

Werewolf 231

Chapter 231 - Bait

[13 Days till the next full moon.]

[Your bloodlust is increasing.]

[40 Exp has been gained from current Bond Marks (4)]

[Exp 596/2876]

Waking up that Sunday morning, the weather was quite dull with a grey sky, perfectly matching the mood of a certain green haired teenager. There wasn't much sunshine to enjoy, not that it often came through the thick smog that seemed to cover Slough somewhat.

'Maybe I'm feeling this way because it's getting closer to the full moon.' Gary thought after seeing the message.' Either way... the Pincers took something away from me, so it's time I take something from them.'

Carrying on his back, Gary had a bag of all the things he would need, and just as he was about to head out of the door, his sister came rushing out of her bedroom, tears rolling down her face.

"Gary... Gary, did you hear?" His sister could barely say the words she wanted. Her throat was too choked up. "I...I just got a me-message from Sta-Stacy's parents... the-they found her in so-some hospital... a-and Stacy di-din't make it... sh-she's d-dead... "

Gary stopped just before opening the door. This morning he had read some news about a local girl who had seemingly overdosed on drugs. As expected, the Pincers had covered up the teenage girl's death, so it wouldn't link back to it.

Everything in that news article had been utterly false, the hospital, the way she had died as well as where she had died. Just thinking about it, Gary's hand was tensing around the door handle. For a moment, he considered staying and comforting his sister through this tough time.

Unfortunately, staying here with Amy, wouldn't change things with the Pincers. The longer they were allowed to remain operating, the more the girls working for them would suffer.

"Amy, I'm so sorry to hear that... she was your best friend... but I'm sure those people that did this to her will receive their karma." After saying these words, Gary opened the door and quickly closed it behind him.

Letting out a big breath, it was time for him to head to the pool club. On the way there outside his apartment block, he saw Mr Morten outside, sitting on a bench and looking troubled. Still, when he saw Gary, the old man smiled.

'The people here, they're struggling as well.'

A short while later, Gary had reached the Wolf's Pool Club. It wasn't open to the public yet, but everyone was there, including Austin's three friends who had essentially become employees of the place. It had been getting a good flow of customers lately, enough to cover the teens' income while also making profit for Gary and the others. They took over the duties of the others, giving them more free time.

Miss Degrace was in charge of them and would inform the three of their duties, as for why they were here now with the others this early, the high schooler didn't know.

"Let's get straight down to business." Kai stated with a smile, now that they were all here.

"We had trouble gathering information about the Pincers yesterday, but we still have a lead. Austin's friends did a good job finding out that those working in the school area are linked to the Pincers.

"Apparently, they don't just deal with school kids, but they also scout the streets trying to entice pretty looking girls into an easy way of making a living. Sometimes they even trick them by saying it's for modelling, and things progressively worsen.

“Seeing that these guys deliver the girls, they must have some idea who and where the real Pincer leader is. Even if they don’t personally, finding out the contact person, should help us uncover their leader since it all stems from them.

“We know the general area they work in, and because it’s the weekend, they will be busy on the streets as usual. All of this information was gathered by our three friends here.” Kai gave the credit that was due to the three from Austin’s school.

Innu already knew them, since they were the delinquent trio from his former class. They were also those that had gone up against Billy when he had come to their school, and they had suffered more than just a few broken bones doing so.

Honestly, Gary didn’t know how reliable or strong they were because it was hard to compare normal humans to the Omega wolf. Still, if the stories he would hear them brag about in the shop were true, they were at least quite the strong fighters when going up against normal delinquent students.

There was Bo, who had an afro on top of his head, and was relatively thin in his body frame but tall. Then there was Felix, who was the polar opposite, and on the smaller side. He always had a scrunched up look on his face as if he was constantly angry about something. Last, but not least, there was Alfie, who was mostly silent, Alfie’s hair covered his face and he usually went around with his hands in his pockets.

According to Austin, they were his trustworthy men who would always help him, no matter what the cause. For example, they didn’t even ask to be paid for working at this place because Austin had requested them to do it. However, Kai had insisted that they couldn’t have them work for free, even if only to gain their trust and loyalty in the long run.

“Alright.” Bo began, nodding his head. “It’s like hard to explain, but these guys like don’t like come out all the time. Like they sometimes act like pussies, so like, if they see us then, it might like, you know, scare them.”

It was clear to Gary that afro boy wasn’t the best of speakers at times, but there were quite a few people in his own class that would talk like Bo.

“What he’s trying to say is, if those guys see us all together approaching them, there is a good chance they’ll go off running.” Austin explained. “At the same time, they don’t exactly make it obvious what they’re trying to do. They’ll work in groups but approach girls on their own, so it’s hard to tell who is exactly working for the Pincers and who is just trying to hit on pretty girls.”

“So we need bait?” Kai summed it up, nicely.

The group was thinking about it for a while, until eventually all of their eyes looked towards Marie, the only young girl currently in the room with them.

“Is she... good enough?” Kai asked, raising his eyebrow.

Hearing this, her whole body was shaking with anger. Her hand was raised and swung out, giving a big slap across Kai’s face. It was so loud the others could feel the power behind the strike, and on top of that there now was a big red mark on Kai’s face.

Innu was just shaking his head at the scene, for as much as Kai seemed like a playboy, he certainly didn’t know how to speak to girls like one.

It was then that Marie took out the two scrunchies from her hair, she no longer had the two large pigtails, and her hair went down halfway on her back. She straightened it with her fingers a few times, and the others couldn’t quite believe it.

Just with the change of hairstyle, Marie looked like a completely different girl. The delinquent trio all gave her a thumbs up, which caused her face to go red.

“It’s a good start, but if you could put on some more makeup, I think it could work even better.” Austin suggested excitedly.

“I think Marie will make the perfect bait, she is a really pretty girl.” Gary agreed, coming over to her. He then noticed something, he could hear her heartbeat thumping louder as he got closer and could tell it was getting faster.

“Are you okay?” The Howlers' leader asked her, worried.

“Yeah... I-I'm fine... just a bit nervous.” Marie smiled back. “I'll happily play the bait. Finally, I'll be able to do more than just watch from the sideline.”

Smiling back, Gary wanted her to know something.

“Marie... don't worry, I'll be watching you the whole time. I promise you, I won't let you end up like Stacy.”

The high schooler continued to be blissfully unaware of why her heartbeat had increased once again. However, the teenage girl just nodded, and a small smile appeared on her face.

‘We will take out the Pincers today...they will get their karma as promised Amy.’

Chapter 232 - An Unbreakable Promise

Before setting off towards Burnham, all the boys had agreed on wearing their gang clothes. The black and gold blazers. Although it made them stand out, giving them the appearance of a group looking for trouble, that was exactly what they were going to do.

Still, as long as they split up and looked over Marie when in Burnham, they shouldn't attract too much attention. According to Kai, it would help spread awareness for the Howlers, because if everything went right, after today they would be all set for their future operation in Slough.

Just in case, Gary also brought along his mask. Fortunately, it hadn't been destroyed in his fight with Jayden, so currently it was just tucked away on the inside of his blazer. Wearing that in public, like in the bus, would just attract a lot of unwanted attention, but it might prove useful later on.

The group decided to head towards Burnham via bus, refusing to go with their leader's suggestion of walking over. Instead of the food street, their destination was the school in that area, this time.

They sat at the back, where there was a row of four seats, yet with Austin's size he took up two seats which meant, Marie and Gary were sitting next to each other. She looked forward, hardly turning her head.

"Ah man, this is kinda lame, don't you think?" Innu complained as he looked out of the window. "Aren't we meant to be some hot shot gang? Why're we taking the bus? Don't gangsters usually have those expensive black cars and crap? Even a taxi would have even been better than this."

"A taxi is expensive." Gary chimed in immediately. "And with all of us, we would have had to take two taxis. You could buy ten loaves of bread, jam, and ketchup instead."

