

## Werewolf 481

### Chapter 481 A Special Boy

A large right hook sent yet another gang member flying through the air, leaving only two gang members in fighting condition. Park, as well as the one who had called over Park's group, both of them looked quite nervous because it was far too late to run away.

'Just where did that guy come from, and just what gang is he working for?' Park wondered, aware that he was somehow supposed to buy enough time for reinforcement to come. 'Could he be the leader of some colour gang from another town who has come here to take over our territory?'

Park's appraisal would have been a compliment for most. After all, colour gang leaders were strong fighters, but of course Gary was on a completely different level. The team leader didn't even consider the possibility that the green haired teenager might have been holding back.

It was at that moment that the image of men and women in black and gold masks appeared in Park's head. Their leaders were naturally the strongest fighters of their gang, with one of them even rumoured to be an Altered. As long as that teenager wasn't one himself, he would be finished if one of their leaders had been sent over.

"I have to admit you are skillful." Park chuckled as he looked forward to the scene of Gary being beaten up. He held his wooden sword firmly in his hand. "But I bet you've never had to go up against someone who can use a weapon like this."

Park started to run toward Gary carrying the wooden sword with both hands above his head. The street that they were fighting in had cleared out by itself. The painful screams of the injured gang members had been loud enough to make the people in the area aware that there was a fight going on and nobody wished to get involved.

The only ones that were watching the fight were the shop owners, and a few customers who had refused to leave the shop, be it because of fear or sheer curiosity. All of them looked at the commotion that was happening outside.

Gary waited for the wooden sword to approach his head, before he calmly stopped it with his previously injured hand. "You have courage, but the right thing to do if an opponent is far stronger than you, is to

run away!" The teenager lectured as he tensed his muscles and snapped the wooden sword there and there.

Looking directly into Gary's eyes when this happened, Park fell on his backside, and started to scoot himself back on the ground. At that moment, the two that had originally been knocked out in the shop had come outside as well, holding parts of their body and face.

"What...is all of this, did that guy do all of this?" One of them asked. Seeing the frightened look on Park's face, and the person standing above him, without a doubt this was all due to one person.

"Park, look behind you!" One of those from the shop shouted.

Turning his head, he could see that around five other members in black and gold clothing were running toward them, but not only that, there was one who wore a black and gold mask.

Tears almost left Park's eyes from joy when he saw that his silent prayers had been answered.

'One of the leader's of the Howlers has really come." Turning back toward Gary, there was a confident smile that returned to Park. "You are truly done now. We told you that messing with the Howlers was a bad idea and now you'll understand!"

Park stood up on his feet quickly and started to move to those running toward them, but they soon stopped as the one in the mask lifted his hand, telling the other members to stop before him.

"Lieutenant! Thank you for answering our call." Park said, bowing down. "We are sorry we were unable to get rid of the one causing trouble in the area. He is skillful now that you are here, I'm sure that you will be able to deal with him. Please help us!"

Park lifted his head, and could see the one in the mask, with his fist clenched walking over to him. The sadistic smile on the adult man's face wouldn't go away as he was looking forward to watching the green haired punk being punished for what he had done.

"Haha your life is over!" Park gloamed, but as he turned around, he could see a fist approach his face. Ironically, it wasn't from the green haired teenager, instead it was coming from his very own leader.

The fist landed strongly, swinging Park's face to the side and once again he fell to the floor.

"Lewader!" Park exclaimed, with his mouth hurt and sore. "What did I do?!"

"You idiot!" The masked man shouted at him. "All of you are idiots! And the worst part is that none of you even have the slightest idea about who you just tried to hit right now! All of you, get on your knees and beg him for forgiveness."

Seeing this, the masked man looked at Gary who kept standing where he was, a smile plastered on his face. Due to his smell, he knew exactly who it was behind the mask, and he was happy to watch how he treated the gang members.

'I'm glad they sent you, Innu.' Gary thought.

"Make sure that none of you so much as look at him without express permission in the future! Now you, explain everything that happened to me right now!" Innu continued ordering.

Naomi who had been watching everything from behind the safety of her damaged door was just as confused as the Howlers members. Nevertheless, they knew better than to argue with Innu, so without understanding the reason they crawled their way towards him, with aches and pains.

Those watching from their shops were curious at the sight they were seeing, to the point where they started to pull out their phones and were filming the event. Because never in their life would they see a gang act this way, in front of what looked like a teenager.

"I appreciate the gesture, but I'm late for a meeting with my sister." Gary stated as he patted his friend's shoulder. "Please make sure that this woman's bakery will be up and running as soon as possible. As for this one?" Gary pointed to the one that threw the knife.

“Kick him out of the gang, and do the same with the other three that were in the shop. I’ll be honest I’m not sure if that sword wielding guy really knows what is going on, but I’m sure you can run an investigation into what happened. I will leave these matters to you and we’ll catch up later, okay?”

After saying those words, Innu nodded toward Gary who was running off towards Cipeen.

‘He just ordered one of the leaders of the Howlers like that...and they all listened to him, even about fixing the shop?’ Namoi scratched her head. ‘Who was that guy?’

#### Chapter 482 A Special Boy (Part 2)

There were now many bases of the Howlers gang that were spread around the town. Here the bases would be used to pass on information, work as a base of operations, income, outcomes, and more.

In fact, many of the bases were just places that, in the past, the old gangs used to use, and the Howlers had taken over. It was impossible for Kai to micromanage everything, which was why these bases were being used.

Each area would have a captain of a squad of sorts, and they would pass down the information that was revised from the core leader which was in charge of certain districts and so on.

In this case, Kai, passed the information to Innu, who would then pass on the information to the captain of the squads and in this case the captain of this squad in this particular area was Innu.

However, each squad captain would also have the number of Kai, which was only to be used in emergency cases and Park had deemed the situation enough of an emergency to contact him.

This was the system that Kai had set up, to control the whole of Slough, and the Howlers gang as they got bigger and bigger. Kai knew that there would be adjustments that needed to be done here and there, but this was his concept and idea.

If it worked, then this plan would also work when they grew outside of Slough and started to operate in other cities as well. For now, Kai was imagining each district as a separate city.

There was another reason for doing things this way, and that was to keep the identity of the core members, or the lieutenants of the gang as some of the members referred to them, as a secret.

The core members of the Howlers gang, whenever meeting other members or in the area, would wear the masks on their faces covering their identity. Of course, there would be those that knew the real appearance of these core members.

Olivia being a big example, as nearly everyone recognized her with or without a mask, but it would still make finding out their identity harder. In the end, it was up to the core members as to who they decided to reveal their real face to or not.

Currently, Park and all of the members involved in the bakery incident were in one of the bases. This base in particular was inside one of the sporting shops that was part of their territory.

In the back of the sporting goods shop there was a stock room which had a cleared out area for them to conduct their meeting in. All of the members, including the injured ones, had been made to go down on their knees.

This was all at the order of Innu, who stood at the front with his arms folded.

"I can't believe you guys. I explained to you all about the importance of this area to the gang." Innu said, shaking his head.

"An investigation into what has happened is currently ongoing so we will find out what happened. Now, I don't like to waste my time so I'm going to tell you all now. If we find a reason why what happened today, happened, your punishment will be a harsh one. Or you can tell me now whatever it is you are hiding to make it lighter."

Although Gary had said to get rid of certain members from the gang, Innu felt like these people were his responsibility, and in order for something like this not to happen again, he needed to find out the truth of the matter.

For a second, the three at the back glanced and looked towards each other, and eventually the one in the centre, who was unhurt, lifted his head.

"It all started from us." The man admitted. "We were collecting our payments like we usually did and... we asked for a little more. We thought the gang could use the funds. The owner said that she was struggling. Because of that, she refused to pay and... that's when that kid got involved."

"You asked for more?" Park repeated as he turned his head to look at them. "Didn't you numbskulls listen to anything I said. We don't ever ask for more, and those that are struggling you report back to me!"

Park was furious after learning this, because he knew that the lieutenant several times emphasized this point.

"What is so wrong?" one of the beaten up members asked. "Why are you making a big deal about asking for a bit more money? We were the ones that got hurt. I mean, we are a gang right, we are already extorting people, and we're bringing in money for the gang. What is wrong with that?"

Innu slammed his foot on the concrete ground, which surprisingly made quite the snap, as loud as a clap causing everyone to shut up.

"I'm afraid after learning of this, there is nothing I can do. All three of you are to leave the gang immediately. You are never to use the Howlers' name again, or apply to join the gang in any way or form." Innu was blunt with his words, and since this was an order from Gary in the first place it would have been something he would have had to have done anyway.

Immediately, the three of them stood up.

"Wait, you're really going to listen to that green haired punk, and kick us out of the gang for this! I don't understand, what the F\*ck did we do wrong, other than getting our arse kicked trying to protect the gang's name!"

"Because those are the leaders' rules!" Innu shouted back. "We made it clear when everyone joined the Howlers that we are different from other typical gangs. Our protection fee is more like a service to the shops, so the other gangs don't touch them and they feel safe."

“Yet, your actions undermined that. We are trying to build a place with the people in this community. In truth, if there weren't other gangs and the police actually were able to do their job properly then there would be no need for us to even do this.

“But our leader has stated that we are the necessary evil that has to exist in this world. That's why we do what we do.”

Innu then looked toward one more person, who had his entire foot bandaged up.

“You as well, you are no longer part of the Howlers gang. The leader has stated clearly that there is another rule. The Howlers are to try and not involve the general public.

“Gangs shall fight with other gangs, those who know what they are getting into, but for the general public who don't wish to live the same life as ours, we are not to involve them. Only if you feel like your life is on the line are you allowed to act in a certain way, which is why you, throwing that blade without thinking, means you are no longer allowed to be in the gang.”

The member stood up, clenching a shaking fist, but didn't say much else like the others, at least not immediately.

“That green haired person, he is someone isn't he?” The man asked. “No normal teenager is that skilled at fighting, and is able to just throw a knife at someone like that. On top of that, you followed his orders down to the letter, by getting rid of us.

“You've just done it in a roundabout way so we don't get suspicious.” The man then smiled. “I guess we just messed with someone that we weren't meant to touch.

The man then bowed down. “Thank you for the opportunity that you have given me.”

With that said the man started to walk away, until.

“This is B\*llshit! What type of rules is this gang running! We did nothing wrong, screw you and screw your gang!” the man shouted as he charged forward and ran toward Innu.

Park was ready to get up off the ground and stop him but before he could, Innu charged forward and kneed the man right in the stomach, letting go, the man immediately fell to the ground.

“Please, don’t make me kick all of your arses, because you know I can.” Innu claimed. “The rest of you, get out of here, and remember to follow the rules, I know you were all just following procedure so there’s no need to worry about that.”

The members stood up and started to walk their way out of the room, however, Park had waited until all of them were eventually out and it was just him and Innu.

“I wanted to ask Sir, about that boy, who was he? Should I be aware of his presence as part of the gang and why was he so... skilled?”

Innu smiled at the question.

“I can't really say anything, but I will tell you this. It would be good in the future if you ever did see him to do whatever you can to get on his good side, and to just do whatever he asks.”

#### Chapter 483 Brother And Sister

Eventually, Gary reached Cipen. The district was filled with paved walkways, nice restaurants, and all types of shops selling everything from general appliances, over fancy clothes, to the latest generations of electronic gimmicks. On top of that, there were some of the top hotels and apartments in the area.

Following the directions on his phone, the teenager finally reached what looked like the outside of a hotel lobby.

‘This place looks like a castle compared to our old place. At the start of the year I would have never thought to live in a place like this, much less to own it. Well, I guess it's not completely right to say ‘we’ are living in a place like this since, seeing as I haven't actually been inside yet.’ Gary thought.

A man opened the door for him, and bowed, welcoming him inside.



"Welcome...Sir." The man greeted Gary once he raised his head. There was some slight hesitation in his voice for some reason. Unsure whether he had the right place or not, the teenager continued to walk on the pale marble flooring, until he reached the front reception desk. Once again, those behind the counter exchanged looks, before they spoke to the new arrival.

"Is there anything we can help you with, Sir?" The man in the suit asked with the name tag 'Stin'.

"Um yes, I'm actually looking for apartment 2306. It's supposed to be located in this hotel." Gary stated. Personally, he found it a bit strange that there were apartments in hotel lobbies, but he had been told by Kai that it was actually quite common with large buildings.

"Ah, yes we do have that apartment number here, but are you sure you are at the right place? There are plenty of other places that perhaps have the same room number. If you need any help we could direct you." The man offered with a smile.

Gary looked at his phone, with the texted address from Kai. It said the Biltop Hotel, and judging by the giant sign behind the receptionist, this was without a doubt the Biltop Hotel.

"No, I'm pretty sure that this is the right hotel. Could you tell me how I can get to that apartment room?" Gary asked again, politely.

"Sir, is there any reason for you to go to the apartment room? Could you share your reason for visiting today? We haven't been informed about any visits, and our rules state that we do have to contact the owner in question in these kinds of situations, to make sure that we don't bring someone over by mistake." The man explained.

Gary was starting to find the whole conversation frustrating, but he felt like this level of security for the apartment rooms was quite nice. If it took this much for someone to see his sister then they were at least doing their job.

"I mean you can do that, but... that would be a little weird." Gary scratched his cheek. "I'm actually the owner of that apartment. It's just my first time actually coming here, so I really don't know the way."

The man looked stunned as he heard those words, and looked to his colleague once more. In fact there was even a small chuckle.

"I see now. I hope you have enjoyed your little joke. Now, if you don't mind, we adults have to work. If you wish to exit the building, the exit is that way." The man gestured.

Now Gary was the one raising an eyebrow. 'Why is everyone treating me so weirdly.'

"Did I mess up my words? Can you just tell me how to get to apartment 2306?" Gary asked again, getting slightly annoyed in his voice.

"Sir, if you do not leave, we will have to call security."

"Call them!" Gary shouted back. "Maybe they can freaking show me, where room 2306 is!"

Now causing a scene in the hotel reception, there were many that were looking Gary's way. The security looked like they were ready to move as well, until.

"Gary!" A voice called out.

Turning around, a pale faint skinned woman could be seen walking up, and there was only one person that Gary knew was like this.

"White?" Gary replied. "It's a good thing that you are here, maybe you can help me up to the room."

The man behind the desk looked nervous as White and him crossed eyes at each other.

'Miss White... she seems to actually know the boy.' The man realised in shock. His manager had warned them to treat Miss White and Miss Amy with the utmost respect, fulfilling their every wish. Apparently, one of the two was related to their latest investor who now owned 10% of their entire hotel.

"I'm sorry!" The receptionist immediately apologised. "We had no clue this boy was a guest of yours. We promise if we see him again we will treat him with the same respect as you! I apologise for my negligence, Sir!"

White didn't really say anything, and instead just waved the man off as she dragged Gary towards the side. She pressed on the button and the elevator doors opened up. It was an express elevator that went directly to the 20th floor.

As the two of them got on the elevator and the doors closed, White finally let out a sigh. "Have you figured out why they treated you like that? No? It's because you look like a homeless person who has just gotten off the street." White stated since Gary only gave her a confused look. "Since you were coming over to visit your sister, couldn't you have at least worn something nice for her?"

Gary then looked down at himself. Admittedly, his current outfit was a far cry from fancy, but calling him a homeless person seemed like a stretch. He was wearing his comfy clothes, a shirt and jeans, though they had been scrunched up, a button had been ripped off and there was even a bit of blood on his shirt.

All of this was due to the fight that Gary had gotten in a little while ago.

"At a place as fancy as this, of course they are going to try and stop you if you come in dressed like that. Although they are undoubtedly snobs I think they had a reason to act like that this time." White stated.

All Gary could do was pull an awkward smile, next time he would have to dress up a bit, but if he had fought in an expensive suit, it would cause other problems.

Either way, he could ignore everything that happened, because he was ready to see his sister's smile.

The door to the apartment room was opened, and immediately Gary was greeted with a sight he could only imagine in his dreams. There was a glass window that overlooked the entire town from here.

Top of the end wooden flooring, and a nice sofa set that looked out to a TvV There were a total of four toilets in the apartment room, and a nice kitchen with an island with all the cooking equipment you could need.

However, Gary didn't care about any of that, instead he immediately ran over as he could see a certain someone sitting on the sofa, and gave her a big hug from behind.

"Hey what are you doing holding me so tightly, White?!" Amy complained, startled by this sudden attack, only to realise that the forearms were far too muscular to be a girl.

"I used to look forward to having a room of my own, but honestly I never thought I would miss you so much." Gary said.

Immediately, Amy recognised who it was and stood up. Tears started to flow from her eyes and rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably.

"You...you big green idiot! Why didn't you tell me you were coming!" Amy complained as she jumped at Gary, who held her closely in his arms.

"Family." White mumbled as she watched the reunion with a smile. "It's...a good thing to have."

"When did you get back? What are you doing here? How long will you stay? How was the academy?" Amy had a number of questions for her brother, since the two of them had a lot to talk about together, a lot to catch up about in person.

"Don't worry, I'll stay here long enough to answer your question, but I want to ask you some of my own, like how are you doing in the new school? Did you manage to make some friends already? There is a lot for us to talk about, but why don't we talk while we head to the hospital. I planned to see Mum here together, and see how she's doing."

When this one question was asked, the smile had surprisingly dropped from Amy's face. Gary didn't quite understand why, he thought it would be good to have the family back together.,

Sure seeing their mother was always upsetting but it had been a while now since she had been hospitalised, and at least her condition has not worsened. They had visited her together a few times before Gary had left.

“Sorry, I didn't mean to act all weird,” Amy said. “I think catching up and heading to her is a great idea. It's just... I think there is something else I need to show you, before we head to see Mum.”

Amy quickly rushed off into her room, and a few moments later brought with her a letter.

“Shortly after I moved here, it showed up on the doorstep. I haven't looked inside yet, but the sender is... Dad.”

#### Chapter 484 Letter From A Father

The smell of chemicals, disinfectant, cleaning supplies and more was entering Gary's nose, and on top of that, there was one that his Werewolf self had come to know quite well, blood.

Despite this being a nicer hospital compared to the others, they all had the same smell in the end, and ever since that day, the day when he and Amy were standing outside waiting for the result of what had happened to his mother, Gary hated coming to the hospital no matter what reason it was for.

“She looks so peaceful since you moved her here,” Amy said as she rubbed her mother's hand on the bed.

Surprisingly, or not at this rate, Gary had his mother in a private room. In one of the best hospitals in Slough. Despite all of that, seeing his mother lying there, hooked up to a bunch of needles, bags and machinery all around her, none of it made him feel good, and he knew Amy's words were just to make him feel better.

Sitting down in a chair by the bed, Gary reached out to hold her hand along with Amy. He looked at her, just breathing in and out.

“Looks like you're still sleeping, mum, I guess you're tired after looking after us two for so long, but you deserve all the rest you need. You always looked after us.” Gary said, his voice choking up. He had to look down on the ground for a few seconds, and could feel Amy rubbing his back.

“I'm sorry mum, after all this time, I still haven't found the one who did this to you. But I haven't stopped looking, it's just on pause for now, but I promise I will make them pay, but let's talk about some good things.

“The family is doing well, Amy is able to focus on her grades, and she’s enjoying the new apartment I got her. I wish you could see it, I think you would love it as well. It has this big kitchen that I asked for. Honestly when I was thinking about it, I was thinking of you and how you loved to cook for us. I really...I really miss your meals. I really do.” Gary started to sob, his shoulders moving up and down as he couldn't take it any more.

Leader of the largest gang in Slough, part of the AFA, and an Altered on top of all that, well kind of an Altered. There were many that would dream to be in the position Gary was in right now, do anything to get what he had, but for him, he just wanted his mother back, for her to wake up at this point and time.

After a few minutes Gary had recovered and was just enjoying the time with his sister by his mother. They were sharing funny stories as if their mother was able to hear them, speaking out loud and laughing away, until a serious point came up.

There were no more smiles from Gary as he pulled out the letter that Amy had given him, it was still sealed, and the contents of the letter were unknown.

“I know he abandoned our family, he never came to visit while we were struggling, but you told us never to resent him despite all of this. You told us to trust him if he ever did come back.

“I still, honestly really can't and both me and Amy feel the same way. Which is why I thought it would be best if we open this letter here together as a family.”

Gary's heart was beating quite a bit. He didn't even know what his father looked like and couldn't remember his voice or even his smell. Which was why Gary found it hard to say he had a connection with such a person.

Yet, for some reason, he was nervous about the contents of the letter. The only reason why Amy knew it was from their father was due to what was on the letter. Stating to My family.

On top of that, from some old letters that their father used to write to them, there was a time when their mother had shown them that as well, and the handwriting had matched up well together.

"To the entirety of my family, It's been a long time since I last wrote to you all, and for that, I would like to apologise.

"I wonder how you are all doing, I wonder how much Amy and Gary have grown up. I hope that they aren't having any problems, and I wish that the life you and them are currently living is a far more peaceful one than mine.

"There is a reason why I haven't written to you regularly, and I wish to explain that in person not on words on a piece of paper where they can mean nothing. I always believed that actions speak truer than words, and in your eyes I know that my actions have been little.

"As for writing to you know, the burden of not seeing you all has gotten a little bit too much these days. Which is why, I plan to end my journey as quickly as I can, so I can see you all soon."

Gary read the letter out loud and it ended there, not really saying much of anything, apart from the last part.

"Does this mean, dad will be coming back to Slough?" Amy asked.

Gary scrunched up the piece of paper there and then.

"I don't know, but he wasn't here when mum was struggling, and he probably doesn't even know about mum being in the hospital. He hasn't been in our lives so far, so I wouldn't count on him being in our lives anytime soon."

Amy didn't know what to say about that, but as Gary left the room, he threw the letter in the trash can. She couldn't help herself and picked it back out. Her feelings weren't as strong as Gary's towards her father because in the end, her mother was the one that chose him, and there had to be a reason for that.

After visiting the hospital, Gary took Amy back to the apartment and was ready to say his goodbyes to her and White as he went to the Wolf's pool club, but before he left, White had called Gary just outside the apartment in the hallway.

“Gary, it was a good thing to do, surprising your little sister like that. She was really happy that you were coming.” White said. “But next time, why don't you tell her you're coming? Sure, she is happy today, but if she knew you were coming, then she could have been happy the whole week knowing that you were coming. She really misses you.”

Gary waved her off and was thankful that he had met White, someone who could be by the side of Amy while he wasn't there, because if she weren't, then perhaps it would have been too painful to leave Amy on her own.

Spending the whole day out together, the night sky was out, and the Wolf's pool club, including several bars and establishments next to it. It was livelier than before. Gary remembered the days when the pool Club was on the border between two territories, constantly being involved in fights. No one wanted to establish a business here.

Yet, there had been a significant change to the place, this was the effect of the Howlers gang, and it was nice to see the Howlers having a positive change after witnessing what had occurred at the bakery.

Walking into the club, it was busy with customers inside, and Miss Degrace could be seen busy working away as she did. There was no need for her to work at the bar anymore, but it seemed like she was happy with her place and the work she did.

None of the others that Gary was looking for were inside, at least not on the public floor.

“They are downstairs and they have been waiting for you for a while.” Miss Degrace said.

Making his way down to the basement, where Kai's office would be, Miss Degrace gave a few passing words.

“Welcome back, we have missed you, leader.” She whispered the last word but Gary could still hear it.

The one thing he still couldn't get used to being called was leader, and his face would light up bright red every time he heard those words.



Reaching the bottom of the stairs, he could see that everyone was sitting there, split on two sofas, while Kai was sitting in his office chair, waiting.

“Gary! It looks like you finally made it!” Kai shouted.

Everyone said Gary's name, and gave him a big welcome. They stood up on their feet, giving Gary a punch here or there, or even a hug, especially Marie who had given Gary quite a tight squeeze. She wasn't sure if she was imagining things or not, but it felt like Gary had gotten slightly bigger than before.

“Okay, calm down, everyone, because I need to talk to Gary about something. Have you seen this?” Kai asked as he lifted up his phone, and there was a video, a video of Gary.

#### Chapter 485 Business Tycon

Everyone in the room had already watched the video that Kai was currently playing. Since they lived in Slough, they were updated with the latest, and on top of that, Kai always hammered into them that it was important to stay on top of current news.

They couldn't always rely on their informants and so on for the latest news, and this video in particular that Kai was now showing had been seen by everyone.

“What... someone was filming all of that!” Gary said as he grabbed the phone out of Kai's hand.

It showed him, a green haired teeneager from behind, quickly dealing with a few of the Howlers members, and after that even giving direct orders to Innu who was behind the mask.

“This is partly my fault.” Innu admitted as he sulked and sat back down on the sofa. “I should have checked to see if anyone had filmed anything, but I was just so focused on punishing those guys, and so surprised to see you return.”

The video in question had been filmed by one of the shop owners, and it showed Gary not just taking out the Howlers members but giving orders as well. Based on the comments, many of them knew that the black and gold clothing was the Howlers gang, which led to many questions underneath the video.

"I'm worried for that kid, the Howlers gang now might send some big one's after him, I mean they took over Slough, how could someone like that stand up to them."

"Didn't you watch the video properly, he was ordering them around, and his fighting skills as well. He's probably the son of the leader or something and the other members just didn't know who they were messing with."

"Who is the Green haired boy, does anyone recognise him?"

"That Green haired boy, I think it's Gary. He used to go to my school, he's just a normal person."

"No way, you must be mistaking him for some other green haired person."

The comments went on and on and Gary was surprised at how much information was being dug up.

"Is it really that bad? And, what should we do about it?" Gary asked.

"Thankfully the video hasn't gone viral. It's only spread around Slough since the Howlers is really only the talk of Slough, but your face is familiar within the AFA now as well. So if it did get widespread, maybe they would find out you were a student of the AFA.

"We were planning to publicly sponsor and support you but that wasn't till you entered the AFC. Right now, while the Howlers are still new and in its expanding stage, I don't want to gather too much attention just yet."

Kai put his finger on his chin, a habit when he was thinking quite hard, and eventually sat down.

"I do have an idea, something that I have been thinking about for a while now, that will help us and yourself. The number one thing we need to do, is make sure that other gangs don't know Gary Dem, is the leader Gary Dem of the Howlers.

“Now, we have already incorporated the masks between the higher ups of the Howlers gang, so most don't know your face, but once Gary Dem of the AFA gets well known, and your ability is out there for the world to see, some people might be able to put two and two together.

“Which is why, my plan is to make you” Kai pointed. “the Gary Dem right here, another person of greatness!”

Gary raised an eyebrow, and so did many others in the room, because they really didn't know where he was going with this one.

“People know that the Howlers are a gang in Slough, and there are some businesses and places that are scared of us. It makes them unwilling to take our investment money or to work with us at times.

“Although sometimes companies can see the benefit of working with a gang but that is mainly the larger corporations and this is where you would come in. I would like, Gary Dem, to make his own company of sorts.

“The Dem Foundation invests in small businesses helping them thrive. A business genius who turns around companies and makes a fortune. Of course most of the funds would be moving between the Howlers corporation and yours, but the public won't know this.

“All they need to see is the public image that we project of you. In the end, people will think the Howlers listened to you, as you are a wealthy person. At the same time, your mother won't be so suspicious about where the money has come from either. You will have an answer for her.

“We can also attack business from both sides, a business has an investment opportunity from the family man Gary Dem or the Howlers, they think they will have a choice but in reality, they are both coming from the same person. This is perfect!”

Kai was rambling on, and there was such a large smile on his face that Gary was finding it hard to interrupt.

'When do I tell him I have no clue what he's talking about? Kai is a lot smarter than me, maybe I should just trust him with all of this, and in the first place, I really do need a way to tell mum how I made all the money.'

'At first, the Wolf's Pool Club would have been a good answer for paying all the bills, but the apartment and a luxury car among other things.' Gary thought.

Kai was still smirking to himself mumbling under his breath and writing on a piece of paper as if he was piecing out his plan.

"By day, you can be Gary Dem, the young Business Tycoon, and by night, the Howlers' gang leader, the bloodsucking Werewolf!"

"What do you want us to do then?" Innu asked, raising his hand. "There have already been a few people asking who Gary is."

"That's perfect." Kai replied. "We can start spreading the rumour within the Howlers first, if the people hear it from the Howlers gang, they will surely think that it's more credible."

Writing on a piece of paper, Kai then handed it out to the others. They were replies they should say when other members asked, which he was sure they would do. Everything was moving a bit too fast for Gary, especially since he had just got here, but as usual he would just need to ride the wave.

"Is there anything that you need me to do?" Gary asked.

"For now, you focus on the AFA, and other things, we will sort out spreading your name." Kai replied. "Besides, we have bigger things to worry about at the moment. Why don't we all catch up a bit on what has happened."

The entire group started to talk about the events that had occurred. Everything the members of the Howlers went through while Gary was away. He was amazed about what happened to Blake, and wondered if he should pay him a visit.

However, what he was even more surprised about was Austin who had become an Altered. Gary, after learning of this, immediately asked Asutin to transform for him, to which he did.

Austin had also asked Gary if the two of them would want a little sparring match. Gary couldn't lie he was definitely interested, especially after fighting against all the Altered at the AFA.

More than likely though, after the strength Gary had gained at the AFA, maybe he was another step ahead of them all here as well.

After that, it was Gary's turn to tell them all that happened in the AFA. It looked like there was no easy ride for him in the entire thing either. He explained why he was unable to contact them and all of the events with others that had occurred.

The only thing that Gary had decided to leave out, was all the information about the special lessons. It stated he should keep it a secret and although he trusted everyone here to never tell a soul at the same time, he didn't want them to get in trouble.

NIRV was a much larger corporation with its hands in the pockets with the biggest gangs, a gang like the Howlers, although growing, should never attempt to upset them, so it was better for him to just keep his lips sealed about that one.

"I'm happy to know that you have not just been doing well but have been doing really well. This will increase our publicity even more when you have your debut match." Kai smirked. "But before all that, I guess we should start.

"Tomorrow will be a big day for you and the Howlers, it could be the starting point of progressing the Howlers, from a tier three town, into something more, so let me ask... are you ready?"

Gary didn't nod straight away. He was usually up for fighting, trying his best at physical things, but something where he had to use his mouth and words, that was more up to Kai, but he knew this was a big point for them.

"I have to be. No... I am ready." Gary answered.

Chapter 486 Fame Of The Howlers

Scratching his head so hard, Gary feared that he might go bald in a certain spot, but he knew due to the system message that as long as he had energy the system would revert him back to his original form.

That was one of the reasons why he was unable to change his green hair that he had dyed. Which made him think, if he had kids, would their hair colour be strange as well, or maybe his normal genes would pass on, and his kids would wonder if he was really their dad due to the strange hair colour he had and they didn't.

"Gary, will you pay attention and stop daydreaming this is important!" Kai shouted as he tapped a large white board several times.

After meeting up with the others in the Wolf's Pool Club, Gary and Kai had left as they needed to make special preparations for tomorrow. What Gary didn't realise was it was almost a trip back to school for him.

There was a desk, a notepad, and a pencil. Sitting at the desk, and directly opposite to him was Kai, up against a whiteboard. They were in a room of one of the businesses they owned and Kai had specifically booked a slot for the two of them.

"I'm sorry, but we have already been at this for three hours, I think my brain is going to explode!" Gary replied, as he continued to scratch a certain spot, and eventually just placed his forehead on the table.

"Do I have to explain the importance of this meeting to you again?" Kai sighed, as he tapped the white board, where there was a single name of a company written in the middle and circled, 'Cardenez Electronics.'

"This is one of the biggest up and coming electronic companies. They are so large that they have more influence in their tier three city, than the gangs that are there, since they also supply electronic parts to the tier 2 cities as well.

"Because of their massive growth, they are now looking to expand, and our town is one of the places that they are looking at. Think about it, this is a company that has bargaining power with tier 2 cities, so much so that they have even been talking with opening up factories and new headquarters in the said tier 2 cities, and they will probably continue to grow there as well.

“Which is why, if we get them to set up a base in Slough, prove to them what we can do, maybe they will move their whole operation to Slough. Gangs might target us because of this, but if we can protect them, and continue to show that Slough was the right choice, we can grow together and make this city better.”

Gary knew a little bit about the effect of businesses and how they worked to grow certain places, he had seen the effect of the Underdogs and other gangs' income when spread to the city, but that money had hit a limit to what it could do for Slough.

Lifting up his head off the table, Gary looked at the whiteboard again.

“I understand all of that, what I’m struggling with is all these other terms that you are throwing at me. Dilution, Gross, and Net profit. Yearly turnover, buy back schemes and more! It's too much to learn the day before, and I never was good at school in the first place.”

Kai put the pen down and held his head down slightly.

“I know this is a lot, Gary. Honestly I don’t know why he insisted on seeing you. Otherwise I would have taken over all of this for you, but these are just the basics, and if he talked to you directly, I wanted you to understand a bit of what was going on, I know it's a lot of pressure and not what you're used to.”

As usual, Kai was just looking out for Gary, and his passion was coming across in the lesson.

“Come on, let’s go over these terms again and see if I can get any of them right.”

“Alright!” Kai pumped his fist. “This will be good practice for you in the future anyway, for when you become a business tycoon.”

Gary shook his head, just wondering what the future of everything withheld.

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The next day had arrived, and for some reason Gary had chosen to sleep at the old apartment. He hadn't gone to sleep in the apartment with his sister. The truth was, he had told her that he was heading straight back to the AFA even though that was a lie.

This was because he knew he had other business to do, business to do with the Howlers and he didn't want her to think that he had something else that was more important than her. If he could, Gary would have happily spent a whole week with Amy, before heading back to the AFA, but a break that long would make him fall behind, and he didn't want to miss out on any special lessons.

So a few days back in Slough was the most Gary was willing to give up for now. His eyes felt a bit heavy, as he hadn't had much sleep. The terms were constantly being repeated in his head every time he tried to get some shut eye.

When looking at the clock, Gary would say, if he went to sleep now he would have 8 hours of sleep, then an hour later he would say 7 hours of sleep, that was enough right, and before he knew it there was hardly any time left.

Getting out of his bed, Gary headed to the closest place that was pretty much empty, the whole apartment was, since it was moved.

'This place, I couldn't sell it, not without informing mum what to do with it, and if any more letters get sent here as well.'

Opening the closet there was a special outfit that Kai said he had prepared. What Gary was expecting was his gang uniform, but instead there was a suit.

"Man..."

Putting on all of the pieces, and looking at himself in the mirror Gary felt like he was almost unrecognisable. He truly looked like a full fledged adult and the suit fitted him to the skin perfectly in all of the right areas.

It even made him look slightly taller due to how the legs were.



'Is this a tailored suit, when did Kai even get my measurements. I guess I won't be fighting in this thing anytime soon. I imagine the suit cost a pretty penny and I wouldn't want to ruin something so nice in the first place.'

Two beeps were sounded from a car outside. It was the signal that Tyler was there. Gary's heart was thumping. At the end of it, seeing how serious Kai was about this whole thing, just showed the importance of this which only made Gary even more nervous.

'This is... worse than when I'm fighting!' Gary thought.

In the end he left his apartment, and Gary walked over to the limo that was waiting for them. Tyler was standing outside by the door, but he wasn't the only one. All of the others were present.

Innu, Marie, Austin, Kai, of course, and even Olivia was with them this time.

"Your looking sharp boss!" Tyler was the first to say.

"Yeah man, how come your suit fits your perfectly, mine is a bit baggy in areas." Innu started showing how his sleeves were a bit too long.

"It suits him right, this look." Kai smiled, and glanced over at a certain someone.

"Yeah, it looks good on him." Marie replied with her face slightly red and eyes off to the side, but they kept taking another look at Gary.

"You know, all of us in suits and going to a big meeting together like this, it finally feels like we are in a gang." Austin said.

This was a true feeling for them all, and that included Gary. Before everything felt like they were just going with the flow, while this was a step in the right direction.

"You only feel like that now!" Olivia slapped her forehead. "How did we get taken out by these guys?"

Getting in the car, Kai went over with everyone what was to happen and go down. Only Gary and Kai would be sitting on the sofa opposite the CEO, the rest were to stand by the side as guards.

It was allowed since they would have the same. Most likely another gang would be used for protection. What Gang though, Kai didn't have that information.

The meeting was to take place in one of the top hotels in Cipeen, where the lobby was already booked out. Finally the car had reached its destination. The limo had caught the eyes of the guests that were coming in and out of the hotel.

When the door opened though, they were surprised to see a group appear, all wearing different masks on their faces that were black and gold.

"Who are they?" Many of the guests wondered, they had this presence around them, and it was clear that they were somebody or something.

"Wait, those masks, I know them. They are what the leader's of the Howlers wear. That must mean something big is going on here."

As all of them walked through the hotel entrance, many people brought out their phones and started to take photos and videos.

"Get used to this guys, because we might be experiencing it a lot more often in the future." Kai said.

#### Chapter 487 The Big Boss

Entering the hotel, some bolder people followed behind in an attempt to make more photos. However, the hotel staff's security quickly intervened and asked those people to move out. A young bell boy quickly approached the group and asked if he needed to take care of any luggage. Following behind him was a middle-aged man in a white shirt with a name tag that made him out to be the manager..

"Thank you for choosing to have your event at our establishment, um...." The manager looked at all of those in the masks, trying to discern who exactly he should be addressing. Realising the issue, Kai pressed his hands on Gary's shoulders and lightly pushed him forward.

“This is our leader.” Kai clarified.

“Thank you so much for choosing us, sir.” The manager repeated as he bowed down respectfully. “If there is anything that we can do to make your visit here more enjoyable, please let me know. I will make sure that any and all of your requests will be fulfilled in a moment’s notice. Please don’t hesitate to ask.”

This time, the slightly balding man addressed Gary directly, and there was a creepy smile on his face every single time he finished his sentence.

‘This difference in treatment is truly crazy. Is this truly just because of my change of clothes? Or this because of the level of respect the Howlers have earned here’ Gary wondered, but just nodded towards the man. There wasn’t really anything he could think of, especially since this was his first time coming here.

“Actually, now that you mention it, we would have much preferred if there had been a separate area for us to walk through to avoid this kind attention. I assume it won’t pose a problem to make the necessary arrangement for our exit and for any future meetings.” Kai requested.

The manager looked nervous. For hotels, aside from offering rooms for guest to stay in, a good portion of their revenue came from hosting big events for companies, and for an area like Slough this was a first. Even the hotel knew how much a big deal this would be based on the guest list that would be arriving.

The group was directed downstairs into a area was much larger than they had expected. It was much bigger than the reception area, and there were several rooms that had primarily be designed for business meetings and more. Eventually they reached the room that they would be meeting in question.

“As instructed, me and my staff will keep out of the room and remain at the exit, in case... ‘anything’ were to happen that would result in a need to alert the authorities.” The manager bowed his head one more time and remained at his place.

“Gary.” Kai whispered as he put his hand around his friend’s shoulder. “As our leader, it would make the best impression if you are the first to enter. Just take a deep breath and remain confident. This is a formal meeting between us and a company, so there should be nothing to worry about. In the future, if

we meet another gang, though, it might be best if you let one of us enter, just in case someone would dare to try and assassinate you.”

Gary gulped down hard after hearing this. Kai's words were just making him more nervous than before. Even if there was an assassination attempt on him, the Werewolf would prefer to walk in first anyway, that way he could stop any of the others getting hurt.

If his friends were to die because someone targeted his life, he wouldn't be able to live with it. After taking a few deep breaths, Gary went ahead and pushed the double doors open. The room was large and grand with high ceilings and even a chandelier at the top. Then in the centre of the room there was a low table with coffee already having been prepared and several seats. Sitting at one end of the table was the person that had requested to meet with the true leader of the Howlers.

“Please take a seat.” Mr Cardenez spoke after he took a good look at the gang members.

‘So that’s him, the owner of the up and coming electronics company. According to Kai, their company is so big that even the gangs in the cities are willing to work with them. I have to admit, there is a certain air around him that’s different compared to others.’ Gary thought as he went over to take the seat opposite from the man.

Mr Cardenez was wearing a grey suit, which went well with his black hair. However, given his age, it was clear that it had to be dyed, yet it was not obvious at the first glance. He was very different from what Gary had pictured when he had been told that he would meet an old man. The aura alone made Gary hesitate in the way he should address him.

Kai was the only one who sat down next to their leader, while the others had already been instructed by him that it would be best if they remained standing. They went and leaned against one side of their side of the room, mimicking the group of people behind Mr Cardenez.

The clothing of his bodyguards was quite a strange choice, making them resemble a troupe of clowns, being overly bright and large. Without a doubt those weren't people from a corporation but had to be from a gang, though none of the Howlers knew which one it was.

‘He seems to be quite confident in his protection, seeing as none of his men are sitting next to him. Me or Gary could just leap from here and take him out in one hit. Unfortunately there is no point in doing

that. Companies work different than gangs, his second in command would just take over, and we would have made an unnecessary enemy.’ Kai mused, before deciding to officially greet their potential partner.

“I’m happy to see you again, Mr Cardenez. You might have already heard that the problems you’ve mentioned during our last meeting have already been successfully taken care of. As such, the Howlers have the final say as to what happens in Slough.

“Now, if there aren’t anymore reservations from your side, the Howlers would be more than happy to work together with the Cardenez group. We have even prepared some plans, which should make things easy for you. Of course these are all just suggestions, so everything is subject to change.”

Kai handed over a big file of papers. Mr Cardenez picked them up and flicked through them but didn’t look at any individual file for a long time, before putting the file down. The blonde teenager had to admit that this meeting was nervewrecking even for him. Despite literally being the one behind a mask, he was unable to read the person in front of him.

Were they happy? Angry? What was it that they wanted?

Placing both of his hands together in front of his face, the old man leaned forward.

“I have to say that I am quite disappointed.” Mr Cardenez eventually spoke up. “When I first met you, fox mask, I was quite curious about your group. I’ve done my due diligence and had studied up on the Howlers and Slough. On top of that, you yourself acted quite impressive to the point that I was intrigued about what kind of leader someone as capable as you would follow. And yet... what about great leader? How is this meeting any different from our last one?”

Gary’s ears perked up as soon as he heard this.

“You talk about wanting to strike a deal, to work as equal partners, yet all of you sit in front of me, all wearing masks to hide your identity, including this leader of yours. Speaking of, I have yet to hear him mention a single word.

“It appears that I have wasted my time coming here again. One piece of advice, next time you plan on meeting someone, learn some manners beforehand.”

Kai had been prepared that this meeting could end badly, but he had been prepared to offer solutions for most concerns the other party might have. He had considered showing up without a mask, perhaps using his Werewolf powers to change his face. Unfortunately, there would be many problems if Gary revealed his true face, and not just because he still had the look of a teenager.

Even with makeup it would be very hard to age him beyond a university student. These older folks, they liked experienced people in the field, and one look at Gary would most likely have been enough to steer him away. In that case, they would have given away valuable information about their identity without gaining anything in return.

"It's truly a shame, I had hoped that the Howlers gang were something impressive, but it appears that you are nothing but a bunch of wild dogs with no idea of where to go or what to do next, no different from all the others who wish to piggyback on our company."

There were a few words that Gary extremely disliked and one of them, was being called dogs, with a tensed fist, he stood up from his seat.

"Well, Mr leader, if violence is your first reaction after seeing that you won't get your way, then there is truly nothing that makes me regret my decision. Our group won't be working with the Howlers. I'll just focus on the Tier-2 city instead."

After saying those words, the old man stood up, and started to walk out of the room. Gary just stood there in place not saying a word. All of the hard work that Kai had put into teaching him terms and more, it was all for nothing.

And, Gary couldn't help but feel that it was all because he had appeared.

'Maybe they should have used a stand in, or Olivia should have pretended to be the leader instead?' Gary thought until he felt a hand once more on his shoulder.

"Gary, you did nothing wrong. This was a learning experience for all of us, and I know what you're thinking. You're our leader, we all chose to follow you for a reason so if he can't see that well that's his lost cause." Kai said in a low tone, so that his friend was the only one who would be able to hear him.

The old man was just about to leave, his group of bodyguards following behind, yet Kai had a few choice words for him.

“Mr Cardenez, we thank you for your words of advice, and as such we would like to offer you something in return. If at any point and time you find yourself confronted with a problem that neither your money nor power is able to solve, please remember us. Even if you can’t see it now, but we Howlers are more than meets the eye, and all we need to convince you, will be that one chance.”

#### Chapter 488 Notburg

On the car ride back, everyone was quiet. No one asked about what had occurred in the meeting, and it was all because of the energy that was being given off by Gary. One could tell as Gary still had his hands clenched, annoyed at what had occurred, still blaming himself for what happened.

In the end, Gary finally spoke.

“I’m sorry, guys. As Mr Cardenez said, I guess I’m not really fit to be that type of leader. I don’t know many things when it comes to business and such, and I know I make ridiculous requests that might make it harder for the gang to operate.

“But I guess, I can only really be me in the end, and if someone doesn’t like it, I guess that’s just it. So I guess what I’m trying to say is, I’m sorry that you guys have to put up with a leader like this.”

Immediately, everyone started to speak out at once, arguing against what Gary said, about to say he was a great leader but because they all said words at once, Gary couldn’t even follow what any of them were saying, so instead Kai turned around to Tyler.

“Let’s stop on Burnham food street and get something to eat.” Kai suggested.

Everyone was sitting down at a fancy hotpot restaurant on burnham street and due to Olivia being with them it was safe to say they got top service. As for the onlookers there really weren’t any without their masks.

Since they were wearing normal suits and so, many thought it was just a company out on an evening meal, which in some cases it really was.

Everyone was trying to cheer up Gary as they gobbled down on food, and Olivia, Gary and Kai were by far eating the most, but nearly everything they ate and ordered was all meat. After the meal was done though, raising a glass of plum juice, Kai had a few words to say.

“This is only a small hiccup in the many opportunities to come, but it was a good chance for all of us to come together once more. Let's enjoy tonight as we say goodbye and good luck to our friend Gary!” Kai raised his glass.

The rest did the same with Olivia only the one actually drinking some alcohol since the rest weren't of age yet. As for the toast, it was because Gary would be returning back to the AFA tomorrow, just in time for his special lesson again.

Before leaving of course, Gary did make the promise that if he was needed again like so, then he would be happy to return at any time. The others were sad to see him go after arriving so soon, but that was just the way it needed to be for them to move forward.

For some reason though, Kai didn't think it would be the end of their involvement with the Cardenez group.

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After the meeting had taken place, Mr Cardenez wasn't the type of person who would just sit and wait around doing nothing. His business would have never survived if that was the case, which was why he had set up a meeting on the same day with the tier 2 city, known as Notsburg.

A tier two city that prided itself on its history. Because it was one of the few cities that ,although it wasn't strong enough to classify itself as a tier 1, they had cemented its position as a tier 2.

They had been one of the longest standing tier 2 cities, and not once had they been taken over, or had the head gang that was in charge of such a place been changed. Of course, just like other cities, they would listen to the kings if instructed as to not cause any trouble but the fact that none of the kings ever tried to directly own the city, showed their strength.



Mr Cardenez knew this about them, which was why he was sure they were a confident pick. They had also shown an interest in his company as well.

Before heading to the tier 2 city though, Mr Cardnez wished to head home, and that way because there was a certain someone that he was looking forward to picking up.

Rather than heading to his company headquarters, he was heading home instead. His house was a single story building, that was wide and had quite the large pond for fish and more.

As soon as he entered through the large gate, many of the men had their heads held down as he walked towards the gate.

“Welcome back Sir!” The men shouted at once.

Rather than an owner of a large business the way his employees acted were more so that of welcoming back their gang leader, but this was the way that he had run things and would continue to do so.

Walking down the grand entrance, he eventually went to his office, a large room with a back window that looked out to the pond and shelves filled with countless books, but here was the person he had been waiting to see the most, and seeing him had brought the biggest smile on his face.

“Aren’t you going to give your father a hug?” Mr Cardenzes said. “Come on Numba there is no need to be shy.”

Hearing this, Numba tilted his shy face to the side, before he walked over and gave his father a hug. Sitting down in his office chair he picked up a picture, which had him, Numba and his mother in the picture as well.

Of course, in the photo Numba was only a couple years younger than he was, and there were no photos in the room of Numba as a child, all of this, was due to Numba being an adoptive child of the Cardenez family.

“I got your message, and came back as soon as possible, is there something wrong?” Numba asked.

“Nothing is wrong.” Mr Cardnez replied back. “In fact things have been great, especially after learning of all the things that you have done in the AFA. I knew you were a special person which is why we put so much hope into you, but you have been surpassing our expectations.”

Numba knew exactly what he meant, people usually spent a lot longer in the preliminary stages before entering the real academy, but he had gotten through quickly but not just that, as the number one ranking student no less.

This was a joy that anyone would have learning of the news, but Numba knew it wasn't due to his own efforts, and seeing his father act a certain way about it, there was no way he could tell his father the truth, that a lot of it was due to his help from his friend Gary.

“I know it must be hard for you there, especially with our position. I have heard a lot of things about the AFA and how the students use their backgrounds to bully the others around them but you have stuck through it, but soon you won't have to shy away so much. That is the reason why I called you.”

Mr Cardnez let the smile go away from his face as he moved onto what he believed was a more serious matter.

“I wish for you to attend a meeting today with me. As you are the only heir, eventually you will also take care of the family business. I know it will be hard for you to focus on the AFA, the AFC and the business at the same time, but this is to improve our relations in the future.

“You will become a name that will not be messed with.”

This was pretty much the thought that nearly everyone had that sent their kids to the AFA. So Numba was expecting this.

“I see now, I will try my best to learn as much as possible during this meeting,” Numba replied.

“Good, your willingness to learn has also always been great. So I will give you a few details beforehand about the whole meeting. This is a chance for our company to make good connections with a tier 2 city.”

Now, Numba knew what his father meant by not allowing him to be bullied around. If they had connections with a tier 2 city it would put him on par with many of the others.

“The tier 2 city we will be going to is Notsburg.”

Hearing that name, the colour from Numba’s face had immediately dropped. The name was quite familiar for Numba, and that was because he had been doing some research of his own on the tier 2 city.

‘This city, it's the one that Sty....and Apollo, the one that both of them are from.’

#### Chapter 489 A Tier 2 Boss

As someone who had battled against real beasts, the teenager would dare to claim that the journey towards Notsburg was far more nerve wrecking to him than the AFA’s special lesson. One could argue that this was because he was on his own now, but given that his teammates had been Apollo, who Numba hadn’t had any sort of prior relationship with, and Sty, who would be the last person the Goat Altered would ever entrust his back to, things weren’t that different in the limo that he shared with his adoptive father and the two bodyguards.

Ever since that first special lesson, Numba had spent a lot of his free time training. He didn’t know if their teams would stay the way they were, but Mr. Corvus had hinted at the possibility that they might eventually go up against beast on their own, if they wished to do so of course.

Having to take care of a business, on the other hand, was an entirely different type of fighting. No matter how excellent the the tutors Harry Cardenez had hired to teach Numba everything he needed to know, there was a vast difference between theory and reality, an important lecture the Howlers had been taught today. There was also a fear at the back of Numba's mind that if he messed up, that his father could abandon him, and that his life would return to what it was...

“Don’t look so nervous.” Harry Cardenez chided his son. “This is a prime opportunity for you to witness how business is properly conducted between two groups. Just focus on learning as much as you can from this experience. With the Freaks by our side, there’s no need to worry about your well-being, either, though I suppose at this point, you’re more than capable to protect yourself. If things get dangerous, make sure to save your old man.”

The last comment finally put a smile on Numba’s face.

Meanwhile, the two men who sat opposite the duo, one large and one thin, remained silent. The two had white makeup and bright lipstick on their faces, which suited their clown clothing. There were others like them riding in the cars in front and behind the limousine along the expressway.

The Freaks didn't start out as a single gang. Just like Slough used to have the Underdogs, the Grey Elephants, the Rising Dragons, the Block gang and others, Numba's hometown also used to have multiple gangs fighting for control. However, Harry Cardenez had managed to bring an end to all of this.

The Freaks had been created by combining all the leaders of the gangs, creating a supergroup. The way he was able to do this was simple, through the use of money. It was a fair deal for all parties. The Freaks protected the city and mainly the workings of the Cardenez group, and in turn they got paid and everyone in the town was able to prosper.

Due to them being a bunch of gang leaders, the Freaks were a strong group and sitting next to both Cardenez were the two strongest gang leader. Numba could see the confidence on his father's face, but after seeing Apollo's strength during the special lesson, if there were more like him in that city, the Freaks would only be able to buy some time.

'No, I shouldn't use Apollo or Sty as the standard. Just like there is only one of me, guys like those two aren't a dime a dozen and unlike me, I don't think their family would call them back for a meeting like this.' Numba hoped.

As the limo entered the city, there was something that Numba noticed looking out the window. Every few hundred meters there would be giant bill boards praising this or that casino. Due to the colourful lights that illuminate at night they were easy to spot. Casinos existed in a lot of cities but in Notsburg they seemed to rival the number of grocery stores.

As such, Numba wasn't the least bit surprised when their car stopped in front of a giant casino. It was a unique establishment that one had to go over what looked like a large lake. A bridge was connected to a centre island where the casino was placed. And the casino itself was beyond large, as it looked like one could get lost in the place for weeks without proper directions.

As they entered, the entire group was escorted by men in groups and they walked through the main hall, where the sounds of slot machines going off never stopped. Mixed in were the sounds of people cheering, screaming and some even shouting or arguing with the guards.

It was close to midnight, and yet the place was filled to the brim. Numba could only imagine the sums of money exchanging hands each and every day. Of course, most of it would enrich the house, or more precisely the one owning it. Eventually, they arrived in front of the VIP area.

Guarding the large velvet door were two large men both with long ponytails who pushed it open to reveal one of the most extravagant rooms Numba had ever seen. The room had a lot of red inside, and a lot of velvet. Nearly everything, the sides, the chairs, the sofas, all of it was red velvet. At the side of the rooms, behind the number of people were glass cabinets that were filled with all sorts of different luxuries.

Top of the line watches, jewellery, rare items and more. All of them looked stunning and untouched, but perhaps what gave off the biggest impression in the room were the two people behind the desk at the back.

The man sitting behind the desk in the chair looked to be in his 40's. Strangely, he was sporting a greyish beard, yet the lack of wrinkles on his face suggested that this was more of a fashion choice than his natural colour. There were rings on each of his fingers, some of them having two on one, that were shining so brightly that Numba thought he might have to close his eyes.

As for his clothes, it looked like they were an extension of this room, being red and velvet. The man wasn't too big in size, apart from his eyes that bulged out like a bug.

When seeing this man, there was a thought that came through Numba's head. 'This has to be the head gang of Notsburg. If it is, then does that mean, this man possibly has a relation to Sty. His gang was the leader of a tier two city that had ties with Apollo who works for a tier 1. If that's a case there is a good chance that maybe someone in this room actually belongs to a tier 1 gang. Anyway, most likely the man in front of me, is Sty's father.'

It was safe to say that those in the AFA were mostly sons or daughters of gangs and corporations. It mostly was the case and thinking of Sty, what he had done to him and how this could be his father was making Numba's legs shake. At the end of the day, unlike them, this was a gang that they were meeting with, a gang of the city, one had proudly set up base in one of the largest casinos in the area.

But that wasn't the only person in the room that was getting a lot of focus in the room.

When entering, everyone was told to take their positions. Numba wasn't going to act like Harry was his father in case he was targeted in this, and stood by the side, along with the other Freaks in the room.

At the same time, there were two Freaks that stood by Harry's side at all times during the meeting. Harry had taken a seat directly opposite the large man as the meeting between the two was about to commence.

That's when Numba's eyes started to linger, because the one that he was focusing on wasn't the leader that was sitting down, but the man that was standing by his side, which Numba could only guess to be his guard.

Standing in a light blue Hawaiian shirt, that was unbuttoned revealed the man's abs and muscular pecs. Not as large as the one sitting down there was something fierce about the person's eyes.

On the visible part of his body, there were cuts scars going all the way up, and his spiky wild hair almost made him look like someone who didn't belong, didn't belong in this room full of people.

Still Numba kept focusing back on the eyes of the person, because they reminded him of something, something that shook his very core.

"Alright, it's time for us to do business, no one will be going home today until we make a deal." The man stated with a big smile on his face, yet the tone of his voice was enough to convince everyone in the room that he wasn't joking.

#### Chapter 490 A Tier-2 Deal (Part 1)

Numba didn't really know what he should do in this meeting, his eyes darted between his father, the gang leader, and his bodyguard. Despite the wild attitude of their host, his swinging arms and creepy smile, Harry Cardenez didn't budge an inch, his facial expressions not changing in the slightest. He kept his hands together, clearly unfazed by the gang in front of them.

"The Scatterbugs have ruled Notsburg for generations, a truly impressive feat. As a gang this means one of two things, you've either managed to earn the respect of most Tier-1 gangs to the point they don't dare to mess with you by yourself, or you're under the protections of one of the Kings.

“Now, from what I managed to find out, there is no affiliating to any of the Kings, meaning your gang has actually managed to solidify its position on its own. I hope that putting my business here won’t change that.” Harry began.

On the table in front of him, the man pulled out a name plate that was hidden behind a few items and placed it directly in front of him for all to see, stating the name Slith.

“The name right here indicates who is in charge of the city, and who is in charge of the Scatterbugs. Both things go hand in hand. As someone from the outside, I can why you might be worried about others trying to prevent you from expanding.

“Well, let me tell you, all the gangs in Notsburg work for the Scatterbugs. I’m sure you have seen the city has more than one casino around the place. We’ve assigned each gang a casino in their area to protect that has been set up and funded by us.

“As long as they do their job properly, they’re paid a percentage of the casino’s earnings as a bonus, and believe me when I tell you that they enjoy that treatment. They all know that it would be child’s play for us to take that away from them and hand it over to another group. Thanks to this type of symbiotic relationship, our position is more than just secure.

“In fact, just for a bigger slice of the pie, the small-time gangs are more than happy to check, report, or even fight against any gang that thinks too highly of themselves, and dares to try some type of uprising. As for your business, we can offer to work with you directly, meaning you will enjoy the privilege of being protected by the Scatterbugs personally.” Slith said, sitting back in his seat with both hands behind his head.

To be honest, as a prim and proper businessman, Harry was finding the way Slith was conducting himself quite rude, yet he knew that it was impossible to expect proper etiquette from gang members. Nevertheless, it irked him that even those Howlers had shown more decorum.

“I see, you’ve talked about percentages before. In order for us to use your services and set up base here, what would condition can you offer us.” Harry asked.

This was the most important question but it showed he was serious. The Scatterbugs had given him confidence that they could protect the business at least.

“Usually we share 10% of the profit to the business around the area, but since you’re a new partner coming from the outside and my advisors tell me that your numbers look more than promising, I’ve decided to be generous and let you keep a total 20% of the profit!” Slith answered in a grand tone.

For the first time Mr. Cardenez’ hands split, and he placed them on the side of the seat. “I’ve heard you were criminals, but I thought your group would like to do real business. Taking 80% of our profits for all our hard work is madness.”

Several members of the Scatterbugs stared directly at Harry. It was clear that they didn’t like the tone he was using.

“Let me make this clear, you were the one that came into my city. You know perfectly well that without my say so it will be impossible to operate in Notsburg. Look at it from a different perspective, after all, 20% of something is still a lot more than 100% of nothing.

“If you don’t like it, you’re free to leave. Go ahead, continue doing small-time business in your small Tier-3 town. However, if you were satisfied with that alone, would you truly have contacted us and come here?” Slith replied, the smile on his face getting bigger and bigger as he continued.

Harry was silent for a bit as he tapped his finger on the side of his chair, something he did when he was thinking about what to do.

“I believe the two of us are just two far apart. I was looking for a group that wished to treat us like proper partners. In the face of your strength, your city and everything you have built up, the most I’m willing to part with will be 50%.”

Now it was Slith’s turn to consider the counteroffer. The thing was, unlike the Tier-3 cities, the tier-2 had a good life. They had business setup that were already flushing so they didn’t necessary need to attract new businesses. There were plenty of people like Harry that were attempting to do the same thing.

However, money was money, and his advisors who were more informed about that side of business, had all agreed that it would be a good thing to partner up. By putting his own man at the helm, they would make a lot of money.



“You know what, I like your spunk. I’ll agree to your 50-50 deal, but on the condition that you moved the entire operation of Cardenez Electronice into Notsburg. Furthermore, all deals going forward will be as partners, including us having a say regarding future expansions into other cities.” Slith suggested. There might be groups that would accept such a thing, but not him.

Harry’s eyes widened. Slith wasn’t just asking for a 50/50 deal in this specific deal but essentially the whole company. They wanted them to be exclusive and own 50% of all of Harry’s hard work.

The company that he had built up from nothing. With the smile still on Slith’s face it was clear he knew exactly what he was doing, and in a pressure like situation Harry was sure that there might be multiple gangs that would have taken what ever offer had come there way, but they weren’t the same.

Standing up, Harry straightened his suit.

“It is time I take my leave, I can see that this whole thing was a waste of time.” Harry looked toward Numba and the Freaks, and started to walk out the door.

The others followed him, heading out of the door, but Slith didn’t look too shocked and instead began to laugh.

“If you do change your mind, I will be right here.” Slith called after him as the doors closed. A few seconds later after it was clear they had left the room Slith’s smile left his face.

“That man was awfully rude don’t you think?” Slith asked into the room.

“Yes, sir!” Several of them in the room answered apart from the man in the Hawaiian shirt.

“Yes I would have to agree, I think they should receive a nice surprise for being so rude. A gift before they head home.” Slith smiled.