

Murder at Badger Holler

Badger Holler is a small community in the hills of Tennessee that has a population of 644. There is no Chamber of Commerce, in fact, there isn't much commerce. Most people get by with a little truck farming, hunting and picking up some odd jobs in the big city of Prescott about 40 miles up the road.

Badger Holler has one intersection. At the corner is the bar/gas station across the street from the Grange hall that is also the meeting hall and church on Sunday. The other corner has the police station/jail/city offices. There's nothin on the other corner.

The only real industry isn't a real industry. The McCues and the Hackers each have a still. Their respective young men have fast trucks and delivery routes for the "shine" business that supports both families. These two families have been feudin' for over 80 years. Some say it was competition for shine that started it. Others say the McCue cow was poisoned while still others say it had somethin to do with an illegitimate child born to a Hacker but created by a McCue.

In any event, over the years there have been some chickens stolen, tires slashed and even once the Hacker still got blown up with nobody takin credit but everyone knowin who done it.

There's not much to do in Badger Holler but sometimes the young strappers of both families will run into each other at a dance in Prescott That usually ends up with some kind of fight with various injuries. The law usually gets involved to break it up but seldom does anyone get more than a weekend in the slammer. That's just the way it works around here.

The Prescott County Sheriff is also the mayor of Badger Holler. Depending upon what he is doin, you either call him Mayor Brody or Sheriff Brody. He ain't the brightest but he is pretty smart for around here, in a down home kind of way. He is assisted by his nephew JD. JD hasn't had much schoolin, no formal trainin in law enforcement in fact his only claim to fame is watching all the tv detective shows.

Paw Hacker is quite old and wise in a mountain sort of way. He's been shinin for over 50 years. His wife Annie is a strong quiet kind of woman. She ain't real quiet when it comes to mindin her children Ellie, Bernard and Bo and Rosie.

Ellie is married to Samuel and has two teen age boys that know how to get in trouble. Bernard is married to Willow, they've got a couple babies and Bo is known for having a few girlfriends but ain't married yet. Jimmy just graduated from Prescot High School. That was made easier by he being the best football quarterback they ever had.

The Mccues are run by a tough old goat named Clem. His wife Dorris died a few years back but not befor givin him 3 sons and two daughters. You've got Clem Jr. that everyone calls Junior, Jake, Jimmy, Sally Mae and Cindy Lou. None of these kids are married and Clem keeps askin for grandbabies.

Annie will murder Jimmy because Jimmy wants to run away with Rosie and Rosie is the son of Annie and Clem and nobody knows that. Annie got a little drunk one night and didn't say no loud enough to keep Clem from drivin it home one night in the parking lot behind the Grange hall. She was too embarassed to tell the sheriff or even her husband so had the baby and raised her as if she was Paw Hacker's. She can't let Rosie marry her brother.

Ellie will always be tryin to preach peace between the families. All the boys are shine runners and frequently try to outwhit each other on the road.

Once in a while Jimmy would confide in Junior on how he wants to get out and go to Nashville and get a real job. Clem keeps tellin him to stay with the family business. Dad is getting older and I want to expand the business. I got more than half the customers in Prescot and I've been talkin to a guy up Saline that could take three full shipments a week. We'd then be talkin real money, life style changin money. I just need to make the deal before the Hackers get wind of it. We'd be doublin the still, doublin the runs and more than doublin the money.

The murder is investigated by Sheriff Brody and JD. JD comes out wearing his CSI Badger Holler jacket. They'll kick some clues around and discuss motifs. All leading the audience towards other suspects. The primary suspects are Bernard, Bo, Samuel and Rosie. With some thinking it could even have been Paw Hacker himself.

Clem, Junior and Jake retaliate for this crime by finding and blowing up the Hacker still. Paw Hacker and Clem Senior die in the explosion.

Break to take ballots on who did it.

The ending scene is Annie keeping the Sheriff from arresting Bernard and Bo by confessing to the murder. She praises her dead husband for never doin nothin wrong, yet dying in a fiery death that came from the retaliatory hate that she created by trying to protect her daughter Rosie.

Sheriff Brody sits JD down when he tries to arrest Annie. There's been lots of hate over lots of years between these families. Lots of things were done wrong some this week, some twenty years ago. We've lost Jimmy, we've lost Paw Hacker, we've lost Clem. I think the body count is enough. I don't see any need for takin this woman from the family that needs her to help heal these horrible things that have happened. You can't do it in the big city like this but I think we need to recognize our imperfections and go for God's greater good here. Unless I hear strong objections from the McCues, and if I do there will be a deep investigation into the still burnin and the dead bodies piled up there and who still here might be responsible; then I suggest that we all let cooler heads prevail and set both these families on trying to get their lives back together.

