

BADHORN, USA

SEASON 1: THE COLLECTOR

EPISODE 1: PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF

EPISODE 2: A MAN'S SOUL TO WASTE

AUDIO DRAMA

BADHORN, USA. EPISODE 1: PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF

EXT. HOUSE - DAY.

A cold winter WIND whips through the air. Feet CRUNCH through snow, running quickly. SIRENS blare in the near distance.

HEAVY BREATHING from the runner. LOW MOANS of pain from another body nearby.

MONTGOMERY

Hold on, Wally! Just hold on!

The painful moans become louder as the runner, Detective RAMONA MONTGOMERY (45) closes in. There was a time when she was the hardest drinkin', hardest livin', hardest detective on any police force. But those days are mostly gone. Mostly.

WALLY

This is a scary mess, ain't it?

Those groans belong to Detective WALTER J. SOUZA (47), Montgomery's partner for the last year or so, and her best (and only) friend for much longer.

MONTGOMERY

It's nothing. I seen worse.

Wally slowly drags himself through the snow and ice.

WALLY

Worse than my dinner hanging outta my stomach?

MONTGOMERY

You think I ain't seen a man's guts before? Back in the city, that'd be just another day.

WALLY

I bet so. I'm sorry I dragged you out here. Got you involved in this.

SIRENS grow louder, closer.

MONTGOMERY

Don't talk like that, buddy. Doc's on his way. We'll get you patched up. Right as rain.

WALLY

Not today, pal. This is where I get off.

Ramona RIPS Wally's shirt, tries to stop the bleeding.

WALLY (CONT'D)
The fleabag was just here, waiting.

MONTGOMERY
Fleabag? You mean--

WALLY
The wolf. From the poster. I put
six from the roscoe straight in his
mug. Didn't matter.

MONTGOMERY
You're in shock, Wally. You're not
making sense.

Wally grabs her, pulls her close.

WALLY
It's Badhorn, Monty. Don't have to
make sense.

An ambulance SCREECHES to a stop. Doors open; EMT's scramble.

MONTGOMERY
Wally, just-- just stay with me.

CUT TO:

INT. MONTGOMERY'S HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

Ice CLINKS in a glass. A bottle POPS open and drink flows
over ice. Montgomery leans back in her CREAKY office chair,
takes a sips.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
Out here, things can change faster
than Badhorn weather. And in
Badhorn, you get all four seasons
in a day. And then some.

Montgomery takes another drink.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
The day started like any other.

INT. MONTGOMERY'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Bacon SIZZLES in the pan. LIGHT MUSIC plays.

JEANNIE
Babe! Breakfast!

Wooden steps give under Montgomery's feet as she walks downstairs and into the kitchen, KISSES Jeannie.

MONTGOMERY
G'morning, sweetheart.

JEANNIE
Coffee and cakes are up.

Montgomery pours a cup of joe, crunches on some bacon.

MONTGOMERY
You're a real dish, babe.

JEANNIE
And don't you forget-- Ow!

She DROPS a pan on the stove.

MONTGOMERY
Jeannie, you ok?

Faucet turns on. Water pours.

JEANNIE
Just burnt my hand. These pans...

MONTGOMERY
I'll get some new ones tonight.

The water stops.

JEANNIE
Ram, you said that last week. And you said you'd fix that bum light.

Montgomery drops her dishes in the sink.

MONTGOMERY
Hey, come here. I'll take care of the pans. And the light. You ok?

JEANNIE
Go on. There's a town full of weirdos and tin-foil hats out there just waiting to meet you.

MONTGOMERY
Love you.

JEANNIE
 Don't I know it?

The front door opens and closes. Montgomery locks it up.

INT. CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

The BEEP-EEP of a car door being unlocked. Door opens and there's that annoying seat belt ding, until a seat belt clicks into place. The engine comes to life and a radio moves through the stations - TALK to ROCK to NOIR JAZZ.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
 Jeannie and me, we'd met about fifteen years ago in the big city out east, but we got tired of that grind. So, last year, we gave up the skyscrapers and craziness of the big city for the trees and the, well, weirdness of Badhorn.

Car stops, turns, gets back up to speed. Music continues.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
 We were both ready to jet the city, but it was Wally who'd convinced me to come here. Just a simple small town, he said...

Car stops again and door opens. Feet crunch through gravel.

INT. KARL B. OFFERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

OFFICER RAYMOND (24), enthusiastically enjoying the small amount of power he has, gives orders. Cameras click. FUZZY STATIC buzzes from an old TV.

OFFICER RAYMOND
 Ok, get a picture of this.

OFFICER TWO
 Got another piece of him over here.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
 Me and Wally'd been pals since our Navy days. Other than Jeannie, he was my best -and only- friend.

Wally barks orders.

WALLY

Be careful! That's a man's head.
Not your mother's bowling ball.

OFFICER RAYMOND

Yes, sir.

WALLY

Jesus, Mary, and-- Montgomery! Glad
you could show up. You bring enough
of that joe for the whole squad?

Montgomery SIPS on coffee.

MONTGOMERY

I did, but I drank it on the way
over.

More cameras whir and click

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

This is a scary mess, ain't it?

WALLY

Eh, I seen worse.

MONTGOMERY

Worse than a man ripped in half?

Wally scribbles some notes.

WALLY

That's Badhorn. That's how it goes.

OFFICER RAYMOND

Someone scrape that eyeball off the
wall! C'mon people!

MONTGOMERY

Wish I'd read that when you sent me
the brochure. What is all this?

Footsteps as they walk across the floor.

WALLY

Welcome to the home of Karl B.
Offerman, Associate Professor of
Cinematic Studies at Badhorn
University. And one big horror
movie geek. This is his collection.

MONTGOMERY

Collection? Peep this stuff, won't
ya? Psycho killer dolls.

(MORE)

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Creepy clown mug. What's this guy
with all the saws in his face?

OFFICER RAYMOND
That's SawFace, sir.

WALLY
We all got our things. Professor
Offerman's was horror movies. You
see the VHS collection?

MONTGOMERY
What? No DVD?

OFFICER RAYMOND
A lot of horror movie fans feel
that VHS offers a more authentic
viewing experience. The grainy
video really pulls you in.

Montgomery rifles through the tapes.

MONTGOMERY
Sure. Because when you're
watching...*Apocalypse Death
Machine...* or... *SawFace 4*,
authenticity's what you need.

She tosses a tape back on the rack.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Lemme guess - this guy was single.

WALLY
Check this out. Watch your step.

They walk through the home.

WALLY (CONT'D)
Someone turn that TV off!

STATIC goes silent.

INT. KARL B. OFFERMAN'S HOME - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Wood CREAKS as feet walk.

WALLY
Here's the real pieces de
resistance.

MONTGOMERY
What am I looking at?

WALLY

Jeez, Monty. Don't you know nothing about nothing? Peep those posters! This is a collection of 1954 prints from the full line of the Phantom Brothers' Monstrous Scourge of Evil Collection. You got *Perch of the Blood Monkeys*. *Night of the Yeti*. *ScareWolf*. That was the one with Jenny Lynn Callahan.

MONTGOMERY

Jenny Lynn was in a fright flick?

WALLY

That's where she got started! Over there you got *The Vampire's Curse*. Right there you got *Shark Apocalypse*. And, of course, *The Creature*.

MONTGOMERY

The Creature? What happened? They run outta clever names?

WALLY

To a collector like Offerman, these woulda been the crown jewels.

MONTGOMERY

They don't look like much. None of 'em got any monsters in 'em.

WALLY

That's the weird thing.

MONTGOMERY

We got a man ripped in half, an apartment covered in blood and VHS tapes, and that's the weird thing?

WALLY

Ok, so it's not the weird thing, but it is a weird thing. Those posters are definitely not right.

MONTGOMERY

How do you know all this? You never seen a horror movie in your life.

WALLY

I've seen horror movies.

MONTGOMERY

You get scared going through the kids' haunted house at Halloween.

WALLY

Officer Raymond!

Footsteps run into the room.

OFFICER RAYMOND

Yes, sir?

WALLY

Tell Detective Montgomery what you told me about these posters.

OFFICER RAYMOND

Yeah, of course. These are original 1954 prints from--

MONTGOMERY

The Real Monsters of Monsters or whatever. I got that part.

OFFICER RAYMOND

The Monstrous Scourge of Evil, right. Anyway, these posters are super rare. I mean, like, only fifty of them were ever printed and most are long gone. They had to set our boy here back a pretty penny.

Montgomery sips her coffee.

MONTGOMERY

Then tell me this: Why are there no monsters in any of these posters?

OFFICER RAYMOND

That's the weird part! They should be there!

MONTGOMERY

So, we got a scrambled egghead with a craving for scary movies, who somehow has the priciest posters ever printed, except they ain't exactly all there. That right?

Footsteps as Montgomery and Wally walk past more police snapping photos and securing the crime scene.

WALLY

Something like that, yeah.

MONTGOMERY
Jesus H., buddy.

WALLY
Yeah, well, that's--

MONTGOMERY
Badhorn. I know.

EXT. KARL B. OFFERMAN'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Montgomery and Wally walk out the house, crunch through the snow. A FLICK of a lighter and an inhale as Wally sucks on a smoke. Familiar beeps and clicks as the car door is opened.

MONTGOMERY
How you think a young college prof comes by these high-end posters?

Wally exhales smoke.

WALLY
Beats me. Maybe he's got-- whatdya call that stuff? Crypto whatever.

MONTGOMERY
Maybe. How about we beat it over to the university and see what we see?

WALLY
I never miss a chance to go back to school.

INT. MONTGOMERY'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

THUD! The car door closes. A seatbelt click in place. The ignition turns and the car rolls out.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
If you and yours one day decided to take a road trip, and that road took you through Badhorn, two-to-one you'd keep on driving. Unless you just like trees and cornfields. But, let's say you got yourself a college-aged kiddo in the car, well, that'd change things. Then you might be heading to Badhorn University.

The RHYTHMIC TICK-TICK of a turn signal; car accelerates.

WALLY

Ever hear about how William J.
built up his university so fast?

MONTGOMERY

Only every day. William J. Badhorn
gave the devil his soul, and in
return, his university became one
of the top schools in the country.

Wally sucks on a smoke; wind WHIPS through the car.

WALLY

Nine outta ten. Wasn't the devil.
Was something worse.

MONTGOMERY

What? Like the government?

WALLY

Maybe. Listen to this - we call the
devil the Prince of Darkness,
right? That means, somewhere,
there's a King of Darkness.

MONTGOMERY

And maybe somewhere there's a Queen
of Darkness.

WALLY

That's for sure. I was married to
her for thirteen years.

MONTGOMERY

Say all that's true - that Billy
Badhorn sold his soul to the devil
or Beelzebub or Willy Wonka or
whoever. That university's the only
reason most people even know about
this town. Don't they call it the
Harvard of the Midwest?

WALLY

Sure. The kids that go there are
friggin' geniuses, but you know
what else they are? Friggin' weird.
Did you know that Badhorn U's got a
meta studies department?

MONTGOMERY

A what studies?

WALLY

Meta studies. The study of weird stuff. And it's the only school in the country where you can get a graduate degree in the occult?

MONTGOMERY

People like weird. Gives a little jolt to their boring lives.

WALLY

And some people just wanna see how close they can stand to the devil.

The car pulls into a parking spot. Seatbelts unbuckle, doors pop open and feet walk up stone steps.

MONTGOMERY

People wanna spend eighty grand to dance with the devil, that's on them. They could always just come and work with us for a few days.

Wooden doors open and steps ECHO down a long hallway.

INT. BADHORN UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

If I'd only known then, how right I was. Standing next to the devil was our job. The only thing about that is, when you stand next to the devil for too long, you get burnt.

Feet stop. A student, CARLA (21) shuffles paper at a desk.

CARLA

Hello. How may I help you?

MONTGOMERY

Point us in the direction of Karl B. Offerman's office.

CARLA

Professor Offerman's not in today.

WALLY

We know.

CARLA

What? Well, you can always-- oh. Badhorn PD. Is he in trouble?

MONTGOMERY

He's dead.

WALLY

Jesus. She's a student. Probably got a final later or something.

CARLA

It's-- It's... he's dead?

Another set of FOOTSTEPS from down the hall.

DR. GODBOLT

Carla, is everything all right?

CARLA

Dr. Godbolt, yes. I mean, no. I--

MONTGOMERY

What she means is that Professor Offerman was murdered this morning and we need to see his office.

DR. GODBOLT

And you are?

WALLY

I'm Detective Walter J. Souza, and she's Detective Ramona Montgomery. And who are you exactly?

DR. GODBOLT

I'm Dr. Crowley L. Godbolt, the Dean of Cinematic Arts.

WALLY

Dr. Godbolt, can we talk in your office?

DR. GODBOLT

Of course, detectives.

They walk into...

INT. BADHORN UNIVERSITY - DR. GODBOLT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Chairs creak as everyone sits A heater HUMS along.

MONTGOMERY

Hey, will you look at that?

WALLY

He's got the same poster of The Creature that Offerman had.

MONTGOMERY

Yeah, except that one's still got The Creature in it.

DR. GODBOLT

You know the Phantom Brothers?

WALLY

We know we saw the same poster in Offerman's apartment. Only The Creature was missing.

MONTGOMERY

And we know that Offerman is dead.

DR. GODBOLT

If The Creature is missing, then he doesn't have this poster, he has a bootleg forgery. Serves him right. He probably tried to cut corners with the poster, like he did everything else.

MONTGOMERY

I can tell Offerman's murder has got you real broken up.

DR. GODBOLT

I'm sorry to hear he's dead, but I can't say I'm surprised he rubbed someone the wrong way. He was always... aiming above his station.

MONTGOMERY

Wanted to play in the big leagues, huh? Any of these redhots might want him dead?

DR. GODBOLT

If you could kill a man for his taste in movies, someone would have executed him long ago.

MONTGOMERY

He had bad taste?

DR. GODBOLT

He had no taste.

WALLY

How does one acquire one of these
Phantom Brothers posters?

Godbolt TAPS his desk.

DR. GODBOLT

I procured mine directly from Joey
Phantom himself. Offerman, he
probably ordered it from Dr. Wicked
or some other hack.

WALLY

You mean Dr. Wicked of Dr. Wicked's
Bazaar of the Bizarre and Other
Creepy Collectibles.

DR. GODBOLT

Is there another Dr. Wicked? That
swap meet of kitsch and gimcrack is
just the kind of place someone like
Offerman would frequent.

MONTGOMERY

So he wouldn't know a good movie if
it jumped up and bit him. Anything
else wonky about Offerman?

DR. GODBOLT

No wonkier than anyone else.

Chairs creak again as the detectives stand.

WALLY

We appreciate your time, doctor.

DR. GODBOLT

Of course, detectives.

MONTGOMERY

Just one more question: Where's the
others?

DR. GODBOLT

Excuse me?

MONTGOMERY

Well, you got *The Creature*, but
what about the werewolf and the
sharks and the blood monkeys?
Offerman had a whole set.

For a moment, Godbolt's voice is surprised, but he quickly
regains his composure.

DR. GODBOLT

A set? A set of knockoffs perhaps.
Do you know how much these posters
cost? How hard they are to locate?
No one has a set. No one.

Footsteps as exit Godbolt's office, BACK INTO THE HALLWAY.

MONTGOMERY

I'd hate to see the Christmas cards
those guys send each other.

WALLY

You think a guy like that could off
a guy like Offerman?

MONTGOMERY

A guy like that's not getting any
dirt under those nails. But if
he'll spend that much scratch on a
movie poster, he might throw some
dough down on a heavy gunny.

CARLA (O.S.)

Uhm, excuse me?

