

The Hunger
Within

by
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In the beginning, there is rain. Rain falls from the top of the trees to the forest below. There is no animal movement. There is no movement, but the rain.

Without sound, an Indian brave runs past. After a few minutes, something slightly human, but long, skinny and bald runs past in the same direction, so quickly that its features are distorted.

The brave slams his way through the forest. Tree limbs smash across his face and he slips on some moss and goes down.

Lying on the ground still, his breathing heavy and his heart beating at a furious pace, the brave glances around in a panic. Drops of sweat fall down from his forehead to his cheek.

Suddenly, there is a noise from the bushes to his right. He gets to his moccasin-covered feet and runs away from the direction of the rustling. A moment later, the strange, human-shaped thing runs past.

The brave looks backward as he runs for his life through the undergrowth of the forest. The thing following him is never far behind. Occasionally a glimpse of its elbow or long, stringy hair pushed back by the wind off a bald, elongated head can be seen through the leaves and bristles of the forest.

The brave stops and looks around, listening. The forest is quiet behind him at every angle. There is no noise, except for the Indian's heavy breathing. He continues to look around and listen, but hears nothing. He looks up to the sky, perhaps to get his bearing. Seeing nothing, he approaches a nearby tree to touch the moss.

Sharply, he looks up and then takes off into the forest again. It isn't long, however, before the brave runs face first into what was chasing him. Raising his eyes in fear, he mouths one word.

BRAVE
(quietly, almost
breathlessly whispered)
Wendigo.

His world dissolves into blackness.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY-- MORNING

The year is 1586. One of the first colonies in America is the colony of Roanoke, which holds roughly 100 men, women and children.

A ship is anchored a hundred feet from the coast. The crew is bringing boxes and goods ashore via the longboats.

Standing at the beginning of the path that leads into Roanoke colony is CAPTAIN STANDISH with a requisition in his hands. He is between 30 and 40 in age, but is slightly weathered.

At his side is his first mate, MR. HENRY, a slightly short and dumpy sailor. As the boxes and crates pass him, Mr. Henry calls out their contents and Captain Standish checks them off his list.

Next to Standish on the opposite side of Mr. Henry is the leader of the Roanoke colony, JOHN HYRCANEOUS. John is a stern-faced man, approximately 50 years old and dressed in simple pilgrim garb.

Two sailors carrying a large crate walk past John and the Captain.

MR. HENRY

Fourteen boxes of biscuits.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

And have you met any of the natives as of yet?

JOHN

There has been only one meeting with a local tribe, the Croatan. We have not seen another tribe since we began.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

And how did you fare last winter, John?

MR. HENRY

One crate of barley.

JOHN

Oh, it was a hard winter, that's certain. We lost seven men, fifteen women, and thirteen children.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

I told you not to allow for the children...

JOHN

Aye.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

And speaking of children, where are the young men of your village? Shouldn't they be assisting my crew as well?

JOHN
That they should...

John looks toward the village.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

The sky in the forest is revealed slightly by the gaps of the canopy in the trees. BENJAMIN HARCOURT and JOSHUA YORK are similarly hidden behind a copse of bushes.

Benjamin is a fifteen year old, slightly taller than average youth, with long hair that flows into his mischievous eyes.

Joshua, however, is short and slightly more fragile-looking. Joshua's eyes reveal anything but playfulness as they dart around for danger.

And danger appears trouncing through the woods like a bear in the form of GIDEON BLACK. Gideon is large for a boy his age, which is fifteen. His eyes are mean and small and he is in a rage.

GIDEON
Benjamin Harcourt and Joshua York,
when I find you two, I'll mash your
heads.

Joshua begins to rise and run, but Benjamin quickly restrains him. Benjamin shakes his head and points to the clearing in front of him. Joshua is still wary, but waits.

With the eloquence of a rhino, Gideon bounds in to the clearing. In the middle of the clearing is a thin pile of leaves, which Gideon takes no notice of.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
I seen you come this way and I know
you're here. Why don't you come
out?

Joshua again starts to rise as Benjamin lays a hand on his arm, restraining him.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
You've got it coming, you two. When
I get my hands on you...

Gideon's foot enters the pile of leaves. A vine, hidden by the leaves, is pulled tight around the foot and Gideon is lifted, foot first, into the air. Gideon swings once and smacks into a nearby tree.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Ow. Benjamin Harcourt, I know this was you.

Gideon, swaying in the air, can see Benjamin and Joshua raise up from the undergrowth and slowly approach.

BENJAMIN

Perhaps the blood will flood into your brain and bring back reason.

JOSHUA

It's just what you deserve.

GIDEON

You just wait till I tell Elder John about this.

BENJAMIN

And we'll have to tell him how you threatened to give us a thrashing three times this week after school.

GIDEON

And I'll give you another if you don't let me down right now.

JOSHUA

Then why should we ever let you down?

BENJAMIN

We should leave him here for the bears.

JOSHUA

Or worse.

Gideon reaches into one of his pockets and removes a hunting knife.

GIDEON

Then I'll let myself down.

Gideon awkwardly begins to saw at the vine holding his feet as Benjamin turns to Joshua.

BENJAMIN

Run!

Benjamin and Joshua run from the clearing and into the growth of the forest. After a moment, Benjamin points to his right and Joshua leaves toward that direction.

Back in the clearing, Gideon reaches the end of the vine and falls heavily to the ground.

He rises slowly to his feet, brushes himself off and heads in the direction that the two took.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- CONTINUOUS

Two sailors with a barrel a piece pass the Captain, Mr. Henry and John.

MR. HENRY

Two barrels of ale.

JOHN

So, when will you return?

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Well, it's Spring now and the trip to England will take a few months, plus the return trip will take a few months as well. We should return at the beginning of Winter, maybe Fall.

JOHN

Aye. We could use some more men here in the colony.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

You know I would lend you some of mine if I could spare them. But I need all I have for the return trip.

JOHN

Aye.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Gideon has come within fifteen feet of Benjamin as they race through the woods.

GIDEON

Don't think you can get away!

BENJAMIN

I can see the village from here. Save your breath for your legs, Gideon.

GIDEON

You save yours, Harcourt!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- CONTINUOUS

A frail, older gentleman, the schoolmaster, MR. RIND carries a larger than himself box up the path past the Captain and John.

JOHN

Do watch yourself, Mr. Rind.

MR. RIND

I can watch myself just fine, Mr. Hyrcaneous. If I can watch after the young men of this village, I can certainly watch after myself.

Mr. Rind passes the two men.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

That one's worth three men all by himself.

JOHN

Aye. At least in talk.

At that moment, Benjamin and Gideon tumble out of the undergrowth directly by Mr. Rind. Gideon lunges forward and grasps Benjamin's ankles. Benjamin rolls forward and knocks Mr. Rind off his feet. The box he was carrying flies to the ground and breaks open, releasing its load of seed all over the ground.

Gideon, meanwhile, has not taken stock of his surroundings and continues to paw his way toward and on top of Benjamin. Their wrestling is driven to a halt by the sharp command of John Hyrcaneous.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Stop this instant!

Gideon and Benjamin pause to look up at John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Benjamin Harcourt and Gideon Black.
Rise to your feet!

Benjamin and Gideon untangle themselves and rise deliberately to their feet. Captain Standish approaches the pair.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Two boys with so much energy would be better suited to a life at sea.

JOHN

Aye, and I would see them go if it were not for their usefulness here.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

A day in the stocks and few dozen lashes from Mr. Rind should set them straight.

GIDEON

Mr. Hyrcaneous, he...

JOHN

No. No more of your tongue, Mr. Black.

John looks around and spies MALACHI STANLEY approaching with a box on his shoulder. Malachi is a large, tough-looking brute, with a musket looped around his back. He is dressed more like a trapper than one of the colonists.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Mr. Stanley.

MALACHI STANLEY

Yes, sir.

JOHN

Mr. Stanley, please escort these two gentlemen to the stocks.
(pointing to the box)
You can leave that here.

Malachi sets the box on the ground near the Captain.

MALACHI STANLEY

Aye, sir.

He grabs the two boys by the scruff of their clothes.

MALACHI STANLEY (CONT'D)

Come along, boyos.

Mr. Rind, meanwhile, is attempting to push the seeds back into the box.

JOHN

Mr. Rind!

Mr. Rind turns back, slightly confused.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't mind the seeds, Mr. Rind.
Mind your two charges instead.

MR. RIND

Yes. Oh yes.

Mr. Rind scurries up the path as John turns back to the Captain.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Those boys will need to grow up if you plan on surviving another winter.

JOHN

Aye. We'll need to think of some way to convince them to leave their youthful pursuits behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOLHOUSE -- LATER

Benjamin and Gideon are locked in stocks with only their heads and hands in sight.

GIDEON

When I get out of here, Harcourt, I'll find a quiet place where the two of us can be alone for a while.

Gideon winces after a whistle and a crack is heard.

BENJAMIN

And when I get out of here, I'm going to build myself another trap.

Benjamin winces as another whistle and crack is heard. Mr. Rind, who is standing behind the boys with a long stick in his hands, rises to his full height, which isn't very impressive.

MR. RIND

Since the two of you have so many plans, maybe we should just keep you here for a while longer. Now leave my ears in peace, while I finish administering your punishment.

From down the main path of the street, between two buildings, Joshua York peers out to witness the public beatings. Slowly, he backs up. When he is successfully in the shade of the two buildings, he turns quickly and stops.

Directly behind him is his sister, CONSTANCE YORK. Constance is seven years old and full of fire. She stands, glaring at Joshua, with her fists on her hips.

CONSTANCE

You should be in those stocks as well, Joshua York.

JOSHUA

You be quiet now, Constance and get back home.

CONSTANCE

Oh, I'll go home and let mama know
what you've been up to.

JOSHUA

You'll keep your mouth closed if you
knew what was good for you.

Constance opens her mouth in surprise.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Now, get out of here. I'll be home
directly.

CONSTANCE

Mama said to be home now.

Joshua looks back to where he was hiding.

JOSHUA

Alright. But you better keep your
tongue still.

Together they leave the alley.

CUT TO:

INT. HARCOURT HOUSE -- NIGHT

Benjamin is lying on the table on his stomach while his
mother, GOODY HARCOURT, dresses his wounds. Goody Harcourt
is in her early thirties, and has her hair tightly wound.

The Harcourt home is really nothing more than a log cabin
with a few sticks of furniture inside. There is only the
main room, with a bed in the corner and a kitchen area in
another.

GOODY HARCOURT

Benjamin, what will God have me do
with you? Isn't it enough that your
Father was taken from us? Must you
add to our difficulties?

BENJAMIN

Mother...

GOODY HARCOURT

None of your tongue, boy. After
these wounds are tended. It's off
to bed with no dinner.

BENJAMIN

But he started it.

GOODY HARCOURT

And God expected you to finish it.

Goody stops her ministrations and kneels down by Benjamin's face.

GOODY HARCOURT (CONT'D)

You know our Lord expects you to turn the other cheek, Benjamin. Then why do you go on sinning against Him?

BENJAMIN

Maybe he doesn't expect us to just sit and bear injustice. Maybe he intends for us to act.

Goody rises to her feet to finish the job on Benjamin's back.

GOODY HARCOURT

And are you the hand of God, Benjamin. Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.

BENJAMIN

But God works through His people, doesn't He, Mother?

GOODY HARCOURT

Aye, that He does. Tell me, Benjamin, did God tell you to build a trap in wait for young Gideon Black?

Benjamin answers with silence.

GOODY HARCOURT (CONT'D)

Are you surprised I knew about that? A rope trap, Benjamin! You could have hurt him.

BENJAMIN

It's more than he deserves.

GOODY HARCOURT

And who made you to be God's distributor of justice?

Goody finishes and replaces the shirt on his back.

GOODY HARCOURT (CONT'D)

All done now. You'll feel that for a day or so, but I suspect it's no more than God would have you remember.

BENJAMIN

Yes, ma'am.

Benjamin sits up on the table and fixes his shirt. Finished, he slips down. Goody approaches him and cups his face in her hands.

GOODY HARCOURT

You may become an instrument of the
Lord yet, Benjamin Harcourt. But
you let God choose the time and place
for that. Now, to bed with you.

BENJAMIN

Yes, ma'am.

Benjamin heads toward the bed while Goody heads toward the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. HYRCANEIOUS HOUSE -- LATER

John is seated behind a large oak desk, writing. A solitary candle illuminates his work. Occasionally, he looks up and glances out the window, thinking deliberately. Seeing nothing but old thoughts, he returns to his quill and writing. Beside his papers on the desk sits a large Bible. John pauses. His hand reaches toward the Bible and then stops.

It is at that moment that John's wife cries out in her sleep. Quickly, John gets up and leaves the room to the one beyond, which is the bedroom he shares with his wife and child. A solitary candle illuminates this room as well. JOHN'S WIFE is tossing in her bed. She has a fever as is evident by the sweat on her forehead.

John reaches the bedside and places his hand on her burning forehead. John's wife gasps and goes still. He looks at the bedstand, which contains several bottles of medicine, a single spoon, and a bowl of water with a towel submerged. He picks up the towel, wrings out a little water and gently wipes her forehead.

A sound is heard in his office which startles him. He rises to his feet, looks once at his daughter in her bed and grabs a cane that rests near the door. He lifts the cane and enters his office.

Slowly, he looks around and sees nothing in the shadows of the room. He lowers his cane and strides once again toward his desk, but a stirring from the shadows causes him to twist around.

Gently, an old Native American man, HATUECK, emerges from the shadows. He has feathers woven into his hair and a necklace with several claws and beads.

HATUECK

John Hyrcaneous, my old friend. How
well you look.

John lowers his makeshift club and moves toward his desk.

JOHN

Please knock on the door the next time you want to see me. Your English has improved since we last met.

HATUECK

Ah, I watch and I learn.

JOHN

Yes.

Hatueck steps closer to the desk, which John is now sitting behind.

HATUECK

I bring a gift from my chief, Inhio.

Hatueck reaches into the folds of his clothing and removes a beautifully inlaid war hatchet, which he hands to John with little ceremony. John hefts the gift in his hands and admires it.

JOHN

Very nice. And to what do I owe this singular pleasure?

HATUECK

Inhio desires a peace between our village and yours. He desires more, uh...

JOHN

He desires what we would call closer ties. Aye, and so would we.

John stares at the hatchet intently for a moment. Almost to himself he whispers.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And how would you be at turning young boys into men?

HATUECK

The Croatan have brought many of its young braves to manhood.

JOHN

Aye. I have such a young man who is headstrong and needs to be broken.

HATUECK

Like a stallion.

JOHN

Aye.

John places the hatchet on his desk.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Would the Croatan be willing to take
and train this young man?

HATUECK

It would take many moons.

JOHN

Yes.

HATUECK

To bring peace, we would do this.

JOHN

And do you speak for your Chief in
this matter?

HATUECK

In this, I do speak for my Chief.

JOHN

Aye. He will be ready to travel to
your village in three days.

HATUECK

Thank you, John Hyrcaneous.

JOHN

Thank you as well, Hatueck. You
just solved a portion of my problem.
Oh, and please use the other door on
your way out.

John motions toward a door to the right of his bedroom door.

HATUECK

Of course, John Hyrcaneous. That is
how I came in.

Hatueck exits John's house, while John hefts the hatchet,
turning it slowly in his hands.

CUT TO:

INT. HARCOURT HOUSE -- MORNING

Benjamin is asleep on his bedding as hushed voices come from
outside the cabin. The voices belong to Goody Harcourt and
John Hyrcaneous. They begin to rise as they argue, which
slowly wakes up Benjamin. As he wakes, he can make out some
of the conversation.

GOODY HARCOURT

And why must my Benjamin go, Elder
Hyrcaneous? You know that I have
lost my husband.

JOHN

As have several others, which I have explained, Goody Harcourt. Your son is the most mature of the three and the only one I would trust not to completely disgrace our village with the Croatan.

Benjamin gets up from the bed and slowly inches toward the front door.

GOODY HARCOURT

But...

JOHN

Goody Harcourt, among the other mothers, you are the more able to care for yourself. It will only be for a few months and is desperately needed at this time.

Goody pauses for a moment, pondering.

GOODY HARCOURT

I see and I understand God's will in this.

JOHN

Aye. He will leave in three sun downs.

GOODY HARCOURT

Yes, Elder Hyrcaneous. Thank you.

Benjamin quickly moves away from the front door and sits back on the bed. The front door opens and his mother enters.

BENJAMIN

Mother?

GOODY HARCOURT

The council has decided that you must leave for a season.

BENJAMIN

And if I refuse.

Goody turns away from him.

GOODY HARCOURT

That decision is not up to you.

BENJAMIN

My life is not up to me?

GOODY HARCOURT

Not when it is for the greater good.

Benjamin stands and approaches his mother.

BENJAMIN

Mother, is this about the incident
with Gideon?

He reaches her and she turns to face him.

GOODY HARCOURT

That is a part of it truly. Yet
Elder Hyrcaneous also insists that
ties with the Croatan could be greatly
improved if you were to be with them.
We have so few allies in this area.
The Croatan...

BENJAMIN

Do I have a choice?

GOODY HARCOURT

Does God offer a choice when He bids
us go here or there?

BENJAMIN

John Hyrcaneous is not God.

GOODY HARCOURT

No, son, but he is the one that God
has put in charge over this colony.
He acts as he believes God leads
him.

BENJAMIN

Aye.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN HALL -- AFTERNOON

There is a group of at least thirty men and women sitting in
wooden chairs in a large open hall. At the front of the
hall, behind a podium stands John Hyrcaneous. Beside him,
dressed for his journey, with a large pack by his feet is
Benjamin. John addresses the crowd.

JOHN

Good people of Roanoke Colony. It
is time to send off one of our own
for a time. It was the council's
decision that young Benjamin Harcourt
should stay with the Croatan for a
summer, learning their ways and
building the trust between the two
of our peoples.

A lady in the crowd raises her hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Yes, Goody York?

GOODY YORK, an older woman with slight, hawkish features, rises to her feet.

GOODY YORK

As you know, my Joshua is friends with Benjamin and his friendship will be sorely missed. But I wonder about these heathens. Can they be trusted?

Other voices in the crowd echo hers. To quiet them down, John bangs on the podium with the heel of his hand.

JOHN

Please. We will have quiet.

The crowd quiets and Goody York regains her seat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Now, we have been through this before. The Croatan have shown us nothing but hospitality since we arrived. Would we receive such a welcome from the beasts in the wilderness or possible drought or famine?

GOODY YORK

Aye. But what of the stories?

JOHN

The stories do not concern the Croatan. The stories I have heard concern some mythical beasts eight feet tall and as thin as Hiram Wilson.

John gestures to a particularly skinny gentleman seated in the front row. This gains some laughs from the crowd.

JOHN (CONT'D)

There are no Croatan that I have ever seen that would bear that resemblance.

GOODY YORK

Still...

JOHN

Still, there are very real dangers we are subject to this far away from England. We need all the friends we can muster. Therefore, young Harcourt will be our liaison with the Croatan.

Malachi Stanley, standing in he back alone, raises his hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Yes, Mr. Stanley?

MALACHI STANLEY

But why send the boy? Wouldn't a man of the village be a better choice for this mission?

JOHN

We have need of every able-bodied man for the planting of the crops and the building that needs to be accomplished. No, the boy is the right choice.

John turns back to the assembly.

JOHN (CONT'D)

If there are no further concerns, then this meeting is concluded.

The people begin to file out of the meeting hall. Benjamin's mother, Goody Harcourt, and Joshua York remain behind. John leads Benjamin out the back door of the meeting hall. Goody Harcourt and Joshua follow.

Upon exiting the meeting hall, the wall of the forest waits but twenty feet from the door. John prepares Benjamin for his journey.

JOHN (CONT'D)

The journey is not difficult, Young Harcourt.

BENJAMIN

Aye, but how will I know if I stray from the path? I have never visited the Croatan before.

JOHN

The Croatan have promised to send a scout to lead you part way to their encampment. He will meet you ten miles from here. If you head North, you will come upon a glade of evergreen. He will meet you at the edge of that glade.

Benjamin glances back toward his mother and Joshua. John catches the look.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's early. You still have time to say goodbye to your Mother and friend.

BENJAMIN

Thank you, sir.

Benjamin rushes back to his mother, who encloses him in her embrace.

GOODY HARCOURT

It will not be long, my son.

BENJAMIN

I know, Mother. If you are in need, ask Joshua for assistance.

JOSHUA

Aye. I will take care of her. It will be as if I had two mothers until Benjamin returns.

GOODY HARCOURT

Truly, you are good boys.

She separates herself from Benjamin long enough for one, last look and then steps away.

GOODY HARCOURT (CONT'D)

Bring yourself back to me whole, my dear Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

Yes, ma'am.

Goody Harcourt steps back, looks longingly at her son and then retreats, without looking back. Benjamin turns to Joshua.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Now, don't allow Gideon to bully you, Joshua.

JOSHUA

He won't get the best of me, Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

If you find yourself alone, just run. You're not as strong as he is, but you are fast.

JOSHUA

Aye. Faster than that old sluggard any day.

Benjamin ruffles Joshua's hair.

BENJAMIN

Aye. You'll be a fine man someday, Joshua York.

JOSHUA

As will you, Benjamin Harcourt.

John clears his throat.

JOHN

The day wears on, young Harcourt.

BENJAMIN

Aye. Fare well, Joshua.

JOSHUA

Fare well, Benjamin.

Joshua turns and follows after Goody Harcourt. Benjamin shoulders his pack and turns to John.

JOHN

If you get lost, Benjamin, check the moss on the trees. It always grows...

BENJAMIN

On the north side, aye.

JOHN

I believe we have made the right choice, young Harcourt. Please do nothing to disgrace the Roanoke colony.

BENJAMIN

I will not, Elder Hyrcaneous.

Benjamin turns, shoulders his bag, and enters the woods. For a time, the going is steady. Benjamin looks up into sky and sees nothing but blue sky shrouded by the leaves of the trees in the glade. He moves on.

Some time later, Benjamin looks up again and notices the sun is centered in the sky. He pauses to wipe the sweat from his forehead and hears footsteps somewhere behind him. He glances around quickly but cannot see anyone near. He shoulders his pack and continues on.

After a few dozen steps, he again hears what he believes are footsteps. He stops and the footsteps continue for a few additional steps. He looks around, alarm growing.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Hello? Is anyone there?

There is no answer from the surrounding growth.

Joshua skirts over the fallen log, up and over the gully. As he continues to look around, he notices a cave with a fallen log in front of it. From out of the forest growth to his right sprints a buck, headed directly toward the cave opening.

When the buck reaches the mouth of the cave, the top of the cave mouth suddenly drops onto the buck, severing it in half. The half that is on the outside of the cave is sucked into the cave as well.

Benjamin has seen enough and sprints away. As he runs in a panic, he constantly looks behind him, but nothing is following him. Then, without warning, he breaks through the brush into a clearing.

He looks back to the forest, which now appears dark and forbidding. Somewhat relieved, he walks forward a few feet more into the clearing and looks around. Slowly, he lowers his pack from his back and sits by it, on the ground, so he can see back toward the forest where he came and the brush ahead of him as well. Time wears on. Benjamin falls asleep.

An incredibly loud scream wakes Benjamin from his nap. He leaps to his feet, brandishing his hunting knife. However, he sees nothing in the forest behind, the clearing, or the forest ahead.

He glances in the sky and sees a hawk circling. The hawk circles again and then heads for the clearing. It heads to the forest on the far side of the clearing from where Benjamin exited. A young Indian scout steps out of the forest and the hawk lands on his protected left forearm. The Indian, MATCHOBIN, stares at Benjamin. Benjamin stares back.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Hello?

Matchobin stares a moment longer, then tosses the hawk into the sky, turns, and heads into the forest. Benjamin hurriedly grabs his pack and runs after him.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Wait!

Benjamin enters the forest after Matchobin. He looks around, but can see no trace of the Indian. Quickly, he runs onward.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Where are you?

Very soon it is evident that he is lost. He glances around in a panic and the trees start to look the same. He takes a few hesitant steps forward.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Hey!

Hearing nothing, Benjamin backs up a few feet until his back hits a tree. Quickly, from behind the tree, an arm whips out and grasps Benjamin around the shoulders. A knife is pressed to his throat.

Slowly, Matchobin's head emerges from behind the tree. His lips move toward the right ear of Benjamin, who is sweating profusely. Matchobin speaks in his native tongue, Algonquin, which can be read through subtitles.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

You move like a buffalo full with child. You cannot track. You cannot move silently.

BENJAMIN

I don't know...

The knife is pressed harder against Benjamin's neck.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

Silence. I do not know why my father agreed for you to stay with us, but I make only one request. Stay out of my way.

Matchobin pulls his knife away and steps out from behind the tree. Benjamin slowly rubs the life back into his neck, warily eyeing Little Cloud. Matchobin sheaves his hunting knife and turns away from Benjamin. He walks a few feet then stops and turns his head back.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

(in English)

Come.

Benjamin shoulders his pack, which had fallen by his feet and, while still rubbing his neck, slowly follows Little Matchobin.

BENJAMIN

What was that all about?

Matchobin, without looking back, yells back toward Benjamin.

MATCHOBIN

(in English)

Come!

BENJAMIN

All right! Slow down!

Matchobin continues to walk on.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- EVENING

Croatan village is filled with many native Americans slowly walking from mud hut to mud hut or toward a bonfire on the

edge of the village. A mother and her two children walk past a warrior who is sharpening a spear with a stone head.

The forest edge is only fifty feet from the edge of the village. Out of the forest steps Matchobin. As he takes a few steps toward the village, Benjamin also steps out of the forest, looking damp, tired, and worn out. Matchobin takes no notice of Benjamin and quickly disappears into the village.

Benjamin, realizing that he is on his own, slows his pace and glances around for any sign of help. As he walks, he notices an old lady, outside her mud hut, scraping the skin off a rabbit. He also walks past several laughing warriors surrounding a small fire, who pauses to stare intently at Benjamin. He increases his pace, rounding a mud hut and runs directly into an older Indian, knocking the man over.

BENJAMIN

I am sorry. Please allow me to help you.

The older Indian slowly rises to his feet, ignoring Benjamin's hand of support, letting loose a long litany of curses that Benjamin cannot understand. While Benjamin stands in complete confusion, Hatueck appears at his side.

HATUECK

He brings curses down on the ancestors that would sire such a clumsy youth.

Hatueck whispers some words in Algonquin, the Croatan's native tongue. The older man nods, looks disdainfully at Benjamin, then moves on.

BENJAMIN

Hatueck, it is good to see you again. I am relieved to find someone I can actually speak to.

HATUECK

You must learn our language if you are to survive in this village for long.

BENJAMIN

Aye.

HATUECK

What?

BENJAMIN

Yes.

HATUECK

For now, I must bring you to our Chief.

Hatueck starts walking through the mazes of mud huts. In the distance comes the sounds of a commotion. A crowd of villagers line the main pathway through the village. Hatueck and Benjamin reach the line of villagers and are unable to pass. Benjamin cranes his neck to see.

Down the middle of the pathway are two warriors holding poles that are attached to a wooden collar surrounding the neck of the man in the middle. The man in the middle is also dressed like an Indian Brave, but he has a large sack over his head. The head beneath the sack, strangely enough, is moving and contorting.

A third warrior walks in front of the trio, knocking the hands of the villagers away. When a village child does not get completely out of the middle pathway, the warrior in front roughly pushes the child back into the crowd.

Benjamin steps back from the crowd to inquire of Hatueck.

BENJAMIN

What is happening?

HATUECK

It is Wendigo?

BENJAMIN

Wendigo?

HATUECK

There is nothing in your language to equal such evil. The brave was Kituaten two moons ago. Now the brave is no more. It is only Wendigo.

BENJAMIN

I do not understand.

Hatueck moves down another alley between the mud huts.

HATUECK

Come.

Benjamin follows after Hatueck through the back streets of the village.

HATUECK (CONT'D)

For many moons, the Wendigo have been an evil to my people. They steal our joy and give evil in return. They are always hungry, never full.

BENJAMIN

Always hungry, never full.

HATUECK

Yes.

BENJAMIN

But...

The round a mud hut and come upon a larger mud hut at the end of the main pathway. In the open tent flap stands a wizened Indian, CHIEF INHIO, covered in many furs. Matchobin stands beside him. Directly in front of the Chief stand the two men who are restraining the Wendigo with the poles attached to its collar.

Chief Inhio is pronouncing something to the Wendigo in a loud, authoritative voice, speaking in Algonquin. When he is finished, the crowd grows silent. From beneath the sack, the Wendigo begins to speak in Algonquin, in a very low demonic voice.

