

THE HOWLING BOY

(based on The Boy And The Wolves)

by: yours truly Howling Boy

(C) 2016

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A bleak and small shack. The earth around is rough and untended.

Merciless rain thrashes the windows. Lightning illuminates the sky closely followed by thunder.

INT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A FATHER (50), an emaciated man, lies in bed, sunken eyes devoid of color, lips shut tight. His bones protrude through a thin blanket.

GARRY (20s) and NORMAN (7) stand next to his bed, ready to hear their father's last will. A PRIEST sits at the headboard.

The Father signals for the oldest boy to lean over.

FATHER

Don't ever leave Norman, son. I...
I curse you if you do.

Wolves howl in the distance. Norman shudders scared. Garry puts his arm around Norman.

FATHER

Damn wolves...

The Priest reads from the bible, crosses the Father's chest. The Father starts breathing rapidly, opens his eyes wide, leaves out his last breath. The Priest pulls the cover over his face.

In a moment--

--KATE (20s) opens the door without a knock and shuffles in. Garry hurries to meet her. They embrace.

She sees the Father.

KATE

I'm so sorry.

Garry nods, kisses her on the head. Norman sobs nearby. Garry reaches his hand for him.

GARRY

Now it's just me and Norman.

KATE
Aren't you forgetting someone?

GARRY
Sorry, didn't mean it that way.

KATE
Now it's Norman, you, me and... him.
She pats her belly. Garry stares, incredulous.

GARRY
What? You sure?

Kate happily nods. They embrace.

EXT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Kate hangs the clothes on a rope. There's a bucket load of laundry waiting to be hanged next. Chickens cluck at her feet. She pushes one away with her foot.

Garry walks toward her. Kate's chin hardens as she sees him. A baby cries inside the house.

GARRY
Is Norman in with the baby?

KATE
The brat wouldn't take a moment to tend to it, you know that.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

Norman milks their only goat as he watches Garry and Kate talk through an open door.

GARRY
Kate, please.

KATE
Don't Kate me, you... I did not subscribe to this.

She points to the Norman's pants she just washed.

KATE
We've got to move out to the city.

GARRY
I can't provide for all of us there.

KATE

And leave Norman behind. He's ten,
not three. Ask your aunt for help.

Garry glances inside the shed on his way to the house. Sees Norman. Norman averts his eyes.

EXT. ANOTHER HOUSE - DAY

Garry knocks on the door. Norman stands beside him. Aunt BETTY (60s), stern lady with thin eyebrows and lips, opens. Norman waves to her.

NORMAN

Hi Auntie.

AUNT POLINA

It's Aunt Polina for you, boy.

GARRY

Sorry to disturb you, Aunt Polina.
Dad always said how kind you were.

She cocks a brow.

GARRY

Listen, all I'm asking is to give
Norm some food in case he asks. Kate
and him don't really go along and I
have to leave for couple of days. We
have food in the house but...

The wolves howl in the distance.

AUNT POLINA

They are in heat. Why don't you
feed Norman to them once and for
all and that would be it.

She shuts the door in their face. Garry grabs Norman's hand.

GARRY

Old hag.

EXT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Norman watches after a goat as it munches on what's left of the grass. Garry shuffles into his beat up sedan and pulls away.

As soon as Garry rounds a corner, Kate peeks out the house.

KATE

Hey you. Why don't you take it over there. Let it eat a bit.

She points towards the woods. Norman takes a moment before answering her.

NORMAN

It's not a good season to go there.

KATE

Oh poor scaredy cat. You like eating, right? So does the goat.

Norman rises. He grabs the goat by the rope around its neck, drags it towards the woods.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The goat munches on the grass. Norman doesn't let go off the rope. Leaves ruffle in the bushes. Norman looks around, steps back. It's the wind.

Then he sees a pair of eyes stare at him. A small round creature emerges out the bushes. It's a wolf pup. Norman takes another step back and--

--sees a snake slithering around the pup's feet. Norman dashes to the pup, covers it and the snake with his body. At that same moment he hears a growl. He looks behind and sees a terribly thin female wolf.

Norman rolls over, holding the snake by its head. The wolf sees the snake and stands still.

The puppy rushes to his mother.

Norman rises. The snake in hands, he takes a step back. Then another step.

In a moment he's out of the woods. He throws the snake as far away as he can and runs home, dragging the goat by the rope.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

He ties the goat to a tree. Rushes toward the shed.

IN A MOMENT

He emerges out of the shed, a few eggs in hands. He runs toward the woods.

Kate watches him from a window.

EXT. PRIEST'S HOUSE - DAY

Garry knocks on the door. Norman stands next to him.

No one answers. They wait.

GARRY

You shouldn't have taken the eggs
to the wolves.

NORMAN

The pups mother was way too thin.

GARRY

You're not stupid, are you? The
wolves may attack any moment and
you're feeding them?

The door opens. Priest regards Garry and Norman coldly.

NORMAN

Leave me alone. All of you. I don't
need anyone's help.

Norman pulls away and runs off. Garry turns to the Priest.

GARRY

Never mind.

INT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Norman watches Garry and Kate pack. The baby cries in his
crib. Norman makes a silly face to cheer the baby up but Kate
hisses at him and he stops.

GARRY

I'll be back in a couple of days to
check on you. There's goat and
chickens which means milk and eggs.
You'll do well.

Norman sees the calender. The date is October 1st, 1990.

He walks out, shuts the door behind.

INT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

On the wall calender Norman crosses October 31st 1990. All the days of the October are crossed over. He tears the October off. Crosses November 1st.

Wolves howl in the distance. Norman's face expression doesn't change. He hears chickens cluck. Clucking grows louder. There's some commotion in the shed.

Norman steps toward the door and locks it. He shuffles to the window. Sees a wolf running away with a chicken in mouth.

He staggers back to the door, opens it, walks out.

EXT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

And as he is out the door, he locks eyes with another wolf. The wolf doesn't attack but runs by and away.

Norman staggers toward the shed.

INT. SHED - CONTINUOUS

The goat bleats very much alive.

Norman approaches and pats it.

INT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Norman stands at the calender. The year is 1991, the month November - one year has passed. 29 days in November are crossed over. He crosses November 30th.

He tears the November off, crumples the paper. The floor is thrashed with similar crumpled papers.

The wolves howl in the distance.

Norman walks out.

INT. SHED - NIGHT

Norman pats the goat.

He then unties it and walks it out.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Norman releases the goat, frees it off the rope and sits nearby on the grass.

NORMAN

I'm sorry.

The goat munches on the grass. Norman waits.

LATER

It's past dawn. Norman lies on the bare ground, sound asleep. He shivers from cold, wakes up. A pair of green eyes look at him in the darkness.

The wolf attacks the goat at once. A few others join in.

Norman watches them tear the goat apart and shuts his eyes tight. They see him, one comes close and sniffs him. Norman keeps his eyes shut.

When Norman opens his eyes the sniffing wolf appears gone. The pack rests little further away from Norman. Pieces of meat strewn everywhere.

Norman rises. His knees shake, but he knows what to do. He approaches the wolves. They don't pay attention to him.

NORMAN

Not hungry for a human?

His eyes a tease, he takes a piece of meat and puts it into his mouth, smearing blood over his face. His teeth tear at the meat.

The wolves move aside to make a place for Norman to join in.

He shrugs, sits down. Next, he feasts with the wolves like he's one of them.

LATER

The wolves rest. Norman sleeps among them.

EXT. UNMARKED HOUSE - NIGHT

Norman watches a man leave with his suitcase. He sits inside a car. The car pulls away. As soon as it rounds a corner--

--Norman runs toward the shed. He has a nail in hands. He thrusts it in, works the lock. The door gives in. Norman howls.

The wolf pack appears in an instant. They rush in.

In a minute all are out with chickens in mouths. Norman and the pack run toward the woods.

There's a stir in a--

EXT. NEIGHBORING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Two men emerge with rakes in hands.

They dart toward the house that's under the attack but too late - Norman and the wolves are nowhere to be seen.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Grown NORMAN (17), bare, minus a piece of clothing around his hips, watches a house.

The lights go out.

Norman howls. The wolves howl in return. The pack heads steadily toward the house with Norman in the lead.

EXT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Garry, Kate and their seven-year-old KID return with suitcases. Garry knocks on the door. Nobody answers it.

They wait.

Aunt Polina walks by. She sees Garry, stops.

AUNT POLINA

Decided to come back to your roots,
have you? Your brother's not home,
don't bother to knock.

Garry presses on the door, the door opens.

He looks in - everything remains as he left it - a couple of pants and shirts that belong to a ten year old lay spread on the bed. Garry gulps at the sight of the clothes.

GARRY

Did Norman pass away?

AUNT POLINA

He'd better.

The wolves howl in the distance.

AUNT POLINA

You hear that? That's him. Lock up good at night. They are not howling just for fun.

Aunt Polina hurries away.

Garry and his family hobble inside.

INT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They leave the suitcase on the floor. Unpack.

Their kid cries.

KID

I don't want to stay here.

GARRY

Sorry, son, as soon as we get a bit of money we'll find ourselves a better place to live.

The kid backs away and runs out. Kate hurries after him.

GARRY

Hey, where are you going?

EXT. NORMAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It's dark. A pair of green eyes watch Garry's boy. Kate grabs him and sees a wolf.

Then another. They come out of darkness. Then Norman appears. Another couple of wolves follow him. Kate gasps.

KATE

Norman? Is that you? You've... you've grown.

NORMAN

You haven't.

Garry appears, sees the wolves.

GARRY

Get away from my family.

The wolves growl. They approach Kate and the boy. Garry rushes to them. Norman signals for him to stay put.

NORMAN

They won't touch your kid until I
tell them.

Norman motions to the wolves to move away from the kid.

NORMAN

..Hey, Kate, take your son inside.
And lock the door. I won't let them
touch him. It's my father's
grandson we're talking about.

Kate obeys. They scurry inside and close the door. Garry
stays. He peers into the darkness at Norman.

NORMAN

But you are neither his son nor my
brother anymore. Sorry, Garry, I
can't deny my family fresh meat.

He signals for the wolves to attack. One jumps Garry up. The
other tears on his artery.

Norman joins in the feast.

FADE OUT.