

Loup Garou

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

South Louisiana. Many years in the past.

An adult male Native American instructs a Native American boy how to shoot a bow. The arrow is tipped with deep black arrowhead. Their target is a chipped clay pot with minor markings that rest on top of a mound of clam shells.

With the help of the adult, the boy makes the shot and the pot shatters.

They walk together towards a small village. The adult's head turns to show a side profile.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

South Louisiana. Present Day

A girls textbook is shown to have the same Native American profile. The book closes. MRS. ADAMS, history teacher, paces in front the class.

MRS. ADAMS

That it for the native tribes of Louisiana. Next week we start the chapter on Louisiana Folklore and Legends. Y'all will like this chapter. It's fun and mysterious. Oh, I know most of you have brought me your permission slips for the field trip tomorrow, but for those of you who haven't, I need them before the bus leaves in the morning. And we will be leaving early.

BO MCMULIN, 12, tall and a bully, sits behind MATT CHAMPAGNE, 11, friendly but timid. Bo tickles Matt's ear with his pencil. Matt brushes his ear. Bo thumps his ear hard.

MATT

Stop.

ALEXIS CHAMPAGNE, 12, Matt's sister and a tomboy, sits next to Bo and sees the exchange. She stomps Bo's foot making him yelp. She shows him her fist.

BO

OK, OK

The school bell rings.

MRS. ADAMS

It'll take about an hour to get to
the Audubon Zoo. I'll see you in
the morning.

The kids pack their stuff and leave the classroom.

MRS. ADAMS

Bo, stay

BO

But I'll miss....

Mrs. Adams cuts his words short with a glare.

BO(CONT'D)

Yes Ma'am.

ALEXIS

Ha

As the others file out of the classroom, Bo is getting
chewed out by Mrs. Adams.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Alexis and Matt walk together down the hall.

ALEXIS

You gonna help me dig a hole?

MATT

Why don't you just flush him like
we do goldfish.

ALEXIS

It's a Guinea pig, it's a little
big.

MATT

I guess. Just make it quick, I
wanna go swampin.

As they pass the next classroom, COOPER TRICKLE, 11,
Australian, carefree and a young engineer, joins them.

COOPER
Just aced my math test. Highest
grade in class.

ALEXIS
You're such a nerd.

MATT
Toats.

Bo comes running up from behind and grabs Matt in a
headlock.

BO
Toats my scroat, you beanbag. This
is for not letting me see your
test.

ALEXIS
Get off off of him.

BO
Or what?

ALEXIS
Or this.

Alexis charlie horses his arm. Bo lets go of Matt.

BO
Ow, OK OK.

ALEXIS
Take your test on your own.

BO
I saw you looking. Should know this
stuff. It IS your second time
taking it.

ALEXIS
I got held back because of one
test...one. I was ah...making sure
Matt was getting it right.

BO
Sure. That's what I would say to.

COOPER
You guys ready for the zoo
tomorrow?

MATT
I can hardly contain my excitement.

BO
That's good cuz I'm gonna feed you
to the bears.

ALEXIS
No you won't and yes i'm excited. I
wanna work there someday.

Kids file onto buses and then drive down the road.

EXT. SWAMP BY POND - DAY

Alexis and Matt dig a hole and bury Giligan the dead Guinea pig. Alexia stands up with a small tear.

MATT
Good. Done. Any last words?

BO
You do have some girl in you.
You're crying.

ALEXIS
He was my friend.

COOPER
He was a good pig. A radiant pig. A
superb pig.

ALEXIS
Thanks Charlotte.

BO
Boo hoo hoo. He's a dead pig now.

Alexis throws her stick at Bo.

BO(CONT'D)
What? It's just a stupid Guinea
pig.

ALEXIS
That's it.

Alexis grabs a handful of mud and pelts Bo.

BO
Mud Fight!

Bo grabs Matt by the arm.

BO(CONT'D)

Bush fort.

Bo and Matt dart to a nearby bush fort. Alexis and Cooper take cover behind a root ball of a fallen tree. A mud fight ensues.

BO

I got you.

COOPER

Miss

Just as Alexis stands to throw, a mud ball splats in the middle of her forehead.

ALEXIS

Ow. Time out.

Another mud ball hits her in the side of the head.

ALEXIS

I said timeout. It's in my eye.

(To Cooper)

Why aren't you throwing anything?

COOPER

Making a grenade.

Cooper lobbs the equivalent of 10 mud balls into Bo and Matt's fort, covering them in mud.

COOPER

Alright mates?

Bo and Matt attempt to wipe themselves off but only smear the mud.

ALEXIS

We need to get home.

COOPER

Yea I need to work on my science project. I'm analyzing the functionality of the small combustion engine and...

BO

That's enough you dork.

As they walk next to the pond Alexis whispers to Matt.

ALEXIS
Push him in. On one. ONE!

Alexis and Matt combine effort and shove Bo into the pond.

BO
WTF! That was not cool.

ALEXIS
You needed to wash off.

BO
I'ma get y'all.

Alexis, Matt and Cooper take off running as Bo gets out of the water.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

They slow their runs as they approach Alexis and Matt's backyard.

Their mother, MELANIE CHAMPAGNE, mid 30's, waters flowers on their back deck.

MELANIE
That's far enough.

ALEXIS
Mom, it'll come off in the tub.

MELANIE
It's not going to make it to the tub. Line Up. Bo, where's your mud?

BO
(Towards Alexis)
Washed it off in the pond.

The kids line up. Melanie takes aim with the hose.

MELANIE
Who's first?

MATT
I'll go mom.

Melanie hoses them down. The kids shake themselves to semi-dry.

Bo leaves on foot around the side of the house.

Cooper grabs his bicycle.

MATT

Bye Coop.

COOPER

See Zoo tomorrow.

MATT

Ha, I get it.

MELANIE

You two get cleaned up. Doug and Joyce are coming over for dinner. So behave.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Alexis and Matt's parents, Melanie and balding KEN CHAMPAGNE, 38, sit eating with their friends DOUG BREAUX and wife, JOYCE BREAUX. Joyce is Native American and has strong facial features.

Alexis and Matt eat at the bar counter. They stare at the dinner table where Doug displays some old pieces of Native American pottery and a piece of bone.

KEN

Those have nice markings.

DOUG

On the back you can see part of a fingerprint in the clay. My guess is it's the makers.

KEN

How did y'all get there?

DOUG

There's a trail behind the high school. Still need motorbikes but doesn't take to long.

KEN

That's easier than taking boats.

MATT

Hey dad, what are those?

KEN

Pieces of pottery from the Indian mounds by Spring Lake.

MATT
They got Indian mounds out there?

DOUG
A few of them. Made out of clam shells. The Indians ate clams and piled the shells along with broken pottery.

MATT
What Indians?

DOUG
The Tchefuncte Indians.

MATT
That's cool.

ALEXIS
We've been studying them this week in history class.

DOUG
We also found what we think is a human jawbone in one of the shell middens a while back.

The kids eyes widen with excitement at the words human jawbone.

MATT
Like from a dead person?

DOUG
I surely hope it's not from a live one. My family has lived in the area since before I was born. I remember going there when I was about your age.

(To Ken)

Dan carbon dated the jawbone. He estimates it's at least 1500 years old, maybe more. From the Poverty Point Indians. They had settlements all over South Louisiana. Especially here around Lake Pontchartrain.

Matt glares at Alexis.

MATT
What if we were to..

ALEXIS

Not now.

MATT

But we can make it there.

ALEXIS

I know we can. We'll discuss this later.

The kids finish eating without talking. They pay close attention to every word out of Ken and Doug's mouths.

Joyce notices their interest in the conversation.

DOUG

There's a construction company that wants to develop the area around the mounds. If we can prove that it's a burial ground, they may call off the build.

KEN

And in order to do that, we need human remains.

DOUG

Yep.

INT. SCREEN PORCH - NIGHT

Alexis and Matt screw small eye hooks all the way around the wood in the porch.

MATT

So tell me why we're doing this.

ALEXIS

Cooper gave me the idea. I wanna trap the raccoon that killed Giligan.

They run fishing line through the eyes of the hooks, then tie one end to the door handle to the outside, the other they run through the sliding glass door to the living room.

MATT

Then what?

ALEXIS

Don't know. Haven't got that far.

MATT

And how do you know it's the same
raccoon?

ALEXIS

I don't.

They finish and move into the living room on the other side
of the sliding glass door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alexis and Matt sit inside the sliding glass door holding
the end of the fishing line. Couch cushions lean against the
sliding glass door shielding them from the porch.

MATT

You gonna kill it?

ALEXIS

As much as I love animals? Really?
Just want to make him my friend.

MATT

About the Indian mounds. Initially,
I was excited about the idea of
maybe treasure or artifacts, but
now I don't know. After seeing the
bones and thinking about skeletons
and ghosts.

ALEXIS

I'll keep my eye on you for now,
but you gotta stop being such a
chicken.

MATT

Thanks

ALEXIS

With the right planning, we can
make it there. You think mom and
dad will let us go camping?

MATT

I doubt it.

ALEXIS

We could get on Discovery Channel
or something, we could be famous
like Crocodile Hunter. We could get
there in the boats you know. Might
be worth getting in trouble.

MATT

You are not the average girl. Most girls your age want to do cheerleading and dance and crap.

ALEXIS

I'm not them. Not anymore at least. Kinda took my wind out of my sails getting held back. I like adventure. And besides being an animal lover...I'll always have friends.

MATT

Ha. Animal lover.

ALEXIS

Shut up.

Melanie approaches them, who are on their bellies staring between couch cushions, watching the screen porch door.

MELANIE

What are you two up to?

ALEXIS

Trying to catch the raccoon that killed Gilligan.

MELANIE

And what are you going to do if things go as planned?

ALEXIS

Fuss him. Tell him not to do that again? Then maybe pet him and console him. I'll be the first raccoon whisperer.

Matt gives himself a face palm.

MELANIE

Good luck with that. I wasn't aware that raccoons have egos.

Melanie leaves.

The door wiggles. The kids ready themselves.

The raccoon opens the door by sinking its claws into the screen and walking backwards, then it runs in. The raccoon heads to the cat food bowl for some free diner.

ALEXIS

Pull it!

Matt pulls the line, holding the door shut.

INT. SCREEN PORCH - NIGHT

The raccoon heads for the door and pushes but does not budge. Alexis races up to it but stops short. The raccoon raises both front paws like it's a stick up.

Alexis see her teats.

ALEXIS

Awe, it's a momma raccoon.

MATT

What should we do?

ALEXIS

(Reluctantly)

Open the door and let her go.

Alexis holds the door open. The raccoon leaves quickly, only stopping to turn around as if to say thanks.

ALEXIS

Just stop killing my pets.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE- DAY

A couple of buses unload kids. They group together in lines at the entrance to the zoo.

MRS. ADAMS

Alright kids. Mrs. Bennit will be holding a flag, stay in a group behind her. Be sure to answer all the questions on your sheets. Remember the buddy system.

(Beat)

Oh, and be sure to read the plaques to get your answers. Especially the one for Loup Garou. He will be part of next weeks lessons on folklore and legends.

MATT

The Loup Garou?

BO
Scared already? We haven't even
seen him?

ALEXIS
He's not real. It's just a tale.

BO
Not what I heard.

EXT. ZOO EXHIBITS - DAY

The kids walk past habitat exhibits stopping to look for
answers on the information plaques.

BO
If you worked here, they would make
you clean poo all day.

ALEXIS
I wouldn't mind. You also get to
feed the babies.

They approach the platypus tank.

COOPER
Hey, we have those back in
Brisbane, except they're in the
wild.

ALEXIS
That my friend, is the only mammal
that lays eggs.

MRS. ADAMS
Keep it moving kids. Next exhibit
is Louisiana Swamp. You should all
be very familiar with these
critters.

They approach a large bridge area. Below is a raccoon
enclosure.

Alexis sees two boys spitting spit balls at a raccoon.

ALEXIS
Hold on.

She runs over to the boys and shoves one to the ground.

BOY#1
What was that for?

Alexis pins him down and hocks up a large glob of spit. She slowly lets it drip out of her mouth and onto the boys face.

ALEXIS
Animal abuse.

COOPER
Ew.

ALEXIS
How do you like it?

BOY#2
Get off of him.

ALEXIS
You want some to? Do you?

BOY#2
No thanks.

Bo pulls Alexis off the boy.

Mrs. Adams quickly appears.

MRS. ADAMS
That's enough. What's going on here?

ALEXIS
He was spitting at the raccoons.

MRS. ADAMS
Both of you get detention on Monday. Now split up.

MATT
I know you love animals and all, but that little pin and spit cost you detention.

ALEXIS
So

MRS. ADAMS
Get moving. Alligators next.

MATT
So? Mom's gonna punish you on top of the detention.

ALEXIS

He shouldn't have been doing that.
Bet he won't do it again.

COOPER

That was good. Gross but good.

MATT

Come on.

They approach the alligator pit.

COOPER

Aw how cute. Look at those little
guys.

BO

Little guys? That one is bout 8
feet long.

COOPER

Like I said little.

BO

How you figure?

COOPER

We had 12 footers as pets.

BO

Oh

They walk down the boardwalk. The two boys from earlier
stare back at Alexis. Mrs. Adams sees it.

MRS. ADAMS

Alexis, back of the group.

ALEXIS

Yes ma'am.

Matt, Bo and Copper go with Alexis to the back.

The kids enter a long covered boardwalk with small enclosed
exhibits on either side containing lizards, snakes and other
indigenous creatures.

MRS. ADAMS

Coming up is the Loup Garou.
There's a question about him on
your sheets.

The line of kids is pretty thick around the next turn.
CHILDISH SHRIEKS and GASPS can be heard up ahead.

BO
Can't be that bad.

MATT
Yes it can.

BO
Stop being a puss.

As the kids round the corner, a relatively small exhibit opens on their right.

A large humanoid creature dominates the opening, standing 6 feet taller than the kids and looking down at them. The creature has mostly dog like features with a long snout and big teeth. The kids get quizzical looks on their faces as they step closer to read the plaque.

COOPER
Says his legend has been around since the Tchefuncte Indians.

MATT
Wonder if he ate'em. That's why they're not around anymore.

COOPER
He is also called Rougarou. That's the question on our sheet.

Bo stares deep, mesmerized, into the creature's eyes.

BO
He's...not...so...scar...

Before he can finish his word, the creature's eyes light up with a mechanical red glow and a GROWL comes from a hidden speaker. All the kids reel backwards. Bo lets out a girlish SHRIEK then a small FART. The others giggle at him.

ALEXIS
And I'm the girl? You wuss.

MATT
You screamed like a girl. Check your pants for crapnel.

Bo feigns a punch at Matt. Matt flinches.

BO
Two for flinchin.

Bo slugs Matt in the arm twice.

MATT

Stop

ALEXIS

Better hope Mrs. Adams didn't hear
you say that. You'll be in
detention with me.

COOPER

(Patting Bo)

No worries mate. Little squirt wont
hurt.

MATT

So lemme get this straight. Per our
conversation last night about the
Indian mounds, the Tchefuncte
Indians no less, you wanna go there
to dig for some broken pieces of
pottery?

ALEXIS

Yep

MATT

With that thing chasing us?

COOPER

It's not real. It's is just a
legend. The only thing out there is
snakes and raccoons. And the
occasional baby alligator. I used
to snuggle with those back home.

MRS. ADAMS

We need to catch the buses soon.
Take a break up here by the tables.
Eat a quick snack.

BO

Wait. What Indian mounds?

COOPER

Yea, what Indian mounds?

ALEXIS

Come on.

The kids sit a picnic table having a hushed conversation
about the pottery and bones.

ALEXIS

OK, so Matt and I overheard my parents talking last night. They were talking about Indian mounds out by Spring Lake.

BO

Is there any treasure involved?

ALEXIS

Yes, fame and fortune await.

BO

I'm in.

COOPER

In

ALEXIS

Matt?

MATT

Fine, but if I get eaten, y'all better get eaten too.

ALEXIS

Who's parents will let us go camping at the pond fort?

BO

Not mine, he's a B-hole.

MATT

Ours won't either.

ALEXIS

Coop? You're our only hope.

COOPER

I don't have a dad, not here at least, and my mom doesn't care. She'll think it's a mini walk-about.

ALEXIS

OK, here's the plan.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Alexis darts out of bed and into Matt's room. Matt is still asleep.

ALEXIS
Get up. If we're going to make it
we gotta get going.

MATT
Wha?

ALEXIS
Come on. Get dress. We need to talk
to mom and dad.

MATT
Wha?

Alexis pushes Matt out of the bed and onto the floor

ALEXIS
I said get up.

MATT
Then why did you push me down?

ALEXIS
Grab a pack or something to carry
stuff.

MATT
Alright. I hit my funny bone.

ALEXIS
Not that funny is it?

MATT
No.

ALEXIS
Remember, you gotta do the talking.
Stay strong, be convincing. Mom
first.

Alexis darts back out.

Matt rubs his eyes.

MATT
Why, Why, Why does THAT have to be
my sister?

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Alexis and Matt file into the kitchen. Melanie is making a cup of coffee.

Alexis nudges Matt.

MATT

Mom?

MELANIE

Yes dear?

MATT

Can we go over to Coopers house for the day? Maybe spend the night?

MELANIE

I'm not so sure about spending the night there but you can go over for the day.

MATT

Why not?

MELANIE

I don't know if I'm comfortable with your sister being with all you boys.

MATT

But she's one of us?

Alexis smiles big and gives an affirmative nod.

MELANIE

I'll have to talk to your father about spending the night. If he is OK with it, then maybe.

ALEXIS

How about I go talk to dad?

MELANIE

Go ahead.

Alexis grabs Matt's arm.

ALEXIS

(Whispering)
Living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Alexis and Matt meet in the living room.

ALEXIS

Good job. You such a momma's boy.
Now time for me to be a daddy's
girl. Stay here.

MATT

Ask dad for the canoe too.

INT. SUN ROOM - MORNING

The sun room's windows overlook the swamp in the back yard.
Ken sits, drinking coffee, reading his iPad.

ALEXIS

Dad?

KEN

Yes dear?

ALEXIS

Mom said we could go over to
Cooper's for the day but said we
had to ask you about spending the
night too?

KEN

With who else?

ALEXIS

Matt, Bo and Cooper of course.

KEN

That's all boys.

ALEXIS

I know, but Matt wants to go and
someone needs to look after him.

KEN

Look after Matt? That's funny.

ALEXIS

He's a wuss, you know that.

KEN

He's not a wuss, he's just a little
shy.

ALEXIS

Dad, lets be honest, he really lacks self confidence and frankly he needs for his balls to drop so he'll have a set.

KEN

Alexis! Where do you learn these things?

ALEXIS

School.

KEN

Well then we need to change schools.

ALEXIS

That's public education for you.

KEN

I'll need to discuss this with your mother. She'll need to call Coop's mom to make sure she's OK with this.

ALEXIS

Yes. Thanks dad. Oh, can we take the canoe to Coop's house?

Alexis gives Ken blatant sweet eyes.

KEN

I guess so. I was going to say yes without the eyes. Y'all need to be careful.

ALEXIS

Matt! Lets roll...or....float.

Ken walks into the kitchen

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Ken and Melanie sip coffee.

KEN

Those two are up to something.

MELANIE

Question is what.

KEN

They say they'll be at Cooper's,
but I a have a feeling it's more.

MELANIE

Maybe an adventure of some sort.

KEN

Good news is they're just across
the pond at his house but they took
the boats so...

MELANIE

So?

KEN

Let them stay the night. Stay close
to the phone.

MELANIE

Stop worrying, you were a swamp rat
at their age.

KEN

What worry's me, is her being a
girl around all those boys...at her
age.

MELANIE

Those changes haven't happened yet.

KEN

Call Maria later.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alexis and Matt load paddles into the canoe. Alexis has a
small Hello Kitty backpack and Matt dons a fanny pack. They
jump in and push off.

EXT. POND - MORNING

Matt adjusts his fanny pack. They both paddle.

ALEXIS

Wow, are you serious?

MATT

It's the perfect size. Not to big
not to small.

ALEXIS
Where did you get that?

MATT
Dad's closet box labeled "The 80's"

ALEXIS
Be careful in there. Never know
what you might find.

MATT
This whole Indians thing troubles
me. More specifically Loup Garou.
He was part of the tribe that we're
going visit.

ALEXIS
That was many years ago. They're
not around anymore.

MATT
Then why do people tell stories
about him?

ALEXIS
I had a feeling you'd chicken up on
this. I did a little research last
night on Google.

MATT
Mom let you connect your phone?

ALEXIS
I'm a girl remember? Phones are a
life or death item for us. We have
to have our snapbook, instatwat
facechat crap.

MATT
I get the point. What did you find
out?

ALEXIS
Loup Garou is just a legend used to
scare kids into behaving. But if
you must, the stories also say
people used colanders to keep him
away.

MATT
Colanders?

ALEXIS

A noodle stainer. Bowl with a bunch of holes. Loup Garou would stop to count the holes and forget what he was doing. Old Cajuns hung them above their doors of their house.

MATT

How does that help us?

ALEXIS

Just paddle. We'll ask Coop for some.

EXT. SHORE OF POND/COOPER'S BACKYARD - MORNING

Alexis and Matt jump out the canoe and pull it up on shore. They walk through the backyard to Cooper's backdoor and knock. Cooper opens the door.

COOPER

Hey guys. You wanna come see my ant farm?

ALEXIS

No.

COOPER

But it's sweet. I had the ants spell my name as they were digging their tunnels.

MATT

That does sound cool.

COOPER

I injected food into the sand and...

ALEXIS

We need to get going. It's going to take us till tomorrow to get to Spring Lake. Is Bo even here yet?

COOPER

Nope.

Bo pulls up his pirogue next to the canoe.

BO

Hey you turds!

MATT

(In a low voice)

20 bucks says he has nothing good to say.

BO

Ha. A fanny pack? What a nerd.

MATT

I'm bringing back the 80's.

ALEXIS

I hate to break it to ya, but the 80's are back. Neon colors and Wayfarers and all.

MATT

One of you owes me 20 bucks.

ALEXIS

Did you bring any food?

BO

I brought my pellet gun. I'll shoot something to eat.

ALEXIS

Ew. Cooper, can we bum some food?

COOPER

Sure.

ALEXIS

And we need another favor. But this one is gonna sound weird.

COOPER

Try me.

ALEXIS

We need colanders.

COOPER

For?

ALEXIS

To make Matt feel safe. If we happen to run into Loup Garou, the colanders will distract him.

COOPER

We could make helmets.

Cooper pokes his head in the backdoor and yells for his mom. Cooper's mom, MARIA TRICKLE, young 30's, beautiful and a little aloof, comes to the door.

MARIA

Hi guys.

Bo is captivated by her beauty and stares at her with his jaw opened wide.

ALEXIS

Hi Mrs. Trickle.

COOPER

Mom, we need some favors. One, can we spend the night at the pond fort? If the answer is yes, then two, can we have some grub and some colanders?

MARIA

This is some strange requests. I think a camp out would be fun for you kids, like a mini walk-about.

COOPER

Thanks mom.

MARIA

I'll go get your supplies. Sandwiches or Spaghettios.

COOPER

Sandwich

MATT

Sandwich

ALEXIS

Spaghettios

BO

I'll get my own. Live off the land.

MARIA

I'll be right back. What was the other thing?

COOPER

Colanders.

MARIA

OK? not going to ask. I only have two though.

COOPER

Hum...I got an idea for two more.

Cooper follows his mom inside.

ALEXIS

It's all coming together.

MATT

We didn't exactly get permission to camp out.

Cooper re-emerges from the house with two metal colanders, a dog bowl and a Tupperware bowl. He hands real ones to Matt and Alexis. He tosses the dog bowl to Bo.

BO

A dog bowl? Whats this for?

MATT

To help keep Loup Garou away.

BO

How so?

ALEXIS

He'll stop to count the holes and forget he wants to eat you.

BO

But it doesn't have holes.

COOPER

Not yet it doesn't. Follow me.

Cooper leads them to a small work shed on the side the house then disappears into the shed. The others sit outside. DRILL AND HAMMERING NOISES come from inside.

ALEXIS

What you gonna do with your share of the treasure?

MATT

I want a Kawasaki KX450. Be like braaaaann.

ALEXIS
You'll break your neck.

MATT
No I won't.

ALEXIS
I'm gonna open an animal shelter or
maybe a zoo.

BO
I want a guitar.
(Beat)
And a new dad. Mine beats my ass
too much. Sometimes for nothing.

MATT
That sucks.

BO
Tell me about it. The other day, my
brother tracked mud in the house,
not me, so my dad took a belt to
both our butts.

ALEXIS
Why don't you run away?

BO
Where would I go?

ALEXIS
In the swamp. Or go live with your
mom.

BO
I don't want to go with her either.
Her boyfriend is a douche.

MATT
What's a douche?

BO
It's a....

Cooper appears in the shed doorway.

COOPER
(Interrupting)
Check em out guys. Even put chin
straps on them so we can wear them
like helmets.

The bowls now have holes drilled all over and Velcro chin straps.

MATT

What about chin straps for ours?

COOPER

Use some string, here, I'm ready to go.

Alexis and Matt tie string to the handles of their colanders for a make shift chin strap. All the kids put on their new war helmets.

COOPER

I'm going get our food. Meet you by the boats.

Cooper joins the others at the waters edge and distributes the food, sandwich for Matt, Spaghettios for Alexis.

ALEXIS

Ready?

COOPER

Onward.

EXT. POND - MORNING

Matt and Alexis are in their canoe, Cooper and Bo are in Bo's pirogue. The pond is large and the fort lies around a small peninsula.

Alexis and Matt slow down as they get close to a tree over hanging the water. Bo and Cooper trail them by about fifty feet.

ALEXIS

Be real quiet. Last time I was out here, there was a huge wasp nest in that tree.

MATT

Where?

ALEXIS

Up there.

Both remain still and stare at the nest as they slowly past it.

Bo aims his pellet Gun at the nest. A SHOT is heard. The nest THUMPS from the impact of the pellet. Wasps scatter. They take aim on Matt and Alexis.

BO
Payback!

MATT
Paddle.

Matt and Alexis Paddle as fast as they can. The wasps head towards Matt. One stings him on the back of the neck and he slaps at it.

MATT (CONT'D)
I'm getting stung.

He turns and sees more coming.

MATT
Abandon ship!

Matt drops his paddle and jumps into the water to escape the wasps.

Bo reels backwards in laughter, falling in the pirogue.

Alexis stands up and swings her paddle at the wasps.

ALEXIS
Bo...you're....a...dickhead!

The wasps retreat away from them.

Alexis peeks over the edge of the canoe and sees Matt with barely his face showing out of the water.

MATT
Are they gone?

ALEXIS
Yea

MATT
I hate him. I hate him so much.

Alexis helps Matt back into the canoe.

MATT (CONT'D)
I need to dry out.

EXT. POND FORT - MORNING

The kids disembark and pull the boats up on the shore. The plywood fort lies up the six foot bank of the pond.

Matt takes his boots and sock off, then his shirt. He hangs them on some branches to dry.

MATT

(Sarcastically)

Bo, that was one of the most awesome moves you have ever pulled.

BO

I know right. You have to admit, that was a good shot. Couldn't have worked out any better.

MATT

Really? You don't always have to be a large turd. Sometimes you can be a small one.

BO

That was payback for pushing me in the water.

Bo gives a pleased smile.

MATT

And due to your recent accomplishment...

(Raises Voice)

On thee I place a Gris Gris!

Matt waves his hands and wiggles his fingers towards Bo.

BO

(Laughing at Matt)

Did you really just try and place a curse on me?

MATT

Not a curse, just some Gris Gris. Bad luck. If I knew how to curse you I would.

BO

Bla Bla. That don't work.

MATT

We'll see.

ALEXIS

Put some cold mud on that sting.
It'll make it feel better.

BO

I'm going piss and find something
to shoot.

Bo heads to the back of the fort, which borders the swamp.
Bo pees on a tree. His pee is cut short by movement in the
leaves at his feet.

BO

Snake!

Bo reels backward and shoulders his pellet gun. He fires and
misses. A splat of mud hits his shirt

Alexis and Matt come around the fort. Alexis sees the snake.

ALEXIS

Don't shoot it! That's a king
snake.

BO

So, it's still a snake.

ALEXIS

It's not poisonous. Find a
poisonous one to shoot.

MATT

How is it you can hit a wasp nest
at fifty feet but can't hit a snake
at five?

BO

Shut up.

Alexis cautiously approaches the king snake and grabs it by
the back of the head. The snakes tail wraps around her
wrist.

ALEXIS

See, they're nice. They keep the
frog population in check.

Alexis lets the snake go next to a tree. It disappears into
the brush.

The kids head back to the pond fort. The pellet gun shot has gained the attention of Bo's older brother CLINT MCMULIN, 16, typical older brother and his friend TRENT, 17, the neighborhood prick. They jump into Trent's flat boat and motor across the pond.

BO

Shit. Here comes my brother.

MATT

And Trent. Don't say anything about going to spring lake. We're just hanging out at the fort and swampin.

Clint and Trent kill the motor and drift next to the other boats and jump out.

Clint grabs Bo in a headlock.

CLINT

What's up bro?

BO

Nothing, get off of me.

Bo struggles out of the head lock.

TRENT

(To Matt)

Little sissy girl with no clothes on. You must be today's entertainment.

MATT

I went swimming.

TRENT

Now seriously, what are you little brown stains doing at my fort?

BO

It's not your fort.

TRENT

Yes... it is.

Trent takes a few steps towards Bo, like he wants a fight. Bo shoulders his pellet gun and trains it on Trent's face.

BO

I'll shoot you in the eyeball.

TRENT

Do it then you pussy.

CLINT

Both of y'all take it easy.

ALEXIS

We just came out to work on the fort.

Bo lowers his gun.

CLINT

Let them do the work. It's free labor.

TRENT

I'll let it slide this time. You peckers stay away from my mags. If I find y'all messed with em, I'm gonna make sure you're all circumcised.

ALEXIS

That's not an issue for me.

BO

You like playing with kids junk?

Trent lunges for Bo but Clint stops him.

CLINT

Come on.

Clint and Trent jump back in the flat boat and motor away.

Bo immediately storms into the fort, finds the mags and goes to a small burn pile out back.

BO

Gimme a match.

Alexis digs in her pack and gives the matches to Bo.

ALEXIS

This makes you no better than him.

Bo drops a lit match onto the magazines. They begin to burn. Bo stares at the smoke rising.

BO

So, doesn't make me any worse.

ALEXIS

Don't say that. We keep you around because your good comes out sometimes. Yea, your a bully, but you're our bully. Remember when Richie and his friends egged our house? Your the one who stood up for us at school and decked him.

Matt comes around the corner of the fort and sees the magazines burning.

MATT

That's great. Trent is gonna be pissed.

BO

So what. I'll deck him like I did Richie. Mess his face all up.

ALEXIS

Stop. Lets get moving.

The kids get back in the boats. Alexis and Matt push off first, then Bo and Cooper.

EXT. POND - DAY

Alexis slows the boat next to BO. Bo still shows signs of resentment.

Alexis hits Bo with a little paddle splash.

ALEXIS

Forget about it.

Bo gives a small smile and splashes back, a big one hitting Matt and Alexis. They all start swinging paddles.

MATT

Enough, I'm soaked...again.

ALEXIS

To the dam.

The kids approach a small dam that separates the pond from the swamp.

ALEXIS

We gotta pull the boats over that dam.

Alexis and Matt pull the canoe over. Bo and Cooper pull the pirogue over the dam.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

They all get back into their boats and head into the swamp. A small bayou leads deeper. Cypress trees with Spanish moss line the banks of the bayou.

They approach a tree that hangs about 3 feet above the bayou, completely across. They have to go under.

ALEXIS

We need to be careful. Snakes live in those.

MATT

And Wasps.

BO

Just go. There aren't any snakes.

ALEXIS

Just paddle real fast. Go!

COOPER

But there is a snake. I see him.

BO

Shh.

As the canoe goes under, Alexis sees a snake slither off a branch and fall into the canoe with a THUMP.

They clear the tree branches.

ALEXIS

Moccasin!

MATT

Where?

ALEXIS

Right behind you.

MATT

Ah! Do something!

Alexis scoops up the snake with her paddle and slings it.

ALEXIS

Incoming!

The snake lands in the pirogue as it clears the tree branches.

BO

You turd! I don't want it.

Bo scoops the snake up with his paddle and slings it in the water.

BO

Why did you throw it in my boat?

ALEXIS

I didn't want it.

BO

What made you think I did?

ALEXIS

You wanted one earlier.

BO

Touche!

Bo gives a playful splash with his paddle.

The kids paddle on. They stop when they see something gray moving in a bush.

BO

Shh! I saw something over there.

ALEXIS

I saw it too. What was it?

Bo reaches for his pellet gun. Everything gets QUIET as Bo scans the swampy bushes.

BO

It was a raccoon.

ALEXIS

Why did you get your gun?

BO

I need dinner.

The raccoon comes out of the bush onto the bank. Bo takes aim.

The raccoon waves. It's the same raccoon from Alexis and Matt's house.

Just as Bo pulls the trigger:

ALEXIS
Don't shoot!

Alexis's yell startles Bo. Cooper jumps. Bo's shot misses. The raccoon scurries off.

BO
Now what am I going to eat?

ALEXIS
Not raccoon.

MATT
There's ducks in the oxidation pond. Wanna head there?

ALEXIS
(To Matt)
Eww! That's gross. You know what an oxidation pond is?

MATT
A pond?

ALEXIS
It's where things go when you flush your toilet. It's full of poo.

MATT
Bo don't know that.

Bo pulls up along side Alexis and Matt.

BO
Bo don't know what?

MATT
(Smiling)
That there are plump juicy ducks in the oxidation pond.

BO
I do to know that!

COOPER
But it's....

ALEXIS
(Interrupting Cooper)
Good. Wanna go shoot one?

