

JAGUAR PRIEST

Screenplay by Ilona Kanto

based on the original story by Tuula Pelttari

Genre: drama

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SYNOPSIS:

Ah-Kin-May falls into a trap hole with two other Maya Indian men, his slaves, in the middle of the rainforest. He transforms his human body into the body of a jaguar in front of the fearful slaves. Ah-Kin-May talks to the Jaguar Spirit who gives him advice.

The leader of Chichén Itzá, Huemac, is arriving, and he locates Ah-Kin-May. Ah-Kin-May transforms quickly back into the human form. He hears steps and the liana net starts to tighten around him. One of Huemac's killers (fighters) laughs at how Ah-Kin-May fell into a trap. He doesn't realize that both Ah-Kin-May's and Huemac's dreams wanted this to happen.

Huemac's men lift Ah-Kin-May up, and he is served water in a golden goblet. He drinks it. Then he is served a yellow, juicy fruit. Ah-Kin-May feels the fruit is poisoned and throws it away. Huemac's men look at him admiringly.

Two carriers transport Ah-Kin-May to Chichén Itzá to compete against the local High Priest. Tohueyo, the Ruler of Chichén Itzá, has asked secret help from Ah-Kin-May's adoptive father in Uxmal.

When Ah-Kin-May sees the pyramid, he jumps down from his human-chair and climbs the stairs up to the teocalli-temple. Dark clouds cover the sky, and Ah-Kin-May feels the heavy wind is rising. He lifts his hand and asks the wind to calm. The wind obeys.

While Ah-Kin-May waits for Huemac, several people come to seek for his healing. He puts his hands on people's shoulders. Huemac comes and welcomes Ah-Kin-May. The gods want blood, and before the game, pok-a-tok, starts, Ah-Kin-May quickly and painlessly takes out the heart from a selected victim. Before the game, the orchestra plays and the betting starts. The market place is open. The players step into the arena while the audience is cheering. Soon the first player falls from the hard chicle ball.

Later on, Coco plays the flute that is made of a sacrificial victim's thigh bone. Coco is in love with Cucul. The High Priestess demands Ah-Kin-May to assure Coco is a virgin. The High Priestess's eyes measure Coco's perfect body and her eyes reveal she is in love with Coco. Ah-Kin-May begins to caress Coco's body. Her eyes widen as she realizes this influential man is interested in her.

The High Priestess demands another test for Coco: Ah-Kin-May must throw her into the cenote (the sacred deep sinkhole with water on the bottom). Noble natives are following curiously. Ah-Kin-May feels Coco's lungs are about to burst and he sends her a thought to come to the surface. She obeys. She is thrown a rope and the test is finished. She is now a goddess.

To celebrate Coco's high position, Ah-Kin-May is carried to the sacrifice temple. Halac uinic (The Ruler), Huemac and Cucul follow. Ah-Kin-May makes a cut to take out another victim's heart. He puts his hand inside to take the heart out but cannot find it on the left side. Ah-Kin-May reaches Huemac's eyes and realizes this was done purposely. Ah-Kin-May makes a new cut on the right side where this man's heart is.

Coco cannot decide which one she loves, Ah-Kin-May or Cucul. Ah-Kin-May leads Coco onto a jaguar pelt and he feels the Jaguar entering him. They make love fiercely. He wants Coco to start carrying a child for him.

Ah-Kin-May leaves but he needs to come back, and he finds Huemac making love to Coco. Ah-Kin-May shouts and Huemac leaves. Later, Ah-Kin-May's fighters are jealous and he asks the Spirit of the Jaguar to lift him up. He arises in front of the astonished men.

One of the fighters comes to Ah-Kin-May and brings a frightened visitor from the next town. He had seen a lot of destruction on his way. The fighters of his town decide to join together with people of Chichén Itzá. Ah-Kin-May climbs up to

Kukulcan temple to pray. He transforms his body into the form of the Jaguar. Cucul follows him and realizes Ah-Kin-May is a son of Kinich Ahau, the Mayan God of the Sun.

Ah-Kin-May runs in the rainforest transformed into the Jaguar, but behind him are other jaguars that Huemac sent. Ah-Kin-May transforms from the Jaguar form into a Birdman. He is thinking of the pregnant Coco and Cucul. In the middle of his flight, he gets an image of Cucul into his mind and sees his little finger missing. That tells him that Cucul has given it to the Evil. Ah-Kin-May continues in the rainforest as the Jaguar. He can see a black shadow with a long beak. The flying reptiles of the ancient time have arrived and are close to the city. He transforms back into the Birdman and flies over cornfields. They are empty. The slaves and farmers have left. The flying reptiles are now controlling the city.

One of the reptiles flies next to Ah-Kin-May its eyes sneering toward him. Ah-Kin-May knows Cucul has let these out from the Sacred Chambers. They are from the Evil. Ah-Kin-May sets his mind to meet Cucul as he flies to the city. He meets Cucul and sees his hands: only both thumbs and one finger are left.

Ah-Kin-May is able to see his deceased father, Tohueyo, and talk to him. Later on, Coco starts giving birth to a baby. First it is hard to see if the baby is an animal or a human, but it is certain the father is Ah-Kin-May. He calls the child Cat.

The flying reptiles are all around the empty city. Food sources start to diminish as the rainforest plants take over the fields. People are prisoners in their own homes. They want to sacrifice Cat to get rid of the flying reptiles. Huemac and Cucul try to force a baby reptile to kill Cat. Ah-Kin-May guards the child, so no one can harm her. Cat puts her mind in work, and the flying reptiles simply break into dust. When Cat is five years old, it's time for Ah-Kin-May to give her a thankful sacrifice.

Cukul leads drugged Huemac toward sacrifice altar and he doesn't resist Cucul to tie him. A vulture sits on top of Huemac's head and keeps him in place. Cucul takes out Huemac's heart and crushes it into the sacrifice cup from where the vulture takes it immediately. Cucul then smashes Huemac's head and eats some of his brain. Cucul believes he is now both Cucul and Huemac and the most powerful of all.

Cat tells Ah-Kin-May about her dream where Coco gives birth to a nasty and weak boy and how nobody can survive the disease and hurricanes that are coming. Ah-Kin-May gets tired of killing and making sacrifices. Coco still doesn't know if she loves Ah-Kin-May or Cucul.

Ah-Kin-May and Cat leave their clothes on the top of the Kinich Ahau Temple and they transform their bodies into jaguars. They feel peaceful in the distant rainforest by a beautiful river. They are one with nature. Suddenly both yawn at the same time. It is good to be just a jaguar!

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