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MONSTROUS BEINGS: EPISODE 1 "DREAM AND AWAKE"

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Inside a child's bedroom. Following a P.O.V. first-person perspective, we rise up from the bed, glide over to a draped bedroom window.

From this perspective a child's arm reaches out (we're in this child's P.O.V.) and a small hand opens one of the drapes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

First person perspective continues: now gliding through a forest dotted with tall ominous trees. It is a dark, misty night. Moonlight in lean shafts dimly light the way; fog permeates like dry ice from an unseen surface.

After about ten beats of this, we approach what looks like the end of the tree-laden forest.

EXT. OPEN FIELD BORDERING FOREST - NIGHT

We stop at a border where the forest ends, and there lies an open field of dead grass. In the center of this field is the form of a woman standing beneath wan moonlight, her back turned.

The perspective continues as we slowly glide towards her. She wears a flowing white dress with a black veil covering her head.

Then, stopping behind her, a hand reaches out, like it did toward the drapes in the bedroom; but this is the hand of someone older; a man not a child. The hand lightly grabs her shoulder; turns her around, slowly.

When the woman is turned all the way, and the man's hand moves back, the woman quickly pulls up her black veil: revealing the face of a monstrous bug-eyed goblin.

The goblin's head begins shaking wildly. She makes a horrific shrieking-gurgling sound as dark green ooze pours from her mouth.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/JOSHUA'S ROOM - DAY

Joshua Waits, now a man of twenty-five, wakes up screaming on a bed in a windowless white walled hospital room.

JOSHUA  
(drawing words out)  
No! No! No! No!

CUT TO:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/PHARMACY ROOM - DAY

Young, handsome Dr. Elliott Cooper, who is in his late thirties but looks in his twenties, is writing something down on a clipboard. But most of his attention is to his right, where a beautiful nurse named - coincidentally - Holly, is filling a cylinder with pills. Dr. Cooper, having noticed her, sets down the clipboard and walks over.

DR. COOPER  
So... how long have you worked  
here, young lady?

Nurse Holly turns, looks at the handsome young doctor, smiles.

NURSE HOLLY  
This is my third day.

DR. COOPER  
You're such a pretty girl. How  
haven't I seen you till now?

NURSE HOLLY  
I worked in the cafeteria.

DR. COOPER  
What? You worked as a cook before  
becoming a nurse?

NURSE HOLLY  
I wasn't a cook. I was a  
dishwasher.

Dr. Cooper thinks about it.

DR. COOPER  
Well, after all, we were  
understaffed...  
(MORE)

DR. COOPER (cont'd)  
Anyway, my name is Dr. Cooper, but  
you can call me Elliott.

NURSE HOLLY  
Hello, Elliott. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

NURSE HOLLY (CONT'D)  
My name is Holly.

Dr. Elliott Cooper, letting go of her hand, suddenly gets a  
morose expression.

DR. COOPER  
Holly? Oh my.

NURSE HOLLY  
What's the matter?

DR. COOPER  
Nothing. It's just that... Holly  
was the name of my beautiful young  
wife. Sadly, she passed away about  
ten years ago.

NURSE HOLLY  
Oh. I'm sorry, Dr. Cooper. I  
mean... Elliott. How did that  
happen?

DR. COOPER  
She slipped in the bathroom, hit  
her head on the floor. Died  
instantly.

NURSE HOLLY  
Taking a shower?

DR. COOPER  
No... Dancing in front of the  
mirror.

Nurse Holly looks confused, but this passes.

NURSE HOLLY  
Don't dwell on it, Elliott. Time  
heals all wounds.

DR. COOPER  
Yes, I've heard that before... But  
it's hard not to dwell. One of our  
patients here is her younger  
brother; my brother in law.

(MORE)

DR. COOPER (cont'd)  
 He suffered great trauma when their  
 mother was killed. He's twenty-five  
 now. The poor guy's been here  
 fifteen years.

Nurse Holly has an awkward expression as if she's not sure  
 what to say.

NURSE HOLLY  
 Well... um... How did she die?

DR. COOPER  
 I already told you... She was  
 dancing in front of the...

NURSE HOLLY  
 No. I mean... How did *the mother*  
 die?

Dr. Cooper sighs. Seems hesitant to answer.

DR. COOPER  
 She was murdered, but the case was  
 left unsolved.

Another nurse, older than Holly, Nurse Gretchen, enters the  
 room.

NURSE GRETCHEN  
 There's a problem, Dr. Cooper.  
 Joshua Waits has awoken from  
 another nightmare.

DR. COOPER  
 Joshua!  
 (to Nurse Holly)  
 That's my brother in law, the one I  
 told you about.  
 (to Nurse Gretchen)  
 Is the shot ready?

NURSE GRETCHEN  
 (holds up syringe)  
 Yes, Dr. Cooper.

Dr. Cooper walks briskly down the corridor, Nurse Holly by  
 his side, Nurse Gretchen behind them. Dr. Cooper is talking  
 to - but without looking at - Nurse Holly as they're walking.

DR. COOPER  
 Poor kid... His mother and sister  
 die, and no one knows where his  
 father is.

(MORE)

DR. COOPER (cont'd)  
 Rumor has it he got filthy rich  
 publishing a vegetable cookbook. He  
 supposedly lives somewhere on the  
 outskirts of this very town of  
 Reeking, Utah, hidden away in a  
 compound with a stockpile of  
 weapons or something...

(sees door at the end of  
 hallway)

There's his room just ahead.

CUT TO:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/JOSHUA'S ROOM - DAY

Joshua is in the bed, no longer shouting, but he looks  
 panicked. His attention is now centered on the door.

He slowly gets out of the bed, creeps up to the door, but he  
 is ducked down so to avoid the small window on the top-  
 center.

When he reaches the door he's still ducked under the window,  
 as if he doesn't want to look through. But then he slowly  
 rises up...

And when he looks through this window, Dr. Cooper's face  
 suddenly appears on the other side.

Joshua's eyes widen.

JOSHUA  
 (shouting)  
 Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!

He jumps back onto the bed, burying himself beneath the  
 sheets.

CUT TO:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Cooper opens the door to Joshua's room. He, Nurse Holly  
 and Nurse Gretchen walk inside.

CUT TO:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/JOSHUA'S ROOM - DAY

Joshua is a mound of sheets on the bed. His muffled voice is  
 heard.

JOSHUA  
 (repeating quickly)  
 Goblins don't exist, goblins don't  
 exist, goblins don't exist...

Dr. Cooper walks over; sits on the bed.

DR. COOPER  
 (over Joshua's rant)  
 Okay Joshua... I'm going to repeat  
 the words that always drive them  
 away: "Go away, Monster... Go away,  
 Monster... Go away, Monster."

Joshua, still breathing heavily but no longer repeating the  
 mantra, comes out from the bulk of sheets.

DR. COOPER  
 Feeling better?

JOSHUA  
 Y-y-yes. I guess so.

Dr. Cooper motions to Nurse Gretchen.

DR. COOPER  
 Go ahead, give him his shot.

Nurse Gretchen goes over; gives Joshua a shot in the arm as  
 if she's done it many times before.

NURSE HOLLY  
 (softly to Dr. Cooper)  
 What kind of medication is that?

DR. COOPER  
 A mixed bag of tricks. Calms him  
 right down...

Dr. Cooper puts a delicate hand on Joshua's shoulder.

DR. COOPER (CONT'D)  
 And makes everything much better.

Joshua has stopped his heavy breathing, but still seems  
 spooked.

JOSHUA  
 It was worse than ever. They're  
 getting worse all the time.

Dr. Cooper turns to the nurses.

DR. COOPER  
Excuse me, ladies. I need to talk  
to Joshua alone.

NURSE GRETCHEN  
Yes doctor.

NURSE HOLLY  
Bye Elliot.

DR. COOPER  
Bye H...  
(looks at Joshua; then at  
nurse Holly)  
I mean, bye nurse.

Both nurses leave. Nurse Gretchen closes the door.

Joshua is now quite medicated. His speech is slow, somewhat  
groggy and lethargic.

JOSHUA  
The dreams are bad. And when I'm  
not dreaming, I'm remembering  
horrible things. I don't know which  
is worse, the dreams or the  
memories... But it doesn't matter,  
because the dreams are all *about*  
the memories.

DR. COOPER  
Well, Joshua, I have good news. In  
fact, it's excellent news. Just  
received it this morning.

JOSHUA  
What is it? I need to hear  
something good for a change.

DR. COOPER  
First of all... The only reason you  
have those dreams is because of  
your... I mean, our experience in  
Nilbog, but it's worse for you  
because of what you saw after  
getting back.

Joshua starts to get nervy and anxious again.

JOSHUA  
No, no. Don't talk about my mommy,  
please don't talk about her...  
Please don't.

Dr. Cooper pats Joshua's shoulder again.

DR. COOPER  
I won't. Just calm down, and  
listen, okay?

Joshua calms down again.

DR. COOPER  
All your dreams are based on actual  
memories. And your memories of  
goblins are real, but no one else  
here knows that. They think Nilbog  
and the goblins are all a fantasy  
in your head. But I know the  
truth... And I have the solution.

JOSHUA  
What is it? What's the solution?  
Anything to get rid of the dreams  
and memories... Anything.

DR. COOPER  
There's a new form of  
electromagnetic surgery imported  
from Italy, brought over by two  
brilliant men, Doctor Drake and  
Doctor Floyd, to this very  
hospital. And we're going to test  
it... I mean... We're going to *use*  
it on you, tomorrow afternoon.

JOSHUA  
Are they gonna open up my skull and  
mess with my brains or something?

DR. COOPER  
No... In fact it's a very basic  
procedure. We simply plug wires to  
each side of your head, and turn on  
a machine. You'll hear a little  
buzzing, and feel a little  
vibration, but no pain at all. And  
after exactly twenty seconds, all  
the traumatic memories in your life  
will be erased, and you will only  
remember happy things... And one  
day you'll be able to leave this  
place and live a normal life.

JOSHUA  
A normal life? On the outside?

DR. COOPER

Yes, Joshua. Just like everyone else.

JOSHUA

And I can find my dad, right?

DR. COOPER

I don't know the answer to that right now... But after this surgery, which we're performing tomorrow at noon, you'll be good as new.

(repeats; draws out each word)

Good as new.

Joshua smiles, lays back down on the bed, and closes his eyes.

Dr. Cooper watches him, smiling to himself.

He then gets up, exits the room, closing - then locking - the door behind him.