Cooper makes a face.

BO
OK

COOPER
I'll play along.

ALEXIS
The Schroeder's house is up here on
the left. When we get there we
should be able to see the levee of
the oxidation pond on the right.

The kids paddle until a house comes into view in the
distance through some cypress trees.

ALEXIS
Take a right.

BO
But it's barely wide enough for our
boats.

ALEXIS
We can make it.

COOPER
We can dredge it out.

MATT
Or just get out and walk.

They push through the shallow swamp. A small levee shows
through the trees. The kids park the boats and begin
walking.

BO
Y'all stay here, all four of us is
a lot of noise.

ALEXIS
I'll stay here with Matt. Go get a
duck. Just make sure the duck is OK
with it.

BO
What duck is going to be OK with
being shot and eaten.

ALEXIS
Just talk to them.

BO
What's that smell. Smells like
sewage.

ALEXIS
It's the swamp.

A large dead tree falls across the slim channel behind them
near the boats.

The kids look back worried, then look to each other.

MATT
What was that.

BO
I told you I should have shot that
raccoon. It was him.

ALEXIS
Was not. Raccoons don't push over
trees.

BO
Well what was it then genius?

MATT
Please not Loup Garou.

BO
Just keep your eyes peeled. I need
a duck.

EXT. LEVEE/OXIDATION POND - AFTERNOON

Bo and Cooper army crawl to the top of the levee. A small
flock of about ten ducks float in the water nearby.

BO
(Whispering)
I'm going to shoot that one closest
to shore.

COOPER
(Whispering)
The one that looks dead already?

BO
 (Whispering)
 He's napping.

As he speaks, all but one duck flies away. The remaining duck looks sickly and on its deathbed. Tampons and condoms float in the murky water.

BO
 He has spoken.

Cooper giggles to himself and glances back at the others.

Bo fires his pellet gun, hitting the duck in the neck and killing it instantly. If it wasn't dead already

BO
 Help me get it.

COOPER
 No way mate. I'm not getting in that water.

BO
 Well help me find a tree branch or something.

Bo pulls the dead duck to the edge of the pond with a tree branch, picks it up and smiles proudly to himself.

COOPER
 You really gonna eat that?

BO
 Yea, Why?

COOPER
 Just asking. Lets go.

They stand and survey the large man made pond, then head back down to the boats.

EXT. SWAMP - AFTERNOON

BO
 Aw man, that smell.

COOPER
 It's the release of gases from decomposing carbon based lifeforms.

BO
The what of the what?

MATT
Ha! You gonna eat that?

BO
Yes! Every bit.

MATT
Alright then.

The two boats aren't in the same place they left them. The kids have to lift the boats over the tree that fell across their path.

MATT
This is not where we left our boats.

BO
You sure?

MATT
Yea, we tied them to those trees over there.

BO
Must have floated over here.

Matt stares at the stump the tree broke from, then looks up. As Matt gets in, he notices footprints that resemble a large dog's prints on the bottom of the boat.

MATT
Um Alexis.

ALEXIS
What?

MATT
(Pointing)
What's that?

ALEXIS
Looks like where some water dropped. It IS a swamp.

MATT
That's not water drops. Those are footprints. He was in our boat.

ALEXIS
It's your imagination. Paddle.

MATT
We're toast.

The kids paddle the boats side by side.

MATT
Where are we gonna camp?

ALEXIS
I figured we would check out old man Gutierrez's property. He has some nice spots on the bayou. As long as he can't see us.

BO
Clint said he shoots rock salt at you if he catches you on his property.

COOPER
It won't kill you, but it hurts real bad.

MATT
That's when we run.

ALEXIS
It's a good camping spot.

BO
Well lets go. I gotta clean this duck.

They paddle through some more swamp. The bayou widens and some groomed property appears on the left bank. Some old columns, almost Roman like, dominate the center of a small field. The grass is well kept all the way to the cypress knees at the edge of the swamp.

ALEXIS
Looks good right here.

MATT
Where's his house?

ALEXIS
Across that field and to the right.

MATT
What are those old columns?

BO
You sure do ask a lot of questions.

COOPER
I think it's part of an old
plantation that burned down.

EXT. GROOMED SWAMP PROPERTY - DUSK

The kids pull the boats up on the shore and disembark.

BO
Y'all get a fire started, I'm gonna
pluck this duck.

Alexis and Matt gather firewood and pile it up. Cooper gets
a fire started.

Bo returns covered in feathers.

MATT
Anyone bring a flashlight?

COOPER
Nope

MATT
So, we're going to stay the night,
out here, with no flashlight?

ALEXIS
We'll have a fire. Stop worrying so
much.

MATT
A fire is not going to stop Loup
Garou.

COOPER
I agree with Alexis. There's no
such thing. And neither would a
flashlight anyway.

MATT
Then what knocked over that tree?

ALEXIS
Maybe it just fell. It was dead

MATT
Just like we're going to be.

EXT. GROOMED SWAMP PROPERTY - NIGHT

A campfire illuminates the immediate area. The kids sit close.

Alexis pulls out her can of Spaghetti O's, shakes the can and stares at it.

ALEXIS
Anyone bring a can opener?

COOPER
Nope.

BO
I'll shoot it with my gun.

MATT
Not sure if that's a good idea.

BO
Give it here.

He aims the gun at the top of the can and fires. The can explodes upward. Tomato sauce sprays him.

The others laugh hysterically.

BO
It's not funny!

COOPER
You got something on your cheek mate.

BO
Shut up!

ALEXIS
Quiet down. We don't want Mr. Gutierrez to hear us.

The kids sit down by the fire and eat. The fire CRACKLES. Cooper and Matt eat their sandwiches.

MATT
Or Loup Garou.

ALEXIS

Speaking of him and... something I forgot to mention earlier.

MATT

How convenient.

ALEXIS

Well, my research last night produced some...other stuff.

MATT

What other stuff?

ALEXIS

Promise you won't get scared and run off?

MATT

Nope, not going to make that promise.

ALEXIS

Here goes anyway. These Indian mounds we're going to have a history. They were part of New Orleans most haunted places on the north shore, Lewisburg Indian Mounds. They were actually discovered during the civil war. Some of the soldiers messed up the burial mounds. Since then, the soldiers and others have had some strange things happen around here.

MATT

What kinda strange things?

ALEXIS

Here's the scary part. First, they would hear noises and screams and second...they reported seeing a large black dog that would prowl around their campgrounds at night.

BO

Toats?

ALEXIS

Toats. So much so that the soldiers requested to be moved to different camps.

MATT

I thought you didn't believe in him?

ALEXIS

You can't believe every thing on the internet.

BO

I read about the colanders and also that Loup Garou doesn't like bullfrogs.

ALEXIS

Two layers of protection. Colanders and tomorrow we get bullfrogs.

MATT

You guys really suck for this. You coulda just STFU'd.

ALEXIS

(To Bo)

How's the duck?

BO

Not bad. Better than a sandwich or Spaghetti O's.

MATT

Eat up.

BO

(Chewing)

I am. We should go check out Mr Gutierrez's shed while we're here.

MATT

No way. He keeps an alligator tied to a tree by the door. Named it Big Al.

ALEXIS

Can't hurt to check it out.

MATT

Yes it can.

BO

We need to see if he has some tools or weapons and stuff we can 'borrow'.

ALEXIS

Then stay here Matt. But I also heard he has a jar of old marbles in his shed. Not just cat's eyes either. I'm talking bumble bees, peanut butter and jellies, swirlys and jumbos.

MATT

How am I going to play marbles if Big Al chomps my hand off? Wait...did you say swirlys?

ALEXIS

Yep...swirllys. We'll go just when the sun is coming up.

MATT

Alright. But I better get some good ones.

(To Bo)

Duck still good?

The others exchange amused glances. Bo only has a small piece left. He licks his fingers.

BO (CONT'D)

What?

COOPER

You do know what an oxidation pond is right?

BO

Yea, it's a big pond for ducks.

COOPER

No, it's full of shit. When you flush your toilet, that has to go somewhere.

BO

Yea, it goes into the sewer.

MATT

And guess where the sewer goes.

BO

To that pond?

MATT

Yep

Bo gulps in disgust.

BO
Oh that's gross. Why did you let me
eat it. What's it going to do to
me?

MATT
You'll probably die.

BO
N uh-uh.

Bo's stomach GRUMBLES.

MATT
Did you hear that?

ALEXIS
Hear what?

MATT
That noise.

BO
That was my stomach.

Bo lets out a strange sounding FART.

COOPER
Oh man. That sounded bad.

ALEXIS
Smells bad too.

MATT
Oh wow. That smells like roadkill.

Cooper makes a fanning motions.

BO
I think I'm gonna poo on myself.

ALEXIS
Not here, go in the woods or by the
swamp. Poo in the water, it'll wash
away.

Bo quickly heads to the waters edge holding his butt.

The others giggle as he goes. They soon here a loud
explosive wet FART like diarrhea.

BO (O.S.)

Ow!

ALEXIS

Shh!

MATT

He deserves every bit of this.

They hear a large SPLASH.

BO

Help!

The others grab sticks from the fire and run to Bo. Bo struggles to get out of the swamp.

Matt belly laughs at Bo floundering in the water.

MATT

What happened?

BO

I was wiping my butt with leaves and the branch broke.

COOPER

Those leaves?

BO

Yea.

Cooper shines the fire light on the vine. It's poison ivy.

ALEXIS

You do know you just wiped your butt with poison ivy?

BO

Shut up! No I didn't.

MATT

And you fell in your own poo. That has to be one of the nastiest things I've ever seen.

Matt wiggles his fingers at Bo. The Gris Gris wiggle again.

BO

Good news is the water put out the fire that was in my ass.

ALEXIS
Shame it didn't wash off the smell.

BO
Gimme a hand.

ALEXIS
No way. I don't know if that is mud
or poo so I'm not touching you.

Bo uses a cypress knee to pull himself out of the muddy water.

BO
Lotta help y'all are.

Matt RETCHES.

They head back to the fire and sit.

The raccoon jumps up on a log. Bo aims his gun at him. The raccoon sticks it's front paws in the air again.

ALEXIS
Leave it alone would ya.

BO
Why?

Bo lowers the gun.

ALEXIS
It's a momma raccoon. She hasn't
done anything to us.

BO
She scared the poo out of me.

MATT
No, that was the duck.

ALEXIS
She might be hungry. You got any of
that duck left?

BO
Small piece.

ALEXIS
Give it to her.

Bo tosses the piece of duck to Alexis.

BO

Here, you give it to her. She'll end up biting me with my luck.

MATT

That's not going to hurt her stomach like it did Bo's?

ALEXIS

Raccoons can eat anything. They practically live in our trash cans.

Alexis calls the raccoon over. It cautiously approaches and grabs the piece of duck. The raccoon then runs back to the log and eats.

ALEXIS

See, she was just hungry.

MATT

What's Loup Garou suppose to do to people.

ALEXIS

The stories I read say that he can change forms into a dog. But they're just stories on the internet.

MATT

Like a werewolf? That's great. We're in the swamp with a werewolf.

(Beat)

Does he hurt people?

ALEXIS

Some stories say he bites people and sucks a part of their soul from them. Other stories say he likes to play tricks.

BO

I read he needs peoples blood to break a curse and go back to human form.

MATT

Now can we go home?

The raccoon lets out a strange sounding FART then makes a fanning motion.

ALEXIS

Oh Bo! Again?

BO

It wasn't me. It was the raccoon.

COOPER

Yea right.

