

Werewolf 491

Chapter 491 A Tier-2 Deal (Part 2)

Numba didn't say a word to his father on the way back to the limo. His father, although a strict and serious person hardly ever showed his temper. Nevertheless, there had been a few times, he had seen father lose it and it had always been related to his business.

Right now, if anyone said the wrong word he would blow the top off his head. The thing was, Numba knew what had set him off as well. The fact that a gang thought that they could just swoop in and take 50% of everything he did. They were trying to rob him and right in front of his nose as well.

They all entered the limo in silence. There was no need to say anything, so it was only Numba and the Freaks in the car, and in the first place, Harry Cardenez was the sole director of the company. There were no other partners, it truly was a company that he had built up from scratch and would continue to do so, with or without the help of others.

"I'm sorry that you had to see that, based on their reputation, I believed that things would have gone a lot smoother than that." His father eventually spoke up. He then let out a deep sigh trying to calm himself down. "A true shame, but there are plenty of other Tier-2 cities that we can work with. We will just have to go back to the drawing board and see which ones aren't so influenced by the Kings."

Numba smiled and nodded at his father. In truth, he was happy that the deal fell through. If Slith was indeed Sty's father then things would have been bound to turn bad at some point. Judging by how the meeting went, it was safe to assume that both of them were somehow related, both of them being Grade-A arseholes, Numba smirked to himself thinking about this.

The car came to a sudden halt as the driver slammed down on the breaks. It was so sudden that the seat belt locked up around Numba. The next second. the screeching of tires could be heard as the car spun to its side, and skidded across the ground.

Mr Cardenez had brought three cars with him and all three of them had come to a stop.

"What is going on?!" Harry demanded to know.

"Sir, it seems like we have trouble up ahead." The driver answered.

Looking through the window, there were several cars, around four of them, and standing outside of them were what would only be described as a bunch of thugs, holding onto weapons such as bats, knives and more.

Looking at the location, they were still on the bridge from the casino, to the main area, so it was clear that this wasn't a coincidence but people being ordered to attack them.

His two bodyguards helped Harry out of the car, while the other Freaks had also left their cards, ready for the inevitable fight. Mr Cardenez slammed the door so hard that it almost shattered when it closed before Numba.

"Father, I can help!" Numba shouted as he got out.

"Don't worry, Numba, I know you can, but I can't let you get such filthy blood on your hands." Harry stated. "They think just because I run a business that I don't know how to deal with a few ruffians, well Freaks it's time for you to do your job."

There were ten members of the Freaks going up against around fourteen thugs. All of them dressed and covered in weird clown clothing. One had pulled out what looked like a scythe from behind. Another pair of nunchucks, and some more. The difference between the weapons the Freaks had and the thugs had was a large contrast.

All weapons of the Freaks seemed to be top quality, some even looking like they had been made from real life animals or creatures. That was because they were, some of them were holding onto Anti-Altered weapons.

"Haha, what the F*ck are a bunch of clowns going to do, get rid of them!" The thugs shouted as they ran across the bridge, they were the first to act.

None of the Freaks were startled, and when the first person came towards them, the man with the scythe swung it right towards one of their legs without an ounce of hesitation. The attack was so fast that the attacker suddenly fell to the ground. As he turned around he could see that his right was no longer attached to his body.

The man screamed, and following him were his companions. The man with numb chucks swung them, hitting one man in the arm breaking the bone on the spot, and hitting another in the chest sending him flying back. It was clear that the Freaks' greatly outmatched these thugs and soon only the ten Freaks were left standing.

"I can't believe it, I bet these were the type of people that he would have put to protect our business. It looks like there was a silver lining to this whole thing after all." Harry stated as he and the others got back in the car, and carried on their way home.

Numba, witnessing the Freaks' power, had to admit that he had greatly underestimated them and wondered how he would fare in a direct confrontation.

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Inside the casino, Slith received the news that his attempt at stopping the Cardenez group had failed.

"I knew I had a good feeling about them." Slith chuckled.

"What would you like to do now, sir, should we send the main group after them?" One of the men asked.

"There is no need." Slith started to sort through a bunch of files that had Tier-3 written on top of them. "It would be embarrassing for a group like us to deal with them personally. Will just give a reason for one of the other gangs near them to sort them out.

"Let's see, how about this."

Slith pulled out one of the files and pushed it forward.

"A new gang that was able to rise up recently beat the top gang in their area and took over the town. They must have some strength to do that. Let's see if they can handle it."

On top of the report, the first letter of the gang could be seen, with the letter H.

Chapter 492 Solving The Problem

The next day had arrived for the Howlers gang and once again they were without Gary, but it was okay, it wasn't as if the Howlers were planning to go up against anyone anytime soon, and the gangs that would cause disturbances in the past had quieted down, allowing them to take control and work on their day to day business a lot easier.

Inside his normal office, surprisingly it was both Kai and Olivia, and as usual Kai was on his laptop, doing his morning research, gathering news on what the other gangs were doing and seeing if there was any way for the Howlers to expand their business.

"You know you should really get someone else to do this for you." Olivia commented, looking at her newly painted nails. Whenever I come over you're late by nearly an hour and yet you insist that I'm the one that comes here on time."

Kai let out a big sigh as he rubbed his eyes due to him looking at the screen a bit too long. As for why Olivia was in the office, it was for their daily training session. Since the two of them were werewolves, Kai thought it would benefit both of them to fight against each other, or to be more precise, to train with each other.

Although there was no enemy, who knew what they would come across in the future. However, even though they were training, other than getting better use of their body, knowing how to fight in certain forms, they didn't feel a rise in strength or power like they had done before, the burst of growth.

"Hiring somebody would cost money, and that is something that we don't have plenty of right now, especially after the auction. I can't even proceed with the plan of making Gary a well known tycoon at this rate. I was really hoping for the deal with the electronics company to go through, but I guess I will have to look elsewhere."

As Kai continued his research, in the middle of it Olivia had received a phone call.

"Okay, We'll be there in a moment." Olivia hung up the phone.

"We'll be there?" Kai repeated.

"I assume you will be coming. It's Burnham street, they say someone from Notsburg has paid them a little visit and are asking to see the Howlers. A few of our clients used to be from Notsburg, so I know how much of a problem this might be, and with you being the research guru I'm sure you know as well."

Of course Kai knew, he knew every single city in the country, and Notsburg was a tier-2 city.

'What do they want with us? Is it a gang the Underdogs were working for? If that is the case, we are not ready yet. We're not ready to deal with a tier 2 gang.'

Cancelling their training session for the morning, both Olivia and Kai had decided to head to Burnham food street. He didn't inform any of the others. At the end of the day, they had come to Slough, and had done so unnoncend.

If they were planning to attack, they wouldn't have asked for a meeting and because it was in their own home territory it was most likely to be a safe meeting. At the same time if it came to it, Olvia and Kai certainly had the skills to escape most situations.

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Standing outside with the masks on their faces, Kai looked up at the sign above.

"Of all the places for them to choose from. Brings back memories, huh."

"Shut up," Olivia said as she walked forward and pushed open the double doors to the seafood restaurant. A place that used to be the old base of the Pincers.

Bursting through the door, Olivia had made quite the entrance. All of the workers in the shop bowed down as they knew who it was, even with the mask there was only one person with that figure in the entire city.

The restaurant had been cleared of customers, so there was no one else inside, apart from one, a man sitting inside with a suit and glasses. He looked fairly young, like someone who had just graduated from University.

From just looking at him, most wouldn't think he was a gang member, but as Olivia walked over to the four seater table, she also noticed that one of the workers there had a marking on their face.

Of course, the workers in the seafood restaurant weren't regular workers, they were all members of the Pincer gang who had fighting experience.

'He's on his own, and he still decided to start a fight in here, and obviously he made a big enough presence to stop the others from jumping in.'

In this situation, Kai knew he had to be the more calm one, so picking up his pace, he walked in front of Olivia and sat down before she did, opposite the man, and he was doing this for his safety rather than hers.

'This person, it has to just be a messenger, is this not what I think it's regarding.'

"I have heard a lot about you Howlers, to think that you really do wear masks to hide your face." The man commented, lifting his glasses up with his index finger. "I would assume that none of you are the leader of the Howlers."

"We are high ranking members." Kai replied. "With enough say in the gang to make decisions. Since this was unannounced, our leader won't be able to visit. Unfortunately he is away. I'm sure you would understand since it appears to be the same with your leader."

Kai gave a smile which could be seen with the type of mask he was wearing, since it only covered the upper half.

"That's good enough for me." The man said as he lifted up a suitcase that was on the seat next to him. "I have a proposal which I think you would be very very interested in."

Opening up the case, it was full of the one thing the gang needed at the moment... money.

Chapter 493 Back At The AFA

It wasn't everyday that someone from a tier-2 city would come down to tier-3 town, especially in a place like Slough to offer some money, so it was safe to say that Kai was intrigued.

"That's no small amount." Kai calmly said.

"10 million to be exact, which I'm sure would be able to do a lot for a gang like yours." The man smiled as he closed the suitcase. He could see that he had already caught Kai's attention.

'These tier-3 places are all the same.' The man thought.

This certainly would solve their problems, but only for a short while. It wasn't a permanent solution. Maybe for other gangs, who weren't looking to grow out of their own boots, it was life changing money, and especially for those that would spend the money on themselves.

Which is why he could see other gangs snapping at the opportunity.

"For that amount of money, I'm sure the task is not a small one." Olivia added.

"No, no, please it should be fairly simple for you guys, at least based on my research. The Howlers from Slough rose up from nowhere and dominated the Underdogs with sheer strength. Usually a takeover of a place, even a tier-3 town, would be slow, which just goes to show the wit and strength you guys have.

"And that is why we have come to you. Because we want to use your strength to take care of a problem."

Kai was starting to understand the gist of what was being proposed. They wanted the Howlers to be the muscle. It was quite common for higher gangs to do this when they didn't want to use their own men, or when it was just easier to act behind the scenes.

In truth, Kai was just thankful that this didn't seem to have anything to do with the Underdogs, when that time came, he would have to kick everything up into high gear.

"I find it hard to believe that there is something we can do that your gang isn't capable of, what's the catch?" Olivia asked.

Kai was glad, that of all the people, he had Olivia by his side, because she was asking the same questions as he would have done, although at times Kai wasn't blunt enough, where Olivia was able to be.

"Money isn't something that is important to us, but we know it means a lot to others." The man answered. "I'll cut to the chase. The target is a tier-3 city, close to Slough, but it's not a gang but a business instead. All you need to do is disrupt their business a bit.

"Get in the way of some of their shipments, burn a few warehouses down, it's up to you how creative you want to get. Of course, doing these things you might get targeted, or there might be some guards that you will have to deal with, which is what the payment is for. There's no reward without a bit of risk."

Honestly, Kai thought the offer was quite fair, and since it didn't involve any killing, maybe it was something that even Gary would allow, but it did make him wonder. What had a company done that managed to annoy a tier-2 city like Notsburg?

"What is the name of the company and what did they do? I would hate to do the same thing as they did and offend you guys as well." Kai said.

"That's not really part of your business and you know that, even if you did phrase it like that." The man replied. "The company is Cardenez Electronics."

Kai was silent for a while before eventually giving an answer.

"I'm sorry, even though I said we could make the decision, for something like this I would have to speak to our leader about it. You see, our own gang is in our growing phase here and there is quite a bit of trouble here and there. I can give you an answer by the end of the day, and if you don't hear a call from me. I'm sorry but we can't accept."

A few moments later, the man from Notsburg was on his way out.

“Are you really going to ask Gary about this?” Olivia asked.

“Nah, that was just my excuse to get him out of here, and a way out of this deal. They seem like the type to bear a grudge against those that don’t do what they say. For now, I plan to watch this interesting development and see how things go.

