

ACT [1] "THE BRAVE AND THE FORGOTTEN"

SCENE [1] "LEGENDS ANONYMOUS"

(SCENE OPENS ON A DINGY BAR. THE TV FLICKERS WITH NEWS FOOTAGE OF JENNY'S ACCIDENT. A HORSE'S SKULL MOUNTED ON THE WALL (SUBTLE DULLAHAN HINT) EYES GLOW FAINTLY WHEN JENNY ENTERS. CRYPTIDS ARE WEARING PEELING NAME BADGES, NESSIE, BABA, WOLFIE, SPARKY, 8-LEG, SCREECHY, MOSSY BOY, MITTENS, SEAL LADY, LONGWITTEN, SIAN, AND A STICKER IS NEXT TO THE SKULL ON THE WALL SAYING "HEADLESS.")

PROJECTION - SMOKY (BUT NOBODY IS SMOKING) DIVE BAR AND TV. CHAIRS OR STOOLS ARRANGED IN SEMI-CIRCLE REMINISCENT OF AN AA MEETING. CRYPTIDS ARE IN A DISORGANIZED AND LISTLESS STATE, SOME SITTING, SOME STANDING. THE CROWD IS NOISY. BABA YAGA TENDS BAR AND AS THE CURTAIN OPENS...

BABA YAGA

(Slams a shot glass, silencing the room)
Meeting is called to order! Legends Anonymous.

(SONG 01: "LEGENDS ANONYMOUS") <<Track 01>>

(Sings)

WELCOME, MY FRIENDS, TO ANOTHER SAD SESSION
OF TALES FROM THE PAST AND MONSTER REPRESSION
WE GATHER ONCE MORE TO CONFESS AND COMPLAIN—
THE WORLD HAS MOVED ON... AND WE'RE CIRCLIN' THE DRAIN.

NESSIE

I'M NESSIE, I WAS THE PRIDE OF THE LOCH,
NOW I GET IGNORED LIKE AN OLD TIKTOK.
BOATS PASS BY WITHOUT A GLANCE,

I HAVEN'T SEEN TOURISTS IN MONTHS, PERCHANCE.
THE WATER'S THE SAME, BUT THE LOVE IS GONE—
THEY'RE TOO BUSY SCROLLIN' TO NOTICE I'M ON!

BANSHEE

I STORMED IN A TAVERN BANSHEE SHRIEKS FROM THE PIT,
BUT A DEATH METAL BAND WAS ALREADY LIT.
THEY SCREAMED AND THEY HOWLED LOUDER THAN ME—
I SOBBED IN THE CORNER IN B MINOR KEY.
NOBODY FLED, NOBODY CRIED...
I EVEN LOST MY OWN SENSE OF PRIDE!

WILL-O'-THE-WISP

IN A CAROLINA SWAMP BY THE SEA,
I FLICKERED AND DANCED IN MYSTERY.
BUT NO ONE FOLLOWED—NO AWE, NO FRIGHT—
JUST BABY TURTLES CHASING MY LIGHT.
I LED THEM HOME... I GUESS THAT'S SWEET—
BUT I MISS DECEIVING STRANGERS ON MY GHOSTLY FEET.

**NESSIE, BANSHEE AND
WILL-O'-THE-WISP**

NOBODY BELIEVES IN ME ANYMORE
THE INTERNET'S GOT PLENTY DEMONS GALORE
KIDS DON'T FEAR THE WOODS OR LORE
NOW THERE'S RING CAMS AT MOST EVERY DOOR
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US, FADING AWAY?
WILL ANYONE REMEMBER US ONE DAY?

LONGWITTEN (DRAGON)

I TRIED TO SNATCH A DAMSEL IN WHITE—
SHE TURNED OUT A MAN AND GAVE ME A FRIGHT!
THE NEXT ONE SCREAMED, GAVE ME A WHACK—
A KARATE CHOP RIGHT TO MY SNOUT AND BACK!
SHE CALLED ME A CREEP, THEN STOMPED AWAY...
I GOOGLED "MISOGYNIST" LATER THAT DAY.

JORŌGUMO

I SPUN UP A TINDER, BIO SO NEAT—
"SILKY, EIGHT-LEGGED, ENJOYS LONG WALKS AND MEAT."
BUT THEY SWIPE LEFT OR SCREAM AND DASH...
ONE EVEN THREW AT ME A CAN OF TRASH!
I USED TO ENSNARE WITH A WINK AND A SIGH...
NOW I'M JUST LONELY, AND WONDERING WHY.

SELKIE

I LEFT THE SEA FOR JUST ONE NIGHT
AND FURRIES TOOK MY SEAL SKIN IN FLIGHT
OFF TO A CON IN PITTSBURGH TOWN
NOW I CAN'T GO HOME—I'D SURELY DROWN
I SAT ON A BENCH, WRAPPED IN A TOWEL...
NO RESPECT LEFT FOR THIS MYTHIC GAL.

TROLL

NOBODY STOMPS ON MY BRIDGE ANYMORE—
IT'S ALL BYPASSES, DRONES, AND FOUR-LANE SPRAWL GALORE!
SO NOW I TROLL ON THE INTERNET PLAY
"YOUR GRAMMAR'S WRONG!" I FURIOUSLY SAY
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS A PROPER ROAR—
BUT I STILL LIVE TO START A WAR!

DRYAD

THEY CUT MY TREE—IT WAS OLD, I KNOW...
BUT NOW I HAUNT A CUTTING BOARD IN A COOKERY SHOW
SLICK BIRCH GRAIN, IN AISLE THREE—
I WHISPER "BOO" FROM UNDER THE BRIE.
I WAS ONCE A GODDESS OF ROOT AND GREEN—
NOW I HOLD CHEESE FOR ENDLESS PARTY SCENES.

BABA YAGA

I BAKE AND STIR IN MY CHICKEN-LEGGED HOME
BUT NO KIDS WANDER, THEY ALL PLAY ALONE
VIDEO GAMES WITH THEIR EYES GONE SQUARE—
WHO NEEDS A WITCH WITH GRAPHICS THAT SCARE?
I'M SWEET, I SWEAR, WITH WITCHY CHARM—
BUT NOBODY'S CURSED ME IN SO DARN LONG!

COMPANY

NOBODY BELIEVES IN ME ANYMORE
WE'RE MEMES AT BEST, OR CRYPTID FOLKLORE
CAMERAS CATCH US WITH TOO MUCH GRACE
THEN MOCK OUR WINGS AND TROLL OUR FACE
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US, FADING AWAY?
WILL ANYONE REMEMBER US ONE DAY?

OH, THOSE WERE THE DAYS...
WE STRUCK TRUE FEAR WITH JUST A GAZE
A WHISPER, A HOOFBEAT, A FLICKERING LIGHT—
WE HAUNTED DREAMS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

IS THERE A WAY TO RISE ONCE MORE?
TO WAKE THE WONDER THEY FELT BEFORE?

SOMEBODY HAS TO GUARD THE DARK
TO LIGHT THE FOG AND SPARK THE SPARK
SO LAUGH AT US OR ROLL YOUR EYES—
WE'LL STILL BE LEGENDS BENEATH YOUR SKIES
WE MAY BE FADING, THAT MIGHT BE TRUE...
BUT STORIES LIVE...
IF YOU WANT THEM TO.

JENNY

(Stumbles in, clutching a turtle plushie. Sees the horse skull; it unnerves her.)

Why does that thing feel... familiar?

BABA YAGA

(Too casual.)
Oh, that old thing? Just bar decor.

MITTENS

(Hisses, fur standing on end.)

JENNY

Mittens! At least you're here.

(Cryptids look at each other silently, MITTENS knows her, and gives her a slow blink but nothing else. MITTENS must not speak until directed to in scene 4.)

JENNY (Cont.)

(Looking back at BABA YAGA, her eyes narrow.)
Bullshit. My dad had a carving just like it. Said it was a guardian.

(Awkward silence. The skull's eyes FLARE blue—then fade.)

DRYAD

(Whispering.)
He was.

JENNY

(Shakes it off, addresses the room.)

So, Uh... is this ghost purgatory or a taxidermy convention?

JERSEY DEVIL

(Snorts)

TROLL

Newbie's got sass.

MOTHMAN

(Speaks in female voice surprising JENNY)

She's... bright.

(Touches her own glowing eyes, jealous.)

BABA YAGA

Oh, we're gonna like you. What's your name sweetie?

JENNY

Jenny Morrison.

WOLFMAN

(Spins a whiskey bottle lazily. Speaks with slight southern drawl.)

So, Jenny. How'd a nice girl like you end up dead?

JENNY

(Defensive, but amused.)

Rescuing turtles. Unlike some of you, I died heroic.

LEPRECHAUN

(Slams his tiny fist.)

Heroic? Pfah! Humans wouldn't know magic if it-

*(The horse skull's jaw CREAKS open.
Everyone freezes. A beat. It stops.
Uneasy laughter.)*

BABA YAGA

(Quickly changing subject.)

Ignore the decor. Now sing us your sorrows, dearie.

(JENNY hesitates. The skull's eyes GLOW again. Mittens arches his back, staring at it.)

JENNY

(Shivering.)

Okay, but... why do I feel like something's watching me?

DRYAD

(Hand caresssing a cutting board on the wall.)

Oh, that's just The Headless Horseman. He's... shy.

*(The cryptids exchange glances. DULLAHAN
foreshadowing thickens.)*

*(BLACKOUT. (The horse skull's eyes glow
lingers in the dark.))*