

Legends ^{of the} Night Sky

Orion

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1-1 **EXT: NIGHT SKY** 1-1

Aesop the owl sleeps cradled on the crescent moon. He yawns, stretches and rubs his eyes as he wakes. Quickly he flies off his perch and lands on a dark stage with a single spotlight.

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1-2 **EXT.: "STAGE" WITH SPOTLIGHT** 1-2

He pulls a graduation cap from under his wing and places it on his head. He snaps his bow tie, then pulls out a bell and shakes it a few times and addresses the audience.

*

AESOP

Good evening ladies and gentleman, boys and girls. Thank you so much for coming to my class. Today I'm going to tell you an old and wonderful story, one that I know you will enjoy. Let me just -

The owl looks around in anticipation then pulls a watch out from under his wing.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Now...where...is he...late as usual...

A small mouse carrying a large book walks out of the darkness into a spotlight. He is SOCRATES.

*
*

AESOP (CONT'D)

(to Socrates)
Ah...There you are. Well hurry it up, our class is waiting.

*

The small mouse struggles with the large book then sets it down panting from exhaustion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP (CONT'D)

Well, thank you -- Socrates

SOCRATES

Your welcome.

Socrates pushes the book over. It lands with a crash then opens.

AESOP

(to the audience)

Uhhh...Now where were we...

Socrates jumps onto open book.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Ah, yes...my favorite topic, the stars.

SPARKLES begin to pour from the open book.

1-3

EXT.: WINTER SKY - STARS - NIGHT

1-3

FADE IN:

a night sky full of stars (planetarium), which begin to move and rotate across the sky and then fade out as a Greek plate appears. Sparkles and wheat stalks appear on the plate.

AESOP

Long ago, farmers knew that it was time

to harvest their crops when certain

stars filled the heavens.

Stars begin to appear, forming the basic star configurations for the following constellations. Connect the stars to make stick figures and then DISSOLVE into characters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP (CONT'D)

In order to remember which stars were which, they grouped certain stars together to form the basis of an image - like a harp or a ram or even a swan. These are called constellations. To help remember the various constellations, these farmers created wonderful stories, very dramatic and sometimes tragic.

The image of a compass fades on to the screen.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Now, farmers weren't the only people to create these stories. There were poets and early astronomers who looked to the night sky and imagined such wonderful things. The Winter Sky has within it's stars one such story...the story of Orion the Hunter.

THEME MUSIC

1-4 **TITLE SEQUENCE** 1-4

THE CAMERA TILTS THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY TO:

2-1 **EXT.: THRACIAN FIELD - SUNRISE** 2-1

The sun rises over the Thracian country side. The camera pans to a herd of sheep and a single shepherd, HYRIEUS (hir-ee-us).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP

The story of Orion has been told in many different ways. One such story leads us to the faraway land of Thrace, where there lived a poor shepherd named Hyrieus.

Hyrieus sits with one of his sheep.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Hyrieus was a kind and generous man but he was very lonely.

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2-2 **EXT.: THRACIAN SEA SHORE - DAY**

2-2

*

AESOP

One day, Zeus, the great and powerful King of all the gods, invited his brother, Poseidon, the god of the sea to an afternoon stroll. Enthusiastically Poseidon accepted. They disguised themselves as simple folk and set out to mingle amongst the mortals.

2-3 **EXT. HYRIEUS' HOUSE - DAY**

2-3

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AESOP

Soon they came upon the house of Hyrieus the lonely shepherd.

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*

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP (CONT'D)

He had very little to share with his
guests, but he was a generous man, so
he slaughtered the only animal he had
and prepared them a meal. It never
occurred to Hyrieus that his guests
could be more than mortal. Yet he
treated them as if they were royalty
all the same.

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2-4 **EXT.: THRACIAN FIELD**

2-4

Hyrieus sits on a rock all alone.

AESOP

Zeus saw that Hyrieus' heart was as
pure as gold and he decided to reward
him...

*

Suddenly a huge baby plops into his lap.

AESOP (CONT'D)

...with a son.

DISSOLVE TO:

2-5 **STAGE**

2-5

ORION, a young boy stands in his hunting pose.

AESOP (CONT'D)

His Name was Orion and in time, he grew
to be strong, handsome and very tall.
He grows before our eyes right off the
screen.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOCRATES

Wow he was as big as a giant!

AESOP

Well, maybe not that tall...

Orion shrinks down to proper size and age.

AESOP (CONT'D)

...But he was a great and mighty hunter, He wore a magnificent belt and he carried a bow, arrows and a club of bronze. With his two noble hunting dogs, Sirius and Procyon, his adventures were endless and the word of his skill and courage soon filled the land.

3-1 **EXT.: AEGEAN SEA - DAY**

3-1 *

Orion shoots arrow which travels over several islands and lands on the island of Chios (Chee-os) where a MAN hammers a sign that reads "Help wanted" into the beach.

AESOP

Eventually, it even reached the island of Chios, the home of King Oenopion, who's kingdom had been plagued by wild beasts.

A claw reaches out of a bush and snatches the man from his post.

CUT TO:

3-2 INT. OENOPION'S PALACE - DAY

3-2 *

Orion bows to King Oenopion (ee-noh'pi-on) in his great palace.

AESOP

King Oenopion offered Orion great riches if he would rid the island of all it's beasts.

The king gestures to a single jewel atop a podium. But Orion isn't interested at all and he yawns and plays a balancing game with his club of bronze.

The king then turns and runs down the hall this time to reveal a room full of treasure. Orion, still uninterested, turns away to see...

MEROPE (mer'o-pee), the kings daughter, peek at him from around a column.

AESOP (CONT'D)

...but Orion was enchanted with the King's daughter, Merope.

The king turns to see the two youngsters getting acquainted. He quickly jumps between them and holds them apart. But Merope continues to make eyes at the smitten Orion.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Reluctantly, the King agreed that they could marry, but only if Orion succeeded.

Orion, hypnotized by love, floats through the air...

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3-3 EXT. CHIOS - DAY

3-3 *

... across the palace and out the door...

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP
Mesmerized by love, Orion was eager to
do the job.

...to a bush filled with beasts. He vigorously clubs them. *

AESOP (CONT'D) *
He became the king's best hunter,
clearing the entire island of wild
beasts.

Orion floats back towards the King, still in a daze... *

3-4 **INT. OENOPION'S PALACE**

3-4 *

As Orion floats in, Oenopion holds up his hand and breaks
Orion's love spell. *

AESOP
The King, never believing that Orion
would succeed, refused to honor his
agreement and would not allow Merope
and Orion to marry.

Orion slumps to the ground. The king rushes away to his
SATYR, a waiter.

AESOP (CONT'D)
Fearing that Orion might try to steal
his daughter and run away, the King
devised a plan to get rid of the
hunter. First he ordered his satyr to
give Orion a potion that would make him
go blind.

The satyr takes the Kings order.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOCRATES

(interrupting)

Oh look....Satyr the waiter!

AESOP

hmm? Oh, alright, Socrates, that's

enough.

3-5 **EXT.: OENOPION'S PALACE - TERRACE**

3-5 *

The satyr brings a tray with a single drink to the heartbroken Orion. He sets down a napkin, the goblet of poison then exits.

Orion, with out breaking his melancholy trance, downs the drink like a shot of tequila and immediately returns to his pity party.

Then it hits him.

Orion's face twitches in shock and his eyes become two "x's". He feels around for his club then uses it to find his way out to the terrace when suddenly the King boots him over the edge of the railing...

4-1 **EXT. AEGEAN SEA - BASE OF CLIFF - DAY**

4-1 *

Orion lands head first in a boat at the base of the cliff and, with feet in the air, immediately sets of to sea. He continues to sail as the SUN and MOON arc across the sky.

AESOP

Orion wandered through the ocean for

days and days until finally he landed

on the island of Lemnos (lim-"n%\$).

4-2 **EXT.: LEMNOS - DAY**

4-2

The boat hits land and Orion pops out of the boat and lands in front of sign which reads "WELCOME TO LEMNOS" with the same words indicated below it in braille. Orion reaches out and reads the sign with his hands.

CUT TO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A tour guide, CEDALION (ce-'dal-yon), sits looking bored in a small booth with a large sign that reads "Sight Seeing Tours." Suddenly, Cedalion sees Orion and with a school girl's excitement, he grabs Orion by the arm and hurries him across the island and into another boat. *

AESOP

There he stumbled upon a guide named
Cedalion.

4-3 **EXT.: AEGEAN SEA - DUSK / NIGHT**

4-3 *

Cedalion and Orion set sail as Cedalion jabbers away and points enthusiastically to all the sights.

AESOP

Cedalion knew that if they traveled
East until the sun rose Orion's sight
would be restored. So they sailed all
night...

5-1 **EXT.: HELIUS' ISLAND - SUNRISE**

5-1

The boat hits a rock and Orion flies out and over Cedalion's head. Cedalion waves good bye.

