

## Rougarou 13 Crayons.

Rougarou is a Cajun or Acadian variation of the original French words "loup garou" that describe a large, terrifying werewolf-like creature that haunts the swamps around Acadiana and New Orleans, as well as fields and forests in southern Louisiana. The Cajun variation and the original French are used interchangeably. The French Acadians are said to have arrived in Louisiana bringing the legend of the rougarou with them after they were deported by the British in 1755. Others believe that the legend came directly from the French who settled Louisiana. Most of the legends describe the Rougarou as a monster with a human body and the head of a wolf or dog. Other versions of the rougarou's appearance sound more like a description of Big Foot or the alleged Swamp Ape. These legends describe the creature as over 10 feet tall, with dark, matted hair, blazing red eyes and long, sharp fangs that are usually bared.

Various myths and legends abound about the loup garou. One variation of the legend states that a person can be transformed into a rougarou either by being attacked by one or by looking into its evil gaze. However, anyone who survives either incident can reverse the curse by remaining silent about it for a year and a day. If this is accomplished, not only is the victim freed from the curse, but so is the rougarou that attacked or encountered him.

Another method for reversing the curse is to place 13 small objects in the doorways and windows of a home. It is said that rougarou can only count to 12 and will be forced to start over each time he reaches 12. Consequently, he will be so occupied in this pursuit that he will not notice the approaching dawn until it is too late and he must return to the swamp.

I was born in Louisiana and lived there until I was 5. In an old family photo album I came across a photo of me placing 13 Crayola Crayons outside my bedroom door in an attempt to protect myself from the Rougarou. Sparked after my older brother told me the scary folklore.









