

## Werewolf 311

### Chapter 311 - A Special Upgrade

This was the first time Gary had consciously done something to increase his Grade. Last time, he had simply selected his Class, and it had surprisingly upgraded him to a Knight Grade Werewolf as well. Since the change in appearance was mostly due to choosing the Warrior Class, Gary hoped that he would be able to gain the system benefits without any pain.

He wasn't completely wrong. His body didn't change much, the teenager only experienced a weird feeling, yet he had gotten somewhat used to it given his frequent transformation. However, what he was unprepared for was the experience of what could only be described as his brain melting, being constantly poked from the inside with a hot rod.

It was far more painful than when he had learned new skills, even worse, it lasted longer. The Werewolf immediately collapsed onto the ground. He grabbed his head, and instinctively clawed at it, having to stop himself, as he realised before he knew it, that his hands had already transformed.

'Why does everything have to hurt with this damn system?!' Gary screamed as he gritted his now sharp canines in order to try to halt the transformation. To alleviate even a little of the pain, he couldn't help but scream at the top of his lungs.

"Arghhhh!"

How much time had passed, he was unsure, but as soon as the pain started to subside he knew it was over. As if to stress the fact the Werewolf System sent him a new notification.

[Your Grade has been upgraded from Knight to Bishop]

[1/15 Pawn Points to upgrade to the next Grade]

The first good thing that Gary could see was that it had worked, on top of that it appeared that the extra point had been carried over. However, he was still clueless just what going up a Grade did for him. After all, Pawn Points could be used to exchange them for Skill and Stat points and a Knight Point was worth five of them...

Gary knew that according to Alpha Bite's description, there should now be a chance of creating Werewolves at the Knight Grade. Similarly, he should now be able to invite Omega Werewolves at this Grade to join his pack, since he now outranked them. Of course, he would have to find one of those for that to happen...

Regardless, these features didn't seem overly useful, at least not yet, so he hoped the system would share some insight that made his investment worth it. He didn't plan on turning any of the others, not until he knew what would happen to Olivia on the night of the full moon. He wasn't going to subject the others to what he had been through.

Checking out his current Rank, Gary could indeed see this information was already present, but there was now additional information below.

[An Alpha at the Bishop Grade can select a Class for all his Knight Grade Werewolves.]

[Extra Class choices may become available based on the Werewolves or their current Grade. Meeting certain conditions will allow Werewolves to access Special Classes]

Seeing this, Gary thought this was quite the upgrade indeed. He knew that he himself had most improved after selecting the Warrior Class. Essentially, it was a way to increase his pack's strength. Looking at the tab, Gary noted that Olivia's Grade had changed from the last time he had looked at it.

[Howlers Pack]

[Alpha Werewolf - Gary Dem]

[Grade: Bishop (1/15)]

[Beta Werewolf - Olivia Pearl]

[Grade: Pawn (0/1)]

'System, are you saying that I need to pay one Pawn Point to upgrade her to the Knight Grade? Well, I do have the points, and I'm curious if she will have an extra option.'

Although Gary was excited about this at first, he paused and thought things over. He still was unsure about what to do with Olivia. Sure she had helped him out, in fact he was certain that without her whip pulling Kirk's leg in that final attack, he would have been the one to have lost his life.

The Lady Boss had also helped the group and saved his sister. Whether she did that because she was simply following his established Pack rules or not was another matter, but at least he knew she was somewhat loyal.

'If I upgrade Olivia to Knight Grade, she will surely get stronger. Even if her increase is as big as mine, I should still be leaps above her. After all, I got a big upgrade myself after yesterday.' Gary reasoned. 'And if I do have to end up killing her, she will then be a Knight Grade Werewolf, which will probably end up giving me another Knight Point. That would be exchanging one point for five, it's a win-win situation.'

In the end, Gary managed to convince himself it was fine to do, though much of it might have been to satisfy his own curiosity. Pressing her name, his point soon had gone towards her.

[Congratulations, one of your Beta Werewolves (Olivia Pearl) has been upgraded to Knight Grade]

[You may now select her class]

[Hunter Class] (Recommended)

[A Werewolf Hunter is fast, agile, and sneaky. He focuses on killing his prey quickly, out of sight and from the shadows. He is able to track his targets from a great distance and has great focus.]

[Class perks include: More and better Marks, improved tracking.]

[Protector Class]

[A Werewolf Protector boasts one of the sturdiest bodies of his race. He uses his own body to shield his pack members from any harm, making sure that they will survive.]

[Class perks include: 1 Extra point in Endurance upon each Level Up, faster healing.]

[Warrior Class]

[A Werewolf Warrior could be considered the vanguard of his pack. He leads his pack into battle with his strength. He has exceptional fighting ability and courage, but it is because of this trait, and his role, that this Class boasts the highest fatality rate.]

[Class perks include: Wide range of skills to select from, large Energy pool]

Gary was a bit disappointed to see her choices were the same ones as his. He had hoped for some variety, if only to learn more about Werewolf Classes. After all, the system had intrigued him with the possibility of those Special Classes.

Looking under Olivia's name, it now stated [Grade: Knight (0/5)]. He was tempted to upgrade her further, but that wouldn't be wise. Not to mention, he lacked the necessary Pawn Points.

'The system recommends the Hunter Class, and I can't really picture her as a Protector or Warrior Class.' Gary thought as he selected it. It was then that the high schooler realised that perhaps he should have texted Olivia beforehand, but it was a little too late, as her body was already starting to change. Where she was or what she was doing, Gary could only hope she would be safe.

[Your Beta Wolf (Olivia Pearl) has successfully become a Hunter Class Werewolf]

'Since Kai seems to be busy, I should meet Olivia and find out for myself how her Hunter Class works. Maybe now she will have something like a system, or maybe becoming a Bishop Grade has some other benefits I was unaware of.' Gary thought.

Then, lastly, there was one more notification that he had received after becoming a Bishop Grade Werewolf.

[New Quest received]

[Going up in the world]

[Reach Level 25]

[Reward: 1st Class Promotion]

### Chapter 312 - The Next Level

Once again, it looked like the system had given Gary ample incentive to concentrate on levelling up. Seeing how much he had benefited from becoming a Warrior Class Werewolf, a Class Promotion, which should allow him to choose a higher-tier version of that Class, would surely make him even more powerful.

'I wonder how strong I can get?' Gary thought. 'So far, each of the Grades have corresponded with chess pieces, so the Queen or King should probably be the highest I can reach. If each new Grade allows me to go up a Class, just how many Class Promotions will I need to reach or even surpass someone like Jayden?'

Thinking about this, the teenager's excitement quickly faded. From what he had seen from the White Tiger Altered, Gary had a hard time imagining himself beating Xin's brother, even if he became twice as strong as he currently was. The Werewolf had already had a hard time against Kirk, and he was sure that Jayden had yet to show everything he was capable of.

'The real question is how do I even Level Up to that point? The 50 Exp per day from the Bond Marks are nice and all, but it would simply take a lifetime, especially since the Exp requirement increases with each level. The only other way I have gained Exp so far is from starting fights, or running into tough situations.'

Thinking about this, Gary didn't think he would be doing any of those things soon. After the Underdogs and Grey Elephants were dealt with, Slough would be a pretty safe place for his family. He had already solved the money issue, and this would solve it even more after successfully taking over both of the big

gangs. Of course, there was still the issue of how exactly he would explain the whole thing to sister, as well as his mother once she woke up.

‘Wait, there is still the matter of whom this Werewolf System actually belongs to. If we take over the Underdogs, then whoever the owner should have been, might come to us. ... I’ll just have to be strong enough to protect everyone when the time comes, and there might be these smaller gangs that chose to move in and make their move. Like those that were at the meeting with Ben Clove.’

With this said, Gary decided that it was best to use his extra Pawn Points. At the moment, he only had two more left. This wasn’t enough to allow Olivia to reach the Bishop Grade, much less for himself to reach his next Grade. Since it was so far away, and he believed that more fighting would be coming his way soon, he decided to use them on himself.

[Would you like to convert 1 Pawn Point into Stat Point(s)?]

[Yes]

[3 Stat Points have been obtained]

Gary was happy to see that the conversion granted him more than one Stat Point. However, now that he seemed to have figured out the importance of his Grade, he understood how precious those Pawn Points were, making him question why he got relatively few of them. What’s more, the last time he had converted a Pawn Point, he had received three Skill Points, which he would have assumed to be more than Stat Points.

Alas, as the saying went, beggars can’t be choosers, so he proceeded to convert his last remaining Pawn Point as well.

[Would you like to convert 1 Pawn Point into Stat Point(s)?]

[Yes]

[2 Stat Points have been obtained]

The teenager was slightly surprised that he ended up receiving less of them this time. Either each Pawn Point wasn't worth the same amount, or more likely, the conversion might not be fixed but have a random element to it. He would have to further test it to find out, yet Pawn Points weren't exactly a resource he could freely acquire.

Nevertheless, he had a plan, what he wished to do with his five Stat Points.

[5 stat points have been allocated to Health]

[Your base Health has increased to 160]

Just like the one Stat Point he had received for reaching Level 18, he had put all the others into Health. So far he had yet to find a reliable way to increase his Energy or Health, whereas the other stats could be obtained organically or through eating Beasts and apparently Altered as well.

Now with everything done with his system, apart from selecting a new skill which he postponed to another time, the high schooler was at the strongest he had ever been. Standing up, he headed to the kitchen, which had the most open space.

He jumped up and down on his toes, just like a certain someone used to do before they started their Altered matches. Once Gary had warmed up enough for his body to feel loose, he threw a couple of punches as fast as possible.

He continued this in succession one after another, and eventually stopped with his fist out. The sound of the air could be heard cutting through cleanly, and he hadn't even used Controlled Transformation on himself.

'This body is amazing... If I were to use my full strength at school, everyone would definitely assume me to be an Altered. I better start holding back during rugby practice and PE lessons.'

Continuing his little exercise, Gary started to do more, swinging his legs and doing a routine drill that he would often do when training with Innu. Once again he was surprised at what his body could do now.

His speed had drastically improved, but with speed it also gave more power to his punches and hits. The fight against Kirk had opened his eyes to the importance of speed, and how frustrating it could be to be unable to touch your opponent.

However, thinking about it, he realised why he was able to do such things in the first place. His Dexterity had improved leaps and bounds, and it was all because he had eaten his idol, the reality hit him once again.

'That's right, the bones!' Gary remembered.

### Chapter 313 - No Longer There

Quickly, Gary began searching through his room, the last thing he wanted was for Amy to come across an assortment of bones, especially since Kirk's head was also in there. The former would already be hard to explain, but the latter would make it impossible.

Gary spent an entire hour looking through every nook and cranny of the apartment, yet it was nowhere to be found. The Werewolf had even used his nose to look for signs of blood, yet he was unable to pick up anything.

'Why can't I remember where I put it... it's like on the night of the full moon. I can't remember anything for some reason. Did I just black out?'

Gary was trying hard to replay the events after Kirk's head in his head, but there was no such luck. Since it definitely wasn't in their apartment, the only thing he could do was head outside. Before he did, he was about to reach for his hoodie, but soon placed it back, realising that it probably wasn't needed any more, not after yesterday's events.

It was the middle of the day, and roaming around in the streets, Gary was following any scent of blood he picked up on, searching for any clues to what he could have done with the bones, yet he only managed to find some roadkill, as well as a man who seemed to have cut himself shaving.

The teenager increased his search radius, taking the route between his home and the fighting that had taken place yesterday. Unfortunately, he was unable to carry out his plan, because there were several



policemen that seemed to be conducting an investigation. They had blocked off the areas that had been attacked yesterday.

Still, the biggest change he noticed was the absence of the Underdogs. There were no members in the area. Walking without the need to hide his face, having to check behind his back, or putting his hood up was something he had never treasured before.

Now, it was a freedom he had regained. Gary was finally able to walk around his own home area, without worry. What this also meant was he could continue his search, albeit outside the closed off areas.

Alas, the next few hours were uneventful. Not even a hint, even after retracing his last steps that he could remember on the top of his head.

'Well, I guess if even I can't find it with my nose and knowing where I should have passed by yesterday, then it hopefully means no one else will find him.' Gary reasoned.

Since it was getting late, he decided to head home. Just in time as well, as Amy entered their apartment a few minutes after him. Gary welcomed her back and tried his best to act normal. Stating that he had a falling out with one of his friends the other day.

Which was why he wasn't in the best of moods. Of course, Amy had seen right through his lie, but decided to take it head on, just like she had all the others. She was just happy that her brother was somewhat back to his usual self.

Before going to sleep, there were a few things that the high schooler had done. For one, he had messaged Olivia. He had initially wanted to check up on the Beta Wolf after assigning her the Hunter Class to test a few things out, but due to his impromptu scavenger hunt it had gotten too late. The Lady Boss had received the message, but she had left it on read without further reply. Gary could feel that she must be pissed at him for not giving him any prior warning.

Unfortunately, she wasn't the only one who seemed to be ignoring him. The teenager had constantly checked his phone waiting for Kai's supposed message, but neither he, nor any of the others, had sent anything.

Still, Gary took it as a good sign, believing that everyone had used this day to recuperate. He would just ask him personally what had happened. For the first time in a long time he was able to get a good night's sleep.

[Your bloodlust grows]

[10 days until the next full moon]

[50 Exp has been gained from current Bond Marks (5)]

[Exp 552/3445]

In a way, Gary was hoping that the matters with the Underdog and the Grey Elephants could be solved before the full moon. That way, he would be able to fully focus on himself and Olivia during that period of time. Unlike last time, when it had annoyed him greatly, he decided to use the notifications as a type of calendar.

Following his usual routine, Gary was the first to leave the apartment, excited to meet up with the rest. He wanted to learn about what had happened to them after he had left. What the news was like in their areas, and most importantly, talk to Kai about their next move.

Maybe it was something that he wished to do in person rather than over the phone in the first place, which was why he hadn't given the others an update. Either way, he wanted to meet them.

Tom was still away on his special internship course, so they were really the only ones he would be able to talk to. When entering his classroom, he of course saw that Tom's seat was empty. However, next to it, Innu's seat was empty as well. At first he thought he was just there early, but even when the lessons were about to begin, that fact didn't change.

'Did he take the day off? I guess it would make sense for him to take a few days off. After all, he knew those orphans personally. Damn, I've been thinking about my own situation all this time, without even stopping to think about him.' Gary realised. Pulling out his phone, he thought it was best he sent him a message to at least try to cheer him up while he was away. However, before he could, the teacher entered the room.

“Okay, listen up, everyone. I have some news to share with all of you.” Mr Grey announced. “Our recent transfer student, Innu has decided to transfer out. I'm afraid he will no longer be with us any more. Let's all wish him the best at his next school... or whatever he wishes to do in the future.”

Gary had stopped in the middle of his message. He couldn't believe it, why would Innu leave school because of what happened.

“Hey, do you think he really transferred to another school?”

“I doubt it. He was definitely the one on the news the other day! Even Mr Grey seems to think that.”

“Yeah, he was with that gang, the black and gold one. What were they called again, the Howlers?”

“I can't believe we had a gangster in our classroom all this time. We should have known due to him having those weird bandages all the time.”

Gary was able to hear everyone talk about Innu, and he hadn't even realised what had occurred. Focusing on his own set of troubles, he had been completely unaware that the whole event had been broadcast that day.

However, it was clear from listening to his classmates that must have been what had occurred.

‘Crap, this is a big deal, isn't it? Neither Innu, Marie, nor Austin had masks covering their faces! Everyone knows that they would have been involved in that fight. Crap, did the camera manage to capture my face when the mask fell off as well?’

Thinking about this incident, reminded Gary that there was at least one person, who certainly had seen his face that he would need to deal with. However, the fact that none of the students were talking about him, meant it was unlikely that his identity had been revealed.

As the lesson went on, the bell went off signalling it was time for lunch rather than eat though, Gary had sent a message to the group, asking what exactly was going on, why Innu dropped out of school. Heading to the upper floor, the teenager decided to head to Kai's classroom.

When looking at where he would usually sit staring out the window, there was no such person there.

“Sorry, but have you seen Kai or Marie anywhere?” Gary asked one of his upperclassmen.

“Kai... oh, we just got told today. Those two will no longer be attending Westbridge, apparently.”

It was then that Gary was sure that something was seriously up.

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#### Chapter 314 - Howlers No More

The fact that every Howlers member aside from him had resigned from Westbridge was no joke. Gary was now worried that something very bad must have happened to his friends. After all, he had only received a personal message from Kai yesterday, and he had never contacted him.

If it had just been Innu who had decided to leave the school, he might have understood it. After all, he had apparently been filmed, yet for all three to disappear without any prior notice, something was definitely up.

Immediately, Gary pulled out his phone and started writing in the group chat.

[I just found out that everyone but me has to decided to drop out or transfer.]

[Why didn't anyone tell me?]

[Are you guys okay? Did any of you get hurt from the fight?]

The Werewolf was undergoing a mix of emotions. Worry, mixed with anger, as well as sting of abandonment. Lately, he had gone through so much with them, so he was prepared to go through thick and thin with them. Seemingly getting ghosted by all of them was making him fear for the worst.

'I don't understand, aren't I part of the Howlers as well, aren't I meant to be your friend?'

Just when he was about to message each one of them individually, his phone vibrated, and he could see that he finally got a reply in the group chat.

[My bad, Gary, I was so busy yesterday that I didn't get the chance to write to you. This is something that we all agreed on without you. Don't worry, everyone is fine and well. Just enjoy your day at school and come to the Wolf's Pool Club afterwards.]

The green haired teenager didn't know how to feel about it. The pumped up adrenaline in his body had faded, yet one of his worst thoughts had turned out to be true. The group, that he had always felt like he had belonged to, since he had founded it together with Kai, had done something without him.

'Why would they do that?' Gary wondered.

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Eventually, the school day was over, yet the high schooler had barely paid attention to any of his lessons. His mind was too busy deciding how to react to his situation. Should he go in and accuse them all for abandoning him? Should he pretend as if everything was normal?

Ultimately, the teenager was aware that worrying about it was just making matters worse, especially since he couldn't fix something that had already happened. He just hoped that there was some reasonable explanation for their behaviour.

'If only Tom was here, then I would at least have someone to talk to about this stuff. ... stupid no phones rules. At least he said he would be back before the full moon...' Gary thought to himself as he walked up to the door and pushed it open.

Entering the establishment, the pool club seemed to be as busy as usual. There were plenty of customers who had become regulars, and Austin's friends were doing a great job waiting on everyone.

However, all the attention was on the latest addition of the team. White had quickly become the store's idol, which most likely also translated to extra sales. Even now, as Gary had entered, nobody was paying him any heed, yet he could see a group of boys staring at the waitress.

Other than Miss Degrace, the teenager didn't see any of the others, so he could only assume they were downstairs. He went into the storage room that had doubled as Kai's office. Walking down the stairs, he could already hear the voices of the other gang members.

He was a bit surprised when his nose could pick up another presence, that of his Beta Werewolf, Olivia Pearl. Kai, Marie, Austin, Innu and Olivia turned around and they all gave him a smile. Marie had the awkwardest look on her face, seemingly feeling guilty.

"Guys... So do you mind explaining to me what is going on now? ... Please don't lie to me. I thought everything was going our way for once, but should I take it that Howlers are no longer a thing any more?" Gary decided to be frank. Throughout the day, that was the worst possible outcome that he could think of.

Although it had never been the high schooler's idea to create this gang, it had become something like a second family to him, so he didn't want this to be the end of them.

"What? No, of course not!" Marie vehemently denied that. "I'm sorry, we kept you out of the loop. Let me explain, so these guys don't mess it up, alright? I don't know if you know or not, but it turned out that the gang fight had been filmed.

"While they mainly focused on you against Kirk, all of us were shown. I was even recorded using knives. Admittedly it was in self defence, so according to Mr Vula I shouldn't get in trouble with the police, but there were consequences we had to deal with yesterday.

"Although we didn't appear too clearly, those who know us, should be able to recognise us. It was kinda impossible to get back to school, you know."

Hearing this, Gary understood where Marie was coming from. After all, he had heard all his classmates talk about Innu, and none of it had been flattering.

“On top of that, with the Underdogs and Grey Elephants in shambles we are the only big time gang in Slough, which no one can deny any more. This means that even if we wanted to, we wouldn’t actually be safe at school. In fact, we would probably endanger everyone near us just by attending.”

“That's not the only reason.” Innu chimed in, stepping forward. “All of us have already decided, Gary. There is no real point in us going to school any more, it would just be a waste of everyone’s time. This is the life that we intend to live from now on.

“I have people that rely on me now, so I need to bring in the money. Not in the future when I grow older and get a degree, but I need to look after them now. Surely you understand, right?”

Indeed, as someone who had been in Innu’s situation not too long ago, how could he not sympathise. In fact, it was something he had been considering himself as well.

“Then I will-“

“No.” Kai immediately interrupted him. “Gary, there is a reason why we decided to do all of this without informing you, and that’s because, if anything, you have done far too much for us already. The others might not know the entire story about why you helped me create the Howlers, but I do... you agreed to my plans because you didn’t really have another choice if you wanted to continue your normal life.

“Part of the reason I gifted you that mask was, so you had the chance to live that ordinary life, even if it’s just a lie. Gary, I asked everyone to keep quiet about it because I knew you would stop going out of solidarity, that’s just the type of person you are, but right now, the thing that is keeping you going, is the fact that you could end up with a normal life at the end of this.”

Gary opened his mouth to give a reply, but in the end no words came out, because the words were true. The Werewolf still wasn't able to fully commit himself to this lifestyle. On top of that, if he did, it meant it would be dragging his family and close friends like Tom into this, maybe he would even have to cut ties.

Marie's mother was already involved in this, then there was Austin, who they knew little about but seemed to have already considered this lifestyle. Innu had already stated why he needed to do this, then there was Kai, who he actually knew little reason about why he was doing this in the first place. Either way, they had more reason to do this than him.

"I understand... I'm just glad that I will still see all of you still." Gary let out a sigh. To which the others all smile.

After that little talk, it was time the group went into business. Kai gave everyone an update about the current situation. It turns out that the Grey Elephants are practically no more, and that includes their territories they used to run.

The few members that they had were disbanded, and without a leader, there wasn't much they could do. On top of that, those that had tried to rally up the members had been attacked by an unknown force.

However, no one had taken over their territory, and no one dared to. Kai had assumed that was because of the Howlers. So it looked like their plan was working so far.

"Which means that the Underdogs are the only ones that we have to focus on, right?" Gary summed it up. "So when do we take them out?"

"There are a few things that I need to sort out before then. We need to get everything perfect, so we can get to Damion. If we don't get him, then it means that the Underdogs will always be able to reform. Right now, our best approach is to let some time pass and wait for the other gangs to choose a side." Kai answered. "Don't worry, it won't be long. At most two weeks. That timeframe should allow Damion to call in every favour he might have, so that we can completely crush him."

The others nodded, but Gary was a little worried. Two weeks' time meant after the full moon. If Olivia turned out to become uncontrollable on the full moon, there was a good chance that he would have to kill her to protect the others.

Without the Beta Werewolf, he doubted the members of the Pincers would be so courteous like they had been so far. Right now, while they had Olivia, especially after her upgrade, they needed to attack now.



'Attacking the Underdogs will be dangerous, but there shouldn't be too many members left. I've also placed a Mark on Damion, as well as Gil, so we could simply ambush them if the opportunity arises. With my upgrade in strength, maybe there is no need to put them in harm's way. If we do it close to the full moon, Olivia and I should be strong enough to handle them on our own.

'You guys decided this all on your own without me, so I guess it's time I start acting on my own as well.'

### Chapter 315 - The Hunter Class

"Is it your hobby to take adult women to the woods in the middle of the night?" Olivia asked.

Right now, she had met Gary in the woods, just where he had told her about her now being a Werewolf. The night sky was out and part of the moon was shining brightly, allowing the two of them to see, not that they needed it anyway.

She was currently in a new set of clothes that sprouted in the Howlers' colour scheme. Due to their position, she wasn't afraid to be recognised. Heck, if others would dare to attack her, she would look forward to showing off her strength.

Still, the teenager couldn't help but notice that the clothing didn't exactly look the warmest, not that Olivia looked to be cold at all, yet the same could be said for Gary. One of the hidden benefits of becoming a Werewolf was that their bodies were able to adapt to the weather conditions.

"No, not really, but I somehow feel quite comfortable here." The Alpha Werewolf shrugged. "Also, I've called you over to talk to you about some Werewolf stuff, and this seems to be the perfect place for that."

Hearing Gary say this, after their little conversation she had heard earlier, she couldn't help but grin.

"Because it's your big secret?" Olivia asked in a mocking tone. "You should be aware that after what you did, all of them know, right? After all, they know who was hiding under that wolf mask. They all saw you fight that Cheetah Altered.

“The only reason your little buddies didn’t mention anything to you was because they’re waiting for you to be the one that brings it up to them first. Although, considering your fallout, earlier didn’t seem like the perfect time to ask you any questions anyway.”

Hearing this saddened Gary a little. Truth be told, he had avoided thinking about that matter, having been glad that nobody had recognised him at school. However, Olivia was completely right, of course the Howlers knew now.

Most of them had already put two and two together, but now that they had seen it live, there was no denying it. Ironically, Gary wasn't an Altered. No, he was something a lot more menacing and if the others found that they had almost died because he had been the one to create Billy, he wasn't sure how they would feel.

Sure, Kai had seemingly forgiven him, but would Innu do the same?

Shaking this thought off, Gary decided to concentrate on the reason he had messaged Olivia after their small meeting.

“Tell me, have you felt an urge that has been growing? A craving for blood or killing in the last couple of days and I need you to be honest.” Gary asked.

For a second, Olivia didn't answer, she was thinking about whether to lie or not, but due to it being such a specific question she thought that the teenager already knew the answer.

“Yes, but I haven’t really acted on it, unless you count the fact that I’ve been eating my steaks a lot bloodier than usual. In fact, it's almost as if my mind is in two states. Every time I consider acting upon it, I start to get a headache, forcing me to stop.”

Gary could only surmise that this should be Olivia’s natural instincts as a Werewolf colliding with the Pact Rules he had set up. It was good to know they were still in effect, but on the full moon he doubted that it would be strong enough.

There was a theory that Gary had, and he was sure it was right. When the system stated that his bloodlust was increasing, it wasn't his lust for blood itself. It wasn't as if, drinking blood, or eating a human would calm one down.

No, what it meant, was the act of killing itself. On the night of a full moon all a Werewolf wanted to do was hunt and kill anything it saw in its sight.

"Alright, another question yesterday, was there anything weird that happened to you? Anything strange during the day at all." When asking this question, Gary was a little more quiet in his voice.

This had not gone unnoticed at all.

"You son of a b\*tch! I should have known that it was YOU who did that sh\*t to me!!! YOU'VE MADE ME COLLAPSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE!!! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HUMILIATED I FELT FROM ALL THOSE EYES STARING AT ME AS IF I WAS A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS?!!!!"

She had shouted so loud, that Gary was sure even those on the street outside the woods should have heard her. Fortunately, he had brought her to this rather secluded place.

"Look, I'm sorry, I didn't consider your circumstances, but I promise it was in your best interest!" Gary apologised, unable to look her in the eyes for a moment. Instead, he looked over the Lady Boss' body. Not because he was interested in her or anything, but because he had expected some change in her appearance.

When the high schooler had selected the Warrior Class, his body had changed drastically. As such, he had expected something similar to happen to the Beta Werewolf, but at least outwards there was nothing different about her.

'Could it be that she didn't change because I went with the recommended Class? Did my body change, because I chose something that I wasn't suited for before that?' Gary theorised.

"Tell me, have you noticed anything peculiar about yourself afterwards? Any messages in your eyes, perhaps?" He asked her, to stop ogling the middle-aged woman, who looked in top shape.

“Now that you mention it, I did encounter some strange red smoke that day. It was very faint, though, and it smelt like raw food. I can still see it now, and it hasn’t disappeared since that day. Not sure if anything else is new.” Olivia replied, before giving the teenager another angry stare. “I didn’t exactly have the mind to find out after collapsing out of nowhere, you know?!”

‘So she still doesn’t seem to have a system but can see them? Did she somehow set targets without realising it or...’ Then a thought came into Gary’s head.

“Can you still see it? If so, can you point me in the direction of where it’s coming from?”

Olivia was still unsure what was up with it, but she humoured the Alpha Werewolf, and showed in a certain direction.

‘It must be because she is a Beta Werewolf in the same pact. Now that she is a Hunter Class she can see my markings as well. However, it seems to be only my Forced Bonds and not the Bond Marks I have made. Not sure if I should be happy about it or not.’

“Okay, let’s see how much stronger you’ve gotten then.” Gary suggested with a smile on his face.

There were two reasons he wanted to do this, to test out his own capabilities, as well Olivia’s. It was important to know the gap in strength between the two, that way he could continue being the Alpha Werewolf.

Olivia wasn’t shy, getting into a fighting stance and holding her whip in her hand. She, too, wanted to know what these changes were that Gary seems to have noticed and done for some reason. It was at that moment, her eyes lit up blue.

[Beta Werewolf (Hunter class) is within range of the pact leader and has entered into battle.]

[0/15 Marks available]

[The Alpha is able to designate Hunting Marks for the Hunter Class]

[Those with marks the Hunter will prioritise first]

[Extra Exp will be gained for marked targets hunted by the hunter]

[The Hunter class's strength will increase when fighting against those that are marked]

It was unexpected for Gary to get multiple notifications suddenly like this, but it looked like he had gotten some of his answers about what a Hunter Class could do exactly. It was just a shame that he couldn't see Olivia's stats, or if she benefited from hunting these targets.

Either way, he could find that out through a fight.

While a little distracted, the whip was thrown out towards Gary, and he had grabbed it catching it with his arm transformed.

"You're faster than before." Gary noted.

"And it looks like you've gotten faster as well!" Olivia shouted, as she charged forward.

— —

The two of them were huffing and panting as their training session had come to an end. Gary had learned a lot through their small spars. For one, although his speed had increased greatly, with more speed it also meant that he used more stamina during a fight.

Which meant that if he wanted to be a Werewolf that focused on speed, it wasn't wise to just increase his Dexterity. Because without increasing his Stamina, he could only last a few seconds at full capacity.

However, there was one thing that was clear during the fight, although Olivia had improved after gaining her Class, Gary was leaps and bounds stronger than her compared to before. He was growing at a much faster rate.

Nevertheless, the Lady Boss had improved in more ways than one as well. Gary had pushed her significantly in the fight, and in the end, a rage had overcome her, causing her arm to transform slightly. Her nails grew and fur appeared on the top of her forearm. It looked similar to his Controlled Transformation, yet the Beta Werewolf seemed unable to control it, at least for now.

Without a doubt, though, these two were a force to be reckoned with, which strengthened Gary's resolve about his next course of action.

"I've decided, Olivia, tomorrow me and you will pay the Underdogs a visit and wipe them out."

### Chapter 316 Getting a Crystal

It hadn't even been that long that Tom had begun his internship, yet all the things he was discovering at NIRV were unbelievable. He was tempted to share his new findings with the whole world, but he understood that it would lead to enormous trouble if he were to do something like that.

Still, he couldn't help but search the web about how much of it might be out there. Unsurprisingly, there were only a few rumours here and there that had a hint of truth to what Tom had witnessed. A lot of it was off the mark, and he even imagined himself believing some of these things before he had come here. It appeared that there were no whistleblowers telling the truth, not even on the Dark Web.

Either everyone was taking their NDA contract very seriously after signing it, or, and the teenager was leaning more towards the second possibility, those that had tried to reveal any information could have been suppressed, never to be given a voice again. You wouldn't stay the market leader without dirtying your own hands, at least the short haired teenager wouldn't be surprised to learn of any such news, not that he had found any.

Right now, Tom was looking into what looked mostly like an empty room. The glass window went all around the room above looking down at the arena floor. It was filled with several people looking inward waiting for something. However, if one took a closer look, they would be able to see that there was something very peculiar about this normal looking room. There were numerous scratch marks on the metal walls, and most of them seemed to be quite deep.

'Lucky me, from what Dad told me, I was sure it would be impossible to gain permission to watch this.' Tom thought with his eyes peeled open, not even wanting to blink. On one side of the large room, the doors slowly opened. One could imagine how thick and reinforced they were, based on their slow movement.

Five people entered, yet there was nothing uniform about them, instead they looked like someone had picked out random people off the street. The only thing that all of them had in common was a strange sense of confidence surrounding them.

'These are the Recoveres...and...and I'm going to see a real beast. Not just a fossil, but a real beast in front of my very eyes!'

When walking around the lab, Tom would often encounter them. Many of them looked like gangsters, though he had also encountered those who he would simply overlook if he were to meet them out on the street. According to his father, they had their own separate lives outside that NIRV didn't really get involved with.

They could be gangsters, they could even be homeless. Regardless, when they were here, they were what were known as 'Recoveres'. His father had stated that they were Altered who had received NIRV's services, on the condition that they would agree to come over and help out on retrieving those beast crystals.

There were many Altered that his father had seen, that were beyond the strength of those at the AFC, which surprised Tom, yet at the same time it also didn't, not after everything else he had come to learn.

From the other side of the room, the door opened as well, and a team of people in hazmat suits came out pushing a large fossil on a type of vehicle. It was then shoved off into the centre of the room. Quickly, the group was seen leaving the room, and it was time for the final part of the process.

From above, the ceiling partially opened, and attached to a specially made and designed claw like object. Now descending was what Tom had only seen on video so far.

'That... that should be that Nest Crystal!'

Seeing it in person was completely different to the video itself. There was a certain mystical pattern inside the crystal that was hard to describe. It was as if part of space had been captured and placed there.

“The information that we extract from the fossil gets inputted into the Nest Crystal.” His father had explained. “I know it's hard to believe, but the crystal is actually able to read the data. Sometimes it makes me feel that it has learned our language. So after inputting the data they extract from the fossil, the crystal is then able to do what it's about to do next. As I said before though, that's not my department, so I don't know how it exactly works.”

The claw that was holding onto the crystal started to turn red at its tips, and the next second it started to glow. At the same time, Tom could see that the Recoverers were getting ready. They had already begun to transform.

One grew to nearly four times the size of his regular self, with a thick grey skin and a large horn on his head. Another had grown wings like an insect flapping about at a great speed, while having hands of what looked like a stinger. The rest had turned into even more dangerous looking creatures, though none of them resembled any creature on Earth that Tom had ever seen, resembling something out of someone's nightmare.

A beam of energy shot from the Nest Crystal hitting the fossil, and in front of his every eye he could see that flesh and matter was appearing out of thin air, as if someone was 3D printing it. They were forming on top of the bones. Some of the bone structure that had been missing, was starting to form as well, and soon enough that fossil was no more.

In its place stood what one could only describe as a primordial beast. Honestly, seeing the beast in its full form made Tom instinctively wish to run away. He didn't know if it was just this beast in particular or if the others were like this, but it looked beyond horrifying.

It was large in size, as big as a three-story building. It had the body of a centipede and the legs to go with it, but its upper half of its body was lifted in the air like that of a cobra, while on each side it had what looked like the wings of the bat. Its head was mostly golden triangle shape, but as it opened its maw it revealed rows of razor sharp teeth.

The Hunters got to quick work, with the large horned Altered charging in front. Considering his size, he was quicker than Tom had given him credit for, and he bashed into the beast before it could react. Its horn pierced through its body and black blood came chugging out from it.

Letting out a strange shriek from its mouth, the beast stopped the other Hunters from charging in. At that moment, it used its large maw to bite down into the large Altered, before it started to flap its wings, ready to fly up.



However, before it could, the bug-like altered had flown right through its wings, piercing it with its stingers. It then quickly flew to the back of the beast's head and hit it a few times. Soon, with the others coming in as well, the monstrous beast was getting overwhelmed. These Altered were indeed strong, since they were able to take out the beast fairly quickly. After that, the crystal from the beast was extracted and presented to all the onlookers.

With that, the fight was over.

Looking around, Tom thought that it was a good result, but the scientist for some reason looked disappointed.

"Did something go wrong?" Tom asked his father.

"Nothing went wrong, per se." His father answered. "In fact, I would see this as a good day. No Recoverers died today, but others might think this is a bad result. After all, this team wasn't even that proficient, meaning that the beast today was too weak and likely didn't have a strong crystal."

Hearing his father explain this type of logic scared Tom a little. Though he might not have said it outright, but it showed how little NIRV seemed to value the lives of those Altered. Of course, they were the ones who could always create more, but to treat them as an expandable resource...

It was then that Tom had felt something vibrate from his phone, and looking at it, he could see that it was news, and it was pertaining to Slough.

"Dad, you have to see this!" Tom rushed his father, shoving the phone in his face.

At first, his Dad didn't seem too bothered. He had a bit of sympathy for his hometown, but with his son being in front of him, the news might have as well been about any other location. However, he started to pay more attention when he looked at the images taken

The middle-aged man soon snatched the phone from his son.

“How come there are so many crazed Altered there...no this can't be.” His father mumbled.

### Chapter 317 Infected Altered

After James Green had read the news about what had occurred in Slough, he mumbled some seemingly incoherent things to himself, before heading straight towards his lab, completely ignoring his own son.

‘What the... I know it's shocking news but aren't you overreacting, Dad?’ Tom wondered.

He had just read the headline, so he was now curious about what the article was about. That's when he learned everything he had missed, about the crazed Altered that were seemingly orphans, the new gang named the Howlers, and on top of that, the fact that there was a ‘Wolf Altered’ in Slough.

‘I knew it!’ Tom inwardly shouted. ‘I knew that Gary was hiding something! ... so he really did decide to join a gang! That's who all those other people were. Then they must have also been the ones responsible for what happened to the Grey colour gang, that means it was really him... but why?’

