

Echoes: The Dead Land

By

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No opening credits, no title. POV A MAD RUSH through the NIGHT, through FOREST UNDERBRUSH. FEAR is HEARD coming out in panicked GRUNTS and WHIMPERS with a hurried, hyperventilated BREATH.

EXT - FOREST - NIGHT

There is SHEER and COMPLETE TERROR on the FACE of the WOMAN as she RUNS through the woods, NEARLY NAKED and BAREFOOT. BRIGHT FLASH of LIGHT behind her obscures her as it flares the lens. Another FLIGHT OF TERROR, a MAN this time, RUNNING WILDLY, LOOKING over his SHOULDER. A THIRD PERSON, another MAN, RUNNING, as if from the devil himself.

POV

Still RUNNING through the woods. Then a BRIGHT, BLINDING LIGHT obscures everything, a FULLTHROATED SCREAM heard that slowly ECHOES OFF as we-

DISSOLVE TO:

OPENING CREDITS

FADE IN:

INT. - OFFICE - DAY

FRANK the EXECUTIVE PRODUCER of Scary Spots is PACING back and forth, WAVING BOTH ARMS as he TALKS via Bluetooth device in his right ear. Bruce is standing a few feet away.

FRANK

Bullshit! No, NO, that's BULLSHIT!
You heard me!

(PAUSE)

Frank stops pacing and leans
against his desk, tilting his head
as he looks at Bruce.

FRANK

Yea, he just walked in, I'll talk
to ya later. (He hangs up the phone
and talks to Bruce) Have you seen
the numbers?

BRUCE

No. Are they a little low?

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

A little low? Those numbers would need a ladder to reach up and grab a snake by the balls!

BRUCE

I don't think a snake has balls, Frank.

FRANK

It's called making a point, Bruce! And if you guys filmed something like a snake with balls, we might actually get someone to watch the goddamn show!

BRUCE

We have an audience, Frank.

FRANK

You HAD an audience, Bruce!

BRUCE

Is it that bad?

FRANK

That was the network on the phone, their not happy.

BRUCE

What happened?

FRANK

Let's just say I'll taste cheap Italian knock-offs for a week because of how far they stuck their foot up my ass!

BRUCE

Really?

FRANK

Did you talk to Carol about going bra-less, like I asked?

BRUCE

She said she'll go bra-less if Sid starts wearing a thong.

FRANK

You mean he doesn't already?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Sid said he tried it once, but every time he took a step it made him giggle.

FRANK

Yeah, I know what he means.

BRUCE

What?

FRANK

Nothing!

(PAUSE)

Desperate times call for desperate measures, Bruce.

BRUCE

What do you mean?

FRANK

I mean unless you bring me footage that makes me wet myself, we'll be doing things differently on Scary Spots from now on! We may try it with your next episode.

BRUCE

I don't think Matt will go along with your idea.

FRANK

Scary Spots is no longer a simple webseries anymore, Bruce! You and Matt are employees of Scary Spots, Inc. and will be replaced by the network, if necessary! Do you understand?

BRUCE

Yea. So what do you suggest we do differently?

FRANK

Well, you're gonna have to start making shit happen. Fake it to make it. It's as simple as that!

BRUCE

Yea I think we can do that, just don't tell Matt or the others.

Frank dismisses Bruce with an impatient wave of a hand. Bruce turns around and walks out of the office, head down, moving slowly.

INT. - STUDIO HALLWAY - DAY

Bruce rubs his forehead with his right hand, eyes closed as he makes a phone call. Matt picks up the phone on the other side.

BRUCE

Yo Matt, I just got done with Frank. Its not good. We need something big and we need it right away. Tell me ya got something good. (Pause) Really? Sweet! Let's go.

Bruce hangs up the phone and leaves the office very excited. He's on his way to the offices of Scary Spots to meet the crew for their next episode taping.

EXT. - SCARY SPOTS OFFICE - DAY JUST A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE PHONE CALL.

Mike WALKS up to the FRONT DOOR and ENTERS.

INT. - SCARY SPOTS OFFICE - DAY

Matt is SITTING at a COMPUTER DESK when Mike ENTERS.

MATT

Hey, Mike...

MIKE

I think I have something for us to look into.

Matt TURNS AROUND in his CHAIR, suddenly INTERESTED.

MATT

Tell me.

MIKE

Ever hear of something called the Darrington Pass Incident?

MATT

No.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Back in 1985, five forest service employees were sent up into the Cascade Mountains to investigate reports of illegal logging-

MATT

I didn't there was such a thing as illegal logging.

MIKE

When they didn't come down out of the mountains, a search party was sent in. Their bodies were found a week later.

Matt LOOKS PROPERLY INTERESTED and CONCERNED, the way they had rehearsed it earlier.

MATT

What happened to them?

MIKE

No one knows, but there have been reports from hunters hearing screams coming from the area where the bodies were discovered.

Matt SITS BACK in his CHAIR.

MATT

Looks like we're heading for the mountains.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ROAD - DAY

The Scary Spots van is driving toward the Cascade Mountains.

INT. - RANGER STATION - DAY

The door opens. Matt and Bruce enter, pausing just inside the open doorway, looking in at the room, essentially an office with a heck of a view.

MATT

Anyone even here?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

I called ahead and we're supposed to pick up the shooting permit from someone named Ralph here.

(Checks watch) Right now.

MATT

(Loudly)

HELLO?

No response. Bruce takes a step forward, but Matt does not move, as if uneasy about the situation.

MATT

I don't know about this, Bruce.

BRUCE

We can't shoot without that permit, Matt.

MATT

I know.

Bruce moves farther into the room, looking around, at the large map of the area on the wall, frowning at seeing a RED CIRCLE marked. He steps toward the map, leaning forward.

BRUCE

That looks like where we are going.

MATT

What?

BRUCE

This red circle on the map.

MATT

Really.

BRUCE

Come take a look.

MATT

No, thanks. I'll stay right here.

Bruce turns to look back at Matt, a raised eyebrow marking his surprise at Matt's attitude.

BRUCE

I'm going to check the next room.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Are you sure you should do that?

BRUCE

What's wrong with you?

MATT

I don't know. This place doesn't...
feel right.

BRUCE

It feels like what it is to me: a
cheap office hit by government
cut-backs.

Seeing Matt appears to stand by his words not to venture further into the room, Bruce lets out a slight, annoyed sigh and walks toward a closed door across the room from the entrance. Bruce opens the door without hesitation and enters the next room, disappearing from sight. Matt cocks his head, trying to see into the next room without moving from his spot in the open entrance doorway.

BRUCE

(Off scene) Oh, wow!

MATT

What?

BRUCE

(Off scene) You have to come
see this!

Matt looks conflicted, almost taking a step forward, but shakes his head, not seeing the figure appear directly behind him.

INT. - BACK ROOM

Bruce is standing inside the room, a look of amazement on his face. Almost every square inch of space on the walls is covered with newspaper clippings, official looking reports, and photographs. It all concerns the missing 1985 group. He then hears Matt let out a YELP and Bruce quickly moves out of the back room.

INT. - RANGER STATION - SECONDS LATER

Bruce finds Matt standing with the RANGER, an older man in an obviously well-worn ranger uniform. The Ranger is in need of a shave, his face abloom with white whiskers, although he has a mild-mannered look.

RANGER

Didn't mean to scare you like that,
young man!

BRUCE

Are you Ralph?

The Ranger motions to a nameplate with a thumb.

RANGER

Seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Bruce walks up to shake the Ranger's hand. The Ranger pulls Bruce toward him closely.

RANGER

You shouldn't go up there, you
know! Bruce tries not to show his
discomfort as the Ranger continues
to grip his hand.

BRUCE

Why not?

RANGER

(Still gripping his hand)
Because that place is... bad!

MATT

What do you mean? The Ranger
finally lets Bruce's hand go and
turns toward Matt.

RANGER

You already know about the forest
service group from '85, but do you
know about the others?

BRUCE

Intrigued) What others?

The Ranger takes a step away from Bruce and Matt and looks down at his feet, shaking his head slightly, as if he told too much already.

(CONTINUED)

RANGER

Maybe I said too much already. They don't like it when I talk too much.

BRUCE

Who?

RANGER

I hear them at night. The things that live out there in the woods.

BRUCE

Okay! I think we'll sign those permits and be on our way now!

MATT

What do they say?

RANGER

Frightening things! They don't like us, you know.

MATT

Why not?

RANGER

Because that's what they told me.

Bruce reaches out and grabs Matt by the arm, pulling him outside through the open doorway.

BRUCE

Excuse us a moment!

EXT. - RANGER STATION - DAY

Bruce and Matt are standing outside the ranger station.

BRUCE

That guy is nuts!

MATT

Why? Just seems a little eccentric to me.

BRUCE

His office is plastered with stuff about the '85 group! It looks like something straight out of a serial killer movie!

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Hey, if you lived this close to where it happened, you might be interested in it, too! Besides, it's good to know that someone will know where we are.

BRUCE

You go back in and get the permit, then. The guy creeps me out!

MATT

No problem!

Matt enters the building, leaving Bruce outside, alone. A minute later, Matt comes rushing back out of the building, a strange expression on his face.

MATT

Let's go!

BRUCE

You get the permit?

MATT

Yes! Now let's get out of here!

BRUCE

(Follows) What happened?

MATT

He scared me.

BRUCE

How?

Matt does not answer, but his face reflects the fear. Matt and Bruce walk up to where Sid, Carol, and Mike are standing.

CAROL

Well?

BRUCE

We're ready to go!

SID

Hold on.

BRUCE

What?

(CONTINUED)

SID

Is there a bathroom in there?

CAROL

Seriously, Sid?

SID

This might be my last chance at porcelain before we get into the woods!

MATT

Sorry Sid, you should have gone while we were inside. We're outa here.

The van drives off toward the mountains as the camera follows overhead. As the van drives to the trail head we see the great expanse of the wilderness from an aerial view. The area where they are going is literally in the middle of the mountains, far away from civilization and away from any cellular service. The crew arrives at the trail head and unpack the van for their weekend excursion into the woods. There are five total, Matt and Bruce the hosts of the television show Scary Spots; Mike, an investigator; Sid the cameraman and Carol the audio technician. They begin to hike up the trail, the same trail that they forest service workers hiked back in 1985, two days before they were killed.

EXT. - MOUNTAINS - DAY FLASHBACK TO 1985

Superimpose: 1985

FIVE PEOPLE, three men and two women, are HIKING in a single line. All are carrying backpacks and are wearing forest service uniforms. NEIL, 29, is at lead. HANDSOME, ALPHA-MALE TYPE that would be at the front of any line in any given situation, although it is obvious that he takes this more as a given rather than forcing the issue. He seems AT EASE in the woods, always sporting a BRIGHT SMILE or an EASY-GOING GRIN. He POINTS OUT something to the PERSON behind him, who seems not in the least bit interested in this information. KYLE, 31, does not seem to be enjoying the trek. He has a PAINED EXPRESSION as he ADJUSTS his BACKPACK.

NEIL

Did you see that, Kyle?

KYLE

No.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL (POINTS AGAIN)
Over there! See it?

KYLE
No.

Behind Kyle is SUSAN, 25, a PRETTY young woman who seems out of place in the woods, the kind who should be out at a nightclub rather than moving through the wilderness. But she appears very ENTHUSIASTIC. She is the NEARLY NAKED WOMAN from the opening sequence.

SUSAN
What did you see, Neil?

NEIL
It was an eagle! Just fantastic!

Between the two, Kyle rolls his eyes. Behind Susan is LINDA, 26, who has a SEVERELY SERIOUS EXPRESSION. Linda is a woman of few words, a sour person who would easily throw out an insult the way someone else would exhale.

LINDA
You're getting this excited over a bird? Really?

SUSAN
I've never seen an eagle before, Linda!

LINDA
So take out a dollar bill and give yourself a thrill, Susan!

Susan does reach into a pocket and takes out a dollar bill, a smile appearing on her face.

SUSAN
Oh, wow!

LINDA (UNDER HER BREATH)
Oh, my god...

At the end of the line is PAUL, 24, who seems more interested in Susan than his surroundings. He is TILTING HIS HEAD, watching Susan's butt move within her khakis, a GRIN appearing on his face at the view. He SIGHS SOFTLY. Later, the five are SITTING, taking a break. As usual, Neil APPEARS ENTHUSIASTIC.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL (LOUDLY)
Don't you just love being out here?

KYLE
If you've seen one tree you've seen them all.

NEIL
You can't be serious, Kyle!

Kyle SLOWLY TURNS to face Neil, his response TINGED with a WEARINESS usually reserved for an older person.

KYLE
I've been doing this for ten years, Neil. That's ten years of bug bites, sunburns, three ankle sprains, and one broken nose.

(TURNS AWAY FROM NEIL)
The thrill is definitely gone.

NEIL
This assignment wasn't mandatory.

KYLE
It is when you're the only tree biologist in the region dumb enough to admit to knowing the area.

Neil SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS.

NEIL
Actually, I could easily see myself spending the rest of my life out here.

KYLE
Be careful what you ask for, Neil.

NEIL
What does that mean?

Kyle TILTS HIS HEAD and simply STARES at Neil, who eventually dismisses him with a WAVE of a HAND.

PAUL
I hate to say this, but to me it looks like we're going to get wet on this one.

All LOOK SKYWARD, at the DARK CLOUDS. Neil STANDS.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

We better get going and find a good place to set up camp for the night.

EXT. - MOUNTAINS - BACK TO CURRENT DAY

The Scary Spots crew is hiking along the same stretch of trail as the forest service team, about 8 miles into their hike. Its been a few hours since they started and they are realizing they may have brought too much gear.

MATT

How much farther do we have to go?

SID is holding the CAMERA, pointing it back to those following.

SID

Mike has the GPS. He should be able to tell us how much farther.

MIKE pulls a small GPS UNIT from a pocket. Mike is SOLIDLY BUILT, a bit overly dressed for hiking, and is SWEATING PROFUSELY.

