

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE HIKING PATH - DAY

Erik leads the group up the steep mountainside path. The barely visible path is walled in by tall trees and dense green growth.

Drops of moisture on the broad fern leaves, twinkle in the thin rays of sunlight that break through the canopy. The air is still and silent, free of bird song.

The clouds roll in and fill the forest with a wandering mist. The steady beat of scattered raindrops drums across the forest floor.

Erik rounds a corner and disappears behind wall of tangled vines. Celine drops behind as she snaps photos. Carter helps Penny step up onto a moss covered rock. They all hustle to catch up with Erik.

They round the corner and almost bump right into him. Erik stands in the middle of the path, eyes fixed on a shadowy object before him.

ERIK

Check that out.

Erik points to a vine covered statue in the middle of the path. Its blackish, weather-worn form is barely identifiable as a human figure, sitting cross-legged.

PENNY

What is it?

CELINE

The map said there were ruins from an ancient civilization up here. That must be like the welcome sign.

Erik approaches the statue. He leans down, looks into the aged face of the figure. Two empty holes stare back at him.

CELINE

It probably had jewels or precious stones in its eyes. They would have been stolen a long time ago.

CARTER

Look at this. What's he doing?

Carter pushes the vines away from either side of the statue, revealing the worn stumps of its outstretched hands.

CELINE

Huh? Maybe it was holding something.

PENNY

Nah, its like a pose. One hand pointed in, the other pointed out.

Penny demonstrates by copying the pose. Celine walks around the statue and explores further down the path.

CELINE (O.S.)

Hey guys, check this out!

Celine peaks back at them through a curtain of greenery, she gestures for them to follow. They push through the vines to meet her on the other side.

EXT. CLEARING AT THE PEAK - CONTINUOUS

They emerge into a wide clearing between the trees. Ancient mounds of rock, each with statues sitting atop them, break up the clearing.

They have reached the peak of the mountain, and are surrounded by unbroken views, high above the clouds.

They wander between the moss covered mounds, staring up at the worn figures. Erik is lost in a reverent silence.

CARTER

What are they?

CELINE

I don't know. This doesn't look like an old village. Maybe it's a temple of some kind, and these are all gods.

PENNY

This is long way to travel for mass.

CELINE

That's probably intentional. Lots of cultures believe you have to work to prove your faith. I bet people would come up here and pray to one of them for a good hunt, or another one to help them recover from an illness. The journey was probably like the sacrifice the

(MORE)

CELINE (cont'd)
 gods ask you to make in exchange
 for their help.

Beyond the mounds of stone, a low circular wall surrounds a wide open hole. Its bottom is lost in a black shadow.

CARTER
 So what's that then, the hole they
 threw you down if you were a
 sinner?

CELINE
 No. It looks like a --

ERIK
 A well.

Erik picks up a small rock. He drops it into the well. They all lean in and listen. Silence.

They lean in further, concentrate for the sound. Finally, a watery plunk echoes up from the distance.

They each take a step back from the edge of the well. A moment of awed silence follows.

CELINE
 Hey, I have an idea.

They each jump a bit when Celine breaks the silence.

CELINE
 We journeyed all the way up
 here. Why don't we ask for
 something?

CARTER
 From who?

CELINE
 The well. It's how our culture
 does it, right? Throw a coin in
 the well, make a wish.

ERIK
 I'm not throwing any money into
 that abyss.

CELINE
 Our wishes then.
 (to Penny)
 We'll do exactly what we used to at
 our old summer camp, remember?

PENNY

Yeah, at that old well by the main road. We used to go there to spy into counselors cabin, always knew what they were up to. We had so much dirt on them, they never got us in trouble for anything.

CARTER

You? Trouble? I don't believe it.

CELINE

We also used to go there to make wishes. We'd write them down on little pieces of paper and throw them in.

Celine reaches into her backpack. She pulls out a notepad and tears out a few pages.

ERIK

Did any of them ever come true?

CELINE

I'm not sure. I don't really remember what I asked for.

PENNY

Designer jeans and a boyfriend, in that order. I got both that summer.

CARTER

In that order?

CELINE

Here.

Celine hands them each a piece of paper. She writes something onto hers and folds it up. She tries to pass the pen to Carter.

CARTER

Wait, you're serious about this?

CELINE

Of course. If you want something, you have to ask the universe for it.

CARTER

Is this like that relky shit you've been learning from your Mom?

CELINE

Reiki and no. It's no weirder than making a birthday wish. There's got to be something you want. So, whats the harm in asking for it?

PENNY

I'm sold. If it worked then it'll work now.

Penny snatches the pen, she writes down her wish, folds her paper. She hands the pen to Erik. He considers a moment.

CELINE

It can be anything. Maybe something you've been wishing for since you were a kid. Who knows? Maybe you'll actually get it.

Erik shrugs, writes down a wish. He hands the pen to Carter.

CARTER

What did you write down?

ERIK

I can't tell you that. It won't come true.

Erik smiles. Carter rolls his eyes. He stops to think. His face becomes very serious, concentrated.

PENNY

Just write down, new liver.

CARTER

Shut it.

Carter writes down a wish, folds his paper several times.

CELINE

Okay, we have to do this right. You can't just toss in the paper and walk away, it'll never work like that. First hold it over the edge.

They each extend their hands over the edge of the well.

CELINE

Feel the energy of that wish in your hand, the intensity of your

(MORE)

CELINE (cont'd)
desire. Let it grow, let it get so
strong that the wish starts to feel
like a weight you can barely hold
onto.

(beat)
Now, let go.

They open their palms. The little pieces of paper flutter a moment. Then, a breeze sucks them straight down into the blackness. They glance at each other, surprised.

CELINE
Now...

CARTER
There's more?

ERIK
Shh!

CELINE
Now, we hold hands.

They link hands around the well. Clouds gather above.

CELINE
Close your eyes. Feel the energy
of the universe running up through
our legs, into our bodies, through
our hands, from one to the other,
around the circle. Think about
your wish, really think about it.
Picture yourself obtaining it. Let
it fill you with joy, with light,
with energy... till you can barely
contain it.

(beat)
Now... let it go.

They all part hands and jump back in sudden shock.

PENNY
What was that?

CELINE
You felt that too?

ERIK
Like an electric shock went right
through my hands.

CARTER
What the hell did you do?

CELINE
Fuck if I know? That never
happened at summer camp.

PENNY
That was way creepy.

CARTER
I knew that hippy mumbo jumbo shit
was a bad idea.

ERIK
Wait. Look.

Erik points to the gathering clouds overhead. Lightning
flashes behind the misty veil of gray.

ERIK
It's probably an electrical
storm. We're up pretty high. I
bet we were just feeling the
charged ions in the air... Right?

CELINE
Yeah. Of course.

PENNY
Okay, ions. That's cool, that's
okay with me. I can dig the
scientific explanation.

ERIK
We should probably get out of here
before it gets any worse.

PENNY
Way ahead of you.

Penny dashes back toward the path. Celine follows. Carter
stands, staring up at the sky. He feels the palms of his
hands. Erik taps him on the shoulder, gets his focus back.

They follow the girls back out between the statues back
toward the marked path through the trees.

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