

Pharaoh's Curse

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Atem got his own body but at a price...

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1 - Poor Atem...

Bitten

"Had enough?" laughed Dartz "Hmm...maybe I should just save my energy. After all you are already too weak to do anything"

"Yugi, please leave me, just run, and go!" called the weakened voice of Atem. "Ha! He can't hear you" chuckled Dartz "Why?" growled Atem. "I've simply paralysed him. He can't hear you or do a thing to save you!" explained Dartz. Then he turned and began to recharge his powerful dragon.

Atem fell to his knees, too weak to stand, and fell face down onto the ground. He knew that he was too weak and injured, to face Dartz, and lay there motionless until Dartz suddenly turned.

"Go, my dragon, finish him off!" he commanded. The pharaoh couldn't see what the dragon might do to him. No matter how hard he tried to lift his head it was just too unbearable. He heard a thud next to him. This, he decided, must be the dragon. The dragon had lowered its head, its fiery breath spread down his spine.

Suddenly Atem felt a searing pain shoot down his left arm. He couldn't yell. It was far too painful. Instead he closed his eyes, tightly, and hoped that he would survive. But, the more he hoped, the more the ferocious dragon wrenched its teeth around his arm.

“What?” shouted Dartz. “ What's happening to me?” called Atem.

Finally Free?

Atem had become a dragon, but the pain continued to sear through his left arm. He drew back his head and sent a fireball hurling towards Dartz and the dragon. Two screeches of pain came from them. Atem then sunk his dagger like teeth into the dragons' neck. The dragon fell into Dartz and slid off the edge of a near by cliff.

Atem didn't know how but he had done it! Te'a and Joey rushed over. Joey caught Atem just as he collapsed.

That night Atem said he needed to go somewhere. “What? Why do you need to go?” Te'a asked, “What's up Pharaoh?” asked Yugi. “I...nothing. I must go... I won't be back until morning...”Atem said. He looked scared. He had been disappearing once every month, ever since he had won the duel with Dartz. Atem left.

He hadn't told anyone about this...he was a werewolf. He took a slow, painful walk to the large empty field that he visited about this time every full moon. Atem stood there waiting for the pain to start, for the monthly torture, for the moon to catch his eye and force him to murder. The clouds cleared, revealing the sphere that caused so much pain. The moon caught his eye. Atem began to shake violently; his glittering innocent eyes were poisoned. The wrenching pains spread all over his body as he dropped onto all fours. He silently screamed but no one ever heard his cries. Atem clenched his teeth and tears dropped from his screwed up face. His hands and feet were now clawed paws. His clothes ripped as a tail grew and his face and teeth lengthened. Dark fur grew at a rapid speed all over the desperate, slim teen. Atem was now a killer. He howled as he threw his shirt off.

2 - Weak Love

Atem was asleep in his bed. He had been for the last two days and everyone was starting to worry . . . His usual loud snoring was replaced by quiet breaths. Breathing regularly and quietly, at a sometimes-uneven pace. He still shuddered on the occasional exhale and he was in a mess, compared to his normal state.

Normally, he was an average teen. Turning seventeen had made Yugi SO jealous! Atem was now Joey's height, going through a phase of punk and heavy metal, slim, loved by every girl at school, and had even begun to get facial hair around his lower jaw.

The day that followed the full moon still made Tea blush. She had found the Pharaoh, lying on her kitchen floor, stark naked! It wasn't his fault werewolves liked to strip as they transformed!

She couldn't help but blush as she looked over him now. Tea was staying at Yugi's while her kitchen windows were repaired.

Atem had been awful on that day. He had vomited for ages and was as pale as a sheep.

Anyway & Grandpa had considered taking Atem to a hospital. Yugi refused. They knew the ex-Pharaoh's fuzzy little secret, and it would baffle the doctors.

Tea sniffed. Poor guy & She had had a crush on him for a long time now. Atem had tried with her but she was too nervous. He really likes you and he's trying with you. Just talk to him, get to know him. He's a really good guy, he won't turn you down, Yugi's reassurance rang through Tea's mind for weeks. She put a hand on Atem's shoulder. He winced and let out a whimper. His body still ached all over and it was painful to touch. She gasped and let go. The last thing she wanted was to hurt him. Furrowing her brow, Tea sat down on a chair near his bed. She stared at him for a while, wanting to touch his hair. She had always wondered what his hair felt like. Tea cautiously leaned over to Atem and reached out a hand. She carefully ran a hand through his soft triple coloured hair. He seemed to be enjoying it. His breathing had calmed and he relaxed to her touch.

Tea smiled warmly and continued to fondle her crush's hair. The Pharaoh groaned, his deep, dreamy voice making her jolt and let go. His eyes flickered half-open and he gazed at her drowsily.

Um & Will you go out-out! With & m-m-me? Tea stuttered. Atem closed his eyes, a small smile on his lips. He mustered a nod and gazed at her again. She was holding a glass of water.

Oh, thank you so much! she giggled. Atem placed his trembling hand on her cheek and smiled again. He gave a croaky moan and a wince as his hand slipped down her arm and back onto the bed.

It hurts, huh? Tea said softly. He nodded again.

Here, she carefully lifted his head and tilted the glass to his lips. At first, he took sips, but he realized how sore and dry his throat was and swallowed until the glass was empty.

3 - CLIFFHANGER!!!

Since becoming a werewolf, Atem had given up Duel Monsters. He was afraid that he might get caught up in a late-night duel and transform.

He had a new hobby. He was a self-taught guitarist and sang just like Chad from Nickelback. Tea loved his voice, but not when he was angry!

Yugi and Tea would watch in awe as his fingers and hand effortlessly and rapidly moved about the frets.

Guitar solos were played easily and Atem was told to keep his amplifier down by Grandpa!

He had a great guitar- a Les Paul with sunburst effect (what im getting 4 exmas!). He could also play bass guitar and drum.

So& back to the story&&&&&&&&&

Tea leant over the Pharaoh. / I really want to kiss her& maybe if I just give her a little peck& yes, maybe I should just lean over and kiss her&/ they gazed at each other, until Atem gave her a quick kiss on the cheek. Blushing, he quickly hid his face in his hands. /THERE! I DID IT! / He told himself.

Tea blushed. She had never seen him so embarrassed in her life! / Wow& guys have strange ways of showing how they feel&*giggle* aww he looks so cute! /

Thank you, Pharaoh, she returned the kiss and he blushed even more.

Pharaoh? Yugi opened the door. Atem shoved a pillow over his face to hide the blush and Tea chuckled. Hi, Yugi! She smiled.

Uh& what s wrong with the Pharaoh? he raised a brow.

I think he s in love with me! she whispered.

Yugi mimed vomiting. LOVE?! he yelped. Okay&Pharaoh, are you in love with Tea?

The Pharaoh nodded, under the pillow.

Okay, your royal highness, your little brother wishes to see your face! Yugi pulled the pillow away from him and he rolled over.

Please don t tell the whole of Domino, Tea pleaded.

I won t, Yugi agreed.

Atem suddenly curled up, arms folded over his stomach. He clenched his teeth and closed his eyes tightly.

What s wrong? Tea asked worriedly.

Professor Hawkins said this would happen, Yugi sighed. Sudden spasms of pain it s his body adjusting to being a werewolf,

Tea placed a hand on Atem s forehead. He s burning up, she said.

The spasms stopped abruptly.

10:30pm

Atem was curled up in bed, shaking. Tea was in tears. She wanted him to go to a hospital. He was so sick already. No one wanted him to get any worse.

Tea wrapped her arms around him and wept.

D-Don t, he breathed. D-D-Don t let me go,

I won t, she whispered. I won t& She lifted Atem into her embrace and held him in her arms.

I-I love you& he whispered. The teens head tilted back and his eyes flickered shut.

MR.MOTO! Tea screamed. PLEASE! HE NEEDS AN AMBULANCE!

4 - senses of a werewolf...

After fitting twice and stopping breathing once, Atem was feared as good as dead if he stopped breathing once more.

There he was: ward 9, bed 4, tubes and wires all over the place, oxygen mask and his very own 24 hour nurse!

Tea was too tearful to visit, but Yugi and Grandpa came every day, after school. The Pharaoh was barely alive and still in a deep state of unconsciousness.

11pm

He began to wake. He felt dizzy and nauseous and the whole place was spinning. He groaned, rolling his head from left to right. Atem's heightened werewolf senses were taking their toll. Every noise felt like an explosion in his ears, all kinds of scents and tastes stung his nose and tongue.

If he could open his eyes yet, he would be almost colour blind. He couldn't even stand his own groans and, for once, hated his deep voice.

5 - Depression...

Atem's eyes hung half-open. Tea played with his hair. A tube leading down his throat- hung out of his mouth. He was still trying to figure out what happened and why he was colour blind. He was left on a quiet, empty ward to help calm his out of control senses so that he could rest.

Right, you must be the young man who has the heightened senses? a doctor said, sitting down. The Pharaoh shot him a glance, then his eyes darted back to Tea. The doctor checked that everything was fine and left.

Atem was so bored, so tired and so confused . . . his eyes slid shut. All he saw was a bright light.

Atem . . . a female voice whispered. Atem, you're here. You are safe now, He looked up to see his mother and father. He shook his head and stepped back. Could he have died? No. It can't be . . .

He heard distant echoes of somebody weeping and calling his name.

No, Atem gasped NO!

He ran. Ran past the pyramids and ancient buildings. Ran past people, tripped and scrambled away from them.

Then it happened. He transformed into a werewolf and destroyed his parents.

Atem shuddered and woke up. He was so glad that it was all just a dream. All just a stupid dream! That's what he thought. Stupid! He was 17 for Ra's sake! No more stupid nightmares! Grow up! You're a man now! You can take care of yourself!

. . . Take care of yourself . . . Be normal . . . like everyone else . . .

That was one thing he couldn't do. He had no family. He wasn't normal. He only ended up in trouble. He had awful nightmares almost every night he would shout and scream, even get up and attack Yugi, he thrashed about in bed, no proper sleep. Not ever . . .

6 - Back to school...

Atem had made a rapid recovery and was allowed home only a week after being in hospital. He was bullied at school, being called either Porcupine head or Wolf-Man. Either way; he didn't like it at all. His grades had slipped and he had more detentions than Joey gone hyper! Doctors had advised him to rest whenever he could, so he slept through breaks and most of lunchtime. He had a problem . . . Atem's werewolf-ness was starting to show. When he was angry he would growl in an animalistic way, when he slept at breaks he curled up under his desk. His teeth were what worried Yugi and Tea. He had oversized canines and his other teeth were like that of a wolf. He had no manners whatsoever, when eating and basically ate like an animal!

The Pharaoh's only friends were Tea, Yugi, Joey, Tristan and Grandpa.

3:15pm

The school bell rang through the classes. Every student hurried outside. Two boys sneered and locked the gate on Atem. He growled, stepped back and leapt onto the fence, then climbed over and jumped down.

He landed perfectly on both feet and proceeded to catch up with his friends.

I thought you got locked in, smiled Tristan.

Yeah we were worried for ya, pal, Joey added.

Atem said nothing.

Pharaoh, Tea stood in his way. You have to say something. Please,

Leave me alone, he grunted. He stepped around her and the four friends stared as he walked away on his own.

Atem took the long way home; he walked across the field, down the gravelly, sandy, bumpy paths and climbed Sudden Drop. Sudden Drop was a large slope covered in shrubs, rubble and rocks. It was steep and you had to cling on to everything you could find when you climbed it. If you slipped, you dropped.

The Pharaoh threw his bag over the ledge and pulled himself up. He picked up his bag and headed home, down another lumpy path.

7 - sleepy,sleepy,sleepy...

Atem was fast asleep. He had left the stereo on and snored loudly. His hands were behind his head. He only wore his boxers. That was all he wore in bed . . .

Grandpa came in. Almost tripping over the punk teen s guitar, he sighed and turned the loud KoRn off. He was disgusted by Atem s taste in music: metal with explicit lyrics. It was mostly KoRn, Green Day, Nickelback and Linkin Park.

Grandpa smiled to see that he was resting well, turned the light off and closed the door as he left. He went down to Yugi in the kitchen. He had that junk on again! he sighed.

It s not junk, Grandpa! Yugi giggled.

Just you wait! It s that choker! I ll steal it! Grandpa smirked. I ll- he cut off, accidentally breaking a glass during his rant. Oops . . .

They heard feint groans from Atem, who had obviously been disturbed by the crash.

Grandpa! Yugi chuckled as he cleaned up.

Atem staggered into the kitchen.

Hey, bro ! Yugi smiled.

Where s that bottle of water that I was drinking earlier? Atem croaked, rubbing the back of his neck.

Put some clothes on, boy! Grandpa yelled. Atem rolled his eyes.

Its in the fridge, Yugi said.

He opened the fridge and pulled a bottle of water out. He guzzled that down, tossed the bottle into the bin and headed back to bed, running a hand through his hair.

8 - Finally! Sleep!

Yugi's eyes flickered open. 3 am flashed on his alarm clock. Atem would normally be trying to murder him by now. He remembered the first time he attacked- he stood over Yugi, holding up a fountain pen, growling "You will die at the hands of your creation!"

Yugi frowned and walked across to Atem's room. He peered in at his older brother. He was fast asleep, only his snoring was heard. Yugi shrugged and closed the door.

He went back to bed.

4am

Atem's eyes flickered open. Normally, this was the time when Yugi threw him on the floor and he woke up.

He switched the light on and squinted through the blinding light. Wait. He wasn't colour blind anymore! He didn't notice, and groaned as he rubbed his eyes, trying to see.

Atem sighed and rolled out of bed. He staggered to his ensuite bathroom, switched the light on in there and stared at his reflection in the mirror.

He was a bit off-colour, but nothing else was wrong. He switched the cold tap on and splashed some water into his face. He ducked his head and sipped some of the water from the flow.

Wiping his mouth on his arm, Atem switched the tap and light off and returned to bed. He turned the other light off, rolled over and snuggled up in the warm duvet. He fell asleep. This was the best night's sleep he had got in months.

9 - punky pukings...

WAIT! I M COMING UNDONE! WAIT! I M STARTING TO SUFFOCATE! TOO LATE! I M COMING UNDONE! Yugi and Atem roared.

Atem played his guitar loudly. He wore grey combats with a baggy, black T-Shirt that said PUNK! in huge letters on the front. He also wore a black, studded belt and matching choker. Yugi slammed on his Bass guitar. Atem leapt onto the kitchen table. They bobbed their heads madly, screaming lyrics. The key turned in the front door. Atem jumped down. They switched the stereo off, threw their guitars behind the sofa and flopped onto it, pretending that that had never happened.

Hi, boys! Grandpa came in. What *have* you been doing? he frowned at them.

Homework, Yugi lied.

Grandpa nodded and went to the back room.

IDIOT! Atem said in a loud fake cough as he left the room.

He and his brother then burst out laughing. Atem picked up his guitar and turned his amp down. He played a few well-known rock and metal songs.

10am

Yugi? I think the Pharaoh could use some sleep, you might as well stay home as well, Grandpa called. He actually slept all night, but I have to say he s quite the restless sleeper,

7:30pm

HUUUUUUUUUUUUURRRRGH!

Pharaoh? Can I use the bathroom yet? Yugi asked.

Go . . . downstairs . . . came the weak reply. Huur- he arched over the toilet and vomited again.

