

EYES IN THE WOODS | NUMERA FILMS

EPISODE BREAKDOWN | DEVELOPMENT VERSION

# EYES IN THE WOODS

**WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON** | *Eyes in the Woods* is a complicated mystery full of supernatural elements and twists. For the purpose of clarity and better understanding the written words of what is an incredibly visual story, what follows is a brief summary of the mystery Sam is trying to uncover throughout *Eyes in the Woods*.

About 30 years ago, an alien, in the form of a large furry monster with two glowing eyes, landed on earth in the hopes of making contact with humanity. When trying to impart its gift of unlimited power to the world, it's imprisoned by cult founders who decide to harness its power for their own personal use. In an effort to escape, the monster sends out a part of its soul into the woods and attaches it to a fellow lost or lonely soul with the intention of directing the attendee back to it. Everytime anyone tries to save the monster, however, they are met with the cult founders who indoctrinate them with promises of a life free from worry and severs their connection to the outside world. The cult continues to intercept anyone bound to the monster and has used this opportunity to slowly recruit members of the surrounding area to join their woodland commune.

**EPISODE 1** | Sisters Samantha and Brooklyn are driven off to their family cabin in the woods. Their parents are keen on having a private weekend and leave the kids to their own devices under the watchful eyes of park rangers Norton and Octavia. Norton less so, Octavia more so. When Brooklyn's girlfriend Natasha comes over, Sam makes a quick exit to avoid feeling like a third wheel. On her evening photography trip, she stumbles across a pair of mysterious glowing eyes in the woods. Still in shock, Sam also runs into Octavia out in the wilderness.

At the rangers station, Octavia takes Sam's photo of the eyes into evidence. She urges the dismissal the eyes and more consideration for dangerous, night time excursions into the woods. Samantha feels alone in her concerns, but then she finds a strange pin depicting a U.F.O. abducting a cow. Sam might not be the only one interested in things beyond human understanding.

**EPISODE 2** | Brooklyn comes to Sam's bed that night and shares her worries about coming out to their parents. Sam gets to work marking the details of her findings in tandem with a map of the surrounding forest, trying to piece together what she saw. The breakfast is interrupted by

Octavia and Norton, who inform the girls of a missing person, Jimmy Blackson. Thus, more information is added to Sam's homemade detective wall. This comes with more threats from Octavia, suggesting the girls stay put.

Brooklyn, not a fan of being ordered around, suggests they take the missing persons case into their own hands and head to the Blackson residence. There's no evidence of a struggle, a break in or Jimmy himself. However, the girls find an open letter on the kitchen table with a strange squid symbol inside. It also has a perfectly circular hole missing from its center.

**EPISODE 3** | Brooklyn and Samantha return to their cabin, only to find Norton waiting for them. They pry out some more information about the missing folks in the surrounding area and learn that Jimmy wasn't the only one. Norton is canvassing the residents and Sam asks to tag along. The pair visit house after to house, finding some of them to be abandoned. One resident lets them know that the only thing they found after a friend of theirs disappeared was a strange letter, with the image of a squid on it.

Brooklyn and Natasha talk about what life might look like for them after they graduate. Natasha explains that according to her mother, Octavia, the dwindling visitors is a sign of the times and that she expects to move out of the area soon. She suggests moving closer to Brooklyn.

At the ranger station, Octavia again takes the letter in as evidence and warns to leave any other evidence untouched. Luckily, Sam, with the help of Norton, manages to sneak a photocopy of the image. Sam takes her newly gathered evidence and updates her board with the new clues.

**EPISODE 4** | Sam is struggling to find a pattern, and doesn't get any further after Brooklyn jumps in to assist. Sam opts to hide her investigation from Natasha, who's on her way over, but Brooklyn doesn't see a reason to. The sisters come up with a theory that people are sent a letter telling them to leave, forcibly or otherwise. Sam and Brooklyn head to the source of all letters in the area; the post office.

The lady at the post office, Gerda, informs the girls that since the letters aren't given return addresses, the post office doesn't send them out. When they return to the cabin, they find the door inexplicably unlocked. Inside the cabin, everything looks untouched, except for a white letter left on their kitchen table. Brooklyn goes to pick it up, when Sam reminds her Octavia said to refrain from touching any more of the letters. Undeterred, Brooklyn opens it anyways to find a motel key inside for Room 32.

**EPISODE 5** | At the local motel, the front person informs the sisters that Room 32 is a room reserved permanently by the local administration. In fact, someone just requested a key for the same room a few hours earlier. Inside Room 32, there's a small office area covered in images of the squid drawing in a place of the normal motel room furnishings. Even more surprising, they find Natasha working away in the room. Natasha reveals that she's been using Octavia's information to book this room in secret. She's been poking her nose around in similar places;

the key difference being that she hasn't encountered any eyes in the woods. Sam laments that none of what they've found seems to have anything to do with her monster. The evidence Natasha presents paints the whole scenario as a more grounded string of kidnappings, just without any motives. She believes the letters are a sort of calling card.

Sam returns to the forest where she originally found the monster. After searching, she finds the evidence of a monster almost entirely erased. No footprints. No broken branches. Only one piece of evidence seems to confirm that what she had witnessed was real; a clump of hair.

**EPISODE 6** | Sam presents her evidence and shares her board with Natasha, who is revealed to be the owner of the mysterious U.F.O. pin Sam found earlier. Brooklyn takes note of Sam and Natasha's similarities and propensity to become fast friends. Natasha recommends they take this evidence out to her friend, Rodger, who lives in the forest. Rodger turns out to be a somewhat crazy hermit who rambles about aliens, unlimited power, and his story of a monster that lives in the woods. When they show him an image of the squid, Rodger suddenly becomes hysterical and forces them to leave.

Rodger's story about the monster seems a bit far-fetched, but the group returns to the cabin to assess the evidence. Natasha shares the she stole the original polaroid of the monster from evidence and returns it to Sam, and upon careful examination, they determine that the two eyes look like they're floating among the trees.

**EPISODE 7** | Sam is convinced that Rodger was lying for a reason, so they rush back to his house in the woods. On their way out, they see the two eyes emerge from the woods in the dark of night. The eyes seem to glide silently through the trees and slowly disappear, but not before Sam takes another careful photo. These "eyes" seem a little different; they're not as bright and aren't as large. Reaching Rodger's house suddenly becomes much more urgent.

Rodger is missing. His door has been opened, but his things are untouched. Natasha looks around for a letter, but doesn't find one. Sam has a new hypothesis. If there are two "eyes" in woods, one might be the cryptid and the other is its victim. Whoever is leaving the letters behind is leaving them to protect the monster by throwing off any investigators and allowing it to continue to roam the woods. They lay in wait for someone to deliver the letter. Their hunch is right and the letter arrives, but in the hands of park ranger Octavia. Sam urges Natasha to remain hidden until they know more about what's going on.

**EPISODE 8** | Samantha and Natasha work together to develop the roll of photos, including the image of the alleged cryptid. They head to the ranger station to share the images with Norton. They discover that the smaller, dimmer eyes belonged to Rodger. Based on the evidence, it looks as though the missing people are getting possessed and are willingly leaving their homes abandoned. They start to piece information together, but everything feels too complicated and jumbled. Octavia is now missing, and they have no leads on where to find her. Sam recalls what Octavia said to her when she first showed her the polaroid, "it's just some eyes in the woods".

Using information gathered from the disappearances Sam literally connects the dots on her map to find that the paths from the missing person's residences to recorded sightings of eyes in the woods all point towards a single location, deep within the woods. Warily, the group heads into the woods while Norton secures backup. Natasha grapples with the revelations about her mother.

After sometime, they come across a pair of glowing eyes in the woods; the large, luminescent and disembodied eyes that Sam first encountered. The girls remain at distance, and the eyes slowly fade from view. Brooklyn's eyes then begin to glow with a pale light, just like Rodger's eyes did in the photo. She looks sad and confused, and slowly heads deeper into the woods. Natasha and Samantha rush after her, no receiving any response from their calls.

**EPISODE 9** | Brooklyn leads them towards a secluded group of strange buildings nestled in the woods. It seems to be full of people living completely normal lives. Almost immediately, they begin recognizing the faces of missing people among this gathering, only they don't seem to care or understand that they went missing. When approached, they only speak about being grateful for everything they have in their new life here.

Natasha notices her mom and follows her into a nearby building. She overhears a conversation between her mother and some members of the presumed cult. They discuss ways of indoctrinating Natasha, but it mentioned that "creating a tear in her relationship will make the eyes more likely to collect her."

Octavia then exits the building and discovers Natasha; but the park ranger avoids eye contact and walks the opposite direction of her confused daughter.

Brooklyn, with her eyes glowing, enters a building that Samantha is unable to enter. Sam diverts to find Natasha. Inside, she is strapped down to a chair and seated in front of some cult members. They describe a life without worry, so long as Brooklyn can adhere to their rules. At this offer, Brooklyn seemingly passes through her bindings and leaves the cultists running from the room.

**EPISODE 10** | Sam and Natasha regroup and procur some cult outfits to fit in with the other members. They see cultists rushing out of the building Brooklyn entered and sneak in themselves to find out what's going on.

Inside, they find Brooklyn, talking about a monster that needs to be saved. She explains that it's been bringing people here to help in the monster's escape, but they usually only choose to help themselves. Determined to not follow the path of the rest of the cult, the group makes their choice and sinks into a strange room where Brooklyn knows the monster is being held. The group frees the monster, and it escapes into the forest.

Norton and his “backup” arrive to sort out the cult members, and the kids return to the ranger station to await pickup from their parents. Octavia is placed under arrest and Brooklyn’s parents offer to take Natasha home with them until things get sorted out. Natasha agrees, and Brooklyn is inspired to tell her parents the truth about who she is.