

Episode 10: My First Demon

Characters: Hazel, Julia, Addison, Valefar, & Auto

Sound Effects: Pen cap, Auto noises, books, footsteps, magic spells, phone hang up

Description: Desperate to get their life back, Addison resorts to extreme measures.

Content warning: Blood, self-harm, spontaneous combustion, bugs, accidental misgendering, references to kidnapping, human experimentation, emotional abuse, and lack of bodily autonomy.

Written by Brenna Anderson-Dowd in collaboration with Frederick Elmore and Taryn Baldwin. Performed by Brenna Anderson-Dowd as Hazel, Frederick Elmore as Julia and Valefar, and Taryn Baldwin as Addison. Sound design by Frederick Elmore. Music production by Kevin Elmore.

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INTRO: Kerfuffle and Chaos Productions presents Care and Feeding of Werewolves.

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MUSIC (1): THEME SONG

SCENE ONE: HAZEL AND ADDISON IN THE CLINIC

ADDISON: Hey, wanna sign my new arm?

HAZEL: Did you come down here just to try out that line? Sure, come here.

SOUND (2): [PEN CAP](#)

ADDISON: Am I crazy or this place is bigger on the inside? Like *Encanto*?

HAZEL: Less sentient so more like the TARDIS. As soon as I've figured out how, I'll let you know. Best I can figure is, it's a form of pocket dimension, but I have no idea how the entrance is anchored to our world. But that's not what you came to ask, is it?

ADDISON: Are you reading my mind?

HAZEL: Nope, I've just seen that expression on your face a lot. You'd be surprised to hear how many people come in for something like a cough but really they have a raging STI or an object stuck in an orifice.

ADDISON: Ew. (BEAT) About my mom, could you, like, use magic to convince her?

HAZEL: No, absolutely not. I will not take away someone's free will just so I can go poking around in their brain. If I did, how would that make me any different from Frankenstein?

ADDISON: Frankenstein?

HAZEL: It's what I've been calling the guy who did this to you since we don't know his name. That or "Frank."

ADDISON: So that makes me a monster?

HAZEL: No, Doctor Frankenstein was the monster. I'll get you the audiobook.

JULIA: (OFF MIC) We can watch *Young Frankenstein*.

HAZEL: (OFF MIC) Philistine! Boris Karloff is king!

JULIA: (OFF MIC) Gene Wilder is God!

ADDISON: Ok, so if I'm not a monster, then what am I?

HAZEL: A survivor. As for physically, I was waiting until you were ready to talk about it. This arm and your eye are from an Annis hag, a type of malevolent fey. This arm's probably from a verrier demon, but I can't be certain until I can get a tissue sample to compare. I'm afraid I don't know what kind this one is. Normally I'd be able to sense the type of magic inherent in a species, but what trace amounts there are of the original are overwhelmed by your own and the spells that keep you from rejecting the additions.

ADDISON: I have magic? Can I learn to use it?

HAZEL: Uh yeah, I don't see why not. I've never taught anybody before, though, so I can't promise it'll be easy, especially since it will involve some reading unless we could somehow translate some of the books into audio...

ADDISON: So, these are all spellbooks?

HAZEL: Some yeah, some are anatomy books, which you might wanna take a peek at if you're up to it. There are a lot of diagrams that might make things easier and if not, we can talk about the species that your, ah, parts came from.

ADDISON: I can read any of them?

HAZEL: Sure, knock yourself out.

ADDISON: How did you learn? Reading?

HAZEL: I was gonna do it one way or the other, with or without training. It was more of a case of keeping me from teleporting to get out of algebra class. You'll have to practice a lot, but it's doable.

SOUND (1): PNEUMATIC TUBE

ADDISON: Uh, a package came through that tube thing. It's moving.

HAZEL: Oh sweet, my flesh-eating beetles came!

ADDISON: You are so weird.

HAZEL: If you'll excuse me, my dermestidae and I have a date with a skeleton with a case of flesh generating bacteria.

SOUND (2): HAZEL WALKS AWAY

ADDISON: So weird. (BEAT) *Codex Demonica*, hmmm.

SOUND (3): ADDISON TAKES BOOK OFF THE SHELF

SOUND (4): SETS BOOK ON WORKTABLE

SOUND (5): OPENS COVER

Summoning demons by type? Aerial, aquatic... Wait, why can I read this? Is it the font?

SOUND (6): AUTO APPROACHES

Hey Auto, do you know anything about summoning demons?