All nod their approval.

Rosie then comes up to her mom and says, half brother or not, I still loved him. She then stabs her mother to death.

End

Must have Charactors

Clem
Clem Junior
Jake
Jimmy
Sally Mae Optional
Cindy Lou Optional

Paw Hacker
Annie
Ellie
Samuel
Bernard
Bo Optional
Willow Optional

Sheriff/Mayor Brody
JD

Create a program that gives the background of Badger Hollow, Prescott and the families. Characters appear in costume prior to the show and talk their talk. MC reads most of the program to re-emphasize the points.

Potential dialogues sequences:

McCues family gathering

Jimmy: I got Bernard good last night. I turned my lights out and came up behind him on Big Deer Road. I tapped him in the behind at 60 mph and he went flying through the fence into the Branson hay field with shine drippin out the back of his truck.

Junior: Be careful, they can come behind you too, you know.

Jake: We got better wheels, we drive better, we can always beet those low life Hackers.

Clem: There should be enough business for everyone. I don't want anyone getting hurt. Hackers are scum, but I don't want anyone getting hurt.

Jake: They've been on my ass since I was a kid.

Jimmy: They hated that I did good in football.

Junior: That's because the've never done anything good except sneakin around stealin and laying done cheap shots when you aren't lookin.

Clem: Even so, be careful out there. I've never had anything good to say about a hacker, neither did my daddy or even my Grampa.

Sally Mae: I don't know I see you guys lookin at Rosie like she's a hot fudge Sunday.

Jake: Yeah she looks good but she is still a hacker.

Jimmy: She and Ellie are all right. They seem to have missed out on all this feudin stuff.

Jake: Hey, there ain't a Hacker that's worth a dam. Remember that, they are the enemy.

Hacker Family Gathering:

Bernard: That bastard Jimmy snuck up behind me and blew me off the road last night. I lost half the shipment and screwed up my suspension. I got one flat tire and a dent in the door.

Ellie: Wasn't it last month I heard you braggin about how you ran jake off the road?

Bernard: That's different.

Ellie: How?

Bernard: I came out ahead.

Ellie: You guys are so childish. How many more years do we have to go on fightin each other like this. You know we'd all make more money if we

didn't lose shine and have to fix trucks because you guys like hammerin each other.

Bernard: Yeah, but their McCues. None of em are any good.

Rosie: I don't know, I seem to remember you rootin for Jimmy when he took the Prescott Wolverinbes to the State finals in football this year.

Bernard; That's different. Those other teams aren't from around here and they look at us like hillbillies.

Ellie: Maybe if you didn't act like a hillbilly they wouldn't treat you likew one.

Bernard: Why are you givine me such shit.

Rosie: Maybe it would be bettewr if we could get along.

Ellie: Try thinkin with your brain instead of your package.

Bernard: Dad are you gonna let them talk to me that way?

Paw: Times are changin. Business could be better if we didn't have these extra expenses. I get afraid that one of you is gonna get hurt serious out there with all this competition out there. Even so, you can't trust a McCue, never could and I don't know if you ever will be.

Ellie and Rosie: You guys are brutal

Next Scene – Rosie, Ellie Annie and Paw

Rosie to Ellie: I got something I gotta tell you and Mom and Dad.

Ellie: What?

Rosie: I think I'm in love with Jimmy

Ellie: Hacker?!!!

Rosie: Yeah, Jimmy Hacker

Ellie: Mom and Dad will have a cow but your brothers will go nuts.

Rosie: I know, that's why I think we need to get out of here. Jimmy's got his diploma, he works hard, he wants to get a job in Nashville and start over without all this hate.

Enter Mon and Dad

Ellie: Rosie's got something to say that makes sense once you get over the shock.

Annie: What is it my child?

Rosie: I love Jimmy McCue.

Paw: That doesn't work. Find another fella.

Rosie: I love Jimmy

Annie: Rosie, I lov you, you know that. This isn't smart. You're only 18 you'll find another man.

Paw: Of all the guys in this county you couldn't find somebody that isn't a McCue to nustle up to.

Rosie:He's it for me. And even more important, I'm it for him. He's all I can think about. We're going to get out of this hate filled place and make a life.

Annie: