When two male heirs of a powerful pride come of age, they’re exiled from their family and must survive as nomads. Cast into the wilderness, they struggle to hunt and starvation is a daily threat. Battles with pride males teach harsh lessons and they must rely on each other. Can they beat the odds and win a kingdom?
Filmed over a 30 month period, this film follows two male lions, Tau and Banda, as they are brought up within the powerful Xakanaka pride in the wilds of Moremi National Park, Botswana.

Buffalo are the centre of life for the Xakanaka pride and the pride’s lionesses are in charge of hunting. The brothers aren’t burdened with this responsibility at all in their early months - the daily skirmishes with the buffalo are moments of fun and daring, places to test and hone their skills as hunters. In their games and adventures, we see that Tau is the risk taker, always eager to test himself to the limits, while Banda is cautious, preferring to watch and wait.

But childhood doesn’t last forever and it’s a quick step up to adulthood when Tau and Banda are expelled from their family unit and forced to survive alone. They enter the most dangerous life-phase of male lions - nomads with no territory to call home.

Meals are no longer guaranteed and buffalo is off the menu completely. The brothers live in constant fear. Everywhere is enemy territory; every piece of land claimed by bigger, stronger males. The film reveals how they make a life for themselves as outlaws, moving between territories, hiding in the shadows and keeping a low profile. They are hunted and chased as intruders. Food, when they find it, must be stolen or scavenged.

Tau’s misjudged bravado causes many disasters: a vicious fight with a mature pride male leaves him badly injured. During the face-off with this stranger, Tau refuses to back down and suffers a painful bite to his groin. And when he’s a little older, his raging hormones lead both brothers into terrible danger when Tau follows a lioness for an entire day. He gets completely lost and by nightfall he’s still unable to find his brother. His anguished roars resound through the bush and draw unwanted attention.

But slowly time passes and the brothers’ scruffy neck-ruffs develop into impressive dark manes. Tau gains the physical strength to match his attitude and now when an opportunity presents itself, the brothers are ready to act. A young lioness in estrus proves to be irresistible and together Tau and Banda attack and chase away the rival male vying for her affections.

This successful pairing is the turning point for the brothers. They’re finally able to emulate their fathers, claim a territory and start a pride of their own. Life has come full circle and their strong genes will ensure the continuation of the Xakanaka legacy.

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