

**BIG THINGS**  
(Episode 5)

**"Liar."**

By Byron Dunbar

*Big Things* Created by David Hill and Byron Dunbar

**OPEN ON:** DARKNESS.

**TITLE:** "I'll turn you into me." - Rollins Band

**FADE TO:**

**INT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT**

A CLAWED HAND holds a PHOTO, depicting ZACK riding on FRANK. The hand places the photo on a TABLE, covered with other photos. In each one, Zack holds his VIDEO CAMERA, and directs Frank.

TRACK OUT, to reveal that the claw belongs to a DEMONIC CREATURE. Across from the creature, an ordinary BAT sits in the CAVE OPENING. It wears a CAMERA around its neck. The creature LOOKS UP at the bat, and speaks to it in an OMINOUS VOICE:

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

Well done.

With its wing, the bat SALUTES.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

Were you seen while taking these?

The bat SHAKES ITS HEAD, to say no.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

Excellent.

The creature looks through more of the photographs.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

This young 'Zack,' may prove to be quite the adversary. Look what he's done with that deserter.

(points to Frank in photo)

I could never get him to behave.

As the creature goes through more photos, it finds ones that depict Zack looking SAD. Gibson and Ida keep him further away from Frank. Soon Zack is all alone. The creature goes silent for a moment.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

Some things never change.

The creature slips its claw into a drawer, and retrieves a ragged book. The words "JOURNAL" are scrawled onto its front cover.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

I want Zack to read this.

The bat nods, and swoops forward to take the journal. The creature holds up its claw, halting the bat.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

No, he'll suspect something.

The creature looks through more photos. In them, Zack holds his VIDEO CAMERA. He films dangerous areas and monster battles.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

I have a plan...

**INT. OCEAN - NIGHT**

SEA MONSTERS arrive, carrying OLD WATERCRAFTS, CHAINS, and PLANKS. They use them to tie the watercrafts to the OCEAN FLOOR. At the front, they weakly bind a SUBMARINE with ONE CHAIN.

The monsters swim away, except for a snake-like monster with spider legs. She is twenty-five feet tall, and her name is SPIDRA. She hides amongst the watercrafts...

**EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY**

A SCHOOL BUS pulls up on a curb across from the base. Zack HOPS OUT. He runs up to the base, but SHELDON stops him.

**SHELDON**

Not so fast!

**ZACK**

Don'cha remember me? It's Zack! Zack Campbell!

**SHELDON**

Yes! Go home, your brother is handl-

**ZACK**

Well, to be honest, that's just while I'm in school.

**TYLER (O.S.)**  
(calling)

**Yo!**

From the direction of the bus stop, TYLER runs up to the entrance.

**TYLER (CONT'D)**

'Sup, Zack?

**ZACK**

This guy, he won't let me in! He won't!

**TYLER**

(takes out a CELLPHONE)  
Call your mom.

**ZACK**

Um, okay...

Tyler tosses the cellphone to Zack. Zack dials, WAITS, then speaks.

**ZACK**

Hey mom? I'm- yeah. Cool, I'll wait.

Zack hands the cellphone back, as Chloe opens the front door.

**CHLOE**

Hey Zack! How's my baby?  
(notices Tyler)  
Awww, how sweet, y'brought a friend!  
(WAVES the boys inside)

**INT. MILITARY TRAINING ROOM - DAY**

Chloe, Zack and Tyler ARRIVE. GIBSON takes notes, as HARVEY pats a GIANT STUFFED MONSTER, and motions to FRANK. Frank stares at the stuffed monster, and pants happily.

**BRAD (O.S.)**

(frustrated)  
C'mon boy, sic 'im!

Frank NODS as though he understands, and LEAPS AT THE STUFFED MONSTER! Then Brad GROANS! Frank lays on the floor, cuddling the big toy as he falls asleep. Chloe CALLS to Harvey.

**CHLOE**  
Look who dropped by!

**BRAD** (O.S.)  
(to Zack, sarcastic)  
Terrific. Maybe you can get Frank to do as he's told.

**ZACK**  
That's what I'm here for!

Zack blows into his WHISTLE. Frank LEAPS UP, and licks Zack.

**GIBSON**  
Most curious. Why the devil won't he respond to us?

**ZACK**  
Welllll... If I could visit easier, he wouldn't have to! I sure could use a pass ca-

Gibson grabs Zack and Tyler's hands. He leads them to the DOOR.

**GIBSON**  
A pass on bringing a friend here?  
You certainly cou-  
(door opens,  
IDA ULRICH enters)  
**General Ulrich!**

**IDA ULRICH**  
That's my name. I'm quite capable of remembering it, thank you.  
(looks to Harvey)  
We have a situation, Lieutenant.

**INT. SONAR ROOM - DAY**

Zack, Tyler, Gibson, Chloe and BRAD stand before Ida, as she points

to a SONAR MACHINE. Above it, sits a LARGE MONITOR. It depicts a MAZE of watercrafts, each chained to the ocean floor.

**IDA ULRICH**

(to Brad)

These appeared overnight. I want you to release them to the surface.

**BRAD**

What if it's a trap?

**IDA ULRICH**

I doubt the monsters are stockpiling old watercrafts. But we'll wait with Frank onshore, should you need him.

**BRAD**

(sarcastic)

Great.

**ZACK**

Don't worry Brad, Frank'll be good! I'll make sure he behaves!

Ida turns to Zack and Tyler, looking uncomfortable.

**IDA ULRICH**

Er, Mrs. Campbell, why don't you take these two upstairs? They can watch from the window.

Zack FROWNS.

**EXT. DOCK - A LITTLE LATER**

On a DOCK outside the military base, Gibson, Chloe, and Ida watch Harvey enter the ocean. Frank is seen on a BEACH, SHAKING the stuffed monster in his jaw.

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey arrives on the ocean floor, and sees the submarine. He BREAKS the chain easily, and it floats to the surface.

**EXT. DOCK - SAME TIME**

Chloe CHEERS! Gibson and Ida look pleased.

**INT. RECREATION ROOM - SAME TIME**

Zack sits in a chair, reviewing footage shot on his VIDEO CAMERA. Meanwhile, Tyler stares out the window.

**TYLER**

Hey Zack, check this out!

Zack ROLLS HIS EYES, and reluctantly walks toward the window. Then his face BRIGHTENS. On the ground, he sees the submarine surfacing. He SQUEALS in glee, then takes out his video camera and begins filming. Just as quickly, he lowers the camera.

**ZACK**

Aw, this is no good...

Zack walks over to the door. Tyler looks surprised.

**TYLER**

Hey, where ya headed?

**ZACK**

To get a better shot.

**TYLER**

Dude, you'll get caught.

**ZACK**

I do this all the time. Like, all the time!

**TYLER**

Cool, I'll be your backup then!

**ZACK**

Um, I think you'd slow me down.

**TYLER**

If I can't come, I'll tell on ya!

**ZACK**

Ugh... okay. But do as I say!

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey tries in vain to break the other chains. Behind him, Spidra

EMERGES from a row of watercrafts. Sensing something is wrong, Harvey LOOKS UP. Too late, Spidra ATTACKS!

**INT. HARVEY - SAME TIME**

Brad sees Spidra in the monitor, and reaches for his COMMUNICATOR. Spidra BITES Harvey's head, and WATER ENTERS THE COCKPIT!

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey PUNCHES Spidra off, but she immediately attacks him again.

**INT. HARVEY - SAME TIME**

The cockpit continues FILLING WITH WATER. Brad PANICS.

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey tries to swim to the surface, but Spidra WRAPS AROUND him, and PULLS him down amongst the watercrafts. Harvey notices a loose chain, and uses it to WHIP Spidra. She loosens her grip, and he bolts down a corridor of watercrafts. Spidra is disoriented, but FOLLOWS.

**EXT. DOCK - SAME TIME**

A BOAT finishes pulling the submarine to the dock. Ida rushes forward to examine it. Gibson and Chloe exchange a worried expression, then approach Ida.

**GIBSON**

General... Bradley's been down there for a rather lengthy period.

Ida's communicator BEEPS, and she lifts it.

**IDA ULRICH**

That's probably him now.

**VOICE ON COMMUNICATOR (O.S.)**  
...sonar, got a situation! Over!

**IDA ULRICH**

What's wrong? Over.

**VOICE ON COMMUNICATOR (O.S.)**  
Something attacked the H.R.V. unit!

**EXT. MILITARY BASE - SAME TIME**

IN THE DISTANCE, Ida, Gibson, and Chloe are seen on the BEACH. They run toward Frank. IN THE FOREGROUND, Zack hides in the BUSHES, with Tyler. Through his video camera, Zack watches the adults.

**ZACK**

Psst... Tyler. They're leaving.

Zack and Tyler run toward the submarine. They sneak in through its front door, and try to shut it. However, it remains slightly ajar.

**EXT. BEACH - A LITTLE LATER**

Ida and Gibson YELL at Frank, who stares at them, confused. Chloe sticks a hand into her lab coat, and takes out a SANDWICH.

**GIBSON**

Chloe, now is not the time!

**CHLOE**

I, I missed lunch...

Suddenly, Frank looks EXCITED. Ida notices, and BEAMS.

**IDA ULRICH**

He's-!

Frank GULPS Chloe's sandwich up in one bite. Then he YAWNS, and curls up next to the stuffed monster. Ida SIGHS, defeated.

**IDA ULRICH**

Well, I'm open to suggestions.

**GIBSON**

This brute is too thick to depend on! We need the navy down there.

**IDA ULRICH**

We're still not sure if they're fully functional again. I hate to say this, but we need Zack to-

**CHLOE**

Wait, so it's okay to send Frank and Zack into danger, but not the navy?



**IDA ULRICH**

Remember, it's **your** son down there.

Chloe resists the urge to snap back, and turns to leave.

**CHLOE**

Okay.

After Chloe is gone, Ida GRIMACES with guilt. She knows that was a low blow.

**INT. SUBMARINE - SAME TIME**

Tyler and Zack scramble through a dark CORRIDOOR.

**TYLER**

Hurry up, I can't see anything!

