

88 EXT. BERRYESSA GATE - MORNING 88

Ellissia moves through the gate.

ELLISSIA
Let's go, boy!

She digs in her heels and the stallion responds by breaking into a gallop.

89 EXT. HORSE STABLES - MORNING 89

Danny exits the barn on Principe. He rides toward the rangeland gate.

90 EXT. BERRYESSA RANGE - DAY 90

Danny moves through the gate and spots Ellissia in the distance. He takes after her.

91 EXT. TRACKING SHOT - DAY 91

Danny catches up to Ellissia and the two horses gallop side by side across a flat portion of grassland.

Ellissia glances over at Danny then pulls off her surgical mask. She takes a deep breath and grins, feeling the freedom.

92 EXT. OAK TREE SPOTTED HILLSIDE - DAY 92

Ellissia leads Danny up a hillside.

93 EXT. SCENIC VIEW - DAY 93

Ellissia rides up the slope to the top of a hill that overlooks a spectacular view of the Berryessa lake and valley.

Ellissia reins in Centurion. Danny, following close behind, pulls up alongside her. She fights off tears and slumps forward in the saddle.

START →

ELLISSIA
It's not fair...

DANNY
No, it's not.

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ELLISSIA
Can you help me down?

Danny dismounts and helps Ellissia off Centurion.

ELLISSIA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She walks unsteady on the uneven ground so Danny takes her arm and assists her to the shade of a nearby oak tree.

ELLISSIA (CONT'D)
Funny, when I'm on a horse I forget about all my problems. The troubles start when I get off.

She sits in a spot overlooking the sweeping landscape. Danny sits beside her.

Centurion turns away from the couple and munches on a small tuft-like shrub with purple flowers.

DANNY
It's very beautiful here.

ELLISSIA
(wipes a tear away)
My favorite place in the whole wide world.

DANNY
I can see why.

Ellissia and Danny sit in silence. Then we hear the cry of an EAGLE.

Danny and Ellissia look up.

AN EAGLE CIRCLES OVERHEAD -- calls out.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Hola Papa! This is my friend Ellissia.

Danny turns to Ellissia and points to the eagle.

DANNY (CONT'D)
My father.

ELLISSIA
Your father?

The eagle cries out, still circling above.

DANNY

He passed away but uses eagles to watch over me.

ELLISSIA

Must be nice to have someone watch over you.

The eagle cries out one last time and flies away.

DANNY

It is.

A silent beat.

ELLISSIA

Danny, I'm scared.

She takes his hand and holds it.

DANNY

When I was ten, my mother got very sick. I was very frightened. She she gave me this.

He slips off his gold cross and chain.

DANNY (CONT'D)

She had it blessed by her priest to protect me from harm. I want you to wear it.

Danny opens her hand and places the small gold cross and chain in her palm.

ELLISSIA

Danny... I can't take this. Your mother gave it to you.

DANNY

Take his blessing.

Ellissia holds up the chain and stares at the dangling cross.

ELLISSIA

(tears well)

Danny, it's the most special gift ever.

END →

CLOSE ON DANGLING CROSS.

DISSOLVE TO: