

Werewolf 551

Chapter 551 Find Your Support

In the main hall of the casino, the civilians had moved over to the sides, hiding behind the tables. Most of them had simply come to Notsburg to enjoy some gambling, but who could have guessed that they would end up in between two gangs. Even those sent over from gangs feared for their lives as they hid behind slot machines, or ran off into the hallways if they got the chance.

Alas, it seemed nigh impossible to really escape the fight. Even if they managed to find some peace and quiet for a short moment, the next moment a burly man could come flying through the air. Those less fortunate would end up colliding with the slot machines, coughing up blood everywhere.

It was hard for the onlookers to get a full grasp of what was going on, as the casino was filled with Scatterbugs members who were trying their best to dog pile on top of the gang members, yet somehow they were the only ones getting injured from what they could tell, despite the numerical advantage.

"How is this possible?!" One of the casino staff members shouted out in disbelief. "There's only a handful of them, but we haven't taken down a single one. Are these guys monsters?!"

Austin was still standing by the door, part of his uniform had been ripped and there were even a few Anti-Altered arrows were stuck in his body. It was expected for a gang like the Scatterbugs to have these weapons in case of an Altered attack, but what they didn't expect was for it to have next to no effect on the large teenager. As they shocked his body, he wasn't startled for even a second and swung his arm, hitting two men at once, sending them flying crashing into a few of the slot machines.

"Great job." Marie cheered Austin on from the side, as she thrust her spear, sticking it deep into a man's stomach this time. During the fight, she had been cut on the arm, and once again Innu had barely managed to save her in the nick of time as he swung his axe, hitting the back of the person's head. The cut wasn't big, but it made her realise that these people were out for blood, it truly was kill or be killed.

Pulling out the spear, she then whacked it on the side of his head, knocking him out in one go, but her arms were starting to feel numb. Most of the time, she had practised fighting with either her crossbow, or small daggers, the muscles in her body weren't trained to use a spear the way she had been doing. A few times she had already been close to dropping it.

"You're not ready for melee combat. Just stay close to me!" Innu shouted, his breathing heavy. The black teenager had felt confident after learning that he could draw extra energy from the weapons. Unfortunately, after the first time, the amount of energy it recovered has lessened with each subsequent time, until it lost effect. He had expected the weapon to have limitations but now was an awful time to learn that lesson.

One of the gang members threw a knife toward Innu, who lifted his axe blocking it at the right time, but another dagger with a sharp blade was coming right towards his side at that moment. At the same time, several knives were also thrown at Marie. In a quick split decision, she needed to make a choice, to thrust her spear and stab Innu's attacker or try to defend.

"Don't forget about us!" A burst of power exploded from one side of the room and a fist right to the face had hit Innu's attacker. Meanwhile, several long strands of what looked like hair, had grabbed all the projectiles that had been hurled towards Marie. After a moment, they all got sent back to the attackers.

"Are you okay?" Izzy asked, looking back at Marie.

"I'm fine, thanks. None of them hit me, but what about you!" Marie asked.

It was only then that Izzy noticed that she had been injured. There was a small cut in her shoulder. She was bleeding. When looking at her hair that acted like part of her body, and when her Altered form was very much alive, she could see that it was still in place.

'I knew something was strange... it seems like I really can't control my Altered form properly. Could this really be some after effect from the wound on my shoulder? Was it because of that bite... I guess I just need to be more careful from now on.' Izzy thought.

"Everyone, duck!" Ian shouted, as he curled his body into a ball.

Everyone looked at him wondering just what he was planning to do, but Izzy knew her childhood friend long enough to guess what he was up to. She quickly did as she was told and grabbed Marie with her.

A second later and several sharp thick bristles came out from his body, hitting all the gang members that were close by, while the others, including Olivia, had used a whip to drag one of the gang members in front of her, taking the brunt of the attack.

"Ah...I don't know if that was such a good idea... I'm starting to feel a little faint." Ian said, as Numba was behind to grab him. Looking at the surrounding situation, there were now around half the number there were before, but in his mind that wasn't a good sign.

'All of these guys are weak, incredibly weak. A Tier-2 gang being taken out just by a few Altered, that makes no sense. Which can only mean all the strong ones are inside.'

"Hey, cat lady!" Numba called out.

The Howler members were stunned into silence for a moment as they were wondering who Numba was trying to call.

"You can't be talking to me, could you, boy!" Olivia questioned as she appeared by Numba's side with a man right under her shoulder, his face scratched up and her eyes glowing blue.

"I'm worried about Gary." Numba admitted. "The guy who beat Kai isn't here, and I'm sure there are stronger people inside. I know Gary is strong, but to face them all by himself... I'm afraid he'll tire himself out. He'll need you by his side!"

Olivia kicked one of the gang members right in the stomach and far away as she heard this.

"Look, we can take care of the ones that are left in here. We're weaker than you, and with your help he has a chance. Just leave us behind and do what you can to take that guy down!" Numba suggested.

Olivia looked at the situation, before she looked at the Howlers. She wondered when she had started to try so hard for the sake of the gang who had completely ruined her life. Honestly, she agreed with Numba's suggestion but she was conflicted about helping Gary.

After all, from what she understood, she would be free if he was gone.

"If we leave, you could die," Olivia argued.

"There's a small chance of that, but if you don't follow behind Gary, the chance of him dying is far greater. And without him... aren't we all as good as dead anyway?" Numba smiled.

Furrowing her eyebrows, Olivia was angry how one could smile in a situation like this, but for some reason, it appealed to her.

"Fine!" The Beta Werewolf replied. "Howlers...we are leaving this area. It's time to support our leader!"

Chapter 552 The Alpha Trap

Back in Slough, the heart rate monitor in one of the hospital room private rooms started to pick up speed. According to the doctors, the patient lying there would wake up in due time. His vitals were strong and once he fully healed he would be back to normal. However, even the doctors would be surprised as the rate Kai was getting better.

After the introduction of Altered, doctors and other medical staff would learn how to take care of them. In essence, they were like super humans with fast recovery times, but Kai was not an Altered. His body, after receiving the energy he needed had begun healing himself, starting with his vital wounds.

The heart rate machine started to beat faster, his heart rate was rising, and eventually while lying in bed his eyes opened. Immediately Kai sat up right gasping for air, sweat on his forehead.

