

(Yosemite)
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

Wide, cinematic shots of Yosemite Valley's majestic landscape. The sun rises over towering granite cliffs, casting light on waterfalls, dense forests, and sweeping meadows. The valley is breathtaking and ancient, filled with an ethereal beauty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For thousands of years, Yosemite Valley has been more than a place. It's a spirit. A protector. Those who walk its paths feel it, though only a few understand its power.

We hear the faint echo of Native American chanting as the view shifts through different parts of the valley.

EXT. YOSEMITE TRAILS - DAY

LENA WALKER (30s), a seasoned park ranger, strides along a trail. She's tough but kind-eyed, with an intense respect for her surroundings. She pauses, looking out over the valley, visibly moved by the view.

LENA (V.O.)

People think the land is ours to use. But here... you know the land has a life of its own.

A faint breeze stirs, rustling the trees around her. She glances at the forest, as if sensing something.

Her radio crackles to life.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Ranger Walker, we've got activity near the Mariposa Grove. Trespassers.

Lena's eyes narrow, and she picks up her pace.

LENA

Copy that. Heading over now.

EXT. MARIPOSA GROVE - DAY

Lena arrives at Mariposa Grove, finding a group of workers from Verity Energy.

They're wearing uniforms and setting up surveying equipment. The team is led by MARCUS HALE (40s), sharp-dressed, confident, and exuding entitlement.

LENA
(to the group)
This area is off-limits. Pack it up
and leave.

Marcus looks over, unimpressed.

MARCUS
Ranger Walker, I presume?
(smirking) We have clearance to
survey here. Verity Energy has a
contract.

LENA
That contract doesn't cover sacred
sites. (gestures to the grove) This
isn't just any land.

MARCUS
All the more reason to explore,
don't you think? Some would say
it's hiding something valuable.

They lock eyes in a silent standoff.

LENA
Not valuable to you. Last
warning—leave or face penalties.

Marcus doesn't back down but signals his team to pack up. He watches Lena closely, a hint of disdain in his eyes.

MARCUS
We'll be seeing more of each other,
Ranger.

Lena watches them go, visibly disturbed by the encounter.

INT. PARK RANGER OFFICE - NIGHT

Lena sits at her desk, reviewing paperwork. The room is quiet, with just the hum of the light above her. She pulls out an old, weathered leather journal from a drawer.

She opens it to the first page, revealing an inscription: "Ethan Walker, 1851." The journal contains sketches of Yosemite's landscapes, maps, and writings.

LENA (V.O.)
My ancestor, Ethan Walker. They say
he came here with the Mariposa
Battalion... but he left with more
than he found.

She flips through the pages, stopping at a sketch of a warrior woman standing in front of Yosemite's Half Dome. In flowing script, it reads, "Kali, Guardian of Ahwahnee."

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT (1851)

Ethan Walker (30s), dressed in rugged pioneer clothes, sits by a campfire, writing in his journal. Across the fire sits KALI (20s), an Ahwahneechee warrior with an intense, watchful gaze.

ETHAN
Tell me again... why do you stay
here, knowing what's coming?

KALI
This valley is part of me. It's
alive... it protects itself from
those who seek to harm it.

Ethan looks around, sensing the power of the valley but unable to fully understand.

ETHAN
You're risking your life for this
place. I've seen what my own men
will do.

KALI
Then join me. Help protect it. You
don't belong with them, Ethan.

Ethan looks away, conflicted, but a spark of agreement lights in his eyes.

INT. PARK RANGER OFFICE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Lena snaps back to the present, closing the journal thoughtfully. Her phone buzzes—it's a message from her colleague, SAMMY BLACKWOOD (40s), a local historian with Indigenous roots.

TEXT FROM SAMMY

"Need you at Bridalveil Falls first thing. I found something."

Lena's eyes linger on the journal, then she sets it down and picks up her ranger hat, a look of determination on her face.

EXT. BRIDALVEIL FALLS - EARLY MORNING

Lena arrives at Bridalveil Falls, where Sammy stands examining the base of the waterfall. He turns as she approaches, his expression serious.

SAMMY

Lena, you're not going to believe this.

He points to a spot where the earth has been disturbed, revealing ancient stone carvings partially buried in the dirt.

LENA

These markings... they're Ahwahneechee.

SAMMY

Yes. These were warnings, left by the guardians.

LENA

(to herself)
Warnings for what?

They continue to examine the markings, which depict a series of spirals leading toward a single symbol: a handprint surrounded by rays, almost like a sun.

SAMMY

This symbol here... it represents the "Heart of the Valley." The place where the spirit of Yosemite lives.

Lena's face darkens, realizing the potential threat Verity Energy could pose if they uncovered it.

EXT. YOSEMITE TRAILS - LATER THAT DAY

Lena and Sammy hike through the trails, guided by a sketch in Ethan's journal that matches the symbol. They search for more clues about the location of the valley's heart.

SAMMY

Your ancestor's journal... it could be the key. Ethan was one of the few who ever knew about the valley's secrets.

LENA

He mentions a warrior, Kali. She trusted him enough to tell him... but why?

SAMMY

Some believe that the valley chooses its guardians. It's not about blood—it's about the soul.

Lena contemplates this, understanding the weight of her responsibility.

EXT. SACRED GROVE - LATE AFTERNOON

They arrive at a grove surrounded by ancient trees. Lena kneels, examining the ground where faint symbols are carved into the roots.

SAMMY

These carvings... they're hundreds of years old. They mark the path to the heart.

Suddenly, a gust of wind whips through the trees, carrying faint echoes of chanting. Lena and Sammy exchange a look, sensing they're not alone.

INT. VERITY ENERGY TEMPORARY CAMP - SUNSET

Marcus stands with Dr. Fiona Keller, a cold but intellectual archaeologist in her 40s. She's reviewing survey data.

DR. KELLER

Our scans detected something unusual just north of Bridalveil Falls. I think we're close.

MARCUS

Good. Ranger Walker's becoming a problem. Let's find what we came for before she interferes again.

Dr. Keller gives him a skeptical look.

DR. KELLER
You really believe in these
stories, don't you?

MARCUS
What I believe is that there's
power here. And we're going to be
the ones to harness it.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - SUNSET

Lena and Sammy continue hiking, the atmosphere growing eerie
as the sun sets. Shadows lengthen, and the valley seems to
come alive.

SAMMY
Do you feel it?

LENA
(slightly shaken)
Yes. It's like... something's
watching.

They push forward, reaching an ancient stone altar half-
buried in the earth. This is the Heart of the Valley.

SAMMY
This is it. The heart. If Verity
Energy finds this, they'll destroy
everything.

Lena places her hand on the altar, feeling an electric
connection. The sky darkens, and the wind picks up around
them. They both step back as the shadows seem to gather,
forming the faint outline of spectral figures.

LENA
(whispering)
We're not alone.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT

The valley is still, bathed in moonlight. Shadows shift
across the landscape, almost as if the valley itself is
breathing. An owl calls in the distance, echoing through the
silence.

INT. SAMMY'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy sit at a small table covered in artifacts and Ethan's journal. A nearby lamp casts flickering light, giving the room a warm but tense atmosphere.

SAMMY

(pointing to a passage in
the journal)

Look here. Ethan wrote about a place called "The Altar of Shadows." He described it as the valley's final defense—somewhere that can only be found by those the valley deems worthy.

LENA

The Altar of Shadows... is that what we found today?

SAMMY

Maybe. But Ethan wrote that the true heart of the valley lies deeper. (pauses) He said it's guarded by the spirits of those who died protecting it.

Lena looks at Sammy, her face etched with concern.

LENA

If Verity gets close... those spirits will defend it. And we might not be able to stop what happens next.

Sammy nods, understanding the gravity of the situation.

SAMMY

You have a choice, Lena. You can walk away... or you can finish what Ethan started.

Lena contemplates this, the weight of her family's legacy pressing on her.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY TEMPORARY CAMP - NIGHT

Marcus and Dr. Keller study geological data under a makeshift canopy. The equipment hums with activity, mapping the valley's subsurface.

DR. KELLER

These energy signatures are unlike anything I've seen. It's as if the valley's alive with... something. (hesitates) Maybe the stories aren't just stories.

MARCUS

Stories won't matter once we harness this energy. The valley's "spirit" will be the power we need.

They're interrupted by a loud crash as one of the machines short-circuits. Sparks fly, and the workers back away, startled.

WORKER

It's like the equipment doesn't want to work out here... there's interference.

MARCUS

(irritated)

It's a machine, not a ghost. Fix it.

Dr. Keller gives Marcus a wary look, starting to feel uneasy.

EXT. YOSEMITE TRAILS - EARLY MORNING

Lena and Sammy hike through the misty trails, guided by Ethan's journal. The valley feels unusually silent, and Lena's expression is tense.

SAMMY

The valley's restless. It knows Verity's getting closer.

LENA

So do we. (pauses, looking around)
I just hope we're ready for whatever's coming.

They press forward, following a hidden trail that twists through dense forest.

EXT. SACRED CAVE - MID-MORNING

Lena and Sammy arrive at a narrow, almost invisible cave entrance. Inside, the stone walls are covered with ancient symbols that glow faintly in the dim light.

SAMMY

This must be the Altar of Shadows.

Lena steps forward, her hand brushing against the symbols. She feels a sudden surge of energy, almost like an electric shock.

LENA

It's... alive.

She closes her eyes, hearing faint whispers. Visions flash in her mind—Ethan, standing with Kali, both of them surrounded by shadows, protecting the valley.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT (1851)

Ethan stands with Kali in front of the Altar of Shadows, both holding torches. Shadows of the Ahwahneechee warriors surround them, chanting softly.

KALI

Once you vow to protect this
valley, it will never leave you.
Your spirit becomes one with the
land.

Ethan nods, accepting his place as a guardian. The shadows envelop him and Kali, sealing their pact.

INT. SACRED CAVE - DAY (PRESENT)

Lena opens her eyes, breathless. Sammy watches her, concerned.

SAMMY

What did you see?

LENA

Ethan. And Kali. They vowed to
protect this place... until death.

She takes a deep breath, realizing what she must do.

LENA (CONT'D)

Then I have to do the same.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY DRILL SITE - LATER THAT DAY

Verity's team has set up a larger camp with powerful drilling equipment. Marcus watches as the drills pound into the earth, while Dr. Keller monitors the readings with increasing concern.

DR. KELLER

These readings... the ground is reacting. We're disturbing something we don't understand.

MARCUS

(smirking)

Exactly. That's what makes it valuable.

As the drilling intensifies, a deep rumble echoes through the valley. Workers look around, unnerved.

MERCENARY

Sir, the ground... it's shifting.

Marcus brushes him off, but the rumble grows louder. Suddenly, a massive crack forms in the ground nearby, sending workers scrambling for cover.

MARCUS

(shouting)

Stay focused! We're close!

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - AFTERNOON

Lena and Sammy feel the tremor underfoot as they hike. They stop, looking back toward the drilling site.

LENA

They're pushing too far. The valley's fighting back.

SAMMY

We don't have much time.

They pick up the pace, heading toward a secret ridge that overlooks the Verity camp.

EXT. RIDGE OVERLOOKING VERITY CAMP - LATE AFTERNOON

Lena and Sammy reach the ridge and observe Verity's camp below. The drilling equipment is in full force, and Marcus directs his team with ruthless focus.

LENA

We have to stop them. If they reach
the heart... who knows what will
happen?

Sammy looks over at Lena, worried but resolute.

SAMMY

Then let's make sure they never get
that chance.

They slip away from the ridge, determined to sabotage the
drilling operation.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy approach Verity's camp under the cover of
darkness. They move stealthily, creeping toward the drilling
equipment.

LENA

If we can disable the drills, it'll
buy us some time.

Sammy nods, pulling out a small toolkit. They work quickly,
loosening bolts and cutting wires. A sudden noise alerts
them—a guard is approaching.

Lena signals for Sammy to hide, and they crouch behind some
crates as the guard passes. Once he's gone, they resume their
work.

INT. VERITY CAMP TENT - NIGHT

Inside a large tent, Marcus and Dr. Keller argue, their
voices low but tense.

DR. KELLER

The valley is responding to us.
Whatever we're disturbing, it's not
natural. I'm done, Marcus.

MARCUS

You're not walking away. Not now.

Dr. Keller hesitates, fear and frustration on her face.

DR. KELLER

You're going to get people killed.

MARCUS

Only if they stand in my way.

He turns away, leaving Dr. Keller visibly shaken.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy finish sabotaging the equipment and slip away. As they retreat, they hear shouting as Verity's workers discover the damage.

WORKER

The drills! Someone tampered with them!

Marcus storms out of the tent, furious, as workers scramble to fix the broken machinery.

MARCUS

Find who did this!

Lena and Sammy, hidden in the shadows, watch the chaos below.

SAMMY

That'll slow them down, but not for long.

LENA

We need to find another way... a final defense.

EXT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy return to the cave. Lena, driven by a sense of purpose, kneels before the altar, lighting a bundle of sage. She closes her eyes, speaking softly.

LENA

(to the valley)

If you can hear me... if you can help us... we're here to protect you.

The air grows colder, and the shadows deepen. Slowly, ghostly figures of Ahwahneechee warriors begin to appear around them, their faces stoic and powerful.

Lena and Sammy stare in awe as the warriors silently move toward the direction of Verity's camp.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is plunged into eerie silence. The workers sense something, looking around nervously.

One by one, the ghostly warriors emerge from the darkness, their presence unsettling Verity's team. The mercenaries panic as equipment begins to malfunction, screens flickering and lights dimming.

MERCENARY

Sir, something's... out there.

Marcus glares into the shadows, unafraid, but tense.

MARCUS

Stand your ground! This is nothing
but smoke and mirrors!

