

### **Excerpts From the Journal of a Troubled Student (Position Paper 1)**

**August 19th, 2023**

**4:33 pm**

I know I'm stressed about school starting, but this is ridiculous.

I've had this headache for two days. It's moved up to a pounding sensation in my temples and behind my eyes.

I've been guzzling ibuprofen, but nothing's working.

**August 21, 2023**

**12:46 pm**

Day one of classes, and I'm already exhausted. And it's a billion degrees outside; I've never been this badly sunburned. Currently sat on the couch slathered in aloe vera and trying to get rid of this headache.

I'm probably just dehydrated.

**August 22, 2023**

**10:25 am**

I'm definitely dehydrated. I woke up this morning with dark circles under my eyes and an ache in my gums.

My hands are also colder than normal, despite it still being 108 degrees outside.

It's the anemia for me...

Maybe I'll go to the doctor after my vampire class.

Update: Holy shit.

**August 23, 2023**

**4:01 pm**

This is so stupid. So absolutely fucking ridiculous, but it's somehow the only logical explanation.

I guess I'm a vampire now?

**August 24, 2023**

**10:30 pm**

I haven't slept in two days. Not that I need it (?).

Here's what I know:

- Head hurts a lot, especially in the sun
- I'm even paler than usual, got sunburned really easily
- The aching in my gums was from FANGS GROWING IN, very sharp
- Still very dehydrated, but now significantly more worried about what that means
- Eyes are literally red

All things considered, I'm still relatively normal. I'm still me. I am.

**September 1, 2023**

**3:08 am**

I didn't mean to. I didn't mean to. I don't even know what happened. I blacked out. What did I do?  
I remember walking past a guy in the parking lot. He was making a lot of gross comments and laughing with his friends about it. I remember getting so mad when I heard what they were saying; that stupid headache flared up and I quite literally saw red. Then everything kind of went dark.  
I woke up on the sidewalk outside my apartment. I have no idea what happened, but I felt... super rested. Refreshed, even.  
And covered in blood.  
So.  
Got that going for me.

**September 3, 2023**

**11:56 pm**

I feel like the last thing you should do when becoming a vampire is tell other people, but I'm so at a loss that that's exactly what I did.  
I texted Wess- they're the least likely to freak out if something like this happened. And I was right, thankfully.  
I told them about what happened the other day- how I got so angry that I blacked out and woke up covered in someone else's blood. (Despite not having a lot of details, we were able to sort of fill in the blanks.)  
I attacked someone, and I think I drank their blood. Or bathed in it; so much of it was on my clothes.  
Lots of pieces are starting to fall into place.  
Sheesh.

**September 4, 2023**

**1:09 am**

Wess and I have been discussing my new... affliction. After the incident a couple days ago, I've noticed that I've felt more calm. I don't get aggravated as easily, and I've been able to focus more on schoolwork (as much as I can without going to class- I've told my professors I'm sick). Also, my headache went away, and my eyes have more or less returned to their normal color. And my fangs (sounds weird to say that) are smaller, somehow...? I think my symptoms and physical appearance depend on how hungry I am.  
As hard as it's been to adjust, Wess and I have been putting together a plan on how to deal with this. I doubt I'll be able to continue living like I did before, so until we find a cure... meal planning.  
Gross.

**September 6, 2023**

**6:37 am**

Wess and I have recently addressed the moral implications of what it means to be a vampire. It's a widely debated topic in terms of ethics. I've been trying to keep it mostly utilitarian; I don't *want* to hurt anyone, but that might prove to be difficult. Here's what we have so far:

Idea #1: I take blood from consenting people. Wess has offered to give me some of theirs, and I'm sure my other friends would as well. If I limit the amount of blood I take, then consequences would be minimal. I'd only take the typical amount of blood that someone would donate at a blood drive, which is about half a liter, or roughly two cups. No one dies, because I'd space out who I drink from and when. It's also generally frowned upon to bite people in general, so if we could find a way to extract the blood without me putting my mouth on someone, then we're in the clear, right?

Idea #2: Steal blood from a blood bank. This was my initial idea, as it doesn't hurt people, but it's questionable from a legal standpoint. Stealing is wrong, yes, but if I had to choose between stealing blood bags or having a repeat of the other night, I think there's an obvious answer which is more morally upright.

I would only steal from the excess stash, anyway; hospitals usually receive too much blood, and whatever they don't use gets incinerated as medical waste. No one would miss it... So, if I'm not caught, then this situation would be ideal as no one is getting hurt.

Either of these would be for the greater good, right? People don't die, and I get the sustenance I need.

**September 10, 2023**

**2:15 am**

Would it really be so bad if I just drained one person? I don't want to hurt anyone, but I can't go this long without blood. If I wait this long between feedings, it would be dangerous for everyone.

That guy I killed last week was a dick. He probably deserved it, actually. His friends were bad too. I could go after them; one would last me at least a couple weeks.

This doesn't seem ethical, but at this point, I can't really be picky.

That makes sense, right? It's karma for them being creeps. Also, they shouldn't be allowed to survive if I want to keep a low profile. They saw what I did to their friend. I'm sure no one believed them if they explained what they saw, but it's only a matter of time before they get suspicious.

But if those guys were really as bad as they seemed, then no one would miss them. Right?

How very egoist of me.

**September 13, 2023**

**Midnight**

I really don't want to hurt anyone. But I'm pretty sure if I don't drink blood, I'll die. I don't want to die. If it's a choice between my life or the life of some guy who mistreats his girlfriend, I think a few cups of blood is a small price to pay. I'd actually be doing society a favor by specifically targeting horrible people like that. If they don't face the consequences of their actions, they'll keep hurting people.

I don't know how long I can keep trying to be an "ethical vampire". Stealing from blood banks and calling in favors from friends can only last for so long. I'm probably going to outlive them anyway... No, it's probably easier (and safer) to snatch someone every so often, at random intervals in the night so no one notices a pattern.

Until I can find a cure for this disease or curse or whatever's going on with me, I should try to get used to doing whatever it takes to preserve my well-being.