

THE OFFICER

EXT. RICHARD'S FARM - DAY

A police officer is driving to Richard's farm.

OFFICER

Yeah, Harvey's working a double shift tonight.

OFFICER 2 (through radio)

Really wish they'd send some folks down from the base. We could use the backup at the hospital. You and Jovi had your hands full last night, I'm sure.

OFFICER (sarcastic)

Well what good's the military if they're not standing around doing nothing. God knows what they're even doing out here.

OFFICER 2

Wish they'd fix our servi-

OFFICER

Hello?

(fidgets with the radio)

Goddamn radio signal is out too?

The officer looks up and sees Richard's farm. Richard, Diane, and Steve are already onsite, waving to the officer. He pulls up.

RICHARD

Mornin' Officer!

OFFICER

(extends a hand to Richard)

Morning. How ya doin'?

RICHARD

We doin' alright officer. But last night, we seen something crazy.

OFFICER

Well it ain't nothin I ain't heard of, promise you that. What happened?

RICHARD

We seen some big creature.

OFFICER

Big like a bear?

RICHARD

No sir. This guy was bout' the size of a truck. Stood over our field too, so it was tall.

The officer reaches for his radio, but after remembering it's dead, pulls out a notepad instead. He starts writing.

OFFICER

Did it leave any tracks?

RICHARD

No sir. It ain't leave any that we can see. We checked up and down.

The officer stops writing and raises an eyebrow.

OFFICER

Something that big oughta' leave a track.

RICHARD

Sir, it was real. Proof is in the three cows we're missing.

STEVE

Officer, I can vouch for him. I live next door. My cows have been disappearing one by one too. 'Til now I just thought they been finding ways out of their pen. Richard ain't a liar.

OFFICER

No, I trust ya.

(putting notebook away)

We've actually been getting reports of missing animals for a few weeks now. Dogs, cats, horses. But usually only one every now and then, and it's hard to track if the animal was kidnapped or just ran away.

(pause)

You said it was some kind of animal?

RICHARD

Yes sir. Somethin' big and round.

OFFICER

How about this? We'll send someone out here tonight to keep watch. In a cruiser. Try to get some details and maybe we can catch this guy.

Richard and Steve look at each other and nod.

STEVE

We got lights set up on our side of the barn. Set them up to catch cownappers since I thought that mighta been what was getting them. We'll keep an eye out tonight too.

OFFICER

We'll see if we can send two.

RICHARD

Thank you officer.

The officer gets back in his car. He tries his radio, but of course, it's still down. He tries his phone, but of course, there's currently no service in the area.

OFFICER

It's a miracle they were even able to call us.

He starts driving away. After a while, he comes to an intersection, where the radio starts coming back to him in a choppy way. He continues driving, but takes his eyes off the road while he fidgets with the radio.

A giant, tick-like leg steps out in front of him, and he slams into it with his car. The leg comes clean off, and the creature's body fumbles, landing on top of the car and knocking the car off to the side. The officer drives straight into the forest, then into a ditch near the road.

Smoke rises from the upside-down vehicle. Inside, the Officer regains his composure. He's bleeding from the head, but it seems to be a surface injury. Reaching down with shaky hands, he tries to undo his seatbelt.

And then the car rocks. One way. Then another. He pulls out his pistol instead, looking for the culprit.

And then the car lifts. Rising off of the ground, flipped right side up. As it lands, he is able to face forward, and he stares right into the eyes of the tick-monster.

It opens its jaw.