

Friday Tigers (Ngā Taika o te Ramere)

by

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1. OPENING SEQUENCE

Fade up on a lined piece of paper.

MONDAY appears on the bottom corner of the paper. Then the word RAAPA is tagged over MONDAY

Fade in playful music- 'Only in my dreams' by Nat Baldwin as an image is sketched on the paper in fast motion of a train track and a big spider and a small one along side it. The spiders start moving as the image morphs into real life: The spiders are a blonde mother and daughter dressed in costume: ANA, and NELLIE, (3), walking to a place to cross.

2. EXT. WEST AUCKLAND TRAIN STATION- MORN DAY 1 (MON/RAAPA)

They wait for the train as people steal glances at them. The train arrives and they get on.

3. INT. TRAIN- MORNING

ANA and NELLIE, ignoring the outside world, naming colours and things out the window. They are having a great time!

4. EXT. KOHANGA REO - MORNING

ANA and NELLIE walk through to the Kohanga Reo. We hear kids singing- class has started. NELLIE hugs ANA goodbye then she runs inside. ANA watches for a beat, her expression hardens. She ducks in to the children's toilet.

5. INT. KOHANGA BATHROOM- MORNING

ANA takes out a pair of jeans and a tee and changes from her costume, exposing a beautiful Maori tattoo on her inner forearm. She opens a cupboard, stuffing her costume inside.

6. EXT. KOHANGA/UNI/MED SCHOOL - MORNING

ANA exits making sure she is not in view of the children. Her phone beeps. She checks it, silences it and stuffs it in her back pocket. She runs up the road to the Medical school.

7. INT. MAIN LECTURE HALL- MORNING

The packed class has started. ANA sneaks in.

Three rows from the back we meet ADAM, Maori, mid twenties, wearing thick rimmed glasses. He looks up on her arrival, smiles and moves his books. He had saved a space for her.

She suppresses a giggle as she sits down, catching a glimpse of his super short denim cut offs and fluoro high-tops. He hands her notes of what she missed.

ANA
(whispering)
You didn't need to-

Under the notes, he has drawn a vampire that looks exactly like their lecturer sucking the life out of a boy- him.

ADAM
Traffic again?

ANA
Yeah...

Her phone vibrates from her back pocket. She checks her phone under the desk. It reads: 6 missed calls from "MIKE" and one reminder: KOHANGA FEES DUE.

ANA
Fuck

She texts: "class.not avoiding u.nellie fine.talk weeknd?"

Her phone vibrates. "NO. TONITE"

ANA
Shit.

Everyone is looking. The teacher looks at her expectantly.

LECTURER
(repeating)
Can you name the branches of the trigeminal nerve?

ANA
(flustered, flicking through her folder) um yip, yes. Ah ophthalmic and mandibular and...and um...there's a third-

(CONTINÚA)

LECTURER

-Being *Tri* germinal, yes there is.

The class laughs.

ANA

(quietly)

Maxillary?

LECTURER

(not hearing her)

The third branch is Maxillary. And
9: The cranial nerve that supplies
the muscles of facial expression
is? Come on, this is easy.

ANA turns off her phone and puts it in her backpack. ADAM
has reached over and tagged EGG over the lecturer's head.
She smiles.

STUDENT

Facial nerve-

ADAM

(To the student- for Ana's
benefit)

You're a facial nerve.

ANA giggles. They return their attention to the lecture.

We focus on the blank page in Adam's book. Sped up- we watch
the entire page fill up entirely with doodles. Seemingly
random but quite a work of art when the class is
up. ANA has taken pages of notes. She puts her book
away.

ANA

I can't believe you'll remember th-

ADAM

(sheepishly closing his book)

Well, this helps-

The teacher yells over the noisy students leaving.

LECTURER

Assignments in by Friday at 3.
Stamped and in my tray. No extens-

ADAM

(awkwardly)

Hey wanna study now for lunch-

ANA
-Oh. I can't. I'm studying with-

ADAM
-Oh, um, well, I'll see you in lab?

