



STUDIO OCHENTA ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT

CULTUREVERSE – EPISODE 1: THE ROLLING CALF

(Music: Cultureverse INTRO Theme song)

[0:06]

NARRATOR: We interrupt your regular scrolling, tweeting, Instagramming, and Tik Toking to bring you a message from your cultural past. You are about to step into the Cultureverse... a place where myths and legends come alive in the modern world. For the next few minutes, listen carefully. Hopefully, you'll find something unexpected, something you've never heard before, or maybe, something you have.

[0:37]

NARRATOR: I'm your host, Kelly Marie Tran, and today's story is based on a tale from Jamaica...
Episode 1: The Rolling Calf

(MUSIC: Cultureverse theme ends)

NARRATOR: We begin our show with a story about a campfire in a small town in Indiana.

(SFX: cricket sounds)

NARRATOR: Four friends are camping in a local forest park. Jackie is the best IG fotog in Indiana, Emma, four time BMX champion of Fulton County, Winston, whose playlists are always fire, and let's not forget Luis, the star of the school play.

(SFX: laughter, music, and cricket sounds)

[1:14]

NARRATOR: Though these days most of their hangouts are online, sometimes, they go camping, just outside Monroe Lake.

(SFX: Radio music starts - urban/reggae style)

Winston's mom never typically lets him come because she doesn't like the idea of him camping out in the woods at night. So tonight, he snuck out. He is so excited to finally join his friends on their weekend camping trip that he packs his backpack full of snacks and created a new playlist full of his favorite music.

WINSTON: Check this out! I brought smores and Jamaican snacks!

EMMA: Ooohh!

WINSTON: Yep, plantain chips, mangos, guava jam and crackers, oh and BULLY beef sandwiches!

(SFX: sounds of snack packs and laughter)

[1:58]

LUIS: Awesome! Now, let's get this fire started.

(SFX: Sound of wind)

LUIS: It's so windy tonight, I can't seem to...(SFX struggle sounds with wood and fire)

WINSTON: Lemme help.

LUIS: I got it!

JACKIE: My uncle was an Eagle Scout, he taught me a trick to-

LUIS: I told you I-

EMMA: Play nice, guys. I'm goin' for a swim! Jackie, come on!

[2:23]

NARRATOR: While Luis and Winston figure out the fire, Emma and Jackie go for a swim. When they return, the sun has started to set...

(SFX CRACKLING FIRE sounds, sounds of leaves crackling)

...and the fire is finally lit.

EMMA: Yessss the fire's ready. I'm freezing!

JACKIE: You two sorted this out pretty quickly!

WINSTON: We didn't.

JACKIE: Stop playin' around.

LUIS: No really, we gave up and went off to play football. Just over there and-

[2:48]

WINSTON: We came running back when we smelled the fire...

EMMA: The fire lit itself? Uhm... okay...Whatever, it's warm, so let's just sit down.

NARRATOR: As night falls, the glow of the fire grows brighter and brighter, and the friends gather around and start making smores.

(SFX: CRACKLING FIRE)

[3:09]

LUIS : I'VE GOT SMORES! Jackie, here's yours!

WINSTON: AHM! So, you guys usually tell ghost stories, right? 'Cause I gotta good one!

LUIS: Nah man, we usually just chill and listen to music. But you can tell your story if you want.

[3:28]

WINSTON: Alright cool. So my mom's jamaican right? So she's always telling me these stories about duppys.

EMMA: Did you say guppies?

WINSTON: Duppys! In Jamaica, a duppy is a ghost that comes out at night...

[3:45]

LUIS: Duppy?... That doesn't sound scary.

(SFX: Wind rustling)

NARRATOR: A strong gust of wind blows through the leaves, and Luis jumps.

LUIS: AHHHHHHH!

JACKIE: Relax Luis, that was just the wind!

LUIS: I know! I just got bit by a mosquito! Ouch, that hurt, get away from me... Get off me!!!!

[4:06]

JACKIE: Quit being so dramatic! Winston, finish your story!

WINSTON: So duppys are spirits, they can be the spirits of people, but they can also be animals, and my mom says that sometimes... people in Jamaica have actually seen them. You can hear them coming from the clinking and clanking of their chains.

EMMA: Ok, I'm getting scared here!

[4:32]

WINSTON:: Nah, not all duppys are scary.

LUIS: Anything that comes with *clinking* and *clanking* and *chains* is scary, Winston!

WINSTON: Relax! A duppy can be a ghost that gives you comfort and peace. In the old times, people used to make up stories about duppys so folks wouldn't stay out at night in the dark. In Jamaica, we say: *Duppy come fa yu...*

(SFX: BUSHES MOVING SOUND WITH SLIGHT STOMPS)

[5:11]

LUIS: Dude, you've got to be kidding me... that story... the sound in the bushes right afterwards... nice try, tell us what you brought with you that is shaking the bushes...

(SFX: Bull sound)

EMMA: What? What was that?

(SFX: Grumbling sound that picks up in intensity and gets closer).

EMMA, JACKIE AND LUIS: AHHHHhhh!

WINSTON (a little scared): So, uh... I've got nothing to do with that, but it's probably a rabbit or a deer or something. Jackie, let's check it out.

(SFX Footsteps to walk away)

NARRATOR: But the sound doesn't go away. And even worse, it is getting closer and closer. As Winston starts to search for a flashlight and the rest of the group continues staring in the direction of the noise, all of a sudden they see a fiery light glowing and moving towards them.

(SFX: Sounds of a bull breathing heavily and approaching)

[5:53]

JACKIE: Is that a... um... bull... with like... fire... coming out of his nose... j I have to get a pic!

(SFX: photo sounds)

EMMA: Are you seriously taking pictures when we are about to be rushed by a-

(SFX: Sounds of a bull breathing heavily continue)

WINSTON (screams): RUUUUUUUUUUUUUUN!

[6:16]

NARRATOR: The bull chases after them, with smoke and fire coming out of its nose. The kids take off through the forest in the pitch blackness of night and finally feel the dirt of the country road where they parked their bikes.

(SFX: Heavy breathing sounds from the kids)

NARRATOR: They don't dare look back, but know they are still being pursued because of the clink and clank of the massive chain around the bulls neck.

[6:43]

NARRATOR: They reach their bicycles and start peddling home as fast as they can. Emma takes the lead.

(SFX: Cycling sounds)

EMMA: Follow me, guys, I'll get us outta here!

(MUSIC: drums)

LUIS: What was that????

[6:56]

WINSTON: Uhhh I know this sounds crazy but I think it might actually I think it... might be a duppy?? It looks like this famous one; my mom called it The Rolling Calf. She used to say: it nan truble yuh, unless yuh did something! Basically, It won't attack us unless we did something bad...?

JACKIE: Then why is it chasing usssss???!!!

(SFX: BULL GALLOPING)

NARRATOR: As they speed through the night, the bull continues to chase them. It catches up to Luis, then gallops up next to Jackie, then finally he speeds up and runs alongside Winston, passes him, and at the speed of sound turns a 180 and is facing Winston directly.

(SFX: BIKE SCREECHING)

...Winston screeches to a halt and stares at the beast.

[7:49]

WINSTON: Hi UMH... UHH... WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?...

NARRATOR: The beast stares back, and smoke surrounds his flaming nostrils. Winston can smell nothing but sulfur. The others begin to cycle away before realizing Winston is trapped... Emma turns back and sees Winston face to face with the creature. She can tell he's frozen and not able to move.

[8:20]

WINSTON: Why are you following me, what have I done? Are... you the Rolling Calf????

EMMA: Winston, what are you doing?!

JACKIE: Winston!!

[8:31]

LUIS: Hold up, lemme see what I can do...

NARRATOR: Luis cycles back, determined to face the beast.

(SFX bike sounds)

LUIS: HEEY! Hey you! Look over here! (Grunts as if throwing something at the Rolling Calf)

[8:44]

(SFX THE CALF SNORTS IN ANGER)

NARRATOR: The Rolling Calf looks up and, with firey eyes, stares at Luis.

