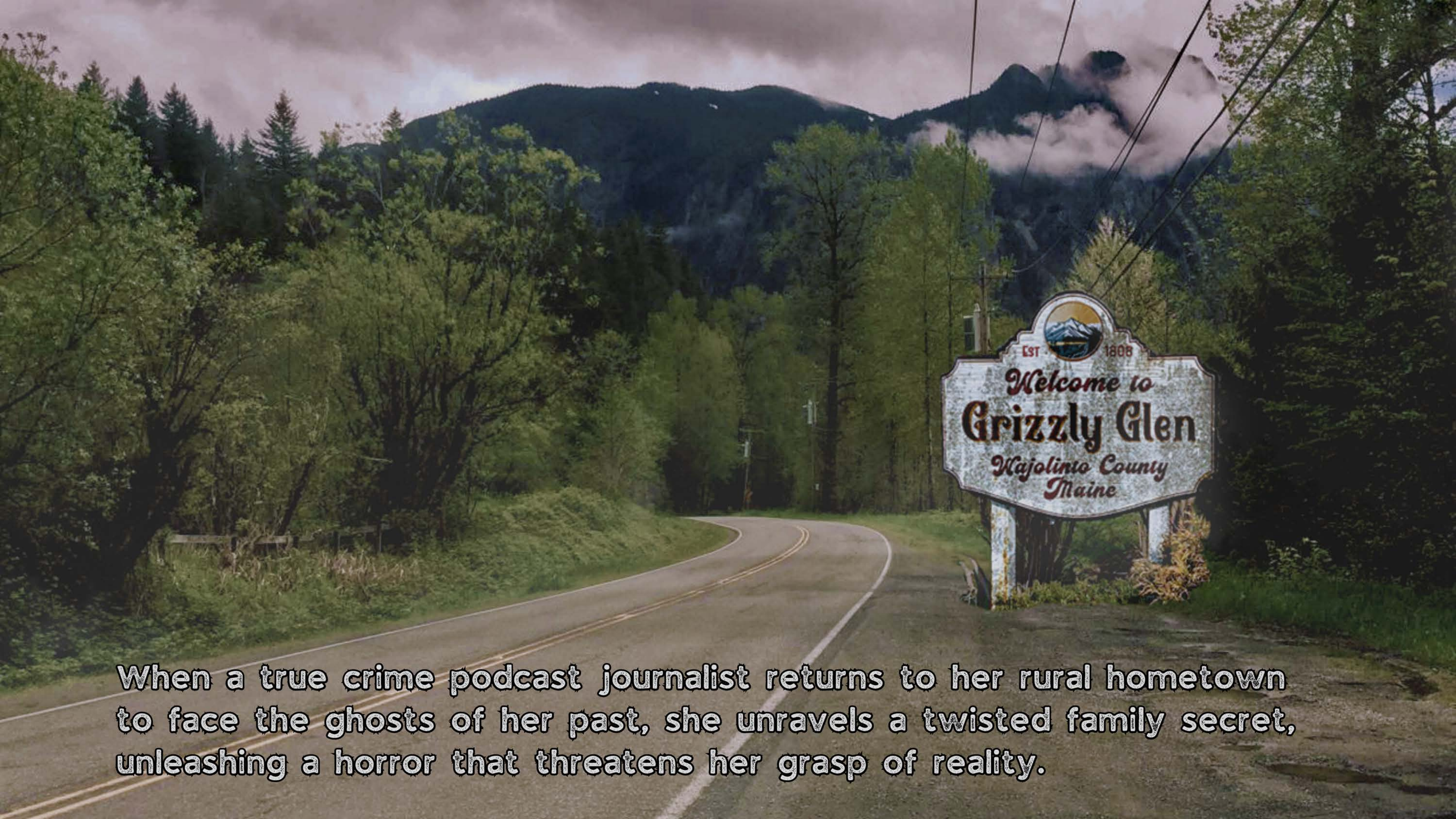


The background of the entire image is a dark, atmospheric scene. On the right side, there is a close-up of a woman's face, looking slightly to the left with a concerned or intense expression. She is wearing large, black over-ear headphones. The left side of the image is dominated by a large, dark, textured shape that resembles a tentacle or a large, gnarled hand, reaching towards the center. The background is a blurred forest or garden with green foliage and some purple flowers. The title text is overlaid on this background.

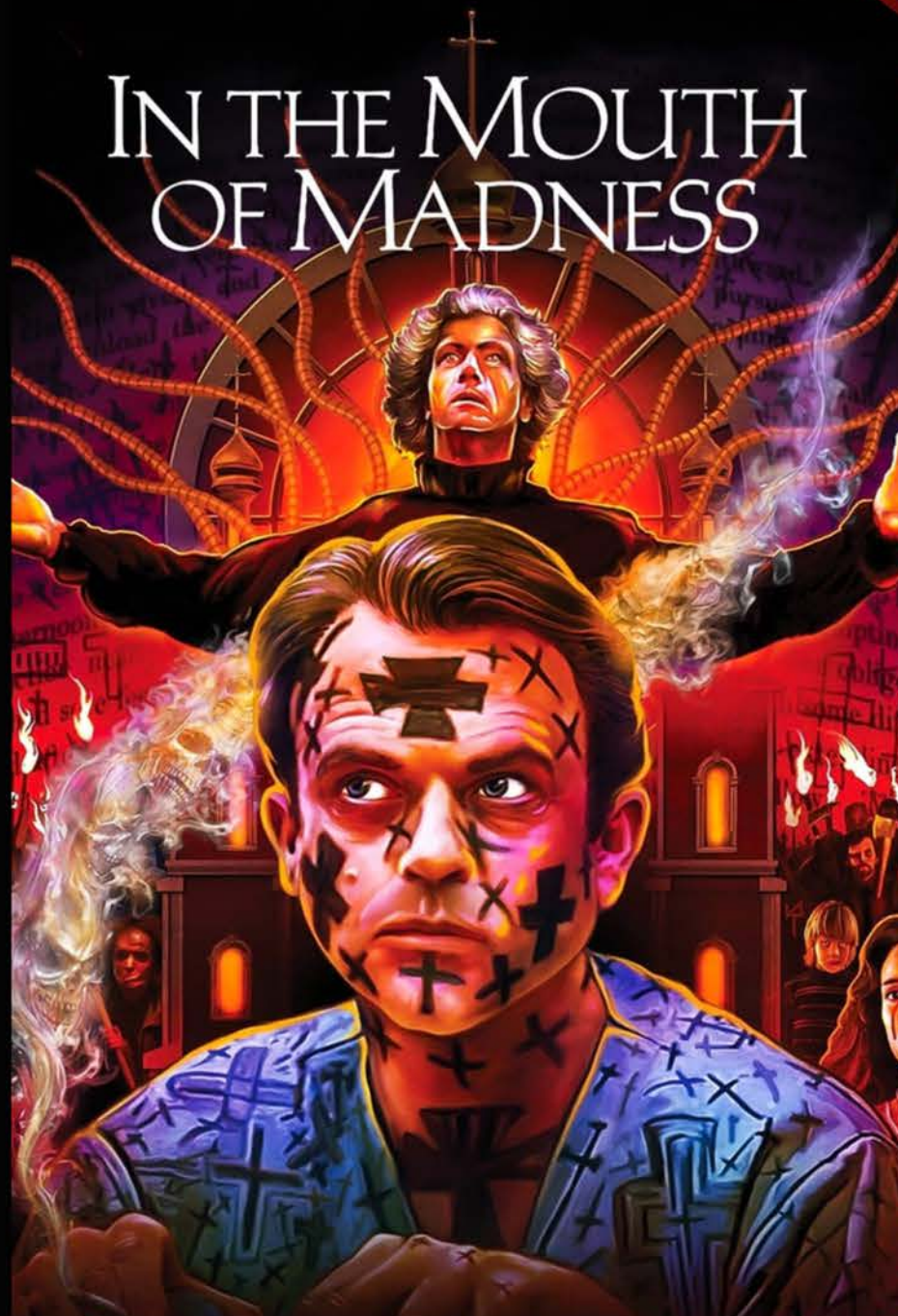
THE SILENCE DEVOURS

a horror/mystery
by Alyssa Jefferson



When a true crime podcast journalist returns to her rural hometown to face the ghosts of her past, she unravels a twisted family secret, unleashing a horror that threatens her grasp of reality.

COMPS



This Psychological Horror/Mystery with madness and monsters is an exploration of grief.

CHARACTERS

The background of the entire image is a dark, textured grey. At the top, the word 'CHARACTERS' is written in large, red, distressed, blocky letters. Below the title, there are three dark silhouettes of people. On the left is a woman with long hair, wearing a dark top and skirt. In the center is another woman with long hair, wearing a dark dress. On the right is a man with short hair, wearing a dark shirt and pants, with his hands on his hips. The silhouettes are set against a lighter, textured grey background that looks like a torn paper effect.

A chronically curious true crime podcast journalist, **MAYA** REED, 30s, is in her element when the mysteries from her childhood and her profession collide.

Maya's **MOM**, JEAN REED, 50s, has slipped into a numb routine that is shaken up when Maya comes home to visit, bringing the ghosts of their past along with her.

Maya's secretive and scheming big brother, **DORIAN** REED, 30s, is a blur about town. With no time nor interest to meet with Maya, she suspects he's running from more than just her.

