

# The Hunger of Wolves

(a full-length one act; ninety minutes)

**TIME:** The present and recent past

**PLACE:** New York City: the interrogation room of a police station; a sparsely furnished Manhattan apartment with a desk, several chairs, a shelf filled with human skulls; and a cabin in the Catskill Mountains.

## **CHARACTERS:**

AMBER SPENSER, a young red headed playwright

DOCTOR RODERICK RONDEL, a retired forensic artist

MARGARET MADRIGAL, a creative writing professor

VISCOUNT RUDOLPH VILLANELLE, her husband, a British born theatre critic

## **PLOT SYNOPSIS:**

The Viscount Villanelle, a renown theatre critic, has been missing for weeks. Desperate to find him, his wife, Margaret, seeks the help of Roderick Rondel, a retired forensic artist known for his uncanny ability to summon the spirits of the deceased by touching their skeletal remains. Margaret presents him with a tooth, and Roderick reluctantly summons the spirit of the Viscount who claims to have been murdered by a coterie of playwrights seeking vengeance for his vicious reviews. The playwrights have held a drawing, and a young woman named Amber was chosen to confront, humiliate, and record the Viscount eating his own words: a printed page filled with his cruelest condemnations. Amber succeeds in her mission, but while swallowing the paper, the Viscount chokes, suffers a heart attack, and Amber flees. The deceased Viscount's spirit leaves his corpse to possess Amber's body, wreaking havoc by murdering her fellow playwrights in myriad ways. In the course of their investigation, Margaret and Roderick forge a romance while Amber behaves erratically and is suspected of being possessed by a revenant that can be traced to the Viscount and the wild wolves he hunted as a child. Eventually the Viscount's corpse is found, but his revenant spirit proves more powerful than those of mortal playwrights.

**THEMES:** The play explores the importance of live theatre in the Digital Age as well as corrosive effects of harsh criticism, and the human capacity for romance, vengeance, and belief in the world beyond. Throughout the story, various Grimm fairy tales are referenced as the characters attempt to mythicize their own misguided lives.

