

SCRIPT TITLE

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JUNIOR AND ELENA - SCREENPLAY

EXT. A MOUNTANEOUS REGION - DAY

CLOSE on a pair of Chipmunks as they play at the edge of a cliff.

Slowly zooming out and panning, a panorama of rugged slopes, snowy peaks and deep gorges reveals itself before us.

Panning further we see a Stake Truck moving up a mountain road.

INT. STAKE TRUCK - DAY

TOM ROBERTS(30), well built with a handsome face and kind eyes, drives. Beside him his wife JOANNE (28). An attractive brunette, she too wears a cowboy hat like her husband. That she is a focussed and no-nonsense woman can be easily ascertained from her demeanor.

TOM

We should've brought Jellybean with us.

Joanne does not respond.

TOM (CONT'D)

Emma would've been so happy.

JOANNE

For God's sake Tom, she's a kid.

Tom doesn't push further, keeps driving.

EXT. STAKE TRUCK - DAY

In the truck's rear we see EMMA (10) standing between two horses. Like her parents she too has her hat and leathers on, a little cowgirl with curly brown hair like her mother. The face resembles more of her dad though. Resentful, she is speaking to her four legged friends, and they seem to be listening.

EMMA

(looking at the slopes)

This is different terrain all right but I'd have no problem managing it with Jellybean. We could've done it together, couldn't we?

EMPRIZE, the mare, to whom the question is made does not respond. Knowing she wouldn't, Emma continues.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Dad wanted to bring her along, but mom said no. Who'd argue with her... I will always remain a kid to her.

Sighing, she looks at the scenery outside. Emprize looks at her fellow stallion, SHINING STAR. Both look at Emma.

SHINING STAR

You are a kid, kiddo.

EMPRIZE

Little girl not wanting to be little anymore.

SHINING STAR

Daddy's girl.

EMPRIZE

Yup.

For Emma those are incomprehensible horse nickering. Not to us though. The truck moves up the mountain road, disappears around a bend.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - DAY

The two Chipmunks continue with their play, chasing one another.

EXI. MOUNTAIN CAMPSITE - DAY

The truck is stationed on a patch of flat grassland where Tom and Joanne are setting up tent. Emma helping mom and dad. Emprize and Shining Star stand beside the truck.

Emprize rubs her face on Shining Star's neck.

EMPRIZE

I can't wait for the baby to come.

SHINING STAR

What are you wishing for? A colt or a filly?

EMPRIZE

Colt. I want a son like you. Stronger than any I bore so far.

SHINING STAR

How many you bore so far?

EMPRIZE

Why can't you remember? I told you a hundred times.

(MORE)

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

I am a mother of seven. Four colts,
three fillies. This one would be my
eighth.

SHINING STAR

Sorry, I keep forgetting.

EMPRIZE

Why wouldn't you? You stallions are
done with once your job is over. It
is us mares who bring them to
earth. Even if we wish, we can't
forget our kids.

SHINING STAR

Don't say that. I remember my kids
too.

EMPRIZE

You do?

SHINING STAR

Well... not everyone. They are too
many. But I remember quite a few.

EMPRIZE

Like whom? Name one.

SHINING STAR

Like the one I had with Missymiss.
What's his name...

Shining Star tries to remember, but can't. Emprize chuckles.

EMPRIZE

See, what I meant? You stallions!

SHINING STAR

(annoyed)

I bet you don't remember the names
of every one of yours.

EMPRIZE

Blondie, Jaguar, Elusive
Enchantment, Simply Special,
Rapunzel, Vanderbilt, Skipper.
I remember the names of their
fathers too. Bolt, Hidden Dragon,
Goliath -

SHINING STAR

Stop! I don't want to hear about
them.

Shining Star looks away. Emprize chuckles. Then caress
Shining Star again.

EMPRIZE

None was like you though. You're
the best.

Shining Star is glad to hear that.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

But the son I will bear for you
will be better than you. He will
win even more races. You won't be
able to forget him.

SHINING STAR

What if its a she?

EMPRIZE

Then she will be a champion too.
She'll run better than any mare.
Better than the colts too.

SHINING STAR

Aren't you hoping a bit too much?

EMPRIZE

Don't I have the luxury to? Colt or
filly, they would have your genes,
wont they?

Shining Star can't but feel proud. He caresses his mare. The
Roberts family approach. Joanne saddles up Emprize. Tom
saddles Shining Star.

JOANNE

(to Emma)

Would you like to ride with me,
honey?

But Emma is already straddling Shining Star. Tom smiles at
Joanne.

TOM

She is her daddy's girl.

He straddles too, behind his daughter. They set off.

A SERIES OF SHOTS with accompanying music

catches the Roberts family's ride through the wilderness atop
Shining Star and Emprize. Trotting the horses through
favorable terrain and walking them on difficult ones they
discover the wild.

Emma picks up interesting facets of the flora and fauna by
her binocular vision. Shares them with her father. Joanne
takes shots of nature on her telephoto camera. Of her
daughter and husband too.

Coming to a flatter terrain they race each other and comes---

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

to the edge of a cliff. The scenery beyond is breathtaking.

JOANNE
Isn't that something.

They get off the horses. Joanne clicks her camera. Emma comes to the very edge and looks down. The rocky and almost vertical slope descends into a deep gorge. A waterfall tumbling down the opposite slope splashes upon a large stone platform and into a gurgling stream.

Joanne takes notice of her daughter.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
Back off Emma!

Emma steps back.

EMMA
Dad?

TOM
Yes honey?

EMMA
Can't we get down there? It will be fun bathing under the fall.

Tom inspects. Notices a ledge some distance away descending into the gorge taking a tangential path.

TOM
I think we can.

EMMA
Mom!

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF, ANOTHER POSITION - DAY

They have come to the point where the ledge begins its downward journey.

JOANNE
It's too deep. Better not go there.

EMMA
No we will!

JOANNE
You two go. I'm staying here.

Tom gets hold of Shining Star's reins.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
Would you ride him down there?

TOM
That's the plan.

He straddles shining Star.

TOM (CONT'D)
Com'on darling.

Emma straddles behind her father before her mom can stop her.

TOM (CONT'D)
Hold me tight.

Emma does.

JOANNE
Are you crazy? It's too narrow to
ride down there!

TOM
I've done narrower ledges than
this. You know that.

JOANNE
But not with your daughter on your
back!

TOM
Everything has a first.

JOANNE
Don't do this Tom. Not with her.

TOM
She's as brave as her daddy, ain't
you darling.

EMMA
I am.

Joanne knows there is no stopping the two.

EMPRIZE
(to Shining Star)
Are you sure you can do that?

SHINING STAR
Are you doubting my ability?

EMPRIZE
Racing is your forte. Not climbing
down ledges.

SHINING STAR
I am good at everything. Don't you
worry.

Emprize has nothing more to say. As they move towards the ledge, the Chipmunks run past under Shining Star's legs.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE - CONTINUOUS

The descent begins. The rocky ledge is narrow but just wide enough for Shining Star to negotiate. With careful steps he descends.

A few steps down, Emma is no longer as confident as she was at the start. Tom doesn't have to look back, her daughter's tightening grip tells him the story.

TOM

Are you scared darling?

SHINING STAR

A bit.

TOM

Be brave. You're with daddy.

They continue with the descent.

INTERCUT: CLIFF / LEDGE

CLIFF:

Joanne and Emprize watch with baited breath.

JOANNE

He never listens to me. You go ahead and prove yourself, why take the kid?

Emprize watches without responding.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

And she's turning out to be a copy of her father.

EMPRIZE

Genes. You just can't beat them.

The Chipmunks run around Joanne and Emprize's legs, run to the very edge of the cliff.

LEDGE:

The descent continues...

CLIFF:

Joanne and Emprize watch.

CLOSE on the Chipmunks. They have paused in their respective positions, waiting for the other to move. As one moves and the other sprints, its tail strikes a small pebble. The pebble falls down the air.

LEDGE:

The trio descending. Shining Star carefully treading his hoofs...

The pebble falling... (ominous background score)

The trio descending. The ledge has gotten even narrower... (ominous background score)

The pebble falls... and strikes Shining Star on the head. Letting out a loud whinny Shining Star raises his front legs. A rear leg slips.

We watch the rest in slow motion (with nothing but grim background score)

Emma is thrown off the horse's back. Shining Star topples over with Tom still on his back. Emma falls on the ledge and slides but is able to get hold of a rock. She hangs perilously with her legs dangling in the air. Tom has fallen off Shining Star, both is headed for the gorge.

CLIFF:

Grim background score as Emprize rears letting out heart wrenching whinnies. Joanne stands frozen.

GORGE:

Shining Star falls on the gorge bed with a thud.

CLIFF:

Emprize is paralysed. Then letting out a blood curdling whinny, rears madly.

LEDGE:

Emma hangs perilously.

EMMA
Mom!!! Mom!!!

CLIFF:

EMMA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Mom help... Mom...

Joanne needs to do something and fast... She gets hold of Emprize's reins, tries to calm down the rearing, whinnying mare.

JOANNE
Easy girl! Easy!

With much effort she calms Emprize. Holds her face close to hers, look into her eyes.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
We need to save her girl!! We need
to do it together!!

EMMA (O.S.)
Mom help... Mom...

Despite her agony Emprize seems to have understood. She no longer rears, or cries. Joanne detaches a rope coil off the mare's flank, ties one end to the saddle.

JOANNE
I'm going down. You will pull when
you get my tug. Got it?

Emprize remains silent looking at Joanne.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
(pleads)
Do it for me girl! Do it for my
baby!

Tucking the other end of the rope to her belt Joanne steps on the ledge.

LEDGE:

Emma hangs perilously. Holding on to the rocky wall Joanne climbs down the ledge.

EMMA
Mom help!!! Mom!!!

JOANNE
Hang on baby!! Hang on!! I'm
coming!!

Emma hears her mom. Sees her.

EMMA
Mom!!!

JOANNE
I'm coming baby!! I'm coming!!

EMMA
Be quick mom!! I can't cant hold
for long!!

JOANNE
(almost crying)
I'm coming!! I'm coming!!

Holding on to the rocky wall Joanne negotiates the ledge as fast as she can.

CLOSE on Emma's hand, she is holding on to the rock as best as she can.

CLIFF:

A tense Emprize watches from above.

LEDGE:

The distance has narrowed. Only a few steps.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
Hold on baby, hold on!! I'm almost there...

EMMA
Fast mom!! Fast!! I can't...

CLOSE on Emma's hands. A hand slips. She hangs with one hand now. Joanne is on the brink too.

JOANNE
Hold on baby!! Please hold on!!

Joanne descends even faster. Her daughter is a couple of steps away.

But Emma can't hold any longer. CLOSE on her hand. It slips too. Joanne throws herself. Her hand catches Emma's wrist. Laying on the ledge she tugs on the rope with her free hand.

CLIFF:

Feeling the tug Emprize turns back and begins to trot pulling the rope.

LEDGE:

The pull provides the tension needed for adequate strength. A laying Joanne presses a foot hard on the wall, grasps Emma's wrist with both hands.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
(panting)
Now you do it baby! I know you can!

Emma has got the support she needed. Holding on to her mom she tries to lift a leg upon the ledge.

CLIFF:

Emprize has stopped. Head down and bending her knees she is maintaining the pull.

LEDGE

Emma succeeds in pulling herself up. Joanne rises on her knees. Takes Emma into her fold. Both weep.

EMMA

Daddy?

They look down. Shining Star lying on the gorge bed, half of the body on the stream. But Tom is not there...

Then they see him. Tom lies stuck onto a protrusion of the wall, at least fifty feet above the gorge bed. Dead or unconscious anybody's guess.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(weeps)

Mom! Do something!

There is no way she can get to him. Joanne is at loss what to do. Then she brings out her cellphone from her jeans pocket.

CUT TO:

A SHOT of two helicopters approaching from the horizon.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - DAY

Emprize watches from above as the helicopters hover over the gorge. Paramedics are lifting Tom into one of the choppers. Strapping Shining Star.

Tears roll down Emprize's eyes. Pressing their teary faces on either side of her neck, Emma and Joanne watch too. The choppers lift themselves. Shining Star's strapped body hangs from one. Lifting their heads, the three watch as the choppers fly away.

INT. CRITICAL CARE UNIT, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Tom is on medical support. From the other side of a glass window Joanne watches. A doctor comes beside her.

DOCTOR

He is lucky not to have any decapitating injury. Only a couple of cracked ribs. No less than a miracle I'd say.

JOANNE

How long would it take him to recover?

DOCTOR
We will release him by the weekend.

EXT. ROBERTS RANCH - DAY

Leaning against a teary Emprize Emma sobs as Shining Star's coffin is lowered into the grave by stable helps. Joanne stands beside her daughter consoling her. She is sad too but no tears.

Her phone vibrates. She takes it out, looks at the screen. Then leaving Emma walks some distance and answers.

JOANNE
Yes George.

Joanne listens to what is being said from the other end, then responds.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
We have lost our best horse,
George. It won't be easy to replace
him, if we could do that at all.
Things will no longer be what it
was before...

As her voice trails off we see Emma's gaze is on her mother.

INT. TOM'S CABIN, HOSPITAL - DAY

Tom lying on bed eyes open, looking at nothing in particular. A nurse enters, smiles at Tom.

NURSE
You will be going home today, Mr.
Roberts.

Tom smiles in response. But the moment the nurse looks away, he goes grim.

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - DAY

Joanne and Emma gets out of their car. Gets into the building.

INT. TOM'S CABIN, HOSPITAL - DAY

Joanne and Emma enter. Tom is not in bed.

JOANNE
Tom?

She goes to the attached washroom door. Knocks.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Tom?

No answer.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Tom?

Her push opens the door. The washroom is empty. Joanne frowns.

EMMA (O.S.)

Mom!!

She is holding a piece of paper, her face drained of blood. Joanne rushes to her, snatches the paper.

CLOSE on the paper: Tom's scribble: *Sorry for everything*

A stunned mother and daughter look at each other.

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - DAY

SOMEONE'S POV: Joanne coming out holding a distraught Emma. They get into the car. Drives off.

Clad in shirt and trouser, a single bag on his shoulder, Tom was watching them from behind another car. CLOSE on him. He is distraught even more.

INT. CAR - DAY

Emma has her face turned to the window, sobbing silently. Joanne drives stone faced. Emma turns to her.

EMMA

Is he not going to come back ever again?

Joanne looks at her daughter.

JOANNE

No.

Emma turns to the window again.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

The car speeds off.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The sun emerges from the horizon.

Emma comes out of the house, bike rides to the stable. ROY (17), the groom, is bringing out the six mares and two geldings out in the pasture.

EMMA
Good morning, Roy.

ROY
Morning Missy. Slept tight?

EMMA
Yup.

Forming a circle the horses drink from the water trough. Emma helps Roy in laying the forage. Emprize drinks a little and stands in her place as other horses go for the forage. The mares circle around a pile, the two geldings eat separately.

Emma comes to Emprize. Caress the mare.

EMMA (CONT'D)
How're you doing, girl?

Emprize looks away.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Won't you have your breakfast?

The mare remains distracted.

ROY
She's lost her appetite. Barely eating.

EMMA
(nods in concern, turns to Emprize)
Why are you not eating, girl? You will go weak if you don't.

ROY
She is already. If it goes like this we will have to force feed her. The one growing inside her tummy needs nourishment too.

EMMA
Heard that, girl? It's not about you alone.

She brings out sugar cubes from her pocket. Holds before Emprize.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Here, have these.

Emprize won't.

The other horses watch as they eat.

JELLYBEAN

She should've gotten over it by now. It's been a week.

DAISY

She loved Starry too much.

JELLYBEAN

As if we didn't? I too had a colt with him.

HONEYSUCKLE

I had two. Both fillies.

PATIENCE

Love is not merely about producing colts and fillies. It's more than that.

One gelding to another, discreetly.

BANJO

It's nothing but that. I don't remember being loved since the time they rendered me 'unproductive'.

BIGGLES

Same here.

(sighs)

That's the price you pay of being a stallion. Reduced to 'uselss' geldings once the hay days are over.

Overhearing the two a young mare, IVY, can't help a giggle.

BIGGLES (CONT'D)

Stop giggling barbie doll. You look ugly when you do that.

Taking offence Ivy goes grim.

Emma cajoles Emprize to have the cubes.

EMMA

Take it, girl. Please.

Finally Emprize takes one. And the rest.

Moments later...

Emprize eats forage from Emma's hand. The other mares watch the two.

JELLYBEAN

She used to bond with me like that.
Now she has forgotten me
altogether.

PATIENCE

Oh stop that Jellybean! They need
each other to get over their
trauma.

EMMA

(to Emprize)
Would you like to go for a walk?

Emprize looks at Emma.

A minute later...

Emma walks Emprize, then sets her into a trot.

Moments later...

Bending forward Emma is galloping Emprize with more and more speed. CLOSE on the two. Tight-jawed and eyes glistening both girls are racing themselves against the gloom of their lives.

A car approaches from the other side of the dirt road. The girls brushes past ignoring its existence.

INT. CAR - DAY

MR. GEORGE CLIFFORD, the kind looking fifty something man on the wheel, takes notice of the duo as he drives towards the Roberts house.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - DAY

Handing Clifford his cup of tea, Joanne sits.

CLIFFORD

So, what do you say?

JAONNE

We have six already, George. I'm
not sure adding another would help.

CLIFFORD

This one is like no other, Joanne.
She's been sired by none other than
the great Muscle Hill.

(MORE)

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)

If you can breed him with a stallion of similar calibre imagine what you'd get in return. A colt from her can't but be a winner.

JOANNE

I have no wish to rear another winner, George. It's too exhausting.

CLIFFORD

Sell it then as you do with your foals. A foal by her will fetch a fortune. Be it a colt or a filly.

Joanne is still noncommittal.

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)

Take my word Joanne, you're not going to regret it.

Joanne looks at George. Through the open window George takes notice of Emma galloping back Emprize.

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)

I haven't seen a girl of her age riding with such passion. Or a boy for that matter.

JOANNE

I'd rather want her concentrate on her studies.

CLIFFORD

Is she not?

JOANNE

Her school called. Her grades are falling.

CLIFFORD

Give her some time. It's no easy time for her.

JOANNE

What's her name again?

GEORGE

Whose? Oh... Noble. Noble Flirt.

(smiles)

You'll fall in love with her once you see her Joanne.

EXT. A Paddock, ANOTHER FARM - DAY

CLOSE on Joanne and Emma and Clifford and the Prospective Seller as they watch ---

NOBLE FLIRT, a spectacular four year old mare, trotting around the paddock. Proud and narcissistic she trots engrossed in herself without paying attention to the onlookers.

CLIFFORD
(to Emma)
Like her little miss?

A smile appears on Emma's face, after a long while. She looks at her mother. Joanne smiles.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The four gets into Clifford's car. Emma looks at Nobel Flirt from the window.

EXT. Paddock - DAY

CLOSE on Noble as she trots by herself watching the car roll away.

NOBLE FLIRT
What do they think I am? A
showpiece?

The manner in she says that doesn't reflect her unhappiness about being a showpiece though.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Pasture. The mares and geldings are loitering under the sun. Emprize sitting on the grass away from others.

The geldings are grazing together. Banjo notices something.

BANJO
Look !!

Biggles looks up and is mesmerized... Noble Flirt entering the adjoining paddock watched over by Emma, Joanne and Roy.

As she approaches this side of the fence with her pride laced stride, the mares take notice too. A lull falls over the herd as all look in her direction forgetting their respective preoccupation.

Sensing the change in the air, Emprize turns her head. Taking a cursory look, she gets back to her melancholic musing. The others have their gazes glued.

Pretending not to be paying attention to the lesser equines and at the same time flaunting her glamour, Noble trots.

The mares have huddled themselves.

PATIENCE

She's a beauty, isn't she?

The others look on without responding. Cast by the spell the geldings sleepwalk to the fence. Standing side by side watch Noble.

HONEYSUCKLE

Just look at those two! As if seeing a mare for the first time in life.

PATIENCE

Can't blame them.

Outside Noble's paddock Joanne, Emma and Roy watch amused.

JOANNE

She has made an impact for sure.

ROY

Lucky for her. They are geldings.

Joanne and Emma suppress their smiles.

JOANNE

(to Emma)

C'mon. You have homework to do.

Emma is not happy to hear that. But she doesn't argue. She leaves with her mother, eyes on the paddock. Roy gets busy mowing the grass.

The geldings watch Noble who continues flaunting herself. Finally Banjo finds his voice.

BANJO

Why don't you call her?

BIGGLES

Why don't you?

Banjo takes a discreet look behind. The mares are watching.

BIGGLES (CONT'D)

Ignore them.

As Noble comes near.

BANJO

Hey Missy. Got a sec?

Completely ignoring the two Noble trots away.

BIGGLES

That's not how you do it. Let me try.

As Noble comes near again.

BIGGLES (CONT'D)
 (with modified voice)
 You're stunner baby.

Noble looks up, stops. That enthuses Biggles.

BIGGLES (CONT'D)
 You've got some looks you know
 baby. What's your name?

Coming near, Noble takes a good look at Biggles. Then at Banjo. Both feel gratified, and enthused.

NOBLE FLIRT
 Geldings, aren't you?

The air goes out of the geldings. Noble trots away. The geldings find the mares have gathered right behind them, overhearing everything and giggling between them. Going very grim, the two walk away.

BIGGLES
 (to Banjo)
 It's not a fair world.

BANJO
 Not at all.

Noble continues trotting flaunting her beauty and pride as the mares watch from the other side of the fencing.

EXT. ROBERTS FIRM - NIGHT

Establishing. In the otherwise dark farm only the house and the stable stand illuminated.

Through a window in the kitchen Joanne and Emma can be seen.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Her glasses on Joanne sits before her laptop studying and clearing bills. Takes a look at Emma. Books open before her Emma sits pen in hand, her mind somewhere else. Joanne sighs and gets back to her bills.

INT. STABLE - NIGHT

Under the dim lights of the stable the two geldings lay depressed in their stall still recapitulating from the hurt incurred, taking intermittent glances at the hurt inflictor who stands in an opposite stall as dismissive and proud as ever.

In an adjacent and bigger stall, the mares recline on the hay. Except Emprize who sits melancholic in one corner. The rest are livid, gossiping between themselves with not exactly low decibels.

JELLYBEAN

Not all mares are as pretty as they think they are.

HONEYSUCKLE

Very true. A little shine on the coat and a bit of fluffy mane and they begin to think of themselves as show mares.

The verbal missiles reach Noble loud and clear, but she remains dismissive.

DAISY

It's all in the hands of the grooms you know. If our groom had taken proper care of us we could have been a stunner too.

IVY

Wait till Roy lays his hand on her.

PATIENCE

Com'on, Roy is not a bad groom.

HONEYSUCKLE

Not a pro either. And he's lazy. Better our barbie doll gets a personal groom for herself. Or else she will lose that mane in no time.

DAISY

And that shine too.

JELLYBEAN

(a bit too loud)
And in no time our barbie doll will turn into plain Jane!

The other four break into giggles.

Emprize looks up. Notices Nobel trying best to control her tears. She barks at the mares.

EMPRIZE

Will you give her a break !

The loud rebuke compels the mares to fall silent. Noble throws Emprize a look of gratitude. Ignoring, Emprize sinks back into her solitude.

The geldings are relieved too.

BANJO

They can be pretty nasty to new gals.

BIGGLES

Wait. This is just the beginning.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Early morning. Emma bike rides to the stable. Roy has taken the horses out to pasture. Noble is confined to her paddock. Having lost much of her energy she stands looking faraway, her forage breakfast barely touched.

EMMA

(to Roy)

She is feeling homesick.

ROY

Every newcomer does.

Emma looks at Emprize who is having her forage at a quiet corner.

EMMA

Why don't we put her in old girl's company? They might like each other.

ROY

It might be the opposite.

EMMA

Or it may not.

Roy smiles.

ROY

Okay, let's try it.

Seconds later...

Roy pacifies a rearing Noble as she hesitates to get into the pasture.

ROY (CONT'D)

Easy girl, easy. They won't harm you... easy... easy...

Noble quietens down.

ROY (CONT'D)

Now that's a good girl.

They walk Noble to Emprize. The two mares look at each other. Emma caresses Emprize.

EMMA

Take care of her, old girl. I know you will.

Emprize gets back to eating her forage. Emma lays some before Noble. She eats too. Roy looks at the other mares.

ROY

Let's hope they keep peace with her.

EMMA

They will. They are nice girls. Our boys too.

Minutes later...

Roy and Emma stand outside the fencing and watch. Noble grazes beside Emprize, some distance from the rest of the mares and the geldings. Everything seems calm and friendly.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Told you. They will like each other.

ROY

You're developing quite an intuition, missy.

Emma beams.

ROY (CONT'D)

I've to stack up the hay. Wanna give me a hand?

EMMA

Why not?

The two heads for the barn.

At the pasture...

Roy and Emma's disappearance into the barn is taken note of by Honeysuckle.

Not faraway, Noble is the first to break the ice.

NOBLE FLIRT

You were very fond of Shining Star, weren't you?

Emprize doesn't respond.

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)

The geldings were talking about him at night. It was so quiet...
(MORE)

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)
and they have put me right opposite
their stall, I just couldn't help
hearing them... Was he -

Emprize walks away.

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)
(more to herself)
Sorry.

Emprize walks off to another corner of the pasture.
Honeysuckle signals Jellybean beside her. The two mares
approach Noble.

Seeing that, one gelding whispers to another.

BIGGLES
The show begins.

The two mares come before Noble.

HONEYSUCKLE
You pissed her off, didn't you?

Noble doesn't respond. Feigns she is alone.

JELLYBEAN
You don't belong here you know
barbie doll. This is no place for
self obsessed cutie pies like you.

No response from Noble.

HONEYSUCKLE
She asked you a question, barbie
doll. Didn't they teach you how to
respond to seniors? Or are you
dumb?

JELLYBEAN
Or deaf?

HONEYSUCKLE
Or both?

Noble looks up.

NOBLE FLIRT
Both actually. But only to dumb
talk. Of shit headed, ugly mares.

The two look at each other astounded.

HONEYSUCKLE
How dare you...

Bucking up she pounces upon Nobel. Nobel bucks up in defence.
Jellybean attacks Noble too. A fight ensues.

INTERCUT:

INT. BARN - DAY

Roy and Emma stacking up the hay. Modern day kids, can't do a thing without music in ear. Both have their earphones on, humming to their favorite songs. The whinnies outside doesn't reach them.

BACK TO:

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The fight has got intense. Noble is on the defense but holding ground. Emprize takes a cursory look and continues grazing. The other mares watch with interest.

IVY

Quiet a fighter, isn't she?

DAISY

Won't be able to hold for long though.

The geldings are watching too. As predicted Noble can't put up much longer. She falls to the ground. Tries to fight from her disadvantageous position. Banjo can't remain still anymore.

BIGGLES

Where are you going?

BANJO

We must intervene! A damsel is in distress. A stallion can't just stand and... watch...

He goes silent realizing his mistake. Biggles smiles at him. Sadly.

BANJO (CONT'D)

Gone are those days, my friend.

Honeysuckle lifts her leg to deliver a fatal blow. But incurring a kick instead collapses to the ground. Emprize stands tall over her. Looks at Jellybean with deadly calm. Jellybean backs off. Emprize comes to Noble.

EMPRIZE

Are you okay?

Noble staggers up on her feet.

NOBLE FLIRT

Yeah, I guess.

Emprize looks to the other mares and geldings.

EMPRIZE
Come over here all of you!!

It's an order. The equines gather before Emprize.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)
From now on she is one of ours.

She lays her eyes on each of the mares.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)
Anyone has any issue with that?

None has.

Roy and Emma comes out of the barn. The equines are pasturing peacefully, a picture of perfect harmony. Noble, Honeysuckle and Jellybean drinking from the same water trough with Emprize standing before them.

ROY
Seems they've become friends.

EMMA
(ecstatic)
Nice girls we have, don't we?
They don't fight like Mr.
Clifford's mares.

ROY
(not very sure)
True...

A MONTAGE of Emma caressing Emprize, Noble and each of the mares and geldings.

Then she leaves for home. Seeing her riding away

EMPRIZE
(to Noble)
Good to see her happy again. She's
been through a lot.

NOBLE FLIRT
What exactly happened?

Sometime later...

Emprize and Noble sit side by side.

EMPRIZE
She wept burying her face on my
neck saying daddy has left them for
good. He won't come back ever
again...
(MORE)

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

She can't cry before her mother,
she said, so she cries to me.

Like Emprize, Noble's eyes are glistening too. The two sit in silence looking at the horizon.

SONG SEQUENCE

Emprize and Noble pasturing alongside and chatting.

They join the other mares at the water trough. Honeysuckle and Jellybean mellow down the envy in their eyes seeing Emprize's stern gaze over them.

Noble gallops in her free will. Emprize and Patience behold the beauty of unbound youth. The geldings too are looking at her. Seeing the mesmerized duo, Emprize and Patience exchange a smile.

Roy bathes Noble with great care talking to her as Honeysuckle, Jellybean, Daisy and Ivy wait their turn. Honeysuckle whispers into Jellybean's ear. Jellybean walks to the water pipe and discreetly steps over it, stopping the water flow. As a puzzled Roy inspects the nozzle, Jellybean releases the pressure splashing Roy with the surge. Honeysuckle, Desire and Ivy giggle. Noble frowns, guessing the girls are behind it.

The moment Joanne drives Emma back from school, she gets on her bike and rides to the pasture. Dropping the bike, she runs to the horses and cuddles them. Emprize and Noble especially.

Night falls over the farm.

Roy lying on bed in his cabin beaming and chatting over phone, obviously with his girlfriend.

In the kitchen of their house Joanne cooks and Emma studies.

In the stable Noble sits in the common stall with the other mares, proudly narrating her life's experience to others. Her exaggeration causing awe in Ivy and Desire, frowns of doubt in Jellybean and Honeysuckle, while Patience and Emprize exchange a forgiving smile.

In their stalls Banjo and Biggles yawn in boredom. When will this gibberish end...

The stable's is the solitary light in the darkness.

It has ended finally. The horses are sleeping. Except Noble who is bearing the snoring chorus with a scowl on her face.

Roy is sleeping peacefully in his bed.

And so is Emma.

And so is Joanne.

And the horses. But for Noble. She is still painfully awake as the symphony continues around her.

The farm sleeps under a canopy of stars.

END SONG SEQUENCE

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The first light of dawn hits the horizon.

Roy brings the horses to the pasture.

Emprize looks at Noble.

EMPRIZE

Didn't you sleep well?

NOBLE FLIRT

No. The all night symphony kept me awake.

EMPRIZE

(smiles)

You will get used to it. It takes a while adapting to community life. Once you do, the joys of sharing will far outweigh the glitches.

The word of wisdom doesn't thrill Noble.

Later...

Emma, Joanne and Mr. Clifford come to the pasture. Sees Noble, Emprize and Patience pasturing together.

CLIFFORD

Your horses certainly have big hearts.

(sighs)

Not like mine.

They come to the mares. Emma cuddles them. Mr. Clifford caresses Noble.

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)

So Joanne, what's your plan about our new girl? Who is going to be the Mr. Right for her?

Noble, Emprize and Patience are all ears.

JOANNE

I am thinking of Thunderbolt. He has an impressive record. And a good lineage as well.

Patience nickers to Emprize.

PATIENCE

Not Thunderbolt. He has this habit of licking his leg every ten seconds. My Ivanhoe got that from him.

Noble is all ears to the observations of both the equines and their human counterparts.

CLIFFORD

What about Hannibal? His credentials are no less impressive.

Patience and Emprize look at each other shocked.

JOANNE

Well... that not might be a bad idea.

Looking at her seniors' reaction a concerned Noble can't be quiet anymore. She whispers to Patience.

NOBLE FLIRT

What about Hannibal?

PATIENCE

He has got bad breath. Both my Lilian and Rockstar got that.

EMPRIZE

My Blondie too.

CLIFFORD

But if you want to go for the best stallion available in the whole of Ontario...

The girls are all ears...

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)

You should go for E.L. Titan. He's the simply best.

Emprize and Patience brighten up.

JOANNE

I know. But he is too expensive. What is his current breeding fee?

CLIFFORD

One hundred thousand.

JOANNE

I don't think I can afford that much money now.

CLIFFORD

Don't worry Joanne. I will give you a loan if you need one. But you should go for the best.

Joanne nods acknowledging the suggestion.

As the homosapiens leave, the mares stroll

PATIENCE

E.L Titan is indeed the best. I had my Huckleberry Finn with him. Such a pity he broke his leg in his first race. Couldn't run again.

EMPRIZE

He fathered my Vanderbilt. He is doing good. Came second in the Montreal Derby last fall.

Starry never liked him though. They had a big ego issue between them.

PATIENCE

Every stallion has. They all think they are better than the rest.

(to Noble)

You won't get a guy better than Titan, girl. He is indeed worth his price. Strong like a rock, fast as lightning. No odd mannerism. Perfect hygiene. The foal you will have from him will be perfect too.

But Noble has another thing in her mind. Of more and immediate importance.

NOBLE FLIRT

But is he... I mean... you know... Is he good at... you know... It will be my Is he...

Emprize and Patience stop, look at each other.

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)

What?

Emprize look at Noble. Smiles sadly.

EMPRIZE

Those days are gone dear. Nowadays everything has become technical. If the stallion is from a different farm, they inseminate.

NOBLE FLIRT

Insem - what?

PATIENCE

They do it by injection. You won't get to know your guy. They will simply inject his seed into you.

Noble is astounded.

NOBLE FLIRT

But...

EMPRIZE

(sadly)

That's the way it is, dear. In our days things were different. But now technology... it's everywhere.

NOBLE FLIRT

But that's so unfair !!!

Furious, she hits the ground with her hoof.

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)

(almost crying)

Why do they do that to us ! It's just not fair !! I was looking forward to it for months. It would have been my first.

What would they say, there is no word to placate the young lass. Emprize and Patience watch Noble with sad eyes.

NOBLE FLIRT (CONT'D)

Do they apply the same technology to themselves? I'm sure they don't!!

Mad in fury she trots away as the other two watch.

PATIENCE

It's really very unfair.

Emprize is thinking.

EMPRIZE

I think I have an idea.

Patience looks at Emprize.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

Didn't Roy say he's taking us to the dale in our next outing?

PATIENCE

Yes. Next Sunday. So what?

EMPRIZE
 Isn't Mr. Watson's farm in the
 vicinity?

Patience's face brightens up. She's got it.

EXT. THE DALE - DAY

A MONTAGE

Wide Angle View. A beautiful undulating meadow with a stream flowing in the midst. Roy and two other guys of same age bringing the horses out from two Stake Trucks as Emma watch.

The Roberts horses pasturing, trotting in the lush green landscape.

The geldings pasture separately, free from feminine interference after a long while.

Emma astride Noble, Roy astride Honeysuckle, racing one another. Patience and Emprize watch sitting by the stream.

The two boys preparing barbecue. Emma and Roy takes splash in the stream water. The horses too are having fun in the water. Except Emprize who watches smilingly sitting on the bank.

Lunch time. The horses are having their special outdoor treat while Emma, Roy and the two boys are enjoying the steak.

END OF MONTAGE

A soft breeze blowing over the grass.

Both the equines and homosapiens lying on grass enjoying the afternoon siesta under the soft sun.

But not Emprize. She nudges Patience to wakefulness. Nothing needed to be said. The two get up and goes to Noble. Emprize nudges her. Noble wakes up.

NOBLE FLIRT
 What...

EMPRIZE
 Hush girl! Come with us.

NOBLE FLIRT
 Where?

EMPRIZE
 No questions. Do what I say.

A befuddled Noble gets up. Follows the seniors. They walk out of the camp area without the knowing of the fellow campers.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

Now run.

The girls begin trotting.

NOBLE FLIRT

Where are we going?

PATIENCE

No question.

INTERCUT: Camp area. Waking up, Emma finds the three mares missing. Preferring not to wake up the three boys who are sleeping like logs after a hard day's work and not the resting horses either, she sets out to find for herself.

About a mile away: The girls stop coming to the edge of a wood from where the terrain has descended into flatter land where lies a farm. A sign board reads: *Watson's*.

EMPRIZE

You two remain behind the trees.
Don't show yourself till I come
back.

NOBLE FLIRT

What's happening? What are we up
to?

EMPRIZE/PATIENCE

(together)
No questions.

Emprize emerges out of the woods and approaches the farm under the cover of a line of trees. Coming to a pasture she looks around... and finds what she is looking for. A hunk of a Stallion pastures in his paddock. Making sure no one is around Emprize goes near the fencing.

EMPRIZE

Hey Titan.

The stallion looks up. The face brightens up. He hastens to the fencing.

TITAN

Hey Emprize! Long time, no see.

EMPRIZE

You need to do me a favor, Titan.

TITAN

Anything for my old girl.

Emprize comes nearer and whispers something into Titan's ear. Hearing her

TITAN (CONT'D)

So you want me to do it for free,
old girl? You know my price, don't
you?

EMPRIZE

(pleads)

For old time's sake Titan.

Tiatan contemplates, then smiles.

TITAN

Had it been anyone else I'd refuse
straightaway. But how can I do that
to you old girl.

EMPRIZE

(brightens up)

Thank you so much Titan. Can you do
the fence?

TITAN

Piece of cake. They should consider
themselves lucky we real ones don't
take advantage of our prowess.

Trotting back a few yards, Titan charges for the fence and
taking a massive leap clears it. Emprize is impressed.

EMPRIZE

You still have it in you.

TITAN

A true stallion never loses it.

EMPRIZE

(chuckles)

I hope that's true for everything
else.

TIATN

(chuckles back)

Of course it is. Even if its for
free.

Emprize smiles and leads Titan towards the woods.

Patience and Noble look up to see Emprize and Titan
approaching them.

PATIENCE

(to Noble)

What do you think, girl?

Noble is too flabbergasted to respond.

Titan is impressed no less.

EMPRIZE

What do you think, hunk?

TITAN

I should be paying a fee rather.

Emprize chuckles. The two come to the other two. The stallion and the mare in question gaze at each other oblivious of the two who are not; the mare mesmerized, the old ace flashing a 'how do you do cutie' smile.

Emprize has no time to lose.

EMPRIZE

Get over it quick you two. We will be under that willow. Come Patience.

PATIENCE

Enjoy!

The two walk away. Titan brushes Noble's nose with his.

TITAN

Aren't you a beauty.

Noble melts under the praise.

Emma comes to the woods. Moves between the trees looking for the mares... suddenly she sees something.

CLOSE on EMMA. She is watching with her jaws dropped...

Suddenly a voice is heard from behind.

EMPRIZE (O.S.)

We girls keep our secrets, don't we?

Emma looks back to find Emprize staring down at her. And Patience too. Emprize doesn't move her mouth, speaks with her mind's voice.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

(mind voice)

One day you will have your secrets too. Would you want the world to know about them, girl?

The unspoken words seem to have made an impact. Emma looks at the mares spellbound.

A minute later...

The four girls are walking back. Emma still has not being able to digest it looks at the three mares as if she is seeing them for the first time. Not giving her any attention Patience and Emprize are focussed on Noble. The girl doesn't seem too happy.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

What happened?

PATIENCE

Did anything go wrong?

NOBLE FLIRT

(grimly)

Insemination would have been better.

The two seniors look at each other stunned. Patience shakes her head. All the hard work has gone down the drain.

The camp comes in sight.

INT. KITCHEN, ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Joanne busy with bills on her laptop. A bothered Emma is unable to concentrate on her homework. To tell or not to tell... she looks at her mother wondering. Finally

EMMA

Mom...

Joanne looks up from her laptop.

JOANNE

What is it, dear?

A beat.

EMMA

Nothing.

Emma get backs to her homework. Joanne frowns looking at her daughter. Then gets busy with the bills.

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Joanne, Emma, Roy and the VET and two other MEN enter the stable.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Noble is being inseminated in her stall. The Vet injecting her with help from Roy and one of the men as the others watch.

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

The ordeal over Roy takes Noble out to the pasture where she joins Emprize and Patience.

Joanne gives the Other Man a cheque.

JOANNE

Here's your fees Mr. Anderson.

ANDERSON

Thank you, Mrs. Roberts.

Seeing that Noble sighs

NOBLE FLIRT

One hundred thousand dollars gone
down the drain...

Patience and Emprize chuckle. They look at Emma who is looking at them with a 'you girls' smile on her face.

A MONTAGE

Of the Roberts horses pasturing as nature changes her color.
And Emprize and Noble fatten their tummies.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Dawn. Noble and Patience stand by the pasture fence looking towards the stable as the others graze. Noble is tense.

NOBLE FLIRT

I hope everything goes well.

PATIENCE

Don't worry. She's a pro at this.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

A pained yet stoic Emprize foaling under supervision of the Vet as Joanne, Emma and Roy watch.

VET

It's a girl!

Minutes Later...

Sitting on the hay of her special stall a proud mother licks her newborn with great care, watched over by both her equine and human companions.

PATIENCE

One more addition to our girlie gang.

BANJO

(to Biggles)

And we are outnumbered by one more.

(to Noble)

Better you come up with a colt missy.

A smiling Emprize listens.

NOBLE FLIRT

Does it hurt?

EMPRIZE

It does. But the pain is worth what comes after.

She licks her foal who with her fresh eyes is trying to figure out what the hell is going on around her.

EMMA

Elena!

Joanne and Roy looks at her. The equines too.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I name her Elena.

JOANNE

But I thought of -

EMMA

No, we will call her Elena.

JOANNE

Okay... it's Elena then.

NOBLE FLIRT

(to her specie)

Does it always have to be *they* name our kids?

PATIENCE

That's the way it is.

NOBLE FLIRT

But that's not fair. We should be allowed to name our own.

BIGGLES

Submit a petition of protest then.

Noble is not pleased at the pun.

BANJO
 (philosophically)
 What's in a name.

NOBLE FLIRT
 There's a lot!

Her little one in her fold, Emprize enjoys the conversation.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Elena drinks from her mother's udder as Noble and Patience watch.

PATIENCE
 She is a beauty, isn't she?
 (to Noble)
 You don't have much time left dear.
 A few months from now and she will
 replace you as the talk of the
 town.

NOBLE FLIRT
 (laughs)
 I will happily play second fiddle
 to my niece.
 (licking little Elena)
 I hope my one is as beautiful as
 you, little miss. Tell me what you
 want? A sister for you, or a
 naughty brother?

Leaving her mother's udder, Elena looks at her aunt in
 incomprehension and then gets back to feeding again.

PATIENCE
 Whatever it might be, they would
 make a great pair. I can vouch for
 that.

Drinking from her mother Elena makes a sound turning her eyes
 to Patience, as if in confirmation of what's being said. Her
 mother and aunts laugh.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - NIGHT

The Vet examines an uncomfortable Noble in her stall as
 Joanne, Emma and Roy pats her.

VET
 She's in a very advanced stage. I
 am expecting her to foal in a
 couple of days.
 (getting up)
 I will come again tomorrow.

They leave. Noble turns to Emprize who in the adjacent stall is nursing her little one.

NOBLE FLIRT

I am really scared. I didn't expect it to feel like this.

EMPRIZE

First time is always frightening. Don't worry, everything will be fine. I will be at your side.

Noble smiles in her discomfort.

EXT. THE ROBERTS FARM - NIGHT

No wind blowing. Nature lies still.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE -NIGHT

Noble shifts uneasily in her stall. In the adjacent stall Elena sleeps peacefully at her mother's feet. Emprize looks worried.

EMPRIZE

Are you okay?

NOBLE FLIRT

(tries to smile)
I think so.

EXT. THE ROBERTS FARM - NIGHT

The night has deepened. It has gotten stiller. Suddenly a lightening strikes, flashing up the stable. A thunder follows.

In a moment it begins to rain heavily.

A SERIES OF SILENT SHOTS

Roy sleeping in his cabin.

Emma sleeping in her room.

Joanne sleeping in her room.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Suddenly Emma wakes up. Sits up on her bed and listens. Isn't a sound coming from the stable? She gets up from her bed and hastens out of the room. Coming to her mother's room wakes her up.

EMMA
Mommy! Mommy !

Joanne opens her eyes.

JOANNE
What is it?

EMMA
Something is wrong in the stable. I
think I heard Emprize whining.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - NIGHT

Mother and daughter rush out of the house into the downpour.
Emma picks up her bike.

EMMA
Oh shit!

No air in the tires. She drops the bike and runs towards the
stable with Joanne following her as the whinnying gets louder
and louder through the shower.

Roy rushes out of the stable, comes running.

ROY
Noble has foaled!! She's in
trouble!!

The three sprint for the stable.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - NIGHT

Gasping for air, Noble is lying in her stall in a pool of
blood. Attached to her by the placenta is her justborn foal.
Emprize whinnying like mad, trying to break the rails of
stall with her legs. Her filly stands scared in one one
corner. Patience is whinnying too from the common stall.
Others stand and watch in helpless dread.

The three rush to the Noble. Kneel before her.

ROY
She won't make it.

Tears rolling from her eyes, Noble is seeing her foal. A
colt. The most beautiful boy in the the whole world. Looking
at her mother with his frightened eyes. Noble looks up at
Emprize.

NOBLE FLIRT
Emprize...

EMPRIZE

Hold on dear, hold on!! They've come. Everything will be all right.

NOBLE FLIRT

Take care of my son, sister.

Taking a last look at her son, Noble takes her final breath. The eyes go dull. Emprize lets out a blood curdling whinny. So does Patience. Emma breaks down stooping over Noble.

JOANNE

(to Roy)

Go, fetch the colostrum from the cooler. The colt needs it. Or Else he might die.

Roy rushes out.

Minutes Later...

Its quiet now. Emprize stands still in her stall looking at Noble and her colt, tears rolling down her eyes. Patience is distraught too. So are the geldings. The others not as much. Emma is still weeping and feeding the colt the colostrum as her mother cuts the umbilical cord.

Suddenly Emprize lets out a squeal. And to everyone's surprise, the colt responds with his faint voice.

Emma looks at Emprize. A silent exchange passes between her and the mare. Emma lifts the colt in her arms and is up on her legs.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Emma doesn't reply. He walks over to Emprize's stall with the colt.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Don't do that Emma! It's too dangerous!

ROY

She can hurt the foal! It's not hers!

But Emma has already placed the colt in Emprize's stall. Seeing the new entrant, Elena scurries to her mother. Emprize assures her daughter with a lick.

EMPRIZE

Don't be afraid, baby. He's your brother.

She moves towards the colt. Everyone watches with baited breath.

Emprize sits by the shivering colt and begins cleaning his sticky face with her warm, soft tongue, just as she did to her daughter a few weeks back. Closing his eyes, the colt begins to make soft noises. Elena comes near and watch the colt with strange eyes.

A triumphant Emma looks at her mother and Roy. She has proved them wrong.

DISSOLVE TO:

Sometime Later...

Attempting a few times the colt stands up on his wobbly legs. Reaches for Emprize's teats. Elena comes from behind and bites the colt's rump making him jump.

EMPRIZE

Don't do that. Let him drink. You come and drink from this side if you want to.

Scolded by mother Elena looks at the colt grumpily, then walks over to the other side and begins nursing.

Emma, Joanne, Roy and the Vet look on fascinated.

VET

In my forty years career I have not seen anything like this!

JOANNE

Let him name Junior.
(to Emma)
What do you think?

Emma thinks. Emprize too looks at Emma, knowing the girl has the last word.

EMMA

I think that's a good one!

Both Joanne and Emprize's faces brighten up.

ROY

Junior and Elena. They'd make a great pair.

Teat in mouth the two kids look at the humans as if contemplating upon the statement, then at each other under their mother's belly. Both frowns, not exactly liking each other for the present.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The horses pasturing.

Following Emprize, Junior and Elena discovering the world with fresh eyes. Patience walking beside.

A chameleon on the grass fascinates Junior. As he tries to sniff it, instead of backing off, the angry chameleon unfurls its throat glands and changes color scaring Junior.

Elena comes forward. The two inspects the new creature fearful yet inquisitive. After a little stepping back and forth they are able to make the reptile run.

An over enthusiastic Elena chases the chameleon while Junior goes back to Emprize. Begins nestling. Emprize licks the colt with great affection.

PATIENCE
(softly into Emprize's
ear's)
He has her shine, doesn't he?

Emprize nods. Gets melancholic.

EMPRIZE
I miss her.

PATIENCE
Me too.

No more discussion about his mother in his presence. Emprize resumes licking Junior.

The chameleon climbing up a tree and not showing itself through the leaves, Elena decides to go back to mother. Turning, as she sees Junior nestling, she is stunned. Isn't that hers...

Elena comes running, pushes Junior.

ELENA
That's my teat!

Junior won't let go the teat.

Elena pushes again dislodging Junior off it.

ELENA (CONT'D)
That's mine! You go to your side.

Before she can put her mouth to it, Junior pushes her aside. A fight ensues over the teat, the two jostle to get their mouths to it. Emprize has enough of it.

EMPRIZE

That's enough! Stop fighting you two. Let him drink Elena.

ELENA

But that's my teat!

EMPRIZE

No teat is solely for anyone. Both are your's and his. Come, you drink from this side.

Going grumpy Elena stands while Junior reclaims the teat.

EMPRIZE (CONT'D)

Come dear.

But Elena won't move. Patience comes to her, nudges.

PATIENCE

Go girl. Do what mother says. He's your small brother, isn't he? You must share things with him.

ELENA

Why won't he?

EMPRIZE

You are the big sister. Show him how to.

But Elena remains grumpy.

From some distance Honeysuckle and Jellybean watch. Honeysuckle is pregnant as her bulged tummy suggests.

HONEYSUCKLE

She's denying her own for the one who is not. What kind of mother is she?

JELLYBEAN

Com'on don't say that. She takes care of her daughter too.

HONEYSUCKLE

But not as much as that colt. She wants them to think they are siblings. But is that possible? Truth is bound to come out. There's no way you can hide the truth.

Emma is seen coming bike riding.

She drops the bike and runs into the pasture. Seeing her Elena comes trotting. Junior too leaves her mother's teat and comes trotting. Emma kneels down and cuddles both.

EMMA

How are you doing, you little brats?

The two licks Emma all over making her giggle with tickle. A smiling Emprize and Patience comes forward. Emma rises to her feet.

EMMA (CONT'D)

How are you today, big girls?
(to Elena and Junior)
Hey you two, not troubling your mom, are you?

The two look at Emma, eyes twinkling.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Keep drinking.

Like obedient kids the two resumes nestling. Elena from the side her mother told her to. Emma caresses Emprize and Patience.

Seeing that, Honeysuckle to Jellybean.

HONEYSUCKLE

I hope she loves my kid as much she loves them.

JELLYBEAN

Does it matter? They sell our kids after all, don't they? How many do they keep?

HONEYSUCKLE

True.

SONG SEQUENCE

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

Elena and Junior playfully chase one another over the lush green grass. The adult equines watch.

Playing catch up, Emma runs after them riding Patience. Emprize watches with pride and affection.

The two fight over forage pulling from both sides. Seeing Emprize approaching they give up and act coy.

Emma plays with a ball with the two. The ball coming to Emprize and Patience they nudge it to the kids. Joanne and Mr.Clifford watch from the fence.

Emprize licks them clean while they sleep on hay in her stall.

Roy bathing the horses with the hose-pipe. Junior and Elena hides behind their mother not wanting to take the splash. But they had to. Once splashed, they jump in joy wanting for more.

Vaccination time. A fearful Junior watches the Vet injecting a wailing Elena. When his turn comes, he is nowhere. They look for him. Eventually Emma finds him hiding under the hay. They drag him to the vet. Shot over as he wails in pain, Elena, despite her tears, comes over and licks and consoles her bro.

Holding a twig each by their mouth, the brats approach equine nostrils - of Banjo and Biggle's lost in sleep. Once inserted the geldings startle up in fright making the brats roll in laughter.

An animated Banjo tells them a scary story. Fearful they snuggle under Emprize and Patience's folds.

The two roll over grass with Emma.

Trying to enquire what's inside her fattened tummy, they are shoed off by irritated Honeysuckle.

Now they are adolescents. Saddling them up Emma rides Junior, Roy rides Elena.

Grown even more, not fully adults though. Elena chases Junior. Dropping to his knees Junior ducks. Elena has no option but to jump over him. Junior rises and runs in the opposite direction. Elena chases.

Roy rides Junior. Emma rides Elena. Joanne is riding Emprize. Suddenly short of breath Emprize can't catch up. Joanne stops, gets off her. Elena and Junior surge ahead in a race.

END SONG SEQUENCE

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Junior and Elena and Patience look towards the stable standing by the fencing.

ELENA

Mother is sick, isn't she?

PATIENCE

A little.

Elena looks at Patience, not exactly believing her.

ELENA

She will be okay soon, won't she?

PATIENCE

She will. Go, play with your brother.

Elena nudges Junior, walks him away.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

The Vet examining Emprize laying on the hay, visibly worn out. Joanne, Roy and Emma are by her side, comforting her.

VET

I'm sorry Mrs. Roberts. There's nothing more I can do. It's been a long life for her. Better spare her the pain by not stretching it any further.

Emma can barely hold her tears. So are Joanne and Roy. Emprize takes in the news with melancholic forbearance.

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - NIGHT

Sitting on the hay Emprize licks sleeping Elena and Junior with great affection.

EMPRIZE

(murmurs)

Be good you two, be good...

While the other mares sleep, Patience watches grim faced. So are the geldings.

Joanne, Vet and Roy enters. The Vet carrying a gun. Emprize looks up. She is prepared.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

In her room a tense and teary Emma lays on bed covering her ear with the pillow. Yet the rifle shot reaching her ears she winces and breaks down.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Elena wakes up. Finds Emma and Roy keeling before her and sleeping Junior. Where is mother? She looks up at Patience looking down at them from the adjoining stall.

ELENA

Where is mother?

Patience looks away.

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Roy and Emma bringing out Elena and Junior to the pasture. Patience, the geldings and others follow. Elena asks turning to Patience.

ELENA
Where is mother?

A confused Junior wants to know too.

BIGGLES
(to Patience)
Better tell them. They will come to know sooner or later.

Patience nods.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Long Shot. Patience facing Elena and Junior as she breaks the news.

CLOSE on dumfounded Elena and Junior. A beat. Then Elena squeals. So does Junior.

Long Shot: The two sprint away in two different directions. Stops, bucks, squeals. Runs again, stops. Bucks, squeals...

A perplexed Emma and Roy try to pacify them, but can't.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY/NIGHT

Dusk. The tears haven't dried yet. Elena and Junior sit side by side looking at the setting sun. Patience stands behind them.

The sun sets.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. THE ROBERTS FARM - DAY/NIGHT

The sun rises.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The horses pasturing. Cuddling Junior and Elena, Emma leaves. The two resumes pasturing, looking lost.

Seeing Honeysuckle's colt nursing her mother, an inquisitive Junior approaches the duo. Coming to the colt he makes a friendly gesture by licking his neck. The colt doesn't like it, annoyed he nickers. That perturbs Honeysuckle.

HONEYSUCKLE
Get away from him!

JUNIOR
Can't we be friends?

HONEYSUCKLE
No.

JUNIOR
Why not?

HONEYSUCKLE
Because I don't want my son to be friends with someone whose mother was a haughty big mouth show girl.

JUNIOR
My mother was not haughty! She was not a big mouth! She was kind and soft spoken.

Honeysuckle smiles.

HONEYSUCKLE
She was not your mother, kid. She only reared you. The mother that gave you birth was someone else.

Junior is astounded.

JUNIOR
That's a lie! You're saying this because you never liked my mother.

HONEYSUCKLE
Go, ask your aunt Patience then. She liked your mother for sure.

Junior sprints away.

High Angle Shot: Junior comes sprinting to Elena. A beat. They come running to Patience grazing in another part of the pasture. We don't get to hear what they say, only witness their agitated expressions. The geldings who are near are hearing though.

She has heard what they had to say. Patience looks at Honeysuckle. A cold glance exchanged. Patience turns to the geldings. Biggles nods. Better tell the truth. Patience turns to the kids.

PATIENCE
It's true.

Junior and Elena are dumbfounded.

Sometime Later ---

Sitting before Patience and the geldings, Junior and Elena listen.

PATIENCE (CONT'D)

Not only she was the most beautiful of mares, she had a heart of gold. Her presence lit up our lives.

Emprize and her... they were more sisters than friends. It was so special, the bondage between the two...

Patience goes quiet. A silence follows.

PATIENCE (CONT'D)

That is what matters the most. It doesn't matter whether you were born of the same mother or not. What matters is the love that bonds you.

Seeing Emma approaching

PATIENCE (CONT'D)

It's same for them as with us. And between us.

Emma comes running and sits among the equines.

EMMA

What's going on? Conferencing you guys? What's it about?

She goes on cuddling Junior and Elena.

EXT. OUTSIDE PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Joanne and Mr.Clifford taking a stroll. Their gazes fall on Emma and the horses.

JOANNE

She's developed such a bond with the two... If only I could keep both.

CLIFFORD

Can't you?

JOANNE

I have to run the farm, George. I
just might be able to keep the boy,
but not the girl.

CLIFFORD

Any prospective buyers?

JOANNE

People are enquiring. I'm sure
she'll fetch a good price.

She looks at Honeysuckle's colt suckling her mother.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Prince is going to fetch a good
price too. The deal is almost done.

They walk away.

A MONTAGE (ACCOMPANYING MUSIC)

The dale:

Elena chasing Junior, Junior does the ducking trick again.

Playfully they fight one another.

Cuddle one another.

Emma cuddles them.

Roy and Emma cuddle them.

Groom them.

Ride them in the vast expanse.

Bathe with them in the stream.

Sleep with them on the lush green grass waving in the breeze.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. THE DALE - DAY/NIGHT

Emma strolls with them towards the setting sun.

ELENA

(to Junior)

It's been a great day, ha Junior?

JUNIOR

The best day in my life.

ELENA

(laughs)

Your life has just begun! Mine too.
There will be many many more days
like this.

JUNIOR

And we will have many many more
funs.

A smiling Elena nods at Junior.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY/NIGHT

Dawn. Prince - Honeysuckle's colt - is loaded into a truck.
The truck drives off leaving Joanne, Emma and Roy standing.
Tears roll down Emma's eyes.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

Honeysuckle bucks and wails alone in her stall in the empty
stable.

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Grim faced, the other horses hear the wail. Junior and Elena
hear too, confused, scared.

ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Mother and daughter having dinner in the kitchen.

EMMA

Mom.

JOANNE

Yes honey?

EMMA

You are not thinking of selling
Elena too, are you?

Joanne looks up to her daughter. Doesn't know how to say it.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Mom?

Joanne nods in affirmative.

EMMA (CONT'D)

NO!!

JOANNE

We can't keep her, Emma.

EMMA

Not her mom !!

JOANNE

The deal is signed. I have taken an advance.

EMMA

No !! No!!

She pushes away her plate. It breaks falling to the floor splattering the food all over. Emma runs to her room, slams the door shut. Joanne sits helpless. Unable to eat anymore, she dumps her food into the bin. Picks up the pieces of porcelain from the floor.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - NIGHT

Elena sleeps among the mares in the common stall. Junior sleeps in his. Peacefully they sleep.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

In her room Emma weeps burying her face on the pillow.

EXT. ROBERTS RANCH - NIGHT

The ranch sleeps under moonlight. Who can tell what lies in store at daybreak?

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY/NIGHT

The first ray of the sun is yet to hit the horizon. The horses are sleeping. Roy steps in. His face stiff as stone. Without making a sound, he goes to Elena. Nudges her.

ROY

Wake up girl, wake up.

Elena opens her eyes, looks at Roy. Confusion. Roy puts the harness on her.

ROY (CONT'D)

Come girl. We will go for a walk.

Emma rises on her feet.

ROY (CONT'D)

Slow girl, slow. Don't wake them up.

Obediently Elena follows Roy. He brings her out of the stall, closes the gate. Walks her out of the stable.

Banjo opens his eyes. Roy is about to close the stable door, the gelding notices him and Elena. A moment's confusion and he jumps to his feet.

BANJO
They are taking Elena!!

EXT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY/NIGHT

Hearing that Elena looks at Roy, stunned.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY/NIGHT

BANJO
They are taking Elena!!
They are taking Elena!!

Biggles startles to wakefulness. So does Junior. And Patience. And others.

INTERCUT BETWEEN STABLE EXTERIOR / STABLE INTERIOR / ROBERTS HOUSE:

EXT. STABLE:

Elena lets out a blood curdling whiney and rears, almost knocking off Roy. His two companions come running from the waiting truck.

INT. STABLE:

Junior looks for Elena. She is not in the common stall. He jumps to his feet. Raises on his hinds.

JUNIOR
ELENA!!!

EXT. STABLE:

Letting out hell raising whinnies Elena rears as the three boys try to pin her down.

INT. STABLE:

Whinnies mingles with music as Junior up on his hinds hits the stall rail again and again. Patience wails too hitting the stall rail. So does Biggles and Banjo.

EXT. STABLE:

The truck is brought nearer. The incline lowered. They try to pull Elena in. Elena resists and wails.

INT. STABLE:

Her whinnies sailing through. Junior is relentless in his effort to break free.

EXT. STABLE:

Still resisting Elena is halfway in.

INT. STABLE:

Junior is relentless. Patience wails.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE:

The whinnies sailing through. Sealing her ears with her fingers, squeezing her eyes shut, Emma lies coiled up in her bed.

Sitting on the sofa Joanne is trying hard not to fall prey to her emotions.

EXT. STABLE:

They succeed. The truck is bolted. They get in. Drives the truck away. Roy remains. He sinks on his knees.

INT: STABLE:

Junior still hitting the rails. Patience wails. Banjo and Biggles too. The others watch mortified. A strange look in Honeysuckle's eyes. Not of satisfaction to see them going through the same trauma as hers, but overwhelmed with the enormity of the inevitable.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY/NIGHT

High Angle Shot. Yet to be lit up by the sun, the farm reels under cries of pain. Roy still on his knees.

EXT. A FREEWAY - DAY

The Stake Truck speeds along.

In the back of the truck Elena stands whining softly, tears rolling down her eyes.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

The horses are out in the pasture. The geldings stand lost.

INT. ROBERTS STABLE - DAY

They could not be brought out. Junior stands in his stall, his gaze fixated at his feet. The tears haven't dried yet. Patience sits on the hay, eyes flooding. Neither have touched the special food provided as compensation for their grief.

INT. JOANNE'S CAR - DAY

A grim faced Joanne drives Emma to school. She looks at her daughter. Hiding from mother Emma weeps pressing her face on the glass pane.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

Elena is now sitting on the hay, tears still rolling. The food and water lies untouched.

The truck speeds along, now up a mountaneous terrain.

A MONTAGE:

Of the truck making its way up the mountaneous landscape as light falls gradually, the day turning to dusk and dusk to night. A speck of luminosity in the mountain slope it now descends down the mountain under a full moon night.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. A FOREST - NIGHT

The truck speeding along the freeway lighting the asphalt with its headlights. Dark silhouettes of coniferous trees throng the slopes on either side.

In the back of the truck Elena sits, resting her face between her hoofs. The food and water has remained untouched.

The truck speeds along... a bend on the road ahead.

From the other side of the bend a pair of headlights can be seen approaching. An ominous background score begins.

INT. A CAR - NIGHT

Ominous background score mingles with car music. A couple in the front seat. The man driving as well drinking and having fun with the woman by his side. They approach the bend having fun. Suddenly a pair of headlights dazzle up their faces.

WOMAN
Watch out Frankie!!

INT. STAKE TRUCK - NIGHT

The startled driver tries to steer away. But its too late...

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The truck skids off the road, slides down the slope. Hits a tree trunk, upturns. Elena is thrown off the back. The car speeds away unscathed.

INT. STAKE TRUCK - NIGHT

Shattered glasses all over them, the diver and his companion lies unconscious over each other.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The truck lies upturned on the slope. Elena seems to have lost her consciousness too, she lies still on the grass beside the truck.

CLOSE on her. A beat. Elena opens her eyes. A beat. Slowly she raises herself. Dazed and scared, looks around. The truck lays upturned by her side. Her food lies scattered. Dark trees stand tall all around her. Taking in the situation she has landed into, Elena rises on her feet. Finds herself limping as she tries to move.

Coming to the front portion of the truck she sees the two man lying unconscious, or dead. She sticks her head in through the shattered windshield. Nickers. Licks the men's faces. No response.

Elena looks around. She is standing in the middle of a forest all alone. Fortunately its not all dark. The full moon shines above lighting up the forest in soft whiteness. But where is she? What is she going to do now?

Elena eats the food strewn over the grass. Licks up the little water that still remains in the water trough.

What to do now?

Elena limps up to the road. Wonders which way to go. Preferring to descend, she limps her way in the direction that will take her further away from home.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Elena limping down the road. As she passes a stretch of trees, a pair of eyes is seen glowing through the dark foliage.

Elena limps...

Low Angle POV: She is being stalked.

Elena limps unaware... suddenly she stops. Something is not right. She sniffs the air. Looks back. Nothing is in sight. She resumes walking.

Low Angle POV: She is being stalked again.

Elena turns. Now she sees the thing. A black cat, ready to pounce. Elena runs for her life. The cat chases.

Elena runs as fast as her injured leg allows her. The distance diminishes rapidly. The cat jumps... and just at the nick of time Elena does what Junior used to do with her. She ducks falling on her knees. The cat flies past over her, falls crashing on the asphalt. Elena runs in the opposite direction. The cat recovers from the hiccup, turns and chases. Shortening the distance he is about to pounce again when ---

an entity comes crashing down the slope knocking him down. The cat lays unconscious. The entity - a horse - rises on his knees, looks up. Another horse charging down the forest slope. Pale in fright, he gallops into the forest on the other side of the road, disappears.

The chaser Stallion stops on the road. Is surprised to see the knocked out cat. Sees Elena running away. He is surprised even more.

STALLION

Hey!!

Elena stops and looks back. Astonished. The two gaze at each other.

The stallion trots up to Elena. Circling around, sizes her up. Elena stands scared.

STALLION (CONT'D)

My my... what a surprise! A filly all by herself at this hour of the night... what happened to that leg?

A scared Elena does not respond.

STALLION (CONT'D)

They call me Beast. A sissy challenged me, like they do every now and then.

(MORE)

STALLION (CONT'D)

Was chasing him down the hill,
seems like he fell over that cat.
Leashed, aren't you?

ELENA

Leashed?

BEAST

That rope round your neck? Those
two legged creatures make you dance
by that, don't they?

Elena doesn't respond.

BEAST (CONT'D)

What did they name you?

Elena doesn't like the tone. Yet she answers.

ELENA

Elena.

BEAST

Well, Elena dear... what's your
plan? Would you like to stand here
all night, waiting for one of your
your two legged masters appear in
one of those speedy things and take
you home? Mind you, that cat may
not be all dead. If he stands up on
his legs, you're meal. Not everyone
are second time lucky.

Beast walks away, climbs up the slope. A moment's dilemma.
Elena follows.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - NIGHT

A MONTAGE of shots as Beast leads Elena up the mountain.

END OF MONTAGE

Beast stops and lets Elena catch up. Now they walk side by
side.

BEAST

It's not as easy as it is down
there. But we manage you know. Of
our own.

Elena does not respond. They continue with their journey.

EXT. BEAST'S DOMAIN - DAY/NIGHT

They reach a flat mountain pasture at the first light of the
dawn.

BEAST

This is the place I call home.

Elena looks around.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Not exactly what you think of home, right? Well, this is the wild, baby. You won't have your... what you call... yes, stables. No stables for you here. Everything is in the open. Only sometimes, when the weather gets pretty ugly, we huddle under those rocks.

Beast points to the big rocky protrusions scattered over the vast undulating pastures, some are inclined enough to provide some sort of shelter.

BEAST (CONT'D)

There they come...

They come galloping, a number of mares and fillies.

BEAST (CONT'D)

They get so twitchy when I'm out of town.

They flock around him, the three fillies brush their faces on his flanks, the four younger mares jostle to lick the bruises on his neck and hip.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Oh its nothing, dearies. That sissy can't even bite properly.

Two older mares who come walking look at Elena, not at all pleased to see her beside Beast.

OLDER MARE # 1

Who is she?

BEAST

Her name is Elena, found her -

OLDER MARE # 1

This is no place for the leashed. Why did you bring her here?

BEAST

What else could I have done? I couldn't possibly leave her alone on that -

OLDER MARE # 1

(to Elena)

Go back, leashed girl. This is no place for you.

Intimidated, Elena looks at Beast.

BEAST

Hey! She's going nowhere. She's one of us now and she's going to stay. Got that, all of you?

The mares take the diktat in silence. The older mares walk away throwing cold gazes at Elena. Beast shoos away the younger ones.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Enough licking. Run along now. Go grazing.

The younger mares and fillies trot away. Beast turn to Elena.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Never mind the old lady. She's always gets queasy every time add a new mare to the herd.

(coming closer to Elena)

Let me take that leash off you.

He bites and pulls the harness off Elena's neck causing her pain.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Ah, now you are officially free!

Taking a good look at Elena.

BEAST (CONT'D)

You're so pretty. Let a year pass. You'd be giving them a run for their money.

Elena is confused, and scared. Of everything in this new environ.

ELENA

I want to go home!

Beast feels sorry for her.

BEAST

I'd like to take you to your home, baby. But do you know where your home is? Until you can tell me that this is your home.

He takes Elena into a stroll.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Don't you worry, dear. Except for the good food they give you there and that stable of course, nothing is lacking here.

(MORE)

BEAST (CONT'D)

You'd be friends with your sisters
in no time. Then you see, you will
like this place far better than
those cramped pastures of yours.
These wide spaces, cool breeze,
clear sky... do you have all this
back there? All you have are those
two legged buggers always pestering
you, doing you this, doing you
that... how do you tolerate all
that?

Elena doesn't like to hear that. But she does not say anything.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Come, let's take a run.

Beast breaks into a trot. Elena remains at her spot. Beast stops, looks back. Comes back to her.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Oh, I forgot, that leg of yours...
Let's be walking then.

The two continue strolling as the other mares watch from distance.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Junior strolls lost in his grief.

INTERCUT:

Junior's thought: Elena galloping in the pasture without a care of the world.

BACK TO:

PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM

Junior strolls lost in thought.

INTERCUT:

Junior's thought: He is chasing Elena. Elena chasing her.

BACK TO:

PASTURE, ROBERTS FARM

Junior has stopped. He is looking faraway lost in his thoughts.

Emma approaches. Comes to Junior. Junior shrugs away, not letting Emma cuddle him. Emma refrains from touching him anymore.

EMMA

What could I do, tell me. I begged mommy to keep her. But she had signed the deal already... I know its not fair. But that's how we earn our living... I know that's not fair...

Junior stands his eyes fixed on the ground.

EMMA (CONT'D)

She would be fine, Junior. Mommy has put her in good hands. They will take good care of her.

Junior stands with his gaze fixed.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Would you like to go for a ride?

Emma walks towards the stable.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

A minute later...

She saddles Junior. Straddles him. Nudges.

EMMA

Com'on boy.

Junior doesn't move. Emma nudges again.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Com'on boy.

Suddenly, almost throwing Emma off his back, Junior rears and then begins to gallop. Emma holds on to him as best as he could as he gallops faster and faster racing against the gloom of his life.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - DAY

Joanne and Mr. Clifford taking a stroll. They see Emma on Junior coming galloping towards them. In a moment they brush past speed raising a plume of dust. The two stand looking back as Emma and Junior speed away and disappear from sight.

CLIFFORD

Good she's riding him. It will do him good. Her too.

They resume walking.

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)
Have you told her about Elena?

JOANNE
Not yet.

CLIFFORD
It's been a week, Joanne. The more you will delay the more trauma you will cause her. She will come to know sooner or later.

JOANNE
I will, tonight.

CLIFFORD
What did her teacher say?

JOANNE
She is not doing good, George.

They walk in silence.

CLIFFORD
Should we not let her do what she is best at?

JOANNE
What do you mean?

CLIFFORD
She has it in her, you know. You should let them do what they are best at, what they love most.

I did not let my boy.

His eyes getting moist, Clifford looks ahead. Joanne takes his hand in hers. They walk in silence.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Emma sitting on bed in her room doing homework, but her mind is somewhere else. Joanne enters, steels her nerves. Then sits beside her daughter.

JOANNE
I need to tell you something dear.

Emma looks at her mother. Something is wrong.

EMMA
What?

EXT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Long shot of Mother and daughter through a window. Emma looking at her mother stunned. Then wails up and throws herself on the bed.

INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Joanne sets the plate on the kitchen table. Emma comes out of her room, comes to the table, her eyes still fluffy. Mother and daughter sit.

EMMA

Is it possible she's not dead?

JOANNE

They have searched the entire area. Were she dead, they'd have found the body... or a caracas.

EMMA

Is it possible someone has taken her?

JOANNE

That's a possibility.

EMMA

Even if someone does, we will never come to know of her.

JOANNE

You never know. Maybe one day we will.

Mother and daughter eat in silence. Joanne looks up.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Emma?

Emma looks up.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Do you want to make riding your career, Emma?

Emma looks at her mother.

EXT. ROBERTS FARM - NIGHT

The farm sleeps.

Background Song begins:

SONG SEQUENCE

A MONTAGE OF SHOTS:

Junior stands in his stall sleepless. Patience looks at him from hers. Sighs.

Beast and the other horses are sleeping in the open. Only Elena is awake and lost. Beast wakes up from sleep, takes a look at Elena. Goes bac to sleep again.

The night deepens.

Morning. Beast runs. The other mares run after him. Beast stops, looks back at Elena. Comes to her. Says something to her. She begins to trot. Beast trots beside her. The other mares watch with envy.

Joanne drives Emma to a Jockey Training Institute.

The horses pasturing in Roberts farm. Junior stands at the fencing, looking afar.

Elena gallops with the other horses. Leaving behind the mares she runs neck to neck with Beast. Suddenly she stops. Beast stops. Looks back at Elena. Elena has lost herself in nostalgia. In her mind's eyes ---

Junior galloping. She galloping with him.

Elena lost in nostalgia. In her mind's eyes ---

Roy riding her, Emma riding Junior chasing one another. Joanne follows on Emprize.

Emprize licking them in the stall.

Banjo telling them a scary story. They listen in their mother's fold.

They approach sleeping Banjo and Biggles twigs in mouth. Inserting into their nostrils making them jump.

She is chasing Junior. Junior ducks, making her jump over him. Rising, Junior runs. She runs to catch him.

Beast comes to Elena. Notices tears rolling from her eyes. He proceeds to comfort her. But Elena moves away, resumes sprinting. Beast stands miffed. Then runs after her. Overtakes her. She overtakes Beast, asif to get away from him as far as possible.

Clouds fly on sky. Day becomes night. Night becomes day. Seasons change. Nature changes accordingly.

Emma takes lesson in her class. The teacher teaching horse anatomy.

She and other students groom the horses of the institute.

The other mares cuddle Beast as he sits between them like a king. Elena sits some distance from the group. Not interested to pamper the alpha male, she looks away. Beast is not happy about that. Looking at the horizon Elena thinks ---

Of the dale. The fun she had there with Junior. The races. The splash in the stream.

CLOSE on Junior. He is at the dale with other Roberts horses. They are taking a splash in the stream as Roy and his friends scrub them. Only Junior and Patience sit on the bank, musing of the good old days. Patience looks old and worn out, lies on the grass.

Roy and the vet enter the stable at night, the vet with his gun. The walk out with Patience.

Emma shivers on her bed hearing the gunshot.

She rides Junior, outrunning grief, brushing past her mother and Mr. Clifford. Mr. Clifford puts an arm around Joanne's shoulder as the continue walking.

Seasons change color.

Emma exercises horses in the institute pasture along with other students.

She and Roy groom the horses in the stable.

Emma dines with mom and Mr. Clifford in a restaurant. Rolls in laughter as Mr. Clifford cracks a joke.

Beast fights a challenger as the mares watched tensely. Elena watches too. Defeated, the challenger runs away. The mares rush to Beast. Licks his wounds. Elena does not. Beast takes note of her indifference

Emma learns racing strategy in class with fellow students. Raising her hand asks a question.

Her phone displaying a message, she takes a look at it. Then looking back at the classmate who sent her the message gives him a gentle scold with her gaze.

She rides the horses in jockey gear with fellow students at the institute track. Falls from the horse. Injures ankle. The classmate gets down from his horse, rushes to her.

She is riding again.

She hot-walks horses on a racing track after a professional race. Her boyfriend walks another by her side. They chat happily as they walk the horses.

She kisses her boyfriend at the institute gate. He points at a car. Leaving him, Emma runs to her mother. Joanne has noticed. She conceals her smile. Emma gets in. Joanne drives off with daughter.

SONG SEQUENCE ENDS

EXT. BEAST'S DOMAIN - DAY

Standing on his hinds, Beast hits a tree. An apple falls. Beast picks the apple in his mouth and walks towards Elena ignoring his mares. Like Emma, Elena too has grown through the seasons; she is now a beautiful fully grown mare.

Beast comes to Elena. Holds the apple to her mouth. Elena turns her face away. Beast walks around her and holds the apple again. Elena turns her face again. Beast drops the apple on the ground.

BEAST

Okay, if you don't have to take from me. Just eat it.

But Elena won't. She stands looking away.

BEAST (CONT'D)

What's the problem with you? Why don't you eat anything I bring to you? Why do you hate me so much?

ELENA

I don't hate you.

BEAST

You don't like me either, do you?

Elena stands silent.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Why are you so different from the others? They love me, they care about me. They are concerned about me. You are not. Not at all. Why? Do I take care of you any less? I believe I do it more than I do with others. Yet you don't like me. You didn't even try to.

Elena doesn't respond.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Am I so loathsome? Uh? Its been more than a while you are here, yet you haven't even begun to like me. Like us.

(MORE)

BEAST (CONT'D)

Are those two legged legged creatures so good that you can't even think of liking your own? Or is it something else? Someone perhaps?

Elena does not respond. Beast picks up the apple by his mouth. Holds it before Elena again. Elena finds herself in dilemma. Take it, or not take it...

She chooses not to. Moves away from Beast. Beast drops the apple.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Hey! I say have it!

Elena looks at Beast. A cold glance exchanged between the two. Elena walks away further. Beast paces to her. Elena trots away further. Beast trots to her. Elena runs. Beast runs after her. Elena picks up speed. So does Beast.

A chase ensues. Elena runs as fast as she can. Beast tries to catch up. But it turns out to be much more difficult than he thought. Elena stays ahead of him. Soon they are out of his domain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TERRAIN - DAY

Elena sprints across the rugged terrain. Beast behind her. Sprinting through a lot of treacherous terrain, they come to flat land again. The chase continues ---

BINOCULARED POV: They are being watched.

Beast's stamina falling. He is slowing down. The gap increasing. Elena sprints away...

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly the land ends before her. Elena comes to an abrupt halt. The flat has taken a vertical plunge, into a deep gorge below. A terrain we are familiar with.

Elena looks back. Beast is catching up. Elena looks for an escape route. But there's not any. Bordered by the gorge, the semi-circular mountain cliff is not expansive enough.

Realizing the disadvantage Elena is in, Beast has come to a stop too. Placing himself strategically, leaving Elena no leeway to manoeuvre herself out, he calls

BEAST

Hey girl! You're out of option.

Elena desperately looks for a way out.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Give up girl. You're stuck between
a gorge and a hard place. Take a
dive. Or come to me.

Elena looks down the gorge and the bordering rocky wall...
there *is* a way out. A narrow ledge descending into the gorge
taking a tangential path. Elena rushes to the ledge.

Seeing her disappearing out of sight, Beast is stunned. He
sprints to the cliff edge. Sees Elena descending down the
ledge.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Hey girl! Don't do that! You will
fall.

Elena doesn't pay heed. She continues descending, cautious of
her steps. Beast is at a loss what to do... then he moves
towards the ledge too.

As he moves, a pair of chipmunks runs under his feet.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE - DAY

Elena descending. Beast descending. Beast more comfortable in
negotiating the narrow path than Elena.

BEAST

You can run but you can't hide
girl.

Elena looks back to see Beast approaching. Focussing back on
the path, she descends faster.

BEAST (CONT'D)

I am going to get you, girl. This
is piece of cake for me.

Steeling her nerve, Elena descends faster.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF DAY

The chipmunks crouch in their positions at the cliff edge,
waiting for the other to make the move. Ominous music begins.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE - DAY

Elena descends. Beast follows. Elena comes to an even
narrower section of the ledge. Stops. Hesitates. Looks back.
Beast is approaching.

Ominous music intensifies.

Elena finds herself too nervous to move. Beast is almost there.

Ominous music intensifies.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - DAY

One Chipmunk sprints. The other follows. Her tail hits a pebble. It falls in the air. Ominous music intensifies.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE - DAY

Beast comes to Elena. Elena stands helpless.

BEAST

You can't make it, girl. Don't be a fool. Come, let's go home.

Elena stands immobile, wondering what to do.

The pebble falls...

BEAST (CONT'D)

Come.

The pebble hits Beast on the head. He rears up letting out a whinny, a hind leg slips. He goes down. A front leg hits one of Elena's rear legs. She lets out a whinny and slips too...

The two falls, whinnying in absolute dread.

A Lasso is thrown...

As Elena falls whinnying, it loops in Elena. Elena hangs in suspension by the lasso rope. Beast heads downwards whinnying madly.

CLOSE on a strong pair of hands pulling up the rope.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF - DAY

Elena is pulled up. She staggers up to her feet. Looks at her rescuer.

A man we know. Tom Roberts. Older and grayer, the face covered in untrimmed stubble and clad in worn out clothes, boots and hat, a rifle on shoulder and a pair of binoculars hanging on chest, he looks at the mare with the other end of the lasso in his hands.

The two look at one another...

Tom come forward. Elena steps back.

TOM
Easy girl, easy.

He comes to Elena. Proceeds to take the lasso off her neck. A moment's hesitation, Elena lets him. Tom eases the lasso off the neck. Rubs the skin softly.

TOM (CONT'D)
Did it hurt?

Elena looks at the man, wondering who he is.

Tom's eyes does not fail to notice the marks of harness.

TOM (CONT'D)
Oh boy! You're not feral, aren't you?
(inspects the marks)
How did you end up here, girl? That wild one, why were you running away from him? You didn't like hum, uh? Man... you gave him a heck of a run. Old boy had run out of breath... where did you learn to run so fast, girl. Which farm you belong to?

Knowing she won't respond, Tom brings out a chocolate bar from his jacket pocket. Peeling the wrapper, holds it before Elena.

TOM (CONT'D)
Have this, girl. You sure must be hungry after that hell of a run.

Elena eats the chocolate from Tom's hand. Tom brings out another, she eats that too. Tom opens his water bottle, pours the water into Elena's mouth.

TOM (CONT'D)
Feeling better?

He pats Elena. Looks at the sky.

TOM (CONT'D)
Come girl, lets get to the tent before it begins to pour.

He proceeds, Junior follows. The two walk side by side out of the cliff area towards favorable terrain.