**ZACK**

...nearly got th' flashlight on.

Zack turns on a TINY FLASHLIGHT, located on the side of his camera.

**ZACK (CONT'D)**

There! Happy now? Well? Ya happy?

**TYLER**

What's the big deal, dude? Your camera has night vision, but I-

**ZACK**

Hey, nobody forced you to come along-

Tyler GASPS, and points over Zack's shoulder. Zack TURNS. The flashlight has revealed a half-open DOOR. The boys ENTER, and find themselves in a KITCHEN. Laid out on a table, is the demonic creature's JOURNAL.

**ZACK**

Whoa...

Zack opens the journal, while Tyler looks around impatiently.

**TYLER**

Say, uh, maybe we should bounce. Y'know, before we're missed.

(silence)

Zack...?

Tyler looks at Zack, who has opened the journal. The first page reads: 'THE JOURNAL OF MAROWIT TSCHAUDER.' Zack turns to another page.

**FADE TO:**

**INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

A twelve-year-old BOY sits alone in his room, playing with homemade MONSTER TOYS. The DEMONIC CREATURE narrates:

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

Even as a boy, monsters were the only ones I could trust.

**TRANSITION TO:**

The bedroom is the same, but aged twenty years. The child is now a MAN of thirty-two, yet he's still playing with the same toy monsters. This is MAROWIT.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

There was a time however, when I didn't believe that.

A door opens, and a WOMAN ENTERS. Her name is BRIANNA. Marowit doesn't acknowledge her. Brianna SIGHS. Marowit puts the toys down.

**MAROWIT**

What?

**BRIANNA**

Nothing. Just tired.

(forces a smile)

Y'done here? I wanna see mom before we head off on that expedition.

Marowit NODS. He and Brianna LEAVE.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit and Brianna sit near a sick OLD WOMAN. She lies in a bed, and is connected to a LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.

**OLD WOMAN**

...nice dear. But what exactly will you two be doing?

**BRIANNA**

Um, General Page wanted us to find something that'll help win the war. What exactly, I don't know.

Marowit GRUNTS. The old woman looks at him.

**OLD WOMAN**

What was that, sweetheart?

**MAROWIT**

Well, I guess that's part've what we're doing.

Brianna ROLLS HER EYES, then looks away.

**OLD WOMAN**

(face brightens)

Ooh, exciting! What'll you be up to?

**MAROWIT**

Looking for monsters.

**OLD WOMAN**

(disappointed)

Oh.

Brianna FORCES A SMILE, and LAUGHS uncomfortably.

**BRIANNA**

Anyway, yeah! The um, the whole navy'll be coming along! We'll...

(CAMERA TRACKS OUT,  
voice FADES OUT)

**EXT. CITY STREET - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

Brianna and Marowit are walking away from the hospital.

**BRIANNA**

Mom's looking better, huh?

**MAROWIT**

Mm.

**BRIANNA** (CONT'D)

Joining the military was a good call. Now we can afford decent healthcare for her. The navy especially, it pays me-

**MAROWIT**

Brianna...?

**BRIANNA**

Uh, what's up?

**MAROWIT**

I don't think mom... I don't think she takes me seriously.

**BRIANNA**

Well, she's very sick, she probably-

**MAROWIT**

I feel it's more than that. Do you think maybe she wants me to-?

**BRIANNA**

I dunno if it's anything in particular. People rarely do things for just one reason.

They walk silently for a few beats.

**MAROWIT**

Everybody seems to want me to be someone else.

**BRIANNA**

(suppresses a groan)

Is this about your division again?

**MAROWIT**

I know I'm practically the only one in it, but-

**BRIANNA**

Well, maybe it's that since you were a kid, you've been obsessing over

monst-

**MAROWIT**

Obsessing?

**BRIANNA** (CONT'D)

Er, maybe not obsessing. But, like... I mean...

(exhales)

Look, I know that's your passion. But mom, she needs us now. And we'd earn a lot more if you were in the something other than the cryptid division, something like-

**MAROWIT**

(passive-aggressive)

Something like the navy?

**BRIANNA**

(sighs)

No, not, not that. It's just... There just haven't been any monster sightings in years... if ever.

**MAROWIT**

What do you mean, 'If ever?'

Brianna says nothing. They walk silently some more. Then-

**MAROWIT**

Brianna... you do support me, right?

**BRIANNA**

(uncomfortable silence)

I... sure.

(looks away)

Of course, Marowit. Of course, I do.

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY (PRESENT)**

CLOSE-UP of Zack reading the journal.

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O.)

And I believed her.

Zack pauses for a moment. Then he NODS in approval.

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey HIDES behind submarines, as Spidra searches for him.

**INT. HARVEY - SAME TIME**

Brad repairs the cockpit. He uses a SCREWDRIVER to cover the bite marks with METAL. Water still enters, but at a slower pace.

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey sees that Spidra's passed him. He swims through the maze of watercrafts, until he finds an opening. He starts swimming to the surface, when he sees Spidra EMERGING from the watercrafts.

**INT. HARVEY - SAME TIME**

Brad stares down at his lap, looking stressed.

