

Opening on our heroine AMY looking rather worse for wear in a police interceptor on the side of an empty stretch of highway, a tow truck and ambulance behind the interceptor. We gather there's been an accident. As MARSHALL MCLUHAN drives her back to town we FADE TO a Yaqui Indian settlement outside Tucson Arizona, circa 2001. Our hero THE MAN is a doctoral candidate in anthropology living amongst the Yaqui. He has a personal relationship with an old shaman named MAGUI, who on his death-bed proclaims to The Man that people only discover their true purpose by taking risks.

Amy meanwhile is blackmailed by McLuhan for sex. We're not sure what he has on her, other than it has to do with The Man. McLuhan forces the local owner of a diner COOKIE to rehire Amy, and warns Cookie that she is his property. She secretly visits a garage where she combs through a vintage Marauder with a mangled front end to retrieve a gun, discovering some clues to The Man's past. She tells Cookie that if he helps her get free of McLuhan she'll be his girlfriend.

The Man undergoes a Yaqui ritual in which he takes a large dose of Peyote and has a vision, which we do not see initially, in which he undergoes death and rebirth. He says goodbye to his Yaqui FRIENDS and returns to Berkeley. He visits his PARENTS and tells them he is ready to finish his thesis, and they celebrate.

One night Cookie and McLuhan catch Amy in the garage trying to fix the Marauder's front end. It comes out the two men have unbeknownst to Amy come to a sort of mutual agreement for joint slave-ownership of Amy. Seems her plan to have them kill each other backfired. Badly. She agrees, but only if they let her continue to fix the car, otherwise she is prepared to go to jail, and they agree to the deal, mainly because they think she doesn't know the first thing about cars. That night she dreams about The Man, and somehow she channels part of his vision.

Back at Berkeley, The Man is confronted by the advising committee chairperson for his PhD, a DR. HUXLEY. She claims his drug use has rendered his study's results useless, and particularly his subsequent thesis, that the individual in our society lacks the sense of purpose and community that exists in indigenous societies like the Yaqui. The Man argues that to rediscover an authentic humanity we need to destroy the endless procession of personas we have invented so we can rediscover our true Selves, and Dr. Huxley unceremoniously revokes his candidacy, and urges him to seek psychiatric care.

Back with The Man watching his farm-house bungalow burn to the ground, the flames igniting the surrounding fir trees. He has his PhD thesis in his hand, which we presume is the last thing he is going to toss on the funeral pyre of his life. He says goodbye to the past.

One night Amy hosts a party at the garage and unveils for Cookie and McLuhan the Marauder's rebuilt front end. Then she pulls out the gun and shoots Cookie in the balls. McLuhan warns her of the consequences of violence, "Speakin' from experience, you don't wanna pull that trigger." She reminds him it's too late for good advice, and shoots him in the heart. She then stuffs their bodies in the trunk of the Marauder and hits the road.

Finally, Amy uses the clues she has managed to dig out from the Marauder and her dreams to recover his PhD thesis from his parents. She uses it to trace The Man's path, literally and figuratively, towards his becoming the proverbial 'killer on the road', and in voice over she shares her thoughts... "We and our guns deserve each other. And on some level we know it is just that this is so. Once upon a time I fell in love... and then..."

# THE RISE

AMY and THE MAN set out on parallel paths, he in the past and she into the future, he evolving into a killer, she yet to be determined, for as Darwin said, every new species rises as a response to a **NEW REALITY**.

VINCENT GALE

JORDANA LARGY

"Still WEIRD, but in a very GOOD way!" Variety

"The critics agree that THE FALL gives birth to THE RISE" Variety Fall

THE TRUTH WON'T SET YOU FREE

# THE RISE

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