

OPENING CREDITS come across the SCREEN -- White letters with a black backdrop.

The CREDITS give way to a black screen and small BRIGHT STARS appear, filling the screen to create the night sky.

CAMERA beings to PAN down to reveal a vast and broad JUNGLE landscape illuminated by the biggest and brightest MOON. This is the world we become involved in -- The AFRICAN JUNGLE.

The CAMERA continues it's journey over the trees eventually swooping in on a cut out amongst the healthy wildlife. A single SILVERBACK GORILLA sits staring out above the land that lies below him. This is TITUS, the Alpha SilverBack of his tribe and the largest tribe for miles of jungle habitat. In this moment he is calm and serene -- at one with the night sky and wind that wrestles the leaves surrounding him.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN on TITUS... making its way to a single piercing eyeball that fills the frame.

We see what TITUS sees -- Two Gorillas sitting in the same exact spot, looking out over the land.

He blinks.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT - THE PAST - FLASHBACK.

The black screen gives way to light, then goes black again.

The black screen gives way to light... this time completely.

We make out the MOON shining bright above. A Female Gorilla face makes it's way into frame smiling brightly. This happiness comes from what she is looking at -- Her newborn baby. This beautiful Mother is KIBIBI, wife to TITUS and newly crowned "Queen" to the TRIBE.

KIBIBI

Why are you fighting sleep my  
little one?

TITUS

Because he takes after his father  
and is always up for a fight. It's  
in his Alpha blood.

KIBIBI

(giggles)

Wait till he finds out how heavy  
his Father "Alpha" sleeps.

TITUS

Ha!

KIBIBI

Where are the boys?

TITUS

Cleaning themselves before bed.

KIBIBI

And you left them alone?

TITUS

They have to learn to look after each other.

KIBIBI

As we all do.

TITUS

They're fine, Kibibi.

TITUS points between two LARGE LEAVES. Through them we see TWO young Gorillas -- BUBBA (eldest child to Titus and Kibibi) as he struggles to inspect the head of his brother, BOOBOO (middle child) for insects. BOOBOO is energetic and BUBBA is doing his best to keep him still, snatching a bug as it leaps from his head. BUBBA snacks on it.

TITUS

You see... they're fine. I've got my eye on them. You just worry about Beebee here.

TITUS runs the back of his finger against the cheek of BEEBEE.

KIBIBI

BeeBee... after his mama.

TITUS

My Queen...

Titus and Kibibi share a loving look. It is clear that these two are made for each other.

A baby belch comes out of BEEBEE to break up this beautiful moment. Both KIBIBI and TITUS giggle as everything with their newborn is precious. Maternal instinct kicks in and KIBIBI checks on her other two boys.

KIBIBI

Titus, what's that?

TITUS

What?

KIBIBI

Beyond the boys...

We see two small yellow tinted eyes through the trees that belong to a figure covered in the shadows. TITUS responds instinctually -- UPRIGHTS!

TITUS

(on the move)

Boys...

KIBIBI

BUBBA! BOOBOO!

Kibibi gathers herself and tucks BeeBee in tight. Time is precious.

We hear the sound of a rifle load a bullet. The shadowy figure is a poacher out for a trophy -- he and all Humans are referred to as UPRIGHTS to the TRIBE.

TITUS moves at an alarming pace -- adrenaline fueling his Alpha frame.

KIBIBI is close behind.

BUBBA and BOOBOO are aware something is wrong but not the severity of it all. BUBBA grabs BOOBOO's arm and holds tight as he drags BOOBOO towards TITUS.

TITUS

(still running)

To your Mother, boys. NOW!

TITUS blows right past them and towards the trees. HE snaps low hanging tree branches like tooth picks. HE pounds his chest to intimidate his enemy and alert the others of the Tribe.

BAM -- TITUS takes out one of the UPRIGHTS. Just then a loud squawk rings through the jungle and swoops in picking up the rifle by it's strap and carrying it off. We come to know this pilot as PEEPEE, an oddball Verreux Eagle Owl who finds comfort in the Tribe. PEEPEE winks to TITUS and flies off.

TITUS looks deeper into the jungle. He knows better, and one UPRIGHT usually means more to follow. He sees quick movement and shaking of Jungle leaves in the distance -- inaudible African dialect pairs it. He turns, and heads back to his family.

BUBBA and BOOBOO are with KIBIBI now and she struggles to keep a good pace with all three, but there is no quit in this Mother.

TITUS flys in next to her and scoops up the two oldest. They start to gain more speed.

SHOTS ring out. They change directions. The young ones are frightened and cannot hide it.

In a mountainous area above them we see other male gorillas pounding their chests -- sending signals to TITUS and KIBIBI that they are on the way.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

A Gorilla stands looking at TITUS and KIBIBI run in his direction in the distance. HE pounds his chest sending one last signal before turning and running into the jungle behind him.

This is ABIDEMI, another Silverback in the Tribe. He is striking in his presence and intensity, but leaves an impression that falls short compared to Titus.

ABIDEMI makes his way to a circle of Gorillas that are readying themselves for sleep. In the center sits an elder Gorilla... This is PAPU -- Former head of the TRIBE before turning the crown over to his son, TITUS.

