

Night of the Bigfoot

(c) Aug. 11, 2008 Michael Shire

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FADE IN:

Collage pictures of old photos and drawings of Bigfoot.  
Text books and video frames of these creatures.

Titles over:

Narrator (V.O.)

The Natives of America had many names for ancient, large, ape-like creatures. Some tribes simply called them 'The Old People', and others the 'Hairy Giants'. The Pacific Northwest Indians called them 'Sasquatch'.

Since the time of newsprint, there were more hoaxes than real sightings because rumors and stories of these legendary creatures always sell papers.

In the late 18 hundreds,  
prospectors and miners reported  
attacks of stones thrown at their  
cabins and strange howls and  
screaming at night.

The first sighting by a white man  
of a so-called 'mountain giant'  
was in 1924, in Washington State.

But the craze surrounding these  
big, peaceful creatures almost  
faded entirely until 1958, when a  
worker found giant footprints in  
the California mountains. He took  
plaster casts, and the name of  
'Bigfoot' was ingrained into  
popular culture and folklore.

With this evidence, there seemed  
to be proof of these giants  
living somewhere in the Rocky  
Mountains.

Then, in 1967, a man with a 8mm  
film camera, captured ten seconds  
of what looked like a large,  
female, hairy creature in the  
wild, walking and looking back at  
the camera.

This has since been largely cited  
as proof of the existence of  
Bigfoot, and has not ever been  
completely proven to be a hoax.

Many people have traveled high up  
into the mountains and into  
wilderness to find any proof of  
their existence.

Some even say that they have  
extraordinary abilities like  
mental communication or  
chameleon-like abilities to avoid  
detection.

This film is dedicated to those  
who believe.

FADE IN:

EXT. BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND - DAY

Somewhere in the Rocky Mountains, at a simple campsite, are two large dome tents are set up near a picnic table and a fire pit.

Nearby, a mini van is parked. A sign says: 'BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND'. There are many vans, cars, and tents set up. The campsite looks full.

In one campsite, some early sounds of someone waking up comes from one of the two dome tents here.

The tent shakes a bit, as a young man unzips the tent from the inside.

He pokes his head out. It is DAN, 18, with short dark hair. He wears jeans, untied hiking boots, and a red T-shirt. He exits the tent, and zips it up again from the outside.

Danny tromps off into some nearby brush and takes a pee.

At the other tent, it unzips too, and it is ADRIAN, older and physically bigger, 22, with dark hair too, but spiked up at the front.

Adrian exits his tent and zips it back up, then goes to the bushes near Dan. Dan calls out to him.

DAN

Don't come over here. This bush is taken.

ADRIAN

That's OK. I've got my own.

The two of them leave the bushes at the same time and meet at the camp fire pit.

DAN

You going to get up?

ADRIAN

I think we'll sleep in a bit more. It's our first camping trip

this year and Donna loves to sleep in.

DAN

(nodding)

Yeah. It's only, like 8 in the morning. I think I'll let Sheri sleep in too.

Adrian goes down to his tent and unzips the tent. He crawls back in and zips it up again.

Dan sits on a log around the fire pit.

He listens to Adrian's tent as the girl inside giggles. He decides to start a morning fire, so he goes to get some firewood under the picnic table. There are three coolers here too, and a back packs.

He brings some wood back, sets up a block of wood on the stone edge of the fire. He grabs the hatchet nearby and splits the wood into some splinters.

While he's doing that, his tent unzips and a girl comes out. It is SHERI, 17, a cute brunette girl with no makeup, and hair tied into a ponytail. She wears jeans, a big sweatshirt, and white and pink runners.

Dan goes into the nearby cooler and grabs some newspaper.

She exits the tent, and zips it up.

He returns to the fire pit, puts it under the wood, and builds a small pile and tries to light it with a disposable lighter under it all.

Sheri walks over to Dan.

SHERI

Hey, Dan. Making a fire?

DAN

Yeah, trying to.

SHERI

(smiles)

I'll be back.

She goes off farther than the guys did, and finds some bushes to go behind.

He tries to light the fire, but it does not catch. So he goes back to the cooler under the picnic bench, and grabs a small container of lighter fluid. He comes back and soaks the tinder and paper with it.

Sheri comes back as he lights it with a lighter, sticking his arm in danger. It goes WOOF as it lights.

SHERI

Hey. That's cheating.

DAN

Doesn't matter. As long as it works.

He smiles, proud of the fire. She walks up to him and kisses him on the cheek.

SHERI

That's my guy. A real woodsman.

She goes back into the tent, while he builds the fire higher.

LATER:

Sheri is sitting at the picnic table, frying sausages in the frying pan, on the portable stove that sits on the table.

Dan is beside her, checking out his GPS.

DAN

At least the GPS works here.  
Can't get a cell phone signal.

SHERI

Isn't that why we're out here? To get away from it all?

DAN

Well, sure.

SHERI

Pass me a plate?

Dan grabs a paper plate from a stack and watches her spear a few sausages. She puts them into the paper plate. He smells them and smiles.

DAN

Mmmm. This outta get them out of their tent.

Sheri puts more sausages into the frying pan.

SHERI

Why don't you try to make some toast?

He grabs and looks over a wire-frame toaster. She opens a loaf of bread and brings out 4 slices, putting them on the table.

Dan grabs a slice of bread and finally puts it inside the wire toaster. He smiles and goes to sit down at the fire.

SHERI

Looks like you figured it out.

DAN

You sound surprised. I went to summer camp a couple of times, you know.

SHERI

You mean it wasn't \*computer\* summer camp?

DAN

(chuckles)

No. That would be a little too geeky - even for me.

Then Adrian opens his tent again, and sticks his head out.

ADRIAN

Oh, Sheri! That smells good. You making more?

Adrian exits his tent, as the girl inside calls out to him.

DONNA (O.C.)

Adrian! I need the spray.

Adrian pauses and turns back to duck into his tent.

ADRIAN (O.C)

Here it is. I was just going to--

DONNA

-- get me some food? Smells good.  
I'll be out in a moment.

Adrian backs out, stands, and turns to Dan and Sheri.

ADRIAN

She's hungry too. What can I say?

He comes over and walks by Dan, smiling.

DAN

Hey man.

Dan nods, still toasting bread.

SHERI

Morning, Adrian. Welcome to the  
big outdoors.

Adrian sits down beside Sheri at the table.

ADRIAN

Morning, girl. Smells good.

SHERI

Yes it does. I brought lots.

From their tent, Donna exits now. This is DONNA, 20, older sister to Sheri. She doesn't look like she's the camping type. Her clothes are not rugged, and she wears shorts. She sprays some insect spray all over her as she gets out.

Donna struggles to zip up the tent as the others get food ready. Dan toasts his second piece, and Sheri makes some more sausages.

ADRIAN

Hey. What do you normally do when  
you're camping? Should we make  
some coffee? Or tea?

SHERI

Did you bring any?

ADRIAN

Well, no. I thought maybe you did.

DAN

Just coke for me.

SHERI

I got some juice.

Adrian waits for Donna to come over. He's looking through two coolers, beside each other.

ADRIAN

Donna. Do you want something to drink?

Donna brushes her hair as she walks over.

She sits down beside Adrian and puts one arm around him, kissing him. She continues to comb her hair and grimace when she finds it tough to brush.

DONNA

Do we have coffee?

ADRIAN

Ah! That's what I said to Sheri, here.

(beat)

But I don't think we brought any.

DONNA

Then, whatever you think. You've got everything handled this weekend, right?

Adrian pulls out a beer from the cooler, and shows it.

ADRIAN

Then, why not have -- a beer?

DONNA

Really? It's too early!

He pops the top and drinks from it. Donna pushes him.

DONNA



Hey. Don't be an alcoholic!

ADRIAN

Don't worry about me. You can  
have some juice.

Adrian brings some juice boxes out, and a coke for Dan.  
Dan and Sheri laugh at him.

SHERI

You gonna drink beer, even when  
no one else is?

ADRIAN

Hey. It's the \*manly\* thing to  
do.

He drink its again, burps, and puts his arm around Donna,  
who smiles.

DONNA

Typical guy.

SHERI

Hey. I just hope you'll be OK for  
the hiking we planned.

ADRIAN

No problem.

Donna finishes brushing her hair, and gets up to go see the  
food cooking. She hugs Sheri a bit.

DONNA

Hey, little sister. I knew we  
brought you along for a reason.  
Those sausages smell excellent.

SHERI

Thanks.

(beat)

Dan built the fire.

DONNA

Thanks, Dan.

Dan looks proud as her carefully removes the toast from the  
wire device, trying not to burn himself.

Donna stands up and looks around.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Hey. Did you guys see some washrooms around here?

SHERI

What about breakfast?

DONNA

I gotta go. What can I say? Too many beers last night for me too!

ADRIAN

It's not the Ritz, girl. You gotta find some bushes somewhere.

DONNA

Forget that! I saw something back aways in the campsite. I'm going there! And you're coming with me. Right, Adrian?

ADRIAN

You're such a princess.

DONNA

That's not true. I just like to be civilized.

ADRIAN

OK. I know better than to argue with you.

Donna smiles now.

DONNA

Ah. That's why I love you. You're very wise.

Adrian gets up and escorts Donna into the campground area. He turns to Dan to do his Terminator impression:

ADRIAN

We'll be back!

SHERI

You better hurry back if you don't want cold sausages.

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

All four of them are climbing a steep slope, looking around at the mountains.

Sheri and Dan are in the lead. They come to a stop beside a sign that says 'FIRE HAZARD: HIGH'. There is a log bench seat here, made for hikers to rest.

Sheri stops, and looks back at Adrian and Donna. She sits down.

Dan sits down, catching his breath. He gets out his GPS device and tries to read it.

SHERI

What's the use in knowing the coordinates of where we are?

DAN

I can keep us on track at all times.

SHERI

Did you ever hear of a compass?

DAN

Ah. That's old technology. This thing can even tell us the elevation.

SHERI

But, there's no trails on your map. Just coordinates.

DAN

Not out here, no. Still, it works fine.

They watch Adrian approach. He pauses and looks around.

ADRIAN

It's awesome up here. Good workout too.

Donna now comes up to them, panting heavy.

DONNA

How do you guys do it? I'm just beat.

ADRIAN

It's good exercise, isn't it?

Donna sits down.

DONNA

This is just like going to the gym. Except there's no coffee bar when I'm done.

They hear a YELL at the bottom of the canyon.

They look down and see two guys in a raft going slowly down the river, heading downstream towards the campsite.

Sheri stands up and looks carefully down at them, then produces a small pair of binoculars.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS:

On the river below, the two guys are drinking beer, and letting the raft spin slowly. One tries to stand and almost falls into the river, as the other grabs his pants and brings him back. They laugh and shout, happily drunk.

Sheri puts down her binoculars now. Dan stands beside her, looking down.

SHERI

Just a couple of idiots. They're gonna drown themselves.

DAN

Two less morons on this planet is OK by me.

ADRIAN

Hey. At least they're not hurting anyone.

As they rest a moment, another young couple of hikers come by, walking down the trail. They pass them and nod, saying 'Hi'. After they pass, Donna comments:

DONNA

At least they're going in the  
right direction.

SHERI

(laughs)

Come on. Just another mile or so  
and we'll be there.

Adrian helps Donna up, and they all walk slowly up the  
trail.

ADRIAN

I'll put you over my shoulder if  
I have to.

DONNA

That might not be so bad.

EXT. BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND - DAY

The four-man rubber raft from earlier is steered up to the  
shore of some gravel landing site. The two men in it are  
RON, scruffy, with long hair, and DEREK, blonde, short  
hair, both in their early 20's.

