

Werewolf 321

Chapter 321 A common Altered

In the current world, it was rare for people to live outside the cities and towns, since those were the only places one could get work. The higher tier the city or town, the higher the average pay would be. If they could afford it, people would live in the cities, yet it wasn't rare for the majority of the workforce to commute to work from a nearby town due to the high rent cost inside the city.

Of course, the Tier-5 'towns' barely deserved such a name. They were essentially just giant dumps that housed people who had nothing and lived off of the scraps of the other cities. It was to the point that their 'houses' consisted of whatever materials the other cities had discarded, and they could slap together.

These cities were why the AFC Academy, more commonly known as the AFA, was a unique place.

It was a school that was the most prominent gathering place for Altered all over the country, and it was the only place of its kind in the current region. Of course, there were academies abroad that trained special Altered, but this academy was more unique since, as the name suggested, it was an official part of the AFC.

It was generally considered the best place for any Altered's future, be it as an Altered fighter, or in another profession. There were many events for the students to show off to sponsors of the worldwide most watched televised sport!

The academy itself was located in a tier two city but wasn't a part of the city itself. It was out in the countryside. It was a large building that was home to around two thousand different Altered. It might seem like a large amount, yet it was minuscule compared to the world's current population.

Despite its location, the academy boasted great wealth thanks to the students that attended it. This place was meant to be an independently run facility, away from the Tier-1 cities, although whether people believed that or not, was another thing.

Currently, five new potential students were standing inside what looked like an empty white room. Each of them was wearing a plain white uniform, and in front of them were three older gentlemen. They, too, were wearing white uniforms similar to the students, although their styling was a little different.

"Every year, facilities around the whole world succeed in making breakthrough after breakthrough." A man in the centre with giant round glasses and a tall body began to speak while pacing back and forth in front of the five teenagers.

"This has led to an increase in the appearance of Altered in general... making them more common."

Although what the professor of the academy was saying was true, 'common' seemed to be a horrible word to use in this context. After all, the statement was merely true among the upper class, and even then, less than one percent of people could afford to get their hands on Altered DNA.

"Should this trend continue, there may come a day that everyone in the world will have become an Altered. Be that as it may, our Academy HAS always and WILL always pride ourselves in one thing! We are THE place to cultivate the most elite generation of Altered!

"Naturally, that means that we don't accept anyone. Money can't buy everything, and it won't buy you the right to stay here. You still have to earn that!"

Looking at the five students, they all stood up straight and tall, strong and confident, among them was Xin Clove, though she attended under a fake name. Today was supposed to be her first day at the AFA, yet from the professor's words, she understood that if she didn't show the potential, then this might also be her last.

'I'm not going back! Jayden went through all the trouble to allow me to get a chance to be free, so I need to at least be able to go through all of this!!'

The bespectacled man stepped back, allowing a bulky professor to step forward. His colleague looked a little strange, given that he had a large and round belly, yet his arms appeared to be that of a muscle builder, with next to no fat visible on them at all.

"The five of you shall now undergo a trial, which will determine your positions in the next room." The second man stated. "There are only two rules to it. Don't get hit, and remain in your human form."

"What?!" A boy shouted in frustration, his blonde spiky hair moving about due to his anger. "Some of us might have really rare Altered forms or are better at utilising it than others! If you test us without letting us go all out, how is that fair?"

"Simple." The original professor with the glasses replied. "We have done extensive research on Altered. If your Altered form is based on a genuinely strong beast, then it means your body would have changed in accordance to house it, meaning that even in your human form you will be able to display inhumane feats.

"Should that not be the case, then it simply means that the beast inside you is weak. If you dislike it, you are free to leave and apply to another academy. I can guarantee you that there won't be a shortage of students who wish to apply, and these harsh criteria have allowed us to ensure that only the best of the best get through."

Hearing this, Xin felt confident because she trusted in her own skills even before she became an Altered. However, there was a problem. This supposed change of her body was not something she had experienced for herself.

'Maybe we shouldn't have trusted that NIRV guy. After that injection, he had assured me that everything had gone perfectly fine, but I still struggle to keep up my Altered form...' Xin thought. Fortunately, it had been enough to let her pass the Altered test they had to partake in before even getting to this stage, which proved that she was no longer human.

"Well, what do we do now?" A tired-looking kid asked, once the three professors had left the room. He had large black eyes that made him resemble a panda.

Just then, they heard a clicking sound, and in the next instant, a large black ball came hurling out from the side of the wall and struck one of the students. The ball wasn't heavy, so it didn't hurt at all, but as the student tried to pull it off from himself, the sticky substance just went onto his hand instead,

He then used his foot, but it still stuck it onto his body.

"Rick Toenail, you have been eliminated! Please stand to the side and do not interfere with the test!" A mechanical voice sounded in the room.

"That was your name?" The spiky-haired kid from before couldn't help but laugh, hearing the announcement. The next second, the one with the panda eyes jumped from his position and had nearly cleared two metres quickly.

A large black ball went straight past him, forcing the other three students to evade. Noticing the ball, Xin dodged to the left, while the loudmouth moved in the opposite direction. Soon, more and more of these black balls started coming from the walls on the side, then from above and below as well, until they were being blasted from all over the room.

The professors were watching everything through the screen. It had been a minute since the test had begun, and they were getting a clear grasp on the students' abilities.

"Looks like we have a couple of good ones with us." One of the professors noted with a smile.

"Indeed, the Panda boy has the best reflexes out of the lot. It looks like he is using next to no effort to dodge everything that is coming his way. As for Ryan, although his attitude is quite bad, he appears to have the best physical capabilities of this batch. He can outrun and see all the objects coming towards them."

"What about the other two?" Another professor asked.

"The other two... are nothing special. They appear to struggle, so it's doubtful they will last until the end."

Xin was trying her best to avoid all the black balls. She was imagining them as fists and kicks hurling towards her, completely focusing on them. The teenager girl needed to see the balls as soon as possible to give her the most time to react, but it was proving a great struggle with the number of black balls coming towards her.

As the test continued, not only had the number of balls increased, their speed had as well. On the other hand, Xin was getting tired, mentally as well as physically.

'Panda Eyes, and Spiky Hair, are still doing fine. It was as if the first few minutes were just a warm-up for them.' Xin noticed and glanced at the tall, lanky boy close to her. 'If this goes on, the two of us aren't going to pass this test.'

It was at that moment that three black balls came towards her. With the trajectory of the other balls, she knew that she wasn't fast enough to avoid them. There were only a few ways to get out of the current situation.

One of them was being hit by the balls in front of her, so the ones at the side wouldn't hit her, but that's when she came up with another plan, as she looked at the struggling boy to her side. Lifting her leg, she landed a blow to his temple, knocking him out cold.

Before he fell to the floor, she grabbed his body and placed it in front of her. Using her fellow candidate as a literal human shield, Xin started running forward, blocking the black balls in front of her. Eventually letting go, she was ready to dodge more, but the balls had already stopped.

