

Werewolf 181

Chapter 181: The meeting (2)

Stacy went and held Amy's hand under the table. To her, it was clear that her best friend was in no condition to handle this entire situation, and although this would reveal that Amy was there that night, she eventually spoke up, afraid to test Raven's patience any longer. Although the adult man claimed he had the time, the aggression at the end made it clear that he was about done playing games.

"That night, we both went to meet up with her internet boyfriend for the first time. I just came along, because Stacy was afraid he might try to do something to her. Seeing as your brother brought two friends along, she wasn't wrong." Amy revealed.

"He took us to a karaoke club, and he and his friends started to offer us... stuff. The two of us just came along to have some fun, but when we refused to take it, he tried to force himself onto my friend. In the end, I screamed, and the receptionist came and saw what was going on. We ran away after that, but we didn't inform the police... we were too scared and just wanted to forget what happened that day, but that's when you showed up."

When speaking, Amy had decided to partly reveal the truth, only omitting that according to Stacy it had been her brother who had appeared. She just hoped that would be enough for Raven to leave them alone, without getting her brother involved in this mess.

Stacy nodded her head, confirming her best friend's recounting of what had happened, but Raven just folded his arms and started shaking his head.

"You sure it was the receptionist? Why don't we wait a little longer and see if your story has changed."

It was then that Amy got the feeling that Raven had caught onto her lie. Unfortunately, the high school girl had no way of knowing that the Grey Elephant leader was aware that the receptionist was a good friend of his brother's. That wasn't the end of it, though. That guy was also one of those that had gone missing without anyone having any clue about their whereabouts. According to the owner of the club, he had suddenly resigned...

Since Raven knew Amy was lying, he felt more confident that he was on the right track. They waited another thirty-ish minutes in silence. Amy eventually drank her coffee, trying to appear relaxed as if they had nothing else to hide, but that didn't seem to be working either.

"May I go to the toilet? I think it might be this whole situation or the coffee." Amy requested.

"Can I go, too?" Stacy immediately asked.

"Of course, but you know what will happen if you two try to do something." Raven allowed it, but not before warning them. The two girls quickly got up and headed towards the toilet, while the adult man remained sitting. Once inside, Stacy was waiting on Amy to speak, thinking she had some type of plan.

"Why don't we just tell them the truth? I mean, I know you don't want to get your brother involved, but if he tells me that he doesn't know where that guy is either, he might let us go, right? Please, can we just tell them the truth!" Stacy begged, her hands were still shaking.

"Do you really think a guy who kidnapped us for simply refusing to speak to him, is going to let us go, just because we don't have the answer he is searching for? These are gangsters, Stacy!" Amy replied, holding onto her best friend's hands. "You've seen the movies, right? Once they have seen our faces, then it means that they will get rid of us. They're only keeping us alive because we have information that they want. So we have to keep it from them, and call for help!"

Amy only half believed the things she was saying. If one ignored the fact that Raven had abducted them, it really seemed like he was an overprotective brother who just wanted to learn the truth. He might even have been honest about letting them go, but right now she needed Stacy to believe that getting Gary involved was dangerous.

When they were finally in the toilet stalls, though, she had asked Stacy to try to contact the police and see if they could help in the situation. At the same time, Amy had decided to send a text to her brother.

However, it looked like there was no signal in the restaurant, or at least not in the bathroom stall. It was a little strange but not impossible. In fact, it might have been a reason why he had picked this place.

'The message should be sent once I'm back outside anyway.' Amy thought.

The two girls came back, and since they could still see the strange men behind the door, they returned to sit down opposite Raven. He waited for them to sit down before he let out a sigh and started shaking his head.

“You know, technology truly is an amazing thing. There are many new inventions that come out every day. I’ve really tried being nice to you, you know? I told you to not try anything, didn’t I?” Raven smiled, as he received two text messages on his phone.

Amy wasn’t quite sure how, but he must have realised that the two girls had tried something.

‘Microphones in the toilet, cameras, damn, I should have known they didn’t just take us to a coffee shop. If that’s true then they might have heard everything.’

Panicking, Amy did the only thing she felt like they could do now that the situation had escalated.

“Help!!! We’ve been kidnapped by this guy!!! He took us from our school and threatened us with those guys outside. Please help us!” Amy shouted, dragging Stacy along as they rushed towards the worker behind the reception desk.

It was the last resort and the only thing they could do. She just had to hope that the strangers would help protect them from these gang members.

‘Huh, why isn’t anyone doing anything?’ Amy thought as she looked around the room. That’s when she noticed that many of them were smiling or outright laughing.

“You really are kids. Why do you think I brought you here? This entire coffee shop belongs to the Grey Elephants. Everyone in here is one of our members... that naturally includes that worker behind you.” Raven explained as he came over.

Chapter 182: The Pawn Werewolf

Blood continued to drip, creating a small pool from where Billy stood. The wounds on his body were still healing, though slower than initially, especially the area around his neck that Gary had bitten.

The Omega wolf was trapped in between Gary and Blake, both standing still like statues. The two understood that depending on whoever took the first step now, would become Billy's next target.

[43/100 HP]

[150/300 Energy]

'Has it been that long already? No... I must have used up more Energy than I realised. Controlled Transformation, Emergency Healing along with the Claw Drains... Yeah, I guess I need to include the natural Energy expenditure while fighting as well. Which means I can't waste any more time!' Gary came to the conclusion that it would have to be now or never.

Knowing this Gary made the first move. Seeing him break their Mexican stand-off, confirming their assumptions, Billy headed towards Gary. The large Werewolf ran on all four like a wild beast. Gary wasn't sure if he was imagining things or not, but even though his opponent was heavily injured, it appeared as if he was still faster.

While Billy charged in recklessly like a bull, Gary leapt onto the side of the wall. He made sure to extend his nails, so they would pierce into the side holding him in place, before he quickly pounced right into Billy.

His action was similar to what he had done with the twins.

Gary's tackle was strong, and he pushed the other Werewolf against the wall. Billy was startled, and quickly, not wasting time, Gary placed his hand on the back of Billy's head and slammed it into the wall. Blood gushed out of Billy's mouth and from the side of his head.

A Werewolf's skull proved to be quite durable, far more than that of a human or a wolf who would have been crushed under Gary's current Strength. The brown Werewolf also noticed that his fingers felt like they were going through some type of leather armour. They would only go so far through the skin until it stopped, and the bones were so strong even with his claws, it seemed impossible to break them.

In the first place, Werewolves could claw at their enemies, creating big cuts. However, if he was to punch them with an open hand, the muscles in their fingers didn't seem strong enough to pierce a skull, so at times, resorting to punching and grabbing was more effective than a swipe.

Now, holding his head in place, Gary was hoping he would be able to pierce Billy's skull and end it once and for all. He threw his fist, with his fingers extending outward, not caring whether he broke them or not.

Desperate to get out of the situation, it looked like Billy was trying to push off against the wall, but before he could, Blake had rolled in between the two Werewolves. They were large creatures, so there was plenty of space. Getting in, he then threw small daggers right into the back of Billy's hands.

They pierced right through, indicating that these small blades were sharper than the big blade that Blake had used earlier, though it still wasn't enough to kill Billy. Next, with his only intact blade left, Blake started to slash at the back of Billy's legs, trying his best to render him immobile.

Billy had displayed great speed and strength, yet in the Altered Hunter's mind that speed was far more dangerous and needed to be dealt with first. Because of his cooperation, Gary's fingers slammed into the back of Billy's skull. It had initially gone through the hide piercing it, but then he felt his fingers start to bend... and then he got a notification he had been worried about.

[You have been inflicted with a grave injury]

[-8 HP]

[35/100 HP]

[Fingers on your right hand are broken]

[Energy points will be used to perform emergency healing]

[-10 Energy]

'I still have another hand!'

Taking his other hand off while leaving his broken hand to hold Billy's head. Gary made a fist this time, punching the back of Billy's head. The resulting sound was similar to a stone being dropped onto another stone.

Billy was dazed, and his vision was blurring, but Gary didn't stop there, as he pulled back again, and punched Billy at the back of the head again... and again. Similarly, with his only intact blade left, Blake started to slash at the back of Billy's legs, trying his best to register him imbolie.

The one thing the werewolf seemed to have was great speed with strength. In Blak's mind the speed was more dangerous and needed to be dealt with first.

With each subsequent hit landing on Billy's head, his body was shrinking. It was getting smaller by the second, and the wounds were now becoming clearer. At the same time, Gary heard a message. Because of this, he cancelled his Full Transformation, conserving his Energy.

The high schooler's body started to shrink down as well, but Gary quickly made sure that his Controlled Transformation was active on his hands and legs, just in case there were any surprises.

He had let go of Billy, allowing his body to fall to the floor. Blood was covering his whole head. It was hard to recognise him, and it was covering his eye as well, the other had a gaping hole from the sword.

It looked like Blake was also down on his knees, taking in deep breaths of air.

'He must be exhausted... I shouldn't be surprised! He isn't an Altered, nor a Werewolf like us. He's just human, and he managed to do all of this?' Gary's respect for the Altered Hunter grew at that moment.

Then, for a split second, he could see his father's image above his friend's. Blake wasn't even a one-star Hunter, yet his father was a three-star one. He just couldn't imagine how strong his father might be.

Gary's foot was firmly planted on top of Billy's chest, giving him no chance to escape. Through his feet, he could feel Billy's heart beating. He was still alive, but Gary knew he was down for the count because of the system message he had received not too long ago.

[You have defeated an Omega wolf (Pawn)]

[2 Instant Level Ups gained]

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 12]

[2 stat point have been granted]

[Due to successfully defeating the Omega wolf, you may now decide his fate]

[Please select one of the following options:]

[1. Kill the stray Omega wolf]

[2. Invite the Omega wolf to become a part of your pack.]

Chapter 183: Defeat

Gary read over the message a few times because he wasn't sure if he had read it right. The system was giving him two options. One was to kill Billy, which was their original plan, but there was also an option to invite him into his pack. Whatever that meant.

'Oh yeah, the system did give me an Optional Quest to accept him into my pack, but it never told me what it was for. Is a Werewolf pack the same as a Wolf pack, like Tom told me about? A collaboration where they would go hunting together?'

For once, as Gary thought about this, the system decided to bless him with an answer.

[The defeated Werewolf was at the Pawn grade. As a Knight grade Werewolf, you're able to invite lower ranked Werewolves into your pack. By creating a pack, you will automatically become an Alpha wolf and receive certain benefits from the system]

'An Alpha wolf? So it really is like Tom had explained... but what kind of extra benefits would that be exactly?' Gary wondered. Unfortunately, the system had seemingly exhausted its helpfulness and remained quiet.

Nevertheless, it had left the high schooler with some valuable information. It had pretty much confirmed that those chess themed grades were following a hierarchy, and that he was ranked above Billy.

Alas, that thought wasn't exactly calming. He might outrank Billy for now, but the other Werewolf's overall strength had nevertheless surpassed his. If he was allowed to continue to grow, it would only be a question of time until Billy surpassed and usurped him. Gary felt validated in his choice to fight him now rather than later.

'If I remember correctly, at any point and time, any member from the pack could also challenge the leader for their position. If that's also true for Werewolves, it's pretty much a given, he'll try to betray me at some point. No matter the benefits, I don't want to associate with someone like him.' Gary made up his mind, but just when he was about to select the first option, the system revealed more information.

[Accepting the Omega into your pack will classify one as a Beta wolf. Beta wolves must do the Alpha's bidding. A challenge for the Alpha seat can only be initiated once a month. Becoming a Beta wolf also prevents other Alphas from inviting him into their packs, and Omega wolves from forming a pack of their own by subduing him.]

'Do my bidding? Did the system read my thoughts and concerns and try to explain to me? Well, that's the first time it's ever done that. So as a Beta Wolf, he'll have to listen to me... at least as long as I can outgrow him and best him in a fight once a month.

'Why does the Werewolf System seem so keen on me inviting Billy to join my pack? Is it all because of that Optional Quest... or is there something special about him?' The whole thing sounded too risky, but there was a reason why Gary was contemplating it. It was because he feared that at some point he would have to go against the Underdogs. Gary might not like him, but having Billy's strength on his side would be needed in such a scenario.

"I didn't want to kill them..." Billy spoke up, his mouth dripping with blood, yet the large teenager understood that his life was in the hands of Gary and Blake. "The hunger... My Mum and Dad got into a fight... he hit her with an ashtray... I just wanted to protect her... and everything went wrong. I attacked him, yet she still defended the scumbag, I don't know why... before I realised it, I'd killed them both. I didn't do it on purpose. It was as if the hunger and bloodlust took over me!"

Hearing Billy tell his sob story, Gary wasn't sure how much of it was true, yet it made him hesitate. It might very well have been the truth. His parents had always been the outliers on his personal vendetta list, and they had been the first reported killing.

Before the green haired teenager could make his decision, though, he saw that Blake had recovered and started to walk over to the two of them. Gary was about to ask his schoolmate for his opinion on what to do, but the Altered Hunter hadn't come over to join them in their discussion.

A stream of blood splattered onto his face. When Gary looked at Billy now, he could see that his human-like head had been sliced off, his blood all over Blake's sword.

