

RIVER RUN

By

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FADE IN

(NOTE: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FOOTAGE IS FIRST PERSON "FOUND FOOTAGE" STYLE, I.E. VIDEO FROM A CAM CORDER. THERE ARE NO TRADITIONAL FILM SHOTS UNTIL THE END, WHERE INDICATED.)

EXT: DAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT - THE LAST STOP

We are at a spot on the COLORADO RIVER where it runs wide and shallow. There is a SMALL BEACH that reaches back to a CLIFF FACE. There are some TREES and BRUSH off to the side.

Pulled up on the Beach is a SMALL OUTBOARD MOTOR BOAT painted with park service or Navajo Police LOGO. The beach is littered with the remains of SEVERAL SHREDDED AIR MATTRESSES, A DEFLATED INNER TUBE, SOME STYROFOAM COOLERS, AND OTHER RUBBISH.

THREE COPS (or RANGERS) are clustered by the side of the cliff. BECKY'S BODY is lying against the cliff. It is BATTERED and BROKEN. Most of her clothes have been ripped and tattered, enough to see that her entire BACK IS ONE BIG BRUISE. There is a LARGE BLOOD STAIN about 10 feet up the cliff. COP 2 (JIM) is kneeling next to the body. He is the senior Cop. COP 1 (ALLEN) is standing looking at the bloodstain. He is young, probably a rookie. COP 3 (GORDON) is scanning the area. He is Native American, middle-aged.

COP 1

So what do you think?

COP 2

Someone beat the crap out of this girl. Like she was slammed into a wall or something.

COP 1

Baseball bat maybe?

Cop 2 points to Becky's back, careful not to touch her.

COP 2

This is one solid bruise. She wasn't beat to death, I'm thinking. This is what you'd get with the victim of a fall.

COP 3

Do you think this is where that floater originated? It looked crushed to death.

COP 2

Who the hell knows?

Cop 3 LOOKS around the clearing.

COP 3
Well, judging by the trash, I'd say
three or four people camped here.

COP 2
Then where are they?

Cop 2 stands up. He pushes his hat back and scans the area.

COP 2 (CONT'D)
And if she was thrown against the
cliff, how the hell did the blood
get way up there?

COP 1
You think that's her blood? Not
something that was on the cliff and
got shot?

COP 2
That cliff is straight up. I can't
see how anything or anyone can
climb it without repelling from the
top.

Cop 3 is LOOKING at something off in the trees. His acts a
little distracted.

COP 3
We'll get the crime scene
investigators out here. They can
check the blood on the wall against
the victim and look for signs of
ropes up top.

Cop 3 starts walking toward the cam.

COP 2
You got something?

Cop 3 points with his chin.

COP 3
In the tree.

COP 2
Back him up.

Cop 1 moves a little to the side and behind Cop 3.

Cop 3 walks to a point under a tree, in front of the cam. He
looks up then bends down and picks up a STICK.

He pokes at the tree and a BACKPACK drops to the ground.

COP 3
 (thinking)
 So, what have we here?

He opens the pack.

Cop 1 moves up next to him. Cop 2 LOOKS around the beach.

Cop 3 pulls ED'S DIGITAL CAMERA out of the pack.

COP 3 (CONT'D)
 Might be something useful on this.

Cop 3 hands the Camera to Cop 1

COP 1
 Anything else in there?

Cop 3 pulls out two DIGITAL VIDEO TAPES out of the bag.

COP 3
 Cassette tapes. Video I think.

COP 1
 Maybe some answers.

COP 2
 Or maybe just more mysteries.
 What's this doing up in a tree?

COP 3
 There's some notebook paper here at
 the bottom... wait...

Cop 3 hands the Tapes to Cop 1 and fishes into the pack. He pulls out A SHEET OF PAPER THAT HAS BEEN RIPPED FROM A SPIRAL NOTEBOOK. He opens it and squints at the writing.

COP 2
 Well?

COP 3
 It doesn't make much sense.

COP 2
 Read it anyway.

COP 3
 Sure. Here goes. "We took the high
 road. Six dead."
 (MORE)

COP 3 (CONT'D)

Running like hell into the sunset
but you can't run from the snakes.
If you're reading this, you're a
movie star."

COP 1

What the hell does that mean?

Cop 1 takes the note from Cop 3 and looks at it closely,
turning it over to see if there is more.

COP 3

My guess is they climbed outta here
and took off on foot to the west.

COP 2

We'll get a second search started
at the top, then; see if we can
find anyone.

Cop 1 hands the note and tapes to Cop 2. Cop 3 hands him the
bag and he and puts the camera and tapes back inside.

COP 3

Or anything. Seems they were
concerned with snakes.

COP 1

And it sounds like there should be
more bodies somewhere.

COP 2

We'll search the river in detail.
But what was that last part?

COP 3

"You're a movie star"?

COP 2

Yeah. What do you make of that?

COP 3

Like maybe there's a film crew or
something? Like Candid Camera?

Cop 3 is looking around.

COP 2

The girl's really dead. This is not
one of those YouTube jokes.

Cop 3 looks right at the cam.

COP 3
There's more.

COP 1
What'd you got?

Cop 3 pushes through the branches, moves close to the cam.
He looks at it closely without touching it.

COP 3
Looks like a camcorder attached to
a motion detector, like deer
hunters use. Looks like it's
recording now. And another note.

Cop 3 reaches up past the camera and pulls back ANOTHER PIECE
OF PAPER.

COP 3 (CONT'D)
Yep. Another note. "If the snakes
came back for Becky, you'll see it
here. Also, look for some footage
of the other six dead."

COP 1
So more bodies than just the
floater and this kid.

COP 3
Yeah. There's more. "Taking my cam
with us. Just me and Randy left."
It's signed Amber.

COP 2
Allen, get back to the boat and
call it in. We need a full search
of the river and a sweep starting
at the top of the cliff. I think
this is gonna be messy.

COP 3
Well, we have some names. Allen,
run them past missing persons.

Cop 1 starts back for the boat. After a step he turns back.

COP 1
May be too early for that. If these
were campers they may not be missed
until Monday.

COP 2

So? Call it in. We may get lucky.
Gordon, pull down that camcorder
and stow it in the boat with the
camera and tapes.

COP 1

Yes sir.

COP 2

Then we'd better start looking for
tracks. We may have two live ones
who could use some help.

COP 3

Or two more bodies...

Cop 3 reaches for the Camcorder.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF SECONDS OF WILD VIDEO THEN BLACK.

EXT: DAY - FIRST CAMPSITE - TWO DAYS EARLIER

ESTABLISHING SHOT AMBER'S CAMCORDER

RANDY, an average looking college student in his mid-20s; DAVID, a younger student with a more athletic build; MARK, a spoiled 20-something student; SHANNON, a cute, blond, short double major in physics and geology, a non-stop talker about nothing of substance; and AMBER, Shannon's 16-year-old sister who is pre-occupied with a camcorder, have about finished unloading an SUV at a campsite. The site is supposed to be near TATAHATSO POINT, about 75 miles upstream from Deer Falls in the GRAND CANYON. It is a desert river surrounded by cliffs.

Randy and David are at the back of the SUV wrestling with a LARGE COOLER. Mark is trying - unsuccessfully - to set up a tent. Shannon is standing by point to things. There is BICKERING IN THE BACKGROUND between Mark and Shannon.

MOVE IN TOWARD RANDY AND DAVID. Their conversation becomes slowly LOUDER as the CAMERA MOVES IN.

DAVID

(needling)

Tell me again why I'm here.

RANDY

(frustrated)

I've already told you a dozen times
already.

DAVID
Tell me again. It's fascinating.

RANDY
I have to do a Geology field study
for my master's thesis.

DAVID
That doesn't explain Shannon.

We can SEE Amber with her cam in the car's reflection.

RANDY
(exasperated)
She has to turn in a rock
collection for one of her undergrad
classes.

DAVID
Like can't you order those online?

RANDY
She has to take photographs for
where she found the rocks.

DAVID
And this twerp?

He gestures with his thumb to Amber.

RANDY
(sighs)
Shannon's mom wouldn't let her come
if she didn't bring her little
sister.

AMBER (OC)
So are you going to bang my sister
anyway?

David LAUGHS.

The CAM MOVES IN on Randy.

RANDY
Not funny. Either one of you. Now
get that out of my face...

DAVID (OC)
(laughing)
Not before he answers the question!

AMBER (OC)
Well, if you do I get to tape it.

RANDY

You're perverted! Both of you!

He reaches out and pushes her away.

Amber starts to walk toward Shannon and Mark.

AMBER (OC)

Hey, Shan! What're the sleeping arrangements? Who do I get if you're shagging Randy?

Shannon turns to her sister. Mock shock and real anger on her face.

SHANNON

AmberLyn! Whatever are you talking about!

Amber turns the cam around at arms length and speaks into the lens.

AMBER

"AmberLynnnnn." Think I pissed off big sister a little. But I am going to get a little sex education on this trip!

We HEAR another vehicle approaching.

Amber SWINGS the CAM AROUND.

A 4x4 PICK UP TRUCK is peeling up the road, dust flying. Inside, crammed in the front seat, are BECKY, a 20-something Video Production Major who expects to be another Lisa Cholodenko; CONNIE, also 20-something, a model and wannabe actress; and Ed, another undergrad filmmaker, but focusing on Cinematography and Still Photography. Various PIECES OF VIDEO PRODUCTION GEAR AND CAMPING GEAR are piled in pick up's bed.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Fresh meat!

Amber backs up to give a WIDE SHOT as the truck pulls in next to the SUV.

Shannon comes running up as Becky, Connie, and Ed crawl out.

Amber MOVES IN and FRAMES the shot between Randy and David.

DAVID

Who's this?

RANDY
Becky something I think.

DAVID
Geology major?

RANDY
Video production. She's supposed to document our little excursion for my thesis.

In the background, Shannon greets Becky with a hug. Becky introduces her to Ed and Connie.

Ed pulls a CAMERA CASE out of the back of the pick-up and begins setting up a HIGH-END VIDEO CAMERA.

AMBER (OC)
Cool! More techies!

DAVID
Damn! Mark agreed to pay for that? You ain't got no money buddy so I know it wasn't you.

RANDY
No. Shannon set it up. Mark's picking up their food and permits because they're gonna try and get some snake footage for him.

Mark walks up and stops a few feet in front of David.

MARK
That the video crew?

Ed has pulled several equipment cases out. He is setting a CAMERA WITH MIC on a TRIPOD.

RANDY
Looks like it.

MARK
They'd better be good. I'm spending enough on this little excursion just so you can get your Masters.

RANDY
Hey...

DAVID
(interrupting)
Wow. That's a lot of equipment.

RANDY

I think they're calling it a class project so they could get the video equipment from the Media Center.

DAVID

Good ol' public education.

Mark is LOOKING Connie over, centering on her chest.

MARK

That one chick's not bad though.

Mark joins Shannon and Connie. Becky turns to Ed.

There is a SHUFFLING NOISE OFF CAMERA.

Amber HEARS something and SWINGS around to look, CAM STILL UP AND ROLLING.

She finally SETTLES THE CAM on a group of SIX HOPI NATIVE AMERICANS on HORSEBACK.

Amber gives a little SURPRISED GASP.

In the group are: TOCHO ("mountain lion") 17 or so, good looking; CHA'TIMA ("the caller") Tocho's grandfather or great grandfather. He is a caller of spirits; CHUA ("snake") mid-30s, Chumana's father; CHUMANA ("snake maiden") mid-20s, pretty in a cold way; TANGAKWUNU ("rainbow") pretty, around 17, friendly looking, her hair in squash braids; and HONAW ("bear") mid 40s, a Tribal leader. They are in JEANS AND SHIRTS, except Cha'tima who wears a BEADED SHIRT and CHAPS.

Chua and Chumana are off to one side, a bit aloof.

We HEAR the others moving around. RANDY STEPS INTO THE FRAME.

RANDY

Hello. Is there something we can do for you?

The Natives just sit there, quiet.

RANDY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Do you speak English?

The Natives continue to sit quietly. Mark pushes his way to the front.

ANGLE. ED'S CAMERA

MARK

Let me do this. I speak Spanish.

Randy nods and steps aside. Marks Spanish is awful.

RANDY
Go ahead.

MARK
Ola! Que Pasa, machaca!

Amber breaks out LAUGHING.

MARK (CONT'D)
(upset)
What's so funny?

AMBER
You just said 'what's happening,
taco meat.'

MARK
That's bullshit.

TOCHO
The girl is right. Your Spanish is
muy caca.

MARK
You speak English?

TOCHO
Why not?

MARK
Well... I mean...

RANDY
Why didn't you say anything?

TOCHO
It was not time.

RANDY
And it is now?

TOCHO
Your friend is a fool. He needed to
stopped before he insulted us more.

CHA'TIMA
(in Hopi)
Ask them why they are on our land.

TOCHO

(nods)

Grandfather wants to know why you are here. This is Hopi land and not opened to campers.

RANDY

We're students at the university. We have a permit from the Council at Cameron. They said we could study the rocks and...

CHA'TIMA

(in Hopi)

The Navajo Council is composed of fools and women.

TOCHO

These are sacred Hopi lands. Grandfather says that the Navajo Council is not authorized to issue exploration permits.

RANDY

We are students. We don't work for any oil or coal companies.

