

#### "WAR STORIES"

BRANCHING NARRATIVE SPEC SCRIPT SAMPLE

WRITTEN BY ASCOT SMITH

BASED ON FABLES# 28

DIR: Bigby stands under a street lamp as he talks on a payphone. He keeps his eyes on a nearby alleyway.

BIGBY: Our witness is late, Snow. This smells like a setup.

SNOW: This is our only lead on the Cinderella murder. Don't tell me the Big Bad Wolf is scared.

### **CHOICES:**

- 1. Ha, me scared?
- 2. Just a little lonely without my partner.
- 3. Knock it off, Snow.
- 4. Silence

### 1. Ha, me scared?

BIGBY: Ha, me scared? Nothing out here I can't handle. SNOW: Even a house of bricks? BIGBY: Heh. Even a house of bricks.

# [TO MAIN PATH]

### 2. Just a little lonely without my partner.

BIGBY: It's just a little lonely without my partner. It's cold out tonight.

SNOW: ... Bigby, you know things are complicated right now. We really need to focus on this case.

BIGBY: Right. I know.

# [TO MAIN PATH]

# 3. Knock it off, Snow.

BIGBY: Knock it off, Snow. I've got a bad feeling about this meet up. SNOW: Sorry, Bigby. Be careful. Report back if our witness shows up. [TO MAIN PATH]

# 4. Silence

SNOW: Hello? Are you still there?

BIGBY: Sorry, I caught a scent of something familiar in the air. I better get back. I need to keep an eye out for our witness. SNOW: Be careful, Bigby.

# [TO MAIN PATH]

# [MAIN PATH]

DIR: A scream is heard in the distance.
BIGBY: Gotta run!
SNOW: Bigby!
DIR: Bigby runs toward the alley. He turns a corner and finds the source of the screaming: a small birdcage covered with a sheet. Bigby pulls back the sheet.
BIGBY: Frankie?
DIR: Bigby finds Frankenstein's animated head sitting in the cage.
FRANKIE: I'm sorry, Bigby.

### **CHOICES:**

1. Sorry about what?

- 2. Who did this to you, Frankie?
- 3. Where is your body?
- 4. Silence

### **1. Sorry about what?**

BIGBY: Sorry about what? FRANKIE: I didn't have a choice; he offered me a new body. I couldn't say no. [TO MAIN PATH]

### 2. Who did this to you, Frankie?

BIGBY: Who did this to you, Frankie?FRANKIE: You have to forgive me, Bigby. He offered me a new body.BIGBY: Who, Frankie?FRANKIE: Look behind you.[TO MAIN PATH]

### 3. Where is your body?

BIGBY: Where is your body? FRANKIE: I'm getting a new one. I won't need to hide in the shadows anymore. I'll going to be young and handsome soon. [TO MAIN PATH]

#### 4. Silence

DIR: Bigby smells Frankie. BIGBY: You don't smell like yourself, Frankie. What's going on here? [TO MAIN PATH]

### [MAIN PATH]

FRANKIE: I'm sorry, Bigby. I really am. DIR: A figure holding a gun emerges from the shadows. Bigby turns and faces the gunman.

### **CHOICES:**

- 1. Give me your best shot.
- 2. Don't do it.
- 3. [Attack]
- 4. Silence

#### 1. Give me your best shot.

BIGBY: Give me your best shot, Punk! Nothing I can't handle. [TO MAIN PATH]

### 2. Don't do it.

BIGBY: I wouldn't pull that trigger. You don't want this kinda trouble. **[TO MAIN PATH]** 

### 3. Attack

DIR: Bigby lunges at the attacker. **[TO MAIN PATH]** 

### 4. Silence

DIR: Bigby snarls at the shooter. **[TO MAIN PATH]** 

### [MAIN PATH]

DIR: Bigby is shot multiple times in the chest and falls to the ground. MAN IN THE SHADOWS: Be afraid, Mr. Wolf. Silver bullets. Special delivery from the Dog Company.

DIR: The man tosses a cloth patch onto Bigby's chest and runs off. Bigby holds the patch as he begins to black out. We see that the patch includes the text "Dog Company: 605<sup>th</sup> Brigade" sewn across an image of a dog. The image fades to a newer-looking version of the patch attached to the uniform of a World War II solider. A group of soldiers stand around a map of Germany in a dark bunker. We hear an explosion outside that shakes the bunker.

LIEUTENANT RONALD LEVINE: Listen up Dog Company; you unlucky bastards have been cherry-picked for a special mission -Operation Chambermaid.

DIR: A grimacing Staff Sergeant Michael Supinksi spits into a can. LT RONALD LEVINE: We will be entering the Führer's backyard to locate and destroy a Nazi weapons base. A mission expert will guide us through the woods to our target. Mr. Wolf?

DIR: Bigby enters from the shadows wearing a white tuxedo, a la Casablanca, slicked-back hair, and smoking a cigarette.

BIGBY: Ron, it's nice to see you again.

DIR: Sergeant Michael Supinksi spits again.

SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Who's this playboy? I sure as hell don't need lessons picking up girls.

PRIVATE CUTTER: Not as long as you've got Five-Fingered Mary. Right, Supinksi?

DIR: The group breaks out laughing.

SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Eat shit, Cutter. I ain't joking around. Why should we trust you, Wolf boy?

### **CHOICES:**

- 1. Fuck off.
- 2. I'm here to help.
- 3. Listen to your commander, kid.
- 4. Silence

### 1. Fuck off.

DIR: Bigby takes a drag from his cigarette and the blows the smoke into Supinksi's face.

BIGBY: Fuck off, Sergeant.

DIR: Sergeant Supinksi tries to punch Bigby; a few of his officers hold him back.

# [TO MAIN PATH]

# 2. I'm here to help.

BIGBY: I'm here to help. I want the same thing you do, to win the war and go home. SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Sure, Wolf Boy. [TO MAIN PATH]

## 3. Listen to your commander, kid.

BIGBY: Listen to your lieutenant, kid. I don't think he'd approve of his guest being treated so poorly.

SERGEANT SUPINKSIL: You didn't answer my question, Pal. **[TO MAIN PATH]** 

# 4. Silence

SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Got nothing to say, Slick? BIGBY: Got nothing to prove, Roughneck. SERGEANT SUPINKSI: What'd you say? [TO MAIN PATH]

# [MAIN PATH]

LT RONALD LEVINE: That's enough. I'm vouching for Mr. Wolf and that's all you need to understand. Dog Company, grab your gear and head out.

DIR: The scene fades to night and we see Bigby leading a group of American soldiers through a thick forest.

SERGEANT HARP: Why's this place so important, Lieutenant? LT RONALD LEVINE: The official answer is: you don't need to know, Sergeant. The real answer is: we're not entirely sure. According to your intelligence boys, the Nazis have got a secret-weapons-

development going on. We're here to throw a monkey wrench into their schemes.

BIGBY: Wait.

DIR: Bigby senses something and raises his fist. The soldiers stop in

their tracks.

PRIVATE ZILMER: It scares the frothy piss outta me when he does that.

SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Shut it, Private.

DIR: The forest becomes eerily quiet and then the noise of trucks and stomping boots goes by. The forest sounds returns to normal.

PRIVATE ZILMER: How does he do that?

BIGBY: Something is up ahead. Let me check it out.

LT RONALD LEVINE: Men, hold positions.

DIR: Bigby swiftly moves through the forest toward a moaning sound. He closes in, pushes the brush aside to discover a Nazi solider who's missing an arm. A bloodied wrap covers his shoulder. Bigby recognizes the solider.

BIGBY: Hansel?

HANSEL: I'm unarmed! Please don't shoot. Please don't kill me!

BIGBY: Hansel, it's me, Bigby Wolf. Calm down, I'm not going to kill you.

HANSEL: Wolf? It's a relief to see another Fable.

BIGBY: What are you doing in that Nazi outfit?

HANSEL: Germany is my homeland as you know, but no, I am not a Nazi.

BIGBY: Then what the hell are you doing?

HANSEL: I have no choice...Those scums have Gretel.

# **CHOICES:**

- 1. Where is your arm?
- 2. Why are you here?
- 3. Where is Gretel?
- 4. Silence

### **1. Where is your arm?**

BIGBY: What happened to your arm? HANSEL: It was ripped off. BIGBY: Tripped a mine? HANSEL: It was ripped from the socket and used to kill the rest of the men.

BIGBY: Holy hell, Hansel!

# [TO MAIN PATH]

#### 2. Why are you here?

BIGBY: What are you doing here?

HANSEL: I was part of platoon sent to capture a monster that roams these woods. Part of my deal with those bastards to save Gretel.

## [TO MAIN PATH]

### 3. Where is Gretel?

BIGBY: Where is Gretel?

HANSEL: Nazis have her hostage in a castle nearby. I just needed to capture a monster that roams these woods. I was hoping this would be my last mission for those bastards.

### [TO MAIN PATH]

#### 4. Silence

HANSEL: You need to be careful out here.

BIGBY: It's war, Hansel. Not my first, either.

HANSEL: Not like this, there is a monster out here. It killed the other men...

### [TO MAIN PATH]

### [MAIN PATH]

BIGBY: Who is this monster? Another Fable?
HANSEL: Not exactly. Nazis have started capturing fables,
experimenting on them, trying to turn them into weapons. I need your help, Bigby. This thing-DIR: Bigby perks up; something has attention.
BIGBY: Wait. You need to hide, now.
DIR: Bigby helps Hansel up from the ground
HANSEL: Where am I supposed to go?
BIGBY: We can talk about that later, I need you to-LT RONALD LEVINE: What the hell is going on here?
The rest of the Dog Company emerges from the woods, pointing their rifles at Bigby. Supinksi cocks his rifle.
SERGEANT SUPINKSI: Looks like The Dog Company needs to put down the big bad wolf.