

THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR

Pilot for a Television Series

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Based on the book by Jean Auel

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CLAN Pilot Characters

CREB'S HEARTH

Creb (38) – Mog-Ur crippled spiritual leader of clan father figure to Ayla.

Iza (35) – Medicine Women sibling of Creb and Brun mother figure to Ayla.

Ayla (20) – Adopted girl from the Others

BRUN'S HEARTH

Brun (37) – Clan leader.

Ebra (37) – Mate to Brun.

Druc (27)– Eldest son of his mate, good hunter, next in line to be leader.

Broud (25)– Youngest son of his mate. Mated to Ilra.

ZOUG'S HEARTH

Zoug (35) – Clan's best hunter, abusive.

Aba (34) – Zoug's mate. Quiet, submissive, abused.

Goov (20) – Zoug's son of his mate. Soft, not a hunter.

Borg (16) – Aba's adopted son. Friend to Ayla.

Uba (14) – Aba's child.

DROOG'S HEARTH

Droog (37) – Tool and weapon maker, keeper of the fire

Uka (33) – Younger sibling of Ebra was taken in by Droog when her mate was killed in the earthquake.

Ilra (16) – Uka's daughter uses her sexuality for gain. She is Broud's mate.

Ona (15) – Uka's female daughter. Friend to Ayla.

Mala (3)– Ilra's female child.

DORV'S HEARTH

Dorv (19) – Young aggressive male.

MISC.

Ika – Borg's birth mother.

TEASER

EXT. SOUTHERN EUROPE - THE LATE PLEISTOCENE, 30,000 B.C.E - A
FOREST STEPPE - DAY

A five-year old GIRL (AYLA) runs through a lush forest, her eyes wild with fear and panic. Her face and blonde hair are encrusted with dirt. An animal pelt barely clings to her thin body.

Behind her, the steady PANTING of a large PREDATOR.

She dares a glance back. Her eyes fill with terror. She leaps down a steep incline.

EXT. A BOX CANYON - DAY - CONTINUOUS

She lands hard, winded, She looks around. HIGH STONE WALLS on three sides. A ROAR from above. She looks up.

A CAVE LION crouches above...eyes dilated, tail swishing, ready to pounce.

Nowhere to run! Ayla sees a dark thin CRACK in the rock...a sliver of an opening. She jams herself through.

But SHARP CLAWS catch her thigh. Her SCREAM and a FRUSTRATED ROAR pierce the pristine, prehistoric air.

END, TEASER

ACT ONE

AYLA'S DREAM

Warm flickering firelight...a FEMALE hums softly...children's laughter...a MAN'S voice...wood drops onto the fire...sparks fly upward illuminating the corner of a primitive cave painting. The ceiling suddenly shakes violently. Heavy rocks fall from above. SCREAMS segue into the cries of a child.

INT. A SMALL CAVE - DAWN

A thin shaft of morning light reveals Ayla huddled in the corner of the small cave. She shivers feverishly.

EXT. THE CAVE - DAY

Ayla peers out of the cave. She slides out, wincing at the bloody claw marks on her swollen thigh.

EXT. A STREAM - DAY

She limps to a stream that flows down the ROCK CANYON. She scoops water into her mouth and limps on, following the stream out of the canyon to a WIDE PLAIN.

EXT. THE PLAIN - DAY - AYLA'S POV

The vast grassy plain teems with herds of grazing ICE AGE animals: GIANT DEER, OVERSIZED BISON, STEPPE HORSES, SAIGA ANTELOPE.

THICK SILTY DUST rises up. Above it, HUNDREDS OF MASSIVE WOOLLY HEADS with enormous black horns. A panicked BISON HERD in full stampede.

Ayla is stunned, motionless, as a THOUSAND HOOVES THUNDER past her.

A SMALL YOUNG BULL veers away, running right toward her. She turns to run, limping on her wounded leg and falls.

The BULL passes her chased by a smaller creature running on two muscular legs. Armed with a spear and club, a NEANDERTHAL MAN (BRUN, 20) chases his prey.

(Brun is the Clan leader: strong, confident, patient and fair...the best of them. He puts the good of the Clan above all else.)

He stops near Ayla, so close she can see the sweat running into his thick beard. He has a SCAR in the shape of a BISON on his thigh and a TATTOO in the crude shape of a BEAR on his left cheek.

Ayla realizes that this is a human, not an animal! She brightens with hope.

Brun catches his breath and runs on.

Ayla watches from the tall grass as the hunt moves away from her.

THE HUNT - FROM A DISTANCE - AYLA'S POV

A second MALE (DROOG, 22) has picked up the chase. He races after the bull, driving him hard.

(Droog is the Clan's weapon and tool maker, a good man, meticulous, responsible and respectful of Clan tradition).

Droog staggers to a halt as a THIRD MALE (ZOUG, 19) joins the relay.

(Zoug is taller and larger than Brun. He's competitive and combative, subject to angry outbursts, and abusive to his mate. He's envious of Brun's position as leader and often challenges him.)

Zoug runs until he's spent. A FOURTH HUNTER takes over. The youngest hunter, DRUC (12) is Brun's son.

(Druc is like his father, in appearance and temperament. He's reasoned, calm and fiercely loyal to Brun.)

Druc bears down on the exhausted bull until the animal comes to a dead halt, refusing to move.

Through the cloud of swirling dust, the GIRL watches the four NEANDERTHAL MEN surround the exhausted bull. Druc lunges his long spear into its side. The bull bellows. Its legs buckle. Brun rushes in and brings his club down on the bison's head. It falls to its side, hooves pawing the air, then lays still.

The men shout and slap each other's shoulders victoriously.

ON AYLA

She moves cautiously closer.

ON THE HUNTERS - HER POV

They tie the bison's legs above the knee and pass their spears bound together between the fore legs and the hind legs. Each man takes one end of a pole. They heave the bull up, lifting/ dragging it forward.

EXT. THE PLAIN - DAY - FROM ABOVE

The four Neanderthals skid the dead bison across the plain toward the rocky cliffs.

The EARLY MODERN HUMAN child struggles to keep up.

ON AYLA

She limps as fast as she can, but her wounded leg forces her to stop. She looks back the way she came. She misses her family. She starts to cry, but squeezes her eyes shut and her fists tight to make herself stop.

She looks for the men.

ON THE NEANDERTHALS - HER POV

The distance has already widened between them.

Ayla watches the strange men moving off. They are life. Behind her is only death. She wipes the tears away and limps after the Neanderthals.

EXT. NEAR THE ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Ayla stumbles through the tall grass near the Clan.

ON THE CLAN WOMEN - HER POV

She sees three more of the strange people. They are smaller with baskets strapped on their backs with bundles hanging from them. They forage, digging for roots and tubers, overturning rocks for grubs, stripping plants of their flowers and leaves.

Ayla brightens. Women!

One of them hears movement in the grass. She turns slowly toward Ayla's hiding place.

IZA, (22) has large, intelligent, deep-set eyes under a thick brow ridge. Small drawstring bags dangle from her waist thong wrapped around to create folds and pouches for carrying things.

(Iza is Brun's youngest sibling and the Clan medicine woman. She has the highest status among the women and defers only to men. She is not mated and has no children. Kind and loving, she is the Clan "mother" but has always longed for a child of her own.)

Ayla steps out, filthy, wounded and shivering from fever.

Iza is startled by the small, almost hairless creature. Iza grabs a rock to protect herself. But she looks closer and gasps. It's human! The rock falls from her hand.

Ayla collapses.

ON AYLA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ayla opens her eyes to see the woman's large, alien face looming over her. Frightened, she struggles to get away. Iza holds her firmly.

IZA

Shh. I want to help you.

The words are unknown to the child. But her voice is kind and there is warmth in her eyes. Ayla's fear lessens slightly.

Iza opens her bag made of an intact otter hide. She flips the head back and reaches down its throat to remove several large purple leaves. She shoves them into her mouth and chews to soften them. She takes them out and lays them on Ayla's wound.

The leaves are cool and ease the pain. Ayla sighs, relaxing for the first time since she lost her family.

IZA (CONT'D)

Where did you come from?

Two Clan women, UKA (18) and pregnant ABA (18), come around Iza.

(Uka is friendly, social and verbose. She's inquisitive and nosy, a gossip.)

(Aba is meek and submissive from life with her abusive mate, Zoug. She's superstitious, fearful and easily manipulated.)

ABA
What is it?

IZA
A girl child. She's one of the
Others.

The two women back up fearfully, fingering their totem
pouches.

ABA
Spirit of the Hare, protect me.

Uka leans in to get a look at this strange "Other".

ON AYLA - UKA'S POV

The girl has a high forehead, flat face, round nose, soft,
hairless skin, light hair, blue eyes.

UKA
The Others live far away. How did
she get here?

IZA
She must have been left behind or
wandered off from her people.

UKA
Alone? How can she still be alive?

ABA
Is she an evil spirit? Look at her
eyes. She came from the sky.

She looks up nervously. Another woman, EBRA (22) approaches.

(As Brun's mate, Ebra has more status than Aba and Uka, but
less than Iza which irks her. She's proud, manipulative and
relentless. She loves Brun and her eldest son, Druc, but is
over-protective of her youngest, Broud.)

EBRA
What did you find?

IZA
A child of the Others.

Ebra reacts with a "NEGATIVE" gesture.

EBRA

The Spirits tell us to shun the
Others. You should not have touched
it, Iza.

A young boy pushes roughly through the women.

(Ebra's son, Broud (10), is self-centered, entitled, and spoiled by his mother. He has an uncontrollable temper which will get worse as he gets older.)

BROUD

What is it?

He pokes Ayla roughly with his toe.

EBRA

Not Clan. Stay back, Broud.

(to Iza)

You should leave it to die or the
Spirits will be angry with you.

Iza stands up. She levels her intense gaze on Ebra.

IZA

Now Ebra knows more of the
Spirits than the Clan Medicine
Woman. Then she can tell me the
name of the bark I used to drive
the evil spirits out of Broud's
blood when he had the coughing
sickness. And she must know how to
make the Gadra drink for the men
when we find our new cave.

Ebra's eyes shift to the other women. They drop their eyes.

IZA (CONT'D)

I tell you of the Spirits, Ebra.
You do not tell me.

Ebra hurries away.

ON BROUD AND AYLA

Broud picks up a stick and pokes Ayla. She's surprised. He pokes her again. She grabs the stick and pokes him back. Hard.

BROUD

Ow!

Shocked by her resistance, his temper flares. He raises his hand to hit her, but Iza grabs his wrist firmly. He shrinks under her commanding stare. She releases him.

Broud rubs his wrist, glaring at Ayla. He sees an evil "Other", a lowly girl who dared to defy him.

Ayla sees just another cruel boy. She had brothers. She's not afraid of him.

Brun and Creb approach. Ebra trails.

Severely disfigured with one eye missing and a shriveled arm, the CLAN MO-GUR, CREB (26), leans on his long staff to support his crippled leg.

(Creb is Brun's older brother and Clan Mog-Ur, the most revered holy man of all the clans. He is far beyond the others in intelligence. He has a loving heart beneath his austere exterior. Unable to have a mate, Creb and Iza share a hearth.)

Creb squats to study the child.

ON CREB - AYLA'S POV

A one-eyed, deformed face peers down at her. She gasps and pulls back. But his eyes are wise and kind like her father's eyes.

The scarred old man and the little girl study each other. Her fear changes to curiosity. She reaches out to touch the scars on his face. He's taken aback. No one ever touches him. His heart stirs with unfamiliar feelings.

Iza drops to the ground before Brun and looks down, the position meaning she wants to speak. He taps her shoulder.

IZA

Brun, the child is hurt. This woman wants to take her.

Brun makes a "NEGATIVE" gesture.

BRUN

Not Clan.

He walks away. Iza runs and throws herself down in front of him.

IZA

The fault is not hers that she was born of the Others.

He walks on. She runs and throws herself down again.

IZA (CONT'D)

This woman begs you to have mercy
on the child.

Brun doesn't look at her. His keen eyes study the low foothills beyond the plains. He motions to Creb.

ON CREB - AYLA'S POV

The old man leaves her to hobble over to the first man she saw. He waves at the kind woman. She backs away and drops to the ground again.

ON BRUN, CREB AND IZA

Brun pulls a soft leather strip out of his waist thong and runs it through his fingers.

BRUN

We have traveled far but found no
cave. Is it a sign from the
Spirits, Mog-ur?

CREB

You had a good hunt today. The
Spirits provided for us on our
search. They mean for you to go on.

Brun nods. Iza COUGHS to get their attention. They glance at her.

CREB (CONT'D)

Iza has always had a soft heart.
Remember when we were small at our
mother's hearth? She always found
wounded animals to heal. Let her
help the child.

Brun's eyes soften as he remembers his little sister's kindness.

BRUN

The Spirits will not be angered?
Iza pipes up from the ground.

IZA

The Spirits are not angered by
kindness.

She drops her head again. Brun and Creb share an amused look. Brun makes the "AFFIRMATIVE" gesture.

BRUN

Tend to the child. But leave her behind.

IZA

She will die!

BRUN

Not Clan.

IZA

Brun!

He makes the gesture of "FINALITY" and walks off.

EXT. CLAN ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

The full prehistoric MOON is extremely large and bright. Light flickers on the rocky hillside from the Clan's fires.

Smoke rises from the shallow pit where they roasted the bison. The men and women tear the meat off the bones with their teeth, eating hungrily.

ON IZA AND AYLA

Iza has bound Ayla's wound with strips of deerskin. She sleeps fitfully. Creb approaches. They know the child is doomed.

CREB

She must have wandered many days on her own.

IZA

I do not know how she lived. No one can survive alone.

CREB

She must be very brave. I am sorry we were not given the time to know her.

Iza looks at him with tragic eyes.

EXT. THE CLAN ENCAMPMENT - LATER

HOWLS, CRIES, SCREAMS and DEATH STRUGGLES fill the night. Droog tends to the fire as the Clan sleeps in the safety of its light.

ON A LARGE BOULDER

A lone torch flickers behind the rock. Creb sits on the ground, facing a CAVE BEAR SKULL. He wears his Mog-ur bear-skin cloak.

CREB

Spirit of Ursus, the great Cave
Bear, supreme spirit, guide us to a
new cave.

He drinks Datura tea from a bowl.

ON AYLA AND IZA

The frightening NIGHT SOUNDS waken Ayla. She looks at Iza sleeping next to her. She sits up and looks around.

ON THE LARGE BOULDER - HER POV

A torch flickers on the boulder. She sees the shadow of the old crippled man.

ON CREB

The Datura tea induces a spiritual vision.

CREB'S VISION

The Cave Bear skull comes to life as a living Cave Bear. It rises to its full height as if in greeting the Mog-ur. The bear vision transforms into a Cave Lion tracking its prey...a small muddy creature with blonde hair. The girl child of the Others looks back in terror. She disappears into a cave as the cave lion leaps...scratching her thigh with its claws.

The vision fades...

ON AYLA

...into the small, pale face of the girl child. She hovers at the edge of the flickering torch light.

Creb is astonished. It's a sign! He is awed.

EXT. CLAN ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Droog looks up to see the Mog-ur returning to the fire.

CREB

Ursus, the Great Cave Bear, has
spoken to me in a vision.

His voice wakes the sleeping clan. They see the Mog-ur
holding the hand of the girl child.

CREB (CONT'D)

This child of the Others is a sign
from the Spirits. She travels with
the Clan under my protection.

He looks at Brun. He's not pleased, but he nods.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - DAY

The Clan follows a stream through the forested hills. They
walk in specific order: Brun in front, Creb behind him, women
and children in the middle. Druc, Droog and Zoug guard from
the rear. The men are always on the alert for predators.

ON THE CLAN - MOVING - VARIOUS ANGLES

Iza carries Ayla on her hip. Ayla wears a warm wrap now. Her
head is on Iza's shoulder, asleep.

Creb hobbles up to Brun. Brun gives him a stern look.

BRUN

I said the girl stays.

CREB

You are leader, Brun, but I am
eldest. The Spirits took my eye, my
arm, my leg so I could not hunt. I
cannot be leader. I cannot have a
mate. I cannot make a child. But
the Spirits gave me something in
return. Vision. They speak to me in
signs. The Spirits put the girl in
our path for a reason. Trust me. I
am Mog-ur.

Brun looks away without response.

Ebra watches Iza and the child narrowly, feeling somehow bested. Broud walks next to his mother. He frowns at Ayla. Aba shivers.

ABA
It is getting colder.

UKA
We need a cave before the snow falls.

EBRA
Brun will find our cave.

ABA
What if he does not? What will happen to us?

Iza thinks Aba is a bit of a fool.

IZA
We will freeze to death.

ON IKA AND BORG

Ika walks off to the side of the group. She puts her baby, BORG (2), down to gather berries. Borg toddles off.

IKA
Borg.

A HUGE LYNX drops down from a low branch behind her.

ON THE CLAN

They hear HORRIFIC SCREAMS.

Zoug and Droog run, swinging their slings and bolas.

Too late. Uka's lower body is visible as she's dragged into the bushes.

Baby Borg stands alone, wailing.

ON AYLA AND IZA

Ayla has seen the whole thing. She's terrified. Iza takes something from her totem pouch. She puts it into Ayla's palm.

It's a stone in the shape of a SAIGA ANTELOPE.

IZA
To keep you safe.

She wraps Ayla's hand around it. Ayla seems to understand.
She clenches it fiercely.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - ON THE CLAN - VARIOUS

The Clan moves on in somber silence. Everyone is upset. Aba holds Borg's hand. He's still wailing.

Ayla walks next to Iza now. She feels for Borg. She takes his hand in hers. He's not afraid of her. After a moment, he stops crying.

EBRA
(to Uka)
The Spirits took Ika because we
have a Child of the Others with us.

Hearing this, Broud throws a rock at Ayla. She throws a rock back at him. He angrily throws more rocks, not caring if they hit baby Borg. Ayla puts Borg behind her as the rocks fly by.

IZA
Broud! You will anger the Mog-ur.

He drops the rocks.

Guarding the back of the line, Zoug and Droog talk.

ZOUG
The Spirits are angry. We should
turn back.

DROOG
We follow Brun.

Zoug makes the "NEGATIVE" gesture. He shoulders his way forward.

ZOUG
Brun! Turn back!

He plants a heavy hand on his shoulder. Brun looks at Zoug's hand. The disrespectful touch is in itself an act of revolt.

BRUN
Step back, Zoug.

ON BRUN AND ZOUG - AYLAS POV

She watches the two men. The larger man, Zoug, gesticulates angrily slapping his thighs, pointing, yelling. The smaller man, Brun, does not respond. The large man strikes him.

Iza drops her hand and runs forward with the other Clan members.

Ayla and Broud are left alone. He sees his moment and gives her a hard shove. Ayla stumbles backwards and falls.

EXT. A STEEP INCLINE - CONTINUOUS

Ayla tumbles down a steep incline and comes to rest on a flat grassy area.

ON THE CLAN

Brun and Zoug fight. Iza realizes that Ayla is not at her side. She looks around frantically.

ON IZA

She runs back to the place where she left the child. She's not there. Iza runs down the steep incline. At the bottom, she sees Ayla and her eyes fill with astonishment.

ON AYLAS POV

Rays of sunlight fall on the small child. She stands at the mouth of a LARGE IMPRESSIVE CAVE.

ON THE CLAN

Brun and Zoug still fight. Iza runs past the others and throws herself on the ground. The fight goes on around her. She does not move.

Brun knocks Zoug to the ground. He gets up. Brun goes for him again. Zoug makes the "SURRENDER" gesture. Brun makes the "DISMISSIVE" gesture. Zoug retreats.

Brun's gaze falls on Iza. She leaps up and points.

IZA

Cave!

EXT. THE CAVE - LATER

The Clan stands outside the cave entrance. Its triangular mouth is carved into the mountain with a broad "terrace" of red dirt. A spring-fed pool flows into a stream nearby.

Brun, Creb and Droog come out of the cave. Droog carries a torch. Creb holds up a large CAVE BEAR SKULL.

CREB

Our protector, Ursus, has lived here.

BRUN

We have a cave.

The Clan members do not show their emotion readily. Their joy and relief shows in their demeanor and their body stance.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - LATER

Brun and Creb talk near Iza and Ayla. Brun is very relieved. He nods to Creb with respect.

BRUN

You are Mog-ur.

CREB

Look here, Brun.

He nods to Iza. She lifts Ayla to her feet. She removes the dressing on Ayla's leg. Brun sees the four long scratches in her thigh.

CREB (CONT'D)

The Cave Lion marked the child in the same place the Clan is marked. They want her to stay.

BRUN

It is not Tradition.

CREB

No. But they marked her and showed her the cave.

The sign is clear.

IZA

They want her to stay.

Brun looks at the small girl then to his two siblings. He's feeling generous toward all three of them.

BRUN

It is good to have a child at your
hearth.

He makes an AFFIRMATIVE gesture and walks away without
further comment. Creb and Iza are overjoyed.

ON CREB AND IZA - AYLAL'S POV

The old man squats down. He points to his chest.

CREB

Creb.

AYLA

Grub.

He taps her chest. He wants to know her name.

AYLA (CONT'D)

Ayrralla.

CREB

Aay-rr...Aay-ll...Ay-la.

Close enough. Ayla nods.

IZA

Eye-ghha?

Ayla laughs. The sound startles them. It's a sound neither
have heard before...an unsettling, hyena-like sound.

AYLA

Ay-la.

IZA

Eye-la.

Creb points to Iza.

CREB

Iza.

AYLA

Eeez-sa?

IZA

Iza.

AYLA

Iza.

IZA

Yes!

Ayla throws her arms around Iza's neck. Iza looks at Creb. They've both fallen in love.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - DAY

The women prepare for the cave ceremony. They dig a roasting pit with pointed sticks; start fires; boil broth in animal hide hung on lashed frames; stir the pots with rib bones; fill woven waterproof containers with water; use pelvic bones as plates and platters, etc.

ON IZA'S FIRE

Ayla watches Iza make the ceremonial drink for the men.

IZA

This is Gadra. Only medicine women know how to make it. Only men are allowed to drink it. Creb makes Sadura for the women. He thinks he is the only one who knows how to make it.

She grunts in the Neanderthal equivalent of a laugh.

INT. THE CAVE - NIGHT

The Clan has gathered in the high-vaulted main room. An unlit pile of wood sits in front of the cave entrance.

Droog produces a glowing coal from an auroch horn and drops it on the timber. He leans forward to blow on it. The Clan leans forward and expels their breath with him. Flames shoot skyward.

A frightful red-faced FIGURE appears, (Creb/Mog-ur).

Ayla gasps. She reaches for Iza's hand. She's no longer beside her.

Creb/Mog-ur lifts his arms and makes smooth flowing motions to the Spirits. The men pound their spear butts on the ground.

Iza approaches the Mog-ur holding a large bowl. She is naked with streaks of red painted on her body. The Mog-ur takes the bowl. Iza puts dried roots in her mouth, chews, then spits them into the bowl. The Mog-ur hands her a bowl in return.

He makes an "AWAY" gesture. She walks out of the cave followed by the women. Ayla trails them.

EXT. CLAN CAVE - NIGHT

A HUGE HALF MOON shines down on the women of the Clan. Iza drinks from the bowl and passes it around to the women. She sits down in front of a wooden bowl instrument and beats a steady rhythm. The women VOCALIZE with hums, cries and shouts. They MOVE to the rhythm. Ebra throws off her wrap and dances. Iza and the other women throw off their wraps to join her in a wild, ecstatic communal dance.

Ayla tries to follow along, but the tall, ungainly child stands out in the eye of the storm.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE CAVE - FIFTEEN YEARS LATER - DAWN

Ayla still dances. She's a young adult now...tall and beautiful. Her dance remains imperfect and slightly off. Her legs are much longer than the Neanderthals'. Her arms are more graceful. A swan in a world of ducks.

END, ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. A MEADOW - DAY - FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

A CACOPHONY of BIRD SOUNDS accompany Ayla as she strides through the tall grass of a meadow. She lifts her face to feel the warmth of the sun and breaks into a huge smile.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - LATER

As she passes through a pine grove that leads to the cave, she slows and drops her shoulders. She hunches as low as she can. Her smile disappears.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - AFTERNOON - ON AYLA

Ayla weaves her way through the bustling "front yard". Women and children tend fires; cook; dress hides; weave baskets and mats; gouge bowls out of logs; etc. The men construct wind breaks, move boulders, make weapons. The Clan's labor has harmony and a sense of contentment...the origin of human community.

She passes Droog (now 37) who sits with Creb (now 38) under a tree. Droog knaps off the flakes of a stone with a hand-axe. Newly made spears lean against the tree. Slings and bolas hang from its branches.

Ayla approaches Ebra (now 37), Uka (now 33), Ilra (now 16), Ona (now 15) and UBA (Aba's child, 14). Ayla stops to watch them weave fibrous plants into a complex cord. The womens' fingers fly in synergic rhythm which they all seem to enjoy.

Envious of their female kinship, Ayla steps in front of Ebra. She waits to be acknowledged...and waits. Ebra finally makes an annoyed "QUESTIONING" gesture.

AYLA

I want you to show me how to make cord.

EBRA

I showed you one time.

AYLA

That is not enough for me. I need you to show me again.

EBRA

You are too stupid to learn.

Ebra makes the "AWAY" gesture. Ayla sigh and turns away.

ONA

She is not stupid.

ILRA

She cannot make cord. Everyone can make cord.

UBA

Poor ugly thing.

ILRA

Ugly and stupid. No man would want her for a mate.

The cruel words sting. Ayla sits down next to Ona to copy her hands movements.

Dorv, (now 19), approaches and taps Uka on the head. She puts down her work and follows him.

A few feet away, he makes the gesture for "SEX". Uka gets down on all fours. Dorv drops to his knees behind her. Uka's face is blank as he "relieves his needs" with her. No one pays them any mind.

Ayla works on making the complex braid. Her braid is all tangled knots. She tries to undo the knots, but pulling only makes them tighter. She notices several long hairs from a horse mane laying nearby. She picks them up...considering.

ON DROOG'S WORK AREA

Creb lifts his face to feel the warm sun. The years have shown little on his deformed face. But Droog is feeling his age, old, grumpy and hungry.

DROOG

I am making new bolas and slings. But birds and rabbits are not enough. Why has Brun brought us nothing from the hunt?

CREB

He has had no luck.

DROOG

It was the Dark Moon since we had fresh meat.

CREB

His luck will change.

DROOG
My belly does not know that.

A female child, MALA (3), pulls a BOLAS down to play with it.

DROOG (CONT'D)
No!

Startled, the child starts to cry. Droog gently takes the weapon from her. He shouts sharply at her mother.

DROOG (CONT'D)
Ilra!

Ilra approaches nervously. Creb looks on with a severe expression.

DROOG (CONT'D)
Women do not touch weapons. If the girl was grown, I would have to destroy it. Teach your child!

Ilra drops to the ground with shame.

Ayla watches all this with a questioning expression.

Droog looks up at the sun.

DROOG (CONT'D)
Druc! We still have the sun.

Druc (now 27) runs over. He looks even more like his father now.

Ayla looks at Druc, taking him in.

ON DRUC - AYLA'S POV

His calm steady manner...his deep eyes...muscular chest.

The blood rushes to Ayla's face.

Druc and Droog take bolas and slings from the tree.

CREB
Hit only fat rabbits, not the stringy ones.

DROOG
You eat what we bring. You would starve if not for my bolas and slings.

Droog and Druc pass Ayla. Druc glances at her. Flustered, she drops her eyes.

ON EBRA AND THE WOMEN

Ayla brings her cord to Ebra. She takes it.

EBRA
What is this?

AYLA
My cord. I wrapped it with horse tail.

EBRA
That is not how we make cord.

AYLA
It is another way. Horse tail makes it stronger.

Alarm crosses Ebra's face.

EBRA
It is not how we make cord!

She throws it at Ayla. Ayla feels the other women's shocked eyes on her. Humiliated, she jams the cord into her wrap, picks up her basket and hurries into the cave.

INT. CLAN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

After fifteen years, the cave is well lived in. The floor of each hearth is bare earth with woven mats for sitting or serving food. Animal skins, baskets, bones, and bowls adorn the cave.

Iza (now 35) works at Creb's hearth. She's thin and gaunt with graying hair. Ayla sits down next to her.

AYLA
Why am I so stupid?

Iza looks at her askance.

IZA
You are not stupid. You were born of the Others. Do you remember you mother?

Ayla shakes her head.

IZA (CONT'D)

I was wondering if the Others have the Memories.

AYLA

I do not have any Memories. So I have to work harder. And I do work harder. But thoughts come into my head. I see ways of doing things...other ways...better, I think. No one wants to hear them.

Iza can see her frustration, but she cannot understand it.

IZA

There is no reason to hear them. The Memories give us all we need. They come from the first of us...passed down from mother to child. They show us the way to do things.

AYLA

Why is there only one way?

IZA

One way is all we need.

AYLA

I will try to block my thoughts.

IZA

No. Tell them to me. I want to know the other ways. But tell only me.

Ayla's fingers go to her cheek, devoid of the Clan tattoo.

AYLA

When will Brun make me Clan?

Iza goes back to her work.

IZA

When he chooses to.

AYLA

That is always your answer.

The once-baby Borg (now 16) and Ona enter. They retreat to a shadowed corner. Borg "relieves his needs". But unlike Dorv and Uka, they look at each other. Ona's face is filled with happiness and sexual pleasure.

Ayla watches them, fascinated.

IZA

It is time those two were mated.
And time for you to get wood for
the fires.

Ayla picks up her large basket and goes out.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

Ayla walks toward the pine grove.

BROUD (O.S.)

Woman.

Ayla knows that voice. She pretends not to hear him.

Broud (now 25) stands with Dorv and Goov, discussing weapons.

BROUD (CONT'D)

Woman!

She keeps walking. He frowns.

BROUD (CONT'D)

You!

She still doesn't turn around.

Furious that she's ignoring him, he picks up a ROCK and
throws it at her. It hits her in the back.

AYLA

Aw!

Everyone stops and looks up. Ayla slowly turns around.

AYLA (CONT'D)

Yes, Broud.

BROUD

Bring water!

She puts her basket down but strolls down to the stream,
taking her time.

Ebra's eyes flare at the girl's undisguised disrespect.

Broud returns to Dorv and Goov, still angry.

BROUD (CONT'D)

Stupid girl.

They look at him with disapproval.

Uka and Aba gossip. Ebra overhears.

ABA

Broud is weak to let a woman anger him.

UKA

She does not show him respect. Anyone can see.

ABA

Brun should not allow it.

UKA

He allows it because Creb and Iza care for the girl.

ABA

Brun favors them because they had the same mother.

UKA

It is not good for the Clan. Brun is not the leader he used to be. We would not be hungry if he was.

ABA

The Spirits must be angry with him.

Ebra's face fills with alarm.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - DAY

Ayla picks up firewood, breaking the long sticks and putting them into her basket. Ona approaches.

ONA

Ayla.

She makes the gesture for "WELCOMING A FRIEND". Ayla returns it.

ONA (CONT'D)

I want to tell you something that no one knows.

(whispers)

Ayla laughs.

AYLA

Everyone knows.

Ona is always startled by that strange sound.

ONA

Ayla, what is that sound you make in your throat? I have noticed it since we were small.

Ayla makes the "I DON'T KNOW" gesture.

AYLA

It comes out. I do not know why. I cannot stop it.

ONA

Do all of the Others make that sound?

AYLA

I do not know any of the Others.

ONA

Try not to make it. You sound like a hyena.

AYLA

Hyena?

Ayla smiles at the absurd thought. Ona does her best to say this gently.

ONA

And try not to show your teeth that way. I know you are not angry but the others do not.

Ayla's smile fades.

ONA (CONT'D)

I say this to help you, Ayla. The things you do, are not...Clan.

"Not Clan". The words reverberate in Ayla's ears.

AYLA

I will try not to make the sound in my throat or show my teeth.

Ona makes the gesture for "GOOD." They pick up wood in silence. Ayla looks over at Ona who is thinking of Borg. She can see the fever of love in her eyes.

AYLA (CONT'D)

Ona, what is that look you get in your eye? You have it now and when you look at Borg.

Ona is caught. She's embarrassed.

ONA

You can see it? I do not know what this is. But all I think of is Borg. When other men relieve their needs with me, I do not want them to. I know I am not a good Clan woman. But all I want is Borg.

AYLA

There is one I think of...in the same way you think of Borg.

ONA

Who?

Ayla realizes she's said too much, she backpedals.

AYLA

I mean to say...I want to have one I think of in that way...some day.

Ona's eyes fill with sympathy for her stupid ugly friend.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - LATER

Ayla makes her way from fire to fire distributing wood from her basket.

ON BROUD, DORV, GOOV AND ZOUG

They sharpen their weapons with flint tools. Zoug (now 37) is embittered, anger always brews beneath his surface. Goov (now 20) is humane, non-violent, a gentle soul.

Aba (now 34) approaches with a bowl of broth. He takes it.

ZOUG

This is not food!

He throws the bowl at her. Aba picks it up and goes over to Ebra and Uka.

ON UKA, EBRA, ABA

They prepare stew of skinned rabbit, birds and roots cooked in a skin pot over the fire.

UKA

The men are rough when their bellies are empty.

EBRA

Zoug is rough when his belly is full.

Like an abused woman, Aba makes excuses for her man.

ABA

It is his hyena totem that makes him that way.

Ayla approaches with her wood basket.

AYLA

Wood for your fire?

Ayla lays sticks on their fire. Ebra watches her narrowly. The wheels in her head start to turn.

ON BROUD, DORV AND GOOV

Ilra brings food to her mate, Broud. Dorv watches him eat.

DORV

Where is my food, woman?

Ilra looks at Broud. He nods. She hurries off to get Dorv food.

BROUD

You need a mate of your own.

ON AYLA

She lowers her head and tries to duck past them without being noticed. Broud sees her.

BROUD (CONT'D)

Here she is. Dorv's mate.

He grabs her. She knows better than to struggle. Dorv makes a "NEGATIVE" gesture.

DORV

She is so ugly. Is she even a woman?

Broud puts his hand under her wrap and grabs at her breasts. Ayla gasps.

BROUD

This part is woman.

Zoug gets up and grabs her too. She grits her teeth as they squeeze and grab her. Goov makes the "STOP" gesture. They ignore him. Goov puts his hand on Broud.

GOOV

Stop.

Broud hits him. Goov falls back into Zoug who shoves him away. Broud goes for Goov again. Dorv and Zoug get into the mix. The men fight, venting their anger and aggression.

Ayla manages to get away. She pulls her wrap back into place. Tears run down her cheeks.

ON CREB

He frowns to see the men brawling.

ON THE CAVE ENTRANCE

Brun (now 37) appears in the entrance. He is older but no less commanding. His face fills with anger.

BRUN

Stop!

But the men are too caught up in the fray. He strides toward them and places himself in the middle. An immovable rock. He shoves each back until they stand apart, gasping and bloodied.

BRUN (CONT'D)

Save your strength. At dawn, we hunt. Tomorrow we feast.

The men do not move. They are not convinced.

BRUN (CONT'D)

(firm)

Tomorrow we feast.

The fierce promise in his eyes convinces them. They relax and sit down.

ON CREB

He makes a silent gesture to the Spirits.

ON AYLA

Ayla wipes away the tears. Her eyes find Broud. Her look is sheer hatred.

ON EBRA

She sees Ayla's look. She's furious. But a plan has already started to form.

INT. THE CLAN CAVE - LATER

Brun sits at his hearth, wondering where his luck has gone. Ebra enters and drops to the ground.

EBRA

This woman would speak.

It is a moment before he taps her shoulder.

EBRA (CONT'D)

Many in the Clan believe the Spirits are angry with you. This woman believes they are angry too.

(off his sharp look)

But not with you. They are angry because we have an outsider among us. The girl is Not Clan. She should have been sent away long ago.

BRUN

Creb and Iza care for her.

EBRA

They are blinded by her. And you are blinded by them because you had the same mother.

BRUN

(warning)

Woman.

EBRA

Put the girl out and the Spirits will help you on the hunt. Put her out, Brun, for the good of the Clan.

END, ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CLAN CAVE - DAY - ON CREB'S HEARTH

Iza talks to Creb who rubs his arthritic knees.

IZA

If Ayla was Clan, Broud would not dare treat her that way. Brun would not allow it. Talk to him, Creb. He must make Ayla Clan before Broud kills her.

Ayla approaches.

IZA (CONT'D)

We need hyssop leaves for Creb's old knees.

Ayla picks up her basket. Iza presses Creb with an URGENT look. He makes the "AGREEMENT" gesture.

EXT. THE PATH TO THE MEADOW - DAY

Ayla and Iza walk up a steep slope, gathering the flowers, stems and roots.

IZA

Look for purple flowers on a tall stem.

She stops to catch her breath.

AYLA

I can find the hyssop. Go back to the cave.

IZA

We also need cherry bark. There's a grove in the clearing across the stream.

AYLA

I know. Go back now.

IZA

Watch for hyenas and wolverines.

Ayla continues up the hill.

ON AYLA

As she climbs, she straightens up to her full height. Her gait lengthens. She swings her arms. She smiles. A big Not Clan smile.

EXT. THE MEADOW - DAY

She runs across the meadow, laughing. An exuberant Not Clan laugh.

She sees the cherry grove at the bottom of a rocky hill. She climbs a short way up, then inches out on a narrow ledge.

Between the cleft of two hills, she can see the sparkling water of the inland sea.

She looks down. She sees several TINY FIGURES near the silver stream. She is almost directly above the Clan's cave.

EXT. CLAN CAVE TERRACE - AFTERNOON

Aba, Ebra and Uka dig with sticks. They have a shallow pit half-dug. Ona, Ilra and Uba bring stones to line it. Their eyes often shoot to the steep incline where the hunters will return.

THE STEEP INCLINE

It has a wide path now with rock laid for steps.

ON DROOG AND GOOV

They work the leather with their hands to make it smooth. Their eyes shoot to the hill as well.

Iza returns from the forest. She comments to the women as she passes.

IZA

That pit is barely big enough for a badger.

UBA

The hunters!

ON THE HILL - THEIR POV

Brun appears first, followed by Zoug, Dorv, Druc, Borg and Broud. They're exhausted, upset and empty-handed.

THE CLAN TERRACE

Everyone is disappointed. But they hide it quickly. No one says a word. The women go to work preparing the evening meal without fresh meat. Water is set to boiling in pots. The women assist their returning mates.

Brun holds his head high, stoic and strong, as he walks to the cave.

Ebra instantly goes to work on Aba.

EBRA

Brun has never failed us before.
This is more than bad luck. The
Spirits are not pleased with us.

ABA

(fearfully)
You and me?

EBRA

No. The Clan. Something has angered
them.

(leading her)
Something that is not
Tradition...Not Clan...some one
among us...an outsider.

ABA

The girl of the Others?

EBRA

Yes! The girl. She has been too
long with us. It has upset the
Spirits.

ABA

But the Mog-ur speaks to them.

EBRA

Mog-ur is too close to her. He
cannot see the signs. The girl is
the reason we are hungry, not Brun.

Uka's curiosity draws her closer. She makes the "QUESTIONING" gesture.

EBRA (CONT'D)

I must see to Brun.

She moves off but watches as Aba whispers to Uka.

EXT. THE MEADOW - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ayla comes back across the meadow carrying her full basket. She sees a stream ahead, crossing her path.

EXT. THE STREAM - CONTINUOUS

She follows it upstream, looking for a way across. She comes upon a LARGE BEAVER DAM which spans the width of the stream.

She studies the dam, fascinated by its construction. She continues upstream to the other side of the beaver dam.

EXT. UPSTREAM OF THE DAM - CONTINUOUS

On the UPSTREAM side, TWO ENORMOUS PREHISTORIC BEAVERS work in their self-constructed pond.

Ayla watches them, marveling at their ingenuity. She bends down over the water and cups some into her mouth. She slips her wrap off her shoulders and sees the cruel marks and bruises where the men grabbed her. She looks at her reflection.

ON AYLA'S REFLECTION

She touches her nose, her chin, her high forehead, her hair. So different than the Clan.

A BERRY BUSH laden with ripe berries leans over the water. She takes a few of the berries and crushes them in her palm. She dips her finger in the red juice and leans over the water again. She draws the bear symbol, staining her cheek with the sign of the Clan. She looks at herself.

AYLA

Clan.

She smiles but realizes the smile is Not Clan. She stops smiling. She studies herself again but can't keep the smile from creeping up.

INT. CLAN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Brun sits at his hearth, staring at the shadow of the fire on the wall. Ebra sits nearby.

Dorv, Goov, Droog and Broud enter and approach Brun respectfully.

Brun sees their shadows on the wall. He turns. Droog makes the gesture of "RESPECT."

DROOG
We would speak.

Zoug elbows through and steps up to Brun...face to face.

ZOUG
You cannot hunt. You cannot lead.
Step down!

Brun pushes his chest against him, hard. Zoug presses back. But Brun is still the stronger. Zoug falls back a step.

Druc and Borg enter the cave, unsure of what's going on.

Brun nods to Droog to speak.

DROOG
You have long been a good leader
for us. But the Spirits are angry
with you.

Dorv steps forward.

DORV
The Spirits are not angry with
Brun. They are angry because we
have an outsider in the Clan.

His mother, Uka, has been talking to him. Broud jumps on this.

BROUD
The girl of the Others! She is Not
Clan.
(to Brun)
If you send her away, the Spirits
will not be angry.

Brun makes the "STOP" gesture.

BRUN
When bellies are empty men fight,
women talk.

He looks down at Ebra sharply. She ducks her head.

BRUN (CONT'D)

You are hungry because I have failed in the hunt. Look to no other.

Creb emerges from the shadows. He holds up his hand, fingers spread.

CREB

There is one full hand of days until the Night Time Sun. We need a good Night Sun Hunt or we cannot hold the Spring Sagarum to honor the Spirits. If Brun fails us on the Night Sun hunt, he must step down.

Creb looks at Brun pointedly. Brun nods. Creb has just bought him time.

BRUN

If I fail, Druc takes my place.

CREB

That is Tradition. Druc is next leader. Do you agree?

Brun makes the gesture for "AGREEMENT". The men make the "AGREEMENT" gesture. They disperse. Brun nods his appreciation to Creb.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - LATER

Ayla approaches the cave terrace. She slows and hunches as low as she can. Her smile disappears.

EXT. CLAN TERRACE - EVENING

Ayla walks through. The women follow her with their eyes. She can feel their distrust and suspicion.

EXT. CLAN ENVIRONS - EVENING

Brun walks with Creb at the edge of the terrace.

CREB

You are the best hunter in all the Clans. This is bad luck.

BRUN

I have never had bad luck. Tell me,
as Mog-ur, are the Spirits angry
about the girl?

CREB

If they are angry about Ayla, it is
because you have not made her Clan.
If she was, she would not be an
outsider. She would not be treated
badly or blamed. The Sagarum would
be a good time to make her one of
us.

Brun does not answer. He takes out his leather strip and
pulls it through his fingers.

CREB (CONT'D)

You will think on it?

Brun nods.

BRUN

I have decided to mate Dorv
tomorrow. A good mate will settle
him.

CREB

A mating brings joy to everyone.
And it will take their minds off
their bellies.

Brun gives him a sly look.

EXT. CLAN CAVE - CREB'S PASSAGE - EVENING

Ayla carries a bowl of tea to Creb. She approaches his small
room, but does not enter.

AYLA (O.S.)

Creb?

INT. CREB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is lit by torches. The Cave Bear skull sits on a
rock. Creb tosses a woven mat over the herbs he's mixing.

CREB

Come, Ayla.

She enters.

AYLA

I have hot hyssop tea for you.

She gives him the tea and sits down comfortably on the floor. Creb sees the red stain on her cheek.

CREB

What have you painted there? The mark of the Clan?

She realizes the berry stain is still there. She rubs at it vigorously.

CREB (CONT'D)

You are not Clan until the day Brun makes you Clan.

AYLA

I know. I am sorry.

CREB

Ayla, you must act as a girl should. Be obedient. Do as you are commanded by the men.

AYLA

I do.

CREB

Even Broud.

AYLA

I obey him.

CREB

But you are slow about it. You anger him on purpose. I see you.

AYLA

I cannot help myself. It is easy to make him look weak.

CREB

Be careful, Ayla.

AYLA

Broud deserves it. He is mean to me.

CREB

I know. But it is his right to be.

AYLA

Why?

CREB

He is a man. You are a woman. You must submit to him.

AYLA

Why? Why is a man better than a woman?

CREB

That is the way it has always been.

She shakes her head vehemently.

AYLA

I do not believe the Spirits would choose some of us over the others. And why the men? Why not choose the women?

Creb looks at her in wonderment. He takes her head in his hands.

CREB

Where do these thoughts come from? No woman of the Clan asks such questions! Do you want to be made Clan?

AYLA

It is all I have ever wanted. If I were Clan, I would belong. I would have a place in this world. And I would always take care of you and Iza the way you have taken care for me. I want to do that.

(a beat)

But without the Clan, I have no one to care for. I am nothing. A leaf in the wind.

CREB

Then respect Tradition. Accept your place as a woman.

She can feel his love and concern for her.

AYLA

Yes, Creb.

He strokes her soft hair.

CREB

You worry me.

END, ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - DAY

Ayla collects sticks for firewood. Ona approaches her, very unhappy. Ayla makes the gesture for "GREETING A FRIEND".

AYLA

Ona? What is wrong?

ONA

Brun is not giving me to Borg. He is giving me to Dorv!

AYLA

Dorv? Why?

ONA

My mother says to me, it does not matter the reason. It does not matter what I want. I have no choice.

AYLA

You can still see him.

ONA

My mother forbids it.

Ayla's heart breaks for her friend.

AYLA

You can give something to him. A small thing to let him know you think of him. I will give it to him.

Ona brightens at the idea.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - A CLEARING - LATER

Ayla looks for Borg. She finds him alone in a clearing. He's slumped forward as if in pain.

AYLA

Borg? Are you hurt?

He groans. But she sees no blood or injury.

AYLA (CONT'D)

Should I get Iza? Where is the pain?

He pounds his fist into his chest.

BORG

Ona.

Now Ayla's heart is breaking for both of them.

AYLA

She sends you this.

She holds her hand out and opens her palm. It's a small piece of wood in the rough shape of an Owl.

AYLA (CONT'D)

She said to put her Owl totem with your Boar.

His faces softens. He takes her Owl totem and puts it in the small pouch around his neck.

AYLA (CONT'D)

What is it like to have pain for another?

BORG

Like being torn in two.

AYLA

I would like to feel that.

He looks at her like she's crazy.

AYLA (CONT'D)

Then it would mean that I had someone, even for a short time. Someone who looked at me the way you look at Ona.

BORG

I always thought she would be my mate.

AYLA

But the Boar and the Owl are mated. There.

She points to his totem pouch. His hand goes to the pouch. He nods.

EXT. THE CLAN CAVE - NIGHT

The GIGANTIC PREHISTORIC MOON is almost full. It shines down on the cave bustling with activity.

INT. CLAN CAVE - NIGHT

Firelight flickers on the walls. The Clan has gathered for Dorv and Ona's mating ceremony. Ayla is with Iza. Borg stands far in the back, smoldering.

Dorv stands in front of Creb who holds a bowl of yellow ochre ointment. Men beat a steady rhythm on their bowl instruments. The women VOCALIZE with low HUMMING.

The mating ceremony is simple. Droog leads Ona to Dorv. She wears a new wrap and walks with her head down.

Creb makes silent, elaborate gestures to call the Spirits. He dips his finger into the bowl of yellow paste. He draws Dorv's doglike Dhole totem over the Owl scar on Ona's arm, blurring her mark.

CREB

Spirit of Dhole, totem of Dorv,
your sign has overcome Spirit of
Owl, totem of Ona.

From the back, Borg struggles with the pain which now burns in his belly...the fire of jealousy.

CREB (CONT'D)

Dorv, do you accept this woman?

Dorv taps Ona's shoulder. She follows him. The Clan makes way for the mated couple. They walk to the back of the cave toward a section that has been blocked off with small boulders. Their new hearth.

They pass Borg. Ona dares not look at him. But Dorv glances his way. Dorv's eye has a glint of proprietorial victory. He gives Ona a firm push toward their new hearth. She stumbles.

Rage rises up in Borg. He yells and launches himself at Dorv. Dorv staggers backwards as Borg pummels him. Ona screams.

They fight, slamming and crashing into walls and objects. Ona scrambles to get out of their way.

The Clan is momentarily stunned. They're shocked at Borg's murderous rage against Dorv.

The fight is viscous. Dorv is larger and stronger and more aggressive. But Borg is insane with jealousy. Borg grabs a club and beats Dorv with it...murder in his eye.

The Clan men run to stop him. They drag Borg away from Dorv. They help Dorv to his feet. Iza runs to tend him. The men hold Borg, still raging.

BORG
Ona belongs to me!

BRUN
She belongs to the Clan. I gave her
to Dorv. My choice, not his. But
you would have killed him, over a
woman!

Brun makes a GESTURE to Creb/Mog-ur. He sits down and places
white bones on the floor. He makes arm gestures to the
Spirits as he speaks names under his breath.

CREB
Zor, Grev, Gorn...

BRUN
You have broken our oldest law. We
fight but never to kill. Never! The
punishment is death.

Ona screams. Her mother, Uka, grabs her, muffling her cries.

BRUN (CONT'D)
The Mog-ur is setting the bones. He
is speaking aloud the names of
those who no longer live. He is
speaking your name.

Creb places the last bone, Borg's bone, with the "deceased"
others.

CREB
Borg.

BRUN
You are Cursed. Cursed with Death.

Borg drops his head. Creb stands.

CREB
It is done. Borg is dead.

ONA
Borg!

The members of the Clan turn away from Borg. All life seems
to have left him. He doesn't attempt to get them to look at
him.

ON AYLA AND IZA

AYLA
(confused)
But he is not dead.

IZA
That is only his spirit you see. Do
not look at it or it will take you
with it to the next world.

ON BORG AND ONA

Borg walks up to Ona to look at her one last time. Her eyes pass through him as if he isn't there. She turns her back to him and walks to Dorv's hearth. She goes behind the boulders.

Borg walks toward his own hearth, passing Ayla and Iza. Iza bends down, occupying herself. But Ayla can't bring herself to turn her back on him.

AYLA
I see you, Borg.

Ebra looks sharply at Ayla, shocked by her blatant breaking of Tradition.

IZA
Do not speak to it.

Iza pulls Ayla away. Ayla watches Borg out of the corner of her eye.

ON ZOUG'S HEARTH

Borg approaches the hearth he's grown up sharing with Zoug, Aba and Goov. Aba tosses his skins and wraps into the fire. Zoug breaks his spear in half. Goov throws Borg's heavy club into the flames.

Borg doesn't try to retrieve it. He walks toward the cave entrance.

For a brief moment, he's silhouetted against the bright moon before he disappears into the night.

The Clan goes about preparing to sleep as if Borg never existed. But a single woman's voice rises up in a mournful keening wail. It is Iza.

EXT. CLAN CAVE - NIGHT - LATER

The huge ALMOST FULL MOON shines on the cave. There is the SOUND OF A PACK OF HYENAS ripping and tearing at something close to the cave.

EXT. THE STEEP INCLINE - DAWN

At first light, Brun, Druc, Zoug and Broud file up the hill carrying their weapons.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Ayla stands at the cave entrance holding her basket, very upset about Borg. Creb approaches her.

CREB

You should not have spoken to
Borg's spirit.

AYLA

But he was not dead. He looked
right at me.

CREB

Shh!

ON THE STEEP INCLINE - THEIR POV

The hunters return. But they're not carrying a kill. Brun and Zoug carry Borg's violently torn and bloody carcass. Druc, Goov and Broud walk behind.

There are gasps from the Clan members.

ON AYLA AND CREB

Ayla's shocked. Creb hobbles toward them. Iza and the other women come out.

THE CAVE TERRACE

The men place Borg's body on the ground. Some of the Clan look at it. Others turn their faces away.

DROOG

This was the work of hyenas.

UKA

We heard them last night.

They realize what they heard was Borg's death struggle.

Ayla has to look.

ON BORG'S CARCASS - HER POV

He was violently mauled and partially eaten by hyenas.

Ayla backs away and vomits on the ground.

Aba has raised Borg since his mother was killed by the lynx years ago. She's devastated. She pulls the small leather totem pouch from the MANGLED BODY.

ABA

His totem.

She opens it and drops the totem into her hand. A STONE in the shape of a Boar falls into her hand as well as Ona's wood Owl.

ABA (CONT'D)

He carried two totems. The Boar and the Owl?

UKA

Ona's totem.

Brun takes the two totems from Uka.

BRUN

Bring Ona.

Creb looks down at Borg's mangled body.

CREB

The Boar could not release the Owl.
The totems were too close. Borg
could not release Ona.

Ika returns with Ona and Dorv. Ona cries out when she sees Borg's MANGLED BODY.

DORV

Be silent.

BRUN

Ona, show me your totem.

Dorv snatches the pouch from her neck.

DORV
It is not here.

Brun shows them the two totems.

BRUN
(to Ona)
Did you give Borg your totem?

She's shaking, too frightened to speak.

DORV
Answer, woman. Did you give Borg
your totem? Answer!

Ayla cannot stand the terror in her friend's face. She drops
at Brun's feet.

AYLA
This woman would speak.

He taps her shoulder. She looks up.

AYLA (CONT'D)
I gave Borg her totem.

Creb and Iza both wince visibly.

END, ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON CREB'S HEARTH - LATER

Iza is very upset with her.

AYLA

Borg and Ona had pain in their hearts. I wanted to help them.

IZA

It was not your place to help them. Brun would have given Borg another mate. He would have been content. You should have stayed away from them.

AYLA

I am sorry. Do not be angry with me.

Iza face softens.

IZA

I am not angry. I am afraid for you. Go help the others dig the pit for feast.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - DAY

Ebra, Uka and Aba dig a pit to roast the kill they are expecting.

EBRA

She does not respect our laws.

ABA

Brun should have put her out long ago.

UKA

Then Borg would be alive.

ABA

She is an evil spirit. I saw it the day we found her.

Ayla approaches them. They stop talking. Uka hands her a digging stick and motions to the pit.

INT. THE DIGGING PIT - CONTINUOUS

Ayla jumps into the pit with Ilra and Uba.

ILRA

No one wants you in the Clan. Go
back to the Others.

Ayla drops to her knees and digs, biting back tears.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - CONTINUOUS

Creb and Brun walk the perimeter of the cave terrace.

BRUN

There is talk that the girl caused
Borg's death.

CREB

Borg had madness in his head
because of the totems. But he knew
the law.

Brun makes the gesture of "AGREEMENT".

BRUN

The law is the law. Each one of us
makes the Clan. Men and women. We
stand together against the death
beyond the fire. We are all we
have. We cannot kill each other.

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON BRUN'S HEARTH - LATER

Brun eats a roasted bird leg. Ebra is on the ground with her
face down. He taps her shoulder.

EBRA

We lost Borg because of her. Put
her out.

BRUN

The blame falls on Borg, not the
girl.

He gets up and goes out. Ebra sits back on her heels. She
makes the gesture of "FRUSTRATION". Her eyes travel to Creb's
hearth and land on Ayla's firewood basket.

EXT. CLAN TERRACE - DAY

The men sit around Droog's area waiting. Brun approaches. They pick up their weapons. Brun makes the gesture to "STAND DOWN".

BRUN
No hunt today.

ZOUG
We hunt!

Brun makes the "NEGATIVE" gesture.

BRUN
No hunt. Sharpen your weapons. I need you strong tomorrow night.

Ebra passes close by the bolas on the tree. She stops there to adjust her wrap.

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON CREB'S HEARTH - LATER

Ayla comes back in, exhausted and dispirited.

IZA
It is time to collect wood for the fires.

Ayla looks for her basket.

AYLA
Have you seen my basket?

Iza makes the "NEGATIVE" gesture.

AYLA (CONT'D)
I must have left it outside.

Ayla goes out again.

EXT. THE TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

Ayla walks through. The Clan members frown or glare as she passes. She sees her basket, picks it up and hurries on.

EXT. CAVE ENVIRONS - DAY

Ayla collects wood and puts it in her basket. She sees Ona picking up wood.

AYLA

Ona?

She sees Ayla. Her face fills with emotion. Ayla makes the gesture for "GREETING A FRIEND." She doesn't know how Ona will respond to her.

Uka appears on the path. She sees them together and frowns.

UKA

Ona.

Ona turns to face her. She puts her hands behind her back.

ONA

Yes, Uka?

Ona makes a small version of the gesture for "GREETING A FRIEND" behind her back.

Ayla hides her smile and her relief.

UKA

Dorv is asking for you.

Ona picks up her basket and hurries off.

EXT. CLAN CAVE ENVIRONS - DUSK

Ayla passes out firewood to the hearths. She is greeted with unfriendly glares.

Ebra prepares a meal at a fire with Uka and Aba. She calls to Ayla.

EBRA

Wood!

Ayla hurries over with her almost empty basket. She puts wood on Ebra's fire.

EBRA (CONT'D)

More.

Ayla digs down in her basket for more sticks. She puts the last of them on Ebra's fire.

EBRA (CONT'D)

More.

She reaches in her basket, digging for more wood. Her hand falls on a cord of some kind. She pulls it out and holds it up. It's a bolas.

Ayla holds it, surprised to see it there.

Silence.

She looks up to see everyone staring at her holding a weapon: Ebra, the women, the hunters, Droog...Broud.

It is not his weapon. But he is the first to react. His face fills with malicious delight.

BROUD

Woman!

He rushes at her and grabs the bolas out of her hand. He holds it up.

BROUD (CONT'D)

Women do not touch weapons!

He hits her. She falls to the ground. He hits her again. She cowers, trying to protect herself as he hits her again and again.

EXT. CLAN CAVE - NIGHT

It is the night before the FULL MOON. Creb stands at the cave in its bright light, making a silent entreaty to the Spirits.

EXT. CLAN TERRACE - DAY

The women prepare for the Sagarum feast. There is very little talk.

Women paint the hunters' faces with ochre in elaborate designs and smear their bodies with ointment.

Brun admonishes Broud in front of Druc. Ebra busies herself close by.

BRUN

You were right to punish her, but you lost control. Over a woman! You shame yourself.

BRUN (CONT'D)

It is good you are the next leader. Broud is weak.

Druc moves off. Ebra sits down in front of Brun with her head to the ground.

EBRA
This woman would speak.

BRUN
There is no need.

Even with her head on the floor, Ebra's face fills with victory.

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON CREB'S HEARTH - CONTINUOUS

Ayla sleeps. Iza places poultices on her swollen face. She speaks to her softly.

IZA
Men say the Spirits will be angry
if women hunt. I do not believe it.

Iza hears a murmur of agreement. Uka and Aba listening.

IZA (CONT'D)
Long ago before we were Clan, women
hunted for themselves. Later, women
with children stayed behind while
the men did the hunting. It was the
start of the Clan. Then men made
the law. Women cannot hunt or it
will be the end of the Clan.

Uka and Aba make SNORTING sounds.

IZA (CONT'D)
We know it is not so.

Ayla's eyes flutter open.

AYLA
Iza.

IZA
(relieved)
Lay still.

AYLA
Did you ever hunt?

IZA
I am not that old! Drink this.

Iza helps her drink a cup of tea. Creb hobbles over to them. There's tragedy in his face.

CREB

This is my fault. I have been too soft on you.

AYLA

But I did not take the weapon. I do not know how it got there. Do you believe me?

He looks her in the eye and sees no lie. He makes the "AFFIRMATIVE" gesture.

AYLA (CONT'D)

CREB

It is too late. I told you to respect Tradition.
(to Iza)
Get her up.

Fear leaps into Iza's heart. She helps Ayla to stand.

IZA

What will Brun do?

CREB

(to Ayla)
If you were Clan, the beating would be enough. But you gave Borg the totem. And now you have broken an ancient law. I cannot protect you from Brun.

Fear and panic rise in Ayla.

AYLA

Will he give me a Death Curse?

Creb looks at her with deep sadness.

CREB

Only Clan can be Death Cursed. You are Not Clan. You are not worthy even of that.

Brun approaches their hearth, stern, commanding.

BRUN

Girl of the Others, you have broken our laws. You are not welcome in the Clan. You must leave. Now.

Ayla's face fills with terror.

END, ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON CREB'S HEARTH - NIGHT

Ayla is shaking. Iza spreads ointment on her skin. Creb looks on, stricken.

IZA

This will keep your scent down. The hunters are going out. Stay close to them until the dawn. Then cross the plain into the rising sun. On the other side, you can see the mountains where you came from. With luck, you can find the Others there. There is food and herbs in this otter skin.

She gives her an otter bag like her own. She takes off her own animal skin and puts it around Ayla.

AYLA

You asked if I remember my mother. I do. I remember her kind eyes and soft touch. I remember something cool on my leg that took the pain away. I remember a little stone antelope she put in my hand to protect me.

Iza loses her composure. She pulls Ayla into her arms. She looks at Creb. Both of their hearts are shattered.

Ebra comes over, pressing them. Iza gives her a fierce look. Creb and Iza walk Ayla to the cave entrance.

EXT. THE CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The FULL MOON shines so brightly it is almost like daylight. Creb holds a STONE TOTEM in his palm in the shape of a CAVE LION.

CREB

I made this totem to give to you when you were made Clan.

He puts it in a small leather pouch on a thong and places it around her neck.

CREB (CONT'D)

You wandered for days as a child
until we found you. The Cave Lion
protected you then. He protects you
now.

AYLA

(crumbling)

Creb.

He takes her firmly by the shoulders.

CREB

You are not like us. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. You
do not see the world the way we see it. This is good. Your
difference helps you.

He pulls her to him and holds her fiercely.

CREB (CONT'D)

Survive.

He releases her. Iza holds her face in her hands for a long
moment. Tears stream down Ayla's bruised cheeks.

AYLA

(whispers)

Mother.

Iza's eyes are filled with pain. She glances at the steep
incline.

ON THE STEEP INCLINE - HER POV

Brun leads the hunters up the hill. They carry lit torches
even though it is not very dark.

ON AYLA, CREB AND IZA

IZA

(whispers)

Follow the hunters.

She gives her a gentle push.

ON THE CAVE TERRACE - CREB AND IZA'S POV

They watch her cross the terrace quickly and head up the hill
behind the hunters.

EXT. THE HILL - NIGHT

She follows the hunters. They carry torches more for defense than light. PREDATORY SOUNDS pierce the night. Ayla's terrified of every noise. She focuses on the hunters ahead to keep her fear at bay.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - NIGHT

The hunters move quickly and silently. Brun lifts his hand. They stop. Druc stands off from the others. He looks up, marveling at the LIGHT from the FULL MOON.

Ayla stays hidden behind a tree.

ON DRUC

A GIGANTIC PREHISTORIC WOLVERINE leaps out of the bushes and pushes Druc down.

CLOSE ON DRUC'S FACE

Druc yells out in agony as the wolverine bites his leg.

ON AYLA

Ayla watches with horror from behind the tree.

ON DRUC

Druc stabs at the wolverine with his spear.

Brun bring his club down. The wolverine SCREECHES and goes silent. Brun pushes the dead animal off Druc.

ON THE MEN

Druc's bleeding profusely from his thigh. Blood gushes.

GOOV
So much blood.

Brun puts his hand over the wound in a futile effort to stop the flowing blood.

ON AYL A

Ayla is horrified by the gushing blood from his wound. But something occurs to her, a memory and then, an idea. She reaches in her robes and pulls out the cord she made with the horse hairs.

Ayla rushes out from behind the tree. Broud sees her.

BROUD
What are you doing here?

AYLA
I can help him!

He grabs her.

BROUD
How long have you been following us?

AYLA
Let me go! Brun!

Brun and the other men are shocked to see her there.

AYLA (CONT'D)
I can help him!

Brun is confused. But he motions to Broud to let her go. She runs to them. She drops to the ground in front of Brun.

AYLA (CONT'D)
Will you let this woman help Druc?

Brun glances at the others. They are all unsure of her.

BROUD
Do not let her touch him!

ZOUG
Not Clan!

Druc gasps in pain. Brun still has his hand over the wound trying to stop the blood.

AYLA
Brun, I can stop the blood! Let me help!

Broud pushes her back.

BROUD
Get away!

AYLA

He will die! Let me help him!

Brun makes the "AFFIRMATIVE" gesture. Ayla pushes roughly past Broud.

She kneels next to Druc and Brun. Druc is pale from blood loss. Ayla shows Brun and Druc the cord.

AYLA (CONT'D)

I made this cord. It is not good, too full of knots. But I made it strong with horse hair. I want to put it around his leg above the wound. It will stop the blood from coming out. Will you allow me?

Brun is torn, but desperate. He nods. She wraps the thick horse hair cord around the top part of Druc's leg above the wound.

AYLA (CONT'D)

I have to make this tight to stop the blood.

She pulls it tightly. Druc gasps.

BROUD

She is killing him!

Brun makes the "WAIT" gesture to him.

Ayla tightens the make-shift tourniquet. Druc groans.

AYLA

(to Brun)

Take your hand away.

Brun releases his hand over the wound. The blood has slowed.

DORV

There is not so much now.

BRUN

The blood is stopping.

They're amazed. So is Ayla.

AYLA

Take him to Iza.

Brun looks up at the moon.

BRUN
The hunt.

GOOV
I can take him.

Broud makes the "NEGATIVE" gesture.

BROUD
I need you.

AYLA
I will take him.

BROUD
No!

Druc make a weak "AFFIRMATIVE" gesture. Brun looks at his son, so fearful of losing him. He nods to Ayla.

BRUN
Take him.

AYLA
But if I release the cord, the
blood will come out again.

She considers the cord.

BRUN
I cannot lose another man for the
hunt.

Ayla makes an impatient "WAIT" gesture. It shocks Brun that she's so commanding. But he waits.

She considers the cord, then ties it into a tight knot like she did before. She releases her hands. It holds.

Brun looks at the knot, then looks at her. Astonished by her ingenuity.

The men help Druc to his feet. Ayla steps in. He puts his arm around her shoulder. She's never been this close to him before.

AYLA
Lean on me.

DRUC
(to Brun)
Good hunt.

They start back. Brun makes the "FORWARD" gesture and runs. The others follow.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - NIGHT

Ayla helps Druc limp back the way they came. PREDATORY SOUNDS surround them.

EXT. THE PLAINS - NIGHT

The FULL MOON bathes the plain in bright light. Brun and the hunters stand at the edge. The plain teems with grazing herds.

Brun studies the herds, taking his time. He makes a gesture for "SILENCE", then "FORWARD." The other hunters fan out.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - CONTINUOUS

Ayla and Druc move slowly. He groans in pain. She reaches in the bag Iza gave her and takes out some herbs. She places them to his lips.

AYLA

Chew these.

EXT. THE PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

The men are in place, hidden in the grass. A LARGE ADULT BISON wanders outside the herd. Brun makes his signal. Broud launches himself out of the tall grass.

EXT. THE FOOTHILLS - NIGHT

Ayla and Druc approach the incline near the cave.

AYLA

Down here.

She helps him down the stone steps.

EXT. THE CAVE TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

The preparations for the Sagarum feast continue until the hunters return. Women prepare food and tend the fires under the bright moonlight. They hear a shout from the hill.

AYLA (O.S.)

Over here!

Iza looks up at the sound of her voice. She stands.

Creb turns from his spiritual preparations.

ON THE HILL - THEIR POV

Ayla helps wounded Druc down the hill.

EXT. THE PLAINS - NIGHT

Brun and the hunters surround the exhausted bison. Brun holds his club and spear. He motions the others back.

ON BRUN AND THE BISON - NIGHT - WIDE

We see Brun and the adult male Bison silhouetted in the moonlight.

Brun rushes in close. The bison tries to gore him. He spears it in its side. It staggers. He YELLS with all the ferocity of Prehistoric Man. In a raw, fierce, timeless moment, he lifts his club high and brings it down.

INT. CLAN CAVE - ON BRUN'S HEARTH - NEAR DAWN

Druc is barely conscious. Ayla sits at his side. Creb makes flowing motions over him. Iza looks on.

CREB

Healing Spirits come to aid of this man.

Droog looks out the entrance.

DROOG

The hunters!

ON THE STEEP INCLINE - THEIR POV

Brun leads the hunters' return. They carry the LARGE BISON slung between them. Brun holds up his spear in victory.

The Clan members rush out.

ON BRUN'S HEARTH

Iza, Ayla and Creb remain with Druc.

CREB
Brun had a good hunt.

Druc nods weakly. Iza looks at Ayla.

IZA
How did you stop his blood?

AYLA
Beavers.

IZA
Beavers?

AYLA
I remembered the way they block a stream. I used the cord the same way.

Iza considers the idea, astounded by the workings of her mind.

Brun rushes into the cave and looks down at Druc, relieved to see he's alive.

Brun looks at Ayla. She doesn't know what to expect now. She drops to the ground. He touches her shoulder. She rises.

BRUN
You saved Druc's life. Now you carry a part of his spirit with you. You are to him like Iza is to me.

He looks at her for a long moment, filled with emotion.

EXT. CLAN TERRACE - NEAR DAWN

The SAGARUM feast is over. Bison bones are strewn throughout the terrace.

INT. CLAN CAVE - DAWN

The Clan has gathered in the cave. Creb/Mog-ur calls on the Spirits. He makes ancient, silent GESTURES.

CREB

Protective Spirits. On the dawn of
the Sagarum, we gather to honor
you.

Creb motions to Ayla. She is nervous. She doesn't know what's going to happen. She steps forward. Is she going to be kicked out again?

The Clan was not expecting this. They share curious glances. Ebra shoots a look at Brun. He ignores her.

Ayla stands in front of Creb. He picks up a bowl with red ochre. He dips his finger in the red paste and draws a Bear on her cheek. She fights the smile that leaps onto her face.

CREB (CONT'D)

Protective Spirits accept this girl
into the Clan.

A murmur runs through the group. Their faces reveal their varying reactions. Brun is strong and steadfast in his decision. Iza is filled with emotion. Ebra frowns. Broud seethes.

Ayla looks at Druc who's sitting up. He nods his approval.

ON THE CLAN

Men beat out a steady rhythm on their wooden bowls. Ayla moves into the center of the group. The Clan claps and hums. The men bang bones and drum on mammoth skulls. The sounds echo and reverberate around the walls.

Ayla dances. Her shadow is thrown up on the walls in the flickering firelight. The Clan sways with her as she performs solo in a formal ritual: the dance of the Clan of the Cave Bear. She dances beautifully. Her every movement is filled with joy. She has a home. She has a family. She is Clan.

ON BROUD

He glares at her with smoldering dislike. Brun approaches.

BRUN

Broud.

Brun is reluctant with this news.

BRUN (CONT'D)

Druc can no longer hunt. If he cannot hunt, he cannot lead the Clan. As second son of my mate, you are next in line. You lead the Clan when I step down.

Broud is stunned. It takes a moment for the reality to hit him. He's going to be the next leader! He takes a deep breath and looks at the Clan...his clan. His gaze falls on Ayla. Malicious triumph fills his eyes.

ON AYLA

She dances on, oblivious to the fateful change that has just occurred and the treacherous future that lays ahead.

END, ACT SIX