Suddenly, a fierce wind picks up, blowing debris through the camp. The Ahwahneechee warriors' forms flicker, then charge forward in a silent, relentless force.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Chaos unfolds in Verity's camp as the ghostly Ahwahneechee warriors continue their silent assault. Equipment short-circuits, tents collapse, and workers flee into the forest, terrified. Marcus, unshaken, stands amidst the chaos, his face defiant.

MARCUS

(yelling to the fleeing
workers)

Stay where you are! This is nothing
but superstition!

But even Marcus is unnerved as one of the spectral warriors passes close, its face illuminated in a flickering, ghostly light.

INT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy watch the spirits' silent march toward the Verity camp. Sammy, looking exhausted and awestruck, turns to Lena.

SAMMY

They're here to protect the
valley... but we need to make sure
Verity doesn't regroup and come
back stronger.

LENA

We have to do something permanent.
(looks at the altar) Something that
will keep them away... forever.

She glances down at Ethan's journal, flipping to a final entry.

ETHAN (V.O., READING FROM JOURNAL)

"If the heart of the valley is ever
threatened, there is but one way to
seal it... but it demands great
sacrifice."

Lena's face hardens as she realizes what Ethan meant.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Dr. Keller, shaken and disillusioned, watches the
Ahwahneechee spirits dismantle the camp. She approaches
Marcus, who is still trying to rally his remaining team.

DR. KELLER

Marcus, it's over. We're not
prepared for this... this place is
alive in ways we don't understand.

MARCUS

(dismissive)
Don't tell me you're buying into
this nonsense, Keller.

DR. KELLER

You saw it yourself. We need to
leave this valley intact.

Marcus glares at her, furious.

MARCUS

Leave? We're on the verge of a
discovery that could change
everything.

DR. KELLER

Then change it without me. I'm
done.

Dr. Keller turns and begins to walk away, leaving Marcus and
the remnants of Verity's team to face the valley alone.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy descend from the sacred cave, making their way toward the Verity camp. Lena looks focused, her mind on what she must do.

SAMMY

Are you sure about this? Whatever
Ethan's writings meant... it sounds
like it could be dangerous.

LENA

It's the only way. If the valley
accepted Ethan's sacrifice, maybe
it'll accept mine.

Sammy pauses, realizing the extent of Lena's decision.

SAMMY

Then I'm with you. Let's end this.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Marcus, now nearly alone, prepares to make one last desperate attempt to reach the valley's heart. As he approaches the direction of the sacred cave, the earth begins to rumble beneath him.

He stumbles back, watching as Lena and Sammy appear, blocking his path.

MARCUS

You again. You really think you can
stop me?

LENA

This isn't your land, Marcus. The
valley won't let you take it.

MARCUS

(smirking)
The valley doesn't get a choice.

EXT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena leads Marcus and Sammy to the cave, the ground rumbling with every step. She approaches the altar, placing her hands on its surface. The symbols on the altar begin to glow faintly, responding to her presence.

LENA
(to the valley)
I offer myself... as your
protector. Let this end here.

The wind picks up, and the air thickens as if the valley itself is responding to her plea.

MARCUS
You're out of your mind, Ranger.
(steps forward) There's no magic
here, just land waiting to be
taken.

Suddenly, the ground shakes violently. A rift opens up, separating Marcus from the altar. Lena steadies herself, looking back at him one last time.

LENA
You wanted power. Here it is.

The rift widens, and Marcus loses his balance, struggling to keep from falling. Ghostly figures emerge, surrounding him as he fights to escape.

MARCUS
(screaming)
This isn't over!

The spirits close in, and he vanishes into the rift, his voice fading into silence.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

Lena and Sammy stand on a ridge, watching as the valley returns to calm. The sun rises, casting a peaceful glow over the landscape. The spirits begin to disappear, their forms dissolving into the mist.

SAMMY
It's over.

Lena nods, a weight lifted from her shoulders. She looks down at the altar one last time, feeling the valley's presence.

LENA
Thank you.

They turn to leave, the valley safe once more.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - SUNSET

Weeks have passed. Lena stands by a trailhead, watching as visitors explore the valley. Sammy approaches, handing her Ethan's journal.

SAMMY

You kept your promise.

She takes the journal, nodding solemnly.

LENA

It wasn't just me. This place...
it's part of all of us.

They share a look, a silent understanding. She places the journal on a rock ledge overlooking the valley, an offering to Yosemite and her family's legacy.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DUSK

As night falls, the valley grows quiet. A faint, spectral figure—Kali—appears briefly, watching over the valley before fading into the mist.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - FLASHBACK TO 1851 - DAY

A flashback transports us to Yosemite Valley in 1851. The Mariposa Battalion, led by CAPTAIN JONES, rides into the valley, muskets in hand. They're a hardened group, looking both determined and tense.

CAPTAIN JONES

(firmly)

This land is claimed now. Anyone
who resists will be removed by
force.

The battalion moves in, encountering Ahwahneechee men, women, and children gathered in the valley. Their faces are solemn but defiant.

ETHAN WALKER (younger and less rugged, wearing militia garb) rides alongside his comrades, clearly uncomfortable with the mission. He watches the frightened and resolute faces of the Ahwahneechee, feeling a pang of doubt.*

CAPTAIN JONES (CONT'D)
(gesturing to the
warriors)
Move them out.

The soldiers begin herding the Ahwahneechee people, separating the men from the women and children. A warrior steps forward, attempting to negotiate, but he's brutally struck by one of the soldiers.

KALI
(fierce and defiant)
This land is sacred. It will not
welcome you.

She locks eyes with Ethan, recognizing something different in him. He hesitates, visibly conflicted as he watches his fellow soldiers mistreat the Ahwahneechee.

CAPTAIN JONES
(turning to Ethan)
Walker, what's the holdup?

ETHAN
(pause)
Sir... maybe we should try another
way.

CAPTAIN JONES
We're here to drive them out, not
negotiate.

Ethan clenches his fists, his loyalty divided. As the Ahwahneechee are forced out, Kali's intense gaze meets his.

KALI
This valley will protect itself.
And it will remember.

Her words linger with Ethan as the soldiers force the tribe out of Yosemite. He's left standing alone, staring after her as guilt and uncertainty overwhelm him.

EXT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Lena, shaken by the vision of her ancestor's past, stands before the altar. Sammy watches her, sensing her internal struggle.

SAMMY
Did you see... them?

LENA

Yes. I saw Ethan... and I saw how he tried to help. But he couldn't save them.

Lena takes a deep breath, the weight of history settling on her.

LENA (CONT'D)

But I can.

Determined, she places her hand on the altar. The air grows heavy, and the shadows around them deepen, as if the valley is responding.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Back in the Verity camp, Marcus's team struggles to restart the sabotaged equipment. Frustration is mounting as the supernatural disturbances continue.

WORKER

Sir, we're losing control!
Something's interfering with
everything—machines, signals, you
name it.

Marcus, enraged, tries to rally his remaining team, his gaze fixed on the direction of the sacred cave.

MARCUS

We're pressing on! The valley's
testing us, but we're here to stay.

A cold wind sweeps through the camp. Out of the darkness, spectral warriors begin to materialize, their ghostly forms marching toward the camp with silent determination.

EXT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy witness the ghostly figures of Ahwahneechee warriors moving toward Verity's camp. Sammy takes a step back, awestruck.

SAMMY

The valley's defenders... they're
coming back to protect it.

Lena watches, a sense of purpose settling over her.

LENA

Then let's make sure Verity has
nowhere to run.

They descend from the cave, heading toward the camp for a final confrontation.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The ghostly warriors continue to advance on the camp. Workers flee in panic as the spectral figures disrupt their equipment, causing screens to flicker, lights to explode, and drilling machinery to overheat and break down.

Marcus, furious and defiant, stands in the center of the chaos, determined to stay. He locks eyes with Kali's spirit, who appears before him, her face expressionless and powerful.

MARCUS

(shouting)

This land is nothing but rock and
dirt. You can't stop me!

He charges toward her, but his body passes through the spirit, leaving him shaken. Kali's figure remains steady, staring at him as if in judgment.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT - FURTHER ACTION SEQUENCE

Lena and Sammy arrive just in time to see Verity's team scattered in disarray. Workers are running through the forest, chased by the apparitions, some of whom raise ghostly weapons. Trees sway violently, creating a natural barrier around the camp.

LENA

This is it. We end this now.

Lena picks up a fallen tool and uses it to cut the cables of Verity's remaining equipment. The drilling rigs spark and die, one by one.

SAMMY

(whispering to Lena)

The valley's doing most of the work
for us.

Marcus spots Lena, his face twisted with fury. He storms toward her, ready for a confrontation.

MARCUS

You think you can stop me? Do you have any idea what you're throwing away?

LENA

(turning to face him)

I'm protecting something you could never understand.

Marcus lunges, but Lena sidesteps him. He stumbles, grabbing onto a piece of fallen equipment to steady himself. In that moment, a shadowy form of an Ahwahneechee warrior moves in front of Lena, as if protecting her.

MARCUS

(terrified)

What... what are you?

SPIRIT WARRIOR

The valley's vengeance.

The ground beneath Marcus begins to shake. Rocks loosen, the earth shifts, and a crevice opens beneath him. He stumbles back, trying to escape.

Lena and Sammy watch, resolute but calm. The valley is taking back its own.

MARCUS

(screaming, struggling)

This isn't over! I'll come back!

With a final tremor, the ground swallows Marcus, and he disappears into the earth, his voice fading to silence.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

The valley is calm and serene as the first light of dawn breaks over the mountains. Lena and Sammy stand on a high ridge, watching the sun rise over the now-peaceful valley.

Ghostly figures of the Ahwahneechee warriors, including Kali, appear one last time, standing guard over the valley. They exchange a silent look with Lena, an acknowledgment of her role as the valley's new protector.

The figures fade into the mist, leaving Lena and Sammy alone.

SAMMY

It's over.

LENA

(sighs)

For now. But as long as people try to take what isn't theirs, the valley will always need someone to protect it.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - LATER THAT DAY

Visitors walk through the valley, blissfully unaware of the battles fought to keep it safe. Lena watches them, a quiet pride in her eyes, knowing the legacy she's upheld.

SAMMY

(approaching Lena)

You know, you could make a career out of this.

LENA

(smiling)

I think I already have.

She places Ethan's journal on a rock ledge, leaving it as a tribute to the valley and to those who came before her. A gentle breeze stirs, almost as if in response, carrying a sense of peace.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SUNSET

As the sun sets, casting a golden glow over the valley, we see a faint, spectral image of Kali standing atop a distant cliff, watching over the valley one last time before fading away.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena stands in the sacred cave, contemplating her next move after seeing the flashback of the Mariposa Battalion's brutal eviction of the Ahwahneechee people. Sammy joins her, holding Ethan's journal.

SAMMY

There's more here. Ethan left something behind... something he kept hidden even from his own people.

LENA

What do you mean?

Sammy flips to a folded page at the back of the journal, revealing a cryptic map Ethan drew of a hidden chamber deep within the valley.

SAMMY

It says there's an artifact, something Kali entrusted to him. (pauses) She warned him it was powerful—too powerful. He wrote that it could "command the spirits of the valley." Ethan was supposed to destroy it, but he couldn't bring himself to do it.

Lena's eyes widen, realizing the weight of this revelation.

LENA

If Marcus finds it... he could use it to control the valley.

SAMMY

Not just control it. He could use it to turn the valley's own spirits against anyone who stands in his way.

Lena's face hardens with determination.

LENA

Then we have to find it first. Before he does.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is now in disarray, with Verity's workers fleeing as ghostly apparitions disrupt their operations. Marcus, however, remains unshaken. He scans the forest, determined, as he studies a digital version of Ethan's map on his tablet.

MARCUS

(to himself)

If Ethan hid it... then it's real. And it's mine.

He pockets the tablet and heads toward the direction of the hidden chamber, rallying his few remaining mercenaries to follow him.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy, armed with Ethan's original map, navigate the dense forest under cover of night. The atmosphere is thick with tension, and the valley feels more alive than ever, as if guiding them.

LENA

If this artifact can control the valley... why would Kali entrust it to Ethan?

SAMMY

He was the only outsider she believed in. But even he realized the risk... it was too great to leave it in anyone's hands.

As they press forward, the trees around them seem to shift, blocking their path. Lena looks up, sensing that the valley itself is responding to their journey.

LENA

It's like the valley's testing us. Making sure we're worthy.

EXT. HIDDEN CHAMBER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

They reach the entrance to a secluded cave, marked by faint Ahwahneechee carvings and symbols. Lena and Sammy hesitate, exchanging a look.

SAMMY

This is it. The hidden chamber Ethan wrote about.

They step inside, their flashlights illuminating the walls, which are adorned with images of spirits, animals, and natural forces. At the far end, there's a pedestal holding a small, ornate stone amulet—the artifact.

Lena approaches it cautiously, feeling its energy. Sammy reaches out, stopping her.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

If Ethan couldn't destroy it... maybe we shouldn't touch it either.

LENA

But if Marcus gets here first, he could use it to turn the spirits against us.

EXT. DEEP IN THE FOREST - NIGHT

Marcus, using his digital map, closes in on the chamber. He and his mercenaries navigate the twisted trails, oblivious to the ghostly figures watching them from the trees.

One mercenary stops, visibly spooked by a shadowy figure.

MERCENARY

Sir... something's watching us.

MARCUS

(sternly)

Enough with the ghost stories. Keep moving.

He pushes onward, his eyes fixed on the entrance to the hidden chamber in the distance.

INT. HIDDEN CHAMBER - NIGHT

Lena, realizing time is running out, makes a decision. She reaches for the amulet, picking it up. The moment she does, the air in the chamber grows heavy, and shadows begin to move across the walls.

SAMMY

Lena... something's happening.

The chamber fills with an ominous energy as the ghostly forms of Ahwahneechee warriors appear around them, their faces expressionless and powerful. One of the spirits steps forward—it's Kali.

KALI (SPIRIT)

(directly to Lena)

You hold a burden few can bear. To wield the power of the valley... is to sacrifice oneself for it.

LENA

I'm ready. I'll protect this valley, no matter what.

Kali studies her for a moment, nodding in approval.

KALI

Then you are the valley's guardian now. But beware—such power cannot be used without consequence.

The spirits fade back into the walls, leaving Lena and Sammy alone.

EXT. HIDDEN CHAMBER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Just as they turn to leave, Marcus and his mercenaries arrive, blocking their exit. Marcus sees the amulet in Lena's hand and smiles, his eyes glinting with greed.

MARCUS

Well, well. You did all the hard work for me.

LENA

You don't understand what you're dealing with, Marcus. This isn't just a relic—it's part of the valley itself.

MARCUS

All I understand is that it's valuable. And it's mine now.

He steps forward, reaching for the amulet. But the moment he touches it, a powerful shock of energy throws him back, leaving him stunned.

The ground begins to shake, and the ghostly warriors reappear, circling around Marcus and his team. Their expressions are fiercer, angrier, as if sensing Marcus's intentions.

INT. HIDDEN CHAMBER - NIGHT - FURTHER ACTION SEQUENCE

Lena realizes that she can now control the valley's forces. She raises the amulet, summoning the spirits with a powerful, determined gaze.

LENA

(to the spirits)

Protect this land. Drive them out.

The spirits respond, advancing on Marcus and his team. Marcus scrambles to his feet, terrified, as the ghostly warriors begin to close in.

MARCUS

No... no! This can't be happening!

The valley itself seems to join in the defense—trees sway violently, branches snap, rocks roll down the hillside, blocking all paths of escape. Lena watches, conflicted but resolute.

SAMMY

Lena, the power... it's
overwhelming. Be careful.

Lena grips the amulet tightly, feeling its pull on her soul.

LENA

I have to finish this. It's the
only way.

She raises the amulet, using the last of its power to create a protective barrier around the valley. The spirits surge forward, and the valley erupts in a final, furious defense.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The ground opens up, swallowing what remains of Verity's equipment. Marcus's mercenaries are either fleeing or subdued by the valley's forces. Marcus, desperate, tries to escape, but he's surrounded by spirits, his path blocked at every turn.

MARCUS

(screaming)

No! This valley is mine!

With a final, intense tremor, the valley consumes Marcus, leaving only silence in his place.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

As dawn breaks, the valley returns to peace. The amulet in Lena's hand fades, its energy spent. She looks exhausted but victorious, having saved the valley from exploitation.

SAMMY

It's over. You did it.

Lena gazes at the valley, now safe, feeling the presence of the spirits who aided her.

LENA

No... they did. I was just here to
listen.

She sets the amulet down on the ground, letting the valley reclaim it.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - SUNSET

As the day fades, we see visitors walking through the valley, oblivious to the ancient forces at work beneath the surface. Lena watches over them, a quiet, proud guardian.

In the distance, a faint figure of Kali appears on a cliff, watching over the valley as the sun sets, before fading into the mist.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is engulfed in chaos, with ghostly Ahwahneechee warriors advancing through the tents. Verity's workers scramble to escape, their faces twisted in terror as the spirits close in.

One of the mercenaries, BLAKE, fires his weapon at the apparitions, but the bullets pass right through. A warrior turns, its eyes glowing faintly, and Blake suddenly collapses, clutching his chest as if something invisible is crushing him.

Other workers see this and start fleeing deeper into the forest, screaming.

INT. SACRED CAVE - NIGHT

Lena holds the amulet, watching as its power courses through her. She can feel the energy and the valley's wrath growing stronger. Sammy, seeing the change in her, reaches out.

SAMMY

Lena... you're calling them. The spirits... they're here because of you.

LENA

I don't want to hurt anyone. I just want them gone.

The amulet pulses in her hand, seeming to respond to her emotions.

SAMMY

(whispering)

The valley's angry. They won't stop unless you tell them to.

Lena hesitates, realizing that by wielding the amulet, she has awakened the spirits' full rage.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Verity's mercenaries run through the forest, desperately searching for a way out. But the valley seems to trap them, the trees shifting and the shadows growing darker around them.

One worker, JENKINS, is separated from the group. He hears chanting in the distance and turns to see a line of ghostly Ahwahneechee warriors blocking his path. He stumbles back, trying to run, but a spectral warrior reaches out, and Jenkins falls to his knees, clutching his head as he hears the screams of the valley's past victims echoing in his mind.

He collapses, his eyes wide and unseeing, consumed by the valley's wrath.

INT. HIDDEN CHAMBER - NIGHT

Lena feels the deaths of Verity's workers through the amulet, as if the valley's pain is coursing through her. She looks horrified, realizing what she has unleashed.

LENA

I didn't mean for this... Sammy,
it's like the valley has its own
vengeance, and I can't control it.

Sammy watches her, torn between fear and awe.

SAMMY

Then maybe you need to stop trying
to control it... and start guiding
it.

Lena looks down at the amulet, her face pale but resolute. She takes a deep breath, focusing her energy on calming the valley's anger.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Marcus, now alone, stalks through the shattered remains of his camp, determined to find Lena. His last remaining mercenary, HARRIS, follows him, but he's visibly terrified.

HARRIS

Sir, we have to go. They're dying
out there!

MARCUS

There's no going back now. We're
this close.

As they continue, a shadowy figure appears in their path—Kali's spirit, her eyes glowing fiercely. Harris lets out a strangled scream and collapses to his knees, paralyzed with fear.

HARRIS

No... please... I don't want to
die.

Kali raises her hand, and Harris's body twists unnaturally before he falls, lifeless. Marcus stares at Kali, shaken but defiant.

MARCUS

I don't care what you are. This
valley's mine now!

He charges toward her, but she vanishes, leaving Marcus alone and furious.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy emerge from the hidden chamber, heading back toward the camp. As they walk, they see the bodies of Verity's workers scattered along the forest floor, each one with a look of terror frozen on their face.

Lena's face is stricken with horror as she realizes the valley's spirits have gone too far.

LENA

They're... they're killing them
all.

SAMMY

The spirits are beyond our control.
They're acting on centuries of
anger, Lena.

Lena clutches the amulet, feeling its power and the weight of her responsibility. She takes a deep breath.

LENA

Then I have to stop this. I have to
call them back.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Marcus, nearly delirious, finally spots Lena and Sammy approaching. His face twists with rage as he sees the amulet in her hand.

MARCUS

That belongs to me!

He lunges at Lena, grabbing for the amulet. They struggle, and Lena loses her grip. The amulet falls to the ground, pulsing with energy.

Marcus reaches for it, but the moment his fingers touch it, a surge of power courses through him. He screams as the amulet channels the spirits' wrath into his body, his face contorting in agony.

The ground beneath him begins to tremble, and shadows rise up, consuming him as he's forced to endure the pain and suffering of the valley's past victims.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT

Lena, horrified, watches as Marcus is swallowed by the valley's power, his screams fading into the night. She knows she must act quickly to prevent the spirits from consuming everything in their path.

She raises the amulet, speaking to the spirits with urgency.

LENA

(voice echoing)

I am the valley's guardian. Your
battle is over. Return to peace.

The spirits hesitate, their forms flickering as if uncertain. Slowly, one by one, they lower their weapons and begin to fade back into the shadows, disappearing into the mist.

As the last spirit vanishes, the valley falls silent. Lena stands alone, the amulet still glowing faintly in her hand.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - DAWN

The first light of dawn breaks over the valley. Lena and Sammy, exhausted and solemn, walk through the quiet landscape, surrounded by the bodies of Verity's fallen workers.

SAMMY

They brought this on themselves...
but I never thought it would end
like this.

Lena, pale and weary, looks down at the amulet one last time.

LENA

The valley gave me a choice. I
could wield its power, but at a
price.

She places the amulet back on the forest floor, covering it
with earth and moss.

LENA (CONT'D)

Let it rest. The valley doesn't
need vengeance anymore.

They turn and walk away, leaving the valley to heal from the
night's violence.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SUNSET

Lena stands on a ridge, looking over the valley with a mix of
sadness and reverence. She knows she's fulfilled her role as
a protector, but at a great cost.

In the distance, she sees the faint, spectral figure of Kali
watching over the valley one last time. Lena nods in silent
acknowledgment.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy make their way through the forest, the
darkness around them feeling almost alive. The trees seem to
sway and whisper as they pass, as if the valley itself is
watching.

Sammy slows, looking at Lena, his face filled with worry.

SAMMY

Lena, this amulet... it's too
powerful. If you use it again, I
don't know what it'll do to you—or
to the valley.

LENA
(quietly)
I know. But if I don't, there'll be
nothing left to protect.

As they press forward, they spot something unusual up ahead—an ancient stone marker, barely visible through overgrown moss and vines. Carved into it are Ahwahneechee symbols and what appears to be an image of the amulet itself.

SAMMY
(whispering)
It's a warning... Ethan mentioned
this in his journal. They hid the
amulet here for a reason.

Lena places her hand on the stone, feeling a surge of energy flow through her. She pulls back, startled, as an image flashes in her mind: Ethan and Kali, together at this very spot, their hands clasped around the amulet.

FLASHBACK - YOSEMITE VALLEY, 1851

We see a memory unfold. Ethan and Kali stand beside the stone marker. The valley is shrouded in mist, and a faint glow emanates from the amulet they hold together.

KALI
This power must never fall into the
wrong hands. It is a gift—and a
curse. Promise me, Ethan... promise
me you'll protect it.

ETHAN
I swear it. As long as I live.

Kali and Ethan share a solemn look before she places the amulet inside the stone marker, covering it carefully.

FADE BACK TO
PRESENT:

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Lena snaps back to reality, the weight of the vision settling heavily on her.

LENA
They knew the cost. That's why they
buried it here... to keep it hidden
from everyone, even from
themselves.

SAMMY
(somberly)
But now it's out, and there's no
putting it back.

They continue onward, the urgency in their steps increasing
as they near the remains of the Verity camp.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is almost deserted, with bodies of fallen workers
and mercenaries lying scattered across the ground. Only a few
remain, including Marcus, who stands near a piece of
malfunctioning equipment, his face twisted with frustration
and desperation.

As Lena and Sammy approach, they spot Dr. Fiona Keller hiding
behind a boulder, watching Marcus with a look of horror. She
notices Lena and Sammy and gestures for them to come closer.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - BEHIND THE BOULDER - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy crouch beside Dr. Keller, who looks disheveled
and scared.

DR. KELLER
(hushed)
You shouldn't be here. Marcus...
he's obsessed. He won't stop until
he has the amulet.

LENA
Then help us. You know the valley
doesn't want us here.

DR. KELLER
I didn't sign up for this. I
thought we were here for research,
for conservation... but Marcus, he
lied to everyone. He was always
after the power.

Lena exchanges a glance with Sammy, weighing their options.

LENA
We can end this. But I need to keep
the amulet out of his hands.

Dr. Keller hesitates, then nods, making her decision.

DR. KELLER

There's a back way around the camp.
It'll lead you to him. I'll
distract him while you get close.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy follow Dr. Keller's directions, moving silently through the shadows. They slip behind a line of tents, avoiding the remaining mercenaries who patrol the area, their faces showing fear and paranoia.

As they approach the main tent where Marcus is holed up, they see Dr. Keller confront him, her voice raised in anger.

DR. KELLER

You've killed people, Marcus! The
valley's fighting back, and it's
only going to get worse.

MARCUS

(scoffing)

The valley? Don't tell me you're
buying into this spiritual
nonsense, Fiona. We're here for
power—nothing else matters.

He pushes past her, his gaze sweeping the camp for any sign of Lena.

Suddenly, a thick fog rolls into the camp, obscuring visibility. The remaining workers and mercenaries look around in confusion as shadows begin to move within the mist.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - DEEPER INTO THE FOG - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy are enveloped by the fog, which grows denser and colder, making it nearly impossible to see. The silence is broken by faint whispers, growing louder with each step.

They turn a corner and find themselves face-to-face with a ghostly figure of an Ahwahneechee warrior. His eyes are filled with sorrow and anger, and he reaches toward them.

GHOSTLY WARRIOR

Leave... or join those who came
before.

Lena clutches the amulet, feeling its energy. She raises it, speaking with authority.

LENA
(voice echoing)
We're here to protect the valley.
Guide us.

The warrior hesitates, then fades back into the fog, allowing them to pass. Sammy looks at Lena, shaken but grateful.

EXT. MAIN CLEARING - VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy emerge into a clearing just as Marcus steps into the center, raising his flashlight to catch them in the beam.

MARCUS
(smirking)
I knew you'd come back. You're as
drawn to this power as I am.

He pulls a gun, pointing it at them with a steady hand.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Hand over the amulet, or you both
join your ancestors.

Lena looks at the amulet in her hand, sensing its energy pulsing with warning. She steps forward, defiant.

LENA
This isn't power, Marcus. It's a
responsibility. One that you could
never understand.

MARCUS
Enough with the speeches! I've
worked too hard for this.

He lunges at her, and they struggle over the amulet. As he tries to wrench it from her grasp, the amulet glows brightly, releasing a shockwave of energy that knocks them both back.

INT. ANCIENT MEMORY - ETHEREAL REALM

In a surreal, misty vision, Lena and Marcus are transported into an ethereal vision of the valley's past. They stand on opposite sides of a battlefield where ghostly warriors clash, Ahwahneechee spirits defending the valley from soldiers of the Mariposa Battalion.

Lena sees Ethan in the distance, fighting alongside Kali. They're cornered by soldiers, protecting the valley with their last breaths.

MARCUS
(seeing the vision)
This... this is impossible.

LENA
It's the valley's memory. It
remembers everything that happened
here.