Ron is up front and jumps out into the water, holding the  
rope as the raft drifts into bushes down the river. The  
raft finally stops, as Ron holds the rope.

The raft brushes some branches here, and gets a puncture,  
which they don't see.

Derek laughs and yells at him:

DEREK

Come on. Pull me in!

RON

Well? Get out, you bastard. You  
can help me!

Derek gets out, into the water now, and wades up to help  
Ron. He grabs the rope too, and they pull the raft onto the  
shore.

They stagger backwards, and fall down together, laughing.

Two girls, wearing life jackets, carry a canoe farther up stream and put it into the water. Derek notices them and bumps Ron. They both stare a moment.

DEREK

Hey, look at those girls.

RON

Oh, yeah. Let's just hang here,  
and look cool.

They watch as the girls get in their canoe, push off and paddle down stream, and in front of them. Both guys look and smile, and then waves as they go by.

The girls wave, then point to their raft.

CANOE GIRL

(shouting)

Looks like you've got a leak!

The girls laugh and continue paddling out of sight. Ron and Derek look at their raft. It is half-deflated now!

Ron gets up and examines the raft, finding the puncture.

RON

Ohhh, man.

EXT. LOOKOUT POINT - DAY

Far up the trail, The four friends have stopped at the lookout spot. Adrian looks around and down.

ADRIAN

Hey. Did anyone remember to bring  
a camera?

DAN

No. Just this GPS. Sorry, but  
there's no camera.

DONNA

Yes. I got my cell phone. It has  
a camera -- even video mode,  
although I don't know how to work  
it.

DAN

I could figure it out, if you want.

DONNA

It's alright Dan. Just the camera is fine.

She walks over to Adrian, and gives him a hug, then pulls out her phone and flips it open. She then scans and takes a snapshot picture of the valley and the mountains behind.

DONNA

Hey. What about a picture of you and me?

DAN

You want me to take the picture? No problem?

Dan gets the camera from Donna and takes a picture of Adrian and Donna, side by side.

ADRIAN

OK. And one more. -- ready?

When Dan is ready, Adrian dips Donna like a dance and kisses her. Dan takes the picture.

They laugh at Adrian as they stand up again.

DAN

That was a good one. Here.

Dan hands it back to Donna. Then goes beside Sheri, who is sitting down digging into her pack for food.

DAN

Maybe we should get a picture too.

Sheri looks over and shakes her head, frowning.

SHERI

After we eat. Then we'll pose.

Dan rolls his eyes in frustration of Sheri.

DAN

OK.

Sheri pulls out some sandwiches and juice boxes and bottled water.

They all sit and relax a moment.

SHERI

Today is just a perfect day.

EXT. BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND - DAY

The two guys carry the half-deflated raft through the campsite, and past the BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND sign. Ron carries their BUDWEISER pack with the beer in it, and he has one open in his free hand.

They get to the far side, past a few other campers and barking dogs.

They are chilled now, and shivering, so they set down the raft and go to their firepit, which is empty.

RON

Come on, let's get a fire going.  
I'm cold.

DEREK

I hear you.

Derek goes to their big 4X4 truck and into the back, while Ron gets some more wood and puts it into the firepit.

Derek comes back with a can of camping fire-starter fluid.

RON

OK. Go ahead, soak it.

Derek sprays some fluid on it, as Ron finds some newspaper and rolls it up.

Derek puts down the can nearby, and Ron lights one end with his lighter. Once it is lit, he leans into the fire and puts the paper down to the logs.

It goes WOOF! and lights up. Ron falls back a bit, on his ass. Derek just laughs at him.



DEREK

Hey. Almost got your face burned off.

RON

That's OK. Come on, let's patch the raft.

Ron gets to his feet, as the fire burns a bit. He drinks some from his beer can, and then goes to turn the raft over and brush off the puncture spot.

Derek goes back to his truck and goes into the back to open the toolbox there. He grabs a patch kit and goes to the raft.

They patch it up as they talk.

RON

Hey. What do you say we go after those girls in the canoe, and see if they want to have some beer with us?

DEREK

Sure. We can try. But they'll be a ways ahead of us.

(beat)

Let's have some lunch first.

RON

Oh, yeah. I'm starving. What do you got?

DEREK

Bavarian Smokies.

RON

Oh, yeah.

DEREK

(continuing)

-- with mega cheese, buns

(beat)

and BEER!

RON

Oh, yeah! Now that's camping!

Derek gets his cooler form the truck, puts it on the picnic table there, and opens it up.

While Derek sets the patch over the puncture, Derek grabs the fire-starter fluid again and goes to the fire.

DEREK

Hey, man. We gotta get this fire going if we're gonna do some cooking!

Derek aims the fluid at the fire and squeezes the can's sides. He makes a flame-thrower of the can as it saturates the fire, and the flames grow ever higher.

When he stops squeezing, the fire follows the stream up into the can and the can suddenly expands when the fire goes up to the can.

Derek's eyes go wide! He panics and throws the can with both hands into the woods beside the campsite.

When he does this, the can spins a bit and sprays about twenty feet of trees and bushes with the fire-starter!

Suddenly, Ron and Derek freeze for a moment, looking at a huge fire starting in the woods.

DEREK

Oh, my God. Help me put this out.

They run to the woods, and start beating down the fire, with their jackets and stomping it with their feet.

In a matter of seconds it grown even bigger.

They battle it for almost a minute before they give up.

They stand back and watch it, as they both have horror on their faces.

RON

What the hell'd you do that for?

DEREK

It was an accident.

RON

We better get the hell out of here.

Behind them two other families come running up and see the large fire. They start shouting and running back to their own campsites.

Ron and Derek, throw everything in the truck, except the raft.

Ron grabs the raft, pauses, and looks at Derek.

RON  
Do we have time?

DEREK  
We'll try.

EXT. LOOKOUT POINT - DAY

Sheri zips up her backpack and puts it on her back now.

Dan wears his backpack and stands at the lookout, looking around, and over towards the campground area, far below.

Adrian and Donna are getting ready to go back down. They do not have backpacks on.

DAN  
Sheri. Come on. Let's get a picture taken together.

Sheri nods, then comes over, beside Dan, and poses.

SHERI  
OK. Go ahead.

Donna takes out her camera again and gets ready to take the picture. Sheri then holds a kiss on Dan's cheek.

Donna takes a snapshot of them standing there.

SHERI  
(to Dan)  
That's all you get for now.

Dan pretends to be hurt, jokingly.

DAN  
But, honeybee?

They all look at the picture in the camera, then Dan goes back to looking down the valley.

DAN  
Hey, you guys. There's something big going on down the valley.

Sheri comes over to him and looks down too. Then the other two come over to look.

They all see a lot of white smoke coming from back down at their campsite.

ADRIAN  
That's down at our campsite.

DONNA  
What do you think it is?

SHERI  
Well it looks like somebody started a big fire.

DAN  
I hope it's not too big. -- I mean --

They look at each other, worried now.

ADRIAN  
Let's get going back.

DAN  
Yeah. Quick.

DONNA  
I can't go too fast, you guys.

ADRIAN  
We know. Just as fast as you can.

They get going down the trail, quickly.

EXT. BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND - DAY

Ron and Derek both have the rubber raft on the roof of the truck and are bungee cording it down to the roof. The fire is growing large and it's dangerous to be near it. Ron is getting almost cooked with the fire.

DEREK

Shit! That's close enough. Let's go.

A few other campers have loaded all their gear in the campsite now. Several trucks and cars, in the panic, reverse and forward to get out onto the road to escape.

Derek forces his way into the line up too, and with in a minute most vehicles are gone.

The fire is spreading slowly through the campsite.

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

The four friends are all going pretty fast, as they come to this rest stop again.

Donna and Dan are pretty winded, but Adrian and Sheri want to keep going.

Dan sits down beside Donna here. He's breathing hard but sees that Sheri and Adrian are still ready to go.

DAN

Why don't you two go on? We'll catch up as soon as we can.

Donna looks over at Dan and Adrian.

DONNA

Yeah. Go ahead. I'll just slow you down.

ADRIAN

You sure?

Sheri is a few paces down the trail already, looking back.

SHERI

Come on, Adrian. We gotta go see if there's anything we can do to help.

ADRIAN

(to Donna)

OK, baby. Just take your time. We'll meet you back at the campsite.

(then to Dan)

You'll take care of her, right?

DAN

Absolutely. You guys be careful too.

Adrian kisses Donna passionately. Dan watches.

ADRIAN

Come on, then. Let's go.

DONNA

Be careful!

Adrian and Sheri start jogging down the trail.

As they watch the two go out of sight, Dan looks up and sees a helicopter pass overhead. It looks like a forestry copter.

DAN

Wow. I hope it's not as bad as it seems.

DONNA

I'm getting a really bad feeling.

They look at each other, worried.

EXT. BEARSPAW CAMPGROUND - DAY

The entire campground is almost destroyed by fire now. The flames are very high, spewing sparks everywhere.

Adrian and Sheri come running down the trail to the campground. They see the inferno.

ADRIAN

Holy shit. This is bad!

SHERI

Let's see if there's anything we  
can save from our campsite.

Adrian motions to her to follow and they go off to one side, following a trail through the smoke, coughing.

They get to their campsite, and watch as the minivan has a burning branch fall onto its roof.

The minivan catches on fire and is very soon in total flames.

Sheri tries to go to the closest tent, but Adrian pulls her back.

ADRIAN

(yelling)

Forget it!

He pulls her back and they watch as another tree branch falls onto the tents now, lighting them up.

The heat is so intense that they back up, watching.

Suddenly, the minivan EXPLODES from the gas tank. This sends more fuel into the surrounding woods.

Both of them fall to the ground, protecting their faces.

They get back up quickly and get out of there.

EXT. WOODED MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

Donna and Dan are walking back down the trail, looking very concerned. He stops them, and points to the misty wall of smoke slowly coming to them.

DAN

Holy shit. Look at that smoke!  
It's getting thick!

DONNA

Yeah. Looks pretty serious to me.

DAN

What if that turned out to be a forest fire?

DONNA

Aw, come on! Don't just say the worst thing that can happen! I'm already worried.

DAN

OK. I'm sorry.

(beat)

We'll see.

Ahead of them they see Sheri and Adrian coming out of the light smoke, coughing a bit and running to them.

They come another 100 paces of no smoke, right up to them, panting heavy from running. Their faces are dirty too.

ADRIAN

I've got bad news!

DONNA

Don't tell me.

Donna runs into Adrian's arms to hug him.

SHERI

It's a really big fire.

DONNA

I said -- Don't tell me.

Dan comes to comfort Sheri.

DAN

(to Sheri)

We can see that. There's a lot of smoke.

(then to Adrian)

So the campground is --?

ADRIAN

It's all in flames.

DONNA

There's no way back?



SHERI

Donna. It's a forest fire.

DAN

Shit! So, we're trapped up here.

Donna shakes her head, still in denial.

DONNA

(to Sheri)

What about mom's minivan?

Sheri breaks out into tears. Dan hugs her closer.

SHERI

It's totally gone. Cooked.

DONNA

Oh, shit.

They all huddle together a moment, while they assess the situation. Adrian looks around to get his bearings better, then straight at Dan.

ADRIAN

(to Dan)

So what should we do, now?

DAN

I don't know. I've never been in a forest fire.

ADRIAN

OK. Don't get sarcastic! I just thought you might have read about it.

DAN

I'm sorry. I just --

(beat)

Let's sit a moment and get our bearings. We gotta make a plan.

Younger sister Sheri sits down beside Dan. Donna and Adrian also sit, and Adrian comforts the older sister.

Dan then checks his GPS device, and turns it bit to orient his sense of direction.

Donna gets out her cell phone, she waves it around, trying to get a signal.

DONNA  
Damn it. Still no cell phone  
signal.

ADRIAN  
Let me see that.

Donna hands it to Adrian, who also pushes lots of buttons.

ADRIAN  
Well, we did want to get away  
from it all. This is it.

Donna looks angrily to Adrian. She has tears in her eyes too.

DONNA  
Don't make it worse, with your  
stupid comments.

ADRIAN  
Well, I never asked to be caught  
in a forest fire!

DONNA  
Do you think any of us did?

Adrian pauses and puts his hands over his face. Sheri and Dan give him dirty looks too.

ADRIAN  
OK. I'm sorry. We can make it  
through this. Dan's got his GPS.

SHERI  
(to Dan)  
Yeah. It's good thing you brought  
that.

DAN  
At least this works -- for now.  
(beat)  
OK. We're north of the  
campground.  
(beat)

If we keep going north on the hiking trail, that would take us right over the mountain.

SHERI

But that may be too steep for all of us to travel quickly, and maybe the fire will move quicker uphill.

DAN

Do we know fire goes faster uphill?

ADRIAN

I think it depends on the wind.

(checking the wind)

Well, right now we are upwind of the fire, so it's going to chase us up the mountain.

Sheri looks closer at the GPS.

SHERI

So what's east and west?

DAN

West is the river, but the drop is down a cliff face -- from the lookout area.

ADRIAN

But if we get on the other side of the river, then the fire won't follow, right?

SHERI

Not really. I've heard that sparks can take a fire right across a river.

DAN

I guess it depends on how big the fire gets.

ADRIAN

(to Dan)  
And what's east?

DAN

East looks OK. There's another gorge of some sort, and then the Indian Reservation.

SHERI

We might have to go for that.

They pause a second. They look back down the trail and the smoke is closer now.

DAN

Then let's look for a trail heading northeast.

DONNA

What about waiting for rescue?

ADRIAN

I don't know. How long will that take? After they spot the fire, then what? -- a few hours to get firefighters out here?

DONNA

It's possible.

ADRIAN

You're right. It's possible. But we can't just wait for the fire to get up here. We got to stay ahead of it.

Adrian stands up.

ADRIAN

OK. Being the oldest, I'll take the responsibility to make sure we all get out of here. We should go northeast, like Dan said.

Dan and Sheri stand up too.

DAN

Thanks, Adrian. I'm just as much responsible to get Sheri and Donna out of here.

ADRIAN

OK. We'll do it together.

SHERI

Yes. All together.

Donna gets up now, and Sheri hugs her. The boys go forward, and the girls follow, holding hands.

EXT. FORK IN TRAIL - DAY

The four walk along the climbing trail, looking to the right, as white smoke keeps pushing them forward.

To the right, Sheri sees something that looks like a trail.

SHERI

Hey, over here!

She goes in to the darker forest and they see an animal trail, very narrow.

ADRIAN

Alright, That's northeast, right?

DAN

Yes.

They all go now down the animal trail, single file: Sheri, Dan, Donna, Adrian.

They travel a ways, getting a bit lost. Sometimes the smoke is on the left, sometimes right, but always close behind them.

LATER:

After a while, Sheri stops, and they all catch up to her.

There is a fallen tree across the trail. They have a difficult time, but get across the log, one at a time.

To their shock, a deer comes bounding out of the forest to pass very near them, driven by the approaching fire.

DAN

Holy crap!

ADRIAN

That was awesome. Too bad I didn't have a rifle or something.

They continue over the fallen tree, and Donna gets scraped up a bit on the bark and a broken branch.

DONNA

Ow! The woods hate me! Why didn't we go to the beach instead?

ADRIAN

You know why!

DONNA

Yeah. I know why, I guess.

Sheri comes and checks out Donna.

SHERI

I'm sorry that camping in the mountains was my idea. How could we have known that we'd be traveling through heavy forest?

DONNA

It's Ok, sis. We'll get through this, right?

SHERI

Sure we will.

Just then, they hear a loud WHOOP, WHOOP, and YELL.

They all freeze as the echoes of it fade away. They look around in fear. To the south there is white smoke approaching.

ADRIAN

What the hell was that?

DONNA

I don't know.

SHERI

Sounded like a man -- possibly.

Dan then comes back, closer to them.

DAN

Sheri. You've been camping for years with your dad and such, right? Have you ever heard such a sound?

SHERI

No. Never.

They look around and then Sheri sees a shadowy creature, fully eight feet tall, in between the distant trees ahead.

SHERI

Hey. Right there!

She points and then the figure is gone. They all look but can't see anything.

DAN

What do you think you saw?

SHERI

I don't know. Could've been a bear on its hind legs.

ADRIAN

What does that mean?

SHERI

I don't Know!

ADRIAN

So we have possibly a bear chasing us, or a man? We're not sure.

DAN

(annoyed)

It does not have to be chasing us. It's probably running from the fire too.

ADRIAN

That's my point. Every trapped animal is coming this way too.

DONNA

OK. Stop freaking us out! So what can we do about it?

ADRIAN

Maybe make some spears of some sort? I mean, really, what weapons do we have against these animals?

SHERI

I have this little hatchet.

Sheri brings out a hatchet from her backpack. She gives it to Adrian.

ADRIAN

Good. It's not a rifle, but it's something!

DAN

So, let's keep an eye out for long sticks that can be sharpened into spears, right?

ADRIAN

Now you're thinking.

SHERI

The fire is still coming, let's move!

They get moving down the narrow trail.

EXT. ANIMAL HUT - DAY

Dan is leading now, and comes into a small clearing. He pauses for the rest to catch up. They arrive, then catch their breath.

DAN

I hope we've been going in the right direction!

He looks at his GPS again.

DAN (CONT'D)

I mean, we can't just go northeast -- there's no trail.  
(beat)



So I've been following this winding trail, and we're going mostly east.

(beat)

But still not a lot farther ahead of the smoke that's coming for us.

They all look south to see the creeping smoke coming.

DONNA

My God. What's that smell?

They all smell something at the same time. It is not good.

ADRIAN

I don't know. Is that a skunk?

SHERI

I've smelled skunks before. It's not that. Maybe like something's dead.

Adrian spots something southward, into the dense woods.

ADRIAN

Hey. What's that?

DAN

I don't know.

Dan and Adrian move toward it. Both sisters call out.

SHERI

Don't leave the trail.

DONNA

Just forget it. Come back.

ADRIAN

Just give me a couple of minutes. I want to see what it is.

Dan follows him, and looks back to Sheri.

DAN

Me too. Don't worry. It might be something to help.

The men walk a dozen paces into the heavy woods.

The girls wait on the trail, looking around.

DONNA

Damn boys. Why do they have to be  
so curious?

Adrian and Dan arrive at what looks like a domed animal shelter, with lots of bent-over saplings, and branches covering it. The smell comes from inside, and Adrian and Dan both react to the smell by covering their noses.

They peer inside and see what looks like a den of sorts, but no animals are inside. It is large enough that they go inside.

They hold their noses and look around, inside, bend over just a bit, but otherwise six feet tall at the center.

To one side they see a carcass of a deer, skinned, and no fur is around anywhere.

They think it might be a human. But on closer look, they see the head of a deer.

BACK ON THE TRAIL:

Both girls wait for the guys to come back.

DONNA

Are you OK?

SHERI

Yes. I mean -- considering.

DONNA

Well, you know way more about the outdoors than me, so I have to count on you.

SHERI

That's OK.

(beat)

I should be more worried about you, you know.

DONNA

Hey, I'm tougher. I'll always take care of my little sister.

SHERI

Sure. In the city, you can protect me as much as you want. Show me what malls are the best places for sales. Maybe even the best hair stylist.

DONNA

(laughs)

Of course!

(beat)

That's not all there is to a city though. You gotta get street-wise. I can teach you how to talk to pan-handlers and beggars, and even how not to get mugged.

SHERI

I guess that's as good as how to avoid pissing off a bear, or how to find the best fishing spots.

DONNA

See? It's not completely different.

They smile and watch as the guys come back now, over the heavy brush. Adrian carries a pointed pole.

Adrian comes first, then Dan.

ADRIAN

That was a pretty cool place. Looks like a man-made shelter of some sort, but it had lots of animal hair, so we think it was used for an animal shelter.

DAN

The stink was from a carcass of a deer. Looks like it was skinned for its fur.

DONNA

(to Adrian)

And looks like you found a spear?

ADRIAN

(showing the spear)  
Oh, yeah. Found this there too.  
Looks like it'll work great.

Sheri gets to her feet, to get going.

SHERI  
That's very interesting, but --  
(beat)  
-- shouldn't we get going?

DAN  
Yes. You're right. Let's go.

Dan points down a trail and they start following the trail.

EXT. SMALL CLEARING - DAY

White smoke is getting thick here, and the woods are still pretty dense, with lots of underbrush.

Some of the four friends are coughing as they come out of the smoky area and get into some clearer air.

Sheri is in the lead now, and she is followed by Dan.

They sit down on a fallen log, coughing a bit. Sheri brings out two bottles of water, already half empty. They drink it up.

SHERI  
This is the last of the water.

Dan takes the other bottle and drinks from it too.

DAN  
OK. I'll save the rest for hero  
boy.

They wait for Donna, then Adrian, who arrives soon, also coughing. Dan gives the bottle to Adrian, who drinks the rest.

ADRIAN  
Damn, that was good.

DAN  
That was the last of it.

Donna drinks the rest of the bottle from Sheri. She hands back the empty bottle to Sheri, who puts it in her pack.

DAN

We can't stay in the smoke too long.

ADRIAN

Yeah. No shit.

SHERI

Donna? You OK, you guys?

DONNA

We gotta get farther ahead of the fire.

DAN

We don't know where the hell the fire is moving to.

ADRIAN

It's just following the wind.

Adrian looks up and sees something ahead, high up, just above the trees.

ADRIAN

Hey. That looks like a watch station.

All of them turn to look and they see the tower above the trees. It's maybe 200 paces ahead.

DAN

Hey! Maybe there's a ranger there!

DONNA

And maybe some place, safe from the fire?

DAN

I don't know if that's going to be any safer from a huge forest fire.

DONNA

Why not?

DAN

Well, it looks like it's made of timber.

They squint and look closely.

ADRIAN

I think you're right, Dan.

DAN

But! There still may be a way to be rescued from this.

ADRIAN

Exactly. Let's get going.

They all get to their feet and go again.

EXT. RANGERS TOWER - DAY

They all arrive at the bottom of the tower and look up 100 feet.

The tower is made of wooden timbers, and there's a good wooden ladder going up all the way.

SHERI

That's a long ways up. I can't go up there.

DONNA

I'm afraid of heights too.

DAN

No problem. I can do it.

ADRIAN

OK, Dan. You go up and I'll stay down here to protect the girls.

Adrian grabs the spear and stands to one side.

DAN

(goes up to Sheri)  
Wish me luck?

This time he gets a kiss from Sheri, as Adrian looks on, raising his eyebrows.

SHERI

Be careful.

Dan now starts going up the wooden ladder.

After a few feet up, Adrian calls to him.

ADRIAN

Dan! What if the door's locked up there?

Dan pauses and thinks about it.

DAN

I don't know.

ADRIAN

I better give you the hatchet, so you can chop your way in, if need be.

Adrian hands up the hatchet to Dan, who tucks it into his belt loop.

DAN

OK. I should be good to go now.

He looks up, then starts climbing.

From under the tower, looking up, it seems very far up, and it is. He looks down after 30 feet, thinking that he would fall to his death from here.

