Before Tomorrow

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1

EXT. AMONG THE ICE FLOES ON THE ARCTIC OCEAN MORNING ρ_{ν} μ 1

The film opens to bright lights, sun reflecting on water; dazzling, pure light, light so bright our eyes cannot make out any contours. As if watching a mirage, we slowly start to perceive human shapes.

W.30-5.00

SOME 1A WOWLN Sleep A group of Inuit hunters travel on the Arctic sea. They are surrounded by slowly drifting ice floes. Their bodies seem spiked with light, as though the tip of every hair on their sealskin clothing were connected to the light.

Four women, two children, an old one-eyed man, and several 1A dogs sit in an umiaq, a large boat made of sealskin. The women hold the oars and the old man sits at the bow, watching the water for any game that might show up.

1B

Three men, each in his own kayak, paddle near the umiaq. 1B After the old man points to an ice floe, the hunters paddle toward their prey, a silver seal sunbathing.

A harpoon crosses the sky from left to right.

A loud shout breaks the silence — "Aitta! (Darn!)" — as the seal slips into the water.

Everybody laughs loudly.

QARJUK, the harpooner, is about 30, cheerful, sure of himself, quicker and stronger than the others. He exaggerates his disappointment, making the others laugh while he retrieves his harpoon. The Inuit are at once pitying his misfortune, enjoying the joke and marveling at how fast the seal escaped.

2

EXT SHORE DAYTIME

2

Gentle waves lap on a pebble beach. Two silhouettes approach in the distance: a woman and a boy, bathed in light, like a mirage, two beings of light coming toward us.

They walk slowly, eyes on the ground; a dog follows the boy closely.

As the boy bends down to pick up an egg he steps out of the light as though stepping through a door, stepping into "our" world. He hands the egg, with a contented smile, to the woman who puts it in a bag with others they've already gathered.

MANIQ, about 10, is bold, mischievous, disheveled and sweet. NINGIUQ, is his grandmother, about 60. She radiates wisdom, maturity and strength.

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JA.

MANIQ

Grandmother, we have enough to feed everybody tonight!

Ningiuq's eyes are bright with humour and kindness. She points to the horizon.

NINGIUQ (Look. I can almost see them. They must be close.)

They both look toward the shimmering sea; Ningiuq thoughtful, inward, remembering.

NINGIUQ

That old man, Kukik, has travelled to faraway places, to the ends of the world, to great mountains so high you can't even see the top.

MANIO

Have you seen those mountains?

NINGIUQ

No, but your grandfather did, before he went to the other world. He told me the first time he saw those mountains, he felt like crying, like when he saw the face of our firstborn child.

She laughs gently.

NINGIUO

Your father.

(smiles again)
I couldn't really understand how looking at mountains could stir such deep emotion. I would be afraid if I saw them.

JB/

The landscape around them is flat, gentle hills rolling into the ocean. A seagull cries, as though calling out to the walkers to get their attention.

Maniq bends down again and this time picks up a strange object: a wooden pulley from a boat, washed up on the beach, swollen and cracked.

MANIQ

(excited)

What is this? Look Ningiuq! Something from the other world! ᠳᡥᡗ᠌᠌ᡗᡐ bLdᡝᠫ᠖, ᢗᡪᢅ᠋ᢉ᠘᠘᠘ᡶᢇ᠘ᢣᡃᡆᢅᡶ᠘ᢖ.

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She stares at the object with quiet concern.

NINGIUQ

(uneasy)

More and more strange things wash up on our shores these days. Maybe we should just leave it here?

The child hesitates, then gently insists.

MANIQ

I want to show it to my father. He'll know what it's for. I'm sure he knows.

Ningiuq does not answer. Maniq calls his dog to follow and the two walk off slowly through the light.

NINGIUQ (V.O.)

We have traveled far, Maniq and I. Who would have thought an old woman and such a young boy could travel so far together.

3 TITLE: BEFORE TOMORROW

4

3

EXT ON THE OCEAN DAYTIME

The hunters have hauled two seals onto a large ice floe so they can cut the meat. Women lean over the edge of the umiak watching while children play tag or gather fresh ice water into skin buckets.

KUKIK, about 70, takes out a knife with a metal blade and slits open the first seal's belly, smiling with satisfaction. One of the younger men murmurs with good humored envy.

HUNTER

Most only dream of having a knife like this...

Kukik laughs. He slides the knife between his fingers and against his palm to scrape off the leftover blood and meat, then licks the blade.

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Shoot Day #5,

July 7

Scene 2-3: seve 2-3-5 ce ne - 7. Rehearsals: meeting inthactors with MAS CANCE kayaks- standing-Ze bee bee Dogs LOOD Props

COMO LYOU S LOOT DAY #5 -NG MAS CANOLE : 2/AZNOS Buldnote

KUKIK

(as if to himself)) This knife is truly remarkable, just like the story of how I obtained it.

He points to the open sea, in the direction their boats will take towards the land now barely visible on the horizon.

KUKIK

It is good to have fresh meat to share with others. Let's hope we see them today.

Kukik skillfully finishes cutting up the seal and everyone eats. Two younger men load the leftover meat and the second seal into the umiak. Dogs bark and snarl restlessly hoping for some scraps. Qarjuk, the old man's son, leads the other hunters back to their kayaks.

Kukik looks eagerly towards the distant land.

KUKIK

Son, there are people there who would be happy to have such a capable young man as a son-inlaw...

Everyone laughs at the gentle teasing. Kukik takes a deep breath.

I can smell the land. We've Change (because the arrived! Let's go!

Everyone scrambles excitedly back into the boats.

EXT CAMP DAYTIME

Three sealskin tents set along the shore, where a river empties into the sea. An umiaq and three kayaks pulled out of _ the water. This is a comfortable summer camp of fifteen souls. Men and women move around working or talking, children play laughing, a baby cries.

APAK, about 40, sits working on his kayak, fixing one of the lines as two young boys watch intently in silence. They all look up as they hear Maniq shout excitedly as he comes running toward the tents.

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MANIQ
Father! Look what I found on the beach. What is it?

Maniq rushes up to hand Apak the mysterious object which he examines carefully, turning it over in his hands. Other people and children gather to look at it.

APAK

Yes, it's something that belongs to the Strangers. The old man coming here has seen one of their giant boats. Show it to him when they arrive.

Ningiuq walks up behind them slowly with the sack full of eggs. She listens with the same uneasiness as when Maniq found the pulley. As her grandson runs off proudly with his new treasure, she turns to Apak, the camp leader, her firstborn, her favorite child. When no words come, he smiles at her gently.

APAK

That boy is always happy with his grandmother. Mother... It will be wonderful to see my father's old hunting partner again. You must be thinking of those old days....

They watch Maniq run around the camp showing off his find, followed by children all clamoring to touch it.

NINGIUK

Yes, he reminds me. Of course.

The kindness between the old lady and her strong son is visible, forming a triangle of tenderness around the young boy they both love so much. With no words to express the different emotions inside her, Ningiuq turns away to the fire, busying herself to prepare her sackful of eggs to boil. With a last glance at his mother, Apak also turns back to work but is stopped by more shouting from the children by the shore.

CHILDREN'S VOICES
Here they are! They are arriving!
Here they are!

5.00 pm (check the tise)

CUT TO:

The happy travelers land in a wave of excitement and exclamation: hunters, ladies, children rushing around laughing, dogs barking. So many years have gone by!

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Apak, as camp leader, greets his counterpart, Qarjuk, whose powerful stature and evident lack of a wife quickly attracts the attention of the camp's younger women.

Old Kukik needs help from his two wives to climb out of the umiaq. One of his legs is useless and he limps with a cane made from a narwhal tusk.

Ningiuq comes forward to greet him. Kukik approaches her with a big smile and tears in his eyes.

KUKIK

So young! You haven't changed at all! I would recognize the wife of my old hunting partner - even with my two eyes closed.

Several ladies in both groups burst out laughing at what is in fact Kukik's ribald joke. Kukik's wives make cracks about how he no longer satisfies even them, while admiring Ningiug's beautifully embroidered clothes. Suddenly, with a loud shout, an old woman bursts out from one of the tents, waving her cane high in the air: KUUTUJUK, about 70, crippled with arthritis but full of life.

KUUTUJUK

Wait for this old body to join the party! Don't start dancing without me! Who left me sleeping in there?

Everyone laughs and welcomes her.

EXT CAMP EVENING

The sun is lower, with the startling colors of the summer night sky. In front of the tents, seals and fish, gossip and C news, are shared and exchanged. It has been many years since these people have been together.

Ningiuq sits with one of Kukik's wives, PAPPA, about 50, a little apart from the group. Pappa nods towards her son Qarjuk, surrounded by interested admirers.

PAPPA

Three of our sons already are gone a long time and it's only luck this one has stayed. Two summers ago, his family drowned when their umiaq was crushed by an iceberg. Since then he has taken many spirit journeys to ease his pain. He helps us too.

(MORE)

7

People are

putting up the last

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KAYAKS_ Lycassie _

PAPPA(cont'd)

Last winter, his father was paralyzed on one side, and he had to make a spirit flight to bring back the life strength to his father. Without him, his father would be dead.

The two women pick up a piece of meat to eat.

All that effort, all that work! Sometimes, it makes him anxious, more than a man his age should be. That's why I wish he could find comfort with a good-looking young woman, a good seamstress, who could soothe him and help him.

NINGIUQ

(glancing at the young women)

I already see some young ones who have the same idea...

Meanwhile the two camp leaders exchange plans for the coming harvest.

APAK

My mother remembers this place as one of the most bountiful she has ever known. In the old days they caught fish jumping into their hands and the hills were bursting with berries just waiting to be picked.

OARJUK

Yes, the women and children should be happy again like the old days. My father used to tell us stories about this place, where there was so much food no one could ever be hungry. I always dreamed of coming going there here since I was a child here since I was a child.

Sitting a little farther apart, old Kukik tells the tale of his journey to the Great Mountains to the children, who are attentive and impressed.

MAS to come up with the stories

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11. לכך ספנאסלר סישלי

The oil lamp burns with a warm and cheerful flame. Nearby, the wooden pulley Manig found on the beach seems to glow with the same light

9 INT. UNDER THE COVERS

9

8

Maniq and Ningiuq have their heads under the covers. Maniq tells Ningiug incredible tales, inspired by Kukik's stories and by the discovery of the strange object. He falls asleep still talking, and Ningiug kisses him gently.

INT APAK 'S TENT NIGHT 10

Ningiuk emerges from the safe cavern of caribou skins and tucks them around the sleeping Maniq. She sings very softly, an aqaq (lullaby) she created just for this favorite grandson. She lays her head on her folded forearms and surveys her sleeping family: Apak snores gently between his two wives; Maniq looks like an angel, sleeping beside his older brother and sister.

Ningiuq stares at the lamp's flame and, as is her habit before falling asleep, talks through her mind to her dead husband.

NINGIUQ (V.O.)

Dear husband, you would enjoy this grandson of yours. His courage and enthusiasm would make you happy. He so reminds me of you.

She glances again at her peaceful family but now there is an anxiety in her eyes she cannot really explain. Thoughtfully, slowly, she reaches over to the qulliq and puts out most of its flame, leaving a little dancing fire to revive the lamplight the next day.

DS LEAU (6 MAM D'APAK DS LEAU)

11

EXT CAMP DAYTIME

A few men leave in their kayaks to go seal hunting. Maniq watches his father load his harpoon and tools in his kayak and push off to join them. Like all young boys, Maniq is heartbroken every time the hunters leave without him. Maniq stares after the disappearing kayaks, his dog beside him, then walks dejectedly back to his tent.

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cu on Ninging's face

His grandmother works outside on some seal skins with her old friend Kuutujuk beside. Ningiuk sees the disappointment in the boy's face. Love or 2 sisters)

NINGIUQ

Maniq, go get your sister and I will show you a very special place.

Maniq's eyes brighten and he rushes off to find his sister. The old ladies keep working. Behind them, the men who have not gone kayaking prepare to repair a saputi (fish weir) upriver, where they hope to trap hundreds of fish as they head up to the lakes to spawn. The men will work waist deep in the river to fix the stone traps, and walk off wearing Kould only their sealskin parkas and boots, but no pants. This provokes laughter and teasing from the camp's women, joking raucously about the men's 'equipment' as they walk by.

We was women.

Ningiuk and sharing with young women. Ningiuk and her old friend smile at the sexual banter, sharing without speaking the memories of themselves as daring

remove their pants.

12

KUUTUJUK

I thought I should have stayed behind at the winter camp... I was wondering why such an old bag of bones was being dragged here. But you were right, dear old friend: I wanted to see this place again before dying. You and I had good times here.

Ningiug looks at her tenderly.

NINGIUQ

We couldn't abandon you there. You see how you watch the men with you their pants off? You still have A boot some life left in you some life left in you yet!

She tells the guls to The two old ladies laugh like teenage girls.

EXT ON THE HILLSIDE DAYTIME

Ningiuk leads Maniq and his sister QATIGAK, about 12, up the hill along a footpath lined with stones that look as if they were placed by people a thousand years ago. She points up toward a large stone cairn at the top, an inuksuk, in the shape of a man running, made of only a few simple rocks and yet amazingly alive, as if he were ready to jump off the hill top and run swiftly down the valley behind.

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13. ∠⊂Γ ΔLΓ ▷⁻¬٩

They walk inthout talking

You see this inuksuk? Your grandfather built it. I myself came here with my own father and mother when I was very young. All I remember is building small houses out of rocks, and making tiny kayaks. That's how we used to play when we were children.

MANIK

Will you show us, Ningiuq? Do you think they're still there?

NINGIUQ

Of course! Where would they go?

(she laughs)

Then I came back here again only once with your grandfather, and that old man who just arrived. By then, I had one child — your father — and another baby in my amauti (woman's parka), and I was also pregnant. That summer was perfect. We had everything a person could want. Everything! We had plenty of time to rest and enjoy the warm days.

Maniq puts his hand on Ningiuq's and gives it a squeeze.

MANIO

This summer will be perfect, too, Ningiug....

NINGIUQ

It already is. Come, we're almost there.

EXT IN THE FJORD DAY

Flocks of Canada geese and ducks fly just above the water. The sea teems with life: seals pop their heads out of the water and sunbathe on ice floes. Schools of millions of small fish dart back and forth like a single fluid creature in the transparent water.

The kayakers pass between small islands under steep cliffs where thousands of gulls have made their nests. Nature's abundance and richness sings all around them. Paddling his kayak, Apak sing a very soft ajaaja song:

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$\sigma^{\circ}\Gamma$

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APAK

Let me walk.
Let me go on a journey.
Let me walk slowly.
Let me go on a journey
Looking for a song.
Ajaaja ajaaja
Let me travel.
Let me go on a journey
Where there are no people
Up there.
Ajaaja ajaaja

14 EXT TOP OF THE CLIFF EVENING

14

Ningiuq and her grandchildren play with the little kayaks and houses made of rocks: a world within a world within a world. They make the voices of people from long ago, their own ancestors whose names they carry through countless generations.

Later, Ningiuk and the children look down from the inuksuk at the camp far below them and hear the distant laughter of people playing games. The sea stretches endlessly toward the horizon and we glimpse the islands the hunters must have passed.

NINGIUQ

It's good to see new faces and hear amazing stories. When I was your age, there were a lot more people traveling. We often met people who seem to have disappeared today. There were also many more animals, great herds of caribou, so that we seldom had to go hungry. Now, I don't know where the caribou are.

Maniq listens to Ningiuq intently.

MANIQ

Why? Is everything different than it was?

NINGIUO

Yes, no...I don't know. You see, there may be many reasons.

Everything has a life of its own: the moss, rocks, wind. Even to very stories. Everything. (Look at the snow: it's melting because it's time to melt.)

Mingray

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NINGIUQ(cont'd)

We have to respect everything, otherwise things don't go as they should.

The two children move closer to their grandmother as she speaks quietly.

NINGIUQ

There are many beings we must be careful not to displease. That's why things must be done a certain way, why shamans make spirit journeys to the other world to find out what needs to be done.

MANIO

And, Ningiuq, where will we go when we die?

Where DiDSouls

NINGIUQ

You see happy souls when you look at the northern lights: those are happy souls playing with walrus heads in a nice shimmering land... Others, those who died by drowning, those who were murdered, those who died a violent death...go to a sad place.

MANIO

I hope we won't go there...

NINGIUQ

Well, I promise you we won't! Because those who die in peace, to make room for all who follow, go to that place where it's warm, where the hunting is good and where there are many nice people.

A man's voice rises faintly from the camp far below.

KUKIK

The kayakers are back, they have lots of meat. Let's celebrate! Everybody eat!

NINGIUQ

(to the children)
How nice to be alive, Let's go,
let's go eat. This climb has made
me hungry.

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She suddenly looks like a very young woman. The children are already running down toward the camp.

15 EXT CAMP EVENING

15

15A

A huge cooking pot of meat boils over a large campfire of 15A dried twigs. The camp is busy and excited, buzzing with anticipation that the visiting Qarjuk, such a handsome and capable hunter, might choose a new wife tonight Two different mothers seem to be advising their daughters what to do if they are chosen.

anxiously straightens the fringed decorations on her NIVI pretty, nervous-looking daughter's fancy dress parka.

NIVI

Whatever you do don't resist his advances. If he chooses you, he'll become your provider. Even if at first you're shocked, you'll get lous seves used to him.

The girl looks at her mother uncertainly.

KUKIK

Uyuk! Uyuk! (Cooked meat! There's cooked meat to eat!)

15B

Old Kukik has the honour to invite the whole camp to gatherB and eat. Everyone wears their finest clothes and broadest smiles. This is a true feast to celebrate old memories and new love, the reunion of friends, and their good fortune to be alive with plenty of food in a beautiful world.

15C Winging ->

After everybody has eaten, a woman starts singing an ajaaja£C Qarjuk gets up to dance. Another man joins in the dance. Qarjuk picks that moment to carry away ISSERVIK, the nervous APAK DANCE young girl, in a somewhat theatrical ritual, whereby she seems to struggle and resist. Qarjuk gets into his kayak with her, and paddles to a small headland nearby to consummate their union, while the rest of the party pretends not to

KIK DAYOnotice.

Suddenly, old Kukik takes out his metal knife and shows it 500 Apak and the other the hunters. This also seems a theatrical ritual, before beginning his story which he must have told many times before.

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KUKIK

We were busy spreading the caribou meat on the drying racks when one of us noticed something strange on the water, far away, on the horizon. We all stopped what we were doing and tried guessing what it was. It came toward us faster and faster. Eventually we saw that it was an umiaq, larger than any of our umiaqs, and it had no oars. It had huge white skins hanging from driftwood pillars. We had never seen an umiaq like it. We scurried to hide and were able to watch without being seen.

Kukik remains silent for a long while, and the whole audience remains silent and attentive. Kukik is seeing the situation again in his mind. He continues:

KUKIK

It continued to the head of the bay, where we had our camp, and stopped. The boat was so big it had another boat that was lowered into the water by the Strangers, who rowed it just like we row our umiags. When they got closer we saw the Strangers' clothes were all coloured and soft, made from something completely unlike any of the skins we have. Their skin was like ours only a different colour, lighter, but their hair was fantastically coloured. Some had no hair at all, and some had hair as red as a sunset. Others had yellow, brown, and black.

Kukik pours himself some water and drinks before going on, allowing wonder and surprise to sink in to his listeners.

KUKIK

The Strangers got out of their boat and put gifts -- knives and other things we had never seen -- on the beach, for all to see. Then, they went back to their little boat, and waited as though to gain our trust. I was among the first to examine the gifts, each more surprising than the next.

(MORE)

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KUKIK(cont'd)

There were flat rocks in which you could see your face, and knives like the one I have. There were pearls, coloured ribbons, heavy black cooking pots, needles...we looked at everything while two of the strangers came toward us holding long tools in their hands. Later, we learned that these were weapons that could kill even from a great distance, and made a great noise, like thunder.

Apak looks at Kukik, as though imagining the weapons he is describing.

KUKIK

Understanding the language of these strangers was impossible, and they could not understand us. They seemed friendly, taking one of our hands in theirs, with a strong grip, and holding it there for a moment. It was their custom.

Kukik holds out his hands and takes Apak's hand as the strangers did.

KUKIK

The strangers resembled Inuit in many ways. They were very interested by the few skins that we offered them in exchange for their gifts. They were very happy to eat the same meat we did. They slept with women like other men. They had no women aboard their boat, so they visited the Inuit women often, which made the men and women happy.

A few young women smile, a little embarrassed...

(MORE)

KUKIK

And then...we went on board that ship and we saw things that are really hard to describe. There were huge barrels filled with meat and whale blubber, as though that was what the strangers mainly lived on. What I remember most clearly was a water in containers that broke very easily when dropped. This water did not taste very good, though they seemed to like it.

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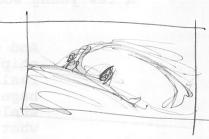
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KUKIK(cont'd)

It burned the throat, and it made people feel possessed -- laughing, staggering, falling down.

Kukik prepares to end his story. He rubs his hands on his pants and sighs.

KUKIK

They stayed three days, and then we never saw them again. Maybe a man can only see them once in his lifetime. What kind of spirits guided those people?

Ningiuq looks at Kukik. Questions seem to play on her lips. He weighs the knife in his hand. Maniq takes out his pulley from under his coat and looks at it. Now that he has heard Kukik's story, the object seems to have become even more precious to him. Other children approach to touch it, talking in admiring whispers.

16 INT APAK'S TENT NIGHT

16

Again, everyone settles down to sleep. Maniq and Ningiuq, as is their habit, put their heads under the covers.

17 INT. UNDER THE COVERS

17

Maniq begins an imaginary tale of journeys and meetings with foreigners aboard astonishing boats. His grandmother listens attentively and asks questions. Maniq falls asleep talking, and Ningiuq fondly pulls the caribou skin down around the child's neck.

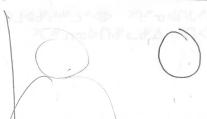
18 INT APAK'S TENT NIGHT

18

Once again, Ningiuq shortens the flame of her qulliq. She closes her eyes, lying on her back.

NINGIUQ (V.O.)
Dear husband, maybe I'm too old for all these things. They seem so desirable to others, and yet, they leave me cold...What is it that I want now?

She opens her eyes and lies with her eyes open, unable to fall asleep.



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19 INT APAK'S TENT MORNING SAME Angle BALL ASleed-

The tent is empty, except for a baby sleeping on the bed facing Ningiug.

Ningiuq awakens, but quickly closes her eyes again. We sense something keeps her from getting up. She seems to hesitate to join the world again. She listens to the sounds around her: the baby snoring, children laughing far away and two of the camp's young women sewing nearby. Ningiuk seems preoccupied as she listens to the young women talk.

> FIRST WOMAN (O.S.) Yesterday, that old man talked about the marvels the Strangers possessed, and he mentioned needles made of the same metal as the blade of his knife. He said a woman only had to sleep with a man to get one, or two, or even three. It's so incredible!

SECOND WOMAN (O.S.) I'm sure those needles wouldn't break easily. Can you imagine how easy it would be to sew, and how fast too! Would you sleep with one of those strangers? I know I'd be scared!

lnaalik

The two young women burst out laughing. Ningiuk herself does not laugh.

20 EXT ON THE BEACH DAYTIME 20

The camp is alive and busy as Ningiuq comes out of her tent. She seems puzzled and disturbed to have slept so late. She walks past a group of women sewing

NINGIUQ

It's embarrassing for an old woman to be the last one in the camp to wake up.

One of Kukik's wives looks up smiling.

The men went up early. There's They wont to already fish swimming in the saputi!

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Kuutujuk calls out from inside her tent.

KUUTUJUK (O.S.)

Old friend! Come and see me.

21 INT KUUTUJUK'S TENT

21

Ningiuq's head appears between the tent's two flaps. She smiles.

NINGIUO

An old woman returns to her childhood habits! It has been a long time since I woke up after everybody.

KUUTUJUK

Come here, dear friend. Come and tell me what's on your mind.

As Ningiuq sits beside her, Kuutuguk winces with pain. She cannot reach her cup of water.

KUUTUJUK

Now I can't forget I am no longer a child...

Ningiuq helps her friend to a more comfortable position and hands her the water.

NINGIUQ

How beautiful they are, my daughters-in-law, how beautiful youth is. Lately, I'm worried and I don't understand why...Maybe I'm just realizing such youth will never be mine again...maybe it's only a bit of sadness. How can I forget there is a time for everything...?

KUUTUJUK

Your mouth is full of words this morning. Me, I'm glad I came here, but now, I'm ready to leave. Maybe you'd want to help your old friend leave on her last trip. I need help to find my way.

They look at each other with emotion.

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KUUTUJUK

(with a small laugh)
And I'll leave it to others to
sleep with all those Strangers
everyone has been talking about so
much.

Excited voices outside shout out the news the river is teeming with fish. Everyone rushes to go fishing. The two old ladies listen to the camp's growing excitement.

KUUTUJUK

Go. Go have fun for me.

EXT SAPUTI

Ningiuq grabs a kakivak, the three-pronged fishing spear. Maniq walks beside her with his own, child-sized spear, excited like everyone else at fishing at the traps, where even children and old people can catch the large arctic char Inuit need to live through the coming winter.

Through a MONTAGE of fishing frenzy, joyful and abundant, we see the whole camp catch hundreds of gleaming flopping fish.

EXT CAMP EVENING

Men and women work intently on the season's harvest: cut up the fish, dispose of the innards, prepare it for drying, scrape and clean seal skins. Children watch and help when they can. Tied in small groups at the fringes of the camp, the normally free-running dogs are frantic with excitement, pulling at their lines.

Ningiuq makes a small toy from the bones of a fish head, a tiny movable caribou she presents to Maniq. Delighted, he settles himself behind his grandmother to play. Other children come closer as Ningiuq makes another one, the kids watching carefully to learn how she does it.

Apak and Qarjuk are exultant at their shared good fortune.

APAK

Uaqadlanga! (It's amazing!) Now we know the right place to spend the summer.

QARJUK

All those stories my father told us were really true! This place is magical. We should dry all this meat quickly so we don't lose any.

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KUUTUJUK

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The frantic dogs can't stop howling.

APAK

Let's dry the fish on that small island we passed, with the cavern. Otherwise we'll have to listen to our dogs barking day and night.

As the hunters discuss their plans, Ningiuq seems already to have made one of her own. She turns to her son.

NINGIUO

I'll go to the island to dry the fish. An old woman like me doesn't feel too useful here, while over there, I know what's needed. And I can repair the umiaq in peace and quiet if we bring some skins.

Ningiuk's statement is sensible and matter-of-fact but several people react to it visibly. Apak looks carefully at his mother without saying anything. Behind him, Kuutujuk signals Ningiuq with her eyes, indicating she wants to join her old friend on the island, no doubt to make her last trip.

Maniq, listening intently as always to the world around him, also makes a decision, but forces himself to keep quiet. He walks away to join the other children, turning to look back at Ningiug.

24 INT APAK'S TENT EVENING

24

The children play quietly with their fish bone toys. Everyone seems lost in his or her own thoughts. Maniq comes to sit beside his father. He has a serious face.

MANIQ

A young man should go with his grandmother to help and protect her on the island.

None of the adults says anything. Apak keeps working on the dog harness he has been repairing. Maniq continues in a bold voice.

MANIO

I can help her with the drying racks, fetch water, keep the gulls and crows away. I can take care of her if she gets sick or hurts herself. I can help -- let me, please.

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7 contrues à répare

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Ningiug says nothing. She knows this is a decision Maniq's parents must make without interference. Still, no one responds. Maniq looks toward Ningiuk for support but she avoids his eyes. The silence drags on. Finally

APAK

You can't bring your dog though. She would eat the fish. She'll go with the other dogs.

MANIQ

Can't she stay here? I'll ask someone to take care of her...

The adults struggle not to smile at the boldness of this favorite little boy.

OATIGANG

Fine. She is a special dog...to

you.

25 EXT ON THE BEACH MORNING

> The men load the umiag with fish and supplies. Ningiug and Manig have already taken their places. Manig is torn between tremendous excitement at his own importance and trying to make himself invisible in case his father changes his mind at the last minute. A few hunters in their kayaks will escort the umiag on the half-day trip.

