

## **EGSM 1: Jackalopes are real (Urban Legends)**

### **Content Warnings**

- Explicit language
- Discussions of: supernatural experiences (inc. ghosts), death and murder, physical injury and violence
- Mentions of: religious persecution, food, mild sexual references

### **[Cold Open]**

**JONNY**

I'm sorry, you skipped over the part where a ghost pushed a kid down the stairs...?

(Group laughter and talking over each other)

### **[Show Theme - Intro]**

**HELEN**

Hello friends and fans, and welcome to Enthusiasm. I am your host, Helen Gould, one of the best Rusty Quillers, and today we're taking about urban legends. I am delighted to be joined by April--

**APRIL**

Hi!

**HELEN**

Frank--

(Group laughter)

You can say hi if you want, don't worry! We are joined by April, Frank, Hannah and Jonny. April, you've already said hi so, can you tell us what your pronouns are and what you do.

**APRIL**

Hi, my pronouns are she/her and I am the executive of production at Rusty Quill so I'm in charge of making sure all of the things get made.

**HELEN**

That is a very big job.

**APRIL**

It is, it's a very busy job.

**HELEN**

And Frank, what are your pronouns and who are you?

**FRANK**

Hi, I'm Frank, I'm, er, they/them, and I'm just kind of a ghost that haunts Rusty Quill.

**HELEN**

A welcomed ghost. Hannah, how about you?

**HANNAH**

Hello, I am Hannah. I am the producer for Rusty Quill Gaming as well as Inexplicables and other Patreon content, so also helping make the things but not on quite a broad scary level as April who is...sees all and knows all and stuff.

**HELEN**

And what are your pronouns?

**HANNAH**

Oh I missed that, I'm so sorry. She/her.

**HELEN**

Excellent. And finally...I want to make fun of your name and call you something like Jon Bon Nom Bom Dum--

**JONNY**

But why do you want to do that?

**HELEN**

I don't know!

**JONNY**

But why do you want to do that Helen? That's very cruel. I haven't even said anything yet.

**HELEN**

Well say something now, give us your pronouns--

**JONNY**

I can't believe you wouldn't take this seriously. Anyway, I'm Jonny, he/him and I'm the man who killed Frank, rendering them a ghost bound forever to Rusty Quill.

**HELEN**

It's all coming out now.

**APRIL**

The ritual is complete.

**HELEN**

Well speaking of rituals we are of course talking about urban legends, and I'd just like to start with...I'm just going to open the floor: does anyone have a sort of favourite urban legend or one that is special to you or from where you live or your home town or anything like that? Would anyone like to start chatting about it?

**APRIL**

I don't mind going first because like, when we were going through topics I was just like, this is the one topic I know that I can go in on because I love spooky things and I live in a spooky town. And yeah, I grew up near Shane's bridge, Goatman's bridge...

(Laughter)

I'd like it on the record that me and my friends claimed that bridge several years before Shane and Ryan went there for BuzzFeed.

**HELEN**

This is a call out specially for Shane Madej of BuzzFeed Unsolved.

**FRANK**

Yeah but you didn't respond when he said 'if you don't respond, it's my bridge'.

**APRIL**

I know, you know what, that's fair actually.

**HANNAH**

Legally binding.

(Laughter)

**APRIL**

We've done some ghost hunts down there before. When I was in high school it was like a really common thing to get to go out there and see the spooky legend.

**HELEN**

Mmm.

**APRIL**

That bridge was actually in use for a long time before they built like a bypass road, but we went out there a couple of times, like when I was younger and one of the times that we went out there I actually...it's the only time that I can actually say that I've seen a ghost and I believe that I've actually seen something otherworldly I guess because, like I didn't believe in ghosts until I went out to this place.

**HELEN**

April, I beg you to tell me about this ghost.

**APRIL**

So when we went out it was actually proper like, Scooby Doo dark and stormy night kind of thing--

(Group laughter)

**HANNAH**

Nice, nice.

**APRIL**

So, it wasn't like storming, but there was definitely like lightning in the distance, and we went out and we're like 'ok well we'll just go and we'll walk across the bridge and we'll be done'. And so, when we went out there

was like lightning, and we got distracted because like over in the trees near the bridge when we were walking up the hill toward it, we started seeing these little lights on the ground. I don't know if it was like lightning shining off of like spiderwebs but it was really strange like sparkly light that distracted all of us, so we were just standing there watching it. And then I got bored and just decided to walk away, and so I turned and walked off toward the bridge which was like up and around another bunch of trees. And when I went up and around, I saw this like misty white figure on the bridge. And as soon as I looked at it, it darted immediately to the other side of the bridge to the right, and down underneath the bank and under the bridge, in like a moment. And I honestly thought that I didn't...like, I was like 'ok I'm seeing things, I'm just in the spooky mood'. And then one of my friends came up behind me and said 'did you just see that too?' and I was like...

