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The Cryptid Survival Guide

A comedy in one act

By Don Zolidis

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One-Act Comedy
Cast: 20 any

You're alone in the woods when you hear it approaching—the deadliest animal on Earth: a human being. How do you escape? Join a rollicking cast of bizarre creatures including the Wampahoofus; the Snallygaster; the Snarly Yow; and everyone's favorite cryptid, Bigfoot, as they find methods to survive humanity.

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1
NARRATOR 2
HIDEOUS CREATURE

The Snallygaster
SALLY – a snallygaster looking for love
BRIAN – a snallygaster looking for love

Leprechaun
PATRICIA – a leprechaun

Wampahoofus
SNORG – a wampahoofus mother
WEEBLE – a wampahoofus teenager

Hodag
GIBBY – a hodag
TODD – a hodag
RHONDA – a hodag

Puckwudgie
ABERNATHY – a puckwudgie

Snarly Yow
SNARLY YOW, a very good boi

Chupacabra
JULIAN, a chupacabra
ROSA, a chupacabra

Mermaid
ESTRELLA, a mermaid

Batsquatch
BRUCE, the Batsquatch

ROBIN, a literal small bird

Bigfoot
KARL, a bigfoot
JESSICA, a bigfoot

Humans
HUMAN 1, a human, very scary
HUMAN 2, another human, also scary

Author's Notes

Casting: I've envisioned that the same two humans show up in each scene, but if you'd like to have a larger cast, you may have different actors play the humans in each vignette. You may also doublecast any of the cryptids as necessary if you'd like a smaller cast. With quick change costumes, the play could be done with a cast of 7. The ideal cast size is probably 20.

Projections: The stage directions call for a projection of each cryptid at the beginning of their scene, but please take this as a suggestion. If you do not have the means to put a projection on the stage, no worries, the effect can be created with handheld signs or even skipped altogether if necessary. Please have fun with the projections – the artist's renditions of the cryptids could be cartoony, or a child's drawings, or sketches, or anything, really – they should be an additional element of humor to the play.

Costumes: For the most part, this play relies on the imagination of the audience in creating the visual image of each cryptid in their mind (hence the projections), so don't feel the need to be literal with the costuming. Costumes can be as simple as a mask, or as involved as you'd like them to be.

Accents: Since most cryptids are regionally based, this would be a great play to adopt a number of accents. Feel free to experiment!

Is there a local cryptid near you? You have the playwright's permission to add a scene about a local cryptid if there is a famous one near your group. You may either replace one of the methods (except for Bigfoot), or simply add one.

For a shorter play: Feel free to cut any of the scenes as necessary.

Gender of the Characters: Any character may be any gender, change pronouns accordingly.

A forest.
The whirring of insects. Birds singing.
NARRATOR 1 enters, in woodland survival gear.

NARRATOR 1

It's a typical day in the forest. The birds are chirping. The beavers are building their dams.

NARRATOR 2 enters, spookily.

NARRATOR 2

Squirrels are chasing each other in the trees because they're weird like that.

NARRATOR 1

And then you hear it. *Something* is out there. Drawing closer.

A HIDEOUS CREATURE enters, stepping very sneakily.

NARRATOR 2

The birds stop singing. The bugs hold their breath. The squirrels don't care.

NARRATOR 1

But you care. *What* is out there? *What* is coming towards you?

The Hideous Creature sneaks to the center of the stage, sniffs the wind.

NARRATOR 2

Your blood freezes. A chill goes up and down your spine. You've dreaded this moment for your entire life.

NARRATOR 1

It's the deadliest animal alive.

A small HUMAN steps in, wearing a Mickey Mouse t-shirt, chewing gum, maybe taking a selfie of itself. It scratches itself and belches.

NARRATOR 2

A human.

HIDEOUS CREATURE

AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

The hideous creature freaks out and flees.
The human does not notice.

HUMAN

Ooh look birds.

The human looks at birds and makes a little note in a notebook.

NARRATOR 1

But fear not, friends, because we're here to provide you with a helpful guide to survive the deadliest creatures ever to walk the planet!

NARRATOR 2

Humans. Specifically, birders.

She points to the human.

HUMAN

Ooh there's a bird. It's got feathers.

The human makes another note in its notebook.

NARRATOR 1 *(to Narrator 2)*

<Narrator 2's real name>, we talked about this. We're not using this play to further your bizarre vendetta against birders.

NARRATOR 2

Birders are a problem and they need to be stopped!

NARRATOR 1

You need to chill! They're just looking at nature.

NARRATOR 2

Birders killed my parents.

NARRATOR 1

They did not.

NARRATOR 2

Metaphorically.

NARRATOR 1

We're here to provide a service to the audience – how to survive humanity when you're a cryptid.

NARRATOR 2

Oh.

NARRATOR 1

What is a cryptid, you ask?

NARRATOR 2

Nobody asked.

NARRATOR 1

They were wondering it. A cryptid is any legendary or secretive creature that may or may not exist – your bigfeet, your loch ness monsters, your menehune.

NARRATOR 2

Spoiler alert: They all exist. Every single one. Even the ones that sound stupid.

NARRATOR 1

And they only reason they've survived this long is that they are very very good at avoiding… you. How do they do it?

NARRATOR 2

We're about to find out!

1. The Snallygaster

NARRATOR 1

Let's start with one of the most famous cryptids of all time: The myth, the legend, the Snallygaster.

Narrator 1 clicks a slide and an image of the Snallygaster appears. It is the most bizarre thing you've ever seen in your life. Half bird, half reptile, with a huge beak and wings, and a profusion of octopus tentacles sprouting of its torso at weird angles. (And when I say half-bird, half-reptile, literally the left half of the thing is a bird and the right half is a lizard.)

NARRATOR 2

What the heck is this thing?

NARRATOR 1

The Snallygaster, as we all know, is a half-lizard, half-bird with razor sharp teeth, giant wings, and octopus tentacles sprouting of its torso at strange angles.

NARRATOR 2

Yeah this thing makes a lot of sense from an evolutionary standpoint.

NARRATOR 1

Right. So how does the Snallygaster survive? Let's watch!

NARRATOR 2

I just like saying Snallygaster honestly.

SALLY, a Snallygaster, shuffles in, holding all of her tentacles and wings and other appendages.
She's nervous. She takes out her phone.

SALLY *(into the phone)*

All right you know the deal, Brenda. If this date goes sideways, I need you to call me and say that my grandma is sick and I need to leave immediately. Yeah I don't have high hopes. Oh wait I think I see him lurching through the forest. How's he look? He looks like a big freaky monster with wings and tentacles – but nice. I'll text you.

She puts away the phone as BRIAN, another Snallygaster, lurches in holding his tentacles, wings, and other appendages.

He waves at her.

BRIAN

Are you Sally?

SALLY

You must be Brian!

BRIAN

Yes! Oh my gosh you look so much better than your profile pic. I mean not that your profile pic was terrible or anything, but I basically just saw your lizard half and tentacles so I wasn't sure how would you be in person – but you're great, you're great, this is great. Ha ha ha I'm nervous.

SALLY

Don't worry about it.

BRIAN

I literally never go on blind dates.

SALLY

It's not blind, you can see me.

BRIAN

That's so funny! Phew!

Brian shakes out his tentacles.

SALLY

Just relax.

BRIAN

I don't date much. You can probably tell.

SALLY

Well, there's only like six of us in existence.

BRIAN

Yeah that makes it tough. To procreate.

SALLY

Whoa.

BRIAN
I'm sorry I shouldn't lead with that but - I'm just trying to ensure the survival of the species.

SALLY
Is that your line? Is that what you tell all the girls?

BRIAN
No I just – I'm sorry! I'm so bad at this. How about we get to know each other? What do you do for fun?

SALLY
I like to fly over farmer's fields and then scoop up cows in my tentacles and then eat them whole.

BRIAN
Nice!

SALLY
It's the best! And then you spit out the whole skeleton over a barn or something? Pew pew pew, try to hit a silo? Amazing.

BRIAN
That's so cool. I'm mostly into eating rabbits these days. Can I say something? You're beautiful.

SALLY
Stop it.

BRIAN
I mean it. I don't say that to many snallygasters cause there aren't very many of us but –

SALLY
Well there aren't a lot of fish in the sea.

BRIAN *(singsong)*
Good thing you caught me. I'm your fish. Don't throw me back!

SALLY
Look, Brian, you need slow your roll –
There's a noise from off-stage.

BRIAN
What was that?!

HUMAN 1 *(off-stage, shouting)*

LOOK AT ALL THIS BEAUTIFUL NATURE! LET'S BE QUIET AND APPRECIATE IT!

HUMAN 2 *(off-stage, shouting)*
OH YEAH THIS IS SOME GREAT NATURE HERE! REAL NATURAL!

BRIAN

It's humans!

SALLY

Dang it.

BRIAN

Let's get out of here!
Brian starts to try to run away –

SALLY

You run away from humans?

BRIAN

They're so scary!

HUMAN 1 *(off-stage, shouting)*
IF YOU'RE QUIET YOU CAN HEAR ALL THE BIRDS!

HUMAN 2 *(off-stage, shouting)*
I LOVE BIRDS! BIRDS ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITE THINGS! LET'S BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO THEM!

SALLY

You are a terrifying mistake of nature, Brian. You are an apex predator. You need to scare *them.*

BRIAN

I do?

SALLY

Yes! How are we going to raise a family together and make more snallygasters if you can't scare off two little humans? Come on, you can do it! Get your beast on!

BRIAN

All right I can do it!
Sally and Brian scoot to the side as Human 1 and 2 enter, dressed like hikers.

HUMAN 1
WOW LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL PRISTINE FOREST!

Skipping Forward

Survival tactic one! Scare the humans.

NARRATOR 2

They can't handle the truth.

BRIAN

That was amazing. So maybe we can –

SALLY

I would but my grandma is sick so I have to go bye.

She leaves.

BRIAN

Huh.

Lights change.

2. The Leprechaun

NARRATOR 1

Our next cryptid comes to us from Ireland –

NARRATOR 2

Yarrr I love the Irish.

NARRATOR 1

You're doing like a pirate thing.

NARRATOR 2

They have pirates in Ireland. Irish pirates.

Narrator 1 projects a slide of a leprechaun – this could be the mascot from Notre Dame, or the poster from the B horror movie "Leprechaun" or the guy from the Lucky Charms box.

NARRATOR 1

The leprechaun.

PATRICIA, a leprechaun, enters. She kicks back, has a beer (soda), and flips on her remote control.*

We hear the sound of a football game.

PATRICIA *(shouting at the television)*

Come on you bunch of Marys! Hit somebody! Awww for cryin' out loud my grandma can block better than that and she's been dead for a century! I ought to curse the whole lot of ye!

Human 1 enters, sneaking up on Patricia.

You stinkin' gob of potatoes! I'll fling you into the sea! I'd let the frisky dolphins have their way with ye!

Human 1 seizes the leprechaun

HUMAN 1

Ah ha!

PATRICIA

Aaaaaah!

Human 1 starts trying up Patricia with rope.

HUMAN 1

I captured you! YES! I did it! Me! Wooooooooo!

PATRICIA

Aw crap.

HUMAN 1

You don't know how long I've been hunting you. First, I asked a witch, and she told me that I had to collect seven four leaf clovers and then once I got those I had to turn around three times in a wooded glen and –

PATRICIA

Yeah yeah yeah sheesh.

HUMAN 1

You thought you could hide forever, didn't you? Nope! Now I got you. Woooooo.

Human 1 snaps a selfie with Patricia.

Boo ya. All right then. Fork over the gold.

PATRICIA

What gold?

HUMAN 1

Your gold. Your pot of gold. I AM RICH! First thing I'm buying is my own cruise ship. Then I can cruise anywhere I want and not let anybody else on it. Gimme.

PATRICIA

I don't have a pot of gold.

HUMAN 1

You can't fool me. I know leprechauns are liars.

PATRICIA

Oh okay nice stereotype.

HUMAN 1

The rule is that you have to tell me where your gold is hidden if I catch you.

PATRICIA

Let me ask you something – you see me here, watching television on a twenty-four inch screen – you think if I had my own pot of gold I would get a bigger TV?

HUMAN 1

You're wee. You like wee things.

PATRICIA

If I had a pot of gold I would live in a gated community, all right? I would hire a security guard named Bert to buzz in Amazon drivers and that's it! I would have fifteen security cameras outside my mansion and all of them would be connected to my smartphone – you wouldn't get anywhere near the place – I would have lasers incinerate you from space if you got close! I wouldn't stop there! I would build an orbiting death palace and have all of my food sent in on a space elevator you clod. No one would ever get near me!

HUMAN 1

I'm not sayin it makes sense –

PATRICIA

So here I am, sittin in this miserable apartment, drinkin' generic swill from a can and you conclude that there is a secret *fortune* hidden somewhere in this dump? Go ahead, boyo, look around! Find the secret gold! I'd love some!

HUMAN 1

So you admit there's secret gold?

PATRICIA

No! If I had an entire pot o' gold you think I'd just *leave* it as gold? I wouldn't *invest* it? Do you have any idea how stupid it would be to keep a billion dollar asset in gold coins somewhere and not diversify into tech stocks and real estate?

HUMAN 1

Huh.

PATRICIA

Yeah, huh. You're an idiot. The gold is long gone.

HUMAN 1

What happened to it?

PATRICIA

I invested in some independent films. I lost it all.

HUMAN 1

Oh.

PATRICIA
Yeah. It's a touchy subject. I don't like to talk about it. Now can I get back to watchin' me game?

HUMAN 1
Do you happen to know any other leprechauns with more gold?

PATRICIA
Talk to Barney. He bought an island in the south Pacific. Apparently the sea air is great for his skin condition.

HUMAN 1
Right. All right sorry to bother you.
Human unties Patricia and starts to leave, but lurks nearby -

PATIRICA *(under her breath)*
Idiot.
Human 1 jumps back and grabs Patricia again.

HUMAN 1
Ah ha I knew it!

PATRICIA
Oh no you got me again!

HUMAN 1
WHERE IS THE GOLD OR I WRECK THIS TELEVISION!

PATRICIA
Okay okay okay! I'll tell you where it is. It's at the end of the rainbow.

HUMAN 1
Which rainbow?

PATRICIA
You take a left at Connemara and there's a rainbow there. Follow it, and when you get to the end of it, my pot of gold is hidden inside one of those fake rock things that you hide a key in.

HUMAN 1
The whole pot of gold fits in one of those little rocks?

PATRICIA
It's wee. I like wee things.

HUMAN 1

I was kind of hoping it would be bigger.

PATRICIA

So you think, as a wee person, that I would have a *human*-sized pot o' gold and I wouldn't use it to –

HUMAN 1 *(cutting her off)*

All right all right thanks! Woo! Cruise ship here I come!

He runs off.

PATRICIA

So dumb.

NARRATOR 1

Survival tactic 2! Trick the stupid humans!

NARRATOR 2

There isn't gold at the end of the rainbow?

NARRATOR 1

A rainbow is an optical illusion that has no end – you can't get to the end of it. Ever. Hence – trick the stupid humans.

NARRATOR 2

Ohhh.

PATRICIA

Besides, you hold onto the gold in case of societal collapse. Everyone knows that.

Lights change.

3. The Wampahoofus

NARRATOR 1

Which brings us to our next cryptid!
The Wampahoofus!

Narrator 1 projects a slide of the Wampahoofus, which looks like a cross between a boar and a stag and has 4 legs – its 2 left legs are twice as long as its 2 right legs.

NARRATOR 2

Who comes up with these names?

NARRATOR 1

Lonely hermits who are losing their minds probably. The Wampahoofus: Nature's more adorable mistake.

NARRATOR 2
And like most mistakes, it comes from Vermont.

NARRATOR 1
What do you have against Vermont?

NARRATOR 2
They know what they did.
Whispering
Birders.

NARRATOR 1
The Wampahoofus lives in the mountains and as you can see, it has legs of different lengths, which allows it to move very quickly along the side of the mountain – in one direction only.
SNORG, a Wampahoofus mother, enters, moving clockwise.
She's followed by WEEBLE, her teenage daughter, also moving clockwise.

SNORG
Come on sweetie we need to get a hoof on if we're going to get to the other side of the mountain before sunset.

WEEBLE
Mom I need to talk to you about something.

SNORG
What?

WEEBLE
Can you turn around and look at me?

SNORG
No obviously I can't I have legs of different lengths. I only face this way.

WEEBLE
That's what I wanted to talk to you about. This is hard to say. Sometimes… I think about… going in the other direction.
Snorg gasps

SNORG
You shut your mouth.

WEEBLE
I mean, we always go clockwise around the mountain and I –

SNORG

I don't want to hear that kind of talk, Weeble. We're Wampahoofuses. This is what we do. We go clockwise around the mountain.

WEEBLE

You ever thought about going counter-clockwise?

SNORG

No!

WEEBLE

Not even when you were younger?

SNORG

Oh sure I thought about it. Everybody's thought about it. But –

WEEBLE

But what?

SNORG

It was just my foolish youth. You have to let go of those childish ideas.

WEEBLE

But it seems kind of dumb that we can only go in one direction – like, wouldn't the ability to *turn* be important to evading predators and –

SNORG

Stop asking questions, Weeble! You never met your Aunt Diane, my sister. Don't end up like her.

WEEBLE

What happened to Aunt Diane?

SNORG

She was like you. Headstrong. Curious. Different. She asked the same questions you're asking: why are we made like this? We make no sense as animals. We can't even turn around. So you know what she did? One day… she turned around. And she walked…

It's hard to say

…counter-clockwise.

WEEBLE

What happened?

SNORG

She fell off the mountain! Look at us! Look at our legs! She took one step and she tumbled down the side of the mountain like a boulder! She was never seen again!

WEEBLE

Is she dead?

SNORG

Of course she's dead! You think we could survive in any habitat that wasn't a highly sloped mountainside?! She was eaten by bees!

WEEBLE

She was eaten by bees?!

SNORG

Probably I don't know I've never been off this part of the mountain – because I accept my lot in life and don't ask questions.

There's a noise from off-stage.

WEEBLE

What's that?!

SNORG

Humans!

Human 1 and 2 enter, dressed like hunters, wearing orange.

HUMAN 2

Oh lookee there! What is that?!

HUMAN 1

Looks like a deer slash boar slash stag creature!

HUMAN 2

Whatever it is, I think it would be great to chop of its head, stuff it with Styrofoam peanuts, and mount it on my wall!

HUMAN 1

That sounds like a totally reasonable thing to do that was acceptable for hundreds of years!

WEEBLE

What do we do?!

SNORG

What do we Wampahoofuses do best – we run in a clockwise direction! Let's go!

Weeble and Snorg run off

The humans run in place –

HUMAN 2

Skipping Forward

GIBBY
Watcha upto, Hodags?

RHONDA
Oh we're just grillin' out some brats before the Packers game.

GIBBY
Oh yah?

RHONDA
Yah.

TODD
You want one, Hodag?

GIBBY
Oh don't mind me I'm okay.

TODD
You sure? The brats are tasty. Rhonda's been grillin' em up.

GIBBY
That right?

RHONDA
Yah.

GIBBY
Oh I don't know. I'm puttin' on a few pounds lately.

RHONDA
You look svelte.

GIBBY
No.

RHONDA
Yah. Don't you think so Todd?

TODD
I think you look outstanding.

GIBBY
Aw you're just sayin' that.

RHONDA

You get your Hodag keister over here and you have one of these brats. And I don't want to hear no for an answer.

GIBBY

I guess I better then.

TODD

She told you.

GIBBY

She sure did.

Gibby comes over for a brat.

Commotion from off-stage.

TODD

Aw jeez it's the humans!

RHONDA

Aw dang it I'm in the middle of this!

GIBBY

Hold on!

Human 1 and 2 burst in. They are wearing Packers gear, or other suitable Wisconsin-themed clothing.

The Hodags and the Humans stare at each other.

Tense stand-off.

GIBBY *(to the other Hodags)*

I think they see us.

TODD *(to Gibby)*

Shhhh. I got this.

Todd steps forward.

Hey there, Humans.

HUMAN 1

Hey there, Hodags.

TODD

Watcha upto, Humans?

HUMAN 2

Oh we're just walking through the woods here.

HUMAN 1

Watcha upto, Hodags?

RHONDA

Oh you know just grillin out before the Packers game.

HUMAN 1

Oh.

HUMAN 2

Oh yah?

RHONDA

Yah.

Pause.

HUMAN 1

You think they're gonna win?

TODD

Aw jeez I don't know. That kicker.

HUMAN 1

Oh don't get me started on the kicker.

HUMAN 2

He gives me heartburn.

TODD

You want some Tums? I chew these things like candy when the game's on.

RHONDA

And the rest of the time.

TODD

Aw you got me, Rhonda. She gets me. This one.

HUMAN 2

Oh no I'm fine I don't need anything.

TODD

You sure?

RHONDA

Aw you should have some.

GIBBY

Take it. Take the Tums.

HUMAN 2

Okay.

They hand over some Tums.

NARRATOR 2

Survival tactic 4! Befriend the humans!

NARRATOR 1

Shared interests can go a long way.

GIBBY

Hey how `bout later we hunt down some moose and tear them apart with our sharp claws and spiny outgrowths?

HUMAN 1

We're doing what now?

Lights change.

5. **The Puckwudgie**

NARRATOR 1

And now for our next cryptid –
The Puckwudgie!

A slide of the Puckwudgie appears – a tiny, smiling, leaf-covered man with a porcupine coat.

NARRATOR 2

Part person, part porcupine, all pain!

