

FADE IN:

EXT. MT. ERIE, WASHINGTON - NIGHT

The moon is full in the Northwest sky. A small island, sits inside a larger one, just below Mt. Erie. Misty clouds float low over its surface, lit luminously by the moon. A wild cry echoes into the night...

EXT. ASHTON AND ASHLEY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Following down the drifting smoke tendrils, a small group sits around a backyard fire. Logs crackle.

ASHTON and ASHLEY SOLI, 13, dark hair, laughing blue eyes and freckles are identical twins. Ashton puts out his foot, tripping Ashley as she tries to sit down. Ashley reaches over and pulls on his ear. They both laugh.

KEVIN, 13, short red hair, his green eyes sparkle with mischief as he pops a marshmallow in his mouth.

MR. SOLI, Ashton and Ashley's Dad, mid 40's, stirs the fire. His Indian heritage shows in his dark hair and eyes.

ASHTON

Kevin, hand me that skewer, I'm ready for some more marshmallows.

KEVIN

Hold on a sec, I need a Hershey bar before I can take these off.

ASHLEY

Dad, are you going to tell us the story? It's a week before Halloween. You have to tell us about the Spirit Men...its a tradition.

Mr. Soli coughs, clears his throat and smiles.

MR. SOLI

Not to worry Ashley, I always tell the story.

ASHTON

Wait just a minute Dad, we have to put more logs on the fire.

Kevin and Ashton throw logs on the fire, scramble back into position.

MR. SOLI

A long, long, time ago, my Indian ancestors lived peacefully in this beautiful land where eagles flew and
(MORE)

MR. SOLI (CONT'D)
fish and game were plentiful. One day a strange boat was seen on the horizon. The Indians had never seen such a large ship. Afraid, they hid in the woods and watched as the strange people came ashore.

Ashley turns on her flash light, shines it into Kevin's face.

ASHLEY
Boo! Are you scared now Kevin?

Ashley giggles.

KEVIN
NO! Of course I'm not scared.

MR. SOLI
Many of the Indians fled, afraid, but thirteen braves stayed behind. They were the "watchers"...they were called the Spirit Men.

The fire flashes...sparks fly into the sky.

Ashton turns to his sister and Kevin, his eyes wide.

ASHTON
That was weird!

Kevin and Ashley in mock shock, share a spooky laugh.

MR. SOLI
Maybe they're watching right now... The Sprit Men lived on the small island, the one you see from the lookout at the "Top of the World" On Mt. Erie. The lake and the island are shaped like an eye with a small inlet that leads to the ocean...it almost looks like a tear.

Kevin, Ashton and Ashley turn to each other.

ASHTON AND ASHLEY
We should go there!

KEVIN
You guys are weird. We've been there a hundred times before.

ASHTON
I know, but we never looked for the eye. Come on you guys...

ASHLEY

Maybe we'll see the Spirit Men!

Mr. Soli laughs.

MR. SOLI

Maybe you will...anyway, the settlers didn't understand the Indians and their ways. They would sacrifice their animal kills before they ate the meat and used the skin for clothing. The settlers were afraid, so they SLAUGHTERED them.

ASHLEY

Slaughtered them? All of them?

KEVIN

Sick!

MR. SOLI

Yep...all thirteen of them. As the braves were being killed they repeated the same eerie chant...over and over again.

Ashton puts his hand to his mouth, makes sounds like an Indian.

ASHTON

Whaa...whaa...whaa...whaa...

MR. SOLI

It wasn't quite like that. This is what they said, "We will come back, when the moon is high in the fall sky...when the years have come full circle. We will seek our REVENGE and take our spirits back by taking yours!" That day was October 31st, 1808. Hall-oo-ween!

ASHLEY

But Dad, how can anyone know when the years have come full circle? This year it's been 200 years!

KEVIN

Maybe this is the year they'll come back.

MR. SOLI

It could be...you know some say they have heard strange sounds when they have been at the top of Mt. Erie.

Mr. Soli cries out in his Indian tongue towards the sky...

EXT. TOWN OF MT. ERIE - DAY

Old oak trees line the center lane of this small Northwest town. It's almost as if time has stopped. It's a quiet town...not much happens here. The kids ride their bikes on the sidewalk, coming closer.