'What...what was that?' Kai wondered as he grabbed his chest, followed by his chin. Although his brain wasn't awake enough to process what had happened to him, he could still remember a sense of danger in the final moments before his unconsciousness.

"Did you have a bad dream or something?"

Turning his head, Kai noticed that there was someone by his side, but it wasn't who he had expected to see.

"Aunt- Miss Degrace." Kai called out as he recognised Marie's mother.

"It's okay, feel free to call me Aunt Kiki or Aunty, it's just the two of us after all."

"What happened to me? How did I get here? Where are the others?" Kai asked a barrage of questions.

It was at that moment, as if someone had opened a floodgate that the memories started to come crashing into his head. It felt like his brain was starting to split in two parts. Once the pain was over, Kai finally remembered who he had faced at that time, and how badly it had ended.

"The others..." Miss Degrace replied slowly, seemingly trying to fish for the right words. She had been asked to look over Kai in their absence. The grown woman had been prepared to look after him for a few days, so seeing him awake already left her no time to come up with an excuse.

"I can already guess from your reaction." Kai said as he placed his hand on his head. "Just tell me how long ago they left. I need to get out of here."

Kai started to pull off the needles, the tags and other things connected to his body as he was ready to rush toward Notsburg to help the others.

"They left hours ago, and you just woke up, Kai. It's a wonder you're already awake, but your body clearly needs more rest." Miss Degrace argued, her arms crossed. "You won't make it in time to help them, so let's just trust them. Don't you trust that Gary can do this without you?"

Kai's eyebrows were furrowed as he was in deep thought. He had shared a lot of the information that he had gathered for their counter attack, so the Howlers wouldn't attack them without a plan, at least. Nevertheless, there was one variable that Kai hadn't accounted for in his plans.

'I predicted that they might go for me, even for me to be out of the fight, but I never expected there to be another Werewolf...and the words he spoke... This whole thing, it's all a big trap to get Gary to fight him!' Kai thought.

"Aunt Kiki, I get that you're worried... but I still need to go. It's because of me that this war started. I was the one who decided to help the Cardenez family and I was the one that was overconfident. I trust him,

but there is something he doesn't know!" Kai decided as he got up and most of his naked body was being shown to Miss Degrace, hanging in the free air.

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The casino was a large building that actually had multiple floors. All casino operations were on the first floor, but on the second floor was where Slith, the leader of the Scatterbugs currently was at. He sat in his large chair, in the room full of jewels in their display cabinets wall to wall, but he wasn't alone in the room. Inside, there were ten of the strongest Scatterbug members in the room.

All of them in one place, all of them waiting to eliminate anyone who pushed open the doors, not that they expected anyone to enter anyway.

"They're doing a lot better than I thought." Slith noted as he stared at a large screen on his desk. It was the cctv to the casino. Several video feeds around the casino showing how everyone was doing.

"Im'm losing a lot of men!" Slith shouted slamming the desk. "Oh well, I guess that just means less wages to pay." He started to laugh.

Meanwhile, standing by his side as usual was Midwak, and he too was intensely staring at the screen, looking at each of the Altered forms carefully.

"What's wrong?" Slith asked as he could feel anger coming from Medwakh. They had stayed in the room because of him in the first place. He was the one that had warned them that the attacking force was strong so they should wear them down.

"Nothing... it's just that they are a lot weaker than I expected." Midwak admitted, which came as a surprise to Slith.

What would one expect from a Tier-3 town gang in the first place?

What Midwak was looking for were those like him, those that belonged to the Alpha.

'I can't believe it...the Alpha is here, but there is only one other Beta wolf!' Midwak found it hard to contain his frustration. 'I could smell the fresh scent on that guy, but I thought I was unlucky. Are you telling me that this Alpha Wolf is really so new that his entire Pack consists of three members?

'What has he been doing this whole time?! This damned Alpha, he deserves to get his Pack stolen from him!' Midwak thought, but his plan was soon coming into action, because right outside the double doors, Gary had finally arrived.

Chapter 553 With All My Power

Standing on the other side of the door, Gary hadn't pushed it open immediately. He had been running around the casino for a while, searching for the leader of the Scatterbugs. However, during his search, he had only found insignificant people. Staff managers in charge of the casino had attempted to stop him, but the Werewolf had dealt with them quickly, to the point that it had barely slowed him of.

All of this, though, had made him aware that the absence of the higher-ups wasn't a coincidence. Then, when he found the elaborate door, he had heard the breaths of many people inside.

'I can smell him, and I can sense him as well. There's another Werewolf on the other side.' Gary thought. 'The person who did that to Kai, who placed him up like that on the show for everyone to see. Slough, the town was meant to be a safe place for us Howlers, but while I was away, this damned Werewolf came in and did that. To a member of the Howlers, to a member of my Pack!'

With the anger and rage building inside him, and the image of Kai in his head, Gary pushed the door open. There was no helping it, he had to face whoever was on the other side.

With the doors opened it was just as Gary had expected, there were five men on either side of the room, all in fancy suits, all looking down on him. All of them were male, and their ages ranged wildly, but what stood out the most was the fact that none of them had weapons.

Then again, it wasn't too surprising, because every single one of them was an Altered. They were confident in their skills, and in the fact that their own body was far deadlier than any weapon.

"Will you look at this?!" Slith spoke with a large smile on his face, his hands out on his desk, displaying the large rings that were covering his fingers. "A member of that damned Howler gang has come all the way here, and what the hell is with that damned wolf mask?!"

At the other end of the room, were the two people that Gary had come here to see. From his clothes, his presence Gary understood that the one sitting had to be the leader of the Scatterbugs, and then there was the one next to him, Midwak, the one whose scent he had picked up from the outside.

[A new Quest has been received]

[Against all odds, you have entered the Scatterbugs base]

[An enemy that never thought of you as one is now forced into a tough situation.]

[Quest: Defeat the Scatterbugs gang]

[Condition: the Scatterbugs gang will be considered defeated when all 11 Altered surrender or have been defeated]

The Quest that popped up just reminded Gary about how hard this task would be, and confirmed the worst case scenario. Fighting against one Werewolf was already suicidal enough, but now he would have to face nearly a dozen Altered on top of that... This situation was nothing like the time he had barged into Olivia's office.

'Why is it 11? What about the one who is responsible for it all?' Gary wondered as his gaze stayed on Midwak.

However, his system wasn't down with the messages just yet as it had an additional quest that had appeared./

[A new Quest has been received]

[You are in the presence of an Omega Werewolf.]

