

WASHINGTON IRVING'S

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

A GRAPHIC NOVEL



BY HOENA & SMITH

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ABOUT THE REAL SLEEPY HOLLOW

Washington Irving is best known for writing the short story called “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” but he was also a biographer and historian. He liked to use real places, people, and events as the basis for his fictional stories.

Tarrytown lies along the eastern bank of the Hudson River, about 25 miles north of New York City. Irving actually spent the final years of his life there. Today, there is also a small village called Sleepy Hollow just down the road from Tarrytown. The church that Ichabod walks by on his way into Tarrytown is the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. Built in 1685, it is one of the oldest churches in New York. The Headless Horseman is said to be buried in the Old Dutch Burying Grounds, next to the church. A nearby bridge crosses the Pocantico River.

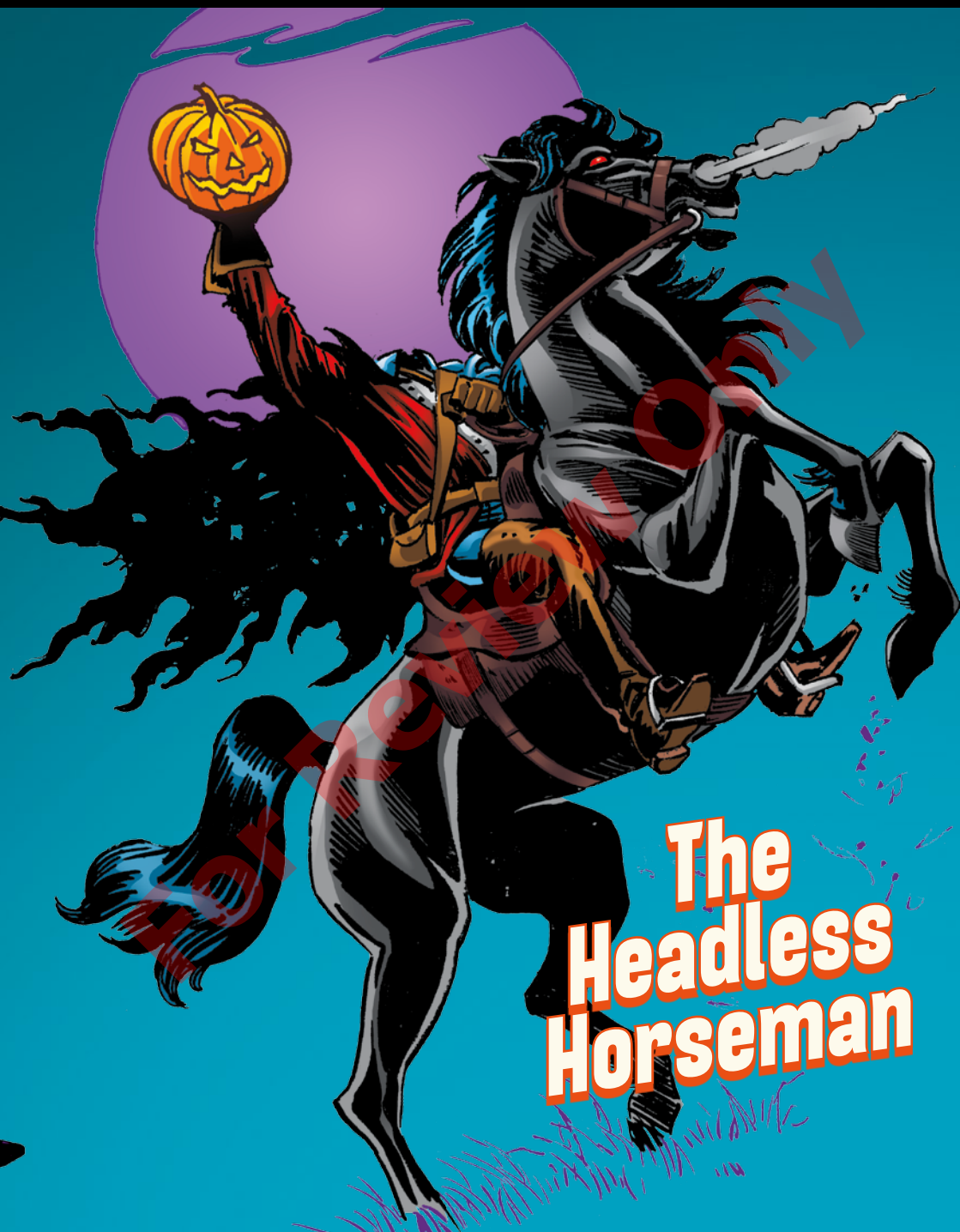
Irving may have based his characters for “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” on people he met and knew in the area. Many Van Tassels lived near Tarrytown. Eleanor Van Tassel Brush, the beautiful niece of Catriena Van Tassel, is said to have been Irving’s model for Katrina. The local blacksmith, Abraham Martling, may have been the inspiration for Brom Bones (“Brom” was often a nickname for someone with the name Abraham).

The character of Ichabod Crane could have come from several sources, but Irving probably borrowed the name from a soldier, Colonel Ichabod Crane, whom he met while serving in the army. Jesse Merwin, a schoolteacher from nearby Kinderhook, was a friend of Irving’s and may have been the basis for Ichabod’s character.

There’s also an actual legend about a Hessian soldier who was found in Sleepy Hollow. The Hessian was killed by soldiers of the Continental Army, and his head was nearly cut off. The legend says a local couple, out of respect for the Hessian, buried him in the Old Dutch Burying Grounds because a Hessian soldier had once saved their baby. Irving may have stumbled across this legend while working on a biography of George Washington, and it could have become the basis for “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

CAST OF CHARACTERS





CHAPTER 1

THE SCHOOLMASTER

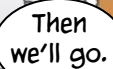
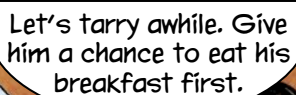
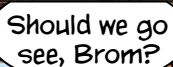
Along the shore of the Hudson River, which runs through the great state of New York . . .

. . . there was a village known as Tarry Town.

B BLACKSMITH **B**

This name was given to the village because the men tended to "tarry" and spend their days sitting around.

CLANG!
CLANG!



Not far from the village was a little valley known by the name of Sleepy Hollow.

Tucked in one end of the Hollow was a modest farm owned by Hans Van Ripper and his wife.

They had been given the duty of boarding the local schoolmaster, Ichabod Crane.

I hope he got enough to eat.

If he didn't, I'll have to squeeze more eggs out of my chickens.

Along the edge of the Van Ripper's land stood a one-room schoolhouse.

See, there he is, boys. Right on time.

When Ichabod entered the school . . .

AAAAH!

The school's
bewitched!

If there be
ghosts or goblins
in here, beware!

Ha, did you hear
him squeal!

Your best joke
yet, Brom.

That'll teach Ichabod
to stay away from my
Katrina!

A little while later . . .

The door
is closed.

Should we
knock?

Just
open it.



Good
morning,
students.





What were you doing up there, sir?

I, um, was performing an experiment to test gravity.



Yes, that's why the furniture was hung from the ceiling.

Ooooh!



Now, Samuel, go fetch a ladder.

We shall get the chairs down and begin your daily lessons.