CHA'TIMA

(in Hopi)

Tell them to go. I sense the Guardians stirring.

TOCHO

Grandfather says you should go. This area is protected by our spirits and you are in danger here. He has seen this.

MARK

This is bullshit. We have approval to be here.

Shannon steps forward.

SHANNON

Excuse me. But aren't the markings on your ponies Hopi?

TOCHO

We are Hopi.

SHANNON

Well, isn't this Navajo land?

HONAW

That is disputed. Regardless of the court ruling, the Hopi will never let Navajo guard our sacred places.

Honaw spits into the dust.

RANDY

OK. Your grandfather is some sort of Shaman. Who are the others?

Tocho nods to each person as he introduces them.

TOCHO

Grandfather is not a Shaman. He is a Caller of Truth Spirits. Chumana is a snake maiden, as her name says. She apprentices with her father, Chua, who is a Shaman and speaker for the Guardians.

Chua reins his horse back so it dances a little. He scowls at the kids.

TOCHO (CONT'D)

(beat)

Tangakwunu is the great-granddaughter of the head of the women's council. Honaw is a Tribal leader. So what we say here has the weight of clan law.

RANDY

Nice to meet you all. We are honored with the delegation.

TOCHO

Then understand you must leave.

RANDY

Look, we've gone to a lot of work to get permission to be here.

MARK

And spent a lot of money.

RANDY

We don't want any trouble. Isn't it possible for us to do our project around here without violating your sacred areas?

Mark can't accept that his permits are not good enough.

MARK

We have the permits! We can be here. Anywhere we want!

There is a long moment of SILENCE.

CHA'TIMA

(in Hopi)

Warn them. They do not hear.

All the Hopi turn their horses and leave except Tocho and Tangakwunu.

TOCHO

Grandfather has seen trouble here. The Guardians are watching. You must not go upriver from the bend.

MARK

We have...

Randy cuts him off.

RANDY

That shouldn't be a problem. We can do what we need in just a small area.

TOCHO

Do not go upstream, do not pass where the river bends. It is not safe for you beyond that point.

SHANNON

President Harding Rapids are seven or eight miles away. There's nothing in this area that's dangerous.

TOCHO

The danger is from the Guardians, not the river.

SHANNON

Look. We're camping here because we can get into the canyon down a feeder stream that merges right at that bend.

TOCHO

Then do not go north. Is this too hard to understand?

MARK

We'll do whatever...

RANDY

That shouldn't be a problem. The rock formations we want to study are below the bend too.

MARK

Why should we...

RANDY

Shut up Mark. This is no big deal and we can respect their beliefs.

MARK

I am not...

DAVID (OC)

Shut up Mark or you'll have more to worry about from me than native ghosts.

RANDY

We'll respect your wishes. Thank you for your concern.

TOCHO

The elders will allow you to look at your rocks. But if you violate the sacred ground north of the bend, nothing will protect you.

RANDY

Yes. We understand. We'll stay south of the bend.

There is a long moment of silence, and then Tocho spins his horse and rides off.

TANGAKUNU

Do not pretend to agree. The Hopi Guardians are charged with protecting the Sacred Lands. Their anger is lethal.

Tangakwunu spins and follows Tocho.

BECKY

Does anyone else feel like we have just been threatened?

RANDY

We'll be OK if we just follow their rules.

MARK

I don't like anyone telling me what to do.

DAVID

Then you won't like me telling you to just go along with things so I don't have to hurt you.

MARK

Yeah. I don't like that at all.

ED

Say, it'll be dark in a little while. I wanna get some shots of the river at sunset. Connie, wanna model for me?

CONNIE

Why not?

MARK

Let's go!

Mark grabs his CAMERA BAG and heads out toward the river with Connie.

Amber TRACKS them as they go, then starts to follow.

SHANNON (OC)

Where do you think you're going?

The CAM SWINGS TOWARD SHANNON. As the Cam PANS, we can BRIEFLY SEE Chu and Chumana, wearing more TRADITIONAL DRESS and BLENDING in with the background. No one notices.

AMBER (OC)

I want to watch. He can teach me some stuff.

SHANNON

Well... Just be careful.

AMBER (OC)

Of course.

SHANNON

And stay away from their sacred areas.

AMBER (OC)
Well, duh...

The CAM SWINGS BACK AROUND. The HOPI ARE GONE.

STATIC THEN GO TO A HALF SECOND OF BLACK.

EXT: DAY - IN THE GRAND CANYON - AMBER'S CAM - SOON AFTER

There is a FLICKER like a sync break. When the image SETTLES, we SEE Ed and Connie by a fairly wide but shallow RIVER. Amber is in stealth video mode, quietly stalking the pair. She is shooting from behind some BUSHES.

Ed looks around, doesn't like what he sees, and points upstream. When he and Connie SPEAK it is from a distance and not real clear from this point.

 ED
I don't like the light here.

He points upstream where another CANYON intersects the river.

 ED (CONT'D)
Let's try up there. The light's better.

They start walking upstream then Connie stops.

 CONNIE
We aren't supposed to go there.

 ED
Well, the light isn't coming to us.
So we have to go there.

They start moving, then Connie stops again. Amber MOVES A LITTLE CLOSER.

 CONNIE
But Randy said not to go there.

 ED
That guy Randy's a douche. We're here to do a documentary and get some portfolio shots for you.

 CONNIE
Yeah, but he said...

 ED
Randy and those guys are doing the digging. That's all the Indians care about.

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

We need light and it's going to be dark soon. You want the shots or not?

CONNIE

Well, I guess it's all right since we won't be digging.

They start to move off again.

Amber fumbles with the camera.

Amber TURNS THE CAM so it is facing her.

AMBER

Well, there you have it:
responsible adults. I bet he's just looking to get her shirt off.

Amber fumbles with the camera then follow Ed and Connie.

EXT: DAY - PETROGLYPH CANYON - MOMENTS LATER

Ed and Connie are in the other canyon when Amber TURNS THE CAM BACK ON. There are a number of Petroglyphs on the walls from the HOPI TABLETS, page four.

They move in closer to the drawings and look at them closely. Connie reaches out and touches the rocks.

ED

That would make a great background for some shots.

CONNIE

Yeah, but I'm not really dressed for Indian stuff.

ED

Yeah, I guess.

Connie delivers her next lines in a thoughtful tone. She is not provocative or being sexy, just thinking out loud.

CONNIE

But I guess it wouldn't matter if I'm undressed.

CONNIE 2 (ALTERNATE)

My bra and panties kinda look like Indian stuff.

ED (CONT'D)

Yeah, that might work...

Amber FIDDLES with the CAM for another editorial comment.

AMBER

I was wrong. He didn't have to talk
her into anything. Cool.
Educational videos!

Amber SWINGS the CAM back on the pair.

(NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCES CAN BE SHOT LIKE CHEESECAKE
PIN-UPS AND NOT AS NUDES IF DESIRED. OR BOTH WAYS TO ALLOW
FOR A RACIER ALTERNATE VERSION.)

As Amber SWINGS THE CAM, we catch a GLIMPSE of Chua and
Chumana by some rocks. They tend to BLEND with the
background. No one there notices them watching.

Connie is undressed with her clothes tossed off to one side.
She is standing with her back to the camera and her arms and
legs outstretched in an X, like she is worshipping the rocks.
Her head is back and the hair hangs down low.

Ed starts snapping photos.

CONNIE

How's this look?

ED

Great!

INTERCUT A SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS.

AUDIO: THE SOUND OF A CLICKING TRIGGER ON THE CAM.

BACK TO SCENE

CONNIE

How about if I kneel?

ED

Yeah, Yeah, that's great.

INTERCUT A SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS. AUDIO: THE SOUND OF A
CLICKING TRIGGER ON THE CAM.

BACK TO SCENE

Amber MOVES a LITTLE CLOSER.

ED

How about some from the front?

CONNIE

Sure.

Connie turns and settles for some cheesecake photos. Nothing real sexy; more like 40s pin-ups.

ED

Yeah, Yeah, that's great.

INSERT A SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS.

AUDIO: THE SOUND OF A CLICKING TRIGGER ON THE CAM.

BACK TO SCENE

ED

This is awesome.

CONNIE

You like it?

Ed's following dialogue matches movements made by Connie.

ED

Yeah. It's great! Tilt your head back a little... dynamite! OK, bring one arm over your chest... no, no, don't block the tit too much... oh yeah. You are great! This is making me hot!

CONNIE

You're just standing in the sun.

ED

No babe. I want you.

CONNIE

We did that the last time we shot.

ED

(whining)
Come on babe. I can't think about the photos. I need it so we can get better shots.

CONNIE

I think you just want sex.

ED

No baby. Remember, you wanted some classy shots for that Hustler audition.

CONNIE

Yeah, so?

ED
If I'm horny, how can I concentrate
on class?

CONNIE
Well... I guess. If it will help
you concentrate.

Connie leans back, disturbing some rocks.

Ed sets down his cam.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Oh, what's this?

ED
What babe?

CONNIE
I found something.

She starts messing in some rocks.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
Look!

She holds up a CLAY POT with a lid. It has IMAGES from the
FRONT OF THE FIRST TABLET ON IT.

ED
We can look after.

Ed starts walking over to her, taking off his shirt as he
goes. Connie lifts the pot's lid and looks in.

CONNIE
What's this white powder is.

ED
There's a white powder in it?

Ed stops taking off his shirt and hurries over.

THE CAM MOVES IN.

CONNIE
Yeah. Looks like baby powder.

ED
Here, let me see!

Amber's Cam is now CLOSE. We can clearly see a decorated pot
full of a GRAINY WHITE POWDER.

CONNIE
So what is it?

ED
Looks like cholly.

CONNIE
Cocaine? What's it doin' out here?

ED
This is Arizona babe. We're a
direct pipeline between Mexico and
the money people.

CONNIE
That open boarder stuff?

ED
Yeah. They close the boarder and
bitch about losing cooks. I bitch
about the cost of drugs going up.
So I vote Democrat.

CONNIE
I don't vote.

ED
Probably a good thing. Let's see
what this is.

CAM MOVES IN CLOSER AND FOLLOWS ED'S HAND

Ed dips a finger into the powder, touching it to his tongue.

ED
Well, this isn't coke, anyway.

CONNIE
So what is it? Cactus powder or
something?

ED
I don't know. Kinda tastes like
metal or something.

AMBER (OC)
If it's metal, maybe Shannon or
Randy will know what it is.

Ed jerks around. Connie gives a LITTLE SQUEAL.

ED
Motherf...! Where'd you come from?

AMBER (OC)
I've been watching you work. I
wanted to see how to pose a model.

ED
Damn it!

AMBER (OC)
But you didn't do much. She did it
all herself. Then she found that
pot right when it was going to get
interesting.

CONNIE
Oh! You're too young to watch that.

Off Cam Amber SNORTS.

Connie reaches for her blouse and begins to dress.

ED
That's just not cool.

AMBER (OC)
Yeah, but it'd make some great
YouTube footage! Pros at work!

CONNIE
Let's go back to camp.

ED
(Beat)
Yeah, it's getting dark. And the
cock-blocker's here anyway.

AMBER (OC)
Then we can see what that stuff is
you found.

ED
And turn off the damned cam before
I get really pissed.

AMBER (OC)
OK. But I bet you aren't horny any
more.

BLACK

EXT: DAY - FIRST CAMPSITE - NEAR DUSK

The group is outside around a campfire when the CAM FLICKERS
ON. There is a moment while the CAM ADJUSTS TO THE LIGHT
LEVELS. Then it swings around and Amber gives her commentary.

AMBER

Here we are back at camp. Ed was
pissed because he didn't get laid.
Connie still doesn't have a clue.

The CAM SWINGS AROUND to show the group looking at the pot
with the powder.

ED

Like I said, it was just sittin'
there behind some rocks.

RANDY

You shouldn't've taken it.

ED

We want to know what it is.

RANDY

It's just white powder.

ED

Yeah, but...

Shannon enters the scene. She is carrying a BOTTLE OF
VINEGAR, a SMALL GAS GRILL.

SHANNON

Let's do some quick tests. Maybe we
can eliminate what it is not, at
least.

RANDY

Good idea. We're supposed to be
scientists. Maybe you can tape it.

ED

Yeah, I'll get my cam.

MARK

And I'll get some of my specimen
tools.

Amber TURNS THE CAM ON HERSELF.

AMBER

This outta be good.

There is some JIGGLING MOVEMENT as Amber walks around for a
better view.

Ed comes back with his Camcorder on a Tripod. Ed's Camera
will stay predominately on close-ups of the experiments,
Amber's on the participants.

Mark is right behind him with a small BOX of TOOLS, like TEST TUBES, sample bags, MAGNIFYING GLASS, and other things a herpetologist might carry.

Shannon pours a little Vinegar into a TEST TUBE that Mark provides. Then she dips a little powder out and drops it in. She stirs it with a GLASS ROD that is also in Mark's box.

ANGLE in on the powder and vinegar.

As she stirs, nothing happens.

RANDY

It's not dissolving.

MARK

Not bubbling, either, so it's not baking soda.

SHANNON

That rules out cocaine, date rape drugs...

AMBER

He didn't need that anyway.

SHANNON

Heroin, katimine, LSD...

