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## The Ape in the Night

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You are sitting alone in the house at night when you hear a slight noise outside, and turning your head you are confronted by a bestial black face more like a gorilla's than anything else, staring in the window at you. It's a horror movie come true, the most terrifying thing you have ever experienced, yet somehow you survive it and after a while the face is gone.

The reason you survived is simple. You were never in any danger in the first place. An animal looked in out of the darkness to see what was inside your lighted room, but it wasn't trying to get in to eat you, and it felt no hostility towards you. It was just curious and for some reason abandoned its usual caution. In reality you were granted a rare privilege, a chance for a close look at one of the most interesting creatures on earth and one that very few people ever see. It's too bad you weren't in shape to appreciate it.

The face in your window belonged to a sasquatch, which is either a legend—in which case it is odd that you were able to see it—or the largest of the apes; an ape that lives in North America and that walks upright like a man.

If a moose or a buffalo looked in your window you would probably get quite a shock too, but by no means of the same magnitude. It would be an interesting and unexpected experience, and if the thing stayed there for any length of time you would probably find yourself wondering whether you could move closer for a better look without scaring it away. The only thing different about seeing a sasquatch is

that it is a good deal more unusual, but there may really be a chance that one will someday look in your window. There are people who say it has happened to them. Rod Pullar, a lifelong woodsman from Bellingham, Washington, has spent years looking for sasquatches and is certain that he has come close enough to hear them and smell them, but he has never seen one. On the other hand he can point out a house on Texas Street, now in the middle of a built-up area, where a friend of his tells of opening her curtains at 4 a.m. and seeing a huge flat face covered with oyster-white hair, "very sad looking" with downward-sloping eyes. She closed the curtains and told herself she couldn't have seen any such thing, but when she opened the curtains again it was still there. That was in September, 1969, and even then the house was by no means out in the woods, although a wooded hillside came down close to it.

I have talked at length with a lady who tells of two such experiences at her home seven miles northwest of Bremerton, Washington. At 2 a.m. on December 15, 1971, she saw from her kitchen window a dark-haired, erect animal about eight feet tall standing about five feet away, apparently looking into the house. She called her three children and they also saw it. The following February, in the daytime, she saw another one, seven or eight feet tall, covered with red brown hair, standing at the edge of the woods near her house, about 25 feet away. That time she was outside in the garden, so she went in the house. In neither case was there the slightest indication that she was in any danger.

Another woman that I interviewed told of stepping outside her house by the Nooksack River near Bellingham shortly before midnight because her dog was barking, and seeing a huge dark brown creature, covered with hair and with eyes that reflected her flashlight, but with a human look to its face. It was sitting on an up-ended oil drum in the back yard next door, its hands resting on the edges of the drum with its arms straight, pushing its shoulders up. As she shone her flashlight on it, it just kept sitting there, so she went back into her house. That was in September, 1967.

An incident near Fort Bragg, California, in Feb. 1962, involved a great deal more action, but again no harm to anyone. Here is how Bud Jenkins, one of the men involved, told the story in a taped interview made by Chuck Edmonds, of Ashland, Oregon, a short time after the event:

My brother-in-law heard the dogs barking and he got up and went out to see what they were barking about. We have a fence between the house and the barnyard made of six-foot pickets and he saw something standing by that fence looking over the fence towards the dogs, which he thought was a

bear, and he came back in and woke me up and told me to come out and he would show me the largest bear I would ever see. It was standing upright.

I got up and went out with him and we didn't see it, so I said, "Well, wait a minute and I'll go in the house and get a flashlight and a gun."

So I came back in the house and my brother-in-law walked to the other side of the house then, to look back in the back yard, and as he stepped out from the corner of the house to look back there this creature stepped over this little two-foot fence we have out here right towards him, and he let out a scream and stepped backwards and as he stepped backwards he fell, so he came into the house on his hands and knees going like mad.

My wife was at this time holding the screen door open for him to come in. I heard the commotion and I ran to the inside door which we have here before you step onto the porch, and as he came through the door I saw this large creature going by the window, but I could see neither its lower body nor its head, all I could see was the upper part of its body through the window there.

When he came in my wife tried to close the door and they got it within about two to four inches of closing and they couldn't close it. Something was holding it open. My wife hollered at me and said, "Hurry and get the gun, it's coming through the door!"

Of course by that time I was standing right behind her here in this door leading onto the porch, and I said, "Well, let it through and I'll get it."

At that time the pressure went off the door and she pushed the door to and threw the lock on it, and I walked to the window and put my hand up to the window and looked out, so that I could see out into the yard, because it was still dark, and it was raining, and this creature was standing upright, and I would judge it to be about eight feet tall and it walked away from the house, back out to this little fence we have, and stepped over the little fence and walked past my car and out towards the main road . . .

I would judge it to weigh about 400 pounds and it walked upright at all times that I saw. It never went down on all fours at all, it stayed upright, and it had a very bad odor. The odor lingered on here for minutes after the creature was gone. And it left a hand print there by the door on the side of the house which was eleven and a half inches from the base

of the palm to the end of the finger. It didn't act harmful really. It acted more curious than harmful, but it certainly gave us quite a start . . .

It was twenty minutes before my brother-in-law could hold a cup of coffee in his hand steady enough to drink it. Of course he stepped right to the creature and met it right face to face.

Frightening though the experience had been, the brother-in-law, Robert Hatfield, agreed that the creature's attitude was one of curiosity, not menace. Sometimes they don't even seem to be curious. Mrs. Louise Baxter, of Skamania, Washington, had already had one look at a sasquatch in November, 1969, when a dark grey, shaggy biped, "very very big", walked across the Lewis and Clark Highway near North Bonneville, Washington, in front of her car at 10 o'clock at night. The following August she was driving on the same highway in the evening when she heard a noise that made her think she might have a flat tire. It was still daylight, so she pulled off the road and got out to have a look. Here is her story of what happened after that:

I kicked the tire, which was okay, and then bent over to see if possibly something was stuck under the fender to make the noise.

I suddenly felt as if I was being watched and without straightening up I looked towards the wooded area beside the road and looked straight into the face of the biggest creature I have ever seen except the one the time nearly a year before.

The creature was coconut brown and shaggy and dirty looking. It had one huge fist up to its mouth. The mouth was partly open and I saw a row of large square white teeth. The head was big and seemed to set right onto the shoulders. The ears were not visible due to the long hair about the head. It seemed the hair was about two inches long on its head.

It had a jutted chin and receding forehead. The nose and upper lip were less hairy and the nose was wide with big nostrils.

The eyes were the most outstanding as they were amber color and seemed to glow like an animal's eyes at night when car lights catch them.

It seemed contented there and seemed to be eating as the left fist was up toward the mouth as though it had something in it.

I screamed or hollered but whether I made any noise I can't tell I was so terrified. I know it didn't move while I looked. I don't remember how I got back in the car or how I

started it. As I pulled out I could see it still standing there, all 10 or 12 feet of him.

In the usual order of things such incidents are not reported to the police, or if someone does call them there is nothing for them to see when they get there. In the fall of 1975, however, there was an incident with a different twist. It was a policeman, answering a call about a prowler, who told of encountering the sasquatch.

The man concerned was the sergeant of the police force on an Indian reserve in Washington. Throughout the early part of October he and other officers had answered several calls concerning some creature that made loud noises in the vicinity of houses, and there had been four reports of hairy bipeds being seen. On one occasion the captain of the police force had shot with his revolver at an animal he saw in the bush beside a field that appeared to be about six feet tall and hair-covered. The descriptions given indicated that more than one creature was being seen, although not more than one at a time.

On October 23, at 7:30 p.m., the sergeant was called to a house where something had been heard pounding on the back wall. The woman who lived there had gone next door to her son's home, and there was no prowler in sight, but something had apparently torn some plastic that covered a back doorway and there was a broken window. At 2:20 a.m. the same night something was again reported behind the house, and when the sergeant arrived, along with several other people, their spotlight quickly picked up what looked like a very large ape standing in the back yard. While someone else held the light on it, the sergeant walked up to within 35 feet of the animal, which crouched down but made no attempt to run. There they stayed, for "many minutes", while the sergeant wondered what to do next. He had a shotgun loaded with buckshot, but he was not sure if the thing was some kind of human, and if it wasn't, he was not sure how much buckshot it could take. He noted afterwards in his report that it was black in color, would stand about seven to eight feet tall and appeared to have no neck. It was covered with short hair, except on the face. He could see no ears. The eyes were small. It appeared to have four teeth larger than the others, two upper and two lower. Its nose was flat. He could see the nostrils. By that time there were seven people there, all of whom could see the thing, although only two others had approached close to it. Then there were noises heard off in the dark on both sides, and the man with the spotlight swung it off to the right and called that there was "another one over there." At that point the sergeant decided to return to his patrol car.