

Werewolf 431

Chapter 431: Special Lesson 1 (part 2)

Numba wasn't the only one unhappy with the teams. Gary had never really interacted with either Wu or Snow. Apollo had been the only one among the three who had given him the time of day, while his friends had treated the green haired teenager like air during the meals.

Meanwhile, Apollo had paid special attention to Mr Corvus' words. According to the adult, the teams were the way they were because they wanted to distribute the strength of both teams as evenly as possible. He knew the strength of his friends, as well as Sty, so the current team rosters told him a lot about the power of the other two...

Apollo was the first to change out of his outfit. Since they were all boys, there was no reason to waste time and ask for a changing cabinet. Besides, given his muscular body, he had nothing to hide. In fact, he was quite proud of his scars. Wu and Snow did the same, without uttering a word. Seeing this, Gary joined them as well.

It only took a few minutes for both sides to finish changing. The outfit that had been prepared for them was quite a bit thicker compared to their AFA uniform. It was flexible enough to bend, while being hard like a type of leather.

It was mostly black, with some accents of their team's colour, and only covered the main parts of their body. Pieces for their arms, shoulders, body legs and such. It was clear it was designed in a defensive manner like a suit of armour, while not restricting their free movement.

Both groups stood opposite each other. Numba looked nervous because he had a thought in his head. If there were two teams, then it meant most likely they were going to be competing against each other in some manner. Still, there were also two separate doors on each side of the room. Which indicated they might not be facing each other directly.

"It's time for me to explain what this special lesson is all about." Mr Corvus stated. "As you might have already guessed, I haven't led you here to teach you some theory. In fact, I won't be the one teaching you at all today. It will solely depend on your own actions and your comprehension how much you will take away from this lesson.

“However, we understand that this might be difficult for some students. As such, before the next special lesson, I’ll prepare feedback on your performance, focusing on your lacking areas. Nevertheless, I can only recommend that you do your own due diligence without solely relying on me.

“Now onto the lesson itself. Although there are two groups, you will both be given the same task. The goal of this special lesson is to provide you with the ‘extra push’ you’ll need to ris

e above your peers. Holding your hand too much will only slow your progress down.

“Let me stress to you that this is NOT a competition. I want you to work together, as that will be key to passing this lesson. Once you’re inside, you’ll know what you have to do. I understand that a lot of what I said may not make a lot of sense. It’s because I have been told to be as vague as possible.

“Which is why I will now leave you with a few words. To pass this lesson, you must survive. or to fail... means death.”

Numba gulped, he wondered how an academy could condone this. However, then he remembered the cruel way the world worked at the moment, and the contract he had just signed. It wasn't a saintly world.

‘They did say that they would do anything to ensure our survival... he must have said that last bit to keep us on our toes... right? Surely, if we are in trouble, they will step in to help.’ Numba told himself.

The two steel doors were heard opening at the same time, and both groups were told to walk in, on one side Apollo took the lead, as for the blue team, Snow was the one who decided to walk in front.

“I know you can be a bit crazy at times, Greeny, but let's pass this together, alright? Wu and I have experience fighting together. Support us where you can and listen to my commands, and we should have no problems.” Snow said.

Not wanting to get in an argument before he even knew what the task was, Gary nodded. Before entering the room at the end, he gave Numba a thumbs up. The two doors then closed behind them.

Gary and the other two with him entered yet another large white room. There was nothing inside, but a steel door behind them, a steel door in front of them around fifty metres away, and some cameras that had been placed in every single corner and along the entire side.

“This is a pretty big room.” Wu said. “I’m guessing it’s going to be like those assessments we did, with the sticky black balls, or the last one to be hit. Whatever it is, I’m in for it!”

The two seemed excited, and as they were talking to each other, Gary went up to the wall, deciding to check out the room. That’s when he felt a deep scratch in the wall. It was hard to see from far because it seemed like they had painted over it, but up close the scratches on the wall were visible, and there were a lot more than one.

The next second, the closed door started opening up.

“GSHH TCH!”

Strange noises could be heard from behind it. The moment it was fully

opened, both Wu and Snow froze in place from shock.

“GSHTY HHH!!!”

The moment Gary saw it, he received a new notification.

[A new Quest has been received]

[A beast has been discovered]

[Kill the beast in order to gain Exp]

[Optional Quest; Consume the beast in order to gain stats.]

Chapter 432: The Red Team (part 1)

There was a relatively large room with several screens inside in an unknown location. Some monitors showed what was currently going on in the special lesson.

The cameras could rotate 360 degrees, zoom in, and they had so many that they could view whatever was going to happen inside from any angle.

On the outside of the plastic of the monitor, one half of the room, the monitor was painted in a slight blue colour, while the other red to indicate which room they were watching. On top of that, there were also several people inside.

A few men and women were in white lab coats with the letters NIRV, written across their shirts. They had tablets in their hands and were looking at other screens monitoring a number of different things.

Finally, there were also the three professors that were also seen as the head of the entire AFA academy. Humfree, Wood, and Hao. They were busy people, but the three of them always insisted on being there at the beginning of everything.

When new students arrived, the assessment and now, they also wanted to view the first special lesson that was to take place as well. By their side, there was also a female teacher. Her hair was a light red that went up to her shoulders, straight and parted in the middle.

The current clothes she wore were quite sports-like, and were a dark red colour. As if she was ready for a fight at any moment.

According to the deal between NIRV and the AFA, there would also always be a teacher from the academy present while these lessons were taking place.

Just in case something had occurred that was outside their expectations. Currently, the four of them were sitting in seats, a little back in the room so they could see every single one of the monitors.

At the same time, a man was standing in the centre with round glasses, ready as if he was about to give a presentation. In contrast, the others continued to adjust levels, type away, and input data, checking everything.

"It always is fun for me at the start of these, sharing my passion with others." The man said in an energetic and upbeat voice as he pushed his glasses up. The screen behind him had suddenly changed and was no longer showing the room and instead had a 3d image of what looked like a beast instead.