“Maybe a big opportunity will come out of this.” Kai smiled.

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It was time once again for Gary to head back, head back to the academy. With the next full moon further away than before, he could enjoy his time here in peace, and he could always head back when the full moon was due as well.

On top of that, his one and only Xin Clove also went to the academy.

‘I wonder if I can meet her again. I won’t be so out of it this time, and maybe we can leave from where we left off.’

Gary still had the picture of Xin kissing him before leaving fresh in his head. Currently, Gary was riding the bus, it was a long distance away but he was one of the few people on the bus.

Once he reached the main city, then he needed to switch onto another bus that would take one to the academy. Just as he was at his stop to exchange buses, he got on the one that headed directly to the academy.

All Gary needed to do was show his ID to the bus driver. When getting on, Gary was expecting it to be empty but there was one person sitting at the back staring out the window.

"No way, what are you doing here?" Gary asked.

"Gary...I guess you're heading back to the academy as well." Numba replied.

"Yeah, I didn't know you left, what did you leave for?" Gary asked.

"I... Just had some family stuff to deal with."

Chapter 494 Two Lives

494 Two Lives

Both teenage boys had been prepared to just tune out on their way back to the academy, yet ending up together on the ride was a welcome surprise. There wasn't much to catch up on, as the two of them hadn't really missed much. Gary had left the day before yesterday, whereas Numba had left yesterday.

The Werewolf had mixed feelings about returning. Part of him was looking forward to it, because the AFA was a dream of his. However, another part of him regretted leaving so soon. After visiting his group of friends, he couldn't stop worrying about them, his gang and also Slough as a whole. Truly, being a gang leader, even one mostly in name, there was a lot on his plate.

Since they were alone in the bus, and the bus driver wasn't paying attention, Gary and Numba started discussing their special lessons, though just to be sure they kept it vague. Time passed as they discussed strategies and planned what they would do until the next lesson.

By the time they arrived the lessons were already over so the two students headed straight for their dormitories. On the floor they could already hear noises coming from a particular room.

"You're the same as always! You invite yourself over and decide to watch whatever you want! This is my room, so at least let me pick the film!" A male voice complained loudly.

"It's not my fault that your taste is garbage! Besides, shouldn't you be studying!" A female voice shouted back.

Since they were both passing by anyway, Gary and Numba decided to inform their friends about their return. The room went silent before the sounds of someone coming over could be heard. Opening it was a messy looking Ian.

"Hey, Izzy, get over here! The two of them are already back!" Ian shouted into the room.

Hearing this, the sound of a door slamming was heard, which Ian thought was strange, but he shrugged his shoulders and let the two of them in.

"She probalay just went for sh*t or something." Ian murmured.

"No, I didn't! I'm just freshening up." Izzy shouted from behind the bathroom door.

As the two of them entered, they could see that Ian's room was a complete mess. Numba just shook his head and started tidying up the place. Seeing this Gary realised that this wasn't the first time he had seen the Goat Altered clean up behind the two and from his practiced technique, Numba might have grown used to cleaning up behind the two.

While his 'guest' was making the room more presentable, Izzy came out as well, her face a little flustered. She brushed some crumbs off the seat she had been in earlier and sat down. Unlike before, his childhood's friend hair was no longer a ball of mess, rather it was nicely braided. She was clearly making an effort for a certain someone that had returned.

Once Numba was also happy enough about the state of the room, the group spent some time to catch up. The two left behind naturally wanted to learn more about the other two's trip, yet both just brushed it off as nothing but a boring trip, with mostly some family things.

At the same time, neither Izzy nor Ian could contribute much, apart from the fact that they had attended all of their lessons and continued to train with each other, hoping to get stronger and catch up with the two of them. Naturally, just three days was too short a time to do that.

"I'm happy that you're both still training so hard, but we only got into the main academy. Don't you want rest a little?" Gary asked. At least that was what he planned to do until their next special lesson. Of

course, the Werewolf could get stronger from eating the beasts, so training the old-fashioned way wasn't of much help to him.

"We need to excel, especially in our physical lessons." Izzy shook her head. "You know they have quarterly assessments for all the students here, right? The AFA isn't like other academies where you study for a year and then move up a grade. This is THE place to train the next generation of Altered, so they don't care about making us book smart.

"Do you remember those students we fought with when we first entered?"

To be honest Gary didn't remember much of what any of them looked like apart from Xin. Then again, his mind had been muddled to say the least, but not wanting to explain any of this, he just nodded.

"Well, that's what should be our goal. As long as you can prove that you're ready for a debut match in the AFC, then the teachers will personally take you in and assign you to a coach. After that, you fight your debut match and then, you're pretty much on your own.

"At that point, you technically no longer need to attend the academy, since you pretty much just graduated from the AFA to the AFC. If you want, you can still attend lessons and the academy might ask you to come back once in a while and help them with things, but you're no longer technically a part of the student body.

"That is why you have to show promise in the assessments! No one is expecting you to pass on your first go, but if we perform well the teachers will keep an eye on us, especially if we're showing spectacular growth!"

Thinking about this, Gary realised that Xin was one of those students. Her debut match in the AFC could be any day now. Did that mean that soon she would no longer be in the academy and there would be no way for him to see her again?

'Is there even much of a point for me to stay in the AFA other than the special lessons? With the way I am right now, I should be able to enter the AFC and have a debut match. If I show off at the assessment then I can get out of the AFA as quickly as possible.

‘In that case, I can use my new status as an AFC fighter and then we can turn Kai’s plans of turning me into some tycoon into reality. As long as I show up to my matches, I can just live in Slough with my sister and help the Howlers without having to worry.’

Gary knew that he should put some more thought into it, but he was pretty sure he had just made his decision. After everyone had run out of things to say to each other, they had decided it was best to have an early night.

The two childhood friends assumed Gary and Numba to be tired from the travelling and liked to have some time to themselves, before tomorrow’s lesson. Waving goodbye to Numba, Gary entered his room, yet stopped when he noticed that he had spent on something.

‘What’s this?’ Gary wondered, as he picked up an envelope from the floor, clearly a letter.

“Meet me in the octagon room level 4 at midnight tonight. I want to talk about what happened last time.”

‘A letter left behind in my room... could this be from Xin?!’

Chapter 495 A Confession Letter

Unfortunately, the mysterious letter wasn't signed, meaning that anyone could have written it. He had never really seen his Xin write, so looking at the letters wasn’t helping him in the least. Luckily, his new senses gave him one way to try and find out the writer of his letter.

Taking a sniff Gary tried to catch a whiff of a particular scent. Back when his crush had been kidnapped, he had managed to find her. Since that day, Gary has had her scent locked away in his mind, yet there was no trace of it on the letter.

‘It could still be her right?’ Gary thought, his heart starting to beat a little slower. ‘Our rooms get cleaned daily, and the letter had to have been dropped off and not too long ago. What should I do?’

On one hand it could be Xin calling out Gary after being unable to talk with him during their last meeting. Still, it was highly unlikely for her to do it this way. If she wanted to contact him, why not meet him directly or at least ask for his number, if not directly, indirectly through his friends?

Then there was the location, the octagon. Whoever wanted to meet him might have chosen the place for a fight. The question was how many people were there in the academy that wanted to fight Gary? There were only a handful of people that he had run in with.

‘Ah man, I know I should just leave it. ... but we’re in the academy so it should be safe, right? Even if it’s not her and someone challenges me, nothing is stopping me from walking away... Besides, if it’s not her, whoever wants to talk to me will probably keep pestering me.’ Gary thought to himself.

There was still quite a bit of time for the teenager to change his mind. Eventually, curiosity got the better of him, yet instead of waiting around, he decided to go to the meeting place beforehand. It felt impossible for him to just ignore it now.

It was evening, around 9PM, and to his surprise there were quite a few students who were training by themselves. Some were hitting away at the special heavy bags, others were doing drills. There were even a couple of students in the sparring ring, though they weren't really sparring and were just imitating certain moves in slow motion letting the other person react to it.

It reminded Gary that he was more safe than he realised. He had completely forgotten that in the main academy they were only allowed to fight with the teacher’s permission. Sitting down on one of the side benches, he watched everyone hard at work, pouring sweat as they did their best to improve their bodies to the next level.

One person in particular caught his eye, as well as those around him. The student was hitting the heaviest bag in the room, and with quite the large amount of force. With each hit the bag would do a swing but he would hit it again as it swung back. The impressive thing wasn't just the force but also the student’s stamina. Gary continued to watch him for a couple minutes and he was hitting it with the same amount of force speed and power without looking tired.

‘That guy’s name was Wu if I remember correctly. I didn’t realise it during the special lessons, but that guy can really hit.’

Gary continued to watch him, and more, and more students were stopping their own training to observe him who just continued to hit the bag, not caring that his whole body was dripping with sweat. There was a dark mark around him from all the sweat his body had made.

'I thought I had a crazy amount of stamina as a Werewolf, but I seem to pale in comparison to him. I'm not even sure how to feel about it.'

Without noticing it, as the time went by it was time for Gary to have his meeting with a certain someone, but when he looked around the only two people left were him and Wu.

'It couldn't be... was Wu the one to send that letter?' Gary scratched his head. 'But what reason would Wu have to send it? Hang on, 'I want to talk about what happened last time', does he want to ask me about what happened during the special lesson?'

Gary continued to wonder what he would be asked, and what he should say, yet Wu simply continued training until the clock struck midnight. At that point, the student stopped mid punch. He grabbed his sports bottle that was by his side. After quenching his thirst, Wu finally seemed to notice Gary at his side and raised an eyebrow.

"What are you doing here? Don't tell me you watching me the whole time, I feel... so exposed." Wu exclaimed as he covered up his chest, though for some reason only his nipples.

"Oh, shut up!" Gary shouted red faced, not having expected this level of shamelessness. Seeing as Wu had been hanging out with Apollo, the Werewolf unconsciously believed him and his friends to be the serious type, yet now it seemed that at least one of them might be a bit of a goofball. "I was just waiting for someone, that's all. You just happened to be training in here."

It was quite clear that Wu wasn't the one that had written the letter. Scratching his head Gary was wondering who it was. He intended to wait a few minutes before giving up, but soon enough the doors opened on the other side of the room.

A dark skinned man, with several bracelets on both of his arms came. Gary racked his brain, yet he was unable to remember where exactly he seen the other party.

"Oh, so your date is with one of the debut students. Interesting, you do you, man, I don't judge" Wu noted from the side. That's when it hit the Werewolf. It was one of the students that had fought against his group when they first came to the real academy, although Gary didn't remember much about his fight.

"It's nice to meet you again, Gary. You don't seem to remember me, but that's ok. My name is Shingi. I'm happy to see that you could make it today." As Shingi said those words his voice was shaking slightly and so was his body, which is why he grabbed one arm with his other hand to stop himself.

"I know you might find it weird as to why I called you, but ever since I saw you train in here, since I saw you rip a hole through that bag, I haven't been able to sleep properly. I was worried about what would happen in the fight, fearing for my friend's life. To be honest, I thought that you might kill him, accidentally or not, but in the end, he lived.

However, that whole fight that day was strange. For someone with your capabilities, that fight should have been a walk in the park, especially since my friend didn't believe me when I warned him about you. That's why I wanted to you, why didn't you use your full strength in that fight?" Shingi asked with a serious look, and there was a larger figure behind him, he wasn't alone.

"Coincidentally, I'm also curious about the answer to that question." Eddy asked, his arms folded.

Chapter 496 A Debut (Part 1)

Gary had to admit, of all the things that he thought he would be asked, this wasn't one of them. The thing was, they were right, Gary was having an off day for more reasons than one during the time of the fight.

On top of that, if Gary was to truly show his absolute full strength in a fight like he had done against a certain supervisor teacher, then he would have to use his full transformation skill.

Wu, who was still in the room, found the conversation quite interesting, especially since for some reason a teacher was involved. So he decided to take a step to the side, with a towel placed over his head, as he listened to the conversation.

If Shingi had just asked the question then I could have played it off, but why is Eddy, that teacher, asking as well? Gary thought.

What do you mean? Gary replied with a smile. barely won that fight, and I felt really sick that day, which is why I acted like that. Honestly, I think I was barely conscious since I felt so sick. Gary chuckled.

what you say is true, then you wouldn't mind having a match with me. Shingi asked, tensing his fist. have to fight you, to get over this fear. Are you special, one of a kind? Maybe find out once I fight you and will be able to progress myself.

A certain word had caused Wu to look up again.

Did Gary say he won his fight? I noticed that guy, so I'm guessing both my group and his group fought against the same guys, but we all lost our fights. Unless they fought against someone else, that wouldn't be possible.

sorry. Gary replied. After what happened last time, I really don't have an interest in fighting others. Not when there no reason to, I still have a lot to learn at the academy, including how to control my powers properly.

Shingi looked disappointed by the answer, in truth he had sought out Eddy telling him his worries, and what he was hung up over. Since Eddy had received a few hits from Gary himself, he was interested in this student as well, and agreed to help him out.

reason to fight. Eddy stroked his chin. Maybe I can give you one. You and Xin, you both know each other right? From the feeling I have, you seem to like that girl, correct?

Gary's face made it impossible to hide this fact as he turned away. He was quite an honest person, based on his facial expressions, and a terrible liar.

You know, I am directly in charge of Xin lessons before her debut match. There is a reason why you haven't seen her as much, but if you take part in this match, and do so seriously then maybe I can make some favourable situations for you.

Can you even do that? Shingi whispered, questioning the morals of using one of his other students like so.

A little kick from Eddy quieted Shingi though, since this was all for him in the first place.

Maybe such a simple thing wouldn't have convinced others, but the truth was half the reason why Gary had come to the AFA in the first place was because of Xin.

I can show my strength a little right, I already passed their checks so anything I do now isn't so suspicious. Gary thought. And the better I show I am, the closer I can get to Xin.

In his head, Gary was just imagining the two of them rising through the ranks and then maybe in the future, Xin and Gary would be set up to have a match together. Before the match was to start though, Gary would bow down and forfeit the match saying the words.

I'm sorry, I can hit the one I love.

The crowd would start to cheer and whistle, as Xin shows her cute shy side, and confesses her feelings there and then. It would be a moment for the history books.

As Gary was thinking about all of this, all the others could see was his shoulder moving up and down, and stupid faces being made on his face as he went into a daze.

This guy... this guy beat one of the top students in the entire AFA... no way. I know he did quite well in the special lesson, but I still can't see too much of what Apollo sees in him.

Alright, fine Gary said. win this fight, and teacher, you better keep your promise.

The octagon was set up, and this time unlike the time before, Eddy would be in the cage. He was unsure if a strange occurrence would happen like last time, but Gary certainly did seem like a different person compared to the last time he entered the cage.

Gary was a little concerned because after consuming the beast, he was actually stronger compared to before. He didn't have the boost of the moon on his side, but he was a completely different person, one that wasn't fighting with himself, which would allow him to show the full extent of his skills.

have a favour to ask. Gary said, just before the match was about to start. know it might sound cocky of me saying this, but if you feel like there is a large difference between the two of us, then give up straight away. For mine and your sake.

Although Gary hadn't fought much since coming into the academy, he did realise something after turning into his werewolf self. With each fight he was growing with excitement and sometimes, he would get carried away, making it harder and harder for him to stop.

Chapter 497 A Debut (Part 2)

Shingi believed that both students had a fair advantage, because he had displayed some of his Altered form last time, even though they weren't meant to, and he had seen Gary's wolf-like form.

The truth was though, Gary couldn't even remember what this person could do, and he was just going to go with the flow and react. If he showed his absolute strength, he was sure that these guys wouldn't bother him again.

"Since you were so nice to give me a tip, let me give you one as well." Shingi said. "When the fight starts, you should use your Altered form straight away. Otherwise you won't be able to survive the first attack."

Gary smiled at this comment as he looked at his stats.

Grade: Bishop

Class: Warrior

Level 22

[Health 250]

[Energy 300]

[Exp 8788/11564]

[Strength 36]

[Dexterity 26]

[Endurance 32]

'The system didn't give me a quest. I'm sorry, I know you might be skilled, but according to my system you're not enough to warrant giving me exp.' Gary thought.

"If the fighting gets too dangerous, I will have to step in like last time." Eddy declared.

Wu stood up, and moved closer to the cage. Everything he was hearing about the teacher having to get involved, just made him imagine a crazy situation that had to have occurred the last time Gary fought.

The thing was, whatever Wu was thinking, it was not crazy enough compared to what had actually occurred.

"Match Start!" Eddy shouted.

Gary felt like he could win the fight without transforming, but he didn't want to give everything away, so to make it look like he was trying his best, Gary had transformed his arms, as brown fur started to grow on his legs, and part of his face as well.

Right now, essentially his whole body had been transformed, but not quite to the point where he was a full werewolf, just around 60 to 70 percent.

As for Shingi, he immediately went to strike out, he threw both of his arms forward, and they stretched across the entire arena going to the other side. It was extremely fast, but it ended up hitting nothing but the cage.

"Where did he go?" Shingi thought.

“Brace yourself.” A voice from underneath was heard, as Gary had his fist tensed and threw it right into his stomach. The contact was tough and loud, lifting Shingi’s body up into the air. Quite a bit of liquid had come out of Shingi’s mouth, but in truth he wanted to throw up.

Eddy, who was standing on the side, had seen the whole thing.

‘I knew Gary was skillful when he kept dodging all of Ryan’s attacks, but he had moved the instant Shingi started his attack, and that speed and strength is crazy. Maybe I should stop the fight here, Shingi is clearly outmatched.’

While in the air though, Shingi gritted his teeth and was determined. There was a reason why he was one of the top students soon about to debut. His arms retracted back to him fast, and he stretched them out again, grabbing both of Gary’s shoulders.

Honestly Gary thought the fight was going to be over with that, and he was interested to see what Shingi would try to pull next.

The top of Shingi's head had turned a strange silver, as if his skin had hardened into a type of metal, then pulling forward and leaning his head back it stretched out slightly. He was going for a headbutt.

Seeing this Gary smiled.

‘I know you wanted me to go all out, but I can't do that. I have skills that would be deadly and if I turned into a full Werewolf you might find out that I'm not really an Altered, but there is something I can show you. That my endurance is top notch!’

As Shingi swung his head, Gary did at the same time and they both bashed into each other. Gary's head was meant to fling back but instead it stayed there. With his hands Gary grabbed both of Shingi’s.

“You are better than I thought... but you should rest now.” After saying those words, Shingi’s whole body weakened, and he collapsed on the ground, passing out there and then.

Gary's forehead was a little sore. It was safe to say that Wu watching was left a little confused as to why Shingi was on the floor, when Gary had only done one attack, unless one counted the headbutt.

Eddy, walking over to Shingi on the ground, smiled at him.

"You did well. You were already out of the fight after that first hit, but you decided to stay in there a little longer and show him everything you had instead, didn't you?"

Gary noticed it as well, the look in Shingi's eyes halfway while he was performing the headbutt, they were already gone. Similar to that of a person that had passed out. Gary was surprised he had held on after the first punch he was aiming to finish the fight quickly so he didn't have to show more and he had done it.

Showing that he had more than what he had shown with the fight against Ryan, without having to show everything, he actually had.

A few moments later and Shingi came to, and seeing Gary, immediately he went to the canvas and placed his head on the ground.

"Thank you so much for having a match with me. It's as I thought. You really are something special, but there is one thing I'm happy about."

Shingi thought back to the punch he received and the damage to the bag he had seen. He was happy that he was able to take Gary's punch and survive.

"Hey, please we are all students here, learning. I... just have gone through a lot in my life." Gary said as he gave out his hand to Shingi and lifted him off the floor both smiling at each other.

"Well, now that this is out of the way, I have a big question that I need to ask." Eddy grinned. "I think you're more than ready to join the AFC. Why don't you join the Debut students and practise with them?"

Chapter 498 Becoming A Debut Student?

498 Becoming a Debut Student?

Although Wu had to admit that Gary was impressive in the match just now, he couldn't believe what he was hearing. The teacher had just asked for Gary to bypass all of the procedures and prepare for his debut match.

This was the goal of every student in the AFA, and it was being handed to him right here and then.

For Eddy though it was a simple matter, Gary had beaten Ryan, the number 2 of the debut students. Some might have thought it was down to luck or his out of control powers, yet here he was having beaten another student with ease.

It wouldn't make sense not to put him at the same level as them, and staying in the academy for whatever reason would just be a waste of his time. It was clear this was someone who managed to hide under the scouts radar and more.

For a second, Gary started to think about the benefits. He was already thinking about, at the next quarter assessment, of trying his best. That way he could quit the academy and go back to the gang, but to have that option arrive so soon in front of him.

'If I accept, it means I'll be under a private coach like Eddy, and then in the academy until my official first match, after that I'll no longer be in this place.' Gary thought.

"If I say yes." Gary replied. "Does that mean I will be taken out of my dormitory and all of my current lessons including the special lessons?"

Eddy didn't reply straight away, because he knew the special lesson was good for growth, but in his opinion the special lessons were below Gary. In fact, students normally, after completing the special lessons, would come out of them at the stage where Gary was now.

On top of that, there was something else Eddy didn't like about the special lessons either. It was the fact that students had died before. Students just as promising as Gary had lost their life and in doing so never got to see the stage

Eddy didn't know much about what occurred in the special lessons, he wasn't allowed to, but it still gave him a bad feeling.

"When you become a debut student, you will be given a set date for your first match. You will then follow the coach's schedule and only the coach's schedule. You will also be sent to a different part of the facility, one that can move you away from distraction, but of course you can come back to visit if need be." Eddie answered.

Hearing that, Gary had made his decision, or at least he thought he had, as he opened his mouth to reply, he closed it again as images flashed through his head. An injured Numba in the preliminaries, a shy Izzy, and an energetic Ian cracking jokes.

He was enjoying his time at the academy, and so far they had passed everything together. Taking a shortcut like this... it just didn't feel right.

"How long until the next assessment?" Gary asked.

"In 4 weeks, if you get a fight it will take 8 weeks of preparation time as well." Eddy answered.

"I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to decline," Gary replied. "But I promise, that as long as I prove myself at the assessment, you will see me then."

After that, it would be the end of the time at AFA and heading back to the gang, to see where his 20:33

path would lead him to. With the conversation over, Shingi thanked Gary once more before leaving.

Eddy smiled at this answer, after all there was no doubt in his head that Gary would pass, so waiting an extra 4 weeks wasn't too much to ask. As for Gary, this also meant 4 more weeks of special lessons that he could make use of.

After that, it would be the end of the time at AFA and heading back to the gang, to see where his path would lead him to. With the conversation over, Shingi thanked Gary once more before leaving.

Giving out a big yawn, Gary walked down the hallway as he thought about what a tiring day it had been, but he couldn't wait for the morning breakfast, being a Werewolf was certainly a tiring job for once a month.

Wu looked at Gary as he walked down the hallway.

"Honestly, I thought he would have jumped at the chance. I know I would have." Wu said to himself.
"Crazy though, how Apollo said the same thing when he was offered it as well."

— —

The next day after waking up, Gary had attended his lessons as usual, going through all of the procedures learning about Altered fighting techniques and more. It was still somewhat a dream for him and unlike in school, Gary had paid close attention to everything.

On top of that, whenever asked questions about certain things, openings in analysing videos and such, he was able to answer most of the questions.

'Is that how Gary is able to grow at a fast speed?' Izzy thought. 'He seems like a bit of an airhead, but when it comes to things like fighting, he's quite the genius.'

Whatever the reason was, Izzy would have to work harder especially since she was the least physically capable out of the entire group, she didn't want to be left behind.

When leaving the class, a lot of the students looked to the left of the exit door, as if they were staring at someone strange, and when Gary and Numba left they understood why.

"AH COO COO!" Crowley said. "I was looking for you two. I thought that you might have both gone to the loo."

Izzy and Ian looked at each other with raised eyebrows.

“Who is this... weird adult?” Ian couldn’t help but ask.

“He’s our special lesson teacher.” Gary answered.

Suddenly, both Izzy and Ian didn't feel so bad missing out on the special lessons if that was their teacher.

“Enough!” Crowley said, lifting his hands and his black feathered cape was raised with it. “There has been a change of plans, as there is a special guest today. COO! You must attend an extra special lesson today.”

Chapter 499 A Special Guest

A surprise meeting was taking place at the AFA academy, due to an unexpected guest. This guest didn’t announce his arrival, but when he arrived, even the professors of the place felt the need to pamper and treat this person with respect as they came.

In fact, it was an honour that such a person had decided to come to the AFA. Although they did expect he would come someday due to a particular person.

Currently, the special guest was in one of the many meeting rooms, and the only ones in the room were the three professors that practically ran the AFA, Hai, Wood and Humfree. A request had been made that even they didn’t expect.

“You would like to see the results of the last special lesson?” Humfree replied, as he stroked his beard. “That certainly is possible, but I'm surprised you are interested. You didn't ask about the other sessions, just the most recent one.”

The man smiled. “I had just heard that someone interesting had arrived, that was all. I just wondered how they might have done.”

The professors looked at each other. The person who had made the request already knew of the content of the special lessons so they saw no trouble on their end, and they thought it might be good to get their opinion on the students as well.

As the video was getting set up, six reports were handed across the table so the person in question could check them out.

Then finally the video of the lesson started to play. It showed both groups fighting what should be the first beast of their life. However, for some students in the video, it certainly didn't look that way.

"I see." The man replied. "These certainly are some special students. You have been having quite a good few prospects in the last couple of years. As they say, the new crop of Altered just keeps getting better and better."

Sorting out through the files he had just received, eventually he handed two of them back to the professors.

"If you were to ask me, these two are the ones that you need to look out for. They certainly will become something big."

The professors looked at the two that were chosen, and all of them nodded in agreement, because they had the same inkling. The names on the reports were Apollo and Gary.

"You have done a lot for me already." The man said. "But If you don't mind, I have one more request that could be beneficial to you."

Numba, Sty and Gary were all following teacher Crowley once again. They had already passed through the large steel doors and in the small waiting room they met up with the other trio that would usually be together, Wu, Snow and Apollo.

For some reason, Gary noticed that Apollo was looking his way smiling. The relationship between Apollo and Gary wasn't significant by any means and they only had one or two interactions here and there, but not enough for Gary to judge his character.

"Man, I really didn't expect them to have another special lesson so soon. I'm really not sure if I'm ready for this, Gary." Numba whispered.

“Honestly, I’m quite happy about there being a surprise lesson.” Gary replied, smiling back. The extra stats, the exp, all of it could only be found here.

“Man, Gary, I wish you were just a little bit weird, sometimes I feel like I’m the crazy one for worrying too much.” Numba said, as he could see Apollo smiling as well.

“Don’t worry too much.” Wu said. “I’m a bit nervous too.”

It was something Wu couldn’t deny after what had occurred, and since they would be fighting with those they didn’t know so well, they didn’t have their normal friends to back them up.

After following Crowley to the red and blue rooms and putting on their clothing, he cleared his throat.

“COO!” Crowley shouted, catching their attention. “Today’s lesson, both teams will be taking part together.”

Immediately, because of this, the students were thinking that the beast that they would be facing this time had to be a tough one. They had been warned about this beforehand, but then why did it have to be a surprise lesson, why couldn’t it have been scheduled at the normal time?

“Although you will be working together, your colours still signify your team, and the assessor will be judging each team on their performance. The ones that do the best, will be allowed a special request.” Crowley smiled.

“Wait, didn’t you say that when the task forces the two teams to work together, that we should do anything we can to survive?” Numba asked with a raised hand.

“Yes I did, and that is still true apart from this special special lesson.” Crowley answered. “You will understand when you proceed.”

“The special request?” Snow raised his hand. “Is it like last time, something we ask from NIRV.”

"This one is a little different." Crowley replied. "It will be limited to whatever the academy can do, within their power."

With no other questions, Gary looked across to Apollo who had done the same. This was a contest between the two teams and they would be in the same room. Finally the two would be able to see what the other had.

Both doors to the rooms opened, and they entered a separate chamber as the doors closed behind them, then when the doors opened again, both teams had entered a bright white room, just like before, and a single person stood on the other side.

"I'm guessing you are all slightly confused?" The man said standing there.

The others all froze for a moment as they couldn't believe who they were looking at, meanwhile Gary just covered his face with both hands, closing his eyes.

"Today, your special lesson will be fighting me. I will be testing all six of you. Come at me at once, and show me your full strength, especially you, streaker boy." the man said.

Chapter 500 The End Goal

Although the academy didn't have many students compared to places that would focus on academic studies, or those academies that would accept anyone as long as they were an Altered, but for some reason the AFA was incredibly large.

This was due to a number of reasons, one of them being the multiple training facilities they would have. While others thought that the academy did more than just train people, using facilities such as labs and such for other companies.

A little ways away from the main area, past the main field, there was quite a large square-like building that would look more like the outside of a swimming facility if it was in another place, but there was no swimming going on inside. Instead all that could be heard was just loud grunts.

"Harder! Each punch needs to be as strong as your first!" Eddy shouted, clapping his hands.

Several loud bangs were heard, echoing and going off one after the other, as Eddy looked at his students and gave them a nod. Right now, he was training the debut students. They were in a special facility designed just for them.

Currently all were present, Xin, Ryan, Shingi as well as the others, and they were on a green like astro turf grass, punching a large punching bag. It wasn't a regular bag, and in fact it was even tougher and heavier than the ones they had at the academy.

On top of that, they were on a special system. Each time they would punch a bag, it would move away on a pulley system. When it stopped, a red mark would be left where the bag reached and it would then start to come back.

Each time the bag came back, the students were to hit it again as hard as they could, either getting the same distance as they did before, or surpassing it. This was why Eddy was able to see if the punches they were doing now were just as strong as their first.

All of them were drenched in sweat, and as Xin saw the bag come back her way, she mustered up the strength again, and threw out a punch hitting it hard, sending it three quarters of the entire length of the room they were in.

Ryan, looking to his right, could see that Xin's punch was the furthest.

'How can she still hit it that hard, even after going at it for 20 minutes.'

Ryan's altered form was somewhat similar to a gorilla, and being like that, he had extreme power even when he wasn't transformed into his Altered state. At first, his punch had gone further than Xin's. It wasn't by much but it was a win in Ryan's eyes.

However, as this test went on he started to realise, after ten minutes he could no longer hit it as hard as he could before, not reaching his red marker, yet Xin was still hitting hers.

'It doesn't look like she's pulling her punches either. I guess that's just Xin, she's on another level compared to us.'

Thinking about this, as Ryan saw the bag come back to him, he really wanted to hit the red marker he had made before, and as he threw his hand he started to draw out power, his forearm grew slightly and his knuckles growing slightly harrier as he hit the bag, and sent the bag flying, past his original red marker.

“RYAN!” Eddy shouted, as he pressed a button and reset the marker back to where it was before. “I told you already, that you are not to use your Altered forms. You have to build a strong foundation without your forms.

“Improving your natural body is the first step to allowing you to bring out everything you can in your Altered forms. When transformed, you rely on that state, so it's hard to train your Altered state, but by building your everyday state, your Altered state will improve with it!” Eddy nodded his head up and down proud of his lecture.

The lesson went on for a while, until everyone collapsed on the ground out of breath and worn out, apart from Xin. She was breathing deep breaths but still at a slow rhythm.

She had taken in a breath as the bag came towards her, then at the right time exhaled out as she punched it once again hitting the red marker.

“I... just don't understand her.” Ryan said, taking deep breaths in between.

“Alright!” Eddy clapped. “That is enough with that, you all did well, let's rest up for now and then we will get to the next training session.”

Xin walked over to the others and then equally, just like them, she sat on the floor and started drinking heaps of water, it was clear that she was actually tired, but it was just, while the training session was going on, she had this fierce look in her eyes that she was able to switch on and off.

“Come on, you got to tell me what juice you're on?” Ryan said, throwing her a snack bar to eat.

Catching it, Xin quickly dropped it to the ground.

"I'm not on anything, it's just... in each of these training sessions. I give it my all no matter what, no matter how exhausted I feel."

Everyone wanted to hear what Xin had to say, but they too felt like they were giving it their all, it was just their body wasn't letting them. It wasn't the answer they were looking for.

"Okay, then let me ask you this instead, what pushes you to work so hard?" Ryan asked. "And don't flake out like you usually do. Whenever I ask this question you just give me a fake answer and just duck out, but it's clear you wanted to be part of the AFC for a reason."

Thinking about this question, for Xin there was more than one reason, but how to explain that her father was an overprotective person due to his position, that he thought his daughter was weak?

On top of that, she would always be compared to her brother, who she cared for dearly, but wished to be on the same level as him, or at least surpass his achievements, which was a big ask for anybody.

"I want to be free." Xin answered. "I want to live a life where I can walk the streets, go to whatever city I like and do as I wish. To do that without having anyone to look out for me or worry for me, then I would have to become the best right?"

"Wow!" One of the others said. "Well, that's a better answer than mine, I'm just doing it because I want to become famous. I mean after a few matches in the AFC, then I can go get an acting job or something."

"We can see why you're the first one to collapse then." Ryan joked.

"I wonder what his reason is for being here." Shingi mumbled. "I wonder how he would have done on the test as well."

"Who are you talking about?" Ryan asked.

Shaking his hands, Shingi looked to be on the defensive.

“Oh, no one, just forget about it.”

“No come on, just say who it is you were thinking about. Who’s caught your eye?” Ryan asked again.

Looking down, Shingi really didn’t want to say the name of said person, because of what happened, but he also knew that Ryan would keep pressuring him until he got an answer out of him.

“It was Gary...” Shingi said.

After saying it, everyone went a bit quiet. They all knew it was a taboo subject around Ryan, as it reminded them all of what happened during that match.

“It's alright guys, I'm over it, I promise. You don’t have to treat his name like he's some bogeyman around me.” Ryan laughed and the others laughed nervously around him.

“Oh really.” Eddy said, having just come out from the side. “That's a good thing then. I was worried that if he accepted the invitation to join us, you would have been affected, but now that I’ve heard this, it might motivate you to work even harder.”

“What? You asked a student that's barely been here a couple of weeks to join us!” one of the others shouted.

“Will you all calm down, he said no anyway.” Eddy folded his arms. “That also reminds me, Xin I might need to speak to you later on... about him.”

The others were certainly interested to know what this was about. Why would she and Gary be involved? They had stayed away from the subject so far as to not annoy Ryan but now he said he was okay with it.

“Enough, we don't need to know about that.” Ryan said red faced, trying to change the subject, what he hated more than talking about Gary was talk about Gary and Xin. “Speaking of, teacher, do you know why Jayden Tiger was at the academy?”

“Jayden is here!” Xin almost jumped up. It was a secret to everyone that it was her brother, but why didn't he come see his sister? She thought, folding her arms.

“Yeah, I thought he might be coming over to train us for a bit or something?” Ryan asked.

“Oh really, I guess I should look into it.” Eddy said with a smile, wondering what was going on right now.