

Werewolf 501

Chapter 501 6 Vs 1

"I must be dreaming, but that's Jayden Tiger, right?" Wu asked with glowing eyes. His fellow students were just as baffled to see the Altered celebrity in person, but without a doubt, this was the famous 'White Tiger'.

Snow frantically started searching his pockets for something to give to one of his idols, eventually pulling out a carrot while also dropping a few on the floor. It was amazing itself how one could hide so many carrots on one's body in the first place.

With the carrot in hand, he was running over to Jayden's side.

"Would you mind signing it for me?" Snow asked with some slight embarrassment. "It's the only thing I have on me right now."

In some situations, this might have been embarrassing but the others were just jealous that they didn't have anything that Jayden could sign right now.

"Just what strings did the AFA pull to get the 48th strongest AFC to teach us a lesson?" Sty wondered out loud. It was normal for students to be star struck when meeting someone from the AFC, even more so since this wasn't just a regular fighter but someone within the top fifty of the world. Even those who didn't watch AFC fights would recognise him with ease.

"Thanks for all the praise, but I'm actually back to rank 49 after yesterday's fight. In the end, I lost by a few points." Jayden admitted freely. Since he didn't have a pen on him to sign Snow's carrot, the young adult simply transformed his finger nail into a claw and used that to make an indentation of his signature instead. "There you go. It's my rest day today, so i decided to pay a visit."

"Do you think it was the AFA or NIRV who asked him to come here to teach us? I mean, his schedule must be filled to the brim with training, shoots, and more?" Numba whispered to Gary by his side. Although the two weren't on the same team, since they were friends it was natural for the two of them to stand next to each other, but Gary had moved to the back of the group still covering his face with two of his hands, even though nobody seems to have connected the dots that Jayden had addressed him with that awful nickname.

“What are you getting all shy for, shouldn't you at least say hi?” Jayden prompted, as he looked toward the back of the room, making everyone turn their heads. “When I heard that you not only managed to make it into the real AFA, but also joined the special lessons, I just had to pay you a visit. It's been awhile since we last fought, so I'm looking forward to see how much you improved.”

‘Gary... y-you actually know Jayden personally?! Just what kind of relationship do the two of you have for him to not only be interested in you, but also make time to teach us a lesson?! And what does he mean, since you last fought?’ Numba’s head was filled with questions, but now didn’t seem like the right time to ask his friend about those.

He wasn't the only one whose opinion about Gary changed drastically.

‘I knew it!’ Apollo smirked. ‘Someone that strong, couldn't have come from some no-name Tier-3 town. He has to have connections, I just never thought that Jayden Tiger would be one of them. I’ll seriously need to ask one of the teachers to allow me to have a match against him, but for now... I'm more excited to see how I fare against an actual AFC fighter.’

Apollo started to punch his fist into the palm of his hand, and Jayden saw this, which made him clear his throat.

“Ahem, let’s focus on the contents of this extra special lesson please. There will be more than enough time for us all to talk afterwards, provided you do good enough.” Jayden stated, not forgetting to offer them some extra motivation. “For the next fifteen minutes, both teams are to attack me as if I were your enemy. There’s no need to hold back, so I advise you to turn into your Altered forms.

“I will be the one grading both teams, and the one to do better will win the reward. It’s up to you whether you want to work together, or get in the way of the other team. From what I saw from your last special lesson, unless the six of you come at me together, you won’t stand a chance of actually defeating me.”

With the rules explained it was time for them to get ready. The red team, Apollo, Sty and Numba, stayed on the right side, while the blue team, Gary, Wu and Snow stayed on the left. Then there was Jayden who was standing on the other side of the fifty metre fighting room.

“BEGIN!” Jayden shouted which sounded almost like a growl as his face started to change. White fur appeared on his face with loose black marks, as his nails turned into claws. It was a small partial transformation but just this slight change made the teenagers feel a slight form of pressure.

‘The last time we fought, he didn’t transform but I did see him use some of his strange skills against that red colour gang. We have to be careful.’ Gary thought, but just when he wanted to warn his teammembers, he could see that everyone else had decided to recklessly charge in.

Numba had transformed into his goat-like state, the horns on the top of his head pointing at Jayden. Wu had the same antennas on him as before with his body covered in sweat. Then there was Snow with his fluffy white fur and large legs hopping around. Sty was in his bug like state and was flying around.

All of them seemed confident in their skills as they charged ahead, and even Apollo was towards the front as well.

“Really, your big plan is to charge at me all at once?” Jayden scratched the back of his head as he let out a low sigh. “I guess you’re confident in numbers. If people saw this many Altered coming at them even if they were Altered themselves they would be frightened, but you have to remember... I’m not your regular Altered.”

Jayden placed his leg back slightly, as he got in position and swung his hand back, the next moment he threw his hand out with massive force. The group had yet to reach him, there was still a good 15 metres before any one of them were in striking distance.

When his arm swung, a large powerful gust of wind came out. It immediately hit the others like a concrete wall. They were kicked off their feet, into the air, their bodies spinning as they crashed on the floor. The wind was too hard for Sty to continue flying as he fell as well.

“Oh, one of you managed to break through that. Good job.” Jayden praised, as he could see something akin to a giant white polar bear rush through his attack. Apollo’s Altered form still looked made him look human but it was as if he had grown an entire size. His cheeks had transformed a little making them puffier but the details of his face were still there. Charging ahead on all fours, he was running at an incredibly fast speed for someone of that size.

“You’re good.” Jayden said, as he glided across the floor suddenly being pushed by the wind. He didn't even move his feet; it looked like he flew over. Apollo had carefully watched his feet, but because of that he was unprepared for Jayden to suddenly appear in front of him throwing out a fist. It was launched right into the Polar Bear Altered’s stomach, and once again a large rush of wind came out of the strike lifting Apollo high up in the air, causing him to crash and land on the floor.

Only a few seconds had passed, and Gary had just stayed at the back and watched everything.

‘One swing knocked down four of them and a single punch was enough to do Apollo in. Is this what it means to be the best of the best... no, he himself admitted that there are Altered out there even stronger than... and he isn’t even taking this completely serious...’

“They don’t call me White Tiger and Master of the Wind for nothing.” Jayden boasted proudly, making a fist.

‘If I want to protect my family and the gang in the future then I need to become stronger than him.’

[Skill activated Controlled Transformation]

[New Quest received]

[Honorable Fight 3.0!]

[Among your team, you’re the last man standing!]

[Condition: Survive fifteen minutes or knock your opponent out]

[Reward: ???]

[Failure: ???]

Chapter 502 6 Vs 1 (Part 2)

If Jayden had fully transformed then Gary could never dream to win this fight without transforming himself. However, since the AFC fighter obviously held back, Gary decided to transform to around 80% of his Full Transformation. His face was the only thing that remained as it was. Although it was now covered in brown fur, he had neither a large snout nor had he sprout his large canines.

'This looks just like the Quest the System issued when I fought against Xin. It's the only one I ever failed so far. Should I thank you, System, for giving me a chance to redeem myself?' Gary thought as he ran forward.

It was at a fast speed, and all of the others that were still getting up from the first strike had seen him go right past them all.

'That guy, he's even faster than when he fought against Shingi?' Wu thought.

Seeing this Jayden prepared the same strike he had done against the others, and swung his arm out letting out a large gust of wind. Seeing this, Gary waited for the fur to rustle a little bit, and when the wind wall came at him at full force the Werewolf pushed off the ground, and swung both his hands as if he was striking the air.

To those looking from the outside it looked silly, since the wind was invisible to the eye, but Gary's strong force and use of sharp nails allowed him to cut right through and continue forward.

"I see, so far the wolf and the polar bear get equal points. Let's see if you can get through the next part." Jayden smiled.

When Gary was close enough, he was ready to swing at Jayden's head but just before he did, the Altered swung his arm slightly, and from the side a gust of wind hit the teenager, moving his body off to the side, making him nothing but the air.

Using this opportunity. Jayden went forward and kicked Gary with a push of his leg. It was strong forceful, and Gary felt the force of the wind send him flying back and crashing across the ground. In the end, Gary had to use his claws to stop himself from bouncing all over the place, as he was back in line with the others.

[-10HP]

[240/250 HP]

‘The wind is strong, but it looks like he’s still holding back to make sure he doesn’t hurt us too much. Unlike against those gang members he isn’t using fatal attacks. I can’t believe that Jayden is so much stronger to the point that he can pretty much play with us like this, without having to worry.’ Gary thought, and the realisation dampened his mood.

If he wanted, he could have easily ended the fight right then and there, but since he had come here to teach the teenagers a lesson, Jayden stayed in place and waited for everyone to get up from the ground. This time, none of them were quick to charge in again.

“Great, it looks like you’ve learned your first lesson. It’s always smarter to study the skill set of your opponent rather than just rushing in to attack. This is true for fighting humans, Altered, but also beasts. Never make the mistake of thinking you fully know what your opponent is capable of, just because you might have studied him beforehand.

“I bet you all thought that just because you’ve seen me on TV many times that you already knew my skill set. I hope I don’t burst any bubbles, but as you will learn in the future, the AFC prohibits the use of special attributes for Altered like me.

“So this wind power that my Altered form grants me has never been seen before on TV. Well, streaker boy over there might have warned you, since he’s seen me use it already. This is why you I told you that you needed teamwork. If Gary had informed you of that beforehand then you all would have fared better, right?”

The others turned to look at Gary including Wu and Snow. Their eyes were questioning him whether he had withheld that information on purpose, just so could impress Jayden the most.

‘Don’t blame me, when you guys were the ones that ran off before I could even say anything!’ Gary thought to himself as he rolled his eyes, frustrated at the lack of trust, and at Jayden obviously scapegoating him.

Now that everyone was a bit more cautious they had naturally split up around the room in their forms. Apollo surprisingly had actually gone back, while Gary moved forward to act as part of the attack force this time.

The idea was simple, with them being split up, it should be near impossible for Jayden to use his attack like he had done before. The White Tiger was glancing around him, smiling and the first to make a move was Sty, as he spat strange green liquid from his mouth.

Jayden moved away to avoid the attack, but the second he did, with a burst of power Numba charged forward with his horns. Unfortunately, his charge was stopped prematurely, as Jayden held onto them.

“You have quite the explosive bit of power there, and the two of you worked well together, a point for the red team!” Jayden announced, just before he slammed Numba’s head into the floor, and his transformed state was reverted back to normal. Judging by the cracking sound, it was safe to say that Numba was out of this fight.

Sty continued to spit out the green acid like substance at Jayden, who was able to avoid it easily as he moved bit by bit, and Snow, getting impatient, jumped in with his rabbit-like legs. It seemed like the perfect time, since their opponent would have to move to avoid getting hit by the acid, but with a flick

of his wrist, wind moved the acid and splashed it right in Snow’s face, covering his eyesight and burning him.

Lifting his leg up Jayden was ready to finish him off with a kick to the head, but standing in the way with a large forearm and atenea, Wu punched the leg that was coming toward them. It was a powerful punch that matched even Jayden’s strength.

“That’s impressive power you have there. Extra point for your team, but I’m afraid I have to get a little more serious on you.” Jayden said, as cuts appeared across both Wu and Snow’s body. It looked like claw marks and they had no idea when this had occurred.

Concerned about the cuts, with two swings of his hand, Jayden bashed their heads together, knocking both out. At that moment, jumping out from the side though was Gary, as he launched in with his claw.

The Altered moved back avoiding it, but mid strike Gary used his Controlled Transformation to extend his claws longer and scratching the top of his chest.

‘You aren’t the only one with skills.’

[Claw drain]

[+2HP]

“You waited for the right time to strike, but you ended up losing your teammates in the process, so I can’t give you any points. You in the back are doing the same mistake.” Jayden critized Apollo. “I already told you that you would need to work together, if you continue the special lessons like this, you’ll end up in serious trouble in the future.”

Chapter 503 A Winner

A lot of what Jayden said was unheard by the students. For one, most of them were already knocked out. Even Sty had been hit by a wind blast at some point, banging his head into the wall.

Leaving the only students able to listen being Apollo and Gary, but with Apollo being on the other side of the room it was unlikely he heard anything and as for Gary, he was so focused on the person ahead of him, that he was drowning out the words coming from his mouth.

‘I scratched him... which means I can hit him as well, which means I can win this fight!’ Gary thought, as he burst off the ground from his position, swinging his arms at Jayden. Although the attacks were fast, Jayden was able to see them relatively easily, and he could parry away the strikes without touching Gary’s hand.

Right now, Gary’s strength was unable to be felt because a single hit wasn't landing on Jayden.

‘I only have a few skills, the claw drain, last stand, and howling force, but in this situation none of them can help me. Did I make a mistake, should I have stopped focusing on stats and have used pawn points to unlock a skill from the system instead?’

'I still have two pawn points right now that I can use, but I'm trying to get a skill and use it in the middle of a fight.'

"You're thinking far too much." Jayden said, as he jumped, flipping over Gary and Gary's strike with his hand had gone right into the wall, stabbing it.

Gary didn't even realise that they were this close to the wall because he was so focused on hitting Jayden.

'In a ring, Gary's speed and tenacity would put nearly any AFC contestant in trouble. His speed, strength, and his deadly claws... his transformed state, it's one of the strongest I've ever seen. In the ring where one can't use special abilities or attributes, you may very well become champion, but outside the ring...

'It will be hard Gary, if you are continuing down your path, you will meet those who are far more powerful than me, with far more dangerous skills. You have to learn how to fight them. I'm glad I came here, because you need to learn a lot more than what the AFA can teach you if you're going to survive.

'I know you were the one that defeated Kirk, and I know you're involved with the Howlers. I've been watching the news carefully to see what you have been doing and it looks like Slough has become a better place... but there will be those out there that will try to take advantage of that. It was the same for me.'

With a double palm push from his hands, Jayden unleashed a strong wind that pushed Gary into the wall further with his claws, because there was another one that was coming toward him.

Apollo, had been waiting for the right time, and while Jayden and Gary were busy fighting, Apollo had begun his charge, he had reverted to his full Altered form, looking more like a polar bear than a human, and was running on all fours.

It was slow at first, but soon he began to pick up speed and was running as fast as a car as he came straight toward Jayden. When he launched forward, Apollo's form was changing into his half state making him appear more human and Apollo had the biggest grin on his face, because he could tell that this was too fast even for Jayden to react.

'I got him.'

Apollo grabbed him by both of his arms, holding onto them tightly.

'Now he can't use his wind against me.' Apollo thought, as he lifted him in the air and threw Jayden into the ground as hard as possible.

The professors and the observers from NIRV who were watching were worried, they had seen the strength of Apollo, especially his large slam, and even Jayden would be hurt by this.

At the last moment, with his hands facing toward the back of him, Jayden unleashed a large amount of wind. He needed to use all of his power as he pushed back against the floor.

Apollo had felt like he had slammed someone onto the floor, but the sheer power that Jayden had produced, had stopped him from touching the floor.

"You're good, you're really good." Jayden said, with a smile. "Too bad that I'm awesome" Jayden said, as he pushed off the ground with the wind again, using it in a burst and loosening himself from Apollo's grip.

"You're a big guy, so I think you can take this!" Swinging his hand, wind had come out, but not as strongly as the times before, instead across his chest, Apollo felt the special armour they gave him had been ripped and so had parts of his flesh, as blood was being drawn, but Apollo still stood there strong as Jayden created distance between the two of them.

At the same time, Gary had quickly reverted his form back to his normal self to get his claws out of the wall and then had transformed back to his Werewolf self.

'I can feel it, I'm close, I have to keep trying new things.' Gary thought, as he walked closer and had Apollo by his side.

‘These two’ Jayden thought. ‘Both of them are incredibly strong. It makes me wonder if the two of them were to get in a fight, which one of them would win. What a talented new generation we have. Xin, you have a lot cut out for you if you want to stay at the top.’

Putting his hands down, the buzzer went off shortly after.

“Fifteen minutes have passed, the special lesson is over.” An announcement was made.

During that whole time Jayden was also able to tell how much time had passed, it showed how skilled he was able to be able to focus on different things during the fight.

“I guess it's now time for me to decide who the winner is out of both of the teams.” Jayden smiled.

Chapter 504 A Special Reward

Before announcing the results, Jayden waited for the knocked out teenagers to wake it. This didn't take long since there was already a specialised medical team on standby. Usually, they only needed to take care of wounds caused by beasts, so treating the two teams who had been only lightly been injured by the AFC fighter was a welcome change for them.

“No need to make a fuss, if those guys weren't strong Altered they've never would have made it into the special lesson classes. Besides, I made sure to hold back, so most of those are surface wounds.” Jayden shrugged as he waited for the medics to do their job.

In a matter of minutes, both teams were lined up, all of them sharing unsatisfied looks on their faces. One of them being Apollo who cursed himself for not lasting longer. There had been so many more things he had wanted to try out, yet before he could, time had run out. Gary knew exactly how he felt because it was the same for him as well.

“Man, we suck so much!” Snow complained. “We were one of the first ones to get knocked out.”

Wu was also feeling down. When they had faced off against the debut students, it hadn't seemed like there was such a big gap, but fighting against a top ranker, it was clear to him that outside the AFA a whole new world awaited them. Even scarier was the fact that until the end the White Tiger hadn't taken them seriously.

“Now, now, don't get your knickers in a knot. You guys didn't do that bad, and your bravery is commendable. Still, I hope that one of the lessons you take with you today is that there will be times where being brave could get you killed.” Jayden lectured. “You need to be prepared that you might another Altered with special abilities, as well as beasts that have special abilities. In fact, you yourself as Altered might have yet to unlock your true talent and powers.”

Hearing these words was quite encouraging to the six teenagers. For a while some of them had felt that they had hit a plateau in their training. They felt that they weren't improving as quickly or as much as they used to, but hearing this, and seeing what was possible allowed them to push themselves even harder.

“Now here comes the hard part for me as your stand-in teacher, I need to decide which of your teams which sucked le- *ahem* performed better than the eather.” Jayden quickly cleared his throat to distract from his verbal blunder and placed his finger on his chin, as he thought back to the events.

“Gary, let's start with my critic towards you. I get that you're more of a lone wolf, but you have been assigned your teammates for a reason, but what did you do? Rather than make use of their strength, you stood back twice waiting for a chance, even going so far as to sacrifice them to get a chance to hit me. The same, though to a lesser degree, applies to you, Apollo. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, I give you equal points for having managed to circumvent my wind wall and get to me, in Gary's case even scratching me.

“Snow, Wu, Sty Numba, the four of you might have been knocked out by me, but you still showed at least a semblance of teamwork. If you had focused on it, you might have done far better. Snow, I'm sorry to say but your performance was the worst of you six. While it was a good idea to attack me at the position I would appear at, after seeing how I could use wind, you should have been prepared to be hit by the acid attack.

“Wu, your mentality to attack me when I was going to dispose of Snow isn't that much better than Gary or Apollo, yet I noticed a slight hesitation when you attacked me, since you made sure Snow was okay. As passionate as that is, in those situations you should focus on doing your job, and should have attacked me with all you got, rather than allow yourself to get distracted.

“Sty, I think you already know that while your wings give you the advantage over many enemies, they're not almighty, and your attack capabilities aren't the best against those who are either tough enough to brace your acid attack, or those who dodge or evade it.

“Numba, while your charge attack might certainly pack a punch, you need to work on it, especially on not making it that obvious. Still, good usage of the opportunity that came from me not knowing about Sty’s attack. That was the closest thing to teamwork that came out this lesson today, and for that reason I have to give it to your team.”

Numba lifted his arms up cheering, and went to high five the person next to him, only to realise that it was Sty, he put it back down who kept his arms folded and turned his head away. There was then Apollo on the other side, but he didn’t look to be in the mood to high five either.

“You guys will get to ask the academy for a reward. Ask for a day off, some nice food or something. Anyway, the real reward will be what you take away from today’s lesson.”

With that said it was time for Jayden to leave, but as he did, he walked past Gary putting his hand on his shoulder and whispering in his ear.

“Meet me on the roof of your dormitory, we need to have a little catch up chat before I go.”

Gary gulped not knowing whether this was a good thing or bad thing. In the past Gary wasn’t bothered about Jayden too much, but now after seeing his display of skills, it made him worry. What would happen if he and Xin got in an argument one day. Would he have Jayden come knocking on his door the next day?

‘Why am I worrying about that now when me and Xin aren’t even together? Besides, as an Altered, she could probably fight me herself if I ever pissed her off. Jayden never seemed to mind the two of us in the first place, unlike her father...’ Gary thought.

Once again the Werewolf found everyone's eyes on him. With the lesson over, Crowley sent them on their way back to rest at the dormitory, but not before he explained that the regular special lesson would still be on Friday, and reminded everyone to take to heart that they had been told, especially since Jayden had been a part of these same special lessons.

It was no surprise otherwise they would have never let him in there, but did this mean NIRV had control of many of the big shots in the AFA? If that was the case, they were a far bigger and powerful organisation than the outside world was aware of.

As they were walking back to the dormitory, Numba couldn't help but smile.

"I can't believe you know Jayden, so what is the deal between you two?" Numba asked the question that had been plaguing him ever since the White Tiger had shown himself. He wanted to ask before but didn't want the others to find out, even though he knew they must be just as curious interested.

"I wouldn't really call it knowing him. Not a lot of people know this because they don't really advertise it, but he has folks living in my hometown. In the past, I did something... 'stupid' and he was the one to help me in that situation."

All of what Gary said was technically true, but he wouldn't mention the reason behind his embarrassing name.

"I see, it's still cool to know someone like that. He seemed to like you at least." Numba then started to rub his hands. "I can't wait though, I don't even know what to ask as a reward. Maybe I can ask to get a personal coach that can help push me to the next level. After all I don't want to fall behind in the special lesson...Oh sorry, I forgot, you didn't get a special reward." ,

Numba was just too excited and since Gary was his only friend in the special lesson, he sometimes forgot that they weren't on the same tim. Now he felt a little bad about the bargaining he had just done.

"It's okay, seriously I'm not that upset about it." Gary replied with a smile. He didn't lie, after all, he did get something out of it.

[Quest completed]

[You managed to survive against one of the best, though next time he might take you seriously!]

Hopefully, you've learned a valuable lesson.

The system wishes to help you by unlocking part of your strength!]

[Please choose one of the following skills]

[Lethal Pounce]

[Berserker Mode]

[LOCKED] (Failed to achieve the optional part)

‘You really know how to motivate me, System. Still, getting choose one out of two skills is better than nothing. Now, if you only could at least provide me with a bit of description in the future...’

There was a skill that Gary perhaps could have used against Jayden and that was Magnetic Howl. However, it was a trump card which he didn’t want to reveal too soon, but looking at the skill there was one that had interested Gary that kept coming up.

‘I think this skill could work well with what I have at the moment.’

Chapter 505 Reach Me

In the past when things like a tough decision came up, Gary would have confined in Tom for advice. Since he was on his own, the teenager was wondering what his best choice would. Although there was no description on the skills, the skill names themselves gave him some information.

Lethal Pounce had to be a type of movement skill. In the fight with Jayden, it might have allowed him to cover the distance between the two of them. It had been tricky getting through the wind attack, but in the end the Werewolf had managed to do it without the need for a skill. Of course, the skill could have some other effects, but there was no way to know that without choosing it.

Then there was the Berserker Mode, which promised a lot more synergy with his current stats. From what Gary knew Berserkers were usually type that focused on their rage, gaining pure power in favor of defense. The more wounds they took, the more power they could exhibit, so in his case, the Werewolf assumed that less Health would translate to a bigger boost to his Strength.

Fortunately, his Endurance had always been high, and coupled with his Last Stand skill, Berserker Mode might prove to be a deadly combo. Unfortunately, it was once again a skill that seemed like a double-edged sword, and might be more suited as a last resort.

'I don't like the idea of playing around with death. I get that taking this skill might very well mean that I would be at my strongest at that point, but if I miscalculate even slightly, it might be it for me... stupid System, why did you have to taunt me by showing that I missed out on a potential choice? Now I can't help but be curious!'

Rolling from one side to the other on his bed, Gary was suddenly informed that it was past midnight, courtesy of his system that would update him on how many days it was until the next full moon.

'System, can't you give me a tip or suggestion? Is it possible to trade those in for a more useful skill, how about something that allows me and others to have a peaceful time during the full moon?'

Unsurprisingly, Gary got no answer. He started listing the pros and cons, once again, but in the end the decision was so tough that the exhausted teenager was starting to fall asleep and as he closed his eyes he pushed his finger forward and had picked one of the skills.

A small nap later, he suddenly woke up with a scary realisation. Taking a look on his phone, he noticed that he had been asleep for over an hour. 'Ah crap, Jayden, he's going to kill me.'

Taking the quick way to the rooftop and not wanting Jayden to wait any longer, Gary opened the outside window, and started to climb up. With his strength and grip he was easily able to throw himself a few ledges up with a single hand.

He continued to do this, until he eventually reached the dormitory of his building, and there he could see the one and only waiting in the distance.

"FINALLY!!! I was just about to walk to your room and drag you here. Do you have any idea how many people would be willing to pay me to get to hang out with me and yet here you are taking your sweet time." Jayden tapped his foot in anger, the smile on his face was showing his teeth.

"I'm so sorry." Gary immediately apologised, putting both of his hands together. He even went as far to get onto his knees like he was begging. "I promise, the teachers..."

"Relax, there is still one more person I need to see before leaving anyway, besides I like being on roof tops." Jaydne said as he turned around and looked at the view from atop the academy.

"Gary, there is a lot I want to speak to you about. The academy, the AFC, the Tier cities, the gangs, my father, Xin. The list is huge, but we don't have too much time, and I'm afraid at the moment, most of that stuff will just unnecessarily put pressure on your shoulders."

Jayden then turned around with a very serious expression on his face. It wasn't his usually smiley self instead it was a worried look, which looked foreign on the young adult. Gary knew what this was like because it was the same for him when he was in the Underdogs.

"Jayden... is everything okay? Do you need help with anything?" Gary asked.

Those words seemed to snap Jayden out of his daze as he shook his head. "Help? From you. I appreciate the gesture, Gary, but If I can't solve my problems, then what do you think you could possibly do?"

It was true but for some reason at that moment Gary wanted to offer his hand to pull Jayden out of whatever struggle he was in at the moment.

"I'm amazed at the speed of your growth. With what you've shown, I don't doubt that you would fare well in the AFC's lower ranks, but until you reach where I'm standing, my problems should not be yours to worry about. I do sometimes wish there was someone at my side to discuss these type of things, and maybe its stupid of me to say this but im going to anyway.

Jayden took in a deep breath as he walked over to where Gary was, and then stopped right in front of him putting his hand out, onto the teenager's shoulders.

"Get stronger, strong enough so you can stand by my side, and when you do, we can have that type of conversation"

For some reason, Gary felt like whatever problems Jaydne was having they had to be relatively big if for one he couldn't solve them and two, he needed someone just as strong as him. For this person though, that had helped him every step of the way, of course Gary would take their hand.

"Of course," Gary said. "I promise that I will get as strong as you, and when I am, if there is anything you need help with, I will be there."

[Would you like to make a bond mark with Jayden Clove?]

This was a promise that Gary didn't want to break himself, no matter who he became so he decided to make the mark anyway. Not that he thought he would need it any time soon.

"Haha, you surely have balls. Well, should you become strong enough to stand by my side, I might actually have to give you my blessing for Xin. Well, getting her to agree, is still up to you first, of course."

Gary let go and put both hands behind his head as his nostrils grew slightly bigger. "Haha, yeah."

"I'm sorry about this, but my message basically is, reach where I am," Jayden confirmed.

With that said, Jayden was off. The Werewolf didn't know when they would see each other again, but eventually, when Gary felt like he was strong enough and had the power to help, he would find Jayden and repay him.

Chapter 506 Special Lesson 2 (Part 1)

The normal days at the academy were going quite slow for Gary. There wasn't much to do, and since he had already been offered to debut, the lessons felt somewhat pointless now. Sure it was interesting, but none of it was as interesting as what was happening in his life at the moment.

After speaking to Jayden last night, Gary couldn't stop thinking about what the problems could be, and there was one thing he knew, what he had to do before, and always did, was to get stronger.

Gary

Grade: Bishop

Class: Warrior

Level 23

[Health 250]

[Energy 300]

[Exp 8788/11564]

[Strength 36]

[Dexterity 26]

[Endurance 34]

(There was a mistake the last time his stats were shown)

Which was why he couldn't wait for Friday to come. Still, Gary got to enjoy his time with the others and Numba had done as he said he would, getting a private instructor to teach him, just like the debut students. Although it wasn't Eddie that was teaching him since he was far too busy but there were a lot of talented teachers in the AFA, so he was sure he would make some improvement.

Which meant that Numba was away from the others a lot more than he usually would have been. As time went on, the day had finally come and Gary was back in the strange room wearing his blue clothing, taking part in the special lesson.

“Before your lesson is to begin today, I am to take you to the observing deck.” Crowley mentioned.
“Cool! I want you to know, you are all to be on your best behaviour, for there are many up there that are from NIRV.”

“Sir, what exactly will they be doing?” Snow asked.

“That is not for me to know, but I think there may be a weekly assessment for you all. Before you take part, perhaps they are monitoring your growth.” Crowley explained.

The two groups went into the large fighting area as they usually would have done, but at the side of one of the walls, there was a door that was already open. Entering inside, they realised that it was actually an elevator.

Gary had noticed that the NIRV research team that had taken the crystal out of the beast had gone into these rooms before.

‘Man, I hope I don’t meet that creepy guy again. I have a feeling he already had an idea of what was going on.’ Gary thought.

As the elevator dinged, the students were surprised by what their eyes were looking at right now. It looked like a large lab. There were several machines, recording equipment, and men in white shirts and suits.

To the right, there was a long glass wall that would allow them to look down and directly at the fights taking place. Now they knew why it was called the observing deck. However, one of the very first people that Gary could see was the very NIRV employee he was thinking about.

“Ah, it's very nice to meet the new Retrievers in person!” James said, as he walked forward with his thick black frame glasses and his annoying pen in his hand. Every so often he would click the top of the pen for no reason and, with Gary’s hearing being sensitive, he would notice it more so than others.

James looked at all of them smiling, but when his eyes met with Gary, the smile was even bigger than it was before.

"Please, none of you have to be nervous, we are just checking your Altered information. After all, we want to give you the best chance of survival, as you will be fighting stronger beasts from now on. If we knew your skills and the type of Altered you all are, it would allow us to match you up with more appropriate beasts that are advantageous for you."

Crowley had his arms folded and stood between James and the students, if there was one thing Gary was happy about, it was the fact that Crowley seemed to also have a disliking for these guys.

"But if there is a danger, then you will do everything in your power to stop it, correct?" Crowley said.

"Of course!" James smiled. "Please just follow along, this will only take fifteen minutes or so, after that you students should be ready for your next assessment."

As Gary continued to walk with the others, he realised something. What if these tests figured out he wasn't an Altered, what would happen then? There was still the fact that the Underdogs were meant to deliver the package that had made Gary into a werewolf to someone. From all the things he was finding out about NIRV, it seemed like they would be a good suspect.

'My only bet is to plead to Crowley that I don't want to take these tests, he should understand, right... right?'

"Please, my employees will take great care of you." James said as he walked off and brushed past Gary. His heart was beating fast but, as he turned his head, it soon turned into a smile.

"You shouldn't worry too much. It's just a questionnaire and a health checkup. We can't take that much information from you guys. Rules of your academy and what not." A soft voice said that Gary hadn't heard in a while.

He nearly blurted out and shouted as he saw this person, but soon saw him give a wink towards him as he held the clipboard. Once again, the others looked at who the wink was aimed at, and they all turned to Gary once more.

"Ah don't worry, I was just trying to be friendly." The person nervously said. "Anyway, let's get going to the test."

As Gary walked forward, it was hard for him to stop smiling.

‘Who would have thought, of all places, I would meet you here. Well, it's nice to meet you again, Tom.’

Chapter 507 A Special Item (Part 1)

Tom had been working for NIRV just as long as Gary had been at the AFA. When the two of them had split up that day and left school, Tom had resumed his prior work as a special case. His grades were more than good enough and although he was younger than what they usually got, as the son of two of their prominent researchers, NIRV had agreed to make an exception and sign him up for their program that was aimed at students who had just graduated, offering him a nice career.

Of course, as soon as Tom had heard that there were some NIRV employees that worked at AFA he did his best to be a part of it. He couldn't imagine the look on Gary's face as he would appear in a white lab robe, and he was quite with the result today. In a way, their meeting showed that although they were both taking different paths there could still be chances for them to be involved in each other's lives, they just needed to get out of the current rut they were in.

‘It's nice to see you again, and from what I learnt edbout these special lessons it seems that you have been doing well at the academy to get yourself here, and you don't have to worry about a thing now that I'm here, I will make sure your secret stays a secret.’ Tom thought as he conducted the tests on each of the students.

Honestly, at the moment there was nothing in the test that would out Gary as they were just going through small small checkups. They were connected to a machine via cables that checked their heartbeat, the electric pulse and a few other things.

After that, there was a questionnaire that was given out to each of the students. It was all about their current Altered forms and their powers. Many of those questions would ask them to rate themselves on a scale from one to ten, such as how strong they felt compared to other Altered. The questions were quite subjective depending on their experience.

When Tom handed out the clipboards for them to fill in, Gary's form, which was on the very bottom, was already filled out. When the Werewolf looked up, Tom just mouthed the word ‘pretend’, so the green-haired teenagers quickly picked up the pen and ‘used’ it.

'This is the safest way to do it. Gary could always answer something that would raise their suspicions, so it's best that I do it for him. I'm a really good friend, aren't I?' Tom smiled to himself as he wiggled his nose about in the air.

The thing was Gary would have to agree Tom was going above and beyond. If NIRV were to catch him doing such things, he might be lucky if all they did was to kick him out. It just showed how much Tom treasured the friendship between the two of them.

With all the tests over, the students were free to go, but before they left it looked like James had come back as he had something to say to them all.

"Today's test will be the same as last time. You will be split into two teams, but for your own safety, we'll be doing one group after the other." James explained. "The red group will start, so the blue group is free to relax, or even watch and come up with a strategy."

"Isn't that a bit unfair?" Sty asked. "If they see what the beast is capable of then they will have a better chance of beating it easier and quicker."

"This is not a contest." Crowley quickly interrupted.

"Your teacher is right. Although today you will be fighting the same beast again, it's unlikely to happen often in the future. The primary goal of these special lessons is to strengthen you, so that you can work as full fledged Retrievers. Knowing your enemy beforehand is a luxury, not a guarantee.

"Of course, depending on the estimated degree of danger, it's likely that we put both groups together to face the beast, but regardless, most Retrievers do their job going in blind, so best get used to it. Also, and you should take clear note of this, if at any point and time we evaluate that you're not Retriever material, we'll no longer allow you to take part in these special lessons."

This was the first time the students hearing this, that if they didn't show good enough skills, or could prove they were strong enough to survive, that they would be kicked out of the lesson. Gary's guess was this was more of the academy's doing rather than NIRV. From the judge of character NIRV couldn't care who's life was lost and whose wasn't.

Apollo, Numba and Sty headed back down to the training room, while the blue team were allowed to stay in the observing deck and watch from above. Just before the test was about to begin, Tom coughed loudly and informed his supervisor that he needed to go to the toilet. The older NIRV employee seemed annoyed, and chided the intern that he was old enough to just go on his own.

Seeing this, Gary could only assume that Tom had done that on purpose to send him a signal, so he quickly turned to Crowley. "Actually, I might go quickly as well, before the test begins."

As Gary entered the stalls, he could see Tom was waiting by the sink for him. "I'm so happy that you understood what I wanted. I was worried, I might have to be in here for ten minutes before you got the message."

Gary chuckled because there were a few moments he was second guessing himself, but he thought it would be a nice time for the two of them to talk anyway.

"Anyway, we can't stay in here for long otherwise they will be suspicious, but I wanted to give you something. During my research I found something that I think you might like."

Tom walked over, and placed what felt like a large medallion into Gary's hand, as he looked at it, he could see that there was a shield and a face of the wolf on the medallion, that wasn't the only thing though, because the system recognized it as well.

[An ancient item has been received]

Chapter 508 Special Item (Part 2)

"Tom, where did you get something like this?! Are you sure it's alright to give this to me?" Gary had to ask, because he still couldn't believe that the System had such a reaction to this thing.

"It's pretty cool, right?" Tom smirked. "You better accept it, because it wasn't easy getting it out. I pretty much swiped it from work. Don't worry, I wasn't stupid enough to do it in one go and it's also nothing too precious, at least for NIRV's standard. In fact, they won't even miss it. It was one of those things they found when digging for fossils, but after a few rounds of experiments there was no link to any ancient beasts."

“Well, it has a wolf on it, so according to the notes, the researcher assumed that it was just a piece of art depicting what could have been a beast. Since it was gathering dust in the archives I thought it might be better off with you rather than getting auctioned off to some museum at some point. Anyway, I thought it would be a nice gift for you, to remember me, you know in case you forget.”

“Tom...” Gary replied wanting to make a joke that they weren’t a couple like that. There was no need for him to get the other a gift but there was so much on Gary’s mind because he doubted that Tom even knew what it was that had just been handed to him.

[An ancient item has been received]

[A Werewolf Artefact of the old]

[The Artefact cannot be activated with your current power]

‘It doesn't just have normal a wolf on it, this picture on the medallion is a Werewolf? Does this mean that Werewolves also existed back then, when the strong beasts used to roam the earth?’

An image appeared in Gary’s head of Werewolves fighting against the large beasts. It seemed to make more sense than humans existing in his head, but the other thing was the fact that this item could be activated but stated he didn’t have enough power.

‘What does it mean by power? Does it mean that my level is too low, or is it something else? If it belongs to Werewolves of the past, then Werewolves should be able to open this thing. The next time I see them, I should have Kai or Olivia hold it and see if there’s any reaction.’

At the end of the day, Gary wasn’t going to refuse something like this as he placed it under his trousers. In the suit he was in, the pocket wasn’t really the best place.

“Are you sure that thing... is going to be comfy there?” Tom asked.

“It's the only place I can put it for now.” Gary replied wondering how to make sure it would suffer in the middle of the fight.

"Alright." Tom couldn't help but stare in Gary's chunk area trying to see the outline of the object. "There is something else I wanted to warn you about. While working at NIRV they seem to be quite worried about this black liquid.

"It's a substance that is just like the Altered DNA and it can be used the same way, the only thing is, only a small amount of it needs to be used to be successful. Because of that, many groups have been researching it, not just NIRV, but there is quite a nast side effect, it makes the people turn into Crazy Altered."

Immediately Gary's mind went to the orphans in slough as well as a couple of redhead twins he had come across.

"Of course they're trying to get rid of the side effects because this could be a huge breakthrough in the Alterification process. People would no longer have to pay fortunes to become Altered! Of course, that's only if they can complete it. Anyway, my point is, the black liquid's origin is from the beasts in the first place.

"There have been some cases when creating a beast from the crystal that a beast shows signs of being infected. Purple skin, dark eyes, and at times a bit of strange shadow floating from their skin. There are two things, these beasts that are infected are stronger than your average beasts, and the other point is, if seriously injured by these infected beasts there have been cases where Altered have turned crazy as well.

"So, while taking these lessons, if you ever come across a beast that looks like this, I advise you to run." Tom suggested.

All of the information was interesting to Gary. Meeting Tom had taught him a lot. Now, Gary was starting to see the advantages of having people in different areas of expertise. Gary could gather information in the academy, Tom at NIRV, and Kai in the gang world as well.

"Come on, let's get out of here, before they think the two of us are up to something." Tom suggested as he exited out of the toilet first, and then a few moments later Gary followed after.

'How...did the Grey Elephant get their hands on the black liquid? Did they work with an organisation like NIRV? No, I doubt that they would want something like this to get out. Does that mean that someone is selling this defective liquid to the gangs for some extra money? I'll have to update Kai about this and make sure none of it reaches Slough. Once was more than enough...'

As Gary was thinking this, he could hear a lot of talking coming from the scientist and more.

"Wow, impressive. This beast was harder than the last, we can see that, but in the end they managed to defeat it quite quickly." James said.

Hearing this, Gary rushed to the glass, where he could see a beast that was unrecognisable as most of its body parts were torn. Apollo still looked to be in a transformed state as he was covered in blood, while Sty and Numba looked to have somewhat been injured, but it was clear that the two of them were still alive.

Judging by the wounds this beast that they had gone up against wasn't as easy as the last, and once again Apollo had done most of the grunt work.

"It looks like that surprise lesson from Jayden had made him reach another level." Crowley commented, and it was clear he was talking about Apollo.

"Alright, Blue team, it's time for you to get ready." Crowley smiled.

Gary was excited. 'A stronger beast than last time? Perfect, that just means, I'll be even stronger afterwards!'

Chapter 509 Special Lesson 3 (Part 1)

There was a fine line between nervous and excited and, as Gary stood there in the white room, he didn't know how he felt. A way to grow stronger, what type of beast would come out this time.

Yet at the same time, he knew how dangerous this was, these creatures were trying to outright kill them, and there was the warning from Tom. Before the assessment was to start, Gary looked up where the glass screen was being seen. Now he knew the type of people that were keeping an eye on him.

“Hey Gary.” Wu said, as he was already punching the air warming up. “You know we have to impress the people as well to stay in the lessons, you heard them right. So give me and Snow a chance.”

“Give us a chance, what are you talking about?” Snow angrily complained.

Wu never acted like this before, even after the last assessment. Yes, he knew Gary was good, but the way they were talking to him made it sound like he was on another level.

Of course, this was Wu’s evaluation after seeing him take on the debut students and fighting with Jayden.

A buzzer sounded off, and they had no time to argue or fight against each other, because now in front of them, was the beast that they were ready to face. The door opened wide and unlike the last time they could see nothing coming straight at or through.

There were no heavy intimidating footsteps which made them wonder if there was a type of mistake. That was until they could see it crawling out from the side of the wall. Its body was the size of half a car, but the length of it was almost that of a small train, and it had hundreds and hundreds of legs that could be heard scurrying as it walked on the side of the wall.

There was a hard outer shell, which made the beast this time look like that of a centipede and the two large claws in front of its mouth didn’t make it look any less like one.

“Is it going to stay on the side of the wall?” Wu asked, as his two antennas were already sticking out of his head. Seeing what looked like another bug, his instincts were kicking in.

Bug type Altereds were dangerous for a few reasons, one of their main strengths being they were far superior in strength and speed compared to humans. As insects, they were already fast and when increased in size, it made them even more deadly.

Now, seeing a beast of one, Wu felt like this was going to be a tough one. After saying his words, the beast started to climb halfway up the wall, making it hard for them to reach, and was going from the side wall to the back wall at an incredibly fast pace.

“This isn’t the beast we have on file?” Tom asked in the observing deck. “I thought we were still giving both teams the same type of beast to evaluate the students’ limits.”

There was something worrying Tom, perhaps it was the fact that he had never seen this beast on file. Meaning he didn’t know what type to categorise it at. Through research, they were starting to learn from the crystals that the beasts left behind after death, it collated a lot with their strength.

So from the plenty of fossils they had, they were able to tell if it was a basic tier beast, an intermediate, advanced, and so on. Yet if it was a beast that wasn’t on file it meant that they had no idea what tier it was at either.

The other students also realised that this wasn’t the same beast as they fought against, and the first thing that Apollo noticed when looking at this one, was it was a lot faster and a lot more agile than the one they had gone against.

“You’re right, I switched it.” James answered. “However, you have nothing to worry about. From our research we are beginning to understand the level of beasts before they are created. Don’t worry I wouldn’t let something so dangerous out with a bunch of amateur retrievers. What type of person do you think I am?”

That was the thing, Tom had no clue what type of person James was. He was always smiling and friendly to everyone but at times would do wild things with the experiments or the teams that he ran as well.

“Based on their last assessment, I just thought they could do with more of a challenge.”

“James!” Crowley shouted. “Remember what I said. If these students are seriously hurt because of something you did, I don’t care what organisation you have behind you. I will do everything in my power to hurt the one that is responsible.”

James just looked at the teacher as he nodded, and continued to watch the match as if it was no big deal.

— —

Snow, seeing it up on the side of the wall so high, was getting frustrated and he couldn't take it anymore. Eventually transforming his body, and the bottom part of himself had once again become that of a rabbit, while both of his small ears had become large as they flopped.

'That bug thing is pretty high up. I know he has strong jumping power but how is he going to reach up there?' Gary thought.

The only thing he could think of was using his claws to climb up the wall. The problem was, then he would be in a vulnerable state. Which was why Gary thought it was best to wait for the beast to attack them first.

Taking a deep squat, Snow was directly up against the wall, and then jumped up high, reaching around halfway up the wall of the large room, but the centipede was nearly as high up as the ceiling itself.

When it looked like Snow was slowing down and about to fall, he pushed his legs again in the air. There was nothing for the rabbit-like Altered to push against, but somehow and some way it looked as if he was on the floor again, as a burst of energy sent Snow upward.

With his hand, Snow threw out a fist towards the centipede. When Snow got close though, using its body like a whip, it swung its body with the main weight being in its large head and hit Snow out of the air, and right into the wall.

Now all they could see was Snow slowly sliding down the wall.

'I'm quite happy that I didn't decide to go through with my plan now.' Gary thought, as he imagined that he would be in the same situation he had done. The beast was incredibly fast and due to the segmented parts of its body, it was able to create a powerful strike just like a whip.

There was an indent in the wall from where Snow had been hit into, but Snow was the number two student, so something like this wouldn't kill him, at least that's what Gary hoped anyway.

However, the centipede was now on the move, moving on the wall again, and it looked like it was going right for where Snow would land on the ground, aiming to finish off its injured prey.

When Snow touched the ground, the centipede opened up its two large pincers, ready to cut him in half. Snow was slightly dazed, but he was coming to, and had only just seen the beast.

“Don’t worry I got you!” Wu said, as his forearms grew larger and the skin tone changed to a dark brown which was almost black. Stretching out his arms, Wu stopped the pincers' strike. His arms were shaking but he was unable to stop its body.

The momentum carried on, pushing Wu into the air. He held his hands out at full width, stopping the pincers from crushing him while holding on as well. Although Wu hated it, the only one he could rely on now was Gary and he could see him already having been transformed.

Seeing all of this, Gary saw an opportunity as he ran forward towards its body. Yes, the beast was fast, but so was Gary. As he swung his arm, the segment of its body suddenly twisted the other way, and Gary’s claw had hit nothing but the air.

“Was it bad timing?” Gary thought, as he ran after the bug beast again and swung his claw at a different bit but the same thing happened again with the beast curling its body avoiding the strike.

‘But its head is focused on Wu, and it isn't looking this way. This must be some type of sixth sense the beast has...’ At first Gary was worried, but a smile appeared on his face. ‘I guess this is an opportunity to try that, my new skill.’

Chapter 510 New Skill Activated

The large centipede-like beast continued to move, and unlike with the last beast, Wu wasn’t pulling any of his punches. He was using the full strength of his current Altered form as he was stopping all of the power in the pincers from crushing him.

It was a struggle that was going on for a while, but eventually they had reached the end of the wall, and the centipede, with no fear of hurting its own body, crashed into the wall, pushing Wu right up against it.

The body weight, speed, and strength of the beast made it a powerful blow, but if there was one thing that Wu was proud of, other than his strength, it was his body. Having not passed out, Wu was still fighting against the pincers crushing in on him, and he was noticing that his hands were starting to bleed as well.

'With the strength and size of these things, one snap of these, and I'll be dead, not just me but any Altered. Isn't this too much of a step up from the last beast that we fought?' Wu thought.

In the air he could see someone coming from a distance.

"Don't worry, this is teamwork!" Snow shouted, as he landed on the beast's head with his two feet. The second he landed, he pushed with all his strength off his legs and the centipede's head crashed into the ground.

As Snow was falling, he wasn't done just yet. He was ready to kick his legs into hyper gear right on top of the centipede's head. As his foot was ready, the head moved out of the way, and the rest of the body scurried away, leaving Snow's foot to crash into the ground.

Where Snow's foot was, the ground was broken, it was an attack sure to do some damage, but now the centipede had scurried back onto the wall again, just like the time before.

"Damn it, that might have been our best chance, while it was closest to the ground, what are you doing Gary!" Snow shouted.

Seeing that Gary hadn't been following the centipede like he had been before, he just stood in the centre of the room.

"Sorry, I was just checking something." Gary smiled awkwardly, as he scratched the back of his head, but now he was sure of it.

The skill he had selected while being half asleep was perfect to use on an opponent like this, he just needed the right opportunity.

"What are we going to do now?" Snow asked, as he approached Gary and Wu as well, who's back didn't look to be in the best of shape, as it was raw and red.

To be honest, neither did Snow as well.

"It looks like that thing is just going to stay up there, but if we try and go up to it, well we know what happened last time." Wu commented.

This was the problem, the beast was too far away and all of them were physical fighters. Even Gary didn't know too much about what to do and with them all standing around, eventually he had to come up with a solution.

"I... will go try and get it to come out of the corner. Maybe it will do the same as last time, if it grabs me in its claws again, but there is also a chance that it might go after you two... the thing is so fast."

"You don't have to worry about us so much." Snow interrupted Gary. "The two of us are top students, and we are in this lesson for a reason. If you get that centipede out of the corner, then we can handle ourselves."

Heading to the other end of the room, Gary looked up at the centipede in the corner of the room. It wasn't the best situation and he didn't know when it would be, so he would just have to try and go with the flow after this.

Using his claws, Gary had to now do what he thought about earlier, and he was now climbing the wall, digging his nails one step at the time. He had scaled it quite quickly, but as he got closer to the centipede as he could see it crawling over its own body he started to slow down.

'I saw what that thing did to Snow... do I really have to.' Gary thought.

In the end, he had no choice, as he climbed right up to the centipede, and he could see it moving, lifting its head. It was doing the same actions as before, right before it hit Snow like a whip.

While on the wall, Gary was frightened that he might get crushed, so the only thing he could do was match power with power. Placing his legs up against the side of the wall, Gary pushed off as hard as he could with his claws, in the air.

Swinging part of its upper body, while its slower body parts remained clinging to the wall, it whipped, hitting Gary just like it hit Snow. There seemed to be no difference, despite Gary using his claws or power, as he was sent flying and crashing into the wall.

[-66HP]

[184/250 HP]

‘That’s a big hit, a couple more of those and I’ll no longer be standing.’

Quickly recovering and not allowing himself to slide down the wall, Gary was ready to fight against the beast again, but it was no longer in front of him.

‘Where did it go?’

Looking down he could see it was now on the floor and it was heading straight for Snow and Wu instead.

‘This is what I was afraid would happen!’ Gary jumped off from the wall, and as soon as he landed on the ground, he ran off after the beast.

“Do you have any plans?” Snow asked.

“I was going to hit it until it stopped moving.” Wu replied.

“I thought as much.” Snow smiled, as he hopped away towards the beast.

When getting close, Snow jumped in the air, and mid air, it used its pincers to try to grab him. Once again, Snow kicked the air giving him a type of double jump and avoiding the hit altogether.

With this jump, Snow had leapt over the body and had reached the end of its tail as it carried on moving forward. As he fell through the sky, he had both legs tucked in towards his chest.

Then at the last second, he pushed his legs out as hard as he could, hitting the very last segment. The attack had broken through the hard shell of the beast revealing bits of flesh and had pinned it to the floor, but it didn't stop the beast.

As it carried on moving with its legs, the last segment was just detached from its body as it headed towards Wu.

Once again, Wu was unable to do anything other than use his hands, as he stopped the pincers from closing down on him.

"I need to help Wu somehow." Snow stated.

"Leave it to me." Gary replied, running at a fast speed and catching up to the beast, he had reached halfway along its long body, but it looked like Wu had used a lot of strength the first time defending from this attack, and soon his muscles would give in.

"I have to do something now!" Gary jumped to the side with his claws out, aiming for part of its body, and with his eyesight he could see its sixth sense cause it to twist and curl its body away.

"Now!"

[Lethal pounce activated]

The second Gary's feet touched the floor, a burst of energy exploded from him, and to the others watching it was like a blur, as Gary launched forward and stabbed his claws right in its body.

However, the power was so great that Gary had ripped a segment of the beast's body out of it. Causing half of its body to be detached from where its head was now.

"This isn't enough, I have to finish it!" Gary said, as he turned and ran towards Wu. "Throw its head towards me."

Wu wasn't so sure that was a good idea, but because of Gary, the beast felt slightly weaker. In the end, Wu decided to listen, as he threw the centipede's head towards Gary. It opened its two pincers again, ready to close them.

They looked like they were about to touch Gary, but before they could,

[Lethal pounce activated]

The same rush of energy came again, allowing Gary to move fast, as he jumped with such a force and with his claws in front of him, he pierced through the beast's head. The pincers had missed, and Gary had broken through the other end.

The beast had successfully been killed and the special lesson had come to an end.

[Skill Lethal Pounce]

[This skill can only be used within a certain range of the enemy. The skill will light up when it can be used on an enemy. The user pounces on its enemy giving it a fifty percent speed boost. The Skill can be used in succession and there is no cool down]

[Energy cost: - 50]