

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LONG BEACH, WA - MARSH'S MUSEUM - MORNING

BEN SEWARD (12), wanders around the store. In the aisles are various bins of junk for sale: seashells, sandollars, spent bullet casings, cheap toys. Mounted on the walls are animals--real and surreal--from raccoons to a jackalope on steroids.

Ben rounds a corner and jumps at the sight of Jake the Alligator Man's preserved corpse.

ELDON SEWARD (30s), a bearded man in a plaid shirt, Ray-Ban glasses, and brown Skechers puts a calm hand on his son's shoulder.

BEN
Is it real?

ELDON
What's your guess?

BEN
Yeah...?

ELDON
Why do you say that?

Ben, breathing heavy, studies the "corpse" in the case.

BEN
The hair, the head, the body...it looks like a mummy!

ELDON
That's some fine detective work, there, Ace. It could be real...who knows?

BEN
Can we go to the arcade now?

Eldon smiles.

ELDON
Don't you like this weird stuff?

Ben shrugs.

BEN
It's okay...we saw lots of weird stuff. Lots of boring stuff too!

ELDON

Oh, it hasn't been that bad. I didn't hear you complaining when we drove through Yellowstone.

BEN

(whimpering)

I hate this trip. Wish we could've stayed at home and played video games for three weeks.

Eldon resents his son's attitude.

ELDON

Hey, I worked long and hard so we could have this time together, as a family. For cripe's sake, I'm sounding like Pop-Pop.

Ben's not amused. Eldon starts for the checkout.

ELDON

One more "weird" thing and we'll do something fun...a cheese factory. They have lots of samples. Let's go pay so we can get down there, 'kay?

Eldon puts his arm around his son, but Ben rejects it and goes outside to the car.

EXT. LONG BEACH, WA - BEACH - DAY

The Seward family, including EMILY (30s) and CLAIRE (8), leave the car and walk through thick fog along a path that leads to the monument of a whale skeleton.

The skeleton is weathered, grass growing up between the rib bones. Ben studies it in bored silence. Emily and Claire are all-bored.

ELDON

So...what do you think?

EMILY

It's a whale skeleton.

ELDON

Isn't it neat, though? When this thing washed up, they buried it so it wouldn't stink, then dug it up and put it here.

EMILY

At least the smell would've got a reaction from people.

ELDON

Let's at least get a picture real quick. C'mon...

Eldon waves his wife and kids in front of the whale. He pulls out his iPhone 5 and holds it vertically. They smile.

ELDON

Say, "Ishmael!"

Ben glances toward the ocean and sees a GIRL (late teens) wandering down the beach. Her hair's in a bun and she wears a dress from the late 1800s. Ben's smitten.

BEN

Holy cow...

Eldon snaps the pic and sees the look on Ben's face.

ELDON

Ben, c'mon. Smile...

The woman fades into the mist.

BEN

That girl looked old.

ELDON

What girl?

BEN

The girl in the fog. She was behind you just now. She was wearing clothes from like the 1800s.

Eldon takes a quick look at the fog.

ELDON

I don't see her.

BEN

Mom, did you see her?

EMILY

No, babe.

BEN

Claire?

CLAIRE

What?

BEN

Did you see that girl?

CLAIRE

Nah...

Ben walks into the fog, trying to see the girl. Eldon follows him part-way.

ELDON

Don't wander too far off. Remember
the cheese factory!

Ben becomes engulfed in the fog. He lifts a hand in front of his face. It's barely visible.

He comes to a treeline. The girl's nowhere to be found. Ben peers into the woods and sees a worn path. He takes a few steps and stops. Someone bumps into him, knocking him down.

BEN

Sorry--

It's the girl. She looks at him as she passes by on the path. She's in a trance and her face is but gray and colorless. Ben studies it and his wide, fearful eyes relax.

FOREST

The girl comes to a clearing circled by trees. Two trees have natural alcoves in the trunk, where she goes to sleep standing up. In the middle of the clearing is a large bonfire, surrounded by five flat stones.

Ben stands behind one of the trees. From the opposite side of the clearing, a GIANT, standing over six-feet-tall, carries a dead seal to the bonfire. The giant has a human face like a Native American, gills in the neck, fur and scales for skin, with leaves, moss, and human hair on the scalp.

The giant places the seal on the largest stone of the five. It pours a bowl of blood over the corpse. Then, it rubs dirt and leaves into the skin. Reaching into the fire, it grabs a lit stick and ignites the pile. While it burns, the giant kneels and makes prayerful gestures.

GIANT #1

Mamook get-up naika!

After a few moments, the fire dies down, the seal's corpse untouched. The seal begins to move about. The giant scoops it up and starts on the path toward the beach.

Ben moves behind another tree, away from the giant. He trips on a branch. The giant keeps walking, but ANOTHER GIANT, same features, grabs him and carries him to the stone and binds his legs and arms.

BEN

Hey...what are you--

The giant looks into Ben's fearful eyes.

GIANT #2

(softly)

Nah cheechako.

