

MONSTEROLOGY WITH COMMANDER HOLLY

Pilot

"Moonkin"

Written by

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POLISH DRAFT

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SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - NIGHT

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HOLLY runs ahead as the CAMERA struggles to keep steady. She repeatedly looks over her shoulder. They are being CHASED!

HOLLY
Come on! This way!

The Cameraman HUFFS AND PUFFS off-screen as they run.

Holly crouches to catch her breath and the Cameraman finally reaches her. Now closer, we see that Holly's hands are COVERED WITH BLOOD.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
(catching breath)
I think... we lost it.

BUT SUDDENLY Holly looks off-camera, SCREAMS, then runs off! The Camera turns just in time to see a CLAWED, FEATHERED HAND scrape against a nearby tree.

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The Cameraman turns to run. The beast ROARS off-camera and our Cameraman SCREAMS, but trips, falling with a violent THUD and we--

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*

SMASH CUT TO:

SHOW OPEN: MONSTEROLOGY WITH COMMANDER HOLLY

Over stock footage, questions stream across the screen:

HOLLY (V.O.)
What are they? Where are they
hiding? Who summoned them? What
song would they sing at Karaoke?
(ALT)
Who was their favorite Backstreet
Boy?
(ALT)
Were they Team Edward or Team
Jacob?
(ALT)
Are they secretly princes waiting
to smooch my face to break the
witch's spell? Gross.
(then)
All this and more... on
Monsterology.

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INT. HOLLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Holly walks in like Robert Stack from Unsolved Mysteries.

HOLLY

What if I told you that video games weren't just escapist fantasy? That the dragons, wyverns, even the chocobos are all too real. I'm Commander Holly. After a grueling two day survival course in that dark corner of my basement and a mountain of paperwork, I'm a self-certified monsterologist, and I'm here to find gaming's most exciting creatures in real life. For real.

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INT. HOLLY'S OFFICE - HOLLY'S DESK - DAY

Holly sits by her office phone.

HOLLY

This week's case: The Moonkin. Half bear. Half owl. Half Scottish or something.

(ALT)

Half a year of Jazz/tap lessons.

(ALT)

Half OwlBear.

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HOLLY (CONT'D)

According to reports, this flightless natural wonder has been sighted in Southern California, so we offered a reward for any information on the Moonkin's whereabouts.

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EXT. SUBURBAN SIDEWALK - SKYLER AND BLAKE

Holly interviews SKYLER and BLAKE, two skateboarding kids. Skyler stands shyly while Blake can hardly stand still.

SUPER: "Skyler and Blake - Local Scholars"

BLAKE

We were skating down Alton Parkway and there was this HawkBear!--

Skyler WHISPERS discreetly to Blake.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
I mean OwlBear thing.

HOLLY
You've seen a Moonkin?

BLAKE
Yeah yeah!

HOLLY
Where?

BLAKE
Irvine. It had fangs like swords
and feet the size of Tokyo!

HOLLY
Irvine. Curiouser.

Skyler WHISPERS discreetly to Blake.

BLAKE
So you have our fifty bucks or
what?

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - DAY

RUTH BAKERSTON, a sweet old lady interviews.

SUPER: "Ruth Bakerston - Irvine Resident. Fiber Enthusiast."

RUTH BAKERSTON
Moonkin were more common back then.
Some people would leave milk for
stray cats, but we would leave
treats for the Moonkin on our back
porch. It wasn't until President
Roosevelt declared a statewide ban
on feeding the Moonkin--

HOLLY
You fed the Moonkin?

RUTH BAKERSTON
Yes. Barbecue spare ribs.

HOLLY
(making a note)
Spare... ribs. Of course.

RUTH BAKERSTON
He was a lovely dancer. And so
polite.

(MORE)

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RUTH BAKERSTON (CONT'D)
(then, nostalgic) *
And such firm buttocks. *

Holly is frozen in a stunned reaction. *

HOLLY (V.O.) *
After getting more information than *
we bargained for, it was finally *
time to call in a specialist. *

INFORMERCIAL - HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN *

Quick CAMERA MOVES make this informercial very exciting and *
very ridiculous. *

HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN *
I'm Hunter Springsteen. You wanna *
talk Moonkin in California? *

Hunter performs a few NONSENSE MARTIAL ARTS MOVES with KEEYAH *
sounds. *

HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN (CONT'D) *
You call Hunter Springsteen. *

CLOSE ON Hunter as he points dramatically at the camera. *

You want a DJ for your wedding, Bar *
Mitzvah, or school dance? *

The Camera zooms out to reveal Hunter's LAPTOP. He holds *
HEADPHONES up to one of his ears and pantomimes SCRATCHING on *
imaginary turntables as he dances in place. *

HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN (CONT'D) *
(re: himself) *
You call DJ Doomkin. *

The Camera WHIPS back into a CLOSE UP of Hunter as he points *
at camera. *

HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN (CONT'D) *
Call 555-- *

INT. HOLLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Holly talks with Hunter.

HOLLY *
Hunter, thanks for coming in. *

*SUPER: "Hunter Springsteen - Moonkin Expert, Author of
"Moonkiñera: From Hatchling to OwlBear in Moonkin Society."*

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HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN
Excited to be here.

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HOLLY
First off, can you tell us how to
recognize a Moonkin in the wild?

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HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN
I'll do one better. Boom.

Hunter reveals a CRUMPLED NAPKIN. Holly looks over the
sketch on it with awe.

HOLLY
Wow. This sketch... is amazing!

*GRAPHIC: We reveal the VERY AMATEUR SKETCH and list the
following facts as Hunter states them.*

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HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN
You'll notice a few things. These
right here: Feathers. Tons of 'em.
You're also going to see a large
beak. Some may have antlers or
horns, but most importantly, they
can grow over ten feet tall. Also,
Moonkin love to drop eggs.
Everywhere.

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HOLLY
Wow. So we know they live in
Irvine and we know what they look
like. How do we find them?

HUNTER SPRINGSTEEN
The only way to find a Moonkin...
is to think like a Moonkin.

Hunter holds up FEATHERS and a HOT GLUE GUN. Holly thinks
for a beat then...

HOLLY
Makeover!

MAKEOVER MONTAGE!

1. To an upbeat song, Holly and Hunter create outfits, hot-
gluing feathers to clothing, fashioning fake antlers, etc.

- 2. Dressed as CHEAP MOONKIN lookalikes, Hunter holds up a BAG OF PLASTIC EGGS. Together, they drop eggs everywhere!
- 3. Intensely face to face, Hunter makes MOONKIN NOISES and Holly repeats. They go back and forth to get it right.
- 4. Holly and Hunter do the MOONKIN DANCE very seriously.

END MONTAGE

EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - DAY

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Holly walks in the woods with LIONEL RICHARDSON, our tracker.

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Lionel shows Holly some broken twigs on the ground. Holly shakes her head. Definitely evidence of a Moonkin.

HOLLY (V.O.)

Today's the big day. If there's a Moonkin in Irvine, we're going to find it. So to help us out, I called in the best local tracker french-fries can buy.

INTERVIEW - LIONEL RICHARDSON

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Lionel eats FRENCH FRIES as he interviews.

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SUPER: "Lionel Richardson - Expert Tracker. Inventor of OrnaMENTs, holiday braids and charms for seasonal beards"

LIONEL

My name is Lionel Richardson. I've crossed paths with the Moonkin many times. Citizens in Irvine are prepared for fires, earthquakes-- No one is prepared for a Moonkin attack. So I started www dot [BLEEP] dot com where you can buy Moonkin survival kits, t-shirts, lanyards, bottle openers--
(then)
Damn, these are some good fries.

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EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - DAY

Kneeling with his face in a shrub, Lionel takes a DEEP SNIFF.

LIONEL

Definitely Moonkin urine.

HOLLY
How can you tell?

LIONEL
It's like a druid's. But sweeter.
(ALT)
It's nutty, with a hint of Arcane
Damage.
(ALT)
(re: feathers in shrub)
All the feathers.

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Lionel sticks his face back, takes a few more SNIFFS.

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EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - LATER

Holly finds EGG SHELLS and a nearly empty EGG CARTON.

HOLLY
Guys, look!

LIONEL RICHARDSON
Those are chicken eggs.

HOLLY
Exactly the kind I would use.

Lionel walks away as Holly ponders the clue.

EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - STILL LATER

Lionel walks ahead, but a suddenly A LOUD MOONKIN NOISE startles him. He turns to find...

HOLLY
[MOONKIN NOISE]

LIONEL RICHARDSON
Gah!

HOLLY
(with a proud smile)
Nailed it.

EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - DUSK

As darkness approaches, Lionel stops Holly.

LIONEL RICHARDSON
Look it's getting dark. Maybe--

HOLLY
 You're right.
 (sigh)
 I was hoping it wouldn't come to
 this.

Holly takes out a BAG OF MEAT. A RED LIQUID drips from the bag. She grabs a hunk of dripping meat with her bare hand. *

HOLLY (CONT'D)
 (eerily)
 Bait.

LIONEL RICHARDSON
 What the-- *

But Holly WIPES the RED LIQUID from her hands onto LIONEL'S SHIRT! *

LIONEL RICHARDSON (CONT'D)
 No! What are you--?
 (panicked)
 Oh no! Now I'm-- I gotta--
 You're sick! You killed us all! *

Lionel runs off.

HOLLY
 (calling to Lionel)
 Wait! They're barbecue spare ribs!
 We need to mask our scent!
 (wipes sauce on herself,
 then)
 Lionel? *

EXT. WOODS OF IRVINE - NIGHT *

In NIGHT-VISION MODE we follow Holly, but she is lost. *

HOLLY
 (calling out)
 Lionel! Liiiii-nelllll!
 (to camera)
 Where'd he go?

But suddenly some RUSTLING in the distance catches her attention.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
 (to camera)
 Shhh.

Holly pulls out the AMATEUR SKETCH, points at it, then points in the distance. She MOUTHS "MOONKIN" to camera excitedly.

The camera turns and in the distance... It's a Moonkin!

Suddenly, it turns toward Holly and lets out a WILD SCREAM!

[NOTE: THIS IS WHERE THE FOOTAGE FROM THE TOP OF THE SHOW BEGINS]

HOLLY runs ahead as the CAMERA struggles to keep steady. She repeatedly looks over her shoulder.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Come on! This way!

The Cameraman HUFFS AND PUFFS off-screen as they run.

Holly crouches to catch her breath and the Cameraman finally reaches her. Now closer, we see that Holly's hands are COVERED WITH BLOOD (we now know this is BBQ sauce).

HOLLY (CONT'D)
(catching breath)
I think... we lost it.

BUT SUDDENLY Holly looks off-camera, SCREAMS, then runs off! *
The Camera turns just in time to see a CLAWED, FEATHERED HAND *
scrape against a nearby tree. *

The Cameraman turns to run. The beast ROARS off-camera and *
our Cameraman SCREAMS, but trips, falling with a violent *
THUD. *

A beat, then...

The Moonkin walks into frame and takes a seat. The creature removes its head, revealing LIONEL IN AN ELABORATE COSTUME!

As Lionel sips a bottle of water, exhausted from the chase, a POOL OF BLOOD seeps into frame, presumably from a terribly injured Cameraman.

LIONEL RICHARDSON
I better sell a [bleep]-ton of t-shirts.

INT. HOLLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Holly addresses the camera.

HOLLY

The Moonkin. The OwlBear of
Irvine. You saw it here on
Monsterology. If you or your loved
ones have been victims of a Moonkin
attack, well... we've already done
this episode, but maybe we could do
one of those cool follow up
episodes or something.

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Holly takes the Amateur Sketch of the Moonkin and pins it up
on the wall in a section she has marked "REAL". The wall
also has sections marked "MOSTLY REAL" and "MAYBE REAL".

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Be sure to join us next time. I'm
Commander Holly reminding you that
everyone's a monster until you give
them a hug. Thanks for watching.

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Holly picks up her office phone and pretends to take an
important phone call as we pull away to...

END CREDITS

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE