

Werewolf 291

Chapter 291 - A Truce (Part 2)

Olivia recognised them as members of the Grey Elephants. Perhaps the little monsters they had created were just the initial attack. If they couldn't solve or deal with the Underdog members, then they would come in next. Either destroying their businesses, or getting rid of every Underdog member.

In a gang war between two large gangs, one would either have to take the leader submit, which was nearly impossible or completely wipe them out, and it looked like the Grey Elephants were now going for the latter.

"It's okay, though, I have my own help for this." Olivia said.

Behind them, running not shortly after, another group of people charged at the gangsters, attacking them immediately. Olivia didn't hold back in helping them, because after all, she didn't want to lose any of her own men.

'I don't usually fight humans, but I guess I owe her a favour.' Blake thought as he charged in as well. Still, young Altered Hunter had put away his weapons, opting to incapacitate them with his fists.

The two White Rose agents, as well, were just annoyed that these random people had tried to attack them, so another fight had broken out. The Grey Elephant members must have believed that their opponents would have been tired after seeing them fighting just moments ago.

However, even if they were, their strength was enough to deal with normal humans, especially with the help of the former Pincer members. The Grey Elephants were taken care of rather quickly and were passed out on the ground.

"What are you waiting for, arrest these idiots!" Sadie shouted at the police men, who had yet to come forward from behind their barricade of cars.

"I hope you are not including my people in this?" Olivia looked the White Rose agent in the eyes before turning to the police. "After all, these guys are just concerned citizens who were protecting themselves. They did nothing wrong. However, if you feel differently, we are going to have some serious trouble between us!"

The gang members that now technically belonged to the Howlers certainly didn't look like regular citizens. Starting from the clothes they were wearing, to the weapons they had brought along, and especially the familiarity with which they used them.

"I think it's best we just leave it for now." Frank whispered to his partner. "There's something going on, the police did report that the same thing is happening in other areas. We don't have time to deal with them, and besides, we really don't have much on them apart from them using weapons, but who could argue that it was self-defence and if they're connected to some big names you know it will be a tough battle with so little to bring them in on."

Looking out of the corner of his eye, Frank also spotted the camera and the woman who looked to already be running towards them for a few words.

"Besides, we have a lot of eyes on us at the moment." Knowing full well how big of a story this would be and perhaps the whole country would be watching.

It was true, not only the camera, but a lot of the public were watching, and although Sadie didn't care for what the people thought, she couldn't deny that because of Olivia's men, that lives might have been saved today.

What's more, neither the woman, her men, nor the Altered Hunter had done much more than incapacitate the Grey Elephant members. It was as if they already knew that they could have been taken in for excessive force, otherwise. They really had little to bring them in on.

"Patch yourself up, and once you're healed and back at a hundred percent, we'll move to the next area where reports are coming in. I don't want you to die from this mess in this no name town." Sadie sighed.

As she walked away, the female White Rose agent touched her foot a couple of times and looked at the strange woman. For some reason, the wound on her leg had been hurting ever since she had arrived.

'This can't be a coincidence... Am I really doing the right thing, in letting her get away?' Sadie wondered.

Just then, the sound of a telephone was heard going off. Not just one, but quite a few. They noticed that it was coming from some dead bodies. Not the dead bodies of the public or that of the Grey Elephants.

No, this was coming from the other gang members. The ones who lived had perished before any of the others could arrive. The Underdogs. Usually such calls wouldn't be answered, but they hadn't stopped coming. Something was clearly up.

After wearing a set of gloves, Sadie swiped the phone and answered the call.

"This is an emergency!" The man shouted on the other end of the phone. "The Copen area is under attack. We are in serious trouble! We need help from all areas immediately. Head to Copen, that's an order now!"

The man didn't even care to confirm who had answered the phone, clearly in distress and worried.

"Well, it looks like we know what area we need to head to next." Sadie stated.

At the same time, the reporter had also caught wind of the phone call, and she wasn't the only one.

'... are there even more of those crazed Altered there? Maybe even stronger ones?' Blake thought. 'But is it really wise to test my luck if the White Rose agents are heading there as well? ... they will need to prepare before they head off, so maybe I can get a head start.'

With that, Blake was already on his way but not before taking a second look at the girl who had helped him. There were at times during the fight where he noticed her temperature rise, but just like with anyone that would be the case. Still he chose to ignore it as he was in a rush.

'Copen? I should report to that brat just in case he went to that area.' Olivia thought.

Chapter 292 - The Red Blood Street

Everyone knew who the Underdog's leader was, Damion Hawk, who would always go walking around in a purple suit and spent most of his time in the nightclub called the Basement. They were such a large gang and a prominent force that they didn't worry about this fact.

The fact that their leader was known to all in Slough. Making them possibly an easy target.

They were also known to be the only gang in Slough that had an Altered. How someone like Kirk was working for Damion was anyone's best guess and kept a secret even to those in the Underdogs. All they knew was that he was loyal till the very end.

Regardless, because of this, it made it; everyone believed that Daimon, the leader himself, wasn't the strongest or best when it came to fighting. After all, they never saw him in action or taking the helm in a fight. They knew and had heard of his cruel nature but a fighter? Unlike those of the Grey Elephants that were known for using their fists. Because of this, although their leader wasn't seen a lot, they felt like if anyone were to control them, the leader of the Grey Elephants would have to be a good and strong fighter to control and earn the respect of the others. This was the difference between the two gangs and why people believed that Damion was a leader because of his decision-making.

However, as his men watched him fight, Gil stayed by his side through this mess. They immediately knew that all those rumours were false; they were utterly wrong.

To allow ease of movement, Damion had taken off his purple suit.

Or more acutely, he had timed it as one of the crazed Altered came towards him; he threw the suit covering its face and then threw one of the unique axes he had been using, hitting it. The two landed on the floor, and dark blood could be seen soaking through the purple suit before Damion went to pick it up from the ground.

The buttons on his shirt were ripped, revealing his dark tan skin and his well-developed muscles underneath. On top of that, his white shirt would soon become soaked in dark blood.

It was safe to say that the ordinary gang members could not take on the Crazed Altered even though skilled in fighting. A few were skilful, but no matter how much they would hit, slash, or whack the crazed Altered with their weapons. They would get back up again.

Just then, one of the gang members side-kicked one of the crazed away, hitting him, making it fall to the floor, but the claws had stabbed his leg in the process. The gang member was worried that it would soon get back up, but before it did, Damion was there swinging down both of his axes right towards its head.

He had a smile on his face as the curve of the axe plunged into the skull, and the creature was no longer moving.

“You guys keep doing what you're doing. I'll finish them off.” Daimon smiled.

Not too far from where they stood opposite where the nightclub would be; on top of the restaurants, there was a block of apartments. Then at the very top of this on the rooftop, Brandon and Raven were standing there watching the scene unfold in front of them.

“He's quite the monster, that's for sure,” Raven commented. “Some people forget that the Underdogs rose to their position before the famous Kirk had joined them.”

“Yes, and that only increased the gang position in this town. I tried to convince Kirk to come to our site many times, but he would never budge or take the bite. I wonder how he managed to wrap someone like that so tight around his finger.” Branson let out a big sigh. He could now see that, primarily due to Damion, the crazed Alteredes were at their end.

“They did their job well, didn't they?” Brandon asked. “I don't know if this is what Sin wanted us to use his solution for, but if we can get rid of all the Underdogs, then that will be perfect.”

“The reports we have gotten back have been good,” Raven replied. “In each area, all of the Underdogs have been dealt with. Although it's the same for our crazed Altered, not that we intended on keeping them after this anyway.”

Just then, an axe was swung, and the final one had been hit, sending the last crazed to the ground no longer moving. Many of the Underdog's men had died, and there were around only ten of them left, huffing and panting.

Damion and Gil made it, so their numbers were now twelve. Honestly, seeing them like this, Brandon thought he could have gone down there with the rest of the Grey Elephant members and take them out himself.