SOUND (7): CURIOUS NOISE

ADDISON: Why? Because maybe one will help me get back at Frank. Bastard deserves to die. Don't tell anyone.

Ok fine, just watch the claws. I swear you're just like my cat, she likes to ride on shoulders, too.

AUTO (1): WORRIED NOISE

I can't talk to them. I mean, they seem ok, but I don't know them. I'm not a kid, even if Julia keeps calling me that, but I want my mom and dad. I want my friends, my cat, my own room. (SIGH)

Where are you from, Auto? I hear they rescued you, too. Do you miss your family? Your old nest? I suppose they can't be that bad if you can leave any time, but choose to stay here.

This place must be rubbing off on me if I'm talking to a dragon.

SCENE TWO: ADDISON, HAZEL, & JULIA MAKING S'MORES

ADDISON: Ok, ready, Auto? One, two, three.

SOUND (2): FWOOSH

SOUND (3): SOUNDS OF EATING S'MORES

HAZEL: Hmm, tastes a little sulfur-y, but it's kinda nice with the dark chocolate.

JULIA: Hey, kid, pass the graham crackers? Ooh nice, your dexterity in your demon hand's improving.

ADDISON: Yeah, I tried those exercises you showed me. (BEAT) Hey, I got some questions about demons.

JULIA: Oh, Hazel can tell you all about that. You see, there comes a time in every young girl's life where she becomes obsessed with one thing: summoning demons.

HAZEL: Hey, I told you that in confidence! I'll pelt you to death with marshmallows.

JULIA: Consider it revenge for telling Ads here about my "nickname."

HAZEL: Hey, they had to know who they were repping in that tank top of yours they borrowed the other day.

ADDISON: Awww, Cupcake. Can Auto have chocolate?

HAZEL: I don't know for certain, but since most animals can't have it, I'd say no. Auto, wanna graham cracker? So, what'd you want to know?

ADDISON: Are there any demons that grant wishes? And like, do you actually have to sell your soul?

HAZEL: Wishes aren't really a demon thing. Some do business deals as in each party has something the other needs; crossroads demons are one of the most well-known. Not all of them deal in souls, some do pain or sex or whatever they need to feed off of. Sometimes it's something tangible. It's really not a good idea to resort to demonic deals unless there's something you absolutely need but can't get anywhere else.

ADDISON: How come you haven't tried to get a demon to help you get your grandma back?

HAZEL: I couldn't fit that many cinnamon buns in the tube.

ADDISON: What?

HAZEL: What are you smirking at, Julia?

JULIA: Just thinking you've finally met someone who asks more questions than you do.

ADDISON: Why do you go by a girl's name?

JULIA: It's my last name. My granddad wouldn't let my mother give his last name to me. So Giulia with a G-I-U became Julia with a J-U, because fuck him, and I go by my last name because double-fuck him.

ADDISON: Are you two together?

JULIA: HAHHAHAHA! No way. Too bossy.

HAZEL: The huge age gap aside, it's a little hard to be attracted to somebody who was basically a lost little puppy when I met him.

ADDISON: Him?

HAZEL: One night, I'm walking to the bus stop on my way home one night and I see this huge person slumped into the corner of the shelter. I'm doing the whole is this guy gonna give me trouble because I'm a woman out alone at night while also checking to see if they're in a health crisis. The guy turned out to be a half-orc and looked like someone tried to turn his face into hamburger.

JULIA: It fucking sucks to have a puny little human take pity on you and let's you cry on her shoulder over coffee.

HAZEL: He didn't even know what he was; his canines were filed down for Freya's sake!

JULIA: Yep. Mom had a one-night stand one Halloween and thought it was just a costume.

HAZEL: I had enough on my plate without introducing him to the wide world of the weird; besides, Julia was leaving town and headed for nowhere in particular, just the Pacific northwest. I gave him a crash course on orc biology and culture and told him to look up my nana when he landed.

JULIA: I think they've passed out. Either they're asleep or in a sugar coma.

HAZEL: Aww, they look so peaceful when they're unconscious.

SCENE THREE: ADDISON AND HAZEL IN THE CLINIC

ADDISON: Uh, Hazel, there's a guy here who says he thinks he has Phoenix syndrome?

HAZEL: Is he glowing? No? Good. I'll be there in a second. If he does start glowing, grab the fire extinguisher.

ADDISON: Why?

SOUND (1): [HAZEL DASHES AWAY](#)

HAZEL: (FADING OUT) He'll combust.

ADDISON: You don't think that's kind of important?

SOUND (2): DOOR SHUTTING

HAZEL: (OFF MIC) I've needed to pee for like half an hour, I think he'd prefer the fire extinguisher.

ADDISON: Hey, do we have any graveyard dirt?

HAZEL: (OFF MIC) Yeah, in the back.

SOUND (3): FOOTSTEPS

ADDISON: Let's see here, garlic, ginger, glow worm, aha, graveyard dirt.

SOUND (1): AUTO NOISE

ADDISON: Hey Auto, do you know where I can find a knife around here?

SOUND (2): AUTO NOISE

SOUND (3): AUTO CLAWS

SOUND (4): FOOTSTEPS

JULIA: No, we're not that kind of herbalist. Try Greenleaf on MacCullum. (BEAT) Yeah, you, too.

SOUND (5): [HANGS UP PHONE](#)

Hey kiddo. Need something?

ADDISON: Yeah, where can I find a knife?

JULIA: Kitchen or back alley?

ADDISON: Uh, alley.

JULIA: Hm, ok, I got a loaner stiletto that might work for you, but on one condition.

ADDISON: Oooh, kay.

JULIA: You gotta learn how to use it and I'm gonna teach you.

ADDISON: Oh, great! Thanks.

JULIA: First lesson, this end goes in your hand, this end goes into the other guy. Wear it on your belt like this. Practice drawing and re-sheathing it over and over. That's right, just like that. Look at you, you're a natural! We'll have you stabbing things in no time.

ADDISON: Cool, thanks. (BEAT) Have you ever been in prison?

JULIA: No, why?

ADDISON: No reason.

SOUND (1): HAZEL RUNS INTO THE ROOM

HAZEL: Scuse me, coming through!

JULIA: Was that a fire extinguisher?

ADDISON: Yep. Don't worry, she wasn't cooking anything.

JULIA: Auto blowing things up in the microwave again?

ADDISON: He's much better about that ever since you got him that Kevlar scratching post. No, a patient's probably burst into flames.

JULIA: Mr. Clawmore?

ADDISON: Yep.

SCENE FOUR: HAZEL & ADDISON IN THE CLINIC

HAZEL: Mmm-mm, that's right, honey and lemon. (BEAT) Um, technically all bees are free-range. (BEAT) I'm glad you feel so strongly about animal rights, but may I make some suggestions for your anger management issue?

SOUND (1): HANGS UP

Would you believe he hung up on me? Whatchya looking for?

ADDISON: Just wondering where you keep your broom.

HAZEL: In the closet.

ADDISON: No, like for flying.

HAZEL: I'm more likely to use a sword and there's not a snowball's chance I'm taking that thing for a spin.

ADDISON: The one with the purple-y blade you have in the back? I thought that was just for decoration?

HAZEL: No, I use that for when I need to set up a really big circle because the length helps with my short T-rex arms. Or if I need to put on a bit of a show for a client, some like it when I do the whole smoke and mirrors thing. Have you seen my keys?

ADDISON: Have you checked Auto's nest?

HAZEL: I swear, I'm gonna make gloves out of that lizard.

SOUND (1): HAZEL WALKS AWAY

ADDISON: Ok, so I've got chalk, yarrow, candles, a mirror, knife, a jar of dirt, and a purple sword... Now where to cast this spell? I probably shouldn't do it in my room, and I obviously can't use the back room. I need somewhere I won't get caught...

SOUND (2): AUTO NOISE

The basement?

SOUND (3): FOOTSTEPS ON STAIRS

I probably shouldn't do this in the patient rooms down here and there's no room with the plants on the next floor. Ok, ok, I'm going, stop tugging my hair! Geez, how many basements are there?

SOUND (4): HAZEL ENTERS ROOM

HAZEL: Ads, you wanna go... (OFF MIC) Hey Julia, have you seen Addison? She was just here. Oop... THEY were. (CHANTING) They/them/their, they/them/their, Addison is they, them, their.

JULIA: (OFF MIC, COMING CLOSER) way to catch y'self, Haze.

HAZEL: Thanks. Have you seen them?

JULIA: No, I haven't. What worries me more is that I haven't seen Auto in awhile.

HAZEL: Wait, do you smell that? (BEAT) Someone's summoning a demon.

SOUND (5): FOOTSTEPS ON STAIRS

HAZEL: What are you doing?

ADDISON: Not summoning a demon! I swear!

JULIA: (SLOW CLAP) Smooth. Real smooth.

HAZEL: Valefar, long time no see. How's your partner?

VALEFAR: Hazel, look at you all grown up. We're great, we just had a spawn, look.

