

MOTH COUNTRY

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Created by

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PILOT

"NIGHT OF THE MOTH MAN"

Written by

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INT. UNDERGROUND SECRET LAB - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Strange insect specimens bob and float inside glass tubes displayed along the industrial hallway walls in the underground secret lab.

THREE SCIENTISTS sprint down the hallway.

SCIENTIST #1
This way! Hurry!

Scientist #2 flashes a quick glance over her shoulder.

Above. A large FIGURE bounds across the large ceiling lights.

CRASH. CRASH. CRASH. The lights break onto the ground.

The three scientists turn the corner, where two SECURITY GUARDS advance with SHOCK RIFLES. GUARD #1 waves them on.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Get to the lift!

Scientist #1 nods and the group of scientists run past the guards who slowly advance into the dark room.

HISSE. A massive mechanical security door closes behind the guards and separates them from the group.

The scientists pause for a moment to catch their breath.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
WHERE IS IT?!

ZAP. ZAP. ZAP. ZAP. Shock rifle blasts fire from the other side of the door.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (O.S.)
We need backup! Call for -

A beat. The three scientists look in horror at the door.

THUD. THUD. THUD. Powerful strikes hit the door. It concaves under the pressure.

The lights FLICKER.

Scientist #3 hides behind Scientist #2.

The lights FLICKER OFF. The door is broken.

Red eyes pierce the darkness of the room.

The three scientists run for their lives!

INT. UNDERGROUND SECRET LAB - SECURITY OFFICE - SAME TIME

A SCIENTIST with a white lab coat, glasses and a mug that says "world's best supervisor," sips his coffee.

He listens to his favorite rock ALBUM, "LOVELAND SUPERSTAR."

He spins in his chair and does a guitar solo as the security cameras display the room-to-room chaos behind him.

Quick glimpses on the screens reveal the hulking silhouette of the moth man as he rampages through the lab hallways.

The scientist spins in his chair again, notices the screens and SPITS out his coffee. He SLAMS a large red button.

INT. UNDERGROUND SECRET LAB - ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Alarms BLARE, with a pulsing red light. In the massive room, a skylight illuminates a mangled tree covered in small moths.

A troupe of TWENTY GUARDS, armed with shock rifles, take up a defensive position around the exit and aim at the elevator.

GLORIA, (40s) a bitter woman with grey streaks in her hair, military uniform, and huge biceps - clutches a walkie-talkie.

The elevator doors open and reveal glowing red eyes inside.

GLORIA
OPEN FIRE!

Neon blue shots of electricity zip narrowly past Bug.

The large silhouette of the moth man flies above and CRASHES through the ceiling.

Gloria pulls her hat off and glares at the ceiling. The hole forms the perfect silhouette of a moth.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Get it back... whatever it takes...

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - SKY - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The force of the moth man's wings sway the tree branches from above.

He perches on a mountain peak and looks at the distant town. A water tower sign reads, "MOUNT PLEASANT, WEST VIRGINIA."

TITLE: MOTH COUNTRY

INT. TRAIN - DAY

"Danger! Excitement! Magic and Mystery!" The headline of a pulpy tourist magazine. Pages FLIP by along with pictures of Aliens, a human Bat Boy found in a cave, and Big Foot.

MILTON, (14) red hair, blue hoodie and a curious expression searches through the magazine for something interesting.

He lands on a page on insects. *Now THIS is interesting.*

He opens up a sketchbook and begins to draw a local dragonfly featured here.

MILTON
(to himself)
Hello Macrodiplax balteata.

Milton looks out the window as the charming town of Mount Pleasant comes into view.

Buzz. Buzz. A notification! Milton checks his phone.

A colorful message bubble displays a text from DAD, "MISS YOU ALREADY. ARE YOU EXCITED?!"

The train brakes HISS. Milton picks up a gift-wrapped SCRAPBOOK.

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)
Attention passengers, we have
arrived in Mount Pleasant!

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The train CHUG CHUG CHUGS out of the station, revealing -

Milton holds a collection of books, his backpack and two suitcases. Comically overburdened, Milton looks left and right at the mostly empty station and a cutout of BIG FOOT.

A TAXI DRIVER, with a thick mustache, waves in Milton's direction.

