

(Name of Project)

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8 EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

The sun is bright. The ritual area is covered in drying viscera and blood, full of flies. JEN wakes to one's hungry tickle on HER blood-caked face. SHE raises and looks around, sees JOSH, covered in dry blood, huddled at HER side. SHE SCREAMS. JOSH bolts up, wincing. THEY panic.

JEN

Joshua, no! What is this!?

JOSH

Fuck! What happened? Are you alright?

JEN

(looking/clutching at HER belly)

I don't know. What is this?

Standing behind JEN, SARAH, freshly bathed, hair in a towel, puts a comforting hand on JEN's shoulder.

SARAH

(kneeling)

Hey, the ritual? The guts?

Beat. JOSH leans against the log and groans.

JEN

(clutching HER womb)

Shit. Is Audrey OK?

SARAH

She's fine. In her tent reading. The boys are still asleep.

(SHE pauses, glancing over HER shoulder)

There's something else, though.

(beat)

Something freaky.

ERIC (O.S.)

(yelling)

A sinkhole! Wow! Hey! Where is everyone?

SARAH stands up from behind the log. ERIC's still robed and clean.

ERIC

(to SARAH)
Hey, a sinkhole! You seen Luke?

SARAH

(nods past log behind
ERIC)
Yeah, I killed him.

HE turns and sees LUCAS's bloody body, jumps backwards and SCREAMS. SARAH LAUGHS.

ERIC

What the fuck?

JOSH and JEN rise, CHUCKLING. ERIC, seeing them, looks painfully confused.

JEN

The ritual? The guts?

Beat.

ERIC

(LAUGHING)
Oh, shit. I don't remember a THING!

JEN

I don't remember anything either.
(to JOSH)
What's the last you remember?

JOSH

(BEAT)
The guts.

SARAH

It must've been great!
(to ERIC, laughing)
That was funnier than if Sasquatch
here would've shown up.

SHE kicks the bottom of LUCAS's foot. HE stirs, groaning. ERIC looks at HER, confused again.

JOSH

We should check out the video.

ERIC leans down to LUCAS and YELLS.

ERIC

You're all bloody! What did you do?

LUCAS pushes HIM away.

LUCAS

~~Get the fuck off me!~~

ERIC walks to HIS camera, looking to the sinkhole.

ERIC

So, what's up with this hole?

HE takes HIS camera from the tripod and checks it. JOSH and JEN walk to the edge.

JEN

That's amazing.

SARAH

Intense, ain't it?

JOSH

I wonder what caused it.

ERIC takes the battery from the camera. LUCAS lifts HIMSELF and looks to the hole. It's a ten foot oval, seven feet deep, one side slopes in. The floor is uneven and covered with ash. There's a deep spot at the far end, unnaturally flat.

LUCAS

I thought you were kidding.

JEN

The heat must have caused an air pocket to cave in.

ERIC

(replacing the battery)
I knew that was too big.

JOSH

(splashing bottled water
into the pit)
Looks completely out now.

LUCAS

I bet there's something down there.

SARAH

Like what?

LUCAS

Only one way to find out.

LUCAS runs down the slope.

ERIC

One hot coal and you're fucked.

LUCAS

It's kinda gooey underneath.

LUCAS lifts a foot. Ash-coated thick, amber goo drips off.

EVERYONE

Eewww!

ERIC

(setting camera down)

Honey, that's really gross.

LUCAS

What the fuck is it?

JOSH and JEN walk in and examine LUCAS's foot. JEN sniffs it.

JEN

Something must've got cooked.

SARAH

(horrified)

What, an animal!?

JEN

No, no. Some sort of plant or fungus maybe? That could explain all the smoke, as well.

SARAH

Like a huge mushroom?

LUCAS

I heard on 'Beyond the Borders', there's a giant one under Germany.

LUCAS starts to kick up the gooey ash. JEN and JOSH step back.

ERIC

You're gonna fall on your ass.

LUCAS

It's not slippery.

LUCAS bounds into the flat spot and cracks through the surface with a loud 'GLUG', dropping into a deep pool of goo. THE OTHERS GASP and rush to the opening. With another GLUG, the pool of goo disappears down a hole. Beat.

LUCAS (O.S.)

Aw, sick!

JEN

Are you alright?!

JOSH

Can you move?!

ERIC

Luke!

SARAH

Oh, shit! Oh, shit! Oh, shit!

LUCAS (O.S.)

I'm fine, I'm fine!

JOSH and ERIC kneel and look in.

LUCAS (O.S.)

There's a cave down here.

JOSH

How big?

LUCAS (O.S.)

I can't see, but I feel a breeze.

JOSH

Must be another opening.

LUCAS (O.S.)

Eric, get my lantern. Maybe this leads to another Mel's hole.

ERIC begins to toward the large tent.

SARAH

Who's hole?

ERIC

(announcer voice)
"Beyond Borders with Ian Bell..."

JOSH

How deep is it?

LUCAS (O.S.)

About eight feet. I fell on my ass.

JEN

Sure you're OK?

LUCAS (O.S.)

Yeah, I'm fine.

(beat)

My ass feels kinda... tingly.

ERIC returns with the lantern. JOSH lowers HIMSELF. ERIC hands the lantern down. Beat.

JOSH (O.S.)

It's a pretty long passage. We should clean up and look around. Someone drop a log down for a step.

SARAH

(to JEN, pointing)
River's that way.

JEN

(exiting)
Thanks.

ERIC walks to a log and rolls it down the slope.

SARAH

I thought you hated caves.

ERIC

I was kidding. Who knows what could be down there.

SHE grabs the end of the log from HIM.

SARAH

I actually like urban spelunking better. You know, down manholes?
(MORE)

SARAH(cont'd)
(yelling down)
BACK UP BOYS!! HERE IT COMES!

SHE pushes the log into the hole.

ERIC
Classy girl.
(MORE)