Chief Inhio grows angry and shouts something back at the Wendigo, which has begun to laugh. The Chief points to the bonfire, which sits several feet behind his mud hut. The two warriors slowly direct the laughing Wendigo toward the bonfire.

Benjamin turns to Hatueck and whispers.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I do not understand.

HATUECK

They are going to kill the Wendigo.

BENJAMIN

How will they do that?

HATUECK

They will remove the head, then burn the body.

Hatueck and Benjamin approach the Chief, who is still standing at the mouth of his hut and watching the trio as they walk to the bonfire. Matchobin is still standing next to him.

As Hatueck and Benjamin approach, Inhio turns his attention to them. He smiles as he recognizes Hatueck.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

Ah, Hatueck. And who do you have with you?

HATUECK

(in Algonquin)

This is Benjamin Harcourt, sent from Roanoke.

CHIEF INHIO

(slowly, in English)

Benjamin Harcourt.

Benjamin bows slowly.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

(in Algonquin)

No, no. We have no use for that.
We all have the same father.

HATUECK

(in English)

Chief Big Water does not receive
your welcome.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

Your training as a brave begins when
the sun rises.

Matchobin steps forward.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

No, Father. Is it not enough that
we must be forced to have this son
of white man in our village? Must
he dishonor our ways as well?

Inhio turns sharply toward his son.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

Peace, Matchobin! Know your place,
my son.

Matchobin bows his head and retreats inside the mud hut.

HATUECK

Chief Inhio say your training as a
brave begins on the rising of the
sun.

Suddenly the demonic voice of the Wendigo rises in a scream
by the bonfire, forcing Benjamin, Hatueck, and the Chief to
turn toward the sound.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- MORNING

Joshua is outside his cabin with a musket in his hands, slowly
oiling the barrel as he sits on a log. His mother, Goody
York, slams open the door and cups her hands over her mouth.

GOODY YORK

Joshua! Joshua York!

Joshua, who is seated ten feet away from her, looks up in surprise.

JOSHUA

Mother?

Goody York is taken aback for a moment, then shakes her head and approaches her son.

GOODY YORK

Joshua, your sister said you had left earlier this morning.

JOSHUA

Aye. I left to check on Benjamin's mother.

GOODY YORK

And is she surviving without her son?

JOSHUA

Yes.

GOODY YORK

Good. Then take care of our family. We are in need of meat.

JOSHUA

Yes, Mother.

Joshua firmly grabs his musket and takes off from the cabin, slipping into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- LATER

Deep in the woods, Joshua sights on a deer that is grazing. He is behind a large log, on one knee. The deer remains oblivious. Joshua wipes the sweat from his eyes and re-aims. His knee suddenly slips and crunches a branch. The deer looks up, directly at Joshua. Joshua's eyes widen.

The deer looks off to the right and then back at Joshua. Joshua raises his musket again, aiming at the deer, but the deer shoots off farther into the woods. Joshua grabs his musket and races off after the deer.

The deer gallops off between the trees and makes a startling leap over a gully. Joshua, following the deer, arrives at the gully and comes up short. He looks to the right and the left and sees a tree that has fallen over the gully. Quickly, he scurries on the tree over the gully.

Rising to the top of the gully, Joshua looks around for the deer.

After a scan of the forest, Joshua finally sees the deer, roughly fifty feet in front of a cave, the cave that Benjamin had seen previously.

Joshua's eyes narrow in concentration. Slowly, he moves the musket up to sight on the deer again. The deer turns slowly toward the cave and begins running toward it at full speed. At five feet in front of the cave, the deer leaps into the cave, disappearing as soon as it hits the blackness of the cave.

Joshua stands up and looks around, growing slightly suspicious. He peers at the cave, as if expecting the deer to re-emerge at any moment. When the deer still refuses to show, Joshua walks warily toward the cave. He arrives at the cave entrance and looks around the sides. Seeing nothing, he squints into the interior of the cave.

With his musket pointing in front of him, Joshua York slowly enters the cave. For a moment, there is silence. Then the silence is interrupted by a scream of abject terror from within the cave. Again silence reigns.

Time passes.

The forest is silent, as if expecting something. No animals move and there is no wind. But footsteps can be heard from within the cave. They grow louder and Joshua emerges from the cave. The musket is held loosely, with the barrel pointing to the ground.

There is nothing to indicate a change in Joshua, except for a vacant stare and a slight smile that is playing across his lips. He slowly looks around, as if he is drunk.

As he looks toward the gully and the way back toward Roanoke, the smile gradually broadens and his eyes glaze over with total blackness, like the eyes of a shark. Soon, there is only the soul-less black of the eyes as he strides back toward the colony.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- MORNING

Benjamin exits a mud hut and stretches his arms above his head while he yawns. He scratches his back and looks around, suddenly noticing Hatueck sitting cross-legged on the ground a few feet from the hut.

BENJAMIN

Where is everyone? I thought I was going to begin my training today?

Hatueck is smoking a long pipe. He blows out a puff of smoke and considers it for a moment before speaking.

HATUECK

You have slept a long time. The
braves have departed many hours past.

BENJAMIN

Where did they go?

HATUECK

Today they hunt.

BENJAMIN

Can I join them? Where are they?

Hatueck rises to his feet and begins to walk through the
mazes of mud huts with Benjamin following.

HATUECK

Today you will begin your training.
You must master speaking before you
can hunt.

Hatueck stops abruptly at another mud hut that has a fur
covering the opening. He grabs the side, creating an opening
for Benjamin to walk through.

HATUECK (CONT'D)

Today you train with the fishwife.

Benjamin looks at Hatueck quizzically and then passes
underneath his arm and into the hut.

His eyes quickly adjust to the gloom of the hut. He first
notices that the floor is virtually littered with objects,
from cups to hatchets to clothes.

There is an empty spot on the floor, which Benjamin sits in.
Suddenly, the mound in front of Benjamin begins to shake and
FISHWIFE sits up.

Fishwife is a large and very unattractive Croatan, with a
ring in her nose and a chain that links the ring in her nose
to another ring in her ear. Her hair is like damp seaweed
and her teeth are blackened in more than one place.

She bends over and picks up a cup in one hand, while her
other hand caresses a spoon that still lays on the ground.
Hefting the cup, she shoves it toward Benjamin, demanding.

BENJAMIN

Bowl?

Fishwife again thrusts the cup into his face.

FISHWIFE

Munaguen.

Benjamin tries again, slightly slower.

BENJAMIN

Bowl.

With lightning fast speed, Fishwife lets fly the spoon and cracks Benjamin on the knee cap.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Ow!

FISHWIFE

Munaguen!

BENJAMIN

Okay, okay. Munaguen. I get it.

Fishwife, holds the cup up in the air again and looks quizzically at Benjamin.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Munaguen.

Fishwife nods and places the cup down on the dirt floor. Her hand grabs a rabbit pelt and thrusts it at Benjamin.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Munaguen?

Fishwife lets fly with another whack to the knee.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Ow! What? How can I know it if you don't tell me?

Fishwife nods again and holds the rabbit aloft.

FISHWIFE

Waboose.

Benjamin points to the rabbit.

BENJAMIN

Waboose.

Quickly, he then points to the cup on the floor.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Munaguen.

Fishwife nods again, pleased. Outside the hut, Hatueck sits cross-legged on the ground, smoking his long pipe and smiling slightly.

The sun quickly moves from a position in the center of the sky to its setting. Hatueck sits in front of the hut still. Benjamin exits the hut, rubbing his knees. He stretches his arms and then notices Hatueck.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Kwey kwey.

HATUECK

(in English)

Hello. So, the fishwife is teaching you well. Soon you will speak our tongue better than your own.

Benjamin sits down beside Hatueck.

BENJAMIN

Hatueck?

HATUECK

Yes.

BENJAMIN

What is a wendigo?

HATUECK

Always hungry but never full.

BENJAMIN

Yes, but where did wendigo come from?

HATUECK

Croatan say that wendigo are the spirits of three brothers who challenged the Creator. For their pride, they were struck down and reduced to spirits, to roam forever without bodies, but able to inhabit the bodies of those here.

BENJAMIN

What do they eat and why is it never enough?

HATUECK

While in human form, their pride was never satisfied. It consumed them. So, in death, the Creator destroyed their bodies but could not destroy the hunger of their pride.

BENJAMIN

What do they consume now?

HATUECK

Now they consume us.

CUT TO:

INT. YORK HOUSE -- NIGHT

Constance York sits on her bed, playing with her doll made from strips of cloth. The house is sparsely furnished, with two beds and a table next to Constance's bed. A candle on the table throws her shadow against the far wall.

Suddenly, the door to the cabin flies open and smacks against the wall. Constance looks up, startled.

In the doorway stands Joshua. He is disheveled, but his eyes are his own, for the moment. He stands for a moment, looking at the floor.

CONSTANCE
Joshua, close the door! You're
letting in the chill!

Slowly, Joshua crosses the threshold, grabs the door and shuts it. He stands silently by the door with a slight smile on his face.

Constance is back playing with her doll until she realizes that Joshua has not moved. She looks up at him.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)
Where were you? You have been gone
since this morning.

Joshua does not answer, but stands by the door smiling slightly, distractedly.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)
Joshua, why are you standing there?
What's happened?

He looks up at her and his eyes seem to clear for a moment.

JOSHUA
There was a deer...

Constance stands up from the bed.

CONSTANCE
You caught a deer. Mama will be so
happy.

Joshua shakes his head.

JOSHUA
No. It ran.

CONSTANCE
Oh.

Constance turns back toward the bed to pick up her doll. Behind her, Joshua's glassy-eyed smile returns to his face.

JOSHUA

Where is mother?

Constance does not turn around, but continues to face the bed.

CONSTANCE

Oh, she is with Mr. Lancet, the smithy. She says that we have need of some new forks and knives. Our old ones have become...

She turns around and stops once she sees the strange smile of Joshua's lips.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

What is it?

JOSHUA

It is so cold outside and I'm so hungry.

CONSTANCE

Well, you should have done something besides chase after deer all afternoon long. You could have captured a whole brace of squirrel in that time.

JOSHUA

I'm not hungry for squirrel.

As he stares at her, his smile becomes slightly larger.

CONSTANCE

Why are you looking at me like that? Joshua?

Joshua turns around.

JOSHUA

It is...Constance, you know nothing of the pain, the hunger. It eats at me until there is nothing left.

CONSTANCE

What are you talking about, Joshua?

Joshua turns back to her quickly, his eyes are once again fully black, shark-like. Constance pulls back, shocked.

JOSHUA

There is only hunger, Constance. Only hunger and nothing else remains.

Slowly he walks toward her. Constance looks around and doesn't see an escape as Joshua walks slowly toward her.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Have you ever been in the desert without water or been without sleep for many nights? Have you ever been so tired but been unable to rest? That is the hunger in me. It just goes on and on.

On the wall opposite Constance's bed, the shadows play out the rest of the scene as Joshua's shadow grabs Constance's shadow by the arms. She flays around, knocking the table and candle, distorting the shadows slightly, making them longer once, then fatter.

Joshua's shadow picks the Constance shadow up several feet from the floor. One of Constance's shadow feet kick out, striking the shadow table and knocking the shadow candle to the ground, extinguishing it.

In the darkness, there is biting and crunching and chewing.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- MOMENTS LATER

Goody York is at the door to the smithy's house. A slight amount of smoke pours out the corners of the door around Goody York.

MR. LANCET stands just inside the building, wearing a blacksmith's apron. Black stains mark his forehead and stand out among the sweat. He wipes at his forehead once as he talks with Goody York.

MR. LANCET

Aye, Goody York, but don't expect the majesty's best. I can only give you what I have. You should be eating with wooden instruments...

GOODY YORK

Don't presume to tell me what type of instruments I need in my household and I will not presume to inform you on how to mend a horse's thrown shoe.

MR. LANCET

Aye, Mrs. York.

GOODY YORK

Good night to you, Mr. Lancet.

MR. LANCET

Aye, Mrs. York.

Mr. Lancet turns away as Goody York closes the door and begins to walk down the main path of the village.

She notices the light of a pipe coming from the front stoop of a nearby house. She moves in closer for a look.

Malachi Stanley moves out of the shadows and into the light with the light of the pipe hanging from his mouth leading the way. He pulls the pipe from his mouth and raises it in greeting.

MALACHI STANLEY
Evening, Goody York.

GOODY YORK
That, Malachi Stanley, is a terrible, god-forsaken habit.

MALACHI STANLEY
Aye. God still loves me even though, Goody York.

GOODY YORK
I don't see why He should.

MALACHI STANLEY
Has your Joshua returned yet?

Goody's face softens a bit at the mention of her son.

GOODY YORK
Oh, he'll probably be asleep in his bed by the time I get back.

MALACHI STANLEY
And there'll be a brace of rabbits on the table for lunch tomorrow.

GOODY YORK
Aye. Good night, Mr. Stanley.

Malachi places the pipe back firmly between his teeth.

MALACHI STANLEY
Good night, Mrs. York.

Malachi moves back into the shadows as Goody York moves farther down the path. Once, she catches sight of the full moon and gazes up at it. She stops for a moment to admire it and then moves on.

Finally, she arrives at her cabin, which is completely dark. Trying to be quiet, she slowly opens the door to the cabin which lets in just enough light for Goody York to see Joshua at the table, eating, with his back toward her.

Goody York looks over at the bed, but cannot make out if Constance is in it, asleep. She whispers, not wanting to wake up Constance.

GOODY YORK
 Joshua, so you're home. Is Constance
 sleeping?

Joshua pauses at the sound of her voice. He responds in
 deadpan.

JOSHUA
 Yes, she is asleep.

Goody York steps inside, still keeping the door open enough
 to let in a little light.

GOODY YORK
 How can you see what you're eating?
 Why didn't you keep the candle lit?

JOSHUA
 I don't need to see to eat. Close
 the door.

Goody York closes the door. A small amount of light from a
 nearby window lights up half of her face as she moves closer
 to Joshua.

GOODY YORK
 I was worried. Oh! What's on the
 floor?

JOSHUA
 Just blood.

GOODY YORK
 You will clean it up in the morning.
 So you caught something, eh? Took
 you all day.

JOSHUA
 Yes.

Goody York bumps into something in the dark.

GOODY YORK
 Ow! Joshua, light a candle.

JOSHUA
 No.

GOODY YORK
 What? You will light a candle right
 now, Joshua York.

Goody York reaches Joshua and rests a hand on his shoulder.

JOSHUA
 Mother, have you ever ate and ate
 and never been full?

GOODY YORK

What are you talking about?

JOSHUA

Have you ever had so much of something
and not been able to slake your thirst
for it?

GOODY YORK

Why are you talking nonsense, boy?
Now, light a candle for your mother.

JOSHUA

But I'm so hungry and so very, very
cold inside. The candle will do
nothing to lift this chill.

Goody York lifts her hands from her son's shoulders.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

I have eaten and eaten, but the
emptiness remains. I thought maybe
Constance...

Goody York looks toward the bed, startled.

GOODY YORK

Constance! What about Constance?

JOSHUA

She couldn't help me. The emptiness
remains. I need your help, mother.

Goody York eyes the rag doll lying on the table next to
Joshua. It is soaked in blood.

GOODY YORK

What have you done?

Joshua stands and turns toward his mother. The light catches
his shark-like eyes and his razor sharp teeth.

JOSHUA

It is not about what I have done,
but what moves me to do more.

In the darkness, Goody York cries out but is quickly silenced
by a loud, ripping noise. Darkness envelopes every bit of
light.

FADE OUT:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- DAY

Benjamin is walking through the village, weaving in between
the mud huts. He turns the corner around one hut and almost
walks into Matchobin.

MATCHOBIN
 (in Algonquin)
 Move Aside!

BENJAMIN
 I'm sorry? Can you speak slower
 please?

Matchobin attempts to move around Benjamin.

MATCHOBIN
 (in Algonquin)
 I have no time for this.

Benjamin grabs his arm to stop.

BENJAMIN
 I said...

Suddenly, Matchobin whips out a fist that strikes Benjamin square on the nose, knocking his head back slightly. Benjamin looks dazed a moment before allowing his anger to take control.

Benjamin jumps on Matchobin, grabbing him by the waist and propelling him backwards. Matchobin rains down hits to Benjamin's back as he is driven backwards toward a hut. They reach the mud hut and fall right through the side and into the middle of the hut.

They fall right over the bed of Tinoweh. Tinoweh is a very attractive Croatan, about the same age as Benjamin and Matchobin. As she was in bed asleep, she is dressed in a body length fur only.

As soon as the boys crash through her tent and over her, she begins yelling curses at them in Algonquin. The boys spend little time paying attention to her, however, because they are too busy fighting on the ground by her bed.

Tinoweh, seeing that her cursing is having no effect, runs to the tent flap of her hut and holds it open, letting in the light. Benjamin, noticing the light, looks up and sees Running Doe. His mouth opens in obvious admiration for her appearance and Matchobin takes the opportunity to let fly a punch to the side of his face.

Tinoweh yells loudly in Algonquin as the boys continue their fray. In moments, two older men show up at the hut in response. With quick pointing motions from Tinoweh, the men rush in the hut and separate the boys. Matchobin starts shouting at the men.

MATCHOBIN
 (in Algonquin)
 Let me be! I am the Chief's son,
 let me down now!

Benjamin is mostly quiet now, in the grips of the much stronger brave. The two men walk the boys out of the mud hut as Tinoweh looks on, her hands on her hips in the universal language of disapproval. Benjamin takes the time to run his eyes over her features as they pass. He attempts to smile at her, while she shouts at him and Matchobin.

TINOWEH

(in Algonquin)

Look at this mess! Who will mend my hut? What are you staring at like stunned coyote?

The round a corner and Benjamin loses sight of the glorious visage of Tinoweh. Immediately rounding the corner, Benjamin looks forward to realize that he, as well as Matchobin and the two braves who brought them, are in the presence of Chief Inhio and Hatueck. They are not pleased.

Matchobin steps away from the man who was holding him and points at Benjamin.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

Father, this buffalo-headed white man...

Chief Inhio holds up a hand, which immediately silences Matchobin.

Benjamin steps away from the man who was leading him and steps toward the Chief and Hatueck. Both Benjamin and Matchobin begin to press their case at once.

BENJAMIN

(in English)

He attacked me outside the hut, when I just walking. He has been trying to fight me since I first saw him.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

This white man is no different than all the others. They believe they own the earth and sky.

Chief Inhio holds up his hands between the two.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

Enough!

For a moment, silence reigns. Chief starts to talk and is interrupted by Benjamin and Matchobin again.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

I demand that this boy be taken back to his village. He soils our land and ruins everything he touches. He should not...

BENJAMIN

(in English)

I have come here as a guest and I am treated rudely. This boy attacks me for no reason other than some self importance...

Chief Inhio motions to the two braves, who pick up the two boys and clamp hands over their mouths. He waits a moment before talking.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

You have brought an ill spirit into this village with your fighting. It is enough. From now on, you will be tied together until you can learn to live together in peace.

Chief Inhio motions and the two braves drop their hands from the mouths of the boys. Benjamin looks to Hatueck for a translation.

HATUECK

(in English)

Chief says that you will be tied together until you can learn to live in peace.

BENJAMIN

(in English)

Tied together?

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

But Father, the hunt...

Chief Inhio raise a finger to silence his son.

CHIEF INHIO

(in Algonquin)

There will be no hunt until you both can hunt.

Matchobin looks angrily at the object of his pain as the Chief turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- LATER

Benjamin and Matchobin are outside the open hole in Tinoweh's hut. Benjamin's right hand is tied with strips of hide to Matchobin's left hand. Hatueck hands Matchobin some hide and hands a bowl of tar with a stick in it to Benjamin. He turns and leaves.

As Hatueck leaves, he passes Tinoweh, who is standing against the side of the hut, glaring at the boys. When they don't move, she yells at them.

TINOWEH
(in Algonquin)
Well?

MATCHOBIN
(in Algonquin)
Well?

TINOWEH
(in Algonquin)
Fix the hut.

Both boys turn back to the hut. While Matchobin holds up the hide over the hole, Benjamin begins to wipe on the tar around the edges.

CUT TO:

INT. YORK HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Joshua is doing his own fixing. He is on the floor of the cabin, wiping up the blood with a towel. Occasionally, he dips the towel into a bowl of water, rinsing it out. There is no sign of anything out of the ordinary in the cabin besides the small amount of blood left on the floor in front of Joshua.

Joshua scrubs up the remaining blood, rinses the towel and looks around. Slowly, he rises, taking the bowl and towel with him. He opens the door and throws the water outside the cabin, setting the bowl on the inside floor when he is finished.

Taking the towel, he leaves the cabin, closing the door behind him. He walks to the edge of the forest. A few feet into the forest, there is a small mound of recently disturbed dirt. Joshua bends down and digs a small hole with his hand. His digging dislodges Constance's blood stained doll.

Joshua makes the hole slightly bigger, then places the towel and the doll in the hole, covering it up with dirt. He pats the dirt down and looks around to make certain he's alone. Satisfied, he stands.

CUT TO:

INT. HYRCANEIOUS HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

John is standing, looking at his wife, who is wet with fever. She thrashes around in the bed as John looks on helplessly. He is shaken from his thought by a pounding on his door. Quickly, he crosses into his office and opens the door, revealing a crying Joshua York.

Alarmed, John hustles Joshua into his house.

JOHN

Joshua, what is the matter?

JOSHUA

It's my mother and sister, Elder Hyrcaneous. I returned from hunting this morning and they were both gone. I have looked all through the colony, but I cannot find them.

JOHN

Slow down, son. They must be here somewhere. Stop crying, Joshua.

Joshua wipes his eyes and looks up at John.

JOSHUA

Yes, sir. It's only that I have looked everywhere they would be. Could they have been taken by the Indians?

JOHN

It's highly unlikely. I will organize several men and we will search the colony and surrounding forest. Come.

John beckons Joshua to follow him as he leaves the cabin. Immediately, he spots Malachi chopping wood with an ax.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Malachi!

Malachi stops chopping and looks over at John as he approaches.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Young Joshua's mother and sister are missing. We must form a search party at once.

MALACHI STANLEY

Aye, sir.

Malachi leaves his ax by the stump he was chopping at and moves off among the colony. Stopping, John turns to Joshua.

JOHN

Why don't you return home, lad?
We'll find your family. They'll be
home safe before you know it.

Joshua pauses before coming to a conclusion.

JOSHUA

If it's alright, Elder Hyrcaneous, I
would like to search as well.

JOHN

Aye, lad.

John moves off, barking orders while Joshua's smile widens.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- AFTERNOON

Inside the Fishwife's hut, Benjamin and Matchobin sit cross-legged on the dirt, still tied to one another. The Fishwife is sitting directly between the two of them, with one hand gripping the spoon. Matchobin's eyes spend their time roaming the crevices of the hut while the language lesson plays out.

Fishwife holds up a knife and waits patiently for Benjamin's response.

BENJAMIN

Imiquan.

Fishwife looks pleased for a moment and then reaches for a flint arrow head. She holds it up while Benjamin fumbles for the correct answer and Matchobin begins grumbling to himself.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

Why must I suffer this embarrassment?
He is like a stuttering child.

Finally, Benjamin blurts out an answer.

BENJAMIN

Tibikan!

Matchobin snorts at the same time that the Fishwife whips out a smack for Benjamin on the knee. Benjamin howls in pain, which forces Matchobin to break out in open laughter.

Fishwife demonstrates her quick disapproval by smacking Matchobin's knee as well. This time, when Matchobin howls in pain, Benjamin takes the opportunity to laugh at Matchobin's discomfort.

Fishwife raises her spoon high in the air, threatening when a shadow darkens the tent flap. It is Hatueck.

HATUECK

Come. Chief says time to hunt.

Matchobin jumps to his feet with a whoop of joy and then is pulled back to the dirt when Benjamin doesn't rise quickly enough.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Joshua and Gideon are paired together for the search. Joshua is gradually leading the older boy farther into the woods as the bully beats the bushes with a stick, halfheartedly.

GIDEON

Can't keep track of your own mother
and sister, eh York?

Joshua smiles to himself.

JOSHUA

Yes.

GIDEON

This is useless.

Gideon looks sideways at Joshua, intending to bait him.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Maybe some bear got them.

Joshua just continues to smile to himself as they walk further into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

In another part of the forest, far away from the search party, Benjamin and Matchobin are crouching behind a stump, viewing as a lean wolf rips open a rabbit carcass with its long, sharp teeth. Benjamin grasps a spear with a flint arrow head attached to the tip, while Matchobin favors a hatchet. The boys are still tied together.

Matchobin motions with his head toward the wolf. In response, Benjamin holds up their two hands that are still tied together. Matchobin shakes his head and motions again toward the wolf. Benjamin lowers the tied hands and nods. Their grips tighten on their weapons as they prepare.

Suddenly, they leap from their cover and run toward the wolf.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Joshua is no where to be found as Gideon searches desperately for him.

GIDEON

Joshua York!

Gideon takes a few steps and looks around some more, finally yelling.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

You miserable excuse! Where are you?

A flash of color runs at the edges of his vision. Gideon turns quickly but sees nothing. Already edgy, Gideon runs toward where he saw the flash.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

I see you, Joshua! And when I get to you, you will wish you never were born.

Approximately seventy feet ahead of Gideon, Joshua hides behind a tree, smiling broadly.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Benjamin and Matchobin run through the forest depths, dodging tree limbs and jumping over small bushes. Ahead of them, the wolf leaps forward, slobber running from his mouth and dousing the leaves of nearby trees. It looks to the right and then stops abruptly.

Fifty yards back, Benjamin and Matchobin stop as well, their weapons held high. Quickly, the wolf turns on its haunches and faces the boys. The boys hands tighten their grip on the weapons, preparing.

But then, just as fast, the wolf cocks its head to one side, and begins its run again. Benjamin and Matchobin take after the wolf.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Joshua's feet run lightly over the forest floor, seeming to almost make no sound at all. They pause for a moment as if listening, then take off again, sure of their destination.

Slightly behind, Gideon's feet pound the dirt, stirring leaves and the denizens of the forest in his wake. His loud footfalls are matched only by his labored breathing. Suddenly, he stops.

With hands on his hips, Gideon stops in the middle of a copse. Laboring heavily, Gideon struggles to regain his breathing. He finally gains enough air for a shout.

GIDEON

Joshua!

Gideon, exhausted, starts to slowly break down.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

I'm lost. And I can barely go one step further. God help me.

Roughly twenty feet in front of Gideon's field of vision, Joshua steps out from behind the protection of several trees. Smiling slightly, Joshua remains silent, while Gideon struggles between raging and weeping.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Damn you, Joshua! Just get me back to the village. Why are you playing these games with me?

Joshua's smile fades slightly and he nods toward Gideon.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

What? Are you done?

He is answered by Joshua's smile.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Why don't you answer me? Ghost!

Joshua's smile and body disappear behind the trees again. Gideon answers the disappearance with a roar of rage and a rush toward Joshua's hiding place.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

A rock cliff climbs several hundred feet into the air. To the right side, a large waterfall breaks the surface of a small lagoon that births a river.

At the bottom of the cliff, Benjamin and Matchobin have the wolf trapped with the cliff to its back. The wolf lashes out at them, and Matchobin responds with a slash of his hatchet at the neck of the wolf. The wolf snaps at the air where Matchobin's arm was seconds before.

Benjamin takes that moment to lunge with his spear, which catches the wolf in the shoulder. The wolf snaps at the spear quickly, knocking it to the side with its muzzle.

The wolf, sensing an opening, lunges at Benjamin's unprotected side. Matchobin reacts quickly by yelling loudly and swinging his hatchet at the wolf's face. Benjamin joins the yelling and the wolf begins to frantically turn in circles, snapping in the air.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Gideon stumbles through the forest with tears running down his face. He lurches out of a particularly dense section of forest into a rough clearing. At the far side of the clearing lies the gully with the fallen tree crossing it. Looking around and seeing nothing, Gideon stumbles forward.

Several feet from the gully, Gideon collapses to his knees, burying his head in his hands. Sobs rack his body for a moment when he hears a distinct whistle. He raises his head slowly, revealing tear-stained cheeks.

Across the gully, Joshua stands silently gazing at Gideon. Gideon rises painfully to his feet in response. Driven on by his only link to Roanoke, Gideon shuffles forward. His eyes catch hold of the fallen tree, which he makes his way toward.

Painfully, Gideon grabs a hold of the tree and scoots his way across the gully. On the other side of the gully, Gideon looks around for Joshua, finally locating him standing in the mouth of the cave. Wordlessly, Joshua disappears inside the cave.

Gideon gets slowly to his feet and struggles on.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

The wolf is backed fully against the cliff wall as Benjamin and Matchobin come within a few feet. Benjamin glances at Matchobin, who nods slightly. Benjamin raises his spear above his head and Matchobin slips his arm back, ready to throw the hatchet.

