

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

You know, I've been around for a while.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:06,000

I've met some interesting people.

3

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:08,000

I've done some crazy things.

4

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:13,000

See, you just might think that there's not much that can take you by surprise.

5

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:16,000

You'd be wrong.

6

00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:23,000

The world is full of stories, science, and things that are made for you.

7

00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:30,000

The world is full of stories, science, and things that amaze and confound me.

8

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:34,000

Every single day, incredible mysteries that keep me awake at night.

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Some I can answer.

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:40,000

Oh, there's just... stuff I logic.

11

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Do monsters exist?

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:49,000

In West Virginia, a town is terrorized by a seven-foot winged demon.

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00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:54,000

Did it cause the death of 46 people?

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00:00:54,000 --> 00:01:01,000

It had two huge black wings and no head, no arms.

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:07,000

In Newfoundland, a macabre creature washes up on a local beach.

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Are our oceans concealing a mega-beast?

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

It was nothing that either of us had ever seen or could imagine.

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00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:22,000

And in Udelli, thousands are attacked by a metal-clogged monster.

19

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Was it a man or a beast?

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:29,000

People ran off in absolute panic.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

They're just... they're fleeing from the sea.

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Yeah, it's a weird world, and I love it.

23

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:49,000

The Udelli

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:58,000

You know, I just had a lovely holiday at Scotland.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:01,000

Getting my castle, bagpipes, the whole deal.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Even went to Loch Ness, where Nessie, famous Loch Ness monster, is supposed to live.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:09,000

We got on this boat, went out on the lock, searching for hours.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Then guess what I saw?

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:13,000

Nothing.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Absolutely nothing.

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:16,000

Total waste of time.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:18,000

And six blacks.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:21,000

A monster's nothing more than bait to lure gullible tourists

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:26,000

to things like Yeti, Bigfoot, and Chupacopra exist.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

I got these for you.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,000

They just might.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:39,000

Point Pleasant, West Virginia

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Nearly 50 years ago, this sleepy farming town was brutally awoken by a series of monstrous events

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:48,000

that are still a mystery today.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:53,000

Lauren Coleman is an author.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:59,000

He documented the incidents, which began on the night of November 15, 1966,

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:02,000

when two young couples took a drive.

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:08,000

Roger and Linda Scarber and the mallets were driving around

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:10,000

in the old TNT area.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:15,000

It was called TNT because that's where dynamite was stored during World War II.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Secluded and dark, TNT was also a well-known lovers' lane.

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:29,000

But instead of fun, the four teenagers are about to encounter a living nightmare.

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:34,000

All of a sudden, they see this creature.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:38,000

It's six feet tall and it's coming to them.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

It's having glowing red eyes in its chest, which are reflecting the headlights.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

It had two huge black wings.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:47,000

No head, no arms.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:53,000

All of a sudden, it goes into the air and starts flying.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,000

They started racing back to Point Pleasant and the creature was in back of the car.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:02,000

Really, they felt it almost was touching both sides of the highway.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Reaching speeds of 100 miles an hour, the chase continues until finally the creature disappears.

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Was there something unpleasant in Point Pleasant?

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:22,000

The next day, they come back out there and they see it flying overhead.

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:26,000

So all of a sudden, you get more and more word of mouth in the town

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:28,000

that this creature's been around, people are seeing it.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:32,000

The newspapers hadn't even caught on to the report yet.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:38,000

So the next day, you have Marcella Bennett saying she's going over to one of her relatives' houses,

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

which is a bunch of houses right along the road that leads to the TMT.

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:46,000

She gets close to the house and all of a sudden, on the roof of the house, sees the mothman.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:53,000

She's carrying her baby in her arms and falls on the baby out of terror and fright.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:57,000

Gets up, races off, and they tell the police too.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:03,000

What occurs, however, is that it gets into the newspaper and all of a sudden,

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00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:09,000

you had within a few weeks, 200 people saying that they'd seen the mothman.

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:15,000

This remarkable story sends shockwaves through the town.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:19,000

The media calls the creature the mothman.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Local resident Fay LaPorte was 14 years old at the time.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:32,000

Three days after the first sighting, she decided to visit the scene for herself.

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:37,000

There's the road over there that we drove down in my brother to come out here

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

to try to find the so-called mothman we heard about.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

My brother said, well, I'm just going to see if I can find it

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:49,000

and prove that it's just somebody in Halloween costume or something on wires or something.

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00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:55,000

As we got to the area, my brother kept looking past me to the window.