[The Omega outranks you.]

[Should you lose a fight against him, the fate of you and your Pack will be in his Pack]

'Hang on, other Werewolves also have ranks? I thought that was something exclusive to me and my Pack due to the System... I'm at the Bishop Grade, so that means, he has to be at least a Rook. No wonder he ended up beating Kai... No, now's not the time to think about that stuff. I knew that guy was strong all along, and yet I've come here to take revenge anyway. He might be a natural Werewolf, but I bet I'm still stronger due to the System!'

Gary Dem

Grade: Bishop [2/15]

Class: Warrior

Level 24

[Health 250]

[Energy 300]

[Exp 2345/15564]

[Strength 36]

[Dexterity 28]

[Endurance 34]

2 Pawn Points

2 Stat Points unallocated

Skills:

[Claw Drain (Level 1)]

[Once activated, half of the damage inflicted by the user will be used to recover Health.

The skill will take 15 points of Energy to use.]

The skill will last 2 seconds.]

[Last Stand]

[When activated, the user's Health cannot fall below 1 HP.

The skill will take 0 points of Energy to use.

Warning; While Last Stand is active, you'll still continue to take damage as normal!]

[Skill duration: 60 secs.]

[Skill reset time: This skill can only be used once a day.]

[Howling Force (Alpha skill - Level 1)]

[When activated, the Alpha lets out a howl to energise nearby members of his Pack

Level 1: 10% overall stat boost)

The skill will take 0 points of Energy to use.

[Skill duration: 15 minutes]

[Skill reset time: 1 hour]

[Alpha Bite (Alpha skill)]

[When activated, the Alpha uses a special bite to attempt to turn a target.

An Alpha's bite has a higher chance of successfully turning a person into a Werewolf]

The higher the Alpha's Grade, the higher the chance of creating a higher Grade Werewolf.

The skill will take 0 points of Energy to use.

[Skill reset time: 1 week]

[Magnetic Howl]

[When activated, the user can't help but let out a Howl activating the instinct of the person inside.

The skill will take 0 points of Energy to use but can only be used once every hour. The skill's effectiveness is dependent on the lust of the person around them.

[All those that hear the Howl are effected, and have a sudden urge to throw their attacks towards the user.]

[Lethal Pounce]

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

[Energy cost: - 50]

'With everything I have, I need to beat everyone in this room, including him.' Gary thought.

"You are certainly skilled to have got this far. You know, that mask reminds me a lot of Midwak." Slith continued monologuing. "It was the same for him, he had one day come barging into this room, but look at him now. Now he is by my side as one of my strongest allies, which is why I'm willing to make you the same offer.

"Join us. You and the rest of the Howlers can join us. Submit, and the fighting will stop here and now. There will be no bad blood between us, and we can share the riches that we earn together. I think this isn't a bad deal, right?"

Gary was a bit surprised hearing that Midwak had also tried to attack the place, yet even more so to learn that he ended up failing. A bout of hesitation was starting to creep in, because in the end he wanted to keep everyone safe. Part of him knew that it was too early for him and the others to take on the Scatterbugs. They were still young, and they could always take their revenge after growing stronger in the future...

'No... think about it, like Kai said all these people are the same. Who's to say he keeps his words? Even if I work with him, he might change his mind at any moment. I've heard what he did to Numba's family just because they refused. I can't, I can't join someone like that. I didn't break free from the Underdogs to go ahead and join a gang like this.' Gary shook his head.

"So... what will it be? If you refuse, you will never be able to reach me." Slith stated.

Midwak by his side walked forward until the two of them were side by side. "There's no need for him to reach you. He's here for me. This whole thing has always been something between the two of us."

The next moment, the man's entire hand transformed into that of a Werewolf and with a single wipe, his thick and long claws had slashed Slith's throat and blood started to quickly spill as the gang leader was bleeding out on top of his deck, a look of confusion ingrained in his eyes.

[1/11 Altered have been defeated]

Chapter 554 Kill And Eat

Any second now, Gary was ready to charge in, but he just didn't know what the best way to do it was. Was Slith going to let the Altered attack him first, if so, during the fight Gary would be able to eat on them for energy as he took them down one by one.

The problem was, the other Werewolf was present and would most likely know what he was planning on doing. If that was the case, maybe he should just use his full transformation to take out Slith with a pounce attack to shock all the others, then head for the other Werewolf.

In the end, all of his planning was for nothing, because something had happened that he never had expected, Midwak, the one that seemed to be the right hand man of Slith, had killed him.

"Why are you all so surprised?" Midwak asked, as he placed one foot on the desk, and held up Slith by his head. His eyes were gone, and it was clear to them all that he was dead.

"You all knew that I was stronger than him. You know that I'm stronger than anyone who is in this room. Do you really think I let this guy order me around because I liked him?"

One thing was clear to Gary, that this wasn't an act, nor did it seem like it was something that was planned. The other gang members who were Altered were left confused. They were shocked at what they were seeing and didn't even know what to do.

"What, do you guys want to turn on me and attack me?" Midwak asked, as he looked at them. "Go ahead, you headless chickens, but you won't only be going against me but him as well, and with that I say you have no chance! So I'll give you an offer, join me and accept me as leader of the Scatterbugs, or fight me and die."

Gary was wondering what type of situation he was in, and during this confusion, whether he should fight or not, but while the Altered were making up their mind to join Midwak or not, it gave him an opportunity to fight with some of his allies. As the saying went, the enemy of my enemy is my friend and it certainly was the case in this situation.

"Are you just going to stand there?" Midwak asked Gary, who was in the back. "You must know there was another reason for me killing him."

At that moment, as Midwak was in the middle of explaining, his mouth started to grow into that of a large wolf, it was only his head though, and then he opened wide. Closing the top part of his upper and lower jaw he bit right into Slith's shoulder, taking a large chunk out of it.

Blood was dripping from his mouth as Midwak swallowed.

"You must know that we get stronger from killing and eating those we kill. We are more like beasts than like them!" Midwak said, as he continued to bite down on Slith's body in front of everyone bit by bit.

It was a horrific sight for everyone to see, and Midwak didn't care at all, it was as if no one was in the room as he indulged in his feast.

'This is bad.. He was already strong and depending on how strong Slith was, Midwak could get even stronger.' Gary thought.

