

Episode 13: Chiropractic Special

Characters: Hazel

Sound Effects: None

Description: Hazel has a very special guest on the show

Written and performed by Brenna Anderson-Dowd and Erik Gurule, DC. Sound design by Frederick Elmore. Music production by Kevin Elmore.

Website: <https://www.podpage.com/care-feeding-of-werewolves/>

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INTRO: Kerfuffle and Chaos Productions presents Care and Feeding of Werewolves.

Episode 13: Chiropractic Special

MUSIC (1): THEME SONG

SCENE ONE:

HAZEL

Hello and welcome to Care and Feeding of Werewolves, a podcast addressing issues and current events in the paranormal community. I'm your host, Hazel Thornton. Today's listener writes,

"Dear Dr. Hazel, I think I'm falling for a dryad that lives on my family property. There's a gorgeous old Lodgepole pine that I love to sit under and just think about things cause it's real peaceful. I've done it since I was a little girl, practically spent my summers under it. I moved away when I was still young, but came back when I inherited. Just recently, when I go out there I caught glimpses of her fading into that tree. That's how I know she's a dryad, you see. I guess what I want to know is how do I approach her? Should I approach her? Would she even consider a human, much

less a woman? Heck, I live in a log cabin. What if that's like living in a house of mummified corpses would be to humans? I don't know, Dr. Hazel. I feel like I've known her and loved her forever, but I've barely even seen her."

My girl, I don't know how to say this, but SHE is approaching YOU. I guarantee that she already knows about your log cabin, and doesn't mind. Likely your house's logs were either farmed or culled. Either way, nature goddesses understand the role of death in life. I doubt she'd even ask you to go vegan. The being woman thing is a nonissue, too--most dryads are pretty tight with Artemis, if you catch my drift. As for your next step? Leave some fruitcake or a bit of hard cider under the tree. Dryads love that stuff. Offer her gifts, and she'll stay a little longer each time. Let her make all the first moves, or you'll never see her again. Remember, she's part of the Wild. Her trust must be earned, and it won't be earned easily.

As for the rest, you do know her. That feeling of peace under that tree, that safety and contentment? That's been her all along, looking out for young creatures in her clearing. Now that you're grown, she's probably curious about this fearless woman that loves her tree so much, and there's nothing a dryad loves more than having her wood admired.

JULIA: HA!

HAZEL: (sighs) Thank you, Julia. Anyway.

Today, we have a special guest joining us by phone who's the foremost chiropractic expert in North America on humanoid ungulates and acro-humanoids. Please welcome to the show, Dr. Brian Grey.

BRIAN

Thanks for having me on Hazel. I've been really happy to see your show, I think it fills a much needed space.

HAZEL

Dr. Grey-

BRIAN

Please, call me Brian.

HAZEL

Brian, you're a human chiropractor specializing in humanoid ungulates like centaurs, minotaurs, and fauns. It's pretty rare that someone without a magical background comes over to the dark side. Why don't you tell us a little about what got you into the field?

BRIAN

I have an unfortunate tendency to ramble, so I'll try to keep this as succinct as I can. It really comes down to a visit I had while I was an intern in the campus health center at my chiropractic school. A patient was complaining about low back pain, and while I was doing my examination what my hands were feeling and what my eyes were seeing were not matching up. Later on that particular patient, who is a very good friend of mine, admitted that he had no idea how chiropractors do what they do. He thought I was just going to hug him and pop his back or something. He was in a lot of pain and was kind of desperate so was willing to try almost anything. *clears throat* Right, succinct. I was doing the examination and checked his legs and felt fur. He panicked when he realized his cover was blown and head butted me and fled the room. I received an absolutely profound concussion and it's where I got this impressive scar on my forehead.

HAZEL

Oooh, ouch. Those horns hurt!

BRIAN

Damn right they do. Can I say damn?

HAZEL

Hell yeah. I imagine that must've been quite the shock for both of you, even without the traumatic brain injury.

BRIAN

I tracked him down after a while and we talked. Once he figured out I wasn't going to out him, he started directing a lot of his friends to me.

HAZEL

Were your patients hesitant about seeing someone who didn't have extensive experience with their anatomy? We can be a little mistrustful of humans.

BRIAN

A little at first, yeah, but people's needs tend to overcome that and once I proved I'd listen and work with them, then it wasn't much of an issue.

HAZEL

Our offices don't look very standard, right? I mean, I run a clinic out of an old Victorian house, it doesn't exactly scream clinical setting. Why don't you describe your office for us and how you adapted it for your unique patients?

BRIAN

I have gone through a couple of office spaces. At one point I was renting a small barn outside of town, and would meet with patients that had a more difficult time navigating a normal sized office there. Particularly the centaurs, minotaurs, ogres, and on one very memorable occasion a giant. Now I have a converted farmhouse with a custom outbuilding for our larger patients. I think I might be the only chiropractor in the country with facilities to do traction on a centaur.

HAZEL

That is impressive, especially when as a student, you immediately saw a need and adapted your education on your own to suit that goal. And you did it without following a set path, you trail blazed your own. We're going to take a quick break and when we return, we'll be asking Dr. Brian Grey about what he's learned as the preeminent chiropractor specializing in humanoid ungulates and acro-humanoids.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FAUN: Oh, my neck!

MINOTAUR: My back is so stiff!

FOREST GOD: My branches snap off!

MEDUSA: My snakes keep suffocating!

ALL: What do we do?

OBERON: Dost thine horns interfere with Sleep's sweet embrace? Doth the shapes growing from thine head drive away sweet dreams on a Midsummer Night's Eve? 'Tis certain, sirrah, that I may have suffered thine fate, as my own horned visage doth show. Certain it also was, sirrah, that I was not content to suffer my fate silently, nor the fate of vassals such as yourselves. And so did I toil through many sleepless night, tossing and turning, testing and learning, until one blessed morn that I awoke rested, with nary a twinge or tremor. As King, my blessing shall trickle down to you, my vassals, with mine own invention- Thy Pillow.

Thy Pillow is stuffed with a secret material and blend of charms that allow it to stretch and accommodate any spikes, tusks, snakes, horns, yea, even antlers whilst cradling thine head more comfortably than the lap of any maiden fair.

FAUN: My neck feels amazing!

MINOTAUR: My back isn't stiff!

FOREST GOD: Wow! Not even a single bent twig!

MEDUSA: All my snakes survived!

ALL: It's a miracle!

OBERON: Lo! Hath thou ever heard such golden reviews? Order two Thy Pillows and get a third for half off! Only Four easy payments of just \$24.99.

My Fair Folk, show your allegiance to your king, and order Thy Pillow today!

ANNOUNCER: (speaking quickly) Shipping and handling fees may apply. Thy Pillow is not responsible for any injuries occurring during use. Thy Pillow is not intended to diagnose, treat, or educate about virtually anything. Thy

Pillow is for outdoor use only. Thy Pillow is not meant to be used for sleeping. All profits go to Oberon for King PAC.

HAZEL

Welcome back to Care & Feeding of Werewolves. We've been talking with Dr. Brian Grey about his practice as a chiropractor for minotaurs, centaurs, fauns, ogres, and other beings with specific musculoskeletal needs. Dr. Grey, what would you say is the most common issue you tend to treat people for?

BRIAN

Low back pain, by far. Neck pain is a close second. Some of our paranormal patients have to sleep in inventive positions. Truthfully if I was more of an entrepreneurial type, I would work on a line of pillows and mattresses for paranormals.

HAZEL

Now there's an idea for our creative listeners out there. (BEAT) If there was one resource that you could have that would make your job easier, what would it be?

BRIAN

That is an excellent question. An extra four arms and the strength of an ogre? *chuckles*

HAZEL

Extra limbs would be so helpful!

BRIAN

Detailed anatomical charts, and good physiology texts? I know you are aware how lacking the information is, it makes it a lot more difficult to develop effective treatments, so much of what I do is trial and error.

HAZEL

That's one of the deviations from standard practices that I appreciate the most: the level of two-way communication that's required. I find that assuming the patient's mistaken or lying - as I was taught that the patient cannot be objective - only destroys trust and honesty. And let's be real here, we're people ourselves and therefore can't be objective; anyone who thinks otherwise is fooling themselves.

One last question, if there was any piece of advice you'd give to our listeners, what would it be?

BRIAN

Don't lift and twist. Regardless of species, that seems to be the story that starts most of our visits. Vertebrae are poorly designed for that coupled motion. Lift and then pivot if at all possible.

HAZEL

Thank you for that piece of wisdom and thank you for joining us today.

BRIAN

Thank you for having me on Hazel, it was a pleasure to be on the show.

HAZEL

(OFF MIC) Ugh, I feel like a talk show host after that. And don't forget to let me know if any of your patients start going missing, too.

BRIAN

(OFF MIC) Will do. What do you think of swapping mead for potions? I make a mean *insert favorite kind to make here*.

HAZEL

(FADE OUT) Oooh, I like that idea. You might just be my new best friend. Don't tell Julia.

MUSIC (1): THEME SONG

CREDITS

Thank you for listening. Today's episode was written and performed by Brenna Anderson-Dowd and Erik Gurule, DC. Thy Pillow was written and performed by Frederick Elmore. Sound design by Frederick Elmore. Music production by Kevin Elmore.

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