

HERE A WOLF, THERE A WOLF

CHARACTERS (18)

- NARRATOR
- TOMMY
- FATHER
- MOTHER
- SISTER
- DOCTOR
- CITIZENS 1-2-3
- BULL HAWKINS
- EVIL ANGELS (3)
- POLICE CHIEF
- FARMER
- JOE
- MARY
- LILY

SCENE ONE

NARRATOR: Oak Valley was like 10,000 other towns—except for a neat little house on Elm Street. In that house lived a young man with a problem.

TOMMY: (HOWLING AT THE MOON LIKE A WOLF) **Ovv-wooo oooo!**

NARRATOR: Every month when the full moon rose in the sky, thick fur came out on his forehead and his hands and two of his teeth grew into long, sharp fangs.

TOMMY: **Ow-wooo oooo!**

NARRATOR: Yes, Tommy was a werewolf.

TOMMY: Why me? Other kids don't worry about the moon. They can go right on doing their homework or watching TV. Not me. **OW-wooo!**

NARRATOR: All over town, the citizens wondered what that sound was.

CITIZEN 1: What was that?

CITIZEN 2: Is it a wild dog?

CITIZEN 3: Is it a wolf?

NARRATOR: Every month, Tommy became very worried.

TOMMY: What if my parents find out?
(HE JOINS HIS PARENTS AND SISTER AT BREAKFAST.)

FATHER: You're late.

TOMMY: Sorry.

FATHER: You shouldn't sleep so late. It's bad for your character.

MOTHER: You look tired, Tommy. Didn't you sleep well?

SISTER: No, I didn't. All night long, I heard that sound. Some kind of dog—or wolf.

MOTHER: I heard it too, dear. It was probably an owl.

SISTER: It was a wolf.

FATHER: There haven't been wolves around here for 100 years.

SISTER: Then it's a werewolf.

TOMMY: (CHOKING) Aawrk!

FATHER: Chew your food carefully, Tommy.

MOTHER: A what, dear?

SISTER: A werewolf. Someone who becomes a wolf when the moon is full. (TOMMY GETS UP.)

FATHER: Where do you think you're going, young man?

TOMMY: Back to bed. I feel too sick to go to school today. (EXITS STAGE LEFT)

FATHER: He'll turn into a bum someday. No character.

SCENE TWO

NARRATOR: As a child, Tommy had seemed normal.

TOMMY: (SPOKEN AS A LITTLE BOY) I don't like this story, Mommy.

MOTHER: Why don't you like it, Tommy?

TOMMY: Little Red Riding Hood gets off free, but they shoot the poor old wolf. That's not fair!

MOTHER: But the wolf was bad. He wanted to eat the little girl.

TOMMY: (WITH A WILD SMILE) Yeah!

(HE TURNS TO HIS FATHER) Daddy, why does the wolf always have to lose?

FATHER: The purpose of these stories is to develop character.

NARRATOR: Later, as an unhappy teenager, Tommy reads an advice column in a newspaper. He decided to write.

TOMMY: (WRITING) "Dear Clarasil Girl, I have a problem."

(HE CRUMPLES UP THE PAPER.) What's the use. How could she know what to do?

NARRATOR: Tommy saw the family doctor.

TOMMY: I'm a werewolf.

DOCTOR: Have you been getting plenty of fresh air and exercise?

TOMMY: Yes. I run through the woods and the hills. I howl.

DOCTDR: It's just a stage you're going through.

NARRATDR: Tommy decided to tell his father.

TOMMY: Dad, are you busy?

FATHER: I'm trying to do something with the bills. In one pile I put the bills we won't pay this month. The other pile is for the bills we won't pay next month.

TOMMY: I have a problem.

FATHER: I don't know how we spend so much on food.

MOTHER: Sometimes I think someone is eating raw meat out of the refrigerator. It disappears about once a month.

TOMMY: That's what I

FATHER: My dear wife, what do you mean?

TOMMY: Mom. Dad, I

MOTHER: I simply mean

NARRATOR: Tommy decided it wasn't the time to tell his parents.

TOMMY: What's the use?

SCENE THREE

NARRATOR: Tommy was afraid to hang around with the other teenagers. Especially at night. Bull Hawkins, the leader of the Evil Angels gang, picked on him.

BULL: What's the hatter with you, Tommy? We never see you at the hamburger joint, fooling around like a normal guy. Won't your mother let you out at night: (LAUGHS AND SHOVES TOMMY)

ANGELS (all): Get him, Bull! Get him! (THEY ALL LAUGH)

NARRATOR: But joy will sweeten even the most unhappy life. After lunch at school, Tommy would lean against his locker. One day he noticed a girl who was also leaning against her locker.

TOMMY: (SHYLY): HI!

LILY: Hi. I'm Lily. I'm new here.

TOMMY: Hi.

LILY: If you want to know me better, why don't we go out Saturday night?

TOMMY: Saturday?

LILY: What's wrong? Don't you like me?

TOMMY: How about next Tuesday?

LILY: Saturday or never. There's a full moon that night.

TOMMY: Look, there's something you should know about me. I'm not like the other kids.

LILY: I know. You're kind.

TOMMY: There's something a little funny about me. You'll find out, then you'll hate me.

LILY: I won't mind if there's something funny about you. Please believe me.

TOMMY: Yes! I believe you!

LILY: I'll see you Saturday at 8. We'll meet near the woods.

NARRATOR: For the next few days. Tommy was walking on air. He felt so happy.

TOMMY: Maybe the moon won't be really full until Sunday.

NARRATOR: However, you can guess what happened.

LILY: Where is that sweet boy? It's two minutes after 8. Oh, that must be - - -

TOMMY: Lily! **OW-Wooo-oooo!**

LILY: (SCREAMING) Ahhhhhh!

NARRATOR: Lily ran away.

LILY: Help! Help! A werewolf!

TOMMY: And she said she wouldn't care if there was something funny about me.

LILY: A werewolf! A werewolf!

CITIZENS 1-3: A werewolf!

TOMMY: **Ovv-Woooo-oooo!**

CITIZEN 1: Catch him!

CITIZEN 2: We can't let someone go around scaring our kids.

LILY: (CRYING) He ate Tommy!

MOTHER: (SADLY) Poor Tommy!

FATHER: I knew this would happen.

TOMMY: (HEARING THEM AS THEY CAME CLOSER): At least they don't know I'm Tommy!
(SIRENS ARE HEARD)

Ovv-wooo-oooo! There I go again.

CITIZEN 3: There he is!

CITIZEN 1: After him!

CITIZEN 2: Don't let him get away! -

NARRATOR: The search went on until the moon went down. Tommy snuck out of the woods—and met up with the Chief of Police!

CHIEF: Who's there?

TOMMY: Please! Listen, I can explain!

CHIEF: Don't worry, Tommy. It's all right now. A werewolf doesn't come after you every day.

NARRATOR: Tommy felt his forehead and teeth. He realized that he was back to normal once again.

TOMMY: No, i guess he doesn't.

CHIEF: So run on home. Your parents will be glad to see you.

NARRATOR: Tommy started walking home.

TOMMY: i can't face them again. People will remember things I've said. And the moon will be full again.

NARRATOR: Tommy made a decision.

TOMMY: I'm leaving home!

SCENE FOUR

NARRATOR: So Tommy took a bus to another state. He found a farm where the family was happy to take him in—even when he told them about his condition.

FARMER: So? I get ingrown toenails every now and then.

NARRATOR: Tommy helped with the farming and the other work. For the first time since his childhood, Tommy felt hopeful about life. Then an accident happened.

FARMER: Tommy, you know you're welcome to stay here. You're a good worker, and we like your howling. But we can't afford to lose any more chickens. So be careful next month, okay?

TOMMY: Okay.

NARRATOR: Tommy decided to help out by getting a job.

TOMMY: I want to pay for some new chickens.

NARRATOR: He went to work in a diner in a nearby town. It was called "Joe's Cafe."

JOE: Say, Tommy, you're a good worker. You have a way with a scrambled egg. How about working the night shift? You'll get better tips.

TOMMY: No, Joe. No, I can't.

JOE: What a bunch! Mary won't work nights, either.

MARY: I just can't, Joe.

NARRATOR: Mary worked behind the counter with Tommy. It was the end of their workday.

MARY: It's 5 o'clock. Time for us to go.

TOMMY: Yes. -

MARY: Full moon tonight.

TOMMY: i know.

MARY: Where's Joe? I want to get home as soon as I can.

TOMMY: Me, too!

MARY: Do you live on the farm?

TOMMY: Oh, yes. (MUMBLED)

MARY: What's the matter with you? Can't you talk?

TOMMY: Oh, Mary, I — (THE TELEPHONE RINGS)

JOE: (ON TELEPHONE): Mary, my car is stuck. You and Tommy keep the place open until I get there.

MARY: Joe, I've told you I can't work at night.

JOE: Do it as a favor to me?

MARY: (HESITATINGLY) Oh, well, okay.

NARRATOR: As it grew darker outside, Tommy became more and more worried. He kept looking in the shiny part of the coffee machine to see if there were any signs of a change. He could see Mary acting funny, too.

TOMMY: I'm making her nervous.

NARRATOR: Finally, he saw the first rays of the full moon! Tommy started running out the door. Mary was running out too! She pushed by him. Joe was coming in right then.

JOE: Thanks. (HE STEPS OUT OF THE WAY.) Boy, they're in a hurry!

NARRATOR: Tommy could feel the fur on his face. He saw it on his hands. He ran into the woods.

TOMMY: i have to get away before I howl. Where's that hill I saw last month? Ah, there it is over there....

NARRATOR: As he ran up the hill, he heard a sound that was strange, yet familiar.

MARY: **Ovv-Wooo-oooo!**

TOMMY: Mary!

MARY: Tommy!

TOMMY: Mary!

MARY: Tommy!

MARY AND TOMMY TOGETHER: **Oww-Hooo-oooo! Oww-Wooo-oooo!**
(THE HOWLING FADES AWAY.)

NARRATOR: Tommy and Mary were both happy to have found a friend at last. Today Tommy still lives on the farm and Mary is teaching the farmer's children to sing to the moon.

MARY: (READING) "So, the wolf swallowed Red Riding Hood and he lived happily ever after."

THE END