The slide changes and the Puckwudgie looks meaner –

NARRATOR 1

Standing only two feet tall, puckwudgies live in the swamps of Massachusetts.

NARRATOR 2

And they are not happy about it.

ABERNATHY, a Puckwudgie, enters. Abernathy speaks with a Boston accent if possible.
A stuffed animal bunny is somewhere on the stage.
Abernathy approaches it.

ABERNATHY

Oh look a bunny.

He picks it up and punts it off-stage.

Boom.

Human 1 and 2, environmentalists, enter, in love with the woods and each other.

HUMAN 1

It's such a perfect day in this swamp.

HUMAN 2

It's so nice to be away from our digital world and in the peaceful beauty of nature.

HUMAN 1

Hey look a bunny!

Another bunny stuffed animal has appeared somewhere on the stage.
Abernathy finds it.
He punts it off-stage.

HUMAN 2

Whoa!

HUMAN 1

Hey not cool!

Abernathy spots them for the first time.

ABERNATHY

What.

HUMAN 2

That was a very sweet little bunny –

ABERNATHY

Yeah those are the best kind to punt. You can get a lot of distance if they're really sweet.

HUMAN 1

You're… you're not human.

ABERNATHY

Oh. Wow. We got a genius here. What gave it away? Was it my whole body covered in porcupine quills? Was that what tipped you off, Einstein?

HUMAN 2

He's kind of rude.

ABERNATHY

News flash: no one likes you.

HUMAN 1
It's okay, this is the natural world, we need to respect it.

ABERNATHY
I'd like to put leeches up your nose and pull out your brain through your nostrils. Then I'd pickle it and have it for a snack. A small snack, because there's not much brain there.

HUMAN 2
That is both very aggressive and very specific!

HUMAN 1
He's just feeling threatened because we've intruded on his habitat! Totally understandable. We're the invaders here, we need to respect his customs. Creature of the forest… we want to live in harmony with you.

ABERNATHY
Shut up before I smack you.

HUMAN 1
It's working, I can feel a connection!

HUMAN 2
Ooh, give him a snack!

HUMAN 1
No, we can't feed him, then he'll be dependent on us!

ABERNATHY
I seem to be having a hard time getting through to you idiots. So I'm gonna make this crystal. You know what, I want you to stay, I changed my mind. Enjoy the nice swamp. Cause I'm gonna follow you, and I'm gonna be watching, recording your every move with my little porcupine nose, and learning all about you. And when you go back to your little eco-friendly lives, I will be clinging to the underside of your electric vehicle, and I will come into your house, and I will bring an entire assortment of ornery woodland creatures with me. I'm gonna stuff angry badgers in your pillowcases so when you set your head down at night, you're gonna go "AAAAAHHH IT'S A BADGER EATING MY FACE OH NO!!!" And that's only the beginning, I will put a live mink in your refrigerator, I will fill your bathtub with the worst toads you've even seen – not the good ones – I will bring an entire breeding ball of banded snakes and you know where they're gonna be? In your toilet. You sit down, AAAAH AN ENTIRE SPHERE OF BANDED SNAKES IN THE CRAPPER*! Let's see how you're gonna commune with nature then! You like that? You like sharing your space with nature?! Spiders!

**(The words "in the crapper" may be cut)*

HUMAN 1

Okay okay –

HUMAN 2

Back away slowly!

ABERNATHY

You go to pour the milk OH NO IT'S ALL SPIDERS! Somebody replaced all of my milk with Spiders! Except the spiders drank the milk and they're bloated now like little fat marshmallows!

HUMAN 1

This is gross! Nature is gross!

HUMAN 2

Let's go home!

They run off.

NARRATOR 1

Tactic 5: Be incredibly unpleasant until they leave you alone.

NARRATOR 2

Pro tip: That works on dates too.

Narrator 1 gives Narrator 2 a look.

If the person you're on a date with is terrible and you don't want to fake a call from your grandma.

NARRATOR 1

Good to know.

6. The Snarly Yow

NARRATOR 2

Our next cryptid is one of the best ones: The Snarly Yow.

Narrator 2 clicks a slide and the Snarly Yow appears – it looks like a large, friendly black dog, like a black lab.

NARRATOR 1

That's the Snarly Yow?

NARRATOR 2

Yeah I was surprised too. According to descriptions, the Snarly Yow appears to be a slightly larger than average dog.

NARRATOR 1

With a name like "Snarly Yow" you figure it would be kind of scary.

Skipping Forward

HUMAN 1

Do not be fooled by his friendly demeanor. The Snarly Yow is the most dangerous creature in the entire state.

HUMAN 2

He's bringing us the frisbee.

HUMAN 1

Do not touch it! We need to back away very slowly and get the heck out of here. This place is not safe.

The Snarly Yow flips the frisbee back to the humans – hopefully with his mouth.

HUMAN 2

You're crazy. This is just a very nice dog.

HUMAN 1

Out here in these woods?

HUMAN 2

He's just looking for frisbees. I think this very good boi needs to be petted.

HUMAN 1

NO! DON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR THE SNARLY YOW! Listen to his name! Snarly! Yow! He's a terror! He's a monster! He'll as soon kill you as look at you.

HUMAN 2

He's not snarly at all. He's a good boi. You are a good boi, aren't you?

The Snarly Yow nods appreciatively and wags his tail.

HUMAN 1

You are courting death, brah. I am telling you. You need to leave this beast alone and slowly back away.

HUMAN 2

Oh no he is a good boi that needs petting.

Human 2 starts petting the Snarly Yow.

HUMAN 1

I can't watch this!

Human 1 covers his eyes.

Waits.

Nothing happens.

Huh.

Maybe I was wrong about this little friend.

I guess he could use some ear scratches and -

SNARLY YOW

RARRRRRRRRR!!!!!!!!!!

The Snarly Yow destroys Human 1.
The humans both shriek in horror.

HUMAN 1

AAAAGHGHHGHGHGHGHHGH!!!

Human 2 tries to flee – stumbles off-stage –

HUMAN 2

I'M RUNNING AWAY NOW SORRY I'M LEAVING YOU FOR DEAD!

HUMAN 1

IT'S COOL NO WORRIES!!!!

The Snarly Yow feasts on Human 1 for a second, then chases Human 2 off-stage

HUMAN 2 *(off-stage)*

OH NO IT'S MUCH QUICKER THAN ME IF ONLY I HAD TWO DIFFERENTLY-SIZED LEGS THAT WOULD GET ME OUT OF HERE FASTER!!

SNARLY YOW *(off-stage)*

RARRRRRR!!

HUMAN 2 *(off-stage)*

OH NO HE'S EATING ME IN THE MOST PAINFUL WAY POSSIBLE! OHHHH! OHHHH THIS HURTS A LOT! I DON'T EVEN HAVE MOST OF MY BLOOD ANYMORE! I AM BEING DEVOURED BY THE SNARLY YOW! HE'S STILL A GOOD BOI THOUGH AHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Perhaps a fake head rolls onto the stage.
The Snarly Yow returns, maybe with a severed hand in its mouth.
He pees on something.

NARRATOR 2

Tactic 6: Be a stone-cold killer.

NARRATOR 1

Did not see that coming.

NARRATOR 2

Nobody does. Which is why the Snarly Yow still lives. If you eliminate all the witnesses, there's nobody to tell your story.

NARRATOR 1

Nice.

7. The Chupacabra

NARRATOR 1

Which brings us to one of the more notorious cryptids, the Chupacabra.

Narrator 1 clicks a slide and an image of the Chupacabra appears.

NARRATOR 2

Ooh I've heard of this guy.

NARRATOR 1

The Chupacabra roams from Mexico, to the Caribbean, to the American Southwest, and is the bane of livestock farmers everywhere.

NARRATOR 2

Not to be confused with the Chupa*crab*ra, which lives in Maryland.

Narrator 2 clicks a slide and an image of the Chupacrabra appears, which looks just like the chupacabra, except it has crab pincers.

NARRATOR 1

That is not a thing, stop it.

NARRATOR 2

It pinches you to death. Pinch pinch. Maryland is for chupacrabras.

NARRATOR 1

But how does a cryptid this notorious evade capture? Let's find out.

NARRATOR 2

It pinches you.

NARRATOR 1

It does not!

JULIAN and ROSA, two chupacabras, enter on a date. They are finishing their dinner.

ROSA

Oh that was delicious, Julian.

JULIAN

Did you try the chickens, my love?

ROSA

I did. They were fantastic. So fresh.

JULIAN

Free-range are the best.

ROSA

You always take me to the best places.

JULIAN

Nothing is too good for the queen of my heart.

ROSA

Oh Julian – you are so romantic.

JULIAN

I knew, when I saw you when we were both chupacabchicks, that I would marry you one day. You are the most beautiful chupacabra I've ever seen. The way your fangs gleam in the moonlight, the way your rough coat of wiry back hair glints in the glow of the farmer's motion lights.