ABIDEMI

PAPU! Titus and Kibibi are in trouble. Uprights! And they need help.

PAPU

Let's go!

PAPU commands the other SILVERBACKS to get moving. It's time to defend.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS.

TITUS and KIBIBI move at an astonishing pace, each with child in arms. Suddenly a metallic snap is heard and a cry rings out.

KIBIBI tumbles to the ground barely holding on to BEEBEE as she does. Her hand is caught.

TITUS, ahead now by some paces, comes to a dead stop.

TITUS

Oh no...

He backtracks.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS.

KIBIBI struggles to wriggle free from the steel trap as she consoles her screeching young.

TITUS places BUBBA and BOOBOO down as he approaches.

TITUS

Kibibi...

KIBIBI

Get the boys to safety. There isn't much time.

TITUS

I'm not leaving you. I'll stay and fight.

KIBIBI

You cannot risk harm to my boys, Titus. I will not allow it. Get them to the others and come back for me.

TITUS

They heard our call... I must at least try.

TITUS inspects the contraption. He pounds at his chest trying to scare it. He touches the steel -- jumps back. It doesn't react. KIBIBI pulls but cannot break free, it's digging in deeper the more she struggles. TITUS is frantic and enraged.

KIBIBI

TITUS! You must listen to me. Please, get my boys out of here and come back for me.

TITUS

No!... no.

KIBIBI

You once told me that you would do anything for your Queen... You must do this, Titus.

Tears begin to well up in his eyes. BUBBA makes his way to his mother.

BUBBA

Mama...

KIBIBI

It's ok, Bubba. Mama's ok.

KIBIBI gives one last look to Titus as if to say "please, my love."

A single tear falls from TITUS' eye...and with that he is filled with determination. He swoops up the three little ones and heads off. Time is precious and he shows no sign of letting a second slip passed him.

EXT. JUNGLE - SOME DISTANCE AWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Titus navigates the jungle with swift precision. A familiar figure appears above. It's PEEPEE, who has returned to help Titus. Titus and Peepee catch each others attention, then Peepee breaks off to the right guiding Titus to the others.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS.

Abidemi, Tayta, and a few others make their way through the jungle with Papu close behind.

They finally meet up with Titus who swiftly hands off the boys to Papu and does an about-face.

TITUS

Let's move! Hurry.

The gang falls in behind him and they are all gone in seconds.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS.

Titus leads the pack with Abidemi and Tayta flanking each side.

A loud shot rings out. This fuels Titus even more.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS.

Four UPRIGHTS surround KIBIBI as she lies still. They are poorly dressed and all carry rifles. The Jungle is eerily quiet for all the chaos that has gone down.

Thumping in the distance can be heard and felt. The UPRIGHTS look around -- signaling that something is happening.

Just as they are about to make moves -- TITUS swoops in and takes one out. ABIDEMI right behind takes out a second.

UPRIGHT 3 takes aim at ABIDEMI, while UPRIGHT 4 cowers behind. TAYTA appears behind these last two and grabs them both by the shirt collar -- tossing them through the air, crashing into trees.

The melee has stopped. The jungle returns to it's silent peace.

EXT. JUNGLE - SAME.

Titus walks his way over to Kibibi. He can barely believe what is before him. We watch as this once full heart empties before us. Titus sits next to his Queen... placing a hand on her.

The others gather around. They are all heart broken by what has just transpired. They form a perimeter around their Tribe leader and their fallen family member.

Titus sits like a statue -- eyes locked on Kibibi.

Papu arrives -- slowly approaches his son. Keeping a good distance from the two, he sits. A vigil of gorillas slowly fill the surrounding radius.

CAMERA locks in on TITUS. We go from night to day, back to night and once more into day.

EXT. JUNGLE - NEXT DAY.

Papu gathers branches rich with leaves and carries them past an older Female Gorilla -- RIA (Papu's wife, mother of Titus, ultimate caretaker) hands off some fruit (bananas, etc.) to Papu, placing it on top of his collection.

From this we reveal the two little ones BOOBOO and BEEBEE playing with each other. BUBBA sits off away from them and looks out in sadness. RIA goes over to console him. He is old enough to know that something is wrong.

EXT. JUNGLE - SAME.

Papu approaches Titus placing all the food gathered in a pile behind him... we see a large stack of untouched rations brought to Titus. He hasn't moved one bit.

PAPU

Titus... You must eat something.

(Beat)

And we must move or we are putting  
the whole tribe in danger.

TITUS

Go on without me.

PAPU

You know that we cannot do that.  
You are the Tribe leader.

TITUS

Then stay. I am not going anywhere.

Just then RIA walks over.

RIA

My son, my son. Please think of  
your children-

TITUS

Our... children.

RIA

We will not forget Kibibi... ever.  
But your children need their father-

PAPU

And our tribe, it's leader.

Papu grabs Titus' arm.

PAPU

Come.

Titus quickly pulls back -- lashing out.

TITUS

Ok!

(beat)

Give me a moment alone. Tell the  
others to move ahead.

Papu and Ria slowly back away. Their boy now a man they are  
unfamiliar with.

Titus brings his face in close to Kibibi. One last kiss for  
his Queen. He then turns and goes.

FADE OUT.

Title card: SEASONS HAVE PASSED