

KEEPER OF ANIMALS

Written by

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A teenager of mixed Native descent discovers a skin walker is suspending wild animals in motion for his photography exhibit. She must release them before the exhibit moves on.

OPENING IMAGE/TV SCREEN-DAY

An ultra realistic picture of a snow leopard charging forward, teeth bared comes into focus. Other pictures of animals beside the snow leopard hang near by. All are ultra realistic.

There are nine picture on each wall simple wooden frames. Three walls of pictures in total. Two white benches sit in front of them on a wooden floor. All part of an art exhibit

A reporter steps into frame.

REPORTER

Are you looking to see some super cool animals? Make sure you check out Saint Clairs photograph exhibit. Today is the last day for it and it's free.

INT. HOUSE- MAIN ROOM -DAY

It is a very simple house, a little out dated. Native American art is all around the house. The TV is on in the background.

TANDA (O.S.)

MOM! Where are you?

TANDA, 15, of mixed descent, comes down the stairs and into the kitchen. She reaches for some fruit.

MOM, 30's, Native American, looks up from her breakfast.

TANDA (CONT'D)

Heading into town for the day.

Mom nods then returns to her breakfast. Tanda grabs some fruit and sticks it in her backpack and heads out the door.

EXT. HOUSE-DRIVEWAY AREA-DAY

Tanda grabs her bike and passes by a Caucasian man, 40's, working on a car in the garage. Tanda gets on her bike and pushes off.

TANDA

Bye Dad!

Dad waves to her as he continues to look under the hood of the car.

INT. MUSEUM-MAIN FLOOR-DAY

Tanda enters the museum. It is grand in every way you can imagine. Tanda takes it all in. Then she sees it. The Saint Clair exhibit. It is lit up brighter than all the other spaces.

She walks into the area and sees the 9 photographs on 3 walls in simple frames. In front of them are two white benches. She notices off in one corner is SAINT CLAIR himself. He is a tall wiry man in his late 40's with something very 'animal' looking about him.

He looks up and smiles and or sneers Tanda. She continues to look at the photos. She glances at the snow leopard picture and see the fierceness in it's eyes. She continues to look at the other pictures.

Before she leaves the exhibit she looks at the snow leopard picture one more time. Its eyes are sad. Tanda shakes her head and walks out of the exhibit.

A security guard notices her and nods to Saint Clair. Saint Clair nods back to him.

A FEW HOURS LATER

Tanda returns to the main floor and rushes over to where Saint Clair's exhibit is. It is closed and blocked off from the public with big dark barricades.

Tanda looks around. Saint Clair is gone and there are a few more security guards around. She spots a door into the back area. Someone exits the door. The door opens wide.

Tanda dashes for the door. She makes it through.

INT. MUSEUM- HALLWAY-DAY

SAINT CLAIR (O.S.)
Aka, AKey man, alla.

Tanda creeps down the hallway to a black curtain. She peeks through the curtain.

THROUGH THE CURTAIN

Saint Clair sits on the floor and a giraffe bends down to drink.

SAINT CLAIR (CONT'D)
Shatty!

The giraffe and the background are sucked into the picture frame near by. Saint Clair picks it up and moves it off to stack. He picks up a picture from the second pile of pictures.

He brings the picture up to his lips and repeats.

SAINT CLAIR (CONT'D)
Aka, Akey man, Alla.

The picture wiggles and the hippopotamus and it's background springs from the picture alive and well. The hippo moves normally until it sees Saint Clair. It begins to charge him.

SAINT CLAIR (CONT'D)
Shatty!.

The image freezes and is sucked back into the picture frame.

IN THE HALLWAY

Tanda backs up and runs back down the hallway. Saint Clair dashes to the gap in the curtain to see the door slam.

INT HOUSE-BEDROOM-DAY

Tanda runs into her bedroom. She stands in her room breathing heavy. She tries to come to terms with what she has just seen. She exhales deeply and goes to her desk and begins to type something into her computer.

UNCLE P (O.S.)
You saw death today, my child?

Tanda spins around to she her UNCLE P, 70s, he has long white hair and he has a wise aged face. He walks with the help of a very ornately carved walking stick.

TANDA
He controls animals with a spell.

Uncle looks strangely at her.

TANDA (CONT'D)
He looks very animal like. I think he might be a skinwalker.

Uncle P places his hand over Tanda's mouth. He looks directly into her eyes.

UNCLE P
My people don't speck of them. Seer of life and death, Tanda.

Tanda nods her head, Uncle P takes his hand off her mouth.

UNCLE P (CONT'D)
If that is what he is. You need
some help.

Tanda looks at him.

TANDA
You know what I need don't you?

UNCLE P
Tell me you still remember the one
line of Navajo I taught you as a
child.

TANDA
Yes, of course I do. It is the only
line that ever made sense to me.
Why?

UNCLE P
It is a spell to weaken him and it
will release the animals. You must
keep repeating it.

TANDA
I need to go back. I need to kill
him for this end?

Uncle P nods Yes

UNCLE P
I must prepare something for you.
And I shall bring it to you. You
must get to the museum.

Tanda nods and runs out of her room.

INT MUSEUM-MAIN FLOOR-DAY

Tanda sneaks in just as they close. She rushes over to the
Saint Clair exhibit. The museum is empty. Tanda stands in
between the two benches. She closes her eyes.

TANDA
ATTA, ATTA, ATUE, ATUE, KEYKA CHEW.
ATTA, ATTA, ATUE, ATUE, KEYYA CHEW.

The snow leopard begins to leap out of the picture as it does
it turns into white smoke. Other images soon follow.

THWACK, THUNK

Tanda finds her self on the floor and in pain. Her eyes squint open to see Saint Clair glaring over her. He looks more like an animal then before.

SAINT CLAIR

How dare you! SHADDY, SHADDY.

The last few animals are frozen in place. Saint Clair kicks Tanda in the ribs. She hits him in the shin. As she gets up to run. He grabs her leg and she falls forward onto something. She glances down at it. It is a knife made of white ash. Uncle P whispers

UNCLE P (V.O.)

It needs to go through his neck.

SAINT CLAIR

Who do you think you are?

Saint Clair bends down to Tanda level. She rolls over and stabs Saint Clair in the neck. He falls to the ground. A black spirit lifts from his body as his body and the knife disintegrates.

Tanda takes a deep breath. She stands up.

TANDA

ATTA, ATTA, ATUE, ATUE, KEYKA CHEW

The last animals leave their frames. Tanda stands in the exhibit and looks around to see three walls, nine frames on each all empty. She smiles.

FADE OUT

