

Are You Afraid of Burlesque?
The Crescent Moon Creepy Campfire Chronicles

Darkness.
Eerie music begins.

FADE UP TO:

EXT. NIGHT - THE DOCK

The river and the dock. It's blue-lit, spooky.

CROSSFADE TO:

EXT. NIGHT - A PLAYGROUND

A spooky showgirl swings on the swings.

CROSSFADE TO:

INT. NIGHT - A WINDOW

A shadowy, Maleficent-horned figure passes the window.

SFX: Laughter.

CROSSFADE TO:

INT. NIGHT - A SHOWGIRL'S STUDIO

We pan across the bits and pieces of showgirl ephemera (a gown on a hanger in front of a window, moonlight shining through it; wigs and headpieces on wig forms; a set of fans) ending on a pair of heeled feet in front of a couch.

Then - red eyes glow from beneath the couch.

SFX: Violin swell.

CROSSFADE TO:

INT. NIGHT - A DOOR

The door rattles, then a satin-gloved hand with nails reaches through and beckons.

CROSSFADE TO:

TITLE CARD.

A hand with fly nails lights a match.

The title fades up: "Are You Afraid of Burlesque?"

The match goes out and hand fades away as the subtitle fades up: "The Crescent Moon Creepy Campfire Chronicles."

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE UP TO:

EXT. NIGHT - THE WOODS

The crisp fall air is refreshing, but something is still a little spooky. Is it the wind whistling through the trees? Is it the creepy bird calls? Is it that twig snapping!?

Nope. That twig snapping is Minnie and Foxie traipsing through the woods, looking for the location of the annual Moonlight Society Meetup.

MINNIE

I swear the spot is right around here.

FOXIE

Are you sure, Minnie? I remember it being more...woodsy?

MINNIE

This *is* woodsy, Foxie! (*gestures to the trees*) See!? Woods!

Suddenly, they stumble upon someone!

MINNIE AND FOXIE

Ahhh!

KAI

Hello!

FOXIE

Oh my gosh! You startled me!

KAI

Don't lie, Foxie, you were scared!

FOXIE

No I wasn't!

MINNIE

I was! But isn't that the point!? We're out here to be scared!

Minnie begins setting up their supplies.

FOXIE

Truth! That is the mission of the Moonlight Society. Thank you, Kai, for starting us off on the right foot.

Foxie also begins setting up.

KAI

I didn't mean to scare you. I was just here early. You know what they say, the early bird gets grease.

FOXIE

Worm.

KAI

Ew! Where!?

A creepy sound!

MINNIE

Shh! What was that?!

Everyone freezes.

The creepy sound again.

We scan the woods. Where is the sound coming from? What even is that sound?

The creepy sound AGAIN! And again, closer this time...

SUDDENLY! Out of the woods tumbles...

MINNIE, FOXIE, KAI

Ahhh!!!

... Thottie! Making the creepy sound. The creepy sound transforms into over the top orgasm sounds and ends... in a fart.

MINNIE, FOXIE, KAI

(ad libbing)

Ew! Oh my gosh! Why? Is that really how you sound when you come?

THOTTIE

(laughing)

Ha! I got you so good!

MINNIE

Okay, yeah, I guess.

LOTTIE

(from within the woods)

Hello? Thottie?? Where is everyone?

THOTTIE

Over here, Lottie!

Lottie enters the clearing.

LOTTIE

Sorry, but I am, like, not going through the woods in this outfit. It's too cute to get weird forest stains on it.

Another creepy noise from the woods. Creepier than before.

LOTTIE

Oh my g-

Thottie covers Lottie's mouth.

THOTTIE

Shh!

Creepier sound continues.

FOXIE

What...what is that?

KAI

It could be the wind?

Creepier sound continues.

MINNIE

It could be...a spirit!

A black cloaked figure emerges from the trees. Everyone screams!!

The CLOAK begins...twerking?

The screams become cheers!

The cloak throws its hood off and GUESS WHAT! It's Allie!

ALLIE

(laughing sassily)

You all are so easy to scare!

KAI

Alright, Allie, you really got me good!

MINNIE

Is that everyone? Are we all here?

KAI

Present!

FOXIE

Thank you.

Foxie begins counting attendees.

FOXIE

Where's Beef?

THOTTIE

I got your all-beef frank right here.

Thottie does a gratuitous crotch grab.

LOTTIE

Ew. She means Beef Erikson, duh.

THOTTIE

(mimicking Lottie)

Duh.

ALLIE

(the most sarcastic)

You two are so cute.

FOXIE

Beef is always late. You know he likes to smoke up *before* the scary stories.

ALLIE

Yeah, so the walk through the woods is more scary, oooooOOOOOOO!

MINNIE

Well, it's dusk so we'll just have to start without him.

ALLIE

Yes, please! Kathy Wanamaker is throwing a really bitchin' party and I only want to be fashionably late.

Minnie gratuitously clears her throat. Everyone shushes each other and prepares for the stories.

MINNIE

Are we all met, Mooners?

Everyone moons the fire.

MINNIE

This assembly of the Moonlight society has thus commenced!

Everyone pulls up their bottoms and sits.

MINNIE

Hey, Kai, I still think that phrasing is kind of awkward.

KAI

It's formal!

MINNIE

I know you worked hard on it, Kai, but 'Has thus commenced?' It's kind of pretentious. Can't I just say 'has begun' or something a little more normal?

KAI

Fine.

MINNIE

Thank you.

(clears throat)

This assembly of the Moonlight Society
has begun! Tonight, we gather...

*The other hosts join in the ritual, holding their
FLASHLIGHT to their face, as their lines come up.*

ALLIE

...to tell sexy, scary stories in the
dark.

FOXIE

...to honor the dark side of pop
culture.

THOTTIE

...to revel in our love of horror.

*Lottie notices Thottie reading off some "hidden"
notes.*

LOTTIE

(aside)

Thottie, we were supposed to memorize
it.

THOTTIE

(aside)

I was busy with football practice,
gosh.

LOTTIE

(back to ritual)

To this bonfire, we bring bone-chilling
burlesque.

ALLIE

We offer flirtatious frights.

THOTTIE

We flaunt creepy cuties and boo-tiful booties.

MINNIE

Now, we review the rules.

ALL

One.

KAI

Do not take screenshots, videos, or photos.

ALL

Two.

FOXIE

Do not share this link with anyone. You paid good money for this!

ALL

Three.

THOTTIE

Have a good Tim.

*(realizes their secret script is
written wrong)*

Have a good time!

MINNIE

...and above all -

ALL

- four -

Everyone take to the camera.

ALL

TIP YOUR PERFORMERS!

All ad lib various lines and/or gestures about tipping.

Then, Thottie begins throwing MONEY in the air.

ALL

(overlapping, grabbing cash out of the air, ad libbing)

OMG! WTF! That money is gonna catch on fire! We need that! We're poor! Save the money! Tip us!

Everyone calms down.

MINNIE

Mooners! Who proffers the first tale of terror?

Thottie produces a creepy-lookin' DOLL.

THOTTIE

(as the doll)

It is I, [improvised name]!

LOTTIE

Ahhh! I hate [improvised name from above]!

MINNIE

I love [improvised name from above]!

All ad-lib reactions to the doll. Thottie hushes the crowd with a creepy giggle.

THOTTIE

[Improvised name from above] is nothin'. Have you heard of Robert?

All ad-lib reactions.

THOTTIE

Robert was just a little dolly.
Sometimes he laughed. Sometimes he
cried. Sometimes he was angry. And when
he was angry, he could crash your car
or break your bones. But the doll in
this story puts Robert to shame! Today
I present to you a parable of pain, the
drama of a doll so devilish, you might
say he has the spirit of a killer..
Submitted for the approval of the
Moonlight Society, I call this

Thottie throws powder into the fire.

"The Tale of the Good Guys."

[ACT 1 - Minnie Barre - Chucky]

ALLIE

Haunted dolls? You think that's
scary?

THOTTIE

Hey, dolls don't have to be haunted
to be scary.

FOXIE

Yeah! And neither do vending
machines.

KAI

Vending machines?

FOXIE

Do you know how many people are
crushed by vending machines each
fiscal year?

LOTTIE

Do you?

FOXIE

Too many.

Foxie stares into the fire.

Awkward silence.

ALLIE

...are they haunted?

FOXIE

What are?

ALLIE

The vending machines doing all the crushing. Are they vengeful ghosts, finishing business in the only way they can - by crushing - or is this...some kind of mass malfunction?

KAI

Maybe user error?

LOTTIE

Negligent homicide on the part of Big Vending?

FOXIE

I'm actually working on an investigative documentary examining these very ques--

MINNIE

SILENCE! The Moonlight Society has no time for your documentary. Who else has brought a tale of terror?

ALLIE

HA! Me! Get ready, losers! Are you ready for something... terrifying?!?!

All react.

ALLIE

Are you ready for something... gruesome?!?!

All react.

ALLIE

Are you ready for something... EXTRADIMENSIONAL?!?!

All react as Allie produces some kind of PUZZLE.

ALLIE

A simple puzzle. Fun, right? But what if solving the puzzle summoned sadomasochistic creatures from another realm??

MINNIE

Hella cool. I want one.

ALLIE

Oh, you do? Cause this kink-friendly story is more creep-tastic. More lurid. More graphic. (*wink*) Submitted for the approval of the Moonlight Society, I call this:

Allie throws the powder on the fire.

"The Legend of the Lost Soul."

[ACT 2 - Kid A Icarus - Hellraiser]

MINNIE

I want that puzzle.

LOTTIE

I might, too!

ALLIE

Have at it, nerds! I'm outtie. Gotta get to Kathy Wanamaker's party.

FOXIE

You're leaving!?

KAI

But what about The Moonlight Society?

LOTTIE

Yeah, this is, like, our thing!

ALLIE

Whatever! If Beef can be late, I can leave early.

FOXIE

I guess that's true.

ALLIE

Spook ya later!

Allie makes ghost-y sounds and laughs as she exits through the trees.

LOTTIE

As if! I am so much cooler than Kathy Wanamaker. And hotter. Right, babe?

Awkward pause as Lottie waits for Thottie to respond.

LOTTIE

Right, babe??

THOTTIE

Sorry, babe, I... I...

(gestures to sinus region)
Does anybody have some tissues? My allergies are acting up.

FOXIE

I didn't know you have allergies. Do you think the fire is bothering you?

THOTTIE

All this smoke is definitely getting to me. It feels like there's something...

Thottie rubs their eyes dramatically, sneezes then sits back clutching their eye with one hand.

THOTTIE

Oh my god! My eye!!!

In their other hand, a fake plastic EYEBALL stares at everyone.

KAI

Ew, gross!

FOXIE

Gag me with a spoon!

Thottie laughs, holding the fake eyeball next to their actual eyes.

LOTTIE

You all think that's gross? I have a story about someone who lost a lot more than their eyeball.

MINNIE

I like the sound of this already.

Lottie reaches into her purse and pulls out a length of GREEN RIBBON, showing it off with a flourish as she speaks.

LOTTIE

There once was a girl who wore a green ribbon around her neck. Her lover always wondered why she wore it all the time, but she wouldn't tell him. Until one day... well, you'll see. Submitted for the approval of the Moonlight Society, I call this story:

She throws the powder onto the fire.

"The Story of the Girl with the Green Ribbon"

[ACT 3 - Allie Dente - The Girl with the Green Ribbon]

LOTTIE

(to the rhythm of the "Be Aggressive" cheer)
She is headless! She-she is headless!
S-H-E-S-H-E-A-D-L-E-S-S She's headless!

THOTTIE

Sick story, babe!

FOXIE

So creepy!

KAI

If her head was detached the whole time, was she technically a zombie?

LOTTIE

Don't overthink it.

A rustle from offscreen. Minnie shivers.

MINNIE

Do you ever just feel like you're being watched?

The group looks around for a moment, then suddenly a bright FLASHLIGHT beam shines on them.

THOTTIE

Hey hey, turn off the headlights!

MINNIE

For real, Beef, we know it's you.

BEEF

Do you actually, though?
Who am I?

FOXIE

Oops, my bad - you're tootally a big scary monster, I'm sooo frightened!

BEEF

You see me every week, and yet do you really know that it's me? Do you really know anybody? Even yourselves?

Beef turns his flashlights upwards to his own face as he stares down the rest of the group.

BEEF

If you stare long enough, you might see a total stranger standing in place of someone you know, someone you trust.

MINNIE

Are we having a story tonight, or are we just playing games?

Beef shines his flashlight on the others again.

THOTTIE

(blocking the light with their hand; to Minnie)

Does that answer your question?

Beef walks around the others, still shining his flashlight on the group.

BEEF

My story is about strangers among us
- people who you thought you knew but
they turn out to be someone,
something, so unfathomably like your
own self. You see them every day, but
you never look close enough. But if
you did, you would find that the
scariest strangers are the ones
inside ourselves. Submitted for the
approval of the Moonlight Society, I
call this story:

He throws powder onto the fire.

"The Tale of the Tethered"

[ACT 4 - Risky Sour - US]

BEEF

You may think you really know
someone, or really know yourself,
but think again - and look a little
closer.

Everyone looks around at each other.

As he settles back from telling his story, Beef pulls out a bag of BEEF JERKY and begins munching.

KAI

That's enough of the supernatural for
me. Let's get a little more real.
What's the grossest thing you've ever
eaten?

THOTTIE

Dirt!

LOTTIE

Thottie's cooking!

MINNIE

The blood of my enemies!

KAI

Well, what about human flesh??

The Moonlight Society members eye Beef nervously as he gnaws on his jerky. He notices everyone staring.

BEEF

(deadpan)

What?

KAI

This story takes place in the most terrifying land of all - Wisconsin.

LOTTIE

Ooh, creepy!

KAI

Most of what we've shared tonight are works of fiction, but I'm here to tell the tale of an actual, real-life monster. Between 1978 and 1991, he murdered and dismembered seventeen men and boys - so be prepared for some blood and gore ahead. Submitted for the approval of the Moonlight Society, I call this story:

He throws powder onto the fire.

"The Story of the Milwaukee Cannibal".

[ACT 5 - Thottie Biscotti - Jeffrey Dahmer]

Rustling from the treeline. The Moonlight Society members shift nervously. Kai begins to hyperventilate.

LOTTIE

Oh god, I don't want to get eaten!

FOXIE

Shhhh Shut up, Lottie!

The rustling intensifies. Thottie and Lottie clutch each other in fear. Footsteps... then, a PROP DISEMBODIED HEAD rolls out of the treeline!

The Moonlight Society members SCREAM!

Then, evil laughter from... somewhere. Everyone looks around, panicked, until suddenly -- Allie pops out!

ALLIE

'Sup, nerds? I totally got you!

BEEF

Some of us were scared, I guess. What happened to the party?

ALLIE

Ugh, I had to bounce. It was a total drag.

FOXIE

Admit it, you like hanging out with us better than Kathy Wanamaker!

ALLIE

Whatever! Now, what did I miss?

MINNIE

Kai was just telling us about some actual murders-- but you know, you aren't the only one into true crime.

KAI

Oh yeah?

MINNIE

Yeah! Some of us were into murderers,
like, way before being obsessed with
true crime was the cool thing to do.

*Fumbling for something behind her, Minnie reaches and pulls out
a HATCHET. She stands dramatically.*

MINNIE

The year: 1892. The state:
Massachusetts. The vibe: goth aesthetic
goals!

*Minnie punctuates her speech with swings of her hatchet,
narrowly missing the other members as she does so. They respond
with frightened gasps and shrieks with each swing.*

MINNIE

During an oppressive heat wave, a
wealthy couple was brutally murdered in
their home. The only suspect: their
daughter. Though she was eventually
acquitted, the rumor mill still spun.
Some say you can get away with anything
if you're rich enough-- but could that
include murder? Submitted for the
approval of the Moonlight Society, I
call this story:

Minnie throws the powder onto the fire.

"The Tale of the Hatchet Hysteria".

[ACT 6 - Ruby Claret - Lizzie Borden]

MINNIE

Did she, or didn't she? The murder was never solved, and remains a part of American pop culture to this very day.

LOTTIE

Gosh, I bet the Borden's house is haunted like hell.

THOTTIE

Oh, it totally is.

KAI

It reminds me of the house in our neighborhood that the kids all used to say is a witch's house. You don't linger in front of it, you abandon frisbees or balls that roll in that yard, and people dare each other to ring the doorbell.

BEEF

Yeah I totally ding-dong-ditched that house a few times.

LOTTIE

Yah right, as if!

THOTTIE

No yeah, it's true - I went with him once. We ran up to the house, put a bag of flaming doo doo on the door and watched this weird lady open the door and discover it - hahahahaha!

They both chuckle and fist bump.

BEEF

Yeaahhhh buddy, that was wild!

LOTTIE

What the hell you guys, you shouldn't
fuck around with places like that!

BEEF

For real, because then I lost my lucky
hackie sac, and then my car broke down..

THOTTIE

Yeah! And then my favorite shirt got
destroyed, and my dog died..

LOTTIE

Wait... you don't have a dog?

THOTTIE

I know, I'm just joshin' you all -
haha!

FOXIE

Well, lucky for you all, this next
story is much more enticing. For one
neighborhood in particular, strange
things are said to happen in that very
house. Some say that people will come
in, and never leave. It turns out those
things happening in that house are both
strange AND sexy. For The Moonlight
Society's final story of the night, I
bring to you

She throws powder onto the fire.

"The Legend of La Bruja."

[Act 7 - Jacqueline Boxx - la Bruja]

BEEF

I definitely understand why people
would enter that house and never leave
because WOH!

ALLIE

That was a spicy spooky story, I
liiiiiked it a lot!

FOXIE

I wanted to save the steamiest for
last.

KAI

Gosh, what an evening it has been. It's
always a highlight to get to come
together and do this together.

Everyone adlibs in fond agreement.

ALLIE

Without getting too sappy, I feel like
we also learned and discovered a lot
tonight too.

LOTTIE

I was reminded that it's important to
tip your performers, because these
artists are very hard workers and
deserve to be paid well.

KAI

I learned that burlesque is an
incredible art form that can be used to
tell powerful stories.

BEEF

And that burlesque artists can choose
to be scary--or sexy--if they want!
There's no wrong way to do burlesque.

FOXIE

I discovered that burlesque is for
every body in every shape, form, gender
and expression - and honestly, I
wouldn't want it any other way.

THOTTIE

I think there's a lot more things to be
afraid of in the world than burlesque.

Minnie gets up and grabs a WATER BUCKET.

MINNIE

On that note, I thank each of
you for partaking in this
tradition. I declare this
meeting of the Moonlight Society
closed. Until next time, fellow
moonies.

*Minnie pours water onto the campfire, fully extinguishing it. A
swirl of smoke rises. Fade to black. Spooky music echoes.*