Suddenly, the wolf cocks his head as if catching a whiff of a new smell, and bolts to the left, away from the waterfall. It throws itself behind a bush and disappears. Matchobin looks at Benjamin, who shrugs and motions toward the bush. Deliberately, they step toward the bush, weapons ready.

Using the spear, Benjamin pokes into the bush. Finally, he pushes a portion of the bush aside to reveal a hidden alcove

in the rock wall. Benjamin looks at the alcove and then at Matchobin. The alcove is only large enough for them to move into sideways.

MATCHOBIN

Spear...

Benjamin nods in agreement and enters the alcove first, spear pointing in front of him.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Gideon stands at the mouth of the cave, trying to peer into its depths.

GIDEON

(cautiously)

Joshua?

Hearing no reply, Gideon looks around again and steps inside the cave. Cautiously, he shuffles forward. His footsteps dissolve into silence.

A moment later, Joshua appears around the side of the cave. He pauses to the right of the cave and waits. A moment, two moments later Gideon screams in terror and a smile lights on Joshua's mouth in reply.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

Matchobin emerges first from the alcove, looking tired and scratched in several places. Following quickly after is Benjamin, who is also bleeding from several claw marks running down his right arm, which is still tied to Matchobin's left.

Finally breaking free of the alcove, Benjamin drags the wolf's carcass out and into the light. The spear is thrust through the middle of the wolf's belly. It's head is also cloven in two.

Both boys collapse wearily, but happily to the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Gideon, no longer exhausted and sporting a large pair of shark-like eyes, emerges from the cave. He glances at Joshua, whose eyes are fully black like Gideon's. They smile knowingly at one another and head back toward the village.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- NIGHT

Two months later.

Seven braves are sitting in a wide circle around a bonfire along with Hatueck, Chief Inhio and several other more mature members of the Croatan. Benjamin is seated next to Matchobin, who passes him a pipe. Benjamin smiles. Benjamin is older, as evidenced by his shoulder-length hair and rough beard.

Tinoweh approaches the boys from inside the circle carrying a plate full of meat. She offers the plate to Benjamin, smiling shyly. Benjamin smiles back broadly.

BENJAMIN

Thank you.

TINOWEH

You have learned our language well.

BENJAMIN

Thanks to Fishwife.

Fishwife is, at that moment, seated next to Hatueck and sharing a laugh. She glances at Benjamin and Matchobin and frowns.

Tinoweh then offers the plate to Matchobin who hesitates, then takes a large portion.

MATCHOBIN

You offer him first choice.

TINOWEH

He is a visitor.

MATCHOBIN

But I will be the next Chief. Will I ever win your heart, Tinoweh?

With a shrug and a smile, she moves off to offer meat to the other men. Matchobin turns in mock anger to Benjamin, who is smiling as he watches Tinoweh.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

And you!

Benjamin chokes slightly on the piece of meat in his mouth.

BENJAMIN

Me?

MATCHOBIN

Keep your eyes to other visions.
She is not for you.

BENJAMIN

Tinoweh is her own woman yet. She has not chosen.

Matchobin moves his attention to Tinoweh, who is offering the plate to the Chief. She is laughing as she shares a joke with him. In the middle of her laugh, she glances back toward Benjamin.

MATCHOBIN

Her eyes have chosen for her.

Chief Inhio stands and addresses the braves.

CHIEF INHIO

The new moon will soon be upon us. As the Creator has shown us, soon all braves coming of age will take their seat in the sweat lodge then set out on the vision quest.

His eyes narrow as he gazes upon the seven braves.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

You will begin the journey that lasts the life of this village. Many have gone before you. Some have gone mad. Some have never returned. But you will not fail, the Creator will grant you a vision for the future of the Croatan. Do not fear. You may see many visions both great and terrible. Or you may see nothing. But do not doubt this. Each one of you has been chosen to bear your own vision.

Chief Inhio regains his seat and Hatueck passes him the pipe.

Benjamin turns to Matchobin as a stir of excitement hits the surrounding braves.

BENJAMIN

Do you fear the sweat lodge or the visions?

MATCHOBIN

I fear nothing but bringing disgrace on my tribe.

BENJAMIN

And what is this vision quest? I have heard it in passing.

MATCHOBIN

You are ignorant.

(MORE)

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

While in the sweat lodge, braves are granted a vision. The vision quest fulfills that vision.

BENJAMIN

Yes, but what is it?

MATCHOBIN

It is different for each brave. I, myself, will receive a vision from the Creator Himself. And I will return to lead the Croatan.

BENJAMIN

Yes. With the Fishwife as your mate.

In response, Matchobin grabs some leaves and dirt on the ground and throws them in Benjamin's face. Benjamin hits Matchobin in the arm.

The Chief is looking toward the two as they fight playfully. Hatueck is seated next to him.

HATUECK

The two hated one another and now they are like wolf pups.

CHIEF INHIO

Tie them together. Our mother did the same for us.

HATUECK

Yes. After that we only fought our sister.

CHIEF INHIO

Poor Fishwife.

HATUECK

Why do you allow her to remain in the circle of braves? It is for men.

CHIEF INHIO

We cannot get her to leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- NIGHT

Mr. Rind is walking by himself down the dark path through the colony. He looks toward the school house and sees a lighted candle inside. Curious, he walks toward the schoolhouse and opens the door, cautiously looking around.

MR. RIND

Hello?

Hearing nothing, Mr. Rind moves closer into the school house. A solitary candle is lit and on his desk. The light from the candle extends slightly out into the rows of student's desk, but leaves the majority of them in darkness.

Mr. Rind looks at the candle then peers out into the darkened room.

MR. RIND (CONT'D)

Is someone there?

He bends down and picks up the candle. Holding it high, he takes a few steps toward the student's chairs, gradually bringing light to them and suddenly revealing Gideon Black sitting among the rows.

MR. RIND (CONT'D)

Mr. Black, what are you doing in my schoolhouse at this hour?

Gideon answers with a blank smile. Mr. Rind takes a step toward Gideon.

MR. RIND (CONT'D)

Answer me, boy. You should not be in here at this time of night.

Mr. Rind reaches the space directly in front of Gideon.

MR. RIND (CONT'D)

Mr. Black! Do you really desire another time in the stocks? Why don't you speak?

Slowly, Gideon rises to his feet to tower over the slight school master.

GIDEON

You see, Mr. Rind. I woke in the night and was simply famished.

MR. RIND

And what, pray tell, does that have to do with my school house?

GIDEON

It is your school house, Mr. Rind. I knew you would be about.

Gideon brings his face close to Mr. Rind, so the school teacher can see that Gideon's eyes have gone fully black.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

There is nothing to stop the hunger,
Mr. Rind--

Gideon's body begins to elongate, he begins to grow into the shape of a tall, sinewy, incredibly long-arm and long-legged skeleton. The basic features of Gideon's face remain in place, except for the eyes and the sharp piranha-like teeth that make up Gideon's full smile.

When he speaks next, Gideon's voice has dropped several octaves and is more guttural, more animalistic.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

--but the taste of flesh eases the
emptiness, if only for a while.

Mr. Rind, in horror, backs away from Gideon. Gideon steps forward, as if the two are in a dance.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Oh, do not run from me, Mr. Rind.
Come, let us reason together.

Mr. Rind backs into the desk, which jolts him. Recovering his senses, Mr Rind drops the candle onto the desk and runs toward the door. He opens the door to reveal Joshua York standing in the doorway.

MR. RIND

Oh, Joshua, please help me.

Joshua doesn't move from the doorway. Mr Rind falls at his feet, pleading for him.

MR. RIND (CONT'D)

Something is wrong with Gideon. He
has lost his senses. Please. Please.
Joshua?

Mr Rind, after hearing no reply, looks up at Joshua, to reveal a Joshua with fully black eyes and a piranha smile.

JOSHUA

Mr. Rind, something is wrong with
Gideon. He has an insatiable hunger.

The Gideon-monster enters Mr. Rind's field of vision and the two creatures draw close until there is only...darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- AFTERNOON

Matchobin and Benjamin are practicing archery. There is an animal hide tied between two trees roughly fifty feet away from the boys. A crude bull's-eye is painted on the hide.

Benjamin is holding the bow, sighting at the target, while Matchobin instructs.

BENJAMIN

Now?

MATCHOBIN

Would you like the string to mark your arm again?

BENJAMIN

No.

Matchobin moves Benjamin's hand down the bow slightly.

MATCHOBIN

Then learn.

BENJAMIN

Yes, oh wise one.

Matchobin steps back.

MATCHOBIN

Now we will see if you have improved.

Benjamin sights and lets loose an arrow which misses the target entirely.

BENJAMIN

One more.

MATCHOBIN

You will retrieve the arrows.

BENJAMIN

Of course.

Benjamin bends down to where there are several arrows stuck, point first, in the dirt. He pulls one out and notches it.

Hatueck, coming from the village, enters the area and stands just outside of the boy's field of vision.

MATCHOBIN

Remember--

BENJAMIN

Shhh.

Benjamin shoots another arrow that misses the hide completely. He turns around frustrated and throws the bow to Matchobin.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

The bow is bent.

MATCHOBIN

There is nothing wrong with the bow.

Matchobin approaches the arrows, fluidly pulls one from the ground, notches it and lets it fly. It sticks in the hide not far from the center of the bull's eye.

BENJAMIN

Well...

MATCHOBIN

Maybe you should hunt with a hatchet.

Hatueck approaches the two boys.

HATUECK

Come. Chief needs more wood for the sweat lodge.

Matchobin begins to follow Hatueck.

BENJAMIN

I'll get the arrows.

Hatueck nods and the two depart. Benjamin steps off toward the hide to look for the two that missed the target.

Finding one, he moves on, sweeping the forest floor for the second arrow. He sees a movement of color to his left that quickly disappears. Curious, he moves toward where he saw the motion.

He sees another movement to his right and turns toward that movement. He hears gently female laughter on the wind. He smiles and moves behind a nearby tree.

Waiting, he sees nothing. He slowly turns to look around the tree and his face comes within inches of Tinoweh's face. She moves in quickly and snatches a kiss from Benjamin.

Tinoweh pulls away quickly, laughing.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Wait!

She turns back around to face him.

TINOWEH

Yes?

BENJAMIN

Don't go yet.

Tinoweh takes one step toward Benjamin.

TINOWEH

Yes?

Benjamin takes a step toward Tinoweh.

BENJAMIN

Tinoweh, I...Walk with me.

A smile slowly lights on her face in response. She nods and they start walking.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

You know that I will soon return to my village.

TINOWEH

Yes.

BENJAMIN

But in my mind, I can't leave you.

TINOWEH

Then stay with us. Stay with me.

BENJAMIN

My mother, my people...

TINOWEH

They will continue living with or without you. You must live your life.

Benjamin stops and faces her.

BENJAMIN

Some day I hoped to travel back to England. I would like you to go with me.

TINOWEH

I cannot leave my people.

BENJAMIN

You must live your own life.

TINOWEH

My life is with my people.

BENJAMIN

And what if my life is with my people?

Tinoweh, silently turns and continues walking, holding hands with Benjamin. Looking forward, they are not far from the village. Benjamin can see smoke rising from the center of the village.

TINOWEH

The sweat lodge will soon be ready. You must go and receive your vision from the Creator.

BENJAMIN

I didn't think I would be invited to attend.

TINOWEH

All braves must go.

BENJAMIN

What will I see there.

TINOWEH

Your destiny.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- AFTERNOON

John Hyrcaneous is behind his house, methodically digging two shallow graves. Malachi walks up behind him and watches a moment before interrupting.

MALACHI STANLEY

I understand your pain--

John returns with an angry retort without turning his head.

JOHN

You know nothing of pain.

John slouches in defeat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I am burying my future.

MALACHI STANLEY

The colony is slowly disappearing before our very eyes. We must act. We know it is Gideon Black--

JOHN

I do not have time for this. I must prepare...

Malachi steps angrily forward.

MALACHI STANLEY

You cannot stand idly by while the Roanoke Colony is destroyed more each day. We must act.

JOHN

You act for the colony.

MALACHI STANLEY

John...

Hearing nothing in reply, Malachi turns and strides purposely away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- LATER

In the village, a fire rages beside a slightly large hut. Inside the fire are several large stones, glowing with heat. A more mature Croatan tends the fire and the stones.

The flap opens on a nearby hut and the Chief exits. He walks toward Hatueck, who is standing a little ways from the fire.

CHIEF INHIO

It is ready. Bring the braves.

Hatueck starts to leave then turns back.

HATUECK

And Benjamin?

CHIEF INHIO

The Creator has spoken. He must attend as well.

Hatueck nods in understanding and moves off. Chief Inhio looks at the stones that are glowing within the fire. One stone is round and looks just like the blazing sun.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- AFTERNOON

Malachi looks up at the blazing sun and wipes the sweat from his forehead. He is in the forest, looking for something or someone. Ahead of him, Joshua sits on a tree stump with his back toward the approaching Malachi. It looks as if Joshua is eating something.

MALACHI STANLEY

Joshua, there you are.

Joshua's shoulders tense at the sound of his name. His hands move quickly, dropping something at his feet. Slowly, he turns around to face Malachi.

JOSHUA

Yes, Mr. Stanley.

MALACHI STANLEY

With so few in our village these days, I do not believe wandering in the forest would be wise.

JOSHUA

I find nothing wrong with being in the forest, Mr. Stanley.

MALACHI STANLEY

Nevertheless. Have you seen young Mr. Black? His presence is desired by Elder Hyrcaneous.

JOSHUA

Why would I know where Gideon is?

MALACHI STANLEY

You two are inseparable these days.

JOSHUA

Nevertheless.

Malachi approaches closer, trying to get a glimpse of what Joshua had dropped.

MALACHI STANLEY

What game are you playing at, Mr. York?

JOSHUA

Game?

MALACHI STANLEY

Aye, game, Mr. York. Your mother and sister disappear and your disposition is unfazed. Then Mr. Bond's entire family disappears, Goody Windhover and Mr. Lancet next, and finally Mr. Rind last night.

JOSHUA

Are you implying that I had something to do with the disappearances, Mr. Stanley?

MALACHI STANLEY

I don't know. Did you?

Joshua is quiet for a moment as he glances up at the tree tops.

MALACHI STANLEY (CONT'D)

Why are you hiding out here, Mr. York? You know Elder Hyrcaneous has placed a curfew in effect.

