

ACT ONE

Sounds of paper rustling.

SCOTT: This is Scott Kaczynski, archiving the Raven Watch tapes of '96. What you're about to hear is the audio I was able to recover. After being lost for over 25 years, and a few months of restoration work, the tapes are ready for logging. What they contain carries the utmost importance for the future of this organization. While difficult to restore, the mere fact we found the tapes is a miracle! They were discovered by a teenage local in Raven Watch, who turned them in when he realized what was on them, but after having recorded over a few parts. As frustrating as that is, without that kid, the tapes would've been lost in the woods and damaged beyond repair. But much of the original tape - recorded between June 19th to August 15th, 1996 - remains. These are accounts from first-time private investigator Mavis Monroe's audio diary. She had come to Raven Watch to inquire about a highly whispered mystery about the town. Her investigation was funded by the multi-millionaire businessman Archibald Leicester who hired her to uncover what he called, "The mystery of Raven Watch."

Tape recording begins. Whirs to start.

MAVIS: Is this thing on?

Loud tapping on mic.

MAVIS: Okay, great.

Sounds of a pay phone being dialed. It rings. The line is picked up.

MAVIS: Hi! Is this Mr. Leicester's office? . . . Yes? . . . Yes! Could I speak with him? This is Mavis MonroeThank you very much. . . . Hello Mr. Leicester!

ARCHIBALD: Mavis . . . What news do you bring me?

MAVIS: I'm just calling to let you know I'm about to head to Raven Watch for the case. I'll be sure to look for good ways for you to integrate your resort with the town. When I get there I'll do some preliminary recordings and then call you again to give a statu—

ARCHIBALD: There's a reason I'm sending you to this island. There have been reports of something mysterious going on there, and I need you to investigate and see what all the hullabaloo is. Are you capable of this job Miss Monroe?

MAVIS: Yes sir, what kind of mystery are we talking about here?

ARCHIBALD: That's why I'm sending you. Now, go get to the bottom of this.

Sound of the other line being hung up.

SCOTT: That is the entirety of Monroe's recordings until she arrives at Raven Watch. We can assume the trip went as well as it can getting to a small Alaskan island. Unfortunately, a portion of the audio recordings are unsalvageable so I am piecing together what I can.

Tape starts up again.

MAVIS: I just arrived in Raven Watch and it is pouring rain. The boat I had to take in was sooo rickety too. I can't believe we even made it. Why don't they have an airport here, jeez. Actually, looking around, it makes sense. This town looks to be like five buildings. Honestly, it reminds me of Hope, Alaska. Small town, tucked in the mountains with a view over the ocean. Lots of trees, but the rain is hiding any sort of details I can make out. All these houses nestled into the forest, with the ocean right next to it are really beautiful, even in the rain.

Audio Skip

MAVIS: Are you the hotel manager?

WINSLOW: Who's asking?

MAVIS: I'm Mavis, the reporter. I booked a room here for two weeks.

WINSLOW: Hrmph

MAVIS: (quiet) Okay, so the hotel manager is leading me into a back room. He's got a peg leg that gives him a limp and this bushy beard, stiff with seasalt. Definitely a sailor type. I wish there were another hotel I could go to.

Winslow chuckles quietly to himself.

MAVIS: This'll be fun...

Pause.

MAVIS: Now that I'm all settled in, I'm seeing this hotel isn't half bad. You could say that it's . . . quaint. No leaks in this room at least. It smells like old people and sea salt, it kinda sucks that it's only lit by candle light. The twin size beds have these heavy wool blankets that are too itchy to even sleep on. Gonna have to use them anyway, since this room is freezing. At least the sounds of rain on the roof and the waves are nice. The trip here was kinda rough, but I am really happy that I even got this job! It is huge for someone with as little experience as me. If the rest of the people here are as stand-offish as Winslow though, we're gonna have some trouble.

SCOTT: The following morning, Mavis begins to record after leaving her hotel room.

Audio of Mavis going out of her room and down the stairs as she is saying the next lines

MAVIS: Mr. Leicester was talking about how this town has some oddities about it, and from just Mr. Winslow I can te—

AGNES: What about Mr. Winslow?

MAVIS: Who are you?

AGNES: I'm Agnes, Mr. Winslow is my dad.

MAVIS: Okay, uh I was just recording how I think he's...great.

AGNES: Oh, you're the reporter! We heard you were coming. I'm glad you think my dad's great! He's really a staple of this town. He moved here in the 70s to fish and met my mom. If you are going to write a piece about Raven Watch then you definitely want to be on his good side.

MAVIS: What happens if you're on his bad side?

WINSLOW: My bad side, eh?

MAVIS: (*surprised*) Oh, jeez Mr. Winslow, you surprised me.

WINSLOW: The only bad thing I've got is me heart. Is me daughter Agnes here gonna be giving you the grand tour?

MAVIS: I'm not sure . . .

AGNES: Yeah, that's the plan!

Silence. Record Skip

AGNES: So, at the end of the street is the famed workshop of our local sculptor, Miach.

MAVIS: Is her workshop the one with the giant bear sculpture out front? That work is super intricate, I actually think I recognize it from a piece I read in the Daily News.

AGNES: Not quite a bear! She's known for her iconic yeti imagery that is regarded throughout Alaska.

MAVIS: Yea, I can see that by the 8ft tall wood carved blue yeti. The intricate knife work is like nothing I've ever seen. It looks fuzzy, but it's made out of wood. Crazy I thought it was a bear at first, very distinctly a yeti. I thought Yeti lived high in the mountains.

Bells of a door opening

MIACH: 'Hiya ladies! Welcome to my shop. Ya lookin' for some Yeti sculptures? It's what I've got.

AGNES: What's up Miach, just showing our visiting reporter, Mavis, around. She says she isn't looking to buy right now.

MIACH: A reporter? I don't want to talk to any reporter. Not interested in my craft, just your own story.

MAVIS: Oh no! I was very interested in your... um craft.

MIACH: All you city rats are the same. You come here to get what you need but you never give back!. Now get out!

AGNES: See ya later, Miach!