From below, Sheri looks up, encouraging him.

SHERI

Just take your time, Dan. And maybe don't look down.

Dan looks down, one last time then keeps on going up.

DOWN BELOW:

All three watch him a while, then talk.

ADRIAN

That's pretty dangerous, man. I hope he makes it.

SHERI

Of course he'll make it.

ADRIAN

He's kinda gutsy after all.

SHERI

Yeah, he's a good guy, really.

DONNA

What do you think he'll find up there?

SHERI

Well. I don't think there's a ranger up there, or he might have seen us by now.

DONNA

But what kinda stuff do you think they have up there?

SHERI

I don't know. Radios? Maybe some food.

ADRIAN

Better not be computer games, or we'll never see Dan again!

Sheri laughs, pushing Adrian.

SHERI

Don't be an idiot. They don't have electricity.

ADRIAN

I know that! But does Dan know that?

DONNA

Hey, Dan is a geek, sure, but at least he's brave enough to climb a hundred foot tower!



ADRIAN

Hey! I would've done it too. But  
he's just lighter, so therefore -  
- faster.

SHERI

Yeah, OK. Whatever you say.

DONNA

Let's stay focused on being  
rescued, OK?

ON THE LADDER:

Dan is now almost to the top.

Just then he hears the loud WHOOP, WHOOP, and YELL, that  
they heard earlier.

He freezes, frightened now. He looks all the way down  
below. His friends below just look up at him.

ADRIAN

(shouting)

Just keep going.

Dan pauses and looks down a bit, closing his eyes and  
refocusing to look to the top. He continues climbing.

DOWN BELOW:

They look around, worried.

SHERI

That's definitely not a bear, or  
a wolf.

ADRIAN

What freakin' creature can make  
such a noise?

DONNA

Don't look at me. I have no idea.

SHERI

Not an elk, or moose --

Off to one side, Sheri notices a figure walking in the  
woods again.

SHERI (CONT'D)

Shit!

She keeps staring in the direction, until Adrian and Donna also look. Now they all see it. It's a hunched over hairy creature, like a brown haired gorilla, maybe 5 feet high. But it's deep in the woods and it is hard to make out.

DONNA

That's not a freakin' bear is it?

SHERI

No. That's not a bear.

Adrian holds the spear nervously, thinking about defending them, if need be.

ADRIAN

Don't tell me that's a sasquatch!

SHERI

What the hell else it can be?

DONNA

Holy shit!

They watch a moment and then it is gone.

ADRIAN

Where is it? Can you see it?

DONNA

(pointing)  
No. It was over there.

ADRIAN

I know \*where\* it was. Just tell me if you see it again.

They keep looking in one direction.

IN THE TOWER:

Dan opens the trap door, and climbs up inside the room.

He leaves the trap door open and looks around quickly. It is a single, small room, with windows all around. There are some steel cabinets that need a key to open. There are two simple wooden chairs and counter space along the south wall.

He goes to the floor opening again and lies down, looking down to his friends below.

DAN  
(shouts)  
Hey, I made it.

Sheri looks up and waves. The others are looking around carefully. She points in one direction and Dan looks that way. He does not see anything.

DAN  
Can't see nothing over there.

Dan then gets up and looks out the windows.

First he looks across and sees the whole valley, then to the south he sees a huge wall of white smoke, coming near to where they are. The fire is very large, and he can even see some flames from where he's at. The wind blows in their direction.

He looks at the sun and sees that it is almost behind the mountain to the east.

DAN  
Shit. That's not good.

He looks to some cabinets and tries to open them, but they are locked.

He takes out his hatchet, and carefully aims it at one of the cabinet doors. He then chops it, hard, but it only dents the sheet steel door.

So he hits it, again and again, slowly denting it more and more, just starting to pierce it now.

BELOW:

The three people at the foot of the tower are looking in one direction, when they hear a loud CAT GROWL behind them.

They turn and see an adult mountain lion, probably 150 lbs, with body about 5 feet long, and only ten paces away.

Donna SCREAMS at the big animal. Sheri also SCREAMS.

Adrian quickly gets in front of the girls to protect them. He lowers his spear and keeps it aimed at the big cat.

DONNA

What the hell?

SHERI

That's an adult mountain lion.

DONNA

That's what I figured. Do you think it wants to eat us?

ADRIAN

Probably just on the run from the fire too.

The cat circles them, looking dangerous. Then it jumps up on something a little higher, to look down on them.

SHERI

Just back away from it.

ADRIAN

I got this spear. If it attacks I'll spear it.

DONNA

And if you miss?

ADRIAN

Well, then --

Adrian starts backing up too.

Then from the north they hear a man shouting. It is a native Indian, TOM WHITE EAGLE, perhaps 35 years old, dressed in good hunting and outdoors clothing. He speaks English fine.

WHITE EAGLE

Hey! Hey! Hey!

As he approaches, he gets the attention of the mountain lion, and walks toward it slowly.

He reaches into his sheath and draws a very large hunting knife, then goes closer to the animal.

Adrian backs up more and lets the Indian command the attention of the lion.

White Eagle stops a few paces away from it and talks low and calmly to it, while having his knife ready.

WHITE EAGLE

We are not your enemy. Go your way, and we will go ours.

ADRIAN

Hey -- friend. Do you want this spear?

WHITE EAGLE

Hold your ground. The lion will see we are superior -- and then retreat.

ADRIAN

It's a good thing you came when you did. We're --

White Eagle holds up a hand toward Adrian while still watching the lion.

WHITE EAGLE

Don't talk so much.

(beat)

I think he is confused and scared.

ADRIAN

He's scared? What about us?

WHITE EAGLE

He doesn't know what to do about the fire.

(beat)

Maybe he thinks we threaten him, and his land.

(beat)

And maybe he's right.

UP TOP:

In the tower, Dan chops his last shop and the cabinet finally opens.

Dan looks inside and sees a large first aid box, and boxes of dried food pouches. He starts putting everything into his back pack.

DOWN BELOW:

White Eagle reaches backwards for the spear.

WHITE EAGLE

OK. Give me the spear now. I'll  
have to make him back down.

Adrian puts the spear almost into his hand, as the Indian reaches for it. But Adrian drops it too soon, and it falls out of the Indians grasp too.

White Eagle takes his attention of the mountain lion and reaches down to get the spear.

Just then, the mountain lion leaps and tackles him.

White Eagle defends himself with his arm up, and his reversed knife at the ready.

The lion and the Indian roll around on the ground for a moment as it growls and snaps at him, trying to bite him. Finally he gets a bit on his forearm.

The Indian yells as he is being bitten on the arm.

Finally, he slices at the lion, somewhere on its shoulder, and it yelps and releases him, running off into the woods, going north.

White Eagle holds his bleeding arm, and cradles himself as he lies on the ground.

Adrian stands there, no knowing what to do.

Donna too, looks confused. She runs to be beside Adrian.

DONNA

Are you OK?

Sheri decides to help out White Eagle and she goes to his side, to help him.

She carefully touches him, and jumps back a step as he reacts to her. She looks at him in the face and he knows she wants to help.

WHITE EAGLE

Sorry.

SHERI

I'm sorry for you being hurt.

Sheri sees the blood and puts her hand on his arm.

SHERI (CONT'D)

What can I do to help?

WHITE EAGLE.

I need to have my arm bandaged  
up.

SHERI

I'll see what I have.

She opens her pack and finds a very small first aid kit,  
with bee sting salve, sunburn cream, band-aids, and a small  
bit of gauze.

SHERI

You think this will help?

White Eagle looks at it, and despite his pain, he laughs.

WHITE EAGLE

That wouldn't bandage up a  
wounded squirrel.

She laughs a bit too, nervously.

UP TOP:

Dan looks down the ladder and sees the new person there. He  
starts coming down the ladder, now with a bigger pack.

BELOW:

Adrian is kneeling beside White Eagle, who struggles to sit  
up now. Adrian has picked up his spear. With Donna, he  
watches Sheri try to make up a bandage for the Indian.

ADRIAN

By the way, thanks. You saved us.

WHITE EAGLE

You know -- I was trying to save  
the lion from you.

ADRIAN

Oh.

(beat)

Then why did you wound it?

WHITE EAGLE

I only defended myself. All  
animals have the right to do  
that. But, I did not kill it.

White eagle looks up and sees Dan coming down the ladder.

WHITE EAGLE

I see another -- who needs  
rescuing.

SHERI

That's our friend Dan. He went up  
the tower to see if there was a  
radio or something to call for  
help.

WHITE EAGLE

I think he did not find such a  
thing. They don't leave their  
equipment up there. Somebody  
might come along and steal it.

DONNA

Can we ask -- what are you doing  
here?

White Eagle looks at her.

WHITE EAGLE

I could smell the fire from many  
miles. But it was the call of the  
Bigfoot that brought me.

DONNA

So that \*was\* Bigfoot.

WHITE EAGLE

You mean -- you saw it?



SHERI

Yes, we all saw it. Just over there.

White eagle looks in the direction where she points.

ADRIAN

So you know about the Bigfoot.

(beat)

It's not just a legend?

WHITE EAGLE

I've seen it with my own eyes, only once, many years ago. I've seen his tracks, and even his den, but have not seen him since.

ADRIAN

Back there, was a dome-like shelter, made of bend trees and branches. Do you think --?

WHITE EAGLE

Yes. I could be.

ADRIAN

But the fire would have burned it by now.

DONNA

What about the fire? It'll soon be here.

WHITE EAGLE

Yes, we should be going. We need to go east.

White eagle gets to his feet.

The others all watch as Dan climbs the last few rungs down the ladder. He gets to the ground, a little shaky, then comes over to them.

SHERI

Dan. This is --

WHITE EAGLE.

(nodding)

I am White Eagle. Good to see

you.

(then to them all)

And to you all. I will help to  
see you live through this fire.  
But you must follow me.

DAN

OK. Mr. Eagle.

(then to the others)

There wasn't any radio or  
anything up there. But the fire  
is \*huge\*. It goes all along this  
ridge from south to south west.

ADRIAN

Was there anything you found that  
can help us?

DAN

Yes. I found lots of dried food.

SHERI

That won't help without water.

DONNA

Don't remind me. I am very  
thirsty now.

DAN

I also found a big first aid kit.  
Do you think --?

WHITE EAGLE

No. I'm OK. We must go now.

(beat)

We'll pass over a creek . It's  
about a half hour hike.

They start following the Indian, east.

Adrian lets Dan and Sheri go ahead again. He stays back and  
talks quietly to Donna.

ADRIAN

So, we've got a forest fire on  
our ass, no water, and it's  
almost night.

DONNA

I don't want to spend the night  
on this mountain. Not with that  
Bigfoot out there too.

ADRIAN

But we've got an Indian guide.  
That's good, right?

EXT. LOG BRIDGE - DUSK

The sun is down but there is still some light out. To the south, there is a glow of orange as the fire creeps closer. Also there are wisps of smoke that they must walk through.

The five of them come out of heavily wooded area to come upon a large fallen tree, that crosses a small ravine, perhaps 30 feet across, but 50 feet down.

White eagle is in the front and he stops at the edge of the ravine for the others to catch up.

They all arrive and look worried when seeing the drop down. If they fell off they could be seriously hurt. Across the ravine, they see the side of a tall, steep mountain. It goes a log ways both north and south.

WHITE EAGLE

We must cross here. On the other side of this ravine is all Reservation Land. If there were no forest fire, I wouldn't recommend you go there. But -- I'll guide you.

DAN

OK. If you go first.

WHITE EAGLE

You don't trust me?

DAN

I trust you. That log, I don't know about.

WHITE EAGLE

This old bridge has been here all

my life, so it is pretty old. I  
know it can hold two people.

