

AN INCREDIBLY VICIOUS WOLF

Written by

Madison Ballard

TEASER

EXT. FORESTED PARK - NIGHT

The July full moon shines on quarterback star CODY MICHAELS (18) jogging along a forested path.

SNAP! Something lurks within the shadows.

Cody continues on his way. Faster, then a little faster.

LEAVES RUSTLE. Okay, something is definitely following him. He turns around and peers into the forest.

Cody approaches the dark forest...

CODY
(smiles)
Janelle? Is that you?

Cody pulls out his phone and establishes that there is poor to no service in the woods. He uses the phone's flashlight, but nothings there.

He wanders back to the path, typing a message as he tries to get signal.

A BRANCH SNAPS! That's actually kinda scary, and Cody feels like he's being watched.

He gets a bar of service and sends the text.

Eventually, DING! From the woods.

JANELLE (O.S.)
Damnit!

JANELLE (18) laughs as she steps on the path.

CODY
You're following me?!

JANELLE
I'm trying to scare you, Cody!

They get close.

CODY
Why are you trying to scare me? Hm?

They kiss until they hear A LOW SCREAM.

JANELLE
Did you hear that?

CODY
Yeah.

He tries to kiss her again, get things going.

JANELLE
I think someone's out here.

CODY
So?

JANELLE
I don't want to get caught. Or
watched.

CODY
Janelle, it's like 2AM!

JANELLE
Let's just go to your car!

CODY
I ran here!

JANELLE
Cody!

CODY
My mom parks behind me now and
blocks me in! You texted me,
Janelle! I have to wake up in four
hours for practice. Are we doing
this or not?

JANELLE
We can go to my car. God! You're
already all sweaty.

CODY
Some girls like that.

Janelle leans in for a kiss, but AN INCREDIBLY VICIOUS WOLF
leaps from the forest and latches onto Cody's neck!

Janelle screams and runs. Cody topples to the ground, and the
wolf shakes its head. Cody's bones SNAP, and he bleeds out.

Curiously, the wolf ignores its kill to chase Janelle.

EXT. PARK PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Janelle can't tell, because she's running for her life, but there are three other cars in the lot: An RV, an old sedan, and a red car.

She unlocks her car and beats the wolf inside.

It climbs on the hood and watches her, almost amusedly, through glowing golden eyes.

Janelle fumbles with her keys and gets the car started, but the wolf's uncanny behavior distracts her... It pants and smiles, like it's playing a game.

She notices something familiar in the wolf's eyes.

JANELLE

You playing with me?!

The wolf pounces on her windshield, CRACKING the glass!

Janelle flips into reverse and backs up wildly.

The wolf slides off her car.

She laughs as the car comes to a jerking halt. She shifts into drive and floors it, aiming for the wolf.

The wolf dodges the car, but Janelle reverses to go back after it. She speeds forward, loses control of the wheel, and crashes into a tree.

The wolf retreats back to the forest.

END TEASER

ACT I

EXT. GARNET FALLS - DAY

INSPECTOR RODERICK (40's) drives an government car into town. Some of the locals seem eager for his arrival.

By the school, football stud TAYLOR DENNON (18) and the football team tail the unfamiliar car.

PARKER HAYWORTH (18) and RIVER LASITTER (18) chat and joke on their walk to work. One of the guys pats Parker's butt when they pass, and the girls berate the boys.

EXT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Roderick pulls into the station parking lot and gets out. He surveys the picturesque mountain town.

Journalist RIDLEY FAIRWEATHER (28) waits at the bus stop.

He turns around as social worker JORDAN WEST (30) exits the station with carrying several case files.

Jordan smiles at the stranger. She is lovely.

JORDAN
Hi, how do you do?

Roderick is, uncharacteristically, flustered as he starts.

RODERICK
Fine, thanks. And you?

JORDAN
I'm fine.

She notices his car.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
You're the investigator! Sheriff said you were arriving today.
(offers hand)
I'm Jordan West.

RODERICK
Daniel Roderick.

JORDAN
(smiles)
Daniel. I like that name.

RODERICK
I don't hear it often. Most people
call me Roderick.

JORDAN
(smiles)
Inspector Roderick... It was nice
to meet you.

RODERICK
You as well, Mrs. West.

JORDAN
Miss, but call me Jordan.

Jordan goes to her sedan. Roderick enters the building.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

THE SHERIFF (50's) is beefy old man. Taxidermy trophies
trophy the walls. He does his paperwork diligently.

KNOCK, KNOCK!

SHERIFF
Come in! Ah, you must be the
detective.

RODERICK
Daniel Roderick.

SHERIFF
Daniel, I'm Mike Dobson.

They shake.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
People call me Sheriff.

RODERICK
People me Roderick.

SHERIFF
The full moon file is right here.

Sheriff offers Roderick a seat. Roderick opens the box and
examines the evidence of the attack on Janelle Pointer. There
are also older files. A lot more incidents.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
What's the craziest thing you've
ever seen, Roderick?

RODERICK

Besides the unclear briefing that got me here?

SHERIFF

Yeah, I meant in the field.

RODERICK

(thinks)

I don't like the word "craziest." When you think of it like that, it's all the same. But trust me that I have brought victims of unimaginable sadism to justice.

SHERIFF

They said you were the best.

RODERICK

In some regards, I could be considered an expert.

SHERIFF

You're the modest type, I'm gathering. I celebrate my wins, Inspector.

RODERICK

(re: taxidermy)

I see. Sheriff, aside from the disappearance happening under a full moon, there's little evidence of anything ritual about this case.

SHERIFF

Then why would they send you?

RODERICK

The briefing was so vague that I honestly can't tell, so I searched for other cases in Garnet Falls... You stay pretty busy. I assume that's why I'm here.

SHERIFF

Quality control? Well, I'm just glad they sent their best.

RODERICK

I don't doubt that I need to be here, but I would like to know why my brief wasn't transparent.

SHERIFF
(gravely)
A wolf attacked those kids.

RODERICK
I don't understand. The report
claimed it was an assault and
abduction --

SHERIFF
It's a rare type of wolf, Roderick,
from an ancient line of wolves. One
that can stand up and talk.

RODERICK
I'm familiar with werewolves.

SHERIFF
Are you?

RODERICK
Are you?

A tense pause.

RODERICK (CONT'D)
Local legend, I'm guessing,
Sheriff?

SHERIFF
A wolf.

RODERICK
But -- So, you suspect this wolf is
also a person?

SHERIFF
You saw the crime scene photos!

RODERICK
I saw a staged cover up!

SHERIFF
But a human cover up OF A GODDAMN
WOLF ATTACK!

Roderick stands up.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

RODERICK
I need to make some calls.

SHERIFF

I know you're skeptical, Roderick.
Why not use that to help this town?
Janelle Pointer saw a wolf. The
claw marks on the car were wolf.

RODERICK

Yes, I --

SHERIFF

She's still in the hospital
recovering from the accident. My
assistant Lainey will send you your
appointment time to talk with her.
It'll be early. She's getting
discharged tomorrow.

RODERICK

And you believe --

SHERIFF

The witness claims it was a wolf. I
know a human did this, but it seems
like a wolf. Doesn't it?

RODERICK

It does.

SHERIFF

Where are you staying, inspector?

RODERICK

Hayworth Bed & Breakfast.

SHERIFF

Ideal place to stay. Have you
checked in?

RODERICK

No, I was hoping for more clarity
before --

SHERIFF

-- Well, now you've got it.

RODERICK

I have some calls to make.

SHERIFF

Send my best to little Miss
Hayworth.

Roderick takes the file and leaves.

EXT. GARNET FALLS - DAY

Roderick drives to Hayworth Bed & Breakfast. The quaint town seems normal.

INT. HAYWORTH BED & BREAKFAST LOBBY - DAY

Hayworth Bed & Breakfast is a historically preserved boarding house. The owner's daughter Parker Hayworth rereads Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier while she works the front desk.

RODERICK

Hello. Checking in. Roderick.

Parker puts down the book and gives Roderick her attention.

PARKER

The inspector from out of town! I took the reservation from your assistant! I'm Parker Hayworth.

RODERICK

You're "Little Miss" Hayworth, I assume? Sheriff says hi.

PARKER

Oh!
(giggles)
Great guy, huh?

Roderick offers a wry smile. Parker checks him in.

RODERICK

It's nice to meet you, Miss Hayworth. I'm Daniel Roderick.

PARKER

You're here about Cody Michaels, right?

RODERICK

Did you know him?

PARKER

Kind of, but not really. I miss him though... How many keys?

RODERICK

Just the one.

She gives him his key.

PARKER

He was on the football team with my friend Taylor.

Roderick grows interested. "Was?"

PARKER (CONT'D)

That's mostly how I knew him.

RODERICK

That would be Taylor Dennon?

Parker thinks it's cool he knew that.

PARKER

Yeah! Um, well, I gave you a north facing room. It has the best view of the forest.

RODERICK

I appreciate it. Have a nice day, Parker.

PARKER

You too, Mr. Roderick.

Roderick takes his things to his room and goes to the window.

True to Parker's word, the view of the forest is beautiful, mesmerizing even. Roderick loses track of time staring at it.

INT. RODERICK'S ROOM - DAY

It's past dinner by the time Roderick has unpacked, showered, and prepared a case status update.

INT. HAYWORTH BED & BREAKFAST LOBBY - NIGHT

Roderick enters the lobby to find Parker doing her homework on the lobby couch.

PARKER

Hello, Mr. Roderick. Are you happy with your room?

RODERICK

Yes, it's great. I'm wondering if there's a place to grab a bite to eat, though.

PARKER

I can warm up a plate of dinner, if you'd like.

RODERICK

No, I'd prefer to --

PARKER

Investigate the area?

Parker smiles. She's so young that Roderick is unnerved by how charming he finds her. She is awfully pretty.

PARKER (CONT'D)

There's a Darling's Diner around the corner on Third Street. Or there's the old Robbie's on Elm. It's another block and in the opposite direction, but you can drink there.

Roderick raises an eyebrow.

RODERICK

Good to know. Thanks for your help.

He leaves Parker to resume studying.

EXT. HAYWORTH BED & BREAKFAST - NIGHT

Roderick can't decide whether to walk around the corner to Third Street or a couple blocks to Fourth.

LOUD MUSIC blares from Taylor Dennon's red car as he pulls into the lot. He jumps out of his car and runs inside.

TAYLOR

Hey, Parker!

Roderick walks to Fourth Street.

INT. ROBBIE'S BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Roderick helps himself to a booth with a view of the patrons. It's not very busy. A few families, young married couples, old married couples.

Jordan West sits at the bar with Ridley and other friends. She notices Roderick and waves. He politely reciprocates.

Nerve-wracked ALEX BLACK (21) is his server.

ALEX
How do you do?

RODERICK
Fine, thanks. Yourself?

ALEX
Yeah, good. The menu make sense?

Roderick hasn't looked at a menu. He grabs one from the container they're kept.

RODERICK
I assume it's standard diner chow?

ALEX
Yeah. We make a killer meatloaf. Or the chicken's nice... Sir. Anything to drink? Sir?

RODERICK
Coffee.

ALEX
Yes, that's good. I'll go get that.

Alex rushes off. Roderick scrutinizes her odd behavior.

JORDAN (O.S.)
She's harmless.

Jordan makes herself visible.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Can I join you?

RODERICK
Please do.

Jordan sits.

JORDAN
I've known her since her family moved here.

RODERICK
Known how? Through social services?

JORDAN
Unfortunately. She's really a bright girl. Kind, creative, smart. A rare breed.

Roderick can't help note Jordan's choice of words.