

Werewolf 461

Chapter 461 The Hunters Choose

Given the information provided on the gangs, it appeared as if the Howlers had been selected because they were deemed a relatively easy target. For one, there was only one confirmed Altered in their group, and that was Gary. They had his appearance and still shots from the filming that day, along with a few details here and there. When Blake saw their name, he could only hope that they wouldn't come to the auction.

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Reality was often disappointing, and there was nothing the young Altered Hunter could do after the gang had stayed behind to pay for their purchased Altered solution. It might have been different had they bought nothing, or simply weapons, but their single purchase had, unfortunately, put them on today's radar.

After everyone received their items, the Altered Hunters proceeded to leave the venue on black motorbikes that they had used for today's trip. They were not only stylish but more importantly, they had been tinkered with to allow them to reach a speed surpassing the average car while fitting two people on it.

On top of that, there were weapons that were placed in cases and more were hung from the side of the bike for easy access for them. Exiting the auction house, the three of them met up with the other half of the team, stopping by on a street and entering an alleyway together.

"Okay." Josh said, giving out a big breath. "Two groups on our list have ended purchasing an Altered solution. Usually, those gangs plan to stay here for a couple of days. The city is currently full of influential groups, gangs and corporations, making this a prime opportunity to make connections.

"Since we don't know how long they will stay here, we'll have to act fast, especially since we want to avoid attracting another group's attention. Should we go for the No Land Gang, or the Howlers?" Josh asked.

Everyone seemed to be in thought, but given that he knew at least some of their members, Blake obviously didn't want to go after the Howlers. He and Gary had worked together in the past, so he felt like he at least owed it to him to try and make his group consider going for the other option.

Blake knew that he would someday have to fight Gary since he was believed to be a Wolf Altered. It was impossible for him to correct that mistake in thinking, at least not without any proof or admitting that he had worked with the "enemy".

"I think it would be for the best to go for the No Land Gang." Blake suggested. Josh raised an eyebrow, his sign for the youngest member of their group to elaborate.

"The Howlers' might all have been wearing masks, but according to our information their leader is known to be wearing a black and golden wolf mask. The one who bid on the items and accepted them, though, was someone in a fox mask. In other words, at the moment their group has no Altered with them.

"The main goal of us Altered Hunters in the first place is to fight Altered, ridding them off the world before they become crazed and cause more harm than good. Like our ancestors did in the past with beasts.

"Taking down a gang of normal people is not the Altered Hunters Association's goal, but police work."

It was spoken strongly, with strong passion, and they felt like Blake had a point, yet there was also an opposing opinion.

"Isn't that a good reason to go for them, though?" Kane questioned. "I mean, if their leader isn't with them, then there is less risk involved for us? Without an Altered stopping us, it will be child's play getting their solution and destroying it, completing our tasks."

Blake hadn't considered that point, now worried because he had to agree that Kane had a good point. Judging by the other Hunters, it was more likely that Josh would take the easier approach. The three-star Hunter was considering both opinions.

“Kane is right... but so is Blake. Taking away their solution will not get us any closer to earning our stars. According to the information, there is one Altered that is here today in the No Land Group. If they have already used the solution that they have just received, then it would be two Altered. There is a chance for all of us to get closer to a promotion.

“There won't be many opportunities like this.” The older two-star Hunter mentioned. “We have to have some backbone if we want to rise.”

Blake was thankful this was relatively a young group, because the younger members of the Altered Hunter Association always wanted to improve themselves and go up the ladder in the organisation. It was the same for Blake, but given the circumstances, he wanted to avoid fighting one side.

“Alright, I have heard your opinions on the matter... and honestly I can't make a simple decision. At the end of the day, it's not just my life but yours as well that we would be risking, so I want to take that into account.

“Which is why we'll decide this by majority vote. I'll accept whatever decision the five of you come to.”

Gulping, it all was down to this, and just in case, Blake needed to come up with a back-up plan.

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The group didn't wish to waste their first visit to a Tier-1 city, and Kai had made a promise to a certain someone that they would be visiting a certain area before they returned to Slough, which was why the group were currently at the main shopping district in Morfan City. The group stood at one end, in complete awe, with their mouths held open. They could see stylish people walking the street, all wearing clothes that shouted 'look at me'.

On top of that, the street itself was super impressive. The entire ground was marble and there wasn't a speck of dust or gum on it. It was reflecting some of the sunlight, making it sparkle even more, and the shopping malls were no different. Large and like palaces inside. Marie found the place so beautiful that it had brought a tear to her eye.

“I know it looks really cool and all, but do you really have to cry?” Innu asked.

“You don't understand, just going to a shopping area, where there are dozens of people around, it just makes me feel so free.” She said, smiling and hugging herself with excitement, but that excitement soon dwindled down. “And...we can't even afford to buy anything.”

“There's no use looking at me. I've already told you, the gang's funds will be sparse the next few months. Besides, all of you get paid, so time to use that money.” Kai complained.

This caused the rest of the group to stare at him deeply, because their pay for being core members wasn't exactly the best. It was similar to them working a normal 9-5 job in Slough, it certainly wasn't the high life treatment that the main members of the Underdogs had enjoyed.

Kai had cut corners to save as much money as he could, and he knew that those closest to him would be able to take the hit better than the others. If he tried cutting the pay Olivia's gang members had grown used to, there would be uproar and they could forget about loyalty. Coincidentally, it was for this reason that Olivia was actually one of the best paid members of their group.

“If you really see something you like, I'm happy to pitch in and help you buy it.” Austin stated. “I don't really have any need for my money in the first place, and I think you would be happier with it.”

Marie was so over the moon with these words she felt like she could kiss Austin right now. The teenager girl held his hand and thanked him, and soon looked over toward Innu.

“If you're expecting me to do the same, you must be crazy. Did you forget that I'm using my money to look after Kevin and Suzan? And despite all my complaints, Kai won't raise it!”

After a bit of back and forth, the group decided to let Marie drag them around through the shops. Kai stated it was best if they stayed together and because of that, the gang ended up going to a lot of shops, and got tired of looking at clothes after clothes.

At first, they enjoyed seeing the shopping malls, and the robots that were in them that would guide you to certain places, but it was getting extremely tiring and after trying all the clothes she had simply bought a small red purse.

However, the guys understood because even with Austin's money, it was the only thing that she could really afford without going broke.

After a full day of shopping, the sun was starting to set and it looked like soon it would be dark out. Getting back in the car, Tyler was ready to drive them away as their visit to Morfran City had come to an end, and they were ready to return to their home town.

The whole group was in the large limo and travelling across a large bridge that went over the river. They could see the light turn on all the buildings as the sky turned dark and it looked extremely beautiful to look at.

The bridge was mostly empty as there didn't seem to be a lot of visitors coming in or out of Morfran City, heading towards the tunnel. The Tier-1 cities were certainly different compared to the rest of the tier one cities.

While driving along the long bridge, the sound of a high revved engine could be heard. Taking a peek in the car mirror, Tyler could see something coming up to them very fast. He had decided to slow down as he didn't want to get in an accident.

"Who is driving so fast at this time, and at night? Do they want to get in an accident?" Tyler mumbled to himself.

Turning his head, Kai went to take a look at what was making that noise, but they had quickly gone straight past them. That's when they noticed it was a motorbike. After getting in front of Tyler though, it skidded to the side, and stopped side on right in front of the car.

"What the hell?!" Tyler shouted as he rammed the brakes, forcing the car to come to a halt around five metres away from the person on the bike.

"I don't like this one bit." Kai stated. "Get ready to drive away at any second."

Chapter 462 An ally or foe

With the motorbike coming to a halt while it was dark outside, it was clear the person was here for them. Since he had waited for the group to be in a secluded area, and at a time like this, it was safe to say that this person was looking for trouble, or at least didn't want to be seen.

Turning his head, Kai was looking to see if there were others.

'I have a bad feeling about this, but whoever this is, if there is only one of them, there will be no trouble at all. I doubt that they know about me or the fact that I am the trump card of the Howlers. I just didn't think that I might have to step up so soon.'

However, as the man on the motorbike kept on his helmet, there was one dreaded thought, what if this was one of the Kings after them? What if right in front of them, right now, was Sin? If that were the case, then it would be better for them to retreat from this place and get away.

But Thinking about that, Kai imagined the latter could just explode their car with a single snap of his fingers.

"Keep your foot on the pedal, Tyler. Worst case, just run this guy over." Kai ordered. No matter who the person was, if things turned hostile, they wouldn't just go down without fighting back.

However, Kai's words made Tyler gulp because he wasn't so sure if he could go through with such a thing. Sure he knew what his position was now, but to actually attempt to hurt someone. It wasn't the job he had originally signed up for. Still, if his life were to be in danger, then he might just have to.

Slowly, the man lifted his hands toward his helmet and took it off, revealing his slightly dark and curly hair underneath. For a second, there was a sigh of relief from Innu when he saw the man's face.

"It's just Blake," Innu said.

"What do you mean it's just Blake?" Marie frowned, "Isn't that a bad thing? Did you forget he's with the Altered hunters at the moment? Doesn't that mean he might be after us?"

This was one of Kai's guesses as well. That the Altered hunters would attempt to go after those who were here for the auction, the only thing was, with so many gangs crowding the place, Kai believed their gang would most likely not catch anyone's eye.

'Wait a second, why is Blake alone? Even though Gary isn't here, he couldn't possibly think of taking us on alone, right?' Kai frowned.

On the other hand, Blake continued to stare at them while standing in the middle of the street, which was why Kai had decided to open the door.

"Hey, hey, what are you doing? Do you want to back up? Should we stay in the car or what?" Innu asked.

"Just stay in the car for now," Kai replied as he closed the door shut and walked up to where Blake was.

The others were interested in what was going to happen and why Blake was there, so they decided to slightly roll down the car windows to overhear the conversation and understand what was going on.

"If you wanted to talk to us, then you could have arranged a meeting back in Slough." Kai began starting off with a bit of a light-hearted comment because he needed to see where Blake was.

Blake shook his head before answering.

"This matter couldn't be delayed. I had to meet you about this because I have been told you're a smart guy, Kai. Gary always spoke highly of you, and I'm sure that you probably don't trust me, but the matter at hand is serious and you must trust me. I just want to ask one thing, do you mind if I see the solution that you bought?" He asked as he held out his hand.

While doing so, it looked like he winced a little from the strain on his injured arm.

"You want the Altered solution?" Kai raised an eyebrow and stared at the former to see if he was joking or was really serious here.

For a second, Kai even wondered if Blake was trying to take him for a ride. Did an Altered hunter just ask for the solution out in the open like so? Was this some kind of prank?

'Or is this his way of telling me that he doesn't want to fight? That he will let us go if we just give him the Altered solution? I guess then he can go to his teammates and tell them he did the job he was meant to do.'

"I'm sorry, Blake. I know you helped us out before in the past." Kai explained. "But, we have a lot of targets on our backs. Gary has a lot of targets on his back, including you guys. If you're his friend, you should understand that we can't just sit by and let him bear all the burden."

It looked like Blake was hesitant for a moment but eventually, put his hand down.

"You don't have to give it to me. Just show it to me." Blake replied. "I will stay here and have a look. I just want to let you know that I am looking out for you guys."

There was a lot in Kai's favour, and since he was sure Blake still didn't know about him, he took out the solution from under his blazer jacket and lifted it up in the air for Blake to see.

"Is this what you wanted? I'm afraid until you give me a good reason, I can't just give you a closer look." Kai explained.

"Fine," Blake said, partially annoyed and looking down the motorway as if we were expecting someone to come. "The Altered hunters are after the solution sold by the Dark Guild for a reason. Also, if you haven't noticed, the number of Crazy Altered has increased in recent times.

"Similar to the attack on Slough, the Altered Hunters are trying to find the source of the Altered solution that causes people to go crazy. It is the association's top priority. It is unlikely that something like this is coming from corporations such as NIRV, which is why we have been looking into the solutions from the Dark Guild.

"There is an easy way to tell at the moment if the solution is different compared to others. Inside there is a dark substance, it can be a small amount or large, but it will slightly tint the colour. And what stands out about it though, is that it moves as if it's alive. I can't see that well from this far, but your solution seems to be okay.

"Now that I am done here, I will take my leave," Blake said as he walked back to his bike and was ready to put his helmet back on again after sitting on it.

"Wait!" Kai hesitated for a moment and said, "Thank you for the advice. Your arm hurts, right?"

Blake didn't say anything, but he could feel the pain, and some blood had already dripped down his sleeve onto the helmet that was in his hand.

"I don't know what you have been through, but I know that you are already helping us more than you should. Warning us, and I guess, stopping the others in your group from coming after us. Blake, this might sound like a shot in the dark, but I do have a question to ask you.

"Why don't you join us?" Kai asked.

Everyone who was in the car let out a loud gasp. They had been listening to the whole conversation the entire time, but they never expected Kai to ask an Altered Hunter to join their group.

'I guess Kai is always one step ahead of everyone. It wouldn't surprise me if he had already been thinking something along the lines of this for a while.' Marie thought.

"Ha!" Blake chuckled. "First of all, it's naive of you to think I want to leave. My family have been involved in the Hunter business for much longer than you think. This isn't something that I can just give up.

"And besides, even if I do join you, then what? The Altered Association would not just be after me but would be after your gang as well. There is no one who can protect me."

With those words said, Blake put on the helmet on top of his head and was ready to drive off.

On the other hand, despite getting a straightforward rejection, there was quite a large smile on Kai's face.

"So are you saying, once we get big enough to protect you, big enough to even the Altered Hunters who won't touch us, then you would join? Well, it's a deal."

It was unclear if Blake had heard these words or not as he started his bike and headed straight past Kai, not without leaving a few final words.

"You better get out of here now. I can't stop them." Blake muttered and drove off.

Chapter 463 Skilled Hunter

Blake continued to ride the motorcycle back down the highway and across the bridge, heading to the meeting place they had agreed on. On the way, he was trying to come up with a believable excuse without implicating himself. Clenching his fist hard around the handle, the teenager was also trying to forget about the cut and pain that he had on his arm.

'According to the media, us Altered Hunters are supposed to be the bad guys, but I know that's a lie that people simply believe in because they've been told.' Blake thought. 'However, am I really any better if I were to believe that every Altered and every person who wants to become one is automatically bad, simply because I've been told that since young... even then I know for sure that Gary and his friends are not like the rest?'

"Alright, it's decided then." Josh said with a big smile as he looked at the show of hands. "Since the majority wants to go after the Tier-4 No Land Gang, we'll ignore the Tier-3 Howlers for now. As Blake said, it's not our job to clean up after normal gangs and we'll focus on the gang who have a confirmed Altered with them."

Blake felt like letting out a sigh of relief, but he controlled himself, not wanting to make it obvious that his opinion was more than just 'logical'. He was just happy that the older members seemed far more interested in taking down an Altered to advance their own promotion over simply getting the solution.

The Altered Hunters had their ways of tracking down the gangs, and Josh didn't really explain how they were able to know their current location or when. At the moment, the No Land Gang seemed to be heading to an underpass of a bridge.

It went over the river of the city, but underneath it, there was a walking path, graphite and more, and it was also a popular hang out spot for some of the younger ones. At the same time, according to Josh, the No Land Gang were there to do some type of deal.

It was detailed information, down to even knowing what gang they were going to meet. It seemed impossible to gather this type of information unless they had someone on the inside.

'If they know this much about the No Land Gang, then does it mean they also know a lot more about the Howlers than what was on the intel?'

There wasn't really a plan that had been set, Josh just sat around waiting for a while and then. When he stated it was the right time, each of them got on their motorbikes in pairs of two, and started to ride off to the location.

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At the underbridge, a group of eight men, all with dyed green hair and ragged clothing, were walking confidently on the pebble-like surface. They stomped their feet as they continued to walk and eventually stopped.

The men in the back were carrying quite a few things, including some of the Altered weapons, that they had gotten from the auction as well. Rather than carrying them, though, they were holding them as if they were ready to use them at any point and time.

"Come on out!" Kit shouted. "You were the ones who called us out here, remember?! At least, show up time, dammit!!!"

After shouting these words, a group of men appeared from around the corner. Wearing brown leathered clothing. Their group consisted of ten members, all of them were armed, although just with ordinary weapons.

"Hey, what's the big deal?" Kit asked, not dropping his smile in the least.

The man in the front straightened out his leather jacket a bit, before speaking.

“We had a deal.” The man began. “We were to pool our money together and would split the goods, but how exactly do you plan for us to split a single Altered solution, huh?!”

Kit's shoulders started to shake up and down, as he thought about him and laughed.

“Well, it's simple, you guys should have used your heads a bit more. You should never, make a deal with a group that's stronger than you.”

Immediately, Kit grabbed what looked like a crossbow from one of his own gang member's hands, and pulled the trigger. A bolt came shooting out, but the man in front had moved out of the way. Unfortunately, one of his fellow gang members was too slow, and the bolt pierced right through his head, leaving a hole behind and a corpse.

“Kill them all!” The man in the brown jacket shouted, and their fight turned bloody instantly. Knowing full well that the No Land Gang had an Altered among them, they had brought more people to suppress them.

However, due to the restrictions and movements tracked by those in Mofran City in the first place, it was impossible for them to bring more in. The fight was scrappy, with faces being punched, those being kicked, rocks behind picked up off the ground and slammed into each other's faces.

Regardless of how dirty the Brown Jackets fought, they soon realised that the Altered weapons, the money that they had supplied as a Tier-4 gang to the No Land Gang to buy the weapons in the first place, became their downfall.

With a face covered in blood, Kit had just finished pounding the leader of the Brown Jacket's face in. His knuckles were bloody as he continued to smile, and lifted his head.

“Haha, that makes another territory for the No Land Gang.” Kit announced loudly, earning him some cheers from his men. Suddenly, the gang leader's ears started to twitch as he could hear the sound of something revving in the distance.

It was clear that it was the sound of motorbikes but not just one, it was a few of them. A few seconds later, coming from above, and riding down the hill onto the pebble path, the motorbikes landed and stopped.

Keeping their helmets on, they began to pull weapons out from the holders they had at the side of the bikes. One had a double-edged sword. Another a strange tooth-like weapon, a third two red blades in their hand, and the fourth had a sword which looked to be made from bones from the handle down. It was the weapon that they had seen at the auction.

“Well. I can’t say I didn’t expect others to go after us.” Kit stated. “It’s clear that you want our items for yourselves, but you will end up just like them.”

A crossbow was fired again, from one of his gang members, towards the guys in the masks. Seeing this, Josh was ready to move out of the way of the bolt, but before he could, there was another by his side, who had struck the weapon down swinging his red sword, and knocking the bolt down.

Blake stood in front of him, and was eager to prove himself and show off his skills.

‘Is Blake really just a newly advanced one-star Hunter? What he did was skilful, perfect timing, and a strong powerful strike. He is one to watch out for.’

At the same time, what Blake had done, had set the tone for the No Land Gang and Kit. Their faces dropped, as they realised that these guys weren’t going to be as easy as the Brown Jackets.

Instantly, the young Altered Hunter charged in, and avoided an attack from a spear, knocking it away with one sword, attacking with the other making a strike at the chest.

‘I can see it again, this feeling, the white lines that are appearing. It tells me where my opponent’s strike path is going to be, and the best place to attack.’

For some reason, Blake was back in the zone, just like he had been the time that he had fought against Billy. He had tried reaching it during his training, but he had never been able to achieve it... until now.

Another member came towards him, with a ball and chain. It had an electrified end, but the white line showed Blake where to strike, and when following it, the blade had gone right in the middle of the chain causing the ball to wrap around and cut short. Then, pulling the sword, the gang member had let go of the weapon from his hands. Blake was ready to strike again, but as he went to, the other one-star Hunter had thrust his spear forward, stabbing the man right in the stomach.

It was a quick thrust, and more importantly, the Altered Hunter's footsteps were so silent that Blake didn't even hear him approach.

"Hey, you're doing good, kid." Josh stated. "Let us take care of the extras, why don't you take care of the leader there, and be careful okay, because remember he's an Altered."

Chapter 464 Growing quickly

The Altered Hunters were used to fighting Altered. It was their main task and what they trained for, and on top of that, most of the group were two star hunters. The weapons that the other groups were using, although they were Anti Altered equipment, it just wasn't on the same caliber.

For one, the weapons were just enhanced with some type of electrical power that anyone could use, but real Anti Altered weapons, one was able to draw power from them. A technique that was shown to all, and those single items were expensive, and was what the Altered were trying to collect.

Because of this, fighting the everyday gang member, especially from a tier four city, was relatively easy for the group. There was only one that they needed to worry about. With his teammates fighting with the rest of the gang members, Blake was now face to face with Kit, the leader of the No Land group.

"You think I'm as easy as the rest of the guys, well that's where you're dead wrong!" Kit shouted as he threw out a punch confidently. It was fast, but Blake was also fast having dodged the hit, and in return dashed in to create a strike vertically across his body.

The sword had ripped through the clothes, but there seemed to be some type of leather armour that was underneath. Looking down at his chest though, Kit seemed to be a little surprised because the leather like armour had been scratched as well.

“You guys, I should have known you're not just some wannabe gang that wants to take us down. Your Altered Hunters!” Kit shouted. “Well you have come to the right place, Boys!”

Most of the men had been beaten and were on the floor. The Altered Hunters had actually tried to avoid killing them when not necessary. Usually in a situation where the others were willing to kill them they didn't hold back, but the difference in strength and skill between them, they were able to solve this without the need.

What this did mean though, was that they were still conscious, and with the weapons still next to them, they threw them over at the same time to where their leader was. Kit stretched himself and suddenly, two more arms on each side had sprouted out, giving him a total of six all together.

He grabbed two swords, two spears, but his other hands were left free so he could deal physical pain when he truly needed to, a strength of his.

‘The report was right, an altered that can create extra limbs, and it is quite skillful at using weapons. This is going to be a bit more difficult.’

On top of that, ever since Blake had started to fight against Kit the leader, the white lines, that would show him where to attack, the places of where the opponents attacks would, be had disappeared. He still didn't know what was the difference or reason for this.

Two thrusts of the spear had gone straight towards Blake. They were powerful attacks, and Blake had no choice but to use his two red swords to try and deflect the attack. As he had done that though, two more of the swords were coming down towards him from above.

‘I have to avoid this.’

The quickest thing he could do in his position was to roll forward. The spears were still by the side and blocking his path, and the sword strike would possibly damage him, even with the Altered armour they were wearing.

When attempting to roll forward though, two of the leader's fists were chucked right towards his head from below and had smashed right on his helmet. Breaking it in an instant and causing him to fall back onto the ground.

"Hey, we're done over here, shouldn't we help him?" Kane, the one star hunter asked. Seeing that it was an Altered this was what they were around for. A step closer to getting the next star.

"Don't worry, if he needs our help, then we will join in." Josh answered with his foot on top of one of the gang members. "One has to be put in situations like these to grow, it's the kids time to shine."

Blake was unaware that the rest of his teammates had already dealt with the gang members, instead he was focused on the opponent in front of him, and at the same time he was frustrated.

'What was I doing before, that I'm not doing now?' Blake thought.

However, Kit wasn't going to give him time to think by just standing there. He came forward again, thrusting the spears, and this time, when deflecting the spear, Blake spun his body. This allowed him to avoid the strike of the other spear, and now knowing that the blades would be coming.

Blake used the momentum of him spinning to knock the two swords out of the way. Now it was time for him to deal with the next step, he charged in again with his shoulder first, and barged his body into Kit hitting him back a bit.

With his arms free, Kit went to grab Blake, but before he could, Blake pulled both his swords up from below and sliced his hands in the process.

"This is getting annoying!" Kit shouted, dropping the spear in his hand, and throwing out a hook, hitting Blake right in the side of the head, knocking him to the ground and his helmet off.

Seeing this, Kane charged forward, quickly Kit had picked up the spear off the ground and threw it right at Kane. It was a lot faster than he expected and on top of that, he thought that Kit hadn't been paying attention to the rest of them.

They thought they would have been able to just sneak in and take this one out, but following the spear Kane knew in that moment that it would pierce his body. His speed wasn't fast enough, his hand was moving but it was too slow.

'This person isn't just an Altered, but a skilled one at that. I took him as too little of a threat after taking out the rest of the gang. This is one who rose up and took over a tier 4 city. Which means there strength could be higher.'

Planning to just take the hit and recover from it, Kane was bracing himself but at the last second, a swing of a sword had hit the spear, sending it directly to the ground. It crashed and pushed the pebbles away quite a bit as well.

"That's one way to test this sword out. It's pretty good if I do say so myself." Josh said swinging the large thing around with a single hand. "Still, I can tell from that throw your opponent is tougher than we gave him credit for, do you want a little help?"

Blake was standing at this point, and with his helmet off his face was now in full view.

"What the hell!" Kit said. "You're just a kid."

"What does that even matter, if I'm the one that's going to beat you!" Blake stated, charging in again.

This time, when the spears were thrust forward though, Blake avoided them stepping outside of the range of his swords. He wanted to go deep like before and was keeping his distance.

While watching the fight carefully, Josh felt like he already knew who the winner of the fight was going to be, it was clear that one person was improving at an incredibly fast speed during this fight and it would only be a matter of time.

"This is going well, it looks like none of us have had any injuries either. At this rate, we might be able to go after the Howlers gang as well." Josh stated. "If the information was right, they should be crossing this bridge soon so it shouldn't be far either."

Hearing these words, Blake's heart thumped louder, and for some reason, he could see where to strike on the gang leader once again. Not wanting to lose this moment, Blake charged in, he could see the path of the spear that was being thrust out.

Although he could avoid it, he imagined that the white line that was going across vertically on Kit's neck would be impossible to hit, unless he did one thing. Moving just an inch to the side, he allowed for the spear to pierce the side of his arm.

It had cut through drawing blood, then with the other sword he whacked away the other weapon. Lastly, leaping forward and vertically slashing his sword, Blake was able to cut right across Kit's neck before he could do anything with his other weapons; it was all in one smooth motion.

'That was incredibly impressive. This kid is going to go up the stairs in no time, I just know it.'

Kit fell to the floor holding onto his neck, trying to stop the blood from coming out, but his eyes were starting to fade and it looked like it was the end for him. When the others were going to go ahead and congratulate him though, Blake continued to run forward, and hopped onto one of the Bikes riding it away, leaving the rest of the Altered hunter's confused.

"Let's clean up this place here, and go after Blake, something is up." Josh ordered.

Chapter 465 One day

Kai and the rest of the Howlers were nervous as they drove back. They managed to safely exit Morfran City without any problems. Even after half an hour, their group continued checking out of the back window, expecting to hear the sounds of motorbikes coming after them. Everyone had heard Blake's warning and it had sent chills down their spine.

"Alright, guys. It doesn't look like we'll have to worry about them today." Kai stated eventually. "If they wanted to take us on, they should have caught up to us by now. Looks like we owe our little Altered Hunter friend a favour now."

With those words, the others did indeed calm down a little, yet every few minutes one of them still turned around. They only calmed down fully when they were close to home.

'I'm happy that you helped us today... I just hope you didn't have to pay too steep a price...' Kai thought to himself as he looked back.

--

Blake's arm was throbbing with pain. Even a layman could tell that he needed a professional to patch him up. The cut on his arm was quite deep and once his body had stopped producing the adrenaline, there wasn't much but will power that kept him going. In fact, due to him being on the move all the time and on the bike, Blake hadn't even noticed just how much blood he had lost.

While on the bike, his vision started to turn hazy, his body was beginning to weaken and he no longer added the throttle onto the bike to accelerate it further. Still, that was when he could hear the sound of the others, and could see them in the distance.

'I still don't... what should I tell them?' Blake wondered as he drifted off, the bike itself started to lean. Fortunately, he had put on the spare helmet as the next second the whole bike was leaning on its side, and began to skid over the ground. Just as Blake fell off, though, another bike went past at the last second with no rider on.

Instead, the person themselves were sliding on the gravel with their specialised boots and had grabbed Blake before he fell onto the floor.

"You stupid kid." Josh berated Blake as he held him in his arms. "If you're injured to this degree, why didn't you just tell me?"

A few moments later, the rest of the Altered Hunters caught up and stopped on the bridge to check the damage.

"What should we do?" One of them asked. "Should we continue on and chase the Howlers? That was the original plan, right?"

Josh looked in the direction from where Blake had just come from. It was where the Howlers would have been. Taking off his leather vest, and looking at the armour underneath, the leader could see the large cut on his arm, but was unable to any other wounds.

'Just why did you run off like that, and why were you heading back towards us? It doesn't look like you had a scuffle with them, and you had a bit of a head start compared to us.' The three-star Hunter thought to himself.

After defeating Kit, they also needed to receive the Altered solution from him. Their task had been completed, and their rising newcomer was now one step closer to his next promotion.

"As much as I hate leaving things unresolved, we can't just leave Blake like this. Splitting up and going from one fight to another also isn't the best idea. Alright, we'll take him to a hospital and focus on recuperating. We can always take them on another time." Josh declared.

The older Altered Hunters weren't too happy without that decision, but nobody complained. One of them procured a first aid kit, and with their basic knowledge they tied Blake's arm. After that, the group exited the city and headed for the closest Tier-2 city to get more professional treatment for Blake.

They needed to head to a place that wouldn't raise too many questions. They were sure that it would take some time until news reaches the Dark Guild about what had happened. It was certain that it would put them in a tight spot. They had always boasted about the safety of their auction, yet two gangs had died right underneath their noses...

The Altered Hunters changed out of their work clothes into a more normal set. At the hospital, nobody suspected them to be anything but normal citizens. Some of them looked bored, but Josh was keeping his eye on the TV screen.

"We interrupt your series to bring you breaking news. The Altered Hunters have struck today. Their calling card has been left at the scene of the crime where members Morfran City's police force is investigating with the help of White Rose.

"The gang that had been targeted were known as the Brown Jackets and the No land Gang. A newly rising gang that had recently taken over a Tier-4 to..."

The news report went on, and of course, no members of the Dark Guild had made a public comment, since the actions themselves were a secret only to those that knew them.

'I hope this has the effect that you are looking for. It's the first time something like this has been done.' Josh thought as he was trying to understand his task.

"Visitors for Billy Hunter may now enter the room." A nurse called out with a clipboard. Standing up, Josh immediately headed into the room, to see a young buck still alive and kicking.

"Thank you so much for saving my life, leader." Blake thanked him with a still weak voice. "I am sorry for causing you trouble and inconvenience."

Josh looked at him and just let out a deep sigh, feeling relief that it looked like his injured team member would survive without any permanent injuries. "Remember, there was a chance that we might have not had to attack anyone on this trip. The whole thing was a huge success. We took out an Altered and managed to get the solution as well.

"However, what I do want to know is what exactly happened, why did you go off like that."

Blake had been awake for a little while, but the doctors and nurses were still doing a few checks on him. Altered Hunters were stronger than the average human, but as non-Altered, they unfortunately lacked the supernatural healing factor.

As such, Blake's arm had needed to be stitched up with around twenty stitches. It looked like the wound he had received was quite the big one. Regardless, what it did mean was he had a lot of time to think about how to answer this.

"I wanted to take out the Howlers as well, for myself." Blake answered. "I don't know what happened, but while I was fighting, there was something different about me this time. I could feel myself getting stronger."

Blake paused there for a second as he turned to Josh.

“When you're fighting, have you ever seen those... lines?” Blake asked.

Josh raised an eyebrow at the question.

“When I'm fighting, it feels like someone or my own mind is telling me where to strike. It shows me the path of where a weapon will go, and it shows me where the best place is to strike as well.

“I only see these lines sometimes, but today I saw them again, and because of that, I thought that I could get a head start and head off to the Howlers. But when I got to them, my body was starting to feel weak.

“I'm guessing it must have been a loss of energy or something, but I could feel that I wasn't up to the task and most likely that feeling, that vision and white lines that I could see would no longer be there.”

This was Blake's answer to mix in some of the truth with a bit of his lies as well, and it sounded plausible because it would be a reason for one to jump the gun.

“I see, I think I have heard about this before. Maybe when I head back, I will speak to the management about this and see if anyone else has any information.” Josh replied. “Don't worry about the Howlers. Sooner or later you're bound to get your chance... just promise me you won't go at it on your own.

This was what Blake was partially worried about. The Altered Hunters were now clearly targeting the Howlers. It couldn't be helped as they were now a gang who had won an Altered solution, making them even more troublesome in their group's eyes.

“They're from your hometown, Slough, right? When the time comes, you'll most likely be the one we'll call you to deal with them.” Josh said to cheer up the teenagers.

Blake didn't know what to say to that. Although he had gotten away with not taking out the Howlers today, it felt like his actions had merely delayed their execution date. The worst part about it, he was now the one who was supposed to wield the axe to do the job.

Only time could tell whether he would be able to follow through on that order...

Support my Kickstarter: My Werewolf System/ Shrine. 105 Percent funded

If you guys didn't know, I and owner Jin started Shrine, trying to create a platform for Western artists to create content in the Manga style.

Chapter 466 A New Altered in the Howlers (Part 1)

After a tense ride back, the group's destination in Slough was unsurprisingly the Wolf's Pool Club. Although it was rather late, there were still more than a dozen people around the pool tables, though none of them were teens. While the business continued to be a very popular hangout spot for teenage delinquents, during the evening it had turned into a bit of a meeting spot for university students and young adults.

Austin's three friends who would earn some extra cash as waiters during the day had already clocked in, though they were now playing a round free of charge. Meanwhile, the ever popular hostess White continued doing her job, helped by Miss Degrace who would often chip in during the evenings and act as a bartender.

Although she had started selling alcohol there had yet to be a fight breaking out. Then again, it was considered common knowledge for the locals that the pool club was connected to the the Howlers. Of course, nobody knew that this place was used as the defacto headquarters by the gang members.

"Make sure no one follows us downstairs." Kai asked Miss Degrace as the rest followed him. "Tyler, you've done a great job. Here's some extra. Feel free to take a drink and get home. I'll call you when we'll need your services again."

When they reached the refurbished office room in the downstairs club, everyone sat on the sofa seats that had been placed apart from Kai who sat at the table and placed the Altered solution out in front of everyone.

“Now that we don’t have any Altered Hunters on our heels, we should resume our earlier discussion about who gets the solution.” Kai began. “Do consider that becoming an Altered will definitely place a giant target on your back, so you should do your best to grow in strength as much as possible.

“Of course, that also applies for those of you who don’t get the solution this time. Aside from the Altered Hunters, there will be other groups who will be out to get us. They might be from the lower tier towns, higher tier cities, and heck, there are still those gangs and the mayor here in Slough.”

For a second, Kai glanced at a few letters that had been placed on his table, most likely left there by the lawyer that used to be part of the Pincer’s gang but was now part of the Howlers.

There were a lot of tasks that Kai had given him, and he was keen to look through them. However, this was more important.

“Originally, the plan was to hand the Altered solution to the one it suits best, but seeing that we had to purchase a mystery solution that’s not really a choice. Since we don't know what type of Altered solution will be inside, we have to come up with something else. I feel silly asking this since we have no idea when we’ll be able to get another one, but would one of you voluntarily pass this time around?”

The room was dead silent, with eyes darting around the room everywhere. Everyone was just looking at each other constantly.

‘Come on, guys, just give up! Didn't we talk about this before, I was the first to join the gang so I should get to be the first one to pick!’ Innu thought in his head.

‘I could really do with the Altered DNA. However, we don’t know if it's a strong or a weak one, but whatever the case with it, I could improve my strength, but then what about the gang?’

“It should go to the strongest.” Austin said out loud with his arms folded. “This group needs to get stronger. It's not about making everyone at an equal level. So I think it should go to the strongest, which is clearly me.”

It was the most words they had heard come out of Austin in a while, so it was clear that he wanted the solution quite badly. Just as it looked like everyone was getting ready to fight over it, Marie raised her hand.

"I'll pass." The teenage girl stated her desire. "Like Austin said, it's in the gang's interest to make sure we're the strongest we can be. Giving me a mystery solution won't accomplish that. I have been practising using the the Anti-Altered daggers that we received from the Underdogs every day, so I don't mind waiting a bit longer.

"I have even practised how to use ranged weapons like their crossbow. I can help out in my own way, but if possible I'd prefer supporting you from the back rather than from the frontline, so I think you guys deserve it more." She said with a sweet smile.

"In that case, don't mind if I do!" Austin was ready to grab the solution.

"Oi, you oaf, did you forget about me?!" Innu stood up, and grabbed the other boy's hand before he could reach the desired item.

While the two of them bickered, Marie felt a hand on her shoulder. "Thank you for being a lot more sensible than those two idiots. Don't worry, Marie, I'll do my best to make sure your kindness gets repaid some day soon. In the meantime, you can be sure that all three of us will do our best to protect you."

"As for you two overgrown children." Kai clapped his hands to get their attention. "It's obvious that neither one of you will budge so let's do it the good old fashioned way. One match, no rules, winner gets all."

—

Suddenly the two of them were outside. Since they had just come back from the Tier-1 city it was late at night and the dark sky was already out. At the same time, they weren't the only two that were outside.

All the customers, Austin's friends who had been called over, along with White and Miss Degrace were outside. In total, there were around 25 people who had formed a circle and were ready to watch what was about to go on.

"Alright everyone!" Kai shouted out loud. "These two have a little dispute that they would like to solve, and since neither one is a talker, this is the way it goes.

"On the left side, our dark skinned friend is a Muay Thai street fighter who has won a number of underground fights. On the right side, the giant fellow used to be the leader of the few schools in the area, able to blow away most of his enemies in a single punch. This will be a close match, so please place your bets now."

Since there was an opportunity to make some money, Kai wouldn't miss the chance and he started to gather bets from the onlookers. As a nice bonus, it might help spread the word about the pool club and earn them a few more customers.

"What the hell! Why are my odds that much worse than Austin's? Are you saying I'm going to lose this?!" Innu shouted in protest.

"Don't blame me. The general consensus is just that most people here believe in Austin, making you the underdog of this fight. It's on you to prove them wrong, Innu. If you need any extra motivation... well, you know what's on the line."

Chapter 467 Fight For The Prize (Part 1)

Both Austin and Innu readied themselves for the fight ahead of them. Innu had gotten into his usual fighting stance and surprisingly Austin had as well, putting both of his fists out like that in boxing.

"I guess that means you're really serious about this thing, huh?" Innu said. "You just can't let me have anything. Well, I guess I'm just going to have to earn this myself."

Austin didn't say anything, but just clenched his fists harder. Seeing this situation it made Austin think back.

Everyday, the two of them had a morning training session. This was requested by Kai, and after that, when they had decided to leave their respective schools, they continued to train. Instead of one training session a day they had upped it to two.

During their everyday training sessions though, that was where Austin realized that Innu was a monster, especially when it came to anything to do with his legs. Innu was able to lift more with his lower body, he was also able to mentally deal with more pressure. On top of that he was more hard working than Austin as well.

It was clear when watching him, that the strength that Innu had achieved was from hard work. He was used to this type of training, honing his skill and technique in fighting, whereas Austin was a natural fighter.

Naturally he had been gifted a large body, naturally he had a hard punch that could knock most students the same age and size as him down with one hit. He had never had to train before to take out the delinquents that were around him.

However, seeing Innu train like so, it had unlocked his competitive side. Due to the two of them being in the same gang, it wasn't as if the two could have an all out fight. So the only way they could compete was through hard work and training.

It was hard at first, there were aches and pains that Austin had never felt before, but soon he was catching up to Innu. The thing was, Innu was seeing this as well. Innu had always believed if the two were to fight that it would be a close call between the two of them.

Now that Austin was training, it worried Innu but it only caused him to up his training even more.

However, training wasn't the only thing the two of them competed in. Kai had often sent the two of them on tasks. Shortly after the Howlers had taken over Slough, there were a few troubles here and there down the streets that were owned by the Howlers.

Some of them involved gang members, others just involved rowdy students, and it was their job to protect these places in the first place.

“You know I can deal with it myself,” Innu said as they walked down the street at night toward one of the locations.

“I can as well. I’m just doing what Kai ordered.” Austin replied.

When they arrived at the bakery that was being harassed, there were ten adults holding mainly bats but a few other weapons as well. Seeing this, Innu gulped for a second. He was good at fighting one on one but not in a scene like this.

“Hey, it's those freaks in masks, I guess it's true what they say about the Howlers!” A man at the front said laughing.

Austin was confident as he walked up to the group, and while the leader of these attackers was busy laughing, he had thrown out a punch as hard as he could. The leader placed his bat in front of his face trying to protect it, but it soon split apart and a fist collided right into the man's face causing his teeth to fall out.

Another person that was close by went to attack, swinging a bat towards Austin’s side, but before it could hit, Innu had jumped up through the air with his knee forward, hitting the attacker right in the face and causing him to drop the bat onto the ground.

The other eight were stunned as their two strongest had been knocked out just like that. Regardless, the two weren't going to let the attackers get away with it as they continued to beat and fight against them all, soon defeating the attackers.

This wasn't a one time occurrence at the beginning, but the two of them fought and fought, continued to train and were getting stronger each day.

One day though, outside of their regular Howlers work, Austin had gotten a call. It was from his school friends. He stayed in touch with some of them due to them coming to the pool club at times, and Kai also said to keep up the relationship he had with them.

These delinquents could possibly be the future of the Howlers after all.

“Austin... East Boys are giving us trouble without you here, we need your help man!” The phone call shouted.

Austin thought about it for a while, it wasn't the first time he had gotten a call from his old school asking him to fight off other schools, which was why at that moment he had made a decision.

“Gather everyone and tell them we're going to be taking care of the whole of Slough. They will learn that the Howlers own all of the delinquents in the school area, and to not kick up a fuss.” Austin replied.

He had been training long enough, fighting long enough, and now Austin sat out to do what he had always dreamed of doing when he was in school. That day, every school had a visit, not from the masked individual, but from Austin himself, and he had done what he had set out to do.

In an alleyway, Austin had just finished dealing with the last of the schools in Slough. His hands bloody, his knuckles sore, and bruises over his face and body.

“This was the dream that I used to have... and now I am here.” Austin thought. “King of the high schools of Slough. Well this suck's balls. That was too easy. I guess I'm done with this child's stuff. I need something a lot more interesting.”

Now Austin was here, in front of Innu, in front of the Howlers... and ready to make a name for himself.

Chapter 468 Fight For The Prize (Part 2)

“All bets are now in, and the fight will now start!” Kai shouted.

Immediately, Innu was seen as the first person to charge in as he ran across the hard ground.

'I know Austin is strong, big, and it's like going up against a solid wall. So I need to use all the momentum I can get.'

When Innu was close enough, he decided to use a move that never failed him when taking on a big opponent. Jumping up in the air, with his knee forward, Innu leapt up to an incredible height, as his knee was right where Austin's face would be.

Quickly, Austin had covered his face, his arms were already close to his head so it was easy for him to make a guard. The knee banged right into his forearms, causing them to start throbbing but it was nothing that Austin couldn't take.

After receiving the hit, Austin went to throw out a punch of his own. It looked heavy and strong. Spinning, Innu managed to avoid the hit, and get closer to Austin at the same time. When spinning Innu swung his elbow out and hit Austin right in the face.

A loud crack sound was heard by everyone and the crowd couldn't help but wince as they heard the noise and imagined how much the attack had to have hurt.

"I think people might have underestimated Innu too much just by looking at the size difference." Kai commented. "These are the core members of the Howlers, and no one is weak on our team!"

After saying those words and what looked like Austin falling to the ground, he placed out his leg and shifted all of his weight on his thigh, not allowing him to fall down. From the awkward position, Austin started to throw a punch towards Innu.

"I knew you wouldn't go down just from that!" Innu shouted, after all he had seen Austin get hit with a baseball bat to the head and still stand. That's why Innu was throwing out a kick toward Austin even though he was already falling down.

However, the kick had been grabbed with Austin's left hand and a punch had been thrown, right towards Innu's side. Letting go of the leg, Innu's body was lifted up in the air, and everyone could see his eyes bulging out, and spit shot out from his mouth.

Eventually Innu landed on the ground, and had his hands holding onto his side. Everyone was stunned.

"Is... he okay, that punch, I could hear it, I think he might have broken the other guy's ribs!" One of the onlookers said.

To them, it seemed like the fight was certainly over. Innu was still on the ground, trying to gather air into his lungs as he was winded by the blow as well.

"Innu I thought you were different from the rest." Austin stated. "Is that why you want the prize so bad, because you realize how weak you are?"

Hearing these words, the veins on Innu's neck started to bulge. All of the hard training, the faces of those that needed him appeared in his head. Without using his hands, Innu got up using just his legs and knees alone standing up.

"There's a big difference between me and you Austin." Innu said, as he got his breath but could feel the pain in his side. He was certain that something had broken. "I have a real reason to fight, so I will always get up!"

Innu charged in again, toward Austin, and just like before it looked like Austin was ready to block whatever was coming his way, but instead of jumping or leaping up, when Innu got close, he used all the strength in his legs to deliver a powerful and devastating kick.

The leg was lifted off the ground, and slammed right into Austin's thigh.

Immediately, Austin felt the impact.

'It feels like someone grabbed a sledge hammer and slammed it into my leg!'

It wasn't just one kick though, before Austin could do anything, the second Innu's foot had reached back into position, he lifted it again and performed another kick straight after.

From two kicks on the thigh, Austin could feel that it was numb, he wanted to move away, but his legs were already shaking.

'These are incredibly strong kicks, and If I hadn't trained then I would have fallen down by now, but it's because of you that I trained, I trained not just my upper body but my legs as well!'

Innu could tell that Austin was on his last legs, if he just kicked him a couple more times, then Austin would fall and Innu could finish him off with a knee straight to his chin, rattling his head and ending the fight.

Once again, his leg went down and Innu threw it out towards the same thigh, no one could see but it had already started to swell. It was a strong blow that landed, and everyone could now visibly see Austin's legs shaking.

Regardless, this time, Austin had grabbed onto the leg, he then pulled Innu forward, and grabbed him by his shoulder with his other arm. Innu attempted to hit Austin in the face to break free, but Austin was taking the hits as he lifted Innu's body into the air, and then slammed his body down right onto the concrete ground.

The second Austin had finished his move, he fell to one knee, his leg could no longer support his body, but at the same time, Innu couldn't get up off the ground.

"It looks like we have our Winner, let's take them both to the hospital as soon as possible, and after that... we can give you your prize. Congratulations, Austin." Kai smiled.

Chapter 469 The Last Problem

Opening his eyes, Innu found himself staring at a dark ceiling. He could feel the spongy seating underneath his body and slowly lifted himself up. Looking around he recognised this to be the back seats of the Wolf's Pool Club.

The place was quiet, and devoid of customers now, though he could see Miss Degrace and White were busy cleaning the bar area. As for the others, Innu at least didn't see them. Moving his body slightly he winced as he could feel the pain from his injuries.

'My body and my sides are killing me. Just what the hell has that big oaf been eating to have such power?'

Looking down, Innu saw some bandages, but overall nothing too serious. Still, his current condition made him aware of one important fact.

'The fight... I lost. Damn it, I lost, which means that damned meat head got the Altered solution.' With his head held down, Innu kept replaying the fight, pondering whether there was anything he could have done differently.

In hindsight, it was the first hit he had received from Austin that had knocked him off his flow. If he had been more patient after giving out a large strike, then proceeded to attack the other teenager's thigh, perhaps he could have won.

Even when kicking the thigh of Austin, he shouldn't have rushed it that much, though he had mostly done so because of the pain. Innu had been in enough fights to have recognised that his ribs and breathing would slow him down if the fight were to drag on.

'I can't just make up excuses for myself. At the end of the day, he won and I lost. If it had been a real fight against a rival gang, I would be dead right now. If that happened, then who would look after Kevin and Suzan?'

Being in a gang was a dangerous business. Alas, it came with corresponding high rewards, meaning he couldn't just quit.

"Looks like the doctor was right about you only needing a couple hours. You're not too bad after all." Kai smiled, having come from downstairs along with the others.

"Doctor?" Innu questioned.

"Yeah, we had a doctor come out and check on you. Why, who did you think bandaged you? Fortunately, in his medical opinion, you should be in top condition in a couple days. Perk of being a big gang is having an oncall doctor for these types of situations now. Hospitals are busy places and we don't exactly want to endanger others due to our identity."

Innu understood but he was a bit distracted because he could see that Austin had something in his hand, the syringe.

“I wanted to wait for you.” Austin explained. “Knowing you, you would have made a fuss about missing out on such a moment.”

The comment annoyed Innu, making him tense up his whole body, which unfortunately just caused him more pain. Closing his eyes, he was surprised by what he saw the moment he opened them.

“These are... but these are yours.”

“And now they’re yours.” Kai stated, as he held out the two red axes that had originally belonged to his father. “I had always planned for them to be a consolation prize for the loser.

“These axes were what gave Damion his power, and now they will do the same for you as well. Don’t feel bad about taking them either. Everytime I see those things, I’m tempted to throw them away because they remind me of him. The only reason I don’t is because it would be a huge waste.

“If you’ll learn how to utilise them properly, it will boost your powers immensely. Given your fighting style, it might even be a good fit.”

Innu didn't know what to say, but he could tell that the blonde teenager was serious so he grabbed onto both of the axes. For a second, he had a strange feeling of being energised. The pain on his body even lessened a bit, and he felt more powerful.

‘All this from just holding some weapons? Just what are they made of?’ Innu wondered. The feeling did quickly fade though, but he had a glimpse of what they could do. Now he was starting to understand how Damion had been able to face Altered as a normal human.

“The shop is closed up, so now that we’re all conscious, let’s see what this solution brings to the table for our group.” Kai said.

The solution was handed over to Marie. There were no instructions but from what Kai had gathered online, it was pretty self-explanatory, one jab to the shoulder would do it.

“Alright, three... two...”

“I don’t need a countdown, just jab it in!” Austin rushed her, closing his eyes as he looked away. Apparently, the big teenager was afraid of nothing... but needles?

Marie didn’t take it to heart and just did as she was told. Once the needle was inside, she started to push the solution in. The teenage girl did it as quickly as she could, making sure all of the liquid was used up before pulling it out again.

The next second. Austin fell to his knees, as he could feel a burning and itching sensation all over his body.

“No one told me this sh*it was going to hurt!” Austin wanted to claw at his skin as it felt like ants were inside his body, crawling and changing everything inside.

Kai didn't say anything while looking at Austin because he was sure he would be able to endure. He doubted the pain could be any worse than what he had gone through back in the cell, or before Gary had left.

Quite frankly there were other things on his mind. When he had gone back to the office, the vice-leader had checked the letters that their lawyer had left behind. It had been one rejection after the other. No matter what approach the Howlers had taken, be it direct, indirectly through a proxy, or even in the appearance of an investment, the answer had stayed the same.

With the way the mayor was acting, it was going to be hard for the Howlers to expand. Who would want to work together with a gang who was unable to get their own yard in order?

‘How would the Underdogs have dealt with this situation? As far as I’m aware, Ben Clove had avoided getting in the way of Damion and his plans, yet now that our influence has undoubtedly overtaken theirs, he somehow has the confidence to take us on? Is it because we haven’t retaliated?’

Now looking at Austin recovering, standing up there was a smile on Kai’s face.

'Well, if he doesn't want the carrot, perhaps we'll have to pay him a visit and convince him that he won't like the stick... let's see how you deal with a full frontal attack.'

Chapter 470 One Less Problem

After Austin and Innu's match concerning the ownership of the Altered solution, Kai told everyone to prepare themselves for something big to occur. His choice of words had been pretty vague, yet the fact that Olivia would accompany them made his fellow gang members suspect that there would be a fight soon.

As to who their enemy was going to be, nobody questioned it. They all trusted in the blonde teenager's judgement, so each one spent the next days training. Marie continued her daily training with the variety of weapons, while Innu had started to incorporate his two new axes into his fighting style.

Austin was undoubtedly the one who had it the hardest though. After all, becoming an Altered didn't really come with an instruction. In a way, it was similar to what the two Beta Werewolves had gone through, yet in his case, the big teenager had yet to find out just what kind of Altered he was.

One night, Kai stood on the roof of a restaurant. It was around three floors high, and the wind was blowing his hair, as the backdrop of a crescent moon was behind him.

'A few more days and we should be ready to take them on. Austin is getting the hang of his powers, and he got relatively lucky with the mystery solution. Once we take care of our local problem, we can look into taking over the other Tier-3 towns in the vicinity.'

'I know I shouldn't rush it, but Austin's power just has me shaking with excitement. Still, I need to keep in mind that gang wars are a different ballpark than a straight-up fight. Gang wars require funds, and after our last purchase, we're lacking in that area.'

'We need to build up our finances and power to be able to protect our increased influence. Taking over an area doesn't mean a thing, if we're unable to protect it.'

While the others had been busy training, the Werewolf had been preparing their next step by snooping around. He had also asked Olivia and her people to complete a certain task for him. To pass on what they heard about other gangs. There was one group that was of significant size, and that was the mayor.

Gary's blatant disrespect during the meeting of the mid-sized gangs had already made the Howlers into a public enemy. However, since the Howlers had established themselves as the most powerful faction by taking out the Underdogs, the others had kept to their territories. Of course, they all understood that this peace had an expiration date, so it hadn't taken Ben Clove a lot of convincing to get them all to agree to form into one large alliance to stay relevant.

On the surface, it looked like they were all equal, but in reality, the ones calling the shots were the Rising Dragons. They had been working for the mayor before the change in the status quo, so he naturally trusted them the most. There wasn't much the other gangs could do about it, except to curse their situation.

'If possible, it would be for the best if I can get them to fight amongst themselves by having one or more gangs defect to our side. Since Gary left Olivia alive and her gang is thriving, it shouldn't be too hard to convince them. As for how much we can trust them... well, I'll cross that bridge once we get to it, but first I need to find out what has made the mayor so confident.' Kai thought to himself as he continued to track after this night's prey.

Outside the chinese takeaway, there were gang members who were already lightly intoxicated and in the midst of discussing a seemingly important event.

'It's a good thing that Gary..mad an adjustment to the pack rules. Because I'm going to need it.'

Jumping off from the third floor, the Werewolf's body shifted into a much smaller form. Rather than growing in size, his bones became more compact, and fur began covering his entire body.

When he landed, his body was no longer that of a human's, but that of a grey coloured wolf's.

This was one of the advantages and differences in Kai's Werewolf type. His Unique Class wasn't called the Grey Werewolf Shapeshifter for nothing.

Like an obsessed man, he had spent every free moment to learn how to use those newly granted powers to the point he felt that he had grasped complete control over his transformations.

This form was far more suited to reconnaissance, especially since he looked not too different from a normal dog. His senses were even sharper in his animalistic form, allowing him to listen in from a distance without making the gang members suspicious.

Even if someone were to see him, who could turn around and people would think he was a simple dog, and nine times out of ten, even if they saw his face it looked like most didn't know what a wolf looked like and they would just assume that he was a husky or some type of dog they hadn't seen before. It was rare for humans to interact with wolves in the first place, at least in the town of slough.

"Did you come here?" One of them asked. "Rizer asked us all to get ready to move, and to keep track of the Howlers."

"Oh?" The other replied with a hiccup. "I'm guessing this has something to do with that meeting that the boss said they had, right?"

"Yeah, from what I hear, the alliance has been asked to come back together again. Based on the actions and the word from the other gangs, it looks like the Mayor is wanting to make her move."

"Move, against the Howlers... but they took out the Underdogs, they have an Altered as well. There's no way we can take them on."

The man flicked his cigarette into the middle of the road and let out a huge puff.

"Word is, the Mayor managed to get his hands on a pretty strong Altered solution himself, and it's enough for the boss to believe we have a chance of getting rid of them. If we get rid of the Howlers, then we own a pretty big pie of Slough. Our alliance will be the one who has all the say, and with the mayor we can rise up. Nothing is stopping us now."

The men continued to chat for a while, but it was useless information, what Kai needed was a date and time. He continued following them, taking his time... until the perfect opportunity presented itself.

Going down the alleyway, one of the men seemed quite drunk, he was wobbly on his feet and decided to take a leak. As he was letting out relief of his fresh air, he noticed something to his right.

“Oh... F*ck, that’s a huge wild dog, I need to hurry up and finish this.” The man said as he shook his body to let out the last few droplets, but as he looked down with his pants partly down, a hand grabbed the back of his head and slammed him into the wall.

Blood dripped from his nose and forehead as his vision blurred. His hair was pulled back, but he could see what looked like a blonde teenager.

“You scream, you die. You call for the others, you die. You speak before I tell you to, you die.” Kai whispered. The man was about to say something but before he could Kai grabbed his head and slammed it against the wall again.

“I didn’t give you permission yet. Just nod if you understand.”

The man was incredibly shaken, but out of fear he nodded.

“Good, I’m going to need some answers from you.”

The man's lips turned out to be incredibly close, it seemed like these men weren't too loyal to their gang, at least not for such simple information as where a meeting would take place.

“Please...will you let me go?” The man whimpered.

“I’m sorry, but no one can know that I know about this. I can't trust someone as loose as you.” Kai said as his whole head started to transform and he bit down on the man’s neck.

Knowing that while Gary was away that the gang would have to use violence, and possibly go as far as killing someone. Gary had changed the pack rules. Olivia was trust worthy enough by now, at least to the point where he trusted Kai looking over her. The one thing Gary didn’t want was for them to suffer because of his rules.

The gang member died a few moments later. Back in his wolf form, Kai let out a few barks before he started to dig in. The others, hearing the commotion, followed the noise, where they found him with blood all over its mouth.

“That f*king street dog killed Umar!” One of the men shouted as he discovered the corpse. “Kill the damn dog!”

Now that they had seen the scene of the crime, and believed it was done by an animal, Kai turned tail and ran away, too fast for the intoxicated gang members to even attempt to catch up.

‘A big meeting, huh? Now should we strike them all at once, or do so before they have a chance to gather?’