

1.01 Legends of the Superstitions Update #1

Abby: Greetings listeners and welcome to all. We are Legends of the Superstitions!

Morgan: And live on the nose.

Eve: And clearly care about the part where I said there couldn't be any edits—

Abby: We are a brand new podcast—still hammering out the kinks—

Morgan: Iron. You iron out kinks.

Abby: (speed talking) AND we're excited to be bringing you PROFESSIONAL, thoughtful, and highly researched news from our very precarious and invaluable location in the foothills and in the trenches of mysteries old and new in the wacky Superstition Mountains.

Morgan: "Wacky."

Emily: Well the mountains sure are interesting.

Abby: That they are. So, I am your host Abby and I am joined by our regular crew: Morgan (pause for answer). Morgan.

Morgan: Yes. Hello. Hi. Hola. Did I cover them all?

Abby: Eve.

Eve: Wait, I thought I was going last. My dramatic intro is ruined.

Abby: And Emily.

Emily: Hey guys!

Abby: (mumbling) At least somebody can do it right.. So who are we and what do we do? Well for starters, why should you be listening to us? There's a thousand plus podcasts out there with a thousand plus topics.

Morgan: Poetic.

Abby: I won't sugarcoat that part. But it also means we're coming to you with something we're sure no one else has. And unfortunately, it begins in far less positive circumstances. As many of you out there may have seen on the news—if you still sit down to watch it—or more likely on your Facebook feeds, a young woman from the Apache Junction area

recently was reported missing in the wilderness of Superstition State Park. This young woman, Rose Chavez, was not only a straight A student, class Vice-President of our senior class, and looking at a scholarship for pre-med to UCLA—

Morgan: Wait, how do you know that?

Abby: She told me.

Morgan: When?

Abby: --before the disappearance... BUT a renowned and experienced hiker. In fact, freshman year she founded the Apache Raider's Hiking Club at the school and worked as a consultant and counselor at Canyon Lake Summer Camp for their annual two mile hike into the mountains.

Eve: We get it.

Abby: In short: she was possibly the most equipped person you will ever meet, and the most ready to take on the world after high school. So this begs the question: what happened and why isn't anyone talking about it?

Morgan: Just to clear things up: they were talking about it. A lot. For weeks.

Emily: But we all agreed the sudden lack in interest in the case unsettled us.

Abby: Exactly. So we combined our forces and decided that, as Millennials, it is our job to do exactly *one* thing when the corporate controlled media won't act as the intrepid reporters they claim to be: podcast about it.

So I am Abby, your host and the brainchild behind this operation but I could not do it without the help of Eve, our technical director.

Eve: I push buttons when she tells me to.

Abby: Emily who is our lead researcher, thanks to her precarious position close to a local source on the Superstition Mountains. But, for reasons of privacy, we cannot name her source.

Eve: It's her mom.

Abby: EVE. Shush. Edit that.

Eve: Can't, it archives automatically. No one say penis..

Morgan: But can I say labia?

Eve: Yes, you can always say that.

Abby: Oh my GOD. Shut up. Finally, you have the ever blunt Morgan.

Eve: Who has no job because she's useless.

Morgan: I'm *actually* the--very offended--local cultural expert.

Eve: Do you have a nameplate on your desk?

Abby: As you can see we've got a lively candor going but it's all in service to bring you the most up-to-date news on this story—which, I will remind you, is STILL developing. Even if everyone's more interested in the State Fair than the possibility of something strange going on in the mountains.

Morgan: Or, you know, the possibility that the brightest senior to walk through the doors of Apache West High has dropped off the face of the Earth.

Abby: Exactly. It's insane the way people have suddenly stopped talking about it, stopped with the volunteer searches, and the money going into the charity fund for her family is down by like 43% since the first week.

Morgan: How do you know that?

Abby: Public knowledge.

Morgan: Is it?

Abby: Emily, who is our tireless head of research, as I said, has got the details on everything that happened the past couple weeks as a brief refresher for those of you who already know, and a low-down for you brand new to the case.

Emily: So, in the podcast's first Breaking Emily Update.

(snort from an indistinguishable source)

Abby: Eve, Morgan. Shush.

Morgan: As your best friend since—

Eve: Oh right, THAT's why you're here.

Abby: The update! Emily, take it away.

Emily: So, Rose, as we mentioned, was—is—a highly experienced hiker of the area. She logged something like 12 trips into the desert in the last two years. These aren't just 20-minute walks with the dogs. I'm talking tent, water pack, granola, the works. She started the hiking club at school and was a counselor for two years specializing in planning the yearly hikes. This girl was on it.

Eve: How on it was she?

Emily: Huh?

Eve: The answer is af.

Emily: Uh, yeah. She was good, really good. So, this past trip she took exactly 5 weeks ago was supposed to be a 2-week trip up into the mountains for her 18th birthday. Now, it being a solo trip already does raise some red flags because that's a long time to be by yourself camping. But the only facts we have at the moment are she left May 23rd, was supposed to report back June 6th, and it is now almost July. Prospects are not boding well. I've done the calculations based on the general average ounces of supplies recommended for adult, females hiking for extended periods—

Eve: Holy shit. Who even are you?

Morgan: Abby knows her from organic chem.

Emily: And she can hear you.

Eve: Snark. The freshman knows.

Emily: I'm a junior. And as I was saying, the reports on all that can be found on our blog. Anyway, we're not going to give up on Rose Chavez. This girl deserves, and demands justice from the press and from Mother Nature. And since we can only make one of those bend to our will right now, we're going to do everything we can to make sure the world doesn't forget that she's out there, and something strange is going on.

Eve: Okay wait. Define the strange here, because all I'm getting is that a hiker went missing.

Emily: Well, that is where these stories come in, mythology, history, local legend. I don't want to go into it all right now—

Morgan: You mean you don't want to blow your load on the entertainment value.

Emily: I'm still compiling what's relevant and what isn't. But we know for a fact two males, white, roughly identified at 35 years old at least are believed to be behind an attack that happened a month prior to this by Weaver's Needle—a popular hiking destination for the experienced. Many believe the malicious attack was yet another in a long line of treasure hunting territorialism.

Eve: And why do we believe that people believe this?

Abby: As you can see, we like to balance out our discussions with several Devil's Advocates.

Emily: We believe this because the 25 year old man who escaped the attack two months ago was reported by both a neighbor and a family member to have an interest in the legends of the Lost Dutchman's gold mine and made a hobby out of tracking down information and taking guided tours of the area for that reason. Weaver's Needle is a known focal point of the cryptic clues leading to this buried treasure, but, like I said, that's forthcoming in future podcasts. For now, that's what we've got.

Abby: Awesome, thank you for the update Emily. For those of you listening from far away lands because, hello, internet, Morgan, our local cultural expert, has prepared a kind of intro to what makes Apache Junction, well, Apache Junction.

Eve: I also know how to pick up a book, can I be the cultural expert?

Morgan: No, you have to learn to read first.

Eve: You people can't see this but I just sent her a middle finger emoji.

Morgan: So, Apache Junction. Well, there's dirt. A lot of it. Some of it is actually mountains, the rest of it is just there and we're kind of living on it. This place was a major stop for the Gold Rush back in the day and some of the ghost towns are still wonderfully functional tourist traps. The mountain in question? It looks weird as fuck. And it's even weirder that they call it the Superstition Mountains. Yes, that so-far-on-the-nose-we're-in-the-sinuses name, is real. Google it. Are you googling? You should be.

Eve: Riveting stuff.

Morgan: What exactly is Eve's job again besides clicking save?

Abby: Well she—

Eve: I run the lovely Rainbow Red Light Club, if you don't know what that is, it's on purpose. Invite only, changing location. Sick DJ's.

Morgan: Spotify playlists.

Eve: I keep trying to invite you. You'd make a lovely addition, rainbow really is your color...

Morgan: What the hell is that supposed to mean--?

Abby: Do you have anything else for us Morgan?

Morgan: Besides the fact that we will soon be covering Eve's murder? No. This place has history, it's a melting pot of cultures between the European settlers, Mexicans, and the native tribes. It attracts a lot of stuff. Energy. Some people think there are vortexes in the desert but so far no one has been able to actually tell me what that means besides repeating the words "vibe", "crystals", and "energy" over and over again.

Abby: Every week we're going to see what Morgan and Emily can dig up for us and bring us a birds eye view on the cultural flavor of the area that might help us unlock things. Everything is a clue, that's step one to remember in a place like this. Their assignment for our next update will be a look at the deep history of the area.

Eve: What the dinosaurs have to say about it.

Abby: The Apache tribe native to the wilderness of the mountain, who are also the root of many of the stories we know about it. It's important to know where this land comes from, what is the context someone has walking out into that desert, it means something. Because this is, at the end of the day, about a girl gone missing and the possibility that people with obsessions and bad intentions stopped her in her tracks because she knew something. The west was built by the barrel of a gun, and no place more so than goldmines.

That history still exists today, it exists right now. You can find obituaries after obituaries of people who have died hunting buried treasure. It's not Blackbeard or something—it's dangerous. And the brightest girl I know may have paid a very terrible price for it and no one seems to care anymore. But we know better, we lived in the shadow of this mountain and sometimes it can be very, very dark. So we'll be here, as often as we can, to keep giving Rose Chavez and others like her a voice. History is alive here, and if you don't play by those rules then you're going to have to rewrite them. Which is what we're doing, because this is the technological age and we're going to use it to our advantage to get this girl home. One way or another.

Eve: Jesus H Christ. Tell us how you really feel.

Emily: It's not all puppies and rainbows.

Eve: Uh, I got stung by a scorpion when I was 5, I know everything out here wants to kill me thanks.

Emily: I'm a lot more afraid of the people than the scorpions.

Abby: So, to close out for this update. I'm Abby here with Emily, our anthology expert is Morgan, Eve is our technical director, and we're your Legends of the Superstitions crew.

Eve: The fucking Cowboys and Indians Scooby Gang.

Abby: We'll be here every week, so tune in for more on this then.

Emily: And check out our blogs in the meantime.

Abby: Uh yeah, do that too. Sure. See you next time everyone!