

Red Caps

radio scratch

Edmonia: Ah, there you go, it seems you have found the right frequency. Congrats on correctly identifying that catchy tune!

You're listening to ZBTR 606AM. My name is Edmonia Rivers, and I'm a junior researcher here at the Bermuda Triangle Research Repository, home of Academics Anonymous. I am completing my thesis on cryptids and their impact on world cultures, and one of my requirements is using this network to inform our academics across time and space of any interesting information I dig up.

So far this semester we've talked about Skinwalkers, Mothman, Fart Runes, Ozark Howlers, the Loveland Frogman, the Headless Horseman, Nisses, the Lizard Man of Scape Orr Swamp, Snipes, and of course Sasquatch. Today is my last episode for the semester. The end of this season, if you will. Tomorrow I finally leave The Repository to go visit my family for a break, and let me tell you, I cannot wait to eat some fast food and go to the movies. It's the little things in life, you know?

caw

You're staying here, Lenore.

caw caw

You're not allowed to leave the triangle and you know it! Don't even *think* about trying to sneak into my luggage. You would suffocate.

caw

I know. I'm going to miss you too. I'll be back though! I've only finished the first rough draft of this thesis. Professor Russo told me that I need to take a break to keep my mind sharp, to remember why I got into this field to begin with. And I plan on hosting this radio show again, too. I think I'm starting to like it, actually. What do you say, Lenore? Will you keep being my co-host?

caw caw

Good bird.

Before I head out to finish packing and track down Ms. Earhart at the airfield, I wanted to share a letter from Agent Cook that I found at the end of the compendium we've been reading excerpts from. At first I thought it was about the Headless Horseman again, but it turned out to be something else entirely. "My Fellow Cryptozoologists," he writes.

Excerpt: "I was wandering along Scotland's southern border in search of the ghost purported to be one of the sources of the Headless Horseman legend, when I learned of the creature known as the Red Cap. Some folks believe every tower and castle in the region was assigned a redcap as a guardian, while others believe that the redcaps were born of bloodshed, and appeared after fighting began in the area. Either way, the small, iron-booted creatures have decidedly made the ruins their homes.

The Red Cap is typically described as a cross between a dwarf and a goblin, and often mistaken as such until their bloodthirsty nature comes to light. Resembling very short, stocky old men with lengthy beards, the Red Cap also possesses long teeth, red eyes, and extended fingers ending in talons. Recognizable by their heavy iron boots, long pikes, and signature blood-red hat, you might think they'd be easy to avoid. Unfortunately for their victims, redcaps are extremely dextrous and also prefer to launch their attacks in dark, enclosed spaces where they can ambush their prey. It is widely hypothesized that redcaps will die if their blood-covered hats ever completely dry out.

In my singular experience with them, I was extremely lucky to escape with my life. My guide, James, was not so lucky as I. We had stopped at a set of ruins for the evening, hoping to get a glimpse of the ghost for which we had been searching for weeks. The night was peaceful, but in the pre-dawn light we took a walk along the battlements and finished with an exploration of the site. As we were returning to camp, I heard a loud shout, and coming out of the ruined keep were two or three small men with bright red hats on their heads, brandishing spears and stomping about rather too quietly for my liking in what looked to be heavy iron boots. I grabbed my backpack and fled as if my life depended on it. As a longtime student of the magical and mythical, I know better than to stick around when a magical creature perceives you trespassing on their land. I ran the whole of the day until I reached a village and not once did I have the courage to look back. It wasn't until that evening in the local tavern that I asked the bartender if he'd ever seen such a thing and he told me all about the creature's known as Redcaps.

I hope to God that I never set eyes on one of those again.”

Edmonia: Maybe Agent Cook will find an actual Headless Horseman next time. Or a ghost! Wouldn't that be cool? I'll have to keep an eye out in case Volume 13 pops up sometime soon.

DING

[AIRS JANUARY 17TH]

Edmonia: Well, that sound means we're at the end of our show! Time for my last announcements of the semester:

- Be on the lookout for Mermaids as Valentine's Day approaches. It's likely their close cousins, the Sirens, determined to drag would be lovers to a watery grave.
- The Lunar New Year is on February 1st this year, so be sure to sweep out your home in order to make space for the new year's new possibilities. Goodbye year of the Ox, hello year of the Tiger!

Aside: Lenore, how would you feel about being a tiger? Maybe a panther?

- The technical team wants me to let you know that they've revamped the website to include a listing of all the episodes this season, complete with transcripts! You can check it out for yourself at Academics-Anonymous.com

Edmonia: Thanks for tuning in. I'll catch you all next season here on ZBTR 606AM, Academics Anonymous Radio, at the Bermuda Triangle Research Repository. Stay safe and stay curious!

knocking on door

Dorothea: Edmonia, have you finished packing yet? Amelia wants to head out so you can beat the storm.

outro plays