Footsteps stop.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Is Professor Offerman really dead?

MONTGOMERY

Deader than a battery in a
flashlight.

WALLY

Montgomery!

MONTGOMERY

I mean, yeah, sweetheart. He is.

CARLA

Wow. I guess, I just... He was a
good teacher. He was even the head
of our occult club. He was fun.

MONTGOMERY

Godbolt made him sound about as fun
as a duck at a junebug convention.

CARLA

That's because Godbolt's a jerk. No
one likes him. I'd hear him and
Professor Offerman argue sometimes.

WALLY

Oh yeah? Over what?

CARLA

I don't know. Just, like, movies and stuff. Dr. Godbolt - he likes to show off sometimes, and, you know, put you down if you say something he doesn't agree with.

Carla quietly sobs.

MONTGOMERY

Hey, it's gonna be ok. We're gonna figure this out, ok? I promise.

WALLY

In the meantime, here's our card.

Footsteps FADE OUT.

INT. CAR - MOVING

A car drives through town.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I told the kid I'd figure this out, and I meant it. That's the whole reason I became a cop - to keep people safe. Every time I showed up to a scene -whether it was pinching some chiseler or putting the hammer on a sicko like we got here- I felt it. I felt it, and I hated it.

EXT. STRIPMALL - NIGHT

The car pulls into a parking spot and turns off. Crickets CHIRP as day gives into night.

MONTGOMERY

So this Dr. Wicked, he puts up shop in a strip mall?

Car doors slam shut. Feet walk over gravel.

WALLY

It's Badhorn, Monty. Everything's in a strip mall.

A bell DINGS as the door is opened and our heroes enter...

INT. DR. WICKED'S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The HUM of fluorescent lights and central heating. In the back, gamers, KYLE and DALE, roll dice and bicker.

KYLE THE GAMER

No. You can't do that. I have the Al Gore card, so I'm blocking.

DALE THE GAMER

Yeah, I know, Kyle. But I'm using Church of Violentology and Flying Saucers to fly over Al Gore.

MONTGOMERY

What the hell are they doing?

WALLY

No clue. That's too weird for me.

MONTGOMERY

Gentlemen, sorry to interrupt whatever this is with the cards and dice, but--

KYLE THE GAMER

It's called *Majestic World Order*. I'm the Greys, and Dale there is the Reptilians. The object is--

MONTGOMERY

That's great. Where's Wicked?

DALE THE GAMER

Who?

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

It hurts me to say it, but Godbolt was right. This was just the kinda place Offerman would throw down at. A weird mix of horror movies, games, dolls and anything else a fan could want. It even smelled weird. Like some combination of DVDs, Doritos, and dice.

A cash register DINGS as employee, STEVE (30s), large beard, large belly, small voice, speaks up.

STEVE

Hi. Welcome to Dr. Wicked's Bazaar of the Bizarre and Other Creepy Collectibles. I'm Steve. Help you find anything?

Our detectives walk across a wooden floor.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Everything about Steve was big. Beard. Belly. Hair. The gamer guys couldn't talk anything but cards and dice. Steve, though, looked like he might know a thing or two.

MONTGOMERY

We're looking for Dr. Wicked.

STEVE

He's not here right now. Can I tell him who- oh. Badhorn PD.

WALLY

I'm Detective Souza. This here's Detective Montgomery. You sure he's not around?

STEVE

Oh, well, uh, I, you know, he might be in the back.

Steve STUMBLES AND FUMBLES, knocking items to the FLOOR.

WALLY

Check this place out, huh?

MONTGOMERY

A real horror haven. Check out the detail on those figurines.

WALLY

Look at this one. It's heavy.

MONTGOMERY

What is that? A cephalopod?

Footsteps ENTER from the back.

DR. WICKED (O.S.)

That cephalopod, as you call it, is an ancient power figure from a civilization you've never heard of. And it's worth more than you two combined. Please. Put it down.

A small clop as Wally places the figure back.

MONTGOMERY

Dr. Wicked, I presume?

DR. WICKED

And you are?

WALLY

Detective's Souza and Montgomery.
We've got a few questions about a
customer of yours.

MONTGOMERY

Former customer of yours.

WALLY

Karl B. Offerman. Any bells?

DR. WICKED

Ah, Karl. What has he gotten
himself into now?

MONTGOMERY

He's gotten himself dead.

DR. WICKED

Oh, dear. Let's step into my
office, shall we?

Across the shop, Wicked unlocks a back door, which CREAKS
open, and the three walk in.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

David O'Neill, a.k.a Dr. Wicked,
looked just like a guy who called
himself Dr. Wicked should look.
Like some sorta evil carnival
barker from late night TV. Too
tall. Too thin, and with a suit
that was about two sizes too small.

Small objects FALL to the ground.

WALLY

Whoops. Sorry about that.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

His "office" was a glorified broom
closet, bursting with every sorta
horror schlock you could think of.

Wally places the object back on a metal rack.

MONTGOMERY

Little tight in here, huh, O'Neill?

The chair CREAKS as Wicked leans back.

DR. WICKED

You may call me Dr. Wicked, and I'm not used to having guests.

MONTGOMERY

I already got lip service from one doc today, doc. So don't think that makes you any more special.

The chair GROANS again. Wicked taps rhythmically on his desk.

WALLY

We've just got a few questions. Karl B. Offerman was a frequent customer here. Is that right?

DR. WICKED

He was just in here a few days ago.

WALLY

Really? Why was that?

DR. WICKED

I helped him locate some rare memorabilia.

MONTGOMERY

The posters?

DR. WICKED

Not just posters. A complete set--

MONTGOMERY

Yeah, we've heard. How'd you get a hold of these things?

DR. WICKED

I run a horror memorabilia shop. Getting a hold of "these things" is my job.

MONTGOMERY

From what I hear, these posters are above your pay grade.

DR. WICKED

You'd be surprised what's in my pay grade, detective.

WALLY

You found Offerman the posters?

DR. WICKED

I did. He said he wanted a complete set of the 1954 Phantom Brothers Scourge of Evil Monsters posters. I said, "Who doesn't?".

MONTGOMERY

Word on the street is that those posters are pretty rare.

DR. WICKED

Bigfoot sighting are rare, detective. A set of those posters is impossible. That's why Offerman came to me. It took some time, but I was able to procure the prints. He paid, and that was that.

WALLY

How much did he pay?

DR. WICKED

A lot. But to him it was worth it.

MONTGOMERY

And how does someone like Offerman come up with enough jack to afford the Holy Grail of horror nerds?

DR. WICKED

How does the city of Badhorn find the money to pay your salary? I don't ask where it comes from. I merely accept it. Or don't.

WALLY

He say why he wanted these posters?

DR. WICKED

He's a collector. And, as your partner so eloquently put it, this would be the Grail of his collection.

MONTGOMERY

He ever mention a Dr. Godbolt?

DR. WICKED

Yes. I got the impression they were not friends. Perhaps that was part of his sudden motivation? A chance to show up the good doctor?

WALLY

When we saw the posters, it appeared as if they'd been altered in some way. Like the monsters had been photoshopped out or something.

The TAPPING stops.

DR. WICKED

Are you saying that Offerman defaced the posters?

WALLY

We're saying that the posters appeared to have been altered.

DR. WICKED

That is the true crime here.

MONTGOMERY

Worse than a dead guy?

DR. WICKED

I'm sorry to hear that Mr. Offerman's dead, but, if he disfigured a priceless piece of history, well, then I almost say he got what he deserved.

MONTGOMERY

Seems to be a common opinion.

DR. WICKED

When I sold him the posters, they were pristine. Perfect. Would you paint a mustache on the *Mona Lisa*? Spray paint graffiti on *The Sistine Chapel*? Of course not!

WALLY

Thanks for your time, doctor. Anything else, please let us know.

Chairs creak. Feet shuffle. Objects are knocked to the floor. Wicked HUFFS in frustration.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

David O'Neill might hide behind the moniker of Dr. Wicked, but there was no hiding the fact that he wasn't telling us everything.

