

“Here Be Monsters”

An original story treatment

By

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Part One.

OPEN: FADE IN AS CAMERA DOLLYS FROM THE RIGHT TO LEFT.

FOREST – DAY

SUPER – FADE IN

“17XX (Year), (location) Forest, France.”

SUPER FADE OUT

WIDE SHOT – FOREST - DAY

A lone man dressed in the blue and silver tunic of the King's MUSKETEERs walks through the forest. A SILVER HILTED RAPIER sword hangs from his belt. He looks on edge and his eyes dart all around him.

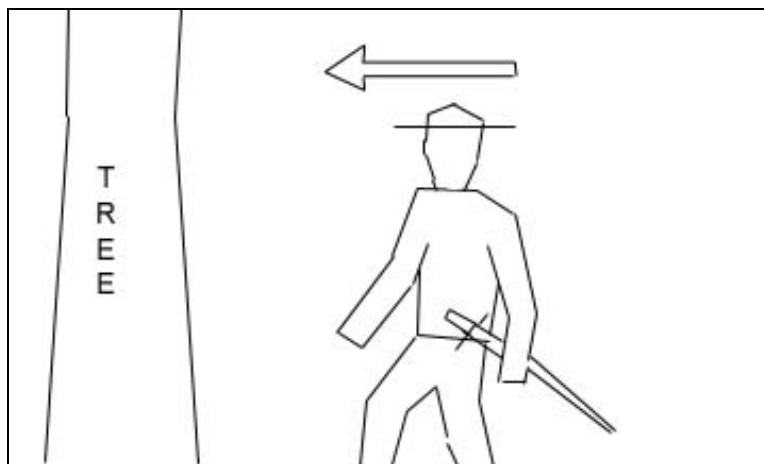
MUSKETEER  
(Dialogue in French, subtitled)  
[To himself, disgusted.]

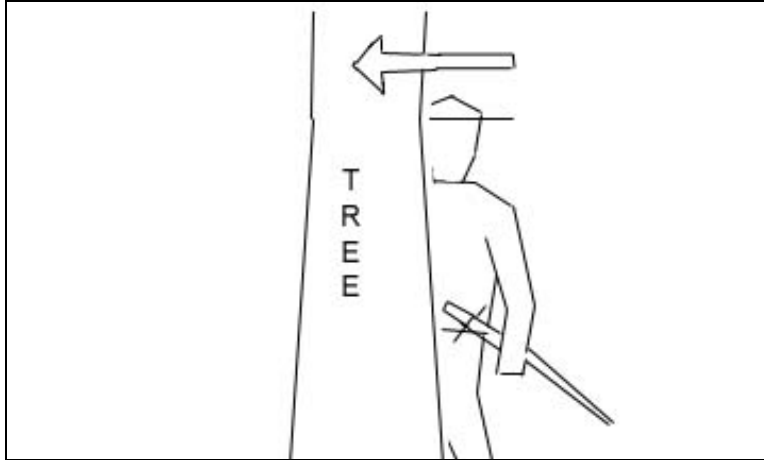
Hard to believe in this modern age that villagers still think demons and monsters run through the countryside and prey on the unsuspecting.

The MUSKETEER turns completely around while still walking left.

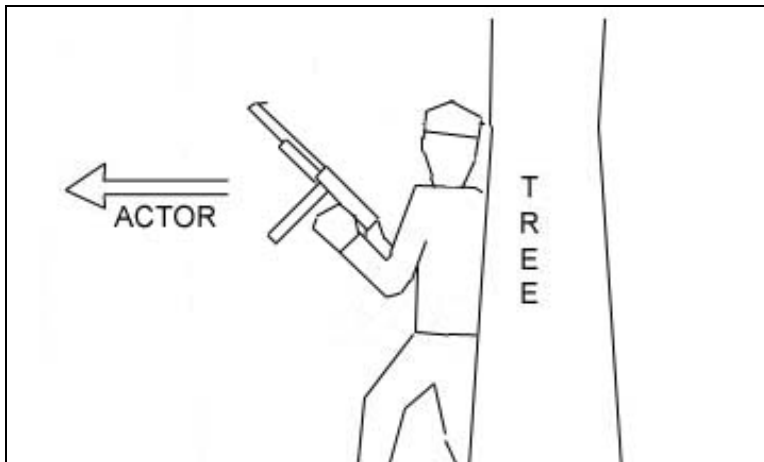
MUSKETEER  
(Dialogue in French, subtitled)

The only monsters that exist are in the employ of Cardinal Richelieu. (He grins)  
It's probably just a wild boar... or someone who'd drank too much.





A TREE passes between the walking MUSKETEER and the camera, and out the other side of the tree walks...



SUPER – FADE IN:

“1944, (location) Forest, France.”

SUPER – FADE OUT

...a United States ARMY LIEUTENANT. He’s dressed in OD Green fatigues and assorted equipment including a BACKPACK. He wears a steel pot helmet and carries a

Thompson submachine gun. His face is dirty and he looks tired. His features match those of the MUSKETEER.

SOLDIER 2  
[offscreen]

I'm tellin' ya Lieutenant, there ain't nothing out here. Patrols from the 82<sup>nd</sup> swept this area a few days ago and took out a squad of the Krauts that were holed up in a farmhouse. Nobody seen nuthin' since.

ARMY LIEUTENANT  
[Still walking camera left]

The Colonel wanted this area swept because of a report that a family on the outskirts of the village was killed yesterday by an unknown force. They must have used bayonets or something because no bullet casings were found and the place wasn't shot up. Generally speaking, the locals don't slaughter themselves.

SOLDIER 2  
[offscreen]

I'm telling ya Lieutenant, I don't like it. Somethin' just feels wrong.

The ARMY LIEUTENANT stops and looks back.

ARMY LIEUTENANT  
[Points camera right]

Sergeant, take the rest of the squad and sweep west of here. There's a ravine that circles the outskirts of the village. Follow that around to the east of the village keeping an eye open for signs of troop movements or new emplacements. If you see anything of import, or if you run into the enemy, use the field radio to report it in. But don't waste the Colonel's time if it's something you can handle.

SOLDIER 2  
[offscreen]

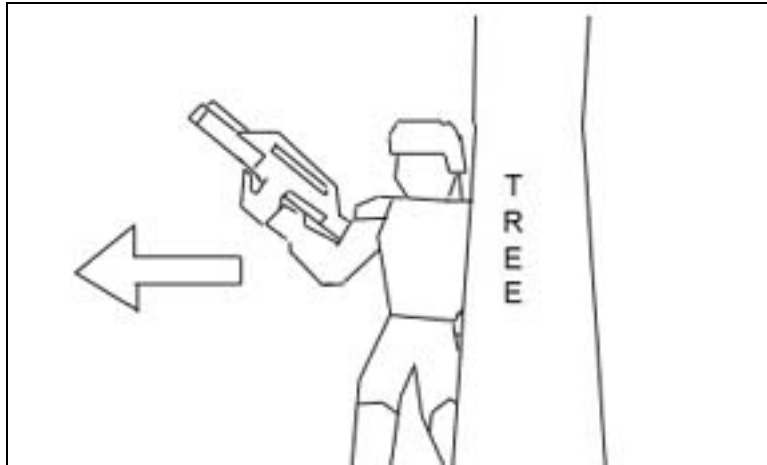
Yes Sir. Okay, you heard the Lieutenant, Move out.

The LIEUTENANT continues camera left. A large tree passes between the camera and the LIEUTENANT and out the other side walks...

SUPER – FADE IN:

“22XX, (location) Forest, France.”

SUPER – FADE OUT



...a UNITED STATES COLONIAL MARINE LIEUTENANT. The Marine is dressed in a high tech suit of body armor including a helmet with a boom microphone and camera. Strapped to the chest of his armor is a large FIELD KNIFE. He carries an M41-A PULSE RIFLE and a BACKPACK is strapped to the back of his armor.

MARINE 2  
[Heard over radio]

L.T., are you sure you should be doing this?

The USCM LIEUTENANT keeps moving camera left. He raises his hand to the earpiece and boom microphone mounted on the helmet.

USCM LIEUTENANT

Yes Sergeant, I know what I'm doing.

MARINE 2

And if I may ask Sir, What exactly is it that you're doing?

The USCM LIEUTENANT stops. He drops to one knee and looks at a STRANGE ANIMAL TRACK in the soft earth.

The camera DOLLYS left...

CU – USCM LIEUTENANT

USCM LIEUTENANT: Hunting...

The camera DOLLYS left behind a tree and after passing the tree reveals...

CU - MUSKETEER

MUSKETEER (In French, Subtitled): ...a strange creature.

The MUSKETEER rises to his feet and continues forward.

MUSKETEER: Not a boar... perhaps a man in strange boots?

The MUSKETEER Stops by a tree.

CU – MUSKETEER

The MUSKETEER inhales deeply through his nose. He pauses, a look of disgust crosses his face and he sniffs the air again.

MEDIUM SHOT – MUSKETEER

The MUSKETEER looks around and spies a RED MARK on a nearby tree, He pulls the gauntlet from his right hand walks forward and reaches out for the RED MARK as the camera DOLLYS Left behind a tree, revealing...

MEDIUM SHOT - ARMY LIEUTENANT

...The ARMY LIEUTENANT reaches his bare hand and touches the RED MARK on the tree. It's wet and sticks to his fingers.

ARMY LIEUTENANT: Fresh blood.

The ARMY LIEUTENANT wipes the blood from his fingers on his trousers, and grips his Thompson securely before moving CAMERA LEFT again.

CU - ARMY LIEUTENANT

ARMY LIEUTENANT: Well, something's not quite right. Maybe I should have kept the squad with me. I still can't believe that great-grandpa's scary stories could be true.

Nobodies ever seen a large black...

ARMY LIEUTENANT walks behind a TREE, revealing...

USCM LIEUTENANT: ...creature with armored skin. It's never been reported as a natural species on earth or even been reported on the Tri-vid news. Either it doesn't exist...

The USCM LIEUTENANT pauses, noticing another set of the strange tracks on the ground.

CU - USCM LIEUTENANT

USCM LIEUTENANT: Or somebody put it here.

The USCM LIEUTENANT kneels down and checks the tracks.

USCM LIEUTENANT: Those are fresh... Must be getting close.

FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT

A loud, menacing HISS echoes through the forest. The USCM LIEUTENANT looks sharply right, raises his weapon and rotates his body right in the same position. As he rotates right the CAMERA rotates LEFT around him, passing behind a TREE, revealing...

FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT

The MUSKETEER rotates right, his tunic flowing around him. As he rotates right the CAMERA rotates LEFT around him, passing behind a TREE, revealing...

FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT

The ARMY LIEUTENANT rotates right, his THOMPSON SMG raised defensively. As he rotates right the CAMERA rotates LEFT around him, passing behind a TREE, revealing...

FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT

The USCM LIEUTENANT rotates right, his PULSE RIFLE raised, seeing nothing. As he rotates right the CAMERA rotates LEFT around him, passing behind a TREE, revealing...

FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT

The MUSKETEER rotates right, his tunic flowing around him. The MUSKETEER comes to a halt, his hand moving to his sheathed RAPIER at his belt.

FOREST – DAY – EXTREME CU

The MUSKETEER's eyes narrow.

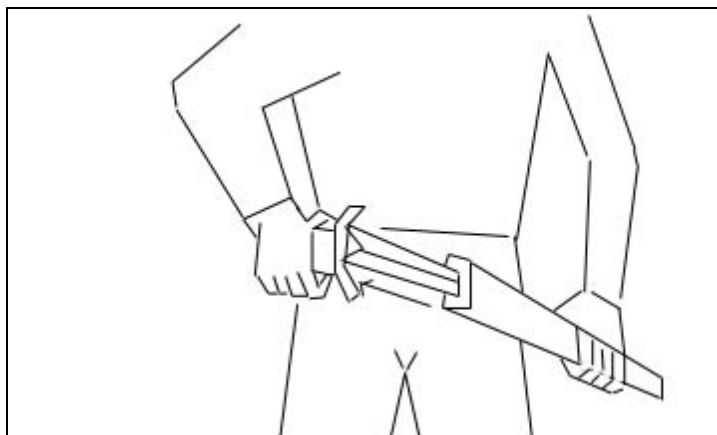
FOREST – DAY – WIDE SHOT – POV

The MUSKETEER looks ahead and a large, dark shape moves slowly, menacingly from the cover of a large tree.

FOREST – DAY – EXTREME CU

MUSKETEER (French, subtitled, shocked): My god.

FOREST – DAY – MEDIUM SHOT



Slowly, deliberately, the MUSKETEER draws his RAPIER and goes en' garde.

WS - FOREST – DAY – CU

The ALIEN makes its appearance. Slime flows from the pointed teeth of its face and it HISSES menacingly. It moves forward, spiked tail raised menacingly above its head.

The creature moves past the camera. The camera rotates to follow the creature's movement, when it reaches the creature's side for a brief second all you see is black, then the camera comes behind the creature revealing...

MS/CU - FOREST – DAY

The ARMY lieutenant is holding his Thompson, his mouth is wide open in shock.

ARMY LIEUTENANT (SHOCKED): Great grandpa was right, great grandpa was right, great grandpa was right...

The ALIEN advances... The ARMY LIEUTENANT snaps out of his shock and raises his weapon...

EXTREME CU – THOMPSON SMG CONTROLS

The ARMY LIEUTENANT's thumb switches the Thompson SMG from SAFE to FIRE.

MS – FOREST - ALIEN

The ALIEN advances walking toward the camera... the ALIENs black form blots out the cameras view, revealing...

MS - FOREST – DAY

The COLONIAL MARINE raises his weapon and smiles malevolently.

EXTREME CU – PULSE RIFLE CONTROLS

The MARINE thumbs the controls of his weapon from SAFE to FIRE.

The ALIEN advances slowly. It moves suddenly to one side ducking behind a tree. The camera pans behind the tree and the ALIEN revealing...

MS – FOREST – DAY

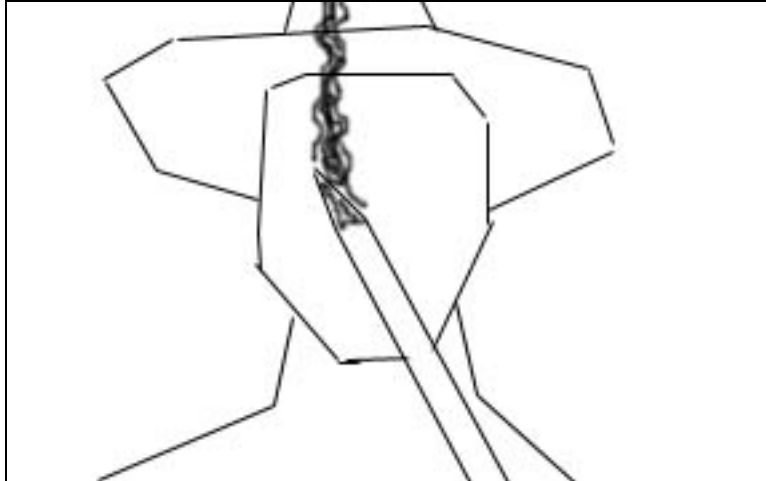
The MUSKETEER cautiously advances on the strange creature, his sword raised.

MUSKETEER (French, Subtitled in English): You... do *not* work for Cardinal Richelieu.

The ALIEN Screeches and attacks!

The ALIEN thrusts with it's tail like a black spear. The MUSKETEER deftly parries the attack and attacks in turn, scoring a minor cut on the ALIENs chest. The cut oozes fluid and the tip of the MUSKETEERs sword hisses and bubbles as the creature's acid blood does its work on the weapon!

CU – FOREST – DAY

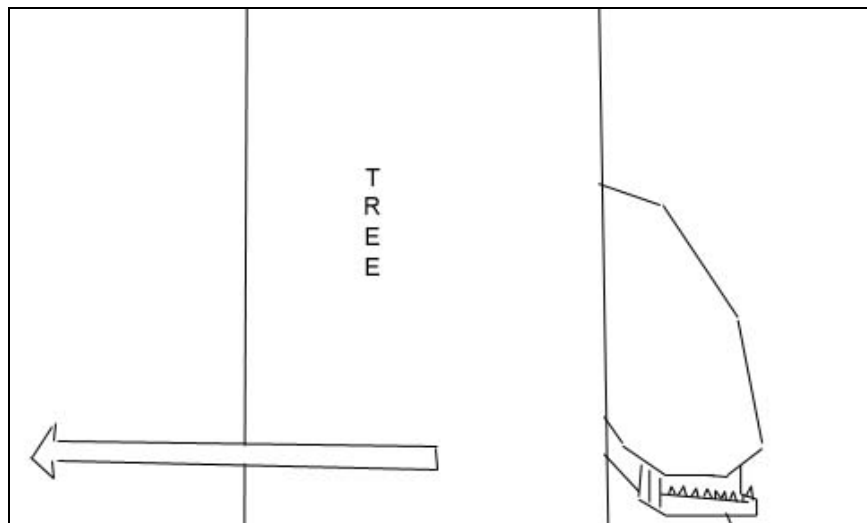


The camera focus shifts from the smoking tip of the sword to the face of the MUSKETEER staring in horror at the smoking tip of his sword.

The camera tracks left, passing behind the ALIEN revealing...

MS – FOREST – DAY

The ARMY LIEUTENANT shoulders his weapon and fires a burst. The ALIEN LEAPS over ten feet to safety behind another tree, the Thompson SMG's bullets tracing divots in the ground at the ARMY LIEUTENANT tries to follow the erratic monster's movements. The ALIEN screeches at the ARMY LIEUTENANT and peers around the corner of the tree.



The camera PANS left, away from the ALIEN revealing...

MS – COLONIAL MARINE

The COLONIAL MARINE fires another burst from his pulse rifle hitting the tree. The shot counter on the side of the weapon counts down at a rapid pace, stopping at around “28” round remaining.

COLONIAL MARINE (to himself): Come out and get what you deserve you ugly mother fu...

The ALIEN crouches behind the tree and then LEAPS through the air directly at the COLONIAL MARINE.

CU – MARINE

The stunned MARINE can't react in time.

MS – FOREST – DAY

The ALIEN impacts the marine fully, knocking him to the ground and sending his PULSE RIFLE flying. The ALIEN rises to its feet, straddles the MARINE and claws at him leaving bloody trails on his arms. The MARINE pulls his feet up under the ALIEN, and plants his boots on the ALIENs chest and kicks the creature up and over his shoulders. The creature sails over the marine and lands heavily. The MARINE rolls to his feet and heads into the woods, clutching his wounds. The ALIEN rolls over onto all fours, and hisses angrily.

POV – ALIEN

The MARINE runs away.

WS – FOREST – DAY

The MARINE passes behind a tree and out the other side comes...