

Werewolf 301

Chapter 301 - Weapon Duel

A little before, Gary had gone into his Full Transformation, the rest of the Howlers were now dealing with another problem. Despite them having the larger force, the Grey Elephant members were losing out, now that Olivia had arrived with her Pincer gang members.

If it was just the Pincers on their own against those Grey Elephant members, then the small-time gang would have lost out. Fortunately, the Howlers had quality members to help out, and then there was Olivia herself. If she was someone to be feared before, there was even more reason now.

On top of that, the Cheetah Squad who were a part of the Underdogs were also dealing with the Grey Elephants. In the end, it was almost as if the Grey Elephants were the ones that were being pressured by two strong forces, and with their leader having run off somewhere, the morale of the group wasn't particularly high.

This had led most of the Grey Elephant members to admit defeat, knowing full what the outcome would be like at the other end. Now, though, the Cheetah Squad were facing off against Olivia and the rest of the Howlers.

"We have to be careful!" Kai shouted towards the others. "Those guys are skilled enough to not drag down an Altered, so don't think of them as just another one of those regular Joes!"

With Kai, Innu, Austin, Marie and Olivia, there were five of them to go up against the five elite gang members, and running towards each other, it looked like everyone was ready for a clash.

"Hey, you seriously want me to take out one of them on my own?!" Marie shouted, but the others seemed too preoccupied to reply. All of them were engaged in their own combat, one of the cheetah squad members, a bald man with scars all over his face, looked towards Marie.

Her hands were shaking a little as she held onto her blades. She had been doing okay so far, and the real life situations had allowed her to improve quickly. Still, there was a vast difference to what she was about to do and what she had been doing so far.

During the fight, she had simply been trying to survive. Hurting those close to her, stalling until someone else to deal with the person, but now with a one on one situation. It wasn't possible for her to do things this way.

'Damn it, how could the others forget about me?' Marie thought, almost welling up, feeling as if she was on the verge of tears. 'Damn you, Kyle, ever since you saw that bastard, it's like your mind is too busy to notice the things right in front of you!'

"I see you are a person who uses weapons as well." The bald man said with a smile. Flicking his arms out, two small pocket blades appeared. They were smaller than what Marie used, but the man's confidence was making her even more afraid, and it was the first time that she would be going up against someone else who was using a similar set of weapons as hers.

The bald man didn't hesitate as he thrust the blade towards her. Quickly, Marie stepped back avoiding the first attack. However, her opponent didn't stop there. Having noticed the lack of confidence in the teenage girl, he went after Marie, trying to stab her once more. She continued to back away, not seeing any chance to retaliate.

'He's slower than Kyle's kicks, maybe I can do something.' She thought as she went in to slash towards the arm that tried to attack her, but as she did, she pulled back and moved away once again from another strike.

'What...what is wrong with me... I hesitated.' Her hands were still shaking holding the weapon, and it was then that she realised why she was so frightened. There was one important lesson that had been ingrained into her. It had done her well so far but now going up against another person who was using a blade and didn't care about killing her, it was causing her legs to go weak.

The best time to attack was when someone was attacking, and that was including herself. The timing was perfect, but she was off by a little. The next second, an image of the blade piercing her stomach and her life flashing before her eyes appeared in her head.

Once again, being distracted, the bald man thrust the two little pocket knives one after another. There was no longer any opening as Marie avoided each strike, one after the other. It was all she was able to do.

'Am I imagining things, or is he getting faster?' Marie thought in a panic.

Unfortunately, it was not just in her head. The man was indeed getting faster, having treated the earlier attacks as warm up. It was then, while avoiding the hits, that Marie felt something on her back leg, yet it was too late. The teenage girl tripped over one of the many dead bodies that were around.

Now with nowhere else to run, it looked like the images in her head from before were going to come true. Swinging her blade out now with no other choice, she was hoping that it would either hit the blade or hit the man first, but he had completely avoided the slash, pulling back at the right time, and continued to go forward.

"Don't worry, I won't make it painful!" The man promised her. The next second though, and his whole body seemed to light up slightly, it shook out of control and the weapons dropped from his hand. After that, two more whacks were heard, hitting the man on the back of the head, causing him to collapse on the ground.

When looking up, Marie thought that maybe Kai had come to his senses and had helped her out, but instead she saw the stranger in his full black mask.

'The Altered Hunter! Didn't he leave?' Marie realised, but soon felt like she should say something.

"T-thank you for saving me."

The truth was, Blake had indeed decided to leave the fight. It wasn't his fight to get involved in, and even though there was at least one Altered present with Kirk, it wasn't the right time to hunt him with so many people. It wasn't how Altered Hunters were trained to do things.

Regardless, Blake did want to stay and watch how everything would play out, and in doing so, he could see Marie, a school girl that he recognised as someone who went to the same school as him, was in trouble. In the end, he couldn't help himself but to quickly get involved once again.

Seeing that she was fine, the Altered Hunter had run off again. Marie took the time to see how the others were doing. Looking at her fellow Howler members, they were pretty banged up. Austin, was

bleeding from the top of his head, sitting on the ground huffing and panting, but he had no opponent in front of him.

Innu looked to be in slightly better condition, but when trying to walk forward he seemingly collapsed on the ground. The adrenaline that had kept him in the fight so far had escaped his body.

Then there was Kai. He was standing, but it looked like he could barely hold on. Even from behind, she could tell that his body was badly hurt. He resembled a boxer on wobbly legs. Taking a step forward, he was wobbling, even swaying. The fox mask was still on his face, but part of it had cracked.

'Is Kyle losing? I have to help!' Marie thought, since she saw that the others were in no condition to.

Just as she had got up off the ground, though, Gary let out his loud howl. That's when everyone looked over in the direction of the fight, to see the large brown furred wolf.

Olivia, who had been fighting with her opponent so far, who was a little better than the others, smiled.

'This strength... I've never felt like this before.' Throwing out her whip, it had wrapped around the man's leg. She pulled on it, trying to cause the man to fall, but instead he had let the momentum take him in, and he had jumped trying to spin himself while delivering a kick. It was then that Olivia knew that she had gotten stronger.

Grabbing onto his leg, she started squeezing onto it hard, making the Cheetah Squad member scream in pain. The Lady Boss then threw him to the ground, and stepped right on his chest. Swinging her whip constantly hitting the person as much as she could.

Seeing his friend getting beaten, the one that was dealing with Kai, had decided to help. Olivia stopped her attack, charged forward, and avoided the punch, before grabbing the other gang member's face and slamming it onto the ground as well.

She had the power of the Anti-Altered weapon, on top of her natural increased strength from being a Werewolf, and now she was receiving another boost, and it was thanks to Gary.

As she looked up, she looked towards Kai and gave him a condescending smile.

'She's...become so strong... Gary, what did you do to her? Did you turn her, like in those books? If that's the case... can you do the same to me?' Kai thought as he looked at Gary's full Werewolf form.

Chapter 302 - One Down

The second Kirk and his Cheetah Squad had arrived, there was a strange new confidence that had risen in Damion. It was as if they fully believed that now they were here, there was no chance for the group to lose this war.

It was because of it, the first thing he did, rather than concentrate on the Altered that was in front of him. He chose to hit the closest Grey Elephant member. Damion somewhat knew what this would do, it would ignite the fighting between everyone once again.

No longer was it a safe duel that everyone could just watch and the sense of danger would kick into them all. Seeing this, and leaving the Altered to Kirk, Damion continued to swing his axes towards the direction of where Brandon and the rest of the Grey elephants were.

His movements were faster, and his strength was beyond what the others could handle. Each swing would hit the members before they could touch him, killing them or chopping off their limbs in one go. It looked like a robot that was possessed.

That was when Brandon, the large titan of a force that the Grey Elephants knew him as, did something that they never expected him to do... He ran away.

The large man made a beeline through the crowd of his own people, roughly shoving them out of the way, without so much as looking back.

"What's this?!" Damion almost let out a loud laughter. "The mighty Grey Elephant leader is running away, despite being surrounded by all of his men? Have you dropped your balls that you don't dare to fight me after all you've done? If I had known your muscles were just for show, I would have gotten rid of you a long time ago!"

Damion threw one of his axes forward trying to aim for him, but another soon got in the way, being hit. The Underdogs' leader continued to run forward and lifted the axe from the body, not slowing down his momentum.

Due to the countless members of the Grey Elephants getting in his way, Damion was slowed down a little, allowing Brandon to further the distance. For a large person, he was surprisingly fast.

Kicking the man in front of him, causing him to slide across the ground, Damion continued to chase after, leaving the Grey Elephants wondering what to do. In the end, they didn't chase, because they had their own problem to solve.

"Don't worry, I'm sure Brandon has a plan." One of the members spoke up.

Running down the street, there was what looked like police who had boarded up the area. If Brandon continued to run ahead, then he would be easily stopped, and it was the same for the person who was following him.

Turning quickly right, he went through a narrow alleyway. Here there were a couple of policemen on guard at the other end. However, when he approached them, the two of them stepped to the side, allowing him to get through with no harm.

They continued to stay towards the side even as Damion went through.

'Strange, I'm sure one of the others was supposed to be the brains behind it all. I guess that guy isn't all muscles.' Damion thought. Suddenly, he stopped, turned around, and headed towards the two police men, throwing his axe right towards one of their necks. It sliced halfway through before stopping.

"You scum who have been paid off, you should just do your jobs. At least I know what I am." Damion cursed, as he kicked the other to the ground. He pulled the axe out from the deceased man's neck before slamming it down on the other officer.

Following the trails from Brandon, Damion soon found himself in an underground car parking lot. It was dark inside, with a few lights here and there. It looked like it was going under a refurb.

“Come on! You took me down here for a reason, right?!” Damion shouted. Saying these words, he held on to his side which still hurt from being attacked by Gary.

‘I hope Kirk brings him back alive, that way I can really bring him pain when he needs it.’

An object was thrown out towards Damion, but he soon slashed it in half. Quickly after that, a kick was made right to his side, hitting him in the ribs, aimed right at his wound. Bearing through the pain and gritting his teeth, though, he quickly swung his axe to the side and found it hit against something solid, and a man screamed.

“One down...no matter how many you have brought with you, they will all fall!” Damion stated.

Looking around, the gang leader could see five more guys, as well as Brandon who now had a large smile on his face.

“You know, they say I'm the strongest of the Grey Elephants, but that's just because whoever I fight, I make sure they never live to tell the tale.” Brandon admitted while holding a riot shield in his hand, having the words police force on it.

As Damion had suspected from the earlier interaction the Grey Elephants had bought off some people in the police force, which was what had allowed them to get away with so many things. Immediately, all of them charged in, but gripping his hands tightly around the axes, Damion was ready to give it his all.

He ran forward and ignored the rest that were charging towards him, he didn't swing at them this time, and just leapt in the air with the two axes behind his head. He swung them to give himself the most momentum.

Seeing this, Brandon was confident as he lifted the right shield to block the attack.

‘Haha, what an idiot, now we'll all be able to get him at once after this attack.’ The Grey Elephant leader thought.

When the axes slammed down, they tore right through the riot shield, and did the same to Brandon's head, causing him to fall to the ground, dead in an instant. Seconds later, the others charged in kicking and hitting Damion as much as he could, but eventually, just as he had claimed, he had managed to take them out one by one.

Now standing on his legs, he started to walk out of the place.

'Tsk, that bastard practically made this too easy. What was he thinking, trying to use a normal shield to block these two demons? They really were worth every single penny.'

Damion continued to slowly walk out of the car park in his injured state. Half a minute later, a man in a black leather jacket walked out from a corner. He walked over to Brandon's dead body and stared at it in silence.

'That's why I told you to just lure him in, but no, you just had to try to take him out yourself.' Raven thought to himself. 'I've warned you repeatedly that Damion Hawk is a dangerous man. I have no idea how he does it, whether it's sheer luck, perseverance, or something else, but somehow he always manages to catch a second wind when he's on his last legs.'

'First Yoven, now you, Brandon. I guess that's it for the Grey Elephants then. Well, I'll just have to see the upside in all of this. I won't have to worry about Sin, and now I have all the time I need to finish off my personal vendettas.'

A clang was heard, and still on edge, Raven turned his head, afraid that Damion had returned. Fortunately, he could see that it was only a young student. Seeing him, he let out a big sigh.

'Too bad, kiddo, but I can't afford any witnesses.' The last remaining Grey Elephant leader pulled out a knife, and immediately ran towards the student that had stumbled in. Hearing footsteps, he quickly held up his hands.

"Wait, I can help you!" He spoke quickly, as he backed off. "I was part of the grey colour gang and I got kidnapped by the Underdogs! I can help you get what they want! They're looking for a boy... a boy who stole a package from them... his name is Gary... Gary Dem!"

Raven stopped immediately, because he had heard that name once before, but he had never expected to hear it here, of all places.

Chapter 303 - A True Last Stand

When Gary had evolved and chosen the Warrior Class, the main advantage that had been given to him, was the fact that his Energy Pool had tripled. He thought at first that this was best because when unlocking more skills he would be able to use them more.

However, recently he hadn't been able to access as many skills as he had initially thought. Still, it was more so due to all these crazy situations happening so soon and one after another.

The idea of using more skills was to allow him to become more versatile when fighting. However, there was one more thing that it had improved. With over 110 Energy left to spare, Gary wouldn't have to worry about running out during Full Transformation for a while, which was a great thing, seeing as it was his strongest form.

Nevertheless, he also couldn't afford to drag things out, but it would hopefully be enough for him to do what needed to be done. Gary looked at Kirk, who was on the ground, and immediately went to slice down at him with his claws, which were slightly larger in this form.

Seeing this, Kirk rolled out of the way and stood up. He used his strong feet to leap back in the air, but one arm was over his ribs. One could tell he had been badly injured from just a single throw and where he was, pieces of the ground itself had been partly destroyed, indicating the power which he had endured.

Gary's claws hit the ground. They scratched the surface of the stone pavement, leaving deep claw marks. Looking up towards Kirk and seeing him injured, he decided to continue the chase.

'Damn it, what is up with that guy? He was already strong, but now he'll be even stronger. And what happened to his injuries from before? It's as if I never hit him in the first place.' Kirk worried.

He continued to pounce back, watching the Werewolf run towards him. Those that were on the ground, or close to the fight, made sure to get out of the way. Although many had seen Altered on TV, Gary's current appearance was terrifying to them all.

The second the Werewolf had gotten close enough, though, Kirk jumped back, his two feet pressing on a building's window. Pushing off them, the glass broke behind him, but it had been enough to propel him forward like a spear. Holding his hands out, that's exactly what he was going for.

Kirk's nails managed to pierce deep into Gary's chest. Nevertheless, the hide proved too thick for the Cheetah Altered to reach his opponent's organs. Still, when Kirk's feet touched the ground, he dragged his hand as hard as he could, allowing for his nails to rip through the hide, creating a large claw-like mark directly across his chest.

[-6 HP]

[11/100 HP]

'In this form my Endurance is even higher, so the attacks might look bad, but they don't do as much damage. Still with this low Health I have to be careful' Gary thought.

The Werewolf went to swipe towards Kirk again, but he had completely missed him. Next Gary tried to kick, instead of swinging wildly he was resorting to the moves he had practised. Kirk had somewhat seen this and lifted the arm by his head, in doing so, his whole body shifted to the side, and he almost fell over.

His arm felt like it might break at any second.

'That power is crazy...even if I can see the attack coming my way...I have to avoid it.' Kirk thought.

Seeing another punch instead of a claw, Kirk realised that the Altered was fighting rather than giving in to his inner beast, but Kirk had experience in how to combat using both. Accepting one's beast side was part of becoming an Altered and combining the two was how one should fight.

Using one or the other wasn't going to cut it. Kirk, pounced back, avoiding the hit, and quickly used his powerful legs to come in again. He gave two quick swipes that had hit the Werewolf's upper arms, scratching them and causing them to bleed.

[-1 HP]

[-1 HP]

[9/100 HP]

The damage wasn't great, but Gary wasn't in the best of condition either.

[Skill activated Claw Drain]

[-15 Energy]

'I need to get some of my Health back!' Gary thought.

Pushing off with his muscular legs, Gary boosted himself forward as fast as he could, as long as he hit Kirk, he would get his Health back. However, there was no such luck, as Kirk moved to the side, continuing to evade him.

Unfortunately, Claw Drain only lasted two seconds at its current level. Trying desperately to get to Kirk, left Gary open, an opportunity that the Cheetah Altered quickly used to swipe at him another two times.

[-1 HP]

[-1 HP]

[7/100 HP]

'I... I...I can't catch him...if I can't catch him, I can't heal...fighting a trained Altered like him seems to be too much for the current me, even fully transformed.'

Gary was starting to panic. He spun around, but the more erratic his movements became, the easier it was for his opponent to see where the attack was being aimed at. Once again, Kirk leapt towards his back, this time wrapping his legs around the Werewolf's waist. Quickly, he dug both his hands into the top of his neck, before leaping off again.

[-3 HP]

[-3 HP]

[1/100 HP]

'Holy sh*t, this is getting too close! My eyesight is getting blurry... If I get hit again.'

Turning around, Gary could see the two claws near him, leaving him with no other choice.

[Skill activated Last Stand]

As the two claws scratched his face, one of them went through his eye, but the other slightly missed, hitting his cheek. The pain was really going through Gary's body.

[-4 HP]

[1/100 HP]

[Last Stand is activated (59 seconds remaining)]

He saw the number, but he knew that he would be safe, no matter how much damage he would take for the next minute.

“You’ve lost a lot of blood, and you're still standing, I admire your will to keep fighting!” Kirk praised the other, surprised he hadn’t reacted despite losing an eye. Since his technique was working by jumping in and out, he wasn't going to change it.

However, Gary’s mind was at a loss. Using Full Transformation had already been a desperate move on his part, yet Kirk had forced him to activate his secret trump card Last Stand as well. That skill didn’t make him invincible, only temporarily unkillable, yet what use was it when he couldn’t hit the other, much less finish him off?

The pouncing in and out continued, and Gary continued to swing wildly, but nothing was working. More blood, more wounds appeared on his body, more pain that Gary had to suffer through.

“DON'T GIVE UP!” Kai shouted at the top of his lungs. The side of his head was bleeding from his earlier fight, and it was starting to taint his mask red. Yet he still stood as confident as possible while yelling outward. “You need to keep living!”

Hearing this, he knew that Kai was right. Although Gary still hadn't figured out what to do, all he could do was try his best. In doing so, Gary looked at Kirk’s body coming towards him, ready for another attack.

He twisted his body, and threw his hand out from underneath. It was similar to an uppercut, but instead of going for his head, the teenager was aiming for his stomach. All Gary could hope was his fist would be able to hit in time.

He could see that Kirk’s claws were about to reach him, but it looked like Gary would be able to hit him as well, just before he could jump away. He could deal a significant blow.

[Last Stand duration has elapsed]

‘No... if I get hit by this... I'll die!’

The two hands from both of them continued, but just then, something wrapped around Kirk's leg, and pulled him back ever so slightly. His body had been moved and slipped down.

“ARGHHH!” Gary screamed.

His fist smashed into the stomach. Allowing for Gary’s full powered fist to connect to his idol, but it hadn’t just hit Kirk. The punch pierced through his stomach, and Gary could see his bestial hand in front of him.

Chapter 304 - The Winners

Gary was unsure what would happen once his HP reached 0, whether he would just faint and lose consciousness or if his System would really kill him off, but he sure as hell wasn’t willing to find out. It was a test that he might not exactly come back from. The high schooler was certain that no matter the consequence, if it wasn’t for his Last Stand skill, he would have surely died to Kirk’s attacks. Driven by his fear of death, the Werewolf had put his all into that last punch.

His survival instinct had kicked into him, making him use every ounce of strength that had been in his body. The teenager had completely ignored who his opponent was and his personal relationship to him, it had merely become a fight to the death, the only options were either to kill or be killed.

His foot twisted the right way allowing for the power to be used from his whole body, the twist in his hips were perfect. Unbeknown to Gary, he was delivering a textbook blow. It was a solid hit, a perfect punch he had never done before.

Looking at his furry hand, he could see it was covered in blood. At the end of it, he saw that Kirk’s body was limp. Even through his hand, he could feel his heartbeat. It was slowly swallowing down, and the look in Kirk’s eyes was starting to hollow out. Blood continued to drip from the open wound, painting Gary’s hand and the ground red.

“Did Kirk actually lose to the Wolf Altered...but how?” The Underdog members that had survived, couldn’t believe what had happened. It was the same for the Cheetah Squad. Although the Howlers had beaten them, the teenagers weren’t murderers, and they didn’t plan to change that if it could be helped.

Surprisingly, even Olivia had been somewhat tame with her opponents, even though the pain of being whipped with her special weapon had made some of them think they might have been better off dead.

“He...he actually managed to beat Kirk, the rookie champion.” Kai uttered in disbelief at his own words. It was then that Olivia snapped the whip back to herself and wrapped it around her arm.

‘That boy... I could tell he was on his last legs.’ She thought to herself. ‘It was almost as if my body chose to do whatever it could to save him. Was that because he turned me into a Werewolf? Would I have been free if I hadn’t intervened and Kirk would have finished him off? ... Either way, this result should be more beneficial to me.’

