

Terror in the Hills

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

TEEN BOY (19) runs through the woods, terrified. He makes frequent glances behind him. Sticks CRUNCH beneath his feet. He stumbles, but bounces back up without losing momentum.

WHOOSH! An arrow pierces his neck. Teen Boy falls forward to his knees. Blood gushes from the wound. He gurgles as he pulls at the arrow, but fails to remove it.

Teen Boy's attempts to get to his feet quickly fail. He falls face first into the dirt, dead by the time he hits.

O.S. Slow FOOTSTEPS approach.

A pair of hands, covered by hunting gloves, grabs Teen Boy by the feet and drags him in the direction he has come from.

INT. UNDISCLOSED BASEMENT - WORKROOM - DAY

A cart with an empty metal tray on top stands alone.

O.S. Someone WHISTLES a happy tune, accompanied by a horrid SLICING sound.

A piece of flesh is flung to the tray from close-by. Then another. And another.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - GENERAL STORE - DAY

A quaint little establishment in the form of a log cabin, nestled off of a dirt road. A car is parked out front. Next to it, a van is loaded inside and on top with camping gear.

INT. GENERAL STORE - DAY - SAME

A good deal of merchandise, including souvenirs for the area, camping supplies and food is displayed.

SARAH MICHAELS (30s), a friendly hometown appearance, watches as a MAN (30s), WOMAN (30s) and their LITTLE GIRL (7) browse. They pick out a few food items.

On the counter, a tray holds packs of homemade jerky. The labels read, "Mountainside Jerky - The Best You'll Ever Taste."

SARAH

So, how long are you folks staying with us for?

MAN

A week.

He rests a hand on Little Girl's shoulder.

MAN

It's Miah's first camping trip.

SARAH

How wonderful. It's so beautiful up here. I'm sure you'll have a great time.

The couple takes their items to the counter.

SARAH

Would you like to try our jerky?

She pulls out a small plate from behind the counter, several pieces of jerky on it. Man and Woman grimace at the sight.

WOMAN

We don't care much for jerky.

SARAH

It's homemade locally, the best you'll ever taste.

She picks up a pack to display the label.

SARAH

See? It says so right here.

MAN

Maybe just a small piece.

He takes the smallest piece on the plate. Pops it into his mouth. His skeptical look transforms into one of delight.

MAN

That is good.
(to Woman)
Try some.

Woman shakes her head.

WOMAN
I don't think so.

Little Girl steps up to them. Curious.

LITTLE GIRL
Can I try it?

SARAH
Why sure.

She holds out the plate. Little Girl picks out a piece, bites off the end. She's just as pleased as her dad.

SARAH
(to Woman)
You don't know what you're missing.

Absorbed by her companions' reactions to the jerky, Woman selects a piece from the plate. She takes a bite. Chews. A smile crosses her face.

MAN
Well?

WOMAN
You're right.

MAN
Is it beef?

SARAH
Deer. A local hunter makes it.

WOMAN
I never wanted to try deer before.
It doesn't even sound good.

SARAH
That's what a lot of people think
until they try it.

Man selects a couple of jerky packs from the counter and adds them to his purchase.

MAN
We might stop by on our way out to
pick up more.

SARAH

I should have a new supply in by then.

She rings up their purchases.

SARAH

That will be \$19.23.

Man hands her a twenty. Sarah gives him back some change and bags their items.

SARAH

Thanks for stopping by.

The family leaves the store. Sarah watches them with a hospitable smile.

EXT. GENERAL STORE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Little Girl climbs into the back seat of the van. Man puts their bag of groceries next to her, removes a pack of jerky and opens it.

MAN

There's something about this stuff.

He pops a small piece into his mouth.

LITTLE GIRL

Can I have a piece?

Man hands her a full piece.

MAN

Just don't ruin your appetite for dinner.

LITTLE GIRL

I won't.

She leans back in her seat and munches on her jerky.

INT./EXT. VAN - PARKED - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Man slides in behind the wheel, Woman seated in the passenger seat. Man lays down the pack of jerky on the console as he eats his own piece.

Woman eyes the pack for a moment, then grabs it and removes a strip.

Hand on the keys in the ignition, Man freezes to look at her.

MAN

I thought you didn't like jerky.

WOMAN

I don't, but this is addictive.

MAN

They probably put something in it that causes cravings. That's how they keep people coming back.

They laugh. Each takes a bite of jerky. They enjoy it immensely.

Man starts the van and drives off.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Packed with students visiting their lockers between classes.

KRISTEN BAKER (17), brunette, stunning despite her plain wrapper, a great inner strength, exchanges book in a very meticulous locker.

HALEY BAKER (17), the spitting image of Kristen, only blonde, is very materialistic and shallow in comparison to her sister. She trots up to Kristen with a book in her hands.

HALEY

Guess what?

Kristen barely passes her a glance.

KRISTEN

Okay. What?

HALEY

I got us dates with Josh Finley and Sam Mathers.

Kristen finishes with her task and closes her locker. She gives Haley a skeptical look.