5-2 **EXT.: HELIUS' ISLAND - POOL SIDE - DAY**

5-2

(CALYPSO MUSIC)

HELIUS (hee'li-us) is a hip god with a
golden "sun" head like a big pie pan.
He wears a pair of cool sun glasses as
he lounges by his "Olympic" size pool
sipping an umbrella drink.

Orion lands in a pool side lounge chair next to Helius.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP

Eventually they reached the island of the sun-god, Helius, who gave Orion back his sight with a strong blast of sun-rays.

Helius tips his sun glasses and golden rays shoot out of his eyes into Orion's. Orion, a little dazed looks to his side where VANNA, one of Helius' bathing suit clad groupies, shows him an eye chart as if she were game show model.

CUT TO:

fuzzy eye chart with greek characters. Orion frowns and turns back to the sun god who zaps him again.

ZOOM IN TO:

5-3 **ORION'S EYES**

5-3

ZOOM OUT TO:

5-4 **EXT.: HELIUS' ISLAND - DOCK - DAY**

5-4

*

Orion, his eyes back to normal, puts on a pair of sun glasses and revels in his miraculous recovery. He wears a Hawaiian shirt and carries all sorts of souvenirs from his visit to Helius' island resort. People cheer and wave at Orion as he boards a ship and sails away.

AESOP

With his sight restored Orion set sail for the island of Crete.

SOCRATES

Sailing again? I thought Orion was a mighty hunter?

AESOP

I'm getting to that, Socrates, please be patient.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

END OF ACT ONE

FADE OUT

ACT TWO

6-1 **EXT.: CRETE - FOREST - EVENING** 6-1 *

Orion stalks through the forest with his bow. As the camera pans it reveals animals trembling behind trees and rocks.

AESOP

Now, Orion had heard that Crete was a
hunter's paradise filled with all kinds
of wild animals. It was a perfect place
for a mighty hunter.

6-2 **EXT.: CRESCENT MOON - NIGHT** 6-2 *

ARTEMIS, the goddess of the moon, lounges on a crescent moon in apparent boredom. Suddenly she perks up and looks down at the Earth below.

CUT TO:

ARTEMIS POV:

Orion hunts in the forest clearing.

AESOP

One evening, as he hunted in the
forrest, Orion caught the eye of the
moon goddess, Artemis.

Like lightening, Artemis grabs a bow and arrow and shoots a silver arrow...

6-3 **EXT.: CRETE - FOREST - EVENING** 6-3 *

..and it lands at the feet of Orion. Orion stops dead then slowly looks up at the goddess on the moon.

Orion and Artemis exchange looks of amore. *

6-4 **SERIES OF SHOTS**

6-4 *

various scenes of Artemis and Orion hunting together,
running in the woods having fun.

*
*

AESOP

Artemis was the perfect companion for
Orion. As it turned out, she wasn't
only the moon goddess, but the goddess
of the hunt as well.

SOCRATES

Wow what luck is that?

AESOP

Yes, and as goddess of the hunt, she
loved to roam the forests with Orion
hunting animals.

AESOP (CONT'D)

Orion and Artemis were in love and they
spent many hours together.

*

6-5 **EXT.: CRETE - FOREST - DUSK**

6-5 *

Too many hours in fact. You see Artemis
could only be with Orion during the
day, for through the night it was her
responsibility to guide the moon across
the sky. Artemis was so happy spending
time with Orion that she kept
forgetting her goddess duties.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Orion picks flower to hand to Artemis. Artemis looks at her watch and, in a panic, darts off. Orion turns with a flower in hand to find Artemis has disappeared.

6-6 **EXT.: APOLLO TEMPLE - TIME CLOCK** 6-6 *

Apollo stands with his arms crossed and his foot tapping.

AESOP

It was Apollo, Artemis' brother, who pulled the Sun during the day, and he was not a patient man.

Artemis rushes past an annoyed Apollo, who watches her with disdain. She quickly unties the moon from its mooring and casts off into the stars.

6-7 **EXT.: CRETE - FOREST - EVENING** 6-7 *

Orion, shoulders slumped, shuffles along through the forest. He looks up to see

6-8 **ARTEMIS ON THE MOON.** 6-8

Orion, now with a smile from ear to ear, pulls out his bow and shoots the flower up into the night sky.

6-9 **EXT.: CRESCENT MOON - NIGHT** 6-9 *

Artemis catches the flower smells it and smiles.

7-1 **EXT.: APOLLO TEMPLE - TIME CLOCK** 7-1 *

APOLLO

with arms crossed rolls his eyes. He hops into his chariot and zips of into the night sky

AESOP

By now, Apollo had become pretty annoyed with Artemis and Orion. Because his sister was showing up later and later, his days were getting longer and longer.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP(CONT'D)

Now, Apollo wasn't a nice fellow. In fact he was down right mean. He decided that the only way to get even with Artemis was to get her and her new boyfriend in trouble. So he decided to visit the goddess of the earth , mother nature herself, Gaia (geye'a). The earth was her domain so surely she could help.

CUT TO

7-2 **EXT.: GAIA'S PAD - DAY**

7-2 *

(SITAR MUSIC)

Apollo carries on as Gaia listens half hearted.

AESOP

Apollo told Gaia all about Artemis; how she wasn't doing her job. How she and Orion played all day long and sometimes into the night. And how Orion must be a bad influence on Artemis. But Gaia didn't pay much attention to Apollo. He was known to complain quite a bit. And then Apollo told Gaia something that she couldn't ignore: if all this hunting continued, Orion would surely finish off every animal that she had ever made! Well, this worried Gaia.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP(CONT'D)

It was then She decided that Orion must be stopped! So she sent a mighty foe to defeat him. Gaia looks bothered by the news. She lifts up a rock, pulls out a small scorpion and flings it off camera.

7-3 **SCORPION SAILS THROUGH AIR**

7-3

EXT.: CRETE - FOREST - EVENING It lands behind Orion who sits on a rock plucking the petals off a flower. The scorpion grows bigger and bigger until it fills the screen and casts a shadow over the unsuspecting Hunter.

*

Orion slowly turns to see SCORPIO, the giant scorpion.

8-1 **FIGHT SEQUENCE ALA POWERPUFF GIRLS**

8-1

TECHNO MUSIC

Suddenly Scorpio strikes with his giant stinger just as Orion jumps out of the way. Orion and Scorpio rumble.

Apollo jumps up and down in elation.

AESOP

Apollo couldn't believe his luck. He would get to see Scorpio finish off Orion once and for all!

Scorpio grabs Orion in a claw. It looks like he is finished. Then he sees his bronze club lying on the ground almost within reach.

Orion grabs the club and begins to whoop up on the monster. Apollo panics; things may not go his way after all.

EXT.: CRESCENT MOON - NIGHT

*

Orion lets out a yell that gets the attention of Artemis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AESOP

Artemis desperately wanted to help but she could not leave her post. Artemis grabs her bow and tries to take aim at Scorpio. But they are moving to fast.

Apollo sees Artemis with her bow drawn and jumps into action himself. Quickly he unhitches the sun and pulls it into the sky...

ARTEMIS (IN SLOW MOTION) The suns light blinds Artemis just as she releases the arrow. *

The arrow strikes the armor of Scorpio and deflects and hits Orion.

Artemis reacts with horror then turns away.

DISSOLVE TO:

9-1 **EXT.: CRETE - FORREST - SUNRISE**

9-1 *

Artemis cradles the body of Orion.

AESOP

Poor Artemis was heartbroken. How could this have happened?

Artemis looks up to the sky to see:

ZEUS peering down from his cloud. Artemis looks to him in despair. *

AESOP (CONT'D) *

She pleaded with Zeus to bring him back, but, sadly he would not. Zeus just shakes his head and returns to the cover of his cloud.

CUT TO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARTEMIS sits on a rock.

*

AESOP (CONT'D)

*

It was beyond her powers to bring Orion
back to life but there was something
that Artemis could do.

Artemis takes a breath and wipes a tear from her eye. She
takes a single arrow and shoots it into the night sky.

APOLLO ducks as it narrowly misses his head. Then it bounces
off several stars and creates

*

9-2

THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION

9-2

AESOP

Now Artemis and Orion are together
again and they will travel through the
heavens together for all eternity

CUT TO

Artemis and Orion frolic in the stars the same as they did
on earth. Artemis takes her place on the moon and waves at
her love from across the sky. Orion smiles and raises his
club and takes the pose of his constellation.

AESOP (CONT'D)

You too can find Orion in the winter
sky, wearing his famous belt and
holding his bronze club, with all his
companions.....

SOCRATES

Look! There's Sirius and Procyon too!

AESOP

Yes and they will be there for all the
seasons of your life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The stars fade.

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DISSOLVE TO:

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10-1 **EXT.: "STAGE" WITH SPOTLIGHT**

10-1

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The book closes

*

AESOP

And so the story ends. But there are
other seasons and many more stories,
each as wonderful and fascinating as
this. So come back next season, and
I'll tell you another story, of another
time and another place...

they zoom out into small burst.

DISSOLVE TO:

10-2 **EXT.: STARS**

10-2

*

Aesop and Socrates flying away. Mouse turns around to wave
good bye and

ROLL CREDITS

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO