

THE BEAST OF BRAY ROAD



Sightings of large, hairy beasts that roam southern Wisconsin have been around since the 1930s. In 1936, a security guard at a hospital thought he heard something strange out back behind the building. When he went to investigate it, he found an animal digging in the dirt. “Must be a stray dog,” he thought, and turned his flashlight on it. At first, he wasn’t scared—all he saw was fur. But when he looked harder, he realized that this dog was no ordinary dog—it was a GIANT dog, almost the size of a man! The creature stopped digging and ran into the forest. He kept his secret until decades later, when other people began to see a shaggy-haired creature in the forests surrounding Bray Road.

From the 1960s through the 1980s, and even today, witnesses call the police to report strange occurrences in the area, thought to be the work of an animal called the Beast of Bray Road. The first story to come out was from a woman driving along Bray Road in 1991. She was leaving her job late at night when her headlights crossed a weird creature on the side of the road, and she reported it to local animal control. A newspaper writer happened to be investigating the creature based on something she heard from a local bus driver who claimed to have seen it. The writer found that dozens of complaints about werewolf sightings in the town had been happening for decades, and once the story was published, others began to come forward. Though they didn’t know each other at all, everyone claimed to have seen the same thing: a huge, hairy, wolf-like animal covered in brown fur, with a terrifying sneer.

Now that you’ve read about the Beast of Bray Road, write and illustrate a comic about one of the characters’ meetings with the beast.

