

Eraser Man

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - REAR - DAY

DAN DENTON (13), a long-haired boy who looks like he should be in a rock band, sits against the wall. Next to him is JOE (13), a Native-American with the traditional look, only tamed to fit white society.

SUPER: 1992

The boys take turns hitting a cigarette.

DAN

You are the coolest Indian I've ever known.

JOE

I'm the only Indian you've ever known... and it's Native American.

DAN

Why?

JOE

I don't know, Man. My people just get mad when they're called Indians.

DAN

And you're bothered by it, too?

JOE

Nah. You're a white boy. Does that bother you?

DAN

No.

JOE

I just teach my friends to be respectful so they don't insult my family when they're around.

DAN

I'll remember that.

JOE

Hey, did I ever tell you the story of the evil sleep demon?

DAN

No, but you've got to now. It sounds really cool.

JOE  
It happened a real long time ago...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

EXT. HILLS - NIGHT

Several torch lights move through the darkness.

SUPER: 1800

O.S. The sound of a man HUFFING as he runs. An Indian, obvious by his classic attire, runs past the camera. Behind him, the torch lights follow. Voices break the silence.

INDIAN BRAVES (O.S.)  
There he is! Get him! Don't let  
him get away!

The chase picks up in intensity.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT - SAME

Cherokee. In the valley. Maybe a couple dozen teepees. A few horses tied to trees.

INT. CHIEF QUITANI'S TEEPEE - NIGHT - SAME

A dirt floor and some belongings. CHIEF QUITANI (60s), his long gray hair in two braids, sleeps on the floor wrapped in blankets.

EAGLE FEATHER (20), a dashing young brave with a friendly appearance, darts inside.

EAGLE FEATHER  
Chief Quitani.

Chief Quitani awakens.

CHIEF QUITANI  
What is it, Eagle Feather?

EAGLE FEATHER  
Eyani came here to kill you. Fellow  
braves chased him into the hills.

Chief Quitani moves to the doorway.

EAGLE FEATHER  
You cannot go out there.

CHIEF QUITANI

I do not fear Eyani. It is he who should fear me.

He rushes out of the teepee. Eagle Feather follows on his heels.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Many of the village inhabitants, a combination of men, women and children, watch the flickering lights off in the hills.

Chief Quitani steps in front of them, his eyes also going to the lights. Distant voices of the chase are heard. Eagle Feather joins his chief.

EAGLE FEATHER

Eyani is very powerful. The tribe respects him for keeping the white man away.

CHIEF QUITANI

He is still human. We can strip him of that power.

LATER

Several braves return. They drag a battered EYANI (20s), the tribal medicine man. Evil-looking with cold eyes and an unfeeling appearance.

A necklace of human teeth lies around his neck. War paint decorates his visible areas of skin. A voodoo doll hangs from his waist along with a pouch and a shrunken human head.

The braves toss Eyani to the ground at Chief Quitani's feet. Eyani spits blood.

CHIEF QUITANI

You are a disgrace to the Indian name.

Eyani's evil glare looks up at the chief.

EYANI

Your ways are old. You would rather give up to the white man while I would rather fight. You have lost the respect of your own people.

Chief Quitani looks over at three braves who stand together, watching the proceedings with concern.

CHIEF QUITANI

(to Eyani)

Your followers are few. Without your power, they will abandon your leadership.

Eyani tackles the chief's legs. He crashes to the ground. A fierce struggle ensues, each giving as good as they get.

Tribe members just stand and watch. Eagle Feather's stance shifts. He wants to intervene, but doesn't know if he should.

Eyani reaches into his pouch. His hand returns with a handful of red powder that he throws in Chief Quitani's direction.

Chief Quitani ducks. The powder strikes a squaw standing behind him. She stumbles back in a panic. Frantically brushes the powder from her skin.

Everyone, including Eyani and Chief Quitani, watches the woman intently. Nothing happens to the relief of the squaw.

Eyani leaps at Chief Quitani. He wraps his legs around his opponent and sinks his teeth into the chief's neck.

Chief Quitani falls forward with him, somehow manages to dislodge Eyani's grip on his neck, but not until a chunk of flesh is ripped away.

Eyani chews and swallows the fresh meat with pleasure.

Blood streams from the gash left behind on Chief Quitani's neck. Enraged, he slams Eyani's head against the hard ground, leaving the medicine man heavily dazed.

CHIEF QUITANI

(stands)

You are through, Medicine Man. Your powers are gone.

Eyani rolls on the ground in agony.

EYANI

I do not fear death. I welcome it.  
I will only grow stronger.

CHIEF QUITANI

That is why I will let you live.  
Only you are no longer part of this tribe. You will live your life alone.  
A life of isolation. That should be suitable punishment for your crimes.

He pulls Eyani to his feet and shoves him toward the hills.

CHIEF QUITANI  
If you return, I will kill you.

Eyani passes a stern glance back as he staggers toward the hills.

Eagle Feather joins his chief.

EAGLE FEATHER  
I do not wish to dispute your choices,  
Chief Quitani, but he is too dangerous  
to walk away.

Chief Quitani clamps a hand over his neck wound. Blood runs between his fingers.

CHIEF QUITANI  
Without his power, he is nothing.  
(to Eyani's followers)  
Do you wish to join him?

The three braves shake their heads.

CHIEF QUITANI  
Betray me again and you will suffer  
even more than your leader will.

He disappears into his teepee.

Fellow tribesmates disperse to their own homes.

Eagle Feather watches Eyani grow smaller in the distance.

EXT. HILLS - NIGHT (DAYS LATER)

In front of a fire, Eyani, nearly healed of the bruises and cuts, sits cross-legged, eyes closed, in a trance. He hums to himself.

Without looking, he reaches into the pouch and sprinkles a handful of the red powder outward to the ground before him.

A sudden flash of lightning illuminates the sky. It zooms down to Eyani, striking him -- only he isn't injured by it. His eyes snap open. He appears rejuvenated, overrun with power.

INT. CHIEF QUITANI'S TEEPEE - NIGHT

Chief Quitani, a bandage around his neck, sleeps partially covered. Eyani kneels over him. The chief moves briefly in his sleep, then settles back in.