PROLOGUE : Beginnings

[Cozy home, nearing the end of Autumn, late afternoon in the late 1980’s, rural Alaska/rural Canada, Moose head framed somewhere on wall, moose rug, couple sitting down on separate chairs, between 30 and 35yrs old, woman is knitting, man is reading a newspaper, they look happy and healthy, fireplace is going]

Alces: (clicks tongue) Honey, how’s that blanket coming along?

Suavissa: its going good dear, its almost done, it’ll be a harsh winter this year.

Alces: (sighs) no need to rush it, our friends will do just fine, the barn has had some improvements these past few months.

Suavissa: (stops knitting) (Alces stops reading and looks up at his wife) I just worry for the babies, Red’s children all look a little too skinny then the others

Alces: (returns to reading) it’s a shame, Red has some of the best genes I’ve seen, his partner too, but I’m sure they’ll grow up to be fine creatures just like their parents

Suavissa: (continues to knit) that reminds me, we need to-

[sudden knock at the door]

Alces: don’t worry ill get it (proceeds to get up and walk out the room)

[Hallway, door is made of oak wood, there are old Christmas decorations by the door and old panting’s representing joy and love and happiness, beyond that stands 2 campers dressed suitably, they are British]

Alces: (opens door) (clicks tongue) And who might you be?

Camper 1: Hello there Sir, we are planning to take the trail towards the mountains, we were wondering if there’s a campsite nearby?

Camper 2: (points at map he’s holding) You see, it says there is nothing in this proximity until past the mountains or back from the direction we came to the nearest city around 200km. We were just wondering if there’s somewhere good to camp?

Camper 1: (nods in agreement) yep

Alces: (smiles somewhat menacingly) well boys, there is in fact no campsite within range, however, the grassland north off here, slightly off the trail to the right, you can venture up the mountain. There is a sweet spot off flat earth where no animals can get too.

Camper 1: (looks at Camper 2 then back at Alces) How far up the mountain?

Alces: only about half a kilometre (chuckles) but I gotta say it’s a little tough. You’ve done this sorta stuff before?

Camper 2: (slightly pissed) Every few months we do this

Alces: (laughs) well alright then-

[Scream from a lil further away by the Barn, Followed my moose gnarls and grunts]

Alces: (pushes past the 2 camps and fast paces to the barn right next door, followed by Camper 1 and 2) (A moose is biting Camper 3’s jacket trying to pull him over the fence, while Camper 3 is resisting) OI! Red! Down boy! Leave him!

Camper 3: (resisting the moose) I swear I just wanted to pet him! What’s wrong with him!?

Alces: (Finally get’s over to Red and Camper 3, Jacket is almost completely ripped off) RED! (tries to pry off Red’s jaws, succeeds then Red tries to bite Camper 3 completely ignoring Alces)

Camper 3: (kicks himself off from the fence) WHAT THE FUCK!? (Scurries backwards a little, Jacket is almost entirely ripped)

Alces: Red, down. Relax my boy. (Pats his jaw and the top off his nose, right beneath his eyes) Don’t worry Son, its alright, he was just trying to be friendly. (Red sniggers and slowly walks back to the other Moose’s (which are all staring at this scene))

Suavissa: (From the door with a worried expression] What’s the problem?

Camper 3: (angry and shocked) YOUR BASTARD MOOSE TRIED TO EAT ME!

Alces: (now slightly angry but keeping his cool) You should know you should never touch a moose. They don’t like what’s new, especially humans. And about your jacket, don’t worry ill have my wife fetch an old one of mines.

Camper 2: Well mate, you would never touch a rabbit or a fox, why a damn moose?

Camper 3: He was looking at me, (looks down in dismay) I thought I could pet him

Alces: Well then, Suavissa! Go get my old jack!

Suavissa: (nods) (goes back inside)

Alces: Look, I told your friends where you will be staying tonight, if there’s any issues, you’re free to camp out in my garden.

Camper 2: I’m afraid we can’t do that. Cannibal Moose aren’t my type of ideal neighbours.

Alces: Suit yourself, where you will be staying is right over there (points in a far location near the bottom of a single mountain) You can’t really see it but that’s the sweet spot.

Camper 1: Do you know this area well?

Alces: (smiles) yep, I know everything and where everything is between the previous town and the next.

Suavissa: (returns with a old jacket but almost looking untouched) Here you go hun, come back if there’s a problem okay?

Camper 3: Um cheers, Sorry for this little mishap, ma’am. (Looks down at the grass)

Alces: No worries son, leave the trail around 8km in and turn right at around roughly 2:00, there’s a small trail surrounded by rocks, not that hard to miss, its directly above a small cave.

Camper 1: (slightly concerned) anything in that cave?

Alces: Nothing but our family graveyard of Moose’s. Unless you believe in ghosts there is nothing to worry about.

Camper 1: Oh okay

Camper 2: Lets go, Thanks Sir, I hope we never meet again (turns and leaves in the direction)

Camper 1 and 3: Take care, Sir! (Following after Camper 2)

Alces: (After campers are a little away) (turns to Suavissa) I have a feeling we will see them again, and not in good shape.

Suavissa: I hope not, they look like sweet people, I hope they will be safe.

[A gate in a random distance can be heard moving]

Alces: (hasty) What was that? Who opened the gate? (Runs around to the other side off the barn where the gate is. It is opened and a few moose in the distance can be seen running off into the distance (to the left off the campers direction)

Suavissa: (concerned) Oh no, that’s about 7 moose I can see, Alces you must do something. I don’t want them to spend the night outside or interfere with those people. (She looks worried at Alces while he shuts and locks the gate)

Alces: Don’t worry, Ill fetch my gun and salt lick in case something happens, and you stay here in case those damn campers come back (runs back into house, followed by suavissa and back out again with a shotgun attached to his back, heading into the direction the moose went)

[campers are now climbing up the mountain and they are soon to approach that sweet spot]

Camper 1: I cant lie I think I can see that cave below us (looks down to a small cave entrance, not exactly hidden but not entirely obvious to the eye) I think we are close

Camper2: I see it too, that cave has an entrance a little too small for moose to be crawling out of it. (laughs)

Camper 3: (climbing the small rocks on the side of this trail) (a little ahead of the other two campers) Hey guys! I think I have found that sweet spot! (He jogs with his massive rucksack onto this plain, flat bit of earth, a few flowers can be seen on the edges making it look almost scenic)

Camper 2: (follows hastily) yep, this is the spot, let’s set up camp then get the beers out.

Camper 1: (as he appears he places his rucksack down and begins taking out the tent) well before you crack open the beers let’s just do this first

Camper 2: (looks from the flowers to up at him) I just said that

Camper 3: (laughs) yes, he did, but anyways, we need to hurry up the sun is almost gonna set

Camper 2 and camper 3: (both place their rucksack on the ground and begin taking out equipment needed to build the tent)

Camper 1: (smiles) A 5-man tent for 3 people will give us plenty of room

[The tent is set up, they are sitting over the edge, chatting and drinking beers]

Camper 2: (chugs the rest of his drink, burps, then throws it off the edge) And that’s 9. (burps)

Camper 1: (looks at him in a slight disappointment) this is my third so maybe relax?

Camper 2: (laughs and snorts) nah mate I have a high tolerance you see.

Camper 3: Sure you do, this is my seventh and I’m already pissed. Its 14%, your gonna end up passing out in a minute (laughs, snorts and then burps) (silence follows as they continue to drink)

Camper 1: what did you think about that farmer? I mean who even farms moose? don’t you think it’s all a bit strange?

Camper 2: they American’s mate, they are everything but normal

Camper 3: I would agree but we aren’t even in the US, but I agree because all westerners are bloody fucking weird (laughs and snorts)

Camper 1: he probably just eats their meat, maybe sells them to others. Maybe makes moose rugs? Or chops off their heads for that frame thing?

Camper 2: you just answered your own question but gave like 10 answers mate (throws can over edge) 10 down, touchdown. Fuck this western bullshit, it’s got me talking western.

Camper 3: (laughs and then hiccups) I just remembered I opened the gate cuz I thought there was gonna be a dog or something but nah it was just moose (throws can off the edge, it hits the top rocks off the cave that is a few metres below them)

Camper 1 and 2: (looks at him shocked, surprised and slightly angry) wtf mate

Camper 3: I was going to shut it but a moose ran full speed towards me so I just bolted to the other side so it wouldn’t realise that the gate was open.

Camper 2: (returns to drinking) mate you are absolutely retarded

Camper 1: (looks down at the cave) Well I hope nothing escaped

[loud and multiple noises can be heard running in the distance towards the campers]

Camper 2: Shit! Everyone get back!

Camper 1, 2 and 3: (all move away from the edge and stand with their backs towards the wall on the other side, the cave is out of view)

Camper 1: (panting) guys this doesn’t sound right. Is it terrorist or police?

Camper 2: No they sound like a bunch of horses rampaging. I thought that old bastard said there was nothing here.

Camper 3: (giggles) nah but seriously, why are we hiding, its not like they can see us or even climb up without taking that path.

[As the noises become louder a herd of moose can be seen in the distance at full speed running towards the cave]

Camper 1: (starts panting again) Oh shit! What the fuck did you do Jonathan?

Camper 3: (slightly anxious) Mate I swear nothing is going to happen, they still haven’t seen us and if we keep fucking quiet, they’ll fuck off.

Camper 1: Shit! what do we do?

Camper 2: nothing, we wait for them to leave, for now we just see what they want with a fucking moose graveyard

[The moose slow down as they come nearer to the cave making loud gnarl sounds and breathing loudly, Moose that is Infront of the pack sniffs the air incredibly loud and eccentric, he begins to cry (ugly, loud and disturbing)]

Camper 1: (walks a little towards the edge, the others follow) (trying to control his breathing rate) John what the fuck do we do now? That’s the creepiest shit I’ve ever heard

Camper 2: Nothing, they’ll probably leave in a bit.

Camper 1: (starting to calm down) you are probably right, they still can’t see us and if we don’t make noise they’ll not try to attack us.

Camper 3: This will be a fun story later

[all the moose begin to trot around all sniffing the air and stamping the ground, one steps on a beer can, A few around that moose look and see that it has made a cut into its leg]

Camper 2: Damn that’s fucking funny

Camper 1: No, it’s not, and that’s what littering does retard, it hurts animals

Camper 2: only the stupid ones.

Camper 1: (tried to take out small digital camera from pocket, he takes a step forward, but knocks off a small rock that knocks over a little under a dozen beer cans which hit a few of the moose in their head) Oh shit

[Moose all look up and see the three campers before they can take a step back]

[One of the moose at full speed charges up the hill at such an angle it almost looks unreal]

Camper 2: (looks at Camper 1 angry and shocked) WTF Jim!?

[That moose is halfway up the mountain, the other moose are howling and stamping, Alces that is somewhere else can hear these noises and immediately runs towards where the noise is coming from]

Camper 2: (runs over to a medium sized rock and kicks it off, hitting the moose and dropping him to the end of the mountain, the rock lands on his face, killing that moose) Shit

[The other moose except 1 all charge up the mountain, the three campers grab small to medium sized rocks and begin throwing and kicking them at the charging moose, some rocks are hitting but only knocking them back, some are knocking them off the hill which injure those moose, and some are killing them]

Suavissa: (appears with a bag off salt licks) OMG No! Red! Red! Stop this! They are friends!

[A moose with a red scar around his head turns to that woman and screams incredibly loud, the moose all stop where they are and don’t move another muscle]

Camper 2: Quick! Knock them over the edge! (He grabs a medium sized rock and hurls it over, Suavissa runs towards the moose screaming and waving them away from the cliff, tears are flowing in her eyes)

Alces: (appears and witnesses a boulder knocking off two moose from the cliff and sees that it will hit Suavissa if she doesn’t get out the way, he screams, grabbing the attention off suavissa who looks at him worried and crying) Get away from there! Suavissa!

[the boulder that hit the two moose knocks them off the cliff and they land on Suavissa, her head is the only thing visible and she looks at her husband, tears flowing down but she makes the faintest, weakest smile at him before the boulder lands on her head and the moose]

Alces: (Screams uncontrollably, running towards her he slips but gets back up and tries to move the boulder but fails) (He looks at the red, the last moose in that area) Red! (He screams and cries loudly like a war cry)

[Red charges up the mountain much more faster than the others, before the campers can react, Camper 1 slips, Camper 3 get back and Camper 2 tries to kick off another boulder but Red moves slightly out of the way, and before Camper 2 can reposition it, the last thing they see is [from the eyes of Camper 2] Red jumping from the edge over to Camper 2 and Biting its head off [camera’s last view is Red’s teeth gaping and saliva from bottom teeth to top teeth with angry moose eyes pointing at the cameras, nearing in and ending about an inch away]

ACT 1: The Present

[somewhere in the early 2010s, there are 6 people in a 7 seated car, a man who is driving and his close girlfriend in the passenger seat, a couple with an on/off relationship in the middle, a long-distance relationship close friendship at the back, somewhere around 4pm they are driving out of a town too camp for the night near the end of autumn]

Darius: (drinks beer with one hand on the steering wheel) damn the sun is gonna set in a little while

Lily: (puts legs on seat and turns towards Dux) so we should hurry up then bub

Darius: (passes map to Lily) check for a good spot (eyes are darted towards the road)

Lily: (looks at him, hesitates and takes the map and sighs then looks at it) okay

Molly: (rests her head on Lucas’s lap) so are you not gonna stroke my hair?

Azir: (grins) damn if you want me to touch you that badly, I know a much better place (places his hand on her lower stomach and slowly moves it down)

Molly: (gets up) nope you know I don’t like that. (Sits up on the complete other side, arms crossed looking out the window) that was a test.

Azir: (pulls at a cigarette) whatever (proceeds to light and smoke that cigarette out the window)

Angelica: (awkwardly sits and tries to make eye contact with Kayn but keeps looking away in shyness) um so do you play anything else?

Kayn: (looks at her and kinda blushes) kinda I mean aside from League, its clash royale and maybe a bit of chess here and there. You?

Angelica: yeah, I play them but I’m not good at chess lol (looks in the other direction)

Kayn: (looks in the other direction too) you will ff asap if you play against me

Angelica: (laughs, looks at Kayn who is also looking at her, smiles) stupido (looks away again and so does Kayn with red cheeks)

[Few hours have gone by and its beginning to grow dark, everyone is somewhat exhausted but still awake]

Azir: (finishes cigarette and chucks it out of window) Yo how far are we?

Darius: Lily?

Lily: Theres just flat grass and some hills and then there a town over the hills, I think we can camp anywhere on that plainland grass region. But we should just drive around the area and make sure nothing is there.

Azir: (looks out the window and sees four legs in the distance and the headlights rebounding off a Moose’s eyes making them glow) YO WATCH OUT!

Darius: (swerves a little to go around the moose but doesn’t really look at it but Azir, Molly, Kayn , Angelica all see it and see that there’s parts of its flesh missing and that its just standing there looking ahead with a giant red scar across from its face, that moose is gigantic and the parts of flesh missing doesn’t seem to bother him) fucking stupid moose’s

Molly: (slightly concerned) So are we just going to ignore that fucking ghost looking moose, I mean it didn’t even have a full back and why the fuck was it so much bigger than normal ones?

Darius: I don’t know about that but its normal to see moose’s just chilling everywhere like that

Kayn: (looks at Angelica concerned and so does she)

Azir: (looks out of window again) aside from that I think I see a barn and a small house; I think I see a light on.

Darius: (looks in that direction) Yeah, I think I see it too

Lily: (looks at Darius) we should go there and ask if we are allowed to camp here its pretty much the wild and I don’t wanna get in trouble

Darius: (grins) yep that’s what we’re gonna do

[The car pulls up outside the barn, a little away from the door off the small house next to it]

Darius: (turns off the car and is the first to exit, followed by Lily who stays close to him] Well this place looks a little run down don’t it? I wonder if anyone even lives here

Lily: [looks at the small house] I don’t know but there’s a light on inside

Azir: (lighting another cigarette) I smell horse shit, Molly did you-

[door to the house opens and alces steps out with a hunting rifle in his hands, cigarette in his mouth which is lit and he looks older with a beard and much larger than before]

Alces: Its Moose shit to be exact, boy. (grins) and what are ya’ll doing on my property at fucking 8 O’clock?

[Kayn and Angelica both step out walking together towards Darius, they stop a metre from everyone]

Darius: Pardon me, Sir, we were just wondering if we were allowed to camp out near here.

Alces: (grin turns into a smirk as he looks right at Darius) Campers, hikers, all is welcome here. I don’t recommend the grass plains I let my moose’s out to play during the night. But there’s a sweet spot on that mountain (points in that direction towards a mountain), ya cant see it but no animals go there.

Kayn: (steps forward) what do you mean moose? Are you a moose farmer?

Alces: That’s right my boy.

Kayn: Do your moose have any missing parts?

Alces: You’re probably dreaming it my boy. My moose are the healthiest in the country.

Darius: Could you tell us how to get to that sweet spot?

Alces: sure, you wanna follow that trail (points at a trail Infront of them going around the barn into the distance) and after a while u wanna turn right and keep going until u see a bunch of rocks on the side of a makeshift trail, not that hard to miss

Azir: (spits on the ground, Molly looks at him in disgust) Is it cool if we leave the car here?

Alces: It’s your choice but you’re even welcome to camp out in my garden if you’d like

Angelica: (steps forwards and holds Kayn’s arm) (they look at each other) (whispers) nah

Darius: (looks at the group then back at Alces) Sorry sir, I’m afraid we will have to decline that offer, but we will leave the car here if that’s not a problem.

Alces: (grins) that’s not a problem. By the way, don’t litter near the cave that’s right below that spot, its my family moose graveyard.

[as Darius and Alces continue to talk about where that sweet spot is, Moose noises can be heard from the barn]

Angelica: (whispers to Kayn) I don’t like this. I’m getting bad vibes

Kayn: (smiles) all old people give you bad vibes lol

Angelica: No seriously, I don’t like how empty everything is and there’s this one weirdo here. Creepy.

Kayn: Don’t worry, nothing’s gonna happen, plus we have the others, and we can take him down if this guy goes psycho

Angelica: (looks at the ground) okay I hope so. But these weird horse noises or maybe its moose?

Molly: (leaves Darius’s side whom looks her for a split second then returns to talking with Alces) Most likely moose, and I’m not too happy that there will be wild moose let loose near us, I remember reading somewhere that they can easily kill a human.

Kayn: (looks at Angelica who’s now mortified then back at Molly) oi don’t say that and anyways, they can’t climb up mountains, so we are alright

Molly: (grins) lol did you shit your pants babe?

Angelica: (looks down at the ground)

Molly: don’t worry, Darius is on the football team, known for his strong arms so he can probably kill a moose.

Azir: (throws cigarette butt on the ground and walks towards Molly, Kayn and Angelica) My dad’s a warrior I got his good genes (winks at Molly, who rolls her eyes) if anything happens ill kill him (grins)

Kayn: I’m pretty fucking fast I can probably lead him somewhere, outrun him and then come back to you guys.

Molly: How the fuck did you make running away sound like a mission

Azir: Nah he’s useless but brave (pulls out cigarette) that’s something I think everyone lacks here.

Lily: (overhearing convo turns around to join) Nope my Darius is braver and stronger than all of you, he’ll save us before any of you can even think of a plan.

Azir: Can’t say I disagree, he is a big guy (lights cigarette)

Lily: (looks at alces whos talking with Darius then back at the others) why are we even discussing this, he’s so old he probably finds it hard to shit in a toilet

Angelica: (pulls out phone looks at it) um its already 8:30pm we should probably set up the tents in case it rains

Kayn: right, lets get our bags and then leave

Azir: (chucks out half finished cigarette, nods) yep, yo Darius, we should go.

Darius: (turns around and back again) well that was a good conversation Sir, we should be seeing you either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

Alces: No problem, son. Come back if you have any problems alright?

Darius: Thank you, sir. Will do. (walks off to the van, gets his bag and join the group that’s about a metre ahead with their bags on walking on the trail)

Alces: (watches them walk away into the darkness, the last thing he sees is flashlights illuminating in the distance, he walks over and picks up the cigarettes Azir dropped) fucking campers. RED!

[Red comes trotting, parts of his body are missing, he is with 3 other moose who share the same red scar, they are almost as tall as him and are gnarling and grunting, Red gnarls and they all shut up]

Alces: my good boy (pets the moose) we have another meal (grins menacingly)

ACT 2: Disasters’ beginnings