

WITHIN THE WOODS

by

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SCENE CODING

Interior - I
Exterior - E
Day - D
Twilight - T
Night - N

LOCATION CODING

M.R. - Main Room
D.R. - Dining Room
K - Kitchen
C - Cellar
CAB - Clearing Around Cabin
W - Woods
C.S. - Camp Site

EXAMPLE

12 ED - C.S.

TRANSLATION

Scene 12, Exterior, Day, Camp Site

1 ED - CAB

It is afternoon as the camera fades in on a small farmhouse in northern Michigan.

2 ID - M.R.

ELLEN'S V/O

Now let's see if we've got everything...

The camera cuts to two Twinkie's on a table and slowly dollies past other foods as they are called off and placed into a picnic basket.

ELLEN'S V/O

Twinkie's, eechh, I hate
Twinkie's, salt and
pepper, hot dogs, egg
salad, milk and napkins.
That's everything you need
for a picnic all right.

Her hand moves over to some pointed stones.

ELLEN'S V/O

...But what's this? (She
holds one up to her face)
They look like skipping
stones.

BRUCE

They're arrowheads, I
found'em right outside the
door. you know this whole
area used to be Indian
land.

2 CONTINUED

ELLEN

(Calling off) Hey Shelly,
C'mon along for the
picnic. We're gonna live
like Indians as long as
We're up here.

3 ID - D.R.

SCOTT and SHELLY are playing Monopoly

SHELLY

Indians don't go on
picnics.

ELLEN

C'mon, please?

SCOTT

(Rolling dice with a
large pile of 500's in
front of him) Shaddap,
don't bother us, I got her
right where I want her.
Seven spaces in front of
Boardwalk. (He rolls the
dice) Ha-ha-ha...

ELLEN

O.K. for you, but your
going to miss a good time.

BRUCE

C'mon, let's go.

The two leave.

4 ED - CAB

While approaching the woods, BRUCE pulls out the arrowheads.

BRUCE

See this one? It used to fit on a hunting arrow. (He makes an arrow sound effect and demonstrates the motion with his hand) This one's part of a larger spear for big game, like deer.

ELLEN

How do you know so much about Indians?

BRUCE

I'm an old boy scout, it's my duty to know. (He holds up two fingers in the Boy Scout salute) Besides, I grew up around here. It's all I ever heard about. Indian stories, Indian legends... Wanna hear something Interesting.

ELLEN

For a change you mean?

BRUCE

The place we're gonna camp is an old burial ground. (He stops and pretends to look around to see if anyone is looking, then in a whisper) Very sacred and holy.

4 CONTINUED

ELLEN

Oh, scary! Is it cursed or something?

She continues walking.

BRUCE

As a matter of fact it is.

ELLEN stops.

ELLEN

Are you serious?

BRUCE

Yeah, but don't worry. Supposedly, you're only cursed by evil spirits if you violate the Indian grave, and we're just gonna be eating hot dogs. Besides, I'm here to protect you.

ELLEN

You?

BRUCE

Yeah.

ELLEN

You're gonna protect me?

4 CONTINUED

BRUCE

(A little angry) Yeah!

ELLEN walks off laughing. BRUCE chases after her.

BRUCE

Hey!

5 ED - C.S.

At the campsite, ELLEN unfolds the blanket and sets the picnic basket on top of it.

BRUCE

I'm gonna build a fire for
the hot dogs, why don't
you find some wood.

BRUCE grabs some large stones and places them in a ring. He then begins to dig out the center. A few inches down he comes across a wooden cross, made of two pointed sticks bound together by a leather strap. He pulls it out of the ground, and a cold wind begins to blow from a distant section of the woods.

BRUCE puts it aside as he sees something beneath it. He pulls it out of the ground. It's a half-rotted burlap-type bag covering an object. He finds it to be a dagger with an X on it and a jewel on the handle.

BRUCE

Hey Ellen! Come look at
this!

5 CONTINUED

ELLEN

What is it?

BRUCE

It's an old Indian dagger;
it's in perfect shape.

ELLEN

What's it doing there?

ELLEN moves to the blanket and lies down upon
it.

BRUCE

Well, when the medicine
man (Shaman) of a tribe
died, they used to bury
one of his possessions
with him, so he could have
it in his next life.

BRUCE moves to the blanket and sits next to her.

ELLEN

You mean we're having a
picnic over someone's dead
body?

BRUCE

Yeah, but all that's left
now is Tinga. (Then
repeating the legend he's
heard a thousand times)
The Indian spirit of the
woods who watches over and
protects the medicine

5 CONTINUED

man's grave for all
eternity.

ELLEN looks at BRUCE a little frightened. BRUCE reacts and smiles at her. Reassured, she closes her eyes and rests her head on BRUCE'S shoulder.

6 ID - D.R.

At the cabin, SCOTT and SHELLY are still playing Monopoly. SCOTT now has only a small pile of money, while SHELLY'S is quite large.

SCOTT

Dammit! I hate this game!

SHELLY

Oh you just said that
'cause you're losing now.

SCOTT

Oh I'm sure. I said it
because it's a dumb game.
Only fat spastic people,
who can't do anything
ever, should play this
game. Lousy game.

SHELLY

Oh really? Well you liked
it twenty minutes ago when
you were winning.

6 CONTINUED

SCOTT

I didn't like it then
either... Well that was
different.

SHELLY

Why was that different?

SCOTT

(Mumbling) I was winning.

7 ET - CS

Back in the woods, ELLEN is asleep on the
blanket. She opens her eyes and reaches for
BRUCE, but he is gone. It is almost twilight and
the wind has become colder. ELLEN raps a shirt
around herself.

ELLEN

Bruce?

No answer. She gathers up the blanket, basket
and uneaten food, then heads back toward the
cabin.

ELLEN

Bruce, where are you?

8 ET - W

It's getting darker so she moves quickly through
the woods. She stumbles over a log and begins to
rise when she sees drops of blood dripping into
a pool. She looks up and sees that the blood is

8 CONTINUED

dripping from BRUCE'S mutilated body. Suspended from a tree, the corpse is a grisly display of twisted limbs and torn flesh. One eye dangles from its socket by an adhering strip of muscle. ELLEN Screams and turns to run when she is halted by the sound of a snapping branch. She stands and listens. There is no more sound or movement. She waits. Then, in a flurry of chaotic noise, something moves powerfully toward her. She turns running back to the cabin stumbling over branches, through a swamp, with this thing rapidly closing in on her.

9 ET - CAB

She emerges from the woods into a clearing. Finally she makes her way back to the front door of the cabin. It's locked, and she pounds desperately while the thing gets closer.

ELLEN

Open up! Open up!

10 IT - D.R.

SCOTT

(Getting up from the
Monopoly game) All right,
all right.

11 IT - CAB

The force emerges from the woods and rushes from behind. ELLEN pulls out a ring of keys, tries one, then another. The thing is coming closer and is almost upon her. She drops the keys and reaches for them when a hand grabs her arm. She screams but it is only SCOTT. She hugs him

11 CONTINUED

tightly and they move inside. The force retreats to the woods.

12 IT - M.R.

ELLEN

(Sobbing hysterically)
He's dead, he's dead, he's
dead...

SCOTT

Who's dead? Bruce?

ELLEN

He was... he was all cut
up... in a tree... I saw
him, I saw...

SCOTT

Did you see his face? Are
you sure it's Bruce?

ELLEN

I... I... don't know. I
feel asleep, and then I
couldn't find him... And
then I started running and
I saw him...

SHELLY

Ellen, you were sleeping.
It could have been a
nightmare.

12 CONTINUED

ELLEN

I don't know, it seemed so
real... maybe it was just
a dream, I don't know.

SCOTT

(to SHELLY) Maybe Bruce is
hurt, I'll go back and
look for him. take care of
her, I'll be back in a
little while.

SCOTT leaves the cabin.

SHELLY

Now just sit still, I'll
get you something to eat.
(From the kitchen) I'll
bet you twenty dollars
that Bruce and Scott will
come walking through that
door in about thirty
seconds laughing their
heads off.

13 ET - CAB

SCOTT moves from the clearing into the woods as
the sunsets. What was once BRUCE watches him go,
then turns its attention to the cabin.

14 IN - M.R.

ELLEN

They should be back by
now. Where are they?

14 CONTINUED

SHELLY

They're probably rounding
up the picnic basket and
blanket... (She says, not
believing herself)

15 EN - C.S.

The picnic basket and blanket lie on the on the
ground. SCOTT finds them, and picks up the
basket. It is soaked in blood. He drops it in
horror and looks back to the cabin.

