

Survival of the Weakest



John Wells

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The New Hampshire King werewolf pack is running from a pack that scares them to death. It is faster, stronger, more deadly, and coming for them.

Kam's pack investigated a rogue bear turned werebear. They hunted down all of the bears causing issues and had the others join their pack. Now, there are rumors of another werebear controlling businesses in a major city. Kam's investigation leads to a war for pack survival.

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Chapter 1: Initiation

Kam was nervous about his initiation into the pack. As the future alpha of the White Mountain pack, he would be the leader of all New Hampshire werewolf packs. It had to be a perfect performance to get his pack firmly behind him. Otherwise, one of the other New Hampshire packs might decide to revolt or worst take over as king.

Initiation was simple. Kill a species that was overpopulated. Sometimes coyote, mountain lion, or bobcat, this time Kam must kill a bear. It was always an animal bothering humans in the area that they failed to get.

This bear was smart. It avoided traps and preferred pets over trash. Leave your pet outside alone at night or without a gun in hand to guard it and the bear would grab it. A few humans managed to hide the gun, but the bear dodged any shot that headed their way.

Its range appeared to be the south and central mountains, especially campgrounds. Lafayette Place Campground, Russell Pond Campground, and others in the general vicinity lose a pet every night. It had even gotten a few children at dusk. The humans were up in arms over this bear.

Today is Kam's birthday. He turned eighteen today so he starts his hunt. But, there is no celebration today as last evening the bear struck the pack. During a pack meeting the bear slipped into a pack house and made off with a baby, clawing up the teenage babysitter Jane. She is a good friend of Kam's and just sixteen years old. Without her werewolf blood, she would have died.

The pack hunted for the baby. But, returned with the shredded clothing assuming it was eaten at that site.

Kam gets one day to complete his hunt, instead of the usual week. The pack wants revenge and giving him to tomorrow morning was too much for many of the pack. Only fear of his father granted him today.

Kam was up hours before daylight in wolf form. He tracked the scent of the bear from the house into the mountains. He found the bones of the baby a few miles away.

From there the bear, changed direction. It had gone north and now switched east. He lost the scent at the East Branch Pemigewasset River near the Lincoln Woods trail head. He searched both sides of the river a mile in each direction before going downstream further. He figured going with the water was more likely path.

Chapter 2: Hunt

He checks upriver a little where the main Pemi River meets its east branch. Almost nobody uses the Abenaki name for the river, just its four letter short form. He repeats the process for each of the tiny brooks along the way.

Eventually, he was rewarded with a scent trail near White Birch Estates. He followed it to Mount Cilley, a hill really with no trails climbing it. There on the northern slope he found the bear asleep. However, it was not in bear form, but human.

Kam shifted to human form himself, to try to talk to the werebear, but its English was almost non-existent. It seemed to be confused to be able to talk and kept looking at its body expecting to see something else, bear most likely. Kam decided the bear was likely a natural bear that became werebear from eating the werewolf baby.

He shifted and attacked, since talking was useless. The bear evaded with ease and shifted. It fought well and was much stronger so Kam did not have much luck. A few minutes later the bear headed northwest leaving a battered, bleeding, and unconscious Kameron behind.

A hour later, Kam's body was repaired enough to follow once more. He watched from the woods as the bear grabbed a tiny dog on leash from its owner in the Lost River Valley Campground. It started straight at Kam before catching his scent so started running west away still within the campground sites. Kam followed at a distance, until they were away from the campground.

Kam pounced on the bear as it sat down to enjoy its snack. He cleanly got its neck, but it was too thick to inflict much damage. The dog ran off as they fought. Once more, Kam lost the fight.

This time he knew one werewolf could not kill a werebear no matter how lucky his attack might get. He headed home to admit his defeat now, while other could

help.

He ran the quick way home along the highway sneaking into the woods, when a car approached. Of course, with no woods to use near both town centers, he had to skirt around them. Once on the other side, it was easy to reach the pack home hidden in vacation properties near Loon Mountain.

He was teased by the pack soldiers entering pack land without the bear head as trophy. He ignored them and hunts down his father, finding him with his council.

