

HOUND

by

Creature Feature Corner

"HOUND"

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAWN

The sun breaks over the large, endless forest. The air is cold and the frost is slowly melting away from the fauna. In amongst the dense trees we find a young family walking through the woods.

The father GEORGE (28) is a man of average build, he is carrying a large rucksack. His clothing shows signs of some serious wear and tear. The mother JILLIAN (27) is a frumpy young woman holding the hand of their sleepy young son JAMES (4). Jillian and James are wearing sleek waterproofs and expensive hiking boots. There is silence between the two and obvious tension.

George breaks the silence, not looking away from his camera.

GEORGE

Well this is fun, isn't it?

JILLIAN

No, George, this is not fun. I'm cold, I'm hungry and I'm pretty sure my waterproofs aren't actually *water-proof*.

GEORGE

I told you not to waste your money.

JILLAIN

You also told me we were having a cooked breakfast?

GEORGE

We will, as soon as we've set up camp. You having fun, James?

JAMES

Tired and hungry...

JILLIAN

(Jokingly)

Just look at what you are doing to our poor baby, I demand that you make breakfast at once.

GEORGE

Blackmail of the worst kind, using
my own child against me...

Jillian raises an eyebrow

GEORGE

Fine, here's a good spot anyway.

George slumps his bag down onto the moist ground.

GEORGE

I'll start making a fire, James
would you like to help mummy
prepare the food.

JILLIAN

Excuse me? You said you were
making breakfast that was a
promise and an agreement.

GEORGE

Really, Jillian?

JILLIAN

Come on James-tastic, let's leave
Daddy to surprise us with
breakfast.

Jillian and James wander off into some bushes whilst George
smiles and shakes his head, beginning work on the fire.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Jillian leads James through the bushes but stops him in the
clearing when she notices a small huddle of breathing fur.

JILLIAN

(Hushed voice)

Look Jamesy, I wonder what that
is?

JAMES

(Hushed voice)

A squirrel.

JILLIAN

I think it's a bit big to be a
squirrel... should we wake it up
and say good morning?

James nods excitedly.

JILLIAN

Help Mummy find some small pebbles
or sticks.

Together they manage to gather a handful of pebbles from
the surrounding area.

As James eagerly looks on, Jillian throws the first pebble
as softly as she can. The pebble bounces beside the heap.
No response.

She throws the next pebble harder and it bounces off the
furry back. No response.

Disgruntled, she throws the third pebble much harder and it
hits the furry mound with a far more audible THUD. Almost
like a pebble hitting skull.

The mound begins to GROWL furiously and a head slowly rises
from the ground, staring straight at them and baring
threatening teeth.

Without taking her eyes off the teeth, Jillian very slowly
bends down and picks up James.

JILLIAN

I need you to hold on to mummy as
hard as you can, okay?

The HOUND stands at full height and looks like it's ready
to pounce.

JILLIAN

(Whispering)

I love you, baby.

Like a dart, Jillian starts sprinting away from the Hound
and back towards her husband. The Hound immediately gives
chase, barking furiously.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUED

George hears the echoes of the loud BARKING and gets to his
feet, abandoning his attempted fire.

He looks around confused, trying to figure out what
direction the barking is coming from.

EXT. BUSHES - CONTINUED

Jillian sprints for her life, clutching James as tightly as she can. The Hound easily maintains pace with her.

JILLIAN

George! George!

EXT. CAMPSITE - SECONDS LATER

Jillian comes bursting out of the bushes, pursued by the Hound. George grabs his rucksack and swings it around his head.

With his wife safely past him, George swings the bag at the Hound, knocking the stunned creature into the air.

However the Hound lands and quickly returns to its feet, un-phased. Jillian takes James over to some of the bushes. She places him down on the other side of the foliage, tears flooding her eyes.

JILLIAN

You need to run now, sweetie,
don't look back, okay? Just run
for Mummy, back to the car.

Jillian looks over her shoulder. George swings at the Hound again but it catches the bag and rips it from his grasp.

Jillian takes a journal from her pocket and gives it to James, ensuring that he holds it tightly.

JILLIAN

This is a gift from your Mummy and
Daddy; never let anyone take it
from you. We will love you forever
and ever; you are the most
important thing in the world to
us.

Jillian looks back as the Hound pounces on the weapon-less George and force him to the ground. The creature goes straight for his jugular.

Jillian begins to cry histrionically.

JILLIAN

Go to the car and don't look back.

Tears well in his resolute eyes.

Jillian weeps over the sound of the Hound mauling the screaming George.

JILLIAN

Please don't hate me for what I'm
about to do, just know that I'm
doing it for you. I love you
James, now go.

The screaming stops as George dies. James runs. Jillian SCREAMS as she runs towards the Hound.

The Hound GROWLS and with a SQUELCH, CRACK and a THUD, Jillian's screaming stops. James's hears the Hound HOWL, victorious over its prey.

James keeps running as fast as he can, tripping and stumbling but never looking back...