

COMANCHE

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Dances with Wolves was originally written to portray the Comanche Indians. The film was changed to portray the Sioux, because of the larger number of Sioux speakers. This television series will be the long awaited story of the most dominate native tribe, the Comanche.

FADE IN:

**EXT. THE COMANCHERIA - LATE AFTERNOON**

Six young COMANCHES led by BUFFALO HUMP are engaged in a fight that will be to the death with eight APACHE WARRIORS, distinguishable by their clothing. The APACHE are fleeing west into the setting sun.

Many of the COMANCHES wear buffalo scalps on their head, complete with horns. The COMANCHE men wear their hair long and have it ornamented profusely. The dress of the men consisted of leggings and moccasins, a breech cloth or flap.

Comanche society was based on raiding. These COMANCHES WARRIORS wear some of their stolen booty: stovepipe hats, women's corsets, etc., giving them an almost circus-like appearance. The effect would have been comic, if they were not so dangerous. In this anticipatory sequence, the COMANCHE are about to run down and kill the APACHE WARRIORS.

COMANCHES do not shave, but instead, they pluck their face clean of its scant growth of beard; and many of these COMANCHES have also pull out their eyebrows.

All the horses have has been running a very long time. The APACHE horses are inferior and are about to break down. Many of the APACHE horses have arrows in them. Some of the APACHE WARRIORS also have arrows in them. They are barely able to remain on their horses. The APACHE horses are about to die.

The COMANCHES peruse firing arrows. When several of the APACHE horses do collapse, the COMANCHES veer off and stop. They watch. They follow Comanche military doctrine and they NEVER press a charge home. Instead they rely on horse archery to defeat the opposition.

We see that the Comanche tactic is extremely well synchronized and orchestrated.

Comanches approach the exhausted APACHE at a gallop, weaving, each warrior apparently taking no orders from BUFFALO HUMP. These magnificent horsemen never form a solid line (like other cavalries), instead they form a swirling, breaking, dissolving and regrouping mass of separate individual riders, making difficult moving targets.

They move into range, launch their arrows and dart out of range before the Apache can return fire.

The whooping riders charge and break off before contact; they are dodging and weaving whilst at the same time circling the enemy, showering them with arrows from all directions.

The COMANCHE also employ a trick of hanging over the far side of their horse by a strap, thus being almost protected from APACHE arrows.

The Comanche WARRIORS used their mounts like a shield. We see Comanche speeding toward the enemy, shooting arrows from beneath their horse's neck and having nothing but a leg hooked over the backbone of his mount. The WARRIORS have a loop of rope braided into his horse's mane. Our Comanche WARRIORS slip the loop over his head and under his outside arm, affording him the freedom to cling to the side of his horse and have both hands free for shooting. The Comanche bows are short and powerful, ideal for use on horseback.

One by one the APACHE succumb. NONE of the COMANCHE are harmed. And only one COMANCHE horse is wounded. The bodies of the dead lie in a "last stand" pile.

The APACHE have shown unflinching courage but we quickly appreciate the COMANCHE fighting skills and horsemanship, speed of thought, almost dodging the APACHE arrows and known exactly their range.

We see that the last APACHE is already badly wounded, with blood streaming from a wound in his chest. BUFFALO HUMP concentrates on him for a moment, riding, turning, firing arrows, twisting away so the APACHE wastes his diminishing

energy and arrows. Finally the APACHE stumbles to his knees and BUFFALO HUMP fires a second arrow into his chest.

BUFFALO HUMP and the others dismount and surround the last APACHE as he dies.

#### BUFFALO HUMP

Welcome to the Comancheria.

Comancheria (Námúnú Sookobitá) means literally the "Comanche Land).

BUFFALO HUMP is suddenly weary of death; he trudges a few yards and surveys the APACHE laying dead on the battle field. In the gathering gloom of dusk an eerie silence has fallen. Eight bodies, arrowed and speared lie on the ground. And there is a huge flock of crows and ravens flutter about ready and feast upon the corpses.

The COMANCHES ride away from the dusk (East). BUFFALO HUMP turns around and looks back at the battlefield and the dead APACHE.

There is not one living human thing moving over that field of death - except a solitary figure. It is BIG CANNIBAL OWL (*Pia Mupitsi*). A TALL WOMAN with a long buffalo skin cloak and a wide-brimmed hat, holding a lance, she moves slowly between the bodies of the APACHE dead, seeming to note and inspect each one. She is a spectral figure, strange, disturbing, powerful, with ravens sometimes perching upon her shoulders... and BUFFALO HUMP watches her like one transfixed, like one who has come face to face with a god.

BIG CANNIBAL OWL pauses by one of the APACHE dead and points him out with his spear. At that moment the air around appears to glisten and two or three almost semi-transparent, almost naked YOUNG FEMALE HELPERS appear and gather the slain warrior into their arms. In great brightness the young women lift into the humid air... and vanish.

BIG CANNIBAL OWL is something similar to the grim reaper in our Anglo culture.

BUFFALO HUMP watches this phenomenon in silent awe, then looks over again at the tall woman. For a brief moment the

tall woman lifts her head, revealing her face beneath the wide-brimmed hat.

The face is indescribable - except for its owl like eyes, which stare back at BUFFALO HUMP with a pitiless and terrible intensity. And then she is gone, as if she had never been there. She leaves BUFFALO HUMP to survey the darkening mysterious scene.

**EXT. CAMP ON THE COLORADO RIVER - MORNING**

The Penateka (Honey Eaters) are camped on the Colorado River. BUFFALO HUMP is sitting outside of a teepee watching TWO WARRIORS breaking a wild horse.

The WARRIORS have the horse exhausted and choked down with a rope around his neck. Of course, catching the wild horses is one thing. Training them is another matter and involves a great deal of physical effort and determination. Choking a horse is not a matter to be taken lightly.

To break the strong-willed wild horses means establishing dominance over the animal. The two Comanche warrior have choked the wild horse into exhaustion and have pull it to the ground. They fasten a pair of hobbles on the animal's two forefeet. One WARRIOR lays over the horses body to prevent it from rising. The lasso around the neck of the horse is loosened and the horse is allowed to breath. The other WARRIOR asserts his dominance over the animal by blowing their breath into the horse's nostrils.

**INT. TEEPEE - MORNING**

The buffalo hide teepee is dark and is lit by tallow candles. From outside comes the dull rumble of summer thunder. Somewhere in the darkness a WOMAN is breathing heavily and groaning. We hear the sound of other WOMEN'S VOICES, low and sibilant, almost chanting.

Outside, BUFFALO HUMP is anxious and restless; he crosses the space and looks into the chamber where his wife, SIGHT OF DAY, lies upon their bed giving birth. She is surrounded by three or four OLDER WOMEN, one of them older.

MEDICINE WOMAN

What do you want?

BUFFALO HUMP

Isn't it here yet?

The OLDER WOMAN doesn't bother to respond and places her hands again on SIGHT OF DAY's swollen stomach and resumes her low, strange chant.

One of the other MID-WIVES speaks more kindly.

MID-WIFE

Not yet, Buffalo Hump. Go away and do something useful.

Outside the storm breaks apart, the thunder leaves and rain disappears in the distance. The wild horse is up and seems to be broken. The WARRIORS are congratulating each other and laughing.

**EXT. CAMP ON THE COLORADO - MORNING**

LEANING COYOTE (Buffalo Hump's first son) is naked as the air. Known throughout the Comanche nation, the boy comes running up from the muddy Colorado holding a big snapping turtle by the tail. LEANING COYOTE is a particularly energetic young boy; many of the women and girls clear out when they see him coming with the turtle. They know he might use the turtle as some kind of weapon.

BUFFALO HUMP doesn't leave. He waits for his son to arrive. A WARRIOR friend that has been waiting for the baby, WOODEN LANCE, begins to leave also.

WOODEN LANCE

That boy acts like he might set that turtle on me.

WOODEN LANCE seems to be hoping that BUFFALO HUMP will issue an order or something. BUFFALO HUMP chuckles and would never want to break the spirit of his son.

WOODEN LANCE

(moving to a safe distance)  
Maybe he means to cook it?

BUFFALO HUMP

I've never seen a boy that young bold enough to snatch a turtle right out of the river.

LEANING COYOTE

I didn't didn't snatch this turtle out of the river. I saw this turtle sleeping on a rock. I just snuck up on it and picked it off that rock.

WOODEN LANCE

(walking backwards away)

Look at it snap at him. Now he's got it mad!

Turns out that LEANING COYOTE only wants to show his father the trophy. The turtle's jaws are opening and closing in a mad and mechanical rhythm.

But the boy notices that WOODEN LANCE is afraid of the turtle. This gives him the idea to swing his arm a time or two and heave the big turtle in the general direction of a bunch of young Warriors — the boys were playing a game in the dirt and laughing at the losers. They scattered like quail when they see the turtle sailing through the air. It turns over twice and lands on its back, right in the center of their game.

WOODEN LANCE gestures that he tried to warn him and perhaps that he expects the boy to be punished. BUFFALO HUMP only laughs.

**INT. TEEPEE - MORNING**

SIGHT OF DAY is still struggling to give birth.

**EXT. NEAR THE COOKING FIRE - MORNING**

LEANING COYOTE is squatted down by the turtle and watched it wiggle, a happy expression on his broad face. BUFFALO HUMP has a hatchet in one hand and a small knife in the other. He hands the tools to his son.

After a few attempts, LEANING COYOTE caught the turtle right by the head, held its jaws shut with his fingers, and slashed its neck with the knife. Slowly almost the whole camp comes watch, even WOODEN LANCE moves nearer. Several of the WARRIORS have traveled the Comancheria all their lives. They have raided far into Mexico and fought Apache in New Mexico. They considered themselves to be experienced men, but none of them had ever seen a small boy decapitate a snapping turtle before.

WOODEN LANCE

The turtle's blood is green.

A kind of green ooze dripped out of the wound LEANING COYOTE had made. All the Comanche gathered around "Ooh" and "Aah" about every move. LEANING COYOTE finds the turtle's neck difficult to cut. He gives the turtle's head two or three twists, hoping it would snap off like a chicken's would have, but the turtle's neck merely kinked, like a thick strong rope. WOODEN LANCE is leading the "Oohs" and "Aahs".

When the turtle's head finally comes off, the group cheers. LEANING COYOTE hold it up showing the crowd that the turtle's jaw is still opening and closing. They comment in awe. LEANING COYOTE casually pitches it in the direction of WOODEN LANCE, who jumps up as if he'd thrown him a live rattler.

MEDICINE WOMAN V.O.

(to Buffalo Hump)

Come and see.

BUFFALO HUMP hurries back to the teepee.

#### **INT. TEEPEE - MORNING**

His wife's legs are spread wide open and something amazing is emerging between them - a head, with a halo of dark hair. The old woman continues her sing-song chant and the younger women help with the birth, one of the women is holding the baby's head as the rest of its body glide out in an sudden rush of blood and afterbirth... and BUFFALO HUMP gasps at the marvel of it. He gawks at the bloody bundle even as they cut the chord and begin to wash the new baby.



BUFFALO HUMP  
(to the mid-wives)  
What is it?

SIGHT OF DAY  
(with a laugh)  
It's a boy.

BUFFALO HUMP  
(to Sight of Day)  
How do you know? You didn't look.

SIGHT OF DAY  
What are you talking about? Didn't I  
promise you another son?

BUFFALO HUMP looks at the MEDICINE WOMAN.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Is it a boy?

MEDICINE WOMAN  
Look for yourself.

BUFFALO HUMP looks. Satisfies himself.

SIGHT OF DAY  
Give him here. I have enough milk for a  
herd of boys.

The baby is given to her, where it suckles.

**EXT. CAMP ON THE COLORADO - AFTERNOON**

Later, BUFFALO HUMP emerges from the teepee carrying the baby, wrapped in a blanket. The storm has passed and the sun is bright. The teepee is one of several on the red sand beach of the river. It's a vision of stillness and utter tranquility. The rocky slopes of the canyon drop down sheer to the sand, and above them the bare rocks are bathed in sunlight. The whole landscape has a strange, magical luminosity - a heightened, almost unnatural southwestern beauty.

BUFFALO HUMP takes his son to the water's edge and holds him out in his arms, like an offering.

We move in CLOSE on the baby's face - then the camera tilts up towards the rock face cliffs.

And suddenly the camp erupts with activity. A lookout on the top of the canyon has signaled. BUFFALO HUMP runs with the baby to the teepee. A woman runs to meet him. He hands her the baby and BUFFALO HUMP runs for his lance and horse.

All the Warriors leave the camp on horseback in a flash. Even little LEANING COYOTE grabs a bow and a small fist full of arrows. We see him crouching behind a bolder, waiting, with his weapon ready.

Time passes. Everything is perfectly still and quiet. LEANING COYOTE creeps slowly over to the fire. There is a rock and the turtle meat is sizzling on a smooth stone laid over the fire. He takes his bow and arrow; it is at ready. He looks around the canyon. He takes tip of the arrow and removes the turtle meet from the fire. He takes the meat in a basket to his mother in the teepee.

Suddenly, as he leaves the teepee, we hear the faint sounds of battle. The sound bounces off the wall of the canyon - war yells, human screams and horses running at a frantic pace. LEANING COYOTE looks up for a moment but then returns with his weapon behind the bolder.

#### **INT. TEEPEE - NIGHT**

Summer. The stars and moon glow through the smoke hole in the teepee. We are close again on the baby's face... as he sleeps in the crook of BUFFALO HUMP'S arm. BUFFALO HUMP is awake, staring up into the darkness and the play of shadows across the teepee, a look of profound awe upon his face.

#### **EXT. OUTSIDE THE TEEPEE - DAY**

A rattlesnake slithers near the baby who is wrapped up in a blanket on the ground. LARGE BLOSSOM sees the snake but there is no time for help to arrive. Without hesitation, she picks up a very large and heavy rock. She runs very near the snake and throws the rock upon the snake. SIGHT OF DAY returns, just in time to see the incident.

On horseback BUFFALO HUMP has seen, from a distance, his daughter pick up the large stone and throw it down. He returns to the teepee on a gallop. When he arrives there is nothing but a still shaking rattle peaking out from under a stone.

**EXT. CAMP NEAR THE CLEAR FRIO RIVER - DAY**

Now everything is in the fierce grip of the hottest summer. Dry winds blast across the plains, heaping the dust into dark grayish-brown, not a single cloud, and the distant mountains are thick with a grayish-brown haze. There is so much soil in the air, even at mid-day the sky is clearly effected.

But through this haze and desolation a solitary FIGURE can be seen, a black smudge against the gray, a lone Comanche, wearing almost nothing, held up by the wind. We get the impression that the FIGURE has been on a long journey. Several WARRIORS gather but the threat quickly disappears into curiosity.

As the FIGURE comes neared to the camp, we see the real attraction is the horse. It is a beautiful Arabian horse.

The WARRIORS look at the Arabian and then at their mixed breed mustangs. They look back and forth between the two types of horse. To the Comanche just the possession of the horse is be venerated.

**EXT. CAMP - DAY**

Later, SIGHT OF DAY rides horses with her two CHILDREN. Her son LEANING COYOTE is about ten and daughter LARGE BLOSSOM about eleven years old. BUFFALO HUMP appears, gestures to her.

BUFFALO HUMP

Come.

BUFFALO HUMP leads SIGHT OF DAY into the teepee.

**INT. TEEPEE - DAY**

BUFFALO HUMP

Here is the man I told you of.

He indicates the figure sitting beside the fire: a weak OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR of uncertain age, his wrinkled face heavily lined, his hair and both long and tangled, as if his journey has been long and grueling.

SIGHT OF DAY

Welcome, stranger, to our house.

The strange man bows a little. SIGHT OF DAY gives him some buffalo jerky and a cup of water. The stranger empties the cup.

SIGHT OF DAY

Eat. We have plenty.

The stranger nods again, and sits, BUFFALO HUMP and SIGHT OF DAY doing likewise.

BUFFALO HUMP

This man has raided deep into the south, to a large Mexican city. He has brought back a tremendous horse.

This is clearly a shock to SIGHT OF DAY. She stares at the man.

SIGHT OF DAY

Is it true?

Once more the stranger nods, but does not reply. SIGHT OF DAY suddenly realizes that he is glancing towards the buffalo jerky, and she quickly gives him more.

And once more he eats the jerky, then belches, and wipes his hand over his mouth.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR

There are many such horses.

SIGHT OF DAY

What happened to you? Where did you get to?

In the teepee doorway, we see LEANING COYOTE and LARGE BLOSSOM peeking into the room, and listening.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR

We rode South to the rock formation which looks like a woman. And then, when we were along the mountains, we turned due south. And I was frightened.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR

After 16 nights we saw a great city. Someone said it was a place called Mexico City, for a warrior in our part had been there before. But I don't know if it's true. I was only told that in this land there was great horses. We found a big house there, and took some things horses from it.

