

CORPSEWOOD MANOR

Written by

C. Neil Davenport

SUPER: This story is inspired by actual events.

1 EXT. WOODS OF SUMMERVILLE, GA - VERY EARLY MORNING 1

A dense fog carpets a sea of dead standing trees. No existence of life resides here. No chirping of birds or crawling of ants. Only an unnerving silence.

Gallop is heard in the distance. It nears closer and closer. A black monstrous horse bursts through the fog, tearing up the ground behind it.

The horse circles us while neighing and nickering. It's clearly scared, but of what?

The horse charges us, raises up and collapses in the mud. It labors in its breathing. A tear of blood flows down its cheek and into the soggy dirt. We follow the blood trail up to find the horse has hollowed eye sockets.

Hungry like the Wolf by Duran Duran plays.

CUT TO:

2 INT. DOWNTOWN ATL. BAR - NIGHT 2

Within a warmly lit bar decorated with Christmas lights and mistletoes, DUSTIN, (23), a naïve revenant wearing a tailored suit and Tom Ford glasses catches a highball glass slid on the stand and kicks it back.

JENNY (O.S.)

Dustin!

Dustin turns flashing a smile to die for.

JENNY, (22), a natural ambience of sexuality jumps on him with a kiss. Her foot pops.

DUSTIN

Wow. I should've proposed months to you ago if that was the response.

Jenny gazes at him, glides her fingers over Dustin's lips and rests her hand on his cheek showing us her impressive engagement ring.

JENNY

Your Jenny is ready to go home.

DUSTIN

Check please!

A GROUP OF LAW ASSOCIATES interject and pull Dustin away from Jenny while parading him with pats and handshakes. They coast him through the CROWD of suits in a particular direction.

LAWYER 1

Dustin, my friend, congratulations!
This is an achievement.

DUSTIN

Thank you and it sure is, but I
really -

LAWYER 2

- Welcome to the team, sonny! You
should be proud of yourself.

DUSTIN

I am, but Jenny and I need to -

LAWYER 3

Kiddo, you've worked hard and it
shows. We are so thrilled to have
you as a partner!

DUSTIN

Making partner is an a honor, but
guys -

LAWYER 4

Dustin, buddy, Mr. Miller wants to
have a sit down with you.

DUSTIN

Mr. Miller?

Law associates all have their way of saying yes.

Dustin looks back at Jenny surrounded by a group of women
admiring her ring, but finds her eyes are still on him.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Let's make it quick.

Law associates cheer and push him in the right direction.

3

INT. DOWNTOWN ATL. BAR - CORNER TABLE - NIGHT

3

Dustin is sat down across MR. MILLER, (60's), dressed in a
Santa costume. The table is covered with cocktail glasses and
gnawed garnishes. A Law associate sets down two shot glasses.
One clear and one yellow.

MR. MILLER

Oh, Dustin. Glad you had the time to join me.

Mr. Miller picks up the yellow shot, looks at it, sets it back down and picks up the clear one. He gestures a 'thank you' to his Law associates and points at Dustin to pick up the yellow shot.

DUSTIN

Oh no, thank you Mr. Miller. I've actually got to be going, but I wanted to thank you for giving me this opportunity. Becoming a partner in your law firm is - well sir, you can trust I won't be a disappointment. I've been following -

Miller inches the yellow shot at Dustin.

MR. MILLER

You're going to be just fine.

DUSTIN

Thank you, Mr. -

MR. MILLER (CONT'D)

Because you're already lying to me and you don't even know it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sir?

MR. MILLER

Are you a wolf or a lamb, Mr. Wheeland?

DUSTIN

I don't follow, sir.

MR. MILLER

A wounded wolf dying near a river, too weak to move called at a passing lamb for help. The lamb came up, but kept its distance and the wolf asked, "Would you be so kind and bring me some water for I dying and too weak to move?" The lamb asked, "If I was inclined to help you, do pray tell how I could bring you water." The wolf said, "If you but let your wool absorb the river and let me suckle, my thirst will be quenched." The lamb said, "You think I'd trust you? You're a wolf." The wolf nodded and said, "But I'm old and dying.

(MORE)

MR. MILLER (CONT'D)

There would be no point in killing you for I'm not hungry. In addition, if you feel any potential treat, you can simply walk away." The lamb thought about this and decided to trust the wolf, soak up some water from the river and let the wolf drink. Then (Slams his hand on the table) the wolf jumps up and bites the lamb's throat. The lamb lies there bleeding out and asks the wolf with its last breath, "Why?" The wolf says, "Age has made me slow, but given me wisdom."

Dustin tries to make sense of this.

MR. MILLER (CONT'D)

There are those of people in this world, Dustin. Those who have hidden agendas and those who trust those with a hidden agendas. (Raises his clear shot) I'd much rather share a drink with the wolf, wouldn't you?

Dustin doesn't know what to think of this, but picks up the yellow shot, clinks it with Mr. Miller's glass and throws it back.

Dustin gags and Law associates rush up to the table cheering him on.

DUSTIN

What was that?

MILLER

Piss. Who's piss was that?

LAWYER 1

Guilty.

Dustin runs off.

MR. MILLER

Welcome to the firm!

4 INT. DOWNTOWN ATL. BAR - MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 4

Faucet water pours into Dustin's mouth. He gags, spits, looks at himself in the mirror and wipes his teeth clean.

Jenny enters.

JENNY

Dusty?

Dustin runs in the stall and gags once more.

5

EXT. METROPOLITAN SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

5

Dustin rings out the water from his tie.

JENNY

Weren't you never in a fraternity?

DUSTIN

No, I was in the library studying
my ass off, Jenny!

JENNY

Don't get mad at me. That's what
they do, more or less.

DUSTIN

Yeah, so that's what people do to
get ahead in life? That shit?!

JENNY

What are you so mad about?

DUSTIN

They got one over me.

JENNY

Aw, come here.

DUSTIN

Look, see if I can't tell when my
associates are about to haze me,
how will I be able to see it coming
from a client?

JENNY

Why would a client haze you?

DUSTIN

Jenny, trust, is the base line of
my career.

JENNY

And that's why you should only
listen to those who love you and
leave when they tell you it's time
to go home.