BO

Whatev.

The kids get comfortable around the fire.

BO

Why you like animals so much?

ALEXIS

I don't know. My mom believes in reincarnation.

BO

What's that?

ALEXIS

When you die, your soul comes back in another form. Maybe an animal.

BO

That just made eating that duck even worse.

(Burps)

ALEXIS

Might be a vet when I grow up, or study sharks and dolphins. My dad's friend Doug went to a college in Florida, said it was good place to go for that.

(Beat)

I don't know, I just like animals. Get some sleep

BO

You like animals so much, why did you let me shoot that duck?

ALEXIS

Mercy killing I guess. He was dying anyway. Put him out of his misery.

The kids are beginning to fall asleep when they are roused awake by something nearby.

MATT
You hear that?

BO
That was not me.

ALEXIS
Be quiet. See where it's coming
from.

They hear SNIFFING and low GROWLS from the other side of
some low bushes.

MATT
It's him. He wants our blood!

ALEXIS
Shut Up!

Bo runs towards the bushes waving a burning stick and
GROWLING the best he can. All the kids see a black blur
disappear into the darkness.

MATT
You see!

COOPER
Bo, stay by the fire.

They put a few more sticks on the fire.

MATT
Everybody put your helmets on.

All the kids quickly put there colander helmets on and
tighten the straps.

ALEXIS
I think it's gone.

MATT
We gotta stand guard and I'm not
first.

ALEXIS
I'll go first. Get some sleep.

EXT. WOODS APPROACHING SHED- DAWN

The kids quietly sneak through trees and shrubs before a clearing. They see an old cypress shed with a swamp house in the background.

The kid's heads all peak around trees. Sure enough, Big Al is there tied to a tree right in front of the shed.

MATT

Yea....No

BO

Marbles.

Matt GRUMBLES.

MATT

I'll check the back for a window or something. I am NOT going near him.

COOPER

Me too.

Bo makes a quiet CHICKEN SOUND towards Matt.

Bo and Alexis tiptoe to the front corner of the shed. Matt and Cooper head toward the back.

As Bo peers around the corner, Big Al turns to face him. This is one fat alligator. Big Al lets out a LOW HISS then charges toward Bo until his chain goes tight.

Bo reels backwards into Alexis and they both tumble to the ground and scoot backwards on their butts.

COOPER

(From around the back corner)

Shh. Window back here.

They all pile under a window in back of the shed.

ALEXIS

(Whispering)

Peek in.

Bo stands and peers into the window. The window is a little dirty but he can make out a few animal traps and wooden tools. A few shelves contain boxes and a old chest dominates a wall. Bo pushes the window up enough and they climb through.

INT. CYPRESS SHED- DAWN

Sunlight comes through the window and a mystical glow overtakes the chest. The kids stand together looking around.

MATT

Where's the marbles?

Alexis points to the shelves with boxes.

Matt heads to shelves like he is on a mission.

Alexis grabs Bo's arm. They exchange excited glances and head to the now glowing chest. Bo studies the chest then lifts the lid open. The wood CREAKS as it moves.

Inside is a small open top box with pottery shards and bone fragments. Also inside is what looks like voodoo ritual supplies and a few books. Bo and Alexis begin riffling through the items.

EXT. HOUSE FRONT PORCH- DAWN

A big scruffy hand pushes open a screen porch door.

MR GUTIERREZ, fat and ugly, wearing only a set of denim overalls sits down in a chair. A shotgun leans against the wall next to him.

He sips a cup of coffee.

INT. CYPRESS SHED- DAWN

Matt shakes boxes in search for his marbles.

ALEXIS

Keep it down.

BO

All these books are about Indians.
This one is different.

Alexis flips through the pages of a very old book, almost like a tome.

ALEXIS

Hey guys listen to this. It's about the Tchefuncte Indians. Bla Bla...They lived here. Here, says the tribe found a large deposit of stone that had properties unlike

(MORE)

ALEXIS (cont'd)
anything they had ever seen. Gave
those who carried it the ability to
change forms by somehow changing
their blood.

BO
Whatcha mean forms?

ALEXIS
Um...into animals, like a
shapeshifter. And here, says those
who were banished from the tribe
without a piece of the rock deposit
were stuck as half human half
animal until they cleansed their
blood with the blood of a non
tribal.

COOPER
That's why the Loup needs blood.

MATT
I think I'm going to throw up. I'm
going back to the marbles.

ALEXIS
What's this?

Alexis points to a small drawing of a bear next to the word
banished. Under the bear is a drawing of a canine.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Why a bear? If Loup was a dog or
werewolf or whatever.

BO
Maybe there's two. Great.

ALEXIS
The dog is below the bear.

COOPER
How come there's no stories about a
bear?

ALEXIS
Good question.

BO
What if that was a bear I chased
away last night?

MATT

I'm not listening. Not listening.

Bo picks up a book that is almost like a diary or drawing book.

MATT

Found'em.

Matt reaches into a box and pulls out a handful of beautiful marbles.

MATT (CONT'D)

Come see this.

Matt stuffs a handful of marbles into his pocket.

BO

Check out this book.

Bo opens to the first page. The page contains a drawing of a dog on the bottom. He flips to the second page and it is the dog again but he took a step to the right

ALEXIS

It's a flip book....you know, a cartoon. Matt, come check this out.

Alexis grabs the book from Bo and they all huddle together to watch the cartoon unfold on the pages.

Alexis flips the pages. It begins as a dog walking on all fours. The dog gradually stands upright. Claws emerge from its hand and feet. Its shoulders widen and its head turns to face the kids. There is a pause of blank pages then an up close facial shot of a beast with fangs jumps out of the book scaring them.

Matt jumps backwards knocking tools and traps everywhere. All the kids freeze.

EXT. HOUSE FRONT PORCH- DAWN

Mr. Gutierrez turns to the shed and listens. A faint CLANK comes from the shed. He walks to the side of the porch nearest the shed.

He studies the area around the shed and sees Big Al on guard in the front by the door. Big Al glances back at him then focuses his gaze on the shed door.

INT. CYPRESS SHED- DAWN

ALEXIS

He'll know we're here now. We gotta go.

BO

Just listen for a sec.

Alexis reaches down and picks up a small garden shovel.

EXT. HOUSE FRONT PORCH- DAWN

Mr. Gutierrez lumbers over and grabs his shotgun. He heads down the steps and across the yard. He softens his steps as he nears the shed.

EXT. CYPRESS SHED- DAWN

He walks to the back, knowing Big Al has the front. With a jerk, he peers through the window and sees the kids.

MR. GUTIERREZ

You kids like the taste of salt rock!?

BO

Go! Go! Go!

With the window blocked and forgetting about Big Al, the kids run to the front door and fling it open. Big Al lurches forward with a LOUD HISS.

ALEXIS

Split up! Confuse him!

The three boys step right and Alexis steps left.

ALEXIS

Thanks.

Big Al looks to right, then left, then back to the boys. A SHOTGUN BLAST and wood fragments EXPLODE from the shed door.

ALEXIS

Get ready! I'll distract him.

Alexis does some dance tumbling. Big Al snaps at each move but keeps missing.

The boys dart past Big Al gaining his attention. He HISSES as they past then sinks a couple teeth into Matt's boot, tripping him. Alexis tumbles over, thumps him on the head with the shovel and he releases his bite. The kids now have a clear shot

ALEXIS
Dance class bitch.

The kids make it past and Big Al's chain goes tight causing him to get jerked backwards. Mr. Gutierrez rounds the corner and fires another SHOT, miss.

EXT. GROOMED SWAMP PROPERTY - MORNING

The kids full sprint down the slope towards the canoes. Marbles tumble from Matt's pocket, leaving a trail.

BO
It's a good thing he is fat.

ALEXIS
Mr. Gutierrez or the gator?

BO
Both.

COOPER
To the boats.

BO
I need my gun.

Bo veers to the right. The others head straight. Mr. Gutierrez gives chase by following the trail of marbles.

MR. GUTIERREZ
Come back here you sum'bitches!

Bo makes it to the fire and grabs his BB gun then heads to the boats. Alexis and Matt are already paddling away.

BO
Wait up!

COOPER
Get in!

Bo is bent over pushing the pirogue off the bank.

Another GUNSHOT. Bo's pants explode with tiny holes from rock salt.

BO

Ow! Ow!

ALEXIS

(Yelling back to Bo)

Push! Come on!

Bo and Copper duck and side paddle out of the reach of Mr Gutierrez and his gun.

One more GUNSHOT, the water explodes next to the pirogue.

MR. GUTIERREZ

I'm coming to get you.

Bo peeks over the edge of the pirogue and gives Mr. Gutierrez the bird.

Mr. Gutierrez is almost out of site. Bo looks back one more time and sees him shape shift into a black bear.

BO

Wha? Cooper did you see that?

COOPER

See what?

BO

That fat ass changed into a bear.

COOPER

Crikey.

Bo and Cooper catch up to the canoe.

BO (CONT'D)

We gotta stop. He shot me...I'm dying.

Matt smiles and wiggles his fingers at Bo.

EXT. SWAMP ISLAND - MORNING

They paddle a little deeper then stop on a small one cypress tree island. Bo gets out and puts his butt in the water with a SIZZLE.

BO

Ah.

ALEXIS

You need to go home?

BO

And miss out on an adventure like this? It was rock salt. Besides, my dad beats my butt with a leather belt. It doesn't hurt this bad, but I can take it. He ruined my shorts.

(Beat)

Y'all, that lard ball turned into a bear.

COOPER

He was fat and hairy. You sure?

BO

No he fell on all fours and was a BEAR.

ALEXIS

Yea yea. OK.

COOPER

You're hallucinating from the duck.

MATT

This is not good.

ALEXIS

How many marbles did you get?

MATT

Changing the subject.

ALEXIS

Nooo.

MATT

(Digging in his pocket)

Lets see.

BO

Fine, don't believe me. But I'm not going back that way.

Matt displays about ten marbles, all vibrant with color.

ALEXIS

See, two swirlies in that bunch.

MATT

Thought I grabbed more....oh well.

ALEXIS

Gimme that one....FROG!

Alexis jumps into knee deep water next to the island. She plunges her hands under but comes up empty.

COOPER

Gotta be sneakier. Lemme show ya.

Cooper tip toes to the other side of the island then eases his foot in. Real quick, he plunges his hand in the water and comes up with a big bullfrog.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Aussie trick.

Cooper gives the bullfrog to Matt who puts it in his fanny pack.

MATT

We're going to need these.

BO

Good job. Now you can catch mine for me.

COOPER

Fine.

Cooper continues to catch 3 more bull frogs. Alexis puts hers in her small back pack and Bo and Cooper put theirs in their shorts pockets. The frogs CROAK with disapproval.

ALEXIS

Got this shovel to.

BO

A big'ol backpack like that and you didn't bring a flashlight or a can opener?

MATT

What DID you bring?

ALEXIS

A map dad made. Some rope. My lipstick, in case we get on TV, and, oh wait, I did bring the can opener.

Bo throws his hands in the air.

The kids hop back in the boats and paddle.

COOPER
What's that smell?

ALEXIS
Bo, he has air vents now.

EXT. OLD BRIDGE AND BAYOU - DAY

The bayou widens a little. Stumps of wooden pylons form a line near one of the banks up ahead.

COOPER
Lewisburg Estates is right there.

MATT
(Pointing)
Right there?

COOPER
Right there mate.

MATT
We can get home if we just go to that bank.

ALEXIS
We've come this far. Just a little more. Coming up is where the old bridge was. That means we're close to Spring Lake.

BO
We could have biked here and swam across.

ALEXIS
Gators.

BO
I don't see any gators.

Just as he says it, they hear a SPLASH from near the bank under the old wooden bridge pylons.

The kids turn to face the noise. Things get quiet.

A small alligator's head breaks the surface and swims toward the boats.

MATT

Gator!

ALEXIS

Paddle fast.

It's to late for Cooper and Bo.

COOPER

Watch this.

Just as the small alligator gets close to the pirogue, Cooper smacks him on the head with his paddle. The alligator jerks around and disappears under the water leaving a bubble trail back to shore.

BO

Wha?

COOPER

Another Aussie trick. Lots of crocks in Australia. That only works on the small ones. Big ones just get pissed off.

BO

And if it was a big one?

COOPER

You don't have big ones here in America. No worries mate.

BO

Um.. Big Al.

COOPER

He was just a medium.

The boys hear an even BIGGER SPLASH from shore.

ALEXIS

(Yelling back)

What was that?

A very large alligator head surfaces and lets out a BUBBLING HISS.

BO

Momma Gator. Coop, smack her on the head.

COOPER
No way, she'll eat my paddle.

BO
Thought you said we don't have big
gators here.

COOPER
Shut up and paddle!

Momma alligator closes the gap between her and Bo and
Copper's boat.

BO
Faster! Paddle Faster!

Bo and Cooper really dig into their paddle strokes, enough
to catch up to Alexis and Matt.

Momma alligator disappears below the surface.

ALEXIS
What was that?

COOPER
First one was a little baby
alligator that I told to go away.

ALEXIS
Good to know. By the looks of it,
he listened.

BO
Problem was he went and told his
mom and she came and told us to go
away.

COOPER
So we did.

EXT. SWAMP BANK - DAY

The kids paddle up to a another clearing and disembark. They
tug the boats onshore.

MATT
Tie them up good. Whatever moved
our boats last time hopefully
doesn't know too much about knots.

COOPER
I'll tie them up using a knot not
too many know about.

ALEXIS
(Laughing)
That's a lot of knots!

Bo, Cooper and Matt exchange unamused looks.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Get it? Knots, like hair knots.
Whatev.

BO
Nope.

ALEXIS
I can't even.

Cooper ties the boats to trees with a huge unrecognizable knot.

COOPER
That will do it. It'll take the
rest of the day to get that untied.

Alexis opens her pack and pulls out a map. The kids gather close.

ALEXIS
(Pointing)
Alright. We are here. Mounds are
there. We have to pass Spring Lake
to get there so lets stop.

MATT
Maybe go for a swim? Bo sure could
use one.

BO
I don't smell that bad.

COOPER
Yes you do.

ALEXIS
We'll see when we get there. Have
to keep an eye on time. We need to
be back before dark.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

As they walk down the trail, a GRUNT comes from the bushes nearby. The kids freeze where they stand.

MATT
Tell me you heard that.

ALEXIS
Yep. What was it?

BO
Sounded like a boar.

MATT
Those things will kill you. Just
like everything else around here.

A mother boar barrels out of the bush and stops, staring at the kids.

ALEXIS
What do we do? What do we do
dammit?

BO
Shoot it!

COOPER
We need to climb a tree.

The boar lets out a THREATENING SNORT and stomps the dirt.

BO
It's gonna charge. Run!

EXT. SMALL TREES - DAY

The kids run to the closest trees which are fairly small. Alexis and Matt jump in one and climb. Cooper jumps in another followed by Bo.

The boar runs in circles around Alexis and Matt's tree then gives up and heads to Cooper and Bo's tree.

BO
Cooper climb dammit! I'm too low!

COOPER
I'm as high as I can go!

The boar circles underneath Bo. Bo's butt is the lowest part of him as he hangs by his feet and hands from a low branch.

BO
Cooper! Move! Or I'm gonna throw
you outta this tree!

The boar gets right under Bo, stands on it's back legs, and pokes Bo in the butt with a tusk, just enough to hurt.

BO
Ow! Sum'bitch just checked my oil!

COOPER
He did what?

Alexis and Matt giggle to each other.

Three baby boars run quickly under the trees and past the mother boar. The mother boar follows her babies off into the brush and out of sight.

Bo jumps down to the ground and hops around holding his butt.

BO
Ow! Ow! Ow!

The others climb down.

MATT
Add that to nature's assault on
Bo's butt.

BO
Shut up and Please take the Gris
Gris off of me.

MATT
Why should I?

BO
I begging you. My butt can't take
anymore abuse. Please Please!

MATT
I'm felling generous so I release
thee from the Gris Gris.

Matt waves his arms in the air and wiggles his fingers towards Bo.

ALEXIS
She was just protecting her babies.

COOPER
From what?

ALEXIS
Good question.

BO
You said my luck was going to
change.

ALEXIS
I said maybe it could turn around.
Not that it would. Matt released
you so you should be fine now.

BO
Let get this over with. Where's the
mounds.

ALEXIS
(Pointing)
That way.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

They get back on the trail.

ALEXIS
Those babies were running from
something.

A LOW GROWL comes from behind them.

MATT
She's back!

A black bear steps out, staring at the kids.

BO
Helmets on! Prepare for war.

Bo charges towards the bear but stops short when the bear
rears up on its hind legs.

BO
It's him. Run.

The run the opposite direction. They stop at an intersection
of trails.

MATT

Which way?

ALEXIS

This isn't on the map.

They are glancing in all directions. From the direction they were heading, Alexis sees a black humanoid figure with dog like features heading towards them.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Look.

They all stare in the direction of the LOUP GAROU, a werewolf creature. Then glance back and see the bear closing in on them.

BO

That way.

They run down the unknown trail.

ALEXIS

(While Running)

I don't know where this goes!

COOPER

Doesn't matter.

BO

Away from them.

They slow their runs when a large rope hangs across the trail. A small wooden sign hangs from it "Danger".

ALEXIS

Woa.

MATT

We're in deep now. Can we go home?

BO

This is something out of the movies.

COOPER

Hey you guys. Look.

Cooper walks around, looking at the ground.

COOPER (CONT'D)

There's rope under the leaves. Everywhere. This is some sort of...Don't move.

BO

Why? We gotta go before they catch
up to us.

ALEXIS

They're already here.

Bo runs towards the danger sign.

COOPER

NO!

A large cargo net trap springs, scooping up the four kids. They hang about six feet off the ground. All their faces are mashed against the netting. Their bullfrogs CROAK from being squished.

From down the trail, Mr. Gutierrez in human form walks towards them. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a handful of dust.

He approaches the kids.

MR. GUTIERREZ

Shh children. Sleep time.

He blows the dust into their faces.

ALEXIS

Please don't hurt us.

MR. GUTIERREZ

(Malevolently)

It'll be OK. It'll be OK.

As the kids doze off, the blurry humanoid figure with a dogs face and large canine fangs appears next to Mr. Gutierrez.

MR. GUTIERREZ

It's time to break your curse my
son.

EXT. POND FORT - DAY

Clint and Trent disembark from their boat and approach the fort.

TRENT

I'm going to hurt him if that smoke
was what I think it is.

Trent enters the fort and lifts a floorboard. It's Empty.

TRENT (CONT'D)

They're not here. I'm going hurt
him real bad.

CLINT

Take it easy. Maybe they just hid
them from you.

Trent walks to the back of the fort to the burn pile. Half
burnt pages are mixed with a pile of ash.

TRENT

I'm not going to hurt him, I'm
going to kill him.

CLINT

Take it easy. He's my little
brother. Rough him up a little and
take his allowance.

TRENT

They had to have gone to Spring
Lake.

CLINT

They did. Bo was talking to my dad
about camping there.

TRENT

I'm going get my bike, you coming?

CLINT

Sure. What else are we going to do
today?

INT. SUGAR MILL - DAY

Alexis's eyes slowly open. She is groggy, everything is
blurry.

The room is large with walls and ceiling made of red brick.
Two brick arch doorways, covered with canvas, dominate one
wall. Candles light the room. Ritual items are on shelves
and the floor. Numerous colanders hang on the walls. The
four kid's colanders also hang and look fresh compared to
the others.

Alexis, Bo and Cooper are tied with rope by their wrists to
hooks hanging on the wall above their heads. Matt is tied to
an large altar in the middle of the room.

Another doorway leads to a deeper room.

ALEXIS
(Slurring)
We can go home now Matt.

COOPER
Shh. They're in the other room.

Cooper slides a foot over and kicks Bo in his shin.

COOPER (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Bo.

Bo slowly comes to consciousness and struggles with the rope.

ALEXIS
Calm down.

BO
We gotta get outta here. He's going
to eat us.

ALEXIS
(Whispering)
Matt. Wake up. Matt

Matt lays motionless on the altar.

COOPER
We may be in over our heads now.
Maybe we can get out of these ropes
somehow. Got a knife?

ALEXIS
No

Cooper focuses on the rope knots by the hooks.

COOPER
That's tied with slipknots. If you
could pull on the loose end, it'll
come off the hook.

ALEXIS
How do you propose I get up there?

BO
Dance class that bitch girl. Better
yet, Jackie Chan your way up there.

Alexis looks up to the hooks. With the quickness of ninja, she back flips up so her feet are balanced above the hook, arms out from the wall and her teeth are right next to the knot. She pulls the loose end with her teeth and falls to the floor.

Alexis starts biting the knot on her wrists.

COOPER
That's a bowline knot. You gotta..

ALEXIS
I got this.

COOPER
Pull that one...yea that one.

BO
Like a rat. Crew through it. Grrrr

Alexis gets her wrists free and unties Cooper.

BO (CONT'D)
Get mine.

ALEXIS
We should leave you for food.

BO
Come on.

Alexis and Cooper untie Bo. The three of them go to Matt.

They hear some NOISES from the other room.

ALEXIS
Hurry.

Alexis slaps Matt to try and wake him.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Matt, wake up you pansy.

BO
He's dead. Leave him.

ALEXIS
Untie him.

As they untie Matt's wrists, Bo's frog CROAKS. Loup Garou enters, sniffing the air. The kids all duck behind the altar.

BO
 (Whispering)
 Stupid frog.

Alexis puts her finger over her lips.

Loup Garou SNIFFS his way towards the kids. His steps make SCRATCHING SOUNDS as his claws scarp the brick floor. Loup notices the loose ropes on the ground. A frog CROAKS again.

The kids are frozen, almost shivering in fear. Loup Garou jumps on top of the altar and peeks over the side to see the kids. Drool drips from his mouth and lands on Alexis's head. She looks up to see him staring down. Loup Garou gives an ominous GROWL.

ALEXIS
 Run!

The kids run towards the arch doorway, only to have Mr. Gutierrez emerge and block them. They skid to a halt. They turn around and run, but get cornered by the advancing Loup Garou and Mr. Gutierrez. They're trapped. The kids back pedal on their butts into a corner.

Matt gains consciousness and sits up.

MATT
 WTF?

Loup Garou turns around and bares his teeth at Matt. Matt faints back down to the altar. Loup Garou turns his attention back to the others, stepping slowly towards them.

MR. GUTIERREZ
 Hold them there. We need to speed
 this up.

Mr. Gutierrez grabs a large ritual knife and approaches Matt.

MR. GUTIERREZ
 It's time for you to be free.

He raises the knife above his head.

His kill stroke is interrupted by MIC, an adult Native American Indian, bursting through the canvas covered door.

