

THE RAINFOREST BROUGHT THEM HOME

Story by Earl D. James
Adapted from his award-winning novel
Bella Coola: The Rainforest Brought Them Home

Screenplay by Earl D. James and Karen Jean Walker
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A clash between spirit and greed in the Canadian rainforest puts American ex-pats and Native protectors of the planet in jeopardy. Arrests, murders, and hearts torn between love for each other and love for the earth create life-changing choices in a world turned upside down from environmental degradation and moral failure. An American ex-pat's obsession with protecting British Columbia's ancient rainforest - and his spiritual quest to avert a global environmental meltdown - puts his life and his relationship to the woman he loves at great risk.

Synopsis

The Rainforest Brought Them Home, set in 1998 in the US and Canada, brings Peter and Sarah face-to-face with decisions each must make about moving forward after thirty years of activism.

Peter joins forces with Norval - his mentor from Nuxalk Nation, the tribe indigenous to the Bella Coola, BC region - to oppose logging anywhere in Nuxalk Nation's traditional ancestral lands. One region, the Skowquiltz Valley, is sacred to Norval and Nuxalk Nation's Hereditary Chiefs, who preserve the spiritual and cultural traditions of the tribe. To Peter, its ancient and pristine ecology represent the epitome of the creative power of nature unmolested by humankind's greed.

As Peter becomes more and more obsessed with protecting the Skowquiltz, Sarah's inner life is making demands upon her that conflict with where Peter is headed. Dreams reveal her inner turmoil, and the loss of a baby in a miscarriage when she and Peter were first married comes back to haunt her. That, and her conflicted feelings about leaving her homeland in the US resurface strongly and she feels she lost part of her soul when they left the US and moved to BC in 1968.

Sarah and Peter reunite with lifelong friend Ted and his new love Anna in a crucial scene in Eastern Kentucky, where Ted's clients are opposing clear-cut logging for a proposed chip mill. Bobby, a Cherokee activist and his partner Annetta, a Cherokee spiritual healer, become very influential in Peter and Sarah's lives. Annetta takes Sarah on a shamanistic journey to help her recover from soul loss.

The story culminates with Peter's trek through the Skowquiltz to join Norval and Norval's teenage protégés Duran and Roy, not knowing that Roy and Duran have been murdered deep in this forest, nor what dangerous forces await him.