

## Werewolf 131

### Chapter 131: Full transformation?

Miss Degrace offered to drive everyone home, but Gary declined, claiming that just like Marie wanted, he would head straight to the hospital to get himself checked. Of course, there was no way the teenager was actually going there to waste his hard earned money when his body could naturally heal. Heck it would probably get even better than whatever a doctor would do, especially since there would be no wound by the time he would arrive.

The group had agreed that they would meet up at the pool club tomorrow once classes and club activities were over. They intended to do that everyday to do a bit of spring cleaning and physical work. On the way back home, Gary stopped by a convenience store, making sure he grabbed whatever he needed for himself and many items from the shop.

'Does Amy even know how to cook? Maybe it's something I'll need to learn while Mum is away. Let's not risk it, better just get some pot noodles and microwave food to be safe. I know it's not the best but it will be better than me burning the house down.' Gary decided.

The high schooler looked at the cash he had earned. He could pay for the hospital bills for a while with this, allowing his mother to stay, and he could perhaps pay rent. Other than that, there was still a mountain of bills that this sum wouldn't be able to cover.

Money was still on his mind, and it didn't seem like these events were a reliable source of income, nor could they earn as much from it as in the past.

It reminded him of some of the scenes he would see frequently while walking around the area. Where delinquents students would extort money from other students, but you never wanted to be that type of person.

'One day I hope I'll be rich enough to hire a personal chef for each of us. Not having to worry about anything, just doing whatever I want and enjoying the tastiest food.' Gary day dreamed for a while. 'Maybe by then, I can enjoy some normal food, and although I was never a big chocolate person now that I can't have it, I do kinda miss it...'

The streets were mostly empty, with a few strange adult men in black suits, at a street corner now and then. These were members of the Underdogs and Gary understood that he had to be more careful than ever. He pulled his hood even closer over his head.

Since the gang war, it looked like a lot of the black colour gang had been injured, so now the Underdog gang members had come out, looking after the area so a second attack wouldn't happen... at least not so soon. The good thing was, this led to a significant decrease in the crime rate in the area.

'Those bastards, if they had just protected this place from the beginning like this, or if the police could do something like this then my mother wouldn't have ever been hurt in the first place!'

Before completely heading back, Gary decided to check out one thing, and that was his newly unlocked skill.

[Full Transformation]

[When activated, the user's body transforms into its Werewolf Form]

The skill will take 20 points of Energy to use.

After activation, the skill will consume 10 points of Energy per minute

Warning; Skill will forcefully be cancelled when Energy reaches less than 10 Energy!]

Gary had to read through the description a couple of times, just to make sure he was understanding it correctly. When he had seen the name of this new skill he had believed that it would be far more limited, perhaps allowing him to transform an entire part of his body, yet he hadn't thought it would actually turn him ENTIRELY into a Werewolf.

'Come on, system, can't you elaborate a bit more?' Gary pleaded to no effect as usual. 'I kinda need to know if I will stay conscious or whether this will make me pass out and act on auto-pilot! I have no desire to become a wild and feral beast, especially when Blake's family might have it out for me, you know?!'

It was because of this possibility that the teenager wasn't so keen to simply test out the Full Transformation skill right here, right now, though it did look like it would have some differences to when he had forcefully been changed into a Werewolf due to the full moon.

For one, he could see that it had a clear time limit, one tied to his Energy. It appeared as if the maximum duration of Full Transformation would be nine minutes, and that was assuming he would activate the skill with a full Energy bar. It would probably end far sooner if he used any skills as a Werewolf or if the Energy he expended for anything would be separate from the 10 points of Energy it required to uphold the skill.

'I mean, unless I'm constantly eating while in that state. Because then my energy would be restored at the same time while I'm fighting. But a situation where I would willingly want to eat all those around me...is not something I want to think about.'

Based on the information given to him by Tom, he had been in his Werewolf Form for a very long time. Perhaps he would have stayed until sunrise if it wasn't for his Energy getting low at an incredible rate. Which he assumed was due to his fighting and healing when fighting Billy. He also still didn't know if he would have transformed back into a Werewolf if he had eaten his fill during the full moon.

'If anything, it might be for the best if I consider this a last resort skill but even then... I would have to know if I couldn't beat my opponent at all. If I fought someone for a while then my Energy would be lower, meaning the time limit would be shorter. That's not the only problem though, it doesn't even tell me what type of boost I get for going full Werewolf.'

'Where's the improved stats? Where's the exclusive Werewolf skills and all that Shiz!' Gary complained, yet all he got was silence. It was then that Gary saw a member of the Underdogs walk past him on the street.

His heart was thumping loud, thinking that he might notice him, or ask him a few questions. Gary continued walking and could see an alleyway nearby.

'If I use Claw drain a few times to lower my energy, and then use Full Transformation it should only last a minute at most, right?' Gary looked at the Underdog member near him.

## Chapter 132: No more Drama

In the end, Gary decided against the idea of testing it out, not now and not in this area against a person he didn't even know. Sure gang members were mostly bad, but he had no right to punish a random person who might have similar circumstances to himself, especially if all he was currently doing was making sure that the neighbourhood was safe.

Alas, it appeared as if the high schooler would only find out once he tested it out. Maybe when he transformed it would give him all these benefits, provided of course he stayed conscious. Right now he would have very much preferred a Partial Transformation skill over the full version.

'Wait...can Billy do this too?' That thought suddenly entered his head. 'I got this reward from the system, and maybe he hasn't done anything that allows him to do this stuff. If that's the case, isn't this an easy way to take him out? If I can somehow get me and Billy together in an empty room... he might be strong, but surely my Werewolf Form should be enough to beat Billy in Human form, right?'

There was no way to confirm if Billy could or couldn't do this, but the only reason he thought he perhaps couldn't was because he hadn't tried to attack Innu or Gary since that day.

Of course, Gary wouldn't just gamble everything on that without trying it out first, but now wasn't the time nor the place for it. There was someone who had been waiting for him the entire day. When coming in, he could see his sister immediately come out of her room to check up at who had entered.

"Gary!" Amy ran over, and quickly went over to give her big brother a large hug. He saw that her eyes were puffy.

'She must have been crying since this morning...'

"Sorry, it took so long. I hope 20 was enough to order something nice. I've also brought some food like I said I would." Gary handed over the shopping bag, and his sister immediately began to unpack the groceries, helping out as best as she could.

It was strange how something so 'regular and boring' managed to put a smile on the high schooler's face, and he went over to do his part. As thankful as she was, Amy did give him an earful about two things, the amount of meat he had purchased as well as the amount of junk food. When shopping his

instincts must have taken over for the former, as for the latter, he had just wanted to avoid burning down their apartment, which he confessed to.