NELSON, 14, quiet, a bit nerdy with glasses and braces, rides his bike with the other three kids.

Nelson peddles furiously to keep up.

NELSON

I don't want to be an Indian this
Year. Can't we be something else?

They jump off their bikes, park them in the bike stand outside the Dollar Store.

ASHTON

Nelson, you know we have to be
Indians, we are EVERY year...you
can't break tradition.

KEVIN

It beats being Darth Vader or Batman!

Kevin makes a face and playfully punches at Nelson. Nelson holds his hands up and smiles.

They all enter the store.

INT. ASHTON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shopping bags lay on the twin beds. They pull out all the things they bought for their costumes.

KEVIN

Look at this cool face paint I got.
I'm going to put it on like the braves
used to do it.

Ashton drags out a head dress with lots of feathers.

ASHTON

My Dad knows how to do it. We'll
have to ask him. You know his great,
GREAT Grandfather was a part of the
Spirit Men's tribe.

Ashley pulls out a long string of beads.

ASHLEY

Look at these Indian beads. They're
kind of pretty, don't you think?

She smiles.

NELSON

Since when do you wear beads and think things are pretty?

ASHLEY

Geez Louise...I'm a girl, Nelson, just in case you haven't noticed. I'm allowed to wear beads and think things are pretty.

Kevin flops on the bed. Ashton picks up a baseball sitting on his nightstand, tosses it up in the air, catches it, repeats the process.

ASHTON

I think we need to talk about going to Mt. Erie on Friday and see if we can see the Spirit Men.

NELSON

We have school on Friday, you aren't suggesting we play hookie? Besides you know that's just a story. Your Dad has been telling that story ALL your life.

ASHTON

Well...that's the only time we can go...besides, I kind of believe the story. It won't hurt to go check it out...this could be the year.

KEVIN

I'll go...just hope my Dad doesn't find out or he'll skin me alive!

Ashley holds her beads up to her neck, looks admiringly in the dresser mirror. Ashton throws the ball at her. She turns and catches it with a laugh.

ASHLEY

Thought you could trick me again, huh? Not so easy is it Ashton?

Everyone laughs.

ASHTON

So it's decided. No school on Friday. Let's meet on the bike trail behind the library.

Everyone agrees, nodding their heads in unison.

EXT. BIKE TRAIL BEHIND THE LIBRARY - DAY

The gang stands holding their bikes.

ASHTON
Everybody ready?

Kevin and Nelson maneuver their bikes toward the trail.

ASHLEY
I'm ready. I took some brownies
from the pantry and a couple of apples
to eat when we get to the
top...oh...and some bottled water.
They're right here.

Ashley pats her backpack.

NELSON
Good. I love your Mom's brownies.

ASHTON
Let's go gang!

They take off, riding their bikes up the trail.

EXT. MT. ERIE LOOKOUT FACING WEST - LATER

They stop, get off their bikes at the entrance to the first hiking trail. It's a narrow path that leads out to a bluff. The woods are full of tall trees, ferns and rhododendrons. The fall sunlight splashes through the trees. Ashton is first, Kevin and Ashley follow next, Nelson brings up the rear.

ASHLEY
Do you guys really think we'll see
anything?

KEVIN
Who cares. I'd rather be on an
adventure any day than sitting in
Mrs. Beaver's history class.

Ashley giggles.

ASHLEY
I'd be in Home-Ec right now, putting
on an apron and learning to make
meat loaf. Yummy.

ASHTON
You mean Yuk! Come on you guys.
Here's a site marker.

Nelson moves to the front, begins to read.

NELSON
This is the site where the Spirit
Men, watched the big boat arrive
from the west. The year was 1807.

ASHLEY

Guys...the trail marker points this way to the "Top of the World." When we get there we can have a snack.

KEVIN

Speaking of Home-Ec...now you're Suzie home maker.

Everyone laughs, including Ashley.

EXT. TOP OF THE WORLD LOOK OUT - LATER

The view is incredible. From here you can see forever. Small islands dot the landscape, surrounded by water and farmlands. The kids sit on a large boulder eating brownies.

Ashley points to the island in the distance.

ASHLEY

There's the eye...see it? Look to the right and you see the inlet Dad mentioned...it does look a little like a tear. Weird...I never noticed it before.

Ashton stands up.