HAZEL: Congratulations! (BEAT) Aww, they have your tail, and their horns are coming in already.

VALEFAR: This one yours?

HAZEL: What, no, they're fourteen! Just how old do you think I am?

VALEFAR: I don't know, it's so hard to tell with you mortals.

HAZEL: They're... it's complicated. Sorry for bothering you, say hi to the family for me.

VALEFAR: If they're not related to you, then they're not protected by the pact I have with your family.

HAZEL: The deal hasn't been sealed so you have no claim on them.

VALEFAR: I can't be dismissed until there's a deal or I'm willing to leave, and I'm not ready to go. I want to know all about this curious little rabbit and why they have parts of my brethren on their body. I'm sure they'd be willing to part with something.

HAZEL: You're not getting your claws into them. They didn't volunteer for what happened to them so you can stop giving them the evil eye.

VALEFAR: Then we're at a stalemate. Tell us, love, what's your name.

HAZEL: I could always play Baby Shark on repeat until you leave.

VALEFAR: That's just evil.

HAZEL: Think of it as exposure therapy for when your hellspawn gets a little older.

VALEFAR: (BEAT) My kid has a rash, I think it's Nergal pox because my brother's kids have it. Give my spawn a checkup and we'll call it even.

HAZEL: Deal. Give me a summons tomorrow.

VALEFAR: Thanks. Say hi to your nana for me.

HAZEL: Will do.

SOUND (1): POOF

HAZEL: You're summoning an eldritch being in my basement and you didn't think to ask if I was ok with that?

ADDISON: I was afraid you'd say no.

HAZEL: Damn right I'd say no, you don't start off in the big leagues, kiddo. Why are you summoning a demon?
And how did you manage to get blood on the ceiling?

ADDISON: I wanted a new friend? Stop looking at me in that tone of voice. (BEAT) Ok, fine, I want to make Frankenstein pay, I want that asshole to suffer. I'm just so mad.

HAZEL: It's not that simple. Demon deals usually end up costing more than you realize. It might not seem like it right now, but there's always more you could lose.

ADDISON: I miss my mom and dad. I miss my friends. I even miss school! I don't even have any of my own clothes.

JULIA: You're right, you got royally shafted. It's cold comfort, but that kind of loss is horribly common among our kind.

ADDISON: It's normal to get kidnapped, get extra body parts slapped on, and then the sight of you melts the brains of everyone who knew you?

JULIA: Hazel's dad likes to pretend magic doesn't exist, it's like he doesn't even hear her. Rather than talk to her, he's been foisting her off on her grandma since she was yai high. At one point he tried to get her magic removed. Hell, she became a doctor just so he'd finally be proud of her.

My mom hates the fact I'm not fully human. She filed down my tusks and dyed my hair to hide the green tint. I didn't even know what my real hair colour was until I moved out at twelve years old. Then I got into underground fighting because I thought I deserved to have the shit kicked out of me just for being born a bastard. You ain't alone in this, Addison.

HAZEL: It's going to suck for a long time and you're probably always going to miss them. It's not exactly the same, but you make friends and family where you can. You're not alone. I have one possible lead on Frankenstein I'm keeping an eye on. Right now, I can't promise you anything other than we're not planning on giving up on getting him.

Let me see that wound, you didn't need to cut so deep. At least you didn't cut your palm like every idiot on every TV show or movie ever made.

JULIA: I gave you that knife to stab other people, not yourself.

HAZEL: Come on, let's go upstairs and get a bandage on this.

ADDISON: Can't you just like *makes magic hands/noises*

HAZEL: Oh no, you're gonna have to suffer through. Think of it as a reminder why you should think things through before making deals with eldritch beings.

ADDISON: You're going to make me drink tea, aren't you?

HAZEL: How about cocoa and cookies and we can do some online shopping for your room? Lace doilies and potpourri aren't quite your style. Chocolate and retail therapy make things seem less dire; you should listen to me because I'm a doctor.

JULIA: Don't go tellin' 'em lies. Punching things makes things better.

MUSIC (1): THEME SONG

CREDITS:

Thank you for listening. Today's episode was written by Brenna Anderson-Dowd in collaboration with Frederick Elmore and Taryn Baldwin. Performed by Brenna Anderson-Dowd as Hazel, Taryn Baldwin as Addison, and Frederick Elmore as Julia. Sound design by Frederick Elmore. Music production by Kevin Elmore.

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Except for cutting across your palm, that's definitely something you shouldn't do if you like continued use of that hand.