

Dr. Vanwolfen



is in

Story + Illustration by

Amy J. Noble

Lost in Transition

Wally is stretched out on Dr. Vanwolfen's couch. As the Doctor sits quietly smoking his pipe, he preps his pad and pen to write down things here and there to analyze after the session. They begin.

"How do you feel today Wally?" The Doctor asked as he brushed a paw through his hair and adjusted in his seat.

"Well, I am feeling both confused and down." Wally said.

"It all started a few full moons ago, my family and friends, were growing their fangs, as usual, getting hairy and ready to take on the town for a week of rapture to blow off their much needed animal desires. And I remained a man. Not just any man, a different kind of man," Wally said.

"It's like, now when the full moon happens, I turn into one of these new "metrosexuals" or something. I have an urge to use deodorant, get a manicure, pedicure and heaven forbid, get a clean close shave. The other night I even made a bubble bath and lit candles, like Oprah Winfrey recommends to find your inner woman, for Christ's sake!" He said with frustration.

"I'm not sure what has happened, but I think it was that gypsy I went to see hoping she would help me be less the werewolf I have been. Look at me now, I'm the complete opposite...a metrosexual freak! During the full moon I would feast the most, fuck the most and create the most mayhem. As you know, I used to be the leading subject for the "Werewolf Cafe" forums." Wally said.

"I went to her, because for some reason, regardless of being the werewolf I am, it seemed I was feeling remorse or something, and I just wanted to tone it down a little. You know. Maybe just a she-wolf or two, maybe tear out the neck of just a few unsuspecting street urchins, instead of being the overly aggressive werewolf I am, or once again, was. I felt I was drawing too much attention, and perhaps giving away that we really *do* exist," Wally said.

"Anyhow she gave me this potion, and ever since then, every full moon, I am the exact opposite of what I used to be. I find myself caring! I helped an old lady across the street, I actually gave correct directions to a passerby trying to find the Odeon instead of luring him astray so I could do some damage. I also had a hankering to sign up at an animal shelter to help care for them, not eat them," he said in dismay.

"The first few full moons, my family and friends, kind of laughed and went along. But now they avoid me. I think they might be afraid it's contagious or something. Or maybe they just can't relate to me anymore," he said sadly with a shrug.

"When the full moon is over, I do go back to my regular self. A manly man. You know; shave now and then, go to work, crack jokes, go to the gym, and just go back to the regular guy I am- scratching my balls and all. But I don't feel as rested as after my old full moon days, you know. We werewolves get all of our angst out then and live happy lives during the rest of the lunar sequence." Wally said.

"It's weird, the other day, I actually wanted to ask a girl out because I liked her, not because I wanted to get into her pants. I actually enjoyed our conversation and listened to her! Very un-non full moon

werewolf like. It's like it's a curse. It's not only changed me during the full moon, but it's making me be the same guy but with a heart," he said with confusion.

"Do you have any suggestions, Doc? Is there anything you can give me so when the full moon is over I feel as if I had run amuck? Is there *anything* you can do?" Wally asked the Doctor.

Dr. Vanwolfen sits for a few minutes completing his writing and taps out his pipe. He looks very seriously and somberly at Wally, taking a moment to examine one of his claws that has a tinge of red on it, and finally after what seemed to Wally like a century he speaks:

"Wally, subconsciously you went to the gypsy because you don't want to be a werewolf anymore. It's ok, it happens to many of us. It was just time for you to become a real man. A reliable, caring man. The extremeness of the sensitive things you were doing during the full moon were like a jolt to see how sensitive a guy you can really be," The Doctor. says calmly.

"Eventually the "metrosexual" as you called it, and the man you are during the non- full moon will merge, and you will become a complete and whole man who doesn't need to howl at the full moon to release stress. It may be awkward for a bit. And you may be sad to move away from your werewolf friends. But in time you will find new friends. And you will be a confident, caring man who will want to be committed to a nice woman and move on from this phase in your life. Just let it happen, you'll be alright. I'll even recommend a human therapist to help you through this transition." Dr. Vanwolfen said quite matter-of-factly as he stretched out one of his long legs exposing his humongous clawed hindpaws.

"Don't think of this as a curse. Think of it as how lucky you were to get all that animal lust out of your system. You know non-werewolf men don't get this luxury and some can be commitment-phobes, womanizers, people users, drug users, wanna-be rock stars... you name it. All because they don't get the full moon to release these urges. Sometimes they never get better and hurt a lot of people along the way emotionally. You are actually blessed and once you get through this awkward stage you will be the kind of man that women adore and other men admire," the Doctor explained.

The Doctor writes something on his pad of paper and hands it to Wally. "Here is the new therapist you will see for your next few sessions. And although we will miss your crazy antics in the werewolf realm. (and I'm sure the "Werewolf Cafe" will too,) trust me you will be on to happier days."

PSYCHIATRIC DEGREE
Transylvania
University
Dr. G. VanWolfen, M.D.