A DING of the front doorbell and the HUM of the shop gives way to the ICY WIND of...

EXT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Our detectives cross the gravel parking lot, into the car.

WALLY

So, what do we got partner?

MONTGOMERY

A couple doctors, some altered artwork, and a body that no one seems to really care about.

WALLY

What are ya thinking?

MONTGOMERY

I think we shook the hive. Let's see if any honey falls out.

The cold wind continues to blow. Car doors open and close.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Wally and I went our separate ways. Wally headed home. He was married to the force, but, at night, he liked to get tight with a good bottle. As for me, I finally picked up those pans for Jeannie.

INT. MONTGOMERY'S HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

Glass. Ice. Bottle. Pour.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Once back at El Casa de Montgomery, I put things together best I could. Karl B. Offerman, professor of film at Badhorn University. Well-liked by students. Disliked by Godbolt. Tolerated by Wicked. Somehow manages to find the friggin' maltese falcon of the horror world. Only that bird ends up with its wings clipped. Who--

CRASH! Glass shatters from downstairs.

MONTGOMERY

What the... Jeannie? That you?

Jeannie YELLS from down the hall.

JEANNIE (O.S.)
No. I thought it was you.

Drawers open. Montgomery digs, looking for something.

MONTGOMERY
C'mon. Where is it? There you are.

The cylinder of a revolver SPINS. LOCKS into place.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
I kept the thirty-eight in the
drawer. In case of emergencies.

Montgomery walks from the STUDY and DOWN THE HALL.

JEANNIE
What was that?

MONTGOMERY
Probably just someone in the wrong
house. Stay here.

STAIRS CREAK as Montgomery walks downstairs and into the

INT. MONTGOMERY'S HOME - KITCHEN

Running water POURS from the kitchen faucet. Montgomery
SPLASHES through a flooded kitchen.

MONTGOMERY
Oh, for crying out loud.

The CLICK of light switch. Again. And again.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Damn it. Shoulda fixed that light.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
The light was broken, but a full
moon was glowing through a broken
kitchen window. The sink had
overflowed, and our kitchen was
drowning in the flood. Had some
hophead broken in just to turn on
the faucet?

Montgomery splashes across the kitchen, turns off the faucet.

MONTGOMERY
What the--

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I could just make out the shape of something in the water. Long. Thin. Almost like it was swimming...

Montgomery SCREAMS in surprise. SPLASHING and THRASHING as Montgomery wrestles with something unknown. Kitchen chairs crash into the wet floor. Items FALL to the floor.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Not almost swimming. It was swimming! A tiny shark, just like one might find in a *Shark Apocalypse* was doing the backstroke through my kitchen!

More splashing and crashing. Something FLOPS to the floor, flipping over again and again.

BANG! BANG! Montgomery fires. The flopping stops. Montgomery HUFFS and PUFFS, trying to catch her breath. The SPLASH of more footsteps, but they're not our hero's.

MONTGOMERY

Now what?

The splashing stops, replaced by HEAVY MONSTROUS BREATHING.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I'll tell you now what, but you won't believe me. Heck, I wouldn't believe me. Eight-feet of black scales, glowing eyes, and claws like ten of them late-night ginsu knives. I'd seen this guy before. On the poster in Godbolt's office.

MONTGOMERY

You are one ugly son of a--

The monster ROARS! A BANG of the gun and a struggle ensues. Chairs break. Glass shatters. Montgomery and The Creature splash through the water. Montgomery screams as the air is knocked out of her. She fights back, punching The Creature.

Finally BANG! Another ROAR! BANG! BANG! The Creature collapses with a mighty splash. Montgomery breathes heavily.

JEANNIE (O.S.)

Ramona? Everything ok down there?

MONTGOMERY

Yeah, babe. A-plus.

She KICKS the Creature for good measure.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Just cleaning up the kitchen.

INT. MONTGOMERY'S HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

Multiple footsteps splash through the water. Muffled conversations in the background.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
Some guys from the force came by to help clean The Creature off my toaster. I tried to play it cool, but those things were in my house. They were this close to Jeannie. And they didn't just stumble by. Someone sent them. And, if they'd sent them after me...

The BEEP of a cell phone being dialed RING! RINNNGGG!

MONTGOMERY
C'mon, Wally! Answer the phone.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY.

A cold winter wind whips through the air. Montgomery books it through the snow. SIRENS blare in the near distance.

Montgomery's almost out of breath. Wally moans in pain.

MONTGOMERY
Hold on, buddy! Just hold on!

Wally moans again.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I should have warned you.

Wally speaks in labored tones.

WALLY
It's up to you now, partner. Someone don't want us to figure this out. Badhorn don't have to be like this. I never could change it, but maybe you can.

MONTGOMERY
Wally! What are you talking--

The last breaths leave Wally's body.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Wally! Wally! Damn it.

EMTs run through the snow, take out their defibrillator.

EMT 1
Clear!

BZZT!

EMT 1 (CONT'D)
Again. Clear!

BZZT!

EMT 2
Nothing. Let's call it...

EMT's voices fade into the distance. The wind picks up, the strongest yet.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
My friend was dead, sliced up by
some movie monster come to life.
But this wasn't gonna be just
another Badhorn incident. I was
gonna get to the bottom of this, no
matter how down and dirty I had to
get. No one was coming after my
partner, my friends, and my family
without paying the price for it.

END EPISODE ONE.

BADHORN, USA. EPISODE 2: A MAN'S SOUL TO WASTE

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

A cold winter wind blows. BAGPIPES play TAPS. Quiet sobs.

JEANNIE
How you holding up?

MONTGOMERY
Right as rain.

A MINISTER speaks.

MINISTER
Friends, we are gathered here today
to pay tribute to our good friend:
Detective Walter J. Souza.

As the Minister continues, MONTGOMERY's VO begins.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
Wally had been my partner for the
last year and my friend for a lot
longer than that. He was the whole
reason I'd even made it to this
weird town. And now he was dead -
ripped apart by a B-rate bird dog.

MINISTER
Not only have we sensed our own
personal loss over Detective
Souza's passing, but our heart is
pulled toward those who are here
today who love and care about him.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
Wally didn't have a family. His
wife was the Badhorn PD. A deck of
Lucky's and a fifth of Ol' Goose
Chase Bourbon were the only other
things he ever had time for.

MINISTER
Finally, it is our human nature to
want to understand everything now,
but trust requires that we lean on
the Lord, even when we might not
understand why.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
Sorry, reverend. I don't have time
for God to sort things out.

(MORE)

MONTGOMERY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 While He's up there playing dice,
 I'll be down here figuring out
 exactly why someone sent some old
 movie monsters to kill my buddy.

Rifles cock in the near distance.

POLICE OFFICER
 Fire!

BANG! The rhythmic firing of a TWENTY-ONE GUN SALUTE.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
 And I want to know exactly what it
 is that makes Badhorn, Badhorn.

The sobs dry up.

MONTGOMERY
 C'mon, babe. Let's beat it.

Crunching of boots through snow and hard ground.

HUNTER
 Hey! Montgomery!

The crunching stops. DETECTIVE BRUCE HUNTER (40s). Tough. Alert. A real straight-shooter. A little too straight. Good at his job, and he knows it.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)
 Great. Detective Bruce Hunter. You ever meet someone who gets under your skin, and you just don't know why? That ain't Bruce Hunter. He gets under your skin because he's a grade-A jerk. The kinda wise guy who's always gotta be right there to tell you what you already know. And if that's not bad enough - he's a helluva a good cop.

HUNTER
 Hey, Souza was good police. I'm gonna find out who did this to him.

MONTGOMERY
 Wally was a helluva a cop, and I'm already on it.

HUNTER
 If you were on it, maybe Souza wouldn't have ended up with his insides on his outsides.

HUNTER

You're lucky you're a girl, or I'd--

JEANNIE

What? Because she's a woman, you--

CHIEF COOPER

All of you! Shut up!

The voices GRUMBLE, but quiet down.

CHIEF COOPER (CONT'D)

I'm not putting you two together.
Are you kidding me? You two'd rip
each other apart like-- well,
anyway, Montgomery, meet your new
partner - Aurora Frost.

AURORA FROST (26) steps up. She's young, full of life, and ready to take on the world. She speaks politely.

FROST

Nice to meet you, Detective
Montgomery. I'm very sorry about
Detective Souza. He was a good man.

MONTGOMERY

Are you pulling my leg, Chief? I
ain't got time to babysit some girl
fresh out the explorers program.

HUNTER

Oh, this is good! Just make sure
you have her home before her curfew
or her daddy might get upset!

CHIEF COOPER

Can it, both of you! Detective
Frost here is young, but she's
good. She's got the book knowledge,
and, with your help, Montgomery,
she'll get the field skill.

HUNTER

Yeah, you can show her everything
she's not supposed to do.

MONTGOMERY

Son of a--

CHIEF COOPER

Hunter, you come with me.
Montgomery. Mrs. Montgomery.

JEANNIE

Chief.

Crunching of boots as they walk off.

FROST

Detective Hunter's a real piece of work, huh?

MONTGOMERY

He's a piece of something that's for sure.

INT. MONTGOMERY HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

The familiar sound of ICE into a glass. Bottle POPS and POUR.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Aurora Frost. Twenty-six. Badhorn native with a background in law from BU. She'd done so well in her short time here that the chief approved her move to be my partner.

Montgomery takes a long drink. Another pour.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Thanks a lot, Chief.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

A car drives through the street.

FROST

So, Wicked's shop was there, and now it's not. And no one saw anything. Or if they did, they're not saying.

MONTGOMERY

Steve'll know. Wicked's shop couldn't just get up and walk away.

FROST

I got a feeling we won't get much.

MONTGOMERY

Really? That a hunch you've built up from your years of experience?

FROST

Look I get it ok. You're the grizzled old detective...

MONTGOMERY

I'm forty-five. I'm not old.

FROST

And I'm the new girl, but I'm from Badhorn. I know how it works here.

MONTGOMERY

And I know how this works. We grill Steve like a summer barbecue. He gives us the answers. We toss Wicked in the stir and lose the key. Then I go home and drink whiskey with my wife.

FROST

You know detective work, but you don't know Badhorn. Wicked is weird. This town is weird. And I bet this Steve guy is weird too.

The car stops, pulls into a parking spot. Beeps as car doors open and close. Outside, the wind blows.

MONTGOMERY

If you know so much about this town, tell me this: Why does everyone here think it's so weird?

FROST

I dunno. Some people say it's because it's at the junction of these lay lines. Others say it was built on an old Indian burial ground. Some people think it's because William J. Badhorn made a deal with the devil.

MONTGOMERY

What do you think?

FROST

Me? I think it was all three. And then some.

MONTGOMERY

Hmm... C'mon. Let's see how weird this guy is.

EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Montgomery POUNDS on the door.

FROST
Knock any harder he's gonna think
the police are here.

The door opens.

STEVE
Can I help-- oh it's-- aagh!

CRASH! Montgomery tackles Steve into a table in the house.

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The HUM of the house's interior. Low ROCK MUSIC plays inside.

MONTGOMERY
Where is he, huh?

STEVE
What are you--

MONTGOMERY
Spill you sap! Or I'll--

STEVE
Who are you-- I can't--

FROST
Detective! Get off of him!

MONTGOMERY
Wicked! Where is he?

STEVE
I don't know! I swear!

FROST
Detective! Detective!

Steve SCRAMBLES away as Montgomery tries to catch her breath.

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

The DULL HUM of the house. Steve blows his nose.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Steve was another horror nut. All five-hundred square feet of his apartment was covered in horror-themed junk. Doesn't anyone here enjoy a good rom-com?

Steve snuffles, blows his nose again.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Steve also told us he was fighting a cold. His skin was pale, and, despite the snow on the ground, sweat dripped from his body like someone broke off the handle. My guess? Horror stuff wasn't the only kind of junk he was into.

STEVE

I showed up to work, and the shop was gone. No warning. Nothing. In fact, it was the same day I woke up with this cold. It's like my body knew something I didn't, huh?

Steve sips from a glass, sets it down.

STEVE (CONT'D)

But, yeah, I knew Karl a little bit. We both liked horror movies, so we'd mostly talk about that. But, more recently, he started mentioning this guy he worked with, Goldbot? Dogbelt?

MONTGOMERY

Godbolt.

STEVE

Yeah, that's it. Anyway, he had this poster - a near-mint original 1954 *The Creature* poster from the Phantom Brothers. I mean, I didn't think anybody had one of those.

Steve snuffles.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Anyway, this was really getting in Karl's crawl 'cuz I guess this Godbolt guy just wouldn't stop bragging about it.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

So Karl comes in asking if we could get him the poster. And not just that poster. The whole set!

FROST

And this is unusual?

STEVE

Unusual? Do you have a mint condition *Action Comics* Number 1? A mint Limited Edition Alpha Black Lotus card? A sealed copy of Bandai's *Stadium Events*?

MONTGOMERY

English, Steve.

STEVE

What I'm saying is, those things are unusual. A full set of primetime 1954 Phantom Brothers Monstrous Scourge of Evil posters? That's not unusual. That's impossible.

FROST

We get it. They're hard to come by.

STEVE

No, you don't get it. No one has that. Not even the Phantom Brothers. Even if, *-if!*- Dr. Wicked could pull a set together, there was no way that a guy like Offerman could afford it.

MONTGOMERY

Maybe he's got a rich uncle you don't know about.

STEVE

I don't care if he's got two rich uncles and he sold a kidney, not gonna happen. And yet...

FROST

Yet, he got them.

STEVE

He got them.

FROST

How do you think Offerman convinced Wicked to part with the posters?

Steve blows his nose again, sips on his drink.

STEVE

He was obsessed. I mean, he had to have these posters. Horror movies was his thing. And he never liked when someone knew something or had a piece of memorabilia he didn't. There was this one time, right? He came in, arguing that the demon from *The Exorcist* wasn't named Pazuzu, when everyone knows that--

MONTGOMERY

So, how'd he get them?

STEVE

Right. So yeah, Offerman's got no cash, but one day Wicked pulls him into his office for a little sit-down. Half hour later, Offerman comes out with all six posters.

FROST

Wicked just gave them to him?

STEVE

Wicked ain't a guy you wanna be making deals with, but, like I said, Offerman was obsessed.

MONTGOMERY

Get to the rub.

STEVE

What I'm saying is, he sold his soul, detective.

QUIET, as everyone ponders the meaning of this.

FROST

Karl Offerman sold his soul for a few movie posters?

STEVE

Not a few movie posters! A complete set of original--

MONTGOMERY

You're peddling your fish in the wrong market, bub. David O'Neill ain't the devil. He was born in--

STEVE

Pump me all you want, but that's the story. Dr. Wicked had the posters. Offerman wanted the posters. Offerman got the posters. The only thing he coulda offered was his soul.

FROST

I suppose it's possible. Power of suggestion. To someone so entrenched in horror-movie culture, Offerman might have thought he sold his soul and--

MONTGOMERY

Baloney. If it was a square deal, then why is Offerman dead?

STEVE

That's the thing, right? Deal's done; everyone's happy. But Offerman, he starts doing figure eights; gets buyer's remorse. He didn't really wanna sell his soul. He was just obsessed with getting back at this Godbolt guy. So he tries to figure out how he can wiggle outta the deal.

MONTGOMERY

And what was the score?

STEVE

Well, the way I hear it, he got a hold of Joey Phantom himself.

MONTGOMERY

Joey Phantom? Of the Phantom Brothers?

STEVE

That's the one. But he don't polish nobody's apples... Unless you got a complete set of these posters, and then Joey's interested. So Offerman and Joey meet up to see if somehow Joey can help him out. But then Wicked got word, and, well...

MONTGOMERY

Wicked separated his head from his body.

(MORE)

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
 That still doesn't explain why the
 monsters went missing from the
 posters and showed up in my
 kitchen.

STEVE
 You bought the paper, detective.
 You just don't wanna read it.
 Wicked made those posters come to
 life and kill Offerman.

Steve snuffles.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 I don't know how, but Wicked - he
 can do things. Bad things. You
 don't wanna get on his bad side.
 Trust me.

Steve GROANS in pain.

MONTGOMERY
 What do you mean?

STEVE
 I'm sorry; I'm not feeling good.
 Let's finish up another time.

FROST
 Steve, just tell us what--

Steves GROANS again, even louder.

STEVE
 Please. That's all I know.

Steve runs out. A door closes, locks. The sound of a toilet
 seat being raised and BLARGH! Steve VOMITS.

MONTGOMERY
 C'mon, kid. Let's go.

They stand up and walk out. Steve VOMITS again.

EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The wind blows, as they walk back to the car, OPEN the door.

FROST
 How much of that you think is the
 real deal?

MONTGOMERY

Wicked. Offerman. Steve. All those guys are horror movie freaks. You said it yourself - Wicked orders some fake posters online and makes a deal with Offerman to mess with his head. Somewhere in there, one of them gets tired of playing and Offerman takes the big nap.

FROST

Ok, but what about Joey Phantom?

MONTGOMERY

If Offerman can get a meeting, so can we.

Car door closes, and the engine kicks to life.

INT. CAR - MOVING

The sounds of the detectives driving through Badhorn.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

In the forties and fifties, Maximus L. Badhorn, great-great- I don't know how many greats, grandson of William J. Badhorn, dumped a buncha dough trying to turn our town into another Hollywoodland, and it worked for a while. But, in the end, he couldn't compete. Badhorn's really only got forests and cornfields. And it's not exactly seventy-two and sunny out here. It's miserable in the summer and worse in the winter.

The BEEPING of a turn signal.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

He did have one success though - The Phantom Brothers Studios. Their monster films made a boatload of cash and kept the brothers in Badhorn, though they were never able to recreate their success.

FROST

Joey Phantom is pushing a hundred years old now, but he can usually be found in his favorite old bar: The Discordia. You know it?

MONTGOMERY

I heard the name.

FROST

Used to be popular back in the day. Now, it's just that bar where Joey Phantom hangs out.

The CAR SOUNDS give way to...

INT. BAR - DAY

Like an aging showgirl that never quite made it, THE DISCORDIA CLUB is Badhorn's version of a rundown, old-school Vegas nightclub. Rat Pack style MUSIC plays on a jukebox. A few glasses from the old drunks CLINK through the bar.

MONTGOMERY

This place mighta been something in its day, but that day's long gone.

FROST

I feel like I'm gonna catch something just by being in here.

BARTENDER

Welcome to the Discordia. What'll it be, ladies?

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

The gin-slinger was as crusty as the glass he set up. Still I wasn't gonna pass up a drink, especially with the way this day was going.

MONTGOMERY

Bourbon. Neat.

FROST

Detective, we're--

MONTGOMERY

At a bar. I know.

The familiar sound of whiskey being poured. A glass set down.

BARTENDER

What about you, girlie?

FROST

How about a Joey Phantom? Straight up.

BARTENDER

Tough luck. I don't know how to make that one.

SQUEAK! The Bartender wipes down a glass.

FROST

This jog your memory?

BARTENDER

That's a shiny badge, but it'll take more than a hunk of metal and a couple of dame cops to get this old brain going.

FROST

A couple of--

MONTGOMERY

How about now?

FROST

Detective! That's a hundred dollars. We can't just pay this--

BARTENDER

Well, now that you mention it, I think I have made that before, but watch out - it comes with a real hard number packing heat.

MONTGOMERY

We'll be careful.

Foot steps across the bar, give way to the sounds of LABORED BREATHING through the assistance of an oxygen tank.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

The bartender nodded toward the back, and we saw him: Joey Phantom, strapped up to an oxygen tank, sipping on a Bobby Burns and smoking a menthol light. He looked like he'd died and come back to life, which in this town, mighta happened.

(MORE)

MONTGOMERY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Next to him was a nurse, looking like she was having about as much fun as I was. And next to her was the hardcase. He had muscles on top of muscles, but that didn't hide the gat that was visible under his jacket.

BODYGUARD

That's far enough.

MONTGOMERY

Relax, Arnold, we just wanna ask Mr. Phantom a few questions.

JOEY PHANTOM (98), a real old-school Hollywood producer type, speaks in labored breaths.

JOEY PHANTOM

Everybody's got questions! What ever happened to the days when a man could drink in peace?

NURSE

Mr. Phantom, please. You're going to get yourself worked up and--

JOEY PHANTOM

I know what I'm doing. If I can't enjoy my last few years on this rock, then what good are they?

Joey sucks in air.

FROST

Mr. Phantom, we're from the Badhorn Police Department. We'd like to ask you about Karl B. Offerman.

JOEY PHANTOM

Offerman! That nogoodnik owes me big time! I sent him the money, and he never gave me my posters!

MONTGOMERY

You paid Offerman for the posters?

JOEY PHANTOM

Of course I paid him! He's the one who never delivered.

MONTGOMERY

That's because he's dead.

JOEY PHANTOM

Just like him. Go off and die without holding up his end of the deal. He came in here demanding that I buy his complete collection of the original prints of our Monstrous Scourge of Evil run. You believe that? I don't even have those prints! He should have given them to me! They're mine by rights!

MONTGOMERY

I'm sure he went for that.

JOEY PHANTOM

No! He didn't! He said the only reason he was even going to part with them was that he needed money. And lots of it! I said, "What do I look like? A Badhorn?"

Frost furiously SCRIBBLES down notes.

FROST

Uh-huh. And what did he say?

JOEY PHANTOM

He said, "I don't care what you look like. I know you got money, and I know you want these posters." The worst part was he was right. I'm taking these posters to my grave. They've cost me too much!

Phantom coughs up phlegm, as he sucks in air.

NURSE

Mr. Phantom, please calm down.

MONTGOMERY

How much did you pay him?

JOEY PHANTOM

More than he deserved, I'll tell you that! Look at me! I'm 98 years old, and I'm stuck with Nurse Tubby over here and that guy - he can't even protect me from a couple of dames and a movie teacher. You think I have money? The Badhorns saw to that! They owe me, and they owe me big!

MONTGOMERY

The Badhorns owe you?

JOEY PHANTOM

Only everything! I coulda gone to Hollywood and made it big, but they said, "No, Joey. Stay here. Hollywood's old news!" Ha!

FROST

So, why didn't you leave?

Phantom sucks in air again, but calms down.

JOEY PHANTOM

'Cuz I like breathing. At least for the years I got left. My brother tried to leave, and you know what happened to him.

FROST

You're referring to his accident in the eighties?

JOEY PHANTOM

No accident. Max Badhorn killed him. I know it; the Badhorn PD knows it; And Max's daughter, Priscilla Badhorn, up there in her big house on her big hill overlooking her big city knows it.

MONTGOMERY

What's this gotta do with Offerman?

JOEY PHANTOM

Jesus H. What is it with you broads? I told you - The kid's got these posters and he wants to drop them bad. He don't wanna tell me why, but I got the money. So, he says he wants to buy his soul back from Dr. Wicked, that guy down on-- where is it? Anyway, he says he sold his soul for these posters, and now he's changed his mind. I told him there's no take-backs when it comes to soul deals, but still he wants the money, and I want the posters. And I want to stick it to Badhorn, so I said ok. But then he goes and dies on me!

MONTGOMERY

How's a bunch of old posters gonna stick it Priscilla Badhorn?

JOEY PHANTOM

You really don't know nothing, huh?

FROST

We know they're rare. And valuable.

Phantom SWISHES around his drink, GULPS it down.

JOEY PHANTOM

C'mon, nurse. Let's get outta here. I'm beat.

MONTGOMERY

Wait. Some creature, The Creature, attacked me in my kitchen. Another one, the werewol--

JOEY PHANTOM

ScareWolf.

MONTGOMERY

That one diced up my partner. I need to know.

JOEY PHANTOM

I got nothing else to say. I'm sorry about your partner. And your kitchen.

Cheap leather squeaks as Phantom slides out of the booth.

FROST

What if we got you the posters?

JOEY PHANTOM

You have them?

FROST

We do. In evidence. At the station.

JOEY PHANTOM

Bring 'em here.

MONTGOMERY

Maybe we take you to them. Let you get a good look from the holding cell.

Phantom calmly sucks air in and out.

JOEY PHANTOM

You janes really don't back down, do ya? Most of those posters were destroyed because Max Badhorn put some real bad hocus-pocus on them.

MONTGOMERY

What are you talking about?

JOEY PHANTOM

I'm talking about the fact that when those six posters come together, the power of the monsters can be invoked, if you know the magic word.

MONTGOMERY

Stop yanking our chains. We may--

FROST

What's the magic word?

Phantom laughs through air-sucks.

JOEY PHANTOM

Yeah, right, lady! Dr. Wicked used the monsters to kill Offerman when he found out Offerman was trying to renege on the deal. And they'll kill anyone else who gets in their way, like you. Or your partner. Or me, now that I'm helping you out. So you'd better find them, post-haste.

MONTGOMERY

I killed The Creature and the sharks. And the were- ScareWolf killed my partner.

JOEY PHANTOM

He's a nasty one. I'd find him next.

MONTGOMERY

How? Wait for the full moon again? I don't have that kind of--

JOEY PHANTOM

No, idiot! You're thinking of a werewolf. A ScareWolf changes every night. That's what makes him scary. Didn't you ever see the film?

MONTGOMERY

No.

FROST

Nuh-uh.

JOEY PHANTOM

For crying out-- The ScareWolf will probably be someone close to Wicked so that he can keep an eye on him. He's just killed, so he'll be tired. Sickly. Probably puke a lot since he has a feeling that he both does and does not want to kill again. It's an extra thing I built it to give him some dramatic con--

MONTGOMERY

You thinking what I'm thinking?

FROST

If you're thinking about Steve, then I think I am.

JOEY PHANTOM

Wait. Hulk, gimme your gun.

BODYGUARD

Boss, I don't think--

JOEY PHANTOM

That's right! You don't think. Just do what I tell ya.

The Bodyguard hands Joey the gun and CLINK! CLINK! Two bullets drop into Joey's hand. The revolver's cylinder snaps back into place.

JOEY PHANTOM (CONT'D)

You'll need these.

MONTGOMERY

I carry my own bullets.

JOEY PHANTOM

Use your bullets and some harsh language, and maybe you'll hurt his feelings. These are silver bullets. Take them both. If you miss twice, you won't get a third chance.

FROST

I thought silver bullets were for werewolves. Aren't ScareWolves different?

JOEY PHANTOM

Not when it comes to silver. We weren't that creative.

Our detectives scramble out of the bar and into...

INT. CAR - MOVING

The car peels of the parking lot. A SIREN wails.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

The last rays of the setting sun were dipping out over the snow-covered Badhorn hills. If we weren't hunting a lycanthropic killer, it'd be almost beautiful.

A bullet slides into the cylinder of a revolver.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Frost and I took one silver slug each, as we tore across town.

MONTGOMERY

We were right there. Sitting next to him the whole time.

The siren BLASTS.

FROST

I know what he did to Detective Souza, but we have to bring him in. You know that right?

The car ROARS louder.

FROST (CONT'D)

Right, detective?

MONTGOMERY

My job is to keep the people of this town safe. This guy killed Wally. He won't kill again.

FROST

I'm calling for backup.

The car horn HONKS as they speed through traffic.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I knew she was right; I'm not judge, jury, or executioner. But she wasn't there watching her partner bleed out. She wasn't fighting that thing in her home. I wasn't gonna let that happen again.

EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Brakes SCREECH as the car slams to a stop; doors open and close. Feet run toward Steve's front door.

MONTGOMERY

Keech! Open up!

FROST

Steve Keech! This is Badhorn PD!
Open up and--

CRASH! Montgomery kicks the door open with all of her might. Revolvers fly from holsters.

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MONTGOMERY

Where are you, Keech?

FROST

Montgomery! Wait.

Montgomery slams open more doors, moving through the home.

MONTGOMERY

Damn it! He's gone.

FROST

This place is trashed. Check this.
Cushions are ripped to shreds.

Montgomery picks up pieces of broken GLASS. The cold wind blows from outside into the apartment.

MONTGOMERY

And look at this: Broken glass.
Covered in blood.

FROST

Something went crashing through this back window. There's a trail of blood leading into the woods back there.

MONTGOMERY

C'mon.

Montgomery and Frost maneuver through the broken window and into the snow, following the trail of blood.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CRICKETS and other forest sounds as the detectives make their way into the woods. A wolf HOWLS.

MONTGOMERY

Sounds like our boy is close.

FROST

Watch your back.

The detectives move through the woods. ALL GOES QUIET.

MONTGOMERY

You hear that?

FROST

What?

MONTGOMERY

Nothing.

FROST

That's bad. That means--

Suddenly, a huge wolf rips and ROARS its way through the forest, LEAPING on to Frost. She SCREAMS!

MONTGOMERY

Frost!

BOOM! Montgomery fires! The Wolf yelps in pain.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Get off her, you son of a--

The Wolf ROARS again and leaps at Montgomery. She screams as they roll and crash through the bush. The beast growls.

Frost speaks weakly in the distance.

FROST

Montgomery? Where are you? I can't...

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I'd learn later that Frost blacked out. But all I knew then was that there was a half-ton of rage-filled fur and fury standing over me, all humanity gone from its yellow eyes. And all I could think was, I'm sorry, Jeannie. I'm sorry, Wally. I'm sorry Badhorn. I'm sorry I couldn't keep you all safe.

The Wolf HOWLS again.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

But then, I heard something else crashing through the woods. Did Steve have friends?

Footsteps crunch over branches. The PUMP of a shotgun, followed by a very loud BOOM!

A yelp of pain and an explosion of wolf guts. BOOM again! The wolf's body slumps to the forest floor.

HEAVY BREATHING from Montgomery. She's still alive.

GODBOLT (O.S.)

Are you ok, Detective Montgomery?

MONTGOMERY

I'll live. Is that... Godbolt?

Dr. Godbolt emerges from the shadows.

GODBOLT

Your partner's unconscious. She'll have a hell of a headache when she wakes up, but she should be fine.

Sirens in the distance.

MONTGOMERY

What are you doing here?

GODBOLT

I got word you had located the ScareWolf.

Low MOANING. Steve is still alive -barely- and now in his human form. Godbolt LOADS another shell.

STEVE

Where... What? What happened?

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

I could describe Steve to you, but it's better you don't know. He'd changed back to his human form, but that didn't help fix the damage Godbolt's shotgun had done.

STEVE

I'm sorry, detective.

MONTGOMERY (V.O.)

Just a few moments ago, this wolf was about to send me six feet down. Now, this man just looked scared. I almost felt sorry for him.

STEVE

I didn't mean... It wasn't my fault. It was Wicked. Wicked and...

MONTGOMERY

Wicked and who, Steve?

STEVE

Badhorn. It was Badhorn.

Steve's last words fade out; he's dead.

GODBOLT

Get out of the way, Montgomery.

MONTGOMERY

What are you--

GODBOLT

Move!

She moves. Another BLAST from the shotgun.

MONTGOMERY

Feel better?

GODBOLT

We have to be sure.

The sirens GROW LOUDER.

MONTGOMERY

What are you doing here, Godbolt?

GODBOLT

Much like you, I've sworn to protect this town.

(MORE)

GODBOLT (CONT'D)

This is our chance to pull the evil out by the roots. Meet me at the University tomorrow. Tell no one you saw me here.

MONTGOMERY

What am I supposed to say happened?

GODBOLT

You're a detective. Figure it out.

Godbolt slips through the bush and back into the shadows. Frost comes to.

FROST

Did we get him?

MONTGOMERY

Yeah, we got him. You all right?

FROST

I got a hell of a headache.

Bodies crash through the woods. Officers shout to each other.

HUNTER

You there! Show me see your hands!

MONTGOMERY

Of all the people, it had to be you, didn't it, Hunter?

HUNTER

Montgomery? I should have known. Where's Frost? She dead?

FROST

I'm here.

BRUCE HUNTER

Jesus. What a scary mess. What the hell happened here?

MONTGOMERY

Well...

Officers shout orders to clean the mess up, as we

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE TWO.

BADHORN, USA.

SEASON 1: THE COLLECTOR

OVERVIEW

Badhorn, USA is a light horror/noir audio drama, designed to pay tribute to the detective radio programs of the past. Part X-FILES, part MALTESE FALCON, the series as a whole is built around the question of “Why is Badhorn so weird?” with the first season directly asking, “Who killed Karl B. Offerman, and why?”

While ostensibly a lighter take on the detective procedural, the series actually revolves heavily around the relationships of the different characters, especially our two lead female detectives: Ramona Montgomery and Aurora Frost.

Throughout the story, Montgomery and Frost learn that the Badhorn family controls everything; and, even though it’s impossible to win, they must fight for what’s right. While season one ends with a partial victory (and a big loss), they will win overall because they believe it is possible to do so.

Episode 1 – Please Allow Me to Introduce Myself

Our hero, DETECTIVE RAMONA MONTGOMERY (45) and her partner, DETECTIVE WALTER “WALLY” J. SOUZA (47) investigate the murder of a local university professor, KARL B. OFFERMAN, who owns a set of **ultra-rare monster movie posters** with one abnormality: all of the monsters are missing from the posters.

The detectives interview a rival professor, DR. GODBOLT, and student, CARLA, and are led to a local horror memorabilia shop where they meet employee, STEVE, and the eccentric owner, DR. WICKED, who reveals he sold the posters to Offerman.

Later, a monster from the posters attacks Montgomery and her wife, JEANNIE, at home. Montgomery kills the monster and races to Wally’s home, only to find him dying from wounds from another movie monster, the SCAREWOLF.

Episode 2 – A Man’s Soul to Waste

After Wally’s funeral, Montgomery is given a new partner: AURORA FROST (26), a young female detective, full with book knowledge, which clashes with Montgomery’s more skeptical, real-world experience. Another rival detective, BRUCE HUNTER, also vows to find Wally’s killer before Montgomery.

Dr. Wicked has disappeared from Badhorn, but the detectives visit his employee, Steve, who explains that **Offerman sold his soul to Dr. Wicked in order to pay for the posters. But he then tried to renege on the deal** and sought help from old-time movie producer JOEY PHANTOM. The detectives visit Joey, who provides the information that leads them to discover that **Steve is the ScareWolf who killed Wally**. The detectives rush back to Steve’s home, where they battle with Steve in wolf form and are nearly killed. They’re rescued, suddenly, by Dr. Godbolt.

Episode 3 – A Woman of Wealth and Taste

Montgomery and Frost learn that Godbolt and Joey Phantom are members of a secret society sworn to protect Badhorn. They also encounter Carla, the Badhorn University student, who enquires about the Offerman investigation.

The detectives soon discover the posters are missing from evidence. Detective Hunter tells us he has had his own run in with some of the poster monsters.

Later that evening, Frost joins the Montgomerys for dinner, at Jeannie's request. Frost's open, positive outlook is at odds with Montgomery's more skeptical views. Frost also longs to have a relationship like the Montgomerys.

A strange dinner phone call leads the detectives to Badhorn mansion, where we meet PRISCILLA BADHORN, the current family matriarch, who informs us that her younger brother, DANIEL BADHORN, gambler and playboy, has recently made the acquaintance of a man calling himself Dr. Wicked and has become obsessed with a certain series of posters.

Episode 4 – As Every Cop is a Criminal...

Priscilla Badhorn's clue leads us to aging movie star, JYNNY LYNN CALLAHAN, who mentions that occasionally she would accompany Daniel Badhorn to parties hosted by Dr. Wicked.

Our detectives attend one of these parties, hosted by the HOLLYWOOD SATANISTS – BADHORN CHAPTER. It consists largely of has-been socialites and is more Halloween than Satanic. Here they meet THE DRINKING MAN who warns them to watch out for a corrupt police department.

Through conversation, we learn that Frost became a cop because her father was a cop and was killed in duty. Similarly, Montgomery became a cop after her parents were murdered.

OFFICER RAYMOND discloses he was instructed to give the posters to CHIEF COOPER, whom we soon find murdered with a ripped up *The Creature* poster. The detectives argue about how to proceed. Frost storms off, leaving Montgomery alone. She receives a call from Frost's phone, only it's not Frost – **it's KARL B. OFFERMAN.**

Episode 5 – ...And All the Sinners Saints

Offerman explains that Carla and the university's occult club used rituals learned from horror movies to resurrect him. He's now a patched-up, zombie Frankenstein creature. He tells us that Chief Cooper tried to sell the posters to Wicked; there was an argument, and Cooper was killed and the poster was damaged. Now, Wicked needs the sixth poster from Godbolt's office. Wicked has also kidnapped Frost.

Montgomery doesn't feel she can trust her department, so she calls Godbolt to warn him that Wicked is coming for the poster. Godbolt is not thrilled to see Offerman.

Wicked sends the Blood Monkeys to get the poster. Offerman and Carla are killed during the siege, and **Montgomery is bitten by a monkey**, but she and Godbolt keep the poster. Wicked flees with Frost before anyone can stop him.

Episode 6 – A Moment of Doubt and Pain

Detective Hunter shows up to a disturbance call at the University. He and Montgomery argue because Montgomery does not trust him, but Montgomery, Hunter, and Godbolt pursue Wicked through the backwoods of Badhorn.

In the woods, Montgomery starts to hallucinate, due to her monkey bite. She sees images of all the people she's "let" die – her parents, Wally, Offerman, Frost, etc. She starts to go crazy with doubt, as she can't tell reality from fantasy. During her hallucinations, Godbolt is killed by Wicked. Eventually, Hunter helps her to recover, proving that he is on her side.

Montgomery is able to save Frost, but Hunter and the final poster are lost to Wicked. He now has all of the posters. Montgomery is wracked with doubt after her hallucinations.

Episode 7 – Pleased to Meet You

Montgomery and Frost meet Daniel Badhorn, face-to-face, and he explains how he is at war with his sister, Priscilla. They begin to realize that the Badhorns are more powerful than anyone else they've encountered.

It becomes apparent that Dr. Wicked is a normal man pretending to be the devil, and any power he does have has come from Badhorn. Daniel Badhorn, however, is not pretending. He tells the story of how his grandfather, Max Badhorn, cursed the posters and the Phantom Brothers so that they could never leave Badhorn.

The detectives follow Wicked to his hiding place – tunnels beneath an abandoned Badhorn amusement park, where he is attempting to "recharge" the posters with monsters, using Detective Hunter as a sacrifice.

Episode 8 – Hope You Guessed My Name

In the end, Montgomery and Frost come face-to-face with Dr. Wicked, who is killed in the altercation, and the posters are destroyed. But the detectives also realize that Wicked was simply being used by Daniel Badhorn, both for Badhorn's own enjoyment and to serve in his attempt at taking over and destroying the Badhorn family.

The detectives have won the battle, but the war is far from over. While they battle Wicked, Daniel Badhorn **kidnaps Jeannie Montgomery**, setting up season two.