Ooh! There goes dinner! Yugi shuddered.

Yugi, I really think you should-uurp! Atem cut off again.

Bye! Yugi called.

Atem spat and coughed. He moaned and then ducked to vomit again.

10 - murderer

Atem was doing his IT homework, which had been sent with the post. He wore the same as yesterday, but with a black hoodie on. He didn't have his trainers on and was leaned back in the chair with his feet up on the wall and the keyboard rested on his lap, typing.

He had KoRn on the computer, too.

Yugi came in with his wet hair over his face.

What happened to your hair? Atem smirked.

It rained on the way home from school and *somebody* forgot to pick me up,

Sorry, but Grandpa wouldn't let me go outside, The Pharaoh said.

Remember next time, Mr. What-do-you-mean-Pharaoh s-didn't-look-like-punks, Yugi grinned.

I will- Yugi, are you wearing my shirt again? Atem frowned.

Uh . . . bye! Yugi scurried off.

You had better put it back! Atem called.

He slipped a finger down the side of his choker and rolled up a sleeve. He typed.

BEAST! YOUR BEAST OF A SON KILLED MY DAUGHTER! someone yelled from outside.

Atem turned the music down and peeked through the blinds.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM! HE TURNED INTO A GREAT BIG WOLF CREATURE AND KILLED HER! the woman screamed at Grandpa.

Atem gulped. His mouth suddenly felt dry and his choker felt tight.

Mrs. Katz, please! Grandpa tried to calm her down.

Atem sat in his chair properly. Tears filled his eyes. He was a *murderer*. He lifted his hand and placed it on the left of his chest, on his collarbone, where the bite was. His hand curled into a fist and he grasped the material, quietly weeping.

Atem closed his eyes. Tears streamed down his cheeks and he lowered his head in shame. He slammed his head on to the desk and cried hard. He had hit it so hard that there was a cut just above his eyebrow.

11 - relaxation

Atem went to visit Tea. He told her everything. He was furious with himself. She could understand that. Atem paced up and down her bedroom, swiftly. Well, say it! he snarled Say you hate me because I am a ~BEEP! ~ing, damned murderer! he snapped.

No! Tea barked. It s not you that s the murderer, it s the werewolf inside of you. Please, I don t like it when you yell at people,

The Pharaoh froze. I am sorry . . . , he said quietly.

I can understand how you feel right now, okay? If you just relax, then maybe we can talk, Tea said softly.

He began to yell again.

PHARAOH! Tea said sharply. She thought he would punch her, but he un-clenched his fists and fell into her arms, in tears. She had never seen him so upset before. He hadn t even known that girl. It was the fact that he had killed someone.

2:30pm

Atem lay on Tea s bed. She lay beside him, playing with his hair. That was the best way for her to calm him. He was silent.

Tea leaned over and looked down at him. His brows were furrowed and his mouth hung open. She leaned closer and they shared a kiss.

3:30pm

Tea sniffed and woke up. She found herself with her arm around the Pharaoh s waist. He was still asleep. He had rolled over to face her and his arm was around her as well.

His mouth was agape in he snored quietly.

Looking over her sleeping boyfriend, Tea could see a small note on the table.

12 - three strange men

Atem snored loudly. There was a knock at his bedroom door. He let out a muffled groan.

Atem! Open up *now*, or I *will* break this door down! came a male voice.

Atem rolled his eyes and went to the door. He opened the door to find three men, all dressed in black robes. He raised an eyebrow and glanced at each of them in turn.

He blinked and raised both eyebrows.

How do you know my name? he grunted.

Your brother told us, one of them smiled. Come with us, please.

What? Hold on, you- Atem began.

We are going to help you, now get dressed and we will explain, another of the men said. The three headed downstairs.

Atem took a shower first. Then he got out and pulled his boxers on. He went back into his bedroom.

Atem paused, frowning, then turned round and pulled his jeans on. He pulled a khaki green t-shirt on and his trainers. Finally, he put arm warmers, with buckles, on. He started down the stairs and Yugi halted him.

You forgot to do your hair. You look like someone from KoRn! he smirked.

Atem shook his wet hair and it popped back to its normal, natural style, but with a few extra, small, bangs over his face, as it was still wet.

Running a hand through his bangs he headed for the living room. He trembled as he nibbled his toast, fighting the urge to throw it on the floor and attack it. He hadn't eaten much, lately, too embarrassed incase he did attack the food.

Things tasted strange: soda tasted like vomit, he had a liking for raw meat, he couldn't stand chocolate anymore, bread was like cardboard, and vegetables were like eating lumps of wood! He was turning into a carnivore and, being vegetarian, Tea hated it!

Some things scared him, though. He liked the taste of fresh flesh and blood and worst of all, it was *human* flesh. He smelt different. Instead of body odor he smelt like a wet dog when he began to sweat. He had a short temper and had mood swings a few days before a full moon. During those few days, he had to be kept locked up in the cellar, because he had a tendency to attack people with his sharp teeth and extendable claws.

Yes, if he felt like it, he could instantly grow claws in the place of fingernails.

13 - ouchie!

The three men turned out to be the human forms of Slifer, Obelisk and Ra. Apparently they had been sent to help and protect the Pharaoh, but, since finding out that he was a werewolf, only Ra remained. He had a golden tan, golden hair and wore a black suit under his robes.

Atem's last transformation had been a disaster. Someone had tried to kill him; Tea and Ra. Tea and Atem had ended up in hospital, both with wires and tubes leading from their wrists. Atem had a nasty gash over his left eye, had a nasty burn on his leg and a wound on his right hand and Tea had burns and a broken arm.

Atem couldn't open his left eye-it had bandages over it anyway- and could barely open his right.

Pharaoh, Tea said. Hey, Pharaoh,

He turned to her, right eye only just open a small way. Tea? he barely moved his lips.

I wanted to say . . . thank you for this, she held up the cartouche that he had given her just before he transformed.

That's alright . . . he croaked. I'm sorry . . . that you had to witness the transformation . . . it is not as painful as it looks . . . I assure you . . . but it hurts a lot more afterwards . . .

You poor thing, Tea said, You look awful,

So do you, he gave a shaky smile.

A nurse came over. Alright, Atem does this hurt? she pressed a finger to his leg.

Holy Hathor! he yelled, Agh! Don't touch tha- Argh! I said don't- AAAAHAA!

Tea giggled as she watched Atem squirm and yell with pain.

No, no, no! Not th- AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHAAHA! NOT THERE! CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE KILLING ME ALREADY?! he shouted. The nurse left.

Oh, thank Ra . . . he breathed.

(Hathor was an Egyptian god . . . I think)

14 - gone for good?

Charging 350 . . . shocking, a nurse said.

Pharaoh! Tea shrieked. Don't give up now!

Too late. The doctors and nurses stopped. They slowly returned to other patients. A doctor sighed.

Time of death- NO! What are you doing! Don't stop! Tea screamed.

He's gone, Tea there is nothing more we can do, he said, and carried on with his death speech .

Tea burst into tears. No . . . she reached for Atem. His skin was extremely pale, his mouth hung open, and blood still poured from it. He was gone . . .

15 - Asha and Alani

What do you want . . .? Atem mumbled.

A girl giggled. He sleep-talks!

Be careful, Alani! He is a werewolf and it is hard to tell which are the good and which are the evil, a woman said.

Atem opened his eyes. He found himself lying in a bed, naked! With a yelp, he pulled the covers up over his chest.

We found you like that, so we took you here, the woman said.

Where am I? Who are you? Where are my clothes? WHY DO I FEEL LIKE AN ESCAPED CRIMINAL?! he yelled.

You are in Domino. I am Alani and this is my sister, Asha. Here are your clothes and I don't know why you feel like an escaped criminal, Alani said, pointing to a pile of clothes on a chair in the corner. We found those after finding you. She added.

