

EXT. ALPINE MOUNTAIN RANGE. - DAY

Wind howling, THEA hides behind an outcropping, breathing slowly. Late teens, sturdy, muscular, tattered with faded scars, she's dressed in thick, unfamiliar furs. A haggard wolf-esque creature stalks a smaller fox-esque creature nearby. Further down the mountain, a thick, ominous cloud obscures vision, this is 'the breach'. Thea waits, gripping a makeshift spear and keeping her eyes locked on the wolf. We hear a tiny yelp and Thea leaps into action, dashing through the snow, pouncing and raising her spear.

INT. HUT MAINROOM. - NIGHT

The sound of stone severing flesh. Wind still howling outside. A small family preparing for dinner. They don't appear to be blood, but they feel it. No metal or glass: utensils and implements are all made from stone, wood or leather. KYRIE, around Thea's age: skin too soft, hair too shiny, sharp eyes and a sharper mind. She's near the fireplace, melting a block of ice into cups of water.

KYRIE

Good hunt.

THEA

Cheers.

Petra, mum, is carving meat. She's scary fast, precise and clean, but also warm. BRIGHTON, her partner, using the skin of Thea's hunt to make repairs to the hut. Curious, enterprising, needs glasses, would make d(b)ad jokes but has forgotten how.

Thea goes to help Petra, who flicks her wrist in Thea's direction.

PETRA

Sit.

BRIGHTON

Save your energy.

Impatient, Thea moves over to the fireplace where SARAH, older but switched on, cradles the BABY. She is highly attached. Perceptive, insightful, deflective. Unlike the others, Sarah bears a family resemblance to Petra. The baby is around 8 months old, and too thin.

SARAH

Charlie missed you.

PETRA

Mum.

A tense, but empathic moment.

BRIGHTON  
No names. Not yet.

Sarah looks at them and smiles politely.

LATER. HUT MAINROOM.

Sarah sits near the fire with the baby. The rest of the family sit in a circle, eating dinner. There's not really enough to go around, but everyone has a plate. Meat mainly, with a very sparse serving of roots, berries and nuts. Petra has more of the later than the others. It tastes good. A happy moment.

PETRA  
Where did you find it?

THEA  
Down by the breach.

A long silence. Everyone keeps eating, but slower.

BRIGHTON  
That where all the kids hunt nowadays?

THEA  
It's where the food is.

KYRIE  
They're asking if anyone saw you.

A shorter silence. Everyone except Kyrie and Thea stop eating.

THEA  
No.

PETRA  
Are you sure?

A beat. Thea shakes her head. Petra smiles, and goes around collecting what remains on each of the plates except for those in front of Sarah and the baby.

PETRA  
Lucas hasn't had much luck lately.  
We should share what we have.

THEA  
He should get better at hunting.

BRIGHTON

Thea.

SARAH

She's right.

PETRA

Mum!

BRIGHTON

Sarah.

KYRIE

Petra's right.

Silence.

We have enough.

Kyrie's stomach rumbles. Thea stands and starts to clear the table. A concession, she nods to Petra, who smiles and leaves. Sarah shuffles what remains of her food onto the baby's plate. Thea notices.

INT. HUT BEDROOM.

Wind still howling outside. A small, connected room. Thea, Kyrie and Brighton huddled together on the ground, bundled in furs. The Baby starts to cry in the main room. Thea is awoken while Kyrie and Brighton grumble in their sleep. She carefully crosses to the doorway and peers into the main room.

INT. HUT MAINROOM.

Sarah is standing next to Petra, who is sitting in the chair in front of the fireplace. Petra cradles the baby, trying to breast-feed him. She looks at Sarah and shakes her head. A somber moment.

EXT. VILLAGE CENTER. DAY.

Clear skies. Various members of the makeshift village going about their morning business. Thea walks with purpose, LUCAS spies her and approaches. A fellow hunter, he is spindly, sprightly, and frenetic. He walks with a limp, using a cane to support himself. Same age as Thea.

LUCAS

Thea!

THEA  
Morning Lucas.

Thea continues to walk, keeping a pace slightly faster than Lucas can match.

LUCAS  
Where are you hitting up today?

THEA  
The spa.

LUCAS  
Hah! Funny!

THEA  
Cheers.

They reach the edge of town. A preparation area. Thea grabs some supplies: a spear, nets, a large sack. She starts to run through a series of stretches faster than anyone should run through a series of stretches.

LUCAS  
So uh. I wanted to thank you. For last night.

THEA  
Don't worry about it.

Thea moves past the preparation area into the hunting grounds.

LUCAS  
Thea.

Thea stops. She gestures for him to speak.

LUCAS  
I mean it.

Lucas moves to Thea. He removes a pouch from his side and pushes it into her hands. She opens it to find it full of roots, berries and nuts, similar to those sparsely served at dinner. It's impressive.

THEA  
Oh.

LUCAS  
Didn't expect much from the cripple?

Silence. Thea's not a good liar.

LUCAS  
I'm kidding.

THEA  
I don't expect much from anyone.

LUCAS  
That's dangerous.

THEA  
Where'd you find them?

Lucas smiles.

EXT. ALPINE MOUNTAIN RANGE. DAY.

Thea and Lucas are hidden near the entrance to a large, secluded cave, fifty or so feet from the breach. It's the closest Thea has ever been. It's a beautiful, dangerous sight.

THEA  
It's been hours.

LUCAS  
It's erratic.

THEA  
I'm bored.

Silence.

THEA  
And hungry.

LUCAS  
Shh.

A faint roar can be heard in the distance. Thea and Lucas are deathly silent. A large, bear-esque creature emerges from behind the breach, making its way towards the cave entrance. It's larger than anything Thea's ever seen. Lucas looks to her, a moment, she nods. She raises her spear.

INT/EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE. DAY.

Thea hauls the dead bear-esque creature inside and starts hacking away at it. Further in, Lucas has lit a torch and started rummaging through stockpiles of roots, berries and nuts. It's almost overwhelming how much there is.

THEA  
Are they safe?

Lucas stuffs his mouth with some of the spoils, munches swallows, pretends to die. Thea doesn't laugh, then she does.

LATER. INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE.

Thea carves up the bear while Lucas digs holes in the snow. Every now and again he will take a slab of meat, drop it in a hole, and cover it up. He does the same with the roots and berries. Thea gets stuck looking at the bear for a moment, Lucas notices.

LUCAS  
You don't like hunting.

Thea starts carving again.

LUCAS  
It would've killed one of us if we kept coming back. Eventually.

Beat.  
Probably would've been me.

LATER. INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE.

A small cooking fire just inside the entrance of the cave. Thea and Lucas next to the fire, looking out at the breach. They're eating some of their recent spoils, a tiny bit more than they would at home.

LUCAS  
Ever wonder?

THEA  
No.

LUCAS  
Really?

THEA  
No.

LUCAS  
Same.

They continue to stare at the breach. It's ominous. It's beautiful.

INT. HUT MAINROOM. NIGHT.

Dinner again. Another hearty meal. Petra's meat is supplemented with a hefty serving of berries and fruits. Sarah offers a look of gratitude to Thea.

LATER. INT. HUT BEDROOM.

Same as the night before but THEA wide awake. The BABY starts to cry in the main room. It stops. THEA goes to sleep.

EXT. PREPARATION AREA - DAY

Thea takes her time stretching, waiting for Lucas. Other hunters and villagers pass by, she ignores them. Lucas doesn't arrive.

EXT. ALPINE MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

Thea trudges carefully through thick snow. She is quiet, intense, focussed on the hunt.

MONTAGE

Thea checks various standard hunting spots, growing increasingly frustrated with the lack of game. She kicks up snow, whacks her spear against stone, starts seeing how far she can throw it.

END MONTAGE

Afternoon. Exhausted, Thea takes a moment to breath. She checks to make sure she isn't being watched.

EXT. THE CAVE. - LATE AFTERNOON

Thea arrives. Again, she checks to see if she's being watched, then peers into the mouth of the cave.

THEA

Lucas?

