THE DOWNED DEER

by Kelly Proh
The Downed Deer is a work of fiction. It is an original, self-published, copyrighted story by Kelly Froh, Seattle, WA 2019. frohkelley@gmail.com for all inquiries. Printed by Paper Press Punch.
WOC A!
LOOK!

Does he live... in there?

That was rough.

Do you want to just pull over?

I have to take a leak.

Wanna watch?

haha
Hi, I'm on Hwy 27 going west. We just passed Mayo. My boyfriend stepped on the side of the road to pee and I can't find him. He didn't come back, it's been over an hour.

What's your name, Miss?

Kelly From F.R.O.H. We're driving back to Atlanta. He's just disappeared.

OK, let's see what's your boyfriend's name?

OK, it looks like I have Hwy Patrol 30 minutes out. Hold tight. Make sure your car is a safe distance off the road.

Do you think he's maybe playing a joke on you?

I did, but not anymore, it's been too long.

What's your car make, model, and license #? And how long did you say he's been gone for?

Scion XA, B1J231. It's been over an hour now!

Max Clotfelter, 6'2" 200 lbs. 40 yrs old, long curly brown hair, beard, wearing shorts, plaid shirt, baseball hat...

HOLD TIGHT
The Trooper is on his way.

Where are you?
Ok I'm gonna call this in. We'll get some people out here in the morning. Do you need help to find a motel?

what?! I'm not leaving!

I'm not leaving this spot! What if he comes out of the woods and I'm not here?

I can't advise you to stay in your car on the side of the road alone at night.

I'm more scared of not being here than being here.

OK we'll be back in the morning. Call us if he comes out. Keep your car locked.
Yeah I've got a potential 10:57, 40-yr-old male...
Hey Sweetie, you ok? We brought you some supplies.

I'm Alice, we're from Mayo. My son the trooper told us you were out here.

This is Bunny and Dorie.

Wow, hi! Thank you so much!

We're so sorry you are out here. What do you think happened to your boyfriend?

I honestly don't know. I can't believe he would get lost.

Yeah, I noticed that. But I truly feel he would be able to find a way out.

I bet he will pop out any minute and feel so bad for scaring you!

Once you are in here, everything does look the same in every direction...
A man has disappeared in the woods, his girlfriend is refusing to leave the roadside, more at 5 pm.

Baby I'm still here waiting for you.

OK, hello. If I know you, say your name. If not, I have to go. Do I know you?

Who?

OK - I have to go now.

What - wait! I can maybe help you?

How's that?

I can send you some food or something?

You know, you don't have to be such a Bitch!

What? Look, I'm sorry, whoever you are. I'm in a stressful situation over here. Thank you for reaching out to offer help, but I really just want to keep this line open and not run out of battery. OK, do you understand?

Yes, I understand. <end>

This is private land, the owner wants you gone and it's against the law to leave a car on the side of the road for more than 4 days. No one wants you out here.

What?! Are you fucking kidding me? Why?!

You know I can't leave! Are you seriously going to leave me stranded out here?

You've stranded yourself.
Here. If you insist on staying out here. But your car is being towed at 5 pm.

DAY 5

Max...

Max...

Oh god

Ahh!
Sweetheart, you can't be out here anymore. It's not safe, ok? You're not right.

I get it, but I can't leave.

I can't... It would be nice if you stay with us. We can bring you back and forth to keep you checking.

Take this. Keep it with you.
Hello? You know I was thinking about it, come out there.

Hi, Kelly, and I think I will come out there.

NO.

I'll come out there and stay with you. Until your boyfriend comes back.

NO, look. Stop calling.

I saw you on the news again. They said you were outside Mayo, FL? You are not looking so good, Kelly. Have you lost weight?

Look, fucker. STOP CALLING ME!

Hi, Trooper Steve? This is Kelly Froh. There's a creep who keeps calling me and he just threatened to come after me.

Do you know his name?

NO.

His phone #, where he's calling from?

I don't know.

The caller ID is just "unknown" and # keeps changing, like a scammer.

Do you think it's serious?

I don't know.

Do you think this might be another good reason to come into town instead of staying in a tent by the side of the road all alone?

OK thanks for your help.
Hello?

I'll be there soon.

Don't come, leave me alone! I've called the police, they are watching me.

I don't think that's true. You're old news.

FUCK YOU! DON'T COME HERE!!
The Downed Deer is a reference to a living thing who is vulnerable, and in a dangerous circumstance. This story came about from a scary thought I had while Max and I were driving from Gainesville, FL to Atlanta, GA a few years ago. The more I imagined what I would do if that ever really happened, the more I thought about who else would be in the story, the people who arrive to help or harm me. I added the character of the stalker after many viewing hours of the show “Obsessions: Dark Desires” where traumatized women tell their real-life experiences with extreme stalking. I’ve been thinking a lot about how I’ve lived my whole life in a defensive position to protect myself from men. I’m also grimly fascinated with the cold cases that involve people just seemingly disappearing from the world.
...911. What's your emergency?