

Talking Wolves and Werewolves



The Wolf as Unthinking Animal

Angela Carter
“The Werewolf”

grandmother attacks own granddaughter

Little Red Riding Hood

wolf eats grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Cap

wolf eats grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood

The Story of Grandmother

wolf eats grandmother and tries to eat the girl

Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs
“Li'l Red Riding Hood”

Li'l Red Riding Hood considers the wolf dangerous

Bernard Capes
“The Thing in the Forest”

Father Ruhl attacks Elspet

Jennifer Ouellette
“The Science of Werewolves”

King Lycaon behaves like a beast and serves human flesh to the gods

Mary Crawford Fraser
“A Werewolf of the Campagna”

a man rams repeatedly into a tree; a woman attacks a hunter and her own husband

Clip 1: *The Howling* (1981)



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Werewolfism as Disease

Angela Carter
“The Werewolf”

the werewolf cannot control her behavior

Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Cap

The Story of Grandmother

Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs
“Li'l Red Riding Hood”

the wolf tries to control his behavior, adopts a
“sheep suit”

Bernard Capes
“The Thing in the Forest”

Father Ruhl cannot control his behavior

Jennifer Ouellette
“The Science of Werewolves”

uncontrolled hair growth and psychological
delusions help to explain the legend

Mary Crawford Fraser
“A Werewolf of the Campagna”

a werewolf self-harms by running against trees;
the werewolf cannot control her behavior

Clip 2: *The Wolfman* (1941)



The Wolf as Untamed Sexuality

Angela Carter
“The Werewolf”

an aggressive female is rejected by the community (stoned and her property is seized)

Little Red Riding Hood

eating Little Red Hood is a sexual metaphor

Little Red Cap

The Story of Grandmother

the wolf forces the girl to undress for him

Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs
“Li'l Red Riding Hood”

wolflike behavior is used as a sexual metaphor for teenage boys who must control hormones

Bernard Capes
“The Thing in the Forest”

Jennifer Ouellette
“The Science of Werewolves”

uncontrolled hair growth and psychological delusions help to explain the legend

Mary Crawford Fraser
“A Werewolf of the Campagna”

an aggressive female is rejected by the community (burned as a witch)

Clip 3: “Red Hot Riding Hood” (1943)



Why is all of this scary?



**The wolf represents
everything that society
rejects.**



**It stands for lack of reason
and control.**



**The werewolf is the monster
within. Anybody can be one--
even you, even me.**



**The unasked questions,
however, are “Why must
these things be rejected?
Why does embracing these
traits make you a monster?”**

