

Werewolf 511

Chapter 511 A Crystal

The newly acquired Lethal Pounce was quite strong for a few reasons Gary realised. For one, it was the fact that the skill boosted his speed and it seemed to scale with his actual Dexterity. As long as that stat continued to increase then so would the skill as well, since it gave him a 50% boost.

The only sad part was that the boost was purely limited to the execution of the skill itself. Nonetheless it was impressive. A speed increase, coupled with his strength caused, resulted in a devastating attack as the others had just witnessed

So far, the Werewolf had been focusing on his Endurance, Energy and Health, making sure that he would become more and more of unkillable monster. However, his fight against Jayden had taught him an important lesson that stats alone wouldn't help him against certain kinds of opponents. Skills were needed to make up the difference, and Lethal Pounce was a great start.

If there was one downside the skill, it would be the relatively large Energy consumption. Gary had thought that his days of worrying about that were over, yet using the skill twice had cost him a third of his reserve. One shouldn't forget that Controlled Transformation, as well as the fighting itself also took their toll, leaving the green haired teenager with slightly less than 100 Energy.

Luckily, there had only been one opponent, but in the future, if he were to fight multiple opponents, or perhaps a beast that was even harder than this one, he would have to conserve the skill and use it as a trump card.

Just like last time, after the beast was defeated there was a clean up crew that entered the facility, looking after the students, while also securing the crystal from the beast. Gary's eyes were fixed on the men, making mental notes as to where the crystal would be pulled from its body. In the future, he hoped to be able to locate it on his.

'I was sure, it would have been in the head, but when I broke through I couldn't find it...maybe next time.' Gary thought to himself.

[An Advanced tier has been defeated]

[A first time reward bonus for defeating the beast will now be rewarded]

[15,000 Exp has been rewarded]

[You are now level 24!]

[You have gained a stat point]

‘This is it... I’m only one level away from reaching Level 25. Then something is meant to happen to my Warrior Class at that stage. Fighting these beasts or high level Alteredds are the only thing that gives me Exp these days. I hope after the next lesson, I’ll reach level 25 and if not, I still have one more lesson before that.

‘Then my time at the AFA, and using the special lessons will be utilised the most.’

For completing the task, Gary had been given his reward just like before. Where the body parts of the beast were placed in a particular room. Before he went in this time, Crowley had decided to go in first. Gary wasn’t sure what his strange teacher intended to do, but he believed that it was in his best interest. After all of that was done, Gary looked left and right to see if James would pop out of nowhere and went in straight away, looking at the strange beast parts in front of him.

‘If my theory is correct, I need to eat this thing as quickly as possible in order to maximise how many stat points I can gain. Without the energy of the crystal, those bodies have expiration dates.’ With this in mind, Gary did his best to ignore the fact that he was going to eat a giant insect carcass.

As usual, even though the beast parts were several times bigger than his own body, he managed to devour them eventually, as if his body was digesting whatever it was, and turning it into something at a fast rate.

That's when he saw the message appear, and he couldn't be more pleased.

[The beast that you have defeated has been consumed]

[You have received the following stats]

[+2 Dexterity]

[Dexterity 26>>>>28]

There were also still Gary's stat points from levelling up that he had yet to use.

'Hmmm, since the System called it an Advanced tier, I had hoped for more. Still, it's not as much as I get when consuming an Altered. Sigh, I shouldn't complain too much, after all, this is double what I got from the last one. Most likely because the beast was quite strong, and since this one was fast it also makes sense for me to get something speed based.

'Could it have been more if I had eaten it earlier? Too bad they dry out once that thing gets taken out... I wonder, what... what would happen if I were to eat one of those?'

Since he gained strength from the beast mainly due to the crystal, it seemed reasonable to assume that eating the crystal directly might provide an ever bigger boost. Part of him had hoped to be able to find it, but he had failed... at least this time. In case he ever got lucky, he knew that he would have to be sneaky about it, NIRV did not care about losing the worthless body, but a crystal...

'Maybe I can do that on my last test or something, then even if I'm caught and they kick me out, it shouldn't matter.' Gary decided.

All Gary had to do now, was wait for the rest of the body to disappear after some time had passed and just like that it did. It was a shame that Gary wouldn't be able to speak to Tom again before he left, but for some reason he thought that the two of them would be able to see each other again some other time.

Like last time, once the lesson was over, their phones and other personal belonging were handed back to them, and finally Gary could pull the medallion out from his special place and into his pocket as he changed clothing from the suits.

While Gary and Numba were walking back to their dormitory and talking about the assessment to each other, Numba's phone started to ring.

"Sorry Gary, it's my Dad. He never calls, so it should be urgent. I'll be with you in a moment." Numba excused himself as he walked off in the opposite direction.

Gary continued ahead, but as usual his sensitive ears were able to pick up a few things.

"Son... I just wanted to be the one to tell you. Right now... right now it might be for the best if you stayed in the academy. However, do be careful there as well, make sure nothing bad happens to you." The sound of a man's voice was heard on the other end of the phone.

"What do you mean, Dad? This isn't like you. Is everything okay?" Numba questioned, but that was the end of what Gary was able to hear since the phone call had ended.

Chapter 512 A Lesson Learned

A few days had passed since Harry Cardenez had visited Notsburg in the hopes of striking a deal. Just like he had said in the meeting, there was more than one Tier-2 city that they could do business with, and so he had spent these last few days in an attempt to set up another meeting. Just as he was sifting through the reports of the Tier-2 gangs in those areas to avoid another such situation, frenetic knocks came from behind his doors.

Bursting into his office was one of Harry's newest assistants, a promising young man whose clothes were drenched. "Sir, we've just been informed that one of our factories is under attack! It looks like it's coming from one of the gangs."

Harry didn't even look up, rather he huffed out a loud air as if it was bothersome.

"This does happen once in a while. The gangs in the city forget who exactly took over this place just because we don't push and shove our name everywhere. Just notify the Freaks to deal with them, and tell them to leave behind some men to protect it for the next few days."

After giving his order Harry went on with his business, but his assistant still stood there. "Sir... are you sure that this will be sufficient? According to the reports, the gang that is currently attacking us isn't one of the local ones. It's too early to say who they are, but they're definitely from an outside city."

This finally got Harry's attention as he placed his pen down and closed his laptop. He knew that this would happen some day, another city attempting to take over theirs. They were doing well so far, which was one of the reasons the man wanted to collaborate with a higher tier city to avoid becoming the target of an attack.

"Send out a full force. We need to send out a message so other groups won't do the same thing."

"Yes, sir!" The man bowed down.

The Freaks were sent to the factory location, and with their strength and power it didn't take them too long to deal with the outside gang. After some interrogation, they discovered that they came from a nearby Tier-3 town, though this was more of a scouting party.

The Freaks didn't hesitate, deciding that slicing off their heads and sending it back to the town would send a clear message in case the gang leader would want to come for them as well. Harry wasn't sure if that wouldn't provoke them, but he trusted in the Freaks' judgement.

The next day, the same thing happened again, only this time another factory was targeted. Once more, the Freaks were able to deal with the mess, yet they found out that it wasn't the same gang that had attacked them the day before.

One attack could be called a coincidence, but two in such a short timeframe...

'Two attacks, one after another and both at the factories. Although they didn't manage to destroy much this is cause for concern. Fixing the damage will take some time, though fortunately we've been ahead of the schedule so far. Still, if this continues to happen, our workers might soon start to quit.'

The third day, things get ever worse, both factories were being attacked at the same time by two different groups. The Freaks were strong, but there weren't many of them. In this situation one would have to deal with one and then the other.

As they cleared both places, many of the workers, as well as equipment had been destroyed in the second factory. Seeing the site, Harry had clenched his fist, and as he thought, many workers too afraid to go in were deciding to quit.

Harry slammed his fist right on the desk.

‘How do I solve this situation? Two groups have decided to go after us. Both of them are local towns. If I send the Freaks to go deal with one of them, then we will be defenceless.’

It was at that moment that a number of calls were coming through on Harry’s phone. He answered them, dealing with them one by one. The men stationed outside of the room could just hear shouting and cursing on the first few.

After that, it settled down but the calls hadn’t stopped coming in and when he eventually did. Harry was lost as he put down his phone.

‘Those clients just cancelled their orders all of a sudden. It should be impossible for them to have already heard about the factory attacks...or maybe they were targeted as well.’ As this thought came to Harry’s mind a certain image of a man in a red suit appeared.

One that he had recently met, the man named Slith. Harry’s phone rang once more, this time from an unknown number, usually he wouldn’t pick these up but in this situation he answered the call.

“Hello, dear friend.” A deep voice, a voice that he had just thought of had entered his ears.

“You’re behind everything, aren’t you? Is this your way of trying to force my hand?” Harry questioned, yet all that could be heard on the other end was the sound of soft chuckles.

“I don’t have the slightest idea what you might be talking about, neither me nor anyone in my city has even lifted a finger.” Sloth replied.

At the moment, with the way things were going, Harry knew that the business he had built up with his own sweat and blood was falling apart. Which was why right now, he decided to swallow his pride so salvage what he could.

“Please stop...I will sign the deal with you under your conditions, and we can work together. That’s what you want, right?” Harry asked.

This time, there was laughter on the other end. “Sorry, but I thought I made it clear that offer was only valid during your stay with us. You were given a chance and yet you rejected it. You wanted to get up here at the big table, but there is a reason why people like you can’t reach it. Now, have fun dealing with the consequences of your own actions, and enjoy watching your whole company burn down.”

The phone call had ended there, and Harry was left staring at the desk in front of him. At this point and time the only thing he could do was talk to his son.

Chapter 513 A Little Task

The next day had arrived and it was now morning. However, Numba didn’t get much sleep. A few hours at most and even then he would toss and turn as his mind was so full. After the call ended with his father he sent him multiple messages updating him on the situation, after that Numba had one more call in the morning.

For the first time since he had been adopted by the family, he had heard his strong and unmovable father break down and started to cry over the phone. Hearing this, it tore Numba’s own heart.

Why wasn’t he born a few years earlier, maybe then he would be part of the business already, helping them sort out this mess. In fact, it was then that Numba even offered to come back. He was a lot stronger than before, and being part of the AFA already meant that he was a lot better than other Altered out there.

“No!” Harry shouted back. “I... haven't given up yet, but you being here will make no difference. In fact, I am sorry that you might get involved in all of this because I was the one that brought you in. You have always been great, and the reward for never backing down, going above and beyond, is the academy and your powers.

“If anything ever happened to the company or me, then I want you to continue doing well in the AFA, and live a good life.”

His father had hung up the phone there, and immediately after, Numba hit the redial button attempting to call him.

“We sorry, the number you are trying to call is currently not -”

“No please! Please! Why are you doing this!” Numba said, his eyes swollen, too tired to even produce tears from his eyes, but his throat was all swollen up. After trying to call for the third time, Numba threw the phone onto the bed.

It bounced off the bed and almost hit the ceiling.

“Don’t you understand.” Numba said. “Everything I was doing in the AFA, was as a thanks to you... a thanks for getting me out of my sh*t life!” Numba continued to sob.

That morning Gary had woken up and was waiting outside his room. Him, Izzy, Ian and Numba would leave at the same time, so they could all walk to class together. Usually, Numba was always the first one to be out, but as Gary looked to his left and the others looked to their right, there was no Numba in sight.

The three of them walked to the door.

“Maybe we should knock, he might have forgotten to set his alarm.” Izzy suggested.

Just as she was about to knock, Gary grabbed her by the wrist, stopping her.

“We... should just let him rest and leave him be. I’m sure he will join us later.” Gary stated.

They agreed as they walked off. Turning his head, Gary was a little worried, because he could hear it. The sound of crying through the doors, and it sounded like Numba was in incredible pain.

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Back at the Wolf's Pool Club, Kai had also been following the situation quite closely. He had asked for Olivia and her gang to gather reports on the ongoing situation.

"As I expected, they didn't just come to us, but came to all of the gangs in the areas surrounding Cardenez Electronics." Kai smiled. "From the looks of it, three other gangs in the area had accepted the deal.

"Even if the group protecting the Cardenez company is strong, to deal with attacks from all three sides. If we had accepted as well they would have been done by now, and to top things off, they would have only had to hire us. Still, it was a good excuse to tell them that Gary was away, because the Scatterbugs seem to be quite the petty gang.

"The only thing I don't understand is why hasn't Harry accepted their offer yet. I was sure if they were pushed to this situation, he would have accepted unless..." Kai had to remind himself what Daimon was like, and how many people were like him who worked in this world. If that was the case he knew exactly what had happened between the two.

"Interesting... Now how can I take advantage of this situation?"

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Back at the academy, Numba had missed the entire first lesson. Due to it being the weekend, they only had a half day compared to a full day. The second half allowed them free time, where students were allowed to study, practice or just rest. Rest was important, but being Altered, less rest was required compared to regular people. However, during the second lesson of the day, Numba had finally entered.

They all quickly realised that he wasn't himself though, as he walked, he was dragging his feet slowly, he avoided eye contact with everyone, but when he reached where the others were sitting he looked up and forced himself to smile.

"Your face, it's so -"

Before Ian could finish his sentence, Izzy gave him a quick jab in the ribs with her elbow.

As Numba sat down, Izzy tried to make the atmosphere as comfortable and as normal as possible, but it was quite hard to, and the group was unable to talk the same way they had done before.

'I wonder... should I ask what's going on. I heard some of the conversation that he had with his father, but if it's personal business, then it might not be my place to get involved.' Gary thought.

Regardless of thinking this, Gary couldn't stay silent. It just wasn't his style, so right as the lesson ended and everyone was leaving their seats, he had some words.

"Numba!" Gary called out. "Remember, that we made that alliance. Well, it goes both ways right? So whatever you need help with. If there is anything bothering you, you can always talk to and count on us."

Izzy thought they were the right words in this situation. It wasn't prying into the other's life nor asking what happened, but just letting him know that they were there for him.

"Thanks Gary." Numba . "You are a good friend."

After saying those words, Numba just walked away as the rest of the day would be a free period.

