

**EXT. FOREST - NIGHT**

As before. The rain quiets a little. Camille, Lara, and Rose stand among the trees. SodaPop wags his tail happily.

Rose is oddly calm, as if they just ran into each other on the street or something.

LARA

Rose.

ROSE

Hello, Lara.

CAMILLE

Rose! Oh, Lara, I knew you'd help us find her.

ROSE

You came to find me?

LARA

Um, yeah.

ROSE

But I'm right here.

LARA

I see that.

SodaPop barks happily.

ROSE

SodaPop found me. Is that why you came?

LARA

No, I brought him. He missed you, though.

ROSE

I missed him too.

(to SodaPop)

Good boy, baby. Oh, your hair is getting so long!

(to Lara)

Do you still go to that same groomer? What was her name -- Annie?

LARA

Um, no, we had to switch when we moved out of the Hawthorne District.

We're up by St. John's now. I found this place --

CAMILLE

Um, excuse me, I'm sorry, I don't want to interrupt. But I'm so glad we found you, Rose! You know the New Moon is almost here.

LARA

Camille, not now.

ROSE

It's all right. I know all about the New Moon. Are you going back to my father's house? I'll walk with you.

She walks past them.

LARA

Yeah, let's...do that.

They follow her through the brush.

LARA (V.O.)

I can't tell you what it was like, seeing her again. Almost anticlimactic. Like we just walked into the woods and...there she was. Not hurt, not scared, just...fine.

LARA

Rose, are you okay?

ROSE

Of course. Why?

LARA

Well, do we need to go pick up your supplies or a campsite, or...?

ROSE

I have everything I need.

LARA

But...where have you been?

Rose stops walking. The question seems to confuse her.

ROSE

I've been right here.

CAMILLE

Rose, your father will be so excited to see you. We've all been worried.

ROSE

But I'm fine.

LARA

Rose...how long do you think you've been gone? Because it's been at least two weeks.

ROSE

Two weeks? No, that can't be right.

CAMILLE

You must feel so much more connected with the Hand of God. I bet you know exactly how to call Oblivion now.

ROSE

I know everything I need to know.

LARA

Do you remember calling me?

ROSE

(very surprised)

Why would I call you?

LARA

You said you needed help, and that I should come see you. You said you wanted me to hear something?

ROSE

That doesn't sound like me.

LARA

I know. That's why I came.

ROSE

(pets SodaPop)

Well, as long as I get to see this little fluffy-face.

SodaPop makes happy dog noises.

CAMILLE

There's still a lot to do before the New Moon. We've been doing vision ceremonies every day, but we still haven't found all the materials yet.

ROSE  
I'm sure you're doing fine, Camille.

Camille falters.

CAMILLE  
I didn't -- I didn't know you knew my  
name.

ROSE  
I know everything I need to know,  
Camille.

CAMILLE  
(to herself)  
Wow.

LARA  
Rose...

ROSE  
Lara. Stop worrying! I'm fine.

SodaPop whines happily. Rose laughs.

ROSE  
See? SodaPop knows.

He pants happily.

LARA  
I guess.

ROSE  
He still loves me, doesn't he?

LARA  
Yeah.

LARA (V.O.)  
She was so beautiful.

CAMILLE  
Rose? I think we should hurry.

ROSE  
Okay.

They walk faster.

FADE TO:

**EXT. BOONE HOUSE - NIGHT**

They walk up a quiet street. SodaPop runs around investigating smells, happy as can be.

CAMILLE  
Almost home, Miss Boone.

ROSE  
Hm.

LARA  
Wait. Rose. Maybe you shouldn't go back yet.

They stop walking.

ROSE  
Why not? If it's really been two weeks, I mean, that's plenty of time.

Lara can't think of what to say.

LARA  
Um. Are you sure you don't want to see a doctor? You could be dehydrated from all that time in the woods.

ROSE  
I feel fine, Lara.

LARA  
But --

ROSE  
Honestly -- I'm really sorry, I didn't want to do this now, but -- I don't understand why you're here.

LARA  
You asked me to come.

ROSE  
I really doubt that.

LARA  
You left me a message.

CAMILLE  
(conspiratorial)  
She keeps saying her voicemails won't play.

LARA  
Camille!

CAMILLE  
Sorry. I'm not involved.

ROSE  
Look, I...thank you for bringing  
SodaPop. It's great to see him. But I  
really don't think there's anything  
for you to do here.

LARA  
If...if we could just talk...

ROSE  
I don't think we need to do that,  
Lara.

LARA  
But...

ROSE  
Lara, there's nothing to say. Okay?  
Go home.  
(hesitates, softens)  
I'll call you. Okay?

LARA  
Okay.

Rose walks away. SodaPop follows.

LARA  
SodaPop!

SodaPop hesitates. He sneezes, then runs after Rose.

LARA  
Oh. No, you can go with Rose too.  
That's...that makes sense.

Camille follows Rose. She stops.

CAMILLE  
Listen, um, I guess we don't really  
need you here after all.

LARA  
Yeah. I'm getting that.

CAMILLE

You should see my mom, though. The doctor. She really wants to see you. Okay?

LARA

Yeah. Okay.

ROSE

(calls)

Camille -- are you coming?

CAMILLE

Coming!

(to Lara)

Okay. Uh. Good night.

She runs off after Rose. SodaPop barks and whines happily.

LARA

Wait -- can I get a ride back to my car? It's all the way back at the... church...

The door of the Boone House opens and closes. They're gone.

LARA

Okay, yeah. I can walk.

**EXT. FOREST ROAD - NIGHT**

Night sounds. Lara walks on the gravel.

LARA (V.O.)

I just kind of...walked around for a while after that. I figured I'd eventually end up back at the cabin.

Lara's footsteps on the gravel.

An ANIMAL CALLS in the distance.

LARA (V.O.)

For the record, Rose was the one who actually left in the end. She's the one who moved out. Not that I was... there just came a point where I couldn't help her. I didn't know what to do. Though, I don't know, maybe that's not fair. See, something happened in that last year we were together.

I still don't really understand it. There was the thing with my brother and my mom's house and the water hammer. And then I started to notice other things, too. I learned about cold reading and cognitive biases and illusory correlations... It was like everything I thought I knew about the world was coming apart. One after another. I started to see why I'd never been able to get conclusive evidence of the things I thought I saw. It was... consuming. So I guess I was distracted. Because I didn't really notice what was going on with Rose until it was too late, I think.

Lara sings softly to herself.

LARA

(sings)

Creepy road in the middle of the night, doo-dah, doo-dah... Creepy road, no end in sight, oh, doo-dah-day...

LARA (V.O.)

She started to get...erratic. Disconnected. She'd disappear for hours, sometimes overnight, and then come back like nothing happened. We started fighting over -- nothing, anything, just dumb things. She was distracted a lot, but wouldn't tell me why. And she had these nightmares. She claimed not to remember them, but sometimes in her sleep, she said things...and then during the day, she'd say them again. Quietly. To herself. God, if I hadn't been so wrapped up in myself, I might have put it together earlier. Something wasn't right. Rose wasn't...well.

LARA

(sings)

Gonna walk all day, gonna walk all night, on this creepy road I sing this song, oh, doo-dah --

Twigs snap in the trees. Lara stops.



LARA  
Hello? Is someone there?

No response. She keeps walking, hums softly.

LARA  
(to herself)  
Why does anyone live in the woods?

LARA (V.O.)  
By the time I thought to tell her to see someone, it just...came out wrong. It sounded like an attack. It probably was an attack. Everything was an attack by then. I was angry and hurting; she was angry and confused. We were in our own painful little worlds, I guess, and there was no way to communicate through that anymore.

(sighs)  
Anyway. One day she was just...gone. Went to her parents' house. I thought it might be good for her.

Another group of twigs. Lara stops.

LARA  
Who's there?

LARA (V.O.)  
I can see why she hates me, though.

LARA  
Hello?

She gasps. Lara steps back.

LARA (V.O.)  
So anyway. I was walking. It was dark. And then it got really dark.

LARA  
Where did this fog come from? I can barely see the trees...

Lara walks around. She stops.

LARA  
There was a tree. Right there. There was...I'm on the road. Right?

She turns again, then turns back.

LARA

No way.

LARA (V.O.)

I could see the road, somewhere far behind me. Trees extended back the way I'd come. But ahead of me...

LARA

Nothing. It's...it's nothing.

Drone/music rises as the nothingness approaches.

LARA (V.O.)

Absolute absence. Just this void of darkness in every direction. But it wasn't peaceful. It was...reaching. I mean, I know it wasn't, but -- it felt like it was looking for something. Like it was reaching for me.

LARA

This isn't happening. This can't be real.

A trill of drone sound.

Lara turns and runs.

LARA (V.O.)

I didn't know what else to do. I ran.

Lara runs. Pants. She trips, stumbles, and sprints, desperate. The rumble, the creepiness rises.

LARA (V.O.)

It was like a dream. Maybe it was a dream. I ran and ran, but there was nowhere to go. I swear, I pushed until my lungs burned, until I couldn't feel my feet, until...and the road was still just as far away as it was before.

LARA

(rasps)

Please...please...

(screams)

Somebody help me!

She slips, falls, scrambles in the dirt.

LARA

Oof!

LARA (V.O.)

And just like that...

Lara sniffs.

LARA

(it smells awful)

What's that smell? Oh, god.

Two big, heavy FOOTSTEPS.

LARA

Oh my god.

LARA (V.O.)

I don't -- I don't think we need to talk about what I saw next, actually. I mean, it wasn't really there, anyway. I probably swallowed some of the hallucinogenic cult tea. And I hadn't eaten or drunk anything for a long time. It was just a random trick of the imagination. Only a few seconds long.

A softer version of the strange animal cry -- like a puma, bear, and elephant trumpeting at once.

LARA

(quiet)

Bigfoot?

The heavy footsteps step toward her. A small, questioning sound.

LARA

Are you...the Sasquatch?

Step. Step. And then it turns and LEAPS away, with a little grunt.

LARA

Wait! Come back...

But it's gone. Quiet, tranquil forest night sounds.

LARA

Wow.

Lara slowly gets up.

LARA (V.O.)  
So really, we should just move on.

LARA  
Oh. The cabin. I'm home.

She walks across the gravel. She stops. She turns around.

**EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Lara knocks on the door. Jake answers.

JAKE  
Lara? Are you okay?

LARA  
We found Rose.

JAKE  
Oh. Good.

LARA  
Yeah, she's...she's...  
(bursts into tears)  
She's good! Everything's so good.

JAKE  
Okay, uh, why don't you come inside?

LARA  
Okay.

He pulls the door open. She walks into...

**INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY**

Jake closes the door behind Lara.

LARA  
I'm sorry. I'm sorry. This day has  
just been really...weird.

JAKE  
It's okay, really. You want a drink?

LARA  
Please. Mind if I take off my shoes?  
They're pretty soaked.

JAKE  
Of course! Make yourself at home.

He steps toward the kitchen. Lara removes her shoes and coat.

LARA  
I've been out in the rain for hours.  
After we found Rose.

JAKE  
Wait -- Rose was missing?

Lara sighs.

LARA  
Yes, Jake. Rose was missing.

JAKE  
Is she okay?

LARA  
She was in the woods. Just like  
everyone said. And she was fine. Just  
like everyone said.

JAKE  
That's good, though, right?  
(hands her a glass)  
Here.

LARA  
What is this?

JAKE  
Whiskey.

Lara drinks it. She coughs.

LARA  
Oh my god! This is awful.

JAKE  
I can get you a beer if you want.

LARA  
Nobody likes beer, Jake. It's just  
the first thing we could afford and  
now we all think it's what alcohol  
tastes like.

JAKE  
Even Pabst?

LARA  
Especially Pabst.

JAKE  
 (disagree noise)  
 Pshh.

LARA  
 Sorry. I'm...I'm out of my mind.

