Deer Ripper - Stealthy hunter of the woods

The woods of the northeast United States have a reputation for hosting a large cast of cryptids, ghosts, and spirits. One cryptid that has been popping up in the recent months after the calamity is the Deer Ripper. The original rumors of this creature surfaced after a report was filed after a pair of soldiers found a highwaymen camp torn to shreds. Five bodies with large claw marks carved into their bodies were found within the camp, with an additional body found slammed against a tree. Internally the military took this quite seriously and stepped-up security on all patrols as well as cutting all night patrol paths that cut across large portions of the forest. Externally however, a public statement was given, warning survivors of a “new violent raider group”. When rumors of how violent the scene was, locals started creating folk tales of a beast that hunts for sport rather than hunger and preys on the isolated and the desolate.

Some survivors take it upon themselves to hunt for the creature, however many of them return empty handed. Some particularly unfortunate hunting parties are even found to be victims of the very beast they tried to hunt. Occasionally, a party comes back shaken from a rare encounter where they spotted the creature first. It appears different to each hunter and changes form like second nature. Sometimes it walks though the forest like a human or stalks its prey like a Lion with features to match. The creature shapeshifts on a whim but prefers a quadruped form the most. The creature also displays bioluminescence on many parts of its body and appears to be used for communication and intimidation.

These creatures remain rare and avoid most human settlements, mostly targeting lone groups of humans in the deep woods. Many high density settlements don’t even know they exist since the creatures seemingly stray away from humans, almost like they are doing their best to stay as a legend.