## SLEEPY HOLLOW

"The Seal"

Written by

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#### PREVIOUSLY ON SLEEPY HOLLOW...

In 1781, Ichabod Crane is a soldier in the Colonial Army on a mission for General George Washington. During a battle Crane beheads "The Hessian Soldier" who rises as the Headless Horseman and kills Crane. More than 230 years later, Crane rises from his grave simultaneously as the Headless Horseman reappears and is revealed as the first of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Death.

Lt. Abbie Mills investigates the Headless Horseman after he beheads Sheriff August Corbin, Mills' mentor and partner. Mills' investigation reveals the presence of two occult groups - one for good, the other evil - in Sleepy Hollow. Both groups are involved with the Four Horsemen and the associated apocalypse.

The Headless Horseman's killing spree in Sleepy Hollow causes Crane and Mills to team up.

Abbie and her younger sister, **Jenny Mills**, witnessed the rise of Moloch (a demon) when they were children and are called "Witnesses." Jenny joins Abbie and Crane to investigate and solve the killings.

**Katrina Crane**, Ichabod's wife and witch, appears to him in dreams claiming that she is trapped in a place between worlds and can only be freed with the defeat of the Headless Horseman.

Alfred Knapp, the reverend of The Old Dutch Church, a warlock in Katrina's coven and over two hundred years old, gets beheaded by the Headless Horseman.

Captain Frank Irving, the chief of the Sleepy Hollow police department, is initially skeptical of Mills' and Crane's assertions. He later discovers the supernatural truth and becomes an ally to Mills and Crane in defeating the Headless Horseman.

AND NOW....

# "The Seal"

DARKNESS.

Everything MUFFLED, like we're underwater. HORSE HOOVES GALLOP.

A WHITE HORSE runs towards a covered bridge.

EXT. COVERED BRIDGE ON THE RIVER - DAY

ICHABOD CRANE stands at the opposite end of the bridge in a dreamlike state. A WHINNY in the distance. He turns around. His eyes widen as:

A MASSIVE RIDER ON A WHITE STEED now appears at the bridge entrance. IN SILHOUETTE, THREE MORE RIDERS ON HORSEBACK APPEAR beside the Rider. THE HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE?

The horses WHINNY and BREATH heavily.

Crane's fists tighten. He braces himself for what's to come.

ABBIE (O.S.)

Crane... Crane?!

Crane snaps to and everything is now normal. We now see the THE OLD DUTCH CHURCH with a FESTIVAL on its lawn.

LIEUTENANT ABBIE MILLS stands behind Crane. She holds a pretzel and hotdog.

THE RIDERS come out of the darkness of the bridge <u>dressed</u> <u>like PILGRIMS</u> and <u>INDIANS</u>. They smile and nod as they pass.

SOUNDS of a carnival atmosphere now HEARD in the b.g. The Riders join a parade precession of horse drawn wagons filled with cornstalks, huge pumpkins and squash.

Crane is clearly shaken. Abbie looks at The Riders and realizes --

### ABBIE

No, no, no. We're not doing this Crane. I'll be dammed if we get all freaky every time we hear a horse trot by. We haven't seen the Headless Horseman in weeks. Time to relax a little. Try and have some fun.

CRANE

(hesitant)

Perhaps you're right, Lieutenant. Glad to see some traditions still continue.

Abbie puts out her hands with a smile.

ABBIE

Dog or pretzel?

Crane sneers at the hotdog.

EXT. LAWN OF THE OLD DUTCH CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

AN AXE HURTLES RIGHT AT US! THUNK! splitting a grinning Jack-o'-lantern in half. CLAPPING Harvest Festival patrons wait their turn at the axe throwing game.

Abbie and Crane walk under a banner: SLEEPY HOLLOW HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEK.

A half a dozen CHILDREN, 7-10, dressed like INDIANS and PILGRIMS chase each other SCREAMING with toy rifles and tomahawks through a crowd of SLEEPY HOLLOWAN FAMILIES.

A dozen carnival games and food vendor booths line the lawn. Classic park rides like the Farris Wheel, Gravitron and Dragon Swing etc. in the b.g.

We hold on the Gravitron as Abbie and Crane walk past it.

Crane raises his eyebrow, watches Abbie eat the hotdog. He breaks off bits of pretzel and nibbles.

