Gunnbjorn’s Backstory

Staying in the shadows, remaining hidden. This has been Gunnbjorn's life for as long as he has known. He tries to keep a low profile because he holds a secret that attracts tons of attention. This secret is a family secret, and is the reason that Gunnbjorn is the last remaining survivor of his clan. Gunnbjorn was born and rasied in a small community called Wolf's Ear, northwest of the major city Magnimar.

For many years, this community was seen as a safe haven for a select group. Lycanthropes, humanoids that can shape shift into various beasts. Some were afflicted by the curse, whereas others were born with it. Those who were afflicted often could not control the beast within, whereas the natural lycanthropes were able to shift forms at will and keep control. Gunnbjorn's family falls into the latter group: natural lycanthropes.

His great grandfather, Bjornolf, was afflicted while protecting his small town from a warebear, and he has passed down this curse every generation, with each iteration being able to control it better. Gunnbjorn's father, Asbjorn, taught Gunnbjorn how to control the beast within.

The lycanthropes in Wolf's Ear were not accepted by the outside world, and the Lord Mayor ordered the lycanthropes to be disposed of. Many fled the community, many more died in the fighting, and others hid. Gunnbjorn's family would move from one abandoned building to the next, trying to stay safe from the hunting soldiers. His family was able to survive like this for many years. Gunnbjorn was out hunting rabbits, checking the traps to see if they would be able to eat. Nothing. He knew he had to get back before dawn, but it was still hours away. Gunnbjorn knew of a boar den not far from where he was. He approached the den and found a single boar, sleeping. Without hesitation, he silently pulled out his bow and shot the boar right through the skull. Silent.

He made his way back towards the old, dilapidated house on the edge of the community, with the boar over his shoulder. The sun was still an hour from rising. As he approached the house, all of his hairs stood on end. Something was wrong. He silently put down the boar. Without making a sound, he made his way to the back door, which was open, just a crack. He pushed the door open and it revealed a grisly scene. A scene that Gunnbjorn will never forget as long as he lives. His father, his mother, his sister, and even his little brother, all slaughtered in their sleep. Gunnbjorn just stood there, not sure if what he saw was reality or a nightmare. As he began to come to his senses, the anger inside him began to rise. Gunnbjorn lost control and shapeshifted into the big red bear.

He went crashing through the front door in his rage, searching for the heartless killers. Using his heightened senses in the bear form, he was able to pick up the scent of the attackers. Skulking in the shadows, he found a large group of soldiers, much more than he could ever hope to take on. He overheard a couple soldiers talking, with one saying "Can't believe the Captain killed them in their sleep. I mean, that just feels wrong, doesn't it?". One soldier, who appeared to be the Captain, caught Gunnbjorn's eye. Not because of a vicious looking scar extending from his left ear to the corner of his mouth, but because of what he held in his hands: a mithral urgrosh with the face of a bear etched into the axe head and a spearhead designed to look like a bear's claw: the urgrosh that Gunnbjorn's grandfather had forged. The captain was swinging it, testing out the weight of it. The urgrosh never left Gunnbjorn's father's side. Gunnbjorn knew that these soldiers, and that captain, especially, were the ones who killed his family: the last of his kin. Gunnbjorn knew he had to avenge his family and take back the last remaining reminder and link to them, but doing so now would be suicide. The face of that captain will never leave Gunnbjorn's mind: that scar will haunt his mind until he can avenge his family.