

**WOODHOLLOW'S BANE**

Pilot Episode - Man & Monster

written by

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**COLD OPEN**

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

The pale moon silhouettes a single CROW perched on a tree branch. The crow **squawks** and takes flight, leaving a few feathers behind.

The feathers fall down near ABIGALE (12) as she frantically runs through the woods. She looks behind her as a MURDER OF CROWS chase, **squawk**, and dive-bomb near her head. She lets out a **shriek**.

She continues running until she trips over a fallen tree. As she struggles to get back up, she sees that the crows are gone. Even the moon is gone.

Abigale stands up. She hears **growling** in the distance. She turns around to find an UNKNOWN CREATURE with two pale eyes as bright as the moon. She can't make out what kind of animal the creature is.

The creature **roars** and lunges towards Abigale. She **screams**.

SMASH-CUT TO:

**EXT. COUNTRY TRAIL - NIGHT**

Abigale wakes up from her nightmare still **screaming**.

JEBIDIAH

Another nightmare, Abigale?

Abigale realizes where she is. She's covered in a blanket sitting in the front seat of a supply wagon hitched to FOUR HORSES.

Next to her sits JEBIDIAH (late 30s) at the reins. Jebidiah is her father, though his complexion is a fair bit lighter than hers.

They're traveling down a dark country trail.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Sounded like a spooky one!

ABIGALE

It was a monster. But before that I was being chased by a bunch of crows.

JEBIDIAH

A murder!

ABIGALE

No, I woke up before that part.

JEBIDIAH

I mean a murder of crows. That's what a group of crows is called. A school of fish, a gaggle of geese, and a murder of crows! Isn't that neat?

ABIGALE

That's a scary phrase. English is so weird.

Jebidiah turns his head and reaches for something on his left, something out of her eyesight.

JEBIDIAH

Scary, huh? As scary as-

Jebidiah quickly turns around towards Abigale while wearing his PLAGUE DOCTOR MASK.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

This?!

Abigale is unfazed. Jebidiah wiggles his fingers around in a lame attempt to be spooky.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Nothing?

ABIGALE

Nice try, Dad.

JEBIDIAH

You used to think this thing was scary.

Jebidiah takes the MASK off and tosses it into the wagon by the stacked boxes, crates, and bottles.

ABIGALE

Maybe when I was five!

JEBIDIAH

You were so much more fun back then, dear! And less sarcastic.

Abigale **laughs** and mock-punches Jebidiah's arm.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Oof! And you weren't so strong! I think you broke my arm, Abigale!

(MORE)

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

You'll need to take the reins from here, though I think Unicornelius might still be mad at you.

UNICORNELIUS, the large white horse in the front-right has a pine cone stuck under his halter that makes him look like a unicorn. He **blows** loudly to make his displeasure known.

ABIGALE

You're a doctor. Don't you have something back there that can fix your arm?

JEBIDIAH

No, we need to get all of this to Woodhollow. I hear a lot of the villagers there also have abusive children so there will be no shortage of broken arms to repair!

Abigale **laughs** and snuggles into her blanket. She rests her head on Jebidiah's arm.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Get some rest, dear. We should arrive in Woodhollow by dawn.

Abigale dozes off.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

ACT ONE**EXT. COUNTRY TRAIL - NIGHT**

JEBIDIAH

Abigale. Abigale, darling, wake up.

Abigale wakes up. She looks around and sees the woods and light fog all around them. A bridge is up ahead. She stretches and **yawns**.

ABIGALE

Are we there yet?

JEBIDIAH

No. Up ahead.

Jebidiah points to the bridge ahead of them. There are a few lights moving around in the fog in front of the bridge. They hear **distant chatter**.

ABIGALE

Maybe they're friendly? Or ghosts!  
Or friendly ghosts?!

JEBIDIAH

Maybe. But we can't take any  
chances. Hide in the back and don't  
make a sound.

ABIGALE

But-

JEBIDIAH

No buts, Abigale. These parts  
aren't safe for children. Just do  
as I say, please.

Abigale **sighs** and climbs into the wagon. She hides behind some of the supplies.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Oh, and please be a lamb and hand  
me my crossbow?

Abigale hands Jebidiah a CROSSBOW. This knocks the PLAGUE DOCTOR MASK down towards the front of the supplies, but neither seem to pay it any mind.

Jebidiah hides the crossbow under Abigale's blanket.

Abigale, still hiding behind the supplies, readies her SLINGSHOT.