JOSHUA

I was just having a meal in peace.

MALACHI STANLEY

What sort of meal.

JOSHUA

Just a little meal, actually.

Joshua reaches down and produces a half-eaten finger.

Malachi reacts in horror and fumbles for the musket on his back. Joshua stands up, letting the finger fall to the ground.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Actually, that was the last of a meal. The last of Mr. Rind to be more precise.

Malachi finally gets the musket off of his back and aims it directly at Joshua's chest.

MALACHI STANLEY

I don't know what you are--

JOSHUA

I'm just Joshua, Mr. Stanley.

MALACHI STANLEY

Did you eat them all?

Joshua slowly approaches Malachi.

JOSHUA

Of course. Well, not all of them. Gideon ate a few.

Moving backwards, Malachi trips over a fallen branch. As he is going down, he fires his musket, hitting Joshua directly in the chest propelling him backwards.

Quickly, Malachi gets to his feet. He looks and sees Joshua lying on his back several feet away. One of Joshua's hands twitches.

Malachi reaches for the bag at his hip, which he hurriedly works open. He pulls out a metal ball, which slips from his fingers. He drops to the ground, searching for the ball.

As Malachi searches desperately, behind him Joshua sits up. He rises to his feet as he starts to change into the human skeleton. Malachi remains oblivious.

Now fully the skeleton creature, Joshua moves toward Malachi, who has finally found the metal ball. And is shoving it in his musket.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Now that was not very polite, Mr. Stanley.

Malachi freezes momentarily. He looks back quickly and sees the approaching Joshua in all his skeleton-creature glory. Joshua has a large open wound in his chest.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

I will have to get a new shirt.

MALACHI STANLEY

Whatever you are, stay back!

JOSHUA

But I have these sharp teeth and claws and all you have is an empty musket.

Joshua reaches Malachi and picks him up. His feet dangle a few feet off of the ground.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Now, I have a game for you, Mr. Stanley. Let us see if you can breath without a face.

Joshua's face shoots toward Malachi and takes a large bite. Malachi's feet shake for a moment and then go still.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- CONTINUOUS

A Croatan warrior carefully conveys one of the big glowing stones from the bonfire into the hut with a pair of metal tongs.

Matchobin, Benjamin, and five other teenage braves wait outside the hut. They have been stripped down to their waists. A few of the braves look slightly nervous. Benjamin glances over at Matchobin, who gives him a reassuring smile.

As the warrior who brought the glowing stone now exits the hut, Chief Inhio steps up to address the braves.

CHIEF INHIO

The Creator, when he had finished making the fox and the coyote, knew that men would need to be led. The coyote and the fox had their instincts but what did man have. So, the Creator gave men visions.

Chief Inhio gestures toward the hut.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

The Creator gave the Croatan the Sweat Lodge for two reasons.

(MORE)

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

First, it is for purifying your bodies, to prepare you. And second, it is to give the young braves of this village visions, visions for the future of the Croatan.

Chief takes a moment to look in the faces of the individual braves.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

Do not be afraid of what you see. Take what the Creator has given you and tell it to our holy man.

Chief Inhio motions toward Hatueck, who is dressed with many feathers and in a large hide.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

He will help you find the path to your vision. Now you are ready.

The braves, led by Matchobin, file into the smoking hut.

Inside, the smoke from the glowing stones heaped into the middle of the hut, clouds the sight of the braves. They take their places on the ground around the heaped stones as one brave begins to cough.

MATCHOBIN

Now, I shall receive my vision from the Creator himself.

BENJAMIN

How long will it take?

MATCHOBIN

Sometimes it can take up to three hours to receive the vision. Other times, the brave may receive no vision.

Hatueck enters the hut with a bucket and ladle and looks around at the braves. One of the braves has his eyes closed while another is coughing lightly. Hatueck nods to himself and crosses to the pile of stones.

Wordlessly, Hatueck dips the ladle into the bucket and pours the liquid over the stones. A bright blue fog drifts up as the stones crackle as Hatueck then makes his way outside again.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

Now, we wait.

Time passes inside the hut. Outside the hut, Hatueck and Chief Inhio sit quietly as Tinoweh peers nervously from behind the protection of another hut.

Hatueck looks over and sees Tinoweh.

HATUECK

You should not be here.

Quietly, she slips away.

HATUECK (CONT'D)

She is worse than Fishwife.

CHIEF INHIO

Love blinds the senses.

While coughing, one of the braves exits the hut. He looks toward Hatueck and the Chief, drops his head in shame and walks away from the area.

Inside the hut, the braves are passing a pipe around. Sweat is visibly pouring down the boys foreheads, cheeks, and chests. One brave is breathing heavily as the smoke that pours from the rocks continues to replace the breathable air.

Benjamin takes a drag on the pipe and passes it on to Matchobin, who also takes a drag. After exhaling the smoke, Benjamin's eyes roll back into this head as the vision starts.

Benjamin is running through the forest. He looks to the side and sees Matchobin with him. Matchobin looks troubled as he glances back over his shoulder. Benjamin glances back as well and sees something crashing through the forest, disturbing the undergrowth in its wake.

Benjamin looks back to Matchobin as Matchobin's face slowly melts into a skull.

Darkness leads to a new vision.

In Roanoke Village, in Benjamin's old house, his mother, Goody Harcourt, is huddling in a corner as a loud banging rings on the front door. On each new bang, Goody Harcourt shakes more and tries desperately to crawl farther into the corner.

The door slams open and a shadowy figure enters. Goody Harcourt starts whimpering loudly.

GOODY HARCOURT

No, no, no.

The shadowy figure steps forward toward Goody Harcourt and replies to her cries in the voice of Joshua York.

JOSHUA

But I said that I would take care of
you Mother. Why won't you let me
take care of you?

Darkness.

In the hut, Matchobin's eyes are fighting against rolling
back. He loses the battle. His eyes roll and he rolls with
them into the vision.

Matchobin is running through the forest. He looks sideways
and sees Benjamin running beside him. Benjamin looks
frightened as he glances back over his shoulder.

Something is chasing them through the woods. When Matchobin
looks forward again, he doesn't see any sign of Benjamin.
His feet break through a hole in the undergrowth and he is
falling.

Darkness leads to a new vision.

He is at the top of the waterfall, underneath a tree. He
has a wound in his leg that he grimaces as he holds onto.
Matchobin looks over at the spray of the waterfall as it
plummets down the cliff. He then looks up at the tree and
sees Benjamin hiding among th branches.

A loud crunching noise makes him look up the path. A shadowy
figure, a long-limbed wendigo, moves up the path toward the
tree.

Darkness.

Outside the hut, Hatueck and the Chief look up as both
Benjamin and Matchobin come stumbling out of the hut. They
are both covered in sweat and coughing profusely. They come
to a stop before the two older Croatans and fall to the dirt.
When they look up, their eyes are bright red and puffy.

MATCHOBIN

My Father, the Creator has granted
me a vision of the Wendigo.

CHIEF INHIO

My son--

BENJAMIN

The Creator has also granted me a
vision of the Wendigo.

Chief Inhio looks for guidance from Hatueck, who shrugs
slightly.

HATUECK

The two are linked. They must pursue
their Vision Quest together.

Chief Inhio nods in agreement as Benjamin begins to cough.

CUT TO:

INT. HYRCANEIOUS HOUSE -- EVENING

John is standing over the bed that used to occupy his wife. It is now empty and the linens are made and folded neatly. A tear falls from his eye and slides down his cheek.

After a moment, John glances over to the bed where his daughter was sleeping. This bed is also neatly made and empty.

He turns and walks out of the room and into his office. Glancing at his desk wistfully, he continues walking past it, heading to the door that leads outside.

Once outside, John heads to an area close to the woods where several crosses are set up as grave markers. Wordlessly, he stands above the markers, looking down at them. A crunching behind him signals the approach of someone or something.

Without turning around, John addresses the one behind him.

JOHN

It is has been long enough.

Gideon's voice, misshapen through the Wendigo transformation answers John.

GIDEON

You are the last, Elder Hyrcaneous.
What shall we do for food when there
is no one left?

JOHN

Maybe you will starve.

GIDEON

No, John, we do not starve. We eat.
We always eat.

JOHN

I do not care anymore. Eat then.

GIDEON

When does the ship return, Elder
Hyrcaneous?

John looks up, startled out of his silent thoughts. He turns around slowly and confronts Gideon.

JOHN

No...it does not return.

GIDEON

You are lying Elder Hyrcaneous. We must have food.

JOHN

Go eat the Croatan.

GIDEON

No. They have knowledge of our ways. They will not be so easily fooled. Not like the ones from the Roanoke Colony.

Gideon begins to chuckle. John winces at the sound which is throaty and deep.

JOHN

Finish this.

GIDEON

We do not rush a feeding, John Hyrcaneous.

Gideon chuckles.

Darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- MORNING

Benjamin is packing some clothes and items in a leather pouch while Tinoweh looks on and scolds him.

TINOWEH

You do not know the Wendigo like my people do.

BENJAMIN

It doesn't matter. I must go.

TINOWEH

But you and Matchobin are not enough. You must take more braves with you.

Benjamin stops packing and grabs Tinoweh lightly by the arms.

BENJAMIN

Tinoweh, you know about the Vision Quest. You know I must go only with Matchobin.

TINOWEH

You have never faced the Wendigo.

BENJAMIN

I have been given a quest and I must--

TINOWEH

You must.

She trails off and grows silent. Quietly, she turns and exits the hut, whispering as she leaves.

TINOWEH (CONT'D)

You will not return.

As Tinoweh leaves, she almost runs into Matchobin, knocking him in the shoulder. Matchobin looks amused before he sees the look on her face, which sobers him quickly.

He turns and lifts the tent flap, moving inside. Benjamin looks up as Matchobin enters. Matchobin motions toward the open tent flap.

MATCHOBIN

What did you...

BENJAMIN

She believes we are doomed.

MATCHOBIN

Then let us be off to our doom and quickly. Are you ready?

Benjamin holds up two hatchets, one in each hand. He raises an eyebrow. In response, Matchobin shakes his head and exits the hut.

Benjamin shoves the hatchets in his belt, grabs his packed bag and exits the hut as well. Matchobin is outside the hut, adjusting the bow that now hangs around his neck and right arm.

Benjamin pats Matchobin on the arm and they both take off through the maze of huts. They arrive in front of Chief Inhio's hut. The Chief and Hatueck are standing outside of the hut, awaiting the boy's arrival.

CHIEF INHIO

My son.

MATCHOBIN

Father.

CHIEF INHIO

You must be careful. The Creator has granted me a vision of the wendigo as well.

Chief and Hatueck exchange a knowing glance.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

There may be more than one. They have fed...

Chief Inhio glances quickly at Benjamin before continuing.

CHIEF INHIO (CONT'D)

...In great number.

MATCHOBIN

Father, I am not afraid of the wendigo.

CHIEF INHIO

No! You must be afraid. You cannot approach this Vision Quest in ignorance, my son.

HATUECK

I have never seen the wendigo this strong before.

CHIEF INHIO

The hunter must not become the hunted. Make certain, my son, that this wolf does not turn on you.

MATCHOBIN

I will, my father.

At Chief Inhio's nod, Matchobin turns and begins walking away. Benjamin looks around, slightly confused and then quickly follows Matchobin into the forest.

BENJAMIN

I do not understand.

Matchobin continues walking through the forest resolutely.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I said that I do not understand.

Benjamin roughly grabs Matchobin's shoulder. Matchobin quickly jerks his shoulder free.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

What does it mean to have the hunter become the hunted? What is the wolf?

MATCHOBIN

Did you pay no attention to your vision? We are the hunters. Now, we must go.

Matchobin begins walking again.

BENJAMIN

Go where?

MATCHOBIN

Your colony.

Benjamin quickly runs, distancing the gap.

BENJAMIN

What? What does my colony have to do with the wendigo?

MATCHOBIN

Have you so little brains? The wendigo have been feeding on your village since you left.

Benjamin steps up his pace, leaving Matchobin behind.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

Wait.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- DAY

Through the clearing, Benjamin can glimpse Roanoke Colony. No one is about and nothing moves. Matchobin is crouched beside Benjamin, also surveying the colony. It is quiet as a tomb.

When the two boys talk, they discuss in whispers.

BENJAMIN

Where is everyone?

MATCHOBIN

Only the Creator knows.

Benjamin begins to stand but is halted by Matchobin's hand on his arm.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

Wait. If the Wendigo are here, we should prepare a trap.

BENJAMIN

Why can't we just go into the colony and destroy them? We are wasting time.

MATCHOBIN

No. Wendigo are clever and crafty. We must be ready. We must be the hunters.

Benjamin thinks for a moment.

BENJAMIN

Okay. I know what to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- LATER

The boys are in a small clearing with a view of the ocean.

Benjamin is down on his knees fixing the leaf pile that covers a rope. Matchobin is standing at his side, looking toward the ocean.

MATCHOBIN

We have no time.

Benjamin stops and looks up at Matchobin with a question on his face.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

A boat is coming.

BENJAMIN

That must be Captain Standish. He returns early.

MATCHOBIN

Benjamin, where does that boat come from?

BENJAMIN

From England.

MATCHOBIN

And where does it head once it leaves Roanoke?

BENJAMIN

Back to England.

MATCHOBIN

And this England has many people in it?

Benjamin stands up and looks at the speck in the distance that is the returning Captain Standish.

BENJAMIN

It has thousands and thousands of people in it.

Matchobin looks around the clearing, debating inside his mind.

MATCHOBIN

Is the trap prepared?

BENJAMIN

Yes.

Matchobin takes off, walking fast toward the colony.

MATCHOBIN

Come. We must destroy the wendigo
before the ship arrives.

They walk through the undergrowth for a moment, finally breaking free by the cabin of John Hyrcaneous. Benjamin points at the house.

BENJAMIN

That is where Elder Hyrcaneous lives.
Come, we must find my mother.

Benjamin is stopped once again by Matchobin.

MATCHOBIN

No! We must check every house. We
start with this one.

Leading, Matchobin cautiously approaches the house, stopping by the door to listen. Hearing nothing, he looks through a window, but can see no movement.

Creeping toward the door, Matchobin unsheathes a long hunting knife and holds it ready. With his free hand, he opens the door and flows inside the house. Benjamin is directly behind, holding a hatchet in one hand.

They enter the office area, which is deserted. Slowly, they scan the room, but nothing moves, nothing whispers. Benjamin wordlessly points to the bedroom, which is dark.

Matchobin nods in agreement and slowly approaches the darkness. He reaches the doorway and peers inside.

There are two beds inside. A lump like a human shape is on the larger bed. Nothing moves. Matchobin motions toward the larger bed and Benjamin nods.

They enter the room. Matchobin circles around to the far side of the bed, while Benjamin approaches the bed from the opposite side. Matchobin slowly reaches for the cover, the knife in his other hand shaking slightly as Benjamin raises his ax

With one quick jerk of his hand, Matchobin pulls back the cover to reveal...Waded up sheets beneath.

Matchobin smiles slightly and looks up at Benjamin, whose eyes are still large and who is still holding the hatchet, ready for the kill strike.

BENJAMIN

I do not know if I am ready for this.

MATCHOBIN

You will have to be.

Matchobin moves around the bed, nodding for Benjamin, who has recovered, to follow him.

They exit the Hyrcaneous house and Benjamin notices the makeshift grave markers by the forest's edge.

BENJAMIN

Those were not here before I left.

Matchobin nods.

MATCHOBIN

Come. Which dwelling is next?

BENJAMIN

Well--

As they peer through the houses, they notice a figure walking nonchalantly down the main path in the village. The lone figure is Gideon, who is whistling a tune as he walks.

Benjamin's eyes light up and a smile registers on his face. Matchobin quickly looks from the main path to catch the smile on Benjamin's face. He quickly thrusts a hand up, covering Benjamin's mouth before the boy can speak.

Benjamin looks angrily at Matchobin as the Croatan lowers his hand and makes a sign for silence. He gently pulls Benjamin under the protection of the Hyrcaneous house.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

What are you doing? That was Gideon--

MATCHOBIN

He could be wendigo.

BENJAMIN

No.

MATCHOBIN

Let us watch first.

Benjamin nods as they make their way to the side of the house that is closest to the path. Peering down the path, they can see Gideon, who has his back to the boys, and is picking up something from off the ground.

As they watch, Gideon turns slightly, so the boys can see that he was picking a human arm off the ground. Gideon raises the arm to his nose and sniffs it gently. He licks it and then sticks it under his own arm again.

Casually, Gideon continues his trek down the main path. He turns and is lost to the boy's sight as he disappears around the school house.

Matchobin turns to Benjamin, whose eyes are wide and has started sweating slightly. Matchobin draws Benjamin farther back between the houses, where he can look him directly in the face.

BENJAMIN

That was not Gideon.

MATCHOBIN

That was wendigo.

BENJAMIN

But it looked like Gideon.

MATCHOBIN

Wendigo is spirit. It fills the body of the host. It is host and wendigo.

BENJAMIN

But that looked nothing like I saw in the vision.

MATCHOBIN

Wendigo can change its shape.

Suddenly, Gideon sticks his head in from behind one of the buildings and grins at the boys.

GIDEON

I thought I heard talking. Benjamin, you have returned...and brought a visitor, I see.

Benjamin and Matchobin slowly back away with their weapons raised as Gideon approaches them.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Benjamin, why must you raise weapons against me? I know we have not been the best of friends in the past, but this is insulting.

BENJAMIN

What have you done with the people of Roanoke?

Gideon stops and brays with laughter. Benjamin and Matchobin take the opportunity and run toward the forest.

GIDEON

Hey!

Gideon chases quickly after the boys as they run toward the clearing. Benjamin and Matchobin reach the trees and do not slow down. They run deftly under branches and jump over logs, finally gaining the clearing.

Behind them, Gideon rumbles through the forest, as branches whip into his face. Awkwardly, he stumbles through the undergrowth.

Benjamin and Matchobin enter the clearing and do not slow down as both boys leap over the leaves that hide the rope trap. Reaching the other side of the clearing, the boys wait in silence behind a bush.

Gideon thrusts his way through the forest, finally making the clearing where he stops. His head falls to one side as he examines the clearing, like a puzzled dog. Next, his head sweeps around the clearing as he stops and sniffs the air.

Gideon cautiously takes one step into the clearing and then another. He stops directly before the leaves.

Peering through the bush, the boys nervously watch Gideon's progress. As Gideon halts before the trap, Matchobin silently removes the bow from his shoulders and then pulls out an arrow from the quiver on his back.

Gideon drops to his knees in front of the leaf-covered rope trap and sniffs the ground. He quickly looks up, revealing his blackened eyes.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Back to your old tricks and traps,
eh? Benjamin?

He grins to reveal his sharpened teeth.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Well, I have a few new tricks of my
own. And I can't wait to show them
to you.

On the ground and still on his hands and feet, Gideon begins to shift into the elongated, giant skeleton shape.

Benjamin's eyes widen as Matchobin notches an arrow into his bowstring.

Gideon finishes transforming and rises slowly to his eight foot height. It gently steps over the trap and takes a step toward the bush.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Now I have--

Matchobin leaps to his feet and fires off the arrow, which strikes the Gideon creature through the neck.

It staggers backward and catches its foot in the trap, which lifts it upside down in the air.

The trap is not built for the height of the creature, which is soon evident when the Gideon creature's head strikes heavily on the ground, and stays there, twisted slightly.

Gideon screams in rage, trying desperately to reach the rope with his teeth.

Meanwhile, Matchobin has strung another arrow, which he lets fly. It finds its mark in Gideon's left shoulder. Gideon screams again and thrashes more violently.

Benjamin, who had risen to his feet, approaches Gideon with two hatchets raised as Matchobin reaches for another arrow.

Upon Benjamin's approach, Gideon quickly shrinks back to his original size and his eyes clear. Unfortunately, he also has a large stream of blood flowing from his shoulder down his face.

He gazes helplessly up at Benjamin.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Oh, Benjamin, you have driven it
from me.

Benjamin halts in his tracks and waits, wordlessly.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

You and your friend have saved me.
All those terrible things I did.
But now I feel--

Matchobin shoots another arrow into Gideon's chest. Gideon roars in rage, his eyes quickly shift to full blackness.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

(Yelling)
Stop doing that!

MATCHOBIN

Now!

Benjamin brings his hatchet down, spraying the ground with blood from his slice. He follows the single blow with a few more. On the last blow, Gideon's head plops to the ground by Benjamin's feet and rolls to one side.

Benjamin, his face streaked with the splattering of blood, stares blindly at the carnage in front of him as Matchobin approaches.

MATCHOBIN (CONT'D)

Come. It is not done yet.

BENJAMIN

What?

MATCHOBIN

We must burn the body.

Benjamin looks quickly out toward the ocean, where the approaching ship is slightly larger than before.

BENJAMIN

Do we have time?

MATCHOBIN

We must.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- MOMENTS LATER

Together, Matchobin and Benjamin drag Gideon's corpse by the legs up the main path of the colony. They come to a halt outside the blacksmith's shop and drop the legs to the ground.

Breathing heavily, Matchobin turns to Benjamin.

MATCHOBIN

I will return for the head. You must start the fire.

Benjamin nods, while fighting for breath. Matchobin walks back down the path as Benjamin heads into the blacksmith's shop.

There is no fire in the forge, so Benjamin searches around until he finds some flint, which he uses to send sparks into the forge. They catch and Benjamin fans them into flames.

A noise from outside the shop startles him.

BENJAMIN

Matchobin?

Hearing nothing, he takes a cautious step toward the door. A shadow appears at the door and Benjamin draws a sigh of relief.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Come. Help me--

The door crashes open and the headless corpse of Gideon staggers into the doorway. With eyes bulging, Benjamin searches around the shop for a weapon. The corpse lumbers into the shop, blindly knocking items over onto the floor.

Benjamin's hand closes on a large metal bar, which he grasps and raises just as Gideon's claws reach out to grab him. He swings the metal bar, knocking the claws away and knocking the corpse to the side.

Matchobin appears at the door, grasping Gideon's head by the hair. Quickly assessing the situation, he drops the head to the floor and jumps at the walking corpse, kicking it in the back and knocking it chest first to the floor.

Matchobin lands on the back of the corpse, holding it down as it continues to thrash about.

MATCHOBIN

We are not finished yet.

Benjamin nods his head quickly

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- LATER

Benjamin and Matchobin walk slowly down the main path of the colony. Soot covers their clothes and streaks their faces. They both look exhausted.

BENJAMIN

I wonder what Captain Standish will think when he finds Gideon's remains in the forge?

MATCHOBIN

Better to find the remains than to find Gideon.

They come to a halt in front of a large tree that stands in the middle of the path.

BENJAMIN

Let me see your knife.

Matchobin removes his knife from its sheath and hands it to Benjamin, who uses it to start carving in the trunk of the tree. After a moment, he steps back to admire his handiwork.

MATCHOBIN

Croatan?

BENJAMIN

In case there are any survivors left hiding. They will know where to find safety. Let us search the rest.

The boys continue down the path, leaving the word "Croatan" carved into the trunk of the tree.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- LATER

Benjamin and Matchobin traipse wearily through the undergrowth of the forest.

Their eyes sweep the forest for signs of life.

BENJAMIN

I do not understand. If they are all gone, where are the bones?

MATCHOBIN

I do not know. Maybe they buried them.

Quickly, Matchobin raises a hand, stopping their progress. He lowers his arm, pointing toward a nearby clearing.

In the middle of the clearing, seated on a log is Joshua, crying. His shirt is missing and he has several scratches evident running down his back.

Benjamin and Matchobin edge slightly closer. Unfortunately, Benjamin steps on a branch that snaps. Joshua's head jerks up at the sound and he looks directly at Benjamin and Matchobin with a tear-streaked face.

JOSHUA

Benjamin? Is that truly you?

Benjamin steps forward, toward his old friend.

BENJAMIN

(in English)

Joshua!

Matchobin's arm snaps up to grab Benjamin's arm.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

No! Something is not right.

Joshua rises to his feet.

JOSHUA

I can't believe that I survived.

Joshua slowly begins to walk toward the boys.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

I hid from Gideon when he came for me. And then I ran. I ran so fast, Benjamin.

Reaching a few feet in front of Benjamin and Matchobin, Joshua stops.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

But now that you're back, I can rest. I won't have to run any more.

Benjamin shakes off Matchobin's hand and grabs Joshua by the arms.

BENJAMIN

What happened?

Joshua motions with his head back toward the log and the makeshift camp he was sitting at.

JOSHUA

Let's have something to eat and I will tell you all about it.

Joshua leads them back toward his camp as Matchobin continues to glance around nervously.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Our colony was slowly eaten away. People began to disappear daily.

They reach the log, which Joshua sits upon. Benjamin rests on another log while Matchobin continues to stand.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Elder Hyrcaneous was suspicious at first. He stationed guards at night throughout the colony. But the disappearances continued. My mother and sister were the first.

BENJAMIN

Constance?

JOSHUA

Yes.

BENJAMIN

I am sorry, Joshua.

JOSHUA

As am I.

Matchobin, growing more irritated by the moment, finally interrupts.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

We cannot stay here. The danger is not over.

BENJAMIN

(in Algonquin)

What do you mean? Gideon is dead.

MATCHOBIN

(in Algonquin)

My father said--

JOSHUA

What are you two talking about in that tongue of yours?

BENJAMIN

I am sorry, Joshua. Matchobin believes that we are not out of danger yet.

JOSHUA

But how can we still be in danger? I thought you killed Gideon.

Benjamin pauses for a moment as Joshua's words reverberate.

BENJAMIN

You thought what?

JOSHUA

Well, you came from the direction of the colony. I assumed...

Matchobin's eyes narrow as he analyses Joshua.

BENJAMIN

You assumed that we had killed Gideon because we came from the direction of the colony?

JOSHUA

Of course. I saw the smoke--

BENJAMIN

And you believed we had burned the body after cutting off the head.

JOSHUA

Of course.

One of Benjamin's hands drop to the hatchet at his belt as Matchobin's hand slides down to hunting knife at his belt.

Joshua's eyes roll slightly in his head as if he is resolving himself to the violence that will normally follow. He closes his eyes and when he reopens them, they are fully black.

With one elongated arm, Joshua swings and knocks Benjamin off of the log he is on, propelling him back a few feet. Benjamin's head is knocked against a tree trunk on the ground.

As Matchobin rips his hunting knife out of its sheath, the Joshua-monster rises to its full nine-foot height and regards the Croatan.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
 (in Algonquin)
 Stupid Croatan. Always ruining our
 games.

Matchobin circles cautiously around the monster as he tries to assess the condition of Benjamin, who is lying still.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
 (in Algonquin)
 My brother and I took that whole
 village one by one and they could do
 nothing. We ate and ate until our
 stomachs bulged.

Benjamin moans softly from his bed of grass and Matchobin's head turns slightly at the sound. Joshua quickly takes the opportunity to smack Matchobin heavily across the face.

Matchobin is pushed back by the blow that has knocked his head back and left his neck exposed.

Joshua's razor sharp teeth dart in for the kill but Matchobin immediately thrusts upward and jams his hunting knife up and into the bottom of the creature's jaw.

Joshua returns with a back-handed blow that propels the Croatan backwards for several feet.

Meanwhile, Benjamin has shaken himself awake and has slowly lurched to his feet just in time to watch Matchobin fly through the air and smack, leg-first into a tree. Matchobin howls in pain.

Joshua rips the knife out of the bottom of his jaw. He eyes Benjamin for a moment, then draws the bloody knife over a very forked tongue, licking every morsel of blood.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
 I can never afford to lose one drop
 of blood, Benjamin. Food is so very
 precious.

Effortlessly, Joshua flicks the hunting knife from his hand. It flashes by Benjamin, to stick in the leg of Matchobin, who has just risen. Matchobin falls down again, holding his newly wounded leg.

Benjamin, however, uses the opportunity to rush at Joshua with the hatchets he has freed from his belt. Joshua roars as he sees Benjamin approaching.

Benjamin swings low with his right-handed hatchet and catches Joshua in the knee cap, which drops the monster to the other knee. Then Benjamin swings his left arm back, to finish the job, but Joshua reaches up and grasps his left wrist, stopping him.

Slowly, Joshua's mouth, which is only a foot away from Benjamin's face, opens to reveal the teeth. The forked tongue darts out to lick the rows of teeth.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Do not struggle so. You will be
that much harder to digest.

Benjamin's right hand twists that hatchet, which opens the knee wound further. Joshua momentarily roars in pain.

Benjamin takes that opportunity to throw himself backwards, as he falls over the log that Joshua was sitting on.

The Joshua monster reaches down and plucks the hatchet from his knee cap and tosses it away. Quickly, he approaches Benjamin as the boy is laying on the ground.

A foot away from Benjamin, and Joshua is suddenly propelled backwards by the arrow that is now sticking out of his chest. Joshua reaches for the arrow and falls to the ground.

Benjamin lunges forward with the other hatchet gripped tightly in his hand. He swiftly brings the hatchet down, where it sticks in the side of Joshua's neck. Joshua rolls away from Benjamin, taking the hatchet with him.

Benjamin gains his feet and runs toward Matchobin, who is on his feet, but favoring his wounded leg. His bow is still out, but is now resting at his side.

Benjamin reaches Matchobin and throws his arm under and around his back, to assist him.

BENJAMIN

Come.

Benjamin firmly propels the Croatan onward, into and through the forest. Matchobin tries to protest, but his efforts are feeble.

MATCHOBIN

No, we must finish it.

BENJAMIN

With what? My hatchets are back
there with the beast. And your knife
is in your leg.

Matchobin nods silently as they press onward.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

Benjamin and Matchobin hobble quickly through the forest, with the Roanoke boy holding up the Croatan.

They struggle through the underbrush, looking back fitfully for the following Joshua.

Behind them, maybe 500 feet, the Joshua-monster lopes through the forest on all four limbs, like a wolf. It pauses to sniff the air and then continues on its way.

Matchobin is obviously little help as they struggle to keep in front of the monster. Blood is pooling onto the front of his leather pants.

The boys break into an open area, where, looking up, Benjamin can barely see the top of the waterfall. Through gasping breaths, Benjamin strives to talk while continuing on.

BENJAMIN

We have to slow it down. But I do not have time to set a trap.

Wearily, Matchobin nods but doesn't respond. Benjamin looks down to see the spreading blood on Matchobin's leg.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Matchobin! You are bleeding to death. Why did you not ask for rest?

MATCHOBIN

No time.

Benjamin looks around and spies a gully, in fact, the gully that leads to the cave. He also notices the tree dropped across as a makeshift bridge.

A loud roar behind them emphasizes the nearness of Joshua. Benjamin looks back in response, then hurries forward.

BENJAMIN

If we can make it over that tree...

They reach the felled tree and Benjamin forces Matchobin onto it first. Little Cloud drops face forward in exhaustion. In a panic, Benjamin forces Matchobin up and onward.

Suddenly, Joshua bursts from the forest wall. He spies the boys as they struggle across the tree and almost reach the far side. He stops running, drops back into human form and smiles.

JOSHUA

(to himself)

You must be tired. Why do you not rest a while?

Benjamin pushes Matchobin off the tree and onto the other side. Turning, he notices Joshua standing on the far side. They pause a moment to regard one another.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Where will you run to now, brother Benjamin? I am only ten feet away from you and will soon feast.

Suddenly, Benjamin reaches down and begins to turn the tree sideways, so that it would fall into the gully. Surprised for one moment, Joshua quickly jumps on the log and moves forward.

The movements of the tree turning cause Joshua to slip and to grip the trunk tightly. He looks up in desperation and sees Benjamin close to pushing the trunk into the gully.

At the last possible minute, Joshua pulls his legs up underneath him like a frog and leaps backward as the tree crashes down into the gully. Joshua's leap propels him not far enough and he is left scrambling for a grip on the bank, reaching for roots to haul himself up.

He finally reaches the top and looks across to see Benjamin shambling off with Matchobin in tow. He looks right and left to gauge the length of the gully and sees no other way of crossing in sight.

Angrily, his eyes black over and he screams.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Run! But I will soon be on your backs with my teeth sunk deep!

Looking to the right, Joshua runs off in that direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

Benjamin is still half-carrying Matchobin, practically dragging the Croatan. Without warning, the Croatan slips off his shoulder and collapses to the ground.

Benjamin pauses to look back for Joshua, then bends down and picks up Matchobin in a fireman's carry. He starts off slowly.

BENJAMIN

There is a cave ahead, where we could--

Weakly, Matchobin cuts him off.

MATCHOBIN

No! I smell death.

Benjamin pauses in thought for a moment, then glances up hill at the waterfall.

BENJAMIN

Then we must away.

Steadily, Benjamin heads up the hill toward the top of the waterfall. At one point, he skids backwards down some gravel, then forces his way forward again.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

Joshua, back in Wendigo form, lopes parallel to the gully for a moment.

He glances down and notices that the walls of the gully are no longer so steep. In fact, he can now see the bottom of the gully.

Without breaking stride, the Joshua/wendigo heads down into the gully.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

Benjamin breaks through several sticker bushes at the top of the waterfall with Matchobin still slung over his shoulder. He is sweating immensely and breathing heavily.

Exhausted, Benjamin slips on the grass of the meadow in front of him and falls, spilling Matchobin. Matchobin rolls and comes to a full stop, motionless.

Benjamin takes a moment, gulping huge breaths of air. The roar of the waterfall is almost deafening. He scans the scenery, seeing the short meadow in front of him, the river leading to the falls and finally a gnarled tree on the far side of the river.

Benjamin bends down to inspect Matchobin, who is barely breathing. He takes a breath of courage and lifts Little Cloud again onto his shoulder and heads toward the river.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

The Joshua/wendigo reaches the far side of the gully, stops to sniff, then heads back the way he came, soon disappearing out of sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

Benjamin slowly wades into the river and is immediately pulled toward the falls.

He sloughs his way back onto the shore and gently slips Matchobin down.

He looks up the river for help and sees a large stone in the middle of the stream fifty feet away. He gather up Matchobin and heads upstream.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST -- CONTINUOUS

The Joshua/wendigo reaches the cave and sniffs around the forest floor. He nears the cave and is drawn to it.

However, halfway to the cave he stops and spies blood on grass. The Joshua/wendigo lopes over to the blood and lowers his head to lick.

He raises his face quickly, black, soulless eyes face the waterfall and the forked tongue darts out to lick the excess blood off of its teeth.

Slowly, a smile plays across its face and then it springs forward.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF WATERFALL -- CONTINUOUS

Benjamin, carrying Matchobin over his shoulder is behind the boulder in the middle of the stream. Water is spraying all around him, wetting his clothes and hair and blinding his eyes.

The far side of the river is blurring through his water-soaked vision. Benjamin wipes his eyes across his arm and his vision clears to reveal a far side that is only ten feet away. He pushes off from the rock and paddles hard for the far shore.

In the water, the current grabs at him and forces him under. Benjamin sputters at the surface. He pushes Matchobin's head above the surface and kicks harder with his feet. Slowly, so slowly, he reaches the far side of the river.

He crawls on the shore and drops Matchobin next to him. Taking a few moments to regain his strength, he gently rolls over and checks Matchobin, whose breathing is shallow.

Peering across the river, he sees nothing. Turning, he sees the gnarled tree just a few feet away. Grinning resolutely, Benjamin grabs Matchobin and begins dragging himself and the Croatan closer to the base of the tree.

A roar down the side of the hill causes him to look back across the river. Seeing nothing, he quickens his crawl, and finally makes the tree.

Pulling upward, Benjamin positions Matchobin against the trunk of the tree, as if the Croatan were simply resting against its bark. Then, glancing to the top of the tree, Benjamin rises painfully to his feet.

He reaches a lower branch and laboriously hauls himself up into the tree, hidden behind the wall of leaves.

Suddenly, Joshua breaks through the bushes on the far side of the meadow. It looks around quickly, then spies Matchobin underneath the shade of the tree. Benjamin is no where to be seen.

Without changing shape, the Joshua/wendigo rises to its feet and walks toward the river, calling out.

JOSHUA

Ho there Croatan. Did your friend
abandon you? There you sit, a little
snack, a slight morsel. Why do you
not talk, Croatan?

Joshua/wendigo stops to look up and down the river.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Are you so exhausted at crossing
that you can no longer speak? I
expect a little fight in my food.

From the shelter of the tree, Benjamin peers through the branches at the approaching Joshua/wendigo.

Twenty feet from the falls, Joshua/wendigo enters the river. The current attempts to pull him to no avail. He strides slowly but resolutely onward.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Little wonder you are tired, Croatan.
This current is too strong for your
weak muscles.

Benjamin breathes heavily and tries not to be heard or seen through the cover of leaves.

Joshua/wendigo reaches the far side and looks up into the branches of the tree seemingly directly at Benjamin. Benjamin hides his face, certain that he has been found out.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

I wonder what type of birds would
roost in such a tree as this. What
say you, Croatan?

Joshua/wendigo twists his head to the side as he slowly observes the still body of Matchobin.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Croatan?

Suddenly and wordlessly, Benjamin runs down a branch of the tree and lunges out and into the air. He lands on the neck and shoulders of Joshua/wendigo, pushing him backwards into the river.

Screaming, Benjamin punches Joshua/wendigo in the face, ears and head as they are both driven back by the current. Joshua/wendigo roars, reaching up with its claws to attempt to remove this pest, with little luck.

With Benjamin's weight pushing them backwards, they reach the end of the river and plummet, still locked together, over the falls. They disappear in the plume of watery smoke at the bottom of the falls.

A crow flies up the cliff and lands on a branch of the gnarled tree and crows. In response, Matchobin slides to the side of the trunk and to the awaiting ground.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. BOTTOM OF WATERFALL -- LATER

The fierceness of the waterfall smooths out to a quiet lake. Down the side of the lake, the water is still. Nothing disturbs the water as it ebbs slowly on and off the shore, driven by the crush of the nearby waterfall.

Slightly farther down the shore, Benjamin crawls up toward land. Defiantly, he struggles upward, grabbing handfuls of grass to pull himself up. He is drenched but otherwise appears unharmed.

He looks up, illustrating a look of extreme weariness and pain. Resolutely, he struggles to his feet. After a moment, he glances up and down the shoreline.

Roughly twenty feet away, Benjamin notices movement. It is the Joshua/wendigo crawling slowly up onto shore. Joshua/wendigo has one leg and one arm twisted at impossible angles.

Roughly, it pulls itself forward, its head remaining bowed to the ground. Crawling hand over hand, its hand comes across a moccasin.

Looking upward, with black eyes and razor teeth, it sees Benjamin above it, holding something up that is blocking the sun. Joshua's mouth contorts into a rictus, slightly resembling a smile.

JOSHUA

Benjamin.

Quickly, Benjamin drops the large stone onto the head of Joshua, slamming it into darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOTTOM OF WATERFALL -- EVENING

Slightly above the shore, there is now a bonfire licking toward the sky. Benjamin approaches from around a tree, carrying several branches.

He stops and gazes at Joshua/wendigo, which has the large stone still crushing down on its head. Its arms struggle vainly to remove the rock, but with one arm broken, it is a long fight. Its legs pound the shore in agony and despair.

Benjamin sits wearily on a nearby log that sits between the bonfire and Joshua/wendigo. He gazes at the wendigo and then at the bonfire.

A spark separates from the bonfire and flits upward. Benjamin's eyes follow the spark as it rises gently toward the sky and into the darkening night.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROANOKE COLONY -- EVENING

Captain Standish and Mr. Henry stride out of John Hyrcaneous' house and into the main path of the colony. Other sailors can be seen going into another house next to the Hyrcaneous household.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

It hardly makes sense. Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY

Aye, Captain?

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Did we not leave a full colony at this spot not five months ago?

MR. HENRY

Captain?

CAPTAIN STANDISH

(yelling)

Then where are they? They cannot have all disappeared in that short of time.

Captain Standish looks up the main path and sees his sailors going into other houses.

He begins to march shortly up the path.

CAPTAIN STANDISH (CONT'D)
 And where are the signs of struggle?
 If the Indians attacked, there should
 be signs of struggle. But there is
 nothing.

A sailor, standing by the tree in the middle of the path
 calls down to the Captain.

SAILOR #1
 Captain Standish, there's something
 here you might want to look at.

CAPTAIN STANDISH
 (to himself)
 Something I may want to look at?
 Aye. Give me anything to look at.

Captain Standish reaches the sailor by the tree.

CAPTAIN STANDISH (CONT'D)
 Well, what is it? Did you find the
 colony?

SAILOR #1
 No, sir. I found this.

Sailor #1 motions toward the tree with the word "Croatan"
 marked in it.

CAPTAIN STANDISH
 Croatan? What does that mean?

MR. HENRY
 Wasn't that the name of the tribe--

CAPTAIN STANDISH
 I know what the Croatan are, Mr.
 Henry. But why is it here? Did the
 Croatan attack? Did they all leave
 with the Croatan? For the love of
 God, won't someone tell me what
 happened to these people?

A sailor beside a house further down the path, sticks his
 head out from between two houses and yells for the Captain.

SAILOR #2
 Captain, sir. I think you should
 take a look at this.

CAPTAIN STANDISH
 What is it, sailor? More of this
 Croatan nonsense?

SAILOR #2

Sir?

CAPTAIN STANDISH

What, sailor?

SAILOR #2

We have a survivor, Captain!

Captain Standish looks intensely at Mr. Henry and strides off in the direction of the sailor.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROATAN VILLAGE -- AFTERNOON

Tinoweh is beside her mud hut with a view toward the forest. She is sewing, first pushing an awl through the leather to make a hole and then pushing the thread through the hole, drawing it tight.

She glances toward the forest, seeing nothing and bites off the thread. She sighs and reaches for another piece of leather.

Finding the correct piece in her basket, she looks up to the forest edge and sees a distant figure. The figure is walking toward her and appears to have something large on its back.

The piece of leather drops from her hand to the ground. The string and other piece of leather drop next.

Then she is running, running toward the approaching figure.

When she comes near, Benjamin lowers Matchobin gently to the ground, just in time for Tinoweh to leap into his arms, knocking him to the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. ON BOARD THE SHIP -- DAY

It is raining gently. On the ship, a figure sits huddled in a blanket, the head buried. Captain Standish and Mr. Henry stand a few feet away, stealing occasional glances at the figure.

MR. HENRY

She appears to be mute, sir.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

We'll get her back to England. The best doctors in His Majesty's care should be able to wring the story out of her.

MR. HENRY

Perhaps.

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Why do you doubt so, Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY

She just looked as if--

CAPTAIN STANDISH

As if what, Mr. Henry?

MR. HENRY

As if the devil were knocking at her door, Captain!

CAPTAIN STANDISH

Really, Mr. Henry. Well, she seems fit enough for the moment. At least she hasn't lost her appetite.

The two men move off as they continue their conversation.

The figure's cowl slips slowly back to reveal Goody Harcourt, her eyes fully black with a slight, sharp-toothed smile on her face.

FADE OUT:

The End