Marcus watches as the Mariposa soldiers fall under the valley's wrath, their screams echoing through the ethereal mist. He looks horrified as he realizes his fate might be the same.

KALI (SPIRIT, VO)
You came seeking power. You'll
leave with nothing.

EXT. VERITY ENERGY CAMP - NIGHT (BACK TO REALITY)

Lena snaps back to reality, the amulet still clutched in her hand. Marcus, disoriented, stumbles back, his face twisted with fear and anger.

MARCUS
(voice breaking)
No... no, I won't be beaten by some
legend.

He raises his gun, aiming at Lena, but the ground beneath him suddenly begins to tremble. The earth cracks open, and vines shoot up, wrapping around his legs and pulling him down.

Marcus struggles, but the vines tighten, dragging him into the ground. The last thing Lena sees is his terrified face as he's pulled under, his screams swallowed by the earth.

The fog lifts, and the valley falls silent once more.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

The first rays of sunlight cast a golden glow over the valley, peaceful once again. Lena stands at the edge of the camp's remains, the amulet in her hand no longer glowing.

Dr. Keller approaches her, her face a mixture of relief and sorrow.

DR. KELLER
It's over, isn't it?

LENA

Yes. And now, the valley can finally rest.

She kneels, placing the amulet at the base of an ancient tree, covering it with earth and stones as a final burial. Sammy joins her, placing a small token of his own—an Ahwahneechee pendant—beside it.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNSET

Lena and Sammy stand on a high ridge, overlooking the valley as the sun sets. They share a moment of silent respect for those who fought to protect the land before them.

In the distance, the faint, ghostly forms of Kali, Ethan, and other Ahwahneechee warriors appear, watching over the valley. They fade into the mist as the last light disappears.

FADE OUT.

ACT IV: A New Chapter Begins

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - MORNING

Weeks have passed since Marcus and Verity's team met their fate. Yosemite is calm, the valley vibrant and peaceful as visitors hike and explore, oblivious to the recent battle. Lena walks through the trails, her senses heightened, feeling a newfound connection to the land.

INT. PARK RANGER OFFICE - DAY

Lena sits at her desk, studying Ethan's journal, now filled with her own notes beside his words. The phone rings, and she answers it—it's a representative from the National Park Service.

NPS REPRESENTATIVE (V.O.)

Ranger Walker, we're getting some unusual reports from the park's perimeter. Small landslides, strange noises at night. Can you check it out?

LENA

Of course. I'll head over now.

Lena hangs up, her mind racing. She has a feeling the valley's mysteries aren't done with her yet.

EXT. YOSEMITE PERIMETER - DAY

Lena arrives at the remote part of the park's boundary. She sees fresh landslides and uprooted trees, but there's no apparent cause. As she investigates, she notices faint Ahwahneechee symbols carved into some rocks, pointing deeper into the wilderness.

LENA
(muttering to herself)
What are you trying to tell me?

She follows the symbols, trekking deeper into the forest.

EXT. HIDDEN GROVE - DAY

Lena stumbles upon a hidden grove—a secluded area of the forest she's never seen before. In the center of the grove is an ancient stone altar, overgrown with moss and vines. At the base of the altar, she sees a familiar sight—a second amulet, similar to the one she buried.

Her hand shakes as she reaches out, unsure if she should touch it. She hears a faint whisper, like a warning.

VOICE (V.O.)
Once chosen, always bound.

Lena pulls her hand back, understanding that this new discovery could come with greater consequences.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT

Lena meets Sammy at his cabin, showing him the symbols she found and telling him about the second amulet.

SAMMY
There were always rumors that the valley held more than one secret. That's why the Ahwahneechee never fully revealed its mysteries, even to each other.

They both sit in silence, realizing this might be the beginning of a new trial for Lena.

INTRODUCING A NEW THREAT

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - TRAILHEAD - DAY

A group of mysterious strangers in hiking gear arrives at the park entrance. They look like regular visitors, but their leader, DR. ISAAC MORRISON, is intense, his eyes scanning the valley with a calculating gaze. He's a renowned researcher with a dark reputation for exploiting natural sites for personal gain.

Isaac exchanges a look with his team, subtly nodding as they head into the wilderness.

INT. SAMMY'S CABIN - NIGHT

Sammy and Lena research Dr. Morrison, recognizing him from recent news articles. Sammy finds an article about his last expedition to an ancient forest where rare artifacts mysteriously disappeared.

LENA

Another artifact hunter. He'll tear the valley apart for what he wants.

SAMMY

The valley doesn't need more death. If we're not careful, the spirits will do anything to protect themselves.

They both know Isaac is after the valley's power, and they decide to stop him before he unleashes something even more dangerous.

EXT. YOSEMITE TRAILS - NIGHT

Lena, patrolling the trails at night, senses a disturbance. She stops as she hears the faint hum of chanting carried on the wind. Looking up, she sees the spectral forms of Ahwahneechee warriors watching her from the trees, their faces solemn.

LENA

(whispering)

I'm still here. I'll protect the valley.

One spirit steps forward, holding a hand over his heart, as if acknowledging her oath.

EXT. DR. MORRISON'S CAMP - NIGHT

Meanwhile, Dr. Morrison's team sets up camp deep in the valley, ignoring warnings from rangers and other staff. They've already marked several potential excavation sites, each one closer to the hidden grove.

One of the researchers, GREG, notices a faint glow in the distance—a wisp of light moving through the trees.

GREG
(squinting)
What is that?

Dr. Morrison glances over, his eyes gleaming with excitement.

DR. MORRISON
That, my friends, is exactly what
we came for.

They follow the light deeper into the valley.

THE SPIRITS STRIKE BACK

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - LATER THAT NIGHT

As Dr. Morrison and his team close in on the hidden grove, the valley begins to react. The ground trembles slightly, and ghostly figures emerge from the shadows, surrounding them.

One researcher panics, turning to run, but a spectral figure blocks his path. The spirit raises a hand, and the researcher collapses, clutching his chest as if being drained of life.

Dr. Morrison watches, intrigued rather than afraid, as another researcher tries to flee but trips over a root that seems to rise up deliberately. The spirit moves toward him, sending a shiver through the air.

DR. MORRISON
(fascinated)
They're real... the legends are
real.

But the spirits aren't there to be studied; they're there to protect. Another researcher cries out, then falls silent as the spirits close in.

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena is awakened by a disturbing vision—flashes of Dr. Morrison and his team surrounded by the Ahwahneechee spirits. She sees the spirits draining their life force, their bodies left lifeless on the forest floor.

Gasping, she sits up, realizing the valley has been forced to act. She grabs her ranger gear and heads out, determined to stop the violence.

EXT. HIDDEN GROVE - NIGHT

Lena arrives at the hidden grove, finding Dr. Morrison standing alone among his fallen team members. He holds the second amulet in his hands, a twisted smile on his face as he turns to face her.

DR. MORRISON

You should thank me, Ranger. I've uncovered a relic that could make history.

LENA

You've unleashed something that's better left alone.

DR. MORRISON

Better left alone? This valley is a treasure trove of ancient powers, and you want to keep it buried? Imagine what we could accomplish with this kind of energy.

The ground trembles again, and spectral warriors emerge, surrounding them both. The spirits glare at Dr. Morrison, their faces showing anger and betrayal.

LENA

(to the spirits)

Please... I'll take it from here.
Let me handle this.

But the spirits don't retreat. They're too enraged, seeing yet another outsider trying to steal what belongs to the valley.

EXT. HIDDEN GROVE - SHOWDOWN - NIGHT

The spirits advance on Dr. Morrison, who clutches the amulet tightly, attempting to channel its power to ward them off.

But the power turns against him, forcing him to his knees as a shadowy form appears above him—Kali's spirit, watching with judgmental eyes.*

KALI (SPIRIT)
You have violated the sacred
ground. Your greed has doomed you.

DR. MORRISON
No... I can control it!

He tries to raise the amulet, but it burns his hand, forcing him to drop it. The spirits close in, their faces fierce and unyielding.

Lena watches in horror as Dr. Morrison lets out a final scream, the valley reclaiming him. The earth shifts, and his body is swallowed by the ground, leaving only silence.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAWN

Lena stands alone in the grove, the amulet lying in the grass. She realizes the valley's protection must be kept secret, guarded from those who would exploit it.

She buries the amulet at the base of an ancient tree, covering it with stones and a prayer for peace.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNSET

Lena and Sammy stand on a ridge, watching over the valley. They share a look, understanding that as long as the valley has power, it will always attract those who seek to exploit it.

LENA
I think I understand now. The
valley doesn't just need a
protector... it needs someone who
can listen.

SAMMY
Then I think you're exactly who
it's been waiting for.

They share a quiet moment of peace, knowing that the valley is safe—for now.

FADE OUT.

ACT V: The Forgotten Trials

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT

The valley is serene, bathed in moonlight. But beneath the calm surface, something stirs. A faint rumbling shakes the earth, as if something deep within the valley is waking up.

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena wakes with a start, sensing that something is wrong. A series of dreams and visions have plagued her recently—cryptic images of symbols, ancient protectors, and a dark presence that feels both familiar and foreboding.

Lena grabs Ethan's journal, flipping to a page that has a peculiar mark she hadn't noticed before: three intertwined circles with strange inscriptions within each one.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - TRAILHEAD - DAY

Lena and Sammy meet at the trailhead to discuss the symbol she found. Sammy's face goes pale when he sees the drawing.

SAMMY

I've seen this before. It's the
Mark of the Three Trials.

LENA

Three Trials?

SAMMY

According to Ahwahneechee legends,
any guardian who wishes to truly
inherit the valley's power must
pass three trials. Each trial
reveals something about the
valley's deeper magic... and the
guardian's own spirit.

Lena looks down at the symbol, feeling both curiosity and apprehension.

LENA

Then I have to try. If I don't
understand everything this valley
protects, how can I protect it?

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Guided by Sammy's knowledge, Lena reaches an ancient clearing surrounded by towering sequoias. In the center is a circle of stones, each marked with symbols. She steps inside, feeling an overwhelming sense of presence.

Suddenly, shadows coalesce, and the spirit of Kali appears, watching her with intense, unreadable eyes.

KALI (SPIRIT)
To guard the valley is to
understand its fears. Face your
own, or be consumed by them.

The forest around Lena shifts, morphing into images from her past—the devastating forest fires, the memories of lost friends, and finally, her fear of failing to protect the valley.

A spectral version of herself appears, embodying all her insecurities. The apparition advances toward her, its face twisted with anger and despair.

SPECTRAL LENA
You're just a visitor here. What
makes you think you're worthy?

Lena stands her ground, her voice steady.

LENA
Because I'm not here for myself.
I'm here for the valley.

The apparition falters, then dissipates into a wisp of light. Kali nods approvingly, and the stones glow faintly as a symbol of courage etches itself onto Lena's arm, a mark of completion.

THE SECOND TRIAL: THE TEST OF KNOWLEDGE

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Sammy guides Lena to a hidden cave at the edge of the valley. Inside, the walls are covered with intricate carvings—ancient maps, symbols, and patterns that seem to shift and glow in the dim light.

SAMMY

This is the Cave of Knowledge. The second trial requires you to decipher the valley's secrets. Not just to see, but to understand.

As Lena approaches the carvings, they pulse faintly. One map catches her eye—it appears to be a map of Yosemite, but with pathways she's never seen. As she studies it, words written in Ahwahneechee script appear.

AHWAHNEECHEE VOICE (V.O.)

Knowledge is power, but only if shared. What was hidden must be found.

The pathways shift, revealing glimpses of the valley's hidden sanctuaries, lost groves, and the locations of other artifacts left by past guardians.

Lena reaches out, touching the carvings, and a flood of knowledge fills her mind—ancient plants with healing properties, long-forgotten rituals to protect the valley, and hidden weaknesses that must be guarded from outsiders.

The map glows, transferring a mark of knowledge onto her hand. The walls go dark again, as if satisfied with her progress.

EXT. SACRED POOL - NIGHT

Lena reaches the final trial location: an ancient pool hidden deep in the valley, surrounded by trees adorned with tribal charms. The water is still, reflecting the moonlight. Standing by the pool is the spirit of Ethan Walker.

ETHAN (SPIRIT)

You've come far. But to truly guard the valley, you must be willing to give it all—even your own freedom.

Lena looks at him, understanding the weight of his words.

LENA

What do you mean?

Ethan gestures to the pool, and in its reflection, Lena sees the lives of past guardians. Some of them lived solitary lives, devoting themselves to the valley, while others made deep sacrifices, losing family, friends, and even their place in the outside world.

ETHAN (SPIRIT)

To hold this power is to give up a
piece of yourself. Are you willing
to take this burden, knowing you
may be called upon to give
everything?

Lena's face reflects determination and sadness as she nods.

LENA

I will. For the valley, I'm willing
to give all I have.

The pool shimmers, and a final symbol—the mark of
sacrifice—appears on Lena's wrist. Ethan's spirit fades,
leaving her alone by the water.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - DAY

Lena now bears the three symbols on her arm: courage,
knowledge, and sacrifice. Sammy examines them, recognizing
the significance.

SAMMY

There are legends of sanctuaries
hidden throughout the valley—places
that only a true guardian can
unlock. The Three Trials are the
key.

Lena nods, feeling a renewed sense of purpose.

EXT. YOSEMITE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

Guided by the marks, Lena discovers hidden sanctuaries
throughout the valley:

1. The Grove of Healing - An ancient tree grove with plants
and herbs known only to the Ahwahneechee. Lena learns the
grove has medicinal plants capable of incredible healing.
2. The Echoing Caverns - A series of caverns where voices
from the past can be heard, preserving the wisdom and
warnings of the Ahwahneechee's ancestors.
3. The Celestial Observatory - A hidden clearing with stone
markers aligned with the stars, used by past guardians to
track cosmic events and foresee potential threats to the
valley.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - TRAILHEAD - DAY

Lena's recent discoveries draw the attention of a secret society of artifact hunters known as The Order of the Compass, an ancient group that collects and exploits supernatural relics from around the world.