**HELEN**

Wow!

**APRIL**

I honestly would've written it off if it wasn't...one of my friends was on there and saw the exact same thing. And both us were like completely shaken, but it was interesting because it wasn't scary.

**HELEN**

Yeah.

**APRIL**

It didn't have that foreboding feeling or anything, but it definitely...I think I'm pretty confident it was like a ghost, so...

**HELEN**

So now I'm like, does anyone else have ghost stories?

**JONNY**

No, I wish.

**HANNAH**

Yes.

**HELEN**

Was that a yes I heard?

**HANNAH**

Sure! I was wondering if urban legends included ghost type things, like what was under that category, so. I don't know, happened in a city, it's good enough.

**HELEN**

We can discuss that later on if you like.

**HANNAH**

I am curious what you guys think, yeah.

**HELEN**

We can get super intellectual because we are all extremely smart people.

**HANNAH**

In terms of ghost stories I will not specify specific schools or locations or anything, but my high school theatre was notoriously haunted enough that it became sort of an important part of the culture around being in that theatre department. We would have ghost stories after the closing of pretty much every production, go into the black box theatre, big empty room, turn all the lights off, light some candles, sit in a circle and there was...there was never a time that nothing happened. There was always at least some, you know, footsteps on the floor which was old and creaky wood and properly spooky. It was very nice. In terms of specific things that happened, there were quite a few. There were sort of some like recurring characters, if you will, that people would tend to see. For example there was a tall man who was basically, sounds like the silhouette of Slenderman if you think about it too hard, but did see that gent one time just sort of...It's not necessarily a great story, it's more just like turned and went 'oh, well that's not supposed to be there' and then it just kind of strangely moved off behind a wall.

**HELEN**

What did it look like? Was it just like a tall silhouette?

**HANNAH**

Kind of still silhouette. Like a shadow cast by nothing I suppose if you had to get poetical with it. And yeah there would be times where me and the director/teacher of the drama department, who was basically like the Giles to everyone's like Buffy the Vampire Slayer squad -- he and I would, every once in a while, need to just go into the theatre and do like good cop bad cop

with the empty air which would occasionally make thuds on the wall in retaliation and if it got too mean, we'd be like 'alright, you have now pushed a student down the stairs'. That happened. Sometimes the doors would rattle, heard like a random scream one time, that could've been someone outside though. I don't know. Anyway, I feel like I'm mostly just rambling. The point is I had a very cool theatre department...

**JONNY**

I'm sorry, you skipped over the part where a ghost pushed a kid down the stairs...?

(Group laughter and talking over each other)

**APRIL**

I was gonna ask!

**HANNAH**

So, um, this was during a production about Edgar Allen Poe--

**HELEN**

Ah!

**HANNAH**

So you know it got interesting! And, er, part of this show was there was a group of actors who were called "the shadows" and they were dressed in these very spooky semi-Victorian like all black with veils over their faces and it was their job to basically be the voices in the titular character's head. They were quite spooky. And there were many times that, you know, we'd have them sort of on the edges of scenes like lurking around, being generally spooky. And sometimes there'd be an extra one and everyone afterwards would be like 'who was over here when...I was supposed to be the only one over in this corner right now' and, you know. Everyone else would be accounted for, and ok, there's shadow 10. And there was one of the shadow chorus who seemed to get, sort of, bothered by this extra castmate more frequently. And yeah, we were all in rehearsal one time and there's a, sort of, stairwell off of the main theatre that leads to like the dressing rooms upstairs and, er, we all heard a scream and went over and she was at the bottom of the stairs and... I'm not going to swear as much as she was, but she was freaked out and basically saying like, yeah, shadow 10 just pushed me down the stairs, saw it out of the corner of my eye, and then fell

and it, yeah. These are all things that obviously could be written off if you so desired. I won't blame anyone if anyone's like the sceptic in the room and thinking like 'I don't know if that's legitimate' but it certainly seemed like it at the time, if nothing else.

**JONNY**

I mean, I'm just writing like the mystery, or the Poirot in my head, where like, it's this long term plan to like...somebody dresses as the extra shadow and is like laying all the stuff and like the ultimate goal is to try and assassinate this person and then convince everyone else that a ghost pushed them down the stairs.

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

Well they didn't pick a very good flight of stairs.

**JONNY**

No, that's not, that's not my actual theory. I'm not suggesting anyone tried to assassinate your school mate.

**HANNAH**

Cool!

**FRANK**

But I am.

**APRIL**

You're just doing story telling time.

**HANNAH**

It's just story telling time.

**HELEN**

I just finished watching all of Fear Street yesterday. Has anyone else watched that series?

**JONNY**

I haven't got around to it yet, I'm afraid, no.

**HELEN**

Ok. I don't like recommending things because things that I enjoy, as I've said before, are not necessarily good. I did enjoy Fear Street. The concept of that is that there are two towns and one of them is very well off and the other town is cursed, and they're cursed because of a witch. And the three films go through three different time periods finding out the actual story behind the urban legend of why this witch did it and who she was and what really happened. And it also goes through a lot of various tropes of like teenage horror, like serial killers, like the hiding in the closet, the being alone in the mall and then suddenly attacked, that kind of thing. So give it a little bit of a go but as I said it's based on Christopher...no, no it's based on R. L. Stein books.

**APRIL**

Yeah I think it's the teenage version of Goosebumps.

**HELEN**

Yes, yes, sorry just the two of them go together in my head!

**JONNY**

Yeah, no they are very much the twin pillars of childhood horror.

**HELEN**

Yes. Something interesting to look at in terms of looking into what is truth and what is legend and like how things can get twisted. Anyway this is almost exactly how I was wanting this conversation to go. Thank you everyone for being so cooperative with my internal expectations. I would like to talk a bit more about internet urban legends and creepy pasta and stuff like that, because we're sort of all of similar ages and we've all grown up with things like the SCP Foundation and...I don't know if any of you saw the like Marble Hornets...

**JONNY**

Oh yeah.

**HELEN**

And...did we all watch it? Did we all watch Marble Hornets?

**HANNAH**

I only heard about it. I've heard of it.

**FRANK**

In fact I was in uni studying film when Marble Hornets came out and I was like, 'well fuck, they're better at this than I am.'

(Group laughter)

**HELEN**

I mean, I feel like they tailed off.

**JONNY**

Yeah it was very much like it...like a lot of these online horror stories, they very much start without, like it feels like - obviously I have no actual insight into their production, but it often feels like they start without really a thought of 'ooh how's it's going to end?'. It's just like 'oh this is a fun thing, let's do this' and then it'll get big and you often see them sort of enter a holding pattern which feels like it's both a) because they don't necessarily know how to move it forward and b) because, y'know, they've started making a little bit of money from it and want that to continue, understandably. And I feel like Marble Hornets very much entered this weird holding pattern, like late season two. I mean I don't remember exactly how the seasons...

**HELEN**

I don't even remember that it had seasons!

**JONNY**

But the whole like, sort of almost, ARG creepy pasta horror boom that Marble Hornets kicked up is fascinating; that it was these real time horror stories being told through videos but also through like Twitter accounts, and sometimes through packages being mailed to fans and that sort of thing. Which is really fascinating to see happen, but also really infuriating if you're trying to catch up and figure out what's happened.

**HELEN**

Oh I should explain: to the listener, if you have not come across Marble Hornets before, it was as Jonny just said, like an ARG horror series that started off with some YouTube videos based around Slenderman and some people getting haunted. And basically, oh god, let's see if I can remember it. One of them had started making a video project and then had suddenly stopped and disappeared, and the other one went to look for him and started

uncovering Slenderman and...I remember that my favourite part of it is that in some of the shots in the background you can see Slenderman, and so my main thing was being glued to the screen trying to see if I could see, if I could spot him, that's my favourite thing about it.

**JONNY**

It's classic fan footage shit and I love it.

**HELEN**

But yeah that really was...I didn't realise until much later how much of a phenomenon it was. I thought it was just me watching it in my little university room.

**APRIL**

I thought the Siren Head stuff that came up recently was really cool.

**HANNAH**

I enjoy Siren Head.

**APRIL**

Just the design work that people have done in creating Siren Head videos. I just love them.

**HELEN**

You'll have to tell me about what that is.

**JONNY**

Oh Trevor Henderson, or Slimy Swamp Ghost on Twitter, does a lot of sort of taking pictures and then like photos and editing in horrible monsters. And he had what you might describe as a breakout cryptid called Siren Head that is this sort of huge, tall...

**HELEN**

I've seen it on TikTok!

**JONNY**

...gangly thing with sirens for head that like camouflages itself in like telegraph wires and this sort of thing. And yeah, it's very effective, a phenomenal bit of design.

**APRIL**

It's really effective in sound design videos that I've seen that have come up or like games. There's games that have been based off of it that I always think that it's really fun how they do the sound design in those because even though you know it's just like regular sirens or like noises and stuff, but the way they make it feel like it's coming up behind you? It's a big stick with a siren on its head! It shouldn't be scary, but it just has that visceral feeling, and I think especially like, I mean growing up in south or Midwest like you're...every Wednesday at 1pm, they test the sirens and so...

**HELEN**

Sirens for what?

**APRIL**

You get...for tornados.

**HELEN**

Oh! Right.

**APRIL**

And so it's like one of those really random Midwest things but it's so strange that like when it's a Wednesday at 1pm you like, default like delete it from your brain, but when you hear it out of context it's like oh no, I'm scared, I have to hide.

**HANNAH**

There's something about noises in the woods that aren't supposed to be there. Incorrect noises. Oh that gets me. Anything that's about mimicking human voices and stuff like that. That's creepy.

**JONNY**

Yeah, I mean sirens have been, for me, ever since the original Silent Hill, very much like 'ooh yeah'.

**HELEN**

That reminds me as well of another Twitter thread that went on for a long time which was, I think it was about a little boy called David? And it was this guy who did a really long Twitter thread about having nightmares about a ghost boy called David.

**APRIL**

I remember that.

**HELEN**

And like he did little drawings of this creepy boy? Does everyone remember that? And I don't remember how it ended.

**APRIL**

I vaguely remember it but it was, yeah. That was one that was running around a while ago.

**HELEN**

Yeah! And there were people like...I don't know, it's really interesting to me how...how blurred the lines are becoming between what I might call natural urban legends, and urban legends that are made for like, content now. Because I think...one of the questions I wrote down was 'is creepy pasta a kind of urban legend?' and I think it is. But I would be interested to hear people's thoughts on that. Frank, you looked intrigued?

**FRANK**

Oh, er, did I?

(Group laughter)

**HELEN**

Okay--

**JONNY**

Absolutely brutal.

**HELEN**

On that, on that, let's take a break and we can all have a think

**APRIL**

Frank's hot takes when we come back!

**HELEN**

And welcome back. So what do we think, do creepy pasta count as urban legends? I think they're like a subgenre of urban legend. That's how I would class them.

**JONNY**

I think that they can become urban legends, but I also think that like an urban legend needs a certain degree of ubiquitousness like it needs to be kind of cut off from where it came from. Because like, this isn't the sort of 'where is the line between like authored fiction and urban legend'. I mean that's a very old question. You look at something like Scary Stories To Tell In the Dark, the book...

**APRIL**

I love that series, yeah.

**JONNY**

A lot of those are just written up versions of old urban legends and campfire tales. And there are one or two that were, as far as I'm aware, invented in that book but have passed into the popular consciousness. And so I think it's the same with creepy pasta, something like Slenderman - definitely at this point an urban legend. But something like the David Twitter thread for instance, I don't think that's an urban legend because you know, you don't really, the story there is not divorced from the Twitter thread. Like no one's like...the concept of the ghost of the child David isn't something you would necessarily hear from someone who's never even heard of that thread.

**APRIL**

So like a creepy pasta can become an urban legend, but isn't one inherently.

**JONNY**

I would say so.

**FRANK**

I...yes, yeah.

**APRIL**

I think that's a fair argument.

**HELEN**

So I guess, so the key really is the urban part. Like, it needs to...

**APRIL**

I think if it grows beyond the realms of its original medium.

**HELEN**

Yeah it needs to be something that it like, that you can point to a physical location and say 'ooh that happened there' or it happened in this town or in the woods, maybe. Rather than 'oh I read it on the internet.'

**FRANK**

I just feel like it needs, kind of like Jonny said, it needs...oh god, I had like a great phrase and then I just ADHD'd it just to death. It just went. But it kind of, it just needs to grow beyond its origin. I guess it needs to exist away from the author. Like, no one remembers who came up with Slenderman you know, except for like internet historians.

**HELEN**

Wasn't his name Eric Knudsen?

**FRANK**

I have no idea.

**APRIL**

I wouldn't...no idea. I also didn't know who created Siren Head until Jonny had mentioned that. That's why I was like 'I think Jonny knows more about this than I do!'

**JONNY**

I'll be honest, that is a problem that Trevor...that Trevor Henderson has been facing over the last couple of years, is that everyone's like 'oh this cool monster just turned up!' and he's like no, I made it. Stop. I have copyright. It's, hmm, ok.

**FRANK**

Yeah I made a point to learn who Trevor Henderson was because I knew that he wanted to keep authority of like...he wanted to be the author of that. He made it.

**APRIL**

Yeah. I think that's a hard part too when it's like you have authorial like creation over something and then it grows beyond what you're able to hold.

**HELEN**

I'm just thinking of the fact that I've seen a TikTok where instead of Siren Head it's a massive Woody from Toy Story.

**APRIL**

I've seen that one.

**FRANK**

Infinitely more terrifying. 'There's a snake in my boot.'

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

Thank you.

**APRIL**

Just coming out in like garbled Siren speech.

**JONNY**

Now like to me something is an urban legend if two 15 year olds...if one 15 year old could say that their friend had seen a thing or encountered something in their town...obviously there's no proof, but their cousin definitely saw this thing to another 15 year old. And the other 15 year old would nod and be like 'yeah right' but secretly kind of believe them. And crucially, neither of those teenagers would have been exposed to the original or the source of that story or creature.

**APRIL**

Like they would still come up with it without finding the original post. Yeah.