From his rolled up blanket he retrieves an object, a small but very beautiful crucifix.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR

In the South, they worship a strange god called Jesus Christ. They say he died in a tree.

BUFFALO HUMP

He came back to life.

SIGHT OF DAY examines the crucifix. But laughs at the resurrection.

Once more the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR looks at the buffalo jerky, and once more SIGHT OF DAY give him more.

Outside the sun blasts against the teepee.

BUFFALO HUMP takes SIGHT OF DAY outside and they look at the Spanish horse. SIGHT OF DAY lights up with a big smile. She wants a herd of such horses.

SIGHT OF DAY

What happened to the men you traveled with.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR  
They don't give them away you know.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Nothing ventured, nothing gained?

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR  
True.

SIGHT OF DAY  
Stay here for on moon. Become fat  
again. Let your horse run with our  
herd. Tell us some more about the  
south.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR  
(to Buffalo Hump)  
Really?

BUFFALO HUMP  
Yes, of course?

The OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR smiles and is happy about the arrangement.

**EXT. CAMP NEAR THE NUECES RIVER - DAY**

SITE OF DAY has her infant strapped her back while she rides. Other children, barely able to walk, are tied onto their mother's horse. Boys and girls are being taught to ride without a saddle. The girls ride astride - with a leg on either side of the horse.

LEANING COYOTE has stopped using a pony and he has been given an older gentle mare.

He complains to his father.

LEANING COYOTE  
I want a different horse.

He points to a large male horse.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Now go pick up the bag.

There is a leather saddlebag a hundred yards out on the prairie. It might have been seized in a raid or discarded by whites. It appears to be filled with a few rocks.

This is a daily drill. LEANING COYOTE is expected to pick up the saddlebag off the ground while riding his mount at full speed. He takes the mare and does this successfully and brings it to his father. Heavier rocks are put in the saddlebag and it is placed on the ground again. This time LEANING COYOTE rides at the object full blast, when he tries to pick it up he makes several strides with it, but the weight pulls him off the horse and he hits and rolls on the ground. A puff of dust comes up from the impact. The boy is okay, but his feelings are hurt.

LEANING COYOTE

I need a different horse. No Comanche warrior rides a mare.

BUFFALO HUMP says nothing.

SIGHT OF DAY

You aren't a warrior.

BUFFALO HUMP

When you can pick up twice that weight, you can have a male horse.

LEANING COYOTE is angry.

LEANING COYOTE

Why?

BUFFALO HUMP

This ability is of great importance.

LEANING COYOTE

Why?

BUFFALO HUMP

A Comanche's a sacred duty is to rescue any fallen warrior and not leave their body behind.

LEANING COYOTE

Why?

BUFFALO HUMP

So they are not mutilated and  
desecrated by the enemy.

BUFFALO HUMP

So you are trained to perform this  
duty.

SIGHT OF DAY

Do we not do this every day?

LEANING COYOTE

Yes.

SIGHT OF DAY

How long have we done this, everyday?

LEANING COYOTE

Since I can remember.

SIGHT OF DAY

Well, there you have it.

**INT. OVERLOOK OF THE COMANCHERIA - DUSK**

Below is the clan's large herd of horses. It is not unusual  
for a single Comanche to own more than 250 horses, and a  
particularly prominent leader might own as many as 1,000.

SIGHT OF DAY

Don't you have enough horses?

BUFFALO HUMP

We can break them and sell them in the  
north. If they like the Spanish horse  
of the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR then they  
will bring a nice price.

SIGHT OF DAY

The desire for horses, and the use of  
theft to obtain them, will cause  
warfare. Our enemies will only come to  
steal them.



BUFFALO HUMP

If they come here and survive, they will walk home.

SIGHT OF DAY

Let the others go.

BUFFALO HUMP

I am a talented horse thief. Wooden Lance is also very sly.

SIGHT OF DAY

It is too dangerous. The OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR he is the only one to return from his adventure.

BUFFALO HUMP

He is old; maybe they were all old.

SIGHT OF DAY

You might not become old. This is what I'm concerned about.

BUFFALO HUMP

Well, it is also dangerous to raid to the nearer peoples. When we steal from New Mexico and the Spanish settlements in Texas it isn't easy and they have nothing really worth stealing.

SIGHT OF DAY

So if you take a risk you want a nice reward?

BUFFALO HUMP

We would attack entire communities and drive the horses away with us.

SIGHT OF DAY

I would like a horse like the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR. Can you bring me back such a mare?

BUFFALO HUMP smiles and takes this as a sign of her approval.

BUFFALO HUMP

I will share with my family and friends  
and I will steal from strangers. It is  
the Comanche way.

**INT. TEEPEE - DAY**

SIGHT OF DAY, carrying some rubbish inside, finds BUFFALO HUMP putting a thick coat over the shoulders of his son, LEANING COYOTE, now eleven years old, and a handsome, strong-looking youth. SIGHT OF DAY stops and looks at them.

SIGHT OF DAY

What are you two doing?

BUFFALO HUMP

I'm taking LEANING COYOTE to the pau-  
wau.

SIGHT OF DAY

Not yet. He's not old enough.

BUFFALO HUMP

He's twelve years old.

SIGHT OF DAY

Take him next year. Next year is  
soon enough.

BUFFALO HUMP smiles at her.

BUFFALO HUMP

He'll need a knife.

**INT. TEEPEE - NIGHT**

BUFFALO HUMP and SIGHT OF DAY in bed together, cradled close after lovemaking. She stares into his eyes.

SIGHT OF DAY

Don't sleep with too many women.

BUFFALO HUMP

Are you crazy? I won't sleep with any of them. I don't want to. I can do without it for a week.

SIGHT OF DAY

Is that another way of saying you love me?

She teases him.

BUFFALO HUMP

I always dream of you. Last night I dreamt you were feeding me a buffalo heart.

SIGHT OF DAY

What does that mean?

BUFFALO HUMP

It means you were giving me your heart.

And they close in, and kiss passionately.

SIGHT OF DAY

I love you so much I could feed you the whole sky.

**EXT. CAMP - DAY**

Father and son are ready to depart on their small, tough horses. WOODEN LANCE and the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR are there also ready to depart. They have assembled several horses to trade at their destination.

Their clothing is simple. The four men wear a leather belt with a breechcloth — a long piece of buckskin that was brought up between the legs and looped over and under the belt at the front and back. They have loose-fitting deerskin leggings. Moccasins have soles made from thick, tough buffalo hide with soft deerskin uppers. The men wear nothing on the upper body.

SIGHT OF DAY and LARGE BLOSSOM bring out some food for the journey, putting it into their saddle-bags.

LEANING COYOTE  
Goodbye, big sister.

LARGE BLOSSOM  
Goodbye, little brother. Don't get  
married.

SIGHT OF DAY  
(to Leaning Coyote)  
Wait. I have something for you.

She goes to a blanket and pulls it up. Under it there is a  
leather saddle. She takes it up and brings it to her son.

SIGHT OF DAY  
There. Now everyone will know you are a  
man on your way to the pow-wow.

LEANING COYOTE can't help kissing her. BUFFALO HUMP looks  
at his wife. It is a surprise to him also.

BUFFALO HUMP  
(chuckling)  
I didn't know.  
(chuckling)  
You are sometimes a very sneaky wife.

SIGHT OF DAY  
Look after your son - and when you come  
back, just tell me the truth. I don't  
care about anything else.

And then she and her daughter watch BUFFALO HUMP and  
LEANING COYOTE set off with the two WARRIORS up the rough  
trail towards the north, accompanied by one of the travois  
dogs. All four men are fully armed - lance, a bow and  
knife. and LEANING COYOTE with his hunting knife. LEANING  
COYOTE looks back once, and raises his arm in farewell, and  
then they are swallowed up into the mesquite trees.

**EXT. TRACK - DAY**

The four men ride slowly on together over the prairie,  
through the scrub and rock. There is no-one else in sight,  
no farms or Indian dwellings, for the earth here is clearly

unfit for agriculture or plowing. Is even too barren for buffalo.

There are signs of spring everywhere, however, the trees a brighter green, the gorse in flower.

LEANING COYOTE

What will happen after all the trading?

BUFFALO HUMP

As usual, we will with some criminal offences that have happened since the last meeting.

(pause)

And then everyone will discuss the summer raids.

LEANING COYOTE

Where will you go?

There's a long beat. BUFFALO HUMP glances at his son, then away again, with a shrug.

BUFFALO HUMP

It's not up to me. We will all decide. I wish it was not so... but that is the law.

