

# Tierra Del Fuego

by

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Christmas morning, 1968. JULIAN's young MOTHER runs away from home. She leaves with only a backpack of clothing and a fistful of cash she's stolen from her rich father. She hitchhikes around the country, eventually winding up at a MYSTERIOUS DESERT CAMP. The spirit of the late sixties captures everyone, and she meets RICHARD POWELL (later known as THE PREACHER). One night, they sleep together by the campfire.

After her parents find her, they bring her back home, where she discovers that she's pregnant. Several months later, she gives birth to Julian. She becomes increasingly protective of her baby, afraid her parents will make her give him up for adoption.

She refuses to let him out of her arms, always... This lack of motion weakens her already frail body as the strong baby grows into a toddler. Julian should be crawling and learning the hard way how to walk, but his mother will not let go of him.

|| *One Christmas morning, a terrible fire is caused by an electrical short. The only survivor in the family is Julian, who is rescued by the family's maid. His mother and grandparents die... (???)* ||

Change setting to a large urban city (i.e., NYC or DC). Nix the arrest subplot. Julian feels most comfortable among the large buildings—he's agoraphobic. He loves to be in crowds, on the subway, in the middle of a large group of people, etc., but never alone. When left alone, he regresses, remembering his mother and the fire. His images are twisted, distorted from the mind of a three-year old.

Julian starts getting MARY's letter and calls after he is featured on a Robin Leach-sort of program. It mentions Julian's donations to animal rights causes and extreme environmental views. The Preacher arranges for DR. QUINN to invite Julian to speak in front of his class at a local college.

As the plot with Mary furthers along, Julian meets ROSE, a young cancer patient, at a nightclub. She tells him that he is special in the eyes of God and that she will see him in heaven someday.

The trip to California is Julian's first ever voyage outside of the city. He is afraid, but comforted by the fact that Mary will be at the other end of his journey. He does not ever begin to suspect that The Preacher is his father, but he is always mindful of

discovering who actually is. Mary is fairly sure, but is torn between telling Julian and not. The Preacher does not tell Julian.

Once in San Diego, Julian and Mary meet with The Preacher. Julian is slightly uncomfortable in the smaller city. There are no large buildings to comfort him, to hold him. It is an awkward situation. The Preacher tries to convince Julian of his mission, and Mary finds herself falling in love with Julian. Julian himself is starting to finally become wary of everything, but still gives them money when they ask for it.

At The Preacher's church, Julian is presented as the messiah to the congregation, who receive him enthusiastically. They begin to bow in his presence when his wounds are revealed. From this, Julian is convinced. He begins to have strange encounters with people on the streets, the start of a cult following that never happens (foreshadowing for his ultimate journey).

That night, Julian and Mary consummate their relationship at his hotel. She stays with him rather than go home to her abusive husband, CHARLES. The next day, The Preacher learns what they've done and excoriates both of them.

At the end of the story, Julian, Mary, and The Preacher drive out to the desert. Julian's wounds re-open and he feels a light shining on him. He leaves the two behind as he walks, barefoot, south, toward Mexico. Mary tries to follow Julian, but The Preacher holds her back. As Julian walks away, the landscape blurs to white and we hear Mary's final voice over:

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MARY (V.O.)

He said he was borne by fire, and he shall die by fire. He leaves us now an incomplete man, more so than before he knew me. He is looking for himself and his own land. He will walk south, past the lands that need him until he reaches the land that he needs: the Land of Fire.

We hold on Julian from Mary and The Preacher's perspective as he walks on. Tiny splotches of red, his bloody footprints, follow him on the road. As he disappears from our sight he becomes little more than a dark, tiny pin-prick on a white sheet of paper.

FADE OUT.

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