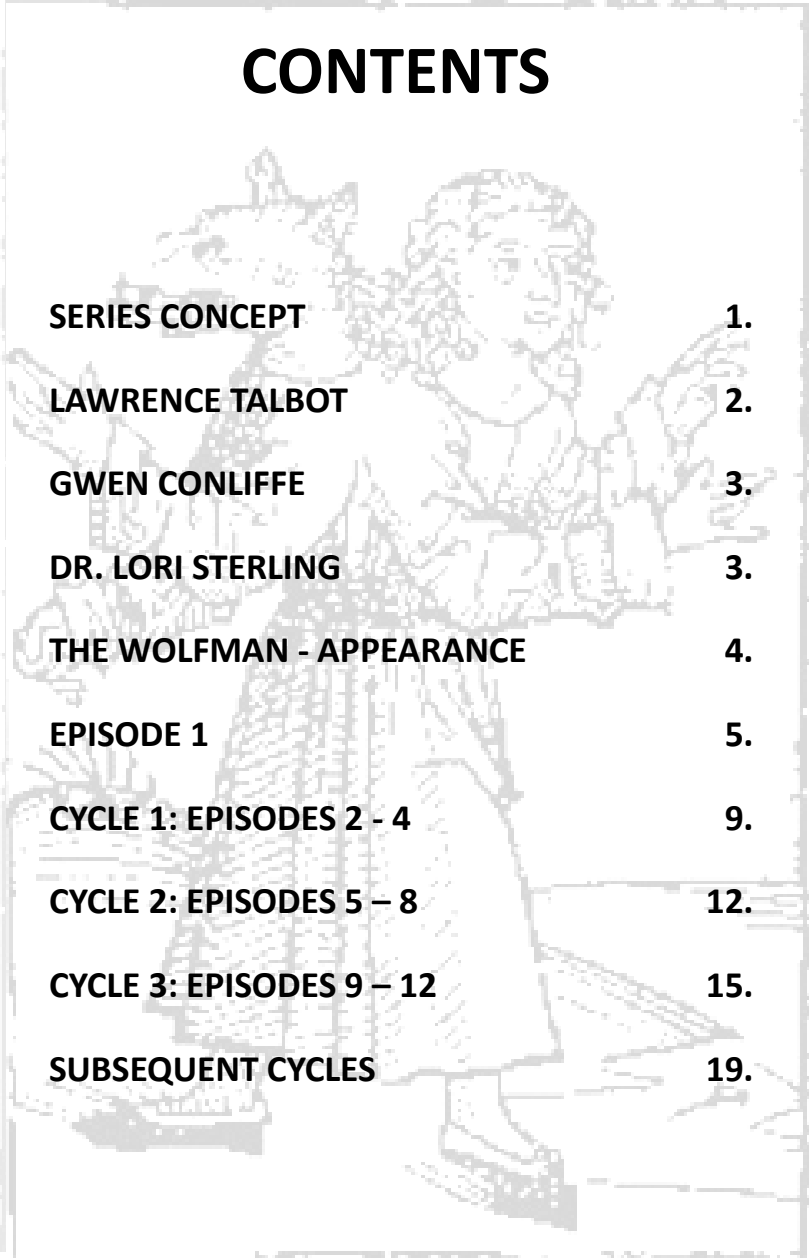


THE WOLFMAN

THE WOLFMAN

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THE WOLFMAN

Series Concept by Daniel Knauf

“Even a man who is pure of heart, and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms, and the autumn moon is bright.”

Though THE WOLFMAN draws its inspiration from the seminal Universal horror brand of the same title and will offer supernatural thrills and action, at its heart beats the classic elements of a contemporary workplace romance—a good man whose inner conflicts and duality are externally embodied in his love for two very different women.

A civilized, virtuous man, Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Forensic Analyst, LAWRENCE “LAW” TALBOT, sees his life turned upside down when he is bitten by a werewolf. He undergoes profound physiological changes; he’s stronger, faster, his senses attuned to razor-sharp acuity and, three nights a month by the cold light of the full moon, he undergoes a violent lycanthropic transformation into a hybrid beast—half human, half wolf.

However, rather than focusing on the horrific physical transformation, the themes of THE WOLFMAN will emphasize the psychological changes Talbot experiences *between* the full moons. Once a mild-mannered and passive team player, as each day passes he grows more self-possessed, competitive and independent. He feels a growing reconnection with a primordial aspect of masculinity, one ground out by thousands of years of culture and civilization—the primal joy of the hunt; the heart-pumping excitement of the chase, to drive prey to helpless exhaustion; the intoxication of rending flesh; the ultimate assertion of dominance inherent in the kill.

Talbot’s inner struggle personifies what it means to be a man in the 21st Century.

Although the sexual revolution and culture has explicitly redefined the modern woman, it has been far less successful at defining the modern man. Sensitivity and passivity are celebrated as virtues while traditional base male characteristics such as strength, assertiveness and territoriality are frowned upon as undesirable, sniffed at and derided.

ed. Generations of men have embraced a lifestyle of perpetual adolescence epitomized by a fear of commitment and an obsessive effort to maintain the freedom and trappings of youth.

Once he has been bitten and infected, Talbot jacks into the savage animal that lives deep in every man's psyche. As he begins spurning the contemporary male role-model and manifesting his primal nature, his relationships profoundly change with the two women in his life, his fiancé GWEN CONLIFFE, the proprietress of a high-end antique shop and auction house in the tony Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, and his oldest and most trusted friend, LORI STERLING, an epidemiologist with the Center for Disease Control (CDC).



LAWRENCE TALBOT – Though Talbot's family is one of the oldest in Georgia, they long ago lost their fortune post-reconstruction. His father, HARLEY TALBOT, a former Marine, suffered a breakdown when Talbot was 2, plunging the family into poverty and driving his wife, Talbot's mother, to an early grave. Talbot grew up in Bainbridge, a small town in Southwest Georgia, under the hard hand of his alcoholic maternal grandfather.

In Bainbridge, his sole confidante was LORI STERLING, a pretty neighborhood girl with a similar background who helped him cope with the abuse he suffered at home. The two were inseparable, always there to take care of one another when neglected by the adults in their lives.

Having grown up in the shadow of male role-models that were capricious and often brutal, Talbot strived to be the opposite. Gentle, passive and analytical, he embraced education, graduating at the top of his class at U of Georgia with a dual major in statistics and psychology. He chose a career in law-enforcement with the GBI, focusing on criminal profiling and forensic sciences, specializing in geographic profiling.

An intellectual inside a macho profession, Talbot is surrounded by tough field agents who view his theories with skepticism.

But after he is attacked by a werewolf, Talbot begins to change. He becomes increasingly strident and aggressive, more physically fit. He moves differently, exudes an animal charisma. He becomes more aggressive, more willing to fight than to flee; standing his ground where once he might avert his eyes and back down. Moreover, he has become more desirable to women, for they too have come to crave the effortless masculinity and self-sufficiency once demonstrated by the average American male. He has become the creature that haunted fiction, from French country mythology to the pages of Herman Hesse's STEPPENWOLF; a primordial hybrid, man and beast struggling for dominance within the soul of a single human.

Lawrence Talbot is THE WOLFMAN.



GWEN CONLIFFE – The daughter of real-estate magnate H.R. CONLIFFE and scion of one of Atlanta’s oldest, most powerful families, Gwen is a free spirit who has insisted on making her own way in life, independently building an empire based on her love of antiques and the history of the Antebellum South. Proud of her heritage and her home town, she tirelessly raises money and advocates for those less fortunate, often conflicting with her father and the powers-that-be downtown.

Gwen is smart, fun-loving and funny, her personality contrasting markedly with that of Talbot, who has always been reserved

and socially detached. An expert equestrian, crack shot and seasoned outdoorswoman with a master’s degree in history from Amherst, Gwen is as smart as she is beautiful. She adores Talbot, treasuring his intelligence, his gentle, courtly demeanor and his kind disposition.

After Talbot is attacked, however, she becomes alarmed by the changes she sees in his personality. He becomes more aggressive, obstinate and confrontational. She worries that he is suffering the effects of PTSD—after all, he *killed* a man in Baltimore. Surely this is the direct result of that trauma; Talbot, after all, was trained as an analyst, not a field agent. On the other hand, he has become more physically fit and attractive, undeniably attractive. His manner toward her has become more direct and predatory and, frankly, sexy. And the sex—well, the sex is *amazing*.

Nevertheless, this is not the same man who slipped an engagement ring on her finger once they’d agreed to marry. But Gwen has faith in the healing power of time, and time will bring back the gentle soul she fell in love with.

DR. LORI STERLING – is Talbot’s best friend and closest confidant. The two share a history written in blows, blood and bruises suffered during their impoverished childhoods in neighboring households. Lori, however, caught the worst of it, sexually abused by her stepfather from the time she was eight until twelve years old. Lori rebelled and acted out in her teens and tweens, falling into a pattern of alcohol-abuse and playing with bad boys, culminating in a joy-ride that ended in a fatal car accident that claimed the lives of the two delinquents she was with and a local veterinarian and his wife in the other vehicle. As the sole survivor, Lori became the target for the entire town’s outrage.

The only person who stood by her was Talbot, who made her realize that the accident, though tragic, was



fate's way of saying that life had more in store for her than getting wasted with Goth punks in the parking lot of the Flying J on Main Street. She turned her life around, focusing on her studies and pulling a 4.25 GPA in her final two years of high school, earning a full-boat scholarship to Georgia Tech where she earned her Doctorate in Bioinformatics. She was snatched up by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nevertheless, Lori comes from a long line of notorious badmen and rebels, tracing her mixed-race Creole ancestry directly back to Joseph Winston Sterling—better known as The Outlaw Josey Wales. Though you'd never know it to look at her in her lab-coat, bobbed hair, glasses and cool professional demeanor, in her breast beats the heart of a seasoned rocker, inked up and ready to transform herself on any given Friday night into a club-princess in black leather miniskirt, torn fishnets and John Fluevog Munster Gwynnes.

Her relationship with Talbot is complex.

They are soul-mates, in many ways more deeply akin than mere lovers. Lori has been in a number of bad relationships—her judgment when it comes to men is appalling. Talbot has always been there, not just to pick up the pieces but to flash a badge and run the scoundrels off when necessary (at least twice by gunpoint). At this point, most men either bore or alarm her, and Lori has resigned herself to a life of spinsterhood—albeit a very hot, fashionable and brashly fabulous version.

But the Lawrence Talbot who returned from Baltimore is a changed man. Sometimes, she catches him gazing at her with a dark hunger—a primitive, feral need to possess her utterly. And though it disconcerts her, it also turns her on. For the first time in their long, storied relationship, she regularly finds herself lying awake, fantasizing about what it would be like to feel him inside her, kissing her, *biting* her...

But she keeps these newfound yearnings in check. She is the only one with whom Talbot has shared his secret; the only one who has witnessed his incredible transformation from man to wolf; the only one who can help him find a cure and regain his old life.

But does she *want* to cure him?

THE WOLFMAN - APPEARANCE

With each transmission of the curse/pathogen, the lycanthropic physiological changes to gross anatomy is lessened. For example, Patient Zero would resemble a very large, hulking wolf with very few recognizably human features. As the pathogen is transmitted, each subsequent carrier is more human than his attacker.

Lawrence Talbot's transformative state is similar to the iconic appearance of Lon Chaney Jr. in the original 1941 Universal film—humanoid and hunched, arms akimbo. Though he appears almost apelike, he moves with breathtaking speed and athleticism. His face is slightly disfigured, with a more prominent brow and a definite vulpine aspect but remains strangely beautiful—a perfect hybridization of man and wolf. His canines, though sharp, are fully contained inside his mouth and do not protrude grotesquely.

Above all, in keeping with our theme of "Beauties and the Beast," Talbot needs to be *a very sexy werewolf*.

EPISODE 1

We open on a digital clock that flashes from 2:29 to 2:30 AM. Lawrence Talbot's eyes snap open. He gingerly slips out of bed, careful not to wake his sleeping fiancé, Gwen, and pulls on a frayed University of Georgia sweatshirt.

He pads past the sleeping doorman from his luxury residential high-rise, set in a beautiful wooded enclave outside Atlanta, and begins to run. He relishes the cool air on his skin, the quiet, empty streets as he picks up his pace, his pulse quickening, his lope graceful, efficient, miles effortlessly devoured, the only sound, his deep breathing and the slap of his Nikes on pavement.

Suddenly, a sharp movement ahead.

A deer is startled from clipping grass in the median and darts into the woods at the side of the road. Without a second's thought, pure instinct propels Talbot into chasing the animal.

A reckless, relentless pursuit, the deer bounding, zig-zagging through the dense forest, Talbot matching—anticipating—its every move, heedless of the branches and brambles tearing his sweats, drawing blood from tiny scratches, intent only on one thing...