(SFX Musical pause with a slower, tension-building drumbeat)

NARRATOR: LUIS hops off his bike and grabs Winston's shoulders, but Winston won't break eye contact with the beast.

LUIS: Winston! Winston, man! Winst-

[9:00]

NARRATOR: LUIS pulls hard and breaks the connection. He and Winston fall to the ground. The calf

stands over them. Luis turns to the calf and says:

LUIS (stuttering): Look I'm sorry I... (says really quickly and nervously) I'm sorry set up a bajillion traps on Winston in Fortnite!

WINSTON (dismissively): Dude, it's not about you!

LUIS (over-dramatically): But really no I feel bad, it's here for me! I deserve it!

[9:29]

NARRATOR: Winston helps Luis up by the collar...

WINSTON: Dude, You're supposed to set traps and attack everyone that's the whole point!

LUIS (bothered): Yeah BUT I feel bad, everyone just blew uppp and I-I...!!!

(SFX: IN THE BACKGROUND WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS NEXT):

Winston: How come you don't even know the rules for a game EVERYONE AROUND THE WORLD IS PLAYING, LUIS?

LUIS: Hey, dude just because it's PO-PU-LAR doesn't mean EVERYONE knows AUTOMATICALLY how to play it OKAY? Besides everyone had a different joystick and I was playing with my phone...)

[10:02]

NARRATOR: The Rolling Calf watches as the boys discuss the video game and... snorts... loudly.

(SFX: Rolling Calf snorts)

NARRATOR: Just as Emma and Jackie peddle back to meet them.

WINSTON: ...Dude it's called a BATTLE ROYALE... it's all about destruction and explosions. It's ALL about the action!

[10:19]

LUIS: But then they'll die too thoughhhhhhh!

WINSTON: Exactly!!! That's the pointtttttt!!!!!!

NARRATOR: And again the calf snorts.

(SFX: Rolling Calf snorting)

EMMA (upset): Guysss helloooo are you forgetting something? What are you doing???

LUIS: Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh... talking... about... video games...? Wait a second...

NARRATOR: Luis looks at the beast again.

LUIS: AHHH! I think I'm gonna pass out!!!

JACKIE: Luis now it's NOT the time!!! We gotta get away from that *thing*!

[10:50]

NARRATOR: The beast snorts a third time, loudly.

(SFX: Rolling Calf snorts and all ambient soundscapes goes silent)

NARRATOR: They all quiet down in fear. But not Winston. He starts walking closer to the beast. He knows what he's up against... and what this creature is.

WINSTON: Just gimme some space here. I just remembered something else my mom told me.

[11:11]

JACKIE: Um... to run like hell?

WINSTON: Just trust me. I got this.

NARRATOR: The calf stares at Winston silently, his faint fiery glow growing stronger as Winston stops suddenly and walks right up to it with a warning from his mother echoing in his head

WINSTON'S MOM (Echoing from far off): *Duppy come fa yu if you stay out all night... Duppy come fa yu if you stay out all night... Duppy come fa yu*

NARRATOR: The beast breathes deeply, but says nothing.

[11:39]

WINSTON : Alright, Mr. Calf... I'm here, what do you want?

(SFX: calf breathing harshly)

WINSTON: What did I do? What is it? Is it 'cause I snuck out? Do I have to go home now or something?

[11:53]

NARRATOR: Winston sees the animal's nostrils flare as he reaches out slowly to touch it when it backs

up and starts grunting and scraping the ground violently and aggressively, sending shivers down Winston's spine.

(SFX: dramatic music rises)

NARRATOR: The group is so frozen with fear that they swallow their screams just as the calf starts to charge right at Winston and just at the moment of impact... the calf dematerializes and Winston stands shaking in a pool of light fog.

(SFX: Night sounds come back)

(SFX: Bicycle cycling in the night)

NARRATOR: He rides back towards his friends. Confused but relieved. Luis is still hyperventilating as Jackie and Emma console him.

[12:38]

WINSTON: Hey y'all. It's all good now. It's all good.

JACKIE: Why are you so calm?

LUIS: Dude, what the heck? We were almost trampled and devoured by a MAD COW!

[12:50]

WINSTON: Relax, chill; it's all over now.

EMMA: There is a fire-breathing mad cow on the loose, and you want us to relax?!!!!

WINSTON: It's gone, guys!

LUIS: How can you be so sure it's *really* gone?? That it won't come back and breathe fire on us and destroy US foreveeerrrrr in a fiery pool of EVIL? IT'S A COW WITH FLAMING NOSTRILS! I CAN'T EVENNNNNN...

[13:14]

JACKIE: Okay okay okay. (Breathes in) Let's be rational here: it chased us but it didn't hurt us and then it disappeared LITERALLY into thin air...

WINSTON: You know what guys, I'll tell you later... let's just go home.

EMMA: Good call!

WINSTON: Jackie, will you text me all those pictures?

JACKIE: Yeah you can definitely keep those, I don't wanna see that beast again!

(SFX: Bicycle sounds)

NARRATOR: They all head home, confused, frightened but unharmed. That night, Winston lies awake in bed, consumed with visions of The Rolling Calf.

(SFX: scrolling through his phone)

[13:50]

WINSTON: What was that all about??? And where did all the pictures Jackie texted me go? They were just-

(SFX: door opens, interrupting him)

WINSTON: Holy...! Mummy!

WINSTON'S MOM (SMILING): Winnie, yuh arite? You look like you've seen a ghost...

WINSTON: Mummy, you frighten me!

[14:05]

WINSTON'S MOM: Nice of you to come back home after sneakin' out of my house!

WINSTON: I'm sorry, mummy. You have NO idea what happened tonight. I... I should not have left the house, I just wanted to go camping with my friends and... I think... I saw...

WINSTON'S MOM: What yu see?

[14:22]

WINSTON: A DUPPYYYY!!!

WINSTON'S MOM: Hahahaha, oh so you snuck outta my house and saw a duppy? Ya see, me tell yuh, yuh gahn see duppy if yuh dun come home. Come here.

(Music transition - drumming pattern)

NARRATOR: This story is inspired by the Jamaican mythical creature of the Rolling Calf. The Rolling Calf is one of many "duppy" spirits who used to roam about on plantations in Jamaica. In the 1800s the

creature became popular because there was very little electricity, and stories about spirits in the dark spread. The Rolling Calf would appear to punish criminals or those who misbehaved.

[15:12]

NARRATOR: If you'd like to learn about Jamaican folk culture, you check out books like *Jamaica the Culture* by Amber Wilson, *Duppy Stories* by David Brailsford and *Anansi: Jamaican stories of the Spider God*, by Martha Warren Beckwith.

[15:26]

NARRATOR: This podcast was produced by Studio Ochenta for TRAX on PRX. Winston was voiced by Steven Etienne. Luis was voiced by Luis López Levi. Emma was voiced by Lory Martínez, Jackie by Lisha López and Winston's Mom was voiced by L. R. Davidson.

[15:46]

NARRATOR: Special thanks to our Cultureverse editorial team for this episode: Richard Robinson, Taryn Scarlett, and Sutanya Dacres, who brought their Jamaican experiences to this story.

[15:56]

NARRATOR: The Creative Director and Executive Producer for this series is Lory Martínez, founder of Studio Ochenta. Dr. Kiona is our consulting producer for all things culture. Our Senior Fiction Producer is Maru Lombardo. All original opening songs for this series were composed by Gabriel Dalmasso. Sound design by Lory Martínez, Maru Lombardo and Luis Raúl López Levi. Music from TwistedLoop and Lorenzo's Music. And our art is by Steve Aparicio. The Executive Producer for TRAX is Michelle Smawley and our scripts were edited by Nathan Yungerberg.

NARRATOR: Follow us on TikTok & IG @cultureversepod. Transcripts are available at ochentastudio.com/cultureverse. And I'm Kelly Marie Tran, your host. Thanks for listening!