

RIVER BANK

Written by

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Address
Phone Number

1 EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT 1

Tisha (20, Tewa) runs from police sirens. She carries a black bag. Dirt kicks up with each of her steps.

A car pulls up. Saya (65, Tewa) gestures for Tisha to get in the passengers seat. Tisha opens the passenger seat and jumps in. They drive off.

2 INT. SAINTS & SINNERS - NIGHT 2

Juanito (25, Sureño) looks at an empty cash register. He sips a beer in disgust.

3 INT. TISHA'S ROOM - MORNING 3

Water splashes on Tisha's face.

SAYA

Get up!

4 EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY 4

Tisha digs into the earth with a tiny garden shovel. As she digs deeper, cash appears covered with wet sand. She opens her black bag and places more money in the hole.

5 EXT. SANTA FE PLAZA - DAY 5

MONTNAGE:

Tisha looks at fancy cars parked along historic Santa Fe streets.

An expensive dress layered with fine silver and turquoise jewelry catches her eye through a shop window. She notices the juxtaposition of the clothes to her stained hoodie and beat up leggings.

Pueblo buffalo dancers dance to a drum in the plaza for tourists.

END MONTAGE.

6 INT. SAYAS KITCHEN - AFTERNOON 6

Tisha eats a bowl of red chile stew. Saya puts on a jacket.

SAYA
When we get there we pray.

TISHA
Ok Saya.

7 EXT. RIVER BANK - AFTERNOON

7

The River is calm. Saya sits in a fold-up chair next on the River Bank. Tisha closes her eyes.

SAYA
Listen.

The River grows louder.

SAYA (CONT'D)
Remember who you are.

Tisha flinches slightly. Her eyes remain close. Saya closes her eyes, too.

SAYA (CONT'D)
One day, I wont be here anymore,
and neither will you. What will you
leave behind?

Pueblo children's laughter mixes with the sound of the River. Pueblo drumming can be heard underneath the ambience. Saya opens her eyes.

SAYA (CONT'D)
If you give to the River, the River
will give, too.

Tisha opens her eyes. Tisha reaches into the River water and splashes it on her face.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:

8 EXT. RIVER BANK - AFTERNOON

8

Tisha refocuses her eyes. She is alone. She looks down, she's wearing her "Indian clothes". She moves a couple feet to the left. She digs for the money with her hands. There is nothing but wet sand. Tisha panicks and returns to the River a couple feet to the right. She touches the water.

She's wearing her normal clothes.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

9 INT. SAYAS HOME - AFTERNOON

9

Tisha enters her Saya's living room. Her Saya sits on a chair.

TISHA

Saya?

Saya looks lethargic.

SAYA

I don't feel good.

Tisha rushes over to Saya.

TISHA

How! What you mean?

Saya doesn't answer.

Tisha dials 911 on her cell phone.

TISHA (CONT'D)

Hello? Yes! It's my Grandma, she needs an ambulance! No, no, yes! Ok, yes, hurry!

10 EXT. RIVER BANK - AFTERNOON

10

Tisha places digs up all the cash from the hole and places it into her black backpack. She feels sick. Tisha rushes up to the River.

TISHA

I'll make this right.

11 EXT. SAINTS & SINNERS PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

11

Tisha puts her car in park. She grabs her black backpack. She stops moving. She feels someone watching her.

Juanito slams a gun on Tisha's car window.

JUANITO

Give me my money! Pinche puta!

Tisha panicks. She puts the car in reverse, and drives off.

Juanito follows behind her in a blue vehicle.

12

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

12

Tisha runs to the River. She zips opens the black backpack. She pulls out cash with her right hand. Juanito runs up to Tisha.

Juanito points a gun at Tisha.

JUANITO

The money!

Juanito keeps the gun on Tisha.

TISHA

No!

JUANITO

Ala ve! Give me my damn money!

Tisha takes a deep breath and looks at the River. She throws the backpack at Juanito's feet.

JUANITO (CONT'D)

Your keys.

TISHA

What?

JUANITO

Your keys!

Tisha throws her keys in the River. Sirens approach. Juanito becomes nervous. Juanito's eyes dart between Tisha and the River. He lowers his gun. He spits in Tisha's direction. Juanito runs off.

Tisha walks up the River. She kneels down. She takes a moment to feel the River's presence.

TISHA

Forgive me.

Tisha touches the water. She closes her eyes.

I pray that my family still gets everything they need. I pray that the whole Pueblo is taken care of. I pray for health, food, and happiness of everyone. I pray that I do better. I pray to be more like you.

Tisha opens her eyes. She is soaking with River Water from head-to-toe, but the ground around her remains dry. A bundle sits next to her, she picks it up.

CUT TO BLACK.

SOUNDS OF RIVER WATER RUSHING AND SPLASHING ON THE FLOOR.

FADE IN:

13 EXT. PUEBLO HOUSING - PORCH - DAY 13

A River-water soaked cloth bundle sits in a puddle on the front porch of a PUEBLO WOMAN's home.

Pueblo Woman opens the door, looks around and down at a soaked cloth bundle.

She kneels to open the bundle, revealing a basket carrying new glasses, masks, shoes, jeans and honey dew melons.

A gift from the River.

14 EXT. PUEBLO HOUSING - PORCHES - DAY 14

A montage of PUEBLO PEOPLE opening soaked cloth bundles in puddles reveals their necessities enclosed as gifts from the River.

15 EXT. SAINTS & SINNERS LIQUOR STORE - DAY 15

A soaked bundle sits on the porch of the liquor store.

16 EXT. SAYA'S HOME - PORCH - DAY 16

Saya returns home. She arrives at the door and looks down at the soaked cloth bundle. She kneels down to open it, revealing water, food, clothes. She breaths on it to give thanks to the River.

17 EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY 17

Tisha opens her bundle to reveal a black-on-black pottery. She breaths on it.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.