She waits a moment, then starts digging into one of the stockpiles that Lucas made yesterday. It is empty. Confused, she tries another spot nearby. Also empty. She tries another. Empty. She starts to panic, digging up all the caches she can find. They're all empty. Thea grips her spear hard.

EXT. VILLAGE CENTER. - NIGHT

It's quiet. Thea walks alone through the village.

She's furious, making a warpath towards Lucas's hut. As she closes in she stops abruptly, staring at the door. On it, a red X has been drawn in blood. Thea stares.

INT. HUT MAINROOM. NIGHT.

Dinner. Small servings. No meat. It's quiet. It's been quiet for a while.

PETRA  
You were close?

Silence.

BRIGHTON  
He was a nice kid.

PETRA  
They were a nice family.

THEA  
They're not dead.

Silence. Kyrie starts to clear the table.

LATER. HUT BEDROOM.

Same as the other nights. Thea wide awake. The baby starts to cry. It doesn't stop. Sarah starts to hum a lullaby that's reminiscent of "rock-a-bye baby". The baby keeps crying, Thea closes her eyes.

EXT. VILLAGE. DAY.

Thea, steely, makes her way through the center of town. We see Lucas's hut, it is on fire. She ignores it.

EXT. ALPINE MOUNTAIN RANGE. DAY. MONTAGE.

The standard routine. Thea hunts. There's not much to hunt. She's increasingly frustrated. Exactly the same ritual as the day before, but heightened.

END MONTAGE

Thea spies a tiny, frail rabbit. She stares at it.

LATER. INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE.

Thea is sitting in the mouth of the cave, the dead rabbit next to her. It is positioned as Lucas was.



She stares at the breach for a long time. Her stomach rumbles, the rabbit falls on its side.

INT. HUT MAINROOM. NIGHT.

The family is sitting down for dinner. Five plates with a sprinkling of berries and thin strings of rabbit meat. Nobody eats. Sarah holds the sleeping baby. The family all stare at their plates. Kyrie looks at Sarah, then slides the food on her own plate onto Petra's, the others follow suit. Petra smiles. Thea's stomach rumbles. Petra looks at Thea, then slides all the food on her plate onto Thea's. Petra smiles at Thea.

PETRA

Eat up.

LATER. INT. HUT MAINROOM.

Petra sits in the rocking chair next to the fireplace, she cradles the baby, trying to breast-feed. Brighton and Sarah stand nearby.

INT. HUT BEDROOM.

Kyrie and Thea watch the others from the bedroom.

KYRIE

I can come with you tomorrow. If you want.

THEA

No. You'll just scare whatever's left.

KYRIE

-

THEA

Thankyou.

Kyrie smiles.

KYRIE

Get some sleep.

Kyrie lies down and pulls a blanket over herself. Thea does the same. She lies on her back, looking up. She doesn't close her eyes. The baby is too hungry to cry.

VERY EARLY MORNING. INT. HUT BEDROOM.

Thea rises carefully, she moves delicately over the bodies of Brighton and Kyrie, making her way into the mainroom.

INT. HUT MAINROOM.

Petra and Sarah sleep in chairs, Petra holds the baby to her chest. Thea moves quietly past them.

EXT. VILLAGE CENTER. - SUNRISE

Dark, with faint hints sunrise. Far earlier than Thea has left the hut so far. Thea makes her way through the village center. She stops as she passes the remains of Lucas's hut.

EXT. LUCAS'S HUT.

Thea stares at the burnt remains of the hut. She huffs and turns away.

EXT. PREPARATION AREA.

Thea hastily makes her way through the preparation area. She swipes nets and a spear off a nearby hook. She doesn't stop to stretch.

EXT. ALPINE MOUNTAIN RANGE. MONTAGE.

Thea rushes down the mountain. Any previous sense of caution or care is long gone.

END MONTAGE

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE.

Thea stands in the mouth of the cave, staring at the breach. It is still dark. Thea takes a deep breath, exhales, then makes her way down towards the breach.

EXT. THE BREACH

She stops just shy of the cloud, her face pressed up against it. She raises one hand in front of herself, pauses, then pushes her hand into the cloud. It disappears. She takes her hand out, takes another deep breath, and walks into the breach.