ANA
We have lab tonight?!

ADAM
Yeah, Monday nights this semester.

ANA looks worried.

ADAM
(laughing awkwardly)
You got a date or something?

ANA
What? Uh, no..I have to....thanks!

She holds up his picture as she races off.

8. EXT. AUCKLAND DOMAIN- DAY

ANA and NELLIE, as spiders sitting in a sunny spot in the domain. They are eating sandwiches from Nellie's lunchbox.

This exact image becomes a sketch on top of the real-life image. Then an eraser starts to rub it off and the whole images disintegrates into:

9. INT. LAB. EARLY EVE

ADAM is outside the lab. He is drawing. He checks his watch. It is 6:21. He goes back to his book. It is the image of him but with the red circle and line through it representing NO.

10. EXT. HOME - EVENING

ANA and NELLIE, as Spiders, turn in to their driveway to find MIKE (late twenties) waiting on the doorstep. On his forearm we see the same tattoo as Ana's.

He finishes his cigarette.

NELLIE
Daddy!

She runs to him.

MIKE
My baby!

ANA
I've got a big assignment due. Can
this wait-

MIKE
Where's the pram I got-

ANA
(lying)
Broken

Mike smiles at ANA as he moves inside with an excited
NELLIE.

ANA
I don't have anything, Mike.

11. INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Dinner is over. ANA, as a spider, is clearing the dishes.

MIKE enters the kitchen

MIKE
She's down

She finally looks at him

ANA
There's more macaroni if you-
Mike has moved up behind her.

ANA
Mike, I have an assignment...
He takes her waist from behind.

ANA
You shouldn't be here.
He kisses her neck

MIKE
Baby, I'm clean.

ANA
I said a year.

She goes to stop him but he stops her. His hand moves under her spider skirt.

MIKE

I miss you. I miss Nellie.

His cheek is pressed against hers. Their breathing is audible. She grabs hold of what she can on the table.

MIKE

I love you, baby.

She breathes heavier. She breaks from his grasp, turns and kisses him. He kisses her back forcefully. He lifts up the skirt of her outfit and lifts her up against the sink.

ANA

I can't keep doing this-

MIKE undoes his jeans. She pulls him closer. It is intense, passionate.

ANA

Oh god. Are you gonna...?

MIKE

-Yeah

ANA

-Mike. Mike!

She pushes him away just in time.

MIKE

(Out of breath)
You'll wake the baby.

He kisses her neck.

ANA

Can't stay. Don't wanna confuse her

MIKE

-you're so beautiful.

ANA

I'm tired. I need you to go.

She pulls down her skirt, and leaves the kitchen.

12. INT. HALL. KITCHEN/LOUNGE- EVENING- LATER

ANA, freshly showered, moves in to the kitchen cautiously. She opens Nellie's school bag pulling out her empty lunch box and finding a letter. She opens it. KOHANGA FEES ARE OVERDUE. She goes in to the lounge to the bookcase and reaches behind it where she looks for an envelope. It's not there. She panics. She continues searching but only finds a solo \$20 bill tucked right behind. Nothing else.

ANA
Fucking bastard!

13. INT/EXT. LOUNGE/HALL WAY - NIGHT

She rushes to the front door throwing it open, knowing MIKE is long gone. She stands there helplessly. ANA moves slowly back in to the lounge. She stands still- the calm before the storm. She breaks, she fights it then sobs uncontrollably.

BLACK- RAHINA reappears in the corner and turns into RATU

14. INT. LOUNGE - MORNING

ANA wakes on the couch to find NELLIE standing over her dressed in a little Wolf costume. ANA pulls her daughter in for a big squeeze. NELLIE squeals.