The giant grabs a sharpened stone and cuts Ben's shirt off. Then it makes two cuts each on each breast. A steady stream of blood is released, collected by the bowl.

GIANT #2

Pil pil. Mamook pil pil maika.

Soon after, the giant applies a greenish brown paste to the wounds, then honey, and wraps a brown cloth around his torso.

The giant goes to the woman's alcove. It whispers in her ear and she awakens into a trance. It feeds her berries and walks to the stone. The color in her face has returned.

The giant makes a motion and she undresses. Then it rubs Ben's blood on her back and paints it on her stomach.

GIANT #2

(to Ben)

Skookum tumtum. Klee tumtum. Heehee
tumtum! Naika mamook potlach
klootchman kopa maika. Kwanesum!

The giant smiles, puts an arm around Ben's shoulder, and motions to the woman. She sits beside Ben.

WOMAN

It says to you: be strong, be
amused and be happy. I am his gift
to you for all eternity.

She kisses his cheek. He just stares at her.

BEN

What...why--who are you?

WOMAN

I am yours.

BEN

What's your name, I mean?

WOMAN

It was Corinne, but you will give me a new name, my siwash.

BEN

Like right now?

WOMAN

If you wish.

BEN

Umm...can I still call you...Corinne?

WOMAN

If that is your wish.

BEN

Okay, I guess I'll call you that.

The giant gets up and pats Ben's head before tinkering around the clearing.

BEN

Or how about Cori?

CORI (WOMAN)

If that is your wish.

She gives Ben a distant smile and rubs his leg. He returns a shy smile back at her. Ben looks at the giant's features.

BEN

(whispers)
What is that?

CORI

That is a hyas tyee: great chief.
Once a chief of men, now a chief of
the earth he so loved.

BEN

Oh.

Ben glances at her dress on the ground.

BEN

So how long have you been here?

CORI

Over a hundred years, waiting until
the hyas tyee found someone for me.
They pulled my body from a wreck at
the bottom of the Columbia and
returned me to life.

BEN

It picked me? I've got a
girlfriend. Can we be friends?
(beat)
Sorry if that was mean...

The giant laughs.

GIANT #2

No. Mahlie maika. Chako ikt!

The giant points to both of them. Ben looks to her for the
translation. She takes his hand in hers.

CORI

We are to become one.

BEN

Why?

CORI

We will start a new people, that
will replace the old. You will be
the father and I the mother.

BEN

I'm twelve. I'm not a grown-up. I
don't even want kids!

CORI

The hyas tyee will help you become
the great father of earth's true
people you are destined to be.

The giant stabs Ben in the lower neck with a needle-like reed
that has a small bowl attached. A bright green liquid from
the bowl drains into the needle, into Ben. He cries in agony.

GIANT #2

Skookum tumtum...skookum
tumtum...skookum tumtum...

The giant removes the reed. Ben starts to convulse and his
voice cracks. Cori lays his head in her lap and cradles him.
The convulsions end. He gazes at her bare breasts then into
her eyes, sobbing.

BEN

I want to go home...let me go
back...

CORI

This is your new home, my beloved.

BEN

I want to go...

He passes out.

BEACH - LATER

Ben wakes up on a woven blanket on the beach. The sun is overhead in a clear sky. He gets up but can't stand to his feet. He looks at his hands and sees they're much larger. He wipes his nose on his arm and realizes he has a beard.

BEN

What the heck...

Cori rolls over beside him, nude, and wakes up.

CORI

Good morning, my siwash. How are
you feeling?

BEN

What happened? Where are we?
Where's my family? Do they know I'm
okay?

CORI

The hyas tyee made you a man. Now,
you are ready to make me the mother
of the true heirs of the earth.
Your family will be proud.

BEN

Where are they?

He gets to his feet and realizes he's naked as his old, outgrown clothes fall to the ground. He looks to see if anyone's around, but the place is empty.

CORI

The hyas tyee are gathering
everyone for one last feast on the
earth before they put an end to the
old peoples.

BEN

Huh?

CORI

We will need the bodies of the old
to make way for the new--our
children, siwash. The people that
the Great Spirit chose.

BEN

The hyas tyee are going to kill
everybody?

She takes both his hands and kisses them.

CORI

Yes, but this is how it shall be.
You and I for each other. This is
your throne. From here, we usher in
a new, better era for all the land.

BEN

What if I don't want to?

Cori smiles. She pulls him down to her.

CORI

Lay with me, siwash. Let me ease
your troubled mind.

He lies down beside her and she straddles him.

CORI

Consider this: our children are
meant to be here. Evil will be a
memory. Would you rather keep your
family and an evil world or begin a
new one...with me?

She grinds against him and kisses his chest. He can't keep
his eyes off hers. She leans over and gives him a better look
when...

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben wakes up and looks around the room. His parents are in
one bed, Claire's in the other, he's on a cot. On his stomach
is a Nintendo DS. He feels himself under the covers. He pulls
his hand out. It's wet and sticky.

BEN

Oh, no...

FADE OUT.

