

## Willing Prey

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## Willing Prey

by [Fire\\_Cat](#)

### Summary

Bdubs has said from the moment he met Etho that he would not let the vampire feed from him. Absoutley not. He wasn't vampire food! He thought he'd be able to stick to that without too much difficulty, but maybe Etho is a little more persusaive than he realised.

(Also known as, Bdubs, for some reason, agrees to let a hungry Etho bite him.)

### Notes

More vampire fic whoop! I feel like this plot point was bound to happen from the start, but oh well, here it is!

When writing this one I thought it'd be short, but it ended up on the longer side. I cut a good chunk of text out whilst editing and it's still a little longer than I'd of liked but oh well, I think I'm happy with it!

As always, a big thank you to my friend CJ for being their wonderful self and making this au with me, I'm having so much fun writing this stuff!

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

Bdubs didn't like being out late at night. He never had, it wasn't a new thing. Though ever since the whole 'becoming a werewolf' fiasco, he had found himself liking it even less.

The moon made him uneasy, even when it wasn't full. It was annoying and somewhat ignorable, but when it was high in the sky it tugged at his instincts enough that he'd generally avoid going out after dark if he could avoid it.

That, and the vampires came out at night. And whilst he knew that most of the local ones were friendly and he wouldn't be a target for them, he didn't want to risk encountering the less nice ones.

Tonight though, after spending much longer at Ren's place with Doc and Impulse and some of his other friends than he'd planned, he was walking home in the dark.

Which wasn't great, but at least it wasn't too far to go.

He'd hoped that it'd be an easy and peaceful walk home, no interruptions, no shenanigans. He was tired and all he wanted was to go home and go about his nightly routines before going to bed.

Things never did seem to go that smoothly though. Especially not recently. Typical.

As Bdubs rounded the corner onto the street where his apartment was, he spotted a far too familiar figure standing further down the sidewalk, leaning against a wall with their arms folded over their chest.

To most people, this was just another person out late tonight. Maybe loitering where they shouldn't be.

But to Bdubs, this was the annoying vampire that he'd somewhat accidentally befriended.

He stayed still and watched for a moment, it didn't look like he'd been seen, and he'd rather not deal with whatever mischief the vampire might be plotting tonight, maybe he could figure out a way to get around them without attracting their attention.

Or, maybe not.

Just as he was about to turn around and go back the way he'd come, he was noticed.

"Bdubs!"

"Hi Etho," Bdubs replied, managing a smile and a small wave as he walked over. No going back now. "What're you doing here?"

Etho hummed, his red eyes lingering on Bdubs for just a few moments too long before he looked around at the rest of the street. "Hunting."

"Oh," was all that came out of Bdubs' mouth, his heart beating a little faster and having to force himself not to take a step back.

Etho looked at him again, the corners of his eyes creasing with a hidden smile, "Don't look so scared, Bdubs. I won't hurt you."

It had sounded genuine, but Bdubs still snapped, "I'm not scared of you!" a little louder than he'd liked. He wasn't scared, of course he wasn't! Etho was a nuisance but he'd only ever been nice. Well, relatively speaking anyway. Older vampires like him were usually in pretty good control of

themselves too. He wouldn't deny that Etho could be dangerous if he wanted to be, and Bdubs wouldn't say that he *trusted* him, but he definitely wasn't *scared* .

"Are you sure?" Etho asked, still smiling as he raised a brow at him.

Bdubs gave a firm nod, "Of course I'm sure."

"Okay, I'll take your word for it," Etho said as he looked away from him again, going back to scanning the street. It was pretty quiet and from what Bdubs could see they were the only people here, probably not the best hunting grounds. "And I'll just ignore how your heart rate picked up for a moment, don't worry."

Bdubs grumbled, of course, Etho would notice something like that and point it out. Maybe he should have expected that.

Neither of them spoke for a few moments, just the sounds of the city filling the air. Eventually, Bdubs spoke up, "You'd probably have better luck on another street, not many people come down this way late at night."

"You're probably right," Etho said, still not looking at Bdubs, "I don't want to go where it's too busy though, that just makes things harder." he shrugged, "Then again," his tone changed slightly like he'd realized something as he took his phone out of his pocket, Bdubs knew he shouldn't be nosy, but he couldn't help but peer at the screen, wondering what Etho was doing, "you're here."

"I- yeah I am. What does that have to do with anything?" Bdubs asked, not entirely sure what Etho was talking about.

Etho smiled and held his phone up where Bdubs could see it. It took a few seconds for him to realize what he was looking at, "Wait, that's a lunar calendar- why?"

"Because knowing when the full moon is is useful for me too." Etho shrugged, "But for the moment," he looked at the screen again, "it's about two weeks away. Which is ideal."

"Ideal? Ideal for what-- wait- oh." Things started to click into place in Bdubs' head, and he didn't like it.

A vampire keeping track of the lunar cycle maybe shouldn't have been such a surprise, he knew that they'd usually stay inside on full moon nights after all. Keep away from the werewolves.

Right now though, as Etho had said, the next full moon was about a fortnight away. That fact being 'ideal,' hm. Something that Etho had mentioned a couple of times over the months they'd known each other resurfaced at the forefront of his memory.

*'Werewolf blood doesn't taste great for about a week either side of the full moon'*

Something about lycanthropy changed how a person's blood tasted depending on where they were on the lunar cycle. Apparently.

Close to a full moon, their blood would taste 'kinda gross', as Etho had put it. Bdubs had questioned how Etho knew this and had just been told that living for centuries results in lots of information being picked up. That was reasonable and probably true, but part of him also wanted to know if Etho had learnt it from someone else, or from experience.

Or maybe he didn't, he wasn't sure.

Either way, that little fact meant that, presumably, the rest of the time, when the full moon was further away, a werewolf's blood would taste good. Or at least normal. By vampire standards.

Whatever the heck that meant.

"No." Bdubs finally managed to pull the word out of his throat, "No, you're about to ask if you can bite me. Absolutely not."

Etho put his phone back in his pocket, "Aw come on Bubs," there was that nickname again, Bdubs still couldn't figure out what he thought of it, "It'd make my night easier, free up some time. And I'm sure you were planning on going to bed soon anyway."

Bdubs frowned and glanced away from him. Etho wasn't wrong. He had been planning on going home and then going to bed, so it's not like it'd interrupt any plans. But- no.

No. He had said from the moment they'd started being even remotely friendly with each other that he was not going to let Etho bite him. And he was sticking to that.

Etho spoke again before Bdubs had a chance to, "I promise it doesn't hurt as much as you think it does. Reality isn't a vampire movie."

"Etho getting bitten hurts. Getting bitten by *anything* hurts! Trust me I would know!"

"Sure, but there's a big difference between a vampire's fangs and a werewolf's jaws." Etho's voice softened, and for a moment his red eyes didn't look so sharp.

Bdubs chewed his lip, one hand coming up to rub at his shoulder where the scar left by a wolf's jaws marked him, struggling to hold Etho's gaze. Once again though, he wasn't wrong.

"I- I know but-" Bdubs paused, closing his eyes for a second and dropping his hands to his sides as he took a deep breath, trying to calm himself down, his heart was beating a little too fast and he didn't like it, especially not knowing that Etho could probably hear it. "I don't care. I've said it before and I'll say it again. You're not biting me! Not now, not ever! I'm not vampire food!"

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Bdubs had never really considered himself someone who was easily swayed. So why, *why* had he agreed to this after not even considering it *once* during the however-many months that he'd known Etho?

He was going to regret this. He knew it.

The elevator ride to the fourth floor seemed to take twice as long as it usually did.

Even walking down the hallway to his apartment felt slower, as if he was walking twice the normal distance.

Bdubs let them both inside and he kicked off his sneakers, telling Etho to take his boots off too. He watched the vampire for a few seconds before he went to the kitchen to get some water, hoping it might calm his nerves a little.

He didn't like being nervous, it was uncomfortable and he was certain that Etho would be aware of it no matter how hard he tried to hide it.

As he turned back towards the door he was startled by Etho standing there watching him, his whole body jolting and making water slosh out of his glass and onto the floor.

"AH GEEZ, Etho!!" he snapped, glaring across the room at him.

"Sorry," Etho chuckled.

Bdubs huffed and walked past him to the living room. It wasn't very big, but he liked to think it was cosy. Comfy couch, an armchair, tv, coffee table, pictures on the walls and assorted nicknacks and books and other things on the shelves. He liked it.

Etho followed him into the room. Bdubs sat at one end of the couch, whilst Etho sat at the other end, leaning back and crossing his legs in front of him.

"So," Bdubs started after a few moments of silence, still not entirely sure what he was about to say, "how exactly do you want to do this?" he ended up asking, taking the topic of conversation to what he'd brought Etho here for.

Etho hummed, turning in his seat a bit so that he was facing Bdubs more, "Well, you being relaxed would be a good start. You seem a bit on edge."

"Yeah, I wonder why.." Bdubs mumbled, looking down at his feet again as he sipped his drink.

A few seconds passed before Etho spoke again, pulling down his mask as he did, "Bdubs, if you don't want to do this you don't have to. I'm not going to force you."

Bdubs shook his head, "No it's okay. I'm okay. It's just not something I ever expected to agree to, I guess."

Etho nodded, licking at his lips before he spoke again "You don't happen to have a games console or anything in here do you?"

"Yeah I do, why?"

"Distraction. Might help you relax too. It'll be easier, for the both of us, if you're calm."

"I doubt the people you bite are usually particularly calm."

"No, not usually, and that's often what makes the whole process harder," said Etho, shrugging a little.

"Yeah that- that's fair. Okay, we can play games then." Bdubs said, putting his glass on the coffee table as he stood to set things up. Hopefully, this would keep his mind off what he had agreed to for a while.

The next hour or two passed quickly, just the pair of them playing games together. There was a hint of awkwardness between them at first, but it seemed to fade quite quickly, and soon they were chatting happily as they played.

Etho was annoyingly good at video games, it turned out. Bdubs wasn't sure what he'd been expecting, but that wasn't it. Maybe not every older vampire was stuck in the 19th century like some of the others Bdubs knew seemed to be.

By the time they finally stopped playing it was gone midnight, and Bdubs was yawning every few minutes, a busy day and staying up late catching up to him.

Etho was still wide awake, but he was nocturnal, so that was to be expected.

Bdubs had his elbow propped on the arm of the couch, his chin in his hand, struggling to keep his

eyes open. It took a few moments longer than it usually would before he realized that Etho was watching him.

"You look tired." he smiled.

"I'm not nocturnal like you," Bdubs muttered before breaking into another yawn, bringing his other hand up to cover his mouth.

He forced himself to sit up straight as Etho moved to sit closer to him, "You're a lot more relaxed now though."

Bdubs blinked, and he remembered exactly why Etho had come here in the first place. Somehow it had slipped his mind over the past couple of hours. "Yeah, guess that's what you wanted isn't it."

"So, if you're still willing?" Etho said, tipping his head to the side a little with the question. Hearing him talk so gently was still a bit strange, Bdubs wasn't sure how long it'd take for him to get used to that.

"Will you leave and let me go to bed afterwards?" was what Bdubs ended up saying in response, he didn't want to sound rude, but he was very tired.

Etho seemed to take it well though, a soft chuckle escaping him as he smiled, "Yes I'll leave after, and you'll probably want to sleep anyway." That made sense, blood loss tended to make people woozy, and he was already tired, "Actually, how about you get changed first Then if you do fall asleep it's not such a big deal." Etho added after a moment of silence. That was a good idea. Bdubs would rather not sleep in the clothes he'd been wearing all day, and he hadn't brushed his teeth or anything yet, so it gave him a chance to do that.

"Yeah alright." he said, pulling himself up onto his feet, "I'll be back, don't make a mess," he added as he headed to his bedroom, he heard Etho call something back to him but didn't quite make out what it was that he'd said, he didn't bother to ask him to repeat himself though, it probably didn't matter too much.

Bdubs went about his nightly routine, not rushing but also not wanting to take too long and keep Etho waiting. He brushed his teeth, washed his face, made a mental note to shave in the morning, and then grabbed some pajamas to get changed

As tired as he was, he still made sure to pick out plain ones that didn't have any silly patterns or designs on them. If only because he didn't want Etho commenting on his choice of clothes.

When he went back to the living room he sat down next to Etho again, "And I'm back. So, are we doing this then?"

Etho nodded, "Yup yup," he pushed himself up onto his knees and maneuvered himself around Bdubs, prompting him to shuffle forward in his seat a little so that Etho could sit behind him, leaving Bdubs sitting between his legs.

"What are you doing?"

"Sitting behind you, it's a little easier that way," Etho said as he wrapped his arms around Bdubs' middle, squeezing him gently.

Bdubs froze, his eyes going a little wide, he hadn't quite been expecting that. He swallowed and took a deep breath, trying to keep himself calm and stop his heart from racing.

"You okay?" Etho asked, his voice soft but loud in Bdubs' ear.

"I'm fine," Bdubs replied, his voice coming a little tighter than he expected. "I'm fine." he repeated, calmer that time, trying to ignore that this was the closest to one another they'd ever been and instead focusing on keeping his breathing steady, "Just- do the thing. Get it over with so I can go to bed."

"Alright alright, patience," Etho said, Bdubs could hear the smile in his voice even without seeing his face.

Bdubs didn't know how long he'd been waiting before he felt Etho's lips brush against his skin, not quite a kiss but close enough that it made his cheeks feel warm. Before he had a chance to process it though, he heard the smallest bit of movement from Etho, quickly followed by a sharp pain in the side of his neck, fangs sinking into his flesh with little resistance.

He gasped, closing his eyes tight and biting at his tongue to stop the pained noise that was trying to worm its way out of his throat. It hurt, it definitely hurt. But- not as much as he'd thought it would. Maybe vampire movies did exaggerate things. Just a little.

Etho's hold on him tightened as he drank, long fingers curling in the fabric of Bdubs' shirt. Bdubs couldn't quite tell if he was trying to hold him still or comfort him. It was doing one of those though. Exactly which, however, he wasn't quite sure.

Despite doing his best to stay calm, every instinct in Bdubs' body was yelling at him to get free and run, to fight and get the vampire away from him. But he knew that he couldn't do that, Etho wasn't trying to hurt him and he had agreed to this. He just had to trust that Etho knew when to stop, and to keep as still as he could until it was done.

Trusting Etho was an odd thought, but maybe it wasn't so terrible. At least not right now.

By the time Etho let go Bdubs was starting to feel lightheaded, the world spinning around him a little too quickly.

He tried not to grimace as he felt Etho lick at the wound on his neck. Presumably cleaning up the blood around it. It wasn't a particularly nice sensation.

"You alright?" Etho's voice came a moment later, loud in his ear again despite how soft he was speaking.

It took a few seconds for Bdubs to put words together in his head and get it to come out his mouth, "Yeah just.. Dizzy.."

He heard Etho hum before he moved from behind him. His hands squeezed his shoulders as he carefully helped him lay down on the couch, resting his head on a cushion. Bdubs didn't have the energy to try and put up any resistance, so he let Etho move him without any fuss.

"There you go, just breathe, alright, it'll pass," Etho said, he sounded so calm, so caring, it was weird. "I'll be back in a sec." and with that, he stood straight and left the room. Bdubs was confused but didn't put too much thought into it, wasn't sure that he could even if he wanted to.

He let his eyes flutter closed as he waited for Etho to come back, though he also felt dangerously close to passing out, he was so tired, and he doubted that the blood loss was helping.

Exactly how long Etho was gone for he wasn't sure, but Bdubs knew that he'd come back when he felt something soft press against the bite wound on his neck, sending prickles of pain across his

skin. He automatically tried to pull away from it, but Etho's hand squeezed his shoulder a second later and he held still.

"..Stings" he muttered, doing his best to ignore the urge to get away from what was hurting.

"Yeah, sorry." Etho apologized, his voice still so gentle. "That wasn't so bad though, was it," he added, and Bdubs could almost hear him smiling.

Bdubs just grumbled, "You owe me lunch.."

"I don't really bother with money a lot of the time so.." Etho replied, almost sounding nervous.

"How do you pay rent?" he asked, opening his eyes just enough that he could see Etho.

Etho shrugged, "Uh, I don't."

"...Lucky." he didn't have the brainpower right now to ask exactly what Etho meant by that, so he left it, closing his eyes again and letting his body relax.

Sleeping with a vampire in the house sent every self-preservation instinct he had into overdrive, but he was too tired to pay much attention to any of them. Etho wouldn't hurt him, it'd be fine.

Etho was talking again, but Bdubs couldn't quite make out what he was saying. His voice sounded far away as he let himself drift off to sleep.

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When Bdubs woke the next morning he found himself curled up in bed. He didn't remember going to bed though, and it took him a few moments to remember what happened last night and to realize that Etho must have brought him in here. He decided not to linger too long on the thought of Etho carrying him around and instead tried to be grateful that he hadn't just left him on the couch.

There was a gauze pad carefully taped to his neck where he'd been bitten, he didn't remember that being put there either. Etho must have done it after he fell asleep, which was nice of him, even if it did leave Bdubs slightly confused. Etho had been so kind, so gentle. Bdubs wasn't going to complain, but he hadn't quite expected it either.

In the kitchen, he found a note, written in Etho's surprisingly tidy handwriting. Wishing him a good morning and hoping that he was feeling okay. Bdubs couldn't help but smile at that, it was- weirdly nice, that Etho cared.

His smile dropped into a frown when he read the last part of the note though. Etho had 'borrowed' a packet of cookies out of the cupboard before he left.

Because of course he had.

Damn vampire.

## End Notes

That wasn't so terrible now was it Bdubs! And Etho cares, how sweet! Even if he is a thief as well.



I really do love writing these two they're so fun. But yeah, I hope you liked this!

I have one more fic ready to go with these two, and some plans for other stuff, and then maaaybe I'll start writing stuff for some of the other Hermits in this au too. It's not just Etho and Bdubs after all! But we shall see what happens!

In the meantime, I want to say thank you to everyone who's been reading, commenting, and leaving kudos on these fics! I'm really glad people are enjoying this au as much as I am, it's so much fun to play with and I'm having a great time!!

Please [drop by the archive and comment](#) to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!