

SHE-BEAST OF THE BLOOD FOREST
by Joe Hanrahan

Characters:

Director

Ass't Director

Mabel

Setting:

Audition Room. Table, with a few papers strewn. Coffee Cups. Director and Producer on chairs at table. A nice touch would be a movie poster - She Beast of The Blood Forest displayed somewhere.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Whoa! Lots of women out there!

DIRECTOR: Good, good. But we don't want to be here forever. We'll get 'em in and get 'em out, quick, all right?

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Check. Now I know what we're looking for, but (laughing) there's one woman out there who...

DIRECTOR: Basically, all we gotta do is look at 'em, y'know.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yeah, well, there's one...

DIRECTOR: You know who we're looking for. A woman. But not just any woman. A woman unlike any anyone's ever seen before. The most gorgeous, voluptuous, seductive...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Check. Got it.

DIRECTOR: A woman that can capture a man with just a glance. A smoldering, mysterious gaze. But little does this man know. That beneath that stunning, beautiful exterior...that inside... She is...SHE-BEAST!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Of The Blood Forest.

DIRECTOR: Of The Blood Forest. Sure. Once an innocent young woman. Carefree, happy, beautiful.
But now, when the moon is full, due to an ancient curse...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Did we ever decide what kind of ancient curse?

DIRECTOR: Doesn't matter. But now, when the moon is full, she turns from a gorgeous, voluptuous, seductive young woman into...into...

(pause, looks to Ass't Director for punch line)

ASS'T DIRECTOR: SHE-BEAST!

DIRECTOR: SHE-BEAST!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Of The Blood Forest.

DIRECTOR: Right, right, Blood Forest. I'll tell you, I think this concept has it all. Just the right amount of sex. And skin! A lot of it! (laughs) And just the right amount of blood, too A whole lot of it! Lots of blood.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yeah, there should be.

DIRECTOR: I can see the trailer now. The before and after. One minute, she's breathtaking...the next, she's BLOODTAKING! HA! It'll break the internet.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: So, you still thinking we might shoot here?

DIRECTOR: I don't know.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: It's got a good forest.

DIRECTOR: Great forest, yeah. But the hotels here? Or should I say, hotel?

ASS'T DIRECTOR: You got that right.

DIRECTOR: We might just do the forest stuff here. Then, the interiors in L.A. But that's why we're looking at people here today. If we shoot here, we want the good will of the people. And the cheapest rates we can get on everything.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: You're certainly not looking at these women seriously...

DIRECTOR: No, No. But who knows, we might find a stand-in. Local girl. That'd really get the town behind us.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yeah...

DIRECTOR: But we need someone special...very special for...SHE-BEAST. A star would get this off the ground. Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie, Ana De Armas...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yeah, great. All of 'em. But haven't all of 'em already turned it down and...

DIRECTOR: For now. But we've just started. When we finish this script, we'll send it back to 'em. And then we'll release pictures of this great forest. Our location. And then we'll drop a rumor that we may have found a local girl to do the part. That'll get 'em.

They'll be lining up!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: I guess.

DIRECTOR: But to pull off any of this...we need the girl. The right girl. A local, knockout sex bomb. Just as bait to get one of these stars to bite.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: And then, if we found her, she would be, just in case we didn't get a star...

DIRECTOR; Just in case! Don't even think that! Maybe the right girl...the RIGHT, local girl...could make this work. We'd never get the budget we'd like. Maybe we'd have to cut a killing or two. I don't know.

But, listen, the whole key is getting the right girl. And you know who we're looking for?

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Righto...beautiful...ah, voluptuous...

DIRECTOR: That's it! You say there's a lot of women out there to read.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Quite a few.

DIRECTOR: Well, make our lives easier. If there are women out there who aren't, y'know...

ASS'T DIRECTOR:uh...beautiful, volup...

DIRECTOR: Send 'em home. Just bring in the women who could be our...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: ...She-Beast. Ok, but there's one women, she...

DIRECTOR: Let's get rolling. I got to get back home. Laker tickets tomorrow night!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Ok. But I...Ok...

(ASS'T DIRECTOR leaves, comes back in momentarily, with a resume. Hands it to the Director.)

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Now I just want you to take a moment with this...

DIRECTOR: Send her in. Let's go!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: OK, but...(leaves, comes back with Mabel) This is Mabel.

(Mabel is very, very old, sweet as can be.)

MABEL: Hello.

Stunned silence for several seconds.

DIRECTOR: Hello? (pause) And you are...(looks at ASS'T DIRECTOR)...she is...

MABEL: I'm Mabel.

DIRECTOR: And you're...what?

MABEL: (refers to side) I'm auditioning. For the role of She-Beast.

DIRECTOR: Uh, well...

MABEL: ...of The Blood Forest.

DIRECTOR: Yes. (coughing into his hand at ASS' T DIRECTOR) IDIOT!!!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Uh, Mabel was here first...first in line...She brought cookies...

MABEL: Pineapple Pleasure. My own recipe. I thought you movie folks would like something exotic. Something with a little bite...(laughs, makes a few claw gestures and bites)

DIRECTOR: OK, Mabel, see...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: (whispering) Mabel's one of the most loved people in this town. Let her read, make her happy, and the town will love us. We can give her a small part.

DIRECTOR: But...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Mabel was here at 6am.

MABEL: Oh, I've heard. We have to get up early on a movie set, don't we? I'm going to have to get used to that. I've been sleeping in...

DIRECTOR: Uh, yes, we do get up...uh...

MABEL: I used to get up early. When had kids. And then we had a few chickens. They can keep you busy. But since...

DIRECTOR: Mabel, I'm afraid...

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Just...(whisper) read her...(to Mabel) We'll be...

DIRECTOR: OK! OK. Let's get this done. Uh...All right, Mabel. So have you ever... (refers to resume)...what have you...?...uh...

MABEL: Oh, I've acted before. Not in the movies. I'm looking forward to the movies, though. Especially this role. She-Beast. The sex! And the violence! Ooooooh! I guess we'll have makeup people to make me into this...(checking script description) savage, terrifying, blood-drenched demon jackal?

DIRECTOR: Sure.

MABEL: (scary voice) S-H-E-E-B-E-E-A-S-T...

DIRECTOR: She-Beast...

MABEL: Of The Blood Forest.

DIRECTOR: Yes...

MABEL: But I've acted. On the stage. In high school. And then, I played a major role. In community theatre. The character was...(thinks)...Emily. Emily Webb. I wrote it down there. It was in a new play that everyone loved. It was called... (thinks)...it's on my resume there...

DIRECTOR: (refers to it) Our Town.

MABEL: Yes, Our Town. It was all the rage. Hottest new play of the season! It was a little out there, though, a little crazy, for some critics. But, honestly I haven't acted since I got married. But then my husband Bill passed away last December...

DIRECTOR: Uh, sorry...

MABEL: Oh, thank you. Seventy-Two wonderful years. But now that he's gone, I thought I would get back on the horse, you know.

DIRECTOR: Sure.

MABEL: Especially with this movie being shot right here in our little town. So exciting.

DIRECTOR: Well, thank you for coming in, Mabel, but...

MABEL: Have you seen our forest?

DIRECTOR: Yes, that's why...

MABEL: I've been walking there the last few days. Especially when it was just starting to get dark. I can just imagine She-Beast, roaming through the trees, looking for victims...(she does the claw thing, a few growls)

(DIRECTOR looks from ASS'T DIRECTOR to the sky.)

DIRECTOR: All right, all right. (under his/her breath) Let's get this over with. You'll be reading with Jerry here, OK?

MABEL: Oh, wonderful.

Long Pause

DIRECTOR: Anytime, Mabel.

MABEL: Don't you have to yell "Action!"?

DIRECTOR: That's just when we...OK. Action!

MABEL: We have to talk, Dirk.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yes, we do. You are so wonderful, darling. Young, untouched. A sensational woman. Someone I want to spend the rest of my life with.

MABEL: Yes, Dirk, it's your life that we must talk about.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Does this mean you'll say "Yes?" This would be the happiest day of my life.

MABEL: (as She-Beast. A very sweet, old She-Beast) We'll see about that. And about your life...I've loved you, Dirk. I've given you the most fantastic sex you've ever had. I've sucked you dry. But tonight, the moon is full, and it's time you saw the real me.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: I know the real you, Sheila. You're a warm and loving woman.

MABEL: I'm not a warm and loving woman, Dirk. And I'm not this gorgeous, seductive, voluptuous beauty you see before you. I am...She-Beast.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: What?

MABEL: You've seen me naked, offering you all my womanly virtues. But an ancient curse has made me into the hideous creature that NOW...stands before you.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Gasp. Oh my God!

MABEL: I have traveled the earth for centuries, Dirk. Seducing men of all nations. Turning them into fodder for my unholy hunger. Slashing throats with these ferocious claws. (MABEL claws) Tearing hearts - hearts that they once gave to me in love - tearing hearts out with these animal fangs. Terrifying all with these burning yellow eyes. (MABEL gives as terrifying a look as she can.) And leaving nightmares behind with these hideous shrieks. (MABEL attempts a few shrieks.)

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Help! Help!

MABEL: There's no help for you, Dirk. Or for anyone here. For I have found my home, the place where I can live...and kill...forever. The Blood Forest!

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Oh-h-h-h No-o-o-o!!!

(MABEL continues with a series of growls – sweet old lady growls – and vicious swipes with her paws/claws – sweet old lady swipe.)

MABEL: Die Die Die! Die, you cursed human man! You will slake my blood lust, and I will go on to slaughter all who...

The Director can't believe her eyes. She tries to hide her laughter, then...

DIRECTOR: (hiding his eyes and laughter) Mabel...Mabel...thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you for coming in. I think I needed this this morning. But I think we've seen all we need to.

MABEL: Oh, Ok. Whew! That was fun.

DIRECTOR: Well, thank you.

MABEL: Oh, you know I've been preparing at home. And I think I did my best one here...

DIRECTOR: Uh-huh...

MABEL: Was it too much? Too scary? Should I tone it down. When we shoot the movie, I'm sure I can give you a different look at some...

DIRECTOR: No, no... I mean, yes, we're good, We...

MABEL: So you'll be calling me? Soon? To let me know when to start?

DIRECTOR: Yes, we'll be in touch.

MABEL: (starts to leave) Get up early, right?

DIRECTOR: Uh, right...

MABEL: (starts to leave) And I've heard you're going to be starting soon.

DIRECTOR: Yes. Hopefully, within a month. Thank you, Mabel...

MABEL: (starts to leave) When we start, I should tell you, I'll have a few conflicts. I'll have to reschedule my quilting...on Wednesdays...and then there's bowling on Fridays...will that be any problem?

DIRECTOR: Uh, no, Mabel, we'll figure all that out. Thank you...

MABEL: Thank you. This is so exciting! Thank you, Jerry.

(MABEL starts to leave)

MABEL: And Jerry, once we start, if I have time, during all the filming, I'll make you some more of those cookies.

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Great.

(MABEL walks out. DIRECTOR glares at ASS'T DIRECTOR, then MABEL returns.)

MABEL: Oh, I'm sorry, if I could ask you one more thing?

(DIRECTOR groans, puts head in hands)

ASS'T DIRECTOR: Yes, of course.

MABEL: My husband...Bill, you remember?

DIRECTOR: Yes...

MABEL: He passed away...?

DIRECTOR: Yes, yes, sorry...

MABEL: Well, he owned the mill here in town. Dear man. He worked so hard. It was a family business, so when he passed he left me quite a lot of money, more than I know what to do with.

And with him gone, I'm kind of at loose ends.

I've had some time to think with Bill gone, and I've been watching a lot of movies on Netflix. And I think I have some good ideas about new movies. Maybe some re-makes.

So what I was thinking, maybe, was...after I do this movie, and it's a big hit...maybe, maybe I could invest some of my money in my next movie.

And I was hoping you could tell me...Do you know anything about how to go about that?

The Producer and Director look at each other for long seconds.

DIRECTOR: (getting up, escorting her back) Mabel...would you do that one part again for me? That part about...uh... slaking your blood lust?

MABEL: (beaming) Oh! OK!

DIRECTOR: That was so good!

THE END