The two of them joked and laughed about it, and Gary believed that the two of them would be able to get through this hard time. As long as the two siblings would stay together everything would turn out well

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[28 Days till the next full moon]

[30 Exp received due to active Bond Marks]

[Exp 572/1024]

Once again, Gary had woken up before Amy, though there were a few reasons for why he didn't just go back to sleep. Now that he would be heading to the pool club after school, the high schooler needed to head to the gym in the morning before going to school.

He still needed to improve his body, and get the Daily Exp, even if it was a pittance, and then he would do his morning routine of hunting in the forest. The teenager was getting better at using his skills. In particular his Claw Drain had allowed him to catch birds and squirrels thanks to his suddenly longer reach, and it was good for his footwork as well. The fights had also improved his hunting to some degree.

For once, when coming to school. He felt like there were no immediate problems. Of course there were still many problems, but for once it felt like he would have enough time to deal with them all.

"I feel like I finally got a break." Gary mumbled as he took his seat.

"Oh, did you overexert yourself? Here I thought you must have been having fun with your 'new friends'." Tom commented a bit snarky. It was clear his best friend was annoyed at him. To be fair, Gary hadn't even bothered to talk or text him after simply disappearing once Rugby training was over.

When was the last time he had come over to Tom's house or that the two of them had watched an Altered match together? Lately, Gary had been obsessed with Rugby, or going out with the others after school. It was starting to feel as if they were drifting apart, the only glue holding their friendship together being the secret the two of them shared about his sudden chocolate 'allergy'.

"Hey, Tom..." Gary began, unsure about whether inviting him to the pool club would be a good or bad idea. 'As long as it's during the day and it's just about helping the place out, it wouldn't be too dangerous... sh\*t, but that would mean that I would have to ask the others to avoid openly talking about any Howlers business...'

"I'm sorry man, I'm just really busy these days. I promise everything will be back to normal soon, and I think I might need your help with you know... my 'special problem'." Gary leaned in and whispered. Tom wondered what type of questions he could ask him.

Just as the first period was about to start, a knock could be heard on the classroom door.

"Come in!" The teacher called.

At that moment, two people could be seen walking into the classroom. They had almost barged their way in and the first first thing they did was flash their badges towards the teacher which immediately made him take a step back.

"We have already gotten permission from your Headmistress, we are here to look for one of your students, a boy by the name of Gary Dem." The female explained as she looked over the class, stopping when she spotted a certain green head.

Seeing the two of them, Gary immediately gulped because there was no way he could forget them. Those were the two White Rose agents that had found him snooping around Billy's place.

'Sh\*t, did they find out anything?' Gary wondered, lamenting his fate of seemingly not even being allowed to get one day off without any drama.

When Gary heard his name, his heart immediately started to beat more rapidly. It was making him worry that with all this added pressure that he might suffer from heart problems one day, but perhaps being a Werewolf would make him immune to that.

It would have been one thing if they had been looking for a 'green haired teenager', but the two White Rose agents had specifically called him out by name, which of course had led to everyone turning around and staring at him. Gary didn't really know how to handle this kind of unwanted attention.

"Do you think this has anything to do with Steven? I've heard that his mother wanted to sue the school for not expelling Gary. Maybe she called the cops on him?" One of his classmates whispered to his neighbour.

"I seriously doubt it. If it was that they should have come ages ago and there would be no need to catch him in school. Doesn't Gary live somewhere in Chavley? I believe they might want his testimony because of what happened there recently." The other answered.

"You think so? Didn't you guys see their badges. They aren't the regular police, those guys are from White Rose. What relation could Gary have with Altered?" Another joined in their theory crafting.

Since turning into a Werewolf Gary had gotten used to filtering out all the noises he could hear, but right now he was unable to, be it because he was too flustered in the current situation or his subconscious desire to want to know what his peers thought about him. Either way, it was seriously getting to him.

'That's it, they must have somehow found out that I know Billy. They've linked me with this, and even if they haven't I have no idea how I could lie my way out of this one!' Gary was clearly panicking, until he felt someone touch his back.

"Dude, it's going to be okay." Tom whispered. "Just relax, if they had any clear evidence to bring you in, they wouldn't have had to ask Headmistress Young for permission. Just remember, you have the right to remain silent, although it might cause them to investigate you more, but whatever you do don't mention anything about what you are to them...you need to look after Amy, right...and your mother in the hospital."

Hearing this, Gary looked at Tom and could see a gentle smile on his face. He didn't remember telling his best friend about his mother's condition. More so than that, why would he even care. Tom's words were

enough to give Gary a boost of confidence and he stood up and walked over to the two agents, who would take him to another room to start their investigation.

'Gary... what exactly happened that earned you the attention of White Rose?' Tom started to wonder. 'Was it the fight with Billy? Well, they did arrive that day, but they shouldn't know that you were there...

'Did they find some of your blood on the scene? They shouldn't have you on file to link you to the case since you never did anything criminal... at least nothing that you've told me... could it be something else? Are they maybe linked to the suitcase that made you into the Werewolf?'

At the same time, Innu had similarly been worried for Gary. After all he was the Howler's leader so if he got into some sort of trouble it would be bad for all of them. The high schooler didn't know what to do in this situation, so he chose to inform the one person that might be able to help out in this situation.

[Two White Rose agents just came into our class and they asked for Gary specifically. Thought I should let you know.]

Kai had been sitting in class, not in the least looking forward to another boring lesson with Mrs Bedford, when his phone vibrated. This sudden news came as a shock to him, making him abruptly stand up. Although class hadn't begun yet, he excused himself by stating he really needed to go to the restroom.

'Why now of all times? Sh\*t, was I right with my assumption yesterday? Is Gary really an Altered... or something else? If so, are they just suspecting him, or did they manage to link him back to the Underdogs? Either way this could be major trouble... I need to do something!'

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Walking through the hallways, Sadie and Frank stood on either side of Gary and noticed that he was being awfully quiet. This was quite the norm when they went to capture criminals, though both of them had expected the high school student to be different, especially given how wordy he had been the last time they had met.



“Don’t be so nervous.” Frank spoke to break the awkward silence. “We’re not here to arrest you or anything. We’re just going to ask you some questions. We’ve already met you at the apartment blocks where the Bruntins lived, so we’re just going to continue along with that.”

“Okay, yeah that sounds good.” Gary stupidly replied, his voice almost cracking when answering. It was clear he was hiding something. However, neither one of them had any idea that this teenager was hiding far more things than they suspected.

As they walked through the halls, they passed by the windows of the other classes, who all were intrigued why a high school student was escorted by two well dressed adults. Some of them pointed and looked up, and there was another that had spotted Gary.

‘Those guys.’ Blake thought, as he recognised the two agents as members of White Rose. ‘Why would they go after him, did they figure out that he was an Altered? I need to... I...no, I shouldn’t get involved.’

He started to grip his pencil in his hand tightly, while everyone looked outside and talked about Gary. Eventually hearing everything they said, Blake’s pencil snapped in his hand.

‘No I need to know... for the sake of the Altered Hunters!’

While everyone was still distracted, Blake snuck out, and was closely following after the trio. Eventually he could see that they had entered the teachers’ lounge, which he guessed would be empty right now. Blake walked down the hallway, entering the room next to it, the printer room. He placed his ear up against the door, trying to eavesdrop on the conversation, but the noise was far too muffled.

‘If I stay in here, then I’m bound to get caught as well.’

That was when Blake looked to the window, and slid it open. Looking outside he could see a ledge that went across and attached to the window in the teachers’ lounge as well. That was one option.

He then looked at the ceiling to see if there was possibly a way he could go from above... no matter what he was going to find out what was going on in that room!

'It should be okay. As long as I do it for the sake of Ga- the Altered Hunters.' Blake 'convinced' himself.

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Inside the room, there were several desks with computers on and sheets of work, yet nobody was inside. Since it was time for the first period, the teachers were already in the classes and those whose lessons started later had yet to arrive.

A table on the right side of the room had been cleared out, and three chairs were set up. Two on one side, while one single one on the other.

"Please take a seat Gary, we are glad that you are cooperating with us." Sadie stated, hoping to make the teenager less nervous. Sitting down, the high schooler placed his hands down by his side. He didn't want them to see how much they were shaking.

"Do you mind just placing your hands on the table?" Frank requested. "It's a little nerve wracking not seeing them. While you don't really see the type, we had some encounters with others who hid something."

Gary naturally complied, all he thought about doing was following their orders and listening to what they had to say. He was hoping that everything turned out far less serious than he thought right now. He intended to answer as much as he could, hopefully without sounding suspicious.

"Alright, just to let you know, our little talk is currently being recorded via the school camera, and we will also be recording it on this device here." Sadie explained, placing a recorder in the middle of the table. "Now before we begin, you're entitled to know that you have the following rights."

The investigation was starting and Gary could tell he was in trouble, he wasn't so sure this time, if he could get through this alone.

#### Chapter 134: A suspect

Having a White Rose agent read him his rights just stressed the fact that Gary was in a very serious situation. He wasn't sure whether to be happy or not that the two were pursuing things the legal way

and that included the recording in front of him. Just as Tom had said, they seemed to be treating him as a suspect... The only question was for what? Was this about Billy... or something else entirely?

The two White Rose agents sat down, Sadie staring at him far more aggressively now that they had moved on to the 'official' business. The woman seemed to be the type that would have much rather beaten any information out of him than waste her time questioning him. Just like last time, Frank was the one to play the Good Cop part, a friendly smile on his face, yet his body was leaning away from his partner, as if he himself was scared of Sadie.

'They told me I could call an attorney, but I don't have any numbers. Do I really need one, though? Sh\*t, but what if I say something really bad? Should I ask them to refer me to one, but how would I pay for him? Argh, I spent a good part of the money for groceries yesterday and I need the rest to pay for the hospital!' The teenager found himself in one of the most stressful situations he had ever encountered and to him it seemed as if the two adults were deliberately stretching time before asking him any questions.

"Let's establish some simple facts first. Gary Dem today isn't the first time you've met me or my partner Agent Nimper, is that correct?" Frank broke the silence and the high schooler just nodded. "For the camera, please consent or disagree verbally." The male White Rose agent instructed him before he repeated the question.

"Yes, that is correct." Gary played along earning him a satisfied nod from Frank.

"The first time we had the pleasure was when the two of us found you in the vicinity of the apartment block where the Bruntin family used to live. Can you confirm this statement?"

"Yes, I happened to be around that area." Gary admitted as it didn't seem to be to his detriment.

"Alright, see it's not so hard. Now, could you please state your reason for being in that area?" Frank asked, his friendly smile suddenly appearing far more sinister.

"I was just..." Gary paused for a moment, even though he knew that wasn't a good sign. Unfortunately, with how much he had been forced to deal with recently he had long since forgotten the lie he had told them that time. This was the problem when lying, one would have to keep track of them and for someone like Gary who wasn't used to that, that wasn't easy.

Nevertheless, this brief moment allowed him to think about why they had wanted to talk to him. There were many things he had been afraid White Rose could ask him about. The gangsters at the construction site, the Underdogs, what he had done recently at the Karaoke place, but out of all of them it turned out that they had come because of Billy.

'Did they find out he's a Werewolf like me? No, if anything they probably treat him as a wolf-type Altered. However, why did they come to me? If I listen to Tom as long as I don't talk about that I should be okay... I hope.'

"Can we stop with these stupid games?" Sadie interrupted even before the teenager had a chance to come up with an answer, revealing herself to be the impatient type. "You were there to meet Billy, weren't you? What other reason could you have had to go there knowing that a murder has taken place?"

"At the time you told us that you didn't know him, but we now know that to be a lie, so why don't you just tell us the truth?!"

Hearing these words actually gave Gary an idea. He was terrible at lying anyway, so why not just tell the truth. Of course, he planned to skip out certain hairy details, but apart from that, wasn't he a victim in all of this? Ultimately, the one thing that would be almost impossible to trace back, unless they found Billy himself, was the fact that Gary was the reason for the other guy's supernatural powers.

"Alright, I'm sorry I lied about not knowing who he is, but I swear I barely know him." Gary eventually confessed. "I've only met him once before that tragedy happened to his family! And... and I'm pretty sure he's after my life now! Because of certain reasons he's pissed at me and I had been hoping to find him and talk things out!"

The words sounded truthful and unlike before Gary's voice was less shaky, but Frank didn't miss that the high schooler had omitted certain details. Was he worried about implicating himself by admitting to having participated in those illegal fighting rings or was there something more to it?

It would make sense for a teenager to worry about those things, but the White Rose agents didn't really care about any of that.

“When you say that you knew Billy...was it due to the...” Frank stopped there as he felt a breeze hitting him. He looked up ahead and noticed that the window was slightly open. The agent hadn’t been paying attention before so he wasn’t quite sure if it was open when they got in or not.

Regardless, he continued his questioning.

“Look, if it’s about ‘Billy Buster’, we already know about his fight against ‘Green Fang’, so you might as well tell us the whole truth, Gary. Please don’t try to deny it, we saw yesterday’s fight against the ‘Vicious Twins’ and we questioned the people there. The last time anyone saw Billy just happened to be during a certain someone’s debut.”

Once again, Gary’s heart felt like it was going to jump out of his throat. This was getting too close to the truth.

‘They know about the underground fights, and they were even there yesterday! If they know I was the last person that saw him, then maybe they will link him back to me.’

“Look, if you know that much then you should also know that I don’t actually know him!” Gary said, trying his best to sound frustrated. “I coincidentally found out about those and I needed the money. That’s it! I wasn’t lying about only ever having met him once!

“How was I supposed to know that he was a psycho? Not only did he kill his parents, he appears to be after all those he lost to in a fight! I’ve asked around, that university student was one of them and I bet so was the high school student, which means he’s after me as well! Please, you gotta help me!”

It was a panicked answer, but it also was a part of how he truly felt.

The two White Rose agents looked at each other. The story added up and sounded plausible, of course they would have to do their research and dig deeper to see if this was a coincidence or if Gary had actually revealed something they and the police hadn’t known about. If it was true then they might even be able to use the green haired teenager to lay a trap for Billy!

At that moment, Sadie felt a pain in her leg again. The woman started to rub it slightly. It didn't usually bother her, but as an Altered it was strange for an injury to take so long to heal. Even stranger was that it had acted up right now in front of Gary, just like it had done yesterday during his match.

"We'll have to investigate to see if what you say is really true. Still, there are a few more things that are... 'unclear'. We've been originally called here because of another killing which had to have been done by an Altered. However, we suspect that our original killer is not Billy.

"Either Billy has been going on a rampage, deviating from his 'hit list' as you just revealed or, if my suspicion is correct, the more likely answer is that there are actually two Altered killers in Slough!" Sadie stated as she placed the photo of Billy out on the table, and pointed towards Gary.

The second reason why they had come here, was to find out whether Gary might be that other Altered!

#### Chapter 135: A guilty test

After Blake briefly deliberated whether he should try to use the vents to listen in, an idea which he quickly dropped due to the noise it would create, the young Altered Hunter decided to go with his original idea. He looked outside to make sure there were no students out there, but since the teachers' lounge, as well as the printer room, were facing away from the main road he wouldn't have to worry about people mistaking his actions for a suicide attempt, shouting out towards him, creating a scene that would reveal his location.

Blake opened the window and dropped down to the window sill. He held on with his fingers, making use of his strong grip strength.

'This reminds me of my early childhood training... I still don't have any idea in what circumstance this would help deal with an Altered, but it's definitely proving handy right about now.' Blake thought as he started to move along the edge slowly, with his legs hanging.

He then could see that there was a gap between the window sill he was on, and the one that Gary was patiently in. There was no trouble on Blake's face as he swung his body from side to side, and at the right moment let go of the edge. Reaching out, he quickly grabbed onto it, and held on tightly. His strong fingers that had calluses on top of calluses had done him well and were holding out.

Now that he was in the right place, all he needed to do was listen to what they were saying. The problem was, even from his current position he had trouble making out the words clearly, so the only thing he could do was lift one hand up slowly, reaching for the window from the outside. He had to be careful, after all they were on the third floor. Nevertheless, the young Altered Hunter didn't hesitate, as he managed to hold himself with one hand and quickly pushed the window ever so slightly open, allowing him to finally hear everything that was going on.

'Billy? That's that murderer on the news! According to Dad, he's most likely one of the Altered we fought in the park and it obviously wasn't the one I fought. Did they find something linking him to Gary? ...Come to think of it, I guess I never did ask him, but the two of them... they were fighting yet both of them were the same type of Altered.

From what I know only the Kings and big corporations should have a hold on specific types of Altered DNA... Damn it, why didn't I think of it before? Gary and Billy have to know each other somehow. I should have...' Now that Blake thought of it, it made him also wonder why he had refrained from asking Gary anything about how he had become an Altered.

After all, it was pretty clear that he wasn't some rich kid, nor did the green haired teenager seem special enough for someone to sponsor him. So what exactly had stopped him from learning more about that side of Gary? If it was only 'to protect the Altered Hunters' would he really be hanging down the side of the school wall?

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"Two Altered killers? Are you serious? They didn't report anything like that on the news." Gary went back to his nervous self after Sadie made it crystal clear that she was suspecting him by pointing at the high schooler.

"You see, on the night of the full moon we actually had a little run in with Billy Bruntin in his Altered form, and we were able to get some traces of his blood from our fight. According to the guys in the lab it coincided with traces we found in the cases of the Bruntin family, the high school student, and the university student, yet there were a few other deaths that had no traces of him. However, all those other cases had another common denominator." Sadie continued to explain.

The White Rose agent had more photos on her, which she placed out on the table. The first one was what was left of three men at the construction site. From there she showed a picture of Barry out in the alleyway and later in the hospital before she presented Gary with a few more photos.

Looking at them all, Gary was unable to recognise the others, and he was very happy to see that at least there were no scenes of the karaoke place. It seemed that they weren't following his trail, just a trail of murders.

"At each of these scenes the same blood was found. Now after watching your little performance yesterday, we have reason to believe that just like Billy you're actually an unregistered Altered. However, fortunately that's really easy to clear up, all you have to do is agree to a voluntary blood test." Sadie smiled, as if she had caught her suspect right where she wanted him.

'What do I do? I can't give them my blood! I have no idea if I will be recognised as an Altered or not, but if they take my blood, then they will be able to link me to Barry, the construction site, as well as the karaoke club! If they'll lock me up, then Amy will be all alone!' Gary started to look around to make sure there was nobody else in the room.

'I've already killed before...if I use Full Transformation now while they're still off guard... maybe it will be enough to get rid of them, and then...maybe no one will know...but...but...can I kill...again? I have to... it's for my family!'

At the same time, Blake who was still hanging down the window sill had heard everything and was wondering what to do himself. In the end, he came to the conclusion that there was absolutely nothing he could do. He had already done more than enough by not revealing Gary's secret and if the other had failed to hide his tracks that was on him.

At that moment, the door slid open, and a bleach blond haired teenager confidently walked in.

"Sorry, but if you're looking for a teacher, try somewhere else. This room is currently in use." Frank lectured the newcomer, assuming that he had merely entered by mistake.

"Oh I know, I'm here for him." Kai claimed.

Seeing his upperclassman at this moment gave Gary hope. He was especially thankful that it would save him from having to take a suicidal gamble by fighting against two White Rose agents.



“I heard what you did.” Kai confidently spoke as if he was telling the police off. “Gary, you don’t have to say anything, you know that, right? I guess you agreed to talk just so that these guys would leave you alone.

“It’s not called a VOLUNTARY blood test for nothing! They can’t force you to take a blood test, for that they would need a warrant from a judge. My guess is, they don’t even have anything that puts you as the suspect, which was why they came here and asked you to ‘volunteer’ your blood over to them. I bet a judge would never grant their request with what little they have.”

Kai walked over to where Gary was and stayed by his side, assuming a position as if he was his legal guardian. He then looked at the photos on the table. He hadn’t heard the whole conversation, merely just the tail end of it.

“What the hell are these photos? Are you trying to traumatise my buddy here? Has White Rose stooped so low that they’re trying to create a scapegoat to pin all the blame on? Tell me, what grounds do you even have to ask him for a blood test?”

The two looked a bit startled but they soon regained their exposure, as Sadie started to laugh.

“You really think you’re so clever, don’t you? I didn’t know that they were teaching Law here at Westbridge, but I have met enough male Karens like you before who thought they knew everything.” Sadie stated.

“You’re right, we aren’t able to force him into a blood test without a warrant from a judge. However, as members of White Rose we enjoy certain privileges. According to section 5 of the Altered Investigation Force Act, ‘Agents are permitted to enforce a test in cases they have sufficient reason to believe someone to be an unregistered Altered’. We have a special test to verify whether your friend here is a normal human or not.”

When Gary looked at Kai by his side, it was the first time he saw the other with a worried look on his face.

#### Chapter 136: An Altered Test

Kai had gone around the back of Gary and was gripping tightly onto the chair. It was a clear sign that he had been backed into a corner. This was the first time he had ever heard of something like the

'Altered Investigation Force Act', so of course he had nothing prepared to counter that. When coming in, he had been hoping that he could use his meagre legal knowledge to get his friend out of this situation.

Seeing that Kai was speechless, Gary could only assume that what the White Rose agents claimed to be the truth. He wouldn't be surprised if they had special privileges, but he naturally had no idea that they would be so wide.

'Sh\*t, isn't there anything I can do to get Gary out of this situation? ...If this whole case went to court I could probably help him out then, but there's even more of a chance for things to get out of hand.' Kai bit on his right thumb, unsure what to do.

He only knew the fact that Gary was a suspected Altered, but he had no idea that his underclassman wanted to avoid being brought in for completely different reasons. If they got his blood all the cases he was linked to would come to light! However, since his friend had come here to stand up for him, Gary didn't want to give up, so there had to be another way.

"What exactly is the test?" The young high schooler asked confidently.

The White Rose agents found this a little strange, during the whole interrogation Gary had been pretty much an emotional mess, so why was the boy acting up now? Was it because of his friend? If that was the case, shouldn't he be more nervous just like his friend clearly was?

"We test your blood." Sadie began to explain which only put a confused look on Gary's face. He was sure he had just heard that they were unable to just take his blood and that it would be a special test.

"I can see your confusion, so let me explain. I'm not sure how familiar you're with Altered and how they came into existence, but I assume you at least know the part that the procedure uses the fossils of beasts that used to roam our planet in the past.

"There is a little known fact about these beasts and that is that unlike us their blood was black. Now, since Beast DNA runs through the bodies of us Altered, it means that we too no longer have normal blood like the average human."

Out of the grey and gold coats that the White Rose agents wore, Frank pulled out a small tube. There was a bit of light blue liquid inside. Sadie then opened the lid slightly and one of her fingers had turned into a type of claw in front of the eyes of the two teenagers and her partner.

She pricked a finger on her other hand, allowing for blood to fall into the container. Strangely, the blood from her hand looked to be quite red. At least with the naked eye it was impossible to tell if there was any difference at all to 'normal' blood.

"There is a reason why the Altered Investigation Force was established, and why White Rose is looking for unregistered Altered. There are things that aren't publicly told on the news. The colour of one's blood varies from person to person.

"In my case you don't really see it, but in other cases the blood of the Altered has darkened to the point you don't even need this test. In extreme cases, one's blood is completely black, which indicates that the Beast DNA has mostly repressed the human DNA.

"In these cases we have found that their human nature starts to change, they start to attack others, exhibit a lust for rage and anger, and worst of all they even might assault even their family and close ones."

This was the first time Gary had heard anything like this. He knew a little about the blood since some of the Altered fighting matches he would watch but about black blood being a sign of a dangerous Altered. Now he knew why the White Rose agents were so involved in this case.

Billy had killed his parents, and his other murders led them to believe that he was on a killing spree. From the sounds of it, those Altered weren't humans that had just gone angry due to a new power they had obtained, but something inside them had fundamentally changed them.

Gary gulped, because that sounded very similar to something he had experienced himself. At some point the system had begun warning him that his bloodlust was rising and the closer it had gotten to the full moon, the worse it had become. He now worried whether he might have become this last type of Altered.

"Regardless of all that, this test will bring us clarity about exactly what you are, Gary." Sadie said, shaking the small tube until the liquid inside the tube slowly turned from red to black. On a closer

inspection, it had actually split the two substances with the black liquid on the bottom, while the red blood was a bit brighter than before on the top.

“As you can see with my blood, it looked bright red completely like you would expect a normal human’s to look like, but this little thing inside lets us break down the blood. If you are an Altered, like us, then the same thing will happen with your blood.

“You’re clearly unregistered, so if the test works, that will be our grounds to get a warrant from a judge to get our blood sample.” The female agent smiled.

The only thing Kai could think was that they were screwed. There was no way out of the test at all and there didn’t seem to be any way to trick it either. On the other hand, Gary felt like somebody had thrown him a rope.

‘Ever since I got this thing I was wondering whether I would technically count as an Altered. Was there really an ancient beast in the past that was a Werewolf? It’s a risky test, but...I don’t think I’ve ever seen that my blood was black. All I can do is take the test. If there’s no way out of it, then there’s no way out of it. There is nothing else I can do, but...’

“I’ll take your test.” Gary agreed.

“Good, not that you had a choice anyway.” Sadie pointed out.

“However, as I understand you’re only allowed to do this because you think I’m an Altered, right? I’ll do the test now in front of you, But I will only show you the result. I keep this tube, and I keep it with me.”

The two White Rose agents looked at each other, and while they didn’t like his commanding tone, they didn’t really see a problem with it either. It wasn’t unusual for people to not want to consent to things that had to do with the police force or government.

Nevertheless, they had done this job long enough to know that people refusing to cooperate wasn’t necessarily because they were guilty, a major part of those they had wrongfully accused, simply hadn’t wanted to be on file.

It was then, after a nod from Sadie, that Frank pulled out one of the tubes and handed it out to Gary who started to open the lid.

#### Chapter 137: The result

Everything that Gary had done till this point, was riding on this test. So it was safe to say he had a reason for his hands being a little shaky.

Kai was watching his underclassman carefully, assuming that Gary might intend to switch the tube out or something at some point, but seeing him do nothing was causing sweat to run down his face. Seeing the blonde teenager so nervous only strengthened Sadie's belief that they had caught their suspect.

Since it needed his blood Gary asked the two White Rose agents if they wanted something for him to prick his finger. When Sadie offered to do it with her claw, the green haired teenager naturally pulled back his hands. It was then that Kai pulled out a small pocket knife that he carried around.

That item was technically something that students weren't meant to have, but given the situation none of the parties cared about it. However, before Gary could prick his finger, Frank inspected the pocket blade carefully, even going so far as to clean it with some disinfectant before handing it to the younger teenager.

This whole thing seemed absurd. He was only a teenager and yet two adults from the Altered Investigation Force were telling him to cut his hand to prove he wasn't an Altered. The world had truly gone crazy.

Why were they here instead of looking for Billy who had tried killing them? Why weren't they doing something more useful, like handling the gangs who had been responsible that his mother had been injured to the point she was in the hospital.

Fueled by anger, Gary pricked his finger with the pocket knife with ease and dropped the blood into the tube. He didn't even attempt to play any tricks as he was sure they would force him to cooperate until he did things 'properly' anyway.

Once it was inside the tube, he carefully shook it around, slowly, so they could all see everything. With bated breaths all of them were waiting on the result. Even Blake, who had overheard everything, had lifted himself to the point where the top of his head peaked over the window sill.

He had gambled that their attention would be completely on the tube and he was partly right. Sensing something, Frank soon turned around, but the Altered Hunter dropped down before he got caught. In that second he looked away, he looked back at the tube and he could see Sadie's reaction as well.

Eventually, Gary let out a big sigh of relief.

"It...it didn't change colour... As you can see, I'm just a normal teenager." Gary said softly. "I'm not an Altered, so I didn't kill those people!"

Stepping in front of him, Kai thought it would be better if he was the one to do the talking from this point out, since he was a little worried that Gary might slip up in these final moments.

"The evidence is there, you all saw that he didn't tamper with it. We all saw the results so you no longer have any grounds to question him! If you want to pursue this, then you will have to do it through legal means!"

Sadie looked beyond annoyed, and the frown on her face clearly showed it. Still, it went away, as she accepted that they had made an honest mistake. Based on what they had seen so far, their culprit clearly had to have been an Altered, and while Gary's sudden increase in strength yesterday continued to baffle her, it wasn't something she could fault him for.

"I apologise. We thank you for your cooperation, if you have any more news about Billy then please tell us when you can. Perhaps a police officer might come by and ask you a few questions if you can help us." Sadie bowed her head, completely changing her tone, and it was the same for Frank as the two of them left.

When outside the door, Sadie walked up to the window that looked towards the centre of the school. A large tree was placed in the middle with students sitting on benches.

"Hey, just because your instincts were wrong this time, doesn't mean it was all a waste of time. We can still try and use him as bait." Frank said, trying to cheer his partner up. "Besides, if what that kid claimed is true, then we may have a lead on where Billy will strike next."

Saide placed her head down out of the window and lifted it up.

“It’s not that.” The woman replied. “That kid... he definitely knows something but if he’s not an Altered... I’m not sure how he is related to all of this...”

“What makes you say that?”

“The photos. When we placed the photos down, I purposely mixed photos from different Altered cases in there that were completely unrelated to cases here in Slough. It was a test to see how he would react. I paid close attention and I could see it in his eyes. His pupils got bigger when he saw the first three photos and after going through the others, he went back to look at them.

“On top of that, those three photos he looked at were those where the same traces of blood were found...so he definitely knows something but I don’t know what.”

“Maybe he just recognised that guy from the second and third picture? I believe he went to this school as well?”

It seemed like Frank still had a lot to learn about his partners tactics. He didn’t even realise that was the reason she had done such a thing. Not all of those in the White Rose were there because of their smarts but more so their strength, yet Sadie was a bit different.

“So what do you want to do?”

“What can we do? Let’s try and get the judge to give us a warrant with what evidence we have. It’s unlikely, but it’s the only thing we can do while we continue to investigate.” Sadie answered, as she walked down the hallway and the two of them were ready to leave the school.

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Back in the room itself, Kai and Gary were making sure that his hand was quickly banded up with a plaster and none of the blood would spill anywhere. They were worried that they could possibly return,

trying to get a sample at another date, but they appeared to have left, and Gary's nose told him the same thing.

In the end, Kai picked up the tube, and was staring intensely at it. The blood was completely red, there was no sign of black at all.

"Did you trick them?" Kai eventually asked.

"No... of course not! Do you really think I had any idea they were going to come after me today?" Gary questioned the other teenager sitting in his seat, he felt more tired than when he had taken the test. It was something he never wanted to experience again.

The other teenager still had the tube in his hand and while looking at the blood, there was only one thing on his mind.

"Gary, if you're not an Altered, then what exactly are you?"

Chapter 138: What's his story?

Gary's head was sulking down and for some reason he was finding it incredibly hard to take another step forward. The teenager stood outside the boarded up place that the group had recently taken ownership of.

As for why he was unable to walk forward, that was something Gary didn't know himself. Perhaps it was because he was avoiding seeing a certain someone.

'Why? ... why do I feel so guilty?' The green haired teenager wondered, clenching his two fists.

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"Gary, if you're not an Altered, then what exactly are you?"



When Kai suddenly asked him that question, Gary responded with what he had considered to be the most natural answer to give in that situation.

“What do you mean? ‘What am I?’ I’m human, just like you. That tube in your hand isn’t black, so doesn’t that prove that I’m not an Altered?” The high schooler replied with a nervous smile.

Kai didn’t say anything, just looked from the tube to Gary, back to the tube, yet his underclassman could clearly see the pained look on his face.

“I see... so that’s your answer... that’s how you still see me.” Kai let out a sigh as he left the tube on the table and exited the room.

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Gary still wasn’t sure why, but he felt extremely guilty for having lied to Kai. Perhaps he felt as if he had betrayed his trust somehow. Earlier in the day, when he had so desperately needed someone to help him, his upperclassman had appeared.

What’s more, Kai had helped him time and time again ever since he had become a Werewolf, but how did Gary reward that kindness? By lying straight to his face.

‘He already seems to know that there is something... but Kai, I’m sorry... it just seems that whenever I try to say anything about it, the words just can’t seem to leave my mouth. I’m scared... scared that if I tell you the truth that maybe... maybe, you’ll betray me, and not just me... it could affect everyone around me as well...’

— —

Right after dealing with White Rose, Gary had naturally been hounded by his classmates about why he had been called out, by agents no less. Since their classmate had returned to class, rather than get escorted out in handcuffs, they could only assume that he had been being questioned due to another case.

Unsurprisingly, Gary had been in no mood to tell them anything. The teenager had decided that he was done with lying at that point... yet then he had been forced to face Tom. During the break, he had 'confessed' to the truth... at least partially. He had told Tom how White Rose had found a connection between him and Billy, but after doing a blood test, they had deemed him not to be the killer.

Once again, although this hadn't been a complete lie, he nevertheless had omitted a lot of the truth...

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"Are you going to walk in, or are you planning to just stand out here all day?" A familiar sounding voice asked him from behind.

Turning around, Gary could see that it was the large student he had fought the previous day, Austin Foster. Apparently, he had been dead serious when he had told them he would join if the green haired teenager managed to defeat him. Now, as the leader of the Howlers, he had no excuse to just continue waiting outside the door any longer.

The two entered the pool club together and inside they found Innu, Kai, Marie, and Miss Degrace already busy. Each one of them had a bucket of cleaning supplies, and at the back there were also several boxes. It seemed like the boxes were some type of orders that the group had made. Improvements for the bar.

For a second, Gary and Kai's eyes met, but the younger teenager immediately looked away. Gary and Innu were in the same class, so he must have known that Gary had been slightly avoiding him since their last talk.

"Looks like you two finally made it." Kai said with the usual grin on his face. "First order of business, we need to clean this place. Be careful, there are a lot of needles, glass and all sorts of other things here, so make sure you put some gloves on."

"After we've cleaned this place, we can start getting everything else sorted, then it won't be long until we're open for business. So grab a bucket and get to work!"

The two did as Kai ordered. The place was large, and it needed a lot of work, so they estimated that it would take at least a few days just to clean it. Perhaps a couple of weeks before they could officially open, and even then it would require a few more improvements, so the place could be operating as more than just a bar.

Both Gary and Austin had picked one of the corners of the room to start from, which just so happened to be at the opposite corner of where Innu and Kai were.

“You know, when I said I would help out, I thought my muscles would be put to better use than this.” Austin grumbled lightly, as he scrubbed a piece of dirt on the wood floor. It didn’t seem to go away, so he just scrubbed and scrubbed harder. At some point, Gary was worried that any moment now a fire might start on the wooden panels.

“So, tell me a bit about yourself. You don’t exactly strike me as the type who would choose to live the life of a gangster. What made you come up with the idea, starting a gang of your own? And how exactly did you get someone like him on your side?” Austin asked. As for who he was referring to, the large teenager didn’t even try to hide it. His sponge was pointed towards Kai, who seemed to currently be texting on his phone.

“...it wasn’t my idea. I-it was his...” Gary softly spoke.

For a moment, Austin gave him a funny look, but the next instant he just shrugged it off. Somehow, this situation was a little more sense to Austin than if it had been anything else. Gary didn’t seem like the leader type, and going so far as to rent a place to make it a hideout, didn’t feel like it was something an ordinary kid could come up with either.

“Well, at least he is on our side. I wouldn’t want to know him as an enemy, but let me give you some warning.” Austin spoke to Gary as he resumed cleaning. “I don’t exactly like his kind. With sly ones like him, you never know what exactly they’re scheming, making them the hardest ones to trust.”

Hearing Austin speak made Gary think about his earlier interaction. Could the large teenager be right. Did he not want to confess his biggest secret to Kai, because the other teenager was more clever than him?

“However,” Austin continued, “I can see it in his eyes. The two of you seem to be somewhat alike. I feel like he is someone who won’t hesitate to do whatever it costs to achieve his goal... although this could be a good thing or bad thing.

“Will he drop us all to the curb if we’re no longer useful, or is part of his goal bringing us all out of this sh\*t-hole with him? What can you tell me about him? If he wants you to be the one to lead us, the two of you have to be close, right? What’s his story, we is he doing all of this?”

It suddenly clicked in Gary’s head, THIS was the reason he hesitated to tell Kai more than he already knew. It was because he had no clue what Kai’s story was.

Sure, the blonde teenager had told him that he wanted to leave the Underdogs as well and that he wanted to change the status quo... but Gary had no idea about Kai’s past. He still had no clue about what his connection to Marie or her mother was.

Most importantly, he didn’t know how Kai had ended up working with the Underdogs and why he would want to leave the life of a gang so bad, just to create another one...

Looking towards Marie and her mother, the two that were with Kai before even him, he thought he might get his answer.

#### Chapter 139: The truth

Right now, Gary couldn’t help but feel a little awkward when trying to approach Kai. As such, he believed his next best bet would be to ask the two women that seemed to always be by his side. In a way, their background was just as mysterious as his.

Slowly, Gary inched his way over to the bar, cleaning away from where Austin was. Here, Marie had taken a break and was currently sitting on a stool with a notepad out. The high school girl also had her phone out, and from what he could see, she was busy using the calculator function and writing down some things.

“Hey, Marie-“

“Shhh!” The teenage girl didn’t even look up, rather shooing Gary away as if he was some pesky fly. It was clear that she didn’t want to be disturbed right now. His only other choice now was to question Miss Degrace who looked to be sorting through the leftover alcohol bottles.

‘How...do I start this one?’ Gary wondered.

“Is something troubling you, dear?” Miss Degrace asked. The middle-aged woman hadn’t even turned around. This action reminded him of his own mother, and it made him question whether having eyes on their back was a common trait shared by all mothers. Still, this was his chance.

“How did you know?” Gary chuckled as he moved closer and started to wipe the shelves where the bottles were. This way, his back was facing away from the others as they talked.

“You see, I was wondering if you could tell me more about Kai. ...we’ve only started getting to know each other better over these last few days, but I recently realised that I really know nothing about him. On the other hand, it seems like you and Marie are quite close.” Gary explained his situation.

“In other words, you’re interested in your friend? Well, I can kinda understand why, he isn’t exactly your typical kid.” Miss Degrace replied, opening up one of the whisky bottles that still had a bit of substance on the bottom. She sniffed the air just above a few times and soon closed the cap again.

“However, if you’re really interested in him, why don’t you simply ask him yourself? I’m sure he would answer you as long as you don’t ask anything overly personal.”

Unfortunately, Gary didn’t think it would be as simple as that. Now that Kai at least suspected that he was hiding something from him, what right did the younger teenager have to learn anything about the other’s secrets?

“If you want my advice, and I don’t mean to insult you, but in hindsight most of the ‘problems’ I had as a teenager turned out to be far less problematic than I initially believed. Nevertheless, I too had the tendency to make things harder for myself than needed to be.” Miss Degrace sighed as she seemed to be reminiscing about her own youth, but then a certain thought struck her. “To be fair, it doesn’t seem to be exclusive to teenagers. Sometimes, I believe that if people around the world just spoke more to each other, about how they were feeling, or about all their issues, then others around us could help more than we might think.

“Think about it, if nobody knows what your difficulties are, how can they help? While I could share a few things about him, it’s really not my business to tell. I can tell you about myself, though. Me and Marie, we both owe him a lot. It may be hard to believe, but I owe him my life. For that reason, I’m more than happy to help him when he needs me. If only things wouldn’t have ended as they did, perhaps he could have led a normal life...” It sounded like she diverted a bit around the end, but Gary hadn’t heard her, as the high schooler had still been busy thinking about her last piece of advice.

“Let me tell you one thing, Kai is the type of person that as long as you put your trust in him, he will put all of his trust back in you as well. Think about it, why has he been helping you so much? Was it only because you agreed to help him with something in return?”

Multiple images of Gary and his first meetings with Kai flashed through his mind. It had started out as a deal, but the green haired teenager felt like he had hardly done anything to repay the other. Still, even despite all of that, his upperclassman had helped him on multiple occasions without asking too many questions.

“I think you have your answer, he thought you already trusted him, which is why he was happy to help. Trust me, with the way he’s been talking about you, I can assure you that talking with him will only help.”

The talk with Miss Degrace didn’t reveal a lot about Kai’s past, but it did help Gary get his head straight back on. The next few hours, the group continued to clean up, and they ended up making more progress than any of them had anticipated. What they had estimated to take an entire week, had taken just a single day.