MIKE (SQUINTS AT SMALL SCREEN)

Looks like at least another mile.

GROANS rise from behind him. CAROL, 26, lugging an OVER-PACKED BACKPACK, stops. She is PRETTY in a natural, no-need-for-makeup, way.

CAROL

I have to stop if we have that far to go yet! This backpack is killing my shoulders!

They all stop, except for Sid, who MOVES THE CAMERA up to the group.

SID

And that's what we get for having a woman running the sound department!

CAROL

Shut up, Sid.

SID

Anything for you, Carol.

Carol SHRUGS OFF the BACKPACK and PLOPS DOWN on the GROUND, LOOKING UP at Sid and the camera.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

You know, a real gentleman would offer to carry all this equipment!

SID

Lucky I'm not a gentleman, then!

CAROL

Uh-huh.

But Carol seems genuinely fond of Sid and offers a wry grin. The FIVE PEOPLE seem woefully out of place. They look more like lost tourists. Their hiking clothes seem too new. Carol takes out a WATER BOTTLE and DRINKS. Sid attaches the SMALL VIDEO CAMERA to his backpack. Sid is LANKY and always seems to be MOVING one way or another; he is the spitting image of Paul from the 1985 group. Mike shrugs off his backpack, like Carol, and sits down. Mike has a QUIET DEMEANOR, but there seems to be an edge just beneath the placid surface. The remaining two are BRUCE, 36, and MATT, 38, who both have an AIR OF IMPATIENCE about them. Matt and Bruce are both wearing T-SHIRTS with the words SCARY SPOTS emblazoned across the front. Matt turns his head, looking back and forth at their surroundings, a FROWN appearing on his face.

MIKE

You think maybe we should have hired some sort of guide? This is a lot more... isolated than I expected.

Bruce SHAKES HIS HEAD.

BRUCE

What did you expect, Mike? Downtown Seattle?

SID

Hey, downtown Seattle sounds pretty good right about now!

MATT

Room service, coffee, and fresh sea food.

SID

Oh yea, aw man now I'm hungry!

BRUCE

Seattle will still be there when we get back, people! But first we have to shoot footage and have enough to send to LA in four days or we may all be out of a job.

(CONTINUED)

SID

What do you mean? Out of a job?

BRUCE

I had a meeting with Frank and the network isn't happy with the show. But we have four days to make the best episode ever and get the footage to LA.

SID

Oh well how are we gonna do that?

MIKE

This area has enough stories to fill two or three episodes of Scary Spots. All plenty scary.

SID

Like what?

BRUCE

Mike can tell us on the way. Let's get moving.

Mike gets up and helps Carol up onto her feet. Sid SMILES at Carol as she pulls on her backpack. The group starts moving again, although SLOWER than before, with Bruce and Matt slightly pulling ahead.

SID

Come on, Mike. Tell us some of your stories about this place, Mr. Research Guy!

MIKE

The granddaddy of all UFO stories happened not far from here back in 1947. The Ken Arnold sighting.

CUT TO:

QUICK SHOTS of old, 50's magazine covers concerning Kenneth Arnold and his sightings of flying saucers near Mount Rainier.

SID (OS)

Hold up! Ken Arnold? The guy who was married to Roseanne?

EXT - FOREST - DAY

Carol SHAKES HER HEAD at Sid.

CAROL

That was Tom Arnold, you idiot.

SID

Oh, yeah.

Bruce GLANCES OVER HIS SHOULDER and goes into his ON-SCREEN MODE.

BRUCE

Kenneth Arnold was flying from Chehalis to Yakima, Washington when he spotted several objects near Mount Rainier that he said looked like saucers skipped across water. From that came the term flying saucers.

SID

1947? So I'm safe to assume those flying saucers aren't around here anymore.

MIKE

You want something more recent?

SID

Do I?

MIKE

Last year, five miles from here on the Yakima Indian reservation, a boy was chased by a large creature covered with white hair-

CUT TO:

Shot of YOUNG BOY being chased by SOMETHING, POV of the thing chasing him, the boy LOOKING OVER SHOULDER back at the camera as the creature gains ground, obvious FEAR on the boy's FACE

SID (OS)

Oh, like my uncle Bob!

EXT - FOREST - DAY

Mike ignores Sid's response and continues with his story.

MIKE

The boy's father found their dog
near where the boy said it all
happened... or what was left of the
dog.

SID

Hold on, I ran out of tape!

Sid grabs his CAMERA and and changes the tape, AIMING it
toward Mike.

POV

Mike continues TALKING.

MIKE

Then we have something known as
"Batsquatch" that has been sighted
around here over the past couple of
years. It supposedly looks like
Bigfoot, but has wings and is more
aggressive.

SID (OS)

Flying saucers, Bigfoot that kills
dogs, and Batsquatch... why the
hell are we doing an episode about
missing hikers when we have this
stuff!?

BRUCE (DROPPING BACK)

Because their story makes all that
sound downright tame in comparison.

CUT TO:

QUICK SHOTS of the 1985 group, DEAD, in different areas of
the woods. Kyle is CURLED UP in a FETAL POSITION. Paul is
SPRAWLED OUT, FACE DOWN. Neil is on his BACK, HANDS UP as if
trying to ward something off, even in death, MOUTH AGAPE,
EYES SQUEEZED SHUT. Susan is on her side. Linda has BOTH
HANDS covering her face, although you can see her DEAD EYES
through SPLAYED FINGERS.

EXT - WOODS - DAY

Bruce LOOKS SOMBER.

BRUCE

They weren't hikers, Sid. They worked for the forest service and were sent to check out reports of illegal cutting. They weren't inexperienced, they knew the area.

MIKE

Unlike us.

SID

What happened?

BRUCE

Only they really know and they're all dead.

SID

That doesn't sound so weird to me. People die in the mountains all the time.

BRUCE

The guys and one of the women had their eyes missing. Does that sound weird enough to you?

SID

Gross, but it is the wilderness. Hello, Birds and other animals eat don't they?

BRUCE

Apparently the eyes were removed with surgical precision, not torn out of her head the way birds would do it.

The five walk in SILENCE for a moment.

SID

Okay, that is weird.

BRUCE

Their tents were shredded, as if something attacked them, two of the women had their heads cut off and bugs didn't even touch the bodies because they were slightly radioactive.

(CONTINUED)

More SILENCE for several steps.

SID
Uh, when did this happen?

BRUCE
1985.

Sid looks APPREHENSIVE.

SID
Radioactive. I don't like the sound
of that.

CAROL
What are we going to do when we get
there? The basics?

MATT
Yep. Set up the cameras, do some
EVP work, and see if they're still
hanging around.

(BEAT)
So to speak.

SID
I don't know if I want to hear what
they have to say.

MATT
Why are you acting so rattled all
of a sudden, Sid? We've been to
plenty of hauntings and you've
never batted an eye before.

SID
I don't know. I just don't like the
feel of this one.

MIKE
What does it feel like?

SID
Something bad.

The five continue onward. Matt glances skyward.

MATT
Man, it's going to rain!

Matt is GRIMACING. Bruce LOOKS SKYWARD and MAKES A FACE.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

How do you figure? It's beautiful out here!

MATT

My knee. When it aches like this it's going to rain.

BRUCE

Okay, Gramps. We'll see.

Carol LOOKS OVER HER SHOULDER back at Bruce and Matt.

CAROL

You know, if those people had all the equipment we have there wouldn't be any mystery.

BRUCE

They did have some camera equipment. They were looking into illegal logging, after all.

CAROL

And?

BRUCE

If something is chasing after you, I doubt you would take the time to snap a picture.

SID

I would!

BRUCE

You're... different, Sid.

SID

Thank you!

BRUCE

But we do have this!

Bruce pulls a PHOTOGRAPH out of his BACKPACK.

CAROL (INTRIGUED)

Is that them?

Carol takes the PHOTOGRAPH from Bruce.

SID (MAKES A FACE)

That's morbid.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
Oh, don't be such a baby!

(LOOKS AT PHOTO)
God, they look so young!

BRUCE
I think the oldest was thirty-one.

CAROL
That's so sad.

SID
So stop staring at the picture.

CAROL
I can't.

Bruce PLUCKS the PHOTOGRAPH away from Carol.

BRUCE
We still have a lot of hiking to do
before we get there, so let's not
slow down now.

Bruce and Matt press forward, leading the way.

MIKE
You know, I just thought of
something. Do you know the
difference between catching an EVP
or something on camera in a house
and doing the same thing out here?

CAROL
What?

MIKE
If it gets too freaky you can
always leave the house, but we are
hiking 10 miles into the
wilderness. Those people didn't
make it out and we're going right
where they bought it... whatever it
was.

Mike follows Matt and Bruce. Sid CALLS OUT.

SID
That doesn't help, Mike!

Carol and Sid EXCHANGE LOOKS and then FOLLOW.

DISSOLVE TO:

The 1985 group moving along the exact same trail. Paul STOPS and LOOKS AROUND. The others also STOP.

NEIL

What's wrong, Paul?

PAUL

I don't know. It feels like we're not alone.

(SHAKES HIS HEAD)

It's gone now.

Kyle's EYES SHIFT BACK AND FORTH.

KYLE

Not to sound too paranoid, but do we have some sort of protection? Remember what happened to Reese and Monroe three years ago when they went out looking for poachers.

Neil looks SOLEMN for the first time.

NEIL

Yes, we have protection, and I know how to use it.

KYLE

Good.

NEIL

I thought you would be against bringing a gun, Kyle.

KYLE

Why?

NEIL

I don't know. You just seem...the type.

KYLE

You don't know me as much as you think you do, Neil. I'm the type who would rather stay alive.

LINDA

How much farther? This is almost like a scream from the usually silent Linda and the others are taken aback for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL
We're almost there.

They continue ONWARD. There is the SOUND of DISTANT THUNDER.

CUT TO:

Sid LOOKS UP SHARPLY.

SID
Did you hear that?

CAROL
I didn't hear anything.

SID
Thunder.

Mike is LOOKING DOWN at the SMALL DEVICE in his hand.

MIKE
And... we're there!

They all STOP and LOOK AROUND, as if expecting something to happen. Bruce BREAKS THE SILENCE.

BRUCE
Alright people, let's set up.

EXT - CAMPSITE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Sid is having a hard time figuring out how to set up a TENT, growing FRUSTRATED and KICKING at the NYLON. Carol WALKS UP to the TENT, PICKS IT UP, and TOSSES it back down, the TENT immediately POPPING into shape.

SID (AS CAROL WALKS OFF)
Show off!

EXT - CAMPSITE - DUSK

TWO TENTS are positioned close together. Bruce and Matt are STANDING TOGETHER, LOOKING OUT at the approaching night.

MATT
Well, it's getting dark and we're pretty much ready.

BRUCE
You don't sound ready to me. Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

It's different when you read the story online compared to actually standing right here where it happened.

(PAUSE)

I don't know. Just getting the creeps.

BRUCE

You're starting to sound like Sid.

MATT

Can you imagine if he knew all the details of this story beforehand? We would never have gotten him out of Seattle!

BRUCE

Are you kidding? We would never have gotten him out of the house!

MATT

Why don't you want to tell him? Or the others?

BRUCE

All in good time.

Matt NODS, but still does not look convinced.

INT. - TENT - DUSK

Sid and Mike are INSIDE one of the TENTS. Mike is STRETCHED OUT on a SLEEPING BAG. Sid is SITTING, LOOKING OUT the PARTIALLY OPEN entryway.

SID

What do you think really happened to those people, Mike?

MIKE

Obviously something real bad.

SID

I'm usually not big into the whole government conspiracy thing, but it seems to me these people were sent here on purpose, and it had nothing to do with illegal logging.

Mike ROLLS onto his SIDE and LOOKS at Sid, now INTRIGUED.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

What are you saying...Test subjects?

SID

Why not? You have the apparent uncontrollable panic, the radiation, and the fact they were low level government workers. To me, at least, it all points to some kind of new weapons test.

MIKE

Nothing paranormal?

SID

It sounds like you know something you haven't told us yet.

MIKE

Besides the obvious hairy critter sightings, which would probably send me running off into the night if I ran into one, this area was the site of a pretty substantial UFO flap a few years back.

SID

Oh, please!

MIKE

Yea, I know your feelings on the subject. But just hear me out.

SID

All right, then. Go ahead. But if you bring up little green men and ray guns, I'm outta here!

MIKE

I know a little more about this incident. Unlike Bruce and Matt, I utilize more than a website or two.

SID

What do you mean?

MIKE

I made a few phone calls.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - OFFICE - DAY

Mike is SITTING at his DESK, TALKING on the TELEPHONE, taking NOTES.

On the WALL behind him are SCARY SPOTS POSTERS.

MIKE (VOICE OVER)

I got a hold of the guy who found the bodies, a tribal police officer who was called in because of the closeness of the reservation.

Mike PAUSES in his NOTE TAKING, FROWNING as he LISTENS to the MAN on the PHONE.

He asked me to meet him so I did and he told me about the day he found the bodies.

EXT. - PARK - DAY

Mike is SITTING on a PARK BENCH, LOOKING UP at a LARGE MAN who is PACING BACK AND FORTH in front of him. Obviously the man is an American Indian. The larger man is TALKING with Mike, who is listening in RAPT ATTENTION.

MIKE (VOICE OVER)

The guy said he still has nightmares all these years later because of those bodies and he warned me about going up here.

EXT. - WOODS - DAY

The large Indian is WALKING through the UNDERBRUSH, almost in a WANDERING MANNER. Coming to a LARGE LOG, he SITS, LOOKING AROUND for a MOMENT before reaching down and PICKING UP a STONE. He THROWS the STONE, hearing the SOUND of the STONE HITTING DEAD LEAVES. The Indian REACHES DOWN and PICKS UP another STONE, TOSSING it as well, receiving a similar SOUND. He REACHES DOWN for a THIRD STONE and THROWS it. No sound returns. The large man FROWNS. He STANDS and WALKS toward where he THREW the STONE. The Indian finds a BODY. It is Susan. A GASP escapes the large man at seeing the ROCK he threw seemingly held in the dead woman's LEFT HAND, her FINGERS CURLED around the stone. The large man STUMBLES BACKWARD, TURNS AROUND, and starts MOVING OFF. He LOOKS back OVER HIS SHOULDER at the body. The large man TRIPS and FALLS, finding himself FACE-TO-FACE with Neil's body.

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - NIGHT

Sid INCHES AWAY from the tent entry.

SID

Not exactly the stuff that makes
sweet dreams.

MIKE

He confirmed that one of the women
and the men were missing their eyes
and the other woman's head was
never found.

SID

Ok you're really scaring the shit
out of me now.

MIKE

Like Bruce said earlier, there was
no sign of being touched by
scavengers at all, including bugs
or maggots.

The mention makes Sid GRIMACE again.

SID

Aww man...

MIKE

He also said he himself received
reports of people seeing lights in
the sky in the area all that week.

SID (SKEPTICAL AGAIN)

You're saying aliens got them.

MIKE

In most cattle mutilation cases,
various organs are removed, and
lights in the sky are often seen in
the area during that time.

SID

But some people say the government
is behind those cattle mutilations.
See? It all comes back around to
conspiracy.

The ENTRY is ZIPPED OPEN abruptly and Matt sticks his HEAD
INSIDE the TENT, causing Sid to JUMP. Sid takes a DEEP
BREATH at seeing Matt.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

We're not setting up cameras tonight, guys.

MIKE

Why not?

MATT

It's starting to rain. If it lets up in an hour we might give it a shot, so be ready.

MIKE

Just let us know.

Matt looks THOUGHTFUL for a moment.

MATT

Sid, why don't you shoot Mike giving the equipment spiel?

MIKE

Again? We do it every damn episode, Matt! I feel like a freaking infomercial, or something.

MATT

It's SOP, Mike. You know that. By the way, where's Carol?

MIKE

What do you mean? We thought she was with you and Bruce.

MATT

Now you know she doesn't like being around Bruce. She thinks he has a body odor problem.

SID

Thinks? Half the time I'm surprised his armpits don't explode from that smell!

MATT

I know, I know, but don't bring it up. Carol is probably over in the other tent. Get to work on that equipment segment when you can.

MIKE (GLUMLY)

Right, boss.

(CONTINUED)

Matt PULLS HIS HEAD OUT of the TENT. A few minutes later, Mike is HOLDING up a CAMERA.

MIKE
The FLIR unit-

Bruce OPENS the TENT and ENTERS.

BRUCE
Carol isn't in the other tent. Come on!

Sid and Mike GET UP QUICKLY and WITHOUT HESITATION.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The four men GATHER TOGETHER in front of the TENTS.

MIKE
How long has she been gone?

MATT
We should know where everyone is all the time!

MIKE
But right now we don't so let's figure this out before it turns from bad to worse!

SID
Maybe she just went off to... you know.

CAROL (OS)
No, I wasn't off to... you know.

Carol STEPS into VIEW.

BRUCE
Where were you?

Carol HOLDS UP a DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDER.

CAROL
I was working.

MATT
You went off to do EVP work without Sid? We're here to make a TV show, Carol. Now if you've captured anything on that recorder we're

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MATT (cont'd)
just going to have to recreate the
whole thing!

CAROL
You're right. I'm sorry.

BRUCE
Well, did you hear anything?

CAROL
Rain, thunder, Sid cowering in
fear.

BRUCE
We have the GPS coordinates for
where the bodies were discovered
and it looks like the rain is
letting up, so let's get set up.

SID
I'm not cowering. Mike was telling
ghost stories again.

(CLAPS HANDS)
Let's do this!

EXT. - FOREST - NIGHT

Bruce, Matt, and Mike are WALKING CAREFULLY through the
forest underbrush, with Sid and Carol CLOSE BEHIND recording
everything.

CUT TO:

POV

Sid's CAMERA, moving up beside Mike, who is LOOKING DOWN at
his GPS UNIT.

MIKE
Should be right... about... here.

Bruce STEPS INTO VIEW, making a SLASHING MOTION across his
NECK. Sid LOWERS his CAMERA and LOOKS AROUND.

SID
This is closer to the campsite than
I expected. Can you die of
hypothermia that fast?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Who said they ran in a straight line? They could have gone back and forth and in circles for who knows how long before falling dead right here.

CAROL

Why don't you take off your clothes and test how long it takes, Sid?

SID

Oh, you wish!

Bruce LOOKS DOWN at the spot where one of the BODIES was discovered and then lets out a SIGH.

BRUCE

I guess we'll shoot this just like we did at Gettysburg last year.

SID

In other words, we're not expecting much and just filling time.

BRUCE

Trust me, somethings gonna happen on this one.

They all look at Bruce very inquisitively and try to figure out what he means by that.

FADE OUT

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Neil WALKS AWAY from the TENT and SITS DOWN on the ground beside the CAMPFIRE, where Kyle and Paul are sitting.

NEIL

Looks like Susan and Linda have called it a night already.

PAUL

I don't know why, it's such a party out here!

(LOOKS BACK AND FORTH)

Or not.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

Not much to do out here once the sun goes down.

PAUL

Except-

KYLE

Except they are co-workers and obviously not interested.

PAUL

In that case, it's time to call in the lonely camper's best friend.

Paul REACHES DOWN and then RAISES a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

PAUL

What do you say, Neil? (As he hands the bottle to Neil)

Neil SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS.

NEIL

It is getting a little cold out here.

A few minutes and a few drinks later.

KYLE

I still don't know why we were sent out here when the same result could have been accomplished with a simply helicopter flyover.

NEIL

Why spend five hundred dollars when you can spend five thousand?

KYLE (NODS)

That sounds about right.

Paul FROWNS to himself.

PAUL

Hey, how much do you guys make? Because my salary for this will be nowhere near a thousand bucks!

NEIL

I can only assume one of us pissed somebody off to get this assignment.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

I usually end up pissing off everyone eventually.

PAUL (LEANING FORWARD)

Seriously, do you guys really make that much more than me?

NEIL

Yes.

KYLE

Absolutely,

PAUL (SITTING BACK)

Well, that sucks.

The BOTTLE is PASSED BACK AND FORTH again.

NEIL

You know that if we're not done with everything, packed up and out of here by noon tomorrow, we're stuck here for another night. Understand?

KYLE

Understood.

PAUL

You bet I want to get out of here on time! I need to go ask for a freaking raise!

NEIL (STANDS)

I think I've had enough. Gentlemen, I'm going to sleep.

KYLE

Me, too.

Only Paul REMAINS SEATED. He LOOKS BACK as Kyle and Neil ENTER the TENT. Paul takes a DRINK and then LOOKS AROUND.

PAUL (TO HIMSELF)

It's nice and quiet out here.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Neil SWEEPS OPEN the TENT and STEPS OUT, LOOKING AROUND

NERVOUSLY. KYLE (OS)
What's wrong, Neil?

Neil does not answer for a moment, COCKING HIS HEAD SLIGHTLY.

NEIL
I thought I heard something.

PAUL (OS)
A bear?

NEIL
No. Voices.

Paul and Kyle STEP OUT of the TENT behind Neil.

KYLE
Maybe we ARE dealing with some
timber poachers.

PAUL
It's a little late for tree pirates
to be roaming around, isn't it?

KYLE
That depends.

PAUL
On what?

KYLE
On how serious they are, and if
they're out here this late then
Neil better have that gun handy.

Paul lets out a LONG SIGH.

PAUL
Man, I hate my dog right now!

Kyle TURNS to Paul SHARPLY.

KYLE
Why?

PAUL
Because after she died I took her
to a taxidermist, but I missed the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PAUL (cont'd)
final payment and now my dog is sitting in some storage room, gathering dust, so I took this job to pay off my bill and get my dog back.

KYLE (DUMBFOUNDED)
You had your dog stuffed!?

PAUL
Hey, I had Princess since I was in grade school!

KYLE
You had your dog, named Princess, stuffed. You never fail to amaze me, Paul.

PAUL
Hey, I try.

Neil FROWNS DARKLY at them.

NEIL
Would you two be quiet, please! I'm trying to hear where those voices are coming from!

The three men STAND SILENT for a MOMENT, Paul starting to LEAN FORWARD, his EYES NARROWING, his HEAD TILTING, and then he almost FALLS FORWARD.

PAUL
Oh my God! I hear it!

NEIL
Which way is it coming from?

PAUL (POINTS)
That way!

NEIL
Come on!

KYLE
What about the girls?

NEIL
You're right. Paul, you come with me and Kyle you stay here and watch over them.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Kyle, if I don't come back, go to that taxidermist, get my dog out of hock, and then kick her for me!

KYLE

You got it, Paul.

Neil disappears into the TENT for a moment and when he COMES OUT he is ADJUSTING his COAT over a VISIBLE BULGE at his WAISTBAND. Neil and Paul MOVE OFF, leaving Kyle STANDING in FRONT of the TENT.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

Bruce LOOKS FRUSTRATED.

BRUCE

It looks like the only thing we're going to get out of this trip is wet!

Sid LOWERS his CAMERA.

SID

Are we stopping?

BRUCE

What do you guys think?

MATT

This isn't exactly science, you know. Sometimes we get lucky-

SID

And sometimes we end up just standing in the rain.

The group STAND TOGETHER, the only LIGHT coming from VIDEO CAMERAS, on TRIPODS and the one Sid is HEFTING on his shoulder.

MIKE

We could try provoking. It's worked for us before.

MATT

I don't like doing that.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Then how about a séance?

BRUCE

It would look good on video.

MATT

We've only tried that once and the results were less than spectacular. As a matter of fact, we ended up cutting out that entire section.

SID

It's better than standing out here, shouting at the dark, and probably only succeeding in scaring the local owls.

CAROL

I must not have been with you on that one. How do you carry out a séance here in the middle of nowhere?

MIKE

It's pretty simple. All you need is at least three people, candles, and recite a certain phrase.

CAROL

Sounds a little hokey to me.

BRUCE

But it shoots fantastic in Night Vision!

CAROL

Who has the candles?

MIKE

I brought some.

BRUCE (SMILES)

That's why this man is on the payroll!

MIKE

I'll go get them and you guys figure out how to shoot it.

Mike WALKS OFF.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
You guys do know what you're doing,
right?

BRUCE
It's just show business, Carol.
Nothing's real in show business.

DISSOLVE TO:

Mike WALKS LEFT TO RIGHT and when he disappears from sight,
Neil and Paul APPEAR, WALKING RIGHT TO LEFT along the same
route.

PAUL
Are you sure you heard something,
Neil?

NEIL
Yes, I'm sure. You heard it, too.

PAUL
I know. What did it say when you
heard it?

Neil looks HESITANT to answer.

NEIL
Our names. Over and over. What did
you hear?

Now it is Paul's turn to hesitate.

PAUL
Something worse.

NEIL
What?

PAUL
I heard screaming.

Neil and Paul DISAPPEAR off to the left.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Mike WALKS into one of the TENTS.

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - NIGHT

Susan SITS UP, a FRIGHTENED EXPRESSION on her FACE.

EXT - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Kyle STUMBLES out of the TENT at hearing Susan CALL OUT, finding her STANDING outside her TENT.

SUSAN

Kyle! Someone was in our tent!

KYLE (SPINNING AROUND)

Who?

SUSAN

I don't know!

KYLE

Are you sure, because I didn't see or hear anything.

Linda STEPS OUT of the TENT, LOOKING ANNOYED, even more than usual.

LINDA

What is with all the noise out here?

KYLE

Susan thought someone was in your tent.

Linda lets out a FRUSTRATED SIGH.

LINDA

The only thing I heard all night was Susan snoring!

Susan LOOKS AGHAST at Linda's comment.

SUSAN

I don't snore!

LINDA

Then you were doing a good imitation of someone trying to suck their face inside out!

SUSAN

Why are you so mean?

(CONTINUED)

LINDA
Because it works for me.

Kyle's SHOULDERS SLUMP.

KYLE
Maybe it's not too late to catch up
with Neil and Paul-

LINDA
Actually, before Susan fired up
that chainsaw she calls a nose, I
thought I heard something.

KYLE
What?

LINDA
Voices.

KYLE
That sounds familiar.

LINDA
What do you mean?

KYLE
Neil and Paul went off after
hearing voices.

LINDA
When?

KYLE
Maybe five five minutes ago.

LINDA
We'd better keep our ears open.

SUSAN
For what?

LINDA
Because if they do run into
someone, Neil and Paul might need
our help.

SUSAN
What can two girls and Kyle do?

KYLE
And Kyle? What is that supposed to
mean?

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

We can turn two people into five,
that's what we can do.

KYLE

No, really, what did you mean by
"and Kyle" anyway?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - WOODS - NIGHT

Mike has RETURNED with the CANDLES.

SID

Are we going to do this right now?

BRUCE

Why not?

MATT

Besides, I'm getting cold out here.

Sid and Carol PREPARE their EQUIPMENT for the upcoming scene.

MIKE

Tell me when you're ready, Sid.

Sid hefts his CAMERA and gives Mike a THUMBS UP.

SID

Anytime, Mike.

MIKE

Carol?

Carol, with her HEADPHONES ON, also gives a THUMBS UP.

CUT TO:

POV

Mike, Matt, and Bruce STAND AROUND a TRIO OF LIT CANDLES.

SUPERIMPOSE:

THE CASCADE MOUNTAINS 12:01 AM

Lose super.

(CONTINUED)

MATT
Forest spirits, we ask you to speak
to us-

Matt tries to hold in a LAUGH, but fails. Mike STOPS
RECITING.

MIKE
What?

MATT
I'm sorry, but that sounds so damn
stupid!

MIKE
You think I don't know that? But
that's the way it's done, Matt!

BRUCE
Let's just try to get through this
at least once, guys.

All three men TAKE DEEP BREATHS and then EXHALE.

MIKE
Forest spirits, we ask you to speak
to us and move among us!

Carol FROWNS and places BOTH HANDS over the HEADPHONES,
PRESSING THEM TIGHTER over her EARS, BENDING FORWARD
slightly.

CAROL (WHISPERING)
What the hell?

Sid STEPS NEXT to Carol, CAMERA still pointed at Matt, Mike,
and Bruce.

SID (WHISPERS)
What?

CUT TO:

POV

Sid's CAMERA shows Matt SUDDENLY REACTING to SEEING
SOMETHING, Matt actually STUMBLING BACKWARD.

MATT
OH MY GOD!

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

What?

MATT (POINTING)

Look over there!

The CAMERA SWINGS AROUND to where Matt is POINTING.

SID (OS)

I don't see anything!

MATT (OS)

EYES! RED EYES! I swear they were
right over there!

SID (OS)

Batsquatch, man! It's Batsquatch!
I'm going after it!

The CAMERA SHAKES as Sid starts RUNNING.

CUT TO:

EXT - WOODS - NIGHT

Mike, Bruce, Matt, and Carol watch Sid RUN OFF.

MIKE

Shouldn't we follow?

BRUCE

Do you know what Matt saw out
there?

MIKE

No.

BRUCE

Neither do I, and that's why I'm
staying right here.

MIKE

But what if it was a bear?

MATT

Bears eyes don't glow like that
unless a light is shined their way,
and all of our camera lights were
aimed in our direction.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
How big did it look?

MATT
BIG!

MIKE
Oh, man...

MATT
Carol, what did you hear on your
headphones right before?

CAROL
It was a kind of weird hum.
Definitely not natural.

MIKE
A jet?

CAROL
No.

MATT
Hold on! It looks like Sid's
stopped!

They LOOK at the LIGHT from Sid's CAMERA, some SIXTY YARDS
away. The CAMERA LIGHT suddenly GOES OUT.

BRUCE
Oh, shit.

DISSOLVE TO:

Neil and Paul, STANDING essentially in the exact same place.

PAUL
Nothing.

(PAUSE)
Thank God.

NEIL
I don't like the feeling out here,
Paul.

PAUL
Let's go back then. It's late, I'm
tired, and it's late.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

We can't do anything out here anyway.

PAUL

What would you have done if we did run into something?

NEIL

Ever hear a grown man squeal?

PAUL

Not lately.

NEIL

Do you hear that?

PAUL

What?

NEIL

A mechanical sound.

PAUL

A chainsaw? Give me that gun, I'm going to shoot those goddamn wood pirates myself!

NEIL

No, it doesn't sound like a chainsaw.

PAUL

What, then?

NEIL

You ever stand next to one of those power sub-stations? It's that kind of heavy, electric hum.

PAUL

Neil, there isn't electricity within a hundred miles of here!

NEIL

I'm just telling you what is sounded like.

PAUL

Let's get out of here.

As they turn to head back to the camp, they do not see the pair of RED EYES appear in the dark BEHIND THEM.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

Bruce, Matt, Mike, and Carol are still frozen in place.

CAROL
Could this be some kind of response
to your séance?

MATT
I hope not.

CAROL
What do you mean?

BRUCE
He means if something responded
that quickly it was already here.

(BEAT)
Waiting.

CAROL
Waiting for what?

MATT
Waiting for some idiots to open the
doorway.

CAROL
Oh, come on! You don't really
believe in that stuff, do you? I
mean, it's just all for TV. Right?

MATT
I keep telling myself that and then
we go to someplace like Waverly
Hills and feel something that keeps
tapping you on the shoulder all
night.

BRUCE
Come on, we better make sure the
boogeyman didn't get Sid.

The four start WALKING toward the last spot they saw Sid's
CAMERA LIGHT. Mike SHINES a SMALL FLASHLIGHT ahead of them.

MIKE
Sid...

(LOUDER) SID!

Sid POPS UP directly in FRONT of them, having been CROUCHED
down low.

(CONTINUED)

SID
Be quiet and turn off that
flashlight!

Mike quickly TURNS OFF the LIGHT.

MIKE
What's going on?

SID
There's something out there.

CAROL
What? You find your Batsquatch,
Sid?

SID
I was laughing earlier today, but
it's different out here in the
dark, especially when you see
something big move around!

BRUCE
Where did it go?

SID (WAVES AN ARM)
It moved off over that way.

BRUCE
Why didn't you follow it?

SID
Because those eyes looked like they
were about ten feet off the ground.
Anything over six feet and I refuse
to follow unless my camera is
equipped with Sidewinder missiles!

CAROL
At least things are finally getting
interesting.

BRUCE
We have three options: continue the
séance, go after Red Eyes, or call
it a night and go to sleep.

SID
I'll always vote for sleep over
tracking down a monster seven days
a week and twice on Sunday!

(CONTINUED)

MATT

But did we get enough footage?
That's the only thing I'm concerned
about.

BRUCE

Sid?

SID

No, not really. We'd be lucky to
get twenty seconds of usable stuff.

BRUCE

So it's either more séance footage
or we chase after whatever owned
those eyes.

SID (QUICKLY)

Séance!

CAROL

Séance.

BRUCE

Mike?

MIKE

Red Eyes.

BRUCE

I want Red Eyes, too. You have the
deciding vote, Matt.

MATT

We've done enough hiking today, I
think, to be out tromping around in
the dark. Let's just finish the
séance and see what happens.

SID

Good choice!

Mike, Carol, and Sid start WALKING back to the CANDLES, but
Bruce BLOCKS Matt's way.

BRUCE

I'm a little surprised, Matt.

MATT

About what?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

You are usually the one who wants to go chasing after these sorts of things. Remember Thailand?

Matt SMILES FONDLY at the memory.

MATT

If there is something out there, us chasing it will simply cause it to take off, but if we ignore it we might get lucky and have it come around again.

A SMILE SLOWLY SPREADS across Bruce's face.

BRUCE

You're always thinking two steps ahead, aren't you?

MATT

Worst thing that can happen is we get enough séance footage.

BRUCE

I knew there was a reason why I hired you.

MATT

You hired me? I hired you!

The two men walk back to where the others are.

CUT TO:

Mike, Matt, and Bruce STANDING around the CANDLES again, Mike just finishing the séance RECITATION.

MIKE

-and move among us.

A MOMENT of QUIET EXPECTATION. Bruce TURNS TOWARD Carol and Sid.

BRUCE

Anything?

Sid SHRUGS and Carol SHAKES HER HEAD.

CAROL

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

Do you want to try one more time?

MATT

We've tried fifteen times now. We have enough footage. Sun's gonna be up soon. Let's hang it up for the night and go at it again tomorrow.

SID

Two minutes of sheer terror, followed by a few hours of boredom. Sounds about right.

MIKE

I still say we should have gone after Red Eyes.

SID

The problem with monsters is that they never show up when you have your camera ready!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The group arrive at the TENTS. Sid moves directly to his TENT and enters.

INT - TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Sid FALLS onto his SLEEPING BAG and almost immediately notices a TWO FOOT SLICE in the side of the TENT. Neat and clean, as if cut with a very sharp object.

SID

What the hell?

Sid SITS UP and INCHES toward the SLICE. He REACHES into his BACKPACK and takes out a LARGE ROLL of DUCT TAPE, RIPPING OFF a piece and putting it on the tear, moving back to his SLEEPING BAG and CLOSES his EYES.

EXT - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Bruce and Matt are SITTING next to the small CAMPFIRE, PASSING back and forth a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
Kind of a disappointing night, huh?

MATT
We've had worse.

BRUCE
You know, I talked to Frank the other day right after he talked to the network.

MATT
Why did he talk to you and not me?

BRUCE
Because he knows you would freak out.

MATT
What did he say?

BRUCE
They want us to start... faking stuff.

Matt lets out a TIRED SOUNDING SIGH.

MATT
I knew that would be coming sooner or later.

BRUCE
He says other shows do it.

MATT
We're not other shows.

BRUCE
That's why he called me and not you.

MATT
What did you say?

BRUCE
Nothing.

MATT (FIRMLY)
We are not going to start faking stuff, Bruce! Understand?

Bruce NODS.

BRUCE

Then we'd better knock this episode out of the park.

MATT

You knew this wouldn't last forever, Bruce.

BRUCE

I know, but I didn't think it would end so soon either.

Both men sit in SILENCE for a moment and pass the bottle.

MATT

Let me see that picture of those people.

Bruce REACHES into his BACK POCKET and PULLS OUT the PHOTOGRAPH, HANDING it to Matt.

BRUCE

Nothing special. It could be five friends out on a camping trip.

MATT

I only see four people.

BRUCE

The fifth took the photo.

MATT

Oh, yeah. When do you think this picture was taken?

BRUCE

What do you mean?

MATT

Was it taken the day they died?

BRUCE

What difference does it make?

MATT

They look so... oblivious.

BRUCE

Sounds like it bothers you.

MATT

None of us know when... that time... comes, and wouldn't you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MATT (cont'd)
rather be oblivious? I know I
would.

BRUCE
No one wakes up and says: Today is
the day I'm going to die.

Matt takes ANOTHER DRINK and HANDS BACK the PHOTOGRAPH.

DISSOLVE TO:

Neil and Kyle sitting around their CAMPFIRE.

NEIL
Let's get up at dawn, work up the
area, and then get the hell out of
here as soon as we can.

KYLE
Those voices creeped you out,
didn't they?

NEIL
Right down to my shorts.

KYLE
Why?

NEIL
Because I don't believe in that
stuff and then tonight I had it
smacked right across my face like a
dead fish.

KYLE
Are you kidding? This stuff is
nothing compared to what happened
to Josh Grant right in this area
about a year ago!

NEIL (FROWNS)
Josh Grant?

KYLE
He was my supervisor, he hired me
right out of college.

NEIL
I never heard of him.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

He's the guy you took over for, you have his job now.

NEIL

What happened? Or do I even want to know?

KYLE

Josh didn't believe in anything that he couldn't see, smell, hear, touch, or taste. I mean, he would just laugh when guys would come in from the field with stories of weird things happening. He simply did not believe in any of it.

NEIL

But...

KYLE

Do you remember that bad burn season? It was like half the Cascades was on fire.

NEIL

Oh, yeah...

KYLE

We started receiving reports of red lights spotted in this area, but flyovers would show no signs of anything. Then night would fall and the red lights would show up again. Night after night. Finally, Josh was sent in to check it out.

NEIL

Alone?

KYLE

No, but his partner got tripped up on a dead fall and broke an ankle. He had to be choppered out. He begged Josh to get in the chopper, but Josh said he had a job to do.

CUT TO:

EXT - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Neil SHAKES HIS HEAD.

NEIL

He went on by himself? Not smart.

KYLE

But that was Josh. He said the only thing that scared him was going to the dentist.

NEIL

But he didn't die or else I would have heard about it if that happened.

KYLE

No, he didn't die.

NEIL

But something went wrong or else I wouldn't be sitting here right now.

KYLE

Something went wrong, all right. All kinds of wrong.

Neil waits for more, LEANS IN a bit in expectation.

NEIL

Are you going to tell me or do I have to guess?

KYLE

I don't know, Neil. If hearing those voices spooked you so bad-

NEIL

What happened to him, Kyle?

KYLE

We found him three days later.

NEIL

Hold on! I think I remember hearing about that search! I was almost called in to help. You were part of that?

KYLE

I wish I wasn't now.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

Why?

KYLE

Josh was all kinds of messed up when we found him. His mind snapped. He couldn't even speak. He's over at Evergreen Heights right now.

CUT TO:

INT - ASYLUM CELL

Josh is CURLED UP into a BALL at the far side of the small PADDED ROOM. SCRAWLED onto the WALLS of the cell are DRAWINGS of EYES of all SHAPES and SIZES with red inside.

NEIL (VOICE OVER)

The mental institution?

CUT TO:

EXT - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Kyle looks VISIBLY UPSET.

KYLE

I went to visit him once.

(SHAKES HIS HEAD)

I'll never do that again.

NEIL

That bad?

KYLE

I didn't take a field assignment for almost a month after seeing Josh.

NEIL

We're out of here before noon tomorrow.

KYLE

You won't get any arguments out of me!

INT. - TENT - NIGHT

Bruce OPENS HIS EYES. He CRAWLS out of his SLEEPING BAG and moves out of the tent carefully, not wanting to wake the others, although they seem to be sleeping soundly.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Bruce STANDS just outside the TENT, SLOWLY LOOKING AROUND the area. He starts WALKING OFF, toward the TREES and DARKNESS BEYOND. Bruce quickly DISAPPEARS from sight.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - NOON

Carol is CHEWING on a GRANOLA BAR, while the men are DRINKING COFFEE, STANDING around the FIRE.

SID

What are we doing today?

BRUCE

Pick ups, atmosphere shots, and maybe give another of the body sites a try.

MIKE

Are we leaving today?

BRUCE

No way, we need another night to get what we need.

SID

Fantastic (sarcasticly)

BRUCE

Oh, we'll be outa here tomorrow by noon.

Sid SIPS from the CUP in his hand, MAKES A FACE and DUMPS his coffee onto the ground.

SID

Blech! This is why I buy my own coffee.

CUT TO:

Neil and his group head out into the woods to wrap up their assignment.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

Let's get our investigation done right away so we can get out of here.

PAUL

Hold on!

NEIL (STOPPING)

What?

PAUL

I want a picture!

LINDA (ANNOYED)

Why?

PAUL

Because I've taken a picture of every group I've gone into the field with and we've always come back without a scratch.

NEIL

Hurry up, then!

PAUL

Let me get my camera.

Paul RUNS back to the TENT.

CUT TO:

Sid looks AGHAST.

SID

You want to do what?!

BRUCE

Replicate the photograph.

SID

Why?

BRUCE

I think it would make for a nice, creepy moment in the episode. We show their photograph and slowly dissolve to us in the exact same position and location.

(CONTINUED)

SID
Creepy is right.

Bruce HANDS Sid the CAMERA.

BRUCE
You take the picture, then!

Bruce takes out the PHOTOGRAPH of the 1985 group and positions the others in the right order to mirror that photo.

CUT TO:

Paul RAISES his CAMERA.

PAUL
Say "CHEESE!"

NEIL
Just get it over with, Paul!

PAUL
You know, you used to be a nicer guy before hearing voices in the night, Neil!

NEIL
Hurry the hell up!

Paul SNAPS the PHOTO.

CUT TO:

The 1985 PHOTOGRAPH.

DISSOLVE TO:

The PRESENT DAY PHOTOGRAPH.

CUT TO:

EXT - WOODS - DAY

The 1985 group has separated into two teams. Neil and Kyle walk through a densely wooded area, the sky all but obscured from sight from the natural canopy provided by the towering trees. Kyle keeps TURNING and LOOKING OFF to his RIGHT.

NEIL
What do you keep looking at?

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

I'm seeing something out of the corner of my eye.

NEIL

What?

KYLE

I don't know. Just movement.

NEIL

Probably shadows. Kyle does not look totally convinced.

KYLE

Maybe...

NEIL

The way the wind is blowing through the trees, we're getting dancing shadows all over the place.

KYLE

I know what shadows look like in the woods, Neil. I've been in the field plenty of times. More than you.

NEIL

I know that, Kyle. Just saying.

KYLE

What time is it?

NEIL (CHECKING WATCH)

Almost noon.

KYLE

We've been making a spiral around the camp for nearly three hours now. I don't see any sign that anyone has been here, let alone doing any sort of cutting.

NEIL

You're satisfied? Enough to put it in the report?

KYLE

From the growth, it doesn't look like anyone has been out this way since Josh Grant.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

Did you have to bring up his name?

KYLE

Hey, I'm the one who found him out here, so I'm the one who should be freaked out.

There is a LOUD CRACK from their RIGHT SIDE. Both men STOP and LOOK OFF in that direction.

KYLE

That was nothing but a dead limb falling.

NEIL

Not like it was whatever you kept seeing out of the corner of your eye, or something.

Another LOUD CRACK.

KYLE

Uh, I think it's about time we start heading back.

NEIL

Sounds good to me, Kyle.

They start BACKING UP.

A CRACK BEHIND THEM.

NEIL

Oh, damn...

(PAUSE)

Those aren't just voices, Kyle.

KYLE

I kind of figured that out, Neil. You still have that gun, don't you?

NEIL

No.

KYLE

WHAT!?

NEIL

Since Paul was with the women, I figured he should have it to protect them.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

Okay. So we're screwed.

NEIL

Think this is what happened to Josh Grant?

KYLE

I hope so.

NEIL

What the hell are you talking about? You said he went insane!

KYLE

But he made it out alive.

ANOTHER CRACK, directly AHEAD OF THEM. Kyle GRIMACES.

KYLE

Oh, come on! (LOUDLY)

NEIL

They're all around us!

KYLE

Nothing out here moves that fast, so there has to be at least three of them out there.

NEIL

Do we fight or run?

KYLE

You tell me, Neil.

Neil lets out a SIGH and NODS AT KYLE, who NODS RIGHT BACK. Both men TURN AROUND abruptly as they're attacked by an unseen creature or force.

CUT TO:

Carol and Matt are SITTING on a FALLEN LOG. Carol is holding a DIGITAL RECORDER and Matt is holding a VIDEO CAMERA. Carol seems to be admiring the scenery more than concentrating on her work.

CAROL

It's hard to believe someone died right here.

Matt LIFTS his FOOT off the ground, MAKING A FACE.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

I bet Custer thought Little Big Horn was nice when he first arrived, too.

Carol LEANS AGAINST Matt and PUSHES him playfully.

CAROL

You know what I mean. It's so pretty out here.

MATT

The problem is pretty doesn't sell well on a series about things that go bump in the night. Give me an abandoned prison or a nice deserted castle any day.

CAROL

So what are we doing out here?

MATT

Since yesterday was a bust, EVP-wise, we need to try and get something recorded. Anything at all.

CAROL

Like Sid's Batsquatch?

MATT

I would kill to get Sid's Batsquatch on tape!

CAROL

We got something last night. What about the humming sound I recorded?

MATT

I listened to it last night and it wasn't exactly bone-chilling. Sounded like something we would catch driving under power lines.

CAROL

That's not my fault, but there's no power lines out here.

MATT

Yea I know, hmm.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

What about Red Eyes?

MATT

We didn't get anything on camera. Reaction shots are all right, but only go so far.

CAROL

To me, that sounds like a second night out here in the sticks.

MATT

Yep it sure looks like we will be staying again.

CAROL (SARCASTIC)

Fabulous...

MATT

Better to stay an extra night than turn in boring footage.

CAROL

Like every episode from season one?

MATT

You're lucky you weren't around in those days. It was brutal!

CAROL

What changed?

MATT

Sid.

CAROL

Sid? What do you mean?

MATT

He changed up the entire format of the show when he joined and everything took off.

CAROL

So you're saying Sid saved Scary Spots?

MATT

We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Sid.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Well, I hope the others are finding something worthwhile, because I think the only sounds we're picking up around here is our own voices.

MATT

I hope we accomplish something out here to make this trip worthwhile.

Carol inches CLOSER to Matt on the log and the two look at each other in an awkward but sexual kind of way.

CUT TO:

Mike, Bruce, and Sid are WALKING SLOWLY.

SID

I think all this clean air is bad for me! My body is having toxin withdrawals!

Mike STOPS, PUTTING AWAY the GPS DEVICE.

MIKE

This is the last body site.

BRUCE

Let's set up the last camera, put down some recorders, and get out of here.

SID

If I managed to catch whatever was looking at us last night we wouldn't even be here today.

BRUCE

Coulda, shoulda, woulda... but didn't.

SID

Hey, at least I chased after it!

MIKE

We all followed... eventually.

SID

Oh yeah, it was so reassuring seeing all of you standing there.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

At least nothing was going to sneak
up behind you that way.

Bruce and Sid EXCHANGE SLIGHT GRINS, the way old friends do.

MIKE

Did you see that?

Mike is STARING off to the RIGHT.

BRUCE

What? Mike POINTS.

MIKE

Right over there, by those two
trees. I thought I saw something
move.

BRUCE

We're going after it this time!

SID

You first!

BRUCE

You're the cameraman.

SID

But you're the TV star!

Mike lets out an EXASPERATED SOUND and GRABS the VIDEO
CAMERA and MOVES OFF. Bruce and Sid LOOK AT EACH OTHER and
FOLLOW.

BRUCE

Don't get too far ahead, Mike.

SID

I actually hope it is Bigfoot or
Batsquatch or even little green
men.

BRUCE

Why?

SID

I'm sick and tired of shit we can't
see! Capturing voices in static,
chasing shadows, give me a nice,
ten-foot tall hairy monster any
day!

(CONTINUED)

MIKE (LOOKING BACK)
Be careful what you wish for, Sid.

CUT TO:

POV

Mike TURNS the CAMERA back TOWARD Sid and Bruce, just in time to see them REACT to SOMETHING.

BRUCE (REACHES OUT)
MIKE!

The CAMERA goes TUMBLING.

CUT TO:

BLACK.
In the dark, we HEAR THINGS.

DISTANT.
First, the DISTINCT MECHANICAL HUM,
followed by SCREAMING that SLOWLY
ECHOES AWAY.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - DAY

Susan, Linda, and Kyle WALK into the area.

KYLE
Well, that was a waste of time.

SUSAN
At least we can pack up and get out
of here.

KYLE (LOOKING AROUND)
Doesn't look like Neil and Paul are
back yet.

SUSAN
We can get everything ready so we
can get going as soon as they get
here.

KYLE
Sounds good to me.

LINDA
You two have been jumpy all
morning. What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN
You don't feel it?

LINDA
What?

SUSAN
Something... bad.

Linda looks like she about to respond with her usual negativity, but stops and TILTS HER HEAD SLIGHTLY. She merely NODS in agreement. Susan and Linda MOVE to one of the TENTS. Kyle is about to enter the other TENT when he STOPS and LOOKS AROUND, as if HEARING SOMETHING, before SHRUGGING and ENTERING the TENT.

INT - TENT - DAY

Kyle is SITTING on the floor of the TENT, ROLLING UP his SLEEPING BAG. He STOPS when he hears a SOUND, like someone SCRATCHING on the OUTSIDE of the TENT.

KYLE
Come on in.

Kyle WAITS for a moment, LOOKING UP at the entrance to the TENT, and then returns to ROLLING UP the SLEEPING BAG. The SCRATCHING SOUND returns. Kyle's head SNAPS UP QUICKLY.

KYLE (GROWING IMPATIENT)
I said come on in!

Kyle sees a SHADOW MOVE ACROSS the SIDE of the TENT QUICKLY, MOVING from LEFT to RIGHT. Kyle FROWNS. He CRAWLS toward the ENTRY FLAP, REACHING OUT, when the SCRATCHING SOUND is heard BEHIND HIM. Kyle LOOKS BACK over his SHOULDER.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - DAY

Kyle BURSTS from the TENT, expecting to catch someone, but no one is in sight. To be sure, Kyle CIRCLES the TENT, returning to the FRONT of the TENT.

KYLE
Oh, come on now!

INT. - TENT - DAY

Susan and Linda are PACKING when a SHADOW LOOMS across the side of their TENT, catching their attention, seconds before Kyle's VOICE CALLS OUT, obviously from a different direction than the SHADOW.

KYLE (OS)
Susan? Linda?

SUSAN (TO LINDA)
Did you see that?

LINDA
I was going to ask you the same thing-

KYLE (OS)
You two okay in there?

SUSAN
Come on in, Kyle.

Kyle STICKS HIS HEAD INSIDE.

KYLE
Did you two hear anything?

SUSAN
Like what?

KYLE
Something was scratching on my tent a minute ago.

LINDA
Probably just a raccoon or something.

Kyle thinks this over for a moment and then NODS.

KYLE
We ARE in the woods, aren't we?

LINDA
You do have the gun, don't you?

KYLE
Yes...

LINDA
The next time it comes around, blast it!

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Linda!

LINDA

What?

SUSAN

Remind me not to go over and knock
on the other tent later!

KYLE

I don't think you have to worry
about that, Susan. I don't even
like looking at that gun! I know if
it comes down to me having to shoot
something, whatever I'm aiming at
has a better chance than my hitting
it!

CUT TO:

RUNNING through the WOODS.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - DAY

Neil and Paul are RUNNING. Neil FALLS. Paul STOPS, GOES
BACK, and HELPS Neil up onto his feet. Both men, GASPING for
BREATH, LOOK BACK where they came from.

PAUL

What do you think?

NEIL

I don't know.

PAUL

Do you feel as stupid as I do?
Running away from sounds?

NEIL

It's not the sounds that scare
me... it's what's making those
sounds!

PAUL

It's not as if we're new to all
this kind of stuff, Neil. We've
both been out in the field plenty
of times and I've heard more than a
few weird things out here in the
past.

(CONTINUED)

NEIL

No, there is a difference this time, Paul. The woods never felt this way to me before.

(PAUSE)

I don't know if I'll ever want to come back again.

This seems to catch Paul by surprise.

PAUL

What are you talking about, Neil? A career change?

NEIL

Maybe.

PAUL

I know it can get spooky out here, but-

The CRACKING SOUND is heard.

NEIL

Oh, no...

PAUL (ASTONISHED)

It followed us!?

NEIL

Come on! Let's get out of here!

PAUL

Don't you want to see what it is? Not even a bit curious?

NEIL

NO!

The two men RUN OFF.

CUT TO:

In the same area, Mike GETS UP.

MIKE

What the hell?

SID

Way to go, doofus! It's gone!

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

Hey, you didn't even want to chase it!

SID

That's beside the point. At least I know how to use a camera without falling into a damn hole in the ground!

MIKE

Whatever it was it can't be too far away. Come on.

BRUCE

Forget it.

SID

It was probably just a deer anyway.

MIKE

Bruce, you know we need something on tape.

BRUCE

Daylight shots don't sell as well as night shots.

SID

Don't even say it, Bruce.

BRUCE

One more night out here won't kill us.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - DAY

Kyle is STANDING, LOOKING OUT into the woods. He checks his WATCH. Susan WALKS UP beside him.

KYLE

It doesn't look like we're getting out of here today.

SUSAN

I was afraid of that. Neil and Paul have been out there longer than expected. Do you think they ran across... something?

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

I hope not.

SUSAN

What do we do now?

KYLE

Unpack.

DISSOLVE TO:

Carol and Matt WALK into CAMP. Matt LOOKS AROUND.

MATT

No one's here.

CAROL

Knowing Sid and Bruce, they probably got lost.

MATT

Did you know they got lost in a castle in England once? I think Sid was about to start crying when I finally went and got them. It was pathetic. They have no sense of direction whatsoever.

CAROL

What do we do now?

MATT

Wait.

CAROL

I wish we could do something constructive with this time. Any ideas?

MATT

Oh, I have plenty of ideas, but...

Matt SMIRKS and TURNS AWAY from Carol, now suddenly EMBARRASSED.

CAROL

Matt, are you flirting with me?

MATT

I have been, for about two years.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL (LOOKS SURPRISED)
You have!?

MATT
Too subtle?

CAROL
Uh, yeah!

Matt NODS TO HIMSELF and SIGHS.

MATT
I think I'm going to stretch out
for a while.

Matt WALKS to his TENT and ENTERS. Carol seems to be
thinking something over and then WALKS to the TENT, sticking
her head INSIDE.

CAROL
Care for some company?

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - DAY

Mike, Bruce, and Sid are STANDING together, LOOKING AROUND.

BRUCE
What do you mean we're lost?

MIKE
What part of "we're lost" didn't
you understand? The "we're" or the
"lost" part?

BRUCE
So use the GPS.

MIKE
I think it got damaged when I fell.

BRUCE
What!?

SID
How are we going to get back home?

MIKE
I can probably fix it back at camp.

(CONTINUED)

SID (GROWING PANICKED)
Probably?

MIKE
We just need to find camp first.

BRUCE
It can't be too far away. It felt like we walked only ten minutes or so.

The three men LOOK AROUND and end up POINTING in three DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

MIKE, SID, BRUCE (SAME TIME)
That way!

SID
Oh, great. We're dead.

BRUCE
Oh, stop it! We've been lost before.

SID
Not in the wilderness with bloodthirsty Batsquatches running around!

MIKE
Actually, with Batsquatch, wouldn't that be flying around?

SID
Shut up, Mike!

BRUCE
Getting angry isn't going to accomplish anything, Sid.

SID
Angry? I'm SCARED!

Mike COCKS his HEAD.

MIKE
Hold on... did you hear that?

Sid QUICKLY SPINS AROUND.

SID
What?!

MIKE

This way!

Mike starts MOVING AWAY and the two other men FOLLOW. The trio MOVE THROUGH the woods QUICKLY.

CUT TO:

POV

SOMETHING is MOVING through the CAMP, toward the TENT. Carol can be heard, MOANING LOUDLY, obviously in the midst of a sexual liaison. Almost to the tent, a SHADOW starting to APPEAR on the nylon. A CRACK of a BRANCH and it MOVES OFF QUICKLY, MOVING into the woods and WATCHES as Mike, Sid, and Bruce WALK into the camp from the FAR SIDE.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMPSITE - DAY

Hearing the obviously CARNAL SOUNDS, the men can not help but SMILE.

SID

I never figured Carol would be so noisy doing it!

MIKE

Lucky for us, though. Led us right back to camp.

BRUCE

Do you think we should give them their privacy?

SID

Oh hell no!

(LOUDLY)

I thought we came here to work!

A minute later, Carol comes out of the TENT.

CAROL

We can finish going over those recordings later!

Sid LEANS TOWARD Mike.

(CONTINUED)

SID
They recorded it, too? Whoa! That's
what you call a dedicated audio
person!

Carol MOVES QUICKLY to the other TENT and ENTERS, ZIPPING it
SHUT behind her. Matt comes out of the first TENT.

MATT
You guys see anything interesting?

SID
Well, almost.

BRUCE
Actually, Mike saw something, but
we didn't get it on camera.

MATT
Again?

SID
Well, some of us are luckier than
others out here.

BRUCE
Sid...

SID
What?

MATT
What's the plan?

BRUCE
Sid and Mike can get to work on the
Explain the Equipment segment-

MIKE
Oh, man.

BRUCE
There's a reason why it's called
show BUSINESS, Mike.

MIKE
Yeah, all right. Come on, Sid.
Let's get this over with!

Sid SMILES and CLAPS HIS HANDS LOUDLY.

SID
MAGIC TIME!

Sid and Mike WALK OFF. Bruce GLANCES at Matt, who TURNS AWAY.

BRUCE
Really?

Matt can only SHRUG HIS SHOULDERS.

Bruce EXHALES and WALKS OFF.

CUT TO:

Neil STOPS at the edge of the CAMP, LOOKING CONFUSED. He sees Matt, Mike, Bruce, and Sid as Mike and Sid WALK AWAY from Bruce and Matt.

NEIL
What the hell?

(SEEING SID)
Paul?

PAUL (OS)
What?

Neil LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER, seeing Paul CATCHING UP. Neil TURNS BACK toward the camp, but Matt, Mike, Bruce, and Sid are now gone. Neil looks DUMBFOUNDED.

NEIL
Uh... nothing.

PAUL
Well, you look like someone just slapped you across the face with a sock full of wet dog shit.

NEIL (SHAKING HIS HEAD)
Just thought I saw something for a second.

PAUL
You think we can still get out of here today?

NEIL
Uh, yea...I guarantee it, or die trying!

THUNDER is heard.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

Bruce and Matt LOOK UP, Sid and Mike are QUICKLY RETURNING.

BRUCE

More rain? Oh great, that's all we need right now!

MIKE

Maybe we should just pack up and go.

BRUCE

We're not going anywhere until tomorrow and maybe not even then if you don't get that GPS fixed.

MATT

What happened to the GPS?

SID

Twinkle-toes here fell on it.

MIKE

Maybe if the cameraman was actually being a cameraman-

BRUCE

Just do your best, Mike!

MIKE

I thought you said do the equipment segment.

BRUCE

Do the segment and THEN Fix the GPS!

MIKE

Alright, I'll get on it.

SID

I bet that's what Matt said about ten minutes ago!

Matt is about to RESPOND, but STOPS and just SHAKES HIS HEAD. Carol's VOICE CALLS OUT.

CAROL (OS)

I heard that!

(CONTINUED)

SID (LOUDLY)

GOOD!

Minutes later, the men are SITTING around the CAMPFIRE AREA, with Mike TINKERING with the GPS UNIT.

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - DAY

Sid ENTERS the TENT and SEES Kyle in his uniform standing in the tent.

SID (CASUALLY)

Hey Ranger, uh, can I help you with something?

Sid turns to look for Bruce and when he turns back to the Ranger, Kyle is not in sight.

SID

Uhhhh...Hello? Ranger?

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMPSITE - DAY

Sid QUICKLY EXITS the TENT, finding Kyle STANDING by the CAMPFIRE. Sid STOPS, as if hitting an invisible wall.

SID

What the Hell? Uhhh, how did you get out here so fast?

Kyle LOOKS OVER with a PUZZLED EXPRESSION.

KYLE (DUMBFUNDED)

What are you talking about? I thought you were getting ready to go. And what are you wearing? Don't let the others see you out of uniform.

Sid now looks COMPLETELY CONFUSED.

SID

So... uh, what's going on here?

Kyle is packing things up at the campsite and thinking Sid is Paul but doesn't realize that time has somehow collided and he is talking with Sid who is equally confused.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE (GROWING IMPATIENT)
We're leaving as soon as you're ready.

(LOOKS SKYWARD)
It looks like a storm is coming.

SID
OK, I'll... uh, go pack.

Sid does NOT MOVE.

KYLE
So, go on!

Sid NODS and ENTERS the TENT quickly.

CUT TO:

Mike, Bruce, and Matt LOOK OVER when Sid EXITS the TENT a second time, BACKPACK SLUNG over a SHOULDER as if he is ready to hike out of there.

BRUCE
Where do you think you're going?

SID
Uh, the ranger said we're leaving...didn't you get the memo?

MATT
What Ranger?

BRUCE
Numb nut...What part of 'we don't have enough footage' don't you understand? We're not going anywhere til tomorrow.

(PAUSE)
Are you all right, man?

SID (MUMBLES)
Uhhh...There's....a...storm coming.
And the Ranger that was just here said we had to go now.

Matt, Mike, and Bruce first look confused then LOOK SKYWARD.

BRUCE
I haven't heard Matt's knee complain about any storm yet and I haven't seen any Rangers since we
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE (cont'd)
left the trailhead yesterday. You
guys see anyone?

The others just nod no.

(PAUSE)
If it does start storming we'll go
get the equipment, but for now
let's just see what happens.

SID
Uh, okay.

Sid scratches his head, TURNS and REENTERS the TENT.

MATT
Whoa. Are you sure Sid isn't the
one who fell down out there? He
seems a little... confused. Even
more so than usual.

BRUCE
Someone keep an eye on him.

MIKE
But a missing cameraman might boost
ratings.

BRUCE
Who said ratings were down?

MIKE
Please. You're not the only one who
got a call from the producers.

This incites a SURPRISED LOOK from Bruce.

BRUCE
What?

Matt also looks SURPRISED.

MATT
Hold up! I co-created Scary Spots!
But they call you instead of me,
Mike?!

Matt TURNS to GLARE at Bruce.

BRUCE
Hey, this is news to me!

MATT

If you two are going to pull something, at least let me in on it! I don't like being left out in the dark, especially since I'm the one who actually turned this thing from a simple website into a TV series!

BRUCE

I'm not planning on pulling anything, Matt! How about you, Mike?

MIKE

I'm only an investigator here, okay? I'm not about to do anything behind anyone's back!

There is an UNEASY MOMENT of SILENCE between the three men.

MATT

All right, (BEAT) well then let's get moving.

A WIND KICKS UP, making NOISE as it BLOWS THROUGH the TREES. Matt LOOKS UP.

MATT

Maybe we should start listening to Sid after all.

CUT TO:

Neil, Paul, Kyle, Linda, and Susan STAND TOGETHER, LOOKING SKYWARD.

PAUL

What do you think, Neil?

NEIL

The temperature is dropping real fast.

(PAUSE)

We won't make it far before dark and with it getting this cold that can be dangerous.

The others LOOK DEJECTED.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

Can you just stick with one plan,
Neil.

NEIL

Well it's only one more night, so
let's stay tonight and get an early
start at sunrise.

The group agrees and head for their tents.

CUT TO:

Bruce and Mike are BUILDING UP the CAMPFIRE for the
approaching night.

BRUCE

We use everything we have tonight.
Every camera, every recorder, Night
Vision, and even FLIR. If there's
anything out there, I want it
recorded!

MIKE

We're going to be up all night and
then hiking all day tomorrow.

(PAUSE)

Show business sucks.

Bruce SNAPS a BRANCH in TWO and TOSSES it into the FIRE.

BRUCE

That's why we get paid the Big
Bucks, Mike.

MIKE

Oh, yeah. Remind me about those big
bucks the next time I'm scrounging
around trying to make my car
payment!

(BEAT)

What time do you want to start?

BRUCE

The second it gets dark.

MIKE

That's about an hour, then. I'd
better get that equipment segment
shot before then.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

I want this fire going good enough to last all night. Feels like it's going to be a cold one and we're going to need it when we get back.

MIKE

We better get more wood before it gets dark.

BRUCE

Let's go.

MIKE

I'll tell the others.

Mike WALKS OFF. Bruce STIRS the FIRE, sending SPARKS SKYWARD. Behind him, Mike ENTERS the TENT.

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - DAY

Neil, Kyle, and Paul are in their tent. WIND BUFFETS the TENT.

KYLE

Man, it's getting bad out there!

NEIL

Paul, maybe you should go check up on Linda and Susan.

PAUL

Why me?

KYLE

Because Neil is the supervisor and I'm the biologist and you suffer from a profound lack of seniority.

PAUL

Huh?

KYLE

Just go check on the women.

Paul makes a SOUND DEEP in his THROAT.

PAUL

All right.

(CONTINUED)

Paul OPENS the TENT, a HEAVY GUST of WIND HITTING him. He LOOKS BACK at the others.

PAUL
I hope the tent leaks while I'm gone!

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMPSITE - TWILIGHT

Mike WAVES to Bruce

MIKE
Okay, let's go. Sid and Matt will do the equipment segment and Carol is recording the audio.

Mike and Bruce WALK AWAY from the camp.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - WOODS - TWILIGHT

Mike and Bruce are LOOKING on the ground for WOOD.

MIKE
Bruce, have you ever heard of Kla-Klich-Ka?

BRUCE
That some sort of new cocktail?

MIKE
No. I found out about it online while researching this area. It's a Native American phrase that means "the Dead Land."

BRUCE
That sounds like something right up our alley! Where is this klich-klich-koo?

MIKE
Kla-Klich-Ka is everywhere, if you can believe anything you read online.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

What do you mean it's everywhere?

Mike BENDS OVER and PICKS UP a piece of WOOD, but TOSSES it ASIDE as being too wet.

MIKE

According to what I read, Kla-Klich-Ka are those places that are never developed. Every town has that empty lot or patch of trees where you'd think someone would build something but it stays untouched year after year.

Bruce thinks this over and NODS.

BRUCE

So something tells me there's more to this than just a goofy name.

MIKE

Those areas are never developed because supposedly things live in Kla-Klich-Ka, things that don't like people.

BRUCE

Now this is the sort of stuff you should be bringing to me, Mike!

MIKE

I just did, Bruce.

BRUCE

The dead land. Now that would make a good title for a future episode of Scary Spots! Hell, it would be good for the one we're working on now!

MIKE

It would be fitting, that's for sure.

BRUCE

Do you think we could incorporate Kla- Klich-Ka into this episode? Just in case we pull a big, fat zero tonight?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

The reason I brought it up in the first place is because we're standing in the middle of Kla-Klich-Ka right now.

BRUCE

Really?

(BEAT)

Nice!

MIKE

We better not tell Sid about Kla-Klich-Ka or else he might just take off running, especially if it had something to do with what happened to that group back in 1985.

(PAUSE)

Do you think it did?

BRUCE

Oh, it will by the time I finish writing the episode!

(SEES MIKE'S EXPRESSION)

Come on, Mike. People must have been through this area since 1985 and nothing happened. That '85 group just ran into some bad luck.

MIKE

Bruce, you've been to enough places over the years to know that weird things can and do happen directly due to the location itself.

BRUCE

Just not when you want it to.

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - TWILIGHT

Linda, Susan, and Paul are SITTING inside the TENT. A STRONG WIND SHAKES the TENT.

LINDA

You can go back to your tent any time now, Paul.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Are you sure you two will be all right over here?

LINDA

We're sure.

(BEAT)

See ya!

Paul takes a DEEP BREATH and then SCRAMBLES out of the TENT. Linda and Susan QUICKLY ZIP UP the entry as WIND BLOWS in.

SUSAN

You didn't have to kick him out like that, Linda.

LINDA

Listen, I've known Paul longer than you, Susan. He's a real decent guy, but his only fault is that he scares too easily. I bet he didn't want to go out there because he was worried the wind would blow him away or something!

SUSAN

You're kidding, right? I've seen Paul chase down guys with chainsaws, Linda! He never seemed scared.

LINDA

Paul will stand up to any man, no problem, but a little wind and he thinks a tornado is going to take him away. It's just the way he's wired.

SUSAN

You know, I've heard that what happens to you in a past life can carry over to your current life.

LINDA

What are you talking about?

SUSAN

You know when people get that sudden chill and say someone walked over your grave? Maybe that's where you died in another life.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA
You're weird, Susan!

Linda CRAWLS into her SLEEPING BAG and pulls it OVER HER HEAD. Susan SHRUGS her SHOULDERS.

CUT TO:

Carol is sorting through her audio equipment when she finds a THICK FILE FOLDER.

CAROL (SOFTLY TO HERSELF)
What's this?

Matt and Sid ENTER the TENT.

MATT
Ready for some fun?

(PAUSE)
No wonder Mike hates shooting these segments. How thrilling can you make talking about FLIR and digital recorders?

Carol HOLDS UP the FILE in a dubious way.

CAROL
Do you know what this is?

MATT
Looks like Mike's stuff. Probably research. The guy takes his work seriously, that's for sure. He's got a Ph.D. afterall.

CAROL
Do you think he would mind if I looked?

SID
He shouldn't have left it out if he wanted it kept secret.

MATT
Go ahead.

Carol OPENS the FILE. After a few moments, Sid LOOKS OVER.

SID
So what is it?

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

His research. Stuff about the five who died here back in 1985. Mike really got into the research behind this place.

SID

Anything interesting?

CAROL

Just statistics that I can see.

(PAUSE)

Oh, here's another photograph.

Carol FROWNS while LOOKING at the PHOTOGRAPH. She TURNS IT OVER to look for anything written on the backside.

CAROL

Sid, how old are you?

SID

Twenty-three. Why?

CAROL

Then how could you be in a photograph from 1985?

Carol HOLDS UP the PHOTOGRAPH. Sid and Matt LEAN IN to LOOK at the PHOTO.

MATT

Well, that's weird.

SID

Who is that? He looks exactly like me!

CAROL

His name is Paul. It's written on the back.

Sid SNATCHES the PHOTO AWAY from Carol, STARING at it with GROWING TERROR in his EYES.

SID

Why didn't Mike say anything about this!?

MATT

Maybe because he thought you would overreact, like what you're doing right now.

(CONTINUED)

SID

That's easy for you to say, Matt!
You don't look like one of the
people who died out here back in
1985!

MATT

Calm down-

SID (SHOUTING)

Don't tell me to calm down!

CAROL

It's just a coincidence, Sid.

SID

I don't believe in coincidences,
but I do believe in fate!

MATT

So now you think you're going to
die out here?

SID

Not if I can help it!

Sid SHOVES Matt out of the way and EXITS the TENT. Carol
LOOKS STARTLED by Sid's ACTIONS.

CAROL

I've never seen Sid act like that
before!

MATT

This could get ugly fast!

CAROL

Should we go after him?

MATT

Where's he going to go?

EXT. - CAMPSITE - TWILIGHT

Just as Sid DISAPPEARS into the OTHER TENT, Mike and Bruce
return with WOOD, DUMPING it next to the FIRE.

BRUCE

Anyone ever see whatever supposedly
lives in these dead land spots?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

There's a quote online from a Native American about that and he said that those who see what's in Kla-Klich-Ka aren't around to tell what they saw.

BRUCE

Oh, I like that!

(BEAT)

Forget the dead forest service people! I want more of this dead land stuff!

MIKE

Maybe it all ties together, Bruce.

BRUCE

Don't tease me, alright? No use getting greedy. No, tonight we look for dead land monsters!

MIKE

You're the boss.

BRUCE

Let's get the others and start.

MIKE

You realize this means virtually everything we've already shot is useless.

BRUCE

Oh, I don't care. Wait, no we can tie this together. They were killed by the dead land monsters and are now evil spirits that are here to drive us away.

MIKE

Eh, alright...

CUT TO:

INT. - TENT - TWILIGHT

Kyle, Paul, and Neil are SITTING in the STORM-SHAKEN TENT.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

Damn, this is going to be a long night!

NEIL

The only way to make it go by quicker is to go to sleep.

Neil LAYS DOWN and COVERS himself with his SLEEPING BAG. Soon SNORING can be heard. Paul and Kyle LOOK at each other and then to Neil.

KYLE

I hate people like him!

PAUL

You mean good looking guys who get all the girls?

KYLE

No, people who fall asleep just like that!

(SNAPS FINGERS)

Takes me forever to fall asleep.

PAUL (SUDDENLY)

Dang it!

KYLE

What?

PAUL

I have to pee!

KYLE

Aim downwind.

PAUL

Thanks.

EXT. - CAMPSITE - TWILIGHT

Paul STEPS OUT of the TENT and WALKS OFF, STOPPING and LICKING a FINGER, HOLDING it UP to gauge the WIND DIRECTION. He UNZIPS and immediately SPOTS a DARK SHAPE MOVE QUICKLY out of sight.

PAUL

HEY!

(CONTINUED)

KYLE (OS)
What?

PAUL
Not you!

(BEAT) HEY! (PAUSE) KYLE!

KYLE (OS)
WHAT!?

PAUL
Get out here!

KYLE (OS)
Forget it! It's cold out there!

PAUL
I saw someone!

Kyle STICKS his HEAD OUT of the TENT.

KYLE
Where?

PAUL (POINTS)
Over there! Kyle CRAWLS out of the
TENT and STEPS up BESIDE Paul.

PAUL
Are we going after him?

KYLE
It is our job, isn't it?

PAUL
What about the others?

KYLE
I left the walkie-talkie turned on
next to Neil.
(HOLDS Up 2nd UNIT) If we need
help, all we do is shout.

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

Kyle and Paul are MOVING SLOWLY.

PAUL
Damn, it's cold out here!

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

Are you sure you saw someone?

PAUL

Very sure!

KYLE

It's so quiet out here. Doesn't sound like the usual night in the woods.

PAUL

What do you mean?

KYLE

You can't feel it?

PAUL

Not really.

KYLE

It just doesn't feel... right.

PAUL

Maybe we should have waked Neil up.

KYLE

He's sleeping like the dead.

PAUL

Uh, could you not use that word out here?

KYLE

Unless it's more than a couple of wood pirates, I think we can handle it ourselves, Paul.

PAUL

If this is anything like what Neil and I ran across earlier, I don't think we will be able to handle it at all.

KYLE

What are you talking about? What did you and Neil see earlier?

PAUL

We didn't SEE anything.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

I don't get it.

PAUL

Kyle, have you ever heard about the Dead Land?

KYLE

Hey, I've worked this area since I got out of college; of course I've heard of it!

(PAUSE)

You don't believe in that Indian stuff, do you?

PAUL

You don't know that I'm Indian, do you?

Kyle looks SURPRISED by this news.

KYLE

But you don't look-

(BEAT)

I thought you were Canadian.

PAUL

My mother is an Alaskan native, that's where I get the eyes, and my dad is Yakima Indian.

KYLE

Wow. I never would have guessed.

PAUL

Why do you think I got this job? The government liked the tribal connection.

KYLE

But if you're Indian, what are you doing out here? I thought Indians stayed far away from these Dead Land places.

PAUL

My grandma used to tell me stories about this area, but I always thought it was stuff older people tell kids to keep them from wandering off, you know.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE
What kind of stories?

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - DAY

A YOUNG MAN is WALKING through the woods, an INDIAN, carrying a RIFLE casually. This hunter is not dressed like what you would expect, simply wearing JEANS and a T-SHIRT.

PAUL (VO)
When my uncle was younger, he used to hunt close to here, on the far edge of the reservation. One day he went a little too far and ended up on Dead Land.

KYLE (VO)
What happened?

Paul's uncle STOPS and starts TURNING HIS HEAD BACK and FORTH, obviously having HEARD SOMETHING. He brings the RIFLE UP. FEAR can be seen on the young man's FACE as he starts to BACK UP SLOWLY.

PAUL (VO)
Don't know for sure. They found his body three days later.

CUT TO:

QUICK SHOT of Paul's uncle, DEAD, his body HANGING somehow WEDGED in the BRANCHES of a TREE.

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

Kyle LOOKS SUDDENLY FRIGHTENED.

KYLE
What the hell are you doing out here if you knew something like that happened around here!? What the hell am I doing out here now that I know something like that happened around here!?

PAUL
I didn't believe in any of that Stick Indian stuff-

(CONTINUED)

KYLE
Stick Indian?

PAUL
That's sort of an Indian boogeyman.

(BEAT)
I started working out here because
I wanted to prove that a myth is
really nothing but a myth.

KYLE
How do you feel about it now, Paul?

PAUL
I don't know-

Kyle GRABS Paul by the ARM.

KYLE
THERE!

A LIGHT can be seen MOVING in the dark AHEAD OF THEM.

PAUL
Oh, my God...

KYLE
Stick Indian?

PAUL
Maybe it's just a flashlight.

KYLE
It doesn't look like a flashlight
to me, Paul. It's too big.

PAUL
I think we should get out of here,
Kyle.

KYLE
I thought you wanted to disprove
those Indian myths.

PAUL
Not now.

KYLE
Do you hear that?

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

Yeah. Some kind of hum.

KYLE

That isn't supernatural, Paul. That sounds man-made. Come on, we have to check this out.

Paul looks RELUCTANT, but FOLLOWS Kyle when Kyle starts MOVING TOWARD the MOVING LIGHT ahead of them.

CUT TO:

The Scary Spots group MOVES SLOWLY through the same area.

SID

Let me get this straight. At first we came here to contact the ghosts of dead campers and now we're looking for monsters that apparently no one has lived to talk about?

BRUCE

That's about it.

SID

Cool.

MATT

Cool?

SID

I'll take monsters over ghosts any day, especially when one of the ghosts looks like me!

Sid TURNS and gives Mike a BALEFUL LOOK.

MIKE

You looked at my file?! That's why I didn't want to show you Sid. I knew you would react this way.

CAROL

I'll take a long vacation over both monsters and ghosts any day, thank you!

BRUCE

We'll all be taking a permanent vacation unless we gather some decent footage!

(CONTINUED)

SID

It's all up to Mike's dead land monsters now.

MIKE

I don't know if I like gambling our careers on something someone might have simply made up and posted out of boredom!

BRUCE

Ninety percent of what we shoot was found on the internet, Mike.

SID

Where do we start?

BRUCE

Where we spotted that red eyed thing. Maybe we already ran across one of Mike's monsters and didn't even know it.

MIKE

I wish you guys would stop calling them my monsters!

SID

Why? Mike's Monsters. It has a certain ring to it!

MIKE

More like a dull thud to me.

CAROL

How about Sid's Ghost for a title?

SID

Don't start with that, Carol!

MATT

You should have told us about that file, Mike. We don't keep secrets from each other in Scary Spots.

BRUCE

Don't blame Mike! I'm the one who told him not to say anything about it!

MATT

Why?

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE

I wanted to save it in case things didn't pan out here. For me, it's all about the continued survival of Scary Spots and not Sid's fragile psyche.

SID

Fragile?

BRUCE

Look how you reacted to being the dead ringer for one of the forest service people.

BRUCE

Let's set up right here.

SID

Why here?

BRUCE

Just a feeling. Let's put three up to cover this whole area.

SID

You got it, boss.

Sid and Mike set down the CASES they have been CARRYING and OPENING them, taking out CAMERAS, while Carol SETS UP TRIPODS. Bruce MOTIONS to Matt and STEPS AWAY from the others, Matt FOLLOWING with a PUZZLED EXPRESSION on his face.

MATT

What?

BRUCE

Keep an eye on Sid-

CUT TO:

Paul and Kyle are CROUCHED, LOOKING at SOMETHING.

PAUL (WHISPERING)

What the hell is that?

KYLE (WHISPERING)

I don't know.

PAUL (WHISPERING)

It looks like they're using that cave.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE (WHISPERING)
That doesn't look like a cave. Look
at it. It's too...perfect.

PAUL (WHISPERING)
What is it then?

KYLE (WHISPERING)
I don't care. I'm more worried
about the things using it!

PAUL
OH SHIT! IT'S SEEN US!

Kyle GRABS Paul by an ARM.

KYLE
LET'S GET OUT HERE!

CUT TO:

Sid is ADJUSTING the camera on a TRIPOD, TURNS IT ON, and
FLIPS OPEN the small LCD VIEWING SCREEN.

INSERT:

The screen IMAGE is an IR shot of the area. Suddenly, TWO
FIGURES can be seen RUNNING across the screen.

CUT TO:

Sid FROWNS at seeing the FIGURES. He QUICKLY LOOKS UP from
the screen, looking out in the direction where the CAMERA is
AIMED but there's nothing there.

SID
What the hell!?

CAROL (OS)
What?

SID
I just saw someone on the IR screen
but there's nobody here.

The others immediately CROWD AROUND the CAMERA.

BRUCE
You sure your not playing something
previously recorded?

(CONTINUED)

SID
Positive!

BRUCE
Well then the other cameras will
catch it too.

Sid rewinds the shot and everyone sees the FIGURES RUSH
across the small SCREEN.

BRUCE
What the?

MATT
Ok, that's weird and cool at the
same time, but that isn't going to
make an entire episode. We need to
figure out what that was and get
more of it.

BRUCE
We've done more with less, Matt.

Carol GLANCES OVER at one of the other CAMERAS, seeing
MOVEMENT on the SCREEN.

CAROL
Guys! Something else is moving out
there!

CUT TO:

POV

SOMETHING is CHASING Paul and Kyle.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

Kyle GLANCES BACK and FALLS DOWN. Paul HESITATES for a
SECOND, but then keeps RUNNING, leaving Kyle behind. Kyle
SCREAMS and CURLS UP into a BALL.

CUT TO:

Mike suddenly SHUDDERS.

MIKE
Damn...

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
What's wrong?

MIKE
I don't know. I just felt a sudden
jolt.

SID
Isn't this close to one of the dead
body spots?

MIKE
Oh man, I think you're right.

Mike takes a STEP BACKWARD. Carol is WATCHING Mike. Mike is feeling like something is happening to him from the supernatural plane.

CAROL
Are you all right, Mike?

MIKE
I don't think so.

Bruce POINTS to one of the CAMERAS.

BRUCE
Sid, take that camera and move in
the direction where those figures
moved! Maybe we'll get lucky and
catch some more footage.

Sid NODS without a word and takes the CAMERA off the TRIPOD.

MATT
He shouldn't go alone.

CAROL
I'll go with him.

MATT
Bruce, what are we going to do?

BRUCE
Keep looking.

Sid NODS to Carol and they MOVE OFF, Sid LOOKING down at the SMALL SCREEN as he WALKS. Mike still LOOKS SHAKEN as Sid and Carol disappear into the dark, only the illumination from the CAMERA SCREEN seen. Sid is WALKING SLOWLY, Carol directly BEHIND HIM, CLUTCHING at his JACKET with a HAND.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
See anything yet, Sid?

SID
No, not yet.

CAROL
I have to be honest... I'm scared.

SID
Me, too.

CAROL
So why are we out here like this?

SID
It's our job, Carol.

CAROL
Maybe we need to go on strike!

Sid SUDDENLY STOPS, Carol RUNNING into him.

SID
Right there! I saw something move!

Carol moves beside Sid to look at the SMALL SCREEN.

CAROL
What was it?

SID
Just a blur, like before, but it
moved over in that direction.

Sid MOTIONS toward the LEFT.

CAROL
Then let's go the other way!

SID
Oh, come on, Carol!

CAROL
Why are you so brave all of a
sudden? You were freaked out by
your doppelganger just a few
minutes ago!

SID
I can't help it! This is exciting
after years of recording a whole
lotta nothing in so-called haunted
houses!

(BEAT)

We're still close, if you want to go back where the others are.

CAROL

No. Let's go.

Sid SMILES and they MOVE off toward where the on-screen blur moved.

CUT TO:

Back at the original site, Matt POINTS.

MATT

Look! A light!

Bruce and Mike LOOK toward where Matt is POINTING and SEE a LIGHT MOVING through the woods.

MIKE

Oh, shit...

BRUCE

What? Come on!

MIKE

What if it's a poacher or something?

BRUCE

That doesn't look like a flashlight to me!

MIKE

Even a better reason to stay put!

MATT

Let's move in slowly. Mike, grab the FLIR.

CUT TO:

POV

Mike scans the heat sensitive CAMERA BACK and FORTH as he walks.

CUT TO:

Mike SHAKES his HEAD.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
Nothing's showing up on FLIR.

BRUCE
How can it not show up on FLIR?
It's RIGHT THERE!

MIKE
Do you want to check it out for
yourself?

BRUCE
No. Come on, let's keep following
it. But let's move slowly. I don't
want to scare it off again.

MIKE
Scare IT off?

CUT TO:

Paul is RUNNING through the woods.

FRANTIC.
Paul LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER and
his face REFLECTS the fact that he
sees SOMETHING. Paul spots a CAVE
ENTRANCE just ahead and DARTS
INSIDE.

INT. - CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Paul, CHEST HEAVING, PEERS OUT into the darkness. He does
not see the PAIR OF RED EYES RISE UP behind him.

INT. - TENT - NIGHT

Neil is AWAKENED by STATIC coming from the WALKIE-TALKIE
near his head.

NEIL
Damn it.

(LOOKS AROUND)
Where the hell is everyone?

Neil LOOKS down at the WALKIE-TALKIE when he hears a SCREAM
within the STATIC. A LIGHT can be seen on the TENT from
OUTSIDE. Neil CRAWLS toward the TENT ENTRANCE. He STICKS HIS
HEAD OUT. Neil is PULLED COMPLETELY out of the TENT.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

With Bruce in the lead, Mike and Matt FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND, all three SLOWLY FOLLOWING the MOVING LIGHT ahead of them.

MATT

I still can't see what it is.

BRUCE

Do they see lights in Kla-Klich-Ka, Mike?

MIKE

There isn't a whole lot of information on it besides what I told you.

MATT

Lucky Sid isn't here or else he'd start babbling about this being one of his government conspiracies.

BRUCE

I say we rush it.

MATT

I'm going to have to play the chicken card on this one, Bruce!

BRUCE

If something is going to happen it isn't going to happen until we make it happen!

MATT

There's a fine line between curiosity and stupidity, Bruce!

BRUCE

Matt, we're in the Reality TV business. We crossed that line a long time ago.

MATT

I can't argue with that. Let's do it and get this over with, but if it turns out to be just a poacher I'm going home.

MIKE

I'm ready to go home right now.

(CONTINUED)

BRUCE
Scared?

MIKE
You bet your ass I'm scared!

BRUCE
Let's at least get some footage out
of this-

CUT TO:

POV.

Mike is WALKING BACKWARD, recording Bruce for the episode.
Bruce is using his ON-AIR PERSONALITY.

BRUCE
We're chasing a strange light that
definitely isn't someone walking
around out here with a flashlight.
What do you think it is, Matt?

Mike moves the CAMERA to include Matt in the shot.

MATT
Hard saying. To me, it looks more
natural than artificial, and yet it
doesn't show up on FLIR as a heat
source!

MIKE
HOLD ON!

Everyone STOPS. The sound of women screaming far away can
heard faintly.

BRUCE
What?

MIKE
Did you hear that?

MATT
No, what was it?

MIKE
It sounded like... women screaming.

BRUCE
I didn't hear anything.

Bruce makes a SLASHING MOVE with his HAND. Mike LOWERS the
CAMERA.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

That wasn't Carol, was it?

MIKE

No. I've heard Carol scream before.
Remember that hospital in LA?
Besides, it was two distinct
screams.

BRUCE

We need Carol's audio!

MATT

Maybe we should call them back.

Bruce takes OUT a small, 2-WAY RADIO.

BRUCE

Carol, you there?

Carol's VOICE is heard SECONDS LATER.

CAROL (OS)

Bruce, we've chased something to a
cave!

BRUCE

Did you get anything on camera?

CAROL (OS)

We haven't checked yet.

BRUCE

Did you hear anything a few seconds
ago?

CAROL (OS)

What? No. Why? Did you?

BRUCE

We need your audio equipment for
this over here.

CAROL (OS)

You want us to head back?

Bruce looks CONFLICTED.

BRUCE (TO MIKE AND MATT)

What do you guys think?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

I can probably catch audio with the camera mic. If they leave there, we might miss whatever they saw and end up with a big, fat zero again.

Bruce NODS.

BRUCE

Carol, you two stay there and we'll try to capture audio with what we have.

CAROL (OS)

Right.

Bruce puts the radio away and then TURNS to MIKE.

BRUCE

It's all on you now.

MIKE

Oh, great.

(BEAT)

We're going to need to be real quiet to catch anything with the camera.

Matt and Bruce NOD. Mike takes a SET of HEADPHONES out and PLUGS it into the CAMERA after putting them on his head. Mike starts MOVING OFF SLOWLY, while Matt and Bruce remain in place. He QUICKLY RAISES A HAND.

CUT TO:

Neil, CUT and BLEEDING in VARIOUS PLACES, is RUNNING through the woods. He LOOKS FRIGHTENED beyond rational thought.

CUT TO:

Mike spots MOTION while looking through the CAMERA.

MIKE

I see something!

Bruce almost JUMPS in excitement.

BRUCE

What? What!?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
Movement, right in front of us!

BRUCE
Follow it!

Mike MOVES, trying to keep the MOVING IMAGE in frame. Matt and Bruce FOLLOW.

CUT TO:

Carol is putting on her HEADPHONES. Sid LOOKS over at her.

SID
What are you doing?

CAROL
Bruce said they heard something. I want to see if I can catch part of it over here.

SID
But what about the cave?

CAROL
It will still be there in a few minutes, Sid!

Carol starts MOVING a PARABOLIC MIC, the DISH SCANNING BACK AND FORTH.

SID
Hear anything?

CAROL
I think I hear the others moving around.

Carol FROWNS, HANDS COVERING the HEADPHONES.

CAROL
There's something else.

CUT TO:

EXT. - CAMP - NIGHT

Kyle is pulling Susan out of the TENT. He is DIRTY and BLEEDING.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE
Let's MOVE!

SUSAN
Kyle, where did you come from?

KYLE
Don't worry about that! We have to
MOVE!

SUSAN
What about Linda?

KYLE
She's gone, Susan! GO!

SUSAN
But she was right next to me!

KYLE
Oh, shit!

In the darkness surrounding the camp, Kyle sees NUMEROUS RED EYES.

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

Linda is STUMBLING through the woods, ARMS OUTSTRETCHED, SCREAMING. Her EYES are GONE, now only DARK SOCKETS.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WOODS - NIGHT

In her HEADPHONES, Carol can HEAR SCREAMING. She THROWS off the HEADPHONES.

CAROL (SOFTLY)
I didn't like that at all.

Sid REACHES DOWN and PICKS UP the HEADPHONES and PUTS them ON. His EYES SQUEEZE SHUT after a FEW SECONDS as he hears the screams of a dying woman and growls of some kind of animal. He TAKES OFF the HEADPHONES.

SID
That's probably the worst thing I
ever heard.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL
It's not supposed to sound that
real.

SID
Let's head back and tell Bruce we
have enough footage.

CAROL
But we don't.

SID
We lie! Let's go!

Sid and Carol start WALKING OFF.

CUT TO:

Bruce, Mike, and Matt find the CAVE ENTRANCE.

MATT
Now what?

BRUCE
We go inside.

MATT
You know that animals live in caves
like this, don't you?

Sid's VOICE comes out through the 2-way RADIO.

SID (OS)
Bruce! We're heading back to camp!

Bruce takes out the RADIO.

BRUCE
What do you mean?

STATIC.

Bruce SHAKES the RADIO.

BRUCE
What the hell is going on?

Matt MOVES in BESIDE Bruce, LOOKING at the RADIO in Bruce's
hand. Neither Bruce or Matt see Mike suddenly YANKED into
the CAVE by a mysterious thing.

(CONTINUED)

MATT
Maybe they got enough footage.

BRUCE
They better!

(LOOKS AROUND)
Where's Mike?

Matt SPINS AROUND. Then, from DEEP in the CAVE, Mike can be heard. SCREAMING. Bruce and Matt both TAKE A STEP AWAY from the CAVE.

MATT
Bruce...?

BRUCE
What happened?

MATT
It's a goddamn bear! I told you!

A BRIGHT LIGHT suddenly ERUPTS from the CAVE, causing Matt and Bruce to throw their arms up to cover their faces as figures move in from either side of them and attack the guys.

EXT. - CAMP - NIGHT

Carol and Sid RUSH into the CAMP.

SID
Don't worry about the tents! We're leaving everything!

CAROL
Sounds good to me!

SID
Go grab what you need to help get us off this mountain. We're out of here in two minutes!

They ENTER their TENTS. They do not see the MULTIPLE LIGHTS approaching the camp.

INT. - TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Carol is GATHERING ITEMS.

INT. - TENT - SAME TIME

Sid ENTERS the TENT; he STOPS just inside, and sees a FIGURE. Paul LOOKS UP AT Sid.

PAUL

We're going to die, aren't we?

Sid's face reflects his SHEER TERROR. He is suddenly PULLED OUT OF THE TENT BACKWARDS. A BRILLIANT RED LIGHT is seen through the OPEN TENT.

SID (OS)

OH MY GOD! Nooooooooooooo.....

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - CAMP - DAY

It is QUIET and STILL. There are several forest rangers and men in suits with dogs combing the scene like in CSI.

Superimpose: 3 days later...

INT. - TENT - DAY

We MOVE into one of the tents. It is EMPTY. There is a SLIGHT FLUTTERING SOUND from SHREDDED NYLON MOVING in the WIND.

INT. - SECOND TENT - DAY

This tent is also EMPTY. THREE CUTS run along the SIDE of the TENT, letting in SHAFTS OF LIGHT. A DIGITAL CAMERA is on the floor of the TENT, the LCD SCREEN showing the PHOTOGRAPH taken of Bruce and the others. It is near the PHOTOGRAPH of the 1985 group.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - WOODS - DAY

We MOVE through the WOODS SLOWLY. We MOVE toward a BODY, but DISSOLVE TO BLACK before we get to it and see who it is.

FADE TO BLACK.

One of the men in a suit finds a camera and pushes the play button. We HEAR the final audio from one of the cameras.

BRUCE (OS)
Sid, where's Carol?

SCREAMING.

SID (OS)
WATCH OUT!

MATT (OS)
MOVE! MOVE!

MORE SCREAMING.

KYLE (OS)
SUSAN! WHERE ARE YOU!?

SUSAN (OS)
KYLE!

Susan SCREAMING, DRAWN OUT, GROWING DISTANT.

INT - ASYLUM

Far down a dim hall we see a pair of uniformed INTERNS with a THIRD PERSON between them. The interns are carrying the third, his bare feet dragging along.

SUPERIMPOSE:

(EVERGREEN HEIGHTS 1985)

Lose super. We cannot see the man's face, as his head is down and his hair is covering his features.

INTERN #1
Where we putting this one?

INTERN #2
Cell 24, next to that forest ranger
who lost it a couple years ago back
in 83.

(CONTINUED)

INTERN #1
I thought cell 24 was occupied.

INTERN #2
No, the guy died this morning.

INTERN #1
Where did this one come from?

INTERN #2
They found him in the woods, same
general area as this guy. Can you
believe that? Maybe they'll compare
notes.

They stop at a cell door, open it, and take the figure
inside. The interns walk off.

INTERN #1
Remind me to cancel my hiking trip
this weekend!

INT. - CELL

The figure is sitting on the floor. He slowly looks up. It
is SID. Josh looks through the bars on his door over at Sid
and says "I know what you saw up there. We're not alone!"

FADE OUT

END CREDITS