



Script for Episode 1

THE HOLLOW - EPISODE 1 ("THE SCHOOLTEACHER")

INTRO:

MS. QUISENBERRY

Every town has its ghosts, but in Sleepy Hollow, as Halloween draws near, the wall between the land of the living and the dead comes down. That's when he rides again - the ghost of the Headless Horseman...

Gen-Z Media presents, *The Hollow*, an eight-part audio adventure inspired by Washington Irving's timeless Halloween tale, in honor of its 200th anniversary.

Episode 1 - The School Teacher

101-1 INT. LITTLE JILL'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Little Jill is eager to hear her favorite bedtime story from her dad (MICHAEL) and her mom (KATE).

LITTLE JILL

(delighted)

Tell the story it again, Daddy!

KATE

(laughing)

Don't scare her, Michael.

MICHAEL

(laughing)

It's okay, Kate. Jill loves to be scared. Don't you, Jilly?

LITTLE JILL

Horseman! Horseman! Horseman!

We hear the SFX sounds accompanying the storytelling:

MICHAEL

(chuckles)

Okay...It was a dark and gloomy Halloween night long ago right here in Sleepy Hollow. The moon was full, the wind was howling and so were the wolves...

Wolves howl: AWOOO!!!!

LITTLE JILL

And that's when the Horseman came riding, right, Daddy?

MICHAEL

Don't rush the story, Jilly. First we have to meet the tall, fussy Ichabod Crane, the new schoolteacher who fell in love with Katrina...

We hear Ichabod Crane, the character in the story.

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

Katrina van Tassel, I, Ichabod Crane, worship the ground you walk on...

KATE

And don't forget that braggart Brom Bones, who loved her too and decided to teach ol' Ichabod Crane a lesson...

COACH BONES (BROM BONES)

Ichabod Crane, you'll be sorry you ever cast an eye on my Katrina!

LITTLE JILL

Tell about the Horseman!

MICHAEL

Okay, here we go. Ichabod Crane was walking home that Halloween night, when he suddenly smelled fire and brimstone...

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

What is that smell? And the sound...?

We hear the CLOP CLOP CLOP of a GALLOPING HORSE.

LITTLE JILL

(excited)

Clip clop clip clop clip clop!

MICHAEL

Yes, it was the clip clop clip clop of a horse and a rider.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But it was no ordinary horse and no ordinary rider. For they galloped as if on the wings of the wind.

LITTLE JILL

Here he comes! Here he comes!

MICHAEL

They say he was searching for his lost head...removed by a cannonball in the Revolutionary War. The hoofbeats grew louder...

The HOOFBEATS grow louder...

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

Oh, dear me!

LITTLE JILL

Here he comes! Here he comes!

MICHAEL

Poor Ichabod picked up the pace.

Ichabod runs, HUFFING and PUFFING.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But suddenly, from out of the darkness appeared...the horseman! With a pumpkin where his head should be!

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

Help! Help me!

Ichabod SCREAMS. SFX sounds grow louder.

KATE

Poor Ichabod! If he could just make it across the bridge, he would be safe!

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

(still panting)

The bridge! I must make it to the bridge!

MICHAEL

But there would be no safety that night. For when the Horseman reached the bridge...he removed the pumpkin from atop his neck as if to hurl it at Ichabod...

LITTLE JILL

And then?!

MICHAEL

The pumpkin instantly burst into flames of every color.

LITTLE JILL

And then?!

MICHAEL

And then...

MR. CRANE (ICHABOD)

Aaaaahhhhh!

The THEME MUSIC SOARS, when it's interrupted by the jarring sound of an ALARM CLOCK, as we SMASH TO:

101-2 INT. JILL'S HOUSE. DAY.

It's a crisp September morning in Sleepy Hollow, and Little Jill is now JILLIAN MATHERS, 12 going on 13.

KATE

(calling out)

Jillian! Time to wake up for -
Jill?

Jill calls out from the bathroom.

JILL

(brushing her teeth)

In the bathroom, Mom.

KATE

You're up already. Guess I shouldn't be surprised.

Jill rinses, SPITS.

JILL

(rinses, spits, then)

Been up for 45 minutes. You think I want to be late to my first day of middle school?

KATE

My little Jilly is about to enter Sleepy Hollow Middle!

JILL

Yeah. Mom, do me a favor, okay?

KATE

You want me to walk you to your home room?

JILL

Um, no. I was actually going to say -

KATE

I know. I'm kidding. You don't want everyone to know your mom is the guidance counselor. Don't worry, I'll pretend I don't know you.
(pretends to be clueless)
"Jillian Mathers? Does she go here?"

