**THE WHITEHEATH OBSERVER**

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**Shameless Starjik Strikes Again!**

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The Blacksmith and his wife

Family left distraught by son’s disappearance.

By Mrs Haddow, Local News Reporter

A family was left devastated this morning, as they discovered their youngest son was snatched from their home in the night.

The blacksmith and his wife were alerted by their eldest son, who made the harrowing discovery when he awoke. The only evidence in the boys disappearance are sled tracks left in the snow.

The villagers of this close-knit community are left grief-stricken and fearful.

People of the remote pine-forest village have long feared the infamous Starjik, believed to take children from their beds during the night. The village has had numerous reports of missing children, notably in the winter months and none have been returned.

Little is known about the notorious Starjik and there have been no eye-witness reports to date. However, when locals were questioned by reporters, most were unable to even speak his name. He is known in the pine-forests as a child-snatcher, believed to travel with a pack of wolves on a sledge, mainly in the dead of night.

One villager who was willing to speak to the Whiteheath Observer spoke of the fear locals have. The elderly lady said, “Even as a child, I remember my parents warning me of the evil Starjik.” She spoke of the concern villagers have of the long winter nights, which they worry will result in more missing children.

The blacksmith and his wife were unavailable for comment.

The blacksmith reported the disappearance at approximately 9am this morning. He and his wife were alerted by their eldest son Ivan, who found his brothers bed empty after calling him for breakfast.

After frantically searching the house for their son, the blacksmith went outside to discover fresh sled tracks in the snow.

This latest disappearance is the first report of a missing child in the local area in recent months.