With how quick Gary had replied, Innu was a little worried for their leader's mental being. They had already known that he was someone who was tight on money, even before he had suggested walking over to Burnham, but what was up with the supermarket calculations?

"Please tell me that's not all you eat... Seriously, ketchup sandwiches? Remind me to never go to the toilet after you." Innu teased his friend, wafting his hand in front of his face.

Gary let out an awkward laugh. 'If only they knew how much money I actually have to spend to avoid hunting rats and the like...'

"Unless you've managed to purchase one of those fancy cars with your cut and are willing to let us use it, that's not happening. Gary's right, there's no need to spend money like that when there are cheaper alternatives." Kai said.

"That being said, I'm open to revisit this topic at a later time. Hopefully, by then, all of you will be able to drive on your own, because I'm not up for being a chauffeur." He added with his usual smirk. Being seventeen, the blonde teenager had already procured a driver's license, whereas the rest of the boys would still have to wait until their next birthday.

The journey to Burnham was long, so the group were spending a lot of time on the bus twiddling their thumbs, just reviewing the plan.

“Marie, are you okay? Your face is a little red, and you look a bit nervous?” Gary asked, he could practically feel the heat coming off the girl’s cheeks. She was that red, even though it was a bit hard to see through the make-up she had applied.

With her hair down and the right amount of make-up that made her look more ‘natural’, she certainly did look like a different person. Marie also looked older than her seventeen years, her current appearance being that of a young university student.

‘Make-up is really a dangerous thing.’ Gary thought at that moment.

“Yeah, the bus is just a bit hot, and I’m a little worried about what will happen if I mess up.” Marie replied. “Or that they don’t approach me.”

There was a lot riding on Marie’s shoulders, but Gary wasn’t worrying too much. As long as those delinquents were up and about, he believed he might be able to pick up a few things just from walking the streets and listening in on conversations.

Still, the best case scenario would be if they were to approach Marie, but after what happened with Stacy, he felt like she had a right to be worried because even he was.

‘The others can handle themselves quite well. I wanted to save the Marks in case I needed them in the future... but I don’t want to have any more regrets. As long as I Mark her, I’ll be able to find her, no matter what happens.’

“Marie...” Gary said now hesitating about what promise to exactly make. “Can you promise me not to die?”

“Huh?” Marie looked at him strangely, and her face was sunken at this point. “Are you trying to jinx me?! Don’t even mention that possibility after what happened yesterday!”

Seeing the range of emotions on Gary’s face, as the boy searched for the right words to explain that he didn’t mean it like that, Marie scratched the back of her head.

“Argh, fine... If it makes you feel better, I promise you not to die.”

[Error: Spoken deal is too vague]

‘What the... what do you mean, ‘too vague’?!’

Placing a Bond Mark on someone was very useful, allowing the Werewolf to find that person, while also granting him 10 Exp each day, yet there was always the risk that they could become a hunting target. As such, Gary had tried to come up with ways to make unbreakable promises.

Unfortunately, the system didn’t allow him to outsmart it. The high schooler was seriously racking his brain, trying to come up with one that wasn’t too vague before Marie was to go into the Pincers’ territory.

“Thanks, I... I was just worried about you. I’m not used to you being in on the action yet. Say, do you think you’ll be in this gang forever? Or do you think this gang will last forever.” When speaking, Gary honestly didn’t know where these words had come from, but he did notice one thing.

Before answering, Marie looked over at Kai.

“As long as it's still his dream, then of course I will stay with the Howlers. Although I also have my own reasons to stay now.” She said, staring back at Gary. “I honestly can’t think of following anyone else, or think of anyone else that is better for this gang.”

“Alright... as long as you're one of the Howlers, I promise I’ll protect you. So, don’t leave us, ok?” Gary asked, as he put out his small finger.

Hearing these words, Marie thought that Gary perhaps was thinking a bit more of her. As far as she knew, he hadn’t asked any of the other members this question, about staying in the gang forever.

‘Is this his way of saying he wants to be with me forever?’

“Of course, I promise.” Marie smiled, this time not hesitating, and intertwining it with her own finger.

[A spoken deal has been made, would you like to mark “Marie Degrace”?]

Just in time, as the bus had arrived at their stop, and it was time for them to get to work.

Chapter 233 - Not Just A Girl

Every area in Slough had its own little shopping street, where there would be retailers selling all sorts of different things. When entering the Burnham high street though, the group realised that this area wasn't as affluent as the food street they had seen the other day.

There were a few clothes shops, shoe, and key makers amongst other things, but the shops looked to be a little worn down, and there was graffiti on the walls at parts. Many of the shops were boarded up.

In the first place, a Tier-3 town wasn't exactly a place where many could afford the luxury of buying things, which was why there were so many factories and manual labour jobs in the area.

“Now this is more like the Slough I know.” Innu sounded happy. It was an awkward reaction to have, but honestly, the others also felt it. Lately they had been visiting areas in Slough that felt foreign to them.

Areas that they would have never set foot in before. The areas that big gangs owned, it seemed like all the money for the town were being fuelled towards them somehow.

Off in the distance not too far away, the top of the high school could be seen, which was why they were here in the first place.

“Alright, let's stick to the plan. Keep your phones on you at all times.” Kai reminded them, the group nodded, and split up.

Although they hadn't seen anyone that even vaguely resembled a high school recruiter, they thought that if they did run into them, they might immediately start running. Still, everyone made sure to keep an eye on Marie, while pretending to window-shop.

Walking down the high street, Marie was wearing black boots that went up to her thigh, at the same time she was wearing a fitting coat as well, and had part of her hair tucked back revealing a pair of nice earrings.

None of them had ever seen her dress so girly, the other thing that they noticed was that she stood out a bit in a place like this. There were other girls, but none of them were dressed in as expensive or good quality clothes as hers.

'I guess that's all that blonde boy's money, huh.' Innu thought, staring at her. 'I'm starting to suspect that he gave her and her mom a bigger cut out from that grey colour gang money than he let on.'

There was also something else on his mind, and it was about what Gary had said at the hospital. He had mentioned the Underdogs being after him. Unfortunately, a doctor had interrupted them at that moment, leaving them no time to really discuss what he meant by being chased after.

The Pincers were just a small-time gang, and they were proving to be a hard enough gang to deal with... how the hell were five teenagers supposed to deal with a big gang like the Underdogs? Still, Innu couldn't help but smile as he imagined what the Howlers could be like if they ever got to that level.

"Hey, I bet you hear that every day, but you look really stunning. You look familiar, have you done some modelling by any chance?" A voice was heard in the middle of the street, and suddenly everyone's head turned to Marie.

They could see a young man who was dressed quite hip and had one of those professional cameras on him. It wasn't something cheap that was for sure and out of everyone on the street he had chosen to approach Marie.

"Um, no, I've never even thought about it." Marie answered, fluttering her eyes at the boy.

"Well, you really have the right look for it from head to toe, and you obviously have a great fashion sense." The boy praised her, giving Marie a thumbs up. "If you're free, want to give it a shot? I actually work for a modelling agency, and we're looking for young university students like you.

“I feel like you have the perfect look that we’re going for with our next campaign. Of course, you’ll be compensated, and if my boss likes you, your pictures could be in all the Tier-2 cities and Tier-3 towns. Wait...” The man suddenly paused his excitement and started to look her up and down as if he was judging her.

“Since you said, you haven’t modelled before... do you mind if I take some practice photos of you? We have a studio that’s not too far away from here.”

Marie made it seem like she was trying to make up her mind for a bit before answering, because she really didn’t know what to do. The plan was to try and see if there were others as well. After all, perhaps one person wouldn’t know, and she was surprised to hear they had a physical shop.

“You know what, that sounds great... Thank you so much for picking me.” Marie smiled, not wanting to disappoint the others.

Marie and the boy started walking together as he took her towards his special shop. It looked like they were no longer walking on the main high street, but were going through an alleyway, to another area that was close by.

‘This is getting too dangerous, I have to stop her.’ Gary thought.

[Don’t intervene just yet. Let’s first check where he is taking her.] A text message had appeared in the group chat. Surprisingly, it was from Kai.

However, with what had happened to Stacy still fresh on his mind, it was hard for Gary to just take a back seat.

[Don’t worry, that guy was just a delinquent. Remember, they’re high school students like us, and they need to present the girls intact. They will take us to the right place.]

The following message calmed the green haired teenager down a bit, but he would still try to stick close to her. Unlike the others, Gary was following Marie more directly as he went down the same alleyway as them and was just reacting to their actions from around 30 metres away.

“How far is your shop?” Marie asked.

The boy had been pretty chatty initially, but for some reason he suddenly stopped, and that’s when Marie could tell that he was glancing behind him. When walking on the street at the next alleyway he saw, he suddenly grabbed Marie's hand and threw her down it.

“You... you're following us! Who are you? One of the girl's friends to get revenge? Who put you up to this?” The boy asked as he walked towards her, trying to intimidate her, but Marie said nothing.

“Oh well, I'm sure that my other friends will be dealing with yours pretty soon. So why don't I have some fun with you myself? You will become damaged goods soon anyway!” The boy stated, reaching his hand out.

At that moment, Marie lifted her small coat that covered part of her shorts. Around her side she had a special strap that went around her thigh and in it there were two knives. Pulling them out, she quickly delivered two slashes, cutting the boy's hand.

“I'm not just some pushover girl! Thanks for not making me feel guilty about hurting you. I wonder how many lives you have ruined by doing this crap of yours!” Marie shouted.

Chapter 234 - Answers

“You bitch!” The teenage boy shouted. Blood was dripping from his hand. The slashes weren't too deep, but seeing his own hand in that state, he could feel the pain quite a bit. “You damn whore, how dare you use weapons like that?!”

Honestly, Marie had dreaded the day when she would have to use her knives on someone. Still, everyday she had woken up early and headed to school to join the training with Kai, Innu and Austin, without Gary knowing anything about it. Not only that, but without the others knowing as well, and any spare time she had after she would also practice.

It was undeniably that most boys would just be physically stronger than her, hence why Kai had procured weapons to make up for the difference. Marie had ingrained everything she had learned during the blonde teenager's lessons. One of the most important ones, being that she had to prevent the other person from grabbing her.

The delinquent was pissed off and decided to go in again, trying to get his revenge, but Marie swiftly avoided the punch, while slashing upward with one of the knives, adding another big injury across his forearm.

She was nimble and flexible, whereas the boy was just someone who relied on raw power. Having been hit twice, the boy was seriously getting angry.

'Where the hell are the others?! How have they still not dealt with those guys yet?' The guy wondered, as he turned around the alleyway to see where his reinforcements were. He then spotted a plank of wood with a nail on it. It looked like it was part of some broken chair.

Picking it up off the ground, the boy smirked again.

"Blame yourself for what's gonna happen next, you bitch!"

Seeing the boy pick up a weapon of his own, Marie recalled what Kai had told her to do when faced with such a situation. A wooden plank or a stick would give the other person the advantage through extra range. However, an inexperienced person tended to overcommit with each hit leaving themselves quite open.

What she needed to do was to capitalise on those opportunities. Without any sort of technique the delinquent swung wide swings with strong conviction. Marie felt that if she ended up getting hit by the makeshift weapon, she wouldn't be getting back up.

This was her first fight, and it was beyond terrifying.

After avoiding the first couple of swings, the high school girl felt something hit her back, something solid. The next time the delinquent attacked, Marie ducked under, making his plank connect with the wall. It was the break she needed and rushing in, she slashed twice along his chest, creating an x mark through his clothes.

The man screamed as the knife shredded through his clothes and reached his skin, and honestly it was completely different to how Marie imagined. With these sharp knives, cutting through skin was far easier than she thought, and the feeling was something that was causing her to have goosebumps.

The boy's hands were in pain from hitting the wall with the plank, his chest, and arm were bleeding, and it was all because of the girl behind him, but soon he heard footsteps, and they were followed by claps.

“You’ve done a great job, Marie.” The male voice congratulated her.

The delinquent boy had expected to see his friends, but instead he saw four foreign boys standing there. All of them were dressed in black and gold clothing, yet there was one of them with a wolf mask.

“Now, we already asked your friends ‘kindly’ about the Pincers’ base location and their leader, but unfortunately none of them seemed to know the answer. Then again, most of them were unable to answer due to getting knocked out by us. I’m just glad our friend here didn’t do the same.”

— —

The truth was, when following Marie down the alleyway, Gary had been blocked off by a large guy. It seemed like the delinquents weren’t as stupid as they had thought. He must have deliberately gone through this alleyway, to shake off any would be pursuers.

It wasn’t just one person that blocked their way either, as others had seemingly been hiding nearby. Unfortunately for them, the Howlers weren’t as weak as the delinquents they were used to dealing with. Against all four boys they never stood a chance.

As soon as they took care of them, Gary wanted to go help Marie. However, Kai stopped him once again, telling him to let her handle it herself. Honestly, when Kai saw Marie fighting like that, he was wondering how it was possible for her to be this good. It had only been a few days, so she had to be a natural at it...

Still, Gary noticed that the blonde teenager’s heart rate increased when he saw the delinquent grab the plank and not holding back in strength. He wasn’t the only one, though. Gary couldn’t take it any longer and placed his mask on his face while heading forward.

The boy still had the wooden plank in his hand and seeing the group come towards him, he panicked and wasn't quite sure what to do. Slowly he backed away.

"Ahhh!" The boy shouted, charging forward but not towards Gary and the others, instead it was towards Marie. She had let her guard down now since the boys had shown themselves, and because of this he had left the delinquent an opening.

The boy intended to take the girl hostage, but just a few steps in, a hand had gripped round his throat. In mere seconds, Gary was already there and squeezing his throat tightly.

[3 Points have been allocated into Dexterity]

[Your base Dexterity is now at 18]

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

[Agility 18 (+3)]

"What do you think you're doing? You bastard could have killed her!" Gary shouted, as he slammed the boy up against the wall, still holding him with one hand.

"Let's see how you like it when someone tries to kill you!" Gary shouted as he tightened his grip, holding the delinquent's body up against the wall and slowly lifting him off his feet and into the air. The boy's face was turning red, his eyes looked like they were going to pop.

"Stop!!!" Marie shouted, as she held onto his arm.

"Let him go! We need him alive to find the others!" Kai shouted as well.

Snapping out of his rage, the green haired teenager let go and allowed him to fall to the ground. The boy started coughing and gasped for air, he had already seen his life flash before him.

Kai turned his attention to the boy and grabbed him by the back of his hair, forcing him to look up.

“If you don’t want my friend over here to finish what he started, you better get talking. Tell us, where’s the Pincers’ main base? Where do you take the girls after introducing them? Who’s their boss!”

The boy was still afraid for his life, so he didn’t put up any struggle. “Burnham food street! I bring them to a place called ‘the Kraken’. I’ve never seen the boss, only his right-hand man. They’re definitely in that place, though!”

“Let’s go.” Gary ordered, already walking off and heading towards Burnham food street.

Chapter 235 - Keeping Secrets

On the weekends, Amy would often find herself doing nothing these days. She was too afraid to go out on her own ever since Raven had abducted her and Stacy. Even if the fifteen-year-old teenager did want to go somewhere... who could she go with? When thinking about this, her heart just sank deeper.

Today was just one of those days when Amy felt like her life was cursed. Even more than usual. Her eyes were puffy and slightly sore underneath due to how much she had been rubbing them, and she had nearly emptied out the box of tissues on the table.

‘Ah damn... Gary is going to get annoyed at me for wasting this many tissues.’ Amy thought, looking at the box. Imagining his angry reaction, she couldn’t help but chuckle at the thought. Thinking about her brother was the only thing that cheered her up these days.