Milton approaches; suddenly a waving ADULT COUPLE pushes past him, gets in the taxi and laughs as it drives away to reveal -

ALICE (16) a tough looking girl, wearing flannel and an orange jacket.

She chews a blade of grass and leans on a train station wall.

ALICE
You must be Milton.

Milton glances at her nervously.

MILTON
Hello - yes, just... waiting for my
grandma to come pick me up.

Alice jumps up on the platform and gets in Milton's personal space. He flinches back awkwardly.

ALICE
Well Milton, what if I told you
your grandma ain't coming to pick
ya up?

Milton raises a worried eyebrow.

MILTON
W-why would you say that?

Alice laughs and gives Milton a playful jab on the shoulder.

ALICE
Because she sent me!

Alice extends her hand to Milton.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Alice. But they call me Dangerclaw.

Milton juggles things around to shake her hand - she withdraws it and catches his bags as he falls.

MILTON
(brushing himself off)
Who calls you that?

ALICE
(lying)
Erm. Everybody, ask anybody.

Alice walks to her nearby bicycle, and places Milton's suitcases in the front basket.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Come on; let's not keep old Grampus
waiting.

MILTON
You mean Grandma?

ALICE

Oh yeah totally. What did I say?

She tosses Milton a bike-helmet.

MILTON

Wait, how am I suppose to fit on-

Alice flashes a mischievous grin.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Alice pedals and Milton hangs on behind her for his life with his feet on the back pedals.

A moth flutters beside them.

MILTON

Ohmygosh, look how beautiful!

ZIP. It flies directly into his mouth. Milton gags and taps the back of his neck.

MILTON (CONT'D)

ACK! No!

The moth flutters free. Milton looks relieved.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Phew! Glad you survived, little friend!

ALICE

(laughing)

Relax, it's just a bug.

MILTON

No, it was a bicolored sallow - and I'd never hurt an insect; would you?

ALICE

Just the tasty ones.

Milton gives a worried look.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Hang on tight, moth-lover!

The bike flies over some large bumpy rocks.

MILTON

I'm trying-g-g-g-g-g-g-g-g-g-g-g-g!

Milton notices some movement in the tress and squints.

Unseen by Milton - a pair of red eyes watch curiously from the trees.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - MOMENTS LATER

Milton takes shaky steps away from the bike.

Alice tosses Milton his backpack and almost topples him.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - GRAMPUS'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

From a higher window - a clawed hand draws back the curtains to peer at Milton and Alice.

MILTON

I was reading that Mount Pleasant is home to a lot of legends. Have you ever seen anything - strange?

ALICE

Eh - here and there. When's the last time you were here?

MILTON

Not since I was a baby. I don't really...

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - CONTINUOUS

Milton looks up at the Blue Moon. Its massive gothic towers cut an imposing silhouette against the evening sun.

MILTON (CONT'D)

...remember much.

ALICE

Well, I'm sure yer Gran will catch you up.

Milton and Alice walk up to the front doors.

MILTON

Hey, so uh - do you know the best spots for firefly hunting around here? I told my Dad I'd send him some pictures of a firefly lantern - it's something we used to do with mom. Maybe you could come with -

ALICE

Wait, what? Go out at night?
Sheesh, you really have been gone
for a long time huh?

The doors to the blue moon open to reveal -

GRAMPUS (70s) a hunched over woman with grey braided hair, a wooden staff, red woolen coat and golden eyes. She scowls at them both.

MILTON

H-hey Grandma.

She checks an antique pocket-watch in her hands and raises a wooly eyebrow.

GRAMPUS

You're late.

ALICE

I gave him the scenic tour.

(A beat)

Don't be too mad and eat him or
anything.

Alice awkwardly laughs and sets down Milton's stuff.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(speaking quickly)

Anyyyyyway - it's getting late.
Better get back to the folks! Nice
meeting ya Milty, byeeeeeeeeee!

MILTON

It was nice meeting -

Alice has already sped off.

MILTON (CONT'D)

- you.

Milton looks up at his scowling grandmother and gives an awkward smile.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The doors shut behind Milton. He enters a rustic lobby that feels like the entrance to a small castle.

HAN (O.S.)
 (sighing)
 Don't forget to wipe your shoes - I
 just waxed the floors.

Behind the front desk, HAN, (28) a Dullahan (headless host man), in his suit and bow-tie, hides his true nature behind the local newspaper.

The headline reads, "MONSTER SIGHTED IN THE SKIES," next to a blurry photo of a smudge above a tree line.

MILTON
 (wiping his shoes)
 Yes-sorry.

GRAMPUS
 Don't mind Han. Just stay out of
 his way and he'll keep things tidy.

Milton nods along and follows his grandmother into a hallway.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Milton follows Grampus past a series of photos and portraits on the walls. Milton looks at each one. Many contain various historical illustrations of famous monsters.

GRAMPUS
 Now, while you're staying at the
 Blue Moon Inn to recover, it's very
 important you follow some rules.
 Rule number one: never invite
 anyone here without my express
 permission.

Milton pauses - he notices a photo of his parents, himself as a baby, Grampus and someone else off to the side in the photo where it has been torn up.

GRAMPUS (CONT'D)
 Ahem -

Milton snaps his attention back to Grampus.

GRAMPUS (CONT'D)
 Rule number two.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Delicious ingredients are chopped up by an unseen chef and put into a soup.

From an interior window, the silhouettes of Milton and Grampus ascend the stairs.

GRAMPUS (O.S.)
This is a business. So, don't
bother the staff or customers.

MILTON (O.S.)
Yeah, about that, everything is so
empty here... My Dad suggested I
try and make some friends while I'm
staying.

A squid tentacle BURSTS from the soup and a spoon WACK WACKS
it back inside.

GRAMPUS (O.S.)
Guests here value their privacy and
so do we.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - SPIRIAL TOWER STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Grampus ascends the stairs with a candle in her hand. Milton
follows.

GRAMPUS
Rule number three: NEVER go out at
night.

MILTON
Really? I was actually hoping to
collect some fireflies. The big
dipper firefly is native to-

Grampus shoots Milton a "shut up" glance and he quiets down.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - MILTON'S TOWER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Milton and Grampus set down his luggage in the cozy bedroom.
String lights hang with polaroid photos clipped to the wires.

MILTON
Was this... mom's room?

GRAMPUS
I haven't changed a thing.

Milton shuffles his luggage and hands Grampus the scrapbook
gift. Grampus takes it and opens the book.

MILTON

I put together some old photos of mom's and made this for you.

A beat. Grampus is speechless.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Maybe I could help out around here tomorrow? I could give you a hand with some -

Grampus SHUTS the book and bristles.

GRAMPUS

You are here to rest, and the staff isn't to be bothered, REMEMBER? Talk with me in the morning. We'll find something for you to do.

Grampus exits, starts to close the door and pauses -

GRAMPUS (CONT'D)

Oh, and rule number four: **No lights after midnight**, and keep your windows **locked**.

MILTON

Why no lights after-

THUD. The door slams shut. Milton SIGHS and looks around at the room.

MILTON (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Mom always said she was grumpy.

(looking in a mirror)

This is okay. You'll be OKAY.

Milton looks reassured. *He'll make the best of this.*

A montage. Milton unpacks his suitcases, blows dust off an old record player, turns on music, looks at the bookshelves full of CRYPTID BOOKS and *cautiously* switches on the lights.

He FLOPS down on the bed and looks at his phone.

No service. He SIGHS and looks at a nearby desk. His eyes drift to the cardboard box stored underneath.

Milton pulls the box out, "JULES STUFF! DON'T TOUCH!!!" is etched in colorful marker.

Milton opens it to find a projector and smiles. He fishes deeper, takes out a DIAL SHAPED PENDANT and puts it on.

MILTON (CONT'D)
Miss you mom. You always did have
interesting taste in jewelry.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - SUNSET

The cab driver rests against his cab and prepares to take a bite of a SUB SANDWICH. FOOTSTEPS approach. The driver looks up to see Gloria wearing a large black coat.

She smiles, lifts up a local newspaper, and points to the blurry photo on the front page, "MONSTER SIGHTED IN THE SKY."

GLORIA
You wouldn't happen to know where
this is; would you?

The taxi driver motions wordlessly at the road Alice and Milton took earlier.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Thank you so much.

She takes out a green glowing device and waves it. The taxi driver looks at it - hypnotized.

His eyes dilate and spin - and he snaps out of it. Gloria is gone and so is his sandwich!

He looks around wondering what happened. *His short-term memory was erased!*

INT/EXT. AGENCY MOBILE COMMAND CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Gloria enters the mobile command center van and takes an aggressive bite out of the stolen sandwich.

GLORIA
Let's roll out.

The armored van drives down the road to the mountains.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - ABOVE - NIGHT

A soft light glows from Milton's window. The moth man's red eyes watch from a distant perch.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - MILTON'S TOWER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Milton shuffles and sorts the projector slides.

They're all on different species of cryptid monsters.

He slides the cards in place. The projector beam WHRRRRRS to life and illuminates a stretched sheet placed in the room.

Milton flips through the slides with an awe-struck smile.

The window CREAKSSSS. Milton stands up and walks over to it.

He looks outside - *nothing there*. He shrugs and his attention shifts back to the projector. The new slide is THE MOTH MAN.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - ABOVE - SAME TIME

BUG, (15) a hulking blue moth man with red eyes and wings perches on a nearby tree and looks into the window.

The warm light reflects in his eyes, a tear wells up in them.

Seen through the window: Milton stands directly in front of the screen, the slide of the moth-man illuminates him - appearing to give him moth wings.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - MILTON'S TOWER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Whoosh. Bug flies at the window.

Milton turns just in time to see the window CRASH inwards.

MILTON

AHH!

Bug shakes off the dust and towers over Milton.

Milton is speechless and slowly backs away.

Bug tilts his head and lets out a SNOOT sound from his nose.

Milton RUNS.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - SPIRAL TOWER STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Milton pants and uses his phone for light.

MILTON

Oh my gosh, on my gosh, oh my gosh.

He looks back over his shoulder. The door above him RATTLES.

Milton reaches the bottom of the stairs and quickly opens and shuts the door.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Milton backs away slowly and pulls at his hair.

MILTON

This can't be real - I'm dreaming.
Yeah, that must be it. Right?

HAN (O.S.)

Hey! What the devil was that racket.

Milton turns to see Han at the end of the hallway. He lowers the newspaper revealing his head is in his other hand.

HAN (CONT'D)

You were supposed to stay in your room.

MILTON

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH.

Milton screams and runs into the kitchen.

INT. THE BLUE MOON - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Milton sprints through the kitchen past massive pots of soup that BUBBLE and FROTH.

Han gives chase.

HAN

Get back here this instant!

Milton turns the corner - down the maze of kitchen islands, when he passes --

JACKIE, (25) a woman with a jack-o-lantern for a head who SLICES a pie, turns and joins the chase - waving the knife!

JACKIE

Whoa kid! Where are you going? Stop and have a slice!

MILTON

(to himself)
NO NO NO NONONO!!!!

Milton dashes past, sees a door and quickly ducks inside it.

INT. GRAMPUS'S WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Milton breathes heavily. In the dark room he sees the silhouette of his grandmother in a rocking chair asleep, with the scrapbook open in her arms.

MILTON
Grandma? We gotta go! There's crazy
monsters all over the-

Milton pauses. His sleeping grandma stirs. Milton shakily aims his phone flashlight at her and reveals - she is nearly twice her size and has... GOAT HORNS!

Milton GASPS incoherently.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - MOMENTS LATER

Milton bursts through the outside doors of the Blue Moon.

Han and Jackie follow behind and stop on the front porch.

Milton runs into the woods.

Han puts his free hand on Jackie's shoulder and stops her from giving chase.

JACKIE
Gourd-darnit we need to do
something!

HAN
He'll come back. We just need to
keep cool heads.

EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Milton runs with all his might and looks at his phone.

MILTON
(out of breath)
Come on... come on...

One bar!

MILTON (CONT'D)
Gotcha!

He dials the EMERGENCY NUMBER, but --

MILTON (PHONE) (CONT'D)
HELP! A winged monster just flew--

He TRIPS and falls off a ledge and down into a vast canyon with a waterfall in the distance.

Milton plummets into the water below.

WOOSH. Bug dives after him.

EXT. WATERFALL BASIN - CONTINUOUS

SPLASH! Milton falls into the water. The shape of Bug dives in overhead and a soft feathered hand reaches out to Milton.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - MOMENTS LATER

Han and Jackie look up in surprise. The silhouette of Bug carries Milton off - high above the forest.

Jackie turns to Han with a furious expression. FIRE SPARKS in her eyes.

Han cowers back sheepishly.

HAN

He might still come back.

Jackie makes an exasperated HUMPH - spluttering flames out of her pumpkin mouth. She stomps away towards the forest.

HAN (CONT'D)

Where are you going?! The rules-

Jackie turns back for a moment.

JACKIE

Do you want to be the one to explain to GRAM how we lost her grandson on HIS FIRST NIGHT HERE? She'll have both our heads for this.

Han wants to counter that - but can't.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

We need to call her.

HAN

You can call her. This is YOUR idea after all.

Han and Jackie have a stare down.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Loud rock music plays from a radio. A group of teenagers cheer and enjoy an outdoor party.

Alice stands up on a roof and answers her phone.

ALICE
Yellow. What's up headless Han?

A beat.

ALICE (CONT'D)
(reluctantly)
Huh. That ain't good. I'll be right there.

Alice ramps her skateboard and flies across the gap between roofs with the moon silhouetted behind her.

She HOWLS along with the group of teens.

INT. AGENCY MOBILE COMMAND CENTER - LATER

Gloria and her agents monitor blurry satellite video footage.

AGENT #1
Ma'am - we can't get a clear signal.

An agent wearing headphones raises her hand.

HEADPHONE AGENT
Someone made an emergency call not far from here - something about a "winged monster."

GLORIA
Find them.

Gloria looks at satellite footage of Bug on the screen.

INT. BUG'S CAVE - LATER

Milton opens his eyes and winces. His head is spinning.

He shivers and clutches a nearby CARPET. He blinks for a moment at the strangeness and takes in his surroundings.

All around him carpets are stacked up and litter the floor of the cave. FOOOSH. FOOOSH. FOOOSH. Wings flap and approach.

Bug's imposing shadow casts down the cave walls. Milton hides and pulls the carpet over his head.

MILTON
 (quietly to himself)
 It has to be an owl? Maybe Strix
 varia? But owls are carnivorous
 which means -

The carpet lifts off Milton's head. Bug reaches down curiously.

MILTON (CONT'D)
 Please don't eat me. I won't taste
 good -

PAT PAT. Bug pats Milton on the head.

FLOOOF. Bug transforms in a huge burst of blue feathers into a teenage boy with blue hair, grey skin and a cheerful smile.

BUG
 HIYA!

Milton's jaw drops. Bug grabs Milton's arm and inspects it for feathers.

BUG (CONT'D)
 Sorry if I scared you - where're
 your wings? Did you change when you
 saw me? Can you fly? What's your
 name?

MILTON
 It's... Milton?

BUG
 Hi "MILTON." Are you hungry? Would
 you like a snack?

Bug offers Milton a piece of carpet.

MILTON
 Uh, no thank you.

Bug takes a massive bite of the rug.

BUG
 (while chewing)
 My favorite flavor is blue. Are you
 sure you don't want a bite?

He offers the soggy half-bitten carpet to Milton.

MILTON

This is...

Bug looks at him expectedly.

MILTON (CONT'D)

INCREDIBLE!

Milton relaxes and grabs Bug's arm.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Where did *your* wings go?

BUG

(still chewing)

No idea!

MILTON

A simple house moth can eat a sweater in a week - you must eat ten of these a day given your size!

(beat)

No offense.

BUG

None taken!

Milton backs up and looks at Bug again top to bottom.

MILTON

This is truly amazing. You're an undiscovered species! I never dreamed I'd find anything like you.

BUG

Me neither!

Milton collects himself and calms his excitement.

MILTON

Sorry, I'm rambling... my mind is kinda blown right now.

(beat)

I should have asked you this earlier, but - what's your name?

Bug straightens up and drops his carpet.

BUG

The white coats called me "Bug."

MILTON

White coats? Like, scientists?

Bug shrugs. Milton smiles.

MILTON (CONT'D)

I wish I knew what type of bug you are, I wonder if those scientists figured it out. I first thought you might be an owl, but that clearly can't be it. Maybe some type of-

BUG

What do you mean? We're the same, aren't we?

MILTON

Er... I'm sorry, but I'm not like you. This is my first time meeting anyone with - wings.

