

SCENE 150 :

AT THE CLIFF

EAT : DAY (SUNSET)

726.

The sun is reaching the horizon as Karja and Alfonso reach the cliff. They both dismount. Alfonso hitches the horses to a tree, then, his arm around Karja's shoulder, he leads her to the edge of the cliff, to admire -

726.

727.

--- the gorgeous view of mountains, plain and sky, glowing in the last rays of the sun.

727.

728.

ALFONSO

(points down)

My hacienda ... Sternau took it away with filthy legal tricks. But one day it will belong to us again.

728.

729.

KARJA

(enchanted)

To us ... Tell me, darling, about our wedding.

729.

ALFONSO

(softly)

It'll be the most beautiful wedding in the cathedral of Mexico City. And then we hide away. Forget the world, its worries and the secret of the Aztec gold.

KARJA

(with confidence)

Now that we belong together, it is no secret anymore.

ALFONSO

I'm afraid of that Aztec gold. I don't want any bond between us but love.

730.

They sit down close to the edge of the cliff.

730.

KARJA

That gold does exist.
And it's secret is such
a burden. I can't carry
it alone.

(nestles closer
to him)

Please accept it as a
token of my love.

ALFONSO

(playing reluctant)

If you insist ...

KARJA

(pointing at a
distant spot)

Our lake of oblivion...
It reveals it's secret
only when the moon is
full. When the disk of
the full moon stands
right above the center
of the lake, it's sur-
face will mirror a snow-
covered mountain peak.

ALFONSO

And ... ?

731.

KARJA

At the foot of this moun-
tain is the entrance to
a cavern where the gold
is hidden.

731.

ALFONSO

There are many caverns in
the mountains.

KARJA

There is a rocky path lead-
ing to this one. It is
blocked by a boulder. Be-
hind, in a grotto, sleeps
in the dark the Aztec
heritage.

(lovingly)

It's now your heritage,
too. You're marrying an
Aztec girl.

ALFONSO

And how do you get in that
grotto ?

KARJA

The symbol of the Aztec's
is carved into the boulder.
You touch it.

ALFONSO

How does it look, the symbol?

732.

732.

733.

CLOSE :

733.

Karja points to an Aztec symbol, embroidered
on her gown.

Alfonso looks at it and examines it closely.
Then, he takes the diamond ring from his fin-
ger and reaches out for Karja's hand.

KARJA

(enchanted)

The ring ! At last it
is mine !

734. Alfonso takes her hand. But instead of putting the ring on her finger, his grip hardens, he pulls her forward and pushes her over the cliff. 734.
735. With a scream Karja falls down the cliff -- 735.
736. Karja, falling down and hitting a protruding rock on the cliff wall from where she falls into the depth. 736.
737. Alfonso saw Karja vanish. Now he jumps away from the cliff, far back to safety. He turns and runs -- 737.
738. -- to the horses, unhitches them and slaps Karja's horse on the rump so that the frightened horse gallops away. He jumps on his horse, spurs it and leaves the scene of the murder in the opposite direction from where he came with Karja. 738.
739. Alfonso in a wild gallop races away. 739.

SCENE 151 :

STEEP WALL OF THE CLIFF

EXT : DAY

740.

Karja, in her fall down the cliff could get hold of the roots of a bush which had saved her from falling to her death. Desperately, she clings to it.

740.741.

CLOSE :

Her face reveals the horror of the sudden fall but also the horror of realization that she had loved a murderer. In a few seconds she fell from a Heaven of happiness into the hell of reality.

741.742.

Now, she needs all her strength. But being an Indian girl, she manages to pull herself up until her feet find some footing on the rock. She is out of breath and looks around for help. And to her surprise she sees a rope dangling down from the cliff, it's end sinking slowly down. She reaches out and gets hold of the rope. She looks up. But she cannot see who holds the rope.

742.