

Man, Woman, and Wild II

by

Roberto Negrón



FADE IN.

EXT. TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - DAY

The dry season. Ernesto and Carmen await the migrating herd of wildebeests approaching from the Kenya side of the river.

ERNESTO

Here come the Wildebeests, Carmen.
Get down. Don't let them see you.

Carmen gets down on her stomach and gets attacked by an army of fire ants.

CARMEN

Ow! There are ants crawling all
over me, Ernesto.

Ernesto gets down on his stomach next to Carmen.

ERNESTO

Stay down. You don't want to give
away our position, do you?

CARMEN

Give away our position?!

Carmen brushes off the ants.

ERNESTO

Suck it up, Carmen. It's all in
the name of gorilla filmmaking.

Ernesto trains his GoPro camera on the large crocodiles in the water.

EXT. KENYA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

The herd come to the edge of the Masai Mara river and check the rushing water for Nile crocodiles. KONGONI, a male wildebeest calf, goes for a drink.

KONGONI

Water!

BOMANI, Kongoni's father, stops him from getting too close.

BOMANI

Kongoni, what are you doing?! Get
away from the there!

KONGONI

What?! I'm thirsty.

Bomani is shaken up.

BOMANI

Well, okay, if you want water,
check with me, and I'll see if the
coast is clear for you to drink
some.

KONGONI

What's the big deal? What is it
that you're not telling me?
What's in the water, Dad? Dad?!

Bomani keeps Kongoni in the dark.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

EXT. KENYA - SERENGETI PLAINS - DAY - TEN MONTHS EARLIER

It's the rut season. HASANI, a pregnant wildebeest,
isolates herself from the rest of the herd to give birth.
ANTEL, Hasani's friend, is with her.

HASANI

Today is the day, Antel. No if,
and, or buts about it.

ANTEL

Are you sure you don't want me to
get Bomani? He is the father. He
should be here for the birth of
his baby.

HASANI

No, it's okay. This isn't his
kind of thing anyway. As a matter
of fact, you should go, too.

HASANI'S FRIEND

No, I'm more than happy to stick
around. What else can I do for
you? You name it.

Hasani and Antel venture into a part of the Serengeti
where there are lots of trees.

HASANI

You've been so dear to me already,
but I can't have you around when
my baby comes. You might imprint
my baby with your scent.

A leopard reaches down from a tree, covers Antel's mouth with his paw to keep her from screaming, and pulls her up the tree with him.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Please, don't hate me too much,
Antel. I'm only thinking about
the safety of my baby... Antel?

Hasani looks around for Antel.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Antel? Where did you go?

A branch hits Hasani on the head. She looks up and sees Antel in the tree with a leopard.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Antel! Oh my goodness!

Hasani runs a good distance away from the danger and feels labor pains that forces her to stop and drop on the ground.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Antel... Poor Antel.

Hasani squeezes out a healthy calf and names him KONGONI.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Hi, Kongoni. It's me, your mom.
It's nice to finally meet you.
We've got a lot of work to do, you
and me.

Hasani gets up off the ground and licks Kongoni clean.

HASANI (CONT'D)
First, let's get you up on your
feet. There's no time to lose.

Kongoni gets encouragement from Hasani, as he struggles to stand on wobbly legs.

HASANI (CONT'D)
Look out Serengeti! Here we come.

Kongoni can't stop shaking.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - DAY

TERRY, a rogue male lion, wakes YAKO and LEOLA, two sisters, and Leola's three clubs, as he trots across their territory.

LEOLA

Yako, look, here comes a male.

YAKO

Quick! Hide the cubs, Leola!

LEOLA

Okay, kids, get behind me, and your Aunt Yako.

The cubs take cover.

YAKO

If that big male tries anything, we'll have to work as a team.

LEOLA

You read my mind.

YAKO

Alright, get ready. He's coming this way.

Terry runs by the females.

TERRY

I wouldn't hang around here, if I were you. This whole place is about to get very hot.

Terry disappears into the bushes.

YAKO

What did he mean by that?

LEOLA

I have no idea, but I don't like it. Something tells me we ought to do what he says.

YAKO

Well, kids, it looks like this won't be our new home after all.

The cubs come out of hiding.

EXT. MASAI VILLAGE - DESOLATE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

DESMOND, a farmer, and his goat are on their way to the local market. Beast springs out at Desmond from the bushes and grabs his goat. Desmond runs back to his village, yelling and screaming.

EXT. MASAI VILLAGE - DAY

Ernesto and Carmen show up to deliver a goat to Desmond.

ERNESTO

How do you like your new goat,
Desmond?

DESMOND

What's not to like, Ernesto?
Thanks to you, I'm back in
business.

ERNESTO

We're good now, right?

DESMOND

Yes, Ernesto, we are good, but
what if the lion strikes again?
Are you going to compensate me for
every goat I lose to a lion?

ERNESTO

So, what about this lion that
snatched your goat? Have you ever
seen it around here before?

DESMOND

No, this one was new. It was
young and looked hungry.

ERNESTO

Young, huh? The little guy was
probably ejected from the pride
and forced to make his own way in
the world.

DESMOND

So, I'm supposed to feel sorry for
him, is that it? I gotta eat too!
I can't have lions coming in here
and wiping out livestock all Willy-
Nilly.

Desmond gets Carmen started.

CARMEN

I'm sorry, but I have to say
something here, Desmond.

ERNESTO

No, you don't, Carmen.

CARMEN

Didn't you create this problem for yourself by setting up shop in area you knew was infested with lions, elephants, and hippos?

ERNESTO

Carmen, please?!

DESMOND

Don't make us out to be the bad guys here! Take a look at that house!

Desmond points to a demolished house.

DESMOND (CONT'D)

Elephants smelled maize coming from inside and destroyed the house to get to the maize. Luckily, the woman who lived in that house wasn't home at the time.

CARMEN

That's a terrible story, but that still doesn't explain why you would choose to find fault with animals that were here long before you and your people came along.

ERNESTO

I think we're done here. We'll be seeing you, Desmond. Enjoy your goat.

Carmen and Ernesto leave Desmond with his new goat.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE MASAI VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Ernesto and Carmen disable the traps that villagers have set for the lions and elephants.

ERNESTO

Boy, those villagers really went overboard with these traps.

CARMEN

We've got to disable every last one of them, Ernesto. We can't miss a single one.

Ernesto spots a well hidden snare and warns Carmen.

ERNESTO

Watch out. You're about to walk right into one.

CARMEN

Where?

Ernesto uses a long stick to set off the snare.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Good eye, Ernesto.

ERNESTO

I only hope we don't miss any.

CARMEN

Yeah, I know.

ERNESTO

Well, the villagers will feel better when the lions and hyenas start following the wildebeests on their migration.

Carmen sets off another trap.

CARMEN

Let's just hurry up and get this over with, so we can do what we came here to do.

ERNESTO

Carmen... About the documentary... We both know how committed you are to saving animals.

CARMEN

You're just as committed as I am.

ERNESTO

Sure, but for the sake of our documentary, if there's a baby gazelle that's about to be eaten by a pack of painted dogs, promise me that you'll let nature take its course.

CARMEN

I can't promise that, Ernesto.

ERNESTO

Tell me that you'll let nature take its course, if you see anything like that during the making of this documentary.

CARMEN

Okay, you have my word. Are you happy now?

ERNESTO

Now, let's go do what we came here to do.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - SPOTTED HYENA DEN - DAY

Spotted hyena cubs occupy a wart hog burrow. MILIA, the matriarch in a clan of hyenas, and her daughter, JAHZARA, are not getting along.

MILIA

Jahzara, why are you being this way? I have to go. Now, give me a kiss. You're holding me up.

JAHZARA

I don't understand why I can't go hunting with you.

MILIA

I'm just going to run two lionesses off of our territory. Things could get ugly, so you could understand why I am so insistent on you staying here.

JAHZARA

Well, I gotta grow up some time. I can't stay you're precious little daughter forever, you know?

MILIA

I'm well aware of that, but, for the time being, I need you to stay here with the other cubs.

JAHZARA

Whatever! I give up!

MILIA

Just one last thing before I go...

JAHZARA

What's that?

MILIA

I'm not trying to scare you, but, if something happens to me, I want you to go to the Great Rift Animal Control Unit.

JAHZARA

The Great Rift Animal Control
Unit? What's that?

MILIA

It's a place where people take in
all sorts of young animals that
have been orphaned by their
parents.

JAHZARA

What about Aunt Yena? Won't she
look after me?

MILIA

My sister is cool, but she can be
flaky at times, so just do what
I'm telling you, okay?

JAHZARA

Yeah, okay.

MILIA

Alright, I'm off. Be good.