Prey.

Finally, Talbot bursts into a moonlight-washed clearing and beholds an amazing sight: His quarry has collapsed in exhaustion, panting and unable to regain its feet. The deer regards him through large, quivering brown eyes, terrified, helpless.

Talbot looks down at the animal, astonished at what he has just done.

What is he becoming?

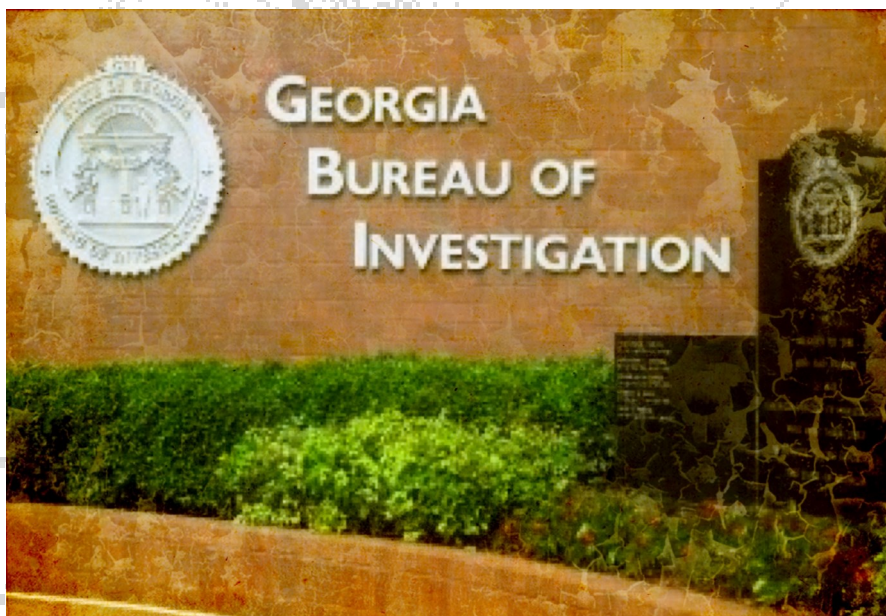
What has he become?

SLAM TO:

THREE WEEKS AGO:

INT. GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION—We find an exhausted, dejected homicide task force who have just been informed by their C.O. FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR DEL CANSON that their most promising suspect has been cleared as The Ripper, a cross-country serial killer case that has racked up four victims in Georgia, thirty-three more in eight other states.





Sleep-deprived, unshaven agents moan as they realize that once again they are back to square one. These guys have nothing, and the last thing they need is a lecture about some new and thoroughly useless profiling technique. Nevertheless, it's on the agenda (after being pushed back for six weeks running) and Lawrence Talbot is eager to share his findings.

The science of geographic profiling is new and evolving, its usefulness in the field still largely untested. In large part, it is the art of using the past to predict the future, boiling the

behavior of perpetrators and the locations in which they've committed their crimes into a series of algorithms and applying them to either determine where they will strike next and, ultimately, track them back to where the suspect resides.

Though Talbot's programs have demonstrated a high degree of accuracy, it has also generated wide misses. It is the misses that his more traditional colleagues invariably embrace, thereby dismissing the hits and validating their belief that the only way to solve crimes is through investigation, shoe-leather and instinct. Talbot's sole supporter is AGENT GABRIEL (GABE) CODDER, a young, smart investigator who fully believes in the potential of Talbot's profiling program.

In order to increase the reliability of his program, Talbot has developed a new set of input protocols, loading and tracking statistics that heretofore have never been included in geographic profiling, primarily reports of missing persons and animals, as well as animal attacks, arson and incidents of pet mutilation—all known factors in serial-killer behavior. He soon noticed "clusters" of events in various cities that could not be dismissed as statistical anomalies. His findings were summarily dismissed by the head of the GBI Science Unit, DR. CLAUDIA HUBERT, as "connecting dots that don't exist."

In order to conclusively prove that his protocol is valid, Talbot travels to the latest cluster-point, the rough Cherry Hill section of West Baltimore—far from his jurisdiction in Georgia. There he witnesses and intervenes in the attack of a prostitute by a creature: half man, half beast. Though he manages to put it down, it savagely bites his forearm in its death-throes. Before passing out from shock, Talbot sees the creature has resumed the form of a human.

The aftermath of the incident is a blur. The story makes the national news—a criminologist from Georgia who travelled on his own initiative and independently took down a vicious serial killer. Big news; no less so when it is conclusively proven that the perpetrator, CYRUS



BEDDECKER, is not in fact The Ripper. However, given the fact that 19 missing women's I.D.s were recovered from his apartment, it's clear that Beddecker was a prolific killer in his own right. It's also an unexpected public-relations feather in the cap for the GBI that Field Director Canson immediately capitalizes upon by publicly embracing Talbot's technology and elevating his role in the Railroad Ripper task force "as soon as he recovers from his injuries." Less thrilled is Talbot's immediate superior, Claudia Hubert, who has stridently denigrated his methodology. Talbot's victory was at Claudia's expense, and she still believes it was most likely a case of extraordinary luck.

Over the next few weeks of medical leave, Talbot begins to experience changes—both physical and psychological. He no longer needs glasses to read. He has an overwhelming compulsion to run, to move, to test his endurance. Every night, at 3AM sharp, he'll awake and feel the night calling, urging him to sprint, first two miles, then five, then ten. He becomes leaner, more graceful. His senses have sharpened—in particular smell, taste and hearing. He finds he can clearly hear every word of a conversation from across a crowded food-court. His night-vision is enhanced. He begins attending self-defense courses normally reserved for Field Agents and spending more time at the firing range.

Though previously regarded as an "egghead scientist" by the Field Agents, they gradually begin to accept him. Soon he's spending most of his time with the Railroad Ripper task force, drinking with them after hours at the local Cop Bar. His friend Gabe coins him a new nickname: Law Dog.

His libido is off the charts—a constant hot hunger. In bed, out in the world, he has taken his fiancé GWEN CONLIFFE in public places, the near misses exciting both of them. His passion is voracious, ravenous...

He suffers nightmares filled with madness, violence and blood, wolves devouring prey, sinking their teeth into flesh, steaming blood pulsing into eager mouths, rending and tearing. He is among them. He is *one* of them...

Most distressing is the aggression. Incidents that wouldn't have bothered him before he was attacked now trigger an instantaneous jet of adrenaline, a flare of rage that requires the full measure of his willpower to suppress. Gwen is in-



creasingly worried about him, seeing the outbursts as potential symptoms of PTSD.

And now this: a buck lying on long grass, helpless, terrified, waiting for the death-stroke.

He has run down a fucking deer!

What is he becoming?

What has he become?

The next day, Talbot contacts his closest friend, Lori Sterling. He asks if she's willing to run some tests on him on the down-low. She agrees and meets him at her house to draw some blood and run a full battery of tests. When he inquires whether a DNA analysis will be part of it, she expresses curiosity. After some prodding, he tells her, "I think I'm... *changing.*"

"Changing how?" she asks.

He can't explain—*won't* explain other than to tell her that he's afraid he might have exposed to a pathogen when he was bitten. She promises to perform a complete analysis and get back to him as soon as possible.

A week later, Talbot and Gwen are attending a formal charity auction at the Atlanta Zoo. All is well until after dusk. Talbot is in a men's room stall when the moon rises and he begins undergoing a violent transformation. Growling, he manages to shove his way past other attendees and out into the depths of the Grant Park zoo.

The next morning, just before dawn he awakes in a forest clearing to find a pack of wolves gazing at him. The moment is intense, dreamlike. He stands, his tuxedo shirt and pants in tatters, bare feet muddy, dried blood crusting his chin and chest. One by one, the carnivores drop down onto their forelegs in positions of subordination, accepting him as their alpha.

As the fog lifts on the tableau, we realize this is not a forest, but a clever facsimile: the wolf-exhibit in the heart of the Atlanta Zoo. We close on this surreal piece of theater played to an empty house: a disheveled, bewildered man in a tattered, bloodstained tuxedo surrounded by prostrate carnivores.

END OF EPISODE 1

SEASONAL ARCS – MAJOR BEATS

THE WOLFMAN will unfold in four-episode arcs (or *CYCLES*), each covering a major phase of the moon, the final installment of which will tee up the next chapter. This can facilitate 12, 16 or 20 episode seasons.

CYCLE 1: EPISODES 2 - 4

Talbot immediately seeks help from Lori. Shaken, he tells her what happened to him the previous night at the zoo, terrified that he has spilled innocent human blood. She informs him that he didn't hurt anyone. Turning on the TV, the news reports that a savagely mutilated Kudu was discovered at the Atlanta Zoo. Over pixelated shots of a gutted male antelope, a reporter says the animal's neck was broken and it was partially devoured (*Talbot experiencing MEMORY HITS of the kill*). Zoo officials are at a loss—there is no native predator capable of bringing down such a large animal, and none that would snap an antelope's neck.

Talbot tells her he was the perpetrator—that he... *transformed* into some kind of an animal; if she doesn't believe him, she can analyze the blood on his tuxedo. He guarantees the source of origin will be a Kudu. But Talbot is surprised to see that Lori is in no need of convincing. She tells him there were a number of anomalies in his genetic structure. He's right—Talbot *is* undergoing some kind of mutation that could very well be the result of a pathogen transmitted when he was bitten. As far as literally undergoing a gross physiological transformation, well... it most likely is a hallucination or some form of temporary psychosis.



Talbot is distraught, doesn't know what to do. Lori reminds him that they are scientists, and they will use scientific method to effect a cure. The key is in isolating the X-factor that is causing the genetic mutation. In order to do so, they need to work their way back along the chain of transmission. In each carrier, the genetic markers will be stronger, closer to the source—the elusive Patient Zero.

One complication: as each of his epidemiological “ancestors” bears a stronger strain of the X-factor, each will

manifest a greater degree of its physical symptoms. In short, each subject will be stronger and more vulpine than the last, and *all* will be stronger than Talbot.

The first step is to obtain tissue and blood samples from Beddecker, the man who bit him in Baltimore. In her capacity as an official with the CDC, Lori is confident that she will be able to acquire samples from the Baltimore ME's office. In the meantime, Talbot must resume his duties with the GBI and track down the next link in the epidemiological chain: The man or woman who infected Beddecker.

The task force investigation into The Railroad Ripper continues, Talbot redoubling his efforts to collate his movements. But he's simply unable to nail down a home location for the killer—his patterns seem random. However, within the unsub's hunting grounds, Talbot notices numerous clusters of lost and mutilated pets as well as missing persons.

The other agents notice that Talbot has changed, become harder in some way, tougher. He begins demonstrating a ruthless ambition in furthering his career, positioning himself for training as a field operative even as he pursues his goals within the forensic science unit. He asks his friend Gabe to quietly look into the movements of his attacker, Beddecker, in the months before the attack.

Meanwhile, at Gwen's insistence, he begins seeing an old friend of hers and fellow Amherst alumni, psychologist DR. PETER GILES. Though he feels almost immediately antagonistic toward the handsome therapist, Talbot agrees—if only to restore a measure of stability to their relationship.

Gabe informs Talbot that Beddecker had travelled to Northwest Wisconsin on a hunting trip fifteen months prior to their fatal encounter. Using his enhanced geographic profiling, Beddecker's hunting trip coincides with a cluster of animal disappearances in the area. He requests vacation time, telling Gwen he's visiting relatives up North. Gwen is dubious on two counts: Talbot has never mentioned any Yankee relatives before, and the trip happens to coincide with her family's annual birthday gathering for her father H. R. CONLIFFE—an event that Talbot has always dreaded.

Over Lori's objections, Talbot agrees to delay his trip in order to attend, despite the fact that they are rapidly approaching a full moon.

H.R. Conliffe, a hard-gunning real estate developer, has always loathed Talbot. Likewise, Gwen's two brothers, former jocks HARRISON (JUNIOR) and LEE have delighted in humiliating him at the 'friendly' Sunday touch-football game the clan plays each year. Talbot attempts to beg off participating in the game, though for a far different reason than he has in prior years: he fears that if the play gets rough—which it invariably does—he may lose his temper and reveal his animal rage. Finally, he's insulted and prodded into the game. But the Conliffe family has never dealt with the new Lawrence Talbot. He plays for keeps, leading his side toward a decisive win until disaster strikes. Retaliating for a vicious play against a member of his team, Gwen's gawky but sweet young cousin, RAYMOND, Talbot nails Harrison with a block that breaks the other man's arm.

Talbot is shaken, sure he has utterly ruined his relationship with his prospective in-laws. But to his surprise, H.R. couldn't be more pleased and the two men bond as they never have before. Gwen is filled with pride at the outcome. Even Talbot is pleased.

