

## Werewolf 471

### Chapter 471 Tier 4

'Those f\*cking Howlers and their f\*cking Altered have ruined my f\*cking plans!!! Just why the f\*ck did they have to come here of all places?!' Ben internally cursed the appearance of the gang for the umpteenth time as he stared at the pile of documents on his desk with hateful eyes. The paperwork was stacking up to his chin, because he had recently instructed his staff to bring everything that needed his approval directly to him.

It wasn't a coincidence that had led Ben Clove to Slough. The politician had done his fair share of research before he had come to the decision to campaign in this particular Tier-3 town, and unlike what he had claimed during the election period, his true reasons were far less utilitarian.

The thing that had made Slough stand out among the dozens of other Tier-3 towns he could have chosen, had been the particularly delicate balance between its underworld. The signs had been there that the two big gangs that controlled most of the town would clash in the foreseeable future, and he had intended to be there to reap the benefits when it happened.

Of course, he would have been unable to do it on his own, but, fortunately, he wasn't the only one was interested in biding his time. The five small-time gangs had long since held gatherings to decide on a common course of action to not offend the big gangs, keenly aware that their continued existence was tied to staying off the radar.

At one of those meetings, Ben Clove had introduced himself to the gang leaders and using his charisma and glib tongue he had managed to win them over. In time, they had helped him win the mayorship, some directly, others indirectly, and all of them had waited for the inevitable falling out between Damion and Brandon...

Unfortunately, the outcome had turned out drastically different from anything they could have foreseen, leading them to a situation far worse than before. Instead of enjoying full control over Slough, the mayor was currently doing all he could to hinder the Howlers' growth.

'I can't allow them to expand their influence any further. According to D, the other gang leaders are starting to complain more and more openly about this alliance. If I don't do anything soon, some of them might consider deserting.' Ben Clove thought as he picked up the telephone by his side and started to dial a few numbers to set up a group call to inform the alliance about the location for their next meeting. It was a place he would never go to if circumstances hadn't demanded it.

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Tier-4 towns had a nasty reputation of being cesspools of filth, housing factories that caused mass pollution. The people who lived there had fallen so low, leaving them with nothing else to lose. Nevertheless, those well-off considered them a 'necessary evil', producing many things the Tier-2 and Tier-1 cities required to run.

Admittedly, aside from the worker areas, the living districts weren't as bad to look at. The same couldn't be said about the people, though. The population could roughly be divided into those who tried to live by doing the only honest work they could get, and those who wanted to get rich or die trying, with the latter not being a rare occurrence.

After all, there was something dangerous about those that lived in a Tier-4 town, painfully aware that they were practically the drags of society. Given how crazy and hectic the constant fighting and power struggles tended to be, the ones in charge rarely got to enjoy that privilege for long.

The top floor of this town's highest building was a fancy restaurant with red and gold theme. In the centre there was a large round table set up, surrounded by a group of outsiders who had secretly travelled here.

"Gentlemen, let me thank you all for meeting me here. I understand that it must be out of your comfort zone, but I assure you this should be the only time." The mayor said as he raised a glass of champagne to the present gang leaders.

With him in the room was Tony from the Block gang. The gang leader was sitting at the table while two of his gang members stood behind him. Opposite him were the three Red Blood Triangle brothers, the oldest brother was the one sitting, while his two younger brothers acted as guards.

To the right of the mayor was D, leader of the Raising Dragon, while to the left of him was 'Little Dragon', a gang headed by D's little brother who had recently taken over leadership of the Hook gang before rebranding.

"Let's cut the bull and get to the chase." Tony yelled, as he slammed his glass onto the table, causing it to smash. "I don't want to stay here a second longer than I have to! Heck, the fact that we have to hide

from them is already saying everything that needs to be said about the current situation, don't you think so, Mr Mayor?!

"More and more of my men are either leaving me to work for the Howlers, or are at least thinking about doing that soon. I have no idea what their leader is thinking, but his jacka\*s way of doing angel-like business is making all of us lose money. I'm only afraid that if things continue the way they are, we'll go out of business before they do."

All of those around the room agreed as they nodded their heads in unison.

"Well, Mr Block, today's topic just so happened to be strictly about the Howlers and our next course of action to get rid of them once and for all." Ben replied with a smile, not caring the least about the gang leader's tantrum.

Outside the restaurant establishment, the currently strongest gang had been paid a handsome commission by the mayor to ensure that nobody would disturb that meeting. Aware that they lacked the manpower to offend their guests, their gang leader had happily agreed to lend out his men to show off his muscle.

"Hey, check the list. I'm pretty sure, we've already let in all the VIPs today." A gang member who stood in front of the door as a sort of bouncer asked his buddy who had the list.

"Yup, everyone is accounted for. Well, you heard the boss, let's give those masked freaks a beating." The other answered, happy that this evening was about to get fun.

"Looks, like they sent over the welcoming committee. Let's crash this little event of theirs, and move on." A teenager in a fox-like black and gold mask said to the ones next to him.

#### Chapter 472 New Altered

The confidence in the mayor's voice as he revealed each and every way he had rejected the Howlers' many attempts to expand was invigorating for the gang leaders to hear. Nevertheless, when Ben told the gang leaders that for the next step he needed their help in stopping the Howlers' revenue streams by doing things that he, as a public figure, was unable to do, the hesitation from their side was palpable.

“You do understand that doing that is the same as crippling Slough as a whole, don’t you?” Tony from the Lock Gang pointed out the issue they all had with the mayor’s proposal.

“Mr Lock, weren’t you the one who stated that the Howlers would win without having to do anything if things continue as they are? I admit that forcing most business to pause their operation is a drastic step, but it’s necessary, though I assure you that it’s only for a limited period of time.

“I have it on good authority that the Howlers have liquidated a large amount of their buildings recently, which is a sure sign that they intended to purchase something big. In other words, their reserve is about to take a real hit soon.

“What do you think happens when their businesses, which appear to be their only reliable source of revenue, stops all of a sudden?! Without money, they will be unable to pay their people... what will happen then? There will be a large-scale revolt!”

There was a large smirk on Ben’s face as he reaches this point of his monologue. Seeing this, the leaders of each gang all subconsciously came to one shared realisation: the mayor might be an even bigger crook than any of them, because he truly cared only about one thing, and that was himself and his own well-being.

The fact that his plan would further decrease the quality of life of his constituents seemed to be merely an afterthought. A minor factor in a complicated calculation. The most sinister part of it was that he would be handing those businesses over to the gang members on a silver platter, and once things returned to normal, he intended to take credit for solving a problem he himself had instigated.