**BRAD**

(mumbling to himself)

Laser's electric; can't fire it in  
the ocean... too dirty...  
conductive...

(looks up at SPIDRA in monitor,  
speaking clearly)

But if I get ya on land, there's no  
telling th' kinda damage you'd do...

(becomes resolute)

I dunno how much longer I have. But  
I'm not leading you to my family.

**INT. OCEAN - SAME TIME**

Harvey GRABS Spidra as she catches up. They WRESTLE UNDERWATER.

**INT. SUBMARINE - SAME TIME (PRESENT)**

Tyler looks over Zack's shoulder as he reads.

**TYLER**

Zack, you're taking forever!

**ZACK**

Be patient! Geez...

Tyler angrily crosses his arms. TRACK IN on the journal.

**EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

CHILD MAROWIT plays with his monster toys in a sandbox. A TEENAGE VERSION OF BRIANNA is there too, helping him build a SANDCASTLE.

**YOUNG BRIANNA**

There. Just like that, y'see?

**YOUNG MAROWIT**

Cool! Now my monsters can **smash**  
'em!

Brianna LAUGHS as Marowit SMASHES the sandcastle with his toys.

**YOUNG MAROWIT**

Do ya think monsters're real too?

CLOSE-UP: Brianna's laughter fades. Then she puts on a smile.

**YOUNG BRIANNA**

Sure...

**CUT TO:**

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

CLOSE-UP: The adult Marowit.

**MAROWIT**

'...of course, I do.'

TRACK OUT to reveal that Marowit is sitting in a newer, well-kept version of the SUBMARINE KITCHEN. He sits at the TABLE, writing in a LOGBOOK. TWO SEAMEN stand in the doorway.

**SEAMAN 1**

'Course ya what?

**MAROWIT**

(turns, startled)

Oh! I was just...

**SEAMAN 2**

Talking to a few 'a yer monsters?

**MAROWIT**

I... I was writing... For the log.

The seamen chuckle, and walk over to Marowit. They FLIP through his logbook. It's nearly empty.

**SEAMAN 1**

Looks like a whole lotta nothing.

**SEAMAN 2**

That's perfect! It's all he finds.

**MAROWIT**

Please, I have to-

BRIANNA APPEARS in the doorway, dressed as a NAVY OFFICER.

**BRIANNA**

You all have to get upstairs. Now.

**INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit, Brianna, and the NAVY stare at a MONITOR. It shows a twenty-five foot GELATINOUS MASS. It's frozen in ice, and FLOATS underwater.

**NAVY PERSONNEL 1**

What in th' heck is that?

**MAROWIT**

I know exactly what that is!

**INT. SUBMARINE - LATER - (FLASHBACK)**

The crew hauls the gelatinous mass into a HUGE but EMPTY room, resembling a GYM. They begin THAWING the mass with SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. Once the mass is free, it retreats from the humans. It LITERALLY FLATTENS itself against a wall, QUIVERING with fear.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

The creature was sentient, and could change into any shape he pleased. Despite the crew's trepidation, he also proved quite docile.

The navy officers AVOID the mass, while Marowit DIRECTS it. For the first time since childhood, he seems HAPPY.



**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

I learned to communicate with the creature, and named him 'Merc,' short for 'Mercurial,' given his shape-changing abilities.

At Marowit's command, the mass, now known as MERC, CHANGES into many DIFFERENT FORMS. These include a GIANT HAMMER, a GIANT GLOBE, and even a GIANT DOG whose head BLOOMS INTO A FLOWER (like in John Carpenter's 1982 remake of *The Thing!*). Throughout these transitions, Merc retracts its gelatinous substance.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

Despite my achievements, the navy avoided Merc and I. Then abruptly, they began keeping us apart.

**INT. SUBMARINE - WEEKS LATER - (FLASHBACK)**

A navy officer WAVES MAROWIT AWAY from the LARGE ROOM containing Merc, and SLAMS the door in his face.

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY - (PRESENT DAY INSERT)**

Zack GASPS. Tyler sits nearby, kicking his legs impatiently. When he hears Zack, he looks up with confusion.

**INT. SUBMARINE - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit walks through a hallway, wearing a nightgown.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

One night, peculiar noises disturbed my slumber...

Marowit notices that at the end of the hall, a door is SLIGHTLY OPEN. He sees LIGHT and hears BANGING coming from within it. As Marowit gets closer, he hears voices:

**BRIANNA (O.S.)**

No, it's obscene, I won't do it!

**CAPTAIN (O.S.)**

Then ya won't have a job, Tschauder!

**BRIANNA (O.S.)**

I had no idea the military was aware  
this thing existed, but-

**CAPTAIN**

Neither did we. Not until I received  
our new orders. But it all makes  
sense now. Why we were sent here;  
why your brother was dragged along.

Marowit THROWS OPEN THE DOOR, then GASPS! Merc is in the shape of  
a CANNON, and is shooting spherical pieces of itself at TARGETS!

**CUT TO:**

**INT. SUBMARINE - A LITTLE LATER - (FLASHBACK)**

The navy tries to console Marowit. He looks doubtful, but goes  
along with it. Merc is visible in the background.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

Perhaps it was shock. Perhaps it was  
naiveté. But when they told me that  
they didn't intend to use Merc as a  
weapon, I believed them. Brianna  
said nothing.