Suddenly, old Kuutujuk emerges from her tent and walks painfully to the boat, helping herself with her cane, carrying a small bag. She shouts to the travelers:

KUUTUJUK

Wait! A very old woman is suddenly young again with the urge to travel.

her care

A bag with

her care Her rather comic tirade makes the Inuit laugh, except for her son, APAYETA, who gives Kuutujuk a worried look.

APAYETA

(gently) You should go back to the tent. Life on the island will be too much for you.

KUUTUJUK

I know I'm just a nuisance and a worry to my adopted son! (MORE)

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KUUTUJUK(cont'd)

I like being with an old friend, talking about all kinds of things that young people find boring anyway!

Her son looks at her more intently. Everyone is quiet; respecting the knowledge they may never see Kutuujuk alive again.

KUUTUJUK

(looking at Ningiuq)
But the last word belongs to my
friend...

Smiling warmly at Kuutujuk, Ningiuq taps the bench in front of her.

NINGIUQ

Of course you're welcome!

Her son helps Kuutujuk climb aboard and get settled in the boat. She is all smiles, and she waves her cane in the air, shouting departure calls.

KUUTUJUK

Go, go! Well? Where's your strength? You've all feasted too much. Go, get to work!

The men push the heavy boat into the water. The people on the beach help them, shouting their last goodbyes to the travellers. The kayakers settle into their crafts. The boat slowly moves away from the beach.

Turning to see the camp, Ningiuq has a vision.

VISION

The shore, the camp, the tents, all is hazy, the colours transformed. The voices are unfamiliar, the language heard is strange and cannot be understood.

27 EXT UMIAQ MORNING

CAMERA in the boat 2

Ningiuq is suddenly awakened from her vision by Maniq, who is handing her something to eat, something he took out of his little treat pouch. Ningiuq leans over to Kuutujuk.

NINGIUQ

I'm getting old...I'm having visions.

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for them to dry the most

Kuutujuk looks at her, smiling, and starts to act silly, shouting to the rowers:

KUUTUJUK

Should we replace these young men with our old carcasses to go faster? Hurry before all this fish rots!

The men laugh and row harder.

27 EXT NIQI DAYTIME

The flat little island where they land is stunningly beautiful. Ningiuq directs the installation of the camp. Apak, who has led the kayakers, takes his son aside.

You can still change your mind. You can come back to the camp with us if you want to. No one will hold it against you windy to against you.

I'm staying. Ningiuq needs me, and
I can help her.

Apak strokes the young boy's hair. He gets up, picks up his harpoon from the ground close by, and hands it to Maniq.

APAK

Here: this is a series of the strong of the strong

workanyou

Here: this is for you, my harpoon. Here: this is for you, my harpoon.
You were asking what I was planning BRING Thore men to build with the whale bones we found. Since your brother is going to have a bigger kayak, well, I'm going to rebuild his old one for you. When you come back to the camp, your kayak will be ready NO We

well go hunting. Maniq's face lights up. The two smile warmly at each other.

AtunguyA Apald has to say to the others YTIME (ex's fix the CAChe place, for s

Kuutujuk's son emerges from the tent where he visited his the west mother. He is visibly shaken, and walks to his kayak in silence.

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from the ground close by and hands it to Manique

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30

Through the tent's open door, we see Kuutujuk. She looks deeply distressed; her eyes are half-closed, there are tears on her face.

shot 16_ take I

Sc.

31

EXT NIQI DAYTIME

DISSOLVE TO:

Maniq and Ningiuq work ceaselessly. They walk on the flat rocks, picking up the already dried fish. The drying racks are half empty now and lots of fish has been threaded on long ropes and put away in one of the caves. Judging by the amount of work they've already completed, several days have passed.

32 INT TENT DAYTIME

32

31

Kuutujuk gets worse with each passing day. She can hardly move anymore. Maniq brings her water to drink.

KUUTUJUK

Thank you, boy, you're very useful. Take care of your grandmother when I am gone, which is going to be very soon.

33 EXT NIQI EVENING

33

Shadows stretch on the ground. The season is getting on. From the backlit tent, a scream suddenly shatters the quiet.

34 INT NINGIUQ'S TENT EVENING

34

Kuutujuk is bathed in sweat. She holds Ningiuq's hand. Her head is slightly tilted up. She looks like a woman in labour. Her face seems younger, her hair darker. She is in pain. A long cramp grips her and we hear a growl, as though she had given birth to a bear.

35 DREAM SEQUENCE

35

We enter her dream. The bear's voice becomes a human moan. It is a young Kuutujuk making love with her provider. We see the man's back, his long hair, and Kuutujuk's face, relaxed and smiling. Her eyes are closed and her hands caress her lover's back. He is sweating, and their union is becoming more intense. He collapses on her at the exact moment she reaches

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her climax. He licks her cheeks, her eyes, her nose. The bear growls once more; a cub is walking on a beach. The young Kuutujuk looks at the cub with pride.

INT NINGIUQ'S TENT EVENING 36

36

Ningiuq helps old Kuutujuk lift her head and drink some water. Kuutujuk starts coughing, harder and harder. A bit of blood drips from the sick woman's mouth. Ningiuq wipes the blood and Kuutujuk catches her breath.

KUUTUJUK

(whispering)

You understand, dear friend: my dream was wonderful because I felt a child growing in my womb. I could feel him at last, I was pregnant, like other women, and I was making amulets to sew into the baby's clothes. In the dream I gave birth to two children. One was human. The other looked like a bear cub. I loved them both, but I loved one more than the other ...

Kuutujuk stretches one arm out to Ningiuq, who takes her hand, and begins stroking it gently.

KUUTUJUK

(catching her breath) When they got to the age when children play-fight, I saw the human child lying under the cub, and from instinct I took a harpoon and drove it through the cub's back, killing him instantly. The human child was terrified, seeing what I had done. He started to shrink and shrink until he shrank all the way back into my womb, forever to remain there.

Kuutujuk swallows and asks for another sip of water, which her friend provides.

KUUTUJUK

(whispering) I was now childless...

Kuutujuk gently weeps.

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37 EXT NIQI EVENING Walking 37
Standing on top of a small rocky promontory, Maniq watches a seal pop its head out of the water.

38 INT NINGIUQ'S TENT EVENING

38

KUUTUJUK

Now I understand my dream...I wanted to have a child from my womb and so I neglected the child I had been given.

Ningiuq nods with compassion.

NINGIUO

You have a son who shows you a lot of affection.

KUUTUJUK

Yes, but I don't think he knows that I love him. It's only now that I myself understand how he truly is my son and how much I love him.

Tears fill Kuutujuk's eyes.

39 EXT NIQI EVENING

39

From his promontory over the sea, Maniq gets ready to throw his harpoon. He tenses and throws it. A hit!

40 INT NINGIUO'S TENT

40

Ningiuq comforts her old friend. She gently touches her forehead. Kuutujuk's breathing is getting more laboured. Pain twists her face.

KUUTUJUK

Maybe someone could talk to my son about my dream and tell him that I thought of him to the very end?

NINGIUQ

Don't worry, your dream will reach him just as you told it.

Old Kuutujuk closes her eyes. Her breathing slows.

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EXT NIQI EVENING

Maniq is on the beach, watching his float ride away with the seal. He is completely distraught, gesticulating, wondering how to get it back.

> MANIQ (loudly to himself) I need a boat, I need a boat. Ningiuq!

He is close to tears as he runs toward the tent.

42 INT NINGIUO'S TENT EVENING 42

Kuutujuk is dead. Her head leans slightly to one side. She She's seurng the skin looks relieved.

Ningiug closes her old friend's eyes and pulls the blanket up to her face. "Kuutujuk, Kuutujuk," she says, her last goodbye to her old friend.

Maniq comes into the tent, hiding his tears of disappointment.

NINGIUQ

We are left alone -- you and me. We will go place her on the land as she would want us to.

Maniq pulls himself together, biting his lip to keep from crying.

In silence, they roll Kuutujuk into her sleeping hide. Ningiug sews the hide to seal it.

43 EXT NIQI EVENING 43

Ningiuq sits on her heels. She looks to the horizon and the sea. Beside her, Maniq is silent. He looks at the ground. Time passes. Their shadows lengthen on the ground.

Lifting her head, Ningiuq sees something drifting near the Manique A seal shore.

There's something floating over there. What do you suppose it is?

Maniq looks up, hiding his excitement with difficulty.

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MANIO

Maybe it's my seal, Ningiuq! That's what I wanted to tell you. I killed a seal, but I couldn't keep it/from drifting away. We need a boat, we must go and get it. Where is it, where is it?

We'll go fish it out. Come.

They carry their kakivaks down the small beach to the edge of pull the rope together the water.

NINGIUQ

There, go this way, and see if it washes up on those rocks. I'll go and look a little farther.

Manig nods and they separate.

Ningiuq walks along the shore and sees the seal washed up in shallow water. Quickly, she pulls it onto the beach with her kakivak.

The grandmother starts to sing the agag she made up for Maniq. She repeats it a few times, loud enough for the young boy to hear.

> NINGIUO The great hunter is wanted

Maniq comes running like mad. She laughs heartily.

That's the one, that's the one! It's my seal! It's my float!

NINGIUO

You will be a great provider for me.

She strokes the boy's hair.

NINGIUQ

Now, let's do things properly. We will make an offering to the soul of this seal. That is how it is done.

Ningiuq leans over the seal, pours a bit of seawater on its muzzle, then cuts off the claws from its front and back limbs. She cuts a lock from the boy's hair.

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She gives him some of the claws and some of the hair, and together, they throw them all into the sea.

They both bend over the seal, moved by the same understanding of what needs to be done, and drag the seal in front of the tent. Aubou insterd of

INT NINGIUO'S TENT NIGHT TIME

44

Over the qulliq, the meat is boiling, the pieces bobbing up and down in the broth. The tent has a very homey feel-Ningiug stirs the meat.

> NINGIUQ It is important to give a seal a drink immediately after it is killed. Its spirit is thirsty, even after death.

Maniq listens attentively.

NINGIUO

A good hunter knows many things. He must know how to preserve harmony between the animals and himself. We must kill to live. But we must always respect the animals we kill, and never laugh at their cramps as they die.

Ningiug takes a piece of meat and offers it to Manig, who takes it with special pleasure. Ningiuq nods and encourages him to eat. She goes on:

NINGIUO

We must also learn the animals' language, especially the crows, who can help us discover where the caribou are while the clouds foretell the coming weather.

Ningiuq helps herself to a piece of meat and savours it.

NINGIUO

This one is for my old friend...

She gives Maniq some more meat.

NINGIUO

One day, you too will have your own songs, that you will learn from the animals you're hunting. Your grandfather had many.

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MANIQ Can you sing one for me?

Ningiug smiles.

NINGIUQ Hmm...let me think...

She begins to sing, first gently, then more forcefully. It is the same song we heard her son Apak sing in his kayak earlier. Her eyes are closed and the music takes her to another time, bringing back wonderful memories of her time with her provider.

NINGIUQ

Let me walk.
Let me go on a journey.
Let me walk slowly.
Let me go on a journey
Looking for a song.
Ajaaja ajaaja
Let me travel.
Let me go on a journey
Where there are no people
Up there.
Ajaaja ajaaja

Maniq listens attentively, as though trying to learn the song. Ningiuq opens her eyes as the song ends, and looks at him.

NINGIUQ

I truly loved your grandfather...and you will look just like him.

MANIQ

I wonder if someone could tell the tale of my hunt to my father and my mother...with nothing left out!

Ningiuq lies down on the bed and signals Maniq to do the same. When he is lying beside her, she pulls the covers over their heads.

45 UNDER THE COVERS

45

NINGIUQ

Then tell me everything -- just as it happened, so I can tell the story perfectly.

- hus story -

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46 EXT NIQI VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING 46

Snow buntings peep and hop around the tent. It's a beautiful morning. The sea is calm.

On the horizon, far at sea, is a mirage, a mirage that very much resembles a ship, sails billowing, gliding toward the distant summer camp left behind.

47 INT NINGIUQ'S TENT MORNING 47

Ningiuq and Maniq do not see this particular mirage. They are still asleep in their tent.

Ningiuq suddenly wakes up. She listens, trying to hear what woke her. A loon cries softly and repeatedly. Ningiuq turns and goes back to sleep. This time, she won't let anxiety keep her awake.

48 EXT NIQI DAYTIME Inside the tent- Stringgam - centres Atia

It is two weeks later. There is no more fish drying on the ground or on the racks: it has been gathered and hidden in small caves. Ningiuq's and Maniq's work is done. The tent on the beach now looks precarious and frail.

Ningiuq and Maniq are dressed more warmly now and stand beside the umiaq.

NINGIUO

The season has turned and the time for berry picking and caribou hunting has arrived. They will come soon and I want to make sure this boat is fine.

They pool their efforts to turn the umiag over.

NINGIUQ Asuela! (Finally!) I didn't think an old woman could still be so strong. Irngutaeng, we work well together, you and I.

Maniq and Ningiuq finish pushing the umiaq into the water, using skins to slide it over the rocks without damaging it.

Can me go on the unity man be I will catch another seal.

It's a bit unity, we cantry, if the wind picks is it

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NINGIUQ

Now we'll see if I've worked well, or if I'm no good for anything anymore.

Maniq takes the kakivaks on the beach and puts them in the umiaq. Then he climbs in, followed by his grandmother. Using the oars, they push away from the shore.

49 EXT IN THE UMIAQ

MANIQ

When my father comes to get us, I will be able to show him how skilled I am now with the kakivak.

NINGIUO

And with the harpoon.

MANIQ

Yes, the harpoon.

He laughs.

DINGLUC

Well, I think this umiaq will hold up for many seasons to come.

She examines the umiag's skins she has sewn back together.

NINGIUO

It's perfect.

MANIO

Do you think they'll get here today? It's possible, isn't it, Ningiug?

NINGIUO

Oh yes, it's possible...Why?

MANIQ

Why what?

Ningiuq does not answer. She scrutinizes the sky. The two row quietly, keeping close to shore.

MANIO

When my father comes, he'll bring us fresh meat, Ningiuq, things we have not eaten in a long time. I so crave caribou meat! Mmmm!

49

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NINGIUQ

And I crave aged walrus meat, and maktak (whale skin)!

MANIQ

And I want to suck on seal's eyes, and drink the broth that my mother prepares with bearded seal guts! Ha! Ningiuq, how come we get tired of eating the same thing, and want to eat different meats?

NINGIUQ

Well, I imagine that if we always ate the same kind of meat, we would hunt only that same animal until there would be no more. Since we like different tastes, we hunt different animals, and there is plenty for everyone.

MANIQ

Can we eat all animals?

NINGIUQ

Almost all, yes. But we must be careful with certain parts. For example, you cannot eat the liver of the polar bear, or let's say you can only have a little taste of it. Anything more than that will kill you.

MANIQ

(uncertain)

I heard that some have even tasted human meat...

He looks at Ningiuq with embarrassment. She stares at him.

NINGIUQ

Why do you say that?

MANIQ

Well, um, I heard this boy say that you and my grandfather had eaten that kind of meat. His father and mother talked about it in bed and he heard them.

NINGIUQ

And what did you tell him?

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MANIQ

I told him he was a gossip and that he didn't know what he was talking about!

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Ningiuq smiles.

NINGIUQ

It's true, your grandfather and I once had to eat that kind of meat.

Maniq looks down, a bit embarrassed, then looks up again and listens to Ningiuq, who goes on:

NINGIUQ

That winter, there were many Inuit who had nothing to eat at Umivik, and some simply laid themselves down to die. My provider and Akutak, his hunting partner, decided to try to walk to the valley where caribou had been seen in the fall. With great difficulty, Akutak's wife and I followed them. After a few days of walking, Akutak's wife collapsed and was about to die. Before leaving us, she asked that we eat her flesh so we could survive.

Maniq's eyes go wide. Ningiuq takes a deep breath and goes on.

NINGIUQ

Akutak cut up her flesh while it was still warm, but we could not eat anything before it was frozen, except for a little piece, to pay our respects. During the next few days, we took small bites and then, when we had enough energy, we continued to walk. And then, something that cannot be explained happened.

Maniq looks at his grandmother who, although lost in her memories, is still rowing strongly and watching the sky.

NINGIUQ

We were far from the sea when we saw a bearded seal coming in our direction, dragging himself on the ground.

(MORE)

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NINGIUQ(cont'd)

His belly, it turned out, was all bloodied, and he was completely exhausted.

Maniq could contain himself no longer.

MANIO

A seal? But seals don't walk. They can only swim in the sea!

NINGIUQ

Yes, you're right, but this one must have found itself at the bottom of the bay when the cracks in the ice froze over very fast. In trying to reach the sea, he must have got lost, and that was a good thing for us! At the time it was as though the seal had found us and was saying, like Akutak's wife, "eat me and survive." A seal on land is very easy to kill. That seal meat was the best I've ever tasted. Afterwards, the hunt was better and we survived. Akutak's wife wanted it...

MANIQ

(with slight hesitation)
And this...other meat...what did it taste like?

NINGIUO

It is not something you wish to remember. And we ate it frozen, so it did not really taste anything.

Maniq looks at his grandmother with admiration. Ningiuq, who had been watching the sky for a while, is suddenly agitated.

NINGIUQ

Hurry, grandson! We must get back to the beach. You see that cloud? It's a great wind coming this way.

Both start rowing faster and faster toward the shore.

50 EXT THE SEA DAYTIME

The waves are swelling and the sky quickly darkening.

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51 EXT. ON THE BEACH DAYTIME 51

Ningiuq solidly secures the umiaq with ropes and rocks while the wind rises on the island and waves grow menacing. Both rush into their tent while the storm, almost a small / hurricane, sweeps their island violently.

52 INT TENT DAYTIME 52

It is terrifying inside the tent: the sound of the wind blowing on the cords is deafening; the skins are flapping away, their seams starting to rip.

Maniq is worried by his grandmother's serious look.

Ningiug lies on top of Manig to protect him. Manig is sobbing. He has never been so afraid in his life.

53 EXT ON THE BEACH DAYTIME



The tent flies away over their heads. Ningiuq ties the child to herself and, guided by her intuition and her sense of direction, slowly begins to crawl toward what she guesses are the caves where the meat is hidden. With great difficulty, she succeeds in pushing away the rocks blocking the opening to the cave, and slips in with Maniq.

54 INT CAVE DAYTIME 54

She puts the rocks back in place to block the entrance to the cave and the two of them now find themselves in almost complete darkness.

Maniq sobs and Ningiuq repeats words of comfort to him.

Maniq: What are we go

NINGIUQ Try and sleep now. The storm will probably be over when you wake up.

Ningiuq and Maniq lie down in the deep darkness of the cave, the child sobbing. Maniq: Are me going to

NINGIUO

There, there: it's just like we have our heads under the covers, just like we usually do. There, move a bit. See, we're comfortable now.

(MORE)

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NINGIUQ(cont'd)

They will surely come soon now. They'll be worried for us after this storm.

While the child sobs, Ningiug starts her interior monologue with her husband.

NINGIUQ (V.O.)

Husband, I am tired now. I want our son to come and pick us up. I need help to take care of this little one here, he needs his parents. We need company. I am tired.

The two fall silent.

55 EXT ON THE BEACH DAYTIME

> Outside, the island is swept by ever-stronger winds, and, one by one, all traces of their camp and summer activities are blown away. Maniq's harpoon rolls off into the sea. The signs he has carved on the beach are erased. The fish-drying racks DISSOLVE TO: Barres are thrown to the ground, etc.

56 EXT NIQI MORNING

> The beauty of the landscape is dramatic and breathtaking. A thin layer of snow covers the island. Migratory birds in Vformation fly very low over the island, which seems deserted: the tent is gone and no trace of the summer camp remains.

Moving the rocks away from the entrance, Ningiuq gets up and exits the cave, soon followed by Maniq. They quickly cross the beach and climb on a promontory to search the sea. They are looking for kayaks coming to get them, but the waves bring no signs of travelers.

Suddenly, Maniq runs to the shore: he has spotted a rectangular piece of wood brought in by the waves.

> MANIQ Ningiug, come and see!

The old woman goes to join Maniq.

NINGIUO Why has this thing arrived here? 56

55

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She looks out over the ocean, as though waiting for an answer. But her answer seems to come from the geese flying overhead.

MANIQ

We could use it as a door for the cave...

Reluctantly, Ningiuq takes the wooden plank in her hands. This comes from the other world. Even though it may be useful, it makes her uneasy. She sees in it some kind of ill omen. She puts it back down on the ground. We see the expression on her face changing: she has made a decision.

NINGIUQ

Maniq, we're leaving. We're going back to the camp. There is no more fat left for the lamp, and soon the ice will be forming. Now seems an excellent time for a little trip. The sea is calm, and we are strong enough.

The news takes the child by surprise. He jumps for joy.

MANIQ

Yes! Yes! We can tell all of our adventures. Maybe we'll meet the hunters on their way. Don't you think so, Ningiuq?

NINGIUQ

It's possible. So, let's gather the skins and some meat, and let's go. We should take advantage of the high tide to launch the boat.

Wasting no time, they quickly pick up their few belongings, and push the umiaq into the water.

MANIQ

I hope my father won't be too disappointed that my harpoon was lost...

NINGIUQ

It's not your fault. The storm took it, like it took our tent. You will be given another one very soon, now that you know how to use it.

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MANIQ
She's really skinny, but I think
she'll have pups. She's pregnant,
Ningiug, look!

The dog is crazy with joy, and keeps licking Maniq, who pets her and laughs loudly.

MANIO

We're home. It's wonderful to be back!

Ningiuq takes some dry fish out of a bag and throws it to the dog, which gobbles it greedily.

NINGIUQ

She has not eaten for a long time either...

Maniq and Ningiuq are troubled by the utter absence of any signs of life on the shore. Ningiuq is now really worried by the suspicious silence, and Maniq can feel it.

MANIO

(disappointed)
Where's everyone? Why don't they
come to meet us?

Ningiuq says something to reassure him ...

NINGIUQ

Maybe they've gone caribou hunting.

She doesn't really believe this. Suddenly, the dog starts to howl.

Ningiuq keeps on rowing. She watches the shore while she talks to her dead husband.

NINGIUQ (V.O.)

Dear husband, dear husband, something is not right, dear husband. What happened?

Her monologue becomes a kind of lament while they get out of the boat, and drag it on the beach. Just as the child is about to run to the tents, she orders him abruptly to stay near the boat. She ties the dog to the umiaq.

Her lament is the only sound we hear. All surrounding sounds have died.

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Contrapo

She walks through a visual distortion similar to the one she experienced when she first left the camp for the island. Now, she runs to her son's tent. But the putrid smell of dead bodies assails her. Even before she enters the tent, she knows they're all dead.

61

INT APAK'S TENT

61

Ningiuq opens the tent door and discovers her son lying dead on the ground, his naked body covered in black wounds, his face twisted with pain. Her lament turns into sobs and cries of pain. She bites her fist, falls to her knees. In the tent's shadowy light, we now see the bodies of all her family members: her daughters-in-law, the children, the baby, all covered in those black wounds, and their faces and positions speak of a horrible death. They all have perished in some kind of sickness unknown to her, something terrible that is written on their skin, making them hardly recognizable.

62 EXT APAK'S TENT 62

Gasping for breath, her eyes closed, Ningiug drags herself out of the tent on her knees. She collapses in front of the door and vomits. She breathes with great difficulty. She curls into a ball on the ground. From afar, Maniq sees her and starts to run to her.

As he is getting close to the tent, Ningiuq, in an ultimate effort, gets up and, mustering all her strength, catches Maniq by the arm, and holds him tight to keep him from going in. They walk a short distance away from the tent.

She takes Maniq in her arms.

NINGIUO

(crying) They are all dead, all dead. You can't see them. You can't go in.

She must hold him very tight to keep him from going into the tent. When he stops struggling, he lets himself fall to the ground, and Ningiuq lies down close to him, her arms around him, whispering loving, soothing words, stroking his hair.

NINGIUO

Irngutaang, Irngutaang, I am here, I will stay with you, we are together...

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QINAM

I will never see them again? I will never see them? Not even my father? Never again?

The child's crying redoubles while his grandmother cradles him in her arms and cries with him.

Still tied to the boat, the dog barks and howls.

63 EXT ON THE SHORE

63

Both have passed out. Ningiug comes to her senses before Maniq. She sits up. Her face is rayaged by tears and pain. She awakens reluctantly. Hoping what they discovered was only a nightmare, she talks to her dead husband.

> NINGIUQ (V.O.) Tell me this is not true, I had a nightmare. This is not possible. Stop it now, please.

She looks at Maniq's sleeping face. He too has traces of tears on his cheeks. Her heart melts for him: he is the one to be pitied, so much more than she. Delicately, she touches his cheek. She gets up and walks to the boat to get a caribou skin to cover him so he won't get cold.

She looks around the camp, those few tents now so sadly silent. She enters Apak's tent.

64 INT APAK'S TENT

64

Ningiuq walks up to her son, kneels, whispers her goodbyes, and closes his eyes. She goes in turn to each of her daughters-in-law, and to her grandchildren. Suddenly, something catches her eyes in the needle pouch that hangs around the dead woman's neck. She looks closer and pulls out three long metal needles from the small pouch.

Her expression suddenly changes. Her body shakes with anger.

No wonder they haven't come NINGIUQ to pick us up The The white strangers were here. They took everything! white men took

She bends down to examine small pieces of glass from a broken bottle.

bag of toux

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She looks at Apak's body, then abruptly puts the needles back into the pouch, which she takes with her as she leaves the tent.

65 EXT SHORE

65

Ningiuq feels dizzy. She looks at the sky, the sea. She looks at Maniq, who awakens and looks around, dazed. He starts crying all over again, and she leads him to the boat. She kneels in front of him and takes his face in her hands. She talks to him in a determined but very soft voice.

NINGIUQ

We'll take what we need for our camp and load our boat. Then, we'll return to our island. Life goes on for us.

She gives him water from her canteen.

NINGIUQ

Now drink this.

She gives him a strong, reassuring kiss, and goes quickly through the other tents, paying little attention to the bodies, gathering objects and things that will be useful to them. She takes a large qulliq, some tools.

Winter clothes are outside, piled under skins that have been tied down. She quickly chooses kamiks, parkas, and mittens for Maniq and herself. She puts everything in a pile near the boat.

Maniq remains sitting near the boat, unable to do anything. His head is bent, and tears slowly run down his cheeks. Mechanically, he keeps rolling small rocks between his fingers. Ningiug calls out to him.

NINGIUO

Grandson, come and help me move this kayak.

It's the kayak Apak had promised to make for his son. With great difficulty, Maniq gets up. He goes to his grandmother with heavy steps.

MANIQ

(whispering)

My father made it...

The poor child bites his lips as he helps Ningiuq carry the kayak.

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EXT SHORE

Ningiuq loads the boat and ties the kayak to it. She places

Maniq and his dog aboard the umiaq, pushes it into the water

and starts to row.

All of this seems like a lot for one old woman. But at that moment, her determination is far stronger than her physical strength.

The umiaq departs, towing the kayak behind. The wind and dog howl together.

67 A

something

EXT. NIQI DAYTIME

67

MAMQ 30mething About his father, Nearly two weeks have gone by since Maniq and Ningiuq returned to their island. The October sun is low on the horizon. It's a nice day. The colours have faded and lost the vividness of summer. The landscape is bathed in mostly violet tones, giving it a lyrical softness. Ningiuq and Maniq sit on the beach, with the kayak close by. The sea is free the paddie her covered in a thin sheet of soft ice. Helding the paddie her legs sticking straight out in front of her, Ningiuq shows Maniq how it should be used.

1 NINGIUQ

Your grandfather was excellent at kayaking, really the best. Even before we had children, we had gone together on a long journey to the North to find his twin brother. We never found him, but we spent the whole summer alone in a faraway fjord, just the two of us.

She hands Manig the paddle. Manig places it on his knees.

NINGIUQ

This is what happened: your grandfather broke his arm in two or three places struggling with a bear! Unfortunately, his harpoon hit the bear in the shoulder instead of the chest, and of course the bear put up a strong fight before dying!