ASHTON

Cool...but I have to hit the woods... nature calls.

No one answers. The group keeps munching on brownies, looking out into the distance.

Ashton walks off into the woods. He pulls out an elk caller and laughs.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

This ought to be funny. Wait until they hear this.

He puts the elk caller to his mouth and blows out a long eerie sound. He waits and does it again, two more times.

Out of the woods he runs, shouting at the others.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

Did you guys hear that?

KEVIN

Yea! It scared the shit out of us...but did you see this?

Everyone points down to the little island in the center of the eye.

Ashton looks down. In the distance a light fog surrounds the smaller island and just coming out of the fog are six canoes...with INDIANS!

EXT. SMALL ISLAND LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Six canoes glide effortlessly through the water. The Indians' faces are hollow and ancient. As they paddle in perfect rhythm, they chant in a low monotone. Over and over the same chant.

EXT. TOP OF THE WORLD LOOK OUT - CONTINUOUS

Ashton pulls out his cell phone and calls his Dad.

INT. MT. ERIE POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Officer Soli sits at his desk, working on some papers. He takes a chug of his Coke, just as the phone rings.

OFFICER SOLI
Hello. Mt. Erie Police, this is
Officer Soli.

Ashton stands, stares down at the canoes.

EXT. TOP OF THE WORLD LOOK OUT - CONTINUOUS

ASHTON
Dad! Dad! Remember your story about
the Spirit Men? It's true! They're
here Dad...they're HERE!

INT. MT. ERIE POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Officer Soli stands, faces out the window as he talks.

OFFICER SOLI
Son, you're thirteen...you know it's
just a story. Are you trying to
play a hoax on your old Dad for
Halloween? Got to get back to work
now kiddo.

EXT. TOP OF THE WORLD LOOK OUT - CONTINUOUS

Ashton counts the Indians in the canoes.

ASHTON
Dad, it's not a hoax...I'm telling
the truth. I may be thirteen, but I
still see thirteen Indians in canoes!

INT. MT. ERIE POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Officer Soli sits on the edge of his desk.

OFFICER SOLI
Ashton, we'll talk later. Okay?

EXT. TOP OF THE WORLD LOOK OUT - CONTINUOUS

He turns, climbs off the large boulder.

ASHTON
Yea...sure Dad, we'll talk later.

He turns to the others as he hangs up the phone.

ASHTON (CONT'D)
He didn't believe me. Let's go!

They race to get to their bikes.

EXT. MT. ERIE ROAD - LATER

Riding fast down the steep road, they shout back and forth to each other. Ashton has his legs spread out in front, bent low over his bike, leading the way, letting the pedals fly.

In the distance, six canoes continue their journey toward the town.

He calls out to the rest as they reach the main road.

ASHTON
Let's go to my house...we have to devise a plan.

Everyone nods their approval.

INT. SOLI KITCHEN - EVENING

MRS. SOLI, early 40's, has the same blue eyes as the twins. She winks at Nelson as she sets a big pizza in front of him.

MRS. SOLI
Don't be shy Nelson. Eat up.

Ashton puts two big pieces on his plate.

ASHLEY
Mom...you know the story Dad always tells?

Mrs. Soli nods. Smiling as she pours them a soda.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Well...today we saw strange Indians in canoes and...

MRS. SOLI

Honey, you know your Dad just loves to tell that story...but I'm afraid that's all it is. It's time to get your costumes on, so off you go.

INT. ASHTON'S BEDROOM - EVENING

The kids sit on the twin beds all decked out in their Indian costumes. Ashton stands and starts to pace.

ASHTON

Okay...let's get our walkie talkies in sync. Turn them to channel 28.

Everyone fidgets with their dials.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

Nelson, your lookout is the library. Kevin, you'll hang out by the police station. Ashley, you'll be next to the hardware store. I'll move between you three.

Nervous faces are on Ashton as they stand up.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

Okay...this is it. Remember, if anyone sees anything, call it out.

NELSON

Roger...ten - four...over and out.

ASHLEY

Hey! I'm the CB Queen. That's my line.

Kevin gives a thumbs up.

EXT. TOWN OF MT. ERIE - NIGHT

The town is festive. Orange lights rock gently in the trees, pumpkins and bales of hay line the sidewalks. The main street of town is filled with trick-or-treaters.

