

WORSHIP

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Worship

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

SUPER: "MEXICO, SPRING BREAK 1993"

We HEAR loud music ("My Goddess" by The Exies) augmented by a fly (a drone) BUZZING as it flies toward a beach party (20-30 Texans, ages 18-22; males and females; in swimsuits) drinking, dancing, and laughing around a roaring fire. [We don't see their faces.] Spring Break is in full swing.

The fly dips down to a volleyball net, an empty tequila bottle, and a bikini top before flying over the fire and toward the lights of a small town on a paved road.

The fly continues past a clothes line, a modest farmhouse, and down the main street to a small cantina with an open door, which the fly enters.

INT. CANTINA - DAY

SUPER: "Inspired by true events and documented crimes"

We HEAR 20-30 Texans, drinking and laughing (in T-shirts and shorts) at a table. The fly focuses on one of the males, JOSH (20) a handsome blonde, before flying past the lone woman at the bar; MAGDALENA SOLIS (44), a temptress in a black dress. A near-empty bottle of Tequila stands before the woman and three full shot glasses.

The fly lands on the bar, and the Bartender (60s), a dead-ringer for Cheech Marin, smashes the fly with his bar towel.

The music stops.

Josh gathers four empty pitchers from his table and approaches Magdalena and the Bartender with a swaggering confidence, but poor Spanish and manners.

JOSH

Messa cerveza, pour favor.

Josh steals a glance at Magdalena as the Bartender rolls his eyes in disgust.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Buenos dias, Señorita!

Magdalena doesn't look up.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I said, buenos dias, Señorita!

MAGDALENA
Go away. I don't play with boys!

Josh puffs out his chest.

JOSH
Shit, babe, I'm all man!

Magdalena turns her threatening dark eyes to Josh. She speaks slowly and deliberately with an eerie, deep voice.

MAGDALENA
Doubt it! You're just another big
boy.

Josh waves a hand, blowing her off.

JOSH
Your loss!

Josh stares at Magdalena's face, like he's seen her face somewhere before. He's puzzled and a little frightened, but he puts on his swagger before grabbing the full pitchers of beer.

Josh glances at her.

The camera zooms into Magdalena's face.

Magdalena grabs one of the shots of tequila, and chugs it.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Pfft! Not like you're some Mexican
goddess or anything!

Magdalena grabs another shot of tequila, and chugs it.

Josh stares her down, holding the four pitchers of beer, but his feet won't move. His legs shake. He shows a moment of fear.

Magdalena grabs the last shot of tequila, and chugs it. She speaks without looking at Josh.

MAGDALENA
Go away, boy!

Josh's feet are free from her spell, and he takes small steps back to his friends.

The camera follows her taking the last shot, and slowly zooms into Magdalena's big, dark eyes as the audience is transported back in time.

Silence.

EXT. CANTINA - DAY

SUPER: "THIRTY YEARS EARLIER"

We HEAR faint mariachi music from a scratchy radio in the same cantina in 1963.

Across the street from the cantina stands SANTOS HERNANDEZ (32). From over his shoulder, we SEE him waving down the street to his brother, CAYETANO HERNANDEZ (30) walking on the opposite side of the street. The brothers are dressed in 1963 U.S. fashion (plaid or paisley shirts, flared blue jeans). They are handsome, but need shaves. Santos calls out to his brother.

SANTOS

Oye Cayetano! Mi hermano! Aquí,
aquí! Let's have a beer!

The brothers typically mumble in Spanish, but speak aloud in English.

Cayetano is ten feet away and approaching fast for a hug.

CAYETANO

What's all this excitement,
Santos?! This big plan or yours?

SANTOS

(laughs)
It's still coming to me, Cayetano.
Our marijuana business is bad, no?

CAYETANO

Everybody grows their own!

SANTOS

Our car business is on the skids.

CAYETANO

Out here, they use donkeys! Nothing
to steal.

SANTOS

The big jefes control the
prostitutes...

CAYETANO
 And the cocaine, liquor, gambling,
 and protection.

Santos stops, and looks to the heavens, and pulls Cayetano into the cantina.

INT. CANTINA - DAY

The cantina looks the same, but the Cheech Marin-type Bartender is thirty years younger. Three male Villagers (40s-60s), in farm clothes drink at the bar.

Santos and Cayetano grab a table by the door.

SANTOS
 Squeezing the small guys! Help us
 Oh Lord! These are dark times! We
 must become darker to match the
 times.

Cayetano looks worried.

CAYETANO
 Armed robbery? El diablo?

The mariachi band is replaced by eerie slow pounding on an Inca drum.

SANTOS
 No, el diablo.

They stop, and make the sign of the cross.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
 We use our wits! We outsmart them!

The Inca drums get a little louder.

CAYETANO
 Why Yerba Buena?

SANTOS
 They are isolated. Fifty to seventy-five farmers.

CAYETANO
 Each with something to give.

SANTOS
 We will take it all.
 (beat)
 (MORE)

SANTOS (CONT'D)
 Yerba Buena has that cave
 overlooking the town.

Santos turns and points to the hills behind the town.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Up there.

Cayetano turns to look. The Inca drums beat louder.

CAYETANO
 Villagers say it's sacred ground.

SANTOS
 That's the one.

The drums beat louder.

CAYETANO
 We have one sheet and one blanket
 each, and little food.

SANTOS
 We have our jeep.

Cayetano is shocked.

CAYETANO
 Our jeep?!

SANTOS
 Si.

CAYETANO
 What good will that do?

SANTOS
 Like Jesus...
 (beat)
 Rode into town on a donkey, told
 people what they wanted to hear,
 and they treated him like a god!
 There is a fiesta later tonight. We
 will ride into to town on a jeep,
 strike fear in the people, and they
 will treat us like gods!

The drums beat louder.

CAYETANO
 We are not...

Santos smiles with confidence. Cayetano glances back toward the cave with a worried look.

Santos puts his arm around his brother.

SANTOS

We'll have one beer and talk.

(whispers)

I will explain everything.

(yells)

Dos cerveza, por favor.

The Bartender delivers two beers, as Santos and Cayetano hide their faces a bit. Santos pays cash. The Bartender goes back to the bar.

Santos leans and whispers.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Simple people are gullible. Poor people are especially vulnerable because they all secretly desire a better life!

Cayetano turns angry, and grabs his brother by the shoulders.

CAYETANO

You speak of the devil as easily as you speak of Jesus. Don't you realize that when you seek evil, it comes looking for you!

The Bartender sees trouble.

Santos is taken back by his brother's logic. He smiles. And the Bartender goes back to wiping down the bar.

SANTOS

How will evil find us way out here?

Cayetano releases his grip on Santos.

CAYETANO

You better have a very good plan!

The brothers drink beer.

The drums beat louder still, until a sudden dead SILENCE.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

From the outskirts of town, we see Cayetano driving the jeep wearing a white sheet like a tunic (rope for a sash). Santos is the passenger, wearing a similar tunic.

The town's sign that reads, "Yerba Buena."

In the distance, we hear dull mariachi music, and see a string of lights, with Twenty Villagers (various ages) sitting at fold up tables and eating beans, rice, and tortillas. The men drink beer, the women and children drink punch.

Cayetano drives slowly toward the boring fiesta, through the dusty, small, forgotten town with the cantina, a few shops, and a stable.

They reach the fiesta, and turn off the jeep. All eyes turn to them and Santos and Cayetano exit the jeep dressed as pious prophets.

We see the Three Villagers who were at the bar in the back amidst the other villagers. At the table closest to the jeep sits an elderly, poorly dressed ELDERLY VILLAGER (70s), a MOTHER (40), and her YOUNG DAUGHTER (16) in farm clothes.

The villagers stop talking, and stare, bewildered.

The brothers make the sign of the cross.

Santos raises his arms slowly outward, looks up to heaven, and speaks in a loud, but humble voice.

SANTOS

Good people of Yerba Buena, we have
descended from the mountains to
bring you good news.

Cayetano glances over at Santos with an unconvincing look, before back at the villagers with a pious look.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Ancient and most powerful Inca gods
have spoken to me. They hid riches
of gold deep within your mountain,
and you will all be rich beyond
your wildest dreams.

The Elderly Villager looks away, but Mother and Young Daughter are curious.

CAYETANO
 (whispers)
 Tell them about the offerings.

SANTOS
 All the gods ask in return, is your
 loyalty.

Cayetano glares quickly at Santos before turning back.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
 Complete loyalty and devotion,
 small offerings, if you will.

Most of the villagers look suspicious. They mumble.

Cayetano looks jittery.

Santos turns angry and yells.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
 Look, you have little to lose, and
 everything to gain if the Inca gods
 are right! You could be rich!

A few more villagers appear hopeful, but the Elderly Villager
 is suspicious.

ELDERLY VILLAGER
 When do we see this gold?

SANTOS
 After you've shown complete loyalty
 and devotion to the Inca gods.

Cayetano is now confident.

CAYETANO
 Only then!

We hear FIREWORKS EXPLODE in the cave and the Villagers gasp.

Santos and Cayetano are not surprised. In fact, they are more
 confident.

SANTOS
 These gods demand sacrifice!
 Rituals! Ceremonies.

Santos glares at the Young Daughter.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

You must bring gifts of money, food
and maybe even yourselves, if these
powerful and vengeful gods are to
be pleased!

CAYETANO

That's right!

SANTOS

We will be praying and offering
ceremonies at the mouth of the
cave. Come join us, and prepare to
be rich.

Santos hops in the jeep.

Cayetano points to the cave as he gets in and starts the
jeep.

Santos stands in the jeep, and yells.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Riches only await those who give
unselfishly and with complete
devotion.

Cayetano begins to drive away slowly.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Our first ceremony to the powerful
Inca gods is tomorrow night after
sundown.

CAYETANO

Bring offerings or incur their
wrath! We're warning you!

Cayetano and Santos drive slowly out of town.

Once out of earshot, Santos whispers.

SANTOS

The long fuse! Perfecto!

They laugh!

Cayetano stares up toward the cave with a worried look.

CAYETANO

(mumbles)

But it may have awakened evil
spirits.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

A small fire burns outside the cave. We HEAR the low tones of creepy Inca flute. Santos and Cayetano wear their robes and gloomy faces.

SANTOS
Think they bought it?

CAYETANO
They'd have to be idiots!

Santos is upset.

SANTOS
For the promise of riches and a better life?!

CAYETANO
Not a promise, if you can't keep it.

SANTOS
Have faith.

CAYETANO
Cave gives me the creeps. Said it was cursed. I hear it breathing!

Santos bends an ear to the cave.

SANTOS
Don't believe that shit, do you?

CAYETANO
Don't know what to believe anymore.

SANTOS
Neither do they!
(beat)
We'd better plan a convincing ceremony for tomorrow night.

Cayetano turns over, and covers himself with a blanket.

CAYETANO
You plan. I'll sleep.

An owl HOOTS. Santos glances back at the cave with a worried look. He covers himself with a blanket, and stares at the dwindling fire.

The fire burns slowly out.

EXT. CAVE - DAWN

Santos wakes from under his blanket. He stands, and looks out toward town.

He looks down, and sees a basket of fruit and bread, and a jug of water.

He screams in delight, which wakes Cayetano.

Cayetano stands, and looks out.

CAYETANO

What?

Santos hugs his brother.

SANTOS

It worked!

(points down slope)

Look at their first offerings!

They run to the basket and feast on the food.

CAYETANO

I don't believe it!

SANTOS

All for the taking, Cayetano. We'll be rich!

(beat)

We have a ceremony to plan.

They laugh and eat, and plan (whispering in Spanish).

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Several candles burn in the mouth of the cave. A small fire burns, but a few feet away is a large cone-shaped stack of firewood ready for a bonfire.

Cayetano tends the small fire.

Santos appears with a two-foot long, carved wooden drum in the shape of a Jaguar, and two drumsticks.

CAYETANO

Where'd you get that?

SANTOS

Our Uncle Juan Jose! Right down the road in Villagrán.

(MORE)

SANTOS (CONT'D)
The one with the limp. He hated
you. Makes artifacts to sell to
tourists.

CAYETANO
Does it work?

Santos sets down the drum and starts pounding away. The
sounds creep out Cayetano.

Cayetano looks into the cave.

SANTOS
What?

CAYETANO
Stop that.

SANTOS
(laughs)
If it creeps you out, it will
really frighten the villagers!
(beat)
Wait 'til you see our costumes!

CAYETANO
Costumes?

Santos holds up two loin cloths.

SANTOS
My uncle has everything.

CAYETANO
I'm not wearing...

LATER

Santos and Cayetano are dressed in loin clothes. Their faces
are painted like Inca warriors (black charcoal from burnt
corks). They have two black feathers each on headbands.

A small wooden table holds three burning candles, the drum
and drumsticks, and a machete.

They hear Villagers approaching on foot.

SANTOS
(whispers)
You know what to do!

Cayetano lights the bonfire.

Santos stands at the table with his back to the Five Villagers as they approach. He is chanting fake ancient songs.

The Villagers creep closer. They include the Mother and Young Daughter, and three poor young farmers (20-30). One of the young farmers carries a live chicken.

Cayetano addresses the villagers.

CAYETANO

Stop here. The Inca gods are angry.

Santos holds his arms out and yells.

SANTOS

We promise better offerings, oh great spirits. We want to be rewarded with the vast amounts of gold hidden in your mountain! We all want a better life!

Santos sets his arms down, and turns to the meager crowd.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Where are the others? Do they want to be poor their whole lives!

CAYETANO

This is sure to anger the gods!

SANTOS

What are your offerings?

MOTHER

Some fruit and a few vegetables.

The mother holds out a small basket of food.

Cayetano rips it from her hands.

Santos grumbles.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

It's all we have.

Santos turns and pounds on the drums, and he chants louder.

Cayetano bows reverently, and the villagers follow suit.

Santos stops pounding and chanting. He leaves the table and walks slowly to the bonfire, as Cayetano goes to play the drums.

Santos stretches his hands out again, and chants, before turning to the villagers with an angry look.

SANTOS
You have a daughter!

The villagers are shocked.

The villager holding a chicken presents it reverently to Cayetano, who stops playing the drums.

Santos charges the table and grabs the machete.

The villagers huddle together in fright.

Cayetano stretches the chicken across the table as Santos ceremoniously raises the machete and chants, before cutting the head off the chicken! He screams.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
More! More! The powerful Inca gods
demand more!

The villagers step forward and place small coins, fruit, and bread on the table before stepping back.

Santos glares at the villagers.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
If you think such your pitiful
offerings are enough to get these
powerful gods to release their
gold, you are mistaken!

CAYETANO
The gods are offended!

SANTOS
Go. Return in two nights with real
offerings, or there will be hell to
pay!

The villagers turn and run. The Young Daughter looks back with a tear in her eye, before the villagers disappear.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
I'll clear the goods. You set the
half-stick of dynamite in the back
of the cave.
(beat)
They will hear the mountain rumble!

Cayetano looks worried as he enters the cave.

CAYETANO
Not sure about this.

LATER

The bonfire is out. We hear footsteps running from the cave.

BOOM!

Santos and Cayetano hear the mountain rumble too. Even Santos looks a little worried. Cayetano shakes his head.

CAYETANO (CONT'D)
What will happen to us when there
is no gold?

SANTOS
Shut up and start pounding the drum
again!

In the darkness, we hear the echoing sound of an Inca drum.

LATER

SUPER: "The next night."

Huddled around a small fire in silence, Santos and Cayetano stare into the flames, deep in thought.

CAYETANO
I can't live like this.

SANTOS
Now what?

CAYETANO
I'm uncomfortable. I'm dirty. I
have no bed...

SANTOS
(interrupting)
Okay, okay.

CAYETANO
No tequila! No women. No money...

SANTOS
(interrupting, angry)
Okay! Tomorrow night we give them a
list of demands or the gods will
burn their crops, destroy their
houses, and take away their
children!

Cayetano stands defiantly.

CAYETANO

There are no gods! Remember? Who will do these horrible things!

SANTOS

We will. At night. In the darkness.

CAYETANO

The darkness is growing in your soul! If you go looking for evil...

SANTOS

I know. I know. The villagers will meet our demands, either to please the gods, or as insurance.

Cayetano looks away in disgust.

CAYETANO

Insurance against us!

SANTOS

We'll need a bigger ceremony. We'll need a goat!

Cayetano glares at his brother who is busy thinking.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Again the brothers are in loin cloths and bird-feather headbands. The cave is decorated with candles and the wooden table as before, but the wood for the bonfire is much bigger. The machete on the table is sharp and shiny.

A live goat is tethered to a large rock set back in the cave to accentuate the goats screaming.

SANTOS

It's almost time. You ready?

CAYETANO

How will make the goat scream on command?

Santos points down to dark twine on the floor of the cave leading to the goat.

CAYETANO (CONT'D)

I see nothing.

SANTOS

Good. The twine is tied to a collar with a few tacks embedded. When I pull back on the twine, the slightest discomfort will result in a terrible scream!

CAYETANO

Horrible.

SANTOS

Effective. You will see.

They HEAR villager approaching.

CAYETANO

(whispers)

I don't like this.

SANTOS

(whispers)

You will have a bed and tequila by tomorrow.

They take their places as before. Santos begins to chant.

Ten Villagers approach, with 5 newcomers from the fiesta. The Elder Villager is the last in the group. He carries a shotgun.

Cayetano sees the shotgun, and coughs to get Santos's attention.

Santos ignores him and continues chanting.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Oh great Inca gods, we offer you this goat as a sign of our devotion and sacrifice.

Most villagers gasp, but the Elder Villager looks suspicious.

Santos spreads his arms, puts them down, and steps toward the villagers.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

I'm glad you came. Step forward to see the goat for yourselves.

The villagers step up, see the goat, then Cayetano guides them back a few steps to obstruct their view.

Santos returns to the table, and secretly steps into the loop of twine at his feet. Santos raise his arms and yells.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
We offer you this goat!

The villagers are quiet, so Santos turns to yell at them.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
We offer you this goat! Ready?

Santos turns back and raises his hands. This time Santos and Cayetano lead a chorus.

ALL
We offer you this goat!

Santos tugs on the twine, and the goat SCREAMS. The villagers' eyes open widely.

CAYETANO
The gods are happy?

Santos turns to scold his brother.

SANTOS
Ask them yourselves! Would you be happy with one goat, when all the riches in the world are hidden in the mountain begging to be released to these fine people?

Santos tugs on the twine again, and the goat SCREAMS. The villagers' eyes open more widely.

CAYETANO
What do the gods demand?

Santos turns to the villagers. The Elder remains unconvinced.

SANTOS
The gods asked that we be made comfortable until they are assured of complete devotion and sacrifice. They demand a house for us with two soft beds, a shower -- with hot water, and stove and refrigerator!

The Young Daughter speaks up.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
There is an old cabin a stone's throw away that can be fixed up!

The villagers nod in agreement, except the Elder.

SANTOS

The gold is for you all. Not for us! This is up to you!

Santos tugs on the twine again, and the goat SCREAMS. This time, all the villagers' eyes open widely.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

From a nearby hillside, Santos and Cayetano look on with binoculars.

The Ten Villagers are busy remodeling an old cabin. Two frames beds are brought in.

One villager is attaching electrical wires.

Two other villagers are offloading mattresses from a pickup truck.

The Mother and Young Daughter are sweeping and bossing around other women who are stocking the kitchen with food.

The Elder Villager looks on with disgust.

SANTOS

The old man continues to be a problem.

CAYETANO

He means no harm.

SANTOS

We have no room for non-believers.

CAYETANO

The others have made excellent progress on our cabin.

SANTOS

They have to finish today. I have a date tonight!

Santos adjusts the binoculars to focus on the Mother.

Cayetano follows his gaze.

CAYETANO

The pretty mother?

The pretty mother exits the frame of view, and the Young Daughter enters the view.

Cayetano sees the Young Daughter come into view. He is appalled.

CAYETANO (CONT'D)
She's sixteen!

SANTOS
Impressionable. Gullible.
Vulnerable. Everything the gods
desire!

CAYETANO
What about me?

SANTOS
You get the mother!

Santos puts down the binoculars.

CAYETANO
I don't want the mother. You know!

SANTOS
Pick any man then.

Santos begins to walk away.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
The job of the gods is never done.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

From the same hill overlooking the cabin, we zoom in slowly to the flickering of candles, while hearing the screams of a teenage girl from one side of the cabin, and the screams of a Young Man (20) from the other side of the cabin.

SANTOS (O.S.)
The powerful Inca gods will never
come if you resist!

CAYETANO
They demand complete obedience.

YOUNG MAN
I see no sign of your gods!

We HEAR the sound of a punch to a man's jaw -- SMACK!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Santos paces outside the cabin, as Cayetano looks depressed.

SUPER: "Weeks later"

SANTOS

Their offerings are getting fewer.

CAYETANO

We have most of their money. They have nothing more to give.

SANTOS

They have much more to give! They just don't know it!

CAYETANO

Maybe we should try another village?

SANTOS

Thinking the same thing!

CAYETANO

(laughs)

Unless we could find an Inca god to help us.

SANTOS

An Inca god?

CAYETANO

Or goddess! Either would do.

Santos stops with a brilliant idea.

SANTOS

We will bring them an Inca goddess! Complete with black magic and raw, fearful powers.

Cayetano is puzzled.

CAYETANO

Where will we find an Inca goddess?

Santos smiles an evil grin.

SANTOS

In the depths of hell: a whore house in Monterrey.

Cayetano leaps to his brother in fear.

CAYETANO

But if you seek evil, it will find you!

Santos hugs his brother.

SANTOS

That's a chance we are willing to
take!

Cayetano's face shows fear.

EXT./INT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT

Santos and Cayetano slowly walk across a dark street and into a seedy dance hall. The music is terrifyingly devilish. We see chipped paint, open hardwood dance floor, and a staircase leading upstairs to private rooms.

Ten Male Patrons (30-50s) in grungy clothes take their turns dancing with Five younger girls (18-25), in short dresses with holes and runs in their nylon stockings.

SUPER: "MONTERREY"

In the darkest corner of the dance hall, Cayetano sees a deadly serious young man, ELEAZOR SOLIS (early-20s), who is carefully eyeing the patrons.

Santos and Cayetano gravitate toward the young man, and whisper to him, describing their plan.

A topless, strikingly beautiful prostitute, MAGDALENA SOLIS (18) exits a private room upstairs and seductively walks down to the bar.

Santos sees the patrons are mesmerized by the seductress.

He makes eye contact with Magdalena and they share a dark moment.

Santos whispers to his brother. Eleazor points to Magdalena.

ELEAZOR

There's your goddess!

SANTOS

Mi dios, she's perfect!

Cayetano looks and Magdalena, then back at Eleazor in fear.

LATER

Santos is confidently explaining their situation to Magdalena and Eleazor in Spanish, and in a low voice, as they drink Tequila.

Magdalena looks around the cantina with vengeful eyes.

Cayetano's hands shake as he takes a shot.

Magdalena sits up in her chair with an evil confidence, even desire.

Eleazor slams down his shot glass and mutters a threat in Spanish.

Santos pulls out and slams down a wad of money on the table.

Magdalena's and Eleazor's eyes open widely with wicked smiles.

Silence. No one moves.

Magdalena leans in, and sounds like a she-devil.

MAGDALENA

I will be Coatlicue! The mother of
all gods! The goddess of the sun,
moon, and stars.

Magdalena stands and yells!

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

They will obey my every command, or
they will die!

Silence.

All, but Cayetano burst out laughing! Cayetano looks nervous and afraid

Eleazor pockets the wad of cash.

SANTOS

We have some convincing to do.

They all leave. Cayetano, unsure, turns and glances back at the bar before he exits.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

From the outskirts of town, we see Cayetano driving the jeep slowly towards a fiesta, with Santos in the passenger seat, with Eleazor in the back. All are wearing painted Inca warrior faces and loin cloths. Magdalena is hidden under a blanket.

A tape recorder plays triumphant Inca drum and flute music.

SANTOS

(whispers)

Like we rehearsed. Warriors devoted
to our goddess.

They get closer to the fiesta. The Twenty Villagers eagerly await them. The all stand in reverence, except the Elderly Village, who looks away.

Santos secretly lights a fuse leading to a chain of smoke bombs on the exterior of the jeep.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

As promised! From the depths of the
mountain, we bring you Coatlicue!
The mother of all gods! The goddess
of the sun, moon, and stars.

The smoke bombs IGNITE.

Eleazor turns the tape recorder louder and begins to pound on the Aztec drum.

As the smoke dissipates, the villagers see Magdalena standing in the back of the jeep. She is topless, and wears a headdress of colorful feathers, and a loin cloth. She has a python snake on her shoulders.

Santos and Cayetano exit the jeep and bow toward Magdalena.

The villagers gasp and stare. Even the Elder cannot look away.

Magdalena speaks in a commanding voice.

MAGDALENA

I am Coatlicue! The mother of all
gods! The goddess of the sun, moon,
and stars.

She establishes eye contact with each villager.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

You have summoned me! You want my
gold, and you shall have it.

(beat)

If you obey my every command!

(beat)

If your sacrifices are worthy!

(beat)

If not, you will be punished or
sacrificed!

The villages gasp in fear.

Magdalena is helped out of the jeep by Santos and Cayetano. She strolls through the crowd slowly, looking for her first prey.

From the jeep, Eleazor spots the Young Daughter and grins.

Magdalena points to three young handsome men, and she looks back to Santos and Cayetano.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

These three will be my guests tonight. They will bring me the offerings from the village and will be rewarded, or punished, appropriately.

Magdalena turns abruptly and is helped back into the jeep.

They drive slowly away with the tape recorder playing darker, ominous drum music.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The two beds and mattresses belonging to Santos and Cayetano have been moved to either side of the cave.

Candles are lit, and the machete is on the table. Magdalena stands at the table with the snake on her shoulders.

MAGDALENA

This altar will do well.

Cayetano eyes the two beds.

CAYETANO

What will we sleep on?

Eleazor glares at Cayetano.

ELEAZOR

What does it matter? We'll all be rich soon.

Magdalena turns and snaps at Eleazor.

MAGDALENA

You are a foolish pimp and a dumber older brother!

Santos and Cayetano are stunned by the revelation.

SANTOS

(disgusted)

Eleazor? You are Magdalena's brother? We're taking back one of the mattresses to the cabin.

MAGDALENA

Fine! We'll use that bed for punishment.

Magdalena turns back to the table.

CAYETANO

Punishment?

MAGDALENA

(commanding)

Fetch my subjects and my offerings!

Santos and Cayetano move one of the mattresses out of the cave, and escort the eager three men carrying gifts, food, and three bottles of tequila.

Magdalena turns slowly, and eyes their offerings.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Bow before your goddess!

The three young men bow. Magdalena approaches them slowly and seductively. The young men sneak peeks.

SANTOS

May I take their money?

Magdalena glares at Santos.

MAGDALENA

You dare to be disrespectful?!

Santos bows and backs away.

Cayetano bows, and glares at his brother.

Eleazor sweeps in and takes the money.

Magdalena glares at Santos and Cayetano.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

You may wait in your casa until summoned.

Santos and Cayetano, bow, and exit, grabbing the mattress as they leave.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Santos and Cayetano sit by a small fire. They can hear the drunken party in the cave.

Magdalena's laugh is evil, until pleasure overwhelms her.

Eleazor chuckles with sinister delight. One young man screams with both pleasure and pain.

CAYETANO

What's going on up there?

Santos stirs the fire, and has second thoughts.

SANTOS

We sought the devil...

CAYETANO

(interrupting)

And the devil found us!

They continue to hear the drunken party as it drags on with hedonistic laughter and screams.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Santos and Cayetano slowly approach the cave. They see two empty bottles of tequila, a few shirts on the floor of the cave, and scattered scraps of food.

One of the young male villagers is naked, looking for his clothes. He finds them, puts them on, and races away. The other villagers are gone.

Magdalena sleeps naked on her belly on the bed with a mattress. She's wearing only her headdress of bright feathers.

Eleazor, wearing only boxers, is passed out clutching the third empty bottle of tequila on the bed without a mattress.

The candles have all burned down.

Cayetano is looking feverishly for the snake.

CAYETANO

Where's the snake? Where's the snake?

Magdalena stirs a little, but Eleazor pops up.

ELEAZOR

The snake?

MAGDALENA

(mumbles)

In his cage, in the back of the cave. We need him tonight for the grand ceremony!

SANTOS

Grand Ceremony?

MAGDALENA

For all the villagers to show their devotion to me. Sundown.

Santos paces happily.

SANTOS

We have to clean this place up! Candles! We need more candles. Bigger speakers for the tape recorder!

CAYETANO

Fresh bread and wine?

SANTOS

That's the spirit, Cayetano.

Eleazor puts on his pants, pulls out a wad of bills and gives a few bills to Santos, before putting the wad of bills back.

ELEAZOR

Make us some coffee first. Strong coffee. And buy some fresh tortillas and beef in town. Raw beef!

CAYETANO

We're not your slaves.

SANTOS

We're partners, remember?

MAGDALENA

(loudly)

Where would any of you be without me?

Santos, Cayetano, and Eleazor are silent.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Get me my coffee! Now! And peyote,
if you have any! I need it today!

The three men scramble away.

Magdalena, her eyes still closed, smiles and snickers wickedly.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

As the Twenty Villagers approach the cave from afar, they hear loud, eerie Aztec drums.

As they get closer, they see flashing lights from the back of the cave.

As they get closer, Santos lights a string of smoke bombs, while Cayetano lights the bonfire.

When the villagers reach the entrance to the cave, they see dozens of candles are lit, and the machete is on the table. Magdalena stands at the table with her back to the crowd, topless and loin cloth, with the snake on her shoulders. Santos, Cayetano, and Eleazor bow.

Santos bellows to the crowd.

SANTOS

Bow to Coatlicue! The mother of all
gods! The goddess of the sun, moon,
and stars.

All but the Elder bows. Eleazor glances up to see the Elder.

Magdalena turns.

MAGDALENA

Arise. Welcome to my cave of
everlasting riches. Enjoy warm
bread and wine in honor of my
arrival.

Santos, Cayetano, and Eleazor bring platters of wine and warm bread to their guests.

We zoom in on the wine to see it fizzes a little.

Soon, everyone is dancing around the bonfire, while Magdalena looks on with a smirk.

Eleazor whispers something into Magdalena's ear.

Magdalena glares at the Elder, who is not dancing, and he glares back.

The drums get louder.

The villagers are in a frenzy.

Suddenly, Magdalena yells.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Stop!

The music stops, and the lights stop flashing. Santos and Cayetano are puzzled.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

There is a wretched non-believer
among you!

The villagers glare at each other.

Eleazor takes the snake from Magdalena's shoulders, and takes it to the villagers.

Magdalena grabs the machete from the table, and holds it up.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The serpent will discover the
traitor!

Eleazor moves the snake through the crowd. We see its tongue flicker.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The one who wants all the gold for
himself!

Eleazor continues walking with the snake. We see its tongue flicker more.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The one who would deny all of you
the gold you so richly deserve.

Eleazor stops in front of the village Elder. The snake seems to stare into the eyes of the Elder.

The Elder Villager drops his near-empty wine glass, and is too stunned (or stoned) to speak.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The serpent knows! The serpent
knows!

The crowd gasps, in a stoned manner, as they are not fully aware.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
What should we do with this
traitor?

The music starts up and the lights flash.

Eleazor backs up into the crowd a bit, turns his head away, mumbles.

ELEAZOR
Hang him.

MAGDALENA
What's that? What should we do this
evil non-believer and traitor to
you all?!

Several villagers answer softly.

VILLAGERS
Hang him!

Santos and Cayetano are stunned, but each is holding a near-empty cup of wine (they were drugged too).

MAGDALENA
What should we do with him?

All the Villagers join in loudly.

VILLAGERS
Hang him!

There is a flurry of activity. The Elder's hands are tied. A rope and noose appears. A tree is found nearby.

The Elder has the noose around his neck as the villagers chant.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

In a blurry scene, the chair is kicked out from under the Elder, and the focus sharpens as we see him swing and kick until he dies.

The crowd erupts in cheers.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Santos and Cayetano look on helplessly, as Magdalena gestures two new young men (20s) and the Young Daughter to her bed. The Young Daughter glances at Santos, who is stunned and frozen.

Eleazor, no longer carrying the snake, pulls the Mother back to the cave. She is clearly drugged and goes willingly.

Cayetano approaches a young man, JESUS RUBIO (20) around the fire. Jesus is the only one not holding a wine cup.

Santos, disgusted and stoned, trudges back toward his cabin.

The other Villagers drink more wine and dance around the bonfire, while the music blares.

Amidst the loud drumming and blinking lights, we ZOOM IN past two beds of heightened carnal activity, to the back of the cave to the snake's cage. We watch as the snake pushes the cage door open, and SLITHERS AWAY.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

We hear a CROW squawk. We seem to fly in from outside the village, over the sleepy village (drone video), and to the cabin.

The sun is high in the sky. Jesus sits and attends a small fire outside the cabin. Coffee is boiling. Three cups are by the fire.

Santos wanders out, groggy. He is suspicious of Jesus.

SANTOS

Who are you?

Jesus doesn't look up.

JESUS

Jesus Rubio. From the village.

SANTOS

What are you doing here?

JESUS

Thought you and Cayetano could use coffee.

SANTOS

Know my brother?

JESUS
Met last night. He was stoned. They
all were stoned.

Santos gets in Jesus's face.

SANTOS
But not you!

JESUS
Didn't drink the wine.

Santos paces and turns angry. He screams.

SANTOS
Spiked!

Jesus is calm.

JESUS
Si.

SANTOS
We hanged a man!

JESUS
Si.

SANTOS
Mierda!
(beat)
The young girl? Is she okay?

Jesus shrugs his shoulders. He doesn't know.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
Mierda! Mierda!

Cayetano stumbles out of the cabin. He glares at Jesus.

CAYETANO
Uh oh!

Santos turns and glares at his brother.

SANTOS
What did you two talk about?

Silence.

Santos, in a rage, grabs his brother by the collar.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
What did you tell him?

Cayetano tries to deny everything.

CAYETANO
Nothing! Nothing!
(beat)
I think. I don't remember.

Santos pulls his brother several steps away, and whispers angrily.

SANTOS
Don't you see what's happened?

Cayetano shrugs, 'no.'

SANTOS (CONT'D)
We lost control!

Cayetano looks bewildered. Santos shivers in anger and fear.

SANTOS (CONT'D)
She's pure evil!

Cayetano's eyes open widely.

Jesus runs to the brothers, and separates them.

JESUS
He told me nothing!

Santos lets Cayetano free.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Curious. That's all.

Santos confronts Jesus like a bully.

SANTOS
Are you a traitor, too? A non-believer?

JESUS
No! No!

Cayetano pleads with Santos.

CAYETANO
We just met. Leave him alone.
(sadly)
Por favor.

Santos paces and thinks.

SANTOS

We have to bury the old man.

Santos stomps to the back of the cabin.

Jesus whispers to Cayetano.

JESUS

What's happened to my village? Has everyone gone loco?

Cayetano holds a finger to his lips, as Santos returns with a shovel.

Eleazor runs toward the cabin in a frenzy.

ELEAZOR

The snake! The snake. It's escaped!

Santos walks calmly with shovel poised to strike the ground. He shakes his head in disgust.

SANTOS

I'll say!

Santos stomps toward the cave. The others follow, while looking around for the snake.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

As the Twenty Villagers approach the cave from afar, they again hear the loud, eerie Aztec drums. They see lights flashing, and smoke from smoke bombs.

Cayetano, with Jesus at his side, lights the bonfire.

SUPER: "One week later."

When the villagers reach the entrance to the cave, they see dozens of candles are lit, and the machete is on the table. Magdalena stands at the table with her back to the crowd, topless and in loin cloth, but with no snake.

Eleazor, in a loin cloth and feathered headband bows low. Santos and Cayetano, dressed the same, bow a little, then grabs trays of wine.

Jesus, in the shadows, doesn't bow, and watches everything closely.

The villagers race to the trays of wine, chanting.

VILLAGERS
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Magdalena spin, raising the machete.

MAGDALENA
Wait!

Everyone freezes.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
What offerings do you bring to me?

One by one, the villagers place coins or bills, jewelry, bottles of tequila, fruit, vegetables, and jugs of water at Magdalena's feet, but she does not look happy, until the last villager brings her a live chicken in a cage.

Magdalena addresses the chicken directly with a dark, wicked voice.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Bueno! Muy bien!

One villager (50), a poor farmer, does not bring an offering. Magdalena glares at the man, but lets him follow the others to the cups of wine.

Everyone, but Jesus, drinks the wine.

Santos stares at the fizzling wine before drinking it, but he drinks it.

LATER

Magdalena joins the villager dancing around the bonfire, eyeing her stoned and groggy prey.

She dances seductively around the Young Daughter, who fears Magdalena.

She dances around the Mother, who bows in reverence.

She dances around Jesus and several others in the crowd before circling around the villager who did not bring an offering.

The drums get louder.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Give this subject of mine more wine! The man who brings no offering to me!

Eleazor brings the man another cup of wine.

The man shakes his head 'no.'

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Do you refuse my hospitality?

The man shakes his head 'no' in fear.

Magdalena grabs the wine from Eleazor and forces it down the man's throat.

Everyone but Santos, Cayetano, and Jesus laugh heartily.

The man is groggy.

Magdalena glares at Santos and Cayetano.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
I said, more wine for this man who
disrespects me!

Santos and Cayetano obey her. She snickers at them, as they hold the man's mouth open for more wine.

Santos and Cayetano steady the drunken and stoned man.

Magdalena returns to the table, containing the machete.

She turns and yells.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
The gods tell us there are two
sparks of light in every animal.
One is in the live body, and one
can only be released during a
sacrifice!

The villagers CHEER in agreement, like a mob.

Magdalena grabs the machete, and swipes the three candles from the table.

The villagers CHEER.

Magdalena turns to Eleazor and Jesus.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
You two! Stretch the chicken across
my altar!

Eleazor and Jesus comply. The chicken SQUAWKS!

Magdalena turns her back to the crowd, raises her machete, and chops the chicken's head off with one cut.

Silence.

Magdalena hold up the dead chicken by the neck.

The crowd cheers.

Magdalena grabs a cup and pours chicken blood into it, as the crowd gasps.

She drinks it!

Pause.

The crowd cheers again.

Magdalena raises the machete once more. The drums beat louder.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The gods require another sacrifice.

The villagers look around, but see no more chickens.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

The gods require a human sacrifice!

The villagers are stunned, but not opposed to the idea. Soon, all eyes are fixed on the drunken/stoned man held up by Santos and Cayetano.

The music gets louder, the mob is in a frenzy.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

This man disrespects me and all of you!

(louder)

He wants to deny you the gold you so richly deserve.

(loudest)

He is a traitor to you all!

The villagers close in on the man, punching and kicking him in a terrible rage.

The beating goes on and on.

Santos and Cayetano finally let go the man, but the villagers keep kicking him to death.

We HEAR Eleazor blowing into an Inca Death Whistle, and the villagers finally stop. They back away.

The man is hunched over with blood flowing from his head and neck.

Magdalena races in to inspect the dead man, and places her cup (still containing some chicken blood) under the man's nose to collect more blood.

The villagers stop and glare at Magdalena.

Silence.

Magdalena carries the cup of blood above her head to the table/altar in the cave.

She turns, lowers the cup to her lips, and drinks it.

The villager gasp at first, but the gasps turn to cheers.

The music begins again, and dancing and drinking continue.

Santos, Cayetano, and Jesus stare in disbelief as Magdalena and Eleazor select villagers for an orgy, including the Mother and Young Daughter who are drugged and stumbling.

Other villagers toast Magdalena before heading down the road back to town. They pass under a tree near the cave.

We SEE the snake, coiled in the tree, and staring at the entrance to the cave.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

SUPER: "One week later."

Two big, strong villagers (40s) guide a gagged, weak villager toward the cave. The prisoner's hands are tied, and he has bruises all over. He's terrified.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Trash is everywhere. Magdalena sits in a chair with a dirty sheet around her, lacking the luster of a goddess. Eleazor counts money at the table, which is stained in blood, and holds more vegetables than money.

Jesus whispers in Spanish angrily to Cayetano several feet from the cave so no one will hear them.

Santos trudges up from the cabin carrying a pot of coffee.

Eleazor angrily picks up a squash and flings it out of the cave.

ELEAZOR
They call these offerings?

Magdalena stands and paces furiously.

MAGDALENA
My coffee! My peyote! Now!

Santos delivers coffee with a sour look.

SANTOS
Some villagers are whispering.

ELEAZOR
Discontent?

MAGDALENA
(yells)
Name them. I will eat their hearts.

SANTOS
Just whispers in the dark.

Cayetano and Jesus come to get coffee. Magdalena glares at them.

MAGDALENA
You two! Pick up the trash before
you get coffee.

They stand, stunned. Magdalena grabs the machete from the table.

Magdalena removes her sheet, and quickly resumes the role of goddess. She is topless and in a loin cloth.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
You dare disobey me?

Cayetano and Jesus grudgingly pick up trash.

Magdalena turns to Santos angrily.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Who questions Coatlicue?! The
mother of all gods! The goddess of
the sun, moon, and stars.

The two big, strong villagers arrive at the cave, proudly tossing the prisoner down at Magdalena's feet.

Magdalena smiles at the two big men.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
This is the traitor who tried to
run out of Yerba Buena to the
policía in Villagrán?

The two big men nod 'yes,' then bow.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
You are his neighbors?

The two big men nod 'yes,' then bow.

Magdalena's face turns angry, as she swings the machete over
the prisoner who shuts his eyes and pleads through the gag.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
You will not run again!

Magdalena swings the machete at the prisoner's right foot. He
screams.

Everyone, but Magdalena, is stunned, with open jaws and eyes.

Magdalena swings the machete at the prisoner's left foot. He
screams again.

Everyone, but Magdalena, has to turn away.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
He won't be talking to the policía.

Magdalena swings the machete and decapitates the prisoner.

The two big villagers shake in fear as Magdalena approaches
them with the machete.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Go tell the villagers I demand
complete obedience, or no one will
get my gold!

The two big villagers run off.

Magdalena bends down and dips her fingers in his blood, and
licks them. She turns to Santos calmly.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
Bury him!

She turns and walks back into the cave.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

We will require a blood-drinking ceremony to please the gods!

(beat)

Arrange it!

LATER

Santos, Cayetano, and Jesus shove dirt over a shallow grave near the cave, next to the grave of the hanged man.

The gravediggers whisper angrily.

SANTOS

I have not been paid this week either.

CAYETANO

They get the money. We get the vegetables.

JESUS

I get nothing!

(beat)

I want in! How do I get paid!

SANTOS

We no longer decide things!

(snickers)

In case you haven't noticed!

CAYETANO

Magdalena believes she is a goddess!

SANTOS

You want to be the one to tell her we picked her up in a whorehouse in Monterrey?

Cayetano pauses, then keeps shoveling.

CAYETANO

No.

Santos shovels while whispering.

SANTOS

Didn't think so!

JESUS

What is this blood-drinking ceremony?

SANTOS

Aztecs believed drinking blood of their enemies gave them everlasting life.

(beat)

Like a spark that continued even after they die.

JESUS

Like the body and blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion?

SANTOS

Guess so. Never thought of it.

CAYETANO

And Magdalena?

SANTOS

What about her?

CAYETANO

Not a coincidence her name is like Mary Magdalene, the whore in the bible!

JESUS

I agree. It's fate.

Santos gets angry at Jesus.

SANTOS

Do not imagine, for even one minuto, that your given name Jesus will protect you from her wrath!

Jesus quickly goes back to shoveling dirt on the body.

Cayetano rests a hand on Santos's shoulder.

CAYETANO

He didn't mean anything.

SANTOS

Just keep low. Both of you. We have to clean the place up, and get some chickens for a blood-drinking ceremony.

JESUS

Chickens? You sure?

SANTOS

I'm sure!

Santos looks away with a worried face and mumbles.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

But, nothing surprises me anymore.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Villagers approach the cave in a steady stream from down the road. The Aztec drums beat in the background.

They arrive to see the cave is decorated as before, with Magdalena at the altar, and Eleazor, Santos, and Cayetano all dressed as before.

The villagers chant.

VILLAGERS

Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Several of the villagers bring live chickens in small cages, and lay them at Magdalena's feet before being rewarded with spiked wine, which they seem to need like an addiction.

Jesus tends the bonfire, and doesn't make eye contact with anyone.

After all the villagers have arrived, Magdalena turns and views the offerings.

She sees five chickens, three bottles of tequila, a few small bills and change, and several vegetables, fruits, and tortillas. She glares at the villagers. She yells.

MAGDALENA

Your offerings grow weak!

The villagers bow. Magdalene smiles, and struts among the crowd.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

You grow weak! But, empty your cups. They will soon be filled with strength from the gods.

The villagers chug their drinks. The music plays, the drums beat, and Magdalena leads the villagers in dance.

LATER

Many of the villagers soon are drunk/stoned.

Jesus does not drink again, and Santos sees this.

Cayetano sees Santos looking at Jesus, and quickly brings Jesus a cup, cleverly spilling its contents little by little until he reaches Jesus.

Jesus pretends to chug a full cup as Magdalena carefully eyes Jesus. Magdalena smiles seductively at Jesus.

Magdalena returns to her table/altar, where Eleazor and Santos have a chicken stretched out ready for decapitation.

Back by the bonfire, Jesus hugs Cayetano briefly. He whispers.

CAYETANO

Gracias, amigo.

Cayetano returns a smile. They share a moment.

The music stops. The chicken squawks. Magdalena cuts off his head. The crowd cheers, as Magdalena drips chicken blood into a large goblet.

Another chicken is decapitated. And another, until the goblet is full.

Magdalena turns to the villagers who are cheering. She raises the goblet, lowers it to her lips, and drinks the blood.

The crowd cheers louder.

MAGDALENA

Do as I command! Drink this for everlasting life!

The blood spills down her lips, and she passes the cup to Eleazor, who takes a sip, and passes it to Santos.

The cup gets passed around to all the villagers, who soon have blood on their mouths.

The music gets louder, the dancing more frenzied.

Magdalena, by her altar, looks out and finds Jesus. She motions for him to come to her.

Cayetano is torn with grief and worry, as Jesus makes his way through the villagers toward the altar.

A crazed heavily bearded villager (50s), pulls a knife, and charges at Magdalena.

Several villagers scream.

JESUS
Coatlicue! Look out!

Jesus sees the attacker and tackles him at Magdalena's feet.

Eleazor and Santos grab the attacker, and stretch him across the table like a chicken.

MAGDALENA
What will we do with this traitor?

VILLAGERS
Kill him.

MAGDALENA
No! We will sacrifice him to the gods, and drink his blood too!

Magdalena takes the machete, and slices open the man's chest. She rips out his beating heart, and takes a bite of it!

VILLAGERS
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

The music and drums get louder. Santos is stunned, and looks out up to the night sky for help. His face is filled with despair.

LATER

The bonfire smolders, the lights are not flashing, the music is silent, and everyone is gone from the cave, except Magdalena and Eleazor.

Magdalena paces in full costume (topless, loin cloth, feathered headdress), while Eleazor lays on the bed in street clothes.

MAGDALENA
Where are Santos and Cayetano?

ELEAZOR
Burying the body.
(sadly)
Another body.

MAGDALENA
A traitor. Tried to kill me. Where is that man who saved me?

ELEAZOR
Jesus?

MAGDALENA
I want to thank him.

ELEAZOR
(laughs)
He's not your type.

MAGDALENA
All men are my type if I will it
so.

ELEAZOR
Not Jesus.
(beat)
Why are you still in costume?

Magdalena grabs the machete from the table and charges
Eleazor on the bed.

MAGDALENA
I'll kill you if you call it a
costume one more time!

She tries to stab him, but misses, as he rolls off the bed.

He jumps up, spins, and knocks the machete from her hand, and
threatens her.

ELEAZOR
Not my first knife fight, dear
sister!

Eleazor twists her arm around her back and forces her head
down.

MAGDALENA
Let me go! Let me go!

ELEAZOR
You forget where you came from!

MAGDALENA
Let me go! I'm warning you!

ELEAZOR
Not from the stars or the moon, or
the mountains or the sea.

MAGDALENA
Let me go!

ELEAZOR

From a whore of a mother. Like me!
No food! No water! No shelter! The
streets!

Eleazor tosses her to the bed, and her headdress falls off.

He fetches the machete, while she puts the headdress back on.

MAGDALENA

I'll kill you!

ELEAZOR

Like the others? We didn't kill
anyone 'til we came here.

MAGDALENA

The villagers bring me offerings!
More money that we've ever seen!

ELEAZOR

You have fooled them, and yourself!

Magdalena threatens Eleazor again, in a deep, terrifying,
whispering voice.

MAGDALENA

I will rip out your heart before I
become your whore again in
Monterrey!

(beat)

If you ever had a heart!

Eleazor freezes. He hangs his head for moment then lifts it.

ELEAZOR

I cannot help you survive this
mess. When no gold or riches come
to the villagers, we will all
suffer a fate worse than hell.

Magdalena stands tall, and brave.

MAGDALENA

Let me handle this!

Santos and Cayetano return with shovels.

Magdalena yells at them.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Where is my snake! I need my snake!

Santos looks around briefly with a smirk.

SANTOS

We buried another man. It's late.
We're going back to the cabin to
smoke some weed and sleep.

Disgusted, Santos and Cayetano mumble as they walk away, so that Magdalena and Eleazor can't hear them.

CAYETANO

We'll look for the snake in the
morning, along with the hidden gold
in the mountain.

SANTOS

While you look for the little girl
inside you.

They hear Magdalena yell from the cave.

MAGDALENA

Tomorrow! We will plan another big
ceremony tomorrow. Biggest ever!

Santos and Cayetano wave their arms without looking back.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

A kindly, burly policeman, OFFICER MARTINEZ (40) drinks coffee and reads a newspaper.

The phone RINGS.

Officer Martinez takes his time answering it.

The clock on the wall reads: 8:20.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Officer Martinez, Villagárn
Policia.

He listens for a while and rolls his eyes in disbelief.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Bright feathers? A-huh.

He picks up a pen and begins to take notes.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Bare chested woman?

He puts down his pen.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Snake? Live snake?

He chuckles.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
When and where?

He pauses.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Yerba Buena is a small farming
community!

Pauses.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
A-huh.

Pauses.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
And, your name?

CLICK.

Officer Martinez chuckles as he returns to reading the newspaper.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Niños. Spring Break.

He pauses to think for a moment.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Could happen.

Thinks for another moment.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
No. Young woman. Bare bosom. Live
snake. Ridiculous!

He reads the newspaper.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

We see the snake slither on the road toward the cabin in the distance.

We zoom in toward the cabin from the snake's perspective.

A small fire burns as Santos and Cayetano smoke weed and pass a bottle of tequila. They are exhausted.

SUPER: "A few nights later."

SANTOS
Best to avoid her when she's angry.

CAYETANO
Trying to.

SANTOS
(snickers)
It's hard.
(imitating Magdalena)
Where's my coffee? Where's my
snake?

CAYETANO
Needs to relax.

SANTOS
Maybe smoke more weed.

CAYETANO
She like her peyote. Lots of it!

Takes a drink of tequila.

SANTOS
Stuff will rot your brain.

Cayetano stares at his brother and laughs.

Santos laughs.

CAYETANO
That's my brother!

Cayetano chugs tequila.

SANTOS
That's the difference.

CAYETANO
What's the difference?

SANTOS
We still have a sense of humor.
Theirs went the way of the snake.

Cayetano laughs.

Santos laughs.

CAYETANO
You seeing the young daughter?

SANTOS
When Magdalena doesn't steal her.
(beat)
You seeing Jesus?

CAYETANO
He's angry. He demands to be a
partner in all this!

SANTOS
Wants to be rich?
(laughs)
Like us?

CAYETANO
He doesn't drink the spiked wine.
He doesn't smoke weed. Never seen
him drink tequila.

SANTOS
Seriously troubled!

CAYETANO
Maybe Catholic.

SANTOS
(laughs)
Well, Jesus! Don't tell anyone!

CAYETANO
Not funny. To him.

SANTOS
Mama named me Santos, the saints!

Cayetano laughs.

CAYETANO
How did that work out for you?

Santos laughs.

SANTOS
Get some sleep. Big night tomorrow.

CAYETANO
Better sharpen the shovels.

They chuckle as they head into the cabin.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Villagers approach the cave in at a slow pace. They are unhappy. Two Villagers, a Farmer and his Wife (40s) are pushed along by the crowd. The Mother and the Young Daughter are in the back of the crowd, with sad faces. The Aztec drums beat in the background.

They arrive to see the cave is decorated as before, with Magdalena at the altar, and Eleazor, Santos, and Cayetano all dressed as before.

The villagers chant, not as loudly as before.

VILLAGERS

Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

The villagers bring only two chickens in small cages, and less cash. They lay the meager offerings of fruit and vegetables at Magdalena's feet before being rewarded with spiked wine, which they drink from need.

Magdalena stares at the limited offerings, glares at her brother, then stomps around in a tirade.

Jesus tends the bonfire, and doesn't make eye contact with anyone, and doesn't drink the wine.

Jesus sneers at Cayetano.

The mood is sullener.

The Young Daughter and Mother stand behind Santos, hiding from Magdalena. Santos looks back at them in pity.

The villagers encircle the bonfire, feeling the effects of the peyote.

One male Nearly Blind Villager, 50, a poor farmer, wanders into the cave, searching everywhere.

Eleazor roughly pushes the Nearly Blind Villager to the bonfire. Magdalena sees this.

Magdalena stands atop the table, pointing the machete at the man. She yells.

MAGDALENA

Bring him to me.

The man shakes in fear. He tries to hide among the villagers, but Magdalena easily tracks him from her vantage point. She yells louder.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

I said, Bring him to me!

Eleazor and Cayetano are closest to the Nearly Blind Villager. When they grab him, a Young Man #2 (16) in the crowd, yells.

YOUNG MAN #2

Papa! No! Pa...

Jesus covers the Young Man's mouth and villagers surround him and protect him from being seen, while his father kicks and screams all the way to Magdalena.

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

Forgive me, goddess. Not my fault.
I cannot see.

MAGDALENA

What can't you see?

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

Can't see well at night. Or day. I had glasses, but I left them as an offering.

Eleazor whispers to Magdalena.

ELEAZOR

Week ago. Maybe more. Wasn't money so I tossed them out.

Magdalena glares at Eleazor, then yells to the crowd.

MAGDALENA

One of my poor subjects offered his only pair of eyeglasses to his goddess, Coatlicue. That is respect!

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

The prescription was long out of date.

Magdalena smiles at the man.

MAGDALENA

Give him more wine. Salud!

Magdalena toasts the man with a wine cup.

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

I was going to buy a new pair, and
a pair for my son, when I got the
gold you and Santos promised us.

The music stops, but the drums continue an ominous beat.

The villagers gasp.

Magdalena's mood turns dark, evil.

MAGDALENA

Is your son here tonight?

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

Yes. He guides me here and home. He
sees slightly better than me.

Magdalena has an evil smile.

MAGDALENA

Bring him to me. We will toast him
too.

The Young Man #2, shakes with fear as he walks to Magdalena.

The Nearly Blind Villager smiles toward his son and reassures
him.

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER

We will be fine. We adore her.

Magdalena glares at the Young Man #2.

MAGDALENA

Is that true? Do you adore me?

The Young Man nods, 'yes.'

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Do you worship me?

The Young Man nods, 'yes.'

Silence.

Magdalena screams!

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)

Then why do you want to steal the
gold I have hidden in my mountain!

The Nearly Blind Villager and the Young Man #2 are frozen in
fear.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
 Why were you looking to steal my
 gold? To keep it from your friends
 and neighbors?

The villagers begin to get angry, stomping toward the two men.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
 To keep all the gold for
 yourselves.

YOUNG MAN #2
 No! No! To buy eye...

MAGDALENA
 The gods have punished you with
 poor eyesight, and this is how you
 seek revenge! Traitors! Infidels!

The villagers stomp to the two men.

Magdalena points the machete at them!

YOUNG MAN #2
 No! No!

NEARLY BLIND VILLAGER
 This is wrong...

MAGDALENA
 Punish them! Now!

The villagers pummel them. They get carried away. In a frenzy, they kill the two men.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
 They will become an offering to the
 very gods they dishonored! Bring
 them to my altar!

The villagers drag the lifeless bodies to the table/altar.

Magdalena glares at Eleazor, Santos, and Cayetano, before lifting her arms up to the heavens.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
 I am Coatlicue! The mother of all
 gods! The goddess of the sun, moon,
 and stars.
 (points to her victims)
 These sacrifices will give eternal
 life, and those who drink their
 blood, will never die at all.
 (MORE)

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
(to the heavens)
We will live forever!

Magdalena takes the machete and cuts open one chest at a time, ripping out the heart, and taking a bite.