The test was over. However, her actions didn't go unnoticed by the others in the room, as well as the professors who had watched everything over the cameras and were now discussing her strategy.

"The rules just stated that we had to avoid touching the balls while staying in our human forms. I didn't break any rules, right?" Xin asked, huffing and panting.

No matter what, she was going to get accepted!

Chapter 322 The Next Stage

On average, there would only be one person for every fifteen batches that would pass this first trial. The three professors had already been happy to see that the current batch had two promising youths... and yet, despite having watched dozens of would-be students try to pass their trial, they were nevertheless surprised at Xin's ruthlessness and willingness to pass.

The teenage girl had already let go of the student she had used as a meat shield. He was only waking up now, still dazed and confused about what had happened to him in his final moments. It took him a few moments to understand what had happened, and he was currently staring at the one responsible for his elimination.

“Diego Nascimento, you have been eliminated. Please leave the room together with Rick Toenail!” The mechanical voice sounded as a door opened up. “The rest of you, please be patient for a moment, as we still need to discuss amongst each other about the results.”

“Haha, are you worried that they're not going to let you pass?” The spiky blonde haired kid from before asked, looking at Xin. Although the professors had yet to enter the room again, the reason for their discussion was clear to the teenagers.

“Why should I? As I said, I never broke any of their rules, after all. Besides, if they really don't let me pass...” Xin stopped there. She had just been about to say that she would tell the three who her brother was, but when entering the academy, she had done so under a fake name. It wouldn't exactly look good if she were to reveal herself, only to make use of Jayden's name.

“... I'll just have to argue my own case.” She eventually finished.

Indeed, the three professors were currently discussing whether to let Xin pass or not. Technically speaking, she had adhered to the rules, yet the entire purpose of this trial had been to weed out those that wouldn't be worth their time, and from what they had seen so far she would have certainly failed.

“Why are we still discussing this? It should be clear that if she were to take this trial again, or do so on her own, there is no way she would pass!” Professor Hai, who was the man with the large belly and muscular arms, was the most vocal about not letting the teenage girl proceed any further.

“I suppose we could make her retake the test.” His colleague, Professor Wood, suggested. “However, the element of surprise would be gone, so it wouldn't be exactly fair to the others that have taken the trial. Coming up with a new one just for her alone seems too troublesome, though.”

Giving out a big huff, Professor Humfree who wore glasses, let out a sigh. “I agree, the trouble does not seem worth it. Perhaps we should adjust the rules in the future if we wish to prevent such a scenario. Either way, this was only a trial to see if they are worthy to get into the next room.”

“Let’s just allow her to move onto the assessment stage. It will become obvious enough, if she’s someone worth our time or not.”

“Are you sure?” Hai questioned with a worried look on his face. “Those inside are able to stay for as long as they wish. They only leave when they have to leave, which also means, if we put someone weak like her there... there’s a good chance she won’t come out alive.”

“A risk that I’m sure she will become aware of quite quickly.” Mr Humfree replied, and with that he pressed a button.

“Congratulations, all three of you have passed this trial.” The mechanical voice resounded, once more. “However, as you might imagine, this was merely a pre-assessment to see if you have earned the right to stay with us a while longer. I look forward to hopefully greeting you at the academy itself.”

“For now, please head through the door. My colleague, Professor Hai will lead you to the next trial stage and explain the details.”

“Next trial stage?” The Panda boy’s voice was energetic, yet his face displayed the same type of energy as it had the entire time. However, he was the first one to head through the door that had newly opened up, the man with the large belly already waiting for them.

“Follow me.” The professor stated as soon as they all were before him.

‘I did it, Jayden! I passed the first hurdle. It wasn’t exactly the way I planned, but I still did it.’ Xin thought, as she followed the other two. While walking, though, the adult would turn around from time to time, yet she was the only one who was being stared at, making her feel as if she had done something wrong.

‘He doesn’t seem happy that I passed... It doesn’t matter, I will show everyone that this is the place that I was meant to be at, and that no one has the right to argue that.’ Xin solemnly swore to do everything by the book at the next trial stage.

Eventually, the three of them had entered another large building. It was separate from the one they had come from, and from the outside it looked like a stadium. It was certainly large enough to be classified as one, albeit the indoor type.

Through the doors, the students now entered a gigantic room that had several floors, different areas, libraries and more.

“As you might have already guessed, this isn't the main academy. There are no teachers here, nor are there any lessons.” Professor Hai started to explain while walking around. Immediately, the students inside the place turned to look at those who had entered. Some just smirked before going back to what they had been doing, others didn't seem interested to even look up, while the rest stared long and hard at the newcomers.

“In fact, this is just a large trial stage set up for all the candidates who have shown promise.” The man continued. “Nevertheless, you'll be provided with everything you would need to train yourself. No matter your number, you'll have access to the most basic training rooms, weight lifting equipment, cardio, a gym, library and more.

“Each one of you will have a personal room assigned to them. How long you stay here is up to you. You are free to leave at any time, though be aware that if you choose to do so, you won't get a second chance to join the AFA again.

“You may be wondering, ‘how do I join the real academy’? Well here.” Professor Hai then handed out badges that he instructed them to be placed on the corner of each of their white shirts. The students noticed that all of those in the room had those numbered badges on their shirts as well.

The spiky blonde haired boy had been handed 112, the panda boy 113 and finally Xin had been given a 114.

“Those numbers indicate what room you sleep in. You will quickly notice that there are some differences in your rooms, and the same will be true for your provided meals. If you don't like it, then I suggest you do your best to try to get a higher number as soon as possible.

“Only the students numbered 1 to 10 are eligible to join the AFA. To do that, you have to keep your badge for a week. After a week has passed, you're permitted and out of here. Do take note that the

higher your number is when you leave, the more benefits you will enjoy at the academy, so you might think twice about leaving as number 10.”

Listening in, the students understood that this was an environment created to force them to improve. They wished to see how much they wanted to become better and stronger. Without the teachers to guide them, they were the ones that needed to motivate themselves.

At the same time, the ones higher up would be treated better.

“How do we go about getting a higher numbered badge?” Xin asked, getting straight to the point.

“There are two ways.” The adult answered. “One of them is through assessments. Every week, there will be assessments and trials like the ones that you had gone through just a few moments ago. The better your result, the higher you place.

“The second option is through a match. People are able to challenge anyone they wish once a day. If that person has already been challenged, you are unable to challenge them again.”

He continued to explain a few more things to the group, and showed them around more areas. Finally, he had taken them to their rooms, and just as he stated, the rooms were horrible. They were cold, and Xin's didn't even have a bed. It was just that, a small room.

On the other hand, opposite hers on the second floor, she could see room number 1. It was designed like that of a palace. They couldn't see the inside, but if the extravagant door and pillars were anything to judge by, it might look like the inside of a palace.

“Alright, with that you should be aware of everything. Good luck, and remember what I said.” Professor Hai looked towards Xin. “You can leave whenever you wish. No one is forcing you to stay here.”

As he left, the three of them were looking towards each other, unsure what to do. They weren't friends, they were practically strangers who had only just met, but it was usual for them to feel the need to stick together, due to them being the new strangers at this place.

However, one of them chose to move, heading for the first floor.

“What is she doing?” The spiky blonde haired boy asked the panda boy.

Heading down, Xin walked over to a group of boys that were talking away, chatting and sitting on a large circle marbled area next to a few plants. No one seemed to dare to come too close to them.

“Hey, you, number 1!” Xin called out. “Fight me!”

Chapter 323 Catch The Rat!

Since the main bulk of the Howlers were no longer going to school, they had decided to regularly meet at the Wolf’s Pool Club. Technically, the Howlers owned multiple establishments that were in Burnham food street. They were larger and perhaps better used, especially since the members were coordinating more with the old Members of the Pincer gang.

However, this place seemed more like home for them, it was the place they started, so it was the main base for the Howlers. At the same time, they felt like it was somewhere that other gang members would never suspect that the leaders of the Howlers would currently be.

Currently, Austin, along with Innu were walking down the street. They were a little sweaty since they had continued the morning training sessions. Instead of doing so early in the morning at school, they now did it in the basement of the Wolf’s Pool Club.

“Am I the only one who feels put off by this? Do we really have to do this?” Innu asked, as they approached the door of an establishment nearby, it looked to be a shoe shop of some kind. Innu peeked through the window to see if there was anyone inside and could see an old man.

“This was a job given to us by Kai. We have to expand the business that the Howlers own, and that naturally includes what is near the Wolf’s Pool Club. We need to increase our presence now that the other big gangs are gone.” Austin reminded him.

Although he didn't go to the same school as the others, Austin too had finally decided to drop out. He had chosen the path he was going to take, and with everything that's happening, he knew that this was his future.

“But that's the thing, why send us out? Just the two of us. I mean, he decided to no longer go to school anymore either, right? Isn't he also suited better for this stuff? And what even is he doing.” Innu had stopped his complaining there, even though there was more on his mind.

Because, the truth was, Kai was actually helping them out quite a bit. The fancy new lawyer was trying to find some way, so Innu could get out of his current foster parents. Kevin and him could live together and look after Suzan.

When speaking to Kai, he had given him great confidence. Stating that if they couldn't find out how to do it the legal way, then they would do it the 'illegal' way, only that would cost money and take some time.

Eventually, after having no choice and needing to accept what was going to happen to both of them, Innu pushed the door open.

“Oh, it's rare to see two young students at this time of day, and in a shoe shop no less, how can I help?” The old man greeted them with a smile, which was just making Innu feel a little guilty with what he was about to do.

‘Just think, you are just doing them a favour. These shops are okay now, but sooner or later they need someone like us.’ With this resolve, he clenched his fist, and replied.

“The two of us are from the Howlers gang, and we were looking into expanding, we thought that maybe that the two of us could collaborate on doing some business together.” Innu stated.

Hearing these words, the smile from the man's face dropped instantly.

As for the reason Kai was unable to do this task himself, it was because he had other important matters to attend to. Currently, the blonde teenager was walking towards what looked like an apartment building. It was extremely run down, as if no one looked after the place at all.

Some would even think no one lived in such an area, but that wasn't the case at all. On the very top floor, there were several doors leading to other rooms, just like on an apartment block. Turning towards the first door, Kai entered by turning a key. And inside was not what one would expect, because it wasn't a normal apartment at all.

The single door led to a large room that took up the entire floor of the apartment block. The door outside was just for appearances for the rest of them. Walking forward many of those that were inside gave a nod towards Kai, not saying much.

They were other members of the Underdog's gang. The whole apartment block was actually owned by the Underdogs, and it was one of their many secret hideout places they had, just in case things like this happened.

Many of the members were practising fighting. Working out with weights, hitting bags, training with weapons and more. Then at the very back of the room, out on a large table that had been set up. Standing there with a few other members was the one and only Damion Hawk.

"Will you look at that, now that you're no longer going to school, you're actually starting to resemble an adult." Damion said with a smile. Looking around, Kai noticed that there were a few crates that he didn't see before. None of them had been opened yet.

"What's with the crates and what's the meeting about today?" Kai asked, getting straight down to business. It looked like one of the men was about to go over to the crates and open them, but Damion quickly shook his head.

"Now, just because you are starting to get more involved in the gang business doesn't mean you're the head of it just yet. If you want to act like the leader of the Underdogs, you would have to become it, and to become it, you would have to take me out..."

This was the way Damion always talked, there was no special treatment for his son that was for sure, and the next second, pulling out a small blade from his back pocket he slammed it onto the table.

"Let's get this meeting started, shall we, after all, we need to figure out who the rat in the group is!"

Chapter 324 The Underdogs bite!

For a second, Kai's heart thudded loudly, hearing those words. Looking at Damion, he could tell that the gang leader was carefully staring at the remaining members of the Underdogs. His eyes looked as if he was staring right through everyone that was there at the meeting, and finally his eyes landed upon Kai, his very own son.

'It can't be that he suspects me, right?' Kai started to worry. 'He should have no way to prove I have done anything against him unless someone can link me to being part of the Howlers, and I did everything necessary to guarantee that there are no connections!' The blonde teenager clenched his fists, forcing himself to not gulp down the saliva that was gathering in his mouth. He understood that to be the type of weakness, Damion was searching for among those present. If he really was found to be the person who had betrayed the Underdogs, he could see his life flashing before his eyes.

Although there had only been a few days between the Underdogs' battle with the Grey Elephants, Kai had been working diligently with the Pincer gang.

At first, the members of the Pincer gang had naturally been upset when Olivia had informed them that they would be working for the Howlers. That might not have been all that bad, but once the Lady Boss had informed them about the changes the new leadership wanted to implement for the Burnham high street, many had left the small-time gang, not least because of the pay cuts all around.

It was pretty much a given considering the loss of their extra source of revenue. Nevertheless, there were enough who had chosen to stay, mostly due to their unwavering loyalty for Olivia. Seeing her somewhat trust the Howlers for whatever reason reassured them.

Since the Howlers had proven to be a considerable force, they too could see it, they could see a future in which the Howlers would take over the entire town. Once that happened, the gang members would no longer have to rely on those extra streams of revenue, as their wallets would practically fatten themselves!

Now, believing in the Howlers more, the Pincers followed not just Olivia's orders, and she herself seemed fine with this slight change.

The day under the bridge, after Kai had been given one of the red axes that Damion had used, the gang leader shared his plans for a future counterattack, how they would grow their business and expand it back to what it once was. He had done it once, so Damion knew he could do it again. Armed with that knowledge, Kai had ordered the Pincers to stop all those plans in their infancy.

'I knew hitting all of those spots would cause him to be suspicious of someone in the Howlers, but the last person he would suspect to do something like that to him should be me.' Kai reasoned.

The blonde teenager could have chosen to be cautious, ordering the members of the Pincers to slowly attack the Underdog forces and only stop a few of their plans to rebuild, yet there was a reason why he had them take down all possibilities of the Underdogs expanding again even from day one.

He wanted Damion to feel hopeless, defenceless, until he was backed into a corner, and he felt like there was nothing else he could do.

'I want you to feel the same pain... no, I want you to feel true despair of losing EVERYTHING you worked so hard for!'

"Boss, according to what we found out, the men who have been disrupting our plans are all members of the original Pincers!" One of the other men in suits started to speak up, he was bruised all over and was one of the members of the Cheetah Squad. Kai recognised him since they had gone toe to toe with each other for a bit, but thanks to his mask, the same didn't apply vice versa.

"From what we have found out, they are now under the new gang that appeared that day, the Howlers. However, the Pincers are the only ones on their side, the other small-time gangs haven't stepped in or claimed to be part of their side.

"We could try to bring them over and ask them to help us, offer them more territory in return for helping us through these tough times."

'What territory are you going to offer them?' Kai thought after hearing this, making sure to hide the schadenfreude he was feeling. 'As long as everything goes well, in a few days time, all of what was once yours will belong to the Howlers. The two big gangs who had been fighting for Slough for over a decade fell that day.

'I've already told Olivia to leave the Grey Elephants area. Seeing that we have no interest in it, but only stopping the Underdogs from claiming it, the small-time gangs should move in and claim that territory for themselves.

'With us just focusing on what the Underdogs used to own, there will be nothing you can use to bargain, and once they are under the Howlers' territory, why would they go back to the Underdogs? We won't be as harsh with requests for protection money, and with Kirk gone and our very own Altered, only suicidal idiots would offer their help!

'The gangs you treated poorly, the people you stumped for every penny, and even your own people you treated like trash... all of them will turn against you... time is on our side.'

Ultimately, Damion stopped looking over Kai and the others, and decided to continue on with the meeting. His attempt to flush out the rat had seemingly failed.

"Continue onward with the expansion. If we can't get our old territories, then go ahead and look for new ones. Step on the toes of the Lock gang, the Blood Triangle gang, whoever. We can't afford to appear weak in front of them! We will hold out our hand for a collaboration if they refuse, then chop it off."

Damion smiled, as he kicked one of the large crates and the large wooden panel fell down to the floor, revealing what was inside. Kai's eyes couldn't stop looking at what he was seeing, he then realised that there were countless crates all over the large apartment building. Most likely filled with the same thing.

'How can this be...did he spend every single penny of the Underdogs' money to get these?' The teenager thought.

"Find out every little thing you can about the Howlers gang! As for that giant mutt Altered who did Kirk in, do whatever it takes to bring him in front of me!" Damion ordered coldly, murder in his eyes.

Chapter 325 Two minds

[Your bloodlust grows]

[9 days until the next full moon]

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

[Exp 602/3445]

Gary had already made the decision that tonight would be the time for him and Olivia to act. When the day came to an end, he would meet up with Olivia around nightfall, and they would ambush the Underdogs, to finish the gang once and for all.

'If I wait any longer, there is a good chance that the moon will influence Olivia to the point where she is no longer following the Pack Rules or listening to me. At the same time, we now have the boost that the moons give us to increase our strength further in an attack.'

In preparation of what they were about to do today, Gary had used his Quest reward to select a new skill and he was hoping that it would give them the edge they might need tonight.

'I understand that you don't want me to act, Kai, but things are getting too dangerous for you guys. We are not the same, and I can't let the Underdogs come back again.'

Before meeting the Beta Werewolf, the green haired teenager headed to the Wolf's Pool Club to make sure everything seemed to be running smoothly and there wasn't any other troubles that he would need to deal with first. There, the others filled him in about how they had been going around, signing up the Underdogs' former businesses, as well as those around the Wolf's Pool Club.

Gary was a little worried when he heard this, thinking that perhaps they would cause a stir between other gangs or the public, but at least for now, no such thing had happened. At the mere mention of the name Howlers, the business owners were instantly ready to sign over.

There was still a small standard flat fee, yet the percentage of profits taken was far lower compared to the Underdogs. According to Austin, all the owners instantly became elated once they noticed these new rates. It was all thanks to Kai, who knew exactly how much the gang had extorted from those businesses.

In fact, the blonde teenager explained that their new contract was even nice enough to only take money from net profit. In other words, if the businesses were making a loss for whatever reason, there would be no pressure for them to be paid. Of course, that might lead to people trying to swindle them down the line, but those could be addressed should they occur.

'We're still asking them for protection money which isn't right in itself, but as I probably would say, at the moment with the other gangs out there, and the police doing nothing we're a necessary evil.' Gary thought, aware that he had no right to complain seeing that the money the Pincers were earning, which ended up with him, was being earned the same way.

Eventually, Olivia arrived in the usual training spot between her and Gary in the woods, she was wearing the Howlers' gang uniform and had her whip ready.

"You sure you have eaten enough to do everything that's needed?" Gary asked.

She paused for a second before answering, but eventually spoke.

"I have, but seeing how you seem to worry so much about my meals, I should probably let you know that I've been eating a lot more lately... especially, raw meat and although it is sating my hunger, it still feels that there is an itch that has yet to be scratched, no matter how much I eat."

'That must be the bloodlust, it's a good thing we're doing this now, I'll sort this out first and then her next.' Gary noted, as he took out his mask to place it on his face.

"Are you absolutely sure about this?" Olivia spoke, clearly having more on her mind other than just food.

"I'm not backing out of what you want to do. In fact, I have found myself quite enjoying your hot headedness and goals to charge in first. I can see why you do it when you have this power in you." She said as she stared at her own hands, transforming her fingernails on the spot.

'Has she been practising the Controlled Transformation in her own time?' Gary wondered.

Not only that, but her transformation looked slightly different to his. She was somehow able to use it on her fingers alone, yet they were far longer than the Alpha Werewolf's. He estimated them to be around twice his maximum length.

'Is it perhaps some skill similar to my Claw Drain she might have gained after becoming a Hunter Class?'

"I haven't known you kids for long, but from what I've seen Kai appears to be a capable right-hand man. Using members of the Pincers, he has been stomping members of the Underdogs, stopping their growth."

Hearing this, Gary was quite amazed, he somewhat thought Kai was doing nothing just waiting for some opportunity, and it was starting to make him think. If he had given them a reason to wait, then it was probably a good one.

"However, until recently, he asked the members of the Pincers to fall back. It was an urgent response that I got today to clear out all our members from the Underdog areas.

"I asked him what he had found, but he wouldn't tell me anything... what's more he seemed to be afraid of something. Now don't get me wrong, at the end of the day, I still follow you... not like I have much of a choice in that matter thanks to that annoying feeling inside me, but I thought it would be best to let you know."

Gary was in two minds about what to do, originally he was so determined to finish things off today. Of course, he had thought about not going, it took a lot to finally make the decision to go, and now this....

