

Werewolf 521

Chapter 521 The Trio Acts!

Numba had been told that he was to stay in the hospital one more day. His wounds had mostly healed up, but it was just to make sure that there was nothing else wrong before continuing his regular activities. After all, this was a fighting academy so just being well enough to walk wasn't good enough.

The others had eventually left, Gary being the first, then Izzy and Ian leaving together. One would think that the two of them were a couple based on how much the two stayed together, but it was clear to Numba that she had certain feelings for another, which was why he didn't say who had actually stopped the students that had attacked him.

'Why were the two of them together at that time? And they were both walking at the back of the academy?' Suddenly, a few lewd thoughts entered Numba's head which caused his face to go slightly red.

'I knew he said the two of them knew each other, but to know each other that well. I wonder, could the two of them possibly be dating?!

While thinking this, there was a slight knock on the door. It was quite late, but he assumed one of the others probably had something else to say that they had forgotten.

"Come in!" Numba called out., making sure he was cozy in his sheets.

That's when he could see a smooth skinned delicate hand push open the door, and grey hair flowing down. One of the people he was thinking about seconds ago, was now right in front of him.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Numba Cardenez. My name is Xin Clove, I believe the two of us met during the debut match." Xin politely said as she gave a little bow.

Immediately, Numba bowed back.

“Yes, I remember you, but please there is no need to be so formal with me. You were the one that saved me, back there. So please don’t bow your head.” Numba replied back as he started to bow down, three to four times.

Xin couldn’t help but giggle and as Numba saw this face his heart started to throb.

‘Well, I can see why you fell for this girl.’ Numba smiled. ‘But I would never do anything to get in the way of the two of you. I wish the best for both of you.’

Numba prayed in his mind for the success between the two.

“I actually came to speak to you.” Xin stated as she approached the bed. “The students that attacked you. I have reported them to the teacher, who will have a review with the professors as to what to do with them.

“They will look into this matter further, but I wanted to just tell you that, you will certainly be safe. I have a bit of sway with the teachers being the number one student and I can safely say that you won’t be getting in trouble.” She smiled.

It was a worry in the back of Numba’s mind. What would happen to him for fighting outside of the school. Although the academy was the last of his problems he was happy to know that at least this was off his mind.

“I have something else to tell you, something that the teachers don’t know.” Xin explained as she looked to her left and right. “The one that had ordered the attack was a student named Sty. I’ll give my opinion but a student usually doesn’t have that much power to force others to risk getting kicked out of the academy, which means someone else got involved most likely. I thought you should at least know this much.”

This had confirmed Numba’s suspicions, the one that was behind everything, was the Scatterbugs. Beating up Sty or confronting him about it wouldn’t do anything though, as this was a matter between their groups.

“Thank you Xin, and thank you again for the help. I hope things go well for you.” Numba said and shortly whispered. “And I wish you good luck with Gary.”

With Xin leaving the room there was a lot for him to think of. The thought of leaving the academy all together and then heading back to help his dad had crossed his mind.

Even though his father said it was pointless, sitting here doing nothing was also pointless.

When the next day arrived, Numba was still in the hospital bed until the lessons had come to an end, and Numba had been given the clear to leave as well. As he changed and exited the door, he was surprised to see two people standing there waiting for him.

“Look at you, you look as good as new!” Ian shouted, hitting the side of his arm to check if there were any pains.

As for Izzy, she was looking behind Numba at the door and into the room.

“It's good to see you. Is Gary with you?” Izzy asked.

“No...why?” Numba raised an eyebrow.

Both Ian and Izzy looked at each other.

“Because Gary didn't turn up to one lesson today. We thought that he went to see you and maybe stayed with you the whole day.” Izzy explained.

The three of them went to his room knocking on it hard, but after five minutes of knocking and no answer, it didn't seem like there was an answer.

“So he's not in his room, and he didn't turn up for lessons. Unless he's taking a big dump, I don't think he's here guys.” Ian shrugged his shoulders trying to look for an explanation..

Numba was already storming off as he went to one of the professor's offices, professor Humfree, who was in charge of taking time off in the academy. After a knock and bursting into the room.

The three had entered what looked more like a library rather than a professor's office as both sides of the wall were filled with books.

“Professor Humfree, we can’t find Gary Dem anyway. Did he request time away from the academy?” Numba asked.

The professor was a little startled but he knew who Numba was due to the special lessons he had been taking and also knew he was close to Gary as well.

“Hmmm....Yes.” Humfree answered, stroking his beard. “Yesterday night, he requested time away from the academy. Although it is none of my business I will say this. If he didn’t tell you why he has taken time off, then perhaps there was a reason for it?”

Numba already knew what the reason was for. After what happened yesterday, it couldn’t have been a coincidence as to why he wasn’t here right now.

“No way! Do you really think Gary left to help Numba’s situation? That's crazy! I thought he was going to ask help from the gang he was in, not go himself!” Ian said.

“Well, I mean if the gang said they wouldn’t get involved, you know what type of person Gary is.” Izzy replied. “Most likely he decided to take matters into his own hands. I know Gary is strong, but I think he might be underestimating their power a little bit.”

The professor was carefully listening in on the panicked students' situations. Unfortunately it wasn’t the first time cases like this happened. In an academy where groups from all sorts of different places arised, it was more common than one thought.

The worry could be seen all over Numba’s face, and he remembered Gary’s last words before leaving. Talking about how they were an alliance and how they were going to help him.

'He's doing all this, just because I helped him during that assessment. You idiot, you already paid off that debt a long time ago, there is no need for you to do anything!' Numba thought.

"We....we are an alliance." Numba finally said. "Professor, please may I ask for immediate leave from the academy. I don't know when I will be back but I have some family issues to take care of."

"Numba!" Izzy said, grabbing his arm. "There is no need for you to get involved in this, if you stay in the academy. Then they won't be able to touch you, but if you go outside then there are no rules out there."

Numba shook Izzy's hand off.

"I have to."

"Then, I'm coming with you to your city!" Ian shouted. "Like you said we're an alliance so we need to do this together, and we can just talk Gary out of this crazy idea."

Izzy shook her head, but in the end, gave in and smiled.

"You two are idiots, which is why you will need me to look after you."

All three of them had asked for leave from the professor all for the same reason.

"Okay, I will take note of that." Professor Humfree replied. "And, I expect to see you all come back to the academy soon."

Chapter 522 The Deal Is Done

In the Wolfs Pool Club the air was heavy. Harry Cardenez, the owner of Cardenez Electronics, was still on his knees. He no longer had his head down as he was waiting for an answer as to what the decision of the Howlers was.

In the middle of it all, a phone call of all things delayed that answer. Will couldn't believe the audacity of the guy in the fox mask who didn't seem much older than himself. To answer a phone call of all things, unaware who was on the other end!

Kai didn't say much, other than a few nods here and there, as the one on the other end appeared to be doing most of the talking.

"Don't worry, that shouldn't be a problem. In fact, it seems like this was something that was meant to be." Kai said as he looked over to the kneeling adult. "See you soon."

With that the call ended, and the phone was placed on the desk. Kai placed both his hands together as he smiled. This time he wasn't covering the bottom half of his face, which made Harry and the others wonder what news they just got.