Sheri looks doubtful, but looks to Dan. She looks back at  
the smoke coming through the forest.

SHERI

You really think it's OK?

Dan nods. Adrian and Donna look to them too. Adrian shrugs.

White Eagle steps onto the log and quickly walks across.  
Then from the other side, he calls to them.

WHITE EAGLE

You must come now. The fire is  
getting close.

ADRIAN

OK. Who's next? Donna?

DAN

How about I go, then the girls,  
then Adrian?

ADRIAN

I guess so. I'll make sure  
they're safe from this side.

(then to Donna)

And Dan can watch out for you on  
that side.

(beat)

So go ahead, Dan.

Dan steps onto the log and walks across, pretty sure of  
himself.

But, he slips in the middle and crouches down, getting his  
balance. He stops and looks back.

DAN

I'm OK. Just wasn't careful.

He gets up, and walks slower now, more carefully. Soon he  
reaches the far side and then waves for them to come over.

Donna is scared, but decides she'll have to do it.

DONNA

I'll go next, then you Sheri, OK?

SHERI

OK.

They give a hug to each other then Donna steps onto the log. She goes ahead, walking slow, and crosses it successfully.

From the direction of the fire front, they hear the growl of a bear! Adrian and Sheri look backwards.

SHERI

What was that?

WHITE EAGLE

That -- is a bear. He might be looking to get across the bridge too. You better hurry.

DONNA

Come on. It's getting too dark to see.

WHITE EAGLE

She is right. It will be dark in less than ten minutes.

The light is fading quickly now. Sheri goes ahead. After a tense minute, she's across, and safe.

Adrian steps up to the log when suddenly, from behind him, comes the bear which growled. It roars when it sees him.

Adrian turns around to face it, with his spear in hand. It is dark now and hard to see the bear, but with the fire front behind it, there is a bit of red glow.

Adrian backs up across the log as the bear approaches it. Adrian must back up, half way across the log. Then he turns and walks forward.

But the bear follows! When he steps on the log, it springs down more, and Adrian is rocked on the log, and loses his balance.

Adrian falls down, grabs the log, and hangs on across on the log, sideways.

The bear is unsure of the log so bounces it a few times to test it. This shakes Adrian some more and he struggles harder to hang on.

ADRIAN

Help!

White Eagle steps past the girls and goes out to help Adrian who is almost to his near side. He reaches down and grabs the spear from Adrian, then shakes it menacingly at the bear, which roars and steps onto the log.

WHITE EAGLE

Come on. Get up.

White Eagle holds out his hand and Adrian gets on his hands and knees and crawls the rest of the way off the log.

From behind the bear, they now all hear the Bigfoot YELL, and the WHOOP, WHOOP.

The Bear turns and leaves too, going north, along the edge of the ravine.

White Eagle steps back off the log and comes to the cliff side, with the rest of the party.

They all look across the ravine, at the dark shapes against the red glow and smoke.

DONNA

That was the Bigfoot, wasn't it?

WHITE EAGLE

Yes. There's no other animal that makes that sound.

DAN

Do you think he'll follow us?

ADRIAN

If he wants to avoid the fire, he might have to.

SHERI

He might go north, like the bear did.

WHITE EAGLE

But if he knows these mountains,  
he may know that the trails end.  
I believe he thinks -- like us.

DONNA

We can wait for him and the fire,  
or keep going.

WHITE EAGLE

We are safe for now. We can rest  
here and watch the fire.

DAN

But really -- how safe are we?

WHITE EAGLE

You shouldn't worry about the  
Bigfoot. Our people have lived  
with the giant men of these  
mountains for generations now.  
There are only a few who remain  
today, and each one's territory  
is well over a hundred miles.

DONNA

So you do know something about  
them?

WHITE EAGLE

Oh, yes, we've always known more  
than the white man knows.

(beat)

We let them live in peace, and  
they leave us in peace too. They  
are solitary beings, and  
intelligent too. They hide their  
tracks very well, and have never  
been caught.

DAN

Well, what are they?

WHITE EAGLE

They are last of the giants of  
these lands. They are an ancient  
people and we believe they even  
have an ancient language.

(beat)

But because they are so solitary,  
they may very rarely mate, and  
probably do not pass on their  
teachings to their young anymore.

SHERI

So you think they are a people of  
some sort. Not animals.

WHITE EAGLE

(smiling)

I think we are all animals.

As they sit and watch, they see the outline of a large  
creature, the Bigfoot, across the other side of the bridge.

DONNA

(quietly)

Oh my God. That's him. There.

She points across the way. They all watch as he gets slowly  
onto the bridge and walks a few steps.

DAN

(to Donna)

Hey, take some pictures!

DONNA

I don't think so. He's coming for  
us.

Donna goes to stand up, but White Eagle holds her arm, and  
holds the others too, staring at the figure coming.

WHITE EAGLE

(quietly)

Don't startle him. I want to see  
what he looks like.

They all watch as the Bigfoot slowly comes across the  
bridge towards them.

DAN

(to Donna)

Then give me the camera.

Donna gets it out and hands it to Dan. He looks into the  
preview and sees it is quite dark, and he can't see.



Now the Bigfoot gets half-way across. He stops, and sniffs the air at them. He starts to make grunting, mumbling sounds as he looks at them.

Dan gets out his flashlight and turns it on, shining it at Bigfoot.

WHITE EAGLE

Turn that light off. You'll blind him.

DAN

But we don't want him to come here do we?

WHITE EAGLE

If he wants to come here, you can't stop him.

Bigfoot looks at their direction, and then looks left and right, deciding what to do. Dan turns off the flashlight and snaps a picture with the cell phone camera.

Adrian gets out the other flashlight and shines it on Bigfoot's chest.

ADRIAN

Go ahead Dan. We should get at least one picture.

Dan takes another picture.

Just then, Bigfoot decides to move forward, so he walks toward them, suddenly shouting WHOOP, moving his arms, and trying to scare them off.

It works! Donna and Sheri both SCREAM and scramble backwards.

Adrian helps Donna up and they both run north, along the path, shouting back at Dan and Sheri. Adrian waves his flashlight ahead of them.

ADRIAN

Come on you two. He's coming for you.

Dan and Sheri quickly get to their feet too and run after them, into the darkness, but then turns his flashlight on.

White Eagle meanwhile stays there, staring at the figure coming toward him. He's brave enough to face him.

He stays put as Bigfoot crosses the bridge and comes within a few feet of him now, looking face to face. But it is dark and we can only see the red light on the Indian's face. He looks terrified.

Suddenly the Bigfoot goes WHOOP, WHOOP at him.

EXT. NORTH TRAIL - NIGHT

In the darkness, a little moonlight shines on the four as they run. Adrian trips and falls down hard, tumbling. Donna then stops. Dan, waving his flashlight, runs with Sheri and then they catch up to the two on the ground. They huddle together on the path.

DAN

It's too dark to be running.

Dan lights up Adrian's face.

DONNA

Are you OK, Adrian?

ADRIAN

Yes. Just skinned my knee I think.

SHERI

Holy Shit. He's real!

DONNA

Yes. He's huge, and he's real.  
Who will ever believe us?

ADRIAN

Worst of all, he's on this side  
of the ravine now.

DAN

And where's the Indian?

They all get quiet and look back, listening.

ADRIAN

I don't know.

(beat)

You think he got him?

DAN

You think the Bigfoot ever hurt someone?

(beat)

I've never heard that.

DONNA

But he's some sort of giant -- a troll.

SHERI

He *could* hurt someone, pretty easily.

DONNA

My God. So what are we going to do now? We're trespassing on Indian land, with Bigfoot after us.

SHERI

And I'm cold. You must be getting colder too.

Dan holds her closer. He smiles.

DAN

Now that's some sort of irony. A whole forest fire coming our way and we're cold.

ADRIAN

We've got to find somewhere to spend the night.

SHERI

If the Indian was here, he'd know where to go.

DAN

Well, he's not. We're on our own again.

ADRIAN

I think we should keep going north along this path. Maybe we'll bump into more Indians.

DAN

But that's father away from the rescuers, and the firefighters. I think we should go south along the ravine.

ADRIAN

And hope the fire hasn't already jumped across?

DAN

Maybe we can get past the fire -- where it's already burned.

SHERI

Maybe we can find the Indian again, if we go back.

DAN

I'm telling you -- we have to survive this without him.

DONNA

OK. Calm down. I vote to go back. Maybe we find firefighters or something.

SHERI

Me too. And what about that water we were supposed to find?

ADRIAN

Yes. We must find a little stream somewhere too.

(beat)

OK. Dan. You lead the way. You've got the flashlight.

SHERI

I have one too.

(opens her pack)

In my pack.

Sheri gets it out, tries it, and it lights up.

DONNA

Sheri. You're such a scout.

SHERI

Hey. I was a girl guide -- not a scout.

They start walking back down the path toward the bridge.

EXT. NORTH RAVINE - NIGHT

North of the log bridge, on the left side of the ravine, the forest fire makes very large flames here. One tree is bent over the ravine, at an angle, and it is completely on fire.

At its lower trunk, the tree cracks and lets the whole tree fall across the ravine, on fire.

It hits some bushes and starts a large fire going on the east side of the ravine - the Reservation.

EXT. LOG BRIDGE - NIGHT

They are a hundred paces away and they walk carefully, and talk quietly.

DAN

I think I got a good picture of Bigfoot.

SHERI

Good. Just get ready, in case we see him again.

ADRIAN

That's great to get any proof of Bigfoot.

DONNA

And don't lose my camera lose, whatever you do.

ADRIAN

(quieter)  
OK. Quiet now.

They enter this side of the log bridge, and there is no sign of the Indian or Bigfoot.

Across the ravine the fire continues, some places with higher flames and others with just lots of smoke. They look and see sparks flying across to land around them, but none start a fire.

DONNA

Let's hope the fire won't come  
across the ravine.

Sheri is looking north.

SHERI

I think it's too late.

They all look north and see a glow of fire coming down their side of the ravine now.

ADRIAN

Come on. There's the trail going  
south. Let's keep going.

They continue on and walk down the south trail.

EXT. SOUTH TRAIL - NIGHT

They all walk along, two flashlights wagging in the night. Adrian's now in the lead, he has one flashlight, and Dan, with the other light, is last.

SHERI

Where's the stream everyone keeps  
talking about? I'm so thirsty.

DAN

Hey. Don't think about it. We'll  
find something soon.

Sheri turns on him, angry.

SHERI

You don't know that! Don't just  
tell me everything's OK.

DONNA

Sheri! It's not Dan's fault. He's just trying to help.

DAN

(quietly, to Donna)  
Thanks.

SHERI

You're right. I'm sorry. I just don't want to die up on this mountain.

ADRIAN

(to Sheri)  
Sheri's right. We need water too.

DAN

Well, there's a whole mountain here. Isn't there always a stream trickling down?

Just then a few big horned sheep come running past them on their trail.

ADRIAN

Watch out.

There's some confusion for a minute until the wild animals are past.

DAN

I think they're going in the wrong direction.

ADRIAN

There could be fire to the south too.

SHERI

At least they can climb up if they have to.

They start walking south again.

EXT. SOUTH TRAIL STREAM - NIGHT

The four of them walk along until they see the fire again to the west, across the ravine. Some smoke starts to mist its way around them. They stop and watch the glow.

DONNA

(coughing)

Shit. That smoke is horrible.

They walk some more. Donna is stumbling and leaning on Dan.

Adrian then steps into something wet.

ADRIAN

Hey. I think there's water nearby. The ground's wet.

He shines the flashlight down, then looks left, into the mountain side.

ADRIAN

Probably up there.

SHERI

Let's go. I'll follow.

Dan helps Donna along now. She looks exhausted.

DAN

Sounds good. We're coming.

Adrian goes ahead, slightly uphill, through woods. He startles a deer here, which runs off. It scares Adrian as much as the deer.

Adrian now sees a wet rock face. There is no pool of water here.

The others arrive now. Sheri runs up to it.

SHERI

I can smell the coolness, here.

She's very desperate, so she puts her hand out to catch a little water, then she drinks a bit from her palm.

SHERI

Mmm. It's mountain fresh.



The others do the same now too. They all get a little drink. Dan gets out an empty water bottle and tries to get water in it. It is slow, but it fills up. Sheri gets an empty water bottle out and fills it too.

Adrian leans back, resting a moment. Donna comes beside him and rests her head on his shoulder. They look tired.

Adrian then hears something to his left. It's an elk. It stands to one side, watching them. The forest fire smoke continues to get thicker, and the animals are desperate.

ADRIAN

Look at that.

Donna looks at the animal too, and feels pity. The elk bellows and looks around.

Dan and Sheri finish drinking and filling the bottles, then turn and see the animal waiting, watching. Behind it, the glow of the forest fire at night.

Dan and Sheri leave the rock face stream and go to Adrian and Donna. They all move farther away, giving the elk a chance at the water.

DONNA

Like the Indian said: 'We're all animals'.

Adrian looks ahead to the left and sees a dark opening.

ADRIAN

There's some sort of cave just ahead.

DAN

Where?

They all look and see a large dark hole in the mountain's side. It's covered by a few trees and looks mysterious.

SHERI

Well, we need shelter. But --

ADRIAN

Well, we should check it out at least.

DAN

Did you even hear of 'Out of the frying pan, into the fire?'

ADRIAN

Yes. What? You think maybe it's a bear's den?

DAN

It might be. It could always be worse.

SHERI

This is just about as worse as it gets.

DAN

OK. Go ahead, hero. You check it out.

Adrian still has the spear. With one of the flashlights, he moves ahead by 40 paces to the cave mouth.

DONNA

Dan. What if he gets attacked? Shouldn't you help him?

DAN

He's got the spear. What can I do?

The three watch from a distance.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - NIGHT

Adrian slowly goes beside the cave mouth and peers in, with the spear held at ready.

He looks deep into the cave, with the flashlight. It looks like it goes very deep and narrow at the back. He tries to listen into the cave.

From behind him, Donna is calling:

DONNA

What do you see? Do you think it's safe?

Adrian holds up his hand and enters into the cave, and out of their sight.

DAN

Well. It's got to be OK. Come on.  
The fire's getting closer.

They look and see that the fire is very near. The smoke is getting thicker. Sheri is holding her nose.

SHERI

It's got to be better than  
staying out here, breathing in  
this smoke.

The three walk over to the cave mouth. Dan goes out front, peering in carefully from around the corner.

He looks inside and sees the other flashlight waving around fifty paces inside the cave. So he enters and the two girls follow him in.

Donna and Sheri stay close together, huddling and watching Adrian's flashlight as he explores the rear of the cave. Dan meanwhile looks around with his flashlight.

DONNA

(calls to Adrian)

Adrian! Don't go in too deep.  
Let's just wait out the fire  
here.

DAN

That's good thinking Donna, but  
if the smoke gets too bad, we  
should go further in.

DONNA

OK. We also don't want to choke  
to death.

DAN

That would be smoke inhalation.

SHERI

Dan. Don't get scientific on us.  
(beat)  
At least, in here, we won't be  
burnt.

(beat)

Unlike the other forest critters.

DONNA

Don't worry for them, Sheri. I'm sure they'll all run away.

DAN

Hey. What about if we made a little fire -- for some heat and light?

SHERI

Let's wait to see what Adrian says.

DAN

I've got good ideas too!

Adrian now comes from the back to meet them.

ADRIAN

OK. The cave goes quite a ways. Do you all want to go in deeper?

They all look out at the glow of the fire and the thick smoke approaching at the cave mouth.

DONNA

Can we get away from the smoke, if we go in deeper?

ADRIAN

I think so. There's a bit of a breeze -- and I think it's coming from inside.

SHERI

Well, that's good news.

DAN

Hold on a second. We don't want to get trapped too far in, and then our flashlights run out of power. What about we bring some wood?

ADRIAN

OK. Dan, you've got the hatchet  
still?

Dan pulls it out, showing it to Adrian.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Grab some wood from the cave  
mouth - dry if possible.

Dan goes and chops at some branches around, while Sheri and  
Donna also gather some branches from within the cave mouth.

Carrying some branches and wood, the four of them go deeper  
now into the cave.

INT. CAVE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

They go along, slightly descending into the cave, waving  
their two flashlights slowly around. The path slowly bends  
to the right. Adrian is ahead of the rest, and stops when  
he enters a central area, which has a little higher  
ceiling.

All four young people stop and look at a small campfire  
spot in the middle of the floor.

ADRIAN

Looks like someone's been here  
before.

DONNA

Could be the natives.

ADRIAN

Maybe. Still, it looks like a  
good spot. Let's make a fire  
here.

The girls and Dan drag their branches near the fire spot.  
Dan then gets his hatchet out and starts chopping the wood  
into smaller pieces.

Adrian and Donna sit down very close to the fire, cuddling  
for warmth. Adrian shines his flashlight on the fireplace,  
so Sheri can see.

SHERI

You chop the wood Dan, and I'll try to get the fire started.

Dan stops and smiles at her. He takes off his backpack and puts it aside.

DAN

You're probably better at that than me. I mean -- unless you've got some gasoline or something.

SHERI

Thanks.

(beat)

I'll still need a lighter -- or matches.

As Dan chops the wood up, Sheri gets off her backpack, and searches through it for matches. She finds some.

SHERI

OK. I need some paper to get it started.

She looks to Adrian and Donna who both shake their heads.

Dan stops, then looks into his pack. He dumps out some of the dried packaged food onto the ground, and finds the first aid kit.

DAN

What about some gauze?

SHERI

That might work perfectly.

Sheri gets the gauze, unravels it, and starts to light the fire as Dan keeps chopping the wood. As the younger couple work on the fire, Donna talks to Adrian. They are together now, as she sits within his legs, and he holds her close.

DONNA

This will be one tall tale to tell everyone.

ADRIAN

I know. Just surviving a forest fire is one hell of a tale to

tell.

DONNA

Not just that. We've witnessed a legend -- the Bigfoot - the Sasquatch.

ADRIAN

It's hard to believe. I mean, we were right there and it's still hard to believe.

DONNA

What about White Eagle? He was looking for proof for like twenty years now. And then the Bigfoot came right across the log bridge.

ADRIAN

That's right. And I think all of us want to know -- what happened to the Indian?

Sheri lights the edge of the fire, blowing on it, and it catches. Very soon there is a glowing fire now. She sits back, enjoying.

Dan puts more wood on it, and then is satisfied at the fire too.

Dan sits down and Sheri also sits with her back to him, in Dan's arms. They all watch the fire now.

DAN

Did you take any pictures. Donna?

DONNA

I took a couple at the log bridge, but they were blurry -- and in dark light.

SHERI

At least that's something.

DAN

I think you we're right, Adrian. This is a good spot down here.

SHERI

Yeah. It's safe.

(beat)

And away from the fire, and other animals.

DONNA

We should be safe until morning.

DAN

Hey. What about some food?

Dan grabs a dried food pack and tries to read the label in the firelight.

DAN

Here's a 'Ham and Cheese Omelet'.

Sheri grabs one and reads it too:

SHERI

And some 'Beef Stroganoff - 4 person serving Noodles with chunks of beef and mushrooms in a creamy sauce.'

DONNA

Did you steal those from the ranger's tower?

DAN

Why not? I figured that if the fire came through, it'd burn the tower down anyway, so --

SHERI

(mock disbelief)

I can't believe you're a thief!

(then smiling)

But, this food will sure taste good. We just need to add water.

DAN

Ah -- but hot water. What can we heat the water in?

SHERI

I have a small pot.



Sheri looks through her pack and finds a small pot - holding maybe 4 cups of water. She holds it out as Dan fills it with water from a bottle of water.

DONNA

It's a good thing we brought you two along.

Sheri then puts the pot near the fire to heat up.

SHERI

That should do it.

They all sit a moment, watching the fire. Then a sound comes from deeper into the cave. It's a quiet, low growl.

They all look at each other, in fear.

ADRIAN

We all heard that!

DAN

What do you think that was?

SHERI

That was an animal of some sort.

DONNA

What is it's a bear?

Adrian reaches over and grabs his spear in his hand again.

ADRIAN

Then I hope he'll stay deep in the cave, and let us be.

Then the sound comes again!

Adrian stands up now. So does Dan, who also gets his hatchet in his hand.

DAN

Now what do we have to fight? As if the fire wasn't enough!

Adrian starts to move deeper into the cave.

Dan watches a moment, then decides he should come along.

DAN  
(to Sheri)  
Just stay here. We better check  
this out.

Sheri and Donna hugs each other, watching the men go forward, with flashlights in hand.

Adrian lead the way. He looks left and right as he moves forward. He has his spear in his right hand.

DAN  
Think you can kill it with the  
spear?

ADRIAN  
If it's a bear, I'm not sure. I  
hope it will run away.

DAN  
So do I.

INT. BIGFOOT LAIR - NIGHT

They keep going until they come upon very old steel railway tracks on the floor.

ADRIAN  
Look at this! This cave must have  
been an old mine.

DAN  
You're right. Maybe a hundred  
years ago?

They go a few more paces and find another alcove in the cave wall. It opens up a bit and they see a strange sight.

There are three modern plane seats set in a circle on the floor of the cave. And they see lots of suitcases and plane carry-on luggage pieces, that are all opened, and in a pile. Another pile has old clothing articles like suits and dresses. They see a few modern ice coolers nearby too, and other worn out camping supplies.

ADRIAN  
What the hell?

DAN

Looks like something from a plane.

ADRIAN

Like someone surviving down here.

They cast their flashlights onto another pile of rough hides and furs. Adrian is ahead and he reaches slowly to grab some of these furs.

As he does, the pile goes up and down, and they hear loud breathing.

Dan now watches. Adrian pulls back the fur and he sees the face of the Bigfoot, just opening his eyes, looking up at him. It frightens the Bigfoot, who jumps up.

The Bigfoot looks like a dirty faced, full bearded caveman, but with larger forehead, like a Neanderthal. He stands up, fully eight feet tall, casting the fur away from himself.

He looks at the two and goes 'WHOOOP!' Then 'Ahhh!' His mouth has darkened teeth, some of them sharp-looking.

In total blind fear, the two guys run back up the cave.

INT. CAVE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

At the glowing fire, the two guys come running up to the girls sitting there. The girls stand as they approach.

The guys are out of breath, but try to explain, looking back, watchful.

ADRIAN

It's the -- Bigfoot.

DAN

My God. He's real.

Then they hear the 'Whooop!' and yelp of the Bigfoot deeper in the cave. The girls panic too.

SHERI

What do we do?

ADRIAN

We have to go out!

Adrian grabs both girls' arms and pushes them toward the cave front. Dan grabs his half opened back pack, and follows, even as more stuff falls out onto the floor.

INT. CAVE MOUTH - NIGHT

The four survivors come to the cave mouth and look at the forest fire, raging just outside. The smoke is filling the entrance.

They start to cough as they are close to the fire. The glow of the fire lights them up. They look behind and see the tall, dark figure of the Bigfoot standing far away, watching them. They see the outline because he's backlit by the light from the little campfire.