Blood squirts everywhere.

The villagers converge on the bodies with cupped hands and drink their blood.

Magdalena dances triumphantly.

Santos whispers to Cayetano.

SANTOS
This Princess of Blood actually
believes she is Coatlicue!

CAYETANO
Even Eleazor no longer challenges
her.

Santos looks back at the Mother and Young Daughter in pity.

SANTOS
Like we are all in the eye of a
killer hurricane.

Cayetano glances at Jesus, who looks away.

CAYETANO
No one is safe. Even us!

The frenzied party goes on as Magdalena dances seductively through the crowd.

Magdalena eyes the Young Daughter from across the bonfire.

Santos sees this and stands in front of the Young Daughter, but looks away innocently.

Magdalena dances to the Young Daughter, nudging Santos to the side. She whispers to the Young Daughter.

MAGDALENA
You will give yourself to Coatlicue
tonight. To a goddess; not to this
mortal.

Magdalena glares at Santos, with a wicked laugh.

The Young Daughter looks sadly to Santos, then holds out her hand to Magdalena.

Magdalena leads the Young Daughter to her bed, pulling two other Young Men with her along the way. The Mother sees this, and hugs Santos from behind. She buries her face in Santos's back, and cries.

The villagers chant, as the music and drumming gets louder.

VILLAGERS
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Santos and Cayetano stare helplessly at each other.

Jesus, tending the bonfire, glares at Cayetano with a growing anger. A villager walks by him with a platter of cups of fizzling wine, and Jesus takes two cups. He chugs them both as he glares at Cayetano.

In the distance, we see the snake in a tree, staring at the ceremony with a flickering tongue.

EXT. CABIN - DAWN

The Young Daughter runs toward the cabin from a distance away. She is scantily clad, and running for her life.

She sees Santos and Cayetano asleep around a smoldering fire pit in front of the cabin, and races over to Santos.

She has a terrified look as she shakes him awake.

Santos sits up quickly.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
You must help me.

SANTOS
What's wrong?

The Young Daughter looks away in shame.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
She did unspeakable thing to me.
She said I should be honored!

SANTOS
Honored.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
To be chosen.

SANTOS
But the things they did to you?

YOUNG DAUGHTER
To serve Coatlicue!

Santos's eyes open widely.

SANTOS
Unspeakable things.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
They all did.

Santos hugs her, and glances at the cabin.

SANTOS
Your mother is inside. We slept out
here.

Cayetano stirs, and wakens.

CAYETANO
What's wrong?

SANTOS
'What's right?' is a more pressing
concern.

CAYETANO
Your mother is inside. She will
take you home.

The Young Daughter breaks into violent tears.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
I told her I loved you!

Santos's and Cayetano's eyes open widely in fear.

Santos grabs the Young Daughter's shoulders in fear.

SANTOS
You told Magda... Coatlicue that
you loved me?

YOUNG DAUGHTER
Gods can be jealous.

SANTOS
What did she say?

The Young Daughter looks into Santos's eyes.

YOUNG DAUGHTER

At first, her eyes turned bright red. Like lights. Her skin shook with anger. Her teeth clenched.

SANTOS

Teeth clenched?

YOUNG DAUGHTER

Then, she magically calmed.

CAYETANO

Calmed?

YOUNG DAUGHTER

She said it would all be settled at a big ceremony tonight, when I am anointed.

SANTOS

Anointed? Tonight?

YOUNG DAUGHTER

I am to come to her tonight with the entire village leading me.

The Young Daughter breaks free of Santos, and spins around insanely with delight.

CAYETANO

All the villagers?

YOUNG DAUGHTER

We know some villagers fear for their lives and doubt the existence of the hidden gold, but they are wrong about Coatlicue!

SANTOS & CAYETANO

Oh?

YOUNG DAUGHTER

But do not despair. Many others would die for my goddess, Coatlicue! And she has chosen me to anoint!

The Young Daughter cannot maintain her joy. She begins to dance seductively like Magdalena.

SANTOS

What?

YOUNG DAUGHTER
Bathed and adorned with the finest
jewels and bright beads, and
dressed as Coatlicue dresses.

SANTOS
The finest jewels?

YOUNG DAUGHTER
That's what Coatlicue said.

SANTOS
Do you have any jewels?

YOUNG DAUGHTER
Beads. Colorful beads.

Cayetano looks at the Young Daughter in pity.

CAYETANO
Cheap colorful beads.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
They were my grandmama's.

Santos looks away.

SANTOS
Uh oh.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
You do not think colorful beads
will appeal to Coatlicue?

SANTOS
I... I...

YOUNG DAUGHTER
You think it will insult her?

SANTOS
I don't...

YOUNG DAUGHTER
I don't want to insult her! That's
the last thing I want.

CAYETANO
Don't want to make her mad!

Santos turns, takes a few steps away, and mumbles.

SANTOS
I'm worried it may be the last
thing you do.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
What?

Santos turns to her, and holds her shoulders.

SANTOS
I cannot tell you what to do.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
Who will? Who will tell me what is
right?

CAYETANO
(mumbles)
Good question.

Santos pauses at the deeper question.

The Young Daughter sees terror in Santos's eyes.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
I asked you a question! Who will
tell me what is the right thing to
do?

Santos stomps away several steps and glares toward the cave.

SANTOS
I will not go the ceremony tonight.

CAYETANO
Me either.

The Young Daughter's voice deepens in a wicked way, though
she is still smiling insanely.

YOUNG DAUGHTER
You must! Those who do not show up
will be branded traitors, and they
will miss my anointing! You must
come. You must!

SANTOS
I'll get your mother. You need a
cold bath and lots of coffee!

Santos heads to the door of the cabin. His head droops as his
heart sinks. There are tears in his eyes.

Cayetano collapses and hides his face and emotions.

The Young Daughter skips behind Santos to the Cabin door.

We HEAR the Inca death whistle from the cave.

EXT. ROAD - DUSK

We see a young schoolboy, SEBASTIAN GUERRERO (14) dressed in a Catholic school uniform (pressed white shirt, dark slacks, and black leather shoes), strolling down the road toward town. He carries a light knapsack, and a canteen.

Sebastian smiles as he sees the sign, "Yerba Buena," and he trudges on.

Sebastian HEARS the faint sound of Aztec drums from the hills. He ignores them, and walks on.

He HEARS the drums again. This time he looks in their direction.

SEBASTIAN

Must get to grandpapa's house
before dark.

He walks on.

The drums get louder.

Sebastian looks up slope, and sees lights flash at the top of a hill covered with shrubs and trees.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

What the devil is that?

Sebastian is torn. He stares at the blinking lights and hears the drums, but then looks down the road.

He looks back up the hill, through the thick brush, and shrugs.

He takes off his knapsack, sets his canteen on top of it, behind a shrub on the side of the road.

He begins to crawl through the shrubs toward the cave.

The drums and music get louder, and the sky gets darker as he struggles through the shrubs.

It's pitch dark when he reaches a view of the cave opening. He can't see much from ground level, but he is next to the same tree that the snake was in earlier.

Sebastian quietly climbs the tree, just as the villagers lead the Young Daughter slowly up the road to the cave.

Sebastian's eyes open widely as he first sees Magdalena in full costume standing on the table. He can't take his eyes off her.

Sebastian sees Eleazor, Santos, and Cayetano in costume in the shadows of the cave.

The villagers approach the cave, and Sebastian sees Jesus light the bonfire. As the fire brightens, we SEE Sebastian's face.

Sebastian's eyes open widely, feeling vulnerable, and he looks left and right, before hiding his face behind the tree branches. [We see that the tree contains no snake].

Sebastian is compelled to sneak peeks, as the Young Daughter appears at the end of the trail of villagers.

Sebastian is infatuated with the Young Daughter, who is stunningly beautiful in a full Aztec princess costume.

Magdalena raises her arms to the heavens.

MAGDALENA

I am Coatlicue! The mother of all
gods! The goddess of the sun, moon,
and stars.

The villagers chant as they lay offerings before Magdalena.

VILLAGERS

Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Again, Sebastian's eyes open widely in disbelief.

The Young Daughter bows to Magdalena, as the villagers drink wine and dance.

Eleazor brings two cups of wine to the Young Daughter, and two cups of wine to Magdalena.

They drink the laced wine, while gazing into each other's eyes.

The Young Daughter smiles at Magdalena, which surprisingly angers her.

The Young Daughter stops smiling and grows uncomfortably anxious.

Eleazor leads the villagers in chanting.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Sebastian peeks out from behind the branches. He becomes unbalanced and almost falls out of the tree.

He regains his balance, but hides his face.

Sebastian regains his composure, and peeks out to see the Young Daughter on her back, spread across the table. Four villagers are holding her arms and legs. Magdalena stands behind the table, staring down at the Young Daughter.

Magdalena leans down and kisses the Young Daughter on the cheek.

Sebastian snickers at the harmless kiss.

The villagers chant louder.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

At the side of the cave, the Young Daughter's mother faints, and Santos and Eleazor catch her, and escort her away from the cave and toward the cabin. Magdalena is too busy to notice, as Eleazor sneaks behind her and pushes the machete into her open hands.

Sebastian's eyes are glued on the Young Daughter. He FREEZES as Magdalena whips out the machete and slices open the Young Daughter's chest, rips out her heart and bites it.

Sebastian shakes uncontrollably, clinging the tree. He turns away.

SEBASTIAN
(biting his tongue)
No!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The villagers CHEER, then chant louder.

VILLAGERS
Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Sebastian scurries down the tree. He hears the crowd erupt in cheers again, and it forces him to look back.

He SEES the Young Daughter tied to a cross (shaped like an "X") and being placed ceremoniously on the bonfire by the villagers, as Magdalena drinks a cup of blood and starts passing it around.

Eleazor blows the Inca death whistle.

Sebastian has seen and heard enough. With tears in his eyes, he races through the shrubs.

Jesus turns toward the cracking he hears in the shrubs, but he says nothing.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The music is louder, the drums are louder, and the Inca death whistle sticks in Sebastian's head as he grabs his knapsack and canteen, and begins to run away.

We see the sign to Villagrán, which reads, "Villagrán 27 km."

SUPER: "Villagrán 17 miles"

Sebastian, despite tears in his eyes, runs like a track star.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Santos and Cayetano console the Mother, while Jesus stomps down the trail to the cabin. Jesus is drunken and stoned, and furious.

Jesus reaches the small fire. He glares at Cayetano, before punching Santos in the jaw.

Santos falls back.

Jesus scolds Santos, who gets up and dusts himself off.

JESUS

Greed! It starts with greed!

Jesus gets tackled by Cayetano.

CAYETANO

Hypocrite! You wanted in!

Santos stands over Jesus and taunts him.

SANTOS

You baited my brother. Holy man turned drunk!

Jesus hits Cayetano in the mouth and knocks him off.

JESUS

Sober for five years before you brought the Devil to our village!

Santos and Cayetano wrestle Jesus into submission.

SANTOS

Go home. Sleep it off. Never
return.

Jesus falls apart crying toward the Mother.

JESUS

Why did you let your daughter come
here? They cut her heart out and
tossed her on the bonfire like bad
pork!

The Mother breaks down crying.

Santos and Cayetano release Jesus and comfort the Mother.

They all hang their heads in shame.

BACK TO:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Sebastian continues running like a track star. He is not
crying. He has the look of determination.

Visions of the horrors of the cave run through his mind.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- He sees the Young Daughter approaching the Cave.

-- He sees Magdalena raise the machete.

-- He sees Magdalena drink blood.

-- He sees the Young Daughter's body tied to a cross, and
tossed onto the bonfire.

