

DR. SHRINK MEETS BIGFOOT

written by

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INT. DR. SHRINK'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. SHRINK (50), a thin man with small round glasses and gray hair, sits at his desk in his office with some papers in his hands. An intern, PIP (21), a well-dressed young woman, peeks in the door.

PIP  
Someone's here to see you, doctor.

DR. SHRINK  
I'll be right in, Pip.

Dr. Shrink takes off his glasses and gets up.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dr. Shrink enters the main lobby. OFFICER REUBEN (40), stout, with a very respectable mustache, taps curiously on a little bowl of robo fish on the receptionist desk. Dr. Shrink appears nervous.

DR. SHRINK  
Oh. Hello officer!

OFFICER REUBEN  
Dr. Shrink? I'm Officer Reuben. How do you do?

He stretches out his hand.

DR. SHRINK  
(shaking hands)  
Very good very good. What can I do for you?

OFFICER REUBEN  
I hear you're the best psychiatrist in town.

DR. SHRINK  
(laughing)  
That's what they say.

OFFICER REUBEN  
Uh-huh. Well look, I'm just gonna lay it to ya straight. I'm here on reports from several people claiming that you've been using, well, "questionable" means of maintaining your success.

DR. SHRINK  
Oh? Like what?

OFFICER REUBEN  
Oh you know, entering the mind.

Dr. Shrink lets out a nervous LAUGH.

DR. SHRINK  
That's my job, isn't it?

OFFICER REUBEN  
I mean literally, doctor.  
Literally. Entering the mind.  
Invading it, so to speak. I know it  
sounds silly, but the sheer number  
of witnesses against you means that  
I have no choice but to ask for  
your credentials. Sorry, don't mean  
to be so sudden.

Dr. Shrink stares at the officer.

DR. SHRINK  
Witnes-- Okay, well, sure. Right  
away. They're um, they're just in  
my office...

The officer nods knowingly. Dr. Shrink goes into his office quickly. Pip glances from Dr. Shrink's office to Officer Reuben.

OFFICER REUBEN  
You know anything about this?

PIP  
Nothing sir. I've only been working  
here a week.

OFFICER REUBEN  
Uh-huh.

DR. SHRINK (O.S.)  
(hushed)  
Pip!

Dr. Shrink is peeking through his office door. He motions for Pip to come to him. She nervously does so.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S OFFICE - DAY

Pip enters.

DR. SHRINK  
They're on to us.

PIP  
How?

From a cabinet by the wall, Dr. Shrink pulls out a small machine that looks like it has been thrown together from garbage and tin foil and various appliances, with all sorts of flashing lights on it.

DR. SHRINK  
You know how we rearranged my office on Friday? Turned the couch around? I have a sneaking suspicion that the left temple is more sensitive to electrical impulses than the right which would make it easier to feel when we go in.

Dr. Shrink taps his left temple with a tool.

PIP  
Is that it?

DR. SHRINK  
No idea. But no one's ever said anything before Friday so it seems reasonable.

He pulls a big round space helmet out of the cabinet and tosses it to Pip.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)  
Get ready.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Officer Reuben looks around, waiting suspiciously. He notices a little bowl of candy on the receptionist's desk. No one is around. He pauses, looks around to make sure he's alone, and takes a piece of chocolate.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S OFFICE - DAY

Pip and Dr. Shrink now wear wonderfully cheesy silver space suits, straight out of a 50s sci-fi movie. They pop on their big round helmets.

DR. SHRINK  
Let's make this quick. I don't want either of us to lose our jobs.

Dr. Shrink picks up a large leather dufflebag and presses a button on the machine and the two disappear in a bright flash and a loud POP.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

A small orb of light exits the office and enters the right side of Officer Reuben's head. Eyes closed and shoving several more chocolates in his mouth, he doesn't notice.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A nice big forest, not too thick, that looks like it belongs in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Shrink and Pip appear with a POP. They look around and take off their helmets.

DR. SHRINK

Ahh. A man of the country. I love  
the variety of minds.

Dr. Shrink lets down the dufflebag and unzips it.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Officer Reuben sits in the waiting room reading a copy of *Field & Stream*, empty candy bowl at his side, wrappers strewn around him. A clock on the wall TICKS quietly.

Officer Reuben looks up from his magazine. He glances over at Dr. Shrink's office door. COMPLETE SILENCE. He looks around the room, taking in its emptiness.

Beat. Officer Reuben stands up. He hesitates. He steps toward the office quietly, turning his ear toward the door. He stops, waiting.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dr. Shrink's dufflebag is being pulled up into a tree with a rope. One of the shiny space suits is spilling out from the top.

Dr. Shrink tugs on the rope, now wearing a rugged, outdoorsy coat.

DR. SHRINK

If you have any food, you might  
wanna leave it here. I'm not well  
acquainted with this old cat's mind  
yet but... there could be bears.

Pip adjusts her own new coat.

PIP

Bears?

DR. SHRINK

It's nothing to worry about... but  
I've been wrong before. Anywho! No  
time to lose!

Dr. Shrink puts on a wide-brimmed cowboy hat and turns to  
Pip.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)

No?

Pip shakes her head. Dr. Shrink takes off the hat and hangs  
it on a branch.

The two begin walking.

PIP

Is that what we're looking for this  
time? Bears?

DR. SHRINK

Oh, not necessarily. We're looking  
for something to represent Officer  
Reuben's suspicions of us.  
Something--

PIP

Like that?

She points at a little shack a ways off. Outside hang various  
guns and hunting rifles.

DR. SHRINK

Hmm, a little too obvious. The  
symbol will be more subtle, and  
better hidden, like there's more  
going on in here than he lets on.  
And besides, in my experience, guns  
tend to represent temper, and I'm  
not sure I want to risk THAT  
shooting off right now...

PIP

(notices something)

Hey...

She motions for Dr. Shrink to come look. He does.

DR. SHRINK

Oh wow.

The two stare at a giant humanoid footprint on the ground.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)

It appears we're not alone here.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Officer Reuben, and still lurking outside Dr. Shrink's office, licks some chocolate off his fingers. His PHONE rings. He wipes his fingers on his uniform, swallows, and answers it.

OFFICER REUBEN

Officer Reuben.

FELLOW OFFICER (V.O.)

Hey. We've got something on the psychiatrist.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dr. Shrink and Pip are still standing around the footprint.

PIP

Bigfoot?

DR. SHRINK

Something like that.

Dr. Shrink stands up, thinking.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)

Of course, that would be the perfect symbol, wouldn't it? Our knowledge of Bigfoot is based solely on what other people claim to have seen, with very little actual proof.

PIP

Officer Reuben doesn't have any proof of what we're doing. Just suspicions.

DR. SHRINK

You're a smart cookie, Pip.

They start walking.

PIP

So what? We kill Bigfoot?

DR. SHRINK

Well that would be ideal. But if we face that thing with the intent to kill it, we would technically be proving that it really exists in the first place and, well, we can only stay suspicious in Officer Reuben's mind as long as Bigfoot does. If we never see it though, then he'll never see the truth.

PIP

So we have to get rid of Bigfoot... without killing it... or looking at it...

DR. SHRINK

Or we'll go to jail. Exciting, isn't it?

PIP

I thought you said we'd just lose our jobs.

DR. SHRINK

Where some people see a necessity others see a crime. Then again if everyone had the same taste in ethicality we wouldn't have a job to begin with, would we?

PIP

How the hell--

DR. SHRINK

Whoa there, Pip! Tread lightly. We're trying to get rid of contamination, not add to it!

Dr. Shrink CHUCKLES nervously.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The fellow OFFICER is parked just outside Dr. Shrink's building. Officer Reuben approaches him.

FELLOW OFFICER

You gotta hear this. Hanna just sent it to me.

(MORE)



FELLOW OFFICER (CONT'D)  
 Apparently someone was able to  
 sneak a recording device onto Dr.  
 Shrink during one of his sessions,  
 and well, just listen...

The officer holds up his phone and a recording of Dr. Shrink plays.

DR. SHRINK (V.O.)  
 These wrappings could represent the  
 patient's inhibitions. Don't touch  
 'em... that could be embarrassing.

OFFICER REUBEN  
 Sounds like him alright.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dr. Shrink and Pip walk through the forest. A twig SNAPS in the distance. Pip turns her head towards it; Dr. Shrink doesn't.

DR. SHRINK  
 Make sure not to look if you hear--

Pip sees something in the distance.

PIP  
 Doctor?

Pip stares at a big hairy creature, which we can barely make out. It stares back.

DR. SHRINK  
 No!

He grabs her head away and brings her close to him so she doesn't look.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)  
 Don't look at it.

PIP  
 I saw the Bigfoot, doctor.

DR. SHRINK  
 Bear, Pip! Bear.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The officers still listen to the tape.

DR. SHRINK (V.O.)  
 This person is clearly hiding  
 something. They don't want us to  
 see it. It's almost... Almost as if  
 they're suspicious of us...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dr. Shrink still hugs Pip's head. Behind them, a dark fuzzy  
 creature slowly approaches. We hear a little GROWL.

DR. SHRINK  
 We're running out of options.

PIP  
 Need me to throw a temper tantrum?

After a second, Dr. Shrink gets it.

DR. SHRINK  
 Run fast.

He lets go and she bolts around him and the creature, without  
 looking.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)  
 (yelling)  
 And don't look back!

EXT. STREET - DAY

The officers listening to the tape as before.

DR. SHRINK (V.O.)  
 I have a feeling we're not supposed  
 to be in here, you know?

PIP (V.O.)  
 Ya think?

DR. SHRINK (V.O.)  
 Well it's clearly what this guy's  
 thinking.

OFFICER REUBEN  
 This is almost irrefutable.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Bigfoot is right behind Dr. Shrink. The GROWLING is loud and  
 obvious now.

DR. SHRINK  
You've got me.

He turns around slowly and faces the creature. It stares at Dr. Shrink, who stares back with his mouth slightly open. Suddenly Bigfoot tackles Dr. Shrink and wrestles him on the ground. Dr. Shrink struggles to escape.

DR. SHRINK (CONT'D)  
No, no!

EXT. STREET - DAY

The officers as before.

DR. SHRINK (V.O.)  
You don't think-- you don't think  
he KNOWS, do you Pip?

The fellow officer nods slowly at Officer Reuben.

PIP (V.O.)  
That we're inside his mind?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dr. Shrink and Bigfoot still wrestling. Suddenly a loud GUNSHOT is heard and the Bigfoot crumples over. Pip stands a little ways away, holding a rifle. She lowers it.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The officers continue to listen to the tape.

OFFICER REUBEN  
STOP!

The other officer, startled, pauses the recording.

OFFICER REUBEN (CONT'D)  
Sorry. I don't wanna listen  
anymore. I've just thought... you  
know, if this is real... maybe...  
maybe the doctor really is trying  
to help. I think we need to leave  
these guys alone. For now.

FELLOW OFFICER  
Reuben? You okay?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Pip stands holding the rifle. It looks heavy and is almost too big for her.

DR. SHRINK  
(standing up)  
Did you hear that?

PIP  
That was... exhilarating.

DR. SHRINK  
(brushing himself off)  
I distinctly heard someone yelling  
"STOP". Fascinating.

The two of them disappear with a POP.

INT. DR. SHRINK'S OFFICE - DAY

They reappear in the office. Pip is still holding the temper gun.

DR. SHRINK  
You know, for a psychiatry intern,  
you're a surprisingly good shot.

PIP  
(admiring the gun)  
I am, aren't I?

DR. SHRINK  
(sigh)  
Pip, I should probably tell you...  
I'm not really a psychiatrist. I  
don't have a degree.

PIP  
I figured.

DR. SHRINK  
Now don't get a big head. This is  
supposed to be fun.

Officer Reuben walks in.

OFFICER REUBEN  
Sorry for the trouble, doctor, I--

He sees the rifle Pip is holding. A shocked expression appears on his face. Dr. Shrink slowly raises his arms.

DR. SHRINK  
Whatever you do, Pip... DON'T  
SHOOT.

THE END