

CRY WOLF

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dim light in a little boys bedroom from a small lamp with a cowboy theme lamp shade. Horses and cowboys painted on the wall.

LITTLE BOY TOM

No, Daddy!

A woman screams.

Blood splatter hits the once cute cowboy scene on the wall.

LITTLE BOY TOM (CONT'D)

Wolf!

More blood flung on the lamp.

A window shatters in the background.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

A small room with white walls. A small video camera hangs in a corner near the ceiling. The only furniture is a small table and three chairs.

DR. TOM EDWARDS (40s) shakes as he rocks back and forth in one of the chairs. He wears a paper "bunny suit" with the hood on his head and his hands shackled to the table.

His face and hands are covered in scratches and cuts. Some blood runs from the bigger ones.

He chants as he rocks with a trance-like face.

TOM

Wolf. Wolf. Wolf. Wolf.

The door opens. Tom rhythmically continues.

DETECTIVE RYAN (30S) and DETECTIVE MARSH (30S) enter and sit in the two chairs opposite Tom. Each has a notebook.

They share a quick look at each other, then back at Tom.

RYAN

Doctor Edwards? Can I call you Tom?

TOM
Wolf. Wolf. Wolf. Wolf...

Marsh writes in his notebook.

RYAN
Tom, I'm gonna need you to pay
attention.

TOM
Wolf. Wolf. Wolf. Wolf...

RYAN
Tom, you need to listen to me.

TOM
Wolf. Wolf...

Marsh looks up and slams his hands on the table.

Tom jerks as he snaps out of it. He continues to shake.

RYAN
You okay?

TOM
I... I'm not sure.

MARSH
Why were you saying Wolf?

Tom looks puzzled and looks down.

TOM
I saw the Wolf.

MARSH
Where did you get those cuts from?

Tom looks at his handcuffed hands, then at the paper suit.

TOM
Where's my clothes?

RYAN
Forensics took them. You were all
cut up and bloody. What happened?

TOM
Momma took me trick-or-treating.
Daddy didn't want to go.

MARSH
Don't you mean took your kid?

TOM
Daddy works hard. That's why he
drinks so much.

Detective Marsh scratches his head.

MARSH
What the fuck?

TOM
After my bath, I wanted Momma to
read me a story.

MARSH
You're one crazy mother...

Ryan holds up his hand to try to calm Marsh down.

RYAN
Go ahead, Tom.

Tom doesn't miss a beat.

TOM
I didn't want to hear Little Red
Riding Hood again. She read that
already. So, she said, "How about
another story with a wolf?" And I
said, "Sure." So she started The
Boy Who Cried...

The door flies open. SERGEANT LEWIS (50s) steps in.

LEWIS
The wife's here.

Ryan and Marsh stand up and grab their notebooks.

RYAN
We'll be right back.

They both leave and close the door behind them.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

DEBBIE EDWARDS (30s) sits at one end of a long table. Her
head's in her hands and she sobs.

Sergeant Lewis and Ryan stand on one side of her. Marsh sits
on the other side with his notebook open taking notes.

DEBBIE

I told you. We went trick-or-treating, then came home. He was fine. I gave my son, Daniel, a bath and we both put him to bed like always. Daniel wanted to hear a story. And since Tom reads so well, I thought he should read it.

MARSH

Don't tell me. The Boy Who Cried Wolf?

DEBBIE

He was almost finished when he jumped to his feet, and ran right through the window!

Lewis sighs. He looks at Ryan.

LEWIS

See if you can get any more from him.

Ryan walks out of the room.

DEBBIE

Can he come home?

LEWIS

We just need a few more answers. Just stay here for now. We'll watch from the camera monitors.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Tom sits at the table and has his face buried in his hands. On the other side, Ryan scribbles on his notebook. He looks up.

RYAN

So, you don't remember what you did before Officer Daniels picked you up in the middle of Evans Road?

TOM

No.

RYAN

How did you get all those cuts?

Tom looks at his hands. He picks at one of the scabs.

TOM
Maybe when I jumped out the window.

RYAN
Yeah, so you remember?

TOM
I had to jump out because of the
fire. The Wolf started the fire.

RYAN
What fire?

TOM
He didn't want her to hurt any
more.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Lewis turns to Marsh who looks at the monitors showing the
interrogation room.

LEWIS
Go ask Mrs. Edwards if they had a
fire.

Marsh leaves and goes into...

INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Debbie is on her phone when Marsh walks in.

DEBBIE
Yeah, Mom. Hopefully we'll be home
soon.

She looks up at Marsh.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
I'm glad he finally went to sleep.
I just hate that he had to see his
Daddy do that. Hold on Mom.

MARSH
Did you guys have a fire there
tonight?

DEBBIE
No. Why?

MARSH

Your husband said he jumped out the window because of the fire.

DEBBIE

When he was little... the incident I told you about...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Same room as beginning scene. LITTLE BOY TOM sits on the floor. MOMMA (30s), in a chair next to him, holds a story book.

DADDY (40s) bursts in the room and lets out a roar like a lion. He storms up to Momma.

DADDY

You can't leave me! If I can't have you nobody will!

Momma stands up and shields Little Boy Tom.

MOMMA

Please don't hurt Tommy.

The knife is all but a flash moving toward Momma. Her throat slices open. Her hand grabs at the wound but the river of blood can't be stopped.

Daddy then plunges the blade deep in her chest. He removes it and quickly repeats it. Momma falls to the floor.

Blood flings on the wall and the lamp.

Little Boy Tom scurries across the floor. He screams all the way to the window.

Daddy pours gasoline on himself and Momma. He pulls out his lighter.

LITTLE BOY TOM

Wolf! Wolf! Wolf! Wolf!

The fire lights the room. The sound of a window breaking.

END FLASHBACK:

DEBBIE

His parents both died in a fire after he jumped out. The whole house burned down. He said our house burned?

MARSH
No. I'll be right back.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Marsh walks up to Lewis.

MARSH
I don't think he's talking about
events that happened tonight.

LEWIS
Maybe that's all it was?

MARSH
His wife said, his Mom and Dad died
in a fire after he jumped out the
window.

LEWIS
Yeah, he said to Ryan that the Wolf
started the fire.

MARSH
Who's the Wolf?

LEWIS
I'm assuming his Dad. Go get Ryan.
We can let him go.

Marsh hurries away.

DETECTIVE O'NEIL (O.S.)
Sarge?

Lewis turns to look down the isle of cubicles. DETECTIVE
O'NEIL (40s) leans back in his chair. He has a phone to his
ear.

DETECTIVE O'NEIL (CONT'D)
Officer Daniels went to the burning
house on Evans Road. Fire
Department knocked it out quick.

LEWIS
Good. I take it there's bad news?

DETECTIVE O'NEIL
Found a body inside. Female. They
said it doesn't look good.

LEWIS
Okay. Head over there.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Lewis removes the handcuffs from Tom's wrists. Tom, still in the paper suit, rubs his wrists.

Debbie puts her arm around him and guides him toward the elevators.

LEWIS

Mr. Edwards, we'll let you know
when you can get your clothes back.

Tom only glances at him, then puts his head down. He and Debbie get to the elevator. She pushes the button. The door opens and they step in.

Detective O'Neil walks up to Lewis while putting his coat on.

DETECTIVE O'NEIL

Officer Daniels said that woman had
trauma to her body.

LEWIS

What kind of trauma?

DETECTIVE O'NEIL

Cuts and stab wounds is what he
said.

Lewis looks toward the elevator.

LEWIS

(soft voice)
Wolf?

Tom looks at Lewis with a sly smile on his face.

The elevator door closes.

FADE OUT.