

# The Barn

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# Story Premise

The stream is frozen, and the air is still. Pines stand tall in their coats of fresh snow. It's that perfect time of year for Barrett. Hockey runs through his family, and nothing can beat his love for it. But when Barrett and his best teammate, Louie, look for a nice place to skate on the backyard frozen stream, it leads them into the unknown.

An abandoned shed sits peacefully out in the middle of the stark woods, where the perfect ice for pond hockey lies right next to it. The boys' eyes sparkle in excitement, but they don't see the wildfire that they'll ignite. Someone still owns that shed, and it brings weird vibes to Barrett. Somethings not right here.

# Prequel

*The Barn* is a prequel to *The Penalty*. Something horrific occurred to Liam and his hockey team, and he realized The Barn was a living presence. The arena had a life of its own, connected with veins that ran underground and sucked the blood out of its victims nearby. This hockey rink isn't any ordinary barn, it's one with a beating heart.

But how was it born in the first place?

## The Background

*The Barn* takes place in 1986. During this time, New Prague (the main homestead in *The Penalty*) hasn't built a hockey arena. But the nearby farm town of Le Sueur built one in 1977. The protagonist lives in their grandparents' home with his family in New Prague, and since he wants to play the loving sport of hockey, he'll travel to Le Sueur's arena, which sucks out more money from his parents who have been dealing with two foreclosed mortgages for years.

One event in 1986 that shouldn't be ignored is:

Chernobyl – Catastrophe in Russia during the Cold War with their nuclear plant exploding and releasing chemical toxins into the air.

Just six years ago, in 1980, the US Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviet Union, which was outstanding during the Cold War. The Soviets were “undefeatable”, but the US showed them up with Herb Brooks coaching the team.

Hockey in the 1980's was surely more dangerous.

The helmets in 1986 start to screw on the cages. The cages weren't well developed at this time, but it was better than not having one like in the further past.

Goalies finally got masks on their helmets, moving on from the traditional hockey mask, which were awesome.

Players had traditional hockey equipment as today in the present, but they weren't as protective. Hockey players definitely had to be tough back then, and still today as well.

# Main Characters

## Barrett

Barrett is a fourteen-year-old boy who has a passion for hockey. He's currently in middle school, which is honestly the best time to be living in, at least it's awesome outside of school. He plays travelling hockey, but he doesn't play for his hometown of New Prague since there is no hockey rink, but there's one in the neighboring farm town of Le Sueur.

Flaw: Doesn't like meat, but not a vegetarian. Introverted and shy.

Strength: Passionate, self-driven. Nothing's stopping him from happiness.

Dad coaches his Bantam C team.

## Dad

Dad is in his mid-thirties who coaches Barrett's team. He doesn't only help these kids improve at hockey and create great memories but supports the ones that are under his roof who have to deal with moving from house to house as they have foreclosed on one recently.

Flaw: Cooking, cleaning, not always around.

Strength: Laid-back, chill-kind of dad. Hardworking, farm related work.

## Mom

Mom is in her mid-forties, mother of four children, including Barrett. She's been dealing with a lot of depression through the mortgage crisis. They just found out they have not one but two mortgages to pay off. She works at home as a registered nurse, but her co-workers are a pain since they now live with Dad's dad and stepmom, she has been dealing with the stepmom and her issues towards the family.

Flaw: Depressed, busy-bee, questions herself as a mother.

Strength: Fighter, wise, reads people's personalities.

## Half-brothers (Kase and Champ)

Kase and Champ are half-brothers to Barrett. They get along like any other brothers, and still visit their dad from time to time, only around special occasions usually. Kase has been going to college, his second year actually, and he crashes at home once in a while. Champ is a junior in high school, plays goalie for the New Prague varsity hockey team, but they use a higher-

class hockey rink in the city of Prior Lake. They think they're going to be state bound.

Flaw:

Kase: Quiet, always alone.

Champ: Annoying, always doing something with friends / girlfriend.

Strength:

Kase: Smart, independent.

Champ: Bubbly, joyful, extroverted.

Sister (Marilyn)

Marilyn is Barrett's younger sister. She is twelve years old and is starting middle school in the sixth grade. She plays hockey with the girls' team, but Dad doesn't coach her team. Her and her mom have been dealing with the same issues with the grandmother of the house. They've had a deep relationship since they've moved there.

Flaw: Sassy, drama.

Strengths: Extroverted, sportsy.

Grandpa and Grandma

Grandpa and Grandma are nearing their seventies. They are still fit and walking around like any other human being. They agreed to let Barrett's family live with them while they try to pay their mortgages off, but overtime, grandma seems to want to steal the children as her own, but only certain ones. Grandpa is quiet and settle, doesn't discuss his feelings with anyone. He's always working and maintaining the home while grandma slacks off, playing Solitaire and shopping for clothes.

Flaw:

Grandpa: Quiet, introverted.

Grandma: Lazy, slacks off, sexist, trickster.

Strengths:

Grandpa: Hard labor working man, farmer skills.

Grandma: Sneaky.

# Supporting Characters

## Louie

Louie is a best friend of Barrett's. He's Barrett's teammate on the hockey team, and they do everything together inside and outside of hockey. Their dad's actually coach the team together. Louie is more extroverted than Barrett, but they have known each other for years now. They've been placed on the same team over and over again because the tryout director is politically biased on the kids. Crazy, right? Well, that's how the small towns work, but even some of the cities run like this too. Louie and Barrett do lots of sleepovers when they can. The hockey team has a very close bond on the Bantam C team, but nothing can beat Barrett's and Louie's bond.

## The Butcher

The Butcher runs the meat shop inside the grocery store. He's a giant, nearing six in a half foot and weighing close to two-hundred-and-seventy-five pounds. Barrett always gives The Butcher shop a weird look. The looks of the meats, the smells of the meats, and the creepy butcher who always stares his soul down while walking past. No one really knows the butcher man, but Barrett knows him from his one line he spoke:

"I'm only here to serve the meat."

## The Pharmacist

The Pharmacist runs the pharmacy in the grocery store. He looks to be quite a nerd with the old-fashioned aviator-shaped reading glasses on. He gets quite a bit of older customers running by him for pills, but he also seems to be a guy with a lot of secrets. Maybe it's because he seems to be getting to that age of retiring, but he only likes to speak to his common customers rolling by for their prescriptions. Kids are his poison.

## The Baker

Ms. Elsen bakes goodies at the bakery inside the grocery store. She's Barrett's holding hand. She supports Barrett and his emotions with things. She helps him discover himself and leads him in the right direction. Barrett loves to see her, especially when she gives him baked goodies for the way home, but every time he walks into that store, he always encounters something unpleasant.

# Locations

## HOME

Barrett's home is in a mini community outside of New Prague. The house is ginormous and definitely dated. His grandparents have lived inside of it since he was born, and they got it for one cheap steal. They live on quite a huge property. The dark wooden house has a nice flat, clean lawn out front with a gravel driveway that splits into two and merges back together around a flagpole / flower garden. The gravel road wraps around the back side of the house so that Grandpa can roll the wood down to the basement furnace. The backyard steps downward like a kids' dream of a sledding hill. A stream flows by which splits their property to another property in the back, which is mainly blocked about by the forest trees behind the house. Lots of woods sits behind the backyard, awaiting to be journeyed through by Barrett.



## THE SHED

In the woods, Barrett and Louie discover an abandoned shed. They were trying to follow the frozen stream to find a nice place to skate, but when they encounter the shed, they begin to explore it. The next day out there, they find

ice that's perfect for some pond hockey right by the shed, but how come they didn't see it in the first place? It's a mystery to who owns the place, or if anyone owns the place that is, but the boys cherish this out in the woods.

## THE GROCERY STORE

Great. Just the perfect place to be in a small town; gossip city. This isn't just a place where you see people you may not want to talk to, but there's some creepy figures that freak Barrett out, especially at THE BUTCHER SHOP. He's not a guy for meat and passing by the bloody red flesh grosses him out. He can't walk by that place without tingles crawling up his spine. But at least Ms. Elsen works at THE BAKERY inside there. She makes the place actually seem like it's alive, like there's some sort of love in there. Some may think THE PHARMACY would be the golden trophy of the whole store, selling drugs and whatnot to older customers, but the pharmacist doesn't like kids, or at least his connection with them seems weak.





# World Information

In the 1980's, things were beginning to modernize in society, such as the first cellular phone has been released. World War II was long over, slavery has ended in the United States, but racism still lives on, and the Vietnam War ended around a decade ago. The amazing US Olympic hockey team beat the Soviet Union in the biggest hockey game in mankind, and they continue to demolish them in the games. But the biggest event going on during this time had to be the Cold War. Actually, the story takes place in 1986, which is when Chernobyl experienced its catastrophic boom. The world was a scary place during this time period with so much nuclear competition, but this era also lived in abuse while teachers still harmed their students for wrong, and who said coaches wouldn't do this as well?

# Synopsi s

A boy went missing recently in the small countryside town. But that's not the only boy who's suffering here.

Barrett's parents' house just foreclosed, and they have nowhere to go. The only option they have is to live with his grandparents out in the countryside, right outside of town. Everything seems to be great while Barrett and his three other siblings run around the ginormous and ancient palace, but things get even greater.

Barrett loves hockey. He's in his first year of bantams, and his best friend, Louie, is on his team. Their dads coach the team together, which makes it even better. When they scavenge his grandparents' backyard stream for a nice place to skate, they discover an abandoned shed out in the woods where a perfectly handcrafted pond hockey rink lies next to it. This is a perfect life.

But when Barrett notices a message carved into the shed's wood, his feelings take a complete flip. Someone is taunting them and leading them into something they don't know.

One day, while Barrett and Louie go to The Grocery Store, Barrett catches The Butcher Man in The Butcher Shop cutting meat that contains a bracelet inside of it; the missing boys' bracelet.

As more creepy events and characters pop up throughout, the grandma situation at home escalates, his mother and sister in depressed stages, and Barrett and Louie find the answer they were looking for.

A farmer owns that shed, and his barn is nearby. Usually, a home is where the heart is at, but in that barn, his home, there's no love there, but there is a heart. It's a beating heart, and this is how The Barn (connects back to *The Penalty*) grows into a living being.

Their hockey team lost a few players on the way, but they end up teaming up to kill the farmer in a bloody battle.

## Story Excerpt

Barrett walks in the grocery store with Louie. They're looking for s'mores' ingredients, consisting of marshmallows and Wafer cookies that were dipped in melted chocolate.

Barrett knows one thing for sure; he doesn't want to see that butcher man. The pharmacist isn't as bad as the butcher man, he's just creepy. But the butcher man, he's fricken horrifying. Who in the heck would ever buy meat from that guy? Cannibals.

As they pass by the aisles, looking at the dangling signs above, swinging from the warm air the heater blows, Barrett catches eyes with the butcher man in the butcher shop. He looks like a decent-sized human being from all the way across the grocery store, but the aisle only makes it an illusion. He looks five-foot eight right now, but he's nowhere near that. He's twice that size when you stand next to him.

"Louie?" Barret says.

"What?" Louie says.

"Look." Barrett rises his arm from his side and points down the aisle. Louie looks down and finds the butcher man, hanging up clothes on a laundry line inside the butcher shop.

"Is that—"

"I don't know." Louie starts down the aisle and towards the butcher shop. "Wait, Louie! I don't think we should go down there."

"Barrett! No one else is going to look into this. It's time that you face your fear and get over it." Barrett looks at the butcher man as he slices meat while staring Barrett right in the eye, never looking down to see all the blood he's splattering in there. "Look, I know you don't like to look at meat. Fine. But I need you. I need you to come with me, okay? We need to do this together."

"Fine."

"Okay, great! Let's go."

They walk down the aisle as the butcher man seemingly gets taller and taller the further down the aisle they go. He rises to his six-foot-five mark, slamming his butcher knife into a slab of meat. Barrett and Louie glance at each other. Who's gonna say something first?

"What do you want?" the butcher man says, looking right at Barrett. Barrett shakes his teeth into a rattling skeleton. "What? Don't like meat?" The butcher man slams his knife in the meat again while blood soaks more into his white apron. "Barrett. You just need to try some." Slam! "I know you'd like it." Slam! Barrett notices something in the bloody meat. "You just need to try it." Slam! Another slam of the knife exposes the object more. "Don't be afraid. It's only meat." With

one more slam of the knife, Barrett notices a bracelet inside the meat. “All you need to do is try it!”

Barrett takes Louie and sprints with him down into the vegetable section. The butcher man crawls through the cash register desk and chases after them. A six-foot-five man stomping his way through the store with the knife in hand.

Barrett looks behind him while running.

The butcher man holds the slab of meat while some veins poke out of it. “Wanna try some, Barrett?” Barrett screams and sprints towards the bakery.

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