**JONNY**

That feels to me like that's the point where it's been sufficiently removed from its origin and just seeped into the cultural consciousness enough to be...because like, you can imagine teenagers being like 'no yeah my cousin saw...my cousin reckons that they saw Siren Head in the woods when they were camping last year. Just heard it on the breeze.' That's how teenagers speak I believe.

**APRIL**

Exactly. Very in touch with the youth.

**FRANK**

A bit squeakier though.

**JONNY**

Sorry, yeah, heard it on the breeze.

**FRANK**

Yeah there you go.

(Group laughing)

**HELEN**

Perfect!

**APRIL**

I love that it sounds like they're floating away on the breeze.

**JONNY**

Siren Head's got me...

**HELEN**

So that makes me want to circle around to the first question I asked, which is like, maybe what's the first urban legend or the notable urban legends that you personally have like, heard or experienced? Because I know my first one was just that a certain house about a five minute walk from me had a witch in the attic.

**HANNAH**

Classic.

**HELEN**

And as far as I understand this was made up by the various neighbourhood kids simply because it had one of those...just a like a servant's window, just like one of those small round windows. And they'd be like 'oh if you look up there she'll look at you.' And I used to always hurry past that house on my way.

**FRANK**

We had one of those, literally just because the block across from us had...sometimes when the light hit the smoke it was green, and so everyone was like 'that's a witch over there.'

(Group laughter)

**HANNAH**

I'm an expert on such things and I can tell you for certain.

**APRIL**

Yep, definitely witchy.

**JONNY**

Everyone got witches. I never encountered a witch urban legend growing up. We like...it was always the thing of like if there was a small door in like a classroom or anything like that, it would be...it generally wasn't like an established urban legend, it'd just be like you'd kind of be competing to be like what you reckoned was in there and that. Lot of messed up stuff.

**HANNAH**

Do you have just small doors in the classrooms of your school that...

**JONNY**

Yeah, like up on the wall, you know, in like a high ceilinged room or something like that, you'd have like a little...little hatch.

**HELEN**

Yeah!

**HANNAH**

Okay.

**JONNY**

Sometimes buildings have small doors...

**APRIL**

Hannah and I are learning about British architecture

**HELEN**

Our schools are often, the architecture is not great, they're often repurposed from other stuff.

**FRANK**

It's like retrofitted Victorian buildings.

**JONNY**

Yeah I mean I think usually they didn't even lead to storage space, usually they were just like access to the pipes or something. I mean I assume, I never actually opened them so, you know, could've been a witch.

**APRIL**

Could've been!

**HANNAH**

You don't know.

**FRANK**

Something that in retrospect I find fascinating is that in my primary school we were all convinced the attic was haunted. For no apparent reason, just because it's an attic. But in hindsight I'm like...there was a World War 2 bunker in our school. Why wasn't that haunted?

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

It's a great question.

**HELEN**

I have the rare privilege of people actually thinking that my street, the one that led to my house, was haunted. We didn't have streetlights on the street. There was only like five or six houses down there, so obviously...

**APRIL**

Is this the episode where we find out Helen's the ghost?

(Group laughing)

**FRANK**

Helen I think you're from the past.

**HELEN**

I might be, I might be. But it meant that walking down that bit of the road it was completely pitch black, because there's no street lights and I used to pelt down there yelling or singing until I got to my house. Because

they'd planted all these trees so no one could actually see our houses. There was like a big barrier of trees between us and the main road where the bus came. So for other kids walking by it just looked like normal street, normal street, normal street, a weird pitch black turn off into a creepy avenue, and then normal street, normal street.

**APRIL**

I can see how that would be the haunted street.

**HELEN**

Yes.

**FRANK**

Did you live in like a prototype for The Village.?

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

It was the beta test.

**FRANK**

M Night's beta test, exactly.

**HELEN**

No but it was fairly old fashioned. Everyone who lived there...like, we were the youngest family there, and on one side we had a neighbour who kept loads of geese and wouldn't control them. So every so often I'd wake up and there'd be geese in the front garden, just honking.

**APRIL**

This story keeps getting better. I want to know everything there is to know about this haunted goose road.

**HANNAH**

Spooky geese!

**JONNY**

April, don't worry about it. It's just an urban legend, geese aren't actually real.

(Group laughing)

**APRIL**

The geese can't hurt you.

**HELEN**

The geese man cometh.

**APRIL**

What's really bad is like you guys can probably just convince me and Hannah that...like you can make up your own urban legends and me and Hannah would be like, oh yeah, it must be a British thing, I don't know.

**HELEN**

That would be interesting to know if there's different urban legends.

**JONNY**

I mean all our urban legends are garbage though.