"Before the lesson is to start, I wanted to give you some information about the beast that we have been able to gather for today." The man explained. "Of course, since it is their first lesson, we have tried to not give them something too

overwhelming, while at the same time we didn't want to give them something easy, as it could make them too confident in their next lesson. As requested by the AFA, of course.

"However, I do have to remind you, although we have attempted to gather as much information about the beast as possible in order to determine what difficulty your students might face, it is impossible as this is a new type of beast even for us."

The man looked down when he said this, avoiding eye contact with them all.

"A New beast...so you are experimenting with a new beast on the students? Why couldn't you have used one that you know all of the details like you have done before." Humfree asked.

"As you know, we have to get something out of this as well. A basic beast that can turn a person into an Altered isn't going to do much. We need to keep expanding our research, and our technology has always improved and has gotten better in terms of figuring out what the beast will be like before we..bring it back, let's say."

Humfree folded his arms and gave out a big huff showing that he was displeased. Although the three professors ran the AFA, they were not the owners of it. This lesson, the whole deal was set up between people who were much higher than them, and they could do nothing about it, but ensure that the students were safe.

Now that that was over, the NIRV employee turned to his screen to have a look at the beast. The 3d render showed its body in full. According to a scale chart, it was larger than a Lion, yet smaller than an elephant, about the same size as an SUV car.

Then, the beast had six eyes in total, but three eyes on one head, because this beast had two heads. They were split apart, and had two large fangs sticking out of its mouth. There was also a large tail that looked somewhat like a hammer at the back, but only a single tail.

The beast itself looked to be bulging with muscle, having next to no fat at all.

"This beast is meant to be difficult to deal with due to the two heads, but as a group, they should be able to figure out some way. Still, they will need to watch out for its powerful tail as well. It's the perfect beast that will promote teamwork between the three of them.

"We have yet to receive a crystal from this type of beast as stated, so we have no clue what a human Altered, or how they would be able to benefit from this. However, from our tests, we have determined that it is unlikely to have any powers, skills or abilities. This is why we have considered this safe for b

oth groups of students.

"As always, we have the gas set up and staff if we believe there's a chance of one of the students dying. Without further ado, it looks like the students are now ready."

Stepping to the side, the screen showed both teams entering and the doors opening up for both of them.

'With Apollo and Gary on either team...I doubt we will have to worry.' Humfree thought.

Chapter 433: The Red Team (part 2)

The dreaded two-headed beast had entered the room. Saliva was dribbling from its mouth and onto the floor. It continued to make constant noises out of its mouth that were unheard of and out of this world.

The second that Numba saw it, his legs started to shake, and he had almost collapsed.

"I knew something had to be up...all the red flags were there, talking about death and getting Involved with NIRV. They're making us fight real beasts! The things that our bodies are based on, how are we meant to win against that!" Numba argued. "How are beasts even a thing...how is one standing in front of us!"

Although Sty was having a go at Numba before, he even seemed hesitant to go in and attack such a thing. It wasn't what he had expected either. To be honest, he hadn't actually read the document and just signed the thing when he saw the others had as well.

"Haha, now this is more like it. I knew coming to the AFA was the right thing to do!" Apollo said as he punched his hand into his fist.

The next second, they didn't have time to think because the beast was already heading straight toward them. With its large body and on all fours, it began to run across the floor like a crocodile, but each footstep was hard, loud and clear.

The first one to change into their Altered form was Sty. Flying up in an attempt to avoid confrontation with the beast. Numba was still too nervous about moving but knew he had to do something, or he would end up being eaten by the two heads. He could already imagine his body being split in half.

Just as Numba was in the middle of his transformation, he saw Apollo running forward, heading straight toward the beast. He had a smile on his face as he did so. Then midway, as he ran toward it, his arms started to change, becoming larger and turning white in colour, with a type of soft fur around them.

Then, just like the beast in front of him, Apollo was running on all fours. The beast opened its mouth wide, baring its two fangs. Apollo had leapt up in the air. His two large, now white fists had turned into deadly claws. Throwing them down, he bashed both of the heads with his hands banging them into the ground. Its mouth was closed shut in an instant.

The floor shook beneath when Apollo's feet landed. It was as if he weighed several tonnes, and his attack looked like they had the weight behind them as well. The beast had been stopped in its tracks. All that momentum it had built up had come to nothing.

'Wow, this is the first time I have ever seen Apollo fight before.' Numba realised. 'I wonder what type of beast he has, to have white fur?'

Soon though, the heads of the beast started to struggle. It was moving about, shaking it left and right. Apollo kept his large paws on the beast, holding it down, not getting it to move.

"Well, are you guys going to do something to help or what!" Apollo shouted. As he finished saying those words, the tai

I from behind the beast, which looked to be too short of reaching, had extended itself and swung right round.

The hammer tail could be seen heading straight towards Apollo and had hit him right in the chest. The next second he was sent flying and crashed into the wall before falling onto the floor. Blood spilling from his mouth.

"It looks like that thing has some power after all," Apollo stated, getting up. "If only it didn't have two heads this would be no problem, or if you two were a little useful. But don't worry. Even if you don't help. I'll kill this thing on my own because that's what I always do."

Walking forward, Apollo's eyes started to change, becoming completely black in colour. It looked like he was ready for round two. However, the beast didn't turn to look at Apollo. Instead, it was now looking at Numba, who was closest.

It then began to run towards him with its two large mouths.

"Crap, do I charge forward just like Apollo did? I have a feeling if I did that, then I would be the one that was knocked forward, but I have to do something!"

In the middle of his thoughts, liquid had come out from above and had managed to hit three of the eyes on one of the heads. Numba recognised this liquid well and knew the acidic pain that it would produce.

One of the heads was screaming. It had slightly veered off course and didn't know where it really was going.