‘Was it because he got the Werewolf powers? Did he think to himself that with great power comes great responsibility? But Gary...you don't seem like that type of person. I know you aren't. Otherwise, why would you choose to hide this secret from me?’

Tom was trying to put himself in Gary's shoes, doing his best to understand why he had not shared everything with him. After all, he had already figured out his Werewolf identity, so surely he should have been someone his best friend could trust.

‘Wait his story about how he became a Werewolf? His part time job, was he already involved in all of that?’

Ultimately, the only reason Tom could come up with, was that Gary must have stayed silent to protect him. Coming to this conclusion, a wide grin appeared on his face, and he almost got a tear in his eye.

‘Ah man, why am I welling up because he hid a secret from me? and joined a gang...I'm really strange.’ Tom chuckled at himself.

Of course, after reading the news, the high schooler was curious if he could find out more information. Using a search engine he quickly stumbled upon more devastating news, namely that Gary had not only faced Kirk, but had delivered a large blow to him.

Connecting articles had headlines such as 'AFC rookie champion still missing!', 'Did the Wolf Altered kill Kirk Summerfield?', 'Kirk's Summerfield's double live as a GANG MEMBER?!'

There were too many news articles and headlines about the whole event.

'Damn I need to text Gary... Argh, but I can't... that NDA mentioned that they check our messages and phone conversation from all calls made here to prevent us from leaking information. They probably have some sort of device that picks up all our communications outside as well. Now that I think about it, I don't think our apartment here is safe either. I should stop going on the Darkweb incase they keep track of all employees it could get my dad in trouble. I'll have to wait until I'm back at Slough to talk with him. I just have to hope that he is alright until then.' Tom thought.

A short while later, and his father had eventually returned. He looked windeed, seemingly having run back fast and he certainly wasn't the athletic type, somewhat like his son.

"Wanna share what got you so panicked that you left your only son behind, Dad?" The short haired teenager smirked as he asked the question.

James Green needed a moment to catch his breath, but Tom noticed that his father didn't seem to be as nervous any more. It appeared that whatever the emergency matter had been, it was seemingly dealt with.

"I apologise, your news just came out of nowhere, and given the things it pertained I just had to make a report to the higher-ups about it. I needed to find out if they were already aware of it, since I was worried that it might have come from our lab." James nervously answered, still panting, but then immediately covered up his mouth, earning him a strange look from his son.

"Shoot, that wasn't meant for your ears... well, I guess since you're our intern, you might as well learn a bit. Besides, you're family, so surely you would not want your old man in trouble, right? As in, don't tell anyone what I'm about to tell you." He chuckled nervously, hitting Tom on the shoulder as if the two of them were the closest friends.

In fact, the two Green men got along very well, yet the unfortunate reality was that ever since his parents had started working for NIRV, Tom hardly got to spend time together with them.

“You see, when researching fossils, we are unaware of what state they will come back in once hit with the Nest Crystals that you saw earlier, and at times, there have been a few... strange ones.

“The resulting Beasts came out looking a bit sick, covered in strange purple fur and sometimes with a bit of a dark shadow surrounding them. The shadow itself looked almost as if it was alive. Any crystals obtained from them are classified as ‘infected’. We don't use those batches of crystal for making Altered, because in nine out of ten cases they end up as crazed Altered..”

His father didn't have to say more, Tom had already figured it out. His father was saying somehow this special batch must have gotten out, either stolen, sold off or maybe it was the company itself, Either way he had to inform them about what he knew so far.

— —

At the same time, a NIRV employee was standing in front of the police station. They were explaining the exact same thing to Slough's Chief of Police, as well as the presiding White Rose agents.

“This is the information you are to tell the press. A gang has managed to get their hands on a corrupted batch of Altered DNA that was scheduled to be disposed of. NIRV has started an investigation to find out how that has happened, and will share details once it gets resolved.”

— —

Similarly, in the Mayor's office, an employee of NIRV had arrived, though it wasn't the same one as the one who had brought over the syringes.

“Are you kidding me?! The public won't be contended with that! They will ask questions and blame ME for failing to protect Slough's people! Do you have any idea how it makes me look that some gangs were the ones to take care of that problem? UTTERLY INCOMPETENT!!!

“The fact that you’ve come all the way here pretty much proves that your company is connected to ALL OF THIS!” Ben Clove shouted.

“Mayor Clove, how are your finances looking after you’ve purchased that second syringe of Altered DNA? Isn’t it true that the acquisition has put your family into financial burden? Sure, you might be able to keep up appearances, but how long will you be able to continue with your current lifestyle?”

“Wouldn’t it help you immensely if we were to refund you the payment for that second dosage, and even scratch it off the records?” The man questioned, and saw the corpulent man quickly calm down. “Please just read out the statement our PR team has prepared, and make sure that the matter doesn’t get brought up by anyone other than us in the future.”

Although Ben Clove didn't say anything else, he was furious internally. Sure, the freebie was nice, but he hated having to dance to someone else's tune. Fortunately, it was only a matter of time until he was finally free to do as he wished...

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After his training session with the Beta Werewolf, Gary had decided to walk home. The teenager had a lot to think about and with his head now clearer he considered this to be a good time to at least look at the new skills he could learn.

The Last Stand skill had saved him more than once already, and since he planned to attack the Underdogs tomorrow, he needed every advantage he could get. Holding back now would be stupid, if not suicidal.

Walking along the road, Gary soon heard the sound of an approaching car, but he ignored it as many cars had already passed him by. However, this car seemed to slow down, before it came to a halt, only a few metres from him.

Turning around, the bright lights from the car blinded the Werewolf, making it hard for him to see who had just got out.

“Honestly, what are the chances?” The voice sounded surprised. “Here I just decided to give it a shot, and yet I actually found you streaker boy. This must be some red string of fate between us, and not just as a brother in law. You seem to have a tendency to appear near the woods, but perhaps, I shouldn’t be surprised about that at this time.

“This makes things easier. Come with me for a ride, there are some things we need to talk about, wolfie.”

### Chapter 318 The Future of Slough

Walking down the edge of the forest, along the road, Gary was making mental preparations for what he would exactly do tomorrow. The Underdogs had practically gone into hiding, yet since their leader had survived, it was clear that they would gather their strength and try to come back from this. That was just the type of person Damion Hawk was.

The Werewolf’s opinion was that Kai seemed to be overly cautious about the Underdog’s resurgence. Gary was sure that with Kirk now gone, as long as they could get rid of Damion, it would naturally spell the end of the Underdogs.

And to that end, there was one thing Kai didn’t know. Gary knew EXACTLY where Damion was!

What’s more, due to the Forced Bond he had placed on him, he would be able to find him, most likely until the end of his life.

‘There’s nowhere you can hide from me, Damion. I don’t want to be afraid of you any longer. From now on, I’m the one that will become your hunter.’ The high schooler thought to himself in satisfaction,

before he heard the sound of an approaching car. He ignored it as many cars had already passed him by. However, this car seemed to slow down, before it came to a halt, only a few metres from him.

“Come with me for a ride, there are some things we need to talk about, wolfie.” Jayden suggested with a friendly smile.

Although the White Tiger Altered wasn't his enemy, Gary couldn't exactly call him an ally either. Nevertheless, he was one of the people that the green haired teenager respected wholeheartedly, and not only due to his career as an Altered fighter.

He had seen Jayden get his way when demanding things from the Grey Elephants. A single person had made an entire gang cower in front of him. If that wasn't badass, the high schooler didn't know what was.

'Now that I have improved stats, just how far behind do I lag compared to him?' Gary wondered. Ultimately, he decided to enter the car. For one, Gary didn't want to cause trouble, and he also wanted to maintain a good relationship with Xin's brother.

Inside the car, the two of them drove for a while, Gary had taken the passenger seat as requested by Jayden, as to where they were going he wasn't quite sure.

"Let me be frank, it wasn't completely a coincidence that I found you here today. Xin didn't want to hand over your number, and I didn't want to drag her into this mess, so I've already been driving up and down yesterday evening. I'm actually glad that I've found you today." Jayden revealed. "With that out of the way, I wanted to talk to you since I saw you on that news channel. You really gave it your all against the cat dude."

Suddenly, Gary's eyes widened. Using the wolf mask, he was sure that his real identity would be safe, because no one but the Howlers should be aware who was underneath the mask. Unfortunately, he had completely forgotten that that wasn't true at all. The person right next to him had seen him use that same mask when he had come to rescue Xin.

"I have to tell you something, Gary." Jayden said, as he parked the car in a supermarket car park. They were at the very back towards a hill. "I hate gangs."

Saying these words, there was a fierce change in his voice. Gary immediately opened the door on his side, afraid he was going to be attacked, and rolled out from the car. He soon stood up in a fighting stance and looked towards the car, but Jayden was no longer in it.

"What exactly do you think you're doing? You're aware that we're not in an action movie, right?" Jayden asked from behind, as he walked over towards the hill and sat down on the grass.

"I told you that there are things we need to talk about, and I meant using our words, not fists. Gary, I know that you must feel powerful given what you are, but you're just a teenager, practically still a kid. I know that Slough isn't the safest, but did you really have to join a gang? I decided to at least hear you out, since I owe you at least that much for trying to save Xin."

Hearing this, it made Gary think that Jayden had chosen his words carefully. After all, he had merely promised to give him a chance to explain himself, but what if he didn't like the answer? Would he outright attack him? Unfortunately, now seemed like a bad time to ask the adult his reason for hating gangs.

'It... it should be okay... I have an ace up my sleeve. If it comes down to it, I'm sure Jayden doesn't know about his father's involvement with those small-time gangs.' Gary calmed himself down. He cautiously came over and sat down, though he did so a good two metres away, just in case anything happened.

Seeing this, Jayden couldn't help but let out a laugh at the high schooler's antics, but he understood why Gary had decided to do something like this.

"Well, I'm all ears. How exactly did you get caught up in all this mess? How did someone like you become an Altered, and just what was that attack on Slough?" Jayden asked.

Before answering, Gary let out a big sigh, wondering how much he should tell the Altered. Just enough to make sense, or the whole truth involving Kai and the others?

In the end, the Werewolf opted to concentrate mostly on his own situation. However, for once, rather than covering up a bunch of lies like he would do with others, he confessed almost everything. Perhaps it was easier with Jayden, since he still felt a bit like a stranger.

Gary began by sharing his family's financial situation, which had led to him joining the Underdogs in the first place. Then he proceeded how he had become 'an Altered' and his journey from then on to protect his family from the gang, leaving him no choice but to create his own.

"I see, so I guess what happened the other day was just between the Grey Elephants and the Underdogs. You just saw it as an opportunity to get rid of the Underdogs?" Jayden repeated, making sure he got everything correct.



Gary nodded, though he didn't share the part that they had gotten involved through Innu's request to save the orphans.

Finally, Jayden was the one that let out a big sigh of relief now.

"You know, I was worried about Slough, seeing as my old man has no intentions of moving out. Then again, he is the mayor of this town, so I do understand how it would be the end of his career if he did something like that." Jayden revealed. "I went to Chavley and got rid of the Crazy Altered there, and it just made me worry whether everyone will be okay. You see, I'm leaving this town soon. I need to get back to the AFC, and without me, I was worried what this place might become.

"However, wolfie, there was someone who has managed to change so much already. I believe what you've told me, but I do have to warn you. If you do change your ways, or become just as bad as the guys that were running the place before your Howlers, I might have to get involved and teach you another lesson." Jayden smiled and made a fist.

Although it sounded like he was saying these words in a joking manner, Gary was sure that he meant exactly what he said. Thankfully, though, it looked like Jayden wouldn't become an enemy.

Since things had turned out well, Gary decided to keep his little meeting with the Mayor a secret for now. In the end, they had never made a move during the fight like they had planned anyway. So there was no need to stir up the pot.

"I've told you everything, so I hope you can answer a question of mine now." Gary finally said. "Unlike me, you've had your powers for far longer, and I'm sure what you showed me that day was just a glimpse of it.

"Your presence alone was enough to stop the Grey Elephants from attacking us, so with all your strength, how come you don't stop those gangs. Why not just get rid of the Underdogs altogether?"

It was a question that had been on Gary's mind for a long time. Since Jayden talked about getting rid of his gang if they were to become bullies, why not the current group? He was stronger than Kirk and Damion.

"I... Am not a leader." Jayden answered. "I'm a single individual. I can't rally people around me, or ask people to fight me. Simply put, I'm more of a loner. On top of that, there are a few other reasons.

"Even if I take down the heads of this place, then there will just be someone else to replace them. Unless I decided to stay in charge or run the place, things just wouldn't work out. I'm kinda... what do they call it, a free bird."

There was a smile on his face as he spoke about this, but the smile soon faded.

"Actually, I'm probably not as free of a bird as I would like to think. In fact, just like you Gary, my hands are also tied, but by a far bigger force than just the Underdogs. Remember, I wasn't born into this world with a golden spoon, nor as an Altered.

"Even then I got lucky in the end and have accidentally become a significant someone. Unfortunately, there is a limit to what I can do. I just took an interest in this town because of my family."

Gary understood, because even the AFC was under a large, powerful organisation and possibly behind them was another. The set-up and structure in the higher tier cities Gary could only guess, as it felt like different worlds to his and those around them.

Finally, Jayden stood up from the ground and wiped the back of his trousers. Instead of walking towards his car, he headed towards the woods.

"Why don't we have one final fight before I leave?" Jayden asked. "If you win, you'll still get my autograph, or if you prefer, you can raid my fridge once more? Only this time I would like both of us to go all out, fully use our Altered forms."

#### Chapter 319 Tiger Vs Wolf (Part 1)

From a young age, Gary had always been interested in fighting, though up until recently, he had to be content with just watching others fights. However, nowadays, the thought alone was enough to make him feel a rush. The teenager wasn't sure if it was from his own personal desire that had manifested, now that he had the capabilities, or if it was yet another side effect of becoming a Werewolf. Especially since it was getting close to the full moon.

Whatever the case, Gary was naturally curious about how much he had improved since his last fight against Jayden, yet this wouldn't be the same type of sparring match that they had before. No, this time it would be the two of them duking it out in their full Altered forms.

Looking around, Gary was making sure that the area was even safe. Jayden's car was the only one in the whole car park. When he checked the supermarket, he could see that it was actually boarded up, seemingly abandoned. Looking at the street lights next, he found cameras. Maybe in an area like this they would no longer be working but all of them had been destroyed, crushed. They were placed quite high up so it was clear that the act was intentional.

"Don't tell me... did you drive us here just so we could fight?" Gary asked.

"I told you that I was looking for you since yesterday." Jayden shrugged. "This location also seemed perfect in case things would have turned out differently."

Gary gulped down hard. It was terrifying to think that if his answer hadn't satisfied Xin's brother, the Altered had seemingly been ready to kill the high schooler in the middle of nowhere. Even scarier was the possibility that there might not even have been anything he could have done against it. Hopefully, that would turn out to be a meaningless worry in a moment

Either way, maybe a death like that was deserving of Gary, after what he had done to others.

"Alright, let's do this." Gary agreed.

'I have the system to check up on my Health. If I get too injured, I can stop the fight at any time. The only thing I have to be careful about is not inflicting a dangerous wound on Jayden like I did Kirk.' The Werewolf tried to hype himself up, as he watched the Altered's face and body structure change in front of him.

There were two ways Gary could use fighting against Jayden.

One option was to use his Controlled Transformation on all parts of his body to the maximum. It would increase his stats by a large margin, while also allowing him to conserve his Energy. This would allow him to drag the fight out, and try to outlast his opponent.

The other option was to outright use his Full Transformation. This would take up more Energy, though, it would also result in a bigger boost as every single part of him would be fully Werewolf. However, it would also mean that their fight would have a time limit.

'I ate just after my training with Olivia, so my body is in top shape and I have no excuses.'

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

[-20 Energy]

[Transformation has begun]

Jayden had stated that this fight was supposed to be one where both should go full out. Since that was the case, the teenager opted to go for the second option, even though the Altered's body didn't seem to have changed as drastically, as when Kirk had gone all out.

Jayden's arms had become like large paws with claws at the end, and his face was now covered in white fur, but other than that his body had hardly changed apart from his shoulders becoming a little wider.

Still, as soon as his body had finished transforming, a slight wind was felt on Gary's body, causing his fur to ruffle slightly.

As for Gary, his whole body had completely changed. However, due to the adjustments that had pretty much been perfected on his clothes, they hadn't broken for the first time. However he still had to slip his shoes off. The teenager was the first one to run in, trying to get the jump on his opponent.

With his increased speed, courtesy of Kirk, his Full Transformation, as well as the buff of the full moon, he was faster than Jayden had expected him to be. Against the swipe of the Werewolf's hand, the White Tiger Altered was forced to bend over backwards.

His body proved to be flexible, yet Gary had somewhat predicted this, swinging his other arm downward. Still, Jayden swiftly moved out of the way of that move as well, almost touching the ground with his entire body, somehow managing to support it on a single leg. Using it, he pushed off and moved directly into Gary. It was a dangerous position to be in, because the Werewolf had another weapon that he didn't use much, and that was his maw.

'I want to win, so I'm going to use everything I've got!' Gary thought as he opened wide. Before his teeth could latch on, though, Jayden's paw had already been placed on the Werewolf's body.

He thought that he could take whatever was coming his way, and do more damage to his opponent, but that's when something strange happened. The strength of the paw itself wasn't strong. In fact, it looked as if it only lightly touched the transformed teenager's chest, yet the next second, the 'light tap' might as well have been a cannonball shot from point blank distance.

It lifted Gary off his feet and sent him flying through the air and the car park.

[-50 HP]

[110/160 HP]

Blood poured from Gary's mouth, and it took him a few seconds before he eventually stuck his clawed feet into the ground and his hands piercing the flaw. They scraped until he was able to stop himself.

'Why... was that blow so strong... is it that strange power he used like he did before?' Gary asked himself, thinking back to Jayden fighting against the red colour gang members who had captured Xin. It was at that moment, he had attacked all of them from the position he was in.

"You're faster than before, Gary. I'm impressed how much you seem to have improved in such a short amount of time. ... seriously, how are you even still standing right now? I used enough power to have knocked you out for a good while, but here you are still standing." Jayden admitted, not hiding his surprise.

Honestly, this was the strongest blow he had ever taken to his HP. It would have taken down half his Health before his upgrade, and probably even more if he had used Controlled Transformation.

Still, thanks to him being at his strongest currently, the Werewolf knew that he could still take one or two more hits. He didn't want to give up now. If Jayden really was to leave soon, he wanted to find out his own limits beforehand.

"This fight has only just started!" Gary shouted.

### Chapter 320 Tiger vs Wolf (Part 2)

Learning how an Altered fighter moved, attacked, what their special traits were, all of those factors were important in an Altered fight. Gary had seen Jayden Tiger multiple times on TV, not to mention the countless times he had seen the highlights of the White Tiger Altered's fight on PouTube.

Alas, just like with his fight against Kirk, this supposed advantage turned out to only exist in theory. An Altered fighting in the ring on screen, and them fighting in real life, proved to be completely different from one another. So much that had been displayed on TV seemed to be far from the actual limit of the White Tiger Altered.

The simple punch alone had packed enough power that it would at least severely cripple a normal human for the rest of their lives. Gary didn't know if this was the full extent of his power, but he was far deadlier than in his normal human form.

"I see you have the spirit, but are you sure you can continue to fight in your condition?" Jayden asked, not moving from his position.

Gary let the blood dribble out of his mouth, shaking his head a little.

"Yes." He answered, although it wasn't exactly clear what he was saying through his large snout and teeth. The noise was ruffled, but his actions were understandable enough. Gary wasn't sure if he was imagining it or not, but with a single step, Jayden had managed to cross a large distance. It looked like he was almost gliding across the air, but not only that he was incredibly fast, even faster than Kirk.

'How the hell is a White Tiger faster than a Cheetah?! That should be impossible.' Gary was flabbergasted, covering his face with his arms in a type of boxing stance, bracing himself for the attack. However, he only felt a gust of wind, as quick as Jayden was able to move forward he was seemingly able to stop and slow down as well. Unable to react, the Altered had moved to his side and kicked him in the ribs.

[-8 HP]

'The blow isn't as heavy as the punch. Is he taking it easy on me because he thinks I'm still hurt ? ... or could he be unable to continuously use such a heavy hit?'

Enduring the pain, Gary went to swing his own leg out, he did his best not to flinch and delivered everything he could into the attack. That's when he could see that Jayden had dug his claws into the concrete ground, his muscles were tense, and the next second a large piece of the ground was lifted and thrown in the air. The Werewolf's leg smashed into the piece of concrete, destroying it, but hurting himself in the process as well.

[-2 HP]

The pain wasn't great, but the main thing was it had slowed him down and caused several pieces of debris to mess with his line of sight. The next second, although Gary couldn't see anything, his ears picked something up.

Aware that something was coming his way, he lifted his large forearms to block it and tried to move from the area. Before he could, though, he felt something deep cutting through his strong hide and his warm blood started trickling on the ground.

[-8 HP]

[-8 HP]

The attack was strange, and just before Gary could hear something silencing the wind, when looking around he noticed that Jayden wasn't close to him at all. He was a good five metres away.

'I thought it was strange, I could tell that he wasn't close to me, so how did he hurt me?' An image appeared in Gary of the ranged attack he had performed against red colour gang members. Jayden must have used it on him now.

'I need to stop thinking of him as just a 'white tiger'. In the first place, Altered are based on beasts, that are different from the animals we have today. On top of that, he seems to be a different type of Altered altogether.' Gary reprimanded himself. 'I shouldn't be surprised that he is faster than Kirk, nor about all the strange things he can apparently do.'

Not wasting any time. Jayden continued his barrage of attacks, now Gary could see it clearly. Jayden was somehow able to create an attack that would work from a distance. Slashes broke through the wind and were coming right towards him.

Lifting his already injured forearm, he suffered another attack, slicing through, sharper than any knife. The Werewolf's hide was strong, but it was strong and sharp enough to hurt immensely. No wonder, it had been enough to bisect those gang members.

[-8 HP]

Gary attempted to run away from the wind strikes, because the worst thing about them was the fact that they were nearly impossible to see. They distorted the airspace a little as they went through. When Gary was running around, he avoided the attacks, and bravely decided to charge forward towards Jayden once again.

'Oh, I have to ask him how he's able to avoid my slashes if he can't see them.' Jayden noted. 'Xin, your little boyfriend just continues to be full of surprises.'

If Gary had been the same as before the gang war, then his old speed would not have allowed him to keep up with the Altered's attacks. Once again, the teenager was inwardly thanking Kirk.

The other reason for him being able to evade, were his ears. When the wind strikes left Jayden's hand, he was able to perceive the noise it made going through the air, telling him where not to go if he wanted to avoid the hit.