**APRIL**

I'm going to divulge something that's going to take away an opportunity that I would have if any of y'all came to visit me. But, I got tricked when I was really little, and one of the earliest urban legends that I guess I ended up like falling for lasted for way too long of my life, like, just way too long.

**HANNAH**

Oh no.

**APRIL**

But jackalopes I thought were real for...into my teens. Because when I was really little, maybe about five or six, we went to like Texas Roadhouse, which is like a chain of restaurants out here, but they have like stuffed jackalopes so they take like rabbits and then they put antlers on them and they're just everywhere. And so I was like 'oh what are those?' and so my dad told me 'oh those are jackalopes' and I was like 'oh I've never seen one before' and he's like 'oh yeah they're only in Wyoming.' He was like 'your uncle and I go hunting for them sometimes. We haven't been able to go in a while because y'all are really little but I'll take you when you're older.' And I was convinced until I was like 14 that jackalopes were real, they were only in Wyoming, and someday I was going to get to go jackalope hunting with my family and I would tell all of the other kids.

**HANNAH**

Oh April no!

**APRIL**

And I was just so upset because I was like no, I know my dad wouldn't lie to me.

**HANNAH**

Oh no! I love that it's Wyoming.

**APRIL**

I know. The internet became more widely accessible and I found out that that was not true. And I felt a fool and I hated the state of Wyoming, and I blamed the state for fooling me...

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

You deceitful bastard! Did you tell your dad about it? Did you like have a reckoning with him?

**APRIL**

Yeah, yeah.

**FRANK**

April just kicks down the door and she's like...

**APRIL**

I remember a few times I...I remember a few times I like, I gave him a hard time about that where I was just like 'you lied to me for years, I can't trust you.' It was with the best of intentions but I think it's probably one of the funniest things now. I kind of want to...like my nephews and my niece aren't here right now, but I kind of want to start something like that. But my sister probably wouldn't let me get away with it. I'd just be like oh I can convince them that some sort of cryptid is absolutely real and just see how long I can do it. Like I can't hold a grudge against my dad for it because I would absolutely do that.

**HANNAH**

Oh April if Rusty Quill folks ever come and visit and we have some kind of group gathering, I will absolutely back you up if you decide to sell jackalopes as a real thing.

**APRIL**

My goal is to someday convince somebody that jackalopes are real. Unfortunately the internet is preventing that from being able to be a...

**FRANK**

Listen, people still believe there's plastic rice for some reason, like...

**APRIL**

Yeah, that's true.

**HELEN**

In some ways the internet gives you a better chance. You can just like create your own...

**JONNY**

I'm just like, I'm always so disappointed in like, British cryptids and British urban legends like, you know...

**HELEN**

We've got the black cats.

**JONNY**

Or the black dog, or like, oh there's, you know, I mean I guess we've got Nessie...

**HANNAH**

Nessie's pretty good!

**JONNY**

But like at this point that's not scary! And all the others are like, 'oh the Beast of Dartmoor', 'what is it?', 'it's like a boar, I guess?'

**HANNAH**

Oh yeah.

**JONNY**

They're all just like...

**HANNAH**

It's just an animal.

**JONNY**

...oh this is a big cat, or this is a big scary dog, and it's like urgh, are you sure you did not just see an animal?

**HELEN**

I mean, I feel, I think, I think that 'big thing' is a very valid character concept.

**JONNY**

Yeah but they're just like...and half the time you read it and it's like 'oh did you mean it's not big, it's just that someone said it looked weird' and it's like, mmm ok, good, so weird...it's fine. Also when I go to a new town I like to go on the haunted mystery tour.

**HELEN**

Yes! I've done that.

**JONNY**

They're all...they're never like...they're all like 'oh, in the 17th century it is said that the devil pulled a man through a grate here' and it's like I don't care. That's way too long in the past.

(Group laughing)

It's not scary. A devil's not going to pull me through a grate.

**FRANK**

I'm like where's the Freddy Kruger shit, where's the child who was pulled into their bed in 1987 and no one could explain it and now the house is covered in blood.

**JONNY**

Yeah. And it's like 'oh some protestants were burned here and now sometimes people think they can smell burning.' Ok.

**HELEN**

I'll tell you what - me and friends once went on a weekend where we did the ghost walks. We went to Lincoln and York ghost walks and the one that stuck with me is the one from Lincoln where...I can't remember the details but a monk got beheaded at the top of a hill, and...

**JONNY**

Oh big whoop, monks get beheaded all the time Helen.

(Group laughing)

**APRIL**

That's why they have that bald spot on top.

**JONNY**

I'm sorry Helen.

**HELEN**

Either the monk was beheaded at the top of the hill or he was beheaded elsewhere and was being carried to the top of the hill, but the point of it is that the coffin or the body was dropped, and the head bounced all the way back down. And people are said to see the bouncing head rolling by.

**HANNAH**

That's amazing.

**APRIL**

That one's just fun!

**JONNY**

It is said that on still nights you can hear...you can still hear from the top of the hill, drifting, distantly, the phrase: "oh, fuck's sake, I'm going to have to go get that."

(Group laughing)

**HELEN**

On the breeze...BOING!

**APRIL**

You hear it whispered on the wind. That would be like if people nowadays, like millennials become ghosts like, just, you just hear the sound of memes on the wind.

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

It do be like that sometimes.

(Group laughing)

**JONNY**

Big mood...

**HELEN**

Just me haunting like, my childhood home just being like, road work ahead...I sure hope it does!

**FRANK**

I saw a see through man in the distance. He didn't do much, he was just flossing.

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

I like this boring ghost collection. This is...

**FRANK**

Millennial ghosts don't have the energy to do much.

**JONNY**

I mean to be fair most classic ghosts are a bit boring, and it's like ooh, they say that you can still see the old queen walking along this corridor. Doing...no just walking. Just...I'm sorry I'm really down on urban...

**HANNAH**

I had a ghost swear at me once. That was fun.

**APRIL**

I love the idea that you go in somewhere and they're like 'some days you can still hear music playing in the background' and it's like Crazy Frog.

(Group laughing)

**JONNY**

I especially like the implication that Crazy Frog died.

(Group laughing)

Crazy Frog was in a brutal car crash.

**APRIL**

Still found a way to live on.

**HELEN**

Hannah you said something there about, did something what, push you, touch you, what was that?

**HANNAH**

Oh no, a ghost swore at me. Yeah, this was at...

**HELEN**

Really?

**HANNAH**

Yeah this was at a place called The Stanley Hotel, which is in the mountains of Colorado, and it is the place that inspired Stephen King to write The Shining.

**APRIL**

Oh I've been there!

**HELEN**

Yes that's why that sounds familiar!

**HANNAH**

Very cool place. I've gone there a couple of times for, well basically ghost hunting conventions, and it's a very good time. And part of that is naturally that you get to do a little bit of investigating and there's this one area, I think it's the music hall but it's like a separate building, but there's a

balcony overlooking this little concert area. And the reported ghost there is this just sort of, sounds like an angsty teen who's just like pissed off and like people will smell BO.

(Group laughing)

It's just an angsty teen ghost and apparently, he will...

**JONNY**

Can't stand a smelly ghost.

**HELEN**

The smelly ghost!

**HANNAH**

Yeah, yeah, this is a legitimate thing that people have said. And so when we went up there, we had another Phasmophobia callout, the little spirit box that cycles through radio frequencies and you can hear. Those are things that you can use. And in this particular instance, there's sort of like a rotating group thing because there were a decent number of people there, and we were nearing the end of the time that we could be there. There had been like some words and stuff but no, nothing super interesting, and I said, you know, hey Eddie. That was the name of the ghost, like, 'we have to go soon, can you maybe like just give us one last thing before we have to go' and I swear to you clear as day it said 'fuck you' and I have audio of that. I can prove that that happened. So whether that's some weird quirk of radio frequencies I don't know but yeah, that was fun.

**JONNY**

You just tuned into, like, you know, numbers stations, there's also swearing stations. Where Russian spies just swear at you constantly over the airwaves.

**HELEN**

That just makes me think of Ryan Bergara on BuzzFeed Unsolved and that time where it just said 'spaghetti!' on the spirit box.

(Group laughing)

**APRIL**

There's a hungry ghost!

**HELEN**

Hungry ghost.

**APRIL**

What would you say if you were a ghost Frank?

**FRANK**

Oh I was just going to say if I think I was a ghost I'd just be angry, I'd just be annoyed and contrarian. Like when you were talking about the ghost man...the goat man bridge and the story for that, and I was like, you know what, if people were mad at me and were like we're going to kill you so that you piss on off, I'd stick around. I'd be like fuck you. No, I'm here forever now. Get wrecked.

**HANNAH**

That's the correct response to almost getting hit by a car in the crosswalk is to be like you hit me, I'll haunt you.

**JONNY**

If you were a ghost in my house Frank, I would blame all my antisocial behaviour on you. 'Oh who ate the last Jaffa Cake?' Well, I mean, Frank's ghost just loves...

**HANNAH**

We can't be sure, but I don't know...

**JONNY**

A very inconsiderate ghost.

**FRANK**

You know, I hate Jaffa Cakes but I would, just to annoy people.

(Group laughing)

**JONNY**

You wouldn't eat them, you'd just knock it on to the floor so people would be like 'oh I don't want to eat it, it's been on the floor.'

**FRANK**

A ghost touched it and it's been on the floor. I don't...

**HANNAH**

I almost said something about looking forward to seeing you as a ghost and then I realised the implications so I'll just retract that entire thought. Never mind.

**FRANK**

'I'd love to murder you.'

**APRIL**

'You'd make such a cool ghost', like that's such a positively but threatening like statement, like you would make such a cool ghost.

**JONNY**

Have you ever considered being a ghost? I think it would suit you.

**APRIL**

See when Jonny says it, it sounds like terrifying.

**HANNAH**

Naturally, yeah.

**HELEN**

Ok we are almost out of time. So I would like to have a final question which is if you were a cryptid which one would you be? And I would like to be, if it was me, I would want to be a kind of sasquatch because they just live in the woods and chill out and are smelly to make people go away. And I think that is very cool and valid of them.

**HANNAH**

We support sasquatches here at Rusty Quill.

**HELEN**

We do. Any other thoughts on what cryptid you would like to be?

**APRIL**

It's the new Enthusiasm merch. 'Enthusiasm; We support stinky sasquatch.'

(Group laughing)

**HELEN**

Stinky sasquatch club!

**HANNAH**

I'll go, I'll put one forward. I'll go with Mothman, because I enjoy the thought of just kind of sitting places with wings and looking ominous, and occasionally maybe like screwing with people telepathically but otherwise just...just looking spooky and sitting in high places and flying around. I'd do that all day.

**FRANK**

And also having an incredible arse.

**HANNAH**

Is that a fact? Well I didn't know that.

**JONNY**

So the internet has decreed.

**HELEN**

No it's a statue...there's a statue of Mothman with really pert buttocks.

**HANNAH**

Oh right, you know I've never seen the backside of that statue. Apparently I've got to go see it now.

**HELEN**

Right 'Mothman butt' is going to be in my Google search.

**HANNAH**

Good. Excellent.

**APRIL**

While you're looking that up, I'm actually going to forego some of the like common US ones...I would probably go with Nessie. I would like to be Nessie. Because I can just swim around all day, like occasionally pop my head out and then just mostly like screw off and be by myself and just like troll people. That would be great.

**HANNAH**

We're all just really wanting to go hang out places and ignore people.

**APRIL**

That's the best part about cryptids, just to be by yourself.

**JONNY**

I would be a Bloody Mary I think. Just hanging out in a mirror because I like the idea of murdering cocky teenagers who are like yeah, alright, 'Bloody Mary'...

**HELEN**

Jonny no!

**JONNY**

And it's just like ha, ha!

**FRANK**

We did a Bloody Mary on a school trip once, and I'm pretty sure, like part of me is still to this day, 20 odd years later, convinced that our room was haunted after that.

**JONNY**

Yeah, no that's the reason that we became friends mate. Like it's just a very delayed, you did it and then I turned up.

**FRANK**

I didn't even do it. I was just there.

**JONNY**

Yeah no that's why we can be mates, you know. If it was you that actually did it, I'd have to kill you, but as it is...

**APRIL**

Yeah so you can just come and be friends.

**HANNAH**

Well you heard it here first, if you say Jonny Sims in the mirror three times and...

**HELEN**

He will appear!

**HANNAH**

He will show up and kill you or something.

**JONNY**

Don't though because the travel's a nightmare and I'll just be like oh god.

**HANNAH**

You need to book it in, like you need to get in touch with the personal assistant, there's a busy schedule involved like. You can't be in all mirrors all the time.

**HELEN**

So Frank which one would you be?

**FRANK**

Oh I would be April's evil twin because I would be the Glock Ness Monster baby.

**APRIL**

Yay!

**FRANK**

Like my favourite Tumblr post that just says 'a cryptid that shoots you when you see it. Glock Ness Monster.'

**APRIL**

Glock Ness Monster!

(Group laughing)

**HANNAH**

That works. That's on brand.

**FRANK**

I'm like yeah that's me. There we go.

**HELEN**

Wonderful. Well I hope you can all see in chat the magnificent Mothman butt.

**HANNAH**

Yes.

**APRIL**

It's beautiful.

**HELEN**

It is. Shiny and pendulous.

**JONNY**

Whoa. That is madness.

(Group laughing)

**APRIL**

It is chrome and firm.

**HELEN**

So on that cryptid-thirsty note...

**JONNY**

They thought they could hide it with the wings!

**APRIL**

Is it really an Enthusigasm if we don't get thirsty at some point.

**HELEN**

Nope!

**HANNAH**

There it is. Who knew it would be Moth Man?

**HELEN**

So we're going to end it there. Thank you very, very much for listening. I hope you've had a lovely time like we have, and for now, it's goodbye from me. Goodbye. And it's goodbye from them. Everybody say goodbye.

**EVERYONE**

Goodbye!

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

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**[Show Theme – Outro Ends]**

Hosted and Directed by Helen Gould

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Executive Producers: Alexander J. Newall & April Sumner

Editing by Marisa Ewing & Jeffrey Nils Gardner

Music by Samuel D.F. Jones

Art by Anika Khan