

Episode I: The Nightmare Begins Again

The sound of crickets chirping in the night, lush growth of the forest beneath the open starry night sky; birds nesting within their trees, squirrels nestled together within various holes in the tree that have become their beds, deer slowly walking about the area. A cool breeze with the Summer's temp backing it and... the smell of smoke?

Journeying deeper within, the glow of a camp fire and a group of teens surrounding, three deep ocean blue tents set up nearby with a cooler full of Mtn Dew and various snacks; all with roasting sticks and marshmallows on the ends cheering in celebration.

Slumping back holding a can of Coca Cola, one teen in turn gave an immediate loud cheer of celebration, "Guys, guys, just want to say, this has been one of the best Summers of my life."

"Haha, I agree Oliver, it's been just a blast."

More and more cheers lighting up the sky, to the far corner of the campsite, one of the teens nudged another, her eyes shining with humor as she nods towards the nearby mountain, then back to the other. With a chuckle and the crunch of the forest floor moving away from the campsite, they began off.

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"Jarrod, I just wanted to say, I've genuinely enjoyed what we've done this Summer; it's not every year you get to just travel the country."

"So true... so Serrina, what are we doing?"

“I wanted to camp here because there are these old ruins nearby and I just HAD to see them. I hope that’s alright with you-”

“Oh, heh heh, uh... sure, I guess?”

“Ha, thanks, you’re the best.”

Jarrold would smirk with periodic glances round, looking upon the owls watching them, the birds nesting and most likely asleep, a few squirrels rushing round through the branches and of course, the occasional deer here and there, truly peaceful with the chirping of crickets all around them. Their steps would crunch on the floor, ahead voles rushing off to hide, a few wild cats on the prowl on the sides though nothing big.

Eight minutes later as the wild life began to thin out, they came upon the mountainside at last, a large rocky terrain with a large hole in the mountain side, a cave. With a nod forward, both began to step forward, their feet echoing on the rock. Both bringing their phones up nodded to one another, flash lights flipped on as they entered, scoping around, a few twists and turns inside.

“Wow... this place is smooth!”

“This cave must have been formed by water, somehow...”

Journeying inside, they near immediately came upon some old boards in the path of the rest of the cave, “What the?”

“Who would board up a cave?”

With a smirk and a kick forward, Jarrold smashed clean through three boards which immediately dropped, giving them a way inside and in doing so, in they went.

“Wowzers,” both gasped once inside for in was a giant room with many artifacts from pottery to carvings in the wall. The room, maybe sixty meters by another sixty and yet another sixty, on stone pedestals multiple individual artifacts though in the middle of the room, a large one with a massive talisman sitting atop with multiple carvings, painted red.

“Check that thing out Serrina!”

“Wow! Jarrod, you just HAVE to take my picture with it!”

“Are you sure? What if this place is just sealed off for a reason? We could get in trouble-”

“You kicked the wood down already so it’s a bit late for that. Just come on,” she would chuckle running forward, stopping to turn round with her back to it, “Come on, just one picture can’t hurt!”

“... oh alright...” he murmured, phone up with the camera app up, “Say cheese,” as the flash went off.

With a smile, the photo was taken, three of them with three flashes. With a smirk and the sound of echoing footsteps, she stood now beside Jarrod, “How’d they turn out!?”

“Heh, they look great.”

“Awww, thanks Jarrod. We should go tell the others.”

“Right!”

Right as they turned to leave, a red glow slowly began to illuminate the room as the sound of demonic groaning was heard. As they slowly began to turn, that groaning turned to demonic laughter, a bright flash of red traveling forward with glowing eyes, the red turning to fire as both broke into screams, swallowed up.

Traveling back to the partying teens, the laughter continued as in seconds rushing through the trees, it also eclipsed the campsite, all screaming as they were drowned in the flash.

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Eyes opening wide in shock, shivering, a female rolled off of a sofa groaning, multiple others in white uniforms rushing up immediately, “Mistress Victoria!”

“Lord Victoria!”

“Are you alright!?”

“What happened!?!?!?”

Slowly, slowly stepping up, shivering, she croaked, “The seal... it’s been disturbed-”

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Eight Weeks Later...

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The town of Santa Locke, small town on the coast of California. A population of only a few thousand with plenty of lush trees and scenery, even a beach... though the focus now would in turn move inward to a decent sized brick building, one with a

buzzing bell with students moving about... yet at that time, a football flying through the air between two poles, hitting off the side of the building, and flipping around on the ground.

“Yeah! Nice shot Derrick!”

Standing in red shorts & shirt with a white striped pattern, a five foot ten male with brown hair curling around ever so long yet not too thick. Standing there, fist pumping, shouting, “Yeah!! We’re going to crush it next week at Santa Casandrea.”

“Oh heck yeah!! Let’s set up for another kick, eh?”

“Yeah, I suppose we’ve got time but... where’s Monte, he’s supposed to be helping out you know?”

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A locker slamming with a boy slammed inside, locker shut, laughter heard as another young teen backs away laughing. Tall, about six foot, wearing leather and shredded jeans, and slicked back black hair, purposefully looking to be the old time jock, laughing still, “Nerds!! Keep to your books and leave the sports to the pros.”

“Excuse ME Mr. Monte,” came yet another voice however as a teacher walked up right behind, arms crossed, giving a bit of a scowl, “That’s detention for a week.”

“OH but uh... I mean... it was self defense sir.”

“Against someone half your size? Right... why don’t you do something useful with your time and study instead of picking on your classmates.”

“Ha, I don’t need an education to rock this world man, just saying.”

“Well with that attitude, you can rock detention tonight in the library.”

“Haha, loser,” came the voice of a female, one dressed up in expensive looking clothes, chuckling as she smacked on some gum.

The teacher, turning round, began to also speak again, “And Ms. Amber, I’m afraid that’s a detention for you as well.”

In seconds, another teacher walked forward with Derrick right in front, “Speaking of detention, sign Mr. Derrick up as well for kicking the football into my coffee mug,” he mumbled, coffee dripping from his pants, shirt, and face, eyes blinking a bit.

“I said I was sorry, it was a bad kick.”

“Well, we’ll be sure to leave it off your record then so long as you learn to be more careful.”

“Ah, perfect, another to join in,” the first teacher muttered as the bell went off, “Come on now, into the Library with you three.”

Opening the door to the nearby library and stepping inside, it would be empty except for a student asleep at the desk with a detention slip in front of him and two at the opposite end working on homework with books open, chatting to each other in whispers.

“Uh... Ms. Sam, Mr. Stark... do uh... do you two have detention?”

The girl looked up speaking as the boy turned round, “No sir, Mr. Samson said we could study in here after school.”

“Ah... right but uh... did he mention detention would take place here today?”

“Yes but he said if we didn’t mind we could stay.”

“... ah... alright. Well, if you’re fine and he gave permission then so be it.”

“Ha, nerds,” came the chuckle of Monte.

“More like, geeks in love, hel-looooooooooooo.”

“Amber, Monte, you should take example from them. Ms. Sam is on the top of the honor’s list with Mr. Stark right behind... and just for that, double detention to both you and Ms. Amber, alright Mr. Monte?”

“Pft.... Whatever.”

“I’ll be back in an hour so... best of luck.”

The three walked in, sitting down around the sleeping student, groaning.

“Son of a pickle jar man, that kick was stupid. I should’ve aimed higher!”

“Pft... what, you miskicked? Coach needs to pick me then to start off for the next game.”

“Shut up Monte, we all make mistakes.”

“Like, speak for yourself.”

“Hey, guys, can you tone it down a bit, some of us are trying to sleep,” came the grumble of the sleeping student.

“And some of us are trying to study,” came the next voice of Sam.

“Nerds, haha.”

“More like geeks in love.”

“Stark and I are just friends.”

“Uh... right so Sam, about problem thirty-nine, I think the solution might be... this right here.”

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“RAAAAAAAAAA, RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

“Oh my oh my, Lord Zaraka, the place hasn’t changed a bit.”

“HA HA HA HA HA, my thanks to the humans that reactivated the bridge and broke the seal... however it seems that not all of my power has come with me.”

“Why yes sir, we are pretty drained.”

“Send out the Imps to stir up some fear. With enough fear we’ll soon grow strong enough again to tear the seal apart entirely. COME, Imp KING!!!”

A flash before a scrawny, bald, fat man and a bulky tall man, a small green man of only two feet in length floating in the air before both of them, “You rang my lord?”

“Send out your Imps to the nearby cities and stir up some fear. Once you’ve terrified the populace we’ll have enough power to rip the portal open and send more of our forces to reinforce you. So very soon we’ll have this meatball world by our finger tips!”

Episode II: Attack of the Imp King

“So the theory of multiverse is that for every action we make it creates another universe, meaning infinite universes.”

“The idea in itself is a paradox and yet...”

“I agree Stark, it seems so odd and yet, we can’t exactly prove it now can we?”

“Ha, nerds!”

Stark’s eyes and head would drift to the side, moderate glance with a tch, all while Sam would glare forward at the people who said it.

“Like, Monte, is that all you know how to do, is to say nerd? Clearly they’re geeks, not nerds.”

“Shut up Amber.”

“Mmmph... both of you shut it, I’m trying to sleep here man...”

Dilan, Amber, and Monte, all sitting at one table, would begin to glare at each other with Sam and Stark looking at the drama, though Derrick happened to not be near, simply sighing. Annoyed, Sam’s hand would drift to her backpack and pull from it a magazine, though no ordinary magazine, rather it was a Japanese Manga.

“No point in studying with that going on.”

“Eh... I suppose you’re right...”

“HA, geeks in love.”

“Shut up Amber, no one even likes you ya know? You’re just some prissy upstart who thinks she can go places just because she has access to Daddy’s Checking Account,” Stark then barked.

Derrick glanced backwards shocked, Monte’s jaw hanging, Sam’s eyes big, Dilan’s eyes opening followed by laughter as Amber turned an angry shade of red with a major scowl, “Listen chump, I don’t know who you think you are you little scrub but that is SO not true, my daddy gives me my money to do with as I please!”

“Still comes from his wallet.”

“That’s it!”

“Hey guys.”

“Listen here Stark, I had to work my way UP in this dump for the fame I have.”

“Fame you bought right?”

“Guys.”

“Oh you want to go there? Where are you at little man, a lapdog for your girlfriend at that table?!”

“We’re only friends and I happen to be the second of my class right behind Sam, that gives me a nice future unlike your bottom of the barrel ranking. Daddy’s money can’t help you forever.”

“Guys!”

“WHAT!?!?”

“DO you HEAR THAT!?”

Everyone went silent immediately as the roll of thunder moved around though... it wasn't thunder from the sky, rather it sounded like... then an explosion on the ground. Explosions and screaming!

“What is that noise?”

“Is someone shooting a gun!?”

Derrick immediately walked to the door which would lead to the front grounds of the school, pushing both doors open to see fire on the ground and people running, screaming.

“What the heck!?”

“Look!”

Pointing past one of the running, screaming students was a strange looking floating man with horns, bat wings, pointy ears, long tails, and the color red, all holding pitch forks, all chuckling as their pitchforks were struck forward, firing bolts of lightning that would then strike the ground, exploding with sparks and fire flying off in all directions.

“What the heck are those things!?” came the yell of Monte as he stood, walking beside Derrick.

“Trouble, that's what.”

Immediately, two of the horned men turned, chuckling, launching themselves at a student in front of Derrick and Monte, slamming the pitchfork into their stomach which sent the student up and crashing down, rolling beside, holding his stomach, though

surprisingly no wound, just the student moaning, “He took my... Oh I can’t move! It hurts!”

“Hey!”

Both of them would look to Derrick, who was in turn calling them out, “That’s enough you creeps!”

Both would laugh as they then flew forward with pitchforks forward, intending to strike Derrick, though rather than stand there, spinning round and then kicking forward, one was nailed in the face and sent flying back like a kicked football, crashing into a wall as the other began to swing out at Monte. Swing swing swing swing swing swoop, and then a catch as Monte grabbed the handle, followed by Derrick giving it a kick as well, flying off.

“What the heck are they!?”

At this point, Stark and Sam were also moving forward with Amber hanging back with Dilan who was still snoozing though in the process, ten more appeared in front of the library, forks held forward, waiting for the kids to move.

“Two of my men were beaten by a bunch of kids!?”

Another, twice the size, fatter, and wearing puffy pants and a black sleeveless vest holding a five foot long pitchfork. His hair slicked back and black with black eyes and red pupils, also a goatee and a mustache.

“So buddy, who are you?” Derrick then muttered.

“I am the Imp King... and these are my Imp soldiers. We serve Edgelord Zaraka and are under order to take over this world for his edgelordship. Now surrender you simple humans!”

“No way ugly!” came the shout from Amber stepping forward, “If you take over the world I don’t want to have to buy and wear those ugly clothes you have on, like, N O.”

“Ugly!? You miserable little human, I’ll show you ugly!”

The Imps then held their weapons outward, all snickering and approaching.

“There’s no way you or anyone can beat ten of my guys, eh? Haha!”

“Think again Imp King!” came an unfamiliar female’s voice.

All of them turned to a building to the left of the Imp King, the King’s mouth opening wide, spooked, “No way, not you!”

Atop the building, an older woman in a yellow rain coat dotted up with various medals and patterns, holding a staff in her right gloved hand, brown gloves, black boots and leggings. Her hair, dirty blond, her eyes a piercing emerald green.

“That’s as far as you go!”

“Victoria Galakin, how fitting that I get to destroy you. Go my Imp Army, slay her booty!”

Immediately all ten Imp soldiers took flight towards that very building, the woman smirking with them approaching and a nod, leaping forward with the staff forward, “Hyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!!”

Twirling the staff around she immediately began to move at speeds of blur, slamming the staff into all of the Imps as she approached and passed through, one flying left, another right, three down, the rest off in various directions.

As the Imps flew off, they immediately lit up with sparking energy, exploding into dust and a mighty explosion, the female dropping down on the ground, the Imp King's eyes wide.

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“Whoa!”

“Who is that person?”

“She's awesome!”

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“It's over Imp King!”

“I think not, GRAHHHH!!!” came yet another new voice, this one sounding like a growling angry voice as another figure dropped down directly behind the girl.

A man in black leather clothes with armor atop with shoulder pieces sticking out and a cape, black hair down to about the neck, long and flowing around, his pupils white, snarling with a grin.

Turning round, the girl began glaring, “Zaraka... I didn't expect to see you here.”

“How could I miss the opportunity to destroy you Queen Galakin... it was YOUR ancestors that locked us away. Your fall will be our rise to greatness!”

Both he and her rushed forth, her staff flying out to then be grabbed, “Rebound to you!” and with a swing of his pirate blade, sparks blew out of her gut, chest, and then arm with her flying back though at the same time, the staff turned golden and kaboom, erupted with a blast of pure energy, sending Zaraka flying back roaring and through a building.

“Edgelord Zaraka!” the Imp King yelled.

Stepping out of the building, smoking, brushing himself off, he immediately flung his right arm up and then down, firing blue lightning like energy at the girl who then took flight with a flip off the ground, spinning round and landing with a sword drawn, smacking the lightning right back at Zaraka.

“BRAWHFWAH!!!”

Crashing backwards though kicking a slab of cement forward at the girl, smacking her as he immediately stood, rushing forward. Tossing the sword, it would soar through the air and strike Zaraka’s chest, a glow flying off and wrapping around him immediately, tightening with energy streams flying outward, “Gyah, this is the Sealing Sword of the Phoenix?!”

“That’s right Zaraka, you and your goons are going back where you belong!”

“GRAH, NO!!!”

With a smirk, Victoria stepped back, arms crossed, waiting though her face soon went from confident filled to curious as the energy wrapped around Zaraka began to break away, “No seriously, NO!”

With a grab onto the hilt and a pull away, the energy then shattered as it was then flung like a football, making contact immediately with a surprised Victoria, energy wrapping around her exploding out of the sword.

“NO!!!”

“I’m surprised honestly that you thought that little toy would work a second time. Humanity has grown more afraid in recent years, it only makes us stronger! And now the legendary Victoria will fall... Imp King!”

“Yes boss?”

“Continue your attack on the city and have your Imps finish her once the sword seals her power.”

“What of the kids?”

“Like I care. Let’s move people!”

Light exploding around, Zaraka would then vanish as the Imp King took flight, heading off towards the deeper part of town, leaving five Imps to finish the job, snickering as they then began to approach the students.

“Stark, go get help, quick!”

With a nod, Stark turned back and began to run, the others standing ready.

Looking forward, the five began to back away as Victoria glanced up, “No... HYAH!!!”

With a flicker of her hand and a glow of yellow, energy flew out and immediately struck the five teens, washing over them, the Imps launched back immediately.

“My power... is now... ugh...”

All now stepped back, eyes glowing as they looked around, Victoria’s head drooping as she passed out. The Imps in turn began chuckling, moving back towards the group, laughing seconds after as Derrick took up a stance as if ready to charge ahead, “I’m not going down without a fight, hyaaaaaaaaa!”

Rushing forward, Derrick immediately let his eyes go wide as he flew forward in mere seconds, slamming into two of the Imps, all screeching out as they spun out, crashing out cold.

One rushing the group swung its pitchfork right before Monte, he who then grabbed the fork part with lightning quick reaction time, “Wha... what the?”

Two more rushing forward, Amber immediately let out a scream as the pitchforks flew forward, though with this scream a wave of something smacked forth into both, sending them off with the third that Monte had grabbed the pitchfork of.

All four looked immediately to Amber then back, Dilan smirking, “Radical dude.”

Derrick rushed immediately up to Victoria, nudging her, “Hey, you ok!?”

Looking up, exhausted, she began to murmur, “The...the town... help them, all of you.”

“Like, no, we’re not even adults,” Amber barked.

“Oh come on princess, this could be fun,” Dilan then laughed.

“GUYS! This lady saved us and gave us the power to fight those guys. We need to go protect our town and get rid of those flying Imp things!”

“Derrick is right.”

“Thanks uh... Sam right?”

“Yes.”

“Come on then, let’s go show them who the boss is!”

Turning round, all five immediately began to run off towards the center of town,
off to face the new coming darkness....

Episode III: Three's A Crowd

Explosions in the middle of town!

People storming away screaming!

Floating high in the sky, laughing, the Imp King and his dozens of servants fluttering about tossing pitchforks, creating new forks only to throw forward again, others breathing fire. With the people screaming, an ominous aura began to surround the Imp King who would in turn continue laughing, “Yes puny humans, continue to fuel us, your screams are nightmare fuel incarnate!! Hahaha!”

A random Imp immediately then flew beside the Imp King, laughing, “Hey boss, how about that dam of their’s, should we snap it and flood the town!?”

“No you fool. Drowned people can’t scream!”

“Oh right, sorry boss.”

“Make them scream, make them cry, make them feed us power, go my minions, enslave them for their fear!!”

“Hey you big creep, that’s enough!” came a yell from behind on the ground.

“WHAT!? Who dares!?”

Immediately, both the Imp King and his subordinates whipped round to see those that would dare to call them out, rushing along and stopping, five in total.

“HA, it’s you kids again!? Wait, why didn’t my men turn you to paste?”

“Would you really like to know?” Sam chuckled, Monte cracking his knuckles with a grin.

“Oh definitely,” he then said.

“Time to show these creeps who the popular ones are!” Amber in turn laughed.

Derrick smirked, stepping forward with Amber as she let out a scream, a sonic pulse exploding forward visible with a yellow ring around, slamming into and blowing the first wave of Imps off in all directions, about twenty or so taking the hit and dropping out cold, the Imp King’s eyes wide and his jaw hanging as Derrick kicked a truck upwards and then another forward kick into it, followed by another scream blowing it to pieces and sending the pieces crashing into more Imps.

“They have powers?! They’re... THEY’RE DREAMSCAPERS!?”

“Oh yeah!!!” all five shouted with joy.

“Impossible! OUTRAGEOUS!! Victoria is supposed to be the ONLY ONE LEFT!!! All of you, GET THEM NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

With his command of the forty Imps left, all began to fly downward at the five teens, snorting and snickering with excessive joy.

“Get ready guys, here they come!” Derrick barked.

With a smirk, Monte racing forward, rapid punching a group of three, Derrick punching the ground with multiple soccer practiced kicks sending rubble forward into the rest, Amber screaming at the top of her lungs to slam the others though she also smacked some of Derrick’s rubble, shattering it and giving a few of the Imps the chance to dodge, some dusting over Monte blinding him temporarily, “GYAH, watch it Derrick!”

“Don’t tell me that, tell Amber, she shattered my kicks!”

“You boys stay out of the way!”

As the three resumed what they were up to, Sam turned to Dilan who began to slump against a wall and yawn off, “Hey, we need to help!”

“Chill Sam... we don’t know what our powers are or if we even can help... just let them handle this... ugh...”

With another kick of rubble, Derrick laughed until some flew towards Monte who got hit by a bit though immediately flew left and round right beside Derrick with his super speed, “Hey watch it Derrick!”

“Stay out of my way then Monte!”

Another scream and then four Imps dropping upon both of the boys, both shouting again, “HEY!”

Amber chuckled, screaming another wave at five more Imps.

“ENOUGH!!” came a demonistic shout though this time from the Imp King as he hovered downward, just above the ground, “If you want something done right, do it yourself like they say!”

“Heh, you got it ugly,” Amber laughed as she let out yet another scream forward at the Imp King though... as it struck, the Imp King’s hair simply moved, not his body in the slightest as he crossed his arms, a smug look on his face. Amber would cease, looking surprised, “Why didn’t he go flying?! Lame!!”

Monte shot left, curving round immediately shouting, “I’ve got him!” just as Derrick kicked yet another piece of concrete forward, “Got him!”

The Imp King began to chuckle, thrusting his pitchfork forward, shattering the slab into pieces immediately rolling around him, pieces that Monte in turn struck and tripped over, kicking a lot of the pieces back at Derrick at the same time, both shouting “WATCH IT!!” as they went down.

Amber let out another shriek only for two Imps to strike her from behind, sending her flying forward into her own shriek.

KABAM!!

Yet another blast as she rolled beside Derrick and Monte, breathing heavily, both of them struggling to stand as she barreled right into them, the Imp King laughing.

“HAHAHA, this is sad, so very sad. So what, Victoria gave a bunch of kids her power to stop us? You’re a joke... and what can you two do!?”

Sam turned to Dilan who in turn was snoring, looking bad sighing.

“Yeah that’s what I thought kiddos. Look, I tell ya what, since you can’t seem to pull it off, I’ll let you off with a warning if you scream for me. I could destroy you but you can’t do a thing and honestly, it’d be a waste of power and fear to take you down or whatever... SO! Keep on doing what you were doing and we’ll be back. We’re going to fly over to the next town for some Seven-Up Slurpies. These kids in this forest had them and my cohorts and I deeply enjoy them. See ya kiddos!

With all of the Imps laughing with, they immediately took flight high into the air, flying off to the horizon, leaving our ‘heroes’ to groan in defeat.

“That could’ve gone better,” Sam muttered.

Episode IV: ONUS

Shuttering, Derrick stands, Amber shouting as he does so, “You guys totally suck!”

“It’s not our fault you suck at aiming Amber,” Monte laughed.

“Like, don’t even get me started Monte. And you two, you were both useless!” she snaps, right arm and pointer finger outstretched to Dilan and Sam.

“It’s not our fault, we left before finding out if we had any powers or anything!”

“Besides Amber, we did better than you by doing nothing. You just hurt the others, hahaha!”

“Excuses Sa- Dilan you creep!”

“You all were worthless, just saying.”

“And what did you do Monte? You can run fast, oh wow, loser!”

“GUYS!”

All four turned round, giving Derrick a look as he in turn shouted at them, “We lost because no one knows how to work together! That woman gave us her power to stop those things and we flat out failed!”

“Like, whatever Derrick. I’m going to go see if any shops are open. Later losers!”

Dilan in turn yawned as Amber walked off, though he himself would then stumble away, mumbling, Monte shaking his head, “Yeah sorry Derrick but this isn’t going to work. I have to get back and practice. Later chumps.”

With a sigh, Derrick turned left as Monte walked, both now walking off, leaving Sam in place to look around, an annoyed expression upon her face.

With a sigh, no more than twenty minutes later, Derrick had at last returned to the dorm rooms, sluggishly moving while climbing a set of stairs, step step step, thoughts circling.

“What was the point in what that lady did if we can’t work together... man this bites.”

Step step step

“Why couldn’t we just work together... it’s like those two just didn’t care... or did I just not care? No, I definitely cared, it was them though.”

Step step step

“But what if those guys come back..?”

Turning right round a corner, Derrick immediately stumbled to a halt, Stark right in front of him also stumbling, “Whoa-”

“Sorry about that man.”

“Yeah uh, no problem.”

“You look a little shook up, did you see the truck crash into the building?”

“Truck crash?”

“Yeah, that crash that took out the old building. Crazy that they already got the truck out of there though.”

“What are you talking about... and why didn’t you bring any help like you said you would for that woman?”

“Wait what? What do you mean?”

Immediately Derrick stopped talking, realizing something was up, “OH uh... never mind, I was thinking of someone else.”

“Uh... alright... oh, have you seen Sam? I remember studying in the library with her but after that she disappeared.”

“Oh uh, yeah, she said she had something to go do.”

“Ah, well thanks Derrick. Good luck at the game later by the way.”

“Yeah uh, see ya.”

Running around past and down the stairs, Stark disappeared, leaving Derrick to look back and then forward, his head pounding, “Someone messed with his head it seems...”

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Step step step

Finally arriving at the dorm room, hand to the knob and turning it, he would walk in and sigh though upon looking up, a woman would be sitting in a chair facing the door, looking as if she had been waiting.

“Huh?”

“Welcome back young master.”

“Young- hey you’re that one lady from before!”

Eyes wide, his mind rushed back immediately to the scene at the library from earlier with the woman taking on the Imp King, his forces, and then the new guy that appeared, questions flooding.

“So how do you like the gift you’ve been given?”

“Gift? You mean my super strength?”

“Yes.”

“I mean... it’s fine but I don’t- hey wait, no, stop. I have questions lady.”

“And those would be?”

“Who are you, what are you, what were those things, what did you do to me, and what does this all mean!? Oh and did you mess with Stark’s head because he doesn’t remember a thing!”

“Haha, my you are full of questions...”

“I want answers lady... otherwise I might try out this gift on you and make you answer me.”

“There is no need for that,” came her murmur as she began to stand, looking round the room, “A nice place you have... but to get down to it, I am Victoria Galakin of the Order of Natural Unusual and Strange, also known as ONUS.”

“I’ve... never heard of-”

“That’s because we try to not be known by everyone. Getting down to it though we are an organization established to take care of the super natural occurrences that happen on Earth such as ghosts or werewolves. Like your friend Stark, if someone finds something they shouldn’t know about, we wipe their memories and Implant new ones to explain unusual happenings... such as the building being hit by a truck and thus the hole in the wall.”

“That... explains a lot but how come and why do people still know things?”

“Well... humans can’t comprehend that sort of knowledge just yet. Also depending on how public it is, we may or may not act. No one bothers to listen to a crazy farmer in the middle of Mexico about aliens stealing his cattle after all. On that note, those things were supernatural creatures from the *Nightmare Realm*, one type of many called *Imps*.”

“Looked more like devils to me.”

“Oh really they are though. Imps are just annoying creatures compared to some of the others. The *Nightmare Realm* is one strangeness where the supernatural exist under various leaders like the Imp King.”

“And that big guy that you got jumped by?”

“That would be one of the top Nightmares known as an Edgelord; that one in particular is Zaraka. You see, long ago these occurrences were so frequent with creatures escaping, say up to even the 1800’s that we decided to put a set of seals in place all across the world to stop them from pouring into our world. Zaraka was one of the ones we sealed up but last night, someone disturbed the seal and set Zaraka free with a handful of his minions. They intend to take over the world and unleash the Nightmare Realm in full power. ONUS is intended to also stop them with a sub division known as the *DreamScaper Corps* of which I lead though, that said, it would seem Zaraka was ready for what did him in last time.”

“So... you gave us your power why?”

“So my abilities wouldn’t be sealed at the time by my weapon. I’m not sure how Edgelord Zaraka defied the seal but... well with the Imp King around I figured it would be best to hand my power off to the nearest people.”

“So... you picked us just because we-”

“You five also looked promising... however after being told about your fight with the Imp King I’ve come to a conclusion that I might have been mistaken. That said, I’m going to say this. Should you five come together as one-”

-

“-you, Derrick, Sam, Dilan, and Amber can become a part of the DreamScaper Corps.”

-

“As such you five will be allowed to keep Queen Galakin’s gift Sam, which in this case is telekinesis and other mind powers-”

-

“-the power of hypnotism and the ability to make games real-”

-

“and as DreamScapers you five will get to see the world through a new vision. You can see what we see, become investigators of the supernatural and help protect the planet from creatures like the Imp King. You’ll be able to do perhaps the coolest job, meet all kinds of creatures and people, and get paid for it but that said however; should any of you decide you are not up to the task-”

“-I will reclaim my powers from you lot and your memories will be wiped, life will go back to how it was before today and you’ll have no further knowledge of any events. The choice is up to you guys Derrick... you can expand your knowledge and become the DreamScapers of this district in place of me, I can consider this a step towards retirement after twenty years of seeing unmentionable things... or you can all let things go back to being normal.”

“I... I don’t know...”

“We’ll give you guys until noon tomorrow to decide what it is you want to do. All five of you must agree though. Think it over well and hard,” she murmured, walking by Derrick and out of the doorway, taking a left with her steps echoing in the hall.

Step step step

This left Derrick, alone, thinking over his immediate thoughts, looking down at the ground as the moonlight began to climb in the sky, looking forth from the window, “Can we really do this..?”

-

“You have done well Imp King though there is still much to do. Tomorrow, you will go back and make the humans wet their pants in that city. I want as much fear as you can muster, I want the portal to the Nightmare Realm stretched wide open. This is my command!”

“Yes Edgelord Zaraka, I understand. It shall be done and this time, not even the DreamScapers will be able to stop us!”

Episode V: The Decision

The next day...

The lunchroom, buzzing with murmuring, chatting, laughing, shouting, screaming, yelling, anything under the sun but above all just plain noisy. It is here where Derrick presently walks, holding a lunch tray as he heads to the back of the lunchroom to a table where Sam and Stark could be found with Dilan off to the right. Up at the front, Amber with the popular ones and Monte with the other athletic types.

His tray sat down followed by him, Derrick looked to Sam and then to Stark, “Hope I’m not interrupting.”

“Oh, not at all, we were just talking about our history exam coming up. We were wondering if Mr. Bueler had any copies of the study guide left since mine sort of got burned yesterday in the old building.”

“Well Stark, if you hurry I bet you could catch him before the next class.”

“Good point, thanks Derrick!”

Getting up and running to the left door, he disappeared from view down the hall, leaving Sam and Derrick alone at the table though not for long as he beckoned Dilan over, who after yawning, began to slide over, “Wazzit eh?”

“Did you guys also get visited by those ONUS guys?”

“Yes, last night actually,” Sam murmured, “I found out what ability I had been given.”

“Same,” Dilan chuckled, “She was kinda noisy so I had to listen.”

“That lady that gave us our powers visited me too... she told me about ONUS and said we could choose to keep our powers and memories if we helped out but if one of us chose not to... well... we’d have to live our normal lives again.”

“I don’t know about you boys but I found it super interesting... I was hoping we could all say yes?”

“I agree with Sam actually... the thought of actually helping people and whatever sounds... fun, not boring. I’m honestly bored with how things are,” Dilan began to chuckle.

“What about you Derrick?”

“Honestly... I agree. I’d love to be able to find out more and help people. It could be the best shot at something fun for me that doesn’t involve working in a deli like my dad.”

“Heh... good luck to you two convincing Monte and Amber then,” Dilan chuckled again.

“Why?”

“Monte said it sounded stupid and didn’t want to blow his chance at being a college football player and Amber... well, you know Amber. It sounds dirty, gross, like actual work, and I can just do this this and this because daddy wants me to.”

“Oh come on... how can they do this to us after yesterday? What if something happens again?”

“It’s easier getting me to not sleep than it is getting them to work Derrick, haha.

You should listen to Sam on this one.”

“... I’m going to talk to them.”

With that, Derrick immediately stood and turned round, walking up to the front of the lunchroom with Sam shouting, “Derrick, don’t!”

Not listening, he immediately stopped beside Monte at his table, “Monte, I need to borrow you.”

“Oh uh, sure thing captain, haha. Scuse me guys, Captain Kicker needs me.”

Walking over to Amber as Monte got up, he then spoke, “Amber, you’re needed.”

“Like, whatever, I don’t care.”

“If you help out I’ll tell Clay to date you.”

“Deal.”

Standing and following outside the lunchroom in the hall, Derrick turned round as they approached, Sam and Dillan from the other end exiting through a different door as he began to speak.

“Why don’t you guys want to be DreamScapers? This could be a shot at doing something exciting with our lives!”

“Sorry Derrick but I want to be known for something.”

“College Football isn’t that big Monte, that’s a poor excuse.”

“Like, how’s this, I don’t want to have to get my shtick dirty fighting creeps and other things when I can just mooch off of daddy for money and whatever I want. It’s easier.”

“But don’t you guys want to do something that actually pays in both money and experience? Monte, Amber, you can both do that and also be a DreamScaper. Come on, we need you both for this guys! What if the Imp King comes back or that Zaraka guy? Victoria couldn’t stop them and entrusted us with her power... do you want to walk away from something this awesome, really?”

“Pft... only losers work for a living so no,” Amber laughed, turning and walking away, “Tell Clay to pick me up tonight.”

With a sigh, Monte shook his head, “Sorry Derrick but I really want to just focus on my career with College Football.”

“Eh whatever... I’m going back to sleep then...”

“Well... guess I’ll go see how Stark is doing... and hope I have a chance at a solo position with ONUS.”

All turning away from Derrick and walking away, he now was left, sighing, “The one chance to do something fun with my life... gone because... tch...”

“HEY! The TV!”

Looking in the lunchroom, at the front monitor, a big eighty inch plasma screen tv, a news broadcast displaying the Imps flying through the skies of downtown, laughing as fire and their pitchforks flew forward, the Imp King with them.

“Gah... those guys again... forget the others, I have to help!”

Turning left and running for the exit, he began to book it using his enhanced physical abilities to propel himself further and further to get as far to and as fast as he could.

-

“Hahahaha! Go my army, lay siege to this city once more for Edgelord Zaraka, raise as much fear as you can, ahahahaha!”

People flipping round and over other things with a car exploding, pitchforks flying into people sending out sparks with the people losing their energy though no wound, just as before. Above with a grin, the Imp King would smirk.

“Not even Galakin could stop the master, this world is as good as ours! And their slurpies!”

Looking left, shock came over him as he flew right immediately, dodging a flying car tire, “What the devil!?”

Looking down stood none other than Derrick in an attack pose, waiting.

“You again!?”

“Yeah that’s right Imp King and I’m here to stop you once and for all!”

“HA! Kid, that’s rich, don’t you remember what happened last time? I remember it like it was yesterday...”

“It was yesterday!”

“And that’s the punch line. You think you can stop me Junior? Ha, give it your best shot then so long as you can get by my men!”

Swarming in front of the Imp King, an army of one hundred and twenty Imps, their wings fluttering as they all snicker, twenty or so getting ready to swoop at Derrick.

“If you admit your surrender now I’ll spare you of your suffering junior, what’ll it be!?”

“I’ll never give up Imp King!”

“Too bad then but I gave you a chance. GET THE KID!!”

Flinching, he stood with five Imps swooping down with their pitchforks out, snickering with their swing though immediately, Derrick in turn took a swing outward, his right arm out fully with a fist formed, punching the air and sending a pressure wave slamming into three of the five which flew and hit the ground, the other two swinging only for Derrick to leap up and kick both in the face. Upon his landing, all five had hit the ground with him looking up, glaring.

“Impressive, he has improved since the last time though that won’t amount to anything. Squads two through five, get him!”

With the Imp King’s command, twenty came swooping down now from all sides. Two punches out with pressure waves flying, taking six out as two pitch fork strikes to his left hit, then the right, then six from behind, an explosion sending him flopping forward onto hands and feet, kicking backward sending yet another wave off though as

he knocked two more out, he was also hit from above by eight strikes, dropping to his front nearly.

All snickering as Derrick struggled to rise, taking a running stance, then bolting off into a run at more of the flock of Imps, punching one in the face, one in the gut, catching the pitchfork of one as three hit him in the back zapping more strength. Twin kicks backward as on his hands he went sent more flying though with four strikes to the back, he went down on his front, sparks and explosions flying.

SPARK

WHAM

“Enough!”

The Imps backing away as down came the Imp King, chuckling, "It's my turn!"

Struggling now to stand, breathing a bit rough, Derrick found himself looking forward as the Imp King came swooping in, “HYAH!” and pitch fork flying forward. A single punch forward impacting the fork to throw it off though in doing so, a kick upward sent Derrick’s arm up and a strike occurred, throwing him back again, flipping through the air onto his feet, yowling.

“HAHAHA, that was just me saying hello. Come now kiddo, show me what you’ve got!”

“YEEEEAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

Rushing forward yelling, Derrick swung his right forward only to miss, the Imp King fluttering right, disappearing, and appearing left, “Hello!” and a strike to the side,

Derrick spiraling clockwise now to the right and skidding to a stop, rapid punching the air.

“Haha, I’ve had enough of this already, time to end it!”

Dancing around each strike, the Imp King made his way closer....

Buzz buzz buzz, now right before Derrick.

“RAPID STRIKE!” and a barrage of multiple pitchfork strikes: two, five, nine, fourteen, twenty, forty and upon that final strike, sparks began to fly out of his energy broken and then the shattering of a blast sending Derrick propelling backwards, crashing upon the ground curled, groaning.

“Hahaha!”

Slowly slumping forward, trying to pick himself up, Derrick looked forward, shaking, eying the Imp King who began to speak again.

“Bah, I’ve had enough of this! Finish him off my Imps!”

Snickering, many of the Imps knocked down earlier began to rise, all twenty-five fluttering forward, laughing as they then went towards Derrick, pitchforks flying outward.

SHRIEK!

A loud sonic impact struck clean into the twenty-five, all being blown back, Derrick’s eyes widening as were those of the Imp King, though his with rage, “WHO DARES!?”

Rushing, running, yelling

“Derrick!”

“Hey Derrick, man, you ok!?”

“You creeps!”

To his right, bending down, Monte and Sam and to the left, Amber standing next to Dillan, all looking forward at the Imp King, angrily.

“You kids again!?”

“No one hurts our team and gets away with it!”

“It’s over Imp King, we’re sending you back to where you came from!”

“Heh, bring it on kiddos, show my army and I what you can do!”

That said, every Imp afloat raised their forks, the King falling back as now hovered every one of the Imps, ready for combat, Derrick smirk as he slowly began to stand back up, “Alright guys, let’s do this!”

Episode VI: Behold Them!! The DreamScapers Unite!

“YEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

Derrick, Monte, Sam, Dilan, and Amber, all rushing forward, ready for action.

Wielding a wooden staff, Monte immediately used his super speed and rocketed forward, holding the staff out plunging forward into six of the many Imps, all screaming in pain as they flew down, crashing upon the ground out, Monte landing to then swing the wood staff round and round, whacking several of the other Imps away.

Further to the right, Amber’s screaming struck the Imps, dropping half a dozen with the first wave as her head immediately began to turn right, smacking into ten or so more, dropping them down next.

“I can fight too I think,” Sam murmured, hands placed upon her forehead, multiple lines of Imps in front of her flying forward only to then smack flat into the air right in front of Sam, as if they had flown right into a wall, tilting back while still flat and collapsing on the ground.

“Are they winning!?”

Dilan standing off to the side, waving his arms and hands in front of him, Imps dropping out of the sky, eyes closed, some snoring, others just pure asleep.

“My men are losing... losing to these... these... these kids!?”

Leaping up and punching forward, Derrick sent multiple Imps flying yet again crashing onto the ground, landing only to spin kick more round him.

Standing atop a nearby building, three individuals watching, one smirking, one serious, the other blank.

“Heh... so those kids couldn’t do it together so now they’re fighting independently eh? Smart.”

“Even so Damerick, they’re still just kids.”

“It’ll take more than being independent to face what stands before them... it’ll take more to take down the Imp King.”

-

“HYAH!”

Another sonic slap sending more Imps crashing to the sides. Derrick crashed upon the ground, looking forward with a glare, “One punch to finish this!” and with that comment, running.

Step step step

His pitchfork out and a bark, “You can’t beat me, you should’ve learned this by now kid!”

Swinging forward only for Derrick to flip forward over as the fork struck the ground and in doing so, shock filling the King’s face as a fist flew right into it, “GYUAHHHHHHH!!!”

Flying back and crashing into a building, falling flat on the ground right after, Derrick landing as the Imp King’s pitchfork clambered on the ground, looking forward with his fist smoking, “That felt good!”

“You did it Derrick!”

“Heh... no Sam, WE did it!”

“For a bunch of losers, you all did pretty good.”

“YEAH BRO!!!”

“Now I can probably sleep some more...”

-

“I’m impressed, they did it after all milady.”

“It’s not over yet Flare... Damerick, get the containment field ready.”

“Why boss?”

“This is far from over.”

-

“Growthwargrah...” came the grunt of the Imp King as he slowly began to stir, rising up, coughing.

“It’s over Imp King!”

“Yeah loser, surrender now!”

“Grr... me, surrender to a bunch of kids!? YOU MUST THINK I’M AN AMATEUR! CHAOTIC RELEASE, NIGHTMARE FULL POWER!”

Black energy immediately surrounding and blowing outwards with high pressured wind, the Imp King would disappear from sight temporarily... though only just as two bat wings black in color stretched up above the light, then two downward, four arms

spreading out now dark red in color with claws showing, black lines spread round, and then two massive horns growing upwards with long white hair flying round wildly.

Hovering now, the Imp King transformed, shocking everyone.

“What!?”

“How did he-”

“No way!”

“HYAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!! HAD YOU TAKEN ME DOWN BEFORE THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PROBABLE. I’VE AMASSED TOO MUCH FEAR TO BE BEATEN!! NOW I STAND BEFORE YOU IN MY NIGHTMARE FORM!!!”

Dilan chuckled, “Uh, technically dude, you’re floating, not standing.”

“GYAHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Black lightning streams surrounding all four wings, bolting outward striking the ground in front of the five, blowing them back with the resulting explosion. Derrick quickly sat up, Dilan pushing himself up, Monte moving his arms down having blocked in front with them, Sam and Amber struggling to stand, all looking forward.

“This lose... no this FREAK... he seems a lot more menacing than before!”

“I’m going in!”

“Wait Monte, no!”

Rushing forward, Monte prepared his staff to slam it right into the Imp King,

“HYAHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Step step step LEAP

Swinging it, the staff smacked into the right side of the Imp King's head, only to snap off right above where it was being held, Monte's eyes widening as the Imp King began to smirk.

“GYAHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

EXPLOSION

Yet another ringing out sending Monte flying back through the air, kicking and squirming as he hit and rolled across the ground.

“Ugh... he's so powerful...”

SHRIEK

A sonic shriek from Amber going forward only for another grunt and the Imp King's right arm to fly out with a stream of lightning following, blowing through the shriek's energy wave and blasting into an explosion right in front of Amber.

KABOOM

Amber herself was then flung back with Dillan waving his arms, Sam placing her hands to her head with rocks glowing blue nearby with some rubble, flying forward though once again, the wings spread and lightning was fired, a blast going off right in front of the group as all three left standing flew back by Amber and Monte in that instant, rolling together.

“Ugh... this guy... is a monster. My sleepy technique failed!”

“I couldn't hit him with anything.”

“YOU PUNY ANTS CAN’T SEEM TO AMUSE ME IN THE SLIGHTEST!! I
AM ENDING THIS NOW!!!”

“Tch... is this the end?”

-

CLANG

SMASH

KAPOW

“GYAH!!!”

The Imp King found himself flying backwards as two figures bolted right in front of him, impacting with fire spreading and then an explosion of metal. To the left, a man of red hair kept short and rather big, the other a man on the scrawny side a tad bit with green mixed blond hair of about a bit longer length than Dilan’s.

“Wh-who are those guys?”

“They are from ONUS Sam, you did well,” came a female voice from behind as stepping up to them was Victoria Galakin.

“Gah... YOU MORTAL FOOLS DARE TO HIT ME?! YOU WILL SUFFER BIG
FOR THIS!!!”

“Heh... I’ve had enough of his talk, how about you Flare?”

“Yeah... let’s shut him up Damerick.”

“With pleasure.”

Hands forward, fire blew out from the palms of Flare striking Imp King, slamming him into the wall, yelling in rage, “YOU PUNY ANTS WILL PAY FOR THIS!!!”

“Do it Damerick!”

“With pleasure,” came a chuckle.

A dagger in hand and a toss through Flare’s flames, the dagger in turn struck with a blue glow, vines of energy wrapping around the Imp King on contact as Flare backed up, the fire stopping.

“NOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Struggling as his new wings shattered, becoming those of old, his form shrinking as slowly, so very slowly, he began to fade away, “I WILL RETURNNNNNNNNNNNN-” vanished completely with those words, the dagger clanging onto the ground.

“Wh-what just happened?”

“The Imp King was sealed away into the dagger, just as Zaraka should’ve been by my sword.”

“Then... it’s over!?”

“We did it!”

“Yeah!!!”

“Heh... you kids did well for your first monster... though the trials you’ll face ahead will be far more difficult than Imp King,” Victoria murmured as Damerick smirked, picking up the dagger, glancing back, “Hey bro!”

“Damerick?” Dilan murmured, wide eyed for once and surprised.

“Yes, your brother was recruited four years ago actually and has sealed a record number of one hundred and twenty-eight supernatural entities since.”

“Wow... I have work to do to catch up with him.”

“Wait...” Sam murmured, looking up to Victoria, “Does this mean that-”

“I told you all that you all had to agree because I wanted to see your teamwork come to fruition... while it didn’t happen, you at the very least all came to Derrick’s rescue so there is room for progression. Yes, from here on out should you accept the task, you are all honorary DreamScapers for ONUS.”

“We’re in!!”

“Awesome bro.”

“Heh heh, incredible! Wait, Monte, Amber, are you two alright with this?”

“Well Derrick... I figure I can’t get fame from this but if it means kicking supernatural butt, I’m in. Amber won’t say but she came along because she found this to be cool.”

“Shut up Monte you loser!”

“Haha.”

“This is just awesome... we’re going to make a difference... heh heh!”

Episode VII: Normal Ever After

Yet another day, writing upon the chalk board with the subtle chalky movements and taps, an instructor commenting as he'd go along, "And so if you take the sum of the dividend and take away the square you'll-"

Another boring math lesson, at least in the opinion of Derrick. Tapping of pencils, most taking notes, though not all. Off in a corner, Dilan face down on his desk, a lite snoring coming from him in that specific moment.

"-and so if you take this you'll find that students shouldn't sleep in my class Mr. Dilan!"

Thwack!

Startled, jumping up, Dilan would look around as the laughter of other students could be heard.

"Huh? Who, wha... oh, sorry Mr. Collinsworth."

"Honestly..."

Going back to drawing on the chalk board, that is, he would until the sound of the bell.

"Now that'll be all for today students. A reminder that we'll be having a short quiz tomorrow on what we've learned the last couple of weeks... and to remind you, I'll only be passing the highest two-thirds of the scores if we get any below an eighty. Sixty-eight is an automatic failure and retake over the weekend. Stay safe and I'll see you all tomorrow."

“Ugh... darn that Mr. Collinsworth, he has no idea how hard I work,” Dilan would mumble with a sigh and then a yawn, walking out of the room with Derrick.

“That’s because ONUS doesn’t want anyone to know the truth... that’d be like inviting wide spread panic.”

“Nah... I think people could handle it.”

“Hey, hey guys!”

Rushing up from the stream of students would come Sam and Amber, Sam waving as she came in close.

“Oh, hey Sam, Amber, what’s up?”

“Victoria just contacted me with this wrist device, where’s Monte?”

“Oh him? Eh... probably at practice... why, what did she want?”

“Supposedly there have been reports of supernatural activity in a town called Emertin, about forty minutes away from here.”

“Is it Zaraka again?”

“No, this doesn’t seem to be related. She says it’s something different related to the swamps there. Supposedly people are going missing and there have been reports of some giant lizard taking people away.”

“Like an alligator? How is that supernatural?”

“Well Dilan, it’s because it isn’t an alligator. The locals call it *The Spotted Dragon Monster of the Swamp*. Crazy name I know but I guess something is out there.”

“And like, get this guys, there’s treasure out in that swamp!”

“Sounds interesting... how do you propose we get out there though?”

“ONUS is taking care of it. They’re letting us go there in, get this... a limo!”

“A limo!?”

“Oh dang man, that’s spiffy!”

“I know right? Come on, let’s go find Monte and get out of here!”

-

“And so I was like, detention? I’ll show you detention!”

“Oh man, what happened then?”

“Well... let’s just say that’s why I moved here.”

“Lordy Monte, you sir are a troubled individual, I wouldn’t even call my mother what you said to him before that.”

“Hey, Jill, he had it coming. Mr. Diken was a bit of a square if you catch my drift.”

“Like in that one song?”

“Yeah, square wheels don’t let circles turn, they hold them because they’re stubborn.”

“Ah.”

“Anyways, catch you guys later.”

“See ya Monte.”

Walking, tapping, moving, several students would soon walk away from Monte as he’d turn towards the sidewalk of the campus & begin to follow it to the road to walk

home. Turning a corner around a building though, parked right alongside the sidewalk, a man in uniform standing there, arms behind his back, shades on and a hat, looking very important and waiting.

Paying no attention to him though after, Monte would begin to walk across the lawn towards the sidewalk going home.

“Pst... hey kid.”

“Huh?”

Turning around, looking around, Monte would see only the man by the limo, though now looking at him.

“Yeah, you, commere...”

“Who are you?”

“Name’s Big Pete... ONUS sent me. Ya got a mission coming up that I am supposed to take you to.”

“Uh... ok... where are the others?”

“They’re already there... come on, we’ve got work to do, quick.”

“Uh... no, I uh... have some stuff to do,” Monte would mutter turning around.

“Hey, this is official ONUS business, come along..”

“I said no.”

“Yes, you will!” he’d shout in a crackling tone, eyes glowing red behind the shades.

Slowly turning around again to face the guy, he'd see he was running now.

Bracing himself, Monte flipped around and stood ready, the man snarling and raising his fist and swinging. Head dodging left and then a quick jab forward into the man's gut sent the man falling back, "Gyah!"

Crashing down, Monte stood over him, looking down angry, "You're not with ONUS, you're one of those nightmare goons, aren't you!?"

"Grrr..." he'd growl, launching up onto his feet, snarling now, "You're coming with me boy, like it or not. Zaraka wants you and your friends, that's what I'm doing!"

His skin beginning to melt off revealing green skin beneath, yellow eyes, claws in place of nails, now wearing a trench coat as his other clothes would burn off.

"Monte!" came the shout of Sam, approaching from behind, catching the attention of the man in the coat who would turn his head, "Hissss... all of them!? Brats!" he'd shout, launching in the air over Monte, landing on the sidewalk behind rushing off quick, the others arriving quick.

"Monte, are you alright!?" Derrick would ask, angrily.

"Yeah... one of Zaraka's guys... tried to trick me into going in that limo saying we had a mission."

"Huh?"

"But... we do have a mission... in a limo, orders from Victoria."

"What now?"

“Urgh... oh... my head,” came the voice of an older man, stepping forward looking just like the previous guy did before his fake skin melted.

“Sir, are you alright?” Derrick asked walking up with Sam.

“Oh... Yeah I... I’m fine, that guy hit me on the back of the head and knocked me out... you’re the ONUS kids right?”

“Yes sir, that’s right.”

“I’m Flavo, here to take you to Emertin for that report.”

“Wait so... we are going on a limo ride!?”

“Yeah... Monte right? Victoria assigned me to be your driver for mission from here on out. A pleasure to meet you sirs and madams. I look forward to working with you from here on out.”

“We get a limo!!”

“Sweet!”

“Yes yes but we need to move while there is still daylight. Victoria wanted me to get you back by seven for school tomorrow... now, there should be three pizzas in the back for you and plenty of soda pop. Shall we be on our way?”

Episode VIII: The Swamp of Emerton

The pur of the limo pulling forward, the crackle of branches and tall grass on the dirt road, slowly moving forward, a dip here and a dip there, continuing forward nonetheless, moving through the thick brush, the towering trees, and the lengthy stretched grass... for about ten minutes, till the eleventh minute, arriving shortly to a clearing, a wood town standing quite old, quite broken, and quite empty.

“That’s the place then?” the question of Dilan.

“Like, gross, what a total dump hole, peeyeehoo,” the groan of Amber.

“Oh it’s not that bad Ember.”

“It’s Amber you little troll!”

“Hey, Dilan, Amber, be nice.”

“Shut up Monte...”

“Guys, cool it,” Derrick muttered looking back, Sam sighing looking out a window, smiling a bit.

“This is fascinating to me; I’ve... never really been to a swamp before.”

The window up front, slowly descending, Flavo looking back, “I must advise you that the people here are... relatively... strange, so to speak.”

“Strange how?”

“Well... if you’ve ever seen movies with guys called hillbillies... or anything similar for that matter. A bit rude, a bit uncivilized, probably not a good place for

normal children but hey, you guys are exceptions, you're all DreamScapers with powers to call your own."

"That we are Flavo, heh heh."

"Anyways, I'll drop you off just up here by the bus stop."

"Alright Flavo, that'll work. Thank you."

Coming to a very slowing halt, the limo would stop, door right in front of the bus stop, door sliding open as to let the team out. First out, Monte, then Sam followed by Derrick, then Amber, and finally, Dilan groggily stepping out with a yawn, all five looking around. Seeing the town, some people looking at them goofy, Derrick quickly poked his head back in, speaking, "Hey uh, what are we supposed to do?"

"Oh uh, right, my apologies. Ms. Victoria did not have any specific orders other than to meet with one of her old friends here named Sindra. He'll direct you in the proper direction as far as gathering information goes. I'll be back tonight to get you."

The window, slowly going up as Flavor then began to drive off, leaving the group of five by themselves.

"Pft... this place stinks, I don't like all these bugs, it's ugly, gosh!!"

"Pft, no different than your face without makeup then."

"Like, no you didn't, shut up Monte!"

"Guys, focus!" came the shout of Derrick.

Everyone quick to turn around looked right at him, his arms crossed and folded up, looking at the four, "The first thing we have to do is find this Sindra guy and figure out

where to go from there. Any questions? Or are we good? We have to deal with this everyone, it's a swamp, it isn't going to be pleasant."

"Alright fine..."

Taking the word of Derrick into consideration, the group would begin to walk towards the nearest people, Sam shouting, "Excuse me sirs, we're looking for a man named Sindra!"

Quite quick, the people backed away and around a corner, avoiding the closing group.

"Oh... ok?"

"Hey, Flavo did say the people here would be weird."

"Hey, why don't we like, split up and stuff ya know? Cover more ground?"

"Pleasant idea... then I can catch up on some sleep, heh heh."

"Ugh, no, we need to get to work, besides, I'd really like to study this area."

"Ha, nerrrrrd."

"Guys, cool it. Amber is right, we need to split up and look around. Monte and Dilan can go as a team, then Amber and Sam. I'll go solo for now."

"Like, why do you get to go solo?"

"Because I don't trust you and Dilan to stay on task."

"Who made you the leader bro, I should be the leader or maybe Dilan maybe, ya?"

"Because I'm the only one who showed up to take on Imp King when the time came, you all came after the fact."

“Like... whatever.”

“Ugh, fine, we’ll let you do it for now bro.”

Stepping away from one another, the now three groups, or rather two and solo, would move along with Sam and Amber going West, Monte and Dilan going South, and Derrick going North.

With a sigh and subtle glances around, Derrick quick to approach an elderly man would speak out at once, “Excuse me sir but I’m looking for a man named Sindra, have you any idea where I can find him?”

“Heyuh!? Whazzat? Your underwear are stuck inside a well?”

“No sir, Sindra, a man named Sindra, have you seen him?”

“Time for tea? Whaa?”

“Ugh, never mind.”

Walking away, the old man looked as he walked to another, mumbling and stepping away, just as the new man walked away.

Five minutes after separating, Derrick would be walking up and down the streets, looking to those who would simply back away, mumbling to himself, sighing, continuing in hopes one person would be able to help.

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Ten minutes after separating, Amber and Sam would be poking their heads around, down alleys, into shops, knocking on doors, and skipping over puddles.

“I don’t know Amber, this place seems more than just a little strange.”

“Like, so true... none of these geezers will even talk to us.”

“Something strange is going on, without a doubt.”

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Thirty minutes after separating, Dilan and Monte would be tired already of searching, grunting as they soon re-approached the central plaza of the town.

“GAH, I am sick of this man. Dilan, let’s just get out of here, this place is dead and these people are annoying!!”

“Hmm, wha? Oh, shush, we’ll be good soon eh?”

“What are we even doing anymore, no one is here.”

“Shhhh... hold steady my friend, I don’t believe that for a mere moment.”

Walking up the street, a large butcher shop ahead and then, shatter. Glass spraying all across the ground, a massive alligator launching out, glowing yellow eyes, slamming down on its feet, turning to face both of them.

“Hey, that ain’t normal is it?”

“No, no it is not... and... yeah I don’t know.”

With a groan type sound, it’d launch right off into the swamp, disappearing in the waters, a man in the shop shouting, “You big lizard, come back with my cheese wheel!!”

The man, rushing out, would look left, seeing the boys, “Did you see it!? That gator ate my cheese!!”

“Yes uh, I’m Dilan and this is Monte... do you by chance know where we can find Sindra?”

“Eh? Ol’man Sindra? Eeeeh... won’t be back till tomorrow if I remember right.”

“Darn... Dilan, we should report back to the others, we’re wasting our time here right now.”

“Yeah let’s go,” he’d mumble walking away, the shop owner shouting back.

“AYEEEE, what about my cheese and my gator!?”