EXT. KRUGER NATIONAL PARK - HIPPO RIVER - DAY - TEN
MONTHS EARLIER

Baboons congregate around a drying pool and try to drink
what little water there is left. IMFENE, a juvenile
baboon, digs a pit at the pool's edge to drink the
seepage water. NYANI, Imfene's juvenile friend, comes to
join him.

NYANI

Hey, Imfene, what are you doing?

IMFENE

Who got two thumbs and just
figured out a way to make a monkey
out of those stingy crocodiles
hogging the pool? This guy.

NYANI

But all the crocs have moved on.
There are no more crocs left in
that pool.

Imfene continues to dig his pit.

IMFENE

Are you sure? I don't know about
that.

NYANI

Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

Nyani makes his way to the edge of the pool and fixes his lips to drink.

NYANI (CONT'D)

See, I told you. No more crocs.

DILIO, a Nile crocodile, springs out of the pool and gets a hold of Nyani's head.

NYANI (CONT'D)

Whoa! Imfene, he got me! Get me out!

Imfene jumps on Dilio's snout and tries to pry it open.

IMFENE

Get your head out!

Nyani gets his head out and jumps away from the pool.

IMFENE (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

NYANI

(shaken up)

I thought I lost my head there for a second.

Nyani confronts Dilio.

NYANI (CONT'D)

You're like that "Should I stay, or should I go" commercial, you know that? What is there to think about?! Just go! Your friends have already moved on. Why don't you join them?

DILIO

Hey, how often does a croc get to have a river like this all to himself, huh? A chance like this only comes around once in a life time.

NYANI

Yeah, but have you taken a good look at your river lately? I hate to break it to you, but this is no longer a river. What you've got here now is pathetic.

DILIO

It may not be pretty to look at
right now, but it's going to rain
again real soon. You'll see...
Crocodiles can sense these things.

The sky gets cloudy and starts to rumble.

DILIO (CONT'D)

See that? What did I tell you?

A trickle of rain comes and goes.

DILIO (CONT'D)

Okay, you win. I'll go. The pool
is all yours.

NYANI

It's for the best. You'll thank
me for this later.

Dilio drags his heavy body out of the pool and up the
bank of the river.

EXT. THE BIRTHING PLAINS - DAY

Wildebeest bachelors kick up dust as they lock horns over
mating rights and territory. Carmen and Ernesto drive
around and look for a mother and calf team to center
their documentary on.

CARMEN

So, what are we looking for?

ERNESTO

Any mother and calf team who look
like they can go the distance.

CARMEN

What about those two?

A wildebeest mother times her newborn calf to stand with
a stop watch.

WILDEBEEST MOTHER WITH WEAK CALF

That's it! Come on. 20 seconds
left! Hurry!

The calf finally gets his legs under him.

STRUGGLING CALF

How does that look? Is that good?

The calf's mother looks at the stop watch.

WILDEBEEST MOTHER WITH WEAK CALF

No, that's no good. Get back down there. Do it again.

The mother pushes her calf back to the ground.

ERNESTO

No, they won't do.

CARMEN

Okay, next.

Ernesto and Carmen keep looking.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

What about them? Will those two do?

Ernesto stops the truck.

ERNESTO

Those two? Yeah, good eye, Carmen. I think we've found our two candidates.

CARMEN

Should I let the drone out here?

ERNESTO

Why not? This place is as good as any.

Carmen sticks a domestic drone, equipped with a GoPro camera, out of her side of the window and watches as it flies away.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

If there's a moment out there that needs capturing, you better believe my drone will capture it.

Hasani and Kongoni find a small patch of short grass to feast on.

KONGONI

This is ridiculous... There's nothing left for us to graze. Isn't it about time for us to move on to greener pastures?

Hasani ignores Kongoni.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma, did you hear me?!

Still no answer.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma, I asked you a question.

HASANI

Oh, I'm sorry. I got Ox-Peckers
in my ears, digging for ticks.

Hasani shakes her head to eject the Ox-Peckers.

HASANI (CONT'D)

Now, what was your question?

KONGONI

When are we going to blow this
joint?

HASANI

Don't worry, Kongoni. We'll be
moving on soon enough.

Hasani gets shot in the rear with a tranquilizer dart.

HASANI (CONT'D)

OW!

Hasani goes running and triggers a stampede.

KONGONI

MA?! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

Kongoni tries to catch up to his mother.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma, wait for me!

BOMANI, Hasani's father, goes against the stampede to
find Hasani and Kongoni.

BOMANI

Hasani! Kongoni!

Bomani gets swept away in the stampede.

KONGONI

Ma, wait for me!

The drug kicks in and slows Hasani down.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma?!

Hasani falls out of formation to pass out.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma, what is going on?! I don't
know!

Kongoni finds a tranquilizer dart sticking out of Hasani's rear and uses his teeth to pull it out.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Ma, wake up!

Ernesto and Carmen drive up to Kongoni and Hasani, and then they step out of the jeep with a radio collar to put around Hasani's neck.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Who are you, guys?! Don't you hurt my Ma!

CARMEN

Don't worry, baby. I know you're scared, but mommy will be back on her feet in no time. We're just gonna put this bling around mommy's neck.

Carmen tries to calm Kongoni, while Ernesto wraps the radio collar around Hasani's neck.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Hurry with that radio collar, Ernesto. This little guy's throwing a fit.

ERNESTO

I'm done. All I have to do now is give her the shot to reverse the anaesthesia and wake her up.

Ernesto is chased away by Bomani.

BOMANI

Get away from her!

CARMEN

Run, Ernesto!

ERNESTO

Here, Carmen! Give her the shot!

Ernesto pitches the syringe to Carmen.

CARMEN

Okay!

Bomani chases Ernesto back to the jeep, while Carmen injects Hasani with the reversal drug.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Okay, little guy, just give it a few minutes for your mother to come to.

Ernesto is on the roof of the jeep, where Bomani can't get to him.

KONGONI

That's it, Ma! Get up!

Hasani struggles to get back on her feet, and Bomani leaves Ernesto alone to check on her.

BOMANI

How do you feel, Hasani?

HASANI

(surprised)

Bomani? Is that really you?

BOMANI

Yeah, it's really me. How do you feel?

HASANI

A little drowsy, but I think I'll live.

BOMANI

Good.

KONGONI

Would someone please explain to me what is going on?

BOMANI

Every year around this time, biologists come here to tag one of us with radio collars so they can track and follow our every move during our migration.

KONGONI

Well, how hard is it to take off?

Kongoni uses his teeth to try and yank the radio collar from around Hasani's neck.

BOMANI

Don't even try it, Kongoni. These things are usually bolted on pretty tight.

Yako and Leola show up with the cubs to investigate.

ERNESTO

Carmen, get in the jeep!

Carmen opens the passenger door and jumps in.

BOMANI

(to Hasani)

Can you run?

HASANI

I got no choice in the matter, do I?

BOMANI

Okay, let's go this way.

Yako and Leola come up with a strategy for attack.

YAKO

Alright, which one are we going after? Is it going to be the bull, his mare, or the calf?

LEOLA

It's up to you.

YAKO

Hold it. It looks like we've got company.

LEOLA

What?

Leola looks in the direction Yako is looking in.

LEOLA (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

Ah, that's all we need.

Milia leads YENA, her sister, and seven other clan members into battle with the lionesses.

MILIA

What are lionesses doing out here anyway? Shouldn't they be in hiding from the villagers after going after their livestock?

YENA

I don't know, but something tells me that the people in the jeep may have had something to do with why lions are still roaming around freely.

MILIA

Our one chance to do away with the competition, and those people had to come here and ruin everything.

Yena sizes up the competition.

YENA

Look on the bright side, will you? With the nine of us here, it should be a cinch to run those two broads off our turf.

MILIA

Okay.

Milia and her clan surround the lionesses.

YAKO

Watch your left flank, Leola.

LEOLA

I'm watching.

The hyenas go after the lionesses. The lionesses stand their ground the best they could.

MILIA

(to Leola)

Welcome to the neighborhood!

Terry comes out of nowhere to investigate the commotion.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Where did the male come from?

YENA

I've never seen him around here before.

Terry charges in and saves the lionesses from the hyenas.

MILIA

Here he comes!

The hyenas scatter.

MILIA (CONT'D)

Let's just forget it, Yena.

YENA

I'm way ahead of you, Milia.

Milia and her clan go after the herd of wildebeests.

TERRY
Are you girls alright?

LEOLA
Yeah, we're fine.

TERRY
I don't know. It looks like those Hyenas roughed you girls up pretty good.

LEOLA
No, really, we're fine. Thanks for your help.

TERRY
Let's make sure, okay? Say "Hi kids, do you like violence? Do you wanna see me stick six inch nails through each one of my eye lids?" Real fast. Go!

YAKO
Go away, Terry! You've caused enough trouble for all of us already.

TERRY
How do you know my name?

YAKO
How do you think?! Don't you know that word travels fast around here?

LEOLA
Yako, don't you think you're being too hard on him? He did just save our tails, you know?

YAKO
Are you kidding, Sis?! Because of him, not only do the hyenas want a piece of us, but so do the villagers.

LEOLA
That doesn't change the fact that we need a dominant male presence around for protection, Yako.

YAKO
What about your cubs? Aren't you concerned about their safety? What if he goes after them?

LEOLA

Then, I guess you better do what you can to keep his mind off of them.

TERRY

I can hear you, you know? I'm standing right here.

YAKO

(to Leola)

Okay, you want him around? That's fine, but if he does anything to endanger our lives again, I'm gonna hold you responsible.

Yako leaves Leola alone with Terry.

TERRY

What's with her?

LEOLA

Sorry about that. She just has this crazy suspicion that you are the one who has been going around eating the villagers livestock.

TERRY

Hey, I don't know where your sister's been getting her information, but my momma always told me never to go anywhere near a village to hunt for swag, or I'd end up like Cecil.

LEOLA

Cecil? You knew Cecil?

TERRY

I knew Cecil. It's a real shame what happened to Cecil. May he rest in peace.

LEOLA

So, if you didn't rip the villagers off of their livestock, who did?

TERRY

I wish I knew.

LEOLA

Well, you're more than welcome to stay with us.

TERRY

Are you sure about this? What about your sister?

LEOLA

Don't worry about her. She'll come around.

TERRY

Then, what do I have to lose? I accept your offer.

LEOLA

Good. Welcome to the pride. Let me give you a tour of our little territory here. It's not much, but it's got potential.

Leola shows Terry around the neighborhood.

TERRY

Okay.

LEOLA

So, how did you know Cecil?

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - SPOTTED HYENA DEN - NIGHT

Jahzara drags a wart hog carcass out of a swamp and abandons it to greet Milia and the rest of the clan.

JAHZARA

That was quick. What are you guys doing back so soon?

MILIA

Jahzara, I want you, and the rest of the cubs to pack up your things and get ready to move out.

JAHZARA

Move out?! Wait a minute. What happened with the lions? Did you clean their clocks, or what?

MILIA

Not now, Jahzara, the wildebeests are on the move. We've got to leave now, if we're going to catch up to them.

JAHZARA

Yes, I can't believe this finally happening.

MILIA

Jahzara!

JAHZARA

Okay! Okay!

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

A fence that is 20-feet high and hundreds of miles long disrupts the wildebeests' migration. AFRICA, the matriarch of an elephant herd, tries to unscrew the bolts from the radio collar around Hasani's neck with her dextrous nose.

AFRICA

Man, these screws are really tough to get a hold of. They're so small. I'm sorry, Hasani, but I'm afraid I'm not going to be much help to you.

BOMANI

Come on, Africa. You have got to do something about this radio collar. It's like she's wearing a necklace. I can't stand necklaces.

AFRICA

I'm sorry, Bomani. Why don't you try the baboons? They have the dexterity for this sort of thing, you know?

HASANI

That's alright, Africa. Thanks anyway.

BOMANI

Hey, Africa, what's with this huge fence cutting us off from our migratory route? There's one thing I hate more than anything else, and that's inconveniences.

AFRICA

It's messed up, right? Yeah, I know. The people are putting up a highway. This fence is to keep us from obstructing traffic.

BOMANI

These people say they want to rid their village of lions, hyenas, and elephants, but do they really?

HASANI

Well, I can't stand this thing
around my neck anymore. I think I
will see the baboons.

AFRICA

I would leave Kongoni behind, if I
were you.

HASANI

That's good thinking.

AFRICA

I could watch him for you.

HASANI

No, that's okay. Bomani can stay
with him.

BOMANI

Hasani, you know that I will
always be there for you and
Kongoni in times of danger, but
bulls don't play active rolls in
the rearing of their offspring.

HASANI

Oh, that's right. I forgot. Silly
me.

BOMANI

I'm sorry, Hasani, but that's just
how it is.

Bomani walks off.

HASANI

Whatever.

AFRICA

I could watch him for you. It's
no problem.

HASANI

Really? Are you sure you don't
mind?

AFRICA

Not at all. I adore Kongoni.

HASANI

Okay, as long as you're sure.
(to Kongoni)

Be good, Kongoni. Be sure to mind
Africa. I won't be gone long.

Hasani leaves Kongoni with Africa.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - DAY

Imfene and Nyani camp out by a termite mound and wait for the insects to emerge and take flight.

IMFENE

Here they come! They're coming
out now! Get 'em!

NYANI

Man, there's millions of 'em!

IMFENE

And the beauty of it all is that
they're slow.

Imfene and Nyani pick the termites out of the air and eat them.

IMFENE (CONT'D)

Juicy.

Imfene and Nyani go for the same termites and crash into each other.

NYANI

Spread out, Imfene! Go after the
ones over there!

Imfene hears what he thinks sounds like a goat from the nearby village.

IMFENE

Nyani, wait! Do you hear that?
That sounds like a goat!

NYANI

Well, there is a village not that
far from here.

IMFENE

I say forget the insects. I could
go for some meat right about now.
How about you?

NYANI

I don't know. You sure that's a
good idea?

IMFENE

Yeah, come on. Let's get into
some trouble.

Imfene makes his way to the village and steps into a snare that doesn't set off.

INT. THE MASAI MARA VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

A mother walks into a nursery to set her crying baby down in the crib.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 Mama's gonna put you in your crib
 for a minute. You just cry
 yourself to sleep, okay?

The woman wraps her baby in a blanket and leaves the nursery. Imfene and Nyani hear the cries and look in through the window.

IMFENE
 I'm going in. Keep your eyes
 open.

NYANI
 Just be quick about it!

Imfene comes in through the window and picks the baby up.

IMFENE
 Am I clear?

Nyani looks around.

NYANI
 Did you get it?

IMFENE
 Puppy, monkey, baby!

NYANI
 Hurry up!

Nyani and Imfene sneak away from the village with the baby undetected.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Hasani finds MHANDA, a female baboon, to get the radio collar off.

HASANI
 Mhanda, you're a sweetheart for
 letting me lay my entire life
 story on you like this. Are you
 sure I'm not talking your ears off
 with my business?

MHANDA

Not at all, Hasani. Go on. What were you saying about Bomani?

Mhanda twists off a screw from the radio collar.

HASANI

Well, Bomani wasn't lying when he said bulls don't participate in the nurturing of their offspring, so I don't know why I'm feeling so disappointed in him for choosing to run off with his bachelor herd.

MHANDA

Don't paint Bomani out of the picture just yet. He may come around.

HASANI

I don't know about that, but it would be a good thing for Kongoni.

EXT. THE SERENGETI - DAY - FLASHBACK

It's raining. Bomani and his bachelor buddies size up a herd of mares.

BOMANI'S BUDDY

Hey, Bomani, don't look now, but there's a hot mare over there, checking you out.

BOMANI

What mare? Where? Is she hot?

The mare winks at Bomani.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

You're right she is looking at me. What should I do? Should I go over there? I don't want to go over there, not with all of her friends around.

The mare leaves her friends and makes her way to Bomani.

BOMANI'S BUDDY

Well, it looks like she's letting you off the hook... She's coming over.

BOMANI

Quick, how's my breath?

Bomani blows in his buddy's face.

BOMANI'S BUDDY

Don't do that. Your breath is fine.

Hasani enters.

HASANI

Hi Bomani. Can we talk?

The mare sees Bomani with Hasani and turns around.

BOMANI

Hasani, now is not a good time. I'll talk to you later, okay?

HASANI

No, I really need to talk to you now.

BOMANI

What? What's so important?

HASANI

We're pregnant.

BOMANI

We are? That's great. We did it! Just keep me posted with everything, okay?

HASANI

Well, I was kind of hoping that you would want to be apart of the baby's life.

BOMANI

Come on, Hasani. You know that bulls never play an active role in our offspring's lives... But if you're ever in trouble, you could count on me to be there for you.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - PRESENT DAY

Hasani fights back tears.

MHANDA

Okay, Hasani, it looks like we're done here.

Mhanda twists off the last screw.

HASANI

Where would I be without you,
Mhanda?

Mhanda removes the radio collar from around Hasani's neck.

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

Herds of Thompson gazelles and zebras look for a way around the fence. Africa hears a helicopter.

AFRICA

Quiet! Do you hear that?!

KONGONI

I don't hear anything.

AFRICA

Listen!

Africa spots the helicopter.

AFRICA (CONT'D)

Uh-oh, I know what this is!

Africa and the other elephants flee from the helicopter without Kongoni.

KONGONI

Hey, what about me?! You can't
leave me by myself!

A veterinarian gets ready to fire his tranquilizer gun from the helicopter.

