

Ottawa Peak

Written by
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INT. Sherriff station - Meeting room - Morning

The sun has only begun to crack between the blinds, adding a sliver of light to a room drowned in beige and greys. Two girls sit beside one another on a firm sofa. Lucy (14) her trousers are torn and Ava (10) her trousers are covered in muck. The clean hoodie provided by the station is a juxtaposition from their tattered clothes, messy greased hair and dirty skin.

Sitting across from them is the Sherriff, she is in formal wear, hair pinned neatly and natural makeup, and although a tuff exterior there is something soft behind the eyes. Behind her is her Deputy a younger man, wearing his uniform and badge.

The Sherriff is talking with the girls about the events that unfolded leading to the death of their brother.

LUCY

We were camping, in the woods, with our brother

Sherriff

Where exactly where you camping

LUCY

Ottawa Peak, it's supposed to have the best view of the park

Sherriff

Oh really

LUCY

Ye, my brother said in the morning the sun would shine between the folds of the trees, and if you were lucky the light catches on the tree tops, it's said to be an unforgettable sight

This topic is clearly unsettling to the sisters

SHERRIFF

I'm sorry to make you revisit this, we are looking to understand what happened, to piece together some missing information you might have. Is it okay is I ask some more questions

Both girls acknowledge, however Ava avoids eye contact

SHERIFF

What was the intention of your trip?

LUCY

Ava and I had been begging for weeks, and finally my brother folds, he said we would go for the weekend with him. I love nature and wanted to go for a hike and Ava wanted to see the animals

Lucy looks to Ava and pauses as if she has finally noticed her silence

Sherriff

And did you?...

Her question directed at Ava but she didn't respond and Lucy caught in Ava's silence

LUCY

Did we what, sorry

SHERIFF

Did you see any animals?

LUCY

Oh yes, ye we did... we saw a deer

The Sherriff notices the distress in their eyes, she comforts both of them.

SHERIFF

Take a second and when you're ready, try tell me what you saw

LUCY

It was hurt and afraid, it ran so fast, I barely saw it.

(N) One second we were having lunch by the river, all of a sudden this huge deer came bursting out of the bushes. I'd never seen a deer in person, I never knew they were so big.

It ran right passed us, that how I knew it was hurt, it left a trail of blood behind it. Then it stopped, barely ten yards from us and it looked at me. It was frightened, thinking back it was probably trying to warn us but we did think much of it, a mountain lion, that's what we said, but there was something unusual about it

SHERRIFF

Why don't you think it was a mountain lion?

LUCY

I never said it wasn't I just said it was unusual

SHERRIFF

Right, okay. What happened after you saw the deer?

LUCY

We packed up our things and kept walking till we pitched our tent on Ottawa's peaks...

Ava signals to Lucy she's anxious and wants her to stop.

SHERRIFF

Your safe, nothing can hurt you here.

LUCY

You won't believe us, you'll, you'll say were crazy

SHERRIFF

I promise I will listen and consider anything impossible to be probable.

AVA

Promise?

SHERRIFF

I promise.

(EXT.) Forest- Night - The forest was dark and damp, there were no other animals in the area, and they were aware whose territory it was. Because of the water dew the ground, as the night goes on the floor becomes sludgy and slippery. The visual is low no further than a few a couple tree lines.

LUCY

(N.)We were sleeping in our tent when we woke up to screaming, the most awful screams...

Ava cups her ears as if she could hear the scream in the moment

(N.)My brother he's brave, he was... and he took the torch around the tent, he said we were safe. But, the screaming got closer. It was coming from everywhere. Ava and I cupped our ears, trying to block it out.

(N.)It happened so fast, the tent was torn in half. This most awful thing stood tall, took a deep breath and burst out a gut wrenching shriek.

I swear the ground shook.

(N.) My brother held my hand and carried Ava over his shoulder, we ran. I'd turned by head to see this creature on all fours scrambling to get to us.

(N.) We ran through bushes, across rivers, we ran till we couldn't breathe

SHERRIFF

You're doing great Lucy, take a breath and when you're ready, what happened next?

Lucy regained the air in her chest.

LUCY

Nothing, just silence, it was like it was playing with us.

(N.) Every rustle of leaves or snapping of twigs I thought it was there, it was everywhere. Time moved slower, my brother held us both against a tree, in the cold, he never took his eyes off us, till it came back and it grabbed Ava

Ava's arm had been injured in the incident.

LUCY

My brother he, he shot the thing but it was no use it just made it worse, it dropped Ava and that when it, when it...

In the moment of flashes she saw the beast

LUCY

That's when I pulled Ava under a bush, it stunk in there, but we were safe.

(N) I covered her mouth, we stayed as still as possible, trying not to make a sound.

From under the bush they could see the scene unfolding. The beast tore into their brother, after the body went limp and the screaming stopped it moved on into the night. The girls remained hidden. Their once neat hair had been entwined in dirt and branches, they shivered in the marshy mud, with shock and misery imprinted in their eyes they lay wrapped in the bush with disguised their scent.

LUCY

That's when my brother, when he

SHERRIFF

That's okay you can stop there

Considering what Lucy went through the Sherriff saved her from having to admit what they all know. Her brother saved them at his own cost.

SHERIFF

I just have a few more question, you kept saying, it? Was it an animal or a person, would you describe it to me

LUCY

I only saw flashes, it was pail and hairless, it was like the cold hugged its skin to the bone, his nails were sharp, bit its face was, it was awful a thing of nightmares. Whatever it was it wasn't human.

SHERIFF

I know its not pleasant reliving this but could you try describe the face to me

LUCY

I know it sounds crazy, but there was something familiar about it and yet something so far from natural, it face was hidden behind a mask of bone. I'm sorry, I didn't see anything else.

SHERIFF

That's okay, you've both done great. Thank you for answering our question. If you just wait a moment with the deputy and ill go and get your parents.

(INT.) RECEPTION - The Sherriff walks out the room to the reception where the two parents are found consoling one another. Both parent in their thirty's look exhausted and frazzled. They are dressed in soft pastels and muted colour. It's clear the distress of losing a son and unknowing if their children are okay has taken a toll.

SHERIFF

Hi, my name is Sherriff Hutchison, I've been assigned to overlook your case, after inspection of the crime scene and after speaking with your children, we're currently ruling this as a tragic animal attack. We are still waiting on an autopsy, I will update you if there are any changes. I am sorry for your loss, if you have any questions, call me at any time.

PARENTS

Thank you.

SHERIFF

Follow me and all walk you to Lucy and Ava.

They pause outside the room, with a view into the meeting room with Lucy and Ava still sitting in the same spots.

MOTHER

Will they be okay?

They stop outside the door.

SHERIFF

The doctors can probably explain better than...

MOTHER

Please

SHERIFF

Eh Yes, I think they'll be okay. It's normal for children to fall into a psychosis after experiencing something as traumatic as Lucy and Ava have gone through. They are in shock. Ava is using silence to cope and Lucy has formed a hallucination to make sense of the situation. A child's mind is imaginative but equally resilient. Be patient with them.

FATHER

Of course.

SHERIFF

They will be fine, in relive terms.

They will need time to come to terms with the loss for their brother and your son, this can't be easy for any of you, again, if you need anything, I'm a call away.

(INT.) Corridor - The Sherriff opens the door for the parents, the parents enter and the Deputy leaves to join the Sherriff.

DEPUTY

Case closed.

On no you've got that look on your face.

SHERRIFF

I don't know, there's just something about those two girls, it just doesn't feel right and the way they described the creature

DEPUTY

You mean animal.

SHERRIFF

Well yes of course, it's the only thing that makes sense.

DEPUTY

Ye know because monsters aren't real.

SHERRIFF

Ye, but you saw the body, he was mauled, the organs were left, there were scratch marks but nothing familiar to mountain lions, wolves or bears, all which inhabit the area. There's just something weird about it. What animal hunts, taunts, kills so brutally and doesn't finish its meal. This thing is greed and careless.

DEPUTY

Ha, it's almost human

Good thing we ruled that out, no footprints, no sign any other people was on that trail in days, and the kid even said it wasn't human.

Oh oh oh ye know what, what's that thing called

SHERIFF

I don't know what you talking about.

DEPUTY

Wendigo, hahaha ye. Oooooo scary, better let the Winchesters know we got a Wendigo on our hands.

SHERIFF

Ha ha ha, very funny, but im surious something about this doesn't sit right with me.

DEPUTY

You read too much science fiction. If you believe in all that stuff, then have the people in the craic house are probably sane hahaha

SHERIFF

Ye haha I guess you're right. So, case closed.

DEPUTY

Screaming beast of Ottawa's Peak

SHERIFF

Oh, don't start.

DEPUTY

I'm just saying soon enough it gonna be in the news and next thing you know kids are gonna be travelling all over to try spot this 'thing'.

SHERIFF

How tragic, a death turned to tails. From the horrors and rumours form stories.

(EXT.) Forest - The sun finally rises on Ottawa's Peak, the children did indeed witness the spectacle, however their visual wasn't filled with hope and beauty but rather the light brought a new day to a night that will never leave them. With the sparkle of light the

transitions begins, the continual hope of spotting the beast and the foolish people whom seek to spot the thing.

DEPUTY

(N.) They'll sit around the camp fire, huddled in the dark wondering
if the thing going bump in the night is real

SHERIFF

I think this job is scary enough, nothing scarier than people?

And to that the double door close behind them leaving an image of
the police crest on the door.

(THE END...)