'Thank you for the offer Gary, but with what is happening with my family, I don't even think you could help. This matter is big, it's practically a gang war, and I doubt you could do anything to help.' Numba thought as he walked off.

Trailing a bit behind Numba, Gary had been called out.

"Gary, there you are!" A loud voice said.

Turning his head, waiting for him once again by the entrance was someone else. It seemed it was becoming a regular occurrence. As for who it was, it was the Debut Teacher, Eddy.

"I checked your schedule and you should be free right now, so come over with me for a second. I think I have a nice surprise that you might like." Eddy smiled.

With nothing else to do, and since he was the only one being invited, Gary waved the others off. While Izzy made sure that she would look after Numba while he was away.

During the free period, some had decided to return to their rooms rather than train, like Numba had done. He wanted to get his anger out, and hit something. One of these people that had returned to their rooms was Sty, because he had received a message on his phone to call someone as soon as he could.

"Great, you got the message then." A cheery voice said on the other side. "I'll get straight to the point. I believe there is a student named Numba Cardenez in your school."

Sty, of course knew who this was, in the pre assessments he had been doing everything he could to make his life hell.

"Yeah, I do." Sty replied.

"Great, well I have a task for you. It should be relatively easy for yourself, but I want you to make his life hell, and make sure you get evidence of it as well. Can you do that?"

Hearing these words, Sty's heart started to beat faster. The eyes of Gary entered his mind once again. If he was to touch Numba then... on top of that, the last time he and Numba fought it had ended in a draw.

"Hey, this is important!" The voice shouted on the other end of the phone. "A son of mine should easily be able to take out a no name form a tier-3 city. Are you really saying the task is this difficult!"

"No!" Sty replied back. "I can take care of it. I definitely can. I won't let you down father."

Chapter 514 For Hours

Following behind the teacher, Gary had no clue what this was about, and it didn't look like Eddie was going to say anything to him either. Without turning around, he was walking along routes, passing by

areas of the academy the teenager had never seen before while whistling along with a giant grin on his face.

Eventually, after they had past some fields, the duo headed for a large rectangle building. Once the teacher was the inside, Gary started to have an idea of what this place was. There was high tech training equipment inside, similar to what they used in the academy, but for it to be tucked away, as well as all the equipment being the latest models inside, he had an inkling as to what this was.

Besides the fact that there was one person in the room still, pretty much gave it away.

“Shingi, how many times have we been over this?” Eddie asked in an annoyed tone. “Resting is an equally important part of your training period!”

The adult could only let out a frustrated sigh, since Shingi had been like this even before he had come to the real academy. He was the type if student who would train himself given the slightest opportunity, no matter where he was, or what state he was in, even ignoring the advice of his trainers.

Right now, Shingi was training with the automatic punch bag. Where one would hit it as fast as they could, and then the bag would come back to the person on a pulley system for them to hit it again. It was one of Shinji's favorite training equipment because he could easily see if he was doing better or not.

For one, he could measure if his punches were stronger than before by how far they went. After that, he could see how long he could keep the punches strong before he hit the bag less than his original punch.

“Shingi, stop that now!” Eddie shouted to get his student’s attention. “Somewhere in that thick head of yours, you should know that this training is pointless with how tired you were after the earlier training session!”

Even though Eddie said that, it did look like Shinji was able to hit the bag just as strong as before and as hard as well. It made the teacher wonder, what had lit a fire under his belly, even more so than usual.

“Ahem!” Gary cleared his throat, unwilling to just stand by the side. “Could you please tell me what we’re doing here? I already told you that I didn’t want to become a debut student until I took the assessment.” Gary asked.

“Don't worry, I haven't forgotten, and that's not why we're here. We are a bit early but you will see in a moment.” Eddie replied without looking away from Shinji who continued hitting the bag. Only this time, he noticed that it felt a bit short compared to his last hit, making him stop.

Shingi had managed to last around 16 minutes all punches with equal power. As he wiped the sweat away, he turned around only to notice that Gary was here as well. He was so focused that he had barely registered Eddie's voice, much less that of someone he hadn't recognised immediately.

“Oh, this is great.” Shingi smiled. “Gary did you see what I was doing with the bag training? This is something us debut students do quite a lot.”

It was then that Shingi went on to explain the rules, stating you weren't allowed to transform and what all the equipment meant.

“So what do you think, do you want to give it a try? It's quite fun.” Shingi suggested.

Ever since doing this type of training, Shingi had wanted to witness Gary on the machine, because he wanted to get an idea of how far apart he was compared to the other.

Gary looked at it for a few seconds as he wondered whether he should take him up on it. After his lunch meal his energy was full at 300.

‘I mean, this doesn't really help too much. Because my energy goes down when I transform, or when I get hurt to heal my body, as well as using my skills... but I do want to try it.’

Standing on the platform, Gary was set up and so was the punching bag.

“We are short on time, so just hit the bag a few times to get a feel for what it will be like. If you like it, we can talk about you coming here later.” Eddie advised.

As the bag came towards Gary, he readied his right hand and threw an overhead right straight. It was the same punch he had seen Shingi do, so he thought he should do the same. The impact was strong,

the speed from his hit was fast, and as it went along it had gone 85 percent along the length of the room.

‘That’s a good hit, especially for someone who is doing this for the first time. Usually it takes a few hits to familiarise yourself to it, but Gary beat my score and his strength is higher than Xin’s, though not as high as Ryan’s.’

Although Gary was strong, this wasn’t his peak strength, which he would only reach in his transformed states. However, since this was just a type of training, he saw no need to use his Controlled Transformation, especially since Shinji hadn’t transformed either.

As the bag came back, Gary was ready to hit it again. All in all it took 30 seconds for the bag to be hit, stop and come back before one could hit it again. This was regardless of how far one would hit it, and it was so while training they could measure their time easier.

Once again, Gary punched it making great contact with the bag. It was satisfying to say the least, and on bad days the Werewolf could picture himself coming here to get his Energy out.

The bag went back as much as it had done on the first hit, showing that Gary knew how to control himself well. After that Gary hit the bag three more times before finally stopping. He didn’t seem out of breath or tired at all.

‘Most people would be exhausted just doing five punches at full strength, but with each one Gary had hit it to the same distance.’ Eddie thought to himself.

“So...what do you think, how long do you think you could last on the machine?” Shingi asked in excitement.

There was a reason why Gary had stopped after four hits, though it had nothing to do with him being exhausted. No, he had stopped since a sudden revelation had shocked him, and it was that after the last hit his Energy had dropped to 299. So far, as long as he didn’t transform, and would fight in his normal state, without the usage of skills, he could literally go for hours.

“I’m sorry, give me a second, I need to do some quick maths.” Gary replied.

Shigni and Eddie looked at each other in confusion. Why would Gary have to do maths? The teenager should know his own body well enough to just give a general answer.

"I'm not sure but if it's just doing this, then it should be... around 10 hours, give or take? Although I would probably get tired just standing around during the day and would need to eat something if I did that." Gary replied after trying quite hard to crunch the numbers in his head.