MARK

LSD or Cocaine would have hit me when I tasted it. At least a little.

SHANNON

OK. So I guess we can rule out anything organic.

DAVID

You think it's a metal? What metals come in white powder?

RANDY

Chromium, molybdenum, tungsten...

SHANNON

Zirconium. Most mono-atomic metals. Let's see.

DAVID

It doesn't make sense, something like powdered molly, molly...

SHANNON

Molybdenum.

DAVID

Yeah, that stuff. In an Indian pot
in the middle of nowhere?

CONNIE

Oh! Not nowhere. There were
pictures on the walls.

RANDY

Wait. Where did you go?

ED

Just into a side canyon where the
light was better.

RANDY

Was it upstream?

ED

Look...

RANDY

Damn it! They asked us to stay
away...

ED

Hey, I'm not here for your stupid
field trip! I'm here...

Becky steps between Ed and Randy. Planting her hands on her
hips she lets into Ed.

BECKY

Because I asked you to come along
and these people are picking up
your expenses.

ED

I...

BECKY

We're on a shoot, Ed. You need to
treat it like the real thing even
if it is a class project.

ED

Look...

BECKY

No! We can't have problems with the
Indians just because you want
better lighting!

ED

We didn't do...

Randy moves up next to Becky. It's a tag team slam.

RANDY

She's right. We're a long way from
help and no cell phones here. Let's
just do what we need to and get out
with our scalps.

David tries to diffuse the situation.

DAVID

The Hopi don't take scalps. It was
the French who started...

Shannon breaks in to stop the argument.

SHANNON

Maybe this stuff burns.

There is an AWKWARD MOMENT OF SILENCE.

ED

OK. OK. No harm. I'll toe the line.

Shannon lights the stove and holds a LONG HANDLE SPOON of
Powder over the FLAME, holding the spoon with a TOWEL.

Nothing happens.

Mark holds a FIRE STARTER to the Powder, pulls the trigger,
and puts the flame to the Powder.

Nothing happens.

They hold the spoon and flame for several seconds.

CONNIE

This is pretty boring.

RANDY

It takes time for the temperature
to get hot enough to melt metals.

SHANNON

And we are not going to get this
much above 2000 degrees.

(MORE)

SHANNON (CONT'D)

So we aren't getting near the melting point of most metals.

RANDY

But this is a powder, so it may flare up. We can tell something from the flame color.

DAVID

Wait a minute. Shannon, did you say something about mono-atomic metals?

SHANNON

Yes. A lot of mono-atomic powders are white.

DAVID

Like mono-atomic gold?

SHANNON

Yeah, sure.

RANDY

Gold is a noble metal. It'll melt but not burn.

DAVID

We had better put that stuff back.

SHANNON

Why? What's the matter?

DAVID

(to Randy)

I'm taking a Humanities for jocks class this semester.

RANDY

The one where the professor just reads the text to the class?

DAVID

Yeah. We started out on Southwest Native American myths. They use mono-atomic gold in some of their ceremonies.

SHANNON

I don't think we can tell for sure outside the lab, but this could be mono-atomic gold.

David picks up the pot.

DAVID

Yeah. They used it in religious ceremonies and to shift between astral plains and to shape shift.

David takes the sample from Shannon and dumps it in the pot.

CONNIE

That's creepy. We were gonna screw in a church.

SHANNON

What?! With Amber there?

AMBER (OC)

Yeah. They were gonna give me some X-rated footage for SexTube.

DAVID

We'd better get this stuff back. It's gonna be important to someone. Maybe that old man who was here or someone one.

ED'S CAM

SHANNON

How do you know about SexTube?

Amber gives Shannon an innocent look.

Randy looks worried. He takes the pot from David and replaces the lid.

RANDY

Did anyone see you there?

ED

No, just the twerp here.

AMBER

You left it open on your computer after Randy left last week.

Shannon looks panicked and turns back to the conversation. Amber is smug.

CONNIE

I'm not going back there in the dark. It was creepy.

BECKY

I agree. There's too much of a chance someone could fall.

SHANNON

Don't worry Beck. You won't get dizzy if it's too dark to see where you're gonna fall.

BECKY

Very funny. But you won't catch me hanging onto the side of a mountain at night.

AMBER'S CAM

RANDY

I don't think we should try it at night, either.

SHANNON

We can take it back first thing in the morning.

ED

Yeah, and I can get some sunrise photos.

AMBER (OC)

Gonna try to screw Connie again?

ED

(to Shannon)

Do something about your little sister before someone shows her the facts of life on her own body.

DAVID

Touch her and you're dog meat.

AMBER (OC)

Oh! My own White Knight!

RANDY

OK. OK. Cool off. Let's just bunk down for now. We can deal with this tomorrow... when your temperatures are lower.

The group breaks up. Ed LEAVES HIS CAM RUNNING while the group settles in for the night.

Randy banks the fire. Mark and Shannon take their stuff back to the camp. Amber and Connie go to one large tent.

In seconds the camp looks deserted... but we can SEE in the SHADOWS, from ED'S CAM, Chua and Chumana watching the camp.

A few seconds later Ed walks back into the frame.

ED
 (muttering)
 This sucks. Get my ass chewed. The
 twerp screws up my screw. And the
 damned powder isn't even coke. What
 else can happen? Fuck. Left the cam
 running. What next?

BLACK

INT: NIGHT - AMBER'S TENT - LATER

The camp has settled down for the evening. Amber is in a tent with Connie and Becky. Becky is looking at the TAPE Ed made earlier and making a TAPE LOG. She has on an OVERSIZED MAN SHORT AND SHORTS. Connie is in a SPORTS BRA and shorts. Amber is taping with a CAMERA MOUNTED LIGHT and there is a LANTERN in the tent.

AMBER (OC)
 Do you make a lot of money
 modeling?

CONNIE
 This is Arizona. No one makes a LOT
 of money. But it pay for acting
 classes. I'll be rich by thirty.

AMBER (OC)
 Do you have to take your clothes
 off all the time?

CONNIE
 Only when I want.

In the BG, Becky hears a RUSTLING NOISE and looks up, listening.

AMBER (OC)
 Do you do a lot of porn?

CONNIE
 (shocked)
 I never do porn!

BECKY
 Did you hear anything?

AMBER (OC)
 No...
 (to Connie)
 But you take off your clothes.

The RUSTLING NOISE is heard again.

CONNIE

That wasn't porn! That was Art!
Like the models from the classic
paintings by Picasso or... or... or
somebody.

The RUSTLING NOISE is heard again.

BECKY

I heard it again. There's something
out there.

CONNIE

I didn't hear anything.

AMBER (OC)

Me either. And be quiet. We're
doing an interview here.

BECKY

I'm gonna look.

Becky stands and picks up the lantern.

AMBER (OC)

(sighs)
There goes my light.

Becky starts out of the tent. Amber goes with her.

CONNIE

Hey! I don't want to be left in the
dark!

EXT: NIGHT - FIRST CAMPSITE - CONTINUES

Connie is outside the tent as Amber exits behind her,
followed by Connie.

AMBER PANS THE CAM

We SEE the CAMP. There are FOUR TENTS total, one is lit from
the inside, the other three dark. One of the dark tents is
small. The Campfire is GLOWING but not flaming. Some
Equipment Boxes and Coolers are scattered around and a small
WOODPILE. The two cars are nearby with MORE BOXES visible in
the truck. Otherwise, the camp is empty.

When the PANNING LIGHT passes over the lit tent for the
SECOND TIME, David comes out with a FLASHLIGHT. He is
followed by Ed. Ed has a CAMCORDER with CIRCULAR PORTRAIT
LIGHT attached. There is a LANTERN still on inside the tent.

DAVID

What's up?

AMBER (OC)

Our film producer friend said she heard something. Like in a horror movie.

Becky gives Amber a dirty look. Ed TURNS ON THE LIGHT and PANS the scene.

ED

I don't see anything.

Mark exits the tent. He has another flashlight.

MARK

I heard it too, but they didn't believe me.

DAVID

That's because you said it sounded like a giant snake moving around.

MARK

I am a Herpetologist. I was not making it up.

BECKY

It was way too loud for a snake, but there was something.

ED

Probably just wind in the trees.

MARK

(uppity)

First, there are no trees. Second there is no wind.

ED

Then rabbits in the bushes.

AMBER (OC)

Maybe it was Bigfoot.

BECKY

Bigfoot lives where there's a lot of trees and water. Not here.

MARK

It was a big snake.

ED

Well, there's nothing here now.

The Fire SUDDENLY POPS AND FLARES.

The kids react with SQUEALS and EXCLAMATIONS.

DAVID

What the hell was that?

AMBER (OC)

Ghosts.

MARK

Don't be juvenile.

AMBER (OC)

(mutters)

I am a juvenile.

MARK

The fire probably just heated up some grease from dinner. Nothing supernatural about it.

After the brief flare, the fire dies down again.

DAVID

Well, there was enough light to see nothing is around here.

Randy comes out of the dark tent. He is followed by Shannon. Randy is finishing putting on his pants. Shannon is buttoning up a shirt. That and panties is all she has on.

RANDY

What's all the racket?

DAVID

Mark and Becky heard some kind of giant snake or Bigfoot or something.

AMBER

(sweetly)

Did we interrupt you two at something?

Shannon now gives Amber her dirty look.

RANDY

Did you check out the supply tent?

DAVID
Think it was a coyote?

David and Ed move over to the smaller dark tent. They flash their lights around the base and look over the closings.

AMBER (OC)
Or maybe a bear.

MARK
(superior)
The Grand Canyon is home to coyotes, sheep, and deer.

RANDY
And mountain lions.

MARK
Well, yes, of course. But no bears.

DAVID
Or giant snakes.

BECKY
Well, there was something.

DAVID
Doesn't look like anything tried to get into the food.

RANDY
And there is nothing here now.
Let's get back to sleep...

AMBER (OC)
(muttering)
Or whatever you were doing.

RANDY
... Because we have an early day tomorrow.

They agree and move into the tents.

Soon it is only Amber outside, still shinning her cam light around.

Shannon sticks her head outside the tent.

SHANNON
Get back inside Amber. And stop being a pain in the ass.

AMBER (OC)
I'm not the one making your ass...

SHANNON
AMBER!!!!

AMBER (OC)
Alright. Alright. How's a girl
supposed to learn everything if no
one lets her watch?

DAVID (OC)
(yells)
Surf the net, Amber!

Amber's HAND comes up in front of the cam, giving David's
tent the finger. We SEE the shadow.

Amber goes back inside.

BLACK

INT: NIGHT - AMBER'S TENT - CONTINUES

Becky has crawled into her SLEEPING BAG. Connie has her
SLEEPING BAG open, but is applying a FACIAL MASK with the
lantern light and a small mirror propped up against a
BACKPACK.

AMBER (OC)
Time to finish the interview.

CONNIE
Not now. I am doing my face.

AMBER (OC)
Uck. That green makes you look like
a zombie.

CONNIE
Well, turn off that cam then and go
to sleep.

The RUSTLING NOISE comes again, but louder. Becky sits
upright. Connie freezes.

AMBER (OC)
Right.

The three girls pile out of the tent.

EXT: NIGHT - FIRST CAMPSITE - CONTINUES

Everyone comes out of their tents in a rush. Randy is still dressed and now has a FLASHLIGHT. Shannon is dressed the same but has on HIKING BOOTS.

There is general confusion.

They look around the campsite, finding nothing.

They check the cars, nothing there.

They shine their lights out into the darkness. Nothing.

They look for tracks around the food tent. Still nothing.

David, Shannon, and Randy are at Randy's tent. Shannon is hanging on Randy.

RANDY
See anything?

DAVID
Just our tracks.

SHANNON
This is getting creepy.

RANDY
(reassuring)
I'm sure it's nothing.

DAVID
We're not used to camping. Probably
just our imagination.

SHANNON
But we all hear it.

RANDY
Well, there's no sign of anything.

SHANNON
Maybe...

DAVID
Think the Indians are trying to
scare us away?

RANDY
No. Not really.
(yells)
There's nothing! Back to bed!

INT: NIGHT - AMBER'S TENT - LATER

Connie and Becky are in their bags. Amber is still up.

AMBER (OC)
You guys are just going to sleep?

BECKY
You can stay up all night and watch, but we have work to do tomorrow.

CONNIE
The boys are here. Nothing can happen.

AMBER (OC)
You think BOYS will protect us?

Connie sits up and looks at Amber.

CONNIE
Oh, dear. You are still a child. These are not high school boys. These are college boys. Men. Their ego will make sure we're safe.

BECKY
Spoken like a true blond.

The RUSTLING NOISE comes again. Amber reacts with a jerk.

AMBER (OC)
There it is again! We need to go check!

BECKY
Honey, we've already done that. You go look if you want. I'm tired.

AMBER (OC)
Alone?

CONNIE
Don't look at me!

LONG BEAT then there is a rapid series of EIGHT BANGS. The girls all jump. There is the SOUND of COMMOTION from the other tent.

EXT: NIGHT - FIRST CAMPSITE - CONTINUES

They all rush out to find out what made the noise. There is a lot of confused conversation, lights shining all around.

ED'S CAMCORDER finally finds the cars. ALL THE TIRES ON THE VEHICLES ALL flat. Not just flat, but SHREDDED.

ED (OC)
Holy shit.

RANDY
What?

ED
The cars...

DAVID
Mother f...

The action moves to around the cars.

BECKY
I have a spare tire.

MARK
Me too.

AMBER (OC)
That makes two. I think we are a little short.
(beat)
High school math, guys.

DAVID
This sucks.

CONNIE
How are we going to get back?

RANDY
We'll have to hike out in the morning. We can get new tires and a ride back from... somewhere.

DAVID
I guess I was wrong.

RANDY
Why?

DAVID
Nothing's trying to scare us off.
It wants to keep us here.

There is a long pause.

RANDY
Maybe we need to rethink the
sleeping arrangements for tonight.

MARK
What did you have in mind?

RANDY
At least one guy in every tent.

CONNIE
That would make me feel safer.

BECKY
(dryly)
It depends on which guy.

RANDY
Amber, you can come in with me and
Shannon.

AMBER
Can I...

SHANNON
NO! You may NOT bring the
camcorder!

RANDY
Then I guess Ed and Becky and
Connie and David and Mark.

ED
Why not me and Connie?

RANDY
You'll need to sleep.

ED
Then how about me and Shannon so
you can sleep.

AMBER
Hey, if no one plans on sleeping,
how about me and David?

DAVID
WHAT???

AMBER
Oh, are you still a virgin too?

SHANNON

Amber, you stop that this minute!
This is serious!

AMBER

So is virginity. It causes cancer.

SHANNON

Ohhh! I give up.

RANDY

Look, let's just split up and get
some sleep. None of the tents are
large enough for us all or I would
suggest that.

BECKY

Ed, just let it go. Get some sleep.

ED

Yeah, but bunking with you is like
sleeping with Janet Napolitano.

BECKY

Can't you just pretend that I one
of the guys and forget the boobs?

ED

That's what I just said...

Disgusted, Becky goes into the tent.

CONNIE

You guys figure it out. Whoever
comes into my tent had better bring
a big stick...

ED

Like a big woodie?

CONNIE

Like a tree stick, gutter brain!

Connie goes back into the tent.

DAVID

Not a bad idea.

David walks over and picks up a COUPLE of STOUT STICKS from
the woodpile. As he walks past Mark he hands Mark a Stick.

MARK

What's this for?

DAVID
Your giant snake.

David passes Becky as he enters the tent.

Mark SIGHS and follows him.

BECKY
(to Ed)
Come on Stud. And grab a stick.

Ed, without enthusiasm, complies, turning off his cam. He hesitates, then gets a stick too. He looks at Amber.

ED
Not for the snake. To keep her off.

Soon, only Amber is outside. She PANS the empty campsite. Shannon sticks her head outside the tent.

SHANNON
Amber, get in here or I'll have
Randy give your butt a whippin'!

AMBER (OC)
Cool!

SHANNON
Amber!

AMBER (OC)
Yeah, yeah.

BLACK

EXT: MORNING - FIRST CAMPSITE - THE NEXT MORNING

David is showing Amber how to rekindle the fire. She is DOCUMENTING it with her CAMCORDER. The coals are still hot.

DAVID
If there is a little glow to the
coals, you are probably ok.

David places some TENDER on a GLOWING COAL.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Put the tender on it, anything that
is loose like steel wool... then
gently blow on the...

BECKY (OC)
Has anyone seen Ed?

Becky is standing at the front of the tent, hands on her hips, looking around. Shannon and Randy are by the back of the truck going through supplies.

RANDY
Not around here.

BECKY
Weird.

RANDY
What's up?

BECKY
I want to know how he got out of the tent without waking me and then closed it again from the inside.

SHANNON
Are you sure?

BECKY
Yeah.

DAVID
Now that you mention it, Connie was gone this morning too and I haven't seen her since I've been up.
(calling)
Hey, Mark, you seen Connie?

Mark sticks his head out of the tent.

MARK
I woke up near dawn and she was gone.

DAVID
(upset)
Why didn't you wake me up?

MARK
I figured she had one of those girl things to take care of and wouldn't want to be bothered.

RANDY
Do you think something's happened?

MARK
Nobody screamed so I went back to sleep. Speaking of sleep... Call me when we're ready to leave.

DAVID

Get your ass out here and help get ready.

MARK

Hey, I paid for this trip. You can do the work. After all, you are just along for the muscle anyway.

David takes a few steps toward the tent.

RANDY

Time to get up Mark. Your money doesn't make you special now. We need to find Ed and Connie and get started back to civilization.

SHANNON

Connie! Ed! Where are you?

THE OTHERS START CALLING, and begin looking around the camp.

David checks the food tent.

Shannon and Randy look in the vehicles.

Becky starts to leave the site, moving off where she cannot be seen by the others.

RANDY

Becky, I think we need to stay together.

BECKY

Yeah, sure.

She looks down at the sand leading away from the camp. She sees some large TRACKS and calls the others.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Hey, come look at this! Something was here last night.

The group gathers around Becky and the CAMERA PANS/TILTS to reveal the ground where she is pointing.

TWO SET of LARGE SNAKE TRACKS disturb the sand.

Mark crosses himself.

MARK

No fucking way!

RANDY
What is it?

MARK
(hushed)
Snake tracks.

DAVID
Kinda big aren't they?

MARK
Kinda? You idiot. A snake would
have to be at least thirty inches
thick and fifteen feet long to make
those tracks.

DAVID
Damn.

MARK
And there are TWO of them!

AMBER (OC)
A giant anaconda, like in the
movie?

RANDY
This is no movie.

AMBER (OC)
OK. A Gila Monster.

MARK
A Gila Monster would need to be 600
pounds to make tracks like that.

SHANNON
Is that what was here last night?

MARK
Nothing that big lives in North
America.

RANDY
That you know of.

MARK
If it's snakes, this could make my
thesis! My dissertation too!

AMBER (OC)
You could make its dinner, too.

SHANNON

What kind of snake is it?

MARK

Not a sidewinder, for sure. A bit like a cross between a cobra and a diamondback maybe. Nothing I've seen before.

RANDY

So how can you be sure it's a snake?

MARK

(angry)

I know my subject! These are snake tracks.

A long silence ensues.

RANDY

You know, I think we need to find Ed and Connie.

MARK

And get the hell out of here.

BECKY

Maybe Ed went back to the valley for more photos before we left.

AMBER (OC)

Or to get laid.

DAVID

We need to return the pot.

RANDY

OK, let's all go down and see if they are back by the river.

DAVID

Then we put together some packs and water and get the hell out of here before it gets dark again.

BECKY

That works for me.

SHANNON

Yeah, we can get rocks somewhere else.

BECKY

Anyone see the pot with the white stuff?

There is some general confusion as they look.

SHANNON

I thought I left it here by the fire. It's gone now.

BECKY

Maybe they decided to take it back themselves.

RANDY

Amber, can you find where they went before?

AMBER (OC)

Yeah. There won't be any snakes there, will there?

MARK

These are headed away from the river... I think.

RANDY

OK. But turn that thing off so you can walk faster and let's go.

BLACK

EXT: DAY - EXT: DAY - PETROGLYPH CANYON

The CAM FLICKERS back on.

Randy, David, and Shannon are looking around the area where Ed and Connie had been shooting their first shots. Becky, with a CAMCORDER, and Mark are farther up the canyon, closer to where the Pot was found.

BECKY

(yelling)

Hey! Look at this!

Randy, David, and Shannon move in closer. Mark is looking at one of the Petroglyphs.

AMBER'S CAM MOVES IN with them.

RANDY

What is it?

MARK

Doesn't this look like a topo map?

Mark is pointing to a PICTOGRAPH similar to one from the tablets. It shows a bend in the river and to the southeast an area of fractured ground. Shannon moves up close.

ANGLE from Becky's cam. Shannon's hand traces the outline of the river.

SHANNON (OC)

(excited)

Yes, yes! See? Here is the bend of the river. Right where we are. And I bet these lines will match the canyons and ridges to the Southwest.

DAVID (OC)

That looks like a birds-eye view.

SHANNON (OC)

Yeah. It looks pretty detailed.

DAVID (OC)

So where'd they get the bird?

RANDY (OC)

What are you talking about?

ANGLE

DAVID

I'm just asking how the ancient Indians could see this stuff from a bird's eye view.

RANDY

So you think it is modern?

SHANNON

Or a fake?

DAVID

No. I am thinking more about the powder in the pot.

AMBER (OC)

This is where they found it, behind those other rocks.

DAVID

Then maybe this is a religious site.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Maybe they drew this after one of them took an inter-dimensional trip.

MARK

Are you getting all metaphysical on us?

DAVID

Don't know what that means.

MARK

(mumbles)

That's why you are in the jock-level classes.

DAVID

(angry)

What?

RANDY

(cuts in)

What are you saying?

DAVID

From the myth class I'm taking. Remember, these guys were supposed to be able to shape-shift and also shift between dimensions.

SHANNON

So you think one of their shamans might have shifted and then drew this?

DAVID

If it's old, what else?

MARK

Next you'll be trying to tell us the pyramids were built using steam-powered cranes.

DAVID

(straight)

Nah. Everybody knows they used anti-gravity lifters.

Becky moves a little farther down. She finds another 'graph, this one like a drawing on the pot. It is incomplete with a section missing from the lower left. However, it shows what might be the river, a swastika, a face, and some other marks.

BECKY

So what about this?

DAVID

Well, the swastika is an ancient Hebrew symbol, believe it or not. The swastika goes after the head. That's Hebrew. The empty land takes the heart, or the Hopi.

MARK

Are you nuts? Jews didn't use swastikas!

DAVID

Not me. This is just what we learned in class.

MARK

History for Idiots 101?

DAVID

Some people believe that the Hopi might be the lost tribe of Israel and came here from Egypt.

MARK

The Hopi are really Jews?

DAVID

It's a theory.

MARK

It's a crock.

AMBER (OC)

I thought scientists were supposed to have an open mind.

MARK

Open is not the same as empty, little girl.

(to David)

And how is this lost tribe supposed to have made it to the bottom of the Grand Canyon?

DAVID

They would shape shift and move through other dimensions to escape bondage in Egypt.

MARK

By teleportation?

DAVID
Through an inter-dimensional path.
Look.

David moves up to the picture.

DAVID (CONT'D)
If this is a map, then here is the
Place of Emergence and down here
the spot where the fire god gave
the Hopi the tablets.

SHANNON
I thought the Jews only had one
god. You know... that Bible stuff.

DAVID
Well, Zoroastrians worshiped fire,
but a lot of their stuff is the
same as in the Bible and they were
500 years before Christ.

RANDY
Arel is the Biblical name of the
Angel associated with fire.

DAVID
So it could have been an angel and
not God that gave the Hopi their
tablets after they fled Egypt.

MARK
None of which is helping up find Ed
and Connie.

BECKY
Shit.

RANDY
What?

BECKY
We don't need any help.

Becky looks sick. She points behind some rocks.

MOVE IN - Ed and Connie are lying there... very dead.

Shannon squeals and turns away.

AMBER MOVES IN CLOSER - BECKY STEPS BACK FOR A WS.

AMBER (OC)
Cool. Are they really dead or just
faking it?

ANGLE

Randy is leaning over the bodies.

RANDY
Really dead I'd say.

MARK
I think we'd better leave.

SHANNON
But what about...

MARK
We can't help them. Leave them and
let's go.

AMBER
That's where they found the pot, I
think.

Randy rolls Ed over on his back. He is pretty bruised.

The Pot with the Powder was hidden behind him.

MARK
Let's get the hell out of here.

SHANNON
We can't just leave...

DAVID
He's right. We're trespassing on
sacred ground. We can send someone
from the Hopi back here later.

MARK
Someone with guns.

BECKY
Shouldn't we cover them or
something?

RANDY
Everything's back at the camp.
Let's leave the pot and get back.
(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)

We have a long walk and I don't like thinking about being out there after dark.

BECKY

But...

MARK

We have it on tape. Let's just go.

RANDY

Yeah. Come on. They are probably safe enough here.

BECKY

Safe? They're DEAD!

RANDY

I mean from coyotes or things.

SHANNON

We should throw rocks over them.

MARK

No time. Let's go.

Randy puts the pot on a rock near the bodies.

RANDY

Amber, turn that cam off. We need to move quickly and you can't be worried about video.

AMBER

But...

SHANNON

Just do it!

BLACK

EXT: DAY - CAMP

AMBER'S CAM COMES ON

The others are wandering through the camp. It has been TRASHED while they were gone. Food supplies are opened, the drinks empties, canteens holed, supplies scattered, and tents down. It is a major mess.

DAVID

Holy shit.

RANDY
Someone's pissed off.

Becky has moved to the back of the truck. Shannon is poking around the tents.

BECKY
They wrecked the video equipment.

MARK
The school's gonna be pissed.

RANDY
What about the footage you already have?

Becky taps a pocket.

BECKY
Right here.

SHANNON
Here's Ed's camera. It's been smashed.

Becky crosses to Shannon. David is poking through his tent.

BECKY
Let me see...

Becky takes the camera from Shannon.

BECKY (CONT'D)
His back-up camera I think.

Becky toys with the camera a second then pulls out a memory card.

SHANNON
What's that?

BECKY
The memory chip. It looks OK. I'll keep this too. Maybe he shot something without knowing it.

SHANNON
Do you think his other camera is here? I didn't see it with... you know... the bodies.

BECKY
Yeah. I'll see if I can find it.

Becky goes back to sorting through the ruined tent.

RANDY

Look, all the supplies are destroyed. We're going to have a hard time making it back to the road without water.

Shannon crosses to Randy.

SHANNON

What else can we do?

David is kneeling by his tent. He stands up.

DAVID

The air mattresses look OK.

MARK

Great. We can sit on 'em and pretend they're Aladdin's magic carpet.

DAVID

Yea, that's pretty much what I was thinking too.

RANDY

Sarcasm aside, buddy. What's on your mind?

Randy steps over toward David.

BECKY (OC)

I found the other camera! It looks OK, too.

RANDY

What were you trying to say?

AMBER

Put it in my pack. I'll take it.

Shannon comes up behind Randy and leans on him.

DAVID

Well, walking back is going to be hot, tough, and dangerous.

SHANNON

More like impossible.

In the BG, Becky puts the Camera, Video Tapes, and a SMALL SPIRAL NOTEBOOK into a day pack. She sets that aside.

DAVID

And whoever did this might still be out there.

RANDY

Probably. I bet they're watching the camp now.

They react negatively to that idea. Becky joins the group.

BECKY

Creepy.

MARK

It'll be easy to pick us off trying to cross the desert.

BECKY

If the Gila Monsters don't get us first.

SHANNON

Stop it.

DAVID

So why not go another way?

RANDY

We don't have enough hot air to make a balloon.

DAVID

I don't think you are giving Mark enough credit, but I was thinking about floating down the river.

MARK

Figure something stupid from a jock.

RANDY

Wait a minute, Mark. He may have something.

MARK

He isn't McGiver.

SHANNON

And you can't buy your way out of this.

MARK

We haven't tried.

BECKY

David, why do you think floating out will work?

DAVID

Well, we are 80 or 90 miles from Kanab Canyon. That's a pretty popular spot on the river for hiking and horseback riding.

MARK

Bullshit.

DAVID

It's a jock thing, OK? Anyway, we might be able to find help there.

David is wandering through the camp, poking at things as he talks. Randy is following along and Amber is taping it all.

RANDY

What about rapids.

DAVID

There're a few places but nothing major until after Olo Canyon Falls.

MARK

You're not buying this are you?

DAVID

It's a jock thing. I've done the river five or six times. If we float it we'll run across someone sooner rather than later.

RANDY

I say let's go with it.

SHANNON

Better than walking.

MARK

This is nuts.

BECKY

You can walk, big guy, but I think you're going alone.

DAVID

On the upside, water isn't a problem. We don't have to worry about the heat.

AMBER (OC)

What about food? I'm already hungry.

DAVID

The river flows between two and four miles an hour. So we should reach Kanab tomorrow afternoon if we stop.

BECKY

Why stop? It's not like we'd take a wrong turn.

DAVID

The River averages forty feet deep.

BECKY

All of it? What about close to shore?

DAVID

Some places are just waist deep, where the river is wide. But if we run into trouble in the deeper areas I'd rather do it in daylight.

Becky thinks about it, then agrees.

RANDY

Let's see what we can find that will float... air mattresses, water coolers, and stuff. We can take some spare clothes and a few things with us if we pack light.

AMBER (OC)

And food.

RANDY

Yeah. Food. If we look we can probably find some stuff that wasn't destroyed. Some energy bars at least.

SHANNON

Pots? Pans?

RANDY

Maybe a pot to boil drinking water.

BECKY

I brought some Ramon. Maybe it's still good.

RANDY

Good idea.

AMBER (OC)

So two pots.

RANDY

Anything light. Let's see what we can get packed and down to the river.

MARK

This is stupid.

SHANNON

Oh, come on Mark. We can look at it as a free river adventure.

MARK

I already spent enough on this trip. Nothing's free.

AMBER (OC)

Afraid of the water?

MARK

I can't swim.

There is a long boat.

AMBER (OC)

Are there snakes in the canyon?

MARK

There are eleven snakes indigenous to the Grand Canyon. The Arizona Glossy Snake, Desert Glossy Snake...

SHANNON

Mark.

MARK

California King Snake, Desert Striped Whipsnake, Grand Canyon Rattlesnake...

SHANNON

Mark...

(aside)

He knows his snakes...

DAVID

It takes one to know one...

MARK

Great Basin Gopher snake, Great
Basin Rattlesnake, Hopi
Rattlesnake, Mojave Patch-nosed
Snake...

SHANNON

Mark!

MARK

Mojave Rattlesnake and the Long-
nosed Garter Snake.

SHANNON

Thank you Mark. Very impressive.
Useless, but impressive.

AMBER (OC)

So do the snakes swim?

MARK

Of course. They're not afraid of
water. They'll swim to pursue food,
mates, and to escape a predator.

AMBER (OC)

So what you are saying is that you
are afraid to go into the water
because of the snakes.

MARK

Young lady, I am a herpetologist! I
am NOT afraid of snakes.

AMBER (OC)

In that case, if the snakes are in
the water, then you need to go
there to study the snakes.

MARK

Huh?

AMBER (OC)

That was easy. We're all going,
aren't we Mark? So you can look for
water snakes, right?

MARK

Yeah. Yeah, well, I guess.

RANDY

Then let's get started.

(BEAT)

You too Amber. Off the cam.

AMBER (OC)
Artists don't get no respect.

BLACK

EXT: DAY - THE RIVER LOCATION 1 - AMBER'S CAM

Randy, Shannon, and David are securing TWO PACKS and SLEEPING BAGS to TWO AIR MATTRESSES in the water.

Mark and Becky are at TWO MORE AIR MATTRESSES. Between these is a COOLER. All three items are tied together. Becky is attaching a CAMCORDER to the top of the cooler with straps. Becky is pretty wet and her top is clinging to her chest.

Mark is spending more time looking at that than working.

Pulled up partly on the shore are TWO MORE AIR MATTRESSES, already tied and loaded, the cargo wrapped in the remains of a tent.

TWO MORE AIR MATTRESSES are tossed to the side with an INNER TUBE. A couple of STYROFOAM ICE CHESTS are tethered to the inner tube.

The CAM ZOOMS in tight on Becky's chest. No bra.

The CAM ZOOMS OUT A LITTLE and shows Mark looking at Becky and not what he is doing.

Mark straightens up and looks at the cam.

The CAM ZOOMS OUT to a TWO SHOT.

MARK
Are you just going to sit there
playing with that cam or help with
this?

AMBER (OC)
Take a look dummy. I've already
loaded my two air mattresses and
lashed the coolers to the inner
tube. I've done more alone than you
guys working together!

MARK
Then you can come give us a hand!

The CAM JIGGLES.

AMBER (OC)
You would get more done if you worked instead of looked at Becky's boobs. I got it all right here.

BECKY
Pervert.

MARK
Hey, I wasn't...

RANDY (OC)
Alright everyone!

CAM SWINGS TOWARD RANDY'S GROUP.

RANDY
We should be ready to go.

SHANNON
Do you really think we have enough supplies?

MARK
I think we have all that was left.

RANDY
And I don't think we can take much more anyway. I want to keep the last two air mattresses empty for people floats.

DAVID
Good idea. We're going to be in the water for a few days.

Mark and Becky ENTER THE SHOT with their rafts.

BECKY
I don't like leaving Connie and Ed.

MARK
We can't take them. In this heat they will... spoil.

SHANNON
We could wrap them in what's left of the tents.

RANDY
Mark's right, Becky, Shannon. They are better where they are.

MARK

And there's less chance of us catching a disease if we leave them. All kinds of nasty bugs in decaying bodies.

BECKY

But...

SHANNON

I guess I don't want to spend the next three or four days with dead bodies. It's creepy enough already.

AMBER (OC)

(yelling)

Sis is afraid of zombies.

SHANNON

Shut up Amber. I am not!

Amber GIGGLES OFF CAMERA.

RANDY

Zombies or not, the sooner we get going the sooner someone can come for the bodies.

BECKY

What if they're gone?

MARK

(sarcastic)

Zombies?

Becky gives him a dirty look.

BECKY

I was thinking more about animals or whatever killed them.

MARK

You mean whoever.

BECKY

Yeah. We're going to have to tell the police something.

AMBER (OC)

That's why I've recorded everything, Becky. Between our two cams we've got it covered.

BECKY

I guess...

RANDY

Right. So girls on the floats
first...

AMBER (OC)

I got the tube so I can record!

RANDY

And we can get started.

MARK

Maybe we should all share the air
mattresses.

RANDY

What do you mean?

MARK

Instead of just the girls floating
and the rest of us getting worn
out, we can all ride at the same
time.

BECKY

If you think you're gonna spend
three days on top of me on an air
mattress, forget it.

DAVID

Mark's a good guy. I am sure you
can have the top sometimes.

MARK

Idiots. Here, I'll show you.

Mark splashes over to the unused air mattresses and grabs one,
He tosses it in the river and lays on it near the top,
leaving the bottom half free.

SHANNON

I guess that would work.

MARK

This way if there is trouble, we're
not all beat from trying to stay
afloat.

RANDY

Whatever. Let's just go.

DAVID

(to Randy)

You and Shannon take the other mattress. I'll wrangle the loaded ones.

RANDY

What'll hold you up?

DAVID

There's some tent fabric left. I'll rig a sling. I'm the heaviest one here, but I figure something that will hold me and the supplies.

MARK

Let's stop talking and go. Come on Becky, I'm shoving off.

BECKY

Maybe the girls should stick together.

RANDY

Not that I think Mark'll be much help, but I think boy-girl may be safer. David can watch after Amber.

AMBER (OC)

Cool!

BLACK

EXT: DAY - LOCATION 2 ON THE RIVER - LATER

Amber LOOKS into the cam; she is holding it at ARMS LENGTH.

AMBER

Well, here we are on the river.

The CAM does a SLOW PAN of the river. Up ahead is a spot with a LITTLE BEACH sticking out next to a CLIFF BASE.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

So far, pretty boring.

The CAM SWINGS FORWARD and ZOOMS IN on the first Air Mattress with Shannon and Randy, who are close together.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Randy and Shannon lead the way. They've been talking like a couple of lovers for the entire float.

(MORE)

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

I expect to be an aunt by the time we get back to Flagstaff.

THE CAMERA SWINGS TO Becky and Mike on their raft. They are at opposite ends.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Then there's Becky and Mark. Good thing we don't have a boat. They'd create an iceberg and sink it.

THE CAMERA SWINGS TO David, who is to the right and a little behind Amber. David is relaxed.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

And this is David. He looks laid back now, but tonight he is going to make mad, passionate love to me.

David jerks up, now fully alert.

DAVID

Say what????

AMBER (OC)

Well, I don't wanna die a virgin and I think you'll do.

DAVID

I'll do what?

AMBER

You'll do to make sure I don't die a virgin. You get to be the first... and probably last.

DAVID

(sullen)

You're not going to die. And I guess I'll not be the first. Sixteen will get you life.

AMBER (OC)

I thought it was 15 gets you 20.

DAVID

It's life on the sex offender list. So, no thanks. Come back in a few years. Say, four or six.

AMBER (OC)

I'll be eighteen in year and ten months.

DAVID
Then come back in one year and
eleven months.

AMBER (OC)
We're not going to live that long.

DAVID
What makes you think that? We'll
get out of this.

AMBER (OC)
They got Connie and Ed. I'm next.

DAVID
Who said that?

AMBER (OC)
I was there with them. Whatever
killed them will come for me too.

David waves his hand at the scenery.

DAVID
Look. We're in the middle of the
river. Nothing will get you here.
Sure safer than trying to hike back
to civilization.

AMBER (OC)
I don't care. We are still gonna do
it tonight.

DAVID
Ain't gonna happen.

AMBER (OC)
You can't resist. I can see it in
your eyes. You want it.

David reaches over to the other cam he turns it on and aims
it at Amber.

DAVID
Let's see if you can talk slutty
when you're on tape.

ANGLE

AMBER
I don't have a problem with that.
I'm gonna be dead tomorrow, just
like Connie. And you are going to
make sure I'm not a virgin.

DAVID

Like I said, ain't gonna happen.
You're too young.

AMBER

Most of my friends have been
fucking for the last two years or
more.

DAVID

Watch your mouth.

AMBER

I've seen Shannon watch her mouth
with Randy. If that'll get you
started, I'll do it.

DAVID

What are you talking about.?

AMBER

That sixty-nine thing.

DAVID

What makes you think Shannon and
Randy are doing anything at all.

AMBER

I hid a mini-cam in Shannon's air
vent. I know what they're doing.

DAVID

That's just plain wrong.

AMBER

She has all the fun because she's
the oldest. Now it's my turn.

DAVID

Not with me.

AMBER

I'll do the sucking thing.

DAVID

Won't get close enough and I'm
keeping my pants on.

AMBER

I know how to break your
resistance.

DAVID

Doubt that.

AMBER

Guys can't resist boobs.

DAVID

Maybe high school guys with runaway hormones, but we learn to control that by the end of puberty.

AMBER

Shannon's says it works on all guys. Show them a boob and they'll do anything.

DAVID

Not a guarantee of success. And forewarned, it won't happen to me.

AMBER

It's how she got randy. She let him see down her shirt a couple of times.

DAVID

Damn. You know way too much.

AMBER

I'm gonna show you my boobs and you'll get so horny you won't be able to control yourself.

DAVID

You won't do it.

AMBER

I will.

DAVID

Won't matter if you do. I'm not that easy.

AMBER

You see once and when I come over tonight you won't be able to say no.

DAVID

Don't bother trying. Not me, anyway.

AMBER

I want you and you're gonna do it because you can't help yourself.

DAVID
Jail is a good incentive to keeping
you a virgin.

AMBER
You're gonna sex me tonight.

DAVID
Nope.

AMBER
Bet.

DAVID
Yep.

Amber carefully sets her cam on one of the floats. She reaches pulls her blouse up, exposing her chest.

AMBER
You're mine now.

David is startled and starts floundering. He is looking around to see if anyone else is looking

DAVID
Shit, stop that!

AMBER
Not until you promise.

David TURNS THE OTHER CAMERA OFF OF AMBER. He is trying not to look but then, he is male.

DAVID
Stop that. You're not on cam any
more. Start acting like the good
girl you normally are.

AMBER (OC)
I'm not. I'm tired of not having
any fun because I'm young. I'll get
naked right now if that is what it
takes.

Amber's SHIRT FLIES OVER THE CAM and hits David.

DAVID
Damn it, but that back on!

David tosses the short back at her.

AMBER (OC)
I. Am. Not. Going. To. Die. A.
Virgin.

 DAVID
OK. OK. But take a look at Becky.

The CAM SWINGS TO FOCUS ON BECKY AND MARK. They are still on opposite ends of the air mattress.

 AMBER (OC)
So?

 DAVID (OC)
That's us tonight - opposite sides
of the world. Tits or no tits, you
aren't getting close enough to...

There is a SPLASH!

 AMBER (OC)
What'd you do? Fall in?

The CAM SWINGS TO FOCUS ON DAVID.

But David is not there. The raft is bobbing in the water but the seat he had rigged is empty.

The CAM SCANS the water around the float, looking for David.

 AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)
You can't hide from me forever.

The CAM CONTINUES TO SCAN the water.

 AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Hey! Anyone see David? I think he
fell in the water!

 RANDY (OC)
What...?

Shannon suddenly SCREAMS.

The CAM RAPIDLY SWINGS around to center on Shannon. She is terrified and pointing to something in the sky.

 RANDY (CON'T OC) (CONT'D)
What the hell!

 MARK
Motherfucker!

BECKY

Oh my God!

AMBER (OC)

What?

The CAM SWINGS around and TILTS UP toward where Shannon was pointing.

We SEE David dangling in the air... but only the lower half! The upper half vanishes in the sky. (NOTE: ALTERNATE SHOT - DAVID IS HANGING FROM A TREE, THE UPPER BODY HIDDEN.) He is still living because his legs are kicking.

BLOOD GUSHES out of the sky and flows down David's body.

The LEGS kick a few more times then go still.

Suddenly David's body DROPS from the sky. His entire body is revealed as he falls into the river. His upper body has been mangled, shredded.

The body bobs up, surrounded by a POOL OF BLOOD. It begins to float downstream.

Randy and Shannon begin paddling back toward the body. Mark and Becky kick just enough to stay in place.

AMBER FOLLOWS IT WITH THE CAM. She is trying to maintain her relative position on the river.

When Randy and Shannon get near, Randy slips off the air mattress and swims to David's side.

Randy looks at the body.

He feels for a pulse.

Randy checks to see if David is breathing.

Finally, he just pushes the body away and watches it float downstream.

Amber is SOBBING in the background.

SHANNON

Aren't you going to do anything?

RANDY

He's dead. Nothing we can do.

SHANNON

We should bury him, or something.

MARK

(loudly)

Let it go! We need to worry about ourselves.

BECKY

You're a pig.

MARK

(defensive)

He's dead! We are not! Maybe someone'll find his body downstream and come looking up here!

BECKY

You're still a pig.

Randy looks around and SEES the Beach a little ahead.

RANDY

Come on. Let's get out of the water for awhile. There's a place over there where we can see if anything's coming.

BECKY

Whatever grabbed him wasn't in the water. Aren't we safer here?

RANDY

Whatever grabbed him wasn't anywhere. We're just as safe there as we are here.

AMBER (OC)

It should have been me.

SHANNON

What do you mean?

AMBER (OC)

I was the other one that was there at the site. It should have been me.

RANDY

I don't think that has anything to do with it. We were all back there when we found the bodies.

BECKY

So we're all in danger then.

MARK

Shit.

SHANNON

Why aren't you wearing a shirt?

AMBER (OC)

(evasive)

Must have fallen off in the excitement or something.

RANDY

It looks they weren't satisfied with Ed and Connie. Damn, I don't know what to think.

SHANNON

Get dressed young lady!

BECKY

We have to do something. We have to fight back.

The CAM JIGGLES and is put back on a float.

MARK

Against what? He was killed by empty air.

BECKY

I don't know. Something.

RANDY

Let's get this stuff to shore. We can talk about it there. I'll feel better on dry land for awhile.

There is GENERAL ASSENT and they begin moving toward the beach.

Randy starts pushing the raft where David had been.

Amber PICKS UP THE CAM AGAIN.

SHANNON

Amber, honey, turn off the cam. You need to get to shore.

AMBER (OC)

(panicked)

No. We need to record everything.

Randy reaches over and turns on the other cam, the one that Becky lashed to the raft.

RANDY
That'll be good enough for now.
Let's get to shore.

AMBER'S CAM GOES DARK.

EXT: DAY - LOCATION 2 ON THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

THE VIEW IS FROM THE RAFT CAM. It will be bobbing a little.

Becky and Mark are on the rocky beach, their air mattress pushed up next to them.

Shannon's air mattress is tossed up a little higher. She is wading back into the water toward the cam.

SHANNON
I'll help with the raft.

RANDY (OC)
Thanks.

Amber paddles past the cam and grabs a rope from one of the air mattresses. She swerves around and starts kicking toward the shore, pulling the raft behind her.

AMBER (OC)
I got it.

The raft swings around, CAUSING THE CAM TO SWING UNTIL RANDY AND SHANNON ARE IN VIEW.

Shannon watches Amber until she is close to the shore. Randy walks up next to her.

SHANNON
I'm scared.

RANDY
Yeah, me too.

SHANNON
It killed David.

RANDY
I know.

SHANNON
I mean, he's dead. Just like Ed and Connie.

RANDY
Yeah. I know. We've been friends since sixth grade.

The dialogue Pace increases.

SHANNON
It's gonna kill us too, isn't it?

RANDY
We'll be OK. We'll stick closer together. Keep a watch.

SHANNON
He was the strongest one of us.

RANDY
Yeah. I know.

Shannon is slowly becoming hysterical.

SHANNON
We don't stand a chance.

RANDY
It'll be alright. You'll see.

Randy reaches out and hugs her to him.

SHANNON
We're all going to die.

RANDY
Nothing is going to hurt you. We'll get out of this.

SHANNON
No we won't. We can't even see it!

AMBER'S CAM. The SHOT ZOOMS IN to a MS of Randy and Shannon.

RANDY
Babe, I'm right here. I've got you. Nothing is going to get you.

SHANNON
It will. You. Me. Amber. Everyone.

RANDY
Hey, I'll hold you all the way back to Flagstaff if that's what it's going to take.

Shannon puts her head on Randy's chest and starts SOBBING.

SHANNON
It's gonna kill us.

RANDY
Nothing is going to happen while I
have you.

SHANNON
It's too....

Shannon is PULLED DOWN AND OUT OF RANDY'S ARMS. She vanishes
underwater as if something had grabbed her feet.

INTERCUT BETWEEN AMBER'S CAM AND THE RAFT CAM

RANDY
What the...

Randy starts splashing in the water, looking for Shannon. She
has totally vanished. CONFUSION REIGNS. Randy and Becky are
frantically looking for Shannon, CALLING FOR HER. Now Amber
is SOBBING.

AMBER (OC)
Shannon!

MARK (OC)
What is it?

BECKY (OC)
Oh my God. It took Shannon right
out of Randy's arms.

RANDY
We have to find her!

Becky splashes out into the water.

Mark runs to the edge and stops.

MARK
I don't think it's a good idea to
be in the water right now.

RANDY
Damn it! Get out here and help!

MARK
I'll just keep looking from here.

About thirty feet away from the group, SHANNON SHOOTS OUT OF
THE WATER like she was fired from a circus cannon. She flies
into the air, screaming.

She splashes back into the water and is immediately pulled
under. A flood of BUBBLES come up, then nothing.

Randy starts to swim over to where Shannon last appeared, but Becky grabs him.

BECKY

No! It's a trap!

Suddenly, SHANNON SHOOTS INTO THE AIR again, but now she is a long way away from where she was... too far for her to have swum that distance. She is still SCREAMING, but it is weaker.

Those we can see stand around and watch.

There is a LONG PAUSE.

Amber's cam continues to SCAN the River.

AMBER (OC)

Where is she?

MARK

Worm food like the others.

RANDY

Shut up, asshole.

MARK

Suck on it Randy. She's been under too long. No way she's not drowned.

RANDY

I said... Shut. The. Fuck. Up... Asshole.

MARK

No one made you God. Besides, someone needs to keep a cool head.

BECKY

Mark, just be quiet; look for her.

MARK

What? Watch for her to play Pop Tart again?

RANDY

Mark, shut your mouth or I'll fill it with your teeth.

MARK

Ohhh. Big man. Well, your private pussy is gone so maybe you can fuck little sister there.

Randy has had enough. He turns and rushes to the shore.

Mark turns to run but we SEE Amber's foot trip him.

Before Mark can recover, Randy is on him smashing him on the head and body with wildly flying fists.

Becky rushes into the scene.

BECKY

Stop it! Now is not the time! We need to find Shannon.

Becky pulls Randy off Mark.

RANDY

If you don't start acting like damned human being it isn't gonna be snakes that kill you.

AMBER (OC)

And if he doesn't, I will. That was my SISTER you fuck!

FROM THE RAFT CAM

SHANNON SHOOTS INTO THE AIR again. This time her body is limp like a rag and COVERED IN BLOOD.

She splashes into the water and begins to float downstream.

ANGLE

Randy dives into the water and swims to the body.

He takes her in a lifeguard grip and pulls her toward shore.

When they are close, Becky splashes out to help him.

The each take an arm and...

Shannon is pulled from their grasp.

Her body is pulled along the surface at a high rate of speed up river. In a few seconds she vanishes from sight around a bend.

MARK

Well, at least we don't have to worry about the body.

Randy turns and splashes back toward Mark.

The CAM goes BLACK.

EXT: DUSK - THE RIVER CAMP - LATER

The group has made a small camp. There is FIRE going and some of the supplies are scattered about. They have finished eating.

Amber is sitting next to Randy, cuddled under his arm like a chick. Her cam is in her lap.

Mark is sitting across the fire. His face is banged up.

Becky has the SECOND CAM.

BECKY (OC)

OK. It's rolling. Let's talk about what happened.

MARK

Ape man there...

BECKY

Yeah. But you tripped and fell on your face. Let's talk about the dead people.

AMBER

(mumbles)

We're all going to die.

Amber balances her camera on a log, giving ANOTHER ANGLE to Becky's camera.

RANDY

Maybe not. If we can figure out what these things are we can find a way to defeat them.

MARK

It's a supernatural snake.

Becky LAUGHS, Amber SNORTS, but Randy takes him seriously.

RANDY

How do you figure?

MARK

That first night at the camp, when Ed and Connie vanished.

AMBER

Nobody saw anything.

Mark begins pacing. He is agitated and nervous.

MARK

I heard the slithering sounds then there were the snake signs.

RANDY

You said the signs were too big for snakes.

MARK

They were bigger than anything I'd ever seen. Like being in the Lost World or something.

BECKY (OC)

But what about David and Shannon?

MARK

Shannon is easy. Most snakes can swim. Whatever grabbed here could easily have been a snake.

RANDY

Why not something else?

MARK

(shrugs)

Could have been. Hell, it could've been a dinosaur for all I know. This could be the Twilight Zone.

AMBER

What about David? He was just hanging in the sky.

MARK

Beats me.

BECKY (OC)

David said something about traveling in different dimensions or something.

RANDY

Yeah. Inter-dimensional travel from Egypt.

Amber moves next to Randy. She leans into him.

MARK

So maybe they grabbed him from another plane. How the hell should I know?

AMBER

They're coming back for all of us.

Randy puts his arm around Amber. She leans into him for comfort.

RANDY

We need to set up a warning line.

BECKY

What's that?

RANDY

We can string some rope around the campsite and attach some cans and spoons and things. Something to make a noise.

AMBER

They're snakes.

MARK

Big snakes. Those signs were made by something two, three feet across.

Randy sits up higher, disturbing Amber.

RANDY

OK so if we string it a few inches off the ground... that should catch it.

AMBER

But they can just pop out of nowhere.

BECKY (OC)

We'll gather a lot of wood and keep a fire going. Keep some brands burning we can use as weapons.

RANDY

Good idea.

MARK

I suppose you are going to assign watches or something.

RANDY

Another good idea.

Mark SNORTS.

Randy stands up and moves to where the rafts have been pulled ashore. Amber follows, picking up her cam again.

Randy rumbles around and pulls out some rope.

RANDY (CONT'D)

This should work. Get some noise makers. Amber, why don't you keep a record?

Amber rises and gets her CAM.

ANGLE FROM AMBER'S CAM

Becky and Randy are running the rope along one side of the beach toward the water. Mark rummages around in the packs.

Once Becky reaches the back of the clearing she ties off the rope and swigs it around to the other side. Randy is holding the rope up by setting small branches into the ground.

Mark begins tying various OBJECTS to the rope with TWINE. When the rope jiggles, they tinkle.

Becky and Randy continue across the back followed by Mark adding the noisemakers.

Becky and Randy swing down the far side. Mark follows.

When Becky and Randy reach the water's edge, they stop and look out across the river.

RANDY

I guess we need to trap this side too.

BECKY

Don't you think we'll hear splashing?

RANDY

Not necessarily. We need to move the supplies up higher. It'd be a bad thing to lose what we have.

Behind them, Mark has finished with the last part of the trip wire. He stops well away from the water.

BECKY

I guess you're right.

RANDY

Mark, why don't you work on stringing the rope while we haul this stuff closer to the fire?

MARK

Fuck that. I'm not getting close to the river in the dark.

BECKY

Come on Mark. Don't be a wimp.

MARK

(angry)

Hey, I am the snake expert. I'm telling you I'm not getting near there until I can see if there're ripples coming or not.

RANDY

Then help move the stuff farther ashore. We'll lay the line.

MARK

No way. I'm not getting close to the water until daylight.

AMBER (OC)

Sunshine didn't help David.

MARK

Yeah. Well, first I'm gonna take a piss then I'll see about getting some more wood. You guys can play in the water.

Mark turns and walks toward the cliff.

AMBER FOLLOWS HIM WITH THE CAM.

MARK

Don't tape me pissing.

AMBER (CC)

I want to catch it when a snake bites off your cock, prick.

Mark stops with his back toward the Cam. He is three or four feet from the canyon wall, just outside the trip wire.

He starts to unzip his pants.

He falls on his back, feet pulled out from under him.

MARK

Shit.

AMBER (OC)

Randy!

Mark flips over on his stomach.

He is being PULLED INTO THE FACE OF THE CLIFF.

Becky and Randy enter the scene, grabbing Mark's arms and pulling back.

Amber SETS THE CAM DOWN on a rock.

Amber enters the scene carrying a burning brand.

She thrusts the brand toward Mark's feet, but the feet are INSIDE the mountain face.

AMBER (CONT'D)

What has him! I can't see anything!

RANDY

There must be a hole. How close you can get without burning him?

Amber pushes the brand as close as she can to Mark. It seems like the feet are INSIDE THE ROCK.

Slowly, Mark starts MOVING INTO THE ROCK.

MARK

Help me!

He's in to his knees now.

Amber tossed down the brand and grabs his pants at the waist, pulling back.

Whatever has him is stronger. It keeps inching him into the cliff face.

MARK (CONT'D)

(repeatedly)

Help me. Oh God please. Help me.
It's cold!

RANDY

Pull hard. On three. two... pull.

They succeed in pulling him out an inch or two. There are GENERAL CRIES OF EXCITEMENT. They are winning.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Pull again. On three. One... two...

Mark is suddenly jerked back into the cliff, up to his chest. BLOOD GUSHES from him mouth. We HEAR BONES CRACK.

Becky SCREAMS.

Amber turns aside and GAGS.

Mark goes limp. Randy let's Mark's arm drop.

BLACK

EXT: NIGHT - THE RIVER CAMP - LATER

Amber again has her CAM on. Becky and Randy are arguing. There is a small fire.

BECKY

I don't want to go back in the water at night.

RANDY

We can't stay here with Mark like that.

BECKY

I don't want to go back in the water.

RANDY

The blood will attract scavengers.

Becky leans over and tosses another branch on the fire.

BECKY

I don't care. The fire will keep them away.

Becky picks up another stick and pokes the fire.

RANDY

We need to keep moving. Sitting still we're an easy target.

Becky is still morose, poking at the fire with a stick.

BECKY

Doesn't seem like we've had much luck whatever we do.

AMBER (OC)

Who do you think is doing this? WHY
are they doing it?

There is a moment of silence.

RANDY

Ed and Connie ignored the warning
from the Hopi. Then we all ignored
it looking for Ed and Connie. I
guess we pissed off the Guardians.

AMBER (OC)

But we put the stuff back and they
killed the people who took it.

BECKY

They want to protect their legends.

RANDY

What do you mean?

BECKY

Apparently we saw something they
don't want the rest of the world to
know about.

AMBER (OC)

Like that powder.

BECKY

Yeah. That and the pictographs.

Becky breaks her stick and tosses both pieces into the fire.

RANDY

So they killed Ed and Connie for
their sins, now they are after us
to keep their secret.

BECKY

Yeah. I guess they're worried about
what'll happen if the police show
up looking for the bodies.

Becky starts looking around for another poking stick.

AMBER (OC)

But who are THEY?

Becky stops looking and sits back depressed.

BECKY

Well, the Guardians.

AMBER (OC)
Yeah, but who.... .

Randy SNAPS HIS FINGERS. He uses his hands for emphasis.

 RANDY
You know, that kid introduced those
two as snake thingies. The father
and daughter.

 AMBER (OC)
You mean the creepy looking man
with the cute girl?

Becky sits up, more energized.

 BECKY
I remember them. They were a little
off to the side.

 RANDY
I would guess it is those two or
someone working with them. If they
are Guardians, then maybe they were
guarding the Petroglyph site.

 AMBER (OC)
Or the drugs...

 BECKY
They have to keep it all a secret
and living people talk. So now
they're coming after us with some
kind of supernatural power.

 AMBER (OC)
And how do we fight that?

 RANDY
I'm not sure.

Becky stands up and starts looking around the campsite.

 BECKY
So the best answer is we don't
fight, we run like hell.

Randy stands up too.

 RANDY
Then we should keep moving.

Becky stops, suddenly afraid.

BECKY

No. I want to be here so I can see what's coming.

There is a SLITHERING SOUND from OC.

Amber JERKS THE CAM AROUND looking for the source.

AMBER

What was that?

BECKY

It's that same sound from the campsite. The one Mark said was made by the giant snakes.

RANDY

We need to keep moving. If those snakes are shape shifters, I bet it takes a lot of energy to keep the shape. The harder it is to catch us the better chance we have of getting away.

BECKY

I don't know...

RANDY

Look we don't have time. Amber, help me get everything lashed together. Becky, build up the fire. Let's get more light!

BECKY

(reluctantly)
OK... I guess.

RANDY

Right. I'll pull the raft up....

BLACK

EXT: NIGHT - ON THE RIVER - LATER

The three survivors are back on the rafts. The inner tube forms the center with everything else tied to it. Becky and Randy are on air mattresses on the outside; Amber is in her spot in the tube. TORCHES have been forced into the Styrofoam containers throwing light around the flotilla.

The MOON is bright on the water.

RANDY

Are you recording again?

AMBER (OC)
 Have to record our escape craft for
 those who investigate our
 disappearance.

BECKY
 Pessimistic?

AMBER (OC)
 I'm going to die a virgin. David
 was my one hope.

RANDY
 David?

AMBER (OC)
 Well, you had Shannon. And I don't
 think you wanna now. You know...
 because... because...

Amber sniffs.

RANDY
 Because we don't have time and
 you're too young.

AMBER
 I am NOT too young!

RANDY
 Too young for anyone over eighteen.

AMBER
 There's no one left who can help
 me. I'm scared. I just want one
 thing before I die. Just one!

RANDY
 You're not going to die a virgin.
 You have plenty of time to...

BECKY
 Look! Over there!

Becky is pointing at the water off to the side of the raft.

The CAM SWINGS AROUND AND THE CAM LIGHT CLICKS ON.

There are RIPPLES IN THE WATER; swimming snake sign.

RANDY
 What is it?

BECKY
Something in the water. Something
big!

AMBER (OC)
Let's get to shore!

Randy hesitates a BEAT.

RANDY
All right. Over there. Looks like a
small beach.

They start paddling for the beach. After a second...

BLACK

EXT: NIGHT - ESTABLISHING SHOT - THE LAST STOP

The raft is pulled up on shore. Becky and Randy are watching the water. They both have burning TORCHES in their hands. A small fire burns near the shore. Nothing much was unloaded.

RANDY
See anything?

BECKY
Not now.

RANDY
Did you get a good look at it?

BECKY
No. Just looked like something big
swimming in the water.

RANDY
Maybe it was rapids, you think?

BECKY
It was pacing us. Maybe even moving
ahead. It couldn't be rocks.

RANDY
Some driftwood maybe?

BECKY
(beat)
Maybe. I don't think so though.

RANDY
Well, I don't see anything now.

AMBER (OC)
Does the Grand Canyon have a Loch
Ness Monster?

RANDY
No. And don't invite trouble.
(to Becky)
See anything now?

BECKY
(beat)
I guess not.
(beat)
But I still don't wanna go back in
the water tonight.

Becky starts to turn back to the fire.

RANDY
OK. I guess we can stay here the
rest of the night. I'm kinda tired
anyway from fighting the river.

Becky SCREAMS as she FLIES UP, dropping her torch.

Amber tries to FOLLOW HER WITH THE CAM but loses her.

There is a sickening CRUNCH.

The CAM STEADIES and we can see Becky Stuck to the canyon
wall about ten feet above the ground. She hangs there like
Christ on a crucifix; arms spread, head down, not moving.

After a second, she falls to the ground, leaving a BLOOD
STAIN on the canyon wall.

Randy runs to the body. He sets his torch down and kneels
next to the body.

Amber does not move, but ZOOMS in on the scene.

Becky is on her face. Her clothing is pretty torn up and her
bare back is covered in blood.

Randy gently turns her over.

He feels for a pulse. Shakes his head.

He stands and looks at Amber.

RANDY (CONT'D)
(Bogart accent)
It looks like it is just you and me
kid.

AMBER (OC)

Not funny.

Behind Amber there is a sudden LOUD BANG, followed by SEVERAL SMALLER ONES and some CRUNCHING NOISE.

Randy grabs his torch and runs back toward the beach.

Amber PANS TO FOLLOW.

Randy stops by the water's edge.

Amber MOVES UP NEXT TO HIM.

The inner tube and air mattresses have been punctured and are deflated.

RANDY

I don't think we're going back in the water.

AMBER (OC)

So we're trapped here?

RANDY

I guess we can try and hike out...

Amber moves closer to Randy. She is looking for comfort.

AMBER

Those things'll be waiting.

Randy steps away from Amber and SCANS the area.

RANDY

Maybe we have some time. I think they need to recharge or something.

AMBER (OC)

Why's that?

RANDY

They're killing us off slowly. I think if they could hold the form or stay in this dimension long enough they would have killed us all the first day.

AMBER (OC)

Maybe they're just playing with us.

RANDY

I don't think so. The longer they draw this out the better chance someone will come down the river behind us or one of the floating bodies will be discovered.

AMBER (OC)

Well, OK. Then let's get going.

RANDY

We need to put together some packs. Water, energy bars, whatever.

AMBER (OC)

I wanna go now.

RANDY

Assuming we get out of the canyon, the desert can kill us as fast as these guardians.

AMBER (OC)

Alright. But hurry.

BLACK

EXT: NIGHT - THE LAST STOP - LATER

We SEE Amber CLOSE and LOOKING RIGHT INTO the cam. She is adjusting something behind the camera. She has her cam STRAPPED TO HER HEAD, so this is the SPARE CAM. She shows a sense of false optimism, forced cheerfulness. Randy is in the BG. He is nervous and worried.

AMBER

There. It's working now.

RANDY

You were in such a hurry; I don't know why you are messing with that.

AMBER

We are traveling light, so I don't want to carry this other stuff.

RANDY

Yeah, but why bother setting it up in a tree?

Amber is trying hard to be brave. It shows false.

AMBER

I found this motion sensor in
Becky's video stuff. If anyone - or
anything - comes onto the beach,
it'll click on. Hand me the tape.

Randy hands her a roll of GAFFER'S TAPE.

RANDY

Here. But it looks like you have it
secured pretty well.

Amber pulls off a SMALL STRIP; tosses the roll back to Randy.

AMBER

Hang on to that. In case you want
to get kinky when we stop again.

Randy makes a face.

RANDY

I know you didn't learn that from
your sister.

AMBER

Japanese porn sites. Educational
material. Shannon never went
anything past FaceBook. Oh, and the
porn site you visited, but she only
when there when you were there.

RANDY

How do you...

AMBER

I've been watching Shannon for two
years. She was dumb but I figured I
should learn what I can from my
older sister.

Amber has a MOMENT OF MELANCHOLY. Then she reaches up and
does something with a piece of tape behind the lens.

AMBER (CONT'D)

There. Now the red light's covered.
Someone will have to look for this.

RANDY

And the backpack with the camera
and videotapes?

Amber points up into the tree.

AMBER

I secured it higher up. So a snake or short person won't find it easy.

RANDY

Well, if they find the mess on the beach, and Becky's body, I guess someone will do a good search...

AMBER

Yeah... it'll catch the beach without being too noticeable.

RANDY

Let's hope the Guardians don't find it first.

AMBER

I'm counting on them taking a break, like you said. Maybe they don't know what we are doing right now.

