

A Good Man

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

GREG SANDERS - (29) African American orderly/guard. He was a star football player in college until some one intentionally leveled him at the knees destroying any hopes of becoming pro. He got so angry he nearly beat the guy into a coma on the field. Ever since then he has become a door mat thinking that by allowing life to do as it will he will finally find the peace he wants. Little does he realize that life is about struggle and sometimes fighting for what you want and need.

THOMAS VANCE - (66 but looks 30) Thomas is called the "Werewolf Killer" due to the plea he used in the many deaths in Central Park. He is actually a werewolf and the leader of a nation of werewolves. He was a fine reporter once and an even better cop. After being set up by the police chief to destroy the other Alpha werewolf Thomas accidentally gains the ability of the werewolf and ends up killing the chief becoming the Alpha pack leader. He has become severely jaded and has come to both love and hate the power he has attained. He almost always speaks in easy, even tones.

BILL SIKES - (33) Orderly/guard he wants the world to hate him as much as he hates himself. He doesn't know his place in the world and rather than trying to find it or figure it out he'd rather generate hate. He has an unremarkable life and doesn't seem to care but deep down he just wants to be noticed and cared for, just once. He takes every chance he can to abuse Thomas and anyone else around him, whether it is physical or mental or both. He is a cruel almost sadistic man.

SAMANTHA - (27) Her father was the 1st victim of the "Werewolf Killer" or so she thinks and she has spent all her life and time educating herself so that she could one day get closer enough to Thomas to find out why and take her revenge. She is a precise woman in every detail but it's all an act which hides the terrified girl underneath it all.

MARY - (55) Both of her boys are believed to be victims of the "Werewolf Killer" so she shows up every parole hearing to protest. In actuality one of her sons was killed by Samantha's father while he was stalking him and the other is still alive and the one who actually killed Samantha's father. He is still part of the wolf pack. She can be heard by anyone on the 1st floor of the Facility. She got the nick name because you can hear her wailing through out the night.

NANCY - (50) She is absolutely terrified that the "Werewolf Killer" is just a floor below her. She almost never leaves the protective bubble of her security desk. She acts like a stone cold bitch but inside cares deeply for Greg and Bill. She looks at them as the children she never had.

JEREMIAH - (35) This is Mary's surviving son. Because his mother had hit him in the head with a brick as a child he is slightly mentally challenged. All he wants is to please the person who is in authority and always has a child-like innocence to him.

SETTING

The Facility is a medium security facility in the DOCS system, but it includes a minimum-security work release component and the maximum-security S-Block. No longer the sprawling 900-acre estate it once was in the 1800s, parts of the Facility were given to a correctional facility for women and a portion of the land developed into a research center. What left of the original Facility are three buildings with a central reception and classification center which opened in 1979.

S-block is what makes news today as one of its more famous patients comes up for parole again. Tucked safely on the Facility's S-block is Thomas Vance, dubbed by the papers as the "Werewolf Killer." He was caught in Central Park with fifteen dismembered bodies all around him and confessed to killing the city's police chief but denied the other murders.

It took police three months to identify and put back together the bodies of his victims. Thomas was convicted of those fifteen deaths plus ten others and sentenced to life imprisonment with possibility of parole dependent on mental conditioning. Thomas has been to three other asylums and

was transferred the Facility nearly ten years ago. So for nearly ten of the past twenty years Thomas has sat on S-Block. He's been waiting for something, waiting for some one.

TIME

Present day, mid-afternoon in the fall.

SET

There should be three rooms on stage, Thomas' room which is a lower level, the lobby of the Facility off to the left and above Thomas' room and the outside of the Facility which will be level with the window on the right side of Thomas' room.

Thomas' Room:

Regular table, cot, chair for some one to sit on and a chair with arm and foot restraints. There should be a window on stage left that looks out to the front of the Facility and is barely eye level. This is a room in a solitary confinement room in a sanitarium. It should be muted with minimal furnishings like one night stand perhaps and one over heard light.

Lobby:

Several chairs and one booth that should lead out back stage. That is where Nancy will be. The booth needs to have a desk phone and chair inside with a door in the back of it so she can leave. Think hospital lobby except there is only one patient so it is horribly quiet no magazines just chairs.

Facility Grounds:

The grounds are simple there should be a ramp up leading to the lobby door and the grounds should be level with Thomas' window.

THE STAGE IS DARK THEN SPOTLIGHT ON THOMAS' ROOM AND GREG STANDING OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

SFX: Faint chanting outside of the people who are against Thomas getting a parole hearing.

GREG
Knocks on door

You decent in there T? Open on S-Block. Hey T what's going on? You know you make me nervous when you don't answer me.

THOMAS
Back to Greg and is furiously writing on paper.

Yes, sorry Gregory. How are you today? It seems you had an extra stutter to your step heading down the stairs; your leg is bothering you again.

GREG
You know I'm still not used to you being able to do that.

Takes pen away from Thomas

What th'hell? How do you keep getting these things?

THOMAS
(Laughing)
You realize you've asked me that every day for seven years and every time I give you the same answer, my pack brings them to me. I'm documenting their race's history, my race's history now. It's only right the Alpha preserve the history for the younger ones to learn from. Not all werewolves are made like I was Gregory. Some are born into the Childre of Fenris.

GREG
Pockets pen and tucks the papers under Thomas' bed. His voice gets a little terse but not overly aggressive.

You know I'd get fired if anyone else ever saw you with a pen right? I mean I'd never be able to get another job. Especially with what happen last time. I can't lose this job T you need to understand that, I *can't*. You're just lucky Nancy can't stand to watch you in the cameras. You tend to freak her out a bit.

THOMAS

Well wouldn't it be better to say that *you're* lucky then? I know Gregory, no worries, in the twenty years I've been in these places no one besides you has ever found me with one. Either I am getting slower in my old age or. . .

Cocks his head toward the window like a dog does.

I have a new visitor today don't I, Gregory? I can hear the car coming up the path. It's a rich car. The engine hardly makes any sound but whoever is in the car is listening to some horrible music.

GREG

Yeah T, a new doc is coming by to check you out before the parole hearing next week. She says you're sane and well, you know, she doesn't, well maybe you can teach me how to play chess.

THOMAS

You're a good man Gregory, the best I've known in all these years, in all my life actually. You're a good man.

Walks over to the window, he can't see out it but turns his head like a dog would to hear well.

It seems there are extra people out there today. Though last night was quiet a show, I don't think they sleep much, you know, worrying about the werewolves and all. Worrying that I might escape and eat them. You have to know I never ate anyone. Ever.

(Awkward silent pause. He turns to face Greg)

Will you and Billy-Boy be taking the good doctor through the gauntlet?

GREG

Now cut that out! You know if he hears you you'll get your ass handed to you again, we both will. You know I can't take him T, I tried that one day and I just can't. Ever since I hurt that guy so badly back in college I just—

THOMAS

Yes I know and I remember. I'm sorry for that Gregory. I should have stopped him myself and then you wouldn't have needed the surgery on your eye.

Thomas hops on bed and growls the like a dog would when it gets frightened. The door bursts open.

Billy!

BILL

Oh for Christ's sake Greg you don't have that freak show shackled yet. And just as a piece of information, you don't need to yell 'open on S-block.' I mean shit there ain't no one else here but us and this fuckin' nut bag and he ain't going anywhere are you poochie? Ready to play a round of tackle dummy Mr. Wolf.

Rubs his hands together and drops into a three-point stance.

GREG

Places a hand on Bill's shoulder to hold him back.

Don't Bill, T was fine before you stepped in, I was just about to ask him to take the seat. He knows he has a guest and he knows the protocol. There's no need for what you're planning.

BILL

Stands back up and gets almost face to face with Greg.

Ask it? ASK *IT*? You actually ask it to take the seat. I don't ask my dawg if it wants to eat, it does when I feed it. Besides my way is a hell of a lot more fun ain't it Mr. Big Bad?

THOMAS

(Aside to Greg)

Let it go Gregory. Eventually he'll get what's coming to him that I promise.

GREG

(Aside to Thomas)

But T, it ain't right. It ain't right what he does to you or the rest of the people here.

BILL

A fight ensues where Bill obviously has the upper hand and enjoys punishing Thomas, taking a few body shots. He slams Thomas down on the chair and shackles him down.

Now that's more like it! Come on man the doctor will be here and I don't think she can face that crowd alone. Those poor bastards have been camping out there for two weeks now. I feel like I'm walking on a farm from the stench.

GREG

Damn it Bill there's no need to do that I said.

BILL

Oh shut the hell up you fag, the shackles are on him. Jackass.

GREG

(Aside to Thomas)

I'm sorry T, I'm so sorry.

Over his shoulder to Bill

I don't think we need the head gear too; he can't reach anything as long as they stay back.

(Aside to self)

One day I'm gonna report your ass. You can't just go and do that to people.

BILL

Heard Greg's aside and gets in his face. Didn't I teach you anything last time boy? If I've told you once I've told you a thousand times, you can't treat *that* like a person. Never treat *that* like a person. And if you ever get the urge to actually grow a set again, I'll just break the other knee and good old wolf boy over there can take the beating like he did last time when I fucked up your eye. Don't ever threaten me boy. You won't like what happens anymore then you did the last time.

THOMAS

Looks like you're gonna be little late in greeting the good doctor Billy-boy. It seems she about ready to get out of her car. Pity isn't it, and she's the first female doctor I've seen. The board must be desperate trying to win me over with the fairer sex.

That's a bad habit you have Billy-boy. You're going to need some serious dental work if you keep grinding your teeth like that.

BILL

Damn it Greg, if anything happens to her I'm gonna beat the shit out of the both of you. Let's get moving. He's been caged.

Bill backhands Thomas across the face for a last parting shot before heading out the door.

THOMAS

It's all right Gregory. I've never blamed you, and you're not fast enough. Yet. You're a good man Gregory. Don't let him take that from you. One day you'll be even better than you are. One day soon.

(Aside to himself) Because I need you for the test I have to pass.

GREG

Jesus T, I hope she says you're sane so you can at least find some peace away from all this.

Closes the door and locks it heads up the stairs limping after Bill as fast as he can.

THOMAS

Looks at the door with a huge grin on his face.

We'll be free soon enough Gregory. It's nearly time for them to come for me. It's almost their time and when it's their time it will be my time.

SCENE II

Shift lights to outside of the facility. Soft light on Thomas in the chair he should be moving what little of his body he can looking as if he is trying to hear everything going on outside and react accordingly.

SFX: A Crowd Yelling Things
The only way to free the beast is in the electric chair.
Leave him there until he rots.
No mother should have to bury their own babies.

SFX: Car door closing.

Samantha enters stage right. She pause looking behind her and tries to keep moving forward toward the doors to the lobby. However she has to pause to adjust something hidden at her side. She faces the audience to reveal a gun and see her hide it again in her jacket.

Mary shambles out of stage right and runs toward Samantha waving papers at her.

SAMANTHA

(Aside to herself)

Oh please whatever she does; just don't let her touch me.

MARY

You the new doctor or are you some stupid sluts that loves sickos? Cause if you are me and my people aren't going to treat you too well I can tell you that much! All prim and proper in your fancy clothes people like you make me sick!

She grabs Samantha's suit jacket.

SAMANTHA

If you would be so kind as to take your hand off of me I'd really appreciate it. Ma'am I am the new doctor. Not one of those sickos as you so aptly put it. Now please remove your hand from my arm so I can get going.

MOANING MARY

Hey she's the doctor everyone! You aren't going to let that thing out are you? I mean do you know what it did to my family? Do you?

SAMANTHA

Yes ma'am I am well aware of his crimes and what he was convicted of. I know the case, that's why they sent me here. I can only offer a fair and impartial assessment of his mental state. Now remove your hand from my arm!

MARY

She shoves a picture in Samantha's face

That beast took my sons! My sons, can you see it, my sons? It took my boys and tried to eat them. For the love of all that's holy he tried to eat them, you can't let that out. You can't!

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry for your loss, really I am. I don't plan on releasing *him* but I am here to give *him* a fair and impartial evaluation. Now please get your hand off of me. I won't ask again.

MARY

Takes a step back and her hands drop to her sides.

That thing should be taken out and ripped to shreds like it did my boys.

She spits at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

She plants her fist squarely in Mary's face with a short rabbit punch. Mary falls to the ground in a heap cupping her bloody face in her filthy hands.

THOMAS

(Laughing)

Very nice shot *Doctor*.

SAMANTHA

Greg and Bill meet her as she turns away from the heap on the ground.

So what's with the murder of crows there? Why are they allowed this close to the facility?

Both Bill and Greg look at each other, Bill mouths the word "Damn" extending the "a" sound before they both look back at Samantha.

Well, I asked a question. And I expect a prompt answer.

GREG

Well ma'am you see, normally they aren't allowed this close but all these people are family of the victims and since there will be a parole hearing after you're done they are allowed up here. They can't actually enter the building but the board doesn't seem to care much that they are here. 'Sides despite how it looks this is pretty tame compared to when we made them wait outside the gates. It looked like Woodstock for a month.

BILL

Sorry you had to do that. Sometimes I think these people are crazier than the loons on the ward. It usually it takes a little while for you doctor types to get up the nerve to face a crowd like that. I gotta ask though, where'd you learn to hit like that?

SAMANTHA

And your delay in getting to me was? My father was a Navy Seal, he always wanted a boy but got stuck with me, so he taught me everything he knew. Now who are you?

BILL

Bill Sikes doc.

He reaches out to shake hands and only gets a stare in return.

Um, we had to make sure that the patient was, well-secure, doctor before your meeting with it.

SAMANTHA

If by 'secure' you mean you two idiots 'tuned' him up to the point where he can't talk to me I swear to God it'll be your last day working in this state.

GREG

No doctor, nothing like that. Bill tends to chatter faster than he thinks. T is doing fine; we just have to shackle him so no one gets hurt. It's standard procedure for all in coming guests to Thomas.

SAMANTHA

And you would be?

GREG

Greg, Dr. Alexi. Greg Sanders and if you can make your way around Bill there I can take you to see Thomas.

SAMANTHA

Please call me Sam, Greg and thank you. I'll take that offer. As for you Bill, be sure that woman gets some medical attention and pray Thomas is in good shape. So tell me Greg what's Thomas like?

She walks up beside him and they head into the lobby

GREG

In the end he takes some getting used to. I had nightmares about him for a few months when I first got assigned here.

SAMANTHA

Really, I don't mean to belittle you here Greg but you're a pretty brawny guy. From what I know of Thomas there isn't much to him to make a guy your size worry.

GREG

Dr. Alexi you ever wonder how some one that looks like he does, did in 15 people, some of them armed with guns and had no injuries to himself, completely naked?

SAMANTHA

I told you Greg it's Sam.

GREG

I heard you Dr. Alexi, but you ain't been listening to me. You see it's not about looks it's about power. You'll see why. I wish I could put it into words for you but it's more of a sense type thing than actual appearance. Just tell him 'Let's start at the beginning,' that always seems to get him going. I mean it seemed to work with all the others.

SAMANTHA

All the others, what others are you talking about? As far as I know there aren't any other doctors coming here.

GREG

(Sarcastically)

That's odd Dr. Alexi I would have thought you would have reviewed all the notes. So I guess as far as you know isn't worth much now is it?

(Aside to himself)

Say 'let's start at the beginning,' man he loves that. He's definitely going to kill me.

He limps toward the booth with Samantha trailing behind.

SCENE III

Shift lights to the lobby. Soft light on Thomas in the chair he should be moving what little of his body he can looking as if he is trying to hear everything going on above him and react accordingly.

SAMANTHA

On the booth is says if no one is present please ring bell. Samantha looks at the dirty bell and steps back from the booth. Um you could just hit the bell Greg.

GREG

Yep, but if she's in the booth I'm liable to lose a hand.

Greg smiles wide and he gets real close to the glass to make sure Nancy isn't on the floor looking for something she dropped.

Damn Nance how do you see anything in there? Nance you back there?

NANCY

(Always in a nasally voice)

Yeah Greg, you gimpy son of a bitch, hang on I'm getting some coffee. God knows you and Bill are so riveting I can't imagine why I would need to drink a pot of coffee an hour to stay awake in this craptastic place.

GREG

Shakes his head and takes a deep breath. Um Nance, Dr. Samantha Alexi is here perhaps you want to keep the off the cuff to a minimum.

NANCY

I can't be on the cuff anymore than you can walk a straight line Limpy! To be honest if the last name ain't Christ, first name Jesus I don't give a shit who's out there.

GREG

Greg makes a "Tada" motion with his arms. That's my girl as cordial as ever, right sunshine?

He looks back at Nancy just in time to get the finger.

Nice, very nice, thanks for that Nance. Anyway, Dr. Alexi needs to be cleared to visit Thomas Vance.

NANCY

Vance huh, he's a head case. Just the thought of him makes me want to throw up. You're the first woman they've sent in here. I guess they figured the men aren't getting through so why not try a woman's hand.

She shakes her head after looking Samantha up and down

He'll eat her alive.

Nancy reaches under the counter and produces a badge and a clear plastic box; she slides both items under the glass.

Here you are Greg. She can get changed in the bathroom over there.

SAMANTHA

Touches her side as if she is trying to hide something she is already concealing so the audience can see the gun again.

Changed? I don't think that will be necessary. I can assure you both what I have on is fine and will not present a danger to me or to Thomas. I had this cleared through Dr. Forester prior to my drive up.

NANCY

Nancy puts her cup down and gets to within an inch of the glass. She blinks a few times, puts her hands on her hips.

Well, that's not your call Dr. whatever your name is. It's a requirement from the governor and unless you have a notarized letter from him telling me otherwise you'll get changed in the bathroom like everyone else or you'll go

home just the same. You're call princess I don't really care either way.

GREG

Sorry Dr. Alexi, Nancy is a tough customer. If she doesn't give you the go ahead I can't bring you down there. No one up or down without her ok.

Greg hands her the box and the badge.

SAMANTHA

(In a very sweet tone)

It wasn't really an issue, I'm sorry if I made it seem that way. I just thought it would be better for Thomas to see some one in something other than hospital scrubs. Be back in a few, again I'm sorry if I came off as rude.

GREG

While you're there be sure to wipe off any and all make-up and perfumes whether it's a deodorant or a simple cologne. Thomas has several severe allergies.

SAMANTHA

(Through gritted teeth)

I am well aware of what Mr. Vance's conditions are. I have read his files, all of his files. I've memorized twenty years worth of psychological analysis from some of the greatest minds in the world on the matter. I graduated from Harvard medical School with a 4.0 and while I might not have been catering to his every whim for years I can promise you two things: tomorrow I wear whatever the hell want and when I'm done I'll have gotten the answers no one else has been able to.

She walks into a room and then comes out in what should be a normal time to change into hospital scrubs.

NANCY

She's a real piece of work that one. Thomas is about to get a run for his money.

GREG

You're not kidding; you should see what she did to Moaning Mary out there. Laid her right the hell out, one shot to the face. Made Bill think twice about talking to her for a second. But somethin' ain't right; she didn't seem to know about the other docs that saw T. She was almost surprised just struck me as weird.

NANCY

Eh, don't put too much on it Greg. She's prolly just a little shaken up I mean the crowd outside and the thing down stairs, it's a lot for people to take in. Especially prissy bitches.

She says that because Samantha should be standing directly behind Greg at this point.

GREG

Sorry Dr. Alexi, please follow me down stairs and you can get started.

Samantha puts the box with her things under the glass for Nancy and walks side by side with Greg towards the door to down stairs.

SCENE IV

Lights should be on the stairs going to Thomas' room and on Thomas. Thomas should look like he is sniffing the air like a dog does as Greg and Samantha talk and walk down the stairs.

Thomas should wince at Greg's yell since he as been listening intently to them talking.

GREG

Open on S-Block! You have a visitor T. Thomas Vance, Dr. Samantha Alexi.

Greg turns to the doctor

You'll need to keep three feet from him at all times. While he is shackled, he has gotten free before. He isn't allowed to have a pen or pencil or paper. And you are not to remove the shackles or place your hands on him at any point.

Your papers and pen were taken from you so here are ones you can use. And here is a tape recorder. I will be right outside the door all you'll need to do is call for me. The door can remain open or closed, that's your call. I will be looking in from the hatch in the door to be sure things remain on a clam and even keel for the chat you two will be having.

SAMANTHA

That will be fine. Please close the door Gregory I think things will go better that way.

GREG

No offense or disrespect meant ma'am but only my mama and people I respect can call me by my full first name. You haven't earned that right yet.

He doesn't wait for an answer as he limps out of the room.

Things won't go well no matter what you do.

Doors shuts.

SAMANTHA

He calls you T huh? A little chummy isn't it?

THOMAS

Not at all. Gregory has been my keeper for nearly seven years, I rather enjoy his manner. He's a good man.

SAMANTHA

You're keeper? That's an odd term for a man to use when referring to himself isn't it?

THOMAS

Despite how civilized I act, we both know I'm not a man don't we doctor. Your manner however, Dr. Alexi, lacks a certain polish that some one from Harvard is reported to have. I mean honestly punching Mary like that and the tone you used with Nancy was rather off balance no?

SAMANTHA

How could you—

THOMAS

Didn't they tell you my senses are very acute? Or perhaps I have eyes everywhere doctor. I am a werewolf now and I am the Alpha. Not every legend about my kind is true. But in the end the pack all respond to me and cater to all my requests. It seems to me despite the fact you have memorized nearly 20 years of notes you really don't know a thing about me or my 'claims' do you. *Doctor.*

SCENE V

Soft light on Gregory as he listens to them talking the whole time. He should laugh when Samantha says start from the beginning. He should need to shift from side to side because of his leg and every so often talk into the walkie-talkie as if he is relaying something but the audience shouldn't hear him.

SAMANTHA

You are just full of surprises. So Thomas, lets start from the beginning.

THOMAS

(Bursts out laughing)

What beginning my dear doctor? The beginning of the Childre of Fenris; the beginning of my trial; the beginning of my decent into what your kind calls 'madness'? Just so you know Gregory will pay for that little set up, even if it was funny.

GREG

Greg should be laughing pretty hard at that and shut the slit in the door again.

SAMANTHA

Samantha stands up from the small table and turns toward the door as if to leave.

I'm not used to being the butt of so many jokes Mr. Vance. I don't appreciate it.

THOMAS

Wounded pride so soon? I'm sure Mary didn't appreciate being brushed off so callously and then getting her nose broken. I'm sure Bill, no matter how much he may deserve it, didn't appreciate being threatened. And I'm very sure Gregory didn't like being asked a question then being ignored. We all don't like certain things doctor but in the end that's what life is. A series of events we don't like but have learned to tolerate. So what difference does it make?

SAMANTHA

What?

THOMAS

What difference does it make? Is your ego that fragile doctor that you'd walk away now? Your other colleagues took a bit longer to break than that. But if you feel slighted I guess you should leave. Be sure to tell Gregory to come back in and let me out of the seat before he takes you down stairs. The shackles on my legs are biting into my shins and starting to hurt.

SAMANTHA

Samantha straightens out the hospital scrubs and pulls her hair a little tighter in the pony tail.

Perhaps Thomas, if you tell me all that happened. Whenever and wherever you'd like to start, I'm ready to listen.

THOMAS

Then please take a seat *doctor* and I'll get started. I wrote the story the *Times* printed, it had all I knew at the time. What a byline that was, 'By The Werewolf Killer', it was quite catchy no? The money I received went the victims' families. I've told this story some where in the realm of seventy times these past twenty years. No one believes me. If I tell you again, will you get these off me?

He motions to the shackles on his arms, legs and chest.

Bill put them a bit too tight and they are cutting into my skin. Even if you would loosen them I'd be very grateful.

SAMANTHA

I'll take the shackles off your legs. To be perfectly honest Mr. Vance I am not looking for your gratitude. I don't trust you and I doubt at I will at any point. But I don't see the harm in letting you be able to move your legs. Will that do?

(Aside to herself)

And if you try anything, stabbing you in the neck will be looked at as self-defense.

THOMAS

Thomas nods and she sets his legs free. Thank you doctor, you're the first one to do that and give such an honest answer. I'm impressed; now ask me what you like. By the way planning to murder me seems a bit rude at this point, I haven't even told you what you came here to know.

SAMANTHA

What I want to know? And just what is that Thomas? Wait how did . . . just tell me about the, I think it was, Childre of Fenris you mentioned before. I don't remember hearing about that in any report or your story.

THOMAS

The Childre are what I am part of now. They are the packs of werewolves that live through out the world. They once numbered in the millions but during the Salem witch hunts they were hunted to near extinction. Today, however their numbers have grown.

SAMANTHA

So the incidents in Central Park were what a message of some kind?

THOMAS

No not a message doctor. Not all things in life have some type of grand meaning to them. I wasn't around for the first few attacks doctor. I was just a simple reporter

remember? But over the years I have been given and told things about them and what goes on. I never told anyone the why doctor only the who, what and where. To be honest no one was ever interested in the why it was far easier to label me as insane and lock me away.

SAMANTHA

I've read your article and I've gone over all the notes from the other psychologists but I don't remember hearing about them. I would like to know the why Thomas.

THOMAS

(Laughs)

Well none of the other doctors were kind enough to even loosen one shackle, let alone open them entirely. Well except for Dr. Keating, but I don't discuss that.

Stretches legs

Do you really think I would have been able to kill 15 people by myself? Naked and in the dead of winter.

SAMANTHA

That has always been something I found hard to believe. After all you aren't the most powerful of men Thomas.

THOMAS

Thomas tilts his head in a slight bow of concession.

How did you put it, 'there isn't much to him to make a guy your size worry'. I've always maintained that I did kill Charlie, the police commissioner at the time, and was witness to the death of Jack, the city coroner. But I didn't kill any of the others. Not a one, I realize that now. What happened that night traumatized me and I couldn't piece anything together right then and there. After all it's not every night you become a werewolf. And despite the Hollywood rendition the transformation is usually immediate, well when you ingest their blood that is. But a simple scratch can transform you as well it just takes a little longer.

SAMANTHA

So you honestly believe you're a werewolf now? I mean if you are, go ahead and transform for me, give me a small demonstration.

THOMAS

A rather legitimate request, one I don't grant so brashly. There will be plenty of time for you to see that later. But I am not just a werewolf, I am the Alpha doctor. I am the pack leader for the Childre of Fenris. Well at least I still am for now. Soon I'll have to prove myself worthy, every twenty years doctor, it's when it all begins again.

SAMANTHA

When what begins again Thomas, what do you mean by that?

THOMAS

I will need to provide for my pack. It is the ultimate test as to my worthiness to be the Alpha or be replaced.

SAMANTHA

So no job security in the world of werewolves Thomas?

THOMAS

Very glib *doctor*. Unlike the human world the animal world operates on a more honest scale, we have rules that must be followed for us to survive relatively unnoticed. In order for you to understand that I'll have to star with the first reported attack in this century. It's what I've been told happened to Officer Marcus Coal.

SAMANTHA

Show a great deal of interest in this name and react appropriately

Officer Marcus Coal? Did you know him?

THOMAS

(Smiling)

Yes *doctor*. At one point in my life he was my partner.

SCENE VI

Bill comes down the stairs from the Lobby and should be in "regular" clothes.

BILL

Pokes Greg in the chest as he talks
Hey slack ass, you thinking of leaving her in there with him? All alone? I can't imagine that's a good idea considering what's happened before.

GREG

It was at her request and I just looked in there. Things are fine.

Greg pushes Bill's hand away.

What happened last time was because Dr. Keating was a little hands on with T.

BILL

Yeah poor bastard, have you heard anything about him? Has he regained the use of the arm?

GREG

Why do you care so much? Could it be because you're wondering just how long before Thomas tries to tear your arms off?

BILL

That little bastard would never get the chance. I mean look at me! I'm a fucking god compared to that little prick. Anyway how's the Big Bad doing with Samantha? I don't hear any yelling.

GREG

And just what the hell are you doing on the Block in civvies?

BILL

'On the Block,' where do you think you work? Besides I'm off the clock big man and figured that little gem is just about done. Am I right?

GREG

Actually Bill she's got T chatting away in there and it looks like they will be a while. I don't know if I've ever seen him talk so much to any one person before, besides me that is. I've got to say that I'm pretty impressed. So seeing as you're done how about you go back up and bring me up a cup of coffee?

BILL

My name is Bill, not Kunta Kinte.

GREG

And how do you like your sheets pressed? Come on! Maybe by then T will have scared her shitless and she'll need a big strong man to comfort her.

BILL

Well played, I'll be back. I'm assuming you take it black.

Bill doubles over in laughter and heads back up the stairs.

GREG

Asshole.

He can hear the chanting starting up again and should shake his head.

All that hate can't be good for one place to have in it. Bad thoughts lead to bad actions.

(Aside to himself)

Wait until Nance hears this one. There's no way she's going to believe it how long she's been in there. Now where is that redneck with my coffee?

SCENCE VII

Soft light on Greg as he shifts back and forth standing outside the door. He should check on them through the slit in the door from time to time.

SAMANTHA

He was your partner? I thought you were a reporter Thomas I don't understand. There was never a mention of you being part of the force.

THOMAS

Well, former partner doctor. Marcus and I graduated from the academy together and were lucky enough to get assigned to the same precinct. It's a small fact no one seems to have uncovered or bothered to note. I guess telling the public that I was part of the force once would have hurt their case. Otherwise Charles managed to bury any record of my stay on the force. I guess that's one of the perks of being the police commissioner.

SAMANTHA

How long did you serve on the force? I mean you've been the cop reporter for the *Times* as long as I can remember. And are you saying Charles Kindred knew about all of this? I can't believe that Thomas. He was the commissioner for three decades and nothing was ever reported.

THOMAS

I went to the academy right after high school. I served for twenty-five years and then was discharged. And no, nothing was ever reported. It was never supposed to be. Oddly enough it was a mistake of youth that lead to Marcus' death.

SAMANTHA

Now wait a minute if you went into the academy after high school and it takes two years to complete you were twenty when you got out another twenty-five years and you would have been forty-five. Seeing as you have been imprisoned for twenty years next Wednesday, that makes you sixty-five.

THOMAS

(Laughs)

Well I'm glad you can add and I'm actually sixty-six. I started school late because I missed the cut off. It was one of the problems with being a December baby besides getting stiffed on the presents.

SAMANTHA

But that's impossible you don't look over thirty-five and all your medical records report that you are in fact thirty-five. Each test they performed on you showed that.

Though there are no other records for you prior to twenty years ago. But you knew that didn't you?

THOMAS

Being part of the supernatural has its benefits as well as its curses doctor. I would have preferred to die a man in old age. Sadly that's not the case anymore. I will see many more people die long before I show a sign of aging. As for my records, as far as the Childre think, I never existed until that night. So it was all erased and as I said there are far more of them now, doing far more things than living in the mountains eating cattle.

SAMANTHA

You had said it was a mistake of youth? Just how was it a mistake? A man was murdered which led to fifteen other deaths. That's a bit more than a mistake.

THOMAS

It's been far more than fifteen, doctor but yes a mistake. Mary, you remember her don't you doctor, her twins were new to the pack and they weren't bright to begin with. I always wonder what would have happened if I was there with Marcus. If I hadn't been taken off the force would it have been me? Poor Marcus, Jill had just left him and took their daughter too. I believe her name was Samantha. She was five then, a beautiful little girl, but I digress.

Sniff the air like a dog does to get a scent and smiles.

They aren't supposed to leave behind the bodies or any trace of their presence. It's how they have stayed hidden for all these centuries. They are only supposed to eat the homeless or forest animals you know the things no one really notices are gone. But poor Jeremiah is a little shall we say "slow" and his brother Jake was far too impulsive.

SAMANTHA

Thomas do you honestly believe there is a centuries old conspiracy to cover up the existence of werewolves and that you were framed for all those deaths in the park? I mean being a former officer you can see how that might seem a bit out of place.

THOMAS

You're just like all the rest aren't you doctor? You can't just believe it, has to be proven to you. Well all in due time doctor, all in due time. Perhaps we can start with Mary for tomorrow and work our way through the Facility?

LIGHTS GO OFF OF THEM AND ONTO BILL AND NANCY

SCENCE VIII

Lights up in the Lobby and off on the rest of the facility.

Bill walks up and knocks on the glass making Nancy jump a bit in her chair.

BILL

You afraid he got out or what? Hey doll can you give me a cup of coffee to bring down to Greg? He seems to think the doctor will be in for a while.

NANCY

Why can't you be a normal human being? Sure thing *doll* how does he want it? And you realize if it wasn't for Greg I'd tell you to go eat shit right?

BILL

Oh I know. He seems to be everyone's precious little boy today.

NANCY

What's that supposed to mean Bill, don't tell me you're jealous of Greg?

BILL

Well let's look things over. First you're about to give up some of your precious coffee, second Mr. Big Bad is all chummy with him, third he nearly gets a doctor killed and nothing happens, fourth he's got the doctor easting out of his hand and fifth

NANCY

And fifth?

Nancy hands him a white diner mug with coffee.

BILL

(Aside to himself)

Fifth I was here first. I'm the better orderly and yet I'm the evil one around here.

(To Nancy)

I don't know what the fifth one is but it'll come to me. I guess some one needs to be the devil around here with all these demons huh?

NANCY

Nancy puts some cream and sugar packets through the teller hole in the glass.

To be honest Bill I don't know. Maybe it's because you're just too big of an asshole for anyone to really care. Ask Greg how he likes the coffee.

BILL

Yeah, I'll get right on that as soon as I get down there. Heads down stairs and sees Greg is leaning against the door with his eyes closed.

(Aside to himself)

He's the golden boy and that lazy son of a bitch is sleeping. Time to teach his ass a lesson.

Bill puts the coffee on the last step tip toes toward Greg and gets right up next to him.

GREG

You make more noise than I do and I'm the gimp.

BILL

Damn son are you trying to fucking kill me?

GREG

Nope just making sure you don't kill me with your dumb ass goofing around. Where the hell is my coffee Bill? Did you actually go up stairs and forget all about it?

BILL

No I put it on the step.

GREG

Walks over to get his coffee.
And you did bring it to me black you jackass.

BILL

Dark as you my brotha. Even I'm not that much of an asshole Greg.

Throws creamer and sugar packets at Greg

And seeing as the door is still closed you'd better be a bit more mindful this time. I doubt the board would welcome another incident like last month. I'm guessing your little idea didn't work. I don't see a shaken and vulnerable doctor cowering in a corner so I'm getting the hell out of dodge. See you in the morning.

Bill heads back upstairs.

GREG

Yeah see you tomorrow.

(Aside to himself)

It was a simple mistake damn it, when will he left it go.

Opens the door.

SCENCE IX

Soft light on Nancy and Bill talking, the audience should not hear what they are talking about.

GREG

Peeks through the slit and finally notices Thomas' legs aren't shackled. Throws open the door.

How could you—you are to stay three feet from him at all times and the shackles don't ever come off. Ever! I didn't say that to be a prick Dr. Alexi, I said it because the last time a doctor did that he nearly got his arms ripped off. Now I ain't saying T will do that to you but I'll be damned if I'm going to risk that. Not for you, not for him,

not ever. I can't get fired because you're a stupid, ignorant, self-absorbed bitch! Do we have an understanding?

Places shackles back on Thomas' legs but even tighter, Thomas should almost yelp in pain.

SAMANTHA

Yes. . . I'm sorry Greg I just wanted to establish a trust so that-

GREG

Just because I've got a limp doesn't mean I'm stupid! Just because I work here doesn't mean I'm a moron.

Greg slams his fist down on the table collapsing it by breaking the legs out from underneath it.

I don't like when people take too much advantage of my kind nature. I know what you want to do. I may not have any fancy degree after my name but I get it. Let me say it again not for you, not for him, not ever. Do we have an understanding?

THOMAS

I'm sure she understands, as do I Gregory. I am sorry, it was my fault entirely. I hope this won't change things.

GREG

T, you know I think the world of you despite the fact you're a killer but I swear this happens again and I'll make what Bill does to you look like a Swedish massage. Got it? I told you before I won't lose my job over you!

THOMAS

I do understand Gregory, now more than I did before. I am deeply sorry. You have to know that. I know how good you have been to me really Gregory I am sorry.

GREG

I do know that T, that's why I'm going to allow her to stay for a few more minutes before I throw her out, well more importantly I'll have Bill throw her out. And she's the only reason you aren't unconscious now.

Lean in closely to the doctor and place your hands on her arms pinning her to the chair. Greg should be physically trembling by this point with anger and rage.

Listen closely doctor, in the time it takes me to come back with a mop and bucket to clean up you'd have better finished up whatever it is you need. If it even looks like he has any portion of the shackles loosened, and I mean any well just pray to god. When I'm done so are you, until tomorrow, clear?

SAMANTHA

Yes . . . yes it is Greg. I'm sorry too for what it's worth.

GREG

Figure you've got about ten minutes left before I get back with Bill.

He releases the doctor and heads out the door, leaving it wide open behind him.

THOMAS

It appears we all had a share of surprises tonight eh doctor?

SAMANTH

All of us? Just what took you by surprise Thomas? What caught the mighty werewolf by surprise?

THOMAS

Such a fiery tone to cover the sweet scent of fear. You see doctor all these years he's taken punishment from Billy-boy and all this time he has been quite capable of ending the torment. Even that day when Billy was beating me for

teaching Dr. Keating a bit of manners he could have easily stopped him and yet Greg got his cheek busted open rather than raise his hands. It broke the eye socket. All this time I thought he had given up, but he just requires the proper motivation.

(With a huge grin)

He's genuinely a good soul doctor. It's something I haven't seen, ever. He's a good man and you'd do well to keep him on your good side. And now a surprise for you good doctor.

SAMANTHA

Steps back toward the door way.
And what's that Thomas?

THOMAS

You smell just like your mother and father Sammy. Tell Liz I said hi when you get home tonight. And be sure to apologize to Gregory as much as you can, you'll need to have his complete trust if you're going to survive.

SCENCE X

Lights out on Sam and Thomas. Lights up on the Lobby.

GREG

Hey Bill you know where the mop is?

BILL

What, you wet your pants instead of the doctor wetting hers?

GREG

Not now Billy where is the fucking mop?

BILL

Um, the last time I had to break it out I left it in the closet on the left over there. What do you need it for? Anything I can help you with?

GREG

Well right after you left the doctor let out a yell and there was a big crash, I dropped the coffee mug and busted in there. I don't know what he said but the table was broken and she was just sitting there staring at him like he revealed the true meaning of life or something. It was pretty crazy.

BILL

Damn. Wolf boy really does a number on all the docs doesn't he? And yet they all keep coming back to examine him, he's never gonna be ok, like that Charlie Manson guy. Anyone who carves a swastika in their forehead and claims their Jesus will just never be right. You know what I'm saying?

GREG

I can't believe something that smart just came out of your head.

BILL

Well I do think from time to time. Rare I know but I do.

GREG

Give me a hand on the way down? The way the doctor is ready to go, just let me grab the mop and bucket and we'll go downstairs together. You can walk her out then while I clean up.

BILL

Good thing I stuck a round for a few extra minutes huh? Looks like I'll get a chance to put on the old Bill Sikes charm after all.

Bill makes a clicking sound and fires imaginary bullets at Greg.

GREG

Yeah it's a real good thing. I don't know what I would have done with you being here.

SCENCE XI

Soft light on Greg and Bill as they make their way to Thomas' room. Lights up on Thomas' room.

SAMANTHA

(Slight Stutter)

Survive? What does that mean? What the hell are you talking about?

Just then Greg shows up in the doorway with his mop and bucket. He bends over and starts

picking up the broken mug and throwing the pieces into the mop bucket. Then he slops the mop on the ground and starts cleaning the floor.

THOMAS

Good night doctor, it was a pleasure and I look forward to our meeting tomorrow. Please do give your mother my regards, I'm sure she is very worried about me, or at least was at one point in her life.

BILL

Well I'll be damned, I mean I saw you take out Moaning Mary in the courtyard but you really did a number on that table.

SAMANTHA

But I didn't do that Greg—

BILL

Grabs Thomas' face.

Just what sick shit comes out of your mouth that makes everyone's skin crawl?

THOMAS

I tell them only what they ask from me, nothing else. It's not my fault most people don't really want any answers or don't seem to like the ones I have.

BILL

Put hand on Samantha's shoulder and lead her toward the door.

Time to escort you out to the car ma'am. I'm guessing the crew outside will be looking for you to come out so they can, 'question' you about what went on. So we'll go out the back way to my car and I'll drive you around front. They don't dare screw with me.

GREG

I'd do what he says doctor, I'm sure Mary will be gunning for you from now on. And if she isn't then I know a few of those 'animals' will be. You really do need to watch who you turn into an enemy.

Samantha looks back at Thomas as she gets ushered out of the room. He just remains

there motionless with his eyes shut,
grinning from ear to ear.

GREG

Before I let you up, because I know you've been there for a very long time, I want to know everything. You want up and I want the pages, all of them not just the ones I stuffed under the mattress. And most of all I want answers. I have to know Thomas, I have to know everything.

THOMAS

Like I said to Billy-boy Gregory there are answers for everyone, most people just don't actually want them. Most don't want the knowledge it carries.

GREG

Then educate me T, just what the hell is going on? What's this all really about?

Greg opens all the shackles and takes a step back so Thomas can stand up.

THOMAS

Thomas is up in a flash and standing right in front of Gregory.
Everything you're looking for Gregory will be shown to you shortly.

GREG

I don't understand.

Thomas makes a gash in Gregory's arm making it bleed.

What the fuck? Are you crazy? You cut me!
Greg shoves Thomas to the wall.

Give them the god damn pages now T. And I swear you try anything else and I'll break your legs!

THOMAS

Cautiously pulls up a tile and hands Greg what looks like a full manuscript.

I'm sorry Gregory but that had to be done. It'll be gone in a few minutes, like it never happened, but you will have more than enough answers by the morning because of it.

Backs slowly onto the bed

You have to understand that I need you to help me Gregory, to help me with the test that is coming. I need a Beta I can trust and I want that to be you. Just know that not all knowledge is good. I hope you are ready for your education Gregory, I really do. I'm looking forward to talking tomorrow.

Thomas lies down and shuts his eyes.

Greg leaves and closes and locks the door behind him as he turns off the light off.

SCENE XII

Soft light on Thomas as he stands and gets closer to the window. Lights up on the stairway following Sam and Bill up to the Lobby.

SAMANTHA

(Aside to herself)

What did he mean you'll need him to survive?

BILL

So what do you think?

SAMANTHA

Think of what Bill or do you prefer William?

BILL

Well no one has ever asked me that but I guess Bill is fine. I was asking about what you thought of Vance. You were in there for longer than any other doctor that's come here. So either he likes you or you two just sat there starrng at each other. And judging from the state of the room when I got there I can't imagine it was a starrng contest.

SAMANTHA

How about I tell you all about it after I change out of this, I'm feeling a bit out of sorts.

Walks over to Nancy's booth without waiting for an answer and waits for her clothes back.

NANCY

Well that was a while and you seem to have all your original parts. Though Greg seemed mighty pissed, don't think I've ever seen him like that. You must be one hell of a woman to drive a man like that nuts. You ok princess you look a bit pale.

SAMANTHA

I'm fine thanks Nancy.

NANCY

You were down there a while, I dunno how you could stand that. I met him the first night they brought him here. They left him in the waiting area. His eyes were wild, and not the 'I'm a crazy bastard wild' it was more like the wild of feral cat or something. He kept sniffing the air and looking around as if he was looking for something. Anyway, I tried to talk to him, strike up a conversation seeing as he was going to be here for the next ten years or so but he made me feel like I was a snack waiting to happen.

SAMANTHA

How-well-Just how does Greg manage to deal with him everyday? And he seems so quiet and gentle but when he saw . . . that rage that came over him, is something wrong with him besides the limp?

BILL

Poor man just never caught a break. He was about to be a football pro you know but his knee gave way. But that isn't the issue, he's moved long past that. It was last year when his mother got sick. He had to come to New York to take care of her and leave everything behind in California. And I mean everything. He was going to be married but the shallow cow didn't want to be stuck as a nurse maid. So everyday he comes here and deals withal this and then goes home to watch his mother slowly die.

GREG

Shutting the door to the stairs leading to
Thomas' room.

And here I thought you were the ultimate keeper of secrets
Nance. Now the good doctor here has me at a disadvantage,
we'll have to talk a bit more tomorrow. But for now I'll
say goodnight.

SAMANTHA

STOP!

GREG

(Laughs)

Something I can do for you doctor?

SAMANTHA

(Turns on the water works)

I want to apologize to you. I just wanted to get to the
heart of his problems so I could be the one. I'm just so—

THOMAS

(Aside to himself)

Clever girl Sammy, clever girl. But I don't think it will
be enough to save you.

GREG

(Soothingly)

It's ok Sam, it's ok. T can get the best of anyone, even
me.

SAMANTHA

Oh God you got cut, on your arm.

GREG

Uh yeah it's just a scratch now though. How did get to be
just a scratch? Anyway it just itches like crazy though,
but it's fine.

SAMANTHA

I'm just so sorry Greg, I really am. I just didn't mean

GREG

Hugs her trembling person.

Really, Sam, it's ok.

SAMANTHA

Thank you Greg.

GREG

(Smiling)

Please, call me Gregory, I think perhaps you earned that at least.

Offer her your arm

Shall we?

Samantha just nods and takes Greg's arm.
They both leave out the door and eventually exit stage left.

NANCY

Looks like you're walking me out big boy. Just don't think you're getting any!

BILL

Hey that's funny.

Bill reaches down and grabs his crotch

I think that thought actually made me woman. Nice work you crazed. . .

NANCY

You'll never get to finish the sentence so don't even try. Now let's get out of here huh?

Bill shrugs his shoulders and walks with her out the door and eventually exits stage left.

SCENCE XIII

Lights on Thomas only he is still standing by the window and he lets out a slow melodic howl.

JEREMIAH

Enters from stage left scurrying to the window.

(Always in a child-like voice)

You called for me sir?

THOMAS

Sweet, sweet Jeremiah. That was a very fast response. I'm impressed.

JEREMIAH

When you call I came runnin as fast as I could without them seein' me. I want to be a good boy for you sir.

THOMAS

You always are Jeremiah, always. I have never been disappointed in you. You're a good boy and I need you to do something for me.

JEREMIAH

Anything for you sir, anything. You saved me, like some one should have saved Jakey.

THOMAS

I need you to get rid of Mary?

JEREMIAH

Mama?

THOMAS

Yes, Jeremiah, your mother. I need her to disappear forever and completely.

JEREMIAH

I don't understand sir. You want me to kill mama?

THOMAS

Yes, Jeremiah but you can't leave any trace of her body. You remember our rules right?

JEREMIAH

Yes, sir, we kill to the feed the pack. We kill the ones no one will miss, the ones no one cares about. We kill to keep secrets.

THOMAS

Good boy Jeremiah. I know that's a hard task for you but don't you remember what she did. How she treated you and Jake? What she made him do, what she did to you?

JEREMIAH

She beat me, hit me with a brick and made me stupid.

THOMAS

Jeremiah! You aren't stupid! No one has the right to tell you that. You're a good boy Jeremiah, no one in the pack calls you that do they?

JEREMIAH

No sir, they all treat me real nice since you talked to them. Real nice.

THOMAS

Good, good. Well your mother wants to hurt me like she did you and Jake. You don't want that to happen do you? You don't want the pack to fall apart?

JEREMIAH

No sir, yous my family now, all I got since Jakey was killed by that policeman.

THOMAS

And I took care of that policeman didn't I? And all his friends? I did it for you Jeremiah, just for you, because they were wrong and bad in hurting Jake like that. Just like your mother is wrong in hurting you and wanting to hurt me. Do this for me Jeremiah.

JEREMIAH

K, sir, I'll do what you need. I'll make mama go away for what she did, what she wants to do. I can't let her hurt you I won't let her hurt you.

THOMAS

Reaches a few fingers through the window crack and pets Jeremiah on the head like you would a puppy.

Good boy Jeremiah, good boy. You never disappoint me. It's why I love you. Take care of her now. Can you do that for me Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH

I will sir, I promise. I'll go right now.

SCENCE XIV

SOFT LIGHT ON THOMAS AS HE LISTENS FOR THE TASK TO BE COMPLETED. Soft LIGHT ON FAR RIGHT STAGE ONLY JEREMIAH SHOULD BE STANDING THERE.

JEREMIAH

Mama? Mama where are you?

MARY

(Off Stage)

Jeremiah? It can't be.

She enters stage right and needs to squint she should stand there for a few trying to get her eyes to adjust to the darkness.

THOMAS

Remember Jeremiah I can fix everything. Make her pay for taking Jakey from you, for breaking you.

JEREMIAH

I'll do it for you.

THOMAS

I know you will Jeremiah, I know you will. Finish what should have been done years ago.

JEREMIAH

Steps forward just a touch so she can see him in the soft light

Come on mama! I'm over here, please hurry I don't know how long I can keep them from fining me. I don't want to go back with them mama. Please hurry!

MARY

She finally reaches him and runs her hand over his face and through his hair. She constantly keep hugging him and kissing his face. She needs to wrap her arms around his neck and lean back when talking to him so she can just take in the massive man he has

become. She hasn't seen him in nearly 10 years.

OH GOD MY BABY BOY! OH GOD IT'S REALLY YOU! My sweet Jer. My baby!

JEREMIAH

He hugs her hard making her gasp for air a bit.

(Giggles)

Mama that tickles. I missed you mama, it's been so long since me and Jakey left. It's hard out there. But I ain't so alone anymore.

MARY

(Caresses his face)

Shh, I know he is it's ok. It's all going to be ok now. You'll never be alone again, we can home now, you and me. It'll be better than it was before, I'm better than I was before.

THOMAS

She left you alone Jeremiah, alone and drove Jake away, drove him to his death. Bring her closer to me. Away from the others.

JEREMIAH

He inches back from Mary forcing her to follow him so she can keep caressing his face.

(Crying)

Why'd you make us go away mama? Why'd you hurt me all those times. Ain't I good boy?

MARY

You are baby, but you were too much like your daddy. You have his eyes, his heart, and his evil nature. I was so sorry Jer, sorry for all these years. So very sorry for everything.

JEREMIAH

You never said sorry before mama.

He hugs her again, crushing her close making her gasp again.

She said sorry!

THOMAS

Jeremiah, will sorry fix the damage to your head, will sorry bring Jake back from the dead? Sorry is a word that changes nothing. A meaningless term used in hopes of fixing the things that can never truly be repaired.

JEREMIAH

But she said sorry. She said sorry.

MARY

I am baby. Come on lets go back to the tents.

JEREMIAH

Grabs her arm forcefully

NO! We have to go further mama! We can't stay here! We have to go!

MARY

Jer, what has gotten into you! Let go of me.

JEREMIAH

Pulls her arm hard and he tries to drag her away.

MAMA PLEASE WE HAVE TO GO NOW!

MARY

That hurts Jer now stop it!

Slaps Jeremiah

THOMAS

See how sorry she is Jeremiah. You are trying to save her and she beats you again. My, my, how sorry she must be.

JEREMIAH

Rubbing his face

You ought not have done that mama. That was very bad thing. Very bad.

Jeremiah drives his fist across her face like a hammer nearly knocking her unconscious.

MARY

(In a daze)

Jer . . . what. . .

JEREMIAH

Hits her again, knocking her out. He drags her off stage.

It'll be done Thomas. Am I a good boy now?

THOMAS

Indeed you are. Now bring her to the pack, make her vanish there. Make sure they eat all of her. Nothing must be left and tell them it's time.

JEREMIAH

(Off stage)

The kill is mine, the meat is yours, I ain't hungry. Oh, Thomas says it's time.

THOMAS

(Laughing)

Good boy Jeremiah, good boy.

Lays back and goes to sleep, laughing the entire time.

LIGHTS GO OUT

SCENE XV

LIGHTS SLOWLY COME UP AND SPOTLIGHT ON GREGORY WHO IS ENTERING STAGE LEFT.

GREG

He is running towards the door without his limp.

(Aside to himself)

Oh god what the fuck did he do to me? What the fuck did he do to me? Oh god, oh god there is no way this can be real. There is no way.

Throws open the door and rushes down to Thomas' cell. He should open the door no announcement and see Thomas sitting there waiting for him.

THOMAS

All too real Gregory and I merely did what you asked me to. I educated you.

GREG

Rush Thomas slamming him up against the wall.

I don't want to be like you. I don't want this! You hear me? Undo this T, undo this NOW!

THOMAS

Hmmm how does that go again, ah yes, what has been done cannot be undone. I didn't want it either Gregory. Life was so much easier but the chief couldn't wait to take his headshot on the coroner and I got a mouthful of blood. My change was instant; at least you have some time to adjust before your transformation.

GREG

Adjust? Adjust to what? Being some beast that howls at the moon and eats people? I don't even know if I believe half the shit I read T. There is no way this can be real! No way—

THOMAS

Takes the papers out of Greg's hands.

You don't limp anymore do you Gregory? And that gash I gave you is completely healed, with no scar. Can you hear a buzzing in your head, like a soft hum?

GREG

Lowers Thomas to the ground and sits on the bed head in hands.

I know. When I got up, I felt stronger like I was able to uproot trees. It was the first time in years I was able to actually walk down the stairs instead of take them one at a time.

THOMAS

You want that to be taken from you Gregory? I made you stronger, healed you in a way nothing in medical science would ever be able to.

GREG

That buzzing, it's them trying to talk with me to communicate to me isn't it?

THOMAS

(Pats Greg on the back like a buddy does when he is consoling a friend)

In a fashion Gregory. Being a werewolf you are attuned to nature, we don't talk mentally but our hearing is extremely acute. In time you will get used to tuning out the ambient sounds, like a dog does. That's the buzzing in your head. But you will learn all that in time, after you have changed. After you are made the Beta of the pack.

GREG

Beta? What the fuck are you talking about?

THOMAS

You're a good man Gregory. One I need by my side. One I need to help me keep the pack in line while I am away. Some one that can help protect me from the challengers to my status. You are the only one I have found in all these years that I know would not betray me. You will be my second in command, the Pack Beta.

GREG

Are you fucking nuts? Beta? Second in command? How many times do I have to say I don't want this! I want my old life, the way it was!

THOMAS

Really, now Gregory? You want to be weak and cowering all your life. You want to be abused and stepped on for the rest of your life. Don't you have anything left to fight for? Or is this all you have now, all you are willing to fight for? Was that all that anger was for yesterday?

Raise hand to stop Gregory's response

Yes I know what happen to that college player, but that tackle was illegal and it ended your career. Ended your life, it took everything from you, wife, career and left you here. You had every right to strike back, to claim revenge for what was done.

GREG

Bill and Nancy are walking up I should be upstairs.

THOMAS

It's human nature to fight for what we feel is ours, to protect it, to want what's better. It's what the pack does Gregory, we aren't so different.

GREG

We aren't different? Last time I checked I don't go eating people. Don't ever lump me with you T. I ain't a killer. I ain't a beast like you.

Leaves room, shuts door behind him and locks it before heads up the stairs.

THOMAS

(Aside to himself)

Not yet, dear Gregory, but you will be exactly like me by nightfall. Exactly . . . like . . . me.

SCENE XVI

Lights up on Bill and Nancy as they walk up from stage left to the Lobby area of the Facility. Greg should be sitting in a chair with his head in his hands hunched over.

BILL

Damn Nance you notice we have a whole new set of freaks outside this morning? I mean I ain't complaining at least they look like they've showered in the past three days or so.

NANCY

Yeah I noticed. There's no chanting or anything and Mary isn't wandering around holding out those sad pictures of her children. It's actually making a little nervous.

BILL

Maybe it's Vance's werewolf pack looking to eat us all! GRRRRRRRR RAWR!!!!

NANCY

Could you, for just one moment is this shit house you call a life, not be a fuckin' tool?

BILL

Whoa some one's a little jumpy huh? Let me gat that for you darlin'.

Opens door for them to enter through. Nancy heads for her booth.

NANCY

It's not being jumpy, I just got that feeling like I did when I first saw Vance. I felt like they were looking at me like a meal.

BILL

(Aside to Greg)

Now who in their right mind would want to eat that raggedy old ass anyway? Am I right?

GREG

Barely looks up at Bill.

You need to go check on Vance, I'm . . . I'm not feeling too well.

BILL

Whoa! Hell musta froze over today! I'm in a good mood and you two fools are wind tighter than, well Nancy's cooch!

(Pauses)

You haven't visited your little buddy already? Jesus by now you two are laughing it up.

GREG

You really need to shut the fuck up and do what you're told to do.

BILL

Grabs Greg's shirt and forces him to look up
Are you out of you mutha fucking mind? I don't what makes you think you're a man now but we'll settle this later.

GREG

Grabs one of Bill's hands and starts to crush it causing Bill to flinch.

Now is not the time or the day to piss me off. Do what I told you and do it now. Sam will be here in a few minutes, she's about a half mile down the road and Thomas has to be restrained.

BILL

How the hell . . . you know what never mind. And since when you do you feel the Big Bad "has to be restrained"?

GREG

Since now. WOULD YOU JUST FUCKING GO DO IT!

BILL

All right chief, keep your pants on captain pissy pants. I'm going to take care of it, like I always do. I know you can hear me little man, here I come and now there's Greggy-poooh to keep you somewhat safe.

Bill claps his hands together and heads for the stairs and down towards Thomas.

THOMAS

(Aside to himself)

I won't be the one who needs to be kept safe Billy boy.

NANCY

Steps out from her booth and approaches Greg.

You ok honey? I mean that's the second time I've seen you snap this week.

GREG

Looks up at Nancy like a child does when he has a question that he really doesn't want the answer to.

Ain't nothing going to be right again Nance. You best stay in your booth today.

Gets up and heads out towards the outside grounds to meet up with Sam.

Nancy heads back to her booth and shivers in her seat.

SCENE XVII

Soft light on Greg as he paces back and forth outside waiting for Sam to arrive. Lights up on Bill who is outside Thomas' room.

BILL

Throws open the door to Thomas' cell.
Ready to play little man? I'm about to beat you like a red-headed stepchild.

THOMAS

(Laughing)

Of course Billy-boy. Better hurry though the good doctor is coming and when se arrives the fun will really start!

BILL

Charges Thomas slamming his fist into his face.
How's that for fun, you piece of shit?

THOMAS

(Smiling through out this entire exchange)

Is that all you have Billy-boy? You'll need to do so much better today.

BILL

YOU MUTHA . . .I'M GONNA MAKE YOU BLEED!

Punches Thomas in the face again.

THOMAS

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE?

BILL

FUCK YOU!

Gives him a roundhouse to the stomach and steps back.

THOMAS

IS . . .THAT. . .ALL. . .YOU. . .HAVE?

BILL

Bill starts to really beat Thomas.

I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FUCKING QUIET YOUR MOUTH BOY!

THOMAS

(Laughing with no visible marks on him)

Do all you can now Billy-boy. You time is running out.

BILL

Time to put you down.

Bill is about to charge Thomas again when Thomas charges him and pins him to the floor. Bill can't seem to move at all.

THOMAS

He grabs Bill's face and starts to cruse it a bit but then pulls back. He gets to within an inch of Bill's face.

Something the matter Billy-boy? Feeling weak, scared? I can't wait to bite open your face like an over-ripe peach!

He pushes off Bill and stands over him for a second or two. Then walks over to the chair with the shackles and sits down placing his hands and legs in proper position.

Whenever you are ready William. I believe the good doctor is almost here and then the real test of power will begin. I'm sorry to say William you have been found wanting.

BILL

Is terrified now and can barely get himself to stand. He rushes over to Thomas and shackles him as quickly as he can.

This ain't over, not by a long shot.

Bill runs out of the room locking it behind him.

THOMAS

(Aside to himself)

Oh but dear, dear Billy, it is all over now.

Bill gets up to the lobby and rushes outside to stand next to Greg.

SCENE XVIII

Soft light on Thomas as he sits and moves whatever he can to relax his body. Lights up on Greg and Bill who are standing outside on the Facility grounds waiting for Samantha.

GREG

Wolf finally bared its fangs huh Billy? You look like shit.

BILL

What the fuck do you know?

GREG

(Takes a deep breath and look right at Bill or rather through him)

I know you are breathing heavy, I know your heart is beating like there is a salsa band in your chest. I know sweat is dripping from your armpit and down your side. I know, today will end badly.

BILL

Jesus Greg, what the fuck is going on with you today?

GREG

More than I ever wanted Bill and yet I feel free for the first time in a long time. Maybe I finally grew a set, or grew them back. Won't know until . . . Sam's here.

Samantha enters stage left and walks straight for Bill and Greg. She glances over her shoulder for a spilt second but never stops walking forward.

SAMANTHA

Good morning Bill. Hello Gregory, how are you? And what's with the new crowd?

BILL

I have no idea but this whole place is out of whack. Especially this one.

GREG

Hi Sam, how are you doing?

He hugs her which should seem awkward

SAMANTHA

I'm doing better Gregory. A little touchy today?

GREG

Lets her go and steps back but should seem very embarrassed by what he did.

(Nervous Laugh) Yeah I kinda feel like a new man today. Like I could take on the world. It's just nice to see you Sam. Looks like everyone was waiting for you to arrive.

Greg points to off stage left and a soft howl can be heard from Thomas' room.

Seems like the crowd got a little bigger didn't it?

BILL

Ok this all just seems way off, no chanting, no Mary we seriously need to get the fuck inside!

GREG

Yeah I think we do. After you Sam.

SAMANTHA

She turns to the audience to reveal the gun again. She pulls out a letter from her briefcase.

No changing for me today fellas I have my letter.

BILL

Yeah great, can we go inside now?

GREG

(Laughs and slaps Bill on the back hard making Bill stutter step forward)

What's the matter Bill? I mean grow a pair. Shall we Sam?

SAMANTHA

Thank you. You feeling ok Gregory?

GREG

To be honest, this morning I was feeling horrible but now, I think I'll be just fine.

They all start to head toward the lobby door, Bill is walking backwards watching the crowd off stage but notices that Greg isn't limping.

BILL

Ok man just what the fuck is going on?

GREG

What?

BILL

You aren't limping. For the first time since you started here you aren't limping. What the fuck is going on?

GREG

You know what Billy-boy, I think you need to change your tone now. Things are going to change.

SAMANTHA

Ok boys all this testosterone is starting to make me sick I'm going inside and you two can stand here and see who has the biggest dick.

Sam goes inside and Greg walks in behind her. Bill stands there for a second shakes his head and walks inside.

SCENE XIX

Soft light on Thomas as he listens to them talking. Lights on the lobby.

SAMANTHA

She walks up the window and shoves the letter through the teller window opening.
Today I wear what I want and I will be wearing this.

NANCY

Looks over the letter and Huffs at Sam
I don't know who you blew to get this letter but I hope it
was worth it.

GREG

NANCY!

NANCY

Oh please like I haven't said worse. And besides the two of
you just how the fuck is she the only person to ever get to
wear what she came in with?

GREG

Even still there was no need for that! Sometimes Nance I
swear to god!

NANCY and BILL

(In unison)

Since when do you give a shit?

Both laugh hard.

SAMANTHA

Leans in close to the window.

(Aside to Nancy)

Listen you crusty old bitch! I didn't blow anyone. But
maybe if you had you wouldn't be stuck in there getting wet
every time Bill or Greg walks by.

GREG

Can hear her as if she was talking to him
and laughs.

SAMANTHA

Something funny Gregory?

GREG

(Smiling)

Nope, just amused by a stray thought.

(Aside to Bill)

Why don't you go back downstairs and be sure T is all set.
I'll try to keep cat fight from getting physical.

NANCY

(Aside to Sam)

Lick my ass.

BILL

(Aside to Greg)

I don't really want to head down there alone if it's the same to you.

GREG

WHAT? Um sorry, sorry. (Aside to Bill) What? Are you kidding me? What did T say to you that finally spooked you so bad?

BILL

Puffs out his chest and flexes.

I'm going to go make sure Thomas is all set for your visit Sam.

Bill cracks his neck, takes a deep breath and heads downstairs.

GREG

Stares at Bill for a minute shakes his head and turns toward the ladies.

Ok so has everyone lost the damn minds today? You two need to knock it off. If her papers are in order Nancy you have no choice and Sam you need to back away from the window. There's no need for either of you to get that nasty with each other.

He puts his hand on Sam's shoulder.

Any way you still need to wipe off the perfume and makeup. Nancy, the alcohol rubs please.

NANCY

Here you go lover boy.

SAMANTHA

We are not-

GREG

(In a growl)

I said enough! Go wipe off the perfume and you shut up for once.

Sam storms off to the bathroom where she had changed before to wipe off the perfume and Nancy goes in the back to make her coffee.

GREG

(Aside to himself)

Of all the days today is not the day for this shit.

He sits in a chair and we keep a soft light on him.

SCENE XX

Lights up on Bill who is standing at the door outside Thomas' room and has been for the exchange that has gone on up stairs. He should be visibly nervous.

THOMAS

(Calling from inside the room)

Little pig, little pig please, please come right in.

BILL

(Aside to himself)

This is fucking stupid, he ain't a werewolf, he's nut case. I can do this like I have every day for years. He just got lucky last time. This time I'm not holding back fuck Sam. Time to train the wolf.

Throws open the door and sees Thomas sitting there smiling. As he enters the room, Thomas lets out a howl.

THOMAS

Where were we Bill-boy?

BILL

What the fuck was that howl you just did? You calling for help cause you know I'm about to beat your ass?

THOMAS

(Laughing)

No I was telling them that dinner was served.

BILL

You sick fuck!

He rushes Thomas but to his surprise Thomas has removed his shackles and tore the leather straps from the chair. Before he can stop Thomas wraps the shackle around his neck and closes the door.

THOMAS

He pulls the leather strap tight around Bill's throat.

I usually don't dirty my hands Billy-boy, but I have been waiting for this day for a long time. I am going to make you suffer. I am going to watch the life slowly drip from your body and right before you die, just before the world goes black. I'm going to tear out your throat and watch you bleed!

Bill struggles to get Thomas off him but Thomas holds him in place choking the life from him. Upstairs Greg should be seen cocking his head like a dog does and slowly gets up from the chair.

Soft light on Bill and Thomas and lights up on the lobby.

SAMANTHA

She steps out of the bathroom and sees Greg standing by the stairway.

Gregory is something wrong?

GREG

Um, I dunno. Wait up hear a second I need to head downstairs.

SAMANTHA

I hardly think so. I am getting exactly what I came for.

GREG

Sam, please just wait here a second ok. Please just wait here.

SAMANTHA

Gregory, I appreciate the extra precautions that are needed with Thomas but I really need to get to my interview.

GREG

More are coming now.

SAMANTHA

Gregory you aren't making any sense. More what?

GREG

OH FOR FUCK'S SAKE SHUT UP! YOU AER GOING TO STAY RIGHT HERE!

Greg heads down the stairs.

Sam looks over at Nancy's booth and sees no one. She edges closer to the door leading downstairs to Thomas' room and waits hesitantly.

SCENE XXI

Soft light on Sam in the lobby as she waits by the door to the basement listening intently but not really hearing anything. Light on Greg as he makes his way down the stairs and to Thomas' door.

GREG

Grabs the handle and the door opens easily. Oh my god! T let him go he fucking blue!

THOMAS

Thomas drops the shackle and Bill falls to the floor twitching and coughing. Ah Gregory you are just in time. Do you want the honors? You know he's had this coming for some time.

GREG

I told you before T I ain't a killer like you. I can't let you do this. No matter what Bill's done in the past you can't just kill him.

THOMAS

And why can't I? All those times he beat me, all those times he beat you. Each time it was at his whim not out of necessity. We kill because we have to. The pack is here now Gregory and I have to feed them.

GREG

Murder ain't the way to do it T.

THOMAS

Humans are our cattle Gregory, you don't murder livestock.

Bill starts to move and cough some more. It seems like he is coming too.

GREG

Reaches down to get Bill up on his feet.
Come on you redneck asshole get up!

THOMAS

I can't allow that Gregory. Put him down.

GREG

Slowly he lowers Bill's coughing body to the floor.

What the hell?

THOMAS

I am the pack Alpha Gregory. And you will do what I say when I say it.

Thomas stomps on Bill's neck ending his life.

Not the death I had truly wanted for him but it will do nonetheless.

GREG

He stares at Bill's broken body.
How . . . you just killed him in cold blood.

THOMAS

As I stated before Gregory, they are cattle to us and no one will miss the men and women locked away on this compound. With you at my side I can leave here and finally rebuild the Childre into the force it was so many centuries ago.

GREG

No, there's no way I can let you do this. I can't let you kill innocent people!

THOMAS

You are a good man Gregory, it's why I chose you. Perhaps if I let you keep Samantha you will see things differently.

GREG

You are out of your mind! I can't let this happen. I can't T. This has to be stopped.

THOMAS

The only way to stop it is to kill me. Can you do that Gregory? Can you kill me after all I just gave you? I returned your life to you. SO you think I couldn't hear the change in your tone. How good it felt to finally put Bill into his place. You're only back to who you were but you are so much more, so much better. You have to see that. Help me lead Gregory. Be my Beta, help hold the pack together.

GREG

I can't do that or let you do that. If this is the cost for my old life then IU don't want it. All the strength and power in the world isn't worth killing people. No matter how you spin it T I can't let you kill people. Call this off, I don't want to kill you. But I will fight to keep these people alive. It's my job it's all I had for so long. I can't let you take it away.

They square off and Greg lunges at Thomas who dodges him easily sending Greg crashing into the chair splintering it.

THOMAS

Gregory, I'm sorry it will have to end like this. You are a good man, too good it seems. Pity, you would have made an excellent soldier.

GREG

Still on the floor but now holding a large sharp fragment of the chair.)

Just call this off T. I don't want to kill you but I will if I have to. I swear to god I will.

Samantha is now standing in the open doorway with her gun pointed at Thomas' back she is about to fire the gun.

THOMAS

(Smiling because he can sense Samantha behind him)

Welcome to the mantle of leadership Gregory.

Thomas lunges at Greg and Greg drives a piece of the chair through Thomas' chest. Greg pushes the body off himself and to the side of the floor.

(Laughing and coughing up blood) The burden is yours now Gregory. You are the new Alpha. Perhaps your mind will survive the transformation, perhaps you can change the natures of the beasts.

(Dies)

GREG

Grabs Thomas' lifeless body and shakes it) What are you talking about? What are you talking about?

SFX: Chanting from outside LONG LIVE THE ALPHA, LONG LIVE GREGORY!

SCENE XXII

Lights only on Thomas' room.

SFX: Growling and howls of wolves.

SAMANTHA

Standing in the doorway now has the gun pointed at Greg.

Oh god Gregory are you one of those things. This whole time where you one of his partners?

GREG

No Sam, listen to me! Yesterday that cut on my arm was a gash from T. I asked him to educate me, I never meant for it happen. I didn't want to learn this way.

SAMANTHA

YOU don't expect me to believe all that crap was true.

Finally seeing Bill's body as well.

OH MY GOD YOU KILLED THEM BOTH!

GREG

No, Sam, please you've got to believe me. Yeah I killed Thomas just now like you saw but I didn't kill Bill. I tried to stop him. I'm changing Sam. I can hear them so clearly now. I'm the Alpha. But I don't know how to stop them Sam.

(He sees the gun.) I don't know how you got that past the detectors but you need to kill me. It's the only way. Killing the Alpha will make them go away.

SAMANTHA

(Crying)

It's made from silver, all of it, even the bullets. I can't kill you Gregory you can stop them. Just tell them to stop.

GREG

(Pleading and trying to hold back tears)

It's not that. I can feel myself losing control. My head is pounding. I feel like my entire body is on fire. Please Sam you have to.

SAMANTHA

I WON'T THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY! IT WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE HIM!

She fires two shots into Thomas.

GREG

He grabs her by the shoulders and shakes her a bit to get her to focus.

Please Sam. I don't know what will happen if I change fully. I don't know if I will be who I am or end up like him.

SAMANTHA

I can't. I can't do that.

GREG

He takes the gun and puts it against his chest where his heart is located. As he

reaches for her hand, his hand becoming
clawed and furry like a wolf's paw.
Sam please. It's how it has to end.

SAMANTHA

(Sobbing)

It was just supposed to be him. Only him.

GREG

SAM! SAM PLEASE! Please, don't let me become like them,
don't let him win.

SAMANTHA

Closes her eyes and grips the gun with both
hands.

There has to be another way. Please Gregory—

GREG

(In a growling tone)

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY! DAMN IT SAM! FUCKING SHOOT! SHOOT!

LIGHTS OUT

SFX: **The sound of a gun going off and the howling
of wolves.**

CURTAIN