Door opens and closes

AGNES: Next stop, The Raven Watch Diner. I actually work there.

MAVIS: Jeez that was weird.

AGNES: Yeah, the people here can just be a little kooky. Miach is a bit of a grouch to visitors who don't buy. Too often tourists come into the shop and don't buy anything. It's gotten to the point where she'd rather have no one in the store than just browsers . . .

Hey, before we head back to the hotel do you mind if we swing by my dad's pharmacist's house. I have to pick up his heart meds.

MAVIS: Yeah, that's no problem.

AGNES: Okay, he lives a couple minutes away.

Recording stops. Picks back up inside the Pharmacist's house.

MAVIS: So, this Pharmacist lives in this . . . uh shack?

AGNES: Yeah, property prices I guess. We've been coming to Hans ever since the last pharmacist, Hubert, died at sea.

Door opening.

AGNES: Hey Hans!

Hans is immediately creepy. Strong German accent.

PHARMACIST HANS: Ah guten morgen Agnes here for papa's medizin?

AGNES: Yeah, just the same as usual.

PHARMACIST HANS: Ah, ja ja. Vich is vich?

Whispers to himself but is clearly heard.

PHARMACIST HANS: De rat poison and zi heart medizin? I keep dem in de exact same color bottle. Hmmmmm. What could it be?

AGNES: Hans is always mixing up the medicines. I think that's why he couldn't make it as a pharmacist in Berlin.

PHARMACIST HANS: Mein struggle is that I do not label de bottles. But I am pretty sure that this is da one for your papa today.

AGNES: Thank you Hans!

PHARMACIST HANS: Oh, and if you do come back, I am moving to ze different haus. Ze business es booming.

AGNES: Oh, that's exciting Hans! Just keep me posted!

PHARMACIST HANS: I hope zat your papa REALLY enjoys de medizin.

Door closes. Hans giggles in the backgrounds. Audio cuts.

MAVIS: I'm sitting here at the Raven Watch Diner. The seats are honestly a little bit sticky. . . but the ambience is nice. Quiet. Smells like crappy coffee and burnt waffles. I have been told that this is an institution here at Raven Watch, and where you can hear all the town gossip... which is ironic, considering it's almost completely empty.

AGNES: We're usually a bit busier than this.

WAITRESS: Can I help y'all?

AGNES: Hey Susan! Susan is one of our more senior employees. She's been here for about five years. This is Mavis. She's the reporter from Anchorage.

MAVIS: Five years?

AGNES: Yeah, she's lasted that long.

WAITRESS: Okay, hrm. What can I get you?

MAVIS: A macchiato is fine.

WAITRESS: Coffee coming right up.

Pause.

WAITRESS: Here ya go, a "macchiato" for the city girl.

MAVIS: Thanks so much.

(beat. Next line is quiet)

MAVIS: Ugh, this is just black coffee, not what I ordered... it's even worse than it smells! And why is it cold? Let me find someone to talk to.

Pause.

MAVIS: Okay, so looking around there's a few locals hanging out. There's one guy who looks pretty intriguing: a guy in a suit sitting alone by the window. He's tall and balding. A bit creepy, especially with that ratty tweed suit but he definitely looks like he'd have a lot to say.

Pause.

MAVIS: Hey there, I'm Mavis Monroe, I'm a reporter doing a piece on the town. Can I talk to you for a second about Raven Watch?

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Howdy Miss Monroe. I'm Bob Jackson, esquire. Local attorney here in Raven Watch. Call me at 907-884-

MAVIS: Oh no no, I would only like to talk to you about the history of the town, like right now... Is that okay?

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Well, at my firm we cover all sorts of liability and acts of god and whatnot. Lots of trouble with that yeti hanging around—

WAITRESS: SHHH!

MAVIS: Wait, did you say Yeti?

The whole diner goes quiet.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: No, where'd you get Yeti from?

Audio stop.

SCOTT: For the record, Bob Jackson did say that. Mavis stopped the recording to play it back for him.

Audio continues.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Well, I guess I did say that. Don't know what kinda madness I was on. No yetis in these parts.

WAITRESS: Jesus Bob, not again.

A horrifying wail cuts through the silent diner. It is from far away but the banshee-like shrieking still sends shivers down the spine.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: With a scream like that, it sounds like somebody's gonna need a lawyer.

Bob Jackson gets very close to the mic.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: If you have any legal trouble, don't hesitate to call Bob Jackson, attorney at law. 907-884—

Audio Skips. Phone ringing. Picked up.

ARCHIBALD'S ASSISTANT: Hello. You've reached the office of Mr. Archibald Leicester. How may I help you?

MAVIS: This is Mavis Monroe. I need to talk to Mr. Leicester.

ARCHIBALD'S ASSISTANT: I'll connect you right away Ms. Monroe.

Hold music.

ARCHIBALD: This is Archibald.

MAVIS: Hello Mr. Leicester, I have something big to report to you.

ARCHIBALD: Rightie then, spit it out.

MAVIS: I was surprised by the amount of yeti imagery throughout the town. I saw this giant yeti statue in front of one of the stores here. I didn't even realize until now, but most stores have yeti-themed signs. I mean the diners sign is just a picture of a yeti drinking some coffee. Then, a local mentioned something about a yeti. When probed with further questions, all I got was silence. There was a dreadful screaming though that prompted some . . . interesting reactions to say the least. This case might be stranger than I initially expected. I'm going to look more into it tomorr—

ARCHIBALD: Very well. Get on it.

The line goes dead.

MAVIS: Well that was rude.

Cut audio. A knock at the door, door opens.

AGNES: Hey Mavis, how's your day goin'?

MAVIS: I'm good, kind of hungry.

AGNES: Oh well I was just on my way to work! I can get you a burger.

MAVIS: Sure. Let me get my jacket.

They start to leave to go to the diner.

AGNES: So where are you from?

MAVIS: Oh I'm from Anchorage, born and raised. And you?

AGNES: I'm from here.

MAVIS: Do you ever want to leave the island?

AGNES: I mean, yeah but whenever I think about leaving I realize I wouldn't even know where to begin. This place is all I know. 

MAVIS: That's the best part you can have a fresh start!

AGNES: I guess, but if I'm being honest I don't think I could leave my Dad alone here and I've grown to really love the community.

MAVIS: Yeah I get that, I've had opportunities to leave the state but I can't leave when Alaska has so much to offer.

AGNES: Yeah, and you seem to be doing pretty well as a journalist. The paper flew you out here right?

MAVIS: Oh yeah . . . journalism. Yeah, the job I have now has always been my dream. It's what I've wanted to do ever since I was a little kid.

AGNES: You never wanted to be anything else?

MAVIS: Well after watching Cinderella when I was like five, I really wanted to be a princess. Wasn't a fan of the prince though.

AGNES: Oh yeah, I really wanted to be a mermaid, but breathing underwater is a lot harder than it looks.

MAVIS: Guess we have to settle for second best then.

AGNES: Hah, I guess.

Cut to Diner

MAVIS: I'm at the diner again and today it's actually busy! While I have the chance, I'm gonna get some information about the town and maybe those screams we heard. I'm gonna go ask this guy in the Tommy Bahama shirt. Excuse me, sir. Could I ask you some questions about Raven Watch?

Tommy Bahama has a surfer boy accent.

TOMMY BAHAMA: Uh, yeah, you can do whatever you want.

MAVIS: How long have you been in Raven Watch?

TOMMY BAHAMA: About . . . three days?

MAVIS: Oh! You're new to town?

TOMMY BAHAMA: You could say that. I'm just here for the week.

MAVIS: What brings you to Raven Watch?

TOMMY BAHAMA: Well, I wanted some sick photos for my blog, Tommy Travelz, but it's hard to find a good place to stay here with the only hotel being so nasty. I wish there was a sweet resort here where I could really relax and get crunk. Then I wouldn't have to come to such a dive like this.

MAVIS: Oh yeah, I guess, I thought the hotel was pretty nic-

TOMMY BAHAMA: Talk to the hand, loser!

MAVIS: Um, okay, thanks for your time. Well that was pretty rude. Hey Susan, could I get another coffee? It's growing on me. 😊

WAITRESS: Yeah, just give me a second, kid. I'll grab you that "macchiato" in a bit. All these tourists are really making me break a sweat.

MAVIS: That's good! Getting good tips I bet.

WAITRESS: For now. Once they decide to get back on their cruise ship and leave, it becomes a ghost town and I can't even pay rent!

MAVIS: Wait, so tourism can be good for Raven Watch?

WAITRESS: When the tourists are here sure, but they only stick around for a few months out of the year. So in the long term, they aren't. Plus, the second they have some fancy resort here, they won't need us locals anymore. Our shops and restaurants will go out of business and we'll all be out of jobs. It will take Miach all year to make twenty figurines but then these companies come in with hundreds of them all ready to sell. It isn't fair to us when people come in and claim to be like us when they won't even spend a whole year here.

SCOTT: The next recordings are after Mavis returned to her hotel room after exploring Raven Watch

MAVIS: After talking to Susan, I think I'm starting to see why so many people are resisting Mr. Leicester's plans. I'm not sure if that makes what I'm doing here more important or more dangerous for Raven Wa—

Pause.

MAVIS: Wait. Is that Winslow? It's the middle of the night, why is he running barefoot into the woods? I'm gonna go follow him and see what's going on.

Sounds of walking through the woods, leaves underfoot, branches breaking, etc.

MAVIS (whispering and heavy breathing): I am currently in the woods, he's maybe a hundred feet ahead of me, I can only make out his flashlight.

Another shriek, much louder than the earlier two. Some silent ambient walking.

MAVIS: Mr. Winslow just vanished into a cave. I'm close behind.

Sounds of struggling as Mavis navigates into the cave. All sounds begin to echo, a faint dripping sound can be heard / Crunching noises and eating sounds are heard as well.

They all reverberate throughout the cave.

MAVIS: Oh my gosh! What is that?!

We hear her drop the microphone and another shriek before it cuts out, this shriek fills the entire audio space, drowning out all other audio. Tape ends.

CRAZY KID: Hey baby, it's me. I just wanted to make something to show you how much I love you the only way I know how: through song. I found these tapes in the woods and I knew that I had to put together this mixtape for you. I looooooove you girl, and I hope this song shows you just how much. This is "I'll Make Love To You" by Boyz II Men.

Audio ends.

SCOTT: So, that was the first recording of who I like to call, the lovestruck local kid. As thankful as we are the tapes were kept by them, it is really annoying that the tapes were recorded over at all. It seems Mavis dropped the tape after seeing something. She didn't record again until the following morning. The following tape has been spliced together with the former to create some kind of narrative continuity. Based on the sound of that, I assume she was pretty shaken up.

Cuts to the next day

MAVIS: So . . . last night I saw something. I'm not sure what was in there with Mr. Winslow last night, but it was big. I didn't get a good look, but from what I saw it's a creature from a nightmare. Lost one of my tapes too. As terrifying as that was and as much as I would like to leave, I've been hired to do a job. I can't skip out on such a huge opportunity. I have to keep my cool and act like nothing weird has happened. The future of my detective career depends on it.

Tape scratches

MAVIS: So, Agnes. Does your Dad have any hobbies?

AGNES: He really likes chess.

MAVIS: How long has he been in Raven Watch? I assume he's been here long enough to know everything about the town.

AGNES: Yeah, I guess.

MAVIS: Has he ever told you anything about (*quietly*) a yeti?

The diner goes a little quiet, but then resumes.

AGNES: If you have so many questions about my dad, why don't you just go up and ask him?

MAVIS: Sorry, I didn't mean to probe, I just want to make sure I have the correct information about Raven Watch.

AGNES: No it's ok. I just had to deal with a really rude customer in a particularly hideous Tommy Bahama shirt so I'm not in the best mood.

MAVIS: I'm sorry to hear that.

Pause.

AGNES: Do you like hiking? Hiking always puts me in a better mood.

MAVIS: Yeah, I guess?

AGNES: Well, If you want to see a place only us locals know about, there's a really nice place where we can go after my shift. It's a great view of the town and you can see the forest surrounding Raven Watch, it's just a bit of a hike.

MAVIS: Oh, yeah, that sounds great, thank you!

AGNES: Looking forward to it!

Audio cuts

Sounds of walking through the woods and ambient forest sound. Mavis is clearly out of breath.

MAVIS: Wow. This is worth it. It really is beautiful, Agnes. The way the light glints through the trees and glows on the mountains down to the ocean. Raven Watch just feels like a natural part of the landscape from up here.

Agnes responds in a slightly melancholic way.

AGNES: Yeah, I know. This is probably my favorite hike in the area. That's why so many tourists want to come here.

MAVIS: What's wrong with that?

AGNES: It drives up the prices of everything in town. And with the prices going up on common amenities people start to move away and the community that drove tourists here is gone because it's become all manufactured by the corporations.

MAVIS: Wouldn't tourism bring money and jobs though?

AGNES: Only in the summer. No one wants to be here the rest of the year. Without any other infrastructure everything goes bad most of the year. We're lucky we still haven't been totally turned into a tourist trap.

MAVIS: Oh, wow. I hadn't thought about it like that.

AGNES: Most people don't. They just see the money coming in and forget that when tourists come they destroy the environment and when they leave the economy can't recover.

Pause.

MAVIS: I still can't believe you don't know who Princess Diana is!

AGNES: You're seriously bringing this up again?

MAVIS: Well, yeah, she's a real life princess! Can you imagine just being a normal girl and then one day you get to live in a palace as royalty!

AGNES: Uh huh . . .

Pause.

AGNES: Hey, do you see that?

MAVIS: No? Where are you looking?

AGNES: Just down the trail . . . there's a guy in camo . . . Hey! You! You can't hunt here!

HUNTER HUNTER: What are you talking 'bout! I can hunt where I want! This is a free country ain't it??

AGNES: That's not entirely true, there are still laws you have to abide when hunting.

HUNTER HUNTER: Well you ain't no cop so I don't gotta listen to jack you gotta say. Plus, I heard there's LEGENDARY big game in these parts and I'm lookin' for a new rug.

AGNES: That's not true anymore. I haven't seen anything larger than a deer in years. So, you're not gonna find a thing worth catching out here.

HUNTER HUNTER: Can't hurt to look. I'm free to look ain't I? This is public land after all.

AGNES: Yeah, I guess.

HUNTER HUNTER: Well then, I'm off on my "hike." Gotta explore this beautiful country, see what kinda wildlife I can spot with my . . . binoculars.

AGNES: Ugh whatever.

HUNTER HUNTER: Get lost, Girl Scouts!

Agnes huffs and begins to walk away.

MAVIS: Is there anything you can do?

AGNES: No, he's right. He's allowed to be here. And we are an open carry state, so nothing we can do about his gun either. So, nothing we can do except hope he doesn't find anything.

MAVIS: What did he mean by "legendary big game"?

AGNES: I'm sure you've heard all the rumors about mysteries on Raven Watch. Lots of his sort come here and seek it out. All they see is the trophy on their wall, not the potential harm they could cause to anything that might be endangered.

Sounds of shuffling. The recorder is turned off.

MAVIS: Ok, so after that fun walk with Agnes I think we're really on our way to becoming friends. Sort of. I don't know, I'd like to. It's hard to become close with anyone here though since I'm kinda lying to all of them. I don't know. Lots of conflicting feelings. Anyway, I'm going to try to look more into the yeti, maybe talk to Miach again.

The door busts open

WINSLOW: Heard you been asking about Yeti's lassie.

MAVIS: Oh my god, Winslow, why do you always surprise me like that?

WINSLOW: Best you don't stick your nose where it don't belong.

MAVIS: Well, I have to do my job.

WINSLOW: Just watch yourself. I'm not sure you know quite what you're getting into n' I certainly don' wanna see ya up near the cave again.

The door slams and the audio cuts.

SCOTT: After her conversation with Winslow, Mavis later decided to contradict his wishes and follow the tracks from the other night to attempt to check out the yeti and to photograph it.

Breathing and ambient nature sounds as she walks. Winslow's voice appears from the silence in startling fashion.

WINSLOW: What are you doing here girl?

We hear running and loud thumping

WINSLOW: Come here lassie!! You can run but you can't hide! I'm gonna get you!

Mavis is breathing heavily. Winslow's comments fade out.

MAVIS: Ok, I think I lost him.

WINSLOW: I know you're out here, we can do this the easy way or the hard way.

MAVIS: Ok I think this is my queue to go.

We hear some more shuffling but then... Then we hear a big thump and a shriek from WINSLOW.

MAVIS: Oh no! Mr. Winslow? Are you ok Mr. Wi-

The audio cuts out.

CRAZY KID: Hey baby, I know it's been tough recently. Just know I'm always gonna hold it down for you, girl. You're my missing puzzle piece. My forever-ever. So in the wise words of Boyz II Men, "Baby, Please Don't Go."

ACT TWO

SCOTT: Sorry about that. *So thankful* that kid managed to save the tapes but they are getting really annoying. I don't know how he found all of these tapes. The next recordings take place roughly a week after the prior events during the reception for Winslow's funeral.

Tape starts.

MAVIS: So, we just finished Winslow's funeral and the reception is starting. I know I haven't recorded in a while but it's just been hard with everything that's been going on. Agnes has had a really hard time, even if she is trying not to let—

AGNES: Hey Mavis, are the flower arrangements ready?

MAVIS: Yeah, they are on the table, don't worry. You should sit down, I'll handle this.

AGNES: No, I'm fine. Can you double check the flower arrangements. They really need to be perfect.

MAVIS: Do you need to talk, Agnes?

AGNES: Just go double check please?

MAVIS: Yeah for sure.

Pause.

MAVIS: Anyway, I really don't know how to support Agnes right now. It's hard enough for Agnes as it is and I know what I'm doing here with my case would only make it worse. I don't know where to go from here.

Pause.

MAVIS: Hey Susan, how are the flowers doing?

WAITRESS (sobbing): The-th-th-they're perfect. I wou-wouldn't do anything less for Winslow.

MAVIS: Alright . . . seems that Susan seems to have everything, except for herself, under control. I'd better check back up on Agnes.

Pause.

MAVIS: Hey Agnes. Susan is making sure that the flowers are perfect, you don't need to worry.

AGNES: Okay, thank you.

MAVIS: Yeah, of course. I'm here for you if you need anything.

AGNES: It's just really hard because I know that my Dad probably didn't take his meds that morning. He always forgets and I have to remind him but I was covering one of

Susan's shifts. I only left a note, I feel like I should've been there, if I had he wouldn't have died.

MAVIS: You know that's not true. This isn't your fault at all Agnes.

AGNES: You wouldn't know anything about this Mavis! Where were you? You just act like you are part of this and you barely know us. Just leave.

MAVIS: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to intrude. Just, I'm here for you, okay.

AGNES: Yeah, I know. Sorry. And, uh, thanks too. Just, I need be alone for a little bit.

MAVIS: Yeah, of course.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: So sorry for your loss Agnes, Winslow was a lovely man. But, well I heard some arguing over here! Did you know that after a funeral is a highly strategic time to acquire a quality attorney at law! Lots of lawsuits around the dead! And Bob Jackson is certainly the best!

MAVIS: Not now Bob!

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Just know! If you need me you can find me at (907)-243

Get's interrupted by a loud beeping from a beeper.

MAVIS: I've got to take this. Bob, stay away from Agnes.

MAVIS lets out a sigh and gets up to go to the phone, she forgets that she's recording.

Sound of phone being picked up.

ARCHIBALD: Miss Monroe.

MAVIS: Hello Mr. Leicester.

ARCHIBALD: I am aware that I am your first client, but your work thus far has been quite disappointing. I'm afraid that if you do not pick up the pace, I will not be able to pay you for your . . . lack of work.

MAVIS: No, please Mr. Leicester I'm sorry I'll—

ARCHIBALD: I do not care for apologies Miss Monroe, only results.

Line goes dead. Sigh, she realizes that she was still recording and then the recording stops.

SCOTT: It was a few days before Mavis recorded again. It is unclear what happened in that time. We pick up with Mavis in the Hotel lobby.

MAVIS: I've barely seen Agnes at all for like 3 days. She's been really busy settling affairs and whatnot. If I'm being honest, I think she's using that as a way to get her mind off Winslow's passing. I can't blame her. She's in the lobby right now, working on something but I can't tell what it is.

Pause

MAVIS: Hey Agnes.

AGNES: Hey Mavis. I'm pretty busy right now so—

MAVIS: I can tell. Don't worry, I'm just here to help, anything you need doing, I'll get done.

AGNES: Oh, thank you Mavis. Yeah, actually, could you clean up rooms three through seven?

MAVIS: Yeah, of course!

AGNES: Thank you. And then room 8 had some weird request saying how the water isn't working so can you check on that. Also someone brought a dog that somehow had an allergic reaction to the bed sheets. Oh and some kid pooped in front of the hotel, hes blaming it on the dog but I saw him do it, can you just clean that up.

MAVIS: Yeah, that's fine . . . I'll get on it.

AGNES: And when you're done with that, the lobby could really use a vacuum.

MAVIS: Will do.

AGNES: Thank you so much!

Pause

MAVIS: Finally that day is over! Oh my god, that was a lot. I'm happy to be able to help Agnes but that was wearying. Hmm, that's weird. There's a note on my nightstand. It's from Agnes, "Sorry I've been so busy. I've got a lot on my plate. I have something really important I need to tell you. Meet me tonight in the woods north of the hotel at 10pm. Bring a coat. -Agnes". Weird. And, god, it's already nine- fifty. I was really looking forward to going to bed. Guess I have to go.

Audio cuts and whirs back to start.

MAVIS: You said you had something important to tell me?

AGNES: Yeah, I did.

Pause.

AGNES: I'm having a hard time trying to manage all of my dad's business. The weight of it is a lot more than I expected. Between the hotel and... you know, *other stuff*. It's just too much for me.

MAVIS: I'm always here to help you.

AGNES: Thank you, that means a lot.

MAVIS: What did you need to tell me?

AGNES: Can you keep a secret?

Pause.

MAVIS: Yes.

AGNES: Okay. Let me take you somewhere.

Picks back up in the yeti cave, lots of reverb.

MAVIS: Where are we going Agnes?

AGNES: We'll be there in a second. And don't record any of this. If this gets out, it wouldn't be good for Raven Watch.

MAVIS: Okay, I won't.

Audio muffles as Mavis puts the recorder in her bag.

ZOZO: Hey Agnes! Haven't seen you in a—

MAVIS: What the—

Audio cracks and skips a little bit.

AGNES: Mavis! It's okay! Zozo is friendly!

MAVIS: You're telling me that . . . that *monster* is friendly?

AGNES: Don't call them that, it's offensive.

MAVIS: Sorry, but what should I call them?

ZOZO: Well, you can call me Zozo. Do you want a snow cone bro?

MAVIS: Ah, uh, um, ok. Zozo . . . I'm good.

AGNES: We got you some snacks.

ZOZO: Right on bro!

MAVIS: Agnes, what's going on??

AGNES: This is the biggest responsibility my dad left me. Zozo is the last of the common yeti, and since they are still young, and there is the ever present threat of outsiders and hunters, like we met, who want them dead they need someone to watch out for them. They aren't able to hide well enough on their own.

MAVIS: Wait, so your dad has been keeping Zozo secret from the world?

ZOZO: Shaw dude! Everybody in Raven Watch knows who I am, Winslow just had to

keep me secret from the outsiders. The ones from beyond the mist who will hunt me for my hide and sell my bones on the black market, bro.

AGNES: You can't tell anyone about this, Mavis. Zozo's life and the future of their species is at risk.

MAVIS: I know you probably don't want me to record Zozo at all, but I do feel like I need to. I'll just keep them so that there is some record of Zozo for the future. I feel like they deserve that.

AGNES: No, that is okay. Just promise that you won't share the tapes ever.

MAVIS: I promise.

SCOTT: The following audio conversations with the yeti were recorded sporadically over the course of about four weeks from July 10th to August 12th

Audio cut.

MAVIS: So, Zozo, what do you do when you're up here alone?

ZOZO: I'm a bit of a threadhead, bro. Do you want me to knit you a beanie?

Audio cut

AGNES: That's not how the knight moves, Zozo.

ZOZO: WELL HOW DOES IT MOVE AGNES?!

MAVIS: In an L shape.

ZOZO: I DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ!

Audio cut

ZOZO: What is the sunrise like?

AGNES: It's like the sunset, but in reverse.

ZOZO: What is that supposed to mean?

Audio cut

ZOZO: Hey Mavis, wanna hear a joke?

MAVIS: Sure.

ZOZO: What do you call a fish without eyes?

MAVIS: Ugh

ZOZO: A FSHHHH

Audio cut.

AGNES: So this is how (Alaska Native Dance Scene)

Audio Cut

MAVIS: Zozo, the hat looks awesome! Where did you learn to knit?

ZOZO: Winslow taught me.

MAVIS: It's amazing you can do that with such big hands...and claws.

Zozo chuckles. Audio skip.

MAVIS: Why are you the only yeti left, Zozo?

ZOZO: I don't want to talk about it, bro. Let's just get back to the game.

MAVIS: Okay . . . sorry, bro.

ZOZO: Don't worry about it. Checkmate!

MAVIS: No it's...

AGNES: Shhh just let him win.

Audio cuts.

ZOZO: You know, I know this fish named Mario, blind as a bat . . . funny I also know a blind bat? I wonder if he and Mario would get along?

MAVIS: You should get out more.

Audio cut.

AGNES: It's bad. Bob Jackson is going to have to leave. He just couldn't get clients anymore, plus the diner he owns isn't doing so hot.

MAVIS: Wait? Bob owns the diner?

AGNES: Yeah, you didn't know that? The lawyer thing is more of a hobby, he wishes he were good enough to make it a full time thing. He's just very passionate about the law and although he won't admit it, he does really love helping the people around town. But honestly, I really don't think we have much hope for the Raven Watch community with all the tourists that are driving out any local business that doesn't serve them.

MAVIS: Oh wow, that's funny about Bob. But it's also really sad that the community is falling apart the way it is.

AGNES: Yeah, the lack of opportunity is overwhelming.

Audio cut.

ZOZO: –no real hunting grounds anymore. Even our small tourism industry makes it impossible for me to go out at night. That's why Winslow, and now Agnes, have to bring me food.

MAVIS: So...um...I don't mean to be offensive, but what do you...eat? Besides snow cones, of course?

ZOZO: Do you think I eat people, bro? You've seen me eat sno-cones and snacks, Mavis!

MAVIS: No, um no, I mean–

ZOZO: No, it's totally chill, bro. You don't gotta worry, (*jokingly*) I got off of the human diet years ago.

MAVIS: wha–

Audio cut.

ZOZO: Raven Watch has really been the only place I've been able to be myself, bro. Most people don't accept me for who I am. A yeti, ya know? So, it is super nice to have such supportive people like Agnes and Winslow.

Audio Cut

AGNES: ZOZO! Are you okay??

ZOZO: Yeah dude, I'm fine. What's up?

AGNES: Oh, thank god. There was a hunter and I heard a gunshot and I was so worried he had found you.

ZOZO: Oh man. I was wondering what that noise was.

MAVIS: Maybe it's time to move Zozo.

AGNES: This isn't the first time we've had close calls. I'm getting nervous. We're running out of places to hide Zozo and we can't risk having something happen to him.

Audio cuts.

MAVIS: Alright, quick update. A lot of unexpected stuff has happened here in my time at Raven Watch. I've really connected with the town and the people even though I've only been here a short while. Seeing everyone at Winslow's funeral showed me that he was such an important community member. Hearing about Zozo too. What I'm doing with Mr. Leicester could really hurt them and maybe destroy Raven Watch. I can't let him build here. I know what I have to do.

Tape stops. Mavis and Agnes are in the cave.

MAVIS: I can't believe Zozo actually got you in checkmate, Agnes.

AGNES: I can't believe it either. The student vanquishes the master.

Beeper goes off.

MAVIS: Sorry Agnes, I have to make a call.

AGNES: Okay, sounds good. I'll walk you back to the hotel.

Soft rain is heard as Mavis returns to the hotel lobby. She picks up the pay phone.

MAVIS: Okay Agnes, I'll make this call and talk to you later . . . three quarters. That should be enough . . .

Phone rings.

ARCHIBALD: Miss Mavis Monroe! It has been weeks and I have not heard from you once! Tell me please that you have made good progress!

MAVIS: I'm sorry Mr. Leicester. I don't think I can continue to exploit the people of Raven Watch.

ARCHIBALD: What are you talking about? I need your report to build The Resort at Raven Watch!

MAVIS: No, Archibald, I'm done being your private investigator. I have learned too much about the yeti, and the people of the town to let you destroy it. Raven Watch is more important to me than your schemes and I'm going to do everything I can to keep you from destroying this place and hurting it.

ARCHIBALD: What did you say about a yeti?

MAVIS: Never call me again! We're done here!

ARCHIBALD: DO NOT HANG UP THE PHONE MAVIS MONROE. YOU WILL NEVER WORK IN THIS BUSINESS AGAIN! No one betrays Archibald Leicester, no on—

Mavis hangs up the phone. The line is dead.

AGNES: Who was that, Mavis? You're not a reporter?

MAVIS: No, I'm not. But listen, it's a little more complicated than that.

AGNES: I don't think it is, Mavis.

MAVIS: I know what this looks like, but if you could just listen—

AGNES: You were going to exploit this town and for what? A paycheck?

MAVIS: No Agnes it's not like that-

AGNES: You know, I don't really have any friends in this town. I don't know if you've noticed, but there are so many old people here and so it's kind of hard to make friends. And when my dad died, it felt nice to at least have you. I guess that was all a lie.

MAVIS: Agnes...

AGNES: I don't want to hear it. You're not welcome here anymore.

Cut to Crazy Kid mixtape.

CRAZY KID: I'm so glad you're giving me one more chance to show you how much I love you, girl. If there's anything that can get us through this, it's Boyz II Men. I love you. Here is "One More Dance."

ACT THREE

SCOTT: I really hate that kid . . . I'm super thankful they found the tapes, but geez.

Anyway, the following audio clips were recorded by Archibald Leicester as he arrived at Raven Watch. This audio chronologically precedes Mavis' final logs and is thus placed at this point in the final audio arrangement. After Archibald's audio ends, we will transition immediately into Mavis' next recording.

Tape whirs to a start.

ARCHIBALD: My lousy PI failed me and thus I must investigate Raven Watch myself.

One of these good-for-nothing locals must know where that wretched girl is. So I brought some goons with me.

GOON 1: Happy to help boss.

GOON 2: I'm ready to crack some skulls.

Pause.

ARCHIBALD: Woman, what are all these Yeti carvings for? Are you some kind of mad?

MIACH: Eh? I can't hear ya lad, let me get my hearing aids.

ARCHIBALD: Well, hurry along. I do not have all day.

Pause.

GOON 2: I can rough her up.

GOON 1: She's an old woman, you fool.

GOON 2: And?

ARCHIBALD: Argh, it may resort to that. What is taking this darned woman so long? Old people are the worst. *(Pause)* This is of no use! I will look elsewhere. Who else on this godforsaken rock knows where on earth that bloody girl is!

Bell dings.

ARCHIBALD: Ah, there is one other person out today it seems. I'm not sure that man will be of any help however. He is the leering sort, gawky and tall if you know what I'm—

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Ah, nice to see some new faces in Raven Watch, sir, especially another man of class *(laughs to himself)* The name's Bob Jackson, esquire. I'm the attorney around these parts, although I'm headed out tomorrow.

ARCHIBALD: I have no time for bumbling around, Mr. Jackson.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Well, all right then. Do you have any need of legal assistance today? Or do your friends? I do all sorts of liability. I'm also a bit of a politician—

ARCHIBALD: No, you fool.

GOON 1: Actually, Mr. Jackson, my wife is divorcing me and I've been looking for a good lawyer.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Glad to hear it. Here's my business card, call me about—

ARCHIBALD: Quiet, you imbecile! I am looking for my private inve- I mean journalist who I hired to do the piece on this blasted town. I haven't heard from her and just need to know where she is. I'm the editor of the paper you see, and she is past her deadline.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Are you talking about Mavis? She wasn't interested in any legal council, but I did tell her about the yeti—

ARCHIBALD: A yeti? What do you mean yeti?

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Dangit, I didn't mean to say that. This is why I can't be here

anymore. Small towns aren't good for secrets and neither is Bob Jackson. Anyway, uh, mister, I didn't say a thing about any yeti.

ARCHIBALD: Yes, you did, you buffoon. Now spit it out.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Alright sir, no need to get aggressive about it. Like I said, I don't know anything about a yeti, except for the ones at Miach's shop of course.

ARCHIBALD: Don't make my goons get violent with you sir. I wouldn't want you to have to have to defend yourself in court.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: Like, I said. I don't know a thing about any yeti.

Loud Yeti scream.

ARCHIBALD: Sounds like I won't need you then. C'mon goons.

As Bob Jackson speaks, his audio gets quieter, eventually fading out as Archibald walks away.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: No, that's just wolves! Uh, this isn't good. Last chance for legal service from the best lawyer on Raven Wa—

Tape ends.

SCOTT: That is the end of Archibald Leicester's recordings. What follows was recorded a few hours later, that night, by Mavis. This is the only recording we have that was not lost, as it was being held in the City Hall Archive on Raven Watch.

Tape starts back up.

ZOZO: Ha! Beat you again, Mavis.

MAVIS: Sure you did Zozo . . . anyway, thanks for letting me stay with you for now. Agnes isn't that happy with me. At least you seem to understand.

ZOZO: Yeah, bro, I don't care what you did, as long as you are on the path to being better. We've all made mistakes, bro.

MAVIS: It means a lot, so thank you.

ZOZO: Wait, sorry to interrupt you.

Loud echoing footsteps.

MAVIS: Somebody's coming.

ZOZO: Oh, that's just Agnes.

MAVIS: Agnes? Oh no!

AGNES: Oh my goodness. It's you! Why are you here, Mavis?

MAVIS: Well, since you kicked me out it was either here or Miach's and it doesn't smell like mothballs here.

AGNES: Well, I kicked you out because you were about to betray this town and I wanted you to leave for good!

Booming footsteps and a thunderous crack introduce Archibald.

ARCHIBALD: It was 1929 when my father, Archibald Reginald Kingsley Charles Leicester II first started the Leicester Resorts and Cruise Line—

Lighting Crash

ARCHIBALD: and I will not see some silly girl tear it all down for her idiotic idea of morality.

Collective gasp!

MAVIS: How did you find me Archibald?

ARCHIBALD: It was quite easy actually. Had you forgotten this girl here owns the only hotel in town? Once I heard this foolish Yeti scream, I knew it was somewhere around here. Then, tonight, I saw her walking into the woods. It was easy enough to figure where she was going, so I simply followed her and I was right! She led me right to this cave and to you.

MAVIS: Geez Agnes, your family really needs to learn to hide better.

ARCHIBALD: Ah, and you, beast. The mighty Yeti of Raven Watch! How people will flock to this place to see you. You will be a hit! A star! A sensation! Your face will be known around the world and everyone will want to make their way here, to my resort, to see you!

ZOZO: It wouldn't! My whole family died because people like you wanted to gawk at us from behind glass. If we weren't being hunted for our pelts that is. Yeti's don't do well in captivity. I know that especially now, because just the threat of people like you coming here forces me to hide. I had to leave my home and when I found this cave, Winslow showed me compassion, which I am deeply grateful for.

ARCHIBALD: So, what you are saying is this life you like so much isn't much different from what I would have you do. Except with me you would have comfort and safety and fame!

ZOZO: You don't care about me, you only care about using me to make yourself richer. I would rather be free, bro. I can't be caged.

ARCHIBALD: Well, your feelings don't matter anyway. Raven Watch is already mine! I bought it at an auction two months ago. I merely wanted to make this transition easier for all of us. You work for me, Yeti! Get ready to grab the beast, boys!

ARCHIBALD lets out an evil laugh. Lightning Crack

GOON 1 & 2: Just give us the order, sir!

ARCHIBALD: What are you doing you fool! Come here and capture this beast! Argh! At least I still have another man by my side. No matter. You fools can't stop me anyway.

MAVIS: You can't do this, Archibald! Raven Watch is far too special of a place for you to put your grimey resort. Making Raven Watch a tourist town would ruin what makes it

special. Bringing the resort here would drive the residents who've been here their whole lives out of Raven Watch. It would take the small town culture and force it to become a machine built to satisfy tourists who are only here a few months of the year. I know I can't speak on it too much because up till now, my job was helping the system that destroys places like this, but I'm trying to change and that's the best any of us can do.

ARCHIBALD: You think I care about the freaks that live in this town? This resort would make Raven Watch, or Leicester's Landing, a place people would actually want to be and those same people would pay big money to come see this disgusting beast. We're going to proceed with clearcutting this forest and setting up the concrete foundation as soon as the purchase goes through.

AGNES: You know the people of Raven Watch aren't just going to leave and let you destroy this land. They aren't just going to let you take over and exploit every living being on it. This fight isn't just about the people, it's about nature and the wilderness and the beings that live on this island, including the Yetis, which people like you drove out of their homes and to the verge of extinction. Your resort is meaningless in the face of that.

ARCHIBALD: I seriously do not know why you are telling me all of this. I couldn't care less. None of your pleading for pity will change my plans. In truth, your disdain for me only motivates me more. It's not like two children can stop me when that deranged old man I killed couldn't.

AGNES: What are you saying?

ARCHIBALD: His heart medication was easy enough to replace. Paying off the pharmacist was a breeze and I had to get the old fool out of my way. He was

surprisingly adept at preventing construction from starting here, he had all these little tricks up his sleeve. Little did he know, I did too. So I dealt with him.

ZOZO: That's! not! cool! BRO!

Loud thump. Archibald wails.

GOONS 1 & 2: Looks like we aren't getting paid! See y'all later!

Tiny footsteps leave the cave, echoing.

MAVIS: What did you do Zozo!

AGNES: Wait, he's still breathing! What are we gonna do with him?

MAVIS: We need to turn him in. Good thing I got his confession on record.

AGNES: Thank you, Mavis.

MAVIS: Yeah, of course. I honestly forgot I was recording—

AGNES: No, for what you said. It means a lot that you stayed and that you stood up for Raven Watch. Thank you for that.

MAVIS: Well, it wasn't that hard to stay with you. And on that note. I know I did some really stupid stuff while I was here and I never really apologized. So I'm sorry. I'm really, really sorry. I didn't mean to—

AGNES: Stop apologizing, I also need to say sorry.

MAVIS: What are you talking about? You didn't do anything wrong. I deserved to be kicked out.

AGNES: Yeah, maybe, but that's not how you should treat someone you really care about.

MAVIS: Well, uh, I don't know how much longer I will be in Raven Watch and I guess I don't know how to say this but—

AGNES: I know. You've grown to mean a lot to this town and I would understand if you would want to stay.

MAVIS: Yeah, I really like the town. I like how small yet chaotic it is, but it has this charm about it and warmth that I can't describe. I like how it knows everything about itself, and has the best views.

AGNES: So you're really okay with staying?

MAVIS: If there's room here for me?

AGNES: I'm sure the town has enough room.

MAVIS: Oh, I'm still recording. I should stop the tape—

Recording stops.

SCOTT: And that is Mavis' final recording. To our knowledge she hasn't recorded since. The last recording we have of her was in the courtroom. We managed to get ahold of that footage which is presented here:

Audio is clearly recorded in a large room.

JUDGE: And the Jury has reached their final decision. One Archibald Leicester and Hans Gruber will be sentenced to sixty years in a federal penitentiary for the first degree murder of one Winslow Pegleg.

ARCHIBALD: NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! YOU CANNOT DO THIS TO ME! DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM! I AM ARCHIBALD LEICESTER! I OWN THIS STATE!

JUDGE: Order in the court! Order in the court!

Gavel sound.

JUDGE: According to the evidence brought on by Mr. Bob Jackson, you clearly successfully conspired in the murder of Winslow Pegleg.

BOB JACKSON ESQ: That's Bob Jackson **ESQUIRE** to you!

MAVIS: Cool it Bob!

JUDGE: Apologies, Mr. Jackson . . . Esquire. Anyway, bailiff take him away.

ARCHIBALD: You'll never get rid of Archibald Reginald Kings—

Audio Cuts. When it returns, Mavis and Agnes are quiet, but still audible. Like they are far away from the recording device.

SCOTT: Following the handing over of the tape to the Raven Watch Police Department, Archibald Leicester was detained and six months later convicted for the first degree murder of Winslow. To this day he is still in prison.

Door Opens

MAVIS: Hey Scott, are you coming over for the staff party?

SCOTT: Yeah one second I just have to finish recording.

MAVIS: Ok well hurry up Agnes and I made salmon dip.

SCOTT: After his imprisonment the auction of Raven Watch fell through and the land was returned to the State of Alaska. Five years later, this foundation was established and we were able to get the tapes from the Raven Watch Police Department as well as from the kid who recorded the mixtapes. As annoying as those recordings are, without the kid keeping and later handing over the tapes, this story would've been lost forever. Mavis, who just interrupted me, still lives in Raven Watch with her wife Agnes and their close friend Zozo, who has since become a chess grandmaster. Actually, I think he has a match with Magnus Tucker-Carlsen next week.

ZOZO: You bet I am!

AGNES: ZOZO stop, Scott needs to finish recording. You know how important this is.

ZOZO: yeah, yeah, yeah. Just hurry up bro.

SCOTT: Okay Zozo . . . Anyway, signing off, I'm Scott Kacynzski with the Pegleg-(other last name) Trust for Yeti Habitat Restoration.

fin.