Without a second thought, Blake lifted Billy's head, and checked his mouth. It seemed like Billy's transformation hadn't completely reversed, as the dead Werewolf still had two large fangs in his mouth.

"We came here to do a job, Gary, to kill the Werewolf. You saw what he did to that girl. He can't control himself. He wasn't like you... at least that's what I like to think." Blake stated.

[The Omega has perished]

[Options are no longer available]

[Consume Werewolf flesh to gain 'One: Pawn point']

Rather than look at the message, Gary couldn't help but look at Billy's head. He was the one who had turned the large teenager in his first underground fight. Part of him knew that he was responsible for Billy, for all his actions, as well as today's outcome. Nevertheless, Gary couldn't help but feel relief at the

Omega wolf's death. It was as if this huge weight had been lifted off from his shoulders, something he no longer would have to worry about.

Blake's action was justified, Billy was a murderer. Even if he hadn't been in his right mind when he had killed his parents, what about the next two murders? What about the time he had attacked Innu in the middle of the day in his own school? What about when he had attacked Gary's friends in the park?

Most importantly, just minutes ago, he had killed an innocent woman just to survive. However, although Gary had yet to kill anyone innocent to survive, the teenager felt like he was walking on a tightrope.

"We should leave this place. I'll be taking the head with me as proof to show my father that I completed the job. I've left our calling card for the police to find him. This way, they'll believe that the Altered Hunters are behind this, and hopefully you won't get involved any more than that.

"Our collaboration ends here, Gary, and I hope it's the only time you see me like this." With that, Blake placed the gadgets, broken parts of his sword and everything else he needed into his strange advanced backpack and was off. Leaving Gary behind, staring at the body.

Looking at it, Gary started to think about the message that had arrived not too long ago.

'I consumed bodies before... and I need to keep getting stronger.' He thought as he lifted part of the arm and took a bite out of it.

The high schooler had transformed his head to make it easier, and in case anyone happened to walk down again, but no one did and after a few bites the message had appeared.

[One Pawn Point has been granted]

[Pawn Points can upgrade your body into the next Grade.

Points can also be used to upgrade skills and for stats.

Warning; Once Pawn Points have been assigned, it's impossible to revert the change!]

'Evolve into the next Grade? Does that mean, I'll have to keep hunting Werewolves if I want to become something like a King or Queen Grade Werewolf? But what's the point in that if I can just use it to upgrade my stats. Who cares what Grade I am?' Gary thought, scratching his head.

The system only elaborated that little, leaving it to Gary to fill in the blanks. With everything over, Gary quickly put on the spare clothes he had brought with him. He was happy that he had been prepared this time.

Grabbing his personal belongings, Gary eventually picked up his phone, ready to put it into his pocket. Staring at the screen, he nearly dropped it to the ground as he read through Amy's message.

Chapter 184: Please reply!

For a split second after reading the message, Gary looked at the scene behind him. He had only partially eaten parts of Billy, but it didn't look like he would gain any more special points or stats from his body.

At the same time, Billy's unique body had allowed him to restore his Energy until it was over 200 points, and he had a feeling with the message he read he might just need it.

'Is it safe to leave the place just like this? Blake already left, and he said that with their calling card, the police would just assume this was the work of the Altered Hunters.' Gary thought.

The reason he was hesitating, was just in case anything had been left behind that could be used to identify him. There wasn't much he could do about his blood, saliva, and other DNA evidence that was all over the scene, which had somehow become the norm.

It hadn't mattered before, so the Werewolf didn't see a reason why it would matter now.

The problem was there might be other items to worry about, he had picked up what was left of his bag and the packages of food he had bought, the question was if there was anything else. Gary couldn't think straight because he was just worried about what had happened to his sister. In the end, he decided to just grab his broken bag, and phone. Only the important things and run for it.

He wanted to follow Amy's Mark, but he appeared to be too far away from her current position to know where exactly she was. Fortunately, his sister had been smart enough to attach the location from where she had sent the message, which he assumed to be the coffee shop.

'What happened? Why is Amy in trouble again? What does it have to do with Stacy? Who is she worried about? Is it the Underdogs? Did they finally find me? But then who is asking about their brother? Should I contact Kai?' Too many thoughts were passing through Gary's head, yet he just continued to run towards the location.

On his way, he sent Amy a few texts, hoping that she could update him on her situation. Text, after text, asking her to please answer if she could, yet there was no replay. In the end, Gary tried his luck by calling her phone.

'It's ringing... if she was captured, wouldn't they have destroyed her phone, so she couldn't call for help?'

However, after a few rings, just when it seemed as if she wouldn't pick up: "Oh no, I'm so sorry, Gary! I just saw all your messages. I'm so sorry, I should have told you earlier." Amy answered from her end in an audibly panicked voice.

Stopping in his tracks, Gary was wondering what was going on.

"Amy, are you safe? Where are you right now? Tell me, I'll come over straight away!"

— —

Gary eventually found himself in a very familiar place... in front of their own apartment building. He was glad to know that his sister was safe... or at least that's what she had claimed over the phone. Amy had asked him to first come home, so she could tell him everything about what had happened today, in person. Apparently, it would have been too much to explain just over a phone call.

If that had been her attempt to calming him down, it had only served to worry Gary more. Still, learning that she was supposedly back at their apartment, he took that as a good sign. Nevertheless, Gary couldn't help but feel like it might be a trap.

The high schooler started to sniff the door a few times, in case there might be any foreign scents. Unable to find any, he climbed up the side of the apartment and looked through the windows to check inside, but there were no signs of anyone being home.

'I checked the whole area, it should be safe right, but what if it's not? Should I call Kai? Do I get him involved in this?'

Gary wasn't sure how to deal with this situation. The teenager had his phone by his side, ready to make the call. He unlocked the door with his key and slowly pushed it open. Taking a few more sniffs, all his nose could pick up was Amy's scent, as well as the smell of roses and coconut.

'Shampoo?' Gary realised in surprise.

"Amy!" The teenager shouted as he entered the apartment, carefully looking around every corner. He hid one hand behind his back and used Controlled Transformation on it. It would allow him to deal with any intruder in case there were any, while at the same time hiding it from his sister, in case she was actually alone.

"I'm in the kitchen!" His sister shouted back.

Gary's heart was beating fast, worried that perhaps his nose might be lying to him, but when he turned the corner, he could indeed see his sister. The teenage girl was sitting down at the table with a towel wrapped around her head.

"Amy, you're really okay." Gary heaved out a heavy sigh of relief, cancelling the transformation. Seeing that his sister was safe, he immediately started to inspect her for any markings or bruises. There was nothing on her at all... She looked fine.

"I'm so sorry for worrying you. I was in the shower when you called." Amy apologised, her head buried in her hands, unable to believe how stupid she had acted. "I'm really sorry... After everything, I really needed that shower. My mind was at a loss. I couldn't think properly, I should have explained first."

When Amy said these words, Gary could hear her heart beating louder. She was clearly scared and worked up about worrying him, and Gary wanted to know what on earth had happened to make her this flustered.

"What about you? You look a mess." Amy questioned, noticing that his clothes weren't in the best shape, one of his sleeves had ripped due to his earlier instance of Controlled Transformation. To top it off, he had a broken bag on his back.

"Don't worry about that." Gary shook his head, pulling up a seat as he sat down opposite her. "I'm fine, so please tell me what exactly happened to you. I know you wouldn't jokingly send me such a message."

"Who asked you about their brother? Why did they force you to come along? What did you mean by you needed my help? I need you to tell me everything."

Amy looked to the side, and tears started falling down her face.

"I-I'm sorry, Gary, I-I tried not to g-get you involved. I r-really did! ... however, they k-know about you now a-and... I-I'm worried that they might come after you next!"

Chapter 185: Is she really safe?

Amy started over from the beginning, informing Gary how the strange man had come to their school the other day, looking for his brother Hawk. Amy also revealed what Stacy had told her the day after, about how her best friend had known that they were meeting up with a gang member, one claiming to be part of the Grey Elephants.

Amy was talking a lot, explaining every little detail, even adding her own opinion as to how Raven might have gotten this information. The teenage girl felt incredibly guilty and wanted Gary to know that every step of the way. His sister had never wanted to reveal anything to the gangsters about who he was, nor the fact that he had been there that day.

When talking about the kidnapping, she noticed that Gary was gritting his teeth and clenching his fists. Of course, Amy had expected this kind of reaction, her brother had been very protective of her ever since the day their mother had been hospitalised. However, Gary stayed quiet and waited for Amy to finish her story.

Eventually, his sister reached the point where she had cried for help in the coffee shop, only for Raven to reveal that everyone inside was a member of the Grey Elephants gang.

"I didn't see a way out, I really, really didn't want to tell them anything, hoping to be able to stall for more time so that you might come to save us. I don't even know what you could've done, but I didn't want to break my promise to you... but Stacy spilled the beans." Amy admitted.

"She told them that we weren't the last people with Hawk... that it was you, Gary. Stacy told them how you barged in, told her to get the two of us out, and that that was the last time we had seen that guy's brother."

When saying these words, Amy's hands were shaking more than before, and Gary instinctively grabbed them, trying to comfort his sister.

"It's alright, Amy. There's nothing for you to worry about. I'm honestly just happy that you made it out safe. You should have just told me everything after he came to your school. I would have told you to just tell him the truth and let me deal with it." Gary gave Amy a weak smile.

"I know you would say this, Gary, but you can't just take on everything yourself." Amy stated, wiping her tears away. "I've seen you trying to replace Mum, while she's in the hospital, so I didn't want to burden you any more than that. It's all Stacy's fault anyway."

"I... I haven't spoken to her since... I didn't text her, write to her or anything... Not only that, but I'm not even sure, I'll ever want to see her again. After she told them everything... Hawk's brother told her that she was free to go..."

"And you know what happened next? ... she left... Stacy didn't even try to ask them to let me go with her... she didn't try to convince him to let me go too... she just gave me a brief look before she practically ran out of the shop..."

Gary didn't know what he should say in this situation. He could tell that Amy felt betrayed by her best friend, but during his time with the Underdogs, he had seen this situation happen time and time again.

Fear was a strong tool to use, and everything that Raven had done so far, had been to instill fear into the girls. Making them feel safe, and then realising that even the place they thought was safe was not. He had broken Stacy down, Gary was honestly surprised she had stayed quiet for as long as she had done.

Of course, Stacy's actions were abhorrent... but they were also the norm. Knowing this didn't stop Gary from inwardly cursing the teenage girl for leaving his sister, especially since it was Stacy's fault in the first place that the Dem family had been dragged into the entire mess. Just when Gary was about to ask his sister how she had escaped, Amy continued:

"I thought I was done for at that point. That guy told me that they had some type of jammer in the coffee shop. I couldn't call anyone and my message wasn't sending... but then he just looked at me and laughed. He seemed to have greatly enjoyed seeing me so hopeless and desperate...

"Nobody did anything to me, so I sat back down, afraid what would happen next... I was prepared for him to ask me about you, about what happened that day again, but... for some reason he just sat down opposite of me and continued to drink his coffee.

"Occasionally, he seemed to give his men some orders, but otherwise he only looked at me with a smirk on his face. I must have sat there for at least a few hours... I don't know how long exactly, but eventually he just stood up and left."

"I was shocked, afraid that this might be another sort of trap. I continued waiting there for a while, but nobody seemed to care about me... eventually, I gathered my courage and slowly headed towards the door... seeing that nobody stopped me, I ran out as fast as I could.

"I was so stunned by everything that happened, I couldn't even process it all." Amy finished, putting her legs on the chair and hugging herself. Gary immediately came up and gave her a hug. His sister didn't push him away, she just started to sob into his chest.

The two of them stayed in that position for a while, until Amy stopped crying.

'The Grey Elephants, it looks like that guy I got rid of was really important to someone in their gang. Not just anyone could use an entire place like that and utilise so many people... so now the two biggest gangs in Slough are after me, huh?

'This might mean I need to act. I might have to act against the Grey Elephants as well. They know me and they did all this to my fucking sister!'

While Gary was lost in his thoughts, Amy patted her brother's arm, indicating that she was okay. The teenage boy let go of his sister and went to sit back down in his seat. Amy's eyes looked swollen and puffy. It reminded Gary of the day they had found out what had happened to their mother.

Amy herself had been through a lot that day, and Gary never wanted for her to have to experience something like that again but because of him...

'Why didn't I just threaten them... hurt them a little... no, there's no guarantee it would have ended with that. That Hawk guy threatened me with consequences and based on the way his brother acts, he would have definitely come back for revenge.'

"Gary." Amy called out to her brother in the midst of his thoughts. "Can you tell me what happened after Stacy and I left the room? I wanted to ask you the other day... but that guy did tell me a bit more. He said that not only his brother had gone missing, but everyone who had been there in that room, except for me and Stacy."

This was a question Gary had been dreading, but of course it was actually something he had prepared an answer in the past. He just hadn't had to use his excuse.

"What do you think I did?" Gary sighed as he looked at his sister, trying his best to look innocent. "Honestly, I was in a panic. I mean, I came in and saw what they did to you. So... I shouted at them like a mad man, threatening to kill them if they would ever touch my little sister again.

"I've once heard that acting crazy is the best way to scare people away, since they can't predict what you might do next. It seems like some of that was true, or perhaps they were just too confused about my sudden appearance.

"I just wanted to buy you two enough time to get away, and when it seemed like they were about to attack me, I decided to run away. Believe it or not, I'm quite the fast runner now." Gary explained, pointing to his now strong body.

His sister made a strange face at his explanation. Gary's suddenly changed body was actually another mystery that Amy was unable to comprehend.

"Those guys must be gangsters like the one who kidnapped you, right? I bet they're involved in all sorts of stuff. I wouldn't be surprised if they were on the run from the police or something, but you don't have to worry about any of that, okay." Gary tried to persuade Amy.

With that, the conversation seemed to have somewhat come to an end, and that's when Amy stood up. It looked like the teenage girl was ready to go back to her room, but before she did, she turned around.

"Gary, you've changed a bit these days." Amy stated, and she could see the worried look on her brother's face, so she quickly smiled. "I don't know if it's a good thing or bad thing yet, but whatever happens, you'll always be my big brother!"

When heading back to the room, Amy got in her bed and laid down. She was exhausted in more ways than one, not even caring that she had barely eaten anything this entire day. However, she was sure she would have a hard time getting to sleep tonight, especially since she couldn't stop thinking about one thing.

Amy sat up right in her bed, and looked towards the wardrobe, but it wasn't her own wardrobe she was looking at, it was Gary's.

'Why are those in there?' Amy wondered.

Chapter 186: Calling card

It didn't take long for the police to be called to a particular devastating crime scene. Anton, Slough's Chief of Police, was called due to the certain person who was involved in the matter. Currently, both sides of the tunnel were sealed off with special yellow police tape.

The area close by was blocked off just in case any evidence might have been left behind, and finally there were only a few police officers at the scene taking photos. A higher tier town might have utilised more, but for the likes of Slough this could already be considered a large force.

The Detective had been staring at the body for a while and inspecting it, evidence had already been collected as well. Standing up, Anton took off his white gloves, passing them onto one of the other officers, as he began to rub his eyes.

“You should be careful, what if some blood got on your hands.” The young officer Roo cautioned his superior. In his hand he was holding an evidence bag, it was clear and see through allowing one to see inside there was a card.

“We got a report back from the lab. You know who that is, don’t you?” Anton asked the young rookie.

“Isn’t it another victim of the Altered murderer? Although this is the first time that they appear to have sliced the head off like that.” Roo answered as he quickly turned to look at the scene and away again. This particular body was in a worse state than the others, and it appeared that even a large part of the arm had been eaten.

“Wow, you really are a rookie, do they let anyone pass these days? Or is it just that the force is desperate for more people?” Anton shook his head. “Even before the results came back, it’s obvious that our Altered murderer has been here. The surprising bit, however, is the male victim.

“We’ve been looking all over for him. This is Billy Bruntin who we had initially suspected to be our Altered murderer. According to the guy in the lab, he’s not an Altered, yet for some reason the Altered Hunters have left their calling card. Still, his blood does match up with all blood found on the other scenes, he is our murderer all right. Have Hunters started becoming judges of death now as well.”

Lifting it up, Roo started to spin the clear plastic bag, trying to get a better look at the card. He thought it was strange for a card to be left at the scene, and he had initially mistaken it for some business cards... for some restaurant or something.

“Why would they use a red dragon on their calling card? I thought they hated all types of Altered... although I’ve never heard about a dragon-type of Altered.” Roo uttered in confusion.

“That’s actually classified information that is prohibited to be revealed to the public, since the government doesn’t want copycats from appearing. You can also tell fakes from clears, using a special method but you will learn that as you go on. By the looks of it, they’ve gotten here way before we did.” Anton let out a big sigh.

“But then what about the arm? It looks like it’s been eaten by a beast!” Roo complained.

This was the strangest thing, because they had found DNA that they had on file. In fact, it had appeared in multiple areas, but they had yet to find out more about this mystery Altered.

‘Could it be those two Altered that fought each other? ... I’ve heard of Altered getting in fights with each other over the territory they claim, but to actually hunt each other? Or maybe that was just that day. Billy might have been working with an Altered doing his killings and one got away. Another option, could it be that we have an Altered Hunter who is an Altered himself? ... That or a hunter was working together with our mysterious Altered.’ Anton chuckled at this ridiculous thought. ‘Like that would ever happen. The day I see that, pigs might fly.’

— —

Inside the empty dojo, underground, a young teenage boy was sitting atop his legs, with his back up straight. Blake was currently in the secret base that his father had created. One that only Altered Hunter knew how to locate and open.

On the table, inside a glass like container, was the severed head of Billy Bruntin. His sharp teeth were still showing. More so on one side than the other, and there were also some other non-human details on the head, such as coloured fur, and slightly pointed ears.

‘It was a good thing that I cut the head off when I did. It seems like it was in the middle of reverting.’ Blake thought. ‘We only assumed Billy was the Altered who had been killing those people, but we never confirmed it. ... Well, technically he’s not an Altered but a Werewolf. I wonder if Dad will recognise the difference.’

Thinking about his father, Blake wondered a few more things. When his father would come back, would he be proud that his son had managed to hunt an ‘Altered’ ‘on his own’. Would it count towards his first star? Or would he be upset with Blake that he had risked his life during his absence.

Looking to his right, the young Altered Hunter also saw the broken sword and all the gadgets he had used up. Some of them Blake could reset or repair, so they could be used again, but the same couldn't be said for the sword.

Most of the items Altered Hunters used would be crafted by themselves. This was at least true for the small gadgets, but the swords and armour weren't things one could easily create.

'Each hunter has access to certain items from the Hunter's Association based on their rank. Once I get my first star, I will be eligible to get better equipment for myself. A better sword would be nice.

'I wonder what kind of items those five-star top hunters have access to...'

For a second, Blake caught himself daydreaming about the future as one of them. It came as a bit of a shock to the teenager that he had actually enjoyed what he had done today. The thrill of fighting, risking his life, besting a superior enemy.

In the past, he had hated that his father had forced him into the Altered Hunter's lifestyle. Ozacas Hunt would often claim that it was in their blood... and for the first time, Blake felt that he understood what his father had meant.

So far, he had tried to avoid it, Blake had often made excuses when his father had offered to take him out hunting, but killing Billy had felt... satisfying. The teenager felt as if he had actually achieved something.

'When you come back, Dad, maybe...maybe I'll start to take this hunting thing seriously.' Blake thought as he stood up from his position, and for a second Gary flashed in his mind. The two of them working together to take down Billy.

'... if only you hadn't become a Werewolf... You would have surely made a great Altered Hunter...'