The society's leader, VICTOR HAWKE, arrives in Yosemite disguised as a hiker. He's cold, calculating, and determined to claim the valley's relics for his own purposes.

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena reads an entry in Ethan's journal mentioning "The Order of the Compass," revealing that he encountered them in his own time. The journal warns that this group has knowledge of the valley's relics and will stop at nothing to gain access.

LENA
(to herself)
They've been here before... and
they're coming back.

She realizes that the Order's return poses an even greater danger, as they seek not just to exploit the valley, but to control the guardians themselves.

EXT. YOSEMITE WOODS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy set traps and warding symbols near the valley's sanctuaries, knowing that the Order will come for them. They prepare to defend the valley, calling on everything Lena has learned from the Three Trials.

EXT. SANCTUARY OF THE ECHOING CAVERNS - NIGHT

Victor and members of the Order attempt to infiltrate one of the sanctuaries, but as they enter, ghostly whispers fill the air, and the shadows of past guardians rise up to confront them. The valley's spirits, bolstered by Lena's new connection, defend their sacred ground.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNRISE

After a night of fighting off the Order, Lena stands with Sammy, both of them exhausted but victorious. They've managed to protect the valley and its sanctuaries, but Lena knows it's only a temporary victory.

SAMMY

They'll come back. People like them
always do.

LENA

Then we'll be ready. The valley has
its guardian now... and it always
will.

She looks out over Yosemite, knowing her journey is far from
over but feeling strengthened by her role and connection to
the land.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - ANCIENT FOREST CLEARING - DAWN

Lena stands in the grove of healing, her Three Trial symbols
faintly glowing as she senses a disturbance in the valley.
The morning air is thick with tension. She knows the Order is
still searching, growing bolder each day.

As she examines her surroundings, Lena notices an ancient
stone tablet buried among the roots of a massive sequoia
tree. She brushes away the moss to reveal carvings of
powerful relics: The Staff of the Ancestors, The Mirror of
Lost Paths, and The Shield of Echoes.

LENA

(whispering)

These... these are the valley's
last defenses.

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy pour over the stone tablet in her cabin. Sammy
translates some of the inscriptions, his voice filled with
awe and apprehension.

SAMMY

These relics were said to be
created by the first guardians.
Each one holds a piece of the
valley's spirit, meant to protect
against the greatest threats.

LENA

(breathless)

But the inscriptions say that using
these relics comes at a cost.

Sammy nods, his expression serious.

SAMMY

The valley takes something from its guardians in return. Each relic requires a piece of the guardian's soul... a permanent sacrifice.

Lena looks at the drawings of the relics, realizing that to fully protect the valley, she may have to give more than she ever expected.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Victor Hawke and his Order, now equipped with high-tech tracking devices and ancient maps, close in on one of the sanctuaries. They've been observing Lena, noting her movements, and they sense the presence of the relics.

VICTOR HAWKE

(to his team)

The valley has secrets waiting for those bold enough to claim them. Our guardian friend has led us right where we need to be.

Victor's lieutenants nod, their expressions a mix of eagerness and unease. They have a faint understanding of the valley's dangers but are emboldened by Victor's promises of power and wealth.

INT. THE ECHOING CAVERNS - NIGHT

Victor and his team enter the Echoing Caverns, their flashlights illuminating the ancient carvings on the walls. The air grows cold, and ghostly whispers fill the cavern, echoing warnings from past guardians.

SPIRIT VOICES

(whispering in unison)

Turn back... turn back...

One of Victor's lieutenants grows visibly shaken, stepping back.

LIEUTENANT

Sir, maybe we shouldn't be here. This place... it's wrong.

Victor smirks, unimpressed.

VICTOR HAWKE

Fear is for the weak. The valley's
power belongs to us now.

He raises a small relic—a compass infused with ancient magic, glowing faintly as it guides him toward the deeper parts of the caverns.

The compass pulls Victor forward, bypassing the spirits' warnings and revealing a hidden passage in the back of the cavern. As he steps through, Lena, hidden in the shadows, watches with mounting dread.

EXT. HIDDEN GROVE OF HEALING - NIGHT

Following the tablet's clues, Lena discovers a secluded spot in the grove where the Staff of the Ancestors lies half-buried in the ground, surrounded by ancient stones and protective symbols. The staff pulses faintly with energy, like a heartbeat.

Lena reaches out hesitantly, feeling the staff's power resonate within her. The moment she touches it, visions flood her mind—past guardians wielding the staff against those who threatened the valley, each one sacrificing something in return.

A deep voice, ancient and wise, fills her mind.

ANCIENT VOICE (V.O.)

To wield the staff is to bind
yourself to the valley's spirit. A
piece of you will remain here,
forever.

Lena, breathing heavily, takes the staff, feeling a surge of strength but also a heavy weight in her heart. She understands that each use will drain a part of her, binding her more deeply to the valley.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - THE ECHOING CAVERNS - NIGHT

Victor and his team press further into the caverns, emboldened by their compass. As they approach a hidden chamber containing the Mirror of Lost Paths, Lena intercepts them, wielding the Staff of the Ancestors. Her presence is commanding, her eyes fierce.

VICTOR HAWKE

(smirking)

Well, look who decided to join us.

(MORE)

VICTOR HAWKE (CONT'D)
Did you really think you could keep
this all to yourself?

LENA
You have no idea what you're
dealing with, Victor. These relics
don't belong to anyone. They're
meant to protect, not to be used.

Victor steps forward, undeterred.

VICTOR HAWKE
Oh, I know exactly what they are.
And I intend to harness their
power... even if it costs you
everything.

Victor gestures to his team, and a standoff ensues as Lena raises the Staff of the Ancestors. She strikes the ground with the staff, and an invisible force ripples outward, knocking back Victor's lieutenants. But Lena feels the drain immediately, a faint glow leaving her and transferring into the ground.

One of Victor's lieutenants recovers and lunges at Lena, but the staff emits a pulse of energy, temporarily binding him in place. However, Lena's energy visibly weakens with each use, as though the valley itself is siphoning her strength.

INT. THE ECHOING CAVERNS - SECRET CHAMBER - NIGHT

Victor slips away during the chaos, making his way into the hidden chamber. In the center of the room is the Mirror of Lost Paths, a large, ancient mirror embedded into the rock. The glass is smoky and shifting, reflecting images of both the past and future.

Victor stares into it, mesmerized as he sees glimpses of past guardians, powerful spirits, and visions of himself wielding ultimate control over the valley. A smile spreads across his face.

VICTOR HAWKE
(in awe)
It's perfect... the valley will
finally bow to me.

He reaches out to touch the mirror, but the glass ripples, distorting and morphing into a series of horrific images—visions of destruction, the valley consumed by fire and darkness, and Victor himself, trapped within the mirror, pleading for freedom.

Suddenly, he realizes the mirror isn't just a relic—it's a trap for those who seek to exploit the valley's power.

INT. THE ECHOING CAVERNS - SECRET CHAMBER - NIGHT

Lena arrives just in time to see Victor pull his hand away from the mirror, his face pale and shaken.

LENA

It showed you the truth, didn't it?
This valley doesn't belong to you.
And if you continue, it will
destroy you.

Victor, defiant, clenches his fists and steadies himself.

VICTOR HAWKE

You're wrong. The valley's power
belongs to whoever is strong enough
to claim it.

He lunges for the mirror again, but Lena raises the staff, and with a final burst of energy, she channels the spirits of past guardians through the staff, creating a protective barrier around the mirror.

Victor is thrown back, but the effort takes a toll on Lena. She stumbles, the staff slipping from her hand as her vision blurs.

The ground trembles, and the Mirror of Lost Paths absorbs the barrier's energy, sealing itself shut and leaving Victor and his remaining lieutenants trapped within the cavern.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SUNRISE

Lena emerges from the caverns, visibly weakened but alive. Sammy waits outside, watching as she struggles to stand.

SAMMY

Lena... you did it. The valley is
safe.

LENA

(somberly)

For now. But each time I use the
relics, I feel the valley taking a
part of me. I don't know how much
more I can give.

She looks down at her hand, where the symbols of the Three Trials have faded slightly, a reminder of the cost.

A MYSTERIOUS NEW ALLY

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNSET

As Lena and Sammy walk along the ridge, they spot a figure in the distance, watching them. The figure approaches, revealing herself to be AMARA, a descendant of the Ahwahneechee and a protector who has come to help.

AMARA
(speaking softly)
You're not alone, Lena. The valley
has called me, just as it called
you.

Lena and Sammy exchange glances, realizing that the valley's legacy is larger than any one person. Amara holds a pendant identical to the one Sammy placed at the sacred grove, symbolizing her connection to the valley.

LENA
(smiling faintly)
Then let's make sure the valley
stays safe-together.

FADE OUT.

FLASHBACK TO 1848: THE LEGACY OF KALI AND THE AWAHNEECHEE

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SUNRISE (1848)

The valley is untouched, majestic, and serene. The early morning light reflects off the towering granite cliffs and mist-covered waterfalls. We see the Ahwahneechee village nestled in a clearing, with people beginning their daily routines.

Young children play near the river, women weave baskets, and men prepare for a hunt. The scene is filled with warmth, laughter, and a sense of unity. This is a time before outside intrusion—a time of peace.

INT. AWAHNEECHEE VILLAGE - FAMILY HUT - MORNING

Kali, a strong and focused woman in her mid-20s, sits with her younger sister AYANA and grandmother NIMA. Nima is elderly but vibrant, her eyes filled with wisdom.

She gently holds Ayana's hand, telling a story that Kali has heard many times but listens to with reverence.

NIMA

(to Ayana, with a smile)

The valley is our mother, our protector. It has given us life for generations, and in return, we protect it.

She gestures to the mountain ranges and trees outside their hut.

NIMA (CONT'D)

The mountains, the rivers, the trees—they are not just land. They are alive, just like us.

Ayana, wide-eyed and curious, looks to her sister.

AYANA

(whispering to Kali)

Do you think we'll be guardians, too?

Kali smiles, brushing a hand over Ayana's hair.

KALI

If that's what the valley chooses for us. Becoming a guardian is an honor, but it is also a promise.

Nima nods, her expression becoming serious.

NIMA

It is a promise to protect the valley from harm, even when it asks more of us than we think we can give.

The gravity of her words lingers, and Kali's gaze drifts toward the mountains, knowing the depth of this responsibility.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SACRED RITUAL SITE - EVENING

Later, the village gathers at a sacred spot by the riverbank. The Ahwahneechee people are performing a seasonal ritual to honor the valley's spirit, thanking it for the harvest, the water, and the land. Tribal drums beat steadily as dancers move rhythmically around a fire.

The elder, CHIEF TOPO, stands in the center, dressed in ceremonial attire adorned with feathers and animal bones, representing the valley's animals. He holds an ornate staff, the precursor to the Staff of the Ancestors, believed to contain the valley's protective spirit.

CHIEF TOPO
 (calling out to the
 valley)
 Great Spirit of Ahwahnee, we offer
 our thanks for your gifts. May we
 walk with you in balance, may we
 guard you as you guard us.

Kali, watching from the edge of the circle, closes her eyes, feeling a connection to the ritual and to her people. She knows that one day, she will have to step forward as a protector.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - PRIVATE GROVE - NIGHT

That evening, Kali sits alone in a secluded grove, where she often goes to seek solitude and reflect. Her grandmother, Nima, approaches her, carrying a small bundle wrapped in animal hide. She sits beside Kali, placing the bundle in her hands.

NIMA
 This belonged to your mother and
 her mother before her.

Kali unwraps it carefully, revealing a small amulet carved from stone, a miniature version of the one Lena found. She looks up at her grandmother, deeply moved.

KALI
 (surprised)
 But... I thought this was passed down
 only to the guardians.

NIMA
 (smiling softly)
 It is. And now, it is yours.

Kali holds the amulet reverently, feeling its ancient energy. She senses the weight of her ancestors within it.

KALI
 What if... what if I'm not ready?

Nima reaches out, holding Kali's hands in her own, her voice gentle but firm.

NIMA

None of us are ever truly ready.
But the valley chose you, Kali,
just as it chose those before you.
We do not serve ourselves; we serve
something greater.

Kali nods, her resolve strengthening. She knows that she is part of a lineage, bound to the valley by blood and spirit.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - HIDDEN ALTAR - DAWN

In the early morning, Kali stands alone at a hidden altar deep within the forest, a place where only guardians are allowed to go. She kneels, holding the amulet, and closes her eyes.

As she meditates, a vision appears: the valley in flames, shadowy figures of outsiders invading, and her people fleeing. But standing amidst the chaos is Kali, holding her ground as the valley's last line of defense.

Her eyes snap open, and she realizes the amulet is glowing faintly, responding to her emotions. She feels a deep understanding of her purpose—a purpose that may one day require her life.

KALI

(to the valley, in a soft
voice)

I will protect you, no matter the
cost.

EXT. AWAHNEECHEE VILLAGE - CEREMONY FOR THE NEW GUARDIAN - DAY

Back at the village, the people gather in celebration, honoring Kali's acceptance of her role as a guardian. Chief Topo raises her hand in front of the tribe, his voice carrying pride.

CHIEF TOPO

Today, we honor a new protector of
Ahwahnee. Kali has taken her place
among the guardians of our people,
bound to the valley as we are bound
to each other.

The villagers cheer, clapping and chanting her name. Kali looks out over her community, feeling both pride and the weight of responsibility.

As part of the ceremony, Nima steps forward, holding a small pouch of sacred herbs. She sprinkles them over Kali, completing the ritual of blessing.

