That's Creepy!

MYSTERY OF THE WEREWOLVES

Ahhh-woooh! Few sounds chill the blood like a wolf's howl, particularly if it echoes through a forest lit by a full moon. People have little to fear from wild wolves, which rarely attack humans. Instead, the spooky howl brings to mind a fabled supernatural stalker famous for its fur, fangs and fury — the werewolf. Gulp!

So what do we know about this imaginary beast? Well, unlike other mythical terrors such as demons and zombies, werewolves are said to lead double lives — they're believed to be ordinary humans by day and shaggy monsters by night. According to legend, they suffer from 'lycanthropy' (from the Greek words for 'wolf' and 'human'), a condition that triggers a hairy change for the worse. As the stories go, werewolves in monster mode sprout hair everywhere, becoming mindless beasts that chomp on anyone in sight. Friends and family become the wolf's dinner. Yikes!

Today, myth has it that you can only become a werewolf if you are bitten by a lycanthrope yourself, and that your inner beast will be unleashed every full moon. But those are recent additions to the werewolf legend (along with the use of silver bullets to defeat them).

European folklore offers many triggers for transformation, including curses from the gods or even magic creams! Other stories told of people *choosing* to become lycanthropes.

Death was supposed to be the only cure for this affliction. Well, usually. Some tales had werewolves rising from the grave — as *vampires*!

FAMOUS FUR BALLS

THESE **MOVIE WEREWOLVES** HAVE STEPPED OUT OF THE **MOONLIGHT** AND INTO THE **SPOTLIGHT.**

THE GOOD: REMUS LUPIN

(FROM THE *HARRY POTTER* SERIES)

Although Remus Lupin taught Defences against the Dark Arts at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the professor was harbouring a grim secret — he was actually a werewolf. Despite his wild side, Lupin was a vital ally for Harry Potter in his battle against the evil Voldemort.

THE BAD: LARRY TALBOT

(FROM THE 1941 FILM *THE WOLF MAN*)

Nearly every modern werewolf rule was established in this film and its sequels. Larry Talbot catches a mean case of lycanthropy after surviving a werewolf attack. The flowering of a poisonous plant called wolfsbane triggers his change, though in later films it's the light of the full moon.

THE SNUGGLY: WAYNE, WANDA AND THEIR PUPS

(FROM THE MOVIE *HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA*)

This wolf pack is more funny than spooky — in fact, the fanged family will make you howl with laughter. Wayne and Wanda's hilarious pups are like furry miniature whirlwinds, causing a commotion wherever they go. But after a day of mischief at the monsters-only hotel, the exhausted brood nestles together for some snooze time.