Mic nocks an arrow and draws it back. The arrow is tipped with a deep black arrowhead. He looses the arrow at Mr. Gutierrez, who in turn puts a hand up to block it. The arrow impacts his hand and a translucent bubble forms around him, freezing him in place.

Loup Garou charges at Mic.

The other canvas door flings open by AHMIK, a young Native American boy, who enters with his bow drawn. He looses his arrow at Loup Garou. The arrow impacts his chest and a translucent bubble forms around him.

ALEXIS

OMG

COOPER

This definitely defies all current laws of physics.

BO

I think I poo'd my pants.

The raccoon from earlier enters and transforms into Joyce Breaux.

JOYCE

Come on.

Mic unties Matt's ankles and throws him over his shoulder.

ALEXIS

Mrs. Joyce?

JOYCE

I'll explain later.

As they leave Alexis looks back. Loup Garou and Mr. Gutierrez stare back at her with evil looks. They are frozen in place by the shimmering bubbles.

BO

My pellet gun!

JOYCE

No time!

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The group quickly walks down a trail.

JOYCE

Nick of time situation?

ALEXIS

You betcha.

BO

I thought we were kibbles and bits.

JOYCE

They'll be on our trail soon. Those bubbles don't hold for long.

Joyce catches up to Mic, who leads the group with Matt over his shoulder still out cold. She talks to him in a Native American language. Mic pulls some black stones out of a pouch and hands them to Joyce.

Joyce attempts to rouse Matt. Matt begins to wake so Mic sets him down. The all gather close to him.

MATT

(Groggy)

What did I miss? Hi Mrs. Joyce.
Where did you come from?

JOYCE

Over there. Now we don't have time to get you back home.

MATT

Over where?

ALEXIS

Then where are we going?

JOYCE

You'll see. Take these.

Joyce hands the kids each a black stone in the shape of arrowheads. The stones resemble obsidian and sparkle with a mystical glow.

COOPER

I don't think this is on the periodic table of elements.

One of the frogs CROAKS.

JOYCE

Get rid of the frogs.

MATT

But we need those.

JOYCE

They don't work, neither do colanders. You kids really believe everything on the internet?

BO

No

The kids release their frogs into the small bayou that parallels the trail. Bo kisses his before throwing it in the water.

ALEXIS

Eww.

COOPER

Why did you kiss it?

BO

Hoping it would turn into your mom.

COOPER

Douche

JOYCE

We need to go.

A BELLOWING HOWL comes from behind them.

JOYCE

They're coming.

The group approaches thickly wooded area. Two trees form an archway.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Through there.

Matt gives Alexis a very worried look.

ALEXIS

Do we have a choice?

MATT

Guess not.

The group walks through the archway. A liquid wall acts like a shield against the unwanted. This wall gives off waves as each person crosses through.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

On the other side of the portal sits a stereotypical Indian village. Thatch style huts form the center around a fire pit.

The group walks through the huts. Mic speaks to Ahmik and he runs off.

ALEXIS

My parents are not going to believe this.

JOYCE

Your parents aren't going to find out about this. OK?

ALEXIS

But...

JOYCE

No. Promise you wont say anything.

ALEXIS

Fine. But...

JOYCE

No buts. Come see.

MATT

Mrs. Joyce? Are we safe here? Safe from...them?

Matt points to the portal behind them.

JOYCE

Yes. This village has been here for over a thousand years, unseen but by those who are suppose to see it.

MATT

We'll never make it back by dark.

JOYCE

As least you'll make it back.

MATT

How? They're waiting for us.

JOYCE

We're going to teach you to best them. Something that has needed to happen for a long time.

Joyce takes the kids to a crater behind some of the huts.

ALEXIS

Who else knows?

JOYCE

Just Doug and I want to keep it that way.

A large obsidian rock sits in the center of the crater under a thatch hut. Tools sit on a table next the black rock. The rock shimmers like nothing the kids have ever seen. They're transfixed but its mystical beauty.

ALEXIS

(Holding up her arrowhead)

That rock, is that where these came from?

JOYCE

It is.

ALEXIS

Where did it come from?

Joyce points to the sky.

COOPER

It's a meteor?

JOYCE

We believe so. It allows us to...bend the physical world, change the physical properties.

COOPER

Can we keep these? I could definitely win the science fair.

JOYCE

Sure. They won't show up as anything but obsidian once you leave the swamp. And besides, you're going to need them to defeat Loup. Let's go get your strength up.

Joyce leads them back to the fire pit.

MATT

What you mean defeat Loup?

JOYCE

We can't hurt them.

BO

Who's them?

JOYCE

Mr. Gutierrez, his name here is Ni'ta, means bear.

BO

That explains it.

JOYCE

He and his son were cursed and banished from the tribe. Ni'ta broke his curse by cleansing his blood with the blood of non-tribal people. He can take human or bear form.

ALEXIS

And now he is trying to do the same for Loup...who is his son.

JOYCE

Precisely.

They sit and Ahmik brings them small baskets with steaming clams.

JOYCE

Eat

The kids attempt to open the claims to no avail. Joyce speaks to Ahmik in Native tongue.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Watch Ahmik.

Ahmik hits the clam on a rock. It cracks open. The kids try to duplicate the move. All but Alexis succeed. Ahmik gives her a smile and sits next to her. He continues to crack clams for her as long as she is eating.

ALEXIS

How come none of the other people here come out like you?

JOYCE

I was sent out.

ALEXIS

Why you?

JOYCE

Ni'ta was my husband long ago. He wasn't fat and hairy back then. He was quite handsome.

ALEXIS

That makes Loup your son.

JOYCE

Yes.

ALEXIS

And Doug? What does he think of all this?

JOYCE

He understands.

Bo stands and scratches his butt.

BO

My butt is really hurting. I think it's infected.

Joyce leaves for a moment then returns with a female Native.

JOYCE

Bo go with her, she'll give you some medicine.

The native smiles and motions for Bo to follow. She leads him into a hut.

BO (O.S.)

Ow! No! No! OOOOWWW!

Matt and Cooper giggle to each other.

MATT

Good for him.

ALEXIS

No offense Mrs. Joyce, but I not ready to give up my blood for Loup.

JOYCE

I didn't expect you to. I actually followed you kids to protect you from them. They did some bad things and deserve their loneliness.

Bo comes storming out of the hut, buttoning his shorts on the way.

BO

I've had enough of that. She pulled at least twenty pieces of salt rock outta my butt. Then rubbed some green stuff that made it hurt even worse.

ALEXIS
How does it feel now?

BO
Better.

ALEXIS
(To Joyce)
You're the raccoon right?

JOYCE
Yes

ALEXIS
Did you kill my Guinea pig?

JOYCE
My apologies. Animal instincts I
guess. I have to feed both forms of
me.

ALEXIS
The others? Can they change?

JOYCE
The ones that choose to. Ahmik
here, his name means beaver.

BO
(Giggling)
Beaver

ALEXIS
Shut up.

Joyce makes a fanning motion with her hand and points at Bo.

ALEXIS
Yea I know, he smells bad.

JOYCE
We shall remember him as Dooki.
Means smells of poo.

All laugh except Bo.

COOPER
No more clams.

ALEXIS
Where to from here?

JOYCE

Ahmik is going to teach you how to
beat Ni'ta and Loup. Follow him.

Joyce speaks to Ahmik. He motions for the kids to follow. He
leads them to a small clearing next to huts.

He stands them in a line and makes a fist and punching
motion.

ALEXIS

He wants us to practice punching.

COOPER

Oi. Training.

BO

This is BS. I know how to punch.

Bo stands up straight and folds his arms in nonverbal
protest.

Ahmik walks over and does the punching motion right in front
of Bo.

BO

No.

Ahmik does another punch.

BO

I said NO. I know how to punch. Ask
them.

Ahmik smiles at him, then with lightning quickness hits him
in his balls.

Bo doubles over.

MATT

Wow. That was quick.

BO

(Coughing)

Ow.

Bo stands up and feigns a punch at Ahmik but he does not
flinch.

BO

Hum. That backfired.

Ahmik gets in Bo's face.

AHMIK

No.

MATT

Look on the bright side, at least
it wasn't your ass.

Cooper stands in The Karate Kid crane kick pose and does a clumsy kick.

COOPER

Hi Ya!

ALEXIS

What are you doing?

COOPER

The Karate Kid. Remember when he
was on the log?

ALEXIS

No, I haven't seen it yet.

Cooper does another crane kick.

COOPER

Hi-Ya!

Ahmik puts his hand to his face in frustration then throws a handful of dirt into the air. He stands in front of Alexis and nods.

Alexis practices her punch. Ahmik grabs her fist in his. They share another smile. A connection is made and she does her best to hide the blushing.

Joyce walks over next to them.

JOYCE

I think he likes you.

ALEXIS

Stop. You're embarrassing me.

JOYCE

He can't understand.

ALEXIS

Well in that case, I think he's
cute too. But this is my luck. I
finally find a boy I like and I
have to leave him forever. Which
could be about an hour.

JOYCE

You guys will do just fine. The reason he is teaching you to punch is...you have to hit them in the face with the arrowheads. So make a fist and put the point through your fingers. This will put them in their animal form...forever.

MATT

You mean they, Bo, Cooper and Alexis have to hit them.

JOYCE

Matt, I know your family well. You have that bravery inside you too.

BO

No he doesn't. Been a puss always will be a puss.

Matt lunges at Bo. Bo is startled and falls backwards onto his butt. As Matt is about to reach Bo, Alexis stops him.

MATT

Get off of me.

ALEXIS

Let it be.

MATT

I finally grow some nuts and you stop me?

ALEXIS

Not now. We have bigger things to worry about.

BO

I'd, I'd, I'd have dropped you like a fly.

JOYCE

Enough kids, you need to get going. It's going to be dark soon. Remember punch to the face with the arrowhead. You can outsmart them. Use your wits.

MATT

That will be a tough one for Bo.

COOPER
Why can't we use bow and arrows?

JOYCE
Those only work for the us. You
guys have to be touching the stone.

COOPER
Crikey.

JOYCE
I'm going to get Doug and your dad.
After you have bested them, head up
the north trail.

Bo and Matt exchange stink eyes. Joyce disappears through
the archway.

They walk to the arch portal. Ahmik stops Alexis on the way.
He hands her a small leather pouch. She opens it and inside
are some beautiful polished stones. Ahmik smiles at her.

ALEXIS
Matt get over here.

Matt, with his new found swagger, comes over.

MATT
What? We gotta go mom and dad are
gonna be pissed.

ALEXIS
Give me your marbles.

MATT
No way.

ALEXIS
(Threatening)
Give me your marbles.

Seeing the seriousness, Matt hands over the marbles.

MATT
Here, but you owe me.

Matt turns away and smiles to himself. He didn't give her
all the marbles, just most of them.

Alexis gives the marbles to Ahmik who in turns smiles. They
lock eyes for a moment. Alexis kisses him on the cheek.

AHMIK
Good luck.

ALEXIS
But I thought you couldn't...

MATT
(Interrupting)
Let do this. I'm sleeping in my own
bed tonight.

ALEXIS
Bye.

BO
Alexis and Ahmik sitting in a
tree...

Alexis feigns a punch at Bo and he flinches.

ALEXIS
Two for flinching.

Alexis punches Bo in the arm twice.

They walk through the portal.

EXT. TRAIL - LATE AFTERNOON

The four kids exit the archway and head down the trail.

MATT
Where to?

BO
The sugar mill. I want my gun back.