16 IN - M.R.

In the cabin the girls are restless.

SHELLY

Look, I put some food on
the stove for you. Now you
wait here, I'm going out
for a look.

ELLEN

No! Please don't go out
there.

SHELLY

I'm just gonna step
outside and shine the
light into the woods. I
won't go far.

She opens the door and BRUCE is there. Before
she can react he steps in and takes her by the
hair. Screaming, SHELLY is lifted from the
ground, and with his free hand BRUCE spears her

16 CONTINUED

throat with the dagger. Blood pours from her mouth, nose and ears.

17 EN - CAB

He throws her outside, over the railing and rams the wooden cross through her abdomen, impaling her on the ground. BRUCE turns back to ELLEN, who slams and locks the door.

18 IN - K

In the kitchen ELLEN finds two large Butcher knives. Sliding one into her belt, and gripping the other she waits. The house is deathly silent. A small noise is heard, a clicking of metal. It is the back door knob slowly turning.

19 IN - M.R.

ELLEN moves to the door and unlocks it. It opens and slowly a figure enters. ELLEN swings her knife, plunging it into the body. He screams once and falls. She has stabbed SCOTT who has returned from the woods.

ELLEN

No! No!.... My God, No!

She backs away from the body against a window. BRUCE appears outside the glass. In horror, ELLEN turns and sees him.

ELLEN

(Seeing the open door) Oh
my God, the door!

19 CONTINUED

She runs back to SCOTT, as BRUCE rounds the corner of the cabin. ELLEN attempts to slam the door, but SCOTT'S legs are in the way. BRUCE is now twenty feet from the door. ELLEN tries to pull SCOTT from the doorway, but he is too heavy and she can hardly move him. He moans in pain as she drags him. BRUCE is now only ten feet from the door. ELLEN still can't close the door. SCOTT'S foot blocks the way. BRUCE reaches for the door. ELLEN frees SCOTT'S foot, and slams the door in BRUCE'S face.

SCOTT

(Whispering) I... I... saw
it. Get my gun... the
cellar...

20 IN - C

ELLEN runs to the cellar and gets SCOTT'S gun. BRUCE smashes a window. ELLEN hears this, finishes loading the gun, and heads back up stairs.

21 IN - M.R.

She passes the broken window and sees the opening where the curtains flutter in the wind. She looks over to SCOTT. He's dead and the wooden cross has been driven through him.

ELLEN

Nooo! Nooo...

Reacting, she backs into BRUCE. He knocks the gun from her hand and grabs her arm. The dagger is firmly clenched in his other hand as he faces her.

21 CONTINUED

BRUCE

You have violated the
ancient ways, and so must
die to join us.

ELLEN removes the butcher knife from her belt and slashes off BRUCE'S hand. Still clutching the dagger, it lands on the Monopoly board. BRUCE screams in agony. ELLEN reaches for the gun, but BRUCE slaps her into the kitchen with a backhand blow and continues after her.

22 IN - K

Desperately, ELLEN throws a can of popcorn at him, then a full skillet of hot grease into his face. BRUCE screams again and falls backward over a chair. He is only dazed and lurches back to grab her by the throat. Throttling ELLEN, he bends her back upon the table. She reaches frantically behind BRUCE for the severed hand that holds the Indian dagger, and BRUCE tightens his grip.

BRUCE

Join us!

With her last gasp, ELLEN reaches the hand.

BRUCE

Join us!

With all her effort, she rams the dagger held by the hand into BRUCE'S spine. BRUCE screeches, releases his grip and falls dead. Black ooze pours from his wounds.

23 IN - M.R.

ELLEN regains her breath and begins crying over BRUCE. As she does this he jerks up and she watches in horror as he moves about like a marionette. BRUCE is suddenly hoisted up to his feet and forced toward her again.

ELLEN

No, this isn't
happening... No more...

ELLEN now in a wild frenzy locates a nearby axe.

ELLEN

Die! Die!! Die!!!

Chopping furiously, ELLEN proceeds to dismember him with it. When finished, she drops the axe, and lumps over the body of her one time lover, sobbing heavily. As she laments, the camera pulls back slowly. ELLEN is alone but behind her, SCOTT begins to jerk about in the same marionette-like movements. SCOTT'S body sits up, possessed, and turns slowly toward ELLEN.

FADE TO BLACK