ROSA

And you are the most handsome chupacabra I have ever seen. Your two glowing red eyes, which burn like the fire in my heart –

JULIAN

Oh yes tell me more.

ROSA

Whenever I devour cattle or pigs or goats, I am thinking only of you.

JULIAN

And I, you. Take my paws which are tipped with long sharp talons perfect for eviscerating livestock. Let us dance the paso doble.

Julian takes a rose and puts it in his mouth –

ROSA

Stop, you are being ridiculous.

JULIAN

Never. Dance with me, my love.

ROSA

I am stuffed from the many many farm animals we just ate. I could not possibly dance with you.

Noise from off-stage.

HUMAN 1 *(off-stage)*

What is going on?

JULIAN

Uh-oh.

ROSA

Do you think they will look in the henhouse?

HUMAN 2 *(off-stage)*

What happened to the chickens in the henhouse?!

JULIAN

I think so, yes.

ROSA

We must escape!

JULIAN

Never. A chupacabra does not run. I am not some thief in the night. I am a noble, romantic creature with a heart filled with adventure. We shall face them – together.

ROSA

But they have pitchforks and axes!

JULIAN

Trust me, my love. If today is the day we die, we die together. In each other's arms.

ROSA

I love you.

JULIAN

Shhh. No tears.

They embrace.

Also, let's dress up like sheep.

ROSA

Good idea.

They put on sheep outfits (or hats) as Humans 1 and 2, farmers, run in.

HUMAN 1

Where'd they go?!

JULIAN

Nobody here but us chickens –

ROSA

Sheep.

JULIAN

I mean sheep.

HUMAN 2

Those goat-suckers got us again!

NARRATOR 2

Whoa.

NARRATOR 1

Fun fact: the word chupacabra comes from the Spanish, "goat-sucker."

NARRATOR 2

I still don't think we should be saying that.

HUMAN 1

Well, nothing to do now but clean up the bodies.

HUMAN 2

At least they left these two very disgusting sheep alone.

ROSA *(offended)*

Baa.

HUMAN 1

I didn't even realize we had sheep.

HUMAN 2

They just show up sometimes. Who can understand sheep?

HUMAN 1

Makes sense.

The humans walk off.

The Chupacabras toss off their sheep outfits.

JULIAN

And now… we dance.

Tango music as they dance off

NARRATOR 1

Survival method 7: Disguise yourself!

NARRATOR 2

Also, humans are dumb.

NARRATOR 1

Correct.

8. The Mermaid

NARRATOR 1

Our next cryptid has been made famous in film and fairy tales. The mermaid.

Narrator 1 puts up a slide of a hideous aquatic creature.

Oh wait sorry.

The slide changes to a manatee.

Wait no –

A cartoon image of a stereotypical mermaid appears, maybe it's just Disney's Ariel.

NARRATOR 2

Mermaids appear in both fresh and salt water, and have a diet consisting of mollusks, kelp, and smaller mermaids.

NARRATOR 1

That's messed up –

NARRATOR 2

What do you think carnivorous fish eat? Other fish. Therefore, mermaids eat other mermaids. It's biology.

NARRATOR 1

And mermaids have been luring sailors to their deaths for hundreds of years. Like this.

ESTRELLA, a mermaid, stumbles in. She's caught in a net.

ESTRELLA

Aw dang it! Help!

Two humans, sailors, rush in.

HUMAN 1

What did we catch?!

HUMAN 2

I think it's a mermaid!

HUMAN 1

Yes! Wooooo! We're rich! We're taking this one to Sea World and selling it for millions! Woo hoo! I'm gonna go grab the saltwater tank!

HUMAN 2

We have one of those?

HUMAN 1

Of course we have one of those! I'll be right back!

Human 1 runs off.

ESTRELLA

Help me! Help!

HUMAN 2

You speak English?!

ESTRELLA

Of course I speak English. Why would an entire underwater society consisting of talking crabs and merpeople speak a different language than you? Sheesh. Be realistic. I also have a great singing voice even though I live underwater and I don't really understand how you can sing underwater in the first place.

HUMAN 2

Whales do it.

ESTRELLA

Fine. I sing like a whale. That's what I should sound like.

She starts making whale noises

HUMAN 2

You're so beautiful.

ESTRELLA

Yeah I know thanks. I put a lot of effort into this.

End of Excerpt.
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com