

## Werewolf 161

Chapter 161: A bloody mess

The beast in front of Gary was faster than him, and it looked like only his claws could do any real damage to it. Unfortunately, it cost a lot of Energy to use them, and they only lasted 2 seconds right now.

The only way he could defeat it, would be if he had a way to prolong that time. Fortunately, his latest skill would allow him to do just that. With 50 Energy, Gary would be able to stay fully transformed for two entire minutes, yet there was a reason why he hadn't used the skill yet.

He was worried it wouldn't be enough. Since he had never fought in that state before, he had no idea how long it would take him to defeat one of the twins. The time limit was also a burden. If they evaded long enough, he might revert to a human, and that would be it...

As stupid as it sounded, but what he needed to do was to somehow fight both of them at once using his Full Transformation skill. Get them so close together that they couldn't run away and fight the hardest he possibly could.

When thinking about this, he noticed Kai and the others on the other side. With his powerful eyesight, he saw how they had successfully trapped the beast into one of the containers, and then it hit him. THAT was the answer!

Running forward and getting hurt slightly on the way by the beast's claws, Gary didn't care. He picked up one of the bodies on the ground and threw it towards the beast as he continued to dash forward.

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A short while later, his plan had succeeded, Gary was in Buffin's container, together with the two beasts. As soon as the second one had entered, the teenager had activated his skill.

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

[-20 Energy]

[Transformation has begun]

His body started to change inside the container. His transformation happened a lot faster than last time, though he wasn't sure if that was because he had been in his Partial Transformation state, his system actually helping him, or if it was due to something else.

Whatever the case, given his new-found strength, speed and his deadly claws, Gary was positively surprised to discover how easy it was to deal with the two beats. He grabbed onto the wrist of the first one that jumped at him and crushed it. With his claws he cut and shredded up their bodies, and with his powerful jaws he was able to bite down on their bodies, damaging them in the process.

During the Full Transformation Gary remained in control. He knew what he was doing, but he felt like some type of battle instinct instructed him on what he should do, because he wasn't fighting like a human would, more like a wild animal.

While fighting, there was something else Gary noticed as well, and that was the fact that if he used his mouth and swallowed down on the flesh he bit, he would regain a bit of Energy as well.

Not that he needed it, two minutes turned out to be plenty of time for him to deal with the twins, in fact he had finished them off in one. Cancelling his transformation after, Gary still had quite the bit of Energy to spare.

[Error: An anomaly has been detected in the beast flesh!]

[Consuming the beast's body will not reward the user with any stats!]

Back in his human form, the teenager was naked again. This was a serious downside he needed to solve when using the Full Transformation skill. If there was one thing he was thankful for, aside from having survived this whole ordeal, then it would be the fact that the system didn't require him to eat the twins... or whatever they had become.

He could have done it for energy but that was no longer needed. Still, he would have most likely done it if it had resulted in stat points, but since they weren't fully beasts, or fully Altered, he was happy to just leave them. Interestingly, their forms didn't revert, even after they had clearly died.

Picking up some clothes in the room that looked to have belonged to Buffin, Gary wore it. and he placed the mask he had chucked into the corner of the room back on his face, covering himself. He took a deep breath.

"You can open the door now." Gary's exhausted voice came from inside the container.

Walking out, he was greeted with the faces of his friends, who displayed a mixture of emotions. One of them was confusion as to why he was the one to make it out covered in blood. How did he defeat the two monsters, and in such a short time to boot? What exactly did he do, for them to end up in that state.

However, the masked teenager also noticed the tears. Innu, who he had only known for a short amount of time, and Marie had both visibly cried. Both of them had shed tears for him while he had been in that container. They obviously cared for him... and that was enough for him to have done what he had done to save their lives.

'I killed...again.' Gary realised. The first time that had happened still haunted him every so often. Barry had been an unfortunate accident. Of course, his schoolmate had stabbed him in broad daylight, so he had attacked him in a fit of rage, but he still felt a bit guilty deep inside. On the other hand, this time, there was hardly any guilt.

'Am I slowly losing myself?' Gary wondered, as he looked at his hands, tainted in black blood.

"Gary, thank you, you saved us all." Kai came forward. Austin also gave him a thumbs up, not asking further what exactly had happened in there. Soon he made a few calls, cancelling the request for backup from his schoolmates.

This had become a far more serious matter than he had ever thought. Marie, had gone to Gary's side, and tried to find something to wipe him with, but there was nothing in the room, other than clothes of more dead bodies.

While the other Howlers members outside were trying to figure out what to do in this situation, Kai had decided to head inside the container. When stepping in, he took a long good look at the mangled bodies of the two twins. There was black blood everywhere around the room.

On their bodies, as well as around the container, there were claw and bite marks. Stepping carefully around the blood, the blonde teenager headed for one particular corpse, before he reached for the pocket knife that was still stuck in the back of its head, pulling it out.

He wiped off the black blood and inspected it carefully. Once he was sure there was nothing wrong with it, he let out a sigh of relief and placed it back in his pocket, observing the scene one final time.

Eventually he walked out, and all eyes were on him, including Gary's. They were all waiting for an answer about what exactly they were supposed to do now. None of them had been prepared for things to escalate to such a degree.

"Our leader did his part." Kai said as he came forward and patted Gary on the shoulder. "So now it's time for me to do mine. I promise that none of you will get in any trouble for this. It's the least I can do, after you guys came here to save Marie, and Gary saved all our lives."

#### Chapter 162: Main Quest Complete

At the time, each of them was just worried for their own lives, they honestly would have all done the same since the only way to survive seemed to be to kill the twins. Otherwise, they would have been the ones to be added to the corpse pile. As such, nobody blamed Gary for what he had done.

While the teenagers might be okay with it, in the eyes of the law murder was nevertheless a major crime. In fact, the warehouse as a whole would be a major crime scene, since multiple members of the grey colour gang had been killed by the two beasts. The Howlers were all left wondering if they could get out of the place without any trouble.

"Say, can you call those guys over?" Innu asked, thinking back to when he had been left a special gift by Billy.

"They won't be able to cover all of this." Kai shook his head. "There are also too many witnesses. Not sure if they killed all those outside, but at least a good number of those who had been inside that escaped saw us already. We can't keep them quiet... however, we don't really have to worry about it.

“After all, we aren’t the only ones who don’t want everything that happened here to leak to the outside. Those injections that the twins had... I doubt it came from the colour gang, so most likely it was something given to them by the Grey Elephants.

“By now they might already know that something is happening in here, so they’ll have to have started preparing the cleaners. They wouldn’t want word of what happened here going out to anyone. The police or the other gangs... so for once, we should be thankful that there is a group big enough to clean up this mess. In a way, these twins solved that problem for us.”

“That still leaves one problem.” Austin spoke up, his arms folded. “Unlike our leader, the rest of us didn’t have our faces covered. It shouldn’t be too hard for them to find out who caused all of this.”

Kai smiled a bit as he went looking around for something. He had already looked around in Buffin’s home and couldn’t find what he was looking for. “You don’t have to worry about that either. Who would believe that a no name gang like us, the Howlers, would have the power to take out an entire colour gang? Especially if they also had monsters like these?

“The only logical explanation is that we have someone backing us... and the only gang in all of Slough with that kind of power would be the Underdogs. They won’t attack us anytime soon. I know I was wrong about the Wolf’s Pool Club, but if I were to take a guess, that was all due to the personal vendetta of those twins rather than the grey or colour gang’s order.”

Eventually, Kai found what he was looking for. It was a small box that was hidden behind a small crate. Kicking it to the side, he could see what looked like a safe. There wasn’t even a lock on the safe. A method used by some gangs to test their loyalty.

Of course, if anyone stole from the safe, they probably would never be found again, but this time, everything was there. Opening up the safe, there was cash upon cash. It looked like the grey colour gang had been paid quite well, or at least rather recently, by the Grey Elephants.

“I think we deserve this after what we went through. Don’t you think so?” Kai asked, shoving some of it over to Austin since he was unable to hold it all by himself. “We’ll use this money to restore the pool club, pay for our medical fees and of course, you all deserve some for your troubles. I’ll use my cut to try to expand our business a little more as well.”

Eventually, Austin went and found a bag in one of the containers and placed all the money inside.

“Let’s get out of here.” Kai smiled at them all. “I also want to congratulate all of you. In a way, this was the first real fight we had as a gang. Everyone survived and we came out on top. Think of this as a good thing if you can.”

When heading outside, there were a few members of Austin’s friends who had already arrived, with their motorbikes. They had parked just outside the warehouse gate, unable to see the inside. They were a little worried about heading into another gang’s territory.

There were four of them in total, and one of them had only come along to bring Austin’s bike for him.

Since they were already nearby, Austin told them to wait for him a little away from the warehouse which they happily complied. With the help of Austin’s friends they were all taken back, including Gary, and not once had anyone had asked him what had happened.

Everyone was dropped off at their home, and they agreed that they would talk about what to do some other time, Kai would contact them all.

Once at home, Gary headed for his room. He gathered some clothes, since the current ones were what he had borrowed from the grey colour gang members, and took a long and thorough bath. He bought himself some food to eat and helped cook for Amy as if it was a regular, normal day, but it was far from it as he went to his bed and laid down.

His phone went off, and looking at it, he could see there were a couple of messages.

[A new group has been created]

[The Howlers]

[Kai: Welcome to The Howlers group chat! Here I will update everyone on events, duties and more. Everyone, you might be happy to learn that so far it looks like we have nothing to worry about. No reports have been made about what had happened today.

[However, there is news of the grey colour gang having been defeated. For now, I would say keep your mouth shut about what we have done to everyone.

[In other good news, Miss Degrace is doing well. She was let out of the hospital and her injuries were stitched up. As for Marie, she is already better. She will still be staying in hospital for a couple of days, though.

[I will handle the repairs of the Wolf's Pool Club with today's funds that we gained. Have a rest for the next couple of days, enjoy life and I'll let you know once the club is ready to be back in action.]

Seeing the message, it was the first thing that put a smile on Gary's face.

'It's over... right, those twins can't mess with us any more, but that's just one problem out of what feels like a hundred.' Gary thought.

Before going to sleep, Gary wanted to check one more thing. Because after defeating the twins, he had completed two Quests and received great reward, for one he had reached Level 10.

Levelling up twice from this event meant he had gotten stronger and had two more stat points to use as he wished, but it had also completed another quest that Gary had long forgotten about.

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 10]

[Main Quest completed]

[Look at you! You are growing into a fine Werewolf and taking on this role well.]

[Now that you barely know what you're doing, society demands for you to make yourself useful!

It's time for you to choose a path to go down on your Werewolf journey]

[Please select from one of the following Classes!]

[...]

### Chapter 163: Select Your class

There was a lot on Gary's mind after he had killed the twins to the point he didn't really have the time to check up on his rewards. However, as the day continued on as normal, and he eventually saw Amy, his heart settled down somewhat from the events of today. After receiving the group message from Kai, he decided that he should continue on with what he needed to do.

'I remember it saying to select a Class, but what does it exactly do?' Gary wondered.

Ever since completing the Main Quest, the system kept prompting him to make a choice. Even after he had made the notification go away, every twenty minutes it would pop back up. It was clear that the system would continue to bother him until he made his choice.

'I guess this is just something I'm going to have to do, huh.' Gary grumbled, as he looked to his left, seeing his sister lying there on her bed. Getting up, he decided to head to their bathroom and sat on the toilet. It was a strange place to be, but at least he was safe if any changes suddenly started to occur.

'Alright, so let's see what these options are again?'

[Please select from one of the following classes]

[Hunter Class]

[A Werewolf Hunter is fast, agile, and sneaky. He focuses on killing his prey quickly, out of sight and from the shadows. He is able to track his targets from a great distance and has great focus.]



[Class perks include: More and better Marks, improved tracking.]

'The first choice certainly is interesting, I could always do with extra Marks. It would be great if I could create Bonds with the others, and it would be a safe way to farm Exp. ...if that's how it still works. ...

'So far the system gave me Quests based on the situation I was in, but what if it starts to give me Quests based on the Class I've chosen? If I become a Werewolf Hunter, then the most obvious Quest it would give me would be to hunt more. Why else would it give me more and better Marks? I doubt the better Marks will be like my Bond Marks, more than likely it will be improved Forced Bonds or something.'

Gary then decided to move onto the next one, which had a little extra text next to the class.

[Protector Class] (Recommended)

[A Werewolf Protector boasts one of the sturdiest bodies of his race. He uses his own body to shield his pack members from any harm, making sure that they will survive.

[Class perks include: 1 Extra point in Endurance upon each Level Up, faster healing.]

'I can see why the system recommends this one. My endurance certainly is way above my other stats. However... its strong point seems to be taking a beating though. As useful as it is, I have seen time and time again that it doesn't matter if I don't have the strength or speed to defeat my opponents...

'The Underdogs have Kirk... and the gangs in higher tier towns must have Altered as well. They surely are a lot stronger than the fake ones that I went up against today. Sure, I could just stand there and take a beating, but this role only seems to work if I had someone that could help me attack.'

Keeping it as a maybe, Gary went over his last option.

[Warrior Class]

[A Werewolf Warrior could be considered the vanguard of his pack. He leads his pack into battle with his strength. He has exceptional fighting ability and courage, but it is because of this trait, and his role, that this Class boasts the highest fatality rate.]

Before reading the additional perks, Gary gulped right there. The description had sounded great at the start... that was until he read the dying part.

[Class perks include: Wide range of skills to select from, large Energy pool]

'Hmm, I guess the problem with these additional perks, although it tells you a few details it doesn't tell you too much. Like how much is 'large'? Will I have 150 Energy, 200 Energy, 500 Energy? Is it the only Class that increases it? Come to think of it, will my stats change depending on which one I choose?

'Honestly they all seem to have their advantages and disadvantages.'

His finger hovered over the options, but they hesitated. For a moment the teenager seemed to have made up his mind on one, but it soon changed to another, and then the last.

'Damn it, this is just so hard. Should I trust in the system's recommendation?'

Since Gary was struggling with what to pick, he actually decided to text Tom. He explained to him, that he was playing a game, and these were the classes to select from. The question proposed was which class would suit him in real life best.

He waited and in the end got a reply.

[To me, Gary, I would say the Warrior Class suits you the best. You always do crazy things that get you in situations that might get you killed. I mean, I don't even know what happened to you after what happened at the pool club. However, that's what makes you, you. I always thought you had the courage like a warrior.]

After getting the text message, Gary replied with a [Thank you], as he had made up his mind. There was something else drawing him to this option, and it was the part where it stated that they lead the pack.

He didn't know if it was influenced by Kai and the others, but he really did feel more like a leader as time went on.

[Are you certain you wish to select the Warrior Class?]

[Yes.]

[Class has been selected]

[Your Grade has been upgraded from Pawn to Knight]

[New skills are now available]

[Changes to your Status will now be applied]

[...]

[...]

The messages continued to arrive as Gary became a Werewolf Warrior.

Chapter 164: An upgrade!

Apparently, selecting a Class was more than just some perks, because Gary could physically feel that his body was changing. It felt somewhat similar to when he would transform.

'Seriously? Right here, right now? You didn't tell me something like this was going to happen! What if Amy sees me? This is bad!' Gary thought as sweat was running down his body and forehead. He quickly got out of his clothes as he had gone through too many recently and he didn't want to waste money on buying more.

The teenager's arms and muscles were bulging, but his skin wasn't ripping off like it usually would. With each passing second he felt like his bones were growing slightly larger and then finally it had stopped.

[Congratulations, your Class has changed to; Werewolf Warrior]

[Class: Warrior]

[State: Human (Omega)]

[Grade: knight]

After taking a breath or two, Gary decided to check out the system, he had received multiple notifications, but he was unable to focus and tell what they were, so he was just starting to check them all out.

'... what does Grade: Knight mean? It went from Pawn to Knight, so I'm guessing it's based on chess, but what exactly does it symbolise? Why is it separate from the Class?'

Alas, his system came and went as it pleased. Rather than focus on the things he didn't understand, he decided to look at the things he did understand.

[The maximum number of Marks available has increased]

[5/8 Marks]

He had gained three more slots, which made Gary quite happy. He wondered what Level he would have to reach to make them increase again, and he was also curious how many he would have gotten if he had selected the Hunter Class instead.

[Error; One of your skills is incompatible with your current Class]

[Charging Heart will be removed]

'Huh? Wait, what?! I can't use Charging Heart any more? What crap is that!' Gary was getting really pissed at the Werewolf system's shenanigans. It was one thing to not give him a heads-up about his body changing, but his skills being incompatible with any of the Classes should have warranted a warning!

The high schooler quickly went over to the Skills tab and he could see that it had indeed disappeared. Charging Heart was the bread and butter skill that Gary had relied on the most. He could only hope that he could still enjoy the effect of doubling all his stats if his Heart rate increased to or above 150 BPM on its own.

[New skills are available, please select ONE skill from the following skills]

Rather than stay down about it, Gary opted to look at the plus side, perhaps there was a compatible skill to his Class that would benefit him even more than Charging Heart.

The first thing Gary noticed was that Hardened Will wasn't listed as one of the options.

'Is this because it's also incompatible with the Warrior Class? Does that mean if I had selected one of the other Classes, I might have kept Charging Heart but lost the Claw Drain skill?' He understood that at this point it would all be speculation.

[Berserker]

[A skill that can only be activated once the user falls below 50% of his Health. The skill does not require any Energy to use, but no other skills can be used while in effect. For one minute, the user's strength will increase by 25%]

[Controlled Transformation]

[This allows the user to transform different bodies to be part wolf as he wishes. The strength gained from this will be dependent on how much the user wishes to transform. While in this state, Energy will

be consumed twice as fast as normal. Stats will increase depending on which body parts are transformed.]

'Out of the two skills, one of them was far more clear on what type of effects it would have. The second one seemed a bit wishy-washy at first, but reading it Gary understood why and he was more inclined to choose that one.

'When fighting against the twins, it was because of my claws that I managed to hurt them. Also, if I could change just part of my body, I could get away with being an Altered! What's more I could permanently keep my claws to fight!

'Full Transformation... just makes it too obvious that I'm not an Altered. However, the Energy consumption will be doubled... How much is my Energy now anyway? One of the class perks did mention a 'large pool.'

Checking up, Gary bought up his Status and his mouth was left wide open.

[Name: Gary Dem]

[Class: Warrior]

[State: Human (Omega)]

[Grade: Knight]

[Level 10]

[Exp 220/1456]

[Health: 100/100]

[Energy: 120 → 300/300]

[Strength 9 → 15]

[Dexterity 9 → 15]

[Endurance 14 → 15]

'My Energy is now at 300! I might actually be able to transform a lot of my body without having to worry. At the same time, I can use my skills a lot easier now. On top of that, all of my basic stats have improved!

'Now I don't feel too bad about Charging Heart. The Energy increase alone would have been the equivalent of 18 Levels!' Gary thought excitedly. Checking it out as well, it looked like Gary still had one stat point to use as he wished, but as usual for now he decided to keep it.

Because of this new-found information, Gary decided to select the second skill.

[Are you sure you would like to select the skill 'Controlled Transformation?']

[Yes / No]

[Current list of skills]

[Mark 5/8]

[Claw Drain (Level 1)]

[Full Transformation]

[Controlled Transformation] (new)

Finally, there was the last set of notifications for Gary to look at.

[Daily Quests are no longer active]

[Exp gained from Bonds will continue]

[The Knight Grade can not gain stats from eating humans]

[The Knight Grade can still gain stats from eating beasts]

Gary wasn't too upset. Lately, he had been finding it hard to head to the gym in the morning with how much he had to do throughout the day. The Exp requirement was also increasing with every Level, so the little help he would get from completing his Daily Quest had become very marginal.

However, he still intended to keep hunting. Not only did it save him money, but with his large Energy pool, he would have to eat more to keep it filled up. As for eating humans, well now he had the perfect excuse not to. However, there was something on his mind as he read the last message.

'I can gain stats from eating beasts? It mentioned that there was an anomaly with the twins... was it because they weren't fully Altered? Or is it talking about beasts... because they still exist on Earth?'

Chapter 165: A change

After checking out everything the system had to offer, Gary couldn't really say he was upset with his choice. For one, he had no way to find out what he would have gained, but the one thing he now did have was the skill called Controlled Transformation. In his mind, this was the biggest win out of them all.

Honestly, Gary wanted to test everything there and then, but he thought that maybe it wasn't the best idea for him to do so in the bathroom. What if he was to suddenly go from just controlling the change in one part of his body to then controlling it fully.



There were also his regular worries that hadn't gone away, such as the other Omega. If he could transform this drastically, did that mean Billy might have changed as well? Aside from that, there was also the fact that the message about the full moon hadn't disappeared. Only time could tell how his new Class would affect that.

'All of these new skills, and powers, I might actually be able to fight Billy on even ground... or even have the advantage.' Gary thought.

When putting on his discarded clothes, Gary noticed that the shirt felt a little tight, and his sleeves came up a little short on his forearms. On top of that, his trousers had the same issues. Overall, it felt like the waist of his bedtime clothes stretched a little more.

"What the?" Gary thought, and he finally looked towards the mirror. He was in so much shock that he had dropped his trousers back on the floor, for he had to touch his face to see if something was going wrong.

'It is me, but what happened to me!' Gary thought.

His reflection was staring back at him, he could still recognise his spiked green hair with short sides, his normal eyes and nose... only everything looked a little 'different'. His face had grown a little longer and his jawline had become slightly chiselled.

That's when he caught on that not only had his appearance changed, but there were physical changes as well. He had grown a bit taller, his limbs were a bit longer, and overall his body was a little bigger. When lifting his shirt, Gary could see well-defined muscles, and it was the same for the rest of his body.

'Is this all because of the Class change? I guess this is what it meant by changes will be applied... not only did it improve my base stats, it also gave me a body to match it. I have the body of a Warrior.' Gary thought and at the same time immediately felt embarrassed thinking he had made that thought.

Then there was one last check he made, looking downward towards a certain area.

'This is amazing! Only... how do I explain this?'

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[19 Days until the next full moon]

The notification was too far away for Gary to care at this point, and he had woken up even earlier than he usually would have done. He was slowly getting better at cooking these days, and left some scrambled eggs out for his sister.

As for why he had chosen to leave early, it was all because he didn't want to have that conversation with his sister. For one, his school clothes already looked a bit ridiculous on him, and he had to send a message to Kai, asking him to get him a different size for his gang uniform. There wasn't much to salvage after his transformation yesterday.

'Man... this is going to be a strange day.'

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While Gary headed to school, just as Kai had expected, news had reached the ears of the Grey Elephants. They had received multiple different reports, but because of how drastic their stories were, it was hard for the Grey Elephants to believe what they had heard.

The two leaders were meeting in an office that was located in a factory which made technical parts. It was one of the main businesses that the Grey Elephants protected from other gangs. At the very top was where the office in the factory was located.

Raven opened the door for Riv, so he could join him and Brandon. After what had happened yesterday, they needed to speak to the red colour gang leader.

"Raven, it looks like you did the right thing, after all." Brandon said with a smile. "Judging from the reports, those twins did change, but they acted like wild animals. I guess Sin really was trying to use us as his guinea pigs."

“You’re right.” Raven replied, who had a sour face on because he recalled that Brandon had recommended him to use it on his brother as a test subject. “I only gave them a diluted mix, so maybe it was that. There is still plenty of the solution, but we have no clue if more of it is actually better or worse. What should we do with it? We can’t exactly give it back.”

Brandon looked to be thinking for a while and eventually came up with an answer.

“For now, let’s talk about other matters. The remaining grey colour gang members will join the red colour gang. Get them to change their colours and as for those who won’t comply, just give them the boot.

“As for that Howlers group... we should leave them alone. I imagine they’re just bait, even though reports claimed that they had an Altered among them. The only Altered that works for a gang is Kirk. They say he covered his face, but it has to be him, which means the Underdogs are involved in all of this.

“Maybe we can use this to our advantage. Sin is getting impatient, and now we know what the solution does as well. Instead of risking it, we can dilute that solution to create some monsters to take care of them.” Brandon smiled at his idea.

After the meeting was over, Raven looked like he had one more thing on his mind.

“Brandon, I might be away for a couple of days. It’ll take a few days for you to set up things, so I’ll be by your side by then, but right now I have things to deal with. I hope that’s okay.”

It was clear by Brandon’s look and his hesitation that it wasn’t okay. However, the leaders were supposed to be equal, not one above the others. With Yovan dead, it was only him and Raven, so it felt like Brandon had no choice but to let him go.

“Alright, I trust you to be back in time. Can you at least tell me what’s so important?” The Grey Elephant leader asked as he lit up a cigar.

“I’m going to find out what happened to my brother!” Raven replied with conviction.

## Chapter 166: Centre of Attention

Arriving at School, Gary was happy to see that everyone was okay. He was partially worried that perhaps Innu would have run away after seeing what happened. Sure, they were all somewhat involved in the underworld, but Gary knew exactly what it was like to see a dead body.

It was a memory that not only wouldn't, but just couldn't get out of one's head, although perhaps Gary had it worse because he had gone through worse things. Which was why, although Innu was in the class and had his head down on his desk. Gary wasn't going to disturb him or give him a hard time.

When Gary came close, Innu did lift his head and took a peak, before placing it back down again.

"How come I feel like sh\*t, while you look like some type of golden boy... am I that tired?" Innu mumbled.

The thing was, it wasn't only him that noticed. Soon many of those in the room couldn't stop staring at Gary. Something seemed celery different about him.

"Did he get a new haircut or something?" One of the students asked.

"No, he still has that same stupid green hair, but he really looks different, did he get plastic surgery maybe?."

"Nah, it's not plastic surgery, look at his body, he's been working out. His clothes are bulging, I think you can see his muscles."

After hearing what everyone was saying, Innu lifted his head and rubbed his eyes slightly. He wasn't imagining things, Gary really did look great after everything that had happened.

'Did that black blood turn him into some kind of superhero or something?!' Innu couldn't believe it. 'If I had known, I might have also taken some... although... no, his hair seems to be fine.'

Gary hadn't really expected that he would gather this much attention, or for so many people to notice, and he wasn't used to the stares, he was even avoiding their gaze a bit, but he would be lying if he said

he didn't like all the praises he was getting and because of it, he thought to look in the direction where Xin was.

For a second, he saw her glancing his way, before quickly turning around.

'Oh... I didn't expect that.'

"Hey, Gary right, the two of us don't talk much but look at you." A girl came over to talk to him. She stroked her hair putting it behind her shoulder, revealing her ear. It was Tiffany. She had gotten incredibly close to the point where Gary was uncomfortable.

"The superstar of the rugby team, and now look at you, it looks like you've been working out, but how did you get like that so fast?"

Gary nervously chuckled as she pushed her body up against his and started to feel up his arm. She had felt around his biceps, and even Tiffany seemed surprised by how large and hard it was.

"I think it's just a growth spurt." Gary mumbled.

The door slid open and Tom could be seen entering. He had entered through the back door rather than the front door, which meant he was near to his seat and could see Gary being red-faced while also being held onto by what Tom would refer to as a leach.

"Hey Tiffany, do you know my name?" Tom asked as he slammed his bag down on the table. It looked like she truly froze for a second as she tried to remember it.

"Ah, I'm a bit of a ditz." She excused herself, knocking herself on the head in a cute fashion. "This brain of mine is freezing."

"Yeah, we sit next to each other in geography, and we've been in the same class as each other for four years. Anyway, Gary's mine." Tom declared, licking his lips.

It was then that Tiffany let go of Gary's arm, as she had all sorts of thoughts running through her head.

"Wait, you mean, he's..."

Tom just folded his arms, nodding his head up and down, and eventually she decided to awkwardly leave. Which immediately made both Tom and Gary burst out in laughter.

"Well, I didn't expect you to come up with something like that." Gary wiped a tear from his eye, as he pounded Tom on the shoulder, who flinched at his action.

"Not my fault if she misunderstands. Anyway, what the hell happened to you? Yesterday you asked me about a game, not telling me anything about what happened, and now you look like a jock who never leaves the gym. Be honest, did you get transported into a game world, and then it spewed you out based on your Class?" Tom asked sceptically.

"Nah, it's just a growth spurt." Gary insisted, although it was scary how close to the truth Tom's joke was. As his best friend, Tom knew Gary for a long time, and in the past he used to be only slightly taller than himself. For him to experience such a growth spurt seemed somewhat ridiculous, and far too coincidental... but he assumed that it might have something to do with him being a Werewolf.

As lesson's went on, it was time for the group to have a bit of self study and during this time Innu was fast asleep snoring away. Using this time, Gary believed it was a good chance to ask Tom a few questions.

"I remember you saying that your parent's work is related to Altered. That should mean they know a lot about beasts, right? Like the beasts that Altered DNA comes from and so on?" Gary asked.

Tom nodded, but honestly he knew very little more than that about what his parents did.

"What I wanted to know was... do you know if there are still any beasts out there? I'm not talking about Altered, but real beasts." The reason Gary asked this was due to his current grade.

To get stat points, there was one way, and that was to kill and eat beasts. To Gary this was more peace of mind for him than humans or Altered. The problem was beasts no longer existed or roamed the Earth so where would he find one? He hoped that Tom might know more, if not there was also Blake... but he doubted the Altered Hunter would share that knowledge with him.

“I have no idea. I mean, I’ve never seen one, have you? Or one on the news, but I’ll ask them. It will be a simple question to ask them and I can tell you tomorrow. Now I want you to tell me something. What happened yesterday? After I took that woman to the hospital, I mean?”

There was a pause before Gary answered, he had somewhat forgotten that Tom had been there yesterday, but if he told Tom everything would he believe him, and wouldn’t that involve him with gang matters.

“We tried finding out who really did that to the club. In the end...we found Marie, but she was badly hurt, so we took her to the hospital after. Anyway, because of the state of the club I have no job for a few days, but I did want to test out a few things with you.” Gary placed his hand covering his mouth, and mouthed out the words ‘Werewolf.’

This part was true, and since he wouldn’t be going to the club today, he thought he could at least test out his new skills, which conveniently meant they would be spending time together.

His best friend nodded and got back to studying, but he knew once again that his friend had lied to him. This morning, Tom had decided to surf a certain section of what was known as the Dark Web. It was a special part of the Internet that many criminal organisations used, and there were plenty of forums on there as well.

The reason he had been so late, today, was because he had found a particularly interesting discussion. It was theories as to what happened that might have led to the apparent annihilation of the grey colour gang in Slough.

‘Gary, was that you?’ Tom wondered.

Chapter 167: Growth spurt

School had ended, and for once Gary didn’t need to go searching for Kai to inform him about something, or looking for Blake. Since both of them had told him they would contact him when they were needed.

Earlier, Marie had sent them an update in the Howlers group chat saying she would be taking the day off school, and all of them could understand why. Until the swelling went down, she would be harassed with all sorts of questions, especially in a school. Perhaps they would even assume it was her parents, so to avoid questions it was best to just pretend she was sick.

There was club practice as usual, and just like in class, his teammates, as well as Mr Root had noticed his 'growth spurt'. However, the sportsman had seen radical changes in those around his age before, so they weren't too surprised. Instead they were proud that one of their star players seemed to be taking the sport more seriously now by working out.

After club practice, while the sun was still out, Gary and Tom had decided to head to the park that was closest to the school. It was also one of the safer areas for that reason. It was the same one that he and Tom had gone to before three days ago to experiment with his Full Transformation skill.

When they finally entered the forest in the park, the two of them sat down and started to drink some water.

"So, tell me, do you think your changing body is a Werewolf thing?" Tom asked, seeing as no one else was around.

"That does seem to be the most likely explained." Gary nodded, while touching his own hard chest. "It's hard to explain, but it feels as if my body itself might have evolved. Like it's grown! That's why I wanted to invite you out here as well. You've understood more about all this Werewolf lore stuff, so I wanted to ask your opinion about it. Did you read anything about such drastic changes?"

Tom honestly had no clue. He had never heard about a Werewolf evolving, and why exactly had that change happened overnight? If anything, the most likely timing for any changes should have been either the moment he became a Werewolf or after his first turning.

The short haired teenager could only think of a few things that would cause this 'evolution'. An increase in strength and power, perhaps due to fighting, or maybe something else...



Gary took off his shirt, followed by his trousers, leaving him only in his underwear. Although he would need to get new clothes soon that fit him, he thought it was a waste to keep ripping clothes. Besides, he still had to go home somehow

“I wanted you to tell me what I look like, because I think that change allowed me to control my transformation.” Gary said as he looked at his arm.

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

[Transformation has begun]

Using the skill, Gary could tell that the system had split his body into several parts. He could understand it all in his head. It was so detailed that it was unbelievable. Gary could, if he wanted to, change just a single finger to grow out his nail, or change the entire hand.

It was the same for all the other parts all around his body. It was as if he had a diagram in his head and all he had to do was select the body part that he wanted to transform. From then on, there was like a slider of some sort, which he could move in his head as he wished.