Oh, the places you'll go...

EXT. GAS STATION ON THE EDGE OF NOWHERE



INT. MITZI'S GENERAL STORE



EXT. THE DEGARE HOME



INT. HOUSE ON NEELY ST., THE NURSERY



EXT. KITA LAKE



SYNOPSIS

MAYA REED has just wrapped on another season of her popular true crime podcast, when her sister, NAT, calls; Their MOM has been confused and forgetful recently, and Nat needs Maya to take the long trip home to Grizzly Glen, ME for a wellness check.

At a gas station just outside of her hometown, a DISHEVELED MAN stumbles out of the woods. He's shocked that Maya can see him— After all, he's been invisible for months! Maya flees the scene in a hurry, haunted by the eyes in her rear-view mirror... But this is only the beginning of a very strange trip.

Maya reunites with her Mom for the first time in over a decade— And it's not a warm welcome. Complicated memories Maya has fought so hard to bury bubble up to the surface, and when Maya discovers somebody destroyed every photo of her long lost father, something in her snaps;

Maya can't pass up the mystery dangled before her. If Mom won't cooperate, Maya will piece together the truth about her father's disappearance herself.

Her investigation starts at the local library, where she runs into someone doing a little research of his own; Her brother, DORIAN has passed out in a pile of chemistry textbooks. Gathering his things in a hurry, he leaves behind his hip flask in his rush. Is her brother just an ashamed drunk, or is he running from something... bigger?

She gets her first lead from a familiar face peering out at her from A MISSING PERSON POSTER— It's the Disheveled Man!

The address on the poster takes Maya on an eerie drive through desolate neighborhoods, where the houses aren't just empty, they're lifeless. Dusty cars, overgrown yards... It's as if these families didn't just leave, they were blinked out of existence.

Her prying stirs the quiet town, and the locals are tight-lipped and suspicious— No one acknowledges the Missing.

Maya is seeing and hearing things that don't make sense— and it all comes to a head in an explosive confrontation with Mom; Yes, Nat lied to get Maya home— Because they're worried about her. They say she's paranoid, and overworked— And the rug is ripped out from under her when Nat and Mom tell her Dorian doesn't exist.

There's no sign of him in the house— Even his bedroom door is GONE! Her grasp on reality crumbles, and the line between fact and fiction blurs. How could Dorian not exist? She just saw him. How could he— and their father— just vanish, into thin air?

She chases clues to a farmhouse on the edge of town, where she meets OPHELIA DEGARE, an elderly woman that never forgets. Maya and Ophelia have something in common; They know someone that never was.

Dorian has been working out of the Degare's barn, to produce an “antidote” to see the Missing— As he's become one himself. A ghost of sorts, he's been erased. Not just from his mother's sight, but from her memories.

An unfathomable evil lurks in this sleepy rural town, and Maya must finally, truly, face her past to comprehend it all— As it hunts her, just beyond her periphery. Will she put the pieces of this terrible mystery together before it tears her apart?

INT. THE CANARY CAFE



THE CANARY CAFE

SINCE 1908

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY? SUNNY? OUT? AT THE SKY RIGHT NOW!

DID YOU KNOW? "LINTO" IS ABENAKI FOR "SING!" HAVE YOU VISITED THE "SINGING TRAIL" YET?

YOU ARE HERE!

DID YOU KNOW? SILVER IS THE MOST CONDUCTIVE, AND REFLECTIVE METAL, AND EVEN HAS ANTI-BACTERIAL PROPERTIES!

MADAHODO MINES

Opened in 1866, the Madahodo Mines were first discovered by Grizzly Glen's founder, Talbot "Tanner" Bashaba. Branching from the Lehigh Railroad, the Wajolinto Railroad to Grizzly Glen was completed in 1898; enabling transport, resulting in the boom of coal sales to markets across Maine.

THE HAPPY CAMPER..... \$5.95 2 PANCAKES WITH 1 EGG 2 STRIPS BACON OR SAUSAGE A SIDE OF MIXED FRUIT	TNT TOAST..... \$5.95 4 STICKS OF FRENCH TOAST AN EGG, 2 STRIPS BACON A SIDE OF MIXED FRUIT	CANARY'S SPECIAL.....\$5.95 CHEESEY OMELET ON HASH BROWNS A SIDE OF MIXED FRUIT
GOLDEN NUGGETS.....\$6.95 6 PIECE BREADED CHICKEN TENDERS WITH A SIDE OF MAC&CHEESE	GOLDRUSH SANDWICH..... \$6.95 GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH A SIDE OF FRENCH FRIES	HARDHAT HAMBURGER..\$6.95 BURGER WITH YOUR PICK OF TOPPINGS A SIDE OF FRENCH FRIES

QUARTSBWBK	QUARTS
ADLOTFERGY	QUARRY
RSBNDKSOY	SHAFT
JTKOREGDA	STOPE
CGUDFCCPVD	TUNNEL
OJYNRFKEKI	WINZE
AKOONIJUKT	
MINZEFNRQ	
RRYLTYO	

THE MONSTER OF GRIZZLY GLEN

How does it work?

The Grizzly Glen Monster is an ancient beast with the ability to camouflage itself through sound. Emitting a tone that matches the resonance of the human brain, not only can it maneuver unnoticed through the “blind spots” in your mind, but it takes advantage of your brain’s incredible ability to **reconstruct the obstructed**.

Did you know your vision is obstructed by blood vessels in the back of your eye? More obvious, is the occlusion of your nose. Your brain has learned to ignore these obstructions, and is constantly “filling in the blanks” based on surrounding visual cues.

Similarly, the effect of the Grizzly Glen Monster is erasure. Erasure of your loved ones, and the memory of them. By blanking out of your mind, **it forces you to reconstruct your reality around it**. One minute, you’re out on an evening stroll with your beloved dog, and the next— You’re alone, and you find someone has dropped a torn leash right here on the sidewalk... This is its survival mechanism; You can’t kill what you can’t perceive.



How do you fight it?

Maya Reed is unique in this story, as she has a natural resistance to the Monster, having been “inoculated” with its venom in a close-call as a child. The Monster’s hypnotic infrasound can block her from perceiving it, but **she doesn’t forget**.

Local survivors have struggled (unwittingly, at times) for decades to unlock the truth about what lurks beneath Grizzly Glen, even producing a “potion” that temporarily damages their hearing, allowing them to see the Monster...

But when it wears off, the user succumbs to the Monster’s song, forgetting it all like a bad dream.

THE MONSTER OF GRIZZLY GLEN

How does it look and move?

Visually, the monster is inspired by horrible things that should remain unseen; Rat kings, and swarming snake orgies, all knotted, writhing, and foul.

Like a deep-sea *thing*, this monster hides its vulnerable core within a tangle of flesh, reaching out with probing tendrils tipped with unhinged jaws of jagged teeth.

Taking inspiration from the indigenous cryptid, the Wendigo, a creature that was once human, then corrupted, I imagine a twisted, terrible, humanoid face on the end of each appendage, like a dangerous lure, always watching, waiting, hungry.

For Maya Reed, it first appears like a migraine halo, as its song/vibration is dampened by water in her ear, but when its song stops, it's fleshy and gelatinous, like a cave-thing.



How does it hunt and behave?

With the ever-expanding interference and noise of society, the Monster's territory has shrunk to the secluded, rural "dead zones" of the Americas.

It lives deep in the mines beneath Grizzly Glen, only sending up its eerie tendrils like a filter-feeder, to monitor and prey.

Like a farmer holds back stock to replenish his herd, this Monster knows not to over-prune its garden— But as rural living has grown unpopular, the yield dwindles... The Monster is starving, growing more desperate every day.

Through its song, the continuous humming purr of it, it can stalk its prey with ease, but in its excitement, very briefly, it stops singing, and everything goes deafeningly silent just before it snatches you up—

And in this moment, *you see it*, unfettered by its illusion.

ABOUT THE MONSTER... AND THE WRITER;

This Monster is inspired by grief, and the vestigial prey-fear that lingers in us despite our topping the food-chain. Politics, click-bait, doom-scrolling— It seems like we're always looking for something to fear, even subconsciously; Our brains will make enemies in the darkness.

When the pandemic hit, I had just had a baby, and with my neurotic, mama-bear hormones raging, it often felt like something was just outside the front door, **a predator I couldn't see, always lurking**. I felt like I knew what it was like to go crazy, and I wanted to explore that in THE SILENCE DEVOURS.

The scariest thing I can imagine, is being erased. Ernest Hemingway said, "Every man has two deaths: when he is buried in the ground, and the last time someone says his name." After losing a loved one to suicide, I think about this quote a lot. This unique loss is so steeped in shame, you stop saying their name, and they die all over again.

A many-headed beast, the Monster represents the continuous struggle of grief; Insidious and unending, just when you think you're okay, it rears it's despicable head again.

The product of a pair of CA CSI/detectives, as a child, while my mom cleaned her service weapon at the coffee table in front of the morning news, I would sneak into her case files.

Poring over gruesome crime scene photos, her investigation notes played out as horror/mystery films in my mind. It was thrilling, and traumatic, and— Eventually, it was routine.

Now, I write to understand the monsters.

**I dissect them, I become them, I fall in love with them,
and I destroy them, one story at a time.**



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