As they approach the bridge, the lights are shown to be lanterns being held by THREE LAWMEN on HORSES.

LAWMAN 1  
What 'ave we 'ere?

JEBIDIAH  
Good evening, gentlemen. M'lady.

The FEMALE HORSE **whinnies**.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)  
Just on my way to Woodhollow,  
looking to sell some pelts.

The Lawmen inspect the wagon's exterior.

LAWMAN 2  
Woodhollow, eh? I'd stay away from  
there if I was you, mister.

LAWMAN 1  
Surely you've heard of that new  
sickness what's been spreadin'  
'round?

JEBIDIAH  
Ah, I figured that was just tavern  
hearsay.

LAWMAN 3  
Ah, nah. It's real. Say it turns  
you mad!

LAWMAN 1  
Maybe our friend 'ere's already got  
it if he thinks anyone in  
Woodhollow's gonna want to buy  
pelts. They're surrounded by the  
Wilds! Think they're short on  
pelts, do ya?

The Lawmen **laugh**.

JEBIDIAH  
True, but these are pelts from up  
north. Surely I've bagged some  
creatures that aren't native to  
these parts.

LAWMAN 1  
Doubt it. No shortage of animals or  
monsters here.

(MORE)

LAWMAN 1 (CONT'D)

But I s'pose I wouldn't expect a fancy man from the capital to know that, now would I?

Jebidiah stealthily slides his hand under the blanket to grab his crossbow.

LAWMAN 2

Yeah! Mister high society on his way to sell his wares to the commoners, colonizers, and country bumpkins!

LAWMAN 3

Think you're better than us with your fancy 'indoor plumbing' and 'toothed-brushes'?

Lawman 3 smiles, revealing dirty and missing teeth.

LAWMAN 1

You ain't got a toothbrush, mate?

A beat.

LAWMAN 3

Uh... Look at his horse! He's gone and made it look like a unicorn! We should shift our focus to that!

In the back of the wagon, Abigale silently smacks her head.

LAWMAN 1

Mate, why would you go and put a pine cone on your 'orse's 'ead?

JEBIDIAH

I like unicorns.

Another beat.

LAWMAN 1

We're just razzin' ya, pal. You're free to cross.

Jebidiah slides his hand away from the crossbow.

JEBIDIAH

Have a good night gentleman.  
M'lady.

The female horse **neighs**. Unicornelius winks at the female horse in crossing. She blushes.

JEBIDIAH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 You still got it, Unicornelius.

As the wagon's horses trot past the Lawmen and their horses, Lawman 3 notices the PLAGUE DOCTOR MASK.

LAWMAN 3  
 (whispering to Lawman 1)  
 Boss, wait a tick.

Moments later after the wagon crosses the bridge, Abigale scoots closer to the front.

ABIGALE  
 They were pretty rude for lawmen!

JEBIDIAH  
 Those weren't lawmen, Abigale. Stay back there for now.

ABIGALE  
 What?!

On the other side of the bridge, the Lawmen are **talking**.

LAWMAN 1  
 ... he's prob'ly got fancy capital medical supplies in there. I'd wager those would sell for a high price.

LAWMAN 3  
 Reckon we should go 'arrest' him then, boss?

LAWMAN 1  
 No, I reckon he's onto us.

The Lawmen take their uniform coats off and hide them behind some bushes. They reveal themselves to be BANDITS.

The Bandits hook their lanterns onto their saddles. Bandit 1 readies his BOW AND ARROWS, Bandit 2 lifts his TOMAHAWK, while Bandit 3 grabs his SWORD.

Bandit 1 kicks the side of the female horse.

BANDIT 1  
 HYAHH!

The Bandits ride their horses full speed ahead towards the bridge.



Jebidiah hears them coming. He hits the reins to speed his horses up.

JEBIDIAH

No!

Jebidiah looks down to see his PLAGUE DOCTOR MASK.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

Curse my love for scaring children!

ABIGALE

What?!

JEBIDIAH

Nothing dear, but just to keep you in the loop we're being chased by bandits.

ABIGALE

WHAT?!

Abigale reaches into her pocket and gets a ROCK ready for her slingshot.

The Bandits have crossed the bridge and are in hot pursuit of the wagon.

BANDIT 2

Where you going, DOCTOR? I got a rash that requires your immediate attention!

The Bandits all **laugh**. Jebidiah grabs his crossbow. He peaks around the wagon and just barely dodges a tomahawk thrown by Bandit 2.

JEBIDIAH

Take one of these and call me in the morning!

Jebidiah fires the crossbow at Bandit 2. The arrow pierces the bandit's shirt, flinging him off his horse, and pinning him to a tree.

The other two Bandits leave him behind as Jebidiah readies another arrow. Bandit 1 makes his way up to the left side of the wagon while Bandit 3 sticks to the rear.

Bandit 3 stands up on his horse and gets ready to jump onto the wagon. Abigale opens up the back of the wagon.

BANDIT 3

What the?!

ABIGALE  
Eat rock, creep!

Abigale fires a rock from her slingshot and hits Bandit 3 in the mouth, knocking out the rest of his rotten teeth.

BANDIT 3  
NO! MY REMAINING TEETH!

Bandit 3 falls off of his horse. The horse runs away in a different direction. Bandit 1 looks behind and grinds his teeth.

BANDIT 1  
Pathetic! I'll handle this me'self!

Bandit 1 fires an arrow through the wagon. It just barely misses Abigale.

Jebidiah looks to the woods on his left.

JEBIDIAH  
Hang tight, Abigale. We're making a slight detour!

Jebidiah pulls the reins to steer the horses towards the woods. The last Bandit and his horse just barely avoid them.

ABIGALE  
We can't go in the woods, dad! It's too dangerous!

JEBIDIAH  
We're already in danger, hun! Trust me!

**EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS**

It's a bumpy ride, but they're making their way through the woods. Abigale peaks out of the wagon, she's still terrified.

JEBIDIAH  
I'm gonna need you to take the reins. Can you do that for me?

Abigale nods. Jebidiah lifts her to the front seat of the wagon and hands her the reins.

ABIGALE  
Just like we practiced?

JEBIDIAH  
Just like we practiced.

Jebidiah goes to the side of the wagon and peaks out to look for the Bandit. Again, he just barely manages to dodge an arrow.

BANDIT 1

You got lucky on that one, doc! The Wilds are no place for a man like you! Give up and I might spare you and your daughter!

Jebidiah and the Bandit fire arrows at each other, but both seem to just barely miss the other. Some arrows hit the wagon, others land in trees.

Abigale is doing an excellent job of steering. The horses are following every direction she pulls the reins in without hesitation.

She hears a **squawk**. She looks up to the silhouette of a CROW perched on a branch in front of the moon, just like from her nightmare.

ABIGALE

No...

The crow takes flight and joins in with a MURDER OF CROWS behind the wagon.

JEBIDIAH

Oh! A murder! Abigale, it's just like your-

Jebidiah looks down to see a terrified Abigale. He takes over the reins and pulls her close to him.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)

It's okay, Abi.

The crows fly past the wagon, fly up towards the sky, and turn around to go after the Bandit.

BANDIT 1

Out of the way, you pests!

The crows dive-bomb, peck, and scratch at the Bandit.

BANDIT 1 (CONT'D)

I SAID OUT OF THE WAY!

The Bandit grabs his lantern and swings it at the crows. The crows fly up into the trees.

ABIGALE

What's happening?!

JEBIDIAH  
I'm... not sure?

The Bandit is now covered in cuts.

BANDIT 1  
IF I CAN'T 'AVE THAT WAGON NOBODY  
CAN!

The Bandit uses his lantern to set one of his arrows on fire.  
He shoots it at the wagon, setting it ablaze.

JEBIDIAH  
NO!

Unicornelius and the other three horses are spooked.

ABIGALE  
It's gonna be okay! Hang on!

Jebidiah grabs Abigale and jumps off of the wagon and onto  
the horses. He grabs a knife from his pocket and cuts the  
horses loose. All but Unicornelius flee.

ABIGALE (CONT'D)  
Wait, don't go!

JEBIDIAH  
Oof. I am not getting my security  
deposit back from that stable-  
owner.

Jebidiah attempts to grab some of his supplies from the  
burning wagon. Suddenly, Bandit 1 points an arrow at him.  
Veins are bulging through the Bandit's forehead.

BANDIT 1  
YOU MAY 'AVE BEATEN MY MEN AND  
SCARED OFF MY 'ORSES, BUT I DON'T  
FRIGHTEN QUITE AS EASY!

JEBIDIAH  
Not even for-

Jebidiah slaps his plague doctor mask on.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)  
THIS?!

The Bandit is unfazed. Abigale smacks her forehead.

ABIGALE  
Dad! Now's not the time! What are  
you doing?!

JEBIDIAH  
Buying time for Unicornelius.

The Bandit looks over just as Unicornelius bucks him in the chest, knocking the wind out of the Bandit and sending him flying a few feet. He stumbles back up as Jebidiah picks Abigale up.

BANDIT 1  
I'M GONNA KILL YOU, YOUR DAUGHTER,  
AND YOUR RIDICULOUS 'ORSE!

The Bandit gets hit in the head with a rock from Abigale's slingshot.

ABIGALE  
He's a unicorn!

The Bandit points his arrow at Abigale. Jebidiah turns around to shield her... but nothing happens.

They hear the bow and arrow **drop**. They turn around and are disturbed by what they see.

The Bandit's eyes are completely pale and glowing. His mouth is agape and his **breathing** is heavy. With very rigid movements he turns around and wanders deep into the woods.

ABIGALE (CONT'D)  
What was that?

JEBIDIAH  
I think that was the illness...  
Woodhollow's Bane.

As the fire from the burning wagon begins to die down, Jebidiah lifts Abigale up onto Unicornelius.

They're being watched by the CREATURE from Abigale's nightmare. Whatever it is, its tusks are slightly visible from the light of the fire. It **growls**, but ultimately steps back away from them and into the woods.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO**EXT. COUNTRY TRAIL - MORNING**

Abigale, Jebidiah, and Unicornelius walk down the country trail. They pass an old, damaged sign that reads "WELCOME TO WOODHOLLOW"

Underneath it is a small hanging sign that originally read "POPULATION: 200" but the number has multiple corrections and new numbers that keep being crossed off. It's now covered with a few question marks.

Jebidiah and Abigale look ahead. They've finally reached Woodhollow. The village looks desolate and grey.

ABIGALE

Looks kind of depressing, huh?

JEBIDIAH

Let's not pass judgement,  
Abigale... but yes.

Unicornelius **neighs** in agreement.

**EXT. WOODHOLLOW - CONTINUOUS**

They're approached by the burly, bearded THADDEUS (40) on a large, brown HORSE.

THADDEUS

Doctor Jebidiah Jameson, I presume?

JEBIDIAH

Yes, I take it you're Thaddeus  
Stone?

THADDEUS

No, Thaddeus Stone was my  
grandfather. I'm Thaddeus Stone the  
third.

JEBIDIAH

Ah. This is my daughter, Abigale.

Abigale enthusiastically waves to Thaddeus. He glances at her and then looks back at Jebidiah.

THADDEUS

Quite the complexion she's got. Is  
she *Wild*?

Abigale gives a confused look. Jebidiah is taken aback by his blunt question, but quickly recovers.

JEBIDIAH

No, just tans well. Much like her late mother. Me on the other hand? Oh I burn up something crisp if I'm in direct sunlight too long!

THADDEUS

Hmm. Didn't think you get much sun up in that cloudy capital. Anyway, allow me to be the first to humbly welcome you to my village, Woodhollow!

Thaddeus stretches his arms out as if to present a thriving town, but the only thing in worse shape than his town are its RESIDENTS. They all seem poor, hungry, angry, dirty, paranoid, or a combination of all of the above.

He motions them to come this way. Thaddeus and his horse turn around. They follow.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

Gotta say, Jeb, I'm surprised the capital sent a doctor of your caliber down to little ol' Woodhollow. I suppose we ought to be grateful considering what we've been paying in taxes, but that's a conversation in and of itself for another time.

JEBIDIAH

I insisted on going. The reports on this bane truly piqued my interest. And seeing it firsthand was quite the experience.

THADDEUS

Ah, so you've already familiarized yourself somehow?

JEBIDIAH

Yes, we had a run-in with some bandits on the way down here. One of them succumbed to the sickness after he burned our supply wagon.

THADDEUS

Ah, yes the Wilds can be dangerous with all sorts of desperate scum. Man and monster. Well, don't worry about the supplies so long as it's taken out of your expenses.

(MORE)

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

We might have some you could use in that building up ahead.

Thaddeus points to a doctor's office cabin that they're walking towards.

JEBIDIAH

Ah, excellent.

THADDEUS

My wife Tiffany has been 'working' all week to get the cabin you'll be staying in ready for the two of ya. She'll come find ya once you get settled in here.

Jebidiah hitches Unicornelius to a post outside of the doctor's cabin. Abigale brushes him. Thaddeus and his horse turn around.

JEBIDIAH

Heading off?

A small posse of HUNTERS and TRAPPERS ride past them.

THADDEUS

Yep, me and what remaining men we've got are headed out on a hunt. You're welcome to tag along the next one, but I don't know if a capital man can fare well against the big game we got out here.

ABIGALE

Hey! My dad can do anything!

JEBIDIAH

Abigale.

THADDEUS

Oh, I'm sure. I gotta boy around your age, little girl. Maybe the two of you can play Soldiers and Wildlings sometime. You two take care now.

Thaddeus and his horse take off with the other men. Jebidiah is once again taken aback by his comment.

ABIGALE

What's that big, hairy jerk mean?! Why does he keep calling me those things?!



JEBIDIAH  
 Oh, I don't know, dear. I guess  
 he... let's just get familiar with  
 the office, shall we?

Abigale isn't satisfied with that answer, but she obliges and goes inside with her father.

**INT. DOCTOR'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS**

A bell **rings** as Jebidiah and Abigale enter the cabin. This gets the attention of MARIE (11) a small girl with big, magnifying glasses. She drops her book.

MARIE  
 Mom! More sick people!

JEBIDIAH  
 Oh, we're not sick. We were sent  
 here from the capital.

MARIE  
 Mom! More tax collectors!

JEBIDIAH  
 No. We're not tax collectors  
 either! We're here to help!

MARIE  
 Mom! More missionaries!

ELIZABETH (mid 30s) steps out from the backroom.

ELIZABETH  
 Take it down a notch, Marie. That's  
 the Jamesons. They're here to help  
 study and, pray be, cure this awful  
 plague.

ABIGALE  
 Yeah, Marie. Take it down a notch.

MARIE  
 You take it down a notch!

ABIGALE  
 No, you take it down a notch!

ELIZABETH  
 They're off to a great start.

Jebidiah holds his hand out.

JEBIDIAH

Hello. Jebidiah Jameson. This is my daughter Abigale.

Elizabeth shakes his hand.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Harper. My sunshine and bundle of joy Marie.

JEBIDIAH

Nice to meet you both.

ABIGALE

Eh. I could take it or leave it.

Marie rolls her giant, magnified eyes.

JEBIDIAH

I didn't realize Woodhollow already had a medical doctor.

ELIZABETH

Oh, it doesn't. Not anymore at least. No, he was one of the first to go. I'm actually just a veterinarian. That's how bad it's gotten, they've put me to work here. I'm hoping you're my ticket out of this cabin.

JEBIDIAH

'Just' a veterinarian? Doctor to doctor, don't sell yourself short! Why, young Abigale here has always wanted to become a veterinarian.

ABIGALE

Maybe when I was six?

JEBIDIAH

Hmm.

ELIZABETH

Daughters, am I right? Marie, why don't you take Abigale out and show her around Woodhollow. Doctor Jameson and I have much to discuss.

MARIE

Do I have to?

ELIZABETH

You sure do, kid.

MARIE

Fine.

The bell **rings** as Marie and Abigale head outside.

ELIZABETH

Marie isn't, uh, great with people.

JEBIDIAH

Oh, Abigale is just terrible with them!

**EXT. WOODHOLLOW - LATER**

Abigale and Marie are walking around the village.

MARIE

Uhm... that's the doctor's cabin that we were just in.

ABIGALE

Yeah... I got that.

MARIE

Uhhh, there's a school over there for the kids. A tavern for the adults. That barn down there is where my mom usually works. So you want to be an animal doctor? I want to be a bug doctor. I like bugs.

ABIGALE

I used to want to be a regular animal doctor, but now I want to be a magic animal doctor. Like on unicorns, mermaids, maybe wendigos?

MARIE

Oh... Do you have friends in the capital?

ABIGALE

No. Do you have friends here?

MARIE

No. Well, actually yes. My friend Dale.

Marie reaches into her pocket and takes out a SNAIL.

MARIE (CONT'D)

This is Dale.

ABIGALE

Hi Dale! Uh, you know snails aren't bugs, right?

MARIE

Of course I know that! They're mollusks. But I still like him anyway.

ABIGALE

... I like him too.

MARIE

Wanna hold him?

ABIGALE

... Yes.

Marie grabs Dale by the shell and is about to hand him to Abigale just as TED (12) runs between them and snatches the snail.

MARIE

Dale! Give him back, Ted!

TED

If you want your gross bug back so bad, come and get him, bug-eyes!

Ted gets hit in the head with a rock and **squeals**. He sees Abigale standing with a slingshot.

ABIGALE

He's a mollusk, dumb-eyes!

TED

Aw, Marie's finally got a friend! What kind of bug is she? Did you find her out in the Wild?

MARIE

She's not my friend!

ABIGALE

Yeah! I'm Dale's friend!

TED

Well Dale's taking an express trip to the Wilds! All three of you losers can live happily ever after if I don't smash him first!

Ted runs towards the woods. Abigale starts to chase after him, but Marie stops him.

MARIE

We can't! Kids aren't allowed in there!

ABIGALE

You stay behind if you want, but I'm going in... for Dale!

Marie takes a **deep breath** and nods at Abigale.

MARIE

For Dale.

They run into the woods together.

**INT. DOCTOR'S CABIN BACKROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

A MOUSE with pale eyes desperately tries to claw and dig through the mason jar that it's in. It's drawn towards a singular direction. No matter which way the jar is turned.

JEBIDIAH

Fascinating.

ELIZABETH

I watched this mouse almost become crow chow yesterday. Took him in to clean his wounds and next thing I know it got all white-wide-eyed.

JEBIDIAH

Interesting. The Bandit from last night suffered a similar fate not too long after he got cut up by a murder.

ELIZABETH

Of crows?

JEBIDIAH

Yes. Only I didn't have mason jar large enough to capture him.

ELIZABETH

Clever.

The bell **rings**.

TIFFANY (O.S.)

Harper! Mrs. Harper! Get out here at once please!

JEBIDIAH

Friend of yours?

TIFFANY  
HA! Nope. No way!

**INT. DOCTOR'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS**

Jebidiah and Elizabeth come out of the backroom to find TIFFANY (late 30s) fair, fancy, and furious, waiting for them.

ELIZABETH  
Mrs. Stone, how may we help you? Is that lower back rash back?

Tiffany becomes temporarily befuddled.

TIFFANY  
Why, I... I don't... What are you talking about?

JEBIDIAH  
Ah, Mrs. Stone? You must be Tiffany. Pleased to meet you.

Tiffany regains her composure.

TIFFANY  
I wish it were under better circumstances, Mr. Jameson, but we have a situation on our hands!

ELIZABETH  
The rash has spread to your hands?

TIFFANY  
Mrs. Harper! Our children have ran into the Wilds!

ELIZABETH  
What?! And you just let them?

TIFFANY  
They were too far to hear me shouting for them, but it looked like that girl of yours was picking on my poor Teddy again. She and Ms. Jameson chased him into the woods!

ELIZABETH  
Yeah, you know how vicious Marie can be. I'm sure that's how it happened.

TIFFANY

You're clearly not taking this seriously! Mr. Jameson, you have to do something!

JEBIDIAH

I mean, I will. But why me specifically?

ELIZABETH

Tiff here is, uh, traditional. We'll go together. Where'd you park your horse?

**EXT. WOODHOLLOW - MOMENTS LATER**

Tiffany dramatically and helplessly watches on as Jebidiah and Elizabeth mount Unicornelius and take off towards the woods.

TIFFANY

Your girls better not lay a finger on my boy!

Jebidiah turns towards Elizabeth when they're far enough away.

JEBIDIAH

Marie didn't strike me as particularly nasty?

ELIZABETH

Oh, but her little Teddy can do no wrong. That whole family is terrible. The boy's no exception. I know that's messed up to say about a kid, but trust me, he's easily my least favorite kid in Woodhollow.

Unicornelius runs through the woods with Jebidiah and Elizabeth in tow.

**EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON**

Abigale and Marie are still chasing after Ted.

TED

You're almost as slow as your boyfriend Dale!

Abigale stops and slingshots another rock towards Ted. Ted turns around just in time to get hit right between the eyes. He **yelps**, falls down, and holds back tears.





ABIGALE

We're not gonna die! If we can't  
find a way out we'll just hunker  
down until my dad figures out I'm  
missing and comes finds us.

Ted looks where Marie is looking and also becomes terrified.  
A big shadow slowly looms over them.

TED

No, we're totally dead!

ABIGALE

Why are you both so-

Abigale takes notice of the shadow and finally turns around.  
Fear washes over her as well.

ABIGALE (CONT'D)

Yeah, we're probably dead.

The kids are face-to-face with the CREATURE from earlier and  
Abigale's nightmare. Completely visible by daylight, the  
creature is some sort of giant tusked bear based off of the  
Katshituashku of Native American folklore.

CROWS are perched on her tusks. Her pale eyes closely observe  
the frightened children.

The Bear bares its teeth and **growls** at the kids. She starts  
to paw the forest floor as if getting ready to charge. The  
crows **caw** and disperse.

The children slowly back away. It appears as if the Bear is  
calming down, but as Ted turns around and makes a run for it  
the Bear **roars**.

It gives chase to the children, shaking the trees with each  
thunderous step.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE**EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON**

A single CROW is perched on the branch of a tree. It watches on as Ted, followed closely by Abigale and Marie, run for their lives. The rumbling of the giant tusked Bear shakes the tree, causing the Crow to take flight elsewhere.

Abigale looks back. The Bear takes a sharp turn to the side and maneuvers to get in front of the kids. They stop dead in their tracks as the Bear slowly inches towards them.

Marie takes Dale out and looks at him.

MARIE

I always had a feeling we'd go out  
in a blaze of glory together, Dale.

Dale accepts his fate.

The Bear is so close now that her exhales move the kids' hair, Dale's eye stalks, and even fog Marie's glasses.

Abigale locks eyes with the Bear. The Bear hesitates.

ABIGALE

Wait... I think she-

Suddenly, a huge net is thrown over the Bear. The kids scatter away from it as it thrashes about.

The HUNTERS on all sides of the net struggle to keep it steady. Thaddeus readies his musket.

TED

Dad?!

THADDEUS

Thaddeus Stone the fourth?! What  
are you doing in the Wilds?!

While Thaddeus is distracted, The Bear rips through the net. She uses her tusks to knock some of the Hunters away, into the bush, trees, or flying through the air until they hit the ground.

Thaddeus turns around to take his shot, but it merely grazes the beast's ear. Still, she lets out a painful **cry**.

She gets a good look at Thaddeus and it seems almost as if she recognizes the man. Her **roar** is so mighty and visceral that it shakes the forest.

**EXT. DIFFERENT PART OF THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS**

Jebidiah and Elizabeth race through the woods on Unicornelius. They hear and feel the Bear's **roar** from a distance. They see several flocks of birds and other animals flee from where the sound came from.

JEBIDIAH

Abigale!

Jebidiah pulls on the reins and guides Unicornelius towards that direction.

**EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS**

Back with the Bear, Thaddeus drops his musket and readies his axe.

THADDEUS

I'll take you on myself, beast!

Thaddeus tries to swing his axe at the approaching Bear, but he's not quick enough as she swipes him with her tusks. He drops the axe midair and slams through a tree, snapping it.

The upper part of the tree falls and pins Thaddeus down. Strong as he is, he's unable to free himself from it.

The other Hunters watch on in horror as the Bear approaches her victim. Just as the Bear is about to strike, it's hit in the hide with a rock.

She **grumbles** and turns around to find Abigale atop a rock with her slingshot in hand.

ABIGALE

Hey! Leave that big, hairy jerk alone!

The Bear **growls** and slowly walks towards Abigale. A few of the able-bodied Hunters take advantage of the distraction to try to help lift the log off of Thaddeus.

HUNTER 1

I think that little girl just saved your life, Thad.

THADDEUS

Could she actually be a-

Marie and Ted watch Abigale from a nearby bush.

MARIE

Abigale! What are you doing?!

TED

Are you nuts?!

ABIGALE

No! Maybe? I don't know! Kinda?!

The Bear approaches Abigale. Her **growls** are slowly dissipating. Abigale puts her slingshot away and reaches a hand out, presenting her palm for the Bear.

The two lock eyes. The Bear is no longer growling or even showing teeth. It appears calm.

Her nose is the size of Abigale's head. She sniffs Abigale's hand. Abigale reaches further out and pets the Bear's snout.

Ted's jaw drops and Marie's eyes look larger than ever before. Even Dale is in awe.

Thaddeus and the others can't believe what they're witnessing.

HUNTER 2

What the?!

HUNTER 1

Is she...

THADDEUS

Aye. I believe so.

Thaddeus, although still injured, takes one of the other Hunter's muskets.

HUNTER 2

Heyyyy! That's miiiiine!

Thaddeus points the musket, but can't get steady enough to aim properly. It's unclear if he's aiming for the Bear or for Abigale.

Abigale continues staring into the Bear's eyes.

ABIGALE

You're... looking for something?  
Someone?

The moment is ruined in an instant as a plague-doctor-masked Jebidiah hops out of the bushes from behind Abigale.

JEBIDIAH

BOO!!!

He wriggles his fingers around.

Abigale, Marie, Ted, Thaddeus, and the Hunters are dumbstruck by his attempt to scare the Bear.

Yet... the Bear backs away in terror, **whimpering** as she turns around and makes a run for it through the woods and fog.

JEBIDIAH (CONT'D)  
I knew I was scary!

ABIGALE  
Dad?!

JEBIDIAH  
Abi!

Jebidiah and Abigale hug. Unicornelius and Elizabeth come through the bush. Unicornelius nuzzles Abigale.

MARIE  
Mom!

ELIZABETH  
Marie!

Elizabeth hugs her daughter.

MARIE  
And Dale.

ELIZABETH  
Of course. And Dale.

Ted runs over to Thaddeus.

TED  
Father!

Thaddeus doesn't even look at his son.

THADDEUS  
Thaddues Stone the fourth... You shouldn't be out here.

Thaddeus watches Abigale and the others **talking**.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
We may have some use for you yet,  
Wild child.

**EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT**

The Bear traverses through the fog of the deep woods. Her eyes are now as pale as the full moon.

She reaches a cave.

**INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS**

There are dozens of CROWS spread about in the cave. The ones in the way of the Bear hop and fly out of her path.

There's a makeshift desk of stone covered in notes, maps, bottles, and beakers. A Crow hops across the desk and perches on a gloved finger.

PLAGUE (O.S.)

Did you find what you were looking for?

The Bear stops in front of PLAGUE, a mysterious, cloaked individual wearing a plague-doctor mask. Between the mask causing a deep, muffled voice and the cloak covering any features it's difficult to tell who they are or what they look like.

The Bear **exhales**.

PLAGUE (CONT'D)

I told you we'll find them together. You help me and I'll help you. It's foolish to try on your own.

Plague pets the Crow perched on their hand.

PLAGUE (CONT'D)

My crows will always find you. We all work better together, you see?

A chain **rattles** off-screen.

PLAGUE (CONT'D)

But I forgive you. And just to show you that there's no hard feelings I ordered you some delivery.

The chain is attached from the cave wall to Lawman/Bandit 1. He's slowly waking up. His eyes are back to normal.

BANDIT 1

Where am I? Wh-who are you?!

He notices the giant tusked Bear and **screams**.

PLAGUE

See? I'm not all bad.

The Bear opens her mouth, salivates, and **growls** as her shadow covers the Bandit.

BANDIT 1

No! No! Please, you don't have to do this! No!

**EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS**

BANDIT 1 (O.S.)

NOO!!!

The Bandit **screams** once more as the Bear **roars**.

**EXT. WOODHOLLOW - NIGHT**

All is quiet in Woodhollow, save for the tavern and the men walking home from their night out.

**INT. STONE RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER**

Thaddeus stumbles inside his cabin. It's much larger than the other cabins. His walls are covered in mounted taxidermy trophies. Some are normal, everyday creatures while others are fearsome and/or mythological beasts.

Still injured, he limps towards a rather large VAULTED DOOR. As he begins to spin the dial for the lock combination, he's approached by Tiffany.

TIFFANY

You're home awfully late.

THADDEUS

Hmm.

TIFFANY

Teddy told me what happened out there today.

THADDEUS

Oh, will you stop calling him that?! His name is Thaddeus the fourth! He's not some stuffed bear!

**INT. TED'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Ted lays awake in his room as his parents argue.

TIFFANY (O.S.)

He's still a child, Thaddeus!

THADDEUS (O.S.)  
 And he'll remain one if you keep  
 babying him like you do!

Ted turns on his side, covering his ears with his pillows and tries to go to sleep.

**INT. STONE RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS**

Thaddeus finishes dialing the vault door combination.

THADDEUS  
 I'll be in my study-

TIFFANY  
 Thaddeus! We're your family! You  
 can't keep shutting us out!

He shuts her out.

**INT. BASEMENT STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS**

Thaddeus grabs a lantern off the wall to light the long staircase down.

**INT. STUDY - MOMENTS LATER**

Thaddeus walks through another door into his study.

THADDEUS  
 Nothing more detrimental to a child  
 than an overbearing mother.  
 Wouldn't you agree?

He shines his lantern over a cage with two **crying** BEAR CUBS.  
 The Cubs have small, round tusks beginning to grow.

**END OF EPISODE**