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BERAT PEKMEZCI

FACT OR FICTION?
WITH 7
MONSTROUS
POP-UPS



CURIOUS CRYPTIDS

THE HUNT FOR THE WORLD'S
MOST ELUSIVE CREATURES

THE ELUSIVE YETI

The highest mountain range on Earth has many secrets. Covered by mist and unreachable by car or train, the Himalayas terrain is treacherous to most creatures. But this is the home of the Yeti: a large ape-like cryptid that locals regard with both fear and awe.

Yetis, also known as the 'abominable snowman', were once thought to be little more than stories handed down the generations. But explorers quickly realised that the stories are too many, too detailed and too convincing to be ignored. Giant footprints in the snow, sightings of massive, furry figures the haunting sound of unseasonal howls carried on the winds... Evidence to support the existence of the Yeti is some of the most convincing in the field of Cryptozoology.



THE FOOTPRINTS

After three weeks of trekking, I had heard many eye-witness stories of Yeti sightings from locals. Alan, I did not see the man-like creature with my own eyes. But the evidence of Yeti existence is overwhelming.

Stories of the Yeti are as old as the cultures who live in that corner of the world. One of the oldest tales, and my personal favourite, is the story of the Holy Man who befriended the Yeti.



CASE NO. 276

LOCATION: HIMALAYAS,
28.5983° N 83.9310° E

CLUES FOR WARY EXPLORERS

My quest to find this elusive creature required me to trek to some of the highest peaks on Earth. The air is thin, food scarce and the weather conditions deadly.

It was crucial to arm myself with as much information as possible. Here are the signs I was looking for...

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW:

These are one of the most common signs of Yeti presence. I carried this picture with me for reference, taken by the great explorer Eric Shipton in 1951.

TRACKS & TRAILS:

These include broken branches above head height, signs of animal den above the clouds (aka, animal remains that look as though they've been devoured by a large predator. And, of course, Yeti poo.

FUR:

The famous British mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary brought a clump of thick, coarse, black hair back with him from his travels in Asia. Some believe it is yeti fur!

ITEMS TO PACK FOR YETI HUNTING:

- Bring water to drink on and use as Yeti bait
- Thermal underwear to stay warm
- Night time vision goggles: Yetis are rumored to be nocturnal

YETI FOOTPRINT SIZE CHART



THE MIGHTY KRAKEN

In the deepest depths of the ocean lies a creature so terrible that those who claim to have seen it rarely speak its name. This beast has struck fear into the hearts of sailors for many thousands of years. Legends of the Kraken have existed for as long as people have been telling stories. They say it uses its octopus-like tentacles to swipe down its prey, dragging boats, sailors and cargo down to a gloomy, watery grave.

Regardless of the danger, I knew that the Kraken is a cryptid as deadly, as powerful and as infamous that I had to see it with my own eyes. But when I set out on my voyage across the North Sea, I had not imagined in my wildest nightmares that I would have such a close encounter with the mysterious monster.

THE ENCOUNTER

One of my favourite Viking runes is the **Yggvisir**. It is a compass that protects its bearer from the dangers of the sea.

Vikings were known to carve it into their longboats, wear it as a medallion around their necks or even tattoo it on their bodies. This astonishing symbol was believed to protect against Kraken attacks.



This is an eyewitness account of a Kraken encounter from the early eighth century. Translated from the original Viking runes, you will see that even the protection of the Yggvisir can fail.



My father was a great fisherman, able to sail his boat in the roughest seas.

"It is time for you to join me. These runes will protect you from the sea beast."



For three moons I sailed with him, but one night, the beast came for us.



I remember water in my mouth... the burning of my lungs... the frantic kicking of my legs...

When I woke, I was on a distant shore. I never saw my father again.

❖ KRAKEN CASE FILE ❖

CASE NO. 337

LOCATION: GULF OF DANZIG
54.5995° N 19.0852° E

The largest-known species of squid can grow up to fourteen metres long and has eyes the size of basketballs. Yet this pale is in comparison to reports of the Kraken.



Evidence is slim. Most people who encounter the Kraken do not live to tell the tale. Armed with my cryptid-hunting equipment, I boarded a cargo ship that was due to sail through waters where sightings had previously been reported. Below is an extract from the Journal I kept on my voyage.

TRAVEL LOG:

JUNE 24TH

Over two weeks at sea now and no sign of the Kraken. A storm is brewing on the horizon. Strange wave patterns are appearing on the water's surface. Reports from the control room amount for a large creature surging through the water towards the horizon. Possibly a large whale.

JUNE 25TH

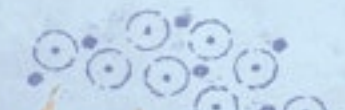
We lost a crew member last night. He was swept over starboard side by a high wave. A suspicious sucker-like mark was left on the deck after the wave struck. Could this be a sign that more than just whales lurk beneath the water's surface?

JUNE 26TH

Devastation as a further four crew members were lost to the sea last night. Once again, strange circular marks were left on the ship's deck. I am convinced that this is evidence that the Kraken not only exists, but that it is stalking our ship and preying on our crew.

JUNE 27TH

Last night, I saw with my own eyes something truly terrible. A further five sailors were swept to their watery graves. I watched on, helpless, as a huge, unrelenting tentacle rose from the waves and crushed down upon the deck. The poor crew never stood a chance...



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There was one devout Holy Man, who trekked into the mountains to find inner peace...



He found comfort in the silence of a mountain cave. But he was not alone.



They soon became friends. The Yeti brought him food. And kept him company.



When the Yeti died, the monk could not bear to leave him. He brought the skull and hand to the town, and displayed them there for all to see.

SIGHTINGS DATA

TYPE OF CRYPTID

Primate

HABITAT

Himalayan Mountains

Range, Asia

DIET (ESTIMATED)

Tree bark, large

berries, wild mountain

plants of snowmelt.

ALSO KNOWN AS

The Abominable Snowman

FILE NOTES: the translation of their name in the local language means, 'that thing there'. A creature so terrifying that it was difficult to even name.



YETI CASE FILE

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THE ENCOUNTER

One of my favorite Kraken stories is the **WEDDING**. It is a legend that promises you better than the legends of the sea.

Stories were told to me in the town of **WEDDING**, that it was a wedding where the bride and groom were taken to the Kraken. This wedding story was believed to protect against Kraken attacks.

There is no wedding in **WEDDING**. A Kraken wedding story was told to me in the town of **WEDDING**. This wedding story was believed to protect against Kraken attacks.

My father was a great fisherman, and he told me about the Kraken.



"It is hard for you to find me. I have never and probably you from the sea."



I remember water in my nose... the burning of my lungs... the frantic kicking of my legs...



For three weeks I sailed with him. But one night, the head came for us.

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SIGHTING RECORDS

TYPE OF CRYPTID
Cephalopod
(green squid)

HABITAT
Deep waters of the North Sea

DIET CARNIVOROUS
whales, large fish, seals, humans

ALSO KNOWN AS
The Kraken
Beast of the Deep

FILE NOTES: A Kraken-like creature was also reported in Iceland. Green Squid for the most part. "Dytila" and "Dyghild".



KRAKEN CASE FILE

CASE NO. 814

LOCATION: POINT PLEASANT,
WEST VIRGINIA, USA

The fact that the Mothman simply vanished one day, after over a year of frequent sightings, has paved the way for a long list of conspiracy theories as to who - or what - it really was.

I have spent many nights hunched over Point Pleasant's archives reading countless reports and witness statements. These are the top three most likely theories.



CONSPIRACY THEORIES:

1. THE MOTHMAN WAS AN ALIEN

West Virginia, USA, is also a place where numerous UFOs have been spotted over the years. Some people think that the Mothman was an alien creature, who had come to Earth to watch and study humankind. Could it have sensed disaster to strike to simply see what happened next?

2. THE MOTHMAN WAS A GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT GONE WRONG

Deep in the American wilderness, there could be secret government laboratories. Perhaps they are conducting strange experiments there... Perhaps the creation of a winged man with fire-red eyes is something that was born from cutting-edge science... Perhaps that monster escaped...

3. THE MOTHMAN WAS REALLY A SANDHILL CRANE

This is the theory that the Mothman wasn't a man and wasn't a cryptid at all. The creature that was seen in 1966 could have been a large American bird called the Sandhill Crane. These grey birds have a wingspan of nearly two metres. The reflection of car headlights could have made the crane's eyes appear red. This is a good theory for those who are sceptical of cryptids.



THE FEARSOME

MOTHMAN

In 1966, residents of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, USA, looked up into the sky and saw more than just stars, aeroplanes and birds above. They saw a demonic creature as large as a fully-grown human, with black wings and coal-red eyes, soar through the air. It was the Mothman.

Mothman sightings were regular - almost daily - for that entire year. During 1966, several disasters struck the town of Point Pleasant, most famously the collapse of the town's Silver Bridge. This led to locals blaming the Mothman for the tragedy and earned it the moniker 'The Harbinger of Doom'. Terror and fear engulfed the town. Who was this monster with fire-red eyes that brought death and destruction in its wake? These questions have never been answered. Whoever, or whatever it was, vanished into the night as quickly as it came.

CASE NO. 182

LOCATION LOCH NESS
SCOTLAND, UK



Since 1800, there have been reports of a large, serpentine creature in the waters of Loch Ness, Scotland. Some people believe it is a monster, while others think it is a large snake or a crocodile. The creature is said to be as long as a bus and as wide as a car. It is said to have a long neck and a small head. It is said to be able to breathe fire and to be able to speak. It is said to be the most powerful creature in the world. It is said to be the most dangerous creature in the world. It is said to be the most mysterious creature in the world. It is said to be the most elusive creature in the world. It is said to be the most elusive creature in the world.

NESSIE THEORIES

1. A PLESIOSAUR

This is one of the most popular theories. Plesiosaurs are extinct reptiles that lived alongside the dinosaurs, and have been extinct for millions of years. But is it possible that one (or two!) of plesiosaurs still exists within Loch Ness? Stranger things have happened...

2. TIME SLIP THEORY

Some believe that Nessie is indeed a plesiosaur, but isn't alive now. Instead, they think Loch Ness is a gateway to another time. When people see a large reptile emerging through the placid waters, they could be looking into a portal to the past and seeing something that happened millions of years ago.

3. A 'NORMAL' ANIMAL

Those who do not believe in Cryptids claim that Nessie isn't a monster at all. They believe she's simply an overgrown eel, or perhaps a large species of water snake that has yet to be identified. Some speculate that sonar readings from the depths of Loch Ness are actually picking up seals swimming about!

4. A HOAX

Some people believe that the stories of the Loch Ness Monster are simply made-up to attract tourists to an otherwise sleepy and remote corner of the Scottish Highlands.

THE MYSTERIOUS LOCH NESS MONSTER

In the wild and beautiful Scottish Highlands lives perhaps the most famous Cryptid in the world. The Loch Ness Monster, or 'Nessie' as she is affectionately known, has been spotted peacefully swimming in the cold waters of Loch Ness for over a thousand years.

Loch Ness is a deep and ancient lake. At around 272 metres deep, it is deep enough to hold three Statues of Liberty monuments on top of each other – and who knows what else? One thing is for sure. Below the tranquil surface of the lake lies a mystery so captivating that thousands of travellers flock to its shores each year. Who is this creature that has been seen swimming through the water? How is it that Nessie has been spotted by so many people, across the centuries, without anyone ever proving beyond doubt that she is real? It is a mystery I have long been determined to solve.



THE VICIOUS CHUPACABRA

As dusk falls over the vast plains of South America, herds of goats graze peacefully in their fields. But something watches them from the shadows... a beast that has a taste for blood. The Chupacabra's name means "goat-sucker" in Spanish, and it's not difficult to explain how this creature came to be known this way.

This sharp-toothed, vicious and deadly cryptid likes to drain the blood from goats. And it's not just goats it attacks - sheep, cows, chickens and sheep are all potential victims. The Chupacabra isn't funny! Little is known of this cryptid, but what we do know is terrifying. Roughly the size of a kangaroo, the Chupacabra stands on two legs and has a row of sharp spikes that stretch from the back of its head all the way to the tip of its tail. With its taste for fresh blood, it's no surprise the Chupacabra is known as the vampire of Cryptids.

CASE NO. 619

LOCATION: CAROLINAS,
PUERTO RICO, USA



Descriptions of the Chupacabra and its victims have been reported in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The Chupacabra is said to have a different appearance depending on where in the Americas it's seen. This case notes some people and the question is: there were three, one species of blood-sucking cryptid in the world?

CHUPACABRA THEORIES:

- Guatemala - vampire-like attacks on children
- Brazil - attack on a herd of cows
- Argentina - strange symptoms found in humans
- New Mexico - trails of blood found on a cattle ranch
- Colombia - over 300 animals attacked but not killed dry - was the creature planning to come back for more?
- Texas, USA - sightings of a dog-like creature with leathery grey-green skin and sharp spikes or quills along its back
- Venezuela - eyewitness accounts report a strange, giant lizard attacking local chickens
- Mexico - herd of goats killed dry with two hole marks on neck
- Haiti - herd of goats killed dry with three triangular marks on neck
- Panama - reports of internal organs being worked out of cows



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THE BLOODBATH

The Chupacabra's appearance may vary, depending on where you are. It may have scaly skin, or reptilian scales or even sharp fangs. In some cases, it has two legs or even four. But one thing is true about this cryptid: it's a blood-sucker. It drains the blood from its victims, leaving them dead. The Chupacabra is a vampire of cryptids.

This report from Puerto Rico is one of the most shocking and disturbing cryptid stories I have heard.

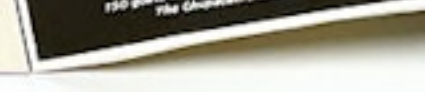
PUERTO RICO, SUMMER OF 1995
A herd of mountain goats grazed peacefully in the hilly landscape.



The Chupacabra was with the goats all night, and then it attacked.



Something watches them from the shadows, something with a taste for blood.



150 goats were slaughtered in a single attack. The Chupacabra has no mercy.

NOTHING COMMON

TYPE OF CRYPTID

Aplician (Although cryptid name)

ALSO KNOWN AS

Goat-Sucker, Vampire Goat

DIET

Meat (mostly goats)

HABITAT

Barro Colorado Island, Panama, Central America, USA, Mexico

FILE NOTES: Chupacabra attacks were reported in 1995, but it's unclear if the creature is still active. It's a blood-sucker, so it's not clear if it's still active.

10m
5m
4m
3m
2m

CHUPACABRA CASE FILE

CASE NO. 972

LOCATION: Gobi Desert

MONITOR 44



17th March - I have been travelling through the Gobi Desert for over a week now. As expected, it runs from the north of all-weathering desert and I have been trying to figure out how to survive in this harsh environment. But we have been so close to finding the evidence so far on this expedition. I have been able to witness some of the most great yet that a Death Worm can be made.

DEATHWORM EVIDENCE:

As in the case with all reptiles, it is important to look at the various theories about what kind of creature they are. I have spent many months and years studying and different theories about the Death Worm. Here are some of them:

1. DUNG

Death Worms are long and coiled. But the most of them are not particularly elongated. They are also

Evidence of some sharp teeth?

2. TRACKS

Death Worm tracks look as though a giant alligator-like snake has been slithering through the sand dunes.

Too large, of course, to be a snake. Only a Death Worm leaves tracks that alien.

3. TEETH

I found this tooth shard today. As long as my forearm, too large to be from a camel or yak. Sharp enough to be able to cut through bone free in a split second.



THE MONGOLIAN

DEATHWORM

Along the arid plains of the vast and hostile Gobi Desert, travellers may see ripples appear in the sands. These ripples are not caused by the wind, or by camel tracks. No, they are caused by something much more sinister. The Mongolian Death Worm lives mostly below the sand, burrowing deep into the warm golden grains.

If a traveller only sees the ripples left by the worm, then they have escaped with their lives. Encounters with the Mongolian Death Worm usually result in certain death. Not only does this giant worm-like creature spit acid and have teeth as long and as sharp as daggers, but it is also said that it possesses a death stare. What is a death stare? Let's hope that you never find out...

THE PERISCOPE

As he speaks through the periscope, the Death Worms surrounding us with dozens of heads, some reaching over the horizon, the man's words are heard by all who are in the area. The man's words are heard by all who are in the area. The man's words are heard by all who are in the area.

It had just been reported that the Death Worms were attacking the caravan. The man's words are heard by all who are in the area. The man's words are heard by all who are in the area.

I am the only one who has survived the Death Worm's attack.



THE DEATH



What did I see when I saw the Death Worm? The periscope had revealed her.



I am the only one who has survived the Death Worm's attack.

SIGHTING: SIGHTING

TYPE OF CRYPTID
Cryptid
HABITAT
Desert, Asia

DATE DISCOVERED
ALSO KNOWN AS
The Worm of Death

FILE NOTE: One of the only Cryptids to possess a unique "death stare", the Death Worm's stare is a hypnotic stare that can cause a victim to die.



DEATHWORM CASE FILE

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