

“Aunt Cathy!” said Adlai. Emmett and Delilah ran up to their mother and hugged her.

“I’m so glad you’re safe!” she said, “Did you succeed in your mission?”

“We sure did,” said Lloyd, “We set Ella free.” The group went into the house to finally rest.

A while later, the kids and monsters were sitting on the couch and watching TV. They felt as though they accomplished a lot that day and they were rewarding themselves with relaxation.

“I’ll tell you one thing,” said Emmett, “I’m not going to the Rhythm and Melody World again for a while. Too many crazy things happen there.”

“Just as many crazy things happen in this world, too,” said Adlai, “Just look at our current events.” He picked up a newspaper with a headline that read *Justin Timberlake Becomes Governor of California*.

“What did we learn today?” asked Sasha.

“We learned that Lloyd is not an ingrate,” said Delilah.

“And that public television is not turning music monsters into zombies.” The PBS logo appeared on the TV along with a narrator’s voice.



“Coming up next on PBS,” said the narrator, “The anatomy of the human head.” Just then, the monsters’ eyes widened and they started looking dazed.

“Braaaaaaiins,” said said simultaneously.

Та.н(?)

huge scratch on his abdomen. Emmett wanted to help the monsters, not with his strength, but with his brain.

“Lets see...” he thought, “If light makes a shadow stronger, then that means darkness makes one weaker.” He looked around the cavern and recognized the one piece of modern technology that it had: the light switch. “Bingo!” He ran over to the switch and flicked it off. The flame that Viridis had created started dying down, and so did the living shadows. The shadows became less vengeful as they noticed that they were shrinking.

“An advantage!” said Lloyd. Viritis was not amused.

“My sacred flame!” he exclaimed. Soon, the shadows were no bigger than mice. They were helpless and screeching in fear. The monsters decided to crowd around the tiny shadows to further frighten them.

“May I do the honors?” asked Sasha.

“Go ahead,” said Lloyd. Sasha jumped into the air and flattened the shadows. They were no longer screeching, for they were defeated. The dark blotches reemerged from under her and positioned themselves near their real monsters as mere shadows once again. They were no longer living. Viritis was surprised at this defeat, but he accepted that inferior beings outsmarted his black magic. Flyer reverse-mutated back to his previous form when he knew that the job was done.

“I must say,” said Viritis, “I’m impressed. You have managed to defeat the unholy creatures that I have brought from the shadow world.”

“Well, it was mostly me,” bragged Emmett.

“As a reward, you may request any favor and I will do it.” This was their chance; they could finally do what they wanted to do all this time.

“We want you to release Ella’s melody,” said Delilah. Viritis hesitated at first, but a deal was a deal.

“I shall release your ideal apparition. Ella!” Ella’s spirit slowly drifted upward from the floor. She was prepared for what she was about to be told. “From this day forward, you shall be free to be played by an instrument or any other noise-making device. I hereby dismiss you from the Land of Lost Melodies.” They had no idea what a happy melody looked like, but they could still tell that she was overjoyed by this pardon. A small portal opened near Viridis’ head. It had a night sky with many stars inside. The melody floated toward Lloyd, the one who saved it from being imprisoned forever. She made a few whimpering noises to him.

“I’m glad you don’t think I’m an ingrate anymore,” said Lloyd. The melody touched Lloyd’s cheek, as if it were kissing him. Lloyd blushed and touched his claw to his mouth. “Aw, shucks.” Ella’s melody flew into the air and through the portal. She soared like a comet into the unknown, awaiting when she’ll finally become music. Everyone watched the portal for an entire minute, cherishing this moment of freedom.

“Alright, everyone,” said Adlai, “Let’s go home.” Everyone left the cavern of the giant, green flame that ran the dimension and started on their way home.

That night, Cathy was patiently waiting on her front porch. The street lights were turned on when darkness reached an appropriate level. After waiting a little longer, she saw the three children and four monsters she was waiting for. She was overjoyed that they were all right.

“Mom!” said Emmett.



“I guess this solves our problem, huh guys?” said Lloyd. Everyone was silent. After three seconds, the monsters started screaming and running around. The shadows chased the monsters around, aiming their attacks at any monster that was acting cowardly, even if it wasn’t their real counterpart.

“Emmett!” called Flyer, “Whip out your instrument and p-power me up!” Emmett heard his partner’s pleas and quickly assembled his flute. He knew the one piece he memorized by heart, even if it had nothing to do with the situation. He put the flute up to his mouth and gracefully played “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” once. At that moment, Flyer transformed into his next level as if the moment were due. He revealed himself as the red bird known as the miwreckmore.

“I am now capable of defeating my shadow!” he said.

“Uh, flyer,” said Sasha, “Your shadow mutated, too.” Flyer looked at his shadow, only to see that it had grown bigger because he had grown bigger. Alas, he wanted to try to defeat it anyway.



“Feather blade!” He plucked out one of his wing feathers and slashed his shadow. This had no effect. Since the shadow was supposed to be identical to him, it plucked one of its feathers as well. It slashed Flyer with its bigger, silhouetted feather and it left a

“Like every being with intellect, I love music,” said Viridis, “I want to have my very own symphony, and since I don’t have any sound-making devices, I must hunt for my ideal sounds. And the best thing about keeping these melodies to myself is that I can use them over and over again, because they’re not going anywhere.” Adlai couldn’t take it anymore.

“You monster! These melodies didn’t do anything to you, yet you imprison them for all of eternity?”

“Yes!”

“We’re still trying to get Ella back even if it kills us!” said Sasha.

“Ah, yes, Ella. I added her to my collection just yesterday.”

“What will it take to get her back?” asked Emmett. Viridus rubbed his wing on the bottom of his beak and thought for a moment.

“You tiny humans are too easy for me to fight. I have something better; something that will take wit and skill to defeat.” He spread out his wings to full span, about to cast a spell. Just then, the monsters’ shadows stood up, like they were against a wall that wasn’t there. One by one, angry faces appeared on the shadows, each staring at their real-life counterparts. “I’ve just brought your shadows to life.”

“What do you want us to do with them?” asked Flyer.

“Let the fight begin!” Upon Viridis’ command, the shadows started attacking their monsters.

Sasha attacked her shadow by biting it in the ear. She held on for as long as possible until her shadow forced her grip to loosen. Flyer launched his sugar beam at his shadow, and his shadow did the same. Both sugar beams collided with each other and didn’t hit anybody. The monsters kept fighting as best they could, but they didn’t get anywhere. Delilah was horrified to see her partner fighting so soon.

“She’s just too young,” she said in dismay. Lloyd dodged all of his shadow’s attacks. In the nick of time, he launched an eye beam at his shadow, which hit it directly.

“This is easy!” he said.

“Speak for yourself,” said Saul as he finished clawing his nemesis, “These guys are too evenly matched.”

“Too evenly matched, eh?” pondered Viridis. This gave him an idea; using his spiritual magic, he spread out his wings and a glowing flame appeared. It grew larger and larger until it touched the ceiling. Because of this, the living shadows grew. They grew when the flame grew until they were ten times bigger than the real monsters. They were staring down at the real life monsters. All of a sudden, the monsters didn’t feel much like battling anymore.

you that I'm not an ingrate." The melody whimpered again. "Don't worry about us, we'll be fine."

A moment later, the group realized Ella was concerned for their safety. A humungous quake suddenly happened and shattered most of the ceiling; everything was shaking.

"The sky is falling!" said Sasha. Before they knew it, the ground was rising. Luckily, the entire ceiling was destroyed before they rose upwards any more. The melody drifted through the rising floor and escaped the danger. The group witnessed the scenery changing from a green tunnel to an earth-colored cavern.

The cavern wasn't all that dark, either. Before the kids was a giant flame that looked almost supernatural.

"What just happened?" asked Emmett.

"Something t-tells me that this wasn't a n-natural earthquake," said Flyer.

"I've finally found you!" said a deep, important-sounding voice. Everyone looked around to see where the voice was coming from. Just then, a green flame appeared in front of the normal-colored flame. This flame looked like a giant bird, and it was very much alive. He flapped his fiery wings in a dominant fashion, like he was saying that he was the most powerful thing in this dimension.



"Who are you?" asked Delilah, shaking with fear.

"I am Viridis Flama, ruler of this dimension!" Adlai was brave enough to ask Viridis a question.

"Why do you steal melodies just as they are about to be set free?" he asked.

"You demons at the public television station aren't gonna get away with brainwashing every last monster!" said Saul. The gang was confused.

"What's he talking about?" Delilah asked Adlai.

"I don't know," said Adlai, "He's been insane in the membrane since day one."

“You?!”

“Yes, me! You two weren’t born until I mutated into this form!”

“Says you!” said the third head.

“Come, you guys,” said Emmett, “This argument shows no sign of ending.” The group sneaked past the demon dog and through the green light, where they were originally headed.

“Some guardians they are,” said Adlai.

As soon as they stepped into the green light, a huge, cave-like setting awaited them. They were standing on a ledge overlooking a lime green environment. White apparitions decorated with tiny musical notes were floating in the environment that looked almost infinite.

“Those, my friends, are lost souls,” said Flyer.

“For melodies, they’re awful quiet,” said Delilah.

“Melodies never play music when they’re oppressed.” Beside them was a staircase-like formation that lead to the ground. They all climbed down the formation in a single file line. Lloyd used his big eye to scan the area for any melody that looked like it belonged to Ella.

“Ella!” he called, “Where are you!”

“Do melodies have ears?” asked Delilah. Lloyd realized that his unique nose could smell other monsters, even if they didn’t have bodies. He sensed something to the left of him and, instinctively, he slid toward that direction. Everyone was confused at why he didn’t explain where he was going, especially since Adlai was supposed to lead the group. Nonetheless, they followed him.

Lloyd led the children and the monsters through a small cave that seemed like a hole in the wall. The inside wasn’t all that dark, but the group was still cautious of what was around them. They were all anxious to see where the scent would take them. After a while, Lloyd finally found where the scent was the strongest. At the end of the tunnel was a melody floating in the air. It looked the same as the other lost melodies, but Lloyd could tell that it was Ella.



“Ella!” exclaimed Lloyd, “I’ve finally found you!” He delightfully slid toward the apparition, not knowing what to expect.

“That melody looks the same as all the other ones,” said Adlai.

“She has a different scent, duh.” Lloyd looked toward Ella’s melody again.

“Don’t listen to him, Ella. Even in your simplest form, you’re as beautiful and delicate as a flower.” The group watched as Lloyd was getting accustomed to the lost melody, even after he had been involved in a fierce feud. The melody communicated with Lloyd by glowing and making whimpering noises and Lloyd replied. “Because I want to prove to

“Let’s go, everybody!” said Delilah. Everyone slowly followed her into the portal and disappeared from the rocky terrain.

Everyone appeared in an entirely different place in a flash of light. When they looked around, they saw a dark place where black swirls danced on the walls. They couldn’t see very far, but they could sense woe in the air.

“It’s h-hard to see in here,” said Flyer.

“We can proceed, but we have to be careful,” said Adlai, “Since I’m the oldest, I should lead.” Nobody felt like arguing who would lead, so they followed Adlai without question.

They walked to an opening where green light was shining. Little did they know that they were being watched. Just as they thought it was safe to go through, something fell from the ceiling and landed in front of them.

“What the heck is that?” asked Delilah, terrified. The green light revealed the beast as a three-headed demon dog ready to attack.

“I was hoping I would n-never see the d-day when we’re confronted by a cerbera!” said Flyer. The middle head roared and the entire body lunged forward. The gang ran out of the way and the demon dog missed. The demon dog turned around and located their targets once again.



“Go back!” said the first head, “Go back to where you came from! We’re not letting Lord Viritis down!”

“It’s no use!” said Sasha, “Even if we’re not outnumbered, we’re still outnumbered!”

“Tri-blast!” shouted the middle head. All three heads opened their mouths and let out three different beams; one was red, one was blue and one was green. Everyone backed up against the wall so the attacks wouldn’t hit them. Instead, the attacks fired into the green light.

“Are you sure that was a good idea?” asked the third head, “If I were you, I would’ve used ‘Hade’s flame.’”

“I make the decisions around here, so if I decide to use tri-blast, we use tri-blast!”

“Don’t I have a say in this?” asked the first head.

“Yes, but my strategies have worked ever since I was at my younger stages!”

“Huh,” he asked in a sedated voice as he was rubbing his head.

“Do you know where the Land of Lost Melodies is?” The flie had no idea what she was saying.

“Yada esisen?”\* he asked. “Alulu deke ash uuk?”\*\* Delilah had never heard such words before.

“What the heck is he saying?”

“I forgot to tell you,” said Saul, “They don’t speak English around these parts. They speak Musian.”

“Alulu deke humanef rasetaf le qulof ada oror? Ute ga epef ro gafgaf!”\*\*\* Delilah didn’t want to give up asking him for directions just yet.

“Listen, we just want to know how to get to the Land of Lost Melodies.” The flie was already asleep again when she started asking this. “How rude.”

“I have a feeling that the portal is west of here,” said Lloyd. The group continued in Lloyd’s direction.

Several miles into the journey, the area didn’t look like a prehistoric jungle anymore. It looked like a barren land with many big rocks, some as big as elephants. Lloyd led the group between the natural formations into the direction where his instincts told him to go.

“My instincts tell me to go... there,” he said with his eye closed. The group was getting a bit impatient.

“You’ve been saying that for a half an hour,” said Emmett. “Face it, your instincts are wrong.”

“Alright, let’s see your instincts guide YOU!” Lloyd and the others patiently waited while Emmett was thinking of a direction.

“I say that the portal is over there.” He pointed slightly west of where they were. The gang walked toward that direction not expecting anything.

Surprisingly, they were wrong. Between those two rocks was a gigantic, green portal with sparks flying out of it. The site was truly astounding.

“Emmett was right,” said Sasha. Emmett felt pride within himself.

“See?” he said, “I told you; preteen boy: 1, one-eyed, pink skunk thing: 0.”

“You’re the one-eyed, pink skunk thing, right?” asked Saul. The group bravely went near the portal and stared at it. Who was going to be the brave soul who would go in there and rescue Ella’s melody?

“I’m not going in, you go in,” Delilah said to Emmett.

“I’m not going in, you go in,” Emmett said back.

“I’m not going in, you go in.”

“I’m not going in, you go in.” To end the argument, Adlai stepped forward and said something he never thought he would say.

“I’ll go in!” he proclaimed, “You guys can continue bickering, but I know the real reason why we came here!”

“Free hand lotion?” asked Saul. Adlai took a deep breath and entered the portal, not knowing where he’d end up. Nobody had ever witnessed anything like he had done.

“He’s right,” said Sasha, “I want to go, too!” She hopped out of Delilah’s arms and bounced into the portal. She disappeared from sight when she touched the green abyss. Delilah didn’t want to be parted from her partner, so she didn’t hesitate to join.

\*“That place?”

\*\*“Why would you go there?”

\*\*\*“Why would you idiotic humans want to get yourselves killed? You have your whole lives ahead!”

“What?” she asked. Emmett didn’t know how to explain it to his mother, but he tried.

“Delilah, Sasha, Flyer, Adlai, Saul, Lloyd and I have decided that we ARE going to go into that dimension. Cathy was so shocked that she dropped a glass onto the floor.

“Young man, you are NOT going into that dangerous place and neither are your friends!” The kids expected this answer.

“We want to help Lloyd as best we can, why do you have to butt in?”

“Lloyd is just going to have to live with the fact that his rival is being kept in a dimension somewhere and we have no idea what’s happening to her.” Before they continued the argument, Lloyd got out of his pet bed and put in his two cents.

“Cathy, when I decided to become your partner, I promised that I would protect your family. While these children and their monsters are in the dimension, I will protect them the best I can. Not only will I be doing you a favor, but I will also prove to Ella once and for all that I am not an ingrate.” Cathy was moved by Lloyd’s speech.

“I guess I’ll trust you with my children and their monsters, but be very careful. I don’t want to lose another monster.” Cathy was close to tears. Her children were growing up faster than she thought they would.

One hour later...

Emmett, Delilah, Adlai, and the monsters finally went through a portal and arrived at the Portal Station in the Rhythm and Melody World. As soon as they stepped down, they walked through a waiting room full of patient monsters and humans.

“So how did you get your mother to agree to this?” Emmett asked Adlai.

“I just said that I’m going to the store and that I’ll be back in fifteen minutes.”

“This journey is probably going to take us more than fifteen minutes.”

“Aw, darn it! I should’ve used a better excuse!”

When they got outside, they saw a tropical place with giant reptile monsters eating, playing, roaring, and whatever else giant reptiles do. This didn’t look like a place where monster’s melodies are captured and imprisoned.

“Oh boy!” said Saul, “We’re in Mesozoa! This is a sight that hasn’t been seen on the planet earth in over 65 million years.”

“Do you think we should ask for directions?” asked Delilah.

“Delilah, I’m a guy,” said Emmett, “I never ask for directions.”

“Well I’m asking that sleeping insect abomination over there.” Delilah walked over to a tree where there was a flie (a pink creature with insect eyes and insect wings on its head) for directions. “Hey, you!” The flie didn’t budge. Delilah spotted a stone on the ground and picked it up. Hoping that it would get his attention, she threw the rock at him. It hit him directly in the head and woke him up. “I’m talking to you!”



Emmett overheard the conversation from the hallway. He walked into the living room and sat on the couch to think about this predicament. He decided to seek comfort by talking to his b-phone. He turned on the b-phone on the table next to him. The animatronic insect opened her pixilated eyes and flew into the air. She noticed the sad expression on Emmett's face.



“What’s wrong, Emmett?” asked the b-phone in her robotic voice, “I’m listening.”

“My mom’s monster is sad that his rival is dead. He wants to make it up to her by rescuing her spirit from the Land of Lost Melodies.”

“I don’t know much about music monsters, but if he goes with other monsters, he has nothing to fear.”