However, to be sure, they would stick to the plan. A phone call was made, and moments later, two more trucks had appeared from both sides of the streets. It wasn't the end of it at all for Damion and the others.

The back doors of the trucks opened, and storming in now wasn't just ten crazed Altered like before, but ten from each side, doubling their strength. After a tough battle, they would have to go through it again. Only this time, it would be more problematic.

"It was a good thing we did all that testing." Bradon smiled.

They had only been given one syringe of liquid, but using small parts of it and realising they could dilute the substance, they found many effects of it. How much liquid was required to turn someone?

If diluted, how long it would take for one to turn, and so on. All of these tests were what allowed them to plan this out, to time everything perfectly—the mastermind behind all of this, Raven.

It was in his scope of possibility that Damion and some outside help would arrive dealing with the crazed in other areas, but they were just sent there to delay and stop back up from coming back here in the first place.

"Boss, what do we do?" One of the men asked.

"Isn't it obvious? Fight for your lives so we can get out of this situation!" He shouted back.

When the crazed Altered changed in, they ran past many shops and other clubs that seemed to have people inside them—scared to come out. They were heading towards the centre as if they were attracted by something. Like a shark in the sea, the scent of blood.

However, a few got a whiff and a scent of something else, some of those that were bleeding inside the shops. They turned their heads and started to claw and hit the shop doors and windows attempting to get inside.

A little away, the channel five van had arrived. They had spotted one of the trucks on their way here and noticed that there was the same abandoned truck where they were just moments ago. Kate had a hunch that it was important.

She just didn't realise how important it was when several of the creatures had come out from the back of the trucks. Leaving the van, she needed to continue to film, and she did so with her trusty cameraman.

Only this time, she wasn't so quick to storm the busy street.

"Did the police not reach this area yet? Is there not enough of them? This area has more of those monsters than the last area. If White Rose doesn't get here soon...' Kate thought. Still, it was strange because, unlike the place they were just at. There wasn't a single police officer in this area.

No patrol cars, no nothing. This was why Kate wasn't so quick to enter the street, even though most of it was clear. Still, she could see a few stray Altered attacking the windows, and she sure didn't want to grab their attention.

The camera zoomed in on the worried people's faces, and eventually, one of the Altered smashed through the strong glass. Immediately it pulled out one of the people from the shop. It dragged the person to the street's centre and dug its mouth into its body.

With the Altered busy eating one of its victims and the shop no longer safe, the door was opened, and crowds started to run towards where Katie was. Around thirty of them stormed through. They had knocked her and nearly her cameraman over.

It was like a small stampede of people, but she couldn't blame them, and honestly, she felt like perhaps this was a situation she should run away from as well.

When the cameraman regained his footing with Katie, they looked back on the street. They thought they would see the dead or the creature chasing after the group of people, but instead, they saw a man standing there in a black and gold blazer.

His hand, lifting the creature by its throat, its arms no longer on its body having fallen to the floor and around him, others wearing the same black and gold uniform.

“Who are these people that have just arrived, and how were they able to take down that crazed Altered!” Kate reported. “The Uniform, their colours are the same as the woman who helped that Altered hunter! Are they part of the same group?”

Zooming into the Altered holding up, the camera could see a black and gold wolf mask and red glowing eyes underneath.

Chapter 293 - Two Altered Clash

Although many traditionalists were busy watching the news report by Kate, there were some youngsters who were getting updated about the situation in Slough through other sources. One of those being Scotty, a live streamer, who was becoming more famous by the second.

‘This is it, I've found my calling, people are eating this crap up. All I need to do is keep searching for big events like this, follow them, and people will keep following me.’ Scotty was already picturing the good life as he held his phone as still as possible for the others to see what was going on right now.

Kirk and his Cheetah Squad had come into the middle of the road which naturally wasn't being used right now, since many cars had been toppled over and were broken. Although, the Altered was impressive as he continued to fight off the crazed beasts one by one, mainly using his speed and forward punches.

There was actually someone else that was catching the eyes of the others more, the stranger whose face was unable to clearly be seen. The cap on his head was kept quite low, while the scarf covered everything below his eyes.

[Who is that guy? I mean, Kirk is an Altered and transformed, but this guy looks and acts like a ninja!]

[He has to be an Altered as well! There's no way someone a non-Altered can do that much!]

Just as the viewers were talking about Jayden, he jumped on one of the creature's shoulders, pushing them back, and kicking another one in the face. When a third went to swipe towards him, he backflipped while kicking another right on the chin.

'Damn, I haven't fought like this in a long time. It's reminding me of the past.' Jayden grinned underneath his disguise. 'But, it's also nice to just outright use my strength to beat them sometimes.'

Given his unique Altered form, he couldn't afford to transform, otherwise it would be a dead giveaway to who he was. He needed to be more creative with the way he fought, bringing him back to his school days. This fighting style was what was getting the attention of all the others.

Soon, with the two of them on the job, the crazed Altered in the area had been defeated. It was nice, quick, and easy. Slowly, the people who were in the restaurants and bars at the corners of the road came out, and so did the few that stayed in their cars.

Immediately, they started clapping for their two saviours.

"Thank you! Thank you for saving us!" They all cheered. Some of them got closer as they wanted to personally thank the ones. Meanwhile, the shop owners mainly stayed back.

They knew that the ones that had protected them were gang members due to the clothing they were wearing, and they often had to deal with the Underdogs in this place. They were grateful now, but many struggled to even keep open due to the high prices they had to pay towards the Underdogs.

Not only that, but they felt like they had just done what they were obligated to do.

With those dangerous creatures defeated, Scotty felt like he should take this chance to interview the two of them. His viewers certainly demanded it, and if he managed to do that he could upload the interview to PouTube, increasing his own fame even more!

He immediately ran out and joined the crowd, but before any of them could approach the two, Kirk had twisted his foot, and pounced on the strange masked man. It looked like he hadn't aimed to injure him, merely going for his hat, yet before the Cheetah Altered could reach, his hand got knocked away by the man.

The next second, Jayden jumped back a few steps.

“Hey man, what was that for? We helped each other, and now you just attack me?” Jayden asked, surprised by Kirk, and he wasn't the only one. The crowd no longer was moving closer towards the two as they were left confused.

[I thought the two were on the same side and knew each other. Why are they fighting?]

[Actually, I think he went for his hat. Maybe he's as curious as we are about the identity of whoever is under that disguise.]

[I wish he would have succeeded. I'll bet whoever it is, is really handsome!]

[More like hideous! Why else would someone who's going to save people cover up what they would look like? Probably doesn't want anyone hating on him.]

“There is only one Altered in this town, and that's me... so who are you and who are you working for?” Kirk asked the stranger.

He went in again, running at a fast speed straight ahead. This time it seemed faster than before, but Jayden was still able to avoid it, moving his head to the side. At that moment, he grabbed Kirk's body and with the momentum of his own strike threw him forward past him, while tripping him up with his legs and throwing him to the ground.

“Hey, I really don't want to fight, and besides aren't you supposed to buy me dinner before you start asking me all those questions?” Jayden asked teasingly, making sure to change his voice.

The Underdog members wouldn't believe what they were seeing. Kirk was faster than any of them, he was also a rookie champion in the AFC. Yet, what looked like a regular human had just thrown him on the floor.

[Am I dreaming? Did he really just do that to Kirk Summerfield?]

[Only if we're dreaming the same thing. That guy is seriously skilled. He has to be a professionally trained fighter!]

[There's no way that guy isn't an Altered! Just how strong is he, if he's managing that much before even transforming?!!]

As Kirk quickly got himself up from the ground, he was having similar thoughts, the movements were clearly not that of an amateur. Now taking this a bit more seriously, Kirk's body started to change more, his teeth started to elongate, giving him larger canines, while his eyes narrowed.

'Damn, this is bad.' Jayden thought. 'If I transform, everyone will know who I am, and that I'm staying in this town. Reporters will be all over me, and I just don't want to deal with this crap. This guy clearly is misunderstanding something.'

"Hey, cheetah dude, we'll meet again some other day. There are other areas in this city that need help—" Just as Jayden was about to finish his sentence. Kirk's trouser leg had expanded in size.

His large leg muscles came into view, and he leapt straight across, trying to swipe a claw towards Jayden's face. As his claw was swung down for a brief second, Kirk saw it.

'His eyes... so he really is an Altered.' Kirk realised, as a white outline was being seen. The top of his hands, where then hit away, parried to the side at the right moment.

"That crap will only get you so far." Jayden lectured him. "Your fighting is no better than a kid's. I can clearly see where you're aiming. You're still an amateur to me."

With that he threw a fist of his own stopping just short of hitting Kirk, yet the Cheetah Altered could feel that something had hit him, even though he could see the fist had yet to touch his body.

Although, the force wasn't strong, it had done enough to convey the message to Kirk, that whoever was in that disguise was above him and could beat him anytime he wanted.

“I already said I don't want to fight. I just happened to be in this town at this time, so I decided to help the people.” With that explanation, Jayden moved his hand away.

The fighting seemed to be over between the two, and Kirk had even cancelled his partial transformation he had done on his body. The others watching were satisfied by this outcome. They were thankful for both of them for saving their lives, and the last thing they wanted was for either one of them to hurt each other.

“Sir!” One of the Underdogs members shouted, having just gotten off the phone. “The boss seems to be in trouble. We’re to head to Cipen straight away!”

Overhearing this, Jayden thought that was good.

‘If that guy heads to Cipen, the people there should be okay. I heard one of the reported areas was Chavley, so I’ll head over there then, and make sure all the creatures there are dealt with as well.’

“Hey, good luck.” Jayden called after Kirk as he left. “Also, if you think you’re the only Altered in town, you’re in for a big surprise. Maybe don’t go all crazy on them from the get go like you did me!”

‘Other Altered?’ Kirk wondered.

Chapter 294 - We Can't Help

The event in Slough had been going on for a little over an hour or so now, and it was enough time for the channel five news station to attract attention not just around Slough but around the whole country.

The video was being viewed live by all, with a bit of a delay, allowing for some gruesome scenes to be blurred here and there. The plus side was that it was late anyway, so the news channels were able to show more.

Still, right now, many eyes could see the mystery man in a black and gold outfit holding up one of the Altered like it was nothing but a child. Its small figure made it even more so, but there weren't many that felt sorry when looking at the scene in front of them.

Even now, they could see that the Altered was trying to bite at the man holding it up with its deformed mouth. Swingin its legs as it wished to do whatever it could to kill the person in front of it.

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Somewhere in a dark room, in the Lock gang's base, a large man was sitting comfortably drinking a dark coloured liquid by his side.

“That darned wolfman!” Tony shouted at his TV screen. “They are getting involved in this war, aren't they!”

“Well, they could just be concerned citizens.” His right-hand man replied by his side.

Tony just scoffed at this comment, and proceeded to finish his drink in one gulp.

They weren't the only gang watching the outcome of what would occur today. Many of the other gangs were also carefully watching them. It was a chance to see if they had done the right thing at the meeting or perhaps made a mistake and would allow them to decide their next move.

Inside his repaired office, the mayor watched the TV along with the Rising Dragon leader, D.

“It looks like they weren't lying when they said they would get involved in this war,” D commented.

“It's surprising how much power the Grey Elephants have. I was certain that the Underdogs would come out the winner in this war, but now with this third intervention, depending on what happens today, we will have to change our plans.” Ben Clove stated as he looked at his hands, closing it and opening it slowly, smiling to himself.

At the same time, two people, in particular, were watching what had happened live.

“Who are they!” Brandon shouted.

The two of them had seen it, while the crowd was running, they could see that these members, were walking through the crowd calmly passing everyone. One of the Altered had leapt towards a civilian with its hand's seconds away from digging into a female.

It was at that moment that Gary had transformed his hands, and sliced right through the small tiny limbs of the Crazy Altered, then lifting it in the air.

"He...has to be an Altered. To be able to deal with someone like that so quickly." Raven answered. "It's the only thing that makes sense. Their arrival could ruin everything!"

"You believe that?" Brandon said. "We still have our gang members; it just means we might have to make our move sooner."

Brandon then started to walk off from the rooftop while leaving Raven on his own to watch how things would play out.

Back on the ground floor, not only had all of the regular Howler members appeared, but along with Innu, there was Suzan and Kevin with him as well. They were seeing the kid held in Gary's hands and those taking the Underdog members behind him.

They fell to their knees, their limbs numb.

"That was Tommy's favourite clothes!" Suzan said with a mouth full of tears.

"And, there is little Bobo!" Kevin cried, holding onto Suzan as well; the two of them had gone into complete shock.

"GARY!" Innu shouted. "PUT HIM DOWN!"

Gary then turned his head towards Innu, who was shouting at him; although he didn't fall to his knees and hadn't turned around to look at the others, Innu was sniffing. Not just because of the ones from his orphanage, but he could even see the others. The ones he had promised to go back to had already been turned and were dead lying on the ground.

"Innu," Gary replied. "Are these...the orphans that you were looking for?"

Innu nodded in response. Gary looked behind him, seeing if any Crazy Altered were nearby, but the others seemed to be still fighting the Underdog members.

Gary placed the crazy Altered on the ground but kept a firm grip with one hand on its head and had kicked its legs, so it was down on its knees. Allowing everyone to get a clear look at what he was holding onto.

"I'm sorry, Innu, I know you knew them...but what do you want me to do?" Gary asked. "I want to help, but the guys are like the twins before. I know it, and you know it. If I didn't stop him, he would have killed the woman running away. If I let him go now, everyone in this town will be in danger.

"I can tell right now that if I let this fake Altered go, he would run right to where you three are and rip out your throats without a second thought."

It was true that these were Gary's thoughts, but there was more than just what he believed to be the case; it was because the system had also told him it would be the case.

[Save the town of Slough]

[Someone has created fake Altered and the whole town is under attack.]

[Quest: Save the town by defeating the Altered]

[30/64 Infected Altered have been killed]

[Quest rewards will be based on contribution to ridding of the Infected Altered]

The four areas of Slough that the underdogs owned had ten crazed Altered each attacking them, and now Cipeen was under a second wave more significant than the other attacks. It was clear now, after seeing Innu like he was, every single Orphan had already been turned into these Crazed Altered.

“He’s right, Innu,” Marie said as she approached him and placed her hand on his shoulder. “You remember those twins? These guys look similar to them. The best thing we can do is put them out of their misery. Do you think your friends and the orphans would have liked to hurt people like this?”

Innu didn’t know how to answer, and he didn’t turn around either, still worried to see what type of faces the others would show. He felt like he had given them false hope.

“I...I...” Innu sniffled. “I joined this gang; I got into underground fighting all because of them. I did everything I could to save them...so what do I do now!”

“Innu!” Suzan shouted, after sadness, now knowing the situation, another emotion soon followed. “Your friend, I can tell he’s special, right...you knew he could help us because he’s unique! You asked what to do now; then I’ll tell you what to do.

“He’s right, help them, free them from this pain, and then after that... make sure the people that put you through this suffer even worse than they did!!!”

Kevin was surprised by Suzan’s words; she had never asked Innu to do anything, and she never had condoned violence but seeing the kids she raised like so in this state must have snapped something inside of her.

“I...I want them all to pay!” Suzan screamed.

It was an emotional scene that played out on the camera, so much that Kate hadn’t even said a word while she filmed everything. The sudden group that appeared seemed to have answers that they were missing.

Innu was wiping his tears away with his sleeve and nodded towards Gary.

“Okay, let’s do this, and I promise if you help me get what I want, if you help me get revenge against the people that did this to my family! I will follow you forever!” Innu shouted at the top of his lungs.

Looking down at the crazed Altered, Gary braced himself. The killing was something that was coming up more often, and killing things that didn’t; didn’t seem human felt similar to how one could hurt an animal, but Gary knew who these were, so the question he was asking himself right now, as he used controlled transformation on his fingernails and stabbed right through the crazed Altered’s chest killing it on the spot.

‘Why is it so easy to do now?’ Gary thought as he let go of the body, allowing it to fall to the ground, and turned towards the rest and the Underdog gang in front of him.

Chapter 295 - The Final Mark

With everything going on, and since there was nothing they could do to help out, Suzan decided to take Kevin back to the car that was parked at the end of the high street. The group had split up between cars, one with Marie's mother driving, and the other with the gang’s newest employee, Tyler.

He couldn’t believe what was going on, everything that was happening, and was starting to wonder what type of group he and Gary were involved in. However, while in the car, since he was told to be on standby, he had decided to tune into the news channel on his phone, and he was able to hear what was being said.

Gary had his voice altered, and the teenager was trying to make it a habit whenever he donned that mask. Given his hair colour, it was the least he could do to make people doubt him being the same guy who was the leader of the Howlers. Similarly, Kai, had also decided to wear his fox mask to cover his face, while the others were clear with their faces showing.

Based on the situation that was on hand, Tyler felt like at least he was with what he believed the good guys after hearing everything out. After hearing the dreaded tale of what these Altered really were. Already on the phone screen where he was watching a red banner pop up showed underneath.

[Could the Crazed Altered really be orphans that have been experimented on?]

'Man...how many times have I been called on today already? First I thought driving a car like this was a dream come true, but now. If I knew my job was going to be this hard, I should have asked for more cash.' Tyler thought.

Opening the car door, Kevin and Suzan felt a bit safer from all the chaos, but couldn't help but notice that Tyler was watching what was going on, over his phone.

"Can you please turn the video up?" Suzan politely requested, and Tyler quickly complied and tilted the phone, making sure they would be able to watch with him.

"Do you think Innu will be okay?" Kevin asked, as they listened to the reporter.

"Of course. Didn't you say it yourself, he's an adult now, someone that we can rely on. He will be okay." She said, rubbing the top of the young teenager's head, as all three continued to watch the news channel to find out just how this chaos would unfold and end.

'When this is over... I'll take you both in myself.'

—

With no more distractions, it was time for the Howlers to make their move, but they were concerned about one thing. They could see the Underdogs fighting against the crazed Altered, but the Grey Elephant members were nowhere to be seen.

"They should be somewhere nearby. If the Underdogs manage to survive this, they surely will try to finish them off." Kai spoke out as if he could read Gary's mind. "If we get involved now, we'll just be helping the Underdogs. That being said, this could also be our perfect chance to attack."

"Look, there's Damion!"

Gary had noticed that Kai's heartbeat had increased dramatically when mentioning the leader. He also hadn't missed how much spite he had when uttering his name.

' I don't know why, but he seems to hate Damion as much as I do... No, that's not right. To me, he's just someone I have to get rid of in order to protect my family, but there seems to be something personal going on between them. Was that also the reason he founded the Howlers?'

"Gary, make sure to kill him. Don't do whatever you did to Olivia. It's too dangerous to keep him alive, he would just find a way to backstab us. We have to take him out here and now!"

While thinking about what to do, or how to tackle the situation. The sound of screaming from the people was heard.

"What are you doing?! Get away from the door!" A woman shouted from one of the shops. However, it wasn't just one of the shops, it was multiple. As they looked at what was occurring, large groups of people were forcing their way out from the current establishments.

Dressed in all sorts of different types of clothing. They started to fill up the street bit by bit, and had now blocked the way of entrance from both high streets.

"These guys are trouble." Austin commented, as he noticed one of them pulling a small blade from the side of his pocket.

"You're saying they're gangsters, right?" Marie asked. "If that's the case, then why didn't they come to help out before."

"You seem to be misunderstanding something, Marie, they're not part of the Underdogs. Those should be the Grey Elephant members who have been here in plain sight from the beginning, watching everything carefully." Kai answered her.

Seeing the elated look on their faces about the sorry state of the Underdogs, it looked like Kai's explanation was spot on. Their numbers were large, Cipen was full of large fancy restaurant bars and clubs and hotels. There was already a large population on this one street. It was easy for them to hide among the people, and that's exactly what they had done.

Now, Gary and the others were surrounded by a hundred or so gang members. They had not charged in where the Underdogs were just yet, and they even took a step back as if they knew how far or close they could get to the crazed Altered before they would be attacked.

One of the Grey Elephant members looked towards the Howlers group.

“We have orders to get rid of the new troublemakers that have decided to get in-“ Midway, while he was speaking, a black boy came running out towards him. Seeing the ones responsible, Innu jumped up and kned the man right in the face, knocking him down on the ground.

“I’ll kill every one of you bastards!” Innu shouted, as he quickly went to kick another gangster, right on the side of his arm. However, at the same time, a third one was getting ready to punch Innu to get him off his colleague.

Just before he could, though, a fist came down hitting knuckle on knuckle, but one was clearly stronger as the fist was pushed back, and a crack sound was heard.

“Hey, don’t hog them all to yourself. Let us take some of them out as well.” Austin declared.

“Gary, you take care of the Altered and Damion, find an opening, this might be your only chance.” Kai instructed him. “Don’t forget what I said.”

The next second, the fox masked teenager joined the others, making sure that Marie stayed close by his side. The group were fighting in a circle, trying their best against the gang members who had the advantage in numbers.

Gary was hesitating, since there were far more of the Grey Elephant members than had been the case with the Pincers. Even if this might have been his only chance to go after Damion, he didn’t want to sacrifice any of his friends.

‘I can't leave them, I need to help as well. Getting rid of the Grey Elephants is just as important.’ Gary thought as he was ready to run forward. He could see someone approaching Marie from behind, sneaking up on her.

A second later, though, and the man's body started to shake violently, as if he was being electrocuted. When he fell to the ground, he could see a man standing there in black robe and wearing a black mask.

“Bl-“

“No!” The Altered Hunter shouted back. “I am here to deal with the people that caused all of this mess, and I will try my best to make sure no one gets hurt because of these guys.”

Gary was wondering how Blake knew it was him, but it must have been his special mask, or perhaps because Gary's hand was still transformed like it was before. At the same time, Gary had worn those clothes before. He also understood that this was his way of saying he would protect them without actually saying that.

On top of that, Gary could tell that there was another person close by, one that soon would be able to provide support as well.

‘I never thought I would be relying on her so much, but if they are here, then the Howlers can deal with this!’ Gary thought.

He broke off from the rest, and the first thing he did was get behind one of the crazed Altered and pulled their arms, breaking one apart. The next moment, he stabbed his claw in the back of its neck.

[+400 Exp]

There was another thing Gary realised from before, as the amount of Exp he would get for each kill was large during this quest. It was his chance to level up. Jumping into the fray, Gary also saw the hunting target he had made a long time ago among the Underdog members.

However, right now, Damion was the biggest priority. Swinging his axes like a madman, a lot of the crazed Altered were being defeated. Unfortunately, his gang members were unable to keep up, and from the dozen that had survived the first wave, there were less than half alive.

Seeing this, one of Grey Elephants members tried to charge in, yet one of the crazed Altered quickly turned around and leapt towards the said person, killing him instantly.

This caused the other Grey Elephant members to pile on and attempt to take out the Crazed as quickly as possible. They had eventually killed it, but their buddy had long since been killed.

'They really can't control it.' Gary thought, looking at this.

In the end, the second wave of crazed Altered had ended. All twenty had been killed, and Gary joining in had finished off five of them. They were far easier to deal with than the twins. Whether it was because he had gotten stronger or they had gotten weaker, he was unsure. Perhaps it was a bit of both.

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 17]

[A stat point has been granted]

[Exp 452/3245]

Still, the fight wasn't over, as it now allowed the other Grey Elephant gang members to get involved. Before that, though, Gary turned around and looked at Damion, who was huffing and panting. The gang leader looked quite strong with the two axes, though he had still taken a few scratches here and there.

'He doesn't look so scary any more...if I get rid of him...half of my problems will be over.' Gary thought, and with this thought, and seeing Gil who was by his side, he had made a decision.

[Bloodlust has been detected]

[Forced Bond has been activated]

[7/8 Marks have been assigned]

Chapter 296 - Underdogs Vs The Howlers

With all the Crazy altered dead and out of the fight altogether, it allowed Gary and Damion a second to catch their breath with the other Underdog members. The Grey Elephants didn't quite charge in just yet because they were a little in disbelief.

Seeing what was a human chopping the monsters down limb from limb using his two axes, and on the other side, what was clearly an Altered in front of them.

[Quest complete]

[The infected Altered have been dealt with, and you have played your part in saving the town]

[Quest reward: Due to your contribution, you have received a pawn point!]

Although Gary was happy and the quest reward was unexpected, he had to quickly wipe the screens away because he had something else he needed to deal with. Soon, his eyes and Damion's eyes met with each other.

Damion could see the narrow red eyes staring at him.

"Oh, and here I thought that I was going to thank you for helping me out, but it looks like that's not the case after all." Damion smiled. "Tell me what I did? Did I get rid of your gang, kill someone dear to you?"

Saying these words were just making Gary angrier, Damion had never done that to him, but during his time at the Underdogs, he had undoubtedly seen him do or order these types of things with others. This was why Gary had to do all of this in the first place.

"Get them both!" One of the senior Grey Elephant members ordered, and they soon charged in from both sides. Almost immediately, Damion had swung his axes, hitting the first one right in the head, finishing him straight away, and was continuing for the next one.

There were also a few that had gone towards Gary; he dodged a baseball bat that was swung down and hit the floor, then threw a fist out of his own, hitting the man right in the face. The next second and what looked like a chain was wrapped around his arm.

[Controlled transformation]

Gary activated his skill, bulging his muscles and pulling on the chain, causing a man to fall on the floor and be dragged the next second. With the next one coming towards him, Gary pulled down his neck, as his movements were faster than the one attacking him, and he started to knee him in the stomach before throwing the man towards the ones trying to approach him from behind.

While doing all of this, Gary never looked away from Damion and continued to deal with those coming towards him. Heading step by step to the position of the other, he had his eyes on.

“Wait!” the senior Grey Elephant member shouted as he felt like he had noticed something. “Pull back.”

Giving the order, the others pulled back, and some even dragged their injured ones on the floor away from the fighting that was taking place.

“You, you're not after us, are you? You're here for him?” the senior member said.

However, this wasn't true; Gary was there for both of them. He just never expected Damion to be in such a vulnerable situation, but perhaps he could use it to his advantage.

“Go ahead then; if you manage to beat him, it will only help us. We'll make sure he doesn't run away.” The senior member said, putting his hand up, indicating the others to stay where they were.

Of course, fighting between the other members seemed to be still taking place. It was clear that the Grey Elephants were not going to let them go but just wanted Gary and Damion to fight each other.

“Are you going to listen to what these guys have to say?” Damion shouted. “Haha, look at you all, look at how weak you all are. Rather than just face me head-on, you all planned to attack with these monsters, and now, you have come out, only when another attacks us, and you Grey Elephants are standing back

and allowing this to happen! Fine, whatever it takes, make sure you really kill me because I will make sure that each one of you pay for this tenfold!”

“Damion.” Gary finally said. “Whether it's now or later...you were going to die anyway.”

The senior elephant member started to smile, as it seemed like his guest had agreed to the condition.

—

On the outer edge of the high street, where Tyler and the others were waiting as they watched the fight, they finally could see the police force arriving at the scene. Several cars had pulled up. Anton, along with his partner Roo, came out from one of the vehicles.

‘I knew I was right. There is more than just Billy and Kirk in this town that are Altered. It looks like one of these guys here is our suspect.’ Anton thought.

Yet, at the same time, the two White Rose agents came out from one of the other vehicles. The injuries that Frank had sustained had healed. Thanks to his unique body and some treatment here and there.

It was the reason why they were late after all.

“Well would you look at that, our little Altered hunter arrived here before us, and now he’s hurting civilians,” Saidie mentioned.

“Well, perhaps he’s trapped. All of the Crazy Altered have been dealt with.” Frank replied. “What should we do? Should we go in?”

“No,” Sadie replied, and Anton turned his head, overhearing this as well. “You should understand right, chief.” She smiled. “We came here because of an Altered problem. That problem no longer exists. What we are witnessing right now is just a gang war.

“Just patiently wait for all of them to take out each other, and then we will come in and pick up all the scraps.”

Although the method seemed underhanded, Anton agreed and radioed in to the police force on the other side, giving them the order not to engage. To not even let civilians out. This was because the Grey Elephants had dressed similar to the civilians, so for now, they would just capture everyone they could.

After making the call, Anton started to watch what was going on.

“That looks like Damon, so the Underdogs and the Grey Elephants have finally had a go at each other, but who are the ones in the black and gold?”

It was clear that the Black and gold members were a separate group because most of them were busy fighting off the Grey Elephant members, yet, the one with the strange mask was going up against the leader of the Underdogs.

‘I have a feeling this whole thing is going to be troublesome.’

— —

Kate, along with her cameraman, had entered one of the buildings to the side. Convinced to let her in, she was now on the rooftop after climbing up a few stairs. Allowing them to film everything from above at a slight angle so everyone could have a look,

Gary and Damion were about to engage in combat and were seen in the middle, but the Grey Elephant members that had surrounded them started to move out of the way as they let someone through. Walking until the very edge, a large man could be seen.

“Well, now this is certainly interesting, isn't it,” Brandon said with a smile.

Chapter 297 - Three Way Gang War

Seeing the large man at the side, Gary recognised him immediately. How could he forget him, when only a few days ago that person had nonchalantly killed Riv in front of his eyes?

'I won't let you get away, either.' Gary thought to himself.

[Bloodlust has been detected]

[Forced Bond has been activated]

[8/8 Marks have been assigned]

With that, all three of Gary's hunting targets were in the same area. While his system had told him he wouldn't get any more stat points for eating people, he wasn't sure if he might get still some from hunting down his targets.

However, even if that turned out not to be the case, he had to get rid of them. With Damion and Brandon gone, he wouldn't have to worry about his and his family's safety. As for Gil, Gary had special plans for him. The Mark of his former schoolmate had been close to where his mother had gotten hurt, so there were some questions that he needed to ask.

'Is that big guy going to join in the fight, or is he just here to watch?' Gary remained cautious. Werewolf or not, he wasn't keen on turning his back to an enemy.

Brandon smiled at the wolf masked teenager, seemingly understanding his dilemma.

"Please go ahead, I don't want to interrupt, do what you have to." The Grey Elephant leader said, putting his hands up and even backing off a few steps. "None of you are to interfere in that guy's fight!"

Hearing him shout those instructions at his men, Gary charged in again. Damion tsked, having hoped to be able to play those two against each other. Unfortunately, the other gang leader proved to be more than just a muscle head. Having no other choice, Damion widely swung his axe. Leaning back, Gary avoided the first one, but only just.

'He's faster than I was expecting. Could he be an Altered who was hiding that fact?' Gary wondered.

The next axe was already swinging from above, and the masked teenager stepped to the side, and kicked the head of the axe into the ground. The pavement was rather solid, but it stood no chance against the curve of the axe, which cut deep easily.

Seeing this as an opportunity, Gary went in and took a swipe towards Damion's side. His nails dug into him and blood was falling to the ground. Quickly, Damion grabbed onto Gary's arm, and with the other axe swung it towards him.

The Werewolf tried to pull and break free, but he was surprised to find himself unable to. Damion had an unnaturally tight grip around him.

'Altered or not, that guy isn't normal!' The teenager thought in a slight panic.

[2 Points have been allocated into Strength]

[Your base Strength is now at 20]

Increasing his Strength, Gary was finally able to pull his claws out from Damion. Still, the axe looked like it would reach him, so he lifted his forearm and transformed it fully. The weapon went deep into his skin, stopping short of his bone.

"ARGHHH!" Gary screamed in agony.

[You have been inflicted with a grave injury]

[-16 HP]

[84/100 HP]

[You are heavily bleeding, -4HP for every minute that has passed]

During the whole fight, the Werewolf had managed to avoid getting hit. It was the first time in a while, but even with his Endurance this was a deadly weapon, and with Damion's strength he could understand why it would cause so much damage.

Gary was the one that had to pull his arm out and quickly retreat a good distance. He waited for his emergency healing to do its job. However, if his energy was to get too low then Emergency healing would be unable to do its job. If that was to happen, then Gary had a glimpse of how quick he could survive. Since 4Hp per minute was deadly.

"Pah, here I was worried about you, but you seem to be just a new Altered who's grown too big for your breeches! Just because you gained a new power and managed to overtake the Pincers you must have thought you could rule this town." Damion ridiculed him. "Are you some type of child? And as for you f*ckers!" Damion pointed his axe towards Brandon. "Once I'm done with him, I'll hunt every single one of you down!"

The reason that weapon proved so effective was that the gang leader had bought it at one of the Dark Guild's auctions. They were made from the very beasts that Altered had come from, making them the perfect anti-Altered weapons. It was also the crux of his power and why Gary felt that Damion was currently way stronger than the average person.

The masked teenager was happy for Damion's little speech, since it bought his arm enough time to fully heal. Seeing this, Damion's eyes widened. He knew that many Altered healed faster than usual, but this speed was just nonsensical.

'I can take his hits as long as he doesn't strike anything vital. I have to beat him here!' Gary encouraged himself as he charged in again, still having plenty of tricks up his sleeve.

Meanwhile, the other Howlers were continually fighting those around them. Their formation of protecting each other's backs had been working to a degree.

Marie, with her two blades, proved skilful enough to not allow them to get close. Innu, filled with rage, was kicking and punching harder than he usually would have done, and Austin was the strong wall of muscle as always.

However, there was one in the group that was oddly enough slowing them down this time around.

One of the Grey Elephants charged in and Kai went for a kick... completely missing. The man then rugby tackled him to the ground, pinning him down. Before he could do anything else, though, the black masked helper kicked the man in his ribs, pushing him off the fox masked teenager.

“Stay focused!” Blake shouted.

Luckily, they had an extra helper that was covering for the mistakes Kai had been making.

“This guy is good, maybe we should invite him into the Howlers?” Austin asked.

“You do know what that black mask is right, and the weapons he’s using, which means he’s probably a...” Marie didn’t finish her sentence there, releasing the others would then no, but she thought inviting an Altered hunter into their group would be impossible, since Gary was their leader.

Meanwhile, Austin was worried.

‘What’s wrong with him?’ Austin wondered, as he looked at the corner of his eye. ‘These guys might be stronger than the Pincers, but Kai’s performance is horrible today. He’s talented, maybe more so than the rest of us, so why does he seem so distracted? Is he worried about Gary? He keeps staring off into his direction, but he’s never been worried about him before.’ Something was clearly up.

It was then that a large bat came crashing against Austin's forearms that were raised in front of his face. He had blocked it, but it naturally still hurt, his forearms were now throbbing with pain. The others looked to be getting hurt as well over time.

“There’s just too many of them this time, we need to do something else!” Austin shouted. ‘If only we weren’t so weak. It’s starting to feel like we’re always dragging Gary down!’

At that moment though, the sound of groans from the crowds of Grey Elephants could be heard through the crowd. A few seconds later they could hear several bangs as well.

Up above, Kate had heard the noise and moved her camera to where the noise was coming from for a second.

'I knew she must have been involved with them somehow.' Kate smiled.

"It appears that the mysterious woman has now arrived in Cipeen. From the looks of it, she appears to belong to the third group that arrived earlier today!" She reported.

It was then that they could see Olivia there, huffing and panting.

"You guys are useless."

At the same time, she had brought back up along with her. With more men on their side, a true gang war was taking place.

"Go help the boss." Kai told her as he applied pressure on the wound on his arm, a small cut that had happened during the fight when he hadn't been paying attention.

"Don't worry, I was already planning to. I feel this need to help him." Olivia said, and she wasn't lying.

Kate quickly moved the camera back to the others as she knew that seeing an Altered fight was guaranteed to get more attention for the news channel. Just in time as well, as she could see the Altered furiously attacking the axeman.

Gary, had charged in bravely, grabbing the axes by the wood part just before the curved head. He then kicked Damion hard in the stomach with his strength, and quickly kicked him again in the ribs, hurting his wounds.

During the fight, Damion had gotten a few good hits in, but Gary started to feel the difference between the two. Unlike his opponent, the Werewolf was able to heal his wounds, and his stamina was abnormal, giving him the advantage, especially since the Underdogs' leader was exhausted from prior fighting.

Charging in again Gary lifted his claw ready to swipe it towards his neck, yet at the moment, like a bullet someone bulldozed right through the crowd, hitting Gary right on the side of his ribs sending him falling and sliding across the ground.

"I'm sorry, I'm late Boss." Kirk apologised.

Chapter 298 - Big Cat Fight

The first thing that Gary did, before even lifting his head off the ground, was to check whether his mask was still firmly on his face. Fortunately, everything seemed to be still in order in that department. At the same time, he noticed that none of the Grey Elephant members had attacked him, even though he was only a foot away from them.

'They must really be loyal to their leader, huh.' Gary thought.

It was then that he heard the voice speak.

"I'm sorry, I'm late, Boss."

Gary did wonder who could have possibly come out of nowhere and attack him from behind. He might have been too focused on attacking Damion, but still, the high schooler was sure he should have been able to notice if anyone came to interfere.

'Damn it!' Gary thought, clenching his fist. 'I should have known that he would come as well.'

Turning his head and looking up through the mask, he could see Kirk. Not only that, but his skin was yellow with black spots showing that he had somewhat transformed already. Now it all made sense.

One of the reportedly fastest Altered was looking right at the Werewolf, yet it was obvious that he didn't recognise the latter.

'You were the only one from the Underdogs I didn't want to fight, Kirk. Why did you have to come now...why is someone like you protecting that bastard?'

Memories of his time as a Transporter started flashing in front of the teenager's eyes. When he had first joined, he had naturally been frightened and felt lost, yet Kirk had seemingly noticed it. The adult had come over and just slapped him on the back, telling him he had to do a good job.

It had been a rather strange encounter, especially since Gary had stuttered out Kirk's name when he had recognised one of his idols. The teenager never knew why, but for whatever reason the Altered hadn't seemed to mind spending some of his free time talking to him, something the high schooler had never seen him do with other Transporters.

The two of them had been able to build up quite a bond because of it. Even before meeting him, Gary had watched some of his fights, and his admiration for Kirk as a supporter as well as a friend had just grown more from there.

The last time he had seen him, Kirk had taught Gary how to throw a punch, something which might have very well saved his life from the gangsters that fateful day.

Getting himself up from the ground, Gary looked towards Damion. Right now Kirk was standing in front of him and the rest of the Cheetah Squad had also caught up. Their body language was telling him that if he wanted to get to their boss, he would have to get through them first.