Chapter 187: To the grave with me

Surprisingly, Gary had enjoyed the best night's sleep the teenager had had in a long time. One might think that the knowledge that both of Slough's major gangs were after him, would make him sleepless...

However, compared to Billy, a large Werewolf that had been going around killing people, the Grey Elephants gang seemed like less of a big deal. In a way, it was almost as if he had traded one problem for another. The only unfortunate thing about this entire situation was that it had involved Amy.

'I wonder why they let her go, though?' Gary thought as he stretched his body. His sister was still sleeping peacefully. She must have only recently slept, because Gary had been looking over her constantly, and she was still wide awake before he had shut his eyes.

He knew how she felt, when one's mind was full of worry it was almost impossible to sleep, but eventually the tiredness would overwhelm you. He had told Amy it was best if she took the day off school today, and she had agreed.

She would have still entered, but honestly, the main reason why she had agreed was because she didn't have the energy to deal with Stacy. However, she couldn't take too many days off. Her attendance was already dropping and if it did any more, parents would be called in, which might open up another can of worms.

[Name: Gary Dem]

[Class: Warrior]

[State: Human (Omega)]

[Grade: Knight]

[Level 12]

[Exp 340/1890]

[Health: 100/100]

[Energy: 300/300]

[Strength 15]

[Dexterity 15]

[Endurance 15]

[3 stat points unassigned]

[1 Pawn Point available]

Looking at his Status, Gary was contemplating how he should distribute his accumulated stat points. In the past, he would have increased his Energy, but that didn't seem to be a problem any more. Despite using a lot of his skills, he still had plenty of them left, not to mention he had found out that he could replenish them 'naturally' during a fight as well.

No, the area he was lacking in were his three natural stats. Choosing the Warrior Class had increased all of his stats until they became balanced. Nevertheless, he had been unable to beat Billy with that alone. There was no way to tell if the deceased Omega wolf had had higher base stats, or if he had gained more from eating meat.

'Should I keep them balanced... or should I specialise in one direction... I guess I can leave the stat points for now. It's easy enough to apply them during a fight anyway, but this 'Pawn Point' is another story.

'According to the system, I can use it to upgrade my body grade, upgrade my skills, and for stats. The first option seems useless, unless I plan to create my own pack. I don't even know if there really are other Werewolves out there, and after Billy, I don't actually want to convert anyone.

'This whole Alpha wolf thing isn't too different from being a gang leader, so are there any other benefits?' Gary thought. The teenager was half expecting the system to answer his queries, but it disappointed.

'Claw Drain seems to be the only skill that's upgradable right now. However, I can just use Controlled Transformation to get the claws, so its only benefit is its lifesteal effect. It would also be bad if it turns out that I can increase it naturally through usage.'

Gary was seriously worried about wasting his Pawn Point, and unlike stat points, which could gain by leveling up, it wasn't like he came across a Werewolf every day. As such, he decided to leave it be for now.

Getting ready, it was time for Gary to head to school, and to his surprise he could see Amy standing by the bedroom door, sleepily rubbing her eyes.

"Hey, what are you doing up so early? Didn't we agree that you would stay home today? You must have gotten, what, like two hours of sleep." The teenager talked to his sister in a loving tone.

"I know... I just smelt the food, and it woke me up. I think my body is just used to waking up at this time and eating." Amy explained, getting hungry as her stomach demanded its fill. "I'll just eat some food and go back to sleep."

"Alright." Gary held his hand up to his mouth to avoid snickering. "Remember, if anything happens, you see anyone out--"

"I'll call you immediately. Trust me, I have you on speed dial, and I only need one click to send you a prepared message." Amy cut him off, and shooed her brother out with a big smile... which disappeared the second he was out the door.

She walked into the room, and headed towards the wardrobe, but she didn't head to hers. Instead, the high school girl headed to Gary's that was placed opposite his bed. She stood there for a few seconds.

'Surely, it must have just been a dream...' She tried to convince herself. 'Please tell me it was a dream.'

Pulling the wardrobe open, Amy could see a lot of Gary's clothes, but stuffed in the corner, underneath a large pile that seemed to not have been washed in ages, was something else. She knew this because she had seen it yesterday.

Once again, she reached under the pile, pulling out a carrier bag, and in the carrier bag itself, there were clothes. Not just any clothes, either.

Pulling out the bag, she came across a red tracksuit set that was covered in blood and ripped in certain places. There was mainly blood in the back, and there was more. Amy gripped onto the clothes tightly. Tears didn't run down her face, but instead she had another look. She quickly stuffed the clothes in the bag, and placed it back underneath all the clothes.

After fleeing from the coffee shop, Amy had been worried about Gary. She had no idea what Raven might do to him. Rather than thinking about herself, she had opened Gary's wardrobe and started to pack his clothes, so that he might run away and hide.

In the midst of doing all that, she had spotted the carrier bag. She was completely startled, and didn't even know if some blood had gotten on her clothes. It was dry, but she wasn't thinking straight and it felt...dirty. As if she had never wanted to see it in the first place, Amy had placed all the clothes back the way they had been and had decided to take a shower, hoping to clear her head.

It hadn't been long, but it had served as the much-needed escape for the girl to come to terms with what had happened to her, and what was likely going to happen next.

'It wasn't a dream...that means Gary...he really must have been the one to make them disappear. ... He killed those guys... all of that for me? You did it to protect me, right? ... Even now... you must be still hiding the truth from me to protect me.

'Everything you have done is for me and Mum, and yet I can't do anything for you.' Amy slumped down, holding her knees as tears ran down her face, cursing herself for being weak and useless.

'The only thing I can do for you. You want me to not know about this. So I'll pretend I never saw this. I will never say a word about this to anyone, and I will take this secret to the grave with me, because you are my brother.' Amy solemnly swore to herself, as she wiped the tears from her eyes.

Chapter 188: Getting stronger (1)

The sun had barely risen, leaving the town of Slough covered in a grey mist. It was an unusual sight for three students in particular because they had never woken up this early in their lives, much less come to school at such an hour.

Innu was groggily walking up the stairs to the Westbridge's roof and could see the door just a little ahead. The teenager was still in the middle of a stretch, yawning so wide that he could have fit his fist inside his mouth. When opening the door, he was surprised to see that he was apparently the last one to arrive.

"You're late." Kai stated, not even turning around as he continued to look out from the roof's fence. The blonde teenager was staring into the distance. As to where exactly, only he seemed to know, for all Marie and Austin could see was the school field, that was currently empty, as well as the shapes of a few buildings. It was something the others had seen Kai do several times in the short amount of time they knew him.

"Late?" Innu checked his phone, which revealed that it was five past six in the morning. "Oh come on, it's only by five minutes."

Under normal circumstances, he would have still been asleep. At this hour, the only person who one might expect to see at school would be its caretaker. However, he lacked the energy to argue right now, so he silently moved over to his fellow Howlers members. Marie and Austin looked just as tired as him, their bodies slumped over.

'How did Austin manage to get here before me? He doesn't even live in this area or go to the same school?' Innu worried.

"Aren't you worried you might be late for classes?" He eventually asked, looking at the large student, who seemed to be fixing his hair.

"Worried about the classes I never go to? At a school that will never get me anywhere in life? I thought joining this gang made it pretty clear that I have nowhere better to go." Austin gave Innu a look that made him feel like an idiot.

Just as Innu was about to say something back, Kai stopped staring outside and turned to look at his fellow gang members.

“Enough with the chit-chat. After our fight with the grey colour gang, each one of you came up to me individually. You all told me how useless you felt when faced against those freakish twins... Well, I felt the same way. Which is why we can’t stay the same. If we do then there is no hope for us.

“Our gang is small and has only just started, but I hope that soon enough it will be the Howlers instead of the Underdogs that people will associate with the town of Slough. Once we have achieved that, we can go for the county, then the country and finally the whole world.”

It should have sounded crazy, hearing that type of talk from the mouth of a teenager, yet somehow, when Kai told about his ambition, none of the other three felt like laughing, nor that it was unrealistic. They might not yet know how, but he seemed determined enough that he would come up with a way to achieve that goal.

“Of course, if it was that easy, anyone could have done that already. Along the way, we will face countless enemies who will make the grey colour gang look like a bunch of clowns in comparison. I won’t sugar coat it, we’ll eventually have to deal with Altered, and I mean real ones, not whatever those twins turned into!

“As such, I want you to never forget the fear that you felt that day. How it was mostly luck that we’ve even made it out alive...

“Now, I’ve come up with a strict training regime for all of us. We’ll be practising two hours each day before school starts.” Kai explained with a sadistic smile.

Everyone had their fists clenched tightly, and it looked like they were ready. The little pep talk had almost gotten rid of their tiredness, and everyone was put into action.

Innu and Austin were told to start with some warm-up activities. The idea was to build up their basic stats. The two of them were talented and although Innu trained he had done so nearly always alone. While Austin was the opposite, never having attempted to push his body to the limit but always getting in fights.

The two teenage boys began running around the roof a few times, increasing their basic strength with push-ups workouts and more, and eventually would finish up with a few spars here and there. They were learning a lot from each other, and their competitive nature made each one try to outdo the other.

“Forty five!” Innu loudly announced how many push-ups he had already made, sweat dripping down his forehead, falling on his chiselling abs, as he had long since taken his shirt off, same as Austin

“Bullsh*t, you call that a push-up?” Austin questioned him, as he demonstrated how to do it ‘properly’. “If you can’t do it with proper form, then that means you’re done, don’t try to force it!”

“Talk to me about form once your bum isn’t all the way in the air!” Innu argued back.

Next it looked like the two were moving onto squats, however they weren’t regular squats. At least for Innu, who placed one of his legs out straight and was going down using just one of his legs. Seeing this, Austin attempted to do the same, but his balance was horrible.

When he got down to the bottom, he attempted to push off but it was something he had never done before, his whole body was shaking and just when he was about to fall over he felt Innu grab him steady.

“It’s harder than it looks.” Innu said. Austin was expecting a smile but Innu didn’t have one on his face as he lifted him up. “You’re a strong hitter, and for you to have punches that strong while having weak legs like yours. If you improve your legs like mine then your punches will have even more power in them.”

When walking back to do his exercises Austin was looking at the sheer size of Innu’s legs. His thighs were thick like tree trunks and it looked like in his trousers there was no space for them to breathe.

‘I thought that guy was just naturally strong like me, but it looks like it was all hard work in the end.’ Austin thought.

Chapter 189: Getting Stronger (2)

Kai didn’t care that the two boys were bickering, as long as they were working hard, they could do whatever they wanted. Meanwhile, he had come over to Marie to give her special training. She had never been much of a fighter, so doing the same as the boys wouldn’t help her enough.

When she had come to him with her request, Kai had been reluctant. In the past, he had always been there to take care of any problems she might have had. However, there hadn't been much he could argue, once Marie had confessed that she was worried that she might get kidnapped again.

Coming towards her, Kai opened a small little suitcase and inside there were two small four inch knives.

"Wait, you want me to use these? How did you even manage to get your hands on weapons?!" Marie exclaimed back, a little shocked, and even pushed the box back. She slightly regretted her actions, because it was obvious that the high schooler must have jumped through some hoops to acquire them.

"Yes, I want you to use them." Kai answered, his tone revealed that he was slightly annoyed at her action. He was sure that if anyone understood what he was proposing, it should have been her.

"You want to fight like the others, right? Let's not kid ourselves, we both know that you're no fighter, Marie. You neither have the body to compete with those around our age, much less adult men, nor do you have the experience or skills to make up for such a deficit.

"There are only two ways for you to make up for the difference in a short period of time. Either you use weapons... or you become an Altered. The latter option is pretty much impossible for us, so we can only go with the former. Trust me, there are psychos out there that will use weapons against you without giving it a second thought. We're talking about your life here. Don't think about some stupid pride of using weapons is wrong. Don't die because of that."

Marie looked at the two weapons again, and this time she took them out from the box and held them in her hands. It felt natural to hold them by the handle, like she had been doing, similar to how one would use them in the kitchen.

When looking at the weapon she could see it wasn't like a kitchen knife as there was a guard stopping one's hands going onto the bladed part, but it wasn't like a dagger as the end was rounded off and not pointed.

"It's not pride." Marie finally replied, looking into Kai's eyes. "I just don't want to kill anyone. I know what you're saying, and maybe one day if it's their life against mine I will fight to the death, but these weapons could kill someone if I used them."

Kai then went over and grabbed both the knives from Marie and stood a distance away from her, so she wouldn't get hurt. He then held the two knives in a combat position, so the blade part was sticking out from the back of the hand rather than through his thumb like a pair of daggers.

He looked like one of those secret agents that would fight in the jungle that she had seen on TV.

"You don't have to use the weapons to kill. You will be using them to cut, not to stab." Kai explained. He started to move about, with the blades, spinning his body as if he was going up against an opponent. As Marie carefully watched Kai, it looked like he was shadow fighting against more than just a single opponent.

Kai's display was so impressive that Innu and Austin couldn't help but stop their warm-up to observe him. He was smooth and quick, most of all, he was confident as well. In the end, the demonstration was over, and the two boys felt motivated to work even harder.

"Stabbing an opponent, you risk losing your weapon. You might be unable to pull it out from their body, or worse, they might use it against you. Either scenario, it gives them a chance to retaliate. Using it the way I've shown is far better for you, especially given your current strength."

Marie, taking the blades back, nodded. Kai went on to slowly show her the movements one by one, making sure to explain in great detail what the best thing to do was. He even had a pair of fake wooden blades as well.

The two of them would go through situations, and he would do his best to explain to her from the beginning. Of course, Marie was finding it difficult, but she had never expected things to be easy, aware that it would take time.

After an hour and a half passed the group decided to take a break, all but Kai huffing and panting, meeting up in the middle. Marie had prepared some food for them all. Sandwiches she and her mother had made, and the group were happily digging into them.

It was quite silent between everyone, and all of them had questions they wanted to ask. After seeing what Kai did, the two boys were interested in knowing more about who he was. That wasn't the only thing. They were also more interested in learning what exactly Gary was since their vice-leader seemed

to somewhat know, but due to no one speaking, they just continued to eat until Marie eventually broke the silence.

“You really like it up here, don’t you, Kai? We could have trained somewhere else, but this is still your favourite spot.” She smiled.

“‘My’ spot.” Kai chuckled at the comment. “Well, I guess it is ‘mine’ now... but I used to come up here in the past and there would always be someone else up here looking out at the field, I wonder where that person is now.”

The others looked at each other strangely as he was reminiscing, but in the end, Austin was the first to speak up, unable to hold it in any more.

“Kai, I want to know more about who you are. I think after all we’ve been through, we deserve to know!”

Chapter 190: A team upgrade

The group were all currently sitting on the floor, with a basket in the middle filled with the sandwiches Marie had made for them. They were nearly all gone, and Marie thought that training would soon start up again. That was until Austin asked the question that the boys wanted to know the answer to.

As soon as Austin had finished speaking, Marie gave Kai a certain look. It was clear that she knew something and was wondering what his reply would be, whether or not Kai would tell them.

“I guess you guys got curious after seeing me fight and use the knives back there, huh?” Kai smiled, unfazed by the question as usual. On the other hand, Innu’s face was a little red, though he wasn’t exactly sure why he felt embarrassed, they had only been caught peeping.

“You’re right, you do deserve to know more about me. I don’t explicitly want to hide who I am from you guys... but now’s not the time. I promise I will tell you everything once we’ve taken over Slough. Just trust me when I say it would do you more harm than good right now.” Kai sighed. “Besides, our great leader isn’t here, and I don’t want to have to repeat it. When I do tell you, I’ll tell all of you at once.”

Of course, Kai's cryptic answer just made them more curious, but by now he had earned their trust. The bond between all of them had grown greatly after the events at the grey colour gang's hideout.

"Speaking of, why didn't you invite Gary here? As our leader, shouldn't he like, you know, lead by example?" Innu asked. "Also, why did you send me a message telling me not to pry into his matters? I assume you did it to the others as well, but... when he went in there with those twins... you've seen what he did with them. How's that even possible?"

Another fair question, even though half of them knew the answer to this, though Marie had come to the wrong conclusion.

"If you're really curious, you can ask him yourself, but he'll more than likely lie to you." Kai shrugged. "Besides, does it matter? He saved us back there, risking his own life. Just like any of you, he has his own secrets. I feel that it's for the best to let him choose to tell it to us on his own.

"As for the reason I didn't call him... well you've seen what he did to those twins. Do you really think the kind of training we do will be effective for him? As such, he doesn't need to take part in things like this."

The others certainly agreed, especially if Gary was keeping something from them. Just one of those twins had been too much for all four of them to take down, yet their leader had taken them on both, at the same time no less. What's more, he had spent suspiciously little time... not to mention the state they had been left in...

"About the things you said to Marie." Austin spoke up. "This training is great and all, and I think we will improve... but I don't think it will be enough. Sure, we can get stronger, so that we can be on par with those highly skilled real gang members and not those colour ones.

"Maybe even to the point where even the real gang members will be scared of us, but it's nothing in front of Altered. From what I've been told, only one gang in Slough has one... but if that's enough to take over this town, what will we do if someone else comes along?

"I don't know about you, but I don't like just relying on Gary. He might have been able to deal with those twins, but we don't even know if he can do the same against an actual Altered."

Austin was looking Kai straight in the eyes as he posed his question. Surely, their vice leader must have realised this problem as well, so the large teenager was hoping Kai had already prepared an answer to this.

“You’re right, Altered aren’t called ‘super-humans’ for nothing. While I have a solution... it’s unfortunately not something we’ll be able to get anytime soon.” Kai stood up and walked towards the corner of the roof. He opened his school bag and took out a laptop before coming back over.

“Initially, I had believed that we’ll only have to deal with Kirk when taking over Slough. However, that was before we fought the twins. Now, I’m honestly afraid that the Grey Elephants gang might have more of that strange solution that turned them into those beasts. If they start to target us, we’ll seriously be in trouble...

“Just another reason to take this training seriously. If possible, we should also try to team up so we don’t get attacked when we’re on our own.” When Kai said that, he couldn’t help but look at Innu, unaware that the Billy issue had already been solved.

After typing a few things on his computer, Kai opened it up and spun the computer around. Here they could see a mostly black screen but a name at the top with a date underneath it. The name read ‘Dark Guild Auction House’.

“What is this?” Innu asked. The date was set to be two weeks from now, but there was no other information or anything. “What’s with the name ‘Dark Guild’, did an eighth grader come up with that?”

Kai closed the laptop there, as he got ready to explain.

“As stupid as the name might sound, those guys are legit. They’re one of the biggest gangs in our country, and what’s more they’re led by one of the Kings. They’re one of, if not THE, richest gang there is. The sums that change hands at their auctions is rumoured to be enough to upgrade all Tier-3 towns and below to Tier-1 cities.

“Pretty much every major gang in the country knows about these auctions. They all attend it, and from what I heard, it’s not even rare for the Kings to come and bid as well. Those auctions are announced on the website. They don’t have them all the time, but it’s a big deal whenever they do.

“Unfortunately, with our current fund, we wouldn’t even be able to pay the entrance fee for a single member. Even if we had the funds, they might prevent us access, simply because we’re too small-time at the moment.

“I want us to keep this in mind for the future. We will expand our business and bring in more money and when we finally have enough we can head to the auction house. Their sortiment appears to change each time, but... from what I heard they’re most famous for one thing...Altered DNA!

“And I’m not talking about regular Altered, but quite exotic Altered. Ones the public doesn’t even know about. THAT will be our key to rise to the top! With enough money, we could literally buy ourselves the power to rule the current world.” Kai explained with grandeur.