

INTRO

Believer Theme song plays.

NARRATOR

Believer. Episode 5. Squatch Talk.
Stay tuned after this episode for
some important announcements.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Upbeat PODCAST MUSIC plays.

JAKE sits across the kitchen table from ABE RAMIREZ. Abe is a conspiracy theorist like Jake, but the techie kind. He is cool and serious where Jake is enthusiastic and passionate.

JAKE

Hello and welcome to SQUATCH TALK,
broadcasting from the heart of the
Oregon Bigfoot Highway. We're here to
discuss the news and information
about our most mysterious neighbor,
Sasquatch. I'm Jake Talbott, and this
is my co-host --

ABE

We'll see.

JAKE

Interim co-host --

ABE

Guest for this episode --

JAKE

Abe Ramirez!

ABE

Yo.

JAKE

Now, citizens of Charity know Abe
from the local public access
station --

ABE

W-K-C-H, Charity's only local public
radio.

JAKE

What you may not know about Abe is that he's also one of the region's foremost experts on paranormal events.

ABE

The truth is out there, folks.

JAKE

Alright, let's get to the main topic: Sasquatch. Bigfoot.

ABE

Skunk Ape.

JAKE

Gigantopithecus.

ABE

El Sisimite.

JAKE

They have Bigfoot in Mexico?

ABE

I don't know. I'm Guatemalan.

JAKE

Right. But, uh, you said you had some recordings you wanted to share?

ABE

Yeah. As your listeners may know, my show on W-K-C-H has an open inbox policy, so anyone can call with tips and we might choose to explore them on air.

JAKE

That's how you found that big story on the Farmer's Market price-fixing, right?

ABE

Yeah, that was a good one. But I also get a lot of calls that are more... difficult to authenticate.

JAKE

'Squatchy, you might say.

ABE

I...might say that. Anyway, I thought I'd play them for you and get your take.

JAKE

Please! Let's hear it!

ABE

Alright.

(clicking on laptop)

Let's start with...this one.

Beedle-ooop! The recording starts.

BILL

(on recording)

Hey, this is Bill [BLEEP]. I've been listening to your show and, uh, just wondered if you've heard anything like this.

See, I was backpacking up around Eagle Creek about two weeks ago. About my third day out there, I was up real early in the morning and I heard this...knocking. Not at my tent, more like out in the trees. Someone was knocking the branches together.

Well, I figured it was some kids out screwing around, but it was just strange enough that I thought I'd check it out. So I shouted, you know, "Hey! You kids! Quiet down out there!" That kind of thing. And then...then it got weird.

See, there was this crashing. Like something big breaking through the brush. Real big. Mowing down everything in its path. Coming toward me. I kind of froze, you know, not sure what to do?

But as it got closer...the smell. Bad smell. Real bad. Like sulfur mixed with feces. Real bad.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

And that kind of shook me loose, you know, so I took cover behind a boulder nearby.

And just as it crashed out of the woods, it made this noise -- like a, like a roar. Kind of a lion mixed with like a, like an elephant. Just real loud. And then it was just... gone.

Now, I didn't see what it was. It was gone when I came out. But my whole tent and my camp stove were thrown over. And -- you know, we don't get a lot of bears here, but I know bears. It wasn't a bear.

Anyway, just wondered if you heard about an escaped animal? Maybe from the zoo or something? Thought I'd mention it. Because this thing, it was real big, real smelly, real aggressive. Seems like you'd warn people.

Okay, that's it. Thanks!

Beedle-boop. The recording stops.

JAKE

Yeah, that's a 'Squatch.

ABE

You're sure?

JAKE

Oh yeah. Classic Sasquatch encounter.

ABE

In Eagle Creek?

JAKE

Oh, well, Sasquatch have got huge territories. And make no mistake, they are territorial. That knocking Bill heard? That's how they communicate.

ABE

To other Bigfoots. Bigfeet.

JAKE

They take two big branches, right?
And they just slam them together. I
see it all the time on my Sasquatch
Trail.

ABE

You see them? Sasquatches?

JAKE

No, I see the branches.

ABE

Ah.

JAKE

Trust me, big tree branches don't
just fall. Not on each other. Not,
you know, perpendicular. It's
Sasquatch, every time.

ABE

So why didn't this Sasquatch stick
around? It just ran through.

JAKE

Oh, well, they don't stick around
long. Your average Bigfoot encounter
is only about 10 seconds. They're shy
animals. My guess, this one heard
Bill yelling, thought he was a rival
male, and just made a quick
territorial display. Just enough to
scare him off.

ABE

A warning.

JAKE

Exactly. This is why you always
approach the Sasquatch with respect.
Talk quietly. Leave an apple for them
to find. That's how you gain their
trust.

ABE

How long have you been working on the
Sasquatch out by your place, Jake?

JAKE

Oh, we've been on good terms for a
few years now.

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
It started with just the one, but now there's a whole clan that comes around. They're beautiful creatures.

ABE
You've seen them?

JAKE
Well, no. But they take the apples. That's how you know. When the apples are gone.

ABE
Okay, well, here's a listener question you can maybe answer, as the local expert.

JAKE
Sure.

Beedle-ooop! Another recording.

BENNIE
Hey, listen, Abe, I want you to find out what the aliens are doing with the Sasquatch around here. You know they've been going together lately. Every time you see a UFO, there's another damn Sasquatch. It's an infestation! This is the kind of stuff your show should look at, you know. I've been listening for a year now, and some of the topics you get into are really pretty useless. But this --

Bloop. It cuts off.

ABE
That's enough of that.

JAKE
You know, your show should focus on more of this stuff, Abe.

ABE
That's what your show is for.

JAKE
Man, there are things going on out here that the public just has no idea about.

ABE

The government is hacking our phones, and you want me to talk about a hairy man in the woods? Come on, man.

(beat)

But this connection between Sasquatch and aliens -- that's interesting.

JAKE

It all comes back to aliens with you.

ABE

No, man, I looked into it. Sasquatch encounters are highly correlated with UFO sightings.

JAKE

Sasquatch is not an alien.

ABE

But could he have been created by aliens? Maybe the same ones who created us?

JAKE

Come on, man.

ABE

No, really -- hairless skin? Weak teeth and claws? Big, heavy head we hold far from the ground? Why? You really think those are the product of natural selection? Survival of the fittest?

JAKE

Okay, well, you have a point.

ABE

Of course I do, man.

JAKE

So what, a race of extraterrestrial Sasquatches came down to earth and made humans for...some reason?

ABE

No, no. That would be silly. Sasquatch was an earlier experiment.

JAKE

To do what?

ABE
A slave race. Think about it, they
are huge, hardy --

JAKE
Surprisingly intelligent.

ABE
Clearly resilient, to thrive in
secret this long.

JAKE
So why move on to humans?

ABE
Because, man: humans are easier to
control.

They both make "whoa" type noises -- this blows Jake's mind.

JAKE
Sasquatch is not an alien, though.

ABE
No, no, he protects us from the
aliens. He turned on them. So
whenever they try to come back,
Sasquatch shows up.

JAKE
I don't know, man...

Abe clicks around on his laptop.

ABE
Here. Try this one. You'll see.
There's more to Bigfoot than meets
the eye.

JAKE
Alright.

Beedle-ooop! Recording starts.

SHEILA
Listen, uh, Abe. I was driving down
Highway 224, just coming back from
Estacada and uh...

JAKE
Heavily wooded area.

ABE

Shh! Listen.

SHEILA

There's just something kind of... weird out there. So I was driving along, and it was getting dark, you know? And I see this elk. In the road. Just one bull elk, all by himself. And he's standing there just...staring at me. I flashed my lights, I honked the horn, but this thing just would. not. move.

JAKE

I don't hear any Sasquatch.

ABE

She's getting to it!

SHEILA

And I think there was something up with it because it had this, well, I could swear it was blood. All around its mouth. On its teeth.

Anyway, I thought maybe it was blinded, you know, by the headlights, so I shut them off, and that's when...it happened.

I heard this...sound. Like a cry, or a call. Maybe a whistle? And this elk, he looks up, toward the sound. And he blinks, and he sniffs twice, and then he just...falls over. vAnd I'm so surprised I just, I started to get out of the car, like, to see if it was okay?

And then this...dark thing came. Not dark like, I mean, it was night, but darker than that. Like I've never seen anything so... But it was walking, I think. It came out of the woods, this huge, black...thing. And it bent down over the elk and then it...then it was just...gone.

The elk, the thing, the...I blinked, and I was just standing on an empty road, headlights on, horn blaring.

(MORE)

SHEILA (cont'd)

And since then I can't -- it's like I can't get it out of my head.

Look, Abe, I know it sounds crazy, but I wasn't seeing things. It happened. There's something out there, and I just think maybe you should -- I don't know. I wanted you to know.

Don't call me back.

Bleep-bloop. The recording ends.

A beat.

ABE

So?

JAKE

Hm?

ABE

Is that Bigfoot?

Jake seems confused, disoriented.

JAKE

That, uh, you know, that one, uh, I don't think I got that.

ABE

Like you don't know what it is, or...?

JAKE

No, like, it didn't play.

ABE

What? No, man, I played that whole thing.

JAKE

(overlapping)

Yeah, I don't, uh, I don't know. Maybe something's wrong with your computer.

ABE

There's nothing wrong with the computer, Jake. You know I take care of my rig.

JAKE
I don't know. I gotta get a drink.

ABE
Oh, you have water right here --

JAKE
I gotta get a drink.

Jake stands up and walks away.

ABE
Uh...okay. Are we just gonna edit
this part out, or...?

A brief pause. Abe's chair moves, he turns away from the mic toward Jake.

ABE
Jake? Are you...

Suddenly, the laptop emits **loud static**. Then the sound of **Rose laughing** breaks in.

ABE
What the -- ?

The static glitches and pops.

ABE
How is this happening?

Abe clicks a few buttons. It **shocks** him.

ABE
Ow!

ROSE
Over here! I'm over heere...

ABE
Jake! You seeing this?

ROSE
Hello? Hello?
(more pops)
It's okay. I'll see you soon.

Static and pops. Rose **laughs** again. The message ends.

ABE
Dude...this is fucked.

Jake comes back from the kitchen.

JAKE
Hey, sorry. Everything okay?

ABE
This machine is supposed to be unhackable.

He furiously clicks and types.

JAKE
Okay...?

ABE
That message came from nowhere. It's not on my computer. There's no record of it.

JAKE
So you still want to do the show, or...?

ABE
Jake, you don't understand. This is not possible. Someone is using tech that just -- doesn't exist.

JAKE
Well, so, we didn't really get to talk about Gigantopithecus.

ABE
And it sounded like that girl, Rose. Don't you think? But she doesn't have access to this kind of tech.

JAKE
So Gigantopithecus is an ancient species of primate.

ABE
Jake, are you listening to me, man? This is serious.

JAKE
Yeah, I'm telling you. This thing -- let's just call him "Giganto," it's easier -- it was the largest primate that ever lived, at least according to current fossil records.

ABE

Dude, I've...I've gotta go. You should disconnect your wi-fi.

Abe grabs his stuff and leaves.

Sound of door opening and closing.

Jake continues like nothing's happened.

JAKE

Giganto was ten feet tall, and likely weighed over a thousand pounds. Now, there have been plenty of species that people thought were extinct, and then they found them out there in the world. They're called "Lazarus species," because they came back from the dead.

Now, what about our friend Giganto? Could he be a Lazarus? The evidence is pretty compelling.

For example, Abe, if you look at the fossilized foot samples from...

Jake looks around. He's slowly coming back to himself.

JAKE

Oh, that's right. Abe had to go. Well, this has been a fantastic episode of SQUATCH TALK! I don't think I need to do any edits.

The next episode should be out in just a couple of days. But if you want to see the evidence -- and maybe even a live Sasquatch in the flesh -- then you'll need to join me for a SQUATCH WALK! Just head on out to Charity, Oregon, and follow the signs from the town hall. Someone took them down a bit ago, but I'll put them back up.

Oh -- this episode is sponsored by Dave's Hardware. At Dave's, you can get hammered and screwed! ...Wait, that doesn't sound right.

Anyway, shoot me a message with your Bigfoot questions and stories.

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
 Maybe you can find yourself featured
 on SQUATCH TALK!

Until next time, everybody.

The "'Squatch Talk" theme song plays as we fade out to...

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LATER

Bleep-Blip! The friendly stopping sound on Jake's podcast app indicates the recording is over.

Jake turns excitedly to DR SIMMONS, who is less enthusiastic.

JAKE
 So what did you think?

DR SIMMONS
 I really just came by to speak with
 Lara Campbell. Is she here?

JAKE
 Oh. No.

DR SIMMONS
 Well, there's a half an hour of my
 life I'll never get back...

END OF EPISODE.

OUTRO

Thank you for listening to Believer. I've got a bit of a bad news, good news situation for you today, listeners. The bad news is that we've reached the end of the audio we were able to record as a cast before COVID-19 shut down the recording studios in Los Angeles. With the outbreak continuing and protests filling the streets, I can't say for sure when we'll be able to get back together again. So this is a long way of saying that the main storyline of BELIEVER is now on hiatus.

But there is some good news! We've got prequel and spin-off episodes planned that make use of some of the remote recording possibilities that we have. I've also got lots of plans to revamp the show in the meantime. When we come back, we'll have better audio, a consistent release schedule, and lots of cool ways to interact with the show.

As always, follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @believerpod for all the latest news. You can also email believerpod@gmail.com to get in touch. For full credits, transcripts, press kit, and other information, stop by the website at www.BelieverPodcast.com.

If you enjoyed Squatch Talk, then you should really subscribe to King Falls AM, a fiction podcast about two guys running a radio show in a paranormal town. I swear I didn't do this on purpose, but when I listened back to this episode I was like, "Oh, I made a King Falls episode in the Believer-verse." So if you liked this, go to KingFallsAM.com or look them up in any podcasting app.

Now, this feed's not going completely silent, because there's a lot going on. So over the next few weeks, you can expect mini episodes recommending other shows, opportunities for activism, and resources for coping with our collective life situation. We'll have new Believer content soon, but in the meantime it's important for us to help each other.

Until then, remember: be safe. Wear a mask. Black lives matter. Trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people are wonderful.

And while you're at it, just try to get a good night's sleep. You encounter far fewer ghosts when you're well-rested.

Bye now.