Bug is crestfallen.

BUG

Oh...

Milton winces to himself. *"Good one, Milton."*

MILTON

Thanks for saving me.

Bug is looking at the floor - still dejected.

BUG

You're welcome. I did think it was weird you didn't use your wings...

Milton looks around at the cave and back at bug.

MILTON

You're looking for others like you.

Milton gathers his confidence and looks Bug in the eye.

MILTON (CONT'D)

And I'm going to help you. You're not the only... unique person I've met today. Maybe my Grandma...

Milton has a moment of realization.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh my Grandma.

BUG

What's a Grandma?

MILTON

Still not sure what mine is. But I think she knows people like you. Let's go see her. Maybe it'll be less scary if you're with me.

Bug perks up.

BUG

I can come with you?

MILTON

Well, it's against the rules, but I already broke three out of four of them, so - sure!

Bug smiles and gives Milton a massive hug.

BUG

Thanks MILTON!

Milton catches his breath and winces.

MILTON

Any chance you can... fly us back?

Bug transforms back into his moth form and points to his back. Milton lights up with a smile.

MILTON (CONT'D)

So cool...

EXT. THE WOODS - LATER

Han and Jackie search the woods. Han hoists his head up in the air to get a better view of the surroundings. They're in the middle of an argument.

Alice pushes some branches out of the way and leads them forward.

ALICE

I still can't believe you guys scared him into the woods.

HAN

Well maybe if *SOMEONE* hadn't chased him with a knife.

JACKIE

I was offering him PIE!

Han plonks his disembodied head backwards on his shoulders - it balances at an unhealthy angle.

HAN

Jackie, I don't know if you've realized this, but your appearance can be... intimidating for children-

Jackie gives Han a salty look.

JACKIE

Your head's not on straight.

Jackie looks around while Han fusses with his head.

ALICE

Guys! I found something.

EXT. THE WOODS - WATERFALL BASIN

The three oddballs enter the clearing around the basin. Jackie notices Milton's phone and walks over to it.

ALICE

Jackie wait - something isn't right.

Alice SNIFFS the air and walks away from Jackie and Han.

JACK-O-LYN

We don't have time to wait! Look, his phone is here that means -

Jackie picks up Milton's phone.

A metal cage SHOOTS from the ground and encases Jackie and Han.

RUSTLE. A troupe of armed guards emerge from the bushes.

Han's head falls off. He glares at Jackie from the ground. She gives a guilty glance.

THE CAPTAIN, (30s) wearing a helmet, WHIRLS on his feet and points a flashlight where Alice was just standing.

She's gone. He notices a patch of brown FUR on a bush, inspects it and presses his walkie-talkie.

THE CAPTAIN

Uh ma'am - we didn't find the specimen but we uh...

INT. AGENCY MOBILE COMMAND CENTER - SAME TIME

THE CAPTAIN (V.O.)
 ...found a headless man and a
 talking vegetable.

Gloria looks at the camera feed of Han and Jackie.

JACKIE (O.S.)
 Pumpkins are fruits you fool!

Gloria squints at the feed in confusion.

GLORIA
 Secure them. I'm on my way.

EXT. THE WOODS - WATERFALL BASIN - CONTINUOUS

Inside the metal cage, Han glares at Jackie.

HAN
 This is-

JACKIE
 Don't say it.

HAN
 This is why we follow THE RULES.

JACKIE
 (Changing the subject)
 I- Who even are these jerks?

HAN
 No idea, but if I had to guess...
 trophy hunters. We'll likely be
 stuffed and put in... The
 Metropolitan museum.

Han shudders.

JACKIE
 What if they got Milton?

HAN
 Jack-

JACKIE
 You know who'll get the blame? YOU
 and ME. This is BAD, this is SO
 VERY VERY BAD.

HAN
Jackie calm down -

The guard captain squats down near their containment unit and KICKS the side of the CAGE.

THE CAPTAIN
Quiet in there freaks.

Jackie's flames erupt from inside her pumpkin shaped head.

JACKIE
(in a deep voice)
YOU BE QUIET.

The captain takes a fearful step back.

EXT. FOREST TREETOPS - ABOVE - MOMENTS LATER

Milton clings tightly to Bug's back as they soar through the air. He looks down at the forest below and at the plume of smoke and flames rising from it.

MILTON
Over there! Look.

Bug perches on top of a nearby pine.

EXT. WATERFALL BASIN - CONTINUOUS

Agents and guards climb onto pieces of their gear and up onto trees to avoid the fire that spreads across the ground.

HAN
Jackie calm down. Please Jackie.

Jackie whips around, glares, and sends fire everywhere.

JACKIE
(in a deep voice)
Jackie isn't home.

HAN
(To himself)
The old goat will never let me live
this down!

EXT. FOREST TREETOPS - ABOVE - SAME TIME

Milton climbs off Bug's back and looks at him.

MILTON
We gotta help them.

Bug looks somberly away and transforms back into a human.

BUG
I can't go back there... Those
people are bad. They kept me in a
cage...

Milton gives a sympathetic look and touches the pendant.

MILTON
I'm sorry. You don't have to come.
It's okay; and I don't know what I
can do. But there's people down
there in trouble. My mom always
said, *"even if all you can give is
a little, then it's still more than
they have."*

He starts to climb down the tree.

BUG
Milton, wait!

Milton descends the tree and runs on the forest floor.

BUG (O.S.) (CONT'D)
MILTON!

EXT. WATERFALL BASIN - CONTINUOUS

Milton coughs. He uses his sleeve to shield his face and waves away the thick smoke in the forest.

He sees Jackie on fire and wastes no time. Milton runs and grabs a nearby bucket.

SWISH. He fills it with water from the basin.

Milton jumps onto a crate not yet engulfed in flames.

He launches the bucket of water onto Jackie's head. HISSES.

JACKIE
Milton? Kiddo...
(to Han)
I did it again huh?

Han places a reassuring hand on her shoulder and nods.

HAN
Let's go home.

The captian points a taser rifle at them and LOADS it.

THE CAPTIAN
You're not going anywhere!

A burning tree falls towards the Captain. He winces.

Bug GLIDES in just in time to throw it out of the way, glare at the captain and land in front of Milton to defend him.

The force of Bug landing causes Han's head to fall off. He quickly fumbles his head as he tries to place it back on.

MILTON
This is Bug, I'll explain later.

Bug turns waves "Hello".

HAN
(dry)
Wonderful. Another guest to clean up after.

Milton helps Jackie and Han onto Bug's back.

MILTON
What about them?

The agents run to seek shelter from the flames.

HAN
They'll be fine. Let's go!

MILTON
There's so much fire... We... We can't...

Milton doubles over - the pendant on his chest GLOWS and CHIMES like a BELL.

Milton rises into the air and his eyes glow GOLD.

JACKIE
Milton!

Bug reaches up to pull him back, but Han puts a hand on his wing to stop him.

HAN
Huh - he really is just like her.

A snowflake pattern appears on the pendant and small horns grow out of Milton's head.

Snowflakes appear from the sky. They HISS and fall on the fire, not quite enough to put out the flames.

Milton descends back down, gently caught by Bug.

MILTON

What just happened? Did I just...
float? How did I -

The fire continues to rage around them.

Before anyone can answer -

BONGGGGG. A loud bell tolls from the darkness of the forest.

A massive blizzard sweeps through the clearing and past the trees.

STOMP. STOMP. Grampus, fully transformed into her true form, marches through the forest.

She is led by Alice, who has turned into a werewolf.

The agents cling to their trees and look up with wide eyes.

Grampus's eyes glow the same bright gold along with an identical pendant on her chest.

A few of the agents raise their weapons at her.

THE CAPTIAN

Freeze!

HAN

Perhaps a poor choice of words.

Grampus GROWLS and raises her hands.

Bug's ears dart up. With a WOOSH, he grabs Milton and flies upwards with Jackie and Han on his back.

The agents on trees stare up in awe at Grampus.

CRASH. They're hit by a massive avalanche and are swept away along with an angry squirrel.

EXT. FOREST BACK ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Gloria hears a RUMBLING and stands up outside of the mobile command center. A WAVE of SNOW comes crashing to her.

She dives back into the vehicle as the wave of snow hits.

EXT. FOREST TREETOPS - ABOVE - SAME TIME

Milton and the gang look down at the snowstorm that blankets the forest in white.

A firetruck and ambulance arrive in the distance.

EXT. WATERFALL BASIN - MOMENTS LATER

Two FIREFIGHTERS walk through the snow-covered forest.

They notice the odd bits of gear with no agents to be found. Tire tracks lead deeper into the forest.

EXT. THE BLUE MOON - ROOFTOP BALCONY - LATER

A group of fireflies circle around an outdoor lantern.

Milton holds up the pendant to get a better look at it and one of the fireflies circles it, attracted to its soft glow.

Grampus in her human form walks up next to him and rests on the balcony edge. Milton gives her an amazed look.

GRAMPUS

I know you must have questions...

MILTON

Gran... I was floating... how did I do that? There was snow and-and-and HORNS! YOU had horns and were massive and were um...

GRAMPUS

A Krampus.

MILTON

(No idea what that is)
Uh. Oh... okay.

Milton takes off the pendant and offers it to Grampus.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Was this mom's?

Grampus nods and gives it back to Milton.

GRAMPUS

Now it belongs to you - and soon
you will also learn its secrets.

Milton looks away - embarrassed.

MILTON

So uh... Are you mad at me?

Grampus gives Milton an unexpected smile.

GRAMPUS

You did the right thing in bringing
that boy here...

Grampus taps her walking stick on the balcony floor.

GRAMPUS (CONT'D)

The Blue Moon Inn is a haven to
those like him. When your mom was
your age, it was filled with
impossible creatures. But it hasn't
had new guests in a very long time.

Grampus looks at the pendant on Milton's neck.

GRAMPUS (CONT'D)

There is much for you learn, but
you will understand in time. For
now, I believe we have a new guest
to welcome.

Grampus steps away and Bug emerges with Alice from inside.
He's in his human form.

BUG

This place is HUGEEEEEEEEEEEEEE.

GRAMPUS

Follow me, young one. And don't
shatter more of the carpentry.

BUG

Bye Milton!

(to Grampus)

Don't worry I won't break anything!

Bug follows Grampus off screen. CRASH.

BUG (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Sorry!

Milton smiles as they leave.

ALICE
Quite a first day huh new kid.

Milton notices her wolf's tail and ears.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Shoot. Uh -

Alice's tail vanishes and so does her ears.

MILTON
It's okay. I, I'm learning that things here are always more than they seem. So, werewolf?

Alice nods. Fireflies blink on and off.

ALICE
Did you ever catch your fireflies?

MILTON
They look really free, and I think they'll be happier that way.

Alice smiles and gives Milton a playful shove.

ALICE
Okay, Milty. See ya'round.

BUZZ BUZZ. Milton gets one bar on his phone and he answers his Dad's message from earlier.

DAD TEXT: MISS YOU ALREADY. ARE YOU EXCITED?!

MILTON: YEAH, I THINK I'LL LIKE IT HERE AND I ALREADY MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS.

The pendant glows brightly again, and the dial in the center begins to spin.

Milton eyes it intently as it turns to the mountains.

MILTON
It's a compass.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - SUNRISE - CONTINUOUS

In the Blue Ridge mountains which overlook the distant Blue Moon, one of them shifts and moves - it's a giant BIGFOOT!

INT. UNDERGROUND SECRET LAB - COMMS ROOM - LATER

Scientists and agents shiver in large blankets at their computers. A set of mechanical double doors HISS open to reveal -

Gloria , bundled up - SHIVERS and storms into her office.

INT. GLORIA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A video call waits for her to answer. She ties up her hair nervously. A deep breath - and she accepts. BLOOP.

In her video call, the dark figure of DOCTOR MOREAU, (40s) can be seen. His hands are the only thing in the light.

GLORIA

S-sir - we will not fail again.

MOREAU

Oh Gloria... All this stress isn't good for my skin. Now... about your failure.

GLORIA

There was a boy - he summoned a storm and there was something else.

MOREAU

A storm? Interesting... it seems she really did have a child.

GLORIA

We'll bring him in as well. We'll bring in every last one of them!

MOREAU

NO. You'll observe for now. The boy - changes things.

On his shadowy video, DOCTOR MOREAU toys with an identical pendant to the one Milton found.

The screens in Gloria's office are covered in surveillance pictures of Milton from the moment he arrived in town.

MOREAU (CONT'D)

This - is going to be exciting.

END.