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)

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.