

Werewolf 211

Chapter 211: No Chance

Being the Altered fight fanatic that he was, Gary knew quite a lot about Altered. After the change, an Altered would first have to get used to their new body, as well as the capabilities it held. One of the most important skills was changing their body from a human to the Altered form.

According to some documentaries, that wasn't an easy thing to do, at all. The first time was apparently the hardest of them all. Some could only fully transform into their beast selves, others would often times mistakenly transform the wrong parts of their body, changing their feet when they wanted to change their hands, for example.

As such, it was essential for an Altered fighter to master this skill. In their case, they competed in regard to the time it would take them to transform. This was crucial, since both fighters were required to start out in their human forms.

Fortunately, Gary didn't have that problem... at least not any more. Thanks to acquiring the Controlled Transformation skill, the system took care of it for him. The teenager just had to imagine which part of his body he wanted to transform and to what degree. If he wanted to, he could also use Full Transformation to become a complete Werewolf.

Regardless, he knew that Jayden was a strong Altered, a professional who was on top of his game, and his body was already turning into something in a fraction of a second. The first thing that was noticeable was his skin had started to turn whiter, almost pale, till it looked like snow itself.

A light layer of fur was seen across his skin, it wasn't thick like when Gary would transform. This also was white and looked soft. Still there were some similarities between the two, as his hands had turned into deadly claws, yet the most noticeable change was on his face.

It now had black marking patterns coming across from his forehead, going down the side of his cheeks. His eyes narrowed like a beast and his black ashy grey hair started to grow down his back. Soon, that began to turn completely white as well.

All of this, had taken less than half of a second, but Gary couldn't help but be bewitched by this majestic beauty. It certainly was one of the most beautiful Altered the world had ever seen, and it was why

Jayden had become popular not just as an Altered fighter but a model and celebrity as well, known as 'the 'White Tiger'

'That's...so cool.' Gary couldn't help but stare. He soon snapped out of it his reverie as he remembered the situation he was in, and what words had come out of Jayden's mouth a second ago. 'Did he just say that Xin... is his sister?! But their names, Xin Clove...Jayden Tiger.'

The next moment, Gary was ready to facepalm. It wasn't rare for an Altered fighter to use a stage name. There were many reasons why one might want to do it as well. Most did it to pick a more menacing sounding name that would easily catch on. Jayden had naturally chosen Tiger as his last name due to his Altered form.

Despite his public appearances, the Altered fighter's real name had been kept a secret, yet it wasn't hard for Gary to guess that it had to be Clover. Now, it made sense why Jayden had come all the way out here to Slough, and why he had come to this cabin. He wasn't here for the pay, but because he genuinely cared for his sister.

Unfortunately, Gary failed to see how transforming at this point and time would help Xin, who was being held at knife point. If it wasn't for that, the teenager would have already stormed in.

'What...is she doing here!' Gary thought.

"Don't move!" Tiffany screeched while her hands were visibly shaking, leaving a small cut on the hostage's neck. It was clear she was scared, seeing an Altered in real life, and on TV were two different things.

They were so rare in the world that to normal people they seemed like something straight out of a fairy tale. Not moving from his spot, it looked like Jayden tilted his head back a bit, and he opened his mouth wide, revealing sharp teeth. The next second, flinging his head forward, a loud roar erupted in the room.

The whole cabin began shaking, and Gary, who had been standing next to him, suffered the brunt of it due to his sensitive ears. The teenager fell down to his knees, covering his ears as he rolled on the floor with pain, though he wasn't the only one.

What Jayden had let out wasn't a regular roar. Although invisible, a strong force had travelled through the air and hit Riv who had been on the other side of the room. The red colour gang leader was chucked into the wall behind him, some wooden panels on the cabin wall had snapped in half. One second later, he fell to the floor in pain.

'What was that? From a roar?' Gary wondered, as he opened one eye to look up.

"Riv!" Tiffany cried out and looked towards her boyfriend. Seeing her opportunity, Xin opened her mouth and bit down hard on Tiffany's hand while the teenage girl was distracted. Her arms were tied, but the ropes tied around her legs had broken. It looked like they had been sliced in half by some type of knife.

Believing that this had to have been her brother's doing, she kicked her tormentor's leg, causing Tiffany to fall over.

"You really had this coming!" Xin cursed, as she kicked the class diva in the side of the head knocking her out.

Riv had gotten off the floor, his body aching, only to see that his dear sweetheart was being hurt.

"What are you guys doing?! Get him." The red colour gang leader shouted.

It was then that the others were about to make their move, still standing in the same position by the door. Jayden swung both his hands out fast, a whip-like sound was heard as his fingers cut through the air.

Gary wasn't sure if he was imagining things, but it appeared as if giant claw marks were flying through the air. Seconds later, there was no doubt left that those claw marks had been very real. They hit the men who were standing by either side, cutting through their clothes and through their skin. Some of the weapons they held in their hands also were cut in half and had fallen to the floor.

The cuts weren't shallow either, going quite deep, and blood was spilling everywhere as they fell to the floor. Those further away might have been lucky, but they were too afraid to get up again.

Gary was still trying to figure out what had happened. Jayden hadn't moved from his spot, yet he had somehow hurt Riv, who was on the other side of the room, and also dealt damage to all the others as well who weren't close either.

He had seen hundreds of Altered fights, yet not a single one had been this devastating.

"There are some things that aren't shown on TV." Jayden said, seemingly aware of Gary's confusion, while he walked towards his sister.

Staring at him, Gary could only think one thing.

'I stood no chance.'

Chapter 212: The turn

Gary continued to stare at Jayden's back in disbelief after what he had seen, his transformation had ended but the sight and memory of what he had just done was burned into his mind, possibly forever.

'No wonder the system didn't issue a Quest. Even if I used a Full Transformation, it would have been impossible to defeat him. Jayden hasn't even fully transformed, so this was just a fraction of his power... Do all Altered have these kinds of powers, or is he just special?' Gary was still shocked.

Seeing that his sister was okay, and after checking her over, he could tell she just had a small dried blood by her nose from being hit. Her nose wasn't broken, and the cut on her neck was shallow and small enough that it wouldn't leave a scar. Jayden would have paid for the best medical care in the world if his sister had come out of this with any permanent damage.

It was then, at that moment, that Riv saw an opening and started to make a run for it. He fled towards the exit, abandoning Tiffany. With the way Jayden had dealt with his subordinates, he understood that the Altered wouldn't shy away from killing him.

"Jayden, he's getting away!" Xin called out. After everything he had done to her, even if it might have been because of his psycho girlfriend, she wanted him to pay for him. "What are you doing? Aren't you going to go after him?"

“Don’t worry, Streaker boy can handle it.” Jayden smiled, to the confusion of Xin.

Gary stood up from the ground, as Riv ran towards him.

“Get the f*ck out of my way!” Riv shouted, recognising Gary as the guy who had ruined their plans back in Westbridge. He didn’t have time to care what the high schooler was doing here, he just needed to get out of the place.

Riv threw a punch, and at the same time Gary stepped forward, moving his hand to the side. He swung his arm out, clenching his fist as he used Controlled Transformation to increase its power, before he whacked Riv right in his face. The teenager made sure to aim right between his upper teeth and nose.

A loud crack was heard breaking Riv’s nose, and his front teeth had shattered, partly going in his mouth. The red colour gang leader slid across the floor with his head banging onto a wall.

“Mr Root...didn’t deserve that.” Gary said. Seeing him on the ground, the high schooler was actually hoping he hadn’t passed out from the single hit, yet he had received a system message informing him that Riv had been defeated. Still, he wanted to hurt him more for all the pain he had inflicted to his coach.

“Hey.” Jayden called out as he saw the unwillingness of Gary to let go. “That was a good hit, but you should stop there. Trust me, it’s taking every cell in my body to not rip all of these guys apart. I can see that it’s the same for you, but don’t become worse than them. Otherwise, one day I might have to come for you.”

Gary took a deep breath, and with Jayden’s words, he tried to calm down. As if on cue, a system screen appeared in front of him, and gave Gary even more to smile about.

[Secret achievement unlocked: Colour Gang Destroyer II]

[Two colour gangs down.]

Are you trying to collect a rainbow?

Something good might happen if you take out all three.]

[Reward; 25% Level Up]

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 14]

[A stat point has been granted]

[Exp 232/2578]

From the fighting Gary had done so far, he had been getting Exp for every single member he had beaten, and with this unexpected reward, he had accumulated enough to reach Level 14. Still, after seeing Jayden in action, he felt like there was a long way ahead of him before he would catch up.

Jayden was busy untying his sister, and while doing so he leaned in closer.

“Nice choice for a boyfriend. Setting aside his strange hobbies, I wouldn’t let him go if I was you.”

Immediately, Xin’s face lit up red, and she went for a kick, hitting her brother’s shin.

“Hey! Is that what I get for saving you?!” Jayden complained as he rubbed his leg. The high school girl would feel bad for him... if it wasn’t for the teasing smile on his face.

The three of them had a lot to talk about. Xin wanted to ask both of them a lot of questions, starting with how Gary had even found her and why he was with her brother, but all of that would have to wait. First, they needed to get out of here. There were quite a few people that were worrying about Xin. Gary was also sure that there were those that were worrying about him as well.

“Hey, pick that one up. Jayden pointed towards Riv who was still on the floor, while he himself had Tiffany over his shoulder. “These people aren’t going to just get away with this. We’ll take them to the police station ourselves, that way no gang member can get involved.”

Picking up Riv, Gary took pleasure in knowing that for once the judicial system would punish these people, but it was only because the mayor was involved. If it had been a normal family, then it was likely that the red colour gang would have been able to buy their way out of trouble.

After lifting Riv over his shoulder, and leaving the rest, the three of them walked outside, but they soon stopped just on the decking outside. When looking ahead in the forest area, there were several people standing, around fifty in total. It was clear these weren’t police or normal citizens, and they weren’t members of the red colour gang either.

A large man stood in the centre, next to him was one who wore a leather jacket and had shades on his face, then finally there was another with a dragon tattoo up his neck, D.

‘Why are there so many people here? Didn’t the system state that the red colour gang was out? What are they all doing here?’ Gary wondered.

It was obvious from their clothes that they weren’t with the red colour gang, but bringing this many people here to an area like this, Gary felt like the main battle was still ahead.

“I see, so you finally managed to call the Grey Elephants over? Well, it was a little late, don’t you think?” Jayden shouted.

The words were aimed at none other than D. The gang leader was too afraid to do what Jayden had done, but at least it looked like the goons that the mayor had hired hadn’t been completely useless. The question remained whether that was a good or a bad thing.

For Gary, who was standing next to Jayden, his hands were shaking.

‘Did he just say...Grey Elephants?!’

It wasn't just any ordinary member of the Grey Elephants gang, for standing at the front of all the men was their leader, Brandon Trunk. Standing a bit behind him was D, leader of the Rising Dragons, and finally, to the right of Brandon was Raven, the other leader of the Grey Elephants.

Chapter 213: 3 vs 50

Gary had heard quite a lot about the Grey Elephants gang during his time as a transporter. After all, they were the second-largest gang in Slough, though it wasn't as if anybody had ever shown him a picture of the leader's faces. Nevertheless, the presence of these people made it clear that they were at the very least high-ranking members of the gang.

'These people, they are the ones that captured Amy... who made her go through all that crap.'

Despite how much Gary wanted to get out of here and deal with them, he knew now was not the time. Not with how many people they were, and not while involving others. Fortunately, the Grey Elephants had yet to make a move.

'If they're here now, does that mean they were the ones who had ordered the attack on the school? I still have no clue why Tiffany was with them. Seriously, this whole thing seems to be more complicated than it looks.'

Unsure about the full scope of the situation, Gary had decided to keep his mouth shut and just let things play out. The high schooler was also slightly regretting that he hadn't put on his mask again, though it seemed a bit too late for it now. His best course of action seemed to be to let Jayden do the talking, and try to appear as unimportant as a green haired teenager in the middle of the woods could be.

"We don't want to mess with you, Mr Tiger!" Brandon shouted out. "That was not why we came. You see, Mr D here informed me that one of my subordinates took matters into his own hands and captured the young miss over there.

"Once the matter came to my attention, we got to work. As soon as we learned about Riv having fled here, I gathered my men to rescue the young miss. It appears that you've managed to locate them before us, though.

“Let me assure you again that we played no part in this plan, and I apologise for not keeping my people in check. I hope you can hand over the culprits and I promise that we will give them the appropriate punishment.”

Jayden stood there for a while, not saying anything as he thought about what to do. It was clear he wasn't afraid of the Grey Elephants. At the same time, going against them or getting on their bad side would likely prove to be a major annoyance to his father and sister, who had chosen to live in this town.

Jayden was smart enough to know that the big gangs would never act this flashy, nor would they involve the public to this degree. Besides, they wouldn't have gone after Xin to blackmail money out of the mayor, instead they would have gone directly after their father, forcing him to submit to them.

At the end of the day, Xin was now safe. Jayden was also sure that now that they knew that he was associated with the mayor and his daughter, that they wouldn't dare to act against them anytime soon.

Walking down the cabins' old steps, Jayden made the first move, and now they stood fifteen metres away from each other. He looked towards Gary and nodded. Taking this as a sign, Gary quickly walked over, and placed Riv on the ground in front of the Altered.

He looked Brandon in the eye for a second and Raven who seemed to be staring at him, before quickly going back to Xin's side. Jayden did the same, placing Tiffany on the ground as well.

“Who's this wench?” Brandon asked, since this was the first time he had seen the teenage girl. He then kicked Riv on the ground a couple of times, which managed to jolt him awake.

“Where am I?” Riv looked around confused. Getting up fast, the red colour gang leader touched his face that was in pain. When he looked at Gary and Jayden, he was filled with anger.

“You bastards!” Riv shouted, yet before he could do anything, he felt his body getting lifted off the ground. His own shirt was starting to choke him around his neck slightly. Turning around, he saw who it was, and his head started to sweat as he recognised the Grey Elephant leader.

“Boss!” Riv let out a choked gasp.

“Oh, so suddenly you remember that I’m your boss, hm?” Brandon sounded very annoyed. He threw Riv on the ground with such force letting him go. The gang leader’s body hit the ground so hard that he bounced slightly while blood spewed from his mouth. Before Riv could do anything else, Brandon stomped on the back of his head, the sheer weight and strength crushing part of his skull.

Everything had happened so fast, and although it was clear that Brandon wasn’t stronger than Jayden in any way, his actions, that he had just done, were frightful in its own way. Riv, no longer had a heart beat, Gary could tell he was dead.

Still, it didn’t look like he was done just yet, he soon picked up Tiffany by the mouth. His hand was so big it was able to grab around her entire head. When she was lifted, she suddenly came to and was hanging onto Brandon’s forearm, kicking and screaming.

“Wait!” Xin shouted. “Please, she’s just a high school student... let her go! She’s not part of the red colour gang.”

Being under their care for a while, she could tell that Tiffany wasn’t really a part of their gang. In fact, she had complained about Riv whenever he had left the room. To Xin it appeared as if Tiffany had begun dating him at the beginning out of fun, but when getting in too deep, there was no way she could leave.

Riv... had already been a dangerous person, but it looked like the people he had associated with, had been even more dangerous and more scrupulous than him.

“This little girl could get us in a lot of trouble.” Raven eventually spoke up and stepped forward. “It looks like she was part of the ones that kidnapped you, yet you want to save her? We have a relationship with the Rising Dragons and this could have been ruined. Others might even use this situation against us, we can’t let this get out, not someone who was so close to the matter.”

It looked like Xin’s plea wasn’t going to work, and it was then that the high school girl pulled on Jayden’s arm and looked at him from below. Did Xin hate Tiffany? Of course, she did, but it wasn’t yet to a degree that she wanted her dead. For some reason, she knew that not for a second did Tiffany want to truly hurt her.

From the things she had overheard, the plan to get her family involved, the ransom and taking her away, even the attack on the school had not been something she had ever intended. The plan kept getting deeper and Tiffany didn't know how to deal with it.

A second later and a big sigh was heard from his mouth, as he started to walk forward.

"You heard my sister, let her go." Jayden demanded, looking up at Brandon.

'Is a fight going to break out? Right now?' Gary wondered, as he needed to be ready at any second.

Chapter 214: Break through

Seeing Jayden so close to the Grey Elephant leader was sending shivers down Gary's spine. After seeing what he had just done, Gary didn't know how a person could still walk up to someone in the same way, not unless they were planning to do something.

'If a fight breaks out... I know whose side I'm going to be on...the question is, will I have to fully transform if that's the case?' Gary thought.

"I said, let her go." Jayden repeated once more, and as soon as he finished his sentence, Brandon let go of Tiffany, letting her fall to the ground, close to her now deceased boyfriend.

"As I said, we don't want to get on your bad side, Mr Tiger. If that is your wish, then so be it. However, we'll have to ask you to make sure that she doesn't tell anyone about what happened here." Brandon then stood to the side, with his hand pointed towards the forest, and the rest of the Grey elephant members moved to the side as well.

Honestly, Gary was at a loss for words, he was wondering what had just happened, and if what he had seen was true. Did one of the biggest gangs in Slough really submit to a single person... simply because he had told them to?

This wasn't the ruthless way that Gary knew from being in a gang.

'Is this what it means to have power? So much power that not even a top gang can mess with him?'

The simple truth was that the Grey Elephants didn't dare to go up against Jayden. It was a fight that the gang leader wasn't sure they would win, nor did they have anything to gain from it either.

It was better to just let the Altered get his way. Quickly, Xin ran over to Tiffany's side and gave her a shoulder. She could feel that her former tormentor's legs were wet. The teenage girl must have peed herself in fear when Brandon had picked her up.

After being held up like that by a brute and in a brutal way, Xin couldn't blame her. It also looked like Tiffany didn't mind that her captive was helping her out of this situation, as she willingly took her shoulder and started to walk out of the place.

Gary rushed and gave his other shoulder to Tiffany. The two were walking slowly and quite frankly he didn't want to stay in this place for long. There was a part of Gary that felt like the gang would turn around in seconds, but, thankfully, they never did.

"Interesting, huh? Who would have thought that the mayor was keeping someone like that by his side." Brandon said out loud. "Do you remember the reports we got from the colour gang that day, about how the Underdogs had acted quicker than usual, and that they had asked each of the members about a green coloured boy. Do you know who that was?"

"I have no idea." Mr D shrugged his shoulders. "He seems a little too young to be a friend of Jayden's. Perhaps, it's an associate of the young miss. However, I don't remember ever having seen him in the mayor's family."

"Raven, it might be a long shot, but if you have time after dealing with that personal project of yours, maybe you should look into him. See if he has any relation to the Underdogs or the underworld in general." Brandon ordered as he walked off. "Someone clean up this mess as well!"

Eventually, the group had come to a road just outside the forest that led to a more residential area. Looking behind him, Gary couldn't see any of the Grey Elephants following them.

“What do we do now?” The green haired teenager asked. Since he had been following Jayden this whole time, it just felt natural to listen to the Altered?

“‘We’?” Jayden stopped for a moment, before he turned around. “Since D was here, I’m sure they will be here soon as well. So ‘we’, as in me and my little sister, will take that girl with us, crack some sense into her and tell her how lucky she was today.”

Tiffany looked like she had completely lost it. Her eyelids were open wide like she was awake but not really registering what the others were saying.

“Gary.” Xin eventually said, as she let Tiffany slowly stand on her own two feet. She looked down the road as if she was looking for something and then quickly turned back. “Why are you with my brother?”

Nervous about how to answer this, Gary was scratching the back of his head thinking of a good way to explain himself.

“Haha, this food thief was already at the cabin before me. Like a knight in shining armour, he seemed to have been looking out for you, Xin. Who knows, if it’s him, maybe you could convince Dad to hire him as your guard.” Jayden clapped his hands together as he had a light bulb moment.

“Come to think about it, you should come over some time. Not today, that won’t be the best with everything that has happened, but I’m sure our Dad would like to thank you for what you did. If not, I might have something for you.”

Gary didn’t know how to reply. Getting invited to the mayor’s house seemed more like a reward for some honour student, not a nobody like him. At the same time, it felt like meeting the parents before a first date was also skipping a few too many steps.

A luxury black car was approaching from a distance, slowly starting to pull up. There wasn’t just one, but three of them in total. Xin and the others were heading towards the car, leaving Gary on his own.

“Wait!” Gary shouted out to Xin. “Before you go, what about our... you know date?” The teenager finally asked. Being honest with his feelings in this way was becoming a lot easier after everything he had been through.

“Ah.” Xin turned around and had her hand placed open. It took a second for Gary to figure out she was asking for his phone. A few seconds later and it was handed back over. “It’s my number, if you haven’t guessed. I’m sorry, but I have no idea what my Dad will decide to do after everything that has happened today. I know it might be awkward, but I’m afraid my brother’s idea will have to count as our first date.”

The door closed and for a brief second, Gary had seen a face on Xin he had never seen before, it was one of sadness, pure sadness.

‘She looked so happy just a second ago... it was only after she said those words.’ Gary thought as he looked after the disappearing cars. Letting out a sigh, Gary finally had a free moment to check his phone, only to see that Kai had left him a message.

[Let us know when you’re done on your end. We’ll be staying here until late in the evening, and we wouldn’t mind having an extra pair of hands.]

Seeing the text, although Kai and the others were doing scouting work for the gang, for once he just wanted to relax a little with his friends.

‘Before that... I need to do something that was long overdue.

... should I go with blue this time?’

Chapter 215: Sorry means nothing

On the road, three black sedan vehicles could be seen driving, following one after the other. They kept a similar distance apart, and each of them were filled with guards that were from the Rising Dragon gang.

However, the one who had orchestrated this wasn’t their gang leader, but the mayor. In the centre sedan in the back seat, Xin was sitting in the middle, while Tiffany sat up against the door and her brother Jayden was on the other side as well.

They had been riding for quite a while. The Clove family lived close to the outskirts, yet before heading there, Jayden told the driver to stop by the hospital. He wanted to drop Tiffany off there, so the girl could get checked up before getting picked up by her guardian.

For the most part, the class diva had been out of it, still coming to terms with what had happened today, her role in this entire mess, as well as to how class she had come to her own death. All the while, she had been holding on to the side of her head where Xin had kicked her.

"I'm sorry." Tiffany eventually blurted out as she turned to Xin. "I'm really sorry... for everything."

The high school girl didn't break eye contact for even a second, as if waiting for an answer. It made an already awkward situation even more awkward, especially since both girls were only inches apart from each other. However, contrary to what Tiffany might have expected, Xin didn't accept her apology.

Grabbing the skirt Xin was wearing, she scrunched it up in her hand, pulling tightly. All the anger inside her, the frustration built up had to be released somehow.

"You think a simple 'sorry' is going to cut it?" Xin questioned Tiffany, her eyes narrowed to slits. "All I ever wanted was the opportunity to enjoy a normal high school life! Was that really too much to ask for?!"

Honestly, although Tiffany was sorry for what Xin had been through, since they had all got out of it relatively okay she thought things would be fine. As long as she didn't tell anyone what she had seen today, and didn't get involved with the gang mess again, everything would be okay, which led Tiffany to ask.

"Why...are you so upset? I don't understand, we are okay right, but please, is there anything I can do to fix it?" Tiffany asked, trying to be more sincere this time. She wasn't used to apologising, usually she just got whatever she wanted. Nevertheless, she knew that she had screwed up royally today.

"WHY!" Xin shouted, raising her voice, and the man behind the wheel glanced at the rear mirror looking at her. "Tell me, why did you have to take things this far? Why couldn't you have just kept it between the two of us?"

“I’ve tried apologising to you for more than a week in which you tortured me, only for your goons to prevent me from so much as talking to you... Why couldn’t you have called it quits after that?”

“All of this... because I accidentally threw you into a pile of vomit? I apologised to you straight away, didn’t I?! Back then, I really meant it, because I knew what I had done wrong, but do you? Do you even have a whiff of an idea how much could have gone wrong today?!”

“Everyone at school suffered this morning, because of you! Worse, you’ve gotten my entire family involved!” Xin was tearing up, something she rarely did, but she couldn’t hold in her frustration any more.

“You wanted to make my life miserable, didn’t you? Well, congratulations, you’ve actually managed to do it. You have no idea how long I had to plead and beg my father to give me a chance to come to a normal highschool like Westbridge. After today, it’s safe to say, he’ll have me transfer somewhere else!”

“I want you to know this, and I want you to carry this weight with you for the rest of your life. You’ve ruined my life. My one chance at freedom and a normal school life has vanished.” Even though saying the words were so painful, and her throat felt so heavy filled with water when speaking them, when she looked at Tiffany she smiled, her face teary eyed.

It was something Tiffany didn’t understand, but seeing Xin force a smile like that at her, even though she didn’t know the reason she was sad. It pained her... it hurt her a lot.

‘What... did I do?’ Tiffany thought, reflecting back to when this had all started. It was hard for her to self reflect at this moment, because she really didn’t understand why she had done the things she did. Why did she want to hurt Xin so bad? Was it the environment of the people around her, or did she just want to show what she was capable of because someone hadn’t listened to her...Xin was a threat.

Either way all those reasons seemed stupid now.

Her only silver lining was that the car was approaching its destination, the hospital. Since Xin was obviously no longer in the mood to talk, Jayden decided to do the talking instead. He informed Tiffany about what she should say to the hospital.

One of the Rising Dragon gang members would accompany her to pay for everything. At the same time, he would be there to make sure she didn't blabber about anything that had happened today, and that included the fact that Jayden Tiger was actually Xin Clove's brother.

After explaining everything, the door was closed and Tiffany was left with the guard in front of the hospital. She looked up at where the sky would be but could only see the top of the hospital covering for cars.

"AHHHHHH!" Tiffany screamed at the top of her lungs, getting all of her frustration and worry out of her.