HELICOPTER PILOT

Take the shot already! You don't
want to stress them out too much!

The helicopter herds the elephants towards the ground crew on standby with moving trucks.

VETERINARIAN

Okay, big girl, this won't hurt a
bit.

The veterinarian fires his shot, hitting Africa in the backside.

VETERINARIAN (CONT'D)

No Good!

HELICOPTER PILOT

You missed?

VETERINARIAN

No, I hit the target, but it didn't take. Their skin must be as tough as they say.

Africa doesn't know which way to run.

AFRICA

I dodged a bullet this time. I might not be so lucky next time.

Africa's daughter tries to shield her baby.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

What are you not telling us, Ma? Why are they after us?

AFRICA

Isn't it obvious? They want to relocate us to a national park, where there are no people around for miles.

The helicopter comes around for another crack at the elephants.

VETERINARIAN

This time it'll take.

The helicopter pilot swerves to avoid a mid-air collision with Ernesto's drone. The helicopter's tail clips the drone and sends it crashing to the ground.

HELICOPTER PILOT

Whoa, where did that come from?!

The helicopter is in a tailspin but is quickly brought under control by the pilot.

AFRICA

They're not going to give up that easily.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

Well, where do we go from here? You've got to get us out of this. My baby can't take much more of this.

AFRICA

This way.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

What about the villagers?

AFRICA

That's just it. The likelihood of us stampeding through a village full of people might persuade those idiots to call off the pursuit.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

It's worth a try. I like it.

The elephants run in the direction of the village.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER (CONT'D)

It's not working, Ma! They're still chasing after us.

AFRICA

Well, give it a minute! I didn't say it was going to work right away. Let's just keep running in this direction.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

You're the matriarch. Lead the way.

The elephants pick up the pace.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - NIGHT

Imfene and Nyani hide the human baby from the rest of the troops.

NYANI

Do you know how much trouble we're in, Imfene?!

IMFENE

Look, the baby's still in one piece. We're not completely screwed.

NYANI

What's the matter with you?! Can't you tell the difference between a human baby and a goat?!

IMFENE

I was in and out of there in a hurry! It was dark! And I don't know about you, but human cry babies and goats sound a lot alike to my ears!

NYANI

Uh-oh! Here comes Mhanda.

Imfene hides the baby behind his back.

MHANDA

Am I interrupting anything?

IMFENE

Ma, how's it going?! How did it go with the wildebeest? Did you manage to get the radio collar off okay?

Mhanda is curious about what Imfene has behind his back.

MHANDA

Yeah, I broke a couple of nails, but I managed to get it off. What are the two of you up to?

IMFENE

Us? What? Nothing.

MHANDA

It looks like you're hiding something behind your back. Can I see what it is?

NYANI

The jig is up, Imfene. You might as well show her.

IMFENE

Okay.

Imfene shows Mhanda the baby.

MHANDA

What in the world are the two of you doing with a human baby?! You went into that village, didn't you?

IMFENE

Yeah.

MHANDA

What did I tell you about that, Imfene? Did Nyani put you up to this? He did, didn't he?! I told you he was a bad influence!

NYANI

(to Imfene)

Yo, can you tell your mother to stop pointing her finger at me like I just cost my team five yards for a neutral zone infraction?!

(to Mhanda)

I didn't put Imfene up to anything! The whole thing was his idea!

(to Imfene)

Tell her, Imfene!

IMFENE

(apologetic)

Yeah, it's true. It was my idea.

MHANDA

It doesn't matter! You two have really messed up good this time! You put the entire troop in jeopardy!

IMFENE

No, that's the beauty of it. We didn't harm one hair on the baby's head. I'm sure the villagers will take it into account that the baby was treated humanely.

The signal from the radio collar lead Carmen and Ernesto right to the baboons.

NYANI

Uh-oh, I think we were followed, Imfene.

Imfene pitches the baby to Mhanda.

IMFENE

Here you go, Ma!

MHANDA

Don't give it to me!

Mhanda tosses the baby back to Imfene.

IMFENE

I don't want her either! Here, Nyani!

NYANI

Wait a minute. What are we doing? We can try to barter our way out of this.

IMFENE

You think it'll work?

NYANI

We'll find out soon enough, won't we?

Imfene, Mhanda, and Nyani wait for Carmen and Ernesto to show up.

CARMEN

The signal's coming in loud and clear! Our mare's got to be around here somewhere.

ERNESTO

I think we go on foot from here.

Ernesto stops the jeep and Carmen steps out to track the signal with an antenna.

CARMEN

Let's try over there.

Ernesto and Carmen move deeper into the jungle on foot.

ERNESTO

We're getting hotter.

Ernesto and Carmen find the radio collar on the ground next to a fallen tree.

CARMEN

Here's the radio collar.

ERNESTO

Where's our mare? How did she manage to get it off?

CARMEN

Here are the screws. So, what do we do now? Do we look for another mare to tag?

ERNESTO

No, we both knew before hand that something like this could happen. I say we go to the Masai Mara river right now, and wait for the wildebeests to show up there.

CARMEN

Do you hear something?

Ernesto listens.

ERNESTO

It sounds like a baby.

CARMEN

It can't be. What would a baby be doing out here?

ERNESTO

I don't know, but it sounds like it's coming from over there.

Ernesto and Carmen find the three baboons holding a baby wrapped up in a blanket.

CARMEN

Baboons!

ERNESTO

Look! One of them is holding a baby.

CARMEN

Well, we've got to get it away from them.

ERNESTO

(to Nyani)

Hey, hand that baby over.

Nyani hides the baby behind his back with one hand and puts out his other hand.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

He's trying to tell us something.

CARMEN

Don't look now, but I think he wants us to ante up in exchange for the baby.

ERNESTO

Is that right? You wanna barter with us? Well, why don't you hand over that baby, and I promise that we'll do everything we can to talk the park rangers out of wiping out your whole family?

Ernesto scares Nyani into handing the baby over.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Smart move. Now, beat it!

Nyani, Mhanda, and Imfene run away.

CARMEN

Poor baby. You're safe now. Yes,
you are.

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

A pair of spotted thick-knees spread their wings and work together to direct Kongoni away from their nest.

THICK-KNEE

May we help you? Only friends and
family beyond this point.

KONGONI

I need to go this way.

THICK-KNEE

Did you hear what I said?! You
can't come through here. What are
you doing roaming around here by
yourself? You need to go back to
your mother.

KONGONI

That's what I'm trying to do! My
mother hasn't returned from seeing
the baboons. I need to find out
what happened to her.

THICK-KNEE

Find another way.

KONGONI

If you're worried about me
stepping on your eggs, I promise
you I'll be careful!

THICK-KNEE

I'm sorry. You look like a good
kid, but no.

Kongoni slips by the thick-knee with a spin move just to
be stopped by his mate.

THICK-KNEE (CONT'D)

Nice try.

KONGONI

Why build your nest on the ground
in the first place? Most birds
build nests high up in trees.

THICK-KNEE

The heck with most birds! It's
all about us spotted thick-knees!
Now, would you go away?!

KONGONI

This is so ridiculous! If I wanna
go this way, I'll go this way!
What are you gonna do about it?!

The thick-knee snaps Kongoni's head back with a knee to
the chin.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

OW! Okay, I'll find another way!

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - MOMENTS LATER

STRIPE, a male zebra, tries to silence Kongoni's call to
his mother with a series of kicks.

KONGONI

Hey, that hurt! What was that
for?!

STRIPE

That was for endangering my herd
with your calls, you loud mouth!

KONGONI

You don't have to kick me! How is
my mother going to know where to
find me, if I don't call out to
her?!

STRIPE

I got five mares to think about!
The last thing I need is a scared
wildebeest calf attracting
predators to this location with
his crying!

KONGONI

You're not going to kick me again,
are you?!

Milia and Jahzara laugh as they trot across the Serengeti
plain to go after Kongoni. Stripe sees the hyenas and
runs for his life.

STRIPE

Just run, kid! Get out of here!

A nervous spring hare mother sees trouble and calls her
litter back down the rabbit hole.

MOTHER SPRING HARE

Alright, kids, come on. Let's
wait for daddy inside.

Kongoni and Stripe go their separate ways. The hyenas
keep up with Kongoni.

JAHZARA

What do we do once we catch him,
Ma?

MILIA

What do you think? We eat him, of
course. What kind of question is
that?

JAHZARA

I mean, is there like a signature
strangle hold that we use to bring
him down, or what?

MILIA

No, we just bring him down and
devour him alive!

JAHZARA

Okay. Gruesome, but okay.

Jahzara picks up the pace to catch up to Kongoni.

MILIA

What's your hurry, Jahzara?

JAHZARA

He's going to get away!

MILIA

No, he's not. It's just a matter
of time before the little guy
tuckers out.

Hasani comes to Kongoni's aide.

KONGONI

Ma, the hyenas won't stop chasing
me! Get them to stop!

HASANI

I'll take over from here! Just
keep running that way!

Hasani gets the hyenas to chase after her.

JAHZARA

What about the big one, Ma?!
Let's go after her!

MILIA

Another thing you have to remember is that once you lock in on your prey you cannot deviate from the attack. You have to stay committed, if you don't want to go hungry.

JAHZARA

Committed, right.

Hasani doesn't see the rabbit hole in front of her and steps into it, twisting her ankle something awful.

JAHZARA (CONT'D)

Look, she's hurt! We should go for it now!

MILIA

Jahzara, careful.

Jahzara and Milia work together to bring Hasani down.

JAHZARA

Nice catch, Ma.

MILIA

Don't get too carried away, Jahzara! She's still on her feet and very dangerous!

A pride of lions show up on the scene to investigate all the commotion.

YAKO

I thought I heard hyenas.

LEOLA

I think they're the same ones from before.

TERRY

Excuse me, ladies. It's time for me to earn my keep.

Terry charges in to catch himself a hyena.

JAHZARA

Ma, watch out!

Milia can't get away fast enough.

MILIA

Run, Jahzara!

TERRY

Where are you going?! I got you
this time!

Terry locks his jaws on Milia and trashes her around like
a rag doll.

JAHZARA

Let go of my mom, you feline!

TERRY

This is your mom, is it? The
matriarch, I presume. Well, I
wouldn't stick around if I were
you, unless you want to be next.

Jahzara leaves Milia to the mercy of Terry.

YAKO

Uh-oh.

LEOLA

What's wrong?

Angry Masai warriors arrive on the scene with spears.

LEOLA (CONT'D)

Those people look like they're
angry about something!

YAKO

Get the rest of the pride out of
here. I'll get Terry!

LEOLA

Be careful!

Yako tries to get Terry to go with her.

YAKO

Terry, that's enough! It's time
to go!

TERRY

Are you kidding?! I think I got
the matriarch of the clan here!
What do you think is going to
happen to the body, if I log off
her head?!

YAKO

None of that will matter, if the
Masai get a hold of you, Terry!

TERRY

What do you care what happens to me anyway?! I thought you couldn't stand me?!

YAKO

My sister was right about you, okay? I was wrong! We need you! There, I said it! Can we get out of here now?!

The Masai Villagers set fire to the field.

TERRY

Alright, let's go!

Terry and Leola run off together.

EXT. THE MARA RIVER - DAY

Bomani sees Kongoni drop in the tall grass from exhaustion.

BOMANI

Kongoni!

Bomani runs over to Kongoni and finds him out of breath.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Kongoni, is everything alright?
What happened?

KONGONI

Ma, and I nearly got our butts
chewed off by a pack of hyenas!
I've got to go back for her!

Bomani spots an adult female cheetah behind a tall termite mound.

BOMANI

No, don't get up! Stay right
there, and don't move.

KONGONI

What's wrong?!

Bomani tries not to worry Kongoni.

BOMANI

(calmly)
Cheetah.

KONGONI

(frustrated)

Is there anything in this world
that isn't trying to eat us?

BOMANI

It's okay. She only sees me.
You'll be alright as long as you
don't move.

The female cheetah comes out of hiding and goes after
Bomani.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Here she comes. Remember, don't
move.

Bomani has a big lead, and the cheetah gives up the
chase. The cheetah goes back to where Bomani was
standing before he ran off.

CHEETAH

Well, what have we here?! I knew
I'd find something here.

The cheetah chirps like a bird to call her three young
cubs over.

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

That's it. Come on over. It's
time to go to school.

CHEETAH CUB #1

What did you catch for us today,
Ma?

CHEETAH

Come see.

CHEETAH CUB #2

Yummy! A wildebeest calf!

CHEETAH

Well, what are you guys waiting
on?!

CHEETAH CUB #3

It's still alive. We don't know
what to do. You always bring us
dead things to eat.

CHEETAH

I'm not always going to be around
to cut your meat for you, you
know?

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

The time has come for you to learn
how to make a kill on your own.

The cubs don't know what end to start from.

CHEETAH CUB #3

Can you give us a hint?

CHEETAH

I think I know what the problem is
here -- the calf isn't moving.
I'll get it up and running, but
that's all I'm going to do.

Cheetah mom gives Kongoni a nudge to get him to run.

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

Get up, little guy. I'm trying to
teach my kids something.

A spring hare on the move gets the cheetah cubs to chase
after it.

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

Hey! Get back here!

Left alone, Kongoni seizes the opportunity to get away
before the cheetahs return.

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

You guys should be ashamed of
yourselves. I find a wildebeest
calf for you to dine on, and you
take off after a spring hare.

Cheetahs return to find Kongoni gone.

CHEETAH (CONT'D)

It's not here. Is this the right
spot? This is the right spot.
Where did he go? You can't take
your eyes off for a second.

Vultures touch ground and help Bomani find Hasani.

BOMANI

Hasani, I'm here!

HASANI

Get those vultures away from me!

Bomani chases the crowd of vultures away.

BOMANI

Get out of here! Get!

HASANI

Kongoni -- where is he?

BOMANI

He's on his way! He'll be here soon. What's going on with you? Can you move?

HASANI

No, I'm hurt bad. It doesn't look good.

BOMANI

Don't talk like that. You're going to be fine. Let me help you up.

HASANI

Cut the crap, Bomani! I know it's all over for me.

BOMANI

Look, Hasani, you have to hold on for Kongoni.

HASANI

It's going to be up to you now, Bomani. Make sure he makes it across the river -- to greener pastures.

BOMANI

I will.

HASANI

Don't feel bad for me, Bomani. I'm one of the lucky ones. At least I get to go before Kongoni, and not the other way around.

Hasani passes on before Kongoni could say good bye.

KONGONI

Ma, I'm here! Ma?!

BOMANI

I'm sorry, Kongoni. She tried to hold on as long as she could.

KONGONI

No!

Kongoni breaks down and cries.

BOMANI

Kongoni, we have to go now. It's not safe here.

KONGONI

You go! I'm staying! I don't care what happens to me anymore.

The vultures lose patience with Kongoni and inch their way closer to get him to move away from the carcass.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Get away from her!

Kongoni charges at the vultures and drives them back.

BOMANI

Kongoni, I'm your dad. I care. You have to come with me. It's what your mother would've wanted.

Bomani gets Kongoni's attention.

KONGONI

You're my dad?

BOMANI

I am.

KONGONI

I didn't know. All this time I thought you were just some dude trying to score points with my mom. Why didn't she ever tell me about you?

BOMANI

I'm sure you've got a lot of questions for me, Kongoni, and I'll be more than happy to answer them, but now is not the time.

Yako, Leola, and the rest of the pride see the vultures from a distance and move in.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Lions, Kongoni! Let's go!

Distraught, Kongoni is slow to get up.

KONGONI

I'll be seeing you, ma. I'll make you proud. You'll see.

BOMANI

This way. Hurry.

Bomani and Kongoni leave Hasani to the lions.

EXT. THE MASAI VILLAGE - NIGHT

A grieving mother posts signs of her missing baby all over her village.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 Has anyone seen my baby? Has
 anyone seen my baby? Why won't
 anyone help me find my baby?

She stops what she is doing to investigate a crowd of jubilant people.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 (CONT'D)
 Hey, what's the matter with you
 people? My baby is gone, and
 you're celebrating?

Desmond delivers the recovered baby over to the mother.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 (CONT'D)
 My baby! Thank goodness! I
 thought I'd never see her again!
 God bless you for finding her,
 Desmond.

DESMOND
 No, don't thank me. A man, and a
 woman said they rescued her from a
 troop of baboons.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 Well, where are they? I'd like to
 thank them personally.

DESMOND
 They couldn't stay, but believe me
 when I tell you that we are going
 to do something about these pest
 animals once and for all.

The ground starts to rumble beneath everyone's feet.

MOTHER OF THE MISSING BABY
 What's happening? Why is the
 ground shaking?

Africa stops at the first house she sees. She lifts her leg and holds it over the house.

AFRICA

(to the pilot)

If you don't leave us alone, we'll stomp these houses down to the ground, starting with this one!

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

Ma, we're not really going to smash these peoples' houses?

AFRICA

No, it's just a bluff.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

I gotcha.

HELICOPTER PILOT

I think she really means it.

VETERINARIAN

I think so, too. Okay, let's pull back.

The helicopter turns around and disappears.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

Nice going, Ma. You fooled them.

AFRICA

I knew it would work. I knew all along.

Africa faints. Her daughter stops her from falling down on the house.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

Mom, the house! Are you okay?

AFRICA

Yeah, I'm okay. I just blacked out for a second.

AFRICA'S DAUGHTER

Good.

AFRICA

Okay, gang, follow me this way, and try not to step on any houses.

Africa and the rest of the herd try not to crush any homes as they carefully step over them.

AFRICA (CONT'D)

(crosses herself with her nose)

Forgive us, Lord.

Desmond ushers the mother and her baby to safety.

EXT. THE BANKS OF THE MARA RIVER - DAY

The sky is cloudy. Bomani flags down a wildebeest herd and speaks to the HEAD WILDEBEEST.

BOMANI

Hey, are you guys on your way to the Mara river?

HEAD WILDEBEEST

What gave it away? Is it that obvious?

BOMANI

Listen, we were separated from our herd. Do you mind if we travel with you guys?

HEAD WILDEBEEST

Is that your boy?

BOMANI

Yeah, this is my son.

HEAD WILDEBEEST

Where's the boy's mother?

Bomani looks at Kongoni.

BOMANI

She was brought down. She didn't make it.

HEAD WILDEBEEST

That's too bad. It's a shame. Of course, you and your boy can travel with us.

BOMANI

God bless you, man.

(to Kongoni)

You see? Everything is going to be okay. Let's go.

Bomani and Kongoni go with the herd.

EXT. THE MARA RIVER - HYENAS' NEW DIGS - NIGHT

Heavy rain. Jahzara sobs, while Yena argues with the other mature females over who should lead the clan.

YENA

I don't even know why we're having this discussion! It only makes sense that I take over as the new matriarch!

LOW RANKING FEMALE HYENA

Wait! Just because Milia was your sister doesn't mean you should automatically take over the clan!

YENA

Then, who do you think should lead?! You?! What do you know about it?! How many successful hunts have you orchestrated?!

LOW RANKING FEMALE HYENA

It's not such a ridiculous proposal! I think I'm just as qualified to lead as anyone here!

Yena scoffs at the notion.

YENA

You?! No, I'm definitely much more qualified to run this thing than you are.

LOW RANKING FEMALE HYENA

What?! That's crazy talk! What you don't know about reaching matriarchal prominence could fill the Grumeti River!

Jahzara throws her hat in for the job.

JAHZARA

I got something to say.

YENA

Not now, Jahzara! Grown folks are talking!

JAHZARA

It's always been my understanding that I would be the one to step in as matriarch if anything were to happen to my mother, so whatever happened to that?!

YENA

Yes, Jahzara, normally, that would be the case, but, unfortunately, you're still too young and lack the experience to fill your moms shoes. I'm sorry.

JAHZARA

I see.

The clan laughs at Jahzara.

YENA

Hey, don't laugh! I don't want anybody laughing at this girl! Jahzara, let the mature females handle it, okay?

Embarrassed, Jahzara steps down, and the mature female hyenas continue to argue amongst themselves.

YENA (CONT'D)

Now, let's get back to grown folks business!

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - DAY

The rain continues to fall. Dilio comes across Leola and her cubs and helps himself to a meal.

DILIO

You guys aren't going to finish the rest of this wildebeest carcass, are you? I'll take it off your hands.

Leola confronts Dilio.

LEOLA

Hey, what do you want here?

Leola rounds up her cubs.

LEOLA (CONT'D (CONT'D)

You kids get away from there.

Leola looks for Yako in a nearby bush.

LEOLA (CONT'D)

Yako, are you in there? Come out! There's a crocodile here. He's stealing our food.

Yako comes out of hiding with her fur ruffled.

YAKO

What did you say, Leola?

Terry comes out behind Yako.

LEOLA

Oh, Terry, I didn't know the two of you were in there together.

YAKO

Never mind that, Leola. What's going on out here?

LEOLA

Come quick!

TERRY

You girls stay here. I'll check it out.

Terry leaves and the two sisters talk amongst themselves.

YAKO

Okay, Leola, what?!

LEOLA

What?! Nothing! I'm not saying anything.

YAKO

Hey, whatever it takes to make sure he doesn't turn on the cubs, right?

LEOLA

Okay, I'm not saying anything.

YAKO

You don't have to say anything, Leola. I can tell what you're thinking just by the look on your face.

LEOLA

How do you want me to fix my face, Yako?

YAKO

Never mind.

Terry confronts Dilio.

TERRY

Alright, Croc, you've got your meal. Now, keep it moving.

DILIO

Yeah, I was just leaving. I don't want any trouble. If you could just point me to the Mara river...

TERRY

Just keep going in the direction you were going in. You can't miss it.

DILIO

Thanks, buddy.

Dilio gulps down his food and leaves.

TERRY

Okay, you can all relax now, kids. The croc's gone.

LEOLA

(teasing)

Thank goodness you were here, Terry. Don't you think so, Yako?

Yako gives Leola a disapproving look.

EXT. THE MASAI MARA RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

Ernesto and Carmen follow Dilio in their jeep.

CARMEN

Hey, Ernesto, look.

Ernesto sees a crocodile swaying his heavy body down the road.

ERNESTO

You know, this guy probably knows a short cut to Masai Mara river. Keep following him.

CARMEN

That's a good idea.

Dilio makes his way down the steep river bank and is greeted by a familiar face, CROCO.

CROCO

Hey, Dilio, good of you to join us. What happened? Did the pool finally dry up on you?

DILIO

You guessed it, Croco. I see you didn't waste any time making yourself at home here.

Dilio notices a bevy of female crocs in the water.

DILIO (CONT'D)

And who can blame you? Look at those hotties.

Croco stops Dilio from entering the water.

CROCO

Whoa, not so fast, Dilio. Where do you think you're going?

DILIO

Where do you think? I'm getting in the water.

CROCO

Sorry, but I can't let you do that.

DILIO

Try and stop me, Croco.

Dilio tries to make conversation with the first female croc he comes to.

DILIO (CONT'D)

How's it going, beautiful? My name is Dilio. I'm new here. I was just wondering if you can tell me where's the best place to be when the zebras come to cross?

The female crocs move away from Dilio.

DILIO (CONT'D)

Hey, where are you going?

CROCO

I'm serious, Dilio. There's a pecking order. All of these females here are spoken for.

DILIO

Oh yeah, by who?

CROCO

By the dominate male... Omega

DILIO

Omega? Well, where is he?

OMEGA sneaks up on Dilio and presents himself.

OMEGA

I'm right here.

Dilio turns around and finds an impressive looking specimen behind him.

DILIO

Omega, how's it going? I'm Dilio. You got room for one more in your river?

OMEGA

Is this guy a friend of yours, Croco?

CROCO

Yeah, Omega, we grew up together in Kruger National Park.

OMEGA

Then, I think we can make room for you.

DILIO

That's great, Omega. You're alright.

OMEGA

However, you did try to make a move on one of my girls without my permission, so I will have to tax you for that.

DILIO

You're going to tax me? Okay, I didn't mean anything by it. Can I fight this? I was kind of late to the party.

OMEGA

Yeah, you can fight this. Follow me into the river, and we'll work out the details in there.

Omega challenges Dilio to a fight in the water and comes out on top.

OMEGA (CONT'D)

You give?

Omega holds Dilio's head under water.

OMEGA (CONT'D)

Blow bubbles for yes... Hold your breath, and I'll know not to hold mine.

Omega sees lots of bubbles and lets Dilio come up.

OMEGA (CONT'D)

Okay, that was fun.

DILIO

So, can I stay?

OMEGA

As long as you understand that until you beat me in a fight, every last one of these females here is off limits.

DILIO

You got it, Dude.

OMEGA

Then you can stay. Welcome to the Masai Mara River.

CROCO

Well done, Dilio. Now, come on. Let's get you ready. The wildebeests will be here before you know it.

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT

Terry eats with his new pride.

TERRY

Well, I think you girls will be able to manage without me for a few hours.

YAKO

Where are you going, Terry?

TERRY

I've got to leave my scent markings around the territory and warn others to keep out.

YAKO

How long will you be?

TERRY

Well, the land goes on for miles, so it might take a while.

YAKO

If you gotta go, you gotta go, but
just make sure that a while
doesn't turn into a month, okay?

TERRY

Don't worry. I'll be back before
you know it.

EXT. TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - DAY

Clear skies. Ernesto and Carmen wait for the wildebeests
on the Kenya side of the river to cross.

CARMEN

Why aren't the ants attacking you,
Ernesto?

ERNESTO

I don't know. I guess they prefer
you over me. Take it as a
compliment.

CARMEN

Well, I can't take it anymore.
I've got to get these ants off of
me.

Carmen gets up off the ground the brush the ants off.

ERNESTO

Okay, but don't give away our
position.

CARMEN

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

EXT. KENYA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

The wildebeests are too afraid to drink from the river,
on the look out for crocodiles.

KONGONI

That's it. If you're not going to
tell me what it is that you're so
afraid of, then I'm going to
drink. I see no reason why I
shouldn't. I'm parched.

BOMANI

Never mind. Look, let me check it
out first, okay? Just stand
behind me.

Bomani is cautious as he goes for a drink.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Okay, it's clear. Come on.

Kongoni quickly takes a drink.

KONGONI

That was good!

BOMANI

I know. Drink some more. It's okay.

Kongoni takes another drink.

KONGONI

Aren't you going to drink?

BOMANI

No, I'll keep watch.

KONGONI

So, are you going to tell me what it is that you're so nervous about?

BOMANI

I think it's best that I don't. All you need to know is that this is not my first rodeo. I've crossed this river many times. You're in good hands.

The wildebeests continue to make their way down the river bank and pressure Bomani and Kongoni into the water.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, hey! What's with all the shoving back there?! That ain't cool! Stop pushing!

HEAD WILDEBEEST

It's not me! There must be something going on up top!

A hyena clan scare the herd of wildebeests down the wall of the river bank.

BOMANI

Okay, Kongoni, ready or not, we're going in. No matter what happens, you don't stop for anything! Do you hear me?! Keep moving!

KONGONI

Your intensity is really freaking me out right now! Please, stop yelling at me!

BOMANI

Sorry. Okay, we're gonna go for it at the same time. Ready? Go!

Bomani and Kongoni dive in together and swim, as fast as they can, towards the other side of the river. A large crocodile springs out of the water to take down a wildebeest right before Kongoni's eyes.

KONGONI

Oh my God! What was that thing?! There are monsters under here!

Kongoni is too scared to go forward and decides to turn around.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

This is nuts! I'm going back!

BOMANI

Keep moving! Keep moving, Kongoni!

Bomani has no choice but to move forward and let Kongoni go back.

EXT. KENYA'S SIDE OF THE MARA RIVER - DAY

Jahzara brings down a wildebeest calf on her own. Yena and the rest of the clan try to claim it for themselves.

YENA

Look at you, Jahzara. If only your mother could be here to see you now.

JAHZARA

Thanks.

YENA

We got it from here.

JAHZARA

What do you mean? This is my catch.

YENA

Don't worry, Jahzara. If there isn't any meat left when we're done, you could always use your back teeth to crack the bones to get to the delicious bone marrow.

Jahzara is forced to give up her kill to the rest of her clan.

JAHZARA

So, this is how it's going to be, huh? Okay, I could see there's no future for me here.

Jahzara spots Kongoni in the water and waits for him to make it back to her side of the river.

EXT. TANZANIA'S SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - DAY

Bomani makes it across the river and looks for Kongoni on the opposite side of the river.

BOMANI

(yells)
Kongoni, are you alright?!

KONGONI

(yells back)
I'm sorry, Dad! It was too scary for me!

BOMANI

It's alright!

KONGONI

What do I do now?! Is there another way to get across?!

BOMANI

Stay where you are! I'm going back for you!

Bomani warns Kongoni to watch out for Jahzara.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Kongoni, there's a hyena coming for you!

KONGONI

A hyena?!

Kongoni sees Jahzara and runs for cover in the jungle.

BOMANI

Run, Kongoni!

Bomani braves the crocodiles to get back to the other side of the river.

EXT. THE SWAMPS OF THE MASAI MARA - DAY

On patrol, Terry comes to a trail of lion tracks and sounds off with a loud roar.

TERRY

Is anybody here?!

Terry takes another whiff and realizes a familiarity to the scent.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Why is this scent so familiar to me?

It all starts to come back to Terry.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - DAY - FLASHBACK

It's the wet season. BEAST, a lion in his prime, sounds off with loud roars, challenging Terry's father to a fight over his territory.

TERRY'S FATHER

Terry, I want you to hide in the bush with your brothers and sisters... No arguments.

Terry, 9-weeks-old, rambunctious.

TERRY

You're freaking me out, Dad. What are you so worried about? Do you know that roar?

TERRY'S FATHER

Yeah, only too well... His name is Beast. The Saboti pride just gave him the boot, and he's been trying real hard to make a name for himself, ever since.

TERRY

So, he's here to throw his weight around? What are you going to do? Can I stay and watch? What is it that you do around here anyway?

TERRY'S FATHER

Purty, can you do something with him? I don't have time for this.

PURTY, the matriarch, hides Terry in the thorny bush.

PURTY

Terry, you heard your Daddy! Get!

Terry is slow to hide in the bushes with his siblings.

PURTY (CONT'D)

Okay, you need to calm down. You're acting like you've never been in a fight before. I'm starting to worry. You got this, right?

TERRY'S FATHER

Purty, we've been living comfortably in the valley for two years now. What if the ferociousness isn't in me anymore?

Beast's roars come in louder and louder.

TERRY'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Listen to him roar. What if this guy is the real deal?

PURTY

So, what if he is? Are you just going to let a pride that you've been holding down for so long go to some jerk looking to take it over?

TERRY'S FATHER

Well, since you put it that way... No.

PURTY

Of course, you're not. So, man up and handle your business.

TERRY'S FATHER

Yes dear.

Terry's father and Beast come face to face and jaw at each other.

TERRY

Don't forget your ring generalship, Dad!

Terry's father lets out a loud roar as he lounges at Beast. Terry roots for his Dad from the bushes.

TERRY (CONT'D)
 Ring generalship, Dad! Ring
 generalship!
 (to his siblings)
 Why isn't he listening to me?

Terry's father gets the upper hand in the fight and runs Beast off his territory.

TERRY'S FATHER
 And don't you come back here!

Terry comes out of hiding and sniffs the prints that Beast left behind in the dirt.

EXT. THE SWAMPS OF THE MASAI MARA - PRESENT DAY

Terry sniffs the lion prints one last time.

TERRY
 Uh-oh, the beast is back.

Terry snoops around Beast's territory and comes across several goat carcasses.

TERRY (CONT'D)
 Yako!

Terry rushes back to his pride.

EXT. THE MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT

Yako and her pride are vulnerable to any rogue male looking to take over a pride.

LEOLA
 I wanna know what you did, Yako.
 Tell me what you said to him.

YAKO
 What are you talking about? I
 didn't say anything to him.

LEOLA
 Then, where is Terry? Why isn't
 he back yet? He should've been
 back by now.

YAKO
 I don't know what you want from
 me, Leola.

YAKO (CONT'D)

You know as well as I do that it can take a male hours to patrol a territory. Remember how long it used to take Dad to patrol his territory.

LEOLA

I just don't like feeling so vulnerable. Some rogue male is liable to just wander in here and wipe out my cubs.

Yako and Leola hear loud roars coming from a male lion.

LEOLA (CONT'D)

Terry... Thank goodness.

YAKO

Wait a minute, Leola. That doesn't sound like Terry's roar.

LEOLA

Of course, it's Terry. Who else could it be?

Beast emerges from the darkness and put Yako and Leola on edge.

BEAST

Good evening, ladies.

Leola shields her cubs.

YAKO

Who are you? What do you want?

BEAST

I know there's a male here. I can his scent all over this place.

LEOLA

He's on patrol, but he should be back any minute. He's probably on his way back right now. So, you should leave now, if you know what's good for you.

BEAST

That's a nice try, but I don't scare so easily.

YAKO

Don't you dare come anywhere near the cubs.

Beast starts to move closer.

LEOLA

She means it!

Beast lounges at the females to get to the cubs.

YAKO

Stay away!

Yako stands her ground and takes a swipe at Beast.

BEAST

Feisty, huh? I like that.

Beast swipes back and knocks Yako back.

LEOLA

Leave us alone!

Leola pounces on Beast's back.

BEAST

Get off me!

Beast shakes Leola off his back.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Now, for the cubs.

The cubs have their backs against a tree. They put on a front by growling and flashing their fangs at Beast.

BEAST (CONT'D)

Don't worry. It'll be quick.

Beast nearly gets impaled by a spear thrown by a Masai warrior.

BEAST (CONT'D)

They found me! I don't know how, but they found me.

YAKO

(to Beast)

You're the one who has been ripping off livestock from the villagers.

(to Leola)

It wasn't Terry.

LEOLA

Grab the cubs. We've got to get out of here.

Yako and Leola round up the cubs and run into Terry.

YAKO

Terry!

TERRY

Thank goodness, you girls are safe. I just found traces of an old rival, not too far from here. His name is Beast... This guy is bad news.

YAKO

I think we just met him.

TERRY

He's here? I'll take care of him.

YAKO

No, leave him to the villagers. We're getting out of here, like right now.

Terry, Yako, and Leola usher the cubs to safety.

EXT. THE KENYA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - JUNGLE - DAY

Kongoni takes a breather, and Jahzara catches up to him.

KONGONI

(to Jahzara)

Well, what are you waiting for? I hope you choke on me, you piece of garbage!

JAHZARA

Why you little wobbly legged runt!

Jahzara moves in for the kill, and Kongoni braces himself for the inevitable.

JAHZARA (CONT'D)

And I get to have you all to myself.

Jahzara steps into a snare set up by the Masai Villagers.

KONGONI

Well, well, well...

Jahzara is upside down swinging from a tree.

JAHZARA

Don't leave me at the mercy of these crazy villagers! Come on, little dude, get me out of this!

Kongoni thinks about it.

KONGONI

If I help you out of that thing,
will you then promise not to try
anything?

JAHZARA

If you get me out, I promise I'll
leave you alone. We can forget
about the whole thing.

KONGONI

Okay, I'll get you out.

Kongoni moves in to help Jahzara down.

JAHZARA

That's it, kid. Get me out.

Bomani arrives just in time to stop Kongoni.

BOMANI

Kongoni, what are you doing?! Get
away from there!

JAHZARA

No! Get me out! What are you
doing?!

Kongoni runs over to Bomani.

BOMANI

Are you alright?

KONGONI

Yeah, I'm fine.

BOMANI

Good. Now let's go.

KONGONI

I smell something burning.

Bomani smells it too.

BOMANI

It's a wild fire. The villagers
must have set it. Let's get out
of here.

JAHZARA

Wait!

KONGONI

What about her?

BOMANI

What about her? She'll be fine.
Besides, she won't be a problem to
anyone from up there.

Bomani and Kongoni leave Jahzara at the mercy of the wild
fire.

JAHZARA

Come back, please?! Don't leave
me here like this!

Jahzara throws her weight around enough to break the
branch she is hanging from and escapes the flames.

EXT. TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - DAY

Ernesto gets a shot of the wildebeests still making their
way up the steep wall of the river bank.

ERNESTO

This is great stuff, isn't it,
Carmen?

Ernesto looks for Carmen and finds an unmanned camera.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Carmen? Where did she go?

Carmen scales down the wall of the river bank to save a
wildebeest calf whose foot is stuck in the mud.

CARMEN

You know, I really shouldn't be
doing this? Ernesto is going to
kill me.

Carmen reaches down and gets a hold of the calf's horn.
She struggles to pull the calf out of the mud.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Come on, little guy. I got you.

Carmen sees a crocodile closing in on the calf.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Watch your back. There's a
crocodile right behind you.

Ernesto finds Carmen trying to get a calf's foot out of
the mud.

ERNESTO

Carmen! I thought we had an
understanding?

Ernesto films the rescue with his GoPro camera.

CARMEN

Ernesto, this calf is stuck. Help me get it out.

ERNESTO

I'm coming.

Ernesto helps Carmen pull the calf out of the mud and up the river bank.

CARMEN

It's okay, little guy. You're still in one piece.

Carmen gets licked in the face.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

You're welcome. Now, catch up to your herd. Your mother's probably worried sick about you.

Ernesto can't even look at Carmen and walks five feet ahead of her.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Alright, Ernesto, let's hear it.

ERNESTO

You broke the cardinal rule of documentary filmmaking, Carmen.

CARMEN

I couldn't help it, Ernesto. What's the big deal, anyway? Why is it okay to help our fellow man, but when a poor animal needs help, we have to let nature take its course? I'm sick of it.

ERNESTO

Let's just get back to the post. Lord only knows how much action we've missed.

EXT. KENYA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Kongoni and Bomani make their way down the steep river bank.

KONGONI

Dad, how are we supposed to make it across the river undetected?

There are still plenty of wildebeest carcasses in the water for the crocodiles to feast on.

BOMANI

Relax. Another wildebeest herd will be here shortly. We'll cross over with them. I just thought you could use a drink after what you've been through.

KONGONI

Yeah, you're right about that.

BOMANI

Go ahead. Drink up. It's safe.

Yena gets Bomani and Kongoni's attention from the top of the river bank.

YENA

Hey! Up here!

Bomani and Kongoni both look up.

YENA (CONT'D)

Where's Jahzara?! What have you done with her?!

KONGONI

What do we do now, Dad? What if the whole clan comes down after us?

BOMANI

No, the river bank is too steep for them to come down after us.

Yena carefully makes her way down the steep river bank with the rest of the clan.

KONGONI

They're coming down, Dad! I'm a little nervous. What are we going to do?

Bomani looks around for an exit.

KONGONI (CONT'D)

Dad, they're getting closer. They're gonna get us!

EXT. TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Carmen captures everything on film.

CARMEN

Uh-oh, this is not good. My heart is pounding so fast. I feel for that poor little calf.

ERNESTO

Do you hear something?

EXT. KENYA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER

Yena hurries back to the top of the river bank to investigate the noise.

YENA

Stampede!

Africa, and her herd of elephants lead herds of wildebeests, zebras, and buffaloes down the river bank.

YENA (CONT'D)

Down! Get down!

Yena loses her footing and rolls into the water. Bomani, and Kongoni fall in with her.

KONGONI

Dad! What's going on?

BOMANI

Hold on, Kongoni! I'm coming.

The elephants, wildebeests, zebras, and water buffaloes follow the hyenas in.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Kongoni! Where are you?!

KONGONI

I'm here!

Bomani swims to Kongoni.

BOMANI

Come on. We've got to swim for it.

Hyenas go after the wildebeests and try to make a kill in the water.

AFRICA

I got him, Bomani!

Africa carries Kongoni and Bomani across the river on her back.

YENA

Hey, no fair!

A crocodile springs out of the water and takes Yena down.

YENA (CONT'D)

Not the death roll!

Yena is thrashed around in the water by a large crocodile.

AFRICA

Don't look back, Kongoni!

EXT. TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MASAI MARA RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Bomani and Kongoni make it up the river bank on Africa's back.

ERNESTO

You could relax now, Carmen.
They've made it across.

CARMEN

I don't know how many more of
these my heart can take, Ernesto.

Relieved, Carmen falls on her back.

EXT. THE TANZANIA SIDE OF THE MARA RIVER - DAY

Torrential rain. Africa sets Bomani and Kongoni down in the open grassland.

AFRICA

Well, Bomani, I wish I could stay
and shoot the breeze with you and
Kongoni a little longer, but my
herd and I are hot right now, so
it's not a good idea for us to be
out in the open like this.

BOMANI

You can't leave without saying
good bye to Kongoni, though.

AFRICA

You tell him for me. You know,
that's quite a calf you've got
there, Bomani. His mother
would've been proud.

BOMANI

Well, thanks for everything,
Africa.

AFRICA

Good luck, Bomani.

BOMANI

Yeah, good luck to you and yours.

Africa's herd follow her into the rain forest.

BOMANI (CONT'D)

Well, Kongoni, looks like
congratulations are in order. You
just survived your first real
river crossing. How do you feel?

KONGONI

I think that Ma couldn't have left
me in better hands to get me
across the river than yours.

BOMANI

How's the grass?

KONGONI

It's really good.

BOMANI

Well, it'll be months before the
next rotation, so try to make it
last.

KONGONI

Next rotation?! You mean we've
got to go through all that madness
again?!

BOMANI

Yeah, but it won't be as bad next
time.

KONGONI

How can you say that?

BOMANI

Because you won't be such a
scrawny little runt next time.
Next time, you'll be a full grown
bull whose ready to kick butt.

KONGONI

You really think so?

BOMANI

There's no doubt in my mind. Now,
stop asking so many questions and
eat your grass.

Bomani and Kongoni graze on the shoots together.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MASAI VILLAGE - DAY

Ernesto and Carmen load their bags and film equipment
onto a small plane.

CARMEN

Well, Ernesto, we did it.

Carmen puts her hand up to high five Ernesto.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Are you still mad at me?

Ernesto laughs and high fives Carmen.

ERNESTO

No, I'm not mad at you, Carmen.
We did what we came here to do.
Now, let's go home.

Ernesto and Carmen get on the plane.

EXT. SERENGETI GAME RESERVE - DAY

Clear skies. A small plane flies low over millions of
grazing animals. Ernesto and Carmen look out the window
to say goodbye.

CARMEN

God speed, South Africa. Thanks
for the memories.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT - DAY

The plane flies over Jahzara as she limps her way to
triage.

JAHZARA

(thinking out loud)
Alright, Ma, I'm here, just like
you told me.

Staffers run out of the building with tranquilizer guns
and surround Jahzara.

JAHZARA (CONT'D)

You better be right about this,
Ma.

The staffers put Jahzara down with a tranquilizer dart and carry her inside on a gurney.

EXT. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY - DAY

Terry watches the plane fly over his head from Beast's old hill top. He comes down to return to his pride of females and finds a pregnant Yako on her back.

YAKO

Hey, Terry, did you have fun on
patrol?

TERRY

It was alright.

Terry lays down next to Yako.

TERRY (CONT'D)

And how was your day?

Terry puts his ear to Yako's belly and listens.

FADE OUT.