“I don’t think I can convince random monsters in the Rhythm and Melody World to come with Lloyd. They can be rather vicious.” The b-phone flew to the other side of Emmett’s face.

“Maybe some people you know have monsters.” Emmett liked the b-phone’s idea.

“That’s it... but how will I convince THEM to go to this alternate dimension?”

“I’m a phone, not a miracle worker.”

“Can you at least dial the Singer residence?”

“DIALING THE SINGER RESIDENCE.” The b-phone flashed her tiny light as she dialed the number.

At the Singer residence, the b-phone, which looked like a ladybug, sounded.

“Pick me up, pick me up,” she said.

“Hold on, hold on,” said the Mrs. Singer, a.k.a. Caitlin Singer, a.k.a. Caitlin Thatcher the II. “Why don’t you just come to ME?” The b-phone flew up to her ear from across the room. Caitlin pushed the tiny button on top of the b-phone. “Hello?”

“Ciao, Aunt Cait, may I speak to cousin Adlai?”

“Sure.”

The phone flew to Adlai upstairs and startled him a bit as he was doing his homework.

“What is it, Nora?” he asked as he put his pencil down. Nora flew up to his ear and Emmett’s voice could be heard.

“Hey, Adlai.”

“Hey, Emmett.”

“Listen, I was wondering if you would like to go on this dangerous mission with me and my sister...”

A little while later, Cathy was clearing the table from dinner. Her children walked in with something important to tell her.

“Mom,” said Emmett, “We have something important to tell you.” Cathy looked at them while she put the dishes in the claws of the futuristic dishwasher.



“Adlai!” said the monster.

“What is it now?” asked Adlai.

“My theory is true!” Adlai rolled his eyes.

“What theory is this?”

“Souls of music monsters are being absorbed from their bodies by a vacuum portal and sent to an alternate dimension. The creatures in this dimension brainwash the souls by making them watch public television. When the souls are sent back to this world, they go back into their monsters’ bodies and they come back as mindless zombies!” Adlai rolled his eyes again.

“Saul, that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. Public television does NOT turn music monsters into zombies.”

“You think that’s ridiculous? And this is coming from the boy who was named Costica Ovidiu before he was adopted!”

“Yeah, well I stand by my Romanian heritage. Even in that country, your conspiracy theory would be considered crazy.”

At the Bertolli household, Lloyd was lying in his pet bed in a croissant position. Cathy was making pasta for dinner and she was slaving over her stove. She noticed that her partner hadn’t said a word since Ella was defeated earlier that evening. He didn’t even notice the delicious smell coming from Cathy’s cooking. Cathy stopped stirring the pasta and spoke to Lloyd.

“Lloyd, Ella was old,” she assured, “We were expecting her to kick the bucket.” This didn’t make Lloyd feel any better.

“I feel like...” said Lloyd, “I feel like I need to do something.”

“Lloyd, I already told you, I’m not letting you go into the Land of Lost Melodies.” Lloyd lifted his head up.

“Monsters and humans have done more dangerous things in the past.”

“Those monsters were experienced. You don’t have much battle experience at all.” What Cathy said was the same as what Ella said earlier; Lloyd just didn’t have what it takes to battle the evil that stood in his way.

Last time on *Music Monster Mini Adventures...*

Cathy rediscovers Ella, her music monster from the past. When Ella discovers that she had been replaced by a new monster, she becomes enraged. After harassing Lloyd for not having battling experience, she attempts to kill Baby Ferdinand to prove a point. Lloyd decides to stand up for the family he was set out to protect, so he battles Ella... and loses. Billy-Bob, May's father's monster, appears out of nowhere and puts up a good fight. Because Ella was in an emotional state, she mutates to her corrupted super form. After May calls for more reinforcements, Billy-Bob's brother and sister join the fight, too. Billy-Bob gets terribly injured after receiving a serious blow from Ella's attack. Lloyd apologizes to Billy-Bob for making him do all the work. May puts her cittern near Billy-Bob and he mutates to his top form! Ella is defeated and her melody leaves her body, but instead of flying into the universe, it enters a dimension.

A bassala (a vampire dog) was walking down the street when he saw the portal opening and swallowing Ella's melody. He was amazed at the sight.

"Whoa," he said with wide eyes. He watched until the portal closed. After witnessing this supernatural experience, he runs in the opposite direction.



After he got back to his partner's house, he slammed the door behind him. He ran upstairs and down the hall to the room where his master awaited. His master was doing his homework and didn't want to be disturbed. Unfortunately, his partner interrupted him by opening his door and running into the room.