CRANE

(scoffing)

Hotdog... I assure you, if you tried serving anything in my time as a consumable with "dog" in the name you would be labeled a savage.

ABBIE

Suit yourself, you're missing out on some good ol' American cuisine. Noting beats a hotdog and a nice cold beer at a Met's game in July MMMMM...MMMM.

Crane spots a sign above a booth: SAMUEL ADAMS BOSTON LAGER.

CRANE

(re: Sam Adams sign)
Beer indeed. What is this?

Abbie takes a deep breath.

ABBIE

(to herself)

Here we go.

EXT. SAM ADAMS BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Crane grabs a bottle of Sam Adams. He inspects it.

CRANE

I must say the artist took some liberties, a somewhat fair likeness of you old friend.

ABBIE

Let me guess. Adams never brewed beer?

CRANE

He certainly did not. Samuel Senior, his father, was a maltster not a brewer.

ABBIE

Of course, a maltster.

Crane faces the beer label to Abbie.

CRANE

This... Sam, wanted nothing to do with his father's business. When Adams Senior died. Adams Jr. ran the business into the ground! He was horrible with financial endeavors.

Crane turns to the BEER VENDOR, MALE, 50's.

CRANE

You Sir, should really consider renaming your lager after someone who legitimately was a --

Abbie grabs the beer bottle from Crane. She gives it back to the Beer Vendor with a sympathetic smile. Abbie pulls Crane away. They walk arm and arm.

#### ABBTE

Crane. Has anyone ever told you that you're kind of a buzz kill?

Off Crane --

We SOAR above Abbie and Crane now seeing the whole town of Sleepy Hollow and the majestic Hudson in its Autumn splendor.

DAY BECOMES NIGHT as we DISSOLVE to BOSTON'S skyline --

EXT. BOSTON HARBOR - NIGHT

TITLE UP: BOSTON

FOREIGN CARGO SHIP docked. SHIP WORKERS unload crates with cranes and massive forklifts.

INT. FOREIGN CARGO SHIP - CONTINUOUS

A FORKLIFT DRIVER hauls away a huge container from a compartment section in the boat leaving an empty black hole. We hold on the darkness -- SOMETHING MOVES --

A MAN, 40's, Middle Eastern descent in a black suit walks out from the shadows. He's massive and imposing. This is VOSK. He only speaks in LATIN unless otherwise stated. Behind him, FOUR more MEN, late 30's, in black suits.

EXT. DOCK WORKER PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Vosk surveys the sea of cars and heads towards a SUV TOWN CAR with his men.

EXT. BOSTON CHURCH - ESTABLISHING

INT. KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - NIGHT

A portrait of ALFRED KNAPP hangs on the wall. Small plaque under portrait reads: REVEREND ALFRED KNAPP. OLD DUTCH CHURCH, SLEEPY HOLLOW. Alfred, a WARLOCK, was seen in the pilot. He was killed by the Headless Horseman.

KARL KNAPP, Alfred's brother, appears in his 30's, heavy Scottish accent, dressed in priest vestments, studies an ancient scroll at his desk by candle light.

A YOUNG PRIEST, GEOFFREY CRAYON, early 20's, enters with a plate of food and glass of water. Clumsy and adorable like a puppy. He comes off as a midwestern rube but smart.

GEOFFREY

(enthusiastically)
I made this myself, Reverend. My
mother's own recipe.

REVEREND KNAPP

Thank you, Geoffrey

Geoffrey trips and drops the plate on the edge of the desk. The glass of water is quickly caught by Knapp before it spills on the ancient scroll.

**GEOFFREY** 

Oh, my word! I'm so sorry, Reverend Knapp! Please forgive me! You'd think I was born with two left feet.

Knapp gives him a polite smile and nod.

REVEREND KNAPP

That will be all for tonight, Geoffrey.

Geoffrey smiles and exits.

On the scroll we see a four part moon phase of a Harvest Moon. Knapp looks out his window.

Knapp's POV -- The moon matches the third phase of moon
images on the scroll.

Knapp writes in a MASONIC DIARY. On the opposite page is an image of a SEAL being broken in a grove of trees as MEN in black stand in a circle around a grave. Looking from the woods is a DEMON, BELIAL. We will learn more about him later.

REVEREND KNAPP (V.O.)

When he broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come."

Knapp turns the page and writes. On the opposite page is a drawing of a man on a horse holding weighted scales emerging from a grave -- FAMINE, the third Horseman of the Apocalypse.

REVEREND KNAPP (V.O.)

I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying --

CRASH!!! -- heard from the Sanctuary -- Knapp looks to his chamber's door. He carefully rolls up the scroll and picks up the diary. He quickly hides them in a secret steel box panel behind his brother's picture on the wall.

EXT. BOSTON CHURCH - SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Knapp comes into the empty sanctuary. Geoffrey runs in from another part of the church. Knapp analyzes the room. It's eerily quite. Votive candles start to flicker rapidly at the alter.

Tall, spear like, brass candle holders lay on the ground. There's been a scuffle. Knapp and Geoffrey spot the partial arm of one of their PRIESTS sticking out from under a pew.

**GEOFFREY** 

Brother Mendez!

Knapp and Geoffrey race over to Mendez. He's dead. Eyes wide open. Blood trickles from his mouth. Geoffrey GASPS! Vosk stands behind Knapp and Geoffrey now.

VOSK

Where is the Seal?

Knapp spins around startled. He notices the backside of Vosk's right hand bares a huge BRANDING of the letter "B." Geoffrey moves in front of Knapp in a protective stance.

REVEREND KNAPP

Get out of here Geoffrey! Run!

Vosk eyes Geoffrey's terrified face.

**GEOFFREY** 

But... Reverend --

REVEREND KNAPP

GO! Do as I command!

Geoffrey hesitantly backs away out of sight.

REVEREND KNAPP

(re: branding on Vosk's
 hand)

nandj

You're a Son of Darkness.

VOSK

Then you know I will not leave until I have the Seal.

#### REVEREND KNAPP

I... have no idea what you're --

Vosk rushes Knapp and grabs him by the throat. He lifts him a few feet suspended in the air.

VOSK

You will tell me now!

Knapp's face starts to turn purple. Knapp flicks his wrist --

WHOOSH!!! As if by an invisible force, two pews fly up and smack Vosk in the head -- Karl Knapp's a WARLOCK just like his brother.

Vosk drops Knapp and staggers to his feet. Knapp runs and stands in the middle of the church. He raises both his arms in the air with a THRUSTING motion --

WHOOSH!!! A few dozen pews in the church now SWING and FLY at Vosk. The pews pile on top of him. He's buried.

Knapp runs to his chambers.

EXT. CABIN - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

ABBIE

(Prelap)

Thanks for coming over tonight, Jenny.

INT. CABIN -

JENNY MILLS, late 20's, Abbie's sister sits across from Crane at a card table studying something we can not yet see.

Abbie makes dinner in the kitchenette. On an old transistor radio PLAYS, The Guess Who - "American Woman" in b.g.

ABBIE

I'm trying to make sure Crane doesn't get cabin fever out here. He needs more human interaction.

**JENNY** 

Hope her cooking has gotten better since Home Ec.

(re: to Crane in sotto)
One time she made a cake for my
birthday. I said, after taking a
bite, so that's what a brick taste
like?

Abbie rolls her eyes.

ABBIE

I heard that...

Crane tries to conceal a smirk as he studies something in front of him.

CRANE

Sibling rivalry. Some things still stand the test of time, I see.

**JENNY** 

You didn't have any brothers or sisters, Crane?

Crane ponders the question.

CRANE

I'm afraid not. My family was very... conservative.

**JENNY** 

So, you saying they didn't have sex all that often?

Crane, clears his throat nervously. Abbie looks to Jenny.

ABBIE

Jenny, you know Crane is not use to us modern women asking questions like that.

Crane ignores both sisters with a leer. We now see Crane and Jenny are playing the 1970's board game version of BATTLESHIP. Jenny pounders her side of the board.

**JENNY** 

I'm gonna have to go with H-Six. Was that a hit?

Crane puts the red peg in the last empty hole of his Battleship.

CRANE

(annoyed)

Yes... I believe you capsized my war vessel.

Abbie smiles, because she knows what's about to come next.

**JENNY** 

Crane, you need to say it right. You're suppose to say...

Abbie comes over and raises her arms in a triumphant stance above her sister.

JENNY (CONT'D)

ABBIE

You sank my battleship! You sank my battleship!

Abbie and Jenny make EXPLOSION noises and mime carnage with their arms and hands. They LAUGH uncontrollable. Crane is confused by their pop culture phrase -- he raises his brow --

CRANE

I fail to see the levity in war.

INT. KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - INTERCUTTING:

Knapp opens his desk drawer and gets out a CELL PHONE. He scrolls through the address book. He stops on MILLS, ABBIE.

INT. CABIN - INTERCUTTING:

Abbie's cell RINGS. Abbie and Jenny regain composure.

**JENNY** 

Is it the station?

Abbie looks at cell.

ABBIE

It's a Boston prefix.

Abbie heads to the kitchenette. She grabs two plates of food she prepared. She puts them in front Crane and Jenny.

ABBTE

(on cell)

Lieutenant Mills.

She goes back to the kitchenette. Crane and Abbie start to eat. They both have looks of disgust as they chew their food. Abbie's cooking is awful.

REVEREND KNAPP (O.S.)

(on cell)

Abbie Mills... is that you?

ABBIE

Yes, to whom am I speaking?

INT. BOSTON CHURCH - SANCTUARY - INTERCUTTING:

The pile of pews lays still. One pew starts to shake and move.

REVEREND KNAPP (O.S.)

Corbin was your partner and a friend to me. He said you would help me if anything were to happen to him. They are looking for the Seal! We knew this day would come. Get prepared, Abbie!

ABBIE (O.S.)

Seal? What Seal?

Vosk crawls out of the wooden prison and he's very PISSED OFF! He heads to the back of the church.

INT. OUTSIDE KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBER'S DOOR - CONTINUOUS

BANG!!! Vosk pounds the thick wooden door --

INT. KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

BANG!!! BANG!!! Door warps inward splintering.

REVEREND KNAPP

(on cell)

You have to protect the Seal at all cost! Don't let <u>them</u> get it --

CRASH!!! <u>Vosk's branded fist</u> punches through the center of the door cracking it in two --

Knapp drops the cell. He motions his hands in a sweeping motion -- WHOOSH!!! The desk tilts on its side and slides in front of the door entrance as a barricade.

Other objects in the room: candle sticks, books and filing cabinets start to fly towards the door -- One candle was lite, it falls next to some parchment and catches fire.

INT. CABIN - INTERCUTTING:

ABBIE

Hello? Hello...

Abbie looks at her cell. The call is dropped. She dials the number back -- voice mail:

REVEREND KNAPP (O.S.)

(message recording)

You have reached Reverend Karl Knapp. I am unable to take your call at this time... ABBTE

(realizing)

Karl Knapp? Well that was strange.

She looks to Crane and Jenny.

ABBIE

So, how's the food?

Crane and Jenny, wide-eyed give a fake smile, nod and chew.

INT. KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Vosk makes his way through the makeshift barricade with ease. He again grabs Knapp by the throat.

VOSK

You worthless speck. You can not stop prophecy!

Vosk's grip tightens. Blood vessels in Knapp's eyes start to pop. The parchment fire is growing and sets off the fire alarm.

REVEREND KNAPP

(gasping)

I will... never tell you... where the Seal is --

VOSK

Then you die.

CRACK -- Vosk breaks Knapp's neck.

FIRE ENGINE SIRENS now BLARE outside. Knapp's chamber fills with black smoke. Vosk rifles through Knapp's personal belongings for the Seal.

Flames leap up the wall to Alfred Knapp's picture. Vosk goes to the picture. He reads: REVEREND ALFRED KNAPP. OLD DUTCH CHURCH, SLEEPY HOLLOW.

Vosk slides his index finger over the words **SLEEPY HOLLOW** -- He smiles. The flames char the painting.

EXT. BOSTON CHURCH - INTERCUTTING:

FIRE ENGINES, EMT, POLICE arrive at the scene. Eight FIREMEN unload and unravel a hose from their truck.

INT. KNAPP'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

CRASH!! Vosk bursts out through the chamber window. Geoffrey rushes to the door.

**GEOFFREY** 

Reverend!

The flames overpower the doorway. Fireman are HEARD entering the church. Geoffrey looks at the dead Knapp then rushes away.

EXT. SIDE STREET OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - SECONDS LATER

Vosk's Men in the stolen Town Car SCREECH to a stop in front of him. He gets into the passenger seat.

INT. SUV TOWN CAR - CONTINUOUS

SUV DRIVER

(in Latin)

Did you get the Seal?

VOSK

No.

SUV DRIVER

What now?

VOSK

To Sleepy Hollow.

AND WE SMASH TO CREDITS: