

TUMI

EXT. ANDEAN FOREST - DUSK

In a clearing, a white tailed deer nibbles on grass. It's quiet, only the hum of insects and the occasional gust of wind, until... THWACK. An arrow to the heart!

The deer stumbles and falls. Out of the tree cover emerges a young Incan woman, known to us only as the ANCESTOR. She swiftly kneels to check on the deer.

Blood oozes out of the wound and the deer pants heavily. The Ancestor calmly pulls out a knife and slits its throat in one practiced stroke.

She places a hand on the deer's flank and closes her eyes. Is she praying? Apologizing? The moment passes and she opens her eyes and stands.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - NIGHT

The Ancestor uses the moonlight to pick her way up the path, the small deer slung over her shoulders. She sees a flicker of light in the distance and narrows her eyes.

EXT. SPANISH CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Two conquistadors sit by a fire - the OLDER SPANIARD oils his musket with fat drippings from a tin cup. The YOUNGER SPANIARD turns the spit over the open flame. From her hiding spot, The Ancestor takes stock of their campsite, peering through the leaves: blankets, metal armor, two muskets...

Her eyes drift over and land on the fire and the two feet shackled to the spit - two **human feet**.

The Ancestor jerks back quickly and the leaves rustle. The Spaniards look up, suddenly alert. The Older Spaniard grabs his sword and gestures to the younger. They move toward the brush.

But the Ancestor is gone.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - CLIFFS - NIGHT

The path dead-ends. On one side, a steep fall down the mountain; on the other, dense forest; straight ahead - a curtain of foliage blankets the rock face. The Ancestor waits a long, suspicious moment before she decides it's all clear. She lifts up the curtain of greenery to reveal a small, dark cave.

She hoists the body of the deer into the cave before climbing in after it. Still holding the curtain aloft, she looks around one last time to make sure she wasn't followed.

She drops the curtain and the cave disappears.

EXT. INCAN COMPOUND - NIGHT

The Ancestor enters the compound and a young Incan TEENAGER rushes to her. The Ancestor sets down the deer.

ANCESTOR
(in Quechua)
They are getting closer.

The teenager doesn't respond, just worriedly clasps her hand.

ANCESTOR
(in Quechua)
What is it?

TEENAGER
(in Quechua)
They are getting worse.

INT. INCAN COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

The Ancestor enters a fire lit room. Several people lay on the ground, covered in blankets. They are sick, feverish. The Ancestor checks in on a few of them, lowering the blankets to reveal flushed cheeks and pustules. Finally, she turns to the teen, who hovers nervously.

ANCESTOR
(in Quechua)
I'll be back. Start the deer.

EXT. ANDEAN FOREST - NIGHT

The Ancestor gathers medicinal weeds at the base of a tree. She hears the CLINK OF METAL and she freezes, then turns very slowly to see the Older Spaniard behind her, sword raised.

OLDER SPANIARD
(in Spanish)
What is that for?

The Ancestor says nothing.

OLDER SPANIARD
(in Spanish)
Is it for your sick? Where are
they? Where is your camp?

Still she says nothing.

OLDER SPANIARD
(in Spanish)
Take us there. Now.

The Younger Spaniard appears behind her. They steadily move in, mere feet separating them. She's trapped. The Older Spaniard stares at her, almost enjoying this, and she stares back, unblinking, until...

Her eyes flit to the side just as a **PUMA** hurtles through the night, tackling the Older Spaniard! His companion moves to strike it, but the Puma is faster. The wounded Spaniard regains his feet, looks around - the Ancestor is gone.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - DAWN

The bloodied and scraped Spaniards carry back the trussed body of the Puma. They round a curve and see smoke. They drop the Puma and rush forward - their entire campsite is ablaze, flames spreading into the forest! They scramble to save what they can.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

The Ancestor watches the flames spread on the hillside far below. She lifts up the curtain of greenery and ducks under. The only sound left is the forest.

CUT TO BLACK.