

**FULL CIRCLE**

original screenplay by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - DAWN

MOVE DOWN the coarse walls of the arch with the first light of day. It is still; the only sound is the gentle SONG of a mourning dove.

A white stallion feeds beneath an old cottonwood. The shadow of the tree stretches across the sandy canyon floor.

TWO BEARS, an ancient Navajo who looks well over a hundred, STEPS INTO FRAME and stops. His dark eyes squint at the new day. The deep wind-cut lines in his face mirror the rock towering around him. He lingers for a moment and continues on, lost in thought.

His face solemn, he passes a funeral pyre neatly built of lodgepole and meticulously decorated with feathers, beads and animal skins, continuing on to a long-used encampment where his wife, LITTLE DOVE, equally ancient, lies motionless on a bed of elk skin robes.

He kneels at her side and looks at her intently. His eyes fill with dread--she is not breathing. He touches her face, tears welling. After a long moment, her worn-out lungs inhale again. His horror dissolves momentarily. She whispers:

LITTLE DOVE

Leave me, old man. How can Earth  
Mother work with your commotion?

In obedience, he stands. The strange amulet he wears around his neck catches the light of morning and glows softly. He removes it and places it in her hands.

TWO BEARS

The circle closes. I die with you.

LITTLE DOVE

My death frees you to find the future.  
The Ancient Dream awaits.

Her lungs rattle with one last breath.

Two Bears is overcome with anguish. A look of immutable love is voiced in her smile as she closes her eyes for the last time. Heart-wrenched, he leans over her. His tears trickle onto her cheek. The amulet glows in her hand as THUNDER rolls through the canyons.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - DAY

Ancient fingers reverently trace gentle impressions in sand. Slowly and deliberately, they reach for a pottery dish of bright red powder among other sacred colors. A pinch of red is placed in the palm and dispensed down the forefinger, painstakingly guided onto the design in a circular motion.

The only SOUND is a lyrical, whispered chant, which is gradually assimilated into a low, sweeping pulse that builds musically as the scene progresses.

A stream of blue sand is expertly drawn along a line of red.

MOVE BACK to reveal an intricate sand painting in the "Whirling Logs" motif, as used to prepare one embarking on a long journey.

MOVE UPWARD to the leathery face of Two Bears, which is painted with ceremonial designs. The tempo of his rhythmic chant increases to a frenzy and he throws his head back and stretches his arms out, the amulet in his hand.

Wearing only a buckskin loincloth, he places the amulet around his neck and stands, empowered and noble. He steps forward into the sand painting, scattering the delicately placed runes, reaches his arms toward the sky and cries out with a painful, echoing wail.

Instantly, a golden eagle erupts from the scene, accompanied by a MUSICAL BURST. Two Bears' wail becomes the EAGLE'S CRY. He is transformed: man to eagle.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Earth as seen from space.
- B) Bryce Canyon and its majestic surroundings.
- C) An eagle soars high above Bryce Canyon.
- D) Eagle's P.O.V. as it soars high above Arches, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks from the air.
- E) ANGLE from behind of a white boy in ceremonial Indian attire as he watches the eagle soar overhead. A white nimbus flashes outward past his upper body.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER - AERIAL - DAY

The ROAR of helicopter rotors shatters the pristine majesty of the preceding shots. The aircraft noses into a sharp bank.

INT. HELICOPTER - AERIAL - CONTINUOUS

include the PILOT and two passengers: business tycoon DON HAMERLING, 77, who is loading a 30.06 rifle, and his grandson, DANNY HAMERLING, 13, who sits in the co-pilot seat, an iPod blasting in his ear.

He is a typically-dressed urban teen: expensive shoes, black T-shirt, tattered jeans, spiked hair, etc. Don opens the small window on the door, places the rifle on his shoulder and sights through the scope.

INSERT - CROSSHAIRS CENTER ON THE EAGLE

as it wheels away from the helicopter.

DON (O.S.)

There's one!

DANNY'S FACE

reveals his indifference to his grandfather's notion of sport. He opens a laptop computer which has been modified with a solar battery charger.

The EAGLE'S CRY, heard somehow over the ROTOR SCREAM, compels him to look up from the screen.

THE EAGLE

turns on an updraft without regard to the intruders.

FLASH FRAME - DANNY'S P.O.V. - TWO BEARS,

the man, is SUPERIMPOSED over the flying eagle.

DANNY

gasps at this bizarre sight. Simultaneously, a GUNSHOT BLAST startles him. Don roars with conquest.

DON (CONT'D)

Got him!

Danny lunges at his grandfather, knocking the rifle out of his grasp. It tumbles out the window. Don angrily raises his hand to strike Danny, who insolently meets his gaze.

A long, hard moment passes.

The SHRIEK of the eagle redirects Danny's attention outside the helicopter.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - THE PLUMMETING EAGLE

glances off a jagged outcrop into a heap.

## DANNY'S FACE

is pressed against the window as the helicopter rolls away into the morning sky.

## EXT. ROCKY CANYON - MOMENTS LATER

Two Bears lies on the ground, bleeding. With great effort he struggles to right himself, but fails. He angrily directs his attention skyward.

TWO BEARS

Father! I cannot do this!  
Let me join Little Dove.

A familiar voice whispers, paralyzing him.

LITTLE DOVE (V.O.)

Find the future.

## INT. HELICOPTER - AERIAL - CONTINUOUS

Don rages at Danny, his face purple with anger.

DON

Eisenhower gave me that rifle!

Danny ignores the old man and busies himself with the computer.

DON (CONT'D)

You're a real pain in the keyster!

Danny ignores him. After a moment, Don sees this is getting him nowhere and tries another tack. He straightens his diamond-studded string tie and he dons his beaver Stetson.

DON (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be tracking my business, not playing video games. Anyhow, look at the fun you're missing!

Danny glares at his grandfather, then turns away. His silence is deafening. Don shakes his head sadly.

DON (CONT'D)

I guess you need more time to get past it... Say, get the sheep operation on the horn.

Danny reluctantly exits the game and enters a brief command.

After a moment, the computer BEEPS, and he holds a mobile phone receiver to the speaker.

With a keystroke, the electronic beeps dial the number. The phone is patched in.

DON (CONT'D)

Bob? I just bagged me another one!  
You're down twenty five hundred bucks!  
'Course I mean it!

Danny settles back in his seat, replaces his headset and punches the PLAY button. But instead of music an EERY DIN issues, accompanied by a voice.

LITTLE DOVE (V.O.)

Find the future!

Danny rips the headsets off. He looks at Don, still talking into the phone, oblivious. Danny nudges the Pilot.

DANNY

Did you hear that?

The Pilot pulls his headset off one ear.

PILOT

Hear what?

DANNY

A voice said "find" something...

The Pilot gives Danny a perplexed look and goes back to his job. Danny examines his walkman and hits the PLAY button again. ROCK 'N ROLL blasts through the headphones. He closes his eyes and smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. RED CANYON CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY - AN EXPLOSION

rocks the land as a dynamite charge blasts a hole in a canyon wall. As the debris and dust settle, workers in hard hats scramble from their hiding places.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Earth movers grade a highway through a mountain pass.
- B) Bulldozers topple trees over a cliff into a pristine canyon.
- C) Elk sprint through a meadow away from the EXPLOSIONS.
- D) A Burger King sign is raised over a fast food outlet.
- E) A sign outside the development reads:

RED CANYON RECREATIONAL AREA

Another WESTERN DEVELOPMENT CORP. Project

"Bringing the Wilderness to You"

TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

EXT. SACRED ARCH - CONTINUOUS

Two Bears tries to stand, but the excruciating pain of his wounded shoulder drops him back to his knees.

Another DYNAMITE explosion in the distance causes him to drop his head in defeat. A THUNDERCLAP echoes the explosion.

LITTLE DOVE (V.O.)

Find the future.

Her voice heartens him.

With determination, he stands.

A blast of wind stirs the sand painting and engulfs him in a cloud of color.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RED CANYON CONSTRUCTION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

A grandstand with patriotic bunting has been erected.

Behind the dais, a billboard displays an artist's rendering of the recreation project: a winter ski resort, a dam on the river creating a reservoir for boating and fishing, condo developments, four-star hotels, a shopping mall, a theme park with rides, and all the attendant services necessary to support a venture of this scale.

About 100 well-heeled people with champagne glasses mingle around padded folding chairs before the dais.

Behind the guests, cordoned-off with a rope stretched between brown-shirted Park Rangers, presses a crowd of back-to-earth aficionados, environmentalists, and Sierra Club radicals, angrily chanting and waving placards.

A female REPORTER leads a television crew through the crowd, searching for an interviewee.

She selects the weirdest, most wild-eyed HIPPIE in the crowd and positions herself by him, nodding to her cameraman.

VIDEO CAMERA ANGLE - REPORTER

REPORTER

Tell me, what is it about the Red Canyon development that upsets you?

HIPPIE

They're wrecking the park, man! It's really a mess! And we're here to stop `em, man!

Several in the crowd cheer and press forward, waving their signs and mugging for the camera. They begin a loud chant.

CROWD

Due process for you and me, keep this land our legacy!

The Reporter forges ahead, reveling in the demonstration.

REPORTER

But the project means jobs and lies outside park boundaries. Why then are you opposed?

The Hippie is momentarily confused.

Another PROTESTOR pushes forward. She is Earth First in dress and militant demeanor. She grabs the microphone from the startled Reporter and steps forward, dominating THE FRAME.

As she speaks, a shoving match for position develops.

PROTESTOR

We have evidence that Western Development plans to develop the Red Canyon Project beyond its boundaries and into the neighboring national park.

She brandishes a ream of papers.

PROTESTOR (CONT'D)

And even with sixty thousand signatures on this petition, the legislature still refuses to put this issue on the ballot! They're determined to ram this project down our throats!

Finally, the Reporter manages to shove a placard out of her face, pushes another protestor OUT OF FRAME, and deftly grabs the microphone back from the protestor.

She regains her position in front of the camera and smooths her clothes, smiling charmingly.

REPORTER

Earlier, we spoke to Donald Hamerling,  
CEO of Western Development, for his  
reaction...

BEGIN VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEW:

INT. HAMERLING'S OFFICE - DAY

Donald Hamerling, serene and congenial, sits in his lavishly-appointed office, the quiet a sharp contrast to the scene we just left.

REPORTER

Mr. Hamerling, why are you developing  
the Red Canyon Recreation Area  
adjacent to a national park?

DON

Call me Don, honey. The idea is to  
let Americans enjoy the outdoors  
without missing the comforts of home--  
sort of a "Wilderness Disneyland."

REPORTER

But environmentalists say the  
pollution and crowds will threaten  
the parks themselves.

DON

Oh, those whackos? They won't be  
happy until we all move to Venus!  
Read our impact statement! We're  
gonna have to put up fences to keep  
the wildlife inside the park instead  
of out here in Red Canyon!

REPORTER

What about your alleged plans to  
develop land inside the park?

DON

That's a lot of horse-puckey!

And you can quote me on that!

REPORTER

What about the native American  
squatters who refuse to leave their  
sacred land?

Don stiffens momentarily, then regains his composure.

DON

There's only a couple of 'em left and they're just worried they won't get their share, is all. They can protest all they want, but they won't keep Red Canyon from the American people.

END VIDEOTAPE INTERVIEW.

BACK TO LIVE VIDEO CAMERA ANGLE

The Reporter turns to TIM DUGOVIC, a park ranger.

REPORTER

We're back live again, and I'm here with Tim Dugovic, a ranger in the adjoining park. Tim, how do you feel about a "Wilderness Disneyland" next to the national park?

The SOUND of an approaching helicopter sends excited murmurs through the crowd.

Tim is distracted momentarily, but turns back to the Reporter, clearly disgruntled by the situation.

He must shout to be heard over the ROTOR SCREAM.

TIM

What can we do? It's outside the park, isn't it?

This conversation becomes impractical with all the NOISE.

The Reporter beckons her cameraman to the landing area. The helicopter lands and winds down.

Don emerges smiling from the cockpit. He waves his Stetson at the crowd, reveling in the attention.

The protestors, straining to be heard and to get through, press at the cordon of Rangers and Security Guards.

A group of traditionally-clad Navajos conduct a ceremony, BEATING holy drums.

Danny steps gingerly from the helicopter. He stops to survey the scene, overwhelmed by the commotion.

Don turns abruptly, looking back at Danny.

DON

Danny! Get your little...!

Aware of listening ears, he stops, but his false smile doesn't mask his displeasure.

Danny steps up his pace, joining Don in the crowd.

Don gives him an insincere hug as they walk toward the dais.

DON (CONT'D)

Give 'em a smile, boy.

That's what you're here for!

The best Danny can muster is a stone face.

The Reporter falls into step with Don and signals her cameraman to roll tape.

Don gives the camera a practiced smile.

We hear the Governor's speech over the P.A., but Don is stealing his thunder as the crowd turns to him.

REPORTER

Mr. Hamerling, this protest--

DON

Meet my grandson, Danny. His folks died a few months back in a plane crash. Horrible affair.

(to Danny)

You wanna tell the world anything? Now's your chance.

DANNY

Yeah. Kiss my--

DON

Thanks a lot, son.

(sotto voce)

Now shut up, ya little pup.

REPORTER

As you can see, these people are here to protest your apparent contempt for the wilderness.

DON

Honey, I'm a wildlife fanatic! Why, I was just admiring a beautiful golden eagle--flying high above the cares of the world! It was beautiful.

REPORTER

But, Mr. Hamerling--

DON

Now, if you'll excuse me, I got a speech to deliver.

He nods at two mirror-shaded Security Guards, who step between him and the Reporter.

Don quickly exits toward the dais with Danny in tow. He leans in toward Danny.

DON (CONT'D)  
 Pull a stunt like that again and  
 I'll tan your hide while you're still  
 in it!

As they walk down the aisle between the chairs toward the dais, the people stand and applaud.

The GOVERNOR attempts to continue his speech.

Don points to an empty chair in the front row.

DON (CONT'D)  
 Punch up my speech on that thing to  
 cue me if I need it.

GOVERNOR  
 ... And now, friends, I take great  
 pleasure in introducing the man behind  
 the biggest land development in the  
 state's history: Donald Hamerling!

Don ascends the dais, waving and smiling as he drinks in the resounding applause. He warmly greets the Governor and the others before stepping to the podium.

The protestors and Indians jeer and scream epithets, trying to out-yell the partisan crowd.

Don raises his hands in victory.

DON  
 Thanks, friends! And the rest of  
 you, too! Why, if it wasn't for you,  
 I wouldn't have my picture on the  
 cover of TIME!

He holds up a copy of TIME magazine. His face is on the cover with the caption: "Eco Pirates: A New Threat."

Danny sits in the front row, surrounded by standing adults, who wildly cheer his grandfather. MUSIC blares on his walkman as he opens his computer, ignoring the tumult.

He types in a short command and we hear a BEEP as the file is identified.

A well-heeled MATRON sits by Danny, looking down at him.

Aware he is being watched, he shoves a finger up his nose, and smiles at her as he roots around. She turns away, disgusted.

INSERT - COMPUTER SCREEN

The text of Don's speech scrolls past.

Once he locates his grandfather's position, Danny punches up a menu of other programs.

He chooses a very LOUD game called "Nuke Master."

BACK TO SCENE

The Matron snorts her disapproval.

Danny dons his headphones, which he plugs into the computer, cutting out the sound.

Don continues with his speech.

DON (CONT'D)  
We can't live in the past--we gotta  
seize the moment! If we don't, we'll  
lose this great land to the likes of  
them!

He points to the protestors.

DON (CONT'D)  
Aborigines and pine cone eaters!

The partisan crowd near the dais applauds enthusiastically.  
Don raises a gold-plated shovel.

DON (CONT'D)  
We'll bury 'em like road kill! On to  
the future!

He steps down to sink the shovel in the earth, bringing the crowd to their feet with applause and cheers.

All eyes are on him, except Danny's, who remains seated, intent on the computer game. He is oblivious to this moment of glory.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, at the rear of the crowd, Two Bears appears astride a white stallion.

He wears ceremonial robes and carries a lance. His face is covered with war paint.

He rides slowly up the aisle.

The ovation drops off into hushed whispers and as all heads turn towards him.

Don eyes the old man, unsure of the threat. He nods to SECURITY GUARD #1, who signals the others.

They begin to close in.

Danny, still unaware of Two Bears' entrance, intently plays "Nuke Master," the MUSIC and FX in his headphones providing a dramatic counterpoint to these few moments of dead silence.

Don responds to this scene stealer.

DON (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, stay calm.  
This is one of the lunatics who wants  
to keep the American people from  
enjoying Red Canyon.

TWO BEARS

I wish only to protect this land  
from men like you! I know your heart.  
They do not. They believe your lies.  
I do not!

People pull back from his large horse, fearful.

DON

Nobody cares what you believe! This  
ain't the reservation--you're on  
private land, now!

SECURITY GUARD #2 sneaks down a row of chairs to the left  
and behind Two Bears.

He steels himself, then lunges, but the old man reacts quickly  
and the guard clutches at air.

In a heartbeat, Two Bears is racing for the dais.

Don reaches inside his coat to draw his gun, but SECURITY  
GUARD #3 tackles him to the ground and covers him.

Those near the dais scatter in all directions. A woman  
screams. GUNSHOTS are fired into the air. Everyone drops to  
the ground.

Everyone that is, but Danny, whose computer-induced trance  
is finally broken. He looks around and finds himself squarely  
in the path of the oncoming stallion.

A Park Ranger steps in the way, grabbing for the bridle.

Two Bears reels his mount and fends off the Ranger and several  
others simply by turning his horse in a circle.

Security Guard #1 takes aim, preparing to fire.

Suddenly, a group of Indians and Protestors break the cordon  
and pour into the mayhem.

Fists and chairs fly as they go toe-to-toe with the Park  
Rangers and Security Guards.

Two Bears looks around and sees Danny, standing frozen, the computer held limply in one hand.

CUT TO:

TWO BEARS' P.O.V. - DANNY

is dressed in white ceremonial garb, his face lit by a strange white glow, the mysterious amulet around his neck.

BACK TO SCENE

Danny stands in his regular clothes as before, transfixed.

Two Bears furrows his brow momentarily, then grabs Danny's arm and hoists him across the horse's neck.

His eyes wide with terror, Danny lets go of the computer.

Two Bears grabs it just before it drops and slugs Security Guard #2 across the face with it.

Danny grabs it back.

A machine gun appears in the hands of SECURITY GUARD #4, who attempts to get a bead on Two Bears.

THROUGH THE MACHINE GUN SIGHT - TWO BEARS

weaves and bobs, and the sight bounces wildly, unable to follow.

The crowd is now a frenzied mob, people running everywhere.

TWO BEARS

betters his grip on Danny and finally manages to pull him aboard.

He charges away, people scattering from before the furious horse.

Don finally frees himself from the "protection" of Security Guard #3 with a right hook.

Danny sits astride the horse in front of Two Bears, holding on for dear life.

Don, oblivious to the danger to Danny, produces a .45, aims, fires and misses.

Everyone ducks.

Two Bears clears the crowd and heads toward the group of Indians, who miraculously part, allowing him passage.

He charges past the road and over an embankment. Danny holds on, eyes shut. The computer is trapped tightly between rider and passenger.

Park Rangers and Security Guards converge on vehicles to give chase.

Within seconds, spinning tires and dust add to the bedlam.

Don jumps into the helicopter, which churns a huge cloud of dust as it gets up to speed.

It lifts off, leaving the chaos behind.

Two Bears has escaped.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEAR UNDERCUT ROCK - MOMENTS LATER

Danny clings to Two Bears as the master horseman guides his mount down a slick rock path.

The horse stumbles and Danny grabs Two Bears tightly, his eyes closed in fear.

TWO BEARS

There's already someone in this skin,  
boy. This stallion knows his feet.

A buzzard CALLS above them and Danny cringes with the sound.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A) A rock ledge towers over them; sanctuary from the sun.

B) A lizard scampers across baking limestone rock.

C) A diamondback rattler slithers through a tight crevice.

D) Longhorn sheep nibble at a grassy knoll on a steep precipice.

E) A red-tail hovers on a draft, cocking its head from side to side, observing the travelers.

TWO BEARS

sighs, burdened with this boy in the midst of a place where he was once carefree. He talks to himself under his breath.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

"Find the future..." Humph!

DANNY

What did you say?

TWO BEARS  
You would not understand.

DANNY  
I've heard that before.

Two Bears reins hard and dismounts, looking hard at the boy.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
I heard a voice on my iPod say, "find  
the future."

Two Bears cocks his head away from Danny. All at once, he  
nimblely remounts and urges his mount ahead.

They race down a ravine.

At full gallop, Danny is confused and afraid.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
What'd I say?

Two Bears ignores him.

They race down the corridor of rock, making spectacular leaps  
and turns.

As they round a corner, a huge overhang looms large before  
them.

Two Bears directs the horse up an embankment and into the  
shelter of the overhang.

Just as they clear, the loud CLAP of helicopter rotors ECHO  
off the walls.

Danny doesn't waste a moment clearing the horse and running  
for the sunny edge of the overhang.

But Two Bears cuts his mount smoothly and knocks the boy off  
his feet just before he reaches the edge.

Danny shouts, but cannot be heard over the STORM of rotor  
blades amplified by the rock.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Grandpa! Down here!

His shouts are replaced by helpless, angry sobs.

The DIN of the helicopter quiets in the distance.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
What do you want with me? I never  
did anything to you!

Two Bears quietly dismounts and unlashes a water pouch from the saddle, offering it to Danny.

Danny seizes it and holds it to his lips.

He stops, glares at the old man, and empties it on the ground.

Two Bears makes no effort to prevent it.

TWO BEARS

Do you know who you are?

DANNY

The question is: do you know who I am? 'Cause pretty soon, the National Guard will be here and you'll be dead meat!

TWO BEARS

Although it seems impossible, you are the Chosen One--the Ancient Dream unfolds.

DANNY

You're nuts.

Two Bears points at the laptop Danny holds tightly.

TWO BEARS

What is that?

Danny looks at him like he's from another planet.

DANNY

It's a computer, Tonto.

What do you want with me?

TWO BEARS

Can you play chess on it?

DANNY

Yeah. So what?

TWO BEARS

Then you know what a pawn is.

Two Bears mounts his horse.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

You will come. Or die. With no water, you will perish in two days. It would take you five days to reach help... if you go the right direction.

DANNY

I can take care of myself.

TWO BEARS

Then I pray Earth Mother will put  
those bones to better use.

Two Bears turns his horse. Danny watches him as he begins  
his descent into the ravine. He holds up his computer.

DANNY

This will help me survive.

TWO BEARS

It will only help you compute how  
long it will be before you die.

Two Bears turns his courser and steps into a canter.

Danny bravely watches him until he disappears around a rocky  
hollow, then falls to his knees in despair.

He looks up. The disk of the sun fills the cloudless sky.

He gets to his feet and walks follows Two Bears.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARREN CANYON - NOON

Danny's parched lips are swollen. Sweat rolls off his chin.

He looks spent. His feet drag with every step.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REMOTE GULCH - AFTERNOON

PAN ACROSS a desolate landscape of sage and cactus, finally  
FINDING Danny, who stumbles wearily along--a small object  
against the vast wasteland.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAVINE - LATE AFTERNOON

Danny stumbles along, silhouetted against the setting sun.

A CLOSER ANGLE reveals his blank face. Suddenly his eyes  
roll back and he collapses.

A shadow covers him. Two Bears straddles Danny, BACKLIT by  
the orange sun.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - NIGHT

Two Bears adds brush to a fire blazing in his old camp.

Wind stirs the feathered beads hanging from his wife's funeral pyre in the b.g.

MOVE BACK to reveal Danny, wrapped in a blanket, sipping steaming liquid from a cup.

DANNY

You didn't have to help me, ya know--  
I'd've been all right.

TWO BEARS

Yes, by now you would be walking  
with the spirits. But you were chosen  
to walk here.

DANNY

What's this "chosen" garbage?

TWO BEARS

You have a destiny.

DANNY

And you have a brain tumor.  
(beat)  
So what is my "destiny"?

TWO BEARS

I do not know.

DANNY

I'll bet you've chewed a lot of peyote  
in your time.

TWO BEARS

I know only that Mother Earth will  
show us a path.

Danny laughs, opening his computer. It BEEPS to life.

Two Bears stares at the fire pensively.

Danny accesses a file. The map to Red Canyon Wilderness Area, seen earlier behind Don on the dais.

DANNY

Where'd you say we are?

TWO BEARS

I didn't.

DANNY

Take me back and I'll give you this!

TWO BEARS

What good is that thing?

DANNY

That's why you guys got your butts kicked! You were too dumb to adapt, and look what happened! Indians are a joke... losers!

Danny pulls back as Two Bears stands, barely controlling his fierce anger. He reaches for the amulet which glints at his neck, pulls it off and shoves the charm skyward with a howl:

TWO BEARS

I am Two Bears, shaman and last survivor of my people! I will not hear this! Father Sky, accept the blood of this impudent boy!

He throws the charm at Danny's feet and stalks off into the night, throwing the saddle blanket on the horse, then reels and points a gnarled finger at Danny.

DANNY

What'd I say?

TWO BEARS

You heard the voice. You cannot deny it. You know it is true.

Danny studies his captor for a moment, then walks back to the fire, picks up his computer and looks skyward.

The first stars are unveiled in the black eastern sky.

DANNY

I'll tell you what's true: Polaris is north. And that's the direction I'm headed.

Two Bears has followed the boy over to the fire.

He stoops down, gathers the amulet and holds it out to Danny.

TWO BEARS

Take this for luck. Coyote is hungry.

Danny accepts the odd gift.

The old man sits, leans back on his blankets and shuts his eyes.

Danny turns the amulet over in his hands. What could it hurt? He places the charm around his neck, hefts his computer, and starts to walk.

He doesn't reach the periphery of the fire before he stops, his hands holding his head in pain.

His eyes open wide, glazed.

DANNY  
Why you dirty...

Danny sways and crumbles into a heap.

SERIES OF SHOTS (accompanied by dissonant CHANTS):

- A) Plummeting toward earth from deep space.
- B) A low, accelerated AERIAL pass over red rock country.
- C) CLOSE ANGLE - an arrow penetrating human flesh.
- D) A herd of white horses gallop from a burning forest, the orange flames reflected in a lake.
- E) An Indian woman gives birth in reeds next to water.
- F) A snarling wolf emerges from her bloody placenta.
- G) Racing through a star field.
- H) We SPIRAL DOWN toward a sand painting.

FADE OUT.

SOUND CONTINUES:

A newborn baby's cry blends with long, slow, rhythmic breathing inside a space suit.

SOUND FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - NIGHT

Danny lies where he fell. His eyes flutter and he jerks himself upright. His breath smokes.

The fire smolders. Beyond him, the full moon bathes the land in blue light.

Two Bears is gone. Strings of feathered beads on the funeral pyre sway in the wind.

Danny finds his feet and looks around.

Two Bears is on his knees at the threshold of the arch.

He and his white stallion are silver cutouts against the blue-black sky.

DANNY

Hey! Old man!

Two Bears doesn't hear. He chants as he completes another peculiar sand painting.

Danny saunters up the slope toward Two Bears, then trots. Finally, his computer slaps against his back as he runs.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey! Listen!

Two Bears shows no sign of hearing. He stands, arms raised. His chant changes to a wail and a low rumble of THUNDER is heard in the distance.

Danny sprints toward him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What's going on?!

Just as Danny arrives at the arch, he slides to a stop.

Two Bears, mounted on his white stallion, passes under the shadow of the arch and disappears as a bolt of lightning crashes mere feet from Danny, throwing him to the ground.

He stumbles back to his feet.

Smoke from the strike circles wildly. The moon goes black and darkness drops over him like a blanket.

The amulet around his neck glows momentarily. He falls to his knees.

Frantic, he tears the amulet off his neck and throws it to the ground.

He approaches the arch with primal fear. Somehow his bravado stays intact.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hello? Anybody home?

A gale-force wind abruptly kicks up from behind him. Danny turns and looks at the encampment.

For the first time, he notices the funeral pyre, which pitches to and fro, frail against such brutal fury.

A blanket is whipped back, revealing Little Dove's corpse.

In front of him, on the ground, the amulet glows, shudders in the wind and shifts away down the hill as if pulled by an invisible string.

Danny watches the thing with amazement--it moves into the wind! He shields his eyes from the sand and debris.

The amulet begins to tumble now--moving quickly out of reach as if spirits had hold of it.

Danny lunges for the amulet.

With concerted effort, he grabs it. As soon as he clasps it, the wind calms. The funeral pyre creaks back into place, intact.

Clutching the amulet tightly, Danny turns and starts again for the arch where he last saw Two Bears.

He stops at the threshold and looks at the ground.

The sand painting is amazingly intact. It mimics the motif of the amulet. Danny studies both.

He looks behind him again and takes in the scene, as though he thinks he may never see it again.

Then, with a courage whose origins are foolishness, he breathes deeply and takes a step.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I know this is gonna suck--big time.

With the WAIL of a banshee, a power like he has never known assaults him.

He rides lightning, whirling out of control, racing down a fiber-optic corridor that connects time and space.

Then, as quickly as it began, it ends.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - SUNRISE

Danny stands as if frozen, his eyes blindly staring ahead.

The SONG of swallows stir him to life. He shakes his head and turns back to the camp. His eyes open wide with amazement.

Something is wrong. Where's the encampment? The sand painting? The funeral pyre? There is no well-worn path, only long grass everywhere.

The sun squats on the horizon where stars shimmered in the night sky moments before.

Danny looks at his watch. It blinks 12:00 / 12:00 / 12:00.

He turns for a broader inspection of the area.

Surrounding him, recessed in the cliffs, are ancient funeral pyres completely encircled by carefully stacked stones.

DANNY

Hey! Old man! Where are you?

He searches the cliffs. Nothing stirs. The ECHO of his voice is the only answer.

The spoiled brat in him boils over.

DANNY (CONT'D)

That old relic tricked me! Now I'm really toast! Where am I?

Disheartened, he kicks at a pile of stones and scatters them. The action makes him feel better and he kicks another pile.

Soon, he's on a roll, and kicks apart several piles, until he tires of it and sits against a pyre support.

His weight shifts the pyre, unsettling the body above.

A skeleton topples down on him, the skull falling directly in his lap, gaping up at him. He screams.

Just then, an arrow WHIZZES past, narrowly missing him, lodging in the support.

Danny reels; confused and afraid.

An Indian brave, young TWO BEARS, stands on an outcrop by the arch overlooking Danny. His face is painted in a grotesque mask. His height tells us he is close to Danny's age.

He quickly loads another arrow into the notch in his bow.

Other braves, following his lead, show themselves.

When they do, their leader runs toward Danny and defiantly replaces the toppled stones nearest the dumbfounded white boy.

The fires of hatred burn savagely in his eyes.

Danny can only return a look of trepidation; he's outmanned.

Seeing Danny's fear, Two Bears struts around Danny, looking him up and down, mocking his clothes, much to the delight of his companions, who send up whoops of dark pleasure.

(NOTE: All dialogue is in the native tongue with SUBTITLES.)

## BRAVE #1

He desecrates your grandfather's  
burial! His blood shall flow!

Two Bears clenches his fists in Danny's face.

Danny stands his ground, preparing for the worst.

After a long moment, Two Bears spits on the ground, pivots,  
holds his arms high, and howls a victory cry.

The others join in, celebrating the conquest.

CUT TO:

## EXT. INDIAN CAMP - NIGHT

Danny is tied to two stakes, stripped to his underwear, his  
white skin a mocking reminder of his foreignness.

The young braves, led by Two Bears, taunt him. Two Bears  
lifts the computer overhead; the spoils of victory.

Taking this as a cue, another brave takes Danny's basketball  
shoes and dons them; still another hoists his shirt overhead.

Danny fights back the tears; he's never been so humiliated.

The brave with Danny's shirt swings it in his captive's face.

The CHIEF appears with his entourage. His curiosity is piqued  
by the object around Danny's neck.

He leans in for a closer look and jerks the amulet free. He  
can't believe his eyes.

## CHIEF

Stop!

The group quiets.

The SHAMAN enters, dressed in eccentric garb--as if he is  
too old and senile to know it.

The Chief holds out the amulet for inspection.

## CHIEF (CONT'D)

How do you account for this?

The Shaman is shocked to see the amulet. He touches his own  
neck and is confounded when he finds it missing.

He steps toward Danny and interrogates the boy with a look.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

How does a white boy come to have  
the sacred charm?

Ignoring the Chief, the Shaman continues to lock Danny's gaze as he reaches out toward him.

The moment his fingertips graze Danny's face, his head rears back in a brief convulsion.

FLASH CUTS:

MUSIC and FX from the preceding SERIES OF SHOTS.

After a moment, the Shaman regains control.

SHAMAN

A white boy? It cannot be.

Danny finds his tongue. He also experienced the vision.

DANNY

Who are you?

CHIEF

This is the work of Coyote! He uses  
the body of this white boy to fool  
us!

This inspires the braves to a frenzy again.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

Coyote desecrates our fathers' graves  
and uses the Shaman's magic against  
us! He will die as the sun rises!

This brings a roar of pleasure from the crowd.

Several braves begin to dance.

One mimes Danny's death before him.

Danny didn't understand the Chief's words, but got their meaning all right. He appeals to the Shaman, who at least appears to be rational.

DANNY

This is all a mistake! Where's that  
old guy?

The Shaman raises his hands over his head and pleads to the men and boys as they prepare to kill Danny.

SHAMAN

Coyote does not know my magic! You  
don't know what you do!

The zeal of the young makes them deaf to the wisdom of the old. The louder he speaks, the more violently they incite hatred for Danny.

The Chief holds up the amulet.

CHIEF

Coyote dishonors our fathers.  
He must atone!

Danny stares at the amulet.

He isn't getting any of this--but he knows he's in big trouble.

DANNY

Hey, that thing isn't mine! This old  
guy gave it to me. His name was...  
(to himself)  
What was his name? Think! What was  
his name?

CHIEF

Two Bears, prepare the circle for  
the ceremony.

Other Indians have joined the revelry now, including several women and young children.

Among them is an enchanting young girl, LITTLE DOVE. Her dark eyes take Danny's breath away as she approaches.

In the face of all this terror, he is mesmerized by her beauty. She alone speaks to Danny in broken, halting English.

LITTLE DOVE

Speak.

DANNY

An old man named Two Bears gave that  
thing to me! And then he disappeared!

Little Dove gives the Shaman a questioning look.

He meets her gaze momentarily, then looks at Danny. Things are beginning to fall into place.

The Chief approaches the girl.

CHIEF

What does Coyote say?

LITTLE DOVE

He says Two Bears gave him the sacred  
charm.

The crowd quiets. Two Bears rushes forward angrily.

TWO BEARS

He lies!

SHAMAN

It was not the Two Bears standing before us now. It was Two Bears as ancient spirit.

CHIEF

Your tongue twists!

SHAMAN

It is the Ancient Dream.

The Chief is unconvinced.

The crowd, upon invocation of the Ancient Dream, pulls back.

LITTLE DOVE

(to Danny)

Say it again, for all to hear.

DANNY

I said, an old man, Two Bears, gave me that thing and left.

A lingering moment of gratitude exists between Danny and Little Dove.

Two Bears sees it and is inflamed. He draws his knife and steps forward menacingly.

TWO BEARS

He has dishonored our dead and now he lies about the living! He will taste my knife!

The boy brandishes a huge knife, much to the Chief's delight.

CHIEF

Two Bears speaks true! Death is this liar's fortune!

A chorus of murmuring begins, but the Shaman, in an unusual show of strength, intercedes:

SHAMAN

If, as you say, this is Coyote, he cannot be destroyed easily! Only I have the medicine which will banish him properly.

TWO BEARS

If you will not, it falls to me to punish the desecrator of my grandfather's grave!

## SHAMAN

If you try to kill him without strong  
medicine, you bring his curse on  
yourself.

Two Bears winces at this grave announcement. He looks at the Chief, but only finds confusion on his leader's face.

Two Bears turns on his heel and stalks angrily away.

Again the crowd shuffles backward, carefully appraising Danny.

Even the Chief releases his grip on the boy's arm, unsure of the Shaman's argument.

The Shaman, aware that he has come dangerously near to disagreeing with the Chief in public, lowers his gaze and departs.

The crowd takes this as a signal and puts distance between themselves and the dangerous Coyote.

The Chief watches the Shaman go, doubt still lingering on his face.

After a long moment, he shoots Danny a withering look as he walks past him, followed by his entourage.

Relief settles over Danny's face as he turns to Little Dove:

## DANNY

Uh, thanks...

But she has gone too.

He is left alone, still tied securely to the stakes, awaiting his fate--whatever that is.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. INDIAN CAMP - MIDNIGHT

MOVE through the camp, past fire embers and hogan rows.

Someone slips past, careful hidihng in each hogan's shadow.

The figure furtively approaches a hogan and hesitates.

INT. HOGAN - CONTINUOUS

The doorway flap is flung open, and Danny is startled from his sleep.

He is still tied up, his wrists uncomfortably bound to his ankles. The last remnants of a fire shed little light on the scene. Danny reacts, fearful for his life.

Little Dove enters. She sets his computer down and sits before him.

He relaxes with the sight of her welcome face.

LITTLE DOVE

Is it true? Are you Coyote?

DANNY

No, I'm just a kid. Danny.

LITTLE DOVE

I am called Little Dove.

DANNY

Where are we? When are we? What year is it?

LITTLE DOVE

I don't understand.

DANNY

I think I do.

THE WATCH

continues to flash 12:00 / 12:00 / 12:00.

DANNY

looks around. The truth of his predicament sinks in.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh no. No. It can't be.

(long beat)

Do you know where the old guy, Two Bears, is?

LITTLE DOVE

The Shaman says you are part of the Ancient Dream; that you come from the World of the Spirits. Is this true?

DANNY

Maybe it's me who has the brain tumor...

LITTLE DOVE

My mother died three moons ago and walks with the spirits now. Have you seen her?

DANNY

So did mine. Six months ago.

(beat; a plan)

Sure. I've seen her. She has a message for you.

LITTLE DOVE

Oh, please tell me!

DANNY

You must untie me first. It's disrespectful to treat someone from the "world of the spirits" this way.

Little Dove is unsure, but her excitement about hearing from her mother holds sway.

She cuts his feet loose first. She starts for his hands slowly, full of second thoughts.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Don't be scared. I won't hurt you. I think you're kind of... pretty.

He smiles, embarrassed. She cuts the cords binding his hands.

He rubs his wrists and leans forward.

DANNY (CONT'D)

She says: "Thanks a lot, sucker!"

He jumps up with the computer.

LITTLE DOVE

You are Coyote! Trickster!

She reaches out to grab him, but Danny evades her grasp.

He ducks down and clears the opening, but is backed inside by Two Bears, brandishing a knife.

The brave heard it all.

TWO BEARS

Coyote's cunning tongue has told its last lie. I will cut it out and serve it to the dogs!

Danny thinks quickly as he backs away from the huge knife.

DANNY

No mortal can match my magic!

He quickly opens the computer, turning it on.

A white light illuminates his face. It BEEPS as it boots up.

Two Bears wavers, unsure of the power of this "weapon."

He regains himself and swoops Little Dove behind him.

Danny quickly boots up "Nuke Master," and turns the laptop towards Two Bears, who takes an involuntary step backwards.

The computer screen shows the cackling visage of the Nuke Master, laughing as atomic EXPLOSIONS detonate behind him.

This is something new for Bears, who draws back. He looks sideways at Little Dove, who cowers behind him.

He lunges for Danny, his knife slicing through the air.

Danny uses the computer as a shield, deflecting the blow.

Two Bears regroup, adrenaline pulsing. He charges again, nicking Danny's forearm.

Danny blindly hurls the computer at Two Bears, accidentally clubbing the knife free.

Two Bears throws himself at Danny, knocking him to the ground.

Even though he's Danny's age, his fighting skills are much advanced. He quickly overpowers Danny and pulls his head back by his hair. He searches for the knife.

Little Dove holds the knife high, preparing to drive it home.

LITTLE DOVE

Liar!

Just as she is about to let the blade drop, the Shaman appears, knocks the blade from her hand.

He disengages the boys, liberating Danny from Two Bears' grip.

SHAMAN

You imperil the tribe!

TWO BEARS

Coyote has deceived even you, the wisest.

SHAMAN

This is not Coyote.

He picks up the computer, which is still running the program.

He holds it out toward Two Bears, who backs off.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

This is not Coyote's magic. Touch him. Feel his power yourself.

Two Bears gingerly reaches out and grabs Danny's forearm.

TWO BEARS

I feel nothing. He is Coyote--hiding  
in this... skin!

SHAMAN

I have felt his power. He is from  
beyond this world.

TWO BEARS

Then my knife shall send him back!  
We will see who has power!

SHAMAN

The hate in your heart blinds you to  
the truth.

(to Danny, in English)

Your path begins with your own people.  
You must go to them.

DANNY

You're letting me go?

SHAMAN

You must leave before you can return.

Two Bears is beside himself with anger.

In one smooth motion, he grabs the knife and lunges at Danny.

TWO BEARS

He dies!

Two Bears makes his move, but the old deflects the charge.

Two Bears finds himself on his back, the Shaman's foot on  
his neck, the knife safely out of reach on the ground.

SHAMAN

He is the Chosen One. He will bring  
peace to our people.

(looks heavenward)

Why he couldn't be a human, I don't  
know. But I do know he can't help us  
until he learns the ways of Earth  
Mother and Father Sky.

The Shaman shakes his head at Danny, who gathers up his  
clothes and computer, oblivious to this exchange. He doesn't  
look like a hero.

Danny meets Two Bears' gaze. A conduit of hate connects them.

The Shaman's countenance clears; hope gleams in his eyes.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

Two Bears, you will teach him.

The brave looks at the Shaman in disbelief.

TWO BEARS

Teaching him our ways would dishonor me. He is not human! I am a warrior. The Chief himself is initiating me!

SHAMAN

That is why you must go.

TWO BEARS

I won't!

SHAMAN

In matters of the spirit, my word is law.

TWO BEARS

It is shameful!

SHAMAN

Your hatred is shameful--and childish.

The Shaman turns away in disgust.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

You will never be a man.

This has a tremendous impact on Two Bears, but he is not easily defeated.

With the Shaman's back turned, he picks up his knife and starts toward Danny, the blade shimmering in the fire light.

Danny bravely stands his ground.

Two Bears comes nose to nose with him, the knife held chest-high.

After a long moment, he sheaths it and storms out of the tent, followed by Little Dove.

Danny shakes with fear as the Shaman turns and surveys him.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDIAN CAMP/HORSE CORRAL - PREDAWN

Two Bears angrily looses a pinto. He gracefully slips on and nods for Danny to do the same with a smaller horse nearby.

Danny fumbles with the rope, spooking the horse, who backs away with a WHINNY.

Two Bears holds his finger to his lips.

Danny finally manages to get on his horse. It is painfully obvious this is the first time he's ever ridden.

Two Bears turns his mount around and quietly urges it away from the camp.

Danny follows this example, trying hard to keep up the face of an experienced rider. Surprisingly, it works. Nothing to it.

Smiling with his success, he inadvertently heels the ribs of his pony, and it promptly responds with a full gallop.

He holds onto the mane for dear life.

The pounding thunder of hooves, the wind blasting his face, and the snorting horseflesh overcome him.

He hangs on in fearful paralysis, but the jarring gait finally unseats him.

He hits the ground hard, and his mount never looks back.

Two Bears catches up, checking Danny's condition. Seeing that Danny is unhurt, he delivers the ultimate epithet:

TWO BEARS

Child!

(NOTE: From here on, Two Bears speaks to Danny in broken English.)

Two Bears turns around and faces the camp, his jaw set, his dark eyes glittering behind narrow slits. He thinks hard, then turns back.

Danny stands and shakes his head, dazed.

Two Bears rides over and offers his hand, pulling Danny up.

Heavily weighted now, the pinto trudges toward the horizon.

The two reluctant traveling companions are small against the dawn sky.

EXT. OVERLOOKING BOLTON RANCH - SUNRISE

Two Bears reigns his mount and slips to the ground. He motions for Danny to do the same.

Danny is nonplussed, but joins him.

His eyes track the ranch below for signs of life.

TWO BEARS

I have brought you to the home of  
another...

He spits angrily on the ground.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

... white man. When you complete  
your quest, I will see you at the  
Arch.

DANNY

Not if I see you first...

Danny starts down the grade, grateful to leave his Two Bears.

When he is out of sight, he stops, surveying the scene.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - ERDIX BOLTON,

(late 30s) steps out of his barn leading a two-horse team.  
His tanned, chiseled features speak eloquently of a hard but  
well-lived life. He is dressed in his Sunday best.

He backs the team to a wagon hitch.

TWO BEARS

watches the ranch below, waiting for signs of Danny's  
appearance. He is eager to rid himself of Danny and get back  
to the camp.

TWO BEARS' DISTANT P.O.V. - BOLTON

goes about the routine of hitching up his team to the wagon.

His two children play near him.

Still no sign of Danny.

SEVERAL BRAVES

loom up behind Two Bears. They quietly position themselves  
in a semi-circle behind him.

His concentration on the scene below prevents awareness of  
their presence.

BRAVE #1

What do you plot now, traitor?

Two Bears whirls around, his knife drawn reflexively.

The other braves quickly disarm him and wrestle him to the  
ground, holding him still as they interrogate him.

TWO BEARS  
I am no traitor!

DANNY

turns as he hears their voices.

He quietly scales the hill toward them, edging toward the clearing where the commotion is.

Keeping out of sight, he peers through the underbrush.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - THE BRAVES

have Two Bears pinned down, a knife at his throat.

BRAVE #2  
Where is Coyote?

Two Bears sets his jaw, silent.

The Braves look around for sign of Danny.

They load arrows into bows and brandish knives. They are on the hunt.

DANNY

gulps back his fear and fortifies himself to run.

TWO BEARS

makes a decision and answers:

TWO BEARS  
He is not here.

BRAVE #1  
You would lie to your own brothers?  
We rise this morning and he is gone.  
You are gone. And now we find you  
here--at the white man's ranch.

Two Bears stands, his back to the sheer cliff.

They tighten their circle around him, edging him toward the drop.

TWO BEARS  
I had no choice. He said he was the  
Chosen One.

BRAVE #2  
Who told you this? Coyote?

BRAVE #1  
Kill him. Kill the liar.

TWO BEARS

The Shaman told me.

BRAVE #3

No more lies! We will take you back to camp. There, the Chief will gut you with his own knife!

DANNY

watches the young men tie Two Bears' hands and place him on his horse.

They mount and move quickly OUT OF FRAME.

Danny turns, lets out a sigh of relief, and leans against the trunk of the tree he was hiding behind. A

fter a moment, he gets up and starts back down the hill toward Bolton's ranch.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOLTON RANCH - DAY

Erdix Bolton emerges from the crude barn, carrying a halter, which he places on one of the horses.

He turns as his daughter, ANGELINE (5) bursts from the door screaming, chased by her brother, NATHAN (10).

She angles toward Erdix and takes refuge behind him, effectively checking Nathan's pursuit.

ANGELINE

Daddy! Make him stop!

Bolton shoots Nathan a withering look.

NATHAN

Pa, can't I go with you?

Bolton is amused by all this, but he feigns a serious tone.

BOLTON

Nathan, you're in charge while I'm gone. And I don't want no reports of you being mean.

NATHAN

Let us go! We'll be good.

BOLTON

I got business to tend to, and can't be babysitting.

ANGELINE

But I get scared when you go.

BOLTON

I'll be back before dark.

Danny appears by the rear of the wagon, startling Angeline into a gasp.

Erdix instinctively draws and whirls around.

BOLTON (CONT'D)

Never creep up behind a body  
unannounced!

Danny stares down the bore of the gun, speechless.

Bolton, seeing that Danny is no threat, holsters his Colt.

BOLTON (CONT'D)

What are you doing way out here?

DANNY

I think I'm lost.

BOLTON

What's your name, boy?

DANNY

Danny Hamerling. But you wouldn't  
know--

Bolton stiffens. He rests his hand on his revolver handle.

BOLTON

Any relation to Jessop Hamerling?

Danny shrugs.

BOLTON (CONT'D)

I think you better git while I'm  
still just thinking about shooting  
you...

(long beat)

These kids ain't got no mama 'cause  
of that old snake. Poisoned my well  
and killed most of my herd.

DANNY

But I just got away from some  
Indians...

BOLTON

Get! You ain't welcome here.

He pulls his revolver and slowly raises it toward Danny.  
Danny backs away. He is near tears; at the end of his rope.

DANNY

Okay. Just point where the town is.

Bolton jerks his thumb over his shoulder toward the road.

BOLTON

That way.

Danny quickly clears the Bolton gates and start up the road.

Bolton looks over his shoulder as Danny trots toward the trail. He looks back to say his goodbyes.

Angeline's face shows shock at her father's behavior.

Bolton studies his little girl, then slaps Nathan on the back, boards his wagon and snaps his team's reins.

The wagon passes Danny with a cloud of dust, but stops a few feet farther on.

Bolton looks back angrily at Danny.

BOLTON (CONT'D)

Come on!

Danny's eyes light up. Someone has finally taken pity!

DANNY

Thanks, Mister.

BOLTON

Name's Bolton.

DANNY

As soon as we get to town, I'm out of your life. Forever.

BOLTON

Goes without saying.

Bolton turns to look at his two children.

Angeline waves at her father.

He returns his gaze to the road, scowling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDWOOD - LATER

Bolton stops his team in front of the general store. HOLD on a storefront as they pass.

A sign above the porch says "HAMERLING'S SALOON."

After a moment, MAE PERKINS (28), steps through the batwing doors and squints at the morning sun. She is beautiful, her dark hair framing a porcelain complexion. She looks in the direction of Bolton's passing buckboard and her eyes brighten.

Not wanting to be seen, she steps back inside the doors as Bolton brings his team to a stop on the other side of the street.

ANGLE ON BOLTON AND DANNY

BOLTON  
This here's Wildwood.

He points at the storefront.

BOLTON (CONT'D)  
That's Hamerling's place.

DANNY  
I don't know him.

BOLTON  
Then watch your back.

He walks off toward SUTTON'S MERCANTILE, a conspicuously ramshackle affair further down the street.

Danny jumps down and walks toward Hamerling's, dejected.

He stops in front of the swinging doors and looks back at Bolton again, just in time to see him enter the other store.

The doors swing open and Mae steps through, her attention also on Bolton's activities.

She bumps into Danny and drops her purse.

DANNY  
Sorry.

Danny stoops to pick up the purse, and the door abruptly flies open.

A tall, well-dressed man backs out, his attention still inside, hoisting a drink high and AD LIBBING a farewell.

He trips over Danny, stumbles backwards, hits the porch railing, and flops right over it--right into a horse trough.

Danny stands next to Mae, his hand limply holding her purse, his eyes big as baseballs.

JESSOP HAMERLING (52), the richest man in Wildwood and the undisputed king hereabouts, sits in water up to his neck in the filthy trough, the whiskey bottle still held firmly in one hand.

A horse goes back to drinking, right next to his head.

He angrily bats the animal away.

After a moment's hush, the people about start to laugh, little chuckles and chortles at first, then louder, until the whole street is busting up with delight.

Jessop, unaccustomed to being laughed at--especially to his face--pulls himself out of the trough.

He grabs Danny by the neck.

The crowd immediately hushes.

JESSOP

You whelp! Look what you done!

Danny goes mute with fear.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

Well? Speak up!

Danny manages a squeak, but nothing more.

Jessop looks around at the gathered crowd. He drags Danny out onto the street.

Two of Jessop's henchmen step up: SOUTHPAW, and MANUEL, a Mexican-Indian mulatto with long black hair and a terrible scar on his face.

Both men look like they just came back from hell and plan to return one day, they liked it so much.

Jessop shakes Danny like a rag. He barks at his men:

JESSOP (CONT'D)

Get my whip!

Southpaw and Manuel grin at each other. Neither moves, expecting the other to go fetch.

Jessop glares at them.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

My whip, dammit! Get it!

Manuel, clearly the low man on the totem pole, trots over to Jessop's horse and unhooks a wicked-looking leather whip with several foot-long thongs attached to the end.

He tosses it to Jessop, who plays it out.

Danny thinks fast, the words now flooding out:

DANNY

I think we're related! I'm...  
You're... I mean, I'm, we're?

JESSOP

You some kind of idiot? I may have  
to work extra hard to beat some sense  
into you!

Jessop laughs and draws back the whip.

Just then a GUNSHOT shears the whip off at the handle.

Jessop stares at the handle.

Southpaw and Manuel quickly draw their guns.

Bolton steps from the shadows across the street, smoke curling  
from the barrel of his pistol.

BOLTON

Why don't you try cracking that whip  
at a man, Hamerling?

Jessop wheels to face Bolton, the smile gone from his face.

JESSOP

Show me a man, Bolton, and I'll whip  
him bloody.

Southpaw and Manuel step into the street, joining Jessop.

The crowd makes for the boardwalk, leaving Bolton standing  
near Danny, facing Jessop and his men.

Danny is in the line of fire, too shaken to move.

Mae, sick with dread, looks from Bolton to Jessop.

After a moment, she runs into the street, placing herself  
between the men.

MAE

Jessop! Don't!

JESSOP

Mae, this ain't your affair. We got  
a score to settle. I wondered when  
you'd get some sand, boy.

Bolton grips his gun tighter, steeling himself.

BOLTON

Be burying you in it. Step aside,  
Mae.

Mae looks over her shoulder at Bolton, pleading with her eyes, but she stands her ground.

She looks back at Jessop, hate burning.

MAE

Don't do this!

JESSOP

Get her out of here!

Manuel and Southpaw grab Mae.

Bolton and Jessop both resume their tense battle of nerves.

Just then, SHERIFF CUTLER emerges from the crowd. He is Sheriff in name only--Hamerling is the real law in these parts. Cutler's gun remains in his holster, undrawn.

He approaches Jessop warily and speaks softly.

SHERIFF

You shoot him here and I got no choice. I'll have to lock you up, at least until the trial!

(sotto voce)

Another time!

Jessop eyes the Sheriff hard.

Seeing the truth of it, he slowly relaxes his grip on his gun.

He turns his attention back to Bolton.

JESSOP

I can let it go--this time.

SHERIFF

Erdix? How about you? You willing to drop this?

Bolton spits angrily on the ground, then shoves his revolver back in his holster.

He knows who the Sheriff works for.

BOLTON

I guess an ambush is more his style, anyway!

SHERIFF

All right, folks! Move on!

The crowd breaks up.

Bolton turns to Mae, who has extricated herself from Southpaw and Manuel and has joined Danny at the side of the street.

He walks over to her, keeping Jessop in sight.

As he nears her, they share a charged moment.

BOLTON

Now you're going to suffer.

MAE

What's got into you? And who is this boy?

She looks at Danny, who is still overwhelmed with his brush with death.

Near his store, Jessop stands, watching.

Bolton turns to Danny, jerking a thumb toward Jessop, who is out of earshot.

BOLTON

Danny here claims he's a Hamerling, so I guess he's your responsibility.

He turns and walks angrily away.

Jessop approaches Mae and Danny.

Mae whirls and presents the boy to Hamerling.

MAE

This boy claims to be your kin.

JESSOP

Is that right?

DANNY

I think you're my grandfather, ah, my great-grandfather.

Jessop peers closely at Danny.

He places his hand on Danny's forehead. He can barely contain his laughter.

JESSOP

I ain't never had a wife, let alone a child. So tell me: how could I be a great-grandpa?

DANNY

Look! I can prove it!

He opens the computer. It BEEPS to life.

Manuel and Southpaw saunter over, sharing a bottle.

Jessop cuts short his laughter. This is something new.

JESSOP

What you got there, boy? I ain't never seen nothing like it.

DANNY

It's a computer. They haven't been invented yet.

JESSOP

Is that right? So this very thing we can all see plain as day ain't been invented yet.

DANNY

It's from the future... I'm from the future. Look!

Manuel and Southpaw join Jessop in the laughter.

Even Mae is amused.

But their laughter stops as Danny calls up this file:

THE COMPUTER SCREEN

shows the file accessed:

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Total Assets: (as of 12/31/06):

Union Pacific Railroad . . . . .	\$ 1,500,000.00
Mining Operations: Spirit Creek, UT . . .	24,750,000.00
Real Estate: Wildwood Ranch . . . . .	4,350,000.00
Antique Car Collection . . . . .	890,000.00
Livestock: Cattle and Sheep Operation . .	5,250,000.00
TV and Radio: Wildwood Communications . .	3,125,000.00

The list goes on and on...

BACK TO SCENE

Jessop stabs at bottom line of \$500 million with his finger.

JESSOP

This in American dollars? Or is this Chinese?

The others roar at this. Hamerling is having a good time.

DANNY

The Hamerling fortune is worth half a billion dollars! And it all began with you!

JESSOP

Fortune, huh? I like the sound of that. And you say I made all this money?

DANNY

I think you discovered a gold mine or something.

JESSOP

Course I did! Now you just show me where...

He leans in, laughing.

Danny slams the computer lid closed.

For an instant, Jessop's eyes fill with murder, but then he recovers his silky manner.

DANNY

First you gotta help me.

JESSOP

I'll help you. Mae, take, uh...

DANNY

Danny. Danny Hamerling.

JESSOP

Yes! Danny Hamerling. Take Danny over to Sutton's and get him some duds. I'll be along in a minute.

(beat)

I reckon a little hospitality ain't too much trouble...for kin.

He shoos Mae and Danny toward the store.

Danny walks with her, perplexed.

Jessop remains with his men, smiling, plotting:

JESSOP (CONT'D)

Now I know you boys might think I'm loco, but I never miss a bet--maybe I done found the goose that lays the golden egg.

He starts down the street after Danny and Mae.

Manuel and Southpaw take turns pulling on the bottle, grinning.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT/INT. SUTTON'S MERCANTILE - LATER

Bolton emerges from the store with a sack of flour over his shoulder. He drops it into the wagon and returns inside.

He reaches for another load of dry goods, but a hand is placed on his arm.

JONAS SUTTON, 60, proprietor, has a paper in his hand.

SUTTON

Erdix, I can't let you have any more credit. You're almost a hundred dollars over your limit.

BOLTON

Jonas, I always pay my bills!

SUTTON

Then you can start now.

BOLTON

You know what's going on! Old Jessop, that son of a...

Sutton's attention moves to the door as Jessop, Mae, and Danny enter the store.

Bolton looks and frowns.

Sutton looks at Bolton, a strange resolve in his eyes:

SUTTON

You can keep what you already took out, but I can't let any more go--

JESSOP

Still supporting charity, Jonas?

He produces a wad of bills and gestures at Mae and Danny.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

I want you to set up Danny here with some togs.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUTTON'S MERCANTILE - CONTINUOUS

Manuel and Southpaw approach Bolton's wagon, examining its contents. They look around for prying eyes.

Southpaw walks to the wheel and slams all his weight on the hub, loosening it.

Manuel produces a knife, lifts up one of the flour sacks and slices the underside. A little trickle of flour leaks out.

They grin at each other and continue on.

INT. SUTTON'S MERCANTILE - CONTINUOUS

Jessop continues with his show of wealth.

JESSOP

And let the little lady have anything she wants.

Mae looks from Jessop to Bolton, embarrassed.

She turns away, avoiding Bolton's icy stare.

MAE

I don't want anything.

JESSOP

Yes, you do--today you want a new dress.

BOLTON

(to Danny)

Your price comes pretty low, doesn't it?

DANNY

You were gonna shoot me.

BOLTON

If I did, at least it wouldn't be in the back.

Jessop approaches and puts his arm around Danny.

JESSOP

Speakin' of backs, you'd best be watching yours, Bolton.

He laughs.

Bolton heads for the door, stopping to speak to Mae, who is examining a bolt of ticking.

BOLTON

Sold for a piece of calico.

With that, he is out the door.

Mae looks at the material as the weight of the words sink toward her heart.

EXT. SUTTON'S MERCANTILE - MOMENTS LATER

Bolton urges his horses to life. The wagon jerks away. Flour spills from the bed onto the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDIAN CAMP - DAY

Two stands before his people, surrounded by angry tribesmen.

The Chief and the Shaman enter the circle.

The Chief holds up his hand and silences the noisy crowd.

CHIEF

You are accused of conspiring with  
Coyote. Is this true?

Two Bears looks intently at the Shaman, but says nothing.

SHAMAN

I sent Two Bears to aid the Chosen  
One in his quest--to fulfill the  
Ancient Dream.

CHIEF

Your foolish visions cannot save  
your son if he is guilty.

(to Two Bears)

What have you to say? Have you  
betrayed your people?

TWO BEARS

It is my people who betray me! I did  
no wrong--I obeyed my father, that  
is all!

SHAMAN

For a hundred years, the Shaman have  
dreamed! We have waited for the Chosen  
One. And he has finally come, but in  
a form we expected not--a white boy!

The crowd shouts its disapproval of this definition of the  
"Chosen One."

With great effort, the Shaman quiets them.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

He is not one of us, and so he needs  
our help on his quest!

He must learn the ways of Mother Earth and Father Sky!

He points at Two Bears.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

And you are to only one who can teach  
him. You are the bright warrior. You  
are brave when others cower. You are  
swift, strong, and proud. But you  
are nothing if you do not serve the  
Chosen One. Only then do you serve  
your people.

TRIBESMAN #1

Serve a white man? Slavery!

TRIBESMAN #2

Can a white boy be the Chosen One?

Two Bears ignores the murmur that has arisen.

He turns slowly toward the Shaman, humility in his eyes. He  
is truly confused.

TWO BEARS

You ask much of me. You are old,  
weak, and visionary. Why should I  
believe you more than these?

CHIEF

He asks too much of us all! We have  
seen Coyote's power! He deceives our  
Shaman! He has made a great warrior  
weak!

SHAMAN

(to Two Bears)

You must walk with the spirits. They  
will tell you.

Two Bears closes his eyes, fiercely struggling with the  
opposing forces tugging at him.

Little Dove pushes through the crowd for a better look.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

Your heart will not lie.

CHIEF

Silence, old man! We have heard  
enough! You are in peril also!

Two Bears looks up and sees Little Dove at the front of the throng.

Her beauty in the golden sunset gives him courage.

TWO BEARS

I honor my father's wishes.

The assembly goes berserk.

The Chief calls for order.

Little Dove smiles broadly at Two Bears' courage.

He smiles back weakly.

The Chief is saddened by Two Bears' choice.

CHIEF

Because you have harkened to the voice of Coyote, you will be shunned. From this day forth, whoever speaks to you shall have his tongue cut out. And whoever helps you shall lose his hand.

The Chief pulls his buffalo robe around him and turns his back on Two Bears.

The rest of the assembly do likewise.

Only the Shaman and Little Dove remain facing Two Bears.

The Shaman looks fondly at his son.

After a long moment while they both fight back tears, the Shaman turns to Little Dove and speaks words meant for Two Bears:

SHAMAN

To accomplish great things, a man must take great risks. He may suffer in life, but he will conquer death. So says the Ancient Dream.

Little Dove looks at the Shaman, wondering.

He smiles at her and shoos her away. She sadly walks away.

The Shaman steps in front of Two Bears, keeping his back to him.

He takes the amulet from around his neck and sets it on a rock.

He looks upward and raises his hands overhead.

## SHAMAN (CONT'D)

Mother Earth and Father Sky: the circle closes. The Chosen One awaits. Give my son the strength and the wisdom to serve him well.

He exits.

Two Bears walks to the rock and picks up the amulet. He turns it over in his hands.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HAMERLING MANSION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The building is a choice example of Victorian architecture.

INT. PANTRY - CONTINUOUS

Danny relishes a hot bath. The computer is on a chair with his clothes.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny tries on his new clothes. He checks himself out in the full-length mirror. He is pleased with what he sees: authentic gear, replete with chaps, boots, bandanna, and hat.

The computer is on the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Danny eats alone, served by an attractive young woman. She flirts coyly.

He clearly savors her company as much as the meal he devours.

The computer is on the table next him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Danny relaxes on the divan in the living room.

He snaps to his feet when Jessop enters.

Jessop eyes the boy.

JESSOP

You like your duds?

DANNY

They're kinda funky, but if everyone else is wearing 'em...

JESSOP

And dinner--was it acceptable?

DANNY

Yeah. Sure.

JESSOP

And Lucinda? You like her?

DANNY

Sure, she's okay.

JESSOP

Well, you just go ahead and do what you like, son. Nothin's too good for family, you know! Now, about this machine of yours. Show me how it works.

Danny looks up at Jessop. There is doubt on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIL - AFTERNOON

A wagon wheel lies in the dirt, the hub next to it.

MOVE BACK to reveal the wagon, one side of the back axle resting on the ground.

Bolton is holding aloft a nearly empty flour sack.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessop pores over the information on the computer screen.

INSERT - THE COMPUTER SCREEN

reads: SPIRIT CREEK MINE.

It is a list, delineating the amounts of precious ore taken out of the mine.

DANNY (O.S.)

This shows the return on the Spirit Creek mine. But here's what's cool! This program then takes all those entries and graphs them.

He punches another button.

A graph appears, with steadily rising bars representing a healthy, producing mine.

BACK TO SCENE

JESSOP

Are you tellin' me that since nineteen-  
forty-eight they hauled a hundred  
million dollars out of that mine?  
Just sittin' up there in the  
mountains?

(long beat)

And you know where it is.

DANNY

I've never been there, because back  
in my time, the Indians sabotaged  
it, so Grandpa had to shut it down.  
It was sacred land for the Indians.

JESSOP

You mean you're still havin' trouble  
with them red devils?

DANNY

They have rights too, I guess.

JESSOP

Rights? Injuns?

DANNY

They say the land belongs to them.

JESSOP

You just said it belongs to me! Now,  
make that thing draw a map to that  
mine!

DANNY

I can't.

Danny slams the lid shut.

Jessop jumps to his feet.

JESSOP

Dammit, boy! You've got a full belly  
and you don't smell like you been  
sleeping in a horse stall anymore! I  
put up with your nonsense about being  
related and all this future crap!  
Now it's my turn to be on the  
receiving end!

DANNY

I can't. We could, ah, change history or something!

JESSOP

That's the whole point! What difference does it make? It ain't history yet, is it?

(beat)

Southpaw! Come on in here.

Southpaw enters.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

Tie him up.

Jessop snatches the computer from Danny's grip as Southpaw roughly pushes him to the parlor.

Jessop opens the computer.

The prompt blinks on the screen, but Jessop has no idea what to do. He pokes the keys, but only gets:

BAD COMMAND OR FILE NAME

The prompt reappears.

He tries again. Same response.

Finally, a RED LIGHT comes on and the following words appear:

BATTERY LOW - CHARGE ME

Jessop gets to his feet, tucks the computer under his arm and stalks out of the room.

INT. PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Hamerling storms into the room, opening the computer for Danny to see.

Danny is tied to a chair, his hands behind him.

Southpaw stands off to one side, stupidly amused by this.

JESSOP

It needs power. Give it some.

Danny looks around. The room is lit by oil lamps.

DANNY

You don't have electricity. In the morning we can charge it with the solar panels.

Jessop is confused.

DANNY (CONT'D)

The sun! It gets power from the sun!  
It'll work tomorrow!

JESSOP

It better! Because if you're lying  
to me, boy, you're gonna be in a  
world of hurt.

Jessop slams the computer shut.

He nods to Southpaw and they exit.

JESSOP (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I need a drink!

The door slams.

Danny struggles to free himself, but Southpaw tied him well.

He continues straining at the ropes, but only succeeds in  
tipping the chair over.

Defeated, he looks to the ceiling.

DANNY

How did I get into this?

He looks up at the computer resting on the table.

It is just an impassive chunk of tan plastic.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Old Two Bears was right. That thing  
is worthless.

(beat)

I WANNA GO HOME! LEMME GO!

Unable to get free, he falls back, emotionally drained.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Two Bears crouches at the window behind Danny, watching the  
temper tantrum. He shakes his head.

Danny struggles to regain his composure. He talks to himself,  
reasoning to an answer.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Okay. Just give him what he wants  
and don't worry about it. Why should  
I care? I'm just a kid!

(resolved)

Hey! Grandpa Jessop!

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)  
 (he hears nothing)  
 I changed my mind! I'll give you  
 anything you want!

TWO BEARS

hops nimbly through the window and walks over to Danny,  
 entering Danny's field of vision.

TWO BEARS  
Anything?

DANNY  
 What do you want?

TWO BEARS  
 I am sent to help you. Do you need  
 help?

DANNY  
 What do you think? Jerk.

TWO BEARS  
 You move fast, Chosen One. In just a  
 few hours you are taken prisoner,  
 and you promise everything to your  
 captor. And you smell terrible! Have  
 you no shame?

DANNY  
 Shut up! And my name's Danny.

TWO BEARS  
 Danny, do you want my help?

DANNY  
 Yes, I do! Untie me! Get me back to  
 the Arch! I want to go home! Please!  
 Please!

Two Bears give Danny a look of disdain, then cuts the ropes.

He jumps to his feet, scoops up the computer and heads for  
 the door.

Two Bears grabs him and shows him the window.

EXT. WILDWOOD ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Danny is close on Two Bears' heels as they crouch in shadows,  
 stealing their way down a deserted alley.

They round a corner and retreat when a man steps out of a  
 door. It's the Sheriff.

A lady of the evening leans in the doorway and bids him farewell. He turns to say one last thing to her.

In their haste to leave, Danny trips over a bucket by a rain barrel.

The Sheriff turns and, drawing his gun, heads for the sound.

The boys scrunch down beside the barrel.

The Sheriff steps up next to the rain barrel, his eyes searching the darkness. His foot is mere inches from Two Bears' hand.

He listens for a long moment, then turns away.

Just then, two shadowy figures appear on the street, facing the alley.

The Sheriff steps into shadow, his hand tightening around his gun butt. Voices are heard:

VOICE #1

I'm telling you, he's here.

VOICE #2

We got to talk to him before anyone else does.

The figures step into the alley. It's Jessop and Southpaw.

The Sheriff heaves a sigh of relief and steps into the light.

JESSOP

What you doing hiding in the shadows there, Bill?

SHERIFF

Heard a noise, that's all. What's going on?

Jessop places an arm around Cutler's shoulders, friendly like.

Cutler is not deceived.

JESSOP

Well, now, Sheriff...

This brings a snicker from Southpaw.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

I just wanted to let you know that there's a good chance that Indians are gonna burn out old Bolton tonight, and if they do, you just sit tight until morning.

SHERIFF  
What about his kids?

Jessop smiles at Southpaw.

Both men shrug their shoulders.

JESSOP  
Nits make lice!

He turns on his heel and walks away, followed by.

The Sheriff watches them leave, then turns and walks past the rain barrel.

He continues down the alley and turns the corner.

The boys look at each other in dismay.

DANNY  
Are Indians really gonna attack Mr.  
Bolton?

TWO BEARS  
How can you be the Chosen One and  
still be so stupid?

He takes off down the alley, Danny trailing behind him.

DANNY  
What did I say?

INT. LIVERY STABLE - LATER

Two Bears and Danny enter the stable and quietly open a stall.

A horse emerges, led by Two Bears. He signals Danny to get on.

Once Danny struggles aboard, Two Bears straddles the mount behind him and directs them out of the stable.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIL - LATER

Two Bears and Danny ride quickly along the road. The moon illuminates with blue light.

DANNY  
Are you sure we're going in the right  
direction?

TWO BEARS  
That is up to you.

DANNY

I want to go home. Let's go to the Arch.

TWO BEARS

What about your friend? The man who brought you to town?

DANNY

He's not my friend.

TWO BEARS

They will burn his ranch tonight. They will kill him and his family.

DANNY

What do you want me to do about it? In case you didn't know, we're just a couple of kids!

Two Bears stares stonily ahead, ignoring Danny's excuses.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Besides, if anybody could help stop them, the Sheriff would, but he's in on it, too!

TWO BEARS

So, because we are young, we do nothing?

DANNY

Yah! Let's get out of here before they come after us!

Two Bears cocks his head to one side.

In the distance, the THUNDER of hooves can be heard.

Unaware, Danny keeps making his case:

DANNY (CONT'D)

I mean, I gotta look out for number one.

TWO BEARS

QUIET!

The HOOFBEATS draw closer.

Finally, Danny hears them coming. Alarmed, he goads the horse forward.

It rears suddenly, nearly spilling the boys onto the ground.

Two Bears struggles to gain control and just manages to rein him in in time to direct them behind an outcrop.

They slip off the horse and duck behind the rocks.

Two Bears calms the horse, which is now responding to the passing stampede.

SIX OR EIGHT MARAUDERS

fly down the trail, dressed as Indians: shirtless, covered with brightly colored war paint and feathers.

They press their lathered mounts faster, passing quickly. The THUNDER subsides.

Danny looks at Two Bears.

DANNY

Who was that?

TWO BEARS

White men, dressed as Indians. Your friend lives down this road.

DANNY

What do we do?

TWO BEARS

You must decide.

Danny thinks hard for a long moment.

DANNY

Which way is the Arch?

Two Bears points behind them.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You mean we've been headed to Bolton's all along?

Two Bears nods.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Can we get there in time?

TWO BEARS

We can try.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIL - LATER

The horse carrying the boys flies overland.

They turn off the road. Two Bears reins up.

They focus on the horizon. A red glow illuminates the sky.

Far off, GUNSHOTS sound. Two Bears goads the mount forward.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOLTON RANCH - MOMENTS LATER

Danny and Two Bears rein to a halt and jump off. The house is engulfed in flames. Bolton's horses lie dead in the shattered corral.

Bolton lies in the yard, blood oozing from his brow.

Danny walks INTO FRAME, his face ashen. He bends to look at Bolton.

Two Bears stoops down and picks up a tattered child's doll.

He walks over to Danny, who stands, silhouetted against the raging flames, helplessly watching as the house is consumed.

Roof timbers fall into the inferno, showering the dooryard with sparks.

Bolton moans, moving. His eyes slowly open, focusing on Danny.

BOLTON

What?

BOLTON'S P.O.V. - RACK FOCUS PAST DANNY - TWO BEARS

stands behind Danny, the doll held limply in his hands.

Bolton gets to his feet as fast as his injuries will allow.

Two Bears moves back.

Bolton scans for his gun but it's nowhere to be found.

He goes after Two Bears bare-handed.

BOLTON (CONT'D)

DIRTY RED DEVIL!

Two Bears easily sidesteps as Bolton crashes to the ground.

He gets to his knees, holding the doll before him: a symbol of the carnage.

DANNY

It isn't what you think!

BOLTON

Murderers!

He attacks again, this time landing a blow on Two Bears' chest, who quickly assumes a fighting stance--his dignity requires that he return the attack.

Danny lunges between them.

DANNY  
STOP! BOTH OF YOU!

BOLTON  
They killed my children!

Two Bears understands Bolton's anger and relaxes.

TWO BEARS  
Indians did not do this.

BOLTON  
I saw them! Had war paint on! Snuck up on me. Barely had time to turn around.

DANNY  
They passed us on the way--they're Hamerling's men!

Bolton spots his gun and seizes it. He points it at the boys.

He is sick with grief, his reasoning faulty.

BOLTON  
Somebody's gotta pay for this.

He cocks the pistol.

Danny and Two Bears stand, frozen.

Just then a faint muffled VOICE is heard, followed by another.

TWO BEARS  
Listen!

BOLTON  
I don't hear nothin'!

DANNY  
Look!

Danny points beyond Bolton, near the barn, where a corn crib door cracks slightly.

A timber has fallen across it. Again, a voice:

ANGELINE  
Daddy!

Bolton runs to the crib, pushes the timber to one side and throws the door open.

Nathan and Angeline emerge.

He hugs both children to him, their tears mingling with his.

NATHAN

We heard 'em and hid, Pa!

Danny and Two Bears shuffle their feet.

DANNY

Come on, let's go.

BOLTON

Hold it right there.

The boys stop in their tracks.

Bolton has his gun and is looking at them closely.

His son steps forward.

NATHAN

Who's the Indian, Pa?

Bolton gives this some thought. He looks hard at Two Bears.

Then he turns to Nathan and holsters his gun.

BOLTON

Nobody. He was just leaving.

He turns his back on the boys.

Taking this as a sign, Two Bears and Danny scramble for the horse, and ride off quickly into the night.

As they disappear, Angeline tugs on her Daddy's shirt.

ANGELINE

Daddy, what's this?

She holds up a wheel from a spur.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HAMERLING'S SALOON - NIGHT

Jessop throws open the doors. Mae is on his arm.

JESSOP

Night's young! We still got time...

He leers at her. She is plainly repulsed.

MAE

You've had too much to drink.

Southpaw charges down the street and intercepts them.

SOUTHPAW

Jessop! He's gone! And he took that...  
thing with him!

Jessop tears his arm loose from Mae and runs down the street with Southpaw.

Mae looks after him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARLOR - LATER

Jessop bursts into the room. The chair Danny was tied to lies on its side, the ropes cut neatly.

Behind, a breeze flutters the window drapes.

Just then, Manuel bursts into the room.

Remnants of grease paint smear his face, smiling broadly.

MANUEL

We did it!

JESSOP

You kill Bolton?

MANUEL

Laid his skull right open! Burned  
his place to the ground! What's wrong?

SOUTHPAW

The kid got away.

JESSOP

Saddle my grey.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HAMERLING MANSION - NIGHT

Three men WIPE THE FRAME and charge the road leading from the ranch, the SOUND of hooves ECHOING.

Mae steps INTO FRAME, watching Jessop and his men recede into the darkness.

She is also dressed to ride.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

Two Bears walks, leading the horse upon which Danny rides. He is hunched over, sound asleep.

Two Bears stops and turns.

TWO BEARS  
Wake! It's your turn to walk.

Two Bears nudges him, trying to wake him. He lifts Danny's foot and pushes him overboard.

Danny falls n a heap, but springs to his feet, ready to fight.

DANNY  
Hey!

TWO BEARS  
You were snoring.

DANNY  
What's the matter with you? You're supposed to serve me, not throw me off horses!

Danny cuffs Two Bears on the back of the head.

Two Bears turns on Danny, anger overcoming exhaustion. He spits out the words:

TWO BEARS  
I do not serve you! I serve Earth Mother and Father Sky! I only help you.

DANNY  
Whatever. You know what? You guys are losers! All of you!

Two Bears grips his knife haft tightly.

TWO BEARS  
I will serve you--to the vultures!

Danny picks up a good-sized branch, warding Two Bears off.

DANNY  
What do I have to lose? I'm never goin' home--I know it! But I'll take you out with me!

The boys circle, each looking for a sign of weakness. In the distance a lone coyote HOWLS at the moon.

Two Bears takes this as a sign. He lowers his knife, looking toward the inky darkness.

TWO BEARS

This serves no purpose. We will rest here.

DANNY

First smart thing you've said.

Danny drops the branch and plops down against an outcrop, glaring angrily at Two Bears, who turns to the horse.

By the time he finishes tending the horse, Danny is asleep.

Two Bears places the saddle blanket over Danny's legs.

TWO BEARS

He who fights with everyone and everything needs much rest.

He fingers the amulet around his neck, his face lifted to the stars.

He shakes his head sadly and sits down opposite Danny.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. BOLTON RANCH - DAWN - EVENING

Jessop and his two men ride into the yard to examine the smoldering remains.

EXT. OVERLOOKING BOLTON RANCH - CONTINUOUS

Bolton rains a spyglass. His two children are asleep beside him.

BOLTON'S TELESCOPIC P.O.V. - MANUEL

dismounts, his gun drawn. He kicks aside a smoldering timber and moves to where Bolton fell when he was shot.

He kneels down and touches a coagulating pool of blood.

He stands, gesturing to Jessop, who remains on his horse.

Jessop and Manuel look up suddenly.

SWISH PAN quickly to Southpaw, who kneels, examining a stretch of dooryard.

The other men join him as he gestures and points to the ground.

BOLTON

removes the spyglass from his eye.

BOLTON

The boys' tracks.

He places the glass to his eye once more.

BOLTON'S TELESCOPIC P.O.V. - JESSOP

takes his hat off and slaps Southpaw with it.

Southpaw rears and slugs Jessop in the face.

Jessop turns away, rubbing his jaw.

Southpaw starts toward him.

Jessop turns, draws his gun and BLAM!--drops Southpaw.

Manuel stands in frozen amazement.

Jessop kicks the dead man, barks something to Manuel, then jumps on his mount and spurs it down the path.

FOLLOW Manuel as he mounts his horse.

PAN DOWN to one boot with a unique silver spur.

The horse wheels and WE SEE the other boot.

The wheel is missing from the spur wishbone.

Manuel takes off after Jessop, who is already through the gate.

BOLTON

drops the spyglass and fishes around in his shirt pocket, withdrawing the spur wheel.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

CLOSE on Danny. A mocassined foot kicks Danny's side. He turns over.

Two Bears kicks him again.

This time Danny throws the saddle blanket off him angrily.

DANNY  
All right! I'm up!

TWO BEARS  
The sun is high.

Danny eyes Two Bears, who appears fresh and rested. Danny rubs his tired eyes.

Two Bears smiles: a first!

DANNY  
Is that a smile--or are you sick?

TWO BEARS  
It is our last day together. We are near the Arch.

He withdraws his knife.

Danny starts.

Two Bears turns and lopes off, laughing and signaling for Danny to follow.

DANNY  
Where are we going?

TWO BEARS  
I'm hungry!

Danny reluctantly gets up and trots after Two Bears.

DANNY  
Like there's a McDonald's around here.

Two Bears picks up the pace. It turns into a race.

Danny takes a shortcut.

Two Bears protests.

Two Bears angles up a hillside, cutting Danny off.

The boys disappear into the pines.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BRYCE CANYON OVERLOOK - LATER

An incredible vista unfolds before them. Thick pines blanket the mountains, interrupted only by pink and red sandstone cliffs. The sky is a deep blue beyond billowy white clouds.

Two Bears appears on the overlook, followed by Danny.  
Two Bears drops to his knees, chanting in a low voice.

DANNY  
What are you doing?

TWO BEARS  
Asking Mother Earth to send us food.

DANNY  
You mean she delivers?

Two Bears gets to his feet, pulling the amulet free.  
He hands it to Danny, who takes it reluctantly.

TWO BEARS  
With this, you will understand.

DANNY  
That thing got me into this mess. I  
don't want it.

He holds the amulet out, but Two Bears' attention is riveted on the distant horizon, where thick storm clouds gather in the distance.

It has grown noticeably darker. A lightning bolt BLASTS a far off cliff. The wind kicks up suddenly.

Two Bears lies on the ground in obeisance to the natural forces.

Danny looks from Two Bears to the coming storm.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
It's just a storm.

Danny turns toward the cliff, but stops, his mouth gaping.

On a ledge above him, a cougar is ready to pounce.

It GROWLS low, baring its sharp teeth.

Two Bears turns. He cannot get to Danny in time.

Danny fingers the amulet, his face gone white with fear.

Two Bears notices this.

TWO BEARS  
Coyote has come for the amulet! Throw  
it to me!

DANNY  
That's no coyote!

## TWO BEARS

The amulet!

Moving slowly, Danny gently tosses it back to Two Bears.

The cougar's eyes never leave the charm.

Now its attention is riveted on Two Bears.

## TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

Move away.

The storm is upon them now. The wind stirs dust into a blinding cloud.

Danny takes a step.

In an instant, the cat leaps over Danny to Two Bears, who holds the amulet in one hand, his long knife in the other.

They wrestle momentarily, then he drives the blade deep into the cat's chest.

It rolls off him.

The cougar vanishes but the blood on Two Bears' tunic remains.

In the distance, lightning crackles and THUNDER claps.

Two Bears holds the amulet high and lets out a mighty yell.

## TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

Father Sky! What is your will?

Suddenly, lightning stabs earthward, impaling Two Bears with a white-hot bolt.

BEGIN VISION:

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Circle images bombard us, accompanied by dissonant VOICES:

A) The amulet glows, its round face DISSOLVES into:

B) Astronaut's P.O.V. of earth.

C) Aerial P.O.V. of smokestacks, their round orifices belching noxious fumes.

D) Car tires turn on a highway.

E) Beer cans bob on a filthy lake, sending ripples outward in concentric circles.

F) A sewer pipe spills raw sewage into the polluted ocean.

G) Two Bears' sand painting, which DISSOLVES into:

H) Circular computer-generated images.

I) Dark clouds give way as we plunge down a tubular tunnel, the dissonant CHORUS at fever pitch.

BACK TO SCENE

Danny, knocked back from the force of the lightning bolt, regains consciousness. He gets up, his knees rubbery.

Two Bears lies motionless inside a blackened circle.

Danny rushes to the body and buries his face in the boy's chest, crying bitterly:

DANNY

It's my fault!

He straightens up and grabs the amulet from Two Bears' cold hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)

This is the cause of all this!

He prepares to throw the amulet over the cliff.

Suddenly, he freezes, his eyes glazing over.

He crumbles to the ground, the amulet held tightly in his hand.

THE VISION CONTINUES:

INT. STONE CHAMBER - NIGHT

A Woman lies on a crude wooden bed in a room lit only by candles. Faces are shrouded in the low light.

The Woman is in labor, screaming with agony. Footsteps coming down the hall ECHO a counterpoint to her labored breathing.

The MIDWIFE wrings a wet towel.

Another wretched scream from the Woman precedes the gentle cry of the newborn child.

A MAN enters boldly. Shadows hide his face.

He grabs the crying child from the Midwife.

After a moment, he thrusts it back to her.

She wraps it tenderly, and WE SEE that it is a girl.

The Man is visibly upset. He turns his back.

The Woman's body stiffens, her hand clutching the Man's sleeve.

Then she dies, her face turning into the light, her features visible for the first time. It is Mae.

The Man steps toward the Midwife.

She cowers with the child.

The light catches his horrible visage: It is Jessop Hamerling.

He grabs the child from the protesting Midwife.

Suddenly, the door bursts open.

An INTRUDER rushes in, wrenching the bundle from Jessop.

He sees Mae on the table and tenderly touches her face.

Suddenly, Jessop lunges at the Intruder, plunging a knife into his back.

He staggers, gently placing the child on the Woman's chest, and falls to the ground, his face illuminated by candle-light.

It is Bolton.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. BRYCE CANYON OVERLOOK - DAY

The boys lie within the blackened circle as if dead. Danny's hand still grasps the amulet.

Two Bears wakens.

Danny groggily comes around. He stares in disbelief at Two Bears.

TWO BEARS

The Ancient Dream! A man who tried  
to save a baby was killed.

DANNY

I saw it too! Mr. Bolton!

TWO BEARS

We must prevent this!

DANNY

But it was just a dream! It doesn't mean anything!

TWO BEARS

He is in danger.

DANNY

Look! You said we're almost to the Arch! All this doesn't have anything to do with us!

TWO BEARS

As you will. But the Dream is sure-- he will die. And the woman, too.

This halts Danny, who was walking away. He turns.

DANNY

I thought you were supposed to help me do what I want to do! Well, I want to go home! Now!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Jessop and Manuel ride along the trail in hot pursuit.

CUT TO:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - DAY

A spectacular vista of red rock and sage surround the two boys as they pick their way along the floor of the sandy desert. Rocky cliffs and jagged outcrops stretch to the edge of earth.

As they round an outcrop, Two Bears reins the horse.

Before them, the arch encloses a crystal-blue arc of sky.

Danny jumps off the horse and runs toward the arch, but stops just before passing under the arch and its shadow.

This is the moment. He looks back at Two Bears, who remains on the horse.

Danny holds up the amulet to show he has not forgotten anything. He waves at Two Bears and dashes through the arch.

He appears on the other side. He looks back through the arch.

Two Bears is still there, watching him.

DANNY

I must have gone through the wrong way.

He runs back through again.

He stops, looking up.

Two Bears is still there, sitting patiently on the horse.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What is the deal?

TWO BEARS

Perhaps you should run faster!

Danny furrows his brow, plunging into the task again.

He runs through the arch, turns around, runs back through, turns, gets up more steam and runs through again.

Presently, he is back at Two Bears' side, panting.

Two Bears is laughing. He dismounts.

DANNY

Very funny.

TWO BEARS

There must be a ceremony. A Shaman must conduct it.

DANNY

Well, how about you? You're gonna be a Shaman!

TWO BEARS

My blood runs too hot. Besides, it would not work.

DANNY

Why not?

TWO BEARS

Because the same man can pass through the Arch only once.

DANNY

What do you mean, "only once"?! How am I supposed to get home?

TWO BEARS

You still do not understand.

DANNY

Understand this: We're gonna get your old man and he's gonna have the ceremony or whatever so I can go home!

Danny grabs the horse's mane and jumps aboard.

Two Bears stands by, not wanting to go.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You can walk if you want to.

He digs in his heels and starts off.

Two Bears follows on foot, discouraged. He shakes his head.

TWO BEARS

You will never learn.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRYCE CANYON OVERLOOK - DAY

Manuel and Jessop arrive at the overlook.

Manuel dismounts and skirts the lightning-charred circle, crossing himself.

MANUEL

Lightning! Someone was hit!

JESSOP

Well, where is he, then?

Manuel looks around, searching for a sign. He finds none.

He rushes to Jessop, his eyes wild with fear.

MANUEL

This is bad medicine! We must not follow them!

JESSOP

Injun superstition! Come on!

He turns his horse and leaves.

HOLD ON Manuel's frightened face.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEADOW - LATE AFTERNOON

Danny and Two lead the horse on foot through a stand of trees. RUSHING WATER can be heard.

They break through the trees and find themselves in a meadow, bounded on three sides by tree and rock-covered slopes, the far side a sheer drop into the canyon.

A stream flows toward the edge, cascading onto jagged rocks.

Two Bears leads the horse to the water and a patch of grass to graze. He turns to Danny.

TWO BEARS

We rest here. It is not far.

Danny surveys the rocky slope.

DANNY

I'm gonna climb up on there and charge the computer.

He walks off.

After a moment, Two Bears follows.

They climb up the rock face, Danny quietly leading the way, lost in thought.

When they are high enough to catch the full rays of the setting sun, Danny stops and sets the computer down, extending the solar panels. The computer softly HUMS.

Two Bears eyes it warily.

Danny sits, staring out into space.

Two Bears sits quietly at his side.

Danny reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tattered photo, looking thoughtfully at it.

Two Bears pulls back.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What is it?

TWO BEARS

Who are they? Your enemies?

Danny laughs and holds out the photo.

Two Bears shies away.

INSERT - THE PHOTO

Danny's parents smile out from the worn photo.

DANNY

smiles ruefully at Two Bears.

DANNY

My parents. Why would they be enemies?

TWO BEARS

To capture a person's likeness is to capture his soul; he cannot enter the Spirit World. You would do that to an enemy.

DANNY

They're dead.

TWO BEARS

Then destroy it--let them walk free.  
(long beat)  
This is why you are so angry.

DANNY

I'm not angry! I miss them. I even miss my mean old grandpa.  
(suddenly exasperated)  
What am I doing here?!

TWO BEARS

I have also lost my father.

DANNY

Really? He's dead?

TWO BEARS

No. But for listening to him, I am shunned by my people.

DANNY

Why? What did he say?

TWO BEARS

He said, "To accomplish great things, a man must take great risks." He said I must listen to my heart, which would show me the way.

DANNY

So you can't go home anymore?

TWO BEARS

No... but my heart is at peace now.

He removes his bow and quiver from around his shoulder and places a feathered arrow in the notch of the bow, drawing the gut string back, holding it motionless.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

You sight, hold your breath, count  
to three, then release.

He releases the arrow, which draws a perfectly straight line,  
burying itself deeply in a knot of a gnarled scrub oak.

DANNY

Wow! Can I try?

Two Bears gives him the bow and helps him load an arrow.

Danny pulls the string back half way, the tension causing  
the bow to shake.

He looks at Two Bears with new respect.

TWO BEARS

Pull it back. Farther. Sight it.  
Hold your breath.

Danny does as instructed, but the bow shakes wildly. He  
releases.

The arrow wobbles and sputters out halfway down the rocks.

DANNY

It's harder than it looks.

The computer BEEPS, charged up. Danny turns to the computer.

Two Bears leans over his shoulder, fascinated.

TWO BEARS

All this time you have kept this  
with you. Why?

DANNY

It contains everything I need.

TWO BEARS

Everything?

DANNY

Yeah. Things like files, contracts,  
maps.

TWO BEARS

White man's words. I have seen such  
writing.

DANNY

Can you read?

TWO BEARS

Some. My father taught me.

(MORE)

## TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

He reads to me from the white man's book of power.

## DANNY

Well if you can read, you can run this! First you turn it on with this button. Once you're "booted-up," you push this key to call up the file menu--that's where the important information is kept.

He hits another key. His enthusiasm is contagious.

Two Bears leans in, watching intently.

The computer screen shows a menu of available files. Most of them are business-oriented, but there are also a few games, including the by now familiar "Nuke Master."

Danny moves the cursor down to the game and hits the ENTER button.

## DANNY (CONT'D)

This one's cool. It's a game.

The malevolent cackle of the Nuke Master SOUNDS, the nuclear explosions behind him THUNDER. Screaming heavy metal MUSIC, accompanies the scene.

Two Bears draws back.

Danny sees this and exits to another file.

## DANNY (CONT'D)

Maybe you're not ready for that. See, it also has things like maps. Here's the one my great-grandfather wanted. It shows where we are now.

A topographical map appears on the screen.

Two Bears straightens and looks carefully at this map.

Danny points out the highlights.

## DANNY (CONT'D)

Here's the Arch. Here's the trail leading to it. And here's where we are, I think. And here's where the gold mine is--or will be.

## TWO BEARS

I already know where we are.

I know everything on that map and many things not there.

DANNY

Like what?

TWO BEARS

A special place used by my people. We call it "Undercut Rock." It is a large overhang that protects a cave which can hide the entire tribe from attackers.

DANNY

I know that place. The old guy who kidnaped me took me there.

TWO BEARS

So you see, the box does not know all. Undercut Rock is not in it.

DANNY

This box has great power. If my great-grandfather gets a hold of it, he'll be the most powerful man in the territory--maybe even in the world!

TWO BEARS

How could it have such power?

DANNY

It could help the person who had it get great power. It would tell him how to get land and money--and he might hurt people on the way.

TWO BEARS

Is your great-grandfather such a man?

DANNY

If he's like my grandpa, he is.

TWO BEARS

Then we must destroy it!

DANNY

No! The machine isn't evil. It can do good things if a good person uses it.

TWO BEARS

The risk is too great. It must be destroyed.

Two Bears grabs for the machine.

Danny resists. A tug-of-war ensues.

Just then, a NOISE is heard.

Both boys freeze.

Two Bears lets go and Danny falls backwards, the computer clutched to his chest.

Two Bears looks to the horse below. The horse WHINNIES.

It circles its tie, pawing the earth.

Two Bears descends toward the horse.

Danny sits up, the air knocked out of him. He rubs the back of his head, which took a bump.

DANNY

What is it now?

Two Bears emerges from the underbrush to calm the horse.

FROM ANOTHER ANGLE

Jessop Hamerling quietly leans his rifle against a tree, kneels down and parts a branch so he can see.

JESSOP'S P.O.V. - TWO BEARS

quiets the horse, speaking to it.

He leads the horse to a patch of grass on the other side of the stream.

JESSOP

reaches for his gun. It is not there.

He hears a telling CLICK.

MAE

Lookin' for this?

Jessop turns slowly. Mae is pointing his rifle at him.

JESSOP

Mae! What you doin' here? Now give me that before you hurt yourself.

MAE

First you tell me why you're trailing a couple of boys. What are you up to?

Jessop takes a step toward Mae.

She tightens her grip on the rifle.

MAE (CONT'D)

I'll use this!

JESSOP  
I'm sure you would. Except...

MAE  
Except what?

A gun barrel is laid at her neck.

MANUEL (O.S.)  
Except you'll die if you do.

WIDER SHOT reveals Manuel standing behind Mae.

He gently removes the rifle from her, tossing it to Jessop.

Jessop looks back through the brush, then turns to Manuel.

JESSOP  
We'll take care of her later. There's  
a nice long drop not far from here!  
Wait here.

He quietly creeps away through the undergrowth.

Two Bears stands, his hand on the horse's mane, looking out  
across the canyon. A twig BREAKS. He whirls.

There stands Jessop not ten feet away, the rifle pointed at  
him.

JESSOP (CONT'D)  
What kinda Injun lets a white man  
sneak up on him?

He grabs Two Bears by the hair and pulls the boy close, the  
rifle barrel placed in his armpit.

JESSOP (CONT'D)  
Now, buck, where's your friend --the  
white kid?

Two Bears stares straight ahead, silent.

Jessop nods.

JESSOP (CONT'D)  
All right.

He FIRES his gun into the air. The horse bolts away.

Up on the mountainside, Danny jumps up from the computer and  
throws himself down on a rock, peering over the top to the  
scene below.

Below, Jessop stands, his hand wrapped in Two Bears' hair,  
his rifle at Two Bears' neck.

He turns around slowly, scanning the hillsides.

When looks in Danny's direction, Danny ducks.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

I just want that map box thing. Give  
it here and nobody gets hurt.

Danny quietly shuts the computer case and crouches low,  
hugging his knees. What to do?

Below, Two Bears struggles, but he is no match for Jessop's  
strength--or the rifle.

Jessop scans the horizon.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

I'll skin this injun in a hot minute  
if you don't show yerself.

TWO BEARS

Danny! No!

Jessop looks at the boy and smiles.

JESSOP

That's right--convince your friend  
that your life is worth more than  
that damn box.

Two Bears spits in Jessop's face.

On the hillside, Danny turns and looks at the computer.

He makes a move toward it, but stops.

Below, Jessop looks around. No sign of Danny.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

All right. So you don't care about  
the injun. How about this?

He whistles low and Manuel emerges from the trees with Mae.  
Her hands are tied and she is gagged.

He pushes her forward, laughing as she falls down.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

You wanna see her dead, boy?

He nods to Manuel, who pulls Mae to her knees.

He produces a .45 and places it to her head.

Jessop looks around again, impatient.

Danny looks around and sees the bow and quiver.

He picks up the bow and notches an arrow, sighting between two rocks.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - MANUEL

stands below, his gun at Mae's head.

DANNY

wraps the amulet around his wrist as he pulls the string back.

DANNY

You got me into this. Now, get me out...

(remembering)

... Sight down the shaft. Hold your breath. Count to three: One... two...

The bow, taut under the strain, quivers.

The amulet glows slightly.

The bow stops jiggling and holds rock steady.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Three!

The arrow flies straight and true, striking Manuel in the shoulder.

As he flies back with the impact, his gun GOES OFF, the bullet grazes Mae's skull. She falls.

From where Danny sits, it looks like she was shot in the head.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I killed her!

Manuel lies, blood flowing.

Jessop ducks behind the horse with Two Bears.

He looks and mentally figures the source of the arrow.

JESSOP

I know where you are!

He looks at Mae. He can see it's just a graze.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

You killed her! He's next!

TWO BEARS

Run, Danny!

Jessop looks at Two Bears. He drops his rifle and withdraws a Bowie knife from his vest.

He holds it to Two Bears' neck, keeping the boy between him and Danny's location.

JESSOP

You ever seen a scalpin'?

Danny sees Mae, apparently dead.

He sees Two Bears, a knife to his throat.

He turns and sees the computer and his last chance for escape, the open path behind him.

He hears a voice:

LITTLE DOVE (V.O.)

Find the future.

Danny grabs the computer and scurries away. He gets about ten feet and stops.

He turns back, his eyes hard. He can't leave.

Jessop draws the knife lightly across Two Bears neck and a red line of blood appears.

Up on the hillside, Danny appears from behind a rock, the computer held up in his hand. He yells:

DANNY

Here I am.

He begins to make his way down the rocky face.

Jessop watches him intently, the knife pressed against Two Bears' throat.

Danny stands about twenty feet away, on the other side of the river from Jessop and Two Bears.

Jessop is impatient.

JESSOP

Bring it.

DANNY

Let him go.

JESSOP

First, show me how that thing works.

TWO BEARS

No!

JESSOP  
I give you my word I won't hurt either  
of you!

DANNY  
Promise?

JESSOP  
Cross my heart.

TWO BEARS  
You said he would kill for it!

DANNY  
He'll kill you if I don't give it to  
him!

TWO BEARS  
You are the Chosen One. You must  
decide. Follow your heart.

DANNY  
I have to give it to him!

TWO BEARS  
Then we are both dead.

Danny looks intently at Jessop, then at Two Bears.

Finally, he sets the computer down and turns it on. It BEEPS.

Two Bears smiles a sad smile at Danny.

Then, in one fluid motion, he grabs Jessop's knife and plunges  
it deep into his own stomach.

He falls to the ground, the knife still clenched in his hands.

Jessop steps back, shocked.

DANNY  
NO!

Danny throws the computer toward the cliff.

Jessop watches the five million dollar trajectory.

Danny rushes forward, blindsiding Jessop, knocking him to  
the ground.

The computer hits the ground, bounces on edge, and plops  
into the stream.

The current sweeps it toward the drop off.

Danny straddles Jessop and beats on him.

Jessop tosses him off and charges after the computer, which swirls toward the falls.

Danny jumps to his feet in pursuit.

Jessop gains on the floating box and grabs it just before it disappears over the falls.

He gets to his feet in mid-stream, the computer held over his head, victorious.

JESSOP

Got it!

Danny comes to a stop a few paces away.

Suddenly, a wall of water roars down the stream bed.

Jessop's eyes open wide and his mouth drops open.

The water hits him.

He flails, but not wanting to let go of the computer, misses a sure hand hold.

He goes over the edge with a scream.

As quickly as it came, the stream returns to its quiet self.

Danny rushes to the edge of the cliff and peers over.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - JESSOP

hangs onto a rock with one hand, the computer held in the other, the water pelting his face and loosening his grip.

Beyond him, the water falls hundreds of feet into a sheer canyon.

He looks downward at his fate, then upward.

DANNY

peers over the edge.

JESSOP

Help me, boy!

Jessop struggles for a hand hold. It's difficult with one hand.

JESSOP (CONT'D)

I'm your only kin! If I die, so do you!

Danny makes his way down the rock cliff.

Water spray and slimy moss make the climb slippery.

He arrives at a perch just a couple feet from Jessop and extends his hand.

DANNY  
Give me the computer first.

Jessop shakes his head.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
You need both hands to climb!

Again, Jessop shakes his head.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
I don't want you to die, either! So  
either drop it or give it to me--I  
don't care which!

Jessop pulls the computer up through the spray of falling water and extends it to Danny.

Jessop's other hand slips.

For a precarious moment, Danny and the computer are the only things keeping Jessop from falling.

Then, Jessop's wet grip fails and he flails backwards, arms pinwheeling, plunging into the abyss.

Danny stares in horror as the man falls.

He turns away, hugging himself, waiting for his own death.

But nothing happens. He feels himself to see if he's still there, shudders, picks up the computer and climbs back up the rocky face.

Manuel lies, unconscious, the arrow protruding from his shoulder.

Mae lies not far from him, motionless.

Two Bears lies on his back, blood everywhere.

Danny runs to him and cradles him in his arms.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Oh, no! Why? Why?

Two Bears opens his eyes, the blood gone from his face.

TWO BEARS  
I helped you choose your path.

DANNY

What does that mean?

TWO BEARS

To accomplish great things, a man must take great risks! I die a man-- with honor.

Two Bears closes his eyes.

Danny hugs him to his chest, sobbing.

After a long moment, WE HEAR a moan.

Danny turns and sees Mae stir.

He lays Two Bears down and crosses to her. Her eyes flutter.

DANNY

Are you all right?

MAE

Where's Jessop?

DANNY

He fell.

He looks in that direction, then remembers, looking himself over for... something.

DANNY (CONT'D)

But I should be dead, too! He was my great-grandfather! But he said he never had any children.

With great effort, Mae gets up on one elbow. She touches her brow, where the cut oozes blood.

She smiles.

MAE

That's true--not yet! But he will.

She pats her stomach gently.

DANNY

You?!

MAE

Just found out a few days ago.

BOLTON (O.S.)

Wait a minute! You already got a family!

They turn to see Bolton stepping through the underbrush, leading his horse.

He looks around at the bodies.

BOLTON (CONT'D)  
What's going on here?

DANNY  
I shot Manuel, who shot Mae, then  
Jessop killed Two Bears and then he  
fell!

Bolton holds up a hand, silencing Danny.

BOLTON  
Plenty of time for that. First things  
first: Are you all right, Mae?

He helps her to her feet.

MAE  
Yes, I think so. Oh, Erdix, I'm sorry.  
I was wrong about you. And wrong  
about... us.

BOLTON  
And I was wrong about you.

They look at each other, the electricity sparking.

BOLTON (CONT'D)  
Let's go home.

Manuel groans.

Bolton frees himself from Mae's embrace and reaches into his  
shirt pocket, withdrawing the spur star.

He walks over to Manuel, tossing the star at his feet.

Manuel eyes it warily.

BOLTON (CONT'D)  
This belong to anyone you know?

Manuel looks at his boot. The spur is missing the star.

MANUEL  
It was Jessop's idea!

BOLTON  
You can tell it to the Sheriff!

DANNY  
The Sheriff's in on it, too.

Bolton slowly draws his gun and aims it at Manuel.

BOLTON

Then maybe a little home-grown justice  
is in order.

DANNY

Don't! Enough people have died today.

MAE

Take him back. Let him tell everyone  
what Jessop's done.

Bolton holsters his gun.

He jerks his thumb towards Manuel.

BOLTON

Well, we better move out. It's getting  
late.

He starts to help Manuel up.

Danny, standing over Two Bears' body, squares his shoulders.

DANNY

I'm not coming.

Bolton and Mae both turn.

MAE

You can't stay out here.

BOLTON

That's right. Come with us.

DANNY

I've gotta get home. The future.

BOLTON

Now, son, you don't really believe  
that, do you? Stay with us. You got  
a home here.

DANNY

I have to take Two Bears' body back  
to his people. I owe him that much.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEADOW - EVENING

Danny waves as Bolton leads his horse with Manuel hunched  
over in the saddle. Mae rides her mount.

They both return Danny's wave and exit.

Danny turns to check the thongs holding Two Bears' body on the horse.

SHAMAN (O.S.)

You loved him?

Danny whirls and sees the Shaman standing nearby.

The old man's eyes survey Two Bears' body.

DANNY

I'm sorry. It was my fault.

SHAMAN

I saw.

DANNY

You were watching us? Why didn't you stop it?

SHAMAN

It was not my test. It was yours... and my son's. Both of you chose correctly. But come, we must send Two Bears on his next journey.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - NIGHT

The tribe members stand before the arch, forming a circle.

In the center of the circle stands a lodgepole funeral pyre. Upon it, Two Bears' body lies wrapped in skins. The full moon lights the scene.

Inside the circle, Indian braves move to a slow, rhythmic pulse.

As they pass the pyre, many leave offerings of feathers, beads, baskets, arrows, bracelets, and necklaces.

Danny moves with the others, dressed in buckskins. His face is painted.

As he passes the pyre, he places the amulet on Two Bears' lifeless chest.

He holds the amulet and touches his friend's hand.

The amulet glows.

Danny turns from the body and re-enters the line of dancers. Tears well in his eyes, but his vision is fixed far off.

He begins to chant, a mysterious counterpoint to the singing of the others.

Near the arch, the Shaman finishes a sand painting.

He turns and watches Danny perform his singular and lonely ritual.

The other Indians' song gradually dies out, overcome by the new and strange chant.

Danny dances on, unaware that he does so alone.

The Indians look at one another.

A BRAVE

I have not heard this song before.

Beyond the arch, storm clouds gather. A thick mist arises.

The wind gusts, stirring the dangling feathers and artifacts hanging from the pyre, mussing Two Bears' braided hair.

ANOTHER BRAVE

What medicine is this?

The Chief stands, overcome with a mixture of wonder and fear.

Danny turns, facing the pyre, his eyes distant and glazed, tears tracking the paint on his cheeks.

He raises the amulet overhead and cries in Navajo:

DANNY

The circle closes!

Lightning strikes the foot of the pyre, and a ghost-like image of Two Bears stands before them.

His body remains atop the pyre.

The spirit walks toward Danny, who closes his eyes and lets his arms drop.

Danny tilts his head back and cries loudly in Navajo:

DANNY (CONT'D)

The circle closes!

As Two Bears' spirit passes through his body, Danny shudders.

Just beyond him, Two Bears disappears into the mist.

Danny doesn't turn; he stands riveted to the spot.

The others murmur in dismay.

Danny turns, his eyes clear, and CLAPS his hands loudly.

As if in answer, from a great distance, THUNDER erupts.

Near the arch, a gust of wind scatters the sand painting around the Shaman.

He descends toward the crowd, which parts to let him through.

He approaches Danny, who turns.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
The circle is full.

The Shaman furrows his brow, confused.

Danny moves past him. The crowd gives away. He walks steadily toward the arch.

At the foot of the arch, he stops, framed in the arc of sky beyond.

He begins another song, different from the first, and much more intense.

As Danny reaches a powerful crescendo, he throws the amulet in the air.

Lightning intercepts the amulet, and strikes the center of the sandstone arch, cleaving it in two.

In an instant, Danny is buried beneath tons of red rock.

The people stand paralyzed. The sky is pitch black; the moon hides behind thunder heads. No one speaks.

Then, a few droplets of rain begin to fall, kicking up puffs of dust as they strike the parched earth.

The Shaman turns to the pyre. Raindrops strike Two Bears' hand.

A finger twitches. Then another. Then the hand opens to reveal the amulet, glowing brightly.

As rain falls upon Two Bears' face, his eyes blink the water away.

Miraculously, his wounds are healed.

The clouds burst; the downpour begins.

The crowd revels in the gift of rain.

Two Bears slowly sits up.

The Shaman runs to help him down from the pyre. There is a moment of glorious reunion.

One by one the celebrating crowd becomes quiet, until only the PELTING RAIN is heard.

The Shaman points to the arch.

With one accord, everyone turns and rushes, pulling aside the rubble, searching for Danny.

The rain buffets the searchers, the Chief among them. He works steadily, throwing rocks and boulders out of the way.

As they busy themselves with the task at hand, the Shaman steps INTO FRAME and looks back at the pyre.

Soon, those behind follow his gaze.

Two Bears stands alone near the pyre, his arms outstretched, his head back in the same stance as Danny, soaked in the sheets of falling water.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SACRED ARCH - LATER

The moon on the horizon silhouettes the broken pillars of the arch. A gentle breeze rustles the sage growing around the ruin.

Past the cactus on the rocky pile that was the Arch, a moccasin-clad foot moves.

With great effort, boulders are pushed aside, and Danny, dressed in Indian ceremonial attire, sits up.

He groggily props himself up on an elbow and looks around.

With painful struggle, he stands.

TWO BEARS (O.S.)

"To accomplish great things, a man must take great risks...

Danny wheels around to greet his friend.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

... He may suffer in life, but he will conquer death." So says the Ancient Dream.

DANNY

Two Bears! You're alive! But you're... old!

TWO BEARS

And you are still a boy!

He winks knowingly. He wears a pair of buckskin pants and lavish turquoise jewelry.

Danny stares at him for an explanation.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

Many things have changed, Danny.

DANNY

How come you're here? I mean, how did you know?

TWO BEARS

It was part of the Ancient Dream.

DANNY

I gotta have that dream sometime.

TWO BEARS

There is no need to dream something you have lived.

Two Bears and Danny embrace.

TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

We have much to talk about.

Two Bears walks Danny to his horse and lifts the laptop computer from the saddlebag for Danny to see.

It is old and worn, covered with scratches and Indian symbolic writing.

DANNY

Hey. My laptop!

TWO BEARS

You said if it was used for good, it could benefit everyone. And it has! I had a hard time getting it fixed in 1949, though!

DANNY

You found the mine!

TWO BEARS

Let's just say that the riches of the earth will secure the tribe's future for a long, long time!

He slips the computer back inside the saddlebag and takes the horse's bridle.

He nods toward Danny.

## TWO BEARS (CONT'D)

Come.

Two Bears leads his horse up the path and Danny follows.

As the trail turns past an outcrop, three figures appear, silhouetted against the moonlit sky.

Don Hamerling, wearing tattered Levis, waves his hat.

Beside him stands a man with his arm around a woman's shoulders. They also wave.

DANNY

Who's that?

TWO BEARS

That is also the Ancient Dream.

Then, in a flash of recognition, Danny answers his own question.

He breaks into a run. His father and mother exchange puzzled looks at his exuberance.

DANNY

MOM! DAD! You're alive?! You are, aren't you?

MOM

Of course! Are you okay?

She reaches to him, looking for cuts and abrasions.

Danny pulls back a bit, looking at his parents, overcome at seeing them again.

DANNY

Yes... I'm okay.

He embraces his parents.

They are perplexed.

MOTHER

We just wanted to surprise you.

DANNY

You sure did!

He looks over his mother's shoulder.

DANNY'S P.O.V. - TWO BEARS AND DONALD HAMERLING

are talking quietly together, as old friends.

DANNY

walks toward his grandfather and hugs him tightly.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I didn't think I'd see you again.

DONALD

I didn't know you had to be so authentic these days to earn that Indian Lore merit badge.

Two Bears hands the reins of a horse to Danny.

The old man, bent and gnarled, smiles at the young boy.

DANNY

I'm sorry you had to grow old without me. But I'm glad you're still alive.

TWO BEARS

I see you and I am young again. Life is a grand circle.

Don mounts his horse.

DON

Let's hit the trail! My belly says it's time for breakfast!

The others mount and turn their horses up the trail toward a ridge outlined by the rosy glow of dawn.

Two Bears coaxes his horse ahead of the others.

Danny heels his horse so he can get alongside his parents.

They pass over the bridge and continue out of sight.

EXT. BRYCE CANYON RIDGE TRAIL - DAWN

Follow Two Bears as he leaves the trail and makes his way to the crest of a precipice.

Danny follows him.

Donald and the others continue on down the trail.

As Danny reaches Two Bears, CRANE UP TO REVEAL BRYCE CANYON in all its majestic splendor.

The sun casts a warm glow on the spires, stretching shadows across the desert floor.

DANNY

It's beautiful.

TWO BEARS

And we will keep it that way.

Danny gives a true Indian WHOOP and starts down the hill toward the glowing peaks, his back lit by the pink rays of the rising sun.

FADE OUT.

THE END