I will show you
something.

Kofun continues to walk. A pause. Haniwa feeds the flames of
the fire. Bow speaks softly...

BOW

Haniwa. Describe the Moon.

A long pause as Haniwa stares at the Moon. She then speaks
almost with contempt...

HANIWA

You wouldn't understand Bow.

EXT. NEW ALKENNY VILLAGE, ORCHARD - SUNRISE

The life of the village is visible through the branches of
the apple trees, which are again filled with apples. Then a
girl's hand appears, clutching a branch.

Haniwa climbs into shot. Kofun is standing beneath the tree.

KOFUN

So what is it you wanted to show
me?

He looks back anxiously to the village and hisses....

KOFUN (CONT'D)

Haniwa. They will hear you
climbing.

Haniwa picks an apple and tosses it down to Kofun. He catches
it.

HANIWA

You and I don't have to wait for
the apples to fall, Kofun.

Kofun looks around. Someone in a field nearby appears to be
listening. Haniwa picks another apple and takes a bite.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

Come. Climb. See what I saw
yesterday for the first time.

Kofun decides. He grabs a branch and climbs up. He joins Haniwa in the branches and over the perimeter wall they both see the full length of the beautiful mountain valley which shimmers in the sunlight.

As Kofun joins, Haniwa climbs higher.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

Yesterday I went higher than I have ever climbed.

Kofun rolls his eyes but climbs to join her. They climb to a yet higher branch and shade their eyes.

They see, ten miles beyond, the reflections and silhouettes of what was once A SMALL INDUSTRIAL CITY, now derelict. We can just make out the shattered remains of tower blocks and apartment blocks, some glass and steel still reflecting the sunlight.

It is the first time Kofun has been this high and seen this far.

KOFUN

Wow. What is that?

They both settle on the branch, surrounded by hanging red apples. Haniwa stares at the crumbling city.

HANIWA

They would say it is the bones of God.

A pause.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

But we know such places were built by people. People like us.

She takes a bite of her apple.

KOFUN

So?

Haniwa takes a moment then reveals.

HANIWA

At the bottom of the box our father left, the very bottom of the box, apparently there is a letter.

KOFUN

What letter?

Haniwa smiles...

HANIWA

I asked Bow to listen to mom and dad talking in bed....

KOFUN

You did what?

HANIWA

She is a Shadow. That's what they do....

KOFUN (INCREDULOUS)

You sent her into their bedroom?

HANIWA

And they talked about a piece of paper with a message at the bottom of the box. From our true father. With a leather string with instructions.

A pause.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

They will give us the letter when we are eighteen summers old.

A pause. Haniwa drops her apple and it falls through the tree.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

One Moon from now.

Kofun adjusts, stares out at the city on the horizon.

KOFUN

And what does the letter say?

HANIWA

How would mom and dad know? They have no eyes.

She turns to Kofun and smiles.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

But my guess is our true father wants us to join him.

A pause. Haniwa reaches out and grabs Kofun's arm.

HANIWA (CONT'D)

Let's go Kofun. Into the world.

Kofun reacts. He looks down the valley at the glistening city. Then he looks back to the village.

KOFUN

No.

She looks away.

KOFUN (CONT'D)

You think with your bow and arrow
you are some kind of Goddess. But
you're not. In the beyond there are
dogs and bears, devils...

HANIWA

Devils? Have you seen a devil?

KOFUN

We would be eaten alive.

HANIWA (FIRMLY)

But we would be alive.

A pause. Kofun stares down the valley. He thinks for a moment. Finally...

KOFUN

No.

Kofun slips from the branch and we follow him as he descends through the branches. He looks up and sees Haniwa sitting on the high branch, staring.

Kofun departs and we pull away from the tree and see apples falling, then leaves falling in a swirl. Then snow begins to blow in a blizzard around the trunks of the apple trees....

Caption: Three months later...

EXT. SMALL POND FED BY A STREAM

We are above a thick sheet of ice that covers the pond. Through the diffractions of the ice we see a piece of wood. Around it a leather message has been wound. A bear walks across the ice and his paw breaks the ice above the message. It bobs to the surface

EXT. RIVER - SNOW MELT

In the spring snow melt we see the message being taken by a fast current down the stream.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE BESIDE THE STREAM

The message floats into slack water beside the village. A woman and her child wrapped in furs bring a bucket to fill with water.

As the woman plunges the bucket into the water, the child begins to splash in the water.

The message comes to his hand. He feels it and grabs it. He explores it with his fingers.

CHILD

Mama! Mama!

He carries the message to his mother....

THE END

