

WATCHER

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“John, could you hurry up and come sit down for dinner?” said marry.

“I'm coming, you and the kids can wait a minute or two.” Said john in an agitated voice as he opened the front door.

A gust of wind not far behind him as it swept up the dirt from outside into the house.

“John! Close that door!

“I know, I know.” He replied to marry as he firmly shut the door from the angry wind.

He brushes himself off, slipped out of his work boots and headed over to the table to sit with his family.

“The horses were awfully jumpy this evening. It has never taken that long to bring them into the barn. Thankfully I managed to get them all in though. The coyotes have been quite the pests lately, always causing a ruckus with the horses.”

“Yeah, though tonight was the first time I didn't hear them howling and yipping. Maybe they have finally lost interest in toying with our livestock.”

“That or some other predator moved in taking their place.”

“What do you mean?” Marry said looking at him kind of confused.

“Wolves. Coyotes and wolves don't get along very well. If that isn't it then I am really confused.”

“Wolves are nothing to worry about. They never come close to people, and rather avoid conflict then to start it at all costs.”

“True. Wolves are in my opinion better to have as company. Though don't be so fooled. You hear that kids? Katelyn and Terry, if you see one you must not get close. They are still a predator, and still think of you two little youngsters as an easy meal.”

“They will eat us?” Terry says, stopping mid way into eating the spoonful of mash potatoes.

“I didn't say they will eat you if they get the chance, it's just a better idea to keep your distance. They are not like Koda over there. Koda is just as big as a wolf, but he is family, and a tamed animal. Those are wild and unpredictable animals out there. They fight for survival and will eat just about anything that seems suitable for them. People are not usually on the menu though. Most predators fear us just as much as we fear them.”

“Oh...” Replied Terry, finally finishing off his bite before the scoop falls of his spoon.

Everyone was quiet for the rest of dinner. Katelyn and Terry too busy scarfing down their food to talk. John and Marry lost in thought about the farm and work the next day would bring.

John helped Marry clean the kitchen and Katelyn and Terry went off to play outside before having to clean up for bed.

Katelyn was the oldest. She was 11, while her brother Terry was 6.

The family lived on the outskirts of town. It held only about 200 people, but that was enough in John's mind. He preferred solitude and to be left alone. His wife on the other hand, would rather live dead center in town, be crowded by buildings and all the people.

“Hey Katie! Wait up!” said Terry as he chased after his sister towards the bales by the barn. Racing to

the bricks of straw for the horses and climbing to the top, was one of their favourite things to do.

Katie then had stopped about 10 feet back from the bales. Terry was quite confused but took the chance to beat her to them for once.

“Terry no!” She said in a course voice while grabbing his arm to pull him back.

“Hey! What are you doing?”

“Shhhh.”

“What is it?” Terry said in a whisper, now somewhat concerned.

“What’s that over there? You see it? On the hill by the forest line.”

“I don't see it, to dark out. Lets go climb the bails to get a better look.”

Terry ripped away at her grip, rushing towards the bails to check it out. He wanted to see what she was seeing for himself. Whatever it was, it was worth it to him. This thing had gotten his sisters attention that bad that she didn't race all the way to the bales. Must have been pretty serious to cause her to lose the race.

“Terry no! Get down, it will see you!”

Snapping out of her trance at what she was seeing. She ran after him, but he climbed all the way to the top before she could drag him down to her.

“Look! it's a wolf sis! Wow! At least I think that’s what it is.”

Katelyn's frustration on her brother melted away as she to was then distracted by strange figure on the hill.

“Kids! Time for bed! Come clean up!” Their father yelled out.

They were not fazed by it. They were fixated on whatever it was up on the hill a little ways in the

distance.

“Terry! Katelyn! Come on!”

John became quite confused. Even Katelyn was not responding to his call. He looked in the direction his kids were staring off so intensely.

He noticed something as well up on the hill by the edge of the forest line.

“What is that? It's so hard to see.” He squinted really hard to try and make out the outline.

“A coyote? No. It seems bigger than that.” He began to make out a big hefty body, and the shape of a canine head. The pointed ears alert in the kids direction.

“A wolf. Hah! I knew they were the reason for the coyotes disappearance.” He became worried though, since the animal was very fixated on his children, and night was the time of these hunters.

“Kids, come on back! It's just a wolf, I told you to expect them now come on. You will get to see more soon enough. Katelyn, your going to wreck your good dress up there!”

Terry slowly climbed off the bale, huffing and puffing.

His sister did not move still.

“Sis, what are you doing? You heard dad, now lets go or he will *eat you!*” Her brother last few words exaggerated in a creepy menacing voice.

“Katelyn I do not want to have to say it again.”

The moon now had come out from the clouds giving them all a better idea at what they were looking at.

Terry tugged on her long blond curly hair that glistened in the light of the moon.

“Sis?” He said a little worried. She continued to ignore him.

Katelyn squinted at the animal; something was very odd about this creature. It seemed hunched intensely. She had seen wolves in books and once in her lifetime before. This one must have been a mangy mutt or something of its litter, it was all alone. Though something else churned her stomach by its presence. She wanted to know why.

It did not move, it just continued to lurk and stare at them.

The animal not even once, peeked or turned to look at their father who was screaming at them to get inside. It was fixated on them specifically which gave them the chills even more, especially Katelyn.

Terry tugged on her dress trying to pull her down, but Katelyn fought against him to stay where she stood.

“What is it, why won't you listen? This isn't like you, Kay-”

They both were looking at the animal now and Terry lost the ability to speak as the animal rose up. It wasn't just like a normal dog rising up on two legs. The thing rose up until it was fully strait and 10ft tall. The thing had a muscular human form. Its head was of a wolf; it was covered in glistening white fur, and had digitigraded legs. This was no wolf, but something out of a nightmare.

It then lifted its lips and showed off a nice gleaming set of menacing canine teeth.

“RUN!!!” She screamed.

“That's not a wolf...” Her brother barely spoke out in fear.

“Oh my God...Kids!!!” John hurried to get to them. He tried to get his legs to push harder. The fear that ran through his body at that moment was crippling.

The beast was well on its way down the slope towards them, and was gaining on the kids fast.

Its fur gleamed as white as snow in the moonlight, its eyes were unsettling red that glowed like fire.

John reached them and threw a child up over each shoulder, and ran as fast as he could towards the house. John was a well built man, and was very fast himself.

“John?”

His wife yelled, now appearing in the doorway.

She gasped in horror at the sight she saw.

He got inside just in time, throwing the huge iron dead lock over the door to hopefully block the beast for a while to buy them some time.

He motioned them to head to the basement, while handing his wife the candle from the kitchen table.

They hurried as fast as they could to the basement where they had a secret cellar that led out towards town. They all got down to the cellar door just as the door upstairs was knocked down in a powerful blow. Their candle was now blown out. They waited. John slowly and as quietly as he could, opened the passageway door. They watched its gleaming crimson eyes here and there threw the floorboard cracks. Its heavy monstrous breathing was very deep, and then It let out a low thundering growl.

“I will find you. I have never let anyone escape. None of the thousands I have killed have ever gotten

away. I assure you your death will be quick to come.”

They were really quite, and tried to hold their breathing and stop shaking in fear.

It let out a chuckle, and then started to smash down into the ground, breaking the boards that blocked them from the beast.

“GOOOooo! John yelled, opening the door. He then had lit a match to set fire to their house. He had always prepared himself for the worst. His OCD and paranoia of the worst, had finally paid off.

They hurried as fast as they could down the small passage way. John closed the huge iron door to block the beast in with the hungry flames.

About 15 minutes had passed, and they had reached the second door. He opened it for them, and then closed it behind him once everyone was in.

He double-checked all the locks, making sure they were set before relaxing.

“What was that thing?” Marry said.

“I do not know, But it wasn’t a wolf.”

“But dad, it had a head like one, and fur, and a tail, and legs?” Terry went on and on.

“I know it did, but it also had a body like a man, and was 10ft tall...That was a demon, a monster, not a furry 4 legged wolf.”

“Are we going to die? Are we safe now?” Katelyn said.

“I can only hope my contraptions and plan worked, we will know for sure if we make it until sunrise. If it manages to escape the flames, it will recede with the coming of daylight. For now, do not make any noises; try to relax if you can. This is our last place of hope.”

They huddled down together, listening, and waited for their fate they thought was right on the other side of that door to end them all.

But fate had decided to give them another chance, the first of their kind to live through this encounter.

“Damn you HUMANS!!!” The monster let out a howling scream in his frustration. It shook the very ground with it’s force. The family flinched and their father held them tighter as the scream trailed off into the night.

They continued to tremble as the creature rampaged above them for quite some time. They heard the yelp of their dog, and could hear the horses being slaughtered in the barn. The cries of the innocent animals burnt into their minds. The animal was completely insane and obviously ticked off by it’s loss.

The smoke has messed up my sense of smell. That human has outsmarted me.

The monster then started to chuckle again to itself.

“You win. But I will be back for you. You have turned out to be quite the prize. I will give you a couple days; I would like you to experience one more thing before I give you the gift you deserve.”