## S N A V E

### AN ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY KYLE PAQUET AND JUSTIN ROBERTS

OPEN: BLACK SCREEN

CAPTION: THE SNAVE.

THE ACTUAL ORIGINS OF THIS CREATURE LIE IN TALES OF SMALL, FANGED MONSTERS THAT LURK IN THE SHADOWS. HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, SNAVES WERE HUNTED FOR SPORT BY ONLY THE BRAVEST OF WARRIORS. NOW, THEY ONLY EXIST IN STORIES TOLD BY FIRELIGHT.

THEY WILL SOON BE REMEMBERED.

EXT. FOREST -- NIGHT

Heavily wooded, easy to get lost in. Only one path is to be found, and this is even concealed by a heavy, low-hanging fog. Undergrowth juts up from the eerie mist, thorny, entwining with the trees around it.

Slowly, a LIGHT penetrates the darkness, floating through the dense fog. As it approaches, we can just make out a JEEP. Five passengers, and dragging a TRAILER filled with camping supplies.

The jeep stops, and the door opens. A RIDER steps out. He's about sixteen, regal, with spiking blonde quills for hair and striking blue eyes. He takes a quick swig from the canteen around his neck.

> RIDER Well, we're here, guys.

Another steps out: a beautiful GIRL about Rider's age, who has a pewter LOTUS pendant about her neck.

LOTUS You know, you could've picked a better spot.

RIDER (Smiles) No, I couldn't've.

#### RIDER

Terran Clearing. Subject of half the campfire stories in town.

Another rider leaps free of his mount, takes off his helmet. About a year younger than Rider but mature beyond his years, he is characterized by a large SCAR across his cheek.

SCAR It's said that five men were once killed in one night in this very clearing. RIDER Dude, after this we could wear shirts that say, "I survived Terran Clearing". SCAR Yup. It'd make this place a tourist spot. LOTUS You're idiots. RIDER How so? LOTUS The fact that you actually believe all that stuff they tell in the campfire stories. SCAR (half-smile) Who said we believe it? This earns a half-smile from Lotus. RIDER

Well, let's unload. It's gettin' late.

The group are now setting up their tents. The other two Friends are now out of the jeep. Two young, nervous boys of about thirteen, they will be known as QUARRY and MOSS. Moss, the shorter of the two, approaches Scar.

> MOSS So, what is it that...supposedly killed these five men?

#### SCAR

## Well...

Scar sort of hunkers down, his voice becoming dark and hollow.

#### SCAR

There are rumors that have been told of...creatures in these woods. Fearsome little things, about the size of a cat. They have hair all about their bodies, and their legs are long; built for speed. They have a twisted, three foot long tail, used for wrapping around and breaking necks. They have no eyes, but they can "feel" the presence of their prey. They're so fast that when they come for you, you only have time to scream.

Moss looks about ready to wet himself.

SCAR Of course, it's only rumors.

Moss doesn't look so optimistic. Scar is amused. He continues setting up the tents.

After a while, all of the tents are propped up.

RIDER Good work, guys. I'd say that's record time. (Beat) Now, who wants to go look for firewood? Several declinations arise.

QUARRY Nuh, uh. I'm not gonna go in those woods.

LOTUS Waddaya take us all for, Rider?

## RIDER Too bad. We're all going.

Several raised complaints arise from the other friends.

## SCAR Hey, what's wrong with just goin' out there? We got flashlights. Heavy flashlights.

QUARRY Sometimes heavy don't cut it.

## SCAR There's nothin' out there to worry about.

MOSS Yeah, 'cept for friggin' fuzzy monsters with no eyes.

Rider smiles.

RIDER Been spookin' 'em again, Scar?

## SCAR

(Smiles) My job.

RIDER Well, no use burnin' daylight we don't got. Let's move. CUT TO: EXT. FOREST, OUTSIDE TERRAN CLEARING -- NIGHT Quarry is scrounging about the woods, looking for firewood.

> QUARRY (Muttering) Stupid creepy forest...creepy trees...stupid creepy fog...

Suddenly, he hears a SKITTERING.

He SPINS around, his flashlight just piercing the darkness. His light is on a thick BUSH.

After waiting several moments with his flashlight trained on the plant, Quarry sees it SHAKE.

He jumps back, startled. Fighting back his fear, Quarry starts toward the bush.

Suddenly, SOMETHING HAIRY drops out of the bush!

Quarry drops his flashlight, shouts. The flashlight turns off.

For several moments, we're left in the dark, and all we hear is the LABORED BREATHING of Quarry.

We then hear a CLICK as the flashlight turns back on. Quarry starts back toward the bush, still scared crapless.

We switch to his POV, the flashlight beam revealing ...

A SQUIRREL

that scurries away from the light.

Quarry sighs, laughs nervously. He turns back, starts to walk-

CRUNCH.

He's stepped on something.

He moves his flashlight down, and his look changes to horror as he stares at something out of our view.

CUT TO: ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

As the others hear him CALLING OUT.

CUT BACK TO: QUARRY

As the others arrive. Quarry is still frozen in place, his light trained on a single spot. The others, wordlessly, stare at the same thing.

THEIR POV

A MUTILATED ANIMAL.

MOSS (shocked) What is this?

SCAR

Probably a rabbit. No way to really tell though. (looks at it closer) torn up really bad.

MOSS Yeah, but... What could've done this?

RIDER Nothing I've ever seen. (Indicates) It looks like something broke the ribcage in half...

Lotus turns away and RETCHES.

Rider picks up a stick, digs around in the corpse.

QUARRY (Nauseous) Do you gotta do that, Rider?

Rider ignores him. After a while, he pulls out the stick.

RIDER (Disgusted) It's like... the flesh is dissolved...

Lotus VOMITS again.

Suddenly, SMOKE begins to rise.

#### SCAR

#### What the...

The tip of Rider's stick is SMOLDERING.

He drops it quickly, and the stick sinks into the undergrowth. The smoke subsides.

SCAR That stuff burnt right through that stick...

RIDER Now we know why the thing's body is dissolved...

QUARRY What we DON'T know is what DID this!

RIDER Keep it cool, Quarry. Let's just get back to the campsite.

LOTUS We're staying!?!

RIDER We haven't come all this way for nothin'.

MOSS (Dripping with sarcasm) Yeah, we're gonna get lashed over your pride issues. That's swell.

RIDER Nothin's gonna do *this* (indicates the animal) to *us*. It was probably just a wolf or somethin'. QUARRY (Not so sure) Yeah...just a wolf.

#### RIDER So, let's go.

They leave, stepping cautiously. Once their gone, we pan up to a tree.

We hear a faint GROWL.

THE TRUNK OF THE TREE

A luminous, yellow FLUID drips down, BURNING INTO THE TREE.

CUT TO: INT. LOTUS' TENT

the sleeping peaceful, On form of Lotus. She's her breathing slow. Oblivious SKITTERING to the SOUNDS originating from outside.

We hear the crunch of leaves mashed into the undergrowth.

FOOTSTEPS.

Suddenly -

SCREAMING!

Lotus snaps awake.

CUT TO: EXT. TERRAN CLEARING -- NIGHT

As QUARRY, RIDER, SCAR and LOTUS run from their respective tents. Quarry and Rider are fully dressed, but Scar is shirtless (SCARS riddle his body), and Lotus is wearing a t-shirt and shorts. They race out of their tents, the SCREAMS resounding. By the low firelight, they can just make out the CONVULSING LEGS of MOSS being DRAGGED BEHIND A TREE.

A CRUNCH, and his screams stop.

A LONG, EERIE BEAT.

QUARRY FREAKS OUT.

QUARRY (frantic) Oh, man. That's it man. We're dead! DEAD! It's GAME OVER!

Rider runs over, grabs Quarry by the shoulders.

RIDER (yells) Cool it, Quarry!

Quarry calms down.

RIDER Everybody stay frosty. We'll figure this out.

LOTUS (terrified) What was that thing? Where's Moss?

RIDER I don't know... But whatever it was... I... Don't...

He sighs.

RIDER Whatever it is, we can't be sure what it can do.

SCAR So what do we do?

RIDER We head for the jeep. We need to get outta here.

LOTUS We parked it three miles away. Can we make it that far?

RIDER We don't have much choice.

SMASH CUT TO: CREATURE'S POV

Perched up in a tree, watching the humans leave. The

CUT TO: EXT. FOREST, OUTSIDE TERRAN CLEARING

Visibility is zero. The mist is now heavy and low-hanging. The flashlights of the FOUR FRIENDS vaguely pierce the mist.

> QUARRY (0.S.) I can't see crap out here.

RIDER (O.S.) Just keep moving.

They continue on for several moments.

LOTUS My cell phone doesn't work. I've tried three times.

SCAR Keep trying.

CREATURE'S POV

It sees through the fog, SEES the beating of their hearts.

SMELLS PREY.

CUT BACK TO: THE FRIENDS

Quarry TRIPS over something.

LOTUS What was that?

## QUARRY (groans) Stubbed my toe on somethin'.

A beat.

QUARRY Hey, I think the fog ends up ahead.

#### SCAR

Good.

A few moments, and the fog clears...

REVEALING A HORRIFIC SIGHT;

#### RIDER

What the...

Attached to a boulder are some sort of PODS.

Each are about three feet tall, and covered in SLIME. They have some sort of ROOTS digging into the rock itself.

Spouts at the base of the pod eject a GELATINOUS, LUMINESCENT SUBSTANCE.

QUARRY What are these things?

### RIDER Yeah. I should know?

SCAR They look like some kinda...eggs.

Quarry walks up to one, studies it.

QUARRY Augh. Nasty things.

Suddenly, one of the eggs start to SPLIT. Some kind of SMOKE spills out.

# RIDER

## Get back!

## LOTUS

What's happening!?!

The smoke clears, revealing a GELATINOUS BAG within the pod.

The bag PULSATES.

## QUARRY

What the...

The bag EXPLODES.

Spraying Quarry with LUMINOUS FLUID.

The fluid starts to burn him, and he SCREAMS.

A CREATURE LEAPS OUT OF THE SAC

at Quarry.

It knocks him to the ground, drags him away, screaming.

Several moments pass.

Quarry's screams begin to fade as all of the eggs begin to OPEN.

#### RIDER

RUN!

They do so.

They round the corner of the rock, and they all slip through a HIDDEN HOLE.

CUT TO: INT. CAVERN

As the Friends tumble down into the dank cave.

Scar rubs a bruise on the back of his head.

SCAR (disoriented) Where are we?

RIDER (the same as Scar) I don't know...

They suddenly hear a SCREECH.

Lotus SCREAMS as the sound reverberates throughout the stone walls.

Rider looks up at the hole they fell through.

RIDER Too steep to climb. The only way out's straight ahead.

Scar and Lotus look at him questioningly, but they follow nonetheless.

Several more SCREECHES resound, growing louder as they continue.

Finally, they reach a CHAMBER. Huge, and covered in a strange, cobweb-like substance. Intertwined with the substance are BONES of both humans and animals.

Another SCREECH. This one's closer than any of the others before.

Rider picks up a fairly large rock.

They continue on. They find what looks like large, SILKEN COCOONS hanging from the ceiling.

Scar walks over, peels the cocooning away.

RIDER

(solemn) Oh, Lord... It's Moss.

Lotus tears up, sobs gently.

LOTUS (horrified) Why? Why do these things do this?

## SCAR

### I don't -

Another SCREECH. This one's DEAFENINGLY LOUD.

AND IT'S COMING FROM BEHIND RIDER.

He turns slowly, sees it:

THE SNAVE.

Full-grown, menacingly outlandish.

It's eyeless head houses ROWS of JAGGED TEETH, as well as long, wolf-like ears. It's arms are distended and skeletal, and its THREE-FOOT TAIL is coiled behind it, poised to strike. It's skin is thin and clings to its skeletal ribcage, which contrasts its LARGE POTBELLY.

The creature growls menacingly at Rider, then STRIKES.

It LEAPS at Rider, SCREECHING.

At the last minute, Rider SWINGS down with the rock. It makes good contact with the monsters skull, and it makes a pained YELP as it slumps to the floor. Unconscious.

LOTUS What is it...?

SCAR It's a Snave.

RIDER What?

SCAR A Snave. The antagonists of the Terran Clearing stories.

LOTUS I would've never guessed they were real...

RIDER After what we've seen tonight... there's really nothing else they can be.

A beat.

SCAR What do we do with it?

Rider examines the comatose Snave. It's breathing is shallow.

RIDER We take it with us. LOTUS WHAT!?!

SCAR Are you crazy?

RIDER (Explaining) If we get outta here, we'll need proof that these things exist. We can't get much better proof than this.

SCAR Sounds insane...but logical.

RIDER (Ironical) Story of my life.

CUT TO: INT. CAVERN -- LATER

A dim corridor, but the Friends can just make out a FAINT GLIMMER OF LIGHT a the end of the tunnel.

RIDER There's light ahead!

LOTUS

Good.

Suddenly, a resounding SCREECH sounds about them.

#### RIDER

### Hurry!

They run to the end of the tunnel. It's a large, CAVED-IN WALL. Rider looks through the hole, sees THE SUN just coming up.

The SCREECHING gets closer.

They work at the rocks, frantically moving them.

The SCREECHING gets closer.

They have a small hole, but its too small.

The SCREECHING is now frantically close. We see SHADOWS of Snaves on the wall.

The Friends frantically dig at the wall, the hole's just big enough...

The SNAVES CLOSE on them, getting CLOSER and CLOSER.

They're almost on them...

The wall COLLAPSES, liberating the SUN into the cave.

The SNAVES SCREECH, scurry off into the bowels of the cave.

The Friends stand for a moment.

SCAR (Realizes) Sunlight...

He smiles.

SCAR They're afraid of sunlight!

RIDER They can only hunt at night...

LOTUS (impatient) That's good. That's great. Now let's get outta here.

CUT TO: EXT. FOREST -- DAWN

ON THE JEEP

The Friends run up to the jeep. Rider has the comatose Snave slung over his shoulder.

LOTUS What happens when this thing wakes up?

SCAR I've got a raccoon trap in the back. RIDER You think that'll hold it?

SCAR It'll have to. We'll put a blanket over it to dampen the sunlight.

They jump into the jeep, strap in.

Rider puts the now limp Snave into Scar's raccoon trap, puts a blanket over the top.

They drive away, through the bumpy trail of the forest.

LOTUS What'll we tell everybody...about...

She swallows hard, choking back tears.

LOTUS (emotional) About what happened to Moss and Quarry?

#### RIDER

(solemn)
The truth. (A thoughtful beat)
They'll have to believe us. We've
got the best proof we can find.

CUT TO: EXT. FOREST -- MORNING

The music reaches a crescendo as the jeep pulls away.

It goes off into the distance, disappears.

Were expecting the screen to go black, but we

SMASH CUT TO: INT. BACK OF THE JEEP

ON THE CAGE

The blanket covers the majority of the cage, blocking the sunlight. The Snave is still lying in the cage; it's swollen stomach facing up.

As we pull in on it, its stomach MOVES.

First faintly, then stronger.

Then FRANTIC.

Something trying to get OUT.

The Snave SCREECHES.

## THE END?

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