

# Chapter One

## The Chase



The schoolboy leapt over the wall into the graveyard, his feet skidding on wet grass. Barely managing to keep his balance he ran on, dodging between headstones that jutted from the ground like rotten teeth.

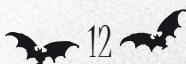
Behind him the creature landed in the mud, still transforming. It roared as its razor-sharp claws ripped through the black leather of its shoes and glinted in the weak sunlight. Tearing away what remained of its footwear with yellowing nails, the monster gave chase.

The boy tripped and fell, banging his head on a gravestone. A flash of white filled his vision and he was temporarily stunned. Forcing himself to stand, the schoolboy rubbed at the cut on his forehead. Staring at the red liquid smeared across his fingertips, he heard a snarl.

The creature was in front of him now, approaching, its eyes never leaving his own. The boy was reminded of nature programmes on TV in which lions stalked their prey. He stepped back and found himself pressed against the cold marble of an ornate headstone. He was trapped.

The creature screamed as its face began to push outwards, bones splintering noisily and quickly reforming; muscles tearing, then instantly knotting together as its entire head changed shape. Strands of thick fur pushed out of every pore of its skin.

The fully formed werewolf lifted its snout to the sky and howled.





“N-no!” stuttered the schoolboy. “Please don’t hurt me!” He tried to run, but the werewolf was on him in a second, lashing out with its claws.

Four crimson lines soaked into the material of the boy’s torn white school shirt as he fell to the ground once again. He pushed himself backwards across the muddy grass as the monster sniffed at the air, the scent of blood filling its nostrils. Baring its teeth, the wolf prepared to leap for its victim.

Suddenly a yapping sound distracted the creature, and it spun to see a small chihuahua

bounding around its legs and nipping at its back paws. In the distance a voice could be heard to call out, “Fluffy! Here, boy!”

The monster kicked the yelping dog away and turned back to its prey. As the schoolboy screamed, the chihuahua bit the werewolf hard on the leg and disappeared into the bushes.

Roaring with rage, the wolf turned and raced after the dog.

