

## Werewolf 541

### Chapter 541 The Leader Of The Howlers

After his proclamation, Gary closed the door behind him, leaving behind the Howlers and the AFA trio. Numba's mouth was left wide open, still struggling to comprehend what he had just seen and heard.

Before the Goat Altered had come here, his father had informed him that during the initial meeting between the Cardenez group and the Howlers in Slough, Kai had been by the leader's side, a green haired fellow in a wolf mask.

Given the fact that the first contact both sides had made had been through the blonde teenager, Harry had shared his assumptions that the guy in the fox mask had to be something like the second in command. An assumption that had only grown stronger, once Kai had brought out all those strong fighters to defend the factories.

If what Ian said earlier was true, and Austin, Innu and Mary were indeed the three masked helpers, it had to mean that they were part of the top echelon of the gang as well, yet they had just witnessed that all three of them had referred to Gary as Boss.

Numba turned around to check his friends' reaction, and he could see that both of them had their mouths left wide open, same as him, unable to close it.

"Hey...you heard what I heard right, Izzy? You're the smart one, so explain to me like I'm five what just happened." Ian requested. "Not only did they not tell him off, but they agreed, with a 'Yes, boss!'"

"Unless we're all going crazy... I heard it as well." Izzy stated, taking deep breaths to regain her cool. "It should be exactly what you think. The Howlers might be different, but I doubt any gang would use the title of Boss lightly. It's the title reserved for one person, the actual boss of the gang."

Numba wanted answers, and he needed answers now. How was it possible for someone like Gary to be the boss of an entire gang? He was an AFA student, sure a very skilful one, but what kind of gang leader would have the time to attend a fighting academy?!

"Is it true?" Numba asked the Howlers. "Is Gary... is he the leader of the Howlers?"

Olivia just looked at them, not saying much. Blake felt awkward, since he had seemingly missed the opportunity to get out. He did not really wish to get involved into the whole gang business, but seeing as at least one Werewolf was involved, it seemed wise to find out more about their plan.

Marie wasn't in the right mind to answer, and Austin was too busy making sure she wouldn't start crying again. As such, it fell to Innu to answer. "We thought you knew. Was that something that he and Kai had decided to hide?"

It was true, all of it was true. All of these people in the room know the entire gang followed Gary Dem, the same person that they went to the AFA with. The confidence he carried, the way he was able to lead people, it was starting to make sense now, but it was still hard for Numba to process, so he fell silent once more.

"How's that possible? Gary is the same age as us? How can he be the head of the gang, how is it possible for him to even rise up that high?" Ian asked the obvious.

In situations like these Izzy was glad for her childhood friend's open way. She wanted to ask the same things, because in her head it made no sense. In the first place, to become an Altered you had to have a big corporation sponsor you. Assuming there would actually be one willing to sponsor Gary, what would they have to gain by overtaking a city, or letting him be in charge of a gang? Even if there might be something she was unaware of, how did making him an AFA student fit into all of this?

Everyone had to have your respect, everyone had to think that you were right for that position, but what was harder since Gary was young she could only imagine he rose to that position or took it over, but she couldn't process how someone would even start to do that.

"We...are all friends of Gary." Marie answered, letting out another sniff. "Look at us, do we look that much older than he is? Honestly, the way you guys are acting, is probably the natural reaction. Seeing it makes me realise how lucky we are to have someone like him leading us, but it's not just him, it's Kai as well.

"It's a long story, but thanks to the two of them, we are in the position we are in today. So if he says, he'll help you, he doesn't mean just him, all the Howlers will go and follow him."

Hearing those words, something clicked in Numba's head. It was when he was in the hospital, when he had asked for Gary to help, when he asked him of a favour. It all lined up, at the same time, the Howlers had agreed to help.

'Gary, you really got involved to help me?' Numba was welling up, a large lump could be felt in his chest and eventually he couldn't hold the tears back, as he fell on his knees and started to punch the ground.

"You idiot, Gary...why...why would you help me so much, when you have your own things to deal with?"

Each of the Howlers members smiled at each other. "You should know the answer to that one, that's just how Gary is." Innu answered with a smile. "So that's why, when he gives an order, we're going to comply."

With that, everyone but the AFA students left the hospital. The three of them sat down in the reception hall to take the time to process everything.

"Man, I really can't believe it." Ian said. "He told us he was part of a gang, but to be the leader... well I doubt we would have believed him even if he did. It feels unreal, all those guys seem to be strong as well."

"They must really trust each other." Izzy agreed. "If you think about it, they let Gary go to the AFA. I can only guess that Kai was the one running things in his absence. It's the only way it could work. However, can you imagine any one else do something that crazy?"

"To put your trust into a single person, to not try to backstab or betray him. It seems like they're not your typical gang, and the bond between those two must be pretty close. No wonder Gary was upset."

Numba was thinking back, going over all the interactions he had with Gary, from the very first assessment, to the troubles with Sty and more, even the laughs that the two of them enjoyed with each other.

Did the revelation that Gary was the leader of the Howlers change any of that? No, all of his reactions were genuine, and in fact if anything, the fact that he was a leader of a large group and was still doing those things actually made it more impactful.

"I guess when we made that alliance, none of us but him knew what exactly we were agreeing to, did we." Numba stated, a smile on his face, but he wasn't the only one smiling, the other two were as well.

"I was going to ask you about your plans for tomorrow, but I guess I already know your answer." Izzy said.

Numba stood up out of his seat and looked outside.

"Let's get some rest, while we still can. Tomorrow is going to be a big day."

Chapter 542 9:00 AM

In the future this would be remembered as a very important day for the gang known as the Howlers.

Thanks to Kai's gang tiered system, it was relatively easy to pass on the message. All Olivia, Innu, Austin, and Marie had to do was inform the people directly below them who would do the same until the entire gang knew what had happened and what Gary intended to do about it.

"Taking on an entire Tier-2 City... and not just any but Notsburg and their Scatterbugs... I have heard that our leader was apparently reckless but to this degree? I heard those guys are strong enough that some Tier-1 gangs come to THEM to ask for help."

"I feel you, man. I've seen for myself that our masked bosses are strong, but can we really do this? We're just a Tier-3 gang. If our boss wants to expand, shouldn't we try and go against lower tier places first...this is a big jump?"