Sheri sees the figure and screams! Donna also sees it and holds her scream by covering her mouth!

The Bigfoot shape stays back twenty yards.

The four of them watch the fire, just outside, then look back at the cave. The Bigfoot turns around and goes back to the campfire. His shadow is cast against the wall and looks huge.

DONNA

He's huge!

SHERI

He's like a big grizzly, walking on two legs!

DONNA

(coughing)

Well, what are we gonna do? He's gone back.

DAN

Maybe he just wants to be left alone.

SHERI

That's all we want.

ADRIAN  
(coughing)  
Then should we go back?

DAN  
(coughing)  
We'll have to go back. We can't  
stay here.

SHERI  
Just move slow.

The four of them slowly move back into the cave, huddled together. As they move slowly, they talk.

DONNA  
He didn't attack us.

SHERI  
Maybe he means us no harm.

ADRIAN  
(coughing)  
Come on.

They retreat back down the cave.

INT. CAVE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

The four of them come back down the cave tunnel, and around a corner to see the campfire. Here the smoke dissipates and they can breathe.

Near the fire is the Bigfoot, who is squatting and warming himself.

Now they can see him clearer. Adrian and Dan have the flashlights, and they shine them on him. He has very strong muscle build, and is covered in heavy fur over his entire body.

Donna can't help but cough, and the Bigfoot hears it. He looks over at them, blinking in the light, then back at the fire.

The four stare a moment. Dan turns off his flashlight, and reaches into his pocket for the cell phone camera.

He opens it up, aims it at the creature, and takes a snap picture.

The camera makes a sound, and the Bigfoot looks at them. He shelters his eyes from Adrian's flashlight. He makes a few primitive grunting words, half like a gorilla.

DONNA

Don't shine the light in his face; you'll piss him off.

Dan takes another picture, and it makes a sound.

Bigfoot just stays where he is, warming himself at the fire. Then he looks over at the dried food pouches on the floor and grabs one.

Bigfoot brings it to his nose and sniffs it. He makes some more guttural grunt words, and then opens the pouch by tearing into it, carefully. He smells it again, and snorts the dust out of his nose.

DONNA

Do you think he knows what it is?

They watch as Bigfoot pours out the chunky powder into his other hand, and then licks it out of his palm.

The four people watch, still standing at a distance.

ADRIAN

I think he's figured it out.

SHERI

He acts pretty intelligent.

DAN

Yeah. And he's eating our food.

SHERI

Hey. We've got enough to share.

They watch a minute as Bigfoot eats the rest, then makes a sour face look, and a guttural word. He throws the empty paper package onto the fire.

The people watch this and look at each other.

DAN

Now what's he going to do? He'll want to wash that down with water.

They watch as Bigfoot looks into the fire at the pot with hot water in it.

He carefully puts his finger in it to check if it is hot, and, reacts by pulling it out quickly, and he sucks his finger.

Bigfoot looks over at them and makes a very few words -- grunts again. It looks like he's communicating.

DAN

I think he's trying to tell us something.

ADRIAN

I agree. Looks like he'd not going to attack us. Why don't we get a little closer?

SHERI

(incredulously)

You think you can make friends with him?

ADRIAN

This is a hell of an opportunity to see him up close.

DONNA

You go up front, then. I'll stay back, with Sheri.

Adrian steps forward, aiming his spear horizontally.

ADRIAN

Come on, Dan.

Adrian takes a few steps, and then the Bigfoot sees him coming, so he stands up now, watching him.

Adrian pauses to communicate with him.

ADRIAN

Hey, Big Bear man. Is this your cave?

Dan is behind him taking a few more pictures on the cell phone camera.

Bigfoot is now more agitated, looking at the spear aimed at him. He starts to make a grunt noise, and then a yell, looking around crazy, then back at the spear. Bigfoot retreats a few steps deeper into the cave.

DAN

Adrian! I don't think he likes the spear aimed at him.

ADRIAN

Oh! You're probably right!

Adrian then puts the spear vertical, and holds it like a walking staff.

Bigfoot watches a moment, standing still, half-turned and ready to leave.

DAN

Why don't I offer him some water?

Dan grabs a bottle of water out of his pack.

ADRIAN

Hey. You've got two bottles don't you?

DAN

Yes. If we lose this one, we still got another.

ADRIAN

OK. Go ahead of me.

(beat)

Walk slowly.

Dan holds out the water bottle to Bigfoot and walks slowly up to be beside the fire. Adrian is close behind him.

DAN

(to Bigfoot)

Hey, Bigfoot, hairy, giant, man?



-- Here's some water.

Bigfoot then steps back more, by a few paces.

Dan sees this, and stops. He stands up straighter now.

DAN

I think he's too afraid of us.

ADRIAN

Afraid of us? I guess he doesn't know that he scares the shit out of us too?

Bigfoot makes a grunt word, turns and lopes off into the cave. He goes around a corner and he's gone.

ADRIAN

What did you say to him? Think you insulted him?

DAN

Just offered him the water.

Adrian looks back to the girls now. He waves for them to come closer.

ADRIAN

(to Dan)

Maybe he doesn't trust you. Thinks it's poison or something.

DAN

(annoyed)

Maybe your face scared him.

Adrian looks back at him, smiling.

ADRIAN

OK. So he's scared of us. At least you got a few pictures, right?

DAN

Yeah. Quite a few, and pretty good ones too.

The girls come to the dwindling fire now. Donna goes up and hugs Adrian. Sheri comes up to Dan.

DAN

It's OK. The Bigfoot seems as scared of us as we are of him.

DONNA

Do you think he'll let us stay at the fire tonight?

ADRIAN

Sure. All we have to do is show him the spear or a bottle of water and he'll run away.

SHERI

I'm sure a big creature like the Bigfoot is not really frightened of us.

DONNA

He's big enough to take on a bear -- and win.

DAN

Then, why would he run away?

SHERI

Maybe he's learned that he can't trust humans at all.

They sit down around the dwindling fire, and Dan puts the last couple of wood pieces on the fire.

ADRIAN

We didn't get a chance to tell you about the stash we saw.

DONNA

Where?

ADRIAN

Another hundred yards down the cave, is a large stash of broken down camping stuff, and even some seat.

DAN

Yeah. The seats are from a plane. I'm pretty sure of it.

SHERI

So you think the Bigfoot's been gathering stuff from all around -  
- like a pack rat?

DAN

More like a survivor of a plane crash.

DONNA

I'm sure he knows the woods for a hundred miles around.

SHERI

Then this might be his home.

DAN

Where else would the Bigfoot live? He's like a wild animal, out here, alone.

DONNA

Don't you think that's kind of sad?

SHERI

I'm sure it's the way he wants it.

From deeper into the cave they hear the footsteps of Bigfoot coming back to the campfire.

Both girls stand up, and retreat, as Adrian and Dan stand up. They get their flashlights out and shine it toward the sound.

They all see the Bigfoot carrying something in his arms. It's a large bundle of rough cut logs.

ADRIAN

Hey. He's bringing us something. It looks like firewood!

DAN

I think you're right.

Both guys back up across from the fire to Bigfoot. They watch Bigfoot come up slowly toward them, and grunt something at them.

He shouts a bit at them when they keep shining their flashlights in his face. Dan puts his light downward.

DAN  
(to Adrian)  
Hey. Don't blind him.

They turn off their lights and let Bigfoot get to within a few feet of the fire and then dump the load of wood into a pile.

They watch him as he grabs one log and puts it on the fire.

The girls are amazed.

The Bigfoot then backs up and sits down, twenty feet away from the fire. He motions for them to sit down too.

DAN  
He's not just an animal if he's  
not frightened of fire.

ADRIAN  
I think he wants us to sit down  
too.

Adrian moves toward the fire and waves over Donna.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)  
Come to the fire, Donna. It's OK.

DONNA  
Maybe he's not such a monster.

SHERI  
Yes. I don't recall anyone ever  
calling the Bigfoot a monster.

They all sit down now, together, looking across the fire at Bigfoot, further into the shadows.

Sheri gets the hot water out of the fire.

SHERI  
I'm making 'Beef Stroganoff'.

She opens a paper packet and pours it all into the pot, then stirs it with a spoon.

SHERI

Just takes one minute, and it's ready.

ADRIAN

It's too bad Bigfoot won't know how good it tastes like this.

DONNA

Then why don't we show him?

ADRIAN

You want to feed him too?

DONNA

Why not? He's shared his cave -- and even gave us some firewood. He's being quite hospitable.

SHERI

Yeah. We can give him some real food.

ADRIAN

I'm too hungry to give him the first meal. Let's make a second pot for him.

DAN

Here, here. Let me get a few swallows, then the beast can have some.

SHERI

OK. You guys win. We'll eat out fill, then make more for our host.

Sheri hands the pot over to Adrian, who eats some, then gives it to Donna.

While he's waiting to eat, Dan gets out the cell phone again and takes a picture.

DAN

This is great! We can prove that we've seen him.

DONNA

But -- do you want hundreds of hunters to come here and track him down?

SHERI

And possibly kill him?

DAN

Oh, I don't know. He's been good at staying hidden so far --

ADRIAN

That's right. And that's if you think anyone would even believe the photos. They can be faked, you know.

DAN

They'll believe us -- if we all tell the same story.

SHERI

And what story do you want to tell the world?

Sheri now gets the pot and eats a few mouthfuls.

DAN

That we saw Sasquatch?

DONNA

Would you sell your story to gossip magazines? Remember the 'Batboy'? How much do you think they'll pay for your pictures?

DAN

I haven't thought about it all. But getting rich off our near-death experiences isn't a bad thing -- is it?

DONNA

You'd be a sell-out.

Sheri hands over the pot with the food to Dan, who digs in.

DONNA

I think we should keep this our secret -- at least for a while -- until Bigfoot gets far away from here.

ADRIAN

And you gonna tell him to leave?

DONNA

Like Dan said -- I think he's good at becoming invisible.

SHERI

Well, let's make some more proper food.

(to Dan)

You got one more bottle of water?

Dan puts down the pot, now empty, on the floor.

DAN

Yes. Right here.

Dan empties the water into the pot and then puts it beside the fire.

Sheri calls over to the Bigfoot to watch.

SHERI

Hey, Big guy. Watch. We put the water in the pot, then heat it up.

Bigfoot is watching from where he sits. He makes a grunt.

DONNA

See? I think he understands.

They all watch the pot as it heats up a bit.

ADRIAN

What time do you think it is?

SHERI

Why? You getting tired?

DONNA

Come to think of it, I'm getting  
sleepy too.

Dan gets out the camera again.

DAN

It's 12:30 am.

ADRIAN

I thought it was getting late. Do  
you think we should sleep in  
shifts tonight?

DONNA

I don't feel tired yet. You can  
sleep if you want to.

ADRIAN

Neither of us got much sleep last  
night --

Dan and Sheri go 'WOOO' together, and Adrian and Donna both  
blush.

ADRIAN

OK, ok. Too much info for you  
two.

They all laugh a little bit. The Bigfoot is watching them  
as they laugh, quietly. Bigfoot surprises them by trying to  
make a chuckle sound, but he mostly just snorts.

The water is hot now, so Sheri pours a packet of food into  
the pot and stirs it a few times.

SHERI

OK. Bigfoot's special supper is  
ready. Who wants to give it to  
him?

DONNA

I vote for Dan!

SHERI

Me too.

Dan looks at them and shakes his head.



DAN

OK. Just remember what I do for you.

Dan gives the camera to Sheri.

DAN (CONT'D)

Here. Take a few pics of me going over there -- in case something happens.

SHERI

Nothing bad will happen. He'll just appreciate the hot meal.

Dan now gets up, and steps to the far side of the fire, carrying the pot, and looking back.

The Bigfoot watches as he starts to come near him. He gets agitated and starts to get to his feet.

DAN

He's getting to his feet now.

ADRIAN

Keep going. He won't hurt you.

Dan walks closer, and the Bigfoot gets on his knees, watching him closely.

Sheri takes a snapshot picture, and then a few more.

Dan comes up very close and kneels down in front of him, head down, and hands Bigfoot the pot of food.

Bigfoot makes a grunt word, and then laughs a little at him, which surprises Dan, who looks up.

Bigfoot reaches out and grabs the pot from his hand. Dan then crawls backward, then back to the campfire.

Bigfoot then brings the pot close to his nose, smells it, and makes the 'Mmmm' sound. He then takes the spoon and eats a bite from the pot.

Bigfoot smiles broadly and makes a new grunt word sound of appreciation.

SHERI

See? I knew he'd like it. He's more human than beast.

Bigfoot eats many mouths full and the four young people watch him.

DONNA

He's got to know we made that food for him. Let's invite him to come by the fire.

SHERI

Sure. He's human enough. He'll probably even appreciate the company!

They all call to Bigfoot now, waving their hands and gesturing to come near them.

Bigfoot finishes the pot of food, watches them calling him, and gets to his feet.

ADRIAN

I hope you're right about this.

Bigfoot comes over, slowly, out of the shadows, carrying the pot in front of him. They see him limping slightly now.

He comes close to the fire and puts the food pot down beside the fire. Then carefully sits down favoring his right leg. Stretching out both legs, he reclines against a large rock or cave wall.

SHERI

Hey, I think his leg is bleeding.

Sheri points the camera and takes a picture.

ADRIAN

Yeah, looks bad.

DAN

Should we try to fix him up? I mean -- I've got the first aid kit.

ADRIAN

You brave enough to do that?

DAN

I think he trusts me. After all I was the one who gave him food.

Dan gets the first aid kit out, and then gets to his feet slowly. The Bigfoot looks at him curiously.

Dan kneels down beside Bigfoot and opens the pack, taking out a large roll of gauze. He gestures to Bigfoot to his leg, and demonstrates the wrapping on his own leg.

Dan finally touches his hairy leg, and sees it all wet with blood.

DAN

Think I should clean it?

SHERI

Don't use any antiseptic on him.

DAN

Are you kidding? That stings. He'll think it's me trying to hurt him.

Bigfoot looks down with curiosity, but does not move.

Dan lifts the heavy leg and then pauses.

DAN

I can't lift the leg and wrap at the same time. Can someone help me?

Sheri gets up quickly, and comes over slowly. Donna and Adrian look worried.

DONNA

Be careful, Sheri.

Sheri comes over now and kneels down beside Bigfoot's leg. She looks at him and reassures him by talking softly.

SHERI

Hey. Don't worry. We're just going to bandage you up.

Dan and her lift Bigfoot's leg and she puts his big foot on her lap.

SHERI

(softly to Bigfoot)

I can see why they call you  
Bigfoot.

(then to Donna)

Looks at the size of his foot!

They marvel at it, while Dan takes out the last bottle of water and pours it on the leg to clean the blood.

Bigfoot flinches a bit, grunts, but leaves his leg there. He stares at Sheri.

Dan starts to wrap the lower leg in gauze, and uses three or four rolls, before using the clips to hold it.

While he's doing that, Sheri gets out the camera again and takes a snapshot of the Bigfoot, Dan, and then the foot only.

DAN

That's all. Should heal up OK,  
now.

Dan helps Sheri to lower the leg back on the ground. They get up slowly and go back, across the campfire to sit down together.

ADRIAN

Who would have ever thought that  
we'd share a cave with Bigfoot?

SHERI

Who would have thought we'd even  
be *\*in\** a cave, hiding from a  
forest fire.

They all chuckle a bit. Bigfoot watches them and snorts like he's chuckling too.

DAN

See that? He knows how to laugh.

DONNA

Maybe he's laughing at us. We  
probably look funny to him.

Bigfoot then reaches over and gets another log of wood and places it on the fire. He looks at Adrian and Donna.

ADRIAN

That's good, big guy. Thanks.

Bigfoot snorts, then lies back, closing his eyes. After a moment, they all see that Bigfoot is relaxed now, and trying to sleep.

DONNA

I think he's going to stay here all night with us.

SHERI

That's OK with me. He can protect us from any wild animals who might come down here.

DAN

I think I can use some sleep too.

ADRIAN

Why don't you guys all get some sleep, and I'll stay awake for the first watch.

DAN

You ready to sleep, Sheri?

SHERI

Yes. I think so.

DAN

(to Adrian)

OK. Wake me up when you're tired.

Dan and Sheri lie down, head on their packs, near the fire. They close their eyes, then talk quietly to themselves.

SHERI

Thanks, Dan. For everything.

DAN

(smiling)

Am I your hero now?

SHERI

Yes. You're my hero.

Donna has her eyes closed, in the arms of Adrian, who is trying to keep his eyes open. He stares into the fire and it is mesmerizing.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CAVE CAMPFIRE - DAY

Adrian is lying with his head back a bit, and suddenly he wakes up. He looks over to where the Bigfoot was last night, and he is gone. The campfire is now reduced to just some glowing coals.

It is relatively dark, and cold, down here now, but when he looks towards the cave entrance, he sees the light of morning dawn coming from around the corner.

Donna is still asleep in his arms. He gently wakes her up.

ADRIAN

Donna. Donna.

She wakes up and looks around.

DONNA

Looks like morning.

(beat)

Oh damn. My leg is asleep.

She moves a bit and rubs her right leg. Meanwhile, Adrian looks over to the two on the floor.

ADRIAN

Hey, you two. Dan. Sheri.

Dan wakes up, and sits up. Sheri wakes up too. They look around.

DAN

Where's Bigfoot?

ADRIAN

He must have left in the night.

DAN

I guess that means you fell asleep?

ADRIAN

I know. But, we're all fine, right?

SHERI

Yeah. We're all fine.

Sheri and Dan get to their feet. They look toward the entrance.

SHERI (CONT'D)

Looks like morning. And with any luck the fire is long gone.

Dan quickly checks his pockets for the cell phone camera. He pulls it out and opens it. He sighs relief when he previews the pictures, and sees all the photos of Bigfoot.

DAN

Hey. Most of these photos are pretty good.

DONNA

That's my cell phone. Better give it to me.

DAN

Sure. But you're not really going to erase them are you?

Dan hands it over to her.

DONNA

I don't know.  
(beat)  
We'll all decide that later.

ADRIAN

That's right. For now, let's just find our way out of here.

They pick up the backpacks. Dan goes to grab some of the dried food pouches on the floor. Sheri stops him.

SHERI

Let's leave all the food for him,  
and the pot too.

DAN

(nods)

Why not?

They look back down the cave into the dark, and then turn  
and hike to the entrance.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - DAY

The four of them step out of the dark and into morning  
light. They look out across the valley and see charred  
trees, and black ground everywhere. There are still quite a  
few smoky places and small fires burning.

DAN

That was one hell of a forest  
fire. What an adventure!

ADRIAN

(smiling)

Amazing. Well, It should be safe  
enough to go back to --

DONNA

To the campground?

SHERI

You mean -- whatever's left of  
it.

DONNA

I hope my mom had fire insurance  
on the mini-van.

DAN

Hey. At least we're all OK.

They start walking back, going south. They follow a burned  
out trail.

EXT. BURNED VALLEY - DAY



The four are now in a valley. To the east, a large section is cleared from the fire, but they can see some forest still on a mountain side. There is still a few places of white smoke, drifting.

Above them a water bomber plane goes north. They watch it go north and see huge white smoke far in the distant.

DAN

The fire is still burning.

SHERI

Too bad it went through the Bigfoot's lands.

DONNA

Is that someone riding a horse?

They all see someone on horseback, riding from the north. They wait a moment and the horse begins to canter. They now see it is White Eagle, the Indian.

He rides up and dismounts, shaking their hands. They all smile.

WHITE EAGLE

I'm so glad to see you've survived the big fire.

ADRIAN

We didn't know what happened to you.

WHITE EAGLE

The Bigfoot went south, and I followed as well as I could, but he lost me in the dark.

ADRIAN

We also went south later, and came upon a cave.

WHITE EAGLE

Is that the cave near the mountain stream?

ADRIAN

Yes.

DAN

You'll never guess what we saw in there.

DONNA

The Bigfoot helped us to build a fire.

SHERI

And we tended to his wounded leg.

DAN

And we even fed him some of our food.

White Eagle is amazed at what they're telling him.

WHITE EAGLE

I wish I could have been there.

ADRIAN

You should have been. We even shared our fire with him. He's not really a beast or monster --

SHERI

He's smart and was gentle toward us.

White Eagle pauses and looks around the valley.

WHITE EAGLE

I've been looking for him for twenty years now.

(beat)

Maybe I can find some proof of him in the cave.

DAN

Oh, we've got a few pictures --

Dan stops, realizing he shouldn't have said anything. The girls look at him, frowning. White Eagle picks up on this.

WHITE EAGLE

Alright. Let me see the pictures.

Donna gets out her cell phone and hands it to the Indian. He flips it up and pushes a few buttons, trying to figure out how to look at them.

Dan comes beside him and presses a button. Now the pictures are showing.

As White Eagle looks through the pictures, the four look at each other, not knowing what to do.

Far away, behind White Eagle, Donna sees a black figure in among the trees, obscured by smoke.

Sheri sees her looking and looks too, now seeing it too. Dan and Adrian also look, but see nothing now.

White Eagle presses a button on the camera. It shows 'DELETE ALL?' He presses 'YES', and the camera goes BLEEP.

WHITE EAGLE

I'm sorry, but I can't let you take these pictures with you. This would bring hundreds of white men combing through our Indian lands, looking for the Bigfoot.

He hands the cell phone back to Donna, who looks and sees the memory is deleted.

DONNA

You deleted them all!

WHITE EAGLE

Now that you've met him, would you really want him to be hunted down?

SHERI

No. We want him to live his life -- free.

DONNA

You're right. He should be free.

WHITE EAGLE

Thank you, for understanding.

He gets back up on his horse now. He looks south and sees a group of firefighters coming in the distance.

WHITE EAGLE (CONT'D)

You will be safe now. Just follow this path and those men will take you to safety.

ADRIAN

You going after the Bigfoot?

WHITE EAGLE

Yes. I might find him in that cave. Good Bye.

They wave to him as he rides north again.

Donna looks right, turns, opens the camera and points it at the valley to the right.

DONNA

There's still a chance to get a picture of Bigfoot. You saw him didn't you, Sheri?

SHERI

Yes. He was just across the clearing there.

As they watch, a black shape comes out from behind a black burned tree. It is Bigfoot, and he waves at them.

They all waves back, and Donna starts recording VIDEO. She captures him striding off to the right, through fallen trees and smoke.

Dan is very excited.

DAN

Look at that. Look at that!

But quickly, Bigfoot is gone from sight. Donna keeps recording, now pointing the camera to her three friends, showing their reactions of excitement and disappointment.

SHERI

He's gone now.

DAN

(excited)

But you got that on camera,  
right?

ADRIAN

At least we've got one little  
piece of proof.

Donna turns it off, and puts it in her pocket.

DAN

You want to be famous? I can put  
that on YouTube!

DONNA

I don't know. We'll all have to  
think about it.

ADRIAN

For now, let's just get home.

They walk down the trail a bit and soon come upon a group  
of fire-fighters.

FADE OUT.

OVER BLACK -- END CREDITS:

Show the photos that were deleted.

THE END