But LEANING COYOTE can see that the question has affected his father's mood. They splash through a small muddy stream.

BUFFALO HUMP

All the ice has gone. Spring is here again, thanks to Frey.

#### **EXT. CAMP - NIGHT**

They have camped in the open. A fire is burning and they have cooked some small animal over it and eaten it. The dog gnaws at the bones.

LEANING COYOTE

There's something I want to ask you.

BUFFALO HUMP

Then ask me.

LEANING COYOTE

How did you meet mother?

BUFFALO HUMP smiles.

BUFFALO HUMP

Hasn't she ever told you?

LEANING COYOTE

Of course. But I want to know if your story is the same as hers.

A beat.

BUFFALO HUMP

Well, it occurred when a Apache chieftain invaded our part of the Comancheria. I was too young and they would not let me go off to fight him. But some of his men showed up at our camp, SIGHT OF DAY lead many of the girls and women who lances and dressed up like men and mounted their horses as to give chase. SIGHT THE DAY was amongst them. They rode away thinking there were many men chasing them.

BUFFALO HUMP

From a distance they could not tell they were women?

BUFFALO HUMP

It was a ruse.

LEANING COYOTE

That is a funny story?

BUFFALO HUMP

I was impressed by her courage and courted her from afar.

LEANING COYOTE

How far is that?

BUFFALO HUMP

Near enough. Hush. Listen. After a while, I went to confess my love for her - but when I arrived I was set upon by a deer and an enormous cougar who guarded her home. I killed the deer with my spear and managed to strangle the cat with my bare hands.

(pause)

And that's the way I gained her hand in marriage.

(glances at his son)

What did she tell you?

LEANING COYOTE smiles, then lies down, pulls the blanket over himself.

BUFFALO HUMP

Did she tell you the same story?

A long beat.

LEANING COYOTE

Just that you choked the cougar.

Nothing about women chasing off Apache.

And they both close their eyes, both still smiling.

**EXT. PAU-WAU SITE NEAR WICHITA MOUNTAINS - DAY**

The men arrive on horseback. Several WARRIORS approach the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR.

Only Comanche and a few Wichita are attending and no women are allowed to actively participate. There are a few women but they stay in teepees a healthy distance.

We see the pau-wau ceremonies celebrating the life and death circle with tribal drums, dancing, food, chanting and traditional healing rituals. Many of the Comanches are telling stories and acting out ancient stories. They have been handed down through the generations in this manner. It is a cultural mechanism, which keeps their history alive.

Secondarily, there is a healing ceremony conducted by the spiritual or religious leaders of the various bands.

There is a ceremony to celebrate a successful hunt and to thank the spirits for a bountiful harvest.

But for our characters, this pau-wau is primarily to spiritually prepare warriors for an impending battle.

There are camels, many horses to be traded, prepared food, a broom maker, a man using a spinning wheel and even a knife maker are evident as BUFFALO HUMP and LEANING COYOTE, ride into the assembly. LEANING COYOTE is now proudly riding a gelding horse.

The camels are in the scene to illustrate a little known historical fact that the Texas government brought 75 camels to Texas in the late 1830s to help Americans settle the West. Several of them were stolen and these animals are represented here.

At first glance this is a meeting of friends and there is much camaraderie, but soon that stage of the pow-wow is over. It becomes a marketplace.

Primarily there are weapons. Coup Sticks, Hide shields, lances, Bows and Arrows, a macuahuitl (long knife or short sword), tomahawk, stone club.

There are Comanche from all parts of the southwest. They are examining pelts, furs, ropes and buffalo and deer skins for trade. The Wichitas are examining the handful of SLAVES for trade, most of Spanish or Anglo appearance (but some are Apache). The Wichita are checking their teeth, hair and nails, as if they were horses.

There is a lot of good-humored banter and loud haggling. All of this LEANING COYOTE has clearly seen before, and is not fazed by it.

There are French goods there also. Through an alliance with the Wichitas, the Comanches traded "horses, mules, and slaves for guns and metalware, corn, beans, squash, and fruit," and, in turn, the Wichitas "exported Comanche horses, mules, and products of the hunt."

Note that this trading with the Wichita, that connected the Comanche to the flow of French goods, further helped undermine the position of the Spanish officials and Spanish



traders in the borderlands. It will lead to a great deal of conflict in the future of this TV series.

BUFFALO HUMP trades a horse for some metal arrow tips. Evidently there is a white blacksmith somewhere who was mass producing them and they have found their way to western Oklahoma and the pow-wow.

He trades a second horse for some French trade goods, a brush, a comb, a mirror and some knives. He trades an arrow straightener (made from an antler) for a mortar and pestle.

BUFFALO HUMP finds men with good productive wives and trades with the their husbands. He is buying things for SIGHT OF DAY. He trades for borers (small pieces of flint made into tools for piercing holes). He obtains a drill was an oblong tool made of flaked stone and used in drilling holes in hide, wood or leather. He trades for small sewing needles made of bone with punched eyeholes. He obtains a microblade - a long, narrow blade, about 2 inches long.

BUFFALO HUMP sees the pipes but passes them by.

WOOD LANCE

What is your pipe made of? I've never seen such a material.

NORTHERN COMANCHE WARRIOR

Catlinite.

(pause)

From the Sioux.

WOODEN LANCE trades for a pipe.

But then a large group of YOUNG WARRIORS, clearly out on a joy ride, come walking through the gathering, shouting out insults to the traders and laughing, grabbing at the pelts and goods, creating a disturbance. The traders reclaim their goods and drive them away with sticks, angrily. BUFFALO HUMP watches the incident with a heavy heart.

LEANING COYOTE

Who are they?

BUFFALO HUMP

Young men with nothing better to do.  
It's a real problem. There seem to be  
more and more of them every year. And  
it's a great power for us. Those young  
men are our future. Someone should  
harness their strength and their anger.

LEANING COYOTE

Anger?

BUFFALO HUMP

In battle.

They move on.

Then a great bear of a man steps out before their horses,  
grabbing the bridles and laughing.

BEAR MAN

Buffalo Hump!

BUFFALO HUMP and LEANING COYOTE dismount. BUFFALO  
HUMP embraces him.

BEAR MAN

Do my eyes deceive me? Is this your  
son? How he's grown!

BUFFALO HUMP

Leaning Coyote, this is your uncle Bear  
Man. We graze sail in the same herd.

LEANING COYOTE

Uncle.

BEAR MAN looks him up and down.

BEAR MAN

So you're here for the pow-wow? You're  
a real man now. Look at your saddle!

LEANING COYOTE

It is amazing work. My mother made it  
as a surprise.

BEAR MAN  
(to Buffalo Hump)  
Yes, your mother is full of surprises.

Evidently BEAR MAN and BUFFALO HUMP once competed for SIGHT OF DAY's affection. While BEAR MAN had hopes, BUFFALO HUMP had won.

**INT. POW-WOW CAMP FIRE - EVENING**

We see a large fire and the dance has just about played out. The men sit around and tell stories. BEAR MAN watches LEANING COYOTE dance and laughs.

BEAR MAN  
You won't get married like that.

LEANING COYOTE smiles uneasily, then tips back the horn and drinks deeply.

BEAR MAN  
Are you ready for a woman? There are some good-looking women in teepees over there. And they're free.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Of course he isn't. He can't even grow a beard.

BEAR MAN laughs again, empties his horn, and holds it out to be refilled by a WOMAN with a jug. He stares at her wolfishly.

BEAR MAN  
So - whos raid do you want to join this year?

BUFFALO HUMP  
I have an idea of my own.

BEAR MAN  
Really?

A beat. He glances round, lowers his voice.

BUFFALO HUMP

Far to the south.

BEAR MAN

Good those bastards we have been raiding are as poor as we are. What do they have left to give us?

BUFFALO HUMP

Only themselves.

BUFFALO HUMP

We should go south. I've heard such tales, Bear Man. Great towns, cities and treasures; hordes of gold and silver. And guarded by a god that is dead.

BEAR MAN

I've heard those stories too. But what does it mean? We can't travel across that vast space.

A beat. BUFFALO HUMP glances carefully at LEANING COYOTE, who has fallen asleep. He looks at the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR who is staring into the fire. BUFFALO HUMP lowers his voice again.

BUFFALO HUMP

We can. I know it can be done. I know someone who has done it.

BEAR MAN looks at him. Then BUFFALO HUMP picks up his son.

BEAR MAN

Where are you going?

BUFFALO HUMP

To sleep.

BEAR MAN

I don't understand you, BUFFALO HUMP, everyone else comes here to visit good friends and family and to fuck beautiful women.

BUFFALO HUMP smiles.

BUFFALO HUMP

I'll see tomorrow for all the politics.

He carries his son away.

**INT. BUFFALO HUMP'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Outside, a warm wind whips across the southern desert of Texas. SIGHT OF DAY settles her daughter to sleep, telling her a story.

SIGHT OF DAY

Coyote was going along one day, feeling very hungry, when he met up with Skunk. "Hello, brother," Coyote greeted him. "You look hungry and so am I. If I lead the way, will you join me in a trick to get something to eat?"

(beat)

"I like tricks and I am hungry. I will do whatever you propose," said Skunk.

(beat)

"A prairie dog village is just over that hill. You go over there and lie down and play dead. I'll come along later and say to the prairie dogs, 'Come, let us have a dance over the body of our dead enemy.' "

LARGE BLOSSOM is listing intently.

SIGHT OF DAY

Skunk wondered how they would ever get anything to eat by playing dead and dancing. "Why should I do this?" he asked.

(beat)

"Go on," Coyote said. "Puff yourself up and play dead."

(beat)

Skunk went on to the prairie dog village and pretended to be dead. After a while Coyote came along and saw several prairie dogs playing outside

their holes. They were keeping a distance between themselves and Skunk.

(beat)

"Oh, look," cried Coyote, "our enemy lies dead before us. Come, we will have a dance to celebrate. Let everyone come out and then stop up the burrow holes."

(beat)

The foolish prairie dogs did as he told them. "Now," said Coyote, "let us all stand in a big circle and dance with our eyes closed. If anyone opens his eyes to look, he will turn into something bad."

LARGE BLOSSOM, warm beneath a bear skin, smiles sleepily. She yawns.

LARGE BLOSSOM

Go on. Please finish.

SIGHT OF DAY

As soon as the prairie dogs began dancing with their eyes closed, Coyote killed one of them. "Well, now," he called out, "let's all open our eyes." The prairie dogs did so, and were surprised to see one lying dead. "Oh, dear," said Coyote, "look at this poor fellow. He opened his eyes too early and died. Now, all of you, close your eyes and dance again. Don't look, or you too will die."

(beat)

They began to dance once more, and one by one Coyote drew them out of the dance circle and killed them. At last, one of the prairie dogs became suspicious and opened his eyes...

SIGHT OF DAY notices that LARGE BLOSSOM has gone to sleep and doesn't finish the story.

**EXT. PAU-WAU SITE NEAR WICHITA MOUNTAINS - DAY**

This is the day of the meeting reserved for politics and advertising for raiders.

MONTAGE BEGINS

There are speakers. Each has a different plan to lead various raids.

SPEAKER #1  
Austin!

SPEAKER #2  
Mescalero!

SPEAKER #3  
Fort Worth!

SPEAKER #4  
Ute!

SPEAKER #5  
Jicarilla!

END MONTAGE

SPEAKER #6 is a young WARRIOR. He is very brave and anxious to get his career started, or perhaps he is not "right" in the head. He is inexperienced and simply shouts out the name of the farthest and more ambitious city he knows.

SPEAKER #6  
Washington D.C.

This makes the WARRIORS drunk with laughter. The young WARRIORS, the same age as SPEAKER #6, they can't understand what is so funny. SPEAKER #6 quickly sits without explaining his plan.

When the laughter dies down, BUFFALO HUMP stands.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Mexico City!

Again there is laughter. But BUFFALO HUMP is un-phased. He simply stands stone faced. WOODEN LANCE and BEAR MAN look worried. BUFFALO HUMP waits... there is a long prolonged

pause. BUFFALO HUMP has a very serious look on his face and refuses to sit down. The other WARRIORS soon quiet.

BUFFALO HUMP

I have really nothing to say but to show you.

BUFFALO HUMP gestures and the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR rides up on the Spanish Arabian. There is a gasp and then chatter among the warriors.

WARRIOR #1

It is only one horse.

BUFFALO HUMP

But there are many.

WARRIOR #2

Not so many to warrant such a journey.

BUFFALO HUMP

It isn't the quantity we will return with. It is the quality.

WARRIOR #3

This is a nice horse but I would rather have 100 of our horses.

BUFFALO HUMP

How would you like 100 horses like this?

WARRIOR #1

This is a story. A myth.

BUFFALO HUMP

Raise your hand if you don't know how a colt is made!

The WARRIORS are silent and listening to the arguments.

BUFFALO HUMP

Yes, judging from the noises from the teepees last night, this is one thing that all Comanche understand!



BUFFALO HUMP

Isn't it true that the colts grow up to resemble the stallion and mare?

The WARRIORS are silent and listening to the arguments.

BUFFALO HUMP

And their traits are derived equally from both?

The WARRIORS are silent and listening to the arguments.

BUFFALO HUMP

Who can argue with the influence of this method of life?

The WARRIORS are silent. BUFFALO HUMP motions for LEANING COYOTE to come stand beside him. They are remarkably similar.

BUFFALO HUMP

Look at your sons and daughter. Consider the way they look and act. This is the force of life and renewing generations.

The WARRIORS begin to nod in agreement.

BUFFALO HUMP

And on the San Saba River, there waits for me a wife and a daughter that strongly resembles her in looks and bravery also.

The WARRIORS become enthusiastic. BUFFALO HUMP has won them over. It appears from their reaction that they will join him on the raid and that BUFFALO HUMP will be the leader.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Comanche leadership was never permanent or hereditary. It was very temporary and based on argumentation and merit.

**EXT. POW-WOW - VERY LATE AT NIGHT**

BUFFALO HUMP leads his sleepy son by the hand through the dark settlement. LEANING COYOTE trips over something, yowls. Dogs bark.

LEANING COYOTE  
Where are we going now?

BUFFALO HUMP  
Just to a place. Just to see someone.

LEANING COYOTE  
What place? To see who?  
(beat)  
I'm so tired.

BUFFALO HUMP sees a lamp set outside a teepee.  
There are also

BUFFALO HUMP  
Here it is. Wake up.

He finds the door open, pushes his son inside,  
follows.

**INT. TEEPEE - VERY LATE AT NIGHT**

A few low tallow candles, otherwise darkness,  
they show the shapes of things.

A long beat.

LEANING COYOTE  
I'm frightened.

BUFFALO HUMP grasps his wrist. Then there's the sound of a  
voice, strange, unsexed.

VOICE  
Why don't you come in? I'm waiting.

BUFFALO HUMP encourages his son to push aside the curtained  
wall, and go inside.

A young MEDICINE WOMAN is sitting in the dark. She has a  
different appearance and clothing is bazaar compared to the  
COMANCHE we have seen thus far. She is a Comanche who  
claims to have supernatural power, and the authority that  
comes with it.

The problem BUFFALO HUMP is having and the reason he is sneaking around in the middle of the night is that the Comanche are not very religious. And a woman with power well... BUFFALO HUMP doesn't want everyone to know he listens to a woman.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Comanche people were once known as the agnostics of the plains. They were solipsists, the ultimate pragmatists. Religion anything supernatural was simply superfluous to actual reality. They believed in "luck" but beyond that was based on "personal power", or "medicine." And "medicine" wasn't about healing, per se, but about unique, personal validation and influence.

BUFFALO HUMP might of might not believe in the supernatural, but he certainly doesn't want to advertise it.

The MEDICINE WOMAN has a strange and powerful aura about the figure which makes LEANING COYOTE instinctively recoil.

Before the MEDICINE WOMAN is a bowl of dried brown shrivelled mushrooms. He reaches out with young tender fingers and chews one.

She holds out a pipe.

MEDICINE WOMAN

The first puff is for the Great Spirit.

BUFFALO HUMP inhales.

MEDICINE WOMAN

Did you bring the droppings?

BUFFALO HUMP returns the pipe and pulls out a pouch and a cloth. He dumps out the contents out on the cloth.

The MEDICINE WOMAN brings a candle over to the cloth. He examines the contents.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Comanche knew that examining the droppings of the eagle (their idea of the top carnivore in the fauna) gives great insight into weather, water, and the general conditions. It was important knowledge to have for hunters and raiders both. A warrior theoretically could

make decisions based on such "readings." It wasn't exactly a prophecy but the verdicts experience.

MEDICINE WOMAN

Eagle droppings from the south?

BUFFALO HUMP

Yes.

MEDICINE WOMAN

What do you want to know?

BUFFALO HUMP

I want to know what Mexico has in store.

MEDICINE WOMAN

For you - or for your son?

BUFFALO HUMP

I'm more interested in myself.

The woman chuckles.

MEDICINE WOMAN

The weather, water, and the general conditions can provide you with a great future. I see that. But the Great Spirit's goodwill can be withdrawn at any time.

BUFFALO HUMP

To have this great future, must I bring back Spanish horses? This seems to be the nub of it.

There's a pause. The ancient one reaches out and touches his face and her beautiful young eyes peer into his.

MEDICINE WOMAN

It is always possible for a man to shape his own fate.

(pause)

You must ride hard and fast and you must be smart. You must be silent.

BUFFALO HUMP  
So I should take only a few men?

Silence.

BUFFALO HUMP  
You won't answer me?

MEDICINE WOMAN  
You already have your answer.

BUFFALO HUMP  
No I don't. I don't have the real  
answer.

MEDICINE WOMAN  
Then go and ask the Great Spirit  
himself. What are you afraid of?

Looks at her.

BUFFALO HUMP  
(quietly)  
Who is not afraid?

The MEDICINE WOMAN grins. She leans forward and  
looks deeply at LEANING COYOTE.

MEDICINE WOMAN  
I say only this to you, trust your son.

BUFFALO HUMP  
My son?

MEDICINE WOMAN  
I see greatness.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Why should I trust him? He is a twelve.

The MEDICINE WOMAN now stares at BUFFALO HUMP again with  
her soft and tender face - but will not answer. She turns  
and stares at LEANING COYOTE, who is afraid of her. He  
looks away.

MEDICINE WOMAN

Look at me, child.

LEANING COYOTE steels himself to look back at her. After a few seconds, she nods.

MEDICINE WOMAN

I think your son will be ready. Let him go and kill a buffalo. He can't help. He must do this alone. And then if he wants to go deep into Mexico, then he can say this to you. That's all I can tell you.

BUFFALO HUMP

You haven't helped me at all, woman. He can't kill a buffalo.

A long beat.

MEDICINE WOMAN

Perhaps you asked the wrong questions. In any case, sometimes you should not try to foresee your fate, for it is best not to know it.

**EXT. TRACK TOWARD HOME - DAY**

They WARRIORS come over a hill and see a buffalo herd in the distance, but very near is a single young bull. The animal is shocked and immediately breaks into a run. Without any hesitation, LEANING COYOTE gives chase. He takes an additional horse.

The older warriors, BUFFALO HUMP, WOODEN LANCE and the OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR don't move. They watch from the top of the hill as the young man chases the buffalo back toward the herd. The end of the chase is too far to see in detail but there is a great deal of dust thrown up into the air.

Finally, the group of WARRIORS begin to slowly walk their horses toward the event.

**INT. BUFFALO HUMP TEEPEE - DAY**

BUFFALO HUMP and SIGHT OF DAY lay on floor on top of a buffalo blanket.

SIGHT OF DAY

How was it?

BUFFALO HUMP

Good. I gave you all the goods I traded for. Nothing was held back.

SIGHT OF DAY

So many things at once. My successful wealthy husband!

BUFFALO HUMP

I didn't think you would complain. A witch told me to take LEANING COYOTE with us to Mexico. Then I brought him home.

SIGHT OF DAY

You can't, he is too young?

BUFFALO HUMP

She said if he could kill a buffalo, then he would be safe.

SIGHT OF DAY

He can't kill a buffalo!

BUFFALO HUMP

He did!

SIGHT OF DAY

What?

BUFFALO HUMP

We came across a young bull! He ran and our son chased him to death.

SIGHT OF DAY

No?

BUFFALO HUMP

Twelve arrows and a lance!

He reaches out, touches her breast.

BUFFALO HUMP

I missed you. Did anything happen  
while we were away?

She is stunned by the news that her son is already a man at  
the age of twelve. She looks worried but in a few seconds  
then she becomes proud.

SIGHT OF DAY

No. Nothing.

BUFFALO HUMP

Did you miss me?

SIGHT OF DAY

I was too busy working to miss you.

BUFFALO HUMP

Is that true?

She jokingly smiles.

SIGHT OF DAY

No. I ached with love longing. My belly  
was empty of laughter.

BUFFALO HUMP

How can I make you laugh now?

SIGHT OF DAY

I don't want to laugh now.

She pushes him back on the floor, and gets astride him.

SIGHT OF DAY

I want to ride you, like a bull.  
Like a wild bull.

She rocks back and forth, her eyes gleaming.  
Unclasps her hair and leans down to kiss him, her  
hair falling all around him.

SIGHT OF DAY

Now bull, now.

He starts to make love to her.



Outside the teepee, LEANING COYOTE can hear them. His parents make love loudly, shouting, and the teepee shakes. LEANING COYOTE is untroubled.

**EXT. HOUSE - DAY**

We are struck, again, by the immense, almost overwhelming space that is west Texas. There is a RIDER approaching, cutting through the calm waters, dwarfed by the huge space.

The RIDER reaches the camp. It is BEAR MAN and he climbs down. BEAR MAN climbs down from his mount.

LEANING COYOTE  
Hello BEAR MAN.

BEAR MAN ruffles the boy's hair.

BEAR MAN  
Hello, young Leaning Coyote.  
(pause)  
Where are your parents?

LEANING COYOTE is matter of fact.

LEANING COYOTE  
They're making me another brother.

BEAR MAN laughs.

**EXT. TEEPEE - EVENING**

BUFFALO HUMP, SIGHT OF DAY, LEANING WOLF, LARGE BLOSSOM and BEAR MAN eat and drink. BEAR MAN eats copiously and looks at LARGE BLOSSOM.

BEAR MAN  
So, Large Blossom, tell me: is your mother teaching you how to ride a horse? And use a weapon?

LARGE BLOSSOM  
Yes. I know how to use a weapon. I know what it's for.

BEAR MAN

Your mother was a famous fighter. She mounted a stallion to chase Apache.

SIGHT OF DAY

Not so much of the "was" please, Bear man. "Is" will do.

BEAR MAN

Is...she is a famous woman. She would have killed Apache if they hadn't run like the wind.

SIGHT OF DAY

I would have fought to protect my sisters and mother. My brothers and my father. The other men too were off fighting different Apache. I would have died if needed.

BUFFALO HUMP looks at her.

BUFFALO HUMP

You could have died.  
(It's something between them)

She rises.

SIGHT OF DAY

Come on children, to bed. We'll leave the men.

LEANING COYOTE

I'm a man. I have a saddle.

SIGHT OF DAY

To bed!

LEANING COYOTE AND GYDA

Good night.

BUFFALO HUMP

Good night, my children.

Kisses them. They go off. BUFFALO HUMP looks his brother square in the eye.

BEAR MAN

Tell me your news. What about the raid?

BUFFALO HUMP

The old Yamparika warrior will lead us there.

BEAR MAN

Do you trust him? Isn't he an old man? What if he dies?

BUFFALO HUMP

He's a great warrior. I trust him to live. Sight of Day has been feeding him up.

BEAR MAN

And you still think these Spanish horses will be there?

BUFFALO HUMP

I do.

(pause)

But I have to ask you this, when we go, will you go with us?

There's a long beat. BEAR MAN drinks wipes his mouth. Stares at his brother.

BEAR MAN

Only if we're all equal. I won't go under your command.

BUFFALO HUMP slips the ring from his arm. Holds it out to BEAR MAN.

BUFFALO HUMP

My Grandfather is the Fire

My Grandmother is the Wind

The Earth is my Mother

The Great Spirit is my Father

Everyone on Comanche horses will be equal, and will share equally what we find.

(beat)

Will you come?

A beat. Then BEAR MAN reaches out, and also takes hold of BUFFALO HUMP's hand.

BEAR MAN

I will come. I swear.

BUFFALO HUMP grins, embraces him. But BEAR MAN is still staring at him.

BEAR MAN

But we must find warriors. Not many men will want to go that far into Mexico.

(pause)

Many of them will be afraid, and if we get there some of them might run for home at the least trouble.

BUFFALO HUMP

Leave that to me. I have a good idea where we will find our crew.

BEAR MAN looks at him quizzically, but doesn't question him.

BEAR MAN

You're very determined. How do you know we'll be successful?

BUFFALO HUMP

I don't know. But what I do know is that we make out our fate. It is a matter of personal power.

(pause)

If you are afraid go pray.

A beat. Then SIGHT OF DAY comes back in.

SIGHT OF DAY

They're asleep.

She sits down. BUFFALO HUMP rises and goes outside.

BEAR MAN smiles at SIGHT OF DAY. She smiles at him. He tries to hold her gaze.

BEAR MAN  
I've always wanted you. Always.

SIGHT OF DAY  
That's too bad.

She smiles again, but he takes it like an insult - reaches out and grabs her wrist.

BEAR MAN  
Don't insult me.

SIGHT OF DAY  
No. I would never insult you. You're too great a warrior.

Eyes tight on each other. Then he releases his grip.

SIGHT OF DAY  
But not so great a man.

**EXT. IN THE MESQUITE TREES - EVENING**

BUFFALO HUMP finishes peeing. The landscape is bathed in moonlight, which gives everything a mysterious look.

BUFFALO HUMP's gaze is somehow drawn across to the edge of the prairie... as a cougar emerges.

The cougar walks toward the horse herd, a little way, completely unafraid. Then stops, and seems to look back at BUFFALO HUMP for a few long moments.

And then the cougar turns, moves away among the shadows, but in a different direction.

**EXT. TEEPEE - EVENING**

BUFFALO HUMP comes back. Is immediately aware that something has happened between SIGHT OF DAY and BEAR MAN - but chooses to ignore it.

He sits down again.

BUFFALO HUMP  
I saw a cougar out there.

BEAR MAN  
We must kill it.

BUFFALO HUMP looks at him.

BUFFALO HUMP  
No. We mustn't kill it.

BEAR MAN  
Why not?

A beat.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Because it wasn't a cougar.

#### **INT. TEEPEE - NIGHT**

LEANING COYOTE lies in his bed, still awake. He can hear the adult conversations in the next room. His hand still grips the knife he's been given, for he will never let it go.

When he closes his eyes he sees the cougar. The Cougar is staring at him. But the eyes are not darting around. And his gaze is terrible. Like many cats the eye bores into you.

#### **EXT. LANDSCAPE - DAY**

The Paneteka band is moving. There are horses and dogs with travois. They are packed with all the things that own. There is a herd of horses. Everything is mobile.

There are some old and sick members who are abandoned by members of the community except their family.

LARGE BLOSSOM is worried and has never witnessed such a thing. A girl her age is being left to help care for her grandfather, who is dying.

SIGHT OF DAY

(to Large Blossom)

This was not done out of cruelty.

BUFFALO HUMP

(adding to the explanation)

Evil spirits have invaded the body of the old man.

Later, we see the knees of the deceased old man are folded and tied with a rope and then the body was washed. The old man is dressed in his finest clothing and put upon a blanket. The face was painted red and the eyes were covered with some clay.

The relatives of the old man say farewell. The body was then wrapped in blanket and tied with buffalo-hide rope and put on a horse and carried to a place of burial.

The burial is in a very small cave, in the side of a ravine. The cave is hard to spot but it is in a crevice among the rocks. The body is buried in a sitting position. They stack wooden poles in the entrance and rocks cover them.

The family of the Comanche then move back to find the band.

**INT. BUFFALO HUMP'S TEEPEE - DAWN**

The first brightness in the night sky. A small ray of light. The moon is still in the sky, pale and diminishing. The camera travels through the camp and its sleeping inhabitants. We see the colored shields, some weapons. We see the ashes of a fire, a slaughtered and half eaten animal hangin upon a tripod. The children asleep like any other children. LEANING COYOTE is still clasping his knife in a death grip.

BUFFALO HUMP and SIGHT OF DAY naked and asleep, coiled together. Then BUFFALO HUMP opens his eyes. And the first thing he hears is a horrifying war cry. He looks outside the teepee in a fright. And then he hears laughter, and he

sees the young wild WARRIORS, the same young men who were disruptive of the market earlier. They surround BUFFALO HUMP's teepee. They are chanting and waving weapons.

It is something like a pep-rally before a high school football game.

SIGHT OF DAY follows BUFFALO HUMP into the morning. She is happy for her husband who seems to be the object of the young WARRIOR's affection. He is their leader, however temporary it is the epitome of Comanche power.

BUFFALO HUMP stares at them, covering his nakedness. The OLD WARRIOR is there with them. It seems he has been watching them slowly whine themselves up to this rally.

OLD YAMPARIKA WARRIOR  
They are ready.

EXT. CAMP - MORNING

The young warriors have packed and are ready. Even LEANING COYOTE is ready to go in an instance. They were ready to leave at sunrise.

The older WARRIORS take some of the morning to prepare for the journey. We watch BUFFALO HUMP, BEAR MAN and WOODEN LANCE pack. And we see BUFFALO HUMP and LEANING COYOTE say good-bye to their family.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Will we share the same moon?

SIGHT OF DAY  
Yes. Of course.

They mount up and ride south out of the camp.

**EXT. NORTHERN MEXICO - DAY**

As the group of WARRIORS progress south, we see the hardships of little water and grass. Basically, the Comanche men push the horses and then take a new one. They move fast and take not risks.

Each night we see SIGHT OF DAY and BUFFALO HUMP stare at the moon, sharing it.



**EXT. NEAR MONTERREY MEXICO - DAY**

They sight Mexican SOLDIERS on horseback. It isn't know if the SOLDIERS saw them but there isn't any reaction on their part.

**EXT. SPANISH HACIENDA NEAR COYOTEPEC MEXICO - NIGHT**

We see a Spanish hacienda with wealth enough for a chapel and priest. Normal operations of a huge horse operation. It is clear that the horse is main money making animal for this ranch. There are few cattle and few other animals. But clearly there are some VERY nice breeding horses. Several stallions.

**EXT. NEAR MONTERREY MEXICO - NIGHT**

Six Comanche WARRIORS slip into a camp of Mexican SOLDIERS. The dozen SOLDIERS are sleeping, each with a horse tied to his wrist by the leather strap and also a rope within six feet of the sleeper. They are clearly conscious of the Comanche ability to steal horses and take precautions. The Comanche get away with the horses without waking a soul.

**INT. SPANISH HACIENDA NEAR COYOTEPEC - NIGHT**

MARIA is a young woman, 12 years old. She has two books in her room. One is the bible and the other is a book on horse breeding.

**EXT. PASTURE NEAR THE HACIENDA - NIGHT**

The herd is found in a pasture of grass. The YOUNG WARRIORS their spirits sore. But the OLD WARRIOR points out there are a heavily armed set of vaquero guards. They become somber and perhaps disappointed. They were all hoping it would be easy.

The owner of the hacienda clearly knows the value of the herd. BUFFALO HUMP and his party watch from a distant mountain. He is calm and will wait for the best moment to strike.

BUFFALO HUMP notices and gestures to dark clouds far on the horizon.

**INT. CHAPEL OF THE SPANISH HACIENDA - SATURDAY**

MARIA takes her conformation examination.

**EXT. PASTURE NEAR THE HACIENDA - SATURDAY NIGHT**

The Comanche WARRIORS slowly move down the mountain nearer the herd.

**INT. CHAPEL OF THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY**

MARIA makes her first confession.

**EXT. PASTURE NEAR THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY NIGHT**

The Comanche WARRIORS slowly move even more near.

**INT. CHAPEL OF THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY**

MARIA receives her first communion.

**EXT. PASTURE NEAR THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY NIGHT**

The WARRIORS have come extremely close to the guards of the herd. The WARRIORS are about spring upon them and kill them. But a pouring rain comes and vaqueros break camp and return to the hacienda.

BUFFALO HUMP singles for the young WARRIORS to take the herd slowly north. He sends BEAR MAN with them to supervise.

BUFFALO HUMP, WOODEN LANCE and LEANING COYOTE follow the vaqueros.

**INT. MAIN HOUSE OF THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY**

There is a loud and celebratory party for MARIA. There is music and dancing. There are gifts and many friends have come to wish her luck and to celebrate.

The storm is intense.

MARIA is bored or rather more accurately preoccupied. She sneaks away from her party, gets a lantern and her book on horse breeding. She sneaks out to the barn.

**INT. HORSE BARN ON THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY**

There is a man watching her mare in the barn. MARIA's mare is about to give birth to a foal.

We see MARIA in her party dress, holding a lantern and a book. She enters the stall. The mare is in labor.

The vaquero watching the mare urges her not to enter the stall. But she is fear less. The mare is agitated but not at the girl. The mare actually calms down a bit with MARIA near.

**EXT. PASTURE NEAR THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY NIGHT**

The herd of horse have been moved a significant distance. They consider waiting, but then begin moving.

**INT. HORSE BARN ON THE HACIENDA - SUNDAY**

BUFFALO HUMP, WOODEN LANCE and LEANING COYOTE follow the vaqueros and find the Hacienda... and the barn. They are looking for the stallions and best of the mares.

The three WARRIORS ride their horses into the barn. WOODEN LANCE kills the vaquero. And he begins stealing ever bit of tack and rope and packing it onto his spare horse. There must be 20 ropes and many bridles tied to the horse, when he leaves.

LEANING COYOTE looks in each stall from his horse. He of course frightens MARIA.

MARIA

She is having a foal.

LEANING COYOTE rides to tell his father about the horse and the girl. When he does this MARIA is tempted to run for the house. She reasons that she can't make it and chooses to defend her mare and the coming foal.

She runs to the dead vaquero and takes the knife from his boot. She stands outside the door to the mare's stall and waits for trouble.

When LEANING COYOTE returns and dismounts MARIA is ready to fight... She fights with LEANING COYOTE but he can't subdue her. She has a knife and is enraged.

She wraps her long dress and petticoat around her hand and grabs LEANING COYOTE's knife hand at the same time tries to stab him. BUFFALO HUMP is there and is concerned but does nothing.

MARIA blocks several of LEANING COYOTE's thrusts with her horse breeding book.

He reasons that his son might as well learn to fight with the least amount of danger.

BUFFALO HUMP is trying to get a look inside the stall.

MARIA

She is having a foal.

LEANING COYOTE and BUFFALO HUMP do not understand her. As the boy and girl fight, LEANING COYOTE looks to his father for guidance. She is a woman, a girl, and it throws LEANING COYOTE for a loop. He doesn't know if he is supposed to kill her... it appears that he doesn't know how or he simply doesn't want to.

So they end up punching each other, slashing at each other and in the end rolling around on the ground wrestling with each other.

MARIA

She is having a foal.

Finally, she gets the upper hand. She is on top of him and is about drive the knife into his face. But LEANING COYOTE grabs her hands stopping the progress of the bald. The knife nicks his cheek. But, he rolls her off of him and stands up. They both have knives but there isn't any progress in 5 mins of fighting.

The two youth - LEANING COYOTE and MARIA stare at each other in a stand off. Neither wants to fight anymore. Both exhausted from fighting.

BEAR MAN suddenly appears and has a bow aimed at MARIA's heart. He is about to kill her with an arrow. She doesn't flinch at the threat of arrow.

She is not about to give up her Mare and foal. She appears willing to fight to the death.

BUFFALO HUMP stops his brother from killing the girl.

There is a momentary peace. Everyone is curious what MARIA is guarding/protecting so dearly.

BUFFALO HUMP slowly moves behind the girl. They look in the stall and there is a foal... just born.

When MARIA also looks into the stall, BEAR MAN slugs her and knocks her out. BEAR MAN wants to rape her and he pull up her dress... but the petticoat is so voluminous little is accomplished.

BUFFALO HUMP pulls BEAR MAN off the girl.

BEAR MAN  
How can you stop me?

BUFFALO HUMP  
I just did!

BEAR MAN  
How can you stop me if we are equal?

BUFFALO HUMP  
I just did!

BEAR MAN  
Well I'm going to burn this barn.

BEAR MAN makes a move for the lantern. BUFFALO HUMP stops him... They are about to fight... brother vs. brother ... and it will probably be to the death... but BUFFALO HUMP tries to reason with his brother.

BUFFALO HUMP  
Did you see the girl fight?

BEAR MAN nods, yes.

BUFFALO HUMP  
The girl, she would die to protect that mare and foal. Right?

BEAR MAN  
Right!

BUFFALO HUMP  
So it is valuable. Next year we will come back and take them then. If you burn the barn there will not be any reason to return.

BUFFALO HUMP looks to the house that is well lighted and loud, the party seems uninterrupted.

MARIA is beginning to stir and is soon awake.

BUFFALO HUMP  
(to Maria)  
Which is the best stallion?

MARIA is not clear headed, she can't understand what is he saying. She grabs her book and holds it near her chest.

And BUFFALO HUMP looks at Maria and reasons that the girl's mare would get the best stallion. BUFFALO HUMP takes her to the stall where the mare is and he points to the foal.

BUFFALO HUMP  
(to Maria)  
Which is the best stallion?

She is puzzled, but just as BUFFALO HUMP is about to become frustrated, finally MARIA understands and points. The

stallion is clearly agitated, but he is marked exactly as the foal.

He bridles the stallion and puts the girl on his back. She is bareback. BUFFALO HUMP takes her hands and places them on the mane and squeezes. She grabs hold and BUFFALO HUMP on his horse leads them out into the rain.

She immediately falls off within sight of the hacienda, but he returns to pick her up out of the mud. No bones are broken so he throws her back on the stallion.

**EXT. HIDALGO - DAY**

The land is low and flat. We see huizache trees, mesquite trees, prickly pear and wild lettuce, As they move north the men see hares and owls. There is also a panther.

They follow the edge of the mountains. They stop at a hot springs, Grutas Tolantongo, they are amazed at this sight but don't have time to enjoy it.

The WARRIORS can all predict that they will be tracked.

BUFFALO HUMP

Each man will take ten horses. And return independently, or at worst in a set of two.

YOUNG WARRIOR

What?

BUFFALO HUMP

You can travel in pairs. No more than 20 horses on one track. Hide your trail if you can. Move fast and don't kill the horses.

The idea is to rope and divide the 100 horses into 10 groups, with each WARRIOR put in charge of each set.

LEANING COYOTE immediately identified ten mares and begins to work tying them together.

The young WARRIORS have no idea how to tie ten horses in a chain. They watch WOODEN LANCE and LEANING COYOTE. The boy is the first to have his ten horse tied together.

YOUNG WARRIOR

How do you know how to do this?

LEANING COYOTE

I practiced. Everyday!

BUFFALO HUMP motions to his son have has him to move out north. BUFFALO HUMP supervises the dividing of the herd. He points the men in different directions.

BUFFALO HUMP

(pointing northeast)

You, travel in this direction for one day and then move north.

BUFFALO HUMP

(pointing north-northeast)

You, travel in this direction for two days and then move north.

BUFFALO HUMP and doesn't move to rejoin his son until all the WARRIORS are moving in different northerly directions.

**EXT. HIDALGO - DAY**

We see VAQUEROS and Mexican SOLDIERS chasing around in the vast expanse. They seem perplexed and can't manage to track any of the Comanche WARRIORS.

**EXT. PENATEKA CAMP - DAY**

They reach the Penateka camp in Texas. There is a small celebration when BUFFALO HUMP and LEANING COYOTE arrive with their 11 horses. LEANING COYOTE brings 10 mares and BUFFALO HUMP has the powerful Arabian stallion.

The are greeted by SIGHT OF DAY and LARGE BLOSSOM.

The captured MARIA is on the stallion. She looks and feels out of place, having been kidnapped and now witnessing the family reunion. However, she can become a part of the family and will play a part the following episodes. Many captives were adopted and taken into the Comanche society.



END CREDITS

FADE OUT

THE COMANCHES, television series by Lee A. Miller

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- Episode 2 - Thirty Penateka Comanche are killed in the Council House Massacre (San Antonio)
  - Episode 3 - The Great Raid of 1840 is the largest raid ever mounted by Native Americans on whites.
  - Episode 4 - The Attack on Lindale, Texas
  - Episode 5 - The Battle of Plum Creek, Texas
  - Episode 6 - Peace is made between Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Comanches. Comanches give massive gifts of horses to their new allies.
  - Episode 7 - Texas Rangers formed to fight Comanches.
  - Episode 8 - Texas has second war with Mexico.
  - Episode 9 - Colonel J.C. Eldridge meets with Chief Pahayuco of the Tenawa at Pecan River, near the Red River.
  - Episode 10 - Sam Houston meets with Chief Tseep Tasewah along with other Indian Leaders.
  - Episode 11 - Quannah Parker is born to Cynthia Ann Parker near Laguna Sabinas (Cedar Lake).
  - Episode 12 - Treaty between Republic of Texas and Texas band of Comanches is signed.
  - Episode 13 - United States annexes Texas.
  - Episode 14 - Butler-Lewis Treaty made with Comanche, Anadarko, Caddo, Lipan, Wichita and Waco.
  - Episode 15 - Comanche delegation meets with President Polk.
  - Episode 16 - German Treaty signed at Fredericksburg with Comanche, this treaty is still honored.
  - Episode 17 - Smallpox epidemic strikes Comanche people.
  - Episode 18 - Between 1848 and 1853, Mexico filed 366 separate complaints for Comanche and Apache raids originating from North of the border.
  - Episode 19 - Gold seekers traveling along Canadian River bring more smallpox to the Comanches.