As a test, Gary had selected his whole arm, from the elbow down to his fingertips. He then visually moved the slider, and he could feel his arm changing by the second. First, put the slider a quarter of the way.

“Whao, your arm!” Tom shouted in surprise. Seeing it live was completely different from watching a recording. When Gary looked down, he could see his fingernails had grown, and his arm was a little hairier than usual. At the same time, it had grown slightly larger. It still looked human but didn’t quite suit his body.

Moving the slider to the halfway mark, some skin had fallen off from his hand, and it was just as painful as before. His arm had also grown bigger and now his arm no longer looked completely human. It was covered in a mix of hair and fur, but underneath it, there was still human tissue.

Finally, Gary turned the slider all the way up, and the transformation had occurred on his arm. It was completely covered in brown fur. It hurt, but not as much as Gary remembered.

Turning it around, both him and Tom were in amazement.

“So you can really control it, does this mean you’ll be okay on the full moon?” Tom asked.

Gary shook his head, as he really wasn’t sure. He still received the message this morning, so something was bound to happen. Right now, he didn’t want to stop the testing there. Gary continued to test the other parts of his body, and he noticed a few things.

Transforming, took up energy, similar to how his Full Transformation used up 20 points of Energy to use it was the same when he used Controlled Transformation on his body parts. Although this energy differed depending on the size of the body part as well as how much he transformed each body part. The other thing was, he could feel that his Energy was zapping away the more parts he turned, just like the system had stated.

However, what was most impressive was his stats while doing these tests. Changing certain parts of his body would also affect his stats. Changing his arms mainly resulted in extra Strength. Transforming his torso and back gave him extra Endurance, whereas his feet and legs translated to extra Dexterity, allowing him to run faster than he could originally.

The bigger an area he turned, the more the slider was on the Werewolf side, the bigger the increase, but also the faster the Energy consumption.

The stats for each area that was partially transformed was even better than when he had used Charging Heart. It was clear this was a big improvement from before. Especially with the Energy.

“Gary, do you understand what this means now?!” Tom shouted after watching everything. “You might not have to hide this any more! If you can partially transform like this, then you can pass yourself off as an Altered!”

He could see in his friend’s eyes, he was truly happy for him. Happy that he no longer had to hide his secret, but Gary felt like he would still have to hide it, at least for now, and he wasn’t happy for the same reasons as Tom. Instead, he thought these were the perfect tools to use against Bill.

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Outside Bayles High School, Slough's only all-girls grammar school, girls could be seen walking out in groups as it was the end of the school day. Two girls walked out arm in arm, just like they did every day.

Stacy and Amy would usually walk to the gate before parting ways to head home. They both had gone through a traumatic event together, yet this event had only brought them closer together, and Stacy had solemnly promised she would never do anything as stupid as that.

Just as they were about to leave, though, a figure in a black leather jacket and wearing sun glasses stopped in front of the two girls.

"Hey there, I just wanted to ask you a few things." The man said, as he pulled his glasses down, and recognised one of the girls. "You see my brother, Hawk, has been missing for a while now, and I was wondering if you two knew anything."

#### Chapter 168: A missing brother

Amy and Stacy hadn't quite been the same ever since they had been to the Kobo Karaoke Club that evening. The two were very thankful that theirs was an all-girls school, and the number of male teachers was only a handful. Otherwise it would have been a lot harder for her to even deal with her day to day life.

Amy was aware of her own condition. Whenever the high school girl would go to the convenience store, she could feel herself become extra nervous even when just paying for items. This also only occurred if there was a man or boy behind the counter. The only person she felt somewhat safe around, that was a man, was her brother.

After experiencing such a traumatic event, the two girls' bodies had gone into a shock response as a strange man had approached them out of nowhere. What's more, he got uncomfortably close to them, making it seem that he was trying to block their path on purpose. Because of this, Amy's first instinct was to place her hand in her pocket, ready to inform Gary of what was happening as soon as possible, just like she had promised him.

"Hawk... is your brother?" Stacy asked with a shaky voice.

Amy sighed internally. It might have been for the best if the two of them had pretended not to know who Hawk was. Unfortunately, now that Stacy had repeated his name, it was obvious that her best friend was at least acquainted with the guy.

Seeing the two girls' reaction, Raven let out a big sigh and pinched the bridge of his nose. He had been hoping for their help, but this might prove to be a lot harder than he had anticipated.

"It looks like that idiot has mistreated you two girls. I don't know what exactly he has done, but let me apologise on his behalf." Raven said, bowing his head down. Surprisingly, it looked like he was being quite sincere in his action.

"I don't want to trouble you any more than I have to. I'm honestly just looking out for him. As I said, he's been missing for a while and when I looked through his messages, there was a girl that he had been talking to a lot.

"You two even exchanged photos, so that's how I found you. I'm sorry... I actually knew who you were before approaching you, I just wanted to confirm."

Raven was very thankful for the police officer that day, not only had he given him a transcript of his messages, but it had everything. Even information that usually would have been omitted such as photos and more.

It was obvious that the guy had been a good-natured rookie working at the station. The reason nobody had told Raven any of that information had been, primarily, so he wouldn't bother the poor girl... just like he was doing right now but it looked like the police hadn't bothered to look this far either.

With all that information, it had naturally not taken long for Raven to track Stacy down. The only thing he didn't expect was for her to be... as startled as she was.

When speaking, Amy noticed that Raven was just looking at Stacy. Apparently, he actually didn't know what exactly his brother had tried to do that day. However, looking at the person in front of her, her instincts were telling her that this person was bad news.

Throughout the whole conversation, he was clenching his fist by his side and unclenching it as if he was angry at something.

Worried that he might lash out, Amy grabbed her friend by her arm tighter and pulled her away.

“Come on, we don’t even know who this stranger is. What is an adult doing waiting outside a girl’s school anyway!” Amy exclaimed as she pulled her friend.

Luckily, it didn’t seem like her friend was objecting to this. Stacy happily went along, but she soon felt someone grab her by the wrist, stopping her.

“Please. I’m just looking for my brother.” Raven pleaded. “Look, I know he can be an asshole, but he’s still my brother. Imagine this was your family member who had gone missing. Just tell me what you know, and once I find him, I promise I’ll make him apologise for whatever he did to you!

“The last person he wrote to was you, and he’s been missing ever since! If you want, I can compensate you, or make it, so he never bothers you again, alright?”

Stacy looked like she was trying to move her arm to get the man to shake it off, but on his end Raven had a hard grip on her. So much that it was even starting to hurt her. His soft words and hard approach weren’t adding up.

“HEEELP!” Amy screamed. “HE’S ATTACKING US!”

Since it was an all-girls school, immediately there were those who turned to look at the situation. To anyone it looked like danger, as there was a strange man in dark sunglasses holding onto two girls who looked unwilling to leave with him.

The other girls started to pull out their phones, taking videos and taking photos as well. Seeing this, Raven scoffed, and let go.

“Why is it that every time I try to do things the right way, things don’t turn out?” Raven wondered in frustration as he adjusted his jacket. “Fine, if that’s how you want it, then you two better watch your back! I promise I’ll find out what happened to my brother one way or the other!”

The strange man left the school grounds, and a few moments later they could hear him drive off on his motorbike. Some girls ran over, checking up on the two girls who had been attacked. Stacy fell to her knees.

“Amy...what do we do?” Stacy asked as tears ran down her face. She looked up at her friend, shocked, scared.

“Don’t worry, Stacy.” Amy replied, putting on a brave face. “We really don’t know why his brother is missing. A scumbag like that probably got what was coming to him, so don’t worry about it. We’ll be okay.”

Despite her tone, she too was frightened. The man had discovered Stacy’s identity from pictures so what else might he know? If the younger brother was involved in things like that, then maybe the brother was involved in bigger things.

Thinking about brothers and what the strange man had said, her thoughts revolved around her own. The two girls weren’t actually the last ones who had seen Hawk. After the two of them left, Gary had stayed behind, at least that was that Stacy told her. Amy had trouble recollecting too much about it after a certain point.

‘I never asked him what he did that day? I was just so worried about Mum at the time, but Gary didn’t look hurt when he came back... did he? I can’t remember that well. I hope... no, that’s impossible... how would Gary be responsible for this? There were three of them, he probably just slammed the door and ran away.’ Amy hoped.

‘I’ll just ask him once I get home today.’

## Chapter 169: The young hunter

After school had ended, Blake was walking home following his usual path, but he was busy with his thoughts. For one, he was wondering what was happening to Gary. His body had clearly changed, and the young Altered Hunter had his suspicions as to why.

'It looks like his body hasn't finished adjusting to whatever happened to him, so maybe he's more complete now. Only... I don't recall any of the books mentioning such transformations... Is he some new type of Werewolf? Have they evolved since then?

'... Most importantly, does that mean Billy might also have changed? Will Gary and I really be able to defeat a Werewolf that might even be stronger than when he fought my Dad?'

Blake hoped that Gary was just the exception, and not the rule, but either way, it would be better if they attempted to deal with the situation sooner rather than later. If Werewolves were able to naturally get stronger as time went on... the young Altered Hunter didn't want to finish his thought.

Although it was true that Altered could also grow stronger, in their case it had to do with the training they underwent, learning how to use their powers and fight with their new bodies. Werewolves, however, were humans who had been born with special genetics... at least that was one theory of the many from the information Blake had learned with his books. In other words, the difficulty could be compared to learning a new language compared to learning how to walk.

The equipment Blake needed to track down Billy was in the secret room at their house. He was considering many options, such as sneaking in, taking the items he needed, then later returning them before his father would ever notice.

Even if Blake might get caught and explained he was going hunting on his own, he would be cautioned, but his father wouldn't do anything to him. Still, he would rather avoid giving his parents any reason to distrust him. In the past, he had made up many excuses not to go out on outings, so if he started to show an interest now... He wondered how his father would react.

'I could wait until he goes on one of his trips, but who knows when that will be? The longer we wait, the worse it becomes if they really get stronger over time...'

—

The heavens seemed to be on the young Altered Hunter's side today. As soon as Blake came home, his father informed him that he had news to share.

“I have been called.” Ozacas told his son. “Not just me, but a few of the Hunters have been called. It seems like it’s something pretty serious this time, so I don’t know how many days I’ll be gone. I’ve left you enough money on the kitchen table to last you for a week, and you know the code, in case you need more.”

Often, when the Hunters felt like they needed help, or had a big operation, they would call the senior members with high stars and experience to help. This happened quite frequently, but Blake still thought it would be awhile until he was called on another.

“Off to another Tier-2 city again?” Blake asked.

Ozacas shook his head. “No, this time it’s actually a Tier-4 town.”

This was an unsuspected answer. The lower the town/city tier, the unlikelier it was to run into an Altered. After all, they were only for the privileged, for those who had money or power to afford it, and those would usually be in Tier-2 cities or above.

“I know it’s strange, apparently something has gone rampant down there. More Altered are being spotted than usual, and not even the police force can handle it. Of course, the White Rose agents are doing nothing. If it doesn’t affect those that fill their pockets, then there is no need for them to get involved.

“After subduing the Altered, we might stick around to find out the reason for this change, so this one might take a while. I want you to continue your training while I’m away, so you better not be sloppy! Once I’m back, we will take care of the Altered here.”

The father walked past showing no emotion to his son when exiting out the door. He had a large bag with him that Blake knew to be filled with all sorts of equipment. Before he could say anything, Ozacas was already off and heading towards his destination.

‘A Tier-4 town, I don’t think I’ve ever even been to one before. I wonder what happened there? I guess after I become a full-fledged Altered Hunter, I will get called to places like that as well.’ Blake thought, as he knew that someday he would have to follow the path of his father.



He was a bit sad seeing his father go, but this was his opportunity. He and Gary had made a deal, and it looked like it was the perfect time for them to act. After hearing the sound of their car disappear in the distance, Blake headed into the training room and moved the statues to open the secret door, heading down he could see a lot of the equipment had been taken.

Fortunately, there was a double for nearly everything down there, due to Blake also getting trained as a Hunter. He looked through the items and picked what they needed to try to track the other Werewolf down and possibly what would help them subdue it.

After putting everything in a similar black bag that his father had, he checked through it again. And again, and again, until he stopped noticing he was repeating his actions.

'I...I can do this, right? It will be the first time I go out without my Dad... and I'll be going with Gary. What if we can't find the other Werewolf? What if it's a trap set up by Gary. Maybe they both plan to pincer me and get rid of the problem?' He started to second guess if it was actually a good idea.

He picked up one of the batons from the back and gripped it tightly, strengthening his resolve.

'No, I'm just making up excuses. I didn't realise how much I relied on Dad.'

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The next day had arrived, and it was time for Gary to head off to school and do his regular thing. After a stretch he looked towards Amy, once again checking she was there, something had become a habit.

'She was acting a little strange yesterday like she wanted to ask me something, but she never did... ah, maybe it's some girl stuff. I guess I can't replace Mum with everything.' Gary sighed at that thought. Thanks to yesterday's cash infusion, he wouldn't have to worry about the hospital bills, which was a good thing, since their mother had yet to display any signs of recovering.

He checked his phone to see if there were any messages, but naturally the club renovations would take some time. There wasn't any news from any of the others either. However, that's when he noticed that there was a text message waiting for him on his regular phone.

[I hope you're ready. Tonight, we'll go hunt down Billy!]

#### Chapter 170: Working with an enemy

When walking to school, there was a hop to Gary's step. It was a strange feeling, and he didn't even understand it himself right now. Rather than being scared or worried that he would most likely face Billy today, the high schooler felt excited.

All this time, everything he had been doing, growing stronger by fighting the colour gang members, had all been, so he could beat Billy, and it was time to see if his hard work had paid off.

'Is this really me?' Gary thought as he looked at his fist, still not used to its increased size. 'I've always enjoyed watching Altered fights... but I never fought one before. Well, even if the old me had had the chance to, I would have been done in before I could even blink. Now, though, I feel confident in defeating Billy!'

On one hand, the teenager enjoyed this feeling of great strength, but he reminded himself that there were downsides to it. No, not 'great responsibility', but more like 'giant headaches' in the form of White Rose and the Altered Hunter. Hopefully, once Billy would be taken care of, Blake could claim the credit for it, making both of them disappear from Gary's life...

School seemed to last forever for him, and while in class, the teenager sent out a message to the Howlers group chat. He informed his fellow gang members that he had plans today. According to Kai, fixes were still being done on the club and with it being the middle of the week, nobody needed their leader for anything.

In other words, there was nothing that would get in his way of what was to happen tonight.

'Calm down, Gary, there's no guarantee that we'll even find him today. It might still be a long time until we do, but it does feel like I'm close to solving one of my biggest problems.'

"Say, what's got you so happy? Did you find a secret love letter from Xin or something?" Tom asked teasingly, making his best friend blush a bit.

“Do I require a special reason to be happy? Anyway, tonight, Amy and I planned to watch a film together. With my Mum and everything else, it’s nice to do something normal for a change.” Gary lied. He was getting better at it, which wasn’t too surprising with how frequently he did that.

If it was just him, he might have told his best friend that he would try to hunt Billy, but now Blake was involved. It didn’t feel fair to reveal the young Altered Hunter’s secrets, seeing as the other had kept Gary’s secret from his own father.

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The school day proceeded as normal, and the Rugby practice was similarly uneventful. Neither Blake nor Gary showed any signs that the two of them had very dangerous plans today. They only interacted as was needed during practice plays.

There was still some time before the two of them would head out. According to Blake, the best time to act would be at night, which Gary was fine with. He believed that Billy wouldn’t be out on the hunt until that time anyway.

Right now, the green haired teenager was out in town with an empty bag he had brought from home. Using some leftover funds from their haul on Monday, Gary was in possession of more cash than would be normal for a boy his age, at least in Slough. He was heading to the convenience store to buy plenty of raw meat, placing it all in his bag and decided to grab some extra clothes this time.

‘Now that I have a larger Energy pool, I should theoretically be able to go a few days without having to eat anything. It looks like my Energy still goes down at the same speed as it did before, but it also seems to work the other way round. I need to eat thrice as much to fill it back up.’

With 300 Energy, he could afford to hunt a few critters occasionally, but he didn’t exactly want to be carrying around dead animal carcasses in his bag. Eventually, after he had finished all his shopping, the only thing Gary was left with was to wait for Blake to call on him.

He took a bite out of some meat, just to make sure his Energy was full. One never knew when a couple points of Energy might make the difference. Fortunately, his hunting partner didn’t make him wait too long. A text on his phone instructed the high schooler where to meet the other.

Gary was actually led to a part of Slough he was slightly unfamiliar with, though he recognised it well. It was because this was the area of Slough where the Bruntin's apartment was located, and where the White Rose agents had discovered him the first time.

Enough time had passed without any more news, so there were no police nor any reporters on the scene. They had other work to do, and they couldn't disturb the lives of everyone in the neighbourhood for too long. Whatever evidence there had been to get from their apartment, the police had retrieved it long ago.

Just as the teenager had suspected, the place Blake wanted him to be at was Billy's old home.

'He doesn't think Billy is still here, does he? Why start here, of all places? Well, I guess it's as good a place as any... hold on, could it be that Billy might actually be inside?! Surely, Blake would have warned me, right? Sh\*t, I haven't prepared myself.' Gary felt his heart beat faster.

After a short text, it looked like Blake actually wanted him to come to the roof instead, so Gary happily obliged. The high schooler was careful to avoid being spotted by any of the residents. Using his nose, he tried to find any 'strange' scents.

Unfortunately, Gary couldn't remember Billy's scent too well, since the last few times they had met, he hadn't had the chance to. On the night of the full moon, when Billy had attacked Innu, the green haired teenager had been a Werewolf himself, meaning he had no recollection if the other Werewolf had some sort of unique scent. However, there was nothing that smelt like himself, at least.

At the top of the stairs, Gary knocked a few times at the door, only for it to get opened and a plain black mask staring him dead in the face. No gap for the mouth, but only two small square slits for eyes.

"Holy... did you really have to scare the crap out of me?!" Gary complained, realising that it was Blake.

"Sorry, I need to make sure that it wasn't one of the residents here to enjoy a smoke or something." Blake replied after shutting the door behind, and clipping on what looked like a padlock.

'Would a resident really have had a reason to knock though?' Gary argued mentally, but let the matter rest. Instead, he looked behind Blake. 'Woah, I guess he really is serious about this stuff. Man, I really never thought I would be here working with an Altered Hunter.'

There was a black bag and laid out, Blake had several weapons on a piece of cloth. On top of that, there were even some items Gary couldn't even realise what they were. Now that the high schooler was closer, he could tell that the young Altered Hunter was wearing thick armour underneath his outfit, like some sort of knight from the past.

"Is that for protection? from the Altered, I mean?" Gary asked.

"Kinda." Blake replied while he double checked all his items. "It's more than that, though. The armour is... let's just say it's quite 'special'."

Although Blake had agreed to work together, he was careful about not divulging too many of their secrets to the Werewolf boy just yet.

"So how are we going to track down Blake? Do you have like an Altered scanner or something, if that would even work?" Gary asked.

"I guess you could call it that." Blake scratched his head. "There are a lot of tools that need to be used for tracking, not just one. In our case, we don't even know what to start looking for because Billy is like you.

"In the case of normal Altered, we can tap into other information networks, like reports from the police, sensors going off at strange hours and so on. If those get reported, then my father is able to use that information to help us look in the right area.

"Unfortunately, we don't have that, so I chose the area that would make the most sense to start with. As you said, we don't even know if any of this stuff will work on him because he is not an Altered. As such, if you don't mind, I would like to test some of these things on you first."

Blake picked up an object, and clicked a button on the bottom, shooting out from the top of it was what looked like a bat with spikes.

Seeing this, Gary gulped.