'I have to act now.' Gary started to transform his legs first, as he ran straight ahead, but quickly one of the gang members from the side jumped in front of Gary. Seeing this, Gary didn't hold back as he transformed his arm.

'One hit, I have to take all of these guys down with one hit!' Gary thought, as he threw out his fist using all of his strength.

The gang member in front of him started to change, his body was getting blacker and his skin was turning a slightly dark colour. It almost looked like rusted Iron. Still, Gary threw out his fist, hitting the large man. A loud impact was made that the others could hear the punch but the gang member was still standing and he hadn't moved from his spot.

"You must have fought some pretty weak Altered up till this point, to be stupid enough to come in here, but there is an incredibly large difference between those from a tier-2 gang and those from a tier-3." The man said.

It looked like some of the other gang members had made their choice, as they were starting to creep around Gary, but not all of them.

"You killed him, you killed Slith. I knew you were a dirty rat from the beginning!" One of the men shouted as he leapt up, aiming to stop Midwak in the middle of his meal on top of the desk.

The man started to transform mid-air, getting a pair of rounded wings that flew him fast into the other, and his nose turned into a snout, looking like that of an elephant, only brown in colour. It stretched out aiming for Midwak.

When it came out to him, he lifted his hand grabbing onto the snout, then with his strength pulled the Altered straight towards him. It was with such strength that the whole Altered's body was yanked through the air.

Soon after, with his other hand already transformed, he stabbed the Altered right through the stomach.

"This is great, another one to eat!" Midwak exclaimed, as he opened his mouth and bit right through the Altered's neck, ripping out parts of its body and swallowing it whole.

"I am the new leader of the Scatterbugs gang - Midwak!" He cried out, with a howl. "With this gang, and the blood of an Alpha, I will use you all to get my revenge!"

Chapter 555 I'm The Attacker

In this type of situation, it was hard for Gary to really consider his next move. The Alpha Werewolf hadn't really come prepared with a plan in mind, aside from defeating Slith and Midwak, but with the sudden betrayal everything had turned even more chaotic. Still, the teenager thought that it might actually turn out to be a good thing, at least now it seemed like he wouldn't have to defeat nearly a dozen Altered by himself.

At the very back of the room, he could see Midwak dealing with the Altered who had seemingly wanted to avenge Slith. As valiant as his ideal might have been, he only ended up sharing in the gang leader's demise. What's more, the Omega Werewolf took a giant bite out of the Altered who was barely hanging on to life.

Is this what a real Werewolf is like? He... he's far worse than those mindless beasts in the special class! Gary thought in disgust as he watched Midwak take another chunk out of the Altered. He wasn't even chewing, but greedily swallowing it up.

At least the behavior of beasts could be excused as animals acting on instinct, but a Werewolf was still of sane mind. Midwak was just being himself, and in a lot of ways that's what made the gruesome sight even more grim for Gary.

[2/11 Altered have been defeated]

Another system message popped up, confirming the death of the Altered who must have experienced the agony of being eaten alive. Surprisingly, that didn't deter most of the other Altered as they looked to continue with their combined attack on Midwak.

"What are you looking at?!" One of the Altered closest to Gary shouted at him. Rather than join the ones eager to gang up on the strongest fighter amongst them, this gang member chose to engage Gary before deciding which side to choose. He went to strike the Alpha Werewolf with his hands.

Gary reacted fast and grabbed onto them, but it appeared the Altered was in the middle of transforming. From the side of his body, several long thin limbs about as thick as a bunch had come out from his ribs.

It looked like he had at least thirty sharp insect limbs with pointed ends. All of them went straight towards Gary, penetrating the side of his arms, his shoulders and his own ribs.

[-38 HP]

[212/250 HP]

Freaking hell, that's a lot of damage!'

Ever since Gary had increased his Endurance, in hopes of turning more into a tank-like character, he had hardly suffered attacks that took out chunks of his HP. Suffering such an attack, which had nearly managed to cut through him, made him realise that his Endurance still had a long way to go.

If Gary let go of the attack, he was afraid that the strange arms would go in deeper, so instead he pushed the other off him, making use of his Strength, causing the Altered to fall, but as he did, Gary saw another large object swinging right for his face. Ducking down, Gary rolled to the side, and then pushed off his feet, ending up near the entrance door.

All of these Altered here are strong, this is nothing like the guys at the academy.' Gary thought.

On top of that, they had now all finished transforming, and it looked like six had their eyes on fighting him rather than Midwak. Judging by the looks on their faces, they didn't seem too happy about it, but going after Gary was something they would have done anyway.

I should be thankful Midwak chose now of all times for his betrayal. Fighting six Altered will be hard, but with a bit of luck, perhaps the others can injure him while I deal with my half.'

Strangely, rather than assassination, or a duel, Gary ended up in a sort of competition with Midwak, both Werewolves having to take out the Altered on their side before their fight would begin. One of the Altered had giant stingers on top of his forearms, which he pointed at Gary like they were guns, and the next moment he started to fire away, small little needle flying in the teenager's direction

Gary did not want to find out how much damage they could inflict, so he ran to the side, avoiding them all as best he could, he ran from side to side, and looked at the first Altered who had attacked him, which appeared to have some type of Iron skin on his body.

So far, he had just stayed still standing there, but he had a reason to be, his defence was one of the strongest in the entire group.

If your defence is the strongest, then I will just have to make a stronger attack!' Gary thought.

As he dodged, another large limb came from another Altered. Then another gang member soon stood in his way. At that point, Gary suddenly came to a stop, and darted at extreme speed to the right of him.

One more Altered joined in on the attack but Gary spun his body, heading straight for his target. If someone was watching from the outside, it was almost as if they were watching an Altered sports match. Gary was using his skills that he had learnt as a rugby player to avoid the others coming towards him,

“He’s really fast for an Altered.” One of the members complained.

Now the iron skinned Altered could see that Gary was coming toward him, but with a smile on his face, he welcome the challenge.

“You think doing the same thing will make a difference?!” The Altered taunted him. “You’ve already given it your best shot, face it, you’re not getting past my defence.”

“If my best isn’t good enough, then I just have to be better than that.” Gary shouted as he told his system to allocate the stat points he had kept in reserve for just such an occasion. He was aware that now wasn’t the time to be stingy, so he converted his Pawn Points to be able to enjoy an even bigger boost.

[2 points have been added to strength]

[Streangth 36 >>>> 38]

This is not enough, I need to get stronger!’

[Would you like to convert 2 Pawn Point into Stat Point(s)?]

[Yes]

[5 Stat Points have been obtained]

[5 Points have been allocated into Strength]

[Your base strength is now at 41]

[2 Points have been allocated into Dexterity]

[Your base Dexterity is now at 30]

I focused too much on becoming a tank. I thought as long as I didn't die, as long as I took all the hits for the others, that they would survive, but in this situation, I have to think differently. I was the one that decided to attack the Scatterbugs, so now I need to have the Strength to attack!

[Skill activated Claw Drain]

[-15 Energy]

Gary's nails extended slightly, and with his boost in speed, he lifted both his arms and swung them down in a large x like position. His claws went deep into the iron skin, and the Altered who had been confident in his defense remained standing for a few seconds... until he eventually fell to the floor.

[+15 HP]

[212/250 HP]

[3/11 Altered have been defeated]

Chapter 556 System Overload

The Scatterbugs' Altered had been able to tell Gary was strong. From the moment they had seen him fight, they understood where the masked intruder's confidence stemmed from to attack their base.

Nevertheless, when he had entered the room, none of them had been too worried about him. They too were strong Altered. Strong enough that perhaps one of them on their own could take over, or at least defeat a gang of a Tier-3 town.

This was how confident they were, but something strange happened, Gary suddenly became faster, and his strikes seemed to contain even more power in the span of a few seconds.

Seconds before the iron skinned Altered got hit by those strikes, he knew he was in trouble. He had no time to prepare, no time to stop the hit, he could only trust in his own defense. Alas, the strong claws dug deep inside him, tearing his body and the long fingernail clipped part of his heart, killing him on the spot.

[You have successfully slain an Altered]

[10,000 Exp has been rewarded]

[Congratulations, you have now reached: Level 25]

[A stat point has been granted]

There were multiple messages that appeared in front of Gary right now, but at this moment it was more of a distraction than anything else. He had just defeated one of the strongest Altered in the room in terms of defensive abilities, but that still didn't faze the others as they all came towards him.

'Sh*t, can you guys just give me a second to read my messages!' Gary thought, as he jumped from his position, and dug his claws into the side of the wall. He was now stuck to it, but some of the Altered could fly, he was just hoping that they would hesitate a little before coming toward him after seeing what he could do now.

[Optional Quest received]

[Waste not want not]

[Consume the Altered]

[Quest reward: Additional stat points]

'Does it LOOK like I'm in any position to do so?!' Gary was more than annoyed for this Quest to show up at this moment. There was hardly ever a chance for Gary to kill an Altered, but from the handful of times he had done so, he had learned that it appeared to be the fastest way for him to grow. He was sure that it was the same for Midwak, though he didn't really know whether the Werewolf System enhanced this ability in any way, be it in the boost he gained or the time it took for the bonus to take effect.

The Alpha Werewolf could only hope so, because otherwise Midwak would become even stronger once he finished eating the Altered he had defeated. Unfortunately, even after his boost, Gary wasn't overwhelmingly stronger than the Altered in the room that he could eat at his pleasure.

Still, there were a few messages that Gary had to go through.

[Main Quest completed]

[Who would have thought you would survive long enough to reach this milestone?]

[Since you've proven to be well suited for your current role, you've earned yourself your 1st Class Promotion!]

[Please select from one of the following Classes!]

'I don't remember this being a Main Quest, but whatever, I completed it at the perfect time. Becoming a Werewolf Warrior was a major upgrade to my power, but it took some time for the changes to take place, and it wasn't exactly pleasant.'

Gary recalled how his body had gone through some extreme changes, so if this Class Promotion would be the same thing, it would mean he would be unable to fight for a while. Selecting something now might very well be the last thing he ever did.

Then there was an even bigger problem, just as Gary was about to check out his options the Needle Altered started to fire more stuff at him, and the Werewolf was forced to leap from the wall back down onto the floor.

"You can keep running, but eventually you're going to tire out! Spare us the nuisance and just accept your fate!" One of the Altered shouted.

It was then, that a big thick log-like arm came out from one of the Altered and whacked Gary right in the stomach, sending him flying and crashing right into the wall, breaking the glass cabinets that were on the side.

[-20 HP]

[192/250 HP]

'There goes the HP I just got back.' Gary thought to himself as he got back up. 'I need to fight at full strength, I need to get rid of them all, but then I won't have any Energy... and I also need to find a way to eat their bodies to be ready for Midwak.'

Another large log-like arm was coming towards him, and still hurt from the attack before, Gary had no choice, but to use another skill.

[Skill activated Lethal Pounce]

[-50 Energy]

Gary suddenly sped up, and jumped towards one of the people, but of all the Altered he jumped towards it turned out to be the one with multiple sharp limbs that had them all pointed towards Gary. Covering himself, Gary braced himself as his body was embedded with several of the sharp limbs about a metre thick, only his head and stomach were saved as he had gotten into a ball shape.

Kicking off from the Altered, Gary got out but he was bleeding heavily and had suffered a lot more damage compared to before.

[-48 HP]

[144/250 HP]

'I have no choice, I have to fully transform and try to get rid of these guys as soon as possible. Then hopefully, while Midwak is still distracted, I can take the chance to choose that Class Promotion. Hopefully it's something powerful, since it might be my only way to win this fight!'

[4/11 Altered have been defeated]

[5/11 Altered have been defeated]

[6/11 Altered have been defeated]

There was notification, after notification, of the other Altered being defeated, and Gary gasped for a second as he realised something terrible. In total six had decided to go after him, and he had only dealt with one of them... in other words, Midwak had successfully dealt with all the Altered who had gone against him.

Glancing at the back, Gary could see Midwak indulging in a feast of Altered bodies. He was growing stronger in this fight, eating them one by one, and once he was done, he would fight the Alpha.

Chapter 557 A Hotheaded Mistake

The longer the situation was lasting, the harder it was for Gary to make a decision as to what was the best choice for him, because now he was on a time scale. Midwak was getting stronger in this fight and he needed to get even stronger than him, but he couldn't even defeat the Altered that were in front of him that Midwak had managed to defeat so easily.

'I hate to say it, but right now I could really do it with some help. I'm an idiot, just because it worked out last time, I thought that it would work out this time.' Gary thought, as he looked at the Altered that had started to form a formation making it so Gary was unable to escape.

There was an Altered that could fly and shoot out stingers from its forearms, Gary hadn't been hit yet by them but could only assume that they were somewhat poisonous. Then there was the Altered that had multiple sharp limbs coming out from the side of its body.

It was one of the more difficult ones for Gary to deal with since his tough hide wasn't thick enough to block the hits. Other than them, there were three more. One seemed to change his body into something that was as thick as a tree's trunk.

It had hit him once, already sending him into the wall. When looking at the Altered, he looked like a regular human which meant he had good control of changing his body at a fast rate.

On top of that, there was one Altered whose skin was glowing yellow. There was a thick substance that looked a bit like goo, that was covering his body and hands. So far Gary had avoided conflict with that Altered, as he was worried about what the goo could exactly do.

Then there was the last of the lot, whose hands were gigantic, although the word hands was the wrong term to use, as they now looked more like giant pincers of a crab. They were red in colour and looked like they would be able to crush anything.

'Scatterbugs', I guess it makes sense that most of these guys would be similar to bug type Altered. If I remember from my lesson's correctly, most of the beasts out there are similar to the bugs we have today. I guess I just have to be thankful for one thing, and that's the fact that I don't have to go against Slith, whatever he was.' Gary thought.

The first one to act out of the entire group looked to be the Altered that was mostly human in form. When he raised his hand, it soon started to grow large like that of a tree trunk and extended out, then with its full force, it swung it down toward Gary.

Usually, Gary would use his speed to avoid a hit, but that was when one of the Altered fired his stingers towards Gary's right. They weren't aimed at him, but just slightly off so he wouldn't move and on the other side, the strange yellow goo Altered was throwing something out of his body towards that side as well.

When it hit the door behind him, Gary could see it solidifying, he was glad that he didn't try and test what it did. The thing was, now Gary knew exactly what they were doing, they had trapped him and he had no choice, but to take the hit.

'I guess I have no choice, I was thinking of doing this anyway.' Gary thought. 'If I transform into my full form, I will be at full strength. It will use a lot of energy, but after beating these guys and eating them up, I'll be able to take on Midwak. It's the only way to beat them and win this fight!'

As the large attack from the Altered was coming down, Gary was bracing himself and was ready to use his skill, when a strange scent had entered his nose.

"Let me deal with this!" A voice said, and soon a man that was larger than Gary had appeared by his side casting a shadow over him. He grabbed onto the large tree trunk, bending his knees slightly and holding on to it. As the man breathed, steam came out from his large rounded nostrils.

"Austin?" Gary asked.

"Get your hands off our boss!" Austin shouted, as he lifted the person by the end of his trunk and slammed him right into the wall. The person's arm started to shrink, and as it did Austin had lost grip of the Altered.

Soon after him though, the rest had entered into the room, Olivia, Innu, and lastly Marie as well, all of them wearing the masks on their faces and wearing the black and gold uniform.

"The rest of the gang has shown up?" the red handed Altered said. "This isn't going to be an easy fight."

Soon, though, steps could be heard from behind, a topless man was walking, blood dripping from his mouth covering his chest. He no longer had shoes on either due to his transformation and only part of his trousers were left on.

Midwak had finished eating the other Altered and now, he was ready to join the fight as well. In this case it felt like when one door opened, another one had just closed right in front of his face.

"There's only one way to win this fight." Gary gritted his teeth, because he didn't want to say it, but from what he had seen, it was the only way they could win. The only thing was, it had a high chance of one of his friends dying, but it was either one, or they all died.

"Everyone!" Gary shouted. "Focus on the topless man, the Werewolf. I don't expect you to win, but just hold him back for as long as you can, and I have one more order for you. Don't die!"

This was the only way Gary could see them winning, Gary needed to defeat the Altered to level up more, consume their bodies and evolve if he had any chance, and unfortunately his friends would have to be his shield, but just how long would they be able to hold that monster back?

[Full transformation has begun]

"AWOOOO!"

[Alpha's howl has been used, a ten percent boost has been given to those in your pack!]

Chapter 558 Crazy To Fight Crazy

Midwak was still standing on the other side, behind the groups of people. The desk looked to be completely destroyed and the ground, as well as the whole area, was covered in blood. Parts of bodies could still be seen, and there were a lot of bones

"Oh that sweet sound!" Midwak said. "It has certainly been a long time since I heard it!"

The Alpha's howl had just been used, giving a 10 percent boost to Gary's power, it was only a temporary boost so Gary wanted to keep it for when his fight with Midwak was going to take part, but he wanted to give Olivia as much strength as possible before her fight.

Seeing the seriousness of the situation, none of the Howlers asked what Gary meant, right now they were just going to do as he asked, and even Olivia was taking the situation seriously. She stared at Midwak, looking at his yellow glowing eyes.

“It looks like I’m about to face someone who is even crazier than me! But for some reason my blood is pumping.” Olivia said, as her entire body was transforming from head to toe. Due to the special design of the uniforms, they stretched out, not ripping.

[Olivia (Beta Werewolf) has marked a target]

Now a tracking mark had been put on Midwak so they could find him wherever he went and the next second Olivia, was running across the room. The Hunter Class Werewolf had slightly longer arms and legs and she was using them to her full advantage as she ran across the room.

The goo like Altered had jumped in front of her and swung its arm, the strange yellow substance was aimed right for her, but with a single leap she was able to avoid the strange substance and along with it, the rest of the Altered.

With her sharp claws out, she was ready to rip Midwak’s head off. Lifting his hands up, Midwak grabbed right onto Olivia's while he was still untransformed.

“You are WEAK!” His hands started to transform, and Olivia was unable to pull away. Before she knew it, he had lifted her into the air and kicked her right in the stomach, sending her crashing into the side of the wall.

The only thing Midwak had transformed were his arms, and he was still able to overpower her. He looked at his own hands, clenching them in and out.

“Yes, yes, yes! This is what I needed.” Midwak exclaimed.

The other members of the Howlers were rushing in to back her up, and they could see Olivia was far from being down for the count, as she had gotten up baring her teeth and letting out a growl.

“We have to help her!” Marie shouted, as they all ran forward with Austin leading the way, but once again, another Altered stood in their path trying to block them from joining in on the fight.

It was the man with the huge red claws, he snapped them and the entire room rang. It showed what force was behind such claws. Still, Austin was ready to rumble, to match his power against the others.

That was until a large figure had landed right in front of him.

“I’ll get rid of them!” Gary awkwardly said. He was in his full transformation but was able to speak a lot clearer since he had a lot of practice. “You focus on holding him off!”

When Gary was close to the red clawed Altered, who looked ready to intercept any attack, he immediately used his lethal pounce skill. His speed almost doubled as he shot from his position.

The claw had hit nothing but the air, and Gary was directly up against his chest, opening his mouth and biting right at the man’s neck. Then using his claws, he shoved them deep into the man’s chest.

Gary lifted him in the air, and pulled his claws out as he swung his arms, one after the other, cutting his body. He was using his full strength and his full speed now, and other than his claws it appeared as if the man’s body wasn’t as hard as the rest of him

Thanks to the System notification, Gary could easily tell when the Altered was out of the fight due to his injuries.

[7/11 Altered have been defeated]

He stopped attacking right at that second, and as the man fell down, Gary opened wide and took another large bite out of his body, this time the side of his shoulder.

[Your Energy is being restored.]

Kill and eat, that's what I need to do to keep fighting, and then I can stop him, then I will be on equal grounds with him.’

Gary's eyes were glowing red, his natural instincts were kicking in, and similar to Midwak, there was a madness showing in his face, which was causing the other Altered to second guess their next step, but it had done its job.

Because of Gary, the others were all able to safely pass, and now were focused on Midwak. Turning her head, at the back of the group was Marie, she could see a large Werewolf with dark fur standing behind them.

For a second... even I was scared. That's still Gary, right? The Gary that saved us, the Gary that is our friend. No, of course it is. Right now, Gary is doing all of this, for all of us in the Howlers, and for Kai.' Marie thought.

The Howlers were on one side of the room against Midwak, and Gary was going against the rest of the Altered on the other. Taking a step forward, Gary was looking for his next target as he scanned the room.

I need to keep fighting, I need to level up, I need to eat them, so I can be on the same level as that Omega Werewolf!

"Only four more to go." Gary said, running straight in.

Chapter 559 The Strong Omega

Stubborn was one word that could be used to describe Olivia, and in this situation it was questionable whether it was a good trait to have. The moment she recovered from the initial clash with Midwak, she ran across the floor to reach him.

Midwak tilted his head to the side as he saw her actions. "You're as much a pup as the Grayling and yet he was stronger than this. Tell me what makes you think you could beat me?"

When Olivia was finally close, she had taken one large leap, and was swinging her hand right toward Midwak's chest. The first swipe of her hand had missed, as he leaned back. Right after, Olivia swung her other hand, trying to pierce through his chest.

It looked like, just like the attack before, he would dodge this one as well.

"NOW!" Innu shouted, who had waited for this moment. Immediately after, three clicks were heard, and coming out in the air, were three bolts.

They hit Midwak in the back, piercing through his skin ever so slightly. The bolts were thick in size and had a small little container inside which looked like a large see-through battery.

Inside the small container, there were blue sparks that were moving about, and as the weapon's bolts were activated, they started to do their job, shocking the Omega Werewolf over. His skin was becoming slightly transparent as the current ran through his body.

Innu hadn't joined in the fight, both axes hand, as he was staying close to Marie, just in case they chose to target her. So far, Midwak and Olivia had been too fast for Marie to be of any help.

She was a good aim and a good shot, but hadn't been into many fights to get the timing, the right moment for attack down, which was why Innu was watching the fight carefully for the perfect time.

The bolts, while not lethal, served as a good distraction as Olivia left a large scratch mark right across Midwak's chest. Blood dripped down onto his abs, but it was hard to see since his body was already covered in blood.

At the same time though, nearly as quickly as the wound had been made, it was already starting to heal.

"That's some nice shock treatment." Midwak said, as he ducked under the strikes of Olivia, and then with his Werewolf hand, he reached out and grabbed her around the mouth. With his great strength, he just needed to use the power of his fingers to keep it shut.

Right after, making a fist, Midwak threw it, hitting the side of her face, pounding it hard. Olivia wanted to scream, to howl, as the hit had felt like it had broken multiple bonds, but Midwak hadn't let go, and continued to punch her while holding onto her mouth.

"Haha, I can't wait." Midwak said as he continued to punch. "until, you are under my control. Depenfig on how long you last I might ley you become my Luna!"

By now, even though Olivia was in her full Werewolf form, part of her jaw, the side of her orbital bone, it all felt like it had cracked and was broken. She recoiled from him, but with the constant hits, there was no point.

Swinging his arm back even further, it looked like Midwak was going for even harder punches. As he swung it straight towards her face once more, a large hand, even bigger than his own in its partially transformed state, had grabbed onto his fist and stopped it in its tracks.

"How about you pick on someone your own size, asshole!" Austin grabbed onto his hand tightly and pulled Midwak forward, as he did, he threw out a fist hitting him right in the head. It flung backwards and blood had splattered out.

Midwak, swinging his head forward, looked at Austin with a smile, it looked like he wanted to say something but before he even could, he felt another hand lift him by his legs. With all of his force, Austin lifted him in the air up high, and slammed him on the floor, leaving behind a large crater.

The marble was broken into pieces. Austin lifted up the Werewolf, slamming him down again and again. Bones could be heard cracking and Midwak's arms and legs were in positions that weren't natural at all.

Jumping up in the air slightly, Austin then placed the whole of Midwak's body behind his back, and swung it down, letting go, throwing him right into floor. It almost shook the whole room and the entire casino at that point.

Austin was huffing and panting, and a lot of steam looked to be coming out from his nostrils. Although the mask hid most of his face, part of it could be seen transformed. Right now, Austin was in his full form.

The beast that created his Altered form was a rare one, one that had a humanoid body in the first place, which was why it was hard to tell whether Austin had fully transformed or not.

"Man, every time I see him fight in that form, it just makes me... more jealous. If only I had won, that would have been me." Innu couldn't help but say.

Moments later though, when the dust started to settle, several clicking and cracking noises were heard, and a figure was seen standing.

"Now, you certainly are a strong one, but it's truly a shame that you are an Altered!" Midwak stated, as he walked forward towards Austin who was ready for another round.

"Believe it or not, but I wasn't planning to kill any of you Howlers, because you all would make great additions to my Pack!" Midwak stated. "There's a reason I didn't care about the members of the Scatterbugs... and that's because they were already Altered.

"A Werewolf can't turn an Altered, which means to me..."

In front of their eyes, Midwak started to transform, his fur was dark black in colour, and he grew nearly twice in size, his muscles and width included. Now he was only a little smaller than Austin himself.

"You're only useful as a meal!!!!" Midwak growled as he threw out a punch, coming from down below. It was at such a great speed it looked like the wind was being carried with it.

Austin lifted his hands, but they were blown away as the fist hit him right in the stomach. His whole body was lifted off the ground and he was sent flying into the wall far away.

"I hope for your own sake that he's the only Altered!" Midwak stated with a smile showing all of his sharp teeth.

Chapter 560 Perfect Line Up

If Gary wanted to help out his teammates, then the best thing he could do for them was to take out all of the Altered in the room as soon as possible. Not to get distracted, or focused on what they were doing. He would have to trust that they were capable enough to hold Midwak back.

'Out of these four guys left, I need to get rid of the one that's the most troublesome.'

Gary's eyes looked onto the man with the stingers on his forearms, although Gary hadn't been hit yet, the stingers always were distracting him from getting to the others and he had the furthest range when it came to attacks.

Immediately after Gary had decided who would be his next target, he started to run towards him in his Werewolf form. His body was leaned forward at an incredibly low angle, his face nearly touching the floor. The muscles in his legs and toes were strong enough to lift his body just enough so his face wouldn't hit the floor and once in a while he would use his hands to dig into the ground, giving him a further leap of power.

Seeing this, the Alterededs were moving into action. The strange yellow goo Altered saw Gary, and swung its arm, releasing a large amount of the substance out towards Gary. The Werewolf's hands dug deep into the ground cracking it. The veins on his forearms were bulging as he quickly pushed his whole body to the side, making it so the goo would just hit the floor and harden in a matter of seconds.

"Getting hit by that will slow down my movements, but it's covering his whole body, that's going to be a hard one to take care of."

While Gary was thinking of this, he could see the Altered that was able to change the size of his limbs into what resembled a tree in front of him, he swung his arm and mid swing it turned into the large tree trunk like arm.

"They're working together better than they were before! I need to avoid this." Gary thought.

Instinctively, Gary was just going with the flow, as he leaned completely backwards, and started to slide across the floor. He had built up so much speed, that on the hard marble floor he was pretty much gliding across it.

While the tree trunk limb was going over his head, he wouldn't just let it simply pass over like that, reaching out his hands, Gary had his claws ready, and he tensed his fingers hard as they scratched right across.

It broke through whatever material the Altered's skin was made of and black blood was dripping from the wound.

In a smooth motion, Gary pulled his body up off the ground and continued running forward. Now there was only one Altered in his way from reaching the strange stinger man.

"Fine, f*cking stab me then!" Gary lifted his forearms up, and in his full Werewolf form he was much larger than he was before. When the Altered's sharp limbs pierced Gary it had only pierced his forearms this time.

[-12 HP]

'In my Werewolf form, my hide is thicker as well so I take less damage, but that wasn't my goal in the first place.'

Due to Gary's speed, the sharp limbs were pierced quite deeply into his arms and muscles, and he had purposely relaxed them as much as he could before they had, now that they were inside him, he tensed up.

The muscles were holding onto the limbs tightly, and the Altered was unable to take them out from his body if he wanted to.

"Thanks for being my shield!" Gary said, as he could see the stingers coming towards him.

At that point, Gary moved his forearms and the stingers had hit the multiple-limbed man instead.

"Arghh!" The Altered shouted.

Taking a peek behind, Gary could see that the other Altered was in the air. He then leapt up with his strong powerful legs, still taking his 'Shield' with him.

Then, when the two had matched height, Gary relaxed the muscles in his forearms, and with both of his legs, kicked the Altered off from him. His sharp limbs detached from Gary's arms, and his entire body crashed into the stinger Altered.

While in mid air, Gary flipped backwards, landing on his feet and he didn't waste any time. As soon as his feet touched the floor, he darted forward to the other two Altered once again.

Gary could see the stinger Altered recovering, and with a swipe of his hand, he had made a large cut right on his neck.

[8/11 Altered have been defeated]

[Congratulations you are now level 26]

From killing the two Altered, Gary was still gaining a large amount of exp. He still hadn't had time to look at his system properly yet, or use the stat points gained. At the same time, the bodies of the Altered he had killed were still intact.

'If I can do this... if I can use everything, then I will be strong enough.'

Looking at all of the other Altered that were left confused and a little disheartened at the sight of another one of their allies falling, Gary saw this as an opportunity. With the main distraction gone, then he could perhaps pull this off.

The Altered with multiple limbs had just gotten up, and almost in a line, just close enough to each other, he could see it.

Gary went towards the Altered closest to the one with the sharp limbs and when he was in range.

[Lethal pounce]

[- 30 Energy]

His speed doubled in the short distance and with his fist he stabbed right through the Altered's chest.

[9/11 Altered have been defeated]

[Lethal pounce activated]

[-30 Energy]

The most dangerous thing about the lethal pounce skill, was the fact that as long as there was someone in range, Gary was able to use it consecutively, one after the other. The only downside was it would take a lot of energy, but in this place, around here with all of these Alteredes, there was plenty of food for him.

The tree like Altered couldn't even react as Gary's whole body landed on top of him, and Gary used his mouth to bite down right on his neck, pulling out tendons and more, ending his life on the spot.

[10/11 Alteredes have been defeated]

[Skill: Lethal pounce has been used]

The Alteredes now working together meant they were close to one another, and for Gary this allowed him to use the skill in rapid succession, lining them up so he could take them out.

Reaching the final Altered, Gary's hand was going through the goo and he could feel it hardening, but it did little to slow him down as his claws reached the stomach of the Altered. As it sliced through, organs could be seen spilling on the ground, and with his other hand, Gary slammed it on the top of the Altered's head, sending his entire head and body onto the ground.

It wasn't the end of the Altered yet, so lifting his foot, he slammed it down right on top of the Altered's head.

[11/11 Alteredes have been defeated]

[Quest complete]

[You are now level 27]

[Quest update: a new threat has taken over the Scatterbugs place. Defeat the threat to get rid of the Scatterbugs.]

It was quite clear to Gary that the new threat was Midwak, but with his energy nearly being nothing, and his strength still far less than his opponent, he looked at the Altered underneath his foot and had another thought.

'It's feeding time.'