EXT. LIBRARY- CONTINUOUS

Nelson clicks his walkie talkie. It comes to life with a crackle.

NELSON

I'm in position...copy?

ASHTON (O.S.)

I copy that.

EXT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Kevin leans against the side of the Police Station, pushes his talk button.

KEVIN

I'm in place too...all I see is a bunch of trick-or-treaters. Copy that?

ASHTON (O.S.)

I sure do...Ashley, where are you?

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Ashley fumbles in her pocket trying to find her walkie talkie. She sits down on an old rusty wagon that sits between the hardware store and Mr. Higgins' house.

ASHLEY

This is the CB Queen, I'm here...wish I hadn't eaten so much pizza, I feel sick. Come back?

ASHTON (O.S.)

You're a goof! I copy. We're all in position now. Keep your eyes open.

EXT. POLICE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Coming up the street, a big group of goblins are moving slowly toward Kevin. He reaches into his pocket for a candy bar...distracted while he tries to open it, he looks up and sees a tall INDIAN...

He jumps, his eyes HUGE.

The tall INDIAN turns out to be, ALEX SOLI, 17, Ashton and Ashley's older brother. His rubber knife is angled at Kevin's throat.

ALEX

I'm going to chop off your head and feed you to the wolves you little shit!

Kevin draws his hands up to his chest in defense, dropping his candy bar, when he realizes who it is.

KEVIN

Crap Alex, you scared me! Don't you know we saw the Spirit Men today?

ALEX

I heard...but you kids can't seriously believe that old wives tale?

KEVIN

That's what everyone says, but they're coming and they're coming for blood!

ALEX

Ohhhhhhh...scary!

Alex turns and jogs back to the big group of goblins.

EXT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Nelson sits on the library steps in the dark. There's a rustling coming from the woods. He fidgets, straining to see into the shadows. There's a quick movement...standing between the trees is an INDIAN!

EXT. LIBRARY WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The Indian is ancient and wise, with deep creases in his face. He comes out of the woods...his movements are skeleton-like and ghostly. He looks at Nelson, with eternal eyes, that seem to pierce right through him. He turns, and is gone.

Nelson clicks on his walkie talkie...shaking...

NELSON

Anybody out there...come in? I...I just saw one! I just saw an Indian!

ASHTON (O.S.)

Copy that. Get your butt over here! I see two right now and they just grabbed old Hollister coming out of the store! Oh my God! Hurry!

NELSON

I'll be right there.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

MR HIGGINS, 60's, has a scowl on his face as he makes his way to his trash can. He stops, looks around, grumbling under his breath.

MR. HIGGINS

Stupid trick-or-treaters.

From her position, Ashley watches Mr Higgins walk to his trash can. Suddenly her eyes grow large, she throws her hand over her mouth to cover her scream.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Coming from the shadows, a SPIRIT MAN, with ghostly eyes that look like full moons and hallowed cheeks that are sunk in deep, comes up behind Mr. Higgins.

He raises his voice into the night and makes a call so wild it sends shivers up and down Ashley's spine.

He grabs Mr. Higgins. Furious, he starts to swing at the Indian.

MR. HIGGINS

Just who do you think you are? Get your hands off me! You're too old to be a trick-or-treater!

The Indian eyes him with a puzzled look on his face.

SPIRIT MAN

You are like the rest. You have a black soul and are full of hate. We have slept a long time and now it is time for us to take our REVENGE!

Ashley, keeps her eyes on the Indian, pulls out her walkie talkie, hands shaking...she whispers into the mic.

ASHLEY

Guys...come in? They're here too! HURRY!

The Indian takes the old man by his neck. He dangles like a rag doll, sputtering and coughing.

SPIRIT MAN

Tonight we regain our strength and take back what is ours...YOUR SOULS!

Mr. Higgins is thrashing about now.

MR. HIGGINS

Who are you? Wait until I get a hold of your parents! You'll pay for this!

SPIRIT MAN

NO...IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PAY!

The Indian throws him to the ground, puts his foot in his back, and pulls his head up by his hair. His wild cry is heard as his tomahawk raises to the sky...

Ashley's scream blends with the cries of the Indian as his tomahawk cuts off the scalp of Mr. Higgins.

The screen is splashed with blood...it slowly runs down.

FADE TO BLACK.