

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?".

LANA (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.

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

LANA(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.

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

SUPER: A PEEK INTO THE WORLD OF MONSTER DENIAL

LANA (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.

LANA raises her voice as well.

LANA
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?

LANA
We'll bleep it out.

JACOB
Ok good.

LANA
So you your main point of disbelief
comes from-

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

LANA(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.

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

LANA(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.

LANA

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?

LANA

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

DR. DURAN

Convenient theories.

LANA

It's not convenient at all actually, their 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.

LANA

Evidence suggests it's both.

DR. DURAN

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

LANA

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?

LANA

What about the foot prints.

DR. DURAN

Anyone can dig holes in the ground.

LANA

Those are pretty big holes.

DR. DURAN

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

LANA

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.

LANA
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.

LANA(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 LANA 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?

LANA

I am one.

JACOB

What?

LANA

My parents escaped the attacks, I was only little.

Beat.

JACOB

Really? Did you see it?

LANA

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

JACOB

Are you really from Europe?

LANA

(in Hungarian)

Yes and this entire protest is
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.

LANA

(in Hungarian)

Is that so?

DR. DURAN

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

LANA

Do you think I am in on the big
lie?

DR. DURAN

No I think you are a victim of the
lie.

LANA

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

DR. DURAN

Yes.

LANA

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.

LANA

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.

LANA

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

LANA

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.

LANA

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

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

LANA

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.

LANA

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. LANA 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 LANA following.

JACOB

Doctor! Or can I call you Donovan?

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

JACOB(CONT..) (CONT'D)

Big fan, hey I'm talking with this reporter-

DR. DURAN

(to LANA)

What are you doing here?

LANA only shrugs.

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!".

LANA

This is a public park-

DR. DURAN

Begone!

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

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

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

LANA

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.

LANA(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.