



Cove Grove

The Woodsmen

Jeff and Carmen retreated into a quiet valley in the mountains of Herriman, Utah. They had both lived through deep trauma, and from that pain they created something sacred called Cove Grove.

The Grove was inspired by their real lives and by the healing that came after years of struggle and grief. It became a sanctuary built from everything they had been through.

The trees in Cove Grove were not ordinary trees. They represented understanding, compassion, and belonging. They did not speak, but they listened. They did not judge, but they welcomed anyone who had been cast out or broken.

Over time, the Grove drew in six lost souls from across different times. Each of them came because they were ready to let go of life but not ready to disappear. In Cove Grove, they found a place where their stories could rest and still be remembered.

The Woodsmen, who watched over the Grove, knew these six souls were coming. They built a wooden shelter at the center of the forest called The Skeleton Barn. It became a place of peace, where final moments were met not with fear but with silence and warmth.

Each of the six carried a journal filled with their memories, thoughts, and pain. When each soul passed away, the Woodsmen collected these journals and turned them into tapes. The recordings captured their voices and emotions, preserving their stories forever.

The Woodsmen hid these tapes inside The Skeleton Barn. The trees began to guide those who entered the forest toward them. The paths of the Grove would shift and lead new visitors, called Travelers, to discover the stories left behind.

The Travelers are the ones who now carry on the meaning of Cove Grove. They listen to the tapes, share what they learn, and bring the memory of the Grove into the world beyond the valley.



1853-1880

1854-1880

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1959-1967

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1985-2002

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1989-2005

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Lore Elements/ The Real Locations:

The Shadow

2002-2018

The last to go missing was a young boy who had never been accepted by his family, his community, or his church. He was raised by his grandparents after his mother supposedly left just weeks after his birth. Their home was cold and distant, filled with control. Love was never shown, and was extremely conditional. Every day reminded him that he did not belong anywhere. The only place that brought him any sense of peace was Cove Grove.

As a child, he often ran away there to escape, sleeping in the old Skeleton Barn and spending nights listening to the wind move through the trees. He always felt a strange presence in the Grove, something gentle and watchful. At first it frightened him, but as the years passed it became comforting. He later came to understand that this presence was a woman named Julia. She was quiet, kind, and deeply disturbed. Through her, he began to learn pieces of her story, and what she had been through in her life. The more he understood her, the more he recognized himself in her. They shared the same loneliness, the same grief, and the same longing to be seen. In her presence, he felt understood for the first time in his life.

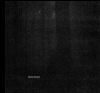
When he grew older, he experienced love briefly with another boy, something real but short. The relationship ended quickly under the weight of social pressure, leaving him feeling more isolated than ever. Eventually, he returned to the Grove again, the only place that had ever truly felt like home.

In 2018, after years of rejection and emotional pain, he went back to the Grove one final time. That night, the air was still and heavy, and the trees were reverent. He walked to the river that feeds the pond inside the grove, and ended his life there.

After his death, it was said that a quiet figure began appearing around the Grove, often near the Skeleton Barn, or hiding behind trees. People started to refer to this presence as The Shadow of Cove Grove.

In death, the shadow found an old 1800's paupers grave, and carved into a tree above it was a heart with his last name carved into it. He believed it had been carved as a tribute to him by the boy who once loved him, but it had been there long before him. Inside the heart his last name was written in a foreign language, yet The Shadow could supernaturally read it as if he had always known how. It was as though he was meant to find it, meant to understand it.

His story is deeply tied to Cove Grove itself, his life and death now interwoven with the deep history of the land. To him, the name carved in the heart was a message of love and belonging, one that made his feel remembered, but in reality, it had seen many stories just like his.



- Cove Grove: This sanctuary forest was created by Jeff and Carmen in a quiet valley in Herriman, Utah, and is based on a real location near where Jeff grew up.

- The Trees: They embody a "perfect society" that silently understands and welcomes the outcast, manipulating forest paths to guide Travelers to the hidden tapes.

- Skeleton Barn: A wooden shelter built by the Woodsmen at the heart of the Grove, it is where they took refuge before their deaths, and where the tapes containing their stories are hidden.

- The Pauper's Grave (The Overgrown Grave): This is an old, unmarked grave in the woods of the real Cove Grove in Herriman, Utah, made many many years ago..

- Witch Hat Hill: A real mountain in Herriman, Utah, that looks like a witch hat, it sits above the Grove, which is located at its foot. A key element of the story.

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- Bingham Copper Mine: A real mine attached to Copperton, Utah, where many moved to work after the Civil War..

- The Town of Perfect Worship (Copperton): The real mining town, located just three miles north of Herriman, where they're all from..

- The Tapes/Journals: Journals filled with the souls' stories and agonies were collected by the Woodsmen after each death and turned into sorrowful tapes to ensure their stories were told.

- The Cemetery: A real 1800's mining cemetery at the entrance to Copperton where all the characters' family members are buried, holding significant importance in the story.

- Travelers (Fans): The Travelers are the ones who now carry on the meaning of Cove Grove. They listen to the tapes, share what they learn, and bring the memory of the Grove into the world beyond the valley.

- Bingham Highway: The main road that they walked down to get to the Cove Grove.

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- The Name Carved in the Tree (The Name): A symbol in a secret language, the last name of somebody inside of a heart, found above the Pauper's Grave in the real Cove Grove in Herriman, Utah, which only those called to the grove can read..

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