JILL

We don't have to be strangers. Just maybe no big hugs.

KATE

No hugs. Got it. You're going to do gangbusters, Jilly.
(beat)
I'll finish making your breakfast.

JILL

(worried)
Mom...

KATE

What is it?

JILL

The stories about Sleepy Hollow Middle?

KATE

You mean 6th graders getting stuffed into lockers? Not true. The lockers are too small to fit a human.

JILL

No, the other stories. The ones dad used to tell. About how it was built on the old Revolutionary War cemetery. How the basement archives house secrets about the dead, and -

KATE
Are you asking if Sleepy Hollow
Middle School is haunted by the
ghost of the headless horseman?

JILL
(terrified)
Is it?

KATE
(relaxed)
Eh, probably not. How about some
waffles?

101-3 INT./EXT. VAN BUREN FARMHOUSE - DAY.

JACK VAN BUREN, the same age as Jill, practical about the
ways of the world - and ghosts, walks into the kitchen.

MRS. VAN BUREN
Morning, Jack. You should get
dressed for school.

JACK
I am dressed, Mom.

MRS. VAN BUREN
These are your school clothes?

JACK
What's wrong with them?

Mr. Van Buren calls from outside.

MR. VAN BUREN
(calling out)
Jack! Come outside, will you?

JACK
(calling out)
Coming, Dad!

He walks outside the door.

JACK (CONT'D)
What's going on, Dad? I really need
to get ready for -

Suddenly a HUGE, CACKLING WITCH DECORATION pops out.

JACK (CONT'D)
(stone faced)
Very scary.

MR. VAN BUREN

You like the new witch decoration?
I purchased a dozen of them for the
haunted hayride. You can rig them
up to spray mist, too.

JACK

Nice. Getting started on Halloween
even earlier this year, huh?

MR. VAN BUREN

It's the 200th anniversary of "The
Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Tourists
are going to be flocking to Van
Buren's Haunted Hollow. It's our
time to shine, Jacko.

JACK

And shine we will, Dad.

Jill arrives in the driveway.

JILL

(calling out)
Jack! We're gonna be late!

JACK

Jill's here. Gotta go.

MR. VAN BUREN

Okay, have a great first day, kid.

JACK

Thanks.

MR. VAN BUREN

Oh, and Jack...

He hits a button and the WITCH CACKLES again.

JACK

Later, Dad. Witch. See you after
school.

101-4 INT. SLEEPY HOLLOW INTERMEDIATE - HALLWAY. DAY.

Jack and Jill enter the school, surrounded by other students
arriving for school.

JILL

I don't know...middle school
doesn't seem that scary.

JACK
You sound disappointed.

JILL
No, I just -
(grunts as she bumps into a
large person)
Oh, sorry.

COACH BONES
Watch where you're - Hey, you're
Katie's daught- *Ms. Mathers'*
daughter.

JILL
Yeah...?

COACH BONES
I'm Coach Bones, phys ed. And JV
football. Tell your mom I said hi.

JILL
Okay...

He lumbers off.

JACK
That was weird.

JILL
I don't even want to know. Hey, at
lunch time, you want to check out
the archives room in the basement?

JACK
Why would I want to do that?

JILL
Rumor is it's haunted.

JACK
The only ghosts in Sleepy Hollow
are the battery operated ones on
our farm.

JILL
Don't you ever wonder if - ?

ADAM NELSON, a new kid with an imposing physique and an even
more impressive brain, comes up to them.

ADAM

'Scuse me. Do you two know where I
can find the guidance counselor,
Ms. Mathers?

JILL

Every night at my house.

ADAM

(confused)
Sorry, what?

JACK

Ms. Mathers is her mom.

ADAM

Oh.

JILL

Are you a new student teacher?

ADAM

Uh no, I'm in 6th grade.

JACK

You are? How tall are you?

ADAM

Kind of a personal question, don't
you think?

JILL

Sorry about that. I'm Jill. He's
Jack.

ADAM

Jack and Jill, huh?

JACK

Go ahead.

ADAM

Go ahead with what?

JACK

You don't want to make a joke?

ADAM

No.

JILL

No "Up a hill?" No "pail of water?"

ADAM

Uh, I'll pass.

JACK

Let me see your schedule. You're in Ms. Bradley's homeroom? So are we.

ADAM

Really?

(confidentially)

Do you know if she makes people speak in front of the class?

JACK

A little nervous?

ADAM

What, just because I'm big for my age means I can't be nervous about starting a new school in a new town? A school with...the headless horseman as its mascot?

JACK

All part of the charm.

JILL

What's your name?

ADAM

Adam. Adam Nelson.

