

Have Monster, Will Travel
Episode 2: The Unmentionables

RILEY

What's up Crypto-Curious. Riley here.

RENDER

And Render.

RILEY

And we are just outside of –

RENDER

oooooo... We said no names.

RILEY

I know we said no names, I wasn't going to say –

RENDER

Okay – I just wanted to make sure, because it sounded like –

RILEY

I was the one that said we say no names.

RENDER

Well I don't think it really matters whose idea it was –

RILEY

Rule #1: Never describe what a Render looks like.

RENDER

Right. Rule #2: Never disclose where we are.

RILEY

Correct. Rule #3:

(RENDER isn't aware there is a rule three...)

No liquids before bedtime.

RENDER

Oh... Ha ha. Ha ha ha.

RILEY

It's a joke!



RENDER

Tee hee hee.

RILEY

I'm teasing you...

RENDER

Har har har.

RILEY

It's my fault. I shouldn't have bought a two liter bottle of Mountain Dew Code Red.

RENDER

[very serious:] It tempted me. Like a lusty, fizzy siren that stains your tongue.

RILEY

Okay. I'm sorry.

(RENDER ignores her.)

Hey, I know what'll cheer you up. Wanna do the theme song?

RENDER

[firm:] no. I. do. not.

YES I DO!

(RENDER sings the theme song with gusto.)

WAAAAH!

(THEME SONG.)

(RILEY. RENDER. A pair of backpacks. The great outdoors.)

RENDER

Oh this is great.

RILEY

Yeah?

RENDER

Yeah – When do we get to set up the tent?

RILEY

When we're more than six feet away from the van.



RENDER

Obviously. Pro tip: gotta be in the woods to camp.

RILEY

Well come on.

(RENDER starts dancing in place.)

What are you doing?

RENDER

Sometimes. When I get like super excited. I just gotta dance for a second. Camping in the woods: best day ever. Hiking in the woods: best day ever. Staying up late making marshmallows:

(RENDER stops dancing.)

mellows? ... mallows? mellows. marshmellows. marshmallows...

(dancing:)

Making 'smores: best day ever.

RILEY

Okay champ – but we also have an actual job to do.

RENDER

Yep. 100%. Should I catch people up?

RILEY

Can you do it while we're hiking?

(They start hiking.)

RENDER

There they were! Arms locked in deadly battle, our hero Riley against the Criminally-insane Professor Bunion. Between these two titans was the fate of our mission – the Aghast! Menagerie, jostling back and forth as thunderclaps of punches reverberated against the darkening sky.

Unfortunately, time drew in on us and we barely escaped, thanks in large part to my quick wits and expert driving abilities. We didn't get the menagerie, but we did end up with an envelope, full of strange artifacts, mysterious writings and clues in need of unraveling.

RILEY

That is exactly how I remember it.

RILEY (cont.)



Oh. Also. The Aghast! Menagerie – that compendium and atlas to all things monstrous, turns out, kinda more of a scrapbook.

Like a “I just bought stickers of binoculars” kinda scrapbook.

And the envelope? It’s all the little collected pieces he hadn’t found time to glue in yet, like a shoebox full of receipts.

RENDER

So, as best we can tell, while we don’t have the menagerie, we do have three complete entries.

RILEY

It’s not perfect, but it’s a start. We don’t need to know where every monster is – just the next monster, one that knows who Render is, or can point us in the right direction.

RENDER

One monster at a time.

RILEY

One monster at a time.

RENDER

Which brings us to our first location:

BOTH

Unspecified somewhere!

RILEY

Okay, I’m glad we practiced that. That was good.

RENDER

That’s right, Crypto-Curious, we’re in the heart of the tangled, ensnaring wilderness that is “Unspecified Somewhere,” on the hunt for...

(Whoa. That’s a long pause...)

[whispering:] I was teeing it up for you.

RILEY

[whispering:] I know. That was a dramatic pause.

RENDER

[whispering:] yeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

RILEY

The Unmentionables. Imagine with me –

A small patch of far flung woods that has been a hotbed of monster sightings for over 50 years. But not only that. These sightings comprise what has to be the widest variety of monsters in any region. The Unmentionables – no two sightings alike:

Big monsters, little monsters, creeping monsters, squirming monsters, glowing monsters, stretchy monsters, monsters the shape of –

What are you doing?

(This whole time RENDER has been making squishy-scratchy sounds with his mouth.)

RENDER

I'm making campfire noises.

RILEY

You sound like a chipmunk.

RENDER

In my defense, I've never actually seen either of those.

RILEY

So, that's the score: two adventurers, the most supernaturally-active place in America, our best lead to discovering who Render is.

RENDER

So... what do we do now?

RILEY

We go where the monsters are. According to Brondon Fennimore's *terribly* drawn map, about a mile this way, there should be a lake.

RENDER

Are you serious?

RILEY

Monster's gotta drink?

RENDER

Monster's gotta swim! Best. Day. EVER.

Hey, wait for me!

(Later: The lake.)

RILEY



Is the water cold?

RENDER

Yeah! It's freezing!

RILEY

That's not a good thing.

RENDER

I don't know – I kinda like it. Are you coming?

RILEY

Yeah, will you hold on.

RENDER

I can't see you.

RILEY

Oh can you not? I'm changing.

RENDER

It's just a microphone – it can't see you.

RILEY

Yeah, I'm hiding from the microphone.

RENDER

What?

RILEY

Nothing.

(RILEY enters in a bathing suit.)

RENDER

Cannonball.

RILEY

No!

RENDER

Cannonball. Cannonball. Cannonball. Cannonball. Cannonball.

RILEY

How deep is it?



It's fine. **RENDER**

How yucky is the bottom? **RILEY**

It's fine. **RENDER**

Did you bring towels? **RILEY**

It's fine. Cannonball! **RENDER**

Okay fine. **RILEY**

Cannonball!

(SPLASH! RILEY comes up for air, gasping.)

Snot otter, that water is freezing!

Isn't this amazing? **RENDER**

Yeah – I just got to get my blood flowing. **RILEY**

RENDER
Okay, so, you decide: underwater race, breath-holding contest, splashing contest, or Marco Polo.

RILEY
Ou! Something just swum past me.

RENDER
Oh.

RILEY
You feel that?

RENDER
Huh?

RILEY



Like fish swimming around.

RENDER

Uh-uh.

RILEY

Seriously? I feel like there are all these thingy-things swimming around me. Ow. Something just nibbled on me.

(RILEY is squirming uncontrollably.)

Render, what is in this water/

RENDER

I don't feel anything.

RILEY

It's like crawling with – Ow! – no, I gotta get out of here.

(RILEY climbs out of the water. The biting doesn't stop.)

I feel like there's something in my bathing suit.

(Yep.)

Oh God – there's something in my bathing suit.

(Squirming, yipping, crying, RILEY retreats back behind the tree.)

RENDER

You okay?

RILEY

No!

RENDER

What is it?

RILEY

Turn around.

RENDER

But then I can't see you.

RILEY



Uh yeah. Ow! Turn around!

(RENDER spins in a circle.)

No – don't spin, actually turn... face the other way!

RENDER

I wanna see.

RILEY

I'm getting naked!

RENDER

Oh.

(RENDER turns around.)

Is that all? That's weird. I'm naked all the time.

RILEY

Not. the. same.

RENDER

I mean like, you see me naked all day every day.

RILEY

Okay, this is not about me being modest pal.

(With an elated grunt, RILEY hurls the bathing suit back into the water. Panting:)

That was awful.

RENDER

You okay?

RILEY

I'm like covered in bites.

RENDER

Ew. Well I'm not going to ask to see, but I think it's very unfair to say you're covered in bites and then be all secretive about it.

RILEY

Can you just grab my bathing suit, please? I wanna see what's in there.

RENDER



Uh yeah, hold on – it’s floating over –

(The water erupts as a pair of bikini bottoms rises to the surface, twisted, with bulging eyes and teeth. BIKINI BOTTOMS snarls. RENDER screams.)

RILEY

What is it?

RENDER

Kinda hard to explain.

(Next to RENDER, RILEY’S BIKINI TOP rises to the surface.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Hi.

(RENDER screams. BIKINI MONSTER screams. BIKINI BOTTOMS snarls.)

RILEY

What is happening down there?

RENDER

Umm... Does your bikini usually talk?

RILEY

What?

(BIKINI MONSTER sees RILEY.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh, hello.

(RILEY screams. BIKINI MONSTER screams. RENDER screams. BIKINI BOTTOMS snarls.)

RILEY

Is that my bathing suit?

BIKINI MONSTER

You’re quite naked, aren’t you?

RILEY

Turn around.

(BIKINI MONSTER spins.)



RENDER

She means face this way.

(RENDER and BIKINI MONSTER face away.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Hi.

RENDER

Hi. So what's your deal?

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh. I don't know. I'm very confused right now. And a little scared. What's your deal?

RENDER

Uh... I'm a monster.

BIKINI MONSTER

That sounds nice.

RENDER

It is.

(BIKINI BOTTOMS is gnawing on RENDER'S arm.)

I think your friend is trying to eat me.

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh.

(BIKINI MONSTER peers over and sees BIKINI BOTTOMS.)

I don't know them.

RENDER

Oh, really? Huh.

RILEY

What is happening down there?

RENDER

Your bikini is alive now. So that's a new thing. What are you doing?

RILEY



I'm trying to find where you put the towels.

BECKETT

I wouldn't.

(Unbeknownst to all, BECKETT a young woman has emerged from the woods. RILEY screams. RENDER screams. BIKINI BOTTOMS snarls.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh, are we screaming again?

(BIKINI MONSTER screams.)

BECKETT

I wouldn't put on any clothes until you're completely dry.

(RILEY screams in desperation.)

BIKINI MONSTER

We're supposed to face the other way.

BECKETT

Oh.

(All face away. RENDER and BIKINI MONSTER are staring at the back of BECKETT'S head.)

RENDER

Hi. I'm Render. That's Riley.

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh. I know who I am now! I'm Riley.

RENDER

Not you.

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh... Nevermind.

RENDER

And this is Bikini Monster. And ...

(BIKINI BOTTOMS is still on-nomming away...)

RENDER (cont.)

Largely nonverbal bikini bottoms.



BIKINI MONSTER

Monster? Like you?

RENDER

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

We're the same?

RENDER

Uh.. not really.

BECKETT

Yes. You're the same.

RILEY

Will somebody please make sense of all this?

BECKETT

If it gets wet, it comes alive.

RILEY

... Perfect.

RENDER

Who are you?

BECKETT

My name's Beckett.

RENDER

That's a cool name.

BECKETT

Yeah. My Mom's favorite movie is *Bend It Like Beckham* and my Dad is bad at titles.

RENDER

Are you from around here?

BECKETT

Yeah... So what were you before you got wet?

BECKETT (cont.)

Like a carnival-sized stuffed animal or something?



RENDER

No. Just a monster.

BECKETT

No. I mean... just a monster?

(BECKETT turns and stares at RENDER. RENDER stands, emerging more from the water.)

You were alive before you got wet?

(RENDER nods.)

Can I touch you?

(RENDER approaches BECKETT. She reaches out and touches his face.)

You're real. You're actually real.

BIKINI MONSTER

Am I real?

BECKETT

No.

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh. Okay.

(BIKINI BOTTOMS swims over to BIKINI MONSTER.)

Hi.

(nom-nom-nom-nom.)

Ow!

(RILEY enters, fully dressed.)

RILEY

Render, get away from her.

RENDER

It's okay. Look.

RILEY



We don't know her.

RENDER

Can't you tell? It's okay.

(RILEY takes in the lake, the living bikini, BECKETT'S astonishment. It all clicks in.)

RILEY

You've never seen a monster before. Because the unmentionables... they're just things.

There are no clues to find here.

(RENDER turns to face RILEY.)

RENDER

A Dead end?

(RENDER sighs.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Oh. Can we turn around now?

RILEY

... yes.

(BIKINI MONSTER does.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Hi!

RILEY

Oh... that's where your eyes are?

BECKETT

You might want to get out. Most things don't stay in that water that long.

When I saw your car pull up, I tried to beat you here. We tell most people it's private property to scare 'em away from the lake.

The fewer people that know about this the better.

RENDER

We won't tell anyone.

RILEY

I can't believe you saw our van. We pulled pretty far off the shoulder.



Not a van. Little green car.

BECKETT

Green car?

RENDER

Like a lime green Kia Soul.

RILEY

Like chartreuse, but yeah.

BECKETT

Professor Bunion. How did he find us?

RENDER

We gotta get you out of here.

RILEY

That means the Aghast! Menagerie is here.

RENDER

We gotta get you out of here.

RILEY

The menagerie!

RENDER

You can't be here.

RILEY

The menagerie!

RENDER

We are having a very exciting time.

BIKINI MONSTER

How many people do you want to be seen by today?

RILEY

He could hide. There's a cave just up there.

BECKETT

Can you take me to his car?

RILEY



Yeah.

BECKETT

Okay. Cave first, then car.

RILEY

I should come with you.

RENDER

No.

RILEY

I can help.

RENDER

You hide, we menagerie.

RILEY

Okay. I will also help.

BIKINI MONSTER

Everyone out of the lake!

RILEY

(Later. RILEY and BECKETT alone.)

How much farther?

RILEY

Not far.

BECKETT

God, these woods are just overrun with trash.

RILEY

It's all from the lake. People dump stuff in. It finds its way back out.

BECKETT

And then what? It just dies here in the woods.

RILEY



BECKETT

It dries out.

RILEY

So that's why none of the sightings are identical, just random crap walking thru the woods. And no hard evidence. Just a place where locals dump their trash.

And it's your job to keep people away?

BECKETT

My family's been doing it for generations. I hate this place.

RILEY

Seems pretty harmless.

(They stop.)

BECKETT

It's not.

There's almost no one that lives close to us. And I was never allowed to bring anyone home from school. Too dangerous Dad would say. So when I was nine or ten, my only friend was this antique dress form from my Grandmother's attic.

We spent every day together over this one summer. Daytimes, we would hike thru the woods, swim in the lake, picnics, anything you could think of. At night I would go back home and hide her in the lake, get her nice and soggy.

It's an algae, we think. Comes on every spring, all along the shores of the lake. The items are never alive, it's the algae, a kind of swarm intelligence. In late summer the water level drops and all that algae dries up and dies.

I kept that dress form in my room all that fall and winter, waiting for spring, waiting for that algae to come back. And when it did, I took that dress form down to the lake.

What came out. It wasn't her. Didn't sound like her. Didn't have any of my memories of that last summer. Didn't know who I was.

I just kept drying her out and dunking her again. And it was never the same thing that came out. I ruined that dress form trying to bring her back.

She was my best and only friend. And the more I tried to recreate her, the less of her I remembered.

RILEY

What was her name?



BECKETT

Beckham. It was like having a sister and finally getting the name right.

Thank you for asking.

(The Cave. BIKINI MONSTER is snorting uncontrollably.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Ooo. It's in my nose.

RENDER

Yeah, It does that.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that. What is it?

RENDER

Mountain Dew Code Red.

(BIKINI MONSTER is poking around inside RENDER'S backpack.)

BIKINI MONSTER

And what's that?

RENDER

That's my flashlight.

BIKINI MONSTER

What's it do?

RENDER

It flashes light.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that.

(BIKINI BOTTOMS nudges the backpack, gnawing on it.)

RENDER

Don't eat that please.

(RENDER moves BIKINI BOTTOMS)

BIKINI MONSTER

And what's that?



RENDER

That's my bottle opener. It opens bottles.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that.

And all of this is yours?

RENDER

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that.

(SPLIT: RILEY/BECKETT)

RILEY

Do your parents know how unhappy you are here?

BECKETT

No. I don't know that it would change anything.

RILEY

Why don't you leave?

BECKETT

I wouldn't know where to go, who to call... It just wouldn't work.

(BACK:)

BIKINI MONSTER

You're like the coolest monster ever, aren't you?

RENDER

Yes. I am.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that. We're the same, you and me?

RENDER

Yeah. We are.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that.

Bottle opener.



(The Green Kia Soul.)

BECKETT

There. See it?

RILEY

Yeah. That's his car. I don't see him.

(RILEY peeks in, jiggles the handle.)

Help me find a rock.

BECKETT

What?

RILEY

We're gonna smash his window.

(ERIC McDERMOTT jumps out from the bushes, startling RILEY and BECKETT.)

ERIC

Ah-ha – I've got you now!

RILEY

Wait. You don't have a net or a rope or a weapon.

ERIC

What? No I don't have a weapon. That's crazy.

RILEY

Okay...

ERIC

You don't have a weapon.

RILEY

Yeah but I'm not jumping out the bushes shouting "I've got you now."

ERIC

You have pieces of my book.

RILEY

Uh-huh.

ERIC



You stole them from me.

RILEY

Yeah.

ERIC

I want them back.

RILEY

Okay well no.

BECKETT

This is the guy?

RILEY

I know, right?

ERIC

What does that mean? Hi. Eric. Eric McDermott. Big D, two Ts.

BECKETT

Oh. Like the normal way.

ERIC

Yes. Thank you.

BECKETT

I thought you said his name was Professor Bunion.

ERIC

You call me Professor Bunion?

RILEY

Maybe. It's a working title.

How did you find us?

ERIC

The invoice from the auction listed the contents of the envelope. The menagerie has blank entries with nothing but town names. I put two and two together.

Where's your friend?

RILEY

Right here.



The big one. **ERIC**

None of your business. **RILEY**

He's here somewhere. **ERIC**

No. **RILEY**

Yes he is. **ERIC**

No he's not. **RILEY**

He's certainly not down by the lake. **BECKETT**

(ERIC laughs.)

The lake. **ERIC**

(ERIC runs off. RILEY starts to chase.)

No. We're gonna go this way. **BECKETT**

(RILEY is reluctant.)

You're coming with me now.

(A Cliff. Above the lake.)

Here. You can come to the edge.

Come here, it's safe.

Look down.

Is that the lake? **RILEY**



BECKETT

Yeah. We've probably got another four or five minutes before he gets there. And this:

(BECKETT points next to them.)

RILEY

Ooooooh Snot Otter. What is that?

BECKETT

That's how we scare off the tourists.

Push it off, watch it fall, wait for the fireworks.

Come on, it'll take both of us to push.

RILEY

Hey Beckett. Thank you for this. You didn't have to help.

BECKETT

He's your best friend, right?

RILEY

Look. This isn't my place. I don't really know you or your circumstances. And I don't have any right to be saying this to you. But you deserve happiness. And if you can find a way to have it...

Beckham would have wanted you to chase it.

(The Cave:)

BIKINI MONSTER

Snot Otter!

Like that?

RENDER

That's it. It's like a monster swear word. We totally get to use it.

BIKINI MONSTER

What's it mean?

RENDER

I have no idea.

(ERIC can be heard screaming from off:)

RENDER (cont.)

What was that?



(They move to the mouth of the cave. More screaming. More running.)

BIKINI MONSTER

What is that?

RENDER

That is a Professor Bunion.

And that's a fridge monster.

And a vacuum monster.

Bowling Ball monster.

Oh. Lots of bowling ball monsters.

RILEY

(from off:)

Render! Up here!

RENDER

Hey! Did you do that?

RILEY

Yeah.

RENDER

You're amazing.

RILEY

Meet me at the van.

RENDER

Okay!

(BIKINI BOTTOMS bites RENDER'S leg.)

Stop that.

(The Van:)

[low:] We can't just pour more water on it?

RILEY



Ren... we could but... I mean eventually.

RENDER

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

[dying:] Hey Render.

RENDER

Yeah Bikini Monster

BIKINI MONSTER

Are there others like me?

RENDER

Yeah.

(BIKINI BOTTOMS on-noms her last nom.)

BIKINI MONSTER

Hey Render.

RENDER

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

Do they look like me?

RILEY

There are all kinds: red bikini monsters, polka dot bikini monsters.

BIKINI MONSTER

So I'm one of a kind?

RILEY

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

I love that.

Hey Render.

RENDER

Yeah.

BIKINI MONSTER

Do you think I have a mother?



(BIKINI MONSTER dies.)

(...)

(...)

RENDER

That is radically sad.

RILEY

That was my good bathing suit.

(...)

RENDER

So Bunion knows where we're going?

RILEY

I think so.

RENDER

Maybe we should go somewhere else.

RILEY

No. We keep going. We beat him there. We lay a trap.

RENDER

Yeah. Okay.

RILEY

Alright Crypto-Curious, we're gonna call it for today. We have a lot of plans to make. We'll tell you about them next time on: Have Monster, Will Travel.

RENDER

And as they say where I'm from: "Don't turn around Lester, it's right behind you!"

(end of episode.)



CREDITS

ZACH

Hi, This is the Bikini Monster himself Zach Robinson. Have Monster, Will Travel features the vocal talents of Jordan Trovillion as Riley Kate, Paul Kerford Wilson as Render, Dave Powell as the criminally-insane Professor Bunion –

DAVE

That hurts more than you realize.

ZACH

Shelby Becker as Beckett, Bridget Leak as the mostly nonverbal bikini bottoms and me, Zach Robinson. Today's episode was written by Trey Tatum and directed by Bridget Leak. Have Monster, Will Travel is a production of Queen City Flash out of Cincinnati, Ohio.