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:57,000

I said, well, what is it? What are you looking at?

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:59,000

He said, well, don't look right now.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:03,000

He said, but there's something beside the car there by the window.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:08,000

It had the features of a bird combined with a hymn.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:15,000

We were really scared and I was begging and crying for my brother to go ahead and let's get out here.

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:22,000

That's when I finally saw it open up its wings and just flew off in the sky so pretty it was gone.

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00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:28,000

For the next year, the mothman terrorized the people of Point Pleasant.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:34,000

We were coming up the road here. We looked around the thing, found the curve there

86

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,000

and we thought it was a car like it. So we stopped by the car and the thing came over the top of the car.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Where I just like to say something supernatural, we can't explain it.

88

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:44,000

Something like that. I know I can't explain it, but that's for sure.

89

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

They wonder where it will all end.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:53,000

Thirteen months after the first sighting, they get their answer.

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:07:01,000

The silver bridge between West Virginia and Ohio, starting at Point Pleasant,

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:05,000

collapsed on December 15, 1967.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Sixty-seven people fell into the water of the Ohio River.

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00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Forty-six died and two bodies never were even found.

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:18,000

There's seemingly no apparent reason for this horrific tragedy.

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Then comes a terrifying report.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:29,000

The night before the disaster, the mothman was seen hanging from the silver bridge.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:34,000

And people were scared. They were so scared they didn't want to talk about the bridge.

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00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:38,000

They didn't want to talk about mothman. They didn't want to talk about anything.

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:43,000

This town became quiet and everybody for a long time said that nobody talked.

101

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,000

And you still have people that won't talk about the bridge collapse today.

102

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:49,000

The mothman was never seen again.

103

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:55,000

For 45 years, this incredible story has baffled experts.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:02,000

But some believe recent evidence could finally explain the mystery of the mothman.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:12,000

Joe Nicol is a paranormal investigator with Skeptical Inquirer Science Magazine.

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00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:20,000

We human beings misperceive all the time. People say, I know what I saw.

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Actually, they know what they think they saw.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:28,000

Joe believes the mothman wasn't quite the monstrous piece it was made out to be.

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:36,000

I believe the Bardell is the creature that most clearly fits the bill.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:40,000

Was the mothman simply an owl?

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00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:48,000

Nicol thinks the answer lies in then to Scarberry's first descriptions back in 1966.

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:55,000

Her original description of mothman is of a very large winged creature.

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00:08:55,000 --> 00:09:02,000

She said it had no neck, virtually no real head, just eyes, very large eyes,

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00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:05,000

round and shining like a bicycle reflector.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:11,000

In the owl family, there are different degrees of what's called eye shine.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Among the most potent is that of the Bard owl, which has a deep crimson eye shine.

117

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:26,000

It's a large owl with big wingspan. It would look like just eyes set at the top of a body with wings up.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

It flies in a silent moth-like flight.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:35,000

It has pretty much exactly the characteristics of mothman, the original sightings.

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00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:38,000

But does Nicol's theory explain the height?

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00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:44,000

Eyewitnesses reported a creature that was six or seven feet tall.

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:53,000

We know that people misperceive and I'm quite confident that somebody looking and not knowing what it is at night, quickly, maybe being frightened by it.

123

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:58,000

I dare say I would misjudge the distance and therefore misjudge the height.

124

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Incredible, isn't it? Here we have an entire town and a few of their lives from something that can't explain a creature seven feet tall,

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00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:11,000

that can fly a hundred miles an hour and maybe even bring down a bridge and they blame it on this guy.

126

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:14,000

I'm going to be wrong, he's scary.

127

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:22,000

If you're a field mouse, perhaps the real question here is, why did so many people think they saw a monster?

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:27,000

And even blame it for the death of 46 people? Weird or what?

129

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:35,000

A mysterious winged creature called the mothman terrorizes the town in West Virginia.

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00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Is it proof that monsters exist? Jim Huran is a psychologist.

131

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:48,000

He believes the mothman can be explained by a phenomena called MPI.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Mass psychogenic illness or MPI is a psychological term for an outbreak of mysterious illness that has no medical cause, but it's entirely in someone's head.

133

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:04,000

Before you know it, you have a contagion effect whereby those social symptoms start spreading in a large group of people.

134

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Mass psychogenic illness tends to be associated with negatives because people oftentimes report and care about and give a lot of credence to dramatic things in the environment.

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00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:19,000

And oftentimes, just from our evolutionary standpoint, those are dangerous things, negative things.

136

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:23,000

Was mothman the result of social contagion?

137

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Huran believes he can prove his theory by showing what might have happened in Point Pleasant.

138

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:32,000

We're going to try to induce a mild case of mass psychogenic illness.

139

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:38,000

I've selected a group of volunteers, I'm going to give them the suggestion that they're going to be visiting a very haunted place in the woods.

140

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:41,000

We're going to take them out there and let their imaginations take over.

141

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:56,000

Well, we should see if the mass psychogenic illness is a plausible explanation for the mothman's findings, is that we'll see a few people start having experiences, other people will notice that, and then we'll see an outbreak of similar symptoms, if that's what you want to call them, just due to social pressure.

142

00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:59,000

Was this bad? Was this fiction?

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:06,000

Huran begins by telling the group he needs their help to solve a series of disturbing paranormal incidents reported in the area.

144

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:11,000

As night falls, the group sets out into the woods.

145

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:13,000

Everyone, stop please.

146

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:15,000

Everyone, fan out.

147

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:17,000

They're told to turn off their flashlights.

148

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,000

And stop.

149

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:24,000

From this point, they can only be turned on when someone thinks they experienced something paranormal.

150

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:26,000

Just give your sense of bearing.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:32,000

In just minutes, flashlights come on and reports of paranormal activity flood in.

152

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Huran believes the flashlights act as social cues which influence the other members of the group.

153

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

You felt the cold breeze? Someone felt cold over there too.

154

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:53,000

I feel like someone's falling. Someone is just waiting to say something.

155

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:55,000

I'm like, what?

156

00:12:55,000 --> 00:13:00,000

And we understand this. Like right here, you feel like there's static electricity on your face?

157

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:06,000

As soon as one or two cues took hold, then you start seeing a flurry of other flashlights going on.

158

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:11,000

It percolated throughout the entire group, exactly what we would expect with psychogenic illness in a group.

159

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Tonight's experiments were very impressive because it kind of confirmed what I think happened with the mothman.

160

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:24,000

That is, we had a right type of people in the right type of environment, an environment that was spooky, full of context,

161

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

exactly the same kind of environment that the mothman experiences happened.

162

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:34,000

And a little bit of suggestion caused a flurry and outbreak of experiences that otherwise wouldn't have happened.

163

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Was the mothman all in the minds of his victims?

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:45,000

And does this explain what eyewitnesses like Fay LaPorte saw?

165

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Ken Gerhardt is a professional monster on it.

166

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:56,000

He believes the best way to solve the mothman mystery is to hunt it down himself.

167

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:05,000

For the past decades, I have gone out and searched for hard physical evidence that we share our world with creatures, legendary beasts,

168

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:08,000

things that have not been classified or verified by scientists.

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00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:11,000

Mothman is a monster in the truest sense of the word.

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00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:18,000

I mean, here you have a creature that doesn't match the description of anything we know about in the natural world.

171

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,000

Something that seemingly stepped right out of a science fiction movie.

172

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:28,000

Gerhardt has come to the McClintic Wildlife Reserve, close to where the mothman was first sighted.

173

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:37,000

It's very exciting to be here in the actual location where mothman was reported so many times back in the 1960s.

174

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:43,000

If mothman is a real physical animal, it's going to make an impact on its environment.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:49,000

This could be tracks on the ground, nests, markings and the like.

176

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Using a camera trap, Gerhardt is hoping to catch a mothman unaware.

177

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:02,000

This is actually a motion-activated camera with an infrared beam,

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00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:07,000

and anything that passes within that beam is actually going to be captured on this particular camera.

179

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:15,000

I can put the camera out overnight and come back the following morning to determine whether, in fact, I've captured an image of the subject.

180

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:25,000

To attract his prey, Gerhardt sets up a blasting device, a machine that broadcasts the sound of forest creatures in pain.

181

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Many of the eyewitnesses said the mothman made kind of a squeaking mechanical mouse sound,

182

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:39,000

and fortunately I have a little sound on here called lip-squeak, and I think that's exactly what we need.

183

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Did you hear that? Something moving around there in the brush. I don't know what it was, but basically that last sound definitely,

184

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:54,000

about some type of response or reaction.

185

00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:02,000

With his equipment set, it is now a waiting game. Will the mothman reveal something?

186

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

I don't know about you.

187

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:13,000

But if I were a monster hunter, indeed, if I were hunting the mothman,

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00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:17,000

I think I'd be taking something a little more substantial than this.

189

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:29,000

I mean, at least, I think you'd take something like this.

190

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,000

Wouldn't you?

191

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:42,000

But we have to ask the question, if monsters really exist, why is no one, a monster hunter or not,

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00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:46,000

then able to catch one? Then again, these monsters were just ordinary critters.

193

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:50,000

They wouldn't really be monsters, would they?

194

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:03,000

Returning the next day, monster hunter Ken Gearhart checks to see if he's found evidence of the mothman.

195

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Well, unfortunately, it doesn't look like we got anything on film.

196

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:18,000

I may have been a little bit wrong about the placement of this camera.

197

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:23,000

The lesson learned here is that monster hunting is a very arduous and time-consuming process,

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00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:29,000

and it may take quite a bit of time before we actually get an image of our quarry.

199

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:39,000

The high-tech approaches fail to find anything, but Gearhart thinks he knows exactly what mothman is.

200

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

I believe mothman to be the product of negative energy.

201

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:48,000

Consider for a moment the main location where mothman was encountered.

202

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:55,000

Many of the Native American tribes would avoid this area completely because they believed it to be haunted by monsters and evil spirits.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:03,000

And then you have the great curse of chief corn stock, the Shawnee chief who, on his deathbed, cursed the area because the white man had betrayed him.

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00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:08,000

So in that respect, I believe mothman to be the cumulation of all of this negative energy,

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00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:14,000

perhaps brought to life by some type of mechanism far beyond the realm of human comprehension.

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00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:20,000

Beyond that, there have been reports of ringed humanoid creatures all over the world for centuries,

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00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:25,000

and in many ancient cultures, for example in Japan where you have the Tengu, which is a bird man,

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00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,000

the Tengu is often considered to be a bad omen or a harbinger of doom.

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00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:36,000

You have the Banshee from Scottish lore, and so in many of these mythologies and folk lords,

210

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:41,000

these winged creatures are often considered to be premonitions of doom and destruction.

211

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:46,000

So I think that's a very interesting tie-in between mothman and the timing of the bridge collapse.

212

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:52,000

Was mothman a bad omen that somehow materialized in point pleasant?

213

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:58,000

Or could it simply have been mass hysteria created by an owl?

214

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

Weird. Or what?

215

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:03,000

What?

216

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:20,000

A fisherman finds a giant, unidentifiable creature on a beach in Newfoundland.

217

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:23,000

It was nothing that either of us had ever seen or could imagine.

218

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Are monsters lurking in the deep?

219

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:31,000

Hey, well, you know I used to love fishing.

220

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Nothing better than the thrill of landing a big one, the ultimate challenge between man and beast.

221

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Well, there you are now, man, you catch something.

222

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:41,000

You're not expecting it.

223

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Strange things make you wonder, what is living in the depths of our oceans?

224

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:51,000

I don't know.

225

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:59,000

In 2001, Gary Stenson was working as a fisheries officer in Newfoundland, Canada,

226

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:03,000

when he received the strangest phone call of his career.

227

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Got a call from a fisherman who was telling me about a creature on the beach that had washed up.

228

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:16,000

He started to describe it to me, and it sounded unlike anything that I had encountered.

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00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:22,000

Mystified, Gary decides to meet the fisherman and investigate the strange sighting.

230

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:31,000

It's a very isolated area, and as we came up to it, we saw this large creature laying on the beach itself.

231

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:36,000

I've never seen anything that looked like this.

232

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:44,000

The whole thing was tapering to the tail end, and once it got to the tail end, it just broke off.

233

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:49,000

We had thought that it might be something like a giant squid, which we do have here,

234

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:51,000

but there are no tentacles that looked like that.

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00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:54,000

It didn't also look like a whale or a shark, which it could be.

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00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:00,000

There was nothing that looked like a head, there was nothing that looked like any sort of structures that we could identify it.

237

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:08,000

In over 20 years, as a fisheries officer, Gary thought he had seen it all, until now.

238

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:12,000

I've worked on a lot of whales, and I've worked on a lot of seals,

239

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

and he was some shark set up from a shore, but on this creature, it was nothing like that.

240

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:18,000

And there was nothing that we could tell where it came from.

241

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:24,000

From a distance, it had what looked like hair standing up all over it.

242

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:31,000

It was about 5.5 meters long, about 2 meters wide, and about a meter high in the middle of it.

243

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:37,000

There were a number of lobes. They looked almost like short arms with notches in between.

244

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

It smelled a lot like rotting tissue.

245

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:47,000

It was pretty heavy. We tried pushing on it, it was solid.

246

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,000

It was nothing that we could move.

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00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:55,000

So what we did was we took our knives and we tried to cut up and cut into the tissue.

248

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:04,000

As they cut into the carcass, they made a bizarre discovery.

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00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:09,000

The exterior of it was very hard, it was quite tough, but there was no sign of any organs.

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00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:13,000

If it was a shark, there'd be cartilage, but there was no cartilage.

251

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:18,000

So we looked for a bone. If it was a whale, there'd be some bone in it, but none of this either.

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00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:23,000

We spent a lot of time trying to decide what we thought it might be.

253

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Of course, as a scientist, you're very curious, and in fact, as a scientist to me,

254

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

as somebody who's curious about what they see.

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00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:33,000

And of course, we were very curious as to what this might be.

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00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:37,000

So we decided that the best thing to do would be to take some tissue with it,

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00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:39,000

and we brought that back with us.

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00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:45,000

It seemed Gary and the fisherman had discovered a creature unknown to science.

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00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:52,000

It was nothing that I'd ever seen or could imagine.

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00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:58,000

It's not impossible that there's something out there that we haven't seen before that's lurking in the depths.

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00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:04,000

A giant creature washes up in Niflilon.

262

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Was it an unknown species or a monster from the deep?

263

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:13,000

And if there was one, could there be others?

264

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:18,000

Remarkably, the answer is yes.

265

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:20,000

It's incredible.

266

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:23,000

In the last century, giant weird blobs of...

267

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:26,000

Ooh, I don't know what.

268

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:30,000

They've been washing up all over the planet. Are they something awful from the bowels of ships?

269

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:32,000

I hope not.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:38,000

In fact, it's so hard to identify that the only named scientist who could come up with is Glopsters.

271

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:41,000

Part glob, part monster.

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00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Glopster, clever.

273

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,000

But what the hell are they?

274

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Matthew Adele is a professor of anatomy.

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00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:01,000

He believes the explanation is simple.

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00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:05,000

It sounds like something very mysterious, something completely unknown to science.

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00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:10,000

There are dozens of reports of Glopsters from around the world going back over a century.

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00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:13,000

They're usually formless and they don't contain any bones.

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00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:16,000

There's no evidence of a head or a tail or any limbs.

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00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:19,000

They're just big, shapeless globs of flesh.

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00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:23,000

But there's no evidence so far that they're anything other than dead whales.

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00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:30,000

But if Glopsters are whales, how could tons of bones and internal organs be missing?

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00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:36,000

Adele thinks the answer lies in one of the strongest elements in nature.

284

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:38,000

Collagen.

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00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:42,000

A protein found in whale skin.

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00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:46,000

Collagen is similar to steel in terms of tensile strength.

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00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:49,000

So it's one of the toughest substances known to man.

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00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:52,000

If you feel the back of your heel, feel your Achilles tendon.

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00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:55,000

That's a big rope of collagen the size of your finger.

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00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Now imagine something like that woven in overlapping belts around an animal 100 feet long

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00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:04,000

and you get some idea of the strength of whale skin.

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00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:06,000

It's just incredible.

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00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Scientists think protective collagen allows whales to dive up to two miles below the surface of the ocean.

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00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Many submarines would crush before they got down to that depth.

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00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:24,000

Collagen is their pressure suit when they dive and their armor against things like sharks

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00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:26,000

that would try to take bites out of them.

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00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:32,000

Adele also believes collagen causes whales to decompose in a unique way.

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00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Decomposition for whales is an interesting process because whales are different from other animals in two ways mainly.

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00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:45,000

The first is that they're so big, just their sheer scale influences how they decompose.

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:50,000

The other thing is the skin of whales is unique in the animal kingdom.

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00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:53,000

It's incredibly thick, it's incredibly strong.

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00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:57,000

You can hang up the entire weight of a whale by a hook through its skin.

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00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:03,000

When a whale dies, the skin doesn't fall apart the way that normal animal skin does.

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00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:09,000

After death, scavengers rapidly devour the insides of a dead whale.

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00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:13,000

But they leave the grisly collagen alone.

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00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:17,000

Once animals have eaten their way into the body to get the good stuff,

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00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:21,000

it's easy for the bones to slide right out and sink to the bottom of the ocean.

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00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:25,000

The skin falls off like a sock off of a foot.

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00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:30,000

And now you have a hundred foot long tube of skin floating through the ocean.

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00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:38,000

But many globsters have tentacles, strange arms, even hair.

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00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Can Waddell's theory explain these bizarre features?

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00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:49,000

Imagine the gnarliest piece of gristle you've ever encountered that's a hundred feet long and a foot thick.

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00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:51,000

It lasts essentially forever.

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00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:56,000

It's only broken up really by getting pounded on rocks and torn apart by waves.

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00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:00,000

That sack of skin can float around in the ocean for months or maybe even years.

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00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:05,000

It can rip, it can tear, it can shred into all kinds of interesting shapes.

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00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:08,000

The collagen actually frays just like an old pair of pants.

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00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:14,000

And those threads of collagen that stick out are usually pink or red and they look like hair.

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00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:20,000

Are globsters simply giant blobs of collagen floating around in a suit of whale skin?

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00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

Or are they beasts from the deep?

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00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:25,000

I love a good mystery as much as the next person.

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00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:29,000

And I would love to think that there are giant, unknown animals in the ocean.

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00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:34,000

And there probably are some new kinds of sharks and maybe even new species of whales.

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00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:36,000

But there's no real sea monster.

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00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:40,000

As much as I would like to believe that there is, I have to go where the evidence leads.

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00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:46,000

And so far, all of the evidence that we have suggests that globsters are just the rotting skin of dead whales.

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00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Are globsters simply masses of mammal meat?

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00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Some believe they are proof of something far more terrifying.

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00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:01,000

Dr. Hans Larson is a paleontologist.

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00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:07,000

He thinks globsters could be a living relic from our ancient past.

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00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:13,000

The researchers who point to globsters and say they're nothing more than whales,

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00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:16,000

they're probably right for most cases.

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00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:20,000

But pretty much the entire ocean below 100 meters depth hasn't been explored.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:24,000

Some areas of the ocean are over six miles deep.

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00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:30,000

Larson believes that a terrifying creature could be lurking in the depths.

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00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:33,000

The megalodon.

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00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:36,000

The megalodon is a huge fish.

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00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:40,000

It looks a lot like a great white shark, but it's much bigger.

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00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:44,000

It is known as the Tyrontosaurus Rex of the Deep,

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00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:48,000

a monster that terrorized the ocean for 25 million years,

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00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:52,000

and the right size for a globster.

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00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:57,000

This is a tiger shark about 15 or so feet long.

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00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:00,000

And look at the size of the teeth and the size of the mouth.

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00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:01,000

It's pretty impressive.

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00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:04,000

I mean, this would be scary enough in the water should you be in front of it.

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00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:08,000

But compare that to a megalodon, and this is an average size tooth.

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00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:12,000

It would absolutely be a monster.

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00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:18,000

Most scientists believe this marine monster became extinct one and a half million years ago.

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00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

But remarkably, Larson isn't so sure.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:27,000

Some people have suggested that the cooling of the ocean

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00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:29,000

may have driven megalodon to extinction.

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00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:32,000

I think we should be a little bit skeptical about that,

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00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:35,000

because all the other animals in the ocean survived quite well.

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00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:40,000

And if that whole ecosystem could survive the global cooling of the oceans and the ice ages,

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00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:42,000

why not megalodon?

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Could science be wrong?

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00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:50,000

Do giant killers work in oceans?

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00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:56,000

Are they monsters of the deep, or just globs of super strength blubber?

359

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Weird, what?

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00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Music

361

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:19,000

In India, a rampaging man-beast causes widespread panic in the nation's capital.

362

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:21,000

It's cream and cry and runoff.

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00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:23,000

You know, it is absolutely panic.

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00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:27,000

Are scientists creating man-made monsters?

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00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:32,000

You know, when it comes to trying to prove there's no such thing as monsters, there's one big problem.

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00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:35,000

There's just no hard evidence. They never seem to hang around long enough.

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00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:37,000

But what if we're looking in the wrong places?

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00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:41,000

What if instead of creepy shadows or deep dark corners of our imagination,

369

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:44,000

the monsters we're looking for are right under our noses?

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00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:48,000

What if we're the ones creating them?

371

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Sanal Indamaruku is a journalist.

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00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:57,000

He was in Delhi in the summer of 2001,

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00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:02,000

and witnessed one of the most bizarre events in its long history.

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00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:07,000

It was very, very warm.

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00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:11,000

The temperatures went up to 48 degrees Celsius with enormous humidity,

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00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:14,000

which made life unbearable.

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00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Nobody could sleep in home, especially poor sections of the bibi town.

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00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:21,000

A lot of people have been sleeping on the rooftop.

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00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,000

As thousands of people try to escape the heat,

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00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:30,000

they have no idea a six-week reign of terror is about to begin.

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00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Two factory workers said that they have been sleeping on the factory balcony in the evening,

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00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:42,000

and suddenly some strange creature jumped from the floor to the second floor,

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00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:46,000

scratched them, attacked them, screamed and burned them.

384

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:50,000

In a city home to thousands of monkeys,

385

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:54,000

at first the attacks seemed unremarkable,

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00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

until the victims described what they had seen.

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00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:00,000

They said that it had two, three special things, metallic rows,

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00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:05,000

then there's special lights coming from its forehead, one green and the other red,

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00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:08,000

and these lights were moving and it scratched,

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00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:11,000

and there's special whistling sounds and this was the end.

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00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:15,000

It was like a wildfire, it spread everywhere, people had been speaking about this creature.

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00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:18,000

What had attacked the workers?

393

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:24,000

Within 24 hours, the newspapers give the creature a name, the Monkey Man.

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00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:30,000

All the victims describe the same thing,

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:34,000

a hairy creature with metallic claws and strange lights.

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00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Everybody has been speaking about this special kind of movement that it has,

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00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:41,000

it's controlled by somebody.

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00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:46,000

Some people said that it could be a half-man-hab robot,

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00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:51,000

and especially created by the neighboring country of Pakistan to make trouble in India.

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00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Then comes a new twist.

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00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:56,000

As rumors were heard,

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00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:59,000

the police have been investigating the crime of the police,

403

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:02,000

and then comes a new twist.

404

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:05,000

As rumors grow, so does the panic.

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00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Just two weeks after the first sighting of the Monkey Man,

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00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:13,000

the entire city of New Delhi is besieged by terror.

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00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:16,000

So many people have been injured.

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00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Initially, every night, we had five to six people got attacked by the Monkey Man

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00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:27,000

with scratches, bruises and other body damages,

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00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:29,000

and the number increased.

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00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Later, per night, there were 120, 130 people got attacked by the Monkey Man,

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00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:39,000

and there were more than 800 people hospitalized at different parts of the time.

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00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:42,000

Then, tragedy strikes.

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00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:46,000

One lady was on a rooftop sleeping,

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00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:50,000

and someone saw the Monkey Man, screamed,

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00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:52,000

and the whole people started running off.

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00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:53,000

She had been running off,

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00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:56,000

and she fallen down from the second floor,

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00:33:56,000 --> 00:34:00,000

straight down to the floor, and she died.

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00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:06,000

In the following days, more people died as crowds rushed to escape.

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00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:11,000

As panic grows, New Delhi becomes a ghost town.

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00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:15,000

People were so afraid to come out,

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00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:18,000

the Delhi streets were completely empty after the book.

424

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Totally empty.

425

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:21,000

Not where the car would go out.

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00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:25,000

The whole city was completely afraid of Monkey Man.

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00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Then, just as the terror reaches its peak, the incredible happens.

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00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:36,000

There was no Monkey Man reported anywhere after third or fourth week of May,

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00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:39,000

and it simply disappeared.

430

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:42,000

What happened in New Delhi?

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00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:47,000

Something held this giant city in its fearful grip for weeks.

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00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Was it a monster?

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00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:53,000

Could the Monkey Man be real?

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00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Jay Lakhani is a teacher of the Hindu religion.

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00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:04,000

He believes the Monkey Man can be explained by Indian culture.

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00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:10,000

There is nothing here that would make me feel that there is anything more

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00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:13,000

than superstition, kind of rolled up with fear,

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00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:16,000

and rolled up with the idea of religious iconography,

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00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:18,000

which has kind of produced this story.

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00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:26,000

The county thinks that powerful religious beliefs could have helped create the Monkey Man.

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00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:31,000

In the Hindu tradition, the word avatar is very central.

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00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:33,000

Avatar means one who descends.

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00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:38,000

The Hindus say the spirit is a habit of descending to earth in human form.

444

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:46,000

In the Hindu religion, gods known as avatars are believed to descend to earth in times of need.

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00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:50,000

Many are depicted as part human, part animal.

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00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:58,000

Was the Monkey Man a well-meaning avatar that was mistaken for something evil?

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00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:01,000

India is a poor country struggling with lots of issues,

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00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:06,000

so it's understandable that the public would like to project the idea that an avatar is here to

rescue them.

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00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Any sober Hindu, when he looks at the story in a very sober manner,

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00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:13,000

will immediately come to the conclusion that this was not an avatar.

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It's not just my take on it, but every sober Hindu,

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no sober Hindu would really consider this to be an avatar,

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because there is nothing that the monkey has done which reflects what an avatar is all about.

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It is to benefit humanity, not frighten it.

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You see, a lay person is very gullible.

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I suspect it is quite possible that a few pranksters go together,

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dressed up as a couple of monkeys, and set them loose on the streets of New Delhi.

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For a lay person who is kind of steeped in religious tradition,

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it is understandable that suddenly when he sees a few pranksters,

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he somehow projects his own idea that this is an avatar on the streets of New Delhi.

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Were thousands of New Delhi residents, victims of pranks,

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00:36:56,000 --> 00:37:00,000

blown out of proportion by widely held religious beliefs?

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Did the Monkey Man exist at all?

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00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:06,000

I don't think the Monkey Man existed at all.

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00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:10,000

I think all these things combined with a few real monkeys jumping about,

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00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,000

and perhaps some pranksters getting into the act,

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is the reason why we have got this story developing in India as an avatar, coming down to Earth.

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So is that the end of this mystery?

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Maybe not.

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Could Monkey Man be a product of the human imagination in a different way?

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Not a religiously inspired delusion, but a manifestation of the dark side of science.

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Recently, declassified documents hinted some kind of twisted Soviet genetic experiment.

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Was the Monkey Man a secret weapon that escaped the evil lab of a mad scientist that spawned him?

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Is that weird?

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00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Or what?

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00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:06,000

In New Delhi, thousands of people claim to have been attacked by a metal-clawed monster known as the Monkey Man.

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00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Was it simply mass hysteria?

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Or religious superstition?

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Scott Marlin is a cryptozoologist with a remarkable theory.

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I believe monsters exist.

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They may not necessarily be the Saturday or Friday night movie version of the monsters that terrify us on the silver screen,

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but there are things out there that go bump in the night that are terrifying to say the least.

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When I first heard the story of India's Monkey Man, I was pretty certain I knew exactly what it was.

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Marlin's theory is controversial and alarming.

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He thinks the Monkey Man is a real-life monster created by us.

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Monsters exist, and we certainly have the ability now with genetic engineering to create them.

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Based on some of the descriptions, there's a distinct possibility that Monkey Men could be some kind of human ape hybrid.

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Could someone have created a creature half-man, half-ape?

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And if so, why?

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Declassified Russian military vials have allegedly revealed that in the 1920s, Joseph Stalin secretly tried to create a super-soldier.

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The super-soldier is a genetically engineered creature that is designed with a military purpose in mind.

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Stalin commissioned a scientist to attempt a hybridization who went to Africa, collected ape DNA, and then attempted to impregnate human women with the sperm of the chimps that he collected the material from.

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They were trying to create a soldier that had superhuman strength.

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They wanted the strength of an ape, which is known to be about seven times that of a human, with the intelligence of a human.

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Incredibly, Marlin believes Stalin wasn't the only one who was messing with nature.

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Not to be outdone by the Russians, we attempted to do the same thing.

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The attempt was not successful by all accounts.

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But a lot of that had to do with the lack of knowledge on the genetics.

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Today it could probably be done.

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Are scientists using modern technology to create super-soldiers from humans and apes?

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Could this explain the Monkey Man?

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Some of the evidence that the Monkey Man is a human ape hybrid could be that they are frequently reported wearing some sort of helmet or flashing lights and that kind of thing, which would probably be some sort of communications device.

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The most alarming feature that's reported are metal claws.

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That seems more of a military weapon.

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If such experimentation were going on and these creatures were intelligent enough, as presumably they would be, to escape from the facility that was creating them, they could certainly account for the Monkey Man.

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Was the Monkey Man an escaped super-soldier?

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And why, in an age of predator groans and nuclear bombs, would India need one?

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Creating a super-soldier using hybridization genetics would probably be a good solution for a country like India, where, yeah, they belong to the nuclear club, but it's not a very popular solution to solving one's problems as a country.

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A super-soldier might be engineered for stealth purposes.

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They could pursue this type of a thing, especially since in India, monkeys and apes running around are not at all unusual.

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They could infiltrate, they could blend in, they could perform a number of different things in terms of intelligence gathering or otherwise performing some sort of military function without going detected.

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Was a hybrid man-ape let loose on the streets of New Delhi?

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Are we creating man-made monsters? Weird or what?

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Join me again next time for more stories that will undoubtedly be weird or what.