15. EXT. TRAIN TRACKS/TRAIN - MORN DAY 2 (TUES/RATU)

The same sweet music as we see still sketched images that move effortlessly into each other of ANA and NELLIE:

1. Walking alongside the tracks

2. On the train

Exactly the same as yesterday but today they are Wolves.

16. INT. MAIN LECTURE HALL - MORNING- DAY 2

ANA, back in casual dress, clocks Adam as she enters, who has saved her seat with his jacket. ANA chooses to sit in a different seat. Adam stares at her for a moment, confused, before going back to the lecture.

The same music begins again as we move to his blank paper. The word RATU appears on the paper but turns into RAAPA.

17. EXT. TRAIN - MORNING- DAY 3 (WED/RAAPA)

A sketch of two lizards is drawn on the lined page. Before it is finished it morphs into ANA and NELLIE in Lizard costumes on the train.

RAPARE replaces RAAPA.

18. EXT. AUCKLAND DOMAIN- DAY 4 (THURS/RAPARE)

ANA and NELLIE in BEE costumes eating sandwiches.

19. EXT/INT. HOME - KITCHEN- NIGHT

ANA appears from Nellie's room. Closing the door gently, she takes off the wings of her bee costume. She looks at the messy kitchen. She takes a moment, head in hand. She looks up suddenly and walks to the front door and locks it.

20. INT. HOME - LOUNGE - NIGHT- A BIT LATER

ANA sits working on the couch with her lap top on lap. Notes are spilled everywhere. She hears something outside and looks up. She goes to the door opens it.

21. EXT. HOME - NIGHT

ANA moves outside, cautiously.

ANA
Mike?

She walks around the house.

ANA
Mike. I can't do this.

She moves around in the dark. We can see the other figure.

ANA
You can't keep doing this to us...

The figure comes forward but you still can't see his face.

ANA
Leave me alone!

ADAM comes forward looking concerned.

(CONTINÚA)

ADAM
Ana, it's me.

ANA screams.

ADAM
I'm sorry. Don't be-

ANA
-Adam! What the fuck are you doing?

He doesn't know what to say.

ANA
Adam!?

ADAM
I know. I'm sorry. Do you have a
kid?

She storms back to the house. She is pissed off. He follows.

22. INT. HOME- HALLWAY - NIGHT

ADAM stands at the door. ANA turns.

ANA
What are you doing?

ADAM
I feel...I can't leave like this-

ANA
Oh for fucks sakes. Shut the door
and keep your voice down. We've
probably already woken Nellie.

ADAM
Nellie?

ANA catches a glimpse of her Bee costume.

ANA
Ah shit.

ADAM
I'm actually severely allergic to
bees. Throat closes up. The works.

ANA looks at him.

ADAM
True story.

It's the first time she has seen him out of school. Hood up. Glasses off. She looks at him for a moment then moves in to the lounge. ADAM tries to hide his smile and follows her in.

INT. LOUNGE. LATE NIGHT- PAST MIDNIGHT.

ADAM with glasses back on, reads from her laptop. ANA is in PJs and a hoodie. There are empty chocolate wrappers and tea cups on the table. He takes his glasses off, rubs his eyes.

ADAM
Nearly as good as mine.

ANA
Thank god I write better than you,
or they'd think you helped me.

ADAM doesn't move. He is looking at her.

ANA
You should go.

ADAM
So, are you married? Or...

ANA
(sighs)
Nellie's Dad?... Nah. He's...gone.

Neither moves. Finally ANA stands, breaking the silence.

ANA
You should go, Adam.

He gets up, collecting up his things slowly.

ADAM
What are you tomorrow?

ANA
Sorry?

ADAM
Wednesday Lizard? Thursday Bees...

ANA
You know?(laughs) um... what's
tomorrow? Friday? Oh yeah Nga
Taika. It's her favourite.

(CONTINÚA)

ADAM
Taika?

ANA.
Yeah always Nga Taika o te Ramere.

ADAM doesn't understand.

ANA
Taika, you know...O te Paraire
-Ramere

ADAM
Taika...Oh Tiger! Friday Tiger!

ANA
Oh my god, you didn't know that.
Genius boy didn't know something!

She is teasing him. She is laughing. She looks so happy in this moment. In his defence, Adam leans in and kisses her strongly. ANA is surprised, but then she kisses him back.

Suddenly, a punch knocks him on the right side of his face. He nearly falls, stunned.

23. EXT. HOME - NIGHT

Before Adam regains his balance, MIKE, sweaty and high, pulls him from the doorway and throws him to the ground.

ANA
Mike, what are you doing??!

MIKE
Who the fuck is this creep?

He goes to kick him but Adam rolls away and Mike loses his footing, falling clumsily on top of him. They do an awkward rumble roll on the floor, both boys getting in some rather lame punches. It is clear that neither are fighters.

ANA has come down trying to break it up.

ADAM
(To Mike)
What is your problem?

ANA
Go home Adam! NOW!

MIKE
(To ANA)
You're a fucking slut.

ADAM moves in to MIKE to punch him but ANA intercepts again.
Mike begins to laugh at him almost maniacally.

ADAM
Dude, what's wrong with
you? (To ANA) What's wrong with
him?

ANA
(to Adam)
Adam, go home, OK!? This is none of
your fucking business.
(to Mike)
Get inside.

ADAM slowly backs away. MIKE gives him a smug look and heads inside. ANA follows. She looks back for to ADAM. He stares at her for a beat and turns away before she closes the door.

24. INT. HOME. KITCHEN- NIGHT

MIKE opens the fridge. One hand on his jaw where he was hit.

MIKE
Who's the fucking doctor nerd?

ANA
You don't get it do you?

MIKE grabs a beer.

ANA
You fucking bastard. You're wasted.
You stole from your baby.

MIKE looks at her saying nothing. He moves toward her.

ANA
Don't.

MIKE laughs her warning off, and grabs her.

ANA
You don't see your daughter again
until you are completely -

MIKE releases his grip slightly.

(CONTINÚA)

MIKE

But. I can pay you back. I can get-

ANA

I don't want anything. I'll see
your mum. We can talk through-

MIKE starts to panic.

MIKE

-But what about us?

ANA looks at him resolutely, calm.

MIKE

I'll quit. I'll go back in.
Properly. If I'm clean 12-you said-

He is desperate.

ANA

-I'll call the police. I will every
time until I know you're better.

MIKE starts to cry. Suddenly a little boy again.

ANA

No more, Mikey.

MIKE knows this is it.

25. EXT. MT EDEN ROAD- NIGHT

Adam is walking slowly home. He kicks a rubbish bin over.

26. INT/EXT. HOME- NIGHT

Mike tries to grab and plead with ANA one last time. She barely moves, staring at him directly in the eyes. He finally leaves. She shuts the door. We stay with her.

27. INT. ANA AND NELLIE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

ANA lies down next to a sleeping NELLIE. She looks at her daughter sleeping peacefully. She takes a deep breath, closes her eyes and falls asleep.

BLACK and SILENCE

28. INT. MAIN LECTURE HALL- MORNING

ANA arrives as class is starting. ADAM's seat is empty. She takes her seat. There is a murmur through the class which stops the lecturer and turns her head. ADAM is standing at the door, dressed as a Tiger. A make shift costume, complete with whiskers.

ANA is stunned but nearly bursts out laughing. She moves her bag from the seat next to her, but he walks past and takes the same seat as she has done. She continues to watch him until he finally turns to her. He doesn't quite smile but he gently tugs at one of his whiskers, like it's a moustache. She mimics his action back on her imaginary whisker.

He turns to his page. The lecture continues. His page begins to fill up with the outline of three tigers eating sandwiches sitting in a park with the sky tower behind them.

RAMERE is tagged in the bottom corner as the picture becomes more detailed.

FIN