"10 HOURS?!" Eddie couldn't help but repeat and laugh. "Gary, I know you feel fine now, but trust me the strain and tiredness builds up after a while. You would be lucky to even last 1 hour."

Hearing the adult's opinion, made Gary feel embarrassed. Afterall, maybe his maths was wrong. 10 hours sounded ridiculously long to him as well. However, Shingi didn't feel quite the same way. The person in front of him, it felt like he hadn't said it to be funny.

Just then, the sound of the doors opening into the room was heard, and all of them turned to look.

"Alright, Eddie, why did you call me this time? It's our rest period and you're the one who keeps repeating how important it is for us to not skip out on that." A female voice sounded it, but the voice slowly drifted off as her eyes fell on Gary.

'XIN!!' Gary screamed in his head and his heart rate started to thump louder. Then thought of what had occurred the last time had appeared in both of their heads. She had attacked Gary because it had been the only thing she could have done to calm him down, while he felt extremely embarrassed as he remembered how he must have acted like a crazy person in front of her.

"Well, look at you two, all shy like that." Eddie smiled. "Anyway, you should have dressed up rather than coming in your academy uniform, but this will have to do. I'm sorry Xin but you see I promised our green-haired friend here that as long as he agreed to a request of mine, that I would give him a date with our local star."

"A date?!" Xin shouted back. "How could you do that without even asking me?!"

“Calm down, call it whatever you will, it’s just spending time together, and you two obviously have some shared history. It’s not like you can go off academy grounds at this time anyway. So it will just be like spending time with another student, whether it will be a traditional date or not, I’ll leave that up to you.”

Xin looked at Gary, and then shook her head. “No...its fine. I’ll go on this date. I want to go on this date.” Xin answered. “But, Eddie, you owe me for not asking or warning me beforehand!”

Gary’s heart felt like it was going to come out of his chest, but Xin had always been this type of person straightforward and honest with her feelings.

“I-I do as well.” Gary stammered.

Chapter 515 The Date (Part 1)

Shingi and Eddie waved Xin and Gary off, giving the two ‘lovebirds’ the rest of the afternoon to do whatever they wanted. The only problem was that neither one of them really knew what they were supposed to do due to the lack of their dating experience and neither one having been told about this date beforehand. It didn’t help that the AFA students had to apply for leave beforehand, so they were unable to do anything exciting outside the academy.

As the two of them were thinking about what they should do together, each one was just following the other in silence, resulting in the two of them heading straight towards the large field. It was more or less a track field that had multiple pieces of equipment for the debut students to train outside. It wasn’t utilised a lot because most of the students in the AFA were aiming for the AFC, making them prefer practising indoors, specifically in the cages where real fights would occur.

“I’m sorry.” Xin eventually broke the silence that was starting to get awkward. “About zapping you before, I mean. However, in my defence you did seem like you were out of it.”

Gary tried to laugh it off, trying to come up with a good excuse, but he couldn’t think of any. “No, no, you were totally right to do that. I just got bit too hungry that day, I guess.”

“That was all from you being hungry?” Xin asked with a raised eyebrow. “In that case, I should probably be happy that you must have eaten before you came over to meet my parents.”

Hearing Xin tease him like this, Gary felt that the awkwardness of the whole situation had lessened. His crush always seemed up for anything and was quite forward, not hard to read either, making her all the more charming in his eyes.

“Yeah, we should avoid dates at restaurants in the future... assuming you want to have another one, of course. ... oh God, I’m messing up already, aren’t I?” Gary cursed his own tongue for being faster than his brain. However, to his surprise, Xin just chuckled at his antics. “Relax, let’s just enjoy the time together and play it by ear.”

Eventually, the two of them approached what looked like an archery field with a large round board at the very back. Strangely, there were neither bows nor arrows in the vicinity, rather a row of heavy metal looking balls at the side. It was a condensed weight, and picking it up, one was meant to practise throwing them at the target from around fifty metres away.

“How about we start our date with this?” Xin suggested. “It’s easy, each of us gets five balls, and the one to score the most points wins. Hmmm, let’s make it a bit more fun. Usually we play this with some ante, so why don’t we do the same? Is there anything that you want if you win?”

Looking at her from head to toe, the teenage boy blurted out the first thing that came to mind. “A kid!”

Xin dropped the heavy ball into the ground as she heard those words. “Don’t you think you’re moving a little too fast, casanovva?”

Gary’s head was turning a bright red colour, due to his nervousness he had misspoken. “KISS! I meant to say KISS, I swear!”

“Oh, yeah, that seems reasonable. Alright, but if I win, I’m gonna ask something from you, but I have to warn you, I’m pretty good at this.” Xin replied as she went first and threw the ball. It went flying through the air and hit the target right in the centre, scoring her the maximum amount of 100 points.

‘I guess since this is next to the other training place she has done this a few times, but it doesn’t look too hard.’ Gary thought as he picked up the weight. It turned out heavier than he had expected and he imagined there were a few people that would be unable to throw the ball without transforming, but since Xin didn’t transform, he wasn’t going to either.

Gary then hurled the ball as hard and as fast as he could. It had gone through the air faster than Xin's had, hitting the inner middle ring scoring him 75 points.

'That's pretty good for his first try... it's hard to imagine Gary was really the same person as that lunatic I had to knock out.' Xin thought.

"I guess we didn't really get to talk since that time, huh?" Xin suddenly realised. "I'm sorry I didn't even look after you. Say, when did you even become an Altered? It had to be after I left, right? What made you join the AFA?"

While she asked her questions, the teenage girl was still concentrating on their game, focusing her aim. Gary was looking at everything she was doing so he could initiate her form.

"It was pretty much after you left. A company called the Howlers decided to invest a lot of money into Slough and they had a trial run, looking for candidates to join them, going around schools and scouting. In the end, I was lucky enough to get selected, so I'm now a representative of their company. Since I was very compatible with my Altered, they let me try out with the AFA, and here I am." Gary answered confidently.

It was a lie prepared for him by Kai in case anyone ever asked him. Xin also believed it since she had seen how talented he had been, though she was mistaken in that she had seen him before his turning. The only hard part to believe in was the story about a new corporation investing in Slough of all places, especially seemingly out of nowhere. Then again, Slough was neither the first nor the last town that a company might choose to invest in, in case they saw some potential.

Honestly, Gary was quite nervous, after all as the mayor's daughter, Xin might have been told by her father about the Howlers, although it might just have been a comment in passing.

"Although, if I'm honest, I also asked for the chance to get here. ... Jayden was the one who recommended I do so."

Xin was just about to throw the ball, but this sudden piece of news, made her flinch, resulting in her throw being off by a bit. Nevertheless, her second throw ended up giving her 75 points.

“Jayden? As in my brother? He told you to come here?”

Chapter 516 The Date (Part 2)

Turning away, Gary answered a bit embarrassed. “He told me that if I wanted to be with you, that I should come here.”

There weren't many things that startled Xin, but this was certainly one of them. If she was hearing Gary right, the reason he came here was because of her. Although that was sweet to hear...it saddened Xin.

‘It must be nice, for someone to be so free that they can join the AFA just for a reason like that, while here I am trying to gain my freedom.’ Xin thought, her mood souring a bit.

