

off the fence.

Lions Rule, The

3 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Death In The Glade

The Glade is a paradise in the desiccated plains of Ruaha. Water is here all year round. This bounty spawns strange relationships, like the pact that exists between a baboon and a lion family who, against all natural instincts, live in harmony. But peace in the Glade is shattered when thousands of buffalo arrive to drink. They are followed by the biggest pride in all of Ruaha National Park, The Baobab pride. While the Baobab pride hunts the herd inside the Glade, another pride arrives on the scene. They are the Njaa - a pride of drifters - always following the buffalo herd. The herd is their territory and they will fight any lion that dares to poach their prey. The Glade becomes a war zone. Before this day is over, a horrible event will leave one pride in exile, one victorious and another waiting for the next disaster to unfold.

2. Hunting Giants

The Glade is a paradise where there is always water, a place where strange things happen. As the dry continues in Ruaha, herds of elephants arrive in the Glade. They dig deep into the sand with their trunks to tap the cleanest waters. The Glade pride copy the elephants - unusual behavior, but not in the Glade. Life carries on in its idiosyncratic way, but soon things may change. Adult male lions are on the horizon, they're following the buffalo. The Njaa pride have already spotted the males. The Njaa are drifters, they consider the buffalo their territory. But even these fearless lionesses will not hunt while the lions are about - and now the males are on their way to the Glade.

3. Bloodlines

Change comes to the Glade. An adult male arrives to resume his positions as leader, and father. The cubs grow quickly - there is one male amongst them. When the cub reaches adolescence he begins to play dangerous games, trying to mate with female members of the pride. This will not be tolerated. The leader evicts the young male from the Glade in a short but violent display of authority. The exile's journey into adulthood is fraught with peril. Alone and desperate, hunger drives the teenager to become a scavenger. When he meets another young male exile from the

Baobab Pride, his fortunes seem to change. Together they kill their first buffalo and form a bond for life. The young males know the only way they can survive is to follow the buffalo herds. Their journey takes them into the Greater Ruaha River valley, far from their homes. It is here that the Glade male meets a lioness - and that's when the trouble really begins.

Cubs are growing up fast; learning to hunt and kill. Life in the Glade remains charmed, until one of the young lions begins to change. Fathers turn on young males when they reach adolescence – expel them from paradise. To survive, the young male from the Glade must join with other exiles. But staying alive in a kingdom of lions is a challenge that few can hope to overcome. It's a jungle out there. The only security is in the pride.