

“Here Be Monsters”

An original story treatment

By

Russ Krook III

First Draft, September 5, 2003

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: The only monsters that exist are in the employ of Cardinal Richelieu. (He grins) It's probably just a wild boar... or a villager who's had too much to drink.

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.

SOLDIER 2 [offscreen]: I'm tellin' ya Lieutenant, there ain't nothing out here. Patrols from the 82nd 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 slaughtered 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.

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 M41A Pulse Rifle and a BACKPACK is strapped to the back of his armor.

MARINE 2 [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 DARK 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 DARK 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 out here. Maybe I should have kept the squad with me. I still can't believe that great-granddad's scary stories could be true. In 500 years nobodies ever reported seeing 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.

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 creatures side for a brief second all you see is black, then the camera comes behind the creature revealing...

FOREST – DAY

The ARMY lieutenant is holding his Thompson