"Fitting In"
Work of fiction

Every afternoon James saw the same guys hanging around his apartment building. He always wanted to be one of them, to feel cool, to look cool, to hangout with cool people. He wanted to be someone. He thought having cassie was everything, he had wanted but when he finally had her, he realized there was more. He was happy with her, great even but being able to join this gang to complete his happiness. But there was only one thing, he didn’t know how his girlfriend or family would react.

One day James was walking home and one of the boys from the gang came up to him, stuck his hand out and said “Hi, I’m Bob!” James didn’t know what to do so he shook his hand and said “I’m James.” Bob looked at him head to toe, then finally said “I’ve seen you around, how you’d like to hang with us”

“Umm, sure let me just put my school bag inside.” he informed softly.

“You still go to school?” Bob questioned.

“Yeah” James replied confused.

“Yo, Mike come hear this!” He called to Michael which was his real name, but everyone called him Mike.

“Sup?, who’s this” he added. Bob looked at him then at James then back at him.

“A friend, he is going to hang with us, after he puts away his school stuff.” he remarked letting out a little laugh. Michael did the same while James walked into the apartment building.

When James walked into the apartment he heard his mother say “ok I’ll tell him.” Then he suddenly remember had made plans with cassie, the girl he worked so hard to get. But then again the guys were waiting. And he had already gotten her and he need to get himself in the gang. He ran to his room, grabbed the phone, called cassie and called off the plan. Then
hurried outside where Bob and Michael were waiting for him along with four other guys. “This is Robert.” Bob said while pointing. Then introduces the other three guys, but James focused on Robert. His face looked about fourteen years old, “but you’d have to be at least my age to join, right?” James wondered. He looked sad like he didn’t want to be there, but smiled every time Bob or Michael looked his way.

James had been hanging around with Bob and his gang for about two weeks now. One night when walking home Bob turned to James and said “We like you James and would like it if you officially joined our gang!” James stop in his tracks and turned to Bob and said “Well of course-” “But you have to prove you are going to be serious about this.” Bob interrupted.

“Ok, what do I have to do?”
“Um, we’ll let you know tomorrow. Meet us at the the same place.” Michael replied for Bob.

“Ok” James whispered, walking away.
Before he could get far, he felt a hand on his shoulders. He turned around and to his surprise he saw Robert standing there.

“Hey!” James spoke in shock.

“Hey, you can’t agree to do whatever they tell you. Don’t trust Bob nor Micheal, they will make you kill and steal once you join, and if you don’t they’ll kill you, or even hurt your--” suddenly a voice called out for Robert and he quickly turned and walked away. James went to sleep thinking Robert told him.

It was time to meet Bob and his gang, James was not ready. Like he expected Bob told him to beat up another gang leader, Jason, then stab him to death. He refused at first, but then gave in. He had to do it tonight and if he didn’t his chances of joining the gang was gone.

It came night and James was scared. He had not told anyone what he had to do. Bob and his gang along with James walked to an old warehouse.

“This is where Jason’s and his gang hangout. All you have to do is wait for him to come out and go up to him ask him for my money. Of course he’s
not going to give it to you, so that's when you start beating him up. Here's your switchblade.” James hesitated then took the knife. and responded “Ok.”

When Jason came out James walked up to him. His gang had already left.
“Where's Bob's money?”
“Who are you?”
“Don't worry about who I am. Just worry bout what I'm do to you if you don't have Bob's money.” He toughened his face and held his position.
“Don't have it.” Jason announced walking away. James grabbed him by the arm.
“Let me go!”
“Give me the money!” James insisted pulling the switchblade out. Jason took out a gun and shot him in the leg. Before Jason could get away James stabbed him in the leg and once on his side. They both dropped to the floor. Bob and his gang ran. Except for Robert, he ran up to James and dropped beside him. Then called the police.

Soon the police and ambulance came and took James to the hospital. Jason had already died by the time the police got there. Four weeks later James got out the hospital, and had to be arrested for committing murder. When Robert found out he went to the police department, and told them everything he knew about Bob and his gang. About how his brother died because Bob and that gang, how he had to pay off for his brother by joining, and how he couldn’t quit or Bob would hurt his family. The police arrested Bob and Michael. After two years in jail James got out. He was back with Cassie and life was good for him. No one bothered him, and he enjoyed his new neighborhood.