Brianna is silent, and avoids eye contact with Marowit.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

She was the worst of all.

**EXT. UNKNOWN CITY - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

Merc ATTACKS an UNKNOWN CITY. PULL OUT TO REVEAL...

**INT. WAR ROOM - DAY - CONT'D - (FLASHBACK)**

MERC's RAMPAGE is playing upon a LARGE SCREEN. Marowit points to  
it, and SCREAMS AT VARIOUS MILITARY FIGURES.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

Months after we returned home, Merc  
wreaked destruction upon the  
state's enemies. I was outraged...

SECURITY DRAGS MAROWIT out of the room. He's still screaming.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

... then fired for insubordination.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK)**

Brianna sits on a couch, near Marowit. She's visibly upset.

**BRIANNA**

We can't afford to take care of mom now. Not unless we both quit eating.

**MAROWIT**

I could work as in robotics again. Before we joined the military, I-

**BRIANNA**

Marowit, even then all you wanted to make were those monster toys.

**MAROWIT**

That's not true, I made special armor, wea-

**BRIANNA**

Not often enough. And don't think I've forgotten that right up until I told you about the cryptid division, you refused to join.

**MAROWIT**

I just thought it would be such a benefit to science, if I-

**BRIANNA**

What about the toys?

**MAROWIT**

Well, I... I wanted to make other children feel the way I did, when-

**BRIANNA**

No. You wanted to be a child.

**MAROWIT**

(grows angry)

**Just what the-?**

**BRIANNA**

Get out of my house.

**MAROWIT**

Excuse me...?

**BRIANNA**

**Get. Out.**

**MAROWIT**

Why?

**BRIANNA**

I can't afford to support you.

**MAROWIT**

I just said I could-

**BRIANNA (CONT'D)**

(voice cracks)

But you **won't**, Marowit. You **won't**.  
You do everything your way. Mom  
needs more than that. And...

(beat)

And so do you.

(eyes moisten)

Look. I've realized that I'm not  
doing you any favors by pretending  
this monster thing is normal.  
Because it's **not**, Marowit. It's **not**.

**MAROWIT**

(long pause)

You've been lying to me?

**BRIANNA**

(looks away, guilty)

Yes...

(looks back, crying)

I love you Marowit. And I can't lie  
to someone I love anymore.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

Her last words that day were, 'You  
can have a week to pack.'

**EXT. DOCK - DAY (PRESENT)**

Chloe meets Gibson and Ida outside of the submarine.

**CHLOE**

(to Ida)

I can't find Zack! Did you-?

Gibson TAPS Chloe's shoulder, and points to the submarine door. It's slightly open. The camera TRACKS IN THROUGH THE DOOR.

**INT. SUBMARINE - SAME TIME - CONT'D**

The CAMERA CONTINUES TRACKING THROUGH the submarine, until it SETTLES ON Zack READING, as Tyler paces back-and-forth.

**TYLER**

(gestures to journal)

Just why the heck can't ya get your nose outta that thing?

**ZACK**

(looks up)

It's like... the guy who wrote it! He's just like me! He is! His story I mean, it's like, he had his own monster, an'-

**TYLER**

(suspicious)

W-a-a-a-it a sec... the dude who wrote that journal had a monster pal?

**ZACK**

(looks up)

Yeah! He found 'im using this submarine, an-

**TYLER**

(waves hands)

Whoa, whoa, whoa: y'mean he found a monster using this submarine? Which just surfaced, here. In New Havenfield. Where we're being attacked by monsters.

Tyler waits for Zack to respond. Zack is silent, and they stare at each other uncomfortably. Then Zack buries his face back in the

journal.

**ZACK**

Uh... just let me finish reading this. We'll talk about it after!

Tyler SHRUGS, and returns to pacing.

**TRANSITION TO:**

**EXT. CABIN IN THE WOODS - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit carries a BUNDLE OF ROCKS. He places them before an OLD MAN, sitting on the CABIN PORCH. He GETS UP, and speaks to Marowit.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

I found employment with a sorcerer. Though considered a charlatan, his abilities proved genuine.

The OLD MAN gestures over the rock. It contorts into many shapes.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

In exchange for menial labor, he offered to teach me the trade. I agreed, in the hope that I could use these skills to free Merc.

**INT. CABIN - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

The old man is YELLING at Marowit as he gathers his belongings.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

When I shared my plan with him, he threw me out! It was most curious, considering society had rejected him as well. I don't understand why he didn't want to watch the world burn, as fervently as I did.

**EXT. SUBMARINE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit walks up to a BRAND-NEW VERSION of the SUBMARINE Harvey released. He WAVES his hand over the LOCKS on it. They CONTORT, then MELT. The submarine is FREE, and Marowit ENTERS it.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

I hadn't the magical skills to take revenge, nor to liberate my friend. But I was able to secure conveyance.

**EXT. DESERT ISLAND - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Marowit piles ROCKS together, then connects a MECHANICAL SYSTEM to them. Using magic, he contorts the rocks into a CRUDE HUMAN SHAPE, and uses a REMOTE CONTROL to make it WALK awkwardly.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

I combined my knowledge of robotics with the limited sorcery that the old man taught me.

The CREATION takes a few steps, then FALLS OVER AND MELTS. Marowit looks around the island. Save for his submarine, it's empty.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

Alone, it would take decades to master sorcery... decades until I could rescue Merc. I grew lonely.

**EXT. OCEAN - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

The SUBMARINE floats above water. Marowit sits in an OPEN HATCH on its top.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

I wondered if there were other creatures like Merc. Perhaps they could provide companionship? Desperate, I went searching. Then one day...

**EXT. SKY - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

A dragon is happily flying through the sky. As it APPROACHES THE CAMERA, it's REVEALED THAT MAROWIT IS RIDING ON ITS BACK!

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

...I found exactly what I wanted.

**TRANSITION TO:**

**EXT. SKY - NIGHT - CONT'D - (FLASHBACK)**

Day turns to night. The sky BLAZES RED with LASER BLASTS. The expressions of Marowit and the dragon change to ones of FEAR. They're being pursued by FIGHTER JETS, firing lasers! Their blasts bounce off the dragon's scales, but he grows weaker with each hit.

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O., CONT'D)  
Yet like all good things...

The dragon and Marowit FLY OFF-SCREEN. The jets continue SHOOTING.

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O., CONT'D)  
...it didn't last.

The jets CEASE FIRE. Marowit's cry of ANGUISH is heard OFF-SCREEN.

**CUT TO BLACK.**

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O., CONT'D)  
They pursued us. At first to retrieve their stolen submarine, then to take another friend from me. This time, in a far more permanent fashion.

**INT. CAVE - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)**

DARKNESS. Then a MATCH LIGHTS THE SCREEN. TRACK OUT, to REVEAL a RAGGED MAROWIT holding the match. He uses it to light a TORCH he's made using cloth, sticks, and gasoline. Before him, are the TOOLS of a robotics engineer... and the SCALES of a dragon!

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O.)  
Yet he didn't expire without leaving me with one final gift.

Marowit begins FORGING the scales into a SUIT. When he lifts up a newly crafted HELMET, it has the face of THE DEMONIC CREATURE. Marowit pulls the helmet over his head.

**EXT. UNKNOWN CITY - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

HUNCH, ZIRA, and CINDER appear on the UNKNOWN CITY's outskirts. The DEMONIC CREATURE flies out in front of them.

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O.)  
I recruited other lonely creatures, each as eager to belong as I was. It



was time for revenge. But first...

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

Through an APARTMENT WINDOW, the demonic creature STARES INTO A FAMILY LIVING ROOM.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

...I owed someone a visit.

In the living room, there is a door leading to a kitchen, where a MIDDLE-AGED MAN pours himself some coffee. On a couch near that door, a MIDDLE-AGED BRIANNA sits with a LITTLE GIRL. They both hold a STORYBOOK entitled, "THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES."

**BRIANNA**

(reading aloud)

The little boy began giggling. 'The Emperor is naked!' he exclaimed. In moments, the entire kingdom joined in his merriment.

**LITTLE GIRL**

But that's... that's so mean! They should'a just been nice.

**BRIANNA**

Sweetie, sometimes being nice is the cruelest thing you can do.

**LITTLE GIRL**

What? Why?

**BRIANNA**

You don't always tell people what they wanna hear. Sometimes, you tell 'em what they need to hear.

The little girl still looks CONFUSED.

**BRIANNA (CONT'D)**

(explaining)

Y'see, after that, he learned to a better king...

**MIDDLE-AGED MAN**

(entering living room)

It's funny how people always develop in those stories. But in real life, they rarely do.

**BRIANNA**

(looks away,  
smiles sardonically)

Honey, you have no-

(notices creature in window)

Brianna is initially afraid, until the creature REMOVES its helmet, revealing the face of a MIDDLE-AGED MAROWIT. Marowit MOTIONS for her to come outside, then FLIES OUT OF VIEW.

**BRIANNA (CONT'D)**

(to middle-aged man)

Uh, sweetheart? Could you take Jamie to bed?

**MIDDLE-AGED MAN**

Mm?

(looks at clock)

Oh, sure. It is pretty late.

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING PORCH - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

**BRIANNA**

(walking onto porch)

Marowit?

**DEMONIC CREATURE (O.S.)**

Up here.

Brianna LOOKS UP. The creature is hovering above her, with its helmet back on.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

I'm aware that mother is no longer with us. The money you spent on those incompetent physicians certainly went to good use, mm?

**BRIANNA**

Hey, I-

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

(speaking over Brianna)

Therefore, this warning is for you  
and your family alone. **Get. Out.**

**BRIANNA**

But-!

The creature is already FLYING AWAY.

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY (PRESENT)**

Zack is about to gasp, when Tyler COVERS HIS MOUTH. Then Tyler points to the KITCHEN DOOR. ILLUMINATION from an UNSEEN FLASHLIGHT is visible in the HALLWAY.

**EXT. BEACH - DAY**

Frank has lost interest in the stuffed monster. He stares at the ocean, when Harvey BURSTS ABOVE WATER. Spidra is WRAPPED AROUND HIM. Frank ROARS in shock, and Harvey turns.

**BRAD (O.S.)**

(to Frank)

**Stay where you are! I'm going to try  
to get it back underwater!**

Frank doesn't listen. He RUSHES to Harvey's aid.

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY (PRESENT)**

Zack hides in a kitchen CUPBOARD, but Tyler stays out in the open.

**ZACK**

(whispering)

C'mon Tyler, get in. You saw the light, you're the one who noticed.

**TYLER**

Then I remembered; it's probably your folks. We'll get punished either way, might as well-

**ZACK**

But they might want the journal!

**TYLER**

So? From what you said, that journal could be related to the monster

attacks. They should have it, so-

**ZACK**

**No!** Don't even tell 'em about it! It's mine; I found it, an'... an' the adults would take it, an' I might not get it back... and... and just hide, will ya?

**TYLER**

No!

**ZACK**

If you don't hide, I'll say all this was your idea! Honest! I will!

**TYLER**

Oh, yeah? Then I'll tell 'em about your precious jour-!

**GIBSON (O.S.)**

Ahem!

Gibson, Chloe, and Ida, are JUST ENTERING the kitchen. They hold FLASHLIGHTS.

**EXT. OCEAN - DAY**

Frank BITES INTO SPIDRA, and RIPS HER off Harvey. Then he THROWS her toward THE DOCK. She's about to CRASH INTO THE SUBMARINE!

**INT. SUBMARINE - DAY (PRESENT)**

Gibson is lecturing Zack and Tyler, while Ida and Chloe watch.

**GIBSON**

Just which of you up with this **brilliant** scheme?

**ZACK**

Um, uh, it was Tyler's idea, he-

**TYLER**

**Me?**

Suddenly, SPIDRA SMASHES THROUGH THE SUBMARINE, breaking it in half. She JUST BARELY avoids crushing the humans within it. In

moments, the humans all stare down at her from their half of the submarine.

SPIDRA HISSES, and opens her mouth to devour the humans, when-

A LASER BLAST HITS SPIDRA! She's knocked out. Harvey flails ON-SCREEN, with Frank close behind. Harvey's head OPENS UP, and water POURS out, revealing Brad sitting in the cockpit.

**BRAD**

(gasping for air)

Didn't... didn't hit the water...

Thank... tha... th...

(voice dissolves into gasps)

Frank tries to approach the humans. Brad angrily HITS A LEVER, and Harvey LIFTS A HAND, to prevent Frank from advancing.

**BRAD**

(gasping)

**N-No!** Y'nearly got... got 'em  
crushed!

Frank looks GUILTY.

**INT. MILITARY BASE - DAY**

Harvey carries an unconscious Spidra to the MILITARY PRISON, while Zack sits on Frank's back. Gibson and Tyler walk ON-SCREEN.

**GIBSON**

(to Tyler)

I've called your parents; they're on their way.

(looks at Zack)

As for you Zackery, we'll need to bring this up to General Ulrich. Knock on my office door in about an hour.

**ZACK**

(sticks hand in backpack)

I guess you'll be wanting the-

**GIBSON**

(confused)

The what?

Tyler WINKS at Zack.

**ZACK**

(retracts hand from backpack)  
Um, you'll be wanting the... the  
whole story! Yup, every detail!

**GIBSON**

(leading Tyler away)  
Indeed.

As Tyler is led away, he looks at Zack and mouths, "You owe me."  
When they're GONE, Zack takes the journal out of his backpack.

**ZACK**

(to Frank)  
He didn't tell 'em!

Zack makes sure nobody is watching, then continues reading.

**EXT. UNNAMED CITY - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Hunch, Zira, and Cinder DESTROY THE CITY. At a MILITARY BASE, the  
demonic creature SLASHES open a GIANT CONTAINER, holding Merc.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**

They had won their war, but the  
conflict left them weakened. It was  
the perfect time to strike.

Merc DRIPS out of the container, and joins the other monsters in  
ATTACKING the city. The creature hovers above, watching.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**

I soared through the air, witnessing  
my brethren decimate buildings as  
though they were anthills.

The monsters continue ATTACKING, until the entire city is reduced  
to RUBBLE. The scene is horrific. Then amongst the wreckage, the  
LITTLE GIRL is seen wandering; she's crying.

Eventually, Brianna and the MIDDLE-AGED MAN appear. He lifts the  
little girl onto his shoulders, while Brianna observes the demonic  
creature flying overhead. She looks sad at first. Then INFURIATED.

**BRIANNA**

**Marowit!**

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

(surprised)

Brianna?

(swoops lower, worried)

**I told you to leave!**

Brianna says nothing.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (CONT'D)**

Well, I'm... I'm glad you're unharmed. We, uh, we tried to avoid injuring civilians. This was a strike against the state, and... and the state alone.

**BRIANNA**

(looking at destruction)

That's quite the line there, Marowit.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

Brianna, it had to be done. I got justice. Not just for the monsters, but for mother, for-

**BRIANNA**

All you did was wreck more lives.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

But the state, they let mother-

**BRIANNA**

That isn't their fault. It's yours.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

You've... grown crueler.

**BRIANNA**

No. I've grown honest.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

(grunts)

Or indoctrinated.

**BRIANNA**

Why, because I'm not impressed? This whole thing was just a spoiled child's tantrum. It's **embarrassing**.

The creature considers this for a moment.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

I never sought to impress you. I don't need approval. Least of all, that of one who would hurt me.

**BRIANNA**

Hurt **you**? Look what you've done to this entire city! You think you're doing this great, amazing thing, when all you are is a kid in a Halloween costume. But I'm **not**, Marowit. I won't play pretend, so you don't have to face reality.

(points to little girl)

I'm a mother now! And when you have a child, you can't **STILL BE A CHILD!**

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

(flies closer)

You smug little... **you think I-**?

The little girl becomes afraid, and starts CRYING HARDER. She hugs the middle-aged man. The creature seems guilty. It GENTLY LANDS and begins removing its helmet.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

Don't cry, I'm not really a...

Suddenly, a FIST-SIZED PIECE OF DEBRIS HITS the creature. It turns, to see that Brianna threw it.

**BRIANNA**

Go. Never come back.

The demonic creature stops trying to remove its helmet. It turns away, and FLIES up into the air, with its back turned.

**DEMONIC CREATURE**

(to itself)

I don't need you.



(turns back slightly)  
I **don't** need you!  
(faces Brianna)  
**I DON'T NEED YOU!**

ENRAGED, the creature RIPS OFF the top of a half-destroyed SKYSCRAPER, and THROWS IT AT BRIANNA! Instinctively, she LIFTS HER ARMS, AS IT CRASHES DOWN! The dust SETTLES. Brianna lowers her arms. The skyscraper missed her. She looks up. The creature's gone.

**EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE - VARIOUS TIMES (FLASHBACK)**

The creature FLIES through the air, while Cinder, Hunch, Zira, and Merc follow behind it. They carry WATERCRAFTS, TANKS and other MILITARY RESOURCES. The sky changes from NIGHT, to DAY, to DUSK, back to NIGHT again in a CONTINUOUS CYCLE.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O.)**  
I had my friends gather the state's resources, so they could never strike back.

As they walk, VARIOUS MONSTERS FADE ON-SCREEN, until a MONSTER ARMY follows the demonic creature.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**  
Then I resolved to gather the world's other outcasts...

**EXT. FORBIDDEN COVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

The creature sits on top of its MOUNTAIN, writing in the JOURNAL.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**  
Eventually, we found the Cove; a place where we could live in peace. Yet illusions of brotherhood with mankind still weigh upon my heart.

The creature STOPS WRITING, and WAVES ITS HAND. Part of the mountain begins to CONTORT. Then the creature continues writing.

**DEMONIC CREATURE (V.O., CONT'D)**  
I'll remain here, guarding my companions and learning magic. More importantly, I'll cleanse my heart of humanity, until only virtue

remains.

The creature PAUSES, then writes one final sentence:

**DEMONIC CREATURE** (V.O., CONT'D)

When I scrawl upon these pages once more, I swear I'll be as inhuman as the mountain on which I write.

**INT. MILITARY BASE - DAY**

Zack closes the book, and looks uncomfortable.

**ZACK**

This guy's behind everything...

Zack slides off Frank's back, and is about to run indoors. Then he STOPS. He looks back at the journal, and OPENS IT UP again. The pages following Marowit's final entry are BLANK. Then Zack looks up at Frank.

**ZACK**

(to Frank)

He's behind everything... but...  
but he's just like me...

(looks down hallway)

An' Ida, the army... even mom 'n  
dad... they're just like... they're  
just the like the 'state.'

Zack goes SILENT. Then he SCOWLS and SLIPS the journal into his backpack.

**INT. OFFICE - DAY**

Ida, Gibson, Brad and Chloe talk to each other, as Zack ENTERS.

**IDA ULRICH**

...so, it's a mystery, then? A  
complete-

**ZACK**

Hey, it's been over an hour now.

**GIBSON**

You're unusually punctual.

**BRAD**

(chuckles)

Think dad'll go easier on ya that way?

**ZACK**

Maybe... I dunno.

**GIBSON**

You needn't concern yourself. I'm far too weary to play the disciplinarian.

Ida, Brad and Gibson EXIT through a door, as Zack FOLLOWS. Chloe looks concerned however. As Zack heads for the door, Chloe walks next to him.

**CHLOE**

Anything ya wanna tell mommy?

**ZACK**

(staring straight ahead)

Not a thing.

(arrives at door,  
stops walking)

Actually...

(looks at Chloe)

Mom, I love you. And I love dad, an' Brad, an' my friends. So, whenever trouble hits, I'll protect you.

**CHLOE**

Aw, well thanks sweetie! We love you t-

**ZACK**

(abruptly exits through door,  
cutting Chloe off)

But I won't do any more than that.

The door CLICKS SHUT behind Zack. Chloe stares at the door, looking concerned.

**FADE TO BLACK.**

**TITLE:** "We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." - Kurt Vonnegut