JILL

Stick with us, Adam. And welcome to Sleepy Hollow.

101-5 INT. SLEEPY HOLLOW JUNIOR HIGH - CLASSROOM. DAY.

There's a buzz in the room, as the students wait for their teacher.

JILL

Where's Ms. Bradley? She's already five minutes late.

JACK

(amused)

If she doesn't show up soon, it's going to be a war zone in here.

ADAM

It is? Maybe something happened to her. Should we call Jill's mom? Or the principal?

JACK

Adam, it's cool.

Suddenly, there's a RUMBLE of THUNDER and the LIGHTS FLICKER.

ADAM

(nervous)

Is it me, or are the lights flickering?

JACK

Must be a storm.

JILL

It's not supposed to rain today. Ooh, they say that paranormal activity can cause a disruption in electrical signals!

ADAM

Paranormal...You mean like ghosts?

The lights GO OUT completely.

JACK

(still not nervous)

Well, there go the lights.

Another RUMBLE of thunder.

ADAM

(nervous)

What is happening? Do you really think it's para -

Loud THUNDER and then the door FLIES open. But to everyone's surprise it isn't Ms. Bradley who walks in. It's a tall, well-dressed figure. Confident and cool (maybe trying a little too hard to be cool?), this is MR. CRANE.

MR. CRANE

Awfully dark in here, class.

Another crash and then the lights go back on.

MR. CRANE (CONT'D)

Ah, that's better. Generator must've kicked in.

(humming to himself)

ADAM
(whispers)
Who's the guy in the manbun?

JACK
(whispers)
Looks like a yoga teacher.

JILL
(whispers)
I think that's what you call a
hipster.

Mr. Crane clears his throat.

MR. CRANE
Hello, Sleepy Hollow 6th graders.
As you can see, I am not Ms.
Bradley.

A HALF-HEARTED LAUGH ripples through the classroom.

ALL
(half-hearted laughter)

MR. CRANE
For reasons unknown, she informed
the district yesterday that she
would not be returning this year.
Luckily for all involved, I had
just moved to Sleepy Hollow, and
well...here I am.

Jack leans over to Jill.

JACK
(whispers)
Did your mom tell you we were
getting a replacement teacher?

JILL
I don't think she knew.

Mr. Crane writes on the squeaky WHITEBOARD.

MR. CRANE
My name is Mr. Crane. Ichabod
Crane.

ALL
(raucous laughter)

The classroom bursts out LAUGHING.

MR. CRANE

(loudly, over the laughs)
Yes, that's right. My mother loved a good ghost story. She also had a wicked sense of humor. Obviously.

JILL

Obviously.

MR. CRANE

Ms. Mathers?

JILL

You know my name?

MR. CRANE

I like to do my homework. Feel free to quiz me on your names, and what background you chose for your 5th grade yearbook photos.

JILL

That's okay.

MR. CRANE

I met your mother in the guidance office, by the way. Cool lady. She said I should make sure you sit up front. You know, so you don't miss out on any of my math learnin'.

JILL

I think I'm okay right here.

MR. CRANE

Your call. So tell me, Jillian, what is the difference between rational and irrational numbers?

JILL

Oh, well...I mean...Rational numbers are so...rational. And irrational numbers are...

MR. CRANE

Let me write the word "rational" on the board...

He turns around to write as he speaks. Adam whispers over Mr. Crane's explanation.

ADAM

(whispers)
Psst. Jill...here.

He slips her a piece of paper.

JILL
(whispers)
Adam?

ADAM
(whispers)
Read my note.

MR. CRANE
Now, does anyone see another word
inside the word "rational"?

JILL
(reading)
Um, a rational number is any number
that can be written as a ratio,
like A over B, where A and B are
integers, and B does not equal
zero.

MR. CRANE
Well done. Thanks to your friend,
Mr...

ADAM
Oh, uh...Nelson. Adam. My picture
wasn't in the yearbook. I'm new to
Sleepy Hollow.

MR. CRANE
As am I, Mr. Nelson. It's an
interesting place, but I can
already tell you'll do well. I can
see that you have a...solid head on
your shoulders.

The students laugh. The thunder RUMBLES.

101-6 INT. SLEEPY HOLLOW JUNIOR HIGH - CAFETERIA. DAY.

The school cafeteria is full of kids and teachers as Jack and Jill introduce Adam to the perils of the lunch line.

JACK
Take a tray, and stick to the
veggie burgers.

ADAM
You mean they don't serve eye of
toad and wolfsbane at Sleepy Hollow
Middle?

JILL
Only on Fridays.

From afar, Mr. Crane approaches Kate at her cafeteria table. The adults sound far away, as we hear the scene from the kids' perspective.

MR. CRANE
Mind if I join you, Ms. Mathers?

KATE
Have a seat, Mr. Crane.

JACK
Jill, don't look now, but our new teach just sat down next to your mom.

MR. CRANE
Call me Ick.

JILL
Mr. Crane?

KATE
(laughing)
Ick?
(a beat, as she sees his
reaction)
Really?

MR. CRANE
I know, I know. You'll get used to it.

JILL
(quietly)
Please tell me he's not flirting with my mom.

JACK
(quietly)
Not if Coach Bones has his say.
Look!

COACH BONES, burly and bold, nudges Mr. Crane aside.

COACH BONES
'Scuse me, Crane, that's my seat.

MR. CRANE
My bad. I didn't realize, Mr....

COACH BONES

Bones. Coach Bones.

JILL

Oh gross. It's bad enough she works at my school.

COACH BONES

Been sitting here ever since I joined the staff. Isn't that right, Katie?

KATE

There's plenty of room at the table, Coach.

JACK

(quietly)
He called your mom Katie.

JILL

(quietly)
She hates that.

ADAM

(quietly)
Your mom seems popular.

JILL

(groans, then quietly)
Ugh. Not gonna happen.

Jill heads over to talk to her mom as Adam and Jack's voices fade in the distance.

JACK

Jill, where are you going?

ADAM

Jack, is she going over there to-

JACK

(calling after her)
You don't want to do this, Jill.

Jill arrives at her mom's table.

JILL

Hello, Mom.

KATE

Jill, I'm keeping my distance like you asked.

JILL

It's fine. Hello, Mr. Crane. Coach Bones.

MR. CRANE

Hello, Jillian.

COACH BONES

Hey, kid.

KATE

How about that storm earlier? Good thing that generator kicked in, huh.

COACH BONES

That was more than a storm, Katie. Something in the air. You of all people must feel it, Crane?

MR. CRANE

Me? Why do you say that?

JILL

Are you talking about ghosts, Coach?

KATE

(warning)

Jill...

COACH BONES

I'm just saying, a man named Ichabod Crane should know better.

MR. CRANE

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is pure fiction. Even my mother knew that.

COACH BONES

Is it? 'Cause those of us who have lived here our whole lives - we know the history. The kind you won't find in a textbook. Don't say I didn't warn you. See ya' around, Katie.

Coach Bones stomps off.

MR. CRANE

I hope it wasn't something I said. I'm a numbers guy. Not a big fan of superstition and ghost stories.

JILL
I'll meet you after school, Mom.

Jill walks away.

KATE
(calling after her)
Jilly...

101-7 INT. JILL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jill is listening to music when there's a knock at her door.

JILL
Come in, Mom.

Kate pokes her head in.

KATE
I made ziti. Just heat it up when
you're ready for dinner.

JILL
You're going somewhere on a school
night?

KATE
I offered to give Ick - Mr. Crane -
a quick tour of Sleepy Hollow.

JILL
Mom, you're going out with my math
teacher?!

KATE
Not out out. He's a new member of
the staff. Just trying to be
welcoming. We're taking two cars.

JILL
Uh huh.

KATE
(teasing)
Don't you "uh huh" me. See you in
an hour or two.

We hear the door close as Kate heads out. We stay with Jill.

JILL
(to herself)
Fine. Then I'll just go visit Dad.

101-8 EXT. SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY. DAY.

It's a quiet night as Jill walks on soft ground. We don't yet know where she is.

JILL

Hey, Dad. It's me, Jill. Mom probably wouldn't be happy that I came to see you after dark, but then...she doesn't have to know, does she? Brought some fresh flowers for you. Picked them myself. I'll put them right here, right next to your headstone.

The wind rustles through the trees.

JILL (CONT'D)

The leaves are already starting to change. You always said it was nature's way of turning the page. It's different with people. I mean, I want Mom to be happy, but not with someone like Coach Bones or Mr. Crane. Remember how you used to tell me those ghost stories? About how around Halloween, the wall between the living and the dead comes down? It's still almost two months away. But I want it to be true. I want it to be true so bad. I miss you. Forever and a day.

Suddenly she hears a MUFFLED VOICE calling. Or is it just the wind?

MICHAEL

(whispered)

Forever and a day...

Jill looks around in disbelief.

JILL

Dad?

The MUFFLED VOICE sails on the wind again.

MICHAEL

(whispered)

Jill...

And now we hear...in the distance...HOOFBEATS?

JILL
(less sure)
Dad... is that...you?!

As the ground begins to shake...

END OF EPISODE