"Didn't you get the same message as the rest of us? We don't have to come, only those that are interested in taking part. It seems like this is a personal grudge. According to my superior, they took out 'Fox' yesterday, so the boss wants revenge."

"I'm glad that I won't get into trouble for not coming then. Still, if they're powerful enough to take him out, doesn't that mean that the Scatterbugs have the power to take out our core members in our own territory? If that's the case though and only the core members go out, won't they 100% lose this fight? In that case, what happens to the Howlers?"

"My guess is that someone else will take over. Anyway, I'm out. No matter how much they're willing to pay for me to come, there's no point in joining a losing fight. I still need to be alive to be able to spend it."

Conversations like these were happening all over Slough. Naturally, news didn't just spread to those in the Howlers, though, it also spread to important figures behind the scenes in Slough. Among them were the leaders of gangs who had been suppressed, and of course a particular mayor who sat in his office.

'Hahaha, finally things are looking up! If I had known that those bastards would find themselves such a powerful enemy I would have waited by the side and enjoyed the show!' Ben heartily laughed in his office. 'This is perfect, the Howlers will fail, and the Scatterbugs will see that there isn't much for them to gain in Slough. They will leave, and the town will be back in my hands again.'

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Outside the Wolf's Pool Club, at 8:55 AM, Gary was sitting on the few steps that used to lead up to the door. The club was still destroyed behind him. After all, given how late it was when the fight broke out, nobody had reported that the place needed repairs.

Sitting down on that staircase, Gary was busy putting together some pieces like a puzzle. As the first one to arrive, he had spent his time looking around for salvageable things in the pool club. There wasn't much to find as the intruder had done a horrific job making sure that their establishment would be out for business for a while. However, one thing that he had found was the smashed fox mask, and with nothing better to do, he had made sure to find as many pieces as possible.

'There that should be most of them. Just looking at your mask, I can practically picture you wearing it, Kai, berating me for doing something stupid and reckless again. Well, I can't argue that it will be reckless, but as I recall I'm not the only in our gang to do reckless things.'

Gary grinned as he as he thought back to how Kai had let himself get captured, on the off chance that he would get put into the same cell as him. What's more when he found out that Gary was unable to do much about his situation, Kai had forced Gary to turn him by nearly sacrificing his own hand.

'You got us out of that situation back then, so by the time you wake up, I'll do what I can to have our situation with them resolved. Once that is done, I'll return your mask, and if you want, you can still berate me afterwards.'

Eventually Gary saw a car drive towards the pool club's venue. It was the usual limo that the Howlers used driving to certain places. The door opened and Tyler stepped out, and opened the door for Olivia, Innu, Austin, and Marie, each one of them wearing their masks. Gary noticed that Austin's mask was different to what Gary had remembered before. Now it had what looked like a bull with a ring hanging from its nose covering his mouth slightly, and also Olivia's was slightly different, looking more like that of a wolf, although it didn't look the same as Gary's, as there was indented eyelashes.

"It was a gift from Kai, I thought it was only appropriate." Austin explained.

Gary smiled and put the fragments of Kai's mask into his pocket, before he put on his own mask.

"Gary." Marie spoke. "I'll be honest, we're most likely going to be the only ones. Everyone knows that we're going against the Scatterbugs and since you told us to write that this was a personal vendetta, even our lieutenants are unwilling to come. #"

Gary had been afraid that this might be the case, but as a gang leader responsible for the lives of his gang members, he had felt that it was only right to let them decide for themselves. Just when he was about to stand up and get into the car, the Howlers turned around towards the footsteps making their way over.

"A smaller, stronger team might be better, anyway." Ian greeted them with confidence

"Before you even try to say that we are not allowed to come with you, let me remind you about what you said before, we are in an alliance and that's what these alliances are for in the first place!" Numba stated. "Besides Gary, you're a friend, and a good one. You would do the same for me, in fact you already have done, so I have to do the same for you."

Gary couldn't argue with those words, and having three more Altered by their side boosted their strength considerably.

"We also made a deal once." Another voice said to his left, turning his head, this one was truly an unexpected person.

"Blake...but why would you... I mean, you're a... are you sure you won't get into lots of trouble if you tag along?" Gary asked.

"What do you mean? From what I've seen yesterday, that was the work of an 'Altered' who came into my town before he fled to Notsburg. In other words, I'm just coming along to do what's supposed to be my job, right?"

Gary knew Blake's skill from when the two of them fought against a Werewolf before and he had no doubt that he had continued to hone his skills.

"I... thanks, I'll really owe you one for this." Gary smiled.

Just as it looked like everyone had arrived who was going to arrive, a few more people started to creep in and fill the streets wearing the black and gold uniform. It was a good thing that the core members were wearing their masks at this time.

"We want to help as well!" they shouted. "Slough...it's changed so much since the Howlers took over, and I don't want it to go back to the way it was before!"

"I used to be a member of the Underdogs and they treated us like dogs... you saved me... so it's only right we follow you!"

It was a surprise, there were at least ten people from the Howlers group that were there, but when Gary looked at them, he made his choice.

"Thank you, you truly have shown your loyalty to the gang and for that you have my gratitude. I won't forget the faces of those that came here today... but I can't take you with me, I can't have you risk your lives.

"I realise now, this is something that we have to solve, because what the Scatterbugs have done to us... is personal." Gary said as he walked to the car with the others and they all got in one by one, driving off to Notsburg.

'You thought you could end this fight by taking out one person, well now you have a war on your hands, Scatterbugs.' Gary thought to himself as he looked out the window.

#### Chapter 543 Slough Vs Notsburg

As usual, Tyler was incredibly nervous as he drove the limo with the core members of the Howlers and the AFA students. And yet, despite them heading towards Notsburg, the stronghold of the Scatterbugs, he felt less nervous than during their other trips. The main reason for that was because Gary was travelling with them this time. For some reason, seeing the younger teenager always gave him a feeling of safety, reminding him of the time when Gary had stood up for him in his last job.

At the same time, Tyler could see how different the Alpha Werewolf looked now, how much pain and anger was behind that face of his. He wanted to do something to help him, even if it was something as simple as driving him and the others to their destination.

During the drive, the group spent the majority of their time silently watching out the window as they were approaching the Tier-2 city. Anyone would think that the whole thing was mad, going along with a small amount of people like that.

"Before he was attacked, Kai shared with me his plans for our potential counterattack." Olivia stated at one point. "I'm not too sure how effective it will be, since his plan accounted for him being part of it, but seeing as we have three Altered, it might still work. Kai had come up with a couple of plans, but the simplest one was to go straight for the Scatterbugs' main base and attack them while their defense is down.

"Of course, that plan relied on us taking out their main fighters beforehand, but now we will have to just use the element of surprise to our advantage. From what we found out, the Scatterbugs' forces are spread among multiple casinos, but there is one where the leader resides most of the time.

"A typical gang war isn't exactly resolved in a single day. There will be back and forths, small and big attacks all over the city here and there. However, in the situation we are in, the best thing to do is head to the main casino. There will be a lot of them, but if you want to end it in one shot, taking out the head might be the best shot we'll have."



Hearing the plan, Numba was quite surprised because talking with his father he had stated the same thing. The Scatterbugs were a large gang, but therein lay the problem. Once gangs exceeded a certain size, the organisation structure would prevent them from reacting to things quickly.

The best way was a full-frontal attack towards their leaders and those around them, from there the rest would crumble. Ironically, the Scatterbugs had attempted to do the same thing by taking care of Kai, but that wasn't the case at all.

Through the silence inside the car, the same wasn't heard outside, as a vehicle could be heard revving quite loudly. Ian turned his head, looking through the back window, and saw a person on a motorbike that was following them.

"So, is anybody gonna tell us why that pretty boy is out there and not in here? It's not like we don't have the space for one more passenger." Ian asked.

"Him?" Innu couldn't help but chuckle because of the people that were asking the question. "You're right, he's not part of the Howlers, but he's also not exactly an enemy. It might be the easiest for you to think of him as outside help. Sometimes he's on our side, sometimes he's not, the relationship is complicated, though I'd advise you guys in particular to stay away from him"

The three had confused looks on their faces as they were trying to understand what Innu meant, but nothing was really making sense.

"I want to know more about this operation." Marie asked. "If we go with Olivia's plan, how likely is this to work. Surely before an event like this, Kai would brief you about everything but now..."

The absence of Kai was making them lose a bit of confidence, and Gary knew that, yet everyone had come today to accompany him despite knowing the risks.

"I actually don't think what we're about to do is too bad of a plan." Izzy stated, as she had been thinking about this for a while. "Their attack has only occurred yesterday. Logically speaking, what you should have done was to strengthen your defences and wait for their actual attack. Nobody will expect you to come for revenge while Kai is still in the hospital.

"Of course, that doesn't mean they will be completely defenseless. They will be somewhat prepared in case of attacks of any nature. So don't expect this to be a complete walk in the park, either. Remember, with the amount of money they have at their disposal, they can easily have a couple of Altered on their payroll as their guard dogs."

It gave them a bit to think about, and at least it allowed the others to envision a little as to what to expect.

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Entering the city via the highway was relatively easy. There was no checkpoint like there was at the Dark Guild city. Gangs ruled the cities and towns but they didn't rule the whole country.

Which was why only those with top level influence were able to do something like that. As they entered Notsburg though, everyone could soon see the amount of wealth the place had.

The bright lights that lit up on nearly all the buildings, the giant screens filled with adverts and, of course, the several casinos that were placed all through the city.

"It's like night and day." Marie commented. "This is nearly as impressive as a Tier-1 city."

"As a group grows, they venture into different things and businesses." Olivia commented. "All the cities tend to specialise in something that will attract the public to come over and spend their money there. As such, the normal workers try hard to rise up, get a good job so they can afford to move there. This is an entertainment city, one that focuses on the thrill of gambling, so of course it will look good from the outside."

As they continued to drive they soon spotted their location from far away, a large casino that looked to be placed in the middle of a lake of all things, with one bridge connecting to it. It had mostly golden lights shining off it, and with it being the only thing there and nothing surrounding it, it stood out like a sore thumb.

At the start of the bridge leading up to the casino there were barriers and the car had no choice but to stop. There were two guards standing at the booth, and one of the men started to walk round to the window side of the car.

"Hi there good sir, we have come to your establishment for some nice gambling today!" Tyler happily stated their prepared reason for coming.

"This place is only open to VIP customers. Please show us your VIP card, or give us a proof of invitation, else I'll have to ask you to turn around and go to one of the other casinos." The man replied in a professional manner.

Tyler was nervous, as he didn't know what else to say.

"Roll down the window on my side." Gary replied.

Tyler did as he asked and started to roll down the window. Seeing this, the man naturally moved to the window, expecting to recognise the person in the car. The back windows were tinted anyway.

"Please sir, if you could show us your-"

A hand reached out and grabbed onto the man's jaw before he could finish his sentence. It was being held so tight that the man was unable to speak or utter another word. Then opening the door, while still holding onto the man's mouth with his hand through the window, Gary got out wearing his wold mask..

"There is no mercy for any of you." Gary pulled the man lifting his body off his feet through the window, and chucked him inside the car with the others. He then quickly leapt up onto the car, jumped across. He broke through the glass window shattering it with his leg forward kicking the other guard right in the face.

It had hit so hard, the man's whole body crashed into the wall behind him. A few seconds later, Gary was seen walking out of the booth from the others, straightening up his uniform.

"No one is to go easy on any of these guys." Gary stated. "I will not have what happened to Kai happen to you, I won't give them any chances."

#### Chapter 544 Take The Casino (Part 1)

In the large grand casino that was practically an island, the inner circle members of the Scatterbugs had been gathered. Not all of their members had come here from the other casinos, but most of the crucial and strong members of Notsburg had come on their leader's behest.

At the very top of the casino, in the pentsuite, Slith was sitting behind his office, wearing a red suit as he played around with a black betting chip. He was twirling it between his fingers and knuckles back and forth. Standing in front of him were all the Altered that the Tier-2 city had.

There were twelve of them in total, including him and Midwak by his side. On top of that, there were around 200 staff members in the casino itself that worked for the gang. Although they looked like normal guards, dealers and more, they were all trained fighters.

On a day-to-day basis, they dealt with those that came from gangs and all sorts of cities. They would often get rowdy when drinking too much or suffering a large loss of sorts. Which was why they had to be strong, enough to deal with those that came in their way.

If there was one place where Slith felt safe from attack, it was in his own casino.

"You have all been gathered today because it's come to my attention that a gang known as the Howlers might attack us." Slith explained.

The members of the Scatterbugs looked at each other with slight confusion. Coming here, they had believed this would be some kind of meeting, but not about an attack. Most couldn't even remember the last time someone had been stupid enough to attack them, much less directly at their stronghold.

On top of that, the gang's name didn't ring a bell in any of their heads. If this was a gang that they really needed to worry about, they would call the heads of the other casinos to this place.

"I can see the look on your faces, so let me say that I've gathered you here mostly as a precaution." Slith explained. "The chances are unlikely, but Midwak is the one who advised me. I've sent him out to strike at them, and it is his professional opinion that these Howlers will be more troublesome than we expect."

Slith turned to look at Midwak. Had someone else been the one to advise him, he would have called this meeting excessive, but so far listening to his most trusted aide had always proven beneficial. Just hearing about it, it was hard for the gang leader to believe that a Tier-3 town that they had nearly hired for a job could turn out to be such a pain in their side.

Midwak didn't say anything. He just looked at the other Altered, grinning to himself as he thought back to the conversation he had with Kai yesterday.

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After the initial attacks, Midwak had proven too powerful for Kai, overpowering the Beta Werewolf in the fight. The injuries Kai has sustained appeared to be too much for his body to recover in a small amount of time. Midwak knew the limits of a Werewolf's body quite well, which was why he had decided to shoot out his nails, pinning Kai to a wall.

"You...think..." Kai began speaking as he was nailed to the wall, barely clinging to consciousness. "I'm... afraid...death?"

Midwak looked at Kai, who was lifeless apart from the look in his eyes. He walked up to him, placing his hand up onto his chin holding his mouth, so Kai was unable to talk.

"Do you think I give a damn about you when you are nothing but a Knight?" Midwak replied. "You still have the smell of a whelp on you, so you probably don't even know what I'm talking about. If there's one thing you should take away from this, then let it be this, being in a Pack is nothing special!"

Kai wanted to say something, but Midway's hand was holding his mouth so tight that he was unable to. The Omega Werewolf was right, Kai had no idea what he meant by calling him a Knight. He didn't care much about this Werewolf business, and regarded it mostly as a special type of Altered, though one that came with certain downsides around the full moon.

"I can see in your eyes that you're not going to give up your leader, but you see, after I'm done with you, your body will BE the message. All Alphas are the same. Their weakness is that they care too much for their Pack, and they get hell-bent on revenge when one of their members gets hurt!"

"Do you know what will happen after I defeat him? Once an Omega beats the Alpha, I will become the Alpha of your Pack. Which means you will have to obey me whether you like it or not!!! It would be too much of a waste to get rid of you completely.

"Once I become Alpha and take over your Pack, I will need strong ones to go up against them. They will regret everything they did to me."

Kai was trying his best to follow, he could hear the words spoken by the other, but due to the blood loss and damage he was unable to think straight, unable to figure out what this Werewolf was doing to him.

"I still have a need for you, but I don't necessarily need you in one piece. I think it's safe if we remove this nasty mouth of yours, so you can't say anything to your leader. I doubt you will be able to wake up for a while after this." Midwak said as he pulled and ripped the bottom part of Kai's mouth off and threw it onto the floor.

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After thinking back to what happened, Midwak stood up. "Don't worry, Slith, they will come. I only hope they bring a strong group with him. This will be our biggest step forward, trust me."

Not able to control his feelings, Midway's eyes were already starting to glow slightly yellow. Slith knew his battle hungry ally long enough to be able to tell he was excited.

"Sir!" One of the men standing guard by the door had just been given a report through his earpiece. "It seems like someone has just driven through the barriers and is heading straight to the casino!!"

"I told you they would come," Midwak stated.

#### Chapter 545 Take The Casino (Part 2)

The casino was thriving as it would have done any other day. There were people who had dressed up to the very best, throwing their money around across the tables with smiles on their faces. At the same time, there were many VIP members who were enjoying their time as they continued to place bet after bet.

Some of the guests had come from Tier-1 cities after hearing about the luxury gambling establishment from their friends, deciding to pay Notsburg a visit due to all the good things they heard. There were also many scouts from other gangs among the guests, having come here since they didn't believe that a Tier-2 gang with no backers could survive on their own. They were there to check out if some other Tier-1 gang was secretly backing the Scatterbugs, and if not finding out what it would take to convince Slith to work with their group.

As bets were being made, every member of staff was made aware of something as they all had received messages through their earpieces.

"I'm sorry, but due to some unforeseen circumstances, the game right now will be put on hold." One of the dealers said at his table.

"What?! You can't do this! I was on a run! Do you want me to tell all my friends that your casino is just a damn con?!" One of the larger men with a cigar in his mouth shouted. Soon though, the man could hear that the same sentence was being used by all of the others that were on the shop floor.

"Let us apologize once more for this. As compensation, you will receive double the amount of chips the next time you cash in." The dealer stated.

This apology was easily accepted by the big spenders calming them down slightly. For the casino, it didn't matter anyway because it knew all the extra money they had just given out would be returned to them.

After all, the guards and dealers had told the civilians of the special circumstances. They were wondering, what was to happen next, and some had gotten up to leave.

"Sorry, sir, but it might be best if you stay inside the establishment." The dealer started with his hand out, and a big smile on his face. "You see, the reason we have had to pause for a short while is due to some uninvited guests."

The workers started to move to the front entrance of the casino. There were three large swivel doors close to each other, yet No one had entered the place for a while. The casino workers asked all the guests to move behind them, take cover or stand by the side. They then stood there pulling out their

batons, knives, and other weapons as they waited for what was to come. The tension was high in the room as only whispers were being heard between guests as they wondered what was going on.

"Should one of us head outside, and see what's going on?" One of the workers asked their supervisor.

They had all received the same message to be ready for an attack, but waiting around like this wasn't in their nature, which was why one of the workers had decided to move forward and head towards the doors.

As he got closer, his eyes widened as he could see something through the glass, he quickly turned around and started to run but it was too late. The glass behind him smashes, along with the entirety of the doors.

A large object smashed through the building, and it collided with the man. It carried forward, landing on a few of the other guards as well. The object eventually stopped, turning out to be a car. What's more, the doors had been fully unhinged by the vehicle. The workers quickly ran to help their colleagues, who had been flattened by the car.

"There's no one inside!" One of them shouted.

"That's impossible! Are you saying that a ghost drove that thing in here?"

Eventually, with multiple of the workers using all their strength they were able to push the car so it was up on its side. They pulled their injured colleagues out from underneath the car as quickly as they could.

Now with the car on its side they were able to take a closer look at it, and could see that there were two deep claw marks on the side, and hand imprints. They looked back into the direction the car had entered from, it was on its side, not from the front or back.

"The car... it was thrown in." One of them deduced, and the sound of footsteps crushing glass could be heard. When the workers turned their heads, they could see a man in a black and gold wolf mask, in a uniform of the same color scheme.



"Tell your damn bosses, that the Howlers from Slough are here." Gary demanded.

As he stood there, there was a presence of Gary's back, his nails were sharpened letting the others know that he was an Altered. It was quite the entrance and it had an effect that the others weren't so sure was intentional or not, but seeing a car hauled into the casino and the Werewolf releasing his bloodlust made for a scary scene.

"Who the hell do you think you are? Just wait until our boss puts an outsider like you into your place!" One of the workers shouted as he ran forward with a baton. "Everyone who was crazy enough to attack us left in a body bag."

Seeing the man come towards him, Gary tensed his fist, and threw it out, crashing into the baton, bending it and hitting the man right in the face. His whole body was lifted off the ground and spun in the air, causing him to collapse. One single punch was all it took to make a grown man unable to move.

"The rest of the Howlers and I are not leaving this place until we get what we want...and unfortunately for you I want blood.." Gary growled as his eyes turned red.

#### Chapter 546 Take The Casino (Part 3)

After taking out the first person with ease, the rest were nervous looks on their faces. Although Gary was just one man, the casino staff were reluctant to just charge in recklessly. In a way, the person in front of them looked to have a bit of craziness in him. After all, how could one person have so much confidence when he was in enemy territory and surrounded by so many people.

What are you doing charging in on your own? A female voice complained as she ran in from behind with a wolf mask on her face. There were two others who followed behind the woman, wearing the same uniform and also masked.

I told you, he was going to do something like this, we just have to go with the flow. Innu stated as he pulled out his two red axes from behind and got in a fighting stance. Marie quickly did the saem as she saw the sheer amount of people in suits, looking towards them.

Can we...do this, just with us? Marie asked in a whisper.

You have to have confidence, young one. Olivia said as she brought out her whip and swung it quickly, it hit the air making a loud bang. The single move shook with strength, and once again the opponents thought they were crazy. Now they knew the man who had entered wasn't on his own, but to only have three other people by his side.

You're right, and the others will be here soon as well. Marie stated. We just have to hold off, we can do that.

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A little while ago, after Gary had taken out the two guards at the barrier with ease, they all knew it was only a matter of time before somebody would report their arrival. Their one advantage was the element of surprise, but it might disappear any moment now.

Which was why, Izzy, currently being there, was looking at her surroundings trying to form a plan.

I think...there's something we can do. Izzy said after thinking through it, as she knew there was only a couple of minutes until the car reached the entrance. No one else is going to come to us in this fight...but Gary let me ask you this, how confident are you that you can take out whoever might be there in the casino?

There was a pause for a few seconds, but Gary eventually answered. Anyone but the guy who you fought and injured Kai I should be able to take

Then if you let me borrow Austin, I can assure you that the Scatterbugs will receive no backup, but I have to tell you this, we will be trapped as well. Izzy suggested.

Do it. Gary answered.

He would put his trust in the AFA students. This way he only had to focus on one thing, all of those that were inside the casino. A short stop away from the entrance, Tyler stopped the car sideways on Gary's behalf.

The members of the Howlers burst out, each of them taking out the guards in the car park and at the front. It was relatively easy, Marie and Olivia were able to take out the ones a little further away with their Anti-Altered crossbow weapon whip respectively.

However, when the others turned around, they were unable to see Gary, because he had already moved ahead of them all, aiming for the entrance. Seeing this, Izzy called upon Numba and the others for help, and the one person that would be the biggest help for them, Austin.

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Thats it, slowly and place the car right here! Izzy ordered.

Austin was carrying a car over his head with his immense strength and placed it down on the bridge. He had been doing this quite quickly with the help of the others as well. Now they had created a barrier of cars on the bridge.

Ive finished on my end as well Numba shouted, pouring the last bit of gasoline over the cars. He had been gathering the petrol and diesel from other cars, pouring it over the ones that had been placed as a barrier.

Finally, Ian had returned with a zippo lighter, one that could stay a flame for a short while, he knew there would be one of these things with the number of cars and the rich thugs that were insided.

So what's your plan, are you planning to blow up the whole bridge, to stop the other gang members from getting here? Ian asked.

Not quite, cars are harder to blow up than you think. It's not like the movies. Izzy replied. But with this, we should be able to create a fire big enough to melt part of the bridge structure. If that doesnt work, then there'll be a wall of fire that they'll have to try and get through.

She let Ian to do the honours as he threw the lighter and hit the liquid, lighting it up in a blaze at an incredibly fast speed. They had to glance away for a second and could feel the explosion of heat that came out.

Now lets go give Gary some back up. Izzy said with a smile turning around. The group were running towards the entrance, but the smile soon faded. This was a true gamble, as neither side would be able to receive any help, but it was the best that she could do.

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Inside the casino, the others had yet to move, and Gary had noticed something from the system.

[New Quest received]

[You have invaded the Scatterbugs (Tier-2 gang)]

[Defeat the gang or force them to surrender]

[Reward: unknown]

I know that it was just one man who did that to my friend, so Ill give all of you Scatterbugs an option! Gary shouted as he walked forward, making the first step towards them. He lifted his hand transforming fully in front of them. Surrender and step aside, so you can live another day, or die by my hands protecting this piece of shit gang of yours!

Chapter 547 Take The Casino (Part 4)

Once again Gary's words had startled them. Due to the way it was said, it seemed he had said them with conviction. This was truly the last chance he was giving them to leave now and not fight against them.

"Shut up!" One of the workers shouted. "Look at how many of us there are and how many of them they have. Remember what the boss said. For each member that is taken out, we will get to keep 10 percent of the profits for one month at this place. You will never have to work or lift a finger in your life if you take these guys out."

The greed seemed to have gotten to them, as all of them started to rush in toward the Howlers group.

With his head down, Gary shook it in disappointment.

"I gave you one chance. I never wanted to go down this route, but you were the ones that forced me."

Gary left where he was and suddenly appeared right in front of the gang members, one swung his bat down, but had hit nothing but the ground and the next moment his whole head had been grabbed by Gary.

He lifted the man by his head, and chucked him towards the others, knocking them off their feet. One of the other gang members tried to kick Gary in his side, but his leg was knocked away by an arm, destroying his shin in the process.

Another punch was delivered by Gary in the chest of the man in front, and a crack was heard in the process as he was sent flying back into the people behind him. With every hit Gary made, no matter how light he intended it, the hits were breaking bones, shattering them to the point where they would never be able to use them again.

Gary wasn't the only one fighting, as there were far too many people in the large casino for him to fight them at once, but the others were faring well. Olivia could use her whip to knock back and gain distance, but shortly after she would shorten the distance as she leapt forward and slashed right through a man's weapon and chest.

The pact rules had been altered, it was something that Gary had done, in situations like these because he didn't want them to hold back.

The two that were struggling the most with the gang members, were both Innu and Marie, or more accurately it was Marie who was struggling and Innu because of Marie. He stayed by her side, swinging his axe down.

It had hit a man right between his neck and shoulder, cutting deep. With the extra strength Innu could draw out from the axes he could take them out with ease, so it didn't slow him down. Glancing to the side though, he could see Marie was in trouble, she was still using her crossbow and three men had come close to her.

Innu immediately threw one of his axes through the air, and it landed right in one's head. As another man next to him turned around, Innu had leapt in the air with both his knees forward and had slammed it right into the side of another's face.

As he touched the ground, Innu picked up the axe from the head of the first person he had dealt with, and spun, swinging it down and hitting the third one in the leg.

"Marie, stab him!" Innu shouted.

Seeing how close the enemies were now, Marie could no longer utilise her crossbow well unless she was able to get into a better position. So she had switched to one of the Anti-Altered spears, which had a sharp tip at the end.

It could be used to thrust through the enemy, but also if the tip touched her opponent, it could electrify them as well.

She thrust the spear, but pulled back at the last second, letting the tip only slightly touch the man. His whole body was lighting up, but she needed to hold it in place for a few seconds before the man would pass out.

"Watch out!" Innu shouted, as a man with brass knuckles threw a punch towards her head. Innu had seen it too late and from where he was, it would be hard to react. At the same time, Gary was in the middle of dealing with all the others, he was too far away.

Before the knuckles touched her head, the man's hand was wrapped around and a strong yank had pulled it in an awkward position, yanking it off from his body and blood started to spill everywhere.

"You... are going to get us killed!" Olivia shouted. "If you don't have to resolve to kill your enemies who are trying to kill you, then what are you even doing here?"

Marie was stunned by what could have happened, but even more so, the blood that was all around her. Innu had soon come to her side holding the axes in his hands. He was ready to protect her.

Just then a man came charging in and with a swing of his axe Innu had shoved it into the side of his neck and pulled it out, dropping him to the floor.

"How Innu... how can you kill people so easily?" Marie asked.

"I hate to say this, Marie, but Olivia is right. After everything they did to Kai, how could you feel something for these people? Can you imagine what they have already done?" Innu shouted, as he continued to fight, delivering a kick to a man's thigh, dropping him on the ground.

"When I look at these people, I don't see humans in front of me. It's because of people like this, that everyone at the orphanage, everyone who meant everything to me is gone, and once again, these people are trying to take it away from us. That's how! That's how I'm able to kill these b\*stards so easily!" Innu shouted.

A large man, almost three times his size, had suddenly appeared in front of Innu. He swung his axe and hit the man, but it seemed to get slightly stuck. On his body he was wearing some type of armour under his clothes.

"I just need to use a little bit more energy to take you on!" Innu shouted, pulling the axe out and ready to swing it again, but before he could, a large fist had hit the gang member right in the face, causing him to tumble across the floor and for his face to skid, leaving blood behind.

"I can't let you have all the fun." Austin stated as he and the others had joined in on the fight.

#### Chapter 548 Take The Casino (Part 5)

The Altered students along with Austin had all arrived in the main gambling hall. They had quickly transformed and were beginning to make quick work of those that were in front of them. However, Izzy hadn't transformed but she was still beyond skilled enough to take on those that were in front of her.

As the fighting went on though, everyone noticed something. The fighting seemed endless, when looking up, there looked to be the same amount of people in the room as there were before. On top of that, these weren't your regular gang members.

Everyone had to stay vigilant because of the others' skills. If they were to relax for a moment or so, or make a small mistake they would pay the price, and having been hit a few times already due to them breaking concentration, they knew this was true.

'We can't keep fighting like this.' Izzy thought, as she attempted to slow down her breathing and control it a little more. 'Although these members are skilled, one can tell that they are just cannon fodder.'

'Where are the Altered, Slith, and the one that hurt us form before? They have to be in this building. I bet they're even watching from the cameras above. Are they just trying to tire us out? If that's the case, then their plan might very well work.'

"They want to tire us out!" Izzy shouted, "conserve your energy, don't use your Altered forms too much."

Gary had a large amount of stamina, but he too was conserving himself, because he knew in the building there was another werewolf that he would have to do battle against. Which was why he was mostly using his skills to fight, but if he was to get injured then more energy would be used to heal the wounds, so he could fight in top condition.

Right now, he was in a bit of a pickle.

Hearing this though, Marie did think of something, a way to win this fight, because the situation that they were in now, had reminded her a lot of one in the past.

"We are going to have to do the same as we did against the Pincers!" Marie shouted to everyone. "We need to make a path, and let our leader do his thing."

Olivia knew about this well, because she had taken on Gary on his own, it was a risky move to make. It would possibly mean Gary would have to face all of the Altered, including the one that had faced Kai, on his own, but what other choice did they have.

"Clear a path? Then I will clear a path!" Austin shouted and stomped his feet. The ground beneath them had cracked and large bull-like horns could be seen growing from his head. A rise in his energy could be felt as he charged forward.



Everyone who got in his way was smashed to the side. One gangster with a knife went to stab Austin but his knife didn't get very far through his shoulder, as the skin of the person seemed to be incredibly thick, making the blade do next to nothing.

When Austin eventually stopped his charge and turned around, there was almost a tunnel of fallen men behind him. Quickly seeing the opportunity and the situation, Gary leapt up, jumping on top of a gang member's shoulder and pushed off, sending him to the ground and Gary up in the air.

He landed in the tunnel of bodies and sprinted right towards Austin who was standing by the door that further advanced Gary into the casino.

"Thank you, Austin." Gary said, as he went past and passed through the doors.

The second he did, Austin turned around and slammed the doors shut.

"No one is going through this door without my permission."

After seeing the single charge and the horns on one's head, the gang members knew without a doubt that this was an Altered, and some of them were starting to turn towards the cameras in the room. Wondering if help would ever arrive for them, because if it didn't soon, nearly all of the workers at the casino would be dealt with.

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After exiting from the main gambling hall, Gary noticed how much quieter it was. There were almost no people at all, but from what he could see, there were several gambling rooms that were ahead of him.

The doors were already swung wide open. Whoever was inside of them had already left the place.

'I have to move fast and deal with this all. Everyone outside is fighting, giving me this chance, so I have to.' Gary thought, as he moved forward.

When going past the first room, he could see a poker table and nothing else. The chips had been left, and so had the cards. There was still no way for him to continue on further into the casino.

Carrying on walking forward, when he went past the second door, an arm swung out, and it looked like there was an incredibly sharp blade.

'I wasn't able to smell them. The smell of blood is too strong and is throwing off all my senses.' Gary thought.

It was a fast attack, too fast and sudden, so that Gary wasn't able to completely move away and a large cut was made on his forearm. It didn't go deep, due to his fast reflexes. He had now jumped back to where the first room was.

"I see now that wasn't a blade, that was your body." Gary said.

Walking out from the room was what looked like a double jointed man who had blades separating from another joint. His reach was twice as long as that of a normal human.

"You think it's so easy to come into the Scatterbugs place like this, well it's time to slice you up." The man shouted.

From behind at that moment, Gary could hear something with his ears, it was vibrating and the sound was getting louder and more aggressive.

"Move!" A voice shouted.

Moving to the side and jumping into the room, Gary saw what looked like a motorbike come down the hall and crash into the attacker. A few seconds later a man in a mask came in front of the doorway, wearing a solid black mask that was different from theirs.

"Leave this one to me. I came here to hunt Alteredds and it looks like I found what I was looking for." Blake said, pulling out his red duel swords.

## Chapter 549 Altered Hunter Helper

Although the casino was run by a gang, it nevertheless followed the town's safety regulations, meaning that aside from the one main entrance, it also had multiple emergency exits in case of a fire. In his head, Blake had convinced himself that he was merely using the fight between the Howlers and the Scatterbugs as an opportunity to hunt the Altered who had come into 'his territory.'

To make it clear that he was in no way associated with the Howlers, the Altered Hunter had chosen against travelling with the others. He had come here via his trusty motorbike and chose to use the confusion the Howler's entrance created to get further into the building.

Wearing the special Altered Hunter mask, Blake had an easier time locating Altered, and it was what brought him to the location he was in. Without hesitation, when he was in the hall of private rooms and could see the Altered in front of him, Blake lifted the motorbike so all the weight was on the back of the wheel lifting the front end and jumped off.

The bike continued going forward and he just hoped that what he assumed to be Gary from the green hair on the back of his head, that he would move away. The bike was fast and heavy coming toward the Altered who was more than surprised to see such a thing in a place. Using both of his long double jointed arms, he swung them to the right, the balded parts dug deep into the metal of the bike.

Sharp serrated edges appeared from the bladed part of his body and made it so the bike was stuck in his arms. As he swung it to the side, the serrated edges disappeared and the bike was flung into the room next to the Altered, crashing hitting the table and the back wall.

Getting out from the private room, Gary stood there next to Blake, making sure that it was his friend who had just entered this way. Without a doubt he was wearing the same type of clothing on that day they fought Billy, though he seemed to have brought along a new set of weapons.

"I know that you're helping us, and I don't mind, but fighting these guys is dangerous, the last thing I would want to happen is for you to lose your life over something that I started." Gary stated as he was starting to transform as he looked at the person in front of him.

"Do you really think I'm risking my life for you? Did you forget what I am?" Blake replied in an annoyed manner. "My existence means I risk my life on a daily basis. Don't get it wrong, I'm just here to hunt some Altered. Given what you are, you're not someone I need to worry about."

After saying those words, Blake ran forward, he was fast, he was always a talented athlete that was better than most, but he wasn't at the Altered level. At the end of the day, although Altered Hunters were strong enough to take on Altered, there was a reason why they hunted in pairs or groups and not alone.

The Altered that worked for the Scatterbugs was faster, as it equally charged forward and swung one of its arms from above. Before it could hit, though, Blake swung his arm, hitting one of the elbow-like joints on its body. It was a strong hit, hacking the entire arm into the doorway.

'I can see it. It's just like last time, I can see the lines in my vision, telling me where to strike!' Blake thought.

With his other sword, he swung it toward the shoulder joint of the Altered, when it struck the blade went through the clothing but not through the body. It felt hard, like he was clashing his sword against a solid bit of armour.

Still, the look on the Altered's face, showed his pain, as his whole arm was shaking and he was unable to move his other arm to attack, before he knew it, three dart like objects had come from the strange gloves of Blake and hit the Altered.

The three darts started to light up slightly blue, and shocks of blue connected with all three shaking the entire body of the Altered. At that moment, two large strikes were seen aiming right for the neck of the Altered.

Blake swung them with all his strength and a slight glow like a glow stick could be seen emanating from the swords as they hit the Altered.

It didn't quite pierce the skin once again, but the Altered was knocked off his feet and he was now on the floor.

"What are you doing? The longer you take to take them out, the more likely you are to lose someone you care about." Blake chastised the other teenager. "As you can see, I'm fine by myself here!"

Gary felt like Blake's words were right, he had to hurry. He had asked for the help of the others, he had decided to attack the Scatterbugs so he needed to do whatever he could to end it as soon as possible.

Running past the Altered and Blake, Gary didn't look back as he turned down the hallway going deeper into the casino.

The Altered had somewhat recovered, and swung its arms from the floor, aiming for Blake's feet. He moved back, but his left foot was slightly slow, and the blade's limb from the Altered slashed through his armoured boots, and cut his chin slightly.

It was painful, but Blake remained standing.

"Now I know what you are!" The Altered from the Scatterbugs said as he stood up. "You're one of those Altered Hunters psychos. With all that clothing and fancy, stupid gadgets! Now, why would someone like you work alongside another gang?"

It seemed like a genuine question, but of course Blake had no intention of answering.

"So there is a link to the Altered Hunter association? Is this why they were so confident in attacking us? Well, I guess it just means it's more important for us to take out this Howler's gang, and it would be pretty interesting to know what the other cities will think when they learn of this!" The Altered smiled.

#### Chapter 550 The 1 Star Hunter

Although Blake didn't say anything when faced with the accusation of working together with the Howlers, he nevertheless began feeling slightly concerned. True or not, but if rumours started spreading that there was some type of connection between the two, things were bound to become difficult for him and the gang. Normal gangs might ignore it, but higher tier gangs, perhaps even the Kings might become interested in finding out if there was some truth to that, and Gary and co were definitely not ready for that.

Even worse, the Altered Hunters might also send their men to find out what led to those rumours, and start questioning Blake. Should they find out about Gary and other gang members being Werewolves, it also wouldn't end well for them.

'I guess this just means that I can't let him live, not that I was planning on that in the first place!' Blake thought to himself as he threw his black leather jacket toward the Altered. His opponent sliced it up, but through the large cuts he could see the red blades coming towards him again.

"It seems my words have made you a little angry!" The Altered swung its large arms that seemed to extend slightly giving it more momentum and the balded part of the arm swung out like a whip. It hit the two red swords and threw Blake off balance for once as it had overpowered him. Seeing another swing from the Altered, he ducked under the blow and pulled back slightly.

Now Blake could be seen standing there, he still had his mask on, but his bare arms could be seen down to the elbow. From there, his thick black gloves covered his hands.

With this, it allowed something to be seen on his shoulder.

"A 1-star hunter, huh? Tsk, it appears I was worried about nothing." The Altered stated. "If the Altered Hunters really cared about those Howlers, then they would have sent a more experienced hunter here! A shame, if you were more experienced, I bet the boss would have paid a nice bonus for your head."

The Altered was the one to charge in this time, and it swung its bladed arm around, but mid swing one of its double joint arms seemed to extend slightly. It now looked like he had four different sections of his arms, as if he had two forearms.

Blake swung his sword hitting the arm, but had not one of the hard round joints, and the balded part continued to swing in a different direction as if it had a full range of motion like a ball joint.

The bladed part of the Altered was going straight for his forearm. It cut through the armoured gloves he was wearing and went through his skin, eventually hitting the bone.

'Arghh! His blades are really sharp, and I can't see the white lines anymore. I'm just fighting with instinct.' Blake pulled back, before his entire arm got sliced off, but from the other side he could see the other arm swinging toward him.

He managed to barely block the hit by swinging the sword, hitting the bladed part of the Altered rather than the joint. Regardless, it looked like the Altered wasn't stopping there as it swung its arms out one after another throwing attack after attack.

Blake quickly figured out the best way to block the attack was by hitting the bladed part and staying quite a distance away from the Altered, only there were two problems with this.

'If I stay this far away, I can't deal a damaging blow from this distance.' Blake analysed his situation. 'Then there's the more urgent problem. My right arm is severely injured. Every time I block an attack, I feel like my bones are shattering. I don't know how much longer I can fight in this state, when it feels any moment its going to give in and snap. I can't block for much longer, I need an answer, a way to win this fight.'

The Altered looked to be enjoying this, it was only a matter of time, sure the Altered Hunter was blocking all his hits, but there was a difference between the two.

"You Altered Hunters are a pest, but in the end you're only strong humans. By now, you must be getting tired, your body is getting weaker!" The Altered sneered. "You don't need to answer, I can hear your breathing has been getting heavier even though you've only been fighting for a few minutes!"

It was true with each hit, Blake could feel his body getting weaker, but the words coming from the Altered made him realise something.

'My breathing, it's all out of control everywhere!' Blake thought.

Usually, in a match even one of this difficulty he wouldn't tire out this quickly, and one of the biggest teaching points to the Altered Hunters was controlling the breathing in a match.

'I must have panicked for a few seconds without realising it. So what if he's stronger than me? Altered Hunters aren't stronger than Altered, never have been, that's why Dad drilled me into learning to use the special equipment to make up the difference. Fighting as an Altered Hunter has always been about skill, and using your head!'

The first thing Blake did as he continued to block the hits was control his breathing, breathing in and out,. Letting his belly feel like one would do when they were a child breathing.

Taking deep breaths he calmed his heart, and that's when he could see it again, the white lines in his vision that told him where best to cust.

When one of the arms came striking toward him, instead of barely blocking it with one hand, Blake stepped back, allowing it to skim his chest. It made a large cut, but he needed to be close. Then holding both the red swords in his hand, he swung them hitting the back of the bladed arms of the Altered.

As he did, the weight shifted the whole arm, and the other long limp from the Altered came swinging down hitting each other. It caused one part of the arm to slash right through its over arm, blood was spilling everywhere, and part of the balded arm was now on the floor.

With both his fists, Blake shot out several more darts that hit his opponent and began to shock his body. The Altered couldn't move for a second, and that's when he could see the masked man running towards him with something strange in his hands.

Blake, was holding onto part of the Altered own arm. He rushed forward and pushed it right through the Altered's neck, the back part of it had ripped through the palm of Blake's hand but it wasn't as sharp as the other side which had sliced right through the Altered's head, causing it to fall to the floor.

A few seconds later, Blake himself fell to the floor, taking almost deep breaths. When he recovered slightly he lifted his head up, but his whole body was sore, he could see the rolling head in the hallway.

'Another head... of all things... but at least I did it this time. I defeated this Altered all on my own.' Blake crawled to the side, where he leant his back against the wall. 'Sorry, Gary, but It looks like I'm out of this fight for now. I helped you out as much as I could, and I certainly paid the price, so the rest is on you.'