‘I thought this group of kids would stay back, and only come in, after the fight between the two, like the other smaller gangs had planned, but that's not the case at all. It’s only a matter of time until news spreads that there is a new Altered in town that's stronger than Kirk. They shouldn't be planning to make their move any time soon.’

Thinking about all of this, a wide smile appeared on Olivia’s face. She had grand aspirations to move up, but she had always been careful. It was hard for any gang to rise up since those in power would do everything to keep the status quo.

The Lady Boss had been biding her time, hoping to gather support from her clients until everything was perfect, yet the Howlers had come and taken over. However, given today’s performance, she felt like they would amount to great things in the end. It was possible this gang would achieve what she always wanted, and if she stayed by the Alpha Werewolf’s side she would reap the benefits as well.

Clenching her hand, she was starting to wonder what she was starting to become as well.

[You have defeated your first Altered]

[Quest reward: 2 Pawn points have been granted due to the difficulty of the quest]

[Additional rewards: Instant Level Up]

[Skill selection]

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 18]

[A stat point has been granted]

[Optional Quest (Waste not want not) is still in progress]

[Consume the body of the Altered for additional stat points]

Right now, Gary didn't care what the system was showing him

“Kirk!” The Alpha Werewolf growled out through his large snout. “Kirk!”

It was clear that Gary was trying to communicate with his defeated opponent, but the onlookers wondered why. Getting no response, and seeing that he couldn't keep up his form for much longer, the teenager did something surprising.

Pulling out his hand, Gary caught Kirk before he fell to the ground, and leapt to the side of the building, digging his claws into the walls. He leapt up again, digging his hand in. The Werewolf was jumping up the wall while carrying Kirk away. After reaching the very rooftop, he continued to run off in the distance.

The others just watched in amazement, not quite sure what to do now. All the gangs' leaders were now gone, with only the Howlers really having someone else who could take charge. Kate who was on the rooftop had lost sight of the two Altered and had no way to follow them.

However, there were still those who were on the ground. Hearing the voice of someone, Kate asked her cameraman to swiftly zoom in on the speaker.

“Listen up!” Kai shouted, as he confidently walked into the centre where Gary and Kirk had been fighting just seconds ago. Pools of blood all around.

“This war is over!” Kai declared. “Everyone, remember our name! We Howlers are the ones who punished the Grey Elephants who created and unleashed these monsters in the town of Slough, and our leader was the one who defeated the Underdogs’ Altered. From this day on, you all better be careful because we will take over everything the Grey Elephant and the Underdog own! Should any of you try to stop us... then I welcome it!”

The words of Kai were loud and clear for everyone to hear, and all the members on the ground had no case to argue. Where were their strong leaders and such? They were nowhere to be seen.

However, the Howlers wouldn't be able to take over things today, not yet and Kai knew that, this declaration was mainly aimed at the other small-time gangs, because he was sure that there was a group of people waiting to make their move, and he was right.

At either end of the streets, the police forces had come out from their cars. They had their megaphones ready.

“Everyone, please stay indoors for a little while longer. It is still not safe to come out. I repeat, please stay indoors for a little longer. It is not safe to come out.” Anton announced over the megaphone.

“Erghh what does he mean it's not safe to come out?” Marie asked, worried this could mean something else was about to happen.

“No, they can't be. We freaking defeated those monsters, and fought off all these gang members!” Innu shouted. “They can't be thinking of...”

“Alright, everyone!” Sadie the White Rose agent shouted out. “Go and bring them all in!”

Alas, Innu’s guess was spot on.

Chapter 305 - Escape

The police force were already on the move once they saw that the fighting had started to settle down. They had been waiting for the moment when either of the Altered would finish the other off.

Altered, no matter what state they were in, were dangerous. There was no point losing police force's lives over the current incident, and as for Sadie, she was being cautious for other reasons.

'When that Wolf Altered howled, my foot started to hurt again. Was he the one that bit me? But according to the gathered DNA it should have been the deceased Billy Bruntin... not to mention his fur colour was different.'

'Since when were there so many Altered in this sh*tty Tier-3 town? We will have to make a report to stay here longer after this.' Sadie thought.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" Anton asked one more time before giving the order to his men. "You know that reporter from Channel Five is filming everything, right? If we do this, we will look like the bad guys."

Sadie laughed at his comment.

"I don't care about the public's opinion." She replied. "Whether we are the bad guys or not, we are simply doing our job. Besides, do you really think these people came here to protect the innocent?"

"No, this whole war certainly started because of the gangs in the first place. Those Howlers must have just seen the opportunity and decided to take advantage of it. No one cares for the people but us. They seem to forget because your men wear uniforms, but they have lives as well. They have families they need to go home to."

It was then that the unexpected had occurred, the fight was over, but the Wolf Altered had taken both of them out of the area. That guy was most likely the gang leader, so Sadie had been sure he would stay back and protect his fellow gang members.

However, Gary had not simply left the scene, but he had taken Kirk's body with him. Because of this, she needed to act fast. With her Altered form, she should be able to catch up to them and arrest them while they were weak.

The next second, a single wing sprouted from her back.

'What the-?! What is wrong with me!' Sadie was confused at her body not listening to her.

"Don't worry about them, let's just deal with those in front of us. Let's protect the people like you said." Frank attempted to cheer his partner up.

The single wing retracted back into her body, to the dismay of the woman.

The police started to charge in from both sides, and the Howler members were injured. If they were to fight their way out of this, it certainly would be difficult for them.

"Come on! We won't be able to convince them to get you out of this one, we have to go!" Olivia shouted. She wasn't sure if it was her own desire, or her just adhering to the Pack Rules, but she felt compelled to help the little rascals.

In her own group, they wouldn't get punished too much, not unless they had proof that they had murdered some of those that were dead, but most of that had been done by Damion.

The others got up, and stayed closely behind her. They ran forward and could see that police forces were down even the narrow streets to the other side. So instead, she decided to throw her whip out towards one of the shop's doors.

It wrapped around the handle, and the next thing with her strength she pulled it completely off, and flung it to the side, throwing it in the distance towards the police.

"She's really good with that whip, huh? I mean she's doing things that are impossible, right?" Marie asked.

The others didn't really think about it much, but Marie was right. A special trait of the whip was that as long as Olivia could picture what she wanted to do with it, the whip would do exactly that. It would follow the image in her mind, giving her perfect control.

With her added strength and speed, it had made her a lot stronger than before. The group thought that they might have to barge through the crowd of people inside, but as they entered everyone stepped out of their way.

“There's a door in the back!”

“Come this way, we'll try to hold off the police for you.”

It looked like they had gained the public's trust for getting involved and dealing with those creatures, more so than the police. Immediately, after the Howlers had entered, they stood in front of the door, trying to slow down the police in whatever way they could.

They followed what looked like the owner to the back door, who was drastically trying to find the key, on the chain of multiple.

“It's okay, old man, thanks for the help so far!” Olivia shouted as she booted the door open. They were now clearly on the other side of the street.

She ran out, and the others quickly followed behind her.

“We'll send someone to pay for the door, I promise.” Kai said as he ran past with the rest.

They were finally on the other side, but still running, they thought soon the others would catch up with them. If the police force was to send a car after them, or someone spotted them, they would be in trouble. That was when a car was heard screeching around the corner.

It quickly reached the gang members and stopped. The door was immediately opened by Kevin from the inside.

“Get in quickly!”

Immediately, all of them jumped into the car, squashing into the back, while Olivia calmly opened the door to the front and got in. There were a lot of them, so it was a bit of a squeeze, but that didn't matter right now.

The next second, the car was driving off away from the scene.

"Whoa...man, my hands are shaking." Tyler confessed behind the wheel.

"You've certainly earned your keep. Remind me to give you a bonus once we make it out safely." Kai complemented the other.

"How, did you know... how?" Innu asked.

"You guys were all over the news. We were watching what was going on, and when we saw the police making their move, we knew we had to do something." Suzan explained.

"But what about the wolf mask boy, should we drive around and try to find him?" Tyler asked.

"He's okay." Olivia answered. "Trust me."

— —

At that moment, Gary didn't know where he was, but he had been leaping across shops or apartment rooftops, getting away from the area as much as he could. Eventually, when he could no longer hear the sound of fighting or other things.

He stayed where he was, an empty rooftop with hardly anything there, just a few lines of clothing that people had put out and not put away even though it was now nighttime. Gary carefully placed Kirk on the floor and could see the wound in his body.

His eyes were still working as it looked towards him.

“What...are you doing?” Kirk finally managed to utter out.

Right now, Gary was still in his werewolf form unrecognisable, but cancelling his Full Transformation, his face started to revert, tears flowing down his face.

“I’m sorry... I’m so sorry.”

As the fur started to disappear and the face went back to normal, Kirk could see who it was.

“Greeny?”

Chapter 306 - Stay With Me

At this point and time, Gary was just far too upset to care about whether Kirk recognised him. In fact, in some way the teenager felt that he needed the Altered to be aware of it, to see who had been the one to fight and defeat him, and how much Gary regretted it.

The high schooler had decided to agree to Kai's plan, yet when he had killed all those orphans, it had felt like the only way to save them, but this... this seemed liked a complete waste, a misunderstanding that could have somehow been avoided...

Aware of the kind of injury he had dealt the Altered, Gary had felt as if someone as if someone had plunged a knife into his heart before, but now, seeing the way Kirk looked at him, with just a tiny smirk on his face, yet without any blame in his eyes, it felt like someone had twisted it.

“I-I didn't mean to, Kirk... I didn't mean for a-any of this to happen!” Gary sniffled between his words, tears rolling down the face on to the Altered. “E-everything started going wrong that d-day when I was supposed to d-deliver that package. I-I didn't steal it, I swear!

“Instead of the c-client, there were those gangsters who attacked me... and I-I somehow turned into this. W-whatever was in the package did t-this to me, but it was impossible to explain. D-damion would have killed me for sure! T-there was nothing left in the suitcase and the g-gangsters they were... they were... so I went into hiding...” After telling his part of the tale, Gary started to trail off.

He didn't know why, but the Werewolf felt compelled to explain to the Altered how everything came to be, and how they ended up in this situation. Gary felt extremely guilty of how things had turned out. When speaking though, he realised it meant nothing. All of those things that happened to him, why did it mean Kirk had to end up this way.

"I understand, Greeny." Kirk eventually spoke up. "I've seen people change after becoming an Altered, but you never seemed the type to hurt anyone because you wanted to. I've also heard rumours about how the Pincers let go half of their working staff, and I bet that you had a hand in that now I know who you are. Even I thought those rumours had to be false.

"I could feel your desperate punch at the end, everything you have done so far seems to have been for the sake of survival." After finishing his sentence, Kirk coughed, and a little blood escaped from his mouth.

"Don't speak!" Gary shouted. "I'm going to save you!"

Checking through the system, Gary looked through the skills he had. There was the Alpha Bite, if he attempted to bite Kirk now, then he could turn him into a Werewolf. If that was the case, then perhaps eating some flesh would allow him to heal just like him.

Although Kirk was the enemy, he would be able to follow Gary.

[Skill activated Alpha Bite]

At that moment, Gary's eyes started to glow red, his canines lengthened, and he looked at Kirk's arm that was mostly intact, and lifted it up. Without hesitation, this time, he bit right into it.

"Argh! You're trying to kill me quicker!" Kirk let out a dry joke. "I'm kidding, I barely even feel it any more."

[Error: Alpha Bite is unable to be used]

'What do you mean Error, you sh*tty system? Explain to me! Don't give me a skill and then tell me that there is an Error in the skill!' Gary lifted Kirk's arm, and bit into it again in another spot.

[Error: Alpha Bite only works on human targets!]

Seeing the message twice, Gary let go of the arm and allowed it to drop to the ground. He was at a loss of what to do, and the second time he had bit into Kirk, the Altered didn't even make a noise. The Werewolf looked over to his idol, seeing that his eyes had blurred even more.

"Gary, are you still there?" Kirk asked, even though the teenager's face was sticking out right in front of him. "I want to tell you something... I never wanted to do this. You know... I'm glad that I am the one that ended up like this and not you.

"I had always planned to let you go. The only reason why I was looking for you, was so I could hide you from Damion. You are a good kid, who was just unlucky to get born into this kind of world. You know... I saw you one day... when you left the hospital... I'm sorry, I didn't arrive earlier... hope your mother recovers..."

"Stop speaking, Kirk, you have to survive! I'll take you to a hospital, I can run really fast, and they can save you!" Gary shouted back.

The truth was Gary was low on Energy, and on top of that, even if there were hospitals that could treat a wound like Kirk's, it would be in one of the high tier cities, not Slough. The Altered was lucky that he had managed to survive until now, able to still speak.

"I wish... never became... Altered... too much..." Kirk spoke, yet his voice became weaker until it drifted off completely.

Gary hadn't even heard the reason he had decided to follow a scumbag like Damion, why he had worked so hard for that bastard, and now he had no breath at all. His heartbeat had already stopped completely.

"No Kirk, no!" Gary shouted again, as he started to push on his chest up and down. Honestly, Gary didn't know what he was doing, he was just trying to get his heart to beat back again. As he was pushing, he

started to think back to all his interactions he had with Kirk, why was he so close to the man, a man that was mostly a stranger to him.

However, eventually Gary stopped because he knew it was useless. He knew that Kirk was dead.

[Optional Quest (Waste not want not) is still in progress]

The Quest screen came up as he looked over his idol's body. Could he really eat someone he cared so much about?

'If I leave his body here, what will happen, who will it go to? Although I've seen him fighting so many times, I've never heard him say anything about his family...'

There was something in his head, something prompting him to eat the body. When Gary thought about it more, he thought back to some of his lessons. How animals would eat their prey fully, as a sign of respect after fighting. Although he wasn't the brightest person so maybe he had this confused with something else. Still, when those that would go hunting, it was rude to leave the dead bodies after killing them.

'Kirk, I'm going to take a part of you, I'm going to take your body to make me stronger. That way, wherever I go, part of you will be with me. I promise I'll use the strength your body gives me, to kill the person that was the cause of all of this!' Gary silently swore, as he went and took his first bite of Kirk.

Chapter 307 - Body Of An Altered

The Channel Five broadcast had somewhat come to an end, at least the filming of the fight between Gary and Kirk couldn't be continued any more. Kate would have loved to follow behind the duo, but trying to find the Altered that had disappeared into the distance seemed like it would be nothing but a lost cause. Instead, the reporter went down and attempted to interview the police force, yet every single one of them refused to comment on the matter.

'Damn, it was clear they were instructed to say this. They must be aware how bad this whole thing is going to make them look. An entire gang war happened right under their noses, despite agents from White Rose having been present. It seems like they might have had some idea of these strange Altered in the first place.'

Kate changed her target and attempted to talk to the people who had been in the area, who proved to be far more talkative. She asked them about how frightened they were, when the strange creatures had started to appear, and whether they had heard anything said from below. After all, the cameraman's microphone could only pick up so much from the rooftop.

The only thing that was clearly heard and repeated by the public was the name of the mysterious group that had been dressed in black and gold. The Howlers. This was a name that was repeated several times, and it was obvious that the public was on their side.

The common consensus was that the Grey Elephants must have been the ones who had something to do with the strange creatures' appearance, most guessing that it was a ploy to be used against the Underdogs, who were a group that weren't well respected even on this street.

Normally, people would hide their disliking for them, but they freely spoke about them today. Mainly the shopkeepers and such.

—

One person who had finished watching the video couldn't believe it.

'Cat dude... I'm not even sure I would be able to come back from that one...' Jayden thought. 'That was a strong blow... but what is streaker boy doing caught up in all of this? ... It seems for the best that Xin is leaving Slough, after all...'

Now it started to make sense how Gary had been able to locate his sister. Typically, Jayden would have an immediate dislike for anyone remotely connected to any gang, but somehow he still had a soft spot for the Werewolf, perhaps due to him trying to save his sister in the first place.

'It's a relief that Dominatrix got involved, if she hadn't... streaker boy would have undoubtedly been the one to die.' Jayden concluded. 'Before I leave Slough, I should pay him one more visit, and let him explain himself, and find out what's his plan in all of this.'

—

When Gary had eaten Hawk and friends or Billy, fear, anger, worry, regret, all sorts of emotions had come over the Werewolf as he got on with the gruelling task. Eventually, it would reach the point where some type of instinct, something deep within him, would take over.

The first few bites were always the hardest to swallow, and he needed to convince himself to think of them as oversized critters, until this other part of him came over him. However, for the first time, Gary remained fully conscious throughout the process.

Eating into Kirk, he had done so in tears. The Werewolf somehow managed to suppress his instinct, going through this as a way not to hide from anything, to remember every bit of what he did, to remember everything that he was doing.

It was tough, but he considered this his own punishment.

Another reason for him not allowing his instinct to take over was so that there would be some parts of Kirk left. He avoided eating the Altered's bones for one, at least as best he could, but most importantly, he left his head intact.

Most of the flesh of him was gone, and his clothes were laid out on top of his bones somewhat covering him. But there was no need to do anything else, according to the system at least.

[Optional Quest has been completed]

[The following stats have been awarded]

[+3 Strength]

[+6 Dexterity]

[+2 Endurance]

If it was any other time, then perhaps Gary would have been amazed at how many stat points he had gained. Each level up only granted him a single one after all, yet now he was gaining several. On top of that, the Dexterity stat, something that in the past he had been severely lacking in, had increased the most.

It made sense, seeing as Kirk had been an Altered who had heavily relied on his speed, but right now, Gary wasn't in the mood to be thinking about these types of things. He didn't want to think about eating other Altered, or beasts as the system claimed he would need to level up.

[Congratulations, you have gained 1 Knight point]

[1 Knight Point = 5 Pawn Points]

At the moment, for the Quests Gary had completed he had three Pawn Points saved up, and he had already used one to try to upgrade himself to the next Grade. With this he would have surpassed it, before he would try to mess around with the system though he needed to do something with the body.

Looking around, he went to one of the washing lines that were nearby, there was a large bed sheet that had been hung out.

"Sorry." Gary said as he pulled it off the line, and started to put the rest of Kirk's body on the sheet. After eating the Altered, Gary had regained nearly all of his Energy; he was just 20 points shy, and he had regained his complete health back as well with the passive healing. It was clear there were many benefits to consuming an Altered.

It seemed like Altered did indeed count as beasts to the system, but those beings like the twins, or the orphans, didn't.

Bringing the sheet together, Gary tied it up at the end, and chucked it around his back. He knew it was somewhat disrespectful but he wasn't in a situation where he could afford to consider alternatives.

'There's a lot of blood still on the rooftop, but I guess there really isn't much I can do about it, but what do I do with the bones.'

It was at that point that Gary looked at the markings in the air, his hunting targets. He could see that two of them were active, as for the third it had disappeared.

‘So it looks like the Grey Elephant leader kicked the bucket in the end.’ Gary thought. ‘But that means that Damion, as well as Gil, are still alive.’

Not knowing quite what to do, he did what he usually did in this situation, making a call to a certain person. Only now, that he had time to think about it, did he realise in what sort of situation he had left them, making him wonder if they were okay. He could tell that Olivia was fine, and his current Bond Marks, were active so he at least knew that most of them weren’t dead.

Unfortunately, he was unable to connect. Kai had immediately hung up, not allowing the call to go through. Just in case, Gary tried again, but this time...

[The person you have dialled is currently not available]

Rather than going through a ring, it hung up immediately, either Kai had switched off his phone or it was something else.

‘What is going on?’ Gary wondered.

Chapter 308 - The Whole World Knows

The Channel Five team was a news team that was local to Slough. Due to the sudden emergence of the crazed Altered, the broadcast studio had sent an emergency broadcast to all the town’s citizens, informing them about what was happening over their phones.

Of course, with the amount of areas that had been attacked at once, and with how many had died it was something that they had to do, otherwise more lives would have been lost.

However, now that their questioning was done, it was time for her higher ups to decide what to do with her footage that had been passed on. Whether it would stay local news or be shared with the world. Kate Dar didn’t have much hope originally, feeling that whoever was behind this type of experiment surely would have a large enough backing to shut it down.

There had been small articles published by indie news reporters and journalists that weren't too flattering for those in the higher tier cities. As a consequence, they had straight up been told to delete the whole thing off the face of the earth, often times followed by a 'correction' article or other news outlets would start to suppress them to the point they became forgotten. It wasn't rare for those journalists to stop their line of work altogether, after realising that their dream work wasn't as rosey as they had come to believe.

The only silver lining about this event was that she had heard that a local live streamer by the name of Scotty had recorded the events and that his channel had exploded. His live stream had been accessed by many outside of Slough. What's more, some citizens of Slough had also made videos and taken pictures, which they had started sharing online.

As quick as one video could be taken down, more were uploaded, and the netizens who saw it made sure to make copies. This event started to grow into a matter that the whole world was going to see. Kate's higher ups seemed to have come to the same conclusion, that it would be impossible to suppress it, so the broadcast opted to capitalise on it by sending their footage to broadcast stations in all the different tier cities.

Footage spread across the country not only of the strange crazed Altered but also the fight between Kirk, an up-and-coming star in the AFC, with a Wolf Altered.

Currently sitting in a sauna room that was far too hot for a regular human to handle was a red haired man. He had no clothes on and just continued to stare at the ceiling. his body wasn't sweating one bit despite the extreme heat. The water vapour in the air was sizzling the moment it touched him, as if his body was made out of hot coals.