END MONTAGE

Sebastian shakes his head trying to forget, but he can't.

He runs faster, with more determination.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Magdalena and Eleazor have Two Villagers (man and woman; 40s)
on their knees with their hands tied behind them. They are
drunk/stoned, and their faces are bruised from beatings.

ELEAZOR

You saw the boy in the tree, but
you did not report him, because he
was just a boy!

Eleazor pulls out a small notebook, as Magdalena slaps their
backs with the machete.

ELEAZOR (CONT'D)

Sebastian Guerrero. Age fourteen.
Grandpapa watches him on weekends
in Yerba Buena.

The two captives nod 'yes.'

MAGDALENA

We sent two men to wait at
grandpapa's for the boy. The boy
saw everything!

Magdalena slaps the captives with the machete.

ELEAZOR

The boy and his Grandpapa are not
believers. They will have to be
punished.

The two captives stare at each other.

MAGDALENA

I'm afraid you will have to be
punished too.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Santos and Cayetano comfort the Mother, while Jesus sits in
the background covering his head in shame.

Suddenly, from the cave, they hear a woman SCREAM, then a man
SCREAM.

Jesus stands and points at Santos and Cayetano.

JESUS

The carnage continues. All this
blood is on your hands!

Jesus stops away.

JESUS (CONT'D)
I'll kill you for this!

BACK TO:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Sebastian stops running. He is exhausted. He drinks water from his canteen.

He opens his knapsack and searches for food.

He finds one tortilla. He eats it in seconds.

He tosses his knapsack to the side of the road.

He puts the canteen over his neck, across his back, and takes off running.

EXT. TOWN - DAWN

Sebastian is beyond exhaustion. His shirt and face are dirty and sweaty. He forces one foot in front of the other.

He passes a sign, "Villagrán."

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The same burly policeman, Officer Martinez pours Sebastian a glass of water and feeds him a burrito from his lunch bag, as Sebastian shakes in fear.

Still, Officer Martinez shakes his head in disbelief.

The clock on the wall reads: 9:10.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Some imagination you got there.

Sebastian glares at the policeman.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Ever call here before?

SEBASTIAN
Never.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Once before. In the morning?

SEBASTIAN

No.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Some imagination you got there.

Sebastian is angry.

SEBASTIAN

Not my imagination!

OFFICER MARTINEZ

You ran here from Yerba Buena?

Sebastian nods 'yes.'

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

That would have taken all night!

Sebastian nods 'yes.'

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

You didn't feel safe going to your Grandpapa's casa?

Sebastian nods 'no.'

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

And you feel your life is in danger?

Sebastian nods 'yes.'

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

It's all so unbelievable.

Sebastian is hysterical. He paces and yells.

SEBASTIAN

You have to believe me or others will die! The entire village was there! Loco! All loco! Evil like I never knew was possible. More blood than I have ever seen. Torture! If you do nothing, my Grandpapa and many others will be sacrificed!

Officer Martinez tries to hug and comfort the boy.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Okay! Okay! Nothing to worry about. I need the entire story again.

(MORE)

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

This time I will write it down,
fill out my report, and we will see
if anyone else believes us. All
this talk of Aztec gods, torture,
and killing, but in such detail...

SEBASTIAN

All true. I swear on my Mama's
grave.

Officer Martinez is suddenly stunned by the boy's sincerity.
He slowly fills out a lengthy official report as Sebastian
talks.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

And your Papa?

SEBASTIAN

When he goes to distant fields to
work, I stay with my Grandpapa in
Yerba Buena. I was on my way to his
casa when I heard terrible drums
from the cave.

Sebastian sheds tears and looks away. Then with incredible
bravery, he provides a detailed report of the night's
activities.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

The cave is just above Yerba Buena
in the mountains. The first woman I
saw the leader. Not much taller or
older than me in years, maybe 16,
but aged many more years by the
evil in her heart. Her hair and
eyes were dark as coal. She wore
only a leather cloth and a
headdress of bright feathers. Drums
and music roared from a distant
past...

Officer Martinez writes every word down.

LATER

The clock on the wall reads: 9:50.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

My body shook in fear for the Young
Maiden, and the many villagers I
knew from the town.

(MORE)

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

There was Mr. Lopez, the barber,
his wife who makes the best
tortillas in the village, the three
Gonzales brothers, I met them many
times...

Officer Martinez grabs more paper as continues writing.

LATER

The clock on the wall reads: 10:40.

Officer Martinez has piles of papers in front of him.

Sebastian signs the bottom of the last page.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

I'll drive you to your Grandpapa's
casa, and check out that cave. I'll
leave my report with the Captain to
see what he thinks, but I can't
promise anything.

Sebastian hugs Officer Martinez, and they exit.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Officer Martinez, in an old police car, drives slowly by the
town's sign that reads, "Yerba Buena."

Sebastian clutches his knapsack, as Officer Martinez pulls
off the road.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Your knapsack was exactly where you
said. Half way to Villagrán.

Officer Martinez steps out and looks toward the village.

SEBASTIAN

I'm afraid for my Grandpapa.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Village looks deserted.
(worried)
Something is not right.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

CAPTAIN CASTILLO (50), a serious police officer, is on the phone. He has Officer Martinez's report in front of him. He yells to the front office.

The Calendar reads "May 31, 1963." The clock reads "8:30 AM."

CAPTAIN CASTILLO
Get me the state police at Ciudad
Victoria. Emergency line, again.

A young female Police Officer (20s) responds.

POLICE OFFICER (V.O.)
Yes, Sir. Right away, Sir.

Pause.

POLICE OFFICER
Line two, Captain.

The Captain presses line 2.

CAPTAIN CASTILLO
Captain Castillo, Villagrán, again.
Not like Officer Martinez to miss a
day, let alone two days. Phone
calls to the village are ignored. I
don't know what to think, but we
need your help.

(pause)

A small team, armed, and radio
contact?

(pause)

Fine, fine. I accept full
responsibility.

(pauses, softens)

I'm worried. His wife and children
are worried.

(pauses, angry)

In my professional opinion, this
boy's story is too detailed not to
believe! Officer Martinez believed
him. I'll stake my reputation on
it.

He hangs up with a worried look.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Four armed State Police Officers (30s-40s), in uniform, and riding in a second police car, skid to a stop at the site of Officer Martinez's abandoned police car.

The four policemen search the area with their pistols drawn.

Officer #1 SCREAMS as he comes across a grizzly site.

OFFICER #1
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

Officer #1 makes the sign of the cross.

The other officers race over to see Officer Martinez and Sebastian Guerrero have been hacked to pieces and nearly decapitated. Officer Martinez has had his heart ripped out of his chest.

One officer pukes.

Officer #1 races back to the patrol car, and gets on the radio.

OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)
Captain Castillo, Captain Castillo.

CAPTAIN CASTILLO (V.O.)
Go ahead, Officer.

Officer #1's hand is shaking.

OFFICER #1
Officer Martinez, hacked to pieces.
Heart ripped out like the boy's
report said.

CAPTAIN CASTILLO (V.O.)
The boy?

Officer #1 cries.

OFFICER #1
Also hacked to pieces. Ritual
killing. Never seen anything like
it! Poor kid! Not dealing with sane
people here!

CAPTAIN CASTILLO (V.O.)
The boy's grandpapa?

OFFICER #1

We're going there next. We need backup! Lots of backup! And a coroner, or two.

CAPTAIN CASTILLO (V.O.)

You'll get your backup! Wait for it!

The horror obvious on the faces of the officers.

The fear sets in and the officers begin covering each other with their pistols.

LATER

A covered truck snakes up the road to Yerba Buena. It holds a dozen Army Soldiers, in full field gear and helmets, and with automatic rifles.

They converse with the police officers, get on the radio, and plan their attack, while pointing toward the cave.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Magdalena stands on her table/altar giving orders to an army of Twenty Villagers (all types). Magdalena is dressed in her loin cloth and headdress, with black war paint on her face. She waves her bloody machete. Half the Villagers are armed with old hunting rifles, and a few shotguns. Half of the villagers are unarmed only with sticks, baseball bats, or shovels.

MAGDALENA

The infidels will send a few policemen from Villagrán. They are after my gold, but my gold is for you.

(yells)

If you protect me!

Eleazor paces around the cave entrance pointing out good defensive positions (mumbling in Spanish). He is in a loin cloth and war paint, and carries a shotgun on his shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Santos and Cayetano, dressed in street clothes, smoke pot around a small fire. The look deeply depressed as they hear dishes and glasses being thrown inside the cabin.

CAYETANO

A mother who loses a daughter has a right to be angry.

SANTOS

She has a right to kill us all.

The lifeless pair smokes more pot.

Plates and glasses continue to be smashed in the cabin.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

We should apologize.

CAYETANO

I apologize to no one. Life is hard for everyone.

SANTOS

Death is harder. I will apologize.

They smoke more pot, as Santos struggles to stand. Cayetano continues to smoke.

Santos disappears into the cabin.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The Army COMMANDER (40) now has Twenty fully armed soldiers, spaced out along the road, ready to crawl up the hill to the cave.

Running down the road to meet them is Officer #1 and the three policemen. Officer #1 whispers to the Commander.

OFFICER #1

The boy's grandpapa is dead. The town is deserted. We found no weapons. I think they are waiting for us at the cave.

COMMANDER

They are waiting for you. They are not expecting us.

The Commander speaks to his troops walking up and down the road.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)

Remember, we want them alive! Fire on my signal.

The Commander returns to his central position.

He uses hand signals to send his troops upslope.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE - DAY

The Twenty Villagers are the front line of defense for Magdalena and Eleazor pace in the front of the cave behind mattresses and a table on its side. We only see their faces and headdresses.

Jesus walks nonchalantly by the entrance of the cave toward the cabin. He wears farmer's clothes, and a tweed sports coat as though he was going to Sunday Mass.

Eleazor yells at Jesus.

ELEAZOR

Where are you going, coward?

JESUS

I'm no coward.

Magdalena yells at Eleazor.

MAGDALENA

That man saved my life one night!
He is no coward!

Eleazor yells back and a full argument ensues for all the villagers to hear.

ELEAZOR

We need every man we have!

Magdalena raises her machete for all to see.

MAGDALENA

I am the goddess, Coatlicue, the
mother of all gods! The goddess of
the sun, moon, and stars. Who are
you to question me?

Eleazor is stunned. He looks bewildered toward Magdalena.

In the confusion, Jesus approaches the arguing couple. He is able to peek over the mattresses.

We SEE that Magdalena and Eleazor are in ragged street clothes. The Villagers only see their magnificent headdresses and war paint on their faces. Eleazor holds a pistol in each hand.

Jesus backs up sheepishly.

JESUS

Going to the cabin to get Santos and Cayetano so that there will three more men to protect our goddess, Coatlicue.

He bows and keeps stepping back.

Magdalena and Eleazor are at a loss for words, as Jesus bows and backs his way toward the path to the Cabin.

EXT./INT. CABIN - DAY

We enter the cabin to see broken dishes and glasses everywhere.

The Mother huddles in one corner holding a sharp kitchen knife against her heart, while Santos is huddled in the opposite corner of the room incapacitated by marijuana and tequila.

He holds out half a bottle of tequila as a peace offering.

SANTOS

Take it!

The Mother glares at Santos in silence.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Go ahead! Take it!

The Mother speaks in a dark, wicked voice.

MOTHER

That's your answer to everything.
Not mine.

Santos rests the tequila bottle half way between them.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Go back, or I'll kill myself.

Santos retreats to his corner.

SANTOS

That's a mortal sin!

The Mother points her knife at Santos.

MOTHER

Your whole life is one mortal sin
after another, but there is no God
here!

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

(beat)
Or goddess!

The Mother aims the knife at her heart again.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Our village was in pain before you
arrived. We had little, and
expected less.

Santos creeps a step closer.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Don't come any closer!

Santos puts his hands up.

SANTOS

Okay! Okay!

The Mother breaks down in tears.

MOTHER

I thought I had no tears left.
Tried to forget everything. Bad
dream. Evil dream. Four of you
killed my daughter, my life, my
village, my world, and my reason
for living in three months.

(yells)

You made Jesus Christ abandon us
all!

Santos makes the sign of the cross.

SANTOS

Haven't spoken to God in years.

The Mother looks up to heaven.

MOTHER

Too small for a church, Yerba
Buena.

Santos looks away.

SANTOS

God lost sight of you?

MOTHER

We lost sight of Him!

(looks away)

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

This is what happens when you lose sight of him. For three months, or one week! Even one day!

Santos has a tear in his eye when he looks back at the Mother.

SANTOS

Perhaps you're right. Never too late to repent. Cayetano always tells me it's too late for him, but not for me.

MOTHER

There will be no redemption for the four coyotes, or for me. I have been tricked and played the fool.

(glares at Santos)

A fool. Lowest form of life! Lower than you thieves, rapists, and murderers, because we stood by and let ourselves be fooled!

Santos looks away.

SANTOS

We were good!

MOTHER

Inca Gods? The Incas are from South America! Not Mexico!

(yells)

You weren't good. We were all fools!

BACK TO:

EXT. HILL BELOW THE CAVE - DAY

The troops slowly and quietly crawl up the hill.

Two soldiers crawl under the same tree that Sebastian sat in. This time, the snake is coiled in the tree, staring down at the soldiers.

One soldier sees the snake and signals with his shaking finger to his lips to be silent, as he points up to the snake.

The soldier trembles and whispers.

SOLDIER

Serpent! Bad omen.

All the soldiers look worried as they ready their weapons to fire.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Jesus snickers as he saunters down the path to the cabin.

As he gets closer to the small fire pit outside the cabin, he sees Cayetano, sitting, and calmly lighting another marijuana cigarette.

CAYETANO

Jesus! Let's smoke. Forget the past.

Jesus looks puzzled.

JESUS

Forget the past?

Cayetano takes a drag, as Jesus paces.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Came from the cave.

(laughs)

Your Holy Priests are expecting a shootout with a few policemen. She is surrounded by armed villagers, but that was not the strangest part of this catastrophe that gets worse by the day.

Cayetano is unmoved.

CAYETANO

Not the strangest part?

Jesus reaches inside his coat and pulls out a small 0.38 revolver, and aims it Cayetano's head.

JESUS

Your Goddess and Holy Priest were behind mattresses wearing ragged clothes.

Jesus laughs maniacally.

JESUS (CONT'D)

The villagers see their headdresses and war paint, but they plan to escape when the shooting starts, leaving me to ask, how my people could be so stupid!

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

I must be fool too. I think I still believe in her.

Cayetano's mood changes to concern for his life.

CAYETANO

This was Santos's idea from the start.

Jesus shakes his head, 'no.'

JESUS

No. I've studied him and you. You let your older brother think he is in charge, because he is the greedy one. You conceived of this plan for sex, because you are the sick one. The twisted one. The secretly most evil one of them all in your blackened heart.

Cayetano's eyes open widely with a guilty look.

Jesus points the pistol at Cayetano's forehead.

CAYETANO

Didn't expect the killings.

JESUS

The gods need sacrifices!

Jesus cocks the pistol.

CAYETANO

No. No.

JESUS

I'll sacrifice you!

Jesus executes Cayetano in the head. BANG!

They hear gunfire from automatic rifles erupt at the cave.

Jesus drops the pistol, and yells to Santos and the Mother.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Police shot Cayetano! Run for your lives!

Jesus takes off running through the bushes and trees with gunfire all around.

Santos and the Mother race out of the cabin.

Santos races to comfort his dying brother, while the Mother threatens Santos with her knife, before throwing the knife down in disgust.

MOTHER
I'll see you hang.

The Mother begins to run, following Jesus's escape route.

Santos picks up the pistol, and points it at the Mother's back. His hand shakes, but he can't pull the trigger. She gets away.

He looks down at his brother and weeps. Gunfire surrounds him.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. CAVE - DAY

The Villagers cringe and duck, as the soldiers fire above their heads.

Magdalena peeks out from behind the mattress in anger.

MAGDALENA
Defend me, you idiots!

Eleazor freezes in panic.

ELEAZOR
Soldiers! Must be hundreds of them!

Eleazor watches in horror as Magdalena aims her pistol at the backs of the villagers and shoots. BAM. BAM. BAM.

ELEAZOR (CONT'D)
What are you doing? They were protecting you!

Again, Magdalena aims her pistol at the backs of the villagers and shoots. BAM. BAM. BAM.

MAGDALENA
They're witnesses!

They hear the Commander's booming voice in a megaphone.

COMMANDER
Cease fire! Hands up!

The villagers who are still alive put their hands up.

Magdalena ducks behind the mattress and rips off her headdress, and takes a rag and wipes off her war paint, and tosses it to Eleazor.

Eleazor does the same, as the soldiers advance with weapons drawn.

The soldiers surround a dozen villagers with their hands up, as Magdalena and Eleazor sheepishly join them with their eyes down, hands up, and dressed as peasant farmers.

The Commander walks through the cave and sees blood everywhere. He approaches them, disgusted and angry.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
Can somebody tell me what the hell
went on here?

Everyone is silent.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
My men shot above your heads!

The Commander points at several dead villagers.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
These villagers were shot in the
back!

The survivors do not look up. They remain silent.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
Take 'em away!

A soldier walks in front of the Commander with the snake in his cage.

LATER

The area is deserted except for Officer #1 and the Commander as they search for clues.

Officer #1 places the headdresses in plastic bags, while the Commander examines the bloody machete.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
Smell of death is everywhere.

OFFICER #1
We've been hearing rumors, but they
were unbelievable.

COMMANDER
Believe them now?

They search the exterior of the cave.

Officer #1 follows a bad smell, and finds the shallow graves of eight bodies.

The Commander creeps slowly up to the graves, and is disgusted.

OFFICER #1

They are in pieces, Commander.

The Commander and Officer make the sign of the cross.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The Commander and Officer search their way to the Cabin.

They see Cayetano shot in the head. Santos hold the pistol pointed toward cave. They are both riddled with bullets.

COMMANDER

These two won't be talking.

Officer #1 shakes his head in disgust.

OFFICER #1

Not sure anyone will talk about the things that went on here!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Jesus Rubio, handcuffed, two-week beard, and ragged prison clothes paces in a small, dirty jail cell. He talks to himself like a crazy person.

JESUS

They say sane people are capable of anything. Insane people are capable of everything!

He paces.

We SEE the Newspaper clipping from the McAllen, Texas, "Valley Evening Monitor for "July 13, 1963."

JESUS (CONT'D)

Took 'em less than two weeks to convict Magdalene and Eleazor, and the twelve of us, like the Apostles. Huh.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)
 Never thought of that.
 (shrugs)
 Everybody else fled the village
 forever.
 (looks into the camera)
 Don't blame 'em! Do you?

He turns and stares out a small window with bars.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 I told the policia a few lies about
 our leaders.
 (snickers)
 I said Magdalena thought she was
 the reincarnation of a Mexican
 faith healer dead fifty years.
 (laughs)
 They bought it.

Dances like a puppet on strings.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 Told them Eleazor thought he was
 St. Francis of Assisi.
 (laughs)
 They will believe anything I say,
 because I am the only one who talks
 to them.

Jesus turns sad, almost in tears.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 Thirty years! Gave us thirty years
 for the sacrifices. Nobody
 confessed or fingered Magdalena.
 (laughs)
 She is a real goddess you know!
 (giggles)
 They never found out who killed
 Cayetano!

He turns and paces with his head down and away.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 Santos and Cayetano Hernandez!
 There was a pair!

Jesus turns and gets in the camera's face.

JESUS (CONT'D)
 How does any cult get its start!
 Hell, all it takes is to be a
 little smarter than the people your
 dealing with!

Jesus backs up and paces, head turned away.

JESUS (CONT'D)

The police asked me how else do I explain none of the apostles ratting Magdalena out as a fake? Or Eleazor, her pimp? Or the Hernandez brothers, her crime bosses?

Jesus grabs and shakes the bars on the window.

JESUS (CONT'D)

They can't believe we were that stupid? That gullible? Fools! Ha!
(yells)
No! We believe in Coatlicue!

Several other Villagers (10-12 adults) cheer.

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

Jesus runs up to the camera and whispers.

JESUS

Our Goddess will be out in just thirty years.

Jesus runs to the bars again and yells.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Thirty years is nothing to someone who will live forever!

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

Coatlicue! Coatlicue! Coatlicue!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

We see Magdalena in handcuffs, with her head held high in defiance.

We see and hear a judge's gavel hit the stand.

JUDGE

Thirty years!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CANTINA - NIGHT

SUPER: "Thirty Years Later, Spring Break 1993"

As in the opening scene, we HEAR the same 20-30 Texans and drinking and laughing (in T-shirts and shorts) at a table. Josh keeps glancing at the lone temptress at the bar; Magdalena in her black dress. An empty bottle of tequila stands before the woman and three empty shot glasses.

The Bartender approaches with another bottle of tequila, but Magdalena pushes the shot glasses away.

MAGDALENA

Gracias, no mas.

The music stops.

Josh is tipsy and arrogant, playing drinking games. He rises from his table and approaches Magdalena and the Bartender with his same swaggering confidence.

JOSH

How about I give you one more chance?

Josh winks at Magdalena as the Bartender rolls his eyes in disgust.

Magdalena doesn't look at Josh.

MAGDALENA

You? Give me a chance?

JOSH

Come on! What do ya say?

Magdalena still doesn't look up.

JOSH (CONT'D)

If you think you can handle me!

MAGDALENA

Told you! Not interested in boys!

Josh puffs out his chest.

JOSH

And I told you, I'm all man!

Magdalena stands up at glares at Josh with her threatening dark eyes. She puts her finger under his collar. She speaks slowly and deliberately with an eerie, deep voice.

MAGDALENA

Ok, Big boy...you like to play,
let's play.

MAGDALENA (CONT'D)
And I told you, I devour men!
(whispers in his ear)
I am a goddess!

Josh laughs.

JOSH
Don't doubt that one bit!

MAGDALENA
You have dinero?

Josh whips out a wad of twenty-dollar bills.

JOSH
Muchas dinero!

Magdalena hooks his arm, and leads him past the table of friends, who HOOT and HOLLER.

Magdalena looks away to hide her face.

Josh smiles like a champion.

MAGDALENA
If you think you can handle me!

JOSH
Oh, I'm sure I can.

Josh turns and gives his friends a smirk and thumbs-up sign.

They exit the cantina.

EXT. CANTINA - NIGHT

Magdalena begins walking Josh down the street.

JOSH
Where can we go that's private?

MAGDALENA
I have a place just down the
road...

They walk on into the darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.

We HEAR loud music ("My Goddess" by The Exies).

SUPER: "The whereabouts of Magdalena Solis, Eleazor Solis, and other members of the cult after their release from prison remains unknown."

ROLL CREDITS

We SEE Magdalena's mug shots.

DISCLAIMER: "This film was inspired by true events. Some scenes, characters and dialogue have been fictionalized for dramatic purposes."

THE END