

EXT. HIGH FIELD. DAY

Up on the high field at the entrance to the camp a rectangular hole is being dug, it will become the foundation of a basic chapel. Professors Monteros, Sztuhr and Barquett lead the activities.

Gardeners Dante, Alfredo-Juan and Alfonso-Juan, as well as El Ruco, dig furiously in the hole, they sweat and show signs of exhaustion. Santi and Josue clear away soil from the edge of the hole, messing around and throwing mud at each other.

Jordi leans down into the hole, lowers his sunglasses and looks down his nose at the workers. Dante pulls off his shirt and continues to dig. Jordi's eyes glimmer as he watches their sweating bodies, he kicks some earth that falls on Dante's back.

JORDI

OK, I'm bored of being a slave. Can we have a break?

Professor Monteros frowns and breaks off from chopping tree branches.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

OK! Why are we doing this?

Fito shoots his hand up. The others kick the earth.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS (CONT'D)

Yes Fito?

FITO

Because this is the Survivalist Club Prof Monteros!

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

Right, but I need a little more detail than that... Anyone else?

Silence.

JORDI

In case the kidnappers break in Sir!

EL PINGUINO

What kidnappers?

JORDI

(looking at the gardeners)
The villagers you idiot!

The groups start to talk between each other. Alfredo-Juan, Alfonso-Juan and Dante have stopped digging. Professor Sztuhr signals to them that they should continue to dig.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

OK, everyone stop for a moment.
We have no reason to be afraid.
Let's start again - this is the
Survivalist Club, we are building a
shelter, so what do we need? What
is indispensable for our survival?

JOSUE

Smartphones!

FITO

Some really loyal servants!

EL BOBO

Peace and love Professor Monteros!

Kids laugh and imitate El Bobo.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

OK! QUIET! Children! Let's start
again... Professor Sztuhr, what are
the essentials for survival?

PROFESSOR SZTUHR

Oxygen, water, food, shelter and
self-defense.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

Right, and so is there anything
else we might need in our lives?
Something to protect us from evil?

JOSUE

Mmm... CCTV?

PROFESSOR MONTEROS

Something intangible that would
prevent anyone hurting our order...

EL BOBO

Pepper spray?

JORDI

Jesus!

Jordi was actually swearing to himself but Professor Monteros takes it literally, he looks so relieved that someone has finally made one of the connections he was hoping for.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS
 Jordi! Yes! Bravo! Faith! God!
 Jesus!

PROFESSOR BARQUETT
 (out loud)
*He said to them, "Go into all the
 world and preach the gospel to
 every creature."*

PROFESSOR MONTEROS
 There's no better protection for us
 than the word of God. Remember
 kids, WE own the word, and it's our
 duty to use it wisely.

Monteros kneels down, boys stare. He collects two bits of wood and holds them up.

PROFESSOR MONTEROS (CONT'D)
 Soon you'll understand the
 incredible protecting power that
 two sticks can hold when we use the
 right words.

He joins the stick to create a cross. Jordi and the other kids stare at the cross with awe. As the camera move away from the group we see the boys kneeling to make their own crosses from bits of wood that are scattered around.

21

EXT. ASSAULT COURSE. DAY

A group of kids, completely covered in mud, race through an array of obstacles in a military style assault course: they climb walls, crawl under ropes and move along a balance beam with a mud pit beneath. They wear determined expressions, their chests heave and they gasp for air.

Father Pelayo sits nearby under a shelter, covered in blankets, reading from a huge and ancient leather-bound book. Next to him are Diego Peña and Jeshua, the religious kids. Edwin stands behind Padre Pelayo, massaging the old man's shoulders.

Diego Peña catches a glimpse of Edwin's fingers on the father's wrinkled neck.

FATHER PELAYO

(very quiet)

Let's drink up to the last drops of pain in this miserable life..Where's the harm in suffering ten, twenty, fifty years if heaven lasts forever? Forever!

DIEGO

(cradling his head in his hands)

Uhhhh...

EDWIN

What's up champ?

DIEGO

(flinching away)

I'm not a champ, I'm a semi-paralyzed prisoner.

JESHUA

What's your problem Diego? This is perfect, I mean it's practically one-on-one tuition with Padre Pelayo. In 3 days we'll cover more ground than we would in 12 full weekends at the Order's residence!

DIEGO

(imitating Jeshua)

12 full weekends at the residence... Where's the difference when we're eternal prisoners?

Father Pelayo carries on reading, he struggles reading the quotes of the founder with a magnifying glass from a tiny golden book.

EDWIN

(nervous)

Please, Diego, these words have the power to heal you...

JESHUA

Damn right!

Diego looks incredulously at Edwin.

EDWIN

Mmm... time for your pills champ!

DIEGO

Again?

In the assault course The Technician carefully edges along the balance beam in his school uniform, a hand pushes him from behind and he falls into the mud pit.

22

EXT. FOREST. DAY

The "Hunting team", comprising of The *Emo Kids*, Joaquincito and others is led by Professors Gordillo and Rosales deep inside the forest. The boys brandishing bows and arrows stick close together, a little nervous.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO

Actually, if we search for tracks on the forest floor we may be lucky and find a clue about who or what made the hole... The earth is like a historical document, it has many authors and tells many stories...

Everyone directs their attention to the ground. We watch the earth too, suddenly it seems to be seething with slimy insect life: bugs and worms and ambiguous shapes that might be bones or bits of ceramics, we see a neat imprint of a heavy boot.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO (CONT'D)

The ancient ones who lived here before your ancestors brutally wiped them out, were some of the most savage assassins of the Chichimeca empire. This land is made up of layer upon layer of indigenous weapons, indigenous kitchen tools, indigenous shit, indigenous blood and indigenous bones! And who knows? Maybe they're still around?

Joaquincito, trails behind prodding mushrooms and trees with an arrow. Professor Gordillo looks up to the canopy and presses his finger to his lips.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO (CONT'D)

Shhh, Look Kids!

PROFESSOR ROSALES

Oh my! Look at that!

Everyone looks up to where the teachers are pointing.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO

(whispering)

Corvus Corone! I thought they were extinct. Let's follow it.

The kids are trying to find the bird

PROFESSOR ROSALES
Look, it's right there! The black
bird with the white collar!

Everyone is peering at a big bush and trying to see it. The boys frown and try their hardest to see the bird.

PROFESSOR ROSALES (CONT'D)
Corvus Corone. Some consider him
one of the most intelligent and
vindictive creatures in the world.
The corvus steals, it murders, it
even rapes! For thousands of years
it has been formed of a hermetic
male-only society. In secrecy
adults mate between themselves or
even younger members of their
group, either by presenting a gift
of food during courtship or by
using force! It is still a mystery
to science how the species has
survived without females!

BOYS
Where?! Can't see it!

Joaquincito is bored and looks around.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO (O.S.)
There, the bush with the branches
like a great green casket. Identify
the top... Now go to 7 o'clock...

We see the faces of boys frowning and trying their hardest to see the bird. The teachers exchange glances.

MONCARDO (O.S.)
I think I see it...

EL FLACO
Yeah, I do too, yeah I see it!

JOAQUINCITO
Where?

Joaquincito strains his eyes, everyone says they can see the bird except him, he looks ready to cry.

PROFESSOR GORDILLO
(Annoyed)
Here, take my binoculars Joaquin.
(MORE)

PROFESSOR GORDILLO (CONT'D)
It's right there hopping around
amid the foliage... Got it?

JOAQUINCITO
Um, yes, maybe...

Joaquincito obviously has not seen it.

PROFESSOR ROSALES
Great, now Lock onto it, bring the
barrels to the eyes, and there you
go: Corvus Corone!

JOAQUINCITO
(hesitant, obviously
pretending)
Oooh yes, lovely!

We catch Professor Rosales smirking at Professor Gordillo.

PROFESSOR ROSALES
No wait, it's over there now, come
on everyone!

The group continues walking, they have reached the edge of the camp, it's strange and sinister to see the pristine metal fence coursing through the dense forest. The boys at the front call out, they have noticed something, a hole has been torn in the perimeter fence, it glistens with something that seems like blood. We see several bundles of twigs, bones and herbs held together with rags which are knotted to the wire.

PROFESSOR ROSALES (CONT'D)
Boys, it's quite alright.

EL FLACO
Holy shit! It's INSANE

Suddenly Chi-Chi notices they are standing in a neat circle of corn grains. Everyone takes a step back, the air prickles with fear.

MONCARDO
It's The Blair Witch!

CHI-CHI
More like Brujeria!

EL RATA
No, it's the fucking organ
traffickers!

MONCARDO

Hey, claw marks, on the tree! Let's
get out of here!

PROFESSOR ROSALES

Nonsense! All nonsense!

A bell is sounding in the distance. Rosales looks grim.

PROF. ROSALES

That's the bell. Back to camp.

They turn back, and move at a quick pace through the trees, Gordillo helps Professor Tanaka who is groaning. The kids hug each other as they jog nervously.

JOAQUINCITO

(To El Technician)

Well that was weird...

El Technician walks on, ignoring Joaquincito. Joaquincito frowns to himself.