"About what you said earlier." Gary finally spoke up. "About following me because you had to. If you weren't part of the Pack, and I asked you to do this... would you still have come along? ... do you think I'm doing the right thing? ... if you had the choice, would you listen to me or Kai?"

"I would not attack, and listen to Kai," Olivia answered, not even hesitating to think about it.

Gary didn't know why, but something came over him at that moment, and his blood was boiling a little as well.

“Fine, then you stay here, and I’ll go on my own!” Gary growled, and was already off, running through the woods.

Chapter 326 A Change of mind

Although Gary had already experienced his first turning, he wasn’t immune to the effect of the full moon approaching. The feelings that he had tried to keep in, came out more drastically than he had expected, which had led him to his earlier emotional outburst.

His blood was still slightly boiling, and the problem was... yet he didn't really know why.

‘I’ve fought so hard, I’ve trained, and I haven’t even had time to relax for a second. Always worried about others. I might have not made the best decisions, they might have not even been the best outcomes, but every time I’ve got us through it all!’

While thinking of these things, Gary hadn't even activated the system, but his right arm was already turning into that of a Werewolf’s. Fur covered his hand and his muscles bulged as he made a fist.

“This time, I can do the same!” Gary shouted, seemingly to convince himself, as he slammed the fist right into the trunk of a tree. With a single hit, part of the tree got indented, but it still stood strong, not toppling as the teenager had expected it to. Swinging his other arm out this time he went to take a swipe with his claws taking out a good chunk.

“What the hell is this tree made out of!” Gary cursed when there was still no result. He swung his right arm once again, taking most of the trunk out, and finally a cracking noise could be heard as the poor tree started to stumble.

For a second, Gary was proud of himself and let out a smile, but the next moment the shadow cast over his head, making him realise what exactly he had just done.

‘Crap! That’s going to make a lot of noise, as well as the markings on the tree!’ The Werewolf thought as the tree was already upon him. He activated Controlled Transformation, focusing on his legs to be able to stop the incoming tree.

He grabbed it and bent his knees as the weight ended up being far more than what he had expected. Then, when he bent down, to lower the tree just enough, Gary rolled out of the way, allowing it to hit the ground.

'Shit... I can't just leave it there like this. I need to clean this up somehow.'

After spending some time, the teenager did his best to make sure the scene did not look like some type of wild beast or Altered had destroyed the tree. This was one of his training spots, and he didn't want to draw attention to the area.

Fortunately, cleaning up his self-created mess had allowed the Alpha Werewolf to calm down somewhat. Taking in the scene, Gary let out a big sigh.

'Olivia is right... Kai got us this far already, he really knows what he's doing, so I should trust him... maybe my problem is that I just don't know what he's thinking... but at the same time he doesn't know about my situation either.

'If I were to tell him about the full moon coming out, and my worries, if he had all the information, perhaps he'll make a different decision. And maybe if I knew everything about him and his reason for doing things, I wouldn't have to worry so much either.'

With these thoughts in his head, Gary had made the decision to just ask Kai about his reason for wanting to take down the Underdogs, and ask him about what he was doing.

At the same time, Gary would talk about his concerns as well. The answer was so obvious to the situation they were in, the two just needed to talk to each other about their concerns and worries, but something was just holding one back from the other.

Sorting out his thoughts, Gary came to the conclusion to drop his plans of attacking Damion, especially without the help of Olivia.

'I'll just spend the night with Amy instead. It's been a while since the two of us had a normal relaxing night.' Gary thought to himself.

When heading home, the high schooler eventually reached the area where his apartment block building was, but that's when he noticed something strange. In front of the bulletin board, many of the residents were gathered outside it. Usually it wouldn't be something that concerned Gary, but this late at night he thought something had to be up and worse, yet he could smell something...blood.

Piquing his interest, Gary walked over, wondering what it was about, and that's when he could see an injured old man lying there on the floor. His hand had been removed and the end of it had been somewhat stitched up, bleeding. On top of that, he had wounds all over himself. It wasn't just any old man, though, it was Old Morten, the landlord of the place.

"What are you idiots gawking at him? Did anyone call the ambulance already?!" Gary shouted as he knelt down, checking if the old man was okay. He was hurt, but the teenager was still able to hear him breathing, albeit faint. However, given his age, who knew how long he could last without medical help...

Although many of the residents were concerned, there was a reason none of them called an ambulance. In the state the old man was in, it looked like he couldn't speak, and someone would have to cover the bills for him, if he himself couldn't.

"Just call an ambulance, I'll cover it!" Gary shouted, once he understood the reason for everyone avoiding his gaze. The residents were wondering how he could afford it, but one of his neighbours took out the phone to call.

"Does anyone know what happened?" The green haired teenager asked, since Old Morten was obviously in no condition to speak.

"I'm not sure, but the old man stumbled here." One of the younger residents, who had already been kneeling by the landlord's side, answered the question. "I asked him who did this, but at that time he was unable to speak coherently. He mumbled something about the Underdogs, and some fee. ... From the looks of it, they must have done that to him."

Following what details he had learnt from the other resident, Gary could guess what had occurred. Technically, this apartment block was still owned by the landlord. Given Kai's movements, the Underdogs must feel cornered and were trying to apply their pressure to get them some type of money fast to expand and make a move, but the old man must have refused.

'No, that's it... the Underdogs have to go...today!'

Chapter 327 A Junk heap

In the past, Gary was often called hot headed by his family, friends, and classmates who all thought that he did many things on impulse rather than thinking them through, most prominently his choice to dye his hair green. Once the blood rushed to one part of his body, perhaps another part as of late, he acted based on the first thing that came to mind.

It was the same now.

Gary could have easily gone over to Olivia first, or at least called her, or he could have talked about his next course of action with Kai. Any of the other Howlers would have also been fine, all of whom would have surely offered him their help, but instead the teenager had decided to follow after the one Mark that would lead him to Damion.

'None of those monsters deserve to live! How could they be so cruel to someone like Old Morten?! He's one of the kindest people in this shitty world! I can't let them get away with this, otherwise they won't hesitate to do even worse things to others.'

Pushing them into the corner no longer seemed like it had been the correct move, seeing the consequences of their desperate actions. Gary didn't know if this was also part of Kai's plan, but he was worried that they might come back and try to get the money from the residents soon.

Then more innocent people would get hurt. The teenager couldn't just wait around and watch that happen... not when he could do something about it!

'I don't want the others to see me like this, I don't want them to see the bloodbath that I'm going to create.'

On the way to his target, Gary had texted Marie. Initially, he had planned to contact Kai, but things were still weird between them. What's more, he was afraid that the blonde teenager might somehow figure out what he was about to do.

As such, Marie seemed like the more reasonable person to contact. He had informed her to head to the hospital to make sure Morten was treated, and all the bills would be paid.

The reply came within a few seconds. The teenage girl told him that she would take care of the old man and all the procedures, but also asked why he couldn't do it. The Werewolf didn't reply to that.

Following the mark, honestly, Gary was unexpectedly going to a part of Slough that he hadn't really visited. It wasn't part of the Underdogs establishments or areas he had been to before.

When he could finally see it up ahead, he realised that it was simply a junkyard.

'What on earth is Damion doing here?' Gary wondered. 'Nevermind... the most important question is whether he is on his own? If so, this would be a lot easier. There shouldn't be people around him all the time, right?'

Rather than going through the front entrance, Gary quickly used his powerful legs to leap halfway up the large surrounding gate, then once more straight over the barbed wire that was placed around it. Not that the workers would be concerned if someone was going into a junkyard, but who knew who was and wasn't working for the Underdogs.

When entering, Gary could hear many heartbeats in the area. In fact, he could even see scavengers at this time, picking through the trash.

They had perhaps paid the security guards and asked if they could take whatever looked to be off interest. It was making it hard to tell if there were other members of the Underdogs there or not, since there were quite a lot of people searching through the heaps of trash.

There was one thing the Werewolf had not accounted for... smell.

The place was filled with expired food, carcasses of dead animals, and other types of wastes that he didn't even want to recognise. He never realised how much smell could disorient him. It was to the point that he could no longer see the surrounding Mark.

'Are my senses being overloaded at the moment? Well, Damion is definitely in this place.' Currently, Gary was wearing his gang uniform and his mask, because of course if something went wrong he still needed to be careful just in case.

'If I remember correctly, the Mark pointed in this direction.'

Gary was wondering if he was heading in the right place or not, but soon he had come up with an idea.

'Wait, I can use Controlled Transformation to the point where it only works with my throat, so I should be able to do the same with my ears, right?'

Fur started to grow from his ears as he activated the skill and it worked just the way he had hoped. His already sharp hearing improved another notch. Instead of relying on his sense of smell that was still being bombarded, he could hear numerous heartbeats close together, as well as the sound of laughter.

'It has to be in this direction.'

Gary ran forward, expecting to get the jump on Damion. He knew the gang leader was strong based on what he had seen, but if he could ambush him when he least expected him, it might all be over with one attack.

Running through the piles of garbage, there was strangely a cleared area that Gary had spotted, he could see that there were several barrels with hot fires burning inside them. There were also cars that looked to have been destroyed and brought over to the area.

Gang members were sitting down and drinking away, and the sight would remind one more of a colour gang than a regular gang. It really seemed like the Underdogs had fallen compared to what they were at before.

Still, Gary didn't care as he ran straight into the centre.

"Everyone!" A man shouted immediately, as he stood up, recognising the mask in an instant, as the orange flames reflected underneath from the two barrels by the entrance of the place.

“It's the Howlers' Altered!”

Gary continued to run forward. Originally, he had planned to do this stealthily, taking out every member he chanced upon, but he had changed his mind once he spotted Damion. The gang leader was on his own, far away from the rest, sitting on an old sofa, drinking away with his top off.

Hearing the news, the man threw the beer bottle glass on the ground, and lifted the red axe that was by his side.

“With everything happening, we decided to change tactics, and I had a feeling that perhaps you would come to us. You've come at the perfect time!” Damion laughed.

After hearing these words, Gary knew something was up but he still chose to run towards Damion, yet the next second something strange happened as his whole body lit up blue. The Werewolf started to shake uncontrollably as he was suffering from thousands of volts.

‘What is this....is this...the Altered Hunter's equipment?’

Chapter 328 Shutdown

It was an all too familiar sensation for Gary who had been on the receiving end of those electrified batons. However, the pain wasn't quite as bad as he remembered, which he took as a good sign of him having improved. Nevertheless, the electricity running through his body caused his movement to be sluggish.

Gritting his teeth, he wanted to lash out at whoever had attacked him, though before he got the chance, the Werewolf felt multiple sharp objects attempt to pierce his back. Fortunately, he had been smart enough to use Controlled Transformation on his back the moment he had been attacked, though he still suffered the after effect of the shock.

[-1 HP]

[-1 HP]

[-1 HP]

The amount of damage this attack did was negligible, especially since he had increased his Health pool recently. However, there was one thing worrying him. Though he did not receive a system notification, the Werewolf noticed that his Energy was dropping as well, which was a first for him.

Gary swung his arm as he planned to hit the gang member with the baton... yet there was nobody behind him.

'Huh?'

That's when he noticed that the attack didn't come from his immediate vicinity, instead there were numerous gang members atop the piles of garbage, holding crossbows. Gary had no idea where they had procured those weapons from, but it didn't matter. The problematic thing was that he could clearly see that the bolts had a slightly blue glow to them.

'Why are those guys seemingly better armed than the Altered Hunters?!'

While the teenager was making up his mind whether he should take those guys out first, or continue going for Damion, he happened to see that more gang members were pulling out weapons. Some were holding the strange batons, but others had swords, spears and axes, none of which had sharp edges, but all of which were producing sparks.

Worst of all, he was in the very middle of an area that had been cleared. He felt like a gladiator in the middle of an arena, with no clear way out, other than fighting.

'All of them are using Altered hunting weapons...' Gary realised, aware that the one who had ended up trapped turned out to be him, rather than Damion. Eventually, reaching behind him, Gary pulled out a round object with four sharp prodding ends that had a small part of blood on them. The blue light was starting to fade.

"I'm not sure whether to call you brave... or simply stupid? I knew that you Howlers would try to take me out, so naturally I would prepare something for you, yet you still chose to come by yourself?!"

Damion shouted, shaking his head in disappointment. "Seriously, has that Alterification process fried your brain?"

The man with the large poles started to run in, thrusting them like spears at Gary. He hadn't removed all the strange bolts in his back, but their usefulness seemed to have faded already.

Immediately, those with the crossbows started to fire, and using Controlled Transformation on his legs, Gary ran around the place avoiding all the bolts.

However, he soon noticed the problem with fighting in the junkyard, there was little to no room for him to run or hide as he had already been surrounded by the pole users. They all thrust towards him, and the only thing he could do was whack the pole away. Unfortunately, the moment he touched them, he felt the shock course through his body again.

'Those things are worse than the batons! With how long they are, I can't reach them either!'

Trying to change tactic, Gary wanted to charge forward and ignore the pain, at least taking one of them out, but he soon felt that his back had been hit by three more of the electrical sparks, zapping his body even more.

Since they weren't sharp objects, Gary wasn't losing a lot of Health, but the worrisome part was the Energy. He was down to less than half.

[122/300 Energy]

'This is the first fight where I'm losing more Energy than actual Health! I don't have any meat on me... should I try to bite down on one of them? No, what if I create another Billy...'

Now that his movements had been slowed as well, finally the crossbow users were able to shoot even more of the special bolts into him. Gary wasn't sure if he was imagining it or not, but the shocks he was receiving from these weapons seemed to be more powerful than the Altered hunters' batons.

'They must have spent so much money on these things...and to not get weapons that actually do damage...what is he..'