“That plan sounds great, but isn’t there a huge problem?” The little brother from the Blood Triangles asked with a small frown. “Even if we don’t account for the fact that they might not have spent that liquidated money, what do we do when the Howlers decide to take action?”

They might have ignored us before, but if we go after their source of revenue so brazenly, how is this any different from an open war declaration? They’re bound to come after us and if we had the power to stand against them, we wouldn’t be meeting here in the first place.”

Ben started to laugh out loud. "Do you really think I would have suggested my plan if I didn't account for that fact? Besides, if they were completely sure about taking us out, they would have done so already. That's just another reason to go after them, before things chan-"

A few grunts interrupted the speech, which made all those present look at the only door on the floor. The only ones on the outside were the Tier-4 gang leader's so-called best men, which the mayor had been forced to hire when choosing this venue as they came with the package.

Just when Ben was about to make an off-handed remark about how difficult it was to find good personal before continuing their meeting, they could hear the men outside raise their voices.

"Who the hell are you guys? You're not allowed to be up he-"

The sentence was cut short, and the next moment the double doors were swung wide open by an incoming human projectile that crashed into the wall.

"Sorry for the disturbance, but one of you must have forgotten to put our name on the VIP list." A man with a black and gold fox mask explained with a wide grin as he stepped over a downed gang member and entered the room.

He was followed by four individuals who were also clad in black and gold clothing, with different masks on their faces to cover their identity. Ever since that day, the black and gold uniform had become a symbol for their gang, and it was already common knowledge that those with masks belonged to the inner circle of the Howlers.

"Who the hell told them about this meeting?!" The leader of the Blood Triangle shouted as he looked around, suspecting that one of the other gangs must have betrayed them, yet the confusion on the face of the other alliance members was genuine.

"Do you have a problem with us being here? Would you have rather continued cursing us behind our backs?" Kai asked calmly as his gaze slowly fell on each one of them, sending shivers down the backs of those grown men.

Ben looked over at the man that had been sent flying a few moments ago. Without a doubt, he was one of the supposed guards. When the mayor looked behind the Howlers he could also see many others in a similar or worse condition, yet none of the five newcomers had so much as a scratch on them.

Still, he also noticed that they were short one very prominent member.

“Tsk, just how lowly do you guys think of us that you just sent the B team?” Ben asked after regaining his composure. “Your leader, the guy that defeated Kirk isn't even with you. None of you match his body shape or are wearing the same mask as him!”

When he pointed that out, the others let out a sigh of relief. As impressive the feat of sending someone flying was, the person they all feared the most was the Wolf-like Altered as he had managed to take out the AFC's Rookie Champion.

“You really think I don't recognise you, Olivia?” Tony questioned after regaining his confidence. Given their shared history, it was easy enough for him to recognise her proportions. “How low can you sink? They kicked your ar\*e, yet you follow them like a loyal dog?!”

He slammed his hand into a fist, and punched the chair that he was sitting on breaking it in a single hit. His knuckles were bleeding, but with a smile he licked away the blood.

“Had you run into my Pincers headquarters and defeated all my guys, I might have considered tolerating your presence long enough for a single date. Besides, where did you get the audacity to question me working for them, when all of you rats gathered together to stand a chance against us, huh?!” Olivia retorted. The Lady Boss swung out her whip at a lightning fast speed and it wrapped around Tony's shoulders. He was lifted into the air with Olivia's strength and then slammed into the ground at full force, breaking part of the wooden flooring.

Ben began to grind his teeth as he could see that his side was losing momentum.

“You guys have annoyed me for long enough!” The mayor shouted as his body began to transform. His new status as an Altered was supposed to be their side's trump card, and without Gary, now was the best chance for him to use his advantage to deal a critical strike to the other side.

“No wonder he grew the balls to mess with us directly. Kai thought inwardly.

“Alright, big guy, it's your time to shine.” The vice-leader ordered Austin who happily walked forward to meet the Altered.

#### Chapter 473 New Altered (Part 2)

Olivia was locked up with Tony Lock and the two goons by his side. While it didn't look like they would give her any trouble. it would still take her a few moments before she could help out the others. With their way out blocked by the rest of the Howlers, the ambushed gang members decided to act.

The Rising Dragon that had worked under the mayor the longest took the charge. D leapt up onto the table and began to run across it making his way to the masked intruders. However, before he or his men could reach them, they were met with an incoming bolt.

The gang leader managed to avoid the first one, but one of his men wasn't that lucky. The projectile pierced an inch deep into his body, not enough to kill him but more than enough to make him scream in pain, unable to move his muscles.

'It looks like all that training wasn't for nought.' Marie thought to herself. A proud, satisfied grin formed on her face as she held the crossbow in her hand.

“You b\*tch!” The injured gang member yelled out. However, he was unaware that his pain was just the prelude to the actual effect. Were he able to look down, he would see the bolt had started to light up, sparks forming as a high voltage current was released inside his body.

The effect was far more potent than any ordinary stun gun, as it was a weapon designed to be used against Altered. The man fell right on the table, as Marie continued to place bolts inside her new weapon.

D had only stopped briefly to gauge the lethality of the weapon. Although it sounded painful, he was at least relieved that it appeared to be designed to restraint rather than kill the target. Nevertheless, he had no intention of allowing himself to be hit. He leapt through the air, aiming straight for Marie with his fist wound up.

'We need to get rid of her first!' The gang leader thought, as he looked at the teenage girl's thin frame. 'One punch should be enough to take her out and use her as a hostage!'

"Do I look like decoration to you?!" A mocking voice resounded as Kai used a seemingly casual gait to move into the perfect position to intercept D. He moved his head to the side, thus avoiding the incoming punch and countered with a right hook of his own. The punch was hard enough to make the gang leader's body flip completely, shattering a few of his front teeth as he fell to the floor.

"Next time, think about how you'll dodge when in the air, dumbass."

The Werewolf was slightly surprised that a single hit was all it took to knock out D. All the present leaders had a certain reputation of being relentless when fighting, yet the Howlers were dealing with them with ease. They had all changed since beating the Underdogs, and they were growing stronger by the day.

"Just keep firing away at these idiots, I'll make sure no one gets close to you." Kai ordered Marie, as he turned towards the remaining Rising Dragon members. He crossed his arms, taunting them to come and try to get past him.

At the same time, Innu locked eyes with the Blood Triangles, trying to differentiate the bald triples. Each of them was using the same type of weapon: a long staff with a metal end on the bottom. They had slowly surrounded Innu, locking him into a triangle like formation, but the teenager wasn't unarmed.

Innu charged forward, swinging his right axe towards the one in front of him. Unfortunately, he was unable to hit his target as the brother to his left hit the top of his axe, causing the weapon and his whole body to shift to the side. Presented with the opportunity, the other two brothers hit the teenager right on the thigh.

It was a hard whack, and was more like a slap which made Innu grunt with pain. He wanted to scream but he wouldn't let himself. Innu then went to kick another one of the wannabe-monks, but the pole was lifted in place blocking the attack, and once again two staffs came his way hitting him on the back leg as well as the side.



'Arghh! This sh\*t hurts. Their stupid poles give them the range advantage, so my fists are useless in this situation. There's no way I can go against three experts like this after training with these axes for this short period of time!'

While in the middle of his thoughts and his leg back on the ground, all three of them struck from above this time aiming for Innu's head. He could see their movement and their feet this time, so he lifted both axes above to block the incoming attack.

They had pushed him down slightly, as they all hit the top of the axes, but with his strong thigh and leg muscles, Innu pushed up, making them all back away as they marveled at their opponent's surprising strength.

Innu charged forward and jumped in the air this time, swinging both of his axes down towards one of them. The youngest of the Blood Triangle brothers was startled by this, yet he managed to lift his pole in time. The axes slammed into the weapon, bending it, and for a second the man could see a crack forming in the wood.

'The bladed part didn't even hit the pole, how much power does this guy have?'

A large pole had whacked Innu in the ribs again, sending him off to the side slightly, he gritted his teeth and bared the pain again.

'Come on, you useless things! Kai said you were supposed to have some sort of power, but right now it just feels like you're dragging me down!' Innu screamed in his head. 'If you're not going to do anything, then I might as well throw you away.'

Getting up again, the furious Innu didn't even realise that the surge in power didn't stem solely from his anger. With a fire lit in his belly, the fighter went after the bald headed men again, throwing out a kick as hard as he could.

Just like before, the man held his staff on its side to block the attack, but as Innu's shin hit the staff, a loud bang was heard from the pole breaking in half. It was the strongest kick that Innu had ever produced. As soon as his legs landed, Innu leapt from the floor pushing off his two strong legs and the poles from the other two had missed him.

'HOLY SH\*T!!! I've never felt like this before! Is it really because of the weapons? How is that possible?!

As Innu reached the bald headed man, he kicked the shin with the side of his foot, and a fracture was felt at that moment, his leg bone hadn't completely broken but it was in severe pain. When he knelt over, Innu shoved the axe up from underneath and hit his chin with the top of his axe shattering the bottom of his jaw and causing him to fall to the floor.

"That's one brother down, two more to go," Innu announced with a challenging gaze.

'Perhaps, I didn't get the short end of the stick after losing that fight.'

Turning his head slightly, though, he abandoned that thought as he watched both Austin and the mayor had transformed.

#### Chapter 474 Full Transformation

One after the other, the gang members were starting to get more and more self-conscious about their chances against the Howlers. Olivia was making use of this opportunity to settle her score with Tony and his Lock Gang. In the past, the Lady Boss had had no other choice but to endure his ceaseless attempts to woo her, but now she was giving him a taste of his own medicine, teaching him an entirely different meaning of 'no, doesn't always mean no'.

Suffice to say, her whip wasn't idle, and while his two goons had long since passed out, the gang leader didn't get to enjoy the same privilege. Olivia made sure to hit him hard enough to hurt, but not enough for him to lose consciousness. Were it not for everyone being busy with their own fights, the loud screams would be very distracting.

As for the person responsible for this entire meeting, Ben Clove, he had removed his large suit to reveal his large belly. One look at it was enough to convince anyone that the man was definitely no fighter. He didn't look like a gang member either, but he didn't need to. Seeing him transform, made it clear why the chubby man had remained so stoic in the face of the ambush.

The shirt around the mayor's forearms started to rip open as muscles started to bulge, revealing sharp long fins on both of his arms sticking through. His face started to elongate and a hole was ripped through his trousers, from a tail that emerged. The colour of his skin was changing to a greyish blue, while his teeth sharpened and his eyes slanted a bit.

Depending on their Altered form, it was hard to tell what beast they came from since they were based on animals that didn't exist today. However, in Ben's case, it was safe to wager that he was based on a sea creature, more specifically one in some kind of relation to today's sharks, predators of the sea. According to research most beasts were predatory anyway, at least back in the day.

Still, there was a clear distinction between beast and animals, the two of them were different. Their DNA, make up, their blood, and a number of other things that scientists had discovered. Nevertheless, comparing both types of fossils, they did find some relation. Through evolution the animals of the past used to take on some forms of the beast around them.

In nature, the predator animals tended to take on the forms of the most dangerous of beasts. Since the mayor knew there was some relation to a shark, he was certain that NIRV had given him a powerful Altered, even if it paled in comparison to Xin's.

'It's shameful to envy my children for their Altered, but that NIRV employee promised me that this was one of the best out there, and for a Tier-3 town like ours no one will get in my way.' Ben thought as he smiled, baring his razor sharp teeth at Austin.

The mayor had grown larger and his form looked dangerous, however at the same time, Austin had a trick up his sleeve as well, his own transformed state. However, Ben might have been a pencil pusher for most of his life, yet he understood that it would be idiotic to allow his opponent to finish his transformation by doing nothing. He spun his body and went out leading with its tail. This particular Shark Altered had huge muscles in its tail that could knock over a ton of blocks.

"You guys are done for!" Ben shouted as he put all his strength into his tail. When he had tested it against cars, it had been enough to fully destroy the mettalic vehicles, so no human would be able to survive that impact.

When the tail whacked into Austin a loud bang was heard that echoed throughout the whole room. It sounded like a gun had gone off right there and then. Everyone stopped their own fights for a moment and turned their heads, just in time to see Austin had caught the tail, though not without being shifted back by a foot.

"Now I'm a bit confused?" Innu let out as he started at Austin's Altered form. This was the first time he saw his fellow gang member in this form, since the big guy had been practising on using his Altered self on his own, or with Kai.

The reason for the confusion was because right now, Austin's whole body had grown larger and more muscular, the uniform stretched to accommodate his new form but was tight fitting showing his large shoulders and muscles.

As for his legs, there were now two hooves on the ground, then there was his head. It had grown larger, and he had two horns sticking out from the top. Finally there were his large nostrils as well.

“I thought, we didn't get the Bull Altered type serum, and how has he learnt to partially transform so fast?” Innu asked out loud. Kai just smirked at that. As much as he would like to take the credit for it, he had just helped out in that regard.

He too had been surprised when Austin had asked him for some help. For a while the two of them had been trying to figure out what he was. When looking at reference videos and photos Austin had been unable to find anything that matched his own form.

At the same time what was confusing was the transformations. Usually, there was partial transformation, allowing one to just change one part of their body. This was the easiest and at the same time hardest to control state wise. For many it was the first step into figuring out how to use their Altered forms, and at the same time, an expert could control minor details such as just their fingernails to transform.

Then there was what was known as the Hybrid form, this was usually the preferred form that users fought in, and it was what every new altered focused on obtaining. How long it would take for one to obtain such a form was different for everyone, and then there was a full transformation, turning completely into a beast.

This was advantageous depending on the situation, and at times some found it easier to go straight to this form rather than the hybrid form when practising. What the two had realised was that this was Austin's real form.

“You think you're strong? Just because you're an Altered?” Austin gripped tightly onto the tail. “You're nothing compared to me!!”

Exerting both arms, he lifted Ben into the air, and then swung his tail and his entire body over his shoulder slamming his head first into the ground, breaking the floor bored underneath partilley. Letting out a big breath, it looked as if steam was coming out.

'We might have lost out on the Bull Altered, but this mystery solution was worth every penny. I have no idea where they got it from but a mythical beast is far stronger. With this Minotaur Altered, we seriously hit the jackpot!' Kai inwardly laughed to himself.

#### Chapter 475 The Perfect Form

Without learning how to enter into a hybrid state, Austin's particular beast DNA had allowed the large teenager to enter his fully transformed state. Every once in a while, he would let out a big huff of hot air, and steam would come out of his nostrils. One such moment was exactly when he looked down on Ben Clove on the floor.

'It's as if this Altered form was specially made for me.' Austin thought once more. As a Minotaur Altered his strength had gone up an entire level, and the best part about it was that there had been no need to change anything about his particular fighting style. 'If Innu or Marie would have used it, I'd have certainly regretted it for life, but now I can help the gang defeat anyone who will stand in our way.'

As he slowly pushed himself off the floor, the Shark Altered tasted the blood in his mouth. Spitting it out, a few shark teeth also fell on the floor. The attack, which could have killed a normal human, merely dazed him. When he looked up at his opponent, he fletched his teeth, showing off that he had a full set again.

"You think you can beat me in one hit?" Ben asked. "You think I could have reached my current position if I was the type of person to give up at the first hurdle?! You were merely lucky, punk!"

Ben started to charge in, his movements were relatively slow as he pumped his foot side to side. When looking at him, Austin couldn't help but think he would have been far better off if this fight would be underwater. Right now, he was faster than a regular human but against his Minotaur form...

When the mayor got close, once again he spun his body along with his tail. This time, Austin didn't try to grab it, instead moved backwards just enough so the tail skimmed past him. Right then, using his strong hooves, he burst and charged in.

Seeing this, Ben had covered his face placing both hands there ready to brace himself. However, the punch had come from below as it hit him in the stomach and the sheer power lifted him in the air.

Trying to breathe and let in a breath of air, Ben dropped his hands from his face that was guarding him and the next second an overhand fist was planted in his face, sending him away and crashing into the wall.

Despite being an Altered, Ben felt the pain, as Austin's hits were heavy and hard. By the time he had recovered, the Minotaur Altered was already standing in front of him. Desperate, the Shark Altered threw out a punch, but it was simply slapped away to the side, and a kick was felt in his stomach again causing him to lean on the floor.

After that, on the back of Ben's head, a heavy hand was felt. "Since we're both Altered, let me tell you that this form is truly wasted on you."

"WHAT?!" Ben raised his voice, but let out a cough the next moment. He was still finding it hard to breathe, his energy spent, it was hard for him to even lift a finger at this moment. His fingers and toes were even starting to revert slowly, giving him the appearance of a half-monster.

"Did NIRV lie to me? I gave them everything because they promised me that this Altered form was special." Ben mumbled to himself as he watched the chance happen.

"I don't know about you being lied to. Anyone with half a brain would agree that this form is better than your average Altered." Austin replied. "See, the problem is not the Altered itself, but the one behind it.

"The second we started to fight, I knew I had nothing to worry about. It's obvious that you're the type of person who has been doing things behind the scenes for his entire life. Always pulling the strings of others, but never directly involved. I'm sure that you thought becoming an Altered was enough for you to beat us.

"However, as someone who was never in a fight in his entire life, it's impossible for you to bring out this Altered form's potential. I bet even the lowest gang member with a somewhat decent Altered form could take you on. Thinking about how many people would kill to become an Altered, it's truly a waste that you're one."

Still holding onto the back of Ben's head, he then pushed it to the floor, breaking the floorboards before bouncing back.

"Hey, why did you kill him?!" Marie shouted. "We were meant to keep him alive."

Austin's form started to revert back, and he soon crouched down next to the mayor.

"Relax, he's still breathing. He might be a waste as an Altered, but he still has the durability of one." The teenager replied before turning to Kai. "By the way, I'm going to need a new mask. The inside of this one gets all wet after I transform."

It was practically soaked due to the steam that would involuntarily escape his nostrils, the small holes only allowed for a little bit of air to come out.

"Sure, we can look into that, but first we have other things we need to do." Kai stated.

In the room, everyone had dealt with the enemy at hand, all of them had been beaten to the degree of either passing out, or unable to get up off the ground. They were rolling in pain or just drained of all the will to fight again.

That's when Kai knelt down to the mayor. He lifted his head and unceremoniously gave him a big slap across his face. The shock made him regain consciousness.

"Look, your little plan failed." Kai began. "Everyone was dealt with before you could even make your first move. You must have thought that with the Underdogs gone, you could take over, but you were dead wrong. Although we may be nice to the common folk, we don't show the same courtesy to other gangs, especially not ones who plan to stand in our way."

Looking through his swollen eyes, the small body frame of the fox masked leader of the Howlers indicated that he wasn't even fully an adult yet. With the others, it was clear that they were a bunch of teenagers, not counting Olivia, so he was wondering just where had it all gone wrong.

“Speaking of, I’ve been trying to play nice with you, but what did you do? You used your position as the mayor to spit on all my proposals time and time again. Do you have any idea how annoying and time consuming it was to fill out all of that stupid paper work, only for you to reject when you most likely didn’t even take a look at it?”

“Well, that ends today. After today, Slough will change, but it won’t be in the way you wanted. The only thing we still have to decide is what your role in all of that will be.” Kai lifted his mask up slightly, allowing the mayor to see the giant maw and long tongue that was licking its lips.

#### Chapter 476 A New Slough

“Holy crap, is that who I think it is?!” Tyler let out in disbelief. “Are you sure we should be doing this? I really don’t think I can help you with this.”

“Get a grip, Tyler!” Kai shouted at their panicked driver. “Nobody’s asking you to get involved in this any more than you already are. All I need you to do is to drive us to that location. Unless, of course, you’d prefer me to drive and get home on your own.”

The thought of having to stay in the Tier-4 town was enough to quiet the university student. While his whole body was still shaking, he at least kept his mouth shut and drove their car on the highway, occasionally looking back at their unwilling passenger.

Were it not for the specks of blood on the Howlers’ clothes, the casual tone between the passengers would make it appear as if they were nothing more than a group of teenagers enjoying a casual drive. Of course, if one were to listen in to what they were talking about, just like a certain driver had been doing, the only reaction would be bafflement.

Because right now, he was sure that the large man with the bag over his head was none other than Slough’s meyer. Never in Tyler’s wildest dreams did he imagine he would meet the politician in this type of setting, yet his encounter with Gary and the subsequent job opportunity had changed his life completely.

“Come on Tyler, this is the big life. You’ve always wanted to be more than just a small fry, this is your chance.” He continued to mutter to himself as he followed the GPS to the destination Kai had programmed in. The closer they came, the more obvious it became where he was driving them all, the more his face continued to drop.



'Is it too late to get down?' Tyler thought to himself. He was finding it hard to fully open his eyes, but not because they had gotten out and it was particularly a windy day, but because he was on the rooftop of a multistory apartment building.

On top of that, the mayor was still with them. Rubbing his eyes, Tyler didn't want to believe but it was clear what was happening. The mayor no longer had the bag over his head, yet he was still tied up and Kai currently held on to him, tiling him over the edge.

"In case your situation wasn't clear enough, let me spell it out for you. Right now, the only thing standing between you and certain doom is me holding on to this rope. If you try to attack me, if you try to play wise and turn into an Altered, or if you give me any attitude, I will let go. You might be an Altered, but this height is at least more than enough to cripple you for life."

Turning his head, Ben stared into the abyss, before he turned around, facing the blonde teenager who even without the fox mask looked like a devil. It was hard for the mayor to understand just how it was possible for him fall so low that even a brat like this could threaten him, especially after he had become an Altered.

Alas, with his life hanging on a proverbial threat, all he could do was nod along, and accept what was coming his way.

"Great. First of all, let me tell you Mr Mayor, that I'm greatly disappointed in you. You're just like all the other politicians, the kind who promised the world during the election period, but once you've won and got the power in your hands, what did you do besides sitting on your arse?" Kai began. Judging by Ben's expression, he had some choice words on his mind, but given the situation he could only swallow them down.

"Tell me, are you happy with the current state of Slough? Don't you find it ironic that you chose a Tier-4 town to hide in, so you can hold a meeting because of safety concerns? In my eyes, your actions were no different from the common man who had to keep his head low when heading home from work, trying their best to not stick out and become prey for one of the gangs. Do you still think yourself above those people?"

"No matter my current situation, I was voted in by the people." Ben coldly replied back.

Hearing these words, Kai slightly let go of the rope, making the adult be more inclined to fall. A drip could be seen coming from his trousers, as he was silently saying his prayers with closed eyes.

“You don’t even believe that pile of bull yourself, do you? The people don’t really get a vote, you just used scum tactics to get where you are.” The teenager stated. “Do you even remember what you promised the people on the day you took office? Not only did you promise them that you would do everything in your power to make it safe for them to go out, but also that you wanted to make Slough great again, to turn it into a Tier-2 city.

“Now you might have forgotten about this fact, but I haven’t, I want it to change, and you should as well.” Kai explained as he pulled the rope up, making sure the mayor could listen to him without having to be afraid.

“There are two scenarios how things can go from this point on. You can either leave with us or go first by taking the direct route. It should be in your best interest to partner up with us. It’s not like I’m asking you for anything outrageous in the first place. The first thing you will do once you’re home is to accept the proposal that the Howlers have made. You should know exactly the ones I’m talking about.

“They will not only benefit the Howlers, but also Slough as a whole. If you’re honest, you should be able to admit that you’re merely rejecting them out of spite. In the future, if you ever reject one of your suggestions without a valid reason, I’ll send over Austin, though next time he will tear your whole house down, do you understand?”

The mayor had no choice, he didn't want to shake his head, but he had to, so that’s what he did. Never in his life had he been treated in such a way, but what worth did his pride hold when weighed against his life?

“Good. Now for the second condition, you’re not to go up for re-election. What’s more, you’ll have to recommend a successor, and we will be the pens choosing who your successor will be.”

“No!” Ben shouted immediately. “I can’t do that! This was just my first term! If I don’t even become a candidate, it will affect my whole career and my entire family! You need to-”

Kai, not impressed by the shouting, let go of the rope until the mayor’s body was hanging over the edge.

“I know you’re just threatening me! You’re not a killer, you’re just a teenager!” The mayor shouted. “You’re asking too much from me. You have no idea what I had to do to get this far. I can’t give it all up now. It’s worth more than my life, it IS my whole life.”

For a second, the eyes of the two met, and Ben could see something different about the blue pair of eyes. There was something inhuman about them.

“Fine... don’t say I didn’t give you a choice.” Kai said as he completely let go of the rope.

#### Chapter 477 Changing Slough

Tyler was unable to close his mouth, but he didn’t even care that saliva was dropping on his clothes. He had been prepared that things might go a little crazy, especially after what had happened on their way back from the auction, but this was on another level. If someone had told him hours ago he would be a front row witness to the brutal murder of his own mayor, he would have called that person.

‘That’s... there is no stopping this now. We have long passed the point where the Howlers can be considered just a small group, and I was simply a driver. I ignored everything that was happening because I trusted that Gary was a good guy, but this Kai... I can’t deal with this.’

Dragging his face with his fingers, gathering his resolve to tell Kai that he wishes to quit after this, he noticed that one more person was no longer on the rooftop. Looking around, he noticed that the other members had looks of confusion on their faces as well. They were just as surprised by Kai’s actions, not quite understanding why he would use such an approach with the mayor, but before they had a chance to question him in any way, the Howlers’ vice leader had already jumped off the roof.

The blonde teenager had purposely let a few seconds pass, before following behind their still tied up hostage.

“Catch my shoes!” Kai shouted flinging them off and transforming into his Werewolf self, he used his powerful legs to, kick off the building to give himself an extra boost, allowing him to catch up to the mayor who was praying to all deities to save him from certain death.

Kai used his transformed hand to stab through the flab of the mayor’s back, making sure to get a strong grip. Ben screamed in pain, unable to understand what was happening in his panic. Blood was dripping from his back, and he experienced a tingling feeling throughout his entire body.

Kai's head was still mostly normal. Not so much wolf, with his nose only elongated slightly, and his teeth a little sharper than it usually would be, allowing him to speak a little easier.

“Do you still think that your ideals are worth dying for? Or are you ready to talk to this ‘dumb teenager’? I promise you that this the last chance that you will get. I suggest that you open your eyes now.” Kai said with a slight muffled mouth. He sounded like there was still food left to swallow, but it was just him struggling to speak clearly with the larger teeth.

The mayor opened his eyes, only to see that he was halfway down the building and there was still quite a fall to go. His trousers were completely soaked, with a warm liquid that had come from himself.

“Do you agree to the conditions that were set out before or do you wish for us to change something. I’m ready to listen, but you better make it quick.” Kai prompted him once more.

“Whatever you want, you crazy kid, just save me first!!!” The mayor shouted. “Someone like you should be locked up!. I can’t believe someone like you is running this gang.”

Kai smiled, as he grabbed on to the rope still attached to the mayor, before he used the person as a foothold to jump towards the building. He used his claws to dig into the stone. Slowly, he carried the cursing mayor up, and eventually tossed him over, as his body reverted.

Seeing that the mayor was still alive, Tyler let out a sigh of relief, reconsidering his plan to quit. Still, he at least planned to have a talk with Kai once they were back home.

“Thank you for complying with our conditions, but I just need to correct you on one thing. I'm not the leader, just remember that.” Kai stated, as they all left the rooftop. He untied the mayor, but he had no plans of giving him a lift. As an Altered, he didn’t worry about not making it back, and it some cardio couldn’t hurt the adult.

“Olivia, get someone to repair the walls of this building. We are the ones that need to start looking after this city, we can’t just leave a mess behind.” Kai ordered.

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The next day, Kai sat down in the basement of the Wolf's Pool Club, searching for the copies of his previous proposals. He was eager to see if the mayor would be stupid enough to deny them again. It was easy enough to really understand the applications they had previously sorted but Kai also knew that they needed to do something bigger than this to get Slough up and running and to give it a new life.

'I should probably contact that electronic company. Now if we were to get in contact with them, they showed interest last time.'

In the end, there was no harm in trying, so Kai went ahead and decided to make contact. It didn't take long to get a reply back, and a meeting was set, but there was one more condition that had been set springily.

'I see...so they want to meet the actual leader of the Howlers, I guess it's time to contact Gary, and see if he's up for it.' Kai thought.

—

Currently Ben was in his office, he had healed up from the fight that had occurred but he wasn't so sure if he would ever recover from that horrifying experience. His hands were constantly clenching, his back was hurting every time he thought about what had happened.

"Soon everyone will be talking about the Howlers, when it was meant to be my time to shine! I worked so hard for so long, and now this!" Ben shouted at the top of his voice. He was huffing and panting and his face was a studio red as he said these words.

Eventually, he had calmed down somewhat as he sat in his seat, and looked at the envelopes that were in front of him, the proposals by the Howlers.

'Fine, I will play along with your games for now, and do as you request, but don't think I will take it lying down. There is still something that I can do. You gang members think you are a strong, the new rising group.

'Well, let's see how strong you are when you have to face an experienced Altered!' The mayor inwardly smiled as he began writing an email addressed to his son.

## Chapter 478 Black And Gold Returns

“We’re now arriving at... Slough train station.”

As the doors slid open, a crowd of people got off the train, surrounded by other people who were eagerly waiting for the chance to get on. Among the arrivals was a teenage boy wearing a regular plain white top, jeans and a pair of trainers. Were it not for his green hair colour, he would hardly stick out from the mass.

Looking to his left and his right, he recognised the dirty chewgum black filled spots on the floor tiles. The slight smell of the waste power plant that was nearby, and the regular people that would argue at the train station and shout at each other.

Spending time at the academy had almost made him forget about how filthy his home town actually was, but this was clearly the same old Slough that he had left not too long ago.

‘I guess some things don’t change, but at least there aren’t any gang members I have to hide from. It feels nice being able to walk around these streets without a hoodie over my head.’

Leaving the train station, Gary took a right turn down a street and continued walking down the familiar streets until he was back in the neighbourhood he had grown up in. Although Gary had stated he was coming back, he actually hadn’t told them when he would arrive as he wanted it to be a nice surprise for the others. Only when he was about to head further in, did a sudden realisation strike him.

‘Shoot, I completely forgot about getting Amy that apartment in Cipen. I went in the completely wrong direction.’ Slapping his head, Gary turned around, wondering whether to walk or call in Tyler to give him a lift.

During his absence the other core member had other things to do, so the general plan was to meet up at the Wolf’s Pool Club in the evening to get him up to date before the big meeting tomorrow. Until then, Gary planned to spend time with Amy.

He still regretted how he had decided to move her out and in with White without asking for her opinion, even though one might argue that the new apartment was an upgrade in every sense of the word. Still, he knew that he had messed up, and as her big brother he wanted to spend some quality time with her, especially since he wasn’t sure when he would have to return again.

Turning around, Gary walked past a bakery. The smell of freshly baked goods wafted into his air. He wasn't really into sweets these days, but the smell reminded him of a few pleasant memories from his childhood. Coming back with one of those blueberry muffins should certainly earn him some brownie points with his sister.

Although, this wasn't the same bakery that was there back then. In the past that bakery had long closed down due to pressure from the Underdogs, so it was nice to see that there was another one in its place.

From outside, Gary saw three young adult men wearing black and gold clothing through the glass window.

'That's the...that's definitely the Howlers uniform, but I don't recognise those guys. They don't look like any of Austin's friends, and I also can't remember seeing them among the Pincers? Must be new members, I guess.'

It was nice to see the Howlers gang had expanded in his absence. He hadn't really paid attention to it, but now that he thought about it, he was sure to have passed quite a few people who had been wearing their colours. They were all over the place, just like the Underdogs were in the past.

"How come you are asking for a larger cut AGAIN? You just raised it the week before!" A female voice was heard. "I have been speaking to my friends, and their percentage has stayed the same throughout. Why does only our district's rate keep increasing?"

Gary's enhanced hearing was able to pick up her voice even from the outside. He had wanted to go inside, but now he was curious to see what was happening. In the past he might have ignored such a thing, but now this was his gang operating. If something was affecting his old neighbourhood, he needed to know it.

One of the men started to tut and wave his finger toward the woman in a baker's outfit. She was in her mid 20s, donning a large chef's hat and in a white outfit. It was strange because the appearance was quite similar to the baker that Gary used to go to, which would have been impossible due to the amount of time that has passed.

“What are you complaining about? If it weren’t for us giving you the cash, would you have been able to renovate this place? You’re talking as if we haven’t done anything, but who is keeping the streets safe, huh?”

“Thanks to us there are no longer any gang fights, nor any colour gangs loitering around in the streets. You could say, we’re keeping public order, and your business is also profiting from this, right? So don’t you think it’s only fair that we deserve a bonus once in a while?”

One of the three men grabbed one of the loaves of bread that was wrapped up in plastic and placed it in a basket to the side and opened it up, taking a big bite out of it. Clenching her fist, the baker was holding back her anger, from slapping the man.

“I understand you guys helped us by getting rid of the Underdogs but if you keep hiking up the prices, how are you any different from them?! If things are going to just be the same, then I won’t pay, go ahead and do your worst.”

The woman then folded her arms, standing behind the counter. She was going to take a stand. In the past she witnessed how the others, the members of the public, didn't take a stand against these gangs, and they were able to do what they wanted. Under the Underdogs she had been forced to use up her reserves. Thanks to the change in leadership, she had been able to save up a bit again, but she was unwilling to give that up again.

There was also a deeper reason, one that no matter what, she needed to make this bakery a success.

Since it was new, there was still a lack of loyal customers and a lot of start up costs. Every penny she had, went into this bakery, so the truth was she wasn’t able to pay either way.

The man in the Howler’s uniform was beyond annoyed, and in doing so, he reached out and slammed his hand on top of the chef’s hat flattening it, then through the hat, he grabbed onto the blonde hair girl's head, and pulled her forward.

“You think you're a smart bitch!” The man shouted, right in her face, that parts of his spit went onto hers. “Do you even know who the F\*ck we are?”



“Of course.” The woman replied, with a pained look on her face. “Typical that you result in violence, I guess this makes you big huh, because you have nothing down there either.”

The man out of anger went to pull her forward even more, but before he could he felt a hand on the back of his head.

“What the f\*ck are you doing, in my town!”

The two looked at the green haired teenager who had just entered the shop and was holding their friend by the back of his hair.

The man tried to turn around.

“How dare you touch a member of the How-”

Pushing the man's head, Gary slammed it right down into the counter. The man's nose could be felt breaking, as the rest of his skull was pushed into the wood, breaking it slightly. When Gary let go, the man's face slid off the counter, and onto the floor.

“What did you do! Do you know what you just did?” The other shocked members said, standing to the side. “Do you know who we are?”

“Yeah, and I will make sure you guys are never allowed to say that name again.” Gary stated as he grinded his teeth back and forth.

Chapter 479 The Leader Returns (Part 1)

Naomi was standing behind the counter with her hand covering her mouth. She was in disbelief at what had happened right in front of her. She hadn't been running the bakery for a long time, but to be honest, these people that would ask for protection money every once in a while were getting to her.

The woman was aware that having to pay protection money was simply a necessary evil if one wanted to work in any town, but the frequency with which those gang members were harassing her about it, was simply getting out of hand. At times she had wanted to slap these members herself, but Naomi

knew that it wouldn't end with that. The Howlers weren't just any gang in Slough, but the biggest one, so doing any such thing would only make it worse in the end.

The woman had merely resisted today because she was out of options, never expecting for someone to intervene on her behalf, much less to witness one of the gang members slump over on her floor with blood dripping out from his mouth.

"You fu\*ker!" Another gang member shouted at the teenage boy whose back was facing towards her.

'The boss told us something like this would happen since it's a new area, and since the gang haven't quite made their name around everywhere, there would be those that would test us. Regardless he was only able to take Joe down because he caught him by surprise!' The man thought to himself.

"Don't mess with the Howlers!" The man shouted, as his fist flew towards the teenage boy's head... only to hit nothing but air. Gary had calmly moved his head to the side, and now grabbed onto the attacker's forearm. It was a deadly grip that caused the gang member to scream out in pain. He felt that his bones were on the verge of breaking.

"I just told you that you should keep that name out of your filthy mouth!" Gary threw a punch clean in the man's face and let go of his forearm at the same time sending him flying back. A loud crash was heard as he bumped into the door of the shop causing the glass to crack but not to break.

"Dillan! Are you okay? Wake up, man, wake up!" The last member in the bakery shop came to the other's aid, but Dillan had been knocked out completely. Realising this, the man stood up, his legs shaking slightly.

"You! You will pay for this!" The man threatened as he pulled out his phone and ran back out through the entrance of the shop.

"That damned coward he left his friends here lying on the ground as well." Gary mumbled to himself, either way it didn't look like they would be getting up any time soon.

"Do you— Do you realise what you've just done?" A female voice asked him from behind.

Taking a glance around the room, Gary saw that some of the shelves that were holding bread had been knocked off, the counter top was now slightly broken and had a chip mark in it, as well as the broken glass on the front entrance. The place was now in a mess that was for sure.

"I'm sorry about all of this." Gary said scratching the back of his head. "I promise you won't have to worry, I'll make sure that everything will be fixed up for you in no time."

Folding her arms, Naomi let out a big sigh. She knew that it wouldn't be right to be angry at him. After all, he had gotten involved to help her, seemingly unaware of the consequences his own actions had.

'Who is this kid? How can someone say those words so easily? He doesn't look like he has any idea how much these repairs will cost. Not like a teenager in Slough even has that type of money in the first place.'

"I wasn't talking about the shop." The shop owner clarified. "You can forget about that. What I'm concerned about is you. Look you might be some strong student who likes fighting but you just messed with one of the Howlers gang members. You need to get out of here and hide. Those guys aren't the type who are quick to forgive, and I don't want you here when they come back."

Naomi moved from behind the counter, and started to push Gary out of the shop. He was resistant, and pulled an awkward face, as he had certain thoughts in his head.

'This woman is really nice, I can tell she is concerned for me, but how do I convince her she has nothing to worry about. It's not like she will believe me if I tell her that I'm the head of the gang that was harassing her.'

"Will you stop being so stubborn, come on, just get out of the shop quickly before more of them-" Naomi's voice trailed off as she looked at the street in front of them.

Now, there were around ten men in black and gold coloured uniforms who were coming towards them. The group of people didn't exactly look the friendliest, and stood in the centre of them all, was a bald headed man with a wooden sword carried over his shoulder and a scar over his face.

“That's him Park, that's the one that's causing trouble!” The man who belonged to the trio from earlier said as he pointed at Gary.

Park shook his head, as he tapped the wooden sword on his shoulder.

“I can't believe that there is someone dumb enough to try and cause trouble in this area when everyone knows this is Howlers territory. Unfortunately for you, boy, the Great Park has been assigned to this area, and the boss said we need to do everything we can to protect this place.”

Taking the sword off his shoulder, Park pointed it right toward Gary.

“Get him!!!”

Chapter 480 The Leader Returns (Part 2)

Gary couldn't help but shake his head at the sight in front of him. In the past, if he had been surrounded by ten gang members like this, he would have been shaking in his boots. However, after everything he had been through, fighting off against a group of normal thugs seemed like child's play. His System seemed to agree with him, not even bothering to issue a Quest.

‘I don't mind beating them all up, but that wouldn't exactly reflect well on the Howlers. Is there any way for me to get out of this without a fight? If I tell them that I'm their leader, they won't believe me. Should I call Kai or Olivia and get them to vouch for me?’ Gary considered his options.

“Watch out!” Naomi shouted, as two men threw out their fists at the same time to teach the teenager a lesson.

Although Gary was still contemplating what to do, he calmly grabbed onto the incoming fists, and quickly twisted both of their arms, before lifting his leg and kicking one of them in the back. The blow was so strong that it knocked the man off his feet and into his friend sending them both tumbling down to the ground.

‘Kai told me that it's important to hide my identity, for my sake and that of Amy. The leader of the Howlers should be someone feared but remain a mystery and it's kinda too late to put on my mask..’

One of the larger members rugby tackled Gary with full force, yet the man was unable to push him for even an inch. Holding up both his hands, the teenager slammed them down on the man's back, causing the gang member to yell out in pain as he fell down.

'Damn it, I have to keep in mind that these guys are more fragile than the Altered from the academy. These guys won't be able to recover in a short amount of time. If I don't hold back my strength, I might accidentally end up killing or crippling them. That would be bad, especially since they're technically my gang members.'

Naomi continued standing at the door, unable to believe her eyes. It had already been impressive enough to see this stranger come into her shop and defeat two adult men. Part of her had still thought that the green haired teenager had been lucky to only face some inexperienced members, but now it was clear that he was really extraordinary.

The cuts on these gang members' faces and their enlarged knuckles were proof that this batch of Howlers members were more experienced, but somehow the teenager was dealing with them without much of an effort. Seemingly thinking the same, this time three men charged towards Gary, and had come toward him with a kick and a punch while the third one stayed a bit further back.

Moving in at a quick speed, Gary came in close to the man before his kick had finished, right up to his chest and pushed him, causing him to fall off balance. Now he was dealing with the other one, which he kicked at the back of the legs, making him fall on his knees.

'Arghh, this whole situation is super annoying. You guys aren't even worth a single point of EXP.'

While in the middle of his thoughts, Gary was able to hear something cutting through the wind. Lifting his head he quickly made out what it was. He opened his palm, stopping the flying object with it.

[-1 HP]

Gary looked at the small knife that was now stuck inside. The wound hardly did anything to him, and if he took out the knife he knew his body would just heal it up. Regardless, Gary's whole body was shaking with anger.

The kneeling man who had been kicked from behind saw this as an opportunity, and went to grab Gary's leg, intending to restrain him so others could finish him off. However, Gary quickly lifted his leg, and stomped it back down. Gary's foot landed on the man's hand and a few cracks were heard as he crushed it against the concrete ground.

"I was going easy on you guys because it was clear to me that this was mostly a misunderstanding." Gary stated in a gruff tone that sounded slightly like a growl. "That ends now. I won't overlook what you bastards just did. It's one thing for you to attack me, but since when is it okay for the Howlers to drag innocent bystanders into their fights?"

The gang members were unsure what he was talking about, but Naomi figured it out. She was standing in the path of where the knife was thrown. Gary could have easily avoided the knife, yet he had deliberately blocked it, so she wouldn't get hit.

'This... this is definitely not the actions of a kid.' Naomi thought, feeling bad for how she had treated him earlier. 'This man saved me, and he still is thinking of me, even at a time like this.'

Although she had no clue how old Gary was, she was starting to see him in a different light. She had never felt indebted to someone like this before. Pulling the knife out from the palm of his hand, Gary immediately threw it back, piercing into the original thrower's leg, who yelled out in pain.

"I was in a good mood today... I was happy that I was going to see Amy again, but you just had to go and ruin it. I thought it was okay to leave everything to Kai, but it seems I'll need to help him sort out some of the rotten members."

The energy coming off Gary was giving Park the creeps. It was like every cell in his body was telling him to run away, but his brain argued that it was just one teenager when there were nearly a dozen of them. If they caved in, it would be a disgrace to the Howlers' name. Unsure what to do, he pulled out the phone from his pocket.

—

Inside his office, Kai was doing his paperwork as normal when his work phone received a sudden phone call. The caller had been saved as 'Team Leader #17 (Park)'. The blonde teenager let out a sigh as he accepted the call and pressed on the loudspeaker.

“Sir, I know you told me not to contact you unless there is an emergency but there is big trouble at Bader Street!”

“How many?” Kai asked nonchalantly as he continued to sift through papers.

“It’s just one person sir, but if someone doesn't come soon, we’re going to be in big trouble.”

‘Bader Street?’ Kai thought. ‘We’ve invested quite a bit into it since it was Gary’s old apartment. It won’t look good if something happens to it, especially when he should be coming today.’

“Just hold out for a little longer. Help will be on the way,” Kai replied and hung up, before calling another number.