'Well, I never expected them to use the test syringe in such a manner.' Sin thought to himself. 'They should have just used the entire thing on one person. Honestly, I don't know whether to call this development a good or bad thing.'

'At least I won't have to go to that sh*thole again, but who knows what development this might bring... Will the status finally shift?' Sin smiled.

Sin wasn't the only King in charge of a Tier-1 city that had seen the video. Inside a white lab, where several workers were pacing up and down, there was one female that was standing on top of a balcony staring down and looking at all her workers.

'I can't believe our package never made it out of that place.' The woman thought. 'Worse yet, it looks like someone has already got their hands on it as well. How did they know? ... No, that doesn't matter now, the problem is that they all know now! It looks like we might have a little rat in our group.'

'Before we continue on with the development, we have to find out who it was!'

The situation attracted some attention from outside the country as well. However, the public wasn't too invested in the news. The majority didn't care about what was happening in a foreign land, and thought of it as nothing but an experiment that had perhaps gone too far in the race to create superior Altered. Similar things had occurred in their countries before, leading to far deadlier outcomes.

After all, each country had their own backed government funded institutions as well as private ones working around the clock to be the one to deliver the next generation of Altered. Since the No Lethal Weapons Act agreed upon by the world, the Altered were now the way of showing off their country's strength.

The amount of Altered a country had was important, but their individual strength even more so. If anything, the only debate other countries had surrounding that event was just how strong was this Wolf Altered that they had seen.

And yet, there was one person, or more specifically one group of people, who had been watching the news, having seen something they had never expected to see. Their hands clenched around the armrest in the chair they were sitting in, so tightly that the wood fibres inside started to snap.

“What on earth is happening? What the hell are these people doing?!” The man screamed at the top of his voice, his eyes glowing red in the darkness, and standing next to him, there was one with blue eyes.

“There must have been another bloodline still alive, it's the only thing that makes sense based on what we are seeing right now.” The blue-eyed man answered.

“Another Bloodline should be impossible!” The red eyed yelled so loud that the TV screen they had watched the report on had vibrated and fell over backwards from the stand it was on. Falling over and breaking.

“If there is another one, you know what this means and has always meant.” The man said.

“We'll start searching for him. I can only hope we'll find him before it's too late.”

Chapter 309 - The Start Of The End

It had been a tough night for the Howlers gang, and more than that, it was another large turning point for them. Who would have thought that a group of teenagers could impact their small town so much?

After driving a short distance, Olivia left the car, it had thankfully allowed for more space for the others that they desperately needed. Marie was sure she had been touched in strange places multiple times and couldn't even yell at one of the boys because she had no clue who had been the one responsible for it, not that she believed they were doing it on purpose in the first place.

Olivia had called one of her men to pick her up, and said she would be waiting for what they were to do next. At the same time, the Lady Boss knew she would be busy, trying to get her boys that might have been arrested tonight out of a cell.

Still, she knew that this period of time was crucial. If they wanted to take advantage of the situation that had been created between the two biggest gangs, they would have to act soon. However, Kai had only given her a lacklustre response, telling her he would inform her soon.

Tyler continued to drive around, listening in on his passengers' talk about what had happened. He honestly couldn't believe it, never in his wildest dreams did he imagine something like this would happen in Slough, much less his involvement in it, albeit passively.

There were times he was thinking about quitting his new job. Thinking it was far too dangerous, but today he felt like he had done some good, and he was getting addicted to this feeling, addicted to the excitement.

Marie talked about how she had been saved by the Altered Hunter, wondering what the man looked like underneath his mask. Austin noted that his fists and punches were getting stronger. None of them seemed willing to address the topic of Gary being a confirmed Altered, but perhaps they wanted to hear an explanation from their boss himself.

As for Innu, Kevin and Suzan, none of them were in any mood to talk, despite how excited the others were, but no one could blame them.

"I can't believe they were all turned by the Grey Elephants." Innu eventually spoke up.

"I got an update from that young police officer from before. They managed to get a warrant and search the warehouse, but as expected they found nothing." Suzan informed him, but the truth was they already knew what happened with those orphans. The fact that they found nothing in the place that was meant to be the new orphanage said a lot in itself.

In the end, Suzan and Kevin couldn't hold back their sadness anymore, as they sobbed as the car continued on to its destination. That was when Innu asked Tyler to drop them off at a certain destination.

"Kai, we are going to find who was responsible for all of this, right? We're going to take down the Grey Elephants and find out who is the one behind them! It can't just be some small-time gang in Slough!" Innu addressed the fox-masked teenager.

"Huh, what? Erghh, yeah, sure..." Kai replied, once again, not saying much else, not even caring that Innu had blown his cover by calling out his name.

Austin looked at the blonde teenager, wondering if he had been hit too hard on the head or something, but it was clear that anything they talked about with him today wouldn't quite go through.

"We're here." Tyler noted.

The place they had stopped at, was none other than the Black Rock Orphanage. The trio stepped out of the car and said their goodbyes. A few minutes later, the vehicle stopped once more, letting Austin get out, leaving only Marie, Kai, and Tyler inside.

However, Kai continued being aloof, just blankly looking on his phone every once in a while.

"You know, you're close, so you don't have to go, right?" Marie finally said.

"No." Kai replied instantly. "I have to go because we are so close. I can't afford to mess anything up at this point."

The car had stopped at the location Kai had asked. Opening the boot, there was a bag in there, one that he had prepared from the beginning. Taking off his mask and changing his clothes into something more casual, he closed the boot and signalled for Tyler to take Marie home.

It was quite the walk, and during it Kai tried to fix himself up as much as he could, but there were bruises on his face that made it clear he had been fighting. Eventually, the high schooler found himself at a quiet little stream of river.

It wasn't wide, and there was a downward hill on both sides that would create a pathway where many would cycle or run across. Kai felt the sound of his trouser's vibration, and looking at who it was, he pressed the red end call button.

'I should switch off my phone for now.' Kai thought, and did just that.

Walking down the hill, now on the pathway, he soon found himself walking towards the underside of a bridge. Up ahead, he could see several men in suits. All looked to be injured, having just gotten out of a fight, while others looked completely fine.

There were even a few members of the Cheetah Squad that had apparently made it out without arrest. However, Kai wasn't scared, because this meeting was a meeting for those in the Underdogs, and since he was technically a member he had been called in as well.

There was a sofa up against the wall that would link to the bridge above, and next to it, two barrels of fire, filled with paper and wood.

“This should be everyone!” A loud voice came from the person sitting in the seat. Damion sat there relaxed, seemingly in a good mood. “I called you all here because I got rid of that damned Grey Elephant's leader, and we need to plan what to do next. ... Hang on, where's Kirk?!”

Of course, Damion couldn't have bothered to watch any of the news channels, having just made it out and nobody wanted to be the bearer of bad news. However, one person had chosen to answer as they stepped forward through the crowd.

“Kirk is dead... or at least I think he's dead. His loss was broadcast all over the news.” Kai informed the Underdogs' leader.

“Dead?! Did that damn wolf masked freak really kill him?!” Damion stood up and kicked one of the flame barrels that were right by his side. “How? How is that possible?! Kirk wasn't just anyone, he was the goddamn Rookie Champion!”

“Do you know what favour I had to call in, to get someone of his calibre to work for me?!”

It was then that Damion could be seen walking over towards Kai, the axe still being held in his hands. Knowing their leader's temper, the others stepped back, but the blonde teenager didn't flinch, because he knew he would be safe.

“It's the truth, and we need to know what to do next.” Kai answered, as Damion stopped right in front of him.

It was then that Damion lifted his hair and looked at the bruise on his head.

“While the rest of us were fighting, you were having scraps with other kids, how cute.” Damion commented, dropping one of the axes on the ground, landing right between the two of them. He then ruffled his hair, and pushed his head to the side.

“Take it, that's yours now. With the situation we are in now, we are going to need every bit of help we can get, even from someone like you. Use it well, otherwise I'll use it on you.” Damion threatened, sitting back down in his seat.

Kai looked at the axe for a short while, before picking it up off the ground, holding it firmly in his hand. He inspected it carefully, having expected something like a surge of power in his body, but there was nothing. If he didn't know any better, he would think this was just a sharp, ornate axe.

“It's not every day that I give out a present, how about some f*cking gratitude?!” Damion shouted at him.

Feeling that the tensions were settled, the others started to walk back in, closer to Kai. Gripping the handle tightly, he started to think of all the others, so he put on a fake smile and bowed.

“Thank you. I will make sure to put it to good use, father.”

Chapter 310 - No Longer A Knight

After his meal, Gary didn't feel like he had been the one in control of his own body, yet somehow he had ended up at home. No longer in his gang clothes, not having met up with any of the others after the great attack that had happened, and no longer having the bag of strangers' bedsheets.

There were a few people that Gary would often go to for help in times like these, but not a single one of them seemed available. He couldn't tell the truth to Tom, and Kai hadn't picked up his phone, leaving him to once again deal with matters himself.

Entering his room, he could see that Amy was safe, in fact the entirety of Chavley he had traversed had shown no signs of damage. Who or how Gary didn't know, nor did he ask questions. It was as if he didn't even care about that right now. In fact, he didn't utter a single word as he proceeded into their room.

Amy had entered the hallway, seeing her brother, she greeted him, but he didn't seem to have registered it. Seeing him in his current state, the teenage girl knew that she would be unable to get through to him. Letting him rest on his own in their shared room.

'Maybe it's best if I sleep in Mom's room for today?' Amy considered the possibility. 'Gary, were you really involved in what happened on the news today? You told me to stay in, so maybe you were just concerned for me, or it was all a coincidence, but... all of those 'coincidences' are starting to pile up.'

The next day, Amy was sure that Gary must have somehow been involved in what had occurred yesterday. Although her brother hadn't openly appeared in the broadcast, Amy had recognised the other members of the gang called the Howlers, after all she had seen them briefly when she had entered the Wolf's Pool Club.

Part of her suspected the green haired leader to be her brother, but a bigger part of her was unable to accept this possibility. Being in a gang was one thing, being an Altered was a completely different one. Ultimately, she came to the same conclusion as Tyler, that Gary must have simply dyed his hair to resemble that person.

As curious as Amy was, she had promised her brother she wasn't going to ask again, and she intended to keep her word. Fortunately, she had never said anything about trying to find things out herself...

It was a normal school day, yet she had woken up before him and there was no food out on the kitchen table like she had grown used to. The door to their room was still closed, and she hadn't heard it open at all during the night.

'He hasn't done this before, but I'm not sure if I can make things better.' Amy worried. In the end, pulling up her sleeves, she did what she could to help out Gary. The high schooler made a simple meal for herself and left a good portion for her big brother out on the table, with a small note underneath, before heading out to school.

It was the middle of the next day when Gary realised that he had just been staring at his ceiling. It was hard to say whether he got even a wink of sleep.

'Sh*t, I'm going to be late for... ah screw it, after yesterday I doubt anyone will care about me having missed one school day.' Gary decided. He stretched his body and looked around. 'Hang on, what did I do with the bedsheet? ... I can't remember. How come I can't remember?'

The green haired teenager had been completely on autopilot to the point that he couldn't recall where he had put the loose bag filled with bones. He was mildly sure that he must have brought it home, but that might just be wishful thinking on his part. However, he wasn't in the mood to worry about it for the time being.

Since Amy hadn't cried out, she must not have found it, and judging by the time of day his sister should be at school, leaving him with ample time to find it. Checking his phone, he wondered if there were any messages from the others.

Unsurprisingly, none of them had written something in the chat. However, there was one personal message from Kai.

[Continue today as normal, will let you know more later.]

Gary somewhat thought that maybe they would continue their attack on the Grey Elephants or the Underdogs, whatever was left of those former big time gangs, anyway. With their leader gone, someone had to take over, and it was clear they would be scattered.

However, he would leave this stuff to Kai, since he was the one that should know best in the first place. There had to be a reason why they wouldn't move out yet, so the Werewolf opted to wait until evening to get an update.

Getting up, Gary walked into their kitchen and on the table he could see some food that had been cooked. It had already gone cold, but there was a small note underneath.

[Big Bro, take the day off. Once I'm back, I'll give you a massage to get your sore muscles out. You always look after me, so let me look after you for once.] Next to the message, there was a little doodle of what he could only guess to be his sister pumping her fist.

That note put a smile on his face, the first expression he showed that day, but not only that, it reminded him why he ended up in this crappy situation. He had done some crazy things, but he was doing all of it to make sure his family would stay safe.

Since he wasn't going to go to school in the middle of the day anyway and didn't really feel like doing anything else, he decided to check out his system.

[Name: Gary Dem]

[Class: Warrior]

[State: Human (Alpha)]

[Grade: Knight]

[Level 18]

[Exp 502/3445]

[Health: 100/100]

[Energy: 300/300]

[Strength 23 (+1)]

[Dexterity 24 (+1)]

[Endurance 20 (+1)]

His stats had gained a large boost compared to last time, mostly due to the gained stats. Currently, he had one extra stat point at his disposal, but rather than using it as a way to improve his body, he thought of something else.

[1 stat point has been allocated to Health]

[Your base Health has increased to 110]

During the fight with Kirk, he realised the drawback of overly relying on Claw Drain to refill his Health. It was only useful if he could actually connect his attack, but otherwise it was just a drain on his Energy. His Energy was able to heal his injuries, yet the lost Health would only be replenished once he was outside a fight.

The Werewolf had the skill Last Stand, but that's exactly what it was, something that should only be used at the last moment. Gary was pretty sure if he hadn't chosen that skill, then he would have died twice already. He had selected to increase his Health in the hopes of never ending up in those types of situations in the future.

One of his rewards for defeating the Altered was the option to learn one more skill. However, Gary was aware that he wasn't in the right mind for that right now, so he decided to leave that till later to select a good one.

Instead, he did something that he was sure about doing from the beginning.

'I have three Pawn Points and a Knight Point at the moment. Using the latter, I should be able to directly upgrade my body to the next Grade, here it goes.'

[1 Knight Point has been assigned to increase your Grade]

[6/5 Pawn Points have been collected]

[You now have enough points to reach the next Grade]

[Upgrade is now proceeding]

[...]