"Mr Cardenez, it looks like you haven't run out of luck just yet." Kai revealed. "I like that, which means the momentum is on our side. The Howlers will agree to help you."

Hearing this Harry's eyes lit up, but it wasn't the same for Will. Because even with the help of a Tier-3 gang, how much hope did they really have? There were already two Tier-3 gangs attacking them, with a Tier-2 gang wall behind it all. In truth, they would need to sacrifice a lot, and without convincing other gangs to come to their aid, there was no guarantee that they would be able to fend off these attacks, and Will's heart was hurting imagining just how much that would cost.

"However, as you yourself are perfectly aware of, the conditions have changed compared to before." Kai added. "We will not only help you weather the storm, but even get back at those guys, in exchange for... 51%. Not just of Cardenez Electronics, but of every venture you do in the future and with other cities. With fifty one percent it will also mean we have say to what cities you expand in, and where the business is going."

In a way this was similar to the deal the Scatterbugs had proposed. Kai was asking for exclusivity by making sure they would have the majority vote for all future decisions, giving them final say in any business. However it was a larger chunk compared to the Scatterbugs.

"You...you...You're taking advantage of us in this desperate situation!" Will couldn't hold his tongue any longer. Giving up control of the company. In Will's head they would have to give up a lot of the company, but if they had to give up this large piece of the pie, how were they supposed to rope in other gangs.

“So?” Kai admitted nonchalantly. “I think you should let your boss do the talking, as he seems to understand what my offer entails. Based on the gangs you are dealing with, the Howlers are taking a huge risk. This is essentially a gamble. After all, we will have to quite literally go to war for you to obtain those 51% of the Cardenez company. Should or we fail, the Howlers will be no more, and I’m talking about the actual lives of men, not some company. Tell me, who do you think is taking the bigger risk here?”

In truth, Kai actually felt like he could have asked for a bigger percentage of the company. He could tell how desperate Harry was. No other gang would be crazy enough to accept such a deal. In fact even he was on the fence until Gary had called.

That call just happened to be the nail in the coffin. In the end, Kai was making the best of the situation. He didn’t know how to run an electronic company and he already had enough on his plate to deal with. As long as he was able to veto major decisions that might harm their interests he was fine with it. Besides, demanding a larger chunk of the company would make the other side lose the drive they had.

Why would someone work hard for the company owning just 10% of it, while some else got 90%?

This was best for both of them in the end.

“You....have given a very fair deal.” Harry said as he stood up from his kneeling position. “I’m thankful that you have considered our position. I promise you, that we will not just stand by, and let you do this work. In this partnership we will also do our best to protect our company.

“If I have to pick up a bat myself, I will get rid of the gangsters trying to take over my company!” Harry shouted, tensing his fist. An entry could be seen in his eyes. It was fierce.

‘I can tell...this is it!’ Kai thought with excitement. ‘This is the power of a leader. Bringing him to our side will help us grow! This is exactly what we needed right now. If we allow him to proceed with his ambitions we can get to the top together.’

Kai stood up from his seat for the first time and held out his hand. “Olivia, call our lawyer and we let’s sort out the contract right here and now.”

Oliviva didn't say anything and just pulled out her phone, while both Kai and Harry gave each other a firm handshake. A deal had been made but they needed to make it official.

When the lawyer came, the documents were drafted up, for the deal to be done, and before the deal was officially signed by both parties. Will had a look over it as well. He wasn't just any aide or personal assistant to Harry, he came along for good reason. He was a law graduate in charge of negotiating the terms for the company.

While the lawyers were talking things over, Harry and Kai were still face to face with each other. Rather than on the floor Harry was now sitting on the chair opposite him.

"I know it might be a bit late to say this now, but the Scatterbugs...they are a big group, it will be tough." Harry stated.

"Don't worry, I did my research. As I said, they already came to us before, so we needed to know how bad it was if we offended them by refusing. It's funny, one might even call it fate that you came back to us. After all, you didn't know about the offer, you didn't accept ours and now we are back here." Kai smiled.

"Is...this okay?" Harry asked. "I mean, you are doing this without your leader present. He was the person I met before. I'm sure you would need to ask him, and I would like to apologise for the words I said last time."

"You don't have to worry about that. I can assure you he supports this. Perhaps you will be able to meet him sometime soon, and you can thank him in person then."

While the two were in the middle of conversation they were interrupted as they heard something slam against the table behind them. When looking they could see that Will had slammed a wad of papers that was the contract.

"Look right here, what is this?" Will pointed at.

"Is there something wrong?" Harry asked.

“Yes, Sir.” Will replied. “The contract. It states that 41% of the company will go to the Howlers LTD corporation.”

At first Harry raised an eyebrow. 41%. Was the man in front of him just trying to see if he was willing to accept such terms, but Kai would never be that nice.

“Then it says that 10% will belong to the Gary Dem Foundation. Why would we give 10% to a stranger. On top of that, if there was a major decision, then this person would be able to sway to one side or the other.”

Again, Harry was confused. For one, why were the Howlers willing to give 10% to a stranger. This was actually better for them. As long as the Cardenez company got him on their good side, they could either buy him out and take back control of their company at some point, or persuade him to make decisions that were in their favour rather than the Howlers.

“Ah yes, you see the Howlers have a lot to thank him for. He’s been a sort of... I guess you could call him an angel investor of sorts. A lot of improvements in Slough has been due to his money and he supports the Howlers greatly. We owe him a lot, you see, which is why we decided to repay him by including him into the deal.

“Either way, isn’t that better for you guys? This way we Howlers don’t have majority control?” Kai pointed out with a smile.

Will was perplexed because what Kai was saying was true, but judging from the smile it was as if he was hiding something. Why would they do this in their favour? Of course they didn’t know that Gary Dem was also the leader of the Howlers.

This was the start of Kai’s grand plan of spreading the name of Gary Dem, hidden business Tycoon that works closely with the Howlers.

“Okay...if you are fine with it...” Will said.

Both of the contracts were brought to the desk, and two of them signed on the dotted line. It was now set in stone.

Kai stood up from his seat and clapped his hands.

“Alright, the deal is done. Now that we own part of the Cardenez company, it's only right that we protect what's ours, right? Olivia, prepare everyone!”

Chapter 523 The Alliance Gathers

The Alliance gathers

Three large black vehicles could be seen heading out of the town of Slough, one more than what had entered. As for the destination, it was Rightdale, the Tier-3 town where Cardenez Electronics resided.

The new addition was the car in the centre, a long limo driven by none other than Tyler. He was nervous about the whole thing as he tightly gripped his hands on the steering wheel and looked into a camera that was on his dashboards.

Between the driver and the passengers the divider had been lifted to give those in the back their privacy. Nevertheless, Tyler was able to see what was going on through the screen on his dash, so he snuck a few glances from time to time.

‘Man oh man, every time we leave the city I get nervous. Especially at times when the others wear their masks since it almost always means we are headed for a fight. It doesn't help that there are strangers in the car as well.’ Tyler thought to himself as he shifted his focus back on the road.

In the car were the core members of the Howlers wearing their uniform and masks. Marie, Austin, Innu, Olivia and of course Kai, but they weren't alone in the car. Harry and Will had decided to drive with them rather than in the cars they had arrived in.

“I have to admit that I am quite surprised that you have decided to come back with us.” Harry noted.

“Well, your situation is quite dire. Besides, I'm only doing what we would do if we had signed the original deal. There's no point in having a percentage of your company without the factories that you have built up.” Kai replied.

There was a lot of tension in Will's hands, indicating that he had a lot he wanted to say at this moment.

"The Freaks....they are an elite force of members that we have. They have the power to stop the other Tier-3 gangs from attacking. The problem is though, we have two major factories and a few small ones as well.

"Due to the constant attacks we have been getting from the other cities, the Freaks are either spread too thin, or we fail to move quick enough. I worry that the people you brought here are not enough."

When asking for help from a leader of a gang, not just any gang but the leader of a gang that was in charge of a town or city, Will had managed a large force just like their attackers.

He was sure that the Howlers had to have many members to keep control over Slough, yet they had only brought over a handful.

"I can tell what you're thinking, our enemy has us outnumbered, so we have to be careful with how we use our members. Right now the Howlers are preparing. There is a chance that once they find out that we have decided to side with you, they'll attack us in retaliation, either directly or by sending proxies like in your case. As such, our members need to be prepared to defend our town as well.

"Although I feel like that is unlikely. Either way they will be ready for when the real war against Notsburg will start. For the time being, I can assure you that we will be enough to deal with these Tier-3 gangs who are bothering your workers."

Kai's words sounded confident, but looking at the amount of members, Will didn't share his confidence. From their body frames the sound of their voices when speaking to each other, every one sounded quite young. There were only two that felt like adults, the female whose name seemed to be Olivia, although he was unsure whether it was real or fake, and the large male with the pompadour hairstyle.

Will was worrying that Harry was putting too much hope into this group. On the entire drive, Kai's face remained glued to his phone as he was writing to a certain someone.

“If I'm correct, one of the locations of the factory is in Whitley, while another is in Hightown?” Kai asked as he continued to type, not even looking at the other two when asking this question.

“That is correct.” Will replied. “We don't know when the attacks will come, but those two gangs have proven quite capable in coordinating their attacks to launch them at same time. On top of that, their numbers are getting larger with each attack, and they have switched to a hit and run tactic. Because of it, the Freak's are tired and are accumulating injuries. It's only a matter of time until they destroy everything in the factory.”

“Okay that makes things simpler then, we will head to Whitley right now.” Kai stated. “We will focus on protecting Whitley, don't worry about the other factory.”

Now Harry was concerned. “If they attack the other factory with no support, the Freaks there will not be able to hold. Are you trying to say one is better than none?”

“You should trusty that one a bit more.” Olivia blurted out. She was the first to speak to the other two in the car compared to everyone else who was in. “If you want to save your company, I would trust him a bit more. That's all I'm going to say.”

The three cars finally entered Rightdale, due to it being a city rather than a town it was around twice the size of Slough with many districts, and quite a few cars on the road. Kai was already looking at the structures which weren't well built.

Because of the way the highways and roads were laid out a long time ago, transport was lacking and they were stuck in traffic even now. It would make sense with the size of the city and this level of traffic why it would take them so long to get from one factory to the other.

As well as overdeveloped buildings in small areas, it meant there weren't many places for them to build the large factories in the first place. Ideally the city could do with an underground subway system to allow faster travel and less traffic, but that wasn't a luxury that a tier-3 city could afford.

Eventually after going through the city they had gone on some open road, where the large factory could be seen up ahead. It was incredibly large and to walk around the whole thing it would perhaps take around an hour.

Once again, Kai could see why it was so hard for them to protect such a place as well. However he had witnessed some clever play at work. Surrounding the factory were broken abandoned cars which acted as a sort of makeshift wall. Then standing on top, and in front of the cars, were hired guards, gang members and members of the Freaks.

The wall of cars was a good 100 metres away from the factory itself. When entering everyone started to stretch, and it was safe to say that the strange appearance of the Howlers had caught the eyes of the other guards around the factory.

“What are they looking at us so weirdly for?” Innu asked as he locked eyes with one of the guards. “I mean they have the Freaks that are dressed up as clowns, right?”

“Yeah, I'm just thankful that I never made us wear something like those clown suits. I understand it's like a type of symbol. A uniform that people can remember and strike fear into the enemy eventually but why clowns of all things.”

“That should be obvious.” Austin said seriously as his arms were folded. “Clowns are scary.”

The words were said in such a deadly tone that no one knew whether it was a joke or not, and were too scared to make a comment.

“Speaking of.” Tyler called out as he leant on the car. The three cars were parked within the 100 metre circle, in between the factory and the wall of cars. “Shouldn't I wear a mask? You know, to hide my identity.”

“What for?” Olivia who was standing right next to him questioned him. “What benefit would someone possibly have from targeting our driver?”

This made Tyler sulk somewhat because he felt like his position was replaceable in the gang.

“Tyler.” Marie called out smiling underneath her mask. “You're a great driver. Usually I get car sick in cars but with you I never get car sick! I wouldn't want anyone else.”

Tears of joy nearly came out from Tyler's eyes. He had never met someone so sweet and Marie looked like an angel to him at that moment. If she wasn't in the gang, perhaps Tyler would have quit a while ago.

Right now, the group was waiting patiently for something to happen, an attack or some type of messenger to appear. Something did happen after around twenty minutes, the gates were being opened. Harry and Will looked at each other in confusion, as they weren't expecting any guests.

When the car stopped and Harry saw who got out of it, they were in for a surprise as three young students were seen.

“Numba!” Harry called out.

Chapter 524 The Groups Meet

The Howlers were baffled at the sight of the three new arrivals. They were sure that the whole city should know by now that this was a dangerous area, one would only come here if they knew their life was on the line.

“What are a bunch of students doing in a place like this?” Innu blurted out.

“Should we really be the ones saying this?” Marie whispered at his side.

Although it hadn't been long since all of them had dropped out of school the teenagers sometimes forgot that without the gang they too would have been regular students. When seeing Harry react though it was quite clear that these three weren't just brave passerby.

“Numba.” Harry said softly at first, but then his eyebrows started to furrow so much that it looked like they were touching each other. “What are you doing here?! Did you decide to disobey your own father?!”

Harry was walking at an incredibly fast pace toward Numba, startling Izzy and Ian at his side.

“Hey, if the old man attacks us, we can at least defend ourselves, right?” Ian asked his childhood friend.

“No, you dofus! Remember, this is Numba’s father and he’s an ordinary human whereas you’re an Altered!” Izzy replied back.

“I told you to stay at the academy! I told you to live your life there! Do you think your father can't handle things on his own?!” Harry questioned his son amidst his stride.

“I'm involved in all of this, father!” Numba shouted back. “I’ve been a part of this ever since the day you took me into your family. How am I meant to live a life in the academy when I know all of this is happening? I could... I would never forgive myself!”

The old man stopped there around three metres before reaching Numba’s position. Both Izzy and Ian were somewhat hiding behind Numba who was surprisingly standing his ground.

“Father, it's not just you... they have already targeted me back at the academy. And not just me, but my friends as well. I have personal issues with them. Let me help you!” Numba locked eyes with his father.

Neither one looked away. It was as if they were the only two that were there on that concrete ground.

After a good minute or so, Harry smirked as he pondered out loud. “Just where did I go wrong in raising you?”

“You didn’t.” Numba replied. “You gave me the perfect life and I just wish to repay you for it.”

“You have grown a lot since the academy. It looks like you might have gone through more things than I can imagine.” Harry sighed. “I’m assuming the two behind you are your friends from the academy? Alright, since you’re already here, I’ll place you under Gib in the Freaks, you are to support him and follow his lead!”

One of the men dressed as a clown with a large red nose came over. Gib had two bats on his back, but rather than being made out of wood or metal, they seemed to be grey in colour, and the handle part

black. This was an Anti-Altered weapon, albeit a basic one. It just had a slight electrifying power rather than one made from a beast.

The Howlers were a little far away from where the academy students had parked up, so they were unable to hear most of what was said apart from a few angry words here and there. Only Kai and Olivia with their enhanced hearing had heard it all.

'That person's name... I see why you took a liking to him, Gary, in some ways he is like you. A new business and loyalty from three Altered. I would say if things go well here, we're on a great way to the top.'

While the others followed Gib, Harry and Will were talking to the managers of the factory. They were trying to get a handle on the situation with employees leaving. They needed to come up with a plan to reinstate confidence and also discuss how much production was behind.

While following Gib, it didn't take long for Ian and the others to notice a group standing by a high end car, who were all wearing strange masks dressed in black and gold.

"Man what is with your family?" Ian asked. "I mean, I thought the clowns were already strange but now these freaks in masks as well."

Once again, Izzy kicked Ian's shin, causing him to jump up and down rubbing his leg. The one leading them in the first place was a clown and he didn't look like a happy one, in a lot of cases it was so strange that it almost freaked out Izzy.

"Those guys are not part of my family. I don't know who they are. Did the gang manage to get some help Gib?" Numba asked.

"Yes, young master." Gib answered. "Your father managed to receive help from a neighbouring town called Slough. The ones that you are looking at right now are a gang who call themselves Howlers."

Each one of them stopped in their footsteps as they heard those words, and at the same time looked at each other. Gib had only just noticed that the others stopped following and wondered what it was that he had said that was so confusing.

Immediately, Ian put his arms around the two heads and made the other two huddle up into a circle.

“Hey, I'm not going crazy, right? That clown just called them Howlers and from Slough? Isn't that the same group that Gary told us he was from?” Ian asked.

“You're right, but I had no clue that my father was going to ask them for help. I guess this must have happened while we were in the academy.” Numba replied.

“From what you told us though, the ones responsible are the Tier-2 gang Scatterbugs. Any gang would be crazy to help you out. Sorry... I know that was a bit rude but you know what I mean. Does this mean Gary actually managed to convince them to help?” Izzy added.

They all looked over at the Howlers again. None of them had the same hairstyle or colour as Gary, nor did their body frame match them. At the same time, they realised that the number of people from the Howlers was incredibly low.

“If Gary did ask them, then where is he? I mean he left before us, so he should be with them.” Ian claimed.

“I hate to say this, but it looks like the Howlers just sent a token force because Gary asked them. They want to keep Gary on their good side because he's talented.” Izzy guessed. “So they say they sent help but really it isn't much. I think it's a good thing that we came in the end.”

The group eventually broke off their huddle and continued to follow Gib with a smile, but Numba couldn't help looking at the people in the masks. For a group that had been sent off for what Izzy thought was fodder they looked quite brave.

At the same time, was it true, had Gary been kept back by his gang, told that he wasn't allowed to come to help out?

‘Thank you Gary, for at least trying. I bet you did whatever you could to help us...so I will do the same.’

They eventually reached their post where there was a small gap in the wall of cars. There were these small gaps throughout the wall. It was to allow their members in and out and only so few in at a time.

This way, the numbers advantage didn't go so well in their favour. As they stood there Numba had a few more words to say for the others.

"We came here to stop Gary from doing something stupid...but I have decided that I will be staying here, even if Gary isn't here." Numba explained. "I have to help out my family no matter what situation they are in, but for you guys it isn't the same. This isn't your family.

"If any of you are in danger at any point and time, then please just get out of here."

The two didn't reply and instead, Ian went to Gib and whispered something in his ear. After that the gang member called on help from one of the other members of the Freaks.

"What did you ask for?" Izzy asked.

"You'll see."

A short while later and the freaks had come back, with some clothes, makeup and red squidgy nose for the two of them.

"With this, our parents will never know we were involved." Ian explained. "Call me, if you need any help."

After changing into their costumes Ian couldn't stop laughing at how ridiculous Izzy looked but his laughter was cut short by an announcement.

"They're coming, everyone get ready!"

Chapter 525 Protect The Factory (Part 1)

Harry's factory was currently well guarded, at least more so than the others, for several reasons. For one, a couple of his Freak group members would always stay with him.

Since he was at this location, it meant that the total number of members of the Freaks in this area were around eight. At the same time, it was the larger factory of the two. In all honesty, if Harry had to save one of the two factories, he would have suggested this one simply based on its size.

However, the problem was both factories were getting hit with the same amount of force from two different gangs. Still, it made him wonder when the blonde-haired Howlers member suggested if he had done so knowing these details beforehand.

'I can't be thinking about the other factory right now. We have to put all our efforts into protecting this one!' Harry had made up his mind and knew he couldn't afford to distract himself right now.

"Give me a report on the enemy numbers!" Harry asked.

"I have received messages stating that it looks like this time, the number of attackers is in the hundreds. Several cars and motorbikes have been spotted at the scene. This is the biggest attack from them till now." Will said, his hand trembling nervously.

There were eight members of the Freaks and around twenty guards stationed around one-half of the building, having moved to the direction where the attackers were coming from.

Since the factory was a bit out of the central part of the city, there were only really two directions they could attack from: from the main city roads or, more likely, from over the hill, where one could come from the countryside.

There was more land on that side, and it was harder for them to spot the enemy if they came from that way.

'Even if we have the Howlers on our side, their numbers are more than double compared to ours. Not to mention our people are tired from the constant fighting as well, including the Freaks. Is this their final push to finish us off?'

"Stop the advance, do whatever you have to to stop the advance, and somebody get me a damn weapon. We will fight and take care of these guys until we meet the Scatterbugs ourselves!" Harry shouted, rolling up his sleeves.

"Wow, your dad really is a scary man," Ian gulped, seeing the former's enthusiasm.

"He's not scary," Numba replied in a matter of factly way, "He's just passionate about these things."

The Freaks were in action as they moved out of the small gaps from the doors of cars, while the regular guards stayed behind the wall, waiting for the enemy to come in. It was then that Gib, the leader of the Freaks, turned around to all the others.

"Let us take out as much as possible, and then we will leave the rest to you." Gib looked at the three students, who were now dressed in clown outfits as well, indicating that those words were meant for them as well.

The sound of revving motorbikes brakes being slammed upon as they screeched and came to a halt could be heard. Multiple cars and motorbikes had driven over the grassy fields and were now on the grey concrete.

They had stopped, not wishing to collide with the barrier and could see those in front of them. Just like the reports had indicated, as the members got out of the car, they looked to be around a hundred of these thugs, carrying all sorts of weapons on their bodies.

One large man with nothing on but a tank top and a golden tooth stood in front of the others. They hadn't rushed forward to attack just yet.

"Today is the day we finish the job!" The man clamoured, raising his hand that had a brass knuckle worn on it. The others cheered loudly with this, and the sound of a hundred people enrapturing was quite deafening for the others to hear and feel.

There wasn't a moment of a breather for them as they all started to charge in, with those on the motorbike getting the lead as they went forward first. One of them was holding a crowbar and went straight toward Gib.

The motorbike man swung the crowbar, but Gib ducked under it, hitting the man in the stomach, letting his motorbike continue going forward before it skid across the floor and crashed into the wall of cars.

It was an explosive start to the fight. Soon the men had surrounded the Freaks, but just as their reputation preceded them, they were doing well to hold off even though they were outnumbered.

Swinging their weapons, they began the counterattack. They had great stamina; whenever they hit someone, it would do great damage by either knocking them out or taking them out of the fight. However, in the end, they weren't invincible.

Gib was struck in the ribs by a chain, causing him to flinch, and as he did, the man with the brass knuckle from before came and gave a powerful uppercut right under his chin. It was a blow that would have knocked most grown adult men out, but somehow, Gib was able to hold on.

With the Freaks slowing down, it allowed the other gang members to run around them and get to the gap in the cars.

"No wonder my boys couldn't finish you off last time." The man smiled, showing his gold tooth. "Well, it's a good thing I personally decided to come this time. I have to say that after this, we will never have to worry about a day in our lives again, and you can rest in peace as well, haha!"

The man lifted Gib by the top of his curly head of hair and readied his knuckleduster once more as he swung it to the side.

But before he could take the last swing, an explosive bang resounded as if a heavy weight had hit the ground. Then, as the golden tooth man turned his head, he suddenly felt a heavy hit right in his stomach. Intense pain instantly clutched him as his ribs cracked from the impact, and he was sent flying into his own men, crashing into them as he lay unmoving on the floor.

"Is that a...clown with Horns?" The man lifted his head before passing out.

Gib looked up and, standing in his place, was none other than the young master of the company. In a clown outfit, of all things, with horns sticking out of his head.

"You have done what you can, head back to the factory and recover yourself. Leave the rest to us. If you don't follow this order, you're fired." Numba said.

Gib nodded while trying his best to remain calm.

"Getting a bit ahead of yourself, you're not in a position to make those decisions yet."

Chapter 526 Protect The Factory (Part 2)

Everyone, including the guards working for the Cardenez group, witnessed the Freaks take on the attackers. This was not the first time the gangs had attacked them. The Freaks had always seemed so strong, able to stop those gang members before they could do too much damage to the factory.

However, today was the first time that they witnessed the Freaks on the short end of the stick, struggling to prolong the battle. Not only had a considerable larger amount of gang members come to attack them, but they also seemed to be a cut above the thugs that had come last time. All the Freaks understood the gravity behind the battle, and thus they were giving it their everything.

Unfortunately, courage alone couldn't decide a fight. The guards watched the Freaks get beaten, hit, and kicked over and over again, but despite their worsening wounds, the clown-dressed gang members continued to fight. It was this moment that the guards asked themselves how they could just stand behind the walls and do nothing.

It wasn't right, which was why they decided to act. The guards abandoned their orders of waiting to deal with the leftovers like the previous times, instead they rushed out of the barrier they had built themselves and attacked the gang members who surrounded the Freaks on their last legs.

Fortunately, they weren't on their own, as a few others dressed in similar attire to the Freaks had arrived at the scene. Two gang members had swung their bats down on guards before being wrapped around by a strange extended substance and held in its tracks. Before they could react, another large tentacle-like vine, the same that wrapped around their weapons, hit them in the stomach and sent them flying through the air.

Then another one wrapped around a member of the Freak's waist and lifted him up. "I'll take him back to the factory! Don't fight here, you guys, get back behind the barrier as soon as you can!" Izzy shouted,

ordering around the guards. While she appreciated the gesture, it was obvious at a glance that they were more of a liability than actual help in this gang fight.

With her strange hair-like abilities, Izzy was using her unique Altered form to fight, and as she headed back to the others, she hit a few more members on the way, leading the barrier.

At the same time, in an area not too far from where they were, another Freak member was being protected by a person dressed as a clown. Several gang members were on the floor bleeding from their hands, and others had even dropped their knees on the ground out of fear.

Meanwhile, Ian in his clown getup had several spikes stick out from his body and clothes. They were more like the small bristles of a hedgehog, and several holes had already formed on his clothes as they retracted back into his body.

"I'm sorry, my fellow clown friend, but it looks like I ruined this set of clothes."

The Freak, who looked to have a broken leg, couldn't help but laugh as he heard this remark.

"Just get me out of here, and I'll make sure the boss won't chew you out for it." The clown replied. Ian was happy to hear that and gave his ally a hand and shoulder to lean on, before he headed back to the barrier just like the rest, followed by Numba and Gib.

Inside the factory, the medical staff was already busy treating the incoming patients. Unfortunately, there was only a handful of them. Money could only go so far in convincing someone to risk their own life, especially since it was guaranteed that the factory would turn into a dangerous area.

After making sure that the injured Freaks were taken care of, the three Altered students quickly returned, but the situation soon changed. The rival gang members had entered through the gaps in the cars, and although the initial plan of attacking them as they came through had worked at first, eventually, they were overpowered.

Seeing this, Numba exploded from his position, getting to where the others were at a swift speed and striking a man so hard that he flew back and hit a car.

"Get the f*ck away from our company ground!" Numba roared. With the three Altered fighting inside the 100-metre area of the factory, they were able to hold off the gangs pretty well.

Harry, seeing all this, had to blink twice and almost held his hand toward his chest. You...I can't believe it. This factory is being saved right now...and it's all thanks to you. I don't know what I did to receive someone like you in my life." Harry stated.

It was strong words coming from the president, and it was the first time Will had heard the president compliment his son in such a way.

Far back, from where the gang members were attacking, a middle-aged man with long hair hadn't joined the fight. He was leaning up against the car with his arms folded.

'Three Altered? Now that is a surprise. Did the Cardenez family hire them? I didn't think anyone would support them in this situation. Surely they should know the Scatterbugs are behind this. Maybe this is something I should report.' The man wondered to himself as his hand went towards his phone.

The man wasn't the only one watching everything from the backline. Kai and the other members of the Howlers had yet to join this fight. So far, they had just stayed in the back, he to observe, the rest waiting for him to give them to go ahead.

'Those Freaks are more impressive than I thought. They might be on the same level as the Underdogs' Cheetah Squad. The Scatterbugs must have never expected that a simple company would be so hard to take over, but that just shows his strong mindset. He is definitely someone we want on our side.

'As for those three, they are all highly skilled Altered. I guess that's what I should expect from AFA students, but they are particularly talented, and that girl seems to have a good head on her shoulders. Without any major changes in this fight, the Cardenez group might actually make it out of this without the need for us to intervene.

'Well, we can't just let things end like this, not without letting them know what we're capable of as their allies. I wouldn't want to give them a reason to want to weasel out of our deal.'

Kai turned around to the others, who all seemed restless. For many, it was taking everything they had to hold back from joining.

"I know that all of you are eager to get involved, but it was important that you saw that those guys are capable of. They are nothing like us, and the group behind them is even worse. You've seen it for yourselves, these people hurt others without a second thought.

"Some of them have taken lives just for fun. If these people find out who we are, or if we give them the chance, they will come back and make us pay back tenfold. I want you to imagine not what they would do to you but what they would do to those you care about, what they would do if they manage to get a hold of your family! Do you understand?!" Kai clamoured.

Numba was busy fighting, but he could hear Kai's voice. The Altered was doing well, but fighting like this had exhausted him and he wondered if the Howlers would ever do something. At that moment, a man on a motorbike drove through the gap on a motorbike, heading straight for the Howlers.

"I want you to all fight without holding back!" Kai ordered.

As the man on the bike came closer, Austin accelerated and clashed with him. The man swung down his crowbar against the bull masked teenager's shoulder. Surprisingly, it did nothing, leaving no injury. At the same time, the bike crashed right into Austin and stopped in its tracks.

"I understand!" Austin replied as he lifted the front of the bike in the air with ease, causing the man to fall off and hurled it over to the incoming rival gang members.

Numba was ready to deal with a group of members in front of him when a bike came flying from the side. It hit a group of around six of them, knocking them off their feet and crushing the bones in their bodies.

Upon turning his head, Numba noticed the masked figures walking their way.

"You've done enough, now it's our turn. I promise we'll get rid of all of them for you!" Kai said as he ran forward, his hands transforming with a tuft of grey fur.

Chapter 527 The Howlers Join

The Howlers finally decided to join the fray, and the first act from one of their members had caused nearly the whole place to stop the fighting. The tall guy in the bull mask had not only performed a superhuman feat by lifting a heavy, large vehicle, but he had furthermore chucked it a far distance at an incredible speed.

Harry and Will rubbed their eyes to make sure they were seeing right, and while all attention was on Austin, Kai as he lifted his transformed hand in the air. "This factory and the Cardenez group as a whole belong to the Howlers! An attack on them, is an attack against us!"

With his partially transformed body, Kai rushed to the closest rival gang member, grabbing him by the head and slammed him down on the concrete. This act of violence ended the momentary peace and his fellow gang members rushed at the fox masked aggressor with their weapons drawn.

As one swung a bat toward Kai's head, he was met with a swing of an axe that sliced the weapon in half.

Before the person could act, a kick landed on his head which spun the man's body before landing on the ground.

Innu didn't stop there as he continued to run forward and avoided swings and hits from the invaders. One of the axes stuck right into one of the gang members' shin which caused him to scream out pain.

'Remember Kai's words, we can't let these guys go. Letting them off easy is also out of the question, else they won't just come for us. Kevin and Suzan I care about as well!' Innu thought, as he felt his weapons supply him with another boost of energy.

More members were running through the gaps, but before they could make it through, they were hit by a bolt that electrified them on the spot. Marie had become quite the decent archer as she continued to fire at spots that would disrupt more of them coming in.

"Oh, I thought... you were like me." Tyler commented.

"I used to be, but when you hang around these guys, you inexplicably tend to find yourself in situations like this. I know that I'm not as good as them in a head-on fight, so I try to keep up with them in my own way, though I'm told that I'm too shabby with my pair of daggers these days." Marie smiled.

All Tyler could do was smile, as he wasn't sure whether it was a joke. Suddenly a loud scream was heard, because the most brutal member of the Howlers wasn't holding back at all. Olivia had used her whip, tying it around one of the large member's hands. As she made use of her Werewolf strength, she lifted the man in the air causing his shoulder to pop.

Unfortunately for the man, that wasn't the end of it. His body was swung towards her and with a transformed Werewolf fist, she slammed it deep into the man's stomach causing him to cough out blood all over her, tainting her mask which revealed her shiny blue eyes.

The fight continued, but the invading gang members were practically ignoring Numba and the others, forced to focus with the biggest threat that was in front of them. The Howlers, however, were proving capable of dealing with everyone coming their way.

A chain swung right at Kai and using his claws he ripped right through it. The Freaks had come out after being partially treated, thinking that they might be needed to help out in the fight. All they could see were several gang members bleeding on the ground unconscious, many of them either dead or not far from it.

"I think we were wrong about the Howlers, sir." Will stated. "Rather than too few, I would say they sent out far more than was needed to deal with our problem. How can a Tier-3 city have... I don't even know how many of them are Altered at this point."

It was a hard thing for them to determine because the only ones that had visibly transformed were Kai and Olivia. The others were displaying powers that seemed beyond what a normal human was capable of, but not necessarily enough to determine them as Altered.

"I think we all underestimated them." Harry concluded.

The students from the AFA were standing there, simply watching like the Howlers had done in the beginning. They were looking for ways to help out, but eventually the area became mostly clear. There were still gang members on the other side but they were having trouble getting in.

"THIS is the gang Gary belongs to?!" Ian blinked a few times, still finding it hard to believe. "He told us he was from a Tier-3 town, right? How is it possible for any town to have so many Altered and not be known far and wide?!"

"I know." Izzy agreed with him. "Any one of them should easily be able to secure a place in the AFA and do well, so what's stopping them? Why did they decide to sponsor someone like Gary and send them as their sole representative?"

As for Numba, he was focusing on something else. "Gary... he really managed to secure us help from such strong people. I thought... he really is a great friend."

Like Ian and Izzy, he had assumed that the few members of the Howlers had just been sent here as a show of solidarity. However, the fact that a gang had sent out more than one Altered meant the other side was treating this seriously.

A Tier-3 gang shouldn't have many Altered to begin with. In the group's mind, it just showed how much importance his gang must place on him, and it made them all the more intrigued to find out just what type of group the Howlers were.

Two gang members swung their bats right towards Kai and transforming his arms, more grey fur could clearly be seen as his forearms bulged. He swung them out breaking both of the bats and, a second later, swiped his claws right towards their necks causing them to spurt blood, killing them on the spot.

When their bodies fell, Numba was looking directly into Kai's blue eyes. It reminded him of a similar feeling when seeing this. It didn't take the Altered long to remember what it was, but he didn't share his realisation with the others, although it was a hard thing to miss.

The transformation of Kai and Olivia, and their Altered forms looked incredibly similar to Gary's. Was this merely a coincidence, or was there more to it?

Chapter 528 Sending A Message

Taking another look at Kai, Numba soon noticed that not only was he similar to Gary, but aside from the fur colour there were certain similarities between him and Olivia. It was more than just the mere appearance of the Werewolves, though, it was the feeling of ferocity behind each of their attacks.

"You've noticed it as well, right?" Izzy asked. "It's not unheard of for there to be Altered who are similar to each other, but there are still variations between them, as if they were distant cousins. Those two and Gary seem to be more closely related, like they were somehow siblings.

"What's even stranger, if there was an Altered form that was known to be this strong and multiple solution of that type got sold, it should have cost an insane amount of money. Not something that Tier-3s like us could afford, gang or not.

"The only possibility I can think of is that someone made a huge gamble on mystery solutions. There's no way of knowing what type of Altered you will become, but it's next to impossible to find those on the market.

"Two of those Wolf Altered might have been a coincidence, but three of them means there is something going on. Something that we don't know about. It makes me think that the Howlers have someone bigger backing them, or they might even be a chance that whoever is backing them, has found a way to extract more than one solution out of an Altered fossil."

Izzy had managed to not only summed up Numba's thoughts on the matter, but had even given him a lot to think about. The last one was unlikely, but if it were true... it might become a breakthrough and usher in an age of Altered!

Since it was obvious that they were no longer needed, the AFA students reverted to their human forms as the fight looked like it was coming to an end.

All of the gang members that had crossed the barrier of cars had been beaten up. As if that wasn't enough, Olivia was using her whip to pick up those that were injured, passed out, or dead and was throwing them over the wall.

Her allies could only imagine the horror the invaders would feel when they saw their friends chucked over a complete mess. It certainly had the effect that Olivia was going for as the few remaining members outside had decided against fighting their way in.

"We can't just let them go this easy can we? Bull!" Kai said with a smile.

Harry, the guards, and the AFA students were baffled. 'Easy' was the last word they would use to describe what had happened to the invaders. That was when Austin went to the barrier of cars and picked one up. With his great strength and in his full Altered form that made him look more like just a regular human the car was lifted above his head.

"Okay, no way that guy a regular human, he must be an Altered as well!" Ian stared in amazement, wondering if he could even do such a thing in his fully transformed state.

With the car above his head Austin jumped up on top of the car below. He could see the ten or so gang members who were running away for their lives. As they did the Minotaur Altered hurled the car crashing into several of the men, preventing them from moving today or ever.

Austin had strong resolve in the beginning when he knew what type of life he would need to live, and he too accepted the weight of Kai's speech. Jumping off the Howlers had regatherd but were still transformed in their uniforms and masks. None of the members looked to have suffered so much as a scratch.

"The Howlers have saved us." Will uttered in disbelief, pinching his cheek to check whether all of this was a dream.

"No they haven't saved us yet. There is still much to do, but they have given us a chance to keep what is ours!" Harry replied.

No longer was there fighting or other gang members rushing in to attack. For a second they all felt safe.

Standing at the very back of the concrete base, where the attackers had come from was the long black haired man who just shook his head at the scene and had his phone in his hand. As soon as he saw Austin throwing the car at his men, the speed dial button got hit.

"Boss I'm sorry to report this, but the attack was a complete failure. We weren't able to touch the factory. They have gotten a group called the Howlers to help them out, and they brought along an Altered."

The loud words said by Kai had been heard clearly and the man had made a note of it all. That's when he could see Kai standing on top of the cars and looking out toward the man still on his transformed state.

"There's an update, the reason why they are so confident is because they have at least two Altered among their midst. "

The man had to pull the phone away from his ear as all he could hear was the one shouting on the other end. When the shouting was over only deep breathing could be heard.

"Fine, we will show them an ounce of our strength, is there a leader of some kind?" The voice at the other end asked.

Kai gave a friendly wave and took a deep breath.

"You there, tell your boss that if he dares to touch our turf again, we'll be coming for him next!" Kai yelled out with a deep howl at the end. His voice had easily reached everyone there.

"Yes, I think there is a perfect person to target. I imagine if we get rid of him, they will all start to crumble." The man on the phone reported.

On the other side of the call, the phone got placed down. The table was slightly cracked due to it being hit early during the call.

"Midwak, I have a special task for you."

"Yes, sir." The man in the hawaiian shirt replied stepping forward his eyes starting to glow a slight tint of yellow.

Chapter 529 Another Factory

Some of the gang members that had been chucked over the wall were able to move after a few minutes.

On the order of the long haired man at the back, they were told to gather their men and in doing so they would take them back to their city or town with the cars they had brought with them.

There was a chance that the Howlers or the Cardenez family wouldn't allow this and would finish off the gang members completely, but they did have a heart and Kai had believed they had done more than enough to deter the other gangs from doing the dirty work of the Scatterbugs. In the end, one's life was more important than anything, and that included money.

Eventually the gang left in their cars, heading back to where they had once come from. It allowed for everyone to breathe a big sigh of relief.

"Please sit, sir, you must be exhausted." Will said, as he had seemingly pulled a pop up chair out of nowhere.

Harry took the seat, wiping the sweat from his head. The entire time, even when it looked like the group was on the upside, he was nervous.

"The factory, the business, is saved for one more day at least."

The Freaks and the guards had gathered, giving them an update on the situation. In the end, the guards were told to head inside to inform everyone that the place was safely protected and they could continue their work with no worries.

Seeing the full fleet of guards all present would give the workers confidence.

"I need to thank you three as well." Harry said, as he looked at the Altered students. "This was none of your business and you could have been hurt. Just because you guys are skillful, don't let your guard down or let it get to your head."

Ian and Izzy knew this was a compliment from the old man, even though it was said in a fatherly type of way.

Eventually the group heard footsteps coming toward them and it was none other than the masked fighters, the Howlers from before.

The Freaks as well as the Altered students stood by the side of Harry in a line and when the Howlers were close enough, Numba bowed down at a 90 degree angle.

"Thank you for helping our company out. Thank you for agreeing to help the Cardenez company." Numba shouted out loud.

Soon after he said those words, Harry stood up and the rest of them bowed down as well, all saying at the same time, "Thank you!"

Even with the masks on, smiles could be seen on the bottom half of the Howlers' faces. It was nice to be thanked for their work even if it was from beating up a bunch of people.

"As I said before we are just doing what we can to protect what is ours. We want to show you that working with us is the right choice." Kai explained. "Besides, the one that you should really be thanking is our leader."

Looking at the group and how they were all acting, Numba had assumed that the one talking now was the leader, but from his words that didn't seem to be the case at all.

"You are correct, I believe the last time we met I greatly disrespected your leader. I should be getting down on my knees and thanking him. Where is your leader?"

Kai smiled as he heard this.

"Ah, I wrote to him earlier. I think he should be done anytime soon. Don't you remember in the car I asked you for the location of both factories?"

Harry's eyes widened at what the person in front of him was saying.

"Are you telling me, your leader went to the other factory!" Harry asked.

In all honesty, Harry had given up hope on the other factory and was just happy that the one in front of him was still standing.

"Haha, you guys are more sly than I imagined." Will chuckled. "I can't believe you sent the rest of the Howlers to the other factory with your leader, no wonder so few of you were here."

Kai soon shook his head.

"I didn't lie, the rest of the Howlers are still back in Slough. Our leader went to the other location himself."

A panic set in both Harry and Will.

"Are you crazy!" Will shouted. "Didn't we tell you before, that both factories so far have been attacked with an equal amount of force. Which means if your leader went out there on his own, he would be facing these guys with just a few guards!"

Immediately, Will went to make a call to the other factory. There was a good chance that no one would pick up, but if they could save their leader, then maybe the Howlers would still agree to help them.

After a few rings, the phone was picked up.

"Report! What is the situation over there?" Will shouted, not even giving time for the other person to speak.

"Sir... Everything is fine here." The man answered.

"Was there no attack? There might be one any second now, so prepare yourselves." Will said again.

"That's not it sir, we were attacked but a man came and helped us, a man wearing a wolf mask... he just finished dealing with them now."

On the other side of the phone, the guard was still in disbelief at what he had witnessed. Unlike at the other factory, there were no barriers of cars.

When the masked man appeared, he just said one statement to the group.

"I'm from the Howlers... don't come close to me or I might hit you."

Moments later an unbelievable scene had appeared in front of them.

Now all that was left was remnants of the fight. Claw marks dug deep into the ground, blood splattered everywhere on the concrete ground, and right now, as they looked at Gary, he had a person held by the head and was dragging them across the floor back toward the group.

"Tell them I got one of them that can help us." Gary replied, as he could hear the conversation on the other side of the phone.

Will hung up the phone after the call was over.

"Your leader... he dealt with all of them and said he caught one of them."

The Freaks, Harry, Will and the Altered students all gulped at that moment as they were just imagining how strong the leader of the Howlers was.

Chapter 530 The Counter Attack

While the people belonging to the Cardenez group were thanking the Howlers for their help, Kai was on his phone, informing Gary about how things had progressed on their end, and his plan in regards to what they should do next. Once done, he gave off a polite bow and started to head back toward the car.

Tyler, seeing this, took this as his cue to open the door for the Howlers.

"Wait, where are you going now?" Will asked nervously. Now that he had seen for himself how capable, and deadly the Howlers' members actually were, he was unable to talk with as harshly as he had done in the past. "I mean, shouldn't we head inside and discuss what to do next? I doubt the Scatterbugs will sit back and do nothing. Perhaps we should invite your leader here as well."

Will was putting on his biggest smile as he suggested this, trying to look friendly, but one could tell that the lawyer lacked experience in faking sincerity.

"There's no need for us to stay here any longer." Kai explained as he turned around. "After today, other gangs will no longer dare to attack you out in the open. If I were you, I would make use of this interlude to convince your workforce to return. I don't know how much setback you've suffered, but no factory is able to work without its workers."

"As long as I'm alive, I will make sure that our companies won't have to close down." Harry said, stepping forward, an answer that prompted a smile on the fox masked fellow.

"Good. In the meantime, we'll be ready for the Scatterbugs' response." Kai added. "However, after my earlier message, it won't be you they'll be after. I also doubt that they'll send someone else to do their dirty work after we've stepped over their reputation like this, all the more reason we should hurry back to Slough.

"The plan is simple. After we successfully manage to defend their next attack on us, we will counterattack them with our full force. The entire force of the Howlers will move into Notsburg and show them why they shouldn't have messed with us.

"Hopefully, the Cardenez group, the Freaks, as well as their powerful allies, will come to join us in that attack." When he said that final sentence, Kai was looking towards Numba and his friends. For some reason they felt quite happy to be included in that plan, no matter how suicidal it might sound. It was almost as if someone who seemed above them was acknowledging them.

Before anyone had a chance to say anything about his plan, though, Kai and the others entered their vehicle and Tyler was off, heading back to Slough.

As suggested, Harry called down all the employees who had come to work these past few days, and had stayed with them. The businessman thanked them all profusely, reassuring them that not only had they successfully protected the factory, but that after today's performance there was unlikely to be another attack in the future.

He also didn't shy away mentioning who it was that helped protect them. Although the Howlers weren't a name that those outside of Slough would recognise, Harry wanted them to get them the recognition they deserved. In the future, when they would become a household name, many would argue that this was the start of the gang's real journey to the top.

Harry could foresee that as long as the Howlers could best the Scatterbugs, other companies would come to them, just as he had done in the past, only that they would gladly offer up half of their business, just for the opportunity to work with them.

The day was getting late and eventually Harry and the others returned to the company's headquarters.

The large, wide building that was only a single floor rather than the typical multi story building other companies would have.

"Wow!" Ian exclaimed as he walked through the halls and could see ancient vases and paintings that would catch for a small fortune in the hallway. "Why didn't you mention that your family was super rich? The way you talked about being from a Tier-3 town like mine and Izzy's, I thought that you might be slightly better off, but this is on another level!"

"It's not like any of this belongs to me." Numba shrugged. "Even if I might inherit it all one day, what's the point of that much money without the power to protect it? The Scatterbugs hired two gangs and nearly managed to take us out entirely without having to lift a finger."

It was expected, since Numba's family more so ran the entire city similar to a gang due to their wealth, that they were like this. The three of them had decided that they would stay under Numba's care until his matter was resolved, no matter how long it took. Harry Cardenez had no problems with Ian's friends accompanying them, especially since he had been told about how they had helped out his men.

As they were taking a tour around the place, Will suddenly arrived in front of them through the large hall.

"I apologise for my interrupting, but I was asked to accompany Numba to his father. I hope you don't mind waiting for him." Will requested with his dreaded smile again. It was almost as if he was practising to be a nicer person.

Currently Harry, Will and lastly Numba were in his office.

'I went against my father's order. Is he going to punish me for this?' Numba wondered. Worst case scenario, he might get disowned from the family and return to being an orphan once more. If this was to happen, though, he would be fine with it, not regretting his choice at the time.

"We won't talk about what happened in the past. I'm sure you're already reflecting on your actions, so let's focus about what to do going forward. Our next step might decide our future path, and as my heir, it is not only your right to be part of that decision, it is your duty."

The words spoken from his adoptive father were the nicest words he had ever heard coming from the old man's mouth. Were Harry that type of father, he would have hugged him right now.

"I wish for you to head to Slough. As the fox mask said earlier the Scatterbugs are most likely to attack them to enact revenge. Seeing as they have only become involved in this entire mess due to partnering up with us, it seems wrong for us to just look from the sidelines.

"I don't know how much help you being there might actually offer, Numba, but I truly wish for them to regard us as equal partners. As such, it is my wish for you to help them fight back against the Scatterbugs. I have to admit that I feel guilty asking you of this because this is something I can not do myself but I saw your strength today.

"Ultimately, the decision is your."

Without taking a moment to weighing the pros and cons, Numba stated his mind. "I will head to Slough and help fend off the Scatterbugs."

With nothing else to be said, the Altered bowed down to his father and left the room, not before seeing the biggest smile on his father's face, both of them were proud of each other. The teenager found the

others resting in one of the many large relaxing living rooms which had a projector that displayed a large cinema like screen and a kitchen in the back.

His two friends seemed to have not wasted any time making themselves at home as they sat back on the sofa helping themselves to a large tray of carefully prepared food.

"Hey everyone, I have some news..."

"I'll come along." Izzy decided as soon as Numba was finished explaining everything. "Slough is where Gary is from, right? We originally came to stop him, we agreed to go together. I understand you want to go to the Howlers and thank Gary personally, but I have a lot of things to thank him for as well!"

"Yeah, and remember we are an alliance. It's only right that we go slap Gary on the back of his head for not leaving us." Ian added after gulping down the piece of food. "So let's all go together."

Numba, who hadn't expected to make friends with anyone at the academy, surely felt like he had a strong group around him.

"Alright, let's head to Slough, we will see the Howlers and meet up with Gary!"