'Sh*t. I... I need to finish him off here. They already know what school I go to, and I know they will do whatever it takes to find that package. I'm sorry Kirk, but if you stand in the way... then I will have to deal with you as well. You were someone I looked up to, someone I looked forward to getting every day and talking to, you were like a... to me... but I have a real family I need to protect.'

Gary clenched his fist. The Howlers might have started out as a way for Kai and Gary to cut ties with the Underdogs, but part of him had always known that in the Underworld it would be impossible to have a peaceful separation.

The Werewolf had been hoping to take care of Damion without Kirk around. That might have been the only way to avoid that confrontation. Alas, it was too late now.

The masked teenager sprinted back to Damion, though three of the Cheetah Squads attempted to intercept him with a kick, two of them up high. Immediately, Gary covered his head and blocked the two kicks.

However, the third one had gotten through, hitting him right in the stomach, and it wasn't a soft blow either.

[-4 HP]

[48/100 HP]

Getting hit by Damion's axe attacks, as well as suffering Kirk's surprise attack, Gary was now down to less than half his Health. What's more, the kicks of the Underdog elite group were as strong as they were fast.

'They might not be Altered, but each one of them is strong. Figures, since their job is to support Kirk without slowing him down. How am I supposed to get to Damion? Should I just grab a bite and recover my Health? ... maybe I should keep that a secret unless necessary and use Claw Drain instead?'

While thinking about what to do, it looked like the Cheetah Squad wasn't going to mess around, surrounding the masked foe, ready to attack. However, Kirk himself had yet to move, perhaps because of all the Grey Elephant members around that could go for their boss at any second.

When the first one got close, though, a strong force whacked him in the stomach, sending one of the elite gang members hurling towards the ground.

"And here I thought you were some type of invincible monster." A voice came from behind him. At the same time, the Grey Elephant members were being roughed up and beaten. No longer were they just patiently waiting off to the side as they turned to see what was happening. The next second they were fighting once again, defending themselves.

Kate, seeing the chaos from above, understood everything clearly. Everything had changed when that woman had arrived. She along with her people were changing the balance, and along with the other

black and gold members, they were able to push through becoming a strong force to deal with the other Grey Elephant members.

The whip in her hands was a force to be reckoned with, just as much as Damion with his axes.

Now, coming through the fallen, seemingly untouched and unhurt, was Olivia Pearl.

“Why don't you just pull the same crap as you did with me?” She asked the Alpha Werewolf with a smile.

It hadn't been long since her arrival, yet all the Grey Elephant members on one side of the streets had been defeated by the Pincers, the Howlers, and the help they had received from the Altered Hunter. Given their reinforcement, Blake was starting to wonder whether his involvement now was too much. It had been necessary when Gary's friends had been on their own, but now he was wondering whether he should stay any longer.

‘I wish it was that easy. She really has no idea how close I came to death with Last Stand.’ Gary thought, not giving her an answer.

Seeing what was happening, Damion had a smile on his face, and immediately turned the other way, throwing his axe down at the Grey Elephant member, killing him on the spot.

“Haha, Kirk, you take care of these guys, I'm going after that big fat lump!” Damion ordered.

The next second, and the chaos shifted.

Those of the Pincer gang had already clashed with the remaining Grey Elephant members. Gary was losing sight of Damion, who seemed to be running somewhere. Fortunately, he had Marked him earlier, allowing him to see that he was heading towards another Mark.

‘Is Damion chasing after the Grey Elephant leader?’ Gary wondered. ‘Does he want to fight him, or is he going to flee? I can't tell.’

Either way, Kirk was standing between them.

“You're not going to let me pass unless I beat you, are you?” Gary asked, while Olivia had already started dealing with five from the Cheetah Squad.

“Seeing that you want my boss dead, no way.” Kirk replied, transforming further.

‘It looks like that man from before was right... there really are others in Slough.’

— —

At the same time, that very man that Kirk was thinking about, had cleared all the Altered in the Chavley area. Just in case there was more to deal with, he decided to check the news over his phone.

That was when his eyes laid on the fight that was about to take place.

‘Kudos to you, stalker boy, protecting the neighbourhood... but is it really wise for you to do it so publicly?’ Jayden immediately recognised the mask from the day the two of them fought. It was without a doubt, Gary.

However, there was also another familiar face on screen.

‘Dammit, just what did you do to provoke that cat dude?’

Chapter 299 - King Of The Jungle

Although somewhere deep down, Gary knew this fight would perhaps come one day, he could never visualise it in his head. Fighting against Kirk of all things, of course, he would never be able to win against the Rookie champion.

However, right now he had no choice.

[New Quest received]

[King of the Jungle]

[Defeat the Altered in front of you]

[Quest reward: ???]

[Optional Quest received]

[Waste not want not]

[Consume the Altered]

[Quest reward: Additional stat points]

Whenever he ended up in a tough situation, the Werewolf System would encourage his user to find a way out of his situation by granting him a Quest. In this case, it seemed to be confident enough in the teenager that it even gave him two.

'I have been conserving my Energy in the fight so far, because of how many of them are around me, but I can't afford to go easy on him.' Gary thought, as he used his Controlled Transformation on his legs, making sure he transformed them fully to benefit from the increased power.

However, he made sure to avoid changing his feet for fear that his toenails would end up going through his shoes. He also used the skill on his arms, hands, and chest area without holding back.

Right now Gary's body was close to being fully transformed, but not quite. Even if Gary used Controlled Transformation on most of his body, it still lacked out, compared to his Full Transformation. The form would use up a lot of energy, but it was better than losing, since losing would most likely mean death and not just for him either.

“A wolf type altered, I guess it makes sense with the mask!” Kirk shouted, as he had gotten in a type of sprinter's stance. He hunched his back, and his arms were out in front of him.

‘I’ve seen this before, in some of his Altered fights!’ The Werewolf thought, but before he could fully act, the Cheetah Altered had used his fast legs to cross the distance between the two in an instant. Gary reached out and had grabbed the initial fist coming towards him.

His feet were skidding across the ground, being pushed back.

‘I just increased my Strength stat going up against Damion, and it's still not enough!’

While being pushed back, Gary started to move his feet as well, hoping to get any friction to help him push forward, and that's when he noticed that Kirk was bearing his teeth. The muscles on his neck and muscles were tight as he pushed forward.

‘He’s really going all out against me... I'm not just a kid... I have people relying on me. I can do this. No, I HAVE to do this!’ The high schooler thought. It was then that he managed to readjust his hands, so they were positioned better around Kirk’s fist.

[Skill activated Claw Drain]

[-15 Energy]

[180/300]

After activating the skill, Gary dug his nails into Kirk.

[+2HP]

[+2HP]

[52/100 HP]

It wasn't a big boost to his Health, since the damage dealt to the Altered was minimal, but it was at least something. Somewhat in pain, Kirk gritted his teeth, and held on tightly to his opponent's arms, before lifting the teenager's body off the ground, and aiming for a kick right towards Gary's face.

It hit his chin, causing him to let go, and strangely Kirk quickly took off his black shoes, and transformed his feet. His toes appeared more like that of a cheetah, allowing him to get more surface area.

From his position, he pounced off the ground side to side, while going towards Gary.

Now, Kirk also had his clawed hands, and swiped them at Gary from one side. Lifting his arms, Gary blocked, but the claws of an altered man managed to pierce his skin somewhat.

[-3 HP]

Still, that wasn't the need of it, as soon as Kirk landed on the ground, he would jump up again and swing his arm, going for another swipe.

[-3 HP]

He continued to do this side, to side. It was so fast that Gary didn't know what to do. All he could do was keep his arms up, preventing the other from dealing him a potentially fatal blow.

'Having watched all of his fights, I was sure to have an advantage over him, but his current fighting style is nothing like what he uses in the ring! I have to do something, I can't just stand here and turtle up. My Energy will drain up way faster than his stamina will.' It was at that moment, after Gary saw that his HP had fallen below one third, that he decided to take a wild swing.

Alas, his desperate attempt ended up hitting nothing but the air, yet his opponent used the chance to claw his chest.

[-6 HP]

[27/100 HP]

'My Health is getting lower by the second! If this continues, Kirk really is going to kill me!'

It was then for the first time in the fight that Gary had stopped being attacked. He could no longer see the system notification screens that would show his HP lowering.

'Did he run out of steam?' Gary wondered and opened his arms, ready to attack Kirk. To unleash his own power he had yet to use so far.

He could only think that he had tired, there was no pause in Kirk's attacks. After all, Gary stats were even better than some Altered and he couldn't imagine himself attacking for that long one after another.

"Thanks, I was waiting for you to do this." Kirk said, as a fist came right from underneath hitting Gary in the chin as hard as possible. Kirk had pounced off the ground from underneath using the power of his strong legs, to deliver one of his strongest hits.

Gary was airborne for a few seconds before he eventually plummeted. Now taking a breath, Kirk was trying to get his wind back.

'His Endurance is crazy, after all those attacks and still not falling down, there are those in the AFC that couldn't take that much.' Kirk thought as he did his best to control his breathing.

[-10 HP]

[17/100 HP]

Seeing how low his Health was, Gary knew he had to change tactics, but first he went to feel his injured jaw, and that's when he realised something.

'My mask, it must have been knocked off during the hit.' When Gary went to look up, he could see his mask up ahead. Quickly, he crawled towards it, but a person had picked it up before he could reach it.

"Gary..." The person uttered in disbelief.

When looking at who it was, he could see that of all people, it just had to be Gil who was holding onto his wolf mask. Now that his hunting target had seen his face, revealing that he was a member of the Howlers. The person that the Underdogs had been looking for, was right here in front of them.

'Screw this.' Gary decided to go all out since his identity was already compromised.

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

Chapter 300 - The Alpha Howl

For most of the fight, Gil had been out of his depth. This was nothing like the colour gang war he had participated in. The gang members here were using deadly weapons, and Gil had seen several people get chopped down in front of him by the Underdog leader.

The dropout had thought he was tough enough to handle it, especially after Damion had killed off those who had refused to swear their allegiance to him, he thought he would never see a day bloodier than that, yet it turned out that it might just have been wishful thinking on his part. Gil realised that today when he saw how easily the adults by his sides were losing their lives against the crazed Altered.

'I don't really care who wins this stupid war. If the Grey Elephants win, I'm just gonna tell them that I was captured during the colour war and was forced to join the Underdogs. If they should somehow win this, nothing changes much. So it's better if I just do nothing anyway.' Gil thought, happy that the Underdogs' leader had told him to stay out of the fights, something he had intended to do since the beginning.

The fight between the two apparent Altered was catching the attention of everyone who wasn't busy fighting, and even some who were. While the two of them seemed somewhat evenly matched, the fight between the two gangs seemed to be lessening as more and more gang members became unable to continue to fight on.

One could only take so much beatings.

In some ways it felt like a type of truce had reached between the lower ranked gang members. They had exchanged fists, exchanged wounds and blood, but all of them understood that their fighting was pointless in the grand scheme of things.

Whichever's side Altered won, would have the power to punish the weaker side.

Still there were those that were fighting hard, those that knew they could make a difference such as the newly arrived chatah squad and Olivia Pearl.

As for the rest, even if they were lying on the ground, hurt, they were looking towards the direction of the Altered fight, and that's when the mask had dropped right in front of Gil's feet. He didn't think much of it, but when he picked it up, he looked towards the Wolf type Altered, though it was the last person he would have suspected to see here.

'Gary? ... What is that dweeb doing in a place like this? Why is he in the middle of a gang war, and since when was he an Altered?' Gil's mouth was left wide open, as nothing seemed to make sense any more.

However, the next moment things were starting to click in his head. Gil had no idea that the Transporter the Underdogs had been looking for had been Gary. He had just bluffed that to be the case, seeing it as nothing but a means to get some revenge against the guy. After all, their descriptions did match.

There was no way someone like Gary would get sponsored by a corporation and turned into Altered DNA. However, what if whatever was inside that package had turned Gary into what he was seeing right now? What if his shot in the dark actually hit the bullseye?

A smile appeared on Gil's face, but that smile just as quickly disappeared. The next second, and Gary's face started to change before anyone else could see it. Fur started to grow out from his face, his nose elongated, while parts of his skin started to peel off, getting replaced with hard hide.

The Werewolf's skin became thicker, his teeth became sharper, and his whole body became larger. The ends of his blazer didn't rip this time, thanks to the adjustments that Kai had made, but the same couldn't be said for the bottom of his trouser legs. The same could not be said about his shoes as well.

Now everyone could see Gary having fully transformed into a full wolf like Altered and his darting red eyes staring at them all.

For a second, Gary's eyes met with Gil's and flashbacks started to appear in his head.

'No... no... it can't be! I remember, that day. The day I got attacked on my first gang run with the grey colour gang...it was him. It was this piece of sh*t! He was the one who attacked me!'

Gil had never understood why he had been attacked that day. The best explanation he could come up with was that it had been some vigilante who had seen one too many super hero movie. However, now that he knew who it was, he understood why Gary had come after him.

He remembered what he had done. Gil had attacked Gary's scrawny little boyfriend. Of course, with this new-found power it was only natural that he would come after him for revenge.

It was at that moment, that everything told Gil to run, and that's exactly what he did as he headed back into the Basement's nightclub.

At the same time, Gil wasn't the only one that could see what Gary had become. No one else had seen his face without the mask. However, due to the uniform on his body and the only person in that direction even the most ignorant of the Howlers now knew for certain that Gary was an Altered.

Looking at Gary's full form, something that Marie hadn't even seen before, a memory had come in each of their heads and one for Innu that he would never forget.

"Was he the one that was trying to kill us that time?!" Innu blurted out. "We were in the woods looking for him!"

The others understood Innu's concern, and it also answered a lot of the questions they had, how Gary was able to do such things and on top of that how he was able to defeat the twins from last time. He wasn't just an Altered, he was a menacing, vicious one.

"You're wrong!" Kai corrected him. "Look at him. There were two of them that day. We were attacked by a black one, while a brown one saved us." Although Kai spoke these words, this was merely his own conclusion on that matter. Gary had admitted being one, but Kai hadn't asked him too much about it. However, given his fur colour it was a good bet, and it would coincide with Tom's actions.

Seeing this new larger form, Kirk had to still be fearless, he knew that if he hesitated just because of this that it would only hamper him and his skills. Once again, he got into a sprinting stance, his hands touching the ground.

"A full transformation isn't necessarily a good thing. I've taken down those that are bigger than you!" Kirk shouted as he sprung off the ground. He seemed to be even slightly faster than last time, seemingly pushing himself further.

Aware that Gary would expect him to do the same thing again, the Cheetah Altered ran across the ground, and at the last second he started spinning his body to add extra power to his fist. With his whole body's weight and momentum, Kirk crashed into Gary's stomach, pushing the Werewolf away... but merely by a few inches.

Gary's toes had dug into the solid ground, breaking it open, while the solid wall of muscle and weight was able to withstand the blow a lot more this time. The next second, Gary lifted Kirk by his arms and slammed his body into the concrete ground.

The next moment, Gary looked up at the moon and felt an instinct inside him take over. Following it, he let out a loud howl.

Ahh-wooo!!!

The Alpha Werewolf felt it reverberate at the top of his lungs. It didn't sound like a normal wolf's howl, this one was far deeper, and those around him could feel the vibrations in their body.

At the same time, not too far away, Olivia could feel it as well, getting a slight desire to join in.

The Beta Werewolf's eyes started to glow blue as she felt her strength rising.

'I'm really starting to like this feeling.' She smiled, getting her whip ready for more action.