

BUCK FEVER

Written by

E.J. Zain

Based on a true story.

FADE IN: A COMPUTER SCREEN SHOWS **QUARANTINE NEWS: BUCK FEVER HITS AUSTIN STAY INSIDE!**

INT. RUSTIC MODERN CABIN - DAY

TINA, a bespectacled, pretty but disheveled woman in her 30s closes her lap top, aggrieved. She looks up at the mounted game heads on the wall. They seem to be looking at her.

We see the calendar which has X's through every day of the month. She is on the 31st day of self isolating.

She takes a sip of coffee and pulls out a deer hair out her mouth. WTH? She walks around with it, holding it to a deer head but ends up adding it to a small jar of various brown hairs labeled "BUCK FEVER TESTING."

She looks out the window, the coast is clear. She ties her laces and looks out another window before opening the door. Still nothing.

TINA
(muttering)
Buck fever my ass.

On her way out, she pockets her device.

EXT. RUSTIC MODERN CABIN - LATER

Tina cautiously jogs on her property but various flying insects come at her. One smacks right into her glasses, making them fall off.

She dodges a frenzy of them and STEPS on her glasses.

TINA (CONT'D)
Seriously?!

She picks them up, ruined but lo--she smacks her leg--it's a huge bug. While examining the bite she hears OS FX: Footsteps in the grass. Or is it hoofsteps?

She looks to the left, the right. Nothing. When she turns around she sees:

A deer head poking out from behind a tree? She gets her phone and takes a photo--then enlarges it--it's a buck, with fangs!

TINA (CONT'D)
Oh shiiiiit.

Tina takes small steps backward, slowly while keeping an eye on the deer. We hear more grass crunching and a low growl.

Tina turns and jams to her door, gasping. The deer gives chase. Her phone falls to the ground before she can get inside. Upon locking the door, she gasps for air.

INT. RUSTIC MODERN CABIN - SECONDS LATER

Tina looks out the window high and low for her device. She picks up the land line phone. It's dead.

She hears a low growl inside the house. She looks up, one deer head is missing. She opens her computer, NO WIFI

TINA
Damn you Spectrum!

Wielding a bat, she itches her leg, which now has grown a patch of fur.

TINA (CONT'D)
I really need to shave.

On door number one, nothing but coat hangers and an Animal Control uniform with a name badge that says TINA on it.

On door two, a broom that falls on her. She spies a partial antler from under the bottom of the bathroom door. She winds up, ready to bludgeon.

TINA (CONT'D)
Batter up bitch.

She opens the door and sees the missing mounted head. She bends over to pick it up just as the evil buck pokes his head out from the hallway behind her. She walks to the mirror and takes a good look at herself. She is getting doe eyes.

TINA (CONT'D)
What's wrong with me?

She splashes water on herself and feels a nub of a horn growing out of the side of her head she grabs a straight razor and attempts to cut her horn off to no avail. She falls back and sees one of her feet is forming a hoof, completing her descent into madness.

Slowly she turns around, it is a rabid buck man standing upright with an offering of a _____ in its' mouth.