"Sty, make sure one of the mouths is shut!" Apollo shouted.

Hearing this, Sty flew into the head, which he had spit his acid on, and kicked it hard. He continued to fly around, hitting the beast in the head. Its tail was swinging recklessly, trying to swat Sty out of the air, but Sty's fast reflexes were working for him as they usually would have.

"Damn it, even that damned bug is being more useful than me. I have to...I have to help in some way."

Numba used his explosive power to run to the beast, and since its tail was in the air, he was able to right up to the base of the tail. Stopping suddenly, Numba charged right in and hit the base of its tail with his horns, digging them in.

They were stuck quite deep into the beast, and now that he was in front of it, Numba started throwing fist after fist toward the beast.

"Well, it looks like this team isn't too bad after all. It's time we finish this!" Apollo said as he ran forward and grabbed onto the other head that Sty wasn't attacking. He placed both his arms by its side and began to lift. It was unbelievable, but the next second, the beast was in the air.

Sty has stopped his attacks, and using his legs, Numba pushed himself out of the tail, falling to the ground. After that, Apollo fell on his back, slamming the beast to the ground. It was now on its back, wiggling with pain, and before it could roll over, Apollo was already above it, looking down at its belly.

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He landed right on top of it with its two feet, and cracking noises could be heard as the bones in this body broke and both of its halves had bent upward as if a large weight had been thrown on the beast. It let out its last few squeals as the beast was no longer alive.

"Well, the red team has done well." The NIRV employee said. "I didn't expect there to be such a strong one inside. Now it's time to see how the Blue team will fare."

Chapter 434: Blue team (part 1)

Both Wu and Snow were stunned as they saw the beast. Their brains needed a moment to handle the surprise of seeing one in the flesh rather than in some textbook or documentary. The feeling of having to face something that should be extinct and was now threatening your life was hard to describe.

It was a natural reaction for them to think that everything they were experiencing now was just a dream, but their senses and their inner Altered beast knew it weren't true. They could feel something react inside their bodies when looking at this thing. Meanwhile, the last member of their team had a different take on the situation.

'Huh, somehow I pictured them scarier. ... am I going crazy? Or is it because I fought against Billy who turned into a bloodthirsty Werewolf? No, that's not it. Even Damion was more of a monster than this thing before us.' A simple beast was doing cruel things in nature, were as humans did stuff to each other for what reason? Gary didn't understand, but a human was the one that had placed his mother in the hospital. To him, those that could hurt someone like his mother were the true nightmares that people needed to be scared of, Gary thought to himself after receiving the system notification.

For a while now, the Werewolf had believed that his only way to grow stronger would be by levelling up through the system. One of his Quests wanted him to reach Level 25, which would reward him with a Class Promotion. Given how much stronger he got from receiving his Class, it was a no-brainer that it would make him even more powerful. Unfortunately, the system had been really stingy these days in terms of giving him Exp. The days of just fighting against his local highschool mates, and challenging strangers for exp were over, but fighting against beasts would surely fix that.

On top of that, it allowed him to raise his stats.

After all, how many chances would he get to consume an Altered and actually get away with it? Each one was a precious resource to whatever background they belonged to, so unless he was willing to face the backlash, he could only forget about it...

"Hey, Greeny, forget about the whole supporting us bit. I'm sure you want to pass this in one piece, same as us, so whatever chance we get, we need to attack this thing. Don't hold back and let's take this thing out together!" Wu said as he regained his composure.

“I’ll distract it, so the two of you better make use of that time!” Snow shouted, as he ran forward. His front two teeth started to elongate until they went past his chin. At the same time, the teenager’s ears started to grow larger, while white fur grew on t

he back of them.

The special armour they had been told to wear was not only strong, it was also flexible, able to accommodate their transformation without a problem.

‘Ha, so he really is a rabbit. No wonder that guy would only eat carrots. Still, I shouldn’t forget that he was ranked number 2 in the facility, so I shouldn’t underestimate him just based on his Altered form.’

Gary had to admit that he was impressed by both Wu and Snow. They might have been stunned at first, they only needed a moment to understand that they couldn’t let their fears get the best of them, not if they wanted to survive this.

The beast who had only stared at the trio, seemingly deciding who to target first, it ran towards Snow, and it was picking up speed. It felt like the Rabbit Altered was trying to escape and naturally it wouldn’t let him.

“I bet you think I’m a tasty rabbit! Well, let me show you that you’re nothing but an ugly oversized dog!” Snow shouted, as he zigzagged around the beast. Pissed off at failing to catch it, the beast followed him as he neared the wall.

Just then, when the beast looked like it was about to bite down and chop on the agile Snow, he leapt up, and his feet transformed. They grew long and flat like a rabbits, and the surface of the bottom of them was now larger. Immediately, Snow jumped off the wall, and landed behind the beast.

Given its momentum, it was unable to change direction, ending up crashing into the wall. It let out a howl in pain. Its tail was wagging left and right, trying to hit Snow, but he would hop, and jump out of the way with his strong legs and jump around the beast.

"I guess I was being generous, comparing you to a dog, you're far stupider. Did even one of you get a functioning brain?" Snow taunted it.

Turning around, the beast opened its two mouths. While it had suffered some damage, it was far too little to do anything to it, but Snow had never believed that this little would do the trick. Instead of letting the beast build up momentum and run towards him again, Snow jumped from the ground, and his large feet hit the top of one of the beast's mouths. He pushed off, jumping backwards, slamming the beast's mouth shut, while also avoiding the other mouth of the beast.

"Do the two of you need some sort of invitation? Am I meant to do all the work here? I mean, I'm sure I could beat the thing myself, but I thought Mr. Corvus said the idea was to work together! I don't fancy getting hit by that damned tail or by its mouth, so get off your arses and do something!" &n

bsp;

"I thought your buddy was the silent type... looks like that is only true when he has a carrot in his mouth." Gary sneered and Wu could only add a quiet 'tell me about it.' under his breath.

"I have no idea what this mutt can do, but to be honest, I'd rather not find out. Let's just both use all our strength to take it down in one hit!" The former rank 3 suggested as he ran forward and began to transform mid-sprint.

Chapter 435 Blue Team (Part 2)

Before Wu could transform, it looked like there was a type of routine that he would need to perform. He let out a few punches as they neared the beasts, and he got into a stance. Sweat started to cover his body, and in less than a second there seemed to be a pool of water below his feet. It was amazing in a way how a person was able to sweat so fast. Focused on the pool of water, it was only then did Gary notice the two antennas on his head.

'What type of Altered is he?' Gary thought.

Looking at Wu again, he could see his forearms were slightly larger compared to before, but there looked to be little difference on the rest of his body. He could only assume it was a partial transformation but even then, what difference would a pair of antennas make?

“I know that I don’t look as impressive as those two, but I promise you, as long as we’re talking pure strength, I’m no weaker than Apollo.”

At the same time, Gary had transformed himself, though he didn’t fully transform into his Werewolf Form yet. Apart from his shoulders, his legs turned into that of a Werewolf, providing him with extra speed, enough to reach Wu’s side.

“I’m sorry, but I have no clue how strong Apollo is, so I don’t know how strong you are.” Gary commented with a smile. Wu saw this smile and, coupled with the green haired teenager’s earlier remarks, he realised that Gary didn’t seem tense at all. Rather than a life and death battle, he appeared to be treating it like a spar or a match.

Meanwhile, Snow was continuing to distract the beast, mainly fighting concentrating on one head. He would jump off the ground, from his legs, and throw out a punch straight to the left head, hoping to take it out. It was damaging the beast, but it hadn’t been doing major damage.

Snow would have been able to do a stronger attack, but he was being careful, worried that the beast might hide some nasty surprises. There was no need to overexert himself if the others were there to help, and he knew Wu would be the one to help.

‘If Green hair helps then it’s a bonus, but me and Wu will be able to take on this beast. I guess that’s why they had made the teams like this in the first place.’ Snow thought.

While charging forward, both Wu and Gary had readied their fist, and at the first opportunity they threw it out right at the side of the beast’s body. Turning his head slightly, Wu was surprised.

‘His punch is as fast as mine... and he hasn’t even transformed fully. I hate to admit it, but Apollo was dead on about him being more than meets the eye.’

The second their fists hit the wall of muscle that was the hide from the beast, it rippled, and the entire body of the beast was lifted on its side... before it crashed into the wall. Snow was left there stunned because one moment the beast was in front of him, and the next it wasn't.

"Whoa!" Snow exclaimed. "Well, it looks like you guys finally woke up. Wu, it looks like your nightly training is paying off. I've been hoping for you to damage it, not send it flying away. I know they said there aren't any points for this lesson and stuff, but man you earned some big ones there if there are."

Wu didn't say anything, he just glanced at Gary by his side. It was hard to tell which hit had been stronger, but he wasn't arrogant enough to believe that he could have managed this feat on his own.

Either way, the beast wasn't dead yet, a bit of black blood had come out of its mouth as it got back up, and it started to growl deeply. Drool dropped from its mouth covered in blood, and it looked like it still had plenty of fight in it.

It sprung off the ground and leapt up in the air from where it was. Its mouths opened wide looking at both Wu and Snow as tasty snacks. Snow jumped back, while Wu was getting ready to hit the beast from below.

However, at the same time, the large tail had grown in length and had swung to its side, looking to hit them. Seeing this, Gary moved to the side and wanted to take care of the tail. Judging by the speed of its jump, he was sure that his current power would be insufficient.

[Skill activated Full Transformation]

[-20 Energy]

[Transformation has begun]

Gary's size started to change, and the next second he grabbed the beast's tail. His foot dug in and with all his strength he was able to stop the tail from hitting the others. Lifting his hand, he slashed it towards the base of the tail, making a deep cut, then pulling with all his might he had ripped the tail off.

Blood spilt all over the floor, and turning around, Gary stopped his transformation as he could see that both Wu and Snow had finished the beast off.

"Hey, man, you could have helped as we-" Snow stopped his complaint the second he saw the Werewolf with a giant part of the beast tail held in his hand.

The two of them hadn't noticed that he was doing his part as well.

[You have defeated your first Beast]

[Quest reward: Instant Level Up]

[Additional rewards: 5,000 Exp]

[5 pawn points have been awarded]

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 22]

[A stat point has been granted]

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

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

'Now... how exactly am I meant to do this without making them think I'm crazy...'

Chapter 436 Secret Meal (Part 1)

Usually, Gary would be fascinated by the rewards the system would present him with. They were like an incentive for him to keep working harder and stepping closer to reaching the Level 25 he was aiming for. It was an addictive feeling and quite thrilling to see oneself progress in a way like this.

However, this time, he was far too obsessed with something else. That was the beast's dead body on the ground.

'The beast's body is right there. It's right in front of me. If I just took a quick few bites of it, it wouldn't be a problem, right? Otherwise, it's just going to waste. Maybe I can just say I'm really really hungry or something. Would that work?' Gary considered, but he soon remembered that everything in the special lesson belonged to the group called NIRV.

It made him think twice about whether or not he should do such a thing, but instead, there was another solution, the beast's tail that was still in his hand. Quickly turning away, Gary didn't know if just the tail was enough for him to gain stats, but he was going to try anyway. Bringing the tail closer to his jaws, he went on to take a bite.

He paused for a second, seeing the blinking camera in front of him.

'Will I get in trouble for this...ah, screw it!' Gary thought as he elongated his teeth to make it easier to dig through the beast's skin. It was still much harder than expected, and he imagined it would be relatively impossible to bite through it with his regular set of teeth.

However, just when the tip of his upper canine had pressed against the beast's skin, a buzzer suddenly rang throughout the area, forcing him to stop immediately and drop the tail. It was as if he had been caught red-handed doing something he shouldn't have.

[The Special lesson has come to an end.]

[All students should refrain from touching the beast for the time being until the invigilators come to collect you.]

Gary had an awkward look on his face. He was unsure if that message was directed at him, maybe someone had seen him, or if it was just simply a coincidence. However, after hearing the

announcement, Gary walked over to stand by the others. Although he was quite upset, he was still trying to devise a way to consume the beast and wouldn't miss an opportunity if he got any.

Not for just this lesson, but if he somehow found a way, then in every special lesson, he would be able to eat a beast and get even stronger than before. Even the title of the Champion of the AFC would be within sight, and he could possibly do what Kai wished as well: Get to the very top, where the Tier 1 cities were.

The sound of the door in front of them opening was heard again, and for a second, all of the students, including Gary, had somewhat flinched. It was from the same door the beast had come thorough, and the trauma of what they had just been through, they thought they might have to go through it again.

It wasn't a beast though, and instead, a few men in hazmat suits had come out. A group of around five. Along with them was a man with round glasses and a lab coat with the words NIRV embedded on his shirt, and finally was the professor that Gary had seen a few times before, Professor Humfrey.

As for the other Lab Coats, Professors and Teachers, they had gone to the other coloured room to do the same as they were about to do.

The staff in hazmat suits swiftly entered the area with all sorts of different equipment, including a special type of carving tool that looked quite like a chainsaw. However, the end was a lot thinner, and when they turned it on, it didn't seem to make as much noise when being turned on.

The students noticed that they were carving a part of the beast out carefully as if they were looking for something.

"Congratulations." Humfrey walked up to the students with a NIRV employee standing next to him. "All of you did incredibly well in this lesson, and to not get injured either, I am truly impressed. I have to say that you are one of the best batches to have taken part in the special lesson."

The students were pleased with the compliments, but they were unsure if this was just something that was said to all of the students for further encouragement or if it was actually the truth. But truthfully, it didn't matter much.

"Yes, you have helped out NIRV greatly, and I am sure you all will make great Retrievers in the future." The NIRV employee also broke his silence and introduced himself, "My name is James Kent, and I will oversee the special lessons you will be taking from now on, so you will get to see me more often."

Going by the first impression, Gary wasn't really getting a good feeling from this NIRV scientist guy. The vibes just seemed all wrong, as if out of the whole thing, he always had more to benefit over those that he would make a deal with.

"We found it!" A shout from the right suddenly attracted everyone's attention.

One of the men in the hazmat suit held a tennis-ball-size crystal in his hand. He lifted it in the air for all of them to see, and almost immediately, James left the students and walked over to him in excitement to take a closer look.

"I guess I should continue from where he left off." Humfrey shook his head and continued after clearing his throat. "NIRV wants to have a good relationship with those that are the future of this world, and they believe you guys are that future. So, in addition to this, for becoming a Retriever, those who take part in killing the beast to get crystals that create the Altered, the NIRV would surely give ample rewards for your efforts.

"The more dangerous the task is, the better the reward they will give you. And since this is the first time you're taking this special lesson, as a kind gesture, they will be happy to have open ears to your almost any demand, and they, along with the academy, will do their best to accommodate your request.

"Whether that be an Altered DNA for a family member, or the first pick at rare Altered DNA to be used for yourself, or maybe even a meeting with the NIRV between your cooperation and more. Whatever request you can think of, please ask for it now, and we will try our best to match it as closely as possible. It's the least the academy and the NIRV can do for you for risking your lives."

Gary's eyes lit up because he had finally found his way to get the beast's dead body. He just needed to find a way to word it so it didn't sound so weird.

Chapter 437 Secret Meal (Part 2)

The NIRV employees looked to be having a field day with the crystal they had extracted from the beast. First, everything was handled carefully and delicately as large metal prongs were used to hold the crystal, and then it was gently placed into a container as if it was an explosive that could go off at any second.

Everything was a slow and steady process, and James was occupied overseeing the crystal restoration and would be busy for a little while longer. This gave enough time for the students to think about the rewards they wanted, and eventually, it was Wu who was the first to make a request.

"I would like to request a new type of Altered DNA. One that has yet to be used on others, and at the same time, for that Altered DNA not to be made again, I and my cooperation should gain exclusivity over the Altered DNA." Wu slowly put forward his request. He carefully worded his sentence to avoid sounding like he was asking for too much, although it was hard to tell if he succeeded.

Hearing what Wu had asked for piqued Gary's interest. It sounded like a big request. Although they likely would give Wu a special type of Altered DNA, the request to make it exclusively for him was not quite easy. In the end, it all depended on how valuable they saw these Retrievers as, and it was also a chance for Gary to observe this fact.

As for the reward itself, it could be sold or passed onto someone who was in Wu's group, increasing their power and status in the outside world. It made Gary wonder if he should change the request he had in his mind. If he got his hands on some Altered DNA, then he could use it to change one of the Howler's lives, maybe get it for his sister so she would be safer and will have the ability to protect herself.

However, in the end, Gary felt like getting the beast's body was a better reward. Being an Altered had its own risks, such as the Altered Hunters. He just wanted Amy to live a safe and sound life which she already had at the moment, and Gary would deal with whosoever attempts to harm her.

While Gary was musing in his thoughts, Snow put forward the subsequent request.

"I didn't get my Altered DNA from NIRV, but if possible, I would like them to make a replica or get hold of the same type of Altered DNA I have and pass on that information to my group. Also, a year-long supply of carrots for me if you can add that as a complimentary reward."

With the information from the Altered DNA, Gary could somewhat guess what Snow wanted to do. He wanted more Altered DNA like himself in his group. If his group did receive the information he had requested for, maybe it could really come true, and they might succeed in creating more versions of the Altered DNA.

"The year-long supply of carrots can be done." Humphrey smiled. "Even though you made two requests, I will give you that. As for the requests regarding Altered DNA, I will have to pass them on to James and see what he can do."

Then glancing at the young man standing at the left end, he asked, "What about you, Gary? What would you like?"

Gary had some time to think about how to phrase his request, and in the end, he couldn't really think of a way to not make it sound weird, but he just had to go for it since this was a great opportunity.

"My request...is the body of the beasts we kill in these special lessons," Gary asked. "I can see that NIRV cares a lot about the crystal. I don't need that, but just the body and a private place for me to do research."

Gary could see the eyes of the others looking at him, and he decided he needed to explain himself.

"If I can investigate the beast's body, then maybe I can figure something out regarding how Altered DNA is created."

Humphrey stared at Gary for a while, observing the latter's body language. Due to his over-explanation and the slight nervousness in the tone, it was clear the student was lying. Which made Humphrey think, why did Gary want the corpse?

Another thing was that he hadn't asked for the corpses to be sent to his group. Instead, he had asked for them for his personal use.

'Does this have something to do with before?' Humphrey wondered as he recalled the image of a bloody Gary in his head. 'It never made sense why he ate his teachers, but what I saw on camera and now this, it's most likely that Gary wishes to eat these beasts as well, but why?'

'Has he figured out a special trait of his Altered? A way to get stronger based on what he eats. If that is the case, then that is incredibly rare, and it makes me wonder what his limit is. Either way, seeing this student grow is making the bones in my body shake again.'

By now, James and the other staff had safely extracted and stored away the crystal, and he had joined Humphrey's side once again.

"One of our students had a particular request," Humphrey asked. "Since it can be granted right now, I guess I should talk to you here itself. The request is for the beast's dead body. Will it be alright if he takes it with him, including the beasts that die in the future lessons?"

James' separated jaw showed how stunned he was upon hearing the request.

"I mean, it's not really a problem for us, but are you sure that you want that to be your request?" James looked at all the students, not knowing which student he was really speaking to since he wasn't there when they had made the requests.

"You see, the corpses have no use to us, so that's not really a problem, but there is a reason why they have no use to us. Once the crystal is removed from its body, they tend to disintegrate at a fast rate. So in half an hour or so, that will be nothing."

Immediately upon hearing James's words, Gary left to go towards the beast. He went past the other staff and used his strength to lift it up and put it on his shoulder, holding the large thing with two hands.

"That's great, don't worry about that. Just show me to my room where I can have a look at this thing in peace." Gary asked.

Seeing the strange excitement in the boy, James decided to take note of who had asked for their request. It was the first time for them and although they thought the student would get nothing out of it, they never did know.

'Come on, let's eat this meat and gain some stats!' Gary was more interested in what was about to come.

Chapter 438 Eating a beast

It did not take long for them to head to Gary's request and give him a room. The area they were in was large, wherever it was, and there were plenty of rooms in the place. The only problem was, that all of the rooms had a camera system set up in them.

On the large table laid out, was the beast's body. Using his sharp claws Gary had split it up to make it easier to consume for himself, but he couldn't help but look in the corner of the room at the camera.

'Humfree said they turned them off, and that red blinky thing is no longer blinking.' Gary thought. On top of that for extra safety measures they had placed an enclosed cap on the cameras. So that way, even if they were on, they would see nothing but darkness.

In the end, Gary had to check the entire room, just in case they had hidden a camera anywhere but he could find nothing. Before inspecting the room, Gary also noticed that just like the NIRV employee said, its body looked to already be disintegrating.

A part of its leg, the skin of it, was turning slightly ashey. Small particles breaking off and seemingly disappearing to be part of the air.

'That guy said it was because they moved the crystal out of the body. Does that mean the crystal is what is needed to create Altered DNA. I guess that's why they don't care about the body so much.

'It makes me wonder, if I eat this now, will I still gain stat points even without it having the crystal inside it?'

In the end, there was only one way to find out. Although Gary was now used to eating such things, animals and more, most of the time he had done so out of desperation. There was an instinct in him, or the situation itself would force him to do such things, but there was none of that now. He needed to willingly eat the 'food' in front of him.

Picking it up, Gary started off with the leg because it seemed like the easiest part. He had begun his challenge.

The whole thing had taken a while since there was a lot of the beast, but what Gary was more impressed by was his own stomach. Even after consuming enough meat to bring his energy back to 300, he could still keep going.

On top of that, after around two-thirds of the beast was eaten, Gary had received a message from his system.

[The beast that you have defeated has been consumed]

[You have received the following stats]

[+1 Strength]

Gary was somewhat waiting for more messages to come, but they never did after that, which left him seriously disappointed.

'Just one stat point, but I got so many for the other Altered. Is it because the beast is considered a weak one...or maybe it has something to do with the crystal that left its body.'

After overcoming the disappointment, Gary thought about it for a while and thought it was still a good outcome overall. For one, he had gained a single stat point as an extra, something only usually gained from, levelling up.

On top of that, he gained exp and a bonus exp reward for killing a beast for the first time. From the way the professors had explained things, he was sure that in the future the beasts would get stronger and stronger.

'I guess I should wait here for a while, there are still parts of the beast's body left inside, but it's disintegrating even now. If I wait for it to completely disappear, then I can explain that's just what happened.'

While in the room, Gary saw it as a chance to check out his current stats.

Gary

Grade: Bishop

Class: Warrior

Level 23

[Health 250]

[Energy 300]

[Exp 1788/11564]

[Strength 36]

[Dexterity 26]

[Endurance 32]

The recent point was added in strength, and due to the exp gained from killing the beast, Gary had levelled up twice bringing him closer to his 25 goal. What this did mean though, was he also had two stat points to use as well.

At the same time, he still had two pawn points but was saving them for use later on, if they were needed.

'Originally I was thinking about increasing my energy pool, but I'm starting to see that as a problem after experiencing the full moon. The more energy I have, the longer I can go without food and starve myself, but it just seems to all add up to this aggressive side in me that I can't control.

'A large energy pool requires a lot to eat to fill it up, and that means, it will be harder to get used to on the day of the full moon. I imagine as well, the Werewolf side of me, if it goes crazy, will keep eating until at least until its energy is full, maybe beyond.'

Thinking of other ways to use his points, he thought back to the fight with Ryan and how well it had worked out. Sticking to his original plan, he decided it was best for him to add his points to endurance.

[Endurance 34]

His endurance was linked to his health, and with tougher opponents and now beasts to go up against, it would be better for hits against him to take less damage.

'Man in some ways, I wish I could fight Ryan again, and fight him properly. Then I could show off in front of Xin, and everything would work out. I mean I would still have to figure out the whole werewolf thing, but we can be a powerhouse fighting couple or something.'

Waiting a bit longer, the entire body of the beast had now disappeared. Leaving the room, Gary had planned to find Crowley to get out of here and get a good night's rest. As soon as he opened the door and left the room though, there was a person standing right in front of him.

"Hello." James, the NIRV employee said with a smile.

Chapter 439 The best for themselves

It was a surprise to Gary to see this person of all people, maybe he thought Crowley would be waiting or Humfree but there was no one apart from the NIRV employee. Honestly, this person was already making him nervous and the fact that he must have been standing outside for a while, waiting for something was putting him at ease even more.

“Did you get to play with the body and find what you wanted?”

It was a probing question, and Gary didn't know how to really answer. It wasn't like he was some scientist, Tom would be best for this.

“I did, but I still would like to do more research. So as long as you don't want the bodies, then please send them my way after the lessons.” Gary said, and the easiest way for him to get out of the awkward situation was to walk away and head back the way he came.

“I have a question if you don't mind me asking, what type of Altered are you?”

Hearing this question, Gary's heart started to throb, and he didn't know how to answer. He had yet to turn around but had stopped walking. It was clear he had heard James, and the hesitation in his answer wasn't the best for him.

“You see, I looked into our files, and NIRV has never given any type of Altered DNA, to the group known as the Howlers, which would suggest you got your DNA from somewhere else. Maybe an auction, another corporation or even abroad.

“Your Altered form, the way you ripped off that tail was quite impressive, so we would like to know what our competition is, that's all.”

Thinking hard, Gary wanted to answer the question in a way, so he would no longer be involved in NIRV, or at least get James' attention off his back. The answers though just weren't coming to his head. He never expected James to be there when the door opened.

“What are you doing?” A voice said down the hall, and Crowley the teacher dressed in all black could be seen coming out from the corner of the hallway.

“The students are only meant to complete tasks for you as a retriever. In the first place, they are still apprentices. They do not have to do your bidding outside of the special lesson and it is now over. Come over here, Gary.” Crowley called over.

Out of all the people to come and help him, Gary never thought he would be thankful to see the strange bird magician teacher, but he was, and soon rushed over. The two turned down the hallway and began to head back.

They walked for a good five minutes, and it seemed they were heading down the long hallway back to where they first started, taking several turns once again just like before. When they were finally in the tube-shaped hallway that Gary recognised, Crowley had stopped.

“I have a warning for you as one of our students,” Crowley stated. “NIRV are a group of people that only care about themselves. They will do anything for the sake of science. You know there are those against Altered, well these guys are PRO Altered.

“If they could they would turn every single person into an Altered, but aren't foolish. They would do it, so in a way they are at the top. NIRV, is a corporation that supplies Altered DNA, even to tier one cities. Creating the strongest Altered the world has seen.

“Now imagine, if that's the Altered DNA they are willing to sell, then what about the ones they are keeping for themselves.”

Gary had heard similar conspiracy theories online similar to what Crowley had just said, but hearing it directly from a teacher that was connected and worked with them, gave a different feeling.

Maybe the world hadn't seen everything Altered could do and with expanding technology there would be breakthroughs at every corner creating better Altered.

The double steel doors opened up, and Gary was back in the room where they had started with the seats and the signed sheets of paper. To his surprise, the others were there waiting as well.

When Gary's eyes met with Numba, they both smiled at each other. Happy to see that the other was okay. With Apollo with the group, he wasn't so worried about what might occur though.

He was sure, after seeing Wu and Snow, that they would be able to deal with that beast as well.

“Everyone is to leave and enter the special lesson at the same time.” Crowley said. “These are the rules and it's true if someone is being held back to be healed or something else. But don;t worry while they were waiting for you, I gave them all their feedback as well.

“As for you Gary, they actually didn’t have much to say about your performance. Apart from, they would like to see you be more active and see more before they judge, but I would say that is for you to decide.

“For me, I think all of you when you enter the special lesson should just survive, focus on surviving no matter what.”

The special lesson was only once a week, so they would have to wait to see what their task or who they would go up against next week. In the meantime, they were to continue their lessons like normal, while not speaking a word to all of those outsiders.

Now that the lesson was done, Crowley made the basket appear in his hand, and all of the mobile devices were returned. The doors were open to the outside and it was around 8 pm, and the night was out.

“Ah man, I really want to talk to you about what happened there, but rules are rules,” Numba said. “No doubt the others are going to ask, I wonder what we should say to them?”

Gary was thinking the same thing, but he was distracted because as soon as he turned on his phone, he noticed there was a missed call from Kai, and he had received a message.

[Call me as soon as you can, we need to talk.]

Chapter 440 A message from home

Seeing the text message had caused Gary’s heart rate to rise a little. He knew that because his system’s messages were telling him that was the case. It was odd, Kai was always calm, collected and hardly anything fazed him.

On top of that, he and Olivia were now like him. Their strength and more had increased and there shouldn't have been many in Slough that could cause them problems.

Now that Gary was being contacted, he felt like it was a serious matter.

'Is it those people that the Underdogs worked for, or maybe something has happened to their werewolf forms.' Gary thought.

"Hey, Gary, are you just going to stand there all day? Come on." Numba shouted.

Putting his phone away Gary followed Numba back to their rooms, but he couldn't stop thinking about what had happened. In the end, they had arrived in front of their rooms, but Numba headed to Ian's room rather than his own.

"Oh, hey aren't you going to come chill with us for a bit?" Numba asked. "I know we can't talk about what happened, but Ian wouldn't stop texting me to come over after the special lesson ended."

Gary had automatically gone to his own room, in fact, he noticed that he had received a text from Izzy as well, about a little get together claiming it would be nice for their first day.

"I just need to sort something out first, it might be a while, I'll send you a message when I'm done." Gary smiled and went inside to his room.

"Hmm, he was looking at his phone the whole way back, maybe someone from home. Come to think of it, I got a message as well." Numba mumbled to himself as he let himself into Ian's room.

Ian and Izzy were already playing some music and had a load of snacks out on the table. Popcorn, crisps and more.

"I mean, I know you said that we were having a party but is it really smart to be eating all of this junk on the first day?" Numba asked.

“Will you relax, it's okay to have a cheat day once in a while even if it is on the first day,” Ian replied getting up from the sofa. “Besides the food they recommend us, is a recommendation. They can't force us to not eat this stuff.”

Although Ian did have a point, Numba wanted to take this whole thing seriously, especially after what had happened in the special lesson. He kept imagining if Apollo wasn't there and it was just him and Sty, could they have taken out the beast? Soon they would be facing bigger and stronger things than today.

Coming out of the bathroom, Izzy was sorting out her hair, and saw Numba standing by the door.

“Where's Gary?” she asked.

“Oh great, so I guess you're not happy to see me?” Numba replied. “Gary needed to sort something out first, he said he would text us when he's free.”

In an instant, Numba could see the look of disappointment on Izzy's face. And it was at that moment, that he realised the feelings she had for him. Even if she didn't know about them herself.

“So come on, what made this special lesson so special?” Ian asked, and the excitement could be seen in his eyes. “I can't even imagine what lesson would only have you and Gary in it. Did you get personal sparring training one on one with the teachers, or maybe met some AFC athletes.”

Thinking back, Numba was thinking the same things, but the truth was far more terrifying than any of that, but he didn't want to show this fear in front of the others, and knowing that he had something that Ian wanted, Numba folded his arms and put a smug smile on his face.

“Unfortunately I can't tell you any details, those are the rules of the special lesson,” Numba said out loud and proud. The others weren't sure if they were imagining it but it looked like his nose had gotten larger as well.

“Look, stop playing around, just tell us what it is?” Ian asked.

"I'm serious," Numba replied. "Gary will confirm when he comes over here, we can't tell anyone about what is happening, but I will say one thing, Apollo, Wu and Snow were there as well."

Hearing those names, it just caused Ian to light a fire in his belly.

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"Ahhh it would have been better if you said nothing, now I'm really jealous. Maybe, I should have just waited and passed through as the top three with the next lot. This seriously sucks."

— —

In the other room, Gary sat down on his bed and nervously began to call Kai. The sound of beeps was heard once in a while.

'Come on Kai, pick up, pick up...please don't make me worry.'

Beep, and more beeps were heard, as the phone continued to ring. Gary was squinting at this point, because his worst fear was coming true, something drastic must have happened while Gary was away and he wasn't there to save them.

"Hello," A voice was heard from the other end. "Hey Gary, are you there? Sorry I was having a nighttime shower. Sorry about that."

"You were taking a shower," Gary replied. "I thought something had happened to you, are you okay, is everyone okay?"

Gary was speaking so loud, that Kai was forced to pull the phone away from his ear. He eventually placed it down and placed it on a loudspeaker while he dried himself with a towel.

“There all okay, everyone is fine, your sister is fine as well. I just wanted to talk to you, that's all.” Kai replied. “I didn't realise you would panic this much. I mean if I was well enough to send you a message then that means everything is alright, right?”

“Anyway, I won't keep you for long. An up and coming electronic company that sells parts for phones wanted to expand into our city. They are looking to produce more than just small parts for phones and need to broaden their contacts.

“There are quite a few skilled but unemployed people in Slough, so it's a good place for them to set up base, hire people from ect.. At the same time, of course, they're looking to be protected by others and as the current top gang of Slough they have come to us.”

So far the news sounded good rather than bad, and everything was kind of going over Gary's head, so he was waiting to hear why he needed to be involved in this.

“The company is known as Cardenez electronics, and we had a meeting set up with them. They were quite honest with us, and are also thinking of joining a tier 2 city. Of course, they needed protection there as well.

“The tier 2 city might be able to offer them more, but at the same time will take a bigger cut. I think since we are an up and coming group, they have a feeling that we will rise, and rising together is much more attractive to them, than going under another. The problem was that he could tell Gary.”

“Tell what,” Gary replied. “That you're a werewolf?”

Although that didn't make sense it was the only thing he could think of.

“No,” Kai replied. “He could tell that I wasn't the leader of the gang. He said he will only do business after meeting the real leader. If he is putting his future on the line with us, then he wants to meet you.

“I know you're busy with the academy, but I can set up the meeting to be held in the evening, and I and Olivia will be there as well. You'll just have to come down after one of your classes, maybe one day you finish early.”

Gary thought about it for a while, he didn't have a problem with what Kai was suggesting but he was nervous. What would he say, what would he do and how should he act? This was something that he had never done before.

"It's okay, maybe I should take a couple of days to come to see you again anyway. A couple of days won't hurt, and it would be good to catch up."

"That's great, we can sort out the details about the whole thing at a later time."

With that, the call had ended, and it looked like Gary was going to go back to Slough and meet the others again. He couldn't wait to see what they had been up to, and seeing his mother and Sister was something he had to do out of respect, but there was something bothering him.

'Cardenez electronics, I'm sure I have heard of them before? But why would I know that name?' Gary thought.