Gary threw the ball again, and although he believed he had copied Xin down to the last part before her flinching his ball hit the 75 point mark again.

“Have you visited Slough lately, or talked to your father about anything?” Gary peeked from the corner of his eye when he asked this question.

Xin then threw the ball perfectly hitting the same spot, dead in the centre scoring a 100 points.

“No, I’ve put all my attention into the AFA. For now, that's all I want to think about until I have achieved my goal of reaching top 50 in the AFC.”

It was the first time Gary had heard Xin’s goal so clearly. Top 50 was a tall task, it meant she needed to at least get as strong as her brother, which coincidentally was a goal that Gary had set for himself as well.

Throwing the ball for a third time, Gary's aim was even more off than before, though it was enough to score him 50 points.

“Stop trying to throw it as fast and hard as you can.” Xin advised. “This isn't a contest of strength. Not everything is about how strong, or fast you are. Treat this like a fight, you aren’t just running to your opponent to clobber them. You need to have the right technique, use your head and sine self control.”

Gary nearly jested that as a Werewolf, self control was the last thing he had, but he quickly swallowed it down. Besides, it was something that he needed to learn. With the fourth ball being thrown from Xin it hit the centre again, scoring her another 100 points. Gary could foresee that there was no realistic way for him to beat Xin at this game, but he at least wanted to hit the centre once and he had two more throws to do it.

‘Control myself, and aim for the centre.’ Gary thought as he breathed in and out slowly. His heart rate started to slow down. Then throwing out the ball it went straight... falling to the ground midway, not even reaching the target.

“Hahaha!” Xin burst out in laughter, making the green haired teenager get red again. His crush tried, but couldn’t stop laughing as tears were about to come out of her eyes. “Gary, you can’t just completely focus on one thing, but that was good. It shows that you are willing to listen. You’re a bit like a sponge soaking up the knowledge that everyone tells you. It’s a good trait as long as you can tell the bad advice from the good.”

The game continued and in the end, Gary had managed to hit the 75 again. He had come close to the centre but never hit it, while Xin had ended with a score of 475. With that, he had lost their little bet.

“Xin, with you being so busy, do you think the two of us will ever have a proper date? Just live our own lives?” Gary asked, thinking about his own circumstances with the gang. Xin turned to Gary and smiled while looking at him.

“Of course.” She replied with confidence. “That’s why I’m fighting so hard. Anyway, it looks like someone lost the bet, so now you need to do something for me.”

Sulking in his head about missing his chance to earn the kiss he wanted, he was now a bit worried what she might ask of him. To never bother her again, perhaps? To wash all her clothes and be her servant for a while. Frankly, Gary wouldn’t mind the latter too much, after all it meant he would be able to see her more.

“Close your eyes.” Xin said after some slight deliberation.

Gary listened, closing his eyes wondering what could happen, when he suddenly felt something soft on his lips push against his, and a small little pressure soon after. Opening them immediately Gary could see Xin with her eyes closed and her lips pressed against his.

[Your heart rate is rising at an incredibly fast rate]

[Suggestion to see a doctor or a vet!]

'F*ck off, you stupid system, let me just enjoy this.' Gary thought to himself, closing his eyes. For a short, sweet moment, all his worries were forgotten, yet the next he focused on slowing down his heart to avoid transforming. Eventually, that moment that he dreaded the most came, for Xin ended the kiss and took a step back.

"I never got to tell you what my reward was for winning... but it's because we both wanted the same thing." Xin smiled cheekily. "Keep chasing after me, Gary. One day, we should be able to go on a proper date without having to worry about stuff. Until then, although I know it makes me selfish, but I like that I have one person who cares about me in their own way. It makes me feel, not alone."

Hearing those words, said with that face and smile, Gary at that moment felt like he would chase her anywhere she went. It was just impossible for him to put it into words so he just stood there and nodded.

"Come on, we still have a few hours together." Xin said as she grabbed Gary's hand and the two of them continued to walk. The Werewolf's brain had seemingly short circuited, still trying to process his second kiss with her. It was undoubtedly better than the first one, and longer. For the moment he was more than content to walk with Xin holding hands.

The trees, the sky, even the garbage bin stationed around the school seemed prettier in his eyes now.

'Is this... what they call love, how does everything look so nice to me now?' Gary wondered, a large.

As they continued to walk around the academy, they eventually arrived behind one of the buildings, and Gary picked up the sound of someone arguing.

“Did you really think you could take on ten of us? You really are an arrogant piece of sh*t!” One of the voices screamed.

“Come on, why don’t we head in another direction?” Gary suggested to avoid getting involved.

“Why...” Another voice was heard by the Werewolf. “Why...are you doing this to me...why are you doing this to my family!”

Gary stopped in his tracks there and then, and Xin could feel him gripping onto her hand. As she went to look at his face, she could see his eyes had changed and were glowing slightly red.

‘Why... why can’t they just leave him alone! And why did they have to do this today of all days?!’

Chapter 517 Why Me?

During their free period in the afternoon, Numba decided to go off ahead on his own, heading towards the dormitory. Having found out what his father was going through, he couldn't get it off his mind. A part of him was afraid that if he stayed around the others, there was a good chance that he would just blurt something out by accident.

Before Numba had met the others, he hadn’t really been someone who would filter his speech, a trait which hadn’t exactly gotten him a lot of friends in his life. Exactly for that reason, the last thing he wanted to do was get his new friends involved into his family’s mess. On his way, a student with a beanie was standing in the hallway, leaning up against his room.

“Hey, you’re Numba, right?” The student asked while chewing a piece of gum. “My name’s Mike. Miss Patel sent me to fetch you.”

The Goat Altered didn’t recognise this student immediately. There were only so many students in a class, yet there were multiple classes due to number of students fluctuating depending on how fast someone was able to ‘graduate’. Numba knew that he had only focused on the students that had come in just before their batch. That way he could compare his progression to theirs.

“What does she need me for?’ Numba replied.

The student shrugged his shoulders. "Beats me, I'm just the messenger boy. My guess is that it might have something to do with your absence this morning. If you wanna know, just ask her." With that, Mike walked ahead.

Numba didn't think much of it, because that theory was quite sound. After all, he hadn't informed her about his absence nor had he requested time off. He followed behind Mike who seemed to be showing him the way. However, when they ended up in an outside area, only then did Numba start to suspect that something else was going on.

'Wait a second, I'm pretty sure the teacher's office should also be in the same building, so where is he taking me?' Numba wondered. Of course, there was the chance that Miss Patel might be somewhere else, but in that case what would be important enough that it couldn't wait for when she was back at her office? Besides, was there really a need for a student sent to pass on the message and to guide him, rather than just tell him where to go?

"Hey, I don't want you wasting this free period. How about you just tell me where she is. I can head there on my own." Numba suggested carefully.

Mike stopped dead in his tracks. they were around ten metres away from the main academy building.

"I thought that this would be a simple, easy job." Mike turned around, still chewing the piece of gum. "Look, all you need to do is follow me, okay? And before you think of running away, let me tell you that there is a particular girl with curly hair who is waiting with my friends for you to show up. Surely, you don't want her to get hurt just because you didn't show up, right?"