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Back in the car, the brother, and sister pair were amongst themselves and Jayden was thinking of a way to cheer Xin up. He was smart enough to not even attempt some small talk after her breakdown. However, he got a sudden inspiration when he looked outside and spotted a strange green plant outside that reminded him of a certain someone.

"Soooo, do you need a new outfit for that upcoming date?" Jayden asked, which worked wonders in catching Xin's attention, though she was speechless. "Care to tell me, what the hell you did that would make a guy be willing to fight an entire colour gang for you? You've been here for barely a month... did you cast some magic spell on him or something?"

Xin's face was turning a shade of red as usual. However, her brother's words did make her wonder about how she got Gary to like her. She hadn't done much, and if it was just a simple physical attraction, she could understand.

'Was it when I kicked him in the head? And now he's saved me twice.' Xin thought.

Meanwhile, Jayden's thoughts also revolved around Gary.

'How could a kid the same age as Xin be so strong? Food thief, what exactly are you hiding? That 'date' is certainly something I'll be looking forward to...'

Chapter 216: A life worth living

Seeing the gates open up to her grand estate, Xin was feeling more nervous than ever before. She didn't fail to notice that there were more men in suits than usual outside the gated driveway. There were even more standing outside the house itself.

'Was he worried that they would come after him as well after finding out about me?' The high school girl wondered.

She also thought that having all these guards was useless. In the end, when Xin had been kidnapped, it wasn't them who had come to rescue her. In her opinion, her father was just wasting his money and time with them.

Still, she understood a lot of the gang business, businessman, and government politics that went on. How they all needed to work together in nearly every city to do what they needed to do.

Unfortunately, it had become abundantly clear that although her father had joined hands with the Rising Dragon gang, it meant nothing in the face of one of Slough's big time gangs. Despite anything Mayor Clove might have promised during his election, the ones really in charge of the town were still the gangs... just like everywhere else.

Eventually, exiting out of the car, the two siblings walked up a grand staircase that led to their large front doors. The closer the high school girl came to those doors, the heavier her legs felt, seemingly about to buckle.

"Jayden." Xin addressed her brother, stopping completely at the stairs now. "You will back me up, right?"

Jayden only glanced at her for a second, before letting out a small sigh. With that, he continued to go up the stairs. It wasn't a good sign, as it indicated that he wouldn't be able to shield her from what would come next.

After walking through the double doors, Xin's mother could be seen pacing back and forth, biting her fingernails at the entrance way to their home. As soon as she saw who came in, she ran right up to Xin giving her daughter a huge hug.

“My baby!” The mother exclaimed, holding onto her tightly as if she was unwilling to ever let go again. “I can’t believe those guys did that to you! I knew we shouldn’t have moved to this town. I’ve been worried about you since day one, and now this happened.”

“Mum, you’re starting to hurt me.” Xin softly said, leading her mother to let go for a moment. The middle-aged woman stood up and gave Jayden a kiss on the forehead as well. Although she knew that it should be nearly impossible for normal gangsters to hurt her son, a mother would always worry about her children.

Alas, there was still someone else Xin had to meet. “Come on, your father is waiting for you. Don’t worry, darling, your father and I have already been making preparations to prevent something like this from ever happening again.”

Xin took a deep breath, and she gulped down hard. It was something that couldn’t be avoided. All three of them soon walked towards a large black door. Opening the door, an office could be seen on the other side, with bookshelves decorating the side of the walls and a large desk in the centre.

The person sitting behind the desk was naturally Ben Clove, Slough’s mayor. The middle-aged man even had a little plaque on his table, to make sure any potential guest would be aware of that fact. Her father was sitting in the chair and didn’t get up to see if she was okay, like her mother had done. He just continued to sit.

Meanwhile, her mother went to stand behind the mayor’s chair. There was a chair opposite him, and Xin understood that her father wanted her to take the seat. Sitting down, she was just happy that her brother was in the room with her as well.

“First, I know this whole event must have been scary for you, and it’s my fault. We knew that you might become a target because you are my daughter. I thought that perhaps they would use it to leverage my position and get me to help the other gangs, but I never imagined that the only thing they would want was money.” Ben explained.

“Wait.” Xin interrupted. “Dad, I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. They didn’t kidnap me for money. Well, they did, but that was just the secondary reason. All of this was just because I had a falling out with one of the girls at school and-“

A loud bang was heard on the table as her father hit it with the underside of his hand.

“Xin, whatever reason they might have had, it doesn’t matter. We want to keep you safe. We tried it your way, and it didn’t work out. Furthermore, we even had guards taking you from and to school yet this still happened. Even if their target wasn’t really me, it can still happen, and I just can’t take that risk.

“I admit that I was selfish when I listened to my advisors. ‘A mayor who even trusts to send his own daughter to a public school’... it sounded good for my public image, but I should have never risked your well-being. ... I’ve made a mistake, Xin. Your life is far more important than what the voters think of me.

“That’s why, your mother and I have agreed that we’ll be sending you to a boarding school in a Tier-2 city under a fake name. You can come back to see us on the weekends.”

This was what she was afraid of, when she heard her mother say those few words by the doorway, she had imagined this would be the result.

‘I have... I have to fight back... I don’t want to live like that.’

“Dad!” Xin shouted back. “You just said that my life is more important. This is MY life you are talking about. I might not be an adult yet, but I’m sixteen, so shouldn’t I get some say in it? Come on, Jayden, you didn’t have to go through this stuff. Please!”

Her parents were often stubborn when it came to decisions, having already made up their mind, but they did listen to their firstborn son.

“I’m sorry, Xin, but I actually kind of agree with them.” Jayden looked down. “I know it’s not fair for you to suffer like this when I didn’t have to. However, when I was younger, our parents weren’t important figures yet. Barely anybody cared about our Clove family... but after what happened today...

“Slough isn’t safe right now. I won’t always be there to protect you.”

Immediately, Xin felt defeated, not even her brother was on her side. With her parents like this, they would never trust her, not even when she was an adult. She knew that her father would constantly be putting guards on her. When would it end? She couldn't see any light in sight.

"Still, I have to agree that this is your life. That's why I do have a suggestion. None of us would have to worry if Xin was... like me, right?" Jayden asked, and from the reaction of her parents it was clear that this was the first time they had even entertained such a possibility.

"If she could protect herself, you wouldn't have to worry. Xin, this is completely up to you, okay, but what do you think about joining the Altered Fighting Academy like I did?"

Both of her parents looked at each other, they didn't really know what to say, and it wasn't really a suggestion they were expecting.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm not telling Xin to become a professional fighter or anything like that, but it's a two-year course, and we do have the money. So why not make her into an Altered that can protect herself? We'll keep who she is away from the public and change her name. After two years of training, there won't be any thugs in the street that will be able to take her on."

It was something Xin had never even considered. She liked fighting because of her brother, but never thought about it as a profession. Even though her brother said she didn't have to make it a job, going to the AFA meant no longer going to a regular school.

"I'll do it!" The teenage girl made up her mind.

'If that's what it takes, so I can live the way I want, I'll gladly become an Altered!'

Chapter 217: A changed person

Describing the way Gary currently felt as annoyed would be a vast understatement. He was jogging his way back to the parts of Chavley. Fortunately, running wasn't really a problem for Gary due to his stamina and improved body, and he had a lot of time until it was evening in Burnham, so there were a few things he could do before then.

He wouldn't have minded it at all, but after seeing those three nice cars with so many empty seats in them, he thought the others could have at least offered him a lift back home. Of course, there was also the option to get the bus, but that would cost him a bit of money. The bus fares in Slough seemed like a rip-off, no matter how much money he had, so he preferred the free method.

'I think I might just run to Burnham at this rate. Hmmm, I wonder what that look was on Xin's face when she got in the car. Maybe she's still shaken up by everything that happened.'

Soon enough, the high school boy's frown turned upside down as he thought about the progress he had made in his relationship with Xin. A date, a house visit, and he had managed to rescue her, which surely would win him some brownie points.

On his way back, Gary quickly stopped by the convenience store where he picked up two sets of dye, as well as some food as he was getting ready to head home first. As usual, Gary intended to eat some raw meat in an alleyway to quickly restore his Energy on the way back.

"Is that everything for you, kid? You sure do eat a lot of meat, but looking at your body, I can see where all that protein is going." The clerk joked behind the counter. His name tag read Tyler. The bespectacled university student was the hard-working type.

He also seemed to always be on duty whenever Gary would come in. Ever since he had become a Werewolf the teenager had come here and given how much he would spend, he and Tyler would enjoy the occasional small talk, especially when the store was as empty as it was now.

"Ah yeah, do you have the bag that I gave you from before?" Gary asked.

Going behind the desk, Tyler handed Gary a sports bag, and he quickly changed out from his gang uniform and replaced his clothes. There was no one else in the shop, and honestly it was just putting his blazer away and putting on a hoodie instead. Due to his home being in Chavley and the area it was in, Gary would always change into a hoodie around his area.

However, he couldn't exactly always carry a bag around him while fighting. That would only make things harder. As such, he decided to leave certain clothes and bags at certain spots. Tyler had happily agreed to it, once Gary had offered him twenty notes. As much as Gary needed to save his money, he regarded

this as an investment. It pained him to do so and was something that had taken him a long time to decide.

The school and this convenience store, was one of the many places that Gary would leave a bag with a change of clothes. However, now that Kai had gotten him clothes that were able to stretch, perhaps he wouldn't have to go through so many...

'Do I have to worry that once our Howlers gang becomes famous, people will start noticing our uniform? Will it be a problem that I go around in these colours? At least, I don't think Tyler knows I'm in a gang yet.' Gary suddenly pondered.

Just then, the electric door made a sound to inform them that a new customer had entered. It was a man in a suit who looked to be... quite drunk, as he could barely keep his balance.

'It's not even 5PM yet... Did he just finish work and start drinking straight away? Or maybe weekend midday drinking.'

Gary didn't need Werewolf senses to smell the alcohol off of him. However, having them meant that his poor nose was practically being assaulted by the stench. The high schooler just wanted to get out of the place as soon as possible. He made sure to get out of the man's way, he actually managed to make it to the counter.

Gary was getting ready to leave to enjoy his nice meal. He was getting used to the taste of Raw meat, and was actually looking forward to eating it before heading home.

"Hey, get me some leaf blacks!" The drunk man yelled.

"Here you go sir, that will be 15.20!" Tyler smiled politely, placing the cigarette pack on the counter.

The man then pulled out his card, sticking it into the reader, but he started to slap his head all of a sudden.

“Damn it, what was the pin?” The man grumbled loudly, before he proceeded to push some buttons. Unsurprisingly, there appeared an error message on the screen. The man tried this two more times, until the machine informed him that his card was now blocked.

“SH*T! YOUR DAMN MACHINE IS BROKEN!!!” The man accused Tyler in his drunken tone and started to almost pull apart the machine. “Just give me my damn leaf blacks.” The drunk man reached over and looked like he was about to snatch the cigarettes away, when the university student quickly pulled them back and placed them away.

“I’m sorry, sir, but your card has been declined. If you happen to have some cash, I would be happy to give them to you.” Tyler nervously smiled.

“Why the hell do you care? You’re just a poor sod working for this shop. You don’t own them, so might as well give them to me!” The man demanded as he stretched out his arm and opened his palm. However, when he noticed that nothing happened, he became even angrier.

“Do you think I won’t do anything because this place is meant to be protected by the Underdogs? You think I’m scared of those guys?!”

The man then leaned over the counter and pulled on Tyler’s shirt. He was pulled over the counter and The university student could smell his alcoholic breath coming off from him, and the next second, he spat on his head.

“Sir, what are you doing!?” Tyler shouted as he could feel something land on his head.

“You think I’m stupid, huh? That I didn’t notice the way you looked at me?! Screw you, and my superiors. All of you look at me like I’m scum. Where are your gang members to help you out now, huh!” The man continued to shout, and it looked like he was about to spit on his head once again, but before it reached his head, a hand was shoved in front grabbing the spit.

“What is wrong with you, old man? How is it his fault that your superiors treat you badly? I’m pretty sure if a gang member was in this shop right now, you would be shaking in your boots.” Gary, having heard the commotion outside, had come back in.

Perhaps it was because of the events that had happened today so far, with his teacher being hurt, Xin taken away and more, but today was a day that Gary just couldn't look the other way at these things.

Chapter 218: Going down a tier

The drunken man looked the teenager up and down. Given his new appearance, the teenager seemed to be someone who would often visit the local gym, yet it wasn't to a point the drunk man feared him yet.

"Haha, this is brilliant now even kids these days are acting like gangsters." The man said as he got a big one ready in his throat and spat it out, hitting Gary right in the cheek. He let it drop on his face for a few seconds, and smiled back at the drunk man.

"I'm not acting like one." Gary said as he clenched his fist.

The next second, Gary shoved his hand that was initially soaked in the man's spit back in his face, rubbing it in. When the man stepped back startled about what happened, Gary whacked him in the face, and he fell to the floor. The teenager's hotheadedness had taken over from him, and he just couldn't deal with it any more.

Tyler was so amazed that he leaned over the counter to look at the old man.

"Sorry... I couldn't control myself." Gary apologised to the university student.

"Nah, he definitely deserved it. I would have done the same if I didn't really need this job." Tyler tensed his bicep, but there was nothing to see there.

A few seconds later, and the man came to, rubbing his face. Gary had held back a little, but the man was clearly startled, and his legs were wobbly as he fell backwards.

"You...you! You will pay for this. I'll remember you green haired kid!" The next second, the man was wobbly rushing out the door.

Before leaving, still a little annoyed at the man's attitude, Gary picked up a chocolate bar from the counter, and aiming carefully threw it, hitting the man at the back of the head.

"Have a Bickers! If you're annoyed!" Gary shouted and soon paid for the chocolate bar. Although Tyler refused payment, as a way of saying thanks. Perhaps before Gary would have been worried that the man would remember his face and hair colour especially with those looking for him.

However, Gary couldn't care less... for after today, he would no longer have green hair.

Leaving the shop, Tyler had given Gary his thanks and promised him that he wouldn't mention what had happened to anyone. Given the slip of his tongue in anger, he had actually expected Tyler to ask a few questions, but the university student didn't mention it. Either he chose to keep it to himself... or he simply mistook the truth for a bluff. Either scenario worked for the teenager.

With his hood now up, Gary entered the Chavley area, where members of the Underdogs would still be keeping up their patrols. Using his enhanced senses, as well as his personal route, the high schooler successfully managed to avoid all gang members on the way to his apartment block.

Now entering the area where his apartment block and others were located, Gary could see that many of the residents had gathered outside, near the bulletin board. However, they didn't seem interested in the stuff that was posted there, instead they were talking to an old man whose face resembled a nut sack. It was a crude image, sure, but Gary couldn't deny the resemblance.

The man himself, was the landlord of the apartment building, Mr Morten. Getting closer, Gary was interested to hear what all the commotion was about. He remained at the back of the crowd which was filled with families, students and all sorts.

"This is crazy, you have to say something to them, Morten!" An older woman yelled. "If this continues, then soon we won't even be able to afford to live here! And then we'll...have to..."

She didn't dare to finish the sentence, but everyone was aware that if she couldn't stay here, her only choice would be to move to a Tier-4 town. Living in a Tier-3 town like Slough was already bad enough, but at least the Underdogs and Grey Elephants ensured a certain level of peace.

A Tier-4 town, on the other hand, had no such thing. Multiple small-time gangs were constantly vying for a piece of the already small cake. There was next to no order in a place like that, and no one wanted to end up there.

At times, progression from a Tier-4 town would spiral down worse than others. In the first place, there weren't many jobs in such an area. Moving from a Tier-3 town probably meant you didn't have sufficient skills in the first place and in the end, it was a slippery slope that might see one end up moving to a Tier-5 town.

The crime rate was similar to that of a Tier-4 town, yet the living conditions were far worse. In a way, it was similar to one living in a rubbish tip. A junkyard with scraps here and there. No jobs, just people searching through junk and living in self-made houses. Honestly, all this information though was based on the information Gary had just seen on TV.

"It isn't his fault. You really think Old Morten can stand up to them? He's just one man. A wrinkly old man." Another tried to calm down the bitter woman.

"Still, he should at least try to talk to them? That's all we ask... that's all."

Eventually, after listening for a while, Gary understood the gist of what had happened. As it turned out everyone's rent had gone up. The letter didn't have the concrete reason, but the residents wouldn't care, in their eyes it was a sudden and quite the sharp increase. All those who lived here were like the Dems, families that barely lived from paycheck to paycheck.

Honestly, with the way Gary was now, he didn't think he needed to worry too much about an increase, but he knew how the other people felt, because he had been there not too long ago. Eventually, when everyone left, Morten was left there nearly collapsing from tiredness and eventually sat down on a bench that was nearby.

"Is it the Underdogs?" Gary asked as he sat down next to the landlord.

The old man sighed, which only confirmed Gary's suspicions.

“What happened to this world that even a brat like you can so easily figure out the reason behind the rent increase.” Morten shook his head. “You’re correct. After what happened recently, those parasites have been patrolling the area... so now that they’re actually doing the job we’ve already been paying them to do, they suddenly demanded more. It’s not just me either, all the landlords will have to pay higher fees in this area.

“Unfortunately, I’m not as wealthy as my residents believe me to be. Although I own this place, I never once made a profit. There are countless repairs that need to be done everywhere, and everything I get is just enough to allow me to live by myself while improving the area and place. Do you know how many things get broken in an area like this? Especially after what happened with that attack.

“I wanted to make a change, give people another chance, but because of my already low prices... Since the Underdogs ask for more, I have no choice but to increase rent... it’s the first time in ten years I had to make a decision that I was uncomfortable with.”

Adam Morten was a good man. Gary knew that his mother had been late paying bills a few times, yet he had never pressured her into paying immediately or anything like that. Now, hearing the regret in the old man’s voice, the high schooler was even more assured that their landlord was a decent man.

He couldn’t believe just moments ago he had met a drunk scumbag who would pester a normal worker because he was frustrated with his job, when there were people like Mr Morten in the world.

“I’m getting old and tired, Gary.” Morten sighed. “If things continue like this, I might have to sell this place. The only thing holding me back are people like you. If I sell this place... what are the chances that the next landlord will keep the rent the same?”

The answer to that question was obvious.

“I’m sorry, Gary. I didn’t want to burden you with all of this. Just take it as the ramblings of an old man. Say, now that you’re here, I haven’t seen your mother much lately. Is everything alright?”

Gary stood up from the bench and looked at his fist, more than ever he felt useless, the question was could he do something to help these people. The fist he was looking at now, it was the only thing he had. He wasn’t good academically at school, nor was he strong before, but he was strong now.

'Some people say violence isn't the answer, but in the world we live in at the moment I can't agree. The Underdogs are the problem, and they are still after me... if only I had power like Jayden. How great would it be, if I could change things around...' Gary thought, before he shook his head to wake himself up from his daydream.

"Thanks for asking. Mum is doing fine, she's just a little unwell from all the overtime she put in. You must have just missed her. And Mr Morten, I'm sure things will look up at some point." Gary smiled back, heading to his apartment block.

Seeing a young teenager like Gary still believe in the good of mankind, Mr Morten stood up from the bench himself.

"He's right. It's too early to give up. Maybe I should have a talk with Damion."

— —

Finally, back home, Gary made sure that Amy was okay. Ironically, it was his sister who had a million questions ready for her brother, about what happened at his school, since it had been all over the news.

With the whole school having been involved in the red colour gang attack, it had been impossible to cover up the entire incident. Gary didn't want Amy to worry too much about him, so he lied about how John's call to arms had been successful, and that the red colour gang had quickly fled the school soon after.

The brother made them both a meal for dinner, and then headed to the toilet. He placed both packs of dye he had purchased on the sink. One black and the other gold.

'I guess if I'm starting to take this gang stuff seriously, I might as well use our gang colours.' Gary grinned at the thought.

Originally, Kai had told him that it would be fine for him to keep his hair green. At the time, the Underdogs had lacked any real information for finding Gary, so doing the 'stupid' thing of not changing his hair colour was supposed to throw them off.

Unfortunately, they had somehow discovered what school he went to, changing the entire situation. As such, Gary chose to dye his hair black, which was a common hair colour amongst his classmates.

A hairdresser had dyed his hair last time, but he was too paranoid that he might be spotted by a gang member in the middle of changing it, so he had opted for the DIY version. The teenager carefully read the instructions and went through the process step by step. When he was finally done, he washed the dye out a couple of times, and lifted his head looking in the mirror.

Now staring back at him, he could see a full head of black coloured hair.

'... I'll have to get used to this new look. Hope Xin wasn't too fond of my green hair.' Gary thought.

The high schooler went to pick up the other hair dye. The 'gold', which was technically just a variation of blonde. It was just to add a few nice touches since he was curious how it would look. If he didn't like it, he planned to change his hair back with black after...

However, before he had a chance, a system message sprung up.

[Your hair has been damaged]

[Energy points will be used to perform emergency healing]

[Emergency healing will be used to restore the user to its original self]

'HUH!'

It only took a few seconds, but Gary witnessed live how his black hair was starting to turn back to green. Each string changed until it was back to what it was once before.

'WHAT THE HELL?!'

Chapter 220: Pawn point

Gary's hands were tense around the sink top. He looked at the packet of dye as he had tried the process a few times already. It didn't matter if he used the black dye or the golden one. The high schooler only got to enjoy his new look for a few seconds.

Every time, Gary would get the same message from the system. In the end, he gave up. One, because it was consuming Energy in order to restore him to his 'original self' and there just seemed to be no hope past it either.

'YOU DAMN SYSTEM, THIS ISN'T MY ORIGINAL SELF!!! Have you ever encountered anyone who had green as their natural colour? ...should I just go bald? Just get it all off, or will the system just regrow my hair back using Energy bringing back to my natural self again' Gary started to wonder.

When thinking about it, it wasn't the strangest thing. Even Jayden's hair had grown when transforming, and when he reverted to his human form, his hair did as well.

'But this... am I really going to have green hair for the rest of my life?'

The teenager wondered when exactly the system had decided on this being his natural hair colour. Was it back when he had received the system... or did it perhaps temper with his body when his Grade had gone from Pawn to Knight? He had grown taller and his muscle mass had increased, so would it be really unbelievable if it had changed his hair colour?

Aware that dwelling on this matter wouldn't help him in any way, Gary decided to leave it for now and started to get ready to head over to Burnham. It was getting late, and if he didn't head over soon, the others might just head back.

In fact, based on the group chat, they all wanted to ask him questions about what happened. News of the red colour gang's demise hadn't spread just yet. Today, he wouldn't be wearing his gang clothes. It would bring too much attention and as Kai had explained today's job scope was simply scouting.

So while picking a set of normal clothes, and once again a hoodie. Gary was nearly ready to leave. He had been looking forward to seeing the reaction of the Howlers when he would show up with a brand-new look, but unfortunately it was not to be.

Before going, though, Gary had made a decision after seeing Jayden.

'I don't know if it's just him, or Altered in general, but at least Jayden was clearly stronger than me. If Kirk is also that strong... I'll have no chance against him. So far, I've kept my stat points ready for my opponents, just in case I needed them. However, if all fights will be this hectic, I won't be able to use that point.'

Unlike his stat point, the Pawn point he had received after consuming Billy had many uses.

[Would you like to convert your Pawn point into skill point(s)?]

Gary wasn't sure he was doing the right thing. According to the message he had received when gaining the Pawn point, he could use it to upgrade his body into the next Grade, upgrade skills with it, or stats. So far, the high schooler hadn't seen the benefit in doing that.

Stat points he could always gain from Levelling up or consuming people... well as a Knight Grade Werewolf, he would apparently have to eat beasts as the system claimed.

Beasts might no longer exist in the world, but he could still Level up in other ways, as the system had shown him. The most useful thing therefore seemed to be to convert the Pawn point into a skill point, so he could strengthen his Claw Drain to the next level.

[Yes]

[3 skill points have been obtained]

[Skill points can be used to upgrade certain existing skills or to purchase new ones]

[New tab has been added; Skill Shop]

Gary was baffled at this sudden development. He would have already been happy to simply upgrade his Claw Drain skill to Level 2, but his system had blessed him with a new tab. What's more, his one Pawn point had been converted into three skill points, instead of one. The teenager was curious if he could change them back, yet he received no option to do so.

'If this was a game, then I would usually get a worse deal when converting... Does that mean the Pawn point would have been better used to upgrade that Grade thingie?' Gary wondered, but the Werewolf System simply kept him guessing. Unfortunately, it wasn't as if there was another Werewolf around for him to gain another point.

Curious, Gary checked out the new Skill shop... only to be vastly underwhelmed.

[Claw Drain - Forced Level Up - 1 point]

[Berserker - 1 Skill point]

[Magnetic Howl - 2 Skill Points]

[Last Stand - Cost - 3 Skill Points]

Seeing that the Claw Drain claimed to be a Forced Level Up, Gary felt reassured that just like games, it should be possible to level it up naturally, most likely by using it more.

'Seriously? What kind of shop doesn't say anything about their own skills?' Gary questioned. 'This seems more like a back alley type of deal with some ruff looking tattooed man with a bad attitude who simply tells me 'take it, or leave it'.

Alas, not even this accusation of foul play earned him any reaction from the system. There was no information at all, which made the high schooler think that this system seriously sucked. If it was a game developer, Gary would have already been making a complaint.

He might have even understood it for the two new skills, but hadn't he already been told what Berserker could do? What was the point of playing coy now?

With three skill points, Gary could theoretically purchase Berserker and Magnetic Howl. Two skills should be better than one, allowing him to be more flexible... this might have been the logical choice. Alas, Gary wasn't the most logical person there was, and something drew him to the third skill.

Perhaps it was the fact that it cost the most amount of skill points. Surely the higher the cost, the better skill he would get. Maybe it would give him something that would let him deal with an Altered or an Altered Hunter he might run into at some point in the future.

[Are you sure you would like to select the skill 'Last Stand?']

[Yes / No]

'Screw it.' Gary thought as he selected [Yes] on the menu