

## JAGUAR PRIEST

Screenplay by Ilona Kanto  
based on the original story by Tuula Pelttari

Genre: fantasy adventure

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### SYNOPSIS:

*Jaguar Priest is a story of noble Maya Indians and their high culture. It is an adventure about high priests, priestesses, rulers and their life in Chichén Itzá. This is a love story where three men fall in love with the beautiful Coco, a temple singer. Set in 900 AD, bad thoughts create enormous flying lizards, and people in Chichén Itzá have to withdraw inside their houses and temples. Finally, the four-year-old girl Cat is able to put her mind to work and the lizards crumble into dust.*

Jane has seen strange dreams about the ancient Maya Indians, almost every night. She visits Mr. Larson, a well-known hypnotherapist, who suggests that he would like to hypnotize her and take her into her past life. Jane agrees, and under the hypnosis she is able to go all the way to the era when she was a man, a Maya Indian High Priest: Ah-Kin-May.

As it was planned, Ah-Kin-May has fallen into a trap hole in the middle of the rainforest. Two Maya Indian slaves are with him, and they soon realize that Ah-Kin-May, at any time, can change himself from a man into a jaguar. And he knows how to talk and ask for advice from the Jaguar Spirit.

Huemac, the adviser of Chichén Itzá's Ruler, Tohueyo, arrives, and his men lift Ah-Kin-May up from the trap hole. Two carriers transport Ah-Kin-May to Chichén Itzá to compete against the local High Priest. Tohueyo has already 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.

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. They believe that 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.

Beautiful temple singer Coco plays the flute that is made of a sacrificial victim's thigh bone. Coco is in love with Cucul. The High Priestess demands that Ah-Kin-May assure her Coco is a virgin. Her eyes measure Coco's perfect body and they 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). Coco barely passes the test, and 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, but he 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 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 having sex with Coco. Ah-Kin-May throws Huemac out. Ah-Kin-May's fighters are jealous and he asks the Jaguar Spirit to lift him up. He arises in front of the astonished men.

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 as well as Cucul. In the middle of his flight, he gets an image of Cucul in 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, people have escaped and the reptiles are controlling the city.

Ah-Kin-May is able to see his deceased father, Tohueyo, and talk to him. Later on, Coco starts giving birth to her baby. First it is hard to see if the baby is a human or an animal, but it is certain that 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 to work, and the flying reptiles simply break into dust.

Cukul needs more power and he leads drugged Huemac toward the Sacrifice Altar. 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. He 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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