

MONSTERS ROCK

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LOGLINE: A turtle-cyborg-rockstar and unicorn-kitty-mermaid find themselves awash in a strange world after a tsunami. To make it back home, they must find understanding through song.

SYNOPSIS: On a distant planet where music is magic, underwater fantasy creatures and desert monsters live at odds with each other. When a cyborg rock star attempts to end the fighting once and for all, he sets their world to chaos, and the ensuing storm separates a cheerful unicorn-kitty-mermaid princess from her home. Both rock star and princess find themselves in a strange new world, and in the quest to get back to their homes, they discover that no one is really a monster.

THE WORLD

Giantopia is planet the size of 10,000 suns. Fortunately, it's populated by fantastical and powerful creatures who are big and tall enough to fill its surface. Half of the world is covered in a clear blue ocean, the other half a scorching desert. These two environments are held apart by an impenetrable wall running the equator of the planet. The ocean is inhabited by unicorns, mermaids, and fairies, while the desert is full of ghosts, skeletons, dragons, and creatures even more frightening. Giantopia is a magical world, but instead of spells and magic wands, it powered by music and songs. Different genres of music have different powers, and particularly powerful individuals emit musical backing whenever they feel strong emotions. All Giantopians are capable of using this magic, and they do, as musical expression is central to communication for these creatures. Only the brave attempt to harness the power of the music through the use of instruments.

The oceanic side of Giantopia is governed by the **Kingdom Cadenza**. Early in Cadenza's history, its inhabitants built the wall which runs the length of Giantopia due to their fear of the creatures who lived in the desert, who were feared due to their monstrous appearance. Cadenza has blossomed into a bustling world full of soft orchestral music, featuring instruments such as harps and windchimes. Its people are resourceful and intelligent, wanting for nothing. Magic and music flow freely through the kingdom, so much so that its creatures have almost no need for verbal communication. Instead of speaking, they write messages in the water, but mainly communicate via musical expression.

Giantopia's desert is ruled by no one; it doesn't even have a true name. Known to the inhabitants of Cadenza as the **Atonal Desert**, the landscape is ravaged by drought and volcanoes. There are scattered pockets of families attempting to co-exist, but the lack of resources have created an "every man for himself" mentality. There is very little food, and rogue musicians terrorize the weaker monsters. Dissonant gangs play electric guitars, drums, and electronic keyboards, having warped the natural healing power of music into a harmful force. Most musicians seek the power to play the mythical Death Chord, capable of killing anyone who is touched by its soundwaves.

THE CHARACTERS

ROCK GOD (16): Half turtle, half robot, full of rage. Rock God came from parents who did their best to live peacefully in the Atonal Desert. As soon as he was old enough to become aware of the unjust circumstances of his world, Rock God left home in search of musical power. He built his own electric guitar from scrap metal and mastered the magic of hard rock at an unprecedented young age, earning his name and a loyal band of followers. Rock God has a special interest in other teenagers, especially those who came from good parents like his own. He resents the concept of “goodness” as he believes it led to Cadenza’s casting out of the monsters, so Rock God woos youngsters from their happy homes with promises of glory and revolution. Unbeknownst to even his own gang members, Rock God possesses a magical guitar pick named Chip, which he found in the wreckage of a volcano. It is through Chip’s guidance that Rock God has been able to become such a talented musician, and Chip has promised to help him learn the Death Chord so that he can destroy the Kingdom Cadenza and rule all of Giantopia.

UNICORNRA (10): UnicornRa is the heir to Cadenza’s throne. She is part unicorn, part cat, and part fish. UnicornRa has an unusually sweet singing voice and is considered to be the most kindhearted princess the kingdom has ever known, normally spending her days helping other Cadenzians with her healing song, assisted by her best friend Sparkle Heart. Raised under the loving protection of her parents, Princess UnicornRa has no idea the Atonal Desert even exists, and has never known any feeling other than joy. She loves her family and her home fiercely, led by her unyieldingly trusting heart. Although her generosity and optimism are admirable, her sheltered life has left her naïve and underdeveloped emotionally. If ever faced with real danger, distress, or heartbreak, she would likely be unable to process her own feelings, and the results could be dangerous...

CHIP (immortal): A sentient guitar pick, carved from the earliest musicians of the desert. Chip is power-hungry with no real motives of his own, seeking only death and fire. The first Death Chord was played using Chip, and those early musicians immediately realized its power would lead only to the further destruction of their beloved home. They threw Chip into a volcano, where he remained for hundreds of years, until an eruption ejected him into the desert, and he was found by Rock God. Chip is extremely manipulative and willing to say anything to a musician to win their trust and keep them playing; prolonged use of Chip during performance can hurt a musician’s ability to play on their own so that they eventually rely on Chip completely. When we meet Rock God, he teeters dangerously close to that point.

SPARKLE HEART (immortal): Sparkle Heart is a guardian angel who is sworn to protect and guide UnicornRa. Her power is housed in a pink bracelet, which UnicornRa received from her mother. Sparkle Heart is the world’s most persistent cheerleader, a little obnoxious but always ready to hype her friends up. Although she loves to sing more than anyone else in Cadenza, Sparkle Heart is tone-deaf and terrible to listen to. Nonetheless, her magic is strong, as it is powered by a genuine love of music and pure leaking of emotion. Sparkle Heart was originally beholden to UnicornRa’s mother Mermermon long ago; she was created by Mermermon’s

mother as a gift. Although Sparkle Heart was created for Mermermon and ultimately answers to her, she has a strong bond with UnicornRa and the two of them have become best friends. (Oh, and funny thing about Sparkle Heart, she cannot lie!)

MERMERMON (grown-up): Queen Mermermon, a catfish in the most literal sense, is the ruler of the Kingdom Cadenza. She is brave and stubborn, known in her youth for a bullheaded dedication to breaking the rules. Her own mother created Sparkle Heart hoping to reign in her sometimes-reckless behavior, although Sparkle Heart was more of a conspirator for Mermermon. Mermermon was fascinated by the world beyond the wall, and often had Sparkle Heart show her images of the desert's monsters. Because Mermermon had never met a mean-hearted person in her life, she truly believed that the monsters must be good, even if they looked scary, and dreamed of establishing peace when she became queen. When Mermermon was a teenager, her father launched a small-scale attack on the Atonal Desert due to rumors of a planned invasion. Mermermon stowed away on her father's chariot, hoping to help some of the monsters to safety. Once in the desert, she was horrified of the wasteland she saw, a world where desperation had turned creatures just like her to evil. A skeletal horse creature tried to kill her, although Sparkle Heart used magic to block the attack, leaving the creature damaged. Mermermon used her healing song to save him and was able to use her song to heal his heart, transforming him into a unicorn. The two of them married, and despite their strong love for each other, butt heads over how to handle the Atonal Desert. Mermermon holds true to her belief that every monster in the desert is capable of good, if only someone would heal their hearts.

KOKOFOSH (grown-up): Kokofosh was born a skeletal horse creature in the desert, and like most other monsters, grew up as a petty thief, wandering in and out of gangs. He never knew his parents and lived only to survive. During his teen years, the desert was suddenly attacked by the king of Cadenza, and Kokofosh was caught in the crossfires. During his dash to safety, he caught sight of young Cadenzian girl, alone and scared, and wearing a bright jeweled bracelet. Thinking that the bracelet could be his ticket to a better life, he tried to kill the young girl, but was knocked unconscious by a bright burst of a light. When he came to, he was in the back of a Cadenzian wagon with the young girl. She placed a hand on his heart and sang to him, healing his anger and fear, as his body transformed into that of a beautiful unicorn. Kokofosh was able to make a new life in Cadenza with the girl who had saved them, and the two of them fell in love and eventually married, allowing the former monster to become the next king of Cadenza. Kokofosh is ashamed of who he used to be and believes the desert to be an evil place which sucks the goodness out of people. He has turned his back on his home completely and has vowed to keep the wall between them as strong as possible in order to preserve his new life and family. He is very protective of his daughter UnicornRa, going to great lengths to keep her from finding out his true identity or about the existence of the desert.

THE STORY

As UnicornRa frolics through Cadenza, spreading joy and surrounded by safety, Rock God labors with his guitar under the hot sun of the desert. After a near year of practice and training with Chip, Rock God gets his gang of monsters together and prepares to use the Death Chord to destroy Cadenza. The monsters gather at the wall to strike, but Rock God does not use Chip to play the Death Chord, despite Chip's attempts to sway him. Rock God's gang does not know about Chip, and he wants to keep it that way. Without Chip, though, he is not strong enough to play the chord properly, and instead of killing the Cadenzians, he creates a huge tsunami which hits both sides of Giantopia, separating all creatures (good and bad) from their parents.

UnicornRa is playing music with Sparkle Heart and her parents in the castle courtyard when the tsunami hits. When the storm settles, King Kokofosh finds that Queen Mermermon and UnicornRa are both gone. UnicornRa has been swept away by the huge wave, losing her bracelet (and Sparkle Heart) in the process. Although she is afraid to be alone without Sparkle Heart's protection, she pushes that fear aside and remains optimistic. Singing her joyous song, she sets out to find her mother so they can both return home.

On the other side of the wall, Rock God gathers his scattered crew of monsters, all of whom are distraught and searching for their parents. Rock God realizes that Giantopia isn't worth saving and tells his gang to forget their parents if they ever want true power. He tells them he will find them a new home where they can create better lives for themselves, no longer at the bottom of the food chain. He then apologizes to Chip and promises to do as he says moving forward. Using Chip, he plays a transportation song, whisking them away from the near-destroyed Giantopia.

They end up on Earth, in the middle of New York City. In the process, though, Rock God's gang learn about Chip and accuse him of having no real power. They abandon him to explore the city. News quickly spreads that the city is overrun with monsters, and the New Yorkers meet the Giantopians with the same horror and disgust they experienced back home. As the other monsters cause wreckage and mayhem throughout the city, Rock God questions whether he really is a monster. Chip assures him that the humans are the real monsters and tells him he must destroy this world to make it his own.

Back on Giantopia, UnicornRa comes face to face with a gang of shark monsters who were washed into Cadenza by the tsunami. She tries to stay calm and happy, attempting to befriend the sharks. When they attack her, though, she finally explodes with a new powerful song. It blows the sharks away and protects her. She is horrified at this new music and the thought that she could have hurt the sharks, but the fear only strengthens the song. For the first time in her life, UnicornRa cries, ending her song with an angry scream that creates another burst of magic. She is carried through the ocean with a force so powerful that she, too, is transported to another world.

Meanwhile, Kokofosh is so overcome with grief over losing his wife and daughter that he begins playing sad music and sad music only, which slowly begins to deteriorate his form, revealing his true identity. He hides from his subjects inside the remains of his castle, and they resent him for not stepping up to help rebuild the kingdom.

In NYC, the monsters-vs-humans situation has become so intense that the military is sent to the city to restore order. The monsters are captured and sentenced to fight to the death. (An inhumane and orthodox punishment fitting these inhuman creatures.) All the humans of New York are excited to see the epic Battle Royale, in which the horrifying freaks will show their true nature by turning on one another. UnicornRa washes up in the New York Harbor and, assuming goodness out of everyone she meets, approaches a human for help. The human runs away screaming, and UnicornRa is captured by the military and thrown into prison with the monsters.

In prison, Rock God is furious to be met by the Cadenzian princess, who represents everything he wanted to escape on Giantopia. The monsters want to kill UnicornRa due to the crimes that her kingdom has committed against their kind, and UnicornRa is shocked to learn the truth about the desert. She is so shaken that the people she loved would hurt others that she shuts down and loses her will to sing. The monsters perform a rock song to attack her but are surprised to find their music doesn't hurt her. Slowly, she begins to sing a song of anger and confusion as she plays rock for the first time. She realizes that each group of creatures had seen the other as monsters and remembers how it felt when the human called her a monster. The song ends with a powerful duet between UnicornRa and Rock God as they reach an emotional understanding.

On the night of the Battle Royale, the monsters shock everyone by turning on the humans instead of each other, breaking free and destroying the arena. Chip instructs Rock God to use the Death Chord, but Rock God is afraid he's not powerful enough to play it, even with Chip's help. The entire gang of monsters, UnicornRa included, play their music to support him. Rock God is able to play the chord, killing everyone in NYC. Finally free, he transports everyone back to Giantopia so they can clean up his mess.

When they arrive in Giantopia, the monsters are reunited with their parents and get ready to rebuild their world as one of love and understanding. UnicornRa has promised to help them, but plays a sad song when she realizes that she still hasn't reunited with her own parents.

The song harmonizes with Kokofosh's song across the sea, and Rock God uses his guitar to send UnicornRa to him. She finds him in his full monster form and learns the truth of his identity. She tells him that he has to break down the wall when the kingdom is rebuilt so they can live peacefully with the monsters, because they're his family too. Sparkle Heart then appears, explaining that she was with Mermermon when she was first washed away. Mermermon threw the bracelet back into the sea so that Sparkle Heart could find and help UnicornRa and Kokofosh but instructed her to remain hidden until Kokofosh told UnicornRa the truth. UnicornRa and Kokofosh reflect on their new understanding that no one is all good or all bad, and that they can't just be happy all of the time.

With their new realizations, UnicornRa, Kokofosh, Sparkle Heart, and Rock God play a powerful song which clears the waves, revealing the cave where Mermermon has been trapped. The four of them free her and the happy family is reunited. Rock God sees how much the family loves each other and realizes Chip was wrong to make him turn his back on love, and that Chip never really cared about him. He breaks Chip in half, and the sound wave which is emitted breaks down what's left of the wall.

A year later, Giantopia has been rebuilt, and there is no more wall between the ocean and the desert, creating a beautiful beach in between where all creatures can coexist. Kokofosh has taken on a half unicorn/half monster form, and Rock God has reconnected with his family, teaching his parents to play rock. Kokofosh, Mermermon, and UnicornRa welcome a new baby into the world, Matharsis. Rock God gifts him with a tiny guitar.

EXPANSION POSSIBILITIES

- Prequel film about Mermermon's girlhood
- Sequel film in which the humans attack Giantopia for revenge
- Spin-off series following UnicornRa and Rock God as they explore their new peaceful world
- Branded music educational content (webseries, YouTube, etc)
- Rock Band style video game

CONCEPT ART



