As Talbot prepares to leave for Wisconsin, he's joined by Lori, who insists on accompanying him on his hunt

and managing his condition. Using his enhanced senses, Talbot begins to zero in on his quarry, LEN WEILER, a reclusive farmer who lives outside the small town of Marshfield. What he doesn't know is that he, too, is being stalked by Weiler.

As the full moon approaches, Talbot and Lori travel up into the woods. She chains and padlocks him to a tree and administers a massive dose of tranquilizer, prepares to observe him. As the moon rises, she watches in awe as Talbot undergoes the transformation to Wolfman. At first, he violently fights his restraints. Lori manages to quell her terror, gently urges him to calm down. Her voice has its intended effect; Talbot stills.

Then, suddenly, his ears prick up and his nostrils flare. An interloper approaches: *Weiler!*

Lori is confused. Talbot ROARS and again struggles against the chains. Then, behind her, Lori hears a low, menacing, guttural growl. She snatches up the keys to the padlock, rushes to unbind Talbot, but Weiler charges. They fall from the lock and Talbot manages to seize Weiler with one partially freed hand as Lori flees into the woods. Weiler, more powerful than Talbot, manages to stun him with a slash of claws and a blow to the head, leaps in pursuit of his prey.

As Lori runs through the woods, Weiler in hot pursuit, Talbot struggles to free himself. The human part of his brain recognizes the shiny bit of metal at his feet. He strains, managing to pick up the key, drop it, HOWLING in frustration and rage.

Rushing through the fog-cloaked woods, shadowed by the feral, lupine pursuer, Lori runs for her life.

Again, Talbot struggles to fit the key into the padlock—snaps it home with a grunt.

Lori is suddenly cut off by Weiler. Terrified, she stumbles back, trips over a fallen log. The deer, run down, exhausted... Weiler moves in for the kill when, suddenly...

... he's hit by a blur of gray fur, fangs, claws and pure, white-hot rage. *Talbot!*

A vicious fight ensues, Lori at one crucial point stunning Weiler with a crushing blow to the back of his head with a large rock. Talbot gets the upper hand and tears Weiler's throat out. Lori stares, frozen. Talbot looks up at her, his coat matted with fresh blood, savage eyes softening for but an instant of respite from his animal blood-lust.

"Run," he snarls in a deep, guttural voice. When she doesn't move, he roars. "*RUN!*"

She turns and flees for their car, driving recklessly down the rutted dirt road, pursued by the receding, hair-raising HOWLS OF A WOLF.

The next morning, exhausted, Lori awakes to the sound of scratching at her motel room door. She raises Talbot's Glock, trains it on the door.

It's Talbot. Disheveled. Clothes muddied and shredded. He trudges into the room, sets a discarded glass whisky flask filled with brackish fluid on the dresser. "Blood." He says, then, withdrawing a lump of something wrapped in bloody newspaper from his pocket. "Tissue."

He collapses in the bed.

Lori looks at him for a long time, then starts tending his wounds.

OUT

CYCLE 2: EPISODES 5 – 8

Lori is unable to isolate Factor X from Weiler's tissue samples. She finds, however, that her theory has been confirmed: the genetic anomalies are more pronounced than those she found in either Talbot or Cyrus Beddecker.

Talbot's newfound confidence has propelled him into a central role in the Ripper investigation as the Field Agents struggle to identify a suspect. Meanwhile, two teenagers disappear while they are babysitting. Talbot accompanies Gabe and the Field Agents to the scene of the suspected abductions. As the agents are questioning the family and collecting evidence, Talbot steps out into the quiet back yard. He hears a train whistle and a idea occurs to him. He urges Gabe to check and see how many of the missing girls lived next to railroad tracks.

A triangle develops between Talbot, Gwen and his psychologist, Peter Giles, Gwen's old college friend. Giles administers a series of tests on Talbot, the results indicating that he is being deceptive in his answers. Giles abuses the Tarasoff Rule to inform his employers at the GBI that Talbot is not fit for duty. Meanwhile, he begins making romantic overtures toward Gwen under cover of "protecting" her from her "profoundly disturbed" fiancé.

Talbot discovers that Weiler had recently visited relatives in southwest Georgia. When he identifies a cluster in his home town of Bainbridge, Talbot and Lori travel down to investigate and in the process open old wounds that reveal their troubled pasts.



Giles, meanwhile, engages a retired Atlanta detective, Private Investigator LOU RIGGS, to track Talbot and collect compromising evidence against him.

Talbot discovers his grandfather, the man who raised him, has passed away. A local lawyer THEODORE VALENTINE, informs him that he has inherited the old man's effects—an old trunk stored in a local warehouse. At first, Talbot is tempted to discard it. But he chooses instead to check the contents. Among the family photos and memorabilia, he finds his grandfather's journal and learns that his long lost

father, HARLEY TALBOT, a man he barely knew, was afflicted with a family "curse" with veiled references to Gypsies and the *Rougarou*, a legendary lycanthropic beast that haunts the local swamps.

Is it possible that his condition has a supernatural basis?

When Giles learns that Talbot is with Lori, he tells Gwen, suggesting her fiancé is unfaithful. Gwen immedi-

ately sees through Giles machinations and pegs him for the creep he is. Nonetheless, he has raised doubts about Talbot's fidelity.

Gabe reports back to Talbot that every single one of the Ripper's victims lived within walking distance. The same is true for the victims he's struck in the other stakes. Talbot has made a major breakthrough in the case: The Ripper is a railroad bum! The reason Talbot's models couldn't factor out a residence is because the suspect doesn't have one. It's an important clue—or at least a start. Agents fan out to start questioning bums in an effort to develop a composite.

Down in Bainbridge, there have been a series of mysterious disappearances—mostly alligator poachers that have wandered into the swamps. Nevertheless, the men are local and have families, and the town sheriff, TOM BARNES, suspects the LeBEAUS, a notorious criminal clan that lives deep in the swamps. Could one of them prove to be the elusive "Patient Zero?" Could it be that there is some connection between Talbot and the family curse written of in his grandfather's journal? Despite Lori's skepticism, Talbot engages a local genealogist to ascertain whether he is related to the LeBeaus by blood.

The full moon approaching, Talbot arms himself and ventures into the swamp to track down the elusive LeBeaus. He is trapped and captured by fourteen year-old twin sons, RAY and BOBBY. When they realize he's a GBI agent, they deliver him to the family matriarch, BELLA, to determine his fate. A creepy, backwoods trip down the rabbit-hole brings him to a compound of shacks deep in the swamp, where he is brought before a kangaroo court resided over by an ancient crone, Bella, who was "old when the swamp was young." The clan urges her to let them kill Talbot and feed him to the gators, but she suddenly seizes Talbot's hand and examines it closely, cawing out, "He is *Rougarou!*"

He asks her what she knows about *Rougarou*. The old woman orders everyone but two of her sons from the room. As soon as they're gone, she begins weeping and quotes the legend: "Even a man who is pure of heart, and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms, and the autumn moon is bright."

Bella tells him that her two beloved young great-grandsons are afflicted with the same curse. The only way to reverse it is to find the Gypsy witch who cast it on the first victim and have her lift it. Talbot tells her she's wrong. He and a doctor have discovered that it's a disease, like rabies, and that it can be cured, but only if they can locate the first victim. He adds that he needs blood and tissue samples from Ray and Bobby.

Bella's sons immediately accuse Talbot of lying, that he only wants the twins' blood to work hoodoo on the whole clan. The old woman seems unsure. Talbot denies the accusation. He urges her to check his I.D.; he's not an investigator for the GBI, but a forensic analyst!

One of the men passes Bella Talbot's I.D. When she reads his name, her ancient face twists into a mask of rage. With a flicker of a glance, one of the men steps forward and silences Talbot with a blow from the butt of a gun.

As he's passing out, the old woman leans down and hisses, "*T'was a Talbot done turned 'dos two sweet boys into monsters!*"

Meanwhile, Lori visits her estranged mother VERA for the first time since she left Bainbridge. A proud, stubborn old woman, Vera refuses to see Lori. Filled with recriminations and resentment, she learns from a relative that Vera was just as much of a victim as she. She also learns that her destitute mother has late-stage

cancer that has gone long untreated due to her guilt-ridden unwillingness to seek help from her only daughter. Lori offers to help, but Vera spurns her, leading to a guarded reconciliation. At dusk in the swamp, the LeBeaus lead Talbot deep into the marsh. Soon the moon will rise and he will be the quarry in the ritual *Rougarou* hunt. They set him off. When the sun goes down, they will begin the pursuit. Talbot flees into the brush.

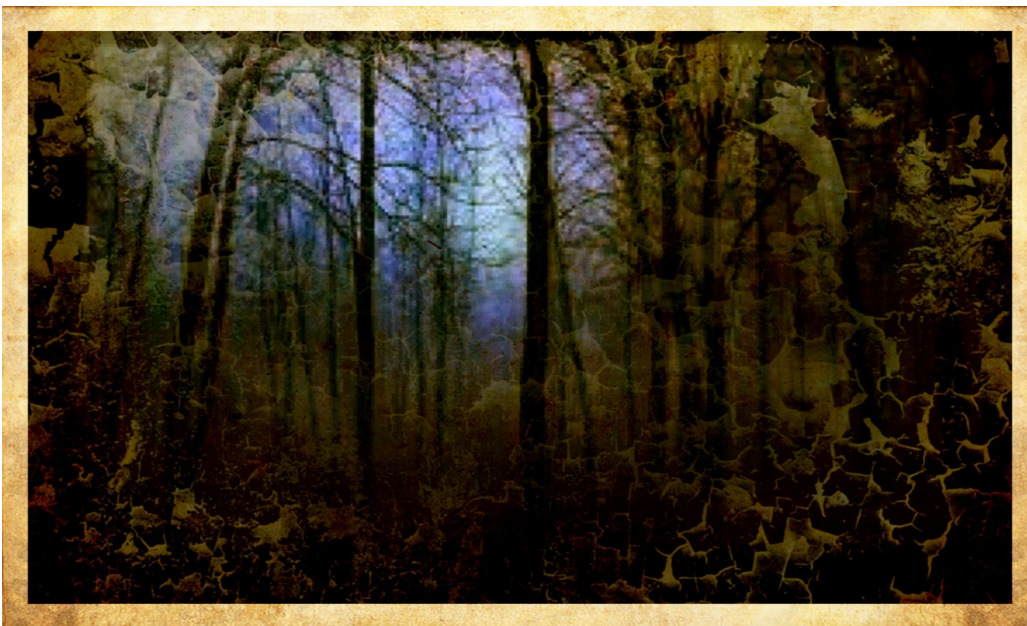
Using the fully transformed lycanthropic twins as blood-hounds, the LeBeaus mercilessly track Talbot. But he has undergone his own transformation as well. One by one, he begins picking off family members, thinning their ranks until he's attacked by Ray and Bobby.

Though but fourteen, the blood of the *Rougarou* runs stronger in their veins and they are a match for the larger Talbot. He manages to fight them off and, bloodied but undaunted, he stares them down, roaring and asserting his alpha rank. In a primordial tableau reminiscent of the morning in the zoo after his first transfor-

mation, the two boys supplicate themselves before him, resting their heads on their outstretched fore-arms.

One of the LeBeaus aims his rifle to take out Talbot, but Bella smacks the barrel and the shot flies wild. The clan melts back into the trees, leaving Talbot alone, indomitable, the apex predator.

One silent witness lurks in the darkness. Lou Riggs, the Atlanta detective. He gazes



in terrified awe at Talbot through his field-glasses. How could this possibly be...?

Suddenly, he's attacked by the twins, his cry cut short when Ray rips out his throat.

The next day, Lori arranges with Valentine to set up a trust in order to make sure Vera receives the dignity and care she needs in her final days. She's met in the motel parking lot by an odd assemblage, the LeBeaus in a battered pick-up. Bella rolls down her window. "Are you Lori?" she croaks. Lori nods and Bella hands her an object wrapped in grease-paper. "They drew straws," Bella says, nodding toward the rear of the truck. The twins sit in the bed, Ray's right hand wrapped in gauze. "Oh, and give this to him. He was being followed," adds Bella, handing over Riggs' bloody badge wallet. "Ain't being followed no more."

Lori enters her hotel room to find Gwen, who calmly asks where Talbot is. "In his room," replies Lori, "Two over." Sensing Gwen's suspicions, Lori tells her that the reason they are there together was because she needed his support when she visited her long-estranged, dying mother.

It's clear, however, when Talbot reconciles with Gwen, that Lori has begun to harbor intense romantic feelings for her old friend. She watches the two walk toward Gwen's car, arms around each other's waists. They

kiss. Lori lets the curtain fall back and regards the wrapped object on her dresser. She unwraps it, revealing Ray's severed pinky finger in a mason jar.

Eyes locked on the jar, sickened and dull with shock, Lori sits heavily on the bed.

What has she gotten herself into?

OUT

CYCLE 3: EPISODES 9 – 12

Lori emotionally withdraws from Talbot as they continue their investigation. The two struggle with their new-found feelings for one another. Suppressing them only seems to intensify them. Talbot immerses himself in his relationship with Gwen, avoiding Lori. In turn, Lori begins returning to her reckless lifestyle, initiating a relationship with ICE-JAY, a local rapper with a notorious mean streak.

Meanwhile, Talbot's field-agent friend, Gabriel, begins to put two-and-two together. There have been three unsolved murders, including a retired police officer, coinciding with the three locations to which Talbot has travelled. Each of the deaths appeared to be animal attacks until human DNA was found in the victim's wounds. An alert has been issued on VICAP and the FBI has given the unsub the colorful code-name "The Ripper." Further investigation reveals that the attacks occurred in locations flagged as clusters in Talbot's enhanced geographic profiling software.

As for his investigation, Talbot has hit a dead-end. Lori's tests on Ray's severed finger indicate that the next link in the epidemiological chain is indeed Talbot's father. However, after he was released from the State mental hospital, Harley Talbot disappeared. Then it occurs to Talbot to run the sample they acquired of his father's DNA through CODIS.

Talbot and Gwen's father, H.R. Conliffe, become closer, the old mover-and-shaker inviting his prospective son-in-law out to frequent rounds of golf and drinks at Churchill's War Room, an exclusive private pub catering to Atlanta's elite. Exuding charisma and alpha pheromones, Talbot fits right in with H.R. and his business cohorts. Unfortunately, this drives a wedge between Talbot and Gwen. She wonders what happened to the gentle, thoughtful man who proposed to her, barely recognizing this brash, confident new version of Talbot.

His deepening relationship with H.R. leads to increased bickering and resentment between Talbot and Gwen, which comes to a head when H.R. offers to give Talbot a job with his firm. Gwen is appalled that her fiancé would even consider it. For his part, Talbot is sick of the drudgery of a public-sector dead-end in which his only hope of moving up the ladder depends on the death or retirement of those further up. Even the sex has begun to wear on the relationship; Talbot seems insatiable, and though she physically enjoys it, there's something increasingly animalistic and cruel about the way he handles her in bed. Finally, Gwen decides to put off the engagement. Talbot is furious.

He drives to Lori's house. At first, she refuses to let him in. When she does, he sees she's nursing a black eye. She tries to pass it off as an accident, but an enraged Talbot demands the truth. When she finally admits that Jay has been abusing her, Talbot leaves in a blood rage.

He finds Jay with his crew at a downtown club and confronts him. He slams the rapper up against his Escalade. Before Jay's posse can move to defend him, Talbot turns on them, stopping them with a feral glare that

immediately identifies him as an alpha. "This is between him..." Talbot tightens his grip on Jay's neck, choking him, "... and me." The crew back off. Then a weapon is racked. It's Gabriel. Concerned about what may happen, Lori had called him to intervene. Accompanied by two metro police, Gabriel has Jay arrested for domestic assault. When he tries to engage Talbot as a friend, Talbot rudely blows him off, "I had things handled!" he snarls before stalking off.

Talbot's CODIS inquiry generates a hit. A match for his father's DNA turns up virtually in his backyard; the storied coastal town of Mobile, a suspect was arrested for vagrancy just three weeks prior. Strangely, however, there is a total absence of clusters in and around central Georgia. If his father is a werewolf, how is he feeding undetected?

Talbot is shocked by his father's mugshot; he'd expected a desiccated old stranger. Harley Talbot radiates health, his long salt-and pepper hair pulled back in a biker-ponytail, crystal-clear caramel eyes gazing at the camera as if to say, "Fuck you. You got me, but not for long."

Talbot immediately asks Lori to accompany him to Macon. She refuses. She can't deal with the craziness any longer. She is plagued by nightmares and confused by her own feelings. Sensing her physical attraction for him, Talbot moves closer. She pushes him away. They can't go there without losing everything they have between them. She tells him she'll be happy to run the DNA analysis on any samples he acquires and help him find a cure, but no more field trips.

He's on his own.

Talbot arrives in Mobile and checks in with the local jail. He learns that his father is a recent arrival in Mobile, but a regular among the railroad bums that criss-cross the state in search of a free flop and grub. Upon hearing his father rides the rails, Talbot considers the horrifying possibility that The Ripper may very well prove to be his own father!

Other than the vag-rap, Harley Talbot's sheet is surprisingly short; a few petty crimes thefts and a misdemeanor assault. Either he's clean or he's smart enough to avoid getting caught. Talbot suspects the latter.

He returns to his hotel and finds Gwen waiting for him. She regrets how things have gone and wants to push a reset button; they can start by being honest with each other. Talbot tries, but cannot bring himself to tell her the truth. The closest he can get is an admission that he knows he's changed, and not for the better. "I'm trying to..." he hesitates, then continues, "I'm trying to find myself again, the way I was before..."

"Baltimore," Gwen says.

He nods. But she needs to know more. Questions number one: What are these jaunts of his *really* about? Talbot tells her he's been searching for his father. He feels the old man holds the answers he needs. It's a half-truth, but it will suffice. Until Gwen insists on staying in Mobile to help him

The two begin searching homeless encampments and men's shelters for his father. As they question vagrants, they are observed by Harley Talbot.

In Atlanta, another game of Truth or Consequences plays out as Gabriel takes Lori to task, presenting her with the evidence he's found regarding their movements and the trail of bodies they've left all over the state. Lori tells him his suspicions are ridiculous. When he implies that she and Talbot are having an affair, she throws him out. Gabriel tells her that he's headed down to Mobile and will get to the bottom of it "one way

or another.”

Lori calls Talbot to warn him that Gabriel is on his way. Talbot is in the shower. Gwen picks up his cell, see’s Lori’s image and answers. After a brief, icy conversation, Lori tells her to have Talbot call her back; it’s “kinda urgent.” Gwen deletes Lori’s name from Talbot’s “Calls Rec’d” list. Fuck that little slut.

Talbot tells Gwen he’s going out for a run. As he pads through a seedy neighborhood, he finds himself being shadowed pace for pace. His nostrils flare as he picks up the scent of his father. He stops in the middle of the road, frustrated, and loudly demands that Harley show himself. He’s surprised to find his father standing directly behind him; with his enhanced hearing, it’s been a long time since someone has successfully snuck up on him.

The two go to a bar, where they have a long conversation. Harley tells him he wasn’t bitten, implying that as a young Marine private, he was the subject of a military experiment. He tells him the story of Hitler’s notorious Wolf Packs—SS soldiers treated with the black water from a hidden stream in the Hartz Mountains fabled to render the drinker into a *Wolfsmenschen*, or wolf-man. “Imagine it would be handy to have a squad of us dropped into the bush,” he smirks over his neat whiskey.

Talbot is excited. If his father is telling the truth, then there are scientists with a long working knowledge of his condition—scientists who very well might have formulated an antidote. He asks his father how he managed to go undetected while incarcerated for years in a mental hospital. Harley tells him there are ways to control the change—he’s learned how to resist the pull of the full moon and maintain his human form. Talbot asks Harley to teach him.

“Before you can turn it off,” Harley replies, “you need to learn how to turn it on.”

Father and son drive deep into the woods where Harley teaches Talbot how to manifest the change at will. The two hunt together, bringing down a huge feral hog. The chase is exhilarating, primal, beautiful, the two lycanthropes working perfectly in tandem, communicating telepathically. Both tear into the squealing beast, reveling in its steaming hot blood, the bouquet of adrenaline.

The moment is broken by a hapless hunter who stumbles onto the scene. Harley charges him and



effortlessly tears his throat out. Horrified, sickened, Talbot transforms back into a human. Harley is disgusted. He returns to his human form. "I thought you were ready to embrace what you are," he says. "I was wrong." With that, Talbot's father melts silently into the shadows, his exit marked by a long, drawn howl.

Talbot receives a call from his father. Doesn't he want to learn how to shut it off? He tells Talbot to meet him at the bar, but stands him up. He senses he's being followed and, snarling, finds Lori hiding in the shadows of an alley. She warns him about Gabriel.

When they returns to his hotel room, he finds signs of a struggle and Gwen is gone

Talbot and Lori track Harley to an abandoned dockside warehouse. Talbot arms Lori and tells her to wait for him—this is something that he needs to handle himself. "If anything comes out of that place that isn't me or Gwen, empty that thing at it."

He finds his father in human form waiting for him. Harley states the rules. In order to tame the beast, he must shed everything that connects him to humanity. He needs to join the pack. Yes, there are others, and Harley tells him he can be a part of something bigger than both of them—apex predators, more than human, the next stage in evolution. All he needs to do is prove he has the courage to be what he already is. It's simple: "Kill the one thing that keeps you human; cut the final cord." Here's the game: Gwen is somewhere in this building. She should be coming around about now. The two of them will transform and hunt her. If Talbot kills her, he'll begin the next stage of his journey. Harley kills her, he'll kill Talbot "as well as that cute little piece of trim you have waiting outside with the popgun."

Harley, long practiced, immediately changes into his lycan form and, roaring, shoves Talbot out of the way and leaps to the hunt. Talbot follows suit, but not without great effort, giving Harley a commanding lead. What follows is a thrilling cat-and-mouse pursuit reminiscent of the final scenes in *BLADERUNNER*, Gwen using every tool at her disposal to evade two werewolves—one trying to save her,; the other, much more experienced and physically formidable, bent on slaughtering her.

Talbot finds her first. Gwen, terrified, fights back, impaling him with a piece of rebar and running away. Frustrated, enraged, Talbot pursues her, his lupine instinct kicking in through a red mist of animal fury. He finally corners her on the roof. "Go ahead," his father's voice murmurs in his skull, "take her."

It's only then that Talbot realizes he's being manipulated. Drawing on every fiber of his will, he turns away from the kill...

... and is immediately set upon by his father.

This is a werewolf battle-royale over a supine human female—the stuff of movie-monster legend.

Stronger, faster, Harley gains the upper hand. He snatches up Gwen and pins her against a wall, knocking her unconscious. Snarling, he bares his fangs and prepares to tear out her throat. Suddenly, a volley of gunshots; Lori and Gabriel empty their Glocks into Harley, each round pounding him back toward the low parapet at the edge of the roof.

Their guns empty, they hustle to reload as Harley recovers, prepares to charge. He's suddenly body-slammed by a ball of snarling rage; both he and Talbot go over the edge of the six-story drop.

Lori and Gabriel run to the parapet and look over. In his human form, Talbot hangs onto the edge for dear

life; below him, the broken, bleeding, lifeless body of his father lies on the concrete. Lori and Gabriel pull Talbot up to safety. "Get them both out of here," says Lori, looking at Harley's blood spattered on the rooftop, "I'll get some samples." As the three trudge toward the stairwell, she calls Gabriel's name and adds, "Welcome to the party."

After swabbing up samples of blood with a handkerchief, Lori again glances over the side, reacts.

Below, there is no sign of Harley.

Talbot returns to the GBI, intent on picking up the trail of his father. There's a roar and buzz of excitement. Exuberant Agents gather in the ready-room, flipping on the television as a reporter announces the arrest of The Ripper outside Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The evidence is rock solid—personal items from the majority of the 38 victims were recovered from his backpack. They announce the man's name: JUSTIN PETER WATSON, a railroad vagrant. The suspect is unimpressive; small and wiry, a mop of unkempt gray hair. Gabe sidles up to him, reading the relief on Talbot's face.

"Werewolves aren't the only monsters out there, Law Dog," Gabe quietly observes, patting Talbot on the back. A smile traces Talbot's lips.

Until he sees a familiar face on the screen; a man standing in the crowd watching the perp-walk. Unlike the others, however, his eyes are not on the cuffed suspect, but gazing directly at the camera, a chilling smile on his face, a gaze that seems to say "catch me if you can."

His father, Harley Talbot.

OUT

SUBSEQUENT CYCLES:

Now a team of three, Talbot, Lori and Gabriel investigate the clues referenced by Harley. They uncover a secret history of institutional lycanthropy reaching back to WWII and a shadowy conspiracy that has gone private, reaching into corporate boardrooms of the international defense complex.

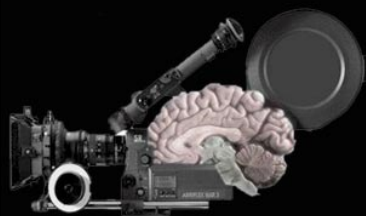
Talbot continues struggling as the male point on a triangle, torn between his love for Gwen and Lori.

Through his enhanced drive and confidence, Talbot continues his rise in the GBI Science Unit even as he strives to maintain his secret. H.R. continues in his efforts to recruit Talbot into the family business, creating increasing friction between Gwen and Talbot.

Additional encounters with his father Harley and other lycanthropic Talbots open the possibility that Factor X may be supernatural in origin.

NOTES





unmovies