Lara takes another drink. She gags.

LARA  
 It's growing on me.

JAKE  
 Come on. I've got a fire going. You  
 must be freezing.

LARA  
 I am, actually.

They take a few steps. Jake stops.

JAKE  
 Wait -- Rose was missing?

Lara groans.

**INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

A soft fire in the fireplace. Quiet rain outside.

LARA  
 I went out there with Camille -- you  
 know her? Anyway, the reasons don't  
 really matter, I guess. You wouldn't  
 believe me if I told you.

JAKE  
 Come on, I'm a great listener.

LARA  
 Well, the point is that once we got  
 back to the Boone house, Rose just...  
 told me to leave. She doesn't want to  
 talk, she doesn't remember leaving me  
 a message. And now she's safe, she  
 has my dog, and she never wants to  
 see me again.

(drinks)  
 This whiskey is actually growing on  
 me. An acquired taste?

JAKE

I guess so.

He refills her glass.

JAKE

That sucks, Lara. About Rose. And SodaPop! Are you gonna get him back, or...?

LARA

I have no idea. Maybe I should just leave him here. He was always her baby, anyway. He'd definitely rather be with her than me.

JAKE

Come on, I've seen that dog with you. He's your dog.

Lara sighs.

LARA

You know, Rose and I broke up, like, a long time ago.

JAKE

I wondered. You know, she didn't even tell us you guys were lesbians.

LARA

She's a lesbian. I'm...

JAKE

Oh?

LARA

Pansexual, I guess. I like who I like.

JAKE

So like, women and men?

LARA

Women, men, neither, both. I like who I like.

JAKE

Okay.

Lara slides the whiskey bottle over to Jake.

LARA  
Drink more. So it's not just me.

JAKE  
If you insist...

He pours another drink.

LARA  
I can't believe she didn't want to see me. I mean, I can. But I just feel so stupid.

JAKE  
Listen, Lara, Rose...what's the nice way to say this? She's got problems.

LARA  
Well, now I just feel bad.

JAKE  
Okay, how about she's got problems... if she can't see how great you are?

LARA  
I doubt that.  
(drinks)  
Good save, though.

JAKE  
Come on! You're the Lara Campbell. You solved the Brigittine Haunting. Banished the Corwin House Entity.

LARA  
With Rose.

JAKE  
Okay, well, you've kept it going on your own.

LARA  
I guess.

JAKE  
Do you know how cool it was to take Lara Campbell on a Squatch Walk?

LARA  
That was fun.  
(beat)  
Have you ever -- have you ever seen Sasquatch?



JAKE

Not yet. But they're out there. I mean, you saw the tree markers.

LARA

So you wouldn't know if they look kind of like...

JAKE

Like what? Did you see something?

LARA

I, um...no. I was upset and it was dark and...I think it was just a really mossy tree, actually.

JAKE

Did it smell like sulfur? Make a sound like an elephant mixed with a lion? Or a high-pitched, chirping call?

LARA

It, um...no. I -- it was nothing.

JAKE

Are you sure? Because I could get one of my lures, if you remember where it was.

LARA

No. No. Let's just sit here and drink.

She shudders.

JAKE

What are -- you shivering? Are you cold?

LARA

It's fine.

JAKE

Of course you are, you're still soaked from the rain. How long were you out there?

LARA

I don't know, I had to walk back and...

JAKE

Here. My mom keeps sending me these throw blankets. No idea what to do with them.

He grabs a blanket.

LARA

They're throw blankets, right? Pretty sure you throw them.

JAKE

Well, let's just put this one around your shoulders. Don't want to spill the drink.

LARA

Yeah...

A beat. A moment. They are very close to each other.

JAKE

There.

LARA

(softly)

Thanks.

JAKE

(clears throat)

I'll just, uh, I'll put another log on the fire.

LARA

You can stay over here. On the couch. With me. If you want.

JAKE

No, uh, that's...okay.

He pulls open the wood stove, adds another log.

LARA

Um. Cheers.

JAKE

Cheers.

They clink glasses. They drink.

JAKE

Actually it is warmer. Over here.

LARA  
Yeah.

A beat.

LARA  
Jake?

JAKE  
Yeah?

LARA  
Do you want to kiss me?

JAKE  
Uh...yeah.

LARA  
Okay.

FADE TO:

**INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM**

Lara and Jake pull the door open, giggling.

LARA  
So, this is the bedroom.

JAKE  
This is where the magic happens.

LARA  
(teasing)  
Eww, that's not what you tell girls,  
is it?

JAKE  
It's a saying. People say that.

Lara laughs.

LARA  
Okay, well, if I'm gonna...

She stops. Her tone changes.

LARA  
Jake -- what is that?

JAKE

What? Oh, yeah, that's a joke. I don't actually like Justin Bieber. See, my little cousin wanted to see him live, and she didn't have anyone to go with, so I said...

LARA

No, those black streaks in your walls. All around the bed.

JAKE

What?

LARA

Right there. It looks like some kind of...mold, maybe?

JAKE

I really don't know what you're talking about.

LARA

You don't see that?

JAKE

See what, Lara?

LARA

You've been sleeping in this room. Right there.

JAKE

Uh, yeah. That's my bed.

LARA

Oh my god. Oh my god.

JAKE

Okay, um, I'm sorry if the room is kind of a mess, but I wasn't really, you know, expecting anybody.

LARA

Jake, you have a serious mold problem. Do you know what that can do to you? Breathing that in night after night?

JAKE

Lara, there's nothing there!

LARA  
Is this why...is this why you've been  
so...

JAKE  
What?

Lara sighs.

JAKE  
Did I do something wrong?

LARA  
No. I'm -- I'm sorry. I don't think  
you're really in a mental state to do  
something like this right now.

JAKE  
I feel fine. I mean, yeah, I've had a  
couple of drinks...

LARA  
Okay, well, then I'm not in the right  
state for this. You know, it's a  
crazy day, and I don't usually drink  
whiskey...

JAKE  
I get it. Okay.

LARA  
I can't stay here.

JAKE  
Yeah. It's fine.

LARA  
No, I -- I don't think you should  
stay here, either. With the mold.

JAKE  
I don't follow you.

Lara groans. She is too exhausted to deal with this right  
now.

LARA  
Okay. I -- I'm scared, okay? I'd just  
feel better if you slept over in the  
cabin tonight.

JAKE  
You mean like...?

LARA  
Like, literally, can you just sleep  
on my floor?

JAKE  
You can sleep here on the couch if  
you want.

LARA  
No, it's...I don't know. I had a  
weird day, and I think I saw  
something in the woods, maybe, and  
without SodaPop here I just...please?  
Come over to the cabin with me.

JAKE  
And sleep on the floor.

LARA  
Please?

Jake considers.

JAKE  
This is weird.

LARA  
Yeah.

JAKE  
You're sure you don't just want the  
couch?

LARA  
Please, Jake.

JAKE  
(sighs)  
Okay, fine. I guess.

LARA  
Thank you.

JAKE  
This is...not how I saw this going.

LARA  
I know the feeling. Come on, let's  
go. We -- I need to get out of this  
house. Now.

JAKE  
Lead the way.

She hurries to the door, stops. Then continues out. Jake shakes his head.

JAKE  
Lara Campbell.

He sighs. He follows her out.

#### END OF EPISODE

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Thank you so much for listening to Believer. This episode was written, directed, and sound designed by Julie Saunders, with voice acting provided by Mara Hernandez, Sara Gorsky, Jason Markoff, Julie Saunders, and Archie.

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We'll be back again in two weeks. Until next time, if you're standing outside and you sense a strange shadow cast on everything, and you look up and the moon has turned a sickly blood red, and you begin to feel something primal and hungry...check the date. If it's November 18th or 19th of this year, you are experiencing the last lunar eclipse of 2021.

Maybe have a glass of red wine and remember that while you don't need astrology to validate your own intuition, it sometimes helps to know that Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and the Moon are all visible at once and that...probably means whatever you need it to mean.

See you next time. Bye now.