A PEEK INTO THE WORLD OF MONSTER DENIAL

written by

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A fancy motion graphic and a catchy chime introduces the words 'THE UNITED TIMES' before being wiped away in seconds.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

PROTESTORS SHOUT in a park, the protesters carry PICKET SIGNS displaying cartoons of strange, Lovecraftian CREATURES with various phrases in bold letters: "FAKE!", "TO BELIEVE IS TO BE CONTROLLED', "LOST MONSTER, HAVE YOU SEEN ME?".

REBECCA (V.O.)

Due to the advent of the internet and these high stress times, conspiracy theories are able to spread rapidly and are more difficult to stop than ever before.

REBECCA(30 something "liberal" wearing casual clothing with thick rimmed glasses) observes the protest from yards away.

REBECCA(V.O CONT.)

The most popular conspiracy theory currently being the denial of the monster attacks. Not only do they not believe in the attacks, they don't believe the monsters exist at all. Why do people latch on to these conspiracy theories? How did they come to these conclusions? We got the chance to talk to a local theorist, self proclaimed truth seeker, Jacob to bring light to these questions.

Rebecca approaches JACOB(20 something "slacker" with unkempt hair and wrinkled clothes) for an impromptu interview.

SUPER: A PEEK INTO THE WORLD OF MONSTER DENIAL

REBECCA (CONT'D)

What are your views on the monsters?

Jacob raises his voice to compete with the volume of the protest.

JACOB(CONT.)

I don't believe in them. I think they're fake.

Rebecca raises her voice as well.

REBECCA

What makes you think they're fake?

JACOB

The *BLEEP CENSOR* things look absolutely ridiculous, a third grader can design better monsters. Oh *BLEEP CENSOR* can I swear in front of the camera?

REBECCA

We'll bleep it out.

JACOB

Ok good.

REBECCA

So you your main point of disbelief comes from-

Protesters begin SHOUTING nearby and drown out Rebecca. They move away from the protest and find a spot that is more quiet.

REBECCA(CONT.) (CONT'D)

So you don't believe in the monsters because of the way they look?

Jacob seems to have gotten lost in his thoughts, as if the question cuts deeper.

JACOB

Mostly. Well, there's other reasons.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

DR DURAN(40's well groomed and dressed, more business man than doctor)sits in his living room love seat facing toward the camera for an interview.

DR. DURAN

It's to control. The monsters existence was created by the people in power to maintain control of the public.

Rebecca sits in the a chair opposite to Dr. Duran, actively listening a

REBECCA(V.O.)

Despite the immense scientific and historical evidence of the monsters existence, influential deniers like Donovan Duran, or Dr. Duran as his audience who subscribe for fifteen dollars a month call him, still use the same talking points that have been used for decades.

DR. DURAN(CONT..)

The monsters didn't "awaken" or "cause the cataclysm of 1937" it was whoever was in power. The elite. Somehow they screwed up the world big time, and their best chance to get away with it is by making up monsters to take the blame for them.

REBECCA

So the monsters were used as a cover up for the elite? I thought they were to control the people-

DR. DURAN

Where did they go?

REBECCA

There has been evidence of the monsters retreating into the ocean. Some have even gone to the polar ice caps.

DR. DURAN

Convenient theories.

REBECCA

It's not convenient at all actually, there presence in the ice caps have caused sea levels to rise.

DR. DURAN

Another cover up, global warming is caused by carbon dioxide build up, by the rich elite's industries of course.

REBECCA

Evidence suggests it's both.

DR. DURAN

Exactly, how can nobody decide for sure which is it?

REBECCA

It's both.

DR. DURAN

There were supposedly a couple dozen of these things hundreds of feet high, they stomp around for a year then just disappear?

REBECCA

What about the foot prints.

DR. DURAN

Anyone can dig holes in the ground.

REBECCA

Those are pretty big holes.

DR. DURAN

Projects funded by the elite, like the pyramids in Egypt.

REBECCA

Are there any people in power in particular we are talking about here? Or-

DR. DURAN

All of them, governments, scientists, rich people who have secret parties in the woods.

(MORE)

DR. DURAN (CONT'D)
They are all financing and
producing this image of giant
monsters so they can avoid the
blame.

REBECCA

The blame for what?

DR. DURAN

Destroying the world!

INT. OFFICE ROOM -DAY

Muted footage is shown of DR. DURAN at his desk speaking into a mounted microphone and at a webcam.

REBECCA(V.O.)

Dr. Duran is one of many theorists that have taken to social media to share their theories, convincing susceptible viewers that the world is against them.

Dr. Duran lifts a picture of an archaic black and white PHOTO of a GIANT CREATURE into the camera. The photo is of a cliffside overlooking a landscape with the giant monster towering over the trees. The giant monster has the body of lizard and a head without eyes or a nose, only giant vertical jaws similar to a Venus-fly trap.

DONOVAN

Gigamouth, the famous, the first!
Look at it's body, there is
absolutely no way this thing could
walk around or even lift its head,
let alone carve up Europe. This is
a model constructed most likely by
the United States or Japan. And
Gigamouth? Really?

(MORE)

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

Is that really the best name they could come up with? A third grader can design better monsters!

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Jacob shows Rebecca the PHOTO of Gigamouth on his phone.

JACOB

This is a diorama a third grader could make. Those jaws are mold of someone's hands. It's obvious. And we are supposed to believe this thing carved up Europe? Y'know, the news says thousands of refugees came over during the attacks, have you ever met one?

REBECCA

I am one.

JACOB

What?

REBECCA

My parents escaped the attacks, I was only little.

Beat.

JACOB

Really? Did you see it?

REBECCA

No, I remember hearing it though. It's loud.

JACOB

Are you really from Europe?

REBECCA

(in Hungarian)

Yes and this entire protest if filled with uneducated idiots who don't understand a thing about the real world.

Jacob doesn't understand a word.

JACOB

Ok I believe you!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

DR. DURAN

You weren't displaced.

REBECCA

(in Hungarian)

Is that so?

DR. DURAN

Just because you can speak a different language doesn't mean giant monsters exist.

REBECCA

Do you think I am in on the big lie?

DR. DURAN

No I think you are a victim of the lie.

REBECCA

SO instead of being a victim of monster attacks I am just a victim of a lie?

DR. DURAN

Yes.

REBECCA

Doctor, how would your life change if you recognized the evidence?

DR. DURAN

What evidence? Giant footprints? Refugees? Like I just said, none of that points to giant monsters.

REBECCA

Let's say hypothetically I changed your mind right now, would that affect your life in any way?

DR. DURAN

It would affect my morals.

REBECCA

Only your morals? You have tens of thousands of followers who listen to you every day, and your audience is growing. Would your audience continue to grow if you changed your position?

Beat.

DR. DURAN

I don't know what my personal position has anything to do with proof of giant monsters

REBECCA

Would entertaining different views on your show be detrimental to your audience growth?

DR. DURAN

Now you're just being ridiculous and quite frankly asking rather inappropriate questions.

REBECCA

Do you depend on your audience to sustain a living? If you were to change views and tell your audience the truth would they believe you or would they find someone else to give money to?

Beat.

DR. DURAN

I think we're done here. Completely unprofessional.

Dr. Duran takes off his LAV MIC and gets up from his seat.

DR. DURAN (CONT'D) Get out of my house.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Rebecca and Jacob sit on a bench together in the park now further away from the protest.

REBECCA

When did you first become skeptical of the monsters?

JACOB

About a year ago, think it was shortly after my car accident. I was in the hospital for like, weeks, and while recovering I came across Dr. Duran's podcast and what he said really made sense to me.

REBECCA

Do you think that particular event may have motivated you to try to find some clarity in the world, or to try to focus on particular things?

Jacob looks at the ground like a child who found out Santa Claus isn't real.

VOICES and general commotion arise from the protest. DR. DURAN has joined the ranks and is shaking hands with his fans.

JACOB

Oh *BEEP CENSOR*, it's the Doctor!
I gotta go meet him! Hey come on!
You should talk to him!

Jacob practically leaps off the bench and makes his way to the crowd. Rebecca slowly gets off the bench and follows at a reluctant pace.

Dr. Duran is now surrounded by his fellow deniers.

DR. DURAN

It is great seeing you all here fighting for truth and justice. We will not let the lies keep spreading will we?

CROWD

Noooo!

Jacob does not answer, but smiles with the energetic crowd.

DR. DURAN

Right! All of you who are here are the spearhead of our movement. The spearhead of truth. And soon enough those who are in power will have no choice but to answer us!

The protesters CHEER. Dr. Duran gives a fist pump in the air and mingles with the protesters. He is then approached by Jacob with Rebecca following.

JACOB

Doctor! Or can I call you Donovan?

Dr. Duran immediately takes notice of Rebecca and her cameraman.

 $\label{eq:JACOB(CONT..)} {\tt JACOB(CONT..)} \ ({\tt CONT'D}) \\ {\tt Big fan, hey I'm talking with this} \\$

DR. DURAN

(to Rebecca)

What are you doing here?

Rebecca only shrugs.

reporter-

JACOB

She's with me, she is from-

DR. DURAN

(to Jacob)

She's with you?!

JACOB

I mean, she's not my girlfriend or anything.

DR. DURAN

Get out of here, both of you.

Surrounding protesters notice the confrontation, they silently watch.

JACOB

Why won't you talk with her?

DR. DURAN

The media doesn't deserve anything from us, she's just going to make us look bad. Now get out of here!

A protester watching SHOUTS "Yeah, get out of here!".

REBECCA

This is a public park-

DR. DURAN

Begone!

Surrounding protesters begin booing and shouting for Rebecca and Jacob to leave.

Jacob scans the crowd, glances at Rebecca, then leaves with his head down.

Rebecca begins to slowly back away from the shouting and shouts at the crowd before leaving.

REBECCA

Thank you all for your time!

The group continues to shout, except for Dr. Duran who is crossing his arms and satisfied with power. Footage of the crowd continues as their shouts are muted.

REBECCA(V.O.)

That is our glimpse into America's world of deniers. These conspiracies seem to be advantageous for those who seek an audience. And why change once you have an audience? However, as you can see many of these deniers are just people, people looking for a community and open to conversation. Is it our responsibility to open the discussion? That is for you to decide.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

[Note: No longer shot documentary style.]

Jacob walks up the driveway to his house, head still hung.

Suddenly a RUMBLE quakes the Earth for a few seconds. Jacob balances himself.

SIRENS begin to ring. Like thunder, a faint yet unique, ROAR from an undeniably enormous animal emits from the horizon.

Jacob looks to the horizon like a deer in headlights.

Beat.

A small smile cracks across his face.