

Tribal Episode 1: Beginnings ©



The sound of a rushing stream gets louder and finally they see it, clear water gliding over stone polished smooth by the centuries.

Tribal - By Doug McKenzie - 2020

FADE IN:

1 P.O.V. FLASHBACK 1: BIRD FLYING THROUGH CLOUDS -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: Cordillera de la Costa - Venezuela, 1965

White clouds, WIND BLOWING, then colors, blue sky and green mountains burst through. We soar past other birds, waterfalls, circling very high over a small group of people hiking up a narrow path. Closer now, it's clear from the foliage we're in the tropics and that the hikers are mostly young boys and girls, scouts, all wearing the same tshirts, with one man leading the way and another bringing up the rear.

2 EXT. FLASHBACK 1: MOUNTAIN FOREST PATH -- DAY

The SCOUT LEADER looks back over his shoulder, addressing the kids. They all speak in Spanish.

SCOUT LEADER

Come along kids, we'll be there soon.

One of the boys, GUILLERMO RAMIREZ DE SAN FERMIN (Bill), 9, is lagging behind his more energetic younger brother ROBERTO, 8.

ROBERTO

Hurry up Guillermo. You move like a snail!

GUILLERMO

I'm tired.
(huffs)
I'm hungry too.

ROBERTO

I think we're almost there, don't worry.

ELENA, a pretty girl who is Guillermo's age, is catching up with Guillermo. She is having trouble getting over a rock so he extends his hand to help her.

ELENA

I'm alright.

But she's still struggling.

GUILLERMO

Come on.

Elena reluctantly takes his hand, he pulls her up and then she bounds ahead.

GUILLERMO

You're welcome.

Elena looks back and smiles coyly.

GUILLERMO

Yeah, OK.

The group reaches a clearing with a view of the distant valley below. There are some logs and the remnants of a prior campfire. The Scout Leader drops his backpack.

SCOUT LEADER

OK troops, this is what you've all been waiting for. Lunch!

The kids all fall to the ground moaning. Some take off their shoes, all look worn out. The Scout Leader shakes his head, smiling.

LEADER 2

Come on now, we barely walked five kilometers.

GUILLERMO

Yeah but it was all up hill!

The rest of the boys all agree.

LEADER 2

What a bunch of sissies.

SCOUT LEADER

I'll say. This, my young friends, is how you build character. Let's eat our lunch, rest a while and then we'll be on our way. It's not much further and we'll be at the top.

3 EXT. FLASHBACK 1: MOUNTAIN FOREST CLEARING -- LATER

Some boys are still eating, others doze, the Scout Leader smokes a pipe while the other Leader reads a paperback. Guillermo has his hat over his eyes. Roberto shakes him.

ROBERTO

Hey, man. I have to pee.

GUILLERMO

So go, what do you want me to do, hold it for you?

ROBERTO

Where do I go? There are no bathrooms around here.

GUILLERMO

How should I know? Ask Mr. Palacio.

ROBERTO

Hey Mr. Palacio.

SCOUT LEADER

Yes, Roberto?

ROBERTO

I need to pee. What do I do?

SCOUT LEADER

Just go a little ways down that path over there.

ROBERTO

You mean pee in the woods?

SCOUT LEADER

Yes, in the woods. You don't think there's any plumbing out here in the wilderness, do you?

Everyone within earshot laughs. Roberto sheepishly turns towards the path.

SCOUT LEADER

Hey Guillermo, why don't you go with him?

GUILLERMO

Why do I have to go?

SCOUT LEADER

Because in the wild it is always good to have a buddy nearby to look out for you. And besides, he's your twin brother.

Guillermo grudgingly gets up and trudges after Roberto.

GUILLERMO

Alright, but we're not twins. He's a year younger than me.

SCOUT LEADER

Really? I thought you were twins.

4 EXT. FLASHBACK 1: MOUNTAIN FOREST PATH -- DAY

The two boys are standing peeing into the bushes.

ROBERTO

Watch me nail that bug over there.
Die insect...hey, I got him!

GUILLERMO

Idiot.

As the boys are zipping up, Roberto tilts his head, listening, Guillermo looking at him quizzically.

GUILLERMO

What is it?

ROBERTO

Do you hear that? It sounds like a
stream.

GUILLERMO

Yeah, I guess I hear it. So what?

ROBERTO

Come on, let's go check it out.

GUILLERMO

I don't think that's a good idea.
Lets head back.

ROBERTO

Lets just take a quick look. Maybe
there's fish in it.

GUILLERMO

Hey, we don't know what's down there.
What if we run into a snake or
something? It's too risky.

ROBERTO

Come on, don't be a baby.

Guillermo reluctantly tags along.

5 EXT. FLASHBACK 1: MOUNTAIN FOREST THICKET -- DAY

As the two boys push their way through thick brush the SOUND OF A RUSHING STREAM gets louder and finally they see it, clear water gliding over stone polished smooth by the centuries. There is a small pool where a few small fish drift.

ROBERTO

Wow, what did I tell you? Fish!
Come on, let's make a spear and catch
one.

Robert breaks off a long stick and begins sharpening the tip
with his pocket knife.

GUILLERMO

Roberto, we need to be getting back.
Mr. Palacio will be worried about
us.

ROBERTO

This will only take a minute. We'll
be heroes if we come back with a
fish.

Roberto stalks a fish, balancing precariously on a stone in
the stream, slowly drawing his arm back for the kill. He
thrusts the spear forward and, losing his balance, falls
into the stream. Guillermo lunges and grabs Roberto's shirt
but then he slips and falls into the stream too, the current
quickly pulling the two of them along.

ROBERTO

Guillermo, try to grab something!

GUILLERMO

I can't, it's too slippery!

The two boys are swept away, helplessly clinging to one
another. As they pass some brush Guillermo grabs a branch
with one hand while grabbing Roberto's collar with the other.
He slowly starts pulling them up on to the shore when the
branch suddenly starts coming loose. It snaps and they are
almost swept away when suddenly a pair of hands grabs him
and Roberto, pulling them up on to dry land. It's the Scout
Leader.

SCOUT LEADER

It's alright, I have you.

They lay on their backs catching their breath for a few
seconds. When they stand and look around they realize they
were only a few feet from going over a high cliff. The SOUND
OF THE WATERFALL dominates.