Most of it was actually due to Gary and Austin. The former had demonstrated seemingly endless stamina, allowing him to work at a steady pace. At the same time, he had been working extra hard, regarding this as a form of penance for having acted so stupid. In the case of Austin, the large teenager had seen Gary put in the work, and he hadn’t wanted to lose out to him. As such, he had given his best to keep up with Gary, and succeeded as well.

“Great job, everyone! With this tempo, it will only be a couple more days until we might be able to open for business! It will take a while for the windows, but we can just make this like a private club of some sort.” Kai looked happy and decided to call it a day for the group.

However, as everyone left, and Miss Degrace was ready to lock up, Gary informed her that there was something he wanted to tell her. The middle-aged woman put on her coat, and gave the teenager a thumbs up and left him the keys.

With Marie having left before her mother, there were only two people left in the former pool club.

"I'm sorry." Were the first words out of Gary's mouth. "I felt crap all day because of what I said earlier. You've helped me out so much, so I decided that I want to tell you the truth..."

There was a pause between the two. Kai didn't say anything as he waited for the other high schooler to continue.

"As you've seen, I'm not an Altered, at least I don't think I am...but I believe I'm not exactly completely human anymore either... Remember that suitcase that went missing? The one that is the whole reason the Underdogs are after me? I swear to you that I'm not joking, but... whatever was inside, it turned me into a W... W-were... Werewolf!" Gary finally blurted out.

When saying these words, he held his head down, worried about the reaction the other teenager would have. When he heard some chuckle, he looked up, only to see a giant grin on Kai's face.

"Gary, I believe you, I believe every word you just said. I've already guessed as much after what happened in the park with Billy. However, before the test, and your confession just now, it seemed purely crazy.

"You actually being a Werewolf, rather than an Altered, is a thousand times better than I thought. Now, because you have told me the truth. I think we are ready to move forward, I have a little gift for you."

#### Chapter 140: The new skill

A week has passed, and eventually the next weekend had arrived. During the week not much had actually happened. The Underdogs seemed to still be in his area, and he was thankful that no new fights were breaking out because of it. At the same time Gary was unable to try gain exp because of this.

Still, there wasn't as much worry on Gary's mind as there usually would be. For one, he had around three more weeks until the next full moon, then the condition of his mother had also stabilised, and while it hadn't improved, at least it hadn't worsened either.

Progress on the business that Kai was planning to implement for the Howlers was going smoothly, and it would be ready to open soon. On top of that, the two of them had made up and cleared their 'misunderstanding', bringing them a little closer.

He also hadn't had a run in with any more White Rose agents or the police force. His stress levels had pretty much been reduced to the level of a normal teenager. Of course, there was still the constant worry of money on his mind. Nevertheless, after he had paid the hospital bill for his mother, he at least wouldn't have to worry about it for the time being.

In that regard, Kai had assured him that once the business was running they wouldn't have to rely on those underground fights any more.

[Name: Gary Dem]

[Level 8]

[Exp 847/1024]

[Health: 100/100]

[Energy: 115/120]

Today was a bright and shiny day, and Gary was waiting on his best friend, who he had neglected quite a bit over the last few days. While waiting, he was checking out his system, to see how close he was to getting stronger.

Aside from the money issue, there was one major problem that continued to stay on the back of his mind, and that was Billy. There hadn't been any reports about him on the news for some time, but he had already killed more than once before. While the Omega wolf appeared to have 'limited' himself to



only killing people he had a grudge against, there was no telling how long he would stay true to his principles. The more time passed, the higher the chance that more deaths would occur and the stronger he would get.

“I finally made it, but are you sure all of this is necessary?” Tom asked, as he arrived with two shopping bags full of food. At the same time, he had a large backpack on his back as well.

“Yeah, trust me, we’re going to need all of that.” Gary replied, as he picked up his own share of food himself, and his own backpack. The two of them then headed into the forest near the park, yet the green haired teenager had yet to explain what they intended to do today.

The two boys went deep into the forest, as far as they could go. Seeing the place, was causing Tom to flinch every time he heard an animal move. Ever since the night of the full moon, he hadn’t been in a forest. Although the one they were currently in wasn’t the same one that they had been attacked in, it still scared him.

The only reason why he was able to put up with it was because he felt it should be relatively safe during the day.

“Whoa, thank the heavens you’re not a vampire! Otherwise, I’m pretty sure you would have turned to dust from all this sun.”

Gary wasn’t really appreciating his best friend’s jokes right now. He might not be a vampire, but he wasn’t sure whether being a Werewolf was really any better. However, he didn’t say anything. The high schooler knew his best friend long enough, to be aware that this was just his way of coping with things.

“This tree looks like it will do, and I think we’re far enough away now.” Gary said, as he pointed towards one of the large trees with a thick trunk that was nearly the same width as an average person’s height.

“Are you going to finally tell me what we are doing here?” Tom asked, huffing and panting. Unlike Gary, he didn’t exactly have a supply of endless stamina, nor had ‘physically fit’ ever been something anyone had ever used to describe him.

The green haired teenager took out a pair of thick chains, the thickest ones he had been able to purchase. Tom had brought along a similarly effective lock following his best friend's request, one he had borrowed from his parents' storage unit.

"I'm going to try turning into my Werewolf Form." Gary finally revealed. "I know it sounds crazy, but I need to learn how to control it, Tom. If I can learn how to control it, then we might not have to worry about the next full moon. It will also allow me to get rid of the other Omega wolf before he attacks again."

"Get rid? What do you mean 'get rid'? Are you saying you plan to kill him, Gary?!" Tom asked, completely baffled. His best friend didn't answer away, yet his silence spoke volumes.

"Tom... I don't want to keep lying to you... the truth is I was the one who created him. Outside of school, I got into a fight, and during that fight I bit him. I know that I was the reason that he turned into a Werewolf as well. Do you understand now? ... I'm the one responsible for everything he has done! It's because of me that you guys were in trouble that day! And it's because of me that people have already died!

"So I have to do whatever I can to stop him. Yes, even if it means, I'll have to kill him!"

While Tom was happy that Gary had finally decided to be a bit more honest with him, he still felt that there were things he was hiding from him. For one, his best friend hadn't mentioned anything about his mother ending up at the hospital. Tom had only found out after doing his own research.

Because of this, he had quickly forgiven Gary for doing something so risky like gambling to get money. Fortunately, the other choosing to confide in him, made him hopeful that eventually his best friend would tell him everything.

'When we're out of school, Gary, I'll help you. I'll create a company of my own, and I'll use all that money to help you!' Tom swore to himself.

Aside from the fact that Gary lacked the money to buy everything himself, he had called Tom over because he couldn't tie himself up on his own. He also couldn't lock himself, and in case they survived, unlock himself, either.

Having learned from last time, there were far more chains than on the night of the full moon. Tied around the whole tree, then cuffs around his arms that linked to chains with spikes that were hammered deep into the other tree's nearby. At the end, Gary's phone had been set up on a tripod of sorts away from him, so everything would be filmed.