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17 EXT. STREAM - EVENING

A blanket lays on the moss, by the stream. The thick foliage overhead makes the area dark. SARAH's stereo is playing. Among the remains of lunch are an empty orange marmalade jar and an overturned teacup. LUCAS lays on HIS back, chewing a blade of grass. ERIC wipes a patch of splattered goo into HIS right pant leg. SARAH kneels at the edge of the clearing, coaxing a diseased rabbit with a carrot and poking the roof of HER mouth with HER tongue. JEN leans against a tree trunk, twirling a freshly plucked leaf in HER hand. AUDREY works on a needlepoint. JOSH digs in HIS backpack.

LUCAS

(to AUDREY)

So, you were saying last night you think God speaks in many tongues, right?

AUDREY

I said many things last night. I have been interested in other... paths of late. Their roots and.... motivations.

LUCAS

I'm mostly Cherokee.

JOSH pulls HIS video camera from HIS pack and checks it. It's dead.

LUCAS

My Great-grandfather was one of the last truly powerful Shaman of my nation. He saw things few other humans ever have.

JOSH removes the battery from the camera.

ERIC

(to LUCAS)

You've got to be kidding. Not this.

SARAH leaves the rabbit and turns off HER stereo.

SARAH

Is this the story? I've been dieing to hear this again.

JOSH pulls a solar battery charger from HIS pack.

LUCAS

(to JOSH)

Nice. My watch is solar. I think it's a little off, though.

SARAH

(mock irritated)

Ugh! Don't tease like that!

*JOSH mounts the battery on HIS solar charger and sets it in a sunny clearing. JEN drops the leaf and wipes HER hand on the front of HER skirt.*

AUDREY

(to LUCAS)

What are you getting at?

LUCAS

He once told me, a legend that only passed between Shaman. Fewer than 50 people alive today have heard this.

ERIC

He's tripled that since he began telling it.

JOSH

(interested)

We've never heard it.

SARAH

(to Jen)

It's so cool!

LUCAS

He once summoned a being that lives forever, to perform a task for him. The task he never spoke of... but the being... It was a powerful Shaman from another world. A Shaman who, thousands of years ago made a deal with one of the Elder Gods that allowed him to exist in physical form forever.

LUCAS

(continues)

But no great gift comes without a great price.

ERIC

But no great gift comes without a great price.

LUCAS

His burden was that he had to remain in the body of his own fetus, trapped inside the rotting whom of his mother who died at his birth. He controlled her remains like a zombie-robot or something.

*Beat.*

ERIC

Not only did you tell that horrific nightmare in front of a pregnant couple, you completely diddled the ending.

AUDREY

Shouldn't we get back soon? We still need to move the campsite.

JOSH

We've got some time. I was hoping to hike here. These trees are amazing.

AUDREY

(looking up)

It's as if we've shrunk.

*SHE walks into the forest looking upward. ERIC picks up a few large, dead leaves.*

ERIC

I'm gonna take these huge leaves and find a huge tree. Back in 10.

*HE walks into the forest.*

LUCAS

10's more like 20, so I'm gonna go hang out behind the falls.

*HE rises, accidentally grunting with pleasure.*

SARAH

(rises, smiling)

Can I watch?

*As THEY walk away, LUCAS lights a joint. JEN begins cleaning up the picnic debris. AUDREY and JOSH follow suit.*