MATT
Are you crazy?

ALEXIS
What's not crazy right now?

MATT
Good point.

The kids hear LEAVES RUSTLING and an ANIMAL GRUNT a little
ways behind them. They turn to see Mr. Gutierrez, in black
bear form, emerge onto the trail.

ALEXIS
No going back now.

COOPER
Pick up the pace.

BO
To the mill.

MATT
But where's Loup?

The bear pursues the kids to the sugar mill.

EXT. SUGAR MILL - DUSK

They gather outside the doorway.

BO
My gun is in there. I'm gonna shoot something.

COOPER
Give me the rope.

Alexis digs in her pack and retrieves the rope.

COOPER (CONT'D)
(Pointing)
I'm going up there. On your mark,
I'm coming in like a Tasmanian
Devil.

BO
A what?

COOPER
Just say when.

Cooper takes the rope and goes around the corner.

INT. SUGAR MILL - DUSK

The others cautiously enter through the canvas door. Candles still light the room. Bo's gun leans against the wall near the altar.

BO
My gun, come on.

Bo and Matt crouch walk toward the altar. Alexis sneaks over to the back room doorway. Bo grabs his gun.

MR. GUTIERREZ (O.S.)
You should not have come back here
children. Only bad things await
you.

The canvas door opens, Mr. Gutierrez, in human form, enters the room.

Bo and Matt dive behind the altar. Alexis hides behind the doorway.

Mr. Gutierrez slowly walks towards the altar.

MR. GUTIERREZ
Come on out. I only want your
blood.

Alexis emerges from the shadows of the doorway.

ALEXIS
Hey you fat bastard! Come and get
me.

Alexis makes a break for the door way.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Matt be ready!

Alexis dives through the canvas doorway. Mr. Gutierrez gives pursuit.

EXT. SUGAR MILL - DUSK

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Now Cooper!

Cooper has tied the rope to a tree branch and uses it as a swing. He runs on the roof and jumps off the edge, swinging out first.

Mr. Gutierrez opens the canvas doorway to see Alexis on the ground.

MR. GUTIERREZ
Tasty little snack.

ALEXIS
Cooper!

Cooper is now on his back swing with his legs up.

COOPER

Hi-Ya!

He lands a double leg kick to Mr. Gutierrez's chest and is lifted off the ground and back through the door.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Now Matt!

INT. SUGAR MILL - DUSK

Mr. Gutierrez stands up but is dazed. Bo shoots him in the balls.

While he is crouched over, Matt does a flying superman punch off the altar, punching Mr. Gutierrez in the face. Mr. Gutierrez falls to the ground with a THUMP. Bo runs over to finish him off, but he is already done.

Matt looks at his hand, blood glistens on the tip of the arrowhead. Mr. Gutierrez convulses on the ground. His hands and feet transform into bear paws, then his body.

MATT

We gotta go...now.

EXT. SUGAR MILL - DUSK

The kids regroup outside.

MATT (CONT'D)

That fatass can eat berries for the rest of his life.

BO

Good punch.

MATT

I learned from the best.

BO

Aw thanks.

ALEXIS

He's coming.

The kids go around the corner and watch Mr. Gutierrez the bear emerge then disappear into the bushes.

ALEXIS

One down, one to go.

The kids hear FOOTSTEPS and CRUMBLING BRICK from the roof of the sugar mill. They back away from the building to see Loup Garou standing high above them.

With his muscular arms stretched out, Loup Garou leans his head back and lets loose a LONG FEROCIOUS WOLF HOWL.

BO

I think I just crapped my pants....again.

ALEXIS

Split up. Matt with me. Y'all get his attention.

Bo shoots at Loup Garou and misses, but gains his focus.

COOPER

Here you little dingo. Here dingo.

BO

What's a dingo?

COOPER

Just shoot him.

Bo pumps his pellet gun as they back away from the sugar mill.

Loup Garou walks along the edge, never taking his eyes off Bo and Cooper.

COOPER

Hurry up. Pump it.

BO

I'm pumping as fast as I can.

Loup Garou leaps off the roof and lands in a three point stance facing Bo and Cooper. Leaves and dust fly up from the impact.

Matt and Alexis watch from the corner. Alexis has Cooper's rope in her hand.

ALEXIS

I'm going up. Get out there and distract him. Get him close to the wall.

MATT

Do what?

ALEXIS

Be brave. Just do it.

MATT

This is not a Nikey commercial. My life could end.

ALEXIS

Take this.

Alexis hands Matt the small shovel.

MATT

What am I suppose to do with this?

ALEXIS

Not sure.

Alexis climbs up the wall.

Matt creeps around the corner. Loup Garou's back is towards him as he makes his way down the wall. He stops and throws the shovel at Loup Garou, hitting him in the back of the head. Loup Garou turns and charges Matt.

MATT

Oh crud.

COOPER

Shoot him! Now!

BO

I'm trying.

Bo's hands are shaking as he attempts to chamber a pellet.

It's too late. Loup Garou reaches Matt and grabs him under his arms and lifts him off his feet, pinning him to the wall.

MATT

You guys do something!

COOPER

Shoot!

Loup Garou is face to face with Matt, just inches away. He gives a LOW GROWL. His teeth drip with slobber.

Matt's body goes limp as he faints. Loup Garou loses his grip and Matt falls to the ground.

A SHOT is heard, then the THUMP of a pellet impact on the back of Loup Garou's head. Loup Garou YELPS like a puppy and turns back to Bo and Cooper.

Bo raises his pellet gun to shoot again. Loup Garou flinches in anticipation of the shot.

ALEXIS

Up here you mangy mutt!

Loup Garou looks up to see Alexis somersault of the roof and onto his shoulders.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Two for flinching!

Alexis punches Loup Garou in the face twice. The arrowhead clearly visible in her fist.

Alexis jumps off his shoulders as Loup Garou falls to the ground in a fetal position. Loup Garou convulses and transforms into a mangy looking mutt. He stands and YIPS his way into the bushes.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Dance class bitch.

COOPER

Well played mate.

BO

Not bad for a girl.

ALEXIS

Lets get outta here.

BO

(Pointing to Matt)

What about puss?

ALEXIS

You know one day, he is going to tear you a new one...or be your boss so I would lay off it.

BO

Your right, he did show up in there. I'll give him that.

They walk over to Matt, who is still unconscious.

Alexis gives him a soft tap to the cheek.

ALEXIS
Matt, wake up, it's over.

BO
Hit him harder.

ALEXIS
Matt.

Matt slowly wakes up again. He punches the air hoping for a target.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Calm down. They're gone. Lets go home. I'm so over this adventure.

COOPER
Me too.

BO
Three

MATT
Four

ALEXIS
Joyce said head up the North trail.

EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

The kids walk the trail telling Matt about Alexis's leap off the roof and punching Loup Garou.

Alexis pulls the stones out of her pack, looks back, hoping to see Ahmik.

The moment is interrupted by the SOUND OF MOTORCYCLES and headlights through the trees.

MATT
I know those bikes.

ALEXIS
Yea, it's dad and Doug coming to get us.

MATT
No, it's Trent.

Trent and Clint come racing up to the kids. Trent almost hits Bo.

COOPER
Our rides have arrived.

TRENT
Found my mags you burned up. Time
to pay for'em.

CLINT
What are y'all doing way out here
and where's the pirogue?

BO
Long story.

TRENT
We got some time...do tell...or
don't...I'll beat it out of you.

Trent climbs off his bike and puts Bo in a headlock.

BO
Get off of me!

CLINT
Leave him alone Trent.

Trent releases Bo.

TRENT
You're still going to pay for mags.

MORE MOTORCYCLES are heard and headlights are seen through
the trees.

MATT
That's dad.

Doug and Ken pull up to the kids and turn the motorbikes
off.

ALEXIS
Perfect timing dad.

KEN
You kids alright?

MATT
Fine and dandy.

DOUG
Joyce said you guys needed a lift
home.

ALEXIS
We would love a ride home.

DOUG
We weren't expecting those two so
everyone double up.

KEN
Matt, jump on.

Matt jumps on Ken's bike, Alexis with Doug.

CLINT
Cooper, jump on.

BO
What about me? I'm your brother.

CLINT
You're with Trent. You two need to
kiss and make up anyway.

Trent GRUMBLES under his breathe.

A BEAR GROWL comes from down the trail.

ALEXIS
We should hurry.

The kids all load onto the bikes. The ENGINES START. Alexis
and Doug are the last to go. Mr. Gutierrez, the bear,
approaches them.

DOUG
Not today fatass.

Doug sprays dirt with the motorbike tires into the bear's
face. Alexis turns around and gives him the bird.

INT. ZOO LOBBY - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 4 Months Later

A SMALL CROWD CHEERS as awards are being presented.

ANNOUNCER
We have two more awards. These are
for our junior counselors. First
goes to Cooper Trickle.

CHEERS again. Cooper jumps on stage.

ANNOUNCER

For his innovative creation of the automatic feeder for Frank the spider monkey.

The announcer hands Cooper a certificate and a small plaque made of cypress with Junior Engineer engraved on it. MORE CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER

Cooper is currently working on a pooper scooper for Clive the chimp. Thank you Cooper. We look forward to many more of your cost saving devices.

Cooper steps aside to make way for the next awardee.

ANNOUNCER

And our last award goes to someone who has impressed us all summer. She has given her heart and dedication to the animals here at Audubon Institute. She is our top junior member. If she keeps it up we just might have to offer her a job. Put your hands together for Alexis Champagne.

MORE CHEERS.

Alexis joins them upfront next to Cooper.

Bo and Matt stand by Ken and Melanie. Bo BOOS Alexis as a joke. Matt stomps his foot discretely and gives him a glare.

BO

Sorry...gesh

The boys CLAP for Alexis.

MATT

That's better.

ANNOUNCER

Alexis, if she can stick with us, she'll qualify for our scholarship program. Thank You Alexis.

MORE CHEERS.

The announcer hands Alexis a Certificate and plaque. MORE CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER

Thank you everyone for coming out
today.

The kids join their parents as the crowd disperses. All the
kids wear their black arrowheads as necklaces.

KEN

Good job my dear.

ALEXIS

Thanks dad.

KEN

Keep with this path and they'll pay
for you to go to college.

ALEXIS

That's my plan.

KEN

And good job to you Cooper.

COOPER

Thanks Mr. Ken.

KEN

Now lets get outta here. Back to
school next week.

MATT

See you tomorrow Coop.

COOPER

You betcha mate.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ken drives, Melanie is in the passenger seat. Alexis, Matt
and Bo are in the back.

KEN

Matt, we're proud of you too. Don't
want you to feel left out.

MATT

Thanks dad. It's her day, let her
enjoy it. But tomorrow, can you
bring us to the track?

KEN

Sure. What for?

MATT

We need to test the new parts for the bikes.

KEN

The ones you and Cooper designed?

MATT

Yep and the club said that because of the new designs and, as much as I hate to say it, Bo's driving skill, we get to meet our new sponsor. Some energy drink something or other.

Bo CRACKS his knuckles and smiles.

KEN

A sponsor huh?

MATT

Said they'll help us get into the junior motocross league.

KEN

We won't miss it.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alexis walks out onto the back deck. She stares into the swamp. She notices a small leather pouch on the railing. She opens the pouch to see some small beautiful stones. Her head lifts with excitement, intently scanning the swamp.

Something moving in the pond gains her attention. It's Ahmik the beaver. She waves to him. He sticks a webbed paw in the air and waves back. She smiles.

FADE OUT: