

Maryland Goatman

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Maryland’s Goatman changes from bridge guardian to failed experiment as different tellers take hold of him. A university folklore archive preserves those differences instead of forcing them into one origin.

STATUS	Archived local folklore; origin stories conflict
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Maryland, USA
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Maryland folklore collected in the 1960s-1980s, including 1971 accounts

THE ACCOUNT

On Tucker Road, one version of Maryland’s Goatman waits near a narrow bridge, angry because children tried to burn his small shack. That telling was recorded in 1971 and survives in the University of Maryland’s folklore collection. Other versions place a horned, threatening figure on different roads or explain him through an accident. The later laboratory story supplies another origin altogether. What remains consistent is a place just beyond ordinary supervision, where a young visitor is warned that somebody is already waiting.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The university collection preserves what named people told student collectors, rather than certifying the events inside each tale. A scholarly study traces how collection, news coverage and legend-tripping helped spread Goatman stories. These records support a twentieth-century regional tradition; they do not document a transformed scientist or an actual half-goat person. Different origins are evidence of the legend’s movement, not missing pieces of a single police case.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The bridge version is especially intimate. It gives the feared figure a home, a grievance and a boundary. Crossing into his space becomes the story’s dangerous act, making an ordinary road feel as though it belongs to someone the map has left out.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Folklore (University of Maryland's Version)

University of Maryland

<https://today.umd.edu/folklore-university-of-marylands-version>

Getting Maryland's Goat: Diffusion and Change in the Goatman Legend

Contemporary Legend / Indiana University ScholarWorks

<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/cl/article/download/35074/38274/90965>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Maryland Goatman

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-041>