D-Domino? I'm alive? Atem muttered. Wh-When is the next full moon? he breathed.

Three weeks away, Asha smiled. Wow, so you're the former Duel Monsters champ, huh? You're so hot! she squeaked.

Ack! Atem pulled the covers over his head.

Here you go! Alani tossed his clothes onto the bed, beside him and left with her sister.

Atem pulled his clothes on and wandered into the room where the girls were. It was a small space, with yellow walls and curtains. There was a sofa and a chair, with a table in-between.

You live here, don't you? You could go home now if you like, Asha said.

Atem shook his head. I cannot go back. Everyone believes I am dead, he sighed.

You want them to believe that for the rest of their lives? Alani snapped.

The Pharaoh was taken back by her reaction and stepped back. No, I . . . he trailed off. He hung his head in shame. Asha scolded her sister and said that he was in a fragile state. Coming back to life can be quite a shock, she said.

Atem's bottom lip trembled.

Are you okay? Asha asked

I need to go back . . . but I can't, his voice began to crack.

Oh . . . Asha wrapped her arms around him.

I can't go back . . . I would kill them, he sniffed.

16 - NUMB

Atem caught sight of the full moon. You said it was- he began to choke.

Um . . . slight miscalculation? Asha grimaced. RUN!

Asha and Alani fled.

Atem reached for them, choking. He grasped where the scar was, where it hurt the most. He screamed with pain. His hands and feet changed to clawed paw-like things, he ripped his clothes off. His bones snapped into different positions.

He went rigid, flung himself into walls and collapsed onto all fours. HELP ME! he roared. He arched his back. Fur grew all over his body. His boxers split off as he became more muscular.

His teeth were huge and his face lengthened. His ears grew tall and pointed and moved to the top of his head.

It was complete.

Atem's eyes snapped open. What had once been amethyst orbs was now a furious yellow glare. The beast rose to his feet and howled.

17 - Boulevard of Broken Dreams

(Inspired by Green Day Boulevard of Broken Dreams)

Atem was a loner. He had been kicked out of Yugi s place; Tea s mom refused to let him stay at theirs because he was a werewolf and no one liked him. Tea, Yugi, Tristan and Joey did, but he never saw them anymore.

Atem wandered the streets and had to steal for a decent meal or drink. All he had with him was his precious guitar. It was on his back, but sometimes he sat in alleyways and played. That earned him a few pennies, but not much.

The homeless Pharaoh walked down the path, staring at his shadow. He felt like killing himself, but knew he shouldn t. If he did, for some reason, he thought something bad would happen.

He could sense everyone giving him edgy glances. His heightened senses told him that they were spreading rumors and talking about him behind his back. He didn t care. He was beyond caring anymore.

18 - desert?

Only wearing the remains of his trousers, which reached his knees, Atem was a mess. He suddenly felt something rough on the soles of his feet.

He stopped walking, instantly sensing new surroundings, scents, sounds and a new taste to the air.

He hadn't been able to control himself on his last transformation, so the ears remained.

A desert! He glanced around. There was no sign of the city anywhere. He must have been too busy watching his shadow to notice where his non-stop walks had led him.

Atem pinned his ears back. He felt hot and dehydrated. He swallowed. Nothing. His throat still remained dry and sore. After a few miles walk, he found himself a cave, with a pool of water at its center. He raised his nose and sniffed. Nothing, it was empty.

He sat down, dropping his guitar beside him. Noticing the pool, he staggered over, dropped onto his hands and knees, lowered his head and lapped up some water. He felt so hot that he jumped in and rolled about in the shallow end.

Atem lay in the water, panting. He sighed and pulled himself up. Once again on all fours, he shook his body dry like a dog.

He curled up beside his guitar and fell asleep.

19 - caves...

Atem's eyes flickered open. His ears twitched. He squinted. Tea? he croaked. How did you- I have no idea . . . Tea interrupted. Eek! Spider! Squish it! Squish it! Squish it! she squeaked.

Atem slapped a hand onto the spider, crushing it, and then licked it from his palm.

Ew! Tea grimaced.

The Pharaoh's stomach growled and he looked down, putting a hand over it. He pinned his ears back as it growled again.

Oh, here, Tea tossed him a chocolate bar.

He turned his nose up in disgust.

Oh . . . sorry . . . here, she tossed him a dead hare that she had found. Now she remembered why she picked it up.

She shuddered as Atem devoured it then proceeded to cough up its bones.

It was like watching a cat coughing up a hairball, but with splinters of bones instead. After the disgusting retching and choking, Atem gave a slight cough as he lay down on the sheets that Tea had laid down.

Um . . . I need to sleep there too, she blushed.

Atem smiled warmly and budged over. Tea's blush deepened. His clothes had come off earlier, during his frolic in the water. He didn't seem to care, or feel in a perverted mood.

He looked down and saw why she was blushing. He pulled up one of the sheets and wrapped it around his waist, then lay down on the ground, next to the other sheet, giving Tea more room.

20 - Beach kisses

Atem and Tea eventually found their way home. Atem got dressed and they all (Tristan, Joey, Yugi, Tea and Atem) went to the beach.

Atem spent his time relaxing on the sand, with Tea. Joey, Tristan and Yugi spied on them, whilst making sand castles on the shore.

So, what are they doing now? Tristan asked.

Joey's jaw dropped, Yugi's eyes widened and Tristan raised an eyebrow.

Atem and Tea were kissing in the sunset. Yugi was *really* jealous by now.

They pulled apart and noticed the three boys who gaped at them.

They've seen us! Duck! Joey hissed. They ducked behind one of Yugi's sand castles.

Atem frowned. Did you just notice- Who cares? Tea giggled.

Atem blushed as she pecked him on the cheek.

Um . . . er . . . he was speechless.

W-What are we doing when we get back? he said.

Tea shrugged. Maybe you could play your guitar for me! she smiled.

Atem smiled and nodded. She hadn't seen him this happy in a while. She often wondered if he missed his family and Egypt.

21 - The sleeping curse...

Atem walked home alone. His friends had left school before him and he had had a detention for tackling Nathan at lunchtime. Nathan was a vampire. Werewolves had a thing about vampires and they felt the same way.

10pm

Atem had fallen asleep on the sofa. Tea sat next to him. He stopped snoring and opened his eyes. Tea had a full conversation with him before realizing that his eyes were glazed. Um . . . are you awake? she asked.

No . . . Atem groaned, running a hand through his hair.

Tea raised an eyebrow. Are you sure? she frowned.

I m not awake, he shrugged.

Pharaoh, you re not lying to me are you? she giggled.

Of course not. Why would I lie to- his eyes closed again and he carried on snoring.

Yugi pursed his lips and sniggered at the look on Tea s face. I guess I should have told you: He walks, talks, eats and drinks in his sleep, he smiled. The only problem is he s the complete opposite to when he s awake. He swears and sometimes attacks me.

Weird& Tea said quietly. Um&does he attack often?

Nah&only when it s like two days before a full moon, Yugi grinned.

So&he sleep-talks, walks, eats, drinks and swears? Tea muttered.

Who sleep walks? the Pharaoh croaked, rubbing his eyes.

You do! Yugi beamed. You even eat and drink!

I ve just had a conversation with you and you even said you weren t awake, Tea said.

Really? Atem ruffled his hair. I don t remember- Of course you don t! You were asleep! Yugi smiled.

22 - Good morning Atem!

Atem's eyes flickered open. He was lying on the floor, still wearing yesterday's clothes. He groaned and went to get up but- THUD! Ow! - He was under the table!

He crawled out from under the table and staggered upstairs.

9am

Atem had pulled his pyjamas on and was in bed, asleep again.

Yugi yawned and walked past his room. He stopped and glanced at his brother. A grin grew on his face.

Yugi tiptoed into the room, took two steps back then ran and jumped onto the seventeen-year-old. Atem let out a roar then grunted and shoved him off.

Get up! Yugi jeered.

No! Atem moaned.

Aw, c'mon! Yugi shook him.

Yugi, I've got a headache,

Have you been sleeping under the table again? Yugi smirked. I told you, you do stuff when you're asleep!

Go away, Atem grunted.

Why?

Because I used to be Pharaoh and I'll transform and eat you if you don't! he snapped.

Sorry, dog-breath, Yugi mumbled. He left.

23 - gig gone wrong

Atem, Yugi, Joey and Tristan had decided to form a band. Atem was lead guitar and vocals, with Yugi. Tristan played bass guitar and Joey drummed. There were plenty of fans waiting for them, but halfway through the third song some kids began to boo and throw things at them.

They stopped playing. Atem took a swig of water and threw the bottle across the stage. He grabbed the microphone.

Do you want to listen to some music or do you want us to go? he said. Hey, you! You, with the red and green hair! Yeah! And you! he pointed three boys out.

The rest of the crowd wanted the boys out. The band tried to reason with them.

Why did you buy a ticket? Why did you buy tickets just to ruin everything for everyone else? Yugi asked.

The boys ignored them and carried on throwing things at them.

Atem swung his guitar onto his back.

Were are you going? called Tristan.

WE HATE YOU!! one of the boys yelled.

Why did you buy ~ BEEP! ~ ing tickets then?! Atem threw the microphone at them and gave them THE FINGER as he walked off the stage and out of the arena.

Fine, Yugi sighed.

Sorry, guys. We gotta go, Joey said.

Sorry, Tristan said.

Outside

Ra was trying to talk some sense into the Pharaoh.

Hey, this is normal for teenage werewolves. Actually, all werewolves have a short temper . . . he muttered.

Get away from me, Atem grunted.

You know, you- I said get away from me! he growled.

24 - Pheral Pharaohs...

Atem was living in an old house. Yugi and Tea visited regularly.

Atem's last transformation had been awful and he was feral, as if brought up by wolves. He walked on all fours, not on his hands and knees, but on his toes and fingertips.

He acted just like a dog or wolf. He wore the rags of his clothes and smelt like something had died on him!

He barked and howled, sniffed and whimpered. He attacked people he didn't like and needed a shave . . .

He had been like this for a week or so, and it wasn't going to end.

Tea had held him up, trying to get him to walk upright. His legs trembled and shook terribly and he flopped back onto the floor.

Yugi had brought a doctor in. Atem growled and snarled, then attacked with his teeth and claws.

The only thing human-like he did was play the guitar, but even then, his deep, out of key howling took over. Tea made him wear arm warmers with buckles on. It helped control his claws and the way he ate.

She had to feed Atem and had tried and failed to wash him.

She held a bottle of water to his lips. He was on his toes and fingertips, looking up. He turned away then turned back to her. He opened his mouth and let the water flow in, swallowing in between. Most of the water went on the floor or down Atem's face and chin.

He clamped his teeth around the neck of the bottle and shook it furiously. Tea shrieked and let go. Atem gnawed the bottle, whilst holding one end with a hand.

25 - THUD!

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25 - THUD!

Atem had managed to become his usual self after another transformation. His nightmares had worsened and Tea had stayed with him for the night. She was asleep on his bed. Atem was asleep on a chair. He had his head in his arms, over a table. He had had an awful stomachache earlier and had undone his belt and trousers. He was leaned so far over that his trousers had ridden down, showing half of the back of his black boxers.

Atem snored loudly. Tea's eyes fluttered open. She smiled and giggled at him.

2am

Atem had sleepwalked to Tea and they were having another conversation . . .

Are you awake? she asked again. He shook his head.

It's ~BEEP! ~Ing funny! Take that Cleopatra, she was an ugly dog, she killed herself because her snob of a husband was dead, he smirked.

Uh, Pharaoh, I think you should go back to sleep, Tea muttered.

4am

Vampires! Werewolves and vampires were going to kill Atem! He ran. They trapped him in a dungeon of some sort and set the place on fire. He pounded the walls. There was no way out . . .

Actually, in real life he was pounding the door, screaming for help. He dropped to the floor, shaking.

No, he breathed. AAAAARGH!

Someone was pulling his insides out and skinning him alive. (O_O) (T_T)

Thinking Tea was one of them he attacked.

GET AWAY FROM ME! she shrieked.

No! You will die before I let you go! Atem roared.

THWACK! He flopped onto the floor. WHACK! He stopped moving.

Yugi? Tea breathed. Y-You knocked him out,

I know, but it takes a good few hits in the head. He might not look much, but he could easily kill you, Yugi said.

26 - Good night?

Animalistic growls and snarls came from Atem's bedroom that night. He was asleep, dreaming about something to do with werewolves. He growled and tossed and turned, kicking and gaping. He sank his teeth into his pillow and wrestled the bed sheets for a while. He pulled his teeth out and a trail of thick saliva drizzled from his mouth as he moved his head up. This wasn't just saliva, it was werewolf saliva.

This was the *venom* of a werewolf. If you were bitten, the saliva would enter your body and you would become a werewolf. It is a particularly thick and sticky liquid, not to be confused with the slobber of a three-headed dog!

By now, Atem's boxers were just about staying on his hips. His eyes shot open. Now the werewolf-ness was really showing. He grunted and curled up into such a position, that his knee touched his head. It was a good thing that he was this flexible and thin or he would have been in pain. He pulled the covers onto the floor and lay down on them like a dog. He slept there. He pulled the covers over himself and curled up.

27 - Egypt?

Atem, Yugi and Joey were stuck in the desert. They soon found out where it was&

What the hell is that? Yugi frowned. Over the horizon, they could see an army of what looked like men with the heads of jackals. They were charging at them.

Run! Atem cried.

Hey, look! Pyramids! - Joey! Yugi pulled Joey away.

The trio sprinted through an Egyptian market. Atem grabbed himself a few daggers and a bow and arrows. Hey! You no pay! I NEED PAY!! a man shouted. Huh? he span round to see the warriors. Atem tossed the daggers to Yugi and Joey.

Arm yourself! he called. These are warriors of Anubis! The only way to destroy them is with the weapons they use!

Atem shoved the bag of arrows onto his back and clutched the bow in his hand.

Pharaoh, when you say the weapons they use, doesn t that mean we have to- Yugi began.

NO! When I said that, I meant the weapons I just gave you! came the reply.

Whose weapons said you was a grave?! Joey yelled.

The ground rumbled.

MOVE FASTER! Atem shouted.

I CAN T KEEP UP WITH WEREWOLVES!! Joey roared.

WAIT UP! Yugi exclaimed as the two in front vanished into the ruins of a temple.

Great& he breathed, They left me&

A jackal warrior snooped up behind him

A sharp whooshing sound passed Yugi and he gasped as the creature dropped dead, and then turned into sand.

Yugi! The Pharaoh grabbed him and threw him at Joey. The boys fell to the floor.

Atem made a hasty fire in the sand, lit the tip of an arrow and shot it at a crack in the temple wall. The stone door began to slide shut. Atem tripped over. He scrambled to his feet and skidded through the small gap.

The door closed. Yugi pulled his brother to his feet.

I didn t mean to throw you, Atem croaked. It s just that I- We know! Yugi and Joey smiled.

Atem pulled a bottle of water out of his pocket, unscrewed the lid and leaned his head back as he guzzled the water down. He swallowed and looked at the other two. Oh, here, he breathed, tossing them a bottle each.

Wow, you were prepared, Joey said.

He nicked those with the weapons, Yugi grunted. All thirty bottles&Hey, Pharaoh, I never new you were that good at archery,

My father taught me, Atem said. He noticed a scorpion in the corner and threw a pen at it. The scorpion was squashed onto the wall, the pen pierced straight through its body.

Um&Pharaoh? Yugi raised an eyebrow as the werewolf crawled over, pulled the sting from the squashed bug s tail and ate it. He then proceeded to lick the leftovers from the wall.

Ew& Joey muttered.

Atem sat down and carried on guzzling water.

It s me! - Argh! & Ow! & Ouch! &

THUG! she screamed.

FOR RA S SAKE! I M THE PHARAOH! - OARGH! He roared.

The fire flickered on.

Atem was bent over, fists between his legs.

Pharaoh? Tea frowned.

Yes&it s me, he said through clenched teeth. Did you have to kick me in the-

What s goin on? Yugi yawned.

29 - ATTACK!!!

The jackal warriors broke in and they were after The Book of The Dead.

Unfortunately, Tea had it in her hand at the time. Atem held back the jackal beasts, while Tea fled. Yugi and Joey made a distraction.

There seemed to be pipes along the high ceiling. Atem leapt up onto a pipe. He was hanging upside-down, hanging on with his hands, his legs wrapped around it.

Tea! he called.

Uh! Tea looked up and quickly tossed the book to him.

Tea! Yugi! Joey! Run! Get out while you still can! he yelled.

What about you? Tea asked.

I'll be alright, Atem said.

As the three left, he swiftly made his way along the pipe, holding the book between his jaws.

The warriors scaled the walls and floors. One swiped the book from him. Atem made an animalistic snarl and grabbed for it with a clawed hand. He snatched it back. Before he knew it, the book was gone again and he was left with a scratch across his face.

Atem swore and growled with anger. He leapt down, grasped the book and dug his claws into the walls, climbing them like Spider Man. The warriors followed.

6pm

Atem staggered out of the ruins. He was bloody and wounded. He dropped the book and flopped onto the hot sand, exhausted. He stared at the sky, breathing hard.

7pm

Atem was lying in the same spot, sweating.

Get those bandages on his arm! Pharaoh! Stay awake for me, okay? Tea urged. Pharaoh! she shook Atem's shoulder. Stay awake!

Atem's eyes slid shut. Pharaoh! Tea yelped, shaking him. She put a hand on his cheek and gave it a gentle shake. Nothing.

Pharaoh? Yugi frowned.

He's passed out, Joey sighed.

7:30pm in Rebecca's mobile home thing . . .

Tea sat at the side of the bed. She held Atem's icy hand in her own and stared at him. The covers were up to his chin, his clothes were folded and on the table, and his chest rose and fell softly. Tea could hear his quiet breathing.

The room was dark.

Atem had bandages on his arm and stitches on his face, just below his eye.

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31 - mommy?

Atem lay on his bed, playing his guitar and singing loudly. He played Nickelback's How you Remind me .

Tea loved his singing and hovered by the bedroom door to listen, as she helped Tristan find a map. Atem had once said that he couldn't sing. Tea and Yugi wouldn't believe him and made him sing in front of them. That was when he took up the guitar. Being a fast learner, he picked it up in a matter of months and could easily play anything.

8pm

There was a knock at the door. Joey opened it. A woman with long black red tipped hair and blonde bangs, very much like Atem's. She was slim and had glittering amethyst eyes. She wore a blue T-Shirt, with black trousers and a denim jacket. There was a toddler holding her hand.

Can I talk to Atem? she asked.

Who are you? Joey frowned.

Look, it's a long story to how I got here, but I'm his . . . she paused, I'm his mother, she said quietly.

And this is his brother, Neo,

Joey gaped.

I know, but it's true, she said. The woman's eyes filled with tears. I haven't seen him since three millennia ago. He was ten. That was the last I saw of him. Thief Bakura murdered me, she sniffed. I believe he is seventeen now?

Listen, I will let you in, but you should really know this, Joey said, He's a werewolf. He gets upset or angry easily, so just stick to a good explanation.

The woman nodded and dried her eyes before stepping inside. Neo followed.

Atem gaped at her, his eyes fixed on her face. He knew who she was.

Atem? she breathed, It's me,

For a moment, she thought he would actually say something, but he just closed his eyes and collapsed .

. .

Pharaoh! Tea gasped.

The woman gasped and put a hand over her mouth. I-I didn't mean to-

It's not you, Yugi said. It's what's behind you,

Huh? she turned round. The dark sky was cloudless and a crescent moon lit the sky.

Staring at the moon for too long causes werewolves to collapse, Tristan told her. Close the door!

She span round and closed the door.

Atem groaned and opened his eyes. He winced and pulled himself to his feet.

9pm

Frantic parents took Joey and Tristan home.

Tea was puzzled and playing with Neo, while Yugi was worried.

Atem was in his bedroom, he had been crying for the last half hour. Everyone was silent.

The woman was called Yemi. She sat on the sofa.

32 - grrr

Atem couldn't sleep that night. His dreams were replaced with painful flashbacks of the night the murder took place. He was watching, from behind his father's throne. He was ten years of age. His eyes streamed, but he kept quiet, in case the thief spotted him.

He heard his mother's screams and the blood that splashed everywhere. Finally, when Bakura left, he let out a loud sob and screamed for his mother.

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! the boy's screams faded into his deeper tone and his eyes flung open. Atem sat bolt upright, and put his head in his hands. Tears rolled down his face again. Yemi came in. She quietly sat on the end of the bed. I heard you screaming, she said softly, Are you alright? Atem shuddered, clenching his teeth. She wrapped her arms around him and let him cry onto her shoulder. He held her tightly.

Yemi spoke to him softly in Ancient Egyptian. He gave her a shaky reply and lay down.

Yemi sang a song to him, a song that she used to sing to him when he was young. Atem could barely remember it, but he was exhausted. Once he was asleep, Yemi kissed him, ruffled his hair and left, closing the door behind her.

9am

Today was a particularly hot day. All of the boys were shirtless and the girls all wore skirts and sleeveless tops.

Atem kicked the covers back and his eyes flickered open. He stiffly pulled himself onto his hands and knees and stretched. After that, he simply flopped back down. He lay there for a few seconds then got up and pulled his trousers on. He went to the bathroom and then drowsily ate breakfast.

He sat at the table, with his head in his palm. His eyes flickered shut and after a few minutes his head slid from his hand. He squinted. The same thing happened again. Neo giggled. Tea shook his shoulder.

Pharaoh, she giggled, Pharaoh!

Atem opened his eyes and sat up.

Mommy, can I have Atem's toast? Neo asked.

Oh, Neo, you can't do that, Yemi trailed off. Atem had already pushed the saucer over to his younger brother.

Atem- I'm not hungry, he grunted. He gave Neo a small smile and headed outside with Yugi. Tea purposely played loud music, to cover up the snapping, snarls and growls.

Atem raised his head from the carcass. His mouth and hands were bloody. Yugi, he breathed. Are you sure that this is- Yes! You need to eat something, and if this is what you need, we'll get it when you need it, Yugi interrupted.

Thank you, he said quietly. He lowered his head again and continued to rip the flesh off and eat it.

9:15am

The dead animal was buried in the sand. Atem wiped the blood from his mouth and washed his hands in the nearby stream.

He and Yugi went back inside.

Where have you been? Yemi asked.

Checking if there are any dangers near, Atem lied, It's clear,

Yep! Yugi added.

Atem sat down and ruffled Neo's hair. Neo jumped on him and they wrestled on the floor. Atem took it easy on him and contained his strength.

33 - cured of the curse

Everyone was outside. Yugi was making a barbeque and Yemi and Tea were staring at Atem. He had brought his amplifier out with him and was playing his guitar and singing, lying in a hammock. Neo made sandcastles.

Playing the guitar always made Atem feel better. He let Tea and Yemi pick songs that he knew.

Here you go, Tea handed him a bottle of water. He took a few swigs then gave it back and carried on playing.

He finished that song and put his hands behind his head, his Les Paul (the guitar!) rested across his abdomen.

Let s put some Nickelback on the stereo! Yugi smiled.

Atem chuckled. Is that because it sounds like me and you were enjoying it and I ve stopped to take a rest?

Yugi nodded and switched the stereo on.

Atem murmured a few lyrics. Yemi spoke in Ancient Egyptian (I will put AE to save time!), You ve grown up since I last saw you. You look great,

Thank you, he replied. I ve missed you and Neo a lot,

What are they talking about? Tea frowned.

Tonight will be a full moon. I ve heard that you re a werewolf? Yemi said.

Atem stared at the ground. Not again. Surely he would kill someone this time. He had to get away.

He dropped his guitar and went inside.

He doesn t like to talk about it, Yugi hissed.

Yemi went inside. Atem was sitting on his bed, crying again.

Atem, you need to stop crying, she cupped his face in her hands, If you just sit there crying all day, nothing will change. Look at me, she said calmly. He looked into her eyes.

Now, I know how to cure you of the transformations. After I do this, you won t transform, not ever, she said, Now, look at me,

He stared into her eyes.

Just relax . . . close your eyes, Yemi whispered.

Atem closed his eyes and unconsciously lay down on the bed.

Good boy, she kissed him and let go.

Yemi chanted a spell over him.

Atem saw a small white light. As she chanted louder, it grew bigger and bigger until . . .

11am

He s starting to wake up, Tea said. This meant that the spell had worked.

Leave him, Yemi smiled, He might need some time alone,

The two left.

Atem groaned and woke up. He was in bed, with the covers up to his chin. He sat up and glanced around, dazed. All he remembered was closing his eyes then seeing that light.

He looked down and noticed that the scar was still on his collarbone. It looked paler than normal. It was normally a deep red, now it was more of a pinky colour.

It didn t hurt either.

34 - prom night

Atem and Tea were nowhere to be seen at the prom. Giggles were heard from under one of the tables.

Yugi lifted the tablecloth. His jaw dropped. Atem and Tea were snogging in each other's arms!

Hey! Atem pulled the cloth back down.

Where are they? Joey asked.

They're playing tonsil tennis under the table! Tristan grinned.

Really?

No!

Yugi shook his head.

No way! Tristan smirked.

Yugi nodded.

Their jaws dropped. Somebody's tie was on the floor and their jacket.

Joey whipped the cloth from the table.

Tea and Atem were fully clothed and staring blankly.

W-We thought you were . . . Joey trailed off.

Ew! No! We were just kissing and hugging, Tea said. That's gross!

Why are you under the table then? Yugi asked.

The loud music was giving me a headache and we didn't want the whole of Domino seeing us, Atem said.

Why were you giggling?

It's the Pharaoh! He's ticklish! Tea smiled. And he told me a few jokes! I love a guy with a sense of humor!

Is this true?

Would I lie? Atem grunted.

Yes, Yugi muttered.

Well, we might as well go home now, Tea smiled. The dance is over,

Atem took Tea's hand and helped her up; her pretty blue dress flowed as she stood.

They both walked out, hand in hand.

10am

Atem snored quietly. He and Tea were snuggled up under a blanket on the sofa. They were wearing their pyjamas and had fallen asleep watching a late night horror movie together.

Tea lay behind him. His arm hung over the edge of the sofa and his face was buried in a pillow. The remote control slipped from his hand and hit the floor with a thud. Tea had her arm around his slim waist and had a small smile on her lips.

Two mugs of cold hot chocolate, a packet of crisps, a bag of popcorn and a bowl of sweets stood on the table.

35 - new home?

Atem had had to move in with Yemi and her boyfriend, Ross, far away from his friends.

Yemi was making supper. It wasn't really a meal, she was only making it because Atem hadn't eaten much and when he did, it was alone. She glanced at her sons.

Atem sat on a chair, cross-legged. Neo was busy colouring in on the floor. The Pharaoh simply stared at him, daydreaming of something or other.

Yemi turned back to the food. Was he acting like this because he missed his friends?

Once the food was cooked, she set it out on the table. Neo jumped to his feet and clambered onto a chair. Yemi sat down. Atem? she said.

Atem! Ross grabbed the teen's arm.

No! He snapped, struggling free and fleeing to his room.

It was Ross.

Atem threw himself onto his bed. He breathed heavily through clenched teeth. He needed some way to take out his rage, before it all came back again, as tears. Just like yesterday, and the day before.

Too late, his eyes filled with tears and he let out a loud sob as he buried his head in his arms. He wanted his real father, not some stupid control-freak. He shuddered, sniffed and sobbed again and again. What difference would it make? The same thing would happen again tomorrow. No matter how hard he cried, it would all come back again.

Atem needed Tea. She was the one who cheered him up and helped him through hard times. She would always be there.

Atem was fast asleep when Neo wandered in. He stumbled over to the sleeping figure and saw that he was asleep. A quiet Ross, who had just received a good telling from Yemi, took Neo back to his room.

1am

Atem snorted and woke up. He switched the light on and, squinting, took his shirt and trousers off. He tossed his clothes onto the floor and then slipped into bed.

He turned the light off, rolled over and closed his eyes. Atem lay on his side, with the covers up to his shoulders and his hands sticking out from the top of them, near his face.

Ross broke Yemi's spell. The full moon lit the room and Atem was shaking and sweating madly. Yemi sat on the bed, beside him. Ross watched. Yemi stroked her son and tried to ask him what was wrong. No! he growled. His eyes changed. He began to choke and shake even more.

Yemi leapt to her feet. Ross! she yelled. He was gone. She hurried downstairs. Ross! Get out, now! she bellowed over Atem's roars of pain. Ross was gone. The screams stopped.

Yemi ran into Atem's room. Sitting on the floor, whimpering was the werewolf. It had tears in its eyes. He hadn't howled. This meant that he was safe.

Oh, Atem, she dropped down and put her arms around the tame beast.

Atem pinned his ears back.

7pm next night

Neo had gone home with Ross. Yemi decided to let Yugi and Tea live with them for a while, to keep Atem company and to fill in the empty space.

Atem was in the bathroom- **COUGH!** -At the moment. (Ya know what he's doing! I'm not being **THAT** descriptive!). He glanced over his shoulder and raised an eyebrow. Since when did Yemi have two washing machines and a broken bike in the bathroom?

Pharaoh! Hurry up, I need to use the washing machine! Tea called.

I can't pee any faster, your majesty! Atem called.

Tea rolled her eyes. And put the seat down, wash your hands and flush! she yelled.

After doing all of those things, he finally came out and went back up the stairs.

He jogged into the back room, where Yugi and Yemi were painting the walls.

Oh! Atem, could you fix those blinds up? The step ladder's over there, Yemi pointed to a short ladder next to a toolbox.

Alright, Atem grunted. He moved the ladder over to the window, took a few screws, a screwdriver and the blinds. He hopped up onto the ladder and got to work.

11pm

Atem was asleep, in bed.

Tea was also asleep, in her bed.

Yugi and Yemi were just finishing the tidying up.

1am

Tea wandered into the kitchen. She found The Pharaoh, drinking a glass of water.

Sorry, did I wake you? he asked, putting the glass in the sink.

No, she shook her head. I couldn't sleep,

She just couldn't stop staring at his bare chest! She knew that he always slept wearing just his boxers, but she hadn't seen him fully before.

Tea? Atem croaked.

Tea jolted and shook her head.

Well, goodnight, he left her in the kitchen.

/Damn! / She thought. / I could have kept him talking so that I could have a longer look!/
3:30pm

3:30pm

The older students of Domino gathered at the bus stop. Younger students hurried home. Older students from the rival school, Blake, gathered at the field. The Domino students hopped off the bus and glared at their opponents. Domino was mostly a punk and gothic group. Some of them were werewolves. Blake

was the rap type, wearing shorts and baggy T-Shirts. Some of those were vampires.

The vampires and werewolves stood apart from their classmates.

Atem stood with fellow werewolves, Mike, Zak and Spike. Zak had his lip pierced and a scar on his leg. Spike had a tattoo on his arm and a Mohican hairstyle, with a scar on his wrist. Mike had a huge scar across his face.

The vampires hissed at them. It will be a pleasure to blood you! they growled.

No you won t! Tea snarled.

Tea, stay out of this, this isn t your fight, Atem said calmly.

5pm

The werewolves raised their heads and howled with victory. The vampires staggered away. Atem, Mike, Zak and Spike headed across the field to help out their human friends.

Yugi! Atem breathed.

Pharaoh! Did you win? Yugi smiled.

Yes, where s Tea? he replied quickly.

Someone screamed. Atem sprinted to Tea s aid.

Two boys were closing in on her. He swiftly threw two punches. The two dropped onto the floor, unconscious.

Thanks, Tea smiled as he helped her up.

37 - wolfguy

Argh! Hey!

CRASH! BANG! WALLOP! SMACK!

Atem struggled, but was weakened by an invisible force. He glared and growled. Chains were tied around his neck, but he simply bit them off.

9am

Pharaoh? Yugi called.

He hasn't been sleep walking again, has he? Tea asked.

If he was sleep walking, he wouldn't have left half a note, he grunted. Help in the lab down street? he frowned.

The laboratory down Domino Park! Tea gasped. They're always trying to test new animals and creatures. They practically torture them!

The two hurried down to Domino Park. They carefully slipped through the bushes and found the lab.

Now, show us your true DNA, someone growled.

Never-AAAARGH!

That's him! Tea hissed.

Right, Yugi nodded.

They crept in and found him. He was lying on the floor. He had the ears, paws, fangs and tail of a wolf. His eyes were closed and his lip bled. His hair was down and he looked like a rock star.

What did you do to my brother? Yugi snarled as Tea knelt down to check if Atem was all right.

He wouldn't show us his DNA, so we simply forced it out of him, a scientist smiled. My name is Ross, Yugi and Tea gasped. Atem had told them about him and how suspicious he was.

I suppose I should leave you with your friend for a few minutes, he smirked, While I perfect my potion, Ross bent down and stuck a finger on Atem's tongue. He took thick saliva and put it in a test tube, then disappeared.

He's starting to wake up, Tea muttered.

Atem's ears twitched and he clenched his teeth. He opened his eyes and relaxed. Tea? he croaked.

Yugi? What are you doing here?

You're bleeding, Yugi noted.

The Pharaoh's paws, ears and tail bled. I know, he shuddered, They cut me so that my bones would fit properly when they brought my true DNA out. They said it would be easier for me to change, but that hurt more than anything I have ever felt,

He pinned his ears back as he stood up. He wouldn't normally feel this weak until after a transformation.

His hands changed back and he gasped with pain. Blood poured from his hands. Tea watched his Adam's apple. He seemed to be swallowing back the pain. He took deep, hoarse breaths and swallowed down the air.

1pm

Come on, Yemi said, It may hurt more, but it helps,

Atem stepped forward, hands still bleeding. Yemi stood by a sink full of warm water and her special medical mixture.

Come on, she beckoned. She put her hands on his shoulders.

Atem took a deep breath and plunged his hands into the water. He clenched his teeth, pinned his ears back, and his tail snapped upright.

Yemi felt him tense up as the water turned red.

Atem opened his watery eyes and breathed shakily.

He took his hands out and she wrapped bandages tightly around them.

Come on. You looked like that when you lost your toys when you were three, Yemi wiped his eyes. She took him to his room and put him in bed. She ruffled his hair and the style returned. She smiled and left.

2pm

Atem was fast asleep, lying on the bed with a foot on the pillow. He was wearing his pyjamas- a baggy black T-Shirt and trousers- it was October now and it was getting colder. He had woken up earlier and flipped upside-down. His ears and tail twitched every so often. The only thing heard was quiet snoring.

38 - =D

Atem lay on his bed, belt and trousers undone, holding an ice pack on his hip to sooth the pain of the throbbing bruise. Tea giggled at him. Yugi came in and his jaw dropped.

It s not what it looks like! Atem wheezed. Argh! he pulled his stinging hand away from Tea s.

He s got a nasty bruise on his hip, Tea said.

Oh, sure he has, Yugi smirked.

I have! Atem snapped. If you want proof, then- Ack! No! he interrupted.

Atem handed the ice to Tea. Proof enough? he grunted.

All Right, I believe you, Yugi said.

Atem s ears and tail had gone.

11pm

Atem was staying at Yugi s uncle s house with Yugi, while the roof was repaired at Yemi s.

Atem caught sight of a full moon. He didn t need anyone else to know. He threw his clothes onto his bed and scrambled down to the cellar. He locked himself in as the pain surged through his body. He kept as quiet as possible, gritting his teeth and clenching his fists, anything to stop them knowing.

He took a deep breath and arched his back.

Where s your brother?

Um&Err&He s gone to see Tea, Yugi lied.

He never told us,

Yeah, well& he gets a bit embarrassed, you know?

The transformation was complete. The werewolf howled and smashed through the window.

9am

Tea screamed. Atem groaned. Yugi burst out laughing.

The Pharaoh was lying on the kitchen floor, at Yemi s, stark naked.

He rose to his feet and walked past Yugi, who was laughing madly. He soon shut up when Atem gave him a swift punch in the gut.

He winked at Tea and went up to his room.

He came downstairs, with his T-Shirt, jeans, studded belt, arm warmers and trainers on.

Yugi was still laughing.

Shut up! Atem snapped. He wasn t in the mood.

Make me! Yugi smiled.

He raised a fist. Why you- he cut off, Tea holding him back and Yemi scowling.

He swore and snatched his arm free, then stormed off to his room. Yugi still laughed.

Tea smacked him and headed after the Pharaoh.

I didn t- Yugi began. Yemi glared at him.

Tea knew why Atem was angry. It was one of those after-transformation mood swings. She saw him lying on his bed, silent. KoRn played on the stereo. He had been in his room a lot lately.

Tea watched as he ran a hand through his hair, then growled and clenched it in his fists. She thought he was going to rip it out, but he just lay there. She could hear him taking deep breaths.

39 - The end T_T

Now we have you! Ross growled.
One of his colleagues raised a gun.
Fire! he commanded.

Atem's chest throbbed. His heart pounded in his ears as the bullet grew closer. To him, this took forever. A flash of silver. He slammed into the wall upon impact. Blood poured from his chest and mouth. He gaped and pressed a fist to the wound. He clenched his teeth and let out a whimper. Shaking, he slid to the floor.

NO! Tea sprinted over. She knelt down beside him.
W-When d-did . . . you g-get here? Atem winced.
Just now, she sniffed. Was it a silver bullet?
Atem nodded grimly.

Tea's eyes filled with tears.

T-Tea . . . I-I love you,

Tea shook her head. So do I, she whispered. You can't die! she cried.

No . . . as dreadful a-as this . . . may seem, you have to . . . p-promise to let me die here . . . please,
Tea let out a loud sob and gripped him. I promise, she sniffed.

She pulled him up and held him in her embrace. They shared one last kiss.

Thank you . . . f-for everything, he trembled, Don't cry, he whispered, wiping her eyes with a shaky thumb.

Tea stared at him.

He let out a weak smile. He gave a wince and arched his back.

Shh . . . Tea ran her hands through his soft hair.

He relaxed. His eyes flickered shut and his head leaned to one side. The blood stopped flowing onto the floor. He lay still and silent.

Tea held his lifeless body close, eyes streaming.