Numba's heart thumped louder for a second, hearing that name. Whoever this person was, or this group, they had to know a bit about them, because they knew that Numba and Izzy were friends.

'How...did this happen? Izzy and Ian are nearly always together. How did they manage to split them apart?' Numba wondered as he proceeded to follow 'Mike'.

Sure, there were plenty of strong students in the academy, but in a lot of cases, Numba would classify Ian as a better fighter than he was. The two of them would also have been in school, so Ian would have been able to do something for them to get away.

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“Ah!!” Ian let out sigh as he pushed the toilet door open. ‘I really needed that, I don’t know what it was that I ate yesterday... Huh, Izzy?’ Ian turned his head left and right. ‘I swear she said she would wait for me? Maybe yesterday’s food didn’t agree with her either. Anyway, they say it’s best to stay put when separated, so I guess I’ll just stay here for now.’

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Eventually, Numba was led to an outside part of the school that not many would walk around. It was in between the main academy and where the debut students would go. So the only people that would go back and forth were the debut students, but they would never go around the building and instead would go through it, so it was a pretty good spot for whoever planned it all to do whatever it was they wanted.

When turning the corner, that's when Numba could see it, ten students, a mix of some he had seen, and others he might have only noticed in passing. The group consisted of only males, the only odd one out was Izzy who was up against the wall. There was a blood mark on the wall, and her face was beaten and bruised, with somewhat dry blood around her nose. Her eyelids were swollen and it looked like she had passed out.

“You basta*s!” Numba screamed. “You wanted me, right? Why would you hurt her?”

Seeing like this the rage was too much, and Number had already started to transform as a long white fur was grown g on his arms, and horns on his head appeared.

In an explosive takeoff, Numba blasted his way right to Mike, throwing out a fist hitting him square in the face, sending him flying through the air and on the group, blood dripping out his mouth, and not getting back up.

“Hahaha!” One of the other students laughed while turning around, it was the one who was closest to Izzy. He was tall, and had a skinny body, with bags under his eyes. When looking at him closely, it looked like he also had bruised knuckles, compared to everyone else.

‘That’s him, he must be the one that hurt Izzy!’ Numba thought.

The Goat Altered started to run forward towards her, but his explosive power would only take him so far, before he slowed down. It was more like an explosive kick from the ground, and then he would need to kick off again.

At the same time, this greatly tired out Numba doing something like this. When he started to slow down in speed, though, all the others had transformed. This wasn't just a gang of ten teenagers one would meet in the city, nor a group of thugs loitering around school. This was the AFA, an Academy for Altered where the best came to train, and that's when Numba realised the situation he was in. A strange long wet looking limb whacked him right in the stomach.

At the same time, something he couldn't even see had hit him from the top of the head. Before he could even recover, he felt like he had been lifted by another pair of arms and slammed on the concrete. Straight after, not even being able to lift his hands, he was getting hit and kicked from multiple sides.

'Why...why is this happening, why are these people attacking me?' While thinking of this, Numba remembered the words of his father, that he had to be careful in the academy. It was too much of a coincidence to just ignore. He had been going through his academy days fine until this point.

'That man, the one that I saw at Notsburg! His eyes, I knew they weren't normal. This gang, it's one that's related to Sty... is he the one behind this? Even if he isn't, he will surely know something about it, but first I need to survive this!'

The group of nine didn't stop, and Numba's vision was getting hazy from the blood loss. 'Because of me... they hurt Izzy... I'm the worst type of friend.'

"Stop!" The man's voice from far back, next to Izzy, was heard, and the rest had stopped. Looking at Numba on the ground, he was in no condition to fight or get up. It was unclear just how many bones they broke in his body, but it was obvious he would need weeks to heal.

"It was a great idea to bring her here, don't you think? Seeing your girlfriend like this was a sure-fire way to get you to attack us first." The man gloated. "One of the first things you learn about this part of the academy is that no fighting is allowed in the academy between students allowed without a teacher's permission."

“However, there is one addendum to that rule. Students are allowed to act in self-defence. You, Numba, were the first one to strike us, so you got nobody to blame but yourself.”

Numba, unable to move, could only move his mouth slightly. “Why... are you doing this to me...why are you doing this to my family?!”

“Oh, so it looks like you figured out why this is happening to you.” The man laughed again. “Either way, it looks like, you might no longer be in the AFA after this.”

The group started to laugh again, until they heard a grunting voice. “What are you guys doing?”

As they turned their head, they could see a green haired teenager standing next to a grey haired girl.

“Oh, are you a friend of his? Well, too bad you can’t get revenge, otherwise you will get kicked out of the academy as well.” The man laughed.

Gary’s eyes were beaming red, as he looked up and shouted at them, his body starting to transform.

“You think I give a f*ck about following the academy’s rules when scum like you attack my friends? I’ll kill you all!!!”

Chapter 518 A Spark Of Power

Numba had been so badly hurt that he was fading in and out of consciousness, but a deep rumbling voice which shook even his core caused him to look through his blurry eyes.

‘That can’t be... is that Gary? ... How is he here? Why is he here?’ Numba’s brain was too muddled to make sense out of the situation. He hadn’t had the chance to tell anyone about where he was going, and at the same the place they were at, wasn’t a place a student would just stumble across.

“Please... don’t get kicked out of the academy for my sake.” Numba quietly muttered with his limited strength.

Under normal circumstances, Gary might have listened to him, but the Werewolf was only seeing red. The scent of blood from both Izzy and Numba had wafted in his nose, so his instincts told him to punish those responsible for hurting his friends.

“Look at this guy!” The student in the back ridiculed Gary’s tough guy approach. “Something is seriously wrong with your whole batch. Your friend down there also thought himself a hero and look what it did for him. Take a look around, do you seriously think you’re capable of taking ALL of us on?!”

Although the student standing next to Izzy seemed confident enough to taunt the green haired teenager, the rest of his friends had yet to act. If they could, they would have moved and attempted to attack Gary, but those closer to the Werewolf could feel some invisible pressure radiating from him. Their brains told them that it should be impossible for one student to fight off nearly a dozen, but with how crazy he looked, nobody wanted to sacrifice themselves for the others.

As Gary approached the first student, he clenched his fist tightly. When he got within attacking range, the student reacted instinctively. Mid-swing, his arm turned into a limp that resembled a tentacle, indicating that his Altered was based on a creature from the sea.

As the tentacle came toward Gary, he dodged under it, and kicked off the ground, aiming for the Altered’s face. His fist was inches away from the student's face, yet before he could connect, the guy suddenly fell to the side, making his attack hit nothing but air.

‘Did he dodge that?’ Gary wondered, since the student had yet to move away.

For some reason, he remained on the ground, though his body randomly shook as if someone was electrocuting him. Seeing this, it reminded Gary of when he had been in a similar situation. Turning his head in the other direction, he could see Xin putting her leg down.

“You’re too angry. With how you are now, you may seriously end up hurting someone and regretting it for the rest of your life, so let me deal with it!” Xin shouted as she ran toward the next student that was close to her.

She had already jumped in the air, spinning her body and landed a kick right on one of their heads. When her foot made contact with the person, sparks were seen for a second. Even though the kick didn’t seem to be too hard, he ended up zapped, suddenly sent flying away.

“What are you doing? Don’t attack her just one at a time! Get her all at once!” The student from the back shouted.

The rest of the students headed toward Xin as they all began to transform, Gary was ready to rush in and help, but lifting her foot in the air, above her head, yellow sparks started to surround her leg and she slammed it on the ground.

The sparks from her foot were released and went in every direction like a current. Whenever it touched the other students, the current of electricity went up their bodies. A tingling feeling could be felt, it wasn’t painful like some of them imagined, but what they soon found out was it was a lot worse.

They were struggling to move properly. Trying to move their hands, it was their feet that reacted, making them all fall down. It completely crepted them out, as they felt like someone else was in control of their body, yet in reality Xin’s attack had simply messed up the signals from the brain to their bodies.

Before they could ever recover, Xin punched one in the stomach, lifting them in the air, and went right to the next one, kicking one of them into another. Each one was dealt with a single hit, and there was no need for her to do more.

‘What is this? Nobody told us that someone like her would interfere!’ The older student next to Izzy thought. There wouldn’t be many students that could take on 10 Altered at a time like this. When she was finally done and was walking toward him, that was when he could see her face clearly, and everything was starting to make sense.

“You...you’re Xin! Why is a debut student like you getting involved?! You should know the rules! Do you even know this person?”

It was clear he was startled and he had good reason to be. Never in his wildest dreams did he think he could take on the best student in the whole academy, and as a way to get out of it, he looked towards Izzy and reached out toward her.

"You idiot!" Xin shouted as she threw her fist out, there was still a distance of around five metres between them but when her fist hit the air, a single electric current came out, looking like a lightning strike had hit the student, throwing him against the wall and causing him to pass out immediately.

Gary was mesmerised by what he had just seen. Xin didn't even have to transform to fight against the others yet she was able to use a strange power. A skill, or more accurately, an attribute just like her brother Jayden.

'She's so powerful without even transforming. Just what type of Altered is she? I have no clue, but it has to be really powerful given her current status and the electric powers it lets her use. Damn, how is it fair that others get all the cool powers?!'

For a second Gary was actually feeling jealous, wondering if he hadn't been turned into a Werewolf, what type of Altered he could have been. However, when he thought about it some more, he realised that while his Werewolf System might not have granted any really flashy type of skills, something like Last Stand was too good to give up.

Getting a one-minute extension of life was an extremely extraordinary skill.

Snapping out of it, Gary quickly went to Numba's side, checking up on the true extent of the damage. It was clear to him that his friend had more than a couple broken bones. He gently lifted up the Goat Altered's head, as he could see Numba was still alive and conscious.

"Gary... I'm sorry! I'm sorry for getting you involved and you having to help me again." Numba blurted out.

"I think you might have hit your head a bit too hard." Gary replied. "For one, I'm not the one you should be thanking. I didn't even get to do anything. Second, how is it your fault that those scumbags attacked you?" You don't have to explain yourself, let's just get you to the medical office as soon as possible."

Lifting Numba up, Gary was practically lifting him in the air with his shoulder alone, so he had to put as little pressure on his one working foot as possible. The two of them went over, and looked at Izzy. Xin came over and picked her up off the ground, helping place her on Gary's other shoulder.

“Look after them, Gary. I'm sorry that our date had to be cut short by this, but I will stay here and handle the aftermath. Don't worry, as the top-ranking debut student, they won't kick me out, and I'm also close with the teachers. I'll do my best so that something like this won't happen to any of your friends in the future.”

Gary nodded, appreciating how reliable Xin was. Although a tiny part of him wanted to suggest possibly continuing their date after dropping off his friends, he understood that he needed to be there for them now. Using Controlled Transformation, he lightened his load and made sure to get to the nurse's office as quickly and gently as possible.

Once the three were out of sight, Xin knelt down to the man she had shocked earlier. Grabbing his head, she let out another few sparks, showing him awake. The older student groaned in pain as he opened his eyes, directly staring into Xin's.

“Me and you are going to have a talk, and you're going to tell me everything about this little stunt of yours.”

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The nurse's office looked more like a hospital, and there were many trained staff going from room to room. It only took a few minutes for someone to come over and bring the two injured students into rooms of their own. Due to them being Altered, Gary was certain that they would heal in due time, but the pain they had gone through was still the same as anyone else would have suffered.

Half an hour later, Gary was allowed to visit Numba, as he had woken up. From what the receptionist had told him, Izzy was still asleep. Gary entered the room and went to stand by Numba's side, who for a second looked away and was holding onto the bedsheet tightly.

“Izzy....she was hurt because of me.” Numba admitted as tears fell down the sheets one by one.

“True, but were you the one who hit her? Or were you the guy who bravely tried to attack those who did that to her?” Gary asked back. After that question, Numba cried even more.

"No, but... Gary, I don't know what to do... I don't know what to do." His friend sobbed, wiping his tears away. "Please...help me. Help... my family."

Chapter 519 A Cry For Help (Part 1)

Twiddling his fingers on his desk, Kai was sitting in his office at the Wolf's Pool Club, but once again, he wasn't on his own. He was with Olivia, and both of them had their masks next to them.

"What a very interesting development." Olivia couldn't help but note with a devious smile. "Tell me, did you know this was going to happen?"

Shaking his head, Kai smiled back. "Do you really think I somehow have the ability to see into the future? The only thing I can say is, people are more predictable than you think. There are only so many scenarios that I can account for, I just do what I can to prepare for all of them equally. Even now, I am unsure as to what will happen."

Looking toward the staircase Olivia folded her arms. "Sometimes I forget that you're just a 17 year old brat. If only you were a few years older."

"Sorry, but even though you look this young, I'm not really the type to date someone who is-"

Before Kai could finish his sentence Olivia had pulled out her whip, her eyes shining blue as she dared him to finish the sentence. The teenager knew better than to piss her off.

For the day, the Wolf's Pool Club had been closed, and upstairs the rest of the core members were present. Innu, Marie, Austin etc... Unlike those below, they were already dressed in their masks. They stood in place waiting for the double doors to open.

Eventually, they could hear the sound of cars from outside. Two black cars with tinted windows had arrived, and coming out of one of them was none other than Harry Cardnez, followed by his close aide Will. The young man was his newest personal assistant and had a tendency to be on point, having a tablet in his hand, black thick frames and a perfectly tidy clean suit.

"I can't believe it." Will grumbled, shaking his head. "They have asked you to meet in a place like this, in this area? This is nothing like the last time! Was that all for show?"

Harry had called up Kai asking for another meeting after their last, and to be honest Harry himself was surprised about the location change. He had never seen a gang operate from such a small place.

“Will, remember why we are here!” Harry lectured the young man as he continued to walk forward.

Like the time before, from the other car there were members of the Freaks, one from the car they were riding in and two in the other. A lot had to be left back in the city, in case of more attacks.

Walking side by side Harry and Will went to the doors pushing them open, and as soon as they saw the others standing there with the masks on their faces they knew they were in the right place.

“The person you are waiting for is ready to meet you downstairs.” Marie said, as she walked over. As a girl with a small frame she seemed like the perfect choice to guide their guests, without putting them on alert. What didn’t go unnoticed were the Anti-Altered weapons that Marie had strapped around her side, a spear and a crossbow tied to her back.

“Sir, I don’t like the feeling from this place, this could very well be a trap.” Will whispered while covering his mouth.

“We have no other option.” Harry replied as he walked forward following the masked girl.

She went down the stairs first while the others remained upstairs in case there was anything strange that went on. When they finally reached the bottom, they could see Kai sitting at his desk and Olivia standing by the side, both with their masks on.

Harry started to look around the room, to see if there was anyone else, but he seemed unable to find them.

“If you are looking for our leader, he isn’t here. He is a busy person, you see, and since we don’t know the outcome of this meeting, I hadn’t asked him to come along.” Kai explained.

Will was burning up inside. Even for a gang, the whole thing was disrespectful. Kai hadn't come and greeted the owner and now the leader of the gang wasn't even here. Still, unlike last time, Harry

seemed to ignore all of that as he used a hand to tell the others to stay where they were as he got in front of Kai's desk.

"I have one question first before I tell you my request." Harry stated, while Kai remained silent. "Did the Scatterbugs request for you to attack Notsburg?"

Bringing both of his hands up towards his mouth, Kai was hiding his smile from the others and only Olivia could see it at that moment.

"Yes." Kai answered after a heavy pause. "They even offered up a very nice incentive."

Immediately, after hearing the answer, Harry's set of actions was shocking to everyone in the room. He fell to both of his knees, and placed his hands and head on the floor.

"Our two groups were once close to reaching a deal, but in the end I decided to look for other opportunities, which is why right now the only thing I can do is plead, no beg for your help.

"I don't know why you didn't agree to help the Scatterbug group, but I'm sure you are aware of the situation. We, the Cardnez group, are asking for your help! If it is within your power, I want you to save our company and in return we will become a part of the Howlers' group."

"Sir, how could you?!" Will shouted. "You put your blood, sweat, and tears into building this company from the ground up. How could you give that to a gang, a Tier-3 gang that we don't even know if they can help or not?!"

"SILENCE!" Harry shouted at the young man by his side. "What's the use of all my former achievements in our current situation? If we do nothing now, then there will be no company left!"

It was more than that, Harry knew the likeness of the Howlers accepting such a thing was unlikely. Because them getting involved could mean the end of them as well. It was a crazy idea, for two Tier-3 groups to team up to take on the other Tier-3 gangs as well as the Scatterbugs, but this was his last hope.

Before Kai could give him an answer, he could see his phone ringing.

"I'm sorry, but this is a very important call."

Once again this was angering Will, but this time he bit his tongue, as Harry was down on his knees it was the least he could do.

"How are you doing, Green Fang?" Kai asked.

Chapter 520 A Cry For Help (Part 2)

Inside the medical bay in the academy, Gary had stayed by Numba's side who hadn't said much after asking for help. Eventually one of the nurses informed them that Izzy was well enough and back to her normal self. Not long after, she had entered the room.

Numba would still take some time to heal. When they entered the room, though she hadn't entered herself, she had done so with Ian. While Gary stayed by Numba's side, Ian had done this for Izzy. Immediately after finding out what had happened, Ian burst into the room saying sorry, asking who they were and wanting to take them all down.

But as they were exiting their room, they soon saw that multiple students were being brought in, the ones that had done this to Izzy in the first place. It looked like someone had already got to them, before Ian could.

To calm down, they both decided to go visit Numba, and since he wasn't allowed to leave they were worried that he was in a worse situation. Thankfully Numba was okay, and now, Gary, Ian and Izzy were all sitting around their friend as he laid in his hospital bed.

"So... are you going to tell us? Why did they attack you?" Ian asked. "Izzy said that they captured her to get to you, but she knew something was up, and then that happened."

Izzy once again kicked Ian's shin. She knew that this would hurt Numba, thinking it was his fault, but Ian just seemed to be unaware of those things.

“Can you stop kicking me?! That shit hurts! I know it might be hard for him, but we need to either teach those guys a lesson so they don’t do it again or find out why they were doing this.” Ian explained with a small tear in the corner of his eye.

“I...agree with Ian.” Gary added. “Numba, you asked for my help, but since then you haven’t said a word. Just tell us what’s going on, so we can find a way to help you.”

Numba took a deep breath, as he was prepared to answer. He was well aware that without an explanation, they would constantly nag him either way. The Goat Altered repeated what his father had told him and his own findings.

Everyday he had been checking the news back in his city and it was getting worse. The constant attacks, people quitting the business, withdrawing from deals, and how his father had warned him to be careful as well. In the end, Numba had even mentioned who he thought was most likely to be behind the whole thing.

The most likely suspect in his mind where the tier-2 gang that he and his father had met. When finding this out, Numba had pretty much lost all hope. Not only was his father's company up against them, but the other cities they had paid as well.

“That's why I didn’t want to tell you guys. There is nothing that we can really do.” Numba clenched his fists. “This is business between cities...I heard all the other towns in the area close by have started sending gangs as well..and I..I.” Numba started to break down in tears again. “Can’t do anything about it.”

It hurt the others to see Numba like this but Izzy and Ian didn’t know what to do. They were heirs to restaurants and other businesses. They could ask their family to send over financial support towards the Cardenez group, however they knew that their family would most likely decline, based on what was happening. If anyone got involved they ran the risk of being targeted as well.

“Numba...I don’t like seeing you like this. Earlier you asked me for help. I saw the desperate situation you were in and it's worse than I thought. For them to utilise students to attack you as well... for them to get you involved in all of this. I can’t forgive them. so I’m going to help you.” Gary stood up from his seat and started to walk toward the door.

“Gary, what do you mean!” Numab shouted out. “You can’t be thinking of fighting against them yourself. Don’t do anything crazy. This is a Tier-2 gang we are talking about. I could never ask you to get your whole gang involved in this.”

Turning around Gary asked. “Do you not remember what you said to all of you? We are an alliance now, and one of our members needs help. It's only right that I act out, and don’t you remember? I owe you one from that assessment. With this we can call it even.”

“What is he thinking?” Ian stated. “Is he really going to try to fight the gang...I mean even Gary is not THAT crazy, right? Maybe he’s going to ask his gang to help.”

Hearing this was what Number was worried about, more people would be getting involved because of him.

“Numba I wouldn’t worry too much. Look if anything happens to you and your family, we will look after you. As for Gary, I know you're worried about him, but I’ll be honest it's unlikely his gang will get involved.

“Gary is just someone the gang sponsored. Sure he might have some say, but to utilise a whole group to go up against a Tier-2 gang won’t be possible. No gang would start a gang war just because of the request of a member.”

The second Gary had exited from the room, the smile disappeared from his face, and he grabbed his phone, pressing the speed dial number. It only rang a couple of times before he got an answer.

“How are you doing, Green Fang?” Kai asked.

“Kai... I need you to prepare the whole gang.” Gary asked. “I’m asking you all for a favour, as the leader of the Howlers.”