

In Walks a Monster

By

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VERSION	AUTHOR	NOTES
V1.0	Travis G. Duhr	This is written with the Delta Diner in Wisconsin in mind. The character names may be changed, I just needed a placeholder.

FADE IN:

EXT HIGHWAY NIGHT

ACTION – On a lonely highway in Northern Wisconsin, sits an old roadside diner. The kind you only ever see in movies. Late one snowy night, something watches from the shadows, patiently waiting as customers come and go.

The road grows silent, no cars in sight. The creature creeps from its hiding place, slowly moving towards the diner door.

A bell rings as it steps inside.

It stands in the entrance. Skin the color of sun-bleached bones, hardened like leather, nearly a shell. Antlers protruding from not only its head, but along its spine, and from its arms and legs. Face misshapen. Fangs.

HOWARD O.S.

He looks up from his paper momentarily, staring at the creature and raising an eyebrow, before going back to his reading.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

From behind the counter, the woman working catches sight of the monster standing in the entry.

Huh, look at you...

She grabs a pot of coffee and a menu, walking up to the creature.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

You wanna follow me to a booth? Not sure our stools'll hold ya.

The creature pauses, eying the woman, almost in shock. She begins to walk towards the booth, looking over her shoulder to ensure it is there. It's not sure why, but it decides to follow.

She sets down the menu and pours a cup of coffee, motioning for the creature to sit. As the creature sits, another patron finally notices, but goes back to their pie, lost in thought.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

So, what can I get ya, Honey?

The creature stares and tilts its head to the side. It leans down and smells the coffee. A dull glimmer appears in its eyes. Something that has been gone for a long time. It looks around the diner slowly. In a ragged voice, it whispers, almost asking.

CREATURE O.S.

Eggs? Potatoes and eggs?

MARY LOUIS O.S.

You got it, Sugar. You want those sunny side up?

After a long pause, the creature nods its head. The woman walks away, patting it on the shoulder. She walks back behind the counter and calls the order to the cook. The cook, who has been watching, looks at the woman.

COOKIE O.S.

Well... I'll be damned.

He gets to work, preparing the food. He cracks two eggs, looks back at the creature, and decides to crack 4 more. He adds extra potatoes to the grill.

The creature picks up the coffee. The woman is walking by.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

You want some cream with that? Or maybe some sugar, Sugar?

CREAM O.S.

Cream?

It sounds confused. It sounds almost painful for the creature to speak.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

Oh, here, Honey. Try this.

She pours cream into its coffee. It slowly takes a sip. Its eyes fill with sadness and joy. The woman watches, she sees the emotions.

The cook rings the bell for the food.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

One second, Hon. Let me grab that food.

She walks back and grabs the food.

COOKIE O.S.

I made a bit extra. On the house.

She smiles back at him. Back at the table, she sets down the food. The creature looks at her.

CREATURE O.S.

Scared? No one is scared.

She stares for a moment before sitting down across from it.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

Oh, Hon. These people here, they all got their minds on their own troubles. The world ain't the place it used to be. I think we're all just happy to

have a warm quiet place away from it all. Even if
just for a while.

The creature stares back. A single tear rolls down from its eye. Almost inaudibly, with its voice
breaking...

CREATURE O.S.

Happy...

The woman looks deep into the creature's eyes.

MARY LOUIS O.S.

Eat your food, sweetie, before it gets cold. I'll be
back to check on you in a bit.

As the creature eats, the woman checks on the other customers, refilling coffee, and bringing
pie.

FADE OUT:

[6 MONTHS LATER]

FADE IN:

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The road grows silent, no cars in sight. The creature creeps from its hiding place, slowly moving
towards the diner door.

A bell rings as it steps inside.

It stands in the entrance. Covered in fur, from head to toe. Horns, protruding. It looks almost
like a highland cow, pretending to be a person.

HOWARD O.S.

He looks up from his paper momentarily, staring at the creature and raising an eyebrow, before going back to his reading.

From behind the counter, MARY LOUIS catches sight of the monster standing in the entry. We see the creature standing next to her, now dressed as an employee.

CREATURE O.S.

Huh, look at you...

FADE OUT.

THE END