RANDY

That's a slim hope, you know.

AMBER

Yeah. But should anything happen to us, then maybe what's here and on the camera and other tapes will give the cops a clue or three.

RANDY

If you're done, let's go. I don't wanna lose any advantage we have.

AMBER

Yeah. Let me set this to auto and we can split.

Amber reaches back behind the cam and...

BLACK

EXT: NIGHT - CANYON RIM - LATER

We are at the top of the canyon. The land is mostly FLAT DESERT. We can occasionally see her in the CAM which is still attached to her head.

Randy turns around and gives Amber a hand up over a last stretch.

RANDY
That was a tougher climb than I
expected.

AMBER (OC)
And in the dark, too.

Randy moves off some and sits on a rock across from Amber.

RANDY
We'll take about five minutes to
catch our breath and then head out.

AMBER (OC)
Sure glad we didn't bring much
besides water and energy bars.

RANDY
Glad you had your hands free to
help climb?

Amber moves over and sits near Randy.

AMBER (OC)
Yeah. Glad I made a helmet cam so
we can still record.

RANDY
The World Football League's gift to
humanity.

AMBER (OC)
What's the World Football League?

RANDY
A bad idea. Never mind now.

AMBER
(beat)
Where now?

Randy is fiddling with a COMPASS.

RANDY
Well, if Davis was right about
current flow, I figure we are about
sixty miles down river from where
we started.

AMBER (OC)
And then we climbed that dry
riverbed to the top here. So where
are we?

RANDY

I'm guessing that we're inside a dogleg of the Canyon. If I remember the map right... the village of Supai should be about ten miles to the southwest.

AMBER (OC)

Only ten miles? That's not bad.

RANDY

No, but the ground is rough and we'll need to find a way back into the Canyon. It could easily take twelve to twenty hours to walk it.

AMBER (OC)

Well, maybe we'll get lucky and find a rancher or something. It'll be light soon.

RANDY

Supai is on the Havasupai Reservation.

AMBER (OC)

Not Hopi or Navajo?

RANDY

No. But still a problem for us.

Randy sighs and stands up. He stretches his back.

AMBER (OC)

What's wrong?

RANDY

Supai is only accessible by mule trail or helicopter.

AMBER (OC)

Not even a bus?

RANDY

Not even a snow lift. Hike in, ride a mule in, or hitch a ride on a chopper.

AMBER (OC)

Well, if there's a mule trail, then we can hike it or maybe find the helicopter place.

RANDY

The helipad is at the trailhead.

AMBER (OC)

(brightly)

Well, there you go! Even better!

RANDY

And the trailhead is on the other side of the Canyon... Let's go.

Amber stands off and follows as Randy begins to hike in the direction he pointed out earlier, off to camera left.

AMBER (OC)

Oh. If we get close to the village and start a fire, maybe a Park Ranger or helicopter'll see us.

RANDY

That's what I'm thinking too. And I'm also hoping that the farther away we are from the Hopi sacred places the better.

AMBER (OC)

I don't think they care where we are. Not if they came from Egypt.

RANDY

I'm thinking that the farther away from their sacred ground the less power those things will have.

AMBER (OC)

(hopeful)

You think?

RANDY

Who the hell knows? None of this makes sense, anyway. I keep thinking it's a dream.

AMBER (OC)

Do you get wet and tired in a dream?

RANDY

Not since I was thirteen.

AMBER (OC)

Then this is probably real.

RANDY

Yeah.

There is a LONG PAUSE as they continue to walk.

AMBER (OC)

Or it could be a nightmare. I sure
am scared enough for that.

RANDY

Yeah. But we are having the same
one together.

(beat)

And we will never reach Supai if we
don't move faster.

The CAM MOVES as Amber moves up closer to Randy.

Randy checks the compass and points off to the left.

RANDY (CONT'D)

More that way I think.

AMBER (OC)

I sure hope we can make it. Someone
needs to know what happened.

Amber stumbles a little. The CAM JIGGLES.

RANDY

Careful. The ground is rather
rough.

Randy flips on a FLASHLIGHT. He starts walking again and
Amber follows.

AMBER (OC)

Yeah. But I can see OK. As long as
I can see you, I'm fine.

They walk along in silence for a few seconds.

Randy moves forward a little more, about eight feet in front
of Amber.

Suddenly, Randy VANISHES. There is no sign that he was there.
The light falls to the ground with a soft thud. THE LIGHT
FROM THE FLASHLIGHT GOES OFF.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Randy... where are you... not a
funny joke.

Amber stumbles to where Randy was last seen. She switches on her CAM LIGHT.

There is nothing there, except the dead flashlight and the compass. We can SEE Randy's FOOTPRINTS, but they just stop.

Amber SLOWLY PANS THE CAM. Nothing shows in the light.

She TILTS HER HEAD UP AND PANS THE SKY in case Randy is hanging there like David. Nothing but night sky.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Randy...

Amber stumbles forward a few feet.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Randy!

She picks up the compass.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Look you! I am NOT going to give up! I am NOT going to just lie down and die!

Amber looks around. Nothing.

She looks at the Compass. Turns a little and starts walking at a good pace.

We HEAR the SLITHERING SOUND of the snakes.

Amber runs... the cam still on.

Amber stops short. A figure stands in front of her.

It is Tangakwunu, clad in a simple white shift.

Amber sobs in relief.

AMBER (OC) (CONT'D)

Thank God! Can you help me?
Something is out there!

TANGAKWUNU

Yes, I know.

AMBER (OC)

We have to get out of here. It's been killing everybody!

TANGAKWUNU

I know that too.

Amber stops suddenly. There is a PAUSE.

AMBER (OC)

You're not here to help, are you?

TANGAKWUNU

Oh, I am here to help.

AMBER (OC)

(sobbing)

Then what do we do? I can hear that thing out there!

TANGAKWUNU

I am not here to help you. I am here to help Tocho. He is busy with your friend now. We did not want you to get lost until he was ready for you.

AMBER (OC)

You are one of them?

TANGAKWUNU

Well, Chumana is a snake maiden and Chua the snake guardian. But they decided to let you and your friends go. Tocho and I decided that was a bad idea.

AMBER (OC)

(whining)

Why??? We didn't mean any harm!

TANGAKWUNU

Chua is the Senior Guardian. He convinced the Elders that letting you go would draw less attention to our Sacred Grounds. Chumana went along with her father.

AMBER (OC)

So why are you doing this?

TANGAKWUNU

The old ones do not understand the power of the Internet. It's not like before when people found the Place of Emergence. They start rumors. You will start a wildfire.

AMBER (OC)

No. I promise...

TANGAKWUNU

It is better if you vanish. Where
is the other camera?

AMBER (OC)

No... I am not quitting!

Amber spins and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu is
standing right in front of her.

TANGAKWUNU

The camera and the other tapes.

Amber spins again and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu
is standing right in front of her.

AMBER (OC)

No!

Amber spins again and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu
is standing right in front of her.

TANGAKWUNU

The camera and the other tapes.
Tell me and we will make it fast
and painless.

AMBER (OC)

No!

Amber spins again and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu
is standing right in front of her.

TANGAKWUNU

Stepping across the dimensions is
no trouble at all. It is the shape
shifting that takes all the energy.

AMBER (OC)

I am not telling you anything
bitch!

Amber spins again and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu
is standing right in front of her.

TANGAKWUNU

What a pity.

We HEAR more SNAKE SOUNDS.

AMBER

You don't have to do this.

TANGAKWUNU

No, we don't. Chua and his bitch daughter took care of the two who defined the sacred canyon. The Elders sent Tocho to warn you to silence.

AMBER

Yes! I won't tell anyone! I swear!

TANGAKWUNU

But Tocho decided you would still talk. I agree.

AMBER

No! I'll say they all died in a rock slide.

TANGAKWUNU

Of course you would say that. But Tocho decided we had to make sure the outside world stayed ignorant of the Canyon and the Guardians.

Amber spins again and runs a few steps the stops. Tangakwunu is standing right in front of her.

AMBER

Please...

TANGAKWUNU

And your cameras and photos are just too much of a threat. Where is the other camera? Where are the photos?

AMBER

Rot in Hell, bitch. You'll never find them!

TANGAKWUNU

Well, if they are that well hidden, neither will anyone else. Give me the other camera!

AMBER

No! You don't know everything!

TANGAKWUNU

No, we could not watch all the time. But we were there enough.

(beat)

Shame you will die a virgin.

(MORE)

TANGAKWUNU (CONT'D)

Maybe I can get Tocho to fix that
for you.

AMBER

NO!

Amber turns and the way is clear.

She bolts, running several yards, looking over her shoulder.

Suddenly she falls, THE CAM FLYING OFF HER HEAD.

We SEE Amber's upper body, Tangakwunu stands in front of her.

TANGAKWUNU

The Elders will see that what we
did is right.

SLOWLY, Amber is pulled back out of frame.

We still see Tangakwunu, she is not moving, just standing
there watching.

There is a A CUT-OFF SCREAM. Silence. Nothing moves.

A PAIR OF MALE LEGS, bare, walk in front of the cam.

The legs are COVERED WITH SCALES. As we watch, THE SCALES
DISSOLVE INTO FLESH.

A hand reaches down and picks up a ROCK.

There is a CRUNCH... the cam FUZZES.

There is another CRUNCH, the PICTURE FUZZES AND GOES BLACK.

(NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SCENES ARE SHOT WITH TRADITIONAL FILM,
THIRD PARTY PERSPECTIVE. NO MORE CAMCORDER, FIRST PERSON
FOOTAGE.)

INT: DAY - POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - FOUR MONTHS LATER

The image is BLACK, then the CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal a
BLACK SCREEN ON A LARGE TV MONITOR with a DVD PLAYER
ATTACHED.

Cop 1 enters the frame. He ejects a DVD then turns off the
Player and TV.

He turns and looks at the Camera.

COP 1

I had one of the deputies put that together from the video we found, including the damaged camera from on top of the mesa. The FBI crime lab was able to reconstruct most of the data on the damaged hard drive. You can see it tells a different story from the official report. Do you have anything to say?

THE CAMERA PULLS BACK MORE TO REVEAL AMBER sitting at a SMALL INTERROGATION TABLE, looking at the screen. She shakes her head NO. Behind her is Cop 3, standing stoic by the door.

COP 1 (CONT'D)

Tell me who killed your friends and where the other bodies are.

AMBER

I don't have anything else to say.

COP 1

And you still won't tell us how you ended up at the emergency room entrance in a state of shock?

AMBER

I told you I don't remember. I don't remember anything from the day we arrived until I woke up in the hospital.

COP 1

Seeing the video doesn't jog a memory?

AMBER

Nothing.

COP 1

What about the girl in the photo?

AMBER

I saw her once at the campsite.

COP 1

Do you know the penalty for hiding information on a murder?

AMBER

I've told you everything.

Cop 1 looks over Amber's head at Cop 3. Cop 3 shrugs.

COP 1
OK, get out of here.

Amber stands up from behind the interrogation table. We SEE she is about 4-MONTHS PREGNANT.

She walks to the door but Cop 3 has not moved. He gives her a PENETRATING GAZE.

COP 3
I know you have been spending time on the Reservation. You can't hide there when we are ready to press charges.

AMBER
May I go now, please.

Cop 3 hesitates a moment, then steps aside.

Amber brushes past him, but stops at the door.

AMBER (CONT'D)
It is alright. I can get my own ride back to the reservation.

COP 1
Good. We aren't a taxi service.

Amber and exits.

COP 3
What now?

COP 1
We will need to call in the FBI and the BIA and probably half a dozen other alphabets.

COP 3
Who do you think is the father?

COP 1
What?

COP 3
You can't tell?

COP 1
I thought she was just putting on weight.

COP 3

About four months. Either she was raped in the hospital or it happened on the trip, if we can believe the tapes.

COP 1

Son of a bitch. Do you think...

COP 3

I think we will never know what happened to those other kids.

COP 1

We can't give up.

COP 3

No, but I know Indians. A pale face cop isn't going to learn a damned thing.

COP 1

Yeah...

EXT. DAY - OUTSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

ESTABLISH the front of a SMALL TOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS OR A PARK RANGER STATION. Cop 3 is lounging in PLAIN CLOTHES across the street from the Headquarters.

Amber exits the building. She looks around, then starts walking down the street. She turns a corner. Cop 3 hurries across the street to follow.

Amber walks down the street. Behind her, Cop 3 cautiously comes around the corner. He is young and not good at following, so his movements are a bit awkward.

Amber crosses the street mid way down the block. When she reaches the end. She looks around. Cop 3 tries to look inconspicuous, but it doesn't appear that Amber notices him.

She turns the corner and Cop 3 hurries to follow.

Cop 3 reaches the corner and looks around. He SEES Amber enter an alley.

He hurries after her.

EXT. DAY - ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Amber enters the alley. Tocho and Tangakwunu are waiting in the alley and there is no apparent exit - closed back, no doors or ground windows.

Amber goes up to them and embraces each. She gives Toho a passionate kiss. Then she kisses Tangakwunu and it is no less passionate.

They take hands, take two steps, and are gone.

Cop 3 peeks around the corner of the alley. He looks surprised. He steps into the alley and looks around...

There is nothing there...

COP 3
I am so screwed...

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS

END