DEEPER INSIGHT INTO AWAHNEECHEE BELIEFS AND LEGENDS

In the days that follow, Kali learns the wisdom of the valley from her grandmother and Chief Topo, each lesson connecting her more deeply to the Ahwahneechee's traditions.

1. The Spirit of the Waters - The Ahwahneechee believe that the waterfalls and rivers carry the valley's memory, remembering all that has transpired on its lands. They teach Kali that the water can reveal glimpses of the future, but only to those who are truly connected to the valley.

2. The Guardians of the Stones - Legends tell of stones scattered throughout the valley that act as markers, preserving the spiritual energy of past guardians. It is said that if a guardian falters, they can draw strength from these stones.

3. The Sky and the Stars - The Ahwahneechee study the stars, believing that their alignment foretells significant events. Kali is taught how to read the night sky to anticipate threats and understand the valley's will.

4. The Spirits of Animals - The people believe that the animals of the valley are messengers, carrying warnings and omens. Kali forms a bond with a hawk that often visits her, taking it as a sign of her path forward.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - DAY

One day, Kali sees smoke rising from the edge of the valley. Outsiders-settlers, accompanied by members of the Mariposa Battalion-have arrived, laying claim to lands they believe are unoccupied. Tensions escalate as the outsiders set up camp near the Ahwahneechee village.

Kali, along with her fellow warriors, approaches the outsiders, trying to communicate that this land is sacred. But her words are met with hostility and dismissiveness.

SETTLER LEADER

This land doesn't belong to you.
California's expanding, and you'd
better learn to accept it.

Kali's expression hardens as she realizes that these people don't respect the valley. She knows they pose a danger to her people and to the land.

KALI

Then I will protect this valley,
with everything I have.

She returns to her village, rallying the warriors and elders to prepare defenses. Together, they set up hidden traps and lay sacred markings along the edges of their territory, praying that it will be enough.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SACRED ALTAR - SUNSET

Kali returns to the sacred altar one last time, holding her amulet tightly. She kneels before the altar, her voice soft but resolute.

KALI

Great Spirit of Ahwahnee, I vow to
protect this valley as long as I
have breath. Even if I am lost, I
will remain with you. Let my spirit
be bound to these lands.

The amulet glows brightly, and a faint, ghostly image of Kali is projected around the valley, foreshadowing her role as a spectral guardian. She feels a surge of power, a sense of unity with the valley that assures her she is never alone.

This vow completes her transformation from a woman of the tribe to a guardian bound by spirit to the valley, setting in motion the legacy that Lena will one day inherit.

FADE BACK TO PRESENT DAY: YOSEMITE VALLEY

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Lena, sitting by the same sacred altar, finishes meditating on Kali's story. She feels a new understanding of her own role and the gravity of the responsibility she has taken on.

LENA

(whispering)

I promise, Kali. I will protect
this valley as you did.

The spirit of Kali appears faintly beside her, offering a nod of approval before disappearing into the night.

FADE IN:

EXT. SACRED ALTAR - NIGHT

Lena stands at the sacred altar, still reeling from the visions of Kali's life and the Ahwahneechee traditions she's inherited. The weight of her role as guardian feels more significant now, infused with centuries of reverence, resilience, and sacrifice.

Lena looks around, remembering the protective symbols Kali and her people once etched into the trees and rocks surrounding the valley. She traces a finger over one of the faint markings, a symbol for "protection from outsiders."

LENA
(to herself)
They left these marks for a reason.
Maybe they're still powerful.

She takes out a small knife and begins to carefully retrace the symbols, reinforcing the protective energy the Ahwahneechee left behind.

EXT. YOSEMITE TRAILS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy move through different parts of the valley, retracing the ancient symbols and reactivating their protective energy. Sammy carries a pouch of sacred herbs similar to those used by the Ahwahneechee. He scatters them along their path, honoring the spirits.

As they continue, Lena speaks softly, invoking the Ahwahneechee spirits.

LENA
Great Spirit of Ahwahnee, guide us.
We walk with you, as those before
us did.

A faint breeze picks up, and shadows shift as if acknowledging her words. Lena can feel the valley responding, growing stronger around them.

EXT. YOSEMITE PERIMETER - TRAILHEAD - DAY

Victor Hawke, having barely escaped from the Echoing Caverns, arrives with a new group of Order members. These are no ordinary artifact hunters; they are seasoned, equipped with high-tech gear and arcane knowledge that rivals Lena's guardianship.

Victor's face is etched with determination and anger. He has scars from his encounter in the caverns, and his resolve to claim the valley's power has only intensified.

VICTOR HAWKE

(to his team)

This valley is protected by secrets older than civilization. But we now have the knowledge to break through. Follow the symbols—ignore the superstitions.

The Order begins to march into the valley, ready to dismantle the Ahwahneechee protections.*

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena and Sammy pore over Ethan's journal, seeking clues to strengthen the valley's defenses.

SAMMY

These symbols... they're not just protections. According to this, they're also beacons. When activated, they can call upon the spirits to guard the land.

LENA

(understanding)

So if we keep the symbols intact, the spirits will stand with us.

SAMMY

But we need something more—something to make sure the Order can't break through again.

Lena nods, recalling a passage from the journal about a ceremony that binds the land and spirit as one.

EXT. SACRED GROVE - MIDNIGHT

Lena and Sammy gather in the sacred grove with offerings of herbs, feathers, and stones, symbols that connect them to the spirits of the Ahwahneechee ancestors. They set up a small fire, and Sammy begins chanting a traditional Ahwahneechee prayer, his voice low and respectful.

LENA
(calling out)
Spirits of Ahwahnee, we honor your
memory. Guide us as we defend what
you held sacred.

The symbols they've drawn on stones and trees around them begin to glow faintly, responding to their ceremony. A mist rises, and Lena senses a powerful presence joining them.

The spirit of Kali appears, standing by the fire, her face proud yet solemn.

KALI (SPIRIT)
The valley's heart beats within
you, Lena. But there are those who
will stop at nothing to tear it
out.

She gestures to a spot deeper in the forest.

KALI (SPIRIT) (CONT'D)
The Mirror of Lost Paths revealed a
hidden gateway long ago, a gateway
that can protect or destroy. Only
one who is truly bound to the
valley can unlock it.

Lena's eyes widen as she realizes that this gateway is the valley's last line of defense. It could either protect them or, if it falls into the wrong hands, expose them to unimaginable danger.

LENA
(steeling herself)
Then I'll unlock it, but only to
protect. I won't let the Order take
it.

EXT. YOSEMITE - SECRET PASSAGEWAY - DAWN

Guided by Kali's spirit, Lena and Sammy find a hidden passageway among the cliffs, surrounded by ancient rock carvings that depict the valley's history. They follow the carvings, each one revealing a piece of the Ahwahneechee's legacy.

At the end of the passageway, they reach the Gateway of Shadows, an archway made of two immense stones, inscribed with symbols and guarded by faint, ghostly forms of past guardians.

SAMMY
(whispering)
This is it... the final protection.

Lena approaches the gateway, feeling its powerful energy. She reaches out, and the symbols on the stones begin to glow, revealing an entrance to a sanctuary deep within the valley.

THE SANCTUARY OF ANCESTORS

INT. ANCIENT SANCTUARY - DAY

Lena and Sammy step into a vast underground sanctuary, filled with carvings, artifacts, and relics preserved by the valley. The sanctuary is a hidden archive of the Ahwahneechee's history and the legacies of past guardians.

They find three relics that the Ahwahneechee left for future guardians:

1. The Stone of Vision - A crystal that reveals glimpses of potential futures, allowing the guardian to anticipate and prevent threats.
2. The Spirit Mask - A ceremonial mask that can temporarily unite the guardian with the spirits of the valley, granting heightened strength and resilience.
3. The Bow of Shadows - An enchanted bow, said to be bound to the spirits, that can strike down those who threaten the valley from afar.

Lena picks up the Stone of Vision, and immediately, visions flood her mind. She sees the Order of the Compass reaching the sanctuary, overpowering the valley's spirits, and taking control of its ancient relics. The vision is a warning.

LENA
(whispering)
We don't have much time. They're coming.

Lena places the relics in a protective satchel, understanding that they may be her last line of defense.

EXT. HIDDEN SANCTUARY ENTRANCE - DAY

Victor and his team arrive at the sanctuary entrance, the ancient carvings glowing faintly as they prepare to enter. Lena and Sammy stand in the shadows, watching, knowing they have only moments to act.

Victor's compass glows, guiding him forward. He's visibly exhilarated, hungry for the power he believes lies within.

VICTOR HAWKE
(to his team)
Beyond this gateway lies power
unimaginable. We take it, and we
leave no trace.

The Order begins their approach, and Lena steps forward, drawing the Bow of Shadows and taking aim. The bow hums with energy as she pulls back, infused with the spirits' power.

EXT. HIDDEN SANCTUARY - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Lena releases an arrow, which flies through the air like a shadow, hitting one of the Order members and knocking him back. Victor's team scrambles, momentarily disoriented, giving Lena and Sammy a chance to close in.

SAMMY
(to Lena)
Use the Spirit Mask—it will let you
draw on the valley's strength.

Lena nods, putting on the Spirit Mask. Instantly, she feels an immense surge of energy as the spirits of past guardians join her, lending her their strength.

She steps into the open, confronting Victor with a fierce, otherworldly presence. Her eyes glow faintly as the spirits work through her, giving her an aura of undeniable power.

VICTOR HAWKE
(in disbelief)
You think you can stop me with a
mask and some old superstitions?

LENA
This valley is alive, Victor. And
it will never belong to you.

Victor and his remaining team charge, but Lena, channeling the spirits, deflects their attacks with inhuman speed and strength. She moves like a shadow, striking down each member of the Order with swift precision.

Finally, Lena faces Victor alone. He pulls out the compass, trying to counter her with a pulse of his own dark energy, but the valley's power overwhelms it. Lena draws her last arrow, aiming the Bow of Shadows directly at him.

VICTOR HAWKE
(furious, desperate)
If I can't have this valley, then
no one will!

He lunges toward the sanctuary, intent on destroying it, but Lena releases the arrow, which strikes him directly in the chest. The spirit-infused energy of the bow surrounds him, and Victor lets out a final scream as he's consumed by the valley's power.

His body is pulled into the ground, as though the valley itself is reclaiming him.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SUNSET

With the Order defeated, Lena stands with Sammy at the edge of the valley, watching as the sun sets. The relics are returned to the sanctuary, hidden and protected once more.

The spirit of Kali appears beside her, a look of gratitude in her eyes.

KALI (SPIRIT)
You have honored our legacy, Lena.
You are a true guardian.

The spirits of the valley gather around her one last time, acknowledging her as part of their lineage. Kali fades, leaving Lena with a sense of peace.

SAMMY
You did it, Lena. The valley is
safe.

LENA
For now. But we'll keep protecting
it, together.

They walk back toward the village, knowing their journey as guardians is only beginning.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - MIDDAY (LENA, AGE 10)

The young Lena, about 10 years old, walks along a trail in Yosemite, holding hands with her father, JAMES WALKER. James is a gentle, rugged man in his 40s with a deep appreciation for nature.

He has a ranger's keen eye and a conservationist's heart. He gestures to the trees, pointing out different plants, animals, and rock formations to Lena as they walk.

JAMES

(softly)

See those trees, Lena? They've been here longer than both of us, longer than anyone in our family. They have stories, just like people.

Lena looks up at the towering sequoias, her small face filled with wonder. She steps closer to one of the trees, placing her hand against its rough bark.

YOUNG LENA

(slightly confused)

Stories? How can trees have stories, Dad?

JAMES

They remember, in their own way. They remember all the people who have come through this valley, the storms, the fires, the winters. They've seen it all.

He kneels down beside her, smiling gently.

JAMES (CONT'D)

One day, you'll have your own stories to tell. And maybe, if you listen closely, the valley will share some of its stories with you.

Lena smiles back at him, clearly fascinated, as she traces her fingers along the bark. This moment plants the first seeds of her connection to the valley.

EXT. YOSEMITE - RIVERBANK - DUSK

Later that day, James and Lena sit by the riverbank, watching the sunset. Lena has a small journal in which she's been sketching the mountains and trees.

YOUNG LENA

Dad, do you think I could be a ranger like you when I grow up?

James chuckles, putting an arm around her.

JAMES

You could be anything you want,
Lena. But being a ranger... it's
more than just a job. You have to
love the land like it's family.
Protect it, care for it, even when
no one else does.

He picks up a smooth stone from the riverbank, tossing it
into the water, creating a series of ripples.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Just like that stone makes ripples,
the choices we make echo across the
land. It's up to us to make sure
they're the right ones.

Lena watches the ripples fade, her young mind absorbing her
father's words.

YOUNG LENA

(quietly)

I think I'd like that. Protecting
the valley.

James looks at her with pride, sensing her earnestness.

INT. LENA'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT

Back at home, Lena sits at the kitchen table with her
sketchbook. Her mother, SARAH WALKER, sets down a mug of
cocoa beside her, smiling warmly.

SARAH

Your father told me you were quite
the explorer today.

Lena nods, showing her mother her sketches of the valley.

YOUNG LENA

He told me the trees have stories.
Do you think that's true, Mom?

SARAH

(smiling)

Absolutely. Nature is full of
stories, honey. You just have to
listen.

Sarah glances out the window at the starry sky.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Your father and I always believed
that we're not just visitors here.
We're part of this place, like the
trees, the rivers... even the
stars.

Sarah points to a constellation in the night sky, visible
through the window.

SARAH (CONT'D)

And when you care about something,
Lena, it becomes a part of you.
That's why we do what we do—to
protect what we love.

Lena nods thoughtfully, the idea of guardianship taking root
in her heart.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - FIRE CAMP - NIGHT

One year later, Lena, now 11, sits in a makeshift camp with
her family, watching as a fire blazes on the mountainside.
Her father, along with other rangers, is helping to contain a
wildfire that's threatening the valley. Lena's face is a
mixture of fear and awe.

YOUNG LENA

(whispering to herself)

Is the valley going to be okay?

Her father returns to the camp, his face streaked with ash
and exhaustion. He kneels beside Lena, wrapping her in a hug.

JAMES

The valley is strong, Lena. Fires
come and go, but the land knows how
to heal. It just needs time and a
little care.

Lena stares into the flames, understanding for the first time
that protecting the valley isn't always easy—it requires
sacrifice and resilience.

YOUNG LENA

(slightly trembling)

I want to help protect it, too. I
don't want the valley to get hurt.

JAMES

(gently)

One day, you might have to.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)
And when that time comes, I know
you'll be ready.

He holds her close, and the two of them watch the flames from a distance, connected by their shared dedication to the land.

INT. LENA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

That same night, Lena lies in bed, unable to sleep. She gets up and goes to the window, looking out at the moonlit valley. She whispers to herself, a soft promise.

YOUNG LENA
(to the valley)
I'll protect you. Just like Dad
does.

She falls asleep with a peaceful smile, feeling a deep connection to the land she's come to love.

FADE BACK TO PRESENT DAY: YOSEMITE VALLEY

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNSET

Back in the present, Lena stands on a ridge overlooking the valley, her father's words echoing in her mind.

JAMES (V.O.)
Just like that stone makes ripples,
the choices we make echo across the
land.

Lena, feeling the weight of her guardianship, looks out over the valley with a renewed sense of purpose. The childhood memories have reminded her that her duty is more than just a responsibility—it's a lifelong bond.

LENA
(whispering)
I'll keep my promise, Dad. I'll
protect this valley.

She places her hand over her heart, her commitment stronger than ever.

DEEPENING HER CONNECTION TO THE AWAHNEECHEE LEGACY

Lena recalls the teachings her father shared, paralleling the stories of the Ahwahneechee. She realizes that her connection to the land wasn't just about her family's work as rangers;

it was a spiritual bond similar to that of the Ahwahneechee guardians before her.

EXT. SACRED GROVE " NIGHT

Lena returns to the sacred grove, kneeling in front of the altar where she had seen visions of Kali. She places her father's old ranger badge on the altar as a symbol of her personal commitment.

LENA

(to the spirits)

My family taught me to love this
land, to listen to it and protect
it. I know now that I'm part of
something much bigger than I ever
imagined.

She closes her eyes, feeling the presence of her ancestors and the spirits of the Ahwahneechee. The ground around the altar begins to glow faintly, acknowledging her dedication.

A VISION OF HER FATHER

As she meditates, Lena has a vision of her father standing beside her, his face proud but peaceful.

JAMES (SPIRIT)

You found your place, Lena. I
always knew you would.

Lena smiles, tears in her eyes.

LENA

Thank you, Dad. For everything.

The vision fades, but Lena feels a renewed strength and clarity. She knows that both her family and the Ahwahneechee traditions have guided her to this role. She stands up, ready to continue her work as guardian.

FADE OUT.

END OF FLASHBACK

FADE IN:

INT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - RANGER HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Lena stands in the office of the National Park Service, facing AGENT MARK BENNETT, a government agent from the Department of the Interior, and AGENT LUCY RAMIREZ, an investigator with an interest in cultural preservation but bound by her duties. Bennett is pragmatic and skeptical, while Ramirez is more open-minded but hesitant.

They sit across from Lena, reviewing recent reports of her activities, her "unauthorized" rituals, and the recent disturbances in the park caused by the Order of the Compass.

AGENT BENNETT

Ms. Walker, we're here because your actions in this valley have raised some concerns. Reports of "unusual activity" and "altercations" involving trespassers... it's affecting park operations and public safety.

LENA

(slightly defensive)

I'm protecting the valley. There's a group out there, the Order of the Compass, trying to exploit the valley's sacred sites. They've already destroyed some of the markings left by the Ahwahneechee.

AGENT RAMIREZ

(interjecting)

We've heard your claims about the Order, but we need solid evidence, Ms. Walker. We can't take action based on rumors.

Lena takes a deep breath, realizing she must find a way to convince them.

EXT. YOSEMITE - SACRED SITES TOUR - DAY

Determined to show them the spiritual depth of the valley, Lena takes Agents Bennett and Ramirez on a tour through the valley's sacred sites, starting with the ancient markings and symbols she's preserved. She explains each site's cultural significance, blending her personal stories with Ahwahneechee traditions.

LENA

These markings aren't just decoration.

(MORE)

LENA (CONT'D)
They're part of the valley's
history, left by the Ahwahneechee
to protect this land. Every symbol
has a purpose.

She traces a protective symbol on a stone, its edges worn yet
still potent.

LENA (CONT'D)
This one, for example, wards off
outsiders with ill intent. The
valley remembers, even if we don't.

Agent Ramirez studies the symbols, visibly moved. Bennett,
however, remains skeptical.

AGENT BENNETT
I'm sorry, Ms. Walker, but these
are just old carvings. They don't
constitute a reason to keep people
out of the park.

LENA
(slightly frustrated)
They're not "just old carvings."
These are connections to the
valley's spirit—connections that
people like the Order of the
Compass want to exploit.

EXT. SACRED GROVE - EVENING

Lena brings the agents to the sacred grove. She kneels at the
altar, lighting a small bundle of sage and speaking to the
spirits as she's done many times before. The agents watch,
uneasy but curious.

LENA
Great Spirit of Ahwahnee, show them
what you have shown me.

The air grows colder, and a faint mist rises, swirling around
the grove. A subtle, ethereal glow illuminates the
surrounding trees, and shadows of Ahwahneechee warriors begin
to appear in the mist, watching over the grove.

Ramirez's eyes widen, captivated by the presence, while
Bennett struggles to maintain his skepticism.

AGENT RAMIREZ
(whispering)
Are these... the guardians?

LENA

Yes. These are the spirits of those who protected this valley long before we were here. They're bound to this land, and they've entrusted me to continue their work.

The spirit of Kali steps forward, her face calm but powerful, acknowledging Lena's guardianship. Agent Ramirez stares, visibly moved, while Bennett looks unsettled but intrigued.

AGENT BENNETT

(hesitant)

I... I don't understand. How is this possible?

LENA

This valley has a life of its own. It doesn't belong to us, it belongs to itself. The Ahwahneechee were the first to understand this. They passed down their guardianship, not just as a duty but as a sacred bond.

The spirits slowly fade back into the mist, leaving the agents in silence.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - RIDGE OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY - SUNSET

Lena, Bennett, and Ramirez stand on a ridge, watching the sunset over the valley. The beauty of the scene and the spiritual experience weigh heavily on the agents.

AGENT RAMIREZ

(sighing)

I didn't realize... how much was at stake here. This isn't just about protecting land. It's about preserving something sacred.

Agent Bennett nods, visibly moved but struggling with his sense of duty.

AGENT BENNETT

(to Lena)

If what you're saying is true, then this valley is under constant threat. And if we don't protect it, there might be more damage than we understand.

Lena nods, sensing that they're beginning to understand.

LENA

There's a reason the spirits are still here. They're protecting something that can't be replaced. I can't do this alone.

The agents exchange a look, and Bennett sighs, conceding.

AGENT BENNETT

(softening)

We'll help. But we need to figure out a way to handle this that aligns with... well, with government policy.

AGENT RAMIREZ

If we can show the Department of the Interior that this valley has cultural and spiritual significance, they'll be more likely to back efforts to protect it.

INT. YOSEMITE RANGER HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Lena, Sammy, Bennett, and Ramirez gather around a map of Yosemite, strategizing. Bennett has arranged for additional rangers and resources, while Ramirez prepares a cultural report to support their case.

AGENT RAMIREZ

We can designate specific sites as culturally protected zones. This would restrict access to anyone without clearance, making it harder for groups like the Order to operate here.

LENA

That's a good start. But the Order won't stop. They know how to work around rules—they need to see that this valley isn't just another place to exploit.

Bennett nods, acknowledging the complexity of the situation.

AGENT BENNETT

I'll authorize a team to monitor for any suspicious activity in the valley.

(MORE)

AGENT BENNETT (CONT'D)
And if the Order shows up again,
they'll face a lot more than just
you.

Lena smiles, grateful for their support. For the first time,
she feels like she's not alone in this fight.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - SACRED GROVE - NIGHT

Lena, the agents, and a group of rangers, now briefed on the
valley's importance, are prepared. They're stationed
strategically near the valley's sacred sites, keeping watch
as night falls. Suddenly, they see movement in the
distance—the Order of the Compass, led by Victor Hawke,
emerging from the shadows.

VICTOR HAWKE
(smirking)
Looks like we have an audience. But
you're not stopping us this time.

He pulls out a relic compass that glows faintly, guiding him
toward the hidden sanctuaries.

LENA
(firmly)
You're not welcome here, Victor.
This valley has protected itself
for generations, and it won't let
you destroy it.

AGENT BENNETT
You're trespassing on federal land,
Mr. Hawke. This is your last
warning.

Victor sneers, motioning for his team to fan out. As they
move forward, Lena raises her hand, invoking the Ahwahneechee
spirits.

The protective symbols around the grove begin to glow, and
the spirits of past guardians, led by Kali, emerge once more.
Victor's team members falter, their faces filled with fear as
they witness the power of the valley.

KALI (SPIRIT)
(to Victor)
This land does not belong to you.
It is protected by those who loved
it and those who sacrificed for it.

Victor, growing desperate, tries to push through, but the spirits form a barrier, preventing him from reaching the sanctuaries.

Agent Ramirez steps forward, her voice filled with reverence.

AGENT RAMIREZ

We are witnesses to this place's sacred power. Leave, or face the consequences of those who disrespected this land.

VICTOR'S DOWNFALL

Victor, now visibly shaken, attempts to break through the spirit barrier, but Lena steps forward, holding up the Staff of the Ancestors.

LENA

This is your last chance, Victor. The valley has spoken. Leave, and never come back.

Victor hesitates, but his arrogance gets the best of him. He tries to lunge forward, but the spirits close in, surrounding him and his team. The ground beneath them begins to tremble, and they find themselves trapped as the spirits reclaim the relics they attempted to steal.

One by one, Victor's team members disappear into the mist, leaving Victor alone. He falls to his knees, finally defeated, as the spirits pull him back from the sanctuaries.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - MORNING

The next day, Agents Bennett and Ramirez formally recognize the sacred sites as protected land. They announce new measures to safeguard the valley, allowing Lena to continue her guardianship with the government's support.

AGENT RAMIREZ

(to Lena)

We'll make sure this valley stays protected. People need to understand that some places are worth more than money.

Lena smiles, feeling a sense of peace and accomplishment.

LENA

Thank you—for understanding. This isn't just a valley. It's a home, for all of us.

Bennett, Ramirez, and Lena share a look of mutual respect. They know that their work together has just begun, but they're committed to preserving the valley's legacy.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNSET

Lena stands with Sammy on a ridge, looking out over the valley. The threat has passed, but Lena knows she'll continue her guardianship for the rest of her life.

The spirits of Kali and other Ahwahneechee guardians appear one last time, their expressions proud and peaceful. Lena places her hand over her heart, honoring them.

SAMMY

You did it, Lena. And you're not alone anymore.

LENA

No. And neither is the valley.

They watch the sunset together, knowing they've formed an alliance between the ancient and the modern to protect what matters most.

FADE OUT.

INT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - RANGER HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The Department of the Interior has sent a team of agents to assess Lena's recent activities, concerned about the reports of "unusual incidents" and Lena's confrontations with trespassers. Agents Mark Bennett and Lucy Ramirez lead the team, intending to investigate Lena's actions and potentially rein in what they see as unorthodox behavior.

Bennett is tough and duty-bound, a realist who initially believes Lena may be overstating the valley's importance. Ramirez, however, has a background in anthropology and cultural studies and feels an instinctive pull toward Lena's preservation efforts, though she's restrained by government protocols.

AGENT BENNETT

(to Lena, reviewing a
file)

This valley is public land, Ms.
Walker. Your personal beliefs can't
interfere with public access.

AGENT RAMIREZ

If there's a group disturbing
protected land, we need proof.
Claims about "spiritual
disturbances" won't hold up in
court.

Lena takes a deep breath, knowing she needs to show them the
valley's importance from her perspective if she's to gain
their support.

LENA

There's more here than you realize.
I'd like to show you what we're
really protecting.

EXT. SACRED GROVE - EVENING

Lena leads the agents to the sacred grove where Ahwahneechee
symbols and carvings adorn the trees and rocks. She carefully
explains the significance of each symbol, how each was carved
by past guardians as protective wards to shield the valley.
As she describes the history, the grove begins to emit a
faint glow, and a mist rises, enveloping them.

Agent Ramirez stares in awe as she sees faint outlines of
Ahwahneechee spirits among the trees, watching over them.

AGENT RAMIREZ

(amazed, whispering)

I can feel something here... it's as
if the valley is alive.

Agent Bennett shifts uncomfortably, struggling with disbelief
but clearly impacted.

AGENT BENNETT

I don't understand how this is
possible. These... these spirits.
Are they really guardians?

LENA

Yes. They're here to protect the
valley. The Ahwahneechee were the
original stewards of this land.

(MORE)

LENA (CONT'D)
They left these symbols and rituals
to keep it safe from those who
would exploit it.

Ramirez, visibly moved, nods.

AGENT RAMIREZ
(sincerely)
We can't ignore this. If this
valley is connected to the
Ahwahneechee heritage, it deserves
full protection.

Bennett remains uncertain but concedes to explore the idea further.

INT. YOSEMITE RANGER HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Lena meets with the agents to outline a formal plan for protecting the valley's sacred sites, hoping to convince the Department of the Interior to designate these areas as culturally protected zones.

LENA
This isn't just land. It's a
spiritual legacy that goes back
generations. If the government can
designate these areas as sacred, it
will be harder for groups like the
Order of the Compass to violate
them.

Ramirez listens intently, understanding the cultural significance, while Bennett taps a pen thoughtfully against the table.

AGENT BENNETT
You're asking us to recognize a
spiritual connection and a history
that the law doesn't easily cover.
But maybe... maybe there's a way.

Ramirez, realizing the importance of Lena's mission, nods resolutely.

AGENT RAMIREZ
We can propose a case for cultural
preservation. If we frame it as a
heritage site, this might get the
Department's support.

LENA
(slightly relieved)
Thank you. With official support,
we can secure these areas and
defend the valley against
exploitation.

The agents agree to support Lena's mission, setting in motion the process for cultural protection of the valley.

EXT. YOSEMITE VALLEY - PERIMETER - NIGHT

Victor Hawke, leader of the Order of the Compass, assembles a larger, better-equipped team, determined to gain control of the valley's relics and sacred sites. He's aware of the government's involvement but is undeterred, believing that ancient powers in the valley will make him unstoppable.

VICTOR HAWKE
(to his team)
We're here to uncover a legacy
hidden for centuries. Nothing and
no one will stand in our way.

They advance into the valley, bypassing barriers and moving toward the spiritual sites that Lena has activated for protection.

EXT. SACRED GROVE - NIGHT

Lena, Sammy, Agents Bennett and Ramirez, and a small team of government rangers prepare to defend the sacred grove from the approaching Order. They've set up protective symbols and stationed guards around key sites.

AGENT RAMIREZ
We'll do whatever it takes to keep
them out of these protected areas.

LENA
Thank you. With the spirits' help,
we can make sure they can't harm
the valley.

Victor and his team emerge from the shadows, ready for a confrontation. He spots Lena and her allies, smirking.

VICTOR HAWKE
(sneering)
Looks like you've found new
friends, Lena. But they won't be
enough.

Victor raises a relic compass that glows ominously, attempting to disrupt the valley's spiritual energy.

SCENE 6: THE VALLEY'S SPIRITS DEFEND AGAINST THE ORDER

As Victor's team tries to break through, Lena invokes the Ahwahneechee spirits using an ancient chant. The ground begins to tremble, and shadows of past guardians rise up to stand beside Lena and her allies.

Ramirez watches in awe as the spirits form a protective barrier, their figures glowing faintly in the mist. Bennett, initially skeptical, looks on in amazement as the spirits push Victor's team back.

AGENT BENNETT
(whispering to himself)
I didn't think... I didn't think this
was possible.

AGENT RAMIREZ
This is why we're here—to protect
something that can't be replaced.

Victor's team, now facing the spirits directly, falters. Some try to push forward but are stopped by a wave of spiritual energy from the guardians.

SCENE 7: VICTOR'S FINAL ATTEMPT

EXT. SACRED GROVE - CONTINUOUS

Desperate, Victor steps forward with the compass, muttering an incantation that causes the ground beneath him to crack. The spirits weaken momentarily, and Lena senses that Victor is trying to use the valley's own energy against it.

Lena turns to Bennett and Ramirez, determination in her eyes.

LENA
We have to cut him off from the
compass. It's drawing power from
the valley.

Ramirez moves quickly, taking aim at Victor's hand. She fires, knocking the compass from his grasp. Victor stumbles, losing control of the incantation.

With the compass broken, the valley's energy surges back, restoring the spirits' strength. They close in around Victor, who realizes he's lost.

SCENE 8: THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL PROTECTION

EXT. YOSEMITE RANGER HEADQUARTERS - DAY

After the confrontation, Agents Bennett and Ramirez file a report with the Department of the Interior, recommending official protections for the valley's sacred sites. They hold a small ceremony with Lena, Sammy, and other park rangers to mark the designation of the sacred sites as culturally protected zones.

AGENT RAMIREZ

(to Lena)

You've done something incredible here. Protecting this valley is more than a duty; it's a legacy. The Department is approving these sites as federally protected cultural areas.

Lena smiles, knowing that the valley is now protected from further exploitation.

LENA

Thank you—for understanding. This valley is part of all of us, and now it has a future.

Bennett nods, a new respect in his eyes.

AGENT BENNETT

We'll keep up our end of the agreement, Lena. No one will threaten this place again.

SCENE 9: HONORING THE SPIRITS

EXT. SACRED GROVE - SUNSET

Lena returns to the sacred grove, lighting sage as an offering to the Ahwahneechee spirits and her family's legacy. Sammy stands beside her, watching as she closes her eyes and speaks to the spirits.

LENA

To all who've come before, I promise to keep this valley safe. The world may change, but this place will remain as it always has.

The spirits of the Ahwahneechee appear one last time, their faces peaceful. Kali's spirit nods at Lena, a look of pride and respect in her eyes.

Agent Ramirez joins them, adding a small carved pendant to the altar as a token of respect.

AGENT RAMIREZ

This valley is sacred. Thank you
for helping us see that, Lena.

As the sun sets, Lena, Sammy, and Ramirez share a moment of silent reverence, knowing that the valley will remain protected under both ancient guardianship and modern law.

FADE OUT

EPILOGUE: A SECURE FUTURE FOR YOSEMITE

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - DAY

In the following months, Lena, the rangers, and the Department of the Interior work together to maintain the valley's protections. Educational programs are launched to teach visitors about the cultural significance of the valley, highlighting the role of the Ahwahneechee and their guardianship.

INT. VISITOR CENTER - CULTURAL EXHIBIT - DAY

A new exhibit in the park's visitor center showcases the valley's cultural heritage, with displays honoring the Ahwahneechee and the valley's status as a protected cultural site.

Lena stands by the exhibit, watching as visitors learn about the valley's history and spiritual significance. She feels a deep sense of peace, knowing that the valley's legacy will endure.

FADE IN:

SCENE 1: A TRIBAL CEREMONY OF GRATITUDE

EXT. SACRED GROVE - DAWN

Months have passed since the valley was officially recognized as a protected cultural and spiritual site.

The Ahwahneechee descendants gather with park rangers, Lena, Agents Bennett and Ramirez, and a small crowd of invited guests for a ceremony of gratitude.

An elder, CHIEF TAHOMA, leads the ceremony. He wears traditional ceremonial attire adorned with feathers, beads, and intricate patterns, reflecting the valley's natural beauty. His voice is steady, filled with reverence.

CHIEF TAHOMA
 (in Ahwahneechee language,
 then translated)
 We give thanks to Ahwahnee, our
 Mother, for guiding us, for
 protecting us, for healing us.

Lena and Sammy stand among the crowd, each holding a small bundle of sage. They listen quietly as Chief Tahoma continues the ceremony.

The participants place small stones, feathers, and flowers at the sacred altar, a collective offering to the valley and the spirits. The mood is one of serenity, respect, and gratitude.

INT. YOSEMITE VISITOR CENTER - CULTURAL EXHIBIT - DAY

The newly curated cultural exhibit at the visitor center is bustling with visitors from around the world. Display cases hold artifacts, photographs of the Ahwahneechee, and information about the valley's spiritual significance.

A family with young children marvels at a map of the valley, while an older couple reads about the ceremonial practices of the Ahwahneechee. The exhibit is designed to immerse visitors in the valley's cultural and spiritual history, helping them see Yosemite as more than just a scenic destination.

LENA
 (to a group of visitors)
 This valley has been a place of
 healing and inspiration for
 generations. The Ahwahneechee
 believed it was alive, filled with
 spirit and memory. And now, thanks
 to all of you, we're helping to
 preserve that legacy.

The visitors listen, some visibly moved, as Lena shares her knowledge.

VISITOR

(smiling)

I've visited Yosemite many times,
but I never realized the depth of
its history. It's beautiful to know
it's protected.

MONTAGE - YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

This montage shows visitors experiencing moments of peace,
wonder, and joy throughout Yosemite:

1. A young woman meditates by the river, her face serene as
the morning light dances on the water. She closes her eyes,
breathing deeply, feeling a spiritual connection to the
valley.

2. A father and son hike to a viewpoint overlooking Yosemite
Falls. The boy's face lights up in awe as he sees the
waterfall cascading down the cliff, and the father watches
with a smile, reminded of his own childhood experiences in
the valley.

3. An artist paints in the meadow, capturing the grandeur of
Half Dome at sunset. She smiles, feeling inspired as she
channels her emotions onto the canvas, her brushstrokes
reflecting the valley's tranquility.

4. A group of friends sit around a campfire, laughing and
sharing stories, their faces illuminated by the warm glow.
They gaze up at the star-filled sky, feeling humbled by the
vastness and beauty of the universe.

Each scene reflects how the valley touches people in
different ways, offering a refuge from the chaos of daily
life and a chance to reconnect with nature.

EXT. YOSEMITE MEADOW - SUNSET

Lena and Sammy walk through the meadow, observing the
visitors around them. The sun is setting, casting a golden
glow over the valley. They see a young girl running through
the grass, her arms outstretched like wings, laughing as her
parents watch nearby.

SAMMY

(sighing with contentment)

It's amazing, isn't it? How a place
like this can bring so much joy.

LENA

(smiling)

It reminds me of how I felt when my dad brought me here as a kid. It's like... the valley reaches into people's hearts.

Lena watches as a couple sits quietly by a rock, holding hands and watching the sunset, both lost in the beauty of the moment.

SAMMY

That's the magic of this place. It gives people a chance to feel something bigger than themselves. And now... they get to know the valley's true spirit.

Lena nods, grateful for the protection the valley now has, both from its ancient guardians and modern allies.

SCENE 5: A MOMENT WITH THE SPIRITS

EXT. SACRED GROVE - NIGHT

Later that evening, Lena returns to the sacred grove alone. She lights a small bundle of sage and whispers her gratitude to the spirits of the Ahwahneechee.

LENA

Thank you—for letting me be part of this. For trusting me to protect what you held sacred.

As she speaks, a gentle mist rises around her, and the spirits of Ahwahneechee guardians appear. Kali's spirit stands among them, her face serene and proud.

KALI (SPIRIT)

You have done well, Lena. The valley is safe, and its spirit remains strong.

LENA

(softly)

I couldn't have done it alone. You, the rangers, the government... even the visitors. It all came together.

Kali nods, her eyes reflecting warmth.

KALI (SPIRIT)

This valley has always been a place of unity. Now, it is as it should be—protected, honored, and at peace.

The spirits fade into the mist, leaving Lena in quiet contemplation.

MONTAGE - VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

As word of the valley's cultural and spiritual significance spreads, visitors from all corners of the globe come to experience Yosemite. The valley's beauty and peacefulness become known not just as scenic attractions but as places of healing, reverence, and connection.

1. A group of international students marvels at the waterfalls, taking photos and sharing their awe with each other, their faces filled with wonder.
2. A spiritual retreat group practices meditation in a secluded spot, each person finding peace within themselves and the natural world around them.
3. A family reunion takes place at a picnic area, with relatives of all ages laughing, sharing stories, and making memories against the stunning backdrop of the valley.
4. An elderly woman from Japan kneels by the river, pouring water into a small cup as an offering to her ancestors, honoring both her heritage and the valley's spirits.

Each scene shows how the valley's beauty, serenity, and spiritual presence transcend cultures and backgrounds, uniting people in their shared reverence.

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - TRAILHEAD - DAY

Lena stands at the entrance to one of the newly designated cultural heritage trails, now marked with signs explaining the valley's historical significance. A plaque reads: "In honor of the Ahwahneechee and all who have protected this valley."

As visitors pass by, some stop to read the plaque, nodding with appreciation.

Agent Ramirez joins Lena, placing a hand on her shoulder.

AGENT RAMIREZ

It's official. The valley is a
national cultural heritage site.
Protected for generations to come.

Lena smiles, feeling a deep sense of peace.

LENA

This is all I ever wanted—for
people to understand and respect
what this place means. Thank you
for believing in me.

AGENT RAMIREZ

Thank you for helping us see it.

They share a moment of silence, both watching as visitors
enter the valley with newfound respect.

INT. LENA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Lena sits alone in her cabin, looking over a box of mementos:
her father's old ranger badge, Ethan's journal, and the
amulet given to her by Kali. She holds the amulet in her
hand, feeling a profound sense of connection.

LENA

(to herself)

Dad, I did it. I kept my promise.

She places the amulet back in the box, feeling a deep sense
of closure.

EXT. YOSEMITE RIDGE - SUNRISE

On her final patrol before the official reopening of the
heritage trails, Lena stands on a ridge, watching the sunrise
over Yosemite. Sammy joins her, and they both take in the
valley's beauty, feeling the spiritual presence surrounding
them.

SAMMY

(quietly)

It's amazing, isn't it? This place...
it has a life of its own.

LENA

(smiling)

It always has. And now it always
will.

As the sun rises, casting light over the valley, Lena and Sammy feel the valley's gratitude—a silent but powerful connection that reassures them of the valley's future.

For a brief moment, they glimpse the faint forms of Ahwahneechee spirits in the distance, standing alongside visitors, watching over the valley as they always have.

FADE OUT

EPILOGUE: A VALLEY THAT ENDURES

EXT. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

The epilogue shows a montage of people experiencing Yosemite in its preserved, sacred state, enjoying the beauty, serenity, and spiritual energy that have been carefully protected:

1. Children laugh and run through the meadows, their joy echoing across the land as parents watch with smiles.
2. Artists, photographers, and writers find inspiration in the valley, capturing its majesty and sharing its beauty with the world.
3. Spiritual pilgrims from diverse backgrounds practice meditations and rituals in harmony with the land, respecting its traditions.
4. Rangers and Ahwahneechee descendants work together, guiding visitors and sharing the valley's history and significance.

The final shot is of the valley itself, stretching out under the vast sky, a symbol of unity, preservation, and spiritual fulfillment.

FADE TO BLACK.