Kam shifts to human and states, "alpha," which is against pack rules during a council session. He should have stayed quiet until recognized.

His father and the council all give him dirty looks for the interruption. But, at least his father acknowledges his presence immediately. "Yes, son."

"The bear has become a werebear and is too powerful for me. I have lost to it twice. Time to let the pack attack it."

Nobody in the room believes the werebear statement, but they are happy the day is not wasted. The beta, Chris, leaves immediately to organize the hunt.

"Leave, we will discuss this later."

Kam goes as requested knowing he is in for the lecture of his life. He tells Chris and soldiers where he last saw the bear. He wants to join them, but as a child without a kill, it is impossible.

Chapter 3: Bears

Meanwhile, the werebear finds a female and her cubs. It bites the three of them changing them into werebears. They continue going west to Beaver Pond, finding some hikers and sightseers to bite. Making them become werebears.

All the pack fears the original male due to his extra strength and viciousness. Being bears themselves the humans feel there is no point leaving. At this point, they do not know changing is possible.

Twenty werewolves try to take on twenty adult werebears and ten cubs. The mothers fiercely defend their cubs. The other bears defend themselves. Many wolves gang up on the original bear to lose decisively. The beta runs home for more soldiers, leaving the rest to recover.

The bears head south using the Appalachian Trail. The humans within the group realize that they were just attacked by the supposedly mythical werewolves because the worst damaged wolves turned back into humans. With that thought in their heads, a few managed to become human once more.

They stopped following the group and sat to talk. Jessa, a fifteen year old, stated, "if we hide, maybe the werewolves will follow the group. Then, we can go home."

Her sixteen year old boyfriend, Tim, likes that idea. He also is enjoying the view, as he responds, "I'm for that."

The older mother, Cassie, with two bear cubs rubbing up against her, replies, "I am not risking my children. I say we go east away from here."

Tim states, "that way forces us towards the road. West is better."

Cassie speaks once more, "okay west it is." She stands and looks around for a moment, "which way is west."

Tim points in the correct direction and the five start off that way. He holds Jessa's hand as they go west for a couple hours. They stop as the cubs lay down and fall asleep. They shift back into a two year old girl and four year old boy. The three others join them on the ground.

When a wolf shows up, Tim stands and gets between the wolf and the group. The wolf shifts to human. He asks, "just the five of you?"

Tim replies, "yes."

He asks another question, "how many bears were biting people?"

Tim answers, "I saw two bears biting. They arrived with two cubs that napped instead."

He replies, "we will try to help you. Stay put and someone will be back with clothes." He changed form as he flipped direction and ran off.

Cassie states, "I am not trusting a wolf."

Tim laughs, "you are trusting bears here. What difference does a wolf make?"

Jessa cries, "how are we going to have our lives back?"

Cassie states, "given that werewolf, you should just be able to act like nothing happened."

Tim agrees, "don't worry we can be home in a few hours and pretend nothing happened."

Chapter 4: Jane

Kam grabs a sheet from home and goes to the spot the baby was eaten. He does not waste time putting clothes on. He holds the folded sheet in his mouth to run as a wolf. He wraps up the remains and slowly walks back in human form. Hopefully, the soldiers will report he is right about the werebear, by the time he gets back so he can avoid the scolding.

On arrival, he hunts for his father to only find the beta, Chris. He states, "this is the baby's remains."

They go together to the mother. On the way, the beta states every soldier, but him is part of the hunt, including the baby's father. The beta states her baby is dead to the mother. Kam puts the remains on a table as the mother has dropped to the floor sobbing.

Kam leaves the beta to deal with the mother, as he goes to see Jane. She is swinging in her back yard with tears falling down. He stops her to kiss and hug her. While holding her, he tells her everything.

After he finishes, she hesitantly tells her story. How the bear climbed through the back screen door. The baby was in a play area in the living room. Jane turned her back to get a drink from the glass on the island between the kitchen and living room. The bear clawed her back and left her, as it grabbed the baby. How she wishes the bear killed her, knowing the baby is dead.

Kam sits on the swing with Jane on his lap. He has been in love with her for years, but she is not his mate. The kiss was the first time he has kissed her. They have hugged before. He kisses her a more passionate kiss and she responds. He states, "I'm glad you survived. Every soldier is out looking for the bear so it should be over soon."

She responds, "it will never be over for me." She initiates the next kiss, trying to lose herself in the passion. He could take her right now and she would welcome

it for the distraction. She plays with his body, until he stops her.

He states, "you know I promised myself to wait, until thirty before giving up on finding my mate. I'm sorry to have teased you, but I can't go further."

She thinks to herself, 'I'll be dead by then. I am going after that bear and let it kill me.'

He heads home for a weapon. His mother's silver knife. It was a wedding gift from her mother, in case her husband failed to treat her with the respect the daughter of an alpha deserves. It has been a running joke that maybe she should use it, when his father works too hard or travels too much. But, it has always gotten the proper respect, as he adjusts his family life with a better balance to make her content.

He finds his mother at the baby's house holding the grieving mother. He whispers in her ear his intention and she shakes her head yes.

He heads home and grabs the knife. It is completely held in a black cloth bag. He takes it out holding the decorative leather wrapping on the handle. The handle and guard are steel to protect the user. The blade is silver. He touches it gently to his skin, burning it instantly, just to be sure it works. Slipping in back into the leather sheath and the bag.

He shifts outside and picks the bag up in his mouth to head out. Once he leaves the development, he picks up Jane's scent and her recent travel. He pushes his speed to try to catch her before she does something stupid. He catches up to her on the other side of the downtown area crossing Crooked Pike Road.

He stops her to tell her about the knife. They continue together. Eventually, they come across the soldiers of the pack guarding bears and naked humans. The bear in question is not among that group. Nor is Kam's father and a few other soldiers among the group. They skirt around and continue following the alpha's scent.

The bear left the trail once he lost his pack. He cut his way down the mountain back towards the river. Since one of the campgrounds the bear hunted was in the mountain on the other side of the river, Kam convinced Jane to skip tracking and likely running into his father. Instead, they headed up the mountain to Russell Pond.

Chapter 5: Russell Pond

Russell Pond is nestled high up in the mountains. The west side has the brook that joins the Pemi River. It is a small and stocked with fish pond. The brook dries out before it reaches the Pemi during the driest part of summer limiting the pond's shrinkage. The perfect fishing vacation.

The campground is in the northeast area of the pond. The camp has both first-come first-served and reserved sites. It is always packed on weekends. This being Saturday in May it is packed. It also has limited parking for day use. There are canoes and rowboats on the pond.

About an hour after they arrive, the bear shows up. They watch it stalking the crowd. Too close for the wolves to go. The crowd watches the bear from cars or boats as it searches for food. It climbs on the hood of a car with a loud barking dog. Batting the window trying to get in.

Idiots get out to snap pictures. Barely slipping back inside as the bear runs at them. There is no cell service here so no authorities show up. Neither does the alpha and his group.

Kam and Jane watch the bear staying in the woods. If it is more to the north, they are northeast of it. If it is more to the south, they are southeast of it. Ready to act as soon as it leaves.

A family walks out of the woods on the loop trail around the pond. The bear runs at them, as those in the boats nearby warn them of its approach. The bear grabs a little girl and knocks down the father trying to save her. He takes off into the woods with his meal.

Kam and Jane cut through the woods and intersect his path. He drops the girl and continues running. They attack his hind legs, until he makes a stand. Kam drops the knife with Jane and fights with everything he has got. She switches to human so she can take the knife out ready to stab the bear in the heart. Kam

ends up broken and unconscious once more. Giving Jane the chance, she runs in and stabs the bear, getting mauled the process. They both die as her neck is gone and she got it's heart.

Kam wakes up human to see the love of his short life dead. He does know it is what she wanted. But, he grieves her loss, until he can move once more. He packs up his mother's knife, hiding it nearby. He conceals the trail back to the spot the girl is. She is alive so he carries her back to the pond. The authorities are there so he sets her at the edge of the woods. He erases the rest of the trail and sets off wolf style the direct path home.

Chapter 6: Home

Kam arrived back home to find the soldiers still gone. He told Chris of the Russell Pond events, while waiting for dusk. As the sun set behind the mountains, the soldiers returned with their captives. Nobody that was with the alpha came back.

The three actual bears were held at a distance with a plant fiber noose around their necks tied to a pole so they were kept safely in place. The human werebears were walking freely. The children werebears were carried by adults though not always their family.

The bad feeling Kam had, since shortly after the bear showed up. about his father got worst. In his mind and likely the beta's it was known more bodies would be found.

The beta took charge of the situation. The bears locked in the cells to likely be killed. The humans given clothes and food. The pack responded with dinner in the street. Everybody sharing what they had with the werebears. Cellphones were shared for phone calls.

Those that wanted to go back to or had cars back at Beaver Pond, were given a lift to there in the pack bus. Those that were hiking through on the trails, were given supplies to continue, if they wished.

The soldiers had buried the torn clothes and hid the personal objects that survived. These were retrieved by the bus driver, distributed to those that owned them at the pond, and brought back to those that stayed with the pack. Once all object were returned, each remaining person was given a ride home.

Meanwhile, the beta and some soldiers went with Kam to retrieve the Russell Pond stuff. When they got there, the police and ambulance were gone. Kam led them to the scene, where everything remain as it was. They gathered the dead and the knife.

Kam stayed behind as they left. He transitioned into wolf and took the pond trail loop to the other end of the campground. Once there, he went to the place the bear exited the woods and started to backtrack it to his father. He continued a long run mostly down hill to Tripoli Road.

The beta was waiting for him in the woods by the highway on ramp, as this was the most convenient spot to meet. Cell service worked and the bear had to pass nearby. The bear went under the highway on the road and along it to the river.

There on the rocky shoreline Kam and the beta found the bodies. If this were summer, this place is a popular swimming spot so he got lucky they had not been removed. A quick call later and the bodies were loaded on the bus.

The beta took care of the family notifications. Kam told his mother who was already mourning the lost.

Chapter 7: Alpha

Kam ended up killing the three werebears made from bears. Though the mother gave him another fight he expected to lose part way through, as he got beaten up. The pack knowing he tracked the first bear and assisted Jane in its killing was willing to accept his killing the three without tracking as sufficient prove of adulthood.

All of the dead werewolves were burned, after a proper memorial service. The bears just got burned. Burning is the best way to keep knowledge of non-humans secret.

Over the summer, the beta, Chris, played alpha, while Kam was trained for the job. Most of the werebears joined the pack, instead of being on their own.

The pack owned the land the development was on. Their construction company built the houses. The pack houses were on one side with the vacationers on the other with no need to mix.

Roughly half the houses were sold to vacationers. Their yearly fees paying for road maintenance, real estate taxes, and land lease.

The pack side was a gated community posted no trespassing and patrolled. The construction company built new houses for the bears on vacant lots. Any assets they owned were sold and added to the pack's investments.

Tim and Jessa could not live with the pack as minors. But, they were consider members. Neither shared the details with their families. But, coming home in borrowed clothes, without the ones you left in, was seriously questioned.

Come September, Kam was installed as alpha. All of the alpha from across the state attended with their families. Many questioned someone so young being king. But, nobody dared discuss it publicly. It helped that the second strongest pack alpha brought his daughter that happened to be Kam's mate. That

marriage was set to happen in December, before the celebration really got going. The bears blended in just fine without suspicion. The alphas all pledged their loyalty.

One of the topics for open discussion was a suspected werebear in Manchester. Cities and werewolves do not get along as they need plenty of woods to run free in. Therefore, there was no pack presence in Manchester. Since all of the known werebears were members of Kam's pack, it was ignored until proven. However, Kam wondered about the dog that escaped and the girl he rescued. Neither had blood on them, but that did not guarantee they were clean. They had both been in the bear's mouth.

Since Kam's future wife lived in Bow, just north of Manchester, it was decided the beta, Chris, would continue running the pack so he could get to know his mate and investigate the rumor. A month down south should be enough to handle both matters.

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