MANIQ.
The bear nearly killed my grandfather then?

. She takes the passle.

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3 NINGIUO

Maybe, yes. But your grandfather was laughing -- and laughing at himself. He often laughed at things that others didn't find funny at all.

And Manig ?

Remembering this, Ningiuq starts laughing.

NINGIUQ

Anyway, he could not use his arm that whole summer, and since there were lots of seals in that bay, he taught me how to use the kayak so I could hunt them.

MANIQ

Ho! What did the others say when they saw you hunt in a kayak?

5 NINGIUQ

She gives him the PADDLE. MANIG PRACTICES the PADDLE.

I didn't use the kayak much when we got back to the other hunters. But you know, men and women manage to do the same things when they need

4

Maniq looks at his grandmother with some disbelief. He takes the paddle and tries to repeat the moves his grandmother has just taught him. Ningiuq takes back the paddle and shows him the specific moves he must perform.

Ningiuq ties Maniq's hood and breaks the ice with the paddle, opening a space in the ice. She pushes the child in his kayak into the water while he tries out a few manoeuvres. Together, they laugh and seem happy, as though they could forget their dreadful situation.

One day, I will also teach you how to come back up if you capsize.

This is important. My husband taught me the hard way. I swallowed so much water, I thought I would drown!

MANIQ
Was he a good teacher?

NINGIUQ

The best.

Was my grant father the best 7

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EXT UNDERWATER

68

From under water, we see the kayak and Maniq's arms. We hear Ningiuq speaking as from another dimension.

enrequistres voice over

NINGIUQ

There are also spirits underwater. They try to drag hunters to the bottom of the sea...

MANIQ

Ha! Ningiuq!

69

EXT SHORE DAYTIME __

69

Maniq capsizes and finds himself in the water. Since the water is shallow, Ningiuq quickly walks toward the kayak and brings him back.

Elle l'appelle

NINGIUO

(laughing)

Not right now! Let's wait until next summer for that lesson!

Together they drag the kayak out of the water.

UNDERWAL

NINGIUQ

Now, let's put it away. It's too

late for kayaking anyway.

They pick up the kayak and carry it a little higher on the beach, where Ningiuq teaches Maniq how to store the craft for winter.

70

EXT NIQI DAYTIME

Walking back to their cave, Ningiuq and Maniq pass by Kuutujuk's grave. Ningiuq decides to sit there awhile. Their faces, which just moments ago were so lively, have now turned sombre. Playing with the kayak was only a brief pause in their struggle to keep up their spirits.

MANIQ

Ningiuq, now that I know many things, and I can hunt, and use a kayak, could we not leave to find another place to live?

NINGIUQ

It's very hard not to be with other people, isn't it?

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She puts her arms around the child's shoulders. Tears are shining in the young boy's eyes.

MANIQ

(very low)

There must be other people somewhere...

Ningiuq does not answer and holds him tighter. She looks at the skin under which Kuutujuk is resting. As if inspired by her old friend's last journey, she begins to talk.

NINGIUQ

We will leave in the spring, Maniq.

I know a place, south of here, a
joyful place, where there's always
plenty of food, because the men
there are the best hunters.

Maniq looks up. He has heard what he wanted to hear. His grandmother goes on:

NINGIUQ

Everyone there is highly skilled. The women can sew like no others and the children become good at everything they do at a very young age.

MANIQ

Do they also have time to play?

NINGIUQ

Oh yes, why do you think they're so skilled?

MANIQ

Why can't we go there as soon as the ice has formed?

NINGIUQ

It's a long journey and it's not easy to travel during the coming season. In the spring, we will leave. And by then, we'll even have dogs to help us: Najaak will have her pups soon.

She pets the faithful dog. These words reassure Maniq, who hugs his grandmother.

Dogle Am Hier spring.

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NINGIUQ

And also, you must practice well with your tools because you must be as skilful as the children you will meet there. Promise?

MANIO

Yes, I promise. I'll practice well!

Ningiug and Manig walk back toward their cave, followed by the dog.

INT CAVE

enter, the care

winter clothes, she The cave seems comfortable: a small, cozy world recreated there. The qulliq is lit. Maniq and Ningiuq sit close to the flame, eating dried fish. Listixing his har boon,

Maniq is still excited from his kayaking.

MANIQCAN you tell me Ningiuq, tell me more about my grandfather? What other adventures Was my grandfather? What other adventures Was my grandfather? Did he travel to the father A Shaman to

NINGIUQ

My husband and his friend Akutak became like brothers. They travelled together among the atdlit, the bad spirits that have no nose and live underground.

KANALU

KANALU. MANIO Where 15 How does one enter the underground?

NINGIUQ It's only in the Well, I never went myself, but they evening that hole in the ground. It is invisible shaman CAN active the human eye. KANAW.

Ningiuq takes some of the bone toys she made. She places them behind the qulliq's flame to make giant shadows on the cave walls.

MANIO

Oh! What happened when they were there?

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could not win Assist him + fa filmer quivacente. Mageline trouve une histoire NINGIUQ I'm not too sure, but Akutak came bag for fish back with deep scratches on his forearm. . And then, there are the tarriaksuit, which your grandfather also met. Look. \$he shows him the shadows on the wall, and mimes a chase between a hunter, his dog team, and other figures, halfhuman, half-animal. Maniq drinks in Ningiuq's every word. When her story is finished, Maniq takes out an object he had Anhidden. It's a toy made of bone and skin representing the white strangers' ship as Kukik described it. SysAN Meess vse the pulley as the ship MANIQ Look, here is the boat of the evil spirits getting close to a 1:30 camp...Here are the hunters going, towards the boat. try it with The shadows of the hunters fall to the ground. Marseline hands & MANIQ Why, Ningiug? Why have these Dylan holoing strangers been so violent, so mean to our family? the bones, together NINGIUQ & separetly. (very low) I don't know what happened, and I don't know if we'll ever know. Maybe, when you're older, you'll know how to call the spirits. Maybe then you'll get answers... Maniq settles into bed and covers himself with a blanket. of his clothes. MANIO Sing to mer Ningiuq, Sing my grandfather's song. Ningiug starts to sing softly, NINGIUQ Let me walk. Let me go on a journey. Let me walk slowly. Let me go on a journey Looking for a song. sleeping Ajaaja ajaaja She sings more.

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MANIQ (whispering) Ikki! (I'm cold.)

He gives Ningiuq a timid look. He doesn't want to sound like he's complaining.

NINGIUQ

When we join the others in the Southern Village, we'll never be cold again.

Ningiuq turns abruptly.

NINGIUO

(whispering)

Husband?

She feels something in the air, a warning of danger.

NINGIUQ

Come, run, come, quick! Let's hide under the boat! Run!

She grabs Maniq and drags him toward the umiaq.

B- Two large hungry dogs come running off the frozen sea. They quickly approach the overturned boat where Ningiuq and Maniq are hidden.

C- Lean, smart and nervously agitated, the dogs sniff around the umiaq. They ravenously eat the leftover of the ptarmigans. They look famished.

INT UNDER THE UMIAO

75

Maniq and Ningiuq lie still, tense and watchful. Their only weapon is Kukik's knife, which Ningiuq has planted in the ground.

NINGIUQ

The dogs finally found us. They've been without food so long they're like wolves now. Maybe they have rabies. Who knows what they'll do. They can wait a long time.

76 EXT NEAR THE UMIAQ

The dogs circle the umiaq, scratching at its edges.

INT UNDER THE UMIAO

We hear a short, fierce struggle; then silence. Maniq looks helplessly at Ningiuq.

About takulik?

MANIQ

Hey sen't (I think they found Takulik.). Maybe they be of the NINGIUQ

NINGIUQ

Mania

There is nothing to do, Maniq. Maybe Takulik will get away from them. (Better to think of the puppies, they are safe in the cave.) Yhem, may kenot,

May be they

78 EXT NEAR THE UMIAQ

> The wild dogs regain their post near the boat. Time passes. One of the dog start to dig a hole in the snow to get under the umiaq. He succeeds in poking his head and front paws through the wall.

79

INT UNDER THE UMIAQ

One dog thrusts its snarling head under the frame of the umiaq. Maniq wakes up startled and without thinking drives the knife blade through the neck of the dcg The wounded dog retreat, howling, and seem to run off. Blood is everywhere. 75 90

Ningiuq and Maniq are on the verge of panick.

NINGIUO

They will go now! They will lose the over pit sucre

80

EXT NEAR THE UMIAQ

The wounded dog is running off. The other one settles on top 1 of the boat to wait out its prey.



INT UNDER THE UMIAQ

Under the umiaq, Ningiug and Maniq wait, listening intently to make sure the dogs are really gone.

Finally, Ningiuq decides to go out. She takes the knife from Maniq, carve the hole in the snow and slid outside.

Maniq only hears the dog who has jump on his grand mother from the top of the umiaq fight and try to get out to help his grand mother.

82 EXT NEAR THE UMIAQ

Ningiuq falls in the snow, the dog gnawing at her back and neck through her thick clothing. She drives Kukik's knife into the dog belly.

83 INT UMIAQ

Furious and hysterical, Maniq rushes out.

- pastrap inte

84 EXT. NEAR THE UMIAQ

Maniq finds his grand mother lying on the ground, the dog running away.

Ningiug is bleeding: she has been bitten in the neck. She opens her eyes and moves slowly.

Maniq and her look at each other. They have reach their limit...

INT CAVE

Ningiuq is in bed, her face lit only by the gulliq's flame.

Despite the pain, she still retains her dignity. She turns to

Maniq.

**
Here, why tent yer put more fatou my week.

NINGIUO

which fat 7

Put more fat on my neck, here.

Maniq bends and takes some fat in the cup of his hand. Very delicately, he puts the fat on Ningiuq's wound. She winces slightly when his hand touches the wounded flesh.

MANIQ

(with a worried voice)

MS Ningiuq?

NINGIUQ

(very softly)

Grandson.

The child cannot bring himself to voice his worst fears. The conversation ends there.

MM

Alam: 2110 there was the feet of the one of the She looks out over the ocean, as though waiting for an answer. But her answer seems to come from the geese flying overhead. We can use it in the cave for something

We could use it as a door for the

Reluctantly, Ningiuq takes the wooden plank in her hands. This comes from the other world. Even though it may be useful, it makes her uneasy. She sees in it some kind of ill omen. She puts it back down on the ground. We see the expression on her face changing: she has made a decision.

NINGIUQ

Maniq, we're leaving. We're going back to the camp. There is no more fat left for the lamp, and soon the ice will be forming. Now seems an excellent time for a little trip. The sea is calm, and we are strong enough.

The news takes the child by surprise. He jumps for joy.

MANIO

Yes! Yes! We can tell all of our adventures. Maybe we'll meet the my hunters on their way. Don't you think so, Ningiuq?

VISAGE DE Mugile, It's possible. So, let's gather the (skins and some meat, and let's go. (We should take advantage of the high tide, to launch the boat.)

Wasting no time, they quickly pick up their few belongings, and push the umiaq into the water. ene 541 in the unity

MANIQ

I hope my father won't be too disappointed that my harpoon was lost...

NINGIUQ

It's not your fault. The storm took it, like it took our tent. You will be given another one very soon, now that you know how to use it.

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<u>Lσ</u>⁵

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Maniq dresses and goes out.

86 INT. CAVE NIGHT

Now alone, Ningiuq stares at the qulliq's flame. She looks around as though seeing the cave for the first time. The grows stronger and louder. Ningiuq seems lost in thought is seing further than the walls of the cave. She sees the land, in different lights, members of her family, smiling her.

Ningiuq and Maniq are seen through water smiling, looking towards a destination we can not see. She hears voices. around as though seeing the cave for the first time. The wind grows stronger and louder. Ningiuq seems lost in thought. She is seing further than the walls of the cave. She sees the land, in different lights, members of her family, smiling at

Ningiuq and Maniq are seen through water smiling, looking

With a painful wince, she stretches to reach a piece of skin she uses to wash herself. She grooms her hair. Her demeanour has changed. Despite all the pain, she seems to have made a decision. She takes her time to put things in order around her qulliq.

87 INT CAVE NIGHT

NINGIUO

Maniq! Irngutaang!

Wind howling loudly through the door startles Ningiug back to reality. The cave is dark, her lamp flame has burned low. She opens the door and looks out. The storm rages. Her voice shouts but we can hardly hear her.

NINGIUO

Maniq! Answer me! Maniq!

She tries desperately to see and hear through the frozen darkness, but there is only the white wind.

NINGIUO

Oh, no! He is lost on the ice. No! Not like that!

Ningiuq frantically tries to get into her outside clothes but she is too weak.

INT. CAVE ENTRANCE

Maniq crawls inside the entrance, breathing heavily.

NINGIUQ

Well, you'll be happy then: look!

She holds out two ptarmigans she just caught. The raven squawks and flies again above his head. Manig laughs.

MANIO

Maybe he was trying to tell me I'll eat some real meat today!

NINGIUO

Maybe. Come! We've well earned this treat!

73 INT CAVE

> When they enter the cave, Ningiug bends over one of the puppie that Takulik gave birth to, and picks it up. She hands it to Maniq.

> > NINGIUQ

Here, your first (head) sled dog.

Maniq takes the puppy with a joy he has not shown for months.

That's the one I call Udluriag! Where her bogs

The seems happier than anytime since the tragedy.

+'How what loa

That night, the puppies' yelping fills the cave with life, while Ningiuq's promise of their journey to the Southern Village fills Maniq with optimism.

In bed, Maniq plays with the small bone toys and makes shadows on the wall. He mimes the departure for a long journey, with sled and dog team.

MANIO

Ningiuq, I'll lead the dog-team when we leave in the spring. If you make a whip this winter I'll learn how to use it.

NINGIUO

Of course. I'll make you a long whip and strong soles for your kamiks to run with.

MANIO

Tell me a story.

Ningiuq finds a comfortable position beside the boy, looks around and starts.

NINGIUQ

Once there was a raven, flying over the sea. He was flying very low and was inhaled by a whale. He ended up in her stomach where it was really dark, like in a cavern. All of a sudden, he saw a gleam. It was the light of a qulliq, and a young girl worked hard to keep it lit.

Maniq closes his eyes while she speaks. Ningiug keeps talking as the boy falls asleep.

NINGIUQ

Raven heard a voice. "You're welcome in here but you have to promise me something. Never touch my lamp." The raven promised he would never touch it. But as soon as the young girl turned away, the raven took his word back and started to peck at the oil fat. The flame was put out and the young girl fell down, dead.

She looks at Maniq sleeping but doesn't stop her story.

NINGIUQ

At the same moment, the whale that was carrying them died. The raven understood his mistake; the young girl was the soul of the whale and the qulliq represented her heart...

Again, Ningiuq feels the presence of other souls who share their cave. She looks around for them. Maybe she sees them.

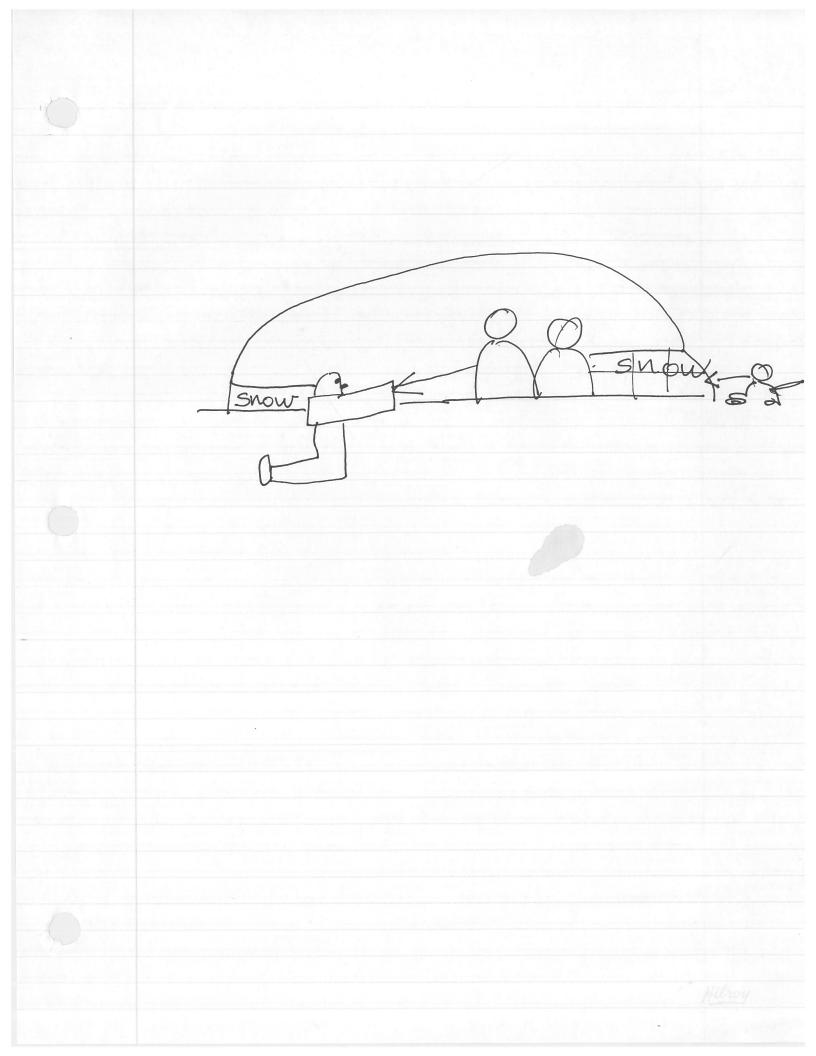
She turns down the flame of her qulliq and turns her head toward Maniq. She closes her eyes.

On the wall, the only remaining shadow is that of the dog team. We hear the panting of running animals. A dog howls.

EXT DAY

seal hunting A- The day is very cold. Maniq tries to fish in an open $\operatorname{crack}^{\mathcal{O}}$ by the shore. Using Kukik's knife, Ningiuq chips pieces of ice from an iceberg for fresh water.

quant elle poule (Des la CAvenue + LS EXT)



Day	Scene		Info
Sunday 22:	OFF		
Monday 23:	67 and 69	EXT	on water, Maniq on Kayak close to the shore
	71	INT	at the Cave
Tuesday 24:	56 57	EXT	early morning on the shore Umiaq, on the water
	(58	EXT	(contraption #4) Dog Island
Wednesday	10	the set: summ EXT	ner camp, Kuutujuk's grave landscape shots
Wednesday Thursday	58 59	EXT	early morning, on water arrival at the camp
	60	EXT	They land on shore; dog: Najaakh Takulik
	62 63	EXT EXT	out of Apak's tent Ninioq decides to go back to the tent
	65 66	EXT EXT	they get the small kayak they leave the camp
Friday	70 Back from the	EXT	on Kuutujuk's grave
Saturday Sunday	WRAP	Montre laplu	al

Costumes pour les crab (Silasi, Ipili)