"You bastard took away one of my most prized possession! Don't you think you should give me something in return? There is bringing back Kirk, but you might prove to be a useful replacement. There are rumours that there is a way to extract the Altered DNA from an Altered and place it into someone else. Of course, it kills them in the process, but that would just be a win-win for me." Damion explained with a sinister smile on his face.

Now it made sense. So that was why he had decided to purchase such weapons. His plan had always been to capture Gary alive.

'Too bad for you that I'm not really an Altered.' Gary thought to himself as he activated the one thing he believed might get him out of this situation.

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

[-20 Energy]

[Transformation has begun]

The Werewolf's Energy had fallen to below 100, so he had to use the skill now while he still could. With his body at its strongest he held on to the poles. He was sure that they couldn't stay electrified the whole time, there would have to be a resting period for them to charge up again. It seemed like they were acting in groups to cover up that weakness.

It was in that brief second when the groups were changing that Gary held onto two of the poles. He was still being electrocuted, but bearing through the pain, he gripped do to the poles so tightly and used all his strength until they snapped in half.

'I'll kill you!' Gary thought looking at Damon, and prepared to charge forward, chucking the two pole users off to the side. The others couldn't keep up with the transformer teenager's speed.

However, Damion still looked unafraid, still not moving away from the coach that was behind him. It was then that ten more gang members appeared from behind the heaps of trash. Each of them holding those special crossbows.

They fired straight ahead and perfectly hit Gary, with each hit his movements slowed, but the Werewolf continued to head forward, by now the others were also able to reload their weapons. They, too, continued to fire now.

Slowly, the teenager's steps lessened and something dangerous had happened. His mask had fallen off during his transformation and he was looking at an terrible system notification.

[Your Energy is now extremely low]

[Full Transformation cancelled]

[Please replenish your Energy by consuming meat]

Gary was turning back to a human, and he didn't have the mask on his face. His body was still receiving shock after shock, until eventually.

[Your Energy has been depleted!]

[Body entering conservation mode]

His vision started to fade, as he reached out his hand, towards Damion, with a surprised look on his face that soon turned into a large grin.

"It looks like today is a great day, after all. ... who would have thought you would come to me on your own, Greeny?"

Chapter 329 A long time ago

Although Kai was now part of the main operations of the Underdogs, he had managed to convince his father that his uses in the gang would be better used elsewhere.

Which was why he was placed in the unit that was in charge of finding out information about the Howlers, the new gang that was there that day. The gang that had gotten rid of Kirk.

However, despite being the leader's son, the other members didn't really pay any attention to the teenager, and seemingly were doing their own thing, as they roamed the streets and began to speak to the other gang members and the public, it was meant to be a safer road compared to the other groups.

Because the Underdogs didn't care for Kai, they weren't really keeping track of him either, and he was currently downstairs in his office space trying to gather all the information he could.

'Damien has so many hideouts not just for the Underdogs members but for himself as well. I doubt I even know them all, but the crucial information will be kept at one of these places. I still don't know why Kirk was so loyal to him, other than being a gift from someone else, and for someone to be able to give away an Altered as good as Kirk, they have to belong to a Tier-1 city.

'If the relationship is a really close one, then we could be in trouble, we need to make this look a bit natural. The fall of the Underdogs, or it would be even best to pin it on the other gangs if possible. Then we might also be able to figure out just what Gary was meant to deliver that turned him into that.'

At that moment, on the large map of slough, Kai started to circle several points on the map. He knew there were more members of the Underdogs, that acted more like bodyguards for the safe houses, and the more he thought about it, even with all the Underdogs finances, from their years of running Slough, they would have never been able to purchase so many Anti-Altered weapons.

Someone was clearly sponsoring them or working alongside.

'Who should I get to act? I could use the Pincers, or Olivia herself... actually it might be the best idea to get Gary in on this. He seems to still hold a grudge for us not informing him about quitting school, and I'm afraid he might do something stupid soon.

'His face said it all, he clearly was unhappy about my decision to leave the Underdogs alone. Still, I need the time to make sure that we'll be able to handle the aftermath once that bastard is six feet under.' Kai thought.

At that moment, footsteps could be heard coming down to the basement. When looking up, he was surprised to see Olivia. It was the first time she had actually come here out of her own volition, and usually she would call or text him.

A witty comment was on the tip of Kai's tongue, yet when he saw the concerned look on the Lady Boss's face, he swallowed it down.

"What's wrong?" Kai asked directly, now wasting any time on small talk.

"I... We are... He went..." Olivia stuttered, unable to continue her sentence. Getting frustrated, she touched her own head. Unsure what else to do, the blonde teenager offered her a glass of water, which Olivia gulped down in one shot.

"How much do you know about Gary?"

This was an unexpected question, but he understood what she wanted to know.

"... he told me what he really is." Kai replied somewhat cryptically. He had his suspicions that Werewolf Gary had done something to Olivia which made her this loyal, but since he had no idea what it was, he didn't want to compromise his secret.

Hearing this, the tension in Olivia's face lightened a bit. "So if I tell you that I can 'feel' that he is big trouble, then would you believe me? And no, I'm not talking about some woman's instinct, I physically feel that something is very wrong with him. A big part of me wants to go to his side this instant, but I'm afraid I need help."

Kai stayed quiet, digesting this information. It was hard to believe, but how much did he really know about Werewolves? After Gary had revealed his secret, his upperclassman had naturally read up on them, but he had no idea how much truth there was in those fairy tales. Having seen what the green

haired teenager could do, and the fact that he had subdued Olivia, a strange connection between the two might not be the most impossible thing in the world.

“Does that mean you actually know where he is? Is he hurt, injured?” Kai asked, based on the look her face was showing, it seemed like she knew more but either didn’t or couldn’t share. He wasn’t wrong with that assumption. Olivia was battling with her own internal struggle.

In a way, the Howlers, were the ones that had taken everything away from her. Everything she had built up, chief of all Gary. At the same time, though, that brat was also the one who had blessed her with this great power, and what would happen next?

Somehow, the one that had bested her, had now been bested himself. Could the Pincers really do anything against the Underdogs in the current situation. At the end of the day, the Howlers were not just one person, they were a group, which is why she had decided to head down here.

“Roughly two hours ago, I met him in the woods, because he wanted the two of us to attack the Underdogs together.” Olivia finally revealed. “However, he seemed to be unsure of his own decision and when he asked me for my input, I tried to convince him to stick to your plan. Unfortunately, I seem to have said something wrong, because he ran away from me in anger.

“I was hoping that he wouldn't attack them without me. Honestly, part of me thought that he would be fine even if I wasn't with him. After all, the Underdogs should be on their last legs... however, about twenty minutes ago I felt something has changed. I KNOW something has happened to him, and there is only one thing that comes to m-”

Kai slammed both fists on the table as he got up. “That colossal idiot!” The teenager cursed, sweeping everything off his table out of frustration. “ARGH!!!”

Olivia just stared at Kai, not stopping his tantrum, just making sure not to get in his way. It didn’t last long, but it was quite a sight to see some who was usually so collected let his emotions get the better of him.

“No, I’m also to blame.” Kai mumbled when he eventually picked up his chair and slumped into it. “I should have explained to him why we had to wait... especially after keeping him out of the loop. Dammit, I just never thought that he would act on his own.”

“He...didn't want any of you guys to get hurt, he wanted to bear the weight of this task on himself, that's what I think anyway.” Olivia explained. “So what are you going to do? I have already told the Pincers to gather nearby. Shall we have the Howlers join us and raid the Underdogs together?”

In her mind, it was the only viable option, and ever since her change, she could see the Forced Bonds that Gary had created. She was sure that finding Damion would also lead them to Gary.

Thinking about it for a moment, while biting down on his thumb, Kai finally had an answer for her.

“No, I will solve this on my own. I might be away for a few days. In the meantime, tell Miss Degrace and Marie that they're in charge.”

With a scorned look on his face, the teenager walked out.

'I should have done this a long time ago.'

Chapter 330 Locked up

Ever since he had gotten the Werewolf System, Gary had wondered what would happen if his HP reached 0. After all, they represented his Health, so in a way it was the most important stat that he needed to keep track of. Given that his system had a lot of game-like features, such as his need to gather EXP to Level Up to allocate stat points, he theorised that if he lost them all it would be 'Game Over', and he very much doubted, he would get a chance to have a 'Continue'.

Some time ago, he had still considered the possibility of merely fainting, but ever since he had seen the description of the Last Stand skill, he was sure that it was the worst case scenario, something he had to avoid at all costs.

One thing that he hadn't thought of too much, though, was his Energy. His Werewolf body somehow used it to passive heal him when he was out of a fight, emergency heal his broken bones during a fight, and was also the fuel for a variety of his skills.

Of course, he was aware that it was of great importance to him, and when his Energy went down to extremely low levels, Gary would experience one of two things, sluggishness and extreme hunger. He had never questioned it, since eating meat would restore it, which in turn allowed him to heal. Now, he felt like he had somewhat figured it out.

When the Underdogs had used their Anti-Altered weapons against him, they had drained his Energy to the point of depleting it, and when the electric charge had been used once again, although it hadn't killed the Werewolf, it had made him pass out.

Waking up, he felt a cold chill on his face, and his body seemed to be sore all over. For a moment, he was reminded of the time he woke up in the forest after that fateful night at the construction site. Slowly opening his eyes, the teenager managed to make out a dark surface in front of him. He tried moving his hands to touch his head, when he heard the sound of chains rattling against the floor, and worst of all his arms felt incredibly heavy.

[Warning, warning]

[Energy has been depleted]

[Please replenish your Energy by consuming meat]

[1/300 Energy]

[Health reserves will now be used to keep the user awake.

-1 HP every thirty minutes]

[56/160HP]

'Those aren't the best messages to wake up to.' Gary thought. 'How long does that even mean I have...my mind is all cloudy, I can't even think properly to work that out...either way...where am I?'

Finally opening his eyes fully, Gary could see a single light in the ceiling but more importantly, he could see metal bars in front of him. The room he was in was relatively small and had nothing inside, and as he thought, his hands and legs had been cuffed.

On top of that, they had been chained down to the floor as well, attached deep into the ground. Gary could only see through the bars into the sky as well as the hallway in front of him, there was no one there, nor was there anyone else in the cell with him. It reminded Gary somewhat of when he had attempted to tie up himself. Only back then it hadn't really worked.

Gary tried to tug on them, but the chains were thick and with his strength, he was practically weaker than he was when he was a human.

'The Underdogs, Damion, now that I'm no longer transformed it means they saw my face. They must now know who I am... is that why they've kept me alive?

'Well, at least that's good news, I think. Are they going to ask me about the package? What do I do? Should I keep quiet, so they keep me alive as long as possible? ... but then what? Shit, what the F*ck situation did you get yourself into Gary.'

Thinking about this, Gary felt guilty, extremely guilty because right now he was hoping that Olivia, or maybe someone from the Underdogs would come and save him, yet at the same time he felt like he didn't deserve their help. It was solely due to his stupid pride that he ended up in this mess. If he had only asked for help, or listened to Kai, all of this could have surely been avoided...

"Hey!" Gary shouted, hoping to get the attention of whoever might be nearby. He had gotten himself into this situation, so he needed to figure out a way out, and time wasn't exactly on his side.

The teenager's call seemed to do its job, as a man smoking a cigarette walked past. Seeing the gang member in front of him made Gary realise how much his senses had dulled compared to his usual state. He was completely unable to hear the adult's heartbeat, nor the man's scent. Even the waft of the cigarette had only entered the nose once he had been close enough.

"Please bring me some food, I'm starving!" Gary pleaded. "You don't want me to die down here, do you? You kept me alive for a reason, you want information, right?"

In this type of situation, one would give food to the prisoner at least to show that they weren't completely bad. This actually wasn't something that Gary had picked up from movies, but what he had seen Damion do. The gang leader would always treat his captives nicely before either ripping their hearts out or extending a hand out to them.

Although the Werewolf doubted Damion would work with him, as long as he got a meal, it might allow him to regain enough Energy to break out of these chains and escape. Unfortunately for him, the man completely ignored his pleas and went off.

Some time had passed, although it was hard how much exactly, because Gary could hardly think on his empty stomach. Going hungry was nothing new to the teenager. He still recalled how bad things had been after his father had disappeared. It had taken his mother some time to find a stable job to provide for her family on her own, especially since it had happened without prior warning.

Those days, they had barely had enough food for two meals a day. As the man of the house, he had often only taken a few bites and insisted that his mother should take the rest, believing that to be the proper thing to do as 'the man of the house'.

However, this hunger now felt far worse than those times. It was if a hand was reaching into his stomach, and pulling parts of his inside out of him bit by bit. The worst part was that there was nothing he could do about it.

Eventually, though, the man returned and in his hand was a tray with food, nothing too fancy but Gary nearly started salivating when he looked at a small piece of meat. His warden placed it on the floor, and the teenager was ready to plunge towards it. Unfortunately, it appeared that it was slightly outside his reach.

Gary thought that this was done on purpose, some sick way to torture him, yet he was willing to endure it, as long as he got to eat it eventually. Unfortunately, his hopes got crushed before he could put them into action, as the sounds of another person echoed through the room. A few seconds later the one person he wanted to avoid seeing at all costs had a wide grin on his face.

"Well Greeny, I heard you were hungry, but too bad for you this is a prison and not a resort." Damion said, stepping on the food before his foot really hard, then kicking it away from the teenager. "You know, I used to believe that you were one of the more promising Transports. I could have even pictured you joining the Cheetah Squad in your future. However... You single-handedly caused me more trouble in the span of a month than the Grey Elephants managed to do since their inception.

“You don’t get the privilege of an easy death, and I’ll make sure that you suffer until the extraction!”