

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - DUSK

VERONICA SNOGARD, field scientist, 20's, crouches behind bushes. She records data in her note pad titled "New Jersey Devil Field Journal".

Her quivering ASSISTANT crouches beside her.

Eerie SNORTS precede the form of the NEW JERSEY DEVIL ("JD"), a five foot tall creature with the body of a kangaroo, face of a horse, serpentine tail, horns, cloven hooves and small, flightless wings.

He rushes through the forest, stops at the bushes in front of Veronica. His eyes glow, he searches for her. She remains quiet and hidden.

The Assistant turns tail and runs, straight through a campsite. He tangles in the tent, rips it before he breaks free and sprints away.

JD smiles to himself, proud.

Veronica calmly flips over the pad. She crosses out a stick figure labeled "assistant fifteen".

She looks up from the pad to find JD inches from her face. She remains calm.

They look into each other's eyes. Veronica smiles.

MADAM, a seemingly average (but British) barnyard hen, sidles up next to JD.

MADAM
(to JD)
Talk to her.

JD panics, grabs Madam's neck. She yells, theatrically.

MADAM
Oh help! Help! Dear me!

JD stuffs Madam in his mouth, feathers poking out in all directions. He snorts.

MADAM
Oh my! Help! Yes, this is quite
painful. Indeed!

Madam falls limp. She opens an eye to peek at Veronica.

MADAM
(whispering)
Say hello!

JD turns and runs, Madam still in mouth. He disappears into his partially camouflaged hut.

INT. JD'S HUT - DUSK

JD spits Madam out onto the floor.

He runs to the window, peers through the blinds, and watches Veronica walk to her campsite.

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - DUSK

Veronica kneels down at her mess of a campsite; lanterns broken, sleeping bags ripped.

The last rays of the sun disappear and the full moon lights the sky.

She sighs. Packs up a few things and heads down a path out of the Pine Barrens.

INT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

JD watches her leave. He claps the blind shut, and turns to find Madam laying on the floor.

JD shakes her body. Nothing.

JD
Madam! Madam! Are you okay?

He moves in to give mouth to mouth; a horse's mouth to a chicken's beak... He leans in close...

MADAM
Boo!

JD jumps back, clutches at his heart.

JD
What the?!?

MADAM
Acting, dear boy! Acting!

JD breathes deeply, heart pounding.

JD
You scared the devil out of me!

This cracks Madam up, and JD in turn.

Madam laughs so hard that she gets a funny, strained expression on her face.

She reaches under herself, picks up an egg.

MADAM

Oop! Laid an egg!

JD runs to her, panicked.

JD

Are you okay? Need to lie down?

MADAM

Perfectly fine, nothing to worry about, happens all the time...

JD races around the hut, pulls blankets together for a nest. He escorts Madam to the blankets.

MADAM

Entirely unnecessary, JD. But thank you.

JD sets a kettle on the stove, stokes it with wood.

MADAM

My dear JD, why not talk to the poor girl?

He returns to her with a complete tea service.

JD

(shrugs)

Shy, I guess.

They slurp their tea and consider the tea leaves at the bottom. Madam's leaves form a broken heart.

MADAM

I believe this tea is yours.

JD sighs relief.

JD

Oh thank goodness!

A rooster struts across the bottom of JD's cup.

They exchange cups.

Madam looks into her cup and blushes.

JD

I didn't need to see that.

MADAM

I have my secrets.

JD

Yeah, until Elmer wakes us up crowing about it at the crack of dawn.

MADAM

Sir Elmer.

JD

Yes, yes, Sir Elmer Wainscotting, premier actor of the Henhouse Repertory Theatre. I know.

Madam's in a daydream. JD clears his throat.

MADAM

Well, outstanding evening, JD.

He helps her on with her coat.

MADAM

However, Sir Elmer awaits! We're off to Easter Island for the weekend... you're so kind to offer your baby-sitting services!

JD

Excuse me?

Madam rushes away before JD can object.

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - NIGHT

BIGFOOT ("BIG") tears through the woods. Shadowed figures of HUNTERS follow in the distance.

Big steps in mud, leaving a perfect Bigfoot imprint. Water pools into it, forms a small pond. By the time the hunters reach it, ducks float on top.

Big reaches a campsite clearing and stands in front of an awestruck DAD and his two children.

Dad, camera around neck, watches in shock as Big stands in front of him. He shakily raises the camera toward his eye.

Big hams it up for the camera, flashes his not-so-pearly whites.

Dad presses the shutter release, but nothing happens.

He looks at the camera, advances the film, then drops it. Film pops out the back.

Big stops posing, taps his foot impatiently, peeks back toward the sounds of approaching hunters

Dad reloads the camera. Big strikes a glamorous pose and the flash flashes.

Big bends down to the children, pulls a hair-covered lollipop from his fur.

The children push back the hairy treat, which Big sticks in his mouth. He pulls a yo-yo and paddle ball game out... they take the toys eagerly.

Big hides behind a tree as the Hunters near.

Dad notices the lens cap on the camera, letting out a whimpered sigh.

Hunters enter the campsite.

HUNTER #1
Did you see him?

Dad nods, still in shock.

HUNTER #2
Where'd he go?

The kids point in the opposite direction from Big.

The Hunters take off through the woods.

Big gives the children thumbs up and runs off.

Dad packs the car.

DAD
You were right kids. Let's go to
Disneyland.

INT. JD'S HUT - DUSK

JD sits in the nest on the egg, sews patches onto Veronica's tent.

The door bursts open, Big runs in. His jaw drops.

Big walks out backward, closes the door.

EXT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

Big waits a moment, clears his throat, and knocks.

JD (O.S.)
(deep, manly
voice)
Come in!

INT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

Big opens the door. JD sits in a recliner with a copy of *Sprites Illustrated, Swimsuit Edition*. He pops the cap off a beverage.

JD
Big.

BIG
Hey, JD.

JD
What, uh, what brings you here?

BIG
What? You're not egg-cited to see me?

Big cracks himself up.

JD
Shut up.

BIG
You sure had egg on your face. Or was that just your face? It's hard to tell!

Big cracks himself up again.

JD
Alright, thanks for coming by...

Big glances around the hut, peeks into the bedroom.

BIG
You're not packed yet?

JD
Packed for what?

Big opens JD's drawers and cabinets, using hands *and* feet. He pulls out puzzles, a Jersey Devil's hockey jersey, a video of "Creatures Gone Wild"...

JD
What, are you robbing me?

Big pulls out the invitation and reads from it.

BIG
You and a guest...

He throws the guest ticket to the side.

BIG
...don't need that... are invited to the one thousandth celebration of the Conference of Mythical Creatures. August thirteenth at the Jackalope Estates in East Cupcake.

JD yawns.

JD
Nine hundred and ninety-nine was my limit.

BIG
There's a secret special guest!

JD
There's always a secret special guest. Last year it was the boring sea monkeys.

BIG
I thought they were cute!
Besides, I bet it's someone super cool this year. Remember Blue Man Group?

Big imitates some Blue Man Group moves and drumming.

BIG
That was awesome!

JD turns the page on his magazine.

BIG
Well if you don't care about
that, think of the babes.

JD shrugs.

BIG
(motions to egg)
Oh, I forgot, you already have a
chick here.

JD
Remind me why we're friends.

The oven timer buzzes. Big opens the oven door, pulls out a tray of cookies. He dumps the entire tray into his fur.

BIG
Ahhhhh. Warm.

Big pulls JD out of the recliner.

BIG
Okay, time to go!

JD
But I'm baby-sitting

Big takes the egg from the nest, sticks it in his fur, and forces JD out the door.

INT. VERONICA'S CAR - NIGHT

The full moon lights the road as Veronica drives her beat up truck through the night. She clicks on the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
Do you smell manure or burning
rubber? Yep, that's gotta be
Bigfoot. Yet another sighting
today in the New Jersey Pine
Barrens. A massive search is
underway...

Veronica hits the brakes. She spins around, heads back into the Pine Barrens.

EXT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

JD and Big walk into a clearing.

JD struggles to break away, Big keeps him in check.

BIG
How'd you get such a poor
attitude?

JD
Years of practice.

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - NIGHT

The Hunters, gathered around cars and news trucks, sip coffee and wait.

Veronica pulls into the parking area.

EXT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

JD and Big stand in a clearing.

Big gives a mighty whistle.

BIG
(shouts)
Boobsie!

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - NIGHT

Heads turns toward the cry. People drop their coffee cups, pick up their rifles, and run through the woods.

Veronica takes a shortcut.

EXT. PINE BARRENS CLEARING - NIGHT

JD and Big stand, waiting.

BIG
Remember that time I dressed up
like a female New Jersey Devil
and asked you on a date? That was
hair-larious.

JD
Not really.

BIG

You bought me flowers! I laughed
so hard I was carried to the
medical tent with a busted gut.

JD

That's a big gut to bust.

The figure of BOOBSIE, an enormous female wingless
dragon with a lisp, appears against the moon. Boobsie
moves through the air by running very, very fast.

She speeds toward the ground, then puffs up like a
blowfish, floating gently to earth before exhaling and
touching down gracefully.

She heads in full gallop toward Big and licks his face.

BIG

Boobsie!

Big gives Boobsie a big raspberry on her cheek.

Boobsie holds her cheek out for JD.

JD

Hey, Boobsie.

JD gives her a short raspberry.

BOOBSIE

That was half-hearted.

She gives him a big squeeze. He cringes.

Big jogs to her tail, scratches her butt.

BIG

Hello, Mrs. Tukas. How are you
doing?

Boobsie's tail flaps, her butt wiggles.

Boobsie's head whips around one way, her tail whips
around the other way.

BOOBSIE

Who are you talking to?

Her head whips back, her tail again whips to the
opposite side.

Big heaves up Boobsie's tail, brings it into her view.

BOOBSIE

Oh! Mrs. Tukas! What a pleasant surprise! Have you met JD?

JD smacks his hand to his face.

JD

Yes, hi, Mrs. Tukas.

Boobsie's butt moves close to JD.

JD peeks out from under his hand to find Mrs. Tukas in his face.

He puts out a hoof, scratches.

Boobsie's rear end wiggles from the scratching.

JD

Can we leave now?

BIG

Now you want to go? Awesome!

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - NIGHT

The Hunters run through the forest, nearing the clearing.

EXT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

Veronica sees JD and Big climb onto Boobsie's back.

Boobsie gallops and catapults herself into the night sky, across the moon, and out of sight.

The Hunters appear from the brush, look around wildly.

HUNTER #1

You see anything out here?

VERONICA

Just the full moon. Stargazing.

HUNTER #2

Hear anything... funny?

VERONICA

(coughing)

Boobsie.

(beat)

Sorry, what? I have an awful cough. Been coughing all night.

HUNTER #1
 What's that odd, sweaty smell?

Veronica sniffs her armpit. Cringes.

The Hunters groan and head back into the woods.

INT. HIMALAYAN ICE FORTRESS - DAY

ABE, the regal but sinister abominable snowman, sits in an ice mansion at his ice desk.

G-Gnome and Silent G, the heads of his gnome army, sit across from him.

ABE
 It's time. G-Gnome, Silent G, the two of you will be my right hand gnomes at the conference.

G-GNOME
 But I'm a lefty.

SILENT G
 He's right. We're both lefties.

ABE
 And you two are the probably smartest in my army.

Abe stands, back to the gnomes, looks out a window.

ABE
 (to himself)
 Why did I have to pick gnomes?

G-GNOME
 Sir?

Abe turns back to them.

ABE
 We'll need to recruit flying beasts to finish our plan. Our bad, evil plan.

Abe laughs an evil laugh.

G-Gnome and Silent G fail miserably at a sinister laugh.

ABE
 Enough, Dopey and Sleepy! Let's just go.

EXT. REMOTE FIELD - NIGHT

More creatures climb on top of Boobsie, including CYCLOPS, a one eyed creature with horrible depth perception, and NESSY the Loch Ness Monster with a locket around her neck and an entourage of LEPRECHAUNS.

The Leprechauns attend to Nessy, spritzing her with water.

Cyclops turns to Big.

CYCLOPS
Yo, my man! Good to see you!

Big raises his hand for a high five.

Cyclops swings for it but misses.

CYCLOPS
(to JD)
What up, dog?

JD
I am no parts dog.

CYCLOPS
You be whatever you wanna be,
man. Fist Bump!

Cyclops puts out his fist, several feet away from JD.

JD waves.

Big bumps fists with Cyclops.

CYCLOPS
Hey, you know what's weird, man?
We're flying on a dragon that has
no wings but can fly.

BIG
That is weird. You know what else
is weird? JD's got wings and he
can't fly!

CYCLOPS
Oh! Snap!

JD sulks.

BIG
 I'm just ribbin' ya', JD. Take a
 joke.
 (to Cyclops)
 He's got a wing complex.

CYCLOPS
 Wow, that's rough.
 (beat)
 Hey how's your finger?

BIG
 What?

CYCLOPS
 I read you broke your finger,
 picking your nose.

Cyclops hold up a copy of the book "*Big Foot Small
 Brain*" by A. Nonymous.

BIG
 Hey, that's unauthorized!

Big grabs it, flips through it.

BIG
 And full of lies!

PENNY PIXIE, the tiny flight attendant, stands on the
 spine of Boobsie's back. Her footsteps leave a trail of
 glittering pixie dust.

PENNY
 The exits are located everywhere.
 In the event of a water landing,
 Nessy can be used as a flotation
 device. Under no circumstances
 are you to speak to Mrs. Tukas.
 It's distracting for the pilot.

JD pulls out his copy of *Sprites Illustrated: The
 Swimsuit Edition*. Hidden inside is a different magazine,
 "*Cryptozoologist Weekly*".

Big continues to read his biography.

INSERT: Cover of magazine with photo of Veronica
 captioned "Veronica Snogard's Devil of a Time"

Big slams the unauthorized biography shut.

BIG
If I knew who wrote this, I'd
sue!!

INT. JD'S HUT - NIGHT

Veronica peeks inside, then enters. She looks around in wonder.

She moves toward her tent, near a sewing kit. She picks it up to find it patched.

VERONICA
That is so sweet.

She finds the guest ticket.

VERONICA
Conference of Mythical
Creatures...?

She flips it over, finds a detailed map to the Jackalope Estates.

EXT. JACKALOPE ESTATES - NIGHT

Boobsie and her passengers fly over Jackalope Estates, a large mansion in acres of isolated desert. An occasional tumbleweed blows by.

She approaches an airstrip.

Pixies run along the ground, creating a lighted landing strip with their Pixie dust.

Boobsie inflates for landing and floats gently toward the ground.

Pixies rush to Boobsie as she lands, scratching and petting her to keep her in one place. They wheel a stairway to her side. Everyone "deplanes".

One Pixie scratches Boobsie's side and Boobsie starts to lean into it.

PIXIE #1
She's going down!

Leprechauns struggle to stay on.

PIXIE #2
Get her belly!

Another Pixie runs under Boobsie, climbs a ladder, and vigorously rubs her belly. Boobsie shifts upright again. The Leprechauns climb back to safety.

Other creatures (including winged dragons and Babe the Blue Ox) unload passengers nearby.

Big and JD walk to a large check-in area, just before the magnificent gates of the Jackalope Estates. They stand in a line of mythical creatures, including CORNELIA UNICORN.

A TUMBLEWEED blows next to Big.

BIG
(flirting)
Wow, look at you. Look at me next to you. Looks good to me, what do you think?

Tumbleweed blows away.

JD
You're hitting on sage brush.

BIG
Gotta keep your options open.

Elegantly dressed MERMAIDS in their human form check Mythical Creature ID Badges. A MERMAN sits alone, no one in his line.

MERMAN
No line over here!

Big pulls a comb from his hair and starts grooming. A HAIR TUMBLEWEED forms, blows off and joins Tumbleweed. They tumble together in the moonlight.

Big pulls out a mirror, licks his fingers, smooths his facial hair down. He doesn't look better, just wet.

Cornelia steps to the Red Mermaid. Shows her a Mythical Creature Identification Card.

RED MERMAID
Ohmigoodness, I love what you've done with your mane!

BLUE MERMAID hands a goody bag, sparkling and overflowing with jewelry, to Cornelia. Cornelia grasps it with her mouth.

BLUE MERMAID

It has chocolates, and a gold watch, and ooh, a tiara that would look just amazing against your horn.

YELLOW MERMAID

And diamond encrusted toilet paper!

CORNELIA

That can't be pleasant.

Cornelia smiles uneasily, walks away.

RED MERMAID

Wait, wait, wait! Don't forget your coupon for pi percent off at the East Cupcake Gift Shop!

Red Mermaid slips the coupons into Cornelia's bag.

CORNELIA

Pi percent?

RED MERMAID

You know, three point one four one five nine two six percent. Roughly.

MERMAN

(bored)

Over here! Totally open...

MEDUSA, bottled water in hand and designer sunglasses covering her eyes, struts over to Merman. Even her snakes, tied back in a sleek ponytail, have makeup on.

Merman puts his head down, stands up, and backs away.

He points to his watch.

MERMAN

Sorry, afternoon break. Union rules.

Unamused, she cuts in front of Red Mermaid's line and slams her bottled water on the table.

Red and the other mermaids look up then immediately down, averting their eyes.

Blue Mermaid takes the tip of her pencil eraser, pushes the water bottle away.

BLUE MERMAID

Wow, Medusa, you're looking, umm, Greek today.

MEDUSA

Thanks.

Blue Mermaid makes a gagging motion with her finger and the other mermaids giggle.

Medusa, ID badge in a protective case around her neck, flips the ID open for Red Mermaid.

MEDUSA

My ID.

Red Mermaid averts her eyes. Waves Medusa on.

RED MERMAID

No, no. Really don't need to see that. Go ahead.

Red Mermaid grabs a goody bag, ready to hand it to Medusa.

HUMMINGBIRD, small and high-pitched with an overly sunny disposition, struggles in the tight grip of a JACKALOPE BUNNY, a female bunny with antlers. The bunny escorts him out of the check-in area.

HUMMINGBIRD

But I am mythical! I can fly backwards! And I hum!

Hummingbird hums off key.

He squirms from the Jackalope Bunny's grip and flies past Red Mermaid's hand.

Red Mermaid drops the goodie bag, hitting the water bottle. Water soaks Red Mermaid, the other Mermaids instantly scatter.

Red Mermaid changes from human to mermaid. She flops helplessly on the floor.

RED MERMAID

(to Medusa)

You stupid Gorgon! Look what you did to my Crustacean Dior!

MEDUSA

And how is this my fault?

In the chaos, Veronica, disguised in a homemade troll costume as TRIXIE TROLL, tiptoes through the gates of Jackalope Estates.

Another Jackalope Bunny snatches Hummingbird out of the air.

EXT. JACKALOPE ESTATES BACK GATE - NIGHT

Jackalope Bunny places Hummingbird beyond the gates.

JACKALOPE

Sorry, Hummingbird.

A HORSE, a TOAD and an OWL, each with horns tied to their heads, stand around.

HORSE

What are you supposed to be?

TOAD

Horned toad. You?

Horse sighs.

Hummingbird dusts himself off, flies back in.

EXT. CHECK-IN - NIGHT

Big and JD, next in line, walk up to YELLOW MERMAID.

Caution Wet Floor signs where Red Mermaid sat.

Merman wheels Red Mermaid away in a portable bathtub.

BIG

Wow, look at you. Look at me next to you...

YELLOW MERMAID

You tried that same line last year.

Big winks at her.

BIG

Hey, I am what I am, baby. One hundred percent ape-man.

She checks their ID badges.

Big reaches for a goody bag, but Yellow Mermaid slaps his wrist back.

BIG
Ooh. My kinda mermaid.

She glares.

YELLOW MERMAID
So here's your programs... And
your goody bags...

She hands them each a program brochure and an inelegant goodie bag.

Big pulls a toothbrush, deodorant, and bar of soap out of the goody bag.

YELLOW MERMAID
There's instruction sheets
inside.

BIG
Instructions for soap?

YELLOW MERMAID
Hey, a little soap never killed
anybody.

Big takes a whiff of the soap, clutches at his heart. He weaves and sways.

BIG
(overly dramatic)
Can't... breathe...

Yellow Mermaid waves at the air.

YELLOW MERMAID
You and me both. Next!

Jackalope Bunnies open the gates. Big and JD walk inside.

Yellow Mermaid sprays the air with an aerosol can.

YELLOW MERMAID
He is so disgusting!

RED MERMAID
He smells like charred wood.

BLUE MERMAID
But he did have big feet...