‘Where did Gary even go? Was it just a coincidence that he asked me about Stacy yesterday? Did he somehow already know that she’s... dead.’ Unwilling to keep thinking about her former best friend, who was now deceased, Amy tried to focus on something else.

Unfortunately, her mind jumped from one bad thing to another, in this case the bloody clothes she had found. As much as she tried not to think about them, throughout the day, whenever the girl would end up using her own wardrobe, she ended up looking at her brother’s where the clothes had been left.

'Why didn't he bury them or burn them by now? Did he keep them here because he wanted me to know?' The high school girl sulked, feeling the heavy burden of having to keep such an important secret. Usually, it was bearable, but with today's news, it felt far heavier than before.

At that point, Amy had gotten up and grabbed her phone. Perhaps it was because she was trying to keep her mind off Stacy's death, but her mind was now filled with Gary. She wanted to know what had happened that day.

Amy didn't plan to get involved in whatever he was doing, but she at least wanted to learn the truth. No matter what he had done, she knew that her brother must have done it for her, but at least she wanted to share that burden with him... even if he might never learn that she did.

'Besides, knowing him, he might be out doing something crazy to try to cover this all up... Yeah, if I leave him on his own, he's just going to get in more trouble. I have to help my brother out!' The teenage girl tried to justify her behaviour.

Scrolling through her contacts list, there was one person who Amy believed would have an idea of what Gary had been up to recently. If she was lucky, then he might even know the truth! Someone who was as close to Gary as she was.

The high school girl wasn't in a waiting mood, though, so rather than send a text, she had decided to give him a call instead. After a few rings, the other side had picked up.

"Amy!!! What's wrong? Did something happen to Gary? Is he okay? Oh no, he didn't try to hurt you or anything, did he? Amy, talk to me!"

With the storm of questions, Amy was forced to pull the phone away from her ear. She switched over to loudspeaker mode, something that Tom had seemingly already done on his side, judging by the way he had shouted.

"What are you talking about, Tom?" Amy questioned. "Gary came back fine yesterday... And why would he ever hurt me?"

There was silence on the other end, which gave Amy time to think about what Tom just had said. Clearly, he was acting strange and panicked for a reason.

'It looks like he really does know something.'

The reason Tom was over the top worried was due to him not having received any news from Gary. After the strange events at school, he had seen the look on Gary's face. He knew his best friend long enough to understand that he planned to do something crazy, such as raiding the red colour gang.

Tom already had his suspicions that Gary was behind the attack on the grey colour gang, and with the approaching full moon, he was worried that his best friend might allow a certain side of his to take over again.

"Sorry, I didn't want to startle you. I guess you must have heard about it by now. How the red colour gang gathered us all in school. It's all still fresh in my head, and I was worried about that hot-headed brother of yours.

Anyway, how are you holding up? I've heard about what happened to your mother. My condolences." Tom tried to come up with an explanation for his behaviour. However, suddenly, realisation hit him that he was talking to his best friend's sister... and SHE had been the one to call HIM!

'Damn it, he's changing the subject. How do I get him to talk about Gary again?'

"Oh, he told you about that? Unfortunately, she's yet to show any signs of waking up again. Mum's not doing any worse, though, so I guess there's that. I'm as okay as I can be, I guess. However, Gary has been acting weird ever since.

"He's been going out a lot and coming back late. Not sure if it's connected to that, or if something else has happened. I was wondering... as his best friend, do you know anything about it? Something that he might be hiding, perhaps?" Amy asked, but when she said the last few words, her tone of voice indicated that she already knew what he was hiding.

'How much does she know? ... She clearly knows at least 'something' ... could Gary have told her about him being a Werewolf?' Tom panicked and didn't say anything. Of course, this just made him all the more suspicious on Amy's end.

"So it looks like you do know." Amy finally said. "Look, Tom, I found... 'some things'... and I really don't know how to deal with it. Gary doesn't know that I know... but I just don't know what to do about it..."

Suddenly, the teenage girl started sobbing on the other end of the phone, and Tom couldn't help but do something to make her stop. He knew that Amy was a pure person, someone who always helped Gary no matter what. As his best friend, Tom knew that the Dem family lived a troubled life, and now carried the secret that her brother was a Werewolf... it must be crushing her inside. As such, Tom came to one conclusion to help her get over this problem.

"Why don't we go see Gary and ask him?" Tom suggested. "If you already know about it, then there is no need for him to hide from you, right? He should be the one to tell you. It's best if you both get all those things sorted, it will probably make you both feel a lot better. Besides, hearing it from him, there won't be a chance for any misunderstandings."

The truth was, Tom also wanted to ask Gary some questions. Whether he was the one behind the attack on the grey colour gang, and what exactly he had done after school yesterday. Unfortunately, ever since he had become a Werewolf, Gary could be scary at times. Tom hoped that with his little sister present, she could serve as the backup that he would need.

"Okay." Amy sniffled. "But Gary isn't even here, and I don't know when he will be back."

"I have a good idea where he might be. He's been working at a place called the Wolf's Pool Club. Even if he's not there, his co-workers should know where we might be able to find him. How about I pick you up and we go there together?"

With a plan agreed between the two of them, the call ended there. Tom held his phone for a second in his hand, as his face started to feel a little hot. Looking in the mirror, he could see his cheeks blushing.

'I'm going out, with just me and Amy... I mean she's only one year younger than me, no problem there, right? But then again, her brother is Gary... if I did something to upset her...'

An image appeared in Tom's head of Gary transforming and almost biting his head off there and then... Shaking that thought, he reminded himself that it wasn't a date, just two teenagers of the opposite sex looking for Gary.

'Right... just because it's 'not a date', it can't hurt if I wear my best clothes, right?'

Eventually, Tom turned up at Amy's house, and looking through the peephole she confirmed it was him.

"What are you wearing?" Was Amy's first question as opened the door. Tom wore something that resembled a suit and even had a tie on. "You look like you're going for a job interview."

Embarrassed, Tom quickly undid his tie and placed it in his pocket. "Ah, my bad. Actually, I just came from an intern interview at my dad's place... Eh, since you sounded so serious, I kinda hurried here, without a chance." Tom explained, scratching his head in embarrassment.

Closing the door behind her, the two of them set off, and after walking for a while, it wasn't long until they both eventually stood in front of the place known as the Wolf's Pool Club.

"So this is the place where Gary has been working and earning money?" Amy asked.

"Yeah... Let's go find out what secrets your brother has been keeping." Tom answered, walking forward.

Chapter 236 - The Kraken

The Kraken was placed on the far end of the Burnham food street, right on the corner. The establishment was black in colour from the outside and had been made to look like an old ship, with fake broken wooden panels. On top of the building, just by its name, they had what looked like a giant octopus intertwined with the letters.

It wasn't only unique on the outside, though. Inside the restaurant, there were large wooden panels on the floor to walk on. Besides the wooden flooring, the ground was covered in shallow water. Then on these bodies of water, the wooden flooring would branch off to little boats. This was where the customers would enjoy their meal, giving them the feeling like they were on a boat.

This unique setting ensured that it was quite the popular restaurant. In fact, it was one of the few places in Burnham that would remain working as a restaurant even when nighttime came, instead of indulging in the other side of business. Only a few people knew that all of it was just a front for the gang known as the Pincers.

There was a grand office on the third floor, a place where no customer was allowed to enter. That room itself was as big as a dining hall below.

It went on and on, and at the very end was a large table where the leader of the Pincers would be present. The room was currently filled with men on either side lined up still like statues. Then, in the centre of the room, not too far from the desk, there were more men in suits standing by the side of a few women.

"Boss!" One of the men in the centre of the room shouted at the top of his lungs. "Let me show you our newest products. We defer to your judgement as to which place we should send them to!"

A chair slowly turned around, revealing a long black haired woman wearing a tight-fitting leopard print dress. The centre part of the dress opened up in a large V shape, revealing a large cleavage. If it wasn't for the large fur piece she had over her shoulders, one might even be able to see more.

This person, who they referred to as boss, was in charge of the trafficking and Slough's red-light district area. The middle-aged woman was called Olivia Pearl. Standing up, her height reached nearly six feet.

She was a tall woman, and when walking towards the others, some of the men couldn't help but stare at her long legs and nice figure. However, there was one place that nobody dared to look at for too long... and that was Olivia's face.

Not because the large woman was ugly, in fact the opposite was true, but even without her height, she had a menacing aura and her eyes seemed to have the ability to pierce right through whoever they were looking at.

Not to mention, she had quite the temperament. If she caught someone staring at her, she would snap at them... however, this treatment was only given to a particular type of person.

Olivia stood in front of the row girls and inspected the four of them. However, she didn't seem to regard them as fellow humans, and more like livestock.

"Hmm, you look a little young. Let's send you to the Yangs for the time being." Going down the line, she then looked at the next girl and after a few moments she declared. "Birchwood House."

She continued to look at the girls saying the name of the restaurants in Burnham food street. Once their future workplace was decided, one of the men would take them away. There, they would get introduced to the full scope of their duties.

Finally, she stopped at the last girl left and looked at her for longer than the others. Out of all the ones so far, this one was a snow-white beauty. The girl had clear skin, and there wasn't a mark on her, but she was also the only one visibly shaking. Scared as if she knew what was going to happen to her.

"As for you... you'll stay at the Kraken." For the first time Olivia showed a change of emotion, as a small smile appeared on her face. "For now, just come and stand by my desk over there."

The girl looked a little reluctant to move, so the man by her side gave her a little nudge. Immediately, Olivia looked his way, and the man turned his head, making sure not to make eye contact.

"I apologise... please, young miss, listen to the Lady Boss's orders. It will be the best for us all." The man pleaded.

Hearing this, the young snow-white beauty walked over to the desk and waited patiently there.

"I heard there was a disturbance yesterday. Someone asking about the Pincers...and one of our girls died?" Olivia asked as she returned to her seat.

"Yes, Boss." The man replied, who had been doing all the speaking so far. "They were two young men who pretended to be clients. One of the girls ran out and informed the guards. Unfortunately, while we were trying to capture the duo, one of the workers got injured."

"The intruders managed to flee with that girl, however, you don't have to worry, Boss. They tried saving her by bringing her to the nearby hospital. We've had one of the nurses ensure that she wouldn't be talking to anyone."

Olivia lit up her pipe, then inhaled, before letting out some smoke.

"In other words, you not only failed to apprehend two intruders, but you've also had one of our girls killed... to silence her before she could reveal any of our secrets? Who was it? Any of our top-earners?"

The man quickly shook his head. "No, Boss, she just had her first day. She's one of the girls whose parents borrowed money from us."

"You really are lucky that you managed to procure such a good one today. Otherwise, I would have been in a terrible mood." Olivia smiled as she looked at the girl who had stayed behind.

The man let out a sigh of relief. He hadn't told her everything yet. If the woman knew just how many of the Pincer gang members had been injured during their escape, there would be no helping them. The man was just hoping that they would never see those two ever again.

It was unlikely that any gang would try to start trouble so openly in their area, not so soon after what had happened yesterday anyway.

"Alright, everyone out!" Olivia shouted. The men in the room immediately started to leave, and as the door was closing, turning back, they could see their Lady Boss, licking her lips as she instructed the girl with her finger to come to her.

She opened her mouth and slowly forced her tongue into the younger girl's mouth.

"Relax and enjoy this moment," Olivia said as she caressed the girl's face. "I will make you experience things you've never experienced before."

A group of people dressed in black and gold blazers were currently walking down Burham high street at a fast pace. What stood out the most was the one in the centre, who had a black wolf mask covering the top of his head to his nose.

It was the middle of the day, so there weren't as many people as there usually would be, or those at night. Still, it certainly caught the guards' attention, who were standing by each place.

Standing up against the window and looking at the commotion, Nini looked out and recognised the large man with them.

'They came back... after what they did yesterday? Are these guys suicidal?'

Nini had heard the news of what had happened to Stacy. The workers often talked to each other, and before Stacy had arrived, Nini had been the newest girl that had worked at the place. Coincidentally, she had been the one to show Stacy the ropes and how things worked here.

Hearing of her death had affected her more than she cared to admit.

'Please...just leave this place... you're only going to make it worse for yourselves.' Nini thought to herself as she continued to watch them head through the streets.

Eventually, they stopped outside the 'Kraken'. Gary walked forward, and the group pushed past the two outside workers.

"Get out of the way." Gary demanded before they even tried to stop them. They eventually entered the establishment, and were now in the main hall. Some customers enjoyed their food, eating peacefully away, but a few stopped as they noticed the strange group.

"Everyone!" Gary shouted. "The Howlers gang will be taking over this place! You have two minutes to leave now. Anyone who will still be here after two minutes will be considered an enemy!"

Most of the customers seemed a little shocked by this surprise proclamation. A gang daring enough to attack this establishment in broad daylight? However, those who were part of the Underworld had never heard of such a gang. In the end, they just waited for the guards to kick them out.

A few moments later, a group of four guards started to walk towards them.

"Hey, if you know what this place is, then you need to get out of here!" One of them said and went to grab Gary.

Before he could, Gary grabbed onto his wrist and twisted it with his full strength, not holding back. A click sound was heard. Pulling his arm forward, the masked teenager slammed his fist into the man's face, causing him to fall back and fall to the ground.

"One minute!" Gary shouted.

Chapter 237 - The Howlers Take Over

The strange person wearing the wolf mask no longer looked like a nobody to them. The fact that this group of people knew where they were and who they were dealing with, meant that it was serious business.

On top of that, there was something intimidating about them, the fact that the group decided to stay a little ahead of the entrance and still weren't moving. It gave a sense that these people could do what they wanted, even in enemy territory.

At the same time, the others could see that the one that Gary had initially hit, not only was his wrist broken, but it didn't look like he was going to be getting up any time soon. The man just he laid flat, with his mouth full of blood.

"Hey, we better get out of here, it looks like a real gang fight is about to start." One of the customers hurried his partner, who immediately stood up to leave. However, they hesitated for a bit, worried that the sudden intruders might attack them as well.

“You guys better hurry and get out of here, you only got thirty seconds left.” Kai addressed the duo, who had been the first pair to make a run for it. When he brought out his phone as if he was timing the whole thing, the two ran straight past the Howlers.

The other customers, seeing that the group hadn't attacked them, quickly followed suit. There were some that still didn't want to move, thinking that maybe the matter could still be dealt with. They soon changed their mind when what looked like the leader of the current group of the Pincers, who had a large scar on his chin, gave an order.

“You heard them, everyone get out. We're closed for business for now, but don't worry, come back in a couple of hours and everything will be sorted out.” He smirked, and those who had not been able to make up their mind, also left.

After the last customer was out the door, Gary heard it close behind them, but not only that, it sounded as if they had been locked in as well.

“They're locking us in?” Innu noted, looking back. “Well, that's good in a way, I guess. At least, we won't have to worry about one of them coming back and stabbing us in the back. Besides, it wasn't like we were planning to run away anyway.”

“Time.” Kai announced placing his phone away and at the same time, rushing from the stairs at the very back of the establishment were several gang members. The sound of their shoes clacking on every step could be heard, and they didn't seem to stop. They were pouring down the stairs like ants.

“I'm getting a little nervous with just how many people there are.” Marie confessed in a low voice, staying close to Kai. Eventually the clacking stopped and the men smiled. There were around thirty of them in total.

“This is why I decided to go straight for their base rather than take out the whole street.” Kai explained to his fellow gang members. “They may just be a small-time gang, compared to the Underdogs and Grey Elephants, but they have many people working for them.

“Someone like us, who is just a group, it would have been impossible to fight off all of them. This is the easier option... but we still will have to deal with at least this many.”

“This is the easy option?” Marie gulped.

“We saw how well you did against that boy, Marie. Come on, this is not that much different. Besides, this time, all of us are with you. Each one of us just has to take care of like six of them.” Innu smiled as he encouraged the girl.

The next second, many of them started to pull out the same weapons they had done before. Primarily, they used stun guns and knives.

“Put that sh*t away!” Gary shouted as he continued to walk towards the entire group that came towards him. Seeing this, one of the men started to charge forward, thrusting his knife at the masked teenager. Once again though, Gary moved out of the way of the knife and grabbed onto his arm just like he did with the last person.

“Using a weapon like this can kill someone.” Gary pointed out as he started to push the man’s arm back. He had used Controlled Transformation to further boost his Strength, and eventually it was pushed back in an odd angle, an unnatural way for the arm to go. So much force had been used that the elbow joint was heard popping.

The man screamed in pain, but Gary didn’t care and continued to move the arm in the other direction now with it bent like a V towards him, the knife pointing at the one holding it.

“If you sh*ts use weapons like this, then you have to be prepared to die yourself!”

The man wasn’t so sure if he was seeing correctly or not, but through the mask he believed to see strange glowing yellow eyes, ones that weren’t shaped like a human’s... those were the eyes of a beast. His human instincts were telling him that he really was going to die.

“Get them!” The leader shouted.

Gary kicked the man in the stomach, causing him to lean forward and the top of his shoulder now fell into his own blade. Next, he threw him to the side into the pool of water. Running forward, Gary didn’t hesitate, yet neither did the Pincers as they all rushed towards the masked intruder.

Joining in, Innu was the fastest out of the group. He leapt on top of one of the gang members and continually elbowed down on the top of his head. Innu didn't let up until the man fell back and splashed into the water.

Another one came swinging a bat down towards him, and he barely rolled away, avoiding the strike. It ended up hitting nothing but water, causing it to rise up. Quickly, getting up, Innu kned the man in the face, knocking him back, but that's when the first man who Innu had attacked came back and punched him in his side just underneath the ribs.

The blow was surprisingly heavy, but Innu stayed firm and continued to fight back.

"For an adult, your punches sure are weaker than a high school student's."

The man didn't understand what Innu was saying, but before he could attack again, a large fist hit him right in the side of his face, knocking him out cold.

"I've warned you, these guys are more resilient than the guys you're used to fighting!" Austin stated. "You're a small guy in the first place, so they're going to take a few more hits than usual."

After saying this, Innu soon saw the second guy he had kned in the face getting up. With him only being sixteen years old and a weight disadvantage, Austin was right. This wasn't the typical fights Innu was used to, and not just because this wasn't really one on one.

"Still, I don't think there is anyone that can beat us two. Not unless they have some type of Altered." Austin let out a grin.

Not too far from where they were, Marie had her two knives out. She was a bit worried because these men were clearly more used to fighting than that delinquent. So far, though, the teenage girl was doing well, following Kai's advice who stayed next to her.

He had instructed her to not go in for the attack, and to only defend. So when one of the gang members had come in, she just watched carefully, avoiding the punches and knife attacks, and using her own knives to slash away. In the meantime, the blonde teenager would be the one to finish them off.

One person had gone to attack Marie, and turning to avoid the strike, she had slashed, cutting his arm a little. The man looked like he was about to do more, but before he could, Kai spun around and delivered a spinning side kick right into his stomach. Such a powerful kick had somewhat sent the man flying back.

Lifting his leg up again, the water was kicked up into the air, blinding the person who was charging forward. It looked like a rising water fall, but what came up was soon to come down, and hammering his leg down like an axe, Kai smashed the bottom of his heel into another member. The sound of the gang member's shattering collar bone resonated throughout the building.

"Leader!" Kai shouted. "Your job isn't here. These guys aren't worth your time. Leave this to us, we can handle it, I promise you that."

Most of the men were targeting Gary at the moment, because it looked like he was heading towards the staircase. If the masked teenager were to leave this place, then it meant the others would have to deal with more, yet they couldn't just let him pass, either.

"Trust me... I know whether we can handle it or not, and we can definitely handle this!" Kai shouted, before switching to a normal voice, so that only Marie could hear it, and hopefully Gary.

"Once they find out that we're strong enough to take all these guys down, their leader might make a run for it. You'll have to stop them! Just go straight for the Pincers' leader. That's your job!"

Turning around to look at them, Gary could see that the others had confident smiles on their faces.

"Alright." Gary replied, looking towards the staircase. "You heard him, move!"

Chapter 238 - Blackmail

Regardless of how strong Gary was, it didn't seem like the Pincer gang members were going to jump out of his way willingly. Although he could attempt to take them out, it would take up too much time and maybe too much energy.

'This might not be the whole gang. There could be more on the upper floors. I can't use all my energy here, not unless I plan to eat some of them on the way.'

Thinking about this, seeing the staircase in sight, Gary ran backwards a bit, giving him more room before quickly turning around and sprinting forward. He had never attempted this before, but going at full speed as fast as possible, there was a good chance that he could make it.

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

[Transformation has begun]

His calf muscles expanded in size, and so did his thighs. Because he was wearing his gang uniform, specially made and given by Kai. The material was able to withstand the stretching and would revert to normal. He didn't have to worry about suddenly showing his hairy legs. Not that mattered much anyway when he wore the mask.

Before he reached the first person's position, Gary pushed off his legs and leapt up in the air. With his speed, the height he was at was something he had never achieved before and something that seemed impossible for a human to do. His feet were a good few heads over all the gang members. Eventually, he landed on the other side, clearing them all.

'If you keep doing crazy crap like that, how am I meant to keep your secret from everyone.' Kai thought, smiling. "Head towards the stairs, let's make sure they can't follow him!" Kai shouted.

Before running up the stairs, as soon as Gary had arrived at the first break of flat surface, he turned around to look at all the others. Seeing the one in front, Gary immediately grabbed him, lifting him over his head and chucked him towards the others like a barrel.

An ordinary man falling down the stairs and knocking into the others would have been painful enough, but there was the added speed and weight with Gary's strength. When the man crashed into the group, it looked like a bowling ball hitting a set of pins.

'Well...I guess you just made our job that much easier for us. Good luck, Gary.' Kai said, reaching the staircase and seeing the injured Pincer Gang members.

[215/300 Energy]

[92/100 HP]

'Am I getting stronger? I've used up a lot of Energy due to Controlled Transformation, but I was hardly hit in those scuffles back there. I even have a lot of health as well.'

With the increased stats, without a doubt, Gary was getting stronger, and he was able to just think about the amount of controlled transformation he wanted to use. No longer did he have to adjust the slider because he had been using it so much that Gary could control how much he wanted to transform one part of the body with just a thought.

While thinking of all this, Gary had eventually reached the second floor. He looked to his left, and he could hear the sound of plates crashing and so on. It sounded like the kitchen area was on the second floor based on the sounds.

'There are more stairs. The leader wouldn't be here, would they?' Gary thought.

As he took the first step up the staircase, his sensitive ears allowed him to hear a scream.

"Stop... please stop! I don't want to do this!"

Gripping his hand, Gary didn't hesitate to run towards the sound. It was clearly a girl's voice, and remembering the pain his sister had gone through, and the trouble that Stacy had gone through as well, he rushed to the door.

"You wanted to leave this work right, well this is all you have to do. You've done it a hundred times before so what's the problem?" A man's voice said.

It was locked, but kicking it open, Gary didn't care. What he was now looking at though was a little worse than he had expected. In front of him stood a naked man, and a girl spread out on the bed, but what they had also set up was a camera in the room.

The girl was crying full of tears and in the room at the back there looked to be more girls as well.

Judging from what Gary could hear, the girls seemed like they wanted to leave, and in order to leave the condition was to be filmed having sex with one of the gang members. A way to blackmail them if they ever needed something from them again or to keep secrets.

“Who the f*ck are you?!” The man shouted and ran towards Gary, throwing out a fist. Quickly, the teenager kicked him on his knee strongly, causing him to fall to the ground and grabbed his head just before it touched the floor. Lifting him up, the man was now at head height.

“The more I’m learning about this damned Pincers gang, the more I’m really starting to hate you lot!” Gary shouted.

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

Gary’s hand turned into a claw with his long sharp fingernails. The next second, he swiped his hand down below on the naked man, a small thud was heard as it dropped on the floor and blood had splattered from that part of the body.

“You won’t be needing that anymore,” Gary said as he let go of the man. “If you want to live, go to the hospital. Everyone else, you are free to go! Get out of this place. The Howlers are taking over.”

Gary didn’t stay to see if the women were okay. He also didn’t care to watch what the women might do to the man after he had left. Whatever it was, he felt like the man had it coming to him. There seemed to be no more distractions, as the Werewolf started to ascend the final staircase.

He entered a large wide hallway, and up ahead there was a large double black door, with a picture of a crab with its two pincers on the door. If Gary needed a sign telling him that he was in the right place and the right spot, that certainly was it.

There looked to be no one guarding the door, but Gary could hear talking and sound from the other side. As he went forward, he slashed at the handle locks and pushed the heavy doors open. Finally, he had entered the main office.

Here on each side stood ten guards that all looked his way as soon as he entered, and at the very end was the Pincers' gang leader, Olivia.

“Oh... we have an unsuspected guest, I see.” Olivia said, smiling from where she was standing on her two feet. Gary didn't know what he had expected to see, but it certainly wasn't this Lady Boss. After all, her business involved mainly forcing women to do such things, but all gangsters came in all different shapes and sizes.

“I guess our invader isn't really a smart one. I had heard someone had asked about us, so I was expecting an attack from one of the others, but I've never seen you before, and you enter this room all on your own. In front of all these people?” Olivia asked. Truly thinking, of course, there was no way that a single person could survive what was about to happen.

At that moment, all the men in the room pulled out knives. None of them had the stun guns as the others did either. Every single one of them had a weapon that would easily be able to cause death.

Looking up, Gary noticed something else, there was another woman by her side shivering and frightened in the room. Her skin was snow-white, at least from what could be seen. For there were bruises all over her body and cuts on her hand.

“I think for the first time in a while... I've met someone who doesn't deserve to live.”

[Bloodlust has been detected]

[Forced Bond has been activated]

[7/8 Marks have been assigned]

The red mist started to form in front of Gary's face, and it was leading straight to the Pincer's leader. She had become a hunting target, and there was only one way to remove the Mark...

Chapter 239 - Pool Of Blood

It was rare for Burnham high street to have commotions during the day. After all, most of the visitors were just there to enjoy some yummy food. A big percentage consisted of families who would visit the place unaware of what it really was... or at least turned a blind eye to the street's alternative business during the night.

However, today was a little different. Outside one of the most popular establishments, the Kraken, a crowd had formed consisting of visitors, curious passers-by, as well as nearby guards. They seemed to be guarding the front entrance, while the customers who had just had their meals interrupted explained the situation inside.

Nini had asked to take a break, and given that there was barely anything happening, even less so with the commotion nearby, the shop allowed it. There was news that was starting to spread through the whole street. Some shops were even closing as the guards continued to flood towards one place. She ran down in her Chinese dress and could see the crowd outside the Kraken.

'I can't believe it. They really went into that place? Are they just trying to get themselves killed? They barely made it out yesterday, so I thought that they would have learned their lesson, but they really went in there.' It wasn't hard to guess who was inside, especially since she had recognised Austin earlier.

He, as well as Gary, had left quite an impression on her, yet she couldn't help but feel like it was impossible to do anything with so few people. Even if they had just been the first group, all of them seemed young, giving her the impression that they were all just delinquent teenagers who were playing with fire.

Still, she joined the crowd, who were all waiting for something to happen, curious who would come out... and in what state.

—

In the main office, Gary had just successfully placed a Forced Bond on Olivia, and he had his eyes clearly set on the target. The only problem was she wasn't on her own. Around her were twenty-two of her goons, all who had knives on them.

"Screw all of you!"

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

[Strength 18 (+6)]

Gary's hands started to change in front of their very eyes. He didn't just go halfway with his arms but all the way. His hand changed to claws and visible fur could be seen on the outside of them. Seeing this, some guards were cautious and stepped back a bit.

“He’s an Altered! Be careful!”

“Another gang has an Altered in Slough? When did that happen? Did the Grey Elephants finally manage to gather enough to pay for the operation to have someone against Kirk?”

Seeing this, Olivia smiled.

“Now I see why you’re so confident in yourself, but do you think I would be worried about something like that?” Olivia reached for something underneath her office table, and the next moment, she had some type of whip in her hands.

[New Quest received]

[Into the Pincers’ den]

[You have entered the Pincers den, and you are trapped]

[Survive!]

[Quest reward: ???]

‘Are you joking, system? You should be saying that to her!’

Gary charged forward and swiped towards the man closest to him. He moved back slightly and his nails cut the adult's chest, causing them to bleed. Still, the Werewolf was quite surprised that the gang member was somewhat able to avoid him.

With another one coming towards him, Gary went to swipe him as well, but before his claws were about to reach the man's chest, the whip quickly lashed out and wrapped onto his arm. It immediately pulled him down, and the knife went right into his side.

[-8 HP]

[84/100 HP]

Gary tried to move his hand, but the whip stayed firmly on him. He didn't understand how it hadn't snapped and how a woman like Olivia could have enough strength to contend with him. Since one method didn't work, he tried to claw the whip with his free hand... to no avail.

'That's clearly no ordinary whip.'

Using Controlled Transformation on his legs, Gary kicked the next man with a knife away, but the weapon of the first one was still left in his body. With one of his hands occupied, the teenager decided to use his legs instead. As soon as the next goon came within range, he was ready to kick him, but before he could the whip was undone and lashed around his leg, stopping him.

The man with the knife successfully stabbed him right through his calf.

[-7 HP]

[77/100 HP]

'Damn it, that whip is ruining my fighting flow! I can't allow them to keep hurting me like this!'

Gary continued, as he tried to ignore the whip, he punched one of the members in the face, and before he could claw at another the whip stopped him again. The men soon came in and managed to stab him in his chest this time.

The pain was immense and blood was dripping from Gary's body.

[-10 HP]

[67/100 HP]

"Haha, you seem to have only recently become an Altered. I bet you thought that becoming one would make you some 'King of the world', but you're just a frog in a well! You think I wouldn't have prepared something for the likes of you?"

"We might be smaller than the big-time gangs, but we are still one of the wealthiest gangs in Slough. This little whip cost me a small fortune at the auction, but it's perfect to deal with things like you." Olivia explained, as she now started to go on a rampage with the whip.

Gary had only knocked out around four of the men and there were still plenty more, but they stood to the side as they let Olivia's whip do its work. It snapped, each time striking at a fast speed, and ripped across the Werewolf's chest.

[-4 HP]

The whip was even faster than what he was used to, and he had attempted to grab it but failed as it only cut his hand.

[-3 HP]

Repeated lashes started to come out one after another, and stepping forward, trying to bear through the pain, was all that Gary could do.

[-4 HP]

[-5 HP]

'Why... why the hell do people like her get away with this crap?! Where the fuck is the police?! Where were they when Stacy died!' Gary wondered, in the middle of baring through this pain. Why was it up to him to deal with this mess?

A pool of blood was forming underneath the high schooler's feet as his Health dropped lower and lower from the slashes. The lashes soon stopped and the next second, all the men who had been patiently waiting charged forward in all directions with their knives forward and stabbed Gary directly.

[-8 HP]

[-5 HP]

[-10 HP]

[-6 HP]

[-8 HP]

[-4 HP]

...

Gary had been stabbed from multiple directions in multiple areas, and blood was pouring out from each of his wounds. It was hard to imagine how he was still standing as blood filled his mouth.

“Ah, it's such a shame. Here I thought an Altered would have put up more of a fight. You should have waited a couple of years before trying to challenge us. The men in here aren't like your regular guards that you fought on your way up here. Of course, the most skilled are here to protect me.

“Back in the day they were all the best fighters from their respective schools and now after joining a gang and participating in fight after fight, well you know the rest. Too bad, you never stood a chance.”

Gary thought during the fight that the men seemed more skilled. His speed usually would have been enough, it had certainly been the case for those below. However, at least this meant that he wouldn't have to worry about Kai and the others.

Olivia smiled in satisfaction, as she walked forward towards the injured 'Altered'. She looked at the silly mask on his face, and all the other men soon pulled their knives out, leaving Gary standing there.

“Let's see what's under that mask.” Olivia took it off, revealing Gary's face, his bright green hair, as well as his glowing yellow eyes underneath.

“It's a shame you were born a boy. If you had been a girl, I might have even considered sparing you.” Olivia patted the side of his face.

What she didn't expect, though, was for Gary to look up and smile. Seeing this, Olivia leapt back, dropping the mask, aware that something was wrong.

[1/100 HP]

[Last Stand is activated (43 seconds remaining)]

Seeing all the knives come towards him, Gary hadn't hesitated using his newly acquired skill.

[140/300 Energy]

'I guess they hurt me so fast that my body didn't even have time to use my energy for Emergency healing, especially with the knives still inside me, but it left me with plenty.'

"Looks like picking it over the other two was the right choice after all." Gary muttered to himself, his eyes still on the woman, while the smile never left his face.

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

[-20 Energy]

[Transformation has begun]

Gary's body started to change, and within seconds he had assumed his full-fledged Werewolf form. The edges of his clothes still ripped a little as they couldn't handle the complete change.

"Kill him!" Olivia shouted, as she tried to lash her whip out, and it hit Gary's body, causing him to bleed.

[-5 HP]

[1/100 HP]

[Last stand is still active (39 seconds remaining)]

Alas, it had done nothing.

Chapter 240 - An Experiment

Although Gary was able to use Controlled Transformation to just change parts of his body, so they were fully transformed like that in his Werewolf form, there was a large difference in power between the two skills. His status also clearly showed that the stats gained overall were just different.

Perhaps it was because the Full Transformation changed his whole body, including his organs, rather than just parts of his body. Unfortunately, this skill not only cost a good bit of Energy for the transformation to occur, but it was also costly to upkeep, making it less than ideal for prolonged fights.

While Gary had changed, the guards had positioned themselves to protect Olivia, but he wasn't aiming at her anyway. From his position, he quickly leapt on one of the gang members of the side and pinned him to the ground.

[Skill activated Claw Drain]

[-15 Energy]

In quick succession, Gary started to rip at the man's chest as quickly as possible. Claw Drain only lasted two seconds, but the more damage he did, the more Health he would recover. The Werewolf had made the most of his time, managing to claw the man on the ground a total of six times.

[+8 HP]

[+4 HP]

[+5 HP]

[+6 HP]

[+3 HP]

[+6 HP]

[33/100 HP]

[Last Stand is activated (25 seconds remaining)]

While attacking, he felt another member try to stab their knife through his back, but his thick hide had only allowed it to shallowly pierce him, causing a small nick. A regular knife wasn't going to do much, unlike an Altered Hunter's weapons.

[-2 HP]

Turning around, Gary whacked the man and sent him flying off easily in the other direction through the air. He quickly started to run through and overpowered the guards. Single hits of his large arm, and kicks from his big feet, were enough to knock them out in one or two blows.

Gary had even activated his Claw Drain for a second time, restoring his Health nearly to the half point mark.

[44/100 HP]

[70/300 Energy]

The onslaught continued. As Gary took out the gang members, they tried to stab him, but as there were less of them, and the Werewolf was faster, he was no longer getting hit.

Charging towards one of the few guards left, Gary leapt up in the air, and had his knee facing forward. While mid-air, his body was reverting to what it once was.

[Full Transformation cancelled]

Still, the speed he had gained while in his full form for a fraction of a second had helped him, as his knee smashed into the man's face, knocking him out.

Now in the room, there were only two guards left and Olivia. The whole room was a complete mess, filled with blood. Seeing what happened, the Boss Lady was frozen for the first time. She had been shaking and hadn't used the whip during the massacre.

“How?” Olivia screamed. “How can you still be alive? They’ve stabbed you over and over again! You were on your last leg!”

The reason for her fear wasn't just because of what she had seen, but it was the fact that this person in front of her, who should have been dead, was still alive and very much kicking. Not only that, he was moving perfectly fine, to the point that he looked somewhat better than he was before.

The wounds of his body were even healing in front of her. She had never heard of this before. It should be impossible for an Altered of this level to appear in a town like Slough.

One of the men dropped his knife out of fear, but Gary didn't let him off. He kned him in the stomach, and when he knelt over, Gary kned him in the face, making sure he got the punishment he deserved.

“You're a lot easier to deal with one on one. All of you are guilty... You tried to kill me just now, and you didn't even hesitate.” Gary growled. “Not just that, but the workers on this street, and you even killed Stacy!”

“Is that what this is all about?” Olivia let out a mad laugh. “You came here because a whore died? Which one was it? I can give you plenty of other whores! Just take your pick! I can even send them all to you in our best suite!”

The last remaining guard soon felt his back being pushed, Olivia was the only one standing behind him, so it was clear what had happened. Gary whacked his hand, hitting the knife out of it, and grabbed him by the neck. The next second, he started running forward towards the woman.

Out of fear she swung the whip, but Gary held up the body as a shield, and continued to run forward, until he barged the body into her. Olivia fell over backwards, falling just a little away from her own office table.

Quickly, Gary stepped on her wrist and started to twist and turn, until she finally let go of the whip as well.

“Do you have anything to say?” Gary asked, looking at her.

Olivia looked back at Gary's face and that's when she finally noticed, looking at his human form he seemed quite young. He couldn't have been older than twenty.

"I just can't believe it, my life ending like this because of one of those damned whores. Come on, kill me, get revenge for you damn whore. ... I used to be one of them, but I've managed to turn things around. You will learn that after getting rid of me, your life won't be the same as it was before!"

Looking at her face, there was no guilt for what she had done, there was no fear in her death like she had been just a second ago. Olivia seemed to have accepted it, and seeing this, was just causing Gary's blood to boil more. He wanted her to suffer for the death she had caused, as well as for what she had done to the girls like Stacy.

"Fine, I was going to kill you anyway."

Just as Gary was about to, he could hear the sound of chattering teeth, he then could see the snow-white girl up against the wall, shaking with her eyes closed. Her back facing towards him. When seeing her back, he could see several whip marks on her back.

It was easy to put the two and two together, Gary could tell the person that had caused all of this.

"No, just killing you would be giving you an easy way out." Gary decided. "I doubt she was the only one you treated like this. Do you even think of them as human beings at this point? Using them as you wish... Were you really one of them?"

"... Whatever, it just means you only deserve what comes next. I'm going to use you to make up for it!"

Olivia started to laugh like a madwoman.

"So what, you're going to **** me?! Go ahead! It's not like it hasn't happened before!"

"****? No, I have no interest in doing something like that with you."

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

For the first time, Gary had activated the Controlled Transformation in place he hadn't done before, and his mouth started to change slightly, his teeth began to grow.

"You treated the others with no respect, so you're going to become my little experiment!"

Gary lifted her off the ground, and before she realised it, he bit right into the back of her neck.